

A PERMANENT UNDERCLASS

HOW POLICIES ON HOMELESSNESS,
ADDICTION, & MENTAL ILLNESS DISCOURAGE
TRANSFORMATION

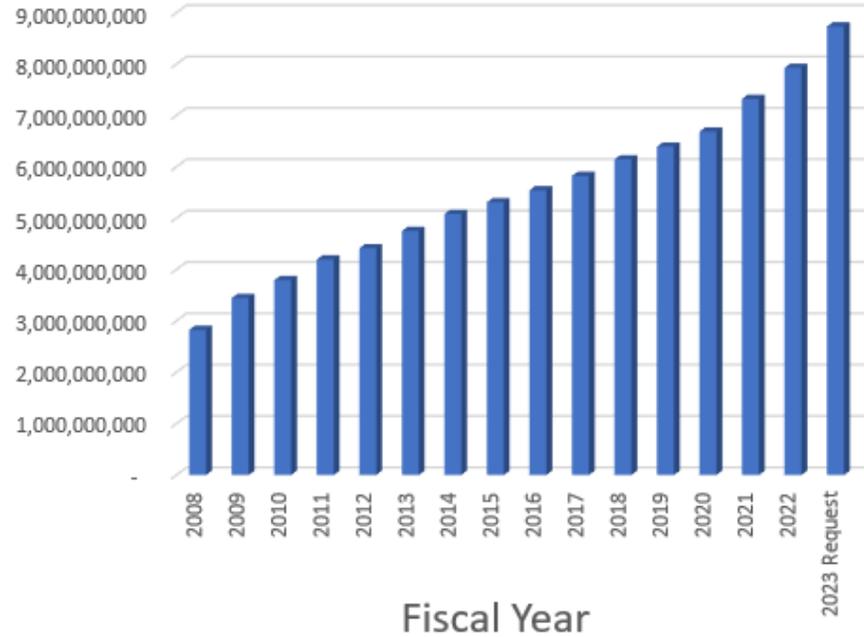
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The State Of Federal Homelessness Policy In Three Graphs

Graph 4: Federal Spending



Graph 1: National HUD Data (Adults)

