

are roughly 350,000 homeless nationwide, which corresponds to much-criticized estimates from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The other survey, the Chicago Homeless Study, puts the number of homeless in Chicago at between 2000 and 3000 on any given night, or about 15% of widely quoted estimates.

The Chicago study, directed by Peter A. Rossi of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is billed as the first attempt to get a detailed count of a homeless population based on statistical samples. Investigators interviewed people staying in shelters and scoured several hundred selected blocks in the dead of night, often waking up people to interview them.

What emerged was an unusually detailed picture of Chicago's homeless, characterized by extreme poverty and isolation and high rates of dysfunction. Four out of five had been institutionalized in jails, mental hospitals, or for drug detoxification. The typical homeless person was a 40-year-old never-married black male. Young women with children made up 12% of the group.

Although interviews were conducted in fall and winter, the investigators found that shelter occupancy rates were only 60% to 70%. The researchers concluded that "the homeless problem is not so vast that extensive programs for the homeless will swamp available resources."

Researchers and advocates for the homeless continue to be in conflict over both the extent and the severity of the homelessness problem. For example, Freeman's study found the ratio of street people to shelter people to be 2.2 to 1. Freeman's research assistant Brian Hall says researchers have been calling to say that ratio is too high, while advocates have been claiming it is much too low. The advocates portray homelessness as very widespread and in large part amenable to economic solutions such as subsidized housing, whereas research tends to indicate that the homeless are a small population but with a multitude of often intractable problems. ■

CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Comings and Goings

Ezra D. Heitowit has become vice president of the Universities Research Association, which manages the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the central design group for the proposed Superconducting Super Collider. Heitowit served for 8 years on the House Science & Technology Committee—most recently as director of the research and technology subcommittee.

Orlov Hopes to Continue Scientific, Human Rights Work in His Life Here

Soviet physicist and human rights activist Yuri F. Orlov, who reached the United States on 6 October, gives first place in making a life here to resuming his scientific work, but also says he will continue his human rights activities.

Orlov says he intends to make no major decisions about his future in the United States for at least a few weeks, but he has a standing offer from Cornell University to take up what amounts to a visiting professorship there. And on 30 September he was named cowinner of a \$100,000 international human rights award from the Jimmy



Orlov in New York. Yuri and Irina Orlov talk to press after arrival at Kennedy Airport on flight from Moscow.

Carter Presidential Center. A Guatemalan organization shared the award.

Orlov was permitted to come to the United States as part of the U.S.-Soviet bargain that led to the release of American journalist Nicholas S. Daniloff. Orlov reached New York after a journey that started a week before in the Siberian village where he was exiled. He and his wife, Irina L. Valitova, were met at Kennedy airport by Valentin Turchin, a friend from university days and fellow human rights activist, who is now a professor at City College of City University of New York, along with representatives of Helsinki Watch, the U.S. counterpart of the organization with which Orlov was associated at the time of his arrest.

The Cornell appointment is for a research professorship, a 1-year joint appointment in the Laboratory of Nuclear Studies and the Center for Radio Physics and Space Research. The initiative for the Cornell appointment apparently came from Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Shcharansky, an

organization of university scientists formed to promote the human rights of scientists. However, the offer had strong general support among scientists at Cornell since Orlov's scientific reputation probably ranks second only to physicist Andrei Sakharov among Soviet scientists at odds with the government.

Orlov achieved international notice in the mid-1970's for his activities as a leader and spokesman of the Moscow group that sought to monitor Soviet compliance with the civil liberties guarantees in the Helsinki accords. After his group publicly documented Soviet violations, Orlov was arrested, tried under laws prohibiting anti-Soviet propaganda, and sentenced to 7 years in prisons and work camps and an additional 5 years of internal exile. Since early 1984 he has been living in the village of Kobayai in the Yakutsk region in Siberia. His term was due to end in 1988. Against the odds, he is reported to have struggled to keep up his scientific work and even submitted papers to the Soviet academy.

Orlov has a reputation for indomitability in both his scientific work and human rights causes. He is an ethnic Russian and his wife is half Russian, half Tatar. Neither ever sought to emigrate and Orlov is said to have hoped to be released to resume life as an ordinary Soviet citizen.

Although he became known internationally because of his activities with the Helsinki Watch committee, Orlov emerged as a dissenter a decade earlier. After the Khrushchev speech denouncing Stalin in 1956, Orlov, then a member of the Communist party, asked in a party meeting that those responsible for excesses in the Stalin era be punished. He was expelled from the party and fired from his post at the prestigious Moscow Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics.

Orlov found work in Yerevan in Soviet Armenia. He completed his doctorate in physics in 1963 and earned recognition for his work in particle physics. After returning to Moscow in 1972 he incurred official displeasure by writing to Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev in support of Sakharov, who was then under growing government criticism. Orlov again lost his post.

In the early 1980's, word that Orlov was in poor health circulated and reports that he had suffered head injuries from a beating in a labor camp caused particular concern. He was also said to have been the object of harassment in the village to which he was restricted during the term of internal exile. At his press conference he described his health as "not bad" and said that his living conditions improved after he began his Siberian exile. ■ JOHN WALSH