

RYERSON CARIBBEAN RESEARCH CENTRE

Pathways to Homelessness
Among Caribbean Youth 15 – 25
In Toronto

Final Report

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Study Funded by

Wellesley Central Health Corporation

&

Ryerson Caribbean Research Centre

Acknowledgements

I need to thank many individuals and agencies for their support of this pilot project, without them this would have been impossible:

Dr Kenise Kilbride for always being there to help

Alan Arsenault for his fabulous Excel work

The participating agencies, especially Evergreen

Dr Val Tarasuk, for her collegiality and enormous generosity of spirit

Janet Dickau for word processing help

Kwasi Kafele and the folks at SAPPACY

Robert Anderson for pitching in whenever we called

Cheryl "Bela" Mc Pherson for the many hours of work, but mainly for all that you taught me during this project

My sincerest Thanks

Ultimately, the responsibility for all errors and omissions is mine

Executive Summary

The primary goal of the research project was to ascertain patterns, trends, and pathways related to episodes of homelessness among Caribbean youth between the ages of 15 and 25 years old. It examined the literature on homelessness in Canada, generally, and youth homelessness specifically, to determine what could be learned about the ethno-racial dimensions of youth homelessness in Canada.

The data component of the study used in-depth qualitative interviews with homeless Caribbean youth 15-25 to develop a greater understanding of the socio-demographic characteristics of 'street involved' Caribbean youth, the ways in which they found themselves homeless, their support systems, interactions with police, vulnerabilities and the impacts these have on their self image and sense of control over their lives.

The literature reviewed suggests that common pathways to homelessness among youth include:

- Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional)
- Drugs
- Mental Health
- Family Breakdown
- Poverty
- Sexual identity/preference
- Various combinations of the above

In addition, newcomer youth face adjustments to:

- Culture
- Language
- Educational system
- Blended families
- Racism
- Self-image
- Isolation/exclusion

The research employed a qualitative method to profile characteristics of self identified homeless youth of Caribbean descent, specifically targeting the 15 to 25 age group. The sample was opportunistic and was drawn from 6 agencies serving homeless youth in Toronto:

Covenant House
Eva's Phoenix
Evergreen
Robertson House
SAPPACY
Seaton House
SHOUT Clinic

We used a detailed questionnaire to assess; socio-demographic characteristics of respondents; reasons for homelessness, previous episodes of homelessness; family background; hopes and aspirations of youth; perceptions of safety, racism and discrimination; sources of social and financial support and community resources accessed during these periods. Sixty interviews were attempted. This yielded 43 usable results (26 males and 17 females). Each participant was given an honorarium of thirty dollars. The data were entered into an Excel spread sheet for storage and analysis. (The questionnaire is included as Appendix 1)

In addition, we were provided access to the data on 15 Black (African/Caribbean) respondents within a larger sample, N 261, in a study titled: *Food Insecurity and Nutritional Vulnerability Among Homeless Youth in Toronto*, carried out by Valerie Tarasuk, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Although the focus of the two studies was different, there were several parts of each instrument which allowed reasonable comparisons to be made between the two samples. (The socio-demographic characteristics of the parent sample are included as Appendix 2).

Our results suggest that:

- Homeless Caribbean youth are predominantly male, between 17 and 24. On average they have completed Grade 11; many have had their education interrupted due to suspension or expulsion; most are unemployed and are not receiving social assistance. Their financial circumstances do not seem to vary due to length of time in Canada or immigration status.

Pathways to homelessness

- The major pathway to homelessness is family and relationship breakdown. For women this is often associated with abuse. For males violence outside the home is a major factor. In addition, among those “sleeping rough” addiction and mental health (ADM) and incarceration are pathways.

Supports

- Given the lack of legal, gainful employment and the constraints related to social assistance, parents or guardians, especially mothers, are the primary source of financial and emotional support. Friends also provide much needed assistance. In circumstances where family contact is reduced there seems to be a trend to hard-core street involvement using “alternative” methods to earn income.

Contact with the police

- Contact with the police is overwhelmingly negative, especially for males. As they spend more time on the street this interaction exacerbates from stop and search, through arrest to incarceration. There is a strong perception among youth that discrimination and racism contribute to this pattern.

Self-Image/Self Control

- Among those with relatively short homeless careers there is a sense of hopefulness. They see themselves as in control of their futures and youth are willing to take responsibility for their behaviours, maintain contact with supportive family, they also plan to complete and/ or increase their education and training. Their parents and guardians are gainfully employed, not on social assistance, better educated and securely housed. As Lee (2000) argues this may be in part, a function of the increased difficulties that all immigrants arriving after 1986 face.

By contrast, the small sample of heavily 'street involved' youth projects a different image. Many have multiple challenges related to alcohol, drugs and mental health. Most have journeyed through the foster care/ group home systems, have been incarcerated, and project little of the hopefulness of those more recently on the street.

The results of our pilot study strongly support the patterns described in the literature. Caribbean (Black) youth face all the challenges traditionally associated with youth homelessness. In assessing the challenges that face black newcomer youth, specifically, some disconcerting conclusions emerge:

- Race and Racism are critical in understanding the life terrain that Black youth must negotiate. Canadian-born black youth face the same issues around institutional and individual racism as Caribbean and African-born youth.
- The intersection of racism and education present a formidable structural barrier that black males in particular, find difficult to circumvent.
- Youth arrive in Canada with a sense of optimism about their future and the possibilities of a new and better life. Unemployment, poverty, racism and negative contact with the police systematically destroy this optimism. It is significant that 'street involved' black youth in the Nutrition study had been in Canada significantly longer. However, they manifested higher levels of alcohol, drug abuse and mental health problems, had been incarcerated more, were more estranged from families (many having entered the foster care group home system) and were more isolated.

The evidence reviewed demonstrates that migration *per se* is not a good indicator of homelessness among Caribbean youth. Rather as May (2000) argues, "a position of multiple structural disadvantage" is a more appropriate explanation. Changes in social and income support, tenant protection and zero tolerance policies seem to combine with discrimination, racism and economic restructuring to push immigrants, and immigrant youth in particular, closer to the margins of society. One outcome of this marginal status is poverty and far too often homelessness.

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Introduction

The primary goal of the research project was to ascertain patterns, trends, and pathways related to episodes of homelessness among Caribbean youth between the ages of 15 and 25 years old. It examined the literature on homelessness in Canada, generally, and youth homelessness specifically, to determine what could be learned about the ethno-racial dimensions of youth homelessness in Canada.

The data component of the study used in-depth qualitative interviews with homeless Caribbean youth 15-25 to develop a greater understanding of the socio-demographic characteristics of 'street involved' Caribbean youth, the ways in which they found themselves homeless, their support systems, interactions with police, vulnerabilities and the impacts these have on their self image and sense of control over their lives.

Another projected outcome of this research was to build a broad based, sustainable partnership structure with Caribbean youth communities and the agencies that provide services to them. Finally, we hope that given better information, relationships between 'Black' or Caribbean communities and many of the institutions in our society can be improved. The schools and the police in particular have been defensive when criticized and resistant to significant change. Good research is a necessary, though not sufficient, element of the process of persuasion.

This research project is being conducted in partnership with the School of Urban and Regional Planning and the Ryerson Caribbean Research Centre (RCRC). We present first the review of the literature; this is followed by a description of our research method, a descriptions of the results of our interviews, discussion of these results, conclusions and several appendices.

SECTION 1

Research Overview

Literature Review on homelessness in Canada, the United States and Britain

Homelessness in Toronto

Affordable Housing

Immigrants and Poverty

Discrimination in Housing

Overview

In the past decade, Canadian researchers have extensively studied the issue of homelessness. Some experts have estimated there are anywhere between 130, 000 and 260, 000 homeless people in Canada (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives 1998), including some 3000 to 5000 street youth in Toronto (Smart et al 1992). However, as some scholars have argued, these figures may actually underestimate the real level of homelessness because they tend to exclude homeless people who do not use services (Dachner & Tarasuk 2002) or women in transition houses, women who are unsafe in their own homes, and/or abused women (Du Mont & Miller 2000). A number of notable studies have nonetheless produced empirical evidence that has contributed to our knowledge of homelessness, especially in large urban centres like Toronto and Vancouver (De Matteo et al. 1999; Lee 2000; National Council of Welfare 1999; Riches 1997; Springer et al 1998; Tanner & Wortley 2002).

Much of the literature on street populations has focused on young people under the age of 25 years old. Researchers have linked the phenomenon of street youth in developed countries to poverty, family violence, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of children, and the non-conformity and rebelliousness of youth themselves (Baron & Hartnagel 2002; Hagan & McCarthy 1997). Besides identifying some of the complex background factors or pathways that lead some youth to episodes of homelessness (Gaetz & O'Grady 2002; Springer et al 1998), studies have also focused on the experiences of homeless youth while living on the streets, including accessing community or government based resources (Morrell-Bellai, Goering & Boydell 2000), modes of survival, including involvement in property crimes, panhandling or substance abuse (Basso et al 2004; DeMatteo et al. 1999; Parnaby 2003), and/or criminal victimization (Tanner & Wortley 2002). Generally, most street youth are male (Kufeldt & Nimmo 1987; Hagan & McCarthy 1997) and tend to be living in Toronto (Brannigan & Caputo 1993). While most of the attention has been placed on young people, recent attention has highlighted the plights of other groups as well, including women (Du Mont & Miller 2000) and Aboriginals (Baron & Hartnagel 2002; Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force 1999).

One issue that has been noticeably absent from Canadian research in this area has been any analyses of racial differences in rates of homelessness. Very little discussion has emerged on the plight of racialized groups despite the fact international research has found that homeless populations are made up of a diversity of people who become and remain homeless for various reasons (Daniel 2002; Gaetz & O'Grady 2002). In fact, the ethno-racial compositions of some relatively large-scale quantitative Canadian studies are not even presented to readers or incorporated into the author's analysis (Basso et al. 2004; Dachner & Tarasuk 2002). Other projects have noted a significant representation of racialized groups in their sample but have failed to comment upon the different experiences of these same populations (DeMatteo et al 1999; Gaetz & O'Grady 2002; Tanner & Wortley 2002). For example, the second largest group of participants (behind Euro-Canadians) in many of these studies was identified as 'Black' (e.g. of African, Caribbean or North American heritage). Yet, each study failed to elaborate further on the racial differences in their findings, even though the author's appear to be cognizant of the advantages marginalized 'white' youth enjoy when compared to their counterparts from racialized communities.

Homelessness in Canada has been constructed in a way that negates the racial diversity that exists within this particular population. However, a few notable studies have commented on the different variables/pathways which pose a risk to visible minorities, including immigration, education, employment, housing, or the criminal justice system (Anisef & Bunch 1994; Anisef & Kilbride 2003; Hagan & McCarthy 1997; Springer et al 1998). For example, Anisef & Kilbride (2003) recognize that the needs of newcomer youth have not been adequately met, especially in relation to their experiences in the education system and have effectively identified some of the structural and ideological barriers these youth must contend with in the Canadian education system. With regard to accessing community or government resources, it has also been suggested that homeless youth from minority communities are more likely than their white counterparts to exhaust informal social networks before resorting to formal agencies for assistance (ibid). More research focusing on the experiences of racialized homeless populations will provide advocates and policy makers with information that will be better suited to deal with this social issue.

