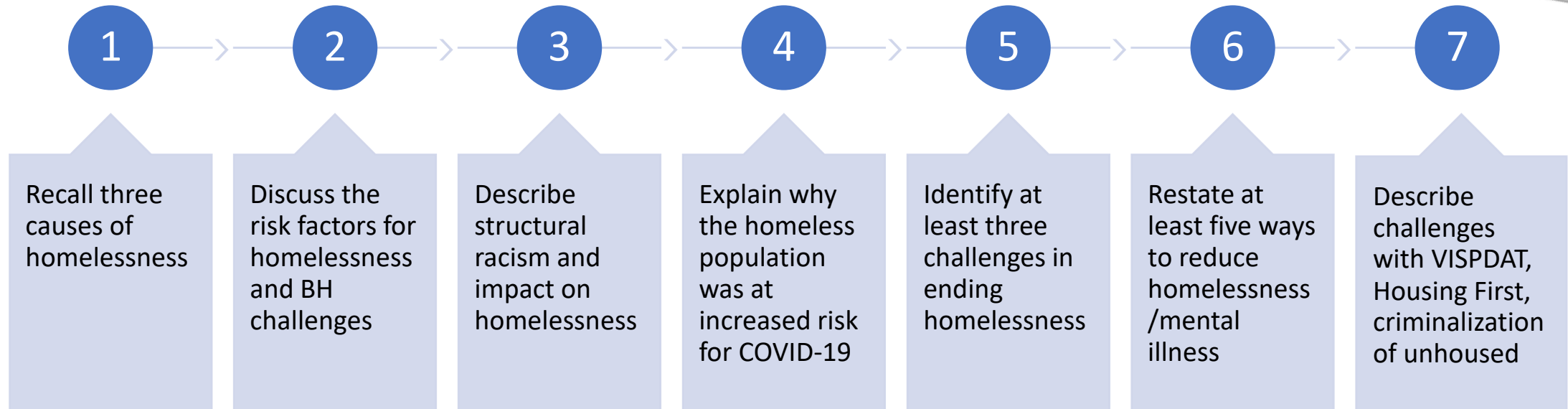


Unhoused, Unheard, Unnoticed, Under Assault ...

By
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&
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April 19, 2022

Today's Learning Objectives





Understanding The Scope

With a lifetime and 1-year prevalence of homelessness in the US population found to be 4.2% and 1.5%, respectively, and the total number of people who experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year is estimated to be 2.5 to 3.5 million individuals...

Homelessness is a serious problem.

<https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/never-ending-loop-homelessness-psychiatric-disorder-and-mortality>

Causes of Homelessness

- Poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Structural racism

- At its heart, the homelessness *crisis* is due to lack of affordable housing
- Existing housing stock with lower rents has disappeared
- People who are extremely low income (ELI) at the highest risk

The Crisis

Nationally, there are only **thirty-five units** of housing that are available and affordable **for every 100 ELI** households (Aurand et al., 2019).



Mental Illness and Homelessness

- 2015 HUD assessment: 564,708 people were homeless on a given night in the United States.
- 140,000 or **25 percent** were seriously mentally ill, 250,000 or **45 percent** had any mental illness.
- 2016 study found that **4.2 percent** of U.S. adults have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- Most common:
 - Affective disorders
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Substance use disorders (a reminder that SUD is considered a psychiatric disorder/mental illness)

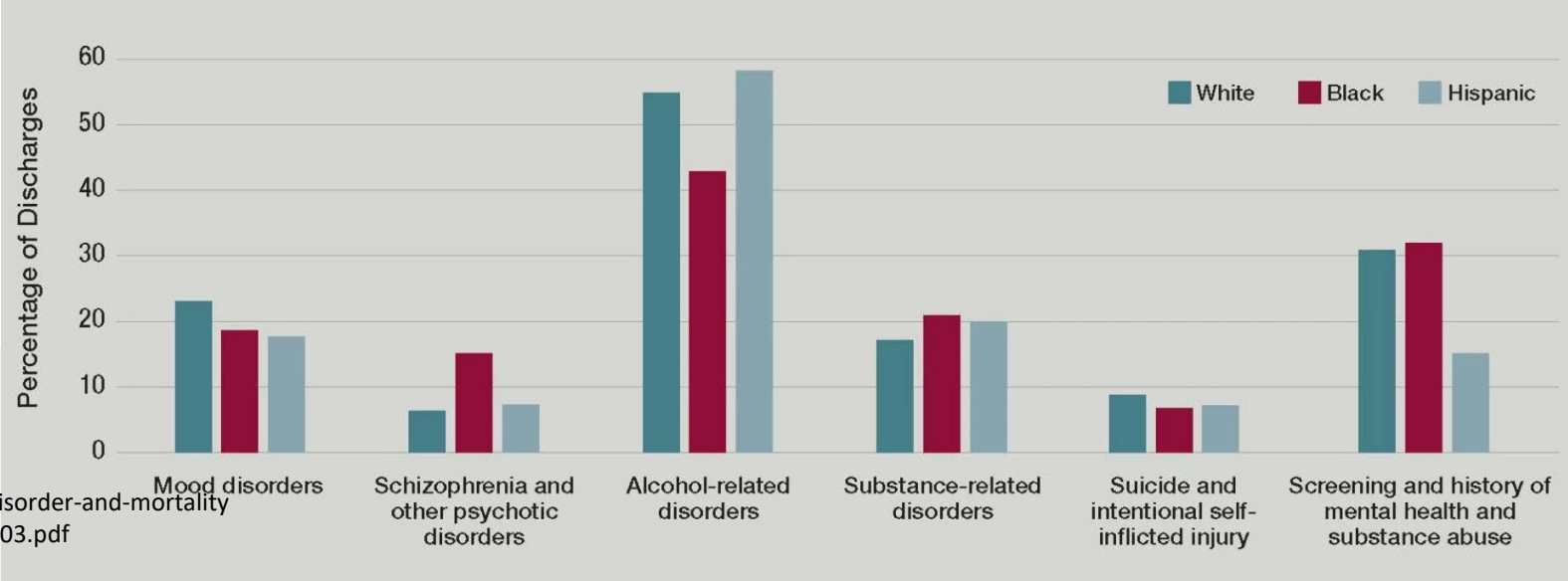
Risk Factors: Mental & Substance Disorders, ACE Scores

