

CHAPTER 8

SPECIAL NEEDS

*Highlights: Homeless Clients*¹

- Two-thirds (66 percent) of homeless clients have experienced at least one alcohol, drug, or mental health (ADM) problem during the past month, with 39 percent having a mental health problem, 38 percent having an alcohol problem, and 26 percent having a drug problem.
- Almost three quarters (74 percent) have had an ADM problem during the past year and 86 percent have had at least one of these problems in their lifetime.
- 26 percent of homeless clients have had a drug problem during the past month; this figure doubles to 58 percent when the time horizon is extended to measure lifetime problems.
- Of those who drink alcohol, 38 percent started drinking alcohol before they were 15, and another 29 percent started between the ages of 15 and 17. 23 percent report the first time they drank to get drunk on a regular basis was before they were 15 years old, and another 26 percent say they did this between ages 15 and 17. In addition, 31 percent of those who ever used drugs regularly started doing so before they were 15 years old, with another 32 percent starting to use drugs regularly between ages 15 and 17.
- 43 percent of homeless clients having lifetime problems with alcohol have been treated for alcohol abuse, and 42 percent of those having lifetime problems with drugs have been treated for drug abuse.
- 49 percent of homeless clients in families have had ADM problems within the past month, compared to 69 percent of all single homeless clients.
- Over their lifetime, 54 percent of homeless clients report having been incarcerated in either a city/county jail or military jail/lock up for five or more days, state or federal prison, or juvenile detention.
- 41 percent of homeless clients report that they have had money or things stolen from them directly and 38 percent have had these stolen from their bags or lockers while they

¹ Unless noted specifically in the text, all comparisons are statistically significant at $p = .10$ or better, and all percentages presented by themselves have a 90 percent confidence interval no larger than ± 4 percentage points. A confidence interval of ± 4 percentage points means that if the reported percent is 60, 60 is the estimate of the true value and the probability is 90 percent that the true value falls between 56 and 64 percent. Confidence intervals greater than ± 4 percentage points will be noted in a footnote as: 90% C.I. = $\pm X$ percentage points.

were not present. Also, 22 percent report being physically assaulted and 7 percent report being raped while they were homeless.

- Homeless clients with past-month ADM problems are far more likely than homeless clients without these problems to report spending time in city or county jail for five or more days (56 percent versus 33 percent) or state or federal prison (22 percent versus 10 percent).

Highlights: Currently and Formerly Homeless Clients and Other Service Users Compared

- Currently homeless clients are more likely than formerly homeless clients to report an ADM problem during the past month (66 versus 59 percent), but both are quite high. Other services users age 64 and younger are more likely than those 65 and older to have a past-month ADM problem (38 versus 13 percent).
- No differences exist in the share of currently and formerly homeless clients with at least one lifetime ADM problem (86 percent of each group). Other service users under age 65 are more likely than those age 65 and older to have had any such problems in their lifetime (63 versus 39 percent).
- More currently than formerly homeless clients have spent some time incarcerated (54 versus 45 percent). Other service users under age 65 are more likely than those age 65 and older to have been incarcerated (19 versus 4 percent).

INTRODUCTION

Issues related to the incidence and prevalence of alcohol, drug, or mental health (ADM) problems among homeless people, and as risk factors for homelessness, are among the best-researched topics within the field of homeless inquiry. There have been different views of these issues since the early 1980s when public debate first surfaced with respect to homelessness. These positions ranged from one extreme (homelessness is totally a housing problem) to the other (homelessness is a mental illness problem) (Torrey, 1989; Baum and Burnes, 1993). Research has focused on these issues both because the Stewart B. McKinney Act initially included authorization and funding for research and demonstration projects to identify effective programs for ending homelessness among people who suffered from these problems, and because there are federal research institutes (NIMH, NIAAA, NIDA) to fund research on these issues. Researchers interested in the prevalence of these problems among homeless people could and did apply for research funds to investigate them. State-funded service programs with a focus on ADM problems also occasionally sponsored evaluation research (e.g., Vernez et al., 1988 for California).

Less is known about criminal victimization while homeless, or about homeless people's own criminal history. More has been asked about the latter than the former. Experience with either could create special needs for assistance among homeless people., such as help recovering from sexual assault or help making the transition from incarceration to private life.

One section of the NSHAPC survey asked clients about mental and/or emotional conditions and when these occurred, their concern about mental or emotional conditions reported as happening within the past 30 days, and their history of outpatient and inpatient treatment for mental or emotional problems. A second section addressed similar issues relating to clients' use of and treatment for alcohol and other drugs, and a third section asked about clients' experiences of victimization and incarceration. The findings from these sections are reported below.

HOMELESS CLIENTS

For each area of mental or emotional problems, alcohol use, and drug use, the following sections first examine the proportion of homeless clients who report conditions, difficulties, or experiences in these areas. Once these are reported, they are used first as building blocks to create scales based on the Addiction Severity Index (ASI).² The ASI scales and answers to several other questions are then used to create summary indicators past-month, past-year, and lifetime mental health, alcohol, and drug problems. The last issues discussed in this section are clients' history of incarceration and their experiences of victimization while homeless.

Mental or Emotional Conditions

The NSHAPC survey asked questions related to mental and emotional difficulties at the time of the interview and in the past.

Eight questions ask about the client's experience of different mental or emotional conditions, and when these occurred. These conditions include (the proportion of homeless clients responding that they experienced this condition within the past 30 days appears in parentheses)

- Attempted suicide (1 percent),
- Experienced serious depression (23 percent),
- Experienced serious anxiety or tension (24 percent),
- Experienced hallucinations (5 percent),
- Experienced trouble understanding, concentrating or remembering (23 percent),

² The Addiction Severity Index is an instrument developed by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Fureman, Parikh, Bragg, and McLellan, 1990). It contains subscales to measure a client's level of problems with alcohol, with drugs, and with mental or emotional problems. Cutoff levels used in this report are slight modifications of the means reported in Zanis, McLellan, Cnaan, and Randall (1994).

- Experienced trouble controlling violent behavior (7 percent),
- Had serious thoughts of suicide (6 percent)
- Taking prescribed medication for any psychological/emotional problem (13 percent).

Forty-one percent of homeless clients report experiencing one or more of these eight mental or emotional conditions within the past month. Fourteen percent report only one condition, 11 percent report two conditions, and 16 percent report three or more conditions within the past year (table 8.1).

In addition, *during the past year* (including the past month), 54 percent of homeless clients report experiencing one or more of the eight mental or emotional conditions. Sixteen percent report only one condition, 13 percent report two conditions, and 26 percent report three or more conditions within the past year (table 8.1). Finally, the majority (67 percent) of homeless clients report experiencing at least one of these mental or emotional conditions at some time in their lives. Many homeless clients report more than one such condition: 42 percent have experienced three or more and 24 percent have experienced one or two. One-third (33 percent) report never having experienced any such conditions.

Creating the ASI/mh Index. A set of questions on the NSHAPC survey form a scale called the Addiction Severity Index for mental health conditions (ASI/mh). The eight questions just described about mental or emotional conditions are part of the scale. In addition, any client who reported one or more of the eight conditions within the past 30 days was asked three further questions: the number of days within the past 30 days on which they experienced any of these psychological conditions, how troubled or bothered they are by these psychological conditions, and how important it is to them to get treatment or counseling for these conditions.

Answers relevant to the past 30 days for these 11 questions (the eight “condition” questions and the three questions about number of days, level of concern, and importance of treatment) were combined following a formula provided by Fureman et al. (1990) to calculate an ASI/mh score for each client. ASI/mh scores of .25 and above were considered to indicate a current problem with mental health issues, based on analyses conducted by Zanis, McLellan, Cnaan, and Randall (1994) on a homeless population. Thirty-two percent of homeless clients score above this cutoff on the ASI/mh.

Mental Health Treatment Experiences

Many homeless clients have received treatment or counseling for mental health problems. Sixty percent of homeless clients with mental health problems (34 percent of all homeless clients) have ever received outpatient treatment or counseling for mental health problems (table 8.1). One-third (33 percent) of homeless clients with mental health problems have received outpatient treatment four or more times. Twenty-nine percent of homeless clients with mental health

Table 8.1
Mental Health Problems and Treatment, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Number of Mental or Emotional Conditions Experienced in Past Month as Reported on ASI/mh^a					
0	59(%)	60(%)	84(%)	80(%)	94(%)
1	14	14	8	10	4
2	11	10	4	4	2
3 to 8	16	17	5	7	*
Number of Mental or Emotional Conditions Experienced in Past Year as Reported on ASI/mh^a					
0	46	48	74	67	92
1	16	14	11	14	5
2	13	13	6	7	3
3 to 8	26	25	9	12	1
Number of Mental or Emotional Conditions Experienced in Lifetime as Reported on ASI/mh^a					
0	33	30	60	57	69
1	12	12	14	11	22
2	12	12	8	8	7
3 to 8	42	46	18	24	3
Above Cutoff on Modified ASI/mh Index for Mental Health Conditions	32	32	10	13	3
Received Outpatient Treatment or Counseling for Emotional or Mental Health Problems^b	60	68	62	64	41
Number of Times in Lifetime^c					
1	22	18	27	26	Insufficient N
2 to 3	23	20	8	8	
4 or more times	56	62	65	66	
Last Time Received Outpatient Treatment for Mental Health Problems^c					
Within the past month	39	55	42	43	Insufficient N
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	11	9	17	18	
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	7	3	2	2	
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	8	9	2	2	
At least 2 years ago	36	23	37	35	
First Time Received Outpatient Treatment Before or After First Became Homeless^c					
Before	75	61	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
After	25	39			
Hospitalization for Emotional or Mental Health Problems^b	40	40	27	27	21
Number of Times In Lifetime^d					
1	33	24	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
2 to 3	35	27			
4 or more times	32	49			
Last Time Hospitalized for Mental Health Problems^d					
Within the past month	7	2	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	19	11			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	9	7			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	14	16			
At least 2 years ago	52	64			
First Time Hospitalized for Emotional or Mental Health Problems Before or After First Became Homeless^d					
Before	73	69	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
After	27	32			
Mental Health Problem in Past Month	39	41	16	22	3
Mental Health Problem in Past Year	45	46	21	27	4
Mental Health Problem in Lifetime	57	60	28	36	7

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. ^aFrom questions 12.1b.1 through 12.1b.8 on the survey including the question on use of prescribed medications. ^bSignifies that the percentages accompanying these variables are only for clients who have had a mental health problem at some point in their lives. ^cAmong clients who have received outpatient treatment for a mental health problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^dAmong clients who have been hospitalized for mental health problems at some point in their lives and responded to this question. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported.

problems received outpatient treatment or counseling in the past six months and 22 percent received it over two years ago. In addition, 75 percent of homeless clients who received treatment for mental health problems did so for the first time before they became homeless the first time, while 25 percent first received it after they first became homeless.

Clients were also asked about inpatient treatment for mental health problems. Forty percent of homeless clients with mental health problems report having been hospitalized for emotional or mental problems. Thirteen percent have been hospitalized one time and 27 percent have been hospitalized two or more times (table 8.1).

Half of homeless clients reporting inpatient treatment for emotional or mental problems were hospitalized for these problems over two years ago (20 percent of all clients with mental health problems). Another 5 percent report inpatient treatment one to two years ago, and 10 percent report it within the past year. Also, 73 percent of homeless clients who report inpatient treatment for mental health problems received this treatment before becoming homeless for the first time, while 27 percent first received such treatment after first becoming homeless.

Past-Month, Past-Year, and Lifetime Mental Health Problems

Scores on the ASI/mh and answers to several other questions on the NSHAPC survey were combined to create a single indicator of past-month mental health problems and to group clients into those with and those without these problems. Clients are classified as having a ***past-month mental health problem*** if *any* of the following conditions are met: (1) they score 0.25 or higher on the ASI/mh, (2) they report receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems within the past month, (3) they report on the ASI taking prescribed medications for psychological or emotional problems within the past month, (4) they report that a mental health condition is the single most important thing keeping them from getting out of homelessness, or (5) they report receiving treatment or counseling or being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems at some point in their lives *and* having one or more of the ASI's seven emotional or psychological conditions within the past month.³ Thirty-nine percent of homeless clients are classified as having a past-month mental health problem. Thus the first criterion of an ASI/mh score above 0.25 accounts for 32 percent of those classified as having a past-month mental health problem, and criteria 2 through 5 add 7 percentage points to the total proportion of clients classified as having a past-month mental health problem.

Similar calculations were done to create single indicators of past-year and lifetime mental health problems. Clients are classified as having a ***past-year mental health problem*** if they meet these same criteria within the past year (including the past month), and as having a ***lifetime mental health problem*** if they meet these same criteria in their lifetime or if they report ever having

³ The eighth ASI item, "taking prescribed medications for psychological or emotional problems," is a criterion in its own right (criterion 3, above) for classifying a client as having a mental health problem.

stayed in an adult group home, crisis residence, or other housing for the mentally ill. Forty-five percent of homeless clients are classified as having a past-year mental health problem, and 57 percent are classified as having a lifetime mental health problem.

Alcohol Use

The survey section on alcohol use began with questions about a client's use of alcohol. Seventy-two percent of homeless clients report periods in their lives when they drank alcohol three or more times a week (table 8.2). Of these clients, 44 percent say that this happened within the past 30 days, 70 percent say that it happened within the past year (including the past 30 days), and the remainder report its occurrence during earlier time periods.

In addition, 59 percent of homeless clients report periods in their lives when they drank alcohol to get drunk three or more times a week. Of these clients, 29 percent say this occurred within the past 30 days, 54 percent say that it happened within the past year (including the past 30 days), and the remainder report its occurrence during earlier time periods or that they do not remember when this happened.

Creating the ASI/a Index. Anyone answering affirmatively to the questions about drinking or drinking to get drunk in the past 30 days was asked five additional questions, including the number of days out of the past 30 days on which they had one or more drinks, how much money they spent on alcohol during the month, the number of days the client experienced any of the following related to alcohol use (craved alcohol, suffered adverse effects from alcohol, had withdrawal problems from alcohol, desired to stop using alcohol), how troubled or bothered they are by these experiences, and how important they consider treatment or counseling for alcohol-related experiences to be.

Answers to these five questions formed the basis of another scale, the ASI/a, whose scores were calculated using a formula detailed in Fureman et al. (1990). A scale score of 0.17 was used to divide clients into two groups, those above and below the cutoff score. Thirty-four percent of all homeless scored above the cutoff point.

