



**MINNESOTA**  
**INTERAGENCY COUNCIL**  
**ON HOMELESSNESS**

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Housing Finance and Policy Committee

**Cathy ten Broeke**

Assistant Commissioner and Executive Director

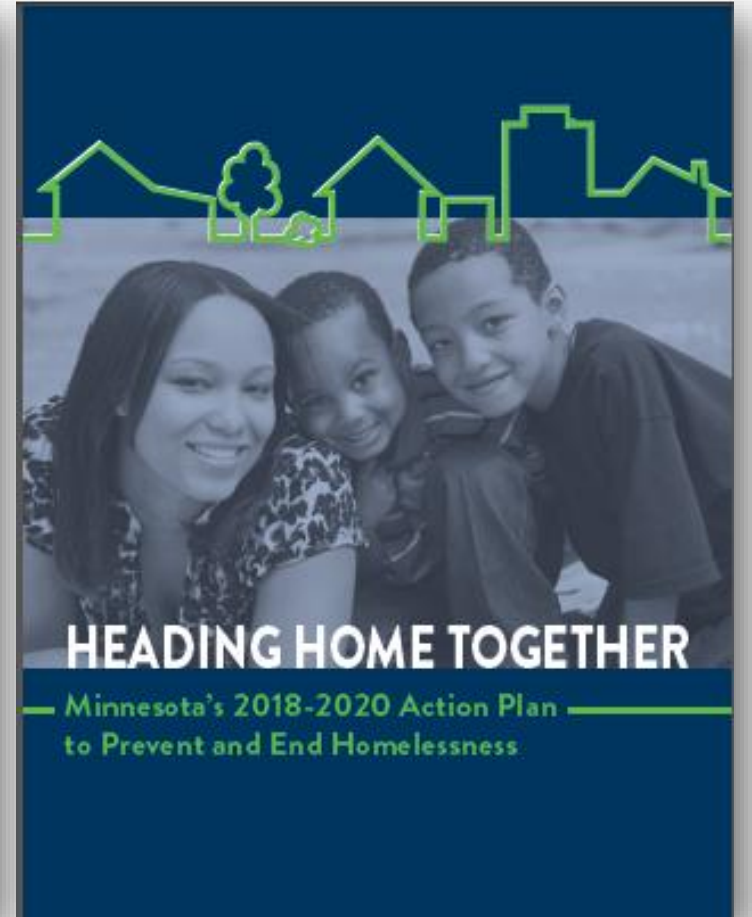
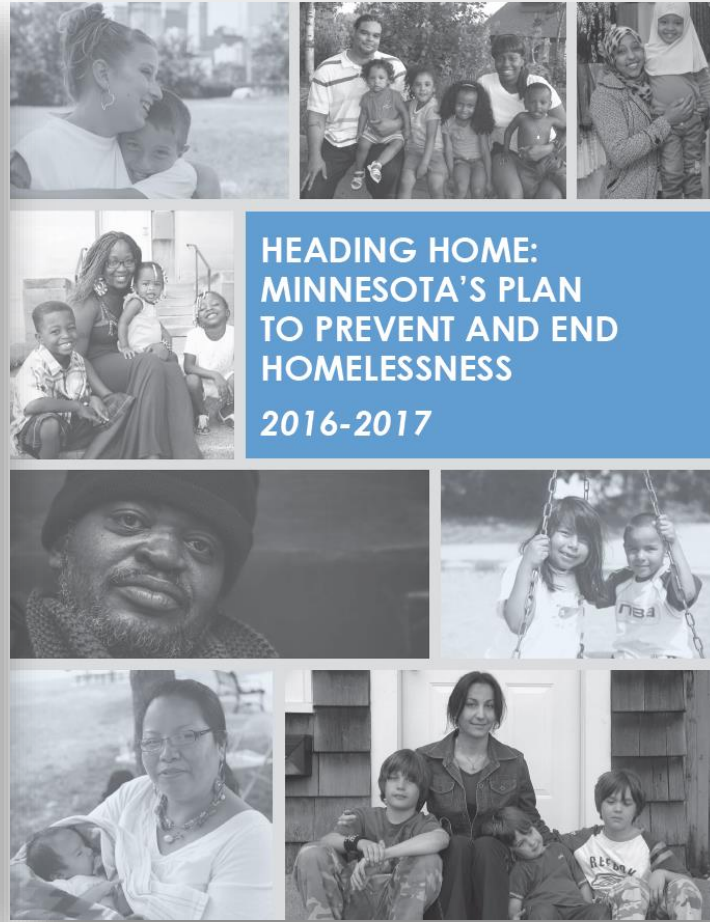
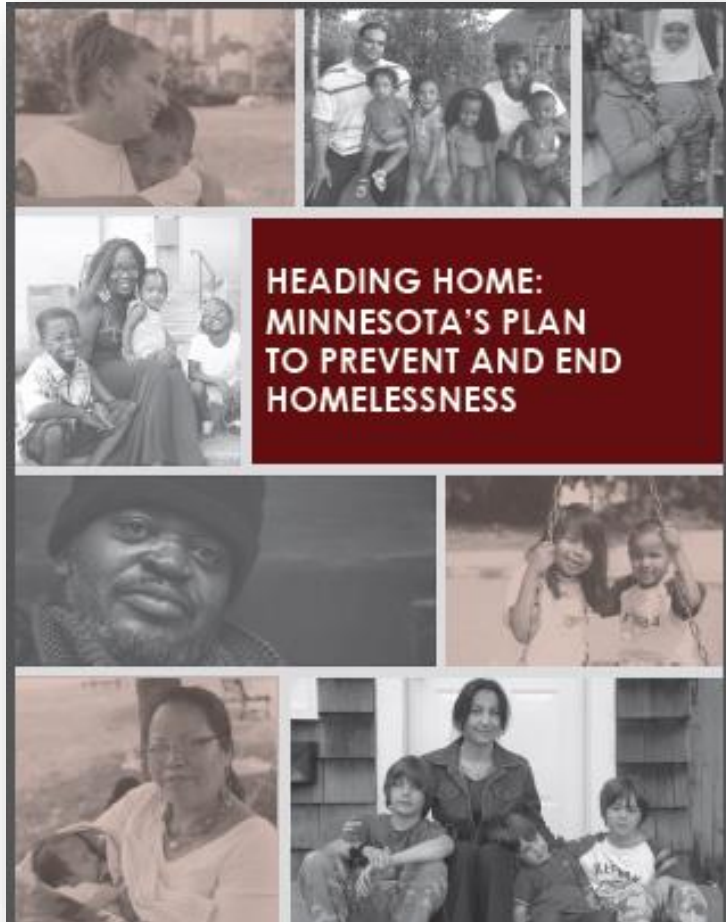
January 11, 2023

# Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Council is led by Lt. Governor Flanagan, Co-Chaired by Commissioners Harpstead and Ho, and includes the following agencies:

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Department of Health
- Department of Human Rights
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Housing
- Minnesota Management and Budget
- Office of Higher Education

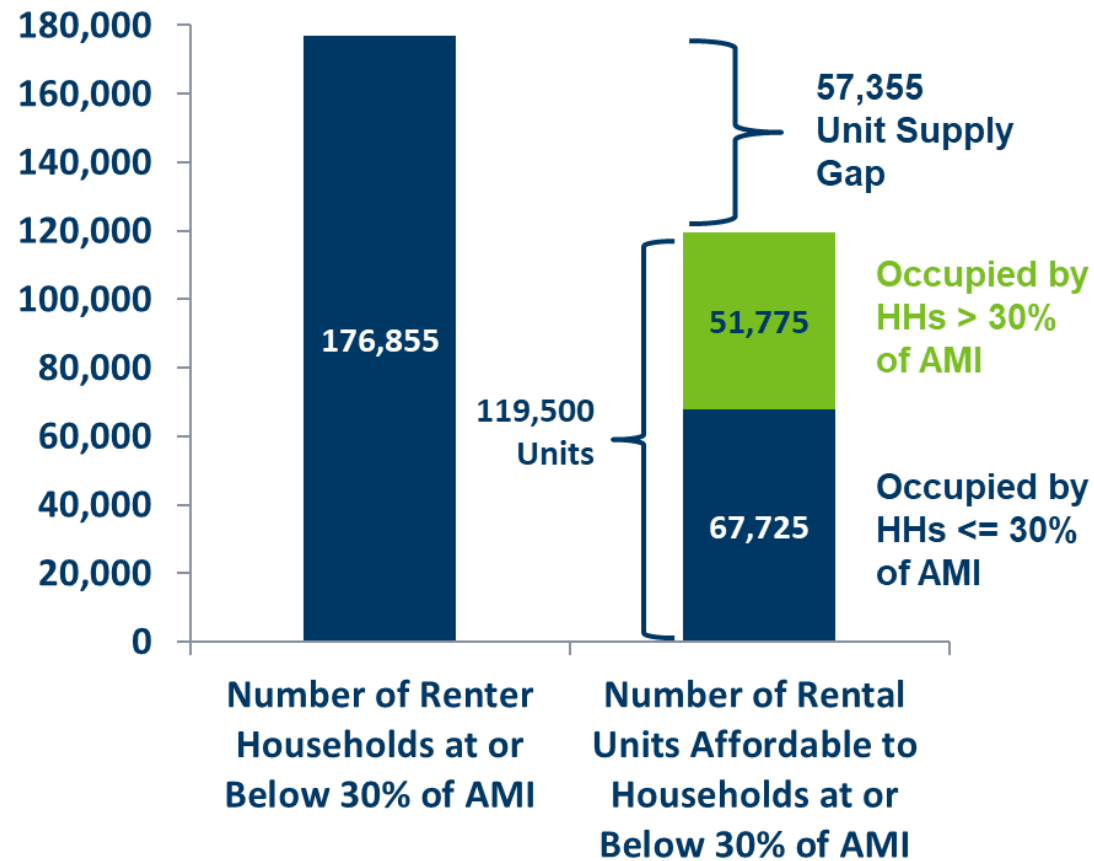
# Heading Home, 2013 - 2020



Prevent homelessness whenever possible, and otherwise making it rare, brief, and non-recurring



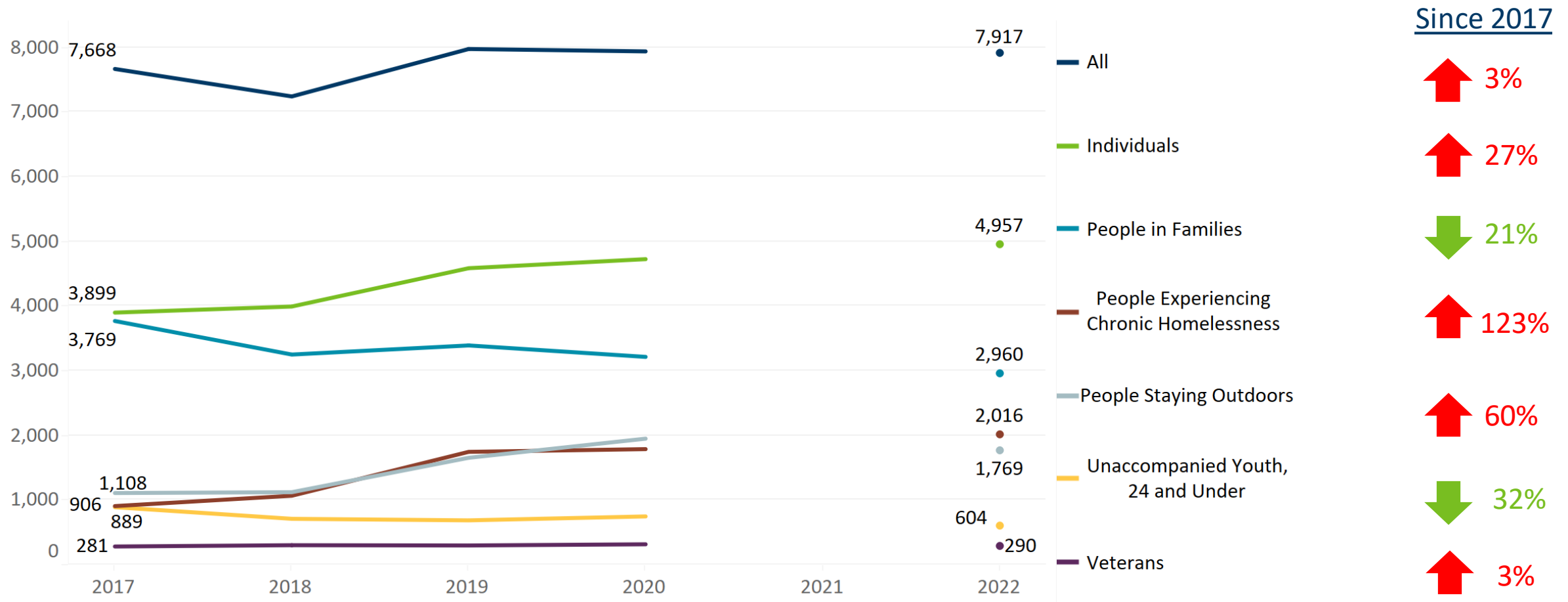
# Massive gap in affordable housing for extremely-low-income renter households



