

Improving Health Care for People Experiencing Homelessness

November 17, 2021

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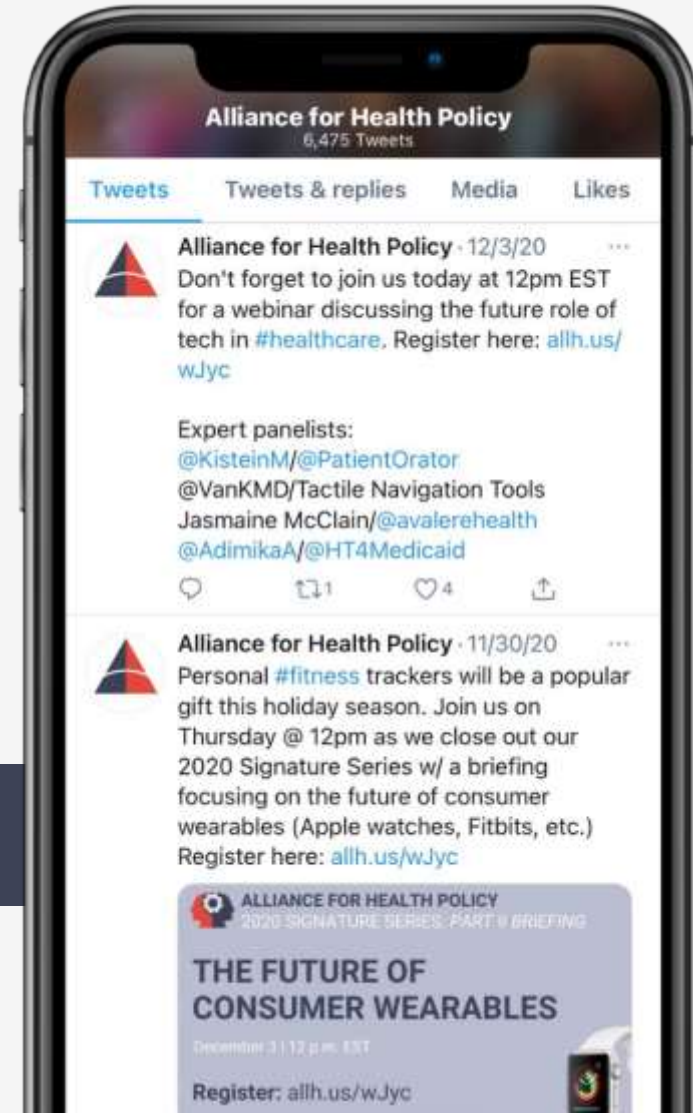


