

Reaching “Beyond Housing” to End Youth Homelessness



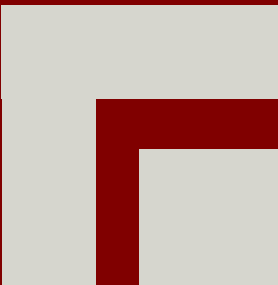
Dr. Matt Morton
Beyond Housing 2020
January 17, 2020



@mhmorton

@Chapin_Hall

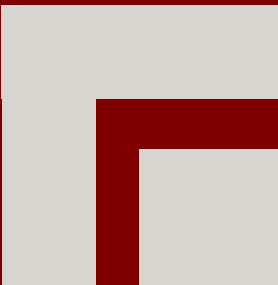
Beyond housing,
invest in youths' potential







Beyond housing,
make the invisible, visible







I was sleeping on the streets before I got arrested, sleeping in a bus station or in motels when I could. I took drugs not to think about. Not to think about the fact that I might not have somewhere to stay, that I might have to sleep on the street. I'm ashamed of it.

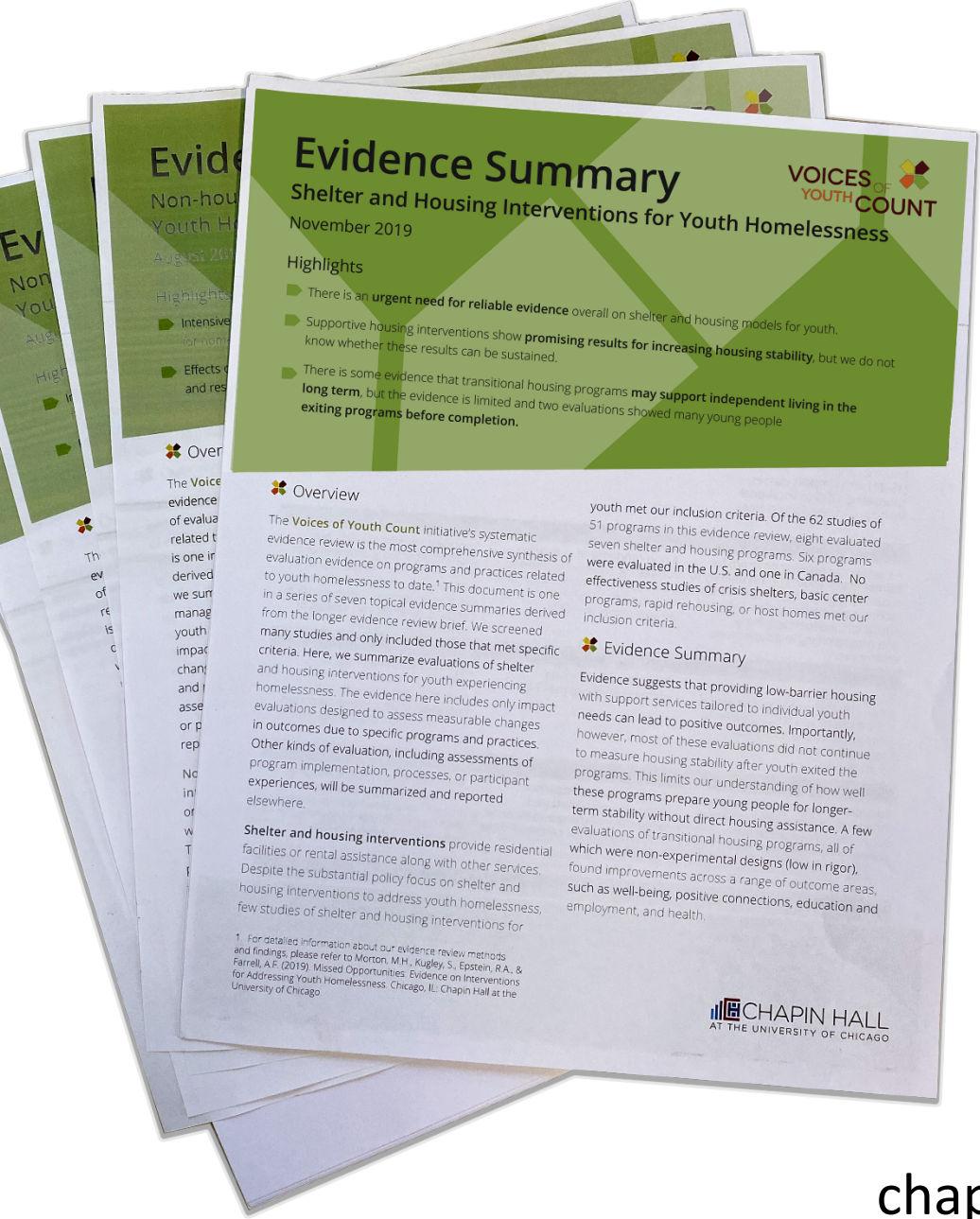
I just wanted stability. I didn't have anything stable, anywhere stable to live. I just wanted stability.