## Renter Households with Incomes <= 30% of AMI

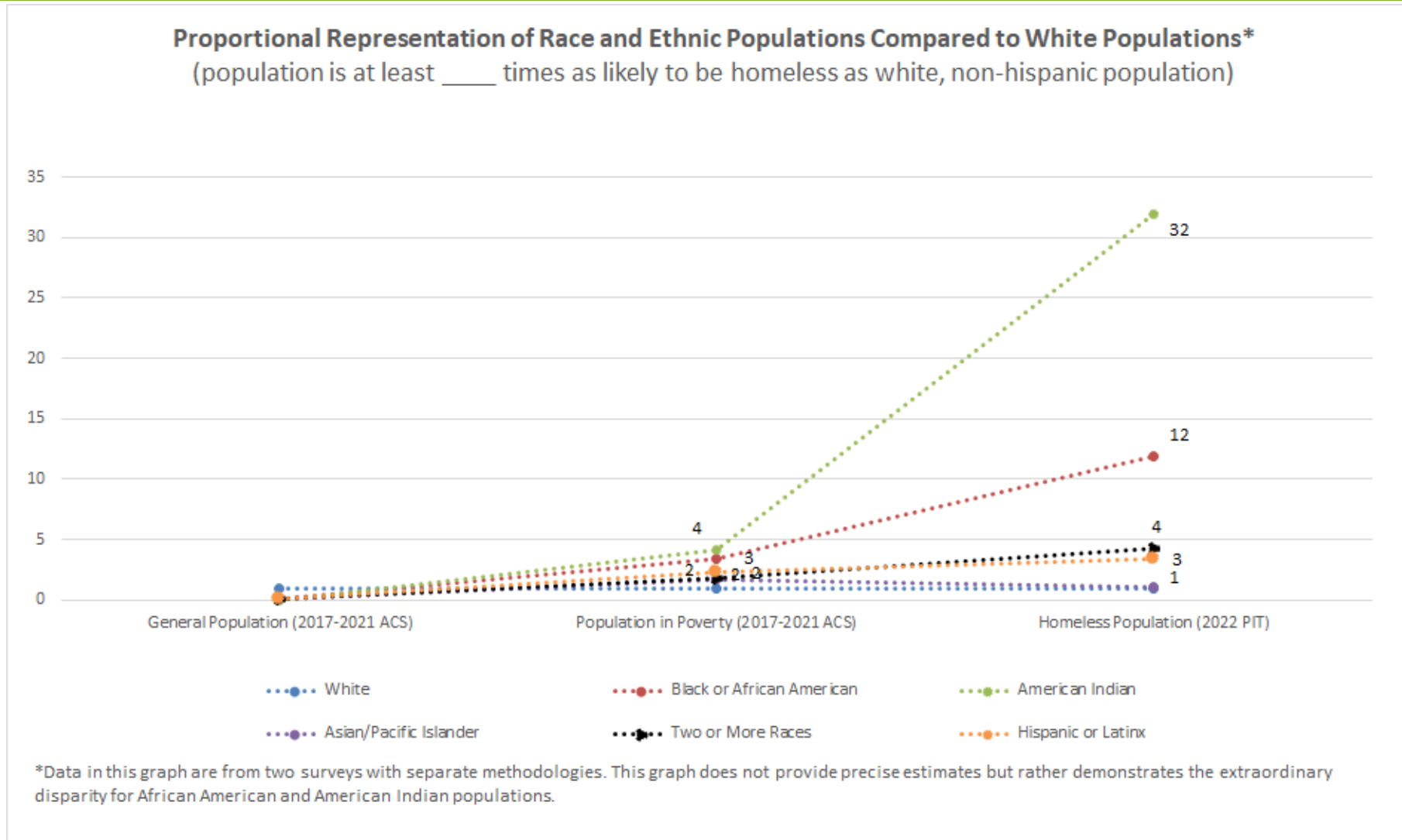
- 134,000 are cost burdened
  - 33,000 moderately (31% to 50% of income to housing)
  - 101,000 severely (over 50% of income to housing)

