

THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOMELESSNESS
IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA AS
A SOCIAL PROBLEM

By

SHANA MARIE MILLER

Bachelor of Science

in Arts and Sciences

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

1985

Submitted to the Faculty of the
Graduate College of the
Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for
the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
July, 1990

Jhesio
1990
M651c
cop. 2

C O P Y R I G H T

By

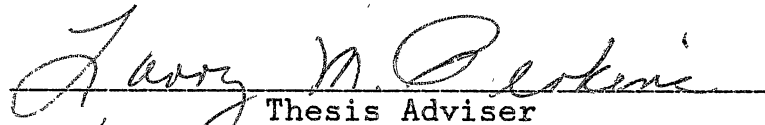
Shana Marie Miller

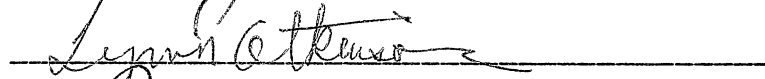
July, 1990

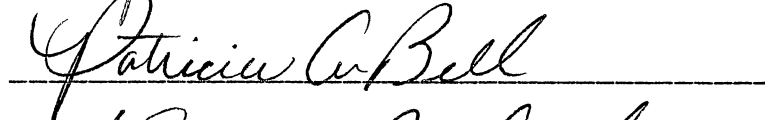
©

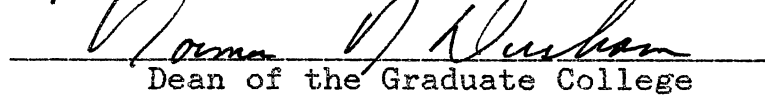
THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOMELESSNESS
IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA AS
A SOCIAL PROBLEM

Thesis Approved:


Thesis Adviser






Dean of the Graduate College

PREFACE

Writing this thesis has been a taxing ordeal, but finally it is done. The bulk of the data used in this study was collected as the TMM Day Center Survey. The supplemental information was also collected by the TMM Day Center. Despite the politics involved in obtaining the data set, I am glad that I was able to analyze this information.

First, all praise, glory, thanks and honor to benevolent, kind, loving, merciful, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, good God Yahweh for everything.

I would like to thank my committee chairperson, Dr. Larry Perkins for being a very patient mentor while guiding me through my graduate career at O-State. His demeanor through this process has been most noble and he has performed "above and beyond the call of duty" of a thesis committee chair. Thanks are also in order for the other members of my committee, Dr. Patricia A. Bell and Dr. Lynn Atkinson. Both of these women have served as positive role models and I am forever indebted to them. They too have shown me understanding in many instances in which others would have been more inclined to "write me off" than to deal with me.

I would also like to thank Dr. Kathleen McKinney and Dr. Martha McMillian who both helped me to decide to double major in psychology and sociology as an undergraduate and who

then realized that my true call in life was to be a sociologist. I would like to thank Dr. Patricia Adler, whose theory classes gave me a deeper appreciation for the true beauty of sociology. Thanks are also in order for the Graduate Committee, Dr. Richard Dodder (Graduate Adviser) and Dr. Charles Edgely (Department Chair), who allowed me to grow as a graduate student and teacher at O-State.

Thank you also to Jan, Jean, Tammie and the office work study crew, you make teaching so much easier!

Thanks to my fellow graduate students: Krista, Dahlia, Linda, Behrooz, Todd and especially Brien; few know what it is really like in the "Dungeon" but we know the untold truth!

I would also like to thank Nora Pugh, Kimmie Finnell, Dr. Margaret Ewing and Dr. Howard Shipp for their various contributions of help and encouragement reference to life. and this study in particular.

Also, I would like to thank Marcia Sharp (TMM Day Center Director) for arranging for me to obtain the TMM Day Center Survey Data Set and for sending me the the TMM Day Center Daily Patron Count for February to September, 1986 (inclusive). Thanks are also in order for Marvin Cook (TMM Assistant Executive Director) who first alerted me to the existence of the data and Dr. Barry Kinsey (Professor of Sociology, University of Tulsa), for providing me with the raw data, code sheets and code book.

A sincere note of gratitude is due to Dr. John Vitek, who helped me through the bureaucratic expectations of

the University in regards to attaining the M.S. degree of which this thesis is the culmination.

A special note of thanks is also in order for Dr. Harold G. Grasmick, Dr. Robert J. Bursik, Jr., Dr. Craig St. John, Dr. Wilbur J. Scott, Dr. Mitchell B. Chamlin, Dr. Carolyn S. Morgan and Dr. George Henderson for confidence, patience, understanding, guidance and proofreading, encouragement nurturing and caring.

Also, I would like to thank my students. They keep me "on my toes" and they remind me what my entire academic career is about. I wish them all well, as they have been an incredibly important component in my growing as a teacher, a sociologist and a person.

I would also like to say thank you to my many day camp kids. They had a way of making the summers more enjoyable and they made me see that the world can still be a beautiful place. I wish that we adults could be as giving, honest and virtuous as children.

A special note of thanks is in order to Rhonda Stehr, Leslie Gillies, Patrick Anderson, and the O-State Bookstore for all of their help in preparing this thesis for binding.

Also, I would like to thank Kenneth Davidson for his expertise in the law in regards to copyrighting this work.

Finally, thanks to DeNee, John, Marguerite, Jo, Cheryl, Marcia, Dana, Tracey, Virginia, Mike, Ruth, Rob, Mo, Chauncey, the "cohort from hell", Kathy S., Cathy,

Kathy M., Steve, Fr. Daigle, the Wednesday night Mass Crew,
my friends, my relatives, and the best family in the world
(Moma, Grandmother, Victor, and Monica [and also the late
Mr. Lawyer Wren, Jr., and the late Mr. Marion Robert
Mansker, Jr.]). I love you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	7
Previous Research	7
Theoretical Considerations	12
Spector and Kitsuse's Social Problem Construction Scheme	14
III. METHODS	17
IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS	25
Background of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry Day Center	25
Quantitative and Qualitative Information	29
V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	42
BIBLIOGRAPHY	47
APPENDICES	50
APPENDIX A - TULSA METROPOLITAN MINISTRY DAY CENTER SURVEY	51
APPENDIX B - VARIMAX ROTATION FOR SCALE ON PHYSICAL SEPARATION FROM THE GENERAL POPULATION	62
APPENDIX C - REGRESSION EQUATIONS UTILIZING SELECT VARIABLES	63
APPENDIX D - APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IN 15 SELECT U.S. METROPOLITAN AREAS	65

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Demographic Characteristics of the Sample and the Population	19
2. Reliability and Factor Loadings for Physical Separation Scale	22
3. Communalities and Eigenvalues for Physical Separation Scale	22
4. Frequencies and Measures of Central Tendency of Items Most Associated With This Study	29
5. Pearson Correlation Matrix for Select Variables	38
6. Frequencies of Daily Visits to TMM Day Center From February to September of 1986	39
7. Percentages of Daily Visits to TMM Day Center From February to September of 1986	39
8. Frequencies of Daily Visits to TMM Day Center From April to June of 1986 (Time of the Survey)	40
9. Percentages of Visits for April to June (Time of the Survey)	41
10. Total Visits and Total Different People to Visit the TMM Day Center from February to September of 1986	41

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly, migration and "homelessness" reflect environmental pressure. There has hardly been a time in U S. history when there was not a segment of the population that was perpetually transient. Likewise, there has always been a segment of the post-industrial population that has been known by any number of names indicating the lack of a permanent address: bums, hobos, vagabonds, tramps, and street people. These people and the subculture associated with them have constantly been the theme of movies and other fictional expressions, but nonetheless, lack of a permanent address has never been in vogue. In the past ten years, the faces of this group have changed, and their lot has grown. Now they are known as the "homeless", and "homelessness" is viewed as a national problem.

In a controversial study conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, (1985) it was estimated that there were some 250,000 to 350,000 homeless people in the U.S. and the condition was thought then to be worsening. The plight of the homeless has captured the fancy of a plethora of persons. Entertainers, politicians, and

clergy have made homelessness a social, political, and moral issue.

