

Sacramento County 2018 Homeless Deaths Report: 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017

November 16, 2018

Sacramento County Department of Health Services
Health Center Co-Applicant Board [CAB]

Bob Erlenbusch, Executive Director





Sacramento County 2018 Homeless Deaths Report

Dedicated to the memory of all the people who experienced homelessness who have died in our community



Purpose of Report

- *A dignified memorial to homeless people who have died in our community;*
- *Identify gaps in homeless service delivery system and provide recommendations;*
- *Be a catalyst for change – galvanizing political and community will to identify action plan to ending and & preventing homelessness*



Summary of Results



Sacramento Regional Coalition To End Homelessness

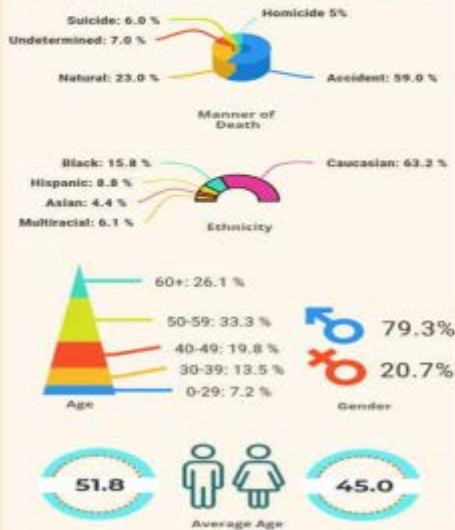
2018 County Homeless Deaths Report

January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2017



900 Deaths (2002-2017)

Key Findings: 124 Deaths in 2017



Mortality Rates

4.7x

Suicide Rates

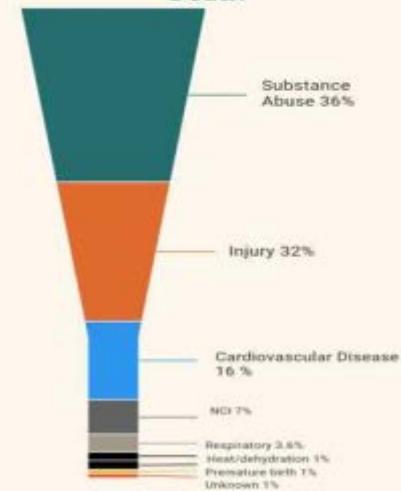
14.7x

Homicide Rates

23.4x

the
General
Population

Underlying Causes of Death

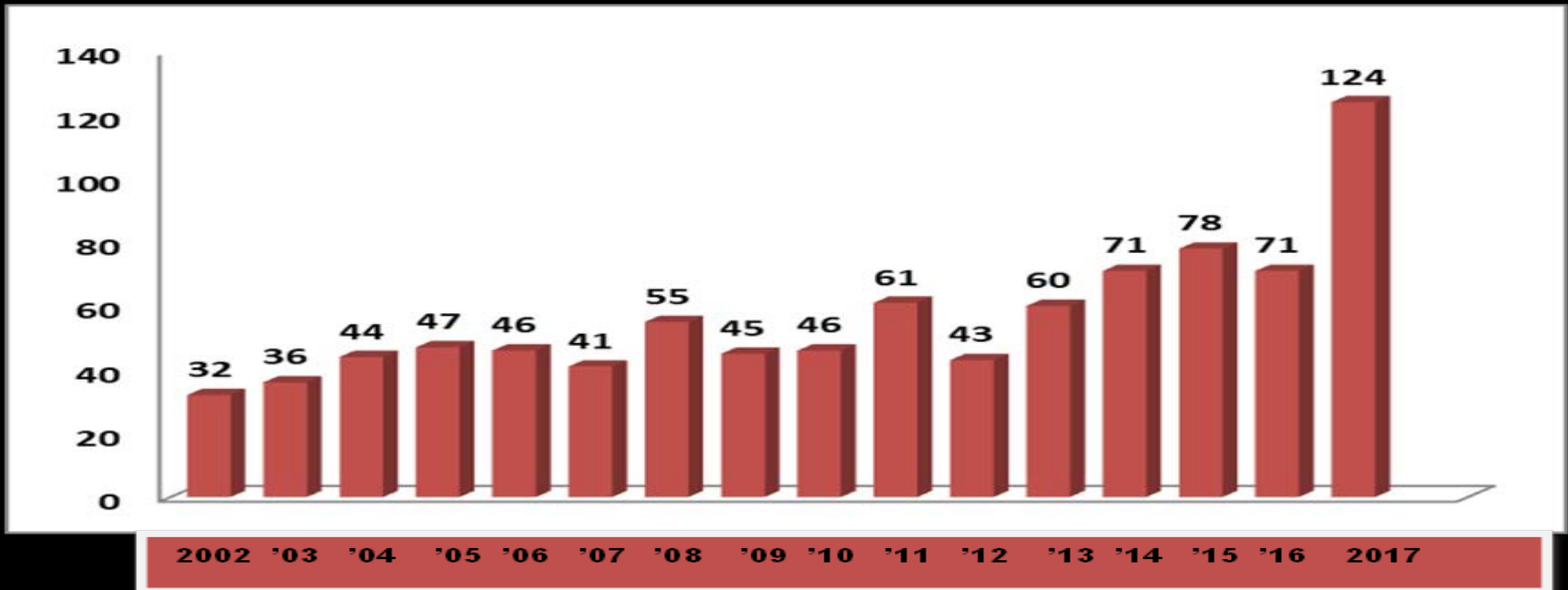


RESULTS:

900 Homeless Deaths 2002 – 2017

for 16 years or

one person every 6 days for 16 years!



