TRANSITION AGE YOUTH HOUSING PROJECT

By

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A Project Presented to
The Faculty of Humboldt State University
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

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May, 2013
ABSTRACT

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The transition from childhood to adulthood can last well past the age of legal adulthood and can present multiple challenges with regard to independence, such as obtaining housing. While limited housing resources exist in Humboldt County for Transition Age Youth between the ages of 16 and 26, minimal resources are available for those aged 18-26. This research was intended to describe characteristics of the local population of Transition Age Youth (TAY) who are legal adults. The research utilized non-probability convenience sampling as well as snowball sampling. Subjects were given a 21-question survey to assess basic demographic information, past and current housing situation, presence of concern and incidences of homelessness, barriers to success, and preferences. The research was conducted for the Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Division, and was intended to inform efforts to develop, improve, and expand housing and related services for TAY ages 18-26.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my committee members, Dr. Michael Balliro, Julie Freitas, and Terri Butts, for the assistance, support, and guidance that they provided throughout the process of completing this project. Foremost, I would like to thank the youth who were willing to take the time to contribute their experience and knowledge, as well as the employees of the Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Division. I would like to thank my cohort and the Humboldt State University Social Work faculty and staff, and Jyll Jackson, for the support that they provided while I was enrolled in this program. Finally, I would like to thank my family and friends for their unconditional love and support.
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INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the topic/problem area:

The California Mental Health Directors Association Children’s System of Care / Adult System of Care (CMHDA CSOC/ASOC) Transition Age Youth (TAY) Subcommittee compiled a resource guide that outlined issues facing transition age youth as well as recommendations for California counties who seek to address the needs of that population. Transition age youth are identified by the CMHDA CSOC/ASOC Subcommittee as ranging in age from 14 to 25 who are in a period of transition from either a children’s system of care to an adult system of care, from a children’s system of care to the adult community, or from the community to an adult system of care (CMHDA CSOC/ASOC Subcommittee, 2009).

One of the most pressing issues facing TAY is the need to obtain housing if homeless or leaving the home environment. The subcommittee identified a number of barriers that can impede these youth from obtaining housing independently (CMHDA CSOC/ASOC Subcommittee, 2005). Some of these barriers can include lack of funds, employment and/or employment history, and lack of credit history. Also included is a lack of adequate references or rental history. TAY may also require support services in order to understand what subsidized housing programs are available as well as how to comply with the criteria required to obtain residence (CMHDA CSOC/ASOC Subcommittee, 2005). Additionally, TAY coping with mental illness may require
additional services to cope with those illnesses while adjusting to an independent
environment (CMHDA CSOC/ASOC Subcommittee, 2005).

According to a 2011 HHHC point-in-time count of the homeless population in
Humboldt County, there were 345 individuals who were within the age range of 12-26.
Of these 345, 39 of these youth were reported to be unaccompanied minors under the age
of 18 (HHHC, 2011). Minimal housing resources are currently available to TAY in
Humboldt County. Existing resources offered through the Redwood Community Action
Agency’s (RCAA) Youth Service Bureau (YSB) include the Our House shelter, the
Launch Pad-Transitional Living program, and Transitional Housing Program Plus (Youth
Service Bureau). While each of these programs provides needed services to TAY, they
also have limitations. For example, the Launch Pad program serves youth within the
specific age range of 16-21, and they also are unable to enroll youth under 18 without the
consent of a legal guardian (YSB). The Our House Shelter serves youth within the
specific age range of 12-17, and offers a maximum stay of 21 days. An additional
limiting factor is that youth who are on probation are not eligible for either program
(YSB). The THP Plus program does not have any specific housing of its own, but it does
assist youth by encouraging the development of independent living skills while also
providing the opportunities to extend stay with foster caregivers, or adults who are
determined have a significant connection with the youth. THP Plus also provides
assistance for youth who wish to move into an apartment (YSB). The Humboldt County
Independent Living Skills Program offers a range of services including limited assistance
with housing rental payment. The Humboldt County TAY division is a relatively new
alliance of services between Mental Health, the county Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) and the Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaborative (HCTAYC). The TAY Division serves youth from the ages of 16 to 26.

