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SEARCH

Homeless Services

Employment Programs

Outcomes Report 2009-2010

Prepared by:
Claris Technical Services
Ritalinda D'Andrea Lee, Ph.D.
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MISSION:

**SEARCH HOMELESS SERVICES
PURSUES A MISSION OF PROVIDING
HOPE, CREATING OPPORTUNITY, AND TRANSFORMING LIVES**

SEARCH Employment Data: 2009-2010

INTRODUCTION

To provide additional assessment of the efficacy in meeting client needs in the context of their mission, SEARCH launched an evaluation of their employment services. Client data from 2009 and 2010 were reviewed to generate responses several questions, a selection of which follow:

- What is the demographic profile of clients?
- What is the tenure of clients who are served by SEARCH?
- What percentage gain access to income?
- What percentage are employed upon exit from SEARCH services?
- What services are correlated with access to income and specifically employment income?
- What are the characteristics of clients who are chronically homeless?

This report provides a brief summary of the findings of the analysis. Additional information about these topics and the larger scale assessment can be obtained by request to SEARCH.

METHODS

The data used in this report were extracted from the SEARCH client database and coded to remove client names in order to protect client confidentiality. Within the database are records that indicate client:

- service use
- dates of service delivery
- demographics
- financial status at entry and exit from services
- income source, if applicable.

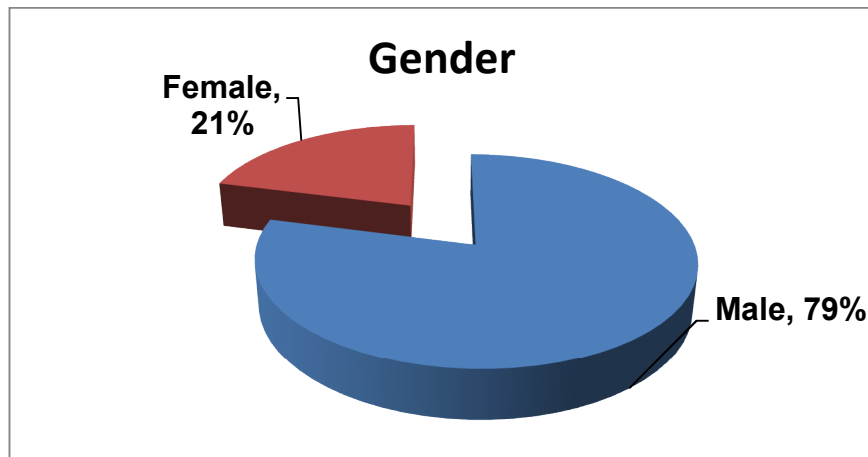
This information was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to address the questions listed above and ultimately to determine those client and service use factors that best predicted which clients would gain access to income from employment or other sources.

RESULTS

Approximately 18,000 duplicated records that were included in the of 2009-2010 data yielded 996 unduplicated records with sufficient information to link service use to outcomes. Among those clients, 445 (46%) were chronically homeless. Three hundred and eleven (311) exited the program over the course of the year (31%) and of this group 217 (70%) left with employment.

OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

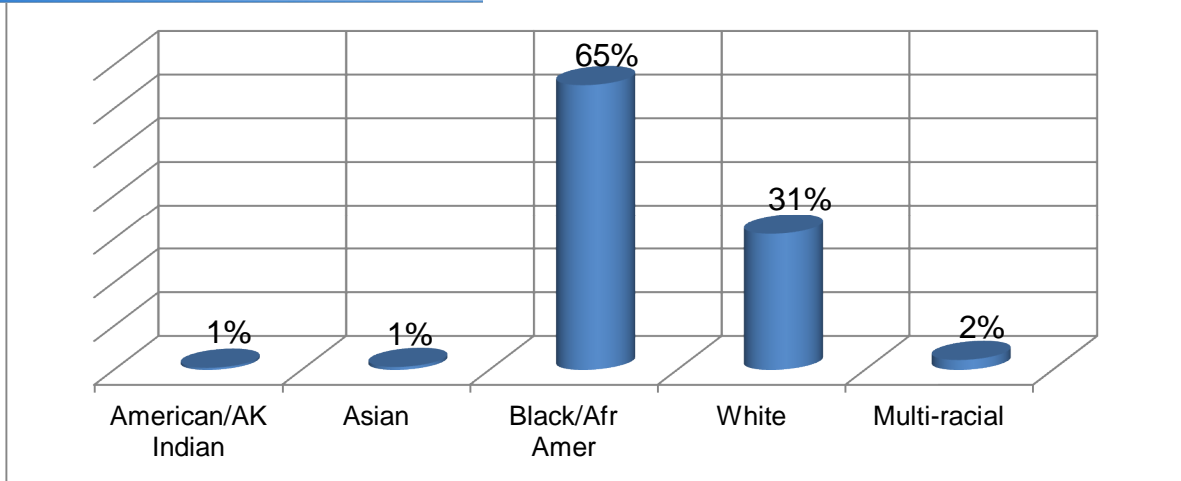
As is consistent with the overall homeless population in Houston, males (79%) are represented almost four times more than females (21%).



