



HEALTH & SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN CHRONICALLY HOMELESS WOMEN: TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA'S CURRENT RISKS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

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Presentation Overview:

- Background
- How are homeless women counted?
- Review of the Literature
- Current Risks / Findings from SIROW & SJWC's Community Needs Assessment
- Future Opportunities
- Q and A



Background

- Collaboration:
 - Sister José Women's Center (SJWC)
 - Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW)
 - MAP Dashboard funding
- Community Based Participatory Research
 - Community Needs Assessment
 - Data Collection and Analysis
- White Paper



Enumeration of Homeless Women

- ▶ Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR) – reference tool for policymakers, journalists, state/community leaders
- ▶ AHAR reflects yearly data collection sources: 1) Point-in-Time – 2016 – systematic counts of homeless populations collected and 2) data reported by shelters and housing programs receiving HUD federal funding through State
- ▶ Data categories are pre-determined
 - ▶ by subpopulations: individuals (adults/youth), families and veterans (target population)
 - ▶ Housing status: sheltered/unsheltered
 - ▶ Type of shelter: domestic violence, family, transitional, etc.



Some Statistics on Women

- U.S. Conference on Mayors (2007): 23 city report attributes Domestic Violence as the primary cause of homelessness, in addition to:
 - Cumulative violence – interpersonal and community
 - Eating related disorders
 - Greater incidence of STIs and hepatitis
 - Poor self-rated health status
 - Greater involvement in crime (DV) and more arrests



Literature Review Findings

- Several key things to understand about women's homelessness:
 - Housing without a transitional period of support and recovery results in recurring homelessness
 - Homeless women are domestic violence survivors
 - Alcohol and drug abuse is not only a cause but an effect of homelessness
 - Multiple stressors in childhood and as adults, take toll on physical and mental health



Community Needs Assessment

Table 1. In the past 30 days, how troubled have you been

#	Question	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Considerably	Extremely
1	Physical or medical problems	16%	13%	18%	24%	29%
2	Problems finding work	18%	13%	2%	18%	44%
3	Alcohol or drug problems	64%	16%	2%	7%	9%
4	Legal problems	67%	2%	9%	4%	16%
5	Problems finding a safe place to sleep	42%	11%	13%	11%	20%
6	Problems finding a place to live	16%	7%	7%	7%	62%
7	Problems with family members	40%	13%	2%	11%	27%
8	Problems with strangers	38%	16%	2%	18%	24%
9	Problems with people wanting something from you	31%	24%	4%	13%	20%
10	Problems with men being aggressive towards you	47%	16%	13%	9%	13%
11	Problems with other women being aggressive towards you	44%	36%	2.22%	7%	7%
12	Other problems related to being homeless. Please share what those problems are:	18%	7%	7%	18%	47%



Current Risks/Findings Identified in Community Needs Assessment

- ▶ Forty percent of women were not at all or slightly troubled by problems with family members; while another 38 percent were considerably to extremely troubled by problems with family
- ▶ Thirty-one percent of women were slightly to extremely troubled by problems finding a safe place to sleep; while forty-two percent were not at all troubled
- ▶ Sixty-nine percent noted they were not at all or slightly troubled by legal problems



Current Risks/Findings Identified in Community Needs Assessment

- Fifty-three percent noted they were considerably to extremely troubled by physical or medical problems
- Eighty percent noted they were not at all or slightly troubled by alcohol or drug problems.
- Sixty-two percent noted they were considerably to extremely troubled by problems finding work
- Thirty-three percent of women were slightly to extremely troubled by problems with people wanting something from them



Current Risks/Findings Identified in Community Needs Assessment

- ▶ Eighty-two percent of women reported domestic violence at the hands of family by blood, marriage or relationship
- ▶ Fewer women reported smaller percentages of violence in the community; however, 25 percent of women described violence from strangers, males, female friends, or acquaintances
- ▶ Aggression by strangers including “people driving by and throwing things,” incidences of nearly being hit by a car or having a “shopping cart hit by a car” riding too closely to the curb



Future Opportunities

- SJWC/SIROW committed to developing programming to support pathways out of homelessness
- Data findings suggest need for programming that is responsive to women's histories of trauma and needs
- Policy implications for
 - how homelessness is screened
 - pathways to housing include supportive services
 - longitudinal evaluation of effectiveness of housing types



Future Opportunities, *continued*

Confidence, Readiness, Empowerment, Action, Transformation, Empowerment (CREATE) for Women

- Live within a nurturing community
- Find stability & safety as foundation to begin process of moving forward
- Engage in curriculum where creativity is used to empower and promote change
- Engage in building life skills and pre-employment skills
- Provide opportunity to engage in community through internships, trainings
- Build a community that is supportive



Questions or Comments?

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Thank you!