While there are few housing resources available to TAY in general, there is a distinct lack of resources for those who are legally adults. The goal of this research was to describe attributes and preferences of the local population of Transition Age Youth aged between 18 and 26 with regard to housing in order to identify ways to improve currently existing services, and to identify what housing resources are needed that are currently not provided. The project was undertaken for the Humboldt County TAY division in collaboration with clinical supervisor and community partner Julie Frietas. Community stakeholders include the TAY Division for whom this study may assist in the provision of services, and the local population of TAY of legal adult age.

**Relevance to Social Work or Social Welfare:**

The transition to adulthood represents a challenging period of life for many youth. During this stage of development, youth may utilize or attempt to access resources, including housing, through various social service agencies. As such, it is necessary to explore the needs and characteristics specific to the TAY population in Humboldt County in order to attempt to create or modify services to better address the barriers that they face.
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to provide context for the study, it is necessary to elaborate on explaining characteristics of the transition to adulthood as well as to identify some of the general challenges that confront TAY on a national. Presently, the period during which youth transition into adulthood, in which financial and psychological independence are established, has increased in duration as opposed to that of 50 years ago (Settersten and Ray, 2010). Specific age brackets associated with this transitional period can vary. Arnett (2000) describes the age range of 18-25 as a developmental stage termed emerging adulthood, which is distinct from both adolescence and adulthood. In the emerging adulthood stage, youth are not subject to total dependence upon caretakers, or guardians, however they have not assumed the full responsibilities of total independence.

Complicating this challenging phase is a currently unstable economy in which there are less resources available for families and caretakers to provide to dependent youth (Settersten and Ray, 2010). The vulnerability of these youth may be exacerbated by the sudden lack of support that occurs upon becoming legal adults (Osgood, Foster, & Courtney, 2010). Those who are already vulnerable, or who have strained family relations due to incarceration or involvement in the foster care system, face even greater challenges when services provided to them are withdrawn due to aging out of children’s systems of care (Settersten and Ray, 2010). However, they are often in need of continued support well past the age of 18. Even in the case that adult systems of care are accessible, such programs are often geared towards the needs of older adults, with few services
available to address needs specific to a transition age population (Osgood, Foster, & Courtney, 2010). A 2001 study by Davis (as cited by Davis, 2003) on state-based children’s mental health systems found that according to administrators, no state was prepared to comprehensively address the needs of transition age youth. The study also found that existing services, including housing support, were not only geographically limited, but also found to expire in most states when youth reach the age of 18.

A possible reason for the failure of traditional services to adequately facilitate youth transitions into adulthood is the disparity between institutional transitions and developmental transitions. Davis (2003) describes institutional transitions as being regulated by bureaucracy and legality, which could include aging out of the foster care system due to becoming a legal adult. Developmental transitions differ in that they are regulated by natural development and maturation, cultural norms, and rites of passage (Davis, 2003). A given youth may not have experienced a developmental transition into adulthood at the time that they are institutionally considered to be an adult. As such, services that are still needed may be withdrawn prematurely on an institutional basis.

Over the past 25 years, it is evident that the federal government has made policy changes to address evolving conceptions of the state’s role in supporting youth in the foster care system in the transition to adulthood (Courtney, 2009). However, not until 2011 was an amendment of Title IV-E of the Social Security placed into effect in order to allow states to use associated funds to support foster youth until the age of 21 (Courtney, 2009). Additionally, Osgood, Foster and Courtney (2010) noted that although there have been recent positive changes in federal policy, the traditionally stringent nature of
eligibility criteria for available services has kept youth from accessing needed services. For example, factors such as involvement in the criminal justice system can still act as a barrier in eligibility for vital services which include housing programs (Osgood, Foster, & Courtney, 2010).