Some Groups Are More Likely to Have Experienced ACEs

Multiple studies show that people who identified as members of these groups as adults reported experiencing **significantly more ACEs:**



Figure. Clinical profile of discharges for homeless patients at hospital-affiliated emergency departments

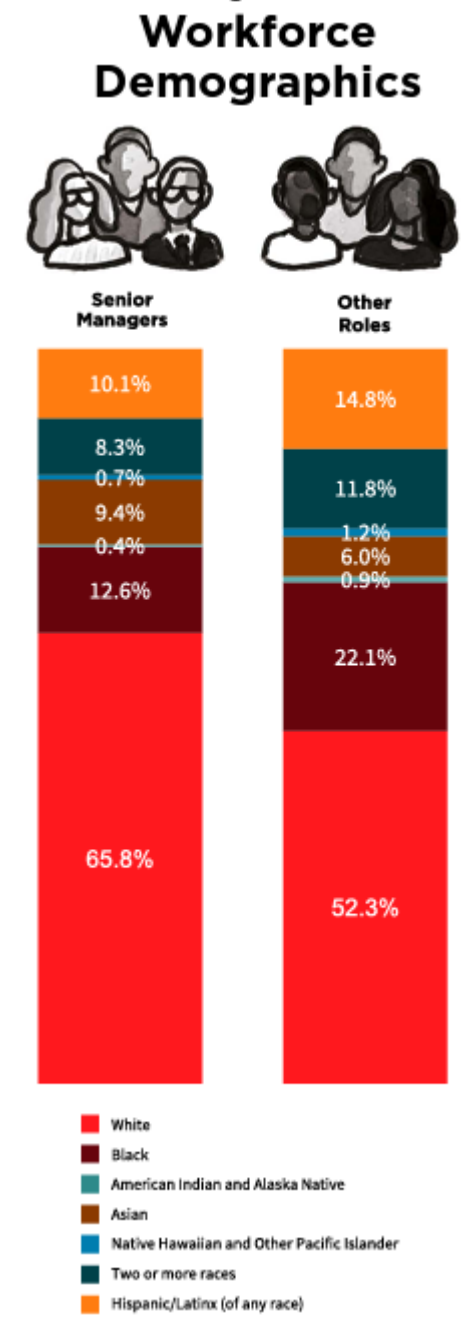
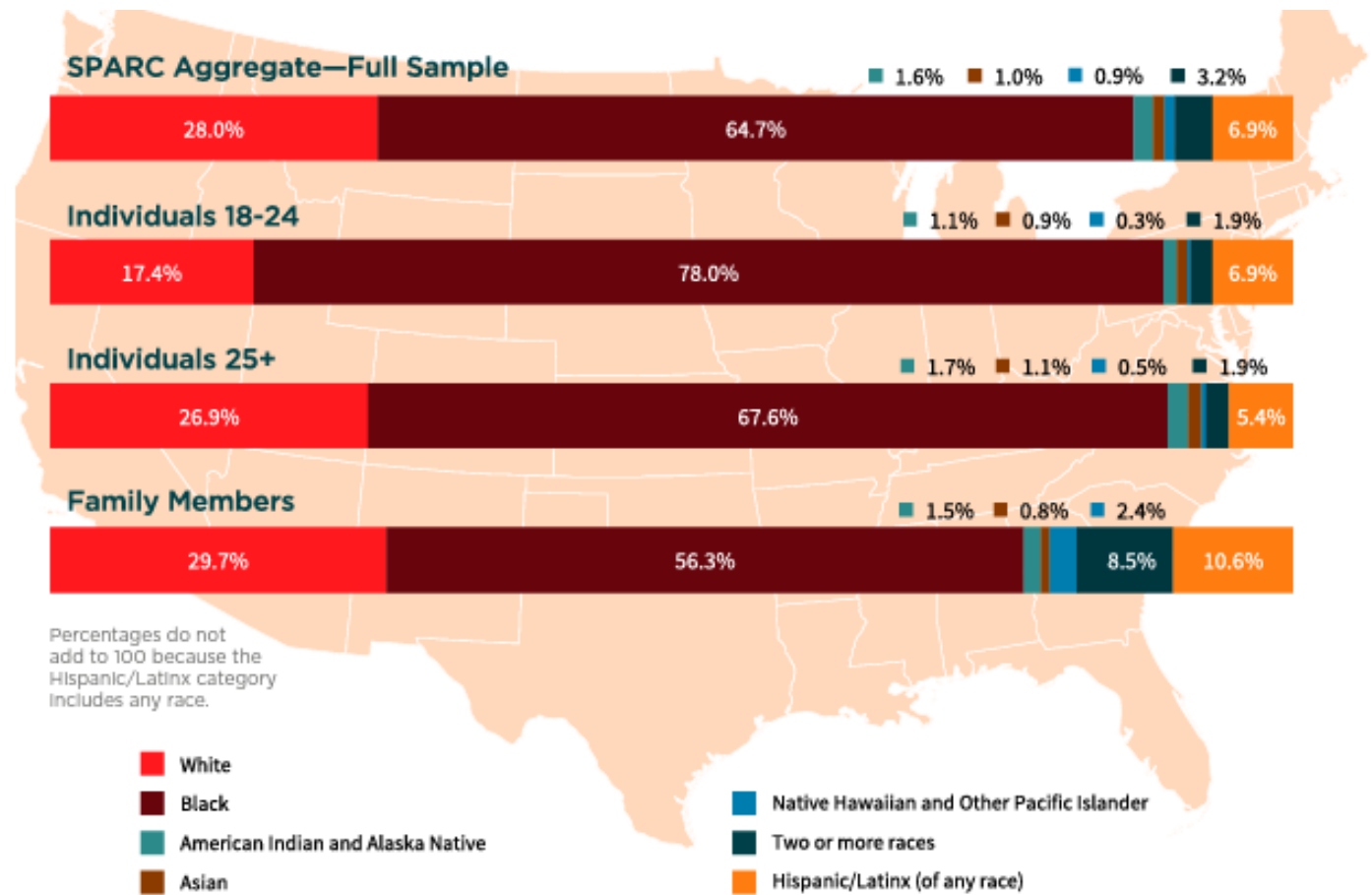