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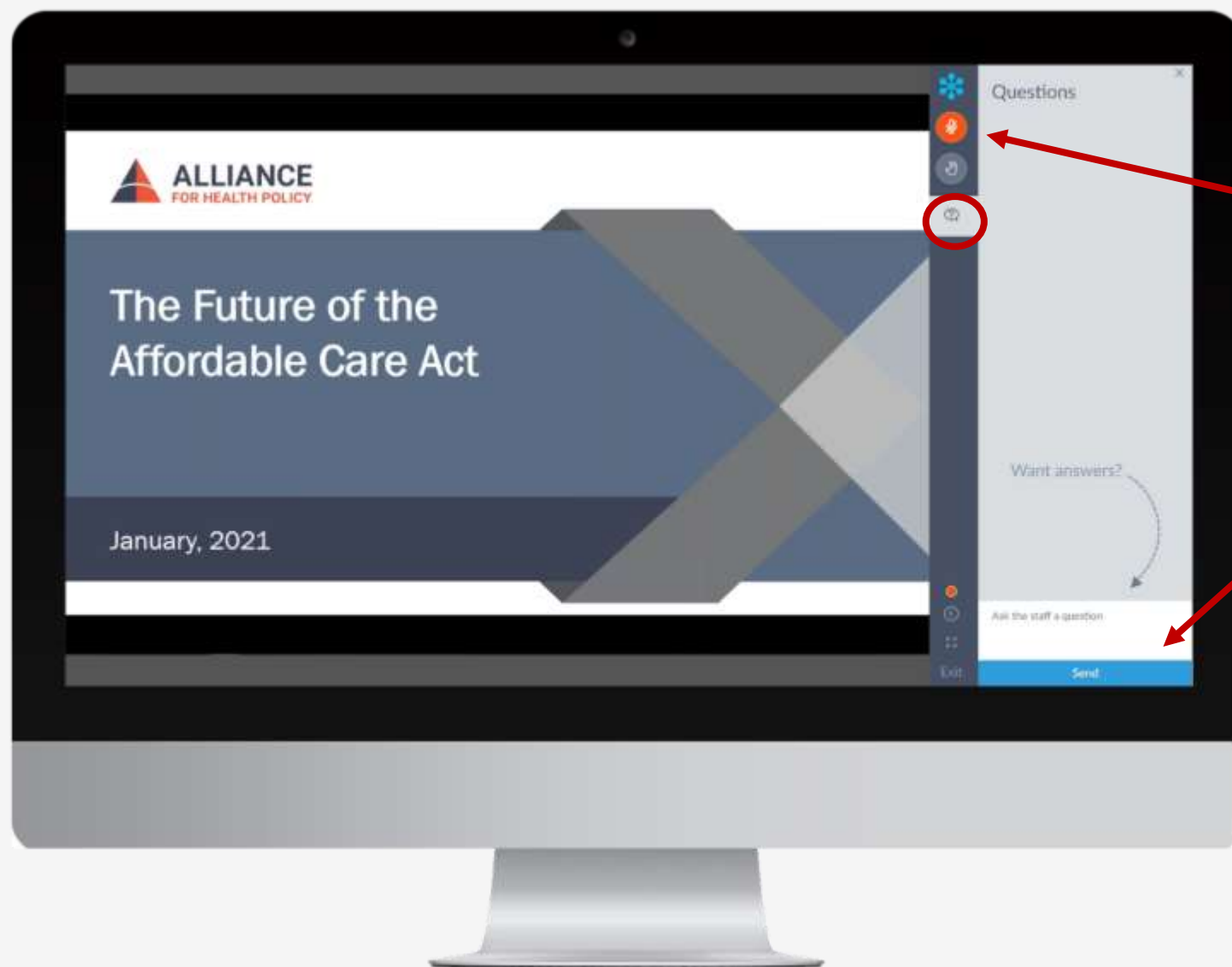


Sachin Jain, M.D., MBA, FACP

President & Chief Executive Officer
SCAN Group and SCAN Health Plan



Participating in the Webinar



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Ellen Lawton, J.D.

Senior Fellow
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Panelists



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Senior Director of Policy,
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President & Founder, Boston Health Care for
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Moderator





Improving Health Care for People Experiencing Homelessness

Barbara DiPietro, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Policy

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Homelessness in the U.S.

On a single night in January 2021, **580,466** people were counted as homeless.
(This is considered a vast undercount)

