

*Targeted Interventions: Meeting the Needs of
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth*

Identifying Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Deriving Data from an Accurate Count

MA Appleseed Conference

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11/15/12

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL
**HOMELESS
YOUTH
AWARENESS**
HomelessYouthAmongUs.org **MONTH**

Session Objectives

- Learn from others in the room about communities' efforts to count homeless youth
- Obtain in depth understanding about Worcester's efforts
- Share information about state and national efforts
- Contribute to an effort to count and understand the situations of homeless young people in MA

Challenges and Considerations for 'Counting' Unaccompanied Youth

Challenges

- Multiple definitions
- No standardized methodology

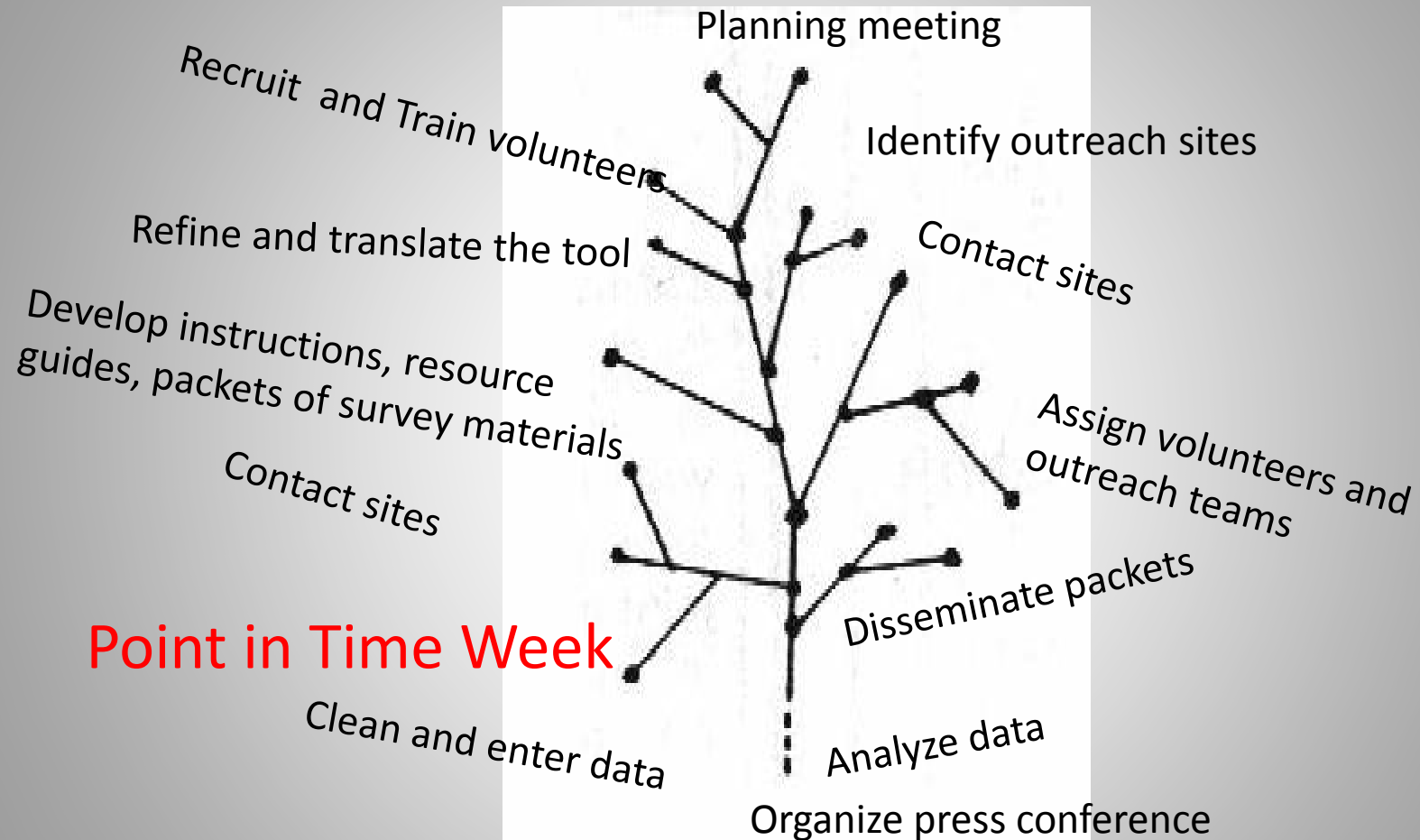
Considerations

- Intended use should drive decision-making about methodology
- Implementation issues (length of time, youth involvement)
- Data analysis
- Level of resources available

Decisions, Decisions...