Data include all treat-and-release discharges from hospital-affiliated emergency departments during 2008 in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Wisconsin. Source: Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Statistical Briefs Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2006 Feb-.



https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/resources.html#anchor_1626996630
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Baked In Structural Racism Requires Dismantling



"Although **Black people comprise 13% of the general population** in the United States and 26% of those living in poverty, **they account for more than 40% of the homeless population**, suggesting that poverty rates alone do not explain the over-representation."

"The racial demographics of the homeless services workforce do not reflect the diversity of people served, particularly at the senior management level."

Because of the complex underlying issues that drive high rates of homelessness among people of color, it is important to address multiple levels simultaneously. It is not possible to solve these issues at the programmatic level alone.

"Domestic and intimate partner violence (DV/IPV) was a common thread in the lives of many respondents, across genders and age ranges."

"Network impoverishment is a phenomenon in which it is not just that the respondents that are experiencing poverty; the network itself functions in an impoverished state."

"Lack of economic capital within social networks precipitates homelessness for many people of color."

Among people experiencing homelessness in SPARC communities

82.6% of young adults ages 18-24

73.1% of single adults 25+

70.3% of family members

are people of color.*



Percentages do not include individuals who identified as White and Hispanic/Latinx.

Not "Just" Poverty At Work



Older Adults = Higher Unmet Needs

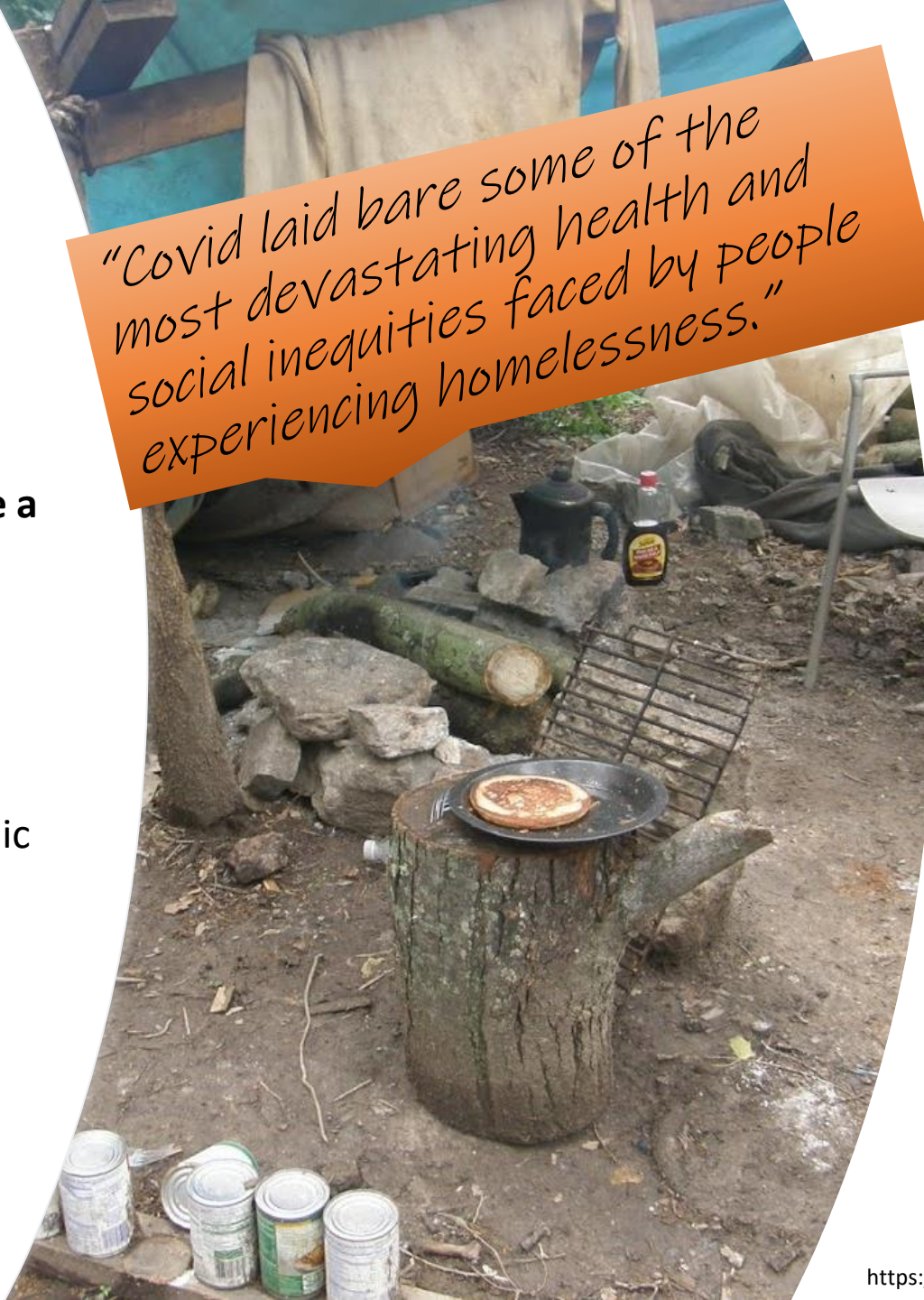
- Homelessness among older adults is increasing
- Unhoused adults 65 and older have higher prevalence of unmet needs for substance use and mental disorder treatment
- Half became homeless ***after 50***
- People ages 65 and older are the fastest growing age group of people who are homeless
- By 2030 those numbers will ***triple***

