



HOMELESS SOLUTIONS REPORT

MAY 29, 2009

Homeless Issues Partnership Members

- Corpus Christi Metro Ministries
- Wesley Community Center
- Timon's Ministries
- Corpus Christi Independent School District
- Catholic Charities
- Corpus Christi Hope House, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of South Texas
- John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Foundation
- MHMR - Nueces County
- Mother Teresa Day Shelter
- Salvation Army
- United Way of the Coastal Bend
- Sheryl Robinson McMillan
- Mary McLeod Bethune Day Nursery
- Amanda Doemland

Homeless Issues Partnership Members

- Wenholtz House
- Ginger Flewelling-Leeds
- Orlando Gomez
- Women's Shelter of South Texas
- South Texas Substance Abuse & Recovery Services
- Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation
- Nueces County Community Action Agency
- Amy Rhoads Granberry
- Palmer Drug Abuse Program
- First Presbyterian Church Healthy Choices
- Rebecca Stroisch
- Bernie Sullivan
- CHRISTUS Spohn Community Mental Health
- Nueces County Department of Human Services
- Charlie's Place




The Homeless Issues Partnership would like to express appreciation to the **John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, Inc.** for underwriting this event.



A special thanks to
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
and
Dr. Pamela Meyer
for work on designing and conducting
the Point In Time Survey, January 2009

Point-in-Time Homeless Survey 2009 Results of Local Data Analysis

Pamela S. Meyer, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
May 29, 2009



Introduction

- Thanks to all who participated in the Point-Time Survey.
- Thanks to the HIP Board who organized the survey and helped create the survey instrument.
- Thanks to all who serve the needs Homeless Population on a daily basis.

Methods

- The survey included questions concerning:
 - 1) basic demographic information such as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment and ethnicity;
 - 2) history of homelessness;
 - 3) access to health care;
 - 4) disabilities; and
 - 5) services received and needed

Methods

- The survey was administered to homeless persons on the street and in shelters using the “known locations” methodology.
- Locations throughout the Corpus Christi and Nueces County area where homeless persons are known to congregate were identified.



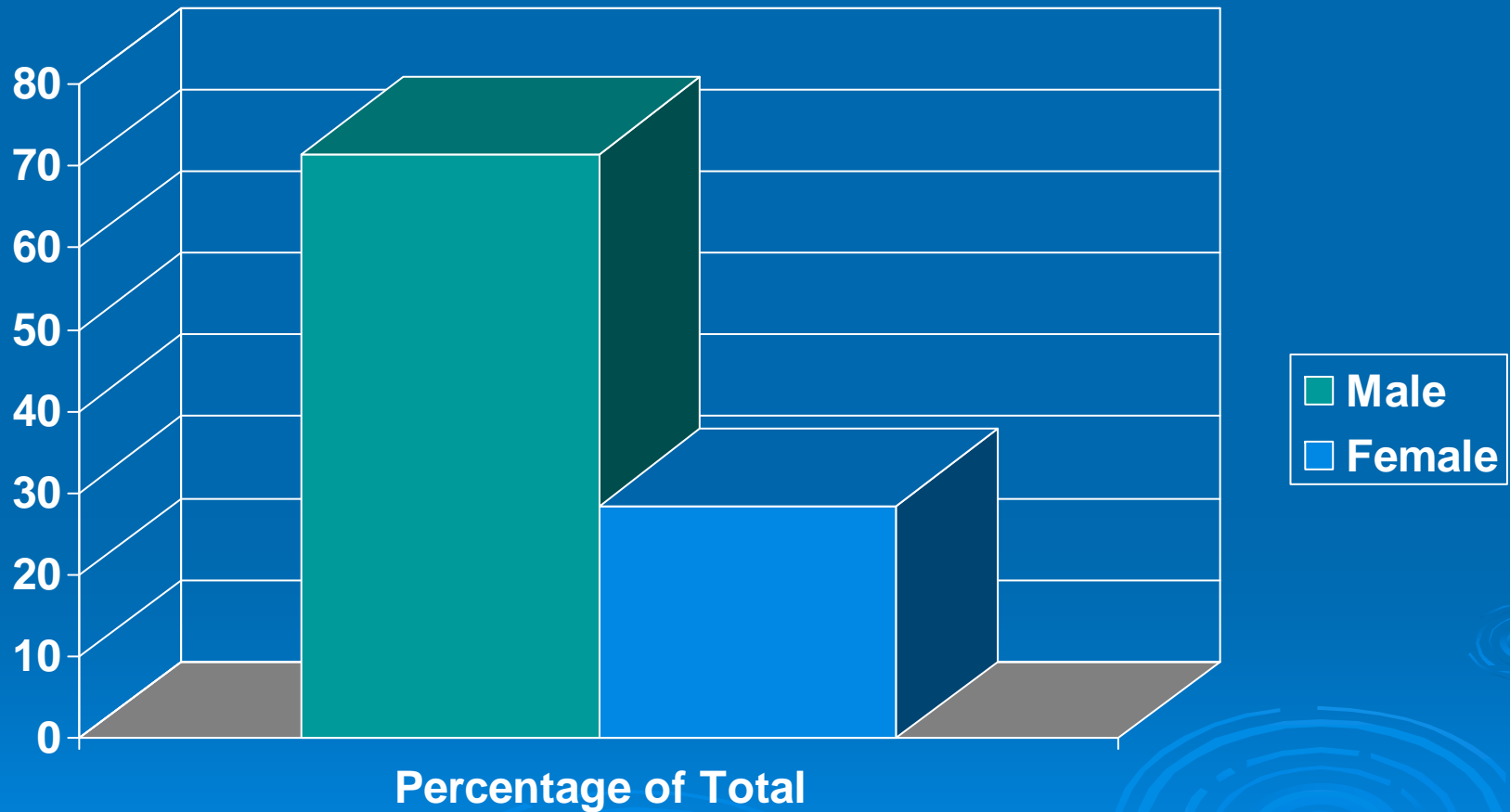
Methods

- Teams of survey interviewers canvassed each location on January 27 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. and surveyed all persons in the area who identified themselves as homeless.
- One team went to Timons Ministries from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on January 27 to interview the homeless who frequent this establishment for lunch.

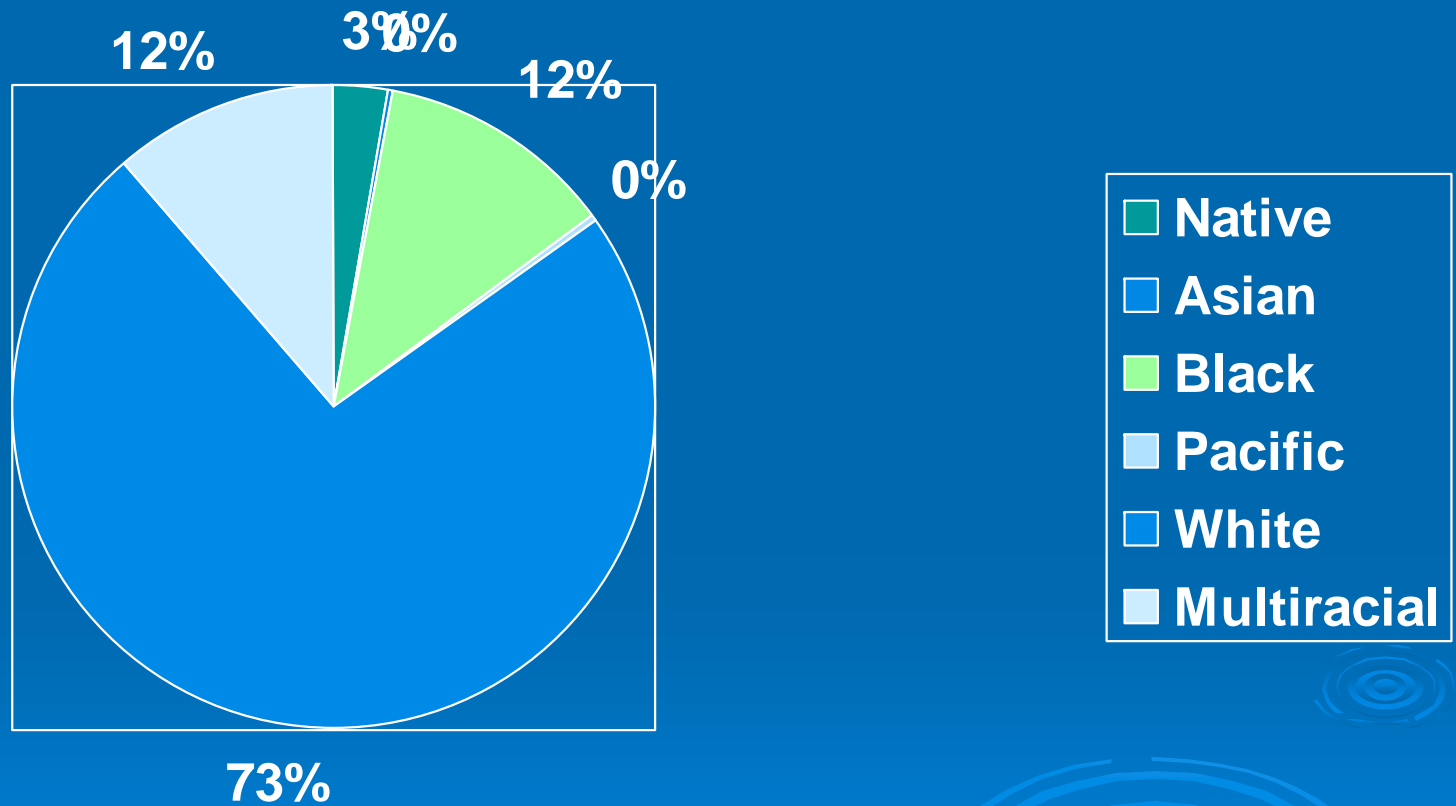
Demographics

- 631 in the sample
 - 92 just “counted”; survey incomplete
- 96.5% were U.S. citizens
- 17.9% identified themselves as Veterans