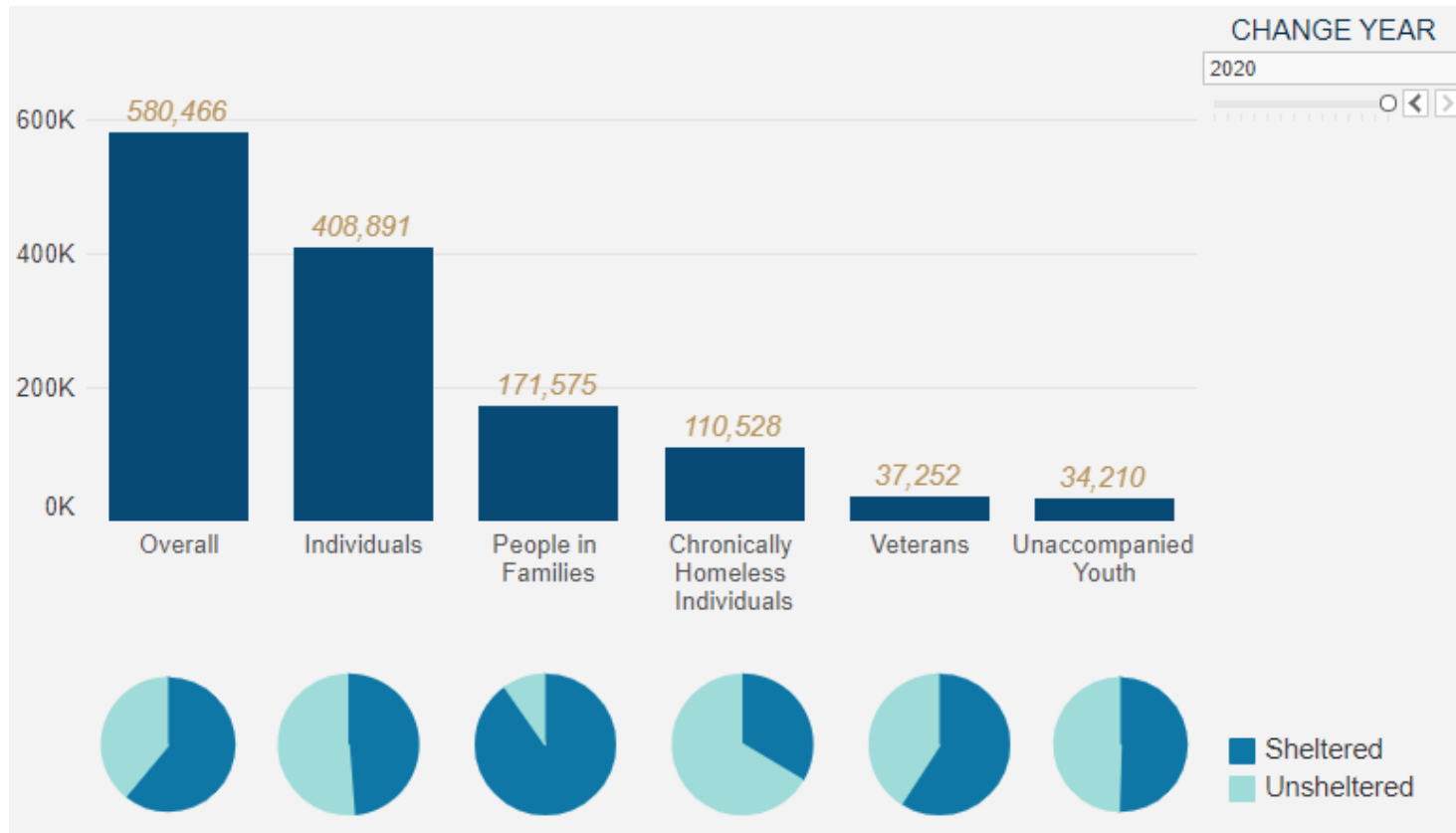
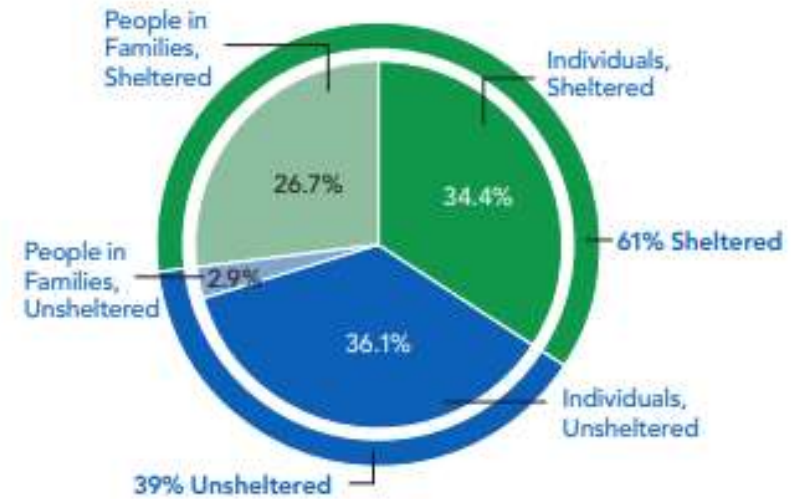
