



STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE FARGO-MOORHEAD METRO AREA

2021 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A REPORT OF THE FM COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS
IN COLLABORATION WITH UNITED WAY OF CASS-CLAY

*The FM Coalition to End Homelessness works in partnership to
achieve permanent solutions to prevent and end homelessness.*

FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT:

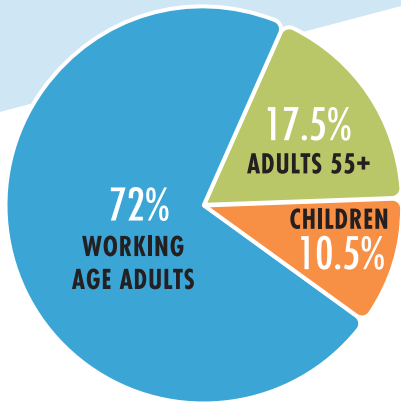
fmhomeless.org
unitedwaycassclay.org



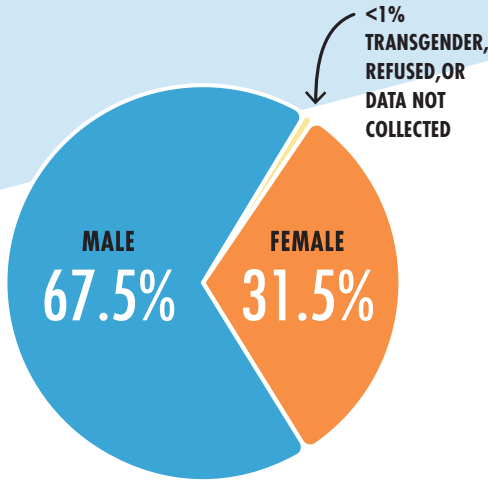
United Way of Cass-Clay

Report released June 22, 2021

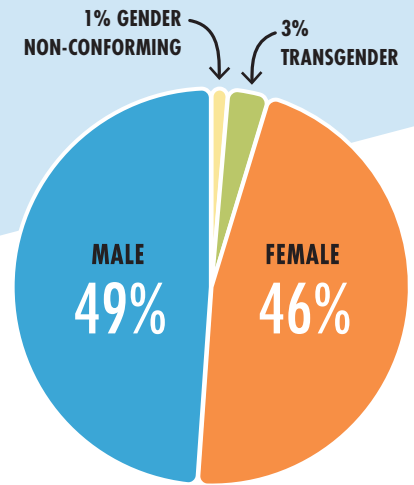
WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE FM METRO?



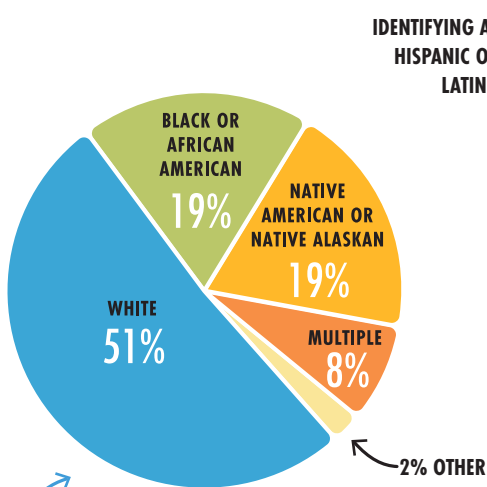
BY AGE FOR THOSE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS



BY GENDER FOR THE ADULT HOMELESS POPULATION



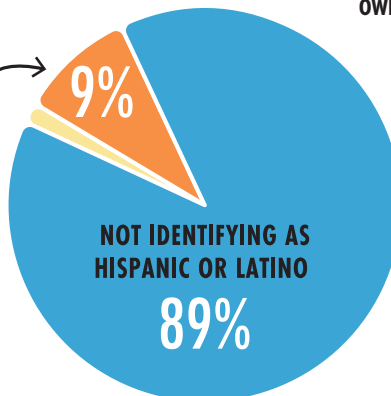
BY GENDER FOR THE YOUTH HOMELESS POPULATION



BY RACE

There continues to be significant racial disparity among homeless population compared to the general population in the FM Metro.