A public-private partnership

Voices of Youth Count is an national, mixed-methods research and policy initiative linking evidence to action to end youth homelessness.





chapinhall.org

voicesofyouthcount.org



CHAPIN HALL
 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

A broad & hidden challenge

1 in 10



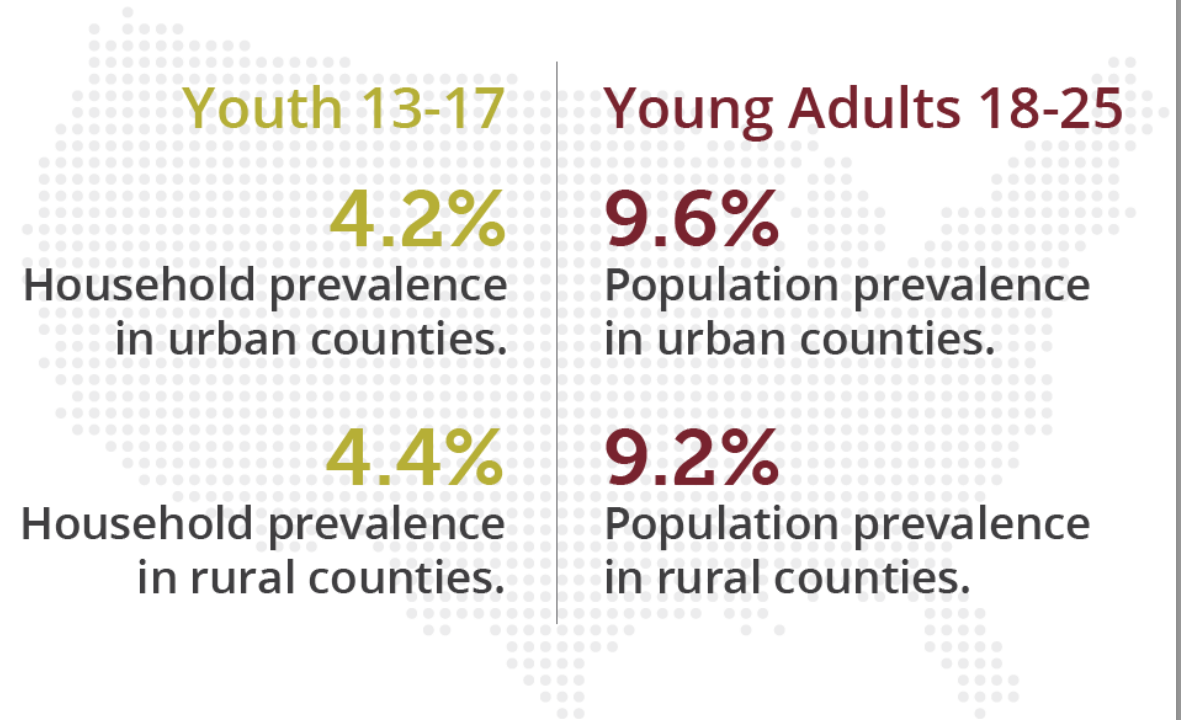
young adults ages 18 to 25 endures some form of homelessness in a year. Half of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

1 in 30



adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

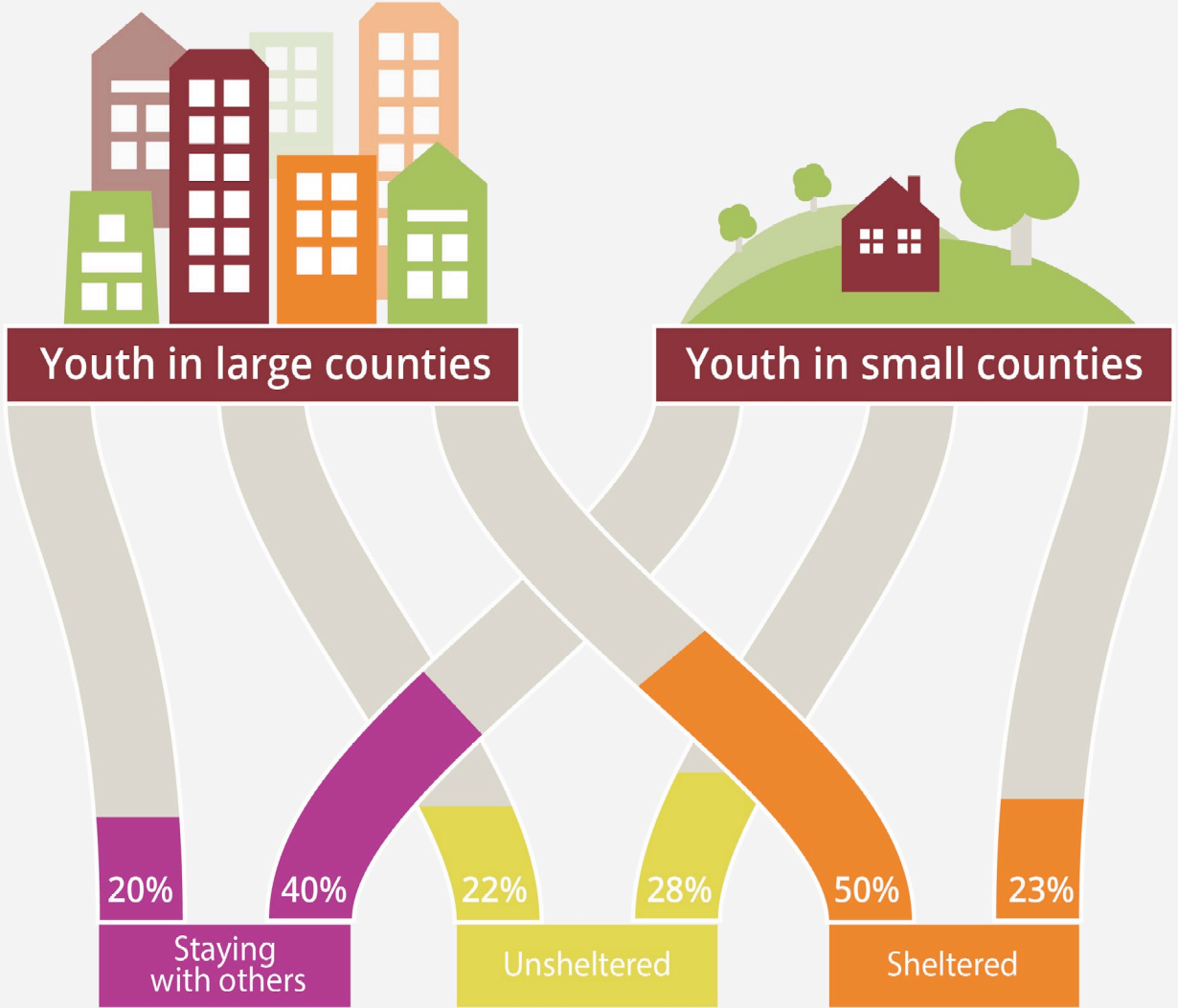
Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.



