



North Coast Homeless & Housing Insecurity Summit

April 25, 2018



NORTH COAST
HOMELESSNESS &
HOUSING INSECURITY
S U M M I T



Welcome

Keith Snow-Flamer, President
College of the Redwoods

Lisa Rossbacher, President
Humboldt State University



Ted Hernandez
Wiyot Tribal Chairman



Setting the Context

Lynette Mullen
Summit Coordinator



Gaining Perspective

“Who is present?”

Definitions

The Department of Health and Human Services has defined **housing insecurity** as high housing costs in proportion to:

- Income
- Poor quality housing
- Unstable neighborhoods
- Overcrowding, or homelessness



Definitions

At this summit, we define **homelessness** as:

“An individual or family without a stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability to acquire it.”



Do you or someone you know live in poverty?



The federal poverty levels:
One person: \$13,860 or less per year
Family of 4 : \$28,000 or less per year

13.3% of people live in poverty in the United States

23.6% of the population in Del Norte live in poverty
20% of the population in Humboldt live in poverty



A family of 4 has a parent working getting paid minimum wage they make
\$22,800



Do you depend on your or someone else's income to pay your living expenses?



An accident, illness, or chronic pain could change your life
You could end up homeless



Do you know a Veteran?



About 11% of the adult homeless
population are veterans

Veterans between the ages of 18 and 30 are twice
as likely as non-vets to be homeless

<http://www.greendoors.org/>



Do you know anyone who has experienced
sexual violence in the home?



Victims of sexual assault are

- 3 times more likely to suffer from depression
- 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder
- 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol
- 26 times more likely to abuse drugs
- 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide

All factors that increase vulnerability to homelessness



Do you know someone who is or has been in foster care?



It is estimated that 20 percent of the approximately 20,000 youth leaving foster care nationally each year will become homeless.

That's 4000 per year!

www.endhomelessness.org



Do you know anyone who has been kicked out of their home
because they are gay, lesbian, or transgender?



40% of the homeless youth served by agencies identify as LGBT

30% of clients utilizing housing programs identified as LGBT

LGBT individuals experiencing homelessness are often at a heightened risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation compared with their heterosexual peers



Transgender people are often turned away from shelters;
in some cases signs have been posted barring their entrance



Do you know anyone who is living in a home where there is emotional,
physical or psychological abuse?



Domestic violence is a primary cause of homelessness among women

<https://www.npr.org>



Have you ever experienced
depression or other mental health issues?



Approximately one-third of the nation's homeless have a severe mental illness

Homelessness CAN exacerbate mental illness

<https://www.npr.org>



Have you ever had a pet that felt like a family member or made you feel loved when you were alone or made you feel safe?

Have you ever judged someone on the street for having a pet?



Pets help homeless individuals feel loved and safe, providing company,
and a purpose for living

Most homeless individuals have no safe place to keep pets when seeking
services, housing or employment



Do you sometimes have trouble figuring out what to make for dinner?



People without homes often lack the ability to store fresh food,
keep food cold, or cook.

Many homeless persons eat fewer meals per day, lack food more often, and
are more likely to have inadequate diets and poorer nutritional status than
housed U.S. populations.



Have you have observed a homeless person
and thought,
why don't you get a job?



Being homeless is a barrier to

- Employment
- Housing

No access to showers, bathrooms, laundry facilities, hot nutritious food, a safe place to sleep, or to store your personal belongings including important paperwork, and limited access to transportation and childcare

AND being homeless makes you a target of harassment



Adverse Childhood Experiences

Meg Walkley

Children and Family Support Specialist

Humboldt County Office of Education



Voices of Resilience

Charlie





Recipients of SSI (Supplemental Security Income) must prove they are disabled
and have a significant financial need

Recipients of SSI receive \$910.72 per month

and cannot receive CalFresh benefits
and have no means of earning other income

Humboldt State University Alumni





People of color have fewer opportunities for housing.
Among individuals who contacted agents

- Black renters learn about 11.4 % fewer available units & are shown 4.2 % fewer units.
- Latino/Hispanic renters learn about 12.5 % fewer available units & are shown 7.5 % fewer units.
- Asian renters learn about 9.8 % fewer available units % are shown 6.6 % fewer units

When compared to equally qualified whites

Tammy





In 2016, 7% of CR students self-identified as homeless

In 2017, 19% of HSU students had been homeless in the previous 12 months

Where homeless students sleep:

- Couch surfing
- Live in their car
- Camper
- Camping in the woods or campgrounds
- Friends garage

Thomas





Humboldt County is 2nd in the state per capita for opioid overdoses

Between 2012 and 2016

- Nearly half of the 372 drug-related deaths were unintentional overdoses
- The mortality rate for all drug-related deaths: three times higher than the state average.
- Of the 366 alcohol-related deaths, nearly 60 percent were caused by liver disease or damage
- Humboldt County's liver disease rates were twice as high as the state average.



Share what resonated with you
Share what surprised you
Share what upset you
Share what you want to learn more about



Community Program Highlights



Darleen Spoor

Executive Director

Arcata Partnership House



Dan Birmingham

Information & Assistance Manager

Area 1 Agency on Aging



Chante Catt

Humboldt State Student

Homeless Student Advocate Alliance, President

Humboldt State University Off-Campus Housing Liaison



Dr. Bowers & Dr. O'Neil
CR and HSU student stories



Arcata Playhouse

A Woman's Place is in Her Home

A Woman's Place is in Her Home seeks to give voice to the challenges homeless women in our community face every day



What's NEXT?

Marty Coelho

Executive Director of College Advancement
& College of the Redwoods Foundation

Fall Summit



Intentions

As a result of what I learned at the North Coast
Homelessness and Housing Insecurity Summit,
In May I will....

What Can I Do?

- Respond to summit evaluation
- Attend Fall Summit
- Connect with services provider- ask what is needed & do what you can
- Consider Home Sharing- and/or tell others about the program
- Donate to Food for People
- Volunteer for Big Brothers, Big Sisters or CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to help children needing support or experiencing trauma
- Attend ACES Town Hall – April 27, 6 p.m. at the Adorni Center
- Say hello and make eye contact with individuals perceived as struggling or homeless. Smile.



THANK YOU!