



# MINNESOTA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Overview of Homelessness

Minnesota House of Representatives Preventing Homelessness Division

January 13, 2021

# Participants today

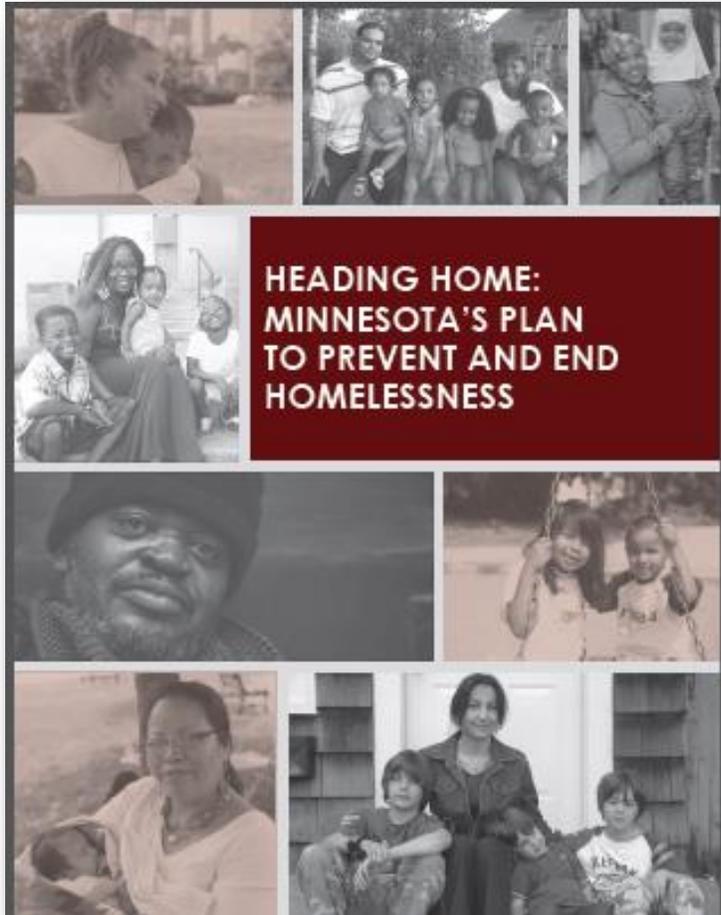
- Cathy ten Broeke, Executive Director of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness and Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Housing
- Eric Grumdahl, Deputy Director, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Elizabeth Dressel, Implementation Specialist and Equity Coordinator, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

# Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

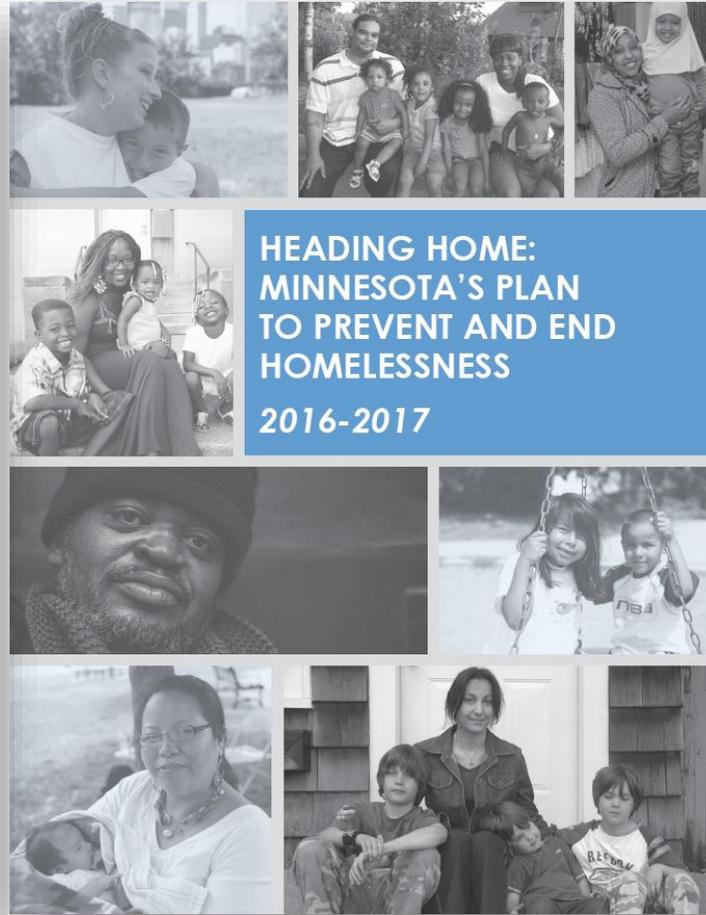
The Council is led by Lt. Governor Flanagan, Co-Chaired by Commissioners Harpstead and Ho, and includes the following agencies:

- 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

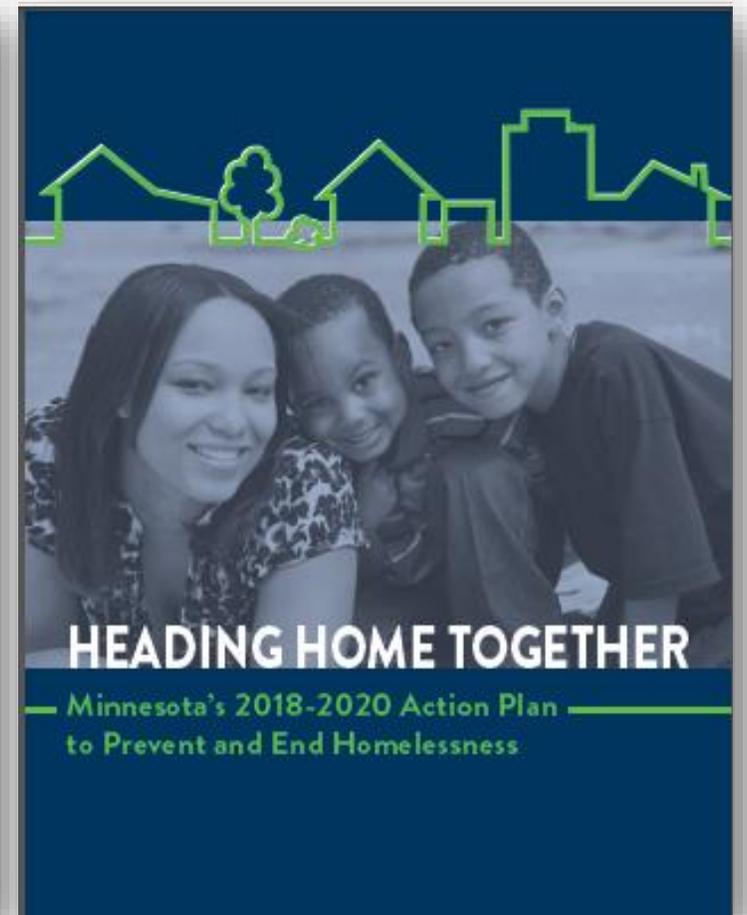
# Heading Home, 2013 - 2020



**HEADING HOME:  
MINNESOTA'S PLAN  
TO PREVENT AND END  
HOMELESSNESS**



**HEADING HOME:  
MINNESOTA'S PLAN  
TO PREVENT AND END  
HOMELESSNESS**  
*2016-2017*



**HEADING HOME TOGETHER**

*Minnesota's 2018-2020 Action Plan  
to Prevent and End Homelessness*

# Seven Principles

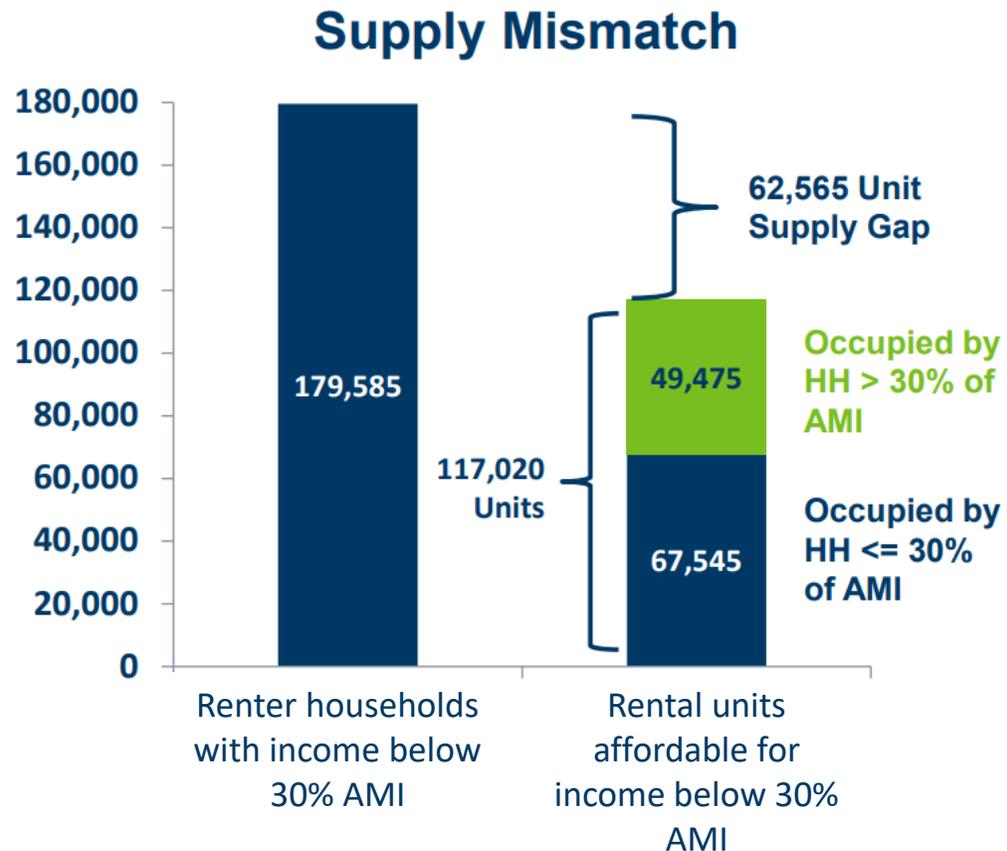
## To prevent and end homelessness in Minnesota, we will work collaboratively to:

1. Identify all people experiencing homelessness.
2. Provide some form of shelter immediately to anyone who needs it, with appropriate services.
3. Link people experiencing homelessness with housing and services tailored to their needs through coordinated entry and prioritize people experiencing chronic homelessness for permanent supportive housing.
4. Assist people with moving swiftly into permanent housing with any needed supports.
5. Use a person-centered, Housing First orientation in our response to homelessness.
6. Help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness increase employment and income.
7. Organize resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity that are sufficient to prevent and end homelessness on an ongoing basis.