Early Initiation of Drinking. Early initiation of significant drinking, not counting small tastes or sips, is an indicator of potentially serious problems with alcohol as an adult (Dennis and McGeary, 1998). The 72 percent of homeless NSHAPC clients who report drinking alcohol three or more times a week at some time in their lives were asked at what age they began drinking. Of these clients, 38 percent started drinking alcohol before they were 15, another 29 percent started between the ages of 15 and 17, and 21 percent started between the ages of 18 and 20. The remainder of clients who drank alcohol started after they were 21 years of age (figure 8.1).

Table 8.2
Alcohol Use Problems, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Ever Drank Alcohol Three or More Times a Week	72(%)	66(%)	47(%)	47(%)	49(%)
Most Recent Time Drank Alcohol Three or More Times a Week^a					
Within the past 30 days	41	31	28	29	24
1 to 6 months ago	17	14	12	17	1
7 to 12 months ago	10	10	2	3	0
13 to 24 months ago	9	13	4	6	1
25 to 48 months ago	6	12	8	10	4
More than 4 years ago	16	20	46	36	71
Approximate Age When First Started Drinking Alcohol Three or More Times Per Week^a					
5 to 14	36	29	13	17	2
15 to 17	29	28	33	26	53
18 to 20	23	23	31	32	27
21 to 64	12	20	24	26	18
Ever Been Times When Drank Alcohol to Get Drunk Three or More Times a Week	59	53	31	35	21
Most Recent Time Drank Alcohol to Get Drunk Three or More Times a Week^b					
Within the past 30 days	29	19	15	18	Insufficient N
1 to 6 months ago	14	11	8	9	
7 to 12 months ago	11	5	1	1	
13 to 24 months ago	11	10	5	6	
25 to 48 months ago	5	10	7	9	
More than 4 years ago	14	19	49	40	
Don't know/Refused	16	26	14	16	
Approximate Age When First Drank to Get Drunk Three or More Times a Week^b					
5 to 14	23	14	7	9	Insufficient N
15 to 17	26	23	13	15	
18 to 20	23	24	40	30	
21 to 64	28	39	40	47	
Above Cutoff on Modified ASI/a Index for Alcohol Problems	34	26	12	12	10
Number of Alcohol-Related Difficulties Experienced in Lifetime^c					
0	42	50	78	74	89
1	8	7	4	5	2
2	7	10	7	6	8
3 to 8	44	33	11	15	1
Alcohol Problem in Past Month	38	29	16	18	11
Alcohol Problem in Past Year	46	33	17	19	11
Alcohol Problem in Lifetime	62	56	36	38	31

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. ^aAmong clients who reported drinking three or more times a week at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^bAmong clients who reported drinking to get drunk three or more times a week at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^cFrom questions 13.7a through 13.7h of the survey. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported.

These percentages change considerably when looking at the age that homeless clients first drank to get drunk on a regular basis (three or more times a week). Twenty-three percent of homeless clients who say they drank to get drunk report that they began doing so before age 15, 26 percent report starting between the ages of 15 and 17, 23 percent between the ages of 18 and 20, and the remainder after reaching age 21 (figure 8.2).

Difficulties Related to Alcohol Use

Another series of questions asked clients who reported drinking alcohol about difficulties they might have experienced related to drinking. The eight questions covered passing out, having blackouts, having tremors or shaking, having seizures or convulsions, not being able to stop drinking, being arrested related to drinking, having problems with relatives due to drinking, and attending Alcoholics Anonymous. The majority (58 percent) of homeless clients reporting any alcohol use also report having at least one of these eight alcohol-related difficulties their lifetime.

Treatment for Alcohol Problems

Even if a homeless client does not report many indicators of alcohol use, receiving treatment for alcohol abuse is a clear sign that a person is having or has had trouble with alcohol. Forty-three percent of homeless clients reporting any alcohol problems report ever receiving such treatment, including 36 percent of those with alcohol problems who report some form of inpatient treatment and 29 percent who report some form of outpatient treatment (table 8.3).

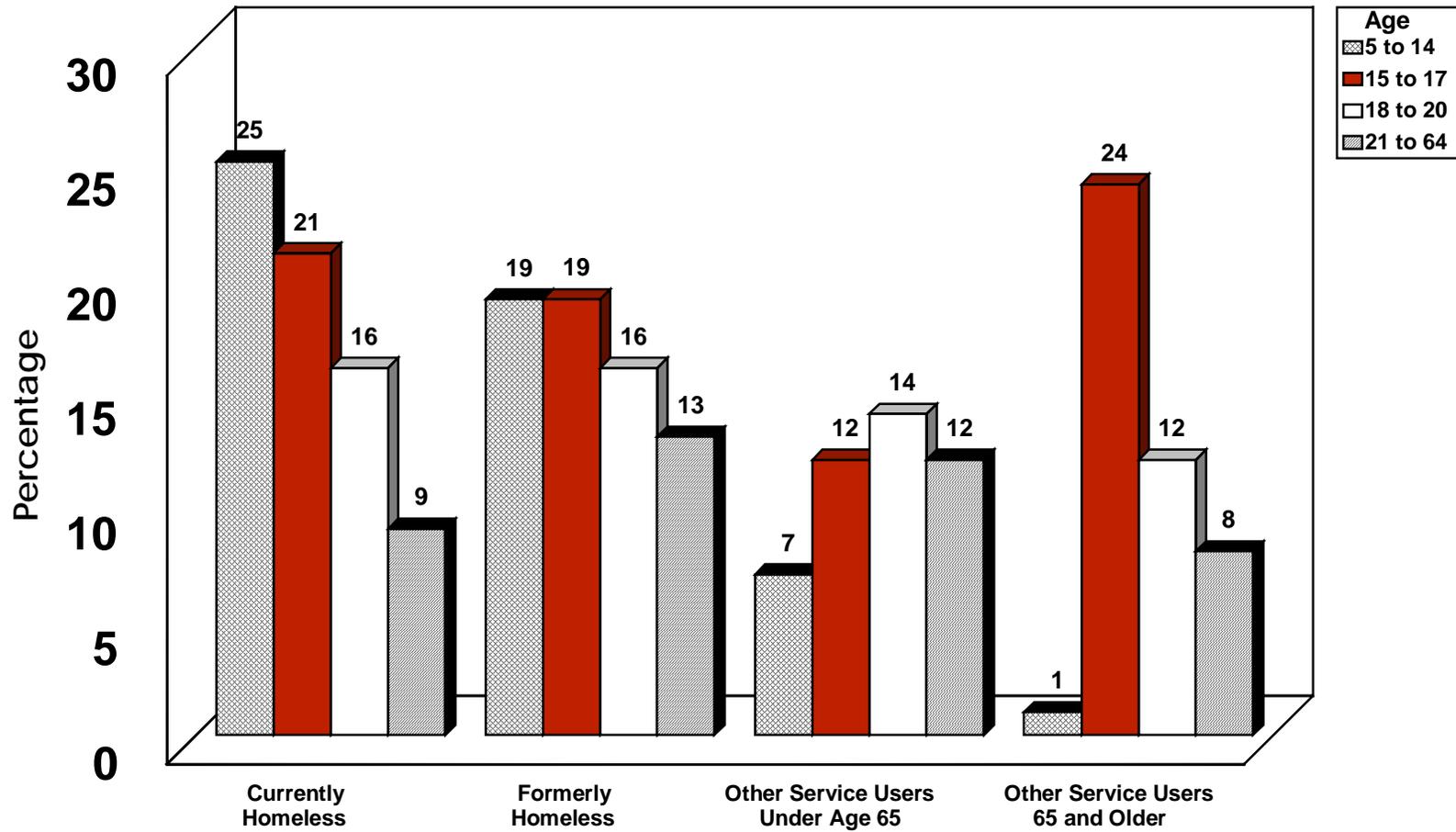
Fifty-five percent of homeless clients receiving inpatient treatment for alcohol abuse got it in a hospital-based detoxification program.⁴ The other most common sources of inpatient treatment for alcohol abuse are “other inpatient detoxification” programs (26 percent), halfway house programs (16 percent), and therapeutic community programs (16 percent). Thirty-five percent of homeless clients reporting inpatient treatment for alcohol abuse have been in inpatient treatment once, 21 percent twice, and 42 percent three or more times, and 3 percent “too many times to remember.” Forty-six percent of homeless clients who have received inpatient treatment received it within the year before being interviewed for this study.

Twenty-nine percent of homeless clients with alcohol problems report receiving outpatient treatment for alcohol abuse (they may also have received inpatient treatment). Of these clients, 65 percent went to Alcoholics Anonymous; 46 percent individual counselors, psychologists, or psychiatrists; and 36 percent went to outpatient detoxification program.⁵ Forty-nine percent of

⁴ All percentages in this paragraph are based on clients reporting inpatient treatment for alcohol abuse. Clients often named more than one treatment setting for inpatient care.

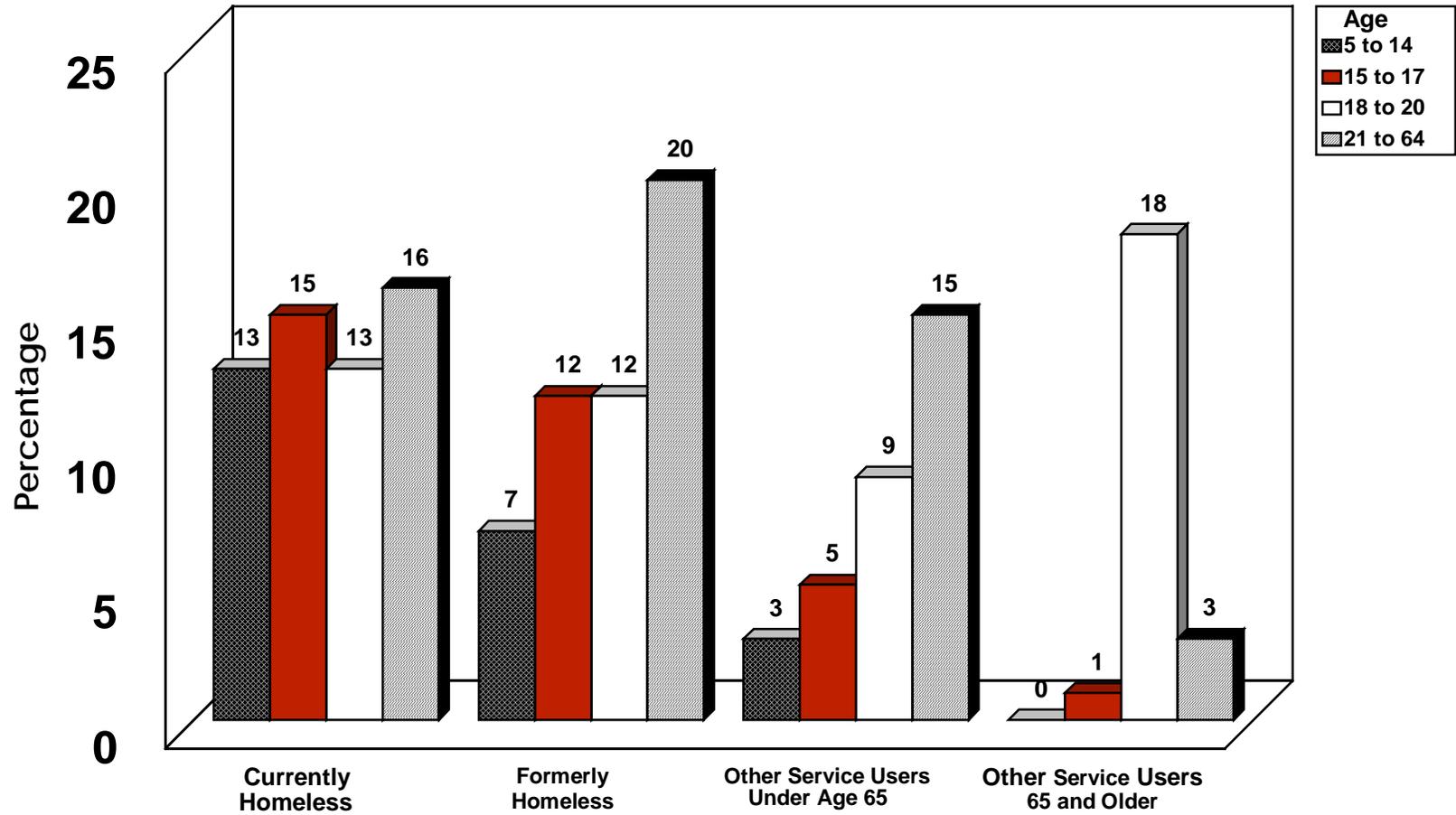
⁵ All percentages in this paragraph are based on clients reporting outpatient treatment for alcohol abuse. Clients often named more than one treatment setting for outpatient care.

Figure 8.1
Approximate Age When Client Started Drinking Alcohol, by Homeless Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

Figure 8.2
Approximate Age When Client Started Drinking Alcohol to Get Drunk, by Homeless Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

Table 8.3
Treatment for Alcohol Abuse, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Ever Treated for Alcohol Abuse	26(%)	24(%)	7(%)	10(%)	*(%)
Ever Treated for Alcohol Abuse, Among Those with an Alcohol Problem	43	44	21	28	1
Ever Received Inpatient Treatment for Alcohol Problems^a	36	34	14	18	1
Type of inpatient treatment^b					
Hospital based detox	55	55	75	74	Insufficient N
Other inpatient detox	26	28	25	24	
Hospital based inpatient other than detox	14	13	30	31	
Jail or prison program	13	11	0	0	
Therapeutic community	16	12	2	2	
Halfway house	16	11	3	3	
Juvenile treatment program	1	1	1	1	
Other short-term residential	13	16	1	2	
Other long-term residential	9	6	2	2	
Other	5	5	*	*	
Number of Times Received Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol in Lifetime^b					
1	35	39	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
2	21	29			
3 to 40	42	32			
Too many to remember	3	1			
Time Since Received Last Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^b					
Within the past month	12	8	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	12	4			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	22	10			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	13	11			
At least 2 years ago	42	67			
Ever Received Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^a	29	29	13	17	1
Type of outpatient treatment^c					
Outpatient detoxification	36	29	39	38	Insufficient N
Individual counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist	46	37	40	40	
Alcoholics Anonymous	65	69	80	82	
Other self-help group	17	23	9	9	
Employee assistance program	4	2	0	0	
Other	14	4	28	29	
Does not recall type of treatment facility	*	0	0	0	
Number of Times Received Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^c					
1	33	28	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
2	16	15			
3 to 40	30	26			
Too many to remember	22	32			
Time Since Received Last Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^c					
Within the past month	34	16	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	20	14			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	12	11			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	10	11			
At least 2 years ago	25	48			

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. ^aSignifies that the percentages accompanying these variables are only for clients who have had an alcohol problem at some point in their lives. ^bAmong clients who have received inpatient treatment for an alcohol problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^cAmong clients who have received outpatient treatment for an alcohol problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported.

homeless clients with alcohol problems report receiving outpatient treatment one or two times, and 30 percent received it three to 40 times. More than one-fifth (22 percent) said they had been in outpatient treatment too many times to remember. More than half (54 percent) of clients reporting outpatient treatment for alcohol abuse had received this treatment within the past six months, which is more than twice the proportion (24 percent) of clients reporting inpatient treatment who received that in the past six months.

