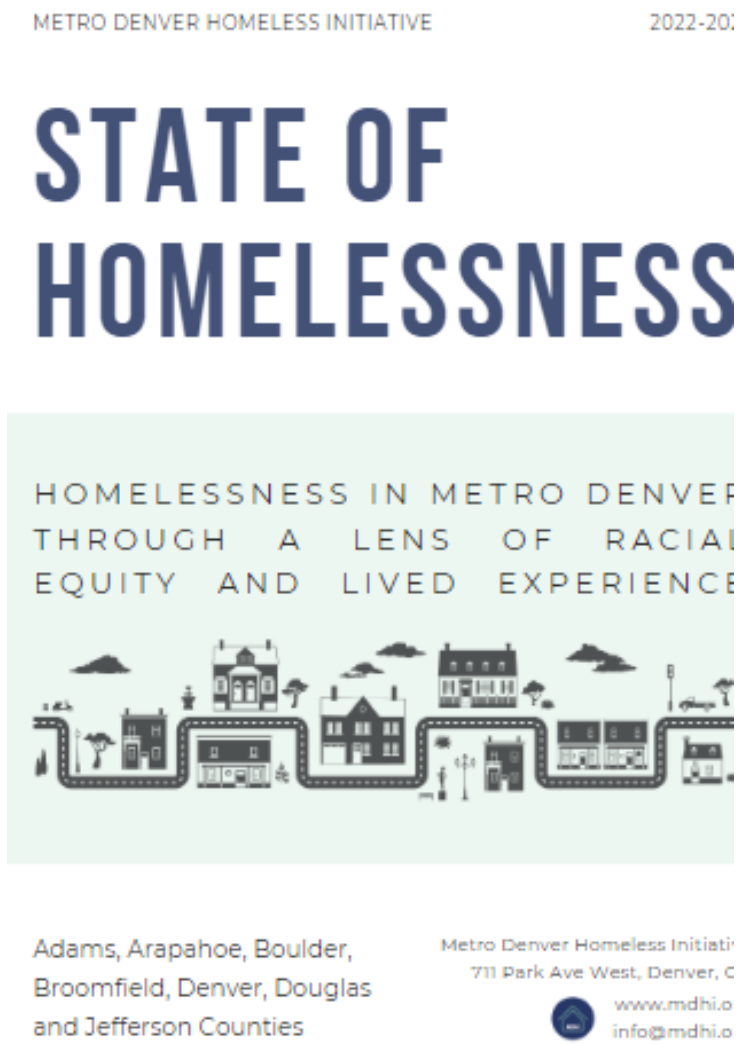
State of Homelessness Update

Dr. Jamie Rife

Executive Director, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative



Purpose of the Report

Educate
- Educate the public on data sources

Identify
- Identify causes of homelessness and action steps

Elevate
- Elevate the voice of lived expertise (LE) and racial inequities

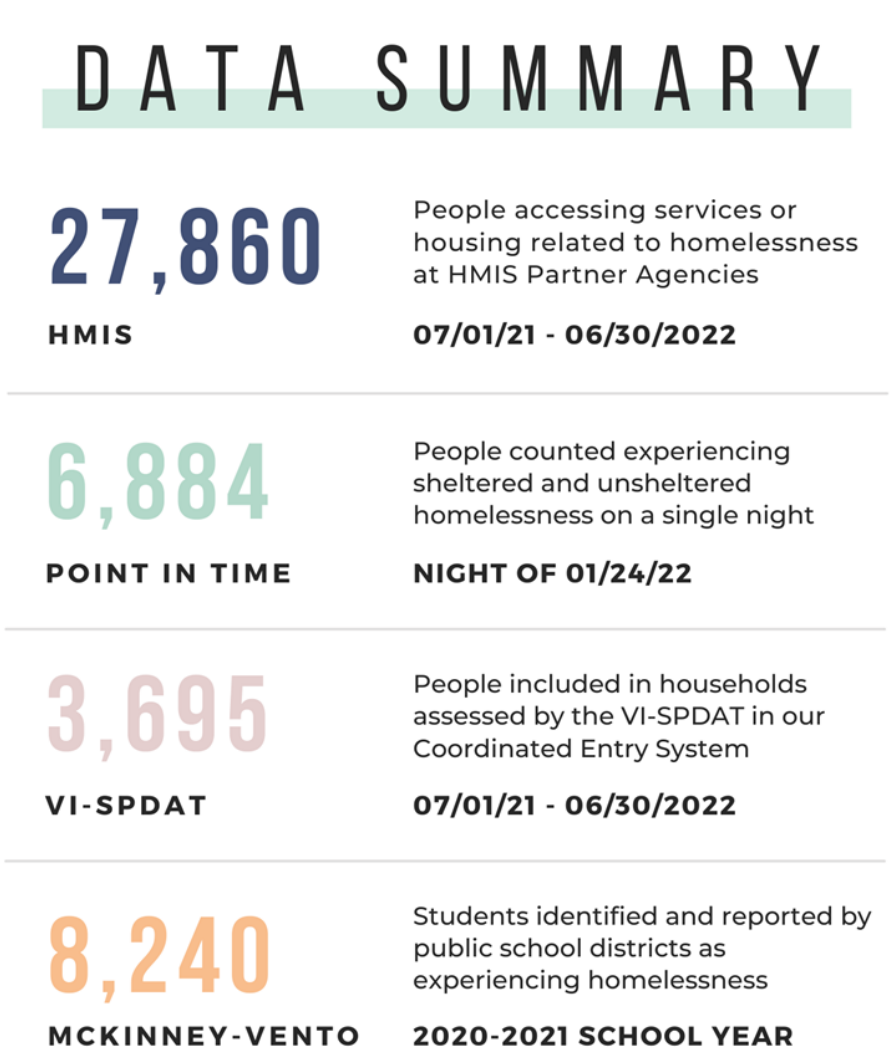
Address
- Address misconceptions on homelessness

New This Year

- Narrative/system improvement individuals from with LE
- Analysis of racial inequities and system changes
- Breakdown of veteran data as a subpopulation
- Data around common misconceptions
- High prevalence of the experience of trauma
- Fuller data on causes of homelessness

Data Summary

- Total number of individuals for each data set
- Explains the type of count and overview
- Decrease in MKV related to COVID-19

