

THE CENTER
FOR RESEARCH



&
PUBLIC POLICY

*DISABILITY CENSUS & NEEDS
ASSESSMENT
STUDY*

Prepared for

*CITY OF NEW HAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES*

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results of a study conducted among people with disabilities living in New Haven, Connecticut.

The New Haven Disability Study was commissioned by the City of New Haven's Department of Services for People With Disabilities.

The city-wide study included a survey among 1003 New Haven residents with disabilities and 43 people living in homeless shelters who live with disabilities.

CRPP survey researchers completed screening questions with 3900 residents of New Haven to identify 1003 residents with disabilities. As a result, it is estimated that 26% (25.7%) of New Haven residents currently live with disabilities. Nationwide, the estimate is 20.0%.

Homeless shelter officials estimate that 40% of their residents are disabled.

Residents qualified to participate in the Study if they or a household/family member they can speak on behalf of has a learning disability, an emotional or mental disability, a physical handicap or condition, a talking, hearing or visual disability. Eyeglass users were not qualified to respond.

The survey instrument employed in the Study included the following areas for investigation:

- ✓ The disability
- ✓ Impressions of quality of life and satisfaction
- ✓ Current employment and related issues
- ✓ Health care
- ✓ Trends and issues
- ✓ Social issues
- ✓ Housing and
- ✓ Demographics.

This report summarizes statistics collected from a telephone survey conducted July 10 - 20, 1999. Homeless shelter surveys were administered on-site at five New Haven facilities.

Following this Introduction, a Methodology Section explains the methodologies employed, margins for error and the confidence level for the statistics collected. Section III contains Highlights while Section IV holds a Summary of Findings - a narrative account of the data. The Appendix to the report contains a copy of the survey instrument, the composite aggregate data and a crosstabulation table.

METHODOLOGY

The Center for Research & Public Policy utilized a quantitative research design to collect current views on a wide range of issues. CRPP staff completed 1003 surveys with individuals living with disabilities throughout New Haven, Connecticut. Additionally, 43 interviews were conducted among residents at five New Haven homeless shelters.

General population residents were called 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekends. Homeless shelter residents were interviewed at their convenience on site.

Completion rates are a critical aspect of any telephone survey research. Efforts were made to call sample members back up to eight times to ensure inclusion in the survey. Call backs were arranged when a respondent suggested a more convenient time to call.

A high completion rate means that a high percent of the residents within the original sample were actually contacted and the resulting sample is not biased toward on potential audience. CRPP maintained an 82% completion rate on all calls made during the New Haven Disability Study.

CRPP utilized a super random digit sampling procedure allowing the inclusion of unlisted households within the sample.

All telephone interviews were conducted from CRPP headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut. All facets of the study were completed by CRPP's senior staff and researchers. These aspects include: survey design, sample design, pre-test, fielding, coding, editing, data entry, verification, validation, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 1003 survey respondents represents a margin for error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. In theory, this sample of people with disabilities will differ no more than +/-3% than if all disabled residents in New Haven were interviewed and included in the Study.

HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW...

The state of disabled residents of New Haven could only be described as “fair” with many disabled residents in very low economic positions with only moderate optimism about the future.

The 1999 New Haven Disability Study shows that New Haven disabled residents are in many ways, better off than disabled residents nationally. The study also identifies many ways New Haven disabled residents are worse off or in the same situation as disabled residents nationwide.

BETTER OFF...

- Among New Haven disabled residents currently working full-time, 28.8% are working as “professionals” compared to 17.0% nationally.
- A smaller percent of New Haven disabled residents (47.3%), than national survey respondents (69.0%), suggest their disability prevents them from getting around to church, sport events, or socializing. A City base affords more access and closer proximity to New Haven respondents.
- In New Haven, again perhaps because of access, few respondents (51.3%) report needing assistance from another person because of their disability than those surveyed nationally (66.0%).

WORSE OFF...

- While 46.0% of disabled residents nationally believe life will get better for them, only 38.5% of New Haven disabled residents feel the same.
- Based on a study conducted by the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) it is estimated that 20.0% of the nation’s population is disabled. In New Haven, based on the 1999 New Haven Disability Study, the estimate is 26.0%.
- Slightly fewer New Haven disabled respondents have health insurance (87.6%) than national respondents (90.0%).

ON PAR...

- The income levels, among New Haven’s disabled, while very low, appear to be the same as disabled residents nationally. In New Haven, 32.0% have incomes less than \$15,000.00 annually. Nationally it is 34.0%.
- In New Haven, 65.2% suggest that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person. Nationally, 67.0% suggested the same.
- In New Haven, 29.7% of disabled residents and nationally, 29.0% of disabled residents have ever participated in a group or organized activity on behalf of people with disabilities.

