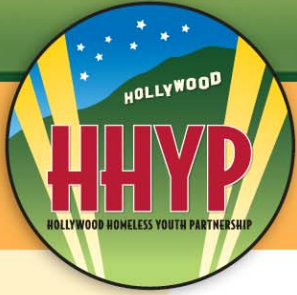


**Homeless Youth in Hollywood
HIV and HIV Risk: Implications
for Prevention**

August 4, 2011

Arlene Schneir, MPH
Division of Adolescent Medicine
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

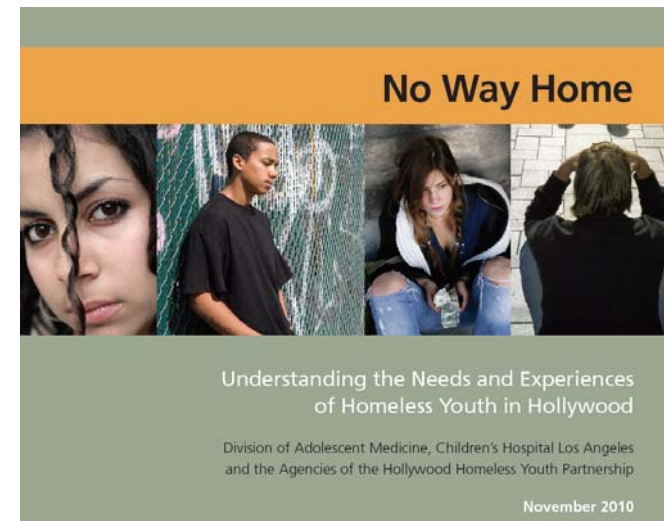


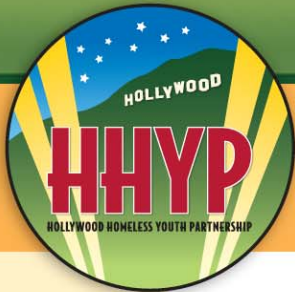
Acknowledgements

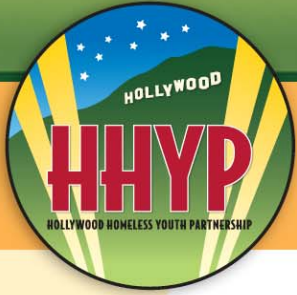
No Way Home: Understanding the Needs and Experiences of Homeless Youth in Hollywood

- Susan Rabinovitz, RN, MPH
- Mona Desai, MPH
- Arlene Schneir, MPH
- Leslie Clark, PhD, MPH

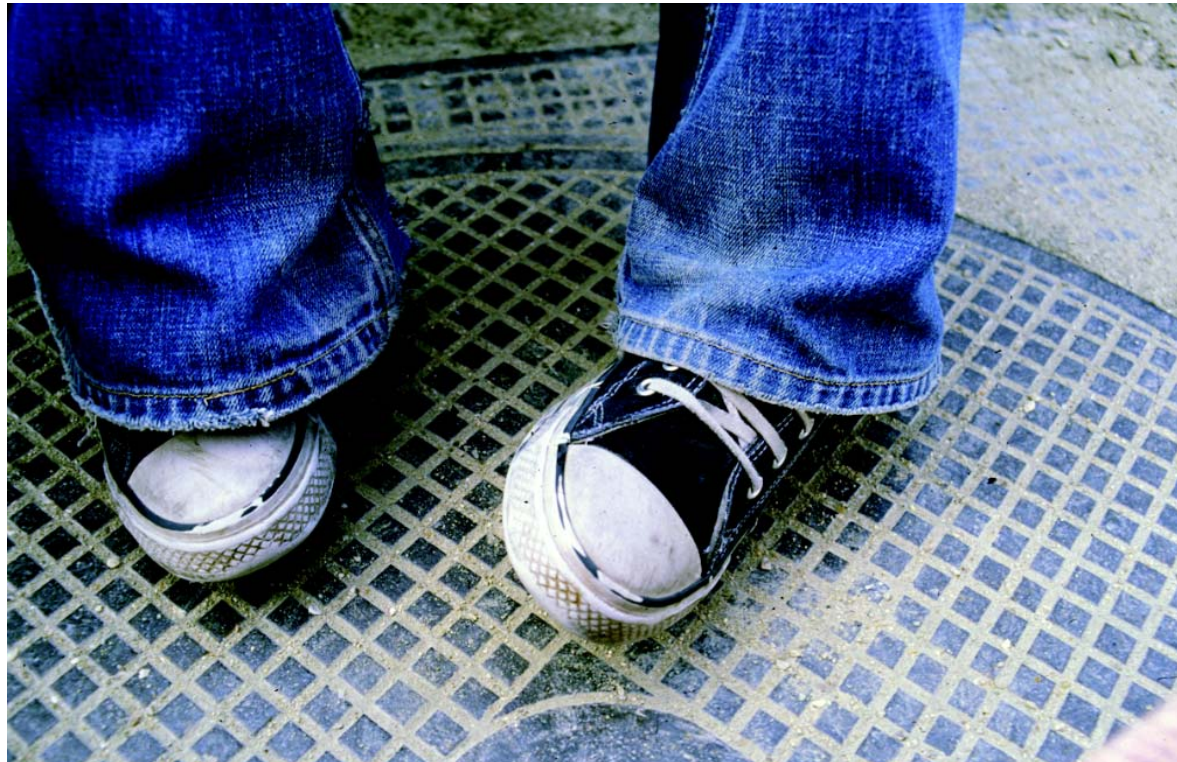
Funded by The California
Endowment and the California
Wellness Foundation