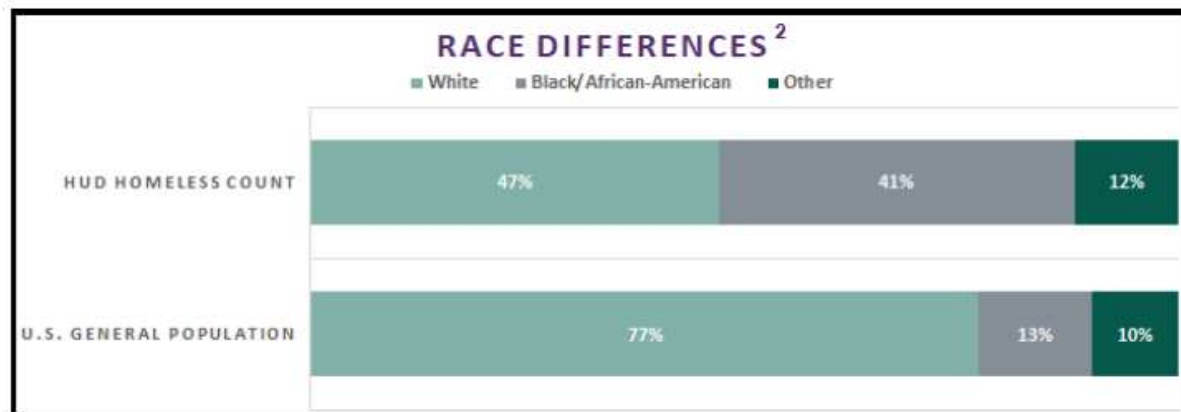
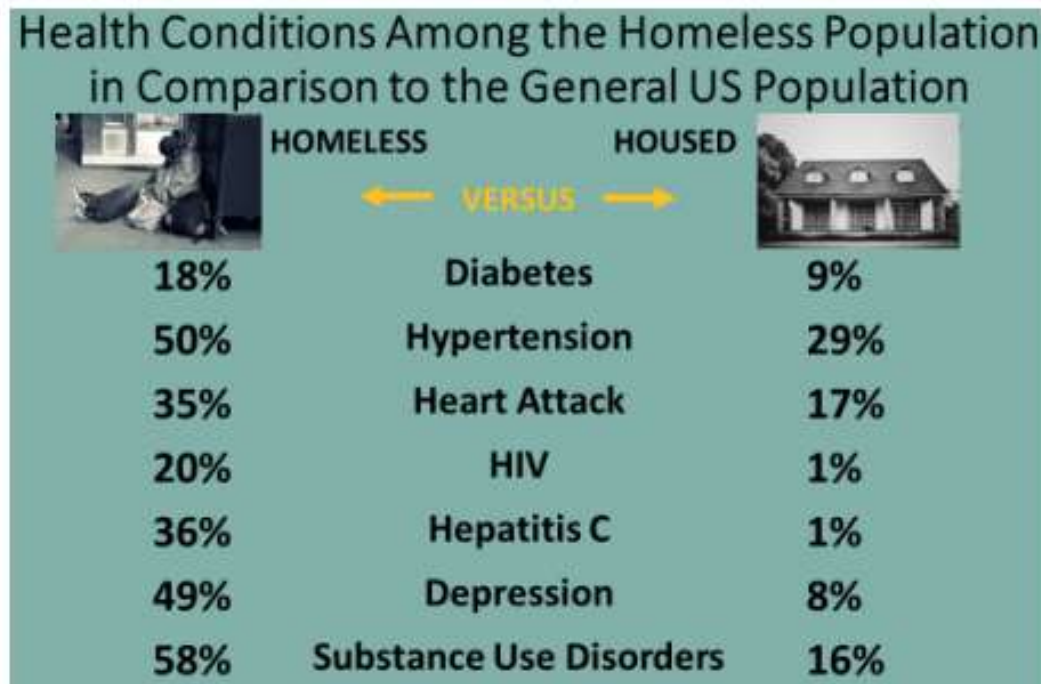