Past-Month, Past-Year, and Lifetime Alcohol Use Problems

Scores on the ASI/a and answers to several other questions on the NSHAPC survey were combined to create a single indicator of past-month alcohol use problems and to group clients into those with and those without these problems. Clients are classified as having a ***past-month alcohol use problem*** if *any* of the following conditions are met: (1) they score 0.17 or higher on the ASI/a measure, (2) they report drinking to get drunk three or more times a week within the past month, (3) they report being treated for alcohol abuse within the past month, or (4) they report ever having been treated for alcohol abuse *and* drinking three or more times a week within the past month. Thirty-eight percent of homeless clients were classified as having a past-month alcohol use problem (table 8.2)

Clients are classified as having a ***past-year alcohol use problem*** if they meet these same criteria within the past year (including the past month), and as having a ***lifetime alcohol use problem*** if they meet these same criteria in their lifetime or if they report ever having had three or more of the alcohol-related difficulties described above (such as blackouts, tremors, and/or convulsions). Forty-six percent of homeless clients meet the criteria for having a past-year alcohol use problem, and 62 percent meet the criteria for having a lifetime alcohol use problem.

Drug Use

Thirteen questions on the NSHAPC survey ask about the use of various specific drugs, and the time period of their most recent use (table 8.4). Over the past 30 days, 14 percent of homeless clients report using marijuana/hashish, inhalants (1 percent), crack/rock (9 percent), powdered cocaine (3 percent), heroin (1 percent), methadone (1 percent), other opiates/analgesics (1 percent), stimulants (1 percent), barbiturates (1 percent), other sedatives (1 percent), hypnotics/tranquilizers (2 percent), hallucinogens (1 percent), and any other drug not including alcohol (2 percent).

When the time period is extended from the past month to the past year, the share of homeless clients who used each type of drug at least doubles. Twenty-six percent report using marijuana/hashish, inhalants (2 percent), crack/rock (19 percent), powdered cocaine (10 percent), heroin (5 percent), methadone (2 percent), other opiates/analgesics (3 percent), stimulants (6 percent), barbiturates (4 percent), other sedatives (4 percent), hypnotics/tranquilizers (4 percent),

Table 8.4
Current and Lifetime Use of Specific Drugs, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Regular Use of Specified Drug(s) in Past Month					
Marijuana/hashish	14(%)	10(%)	2(%)	3(%)	0(%)
Inhalants (glue, amyl nitrite, poppers, aerosol sprays)	1	2	0	0	0
Crack/rock	9	6	2	3	0
Powdered cocaine	3	3	1	1	0
Heroin	1	2	1	1	0
Methadone	1	2	0	0	0
Other opiates/analgesics (Darvon, Demerol, Talwin, Talacen)	1	1	0	0	0
Stimulants (amphetamines, crystal, Preludin, uppers, speed)	1	*	0	0	0
Barbituates	1	*	0	0	0
Other sedatives (sleeping pills, Seconal)	1	1	*	0	*
Hypnotics/tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, benzodiazepine)	2	1	0	0	0
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, peyote, mescaline, ecstasy, angel dust)	1	*	0	0	0
Any other drug	2	1	0	0	0
Regular Use of Specified Drug(s) in Past Year					
Marijuana/hashish	26	14	4	6	0
Inhalants (glue, amyl nitrite, poppers, aerosol sprays)	2	2	0	0	0
Crack/rock	19	11	2	3	0
Powdered cocaine	10	5	1	1	0
Heroin	5	2	1	1	0
Methadone	2	2	*	*	0
Other opiates/analgesics (Darvon, Demerol, Talwin, Talacen)	3	1	*	*	0
Stimulants (amphetamines, crystal, Preludin, uppers, speed)	6	1	2	2	0
Barbituates	4	1	0	0	0
Other sedatives (sleeping pills, Seconal)	4	3	*	*	*
Hypnotics/tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, benzodiazepine)	4	2	*	*	0
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, peyote, mescaline, ecstasy, angel dust)	3	2	0	0	0
Any other drug	2	1	0	0	0
Regular Use of Specified Drug(s) in Lifetime					
Marijuana/hashish	52	42	15	18	7
Inhalants (glue, amyl nitrite, poppers, aerosol sprays)	8	6	1	1	0
Crack/rock	29	22	5	6	*
Powdered cocaine	29	21	5	6	*
Heroin	13	11	1	1	0
Methadone	6	7	1	1	0
Other opiates/analgesics (Darvon, Demerol, Talwin, Talacen)	10	6	2	2	0
Stimulants (amphetamines, crystal, Preludin, uppers, speed)	20	13	4	6	0
Barbituates	13	9	1	1	0
Other sedatives (sleeping pills, Seconal)	11	7	2	3	*
Hypnotics/tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, benzodiazepine)	12	11	1	1	1
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, peyote, mescaline, ecstasy, angel dust)	19	11	4	6	0
Any other drug	4	1	1	2	0

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

* Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0.

hallucinogens (3 percent), and any other drug other than alcohol (2 percent). Lifetime use is even higher.

Creating the ASI/d Index. Anyone answering affirmatively to any of the 13 questions about using drugs regularly and said they did so in the past 30 days was asked three additional questions about the number of days they experienced any drug-related conditions (craved drugs, suffered adverse effects from drugs, had withdrawal problems from drugs, desired to stop using drugs), how troubled or bothered they are by drug-related difficulties, and how important they consider treatment or counseling for these difficulties to be. The 13 drug-specific questions and the three additional questions were given equal weight in calculating an ASI/d scale score based on a formula presented in Fureman et al. (1990). Clients were classified into two groups of 7 percent above and 93 percent below a cutoff score of 0.10.

Early Initiation of Drug Use. Age at first use is another indicator of potentially serious drug problems in adulthood (Dennis and McGeary, 1998). The 60 percent of homeless clients who report ever having used drugs were asked the age when they began using drugs (table 8.5). Of these clients, 31 percent started using drugs before they were 15, another 32 percent started between the ages of 15 and 17, and 15 percent started between the ages of 18 and 20. The remainder of clients who ever used drugs started after they were 21 years of age.

Virtually all of the 60 percent of homeless clients who report ever having used drugs report having used drugs regularly (three or more times a week). Fifty-seven percent of homeless clients report this level of drug use at some time in their lives. Of these homeless clients who say they used drugs regularly, 20 percent report that they began doing so before age 15, 26 percent report starting regular use between the ages of 15 and 17, 18 percent between the ages of 18 and 20, and the remainder after reaching age 21.

Difficulties Related to Drug Use

Another series of questions asked clients who reported drug use about difficulties they might have experienced related to drugs. The eight questions were: using more than one drug at a time, having blackouts or flashbacks as a result of drug use, having friends or relatives know or suspect you used drugs, having lost friends because of drug use, neglecting family or missing work because of drug use, and engaging in illegal activities to obtain drugs, experienced withdrawal symptoms, or had medical problems because of drug use. Almost half (48 percent) of homeless clients who say they have used drugs report having at least one of these eight drug-related difficulties their lifetime (table 8.5), and 34 percent report experiencing three or more of these drug-related difficulties in their lifetime.

Table 8.5
Drug Use Problems, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Ever Used Drugs	60(%)	48(%)	16(%)	22(%)	2(%)
Approximate Age When First Started Using Drugs^a					
5 to 14	31	28	27	28	Insufficient N
15 to 17	32	21	22	22	
18 to 20	15	16	26	26	
21 to 64	22	35	26	24	
Ever Used Drugs Regularly (Three or More Times a Week)	57	44	13	18	*
Approximate Age When First Started Using Drugs Regularly (Three or More Times a Week)^b					
5 to 14	20	15	11	11	Insufficient N
15 to 17	26	17	40	41	
18 to 20	18	21	23	23	
21 to 64	36	48	26	26	
Above Cutoff on Modified ASI/da Index for Drug Problems	7	7	1	1	0
Number of Drug-Related Difficulties Experienced in Lifetime^c					
0	52	60	89	85	100
1	7	6	4	6	0
2	7	11	2	3	0
3 to 7	34	23	5	6	*
Drug Problem in Past Month	26	17	4	6	*
Drug Problem in Past Year	38	25	7	10	*
Drug Problem in Lifetime	58	49	18	22	8

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0.^aAmong clients who reported using drugs at some point in their lives and responded to this question.^bAmong clients who reported using drugs regularly at some point in their lives and responded to this question.^cFrom questions 13.18a through 13.18h of the survey. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported.

Treatment for Drug Problems

It is also interesting to examine what share of homeless clients have received treatment for drug abuse (table 8.6). Forty-two percent of homeless clients who report ever having used drugs regularly have received some type of drug treatment in their lifetime. Thirty-six percent report receiving *inpatient* treatment, of whom 46 percent got treatment at least once through a hospital-based detoxification program. The next most common place where homeless clients who ever received treatment got it was in some “other” inpatient detoxification center (30 percent). Six other types of treatment centers provided treatment to 14 to 16 percent of homeless clients receiving any treatment (hospital-based other than detoxification, jail or prison program, therapeutic community, halfway house, and other short-term and long-term residential).

Thirty-seven percent of homeless clients who received any inpatient drug abuse treatment report receiving it once in their life, 24 percent report receiving it twice, and 38 percent have received it three or more times. Thirty-two percent of homeless clients who ever received inpatient drug abuse treatment received it within the past six months and the remainder received it more than six months ago.

Some homeless clients have also received *outpatient* treatment for drug abuse (table 8.6). Twenty-seven percent of homeless clients reporting drug use received such care. Among those receiving outpatient treatment, the most common sources were Narcotics Anonymous (39 percent), individual counselors/psychologists/psychiatrists (33 percent), and outpatient detoxification (30 percent).

One-third of homeless clients with any outpatient treatment report receiving this care only once, 17 percent twice, and 38 percent 3 or more times. Twelve percent say they have received such care too many times to remember. Thirty-seven percent of those receiving such care experienced it within the past month, with another 29 percent experiencing it more than two years ago.

Past-Month, Past-Year, and Lifetime Drug Use Problems

Scores on the ASI/d and answers to several other questions on the NSHAPC survey were combined to create a single indicator of past-month drug use problems and to group clients into those with and those without these problems. Clients are classified as having a ***past-month drug use problem*** if *any* of the following conditions are met: (1) they score 0.10 or higher on a modified ASI measure, (2) they report being treated for drug abuse within the past month, (3) they report using drugs intravenously (shooting up),⁶ or (4) they report using any of a variety of

⁶ This item is part of Question 10.1 of the client survey, that asked about current medical conditions.

Table 8.6
Treatment for Drug Abuse, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Ever Treated for Drug Abuse	25(%)	22(%)	5(%)	7(%)	*(%)
Ever Treated for Drug Abuse, Among Those with a Drug Use Problem	42	46	27	31	3
Received Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^a	36	31	10	11	3
Type of treatment^b					
Hospital based detox	46	63	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
Other inpatient detox	30	30			
Hospital based inpatient other than detox	14	16			
Jail or prison program	15	10			
Therapeutic community	15	13			
Halfway house	16	9			
Juvenile treatment program	2	0			
Other short-term residential	15	12			
Other long-term residential	14	12			
Other	5	4			
Does not recall type of treatment facility	*	0			
Number of Times Received Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^b					
1	37	24	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
2	24	29			
3 or more	38	43			
Too many to remember	1	4			
Time Since Received Last Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^b					
Within the past month	17	11	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	15	9			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	14	6			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	14	14			
At least 2 years ago	41	59			
Received Outpatient Care for Problems with Drugs^a	27	36	23	26	3
Type of outpatient treatment^c					
Outpatient detoxification	30	23	43	Insufficient N	
Methadone detoxification	5	11	2		
Methadone maintenance	7	15	4		
Other outpatient detoxification	7	14	30		
Outpatient drug free program	27	24	13		
Employee assistance program	1	2	0		
Individual counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist	33	36	11		
Narcotics anonymous	39	27	4		
Other self-help group	17	26	*		
Other	14	4	1		
Does not recall type of treatment facility	*	0	0		
Number of Times Received Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^c					
1	33	20	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
2	17	17			
3 or more	38	21			
Too many to remember	12	42			
Time Since Received Last Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^c					
Within the past month	37	20	Insufficient N	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	14	17			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	8	6			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	13	9			
At least 2 years ago	29	48			

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. ^aSignifies that the percentages accompanying these variables are only for clients who have had a drug problem at some point in their lives. ^bAmong clients who have received inpatient treatment for a drug problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^cAmong clients who have received outpatient treatment for a drug problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported.

Clients are classified as having a *past-year drug use problem* if they meet these same criteria within the past year (including the past month), and as having a *lifetime drug use problem* if they meet these same criteria in their lifetime or if they report three or more of the drug-related difficulties presented above. Thirty-eight percent of homeless clients meet the criteria for a past-year drug use problem, and 58 percent meet the criteria for a lifetime drug use problem.