(Source: VoYC National Survey)

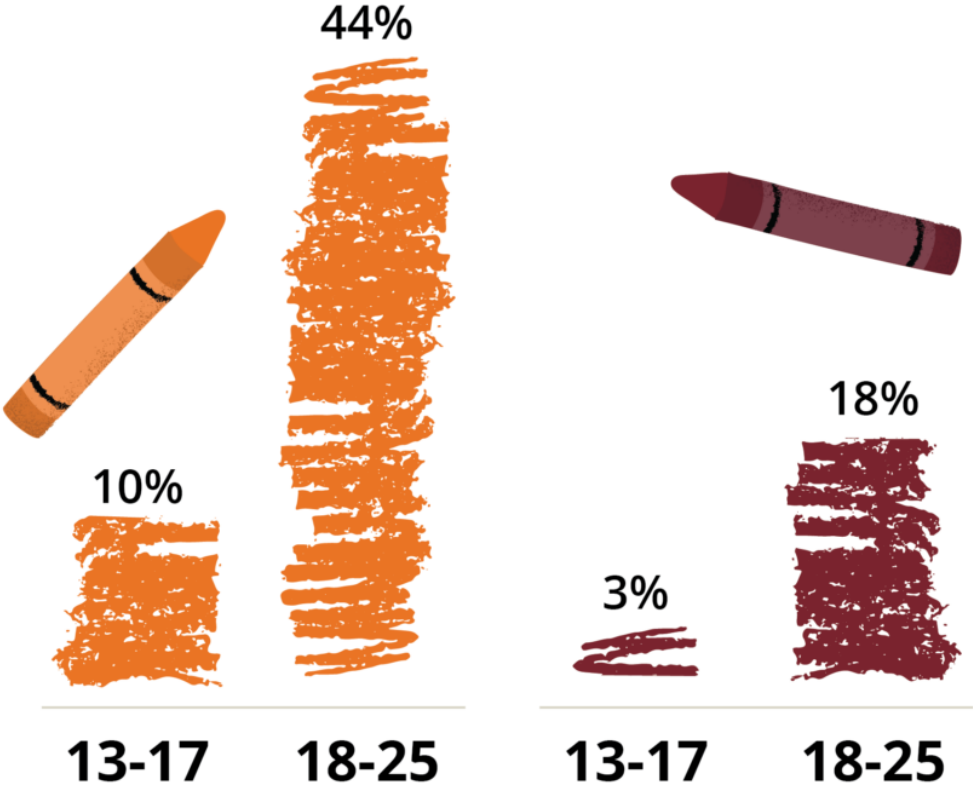
Rural youth homelessness is especially hidden

Where youth experiencing homelessness stayed on the night of the youth count.



Source: VoYC Brief Youth Survey

Blurry lines: youth & family homelessness



FEMALES

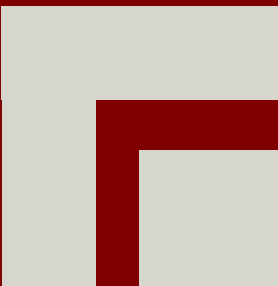
are pregnant or a parent

MALES

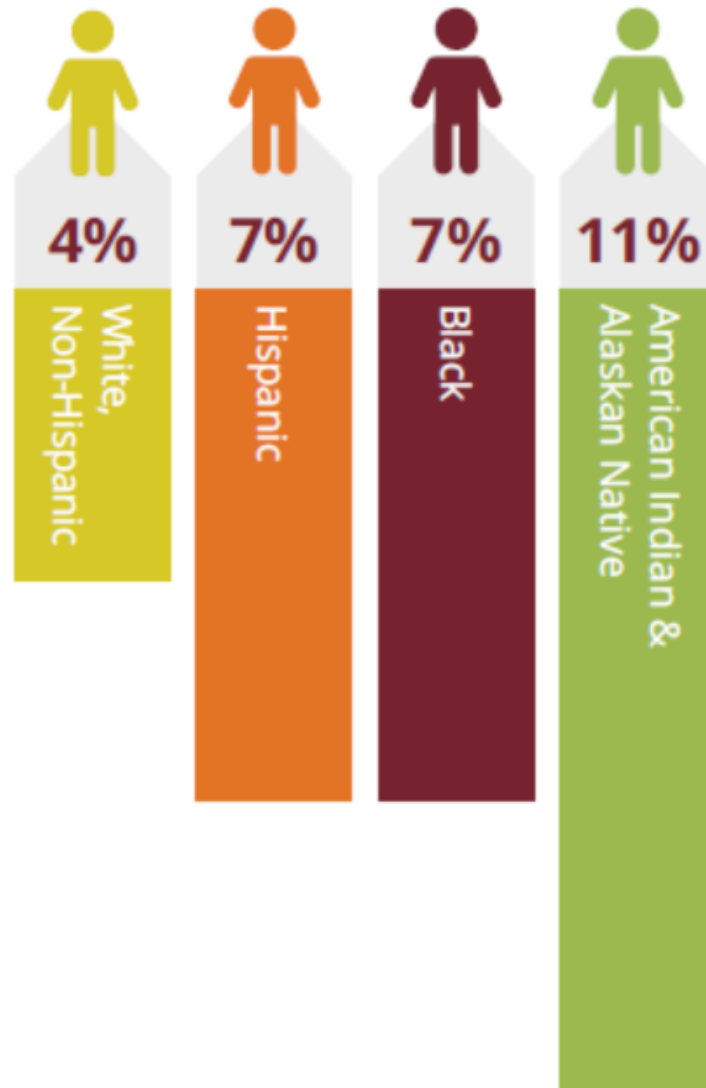
have a pregnant partner or are a parent

(Source: VoYC Brief Youth Surveys)