Examining the role race or ethnicity plays when it comes to the issue of homelessness has been taken up with more vigour in countries like the United States and Britain. American researchers, for example, have done extensive work analyzing the different experiences of racial groups. Several studies have looked at racial disparities in rates of homelessness (Amster 2003; North & Smith 1994). One study conducted by Culhane and Metraux (1997) found that African-Americans were 2.3 times more likely to use a shelter than any other group in the country. When compared to their white American counterparts, 'Blacks' are reportedly 17 times more likely to use these same services. The authors also note that two groups of African-Americans are particularly 'at-risk' of experiencing episodes of homelessness: children under the age of 5 years old and males between the ages of 30 and 49 years old. In another research study by Gamache et al (2001), the authors found that 'Blacks' are more likely than non-Blacks to cite interpersonal reasons (being female, young, being or having been married and being 'Black') for being homeless and are less likely to cite economic reasons.

In the UK, discussions about levels of youth homelessness have led to notions of a dangerous underclass consisting of people who are "structurally and culturally distinct from the traditional English working class population (Gaetz & O'Grady 2002: 434). As a result, attempts have been made to study the particular experiences of homeless people from different visible minority groups, especially those of young 'Blacks' (Davies et al 1996; Rooney & Brown 1996; Julienne 1998). By far the largest minority groups among the single homeless population in the UK were 'Black' (African or Afro-Caribbean). These studies have produced findings that can be used in the development of new strategies or government policies aimed at combating homelessness in Britain. For example, the DETR study (1999) on homelessness found that while people from minority ethnic groups are under-represented among 'rough sleepers' (see also Smith & Gilford 1998), they are over-represented among hostel and bed and breakfast residents (also see Anderson et al 1993). Burrows (1997) also notes that 'Black' heads of households were three times more likely to have experienced homelessness than 'white' heads of households. These findings have effectively highlighted the broader structural (social and economic) changes that have led to the marginalization and exclusion of countless minority youth.

Homelessness in Toronto

The Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness has documented challenges for the City regarding homelessness, and has shown that the incidence of homelessness in the City of Toronto is increasing. The following are some of the main points outlined in their executive summary regarding the face of homelessness (1998: iv): about 26,000 individuals used hostels in Toronto in 1996, and 5,300 children were homeless in 1996. Further, a significant percentage of the homeless (about 30 - 35%) suffered from mental illness, at least 47% of hostel users come from outside of Toronto, poverty is getting worse, and the fastest growing group who are homeless or at risk of being homeless includes youth and families. The Toronto Report Card on Homelessness 2001, a more recent analysis of the homelessness situation in Toronto, provides more up-to-date information. According to this report, in 1999 two-parent families represented 9.6% of shelter users, single parent families represented 7.3% of shelter users, and couples comprised of 1.8% of shelter users -- figures that have steadily increased since 1988 (2001: 3). The number of individuals using the shelter system in 1999 was approximately 30,000 individuals (2001: 4). Furthermore, youth comprise 23% of shelter users as of September 2000, an increase from 1998 when the percentage was 20%; and there has been an increase in the number of children using shelters from 2700 in 1988 to 6200 in 1999 (2001: 3, 5). Of significance to this proposal, among families using emergency shelters, 24% are refugee claimants, and 9% of families are newcomers to the City (2001: 4). In addition, single newcomers to the City account for 3% of shelter users and single refugee claimants comprise 3% of shelter users (2001: 4).

Those findings are further reinforced by the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness which notes that in 1997 16% of shelter users had arrived from other parts of Ontario, 17% from other provinces and 14% from outside of Canada (RFP: 2). This illustrates that a significant amount of emergency shelter users are migrants from outside of Toronto. This is based on the Springer and Mars' analysis profiling the homeless population in Toronto, where they found that slightly under half of the hostel users lived outside of the City of Toronto one year prior to their use of the hostel system (1998: 15). Further, according to the Springer and Mars' study, one of the most prevalent reasons for hostel use is that many users are newly arrived to the City of Toronto: approximately 30.7% of total hostel users stated this as their reason for using the service (1998: 15). Refugee claimants comprise 5% of total hostel users in 1995-1996, many of whom are two-parent families (1998: 17). It should be noted that the pattern of hostel use of those from abroad is different in that they tend to need only 4 days to 2 months to leave the hostel system; however 6% have stayed for a year or longer (1998: 28).

The City of Toronto has undertaken numerous initiatives to address the homelessness situation, as noted in the Toronto Report Card on Homelessness 2001. These initiatives include the following:

- The City's Let's Build affordable housing program which promises \$10.6 million in funding and five city properties (pg. 23)
- A commitment to funding new affordable housing units - with the goal of building approximately 400 units in 2001 (pg. 24)

- Setting aside funds given by the Federal government [through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives] for transitional housing (pg. 24)
- Adopting second suites by-law (pg. 25)
- Funding, with the Province, community-based services under the City of Toronto Homelessness Initiatives Fund, which funds community groups working with homeless people (pg. 27)

Initiatives of significance to this proposal include government (mainly the federal and municipal governments) strategies for immigrants and refugees. The City has set out to fund ethno-cultural groups whom they have identified as under-served; this includes a new program for at-risk tenants and homeless people in the communities of Flemingdon and Thorncliffe Parks where many immigrants, refugees, and visible minorities live (2001: 40).

Affordable Housing

It is estimated that Ontario is short about 74,000 housing units, the majority of which are in the City of Toronto (Dunphy, May 3rd 2001). Reasons for this are attributable to the lack of incentives for the private sector to build rental-housing units. In the past, many had argued that developers did not invest in rental housing because of the government regulated rent caps. Then when the Progressive Conservative Party came into provincial power, they implemented a new system in which landlords could raise the rents on a yearly basis to account for inflation and other rising costs. In 2001, the yearly allowed increase was 2.9%, and in 2002 it is 3.9% (Gillespie, Sept. 25th 2001). In 2004 the "as of right" increase has been reduced to 1.5%. Even though this new system was to provide more of an incentive for the private sector to build rental housing, between 1996 and 2001 only 6, 000 units have been built in Ontario (Dunphy, May 3rd 2001). Despite these increases, many landlords applied to the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal to increase rents beyond the allowed rate; many of these landlords were from Toronto (Gillespie, Sept. 25th 2001). Thus, this incentive alone was not sufficient to attract the private sector to build rental-housing units. Furthermore, until the past year the vacancy rates of rental units remained at disturbingly low levels throughout Ontario, especially Toronto whose vacancy rate in 2001 was 0.6%. At present a healthy vacancy rate of approximately 5% exists in Toronto. (Dunphy, May 3rd 2001). A low vacancy rate heightens competition among individuals for affordable rental units and migrants newly arrived to the City would have a difficult time competing with other Canadians, especially if they have little income and few contacts. About 80% of recent immigrants depend on rental accommodation (RFP: 3).

Immigrants and Poverty

Kevin Lee's (2000) analysis on urban poverty in Canada illustrates that recent immigrants are having difficulties settling in Canada. According to Lee's analysis, 32.9% of immigrants living in Toronto lived below the poverty line in 1995 compared to the 21.5% of Canadian-born residents (2000: 34). Over half (52.8%) of recent immigrants - those who arrived between 1991 and 1996 - were more likely to be poor, whereas those immigrants who arrived prior to 1986

had a lower poverty rate (2000: 35, 32). Further, in Toronto, non-permanent residents (including foreign students, work-visa holders, and refugee claimants) had a poverty rate of 63% (2000: 36). Lee stated that the data imply that recent immigrants are having a hard time obtaining a sufficient income (2000: 31). A lack of, or an insufficient amount of, income creates poverty, and poverty, as noted in Toronto's Report Card on Homelessness 2001, is one of the factors determining homelessness. Immigrants and refugees who live below the poverty line are therefore at risk of becoming homeless and thus in need of emergency shelter, as they bridge the gap to permanent affordable housing.

The Urban Forum on Immigration and Refugee Issues was held in September of 1997 in Toronto to discuss the status of immigrant and refugee services in Toronto and to develop strategies for better service of this group (1998: 2). Important among their discussions were concerns about race as a factor determining the employment of immigrants. For example, it was noted that for immigrants from specific African nations the unemployment rate is 25.8% whereas individuals with European origin only experienced an unemployment rate of 7% (1998: 23). Further, it was mentioned that federal and provincial cuts to funding services and changes to legislation (*e.g.*, the head tax from the Federal government and the Tenant Protection Act from the provincial government) all impact immigrant settlement in the City of Toronto (1998: 4,6). The forum discussed key areas affecting immigrant settlement and made recommendations on how to address the challenges in key areas. These areas include public perception of immigrants, refugee, and visible minorities, implications for public health, settlement and adaptation in education, access to professions and trades, contributions to culture and local economy, and funding settlement services (1998: 12-17).

Michael Ornstein's analysis on Ethno-Racial Inequality in Toronto, suggested that the level of poverty experienced by certain groups of individuals was dependent on the race of that group. That is, non-European groups had a poverty rate of 34.3%, which is more than doubled the rate for Europeans and Canadians (2000: i). Also, Ornstein notes there are different levels of inequality among different ethno-racial groups. For example, it appears that families from East/Southeast Asia and the Pacific are the least disadvantaged yet their poverty rate is 29.6% whereas the poverty rate for European-origin families is 14.4% (2000: i). According to Ornstein the most disadvantaged are African ethno-racial groups - such as Ethiopians, Ghanaians, Somalis, and people from other African nations - in which 70% of their children live in families whose income are below the poverty line or low-income cut off (2000: ii). Ornstein notes that Afghans are the only other group whose situation is similar to the African ethno-racial groups. The incidence of poverty for all other ethno-racial groups is as follows (2000: i): 41.4% for Latin American groups, 44.6% for Africans/Blacks/Caribbean, and 45.2% for Arabs/West Asians. It is clear, therefore, that many recent immigrants, especially those of a visible minority status, have a higher incidence of poverty. It could be suggested that this is due to systemic discrimination found in employment and housing, with the two factors compounding the challenges these immigrants face.