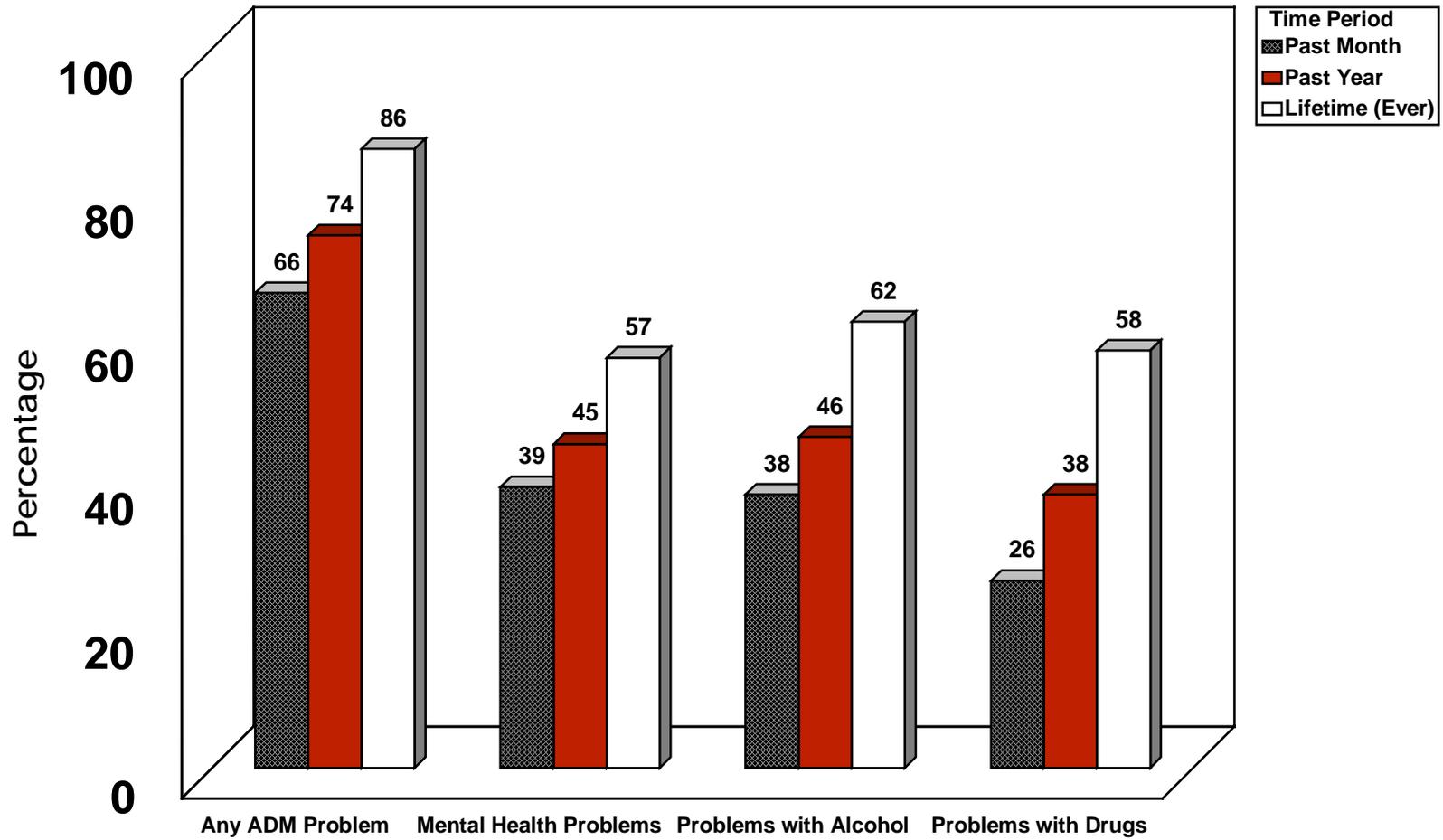
Combined Prevalence of ADM Problems

Combining the indicators of past-month mental health, alcohol, and drug problems into a single summary index, 66 percent of homeless clients report at least one alcohol, drug, or mental health problem during the month before being interviewed. Seventy-four percent report such problems during the past year, and 86 percent report them at some time during their lives (figure 8.3). Thirty-nine percent of homeless clients have experienced mental health problems during the past month, 45 percent during the past year, and 57 percent during their lifetime. Thirty-eight percent of homeless clients have had alcohol problems during the past month, 46 percent during the past year, and 62 percent during their lifetime. Twenty-six percent of homeless clients have had drug problems during the past month, 38 percent during the past year, and 58 percent during their lifetime.

Past-Month Co-Occurrence. As reported above, 66 percent of homeless clients have a past-month alcohol, drug, or mental health problem (table 8.7 and figure 8.4). Seventeen percent of homeless clients gave answers indicating that they only have a mental health problem, 13 percent only an alcohol problem, and 7 percent only a drug problem. Ten percent of homeless clients have both a past-month alcohol and mental health problem, 8 percent have all three ADM problems, 7 percent have alcohol and drug problems, and 5 percent have both drug and mental health problems. Figure 8.4 shows these overlaps, as well as indicating that 34 percent of homeless clients do not have any past-month ADM problems.

Past-Year Co-Occurrence. During the past year, almost three-quarters (74 percent) of all homeless clients have experienced at least one ADM problem (table 8.7). Thirty-four percent experienced only one type of problem (15 percent mental health only, 12 percent alcohol only, and 7 percent drugs only). The remaining 40 percent with an ADM problem within the past year were classified with the following combinations of ADM problems: 14 percent had all three types of problems, 10 percent had alcohol and drug problems, 10 percent had alcohol and mental health problems, and 7 percent had drug and mental health problems.

Figure 8.3
Homeless Clients' ADM Problems in the Past Month, Past Year, and Lifetime



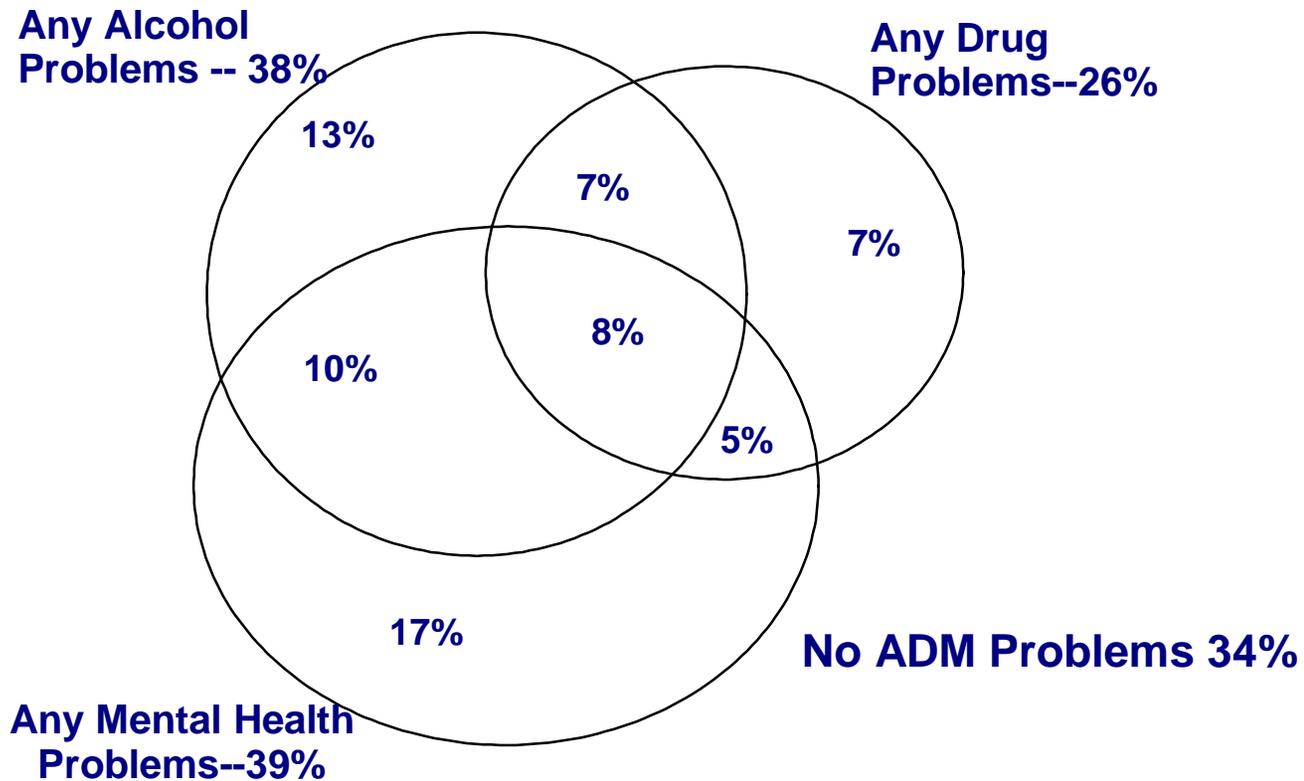
Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

Table 8.7
Summary of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Problems, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Problems in Past Month					
Any Past-Month ADM Problem ^{ab}	66(%)	59(%)	31(%)	38(%)	13(%)
Alcohol Problems	38	29	16	18	11
Drug Problems	26	17	4	6	*
Mental Health Problems	39	41	16	22	3
Specific Combinations					
Alcohol problem only	13	10	12	13	10
Drug problem only	7	4	1	2	0
Mental health problem only	17	22	13	17	3
Alcohol and drug problems	7	4	1	2	0
Alcohol and mental health problems	10	10	2	3	*
Drug and mental health problems	5	4	2	2	0
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	8	5	*	*	*
No ADM problems	34	41	69	62	87
Problems in Past Year					
Any Past-Year ADM Problem ^a	74	66	36	45	14
Alcohol Problems	46	33	17	19	11
Drug Problems	38	25	7	10	*
Mental Health Problems	45	46	21	27	4
Specific Combinations					
Alcohol problem only	12	10	12	13	10
Drug problem only	7	5	2	2	0
Mental health problem only	15	21	16	21	3
Alcohol and drug problems	10	4	2	3	0
Alcohol and mental health problems	10	10	1	1	*
Drug and mental health problems	7	7	2	2	0
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	14	9	2	3	*
No ADM problems	26	34	64	55	86
Problems in Lifetime					
Any Lifetime ADM Problem ^a	86	86	56	63	39
Alcohol Problems	62	56	36	38	31
Drug Problems	58	49	18	22	8
Mental Health Problems	57	60	28	36	7
Specific Combinations					
Alcohol problem only	9	8	19	17	23
Drug problem only	6	7	3	4	1
Mental health problem only	10	17	15	18	7
Alcohol and drug problems	15	11	6	6	7
Alcohol and mental health problems	9	13	4	6	*
Drug and mental health problems	8	7	3	4	0
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	30	24	6	9	*
No ADM problems	14	14	44	37	61

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. ^aThese ADM measures include a small number of cases (21 for the past month, 3 for the past year, and 5 for lifetime) who answered questions suggesting they had a substance use problem (questions 2.11a(13b), 3.15a(13b), and 14c(5)) but did not satisfy any other specific criteria for alcohol or drug problems, so they are not included in the problem-specific measures because one cannot determine if the problem is with alcohol, drugs or both. ^bThis measure of past-month ADM problems is used throughout this report to create the ADM standard grouping for currently homeless clients.

Figure 8.4
Overlap of Past-Month ADM Problems of Homeless Clients



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Numbers do not sum to totals due to rounding.

Lifetime Co-Occurrence. An even larger proportion of homeless people have lifetime indicators of these problems (table 8.7). Eighty-six percent of homeless clients gave answers indicating that at some time in their lives they have had at least one ADM problem. Almost a third (30 percent) report conditions suggesting they experienced all three types of problems at some time in their lives. Ten percent or fewer had only one type of problem throughout their lives (10 percent with only mental health problems, 9 percent with only alcohol problems and 6 percent with only drug problems). Other combinations of co-occurrence are as follows: 15 percent have had both drug and alcohol problems, 9 percent alcohol and mental health problems, and 8 percent drug and mental health problems.

In general, the share of homeless clients with all three types of problems about doubles as one moves from past-month to past-year and then to lifetime measures (table 8.7). Within the single-problem groups, mental health is the most common, followed by alcohol, and then drugs. This is true of all three time periods examined. Among the two-problem categories, drug and mental health problems are the least common (although not by a large share), and the drug and alcohol problems combination becomes more common than the alcohol and mental health problem combination as one moves from the shortest time period (past month) to the longest (lifetime).

Incarceration

Almost half (46 percent) of all homeless clients report that they have never been incarcerated. The remainder have spent time in jail or state or federal prison at some time in their lives. In many cases, they have been incarcerated in more than one type of penal institution (table 8.8). Forty-nine percent of homeless clients have spent five or more days in a city or county jail, 4 percent have spent five or more days in a military jail/lock-up, and 18 percent have spent time in state or federal prison (figure 8.5). Many cities across the country have ordinances regulating activities such as loitering or sleeping in public spaces. Enforcement of these ordinances may mean that some homeless people spend time in jail simply because they are homeless. NSHAPC did not ascertain whether clients' incarceration experiences occurred before, during, or after their homeless episodes.

The incidence of incarceration is quite different depending on the client's sex (not shown). Male clients are far more likely than their female counterparts to have spent time incarcerated. Sixty-seven percent have spent time in jail, state or federal prison, or juvenile detention, compared to only 27 percent of female clients.