Type of Survey/ Tool	Bias/ Limitations	Strengths	Precision Required	Cost
Street Survey				
Shelter/Agency Youth Survey				
Existing Surveys (YRBS)				
Existing data (HMIS, McKinney Vento)				
Combination of the above				

Process we use in Worcester

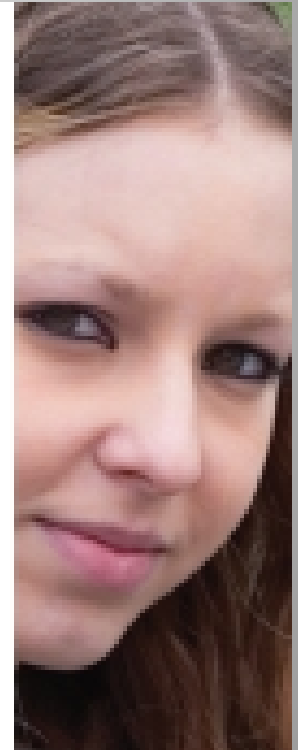


Point in Time
Findings Dissemination

Worcester Teen Housing Task Force in conjunction with
the Compass Project and Clark University

2011 Point in Time Survey of Homeless Youth and Youth Adults

**DON'T JUST
COUNT ME**
Give me a chance to count



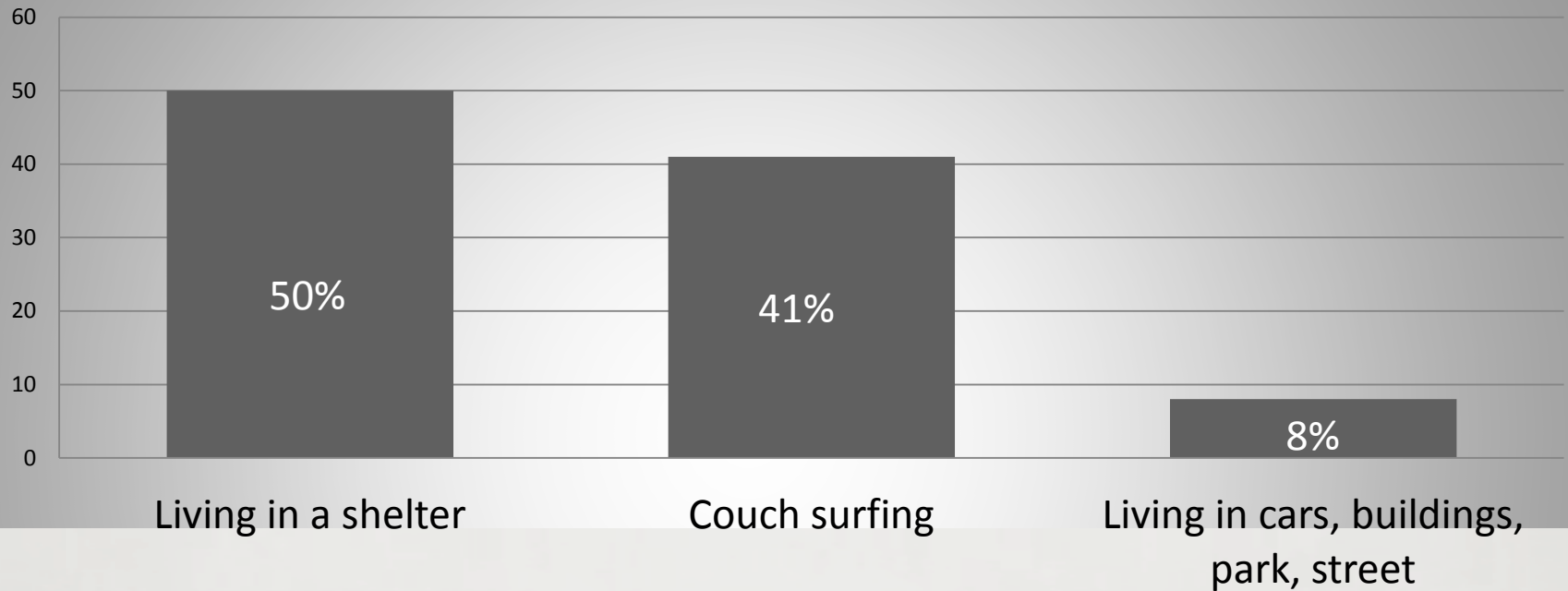
<http://m.theatlanticcities.com/housing/2012/10/hidden-cost-counting-homeless/3495/>

