



We'd like to thank the
Provo City Community Police Department
who were instrumental in this project as well as the
Food and Care Coalition
who invited us in to survey their clients.



### Attributions and causes of homelessness

- Focused to determine what attributions come with homelessness and factors as to why people are homeless. In order to select the number of participants needed/wanted for the study, the interviewers used random sampling to narrow down participants.
  - Different from our study because their focus is primarily based on what the main causes were for homelessness.

Our study will ask participants about events that may have caused homelessness. Along with the resources that they are currently using and the ones they would like to have.

# Literature Review

## Causes of homelessness, efforts to create housing

- The purpose of their study is to **obtain current data on the causes and circumstances of people who are currently homeless in their state.** With the findings of the survey every three years, they are able to have an accurate understanding of the homeless in Minnesota to be able to promote efforts to create affordable, permanent housing for all their residents.
  - The part of the study that will help us with our research project is that this study is taking all of the data gathered and using it to promote efforts in creating affordable housing to help people out of homelessness.
    - This is along the lines of what our research is looking for

because we want to increase our community outreach to the homeless population and use our data to improve resources for them.

# Literature Review

### The Homeless Individual's Viewpoint

- Hardin and Willie's research addresses both the needs
  of homeless individuals and the causes of homelessness according, specifically
  the homeless whom are using shelters.
  - They noticed that factors and needs
- differed between men and women. According to the study previous research has found lack of education, incarceration, physical and mental health, addiction, and veteran status to be predictors of homelessness.
- We are not interviewing individuals who use shelters but individuals off the street who may or may not be using shelters. In addition our study is not as extensive as that of Hardin and Willie.
   We are not looking for the benefits of homelessness or reasons people might stay homeless as a preference,
- but rather, we are trying to understand why the homeless choose Provo specifically as a dwelling place as compared to other cities.



# Legislative Measures

- Provo city has passed bills which limits what the homeless population can do
  - Provo City code 9.18.020 prohibits sleeping on public property without authorization (ch.9.18, 2018)
  - Code 9.18.030 states it is also prohibited to camp on city public property without authorization (ch.9.18, 2018)
  - Code 9.32.200 Unlawful Transfer on a roadway
    - it is unlawful for a person while a pedestrian to accept, take or obtain possession of any money or personal property from a person w/in a motor vehicle while that vehicle is within a roadway or on public property used as an entrance or exit to a roadway (Ch.9.32, 2018).





# Overall Goal for the City of Provo

- With the passing of these bills, Provo City is wanting to know why people choose to stay living in Provo
- Data collected can help Provo City improve
   their resources for the homeless population



# Research Design

- Quantitative research design with a qualitative environment.
  - Our study was constructed with multiple choice answers along with an "other" text box.
  - However we did not list the answers to our subjects. We asked them the question, posing it as an open ended question. We selected the answer that fit, or inputed the answer into the textbox.



- The officers we worked with estimated that there were about 200-300 homeless individuals in the city of Provo. Our sample size goal was a third of that estimated population.
- We surveyed at the Food and Care Coalition as well as on the streets.
   We wanted to get a variety of responses: people who did use a lot resources, people who use resources occasionally, and those that are resource resistant.



## Confidence Interval and Level

### **Confidence Level:**

95% 🗘

### **Population Size:**

250

### **Margin of Error:**

10% 💲

### **Ideal Sample Size:**

70

• If the homeless population size is 250, we would be 95% certain within a 10% plus or minus range that our results of the survey are accurate.





# Data Collection

- Attended Food and Care's breakfast,
   lunch and dinner hours to conduct
   surveys in person.
- Spent a morning with the Provo Police
   Department driving around the city of
   provo to find areas that the homeless
   are living and conduct surveys.