Leaving the immediate caretaker’s household constitutes one of the fundamental transitional concerns with regard to entering into independent adulthood (Settersten and Ray, 2010). One of the notable features of the emerging adulthood stage centers upon the instability of residential status. Youth in this phase of development experience higher rates of change in residential status than other age groups (Arnett, 2000).

Between 20,000 and 25,000 youth are known to age out of the foster care system annually (Osgood, Foster and Courtney, 2010, Samuels & Price, 2008). Courtney (2009) presented data gathered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which showed that in 2006, 26,517 youth were known to have left foster care to live independently. However, those statistics did not distinguish between those who left the foster care system voluntarily as opposed to those who were no longer eligible for support due to aging out (Courtney, 2009). Also mentioned by Courtney (2009) were several studies focusing on former foster youth. Included was a study by Courtney and Dworsky (2006), the findings of which showed that twice as many former foster youth claimed that they were not able to pay rent or mortgage as opposed to youth in the comparison group. Cook (1991) conducted a nation-wide study and found that 32 percent of youth who had left the foster care system had gone on to live in five or more different locations over the course of the subsequent 2.5 to 4 years.
According to Vander Stoep, Davis and Collins (2000) as cited by Davis (2003) it was found that more than six million youth transitioning into adulthood are known to have psychiatric disorders. Davis and Vander Stoep (1997) found that that between one and three million are severely emotionally disturbed. Additionally, Davis and Vander Stoep (as cited by Davis, 2003) found that youth with SED are more likely to experience barriers to independent living such as homelessness, low income, and difficulty maintaining employment (Davis & Vander Stoep, 1997).

**Conceptual Framework**

The need to develop stable housing for TAY on a national level is evident. However, on a local level, there is scant information associated with describing needs specific to the adult TAY population in Humboldt County. In this study, the operational definition of Transition Age Youth who are legal adults applies to those aged 18 to 26 years. The term housing refers to sheltered living spaces including apartments, houses, rooms in houses, shelter beds, and youth program-related beds such as those offered by Launch Pad. Housing assistance refers to the provision of services intended to acquire and maintain housing, including financial assistance, negotiation with property owners/managers, mental health services, counseling, and development of independent living skills. This descriptive study focuses upon assessment in four categories. These include youth-reported need for housing, potential access points for outreach or enrollment, youth suggestions for improvement or expansion of existing programs and models, and housing preferences. Self-reported need for housing includes indications of dissatisfaction with current housing situation, desire to change current housing situation,
concern over losing housing, incidences of homelessness, and barriers to obtaining housing. Information on current and past housing, such as foster homes, board and cares, and shelters, can be utilized to identify potential access points for outreach and screening for services. Identification of programs, or aspects thereof, that youth found to be positive or negative, can be used to identify areas for expansion or modification of existing resources. Finally, direct input from TAY about their own preferences with regard to living situation, such as individual apartments, dormitory-style units, and willingness to share living space, can be used to better-inform the Humboldt County TAY Division in developing or acquiring new housing or supportive resources.
METHOD

Variables

The variables in this study are numerous, and due to the descriptive nature of the study, there is no attempt to draw inferences between them. Variables include basic demographic information such as age range, gender, current and past housing situation, and history of homelessness. Also included are perception of current need of housing, description of ideal housing situation, identification of successful programs or components thereof, identification of barriers associated with housing programs or finding housing, general housing preferences, and perceived access points for services.

Instrument

The instrument utilized in this research is a survey questionnaire composed of both nominal questions and qualitative, open-ended short-answer questions. Questions have been adapted from a housing survey originally developed by the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health in 2008 for use amongst a population that included TAY. The instrument utilized in this study includes 21 questions. Eleven questions require checking a single nominal field in response. Two questions require checking all nominal fields that apply. Seven questions are qualitative short-answer, open-ended questions requiring 1 or more sentences in response. One question requires a single numerical response. Four of the questions are contingency-based. Internal validity is low due to the lack of emphasis upon illustrating a causal relationship between variables. External validity is present in that it is designed to be applicable towards a
population specific to Humboldt County. Generalizability to the local population of adult TAY was dependent upon the size of the available sample.