The Covid Curveball

Why Homeless Populations are a High-Risk Group

- Poor health
- Congregate settings
- Aging population
- Limited ability to follow Public Health advice
- Stigma and discrimination

"Covid laid bare some of the most devastating health and social inequities faced by people experiencing homelessness."



The COVID Homeless Challenge

How to:

- Stay at home?
- Wash your hands?
- Distance yourself from others?
- Disinfect your living space?

Key Takeaways From Covid Response

"New initiatives should be based on the voices of the affected and the guidance and input from community-based organizations and leaders who have knowledge of the needs and available resources within vulnerable communities."

- Implement/ strengthen interagency community partnerships
- Provide mental health and substance use services in homeless settings
- Maintain and expand telehealth access
- Track and share data to better inform practices
- Expand targeted outreach strategies
- Increase shelter diversion resources
- Reprioritize ending, not just preventing, homelessness
- Prepare for long-term impact mitigation
- Leverage the COVID-19 crisis to increase visibility of homelessness

What We Do Know About People Experiencing Homelessness

People who are homeless are at elevated risk

People experiencing homelessness present unique treatment challenges

Preventive services for people experiencing homelessness are critical

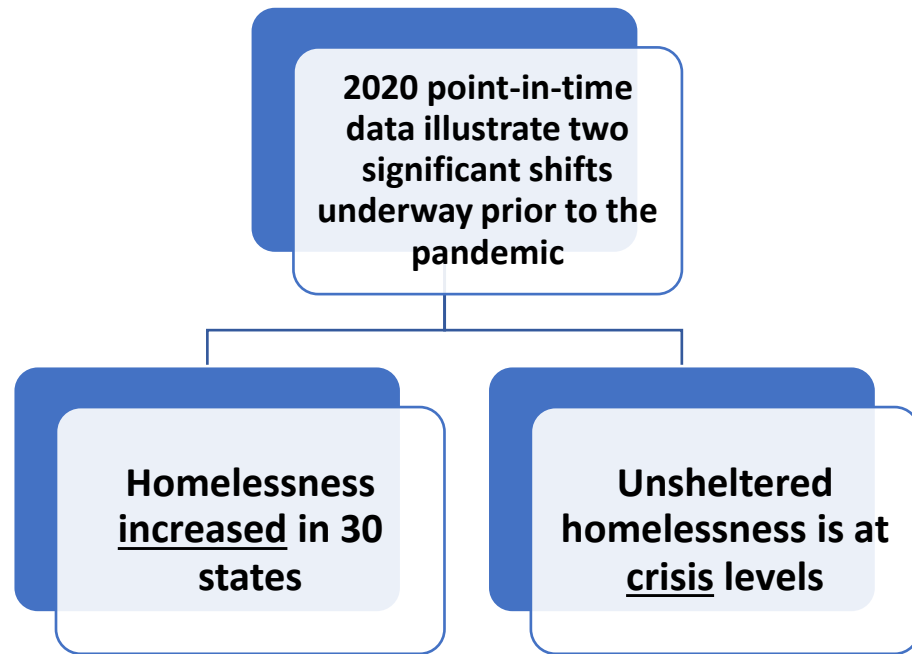
Treatment providers must be knowledgeable