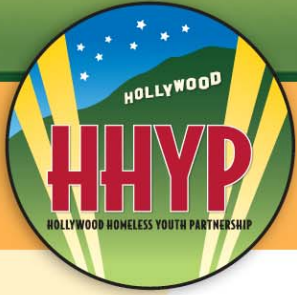






Pathways to Homelessness

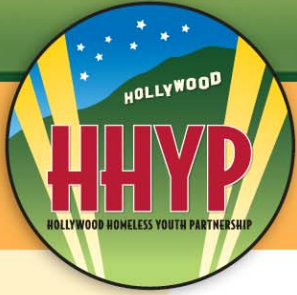




Overview of Needs Assessment

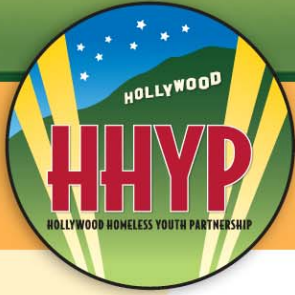
- Project of the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership (HHYP)
- Survey with homeless youth
- Focus groups with homeless youth
- Qualitative interviews with homeless youth





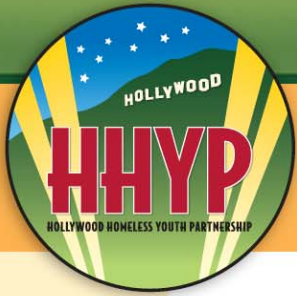
Goals of Needs Assessment

- Characterize homeless youth in Hollywood;
- Assess the adequacy of existing services and use data to;
 - Make agency changes in programming;
 - implement network improvements;
 - Develop recommendations for public agencies and policy makers



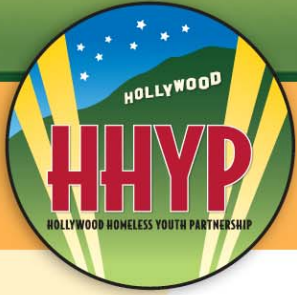
Creating the Survey Instrument

- Convened data committee
- Used a participatory process
- Selected questions from existing surveys
- Selected standardized measures



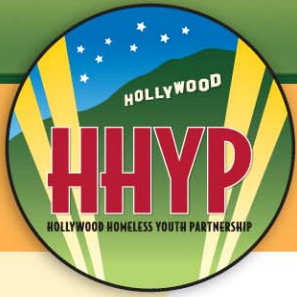
Ensuring the Value of Questions

- Vetted the survey among agencies
- Distributed the survey to 22 stakeholders
- Secured feedback from elected officials
- Received feedback from Departments of Probation, Mental Health, and Children and Family Services, and County Office of Education
- Received feedback from other researchers in the field



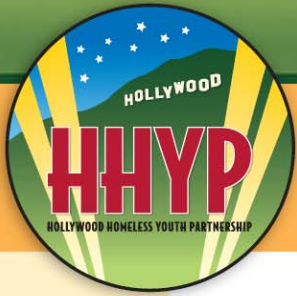
Survey Methodology

- 2/07 -7/07, CHLA recruited homeless youth for an hour-long computer assisted survey
- 3/08 – 6/08 conducted 19 focus groups with 137 youth
- 6/08 – 10/08 conducted 53 qualitative interviews
- Eligibility: homeless or at risk of being homeless (precariously housed, couch-surfing, etc.) and ages 12 through 25



Implementing the Survey

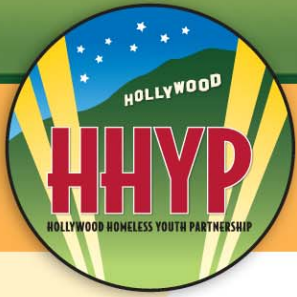
- Recruited youth from “fixed” sites (shelters, drop-in centers, TLPs) and “natural” sites (corners, parks, restaurants)
- Screened 642 youth; 532 eligible youth
- 413 completed surveys; 78% response rate
- Final sample = 389 youth



Supplemental Data

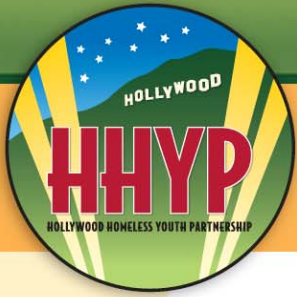
Additional needs assessment conducted in Spring 2009

- **110 homeless youth ages 18 – 24**
 - homeless in the past 6 months
 - report sexual activity in the last 90 days
 - Recruited from agencies only (no street recruitment)
 - Q focused on substance use, sexual risk, HIV testing behaviors, ethnic and LGBT identity, future planning
- **Surveys and focus group with providers**