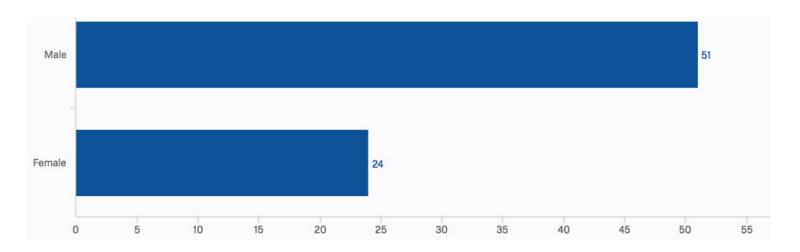


## Problems We Encountered

- Driving around with Provo PD we weren't able to find as many people to survey but were able to see the living situations of the homeless population.
- At the food and care we had to be careful to ensure that we didn't survey the same person more than once
- Once we started conducting the survey we realized we should have provided participants with more answer options to obtain more accurate data
  - For example, on the question how long have you been homeless? A majority of the participants had been homeless for more than three months. We should have split up the options into years to be more accurate and included an 'Other' option with a text box for specific answers.



# What is your gender?

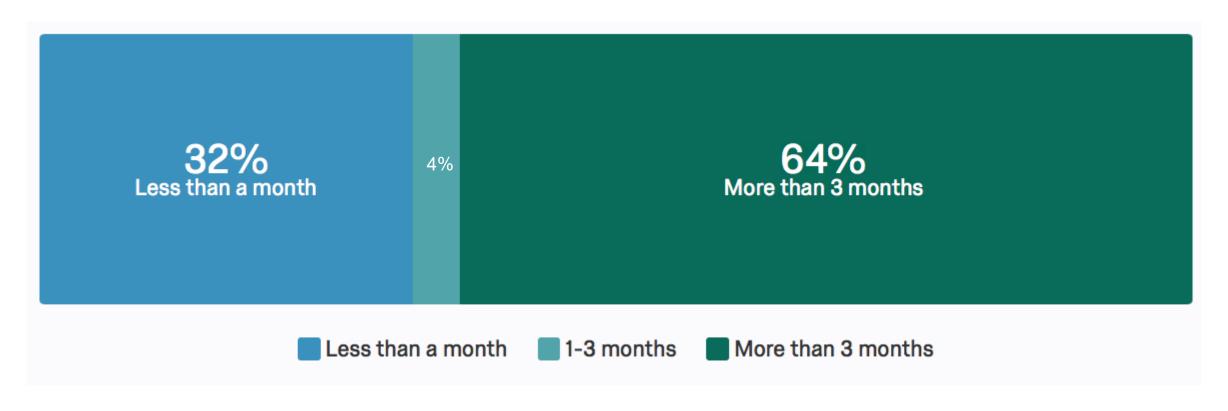


Are you a veteran?

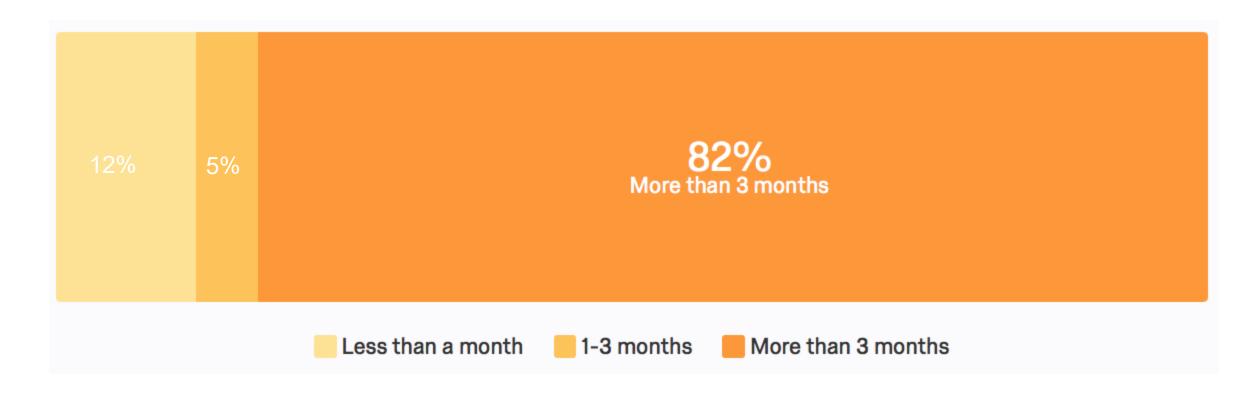


100% of those who were a veteran served at least one day in active duty.





