



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Council Meeting

September 7, 2023

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Consent Calendar
- III. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks
- IV. Executive Officer Updates
- V. Advisory Committee Recommendations
- VI. Updated Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness
- VII. The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness
- VIII. Federal All INside Update
- IX. General Public Comments
- X. Final Remarks and Adjournment

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Consent Calendar

- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the May 31, 2023 Council Meeting

Public Comment on Agenda Item IV

Consent Calendar

- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

Council Member Vote

Shall items on the Consent Calendar be approved?

- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the May 31, 2023 Council Meeting

III. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

IV. Executive Officer Updates

V. Advisory Committee Recommendations

Proposed Council Recommendation Process

- Advisory Committee, LEAB, Working Group, or other structure asked to provide input on specific topic for Council
- Group sends initial input to Council for questions and clarifications, presents at Council meeting
- Cal ICH staff work with group to refine recommendations, figure out which pieces are within Council's purview, and help identify pathways to move toward action
- Recommendations sent back to Council or other identified pathways
- Follow up at future Council meetings on progress of implementing recommendations

Committee Recommendation Timeline

November 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Council specified interest in understanding how state programs and funding can better align or more impactful at the local level

February 2023

PRESENTATION

Committee discussed examples of successful implementation of activities from Action Plan, presents to Council

May 2023

QUESTIONS

Committee members asked to respond to two questions in relation to future Action Plan update process

July/August 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee members meet to draft initial set of recommendations for Council

Committee Prompt

How could the State better align funding and/or coordinate across programs to improve their collective impact?

- Examples: Aligning guidance or messaging
- How could the State streamline or improve access to funding?
- Other ways the State could strengthen impact of funding and programs?

Committee Recommendations

The Council should pursue actions to reduce administrative burden for applicants, including:

- Unified homeless funding application
- Consolidating audits across multiple programs
- Aligning timelines/reporting with federal funding
- Multi-year funding applications
- Direct generalized administrative funding to entities that administer homeless services

Committee Recommendations continued...

The Council should explore opportunities to strengthen capacity among funded entities and their service providers with an eye towards advancing equity, including:

- Guidance on minimum administrative support for providers that contract with state grantees
- Expediting payments and reimbursements to awardees and their funded service
- Lower barriers to smaller, culturally-sensitive providers accessing funding
- Fostering greater roles for people with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making among grantees

Committee Recommendations continued...

The Council should explore opportunities to strengthen capacity among funded entities and their service providers with an eye towards advancing equity, including:

- Center marginalized communities
- Support the unique needs of different communities
- Research the intensity of services needed to serve high acuity populations served in PSH and costs of delivering of those services

Committee Recommendations continued...

The Council should advocate to the Administration and Legislature to prioritize changes to how state funding is structured, including:

- Ongoing funding or multi-year funding for programs
- Baseline funding, coupled with increased funding beyond baseline for uses such as capital and innovation

Council Member Questions

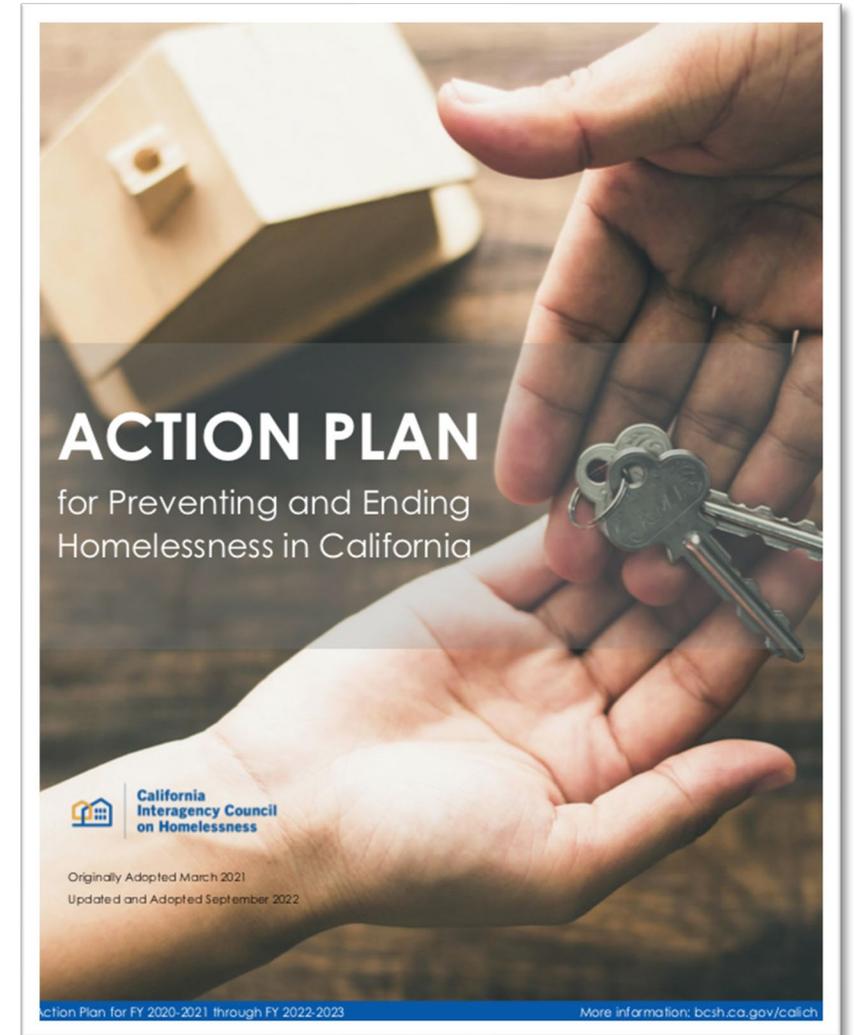
- What questions do Council members have about these initial recommendations?
- What clarifications or additional information would Council members like to see from the Advisory Committee on these recommendations?

VI. Updated Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness

- Discussion and recommendation regarding the adoption of the updated Action Plan.

Action Plan Overview

- Original Plan adopted in **March 2021**, updated Plan adopted in **September 2022**
- Focused on a **vision for the Council and the State's work** to prevent and end homelessness that features:
 - **Increased leadership from the State** for identifying and supporting short-term and long-term solutions;
 - **Purposeful, action-oriented coordination** and alignment across State agencies and programs; and
 - **Stronger, collaborative partnerships** with public and private partners in communities.