EXHIBIT 1.2: Homelessness
By Household Type and Sheltered Status, 2020



Health Implications of Homelessness

The primary issue is the lack of affordable housing.



1. Poor health causes homelessness.
2. Homelessness exacerbates existing conditions, and creates new ones.
3. The experience of homelessness is traumatic, and makes it difficult to engage in care.

Consumer Perspectives on Homelessness

- Failure to expand Medicaid is a moral failure
- Broader issue of lack of access to primary care, behavioral health & support services
- Problem of hospitals discharging people to streets
- Lack of effective outreach to “reach people where they are”
- Need for peer supports/community health workers, trauma-informed care approaches that use a harm reduction philosophy
- Encampment sweeps are common and have significant health care implications (trauma, dislocation, loss of medications/documentation and trust, etc.)





BHCHP Basic Goals 1984

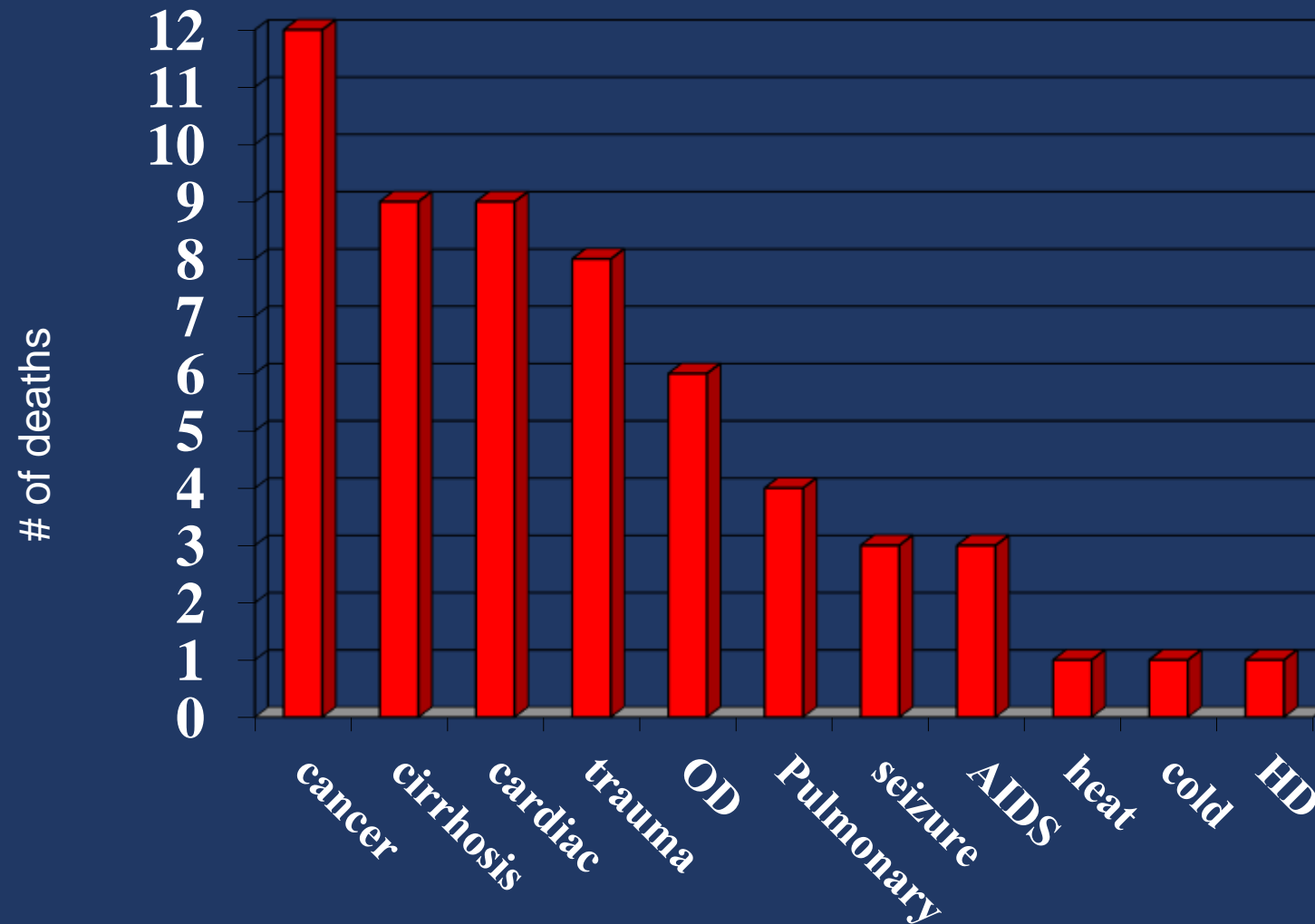
- Establish a health services care delivery model to provide **continuity of care** from **shelter** and **street** to **hospital**;
- Provide care through multidisciplinary outreach **teams**;
- Establish the capacity to meet the needs of homeless individuals for home-type **respite care**





Causes of Death

N = 59



BHCHP: O'Connell/Roncarati/Swain



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38 cents (except 15 cents from New York City, except on Long Island)

40 CENTS

Late Edition

New York: Today, clear, light winds. High 73. Tonight, cool. Low 58. Tomorrow, warmer, moderate humidity by afternoon. High 88. Yesterday, high 72, low 57. Details are on page 14.



Alan S. Rysner for The New York Times

After a decade of widespread concern about the problem of homelessness, more cities are becoming less tolerant of the homeless. This man carted his belongings near downtown Atlanta.

TRANSIT POLICIES FACING OVERHAUL

Despite IRT Crash, Kiepper
Calls Subway System Safe

By CALVIN SIMS

Last week's fatal subway crash has prompted New York City transit officials to review a wide range of policies, including drug and alcohol testing, standards for hiring train operators and supervisors and its labor relations in general, the president of the Transit Authority said.

The president, Alan F. Kiepper, said in an interview this weekend that the accident, which the police have attributed to a drunken motorman, shows the need for improving the relations between transit employees and management. The relationship is so antagonistic, many employees said, that it may have contributed to the failure of the motorman's co-workers to report that they had sometimes seen him drink before work, a failure Mr. Kiepper called disappointing.