While New Haven’s disabled population is better off in some areas and worse off in others than disabled residents nationally, these few statistics and many others throughout this report portray a socio-economic condition that is, again, only fair compared to the population-at-large.

ON DISABILITIES...

- Over half of all disabled respondents, 50.6%, suggested their disability was somewhat or very severe. Together with those identifying their disability as moderate (36.5%) the number increased to 87.1%.
- Residents disabilities appear to be limiting. Nearly two thirds (64.1%) suggest their disability limits the type of work they can do. Another 64.2% suggest their disability limits their activities and 60.3% suggest they are limited in the amount of social or community activities they can participate in.
- Over half of all respondents, 51.3%, report needing the assistance of another person because of their disability. Of this group, 88.7% do receive help.
- Lives of disabled persons are perceived to be improving by 37.1% of respondents while another 20.1% suggest they are becoming worse.

ON LIFE SATISFACTION...

- Two thirds of all respondents suggest they are very or somewhat satisfied with life. Another 18.2% are somewhat or very dissatisfied.
- Nearly one quarter of all respondents (23.8%) suggest people “shy away” from them once learning of their disability. Another 29.7% say people “act as if sorry for them”. And, only 61.0% suggest they are treated as an equal once people learn of their disability.
- Nearly two thirds of all respondents (65.2%) report that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person.
- Almost half of all respondents (47.3%) report their disability prevents them from getting around.

ON EMPLOYMENT...

- Currently 21.6% report working full-time while 10.4% suggest they are working part-time. Among those working part-time, 54.4% suggest they would prefer to be working full-time.
- Among respondents currently working full-time, 30.0% suggest they have experienced employers who are insensitive to their disability. Another 22.4% have experienced unfavorable attitudes in the workplace because of their disability. Further, 19.1% suggest they were refused a job and 17.6% say they have experienced discrimination because of their disability.
- Over half (55.7%) of those not currently working suggest their disability as an important reason. Another 53.5% report their medical treatment as an important reason for not working. The lack of skills and training were important reasons for 40.7% of those not working. And, over one third (34.2%) say inadequate health care coverage is an important reason for not working.

ON HEALTH CARE...

- A large majority of all disabled respondents (87.6%) were covered by some type of health care coverage.
- Among those not covered, 16.0% suggest the reason is a pre-existing condition or disability.
- Over the past year, 8.9% of respondents reported a time when they needed medical care but were unable to get it. And, 8.7% suggest there was a time they needed care but the health care facility was inaccessible.

ON TRENDS AND ISSUES...

- Residents provided very low positive ratings for many services for disabled residents in New Haven. The average positive rating for thirteen services or characteristics is 35.6%.
- The lowest positive ratings were recorded for access to convenient housing (25.7%), access to affordable housing for disabled residents (24.1%) and public attitudes towards people with disabilities (25.6%).
- The highest positive rating was recorded for accessibility to health care facilities (53.2%).
- By nearly a two-to-one margin, more survey respondents expected their life will get better over the next four years (38.5%) than those who expect their lives will become worse (21.6%).

- A large number of disabled respondents, 15.7%, suggest they are, have been, or have been at risk of being homeless.

ON SOCIAL ISSUES...

- A large percent of disabled residents (80.8%) suggest they are registered to vote.
- While 83.3% have not been victims of domestic violence, 14.7% (16.5% among females) have been. Most abusers are a spouse (40.1%), or another family member (36.1%). Some are related care givers (1.9%), or unrelated care givers (2.0%).
- Among respondents with disabled children at home, 80.2% noted it was very or somewhat difficult to find services such as after school programs or recreational opportunities for their children.
- A large number of respondents, 82.4% suggested school was very or somewhat accessible for their child. However, 17.6% noted school was somewhat inaccessible.

ON HOUSING...

- On accessibility of their own housing, 40.8% suggest their home is very accessible. Another 59.4% suggest their home is somewhat accessible (41.8%) or somewhat inaccessible (17.6%).
- Nearly one-third of all respondents (32.1%) report their home is somewhat difficult to afford or not at all affordable. Others suggest their housing is very affordable (26.2%) or somewhat affordable (41.6%).
- Only 15.9% of respondents are aware of any programs to help make homes more accessible to people with disabilities.

CROSTABULATION REVIEW...

- Working disabled residents are significantly more satisfied with life (83.7%) than those unable to work (42.9%). They are also much less likely (34.9%) to suggest their disability prevents them from getting around than those unable to work (90.5%).
- Working disabled residents provide higher positive ratings (57.2%) for transportation than those unable to work (27.0%). And, by a two-to-one margin are more likely to provide a higher rating on “quality of life for disabled residents” (39.5%) than those unable to work (22.2%).
- Expectations that quality of life will become worse are nearly five times higher among those unable to work (28.6%) than those employed full-time (6.5%).