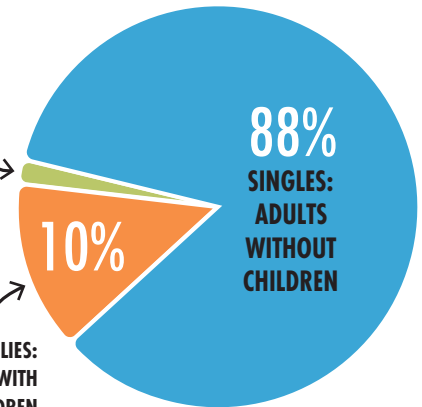
IDENTIFYING AS HISPANIC OR LATINO



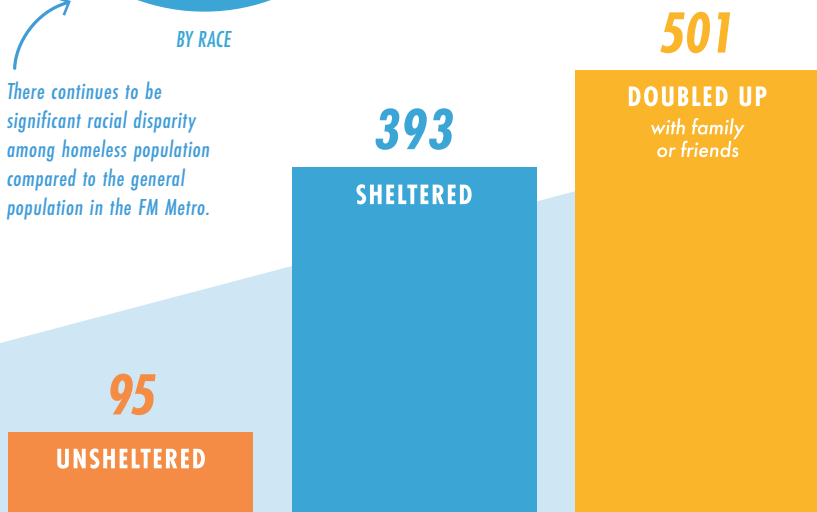
BY HISPANIC ETHNICITY

2% YOUTH ONLY, WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR OWN CHILDREN

FAMILIES: ADULTS WITH CHILDREN



SINGLES, FAMILIES, AND YOUTHS



ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT, THERE ARE 989 INDIVIDUALS ESTIMATED TO BE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE FM METRO.

BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

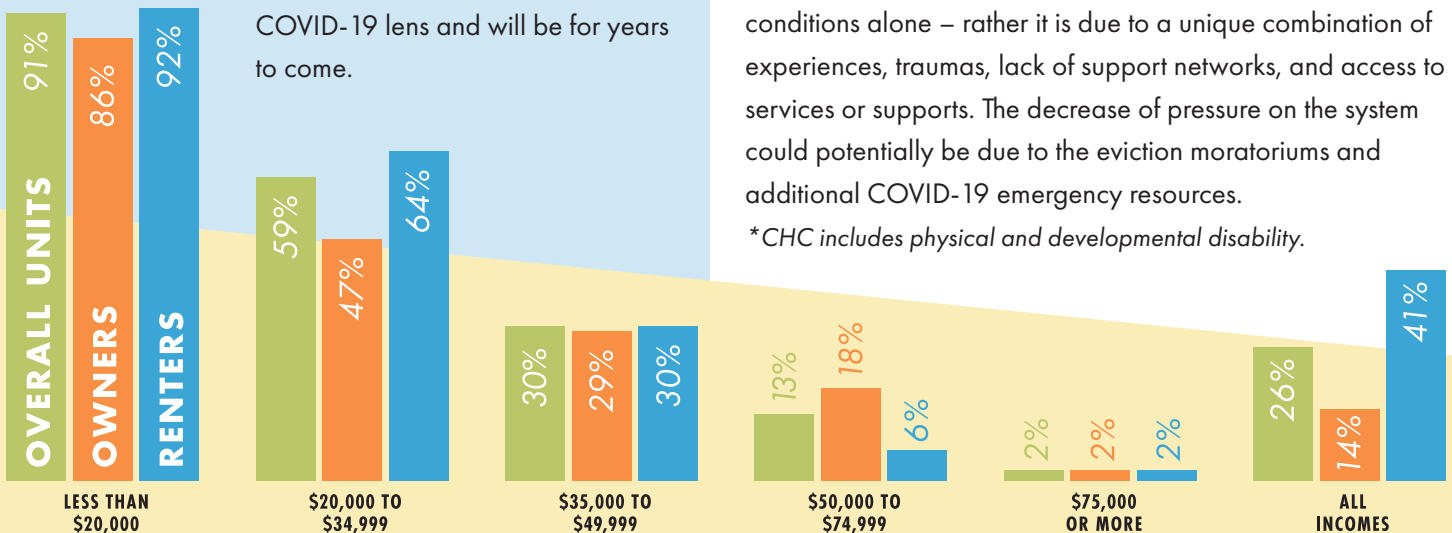
Individuals experiencing homelessness in our community face many barriers to sustainability, specifically when it comes to gaining and maintaining livable-wage employment and safe, stable housing. Surveying local people experiencing homelessness revealed:

- Poor credit and rental history, employment and livable wages, transportation, and affordable housing are common reasons for experiencing homelessness.
- Eviction or not having leases renewed, not able to afford rent or house payments, and loss of job or hours cut are top reasons for current experiences of homelessness.
- Common barriers for those unemployed are physical and mental health, transportation, child care, and criminal background.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN A PANDEMIC

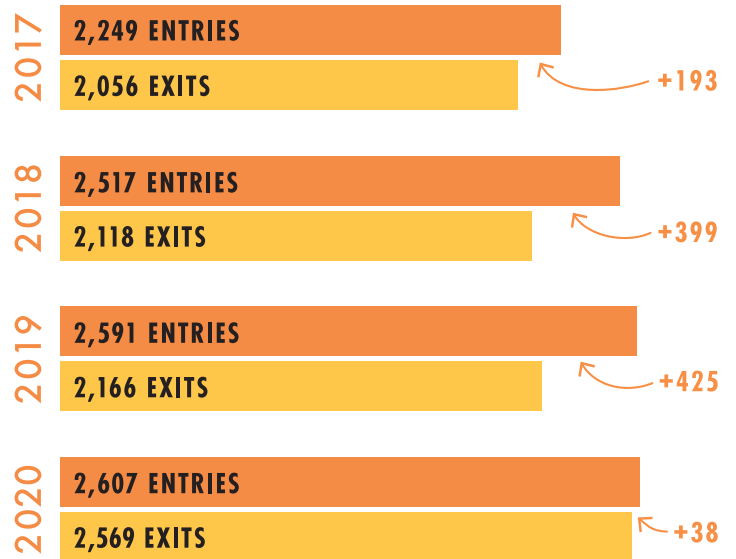
The COVID-19 pandemic required the homeless response system to pivot to address a public health emergency while continuing to provide services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Maintaining the long-term goal of making homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience in FM was held in tension with ensuring the immediate health and safety of those served, as well as the community at large. As a highly collaborative and resilient system, partners rose to meet each challenge and often went above and beyond. The impact the pandemic has had on 2020 data collection and system performance is not yet apparent, but many aspects of the 2021 State of

Homelessness can be read through a COVID-19 lens and will be for years to come.