As of July 1986, in 15 select U.S. metropolitan areas, there were approximately 286,500 homeless people (National Coalition for the Homeless; see Appendix D). In as much as homelessness became more of a major concern in many metropolitan areas, agencies that had once been able to handle relatively small numbers of homeless people had to modify their operating procedures to accommodate larger numbers of people. In some metropolitan areas, the swelling number of homeless people brought about a need for additional facilities; Tulsa, Oklahoma was one such city.

Tulsa is a city of 373,000 (SMSA population, 691,100, Information and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, 1988), located in Northeastern Oklahoma on the Arkansas River. Tulsa was founded as a Creek Indian village in 1832 and was incorporated in 1898. It has grown to cover some 180 square miles. Tulsa is the 38th largest city in the U.S. and the second largest city in Oklahoma in terms of population. It serves as the county seat for Tulsa County and is also a center for transportation, manufacture, energy technology and aeronautics. Of the 272,430 people within a thirty mile radius of Tulsa that make up its potential labor force, 232,125 are employed. Its largest employer is American Airlines, which currently employs about 6,000 people.

Tulsa serves as the home to two private institutions of higher education, the University of Tulsa and Oral Roberts University. Also located in Tulsa is the University Center at Tulsa (UCAT - a state sponsored consortium with the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Northeastern State University and Langston University participating in a joint effort to provide upper-division and graduate level courses for people in Tulsa). Tulsa is also the home of the University of Oklahoma Tulsa Medical School and the Oklahoma State University School of Osteopathic Medicine. Spartan School of Aeronautics is also in Tulsa.

In terms of recreation and entertainment, there are 115 city or county parks in the metropolitan Tulsa area. Tulsa is also home to a Texas League baseball team (the Tulsa Drillers) and a Continental Basketball Association team (the Tulsa Fastbreakers). Tulsa is also home to two of the premier museums in the Southwest (Gilcrease and Philbrook). Tulsa has its own ballet company, philharmonic, and several community theatre groups that perform during the entire year. Additionally, there are any number of annual events that people in Tulsa look forward to attending. There is the "Mayfest" celebration and art fair in the spring, the Greenwood Jazz Festival in the summer, the "Oktoberfest" and the Tulsa State Fair in the fall.

Many of the events that occur in Tulsa take place outside of the central hub of the city. But the

renovations that have been done to the area of Tulsa near the Arkansas River have revitalized the downtown area. The Williams Center and its adjacent Forum; the Bartlet Center for the Performing Arts; the Maxwell Convention Center; the Metro Campus of Tulsa Junior College and the UCAT campus have all contributed to the new "buzz" in the Downtown Tulsa area.

It seems odd then, that in the midst of all of the economic growth and development, some of Tulsa's most indigent citizens had been virtually unnoticed. Like many urban centers in the U.S., Tulsa has always had a section of town, adjacent to the downtown area that was the sight of abject poverty, vacated buildings, half-way houses, relief centers and the like. Until the mid-1980's, these centers of refuge had seemingly been adequate enough to "handle" the needs of the poor and destitute. Perhaps as an artifact of the economic pressures that plagued the entire country, the number of waif people who huddled together in the Downtown Tulsa area increased greatly. Many of the people, with no place to go and no where to call home, began to use public facilities as their own. After several incidents in which the patrons of the Downtown branch of the Tulsa City-County Library complained about people sleeping in the library building and otherwise disturbing them, a library employee contacted a local social services agency. During this same period of time, the staffpersons of the existing shelters

became increasingly worried that their facilities would no longer be able to accomodate the needs of all of the homeless people in that area of Tulsa. Through cooperative community efforts and the financial support of the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, a task force on Homelessness was formed. The task force, after taking inventory of the needs of the homeless people of Tulsa decided to provide a day center.

The Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry Day Center for the Homeless was opened in February of 1986. The Day Center is located near downtown Tulsa, in an area that is also the headquarters for a number of places that cater to the needs of the indigent of Tulsa (such as John 3:16 Mission and the Salvation Army Center). According to the Metropolitan Human Services Commission of Tulsa (1988), there are an estimated 1,000 homeless persons in Tulsa. During the months of April through June of 1986, the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry conducted a study on a sample of 100 of its patrons (interviews were conducted on a voluntary basis). This thesis focuses upon the construction of homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma as a social problem and upon the origins of the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry (TMM) Day Center for the Homeless. The primary source of information in regards to the homeless of Tulsa is the results of the aforementioned study. Through the use of secondary analysis techniques, I found that the majority of the patrons were not natives of Oklahoma and that

homelessness and general economic hardship are inextricably linked to one another. The general conclusion of this thesis is that homelessness must be considered as a result of many structural variables that the individual homeless person has little or no control over.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Previous Research

In 1962, Michael Harrington's controversial, but thought-provoking book, *The Other America* was first published. Harrington told of a bifurcated society that was becoming more and more separate with each passing year. Further, Harrington asserted that because poverty in the U.S. takes place in a relatively affluent society, it is ignored by the vast majority of the populous. Twenty years later, the "other" America still existed but it had grown and begun to encompass a slightly different lot of people than it had previously. Nonetheless, the methods used to study and allegedly help these people stayed the same. Much of the early research on the subject of homelessness focused on the connection between homelessness and the emotional/psychological problems of the homeless. C. Wright Mills (1959) contends that the "sociological imagination" is the ability to view individual behavior in relation to the larger social context in which the behavior is displayed. In fact, the debate between people who advocate this view of homelessness as an

individual/personal (individually caused) pathology and others who hold that homelessness is a social problem (socially caused) is perhaps one of the factors that has prevented any great resolution to the situation of the homeless.

In an ethnographic study of 168 homeless people in Austin, Texas, Snow and Anderson (1987) found that the people classified as "homeless street people" have self-identities that center around one of three basic patterns of behavior:

1. distancing- the people tend to purposefully separate themselves from other homeless people and from the general public
2. embracing- the people are very open and try to establish strong ties with other homeless people and the general public.
3. fictive story telling- the people have a story for everything, they have done and seen almost everything, and have traveled extensively.

The authors conclude that these three basic profiles of homeless people could be indicative of a number of different types of psychological problems that could be precursors to homelessness. In 1984, Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat found that the general psychological disposition of the homeless is less cheerful than that of other poor people and the general population. In fact, their mood was the most pessimistic of the three groups. The researchers concluded this mood is not necessarily

antecedant to the homelessness, but rather a result of it. Crystal (1984), in a study of homeless men and women in New York City found that homeless women have a history of psychiatric treatment, while homeless men have a history of incarceration.

Other studies on homelessness and the homeless have had slightly different focal points, and thusly have revealed different kinds of results. In 1986 Wiegand found that the average number of homeless people in Nashville, Tennessee was 822 and that the composition of the homeless population changed seasonally. Peterson and Wiegand (1985), through the utilization of four sources of information (data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 80 taped interviews with homeless people in Nashville, participant observation and discussions with workers at homeless centers in Nashville) found that there is a "culture of tramps", which consists of six distinctly different types of homeless people. These findings are echoed by the findings of the Metropolitan Human Services Commission of Tulsa. This commission found that the homeless people of Tulsa can be divided into seven distinct groups. They further concluded that only 30 to 50 of Tulsa's 1000 homeless are "street people" (i.e. perpetually homeless) (Tulsa World, Saturday, August 13, 1988).

As stated in the previous chapter, there are an estimated 250,000 to 350,000 homeless people in the U.S.

If this estimate is true, then these people only constitute between 0.01% to 0.14% of the U.S. population.

Nevertheless, in many metropolitan areas, the proportion of the population that is homeless is quite a substantial number. Bassuk (1984) found that in the winter of 1983, there were more homeless people in the U.S. than there were at any other time except during the great Depression.

Further, in her study of homelessness in Boston, she found that unemployment, lack of low-rent/cost housing, cuts in government benefit programs, and changes in dealing with the mentally ill were the primary reasons for increases in the number of homeless. Freeman and Hill (1987), found in their study of homelessness in New York City that the homeless population is growing (especially homeless families). They also found that homelessness is a chronic, long-term condition for many people. This study also pointed out that a great deal of homelessness can be considered an artifact of the number of poor in the 1980's, and that a decline in the number of low rent housing units has contributed to the number of homeless people. Surprisingly enough, very few of the homeless are the recipients of government benefits.