From 2002 to 2013 the average number of homeless deaths was 46.

From 2014 to 2017 the average number of homeless deaths was 86 –

a 1.9 times increase in the last four years

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender:

overwhelmingly male

79.3% men

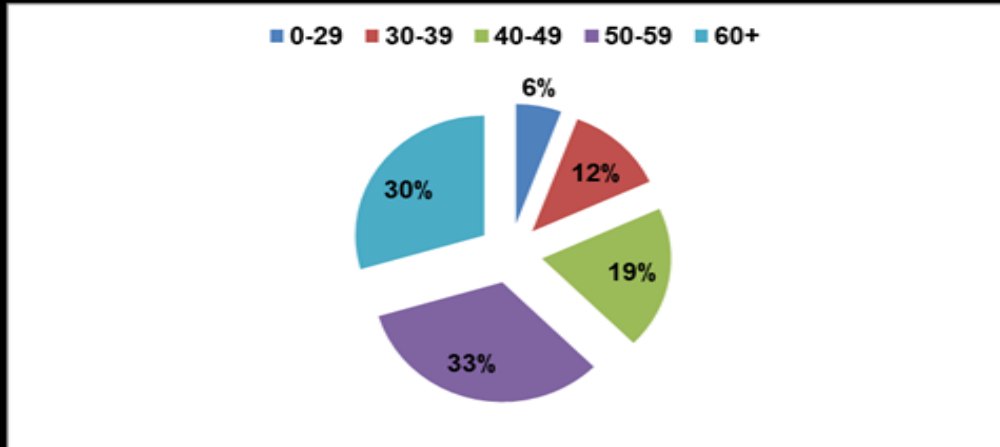


20.7% female

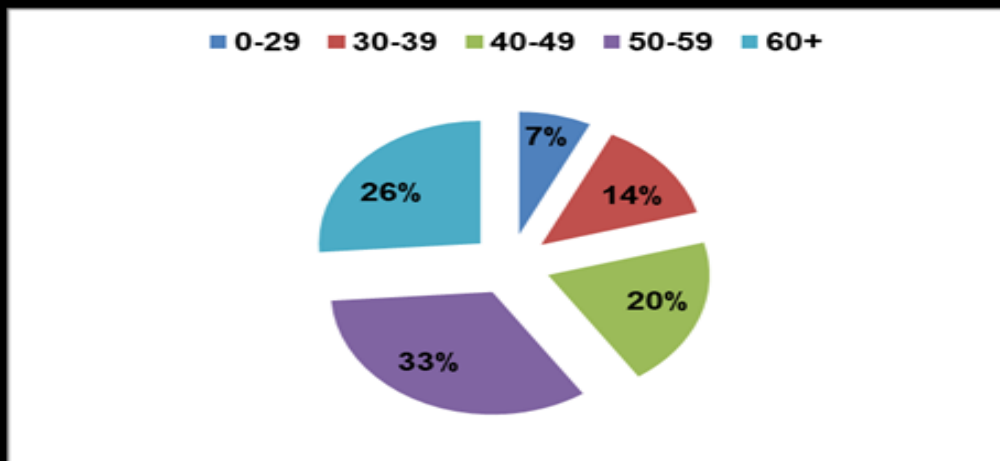


AGE

AGE RANGE: HOMELESS MEN



AGE RANGE: HOMELESS WOMEN



AVERAGE AGE

- HOMELESS MEN: 51.9 YEARS OLD
- HOMELESS WOMEN: 45 YEARS OLD

Homeless Life Expectancy: Life cut short by average of 33%

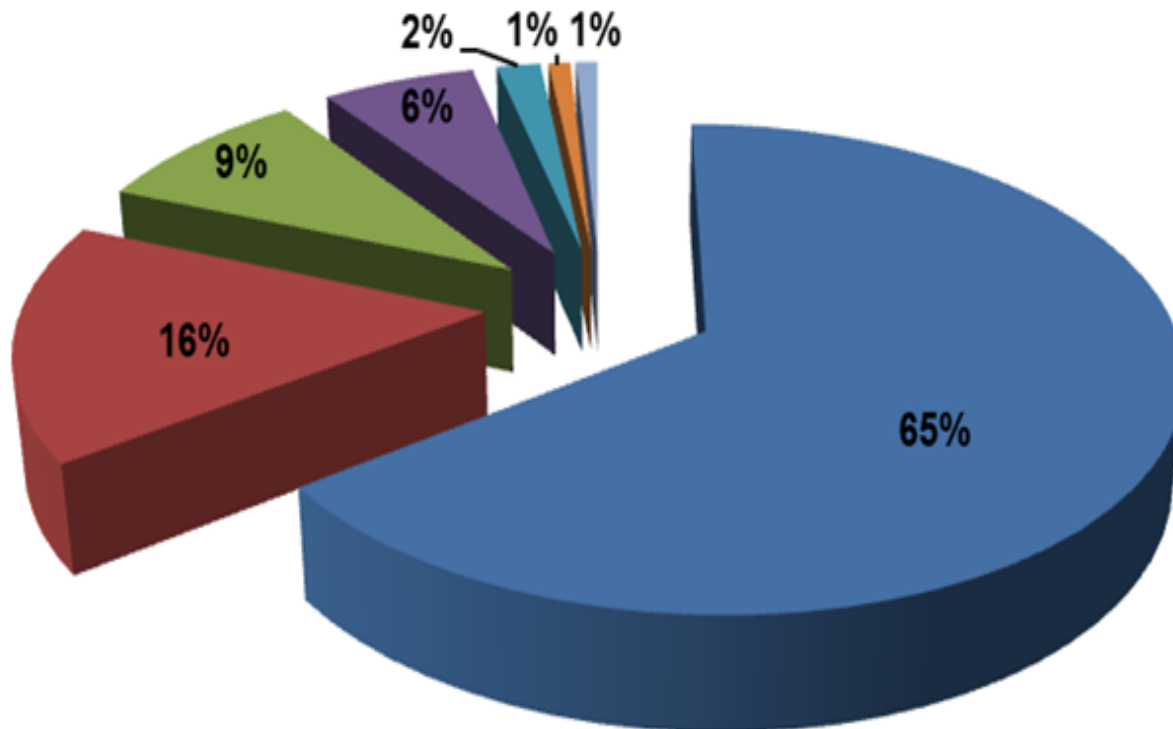
Using the national life expectancy average of 75 years old, homeless lives in Sacramento are cut short by an average of 33% or about 30 years for homeless women and 23 years for homeless men.

DYING TOO
YOUNG.