# Current State: People Facing Homelessness Point-in-Time count, 2017-2022

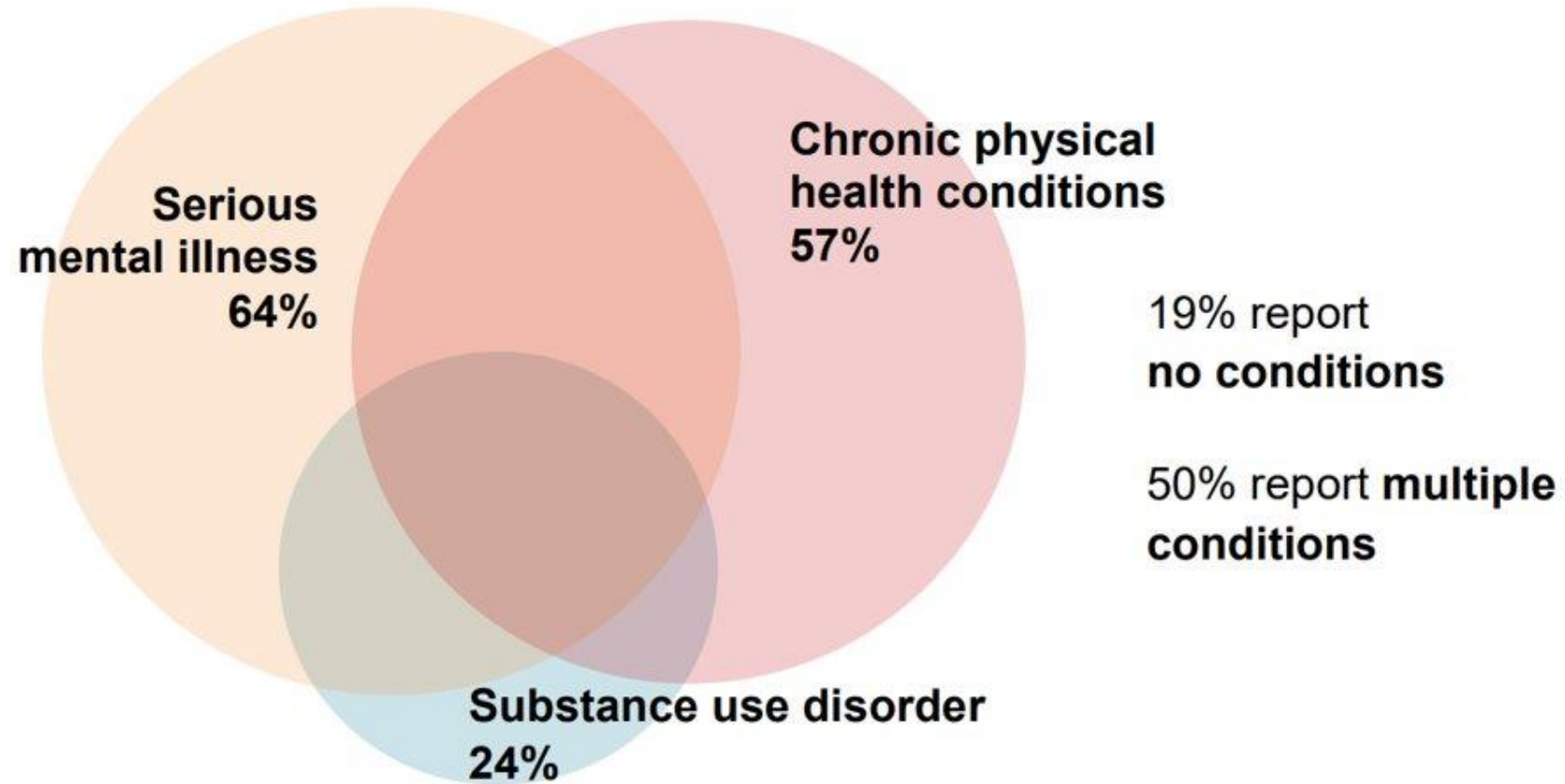


The unsheltered portion of the PIT count was not conducted statewide in 2021 and data is not comparable to other years.

# Homelessness reflects profound impacts of racism and inequity



# Homeless adults face complicating health challenges



Source: Wilder