Victimization

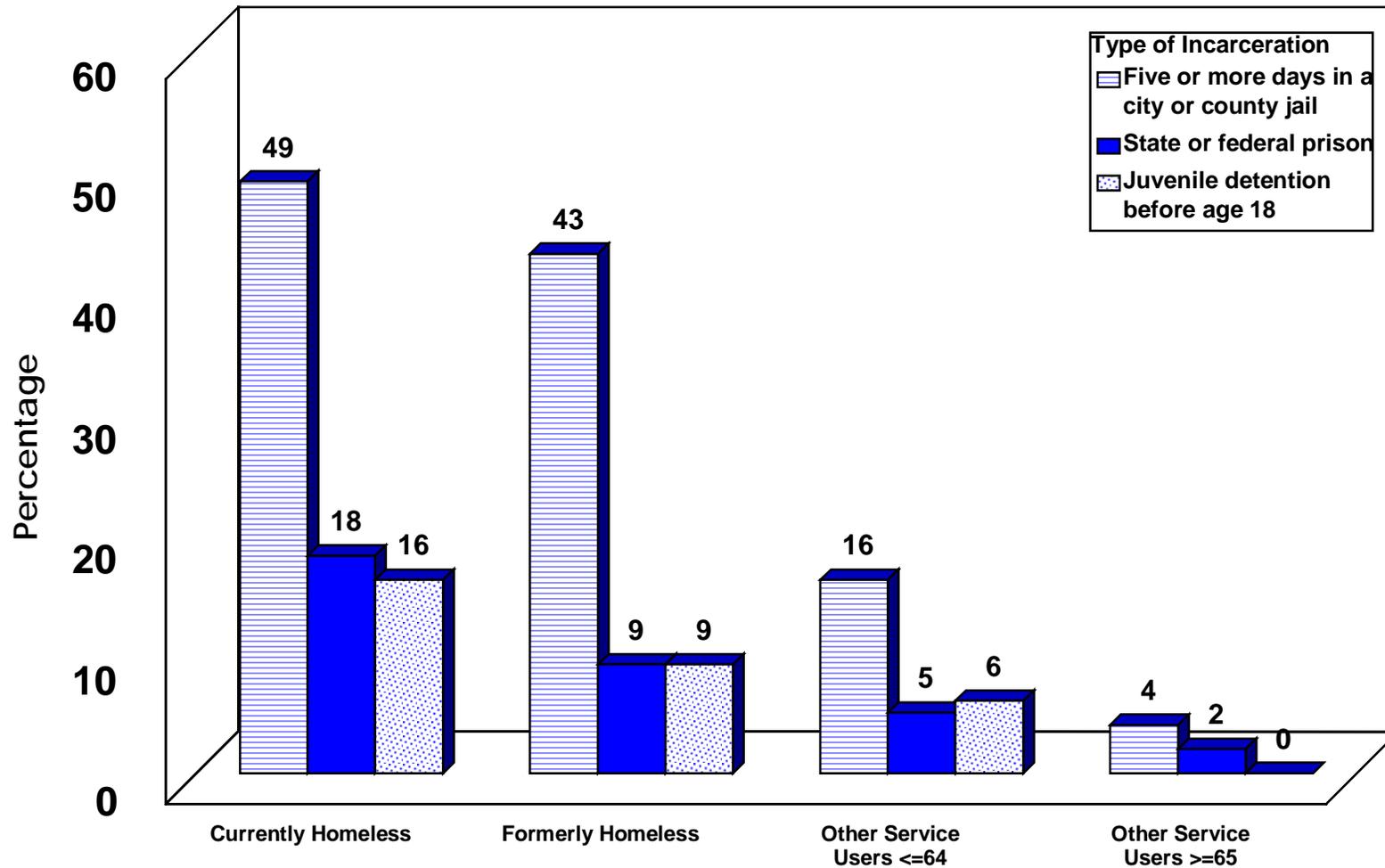
The majority of homeless clients report having been criminally victimized while homeless (table 8.8). Thirty-eight percent report that people stole money or things directly from them while they were present, and 41 percent report that people stole money or things from them while they were

Table 8.8
Incarceration and Victimization, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
History of Incarceration					
5 or more days in a city or county jail	49(%)	43(%)	13(%)	16(%)	4(%)
5 or more days in a military jail/lock-up	4	3	2	3	0
State or federal prison	18	9	4	5	2
Juvenile detention before age 18	16	9	4	6	0
Spent Time Incarcerated	54	45	14	19	4
<i>(Among Ever Homeless Clients)</i>					
While Homeless, People:					
Stole money or things directly from you while you were there	38	33	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Stole money or things from your bags, locker, etc., while you were gone	41	34	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Physically assaulted you, beat you up	22	24	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Sexually assaulted you, raped you	7	8	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

Figure 8.5
Incarceration Experiences, by Homeless Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client

not present to guard their property. Also, 22 percent of homeless clients report being physically assaulted and 7 percent report that they have been raped while homeless.

Victimization also varies by the sex of the homeless client (not shown). Forty-one percent of homeless men report that someone stole money or things directly from them, compared to 31 percent of homeless women. By contrast, 13 percent of homeless women report being sexually assaulted or raped compared to only 4 percent of homeless men.

Differences by Family Status

No big differences by family status are evident when looking at the incidence of past-month, past-year, or lifetime mental health problems among homeless clients (Appendix table 8.A1). However, the likelihood of receiving inpatient treatment for mental health problems does vary by family status. Only 26 percent of homeless clients in families who have mental health problems report ever being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems, compared to 42 percent of single homeless clients with mental health problems.

Unlike the incidence of mental health problems, alcohol-related problems do vary by family status. Eighteen percent of homeless clients in families have past-month alcohol problems compared to 41 percent of single homeless clients (Appendix table 8.A2). Similar differences are found in the past-year and lifetime measures. Twenty-six percent of clients in families have experienced an alcohol problem in the past year compared to 49 percent of single homeless clients. Over their lifetime, 42 percent of clients in families report such a difficulty, which is 23 percentage points lower than the corresponding figure for single homeless clients (65 percent).

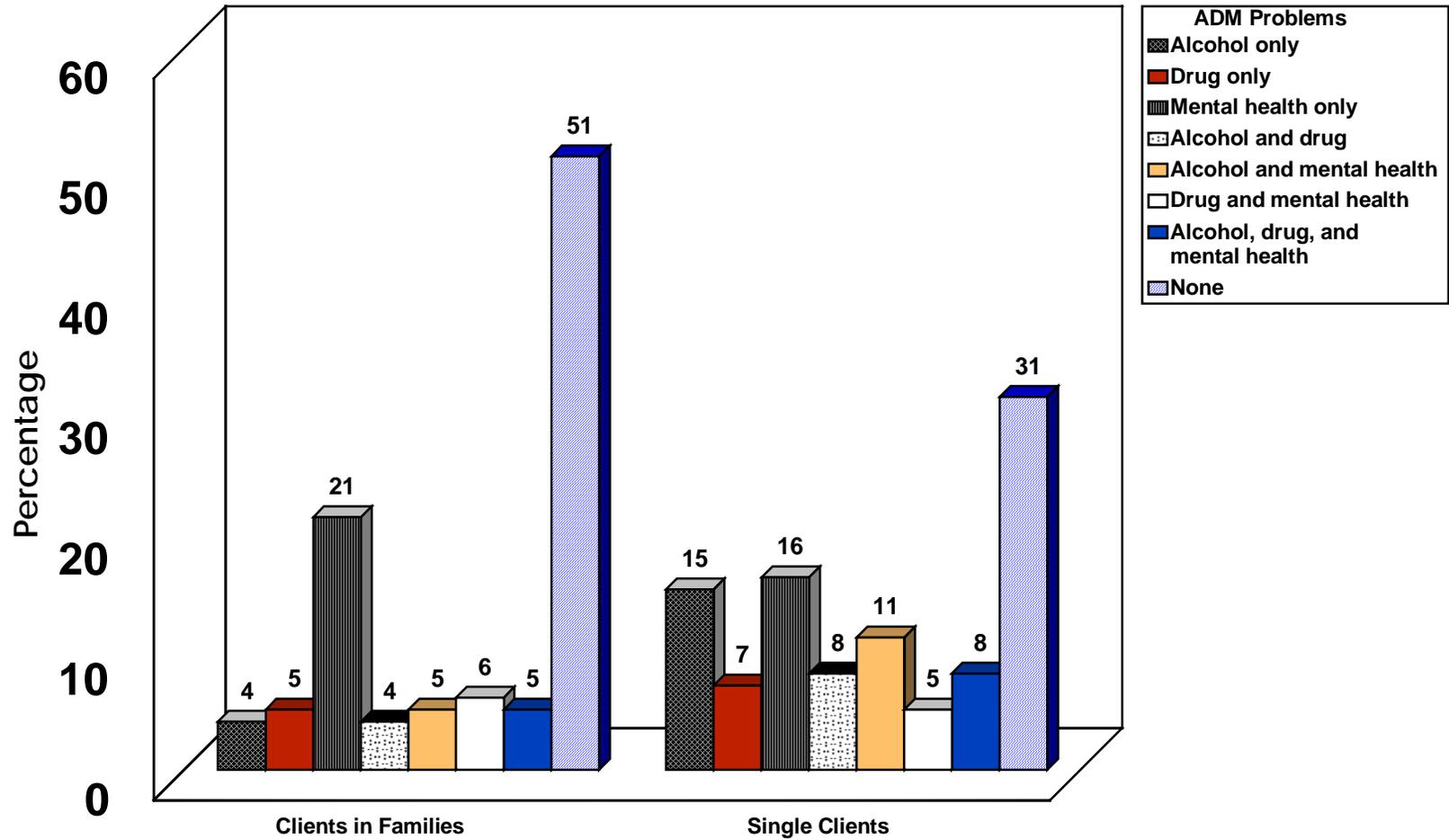
Homeless clients in families are less likely than single homeless clients to have drug problems in the past year (27 versus 39 percent), and in their lifetime (50 versus 59 percent) (Appendix table 8.A3). However, the two family status groups are about equally likely to report ever receiving inpatient or outpatient treatment for drug abuse problems (36 to 37⁷ percent of those with drug problems).

Figure 8.6 shows that 49 percent of homeless clients in families have past-month ADM problems, compared to 69 percent of single homeless clients. Clients in families are also less likely to report having ADM problems during the past year and during their lifetimes when one compares them to single homeless clients (Appendix table 8.A4).

Incarceration and Victimization. The incidence of incarceration and victimization also vary by family status (Appendix table 8.A5). Homeless clients in families are less likely to report ever being incarcerated: 21 percent ever spent five or more days in city or county jail compared to 53 percent of single homeless clients and 5 percent have spent time in state or

⁷ 90% C.I.= ± 11 percentage points.

Figure 8.6
Homeless Clients' ADM Problems, by Family Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Numbers may not sum to 100% or other total due to round

federal prison compared to 21 percent of single homeless clients. In addition, those in families are less likely than single homeless clients to report having been physically assaulted (14 percent versus 24 percent) or having had money stolen from them directly (22 percent versus 41 percent), or while they were gone (31 percent versus 43 percent).

Differences by Past-Month Alcohol, Drug, or Mental Health (ADM) Problems

Histories of past-year and lifetime ADM problems, victimization, and incarceration also vary depending on whether or not clients have a past-month ADM problem. Because of the way in which ADM problems were identified, there are obviously variations in ADM measures by past-month ADM status. However, many clients without past-month ADM problems have experienced some of these problems in the past year and in their lifetimes. Homeless clients with past-month ADM problems are also far more likely to report being victimized or incarcerated.

Among homeless clients with past-month ADM problems, 64 percent have had a mental health problem in the past year and 72 percent have had one in their lifetime. The corresponding figures for those without past-month ADM problems are 8 and 26 percent, respectively (Appendix table 8.A1). Similar differences by ADM status are found in the incidence of alcohol and drug problems (Appendix tables 8.A2 and 8.A3). Interestingly, many homeless clients who are *not* classified with a past-month ADM problem report having had difficulties with alcohol, drugs, and mental health in the past. For example, 31⁸ percent of this group of clients report that at some point in their lives they drank to get drunk three or more times a week, 7 percent have been treated for alcohol abuse, 34⁹ percent have used drugs regularly, 9 percent have been treated for drug abuse, and 17 percent have been treated for emotional or mental health problems on an outpatient basis.

Incarcerations and Victimization. Having a past-month ADM problem is also related to an increased likelihood of having been incarcerated or victimized (Appendix table 8.A7). Homeless clients with past-month ADM problems are far more likely than single homeless clients to report ever spending time in city or county jail for five or more days (56 percent versus 33 percent) or state or federal prison (22 percent versus 10 percent). In addition, 46 percent of those with past-month ADM problems report that someone stole money or things directly from them, compared to 21 percent of single homeless clients, and 27 percent of the past-month ADM group report having been physically assaulted while homeless compared to 13 percent of single clients.

⁸ 90% C.I.= \pm 5 percentage points.

⁹ 90% C.I.= \pm 5 percentage points.

Differences by Race/Ethnicity

Differences in clients' experiences with ADM problems, incarceration, and victimization are also found when these are examined separately by the client's race/ethnicity (Appendix tables 8.A1 through 8.A7).

ADM Problems. White non-Hispanic homeless clients are more likely than black non-Hispanic clients to be classified with a mental health problem (in all of the three time periods considered). Among homeless clients with any mental health problems, white non-Hispanics are more likely than black non-Hispanic and Hispanic clients to have ever received outpatient treatment (70 compared with 49 to 50 percent). White non-Hispanic clients are also more likely to receive inpatient treatment for emotional or mental problems than black non-Hispanic and Native American clients (47 compared with 21 to 33 percent).

There are also large differences in alcohol use and treatment depending on a homeless client's racial or ethnic group (figure 8.7). Sixty-eight percent of homeless Native Americans have a past-month alcohol problem compared to 39 percent of black non-Hispanic, 35 percent of white non-Hispanic, and 24 percent of Hispanic homeless clients. Although Hispanics are the least likely to have a past-month alcohol use problem, their past-year measures are very similar to those of non-Hispanic whites and blacks (39 versus 45 and 44 percent, respectively). By contrast, Native Americans are the most likely of all the race/ethnic groups to have a past-year alcohol problem (73 percent). Similar patterns are found among the lifetime measures of alcohol problems.