Updating the Action Plan

- **Updating current Activities** to reflect implementation status for FY 23-24
- **Adding a more comprehensive range of Activities** for FY 23-24
- **Adjusting Objectives** to reflect updated and expanded Activities, as needed
- Refining and making current **all other Plan content**



Public Input Sessions

Nearly 200 people engaged in feedback from across the state, representing multiple sectors and disciplines

- Virtual public input sessions in April and May
- Tribal listening sessions and feedback survey
- Meetings with Lived Experience Advisory Boards and Young Adult Boards
- Additional stakeholder input

Action Plan Updates

- **Sustained the Plan's current structure of five Action Areas and 15 Objectives**, and its timeframe (FY 20-21 through FY 23-24)
- **Revised language, data, and information** within the Plan's opening content
- **Refined descriptions of the Plan's Objectives** to ensure a focus on racial equity and social justice
- **Updated Activities included in the original Plan and added 33 new Activities** – fully reflects the range of Activities being implemented during FY 23-24 (170 Activities total)

Refined Opening Content

- **Refinement of Objective descriptions** to clarify language and ensure they prioritize racial equity and the importance of including voices with lived expertise.
- Additional **Key Principles and Practices** to include a focus on recognizing and addressing the unique needs and challenges of Tribal Nations.
- **Updated data on homelessness in California, utilizing HDIS system data**, documenting people served by homelessness systems across the State
- **Aligned Key Performance Measures** with the California System Performance Measures (CA SPMs), pursuant to Health and Safety Code §50220.7, that help the state and local jurisdictions, including HHAP grantees, assess their progress toward preventing and ending homelessness.

Updated Activities

In response to the Council's discussion at its May 31, 2023 meeting, there is an **expansion of new and revised Activities addressing:**

- Interagency coordination and collaboration
- Racial equity and Tribal engagement
- Inclusion of people with lived expertise in policy making and program design
- Communications and public awareness

Examples include..

Interagency Coordination and Collaboration

<p>1.3.1: Develop interagency practices and recommendations for sharing and, where feasible, integrating, data from health and human services, housing, and homelessness programs, in service of data-informed and equity-anchored policy and program implementation.</p>	BCSH, CalHHS	Cal ICH	Develop interagency practices and data governance policies by 2023.	<p>Process Measure: Document practices and governance policies implemented as well as steps taken to share data. Provide recommendations on next steps in homelessness data integration and utilization.</p>
<p>1.5.1: Coordinate strategies to identify and address the unmet needs of people experiencing homelessness in emergency response and recovery efforts. Organize and convene the Priority Populations Task Force, an interagency task force that ensures marginalized populations are included in disaster planning and response. Develop disaster and emergency response informational resources with the goal of supporting people experiencing homelessness or housing instability in a range of disaster and emergency scenarios.</p>	Cal OES	CDSS, Cal HHS, BCSH, CDPH	Ongoing	<p>Process Measure: Documentation of timely convening of this Task Force.</p> <p>Output Measure: Development of guidance and materials to include people experiencing homelessness in disaster planning and response.</p>
<p>5.14.5: Pilot efforts to create permanent housing opportunities exclusively for individuals exiting correctional settings, in partnership with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, local partners, and individuals with lived experience ensuring a wide range of services and supports are available to achieve long-term success.</p>	HCD	CDCR	Initiated in FY 23-24 and ongoing	<p>Process Measure: Development of targeted outcomes and documentation of consultation with the Lived Experience Advisory Board.</p> <p>Outcome Measures: In future, measure performance against targets.</p>

Racial Equity and Tribal Engagement

<p>1.1.6: Continue to implement set-asides to ensure tax credit and bond allocation awards are provided to Tribal entities and to BIPOC-led developers. CDLAC to continue implementing bond allocation set aside for BIPOC projects and CTCAC to implement a tax credit set aside for tribal projects.</p>	<p>CTCAC, CDLAC</p>		<p>Implemented FY 22-23 and Ongoing</p>	<p>Output Measure: Percent utilization of BIPOC and Tribal set-asides.</p>
<p>1.1.7: Develop a holistic policy framework for implementing the state's duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, including increasing opportunity in historically disinvested communities in HCD and other State funding programs.</p>	<p>HCD</p>	<p>TCAC, CDLAC</p>	<p>Framework developed by Q4 of FY 23-24</p>	<p>Process Measure: Develop funding policies that encourage housing developments and units that increase opportunity in historically disinvested communities.</p> <p>Output Measure: Timely completion of policy framework.</p> <p>Outcome Measure: Framework informs changes to HCD program guidelines, including the MFSN programs.</p>

Inclusion of People with Lived Expertise

<p>1.2.8: Recruit, select, and compensate people with current or recent experience of homelessness to serve on a CDPH Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB). CDPH will consult with the LEAB on policies and issues related to homelessness, housing, COVID-19, and health.</p>	<p>CDPH</p>	<p>Cal ICH</p>	<p>LEAB will be formed in Q1 of FY 23-24, then ongoing</p>	<p>Process Measure: Document consultations with LEAB related to CDPH's housing and homelessness focused activities. Process Measure: Timely implementation of LEAB.</p>
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<p>4.12.13: Provide technical assistance and program guidance informed by people with lived experience of homelessness to enhance program planning and increase housing stability and permanent housing outcomes.</p>	<p>HCD</p>	<p>Ongoing through Q2 of FY 23-24</p>	<p>Process Measure: HCD, in collaboration with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, provides technical assistance on quality supportive housing. Output Measure: Training and coaching provided to supportive housing providers that have increased their portfolio of supportive housing units. Development of a supportive services guidebook for use by providers. Outcome Measure: Providers receive guidance on evidence-based best practices for supportive housing</p>
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Communications and Public Awareness

<p>4.11.3: Increase expertise, understanding, and knowledge of state-level workforce on Housing First approaches and best practices, racial equity and inclusion, cultural humility, best practices for engaging people with lived experience in program design and improvements and other related trainings that will enhance state-level staff awareness of populations served including those most disparately impacted by housing instability and homelessness.</p>	Cal ICH	BCSH, CalHHS	Ongoing, beginning FY 23-24	<p>Outcome Measure: Coordinated assessment of current resources and trainings for state staff on best practices and continued gaps in ongoing learning/expertise development in areas under this activity.</p> <p>Process Measure: Documentation of training efforts related to Housing First approaches and best practices, racial equity and inclusion, cultural humility, best practices for engaging people with lived experience in program design and program/policy improvements.</p> <p>Outcome Measure: Library of consistent, accessible, and evolving resources and trainings for state staff expertise in aforementioned areas in order to have consistent and accurate application of concepts in state-level policies and programs.</p>
<p>4.12.4: Implement advocacy and partnerships to inform the federal administration’s efforts to decrease unsheltered homelessness and expand housing supply, including through the All INside initiative and the White House Housing Supply Action Plan. Use these efforts to pursue modifications to current federal programs, to reduce barriers to documentation and expedite access to housing, improve the process to use federal public lands for affordable housing development, provide better financial products for expedited housing development, and support jurisdictions to make changes to zoning and other processes to expedite development in order to create opportunities for people to exit homelessness to stable housing.</p>	BCSH	HCD, CalHFA, CalSTA	Ongoing	<p>Process Measure: Documentation of federal policies and program modifications that are directly aligned with State’s advocacy efforts and priorities.</p>