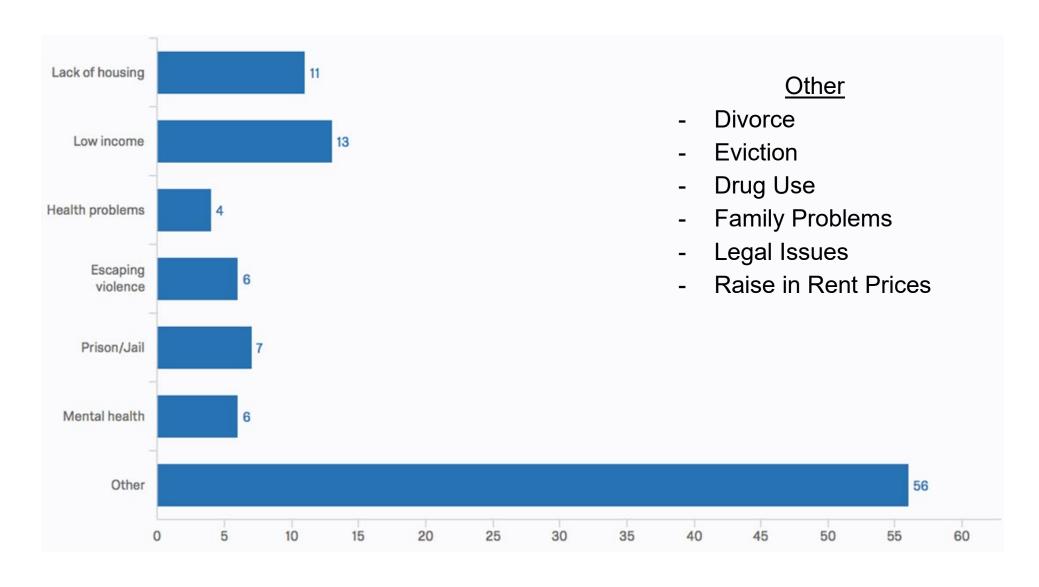




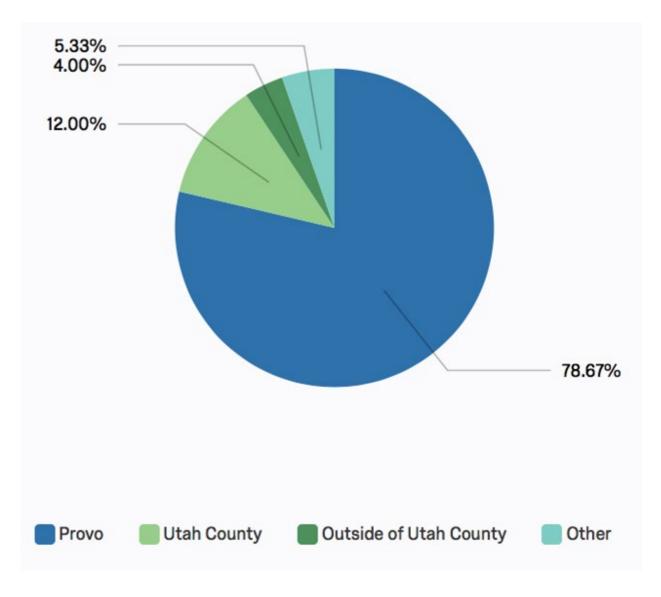
We found that a lot of those who had been homeless for longer than 3 months had been homeless for over 10 years.