Discrimination in the rental housing market

The Ontario Human Rights Code explicitly states in section 2(1) that it is illegal to discriminate against an individual or refuse rent based on the following: race/ethnicity, place of origin, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, disability, receipt of public assistance (RSG 2001: 2). Many agencies, however, such as the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), receive numerous complaints regarding discrimination in housing, especially the rental housing market, based on race, ethnicity etc. CERA enlisted the help of Urban and Regional Planning Students at Ryerson University to conduct surveys across Toronto to assess the extent of discrimination in the rental housing market. The Ryerson Student Group (RSG) visited shelters in Toronto and administered surveys asking housing seekers what their experiences had been like in trying to obtain housing. RSG found that race did not appear to be an issue; however, respondents were asked to identify only specific instances of overt discrimination based on race. Further, only 53% of those surveyed belonged to a visible minority group (2001: 13). As well, referring back to Ornstein's analysis, many visible minorities had low-income levels, and RSG's research found that there was a significant amount of discrimination based on income source and income level (2001: 17-18). Because visible minorities had insufficient income (especially those from African ethno-racial groups – see Ornstein), this severely limited their selection of affordable housing. Further, it became apparent in RSG's work that young women with children who were on Ontario Works (formerly General Welfare Assistance) faced significant discrimination (2001: 23). Overall, RSG's research found that discrimination in the rental housing market did occur despite the ostensible protections offered by Section 2 (1) of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Summary

The literature reviewed suggests that common pathways to homelessness among youth include:

- Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional)
- Drugs
- Mental Health
- Family Breakdown
- Poverty
- Sexual identity/preference
- Various combinations of the above

In addition, newcomer youth face adjustments to:

- Culture
- Language
- Educational system
- Blended families
- Racism
- Self-image
- Isolation/exclusion

SECTION 2

Design and Methods

The research employed a qualitative method to profile characteristics of self identified homeless youth of Caribbean descent, specifically targeting the 15 to 25 age group. The sample was opportunistic and was drawn from 6 agencies serving homeless youth in Toronto:

Covenant House

Eva's Phoenix

Evergreen

Robertson House

SAPPACY

Seaton House

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We used a detailed questionnaire to assess; socio-demographic characteristics of respondents; reasons for homelessness, previous episodes of homelessness; family background; hopes and aspirations of youth; perceptions of safety, racism and discrimination; sources of social and financial support and community resources accessed during these periods. Sixty interviews were attempted. This yielded 43 usable results (26 males and 17 females). Each participant was given an honorarium of thirty dollars. The data were entered into an Excel spread sheet for storage and analysis. (The questionnaire is included as **Appendix 1**)

In addition, we were provided access to the data on 15 Black (African/Caribbean) respondents within a larger sample, N 261, in a study titled: *Food Insecurity and Nutritional Vulnerability Among Homeless Youth in Toronto*, carried out by Valerie Tarasuk, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3E2. Although the focus of the two studies was different, there were several parts of the two instruments which allowed reasonable comparisons to be made between the two samples. (The sociodemographic characteristics of the parent sample are included as **Appendix 2**)

SECTION 3

Study Results

Given an N of 43 there is limited capacity to do sophisticated statistical analysis. The approach used frequencies and cross tabulations to identify significant patterns in the data. Our results are aggregated into 5 subgroups for description and analysis:

Demographics& Homelessness Histories

- Age
- Immigration Status
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Family Background/Structure
- Income/employment

Present Housing /Homelessness

Personal Safety

Victimization

Discrimination/Racism

Self image and self control

Support systems

(A power-point summary of the results is provided as an electronic Appendix.2)

Demographics& Homelessness Histories

Age

Twenty-six of the forty-three respondents were between 21 and 25, fifteen males and 11 females; eleven were 17 to 20; and 6 were 14 to 16. In total there were 26 males and 17 females. (Figure 1)

Age Distribution of Sample

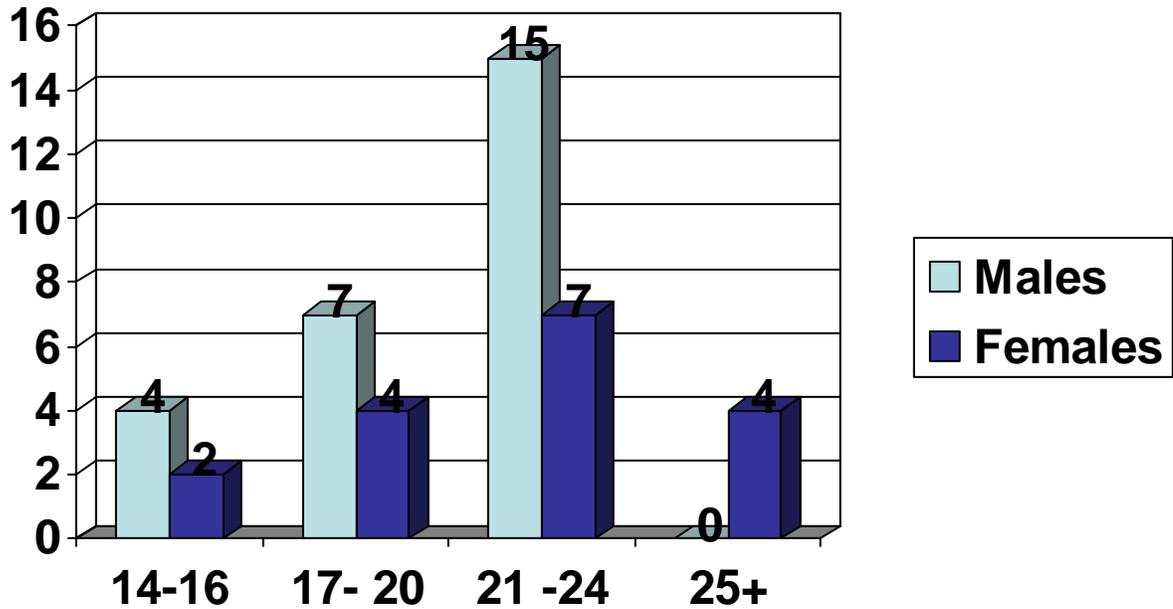


Figure 1

Migrant Status

Of the sample of 43, 35 were born outside Canada and 8 were born in Canada. 15 were citizens, 15 landed immigrants; 7 were undocumented and 5 were refugee claimants. 18 of the 35 immigrant youth, slightly more than 50%, were in Canada less than 5 years, 8 less than 2 years. 40% of the sample thinks of themselves as “Canadian”.

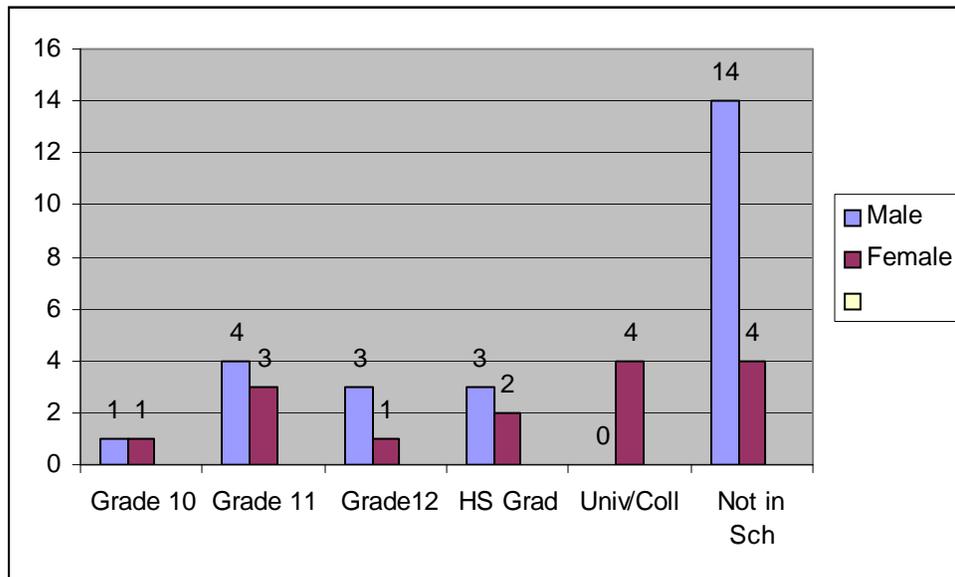
Ethnicity

The sample was overwhelmingly Black. 33 of 43 identified themselves as Black, 7 as mixed- race, 2 as East Indian and 1 as Chinese.

Education

18 of the respondents were not in school; 13 had completed Grade 12 or less, although only 2 reported less than a Grade 10 education. 5 have graduated high school, some in the Caribbean; 4 have some college or university. 15 had dropped out. The relationship of youth respondents with the school system is strained, 18 were suspended or had been expelled. The primary cause of suspension or expulsion was violence, related in large measure to a zero tolerance policy to fighting. This was more prevalent among males in the sample. Most youth reported that schoolwork was not a problem, 37 reported grades of “C” or better during their time in school. Education is highly valued and 34 have plans to continue, or complete, their education. For 50% of the sample this entailed plans for continuing at the college or university levels.

Figure 2: Educational Achievement by SEX



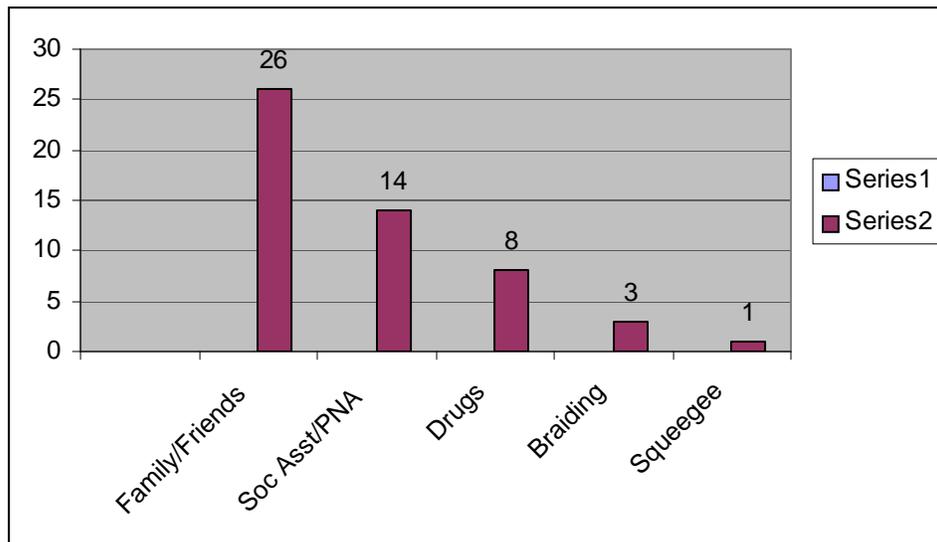
Family Background

“Family” raised 40 of 43 respondents. 10 were raised by parents, 16 by single mothers, 13 by other family, and 1 by a single father. 26 have 2 or more siblings. The employment status of parents is stable. Most parents are generally gainfully employed, 29 work full time, and 7 part-time. Only 3 are unemployed; none are on social assistance. The educational background of parents, as reported by the youth, shows that 19 are high school graduates, of this group 6 are university graduates and 6 have community college diplomas or some university training.

Income

This group of youth face financial hardship. 37 of 43 are unemployed; 14 receive social assistance or a personal needs allowance; 29 do not. 26 get some help from family and/or friends. All report having less money than their peers. To survive respondents depend on informal support from family and friends. Mothers are the main providers in 60% of cases, fathers in 12%. Some women braided hair to earn extra money, 8 youth reported having sold drugs at least once. None reported panhandling or prostitution as sources of income. 1 spoke of squeegee activity.