- Hispanics (55.9%) and African-Americans (52.5%) are more likely to report they expect their quality of life to get better than whites (31.1%).
- African-Americans (21.8%) are more likely to be or have been at risk of being homeless than whites (14.4%) or Hispanics (7.5%).
- Participation in organized groups or activities for disabled residents is lower among Hispanics (6.5%) than whites (30.1%) or African-Americans (40.5%).
- Respondents with higher incomes – over \$35,000 – are less likely (50.2%) to report that their disability limits their activities than those earning \$15,001 - \$35,000 (73.5%) and those earning less than \$15,000 (60.1%).
- Lower income respondents (less than \$15,000) are also most likely to report their disability prevents them from getting around (48.0%) compared to those earning over \$35,000 (32.0%).
- Not surprisingly, those earning less than \$15,000 are three times as likely (35.2%) to say they are or have been at risk of being homeless than those earning more than \$35,000 (9.3%).
- Those receiving SSDI or SSI are significantly less likely (29.3%) to report they expect life to improve than the composite (38.5%).
- Older disabled respondents (65 or older) are twice as likely (59.6%) to report their disability prevents them from getting around than those 18-35 years of age (27.4%).
- And, younger respondents are significantly more optimistic – 70.4% expect their quality of life to improve. Only 22.7% of those 65 years of age or older feel the same.
- Younger, less established, respondents are more likely to report being or being at risk of being homeless (17.0%) than older (65 or older) respondents (7.8%).
- Males are nearly twice as likely (21.9%) to report being or being at risk of homelessness than females (12.1%).
- Males are significantly less likely (81.9%) to be covered by insurance than females (90.9%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Throughout the Summary of Findings, readers will see three data or result columns presented in many tables. The first column will typically refer to composite data or data drawn from the 1003 New Haven City-wide surveys. Text throughout the report refers to composite respondents.

Another column of results will report, when identical questions are posed, the results to a nationwide survey commissioned by the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D). These results were released on July 23, 1998 and are presented to allow comparisons. This column is titled "N.O.D.".

Finally, another column of data will be entitled Homeless and include results from the surveys conducted among New Haven homeless residents.

Readers are reminded the following narrative is a summary of the statistics collected from a survey conducted July 10 - 17, 1999. Further, 63.5% of all composite respondents were disabled while 35.5% were able to and were responding on behalf of a disabled household member.

THE DISABILITY

All New Haven respondents were asked to report the medical diagnosis or description of their disability - the one that limits them most. A total of 53 different disabilities were named. The following table presents the most frequently named disabilities.

Disability	Composite
Hearing	8.5%
Learning	7.9
Dyslexia	6.5
Back / Spine	4.6
Arthritis	4.3
Anxiety	3.4
Depression	3.2
Heart condition	3.0
Blind	2.8
MS	2.7
Attention Deficit Disorder	2.7
Diabetic	2.6
Speech Impairment	2.6
Stroke	2.5
Mental Illness	2.4

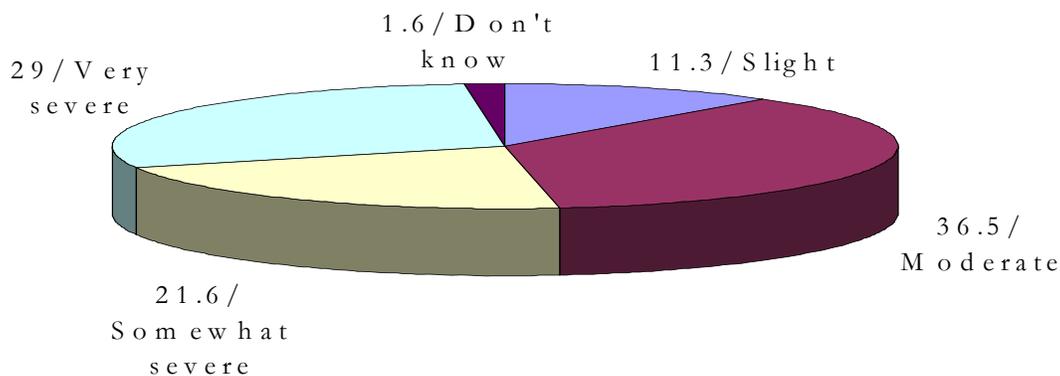
Illiterate	2.4
Loss of limb	2.3
Mental Retardation	2.1

Other disabilities, with frequency of mention of less than 2.0%, included:

Nervous breakdown, emphysema, water in the knee, congestive heart failure, degenerative joints, traumatic stress, cancer, knees, Cerebral Palsy, deformed limbs, slipped disk, glaucoma, physical, loss of arm, brain damage, can't walk, paralyzed, polio, obsessive compulsive disorder, scoriasis, heart condition, lung cancer, lupus, kidney, Parkinson's disease, uterine cancer, leg problems, Alzheimer's, one leg shorter, autistic, abuse victim, muscular degeneration, hip replacement, wheelchair bound, HIV, AIDS, high blood pressure, asthma, Downe syndrome.