Upcoming Council Decision

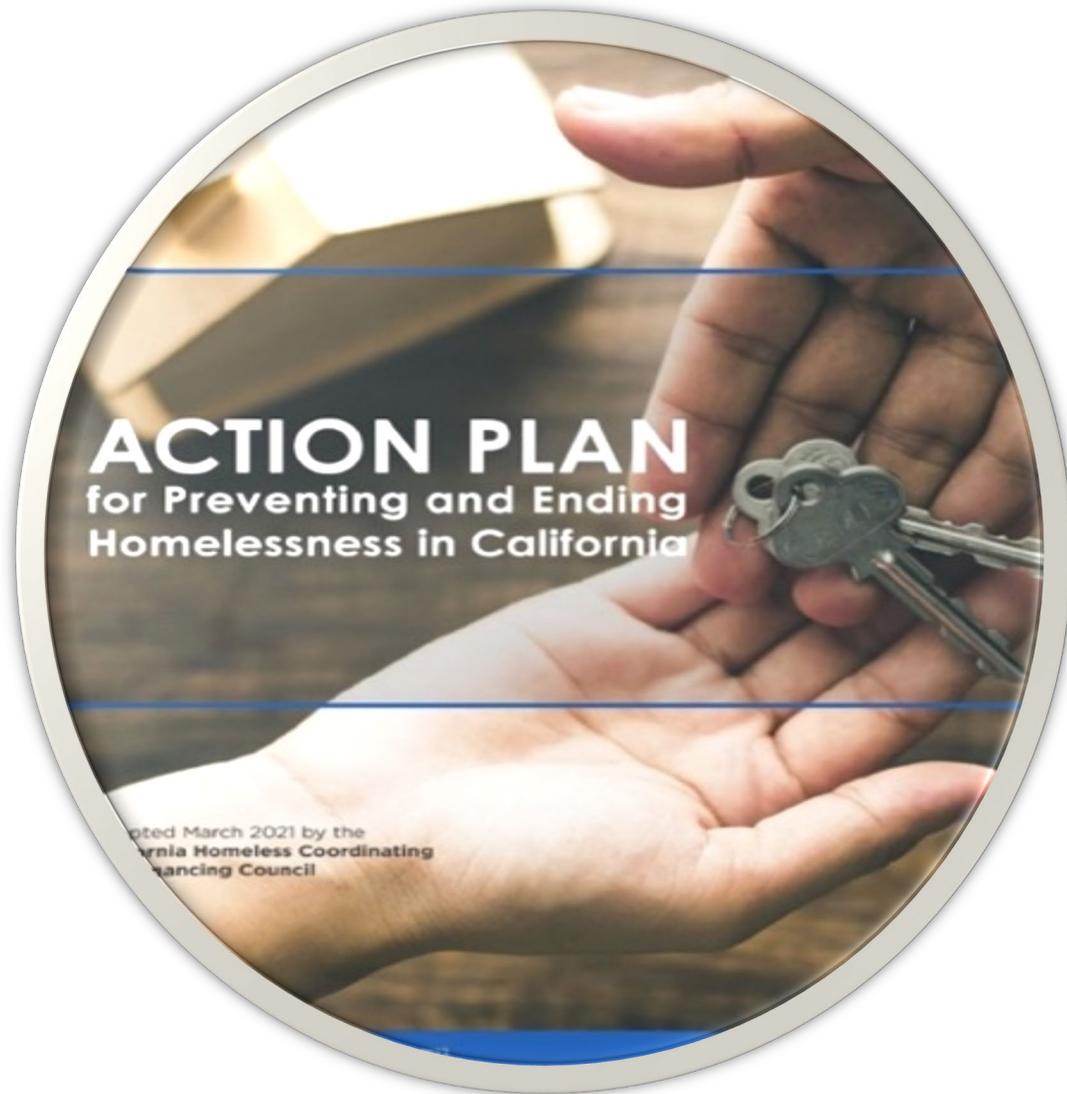
In a moment, Council members will be asked to vote on the following question:

Do Council members vote to adopt the updated Action Plan?

First, do Council members have any questions?

Next, will hear public comment on this Action Item.

Public Comment



- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

Council Decision

Do Council members vote to adopt the updated Action Plan?

Next Steps

- **Finalize FY 23-24 Action Plan update** for publication and dissemination (pending Council decision)
- **Complete progress report** assessing implementation of Action Plan during FY 22-23
- Begin work to plan **next iteration of Action Plan**

Council Discussion

Given Cal ICH's plans to begin work on a new iteration of the Action Plan:

- What elements of the current plan are effective and would you want to see maintained?
- What elements of the current plan could be improved?
- How should the next Action Plan be structured to be most effective?

VII. The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness

Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative



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California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH)

Margot Kushel, MD
Director, Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative



Study Origins and Significance

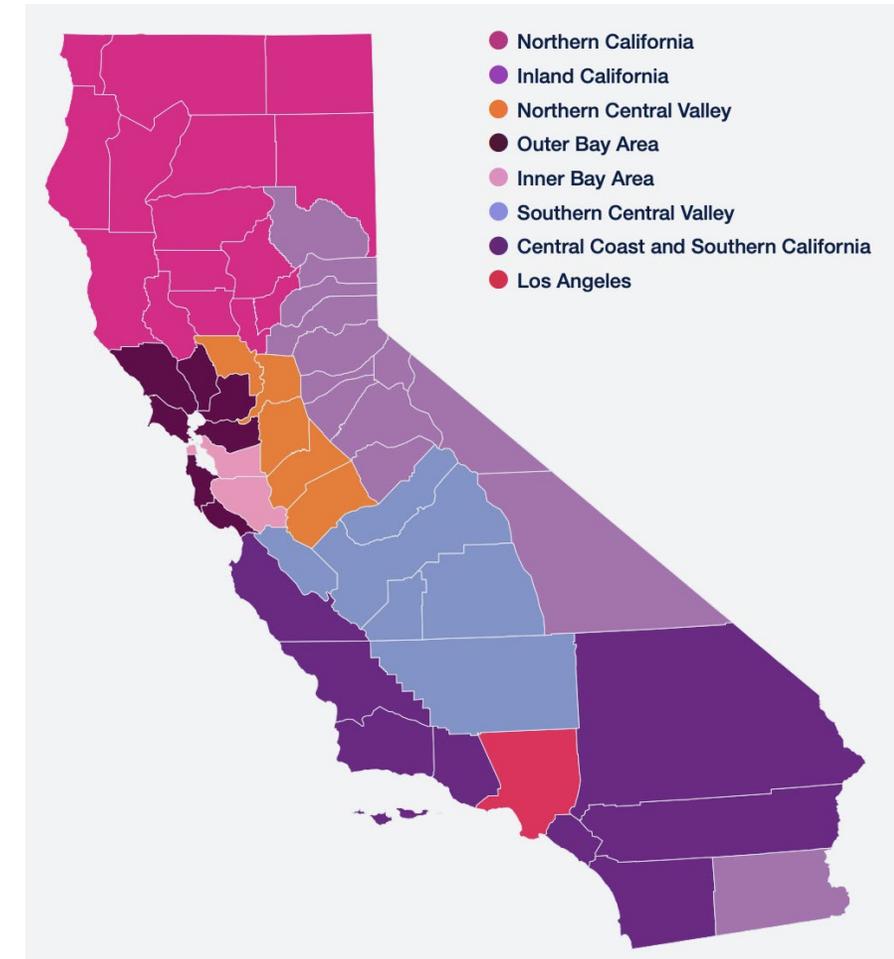
- Largest representative study of homelessness in US since 1990s
- Conducted at the request of California Department of Health and Human Services to answer critical questions about homelessness facing CA policymakers