## What caused you/your family to leave your last living arrangement?







<u>Utah County</u> <u>Other</u> Springville - Colorado

Spanish Fork - California

Orem - Wyoming

- Santaquin

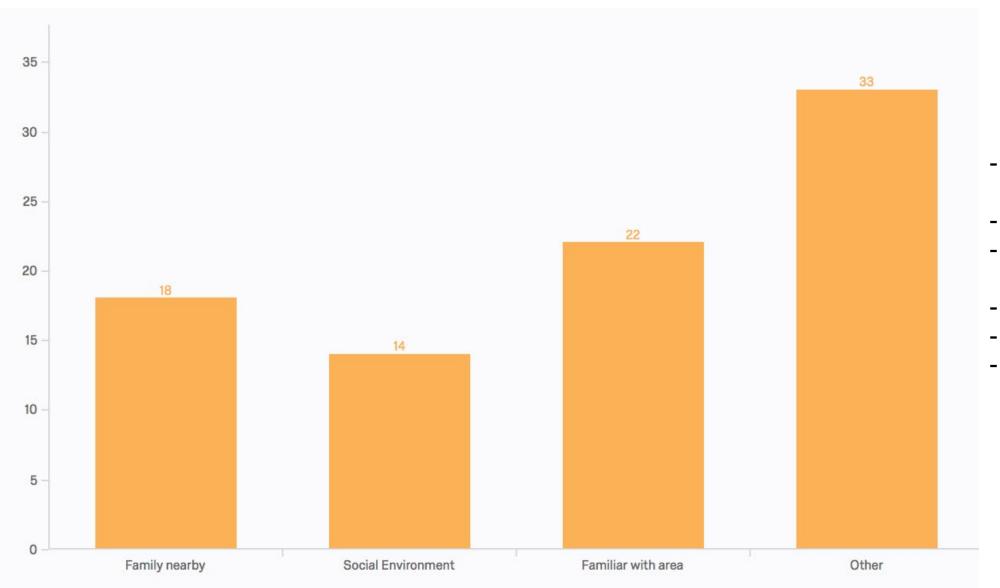
- Payson

### Outside of Utah County

- Salt Lake City



## Why do you choose to live in Provo?

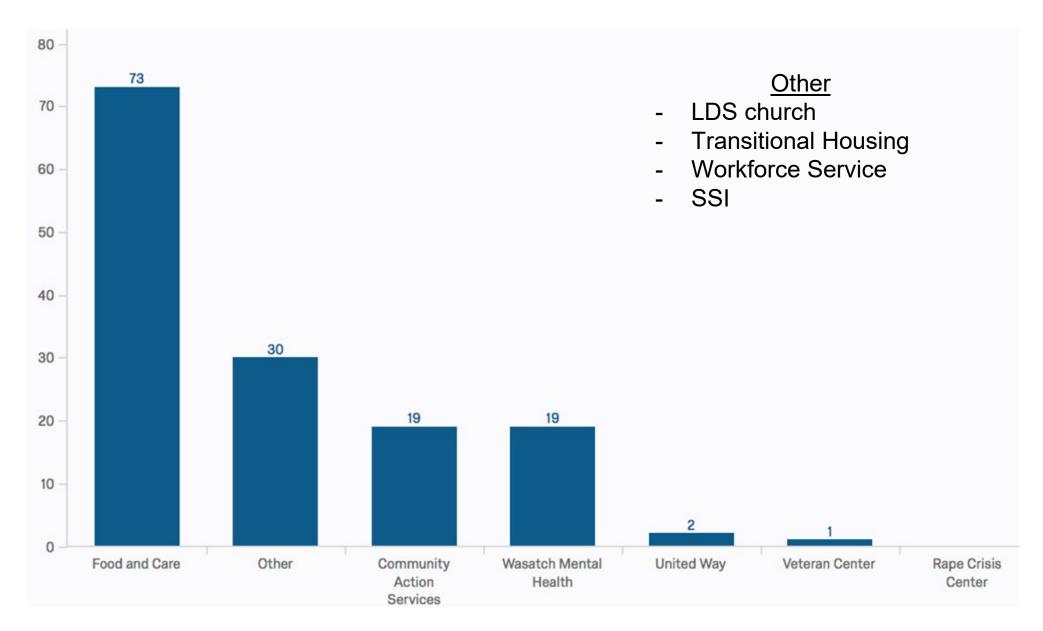


### <u>Other</u>

- Stuck due to finances
- Good resources
- Easy access to Frontrunner
- Safe
- LDS church
- Employment