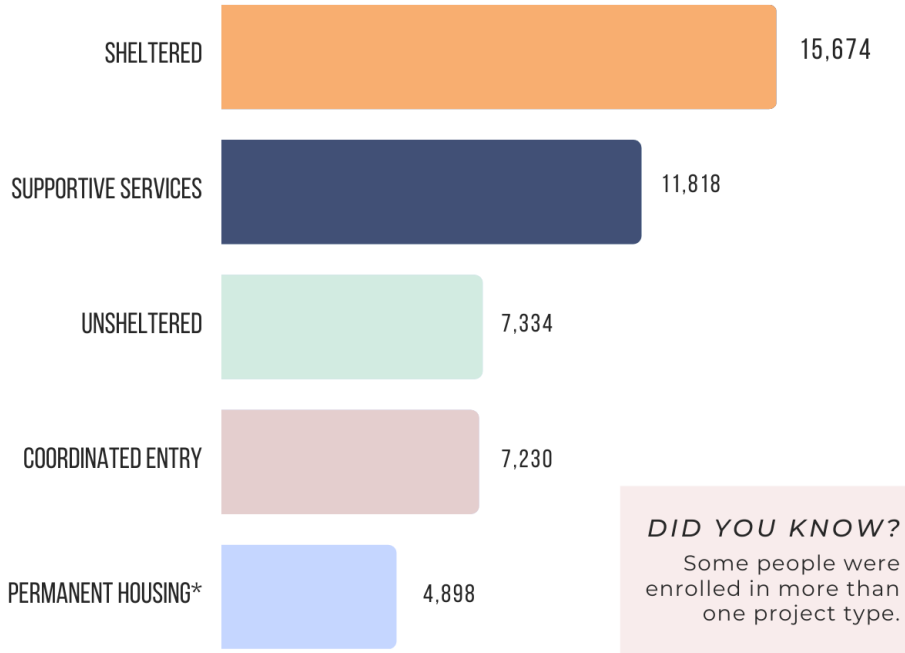


HMIS Data

TOTAL HMIS DATA

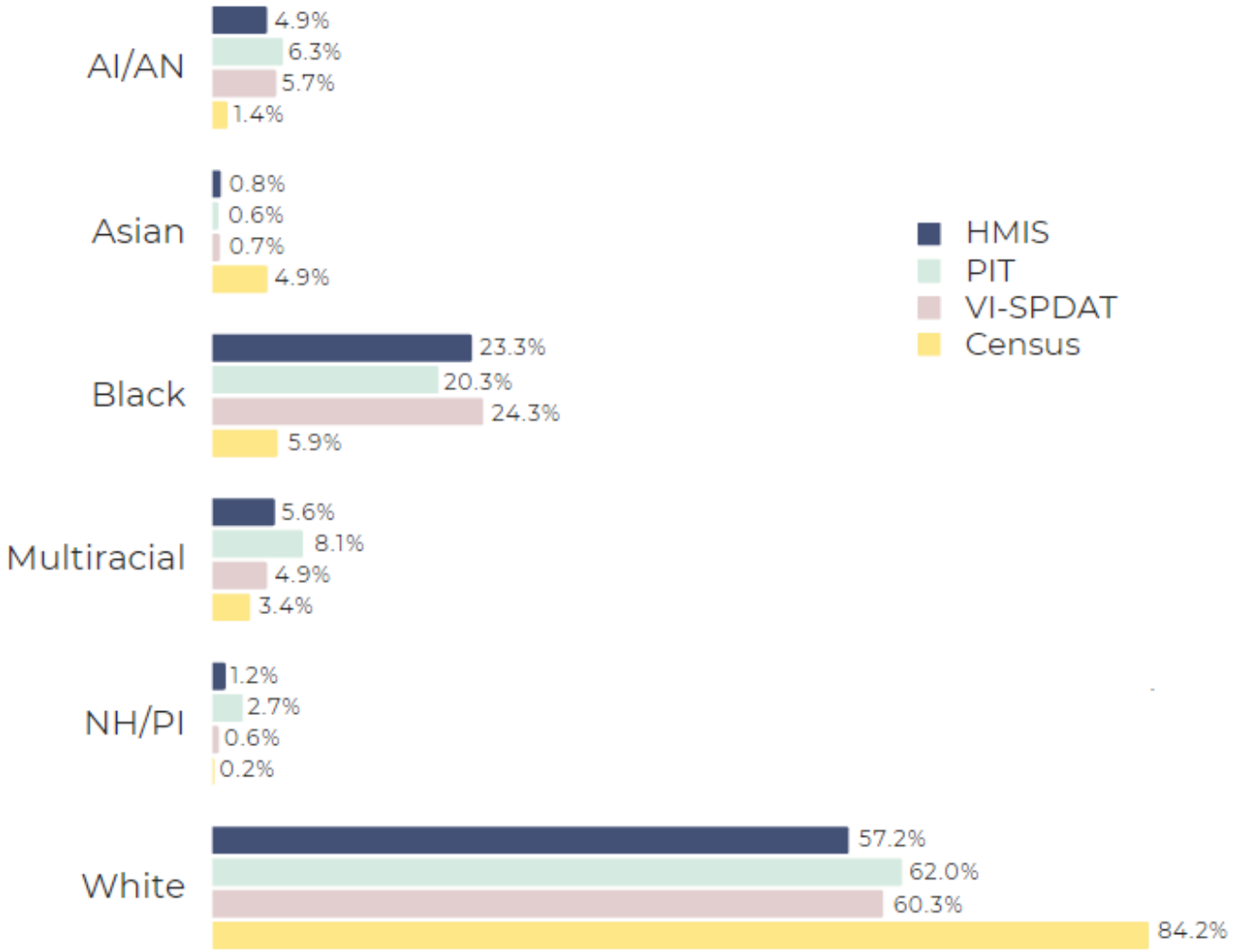
27,860 PEOPLE
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE



DID YOU KNOW?
Some people were enrolled in more than one project type.

