



ACMI

**Association for
the Chronically
Mentally Ill
(ACMI)**

JUNE 30, 2021

The webinar will start @ 6:00 PM

ACMI Educational Webinar:

- Please mute all lines
- Submit questions in chat window- questions should be generic in nature not specific to an individual
- Those requesting a Certificate of Attendance need to send an email to contact@acmionline.com with following information:
 - First name
 - Last name
 - Email address
- Copa Education will be sending the certificate

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Why Homelessness Is Increasing & What To Do About It



Presented By

Paul Webster, Director, Hope Street Coalition

Former Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Housing and Urban Development



Government Efforts Have Failed To Reduce Homelessness

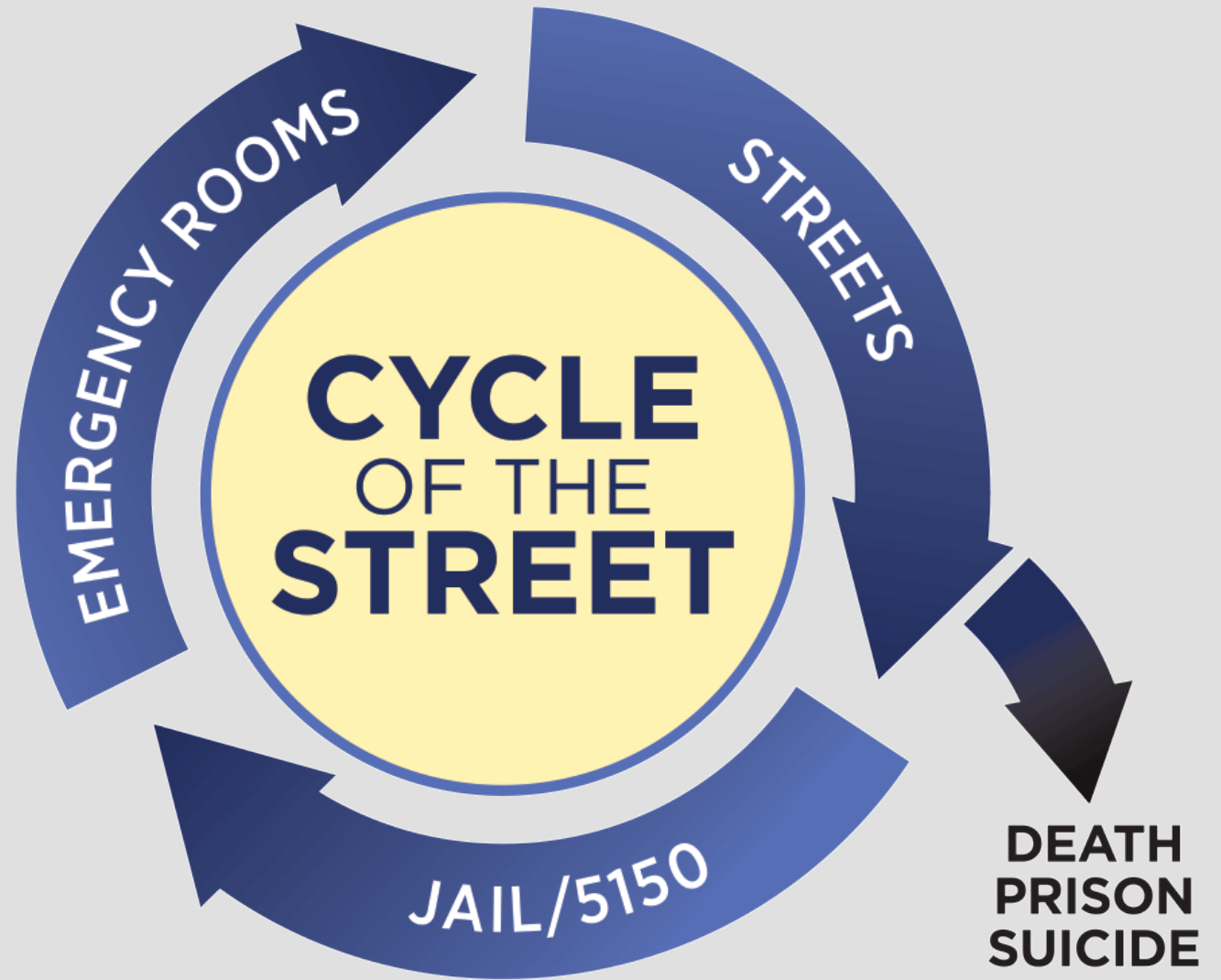


**INCREASED
FUNDS**

**INCREASED
CAPACITY**

**INCREASED
HOMELESSNESS**

The Provision of
Housing Fails to
Break the Deadly
and Expensive
Cycle of the
Streets