Figure 3: Sources of Income



Present Housing

This sample reflects a homeless, but not street- based group. 28 respondents were living in a shelter or group home during the study period, 2 were in rooming houses, 5 shared apartments, 8 were unclear about their accommodation, and could be classified as “couch surfing”. None were sleeping on the street at time of study. For most this was not their first episode of homelessness. 25 have been homeless more than once, 10 more than 3 times, 8 more than 5 times. Despite contact with family, the majority did not return home once they had left. 22 had not returned home between episodes. Homeless episodes were of significant length. Almost 60% had been homeless 9 weeks or more. The most frequently cited duration period was 9 to 24 weeks.

Reasons for homelessness

The most common pathway to homelessness was family breakdown. This was the reason given in almost 40% of cases. This catchall response included problems with parents, partners, other family or guardians, and sometimes abuse. The next most reported reason was eviction related to inability to pay rent cited 25% of the time.

Summary

Our sample profiles a group of unemployed, precariously housed, black youth 16 to 24, half of whom have lived in Canada less than 5 years; 75% were raised by single mothers or other extended family; almost half (45%) have been suspended or expelled from school, as a result of zero tolerance policies. By contrast, their parents are employed, better educated and more securely housed.

Personal Safety/Victimization

Homeless youth exist in unsafe environments. Drugs, problems with the police, physical assault and discrimination all contribute to their sense of victimization. Respondents reported witnessing drug dealing, car theft, fights, with and without weapons, threats with weapons, and sexual assault. In response about 10% carried knives for their own protection and 25% previously had been part of a gang that “looked out for each other”. (Only 2 were still part of a gang).

On a more personal level, 10 youth have faced threats of physical injury, including threats of being killed, more than once; half of the women have been attacked without a weapon; both males and females have faced sexual interference and 5 females have been abused. The environment of violence and victimization extends to friends and family. Youth report knowing of 7 rapes, 13 serious injuries as a result of attacks and 10 murders among their friends and families.

The geography of personal assault tended to differ significantly by gender. Women were most likely to be assaulted in the home. 8 of 13 assaults at home were on women; 7 of the 8 assailants were males over 30; in 5 of the 7 cases this adult was a family member. By contrast, 12 of 15 assaults on males took place outside the home. 2 or more other males carried out these assaults. Some assaults were based on race, others on sexual orientation. Non-physical assault included ethnic slurs, and almost 40% of respondents reported them.

Discrimination and Racism

There is a very strong perception among respondents that racism and discrimination are pervasive. 90% believe that the police discriminate based on race, and that some racial groups are treated worse than others; 75% think males are targets more often than females, and almost half believe racism affected their grades in school. At an individual level contact with police is overwhelmingly negative. Over 50% have been arrested at least once; 66% have been stopped and questioned at least once; and 25% have been searched more than 10 times. Males bear the brunt of negative contact with the police.

Summary

Homeless youth are exposed to unsafe situations both inside and outside the home. For women the home tends to be more dangerous with family members as a significant source of predation. For males the street is more dangerous. The adjustments they make to increase safety, such as carrying knives and joining gangs, may lead to increased

negative contact with the police. This feeds into their perception that the “system”, especially the police, discriminates against Blacks, and in particular black males.

Self Image/ Self Control

Despite their housing status respondents generally had a positive image of themselves. 80% considered themselves as capable as others, 75% believe they are in control of their future, and half believe they have control over the bad things that happen to them. This overall optimism is reflected in their identification of preferred jobs. 45% chose skilled trades or skilled professions as the form of employment they would achieve ultimately, while only 5 expected to be in the lower paid service sectors. Youth did not see their existence as aimless. 70% disagreed with the statement that “they lived life day to day with little thought for the future”. Their responses, in the main, reflected a willingness to take responsibility for their circumstances and behaviours. 54% described themselves as self-centred, acting without regard to the impact on others, 50% admit that they lost their tempers easily and 44% agreed that they often acted impulsively without stopping to think; 70% have tried marijuana; 25% are weekly users and 10% daily users. Most use public transit as the primary form of transportation, other than walking, and 50% have used the TTC without paying.

Social Supports

Mothers are the primary support in 60 % of cases, other family in 25%, and fathers in 12%. 65% get small amounts of help from friends. 60% have 2 or more close friends. These tend to belong to the same race, sex and social class, even if they live in different parts of the city. 6 report no close friends.

African/ Caribbean Subset of the Tarasuk Study TS

The Study Goals

“This study was undertaken to characterize nutritional vulnerability among a sample of homeless youth in Toronto. Interviews were conducted with 261 homeless youth (149 male, 112 female), recruited from drop-in centres and outdoor locations in downtown Toronto. Information about current living circumstances, self-rated health, health-related behaviours, food acquisition strategies, and food security and 24-hr dietary intake recalls were collected, and height, weight, triceps skinfold thickness, and mid-upper-arm circumference were measured. A second 24-hr dietary intake recall was conducted with 195 youth.” (Tarasuk et al, 2005, unpublished manuscript, abstract).

Similar questions allowed data to be compared on: Demographics & Homelessness Histories

- Age
- Immigration Status
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Income/employment

Present Housing /Homelessness

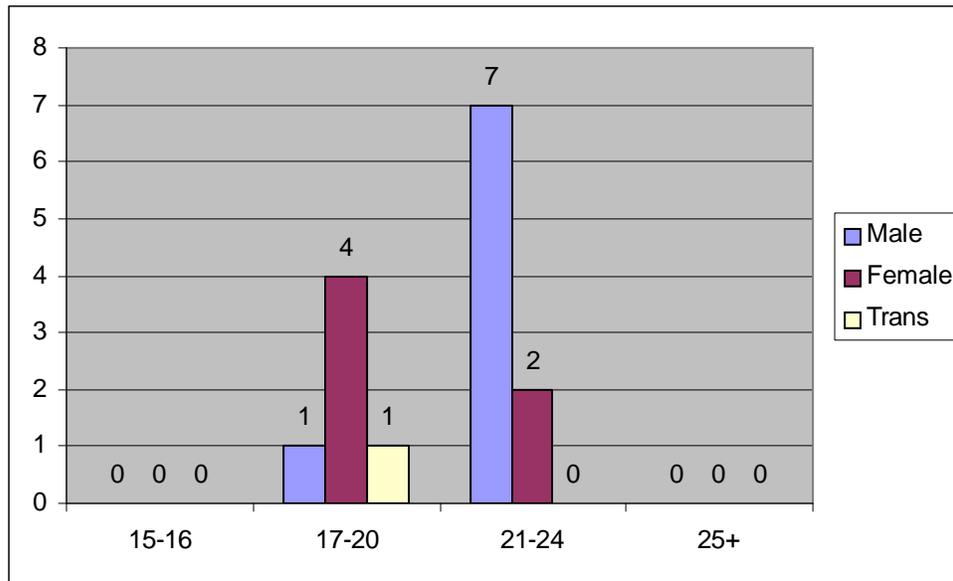
Demographics & Homelessness Histories TS

The sample of 15 “black” respondents comprised 8 males, 6 females and 1 transgendered person.

Age

Six were 17 to 20 (4 female, 1 male, and 1 transgendered) and 9 were 21 –24 (7 males and 2 females)

Figure 4: AGE and SEX Distribution of the “TS” Sample



Males in this group are older than the females. 4 of 6 females were under 20 with an average age of 19.6, while 7 of 9 males were over 21, an average of 22.7.

Immigration Status

10 of 15 of the respondents were born outside Canada. 5 were born in Canada, mainly in Toronto. On average, youth have lived in Canada for 15 years or more. All had arrived by 1996, some as early as 1982. Except for 3 recent arrivals (2 to 10 months), all have lived in Toronto for 2 or more years.

Ethnicity

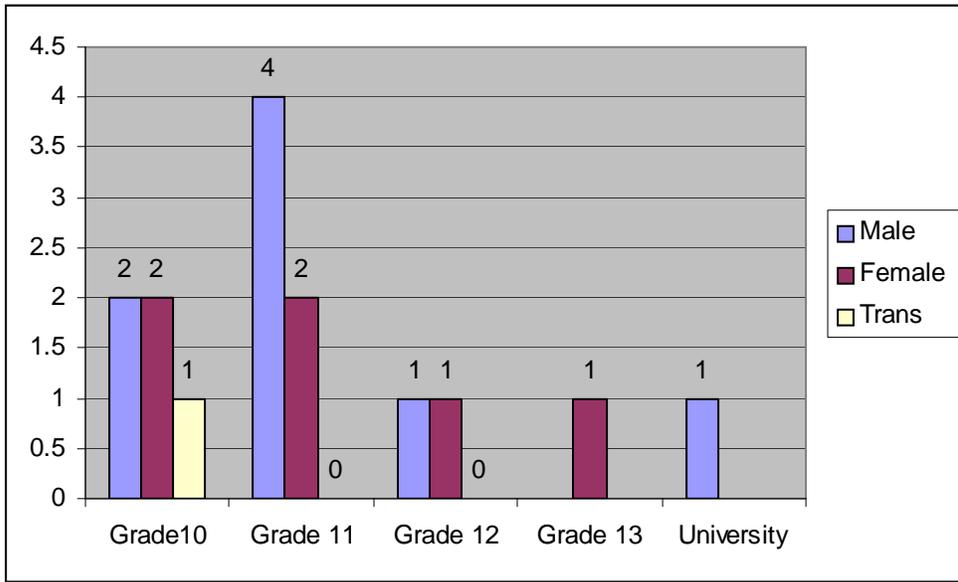
All 15 are Black.

Education

5 have completed Grade 10, 6 Grade 11, 2 Grade 12, 1 Grade 13, and 1 University

14 of the 15 respondents are out of school.

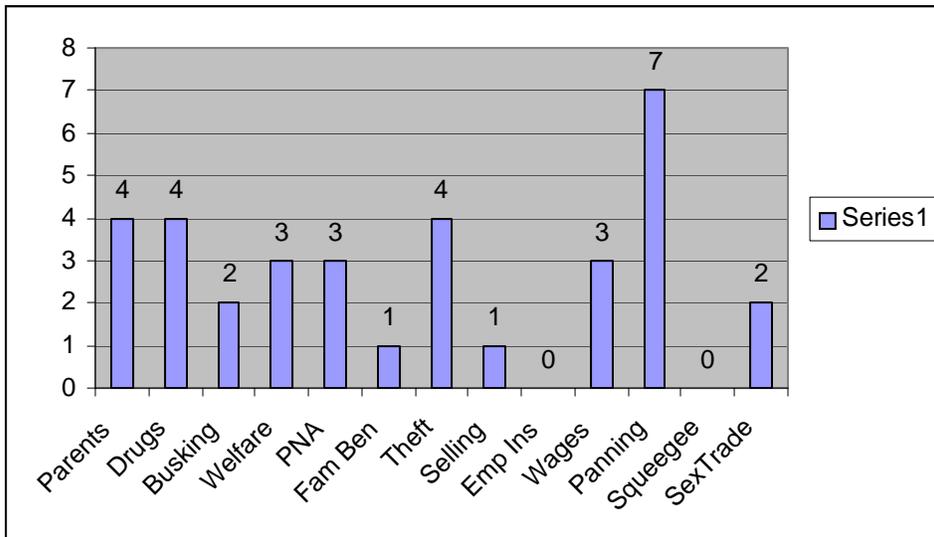
Figure 5: Educational Achievement by SEX "TS" Sample



Income

This group earned income in a variety of ways.

