Vulnerable Voices
Acknowledging the Critical Basic Needs of Colorado’s Homeless and the Impact of the AND Program
Purpose of Study

- Conduct **community-based research** at the request of and in partnership with Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)
- **Analyze** how recipients of Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) utilize funds
- **Implications** of possible cuts to the program
What is AND?

- Interim cash assistance program for disabilities
- $200/month
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claims take an average of 22 months
- >10,000 total AND recipients annually
- Colorado is reimbursed for AND payments
- 39 states have similar programs
AND Qualifications

- Total disability (physical or mental – unable to work)
- Must apply for SSI
- Colorado resident
- Little or no income or assets
Why was the study necessary?

- AND threatened with elimination
- Homelessness advocacy
Key Findings

Eliminating AND would likely lead to:

- Immediate, serious detrimental impacts on recipients
- Increases in government expenditures for other services
Review of Existing Literature

- Ideologies regarding social programs
- Potential consequences of cuts
Motivations for Assisting the Needy

- **Humanitarian**: Compassion and moral obligation
- **Economic**: Social programs cost less than emergency services
Why are homelessness and other social spending programs cut?
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- Ideology
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- Ideology
- Budget priorities
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- Lack of organized demand/opposition
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- Prevention vs. crisis management
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- Budget priorities
- Lack of organized demand/opposition
- Belief that cutting homelessness programs saves money
- Prevention vs. crisis management
- Misinformation/stereotypes
Fact vs. Fiction

• 46.5% of the homeless are families or children
• Substance abuse <30% of cases
• Job loss greatest cause (34.7%)
• 41.1% have a disability
Concluding Thoughts on the Literature

- Mitigating homelessness saves money
- Homeless persons face dehumanization, crime, and have poorer health
- The majority of homeless persons do not fit common stereotypes
- AND recipients are disabled and unable to work
Research Question

How are AND funds spent by recipients, and what would be the likely human and societal consequences of eliminating AND?
Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) Survey
Survey Logistics

- Survey Creation
- When & Where
- Voluntary & Anonymous
- Gift cards - Participation
Survey Sites

- Champa Street
- Stout Street Clinic
- St. Francis Center
- The Gathering Place
- Homeless Services
Champa Street
Stout Street Clinic
St. Francis Center
St. Francis Center
The Gathering Place
The Gathering Place
Volunteers

Thank you for providing your services as Spanish translators.

Meghan Colombin
Kristin Crowell
Syrma Quiñones
Suzette Reed
Survey Data

Quantitative & Qualitative

Survey Exclusions (9)

Total Number of Surveys (172)

SPSS Software
Findings
Our Survey Data Shows

• Demographics of participants
• AND statistics
• Use of AND benefits
• Use of benefits for individuals with dependents
Our Survey Data Shows

- Population Surveyed
- Veteran Status
- Marital Status
Experienced Homelessness in Lifetime (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No - Never
Applied, 2%

No - Applied, 12%

Yes - Receiving Presently or In Past, 84%
Why No Longer Receiving AND Benefits (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Overall %</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received SSI/SSDI</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Got a Job</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Longer Disabled</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits Cut Off</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Don't Know</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Dependents (%)

- 8 Dependents: Male 13%, Female 7%
- 6 Dependents: Male 4%, Female 14%
- 5 Dependents: Male 7%, Female 6%
- 4 Dependents: Male 2%, Female 16%
- 3 Dependents: Male 0%, Female 1%
- 2 Dependents: Male 0%, Female 1%
- 1 Dependent: Male 0%, Female 0%
Use of AND Benefits (%)

- Shelter/Rent/Motel, 58%
- Housing Related Utilities, 20%
- Non-housing Related Utilities, 19%
- Transportation, 46%
- Healthcare/Medication, 24%
- Food, 39%
- Personal Care Items, 47%
- Clothing, 34%
- Other, 34%
- Don't Know, 1%
Use of AND Benefits by Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter/Rent/Motel</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Related Utilities</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-housing Related Utilities</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Medication</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Items</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What would change if they were no longer receiving AND
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“Would be out on the street and forced to do things you don’t want to do”
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“Would have to prostitute for money”
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“Would be out on the street and forced to do things you don’t want to do”

“Have to go to McDonald’s for toilet paper”

“Would have to prostitute for money”

“Would have to hustle, fly signs, collect cans and other ways to try to get some money to pay for food and personal care items”
Voices of AND

“AND kept me warm and alive by letting me pay bills and buy coffee...to have a warm place to stay and use the bathroom in the daytime at a coffee shop.”
Voices of AND

“...AND provided me with dignity and to know when wrong is wrong, and I learned how to appreciate the little in order to appreciate the much.”
Conclusions
Homelessness Today
Three Key Themes

1. Basic daily needs
2. Self-identified needs
3. Dependent needs
Basic Daily Needs

- Socks
- Under Clothes
- Diapers
- Personal Hygiene

≠ Food Stamps
Self-identified Needs

- Storage
- Pet Care
- Cell Phones

Open ended questions
Storage
Loss & Self Identity

Shay Sayre, CA State University:

“If we are what we own, then who are we when we own nothing?”

Paraphrased William James

http://www.conservationtech.com

http://farm1.static.flickr.com/33/61711052_e183e79b99
St. Francis Center offers 450 spaces, where if a guest has need, they can store items. They are given a large bag and whatever they can fit into the bag, St. Francis will store and keep safe.

http://www.sfcdenver.org/

Both images were taken from the St. Francis YouTube video posted at www.stcdenver.org.
William Leonard, a Jersey City homeless man whose dog has been taken away, breaks down and cries as he talks about how much he misses his dog Franklin.

Reena Rose Sibayan/The Jersey Journal
“Personally, I always thought of a cell phone as a luxury. You have it if you can afford it. It’s something you earn. It’s certainly not something that should be part of a welfare package for “the poor.” ~ Eran

Pay Phone
AT&T announced today that they are exiting the pay phone business, and will be phasing out 65,000 pay phones in 13 states, according to Bloomberg.

From AT&T:

"The company plans to phase out both public pay phones and phones provided under contracts at government correctional facilities through the end of next year. All customers will receive advance notification of specific plans as well as information on other potential providers and product options."
Dependents and need

Women

More AND spent on basics

Self-identified needs
Women & Dependents

The majority of AND clients with dependents are women. 47%
Basic Needs & Dependents

AND

businesspundit.com

life.com

app.com
Self-identified Needs

- Children’s Food
- Diapers
- Child Support
- A Safe Home
Limitations of Survey

- Vulnerable population
- Gratitude vs. Coercion
- No established rapport
- Honoring time and space
- Duplication of surveys
Our Conclusions

- Denver's Ten-Year Plan
- Greater financial impact
- Psychological stress
- Conceptions must evolve
- AND used for basic needs
Homelessness is a weary journey and it is more so to those who are unable to support themselves due to physical or mental disabilities.
Thank you