WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

Addressing Housing for Health Equity

Health Equity Assessment and Resource Team
Office of Policy and Practice Alignment
02.16.23

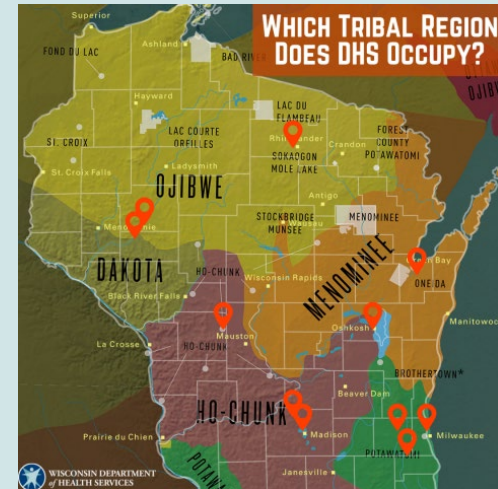To protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Native/Tribal Nations of Wisconsin

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Brothertown Nation (not federally/state recognized)
- Forest County Potawatomi
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Oneida Nation
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians

Learn more at: https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/ and https://native-land.ca/

Learning Community Agreements

I/We agree to:
- Recognize conversation as the seed of action.
- Value and hold relationships at the center of this work.
- Engage and participate – this space is what we make it.
- Listen and make room for others to share.
- Be open to new ideas and ways of thinking.
- Be patient with others and with ourself.
- Remain aware of how history, class, and environment shape our worldview.
- Acknowledge the intent but own the impact.

Housekeeping

- There will be statistics, resources, and tools shared over the course of our meeting.
  - Session will be recorded and posted on [DHS's training website](#)
  - Slide Deck will also be posted and provided to attendees.
- Drop questions in the chat, Q/A at end of presentation
- Brief survey at the end of session

Social Determinants of Health Defined

The circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These determinants interact with individual behavior and shape the choices that are available to them.

These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces including economics, social policies on education and housing, and politics that enhance or impede access to opportunities for health based on social hierarchies of advantage and disadvantage (e.g., race/ethnicity, class, and gender).

Domains

- Economic Stability
- Education Access and Quality
- Health Care Access and Quality
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social and Community Context

Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinants of Health
Copyright-free

Healthy People 2030

Housing

- Housing is one of the most impactful determinants of health and well-being.
- Intersects with income, food, employment, education, transportation, safe neighborhoods and social networks[1]

Housing & Health

[Housing And Health: An Overview Of The Literature | Health Affairs](#)

Neighborhood

- Neighborhood: Environmental and social characteristics of where people live
- Zip Codes are major predicters of health [2]