Research, *Homelessness in Minnesota: Detailed Findings from the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study*, March 2020



# MN Center of Excellence on Public Health and Homelessness

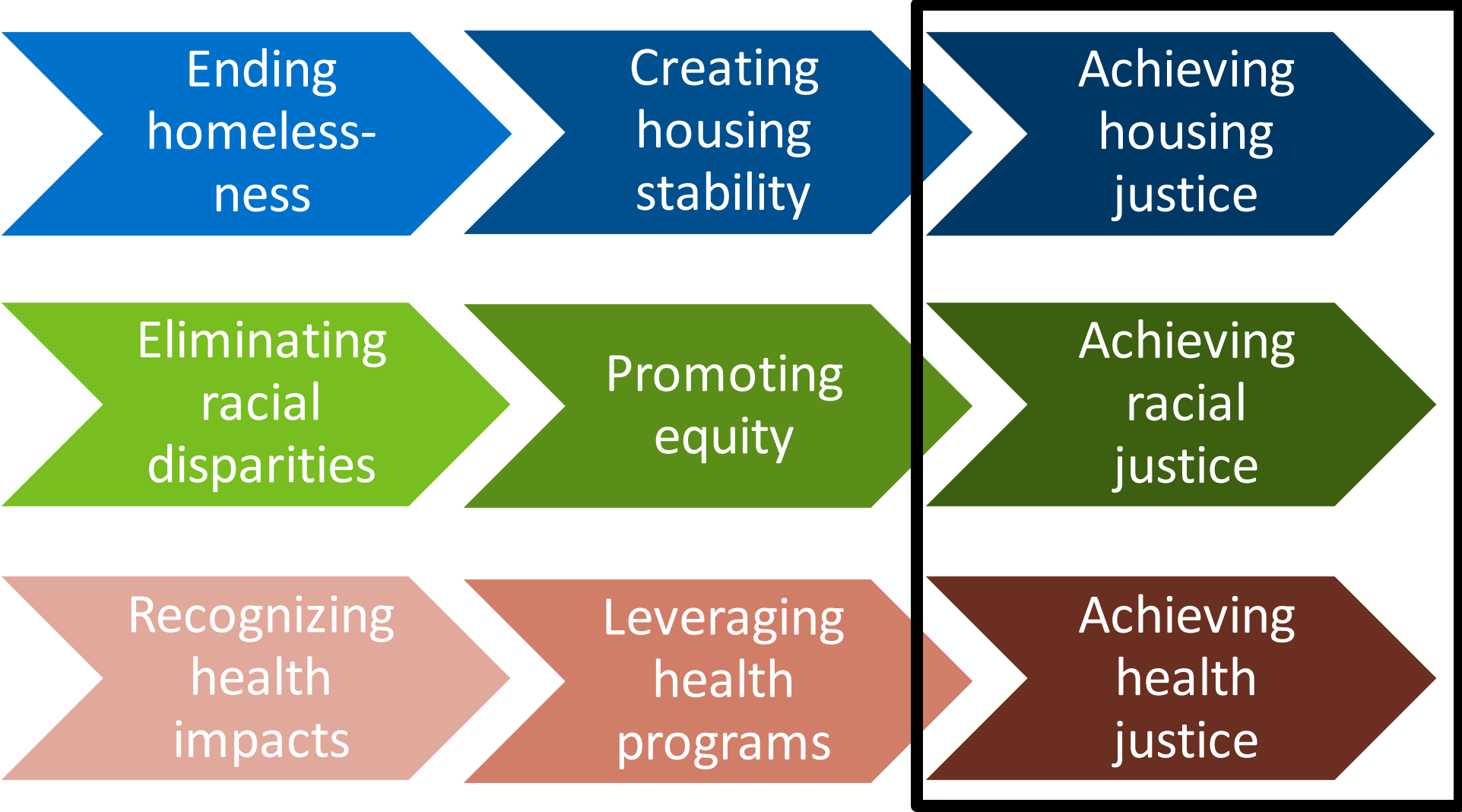
The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) was selected as one of three national Centers of Excellence on Public Health and Homelessness

