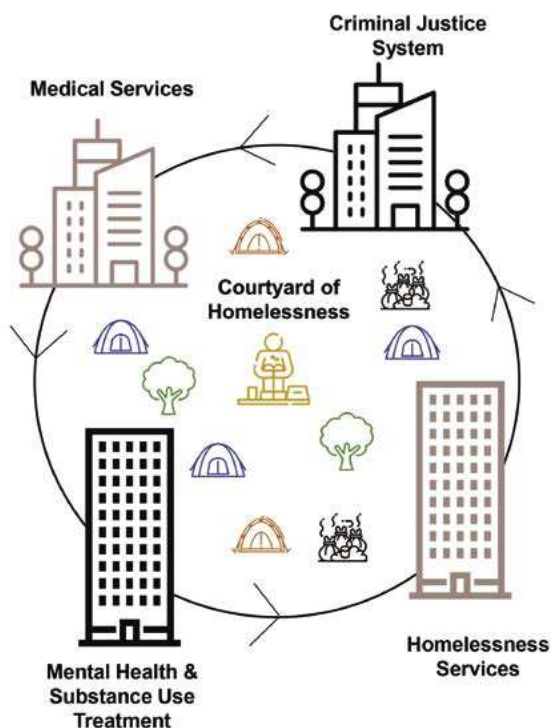


KEY FACTS FROM THE BACKGROUND REPORT

DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

During 2019 in Arizona:

- 20.1% of adults had a mental illness
- 5.6% had a serious mental illness
- 7.1% had a substance use disorder
- Approximately 63,000 people, or 0.87% of Arizona's population, experienced homelessness
- 26% to 37% of the homeless had mental health or substance use disorders
- 50% of the unsheltered were over 50



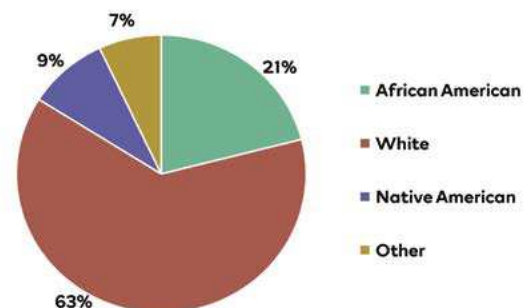
THE REVOLVING DOOR

The door through which a person might exit homelessness is determined by policies, regulations, and individual life circumstances. Policies and regulations affecting homelessness are created both within each building (or system) and through external forces, such as governmental processes and the health care and insurance industries. Often, these rules are meant to protect the safety of staff and clients. However, for people at the intersection of mental health, substance use, and homelessness the result can instead be a release back into the courtyard of homelessness.

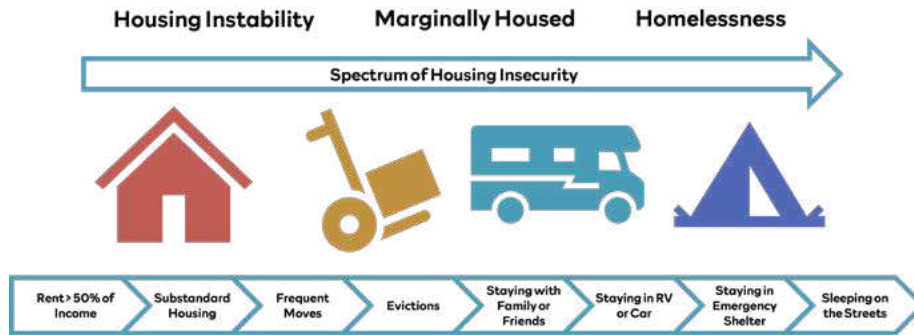
OBSTACLES TO TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

- Lack of access to the internet or a phone
- Unreliable or no transportation
- Lack of awareness about services available
- Difficulty adhering to treatment regimens.
- Decreasing supply of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-housing (RRH) units combined with increasing rent prices
- Lack of effective and coordinated outreach strategies to reach homeless youth and adults not connected to traditional service systems
- Expense and complexity of delivering trauma-informed care
- Multisystem factors that do not encourage developmentally appropriate behaviors in youth
- Involvement in foster care or justice system
- Stigmatization
- Criminalization
- Adverse Childhood Experiences and other trauma
- Systemic racism, poverty, and inequality
- Language barriers
- Complex, difficult to navigate systems
- Lack of funding and resources – too few treatment facilities, staff, psychiatrists, units
- Lack of integration and coordination
- Scarcity of affordable housing

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF HOMELESS POPULATION (AZ)