Person-centered prevention and trauma-informed treatment practices are essential

Providers should work with federal, state, and community-based agencies

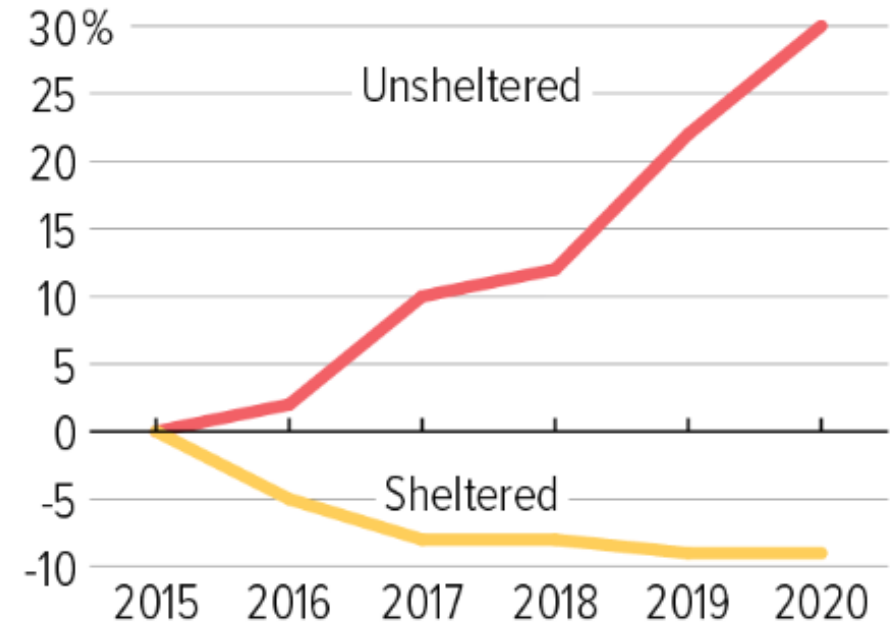
Clinicians must know how to help individuals access federal or local benefits

The Challenges In Front Of Us



Unsheltered Homelessness Increased Every Year Since 2015

Percent change in people experiencing homelessness since 2015



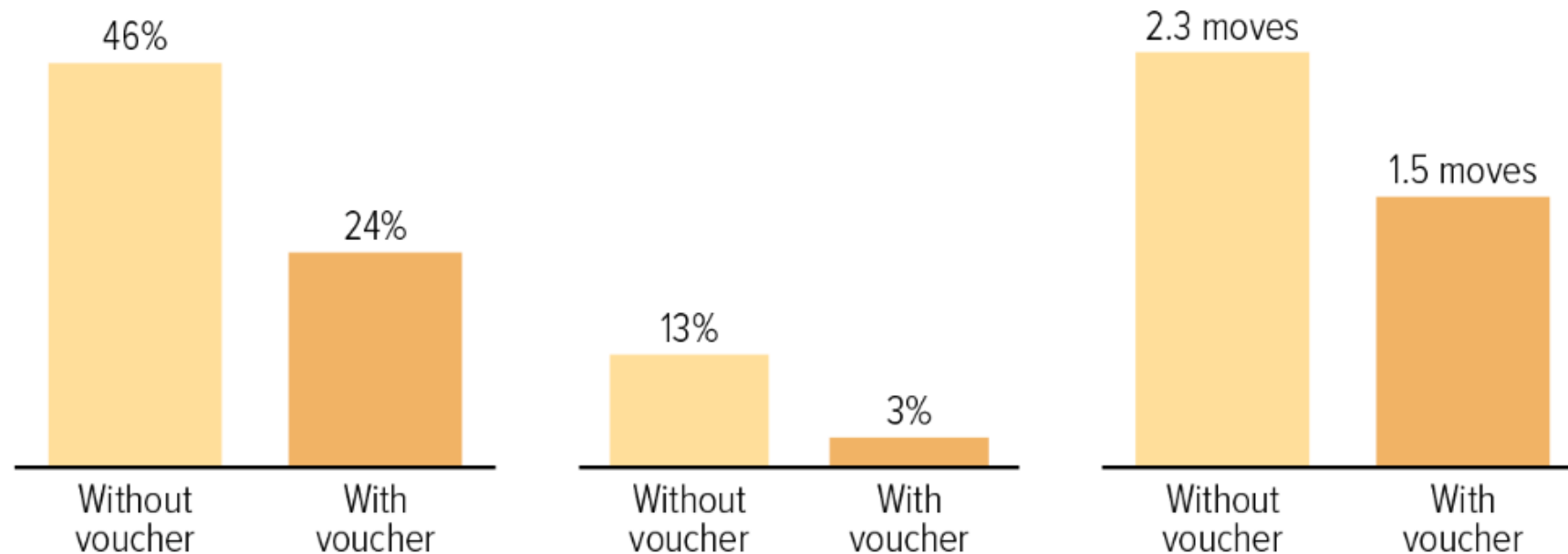
Source: 2015-2020 Housing and Urban Development point-in-time data

Housing Choice Vouchers Sharply Reduced Crowded Housing, Homelessness, and Frequent Moves, Study Shows

Vouchers reduced the number living in crowded housing by half...

... reduced homelessness by three-quarters

... and reduced the number of moves over a five-year period by more than one-third.



Note: The chart compares the housing status of low-income families in six U.S. cities who were randomly selected to receive a voucher and used it for at least part of the previous year to families in a control group who did not use vouchers. Families experiencing “crowded housing” were living in housing that has less than one room per household member. Number of moves reflects the average moves over a 4.5- to 5-year period since random assignment.