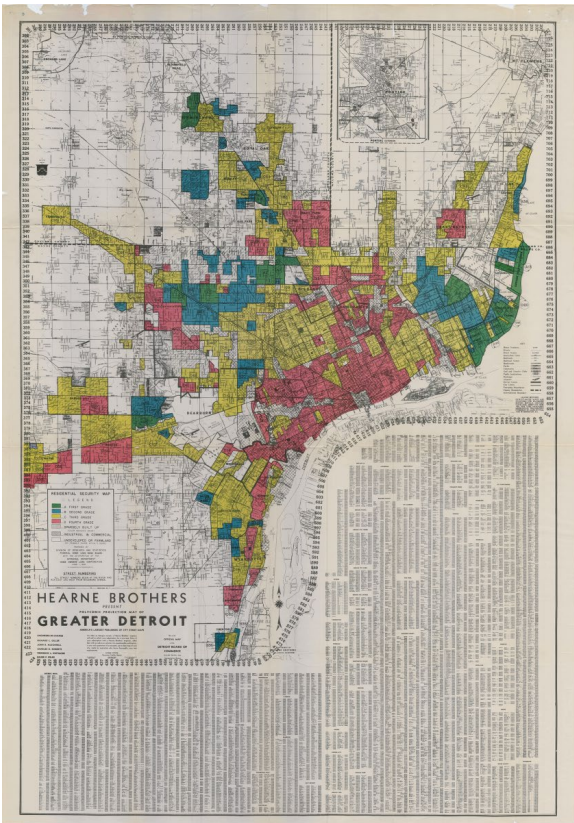Improved health outcomes and availability of resources such as:
- public transportation to one's job
- grocery stores with nutritious foods,
- increased access to health care, and safe spaces to exercises.[1]
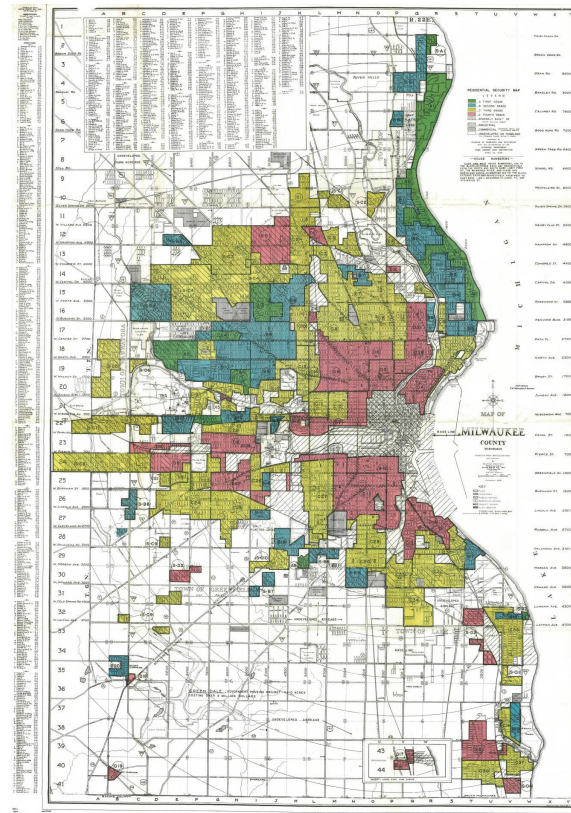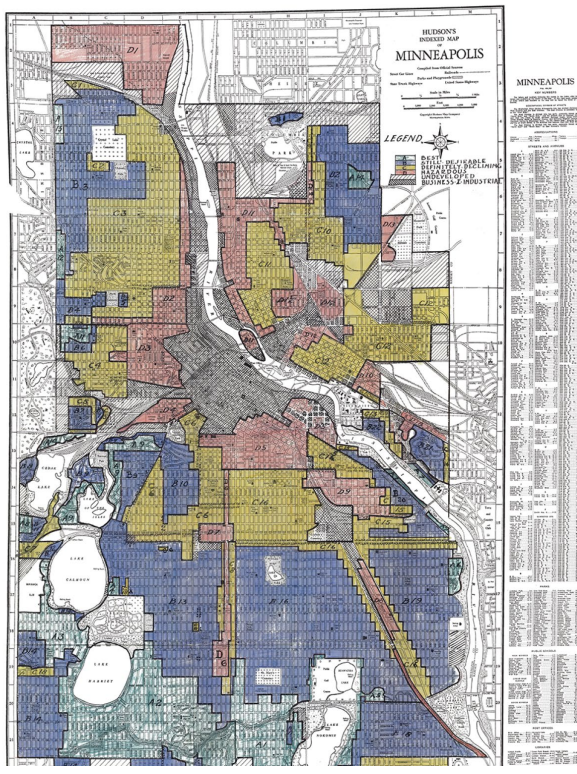

Impact of neighborhood segregation has shown to widen health disparities due to housing connections access to:
- Schools
- Jobs
- Health care
- influencing health behaviors
- increasing crime rates in neighborhoods of color[3]

