Outreach After Dark on East Flamingo Full Analysis



From August 21 to September 8, 2026, the Southern Nevada Lived X Team asked 100 (n = 100) individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the geographic vicinity of East Flamingo and Maryland Parkway, from Twain and University Center to Escondido and Rochelle, a series of questions to better understand why they are not accessing shelter.

(Left) Map of survey area.

Individuals were compensated with $10 Smith's grocery store gift cards or $15 Taco Bell gift cards to be used at their discretion. Alcohol and tobacco were prohibited uses of the gift card. The results are as follows:

Social Geography and Safety

1. 78% of participants were on the street for one year or longer.
2. 26% of participants have stayed at a shelter in the last month. When asked why those participants are not there now, answers ranged from “no real reason” to “bed bugs,” “unsanitary conditions,” and “unsafe and stolen things.” One response said the curfew at those shelters prevents him from going, and that his survival depends on the businesses in the area.
3. 74% have not utilized emergency shelter in the last month. When asked why those 74 participants have not gone to shelter, answers had a similar trajectory. “Too crowded” was a common response. Sanitary conditions were cited, as well as the safety of their person and belongings. One individual said they were hospitalized because of a contagious disease at a shelter. Restrictive rules and a desire for freedom also stood out.
4. Importantly, 33% of respondents indicated familiarity was the reason people stayed in the area. 21% of respondents indicated friends and family. 6% stay due to explicit relative safety and comfort. Altogether, those answers equal 60%, indicating social and geographic ties are dominant and show that people stay where they feel safe and comfortable. Also of note: 9% stay around Flamingo and Maryland Parkway because of the library, while 7% stay due to service providers in the area, dispelling the notion that services attract most people experiencing homelessness.

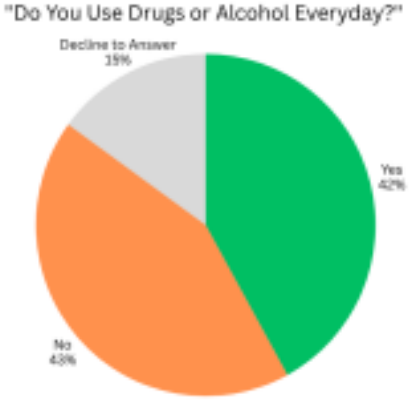


Outreach

1. 61% of respondents said that no outreach team has spoken to them in the last month, while 38% have.
2. Of the 38% who have spoken to an outreach team, 80% (30 out of 38) were offered resources, as self-identified by the participant.
3. 28 out of those 38 agreed to receive services from an outreach team, and 48% (17) claimed they were successful in getting what they needed.
4. The other 18 participants claimed a variety of reasons why they ultimately did not get what they needed from an outreach team. The largest portion (6) cited procrastination or personal barriers, followed by completing a RISE assessment and awaiting placement (5), and unmet needs such as immigration status concerns, lack of youth services, or desiring a bus ticket out of state (4).
5. The majority (80%) of those who came into contact with an outreach team believed they were treated well or fairly. Only 6% claimed they were treated poorly.

Health

1. 33 individuals (33%) self-described as being in poor physical health on the night they were surveyed. 44% self-described their physical health as fair or average.
2. 23% self-described their mental health as poor.
3. When asked if they use drugs or alcohol every day, 43 individuals said no, 42 said yes, and 15 declined to answer.



Policing

1. 37 individuals (37%) self-described their interactions with police as poor, while 47 (47%) described interactions as fair or average. 7% said excellent and 9% declined to answer. 2. 38% described interactions with security officers as poor, while 49% described interactions as fair or average. 10% said excellent and 3% declined to answer.

Asking them

The survey closed with a question about how the whole community can improve. ● Housing, shelter, and safe places to go emerged as the most common need (26%), including calls for affordable housing, additional shelter options, safe sleeping areas, and alternatives to overcrowded programs.

- ● Participants also frequently requested food, clothing, and basic necessities (14%);
- ● Respectful and humane treatment (14%);
- ● More frequent outreach (13%);
- ● greater access to showers and bathrooms (13%).
- ● Transportation assistance (6%),
- ● Employment and financial support (5%), and
- ● Specialized services for youth, pregnant women, seniors, immigrants, and people with mental health needs (5%) were also identified.

Beyond resources, the responses reveal **a strong desire for dignity, safety, and consistent engagement.** About 11% raised concerns related to safety, harassment, displacement, trespassing, policing, security, or belongings being removed. Survey participants repeatedly

asked for outreach teams to visit more often and emphasized wanting services available where they already are.

"Treat us like everybody else."
"Don't belittle us."
"Don't treat us any differently."

Recommendations:

1. Programs that respond positively to and affirm dignity. This is of utmost importance. Culturally relevant, dignified services that do not treat people, regardless of their circumstances, as less than someone who is housed, an employee, a donor, or a manager.
2. Programs that are scaled down, neighborhood-specific, and decentralized. 60% of survey participants indicated social and geographic ties are dominant and show that people stay where they feel safe and comfortable. This contradicts many of the solutions today, but nonetheless, is important to name.
3. Programs that can reach and partner specifically with chronically homeless individuals. 78% of participants were homeless for one year or longer. This means they have adapted to a different world. This recommendation includes bringing chronically homeless individuals into design planning, community integration, social inclusion, building space for communities of people coming inside together, fighting the isolation that comes with moving indoors, and respecting autonomy, as 74% of these individuals have not accessed shelter within the past month for specific reasons. Until those reasons are addressed in an innovative, culturally responsive way, this population will remain outdoors.