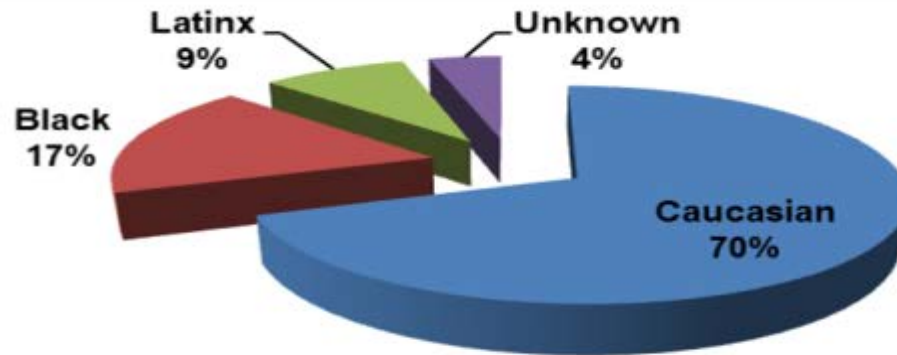
ETHNICITY

■ Caucasian ■ Black ■ Latinx ■ Mixed ■ Asian ■ Native American ■ Unknown

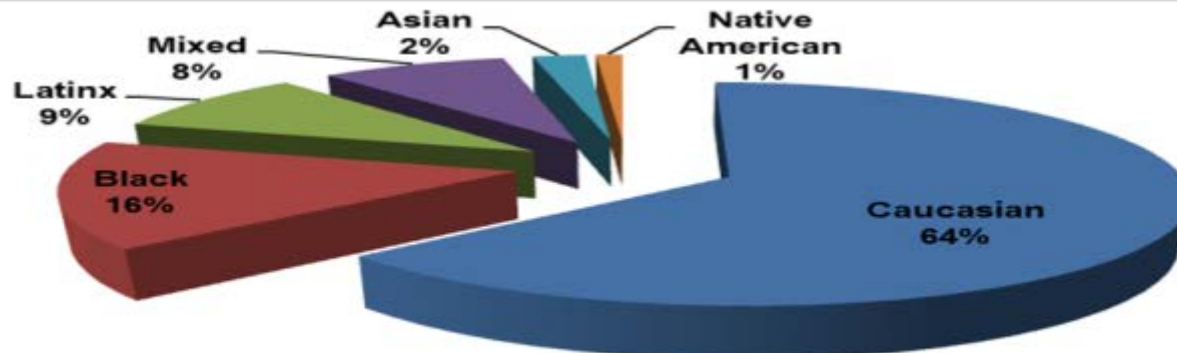