Many homeless have spent time in jail. Main (1986), in a study of homeless families in New York City, echoes these findings. He concludes that homelessness is an artifact of three major causes:

(1) a housing market whose prices have soared, (2) the

shelter policy of New York City, and (3) a greater history of behavioral and psychological problems among the homeless. Snow, et.al., (1986) found that most of the homeless people in Texas are people caught in a cycle of low paying, dead end jobs: jobs that don't allow people to advance.

Other studies have looked at slightly different economic factors as the root of increased homelessness. According to Hopper, Susser, and Conover (1985), gentrification and the increase in the service industry economy in New York City have widened the gap between the poor and the non-poor, and have further facilitated a more bifurcated economic system. Hence, the number of homeless people in New York City is increasing. Baxter and Hopper (1982), in an ethnographic study of the New York homeless over a period of 15 years, found that the composition of the homeless of that city has expanded from the chronically unemployed and the marginally mentally handicapped to now include the once employed and the marginally physically handicapped.

All of these studies, while different in their orientations, methodologies, and results, do show some common themes and recurrent correlates with homelessness. The two primary characteristics that stand out are:

1. the homeless as a group of people who have been physically separated from the general population through incarceration in either criminal or mental institutions.

2. the homeless as a group of people who are unable to find and/or afford adequate housing because they cannot procure sufficient economic resources.

Theoretical Considerations

In the aforementioned studies of homelessness, there is seemingly very little discernable consensus among the researchers about a clear theoretical explanation of this problem. Perhaps this is because individuals from a number of academic backgrounds have been the primary investigators of this subject. It is possible to view homelessness from any number of theoretical perspectives. Of the three prevalent paradigms within sociology (structural-functionalism, interactionism, and conflict), only one of these paradigms (conflict theory) has been utilized to any great extent as a theoretical crux for an explanation of homelessness. Marcuse (1988), employed conflict theory in his investigation of homelessness. In his critique of current policies regarding homelessness, he has embraced the conflict perspective. Through this perspective, he has surmised that the sudden public interest in homelessness is because capitalism has created homelessness and it (capitalism) must try to solve homelessness because the very existence of homelessness threatens the legitimacy of capitalism as a viable form of productive economics. Marcuse's approach, utilizing a general conflict perspective lends itself to the notion

that homelessness is an indication of a lack of a very valued resource in our society (a permanent shelter).

While this approach may seem applicable to any study of homelessness, this approach does not specifically establish why and how homelessness became a social problem per se. For this reason, I have chosen to study homelessness from the social constructionist perspective as proposed by Spector and Kitsuse. I believe that this theoretical perspective is an appropriate mechanism in which to base an analysis of homelessness in Tulsa because of the major assumptions of social constructionist theory. This view holds that social problems must first be recognized as such by people who are in positions to effect change in the way that people view a given social situation. I propose that in this specific case that the issue of homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma is related to the manner in which it was constructed as a social problem by Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry.

It is often taken as a given in sociology that there are certain discernable social problems in any society. Structural-functionalism maintains that social problems arise out of a lack of consensus, but that these problems have a purpose in society. Conflict theory holds that social problems arise because of the constant upheaval in the social arrangements of a society. Merton and Nisbet (1961) state that a comprehensive theory of social problems has yet to exist. They further acknowledge the

fact that social problems are defined and viewed in a plethora of ways. Typically, a social problem is thought to be any social situation or condition that causes people undue duress. Eitzen (1983) enumerates specific social problems in American society, yet he points out that it is very hard to arrive at a clear definition of the term "social problem". The aforementioned theorists and others agree that most definitions (and in turn most of the phenomena that are considered as such) fall short of capturing the full essence of what a social problem really is. Thus enters Spector and Kitsuse and their Social Constructionist Theory. Their theory does not hold to the standard definition of social problems. In fact social constructionist theory as espoused by Spector and Kitsuse (1987) states that there is not an adequate definition of social problems within sociology. They then proceed to establish their view of how social problems are constructed.

Spector and Kitsuse's Social Problem Construction Scheme

Stage 1: Assertion that some condition is societally unacceptable.

Stage one of the process involves making the initial claim that some situation in society is not acceptable. Crucial elements involved in this step of Social Constructionist Theory are who the claims makers are and

their ability to articulate their opinion. The ability to validate the claim is predicated in part upon the power of the group making the claim and the level of the organization of the people making the claim. (This part of the theory is somewhat akin to the notion of Thomas of the "definition of the situation", 1937). Other factors involved in getting a condition recognized as a social problem are: the validity of the definition of the condition, the visible level of dissatisfaction with the condition and the ability of the group making the claim to offer concrete solutions to the problem. Most importantly, the people making the claim must be able to publicize the problem to a wide range of people.

Stage 2: Recognition of the group making the claim.

Stage two of this process involves some official organization that can do something about the claims raised, recognizing the group as having a valid point in viewing the condition as a problem. This official organization then adds to the legitimacy of the group making the claims by responding to the claims.

Stage 3: Reiteration of the claims

Stage three involves the original complaints being raised again by the group who first made the claim and/or others who are displeased by the official solution to the problem.

Stage 4: Rejection of official action

Stage four involves developing new strategies for voicing complaints. This step also includes stating displeasure with the official action and offering solutions other than those already in use.

This strategy proposed by Spector and Kitsuse does not preclude that at any one stage the condition which was viewed as a social problem can be solved. By employing the Social Constructionist theory of Spector and Kitsuse , this study proposes to overcome the problems faced in other studies of homelessness because the focus of this study is how the increase in the number of visible indigent people in the Downtown Tulsa area became perceived as an unacceptable condition. In this specific instance, I contend that homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma was constructed as a social problem.

Because this study is a historical analysis of the origin of the TMM Day Center for the Homeless and a descriptive study of the center and of the population that it will serve; there were no specific hypothesis in reference to homelessness that were tested.

CHAPTER III

METHODS

It should be noted that the intent of the collection of this data was to provide the TMM Day Center Staff and the TMM Task Force on Homelessness with a demographic profile of the patrons of the center. It should also be noted that this data collection was done as a TMM directive. Finally, it should be reiterated that this thesis is a descriptive study.

Data presented in this study were gathered through the auspices of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry during the spring and summer (from the month of April through the month of June of 1986). One hundred patrons of the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry Day Center for the Homeless participated in the study. These people voluntarily participated in this study. The survey was designed to include input from workers at the center. The interview instrument consisted of five sections (see Appendix A). The interviews were conducted in person, at the Day Center and the interviewers had been rehearsed in the process of interviewing the participants. The supplemental data in the Results section was provided the by Day Center director and is result of the daily count of patrons at

the Day Center. Homelessness was operationalized as one's presence at the center. The descriptive statistics are reported in Table 1. The results of the Pearson Correlation test performed on some select variables are found in Table 5. Also one set of seemingly related items was combined and used as a scale to measure participants degree of physical separation from the general population through some type of incarceration. The results of reliability and factor analysis procedures are recorded in Tables 2 and 3.

In reference to the Spector and Kitsuse model, the following time table is a guide to the establishment of the TMM Day Center for the Homeless.

Stage 1 (February 1985-May 1985): As the number of visible indigent people in the downtown Tulsa area began to swell, a number of various people in the area (including those who had been dealing with this situation before) perceived that something had to be done. Simultaneously, an employee of the Tulsa City County Library contacted an employee of a local service agency.

Stage 2 (June 1985-December 1985): This contact led to a member of the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry (TMM) Board of Directors becoming involved in the legitimization of the claims making process. Finally, the TMM Board of Directors created the TMM Task Force on Homelessness and together, they established the TMM Day Center for the Homeless.

In this particular situation, and at this particular

time, only stages one and two of the model proposed by Spector and Kitsuse have been executed. Only time will tell if the entire cycle will be completed. I believe that if the current rate of increase in the number of homeless people in the U.S. continues, Tulsa will find itself in a position in which the TMM Day Center will not suffice as an adequate solution to homelessness.