2011 Point-in-Time Survey

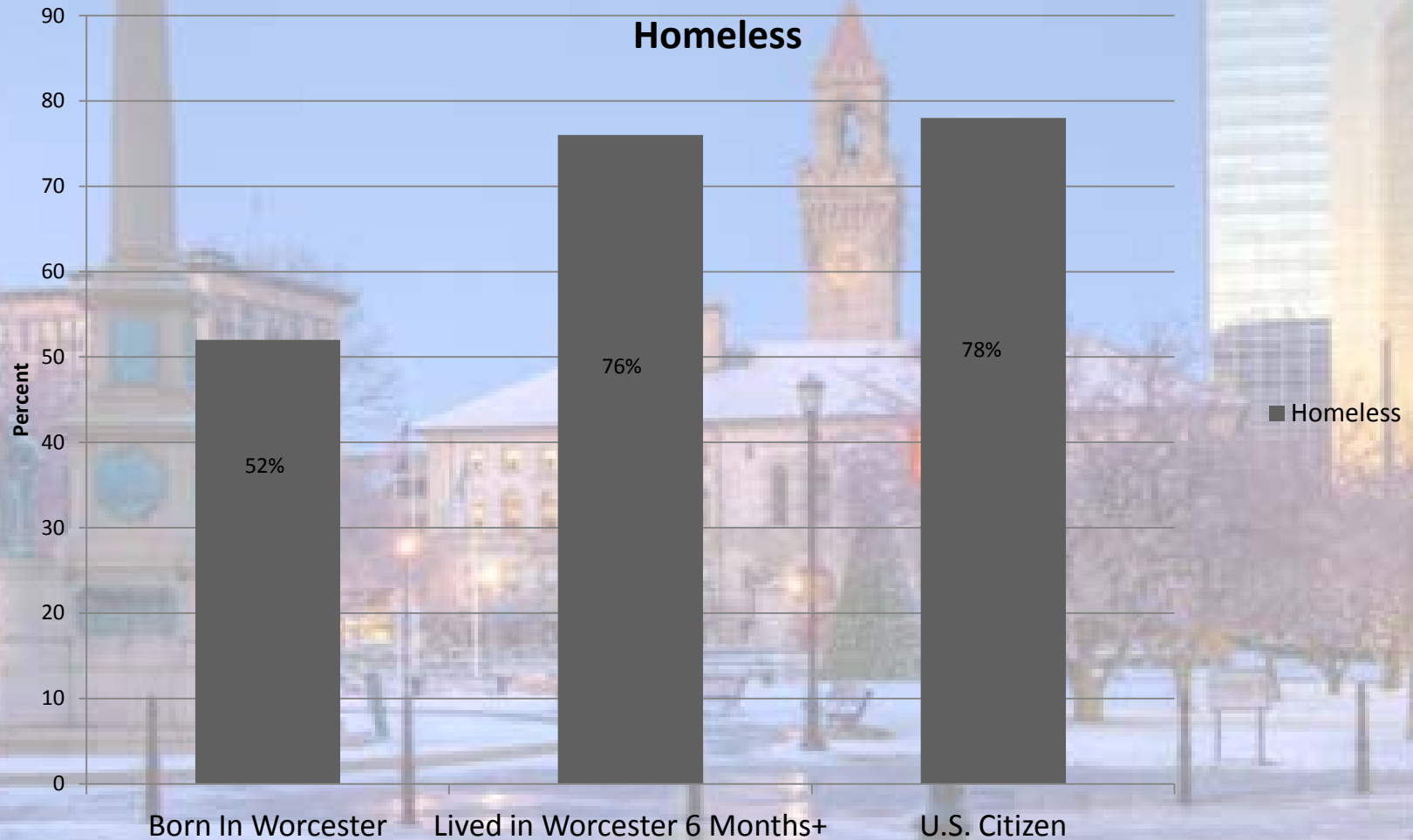


- Conducted on October 19th 2011(+), roughly 30 organizations helped disseminate the survey along with extensive street outreach
- 535 young people ages 13-25 took the survey.
- 102 of them lived in a shelter, were couch surfing, or stayed in a car, park, street, or abandoned building the night before taking the survey
- 31 respondents lived in a residential facility
- 137 of the respondents with a home had a friend who was homeless