ETHNICITY & GENDER

HOMELESS WOMEN

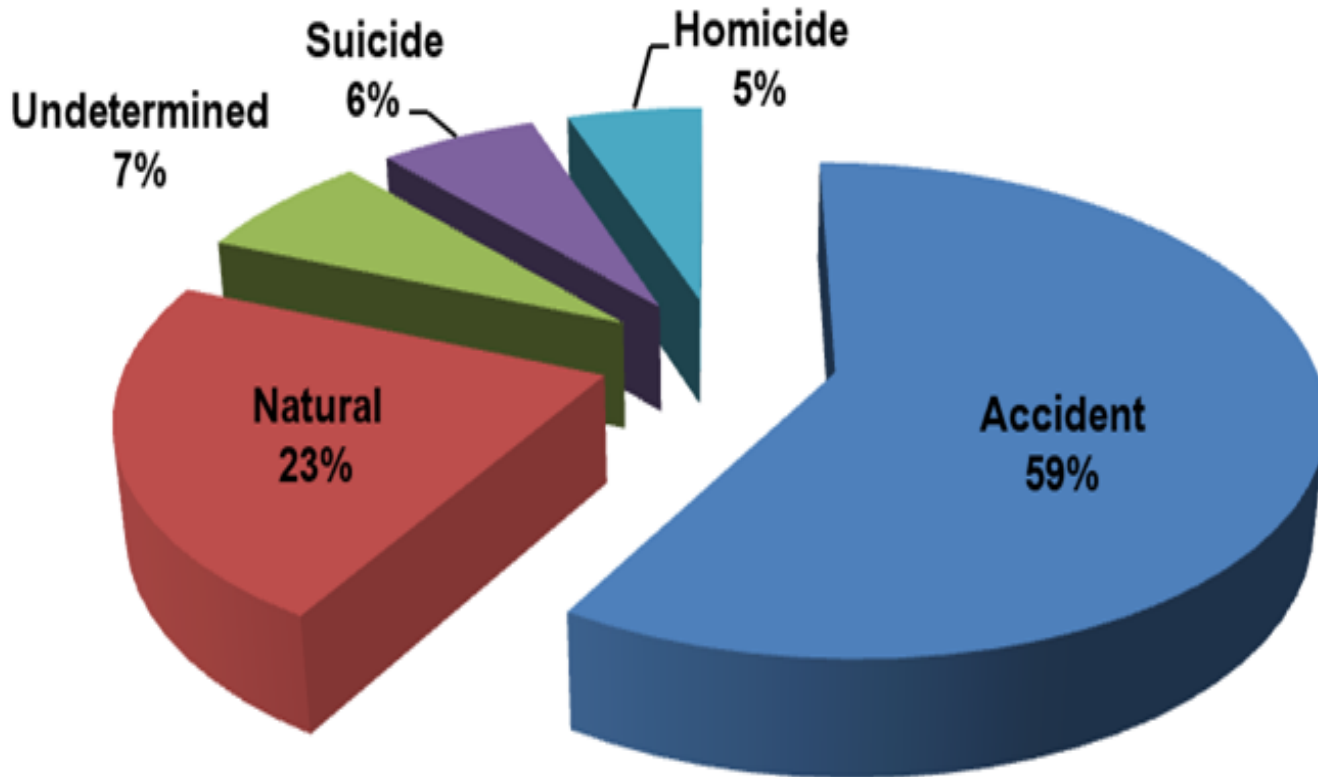


HOMELESS MEN

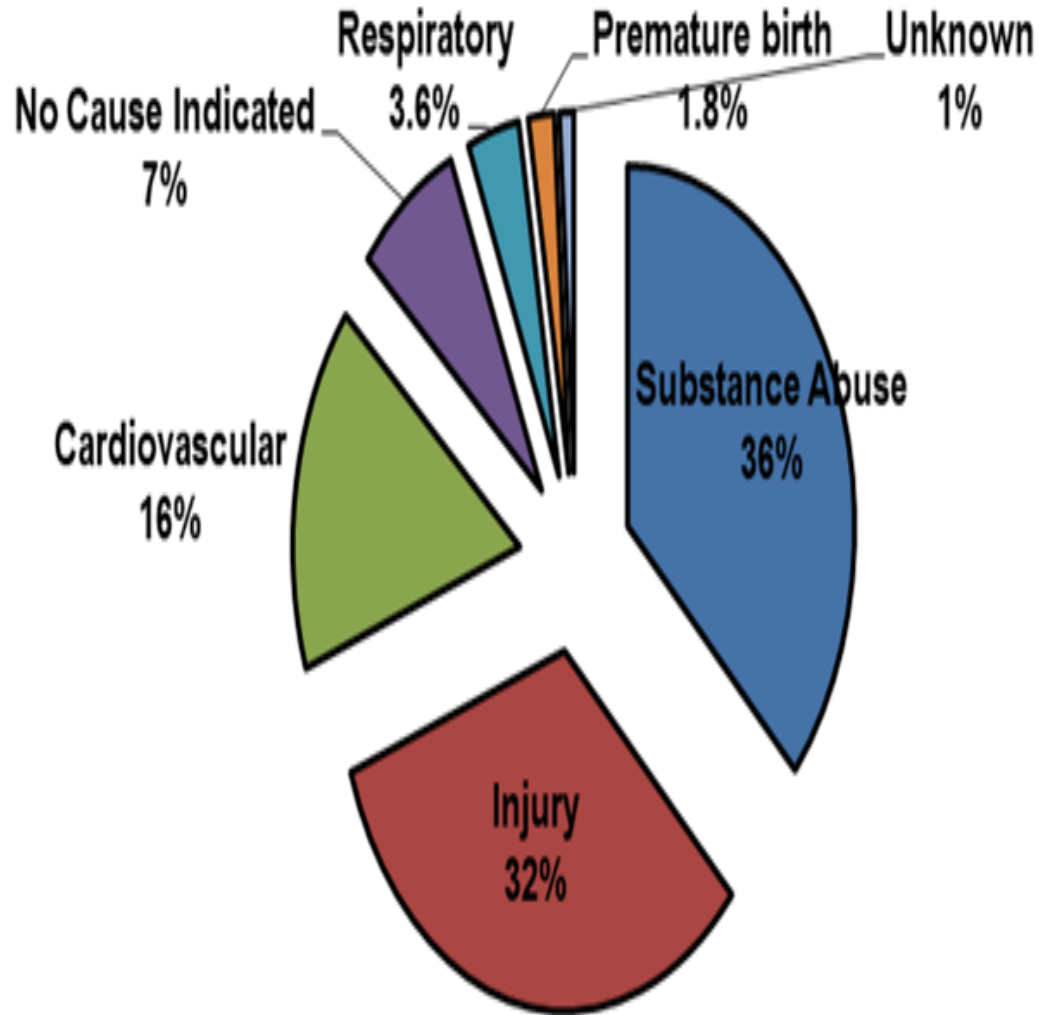


MANNER OF DEATH:

1 in 9 by homicide or suicide

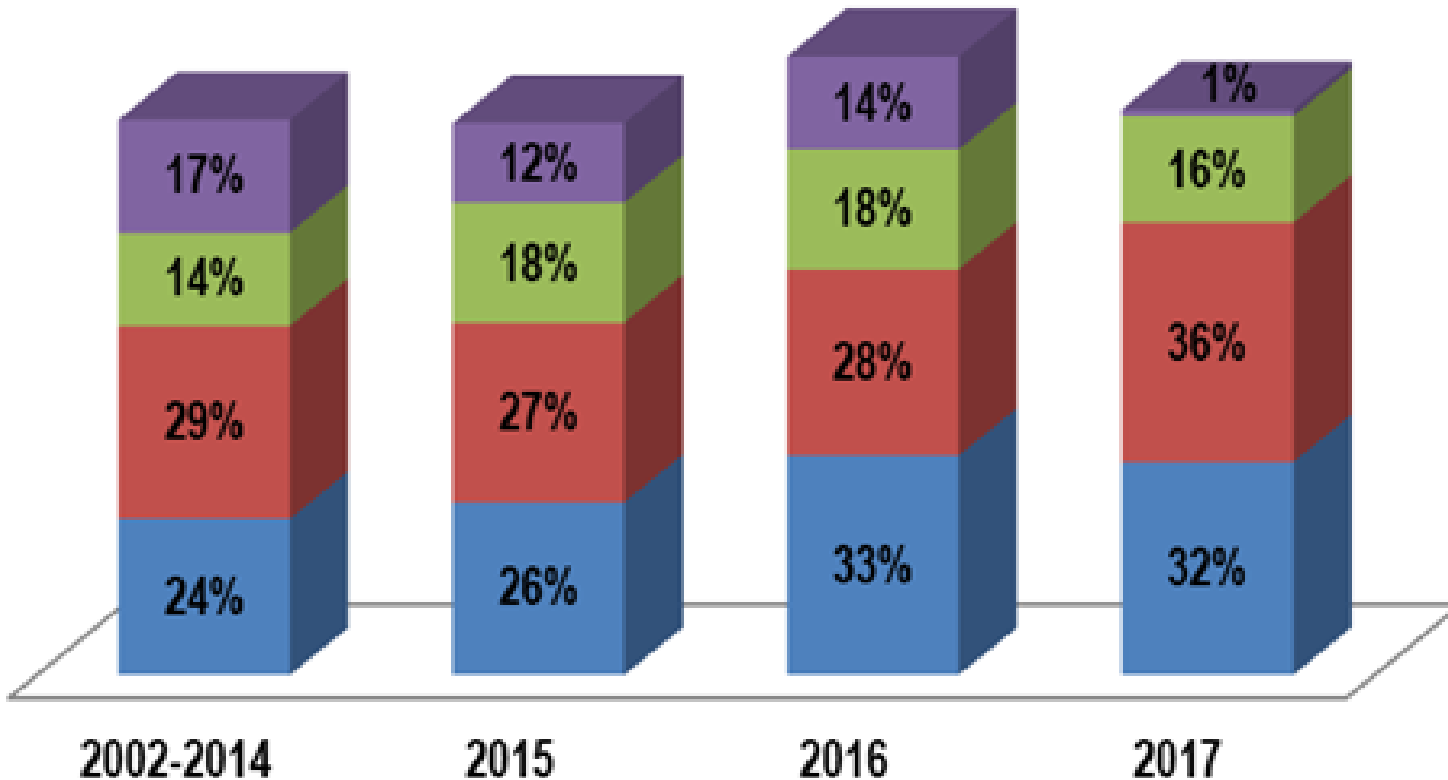


CAUSES OF DEATH:

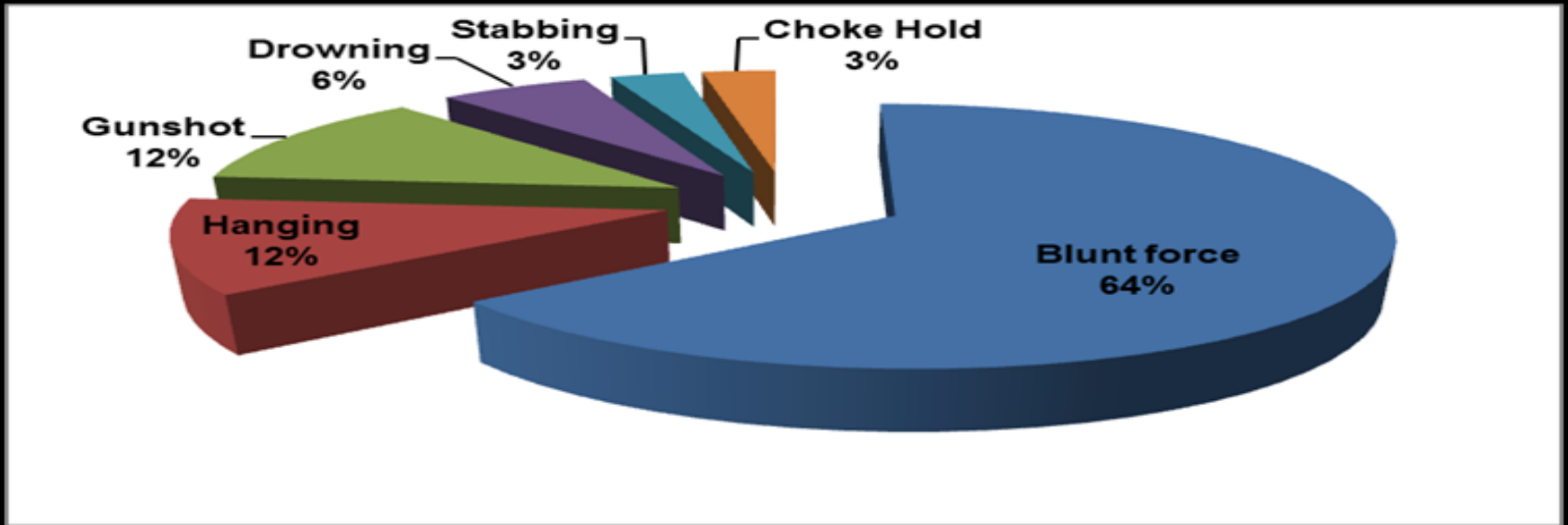


CAUSES OF DEATH: 2002 - 2017

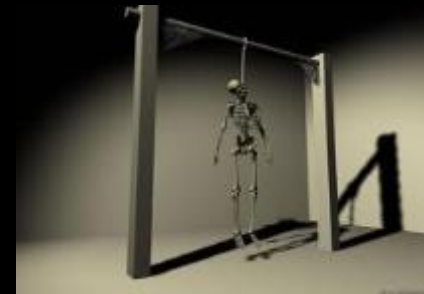
■ Injury ■ Substance Abuse ■ Cardiovascular ■ Unknown