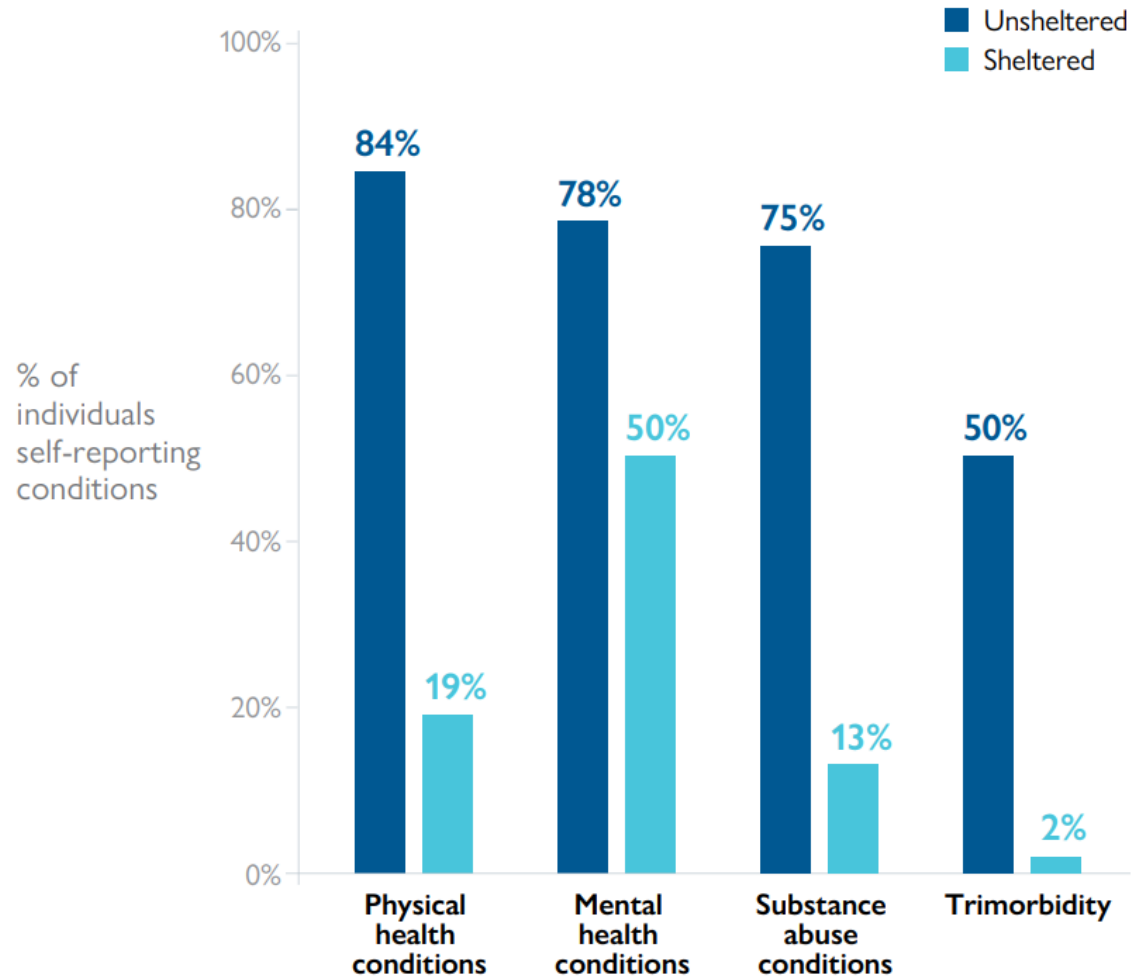
Phoenix CoC Data



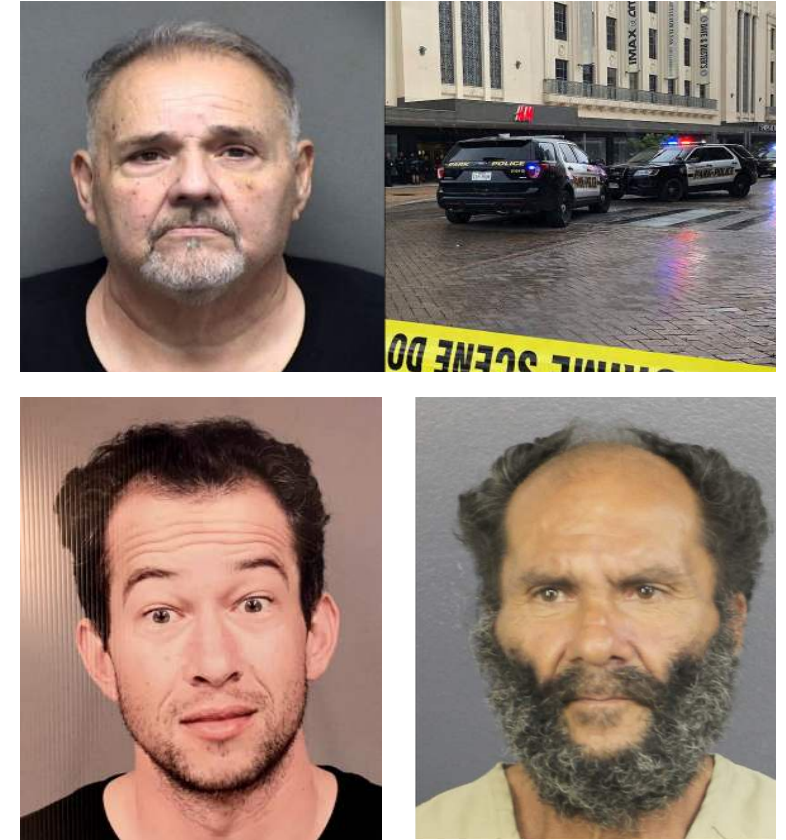
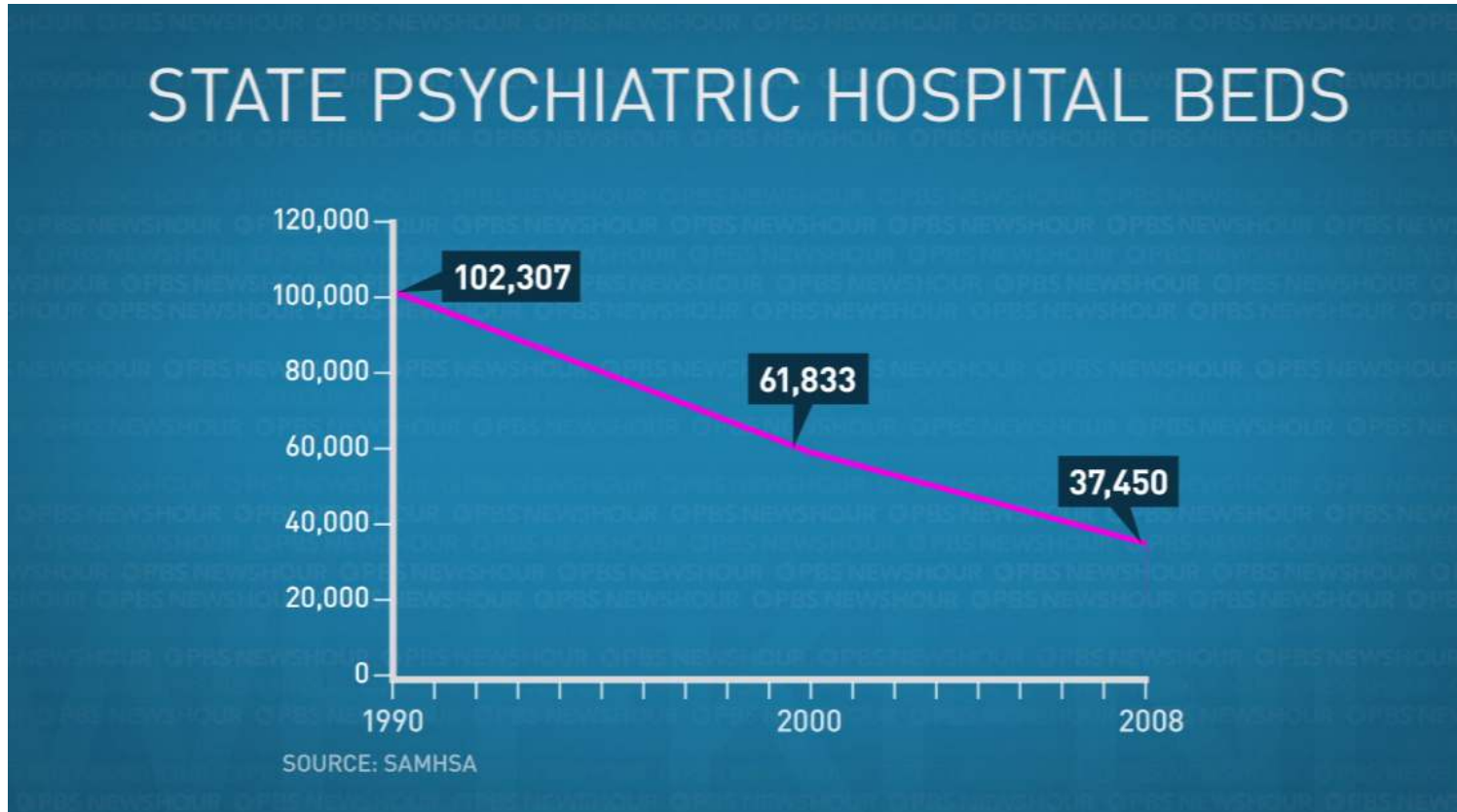
Year ▼	CoC Award ▼	% Incr ▼	PIT Count ▼	% Incre ▼	Per Capita ▼	Chronic ▼	% Incr ▼	MI ▼	% Incr ▼	SUD ▼	% Incre ▼
2015	\$26,882,333		5,631		\$4,773.99	480		523		420	
2016	\$25,418,465	-5%	5,702	1%	\$4,457.82	745	55%	931	78%	910	117%
2017	\$25,888,759	2%	5,605	-2%	\$4,618.87	939	26%	866	-7%	711	-22%
2018	\$28,016,529	8%	6,298	12%	\$4,448.48	974	4%	903	4%	1,228	73%
2019	\$28,412,341	1%	6,614	5%	\$4,295.79	962	-1%	966	7%	1,116	-9%
2020	\$33,039,654	16%	7,419	12%	\$4,453.38	1,052	9%	965	0%	1,110	-1%
Total	\$134,618,427	23%		32%			119%		85%		164%

