



THE HOMELESS OF JACKSON, MS

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National Community-Based Research Networking Initiative

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The Project

- **Grant from Bonner Foundation:
Community-Based Participatory Research**
- **Special topics class PSY 327: Health
Psychology, Spring 2007.**
- **Seniors and Juniors (7) at an HBCU in
MS: 50% of the grade.**
- **Research on the homeless**
- **Community service: 20 hours**

The 2005 Statistics

- **U.S. : 744,313**
 - **Alabama: 4,731**
 - **Louisiana: 5,476**
 - **Tennessee: 8,066**
 - **Mississippi: 1,652**
 - **In Mississippi:**
 - **Metro Jackson: 488**
 - **Gulf Coast: 621**
 - **Rest of State: 543**
- *National Alliance to End Homelessness**

Purpose & Goals

- **Mental and Physical Health Issues of the Homeless**
- **Establish prevalence rate of homelessness in the metro Jackson, MS area & do a literature review.**
- **Establish contact with partner organization & generate hypotheses from available data bank.**
- **Gather data, identify causes, analyze and relate theories to data.**
- **Develop an action plan based on the findings.**
- **Communicate findings and recommendations to the Tougaloo Community, professional organizations and the outside community in an outreach effort**

First Response

- **January 22,2007 a training session (Mr. Armstrong, co-coordinator City's Homeless Program): to conduct a count and interview the homeless.**
- **“Are you serious?!!”**
- **“I'm scared.”**
- **“I'm not sure--don't think I can--”**



Homeless Count

- **January 29, 2007 for 4 hours the class participated in a point-in-time count of the homeless in downtown Jackson with volunteers from the community.**
- **Used the Mississippi Point in Time Homeless Persons Survey.**
- **Results: 5% increase from 2005, counted at 760 in the five county region.**



The Center

- **Funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide services to chronically homeless males in the state of Mississippi.**
- **Definition: 365 days or homeless 4 times in 3 years.**
- **Residents: Referrals from the court system (addiction, mental health and dual disorder referrals,) and homeless**
- **Programs: Substance abuse treatment, training in computers, GED etc.**

Instruments

- **Interview:**

- **Family**

- **Shelter**

- **Education & employment**

- **Medicare**

- **Surveys:**

- **Motivation**

- **Well-being,**

- **Anxiety and**

- **Stress**

The Sample (N=35)

Age 25-50 Years

- **African American: 29**
- **White: 6**
- **2-1 yrs. college: 8**
- **GED or High school diploma: 8**
- **10th-11th grade: 7**
- **7th-9th grade: 4**
- **Single parents: 15 (14 by mothers and 1 father).**
- **Both parents: 15.**
- **Grandparents: 4 (2 adopted by them).**



Employment

- **Currently employed: 9 (4 truck drivers, 2 mechanics, 1 contractor, 1 barber, 2 bricklayers, 1 plumber).**
- **23 considered a job important for survival, 12 did not.**
- **Reasons for being unemployed: Not enough jobs in Jackson, felonies and lack of qualifications.**

Health & Medicare

- **19 residents covered by Medicare**
- **10 participants reported ill health: high blood pressure, diabetes and stomach cramps**
- **Is medical care adequate: 14 said no, 6 said yes and 15 said they didn't know.**

Hypotheses

- **We expected to find no differences in the motivation styles, feelings of well-being, anxiety and stress levels of the drug core and homeless residents.**
- **We did predict that the older group would be less motivated, report less well-being and have higher anxiety and stress levels.**
- **We also hypothesized that there would be differences by marital status on these variables.**

Descriptive (N=35)

- **Motivation: M=19.37; SD=4.38
(homeless=24.5; drug-core=18.5)**
- **Well-being: M=12.66;
SD= 5.16 (H=10.5;D=13.43)**
- **Anxiety: M=6.26; SD=4.81 (H=7; D=6)**
- **Stress: M=35.29; SD=10.77 (H=41.5;
D=34.13).**
- **As expected there were no significant differences between these 2 groups.**



One-way Analysis of Variance

- **Differences in marital status did effect motivational levels ($F=5.18$; $p<.01$), and feelings of well-being ($F=3.12$; $p<.05$).**
- **Age may also be a contributor in the levels of stress experienced by the participants ($F=2.36$; $p<.10$).**
- **However, the sample size is too small for these to be of true value.**



Experience

- **“Awesome—hands on factors—not all what society puts them out to be”**
- **“Inspirational—made me think about the things I have---need to cherish my life for it can be taken away---met some really nice people”**

Fall 2007 Projects

- **Two with the students of a North Jackson Elementary School.**
- I. Level of Comprehension Proficiency in Second and Fifth Graders**
 - **Observation checklist (TC Div. of Ed.; Field Based Observation Component)**
 - **Reading passage and comprehension questions**
 - 2. Problem Solving in the Third grade Classroom: Mathematics, Science & Language**
 - **Puzzles, quizzes, flash cards**



Project III

- **“Teaching Strategies for the Deaf”**
- **Mississippi School for the Deaf**
- **Mathematics Grades 1 through 4.**
- **Observation and Rating of Teaching Strategies Checklist**

Assumptions & Hopes

- **Students have:**
- **Developed a sense of empowerment through the experience.**
- **Question the rights and privileges they have and are denied others.**
- **Will build on increased awareness and work to bring about social, political and economic change.**
- **Continue collaboration with the centre in Spring 2008 semester.**