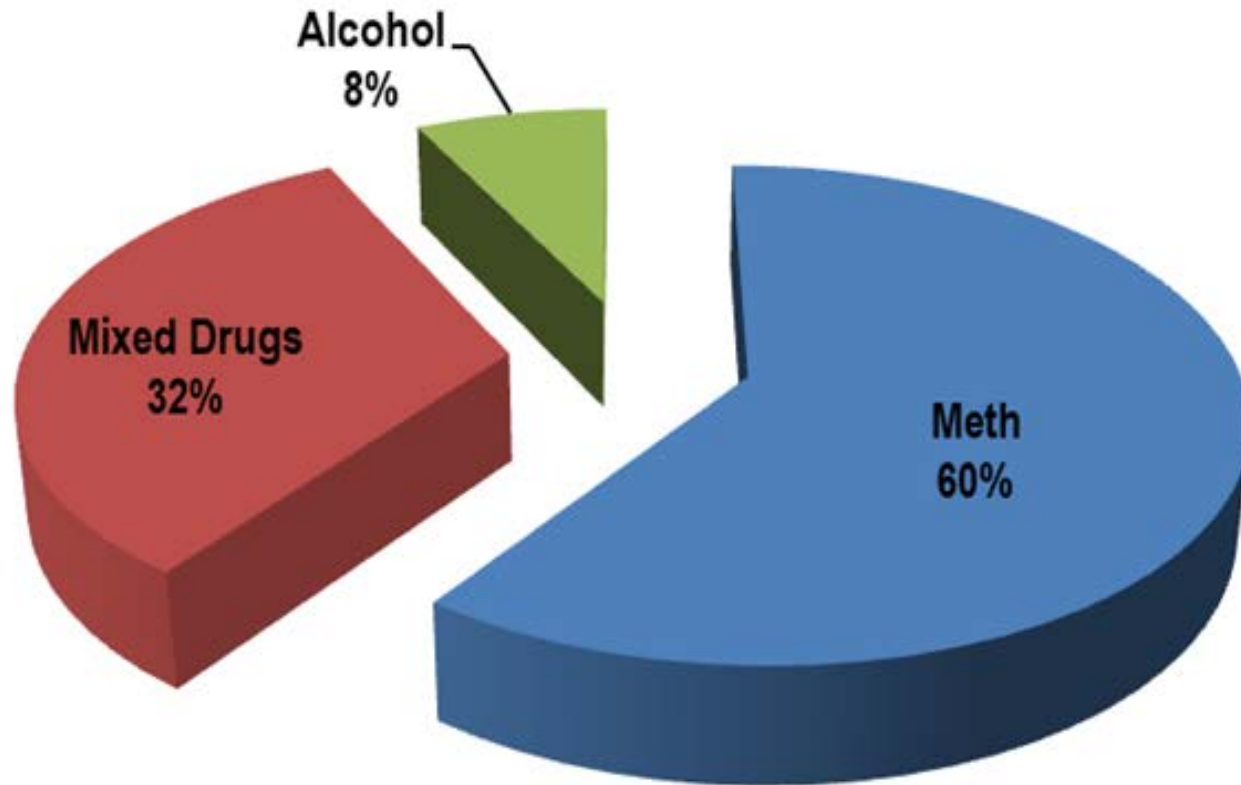
VIOLENT DEATHS



32% by blunt force trauma; gun shot; stabbing; hangings; strangulation

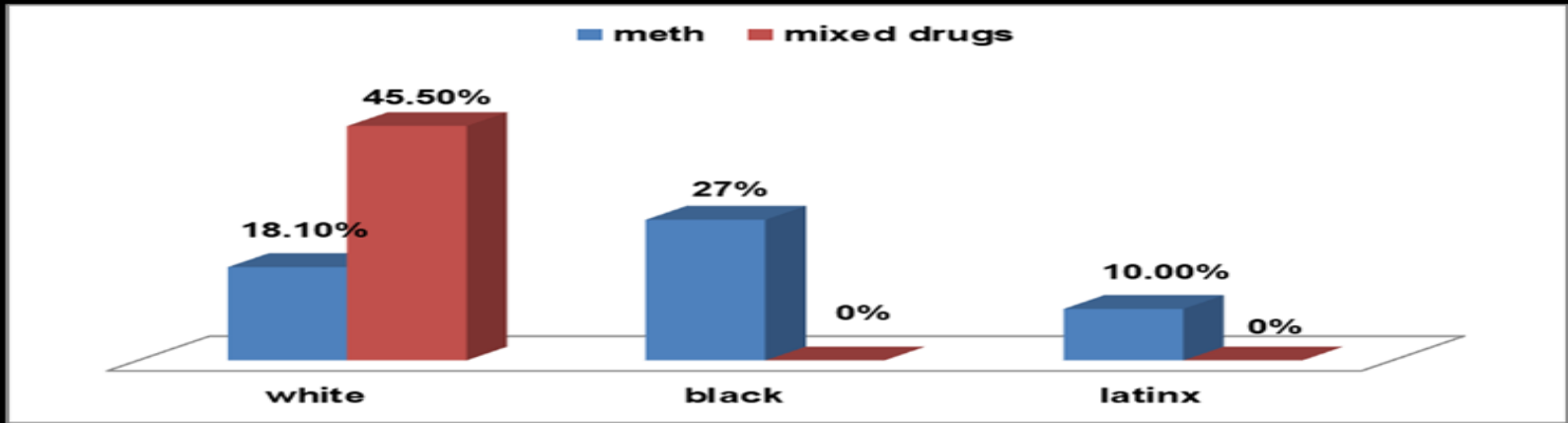


SUBSTANCE USE

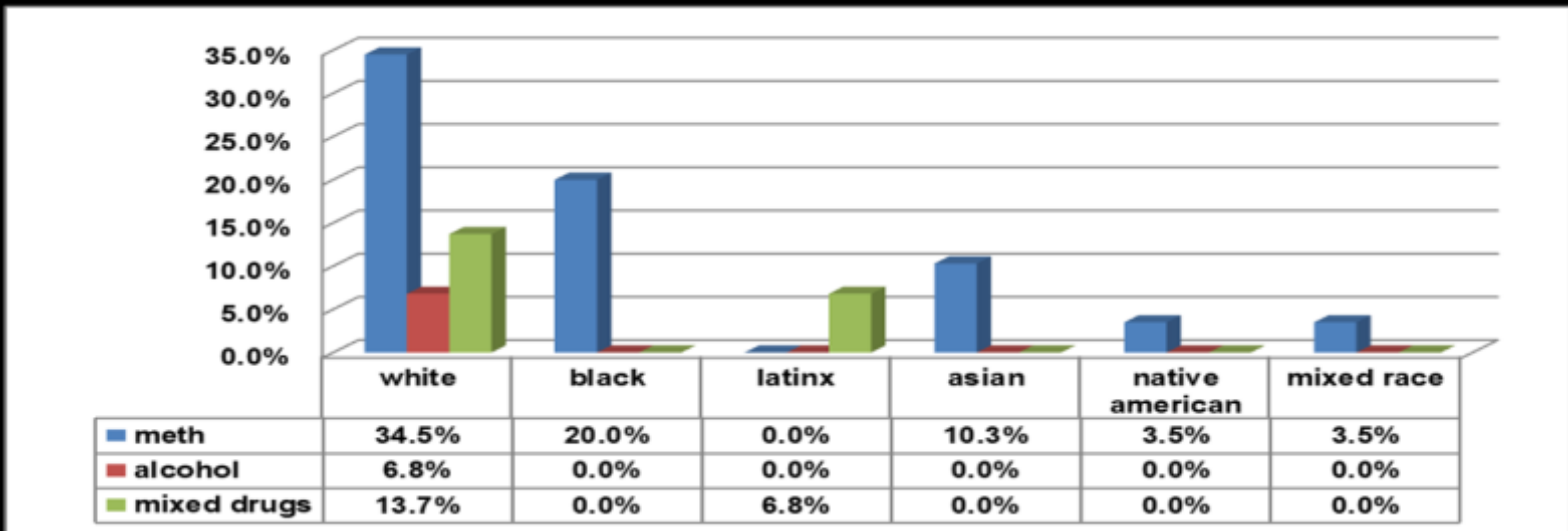


SUBSTANCE USE BY GENDER & ETHNICITY

HOMELESS WOMEN



HOMELESS MEN



Comparison of Mortality Rates of homeless population to general population: 2007 - 2017

