

Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, Inc.

Affordable Housing's Connection to Crime
Interim Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee
August 22, 2022

Agenda

1. Housing and Homelessness in New Mexico
2. Housing, Violent Victimization, and Safety
3. Criminal Justice Involvement and Housing



Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless (AHCH)

- Albuquerque was one of the original 19 cities nationwide to participate in the pilot and develop the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) model in 1985.
- AHCH is a freestanding Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and standalone 330(h) HCH project.
- Provides integrated primary medical and dental, behavioral health and social services through extensive outreach and at its central services campus.



AHCH

- Over 100 staff
- Serves nearly 5,000 people without homes each year.
- Serves exclusively people without homes, 95-98% at or below 100% Federal Poverty Line.
- NM expanded Medicaid in 2014. Clients were traditionally 85-95% uninsured, now that is flipped.



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Housing and Homelessness in New Mexico

- New Mexico had [the highest increase in homelessness](#) in the country in 2019 at 27%
- In 2020 New Mexico had the [highest rate of chronic homelessness](#) at 51%
- [37.8%](#) of people experiencing homelessness in New Mexico are unsheltered
- New Mexico ranks as the [12th highest state](#) for rates of homelessness.
- New Mexico has [a shortage of 39,999](#) affordable homes for people with extremely low incomes.

Housing and Homelessness in New Mexico

Increasing numbers of seniors in AHCH census.

- Steady increase from 5% of AHCH census in 2016 to 7% 2020

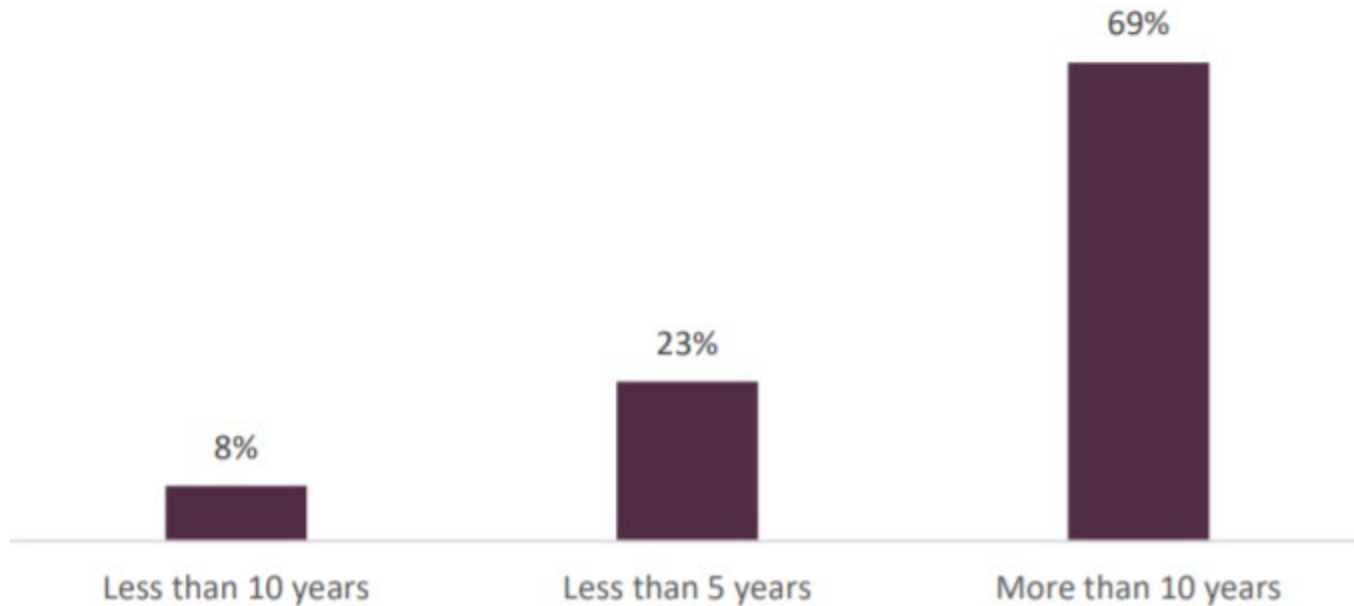
Increasing numbers of families and lack of options for families experiencing homeless.