"There's always a potential problem that when people work together that

Shift in Feelings on the Homeless: Empathy Turns Into Frustration

By ISABEL WILKERSON

Ten years after the wan face of homelessness first captured the nation's attention, empathy is turning to intolerance as cities impose harsher restrictions on homeless people to reduce their visibility or force them to go out on their own.

New York City, Santa Barbara, Calif., and a number of other cities are acting out of both frustration and desperation, pressed by hard times and by a public that has grown increasingly impatient with a problem that has worsened despite the programs aimed at relieving it and previous shows of good will.

"People want to help, but they don't want to feel that they're just being suckers," said Mayor Loni Hancock of Berkeley, Calif. "The cities that try to help get overrun and then comes the backlash. There comes a time when people want to step back and insulate themselves."

Atlanta, which is preparing for the 1996 Olympic Games, passed a law in July authorizing the arrest of anyone loitering in abandoned buildings or engaging in "aggressive panhandling."

New York's transit authority has

banned panhandling in the subway system and a \$50 fine can be imposed on anyone caught doing so.

In Miami, where officials briefly considered shuffling several hundred homeless people off to a city-owned baseball stadium, panhandlers who approach motorists at intersections to wash car windows face a fine of as much as \$500 and a jail sentence of as much as 90 days.

Tough Stance in Capital

In August, the District of Columbia closed two emergency shelters and announced plans to eliminate half the beds in its shelters. It also plans to severely restrict the number of nights that homeless people can stay in them. The city's tough new stance comes with strong public backing. A 1984 law required the city to shelter all in need; last fall the voters repealed it.

And last year Santa Barbara banned homeless people from sleeping on public streets, beaches or sidewalks and in parking lots; the measure leaves them to sleep on a public lot filled with

Continued on Page 18, Column 4

Soviet Upheaval Injects Urgency Into U.S. Debate On Intelligence

C.I.A. Lacks Permanent Chief at a Critical Time

By ELAINE SCIOLINO

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 — The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the humiliating purge of the K.G.B. have injected new urgency into the painful debate over the role of the American intelligence services in a world where the Communist competition has left the playing field.

Even before the tumult that began in Moscow last month, Congress was forcing the Central Intelligence Agency and the military intelligence agencies to rethink some of their priorities — and even their budgets — to adjust to a declining Soviet military threat.

But at this crucial juncture in history, the world's only superpower is without a chief spy-master.

Gates Confirmation Uncertain

William H. Webster ended his tenure as the Director of Central Intelligence today, and Robert M. Gates, the President's nominee to replace him, may not survive grueling Senate confirmation hearings later this month because of questions surrounding Mr. Gates's role in the Iran-contra affair.

Senior intelligence officials concede that they are merely trying to keep up with the flood of events rather than forge a new mission, now that they no longer have to worry about defeating Communism. But they also remain resistant to any reorganization of the American intelligence agencies that would curtail their responsibilities and bring deep budget cuts.

Richard Kerr, who becomes Acting

Director of Central Intelligence on Monday, argues that the instability and uncertainty unleashed by the crisis in Moscow have created new challenges that increase the United States' demand for intelligence gathering and analysis.

"While we may have to live with less because of the reality of our own economic situation and drawdowns in the military, the kinds of problems we face

Continued on Page 7, Column 1



Robert M. Gates faces grueling Senate confirmation hearings.

Unions at a Loss to Reverse Falling Fortunes of Workers

By PETER T. KILBORN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 — For all their exuberance, participants in Monday's Labor Day parades have rarely had as little to celebrate.

No problem illustrates labor's waning influence better than its failure to join with its historic ally, the Democratic Party, to exploit an issue that both acknowledge could be a runaway vote getter: a declining standard of living for most workers.

Throughout the Reagan-Bush years, most of the nation's families have been losing ground economically, finding it harder to make ends meet, while a minority of families, those with higher incomes who are primarily Republican, have gained ground.

SOVIET INSURGENTS FEAR HARD-LINERS PLAN NEW MOVES

LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE

Some Assert Gorbachev Faces
Intrigues at Session — He
Softens Baltic Terms

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Sept. 1 — Insurgent politicians warned today that an emergency national Congress that is to convene Monday to seek a new formula for reviving the exhausted Soviet political system could provide an opportunity for Communist reactionaries to seek a constitutional coup to depose President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Notably, such a warning was issued by Aleksandr N. Yakovlev, the Gorbachev adviser and party critic who predicted the coup by ranking Communist officials two weeks ago.

"The coming congress could itself come out putschist," Mr. Yakovlev said this evening in a television interview in which reformers noted the considerable powers of the Congress and called for it to act only on transitional needs and not on any substantive changes in Government.