Funding

- Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- California Health Care Foundation
- Blue Shield of California Foundation

Study Methods

- 8 counties representing 8 regions (exact counties confidential)
- Target population: Adults 18+ experiencing homelessness
- Number of participants per county based on size & composition of homeless population in each county
 - 3,200 questionnaires
 - 365 paired in-depth interviews
- Venue based sampling supplemented by respondent driven sampling (RDS) for hard to find populations
- Sample weighting
- English and Spanish (and interpreters)
- Community engaged practices (3 community advisory boards)



Young Adult Population

- Transitional Age Youth/Young Adults distinct population
- Not well represented using same methods used for general adult population
- We did not want to EXCLUDE young adults, but this study is NOT meant to represent Transitional Age Youth/Young Adults (or make claims as to the size of that distinct population)

Who Experiences Adult Homelessness in California

Study Population

- 90% single adults (age 25+ without a minor child)
- 7% adults in families (currently living with minor child)
- 3% transition aged young adults (TAY)* (18-24 without minor child)

*Study NOT designed for this population; this should not be taken as a statement about the relative size of this population

Many adults labeled as single adults, but gave up children due to homelessness

Among “single” homeless adults:

- 30% had minor children
- 10% had children in CPS custody
- 8% had relinquished custody currently due to homelessness

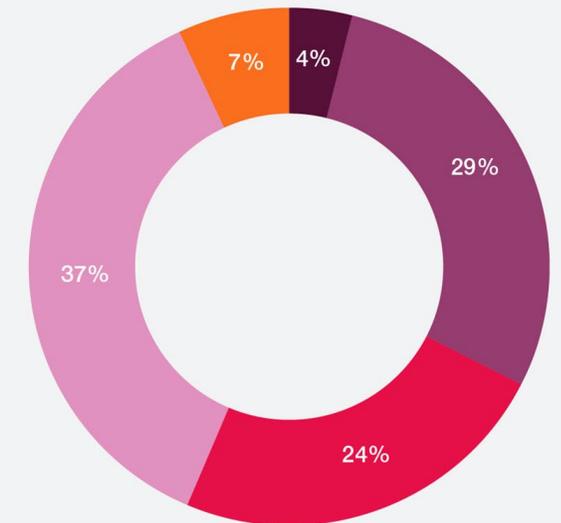
Participant Demographics

- **Race:**
 - Black and Indigenous communities disproportionately impacted
- **Gender:**
 - 69% cisgender men, 30% cisgender women, 1% transgender/non-binary/other gender identified
- **Age:**
 - Median age of all participants: 47 (range: 18-89)
 - Median age of single adults (25+ without a child): 49
 - 48% of single adults were 50+
 - 41% of single adults 50+ first became homeless at 50 or older

Age Distribution of CASPEH Participants

● 18-24 years ● 25-39 years ● 40-49 years
● 50-64 years ● 65+ years

Cumulative percentage does not equal 100% due to rounding.



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Episode Length and Chronic Homelessness

- Median length of current episode of homelessness was 22 months
- One in three participants (36%) met federal criteria for chronic homelessness

People Experiencing Homelessness in CA are Californians

- 90% of participants were last housed in California
- 75% of participants were last housed in their current county



Pathways to Homelessness

Entrances and Trajectories to Homelessness

- Entrances into homelessness:
 - Institutional settings: 19%
 - Non-leaseholding arrangements: 49%
 - Leaseholding arrangements: 32%