Redlining
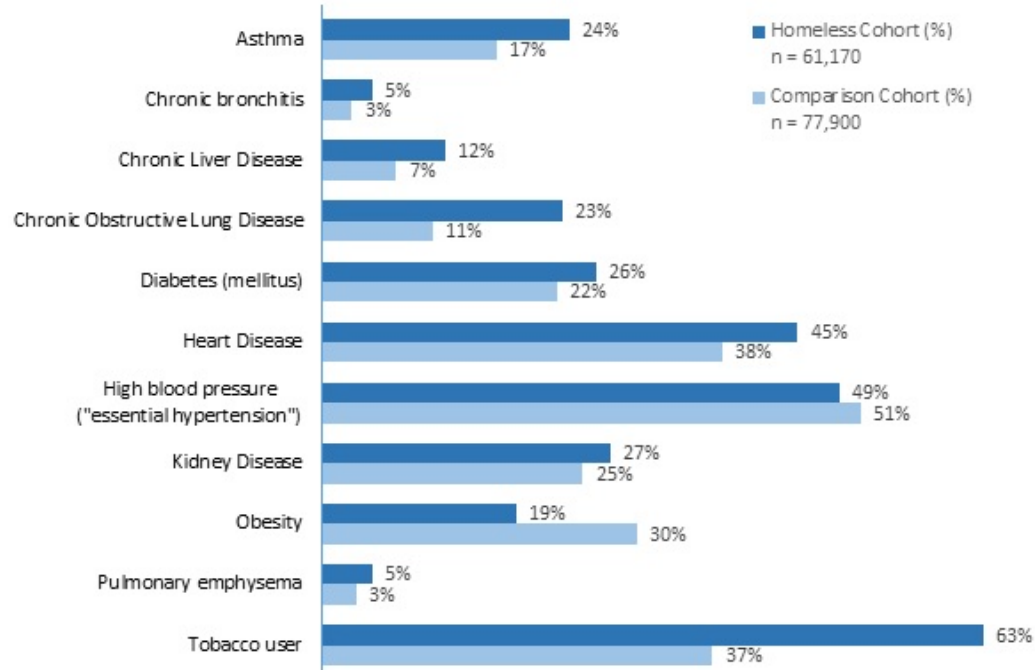

Minneapolis Redlining Map 1930s

Stability

- Stability: the extent to which an individual's customary access to housing of reasonable quality is secure[7]
  - Examples:
    - Chronic homelessness, moving frequently, falling behind on rent, couch surfing, moving between home and shelters.
- People facing chronic homelessness have higher morbidity and increased mortality, physically and mentally[4]
- Residential instability in youth leads to increased risks of teen pregnancy, early drug use, and depression.[5]
- Access to stable housing can improve health and reduce health care costs.[1]
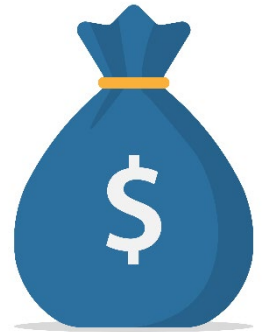
Homelessness and Chronic Health Conditions

Quality & Safety

- Quality & Safety: Conditions inside & outside homes
  - Examples: Residential crowding, smoking exposure, poor ventilation, water leaks, pest infestations, in-home exposure to lead.
- Negative Health Outcomes:
  - asthma, damage to brain and nervous system, spread of infectious disease[5]
- Asthma triggers removed -> health improvements and cost reductions among both children and adults.[6]
- LTHD - code enforcement for healthy conditions
  - Housing, food, lead levels, water safety levels

Affordability

- Affordability: Financial burdens from high-cost housing
- In 2020, 46% of American renters spent 30% or more of their income on housing, including 23% who spent at least 50% of their income this way
  - More severe cost burden being on renters rather than homeowners.[1]
- Spending more on housing
-> better access to schools, parks, and other health promoting resources.[1]
- Since the Great Recession, the gap between Black and White homeownership rates has grown wider than it's been in more than 50 years

Frameworks in Action

Socio-Ecological Model - Housing

Case study: The Multnomah County Health Department used the socio-ecological model to develop strategies that address housing as a social determinant of health, and its linkage to asthma.

