

Community Fact Sheet

Hope 2012: 4th Annual Community Service-Focused Event for Northwest Arkansas

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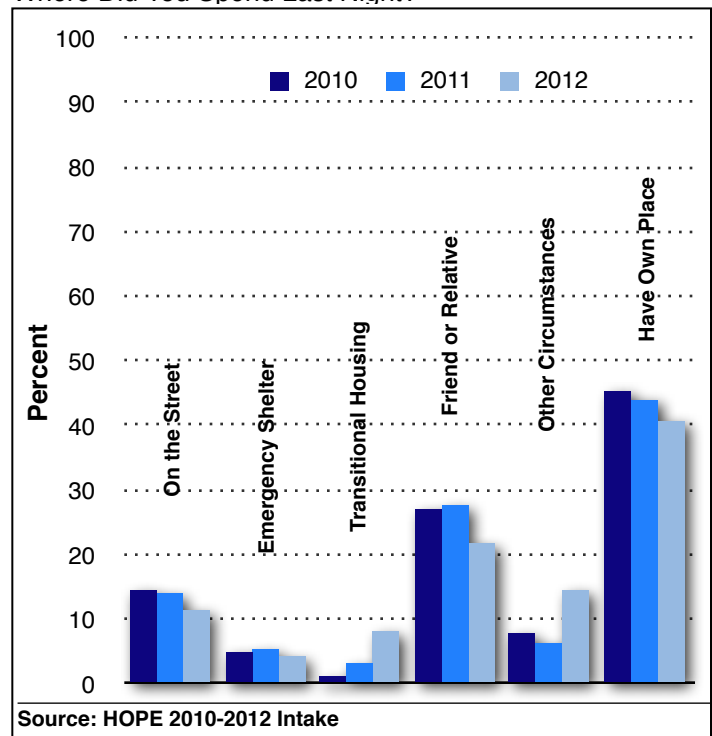
Who Participated and Where Are They Living?

On October 23, 2012 a one-stop service event took place in Fayetteville, AR. *HOPE 2012*, designed to help those in need throughout the NWA region, was sponsored in partnership with the VA, United Way of NWA, 7Hills Homeless Center, and Central UMC. Besides services for veterans, a range of other services were provided including: blood pressure/ glucose, BMI screenings, eye exams, podiatry exams, dental screenings, flu shots by Walgreens, haircuts, legal aid, etc. A lunch was provided by Arvest Bank and Tyson Foods, through Community Meals at Central UMC, and the majority of participants received a bag of donated groceries, and personal hygiene items from *3bags2days*.

Three-hundred and eighty-nine persons attended this year's event very close to last year [403]. Similar to last year's event, there were more males (68%), whites (80%) homeless (60%), and non-veterans (62%) attending the HOPE 2011 event.

The housing status data found in Figure 1 shows similarities among attendees between 2010-2012. In all three years, about 40% of attendees had their own place; 10-12% said they were staying on the street. The largest percentage of homeless attendees (2010-2012), were those persons staying with a friend or relative (*invisible homeless*). That percentage was a little lower in 2012 (22%) compared to other years when it was nearly 30 percent. Transitional housing residents also had increased between 2010-2012.

Figure 1. Current Housing Status
Where Did You Spend Last Night?