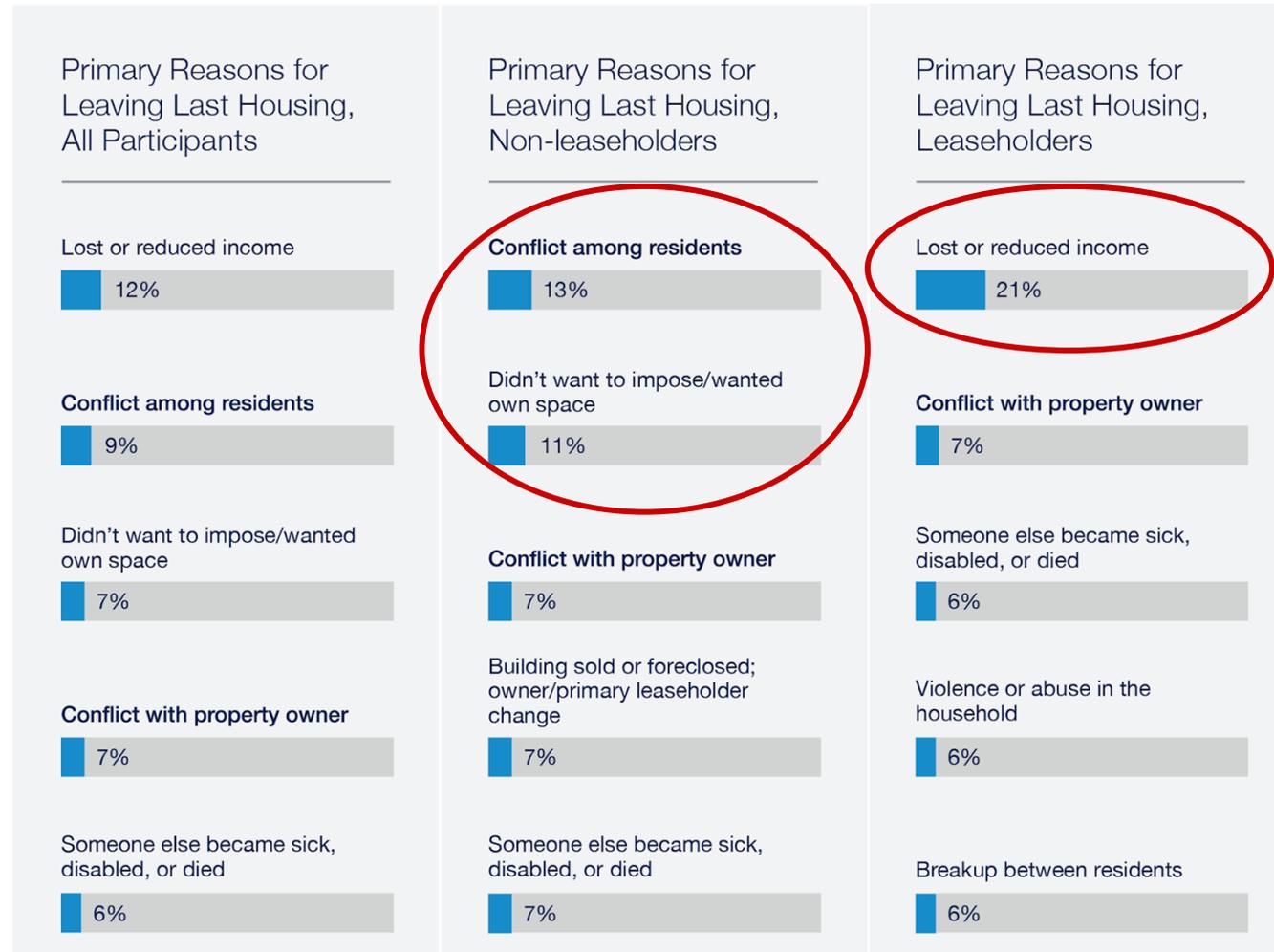
Income and Housing Costs Prior to Homelessness

- All:
 - Median monthly household income: \$960
 - Median monthly housing costs: \$375
- Non-leaseholders:
 - Median monthly household income: \$950
 - 43% of non-leaseholders did not pay rent
 - Median monthly housing costs (among those who paid rent): \$450
- Leaseholders:
 - Median monthly household income: \$1400
 - Median monthly housing costs: \$700

Warning Prior to Losing Last Housing

- Median warning before losing housing: 5 days
 - Non-leaseholders: 1 day
 - Leaseholders: 10 days

Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing



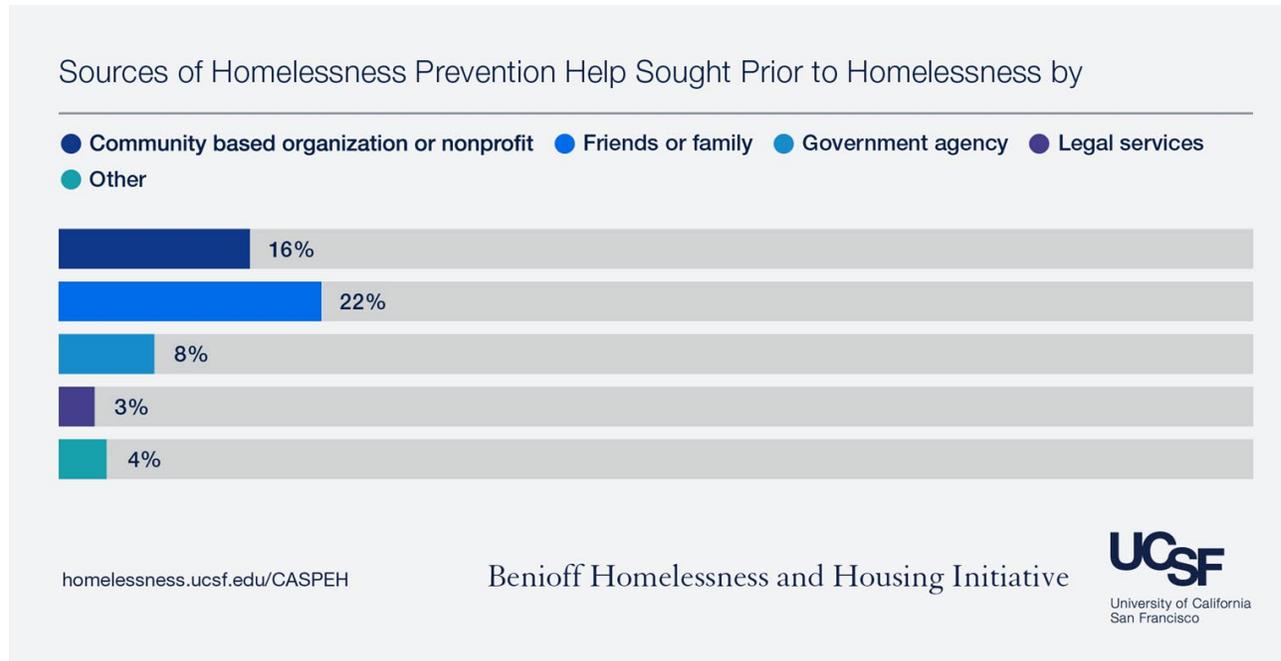
Multiple reasons may compound each other and contribute to housing loss

“Basically, I just didn't have enough income. You have to have first, last, security deposit and didn't have all of it. And then, the disability. After my parents died, I was on my own. So then I really started to suffer and see all the hardship you have to go through to get housing and with a disability. [laughs]”