Nearly two-thirds of the clients identify as African-American or Black and approximately one-third report that they are White.

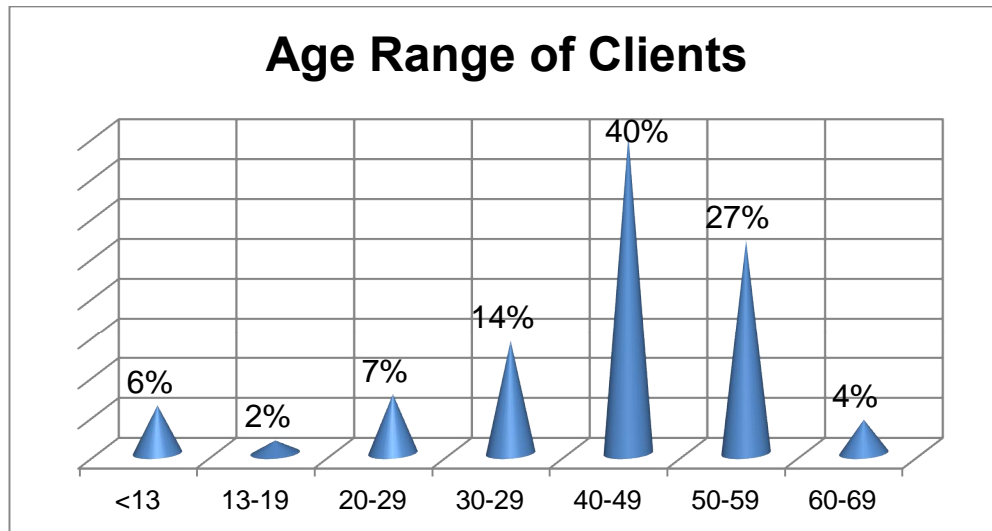
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Client Race



As shown in the following chart, 6% of the clientele in the sample are younger than 13 years old and are children whose parents are served by SEARCH. The 2% who are adolescent are most often older teenagers who are unattached to parents. The average age of clients in the sample is 43, with the youngest being under 1 year and the oldest 69 years old.

Age Range of Clients



INCOME: CHANGES AND SOURCES

At enrollment into SEARCH programs, clients claimed a monthly income on average of \$43.35, with a minimum of no source of income to a maximum of \$1,321. On exit, the maximum income accessed by a client was \$4,000 with an average for the group \$582.29.

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es of income that were secure for clients. The % have 17 who had income when they left the program. As is shown, almost all income came from employment.

SOURCE OF INCOME	HAVE INCOME
EMPLOYMENT INCOME	89%
SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)	4%
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INCOME (SSDI)	3%
VETERANS BENEFITS	3%
TANF	1%
Total	100.0%

The clients who were able to leave program with employment showed significant changes in income as shown in the following table.

	NUMBER	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEAN
INCOME ENROLLED	217	\$0	\$1,321	\$63.46
INCOME EXIT	217	\$0	\$3,040	\$1,202.15
INCOME DIFFERENCE	217	\$176	\$3,040	\$1,1138.69

SERVICE USE PATTERNS

On average, clients spent 190 days enrolled in SEARCH programs. In this sample, the minimum duration was 1 day and the maximum was 760. In the following chart, patterns of delivery of the 10 most frequently used services by the total group of 996 clients is documented. As can be seen, case management, bus tokens and food vouchers were the most commonly accessed.