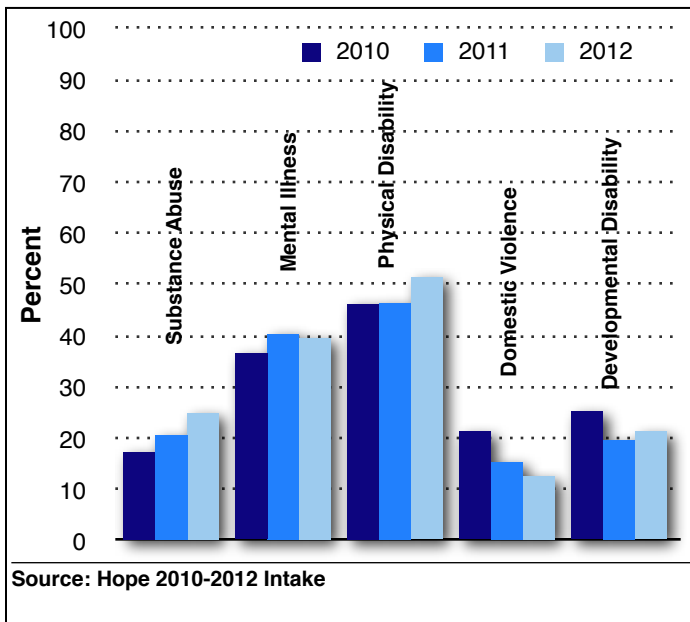
Of the **389** respondents attending in 2012, 68 percent reported being without their own home **at least once** in the past three years. That number was nearly identical to the 2011 report. On average, persons reported being homeless 1.5 times in the last three years for an average of 15 months. While some persons reported being homeless for longer periods of time, episodic homelessness continues to characterize much of the homeless in Northwest Arkansas and the United States. This finding of few episodes of shorter time spans mirrors the findings in the 2011 NWA point-in-time homeless census.

What Are Their Challenges and Needs?

The data in Figure 2 illustrate important differences between 2010-2012 attendees regarding chronic conditions. In 2012, there were slightly more persons reporting substance abuse and physical disability from the two previous years. In 2010, there were more persons reporting developmental disabilities and domestic violence victimization than in either 2011 or 2012. Finally, while most 2012 respondents reported at least one disabling condition (79%), more than 47 percent reported multiple conditions.

Though 79 percent of respondents reported some disabling condition, **more than 40 percent** of those with chronic conditions said their condition remained **untreated**. This gap continues to be an important piece of the complicated service delivery puzzle.

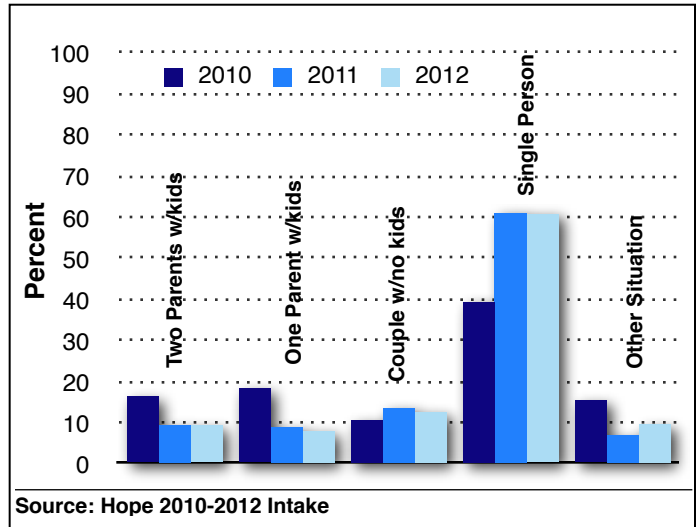
Figure 2. Self-Reported Disabling Conditions
Chronic Conditions



Family Composition and Status

The data in Figure 3 highlights some important differences between attendees regarding family status. In 2011 and 2012, there were more single persons (60%-40%) attending than in 2010. In 2012, 17 percent of those in attendance had children--very similar to attendees in 2011. Interestingly, in 2010, nearly 40 percent of the attendees said they had children. Overall, in all three years, the majority of parents reported having 1 or 2 children. The family (children) composition of those attending was clearly different in 2010 than the two most recent years.

Figure 3. Family Composition and Status



Services Offered and Used

Clearly not everyone used all the services that were offered at the *Hope 2012* event. A large percentage of attendees used multiple services. A breakdown of usage is listed below in Figure 4. Sixty-six eye exams were given, 76 dental screenings, 113 persons were screened for blood pressure/glucose/BMI, 67 haircuts, and 310 received food and hygiene products. It is interesting that the most requested services were related to well-being or physical health/appearance. Future service provision events should continue to focus on health-related services particularly for a population where **57 percent reported having no health insurance**.

Figure 4. Services Used at HOPE 2012 n = 321