Policy level
Work with policy makers on initiatives that address the root causes of environmental health hazards, such as strengthening local codes to increase protection of renters' health.

Institutional level
Promote use of a web-based referral program among health professionals so they can easily refer pediatric asthma patients for home inspections with an environmental health specialist.

Community level
Conduct community outreach and education with landlords and tenants about principles of a healthy and affordable home

Individual and interpersonal levels
Visit low-income homes to help children gain more control over their asthma, identify environmental home triggers, and find ways to reduce triggers through the Healthy Homes program

Multnomah_Healthy_Homes_Policy_Toolkit.PDF (wicphet.org)

LHD Role in Multisector Community Partnerships
Journal of Public Health Management and Practice[1]

Roles by Thematic Area

- Funder or Resource Provider
- Training or Technical Assistance Provider
- Relationship-Bridger
- Subject Matter Expert
- Leader

Implications for Policy & Practice

Health departments can fill an essential role in working with MCPs to address SDOH and advance health equity, including:

- Leveraging funding and other resources to support and sustain partnerships' community health initiatives and streamlining the funding process for partnerships. Resources include products, such health education materials, as well as staff expertise and assistance with planning and coordinating partnership activities.
- Providing training and technical assistance to local partnerships on community needs and strengths assessments, evaluation, and acquiring external funding by introducing them to external grant opportunities and providing letters of support for responses to funding opportunities.
- Leveraging relationships to connect new community organizations to partnerships and serving on partnership boards or committees.
- Providing subject matter expertise and evaluation support, helping inform implementation and measurement of initiative impacts. Health departments can support data collection, share data, or help interpret evaluation findings to inform the partnerships' implementation approach.
- Providing leadership to coordinate current and future initiatives to address SDOH. Health departments are uniquely positioned to provide the necessary leadership to connect and support community efforts.

Resources

1. [Welcoming Wisconsin Home: A Statewide Action Plan for Homelessness 2021-2023](#)
2. [Resources for States to Address Health Equity and Disparities - NASHP](#)
3. [Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing](#)
4. Office of Children's Mental Health – Housing Stability
   1. [Supporting Child Well-Being through Housing Stability (wi.gov)](#)
   2. [OCMH OCMH Fact Sheets (wi.gov)](#)
5. [Unequal Housing Conditions And Code Enforcement Contribute To Asthma Disparities In Boston, Massachusetts | Health Affairs](#)
6. [Law and Policy Pathways to Increase Afforadabile Housing](#)

Watch:

- [EBHPP Social Determinants of Health Series Part 2: Housing (Full Program) - YouTube](#)
- Affordable Housing Solutions:
  - [Affordable Housing Production - YouTube](#)
  - [Housing Stability - YouTube](#)
  - [Housing Quality and Preserving Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) – YouTube](#)

- https://vimeo.com/showcase/9276578?page=2 (see about the 40 minute mark re: 5 things needed to end homelessness)

Works Cited

1. https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hpb20180313.396577/
2. https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/zip-code-better-predictor-of-health-than-genetic-code/)
3. Racial Residential Segregation:
4. https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/141/2/e20172199/38056/Unstable-Housing-and-Caregiver-and-Child-Health-in?autologincheck=redirected
5. https://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2011/rwjf70451
6. Full article: A Cost Analysis for a Community-Based Case Management Intervention Program for Pediatric Asthma (tandfonline.com)
7. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jcop.21665#:~:text=housing%20stability%20as%20the%20extent,the%20legal%20system%2C%20education%20and
8. Care of the Homeless: An Overview | AAFP