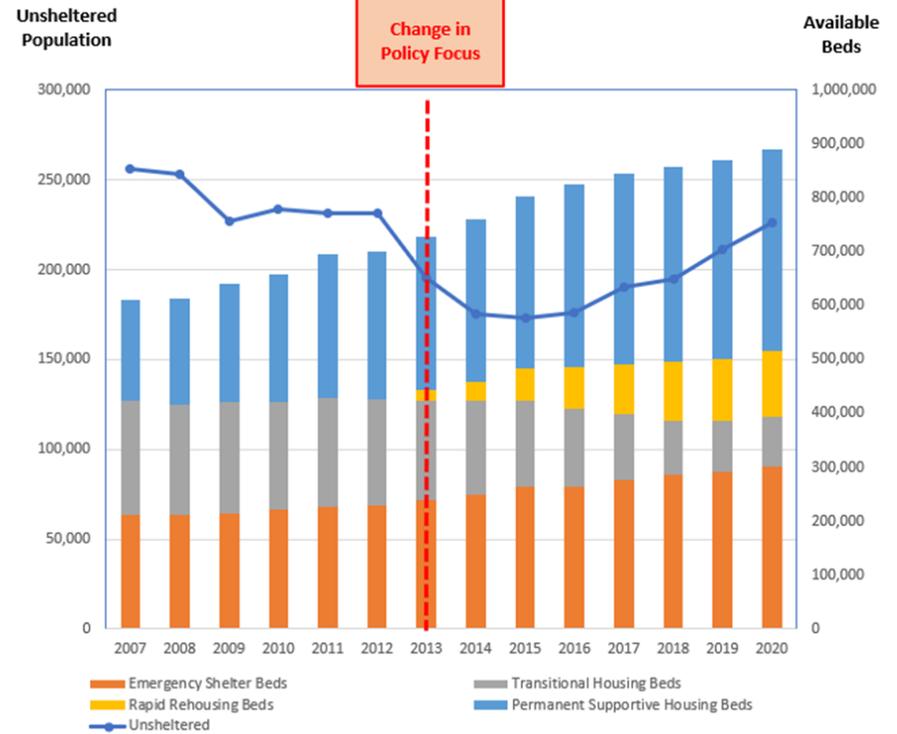
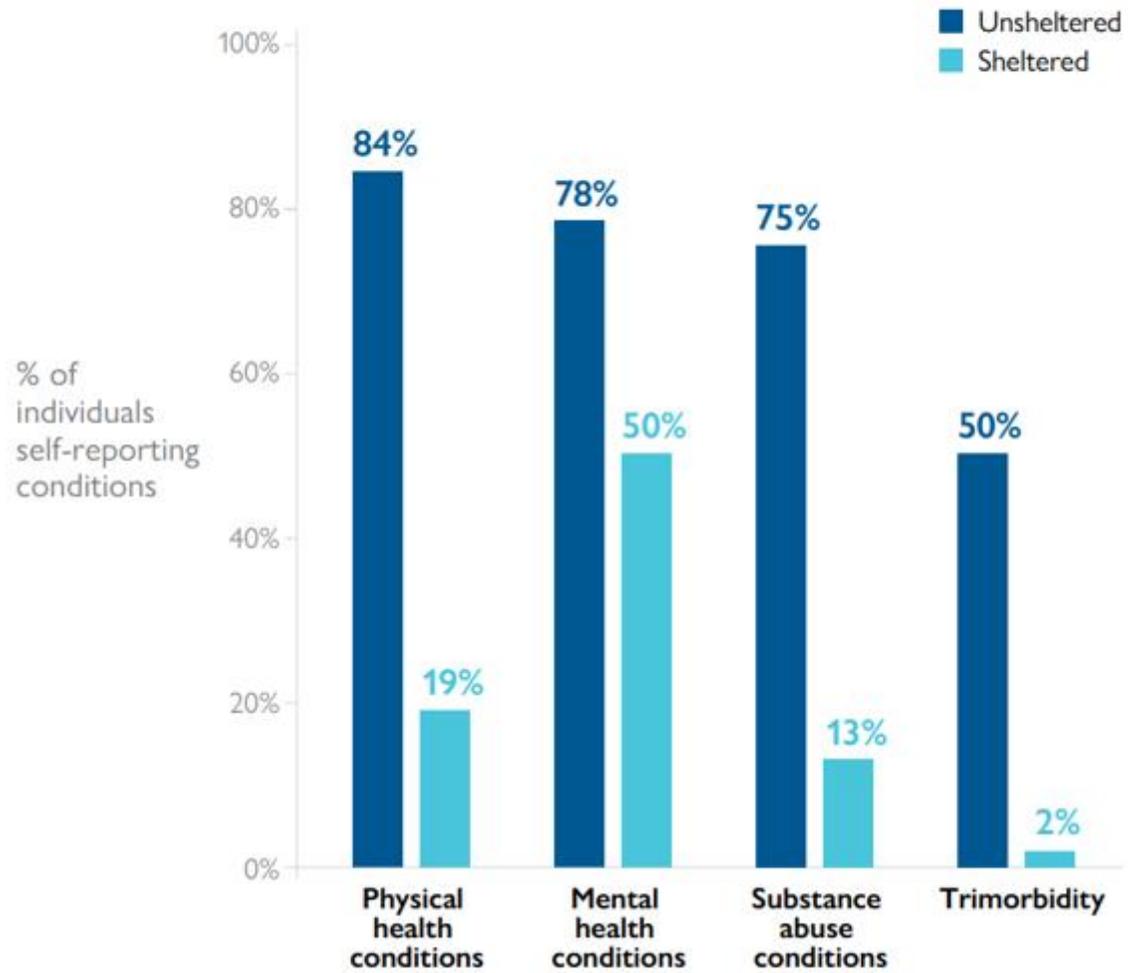


FIGURE 4. Physical health, mental health, substance abuse, and trimorbidity by shelter status¹¹



How Did This Happen?