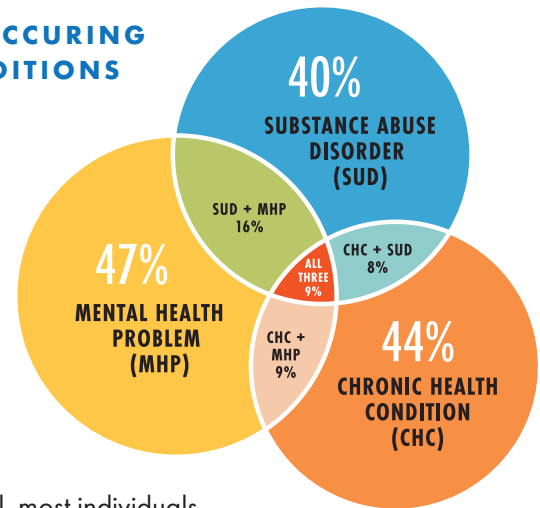


PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WHO ARE HOUSING COST BURDENED BY INCOME LEVEL

PRESSURE ON OUR SYSTEM



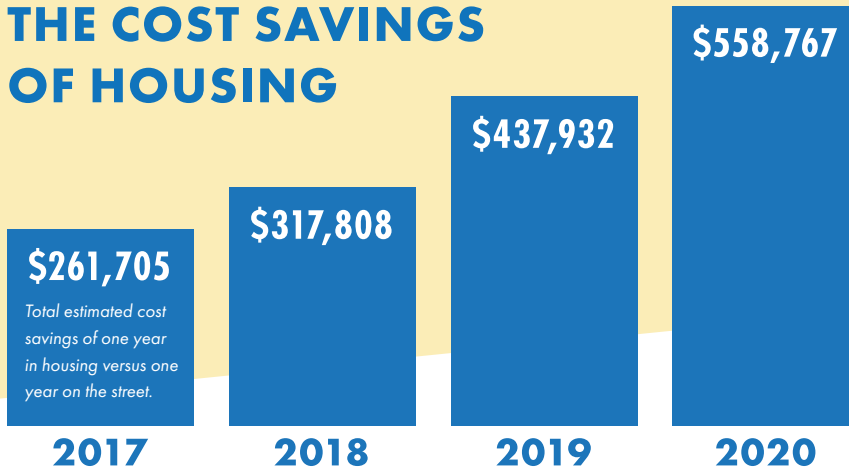
CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS



Overall, most individuals that have a chronic health condition, substance abuse disorder, mental health problems, or a combination of these conditions are housed. Individuals experiencing homelessness are not experiencing their housing crisis because of these conditions alone – rather it is due to a unique combination of experiences, traumas, lack of support networks, and access to services or supports. The decrease of pressure on the system could potentially be due to the eviction moratoriums and additional COVID-19 emergency resources.

*CHC includes physical and developmental disability.

THE COST SAVINGS OF HOUSING



Homelessness is expensive to the wider community and housing people reduces costs. This has been demonstrated on a small scale in the FM Metro through the Housing Navigation program at Presentation Partners in Housing. See the full report for program design and data collection methods. Over the past four years of this program, there has been a combined cost savings estimated at \$1,576,212 for our local community!

RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

The Coordinated Access, Referral, Entry, & Stabilization System (CARES) is our regional homelessness response system operated collaboratively between the ND & West Central CoCs. The FM Coalition to End Homelessness is a lead partner in CARES, hosting local system committees and staffing.

As a system, CARES strives to manage scarce system resources in a streamlined, transparent, planful, data-driven, and consumer center manner. The CARES System starts when a person seeks crisis services, first attempting to prevent homelessness when possible through connection with mainstream and prevention resources. If homelessness cannot be prevented, persons are prioritized for emergency shelter and supportive housing programs based on vulnerability, client choice, and program openings and eligibility. The most vulnerable households are assisted with navigation services. Those offered supportive housing are assisted with identifying and working on goals to obtaining and retaining stable housing. Visit at [CARESlink.org](https://www.careslink.org).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The FM Coalition to End Homelessness brings together partners in solution focused collaboration. For more info, or to join our mission, visit us at: fmhomeless.org



WHAT'S NEXT?

The FM Coalition to End Homelessness and its partners are committed to continuing to respond to needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to advance our overall mission. With an emphasis on addressing homelessness for youth and families with children, the Coalition is committed to aligning resources and programs to create opportunities for people to thrive so that everyone in Fargo, Dilworth, Moorhead, and West Fargo has a safe place to call home.



THANK YOU TO:

- The State of Homelessness Task Force for expertly preparing this report
- United Way of Cass-Clay for ongoing partnership and support of the Coalition, particularly in publishing this report
- Institute for Community Alliances for assisting with with data reporting
- Sandwich Club Design for layout and graphic design