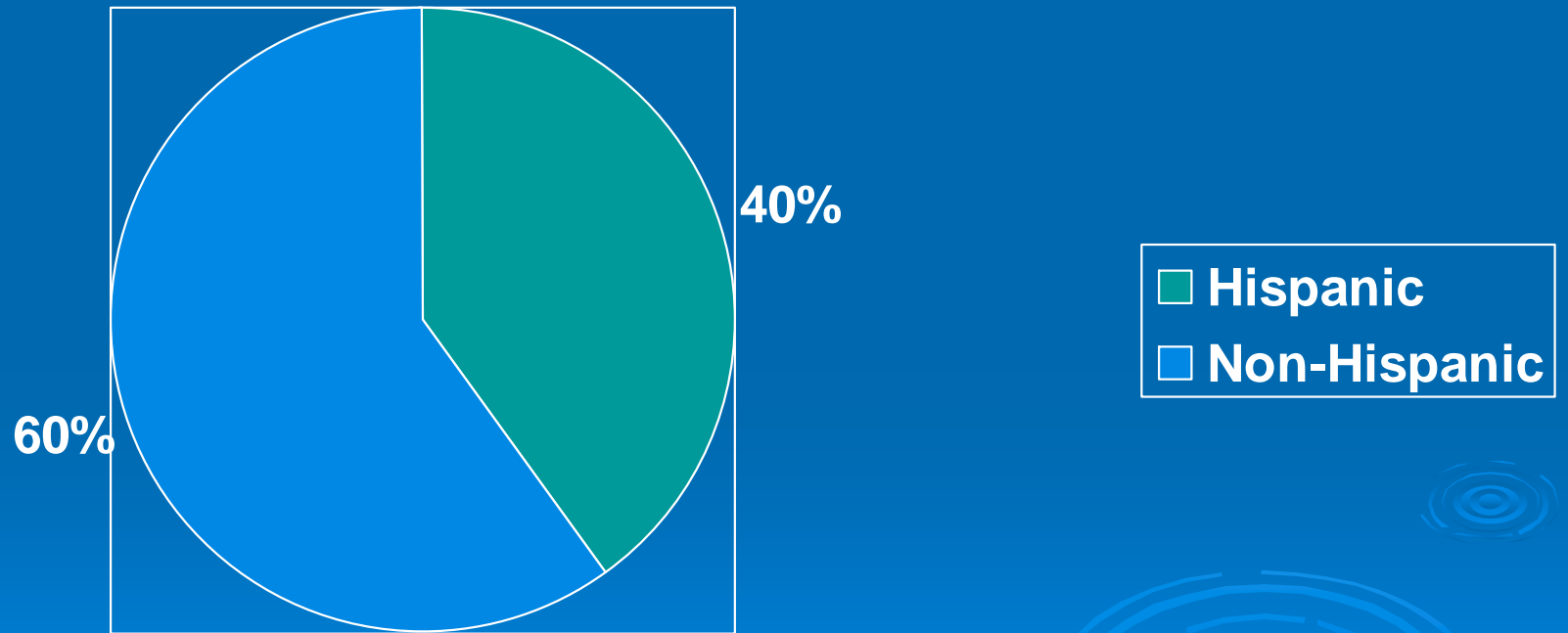
Demographics: Sex



Demographics: Race



Demographics: Ethnicity



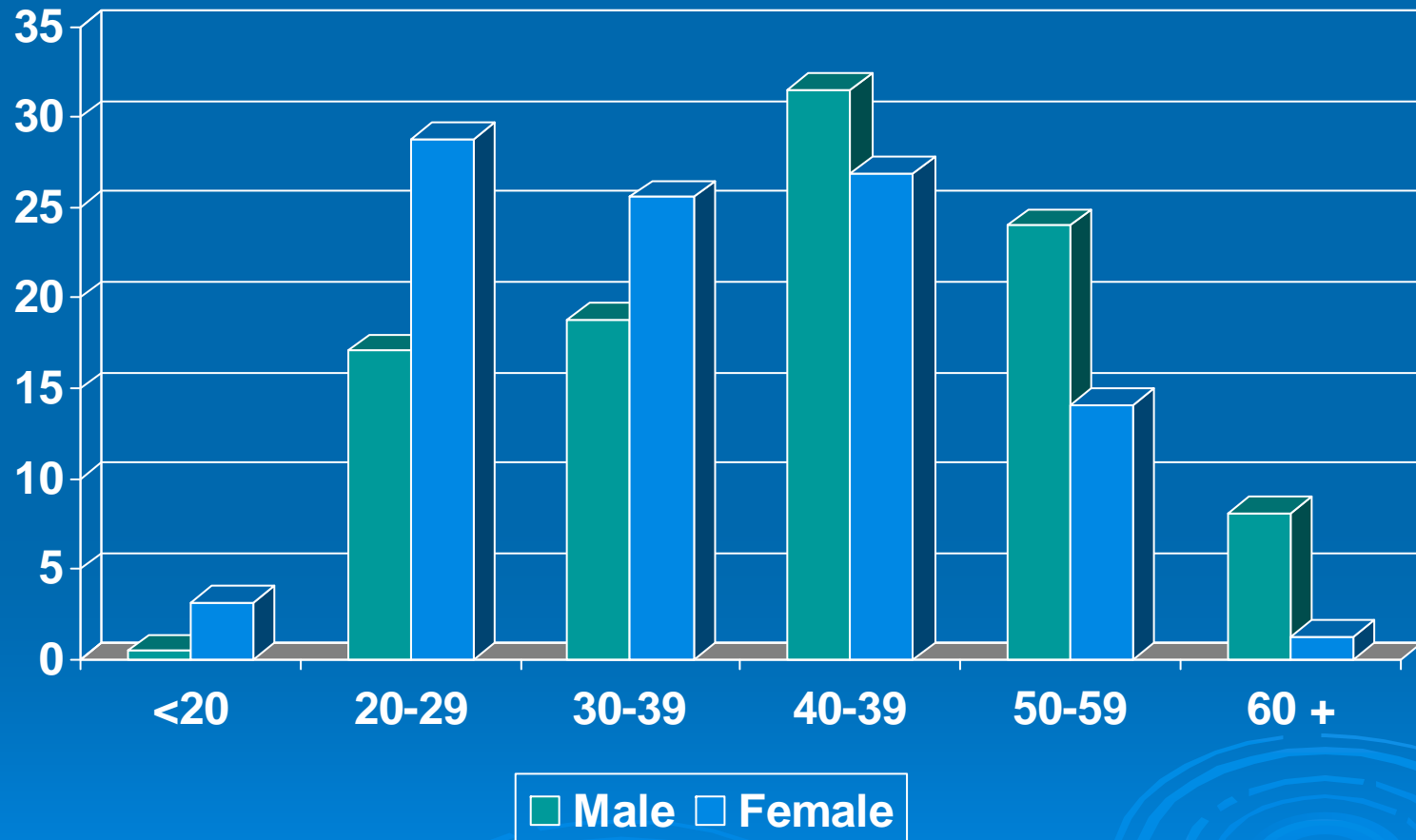
Demographics: Age

- Average Age 41.52 years
- Age Range 13 – 78 years




Demographics: Age by Gender

chi square = 31.25; d.f. = 5; p = .0001



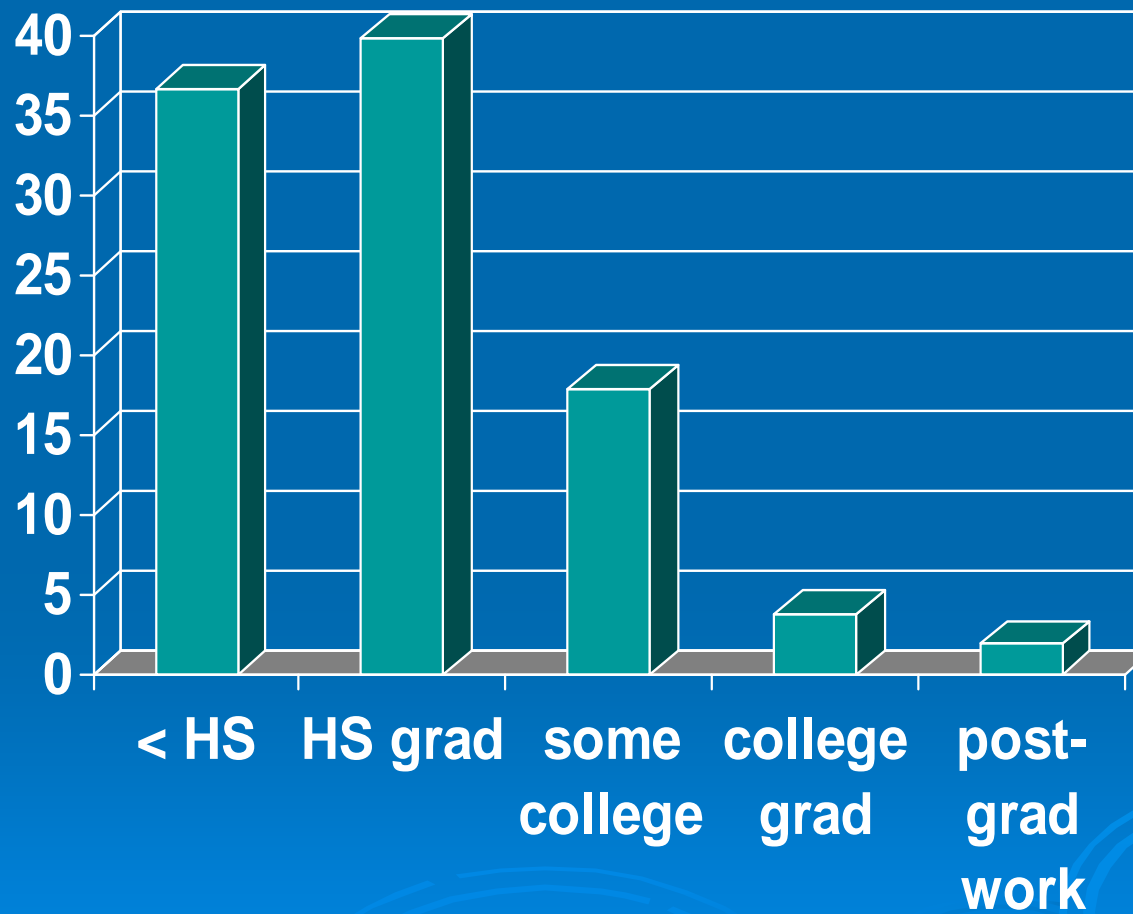
Percentage by Gender

Demographics: Education

- Range: 0 – 20 years
 - Average number of years of education: 11.45 years
 - Majority are high school graduates
- 