Racial Inequity



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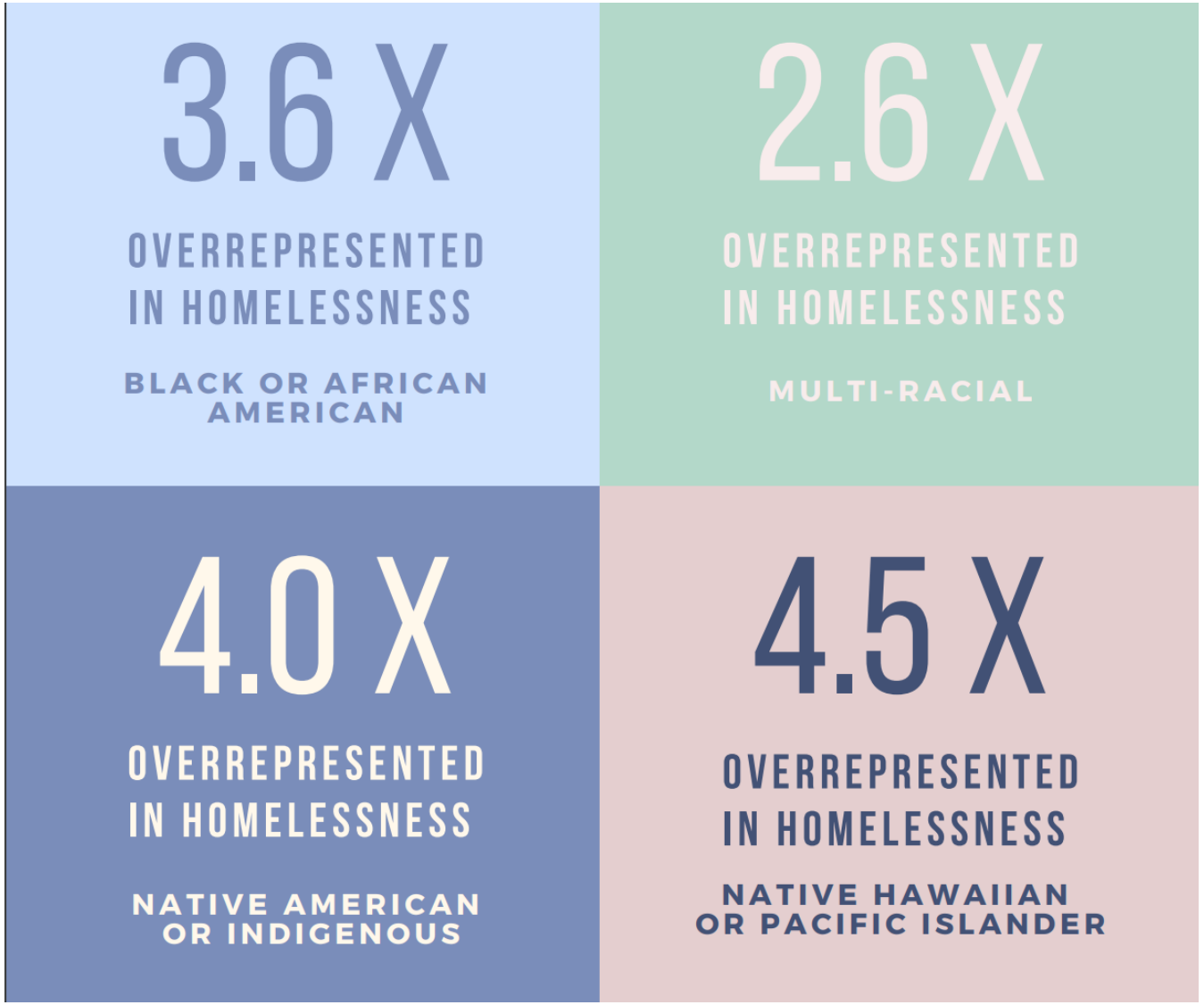
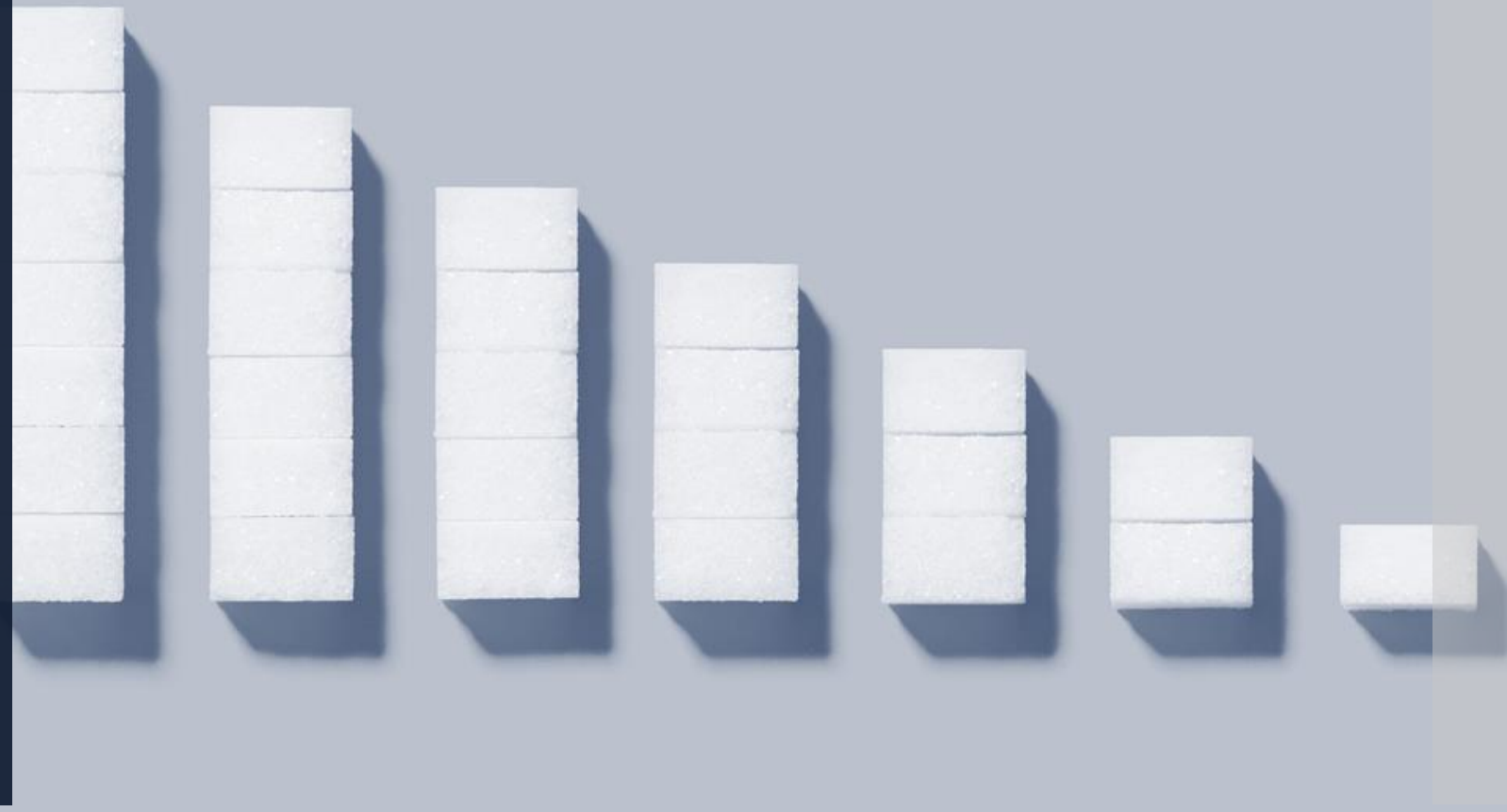