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



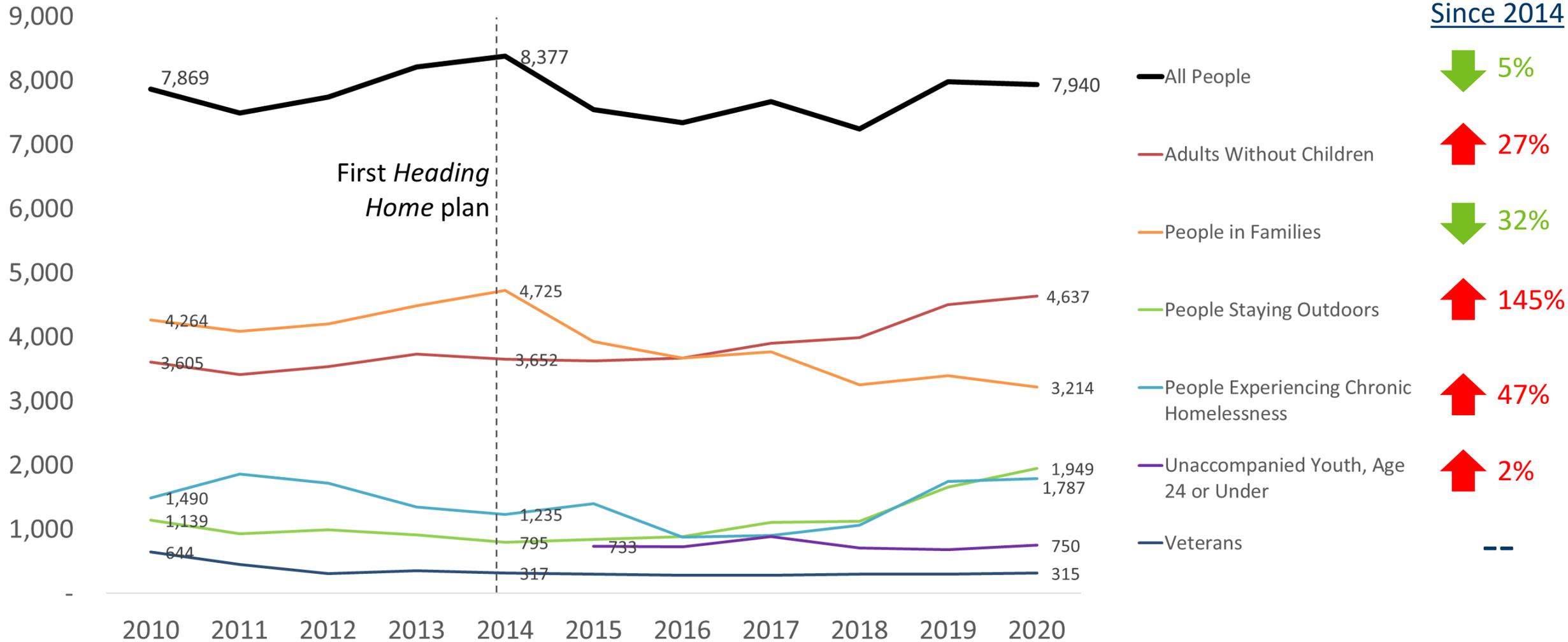
# Massive gap in affordable housing



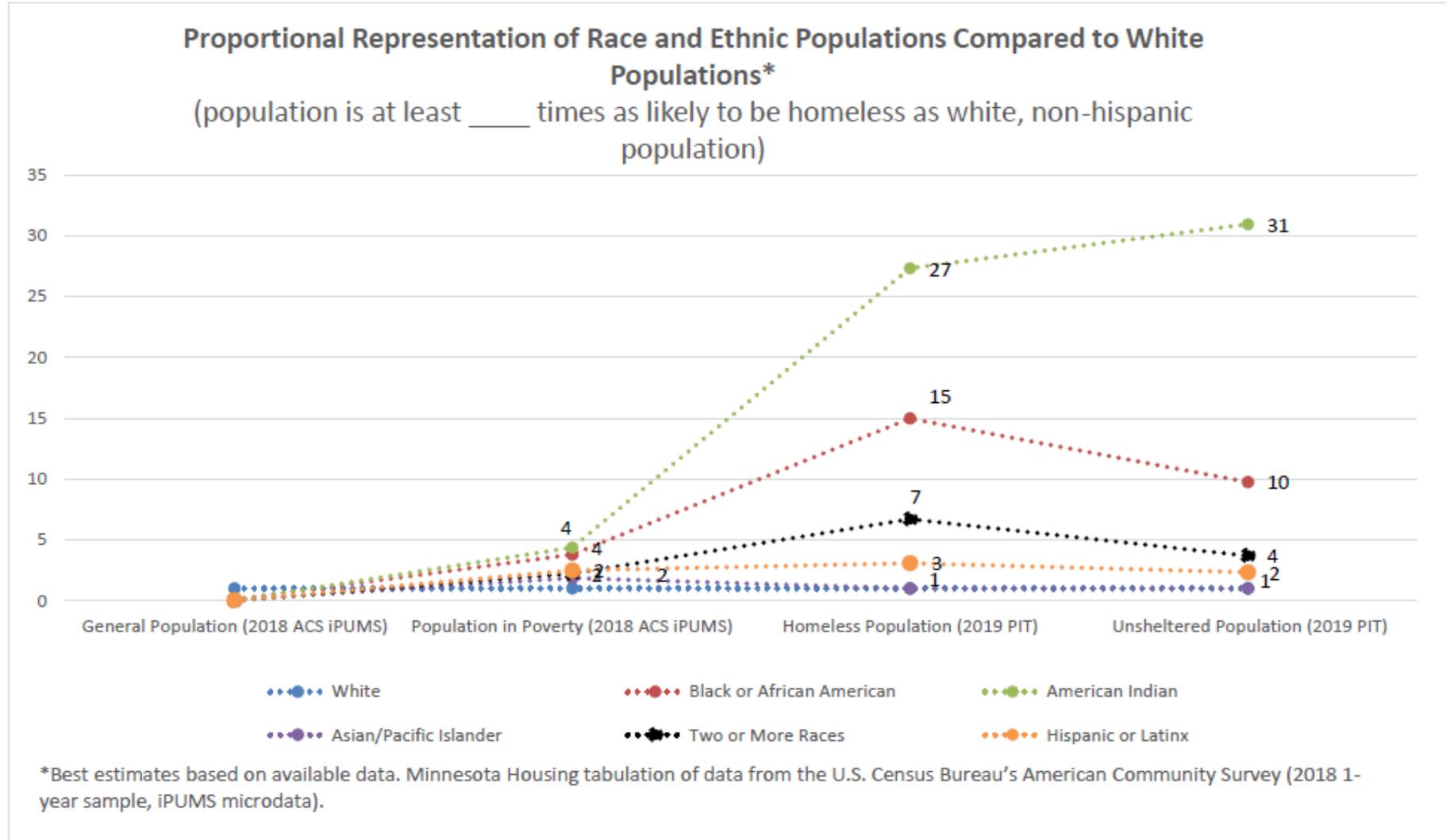
## In Minnesota:

- 557,000 households are cost burdened.
- Among extremely low-income renters, 80% are cost burdened and 61% are severely cost burdened.
- From 2000 to 2019, there was a 21% increase in rents and just a 3% increase in incomes (adjusted for inflation).

