

Youth & Older Adults Overview

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS DECEMBER 2019



Older Adults Landscape

- Nationally, over 50% of the homeless population are above 50, compared to 11% in the early 1990s.
- Across the U.S., older adults have the fastest growing rates of opioid use, opioid-related hospital visits, and opioid-related deaths
- 30% of HCHN patients are 50+, growth 2015-2018

HCHN Older Adults Services

- Mobile senior health strategy VSHSL
- Mobile Medical Van #3 at Lazarus Center Feb 2020- Harborview
- Coordinated Personal Care Pilot in PSH sites (ALTSA, Full Life Care)
- Respite and Palliative Care

Gaps- Seniors

- **Long term care:** Skilled nursing facilities and adult family homes are not willing to accept individuals with behavioral challenges or active substance use disorder
- **Respite beds:** King County has 34 medical respite beds which are reserved for only the very highest acuity patients. Boston has 124 beds, Phoenix has 100, Los Angeles has 432.
- **Underutilization of Foundational Community Supports (FCS)** by housing agencies
- **Geriatric specialty care**

Youth Landscape

In early 2017, HUD awarded King County \$5.4 million for a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

WA state Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection spent \$4.15 million in King County in 2018.

These resources as well as private money from the Raikes and Schultz Family foundations, United Way of King County, and Pearl Jam combined under a single, coordinated campaign: End Youth Homelessness Now. Goal: Functional Zero 2021

- Youth Engagement Team involves a multidisciplinary group that aims to catch minors in systems like schools or the justice system if they fall into homelessness or unstable housing

Since 2017, the number of unaccompanied youths under 18 has dropped by 63%

2019 count showed 28% fewer youth and young adults (up to age 24) on Seattle's streets than the year before.

For homeless people younger than 18, there was a 52% drop.

HCHN Youth Services

15% HCHN patients under 18, 22% under 24

Homeless Youth Clinics

- Neighborcare @ 45th St, New Horizons (Belltown), One Health Clinic partnership with WSU Veterinary
- UW Adolescent Medicine @ Country Doctor, Nexus

Street Outreach

- FOY 1 outreach mental health specialist, 1 drop-in & street outreach staff, 0.25 FTE outreach program coordinator. North/East King County

Shelter Nursing

- HealthPoint @ The Landing, Redmond

Street Medicine Team

- Goes out with youth-serving outreach teams

School-Based Health Centers

- 46 SBHCs in KC (Seattle, Bellevue, Vashon, Issaquah, Highline, Renton)

Gaps- youth

- **Stigma:** continued efforts need to normalize mental health and accessing services.
- **Increase in co-occurring disorders:** seeing more cases of drug-induced psychosis.
- **LGBTQ+ supports:** health care staff may misgender and/or use “dead names” but the process for changing IDs is expensive, time consuming, and difficult.
- **Housing support for pregnant homeless minors:** nothing available.
- **Coordinated Entry for All (CEA):** low barrier shelters underfunded. White youth/young adults are disproportionately connected to services.
- **More psychiatry resources, telehealth and/or consult options:** primary care providers not equipped to prescribe for more complex psychiatric disorders.
- **Low-acuity respite:** spaces for youth/young adults to recover from illness
- **Low-barrier medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD):** provided in some places but not tailored to youth/young adults or easily accessible. *Update: expansion at Orion*
- **Culturally-tailored services:** staff demographics not reflective of clients, need to be strategic about who is hired/partnered with to provide mental health support.