What the Data Tell us

Addressing common misconceptions



SELF-REPORTED CAUSES
HMIS DATA

A total of 12,241 unique individuals who accessed services or housing related to homelessness at an HMIS Partner Agency from 07/01/21-06/30/22 responded to the optional question: *Would you like to share the reasons or factors you feel contributed to your homelessness?*

1. RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS OR FAMILY BREAK-UP
2. LOST A JOB OR COULD NOT FIND WORK
3. UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE
4. ASKED TO LEAVE OR EVICTED
5. ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS

SELF-REPORTED CAUSES
POINT IN TIME DATA

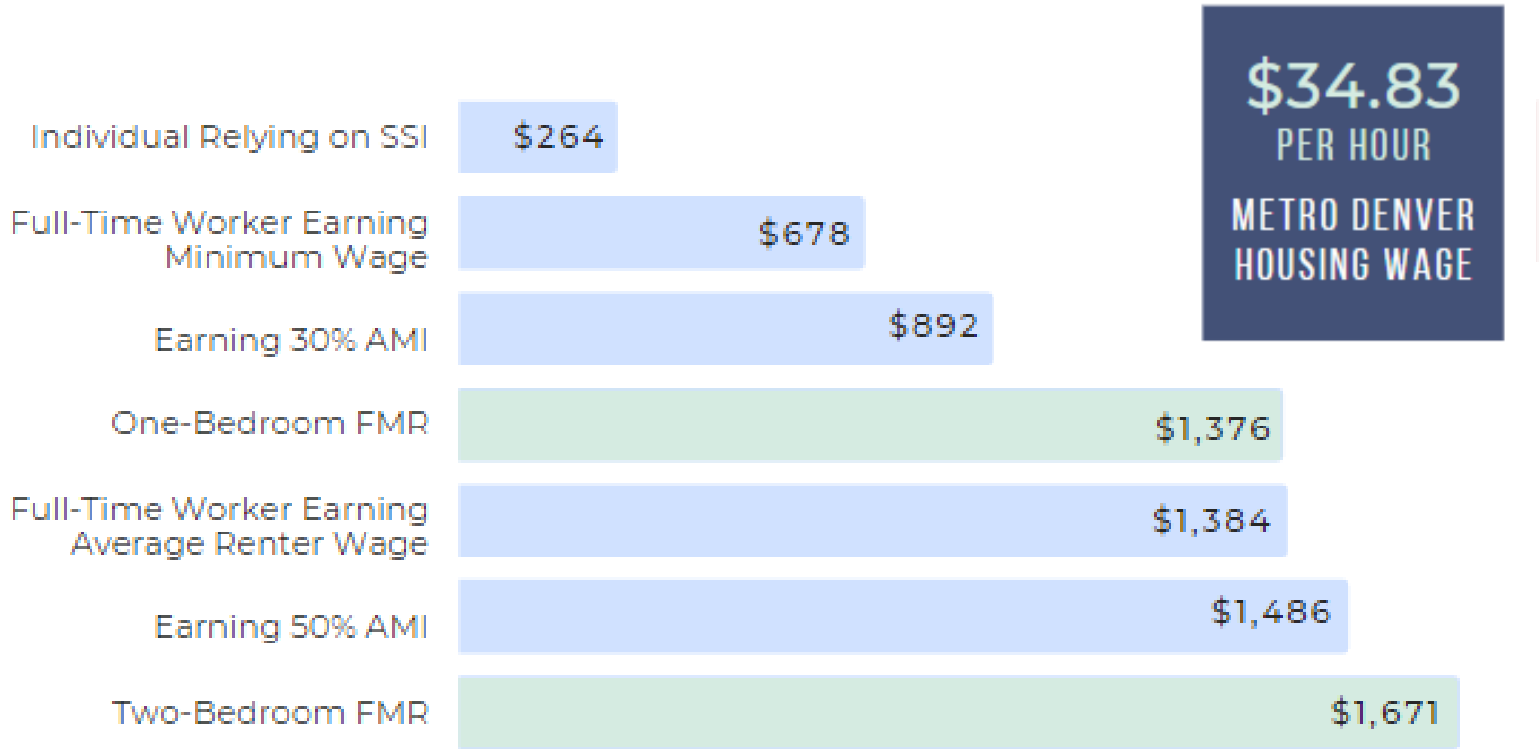
A total of 6,884 unique individuals were counted on the night of 01/04/22 and had a chance to respond to the optional question: *Would you like to share the reasons or factors you feel contributed to your homelessness?*

1. UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE
2. ASKED TO LEAVE OR EVICTED
3. LOST A JOB OR COULD NOT FIND WORK
4. RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS OR FAMILY BREAK-UP
5. ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS

Data on Causes of Homelessness

Fields	HMIS	PIT
Unable to Pay Rent Mortgage	25.68%	29.91%
Asked to Leave or Evicted	21.09%	25.84%
Lost a Job Could Not Find Work	25.84%	24.11%
Relationship Problems or Family Breakup	27.38%	23.85%
Alcohol Substance Abuse Problems	20.18%	20.82%