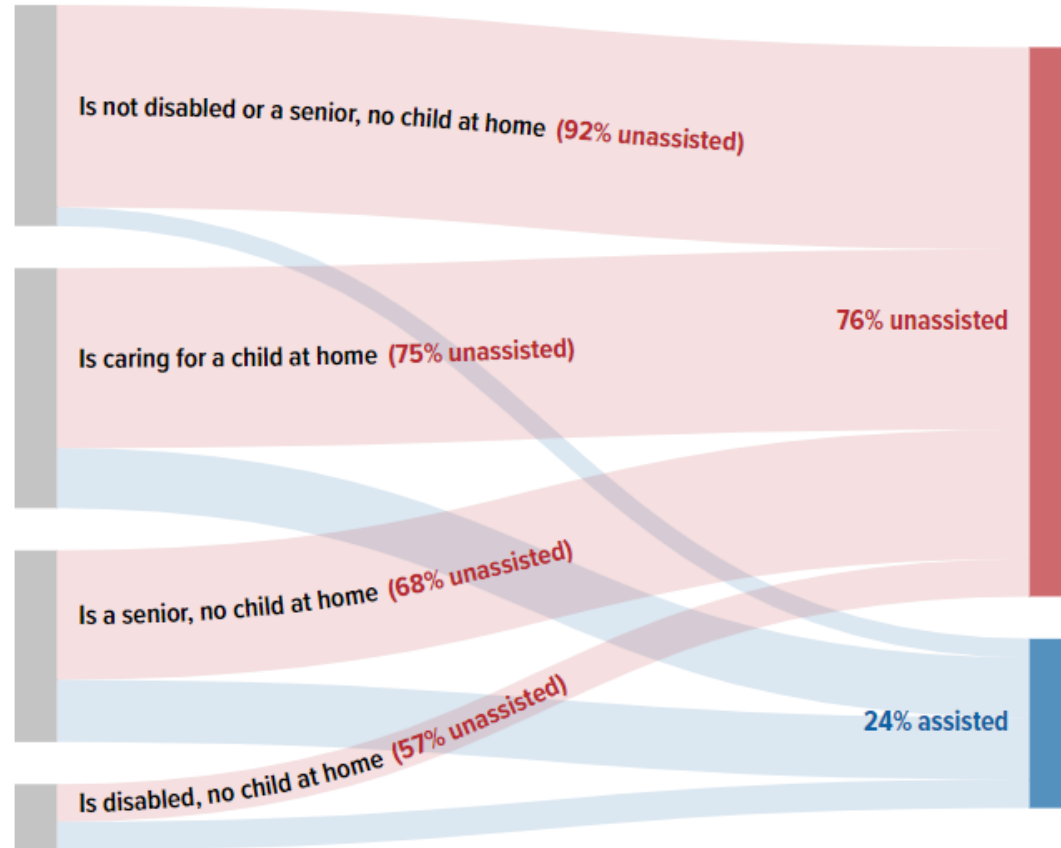
Source: Michelle Wood, Jennifer Turnham, and Gregory Mills, "Housing Affordability and Family Well-Being: Results from the Housing Voucher Evaluation," Housing Policy Debate, 2008.

What Will Work: Vouchers

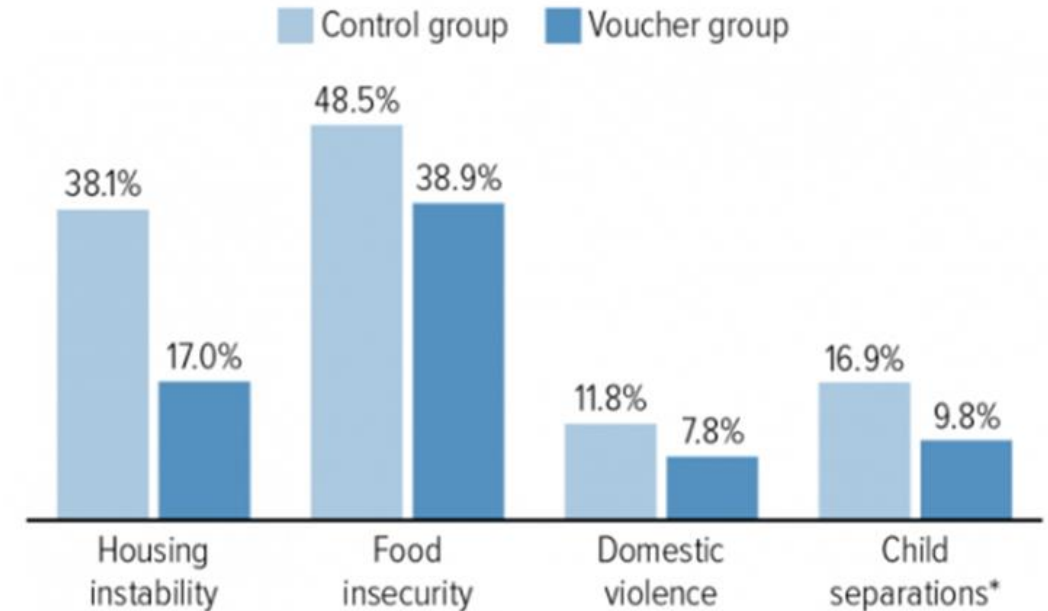
What *Will* Work for Poor/Families

76% of Low-Income Renters Needing Federal Rental Assistance Don't Receive It

Unassisted vs. assisted households, headed by someone who:



Vouchers Reduce Hardship for Homeless Families



Note: The control group consisted of homeless families that were not offered vouchers or other assistance under the study.

*These data are the results reported 20 months into the HUD Family Options Study. All the other chart data are from the completed 3 year study.

Food insecurity = Someone in the household had inadequate access to food at some point during the year.