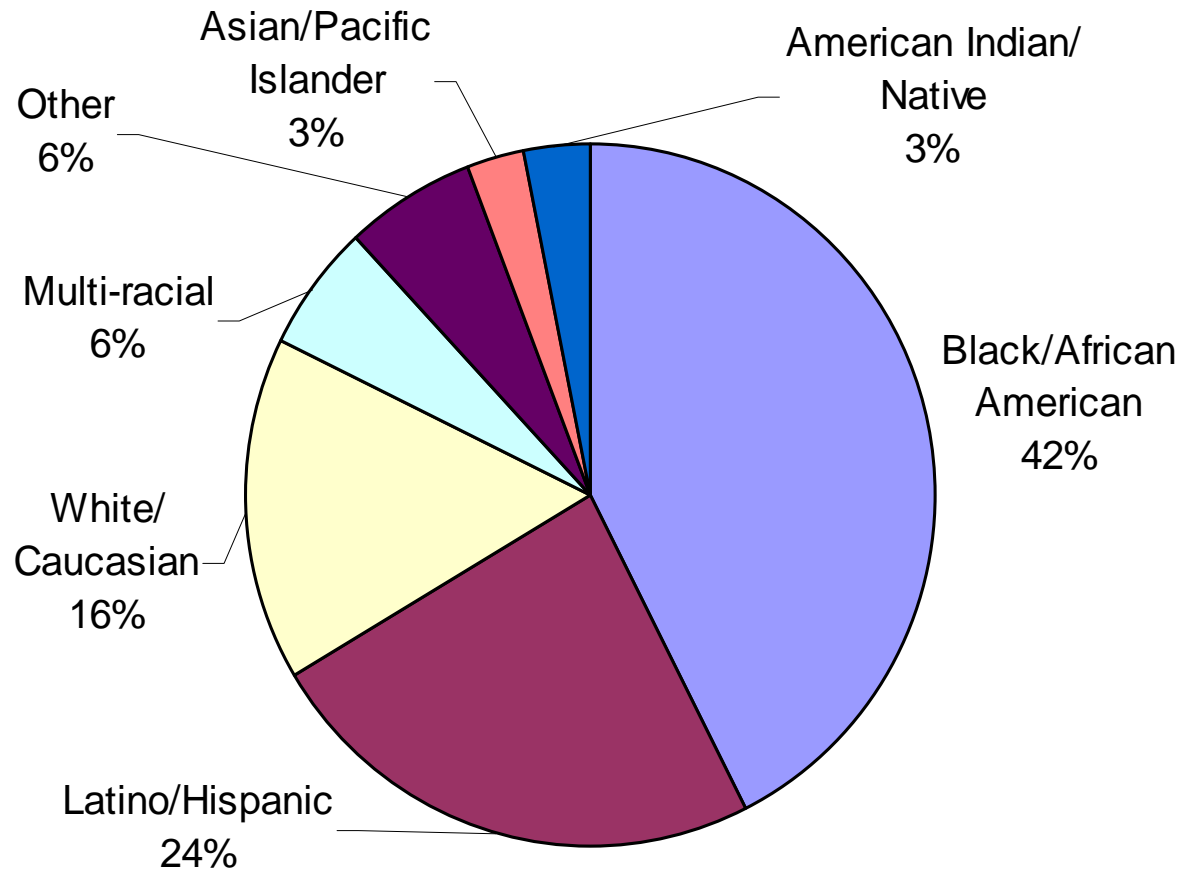


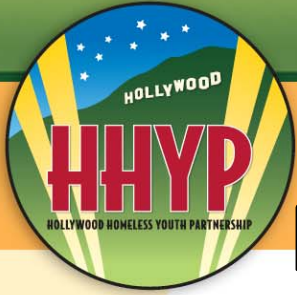
General Findings



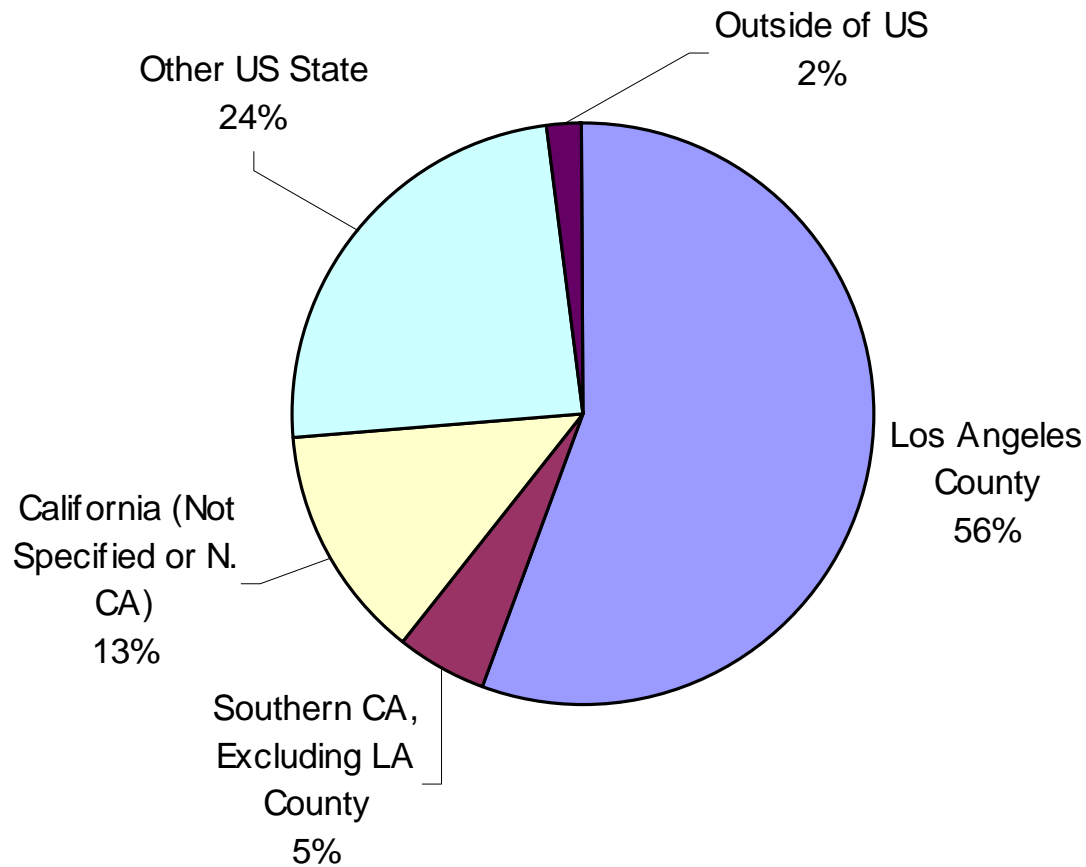


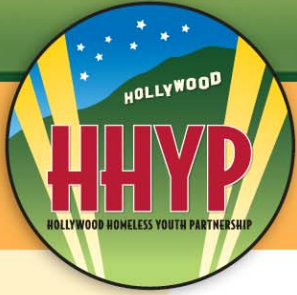
Race and Ethnic Breakdown





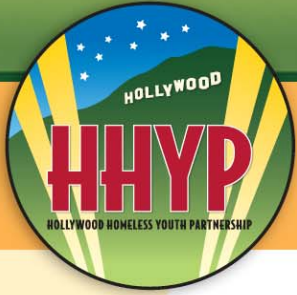
Home Prior to First Episode of Homelessness





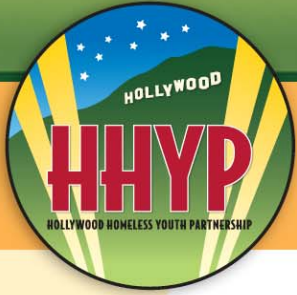
Characteristics of Homeless Youth

- 14.4 Years- Average age first left home
- 2.8 Years – Average total amount of time homeless
- 40% of youth reported 6 or more episodes of homelessness



Reasons for Leaving Home

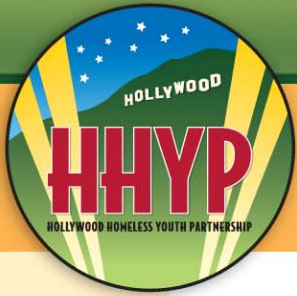
- Family Reasons – 78%
- Personal Reasons – 74%
- Economic Reasons – 39%
- Safety Reasons – 27%



LGBTQ Youth

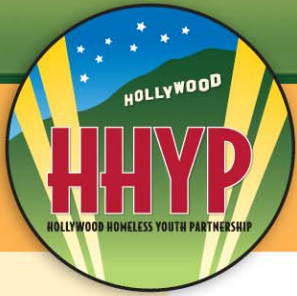
- 23% gay or lesbian
- 13% Bisexual
- 4% Not Sure/Undecided

- 5% transgender
- 3% unsure/questioning or use other terms for gender



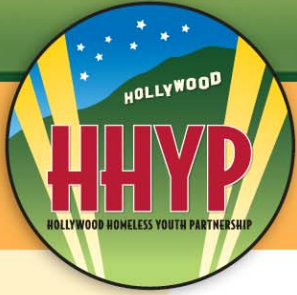
Housing Status/Homelessness Hx

- 61% of youth had stayed in a shelter, group home, or transitional living program at least once in the last 30 days
- 58% had slept on the street at least one night in the past 30 days
- 25% spent previous night in a place not meant for human habitation



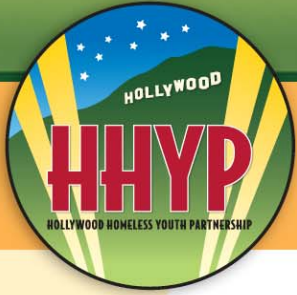
Family Breakdown

- 45% had witnessed physical abuse between their parents or caregivers
- 56% reported that their parents drank heavily or had problems with alcohol
- 41% reported that their parents used illegal drugs
- 69% were victims of any type of child abuse (verbal, physical, or sexual) and/or neglect