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		UNITS OF SERVICES		
		MEAN	MAXIMUM	SUM
1	CASE MANAGEMENT	4	36	2,495
2	METRO BUS VOUCHERS	4	29	2,416
3	FOOD VOUCHERS	4	33	2,409
4	INFORMATION & REFERRAL	4	25	2,091
5	JOB SEARCH RESOURCE CENTER	3	26	1,751
6	LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION	3	29	1,632
7	JOB SEARCH	3	20	1,416
8	JOB CLUB 12 WEEKS	2	19	1,013
9	JOB READINESS	2	17	858
10	GAS MONEY	1	40	480

Use of three services significantly predicted that on exit clients would be employed:

- Job Development ($p \leq 0.049$)
- Job Readiness ($p \leq 0.030$)
- Job Search ($p \leq 0.006$)

It is noteworthy, that, *all* of the job services were significantly correlated with access to any source of income. That information can be interpreted to mean that once a client is enrolled in any of the job services, the service provision will consistently involve pursuing all potential sources of income for that client, not just employment. That is critical since many of the clients whom SEARCH serves are unable to attain or maintain employment due to an array of physical or mental health challenges.

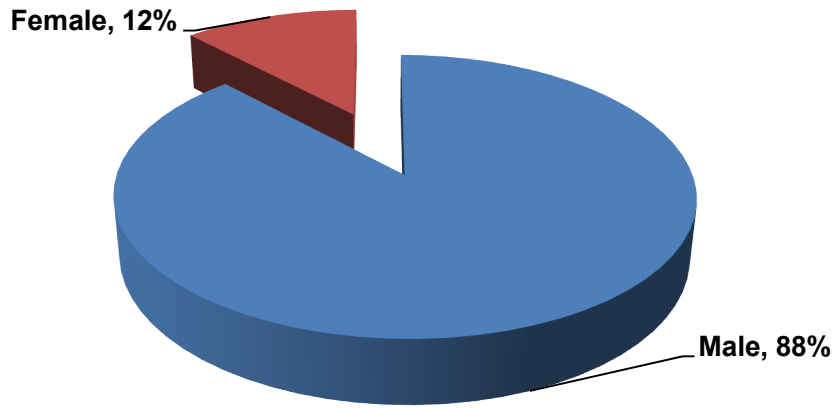
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS CLIENTS

Among the entire sample, the duration of homelessness was available for only 293 of the clients. Of these, 25 (9%) were identified as chronically homeless. Charts depicting their demographic profile are shown below.

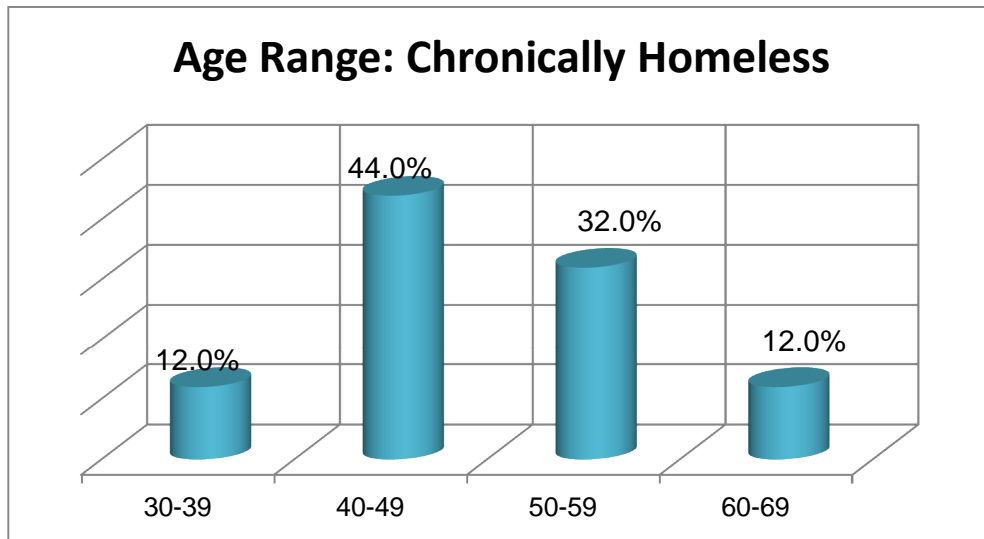
Consistent with the statistics for the general homeless population, males are far more prevalent than our females, even more so among the chronically homeless. Research has indicated that the increase proportion of chronically homeless males is due to the number of military veterans who become homeless, then chronically so.