Power to Remove President

The Congress of People's Deputies, the nation's 2,250-member super-legislature, chose Mr. Gorbachev President in the first place and has the power — theoretically, at least, in these highly uncertain times — to vote him out.

This can only be done through an elaborate impeachment procedure, involving a two-thirds vote of the congress on findings that the president violated the Constitution.

But Boris N. Yeltsin, the president of the Russian republic, which holds over half the nation's population and economic power, promised to use his republic's votes to protect Mr. Gorbachev in the congress from any such challenge.

"We will defend him tomorrow," he declared after a meeting with the visiting British Prime Minister, John Major, at which the Russian leader said he stressed that Mr. Gorbachev clearly "is not the same man he was before the coup." (Page 5.)

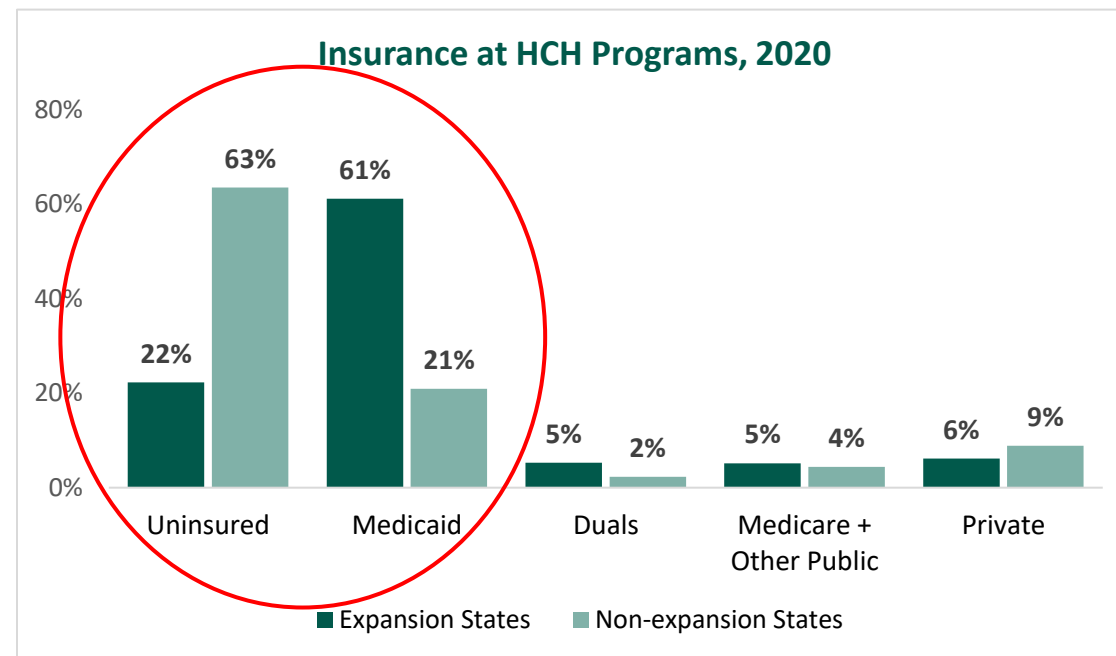
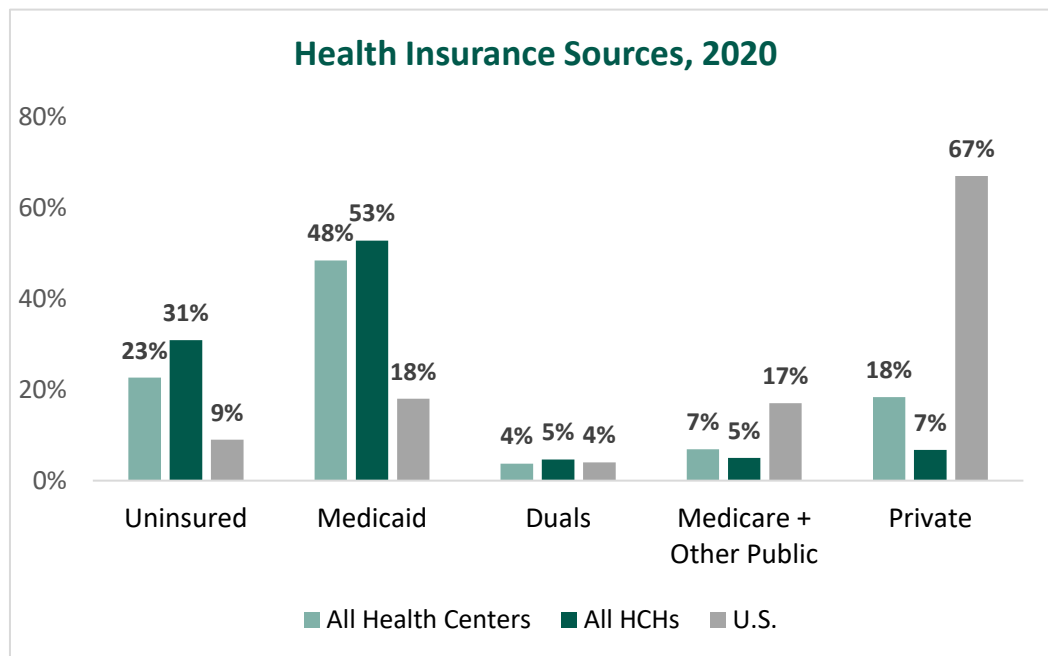
Appeal for Western Help

