

## Safer Communities for Disabled Individuals and Communities

### INTRO:

- Who cares?
- Individuals experiencing homelessness, especially those who have the intersecting identities of experiencing homelessness and having a disability
- Members of the local community

### Important Facts:

- The McKinney Vento Homelessness Assistance Act defines an individual experiencing chronic homelessness as one who is diagnosed with a disability and experiences at least 12 months of homelessness consecutively, or 12 months of homelessness over a 3 year period.
- The HEARTH Act gave further guidance allowing homelessness assistance to be given to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, as per the McKinney Vento Act.
- People who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness are most likely to be reached by outreach workers, who are generally in limited

#### Recommendations to improve policy:

1. Create affordable healthcare access points for people experiencing chronic homelessness, with information flyers advertising this resource throughout cities (making it easier for individuals to access information regardless of sheltered/unsheltered status).
2. Create referral programs for citizens to refer loved ones for these services, as opposed to just outreach workers (this makes it easier for trust to be built and for individuals to be engaged in assistance).
3. Revise the definition of chronic homelessness to no longer require a documented disability, but give priority assistance to those who are diagnosed with a disability under the recommended program.

# McKinney Vento Homelessness Assistance Act / Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act

McKinney Vento Homelessness Assistance: Signed into law on July 22, 1987 by the 100th Congress (signed into law by Ronald Reagan).

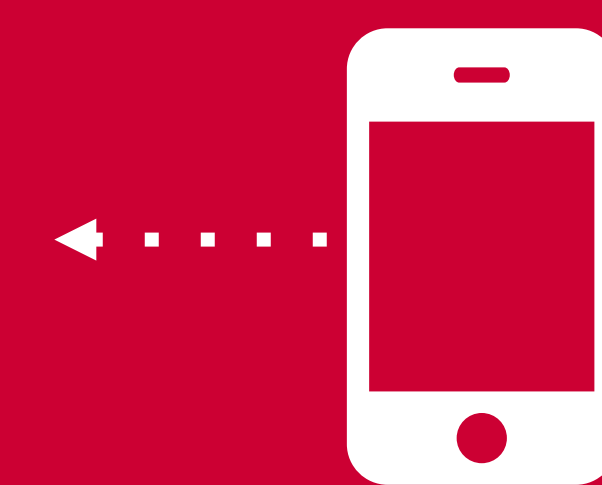
HEARTH Act: Signed into law in May 2009 by Barack Obama, and is current law of the land.

Focus Area: Definition of Chronic Homelessness.

Synopsis: Under the HEARTH Act, individuals can qualify for emergency housing assistance if they meet the definition of being chronically homeless.

Since diagnoses can be expensive and inaccessible, outreach workers are responsible for referring people experiencing homelessness to low/no cost clinicians. However, they have limited reach because they are only able to reach people who are seen sleeping on the streets, leading to general inaccessibility to assistance for people who meet this criteria.

Results: People experiencing chronic homelessness are overrepresented in the population of people experiencing homelessness due to healthcare inaccessibility.



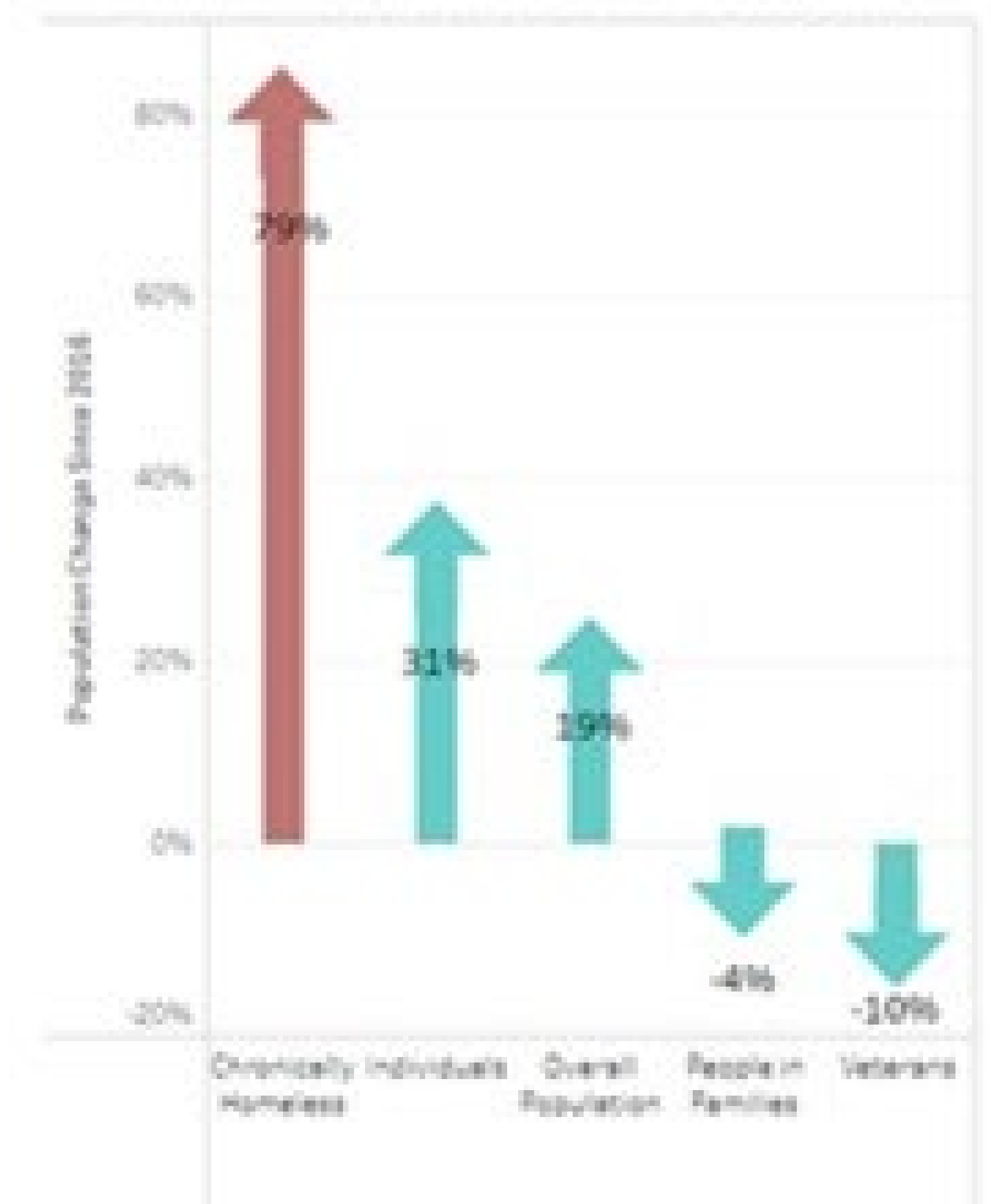
Take a picture to download the full HEARTH Act