Residential status



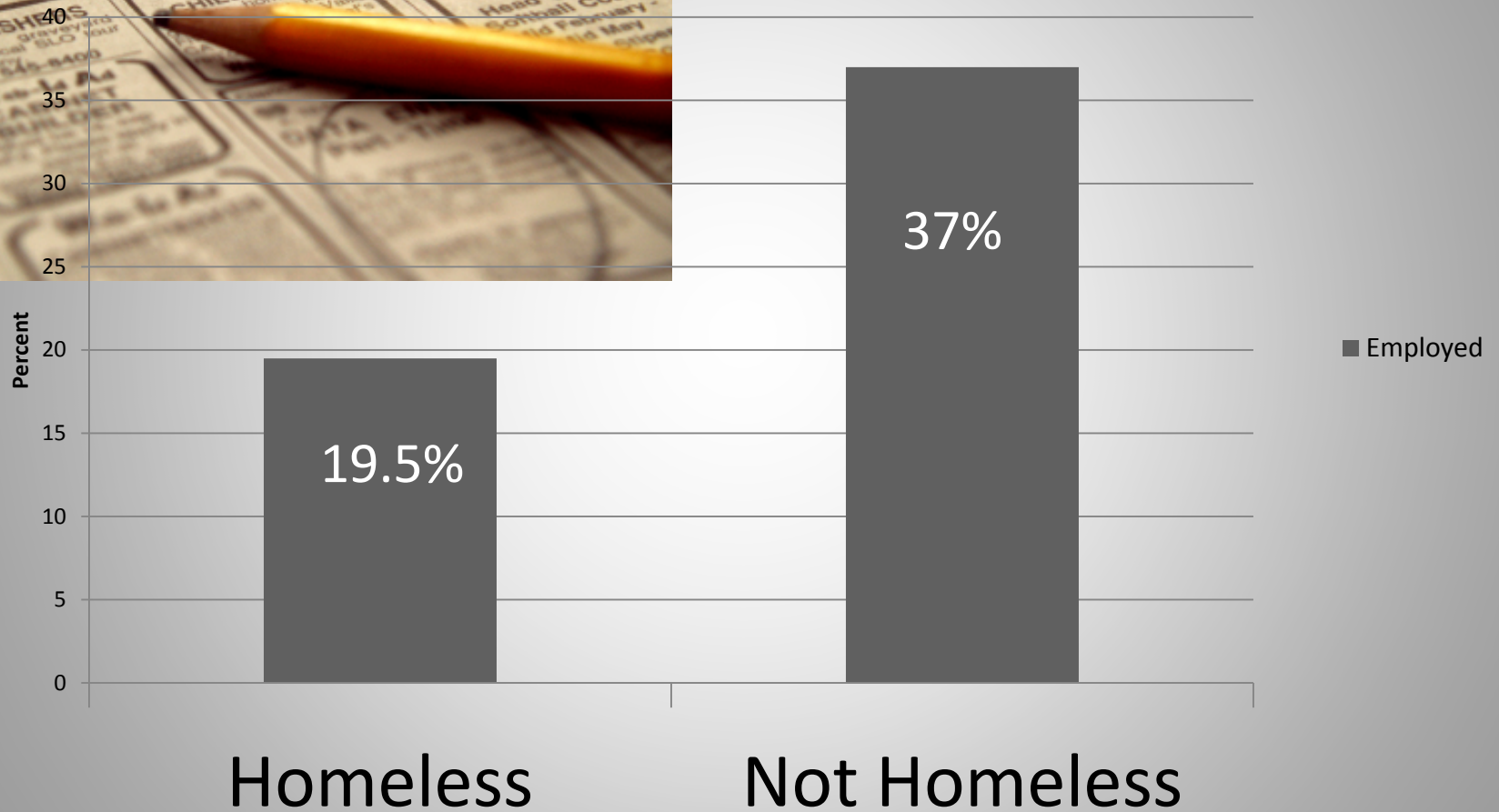
Residency and Citizenship Status