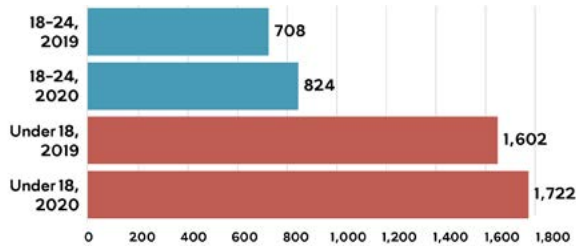


THE SPECTRUM OF HOUSING INSECURITY



IMPACT ON SPECIFIC POPULATIONS AND AREAS

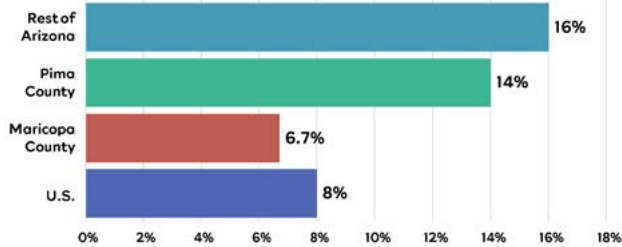
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS **



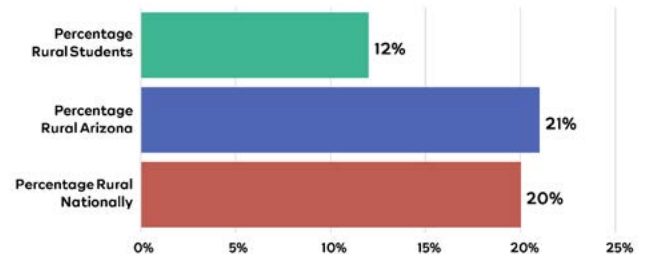
SENIOR HOMELESSNESS ****



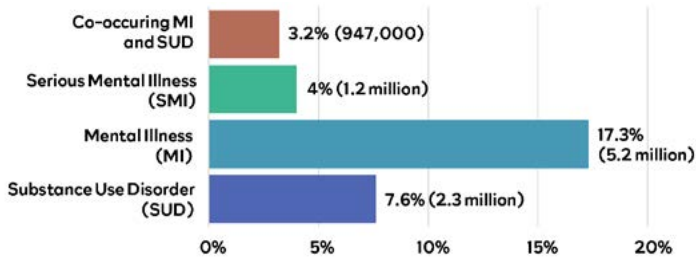
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS ***



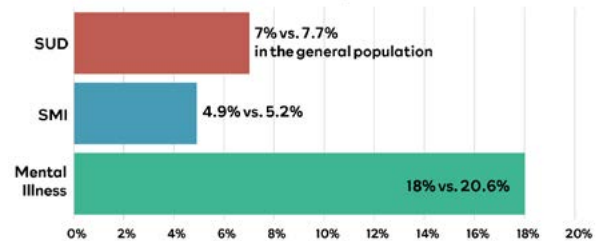
RURAL HOMELESSNESS ***



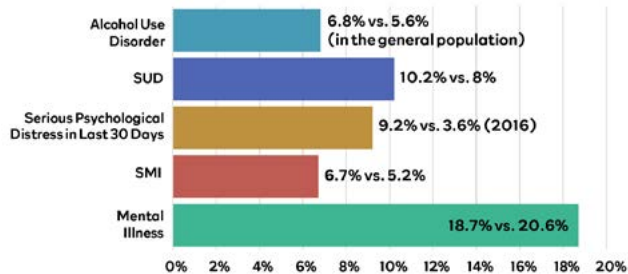
AFRICAN AMERICAN – MENTAL HEALTH *



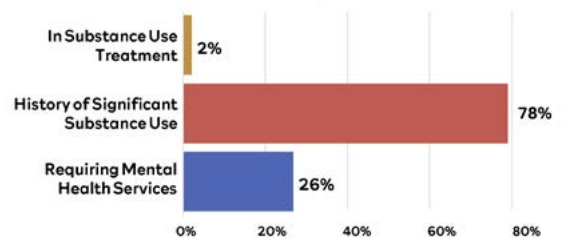
HISPANIC – MENTAL HEALTH *



NATIVE AMERICAN – MENTAL HEALTH *



INCARCERATED PERSONS – MENTAL HEALTH **



The information summarized on this handout is sourced from the "Mental Health, Substance Use, and Homelessness" Background Report edited by Kristi Eustice and Benedikt Springer with the Morrison Institute for Public Policy. You can download and read the background report by using the QR code, or visit our website at www.aztownhall.org.