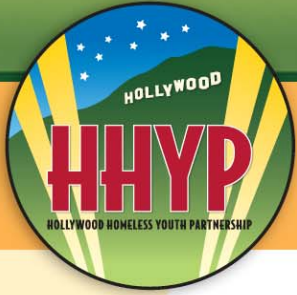
CPS Involvement

- 48% reported involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS)
- 40% of the total sample reported being removed from their home by CPS
- Mean age when removed from home = 9.32
- Youth had been in multiple placements
- 77% of those who were removed from home by CPS went AWOL from their group, foster, or relatives home (n=157)



Criminal Justice Involvement

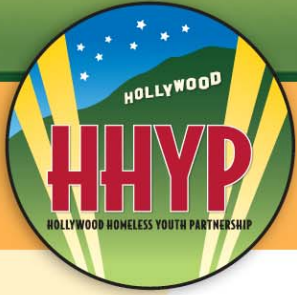
- 70% reported involvement in the criminal justice system
 - 47% had been on probation at some point in their lives
 - 44% had a history of incarceration as a juvenile and/or an adult
 - 16% had a history of incarceration as a juvenile (excluding juvenile detention)
 - 39% had a history of incarceration as an adult
 - 14% had outstanding warrants.



Mental Health

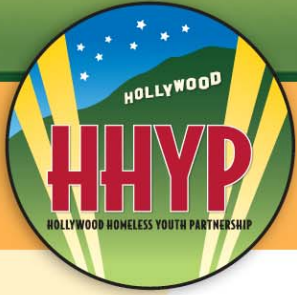
- 49% met criteria for clinical depression
- 31% of youth reported self-injurious behavior (ever)
- 18% met criteria for PTSD





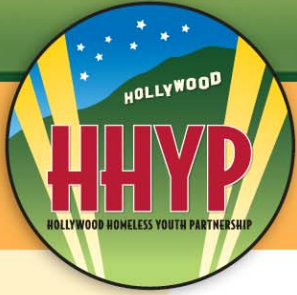
Substance Use

- 15% report hard drug use (cocaine, heroin, and/or meth) in the past 30 days
- 12% reported injection drug use (ever)



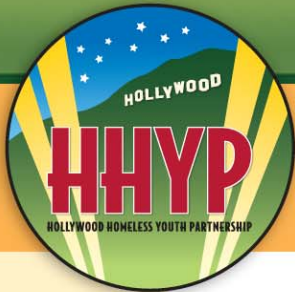
Sexual Risk

- 16% reported involvement in survival sex in last 3 months
- 13% reported being forced into prostitution by parent or other adult
- 39% reported consistent condom use
- 55% reported condom use at last sex
- 22% reported never using condoms

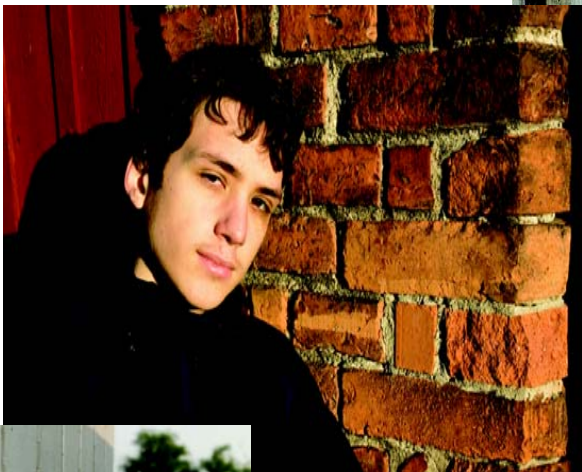


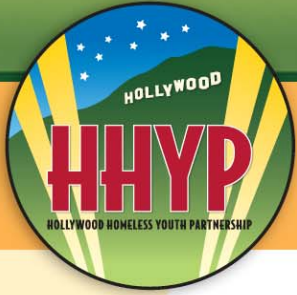
Unprotected Sex Last 90 Days

	Total % (n=110)	MSM % (n=28)	Non-MSM % (n=82)
Oral Sex	72%	78%	70%
Vaginal Sex *	49%	7%	63%
Receptive Anal Sex*	25%	46%	17%
Insertive Anal Sex *	24%	50%	14%
Vaginal / Anal Sex	67%	57%	71%



Youth Most At Risk of Poor Outcomes

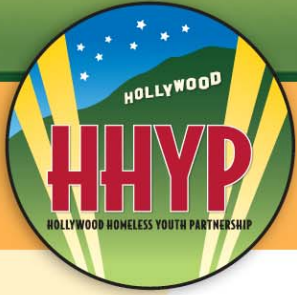




Older Youth

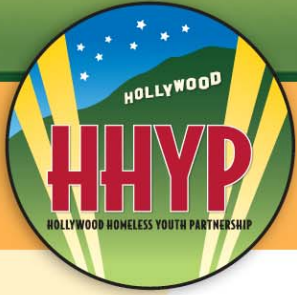
- More likely to have slept on the street in last 30 days
- More likely to have been robbed, physically assaulted, and threatened with a weapon
- More likely to have experienced partner violence