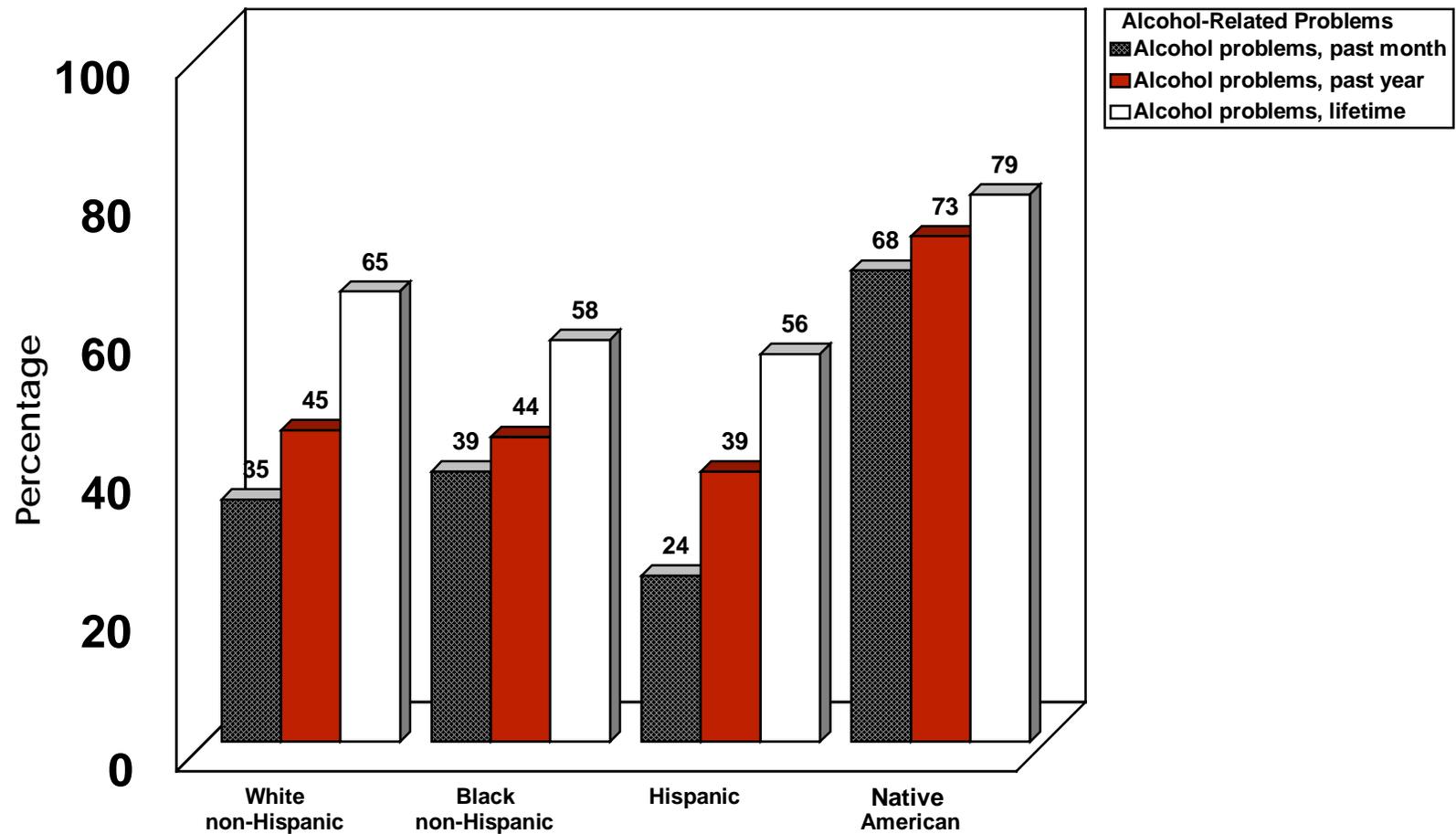
Rates of past problems associated with drug use also vary by race/ethnicity. Black non-Hispanic clients have the highest rates of drug use problems in all three of the time periods considered. For example, 70 percent of these clients have had a drug use problem in their lifetime compared to 59 percent of Hispanic clients and 52 percent of white non-Hispanic clients.

Incarceration and Victimization. The likelihood of being incarcerated or victimized also varies by the racial/ethnic group of a homeless client (Appendix table 8.A7). Native American homeless clients are more likely than other homeless clients to report spending five or more days in city or county jail (76 percent compared to 38 percent of Hispanic, 44 percent of white non-Hispanic, and 51 percent of black non-Hispanic clients). They are also more likely than other homeless clients to report that someone stole money from them (58 percent compared to 32 to 37 percent of other homeless clients).

Differences by Program Use Patterns

NSHAPC provides the opportunity to understand how people who use different types of homeless assistance programs may differ in ADM status. This is important for several reasons. First, when studies look only at people in shelters, they may be getting a biased picture of who

Figure 8.7
Alcohol Problems of Homeless Clients, by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

homeless people are. Learning what the differences are between people who use the most common types of homeless assistance programs, shelters and soup kitchens, can help policy makers plan programs and devise ways to reach particular segments of homeless people at any given time. The analysis to follow examines the ADM problems of four groups of homeless people (note that these are not mutually exclusive groups): homeless clients who reported staying in places not meant for human habitation (e.g., on a street, in an abandoned building, in a vehicle, etc.); those staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing, or using vouchers for emergency accommodation; those using soup kitchens; and those using other homeless assistance programs. Inclusion in a group depends where a client stayed or what programs they used during the seven days preceding the NSHAPC interview, on the actual day of the interview, or the program from which they were selected into the study sample NSHAPC (Appendix table 8.A6).

As figure 8.8 and Appendix table 8.A6 report, homeless clients staying on the streets or in other places not meant for human habitation are more likely than shelter and soup kitchen users to have ADM problems: about three-quarters of street stayers have past-month ADM problems while about two-thirds of shelter and soup kitchen users report having ADM problems in the same time period. This pattern holds for past-year and lifetime measures as well.

Levels of past incarceration or victimization also vary by program use. Shelter users are the least likely to report have ever been incarcerated (51 percent have been incarcerated) while street stayers and users of soup kitchens are the most likely (66 and 67 percent report this, respectively). Victimization patterns by client's program use differ depending on what type of victimization one examines. In general, shelter stayers appear to be less likely to have been victimized while homeless than street stayers when one examines all victimization categories except sexual assault. No significant difference exists between any of the program use categories when the incidence of sexual assault is examined.

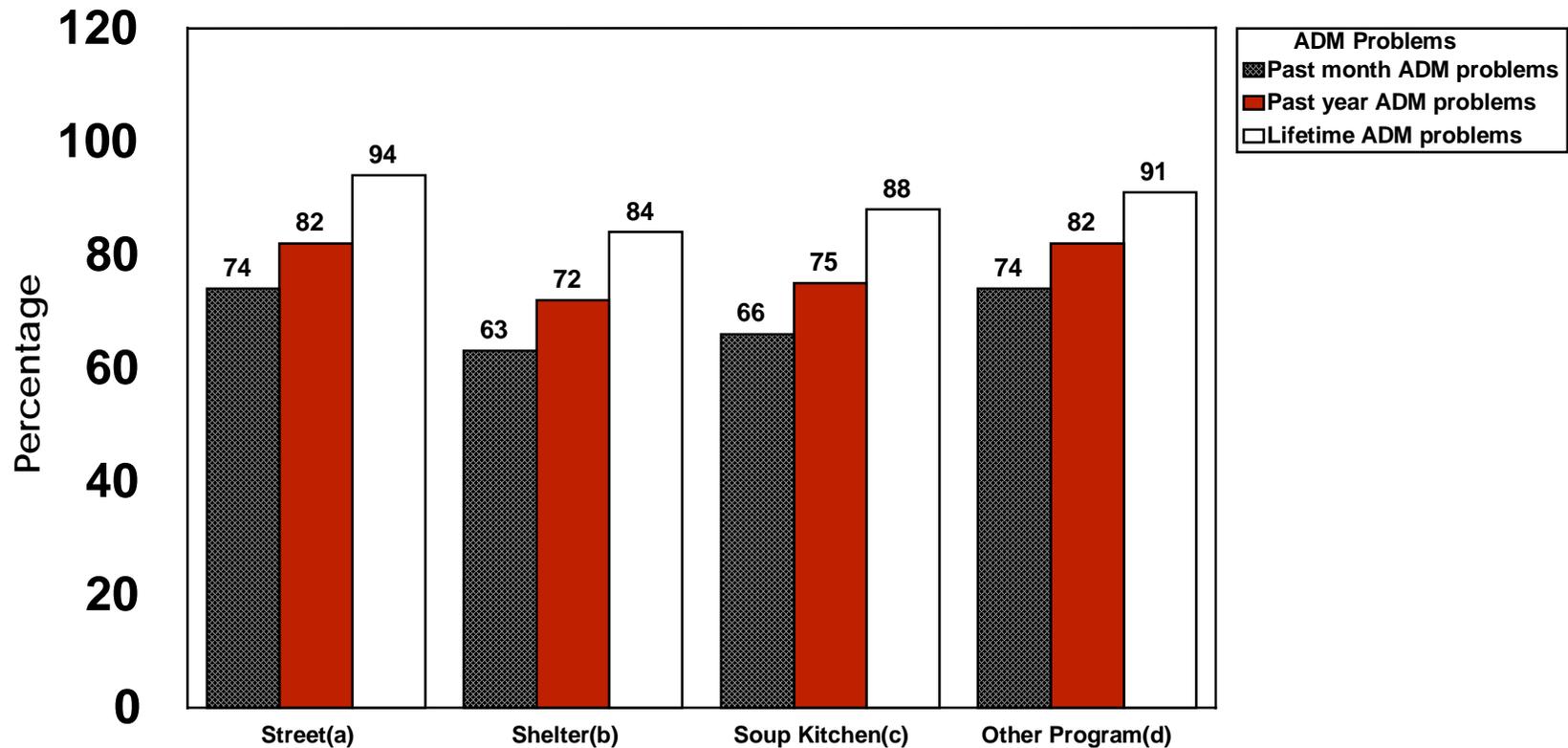
CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY HOMELESS CLIENTS AND OTHER SERVICE USERS COMPARED

As with currently homeless clients, formerly homeless clients have a very high incidence of ADM problems, incarceration, and victimization. By contrast, only a small proportion of other service users aged 65 and older have or have had these problems.¹⁰ Compared to their currently homeless counterparts, formerly homeless clients are less likely to have problems with alcohol and/or drugs but the shares with mental health problems are strikingly similar, and these patterns hold true for all three time periods examined.

In general, treatment for ADM problems is equally common among currently and formerly homeless clients. Currently homeless clients, however, are more likely than formerly homeless

¹⁰ See page 2-6 for the reasons why the group of other service users is split into two groups by age for textual discussions.

Figure 8.8
ADM Problems of Homeless Clients, by Program Use Pattern



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Numbers may not sum to 100% or other total due to rounding. (a) This includes clients who reported staying in the streets or other places not meant for human habitation (e.g., abandoned buildings, vehicles) on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview. (b) This includes clients who reported staying in a shelter on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview, or respondents who were found and interviewed for NSHAPC at a shelter. (c) This includes clients who reported using a soup kitchen during the seven days prior to the interview, respondents who were found and interviewed for NSHAPC at a soup kitchen. (d) This includes clients who reported using an other program (food pantry, mobile food, outreach drop-in center and/or permanent housing) during the seven days prior to the interview, or respondents who found and interviewed for NSHAPC at one of these programs.

clients to report using alcohol at an early age. Finally, a similar proportion of currently homeless and formerly homeless clients report being victimized while homeless.

Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADM) Problems

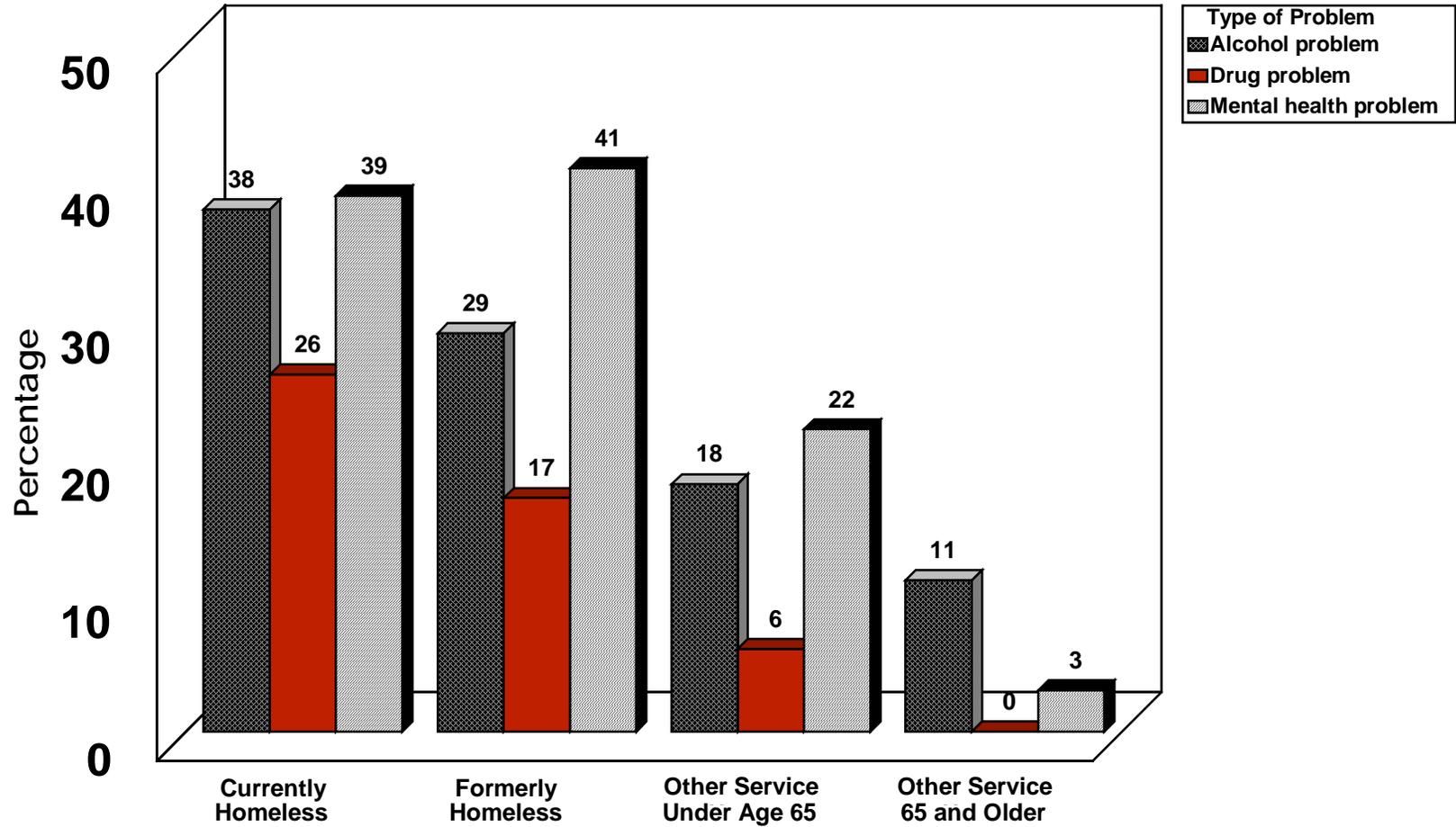
Among ever homeless clients, the share of currently and formerly homeless clients with mental health problems is very similar during all three time periods considered: during the past month, 39 percent of currently and 41 percent of formerly homeless clients have experienced some type of mental health problem. The corresponding figures for the past year and lifetime are 45 and 46 percent, and 57 and 60 percent, respectively. Other service users (of any age) are much less likely to report experiencing mental health problems. For example, only 22 percent of those under age 65 have a past-month mental health problem (table 8.7 and figure 8.9), a proportion that only increases to 27 percent and 36 percent for past-year and lifetime measures, respectively.