Beyond housing,
center equity

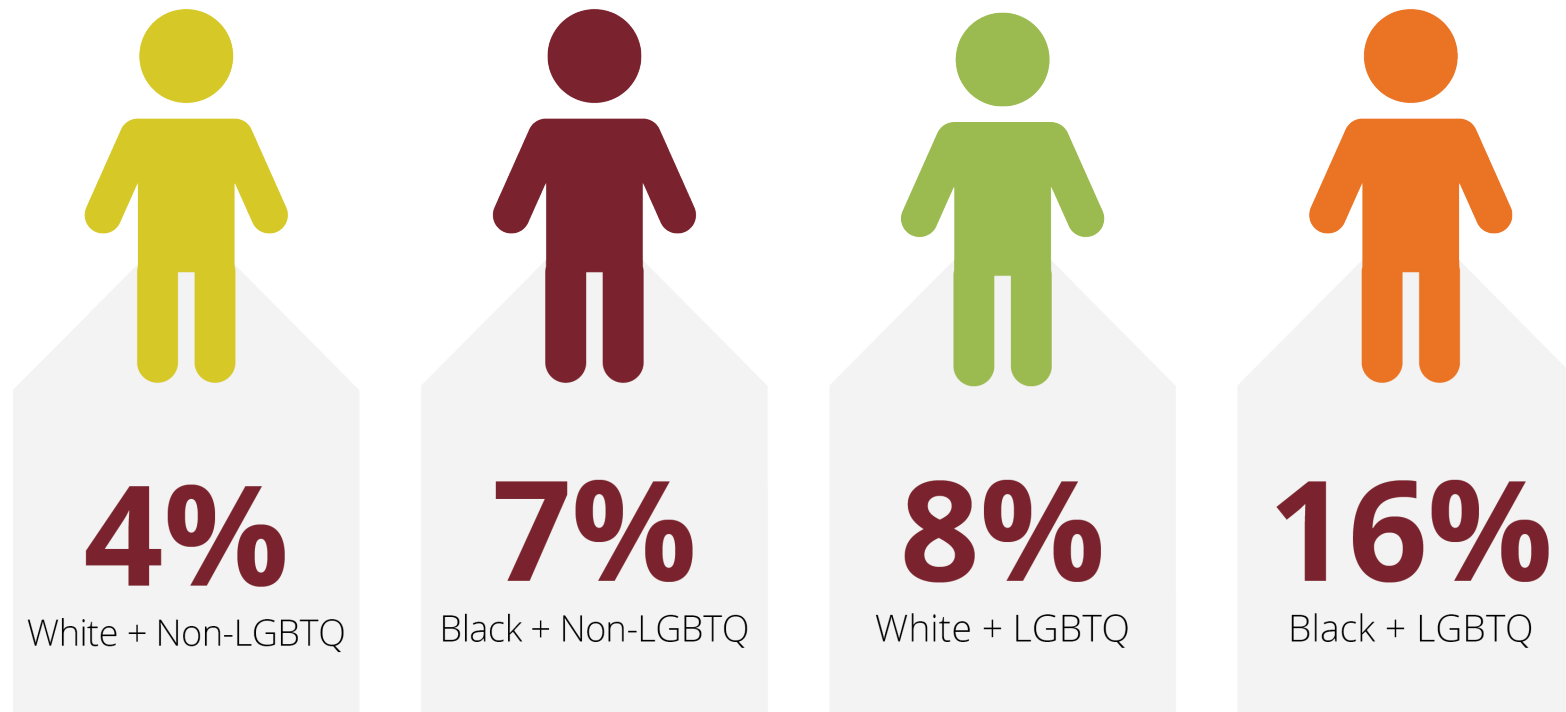


Youth of color
experience higher rates
of homelessness.