Figure 6: Methods of Earning Money "TS" Sample



Present Housing /Homelessness

11 youth live alone, 4 stayed with friends. On the night immediately before the survey 9 had slept on the street, 5 with friends and 1 in a shelter. 13 have stayed in a shelter, at some other time, because there was no other place to sleep. 12 have lived in a group home or foster care arrangement. Some individuals in this group first experienced homelessness as early as age 10. The average age at the first homeless episode was between 15 and 16 years old. 14 of 15 have been in Jail, 6 have been in a psychiatric institution.

Self Image/Self Control

13 of the youth smoke cigarettes daily, 2 others frequently. 6 use marijuana daily, 4 others several times per week. 3 use crack cocaine, 3 powdered cocaine, 4 use other opiates. 14 of 15 combine nicotine with additional narcotics.

SECTION 4:

Discussion of the Socio-demographic Results

Homeless Caribbean youth 15 – 25, as represented in the WCHC sample, are a distinguishable sub-group of the homeless youth population in Toronto. All arrived after 1986. According to Lee (2000) this dramatically increased the likelihood that, as recent immigrants, they would have a hard time obtaining a sufficient income (2000: 31). As well, RSG's research (cited earlier) found that in their search for stable affordable housing low income persons faced a significant amount of discrimination based on income source and income level (2001: 17-18). For example, in 1998, CERA received almost 1,200 calls from people requiring investigation and mediation services in discrimination related incidents with Landlords.

<u><i>Reported Grounds of Discrimination/Harassment</i></u>	<u><i>Percentage Total</i></u>
April 1997 – March 1998	
Receipt of Public Assistance	30%
Family Status	25%
Disability	11%
Race/Ethnicity	10%
Age	9%
Marital Status	4%
Sex	4%
Place of Origin	3%
Creed	1%
Citizenship	1%
Sexual Orientation	1%
16/17 Year Old	1%

(It is important to point out these are not exclusive categories and very often people experience discrimination based on a combination of discriminatory grounds. The above statistics therefore reflect mainly the prevalence of different grounds of discrimination.)

Further it became apparent in RSG's work that youth generally, and especially young women with children who were on Ontario Works faced significant discrimination (2001: 23). A survey of rental apartment owners by Robert Murdie on 'The *Housing Careers of Polish and Somali Newcomers in Toronto*', 1999, revealed that the majority of those interviewed had explicit barriers to welfare recipients. Of the 27 corporations interviewed, 6 of them, representing 56% of the units admitted, under promise of anonymity, that they do not rent to people in receipt of social assistance. (Hulchanski, J.D. 1992, *Survey of Corporations owning or managing large numbers of rental apartments in Metro Toronto*. Unpublished Manuscript, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, 1998).

Finally, the vast majority of the sample is Black. Michael Ornstein's analysis of Ethno-Racial Inequality in Toronto, suggested that race is a salient factor in understanding the likelihood of living in poverty in Toronto. Springer and Kilbride, in a 2004 study of Migration as a Factor in Emergency Shelter Use, interviewed a purposive sample of key informants, particularly knowledgeable about migrant homeless in the shelter system in Toronto. Informants identified single mothers with children, unaccompanied minors and refugee claimants among several, specific, fast-growing sub-groups in emergency shelters in Toronto.

{Unanimously the Key Informants agree that the primary cause of migrant homelessness is the growing gap between decreasing income and rising rents. They also agree that employment barriers, including discrimination and language obstacles contribute to difficulties migrants have finding work.} Springer & Kilbride, 2004, p. 10.

Caribbean youth face major challenges in their attempts to access stable, private sector rental housing. They are recent immigrants, unemployed, young, some with children, surviving on the charity of friends and family and most are Black. As the literature reviewed (Murdie, 1999, Pomeroy, 1998, Hulchanski, 1992) shows any one of these characteristics would create a substantial risk factor for homelessness. Taken together the cluster of attributes doom these youth to homelessness once they lose stable accommodation for the first time. Further, May contends that

[I]t is not simply that the accommodation available to such people would seem to place them at considerable, and repeated, risk of becoming homeless but rather that their homelessness is often precipitated by attempts to resolve the difficulties that accompany living in this kind of accommodation. (May, 2000. p.626).

Deviant or Criminal Activity

The sample from the Tarasuk study provides some sobering contrasts. This group has been in Canada far longer, yet their circumstances are worse in every dimension. Unlike the WCHC sample these youth have been homeless longer, and are quite heavily street involved. They seem more alienated from family, more marginal in terms of education, demonstrate more involvement in self-destructive behaviour, and face more mental health and addiction challenges. Their contact with law enforcement has "graduated" from stop, search and/ or arrest to incarceration. The possibility

that this type of outcome may be the potential consequence of more time on the street, or in shelters, is disconcerting. A British study has elaborated the theory of the three-week rule which describes the period during which people rapidly adapt to homelessness in order to survive, and after which it is more difficult to integrate back into mainstream society.(Grenier,1996). In addition, Kozol (1988, 21) uses the term 'shelterization' to refer to processes that make healthy people ill, normal people clinically depressed, and those who may be already unwell a great deal worse. Thus, the longer term costs of unstable housing and homelessness include loss of self esteem, illness, violence, and extended unemployment.

Past studies on homelessness among Canadian youth have highlighted the many strategies that are employed as a means of survival, including begging, panhandling or selling drugs (Basso et al. 2004; DeMatteo et al. 1999; Parnaby 2003). For Caribbean youth in the WCHC sample it appears as if using the Toronto Transit (T.T.C) without paying and selling drugs were some of the more common "hustles. A small number of people said they had sold illegal narcotics for profit within the past year whereas a larger percentage reported using marijuana on a daily or weekly basis. By contrast, in the smaller sub-sample of hard-core, street involved Black youth, there was evidence of use of harder drugs, such as powdered or crack cocaine which supports other drug literature. What this suggests is that Caribbean youth, given enough time on the street, are likely to resort to ways of obtaining money no different from their 'White' counterparts, but this requires further investigation in order to support this assertion.

Increasingly, the literature reflects a lack of consensus around the relative importance of macro-scale structural factors, individual deficits or combinations of the two clusters as pathways to homelessness. Gelberg *et al* state:

Research to date is limited regarding the compelling issues of vulnerability on the health and use of health services of homeless populations. Three key problems, other than the obvious lack of a home, characterize the homeless population: mental illness, substance abuse, and competing needs (Gelberg, Andersen and Leake, 2000, p.1277).

However, May asserts that:

...[H]omelessness is seen as neither simply a housing nor a welfare issue, caused by neither only structural nor individual factors. Instead, homelessness is explained with reference to the manner in which changing structural conditions impact most severely upon particular groups, either because of a simple position of structural disadvantage, or (more usually) because of some further vulnerability that renders a person especially ill equipped to cope with those changes. ...This leads to the conclusion that for the majority of single people their homelessness may be explained by simple reference to a position of multiple structural disadvantage: the coming together of a legislative framework that restricts poorer people's access to more secure forms of housing; a housing market that restricts poorer people's access to accommodation found almost exclusively at the lower end of the private rental sector; and long-term unemployment. (May, J. Housing Studies, Vol.15 (4), 2000, p.613-615).

Safety and Victimization

Previous research has consistently found that the issue of safety is paramount in the daily lives of homeless youth in Canada. Since homeless youth often find themselves in a vulnerable and precarious situation, the threat of criminal victimization is much higher when compared to other youth their age (Tanner & Wortley, 2002). The WCHC study's findings highlighted the various criminal acts that youth have witnessed in the communities in which they reside, ranging from minor thefts to sexual assaults involving a weapon. However, Caribbean youth seem to have a heightened sense of fear of crime arguably as a result of the increasing rates of intra-racial violence (commonly referred to as 'black-on-black violence' by the media) in the city of Toronto in recent years. Although race-crime statistics are not collected in Canada (Roberts 1994) making it difficult to determine whether or not rates of violence are actually increasing within this particular community, the fact remains this is an issue that seems to inform the responses of 'Black' or Caribbean Street youth. Simply put they are scared.

Racism and Discrimination

One common theme that emerged from the findings is the idea that racism and discrimination is very prevalent in Canadian society. Whether it was in relation to their experiences in the educational system (e.g. application of 'zero-tolerance' policies) or through their interactions with police officers or security guards, the notion that Caribbean youth routinely experience differential treatment within the larger society was dominant. However, it is the inordinate amount of police contact that youth in this sample point to as the major catalyst. Again, these findings are supported with data from other research projects. For example, criminologists in Canada have consistently shown that African-Canadians are more likely than their white counterparts to believe the police are prejudiced and operate in a racially discriminatory manner (see Lewis 1992; Tanner & Wortley 2002; Wortley et al 1997; Wortley 1996). In one study of Toronto residents conducted by Wortley (1996) found that blacks are more likely to perceive discrimination within the criminal justice system than either whites or Asians and that these racial differences persist after controlling for various demographic variables. The discontent comes from both a perceived lack of protection when needed and the intense surveillance black bodies face from law enforcement agents. More recently, in Ontario, allegations (as well as empirical evidence) suggesting that police officials across the province routinely engage in the practice of racial profiling has garnered saturated media coverage over the past few years (Rankin et al. 2001) and only served to exacerbate the tensions between these two groups.

This area again is worthy of future study since the factor of race is a prominent feature when trying to ascertain differences in the experiences of homeless youth in Canada generally, especially when it comes to their interactions with the criminal justice system.

In an environment in which racism and discrimination persist, where structural adjustments in the economy place a premium on education and training, and zero tolerance policies curtail the educational trajectories of black high school youth, May's analysis is persuasive. Grades 10 and 11 levels of education are inadequate foundations on which to build careers in a knowledge-based economy. Continued unemployment, increases the likelihood of permanent poverty and decreases the chances for stable housing. For youth, unstable housing increases street involvement, and with this the opportunities for negative contact with police. Frequent arrests lead to incarceration and dramatically increase the likelihood of long-term homelessness.

CONCLUSIONS

This pilot study set out to ascertain patterns, trends, and pathways related to episodes of homelessness among Caribbean youth between the ages of 15 and 25 years old. One specific focus was to determine what could be learned about the ethno-racial dimensions of youth homelessness in Canada. The review of the literature, analysis of the qualitative data related to Caribbean and African Caribbean youth from our own survey of 43 youth as well as the data on 15 black youth obtained from the study of *Food Insecurity and Nutritional Vulnerability Among Homeless Youth in Toronto*, carried out by Valerie Tarasuk, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 2005.

We hoped to shed light on:

- socio-demographic characteristics of Caribbean youth,
- the ways in which they found themselves homeless,
- their support systems,
- interactions with police,
- the impacts these have on their self-image and sense of control over their lives.

Socio-demographic profile of homeless Caribbean youth

- Homeless Caribbean youth are predominantly male, between 17 and 24. On average they have completed Grade 11; many have had their education interrupted due to suspension or expulsion; most are unemployed and are not receiving social assistance. Their financial circumstances do not seem to vary due to length of time in Canada or immigration status.

