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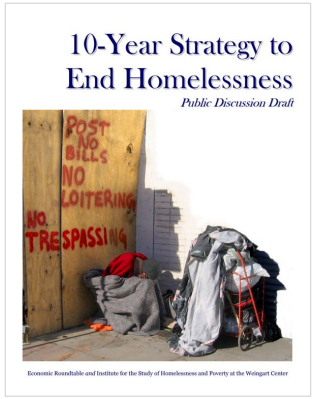
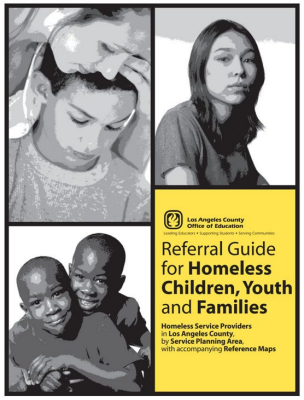
Employment as an Alternative to Chronic Homelessness

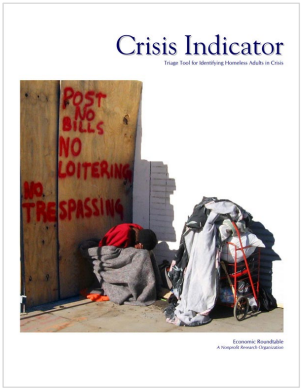
Predictive Screening Tools to Identify High-Risk Individuals for Intensive Early Intervention

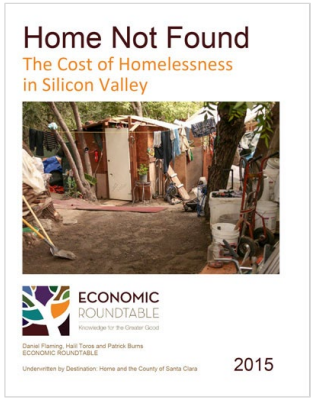
ERt's homeless research

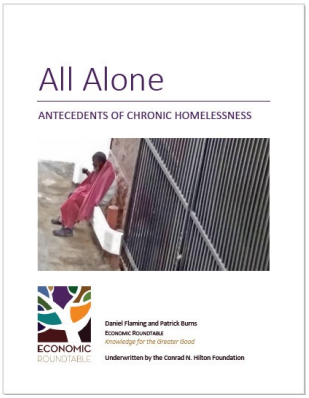
- *Accountability*
- *Personalization*
- *Resources*
- *Interventions*

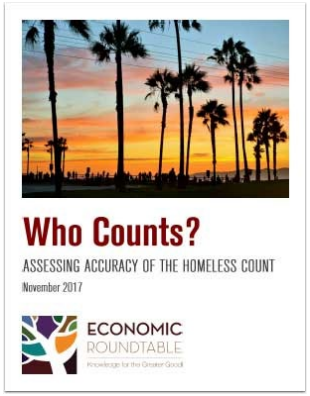


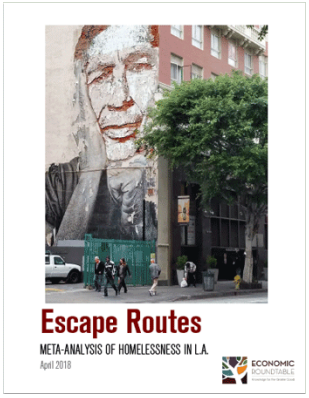


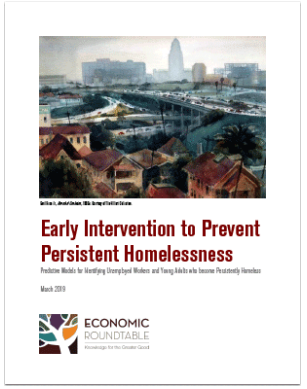












ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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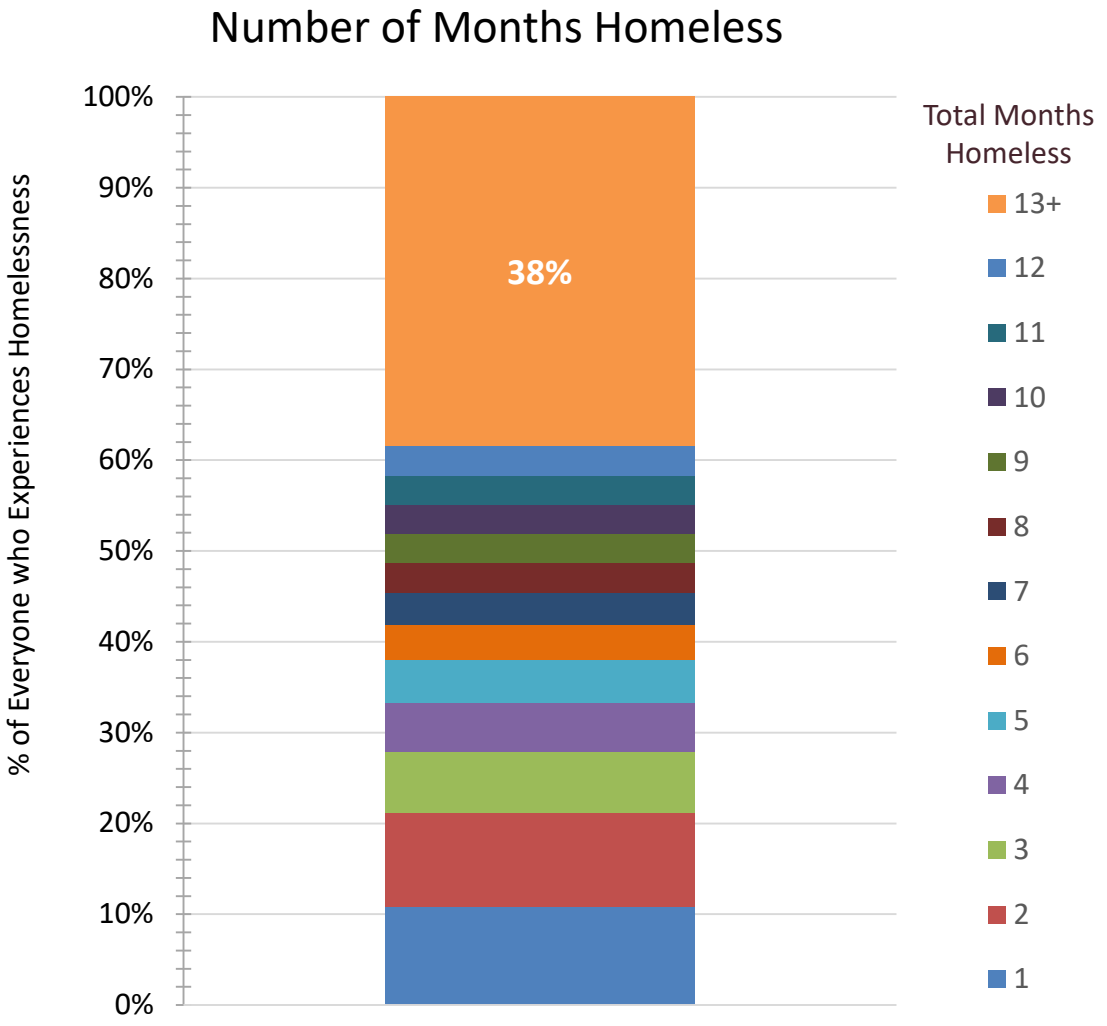
38% of people who become homeless don't find quick exits

- Crucial to give early help to the 38% of people who remain homeless for over 12 months.
- Many of these individuals will have ongoing, high public costs.
- Avoiding high future costs justifies the costs for comprehensive early intervention.

Identify high-risk homeless individuals earlier



Source: Linked administrative records of homeless individuals in Los Angeles County.

ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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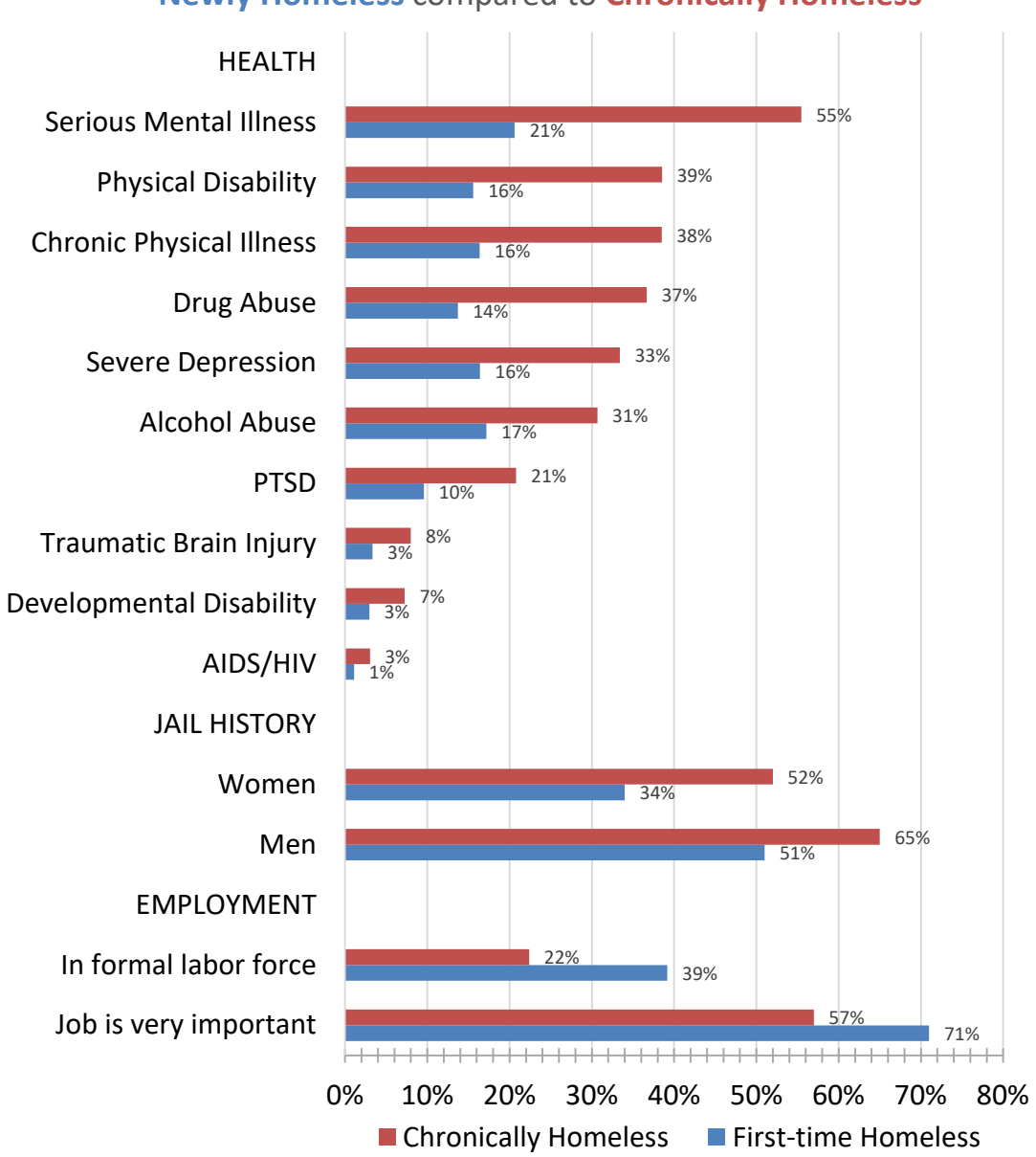
Extended homelessness is associated with extensive harm

1. Every reported *health* problem is 2 to 3 times more prevalent.
2. *Incarceration* histories increase, particularly among women.
3. Less interest in developing skills and finding a *job*.

Intervene on the first day rather than the last day



Source: LAHSA, 2016 and 2017 demographic surveys of unsheltered individuals.

ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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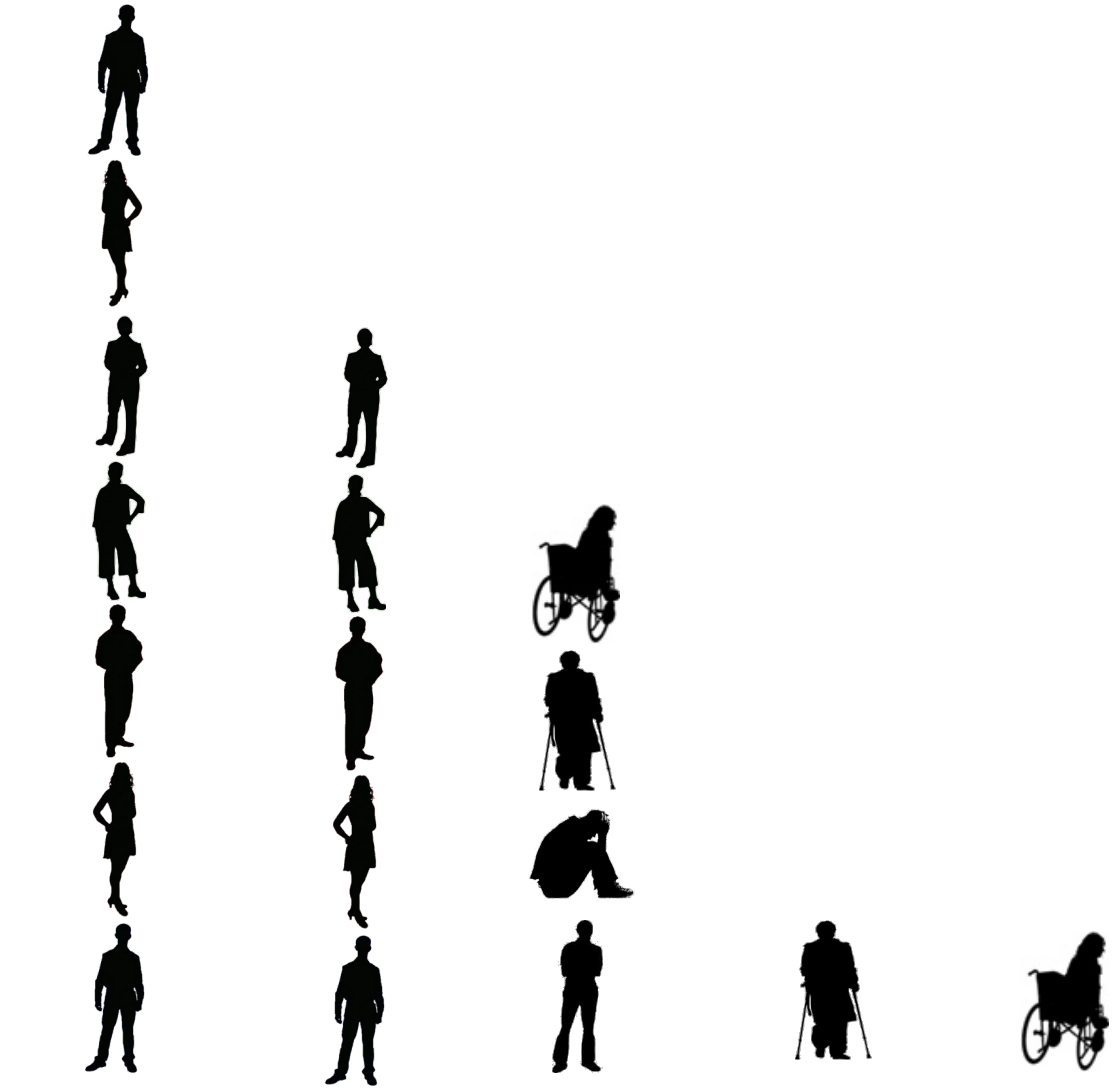
There's a solution for every person's problems, but there are no mass solutions