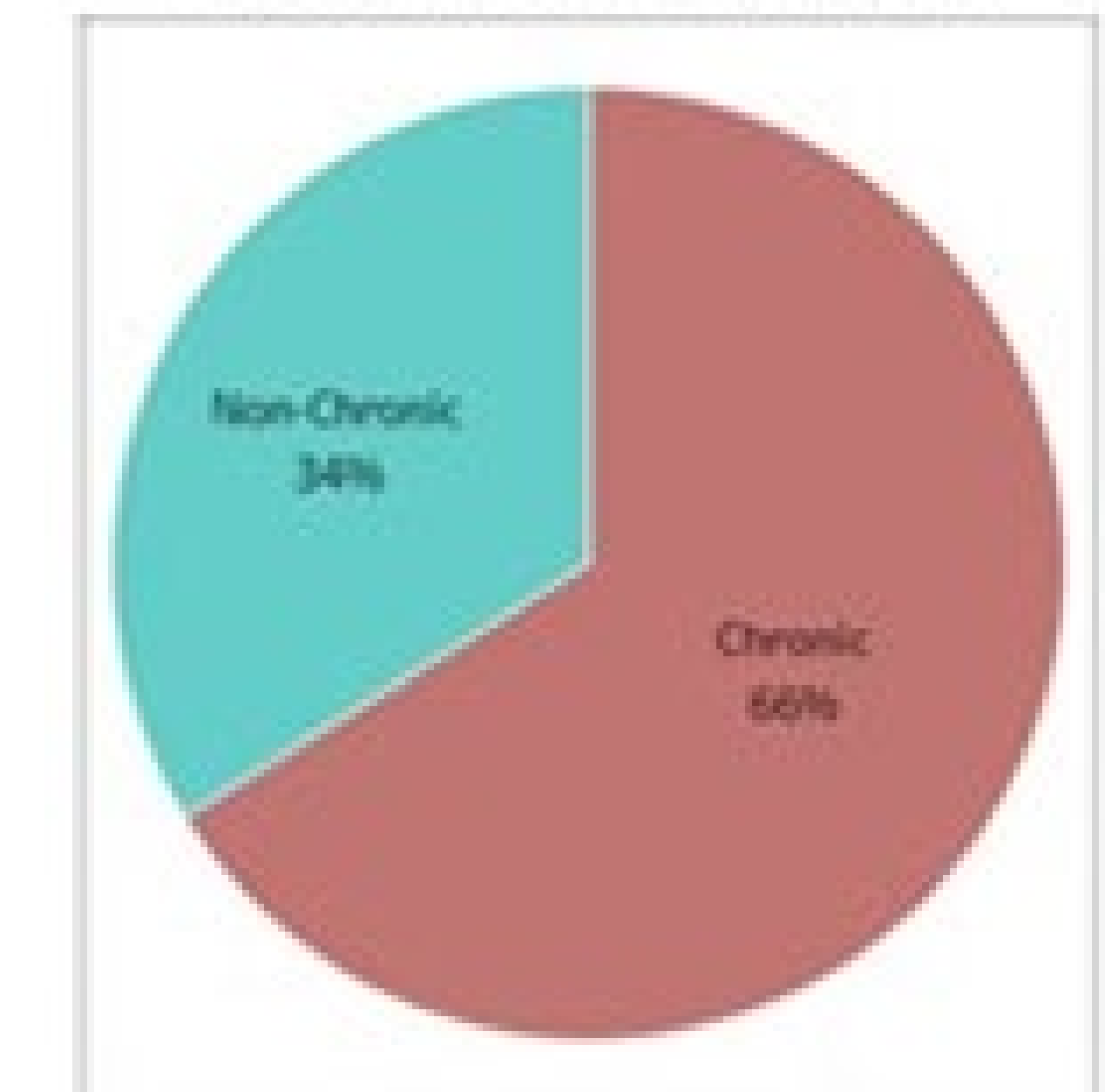
Graph on right hand side ^

Since 2016, Chronicity Has Been a Major Driver of Rising Homelessness

Overall Homelessness is Rising ... But Growth in Chronic Homelessness Outpace Other Subgroups



With the Overall Rise, Most of the Surplus Population\* is Chronically Homeless



National Alliance to END HOMELESSNESS

For this visualization and related information, visit [this link](#).

100% by the growth in the overall homeless count.

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