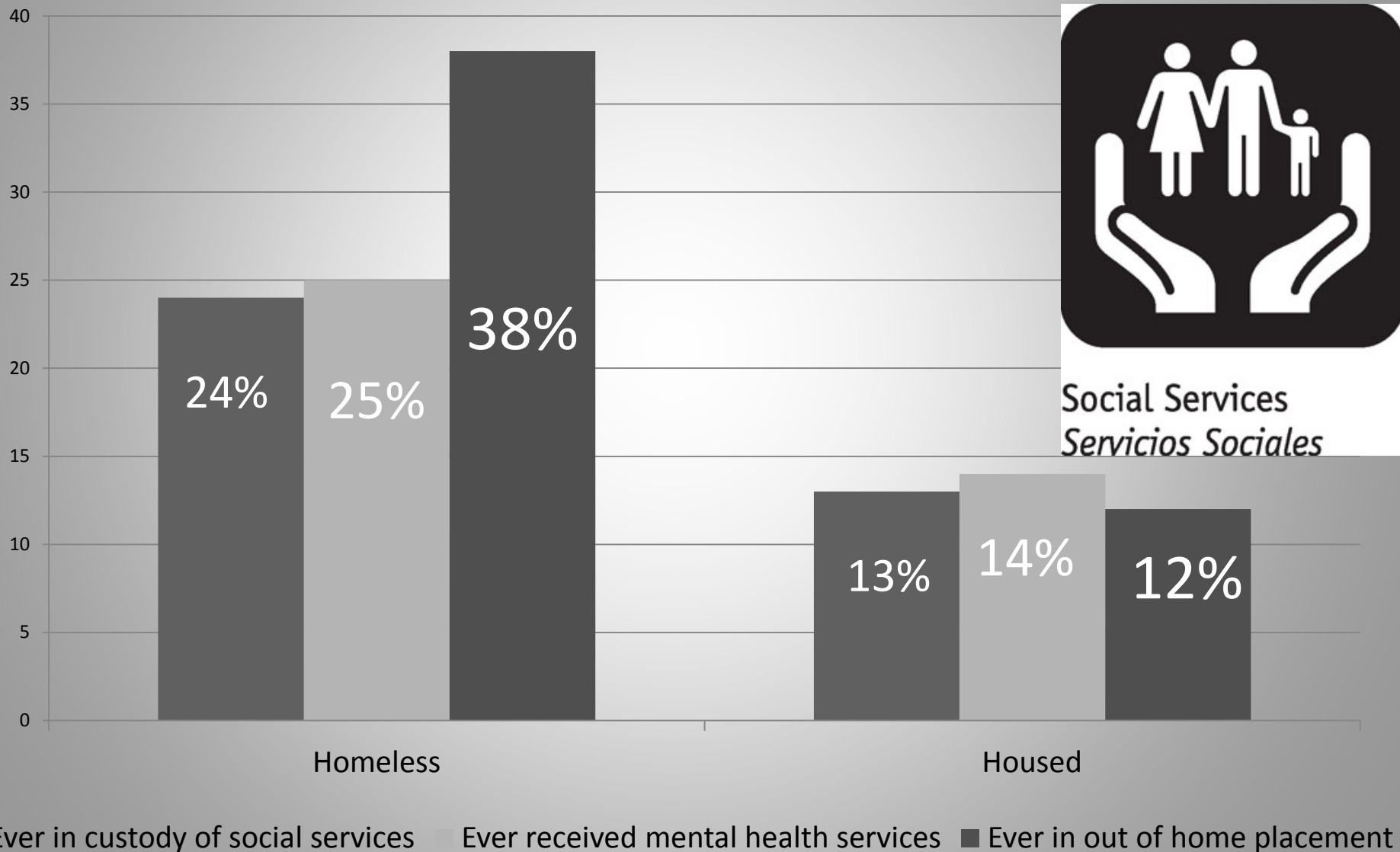
Pregnant and Parenting



Employment