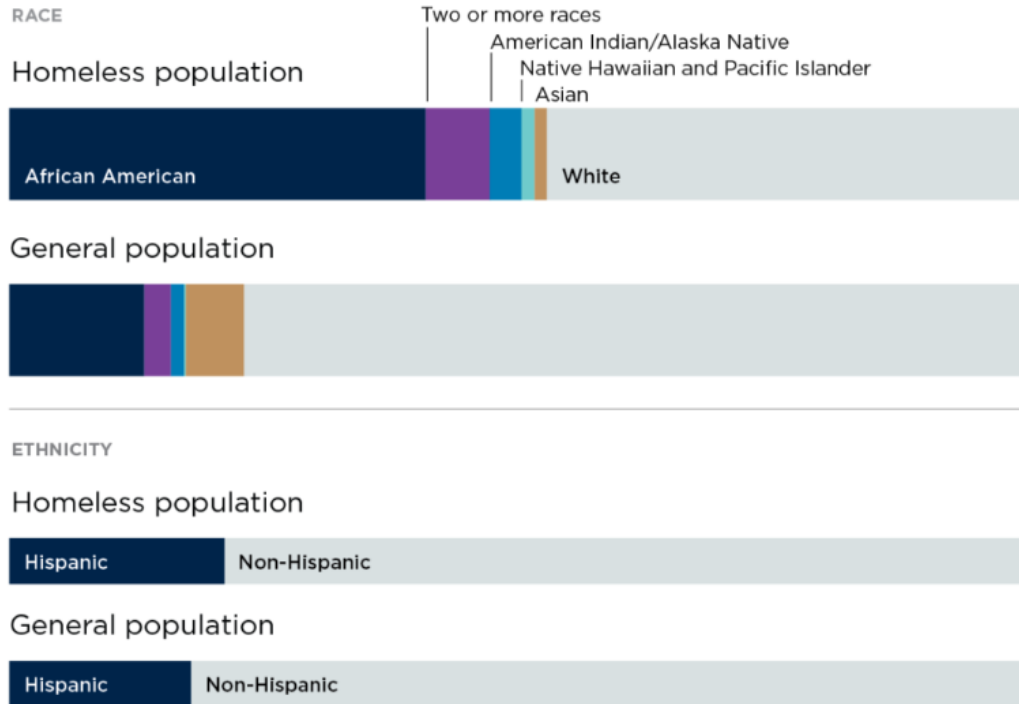
Housing instability = Family reported spending at least one night homeless or doubled up in the past 6 months or stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year.

Source: Gubits *et al.*, "Family Options Study 3-Year Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families," Department of Housing and Urban Development

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Most Minority Groups Make up a Larger Share of the Homeless Population Than They Do of the General Population

Race and ethnicity of those experiencing homelessness compared with the general population

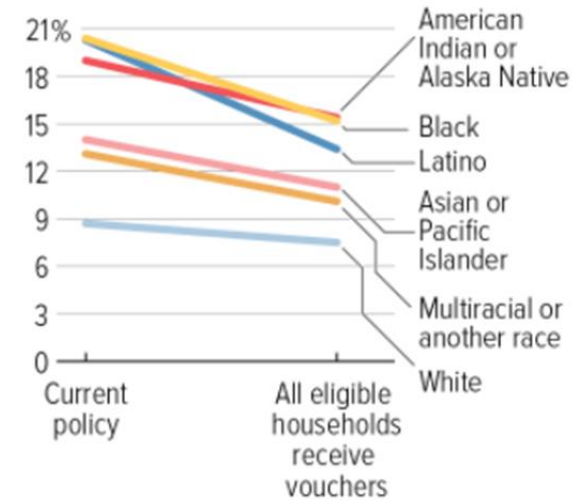


Homeless population data are for a given night in 2017.
Source: 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1



Expanding Housing Vouchers to All Eligible Households Would Cut Poverty and Reduce Racial Disparities

Percent of people in poverty by race/ethnicity



Note: Currently about 1 in 4 households eligible for a voucher receives any type of federal rental assistance. Latino category may contain individuals of any race that identify as Latino or Hispanic; other categories exclude individuals that identify as Latino or Hispanic.

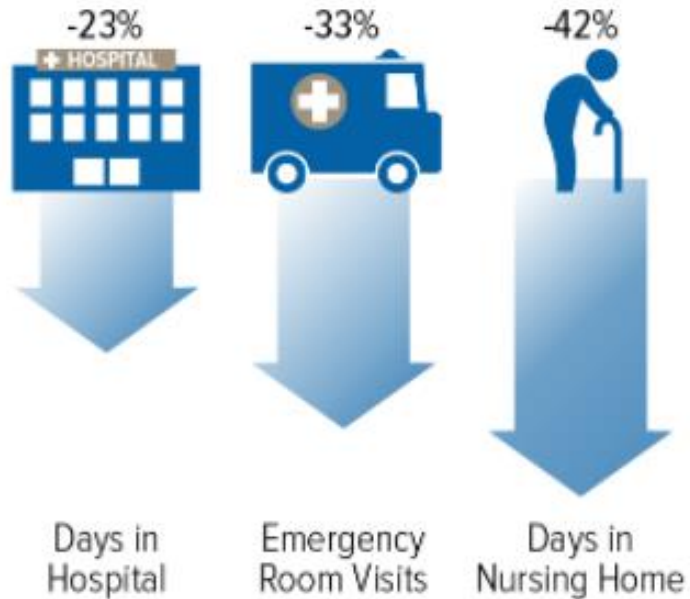
Source: Columbia University Center on Social Policy calculations using data from the 2019 Current Population Survey (CPS). Results for American Indian and Alaska Native and multiracial individuals calculated using data from the 2017-2019 CPS. Results for these groups should be interpreted with caution due to sample size constraints.