Disproportionate impact on Native Americans

- AHCH Census – 11% of AHCH population, while Native Americans make up [4.6% of the population](#) in Albuquerque

Homelessness is Homegrown

AHCH Clients
Living in NM Status 2019



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COVID-19 and Housing Instability

- The [Economic Roundtable](#) projects that over the next four years, fallout from the pandemic is expected to cause chronic homelessness to climb 49% nationwide.
- During the pandemic, states that let eviction moratoriums expire had [2.1 times higher incidence of COVID](#) & 5.4 times higher mortality rate from COVID
- Rents are increasing nationwide. [US GAO](#) found that “median rent increases of \$100 a month were associated with a 9% increase in homelessness in the areas we examined.”

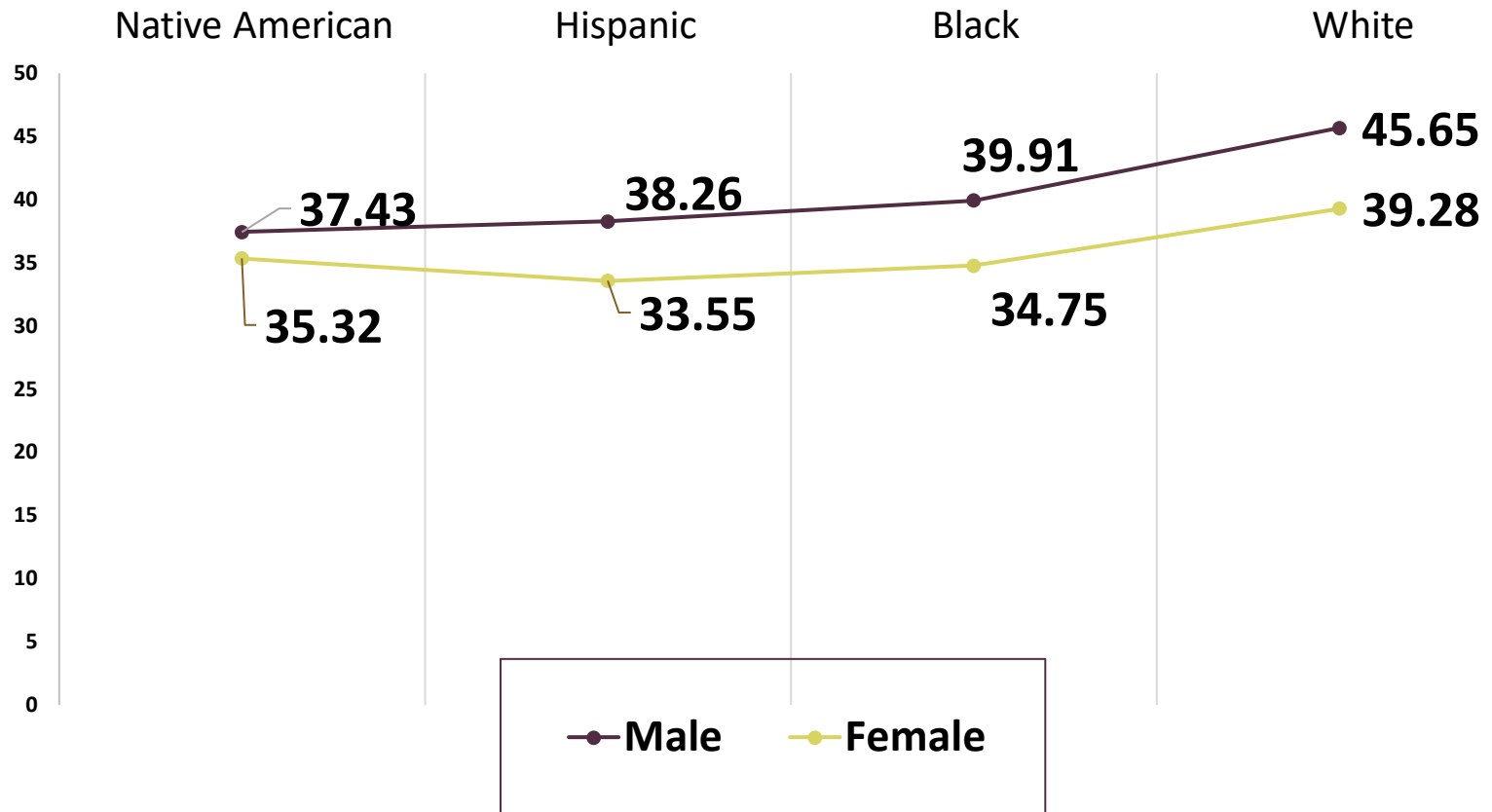
COVID-19 and Housing Instability

- There are 71,922 [extremely low-income](#) (ELI) renter households in New Mexico and only 31,923 affordable and available units for these renters.
- 48,188 ELI households in New Mexico are [severely cost burdened](#) and at immediate risk of homelessness.
- In New Mexico, there are [47 eviction filings per day](#), with an eviction filing rate at 6.1%, a filing rate that is higher than the national average.



Homeless Mortality in New Mexico

Mean Age at Death by Race and Gender



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Violent Victimization, Safety, and Housing

People experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of crime.

- Research from the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) found that the rate of violent victimization in a national sample of people experiencing homelessness was almost 25 times that found in the general U.S. population (49% vs 2%).

Crime, Safety, and Housing

“An increase in spending on housing and community development paired with a decrease in spending on corrections is associated with both lower violent crime rates and lower prison incarceration rates.” – [Justice Policy Institute](#)

Violent crime rates decreased when funding was shifted to housing from corrections.

