

*2025 Innovations and Solutions for Ending
Unsheltered Homelessness*

**Navigating Mental Health
Care Access Among the
Homeless Population in
Orange County, FL**



**College of
Medicine**




**A Qualitative Analysis of
Barriers and Interventions**

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Overview

- Term Definition
- The Problem
- Introduction
- Project Objectives
- Methodology

- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Limitations
- Acknowledgments



**What is one word
that comes to mind
when you think of
Mental Healthcare?**

Please answer in the Whova App if you have not already.

Define the Pertinent Terms...



What is Homelessness?

Four Categories:

1. Literally no Home
2. At-Risk for no Home
3. Under Federal Statutes
4. Fleeing Domestic Violence

75%

Increase in Central
Florida homelessness
since 2019 ¹

Is this a Problem?

- Lack of Stable Housing
- Lack of Social Support
- Lack of Access to Healthcare



What about Mental Health?

Homelessness is a pervasive issue in the U.S., particularly in Orange County, Florida.

The homeless population faces disproportionate rates of mental health disorders, compounded by barriers to accessing care.



Objectives

Objective 1:

Identify barriers to mental health care access for the homeless.

Objective 2:

Investigate existing healthcare utilization patterns.

Objective 3:

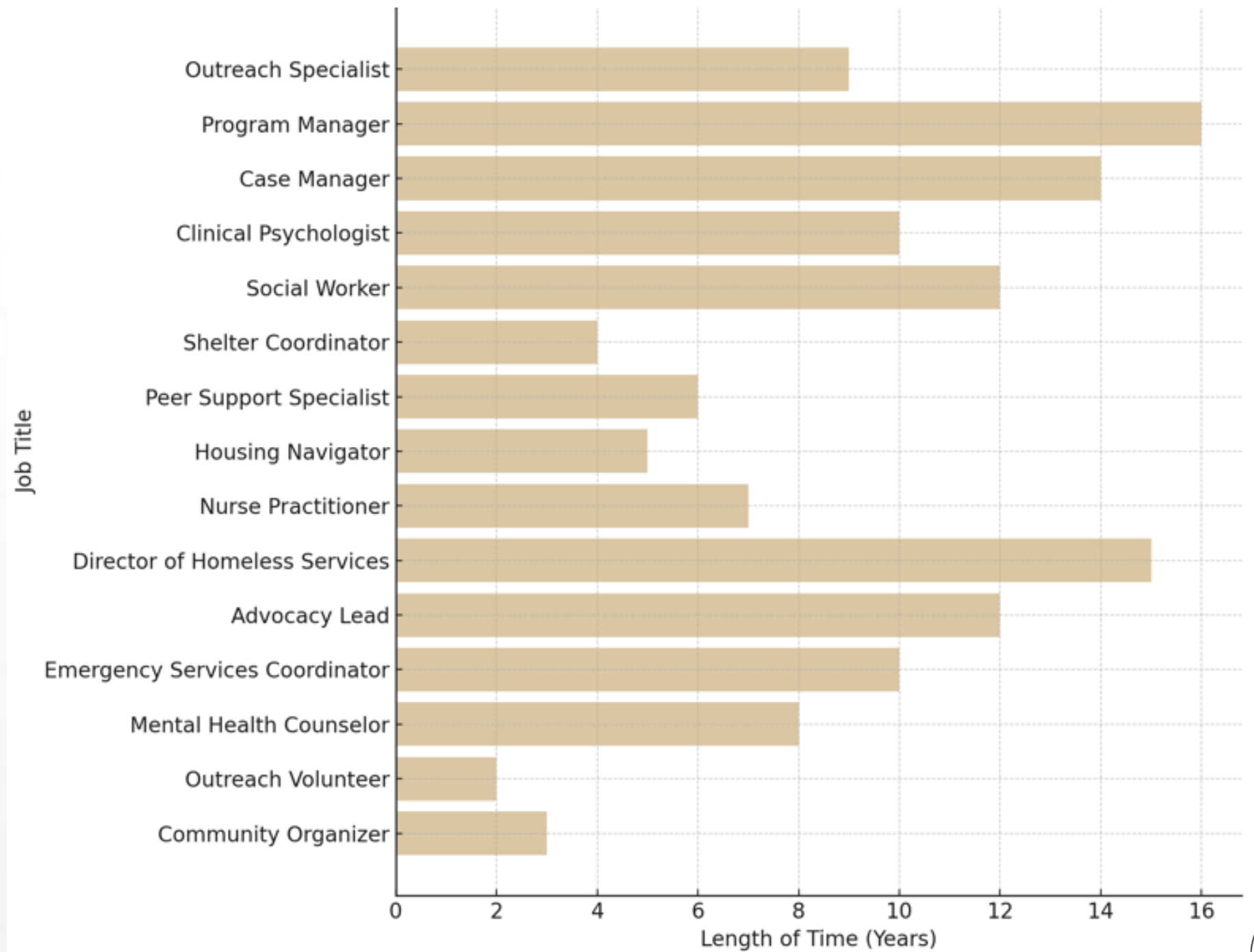
Formulate actionable strategies to improve mental health service delivery.