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What *Will* Work for Equity

Supportive Housing Can Produce Health Care Savings

Combining affordable housing with intensive services for a high-needs group saved an average of over \$6,000 a year per person in health care



Note: Intensive services include help finding housing, working with a landlord, physical and behavioral health care, assistance finding employment, and others.

Source: Anirban Basu, et al., "Comparative Cost Analysis of Housing and Case Management Program for Chronically Ill Homeless Adults Compared to Usual Care," *Health Services Research*, February 2012, Vol. 47, No. 1, Part II, pp. 523-543.

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What *Will* Work in Reducing Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent supportive housing can help address long-term homelessness by providing, in combination, affordable housing and voluntary supportive services

Coordination of services is critical to addressing housing and health care access barriers

The Importance of Lived Experience

- Most important priority is to address the lack of affordable housing options
- Systems should treat people experiencing homelessness and trauma with dignity
- Congregate shelters should be re-imagined
- Criminalizing people experiencing homelessness causes harm
- Expanding the Housing Choice Voucher program a key step in ending homelessness
- Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers would create changes in the system
- People should not be required to enter a shelter to access a Housing Choice Voucher if they are eligible for the program
- Maximum rent a voucher can cover should be reconsidered due to tight and costly housing markets
- Landlords and voucher holders both have a role to play

Welcome to the NICCC

Collateral consequences are legal and regulatory sanctions and restrictions that limit or prohibit people with criminal records from accessing employment, occupational licensing, housing, voting, education, and other opportunities.

Search Collateral Consequences

Use these categories to search and view details of policies relating to collateral consequences of a criminal conviction.

KEYWORDS ?

Select all that apply

JURISDICTION ?

CONSEQUENCE TYPE ?

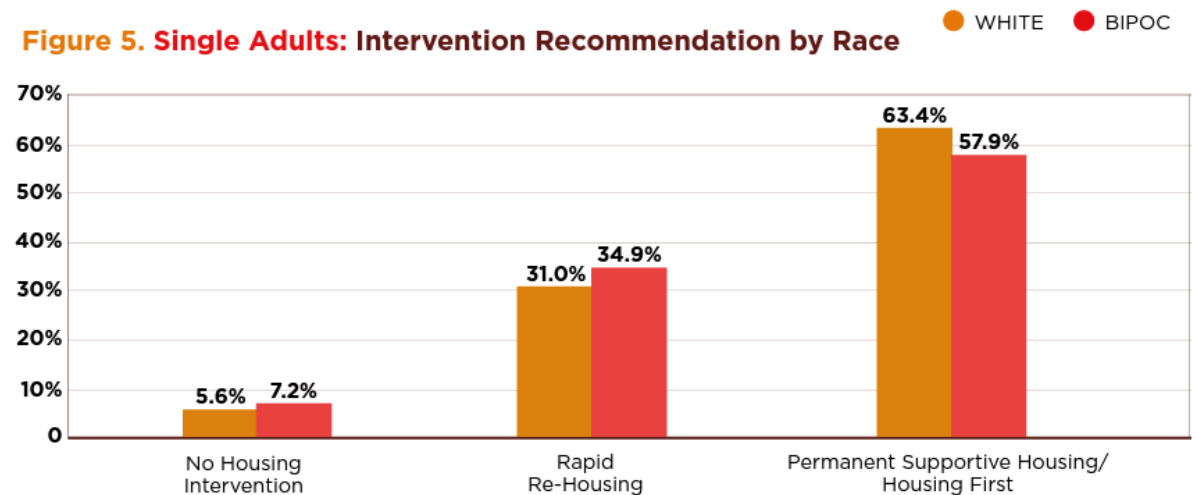
A Word About The Resurgence of Criminalizing Homelessness

- Refers to laws/policies that make basic, life-sustaining acts into violations of law or otherwise punishable offenses when performed in public
- Most common criminalized acts are sleeping, sitting/resting, shelter from elements... even asking for help
- Many of these laws *intentionally* target unhoused people
- Communities also enforce “neutral” laws like trespassing or jaywalking; mostly or *only* against people experiencing homelessness
- All the punishments carry “*collateral consequences*” which increase the punishment in significant ways and further the cycle of homelessness

A Word About the VI-SPDAT

VI-SPDAT:

- On average, BIPOC clients receive statistically significantly lower prioritization scores on VI-SPDAT than White counterparts
- White individuals prioritized for PSH intervention at higher rate than BIPOC individuals, but not true for families
- Race a predictor of receiving a high VI score, where being white was protective factor for single adults
- VI-SPDAT subscales do not equitably capture vulnerabilities for BIPOC compared to Whites: race a predictor of 11/16 subscales, most subscales tilted toward capturing vulnerabilities Whites more likely to endorse



Final Thoughts...

"It's a vicious circle. You may be more likely to become homeless because of a mental illness, and if that happens, the homelessness makes the symptoms and experience of mental illness much much worse."

~Program participant

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results."

~Addiction community

"If we could focus the effort on making an initial intervention actually robust enough to succeed, that would be better than sort of half-treating people over and over again."

~Program participant

*"If you want to end homelessness, **put** people in homes."*

~Jeff Olivet

*"If you want to **keep** people in homes, build community around them."*

~Steven Samra

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS



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