Respondents were asked if they would describe their handicap, disability or health problem as slight, moderate, somewhat severe or very severe. The following table presents the results as collected.

Disability	Composite	N.O.D.	Homeless
Slight	11.3%	8.0%	2.3%
Moderate	36.5	27.0	18.6
Somewhat Severe	21.6	37.0	11.6
Very Severe	29.0	26.0	60.5

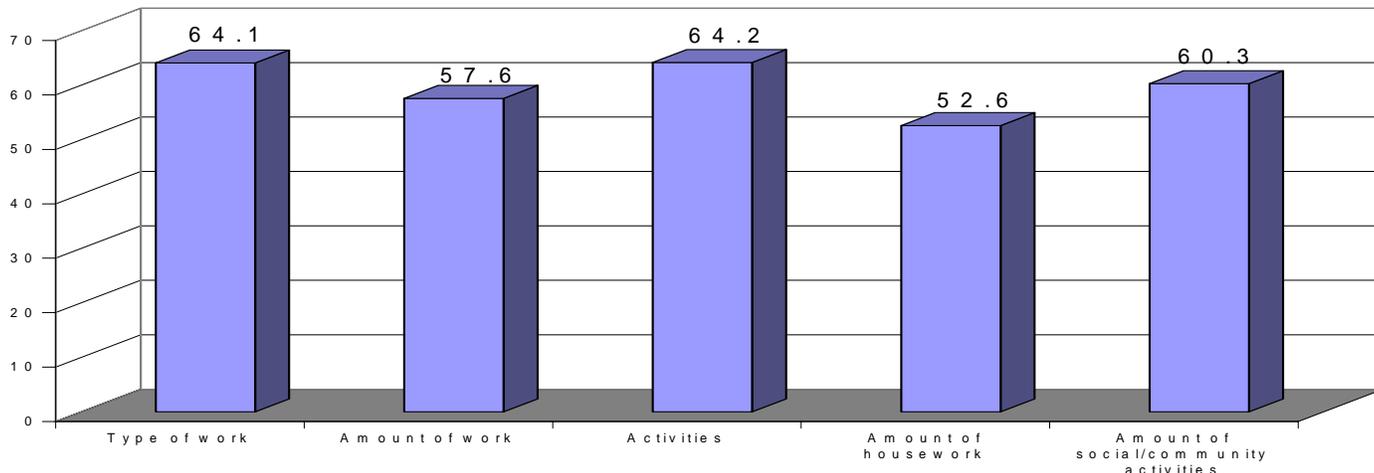


Respondents were asked if their disability limited a number of activities such as the type of work they can do or the amount of housework they can accomplish. The following table presents the percent of respondents suggesting each of the activities named are limited by their disability.

Type of Activity	Composite	Homeless
The type of work (you) can do?	64.1%	86.0%

The amount of work (you) can do?	57.6	90.7
Your activities in any way?	64.2	86.0
The amount of housework which you can do?	52.6	39.5
The amount of social or community activities you can participate in?	60.3	83.7

Limited by Disability



Among composite respondents, 51.3% suggested they generally needed the assistance of another person because of their disability. Of this group, 88.7% receive this assistance. On a national level, 66.0% suggested they needed similar assistance and 84.0% noted they do receive the needed assistance.

All respondents were asked if, over the past ten years, the lives of people with disabilities have improved, become worse or remained the same. The following table depicts the results.

Lives of People..	Composite	Homeless
Improved	37.1%	9.3%
Become worse	20.1	23.3
Remained the same	27.4	60.5