Table 1 compares the general demographic characteristics of the sample to those of the general population of Tulsa. In terms of the demographic characteristics of the sample in comparison to the demographic characteristics of the population of Tulsa, we find many interesting results. As one reads Table 1, note that the total sample size is the 100 patrons of the TMM Day Center and not the estimated 1,000 homeless people of Tulsa and that the population total of Tulsa is 373,000¹).

TABLE 1
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE SAMPLE AND
THE POPULATION

Characteristic	Sample Statistic (N=100)	Population Parameter (N=373,000)
Median age	37 years old	30 years old

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Characteristic	Sample Statistics (N=100)	Population Parameter (N=373,000)
Percentage male	75% male	49.6% male
Median years education	10 years	12.8 years
Median yearly income	\$1,290.00	\$17,719.00
Racial/Ethnic Background		
Euro-American	68%	81.4%
African-American	13%	11.66%
Native American	16%	3.76%
Hispanic	1%	1.71%
Other/unreported	2%	0.65%

As was stated in Chapter 2, this study was not formulated to test any specific hypotheses in regards to homelessness. In the interest of seeing how this sample of homeless people compared to the bulk of the homeless people who were referred to in the aforementioned chapter, certain statistical procedures were executed on selective parts of the data. Based in part upon the notion that seemingly pervaded a great deal of the literature about the homeless (see Chapter II), one scale was created in reference to the idea of the homeless as persons who had been physically separated from the general population through some type of

incarceration. The relationship between physical separation from the general population and homelessness seemed to be one of the most salient issues involved in studies of homeless people. In the survey instrument there were five questions that dealt directly with the issue of being detained in either a penal, psychiatric, or chemical dependency institution/center. These questions were stated as follows: "Have you ever been in jail or prison?", "Have you been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?", "Have you ever received counseling/treatment at a community mental health center?", "Have you ever been in an alcohol treatment program?", and "Have you ever been in a drug treatment program?". For the purposes of scale construction, all affirmative answers were coded to equal 1 and all negative answers coded to equal 0. Next, each individual question was standardized. Finally, these z-scores were added together to create the scale.

This scale created using the aforementioned information consisted of the standardized results of those five questions. Tables 2 and 3 report the results of factor analysis and reliability procedures.

TABLE 2
RELIABILITY AND FACTOR LOADINGS
FOR PHYSICAL SEPARATION SCALE

Variable Label	Mean	St.D	Factor Loadings	
			F1	F2
Have you ever been jailed?	0.0266	0.9930	-0.3906	0.3315
Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?	0.0456	1.0392	0.6363	0.2339
Have you ever received counseling/treatment at a community mental health center?	0.2290	1.1110	0.5924	0.4457
Have you ever been in an alcohol treatment program?	0.1737	1.0176	-0.3382	0.6437
Have you ever been in a drug treatment program?	0.0210	1.0158	-0.2341	0.2805
			Scale Alphas	
			Unst.	St.
Physical Separation Scale	0.4959	2.7225	0.3448	0.3434

TABLE 3
COMMUNALITIES AND EIGENVALUES FOR
PHYSICAL SEPERATION SCALE

Variable Label	Communality	Eigenvalue	%Of Variance
Have you ever been jailed?	0.15035	1.65625	33.1%

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Variable Label	Communality	Eigenvalue	%Of Variance
Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reason?	0.25608	1.39883	28.0%
Have you ever received counseling/treatment at a community mental health center?	0.25122	0.82383	16.5%
Have you ever been in an alcohol treatment program?	0.17836	0.63406	12.7%
Have you ever been in an drug treatment program?	0.08180	0.48704	9.7%

The scale mean was 0.4959 and the standardized alpha was 0.3434. The factor analysis procedure revealed that the question "Have you ever received counseling/treatment at a community mental health center?" had the highest communality score. There were two factors extracted from this scale. The question "Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?" had the highest factor loading on factor one (0.6363), and the item "Have you ever been in an alcohol treatment program?" had the highest factor loading on factor two (0.6437). Two items in this scale

reported eigenvalues that exceeded one ("Have you ever been jailed?", 1.65625, explaining 33.1% of the variance, and "Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?", 1.39883, explaining 28.0% of the variance).

1

The information in reference to the population of Tulsa is based upon the 1980 U.S. Census and projections by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

2

The terms used in the narrative for different ethnic/racial groups are the terms that the author prefers. See Appendix A for the terminology employed in the TMM Day Center survey.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Background of Tulsa

Metropolitan

Ministry Day

Center

Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry is a social organization located in the Urban League office of Tulsa, Oklahoma. TMM is an ecumenical group of clergy and lay persons from various Christian denominations and the Jewish community in Tulsa. TMM's membership includes representatives from some 150 various congregations in Tulsa (Fact Sheet, Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless). It is a hierarchically, bureaucratically arranged organization. The TMM Board of Directors is elected by the general membership of the organization. This board is responsible for hiring the staff of TMM. Currently, they employ a full-time executive director, a full-time assistant executive director and an administrative assistant. This not-for-profit organization has an extended history of being active in charitable and community service work throughout Tulsa (especially on its North and West sides, where the majority of the poor people

and people of the four major ethnic/racial domestic minority groups in Tulsa live). In 1979, the Hunger Task Force of TMM did an extensive study of the nutrition of the poor of Tulsa which was instrumental in changing many of the policies that had been established for food distribution to the poor of Tulsa. Also, TMM has a history of contributing great amounts of time, energy and financial support to the efforts of other social service agencies in Tulsa. TMM has facilitated summer youth activities and summer youth employment programs. TMM has also been instrumental in programs for the elderly and has been an essential part of Tulsa's effort to lessen its rate of illiteracy.

In 1985, the staffs of various social service centers for the indigent noticed that there had been an increase in the number of indigent people who could be found in and around the downtown Tulsa area. Further, the staff people of these places noted that they had recently been hard pressed to accomodate all of the people in need. They (the staff members) were concerned their clients would not have their needs met if something could not be done. Also, and perhaps more importantly, during this same period of time, a great number of indigent people, driven by the harsh Northeastern Oklahoma winter, had begun to congregate in the downtown branch of the Tulsa City County Library. Often, the indigent used the library restrooms as their own private bathrooms. On many occasions, the

indigent people would be intoxicated or would otherwise disturb the patrons of the library. Because of this situation, the library director contacted the director of the Tulsa Community Service Council. After a short meeting, they decided to present the problem to a larger audience. Concerned citizens (including the staff people of existing shelters) and these two individuals approached a TMM board member. Based upon the observations of the group of concerned people, this TMM board member then proceeded to bring up the issue of the Tulsa's growing homeless population to the TMM board of directors. Upon the authority of the TMM board of directors, the board member formed the TMM Task Force on Homelessness. The task force included many of the people who had made the original claim, but also included people who had been made aware of the problem of the growing number of homeless people in Tulsa due to their involvement with TMM. The first act of the task force was to conduct an in depth needs assessment of the plight of the homeless in Tulsa. After a review of the needs assessment, the TMM Task Force on Homelessness and the TMM Board of Directors concluded that the best possible immediate solution to the problem of homelessness would be to establish some sort of day-time haven for the homeless as opposed to opening a 24-hour shelter. Next, the TMM Board of Directors and the TMM Task Force on Homelessness began a search for a director of the proposed center. A director was hired in June of 1985. Next the

center director, the assistant executive director of TMM, and other members of TMM Task Force on Homelessness began to search for a place in the downtown area where the center could be housed. An abandoned building located at 210 North Denver Avenue, directly across the street from the Salvation Army Social Service Center was procured. After extensive discussions with people who had already worked in this area of social services, the TMM task force decided that the day center should and could offer the homeless a number of services. The task force then decided that necessities such as personal hygiene facilities, clothing and food should be top priorities. Other services that the task force viewed as very important and in turn provided were outreach workers from other social service entities. After the task force established these provisions, the TMM Day Center for the Homeless was opened in February of 1986. The period of time involved in this entire process from the inception of the idea through to the online functioning of the TMM Day Center was eleven months (February 1985 to January 1986). As is evidenced in this synopsis of how the TMM Day Center for the Homeless came into being, it should be noted that issues such as providing or facilitating employment or job skill acquisition or a permanent home were not major priorities of the TMM Board of Directors or the TMM Task Force on Homelessness. Their primary concern was that the indigent had their immediate personal necessities met. As the Day Center

director stated:

"The center provides a focal point for the person on the street. We can attempt to know them by name and give them a smile and ask how they are...A hot cup of coffee awaits them in the morning after a long night on the street. Fresh clothes, a shower, shave, toothbrush and toothpaste...all make a difference. Getting clean does wonders for the individual's self esteem."