**Sampling Plan**

The study was conducted using non-probability convenience sampling, as well as snowball sampling. This type of sampling was utilized due to the fact that members of this population can be difficult to locate en masse at a single point in time. This study was intended to describe housing needs, preferences, and potential service access points for TAY who are legal adults.

**Research Design**

The research design utilized survey research. The study is primarily quantitative, but supplementary qualitative questions were also included, the majority of which are contingency-based. There is no inferred interaction between variables. The design of the research was descriptive of the housing-related needs and preferences of Transition Age Youth who are legal adults. The research design was constructed in order to address a lack of data regarding the self-reported housing needs of TAY specific to Humboldt County.

**Study Population and Sample**

Research subjects were Transition Age Youth between the ages of 18 and 26 who reside in Humboldt County. The research surveys were conducted at the TAY Division office at 550 I. Street in Eureka, CA. In the event that it was not feasible to meet at this location, the survey was conducted at a location agreed upon by both the researcher and the respondents in which there was no threat to the safety of either party. Projected
sample size was approximately 20 respondents. Actual sample size was six respondents. All information was coded and processed at the Humboldt State University Behavioral and Social Sciences building.

**Data Analysis**

Nominal data was encoded, and descriptive statistics were generated via Minitab. All data analysis was conducted on the fourth floor of the BSS building. Variable codes are displayed in Appendix C. In question 1, the variable of age is codified as AGE. Data was coded zero for the age range of 18-21 years, and one for the range of 22-26 years. In question 2, the variable of gender is GEN. This data was coded zero for males, one for females, two for transgender, and three for other. In question three, data was encoded as one for renting a house or apartment alone, two for renting a house or apartment with others, three for living in a room and board, four for living in a temporary or transitional shelter, five for living in a group home, six for living in a house that they own, seven for living with family, eight for not having a home, nine for living in a clean and sober house, ten for living in a foster care home, and eleven as other. In question four, housing history was established with a similar format to the previous question, differing in that subjects were instructed to indicate all fields that applied. Data was codified in a similar fashion to the previous question. However, as multiple responses could be given, data was re-codified for statistical presentation. For each possible response on fields 1 through 11, a separate identifier was created, and responses were codified as zero for blank spaces, and one for checked spaces. Question fifteen was intended to identify barriers to obtaining housing, and data was coded in a similar fashion to question four. Questions 5,
7, 9, 12, 16, 17, and 18 were each coded in a basic format in which affirmative answers are coded as zero, while negative answers are coded as one. Question six included an affirmative or negative answer codified as zero for affirmative, and one for negative, with supporting information to be provided in qualitative short-answer format. Questions 8 and 13 asked for information in a qualitative short-answer format, conditional upon an affirmative answer for their respective preceding questions. Data for question ten is provided in the format of a single non-encoded numerical quantity. Questions 11, 14, 20, and 21 are open-ended, and are intended to gather qualitative data in a short-answer format. Question nineteen was contingency-based upon an affirmative answer to the preceding question, with two possible answers codified as zero for Southern Humboldt, and one for Northern Humboldt.

**Theoretical Framework for Project Evaluation**

The data found in this research can be evaluated utilizing an outcome evaluation, which is a method of program evaluation developed by Garber and Grinnell, as cited by Jackson, Williams, & Elliot (1996). This form of evaluation is utilized in order to measure the degree to which the stated goals of the project have been met. Criteria for evaluation under this framework can potentially include the clarity of the research findings, the degree to which the results are found to accurately reflect the population studied, and the degree of applicability of the findings to the development and improvement of housing resources for adult TAY.
RESULTS

Demographic results and quantitative data are displayed in Appendix C, with qualitative data displayed in Appendix A. Four of the subjects reported being age 18-21 (n=4 ; 66.67%) while two subjects reported being age 22-26 (n=2 ; 33.33%). Three of the subjects were male (n=3 ; 50%) and three of the subjects were female (n=3 ; 50%) with no subjects identifying as transgender (n=0 ; 0%) or other (n=0 ; 0%).