Among clients reporting any mental health problems in their lifetime, treatment experiences vary by homeless status. Formerly homeless clients with lifetime mental health problems are more likely than currently homeless clients or other service users 65 and older to have received outpatient treatment or counseling (68 percent versus 60 and 41 percent). In addition, 55 percent of formerly homeless clients with lifetime mental health problems received outpatient treatment or counseling in the past month, compared with 39 percent of currently homeless clients and 43 percent of other service users aged 64 and younger (43 percent). Treatment may be one of the services that helps clients leave homelessness and stay housed.

Measures of alcohol use also vary significantly by homeless status. Unlike mental health problems, measures of alcohol use and problems with alcohol are higher among currently than formerly homeless clients. Thirty-eight percent of currently homeless clients, for example, are classified as having an alcohol use problem in the past month, compared to 29 percent of formerly homeless clients. The corresponding figures for other service users are 11 to 18 percent (table 8.2 and figure 8.9). Likewise, 46 percent of currently homeless clients have experienced such a problem in the past year, while only 19 percent of other service users under 65 report similarly. Currently and formerly homeless clients are also more likely than other service users to have ever had an alcohol use problem (62 and 56 percent versus 31 to 38 percent, respectively).

The age at which a client started drinking alcohol to get drunk also varies by homeless status. Among clients who report ever drinking to get drunk on a regular basis, currently homeless clients are the most likely to report they first did so before they were 18 years old (23 percent versus 7 to 14 percent).

Figure 8.9
Past-Month ADM Problems, by Homeless Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

While currently homeless clients are more likely than their formerly homeless counterparts to have past alcohol problems, similar proportions of both groups who have such problems report ever being treated for alcohol abuse (43 and 44¹¹ percent) (table 8.3).

There are also large differences in drug use characteristics by homeless status. Use of specific drugs during the past month is too infrequent to permit assessment of differences among homeless status groups, but significant differences exist for past-year and lifetime use of some specific drugs (table 8.4). Within the past year, currently are more likely than formerly homeless clients to report using marijuana (26 versus 14 percent) and crack cocaine (19 versus 11 percent). Over their lifetime, currently homeless clients report significantly higher use of these two drugs and also of powder cocaine (29 versus 21 percent), stimulants (20 versus 13 percent), and hallucinogens (19 versus 11 percent). Both currently and formerly homeless clients report significantly higher use of these drugs than does either group of other service users.

As with alcohol, formerly homeless clients are less likely than their currently homeless counterparts to have problems related to drug use, and both groups of other service users are the least likely to have such problems. Twenty-six percent of currently homeless clients and 17 percent of formerly homeless clients have a past-month drug problem compared to 6 percent of other service users under 65 (table 8.4 and figure 8.9). Past-year measures show a similar pattern, with 38 percent of currently and 25 percent of formerly homeless clients reporting such problems. The differences are even greater when looking at lifetime drug problems. Currently homeless clients are the most likely to have ever experienced a drug problem (60 versus 8 to 49 percent) while other service users aged 65 and older are the least likely to have done so (8 versus 22 to 66 percent).

As with treatment for alcohol abuse, an equal proportion of currently (42 percent) and formerly homeless clients (46 percent) who have lifetime drug problems have received treatment for drug abuse at some time in their life. Both are higher than parallel rates for other service users of any age (table 8.6).

Co-Occurrence of ADM Problems. Significant differences also exist between currently and formerly homeless clients and other service users in the co-occurrence of ADM problems. Sixty-six percent of currently homeless clients and 59 percent of formerly homeless clients have at least one past-month ADM problem compared to 39 percent of other service users under 65 (table 8.7). Similar differences are found when looking at specific combinations of alcohol, drug, and mental health problems. These findings reflect the higher rates of alcohol and drug problems among currently homeless clients compared to formerly homeless clients and the comparable levels of mental health problems between the two groups. The only problem-specific ADM measure which is greater among formerly than among currently homeless clients is the share of clients who only have mental health problems (22 and 17 percent for past-month, 21 and

¹¹ 90% C.I.= ± 6 percentage points.

15 percent for past-year, and 17 and 10 percent for lifetime). Other service users are the most likely to report having no ADM problems over all three time periods.

Incarceration

Currently and formerly homeless clients are also more likely than other service users to report having ever been incarcerated (table 8.8). Fifty-four percent of currently homeless clients and 45 percent of formerly homeless clients have spent time in city or county jail, state or federal prison, or juvenile detention compared to only 19 percent of other service users under 65 and 4 percent of other service users aged 65 and older.

Victimization

The likelihood of being victimized while homeless is very similar for currently and formerly homeless clients (table 8.8). Forty-one percent of currently and 34 percent of formerly homeless clients indicate that they have had money or things stolen from them when these items were left unattended. Comparable proportions of both groups indicate that they have been sexually or physically assaulted while they were homeless.

Appendix Table 8.A1
Overview of Mental Health Characteristics of Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity				
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)	
Number of Mental or Emotional Conditions Experienced in Past Month as Reported on ASI/mh^a										
0	59(%)	65(%)	58(%)	42(%)	91(%)	51(%)	64(%)	59(%)	67(%)	
1	14	14	14	17	8	19	11	8	7	
2	11	12	11	17	1	12	9	19	15	
3 to 8	16	10	17	25	0	19	16	14	11	
Number of Mental or Emotional Conditions Experienced in Past Year as Reported on ASI/mh^a										
0	46	53	44	31	76	42	52	40	40	
1	16	16	16	15	17	16	14	10	33	
2	13	14	12	17	4	13	11	20	11	
3 to 8	26	16	27	37	3	29	24	30	16	
Number of Mental or Emotional Conditions Experienced in Lifetime as Reported on ASI/mh^a										
0	33	35	33	22	56	28	40	32	33	
1	12	15	12	11	16	12	12	9	21	
2	12	17	11	13	10	12	11	8	26	
3 to 8	42	33	44	54	19	49	38	51	21	
Above Cutoff on Modified ASI/mh Index for Mental Health Conditions										
	32	25	34	49	0	37	28	34	30	
Ever Received Outpatient Treatment or Counseling for Emotional or Mental Health Problems^b										
	60	65	59	60	63	70	50	49	55	
Number of Times in Lifetime^b										
1	22	21	22	20	33	19	29	Insufficient N		
2 to 3	23	47	19	23	26	22	25			
4 or more times	56	32	60	58	42	59	47			
Last Time Received Outpatient Treatment for Mental Health Problems^c										
Within the past month	39	40	38	46	0	38	33	Insufficient N		
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	11	8	11	11	11	9	11			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	7	8	6	7	3	8	6			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	8	4	9	8	8	8	9			
At least 2 years ago	36	40	35	28	78	37	41			
First Time Received Outpatient Treatment Before or After First Became Homeless^d										
Before	75	87	73	73	87	83	65	70	Insufficient N	
After	25	13	27	27	13	17	35	30		
Ever Hospitalized for Emotional or Mental Health Problems^e										
	40	26	42	41	34	47	33	40	21	
Number of Times in Lifetime^e										
1	33	Insufficient N		30	32	Insufficient N		32	40	Insufficient N
2 to 3	35			36	33	34	30			
4 or more times	32			34	35	34	30			
Last Time Hospitalized for Mental Health Problems^f										
Within the past month	7	Insufficient N		8	8	Insufficient N		8	7	Insufficient N
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	19			21	22	18	21			
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	9			8	9	7	12			
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	14			14	16	16	8			
At least 2 years ago	52			49	46	50	52			
First Time Hospitalized for Emotional or Mental Health Problems Before or After First Became Homeless^f										
Before	73	91	71	70	90	76	63	85	Insufficient N	
After	27	9	29	30	10	24	38	15		
Mental Health Problem in Past Month										
	39	36	40	59	0	46	33	39	32	
Mental Health Problem in Past Year										
	45	42	46	64	8	53	39	46	35	
Mental Health Problem in Lifetime										
	57	54	57	72	26	66	50	59	39	

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.
^aFrom questions 12.1b.1 through 12.1b.8 on the survey including the question on use of prescribed medications.
^bSignifies that the percentages accompanying these variables are only for clients who have had a mental health problem at some point in their lives.
^cAmong clients who have received outpatient treatment for a mental health problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question.
^dAmong clients who have been hospitalized for mental health problems at some point in their lives and responded to this question. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported. @ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A2

Alcohol Problems and History of Alcohol Use Among Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month [@]		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
Ever Drank Alcohol Three or More Times a Week	72(%)	51(%)	75(%)	83(%)	50(%)	73(%)	71(%)	66(%)	80(%)
Most Recent Time Drank Alcohol Three or More Times a Week^a									
Within the past 30 days	41	21	44	49	15	33	48	23	71
1 to 6 months ago	17	16	17	15	24	19	17	17	9
7 to 12 months ago	10	16	10	9	14	10	7	22	13
13 to 24 months ago	9	20	8	10	8	11	9	12	2
25 to 48 months ago	6	8	6	5	11	6	7	5	1
More than 4 years ago	16	21	16	13	27	21	13	20	4
Approximate Age When First Started Drinking Alcohol (Not Including Small Tastes)^a									
5 to 14	36	22	37	41	20	37	34	45	28
15 to 17	29	55	26	28	34	28	34	27	12
18 to 20	23	10	25	21	30	20	21	19	52
21 to 64	12	13	12	11	16	15	11	10	8
Ever Been Times When Drank Alcohol to Get Drunk Three or More Times a Week	59	40	62	73	31	63	53	54	77
Most Recent Time Drank Alcohol to Get Drunk Three or More Times a Week^b									
Within the past 30 days	29	Insufficient N	32	36	0	24	32	21	Insufficient N
1 to 6 months ago	14		14	13	17	17	13	13	
7 to 12 months ago	11		10	10	12	10	8	21	
13 to 24 months ago	11		10	12	6	13	11	13	
25 to 48 months ago	5		5	4	11	7	6	2	
More than 4 years ago	14		13	10	30	21	9	9	
Don't know/Refused	16		16	15	25	9	21	22	
Approximate Age When First Drank to Get Drunk Three or More Times a Week^b									
5 to 14	23	18	24	25	17	25	19	43	12
15 to 17	26	50	23	25	28	28	29	20	14
18 to 20	23	7	25	23	21	22	21	18	37
21 to 64	28	25	28	27	35	25	31	19	38
Above Cutoff on Modified ASI/a Index for Alcohol Problems	34	16	37	52	0	32	35	20	65
Number of Alcohol Problems Experienced in Lifetime^c									
0	42	66	37	27	70	40	47	42	21
1	8	9	8	7	9	6	10	12	2
2	7	7	7	7	7	9	7	2	5
3 to 8	44	19	48	59	14	46	37	44	73
Alcohol Problem in Past Month	38	18	41	57	0	35	39	24	68
Alcohol Problem in Past Year	46	26	49	64	10	45	44	39	73
Alcohol Problem in Lifetime	62	42	65	77	32	65	58	56	79

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.^aAmong clients who reported drinking three or more times a week at some point in their lives and responded to this question.^bAmong clients who reported drinking to get drunk three or more times a week at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^cFrom questions 13.7a through 13.7h of the survey. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported. [@]ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A3
Treatment for Alcohol Abuse Among Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
Ever Treated for Alcohol Abuse	26(%)	14(%)	29(%)	36(%)	7(%)	32(%)	19(%)	27(%)	34(%)
Ever Treated for Alcohol Abuse, Among Eligibles	43	33	44	47	20	50	33	48	43
Ever Received Inpatient Treatment for Alcohol Problems^a	36	31	36	40	17	44	28	46	22
Type of inpatient treatment^b									
Hospital based detox	55	30	58	56	49	49	67	70	Insufficient N
Other inpatient detox	26	30	25	25	33	30	22	16	
Hospital based inpatient other than detox	14	4	15	14	14	16	13	7	
Jail or prison program	13	1	14	13	5	17	5	15	
Therapeutic community	16	18	16	16	11	23	7	2	
Halfway house	16	28	15	16	14	21	7	7	
Juvenile treatment program	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	
Other short-term residential	13	19	13	13	14	13	16	7	
Other long-term residential	9	8	9	9	8	11	7	7	
Other	5	*	6	5	6	6	6	3	
Number of Times Received Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol in Lifetime^b									
1	35	Insufficient N	35	34	Insufficient N	37	28	Insufficient N	Insufficient N
2	21		19	21		19	23		
3 to 40	42		43	43		40	48		
Too many to remember	3		3	3		3	2		
Time Since Received Last Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^b									
Within the past month	12	Insufficient N	13	13	Insufficient N	13	11	Insufficient N	Insufficient N
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	12		13	12		13	12		
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	22		21	23		21	20		
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	13		12	14		7	21		
At least 2 years ago	42		42	39		46	36		
Ever Received Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^a	29	24	29	33	9	34	22	25	34
Type of outpatient treatment^c									
Outpatient detoxification	36	Insufficient N	36	37	Insufficient N	23	40	Insufficient N	Insufficient N
Individual counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist	46		46	46		40	31		
Alcoholics Anonymous	65		65	65		77	53		
Other self-help group	17		17	17		17	19		
Employee assistance program	4		4	4		6	2		
Other	14		15	14		19	12		
Does not recall type of treatment facility	*		*	*		*	*		
Number of Times Received Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^c									
1	33	Insufficient N	33	32	Insufficient N	24	39	Insufficient N	Insufficient N
2	16		17	16		20	19		
3 to 40	30		30	29		30	27		
Too many to remember	22		19	23		26	15		
Time Since Received Last Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Alcohol^c									
Within the past month	34	Insufficient N	30	35	Insufficient N	40	28	Insufficient N	Insufficient N
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	20		22	21		15	15		
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	12		12	12		9	18		
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	10		10	10		6	16		
At least 2 years ago	25		26	22		30	23		

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. ^aSignifies that the percentages accompanying these variables are only for clients who have had an alcohol problem at some point in their lives. ^bAmong clients who have received inpatient treatment for an alcohol problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^cAmong clients who have received outpatient treatment for an alcohol problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported. @ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A4
Drug Use Problems and History of Drug Use Among Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
Ever Used Drugs	60(%)	50(%)	61(%)	71(%)	38(%)	53(%)	70(%)	58(%)	43(%)
Approximate Age When First Started Using Drugs^a									
5 to 14	31	23	32	34	21	34	25	48	Insufficient N
15 to 17	32	50	30	31	37	36	33	26	
18 to 20	15	11	16	14	18	16	12	15	
21 to 64	22	17	22	21	24	15	30	12	
Ever Used Drugs Regularly (Three or More Times a Week)	57	46	58	69	34	50	68	55	35
Approximate Age When First Started Using Drugs Regularly (Three or More Times a Week)^b									
5 to 14	20	8	22	21	15	24	12	37	Insufficient N
15 to 17	26	33	25	25	31	31	21	33	
18 to 20	18	21	18	16	26	21	18	13	
21 to 64	36	38	35	38	28	24	50	18	
Above Cutoff on Modified ASI/d Index for Drug Problems	7	3	8	11	0	6	9	8	1
Number of Drug Problems Experienced in Lifetime^c									
0	52	63	50	41	73	56	43	54	73
1	7	5	7	6	8	6	9	3	3
2	7	6	7	8	5	7	9	8	1
3 to 7	34	27	36	44	14	31	40	34	23
Drug Problem in Past Month	26	20	27	39	0	19	35	31	12
Drug Problem in Past Year	38	27	39	51	11	30	49	41	15
Drug Problem in Lifetime	58	50	59	69	36	52	70	59	30

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.^aAmong clients who reported using drugs at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^bAmong clients who reported using drugs regularly at some point in their lives and responded to this question.