# Minnesota Point-in-Time count, 2010 – 2020



# Homelessness reflects profound impacts of racism and inequity



# Wilder Reservation Companion Survey

Unique assessment of homelessness and near-homelessness in Indian Country conducted in partnership with six Tribal governments. Findings:

- 70% of respondents were doubled up, but nearly all preferred not to be
- Over one-third spent time in place not meant for habitation
- Doubled up arrangements were often unstable
- Overcrowding a concern for three quarters of respondents and substandard housing a concern for one in five.



#### Definition of homelessness

This report includes both people living on the six participating Minnesota American Indian reservations who are experiencing literal homelessness and those experiencing near-homelessness. Briefly:

- **Homelessness** includes: staying in a shelter, transitional housing, or a place not intended for housing, or those who face eviction and have no other place to go, as well as some people who are temporarily staying with others (doubled up) if their situation is precarious.
- **Near-homelessness** includes: those who are temporarily staying with others (doubled up) in relatively more stable conditions.

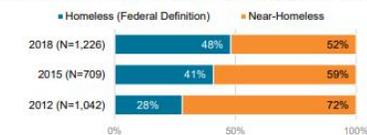
#### 2018 Minnesota Reservation Homeless Study Key Findings

This summary provides results from the 2018 Reservation Homeless Study. Alongside the Statewide Minnesota Homeless Study, the Reservation Homeless Study is conducted every three years in partnership with six of Minnesota's American Indian reservations: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, and White Earth Band of Ojibwe. Wilder Research worked with participating tribes to collect information in October 2018 through 1,226 interviews with people experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness. On the day they were surveyed, these respondents were accompanied by 1,089 others – including significant others, friends, and children. In total, 2,315 people were counted as part of the study.

#### Overall findings

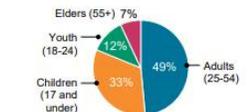
The percentage of reservation respondents meeting the federal definition of homelessness (literal homelessness) continues to climb. Compared to previous years, a greater proportion of respondents were experiencing literal homelessness. Some of this growth can be attributed to increased shelter and transitional housing infrastructure on reservations as well as significant outreach efforts.

#### Percentage of respondents meeting federal definition of homelessness



Children, youth, and elders make up half of the homeless and near-homeless population on reservations. Many families experience homelessness or near-homelessness on reservations – including those with small children. More than 1 in 4 respondents were parents accompanied by their children, and over half (52%) of all children with these parents are age 6 or younger.