Quantitative and Qualitative Information

Although there was a plethora of information contained in the data set, for the purposes of this study, there was some that merited special attention. Table 4 illustrates the frequencies and measures of central tendency associated with those variables.

TABLE 4
FREQUENCIES AND MEASURES OF
CENTRAL TENDENCY OF ITEMS
MOST ASSOCIATED WITH
THIS STUDY
(N=100)

Variable Label	Frequency	MoCT	Std
Date of interview			
April 1986	13		
May 1986	49		
June 1986	37		
Age of Participant			
Mode		28 (8)	
Median		37	
Mean		39.444	13.857

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Variable Label	Frequency	MoCT	StD
Sex of Participant			
Female	23		
Male	75		
Racial/Ethnic Background of the Participant			
Euro-American	68		
African-American	13		
Native American	16		
Hispanic	1		
other/unreported	2		
Marital Status of Participant			
Single	47		
Married	10		
Divorced	23		
Widowed	7		
Separated	12		
Length of Time in Tulsa			
0- 3 months	32		
4- 6 months	5		
7-11 months	3		
1- 3 years	8		
4- 6 years	10		
7- 9 years	2		
10-14 years	11		
15 + years	1		
Tulsa native Mode			No (79)
If not from Tulsa why are you here?			
To work	15		
To find work	26		
To attend school	2		
Marriage	1		
Health care	1		
Other	44		

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Variable Label	Frequency	MoCT	StD
Length of time in Oklahoma			
0- 3 months	18		
4- 6 months	6		
7-11 months	3		
1- 3 years	9		
4- 6 years	9		
7- 9 years	3		
10-14 years	6		
15 + years	3		
Oklahoma native Mode		No (57)	
Birthplace			
Northeast	4		
Mid-Atlantic	3		
South	5		
Great lakes	13		
North central	1		
Mid central	7		
South central	46		
West	15		
Pacific coast	2		
Residence before Tulsa			
Northeast	8		
Mid-Atlantic	1		
South	7		
Great lakes	8		
North central	3		
Mid central	8		
South central	53		
West	7		
Pacific coast	2		
Ever jailed Mode		Yes (63)	
Permanent place of residence Mode		No (72)	

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Variable Label	Frequency	MoCT	StD
Length of time without permanent residence			
0- 3 months	43		
4- 6 months	10		
7-11 months	4		
1- 3 years	12		
4- 6 years	6		
7- 9 years	2		
10-14 years	0		
15+ years	5		
Number of years of school completed			
Mode		12 (40)	
Median		10	
Mean		11.1	
Employment			
Mode		No (86)	
How long unemployed			
0- 3 months	30		
4- 6 months	10		
6 months but < 1 yr.	9		
1 year but < 2 yrs.	12		
2- 4 years	12		
4 years or more	15		
Monthly income			
Mode		0	
Median		\$107.50	
Mean		\$252.90	425.70
Ever received psychiatric care			
Mode		No (78)	
Ever received counseling at community mental health center			
Mode		No (73)	
Ever received alcohol treatment			
Mode		No (51)	

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Variable Lable	Frequency	MoCT	StD
Ever received drug treatment			
Mode		No (58)	
Veteran			
Mode		No (88)	
Viet-Nam Veteran			
Mode		No (97)	
Life Five Years Ago			
Better	65		
Worse	11		
Same	23		
Interviewer classification of participant			
Transient	13		
Street lifestyle	3		
Traditional (Sr.)	3		
Traditional (N-Sr.)	1		
Physically D.P.	4		
Physically D.T.	1		
Unemployed	22		
Employed-Low Income	11		
Immigrants	0		
Ex-Offenders	1		
Chronic Alcohol Abusers	19		
Chronic Drug Abusers	3		
Chronically Mentally Ill	13		
Mental Retardations	5		

In Table 4, we find that most of the interviews were conducted in May (49%). This is intriguing when we consider that there were only a total of 5,252 visits in the month

of May (see Table 6). One of the most notable findings in the sample is its gender composition. If one is familiar with the "feminization of poverty" hypothesis (Pearce, 1978), it is somewhat surprising that 75% of the participants in this survey were men. Also a point of interest is that most of the participants (79) were not originally from Tulsa and 57 of them were not natives of Oklahoma. Most of the participants reported that they were born in and had most recently resided in a neighboring state though. Also interesting was the fact that a great number of them had come to Oklahoma for some reason other than education or work. It was also interesting to note that over half of the participants (63%) reported that they had been in jail or prison at some time.

Table 4 also contains the employment and income information about the sample and there are very few surprising findings here. Most of the sample (86) is unemployed, but 30 report that they are just recently unemployed. The average monthly income of \$252.90 is a small sum, when considered that 33 of the participants in the sample report no income at all.

Table 4 also illustrates the medical history of the sample. In terms of psychiatric treatment, etc., there were very few people who responded affirmatively to these type of questions. Of those who did report that they had received counseling, 17 reported that they were satisfied with it and nine reported that they had been counseled in

1986. Drug and alcohol treatment were also lowly reported, but 60 of the participants reported that they used alcohol.

One factor that has been correlated with the incidence of homelessness is the status of an individual as a veteran, especially the status of an individual as a veteran of the Viet-Nam War, but as Table 4 illustrates, only 12 of the people in this sample report that they are veterans and only 3 of the people in this sample report that they are veterans of the Viet-Nam War.

Table 4 also shows the results of two very subjective items on the survey. One of these is in reference to how the participant characterizes her or his life five years ago as compared to now. Not surprisingly, 65% report that their life was better five years previous, but 23% report that their life is the same. The other highly subjective item that is reported in Table 4 is the interviewers' classification of the participant. The most common classification used was "unemployed", but we are not given any indications as to how the interviewers were instructed to classify the people.

Table 5 is the Pearson Correlation Matrix. The survey item about a permanent place of residence is the principle variable of interest for the purposes of this study. The correlation matrix shows that marital status, unemployment and physical separation all are significantly correlated ($p < 0.05$) with lack of a permanent residence. At least one of these significant correlations is almost expected

(unemployment and a lack of a permanent shelter for example). But the positive relationship between lack of a permanent residence and physical separation from the general population lends some credence to the findings of other researchers (Crystal, Freeman and Hill) who have found that many homeless people have a history of physical separation from the rest of society and/or chemical dependency problems unlike those of the general population. It should be noted that the correlation procedure is a measure of association, not causation. In my opinion these findings warranted further investigation; thus multivariate regression procedures were performed using the scale on physical separation and particular survey items as predictor and criterion variables. These results can be found in Appendix C. It should also be noted that the demographic variables of age, sex and race were not significantly correlated with the lack of a permanent shelter.

Tables 6 through 10 contain information revealed from the monthly reports of the TMM Day Center for the first eight months of 1986. It is interesting to note the fluctuations in the number of visits per month and the composition of the visitors in terms of gender and age. It is also worth noting that the number of visits by women and children increases substantially in the months of June, July and August. It is also very interesting to notice that by the time that the survey had been completed (June),

there had been 2,500 different people who had utilized the services of the TMM Day Center, but only 100 participated in the survey.

