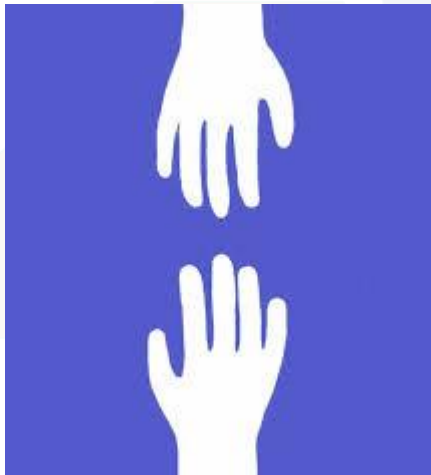


Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter in Homeless Seniors

Dr. Pia Valvassori





HOMELESSNESS

A GROWING CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES

- 3 to 3.5 Million People Experience Homelessness EVERY YEAR in the United States
- People experiencing homelessness (PEH) increased by 18% between 2023 and 2024
- On any given night in 2024, over half a million people (approximately 750,000 people) were experiencing homelessness – 60% of them sleeping sheltered and 40% sleeping UNSHELTERED
- Families with children experiencing homelessness increased by 33% between 2023 and 2024 – nearly 39% of households experiencing homelessness were those with children



HOMELESSNESS

A GROWING CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES

- 28% of PEH in 2023 were ages 55 or older – a percentage which is expected to increase significantly 2030 – and almost half of them were sleeping unsheltered; almost 10% of PEH were older than 65
- Continuous rise in homelessness since 2021 attributed in part due to increased evictions as COVID-restrictions and eviction moratoria were lifted, asylum seekers overwhelming shelter systems, stagnant wages
- 75% of increased occurred in states hardest hit by asylum seekers and natural disasters: Hawaii, New York, Massachusetts, Colorado and Illinois



HOMELESS SENIORS

- Compared to the general population, people experiencing homelessness (PEH) are aging at a faster rate and have similar illnesses/ functional impairments to housed people 20 years their senior.
- PEH have an average life expectancy of 50 years compared to 79 years in the general population, with a 10-fold higher mortality rate.
- Older adults face greater challenges exiting homelessness due to decreased work opportunities and an increased burden of chronic disabling conditions.
- Skyrocketing rental prices causing an increase in homelessness in Orlando according to anecdotal evidence from community partners and medical providers who work with Orlando's unsheltered population.