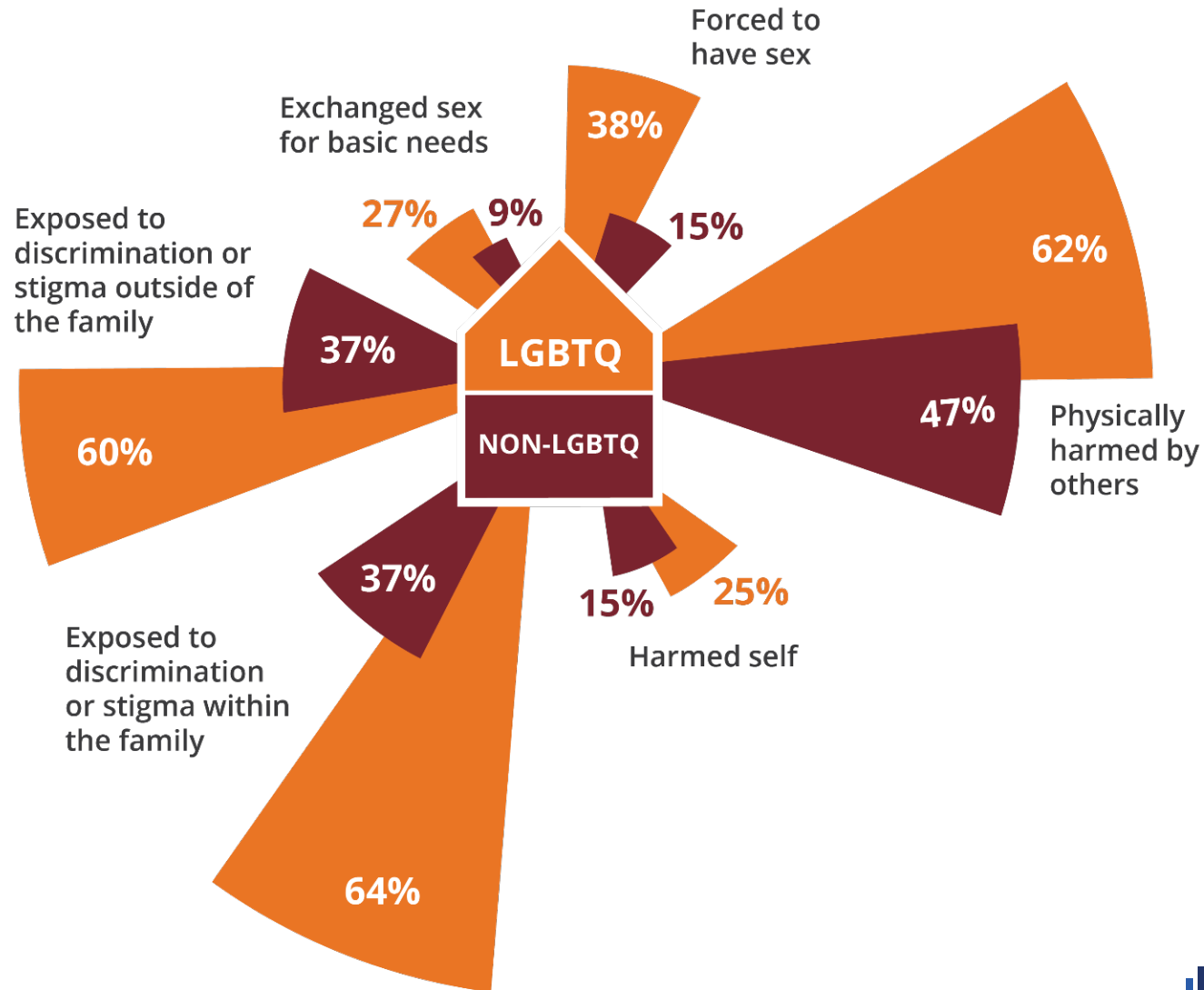
Disproportionality & intersectionality

Explicit homelessness over the last 12 months, self-reported by young adults, ages 18-25.
These estimates do not include reports of couch surfing only.

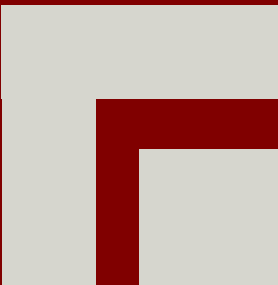


(Source: VoYC National Survey)

LGBTQ youth come into systems with more adversities



Beyond housing,
**insist on youth collaboration &
agency**







[T]he best intervention will be breaking the cycle... [I]t ends up costing you more money to whoever's funding or however it's being funded if you don't... solve a problem now. **So I think it takes actually listening to us and what we're seeing...**

- Young adult with lived experience in NYC

It sounds simple...

... but it runs against a long, racialized, and deeply institutionalized history of paternalism and social control in U.S. poverty governance.

