

Community Fact Sheet

Hope 2013: 5th Annual Community Service-Focused Event for Northwest Arkansas

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<http://sociology.uark.edu/3550.php>

Volume 3, Issue No. 16

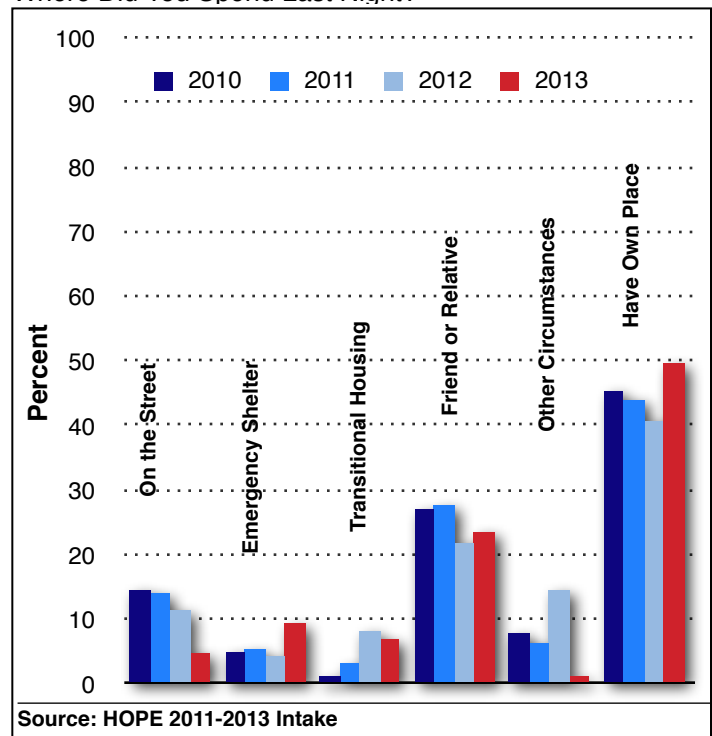
Who Participated and Where Are They Living?

On October 25-26, 2013 a one-stop service event took place in Fayetteville, AR. *HOPE 2013*, designed to help those in need throughout the NWA region, was sponsored in partnership with the VA, 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, dental screenings, flu shots by Walgreens, haircuts, legal aid, etc. A breakfast and lunch was served both days and provided by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief organization; the majority of participants received a bag of personal hygiene items from *3bags2days*.

Two-hundred and ninety-five persons attended this year's event; fewer than last year [389]. Similar to last year's event, there were more males (54%), whites (84%) homeless (66%), and non-veterans (77%) attending the HOPE 2013 event.

The housing status data found in Figure 1 shows similarities among attendees between 2010-2013. This year about nearly half of attendees had their own place; fewer than 10% said they were staying on the street. The largest percentage of homeless attendees (2010-2013), were those persons staying with a friend or relative (*invisible homeless*). That percentage was a little lower in 2012 (22%) and 2013 (23%) compared to earlier years when it was nearly 30 percent. Emergency shelter residents also increased slightly this year compared to earlier years (2010-2012).

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



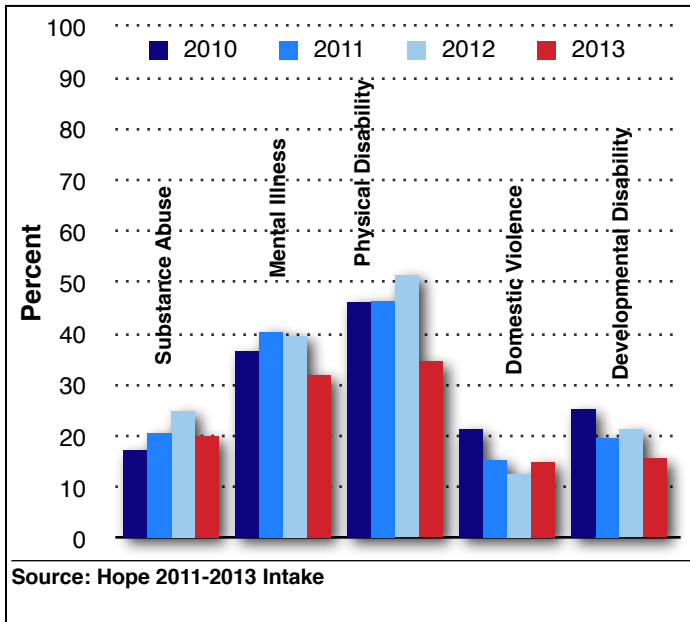
Of the **295** respondents attending in 2013, 65 percent reported being without their own home **at least once** in the past three years. That number was nearly identical to the 2011 and 2012 report. On average, persons reported being homeless 1.7 times in the last three years for an average of 12 months. 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 2013 NWA PIT homeless census.

What Are Their Challenges and Needs?

The data in Figure 2 illustrate important differences between 2010-2013 attendees regarding chronic conditions. In 2013, there were fewer persons reporting substance abuse, mental illness and physical disability, from the last three years. In 2013, there were slightly more persons reporting domestic violence victimization than in either 2011 or 2012. Finally, while most 2013 respondents reported at least one disabling condition (63%), more than 47 percent reported multiple conditions.

Though 63 percent of respondents reported some disabling condition, **more than 60 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

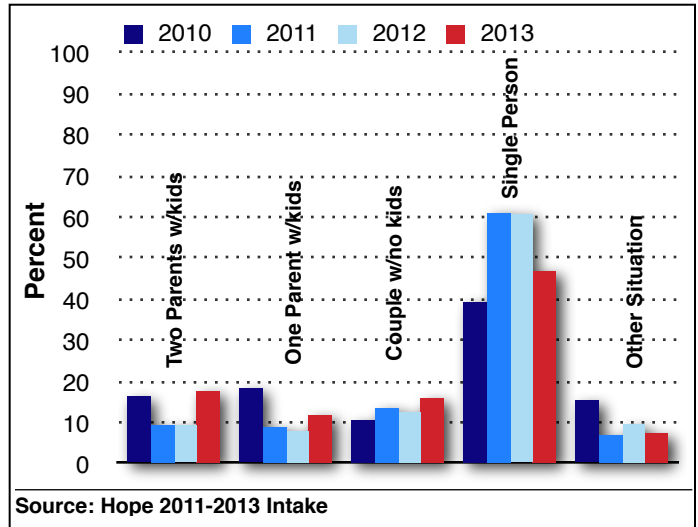


Family Composition and Status

The data in Figure 3 highlights some important differences between attendees regarding family status. In 2011 and 2012, there were more single persons attending than in 2010 or 2013. In 2013, 32 percent of those in attendance had children--more than those attending in 2012.

Overall, in all four years, the majority of parents reported having 1 or 2 children. The family (children) composition of those attending was clearly different in 2011 than the three 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 2013* event. A large percentage of attendees used multiple services. A breakdown of usage is listed below in Figure 4. Thirty-seven eye exams were given, over 50 prescriptions filled, 84 dental screenings, 183 persons were screened for blood pressure/glucose/BMI, 30 haircuts, and 295 received 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 **69 percent reported having no health insurance**.

Figure 4. Services Used at HOPE 2013