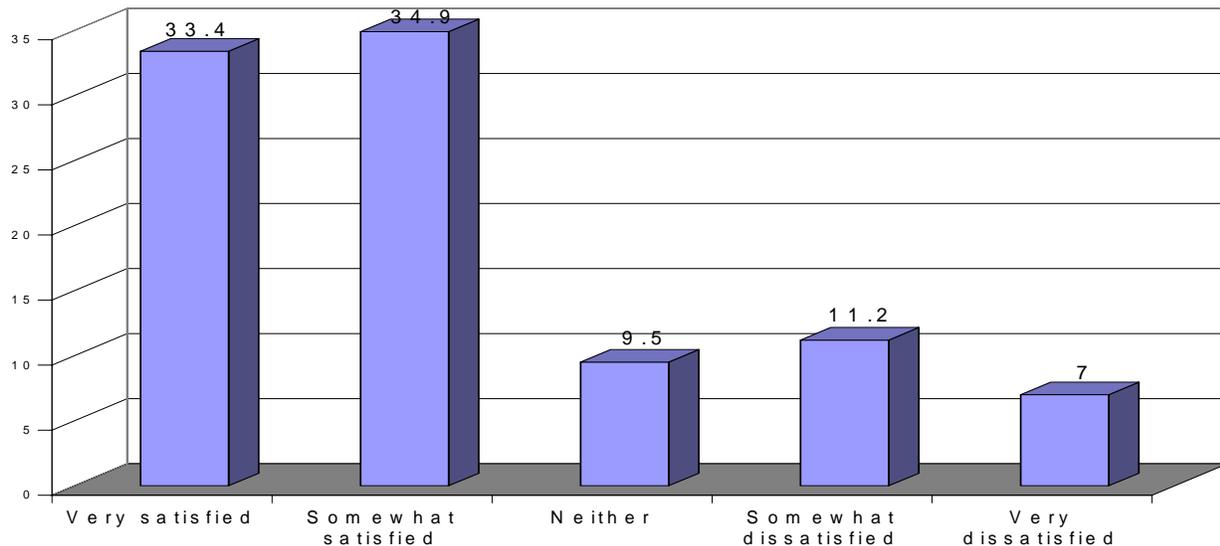
LIFE SATISFACTION

All respondents were asked if they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied or dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with life.

Over two thirds of respondents, 68.3% suggested they were very or somewhat satisfied. However, 18.2% suggested they were somewhat or very dissatisfied.

The following table presents the results.

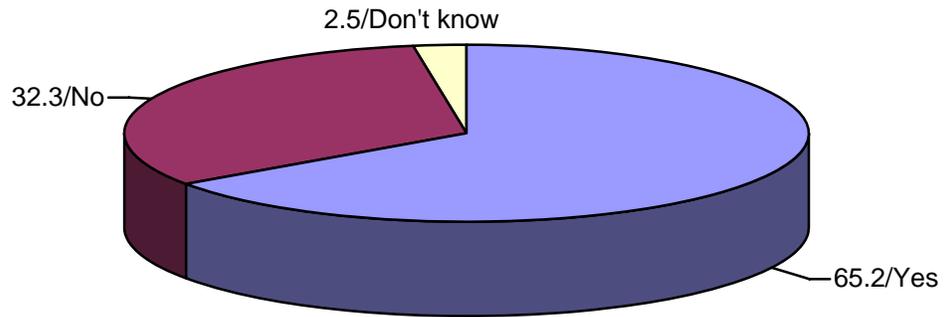
Satisfaction Level	Composite	N.O.D.	Homeless
Very and Somewhat Satisfied	68.3%	70.0%	58.1%
Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	9.5	6.0	4.7
Somewhat or Very Dissatisfied	18.2	21.0	34.9



Respondents were asked how they were treated after people learn they have a disability. The following table depicts the percent of disabled respondents believing they are treated in each of the ways presented.

Treatment of People With Disabilities	Composite	Homeless
Treat you as an equal	61.0%	44.6%
Act as if sorry for you	29.7	30.2
Shy away from further contact	23.8	41.9

Two thirds of respondents, 65.2% suggest their disability or health problem has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person. On a national level, 67.0% suggested the same and among New Haven homeless, 55.8% suggest their disability prevented them



from reaching their full abilities.

Nearly half of all respondents, 47.3% suggest that their disability prevents them from getting around to such things as cultural or sports events, Church, and socializing. Nationally, 69.0% and among homeless in New Haven, 37.2% suggest the same.

Fewer than one third of all respondents, 29.7%, have ever participated in any group or organized activity on behalf of people with disabilities. Nationally, 29.0% and among New Haven homeless, 39.5% suggest the same.

EMPLOYMENT

All respondents were asked to identify their current employment status. The following table presents the results as collected.

Employment Status	Composite	N.O.D.	Homeless
Working full-time	21.6%	11.0%	—
Working part-time	10.4	9.0	39.5

Unemployed - looking	3.2	3.0	20.9
Unemployed - not looking	9.8	3.0	20.9
Retired	29.2	31.0	—
Completely unable to work	6.3	33.0	14.0
Homemaker	5.5	3.0	—
Full-time student	10.4	5.0	—
Full or part-time volunteer	—	2.0	—
Disabled resident in pre-school	1.9	—	—

Of the respondents working part-time (10.4%), 54.4% suggested they prefer to be working full-time.

Three quarters of all respondents not currently working (78.8%) report that they have, at one time worked full or part-time.

Current and formerly employed respondents were asked to name their professions. The following table presents the results as collected.

Type of Work	Composite
Professional	23.2%
Manager/official	7.7
Proprietor	1.1
Clerical worker	12.5
Sales worker	5.7
Skilled craftsman, foreman	16.6
Operative, unskilled laborer	11.5
Service worker	12.5
Farming	—
Military	1.9
Sheltered workshop	—
Other	5.7

The following table presents the professions of only those currently working full-time.

