

# Community Fact Sheet

## Hope 2010: 2nd Annual Community Service-Focused Event for Northwest Arkansas

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<http://sociology.uark.edu/1876.htm>

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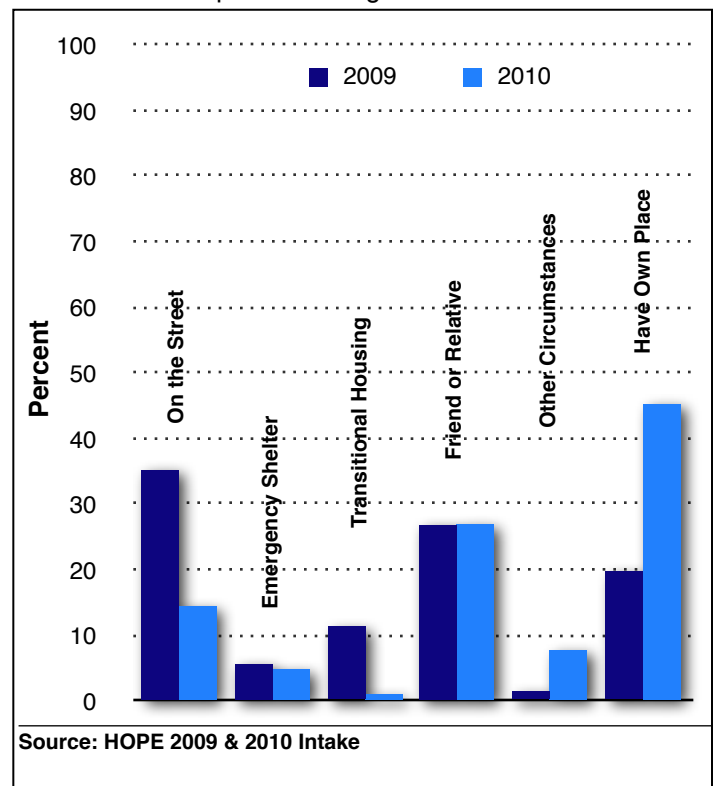
### Who Participated and Where Are They Living?

On October 1, 2010 a one-stop service provision event took place in Fayetteville, AR. *HOPE 2010*, sponsored in part by the Veterans' Administration, was designed to serve those in need throughout the NWA region. Besides VA services available to veterans, a range of other services were provided to all participants including: blood pressure/glucose screenings, eye exams, eye glasses, dental screenings, haircuts, legal aid, massages, and shelters/housing options. A lunch was provided, and all those participating received a bag of donated groceries, canned goods, and a toiletry kit with essential items.

One hundred and four persons attended the 2010 event-- **up by 32 percent** from last year's event. Compared to last year's event, there were more females (37%-50%), nonwhites (17%-25%), homed (23%- 45%), and fewer veterans (34-19%) in 2010.

The housing status data found in Figure 1 shows some distinct differences between 2009 and 2010 attendees. In 2009, fewer than 20 percent had their own place but in 2010 that number more than doubled (45%). In both years, the majority of attendees were homeless; fewer than 16 percent in 2010 said they were staying on the street compared to more than one-third in 2009. Similar to 2009, the majority of homeless people attending the 2010 event were persons staying with a friend or relative.