TABLE 5
PEARSON CORRELATION MATRIX
FOR SELECT VARIABLES

	AGE	SEX	RACE	M.ST	EDUC.	INCM.	PERM. RES.	SEP.	UNEM.
AGE	1.000 ()								
SEX	0.158 (.53)	1.000 ()							
RACE	-0.011 (.46)	-0.118 (.12)	1.000 ()						
M.ST.	-0.038 (.36)	0.291 (.00)	0.135 (.09)	1.000 ()					
EDUC.	-0.103 (.15)	0.075 (.23)	-0.053 (.30)	-0.012 (.45)	1.000 ()				
INCM.	0.035 (.38)	0.118 (.15)	-0.001 (.50)	0.025 (.41)	0.085 (.23)	1.000 ()			
PERM. RES.	0.115 (.13)	-0.042 (.34)	-0.142 (.09)	0.197 (.03)	0.018 (.43)	-0.063 (.30)	1.000 ()		
SEP.	-0.050 (.50)	0.167 (.07)	0.002 (.50)	0.181 (.07)	0.181 (.07)	0.180 (.08)	0.332 (.00)	1.000 ()	
UNEM.	0.144 (.08)	-0.100 (.17)	-0.017 (.44)	0.007 (.47)	-0.104 (.18)	-0.436 (.00)	0.364 (.00)	0.121 (.17)	1.000 ()

TABLE 6
 FREQUENCIES OF DAILY VISITS
 TO TMM DAY CENTER FROM
 FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER
 OF 1986

Month	#Of Visits By Males	#Of Visits By Females	#Of Visits By Children	Total
February	5,476	345	39	5,860
March	6,592	631	66	7,289
April	6,376	739	72	7,187
May	4,590	602	60	5,252
June	4,987	565	127	5,679
July	6,241	701	150	7,092
August	6,629	831	168	7,628
September	6,465	733	115	7,313
Total	47,356	5147	797	53,300
Averages	5,920	643	100	6,663

TABLE 7
 PERCENTAGES OF DAILY VISITS
 TO TMM DAY CENTER FROM
 FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER
 OF 1986

Month	% Males	% Females	% Children
February	93.4	5.9	0.7
March	90.4	8.7	0.9

TABLE 7 (Continued)

Month	% Males	% Females	% Children
April	88.7	10.3	1.0
May	87.4	11.5	1.1
June	87.8	9.9	2.2
July	88.0	9.9	2.1
August	86.9	10.9	2.2
September	88.4	10.0	1.6
Averages	88.875	9.6375	1.475

TABLE 8
 FREQUENCIES OF VISITS FOR APRIL
 TO JUNE OF 1986 (TIME OF
 THE SURVEY)

Month	#Of Visits By Males	#Of Visits By Females	#Of Visits By Children	Total
April	6,376	739	72	7,187
May	4,590	602	60	5,252
June	4,987	565	127	5,679
Total	15,953	1,906	259	18,118
Average	5,318	635	86	6,039

TABLE 9
 PERCENTAGES OF VISITS FOR APRIL
 TO JUNE OF 1986 (TIME
 OF THE SURVEY)

Month	%Male	%Female	%Children
April	88.7	10.3	1.0
May	87.4	11.5	1.1
June	87.8	9.9	2.2
Averages	87.966667	10.566667	1.4333333

TABLE 10
 TOTAL VISITS AND TOTAL DIFFERENT
 PEOPLE TO VISIT TMM DAY
 CENTER FROM FEBRUARY
 TO SEPTEMBER OF 1986

Month	Total #Of Visits	Total #Of Different People	#Of New People
February	5,860	921	921
March	7,289	1,400	479
April	7,187	2,000	600
May	5,252	2,200	200
June	5,679	2,500	300
July	7,092	3,500	1,000
August	7,628	3,800	300
September	7,313	4,200	400
Total	53,300	20,521	4,200
Averages	6,663	2,565	525

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In February of 1986, the TMM Day Center for the Homeless was opened. In the months of April, May and June of that year, the TMM Task Force on Homelessness conducted a survey of 100 patrons of the Day Center. The preceding chapters have been concerned with how the Day Center came into existence, what the results of the survey can tell us about homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and how these results relate to other findings about the homeless people throughout the U.S.A. The results of the 1986 survey conducted by the TMM Task Force on Homelessness revealed some very interesting information.

It should be noted that the entire issue of homelessness is muddled by the fact that there is no accurate manner by which to count the homeless. As was stated in previous chapters, HUD reports that there are "only" between 250,000 and 350,000 homeless people in the U.S. Advocates of the homeless claim that the actual number of homeless persons is somewhere between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000. Further, they project that if homelessness continues to increase at the same rate, there will be 18,000,000 homeless people in America by the end of

the century (Lochhead,1988). Likewise, the highest estimate of the number of homeless people in Tulsa is 1,000 and yet between February and September of 1986, 4,200 different people were patrons of the TMM Day Center for the Homeless.

Tulsa, Oklahoma, not unlike many urban areas in the United States has a transient population that congregates in its Downtown area. But unlike many urban areas in the U.S., Tulsa has not suffered structural unemployment to a great degree. Even though the oil bust of the mid-1980's had a huge detrimental economic effect upon all of Oklahoma, the participants in TMM Day Center study, for the most part were not natives of Oklahoma. Also, only 57% of the dwellings in Tulsa are owner occupied, meaning that many people in Tulsa are in the process of buying their homes or they are simply renting their places of residence. Clearly, there are more factors involved in the plight of the homeless people in Tulsa than the information utilized in this thesis shows.

As Kiecolt and Nathan (1985) noted, there are many advantages and limitations involved in secondary analysis of survey data. The methodology by which this data set was collected, the nature of the particular study and the wording of many of the questions left much to be desired in many instances. These factors thus inhibited the type of statistical analysis that could be done feasibly. Also, because of the nature of the data set, no specific hypothesis were tested. Nonetheless, some very interesting

information was garnered through this study.

First, an extensive review of the literature revealed that homelessness in the U.S.A. has become a major topic of concern for social scientific researchers. Secondly, through the use of Spector and Kitsuse's model of the construction of social problems, a mechanism was developed to offer a possible explanation of how the TMM Day Center for the Homeless came into existence. As of the writing of this thesis, the data set examined in this study is one of the few, if not the only data set in Oklahoma about the homeless people in any area of the state. Inasmuch as the Social Constructionist Model of Social Problems precludes grand theoretical orientations, this thesis lays the ground work for understanding the how of the public perception of homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as a social problem and subsequently how one group of people sought to alleviate what they thought to be a social ill. Not unlike the findings of Timmer (1988), the TMM Day Center for the Homeless, while taking into account social and economic changes over the past several years, has been formulated considering homelessness as a personal pathology as opposed to a condition brought on by an unbalanced structural situation. Further work in the area of homelessness, in Tulsa, in Oklahoma, or in the U.S. should focus upon trying to create balance in social structures and finding the homeless long term solutions in addition to catering to their immediate personal needs. Also, future research

in this area could address the issue of the ability of people to mobilize in an effort to change conditions that they find socially unacceptable. Future research also could focus upon interaction between different groups of people who are concerned with the problem of homelessness and how they collectively and/or distributively have approached the issue. Also, future research that could lead to viable solutions should be done on this issue simply because the homeless are citizens in a land of plenty. Housing policies should be formulated so that there is affordable housing for everyone.

Because of the results of the Pearson correlation procedure, interesting research could be done on the issue of what are the major precedent conditions that homeless people find themselves in before they become homeless.

Also, the information in Tables 6 through 10 warrants further discussion here. The fluctuations in the composition of visitors can be explained in several ways, but I would offer the following explanation: the number of visits increased in the warmer months because of the nature of the TMM Day Center. In as much as it is a day center, people might have been more hesitant to use its facilities in the winter because they knew that they would have to leave at a particular time, so they might have opted for the use of a 24-hour shelter. Also, the number visits by women and children increased quite a great deal in the months of June, July and August. I think that this

could be explained partially by the fact that school is not in session at this time, so minor children would be with their primary caregivers and because adolescents would be employed in many of the jobs that non-skilled adult laborers would have during other times of the year. These two situations could possibly be rallying points for future advocates of the homeless in Tulsa.