Housing First
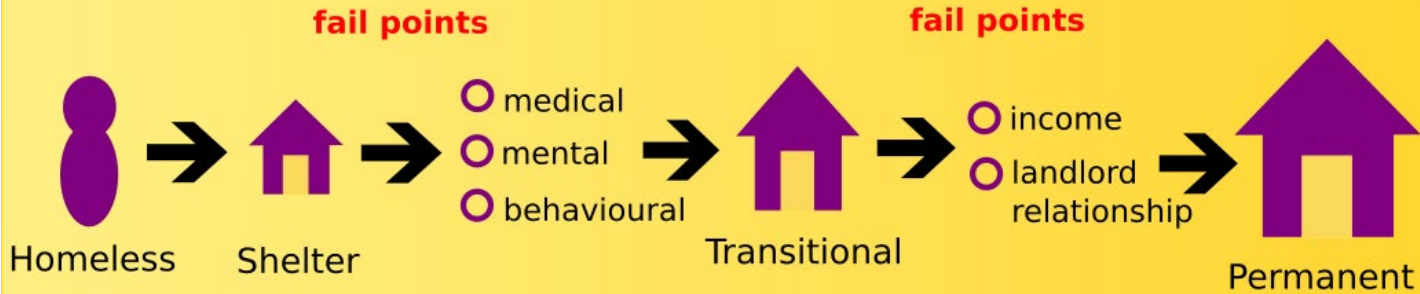
Housing First Presentation

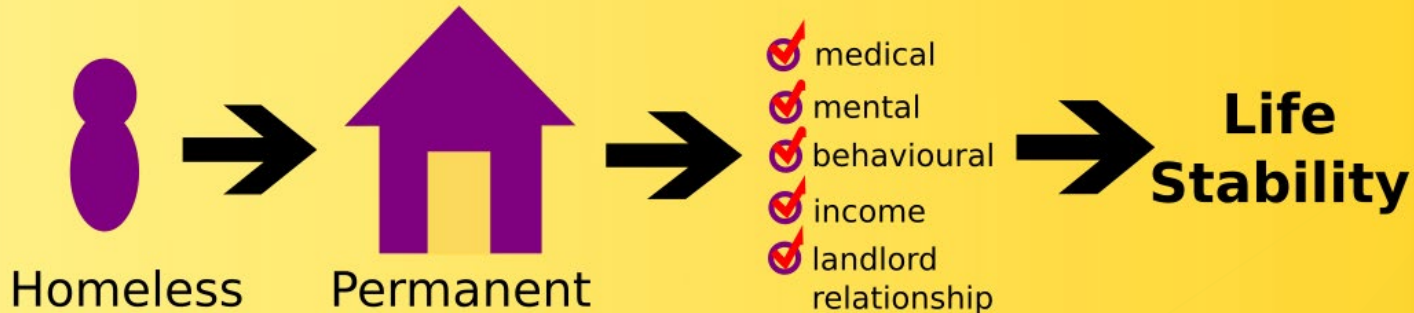Presented by the WI Housing First Coalition

February 16, 2023

What is Housing First vs. Housing Ready

- Starts with the idea that people are homeless because of personal failings
- Therefore, to end their homelessness, must address those personal failings
- The model has stepped housing options, with each new step being earned
- Discounts big issues like poverty
- Spent a lot of money and time, but regularly spun our wheels
- Doesn't end homelessness!

Housing Readiness

fail points

- medical
- mental
- behavioural

fail points

- income
- landlord relationship

Homeless → Shelter → Transitional → Permanent

Housing First

Homeless → Permanent →
- medical
- mental
- behavioural
- income
- landlord relationship
→ **Life Stability**

Housing First Flips the Script

- Housing is the first step to ending homelessness
- 5 Principles
  - Immediate access to housing
  - Consumer choice and self-determination
  - Recovery orientation
  - Individualized, dignified, client-driven supports
  - Community integration

A Best Practice

- The term Housing First is now used widely
- HUD mandates it for housing programs it funds
- The WI Interagency Council on Homelessness names it in their annual plan
- Biden named it as part of his strategy to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025

- But how do we do that??

The WI Housing First Coalition

▶ The WI Housing First Coalition is a group of volunteers, mostly homeless service providers, working to make Housing First possible in Wisconsin by providing advocacy and support to decision-makers and programs to implement Housing First.