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



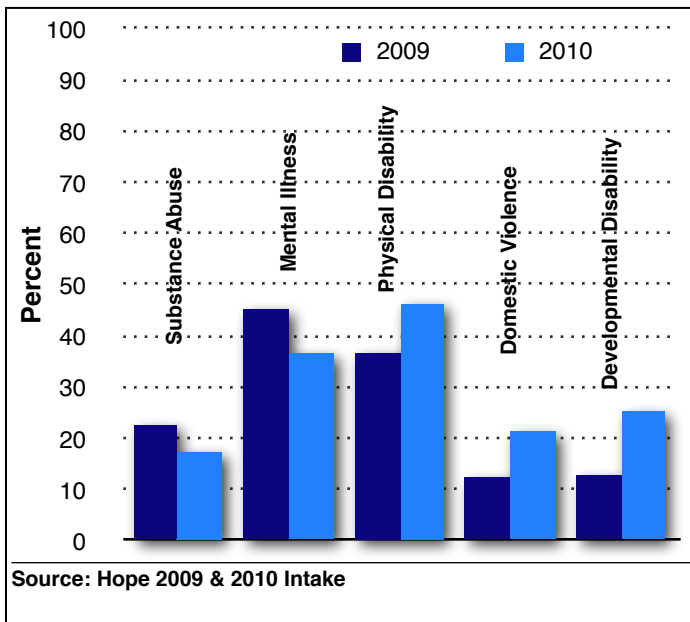
Of the 104 respondents attending in 2010, 69 percent reported being without their own home at least once in the past three years. That number was down by 10 percent from the previous year. On average, persons reported being homeless 3 times in the last three years for an average of 8 months. While some persons reported being homeless for longer periods of time, episodic homelessness continues to characterize much of the homeless population in Northwest Arkansas and the United States.

### What Are Their Challenges and Needs?

The data in Figure 2 illustrate important differences between 2009 and 2010 attendees regarding chronic conditions. In 2009, there were slightly more persons reporting substance abuse and mental illness. In 2010, there were more persons reporting physical disabilities, developmental disabilities and domestic violence victimization than in 2009. Finally, while most respondents reported at least one disabling condition (76%), more than 40 percent reported multiple conditions.

Though nearly 76 percent of respondents reported some disabling condition, almost half of those with chronic conditions said their condition remained **untreated**. This gap continues to be an important piece of the complicated service delivery puzzle.

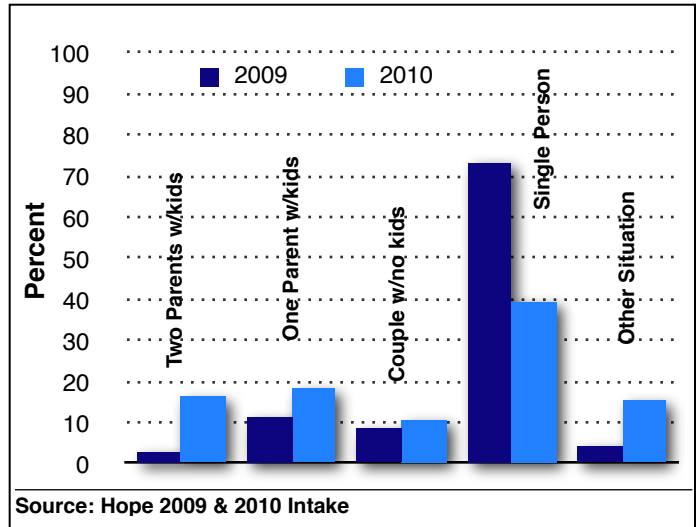
**Figure 2. Self-Reported Disabling Conditions**  
Chronic Conditions



### Family Composition and Status

The data in Figure 3 highlights some important differences between 2009 and 2010 attendees regarding family status. In 2009, there were considerably more single persons (73%-39%) attending than in 2010. In 2010, there was an increase in couples and single mothers with children. Overall, there was more than a 50 percent increase in the number of persons who reported having children living with them. In both years, the majority of parents reported having 1 or 2 children, but in 2010 nearly 30 percent of attendees said that they have three or more children living with them.

**Figure 3. Family Composition and Status**



### Services Offered and Used

Clearly not everyone used all the services that were being offered at the *Hope 2010* event. A large percentage of attendees used multiple services. A breakdown of those are listed below in Figure 4. Forty-five eye exams were given, 41 dental screenings, 23 applied for eye glasses, 32 blood pressure/glucose screens, 37 haircuts, and 35 massages were given. It is interesting that the most requested services were related to well-being or physical health/appearance. Future service provision events may want to focus more on health-related services particularly for a population where **65 percent reported having no health insurance**.

**Figure 4. Services Used at HOPE 2010 n = 104**