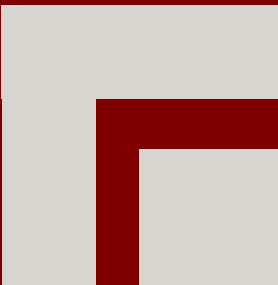
Disciplining the Poor

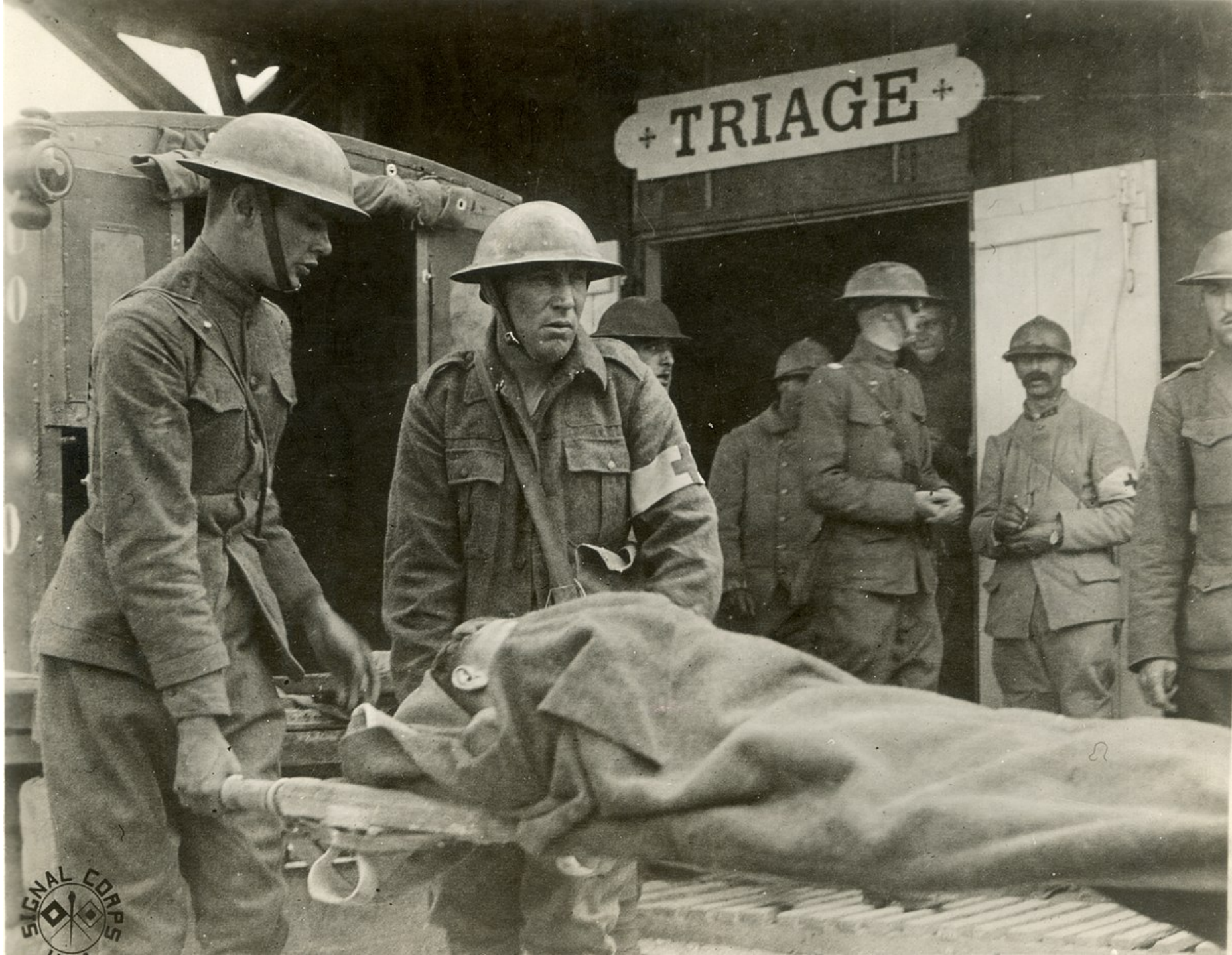
NEOLIBERAL PATERNALISM AND
THE PERSISTENT POWER OF RACE



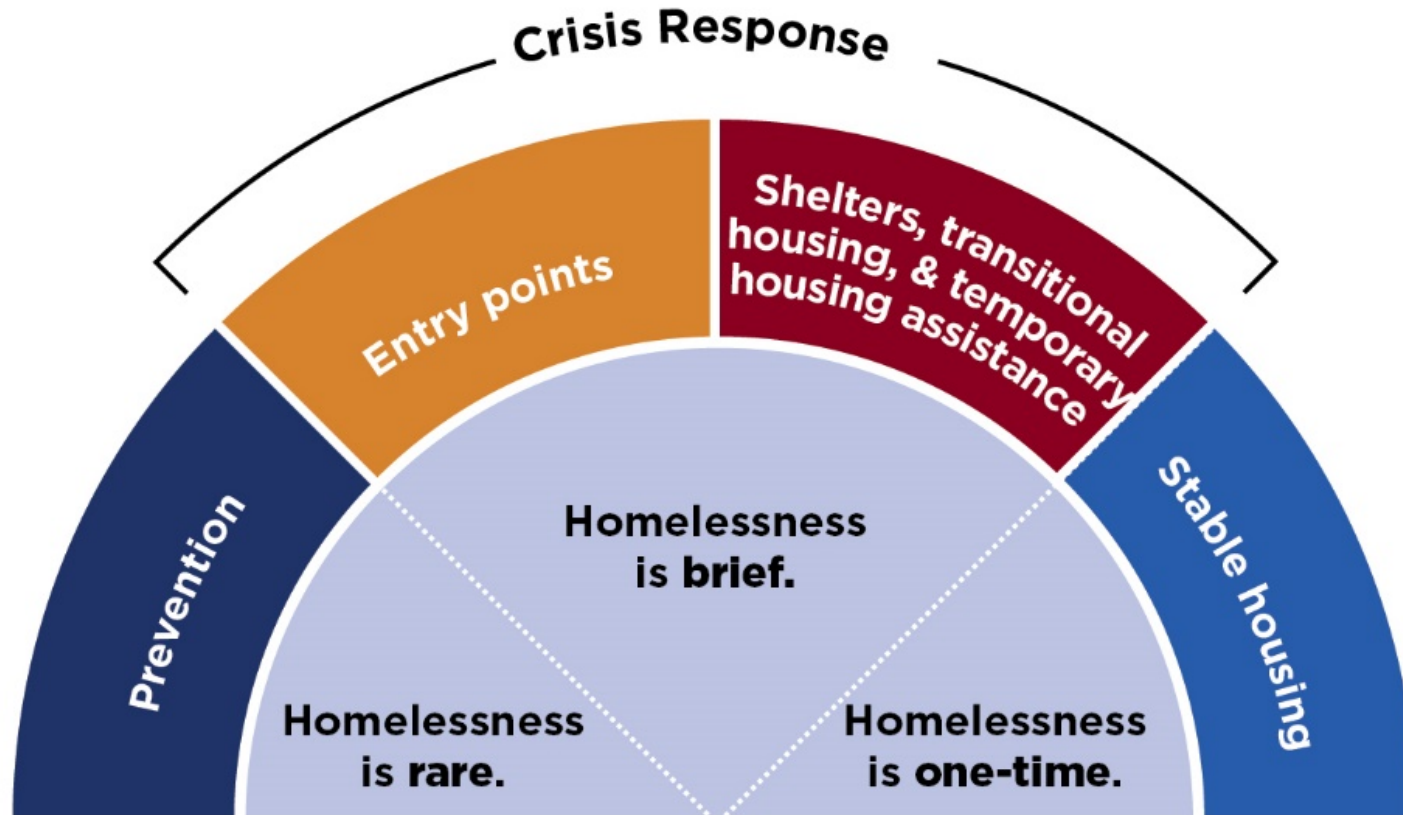
JOE SOSS, RICHARD C. FORDING,
AND SANFORD F. SCHRAM