The Mentally Ill and Chronically Addicted Make Up Most of the Unsheltered Homeless

FIGURE 4. Physical health, mental health, substance abuse, and trimorbidity by shelter status¹¹



<https://www.capolicylab.org/health-conditions-among-unsheltered-adults-in-the-u-s/>



<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/08/02/amid-shortage-of-psychiatric-beds-mentally-ill-face-long-waits-for-treatment#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20now%20has%2037%2C679,treatment%20for%20severe%20mental%20illness.>

The Inadequate Mental Health System is Exacerbating Homelessness & Crime

Why Is Homelessness Increasing?



- **Wrong Narrative**
- **Wrong Policy**
- **Wrong Focus**

Wrong Narrative

Anyone Can Become Homeless

According to the homeless themselves homelessness is caused by economic inequity or challenges such as loss of a job, eviction, health challenges, or personal loss such as the end of a relationship like the death of a loved one.

Housing Solves Homelessness

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness:

“The solution to homelessness is straightforward: housing. By connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing and services, they have a platform from which they can address other areas that may have contributed to their homelessness — such as employment, health, and substance abuse.”

Wrong Policy

Agency	Policy
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on the provision of housing - not the treatment of illness that led to homelessness• Use of housing and non-clinical services as substitutes for clinical interventions• Lack of outcome-driven metrics that incentivize the reduction of the unsheltered• Dis-incentivize outcomes-driven approaches
Mental Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dis-incentives to treatment for SMI• Priority of funding for the least needy• Imbalance of civil liberties and community interests• Dis-incentivize outcomes-driven approaches
Drug Use / Addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normalization and incentivization of drug use• Minimization of addiction as a cause of homelessness• Dis-incentivize outcomes-driven approaches• Lack of treatment on demand/incentives for treatment

Wrong Focus

Program and Process

The focus has been on funding programs regardless if they reduced homelessness or not.

Level of Government

The focus has been on regional and municipal programming instead of the federal and state policy that restrict that action.

Call to Action



- **Change the Narrative**

Stop talking about housing when the issue is a lack of treatment.

- **Change The Policy**

Stop accepting bad policy. Adopt policies that stops - not manages - suffering.

- **Right Message, Right Audience**

Alert state and federal lawmakers that their policies are harming local communities. Demand action!

Hope Street Coalition



- **Raise Awareness**
- **Advocate for Effective Policies**

www.hopestreetcoalition.org