Demographics: Education

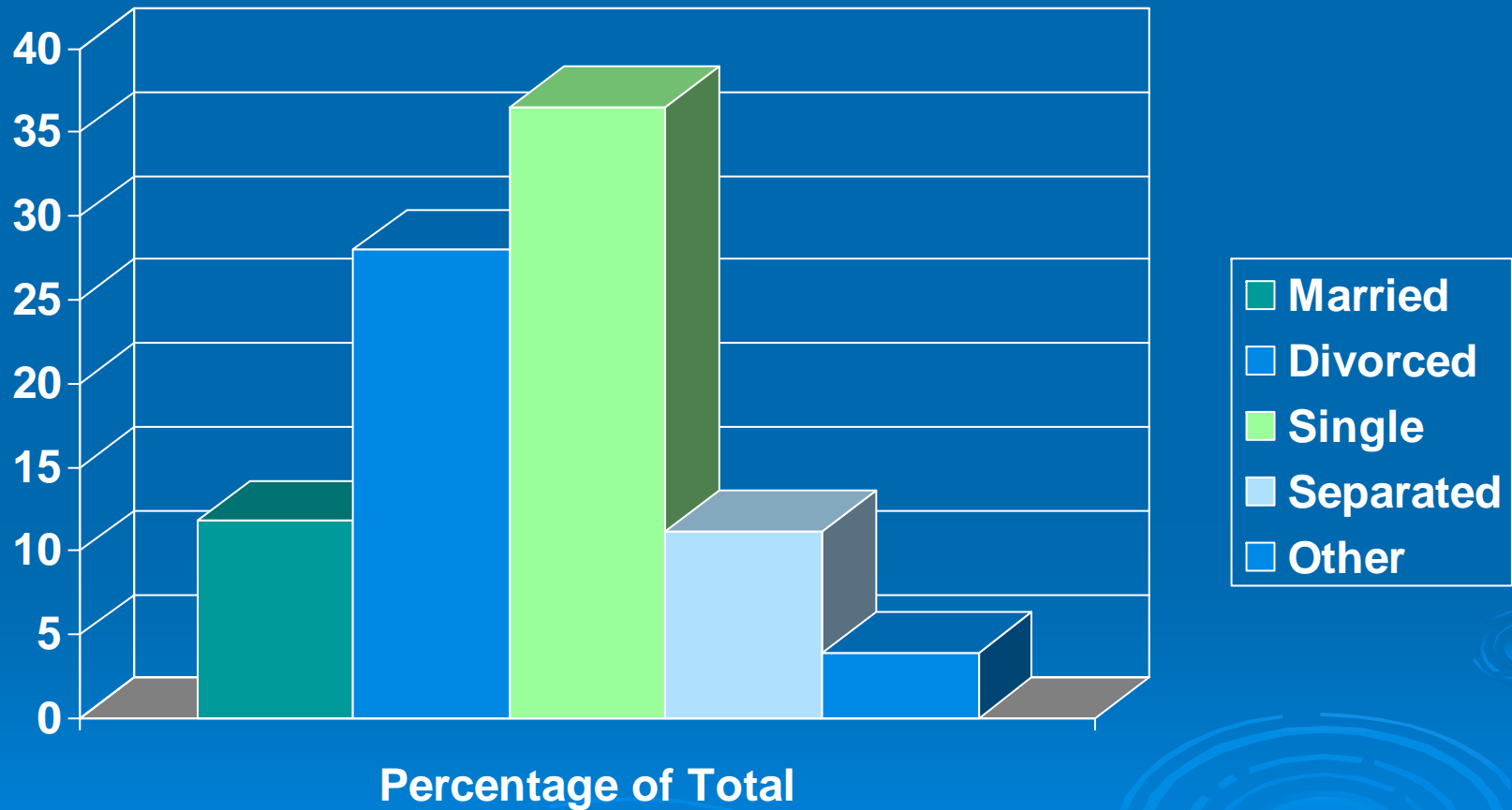
n= 525



Percentage of Total ■ %

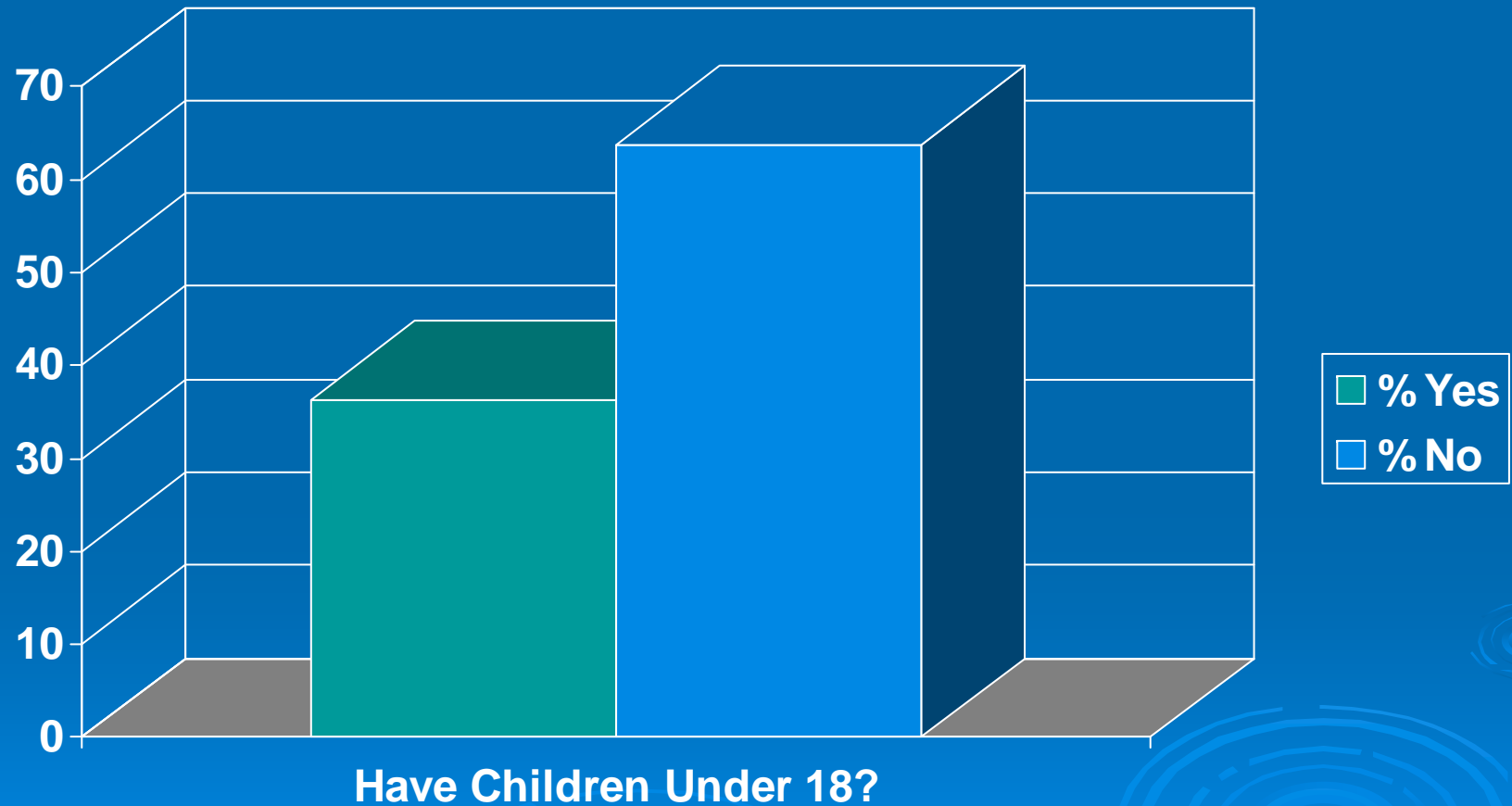
Demographics: Marital Status

n = 510

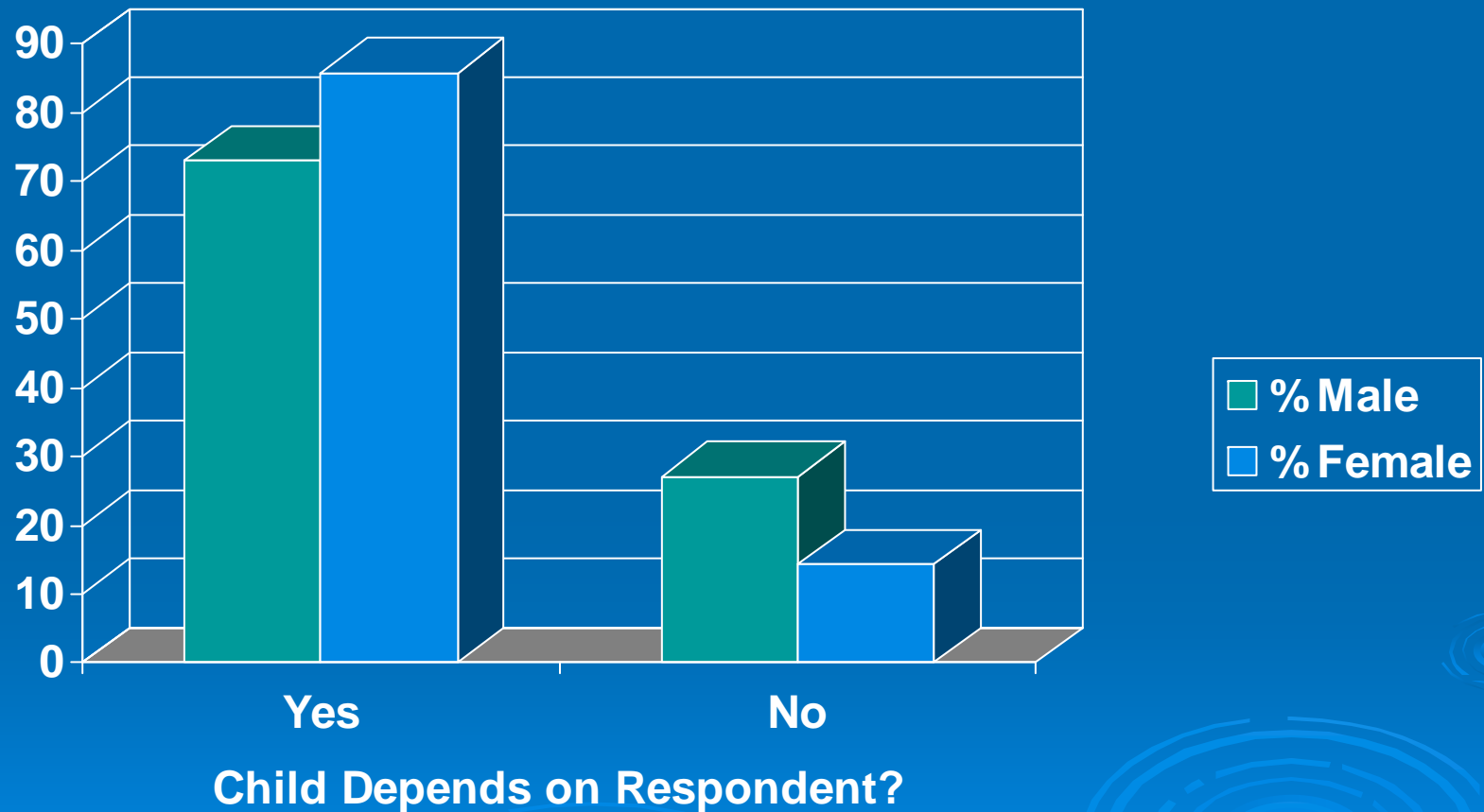


Demographics: Children?

n = 480

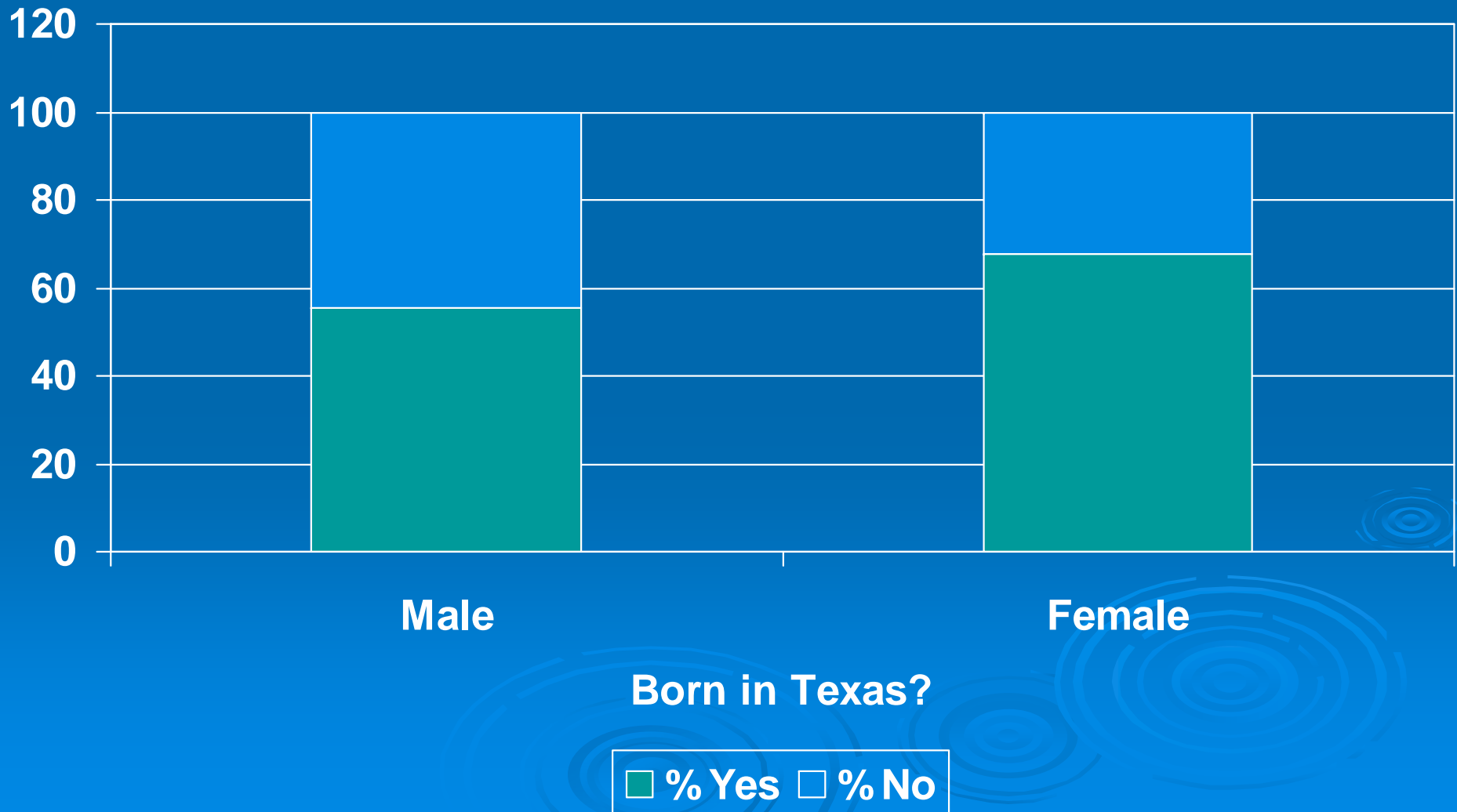


Demographics: Child Depends on Respondent by Sex (n=105)