Pathways to homelessness

- The major pathway to homelessness is family and relationship breakdown. For women this is often associated with abuse. For males violence outside the home is a major factor. In addition, among those "sleeping rough" addiction and mental health (ADM) and incarceration are pathways.

Supports

- Given the lack of legal, gainful employment and the constraints related to social assistance, parents or guardians, especially mothers, are the primary source of financial and emotional support. Friends also provide much needed assistance. In circumstances where family contact is reduced there seems to be a trend to hard-core street involvement using “alternative” methods to earn income.

Contact with the police

- Contact with the police is overwhelmingly negative, especially for males. As they spend more time on the street this interaction exacerbates from stop and search, through arrest to incarceration. There is a strong perception among youth that discrimination and racism contribute to this pattern.

Self-Image/Self Control

- Among those with relatively short homeless careers there is a sense of hopefulness. They see themselves as in control of their futures and youth are willing to take responsibility for their behaviours, maintain contact with supportive family, they also plan to complete and/ or increase their education and training. Their parents and guardians are gainfully employed, not on social assistance, better educated and securely housed. As Lee (2000) argues this may be in part, a function of the increased difficulties that all immigrants arriving after 1986 face.

By contrast, the small sample of heavily ‘street involved’ youth projects a different image. Many have multiple challenges related to alcohol, drugs and mental health. Most have journeyed through the foster care/ group home systems, have been incarcerated, and project little of the hopefulness of those more recently on the street.

The literature reviewed in Section 1 suggested that common pathways to homelessness among youth include:

- Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional)
- Drugs
- Mental Health
- Family Breakdown
- Poverty
- Sexual identity/preference
- Various combinations of the above

In addition, newcomer youth faced adjustments to:

- Culture
- Language
- Educational system
- Blended families
- Racism
- Self-image
- Isolation/exclusion

The results of our pilot study strongly support the patterns described in the literature. Caribbean (Black) youth face all the challenges traditionally associated with youth homelessness. In assessing the challenges that face newcomer youth, specifically, some disconcerting conclusions emerge.

- Race and Racism are critical in understanding the life terrain that Black youth must negotiate. Canadian-born black youth face the same issues around institutional and individual racism as Caribbean and African-born youth.
- The intersection of racism and education present a formidable structural barrier that black males in particular, find difficult to circumvent.
- Youth arrive in Canada with a sense of optimism about their future and the possibilities of a new and better life. Unemployment, poverty, racism and negative contact with the police systematically destroy this optimism. It is significant that 'street involved' black youth in the Nutrition study had been in Canada significantly longer. However, they manifested higher levels of alcohol, drug abuse and mental health problems, had been incarcerated more, were more estranged from families (many having entered the foster care group home system) and were more isolated.

The evidence reviewed demonstrates that migration *per se* is not a good indicator of homelessness among Caribbean youth. Rather as May (2000) argues, "a position of multiple structural disadvantage" is a more appropriate explanation. Changes in social and income support, tenant protection and zero tolerance policies seem to combine with discrimination, racism and economic restructuring to push immigrants, and immigrant youth in particular, closer to the margins of society. One outcome of this marginal status is poverty and far too often homelessness.

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CARIBBEAN YOUTH SURVEY

General Questions About You and Your Family

A1. In what year were you born? Month_____ Year_____

A2. What is your gender? Male ___ Female ___

A3. Including yourself, how many people share the space where you live?

Write "0" if you live by yourself. _____

A4. Who do you currently live with?

Check each of the individuals who live with you, or write "2" or "3"

People	check	People	Check
I live by myself		Older sister(s)	
Mother		Grandparent(s)	
Father		Other relative(s)	
Younger brother(s)		Friend(s) of yours	
Younger sister(s)		Boyfriend/Girlfriend	
Older brother(s)		Spouse	
Other (Please specify)			

A5. How many brother(s) and sister(s) do you have? (Include half-brothers or sisters)

_____ (Number of brothers) _____ (Number of sisters)

A6. Are you presently married or living with a partner? 1___ yes 2___no

A7. Do you have any children of your own? 1___ yes 2___no

A8. Were you born in Canada?

1. ___ Yes Please go to question A11

2. ___ No Please go to question A9

A9. In what country were you born? _____

(Country of birth)

A10. In what year did you move to Canada? _____

(year)

A11. What is your present immigration status?

Landed immigrant, Citizen, refugee claimant, other _____

A12. What language is usually spoken where you live? _____

(language spoken)

A13. Do you think of yourself as Canadian? 1___yes 2 ___no

A14. In addition to Canadian, people are often described as belonging to a particular ethnic or cultural group(s). To which ethnic or cultural group(s) do you see yourself belonging to?

(For example, Chinese, Jamaican, English, East Indian, Jewish, French, Lebanese, etc.)

Please List as many groups as you want.

___ Mixed Race (please list all groups that apply)

SECTION B: FAMILY BACKGROUND AND CHILDHOOD

Next are a few questions about your family background and childhood.

B1. Think about your childhood. Most of the time while you were growing up did you live with:

- 1___ Both you parents 3___ Your father only
2___ Your mother only 4___ Other (please specify)_____

B2. Most of the time when growing up, how would you describe your family's financial or economic situation?

(Please circle the correct response)

1. We were poor	2. We had a below average income	3. We had an average or middle class income	4. We had an above average income	5. We were wealthy	6. I don't know
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B3. How would you describe your present relationship with your family members?

B4. What do your parents do? Are your mother and or father or other guardian currently:

	Mother or female guardian	Father or male guardian
a) Working full time	1	1
b) Working part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	2	2
c) Unemployed (out of work and looking for work)	3	3
d) Homemakers	4	4
e) Retired	5	5
f) Attending school full-time	6	6
g) On social assistance or welfare	7	7
h) Other (specify)	8	8
i) Don't know	9	9

B5. What is your father or male guardian's job? Briefly describe what he does at work. Be specific as possible. If he is unemployed or is no longer working, describe the last main job he held.

B6. What is your mother or female guardian's job? Again, briefly describe what she does at work. Be specific as possible. If your mother or female guardian is unemployed or is no longer working for pay, describe the last main job she held.

B7. How far did each of your parents go in school?

	Mother or female guardian	Father or male guardian
a) No formal schooling	1	1
b) Elementary or junior high school	2	2
c) Some high school	3	3
d) High school graduate or technical school	4	4
e) Community college	5	5
f) Some University	6	6
g) University Graduate	7	7
h) Professional Degree (i.e. Doctor, Lawyer)	8	8
i) I don't know	9	9

SECTION C: HOUSEHOLD AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Here are a few questions about where you live.

C1. Which of the following best describes the type of place you currently live in?

(check the appropriate answer)

1__A house	4__A Shelter
2__A Townhouse	6__A Group Home or Hostel
3__An Apartment	7__I live on the street
	8__Other please specify _____

C2. If you have lived in a shelter, group home or hostel

of episodes _____ 1st episode _____ Most recent episode _____

Length of period _____

Duration of most recent episode _____

What led to this most recent episode _____

What did you do between each episode _____

Did you return home between any of your episodes?

C3. Is the place where you live now owned or rented by a member of your household? (check appropriate answer)

1__Owned	3__Ontario housing, public housing or the projects
2__Rented	4__Don't know

C4. How long have you lived in your present neighbourhood? _____

C5. How many times in the last 5 years have you moved locations? (Check the appropriate answer)

- 1__None 3__ Twice 5__ Four to ten times
- 2__Once 4__ Three times 6__ 10 or more times

SECTION D: WORK AND MONEY

The next set of questions are about your own work experiences and how you get money.

D1. In general, would you say that: (check the appropriate answer)

- 1__I have more money than most people my age
- 2__I have about the same amount of money as most people my age
- 3__I have less money than most people my age
- 4__I don't know

D2. Do you presently have a job for which you are paid?

- 1__yes 2__no Please go to question D6

D3. Please describe your jobs or what you do at work. (E.g. work at a fast food restaurant, music store).

D4. How many hours per week do you usually work? _____

D5. How much money, on average do you earn each week? \$ _____

D6. Are you currently receiving student welfare, social assistance or any other government checks?

1__yes D7. If yes, how much do you get per month? \$ _____

2__no

D8. Do you get any money from your parent(s) or other guardian(s)?

1__yes D9. If yes, how much do you usually get per week? \$ _____

2__no

D10. Did you have a part-time or full-time job for most of last summer? (check the appropriate answer)

1__yes, a full-time job

2__yes, a part-time job

3__No job at all

D11. Has there ever been a time when you wanted a job but could not find one?

1__yes 2__no

D12. Is there anything else that you do in order to make money?

1__yes 2__no

Please describe what you do to make money.

SECTION E: EDUCATION

In this section we would like to ask you a few questions about your education and plans for the future.

E1. What grade are you currently in? (check the appropriate answer)

1__ Grade 9

4__ Grade 12

2__ Grade 10

5__ Other _____

3__ Grade11

E2. Have you ever done any of the following things?:

a) Dropped out of school for any given reason. 1__yes 2__no

If yes, why did you drop out? _____

b) Left school because you were suspended or expelled. 1__yes 2__no

If yes, why were you suspended or expelled? _____

If you are not presently in school go to E6

E3. How many times have you skipped school for one or more classes in the past year?

(check appropriate answer)

1__Never

5__About once a month

2__Once or twice

6__More than once a week

3__About once a month

7__Almost every day

4__A few times a month

E4. At what level are you taking most of your classes this year? (check the appropriate answer)

1__Basic level

4__Enriched level

2__Advanced level

5__Other please specify _____

3__General level

E5. In general, what have your grades been like in school? (check the appropriate answer)

1__Mainly A's (80% or above)

4__Mainly D's (50%-59%)

2__Mainly B's (70%-79%)

5__Mainly F's (under 50%)

3__Mainly C's (60%-69%)

6__Don't know/Don't remember

E6. In your opinion, when you were in school, how were your grades compared to other students? (check appropriate answer)

1__Among the best

3__Average

5__Among the worst

2__Above average

4__Below average

E7. What is/was your favourite subject in school? _____

E8. What is/was your least favourite subject in school? _____

E9. How much education do you plan on getting? (check all that apply)

- 1__ I plan to finish high school
- 2__ I plan to get a degree from a community college or technical school
- 3__ I plan to get a University degree
- 4__ I don't know/have not made plans
- 5__ Other please specify _____

E10. If you could have any job or career, what would it be? Please describe that job.

E11. What kind of job do you think you will eventually end up with? Please be specific.

E12. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. For example, if you strongly agree, circle the strongly agree category. If you are undecided, circle the undecided category.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) Continuing my education will help me get a good job	1	2	3	4	5
b) I always finish my homework	1	2	3	4	5
c) Most of the time in school teachers have treated me like a child	1	2	3	4	5
d) For the sort of job I am likely to get you don't need much education	1	2	3	4	5
e) The people who work the hardest always finish on top	1	2	3	4	5
f) It is not education that matters when getting a job, just luck or who you know	1	2	3	4	5
g) Teachers always treat students fairly	1	2	3	4	5
h) I can get whatever job I want as long as I work hard enough	1	2	3	4	5

F4. When you lived at home, how many times during the week were you the first person to arrive home from school or work?