Homeless mortality rates 2.4 – 4.7 times higher: 2007 - 2017

| Population | Mortality Rate per 100,000 population | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| General Population | 678 | 688 | 680 | 706 | 743 | 724 |
| Homeless Population | 1,672 | 2,054 | 1,607 | 2,983 | 2,405 | 3,383 |
| Ratio | 2.5 | 3 | 2.4 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 4.7 |



Comparison of Homicide rate: Homeless population to general population: 2015, 2016 and 2017

| Population | Homicide rate per 100,000 | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------|------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| General population | 6 | 6.7 | 7 |
| Homeless population | 188 | 123 | 164 |
| Ratio | 31 | 18.4 | 23.4 |

Comparison of Suicide rate: Homeless population to general: population: 2015, 2016 & 2017

| Population | Suicide rate per 100,000 | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------|------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| General population | 11.8 | 12.3 | 13 |
| Homeless population | 188 | 123 | 191 |
| Ratio | 15.9 | 10 | 14.7 |

Homeless mortality rates: 2017

4.7 X

Mortality rates

23.4 X

Homicide rates





14.7 X

Suicide rates

RECOMMENDATIONS

| | Policy Recommendations | Findings |
|---|--|--|
|  | <p>Expand the sources of funding for the Sacramento City & County Affordable Housing Trust fund to create more affordable & accessible housing</p> | <p>700 homeless deaths over 16 years: 1 death every 6 days</p> <p>The mortality rate for homeless people is 3 times higher than Sacramento's housed population</p> |
|  | <p>Support for housing first approach, but where housing is lacking – increase the capacity of crisis response system for <u>year round shelter</u>—especially for homeless youth and women to serve more homeless people through a no barrier Triage Center; year round emergency shelter; 1st Steps Communities</p> | <p>75% of the homeless deaths were in Spring; Summer & Fall – evenly distributed across seasons – 25% per season</p> |
|  | <p>Increase funding for alcohol & other drugs and mental health treatment programs - Increase effective linkage to Medi-Cal existing services. Refund VOA's free treatment on demand program</p> | <p>36% died of alcohol/substance abuse induced deaths – the leading underlying cause of death – with a dramatic increase in deaths by meth overdose</p> |
|  | <p>Sacramento City Council and Sacramento Board of Supervisor's adopt a "Zero Tolerance Policy" regarding Homeless "Patient Dumping"</p> | <p>In a 2018 survey of 20 shelters in Sacramento – 50% reported they routinely had hospitals deliver homeless people unannounced to their shelter – by ambulance; cab and ride share</p> |
|  | <p>Expand funding for Respite Care facilities</p> | <p>Homeless people are routinely discharged to the streets by local hospitals & jail – many need a respite care facility to recover from surgeries</p> |

Recommendations: *continued*

| | Policy Recommendations | Findings |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Increase funding resources to support additional licensed nurse outreach services, with a priority of out-stationing nurses at winter shelter sites as well as adding nurses to street outreach teams</p> | <p>According to Sacramento Steps Forward's HMIS 2017, 91% of homeless people in Sacramento have health insurance but 55% still use the ER for primary care. Over 45% have chronic health issues including asthma, chronic heart disease and diabetes.</p> |
|  | <p>Ensure full enrollment of homeless people on CalFresh & full implementation of Restaurant Meals Program</p> | <p>Almost 50% of homeless people died over 15 years have died of poor health conditions [high blood pressure etc.] & may be related to poor nutrition</p> |
|  | <p>Free or subsidized transportation for homeless people</p> | <p>Lack of transportation is a major barrier to access health care as well as substance abuse & mental health treatment programs</p> |
|  | <p>Sacramento County's Coroner Office convene a Homeless Deaths Review Committee, similar to death review panels for children and victims of domestic violence</p> | <p>1 homeless death every 7 days for the past 15 years</p> |

ADVOCACY SUCCESS!

- ✓ 2018: City and County declare “shelter emergency”
- ✓ 2016: Mayor Steinberg announced using city buildings as warming centers
- ✓ 2014: Sacramento County Board of Supervisors: allocated \$260,000 in FY 204-15 budget to increase RN street outreach to homeless people;
- ✓ Sacramento Steps Forward: Street outreach/system navigators focused on geographic areas of high mortality rates;
- ✓ Public Education: Community presentations & media coverage
- ✓ Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service: 12/21/2018: 2018 is 5th Annual service – attended by over 150 community members including Mayor Steinberg & Board of Supervisor Kennedy

ADVOCACY NEXT STEPS

- Expand the Sacramento City & County Affordable Housing Trust Fund;
- Year Round Shelter
- Weekend Drop In Center
- Drug & Mental Health Treatment on Demand
- Ensure access to preventative health care

5th Annual Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service

5TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH HOMELESS MEMORIAL SERVICE

To remember our homeless neighbors who died in 2018



DECEMBER 21, 2018
7 PM – 8 PM
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
2620 CAPITOL AVE.
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

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NO MORE
HOMELESS
DEATHS

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