African American Youth

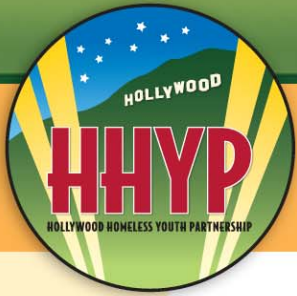
- More likely to have been in juvenile detention, youth camp
- More likely to have been incarcerated before becoming homeless
- More likely to have ever been a gang member



GLBT Youth

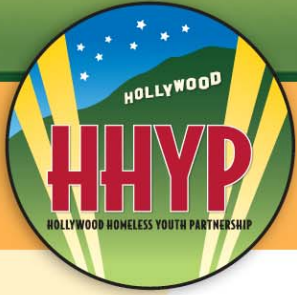
- More likely to have been physically and sexually abused
- More likely to have used hard drugs in last 12 months
- More likely to have engaged in survival sex
- More likely to have been victimized while homeless





Slept on Street in Last 30 Days

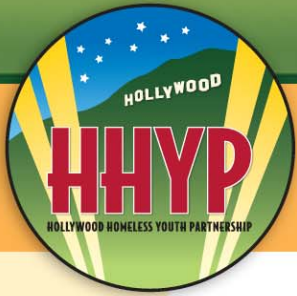
- Had a greater number of episodes of homelessness (9 episodes vs. 4 episodes)
- More likely to have mental health issues
- **More likely to have significant substance abuse issues**
- **More likely to engage in survival sex**
- More likely to have criminal justice involvement



CPS History

More likely to:

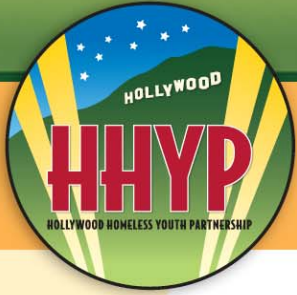
- Become homeless or left home at a younger age
- Report more episodes of homelessness
- Have slept on the street in the past 30 days
- Have mental health issues
- **Have engaged in survival sex**
- Report educational problems
- Be engaged in the street economy
- Have criminal justice involvement