- 1__About 5 times 4__About 2 times
 2__About 4 times 5__1 time
 3__About 3 times 6__Never

F5. How many hours per week would you say you spent at home without your parents? _____
 (number of hours)

F6. How often do you do the following activities?

	Never	A few times a year	A few times a month	Once a week	More than once a week	Daily or almost daily
a) Hang out on the street near your home	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Do volunteer work	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Go shopping with your friends	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) Go to a meeting or an organization	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) Hang out at a coffee or donut shop	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) Got to a restaurant for lunch or dinner	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) Play sports or work out	1	2	3	4	5	6
h) Go to a nightclub, bar, or tavern	1	2	3	4	5	6
i) Go to the library	1	2	3	4	5	6
j) Go to the symphony, theatre, or ballet	1	2	3	4	5	6

F7. Please list the things that you like to do the most.

F8. Please list the things that you really dislike doing.

--

F9. How often do you do the following activities?

	Never	A few times a year	A few times a month	Once a week	More than once a week	Daily or almost daily
a) Go out to the movies	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Practice a musical instrument	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Go to a museum or art gallery	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) Go to a sports event	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) Watch movies at home	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) Read a book for fun	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) Work on a hobby	1	2	3	4	5	6
h) Use the internet (surf the web)	1	2	3	4	5	6
i) Play video or computer games	1	2	3	4	5	6
j) Go to a house party or a rave	1	2	3	4	5	6
k) Go to a concert	1	2	3	4	5	6
l) Hang out at shopping malls	1	2	3	4	5	6

F11. How many close friends would you say you have? _____

(please list the number of friends)

F.12 How many of your friends would you say: (Please circle your answer)

	None of them	About one quarter (1/4)	About one half (1/2)	Most of them	All of them	Don't know
a) Are the same race as you	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Are the same sex as you	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Go to the same school as you	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) Live in the same neighbourhood as you	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) Are the same age as you	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) Are from the same social class as you	1	2	3	4	5	6

F13. Where ever you live, how often do you do each of the following chores?

	Never	A few times a year	A few times a month	Once a week	More than once a week	Daily or almost daily
a) Clean your room	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Help with other cleaning	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Cook meals by yourself	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) Help with the cooking	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) Do household repairs	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) Do yard work (i.e. mow the lawn, shovel snow)	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) Take out the garbage	1	2	3	4	5	6
h) Do the laundry	1	2	3	4	5	6
i) Wash the dishes	1	2	3	4	5	6
j) Look after younger brothers or sisters	1	2	3	4	5	6

F14. Most of the time, how do you get around the city? (please check all that apply)

1___ I walk

2___ I take the T.T.C./Public Transit

3___ I ride a bike

4___ I take a Taxi cab

5___ I hitch a ride

6___ Other _____

F15. Most of the time, how do you get to school? (check all that apply)(If you are not in school go to F17)

- 1___I walk 2___I take the T.T.C./Public transit 3___I drive in a friend's car
 4___I ride a bike 5 Other_____

F16. How many hours do you think you spend doing homework in the average week?

_____ (hours per week)

F17. How many hours do you think you spend watching television in the average week?

_____ (hours per week)

SECTION G: PERSONAL SAFETY

The next set of questions are about some of the worries you might have about crime or your personal safety.

G1. In your opinion, how serious a problem is each of the following?

	Not a problem at all	Somewhat of a problem	Don't Know	A serious problem	A very serious problem
a) Racial or ethnic conflicts among young people	1	2	3	4	5
b) The teasing or harassing of young females by young males	1	2	3	4	5
c) Young people who are disrespectful to other young people	1	2	3	4	5
d) Young people who spread rumours about other young people	1	2	3	4	5
e) Young people who steal from other young people	1	2	3	4	5
f) Fighting or violence among young people	1	2	3	4	5
g) Gangs in the city	1	2	3	4	5
h) Young people who bring weapons on the street or to school	1	2	3	4	5

G2. Are there any other problems within your school or on the street that you would like to tell us about? Please describe these problems below.

G3. Are there any places or activities that you avoid because you are afraid for your safety? Please list these places and activities below.

G4. How safe would you feel doing the following things?

	Very safe	Unsafe	Don't know	Fairly safe	Very safe
a) Taking the bus or subway after dark	1	2	3	4	5
b) Going to or from your school	1	2	3	4	5
c) Going to a shopping mall	1	2	3	4	5
d) Attending a dance or rave	1	2	3	4	5
e) Going downtown	1	2	3	4	5
f) Walking in your neighbourhood after dark	1	2	3	4	5
g) Going to a bar or night club	1	2	3	4	5
h) Attending a concert	1	2	3	4	5
i) Attending a high school sports event	1	2	3	4	5

G5. Compared to other areas, how much crime do you think takes place in your area? (check the appropriate answer)

1__ More crime 2__ About the same 3__ Less crime 4__ Don't know

G6. In your opinion, what areas of the city are the most dangerous or have the most crime? Please list as many as you want. Indicate whether you speak from personal experience, or from what you have heard.

G7. Many people worry sometimes about being a victim of crime. How worried are you about:

	Very worried	Fairly worried	Not very worried	Not worried at all	Don't know
a) Having your home broken into	1	2	3	4	5
b) Being mugged or robbed	1	2	3	4	5
c) Being attacked or assaulted by strangers	1	2	3	4	5
d) Having something valuable of yours stolen	1	2	3	4	5
e) Being sexually assaulted or molested	1	2	3	4	5
f) Being attacked or assaulted by someone you know	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION H: VICTIMIZATION

We would also like to ask about some things that may have happened to you over the past year. Some of the questions discuss sensitive topics. If for any reason you would like to talk to someone about your experiences, please consult the list of names and numbers we provide to you on the separate sheet.

H1. How many times in your lifetime and in the past year, have the following things happened to you? Would you say never, once or twice, several times, or many times?

0= Never; 1= Once or twice; 2= 3 to 9 times; 3= 10 or more times	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times in your life?
a) Has anyone ever stolen a small amount of money from you or a possession of yours worth under \$50?		
b) Has anyone ever stolen a large amount of money from you or a possession of yours worth more than \$50?		
c) Has anyone ever deliberately damaged a possession of yours like your car, clothing, walkman, books, etc.?		
d) Has anyone ever threatened to hurt or injure you?		
e) Has anyone ever threatened to hurt or injure you with a weapon like a knife, gun, or baseball bat		
f) In your opinion, has anyone ever seriously threatened to kill you?		
g) Has someone ever attacked you without a weapon. For example, has anyone pushed, hit, slapped, punched, or kicked you?		
h) Has anyone ever attacked you with a weapon? For example, with a baseball bat, knife or gun?		
i) Has anyone ever forced you or attempted to force you into any sexual activity when you did not want to by threatening you, holding you, or hurting you in some way?		
j) Has anyone ever touched you against your will in any sexual way? For example, has anyone ever touched or grabbed you, kissed you, or fondled you in an unwanted way?		
k) Has any other crime happened to you that you have not mentioned above? Please specify _____		

H2. Please think of the worst thing that has ever happened to you that might be considered a crime or an act of violence. We are talking about things such as being punched, kicked or attacked with a weapon, having money or property stolen, or being victim of a sexual assault. If nothing bad has ever happened to you please go to question H15.

In the box below, please describe the worst thing that has happened to you.

We would like you to answer a few questions about the incident.

H3. When did it happen? Please check the appropriate answer

- 1__ Within the last year 3__ Two to five years ago 5__ Can't remember
2__ Within the last two years 4__ More than five years ago

H4. On what day of the week did it happen? Please check the appropriate answer

- 1__ Monday 2__ Tuesday 3__ Wednesday 4__ Thursday 5__ Friday
6__ Saturday 3__ Sunday

H5. At what time of the day did it happen? Please check the appropriate answer

- 1__ In the morning (between 6:00am and 12 noon)
2__ In the early afternoon (from 12 noon to 3:00pm)
3__ Late afternoon (from 3:00pm to 6:00pm)
4__ In the early evening (from 6:00pm to 9:00pm)
5__ After 9:00pm but before midnight
6__ After midnight (after 12:00 am)
7__ Don't know

H6. Were you? (check the appropriate answer)

- 1__ By yourself 2__ With your parents 3__ With your brother(s) or sister(s)
4__ With your friend(s) 5 Other _____

H7. Where did the incident take place? (E.g. at home, at school, at a party, etc.)

H8. How frightened were you? (check the appropriate answer)

- 1__ Very frightened 2__ Frightened 3__ A little bit frightened
4__ Not frightened at all

H9. How many offenders were involved in this incident?

- 1__ One person only 3__ Three or more people
2__ Two people 4__ Don't know

H10. Was the offender(s) (check appropriate answer)

- 1__ Male 3__ Both male and female
2__ Female 4__ Don't know

H11. How old would you say the offender(s) were? (check the appropriate answer)

- 1__ Kids (12 and under) 4__ Adults (over 30)
 2__ Teenagers (13-19) 5__ Could not tell
 3__ Young adults (20-30)

H12. Was the offender(s)? (check the appropriate answer)

- 1__ A family member(s)
 2__ A friend(s)
 3__ A person you had seen before but did not know well
 4__ A stranger(s)
 5__ Other (please specify) _____

H13. Who did you tell about the incident? (check all that apply)

a) I did not tell anyone	
b) I told a friend	
c) I told a brother or sister	
d) I told a teacher or counsellor	
e) I told a parent or guardian	
f) I told the police	

I told another person (please specify) _____

H14. People often do not report crimes or other bad things that have happened to them to their parents, teachers or the police. If you did not report the incident, please tell us why not:

YES NO

Because the matter was too trivial.		
Because reporting is a waste of time/No one would do anything.		
Because adults would not believe me, or take me seriously.		
Because it might upset my parents.		
Because reporting might get me in trouble.		
Because my parents might stop me from going out in the future.		
Because I was frightened of the people who did it/afraid of revenge.		
Because I don't want to have a reputation for a snitch or rat.		
Because I can take care of myself.		

Some other reason: _____

H15. In your lifetime, have the following things ever happened to you?:(check the appropriate answer)

	Never	Once or twice	Three times or more
a) Has anyone ever called you names or verbally abused you because of your race or ethnicity?	1	2	3
b) Has anyone ever called you names or verbally abused you because of your sexual orientation or because they thought you were gay/lesbian?	1	2	3
c) Has anyone ever attacked or threatened to hurt you because of your race or ethnicity?	1	2	3
d) Has anyone ever attacked you or threatened you because of your sexual orientation or because they thought you were gay/lesbian?	1	2	3

H16. Now, please think about your friends or family. How many of your family members or friends have been the victim of crimes?

	None	One or two	Three or more
a) Had something valuable stolen from them			
b) Been assaulted by someone without a weapon			
c) Been assaulted by someone with a gun or knife			
d) Been sexually assaulted or raped			
e) Been injured badly in a fight or attack			
f) Been murdered			

H17. Have you ever witnessed any of the following crimes?