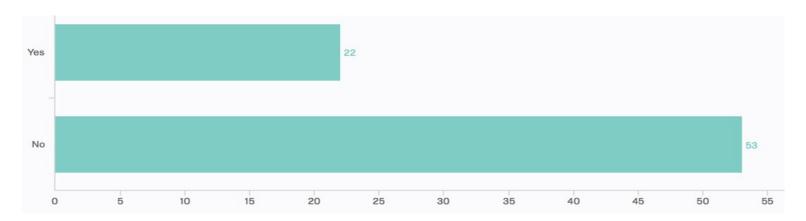


## What current resources for the homeless are you using?

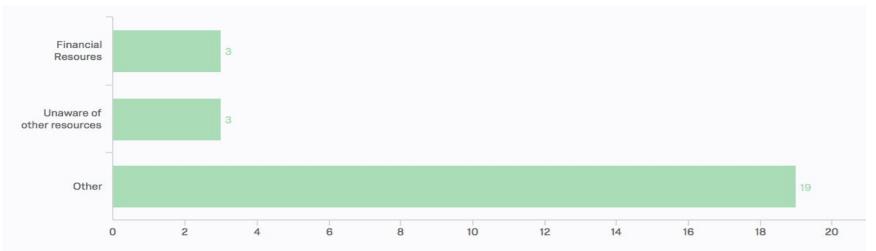




## Are there resources you have not been able to access?



### Why have you not been able to access them?

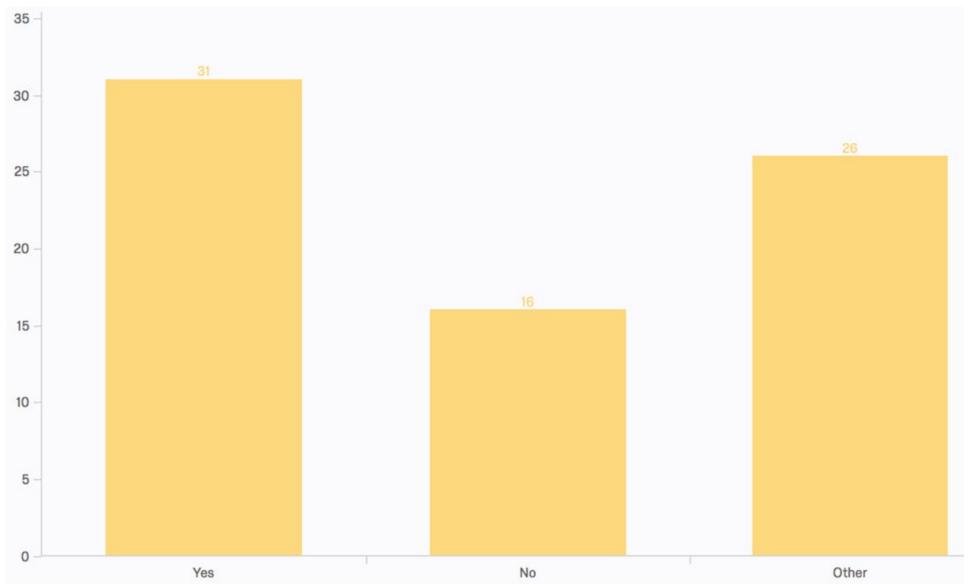


#### <u>Other</u>

- Time conflictions
- Didn't have necessary paperwork
- Make too much money
- Out of reach