Present living situations were varied, and included renting an apartment or other living space, living with family, owning a home, living in a clean and sober home, or living in a dormitory. With regard to housing history, two subjects reported having rented an apartment alone (n=2 ; 33.33%) while one subject reported having rented an apartment with others(n=1 ; 16.67%). Three subjects (n=3 ; 50.00%) had lived in a temporary or transitional shelter, and two subjects (n=2 ; 33.33%) have lived in a group home. Four subjects (n=4 ; 66.67%) have lived with family, two subjects (n=2 ; 33.33%) have been homeless, and three subjects (n=3 ; 50.00%) have lived in foster care. One subject (n=1 ; 16.67%) marked other, and specified incarceration. These findings can be built upon to suggest viable access points for focusing outreach and intake for housing services.

Five of the subjects (n=5 ; 83.33%) felt that their current housing needs are being met. Four subjects (n=4 ; 66.67%) reported wanting to change their current housing situation. Reasons provided included high rental costs, desire for family housing, dissatisfaction with the context of a program-based residence, and general dissatisfaction with quality of life. While the majority of the subjects felt that they were adequately
housed, and none of the subjects were concerned about losing their present housing, these factors did not necessarily indicate that they were satisfied with their present living situations.

Several barriers to housing access were reported. These included credit history, lack of affordable housing, lack of information, problems getting income, making payment of first month’s rent, last month’s rent, and deposit, and emotional problems. Two subjects (n=2; 33.33%) reported having been homeless in the past. Of these two respondents, one subject reported three separate incidences of homelessness, while another subject reported at least seven separate incidences. The barriers identified may be particularly concerning for youth who are homeless.

Subjects were asked to describe what kind of housing and services would suit them best. Responses included a short or long-term TAY shelter, low-income housing, and a nice house. Other responses included living with family, and living in an apartment alone or with an agreeable roommate. In identifying what they considered to be helpful components of local housing programs, subjects included emergency long-term housing, and assistance with budgeting and rent. When asked what components of housing programs could be unhelpful or could promote difficulty, responses included incompatibility with needs, apartment management, utility charges, curfew, and parental consent. Existing agencies that subjects identified as entry points for services included ILSP, Eureka Housing Authority, the Youth Service Bureau, the TAY Division office, the Raven Project, and the People’s Action Rights Committee.
Varied preferences in living arrangement may be a factor to consider in terms of the development of new programs and housing venues. Five subjects (n=5; 83.33%) reported that they would not mind sharing living space with a roommate or housemate, while one subject (n=1; 16.67%) preferred to live alone. Three subjects (n=3; 50.00%) reported wanting to live in an apartment, or housing, with people who share similar needs.

A final question asked for subjects to note any housing-related issues or concerns not addressed in the survey. One respondent noted that a tent is affordable housing, going on to state that the homeless should not be criminalized, and to legalize sleep. Another respondent expressed a desire to see more apartments open for rent.
Among the subjects surveyed, the majority were between the ages of 18 and 21. There was an equal proportion of males to females, but no representation of persons who identify as transgender, or who describe their gender by alternate means. Current housing situations were varied, with none of the subjects reporting current homelessness or fear of losing housing. Statistics of housing history are varied as well, and include shelters, group homes, foster care, homelessness, and incarceration, which may indicate viable access points for outreach services. While the majority of respondents felt that their housing needs were met, a majority also expressed a desire for a change of living situation. One-third of the sample had experienced homelessness, with a cumulative total of ten incidences between two respondents. Two-thirds of the subjects were not able to identify housing programs that they found useful. Of those who were able to identify useful programs, emergency housing, budgeting, and rental assistance were identified as beneficial components of those programs. The barriers to housing perceived by subjects were primarily money-related, including lack of income, initial payments, affordability and credit history. Emotional problems were also noted as a barrier. Results show that among the survey sample there exists a variety of living situations, needs, and barriers to desired housing, with few housing programs that are identified as making a notable impact.