In conclusion, it is almost assured that homelessness will continue to be a social condition that will be studied extensively in the next decade, if the present trends continue at the same rate. In a larger scheme then, perhaps more people will mobilize to create shelters along the lines of the TMM Day Center. Also, because only two stages of the Specter and Kitsuse Social Constructionist Model have been utilized in response to homelessness in Tulsa, if current trends continue, other solutions might have to be devised to handle this problem in Tulsa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Auletta, Ken
1982 The Underclass. New York: Vintage Books.
- Bassuk, Ellen L.
1984 "The Homelessness Problem." Scientific American 251 (1): 40-45.
- Bassuk, Ellen L., Lenore Rubin and Alison Lauriat
1984 "Is Homelessness a Mental Health Problem?" The American Journal of Psychiatry 14 (12): 1546-1550.
- Baxter, Ellen and Kim Hopper
1982 "The New Mendicancy: Homeless in New York City." American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 52 (3): 393-408.
- Crystal, Stephen
1984 "Homeless Men and Homeless Women: The Gender Gap." The Urban and Social Change Review 17 (2): 2-6.
- Eitzen, D. Stanley
1983 Social Problems. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Freeman, Richard B. and Brian Hill
1987 "Permanent Homelessness in America?" Population Research and Policy Review 6 (1): 3-27.
- Harrington, Michael
1962 The Other America. Baltimore: Penguin Books, Inc.
- Hopper, Kim, Ezra Susser and Sarah Conover
1985 "Economics of Makeshift: Deindustrialization and Homelessness in New York City." Urban Anthropology 14 (1-3): 183-236.
- Kiecolt, K. Jill and Laura E. Nathan
1985 "Secondary Analysis of Survey Data." Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences, 07-053 Beverly Hills: Sage Publications.

- Lochhead, Carolyn
1988 "Homeless in America: Nowhere to go, Always in Sight." Insight May: 8-18.
- Main, Thomas J.
1986 "The Homeless Families of New York." The Public Interest 85 (Fall): 3-21.
- Marcuse, Peter
1988 "Neutralizing Homelessness." Socialist Review 18 (1): 69-96.
- Merton, Robert K. and Robert A. Nisbet (eds.)
1961 Contemporary Social Problems. New York: Brace and World Inc.
- Mills, C. Wright
1959 The Sociological Imagination. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Information and Research Division
1988 Tulsa City/County Statistics.
- National Coalition for the Homeless
1986 Report on the Homeless of the U.S.
- Pearce, Diana
1978 "The Feminization of Poverty: Women, Work and Welfare." Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle.
- Peterson, Richard A. and Bruce Wiegand
1985 "Ordering Disorderly Work Careers on Skid Row." Research in the Sociology of Work 3: 215-230.
- Snow, David A. and Leon Anderson
1987 "Identity Work Among the Homeless: The Verbal Construction and Avowal of Personal Identities." American Journal of Sociology 92 (6): 1336-1371.
- Snow, David A., Susan Baker, Leon Anderson, and Michael Martin
1986 "The Myth of Pervasive Mental Illness Among the Homeless." Social Problems 33 (5): 407-423.
- Spector, Malcolm and John I. Kitsuse
1987 Constructing Social Problems. New York: Aldine De Coruyter.
- Thomas, William Issac
1937 The Unadjusted Girl. Boston: Little, Brown.

- Timmer, Doug A.
1988 "Homelessness as Deviance: The Ideology of
the Shelter." Free Inquiry In Creative
Sociology 16 (2): 163-170.
- Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry
1986 Day Center Survey.
- Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry
1986 Day Center Monthly Reports (February
through September).
- Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry
1988 Fact Sheet: Tulsa Day Center for the
Homeless.
- Tulsa World
1988 "Tulsa's Homeless." (Saturday, August 13).
- U.S. Department of Commerce
1980 Census of the U.S.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs
1985 Report on Problems of Urban Development.
- Wiegand, Bruce
1986 "Enumerating an Inner City Population: A
Research Report." Bullentin of Sociological
Methodology 9: 40-52.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

TULSA METROPOLITAN MINISTRY

DAY CENTER SURVEY

Code Number _____

Date _____
Day of the Week _____
Temperature _____
Weather _____

A. BIOGRAPHICAL

1. Age _____
2. Sex a. Male _____
 b. Female _____
3. Race a. Caucasian _____
 b. Negro _____
 c. Hispanic _____
 d. Indian _____
 e. Oriental _____
 f. Other _____

4. Marital Status a. Single _____
 b. Married _____
 c. Divorced _____
 d. Widowed _____
 e. Seperated _____
5. How many children
 do you have? _____
6. How many dependents
 do you presently have? _____
7. How long have you lived
 in Tulsa? _____

Code Number _____

8. Are you from Tulsa? a. Yes _____
 b. No _____
9. If no, why did you
 come to Tulsa? _____
10. How long have you
 lived in Oklahoma? _____
11. Are you from
 Oklahoma? a. Yes _____
 b. No _____
12. Where were you born? _____
13. Where did you live just
 before coming to Tulsa? _____
14. Have you ever been in
 jail or in prison? a. Yes _____
 b. No _____
15. How would you describe
 your reading and
 writing skills? a. Good _____
 b. Adequate _____
 c. Poor _____
16. If poor, would you be
 interested in
 improving your
 reading and writing
 skills? a. Yes _____
 b. No _____

B. BASIC SERVICES UTILIZED

1. Do you have permanent
 shelter? a. Yes _____
 b. No _____
2. If no, how long have
 you been without
 permanent shelter? _____

Code Number _____

3. Where do you stay at night?
- a. Salvation Army _____
 - Paying _____
 - Free Nights _____
 - Allotted time _____
 - b. House of Prayer _____
 - c. County Shelter _____
 - d. Wings of Faith _____
 - e. Catholic Worker House _____
 - f. John 3:16 Mission _____
 - g. Baptist Women's Shelter _____
 - h. Other Shelter _____
 - i. Vacant Building _____
 - j. Under Bridge _____
 - k. Riverparks _____
 - l. Personal Residence _____
 - m. With Relatives _____
 - n. With friends _____
 - o. Outside Where? _____
 - p. Vehicle What? _____
 - q. By the tracks _____
 - r. Other _____
4. Have you ever been arrested in Tulsa for not having a permanent address?
- a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
5. If so, please describe the situation: _____

6. Do you have family or relatives in Tulsa or Oklahoma?
- a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
7. If yes, can you stay with them?
- a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
 - c. Don't choose to _____
8. If so, how often do you stay with them? _____

Code Number _____

9. Where do you eat?
- a. Salvation Army _____
 - b. Trinity
Episcopal
Church _____
 - c. Holy Family
Cathedral _____
 - d. Catholic
Charities _____
 - e. Tree of Life _____
 - f. Calvary Mission _____
 - g. House of Prayer _____
 - h. County Shelter _____
 - i. Fellowship
Church _____
 - j. Other Shelter _____
 - k. Personal
Residence _____
 - l. Prepare own
food outside _____
 - m. Discarded Food _____
 - n. Food from Rev.
Jackson _____
 - o. John 3:16
Mission _____
 - p. Other? _____
10. Do you get enough
to eat?
- a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
11. Do you get a
balanced diet?
- a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
 - c. Don't Know _____
12. Where do you go
in the day?
- a. Day Center _____
 - b. Library _____
 - c. Oklahoma State
Employment Office-
Day Labor _____
 - d. Tulsa
Temporary _____
 - e. Peakload _____
 - f. Labor Source _____
 - g. Oklahoma State
Employment Office
Branch Offices _____
Which one? _____

Code Number _____

12. Where do you go
in the day? (cont.)
- h. Other Employment Services _____
 - i. Dept. of Human Services _____
 - j. Social Services Agencies _____
 - k. Post Office _____
 - l. Main Mall _____
 - m. Blood Bank _____
 - n. Williams Center Forum _____
 - o. Park _____
 - p. Work _____
 - q. Other? _____
13. Where do you perform
personal hygiene?
(shower, shave,
etc).
- a. Night Shelter _____
 - b. Day Center _____
 - c. Residence _____
 - d. Other _____

14. Where do you use restroom
facilities? _____

- Outside? _____
15. Which services do
you use at the Day
Center?
- a. Showers _____
 - b. Restrooms _____
 - c. Clothing _____
 - d. Coffee _____
 - e. Snacks _____
 - f. Telephones _____
 - g. Message Service _____
 - h. Mail Service _____
 - i. Reading Materials _____
 - j. Games _____
 - k. Leave things here in day _____
 - l. Socialization _____
 - m. Information & Referral _____
 - n. Other? _____

Code Number _____

16. What other services would you like to have available at the Day Center?

17. Do you use the Tulsa bus system? a. Yes _____
b. No _____

18. If yes, are bus services adequate for your needs? a. Yes _____
b. No _____

19. Do you have your own transportation? a. Yes _____
b. No _____

C. EMPLOYMENT/INCOME INFORMATION

1. Educational Level (number of years of school completed) _____

2. Have you attended a trade school? a. Yes _____
b. No _____

3. If yes, how long did you attend? _____

4. If yes, what did you study? _____

5. Occupation: _____

6. Are you employed? a. Yes _____
b. No _____

7. If no, how long have you been unemployed? _____

Code Number _____

8. Do you use the services of the Oklahoma State Employment Day Labor Office?
 a. Yes _____
 b. No _____

9. If no, why not? _____

10. Do you use the services of the Oklahoma State Employment Branch Offices?
 a. Yes _____
 b. No _____

11. If no, why not? _____

12. Are you a veteran?
 a. Yes _____
 b. No _____

13. Are you a Vietnam veteran?
 a. Yes _____
 b. No _____

Amount/mo.