	2000	2005	Percent change (2000-2005)
Housing expenditure as a percent of total expenditure	1.5%	1.7%	+10.74%
Corrections expenditure as a percent of total expenditure	2.8%	2.5%	-10.62%
Violent crime rate*	506.50	469.20	-7.36%

*Rates are the number of reported violent offenses (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) per 100,000 people in the population.

Crime, Safety, and Housing

Prison and jail experience increases the risk of housing loss and homelessness.

- Relationship between homelessness and jail is [bi-directional](#): “people who are homeless are much more likely to be arrested and in jail than those who are housed, and without adequate discharge planning and supports, people in prison are more likely to become homeless upon release.”
- Research regarding people incarcerated in prisons and in jails shows that [10% were homeless prior to incarceration](#), and 20% of the incarcerated population with mental illnesses were previously homeless.

Impact of Housing on Criminal Justice Involvement – Local Data

Albuquerque Re-Entry Collaborative for People Who Are Opiate-Dependent, Without Homes, and Exiting Jail

- Injection drug use fell by over 50% from intake to 6 months.
- 75% of participants were on Suboxone at 6 months and 90% were illicit-opiate free.
- 90% of engaged clients that were housed (transitional, supportive, or permanent) remained housed at 12 months.
- 76% of program completers had zero new arrests or a decrease of 25% in new arrests at 12 months.

Source: Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless Re-Entry Collaborative Data, program funded by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (Grant#1H79TI020504-01).



Impact of Housing on Criminal Justice Involvement – Local Data

City of Albuquerque Heading Home Cost Study

- Prior to being housed, jail costs were \$132,054. **Jail costs decreased 55.7%** or \$58,515 after housing in the 2 to 3-year study period.
- In the pre-time period study group members were arrested 132 times and in the post-study time period 66 times.
- For every \$1.00 spent the program realized \$1.78 in benefits. The return on investment is positive.