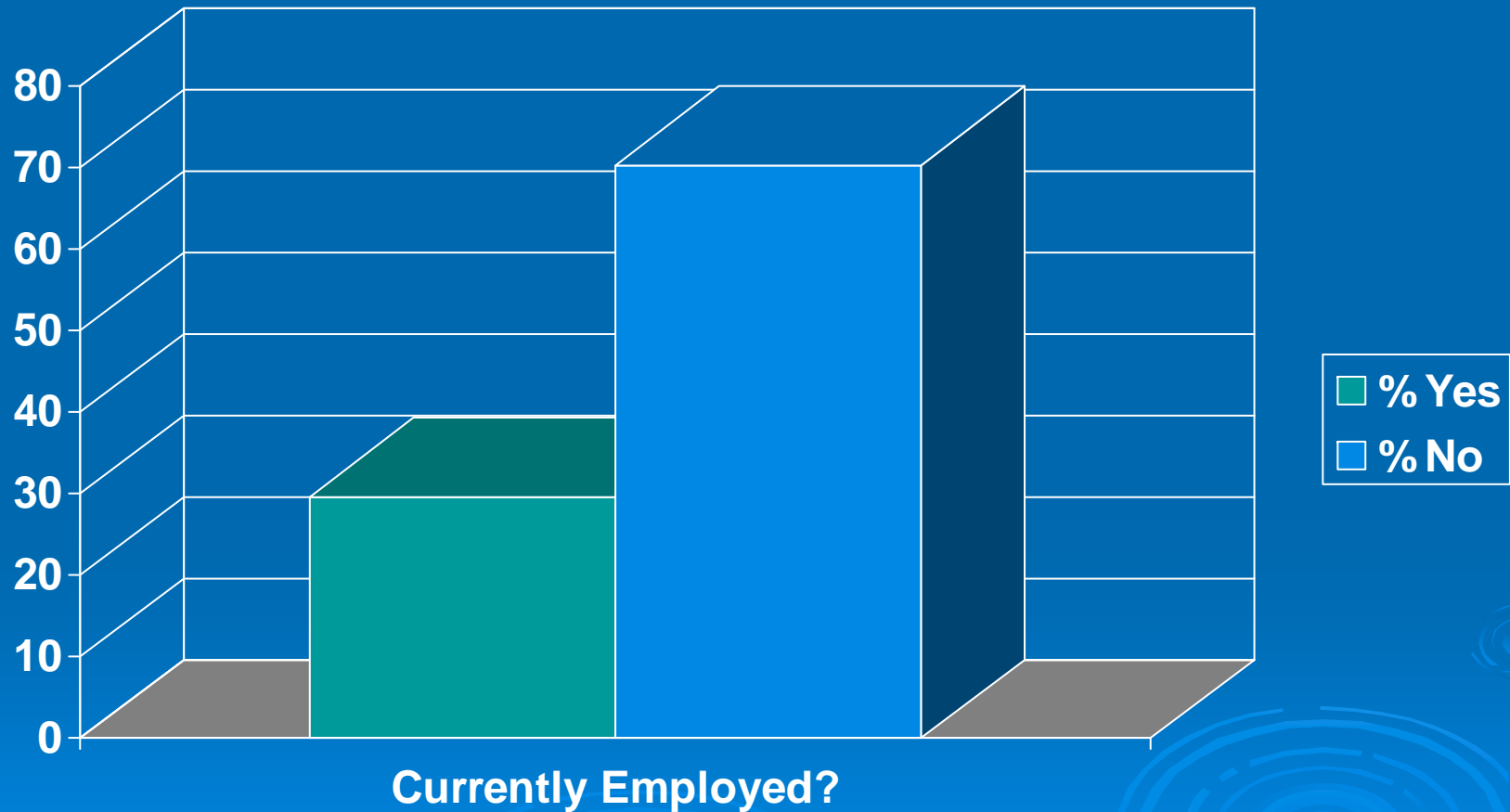
Demographics: Born in Texas?

Chi-square=6.694; d.f. = 1; p=.010; n=519

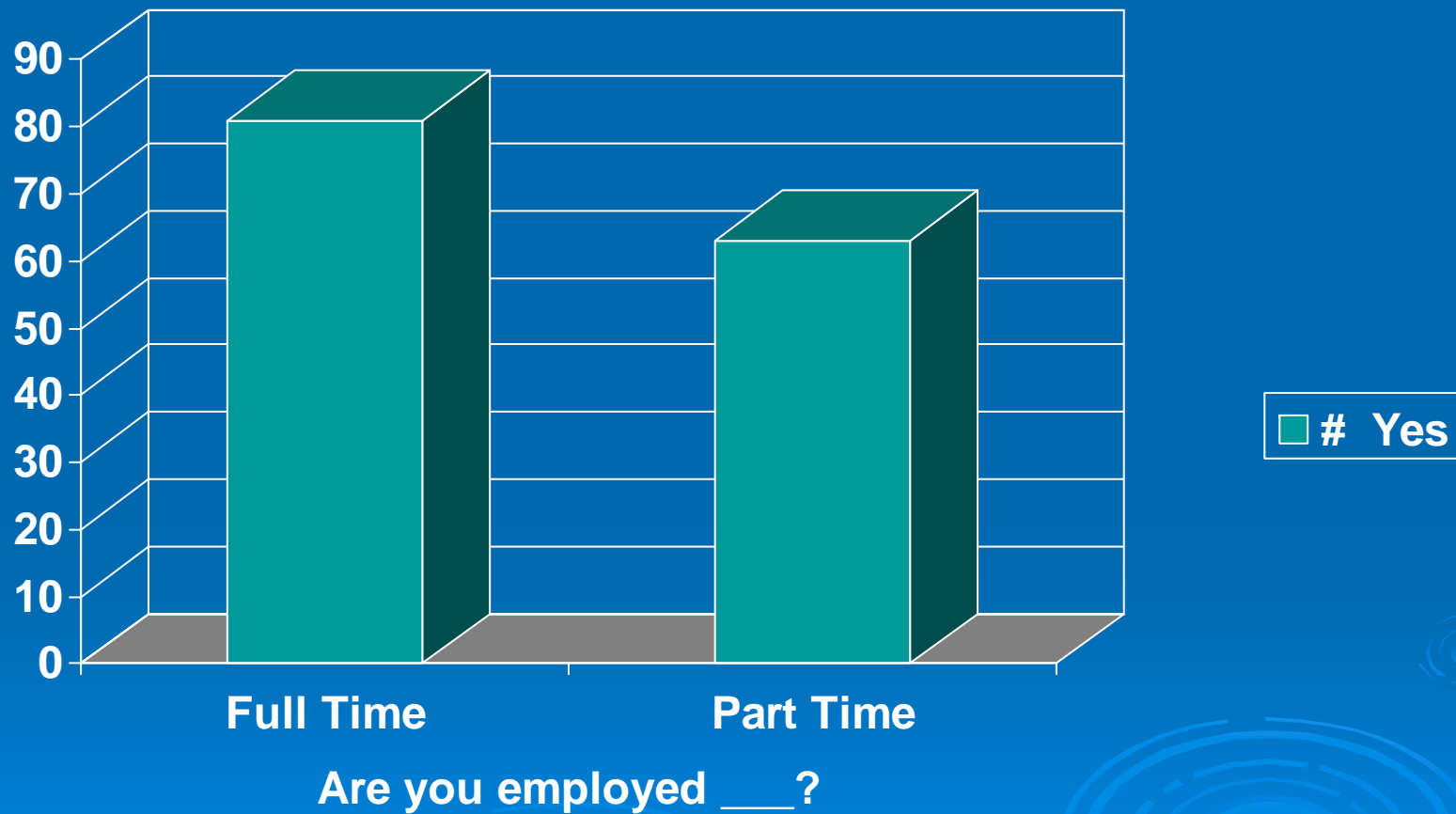


Demographics: Employment Status

n = 525



Demographics: Type of Employment (n=144)

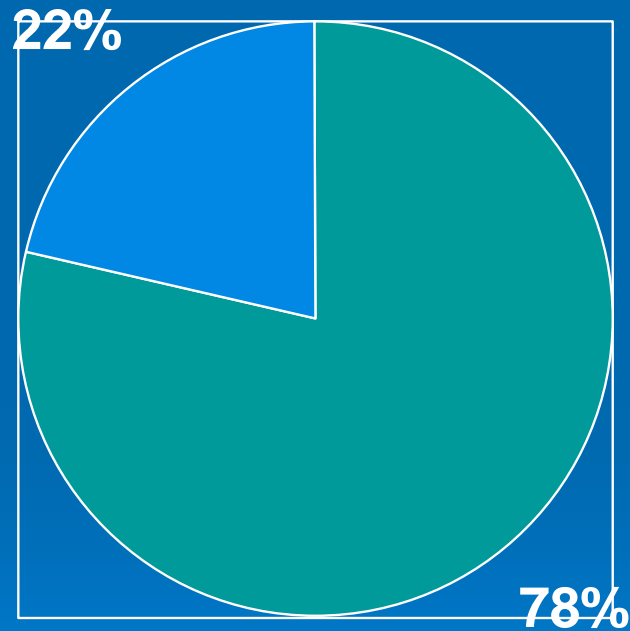


Demographics: Type of Employment (n=87)



Has Government Issued ID?