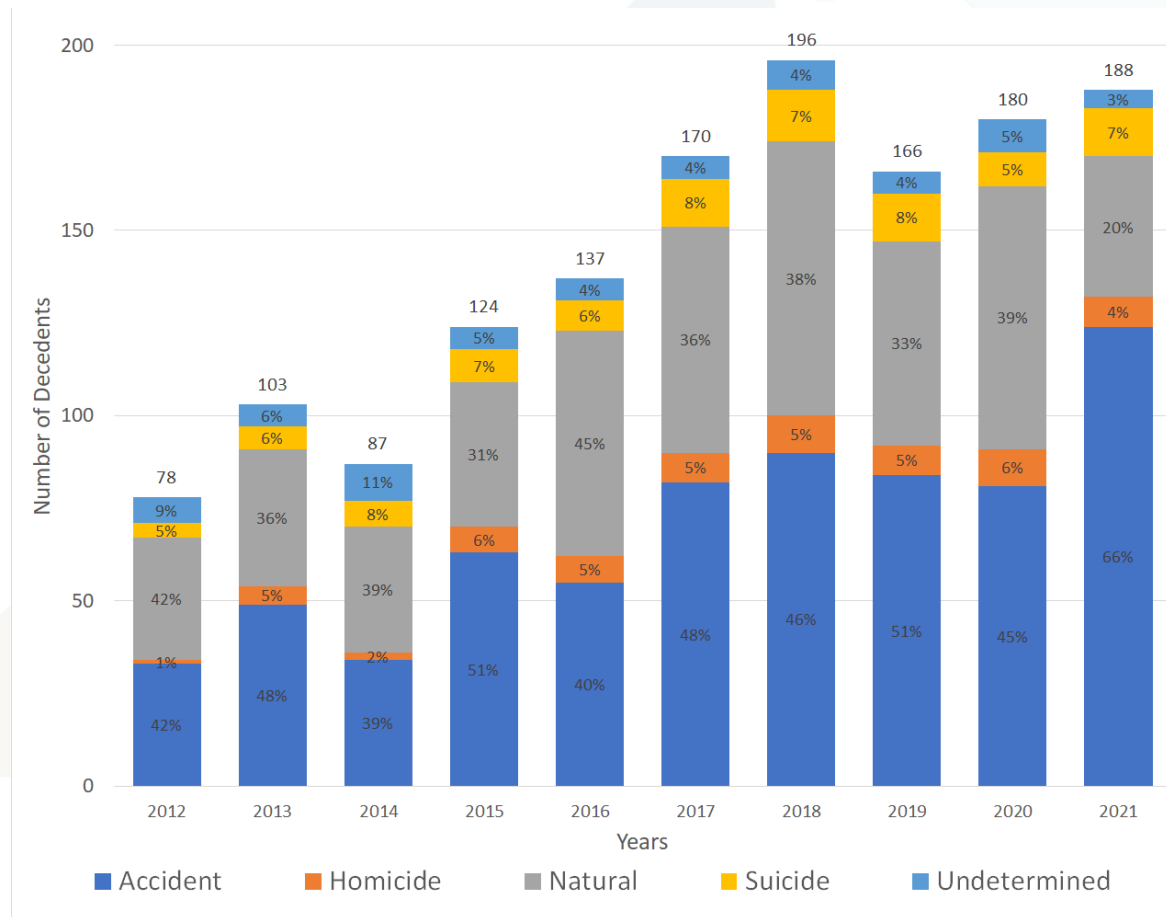


Health Challenges

- Memory loss, falls, difficulty performing ADL's, cognitive impairments, hearing loss, malnutrition, frailty, urinary incontinence
- Exacerbations of chronic disease: Hypertension, Arthritis, Pulmonary Disease, Infectious Disease
- Higher rates of ER visits



Mortality



- Natural causes of death include heart disease, infectious diseases, cancers and complications of diabetes
- Accidental deaths include unintentional overdose



Forces Impacting Housing Crisis

- Lifting of COVID-19 era restrictions and eviction moratoria
- Medicaid unwinding post-covid – 20 million disenrolled, disproportionately affects minority populations
- Economic factors – rise in cost of housing, inflation, unmatched wages to inflation/cost of living
- Florida saw the largest % rise in homelessness between 2022-2023
- Criminalization of Homelessness – Supreme Court Case – City of Grants Pass, Oregon vs Johnson
- Opiate Crisis



Pilot Implementation

- One year duration
- Intent to provide safe, supportive emergency shelter and aid in transition of care
- Goal is to keep LOS less than 90 days
- Time to access health/BH and income supports to ensure transition in care
- November 2024 start date
- Currently 5 residents
- Average age 64
- Increased ER visits, hospital admissions and length of stays



Partnerships

- Assisted living facilities
- Hospital systems
- Permanent supportive housing providers, homeless service providers



Gaps identified

- Need for ADA accessible units
- Services to assist with aging in place-wound care, assistance with ADL's, med management
- Improved systems to enhance data sharing
- Improved partnerships with managed care organizations to assist in subsidizing case management and other supports



Scope of Services



24-hour access to a bed



3 meals per day



Transportation to any/all medical appointments



Care Coordination



Safe space to store personal items



Access to a phone for telehealth and/or communications related to medical needs



Wellness check at least once every 24 hours by medical respite staff (clinical or non-clinical)



