



Research with individuals who are chronically homeless

Medicine

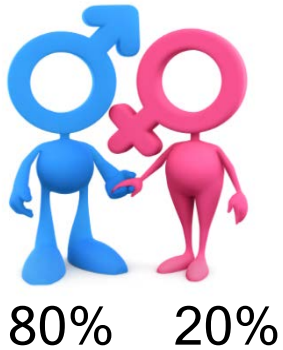
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Profile of consumers

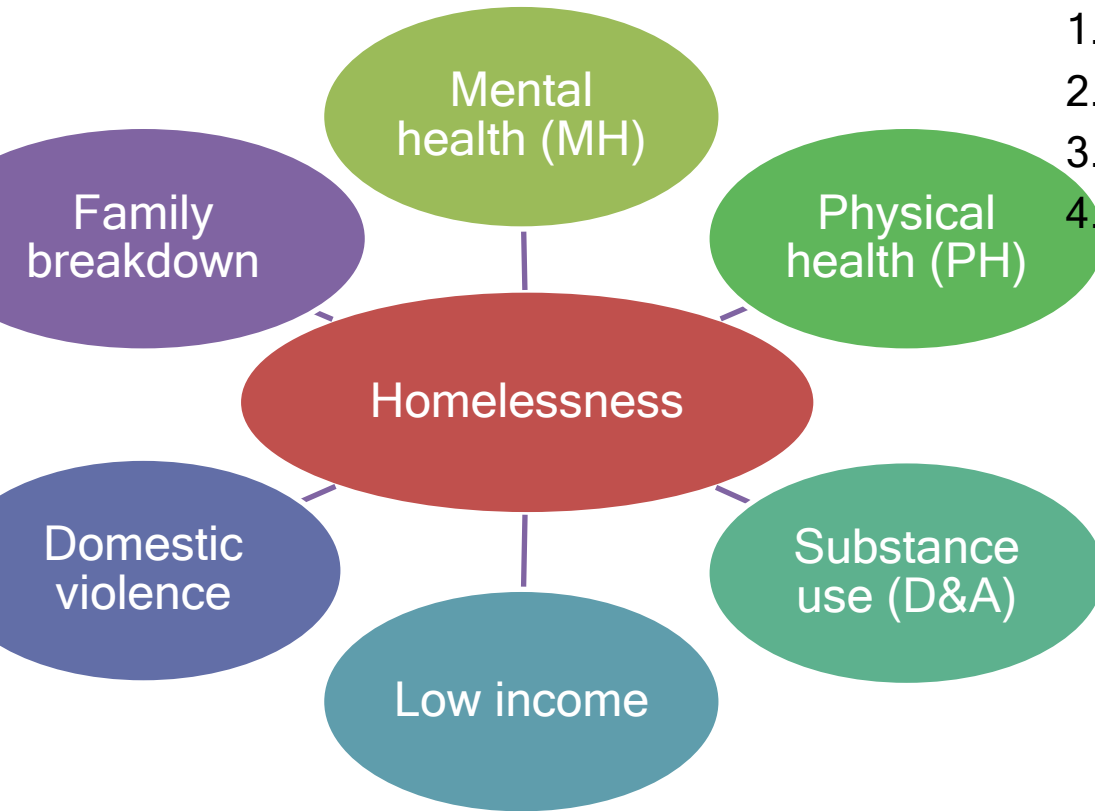
Chronically homeless = homeless for >6 months



- Homeless for 11 years *on average*
- 96% have a physical health condition
- 75% have a mental health condition
- High rates of:
 - trauma exposure (~90%)
 - PTSD (~20%)
 - cognitive impairment (~75%)
 - dependent substance use (~40%)
 - 1 in 3 injected in past 3 months

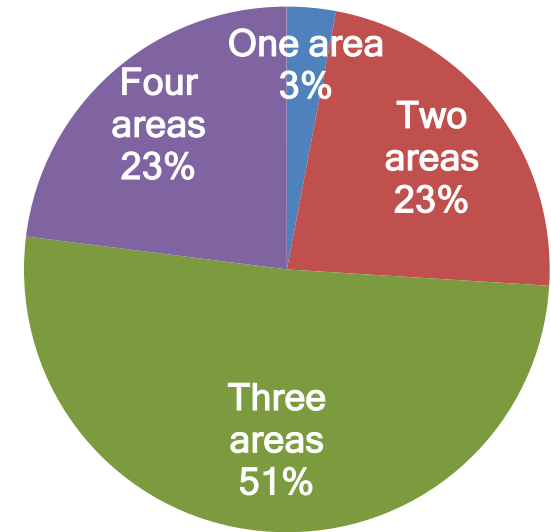


Nature and complexities of homelessness



Areas of need:

1. cognitive impairment
2. substance use disorder
3. PH condition
4. MH condition



↑ Co-morbidity of D&A, MH & PH conditions
= difficulties accessing long-term housing

Current evaluations: Aim and design

- **Aim:** To identify changes in consumer outcomes
 - » Housing, physical and mental health, substance use, service utilisation and well-being
- **Design:** Longitudinal, mixed-methods design (data collection at baseline and 12-month follow-up)
 - » Quantitative surveys (consumers)
 - » Qualitative interviews (consumers and staff)
 - » Cost-benefit analysis

'Housing First'

- Developed in New York and has since been implemented across Western countries
- Two 'Housing First' programs in Sydney:
 1. Platform 70
 2. Common Ground
- Key principles:
 1. Immediate access to housing
 2. Consumer choice
 3. Recovery oriented
 4. Individualised supports
 5. Community integration

Two 'Housing First' programs under evaluation

Platform 70

Scatter-site private rental apartments

Common Ground Sydney

One building with 24-hour support staff

Both provide housing and support services to chronically homeless persons

Both promote independent living (to a degree)

Both have heavily subsidised rental payments

+ more independence

+ consumer choice e.g. suburb,
apartment requirements

- dependent on private rental housing
stock

+ greater access to support / security

+ on-site services available

-restricted number of apartments

Platform 70: Preliminary trends

Outcome	Change over 12 months
Housing stability	↑
Quality of life	↑
Case management plan	↓
Treatment for health	↓
Psychological distress	↓
Substance use	↓
Use of health services	↓
Contact with justice system	↓

Pros and Cons

- Measure multiple outcomes
- Assist to refine programs over time
- Costs of setting up these evaluations was absorbed by others
- Sustainability