Type of Work	Composite	N.O.D.
Professional	28.8%	17.0%
Manager/official	6.0	8.0
Proprietor	1.9	5.0
Clerical worker	20.0	8.0
Sales worker	2.8	6.0
Skilled craftsman, foreman	22.8	21.0
Operative, unskilled laborer	3.3	9.0

Service worker	7.4	17.0
Farming	—	2.0
Military	—	—
Sheltered workshop	—	1.0
Other	7.0	6.0

The following table presents the professions of only those currently working part-time.

Type of Work	Composite	N.O.D.
Professional	29.1%	8.0%
Manager/official	19.4	1.0
Proprietor	—	8.0
Clerical worker	15.5	12.0
Sales worker	—	7.0
Skilled craftsman, foreman	8.7	18.0
Operative, unskilled laborer	9.7	19.0
Service worker	14.6	20.0
Farming	—	—
Military	—	—
Sheltered workshop	—	3.0
Other	2.9	3.0

All current and former employees (78.8%) were presented with a list of experiences and asked if they have ever, during employment, experienced each. The following table presents the experience and the percent suggesting they had such an experience.

Experiences	Composite	Homeless
Job discrimination because of your disability	13.4%	18.4%
Being refused a job because of your disability	15.0	13.5
Being refused a promotion because of your disability	9.6	5.6
Being given less responsibility because of your disability	14.0	11.4
Less pay because of your disability	12.0	2.8
Being denied workplace accommodation because of your disability	11.7	13.9
Being denied health insurance because of your disability	8.1	5.4
Unfavorable attitudes in the workplace because of your disability	15.8	16.2

Physical barriers in the workplace that prevent you from performing your job	9.4	8.3
Employers who are insensitive to your disability	17.3	10.8
The need for equipment or technology specialized for your disability	14.8	8.1

Results from only respondents currently working full-time are presented in the following table.

Experiences	Composite	N.O.D.
Job discrimination because of your disability	17.6%	28.0%
Being refused a job because of your disability	19.1	52.0
Being refused a promotion because of your disability	9.8	22.0
Being given less responsibility because of your disability	12.3	40.0
Less pay because of your disability	14.2	33.0
Being denied workplace accommodation because of your disability	9.2	23.0
Being denied health insurance because of your disability	12.4	32.0
Unfavorable attitudes in the workplace because of your disability	22.4	32.0
Physical barriers in the workplace that prevent you from performing your job	12.1	26.0
Employers who are insensitive to your disability	30.0	35.0
The need for equipment or technology specialized for your disability	18.4	N/A

Respondents not currently working were presented with a number of reasons they may not be working or looking for work and asked if each was an important reason. The following table presents the reasons and the percent of those reporting each was an important reason. Retired respondents were removed from the data.

Importance of Reasons for Not Looking for Work	Composite
No full time work is available in (your) line of work or (you) can't find it.	34.2%
(Your) disability or health problem severely limits what (you) can do.	55.7
(You) can't get affordable, convenient or accessible transportation to and from work.	31.0
(You) can't find affordable, convenient or accessible housing near work.	37.5
(You) don't have the skills, education or training needed.	40.5
(You) need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.	53.5
(You) need special equipment or devices to do work, talk or hear other workers or to get around at work.	39.5
(You) risk losing benefits or insurance payments if (you) worked.	25.7
(You) can't get adequate health care coverage.	34.2

HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

All respondents were asked if they were currently covered by any form of health insurance or health plan including Medicaid or Medicare? A large number of respondents, 87.6% suggested they were covered. Nationally, 90.0% reported being covered and 93.0% of New Haven homeless surveyed reported being covered by insurance.

Among those not covered, 16.0% report not being covered because of their disability or a pre-existing condition. Nationally, 18.0% and among New Haven homeless, 33.3% suggested they were refused coverage.

Over the past twelve months, 8.9% of respondents reported there was a time they needing medical care but were unable to get it. Nationally, 21.0% and among New Haven homeless, 18.6% reported there was a time they needed care but were unable to secure it. And, 8.7% of New Haven respondents suggested there was a time they needed health care but could not get it because the facility was not accessible. Among New Haven homeless, 16.3% suggested the same.

TRENDS AND ISSUES

All New Haven respondents were asked to think about the City of New Haven and services designed to help residents with disabilities.

Each was asked to rate these services using a scale of one to ten where one was very good and ten was very poor. The following table presents the cumulative totals for positive ratings of one, two and three.