I Can't
Afford the
Rent

I Can't Get
Treatment

You Can't
Make Me



Why Are People Homeless?

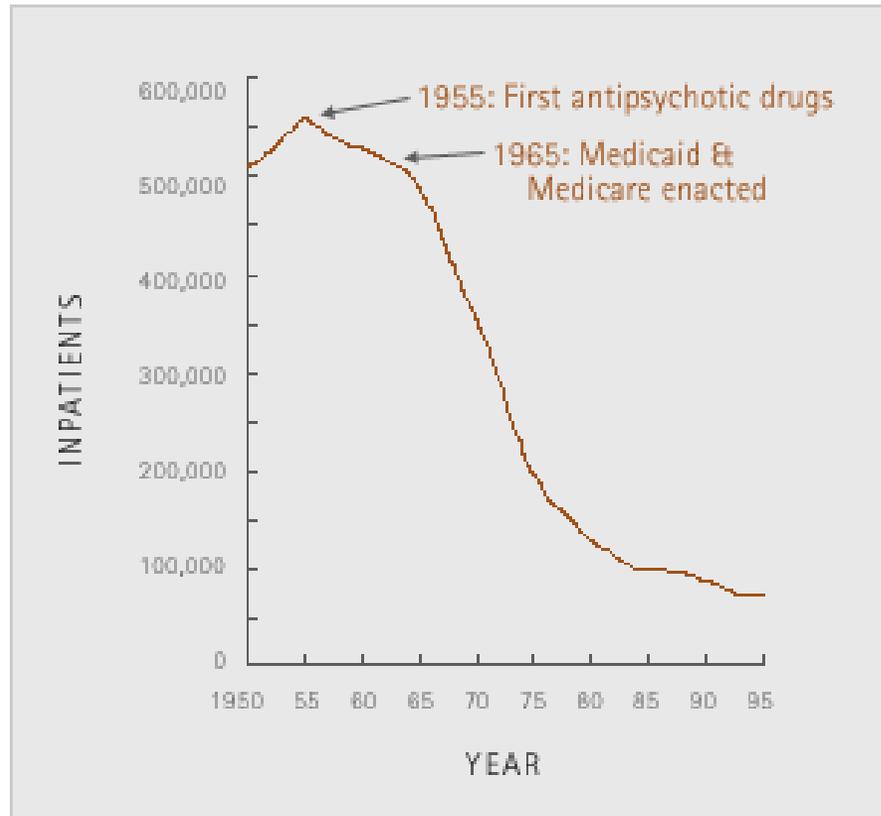
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Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.