Homelessness is:

- *A **housing** problem*
- *An **income** problem*
- *A **social service** problem*

Needs of People Experiencing Homelessness

(each figure represents 10% of the population)



ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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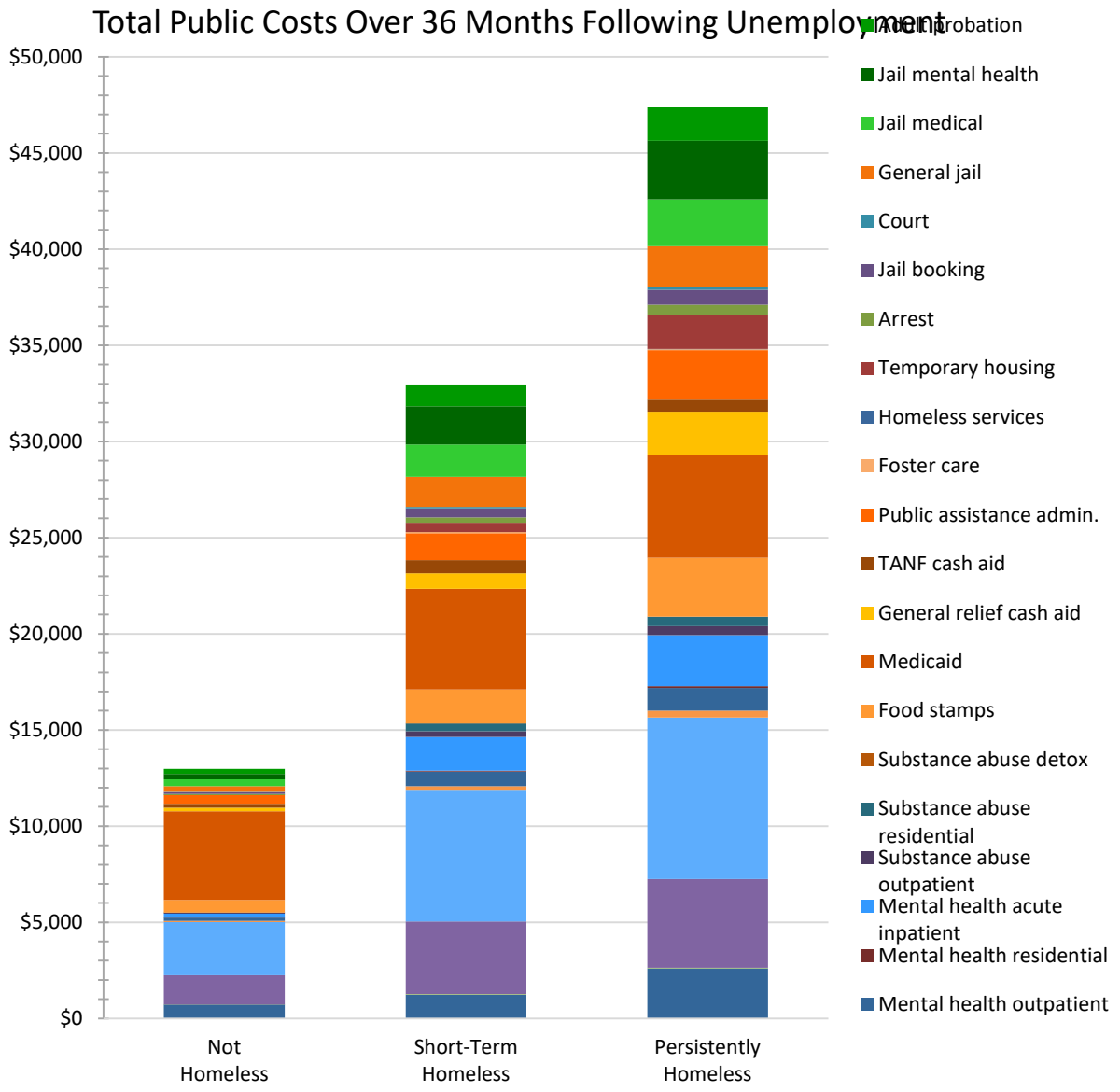
Average annual public cost of $15,800 for unemployed workers who become persistently homeless

The solution of employment is cheaper than the problem of homelessness



ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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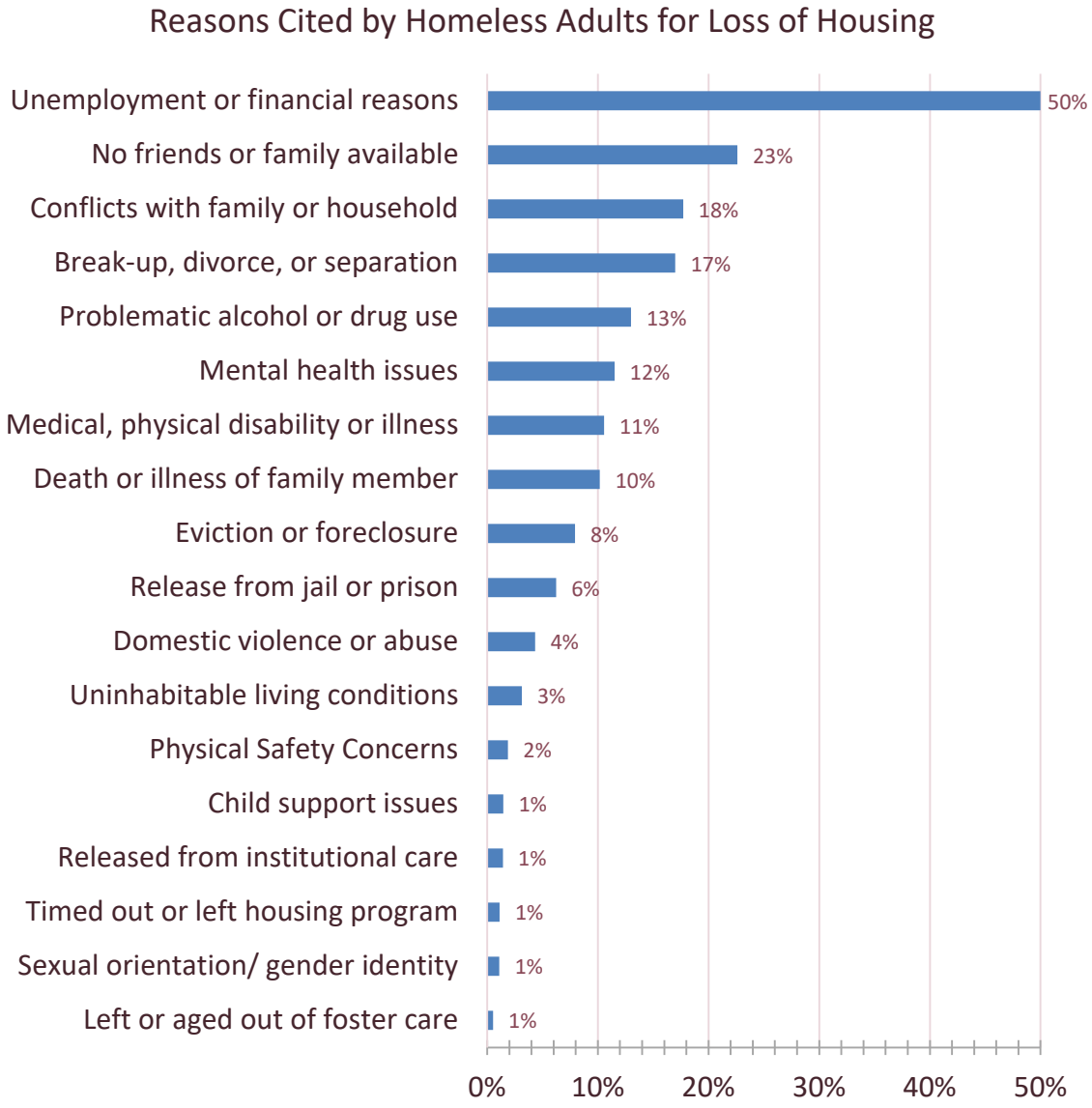
Unemployment is the reason identified most often for loss of housing

- Most homeless young adults and unemployed workers are looking for a job.
- **Re-employment reverses the path into homelessness.**



Source: LAHSA 2018 demographic survey of unsheltered adults. Respondents identified an average of two reasons, so total responses exceed 100%.