Data on Causes of Homelessness



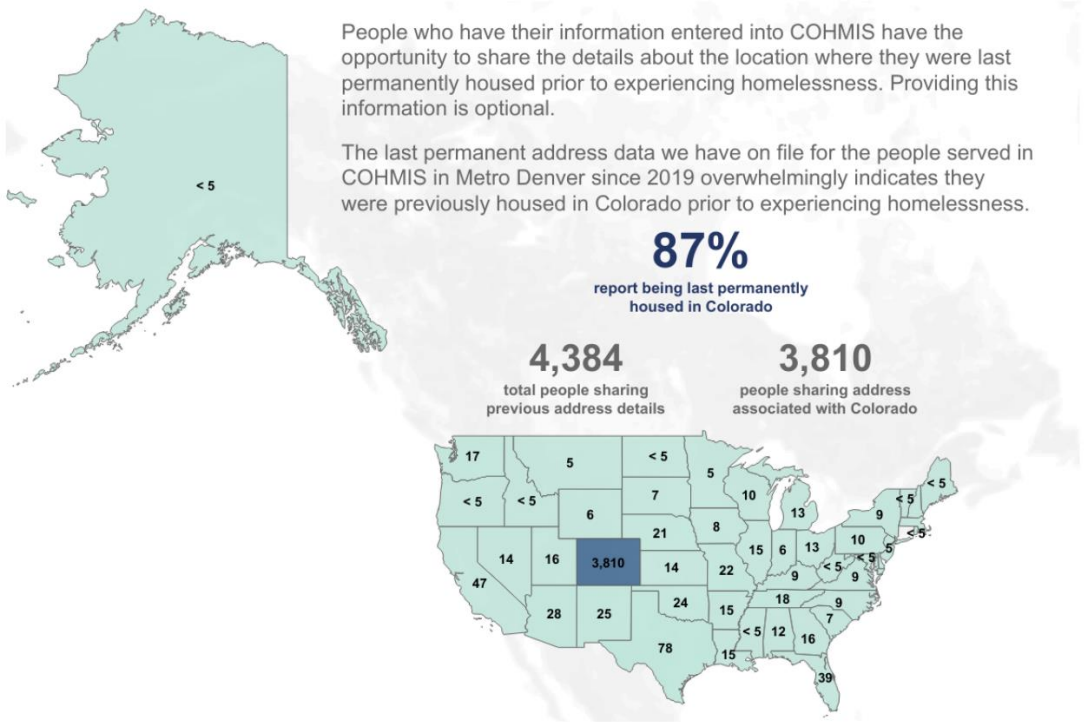
Fair Market Rent

People Last Housed in Colorado

PEOPLE ARE NOT MOVING TO COLORADO AND BECOMING HOMELESS

*Of the **4,384 people** who shared previous address information in HMIS, **87% report a last permanent address in Colorado**.*

87%
LAST HOUSED IN COLORADO

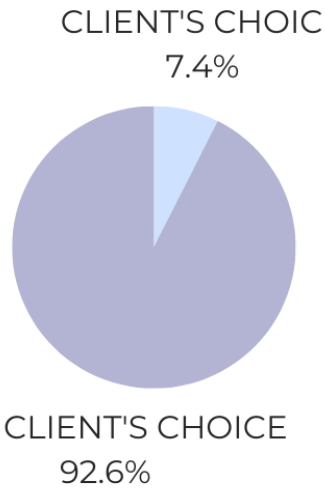


Homelessness is Rarely a Choice

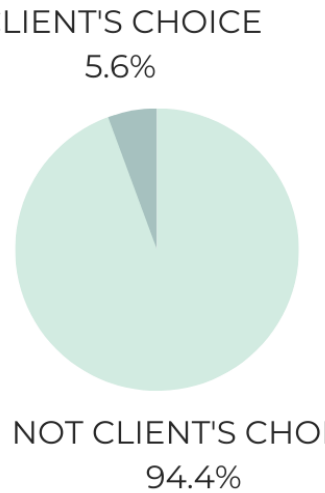
HOMELESSNESS IS RARELY A CHOICE

There is also a misconception about homelessness being a matter of 'personal choice.' However, our HMIS and Point in Time data indicate otherwise: ***the vast majority of respondents did not choose to experience homelessness.***

PIT DATA



HMIS DATA



Key Takeaways

What we can do to address homelessness

1

Approach homelessness as a solvable issue

2

Know who's experiencing homelessness by name, in real time

3

Create a response rooted in racial equity & lived expertise

4

Address the affordable housing and supportive services needs

5

Identify ongoing, sustainable funding stream(s)

Key Takeaways

Questions?