I CAN'T AFFORD THE RENT

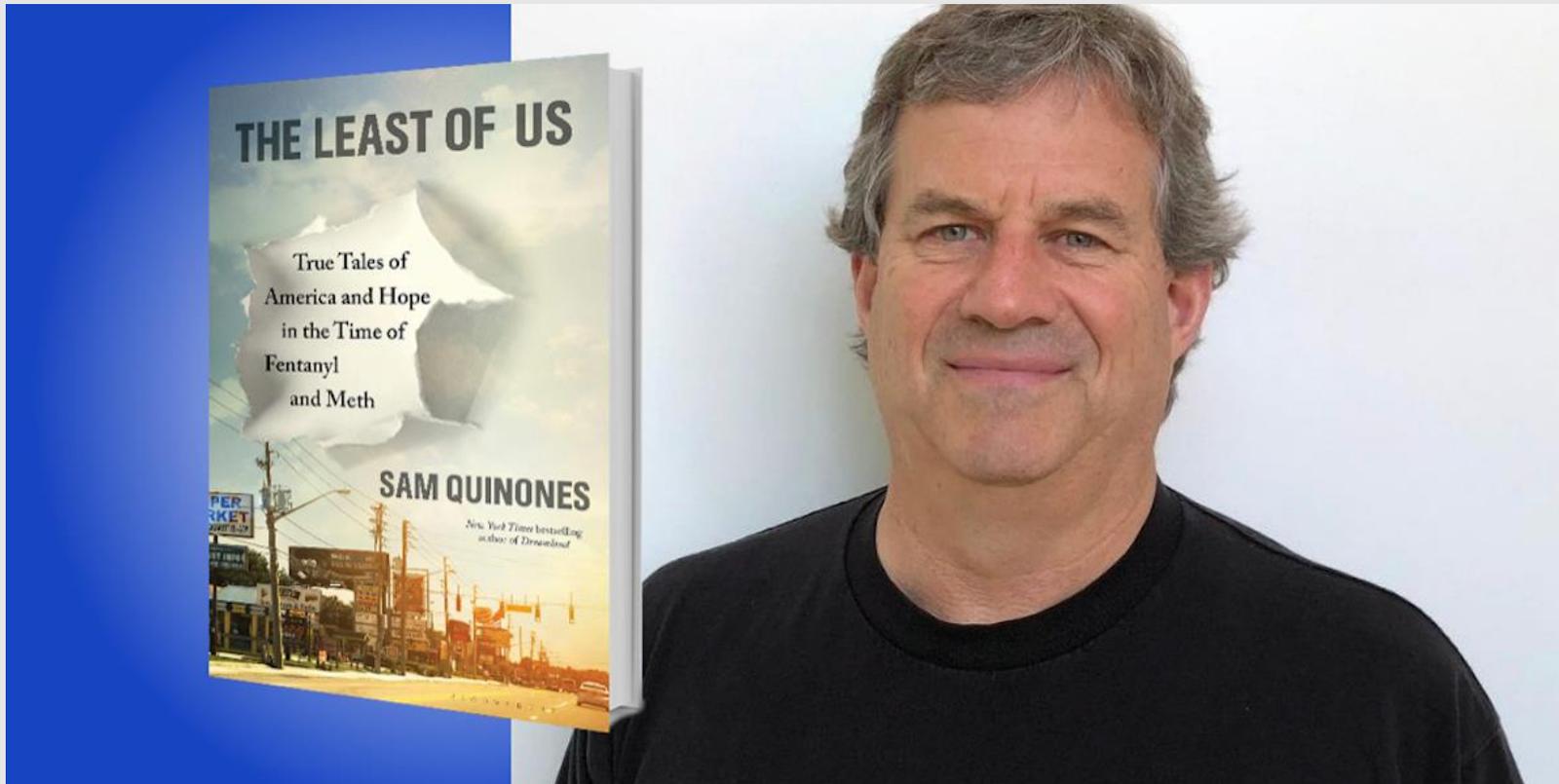
I Can't Get Treatment

“The best you can do is get a restraining order against your child, make him homeless, and hope he commits a crime so that he might be able to get treatment in jail.”





YOU CAN'T MAKE ME



The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth, by Sam Quinones

Situation Report

Prohibiting service requirements & treatment leads to fewer improved lives and incentivizes dependency.

Harm reduction and drug normalization disincentivizes recovery.

Adopting a “civil-rights” stance on idleness, mental illness and addiction leads to soft on crime policies and disorder.

These consequences will lead to a growing and more acute underclass.

What Can Be Done to Reverse These Trends

1

Require a “skin-in-the-game” approach toward benefits.

2

Shift from PSH to Housing That Heals – Integrated housing with clinical treatment and services.

3

Promote recovery for the addicted and treatment for the seriously mentally ill.

4

Restore accountability in communities by rejecting the “civil rights” claims of activists.

Vision for Reform



“Life repair is the key and life repair is best done in community with others.”

The Least of Us

“We need to make it easy to get treatment and hard to get high and/or decompose on the street.” Tom Wolf

Recovery Communities As Models for Reform

- Residential Treatment
- Sober Housing
- Child Care
- Job Training
- Outreach that Leads to Accountability
- Exercise and Physical Activity



Thank You!

- Comments and Questions
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