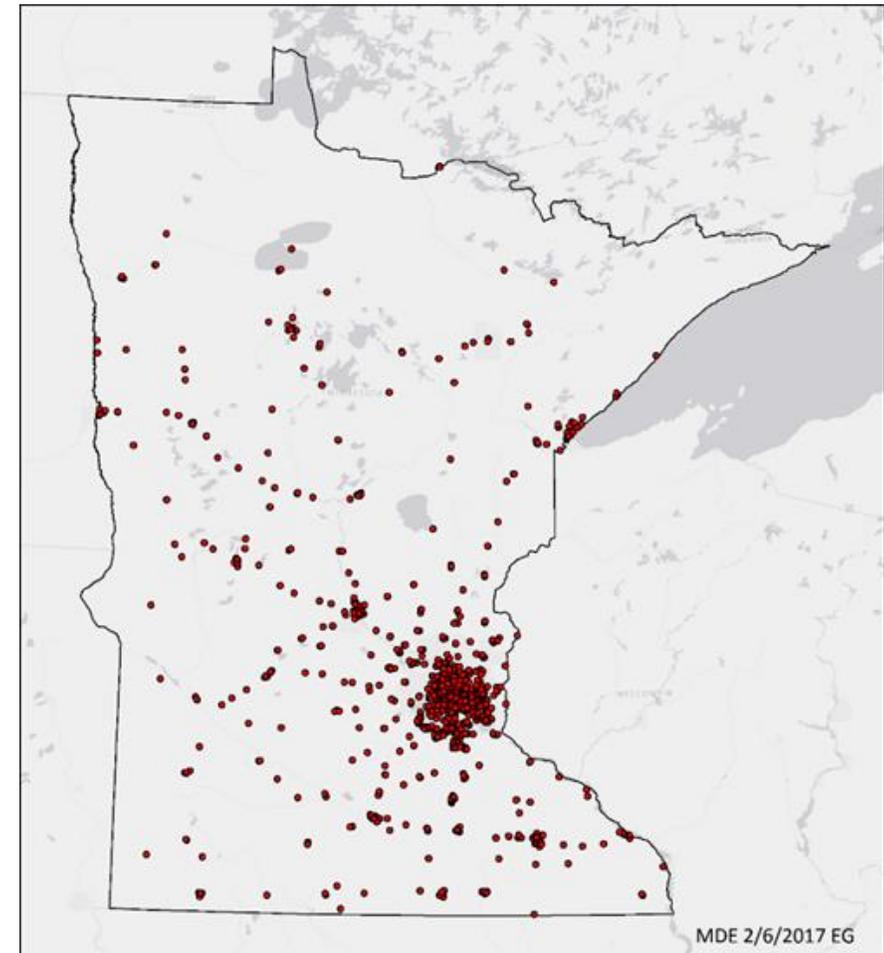
#### Ages of people experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness in the reservation study



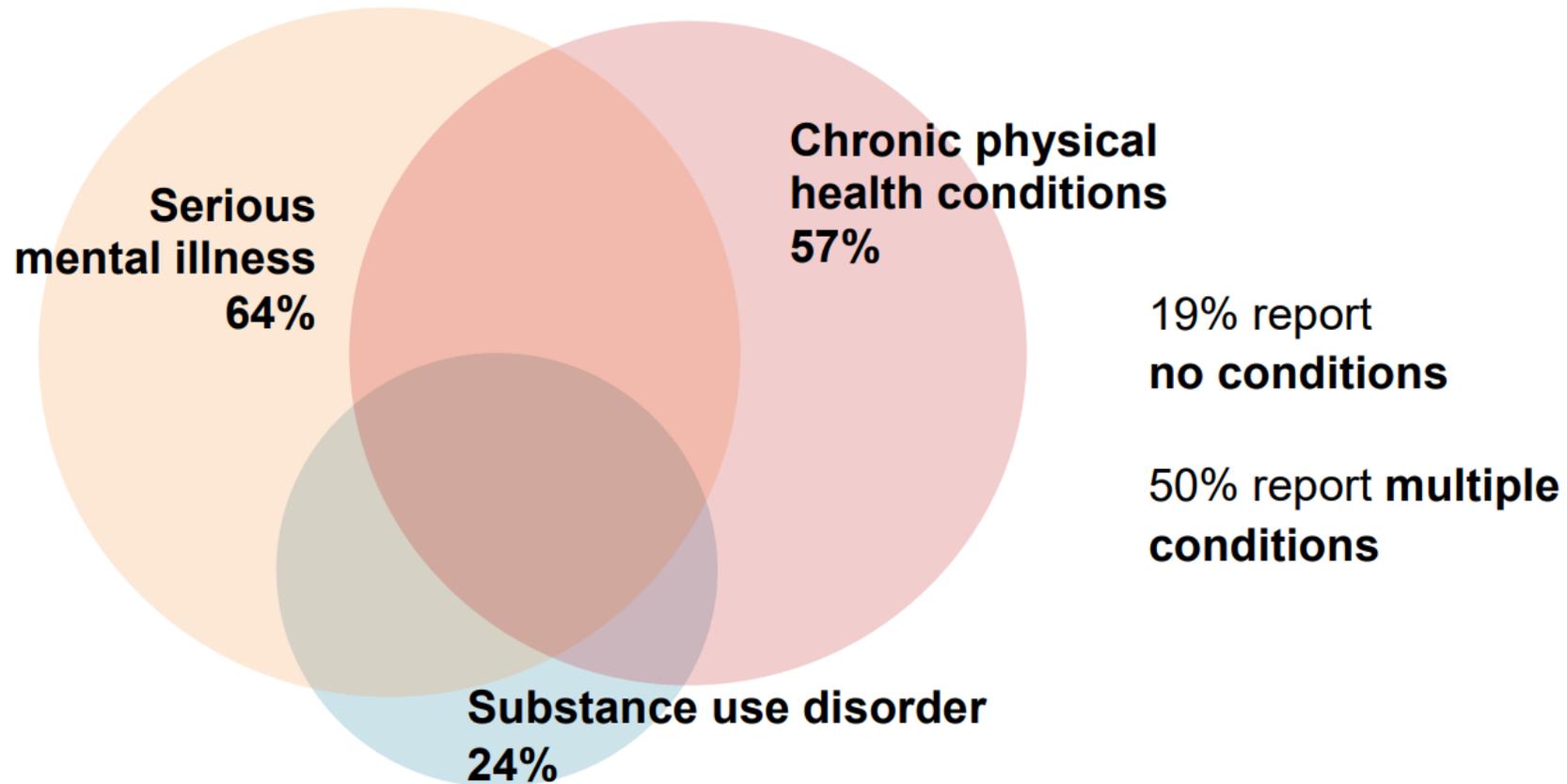
Wilder Research.  
Information. Insight. Impact.  
APRIL 2020