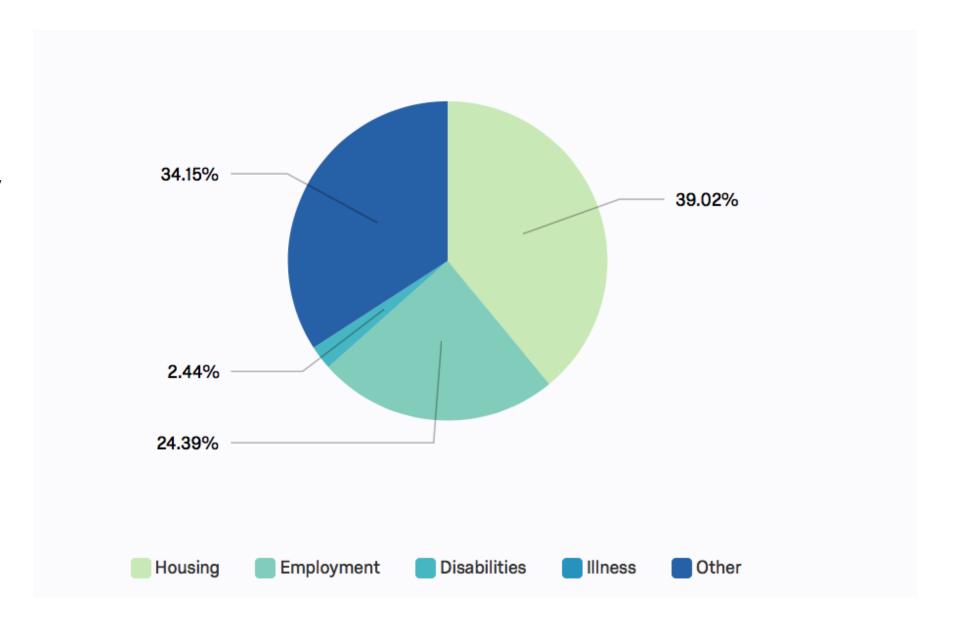
Is there something that can be resolved in your current situation that can get you out of homelessness?



## What exactly would get you out of homelessness?

### **Other**

- Learning to save money
- Exposure to more resources
- Better communication with workforce services
- Less law enforcement
- Motivation

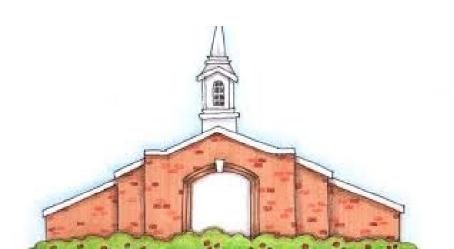




# Final Conclusions

- Why do the 78.67% of our homeless sample choose Provo as their place of residency?
  - We did not find a overwhelming reason why homeless people choose to reside in Provo.
  - We found that the familiarity with the area, having family nearby, and the social environment aren't big reasons why homeless people choose/end up in the city of Provo. The resources offered in Provo were the most common answer given during our survey. In fact only one person mentioned that they came from the Front Runner. FOUR people say that they in fact do not choose to live in Provo. They are stuck here for various reasons.
  - Of those people, they mentioned that Provo was safer than Salt Lake City, had more affordable housing, better school districts, and the LDS church.









We approached and interacted with what Provo City calls 'Resource Resistant' transients. These are people who don't want any help/resources and don't want their lives to change. They like the way they live and choose to live that way

Police and citizens have been concerned about her safety and welfare for quite some time. Although they have approached her several times to lend her support and aid she has been reluctant to accept any help or give her name.

However one officer named Carter Grow would not give up on her and persisted. He continued in his discussions with the woman trying to get her to allow him to give her some assistance. He stated to Fox13 "We basically pleaded with her to accept some help, we let her know there were several agencies out there who wanted to help her and provide her assistance. Finally in the conversation there was a breakthrough, and the female decided to accept some help from us."





### **Community Resources**

- Adult Protective Services
  - 1-800-371-7897
- Rape Crisis Hotline
  - 0 801-356-2511
- Utah Domestic Violence Hotline
  - 1-800-897-5465
- Community Action
  - o 801-373-8200
- LDS Family Services
  - o 801-442-7620
- Center for Women and Children
  - o 801-377-5500
- Provo Police Department
  - o 801-852-6375

- Food and Care Coalition
  - o 801-373-1825
- United Way of Utah County
  - o 801-374-2588
- Wasatch Mental Health
  - o 801-373-4766
- Transient Bishop Assistance
  - o 801-373-2215
- Veteran Center
  - o 801-377-1117
- Department of Workforce Services
  - o 801-342-2600
- Women's Shelter
  - o 801-377-5500

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