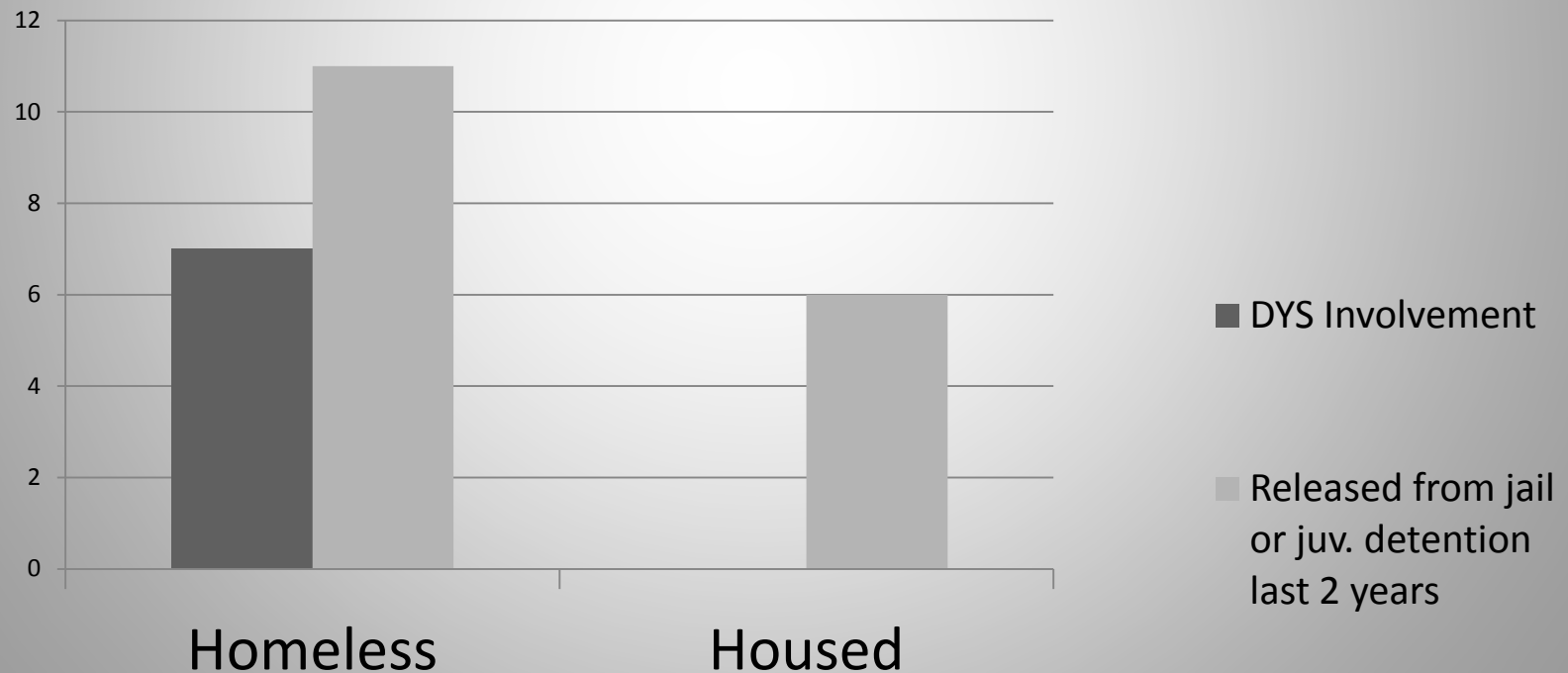


Involvement with Public and Private Services and Programs