There are a number of issues of concern to be addressed in this study. The total sample size for this survey was far smaller than was originally projected, with a total of
six participants out of an intended target of twenty. As such, it would be unlikely that the results gained from the study could be considered to be definitive of the total population of TAY who are legal adults in Humboldt County. The primary researcher was unable to secure administrative approval to conduct surveys from several community agencies that were thought to interact regularly with potential subjects within the intended population. The data collection window was also limited due to modifications to the body and process of the survey. Additionally, it is likely that some of the questions may require further refinement and clarification, as there are some apparent errors or discrepancies between the questions asked and the answers given on some of the qualitative questions. Alternatively, an increased sample size could also offset the impact of participant error.

While the results of this study were far from ideal due to the small sample size, the information gained in this initial attempt retains a great deal of value. The qualitative data gained from participants from the local TAY population in this study retains a measure of applicability for local agencies that are interested in improving service quality and delivery. There are few local channels through which TAY are able to voice their concerns to the community, and data on factors such as the occurrence and frequency of local TAY homelessness is scarce. Through this survey, TAY were able to provide direct input about their needs, challenges, and preferences to agencies who are responsible for providing local services. Additionally, the qualitative portions of the survey provide opportunities for youth to use their own words, which can give added insight into their experiences as opposed to having their responses limited strictly to quantitative material.
Future generations of social work graduates may be able to benefit from this project as a learning tool as they contemplate their own ideas in forming partnerships for community change. The aspects of the project that were successful can perhaps be incorporated into future research, while the issues of concern identified may be taken into consideration or improved upon. The TAY Division may continue to utilize and modify the survey template as needed for further study. Future research aided by more successful outreach to the TAY population may give further insight into improving existing housing resources and services with their cooperation, and for their benefit. This study was intended to obtain input directly from Transition Age Youth regarding their self-reported housing needs, barriers, assessment of existing services, housing history, and preferences. The results gathered will ideally contribute to the knowledge of Humboldt County and its respective service providers in order to facilitate the improvement of existing services, and to inform the development of future resources and services related to housing for TAY. As the Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Division is actively seeking new housing for TAY who are legal adults, information that comes directly from this population can assist the TAY Division and other county agencies in ensuring that acquired housing and related services are tailored to TAY needs.
REFERENCES


adulthood: A resource for assisting young people with emotional or behavioral difficulties (pp. 3–28). Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes.


APPENDIX A

Survey Qualitative Response Data

Question #6: Do you want to change your current housing situation? Why or why not?

1) Yes because I am in rehab
2) No, I like my [living space] <omitted as a potential identifier>
3) Yes don’t like the way I live
4) Yes, because I want my own place for me [and my family] <omitted as a potential identifier>
5) No, I live in a convenient area, where there is access to transportation and grocery
6) Yes, because the dorms cost too much

Question #11: Describe what kind of housing and services would suit you best.

1) Living on my own or with [family] <omitted as a potential identifier>
2) Short/long term TAY shelter
3) Low income
4) I want to live in a nice house.
5) Havent needed any
6) An apartment by myself or with a roommate I get along with

Question #13: If you answered “yes” to question 12, what did they offer that you found helpful?

1) [blank]
2) Emergency long term housing
3) [blank]
4) [blank]
5) Being able to budget and figure out how to pay rent

6) [blank]

Question #14: What have housing programs offered you that you didn’t find helpful, or that made things more difficult?

1) I have no clue
2) Curfew, parental consent
3) Nothing
4) My apartment manager, charged us for water
5) The same housing program didn’t feel like they worked well with my needs and wants
6) Dorms babysit, and are cheap

Question #20: Where would you tell a friend to go if they needed help finding/keeping housing?