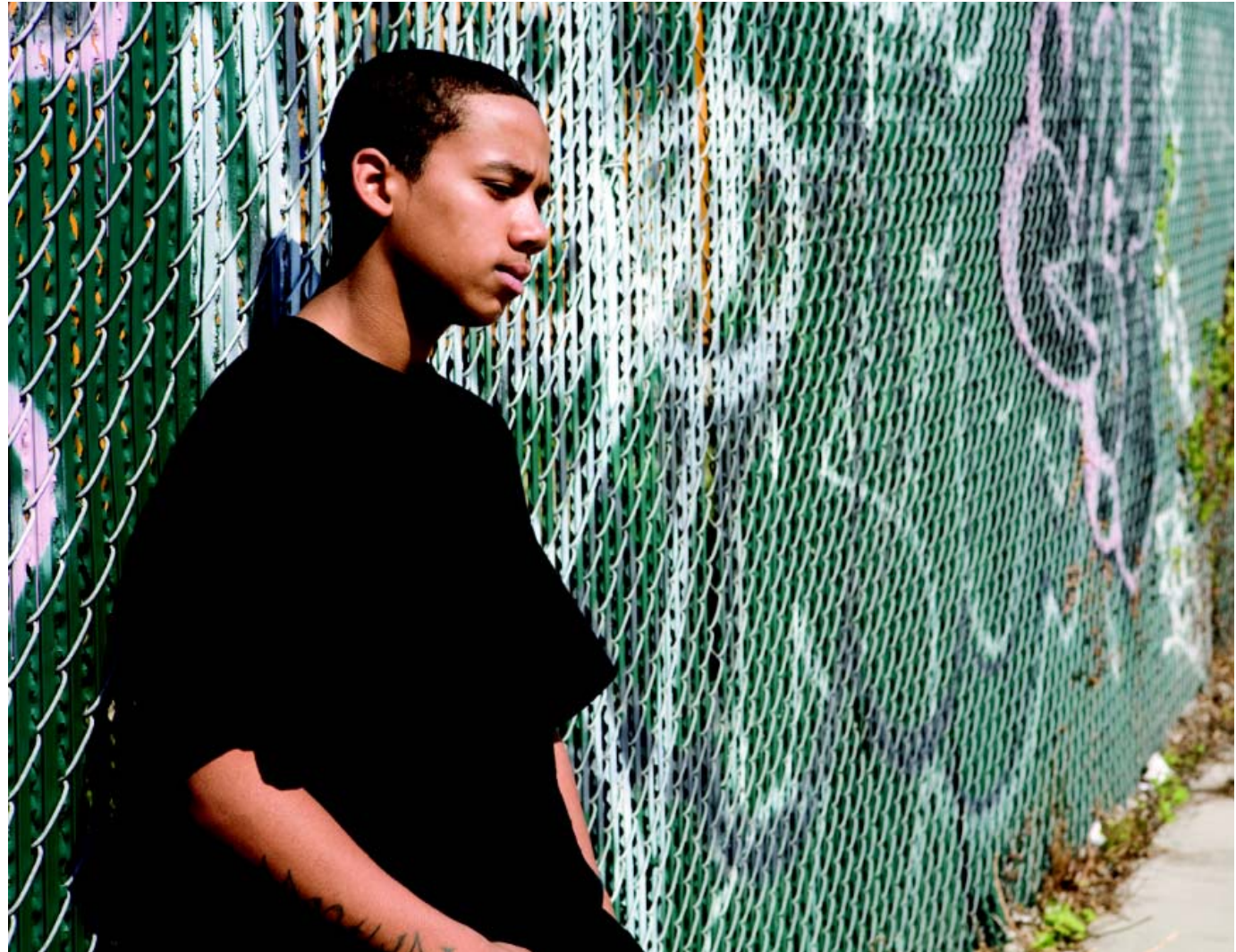
History of Incarceration

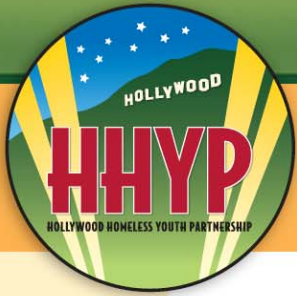
More likely to:

- Have more homeless episodes
- Have spent a night on the street
- **Have mental health and substance abuse issues**
- **Have engaged in survival sex**
- Report past school problems
- Be engaged in the street economy
- Be victimized
- Have been threatened with a weapon and to carry a weapon



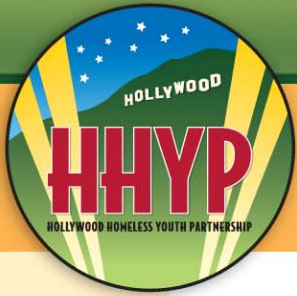
Findings Regarding HIV Testing and Risk





HIV Testing

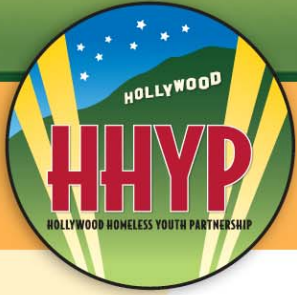
- Ever Tested for HIV = 39%
- Tested for HIV in last year = 32%
- No differences by race/ethnicity for “ever testing”
- No differences by sexual orientation or gender for testing (either variable)
- African American youth were more likely to have been tested for HIV in the last year than non-AA youth (35% vs. 30%)



HIV Sexual Risk Behavior- MSM

61 MSM in the total sample

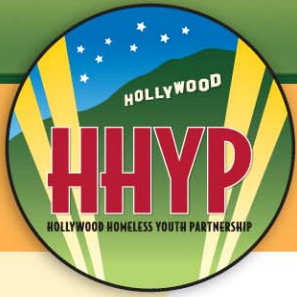
- 55% reported ever exchanging sex for money
- 35% reported consistent condom use
- African American MSM youth reported significantly lower number of lifetime male sexual partners than non-AA MSM youth (15 vs. 31.4)
- AA MSM reported greater use of sexual health services than non AA MSM



HIV Sexual Risk Behavior - Females

123 Females in the total sample

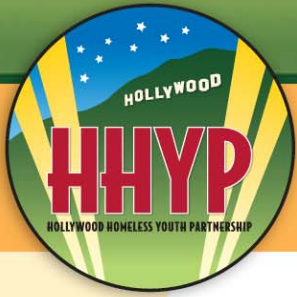
- 15% reported ever engaging in exchanging sex for money/goods
- 37% reported consistent condom use (ever)
- AA females reported greater use of total services than non-AA females.



HIV Sexual Risk – Heterosexual Males

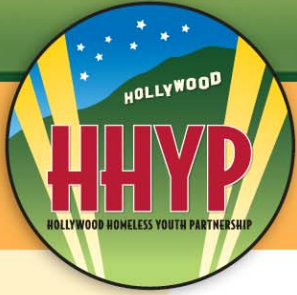
152 in the sample

- 10% reported exchanging sex for goods/money
- 43% reported consistent condom use (ever)
- AA heterosexual males more likely to report consistent condom use than non-AA males
- AA reported using more types of sexual health and total services over the past year.



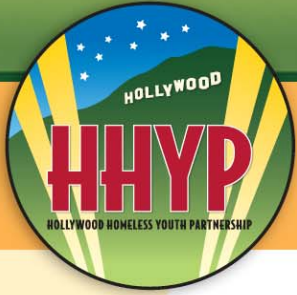
HIV Infection

- 5.1% of the sample reported being HIV positive (20/356)
- 15% were White
 - 45% were AA
 - 40% were Latino
 - 25% were female
 - 50% were male
 - 60% of positive males identified as heterosexual
 - 25% were transgender MTF



HIV Testing and HIV Infection

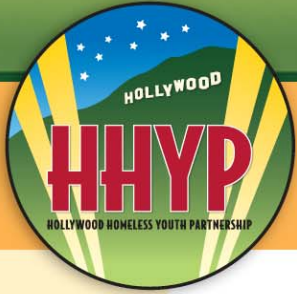
	Total % (n=110)	MSM % (n=28)
HIV Test Ever	92%	100%
HIV Test Within Last 90 Days (n=101)	70%	68%
HIV Positive (n=99)	9%	25%



