**Findings and Outcomes: Rough Sleeping**

**We surveyed** 786 people who were rough sleeping in Brisbane

**We know by name...**
- Who is homeless
- Their health needs
- Their housing needs
- Their support needs

**Of those surveyed...**
- 23% identified as female
- 76% identified as male
- 1% identified as transgender, intersex or x
- <25% under 25 years of age
- 26% identified as Indigenous
- 7% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or unsure

**Average age was 39 years and average time homeless was 5.1 years**
The following data was collected during the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign conducted from March 2014 – March 2017.

The data is based on 786 individuals sleeping rough surveyed using the Vulnerability Index–Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).

Prioritising and Matching

The VI-SPDAT enables needs to be determined using an acuity scale, which in turn enables us to appropriately triage for services that match those needs.

Health Needs Snapshot

Serious and often co-occurring health conditions add to daily challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness.

### Primary Health

- 31% Asthma
- 55% Dental Problems
- 19% Heart Issues
- 76% Substance Use
- 35% Injection Use

### Mental Health

- 53% have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives

#### Level of Support Required

- 6.4% Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)
- 46.3% Housing and short-term support (Medium Acuity)
- 47.3% Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

#### Mental Health Condition

- 85% Mental Health Condition
- 69% Dual Diagnosis
- 50% Tri-morbidity

### Self-reported Emergency Services Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalisations</td>
<td>1,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Transports</td>
<td>1,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations at Accident and Emergency</td>
<td>2,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactions with Police</td>
<td>23,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems

- Health: $10,058,850
- Criminal justice: $5,646,348

**Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems**: March 2014 – March 2017

$15,705,198

Emergency Service Figures based on six-month snapshots collected during the 500 lives 500 homes Campaign (2014-2017). Costs for inpatient hospitalisation and A&E visit derived from the efficient pricing approach introduced with the National Health Reform Act 2011 (Cth), as implemented by the (Queensland) Department of Health (2013) for the 2013-2014 financial year. Cost for ambulance transport taken from gross actual costs per incident reported in Department of Community Safety 2012-2013 Annual Report.
Disability

- 31% Acquired Brain Injury
- 30% Learning or Developmental Disability
- 16% Limited Mobility
- 38% Disability Support Pension

Housing Affordability

- $47% Cannot meet weekly expenses
- 45% Receiving Newstart Allowance $267.80/week

Rental costs:

- One-bedroom unit in Brisbane $360/week (89% of Disability Support Pension)
- One-bedroom unit in cheapest suburb $180/week (67% of Newstart Allowance)
- Public housing $101/week (25% of Disability Support Pension)
- $67/week (25% of Newstart Allowance)

Institutional History

- 30% Out-of-home Care as a child
- 26% Youth Detention
- 81% Watchhouse
- 53% Prison

Inclusion and Community Support

- 62% No Meaningful Daily Activity
- 49% Victim of attack while on the streets
- 46% Unresolved Legal Issues
- 7% Veterans
  Veterans represent less than 1% of the 2016 estimated resident population of the Brisbane Local Government Area, yet comprise 7% of this population group

Sources


Homelessness is solvable

We must connect people experiencing homelessness with long-term housing as quickly as possible and with no preconditions. Known as Housing First, this approach has propelled campaign successes and forms the basis of a community-driven action plan to eliminate homelessness in the city of Brisbane. (See Housing First: A roadmap for ending homelessness in Brisbane at micahprojects.org.au/resources/publications)

Ending Homelessness...

involves...

1. Preventing first time or episodic homelessness
2. Responding to crises as they occur in the shortest possible time
3. Sustaining tenancies

by using 5 strategies...

1. Know who’s there and what they need
2. Implement coordinated entry system
3. Line up supply
4. Keep people housed
5. Integrate health

across the full life course.

Antenatal Infancy and Parenting Childhood Youth Adulthood Old Age

For more information on how you can be a part of Brisbane’s Housing First journey, contact Micah Projects: karyn.walsh@micahprojects.org.au

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