- CASPEH participant

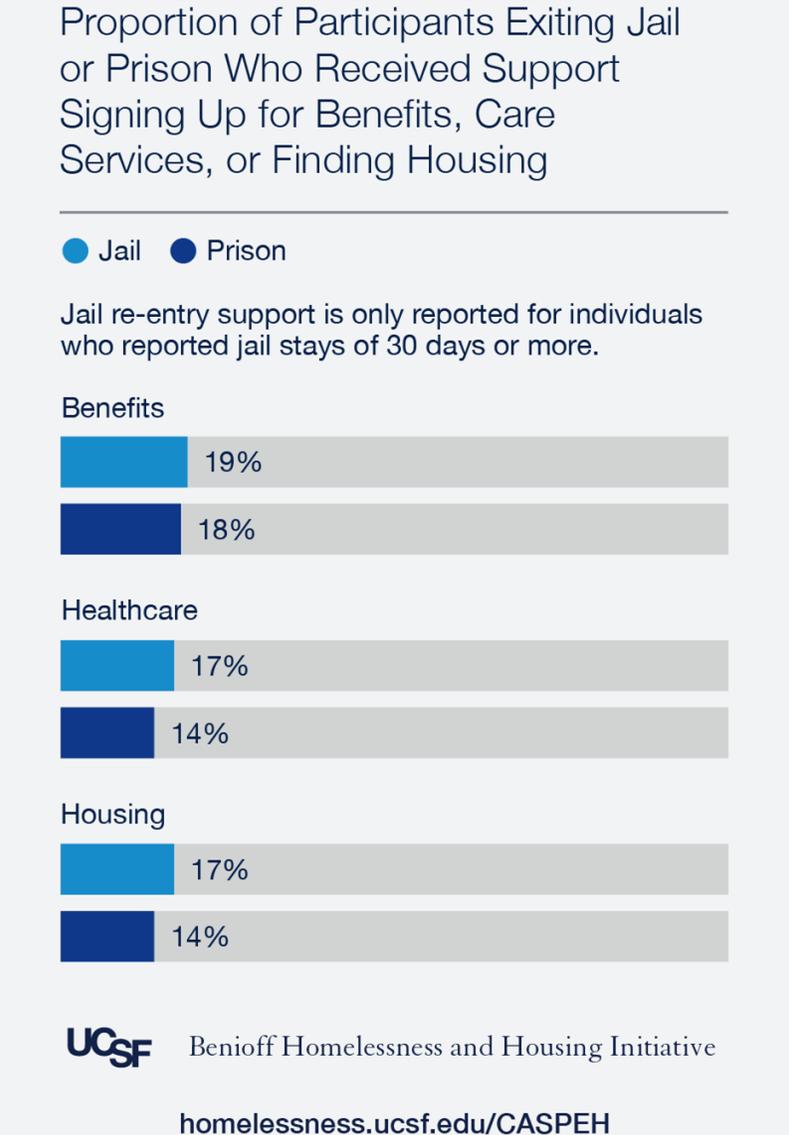
Help Sought and Received Prior to Homelessness

- 36% sought help from any source; most commonly from friends and families

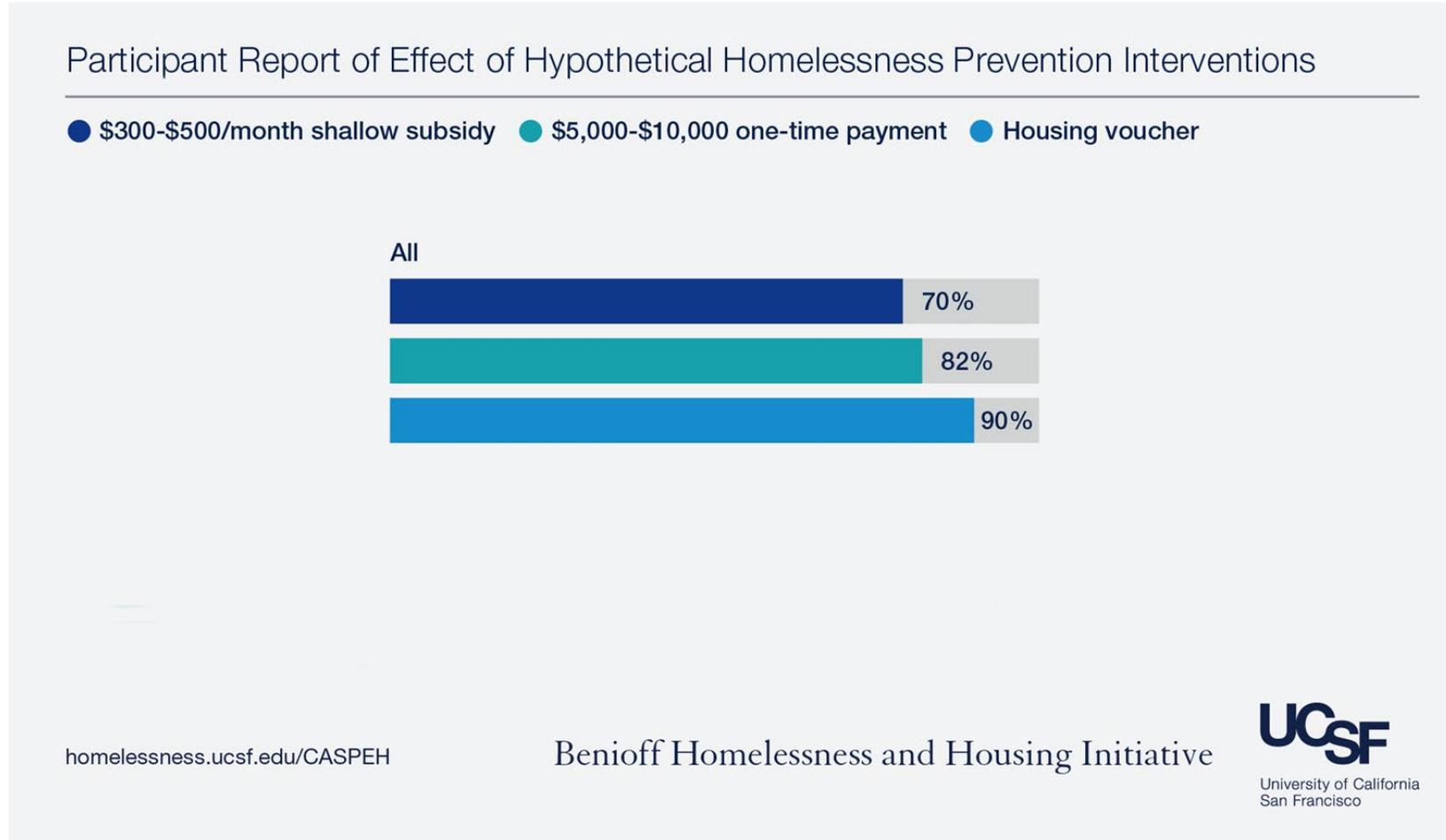


- 23% received help

Re-Entry Support for Those Exiting Prison and Jail Limited



Participants believed financial interventions would have durably prevented homelessness



Experiences During Homelessness

Shelter Status and Access

- Places slept most in past 6 months:
 - Unsheltered: 78%
 - Vehicle: 21%
 - Non-vehicle unsheltered location: 57%
 - Sheltered: 22%
- 41% indicated there was a time they wanted shelter, but unable to access it during current episode

Those in shelters liked them, those not in shelter expressed concerns

- Participants in congregate shelters reported being satisfied with their living arrangement
- Some unsheltered participants expressed concerns about congregate shelter:
 - COVID-19 and health-related risks
 - Burdensome rules
 - Inadequate support to find permanent housing