# Student homelessness in Minnesota is widely distributed

- 9,060 students experiencing homelessness were enrolled in Minnesota schools on October 1, 2019.
  - 1,172 schools and 309 school districts
  - 77 of Minnesota's 87 counties
- Student homelessness disproportionately impacts students of color, American Indian students, LGBTQ students, and students with disabilities.



# Homeless adults face complicating health challenges



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



# Statewide COVID response for people experiencing homelessness

# Governor's At-Risk Populations Work Group

**Since late March, the At-Risk Populations Work Group has developed and implemented both near and long-term strategies and guidance for populations facing increased COVID-19 risks:**

- To best protect their health and safety
- To provide person-centered care and housing/alternative sites (outside of inpatient hospitals)

**At-risk populations include, but are not limited to:**

- Older adults, people with disabilities, people with underlying health conditions, and people experiencing homelessness or who cannot shelter safely at home

**This group is specifically focused on people who are at-risk and do not have the ability to appropriately socially distance, isolate, or quarantine for various reasons.**

**We partner with related groups on intersectional issues (e.g., Food Security, Community Restoration & Resiliency, Healthcare Surge).**

# Federal and Legislatively-Authorized Resources

- \$26.5 million to the Emergency Services Program (ESP) for shelter space, outreach, staffing, and PPE
- \$5.5 million for a 15% increase in payments for settings supported by the Housing Support program for March, April, and May
- \$6.2 million for Veteran homelessness prevention and rental assistance
- \$19.5 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) dedicated to sustain efforts funded by ESP
- \$100 million in CRF dedicated for housing stability and eviction prevention through the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program
- \$4.4 million in COVID-19 Minnesota Funds approved for 200 additional shelter spaces in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.
- \$8.9 million in COVID-19 Minnesota Funds to sustain critical ESP activities in early 2021.

# Summary of key responses

## Key Strategies

- Guidance and technical assistance to homeless providers (shelters, outreach, public health)
- Funding for shelter decompression, encampment responses and other settings
- Ensure adequate isolation space for people without a safe place to recover on their own
- Proactive distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Extensive engagement of provider community including 1-on-1 technical assistance, newsletters, and weekly webinars

## Major Accomplishments

- Working with local partners to **create over 2,800 temporary shelter options** (typically hotel/motel), cover staffing, and provide food and PPE.
- Contracted with hotels, staffing agencies and food supports to set up isolation spaces
- Partnered with local governments and nonprofits to create ongoing additional emergency shelter capacity for over 300 Minnesotans.
- Innovative use of Housing Support program to promote COVID-safe congregate settings and implement hotel-to-home model connecting people staying outdoors with permanent housing.