- Center of Excellence website: [Center of Excellence on Public Health and Homelessness - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/mdh/ce)

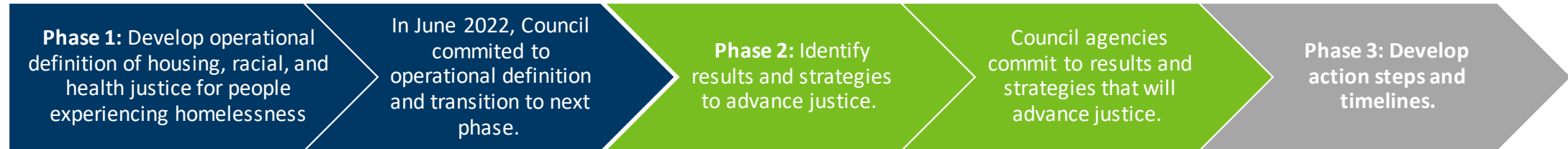
MDH partnered with the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute on a statewide homeless mortality study

- Findings of this report will be released soon

# A new orientation for the work of the Council



# Road map to creating a justice-oriented plan



- Phase 1 led by Rainbow Research and consultants with lived experience through Justice Work Groups and Community Conversations
- We are in Phase 2 to develop results and strategies to advance justice.
- Read the full definition and learn more about the process at: <https://mich.mn.gov/justice-strategic-plan>

# Core concepts for the Council's next plan

## Justice definition

- Transformation in Minnesota's response to housing instability and homelessness that achieves housing, racial, and health justice for people facing homelessness. *The North Star for our next plan.*

## Results

- Big, bold outcomes that demonstrate significant movement toward definition of justice and will drive the specific strategies.

## Strategies

- Specific, measurable commitments by agencies to achieve the results.

Minnesota bears ongoing injuries as a result of structural racism, genocide, and economic inequities, which continue to define housing instability and homelessness today. Government policies established through deliberate action and inaction have limited the ability of Indigenous, Black, Brown and Poor populations to create wealth, access opportunity, and celebrate heritage. These policies continue to shape every neighborhood and community, as well as individual access to housing, health care, education, employment, and opportunity. In this context, only deliberate, bold, and systemic action and power-sharing will create a different future for Minnesota and for Minnesotans facing homelessness and housing instability.