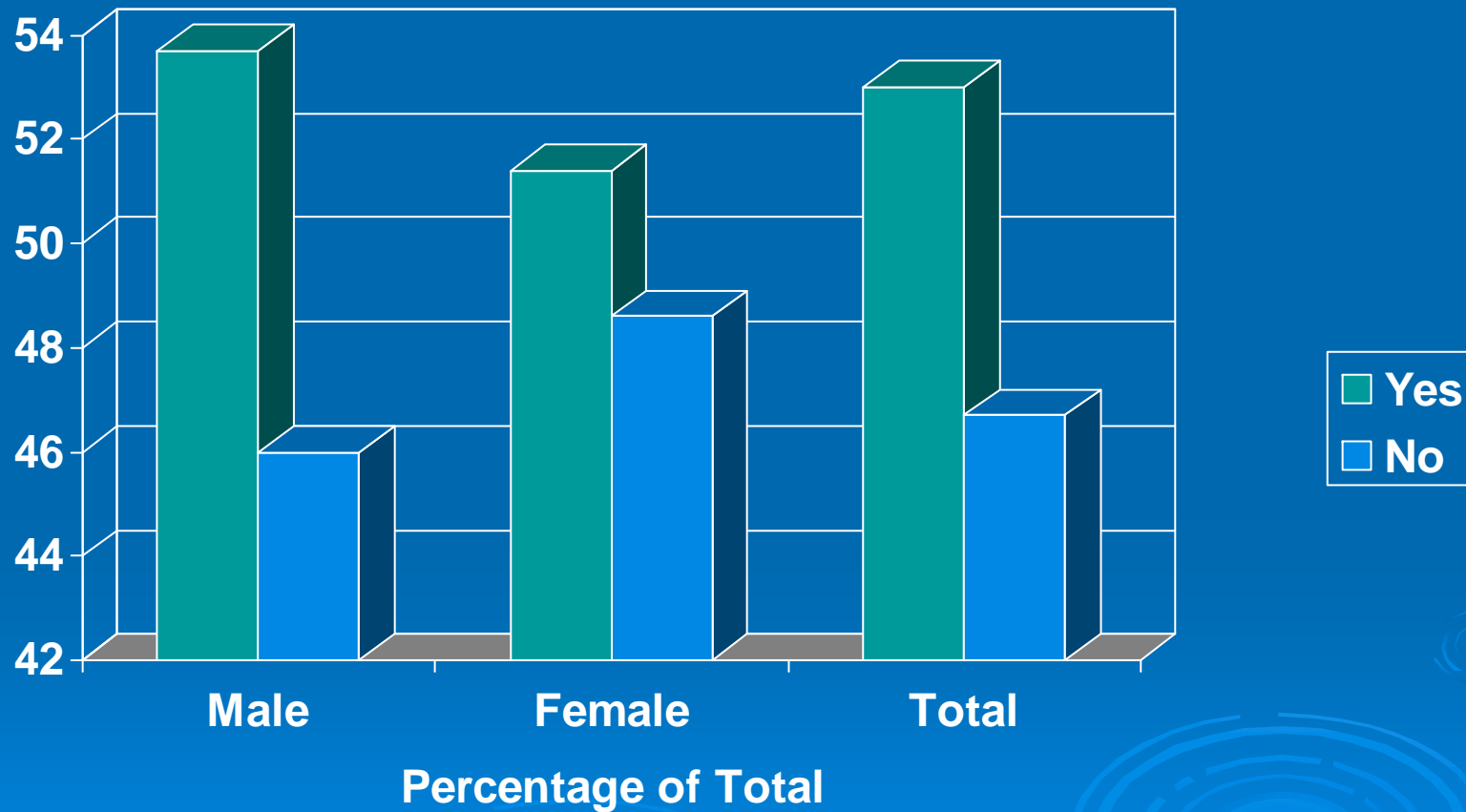
n=516



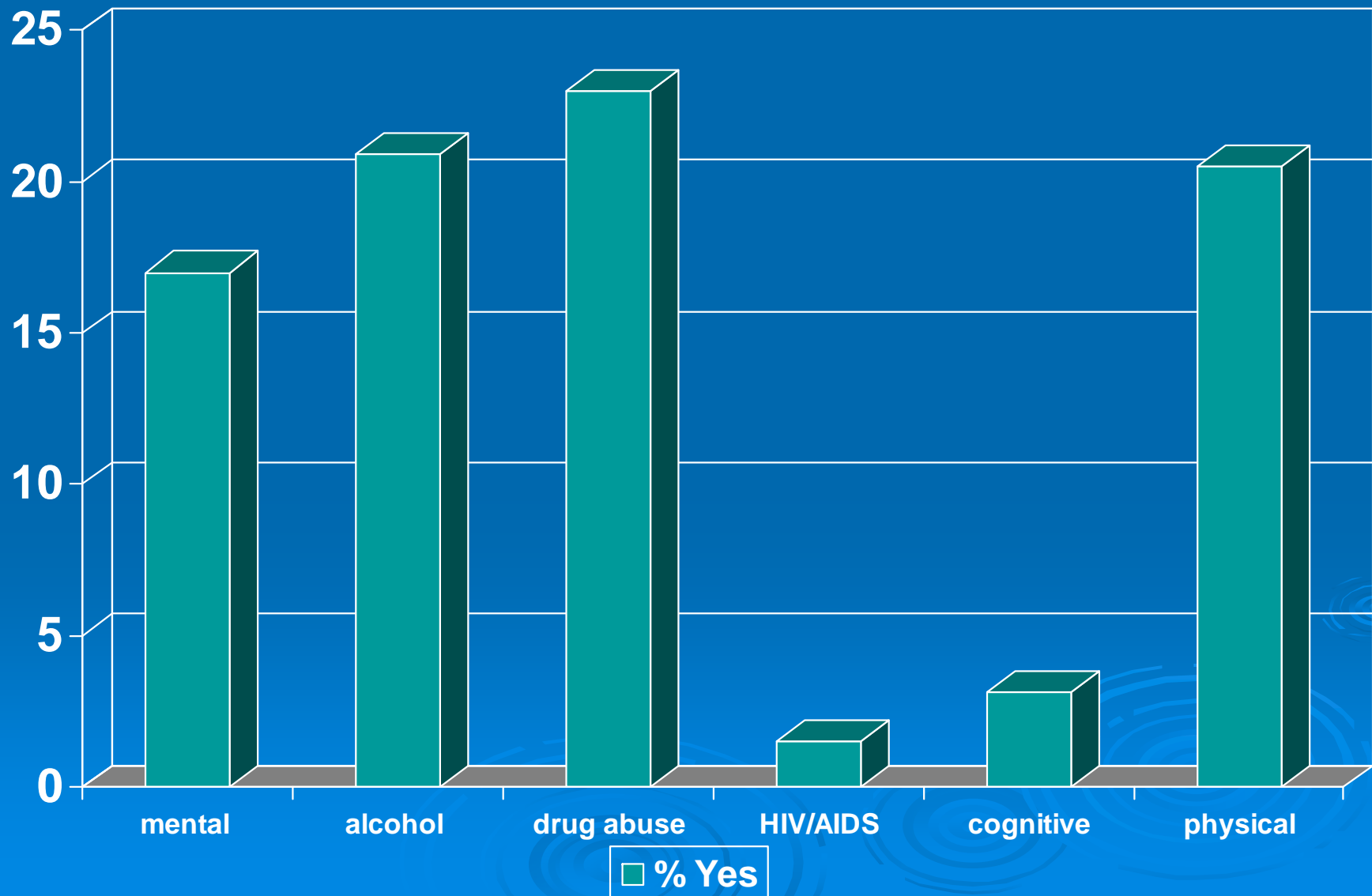
■ % Yes □ % No

Do You Have a Disability?

n=516

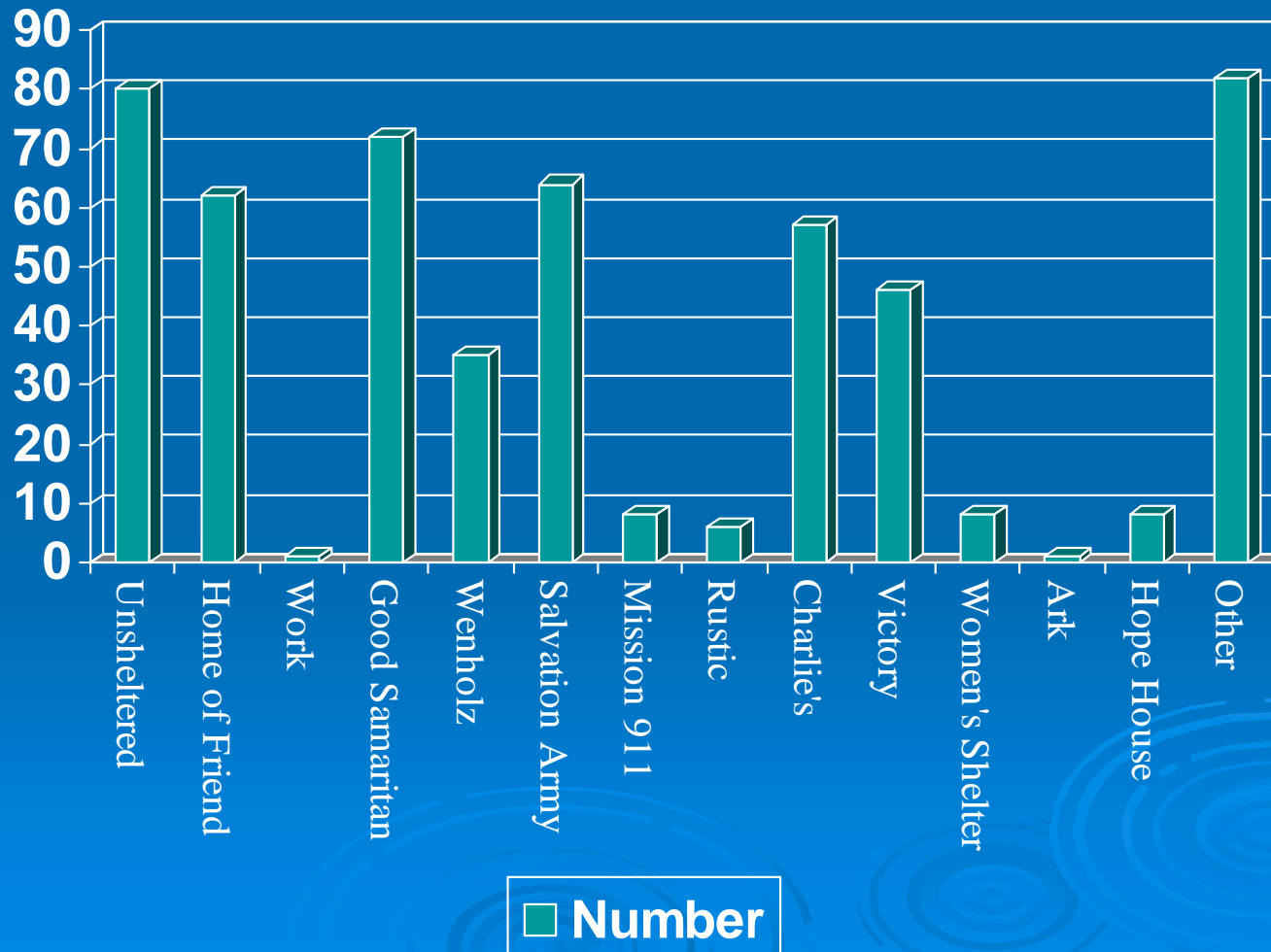


What Type of Disability?