Physical Health Status

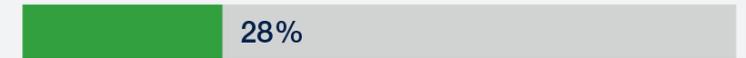
- 45% reported fair or poor health
- 60% of participants had at least one chronic health condition
- 34% reported a difficulty with ADL

Self-Reported Fair or Poor Health Status by Age

All



18-24 years



25-49 years



50+ years



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Pregnancy

- Of those assigned female at birth under age 45
 - 26% were pregnant at some point during current episode
 - 8% pregnant at time of interview

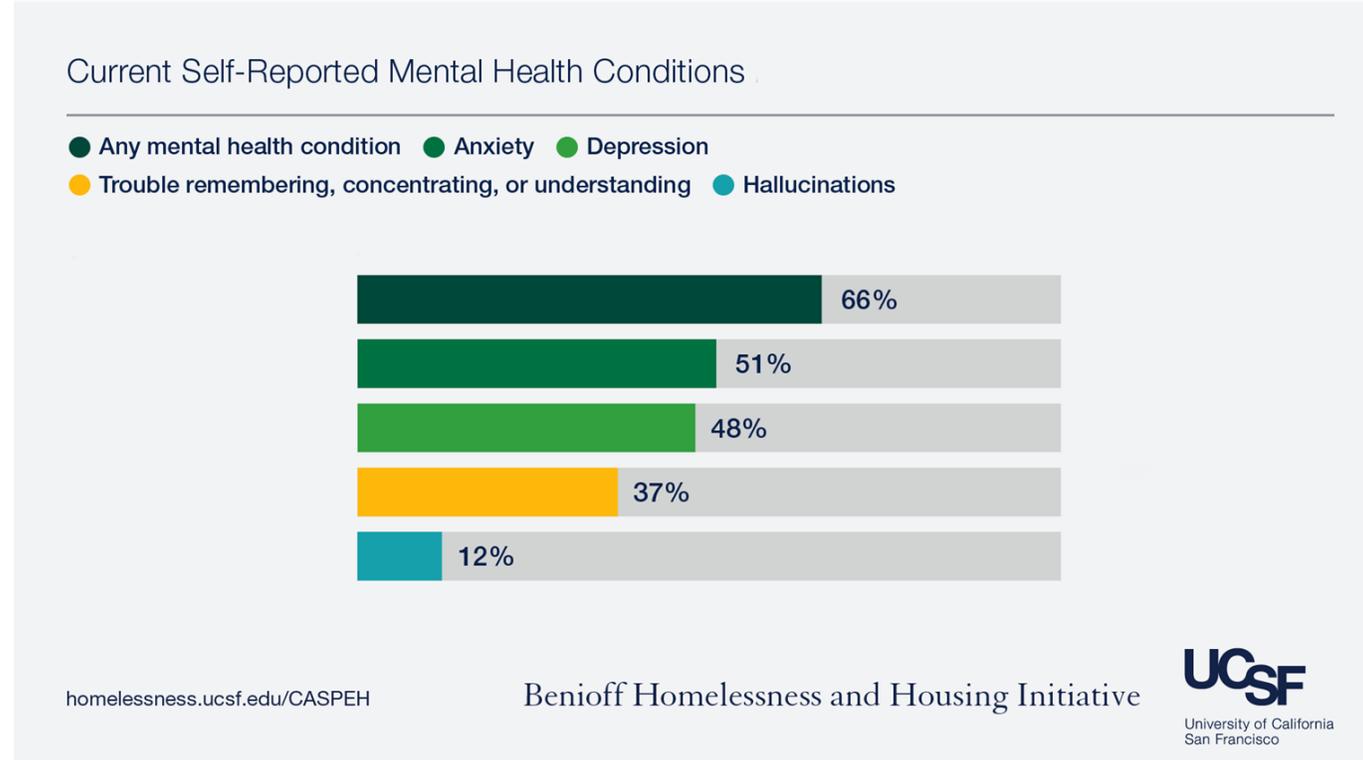
Access to Healthcare

- 83% were covered by some form of health insurance, most commonly MediCal
- 52% reported having a regular source of non-ED healthcare
- 61% saw a healthcare provider outside of the ED in the past year

Acute Healthcare Utilization

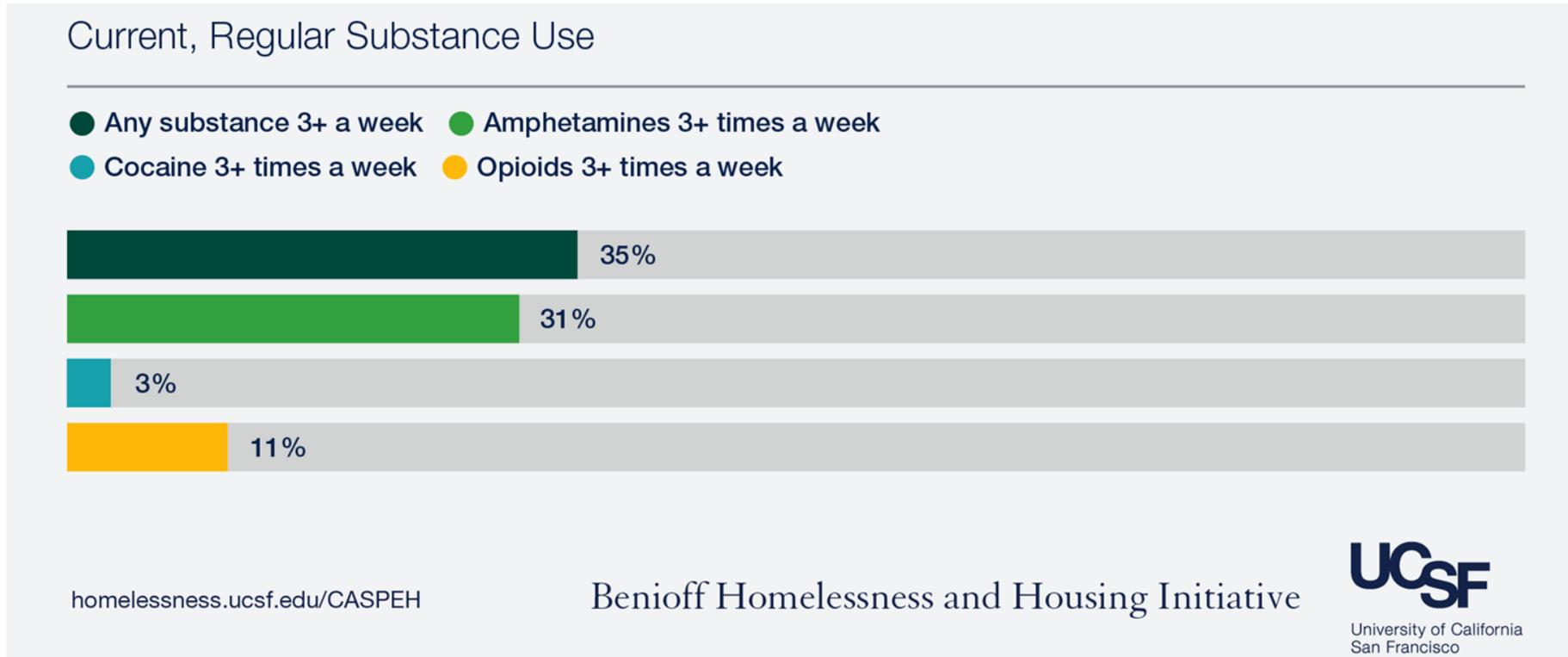
- In the past six months,
 - 38% visited the ED
 - 21% had an inpatient hospitalization for physical health
 - 5% had psychiatric hospitalization