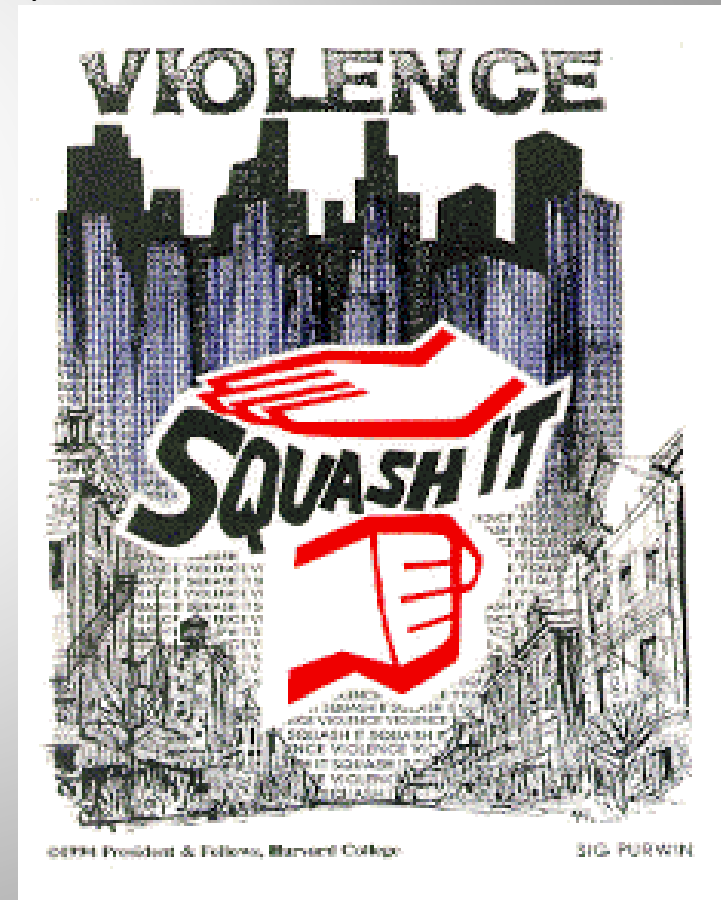
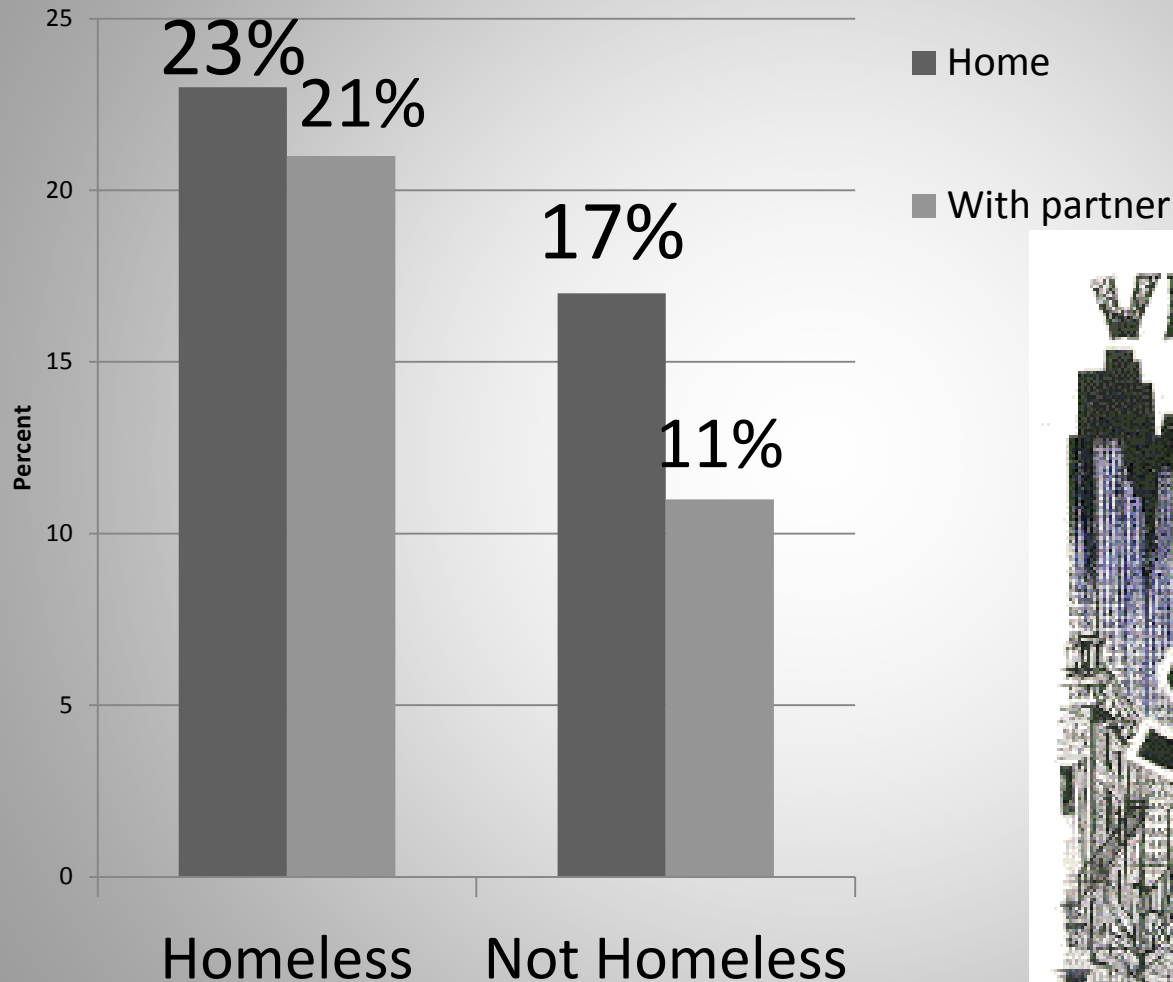