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Chronically Homeless



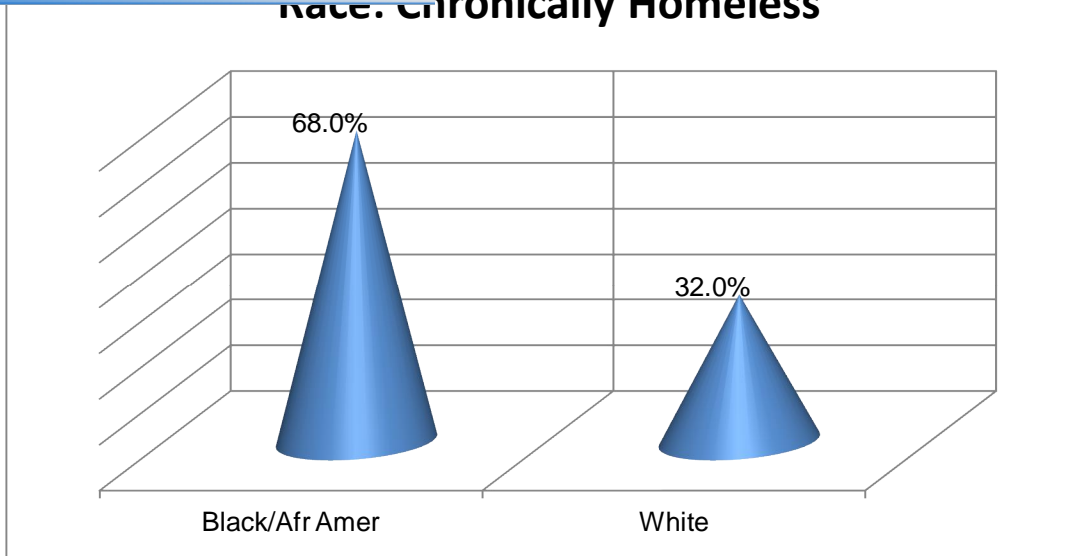
Again, because of the definitions of chronic homelessness which tends to exclude younger homeless persons and the prevalence of male veterans, it is not surprising that the average age of a chronically homeless person is 48.5 years older than the general homeless population. As shown below, no one under age 32 is represented in this group, while the oldest person was 67. As is logically apparent, research has confirmed that mortality rates among homeless persons are higher than in the general population and higher still among the chronically homeless.



Chronically homeless persons in this sample, self-identify as either Black/African American or White. The ratio of each is essentially the same as is found in the homeless population at large, however, African-Americans are far over-represented compared with the region's general population of non-homeless persons.

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Race: Chronically Homeless



A notable finding in this analysis, is that even among the chronically homeless, the primary source of income for clients served by SEARCH is employment. What makes this finding remarkable is that the chronically homeless by definition are multiply challenged in that to be classified as such, they must have a documented disability as well as a long duration or multiple events of homelessness and thus find it quite difficult to secure or maintain employment.

Within this sample, 28% of the chronically homeless still had no financial resources. The chart below shows the sources for those who were able to access income.

SOURCE OF INCOME	HAVE INCOME
EMPLOYMENT INCOME	79%
SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)	11%
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INCOME (SSDI)	1%
VETERANS BENEFITS	1%
Total	100.0%

Despite the success of 72% of the group for whom some source of income was identified, overall amounts tended to be lower than for the homeless population in general. The higher mean at enrollment may be reflective of the fact that this group of chronically homeless persons had relationships with service systems and thus income sources, including SEARCH prior to their current entry into the systems

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	NUMBER	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEAN
INCOME ENROLLED	25	\$0	\$944	\$82.44
INCOME EXIT	25	\$0	\$2,880	\$874.40
INCOME DIFFERENCE	25	\$0	\$2,880	\$791.96

Unfortunately, due to the structure of the source of data for this analysis, no data was available about the service use among these chronically homeless clients.

CONCLUSION

The most striking conclusion from this analysis is the rate at which SEARCH clients are able to find employment and for most clients, that occurs within 6 months of enrollment. Client income at exit from the program is consistently much higher than it was when clients entered and it notable that clients are afforded access to numerous sources, in addition to potential employment.

Finally, it is apparent that the model of providing wrap around services- basic needs services, employment and training afford SEARCH clients the most effective means of achieving self-sufficiency.