Area Services for Disabled	Positive / Composite	Positive / Homeless
Transportation specifically for disabled residents	32.0%	55.8%
Accessibility to public places for disabled residents	37.1	41.9
Access to commercial places for disabled residents (such as stores)	39.7	41.9
Access to public transportation for disabled residents	39.0	9.3
Access to convenient housing for disabled residents	25.7	4.7
Access to affordable housing for disabled residents	24.1	4.7
Public attitudes toward people with disabilities in New Haven	25.6	41.9
The quality of life for people with disabilities	31.5	41.9
Convenience of parking for people with disabilities	42.1	27.9
Availability of parking for people with disabilities	40.4	25.6
The accommodations made for people with disabilities in such public places as restaurants and retail stores	38.3	55.8
Receiving accommodations when needing to use city services	34.3	51.2

Accessibility of the healthcare facilities you use	53.2	72.1
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In an open-end format question, all New Haven respondents were asked to suggest services or programs the City of New Haven should consider offering for residents with disabilities that are not currently available.

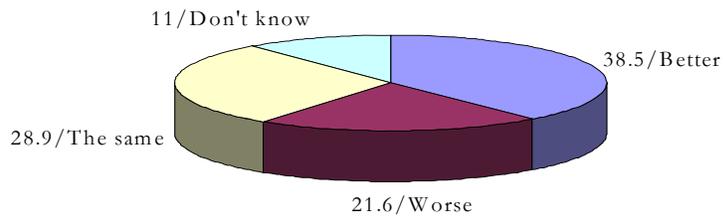
The following table presents the suggestions most frequently offered.

Service Suggestions	Composite
Transportation	4.9%
More support groups	2.9
More housing	2.9
Entertainment/recreation	2.7
More access ramps	2.5
Better housing programs	2.2
Increase awareness of programs	2.1
Job training and employment	2.0

Other suggestions, among New Haven residents, with less frequency included: Payment of utilities at a central location, stronger laws regarding handicap parking, exercise programs, faster development of programs, longer inpatient care, better health coverage, more convenient bus stops, motorized wheelchairs, more mental health assistance, more services for the blind, more shelters, affordable and accessible housing, tax discounts, more assistance, lower height of parking meters, keep following ADA, day care, more seeing-eye dogs, offer more home services, help with shopping, allow more input from disabled, depends on disability, more food programs, more case workers.

Respondents were asked if they expected their quality of life will get better, become worse or remain the same over the next four years. The following table presents the results as collected.

Outlook	Composite	NOD	Homeless
Better	38.5%	46.0%	60.5%
Worse	21.6	37.0	2.3
The Same	28.9	11.0	34.9



A significant percent, 15.7%, of New Haven respondents report they have been homeless (7.4%), are currently homeless (1.5%) or have been at risk of being homeless (6.8%).

Of those experiencing homelessness or being at risk of being homeless, 31.8% suggest they have used services in New Haven for the homeless such as shelters or free meals.

Of this group, 64.0% suggested these services were somewhat inaccessible (20.0%) or not at all accessible (44.0%).

The largest group respondents using services (44.0%) suggested they used the services for one month while 18.0% used services for three months and 14.0% noted six months. The remainder, 24.0% were unsure of the length of time using homeless services.

SOCIAL ISSUES

A large percent of New Haven respondents, 80.8%, noted they were registered to vote and 78.3% reported voting in the November 1998 election.

Among all respondents, 10.2% suggested that their disability prevents them from getting to the polling locations on election day.

Further, 5.9% reported other barriers to voting related to their disability. Researchers asked respondents to report these barriers in an open-end format question. These barriers are reported in the following table.

Other Barriers to Voting	Composite
Can't read	26.7%
Claustrophobia	22.2
Can't reach levers	15.6
Can't read levers	15.6
Trouble getting up stairs	6.7
Difficult to communicate	6.7
Bad area of town	6.7

All respondents were asked if they have ever been a victim of domestic abuse such as verbal, emotional, sexual or physical. While 83.3% reported not being a victim, 14.7% suggested they were. Among homeless, 55.8% reported being victims.

Those reporting being a victim were asked to report their relationship. The following table presents the results as collected.

Relationship	Composite	Homeless
Your spouse	40.1%	16.7%
Another family member	36.1	70.8
A related care giver	1.9	4.2
A professional non-related care giver	2.0	8.3

Frequency of abuse was also reported by victims. The following table presents the results as collected.

Frequency	Composite
1	10.9%
2	16.3
3	2.0
6	2.0
10	9.5
12	4.8
15	4.8
20	8.2
Don't Recall	34.0
Numerous	7.5

Over half of all abused respondents, 51.7%, suggested they sought assistance for the abuse. And, of this group, 92.1% reported receiving assistance. Three quarters of these respondents (77.6%) reported the services very or somewhat accessible while 17.1% suggested the services were somewhat inaccessible or not at all accessible.

Respondents who had children at home with disabilities (14.2%) were asked if they ever requested special accommodations or special education. A large number, 85.9%, reported

requesting such accommodations or special education. Of this group, 86.9% received special accommodations (52.5%), special education (15.6%), or both (18.9%).