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Two-thirds of homeless adults do something to earn money

People most active in the formal labor market:

1. Young adults 18-24 years old – 59%
2. Parents with children – 49%
3. Newly homeless – 40%

Help homeless adults find decent jobs

ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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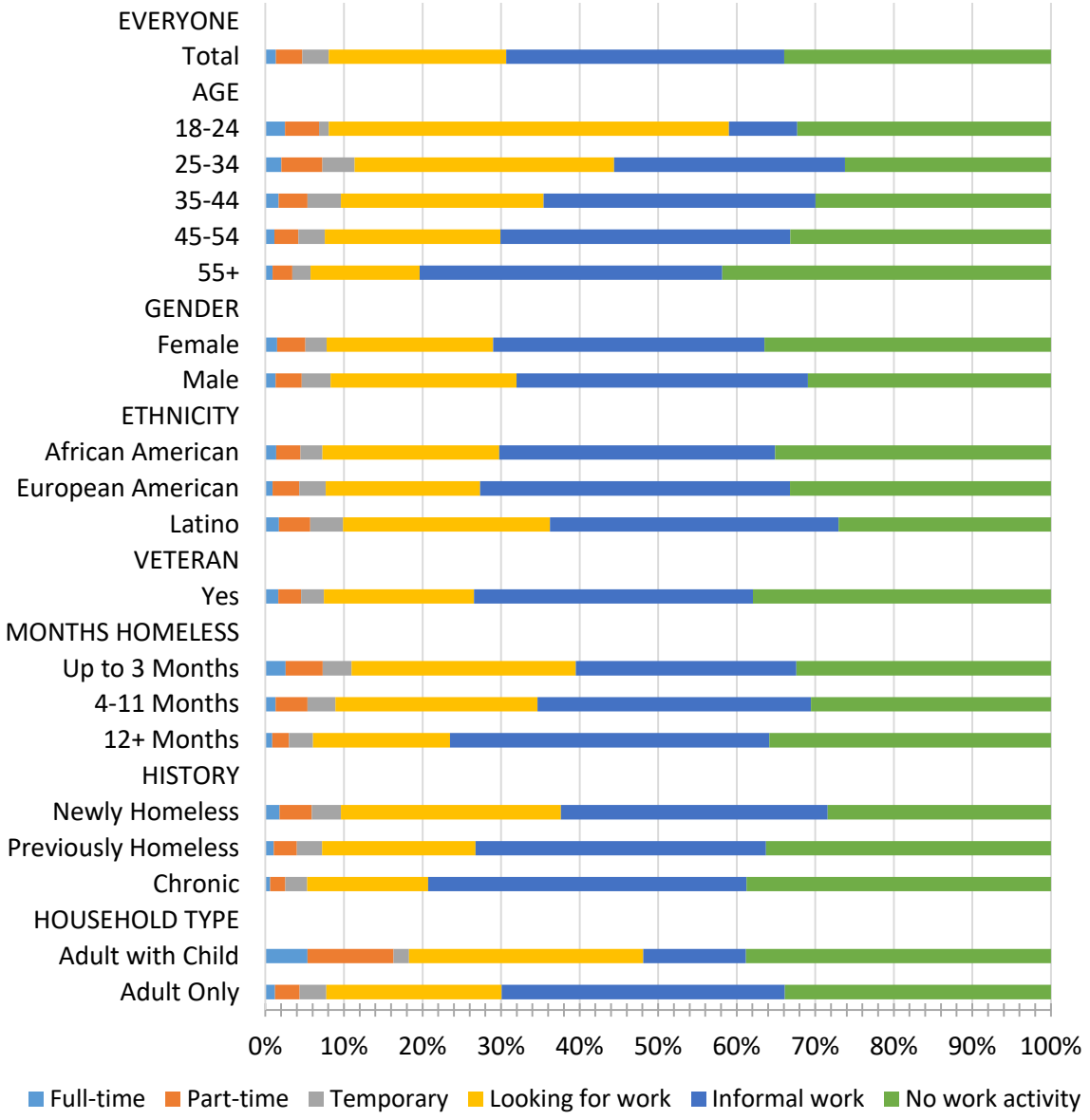
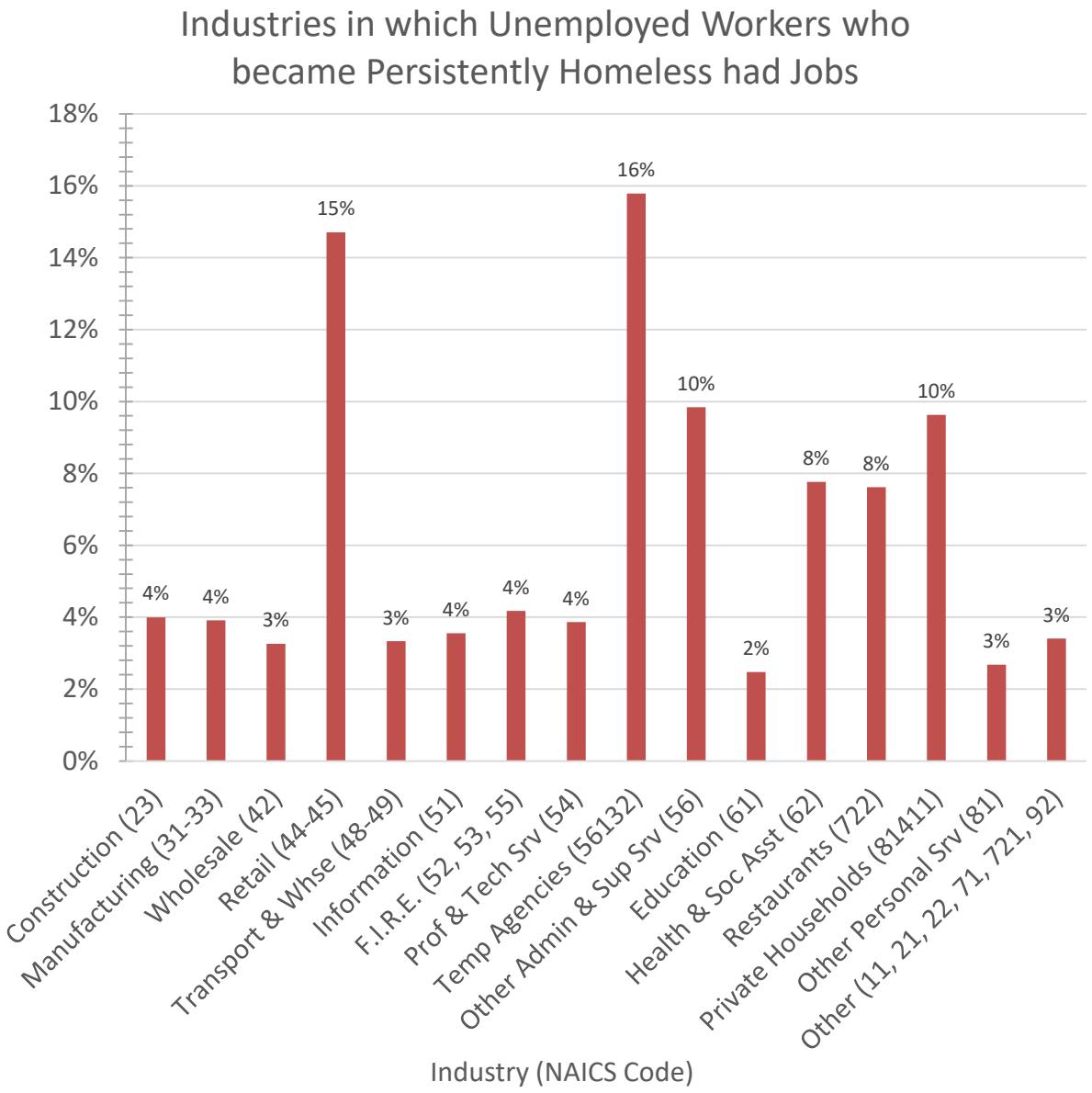
Employment Status of Unsheltered Homeless Adults



Sources: Average of LAHSA demographic surveys 2015, 2016 and 2017. Data shows adults 18 or more years of age.