Differences between + and - youth

Youth reporting HIV infection were

- More likely to report exchange of sex ever
- Less likely to be depressed



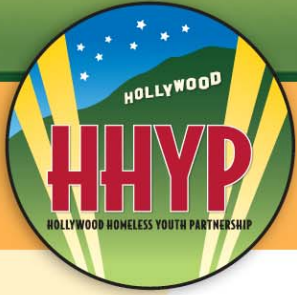
Differences between + and - youth

No statistically significant differences by

- % reporting hard drug use in last 12 months
- % involved with juvenile justice
- % removed from home by DCFS

Significant differences by

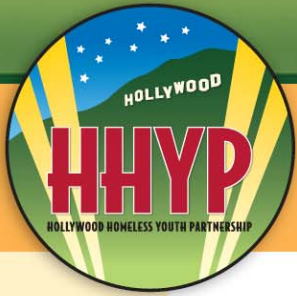
- History of sex exchange ever



Provider Perceptions

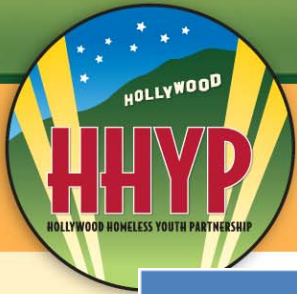
Surveys with providers Feb/March 2009

**Focus group with providers in May 2009
(17 participants/ 8 agencies)**



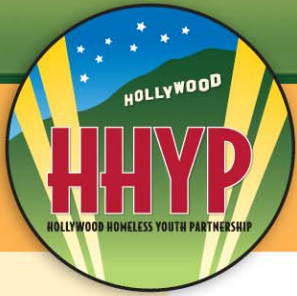
From Focus Group with Providers (5/09)

- **The threat (HIV) has dropped off the radar**
- **There's a lot of mixing of drugs and sex**
- **Youth have a don't ask/don't tell policy**
- **Don't ask older partners to use condoms**
- **False perception that youth are informed**
- **Some youth engaging in survival sex avoid testing because of legal consequences**
- **Diminished expertise at RHY agencies since change to BRG focus**



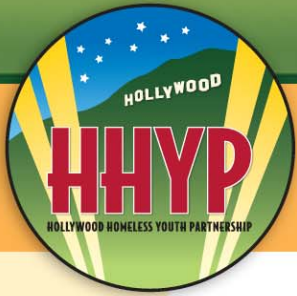
2009 Provider Survey Results

	Very	Adequate	Not very well	Not at all
How prepared are line staff about HIV risk and RR	42%	42%	17%	0%
How prepared are professional staff about HIV risk /RR	33%	58%	8%	0%
How prepared are line staff to provide SA prevention education	25%	33%	42%	0%
How prepared are prof. staff to provide SA prev./education	25%	58%	17%	0%



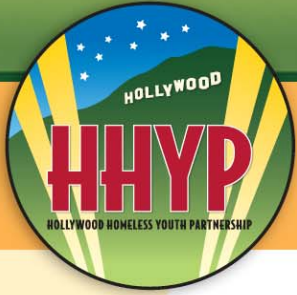
Limitations

- Not generalizable to homeless youth in other communities
- Likely under-reporting of some risk behaviors
- Survey fatigue
- Reliance on self-report



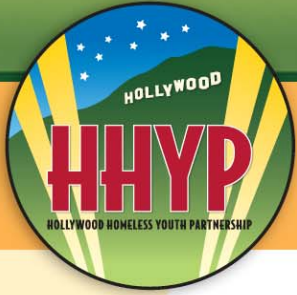
Relevance for HIV Prevention in LAC

- Population of vulnerable youth in Hollywood.
- Need to increase utilization of HIV testing
- Need to understand the hetero men that are testing positive
- LGBT youth, youth that have slept on the street, and youth involved in justice or dependency system appear most at risk
- Providers working with this population need more education and support



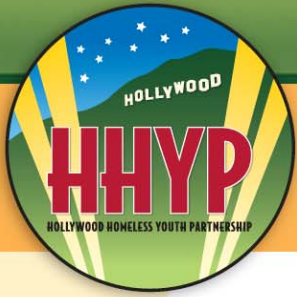
Service Environment

- Street Smart (group HIV prevention intervention)
- Project Legacy (group HIV/SA prevention intervention)
- Mobile Testing and Clinic-based testing
- Condoms
- Programs that try to move youth from the street to more stable housing



Accomplishments/In Process

- CHLA began providing HIV testing at My Friend's Place
- CHLA provided training for HHYP agency staff on HIV, Substance Use, and Transgender Issues
- CHLA is developing an elearning module on HIV testing



Questions

- aschneir@chla.usc.edu or mdesai@chla.usc.edu
- To download the report, No Way Home, go to www.hhyp.org
- For access to elearning, go to www.hhyp.org