A large number of respondents, 80.2%, reported it was very or somewhat difficult to find services such as after-school programs or recreational opportunities for disabled children.

While most, 82.4% report that school is very or somewhat accessible for their disabled children, 17.6% suggest school is somewhat inaccessible.

And, 7.0% report that the children in the household have been at risk of dropping out of school.

HOUSING

New Haven respondents were asked how accessible their current home is. The following table presents the results as collected.

Accessibility	Composite
Very accessible	40.8%
Somewhat accessible	41.8
Somewhat inaccessible	17.6

All respondents were asked if modifications were made to their current home which were related to their disability. While most, 85.3%, suggested modifications were not made, 10.0% reported modifications did occur to help accommodate the disability.

Of this group, 70.0% suggested the modifications were paid by themselves while 4.0% mentioned a State Agency and 19.0% mentioned a family member. Another 7.0% mentioned the modification was paid by general assistance..

Three quarters of the modifications (74.0%) were made after moving in while 26.0% said they were done prior to moving in.

A large number of respondents, 88.5%, suggest they are not receiving any housing subsidies or support such as Section 8. Another 9.8% mentioned they are receiving such support.

Nearly one third of all respondents (32.1%) suggest their current housing is somewhat difficult to afford or not at all affordable. Another 26.2% suggest their housing is very affordable or somewhat affordable (41.6%).

While 82.4% suggest they have not experienced difficulty finding housing because of their disability, 12.5% reported they did.

Only 21.9% suggest that the City of New Haven has enough accessible housing for people with disabilities.

And, only 15.9% are aware of any programs available to help make homes more accessible to people with disabilities. Of this “aware” group, 13.2% suggested they have used these programs.

In a final, open-end format question, respondents were asked to name the most important barrier facing people with disabilities today. The following table presents the most frequently cited barriers.

Barriers	Composite
Lack of understanding	13.1%
General public’s attitude	9.0
Job training/employment	8.8
Accessibility	5.9
Lack of employment opportunities	5.2
More housing	5.0
Money	4.8
Discrimination/prejudice	4.3
Transportation	4.1
Not enough assistance	3.8
No one cares anymore	3.1
Help with education	2.6
Ignorance	2.4
Mobility	2.0

Other barriers mentioned with less frequency included: more security for care, lack of technology, more support groups, amputation victims need more help, awareness of disabled population, everyone needs help, grocery shopping, street access, health insurance, education, and lack of compassion.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Type of home...	Composite
Single family	42.5%
Multiple family	25.5
Apartment complex	22.3
Condo	6.1
Other	3.5

Rent or own...	Composite
Rent	49.3%
Own	47.7
Don't know	0.9
Homeless	2.2

Education...	Composite
Some high school	28.9%
High school graduate	35.9
Some college	13.4
College graduate	10.5
Post graduate	6.7
Don't know	4.6

Hispanic origin...	Composite
Yes	28.9%
No	35.9
Don't know	13.4
Refused	10.5

Race...	Composite
White	65.1%
African-American	28.2
Asian	1.9
Other	0.4
Don't know	0.7
Refused	3.7

Total household income...	Composite
No income	2.9%
\$7,500 or less	12.4
\$7,501 to \$15,000	15.2
\$15,001 to \$25,000	10.9
\$25,001 to \$35,000	8.6
\$35,001 to \$50,000	9.1
\$50,001 to \$75,000	6.3
\$75,001 to \$100,000	4.6
\$100,001 and over	1.6
Don't know	7.8
Refused	20.8

Your total income...	Composite
No income	4.2%
\$7,500 or less	14.2
\$7,501 to \$15,000	13.7
\$15,001 to \$25,000	8.7
\$25,001 to \$35,000	7.9
\$35,001 to \$50,000	8.0
\$50,001 to \$75,000	5.4
\$75,001 to \$100,000	7.5
\$100,001 and over	1.6
Don't know	5.7
Refused	23.3

Receive SSI/SSDI...	Composite
Yes	32.0%
No	65.0
Don't know	3.0

Total number of people in household...	Composite
1	30.2%
2	28.3
3	17.2
4	11.4
5	2.3
6	4.9
7	2.3
9	0.7
12	0.5
Don't know	0.7
Refused	1.5

Total number of disabled people in household...	Composite
1	72.0%
2	14.7

3	4.4
4	3.0
6	2.0
7	0.3
Don't know	1.2
Refused	2.5

Your age...	Composite
18 to less than 25	8.6%
25 to less than 35	14.4
35 to less than 45	13.0
45 to less than 55	17.4
55 to less than 65	10.1
65 and older	34.3
Refused	2.3

Gender...	Composite
Male	36.4%
Female	63.6

APPENDIX

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey is presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable”. This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample subgroup).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.