As the nation slid deeper into political and economic crisis, Mr. Gorbachev appealed to Prime Minister Major, representing the seven leading industrial democracies, for economic help for his crumbling Soviet super-





Need for Improved Insurance Coverage



1. Lack of access to comprehensive insurance → lack of access to services & ongoing poor health
2. Even with insurance, “churn,” stigma, limited networks/willing providers & paperwork undermine value of benefit
3. **Policy need:** Close “coverage gap,” enact 12-month continuous eligibility, increase reimbursements, add optional services

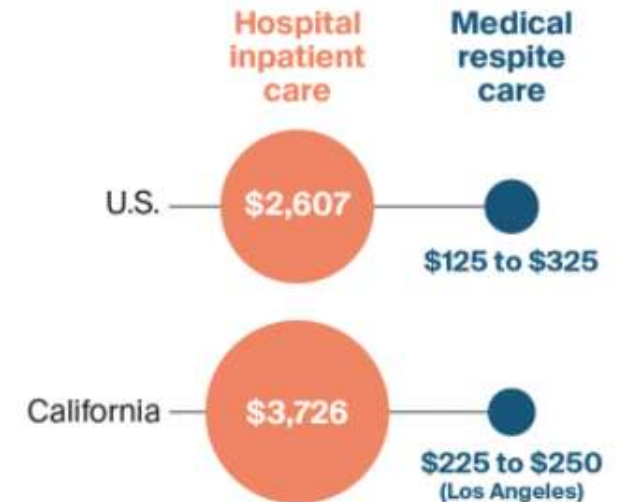
Need for Medical Respite Care

→ Acute/post-acute medical care for people experiencing homelessness who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets, but who are not ill enough to be in a hospital

- **Venues:** shelters, motel rooms, stand-alone programs
- **Services:** medical care, intensive case management, connections to broader care, development of care plan, housing assessments/benefits
- **Staffing:** physicians, nurses, therapists, case managers, CHWs
- **Funding:** hospital, Medicaid, private, state/local funds
- **Benefits:** shorter LOS, fewer re-admits, better outcomes, lower cost

Policy need: recognize need, add services to state Medicaid programs

Expenses per day



Need for Harm Reduction Approaches

What is “**harm reduction**”: Interventions aimed at reducing the negative outcomes of health behaviors without necessarily stopping the problematic health behaviors completely

- Rooted in client/patient goals
- Often used in reference to substance use, but has broader applications
- Can refer to either specific policies, or philosophy/approach of care

Examples:

- **Practice approaches:** trauma-informed care, outreach & street medicine, more flexible care
- **Public health approaches:** syringe services programs, fentanyl test strips, Narcan distribution, etc. & move toward Safe Consumption Spaces



Policy need: Improve systems of care & staff training; expand public health policy approaches

Resources

- [Insurance Coverage at HCH Programs, 2020](#)
- National Institute for Medical Respite Care ([NIMRC](#))
- [Defining Characteristics of Medical Respite Care](#)
- [Medicaid & MCOs: Financing Approaches to Medical Respite Care](#)
- COVID-19 & the HCH Community: [Medical Respite Care & Alternate Care Sites](#)
- COVID-19 and the HCH Community: [Interim Lessons Learned from the Pandemic](#)
- National Harm Reduction Coalition: [Homelessness & Harm Reduction](#)



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National Institute for Medical Respite Care



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NOV
18

Voices From the Frontlines

2 pm – 4:30 pm ET

NOV
29

Introduction to Environmental Health & Policy

12 pm – 1 pm ET

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