Juvenile & Criminal Justice System Involvement



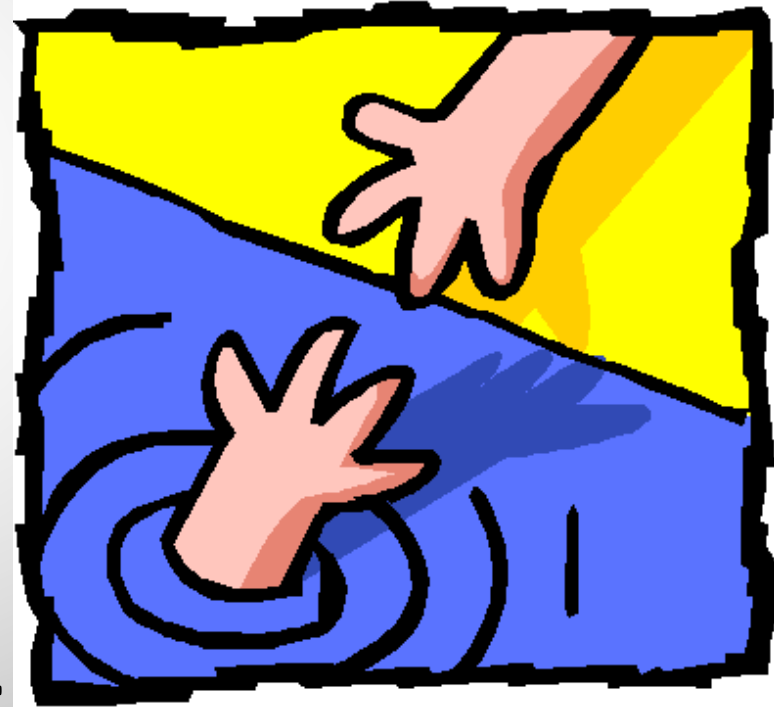
Experiences with Violence and Safety



Gaps in Resources Addressing Factors of Youth Homelessness

- Close to 40% of the homeless respondents reported that they did not get the help they sought
 - Long wait lists
 - Didn't hear back
 - Lack of transportation
 - Couldn't access needed paperwork or identification

There is a significant lack of emergency housing options for homeless youth and young adults



What is driving youth and young adult homelessness in Worcester and what are we doing about it?

YEAR ONE: RESOURCES FOR STREET

Family conflict and instability

AS I GO OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM?

ADULTHOOD

Disconnected

YEAR TWO: FUNDING FOR COMPASS PROJECT—FAMILY CONFLICT AND

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

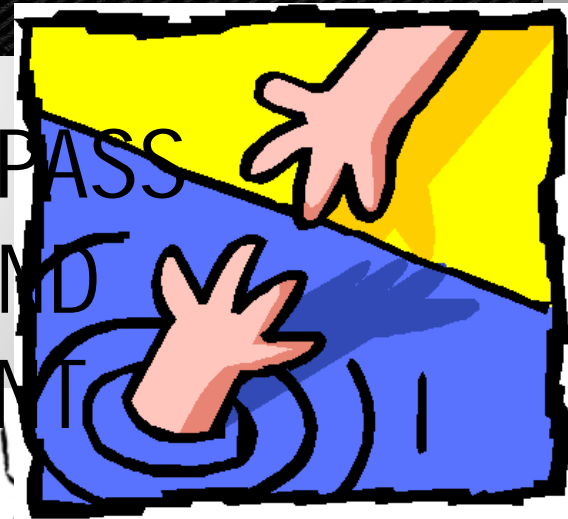
YEAR THREE: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

HOMELESSNESS
PREVENTION &
FAMILY STRENGTHENING

EMERGENCY
SHELTER

TRANSITIONAL
LIVING

PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



What would it mean to do this at the state level?

- Engaging youth in the process as researchers and advocates
- Tapping into young people's social networks (RDS/NSUM)
- Using existing data (surveys, HMIS, etc)
- Coordinating a statewide count

Let's get into small groups for 10 minutes...

Final Questions/Comments