▶ We do this through trainings, advocacy, and technical assistance.

▶ Check out our toolkit: https://forms.gle/4uA5NbdDLBkm85F66

Back to 5 Principles

Access to Housing

- Systemically utilize vouchers- housing regardless of ability to pay
- No barriers to entry
- Partnerships with landlords
  - Make landlords a part of the team!
  - Landlord incentives/recovery
- Variety of housing
  - Tenant-based
  - Master lease
  - Project-based
  - Others- tiny homes

Consumer Choice and Self-Determination

- Need a variety of options- for both housing and services
- Services are optional for them, but mandatory for you to provide
- Client-driven, creative, out-of-the-box thinking

Recovery Orientation: Harm Reduction

- An alternative to abstinence

- Focus is on safety versus stopping the behavior

- Work is in partnership, and sounds like: I'm seeing this is problematic because….what might help with that?

- [Harm Reduction | SAMHSA](#)

Individualized Supports: Motivational Interviewing

- A technique to help a person discover and work through their own ambivalence toward change

- [Understanding Motivational Interviewing | Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT)](#)

- Spirit

- Processes

- Core Skills

Community Integration

- Physical locations are diverse & integrated
- Services also focus on connection to community
  - CCS may be a great option for giving more options to people in terms of services
  - How are we supporting knowing about neighborhood events?
- How do we create community within programming?
  - Recovery includes engaging in "normal" activities, not just clinical ones
  - Peer Collective has been strengthened doing things together

Why Housing First- Cost-effective

- Cost-effective
  - Invest in housing and save in other areas
    - Criminal justice
    - Behavioral health
  - Shelter is more expensive

Milwaukee County reduced legal/criminal costs by $600,000 per year

Milwaukee County reduced BHD costs by $715,000 per year

Shelter costs $23,000 more per person, per year

Why Housing First- Effectiveness

- Effective
  - To end homelessness, we need to house people!
  - People recover more quickly in housing
- Milwaukee County has the lowest street homeless count per capita
  - Housing focus vs. Shelter focus
  - Investing in housing
- Housing is needed before many other things can be a focus
  - Heard from all departments that housing is #1 need for clients

How Housing First is Implemented

- Always a work in progress!
- Housing subsidies
  - Ample
  - Varied
- Referrals accepted without any barriers
- Client-driven supports
  - Nothing required for the client
  - Broad range of on-demand services required of the program
    - Partnerships outside of the housing sphere
  - Not only clinical focus, community focus as well
  - Focus on how to keep housing stability
- Housing and Services are separate
- Consumer/Peer boards

What Housing First is NOT

- Housing ONLY
- 1 project or program
- In isolation of community resources
- Only PSH/HUD funded

- Housing First IS a culture and mindset shift

How do you support Housing First?

- How do your departmental actions support Housing First?
  - Do you focus on housing? Can you creatively provide funding?
  - Is your service delivery low-barrier and person-driven?
  - Can you support on-demand in-home support services?
  - How are you thinking Housing First in your partnerships?
- What state-level partnerships can unlock potential partnerships locally?
- How are you advocating for Housing First?

Discussion & Questions

Emily Kenney: ekenney@impactinc.org

Upcoming CHA/CHIP-SHA/SHIP CoP Sessions

- Peer presentations by local CHIP leaders: focus on the Walworth County and Green County CHIP processes
  - Friday, February 24 from 9:00-10:30am
  - Thursday, March 2 from 12:00-1:30am
- Targeted CHIP-SHIP working strategy sessions on the topics of housing, social connectedness, mental health and more.
  - Working together through definitions, narrative, strategies, metrics (state and local), process and performance measures, partnerships, implementation strategy, and solutions to common challenges.
  - Dates in March, April and May to be determined

Thank you!

Next Learning Community:

Equity in Rural Jurisdictions
Thursday March 16th, 2023
10am-11am