^cFrom questions 13.18a through 13.18h of the survey. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported.

@ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A5
 Treatment for Drug Abuse among Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
Ever Treated for Drug Abuse	25(%)	24(%)	25(%)	32(%)	9(%)	21(%)	31(%)	20(%)	13(%)
Ever Treated for Drug Abuse, Among Eligibles	42	48	42	47	25	40	45	34	43
Received Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^a	36	37	36	41	16	33	39	30	42
Type of treatment^b									
Hospital based detox	46	27	49	46	43	45	49	38	Insufficient N
Other inpatient detox	30	23	31	30	26	34	32	14	
Hospital based inpatient other than detox	14	5	15	13	17	16	14	6	
Jail or prison program	15	1	17	16	7	18	11	35	
Therapeutic community	15	27	13	15	14	21	10	12	
Halfway house	16	32	14	17	10	28	10	8	
Juvenile treatment program	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	7	
Other short-term residential	15	9	16	15	17	21	15	5	
Other long-term residential	14	19	13	14	9	14	13	19	
Other	5	*	6	5	5	4	6	4	
Does not recall type of treatment facility	*	0	*	*	0	0	*	0	
Number of Times Received Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^b									
1	37	Insufficient N	36	36	Insufficient N	38	37	Insufficient N	
2	24		24	22		22	25		
3 or more	38		39	40		37	37		
Too many to remember	1		1	2		3	1		
Time Since Received Last Inpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^b									
Within the past month	17	Insufficient N	15	18	Insufficient N	23	13	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	15		15	15		15	13		
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	14		13	15		7	15		
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	14		15	14		9	16		
At least 2 years ago	41		41	38		46	43		
Received Outpatient Care for Problems with Drugs^a	27	28	27	30	14	26	29	20	31
Type of outpatient treatment^c									
Outpatient detoxification	30	33	30	28	Insufficient N	25	33	Insufficient N	
Methadone detoxification	5	0	6	6		5	6		
Methadone maintenance	7	14	5	6		10	3		
Other outpatient detoxification	7	1	8	7		8	7		
Outpatient drug free program	27	27	27	27		28	29		
Employee assistance program	1	*	2	2		1	2		
Individual counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist	33	19	35	35		41	29		
Narcotics anonymous	39	13	43	41		41	36		
Other self-help group	17	28	15	18		15	20		
Other	14	4	16	15		19	13		
Does not recall type of treatment facility	*	2	*	*		1	*		
Number of Times Received Outpatient Treatment for Problems with Drugs^c									
1	33	Insufficient N	33	33	Insufficient N	34	36	Insufficient N	
2	17		17	17		14	21		
3 or more	38		39	37		40	34		
Too many to remember	12		11	12		13	8		
Time Since Received Last Outpatient Treatments for Problems with Drugs^c									
Within the past month	37	Insufficient N	33	42	Insufficient N	38	35	Insufficient N	
At least 1 month but less than 6 months ago	14		15	14		20	11		
At least 6 months but less than 12 months ago	8		8	7		4	10		
At least 1 year but less than 2 years ago	13		14	13		3	21		
At least 2 years ago	29		31	24		36	24		

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. ^aSignifies that the percentages accompanying these variables are only for clients who have had a drug problem at some point in their lives. ^bAmong clients who have received inpatient treatment for a drug problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. ^cAmong clients who have received outpatient treatment for a drug problem at some point in their lives and responded to this question. Insufficient N signifies that sample size was too small for data to be reported. @ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A6
Current and Lifetime Use of Specific Drugs Used by Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
Regular Use of Specified Drug(s) in Past Month									
Marijuana/Hashish	14(%)	10(%)	15(%)	21(%)	0(%)	10(%)	19(%)	20(%)	2(%)
Inhalants (glue, amyl nitrite, poppers, aerosol sprays)	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	*
Crack/Rock	9	1	10	13	0	4	15	8	5
Powdered Cocaine	3	*	4	5	0	2	3	4	4
Heroin	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	4	0
Methodone	1	2	1	2	0	2	*	2	*
Other opiates/analgesics (Darvon, Demerol, Talwin, Talacen)	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	5	0
Stimulants (amphetamines, crystal, Preludin, uppers, speed)	1	*	2	2	0	2	*	3	*
Barbituates	1	0	1	2	0	1	*	6	0
Other sedatives (sleeping pills, Seconal)	1	*	1	1	0	1	1	3	0
Hypnotics/Tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, benzodiazepine)	2	2	1	2	0	2	1	*	0
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, peyote, mescaline, ecstasy, angel dust)	1	0	1	1	0	1	*	*	3
Any other drug	2	*	3	3	1	3	2	4	1
Regular Use of Specified Drug(s) in Past Year									
Marijuana/Hashish	26	17	27	34	9	22	32	31	5
Inhalants (glue, amyl nitrite, poppers, aerosol sprays)	2	*	2	2	1	2	2	1	*
Crack/Rock	19	7	20	26	4	12	30	11	9
Powdered Cocaine	10	5	11	14	2	9	11	9	5
Heroin	5	3	6	8	1	5	5	8	4
Methodone	2	2	2	3	1	4	1	3	*
Other opiates/analgesics (Darvon, Demerol, Talwin, Talacen)	3	*	4	4	1	5	2	5	*
Stimulants (amphetamines, crystal, Preludin, uppers, speed)	6	1	6	8	1	8	1	14	3
Barbituates	4	*	4	5	*	5	1	7	*
Other sedatives (sleeping pills, Seconal)	4	1	4	5	1	5	2	6	*
Hypnotics/Tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, benzodiazepine)	4	2	5	6	1	6	3	6	*
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, peyote, mescaline, ecstasy, angel dust)	3	*	4	5	1	5	2	4	5
Any other drug	2	1	3	3	1	3	2	4	1
Regular Use of Specified Drug(s) in Lifetime									
Marijuana/Hashish	52	41	54	61	33	46	61	55	25
Inhalants (glue, amyl nitrite, poppers, aerosol sprays)	8	5	9	11	3	10	6	14	2
Crack/Rock	29	21	30	37	11	18	43	23	18
Powdered Cocaine	29	21	30	37	12	26	34	31	18
Heroin	13	7	14	17	5	12	15	11	5
Methodone	6	5	6	8	2	7	5	5	4
Other opiates/analgesics (Darvon, Demerol, Talwin, Talacen)	10	7	10	14	2	13	7	9	13
Stimulants (amphetamines, crystal, Preludin, uppers, speed)	20	15	20	25	9	26	13	22	18
Barbituates	13	6	14	18	4	17	9	13	16
Other sedatives (sleeping pills, Seconal)	11	9	11	15	2	15	7	10	12
Hypnotics/Tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, benzodiazepine)	12	6	13	17	3	13	11	13	13
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, peyote, mescaline, ecstasy, angel dust)	19	10	20	25	8	25	13	15	20
Any other drug	4	1	4	5	1	7	1	1	7

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. * Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. @ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A7
Overview of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Problems of Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
Problems in Past Month									
Alcohol Problems	38(%)	18(%)	41(%)	57(%)	0(%)	35(%)	39(%)	24(%)	68(%)
Drug Problems	26	20	27	39	0	19	35	31	12
Mental Health Problems	39	36	40	59	0	46	33	39	32
Specific Combinations									
Alcohol problem only	13	4	15	20	0	11	13	8	38
Drug problem only	7	5	7	10	0	4	8	17	*
Mental health problem only	17	21	16	25	0	23	12	20	5
Alcohol and drug problems	7	4	8	11	0	5	11	2	4
Alcohol and mental health problems	10	5	11	15	0	12	6	8	19
Drug and mental health problems	5	6	5	7	0	4	7	6	*
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	8	5	8	11	0	7	8	6	8
No ADM problems	34	51	31	1	100	35	34	34	26
Problems in Past Year									
Alcohol Problems	46	26	49	64	10	45	44	39	73
Drug Problems	38	27	39	51	11	30	49	41	15
Mental Health Problems	45	42	46	64	8	53	39	46	35
Specific Combinations									
Alcohol problem only	12	5	13	15	6	11	8	8	39
Drug problem only	7	6	7	7	7	3	11	10	1
Mental health problem only	15	22	14	20	6	20	11	18	5
Alcohol and drug problems	10	6	11	14	3	6	16	12	4
Alcohol and mental health problems	10	6	11	15	1	13	6	9	19
Drug and mental health problems	7	6	7	10	1	6	9	9	1
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	14	9	15	20	1	15	14	10	10
No ADM problems	26	40	23	0	77	27	26	25	22
Problems in Lifetime									
Alcohol Problems	62	42	65	77	32	65	58	56	79
Drug Problems	58	50	59	69	36	52	70	59	30
Mental Health Problems	57	54	57	72	26	66	50	59	39
Specific Combinations									
Alcohol problem only	9	3	10	9	9	9	4	6	38
Drug problem only	6	5	6	3	10	2	10	8	*
Mental health problem only	10	16	9	10	11	14	7	10	5
Alcohol and drug problems	15	11	15	16	13	11	21	11	7
Alcohol and mental health problems	9	5	10	12	2	13	5	8	11
Drug and mental health problems	8	11	8	9	5	7	10	9	*
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	30	23	31	40	8	32	28	31	22
No ADM problems	14	27	12	0	42	12	15	17	16

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

* Denotes values that are less than .5 percent but greater than 0. @ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 8.A8
**Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADM) Problems, Incarceration and
Victimization of Homeless Clients, by Program Use**

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Program Used Over the Past Week or Day of Interview			
		Street ^a (N=768)	Shelter ^b (N=2352)	Soup Kitchen ^c (N=1727)	Other Program ^d (N=909)
Past Month ADM Problems					
Alcohol problem only	13(%)	13(%)	13(%)	14(%)	12(%)
Drug problem only	7	11	5	7	10
Mental health problem only	17	12	18	12	15
Alcohol and drug problems	7	7	7	9	6
Alcohol and mental health problems	10	14	9	9	15
Drug and mental health problems	5	6	4	7	6
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	8	12	7	9	10
No ADM problems	34	26	37	34	26
Past Year ADM Problems					
Alcohol problem only	12	12	11	11	10
Drug problem only	7	8	5	6	12
Mental health problem only	15	10	17	10	13
Alcohol and drug problems	10	11	11	14	9
Alcohol and mental health problems	10	16	8	11	15
Drug and mental health problems	7	8	6	9	8
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	14	17	14	14	16
No ADM problems	26	18	28	25	18
Lifetime ADM Problems					
Alcohol problem only	9	9	9	8	6
Drug problem only	6	7	5	7	6
Mental health problem only	10	5	12	6	9
Alcohol and drug problems	15	17	13	17	17
Alcohol and mental health problems	9	13	8	9	14
Drug and mental health problems	8	11	6	10	9
Alcohol, drug, and mental health problems	30	33	31	30	30
No ADM problems	14	6	16	12	9
Spent Time Incarcerated	54	66	51	67	58
While Homeless, People:					
Stole money or things directly from you while you were there	38	45	38	41	39
Stole money or things from your bags, locker, etc., while you were gone	41	47	39	44	48
Physically assaulted you, beat you up	22	31	22	23	28
Sexually assaulted you, raped you	7	8	7	6	8

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. ^aThis includes clients who reported staying in the streets or other places not meant for human habitation (e.g., abandoned buildings, vehicles) on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview. ^bThis includes clients who reported staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing program or voucher program on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview, or clients who were selected for the study at one of these programs. ^cThis includes clients who reported using a soup kitchen during the seven days prior to the interview, or clients who were found and interviewed for NSHAPC at a soup kitchen. ^dThis includes clients who reported using an other program (food pantry, mobile food, outreach, drop-in center and/or permanent housing) during the seven days prior to the interview, or clients who were found and interviewed for NSHAPC at one of these programs.

Appendix Table 8.A9

Incarceration and Victimization of Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month@		Race/Ethnicity			
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)
History of Incarceration									
5 or more days in a city or county jail	49(%)	21(%)	53(%)	56(%)	33(%)	44(%)	51(%)	38(%)	76(%)
5 or more days in a military jail/lock-up	4	1	4	5	2	4	4	1	3
State or federal prison	18	5	21	22	10	14	24	13	18
Juvenile detention before age 18	16	11	17	18	11	16	15	15	19
Spent Time Incarcerated	54	29	58	63	37	49	57	42	81
While Homeless, People:									
Stole money or things directly from you while you were there	38	22	41	46	21	37	37	32	58
Stole money or things from your bags, locker, etc., while you were gone	41	31	43	48	27	41	41	36	54
Physically assaulted you, beat you up	22	14	24	27	13	25	19	20	34
Sexually assaulted you, raped you	7	8	6	8	4	7	5	9	8

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. @ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.