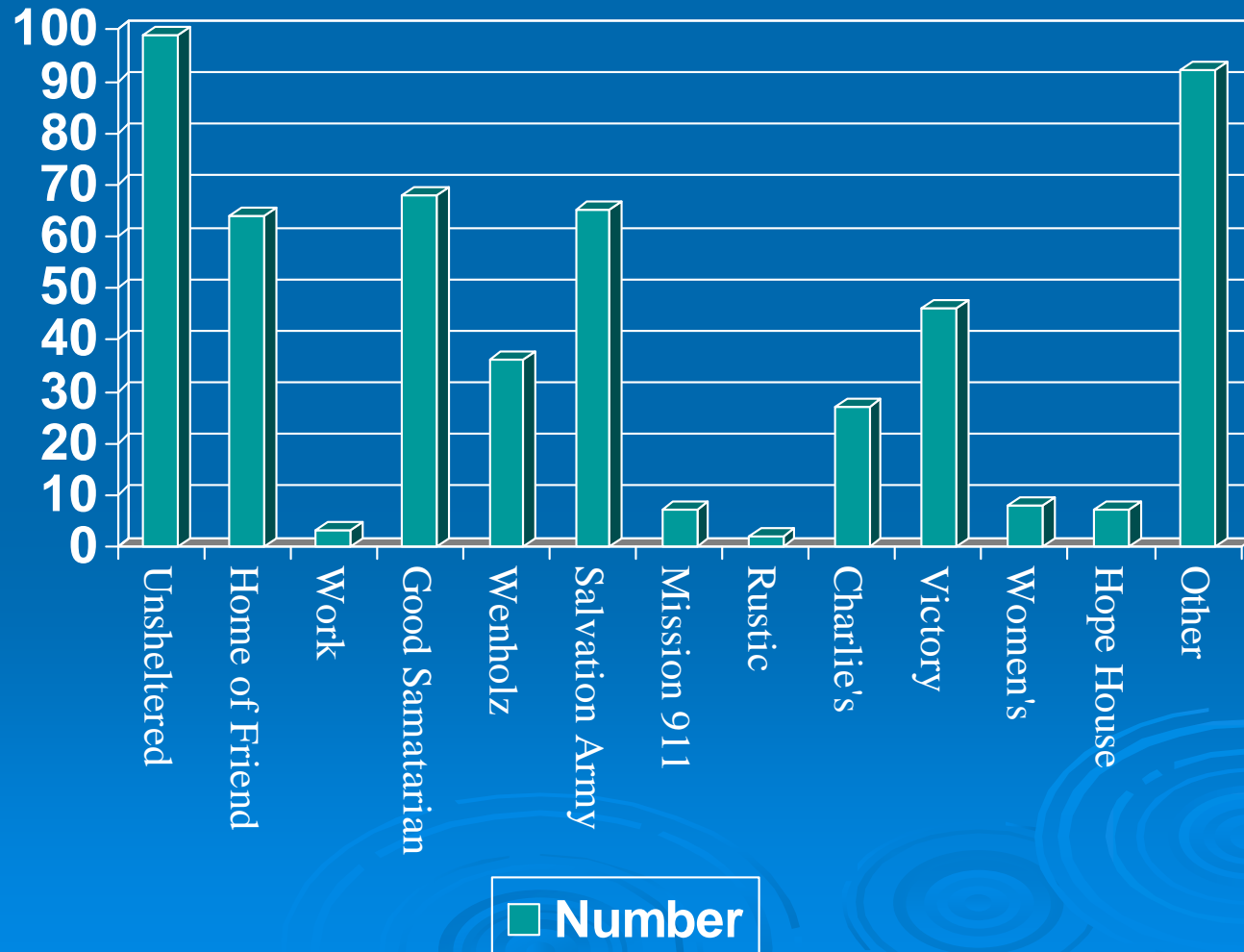
Where Slept Last Night?

n=530



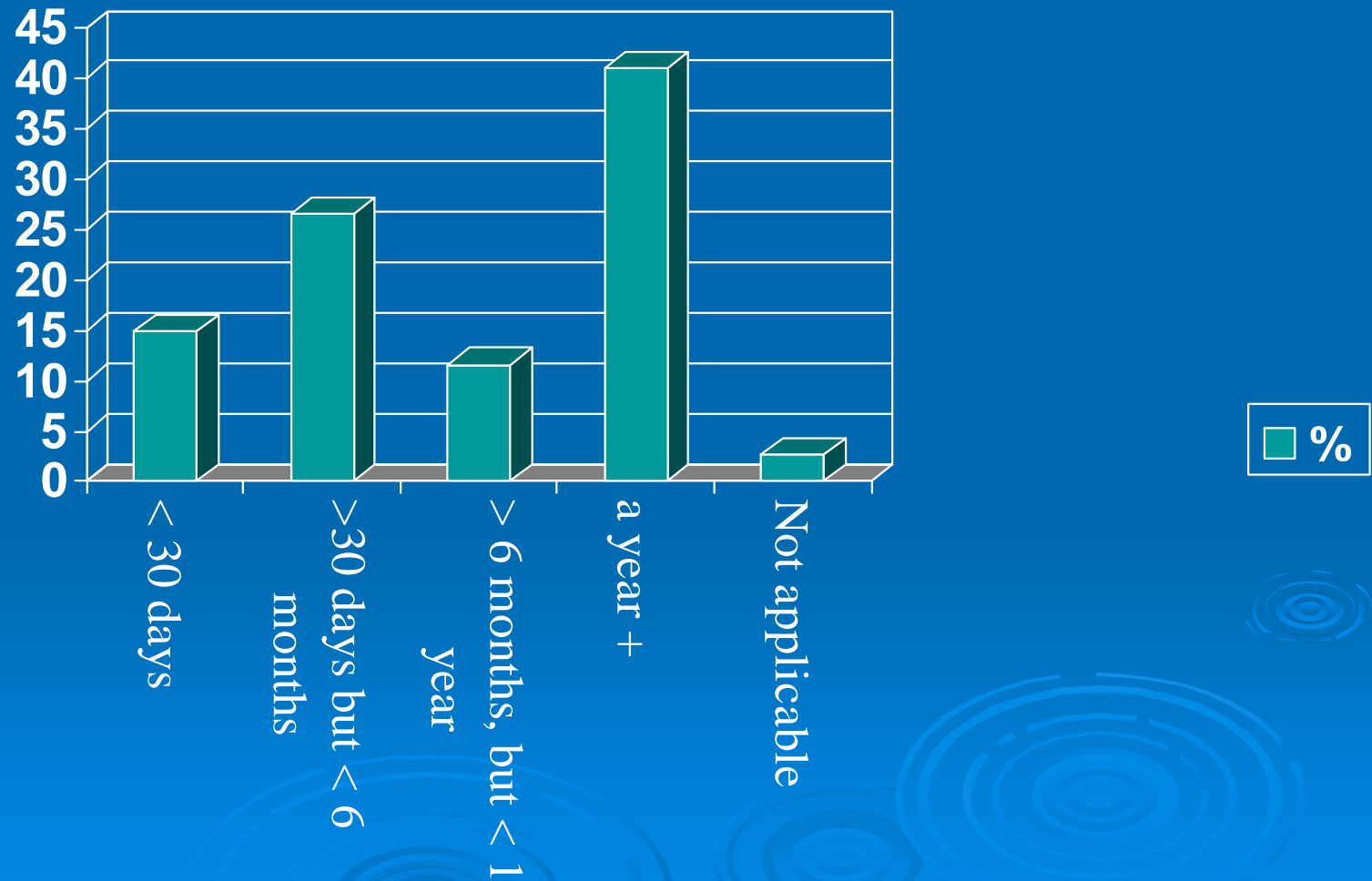
Where Normally Sleep?

n=525



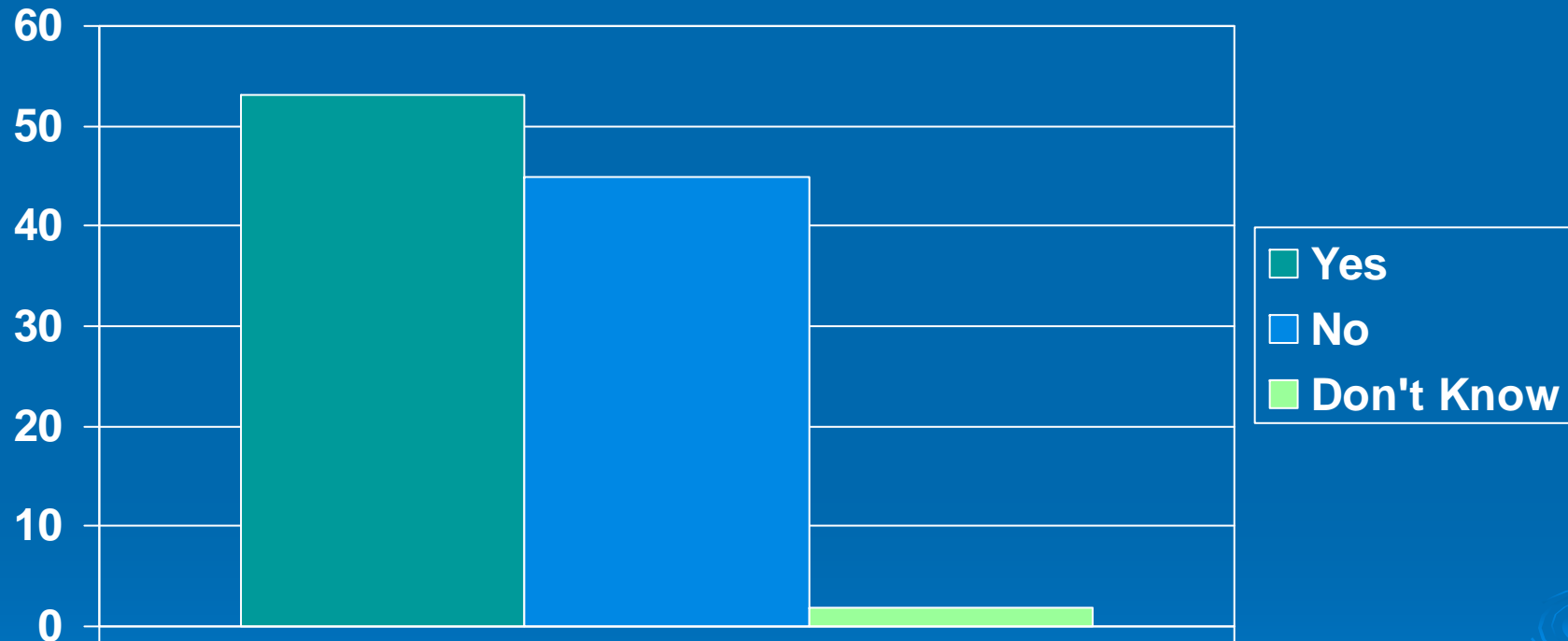
How Long Homeless This Time?

n = 517



Homeless More Than a Year?

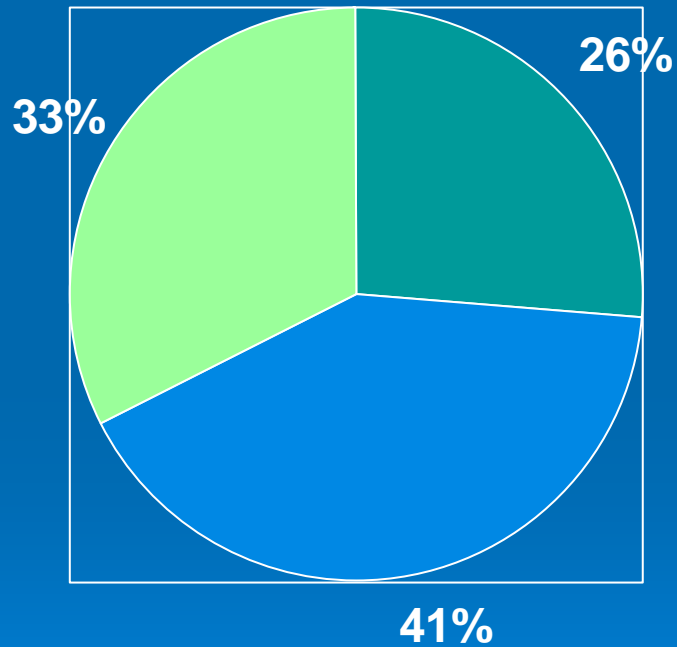
n = 524



Homeless more than a year?