	Never	Once or twice	Several times	Many times
Witnessed a robbery or car theft				
Witnessed a fight without weapons				
Witnessed a fight with weapons involved				
Witnessed a person threaten someone with a gun or knife				
Witnessed a person being sexually assaulted				

Have you witnessed any other type of crime?

SECTION J: SELF-REPORTED RULE BREAKING

The next set of questions deals with a part of young people's lives we know very little about—things they do which may be against the rules or against the law. For you many of these questions will not reflect real life experiences. Please remember that this information is completely confidential. Your name does not appear on the questionnaire and the information you provide us WILL NOT be given to the police, the school, or your parents. Please remember to answer the questions honestly and as accurately as possible.

J1. Have you ever belonged to a gang? 1__Yes 2__No Please go to question J4

J2. Do you belong to a gang now? 1__Yes 2__No

J3. When you have been part of a gang did/do you: (check all that apply)

- 1__ Sell drugs
- 2__ Drink alcohol or use drugs
- 3__ Steal other people's property
- 4__ Fight against other groups or gangs
- 5__ Protect or look out for one another when at school or on the street
- 6__ Play sports together
- 7__ Hang out or socialize together
- 8__ Go to parties or clubs together
- 9__ Other (please specify) _____

J4. How many times in your lifetime and in the past year have you done any of the following things? Would you say never, once or twice, several times, or many times?

0= Never; 1= Once or twice; 2= 3 to 9 times; 3= 10 times or more	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times in your life?
a) Broken into a car to steal something.		
b) Stolen or tried to steal a car or motorcycle.		
c) Stolen or tried to steal a bicycle		
d) Broken into a home or business		
e) Sold illegal drugs (e.g. Marijuana, cocaine, heroin, etc.)		
f) Damaged or destroyed on purpose, property that was not yours.		
g) Taken or stolen food or drinks or candy from a cafeteria or store without paying.		
h) Taken or stolen something that was worth less than \$50 that did not belong to you.		
i) Engaged in computer hacking (used or damaged someone else's computer account)		
j) Used public transportation without paying for it.		
k) used false ID (identification)		
l) Taken something worth more than \$50 that did not belong to you		
m) Begged for money on the street		
n) Been paid to have sex with someone		
o) Cleaned car windows (squeegee) for money		
p) Left graffiti or tagged public or private property		

J5. Approximately how old were you when you used the following substances for the first time? (please write in your age i.e. if you were thirteen, write in 13)

	I have never done it	I first did it when I was...
a) Tobacco (cigarettes, cigars)		
b) Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)		
c) Marijuana (hash, pot)		
d) Cocaine or crack		
e) Other illegal drugs (e.g. heroin, LSD)		

J6. How often have you used the following?

	In the last 12 months	In your lifetime
	0= Not at all 1= Once or twice 2= 3 to 10 times 3= About once a month 4= At least once a week 5= Daily	0= Not at all 1= Once or twice 2= 3 to 10 times 3= 11-20 times 4= 21 to 30 times 5= 30 or more times
a) Tobacco (cigarettes, cigars)		
b) Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)		
c) Marijuana (hash, pot)		
d) Cocaine or crack		
e) Other illegal drugs (e.g. heroin, LSD)		

J7. How many of your close friends use the following? (check the appropriate answer)

	None	A few	Most	All	I don't know
a) Tobacco (cigarettes, cigars)					
b) Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)					
c) Marijuana (hash, pot)					
d) Cocaine or crack					
e) Other illegal drugs (e.g. heroin, LSD)					

J8. Do any of your brothers or sisters (or step brothers and sisters) use the following? (check the appropriate answer)

	Yes	No	I don't have brothers or sisters	I don't know
a) Tobacco (cigarettes, cigars)				
b) Alcohol				
c) Marijuana (hash, pot)				
d) Cocaine or crack				
e) Other illegal drugs (e.g. heroin, LSD)				

J9. Approximately how old were you when you did the following things for the first time? (Please write in your age i.e. if you were thirteen, write in 13)

	I have never done it	I first did it when I was...
a) Stole a small amount of money or a possession worth under \$50		
b) Stole a large amount of money or a possession worth over \$50		
c) Damaged or destroyed on purpose someone else's property		
d) Got into a physical fight with someone (i.e. hit, punched kicked)		
e) Attacked someone with the idea of severely hurting them		

J10. How many times in your lifetime and in the past year, have you done any of the following things? Would you say never, once or twice, several times, or many times?

0= Never; 1= Once or twice; 2= 3 to 10 times; 3= 10 times or more

	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times in your life?
a) Carried a hidden weapon like a gun or knife in public.		
b) Used physical force like twisting an arm or choking on another person to get money or other things.		
c) Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting that person		
d) Hit or threatened to hit a parent or teacher		
e) Got into a physical fight with someone		
f) Taken part in a fight where a group of friends were up against another group		
g) Forced someone to have sex against their will		

SECTION K: SOCIAL INJUSTICE

The next few questions are about your dealings with police and the courts

K1. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) People from my racial group are more likely to be unfairly stopped and questioned by the police than people from other racial groups.					
b) Discrimination makes it hard for people from my racial group to get good marks in school					
c) Discrimination makes it difficult for people from my racial group to get good marks in school.					
d) Students from rich families have an easier time getting ahead than students from poor families.					
e) Everyone has an equal chance of getting ahead in Canada.					
f) It is rare for an important person to be wrongly sent to jail.					

K2. How many times in the past two years (24 months) have the following things happened to you?

	Never	Once	2-3 times	3-5 times	6-10 times	More than 10 times
a) Been told off or told to move by the police						
b) Been stopped and asked questions by the police						
c) Been searched by the police						
d) Been arrested by the police						

K3. Please indicate if you think the following statements are true or not true.

	Very true	True	Don't know	Not true	Not true at all
a) I think that the police treat young people worse than older people					
b) I think people criticize the police too much					
c) I think we need police in this country to keep law and order					
d) I think the police treat wealthy people better than poor people					
e) I think the police treat people from some racial groups worse than people from other racial groups					
f) The police treat males worse than females.					

SECTION L: MASTERY AND SELF-CONTROL

Here are a few questions about how you feel about life. These questions may NOT reflect actual experiences you have encountered

L1. Please read each statement carefully and select the number on this scale that describes how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly agree	Agree	I don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a) I have little control over the bad things that happen to me.	1	2	3	4	5
b) The problems I have are often caused by other people	1	2	3	4	5
c) I am in control of my future	1	2	3	4	5
d) I am able to do things as well as most other people	1	2	3	4	5

L2. Please read each of the following statements carefully and select the number on the scale that indicates how likely or unlikely you think the following are.

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not likely	Not very likely at all	I don't know
a) If some one you know broke into a house to steal something, how likely is it that they would be caught by the police.	1	2	3	4	5
b) If some one you know stabbed somebody in a fight, how likely is it that they would be caught by the police.	1	2	3	4	5
c) If some one you know was arrested for breaking and entering, how likely is it that they would be sent to jail	1	2	3	4	5
d) If some one you know was arrested for stabbing another person, how likely is it that they would go to jail	1	2	3	4	5

L3. Please read each statement carefully and select the number on this scale that describes how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	I don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a) I often act on the spur of the moment without stopping to think	1	2	3	4	5
b) I live my life day to day without thinking much about the future					
c) I like to test myself every now and then by doing something risky or exciting	1	2	3	4	5
d) I try to look out for myself, even if it means making things difficult for other people	1	2	3	4	5
e) I lose my temper pretty easily	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION M: SOCIAL SUPPORT

Finally, some more questions about you family and friends.

M1. When you have problems with life, can you rely on the following people for help?

	Yes, a great deal	Yes, a little bit	No, not at all	I don't have such a person in my life
a) Mother	1	2	3	4
b) Father	1	2	3	4
c) Boyfriend/ Girlfriend	1	2	3	4
d) Other family member	1	2	3	4
e) Friends	1	2	3	4
f) Teacher	1	2	3	4

Other: (Please specify)

M2. In the past few months, how often would you say that you have had disagreements with your parent(s) or guardian(s) about?:

	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost Always	Always
a) School (including home-work)	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Spending money	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Your choice of friends	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) Your appearance (clothes, hairstyle)	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) The time you come in at night	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) Household chores	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) The sort of music you listen to	1	2	3	4	5	6
h) The amount of TV you watch	1	2	3	4	5	6
i) Employment	1	2	3	4	5	6
j) The people you date	1	2	3	4	5	6
k) Your goals in life	1	2	3	4	5	6
l) How you spend your free time	1	2	3	4	5	6

M3. Can you tell us how much you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	I don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a) My parent(s) or guardian usually knows where I am when I am not home.	1	2	3	4	5
b) My parent(s) or guardian usually know who I am with when I am not at home	1	2	3	4	5
c) It is important that I do not let down or disappoint my parent(s) or guardian	1	2	3	4	5

M4. How important is each of the following in your life?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Quite important	Very important
a) My family	1	2	3	4
b) My education	1	2	3	4
c) My friends	1	2	3	4
d) The type of job I might get in the future	1	2	3	4
e) My religion	1	2	3	4
f) The music I listen to	1	2	3	4
g) Having a good time	1	2	3	4

Finally, we are interested in knowing if there is anything that you could suggest which may help stop crime and victimization among young people.

Thank You

APPENDIX 2

TABLE 1

Sociodemographic characteristics and present circumstances of homeless youth

	Males n (%)	Females n (%)	Total sample n (%)
n	149	112	261
Age			
16-18 y	30 (20)	42 (38)	72 (28)
19-24 y	119 (80)	70 (62)	189 (72)
Ethno-racial identity			
White	125 (84)	86 (77)	211 (81)
Black (African/Caribbean)	9 (6)	6 (5)	15 (6)
First Nations, Inuit, Metis, Other Aboriginal	11 (7)	14 (13)	25 (10)
Other (Asian, Latin American, etc)	4 (3)	6 (5)	10 (3)
Education			
Grade 8	20 (13)	15 (13)	35 (13)
Grade 9-11	79 (71)	93 (63)	172 (67)
Grade 12	18 (16)	35 (24)	53 (20)
Time since leaving home			
≤2 mo	18 (12)	20 (18)	38 (15)
3-6 mo	17 (11)	20 (18)	37 (14)
7-12 mo	12 (8)	9 (8)	21 (8)
13-24 mo	9 (6)	10 (9)	19 (7)
> 2 y	93 (62)	53 (47)	146 (56)
Main source of income in past 30 d			
Panhandling or squeegeeing ²	83 (56)	61 (54)	144 (56)
Theft or drug trade work	32 (22)	14 (13)	46 (18)
Sex trade work	9 (6)	21 (19)	30 (12)
Government transfers	10 (7)	3 (3)	13 (5)
Selling items (handicrafts, etc)	6 (4)	4 (4)	10 (4)
Money from family or friends	5 (3)	5 (4)	10 (4)
Paid employment	2 (1)	4 (4)	6 (2)

¹'Squeegeeing' refers to the practice of washing car windows while the car is stopped at an intersection and asking for a donation from the motorist.