Beyond housing,
move upstream



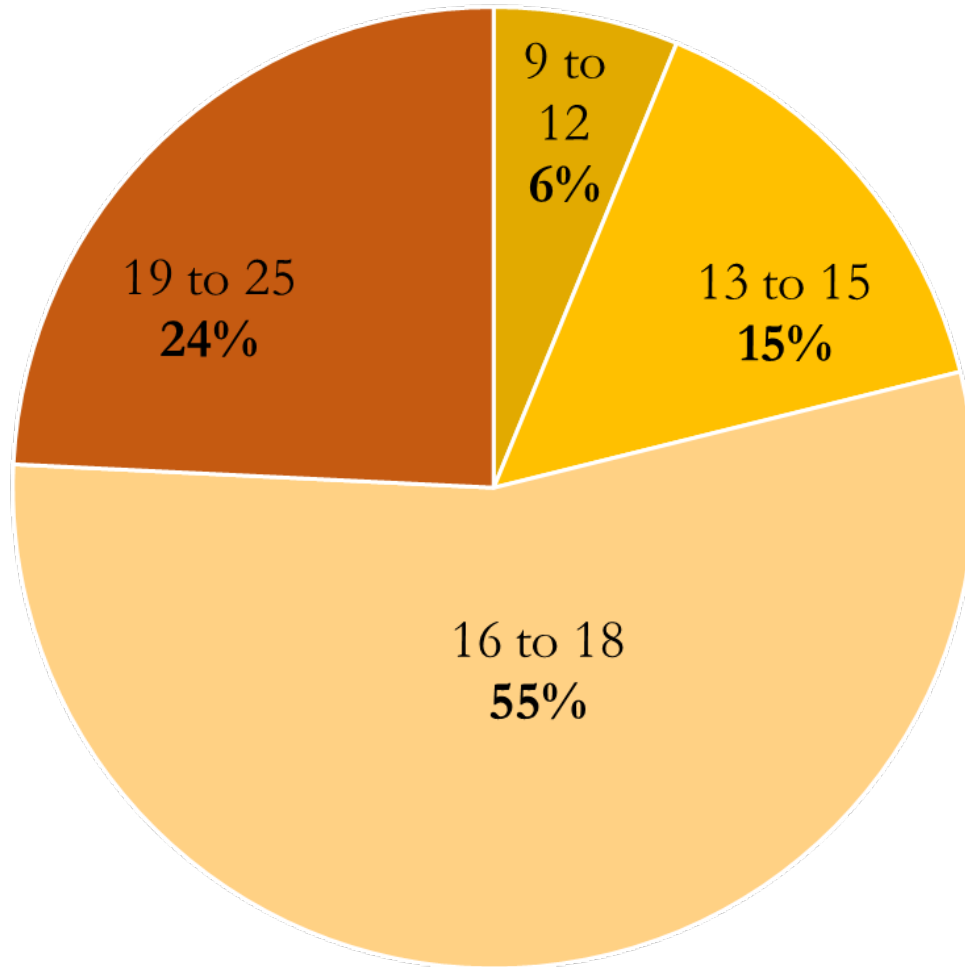


A comprehensive approach



Define the problem • Identify causes, risk & protective factors • Develop & test interventions
Scale-up evidence-based solutions • Monitor implementation

Age of first homelessness among 19-25-year-olds



1 in 4 youth interviewed in 5 communities had prior experiences of **family homelessness** or housing instability

(Source: VoYC In-depth Interviews)

Working across systems

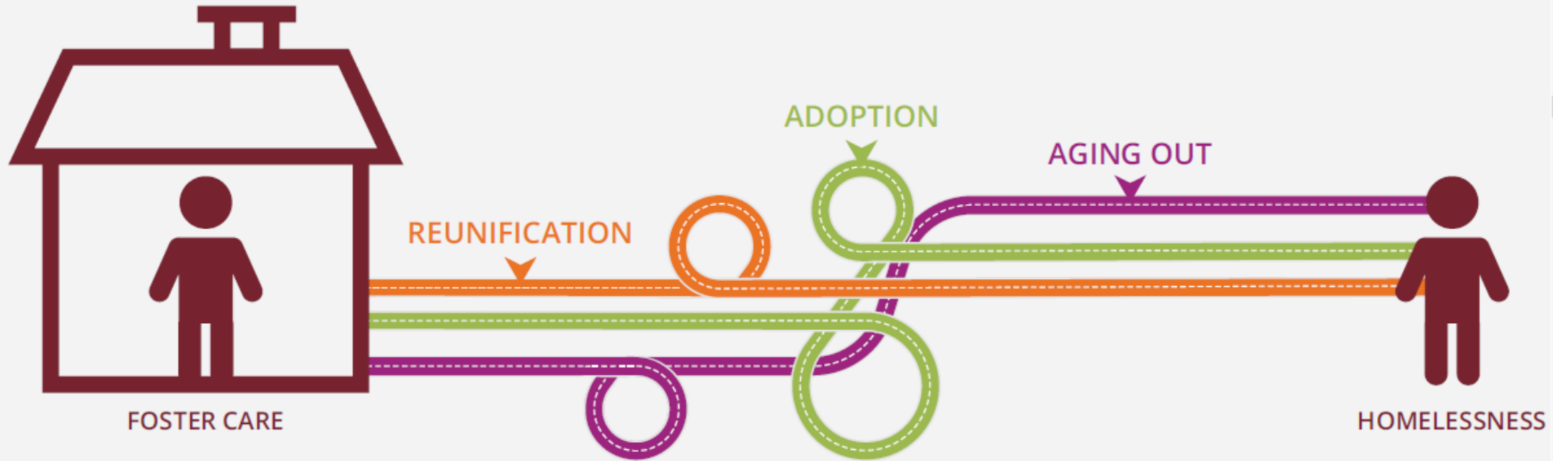
29%
Ever in Foster Care
vs. 2% of general youth
population