1) Wsb
2) The Raven Project of RCAA, P.A.R.C. (Peoples Action Rights Comitte)
3) ILS, YSB
4) I would tell them to go to housing authorities in Eureka
5) Either the TAY office (if in age limits) or help find a program that helps just with that
6) If they were in foster care I would say talk to ILP, if they weren’t I’d say a loan

Question #21: Are there any concerns related to housing that you think this survey missed? If so, please explain:

1) No not at all.
2) A tent IS Affordable housing! Stop criminalizeing the homeless. Legalize sleep!

3) No

4) I would like to see more apartments open for rent

5) N/A

6) Goodjob.
APPENDIX B

Survey Instrument

Housing Needs Survey

1. What is your age range (check one)? ______ 18-21 _______ 22-26

2. What is your gender (check one)?
   Male: ______    Female: ______ Transgender:_______
   Other (please specify): ______________________________________

3. What kind of housing situation do you have now (check one)?
   ___ Rent a house or apartment alone    ___ Rent a house or apartment with other people
   ___ Live in a Board and Care           ___ Live in a Room and Board
   ___ Live in a temporary/transitional Shelter ___ Live in a group home
   ___ Own my own house                   ___ Live with my family
   ___ I do not have a place to live      ___ Live in a Clean and Sober house
   ___ Live in a Foster Care Home
   ___ Other (please describe)
   ____________________________________________
4. What kind of housing situation(s) have you had in the past (check all that apply)?
   ___ Rented a house or apartment alone          ___ Rented a house or apartment with
   other people
   ___ Lived in a Board and Care               ___ Lived in a Room and Board
   ___ Lived in a temporary/transitional Shelter  ___ Lived in a group home
   ___ Owned my own house                     ___ Lived with my family
   ___ I did not have a place to live         ___ Lived in a Clean and Sober house
   ___ Lived in a Foster Care Home
   ___ Other (please describe)

5. Are your housing needs currently being met (check one)?
   ___ Yes                      ___ No

6. Do you want to change your current housing situation? Why or why not (short answer: 1 or more sentences)?

7. Are you concerned about losing your current housing (check one)?  _____ Yes   _____ No

8. If you answered yes to number 7, please explain why (short answer: 1 or more sentences):

9. Have you ever been homeless (check one)?  ____ Yes     ____ No
10. If you answered yes in Question 9, how many times? _________________

11. Describe what kind of housing and services would suit you best (short answer: 1 or more sentences):

12. Are there any housing programs that have worked for you that you would like to see more of in Humboldt county (check one)?  ____ Yes  ____ No

13. If you answered “yes” to question 12, what did they offer that you found helpful (short answer: 1 or more sentences)?

14. What have housing programs offered you that you didn’t find helpful, or that made things more difficult (short answer: 1 or more sentences)?
15. What makes it hard to find housing? (Check all that apply)
   ___ Credit history                                            ___ Not enough affordable places
   ___ Getting the information I need                 ___ Previous evictions
   ___ Problems getting income or SSI               ___ Having a mental illness
   ___ Emancipating from foster care                 ___ First and last month’s rent and deposit
   ___ Other (please describe)
   ____________________________________________________________

16. Would you mind sharing living space with another person such as a roommate or a
    housemate (check one)?  ___ Yes              ____ No

17. Would you like to live in an apartment/housing where people have similar needs
to yours? (check one))
      ___ Yes      ____ No

18. Do you want to live in Humboldt County (check one)?  ____ Yes      ____ No
19. If you answered “yes” to question 18, what part of Humboldt County would you like to live in (check one)?

_____ Southern Humboldt (Garberville-Redway)

_____ Northern Humboldt (Fortuna, Eureka, Arcata, Willow Creek, Blue Lake, Orick)

20. Where would you tell a friend to go if they needed help finding/keeping housing (short answer: 1 or more sentences)?

21. Are there any concerns related to housing that you think this survey missed? If so, please explain (short answer: 1 or more sentences):
### APPENDIX C

Numerical Data

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