Mental Health Symptoms During Homelessness



- 27% experienced a psychiatric hospitalization in their lifetime
 - 44% of these participants experienced it after their first instance of homelessness

Substance Use During Homelessness



- Heavy episodic alcohol use (weekly): 9%
- Most who use opioids also use methamphetamines
- 11% reported an overdose during current episode of homelessness

Substances Used for Self-medication, Instrumental Purposes, and Sociability

*“For the most part, the drugs that I do, I stay up, I stay focused and it keeps me with the numb attitude. It keeps me out of reality. And when you're sober, you come back to reality and that *** hurts. You feel it more when you're sober. To tell you the truth, I think sober, [for] some people it's worse. That might be the worst thing for them, being on these streets, being sober. I think me and my situation, I think the choice, the little drugs that I do do, it really helps me. It keeps me sane... I can't do this. I can't deal with always being harassed by the police. I can't deal with the normal citizens that got places to stay, that have 9-to-5's, that's taking care of their kids... I can't. I can't be normal around them if I'm sober.”*

- CASPEH Participant

Behavioral Health

- Homelessness limits access to behavioral health treatment
 - 35% of participants who reported current, regular illicit drug use or weekly heavy episodic alcohol use wanted treatment, but were unable to access it
 - Only 18% received either mental health counseling or psychiatric medications in past 30 days

What proportion has a significant behavioral health need?

- Estimating those with a significant behavioral health impairment that would benefit from PSH with intensive case management or higher level of care
- 47% reported EITHER
 - Current regular illicit drug use
 - Heavy episodic alcohol use (weekly)
 - Current hallucinations or
 - Recent psychiatric hospitalization

Incarceration

- High levels of carceral involvement during the current episode of homelessness.
 - 30% went to jail during their current episode of homelessness

Experiences of Violence During Current Episode of Homelessness

- **36% experienced physical violence**
 - Of those participants:
 - 49% said the perpetrator was a stranger
- **10% experienced sexual violence**
 - Of those participants:
 - 54% said the perpetrator was a stranger

Labor, Employment, and Income

- Lengthy disconnection from the workforce (both informal and formal labor markets) for many people experiencing homelessness.
 - 70% hadn't worked 20 hours a week or more in 2+ years
- 44% are actively looking for work
 - 55% of those younger than 62 and without disability
- Underutilization of income benefits (e.g., SSI, SSDI, etc.)



Barriers and Facilitators of Returns to Housing

Key Barriers to Returns to Housing

- **Nearly all (89%) identified high housing costs as barrier to housing**
 - Lack of housing-relevant documents: 53%
 - Waitlists are too long: 52%
 - Family/friends not able to have participant live with them: 51%
 - Credit history or past evictions: 49%
 - Discrimination: 43%
 - Carceral record: 36%
 - Mental health/substance use: 29%
 - Physical disability: 24%

Proportion of Participants Who Reported Affordability-Related Housing Barriers

Impacts ability to obtain housing ● A little ● A lot

I can't afford housing



Housing I can afford is far or unsafe



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Support Finding Housing

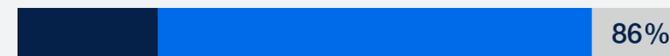
- Two-thirds (63%) indicated not having someone help them find housing as a barrier
- 46% received formal assistance finding housing during current episode of homelessness
- 26% received help finding housing monthly or more frequently in past six months
 - Sheltered participants were more likely to have received help in the past six months compared to those unsheltered (44% vs. 20%)

Participants believed financial interventions or housing navigators would meaningfully impact their return to housing

Participant Report of Effect of Hypothetical Interventions to Support Returns to Housing

● Help a little ● Help a lot

\$300-\$500 dollars/month shallow subsidy



\$5,000-\$10,000 one-time payment



Housing voucher



Housing navigation



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Policy Recommendations

Increase Access to Affordable Housing Options

- Expand deep rental assistance programs
- Support usability of existing subsidies
- Incentivize housing production
- Pilot shared housing
- Pilot monetary support to facilitate shared housing with family/friends

Expand Targeted Prevention

- Pilot shallow monthly or lump-sum payment programs
- Incentivize property owner-tenant mediation processes
- Increase homelessness prevention in institutional settings
- Expand prevention in mainstream systems where low-income individuals receive services

Provide Supports to Match Behavioral Health Needs

- Increase access to substance use treatment
- Increase outreach with harm reduction services
- Invest in promising treatments for stimulants
- Increase linkage to harm reduction and substance use treatment through EDs
- Increase availability of PSH
- Increase access to mental health care

Increase Household Incomes

- Increase evidence-based employment supports
- Increase enrollment in income-eligible benefits

Increase Outreach and Service Delivery During Homelessness

- Increase street medicine outreach
- Invest in sustained outreach into unsheltered communities (accessing required documents, signing up for benefits, etc.)

Embed a Racial Equity Approach in Homeless System Service Delivery

- Strengthen anti-discrimination policies and enforcement mechanisms
- Prioritize equity in local coordinated entry systems
- Lower housing barriers for those with criminal justice system records

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VIII. Federal All INside Update

All INside

Cal ICH Council Meeting
September 7, 2023



ALL INSIDE

19 Federal Partner Agencies



Thank you!

Maxine “Maxie” Pulliam, LCSW
Federal Team Lead for *All INside*
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Questions?

IX. Public Comment

- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

X. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Contact Information

- Cal ICH Website: <https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich>
- Questions: calich@bcsh.ca.gov
- Social Media
 -  https://twitter.com/Cal_ICH
 -  <https://facebook.com/CaliforniaICH>
 -  <https://linkedin.com/company/california-interagency-council-on-homelessness>