46%
Ever in Detention or
Incarceration
vs. 15% of general (older)
youth population

34%
Had < high school
diploma/GED
(ages 18-25)
vs. 11% of general youth
population

(Source: VoYC Youth Count Surveys)

Pathways from foster care to homelessness



(Source: VoYC In-Depth Interviews)

The relationship between educational attainment and homelessness is bidirectional.

Low educational attainment is a risk factor for homelessness*....



Young adults with less than a high school diploma or GED were

4.5x

more likely to report experiencing homelessness than their peers who completed high school.

(Source: VoYC National Survey)

...and homelessness is a risk factor for lower educational attainment.

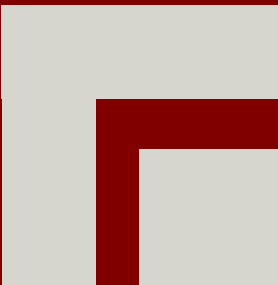


Young adults who experienced homelessness were less than

1/3

as likely to be enrolled in four-year college as stably housed peers.

Beyond housing,
show what's possible







"I BELIEVE NO HUMAN IS LIMITED" - ELIUD KIPCHOGE

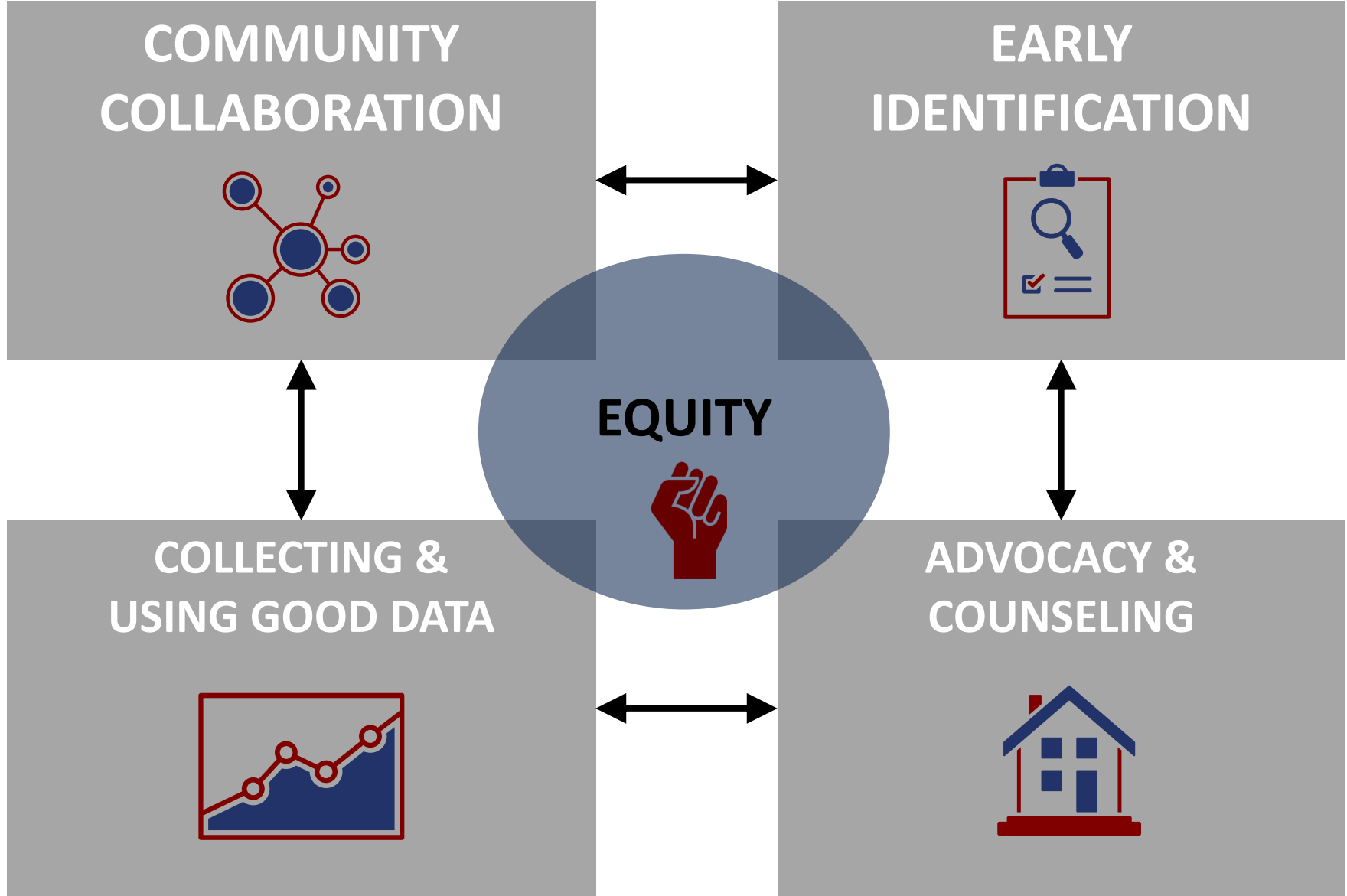
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Youth homelessness
is a **solvable problem.**



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