Source: [University of New Mexico Institute for Social Research](#)

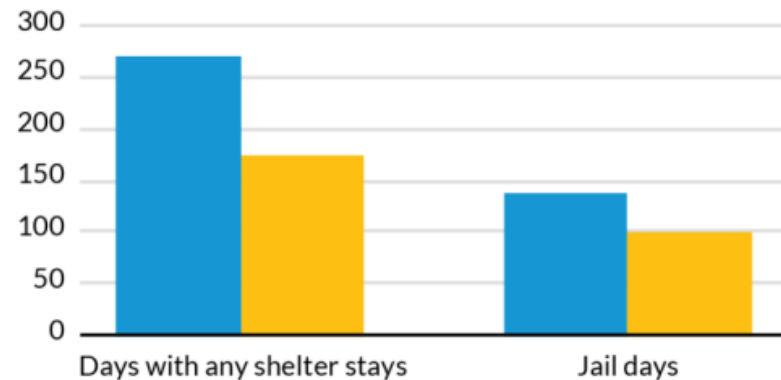


Impact of Housing on Criminal Justice Involvement – Denver Data

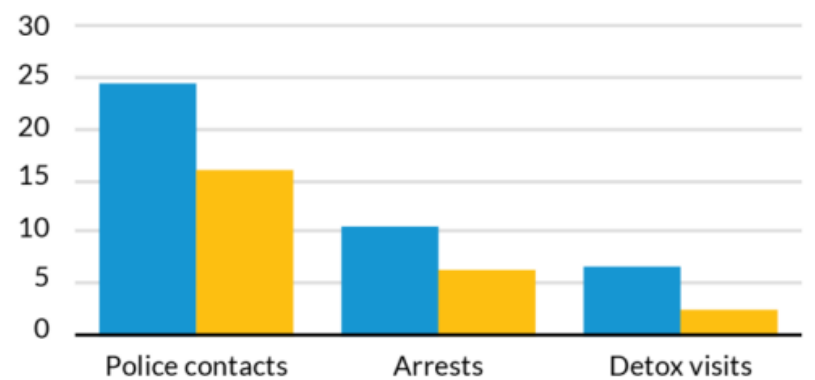
People in Supportive Housing Had Fewer Interactions with the Criminal Justice System and Public Services than People Receiving Usual Services

Control group Denver SIB program participants

Average number of days



Average number of events



URBAN INSTITUTE

Sources: Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, Denver Sheriff Department, Denver Police Department, and Denver Department of Public Safety.

Notes: SIB=social impact bond. Results are for three years after people were randomized into the treatment and control groups. These results use intent-to-treat estimates to compare outcomes for all participants in the treatment and control groups.

Source: [Urban Institute](https://www.urbaninstitute.org/)

Impact of Housing on Criminal Justice Involvement – Denver Data

Participants in Denver's Five-Year Supportive Housing Program:

- Had fewer interactions with police, a 34% reduction in police contacts and a 40% reduction in arrests.
- Participants spent less time in jail.
- Participants referred for supportive housing had a 30% reduction in unique jail stays and a 27% reduction in total jail days.

Source: [Urban Institute](#)



Transcarcerating Homelessness as a Public Health Crisis

“Criminalization...empowers the most immediate, albeit temporary, removals of homeless people from public view and creates the short-term illusion that the problem has been mitigated. But criminalization does not solve homelessness or its health ramifications. To the contrary, it is proven to be expensive, often illegal, ineffective, and even counter-productive.”

- Compulsory mass shelters are not reasonable alternatives
- Housing First, rental subsidies, and investment in affordable housing are the most cost-effective approaches

Source: [California Law Review](#)

Policy Priorities

Housing

1. Increased timeframes for evictions in NM Uniform Owner-Resident Relations Act (UORRA) and codify successful eviction diversion in statute
2. Increase and protect state investment in permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing vouchers to address increases in homelessness via BHSD Linkages budget
3. Increase investment in NM Housing Trust Fund to build or rehabilitate affordable housing
4. Source of Income Discrimination legislation – increased need for rental assistance and housing vouchers and decreasing number of landlords to accept them

Policy Priorities

Health Care

1. NMDOH Rural Primary Health Care Act (RPHCA)
 - New Mexico's Federally Qualified Health Centers are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. RPHCA funding is critical to stabilize health centers serving an increasing population of people unemployed, uninsured, and newly experiencing homelessness.
2. Medicaid
 - Increase/protect investment in this essential health care and meet increased need
 - Guidance and support to local governments seeking to optimize and leverage Medicaid billing

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