14. What is your source of income?
- a. Social Security _____
 b. SSI (Supp. Security Income) _____
 c. Disability Reason? _____
 d. Aid to the aged, blind or disabled _____
 e. AFDC _____
 f. Medicaid _____
 g. Veterans' Benefits _____
 h. Employment Where? _____
 Wages? _____
 Full tm./pt. time _____
 i. Unemployment _____
 j. Blood Bank _____
 k. Panhandling _____
 l. Child Support/ Alimony _____
 m. None _____
 n. Other? _____

Total Per Month _____

Code Number _____

15. Do you receive food stamps?
- a. Yes _____
Amount _____
- b. No _____

D. MEDICAL

1. Do you have medical problems?
- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
2. If yes, what are they? _____
Reason _____
3. What medication do you take? _____

Reason _____
4. What medications do you need? _____

Reason _____
5. What medical facilities do you use? _____

6. Are medical services adequate and available?
- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
- c. Don't Know _____
7. Do you have dental problems?
- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
8. If yes, what are they? _____
9. Where do you go for dental services? _____
10. Are dental services adequate and available?
- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
- c. Don't Know _____

Code Number _____

11. Do you need eyeglasses?

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

c. Don't Know _____

12. Do you think you are disabled?

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

13. If yes, explain: _____

14. Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

Where _____ When _____

15. If yes, were you released with medication?

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

16. Have you ever received counseling/treatment at a community mental health center?

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

Where _____ When _____

17. If yes, did they help you and were you satisfied?

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

Why? _____

Code Number _____

18. Have you ever been in an alcohol treatment program?

- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____

Where _____ When _____

19. Have you ever been in a drug treatment program?

- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____

Where _____ When _____

20. Intoxicants used

	Level of Use			
	Times Daily	Times Weekly	Times Monthly	Amount

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

E. GENERAL

1. What was your life like five years ago?

- a. Better _____
- b. Worse _____
- c. Same _____

Explain: _____

2. Describe your present situation: _____

Code Number _____

3. What do you need? _____

_____4. Your Comments: _____

_____5. Interviewer's Comments: _____

If you are between the age of 13 and 19, complete supplemental section.

Interviewer _____ Date _____

F. CLASSIFICATION BY INTERVIEWER

- ___ 1. Transient - temporary resident
- ___ 2. Street Lifestyle - area resident
- ___ 3. Traditional Inner City Resident - Senior
- ___ 4. Traditional Inner City Resident - Non-senior
- ___ 5. Physically Disabled - Permanent
- ___ 6. Physically Disabled - Temporary
- ___ 7. Unemployed
- ___ 8. Employed - Low Income
- ___ 9. Immigrants
- ___ 10. Ex-offenders
- ___ 11. Chronic Alcohol Abuser
- ___ 12. Chronic Drug Abuser
- ___ 13. Chronically Mentally Ill
- ___ 14. Mental Retardations

APPENDIX B

VARIMAX ROTATION FOR SCALE ON
 PHYSICAL SEPARATION FROM
 THE GENERAL POPULATION

Variable Lable	Rotated Factor F1	Matrix F2
Ever Jailed	-0.14095	0.49254
Psychiatric Care	0.65915	-0.15853
Counseling At A Community Treatment Center	0.74012	0.04200
Alcohol Treatment	0.07588	0.72320
Drug Treatment	0.03906	0.36321

APPENDIX C

REGRESSION EQUATIONS UTILIZING
SELECT VARIABLES

Variable Label	B	Beta	StErr	T	SigT
Years Of School	-0.03719	-0.03756	0.11341	-0.328	0.744
Race "Dummy" Coding (1=White, 0=All Others)	-0.09784	-0.10763	0.09292	-1.052	0.297
Total Monthly Income	0.18699	0.24905	0.09795	1.909	0.062
Marital Status "Dummy" Coding (1=All Others, 0=Married)	0.12848	0.11617	0.12772	1.006	0.320
Age	0.14204	0.14701	0.10797	1.316	0.195
Sex "Dummy" Coding (1=Male, 0=Female)	0.06137	0.06438	0.11164	0.550	0.585
Unemployment "Dummy" Coding (1=Unemployed, 0=Employed)	0.51496	0.58198	0.0960	4.482	0.000
Physical Separation	0.06380	0.21285	0.0377	1.691	0.097
(Constant)	0.10063		0.0943	1.067	0.291
² R = 0.35038		F = 5.08539		SIG F = 0.0001	

Variable Label	B	Beta	StErr	T	SigT
Years Of School	0.3664	0.1110	0.4339	0.845	0.403
Total Monthly Income	0.7620	0.3042	0.3584	2.126	0.039
Age	-0.5860	-0.1818	0.4074	-1.438	0.157
Marital Status "Dummy" Coding (1=All Others, 0=Married)	0.7573	0.2053	0.4764	1.590	0.118
Race "Dummy" Coding (1=White, 0=All Others)	0.0169	0.0062	0.3473	0.049	0.096
Sex "Dummy" Coding (1=Male, 0=Female)	0.6066	0.1907	0.4182	1.450	0.154
Unemployment "Dummy" Coding (1=Unemployed, 0=Employed)	0.5962	0.2020	0.4325	1.379	0.174
(Constant)	0.1390		0.3604	0.384	0.702
² R = 0.26139	F = 2.42668		SIG F = 0.0327		

APPENDIX D

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOMELESS
PEOPLE IN 15 SELECT U.S.
METROPOLITAN AREAS

Metropolitan Area	Approximate Number of Homeless People
1. New York City, N.Y.	60,000
2. Los Angeles, CA.	50,000
3. Detroit, MI.	27,000
4. Houston, TX.	25,000
5. Chicago, IL.	25,000
6. Baltimore, MR.	20,000
7. Philadelphia, PA.	15,000
8. Dallas, TX.	14,000
9. Washington, D.C.	12,500
10. San Francisco, CA.	10,000
11. Miami, FL.	9,000
12. Boston, MA.	7,500
13. Phoenix, AR.	4,500
14. Portland, OR.	4,000
15. Seattle, WA.	3,000
Total	286,500

VITA

SHANA MARIE MILLER

Candidate for the Degree of
Master of Science

Thesis: THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOMELESSNESS IN TULSA,
OKLAHOMA AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM

Major Field: Sociology

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 30, 1963,
the daughter of Marion Jean (nee Wren) and Lonell
Lecarl Miller.

Education: Graduated from Booker T. Washington Senior
High School, Tulsa, Oklahoma, in May 1981;
received Associate of Science in Social Science
(cum laude) from St. Gregory's College, Shawnee,
Oklahoma in May 1983; received Bachelor of
Science in Psychology and Sociology from Oklahoma
State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma in May
1985. Completed all requirements for the Master
of Science degree at Oklahoma State University,
Stillwater, Oklahoma in July, 1990.

Professional Experience: Faculty Teaching Assistant,
Department of Sociology, Oklahoma State
University, August 1985 to May 1986; Teaching
Assistant, Department of Sociology, Oklahoma
State University, August 1986 to May 1987.
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of
Sociology, University of Oklahoma, August 1987
to July 1988; Graduate Teaching Assistant,
Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma,
August 1988 to present.

Professional Memberships: Alpha Kappa Delta