## Therefore, we are committed to...

- **Repair and transform** unjust systems that have caused and perpetuate housing instability and homelessness.
- **Recognize people facing homelessness as relatives** and our collective responsibility to each other is rooted in mutual care and radical hospitality.
- **Empower people who have faced homelessness and housing instability** to identify and describe the problems to be solved, design the solutions needed for those problems, and implement and evaluate those solutions.
- **Hold each other and systems accountable** in the work to achieve housing, racial, and health justice for people experiencing homelessness.

**Housing Justice** for people facing homelessness means that every community and government recognizes and acts on the belief that housing is an essential need, and no one should be without access to housing that is safe, decent, affordable, free of prejudice and with access to community, services, and opportunities. With existing shortages of affordable housing that are accessible for everyone, community and government must act to create housing options responsive to each person's needs and interests without exception. Housing justice requires that communities and government should respond, to the greatest extent possible, to needs for housing with appropriate options and without punishment, discrimination, or violence. Housing justice for people facing homelessness will be achieved when the laws, policies and practices at all levels of government that have caused harm to people facing homelessness have been acknowledged and transformed through the leadership and guidance of people who have faced homelessness.

**Racial Justice** for people facing homelessness means there are no disparities for Indigenous, Black, Brown and Poor populations facing homelessness and racism no longer inequitably limits housing options and choices. Public systems must prioritize and invest equitably in culturally-grounded and community-based approaches to reduce homelessness. Racial justice requires the leadership of people who have faced homelessness to guide continuous improvement of the system and approach to prevent and end homelessness.

**Health Justice** for people facing homelessness means all people's physical, mental, spiritual, and environmental health needs are met by integrated public systems, including healthcare, public health, and public safety. Health justice requires that these systems are led, guided, informed, and evaluated by people who have faced homelessness. Health justice requires that these systems recognize the dignity of all individuals, reduce stigma, prioritize people facing homelessness, and are redesigned to meet the needs of people who have the greatest barriers to health equity.



1. Homelessness is prevented whenever possible, and services and supports are provided to ensure no one returns to homelessness.
2. A robust crisis response geared towards housing outcomes supports people staying outside, in emergency shelters, and in community.
3. People facing homelessness have access to housing options that meet their needs and honors their choice.
4. Homelessness is treated as a crucial health and public health crisis wherever it occurs.
5. The state shares power with Indigenous, Black, Brown, Poor, LGBTQIA2S+ people and people who have faced homelessness to strengthen natural supports within community.

# Housing Stability Continuum

Interagency work focuses on:

- Preventing and ending homelessness
- Creating a healthy rental market for low-income renters
- Closing the disparities in homeownership

Increasing Amount  
of Housing &  
Shelter

Addressing Affordability of  
Housing

Increasing Accessibility of  
Housing & Shelter

Ensuring Adequate  
Services and  
Supports

# Stay Connected with MICH

- Visit us at [mich.mn.gov](https://mich.mn.gov)
- Sign up for our bi-weekly newsletter: <https://mich.mn.gov/share-your-ideas-get-involved>
  - *Select "Providers Serving People Experiencing Homelessness"*
- Sign up for newsletter for hearing about opportunities for people with lived experience
  - [Sign up here](#)
- Join our webinars the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
  - [Register here](#)



## Learn More About MICH

The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) is a cabinet-level body led by Lt. Governor Flanagan and is comprised of the commissioners of 13 state agencies and the chair of the Metropolitan Council. It is accountable for leading the state's efforts to move towards housing, health, and racial justice for people experiencing homelessness. The Council is co-chaired by Commissioners Harpstead (Department of Human Services) and Ho (Minnesota Housing).

MICH

## Get Involved in the Justice Planning Process

MICH is in the beginning phase of developing a statewide strategic plan focused on achieving housing, racial, and health justice for people experiencing homelessness. You may be asking yourself, what do we mean when we say justice? We are in the first phase of our planning process that is focused on developing in partnership with the community and stakeholders an actionable definition of housing, racial, and health justice. MICH has contracted with Rainbow Research to lead this first phase of work.

Justice Planning Process



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Thank you!