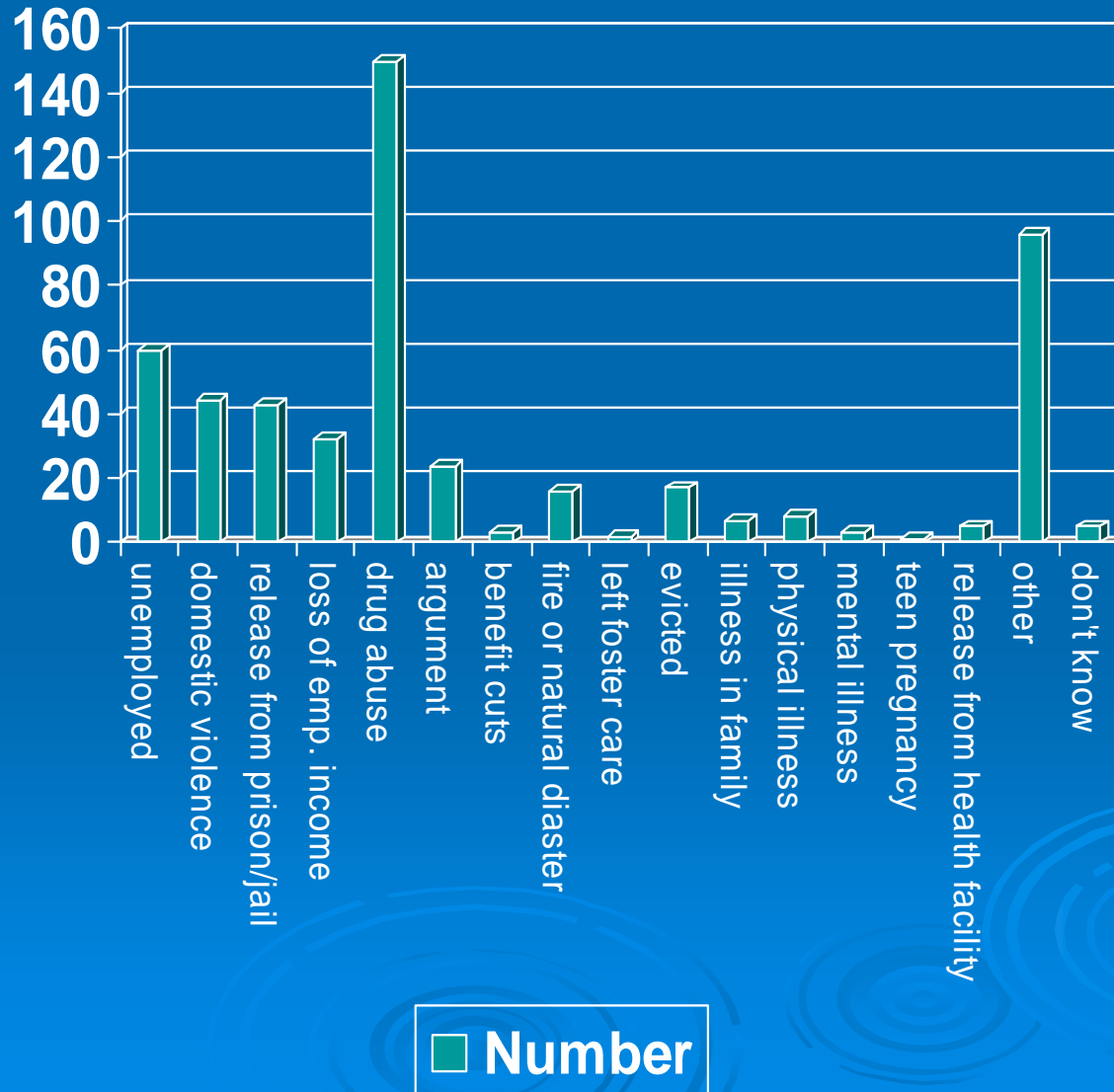
Percentage of Total

Chronically Homeless?



- not homeless year+ or disabled
- either homeless year+ or disabled
- homeless year+ & disabled

Why Homeless?

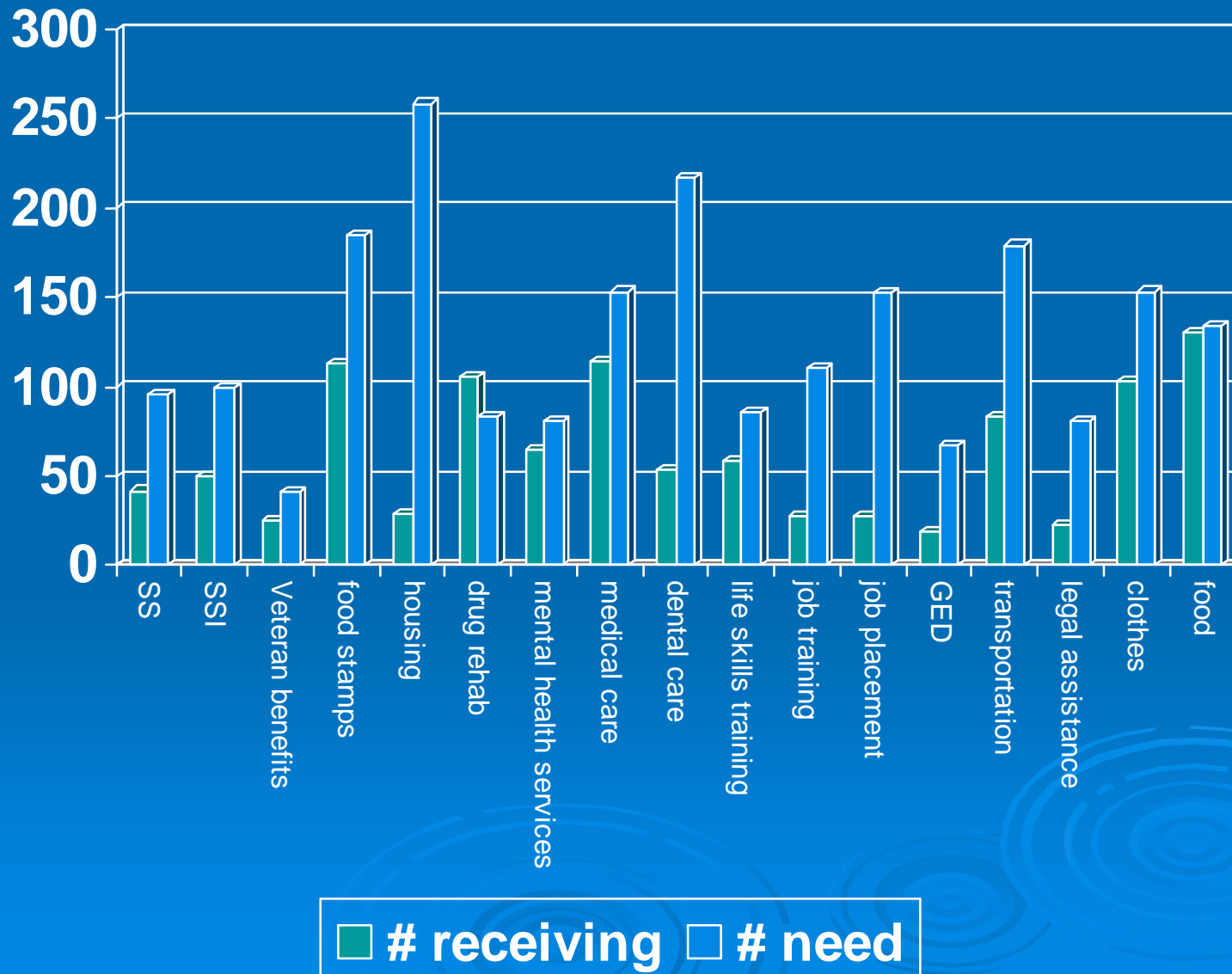


Recoded Why Homeless by Sex

Chi Square = 68.57; d.f. = 4; p = .0001

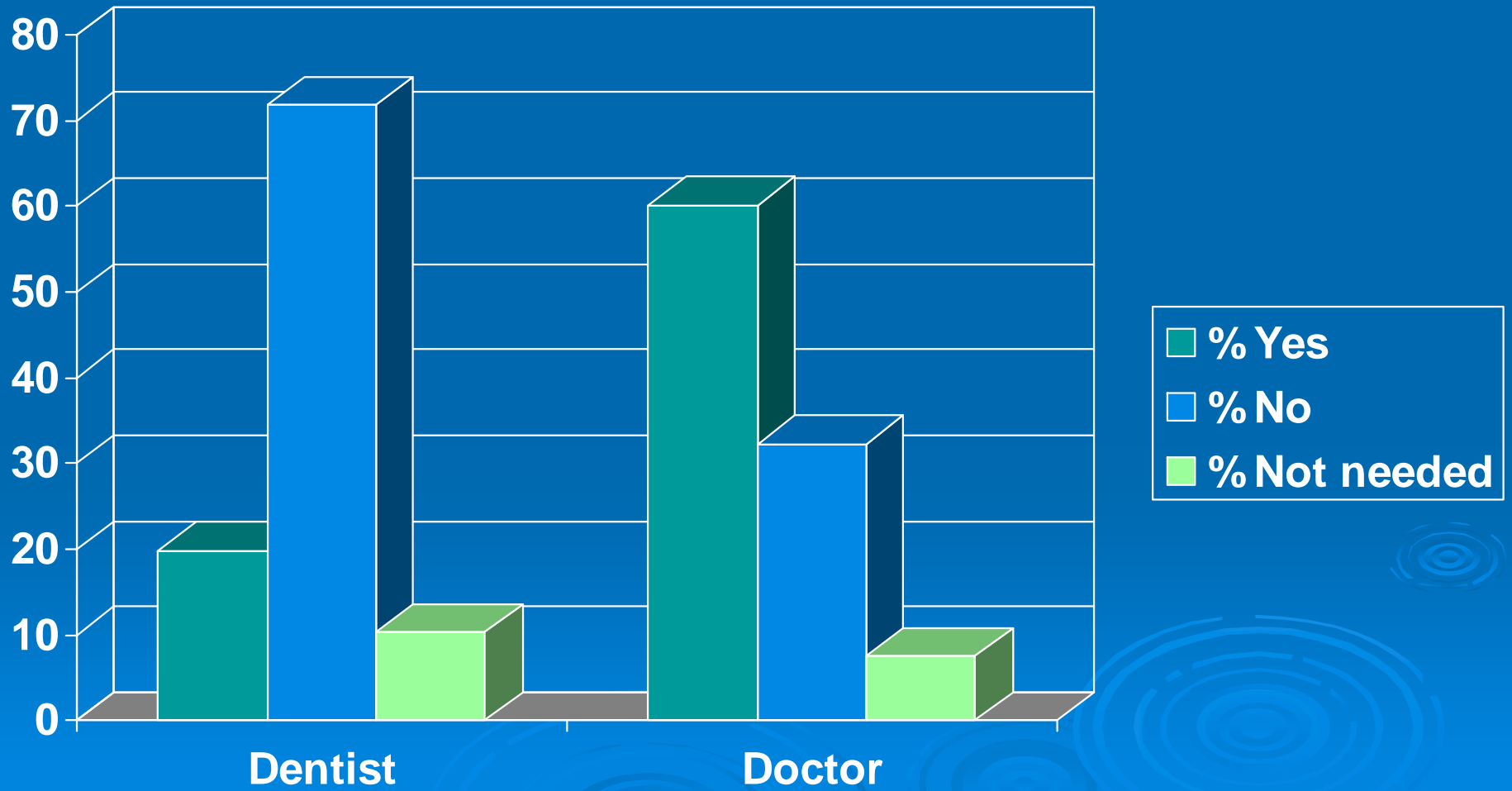
		Respondent's sex		Total	
		Male	Female		
Recode of Why	Unemployment	Count	74	17	91
		% within respondent's sex	16.6%	9.6%	14.6%
	Domestic violence	Count	9	35	44
		% within respondent's sex	2.0%	19.8%	7.1%
	Release from prison/jail	Count	37	4	41
		% within respondent's sex	8.3%	2.3%	6.6%
	Substance abuse	Count	112	38	150
		% within respondent's sex	25.2%	21.5%	24.1%
	Other	Count	213	83	296
		% within respondent's sex	47.9%	46.9%	47.6%
Total		Count	445	177	622
		% within respondent's sex	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Services Receiving and Needed