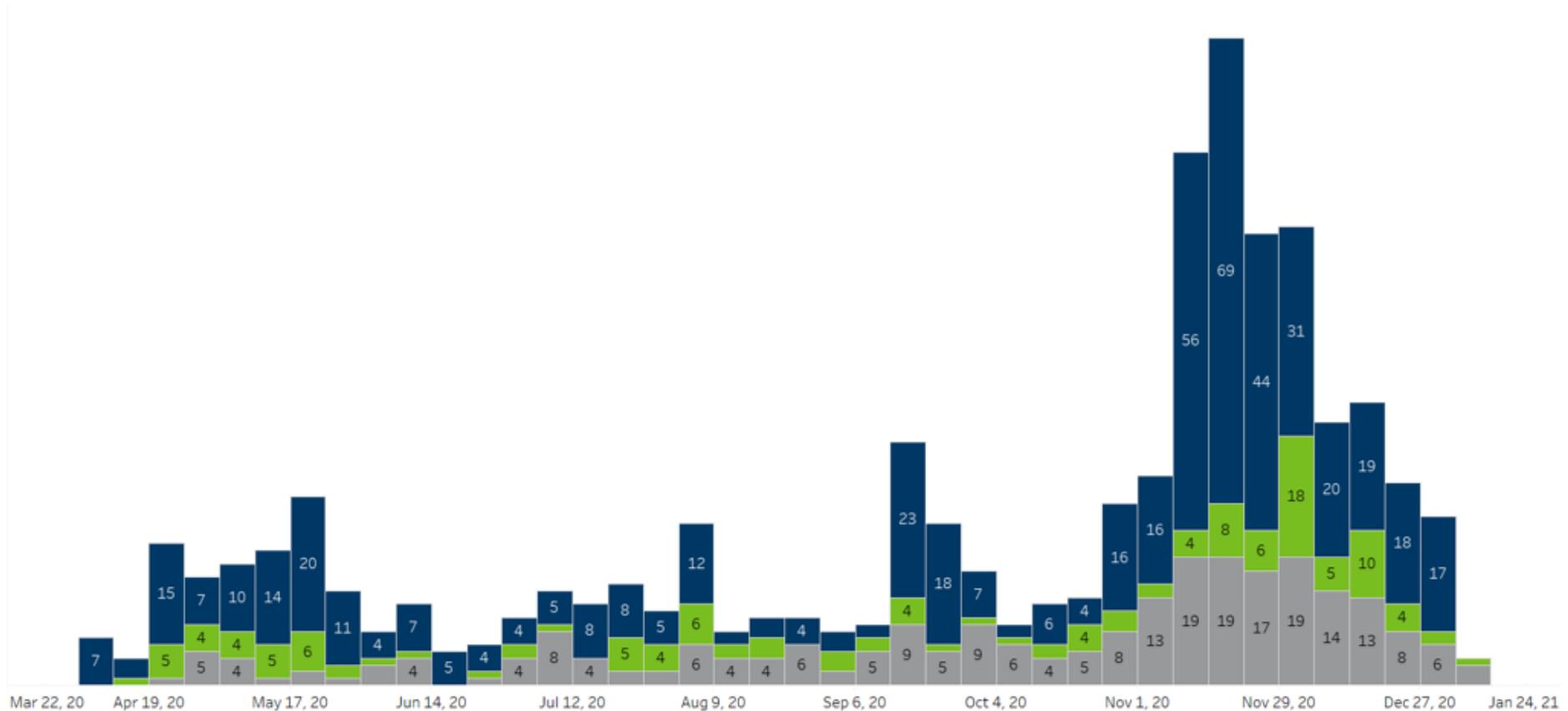
# Summary of COVID-19 Cases

## COVID-19 Summary of People Experiencing Homelessness and Staff in Minnesota\*

as of Tuesday, January 5, 2021

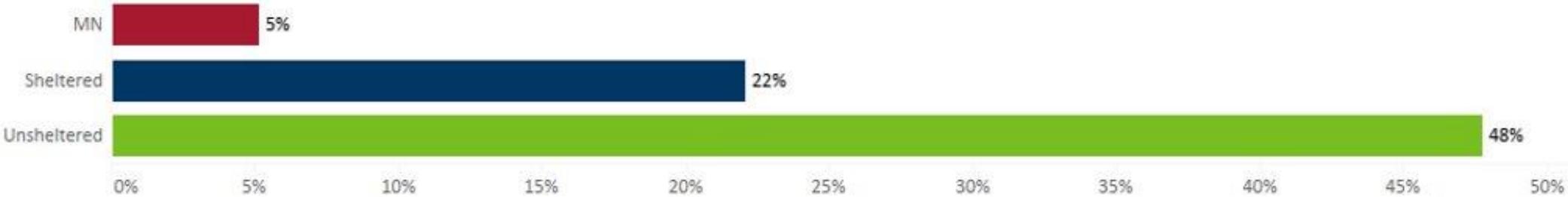
- Sheltered
- Unsheltered
- Staff

Since April 2020, 909 PEH and staff have tested positive for COVID-19.



# Hospitalization Data

**% EVER HOSPITALIZED**



**% EVER ICU**



Thank you!