Methodology

Qualitative Method:

- ✓ Snowball Recruitment
- ✓ Semi-structured interviews
- ✓ Thematic Analysis

Study Demographics



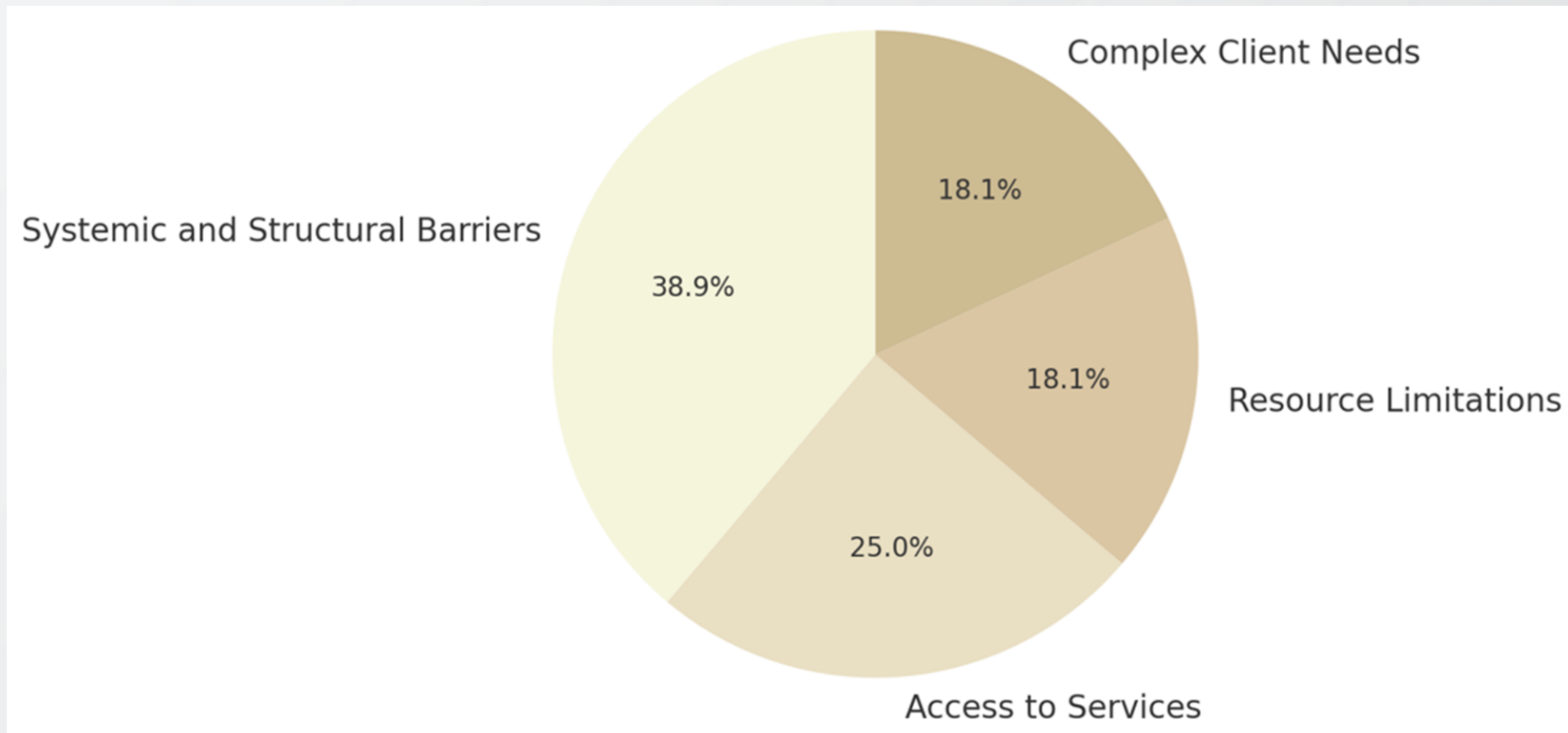
Thematic Analysis

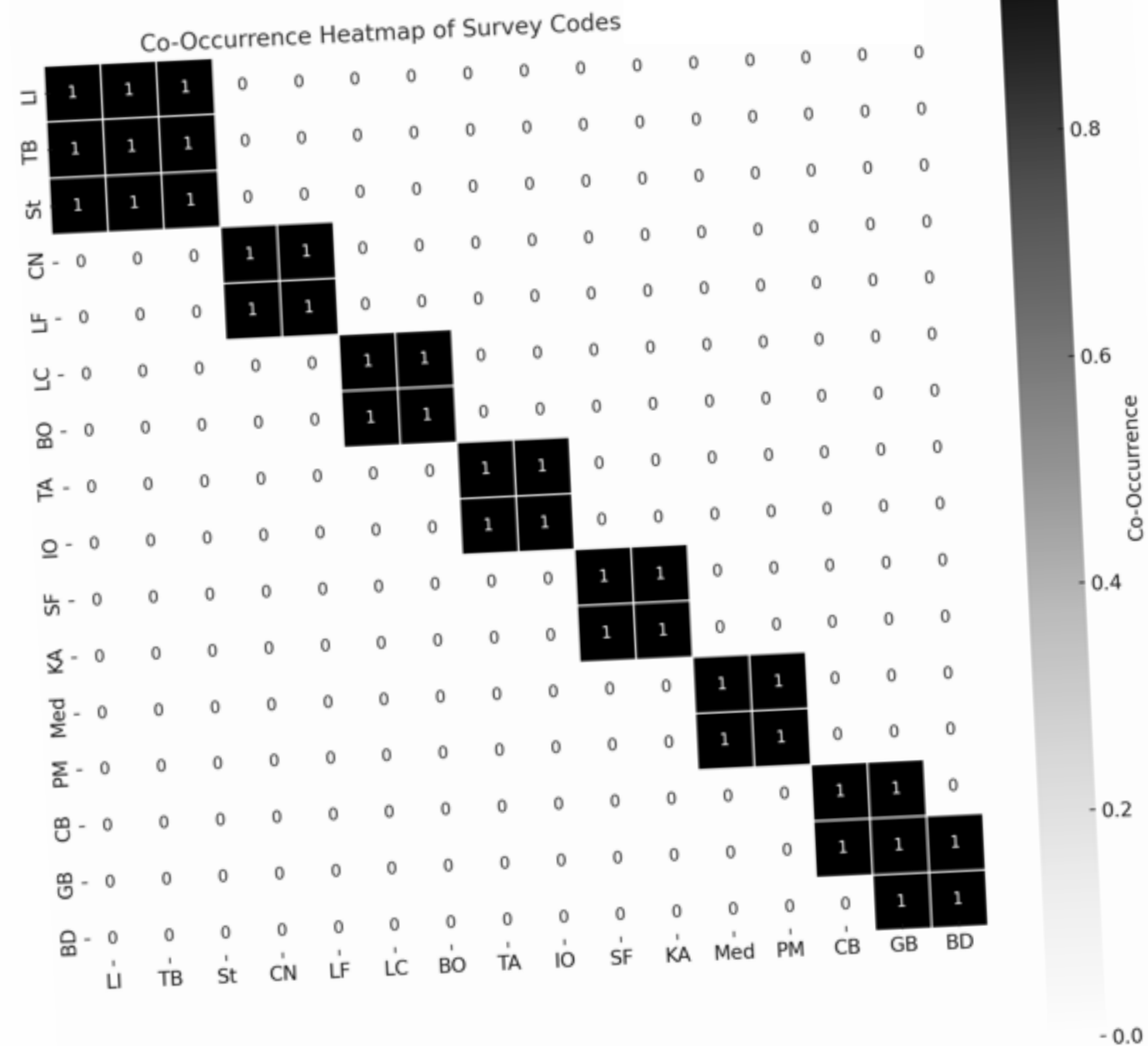
Theme	Representative Quote
Barriers to Access	“When you don't have a car or money for the bus, getting to an appointment is next to impossible.”
Stigma and Public Perception	“People think being homeless means you're dangerous, which makes it harder to seek help.”
Systemic Challenges	“The system isn't designed for people without a permanent address.”
Effective Interventions	“Bringing mental health services to the streets makes all the difference.”



Thematic Analysis

38.9% Systemic and Structural Barriers





Thematic Co-Occurrence

*Numerous
interconnections noted.*



Implementation

Strategy 1:

Service Integration

Strategy 2:

Trauma-Informed Care

Strategy 3:

Peer Support

Strategy 4:

Enhanced Outreach





Conclusion

Main Barriers: Structural and Systemic aspects of the mental healthcare delivery

Addressing barriers requires collaborative, holistic approaches

Implementing targeted strategies can enhance access, reduce disparities, and improve outcomes





Limitations

- Focus on provider perspectives
- Length of the Study



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References:



Questions?

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