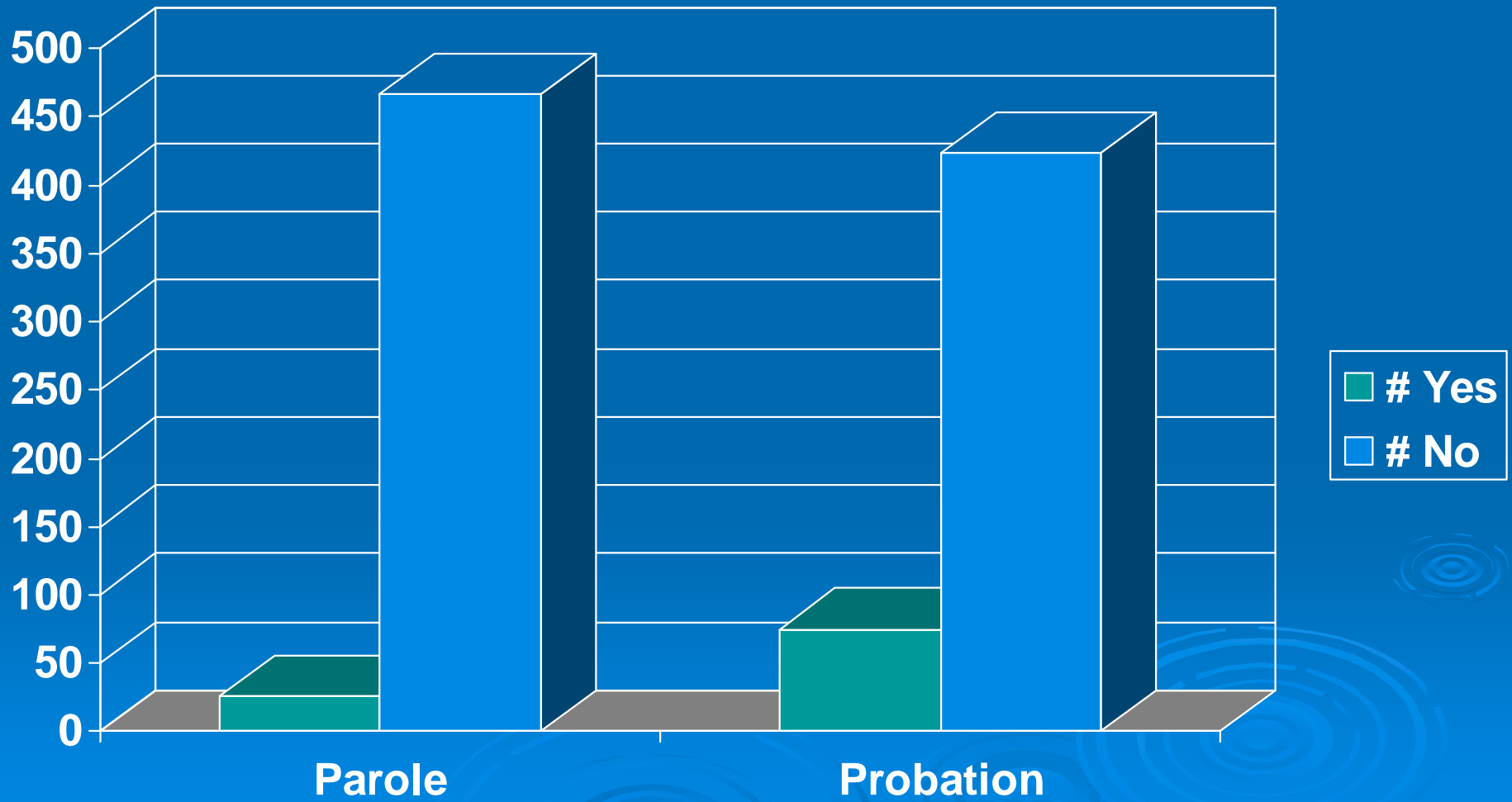


Have You Been Able to See a Doctor or Dentist?

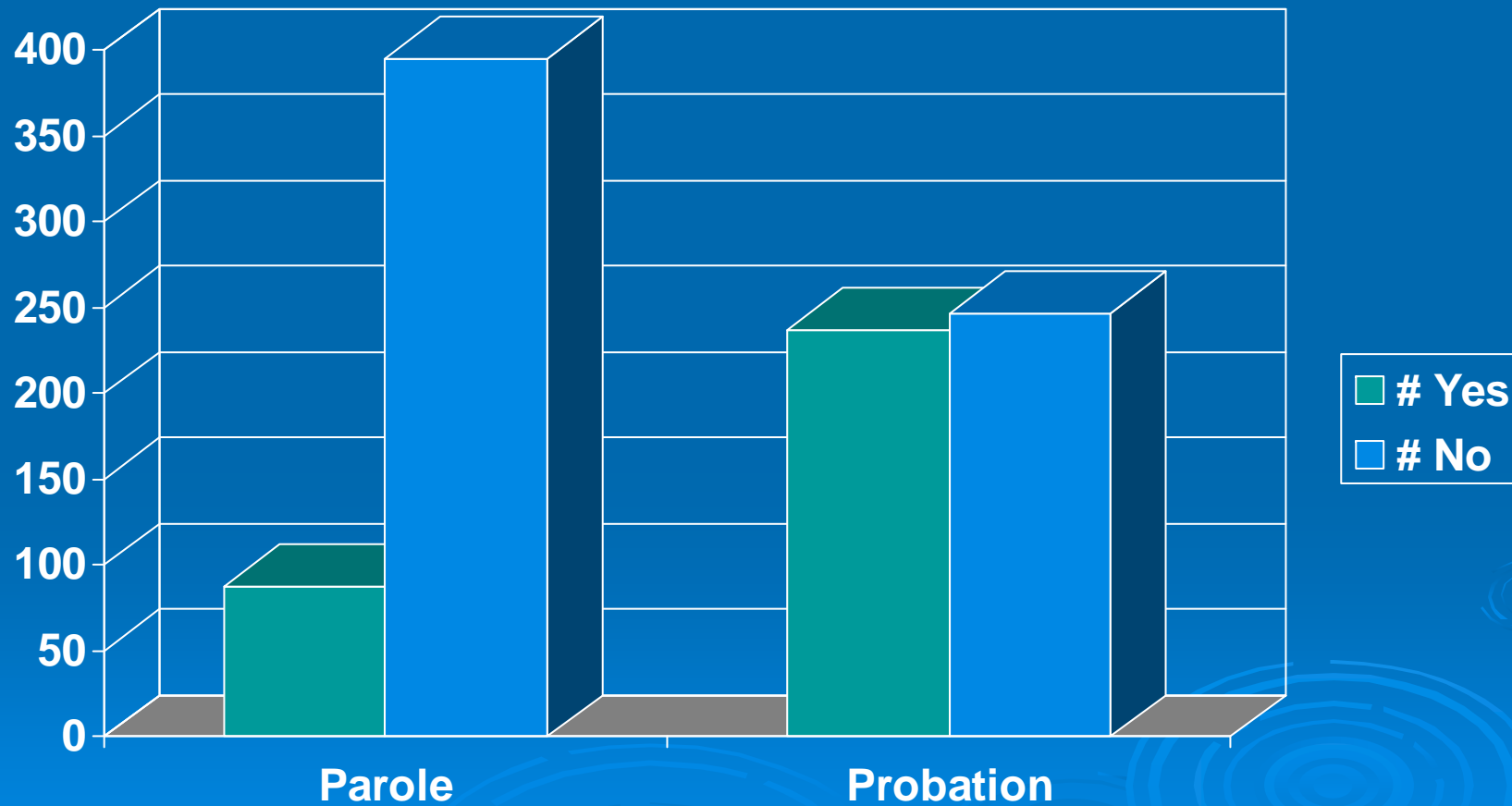
n = 504



Are You Currently on Parole or Probation?



Have You Ever Been on Probation or Parole?



Summary

- Majority are White and non-Hispanic
- Majority are males
- Majority are high school graduates
- Reasons for homelessness are varied-
 - for men unemployment is a significant reason for homelessness
 - for women, domestic violence plays a significant role.
- Length of homelessness varies
 - 56.3% homeless for less than a year
- Homeless women more likely to be younger than homeless men
- Majority have some type of disability
- About 33% (168 of 515) can be considered chronically homeless (homeless more than a year and disabled) staying unsheltered or in temporary/emergency shelter.

Myth: The homeless are lazy and refuse to work.

- Fact: Almost 30% of our sample were currently employed. (156 of 525 who answered this question.)
- Fact: Of those who worked, 56.3% worked full-time.
- Fact: Of those who worked, 58.6% worked a regular job rather than a temporary one.
- Fact: Job placement was in the top 5 services needed and job training was in the top 10.

. Myth: Most homeless are alcoholics and mentally ill

- Fact: About 24% of our respondents indicated that substance abuse was related to why they were homeless.
- Fact: National studies indicate that 25% of homeless people are mentally ill, and about 40% are alcohol or substance abusers, with about 15% suffering from both conditions.
- Fact: Snow suggests that drinking is part of homeless subculture. Drinking increases the longer a homeless person is on the street. Drinking alone, however, does not explain why many people become homeless.

Myth: Most homeless are involved in petty crimes.

- Fact: The vast majority of our sample was not currently on parole or probation.
- Fact: Homeless people actually commit less violent crimes than housed people.
- Fact: Snow found homeless did have a higher rate of misdemeanors, such as public intoxication, urinating in public and sleeping in parks—activities that if committed in a home would not be crimes!

Myth: Setting up service for homeless people will cause homeless people from all around to migrate to area.

- Fact: In our sample, the majority were born in Texas.
- Fact: About 25% are from South Texas.

Myth: Homeless people are mostly single men.

- Fact: Families constitute a large and growing percentage of the homeless population nationwide.

“There are different categories of homelessness. Some homeless people have mental problems, some have drinking problems, some just ran out of luck, and some are dealing with a combination of issues. You can’t have a one-size-fits-all policy. You have to have a number of programs focused on different aspects of the problem.”

-David Snow and Leon Anderson,
Down on Their Luck: A Study of Homeless Street People

Thanks!

