

2015 CPO Survey – Safety at HCH Sites

Information

The National Consumer Advisory Board and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (the “researchers”) are conducting this research to better understand what makes consumers feel safe and ensure HCH site are creating safe spaces. This survey asks questions about race, age, gender and then focuses on your opinions about what makes you feel safe or unsafe at your health care for the homeless site, Health Care for the Homeless Houston. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

The investigators conduct this survey only with individuals who have experienced homelessness because of the unique knowledge they have about issues of housing and health. Being “homeless” can mean living in shelters, transitional housing, treatment program, on the streets, or other unstable or non-permanent situation such as a friend or family member’s house that you may have to leave at any time. The interviewers in this research study have experienced homelessness themselves.

Eligibility

Participant must answer yes to all of these questions to be eligible for the survey.

- Are you 18 years or older?
- Are you currently or formerly homeless? *(see example above if there is confusion over the definition)*
- Have you received services at the Health Care for the Homeless site, Health Care for the Homeless Houston, in the last year?

Informed Consent (interviewers must get a verbal agreement)

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and all of your answers will remain confidential. Your decision to participate or not participate in the survey will not affect your eligibility for services in any way. There is no cost to survey participants for taking this survey and there is no payment. Your participation in this survey may benefit individuals experiencing homelessness by providing information to increase safety policies and procedures at HCH projects. The interviewer will read the survey questions out loud to you and mark your answers down on the survey itself. Please feel free to read along as well. Please complete the survey to the best of your ability and knowledge, and know that you may skip any question you do not want to answer. You also may stop taking the survey at any time for any reason.

To learn more about the project or the results of this study, you can contact Katherine Cavanaugh at (443) 703-1320, or kcavanaugh@nhchc.org or Joseph Benson at (832) 352-5438.

Identifying and Coping with Stress

Symptoms of Stress

- Physical
 - Heart pounding or racing, shortness of breath, sleeplessness, fatigue, tight muscles, pain
- Emotional
 - Irritability, sudden mood changes, anxious, depressed, abrasive, hostile, nervous
- Mental
 - Loss of concentration, forgetfulness, poor judgment, lack of interest, fuzzy perception

Safe Coping Skills

Here are some various ways to cope with unsafe feelings, choose what works best for you.

- Ask for help
- List your options
- Take care of your body
- Show compassion, especially to yourself
- Listen to your needs
- Be aware of your reactions to stress
- Think of the consequences
- Reinforce positive self-statements
- Build support networks
- Develop assertive behaviors
- Recognize and accept your limits
- Set an action plan
- Setbacks are not failures, learn through your mistakes
- Structure your day
- Praise yourself for accomplishments
- Examine the evidence and evaluate both sides
- Build healthy boundaries
- Use kind language

For additional support

- Reach out to Health Care for the Homeless Houston to see what services are available
- Find a professional that you trust to discuss these issues with

2015 Consumer Participation Outreach Survey: Safety at HCH Sites

Age: _____ Ethnicity (check all that apply): African American/Black White Asian/Pacific Islander
 Hispanic/Latino Native American Other _____
 Gender Identity: Male Female Transgender Male Transgender Female Other _____

All of the following questions are in reference to your feelings of safety at Health Care for the Homeless Houston.

1. What **TWO** factors are most important to your feelings of safety?
 - a. Being treated with respect
 - b. Knowing the individuals I am interacting with
 - c. Being able to trust the individuals I am interacting with
 - d. Physical presence of security (i.e. guards or physical barriers)
 - e. Controlled physical space (i.e. organized, calm, well lit, clean)
 - f. Other _____
2. What are **TWO** factors that make you feel most unsafe?
 - a. Bad neighborhood (i.e. crime)
 - b. Isolated area (i.e. dark, empty)
 - c. Lack of trust
 - d. Absence of security (i.e. no guards or cameras)
 - e. Dangerous or disruptive individuals
 - f. Other _____

3. Feelings of Safety	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/ Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
a. Staff at the site treats me with respect.						
b. Staff is capable of calming down a tense situation.						
c. If a situation can't be calmed down by staff, police should be called in.						
d. Security staff at the site makes me feel safe.						
e. Security barriers at the site makes me feel safe (i.e. glass partitions, metal detectors, buzzed entry)						
f. Security staff carrying a weapon makes me feel safe.						
g. Security staff in uniform makes me feel safe.						

Would you like to explain or expand on any of these topics?

4. How often do you feel safe...	Always	Most of the Time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a. In the area surrounding the site (i.e. parking lot, sidewalks)					
b. In the Waiting Room					
c. With your provider(s)					

Would you like to explain or expand of any of these topics?

5. Impact on Care: In the past year (12 months), at Health Care for the Homeless Houston, I have.....	Never	1-2 times	3-5 times	6-9 times	More than 10 Times
a. Left an appointment because I felt unsafe.					
b. Not come to my appointment because I worried I would feel unsafe.					
c. Come to the building but not entered because I felt unsafe.					
d. Been nervous or agitated because I felt unsafe.					

Would you like to explain or expand on any of these topics?

6. Are there other ways that your feelings of safety have impacted your care?

Experiences with Staff

7. What has staff at Health Care for the Homeless Houston done to treat you with respect? (check all that apply)

- a. They are welcoming, they acknowledge me
 - b. They listen
 - c. They are non-judgmental
 - d. They are concerned about me as a person, not just health or housing status
 - e. They speak with a pleasant tone
 - f. Nothing
 - g. Other _____
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8. What has staff done that made you feel disrespected? (check all that apply)

- a. They are cold, unfriendly or ignored me
 - b. They give misinformation or lack of information
 - c. They are condescending
 - d. They are aggressive
 - e. They are dismissive of my opinions or needs
 - f. Nothing
 - g. Other _____
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Preferences with Staff

9. What skills do you think security staff should have? (check all that apply)

- a. Communication skills: listening, appropriate tone
 - b. Cultural awareness/competency (*the ability to respectfully interact with people of different cultures*)
 - c. Empathy (*the ability to understand or feel what another person is experiencing*)
 - d. How to be assertive without coming off aggressive
 - e. Calm a situation down respectfully
 - f. Other _____
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10. Who would you prefer respond to a conflict or incident at your site? (check all that apply)

- a. Clinical Staff
 - b. Security Staff
 - c. Trained peer/consumer
 - d. Other _____
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11. Would you like to expand on any experiences or preferences with staff that affect your feelings of safety?

Overall Feelings of Safety

12. Has your identification with any of the following characteristics negatively affected your feelings of safety at Health Care for the Homeless Houston? (check all that apply)

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|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Ethnic identity/race | b. Gender identity | c. Sexual orientation | d. Physical disability status |
| e. Mental health status | f. Language | g. Religion | h. Cultural customs |
| i. none | j. Other _____ | | |
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13. If there was a group focused on coping with unsafe situations or spaces, what would you want to learn?

14. Please name the top three things that could improve your feelings of safety at Health Care for the Homeless Houston?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

15. Do you have other comments, concerns or suggestions regarding safety at Health Care for the Homeless Houston?