Persistently homeless workers most frequently lost jobs in:

- Temp agencies
- Retail
- Private households
- Restaurants
- Health care and social assist.



Source: longitudinal linked administrative records of homeless individuals in Los Angeles County.

ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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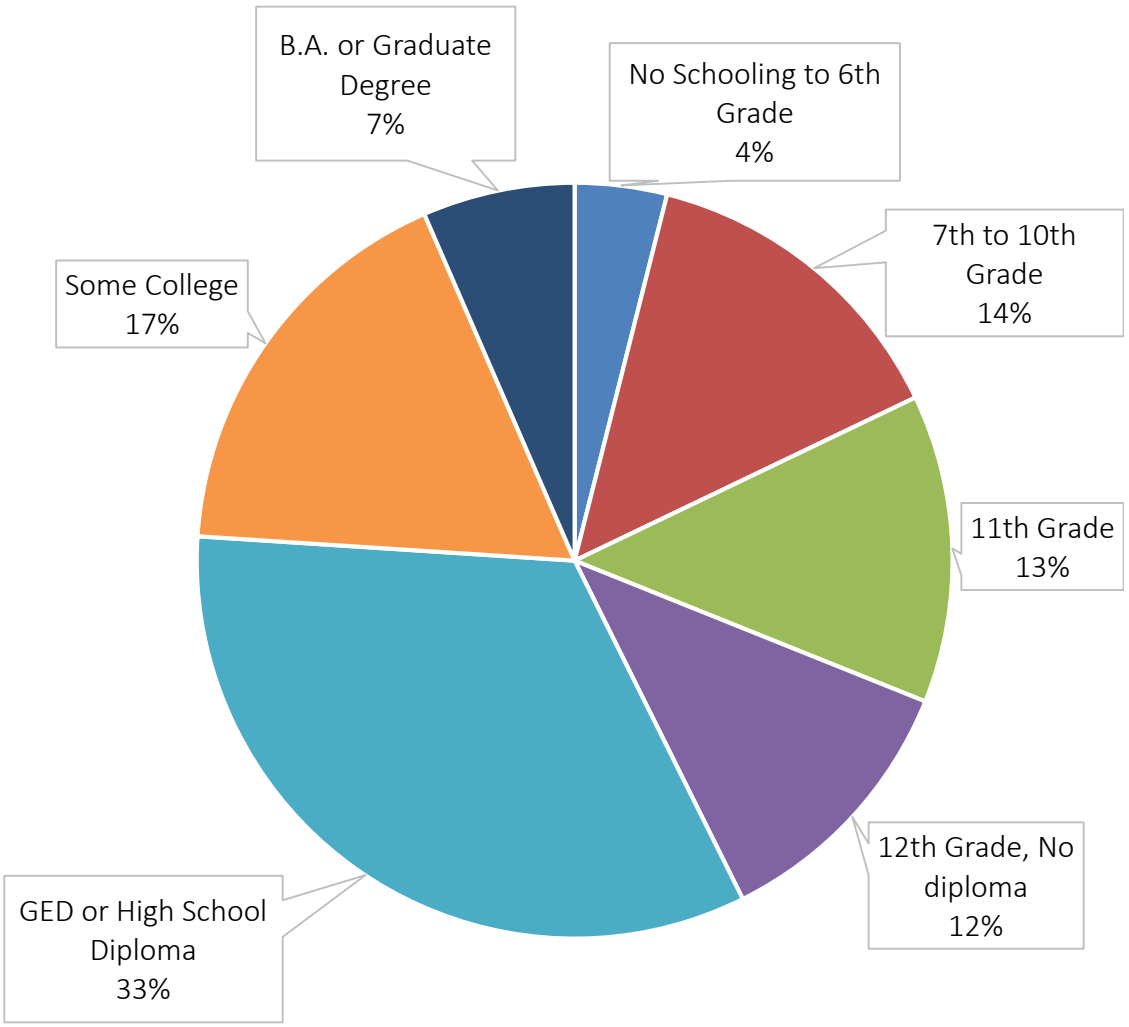
Many have basic skills

- 57% of homeless residents age 18+ reported having at least a high school degree
- 24% have college experience.
- Many have educational attainments that typically enable individuals to be part of the labor force and consistently earn an income.
- **BUT** many need skill training for better jobs



ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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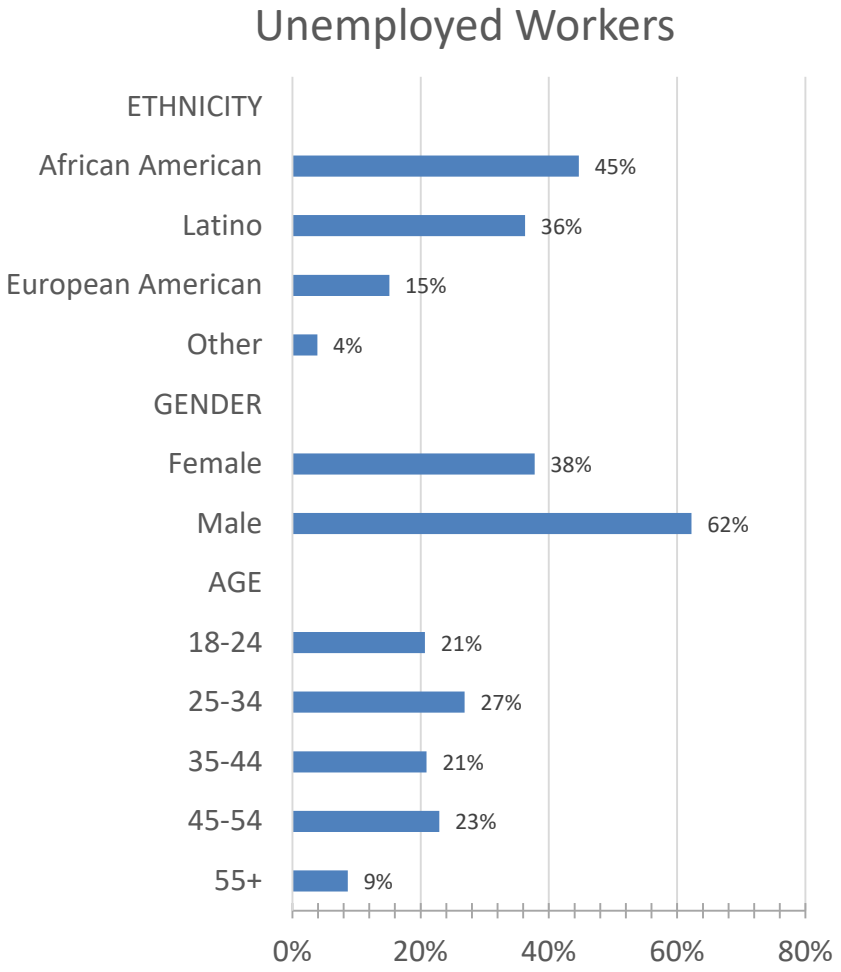
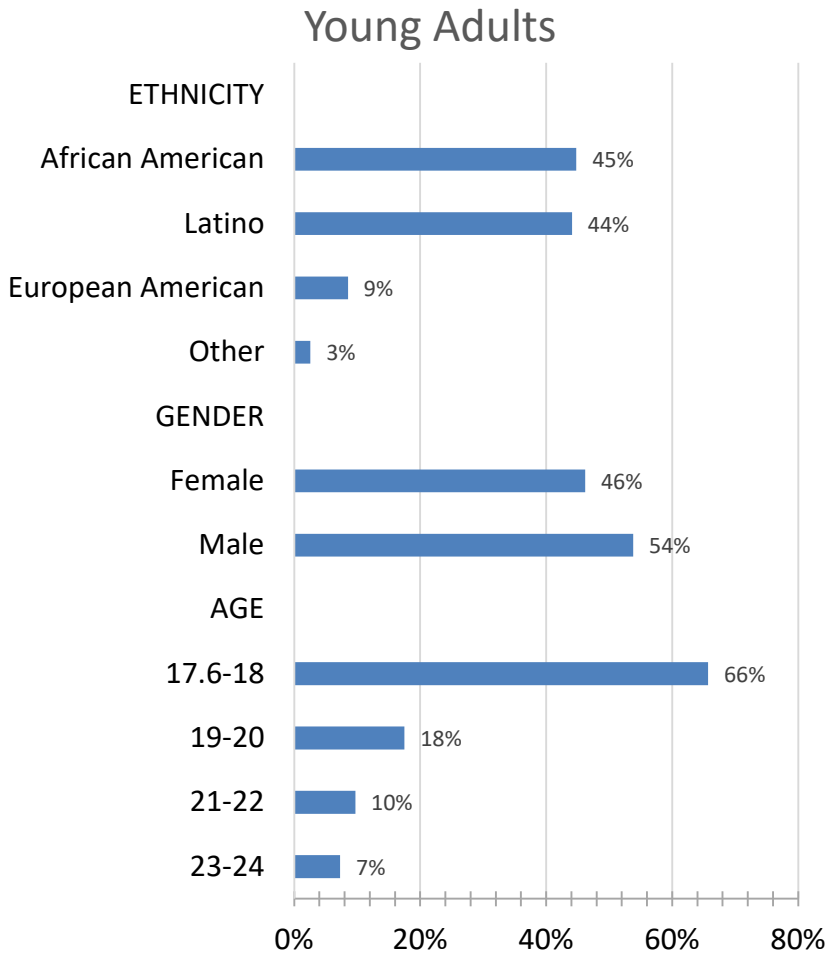
Sources: Weighted average of LAHSA 2017 demographic survey and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data for shelter residents in January 2013. Data is for persons 18+ years of age.

Demographics of persistently homeless individuals





ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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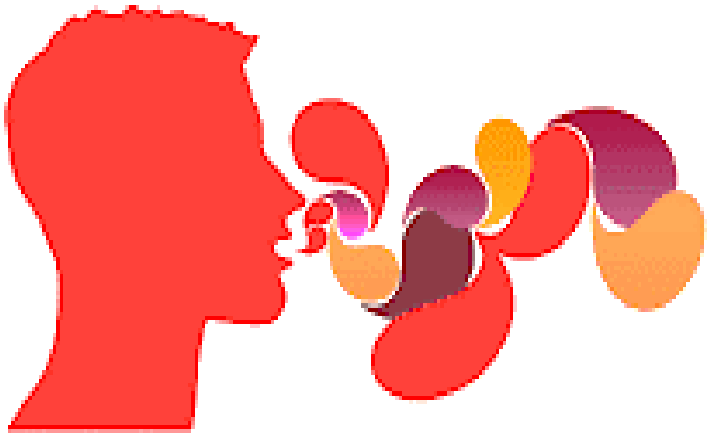
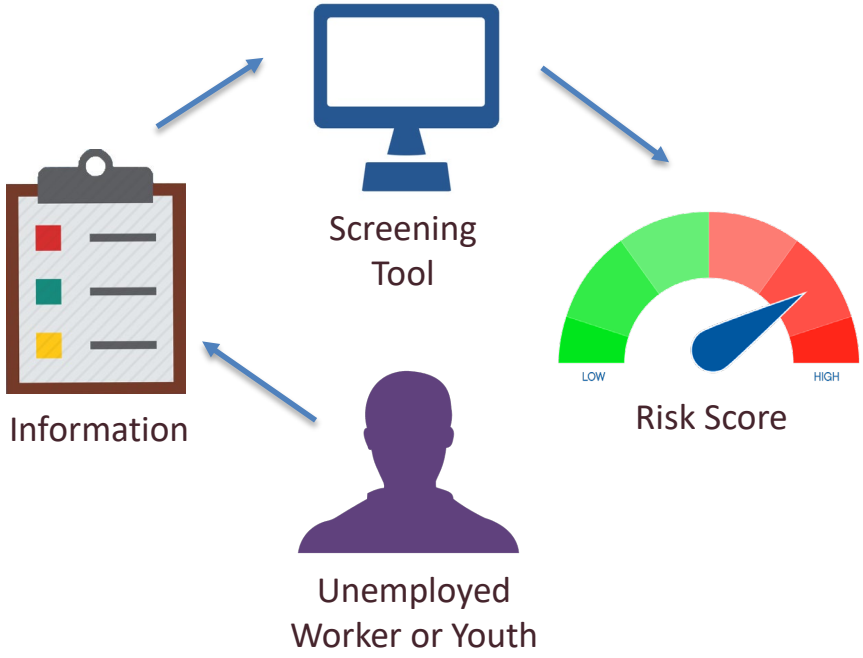
Source: longitudinal linked administrative records of homeless individuals in Los Angeles County. Age is at time of screening.

Predictive screening process





Protecting Human Subjects

- All survey activity and records about participants must conform to the research protocol approved by ERt's Institutional Review Board
- Protocol covers informed consent, risks to individuals surveyed, benefits, data security for information about individuals, and restrictions on access to information

