



WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

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Interviewer's Name: _____

City: _____

National Homeless People's Civil Rights Campaign Survey Instrument

Introduction: My name is _____ and I'm with _____. We are working with over a dozen community organizations around the country to try to link different homeless communities together to address the civil and human rights violations that occur all over the country on a daily basis. We are conducting a survey to help us set our priorities. The survey lasts about eight minutes. Would you be willing to participate?

1a) Have police harassed you or have you seen them harass other people for:

(Interviewer: For each area where the interviewee indicates having been harassed, follow up to see if they have been cited or arrested, as well.)

	harassed	cited	arrested		harassed	cited	arrested		harassed	cited	arrested
sleeping				sitting or lying down				panhandling			
receiving free food				loitering or hanging out				sleeping in a vehicle			
having a dog				jaywalking				appearing "homeless"			
other				explain: _____							

1b) To your knowledge, which laws do police use against homeless people most frequently?

2) Have you been arrested on a bench warrant that you got because you were homeless?

Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

3) Do you think that you have been ticketed *because of* your ____ race, ____ disability, ____ gender, or ____ economic status? *(check all that apply)*

4) Do you think that you have been *arrested* because of your ____ race, ____ disability, ____ gender, or ____ economic status? *(check all that apply)*

5) Do police sometimes harass you without using the law?

Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

6a) Do you know your rights when being stopped by the police?

Yes _____ No _____ *(If No, skip ahead to question 7.)*

6b) If you assert your rights when dealing with police, do you find that police respect your rights?

Always _____ Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

7) Have you ever seen or encountered private security guards hassling people, ordering people away, or otherwise policing public sidewalks or parks?

Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

8) Have you ever had a case heard in regular court?

Yes _____ No _____

8a) Have you ever had a case heard at a homeless court?

Yes _____ No _____

8b) Did you have a defense attorney? (*for example: a public defender*)

Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

8c) What was the outcome of your case? (*for example: jail, fine, social services plan, community service, stay-away order*)

9) Have you ever tried to get a shelter bed in the area? How often were you able to get a bed?

Yes _____ No _____

Always _____ Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

10) Do you know of places where it is safe and legal for you to sleep outside?

Yes _____ No _____

11a) Have you ever been homeless elsewhere in this country?

Yes _____ No _____ (*If No, skip ahead to question 12.*)

11b) Do you feel like the situation is better, worse, or about the same here as elsewhere?

Better _____ Worse _____ Same _____ (*If Same, skip ahead to question 12.*)

11c) Could you explain why it's better or worse here?

12) Considering the topics we've discussed in the past few minutes, what do you think are the worst issues with violations of homeless people's civil and human rights in our community?

* When this form is completed please send it to us at WRAP. We will send you your local results and the national as well.