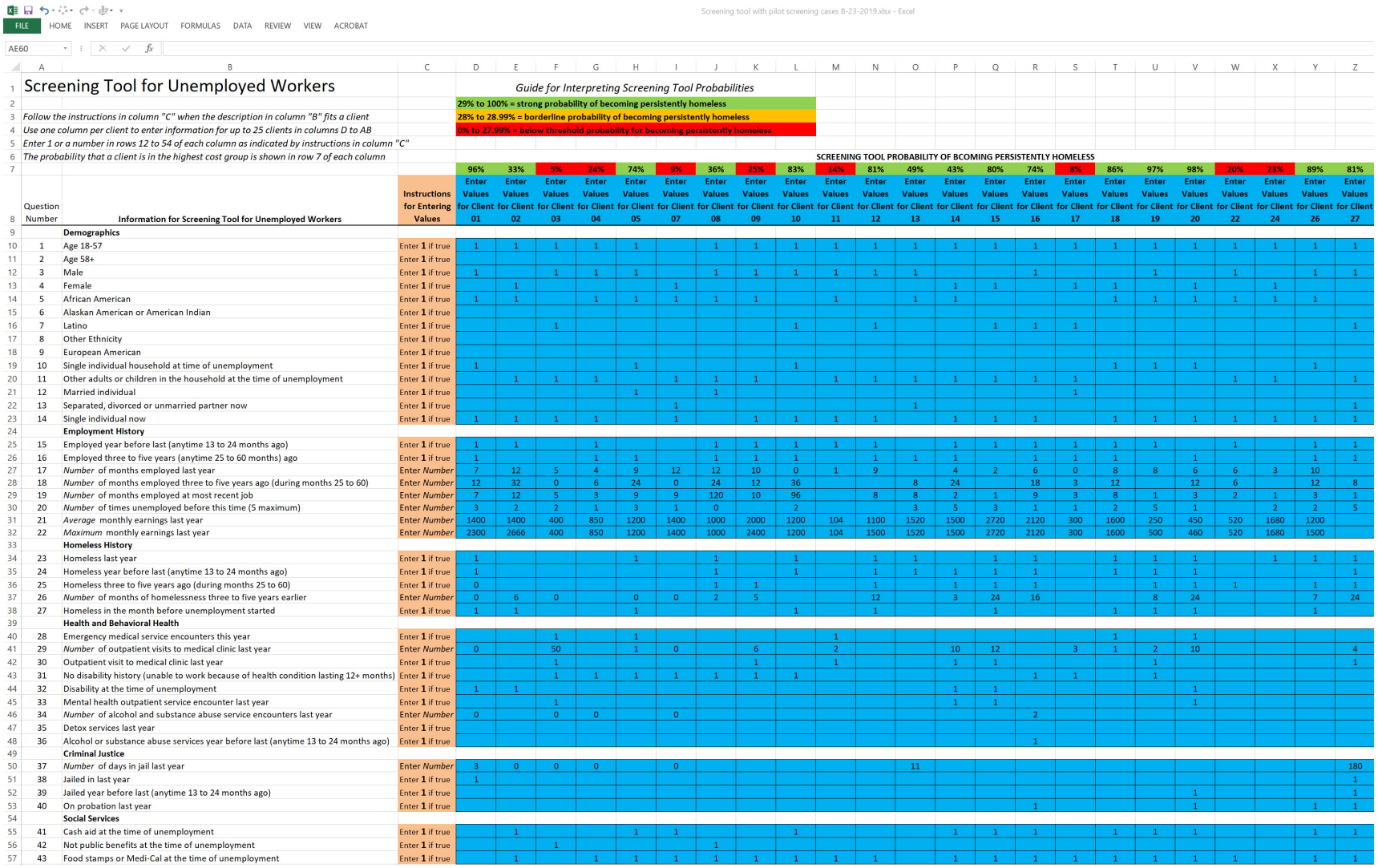
Collecting information

- Interview about demographics and history of work , mental health, health care, drugs, jail, social services, and homelessness

Screening

- Information entered into statistical algorithm that estimates the probability of persistent homelessness
- Option for clinical override of score
- Eligible individuals enrolled and given comprehensive help

Screening tool in Excel spreadsheet



Screening tool with pilot screening cases 8-23-2019.xlsx - Excel

FILE HOME INSERT PAGE LAYOUT FORMULAS DATA REVIEW VIEW ACROBAT

AE60

Screening Tool for Unemployed Workers

Guide for Interpreting Screening Tool Probabilities

29% to 100% = strong probability of becoming persistently homeless

28% to 28.99% = borderline probability of becoming persistently homeless

0% to 27.99% = below threshold probability for becoming persistently homeless

Follow the instructions in column "C" when the description in column "B" fits a client

Use one column per client to enter information for up to 25 clients in columns D to AB

Enter 1 or a number in rows 12 to 54 of each column as indicated by instructions in column "C"

The probability that a client is in the highest cost group is shown in row 7 of each column

SCREENING TOOL PROBABILITY OF BCOMING PERSISTENTLY HOMELESS

				96%	33%	5%	24%	74%	9%	36%	25%	83%	14%	81%	49%	43%	80%	74%	8%	86%	97%	98%	20%	23%	89%	81%
Question Number	Information for Screening Tool for Unemployed Workers	Instructions for Entering Values		Enter Values for Client 01	Enter Values for Client 02	Enter Values for Client 03	Enter Values for Client 04	Enter Values for Client 05	Enter Values for Client 07	Enter Values for Client 08	Enter Values for Client 09	Enter Values for Client 10	Enter Values for Client 11	Enter Values for Client 12	Enter Values for Client 13	Enter Values for Client 14	Enter Values for Client 15	Enter Values for Client 16	Enter Values for Client 17	Enter Values for Client 18	Enter Values for Client 19	Enter Values for Client 20	Enter Values for Client 22	Enter Values for Client 24	Enter Values for Client 26	Enter Values for Client 27
	Demographics																									
1	Age 18-57	Enter **1** if true		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	Age 58+	Enter **1** if true																								
3	Male	Enter **1** if true		1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1			1		1		1	1
4	Female	Enter **1** if true			1				1							1	1		1			1		1		
5	African American	Enter **1** if true		1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	
6	Alaskan American or American Indian	Enter **1** if true																								
7	Latino	Enter **1** if true				1						1		1			1	1	1							1
8	Other Ethnicity	Enter **1** if true																								
9	European American	Enter **1** if true																								
10	Single individual household at time of unemployment	Enter **1** if true		1				1				1								1	1	1			1	
11	Other adults or children in the household at the time of unemployment	Enter **1** if true			1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1		1
12	Married individual	Enter **1** if true						1		1									1							
13	Separated, divorced or unmarried partner now	Enter **1** if true							1						1											1
14	Single individual now	Enter **1** if true		1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Employment History																									
15	Employed year before last (anytime 13 to 24 months ago)	Enter **1** if true		1	1		1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1
16	Employed three to five years (anytime 25 to 60 months) ago	Enter **1** if true		1			1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1		1			1	1
17	*Number* of months employed last year	Enter *Number*		7	12	5	4	9	12	12	10	0	1	9		4	2	6	0	8	8	6	6	3	10	
18	*Number* of months employed three to five years ago (during months 25 to 60)	Enter *Number*		12	32	0	6	24	0	24	12	36			8	24		18	3	12		12	6		12	8
19	*Number* of months employed at most recent job	Enter *Number*		7	12	5	3	9	9	120	10	96		8	8	2	1	9	3	8	1	3	2	1	3	1
20	*Number* of times unemployed before this time (5 maximum)	Enter *Number*		3	2	2	1	3	1	0		2			3	5	3	1	1	2	5	1		2	2	5
21	*Average* monthly earnings last year	Enter *Number*		1400	1400	400	850	1200	1400	1000	2000	1200	104	1100	1520	1500	2720	2120	300	1600	250	450	520	1680	1200	
22	*Maximum* monthly earnings last year	Enter *Number*		2300	2666	400	850	1200	1400	1000	2400	1200	104	1500	1520	1500	2720	2120	300	1600	500	460	520	1680	1500	
	Homeless History																									
23	Homeless last year	Enter **1** if true		1				1		1		1		1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1
24	Homeless year before last (anytime 13 to 24 months ago)	Enter **1** if true		1						1		1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1				1
25	Homeless three to five years ago (during months 25 to 60)	Enter **1** if true		0						1	1			1		1	1	1			1	1	1		1	1
26	*Number* of months of homelessness three to five years earlier	Enter *Number*		0	6	0		0	0	2	5			12		3	24	16			8	24			7	24
27	Homeless in the month before unemployment started	Enter **1** if true		1	1			1				1		1			1			1	1	1			1	
	Health and Behavioral Health																									
28	Emergency medical service encounters this year	Enter **1** if true				1		1					1							1		1				
29	*Number* of outpatient visits to medical clinic last year	Enter *Number*		0		50		1	0		6		2			10	12		3	1	2	10				4
30	Outpatient visit to medical clinic last year	Enter **1** if true				1					1		1			1	1				1					1
31	No disability history (unable to work because of health condition lasting 12+ months)	Enter **1** if true				1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	1		1					
32	Disability at the time of unemployment	Enter **1** if true		1	1											1	1					1				
33	Mental health outpatient service encounter last year	Enter **1** if true				1										1	1					1				
34	*Number* of alcohol and substance abuse service encounters last year	Enter *Number*		0		0	0		0									2								
35	Detox services last year	Enter **1** if true																								
36	Alcohol or substance abuse services year before last (anytime 13 to 24 months ago)	Enter **1** if true																1								
	Criminal Justice																									
37	*Number* of days in jail last year	Enter *Number*		3	0	0	0		0						11											180
38	Jailed in last year	Enter **1** if true		1																						1
39	Jailed year before last (anytime 13 to 24 months ago)	Enter **1** if true																				1				1
40	On probation last year	Enter **1** if true																1				1			1	1
	Social Services																									
41	Cash aid at the time of unemployment	Enter **1** if true			1			1	1			1				1	1	1		1	1	1			1	1
42	Not public benefits at the time of unemployment	Enter **1** if true				1				1																
43	Food stamps or Medi-Cal at the time of unemployment	Enter **1** if true			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1

ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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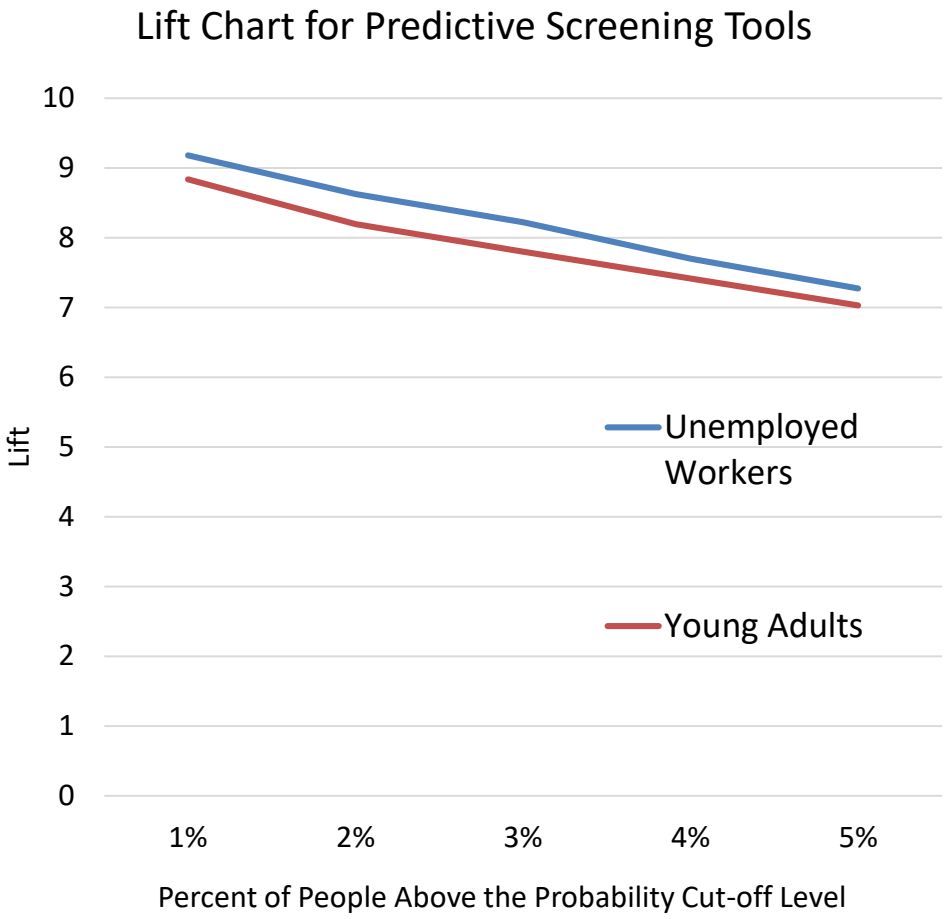
Predictive screening tools enable more accurate targeting of early interventions

- Two screening tools identify high-risk individuals in two groups:
  - Unemployed workers
  - Young adults
- When targeting individuals most at risk, the tools are 9 times more accurate than random selection
- "Lift" is a statistical metric of successful identification when using versus not using the predictive screening tools
- 30 to 50 pieces of information used to estimate the probability of persistent homeless within 3 years



ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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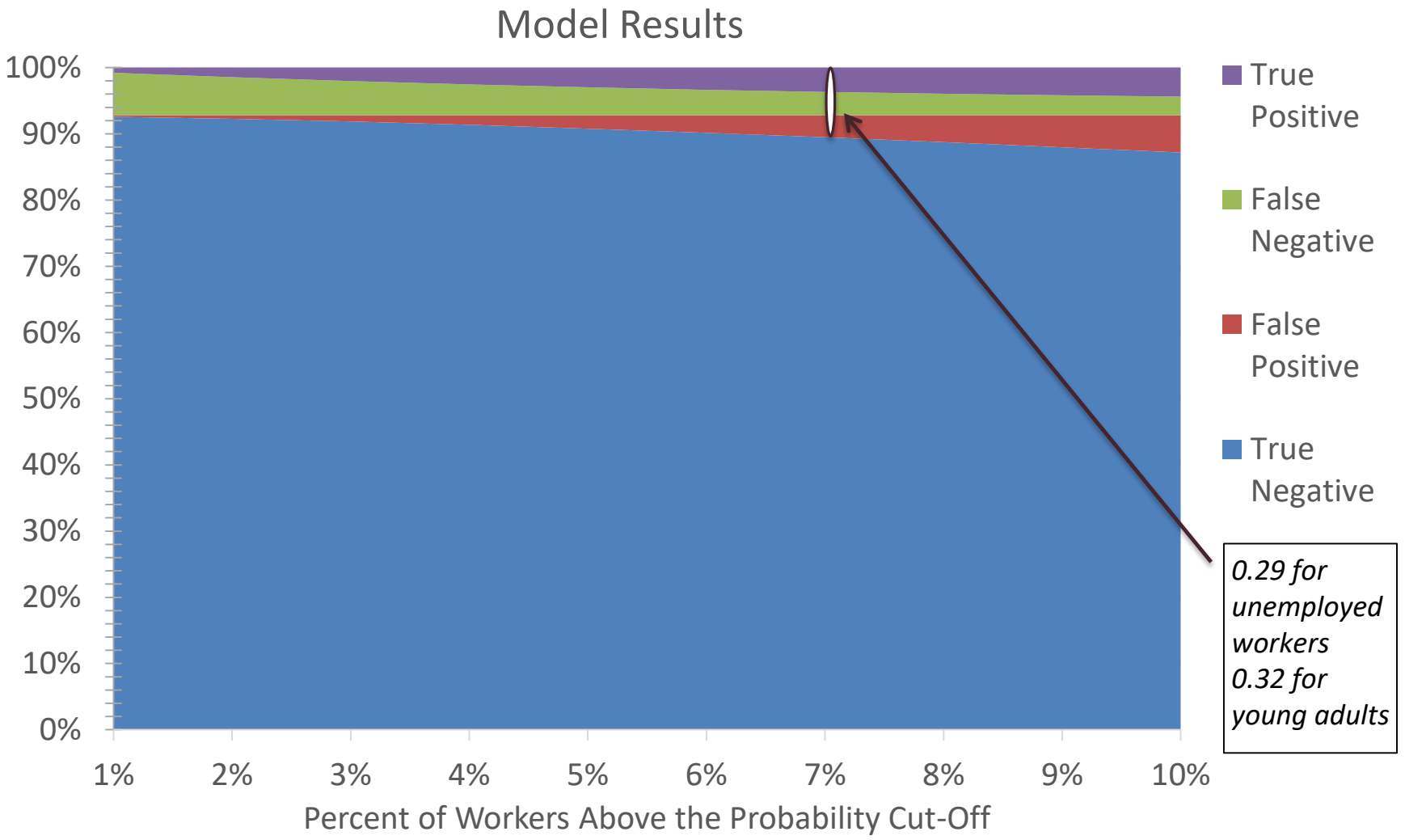
Source: Economic Roundtable predictive models developed using longitudinal linked administrative records of over 1,000,000 residents of Los Angeles County who experienced homelessness. The population includes recipients of any type of public benefits: food stamps, Medi-Cal, cash aid.

Screening tool cut-off scores for eligible individuals



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