

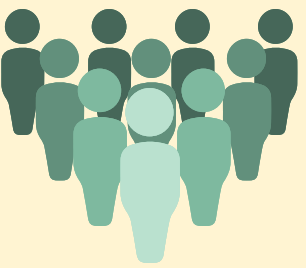
Realities of Unhoused Individuals in the French Quarter

Seven themes developed with data yielded by a 95-item survey administered by Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans to currently or previously unhoused individuals encountered in the French Quarter Management District (FQMD). The 129 surveyed individuals represent 90% of the average number of individuals (143) counted sleeping there. Read the complete data report yielded from the survey [here](#).

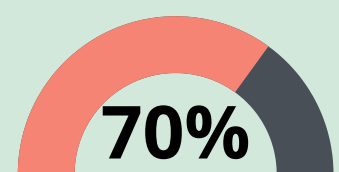
129 surveyed individuals **44.6** average age **78%** identify as men

Marginalized Demographics & Adverse Life Experiences Over-Represented

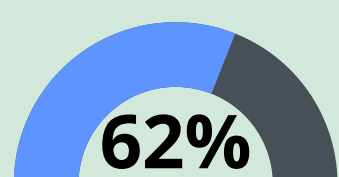
- LGBTQ+ individuals over-represented at: **4x** the general U.S. adult population
- Trans and Gender Non-Conforming: **15x**
- Native and Indigenous: **3x**
- Formerly in foster care: **8x**
- Less than a GED-level education: **4x**
- Domestic violence survivors: **3x**
- Previously imprisoned: **19x**



Significant Medical Conditions and Histories of Homelessness



Have disabling conditions, with **50%** having two or more such conditions.

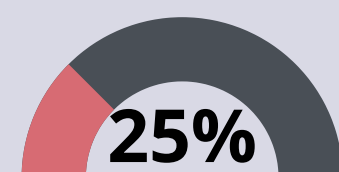


Have been homeless for six months or longer in their current episode of homelessness.

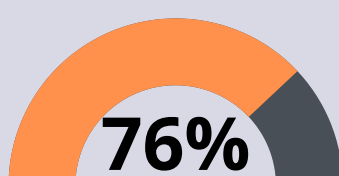


Have experienced homelessness for more than two years of their life.

Struggling but Willing to Access Services



Lack information about the basic services and shelters available in the city.



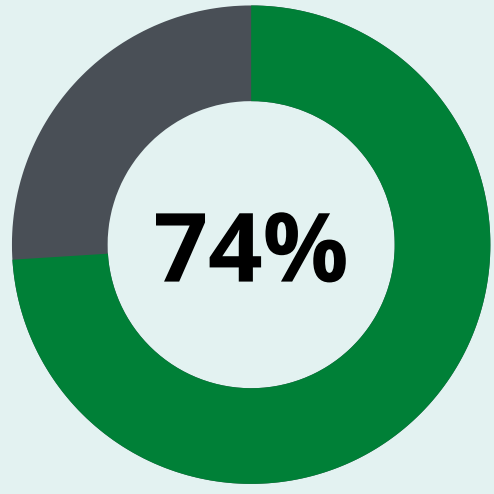
Reported not having met with any case manager, social worker, or outreach specialist in the past six months.

<1.0

The average amount of times unhoused individuals in the area reported having interacted with any case manager, social worker, or outreach worker to discuss goals such as income, healthcare, or housing in the past six months was **0.90**.

Those who are aware of services reported **distance, mobility impairments, strict rules, limited staff, over-crowdedness, and theft of personal items** among the **barriers** they face when seeking services.

Unhoused Individuals are Focused on Housing



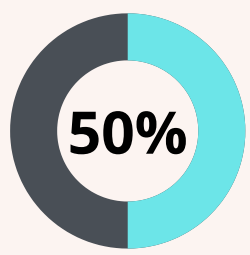
Individuals who reported that they view obtaining, applying to, or being able to afford their own housing as the most helpful potential intervention they could receive.

Individuals view housing as the **main and first intervention they need**. 54.3% of the 558 potential services named as useful by surveyed individuals seeking to end their current homelessness involved the direct provision of or connection to housing. An additional 19.89% of interventions named as useful by surveyed individuals had to deal with gaining or raising income, which individuals tied to their desire to be able to afford housing.



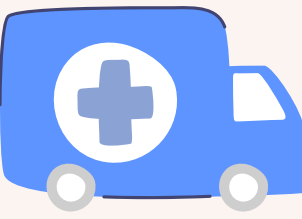
High Rates of Police and EMS Interaction by Some, But Not All

The 129 individuals surveyed reported, over the past six months: **283 police encounters**, **327 hospital visits**, and **253 ambulance rides**.



50% Have had no such interactions with police or EMS in the past 6 months.

16% of individuals account for **71.9%** of reported police encounters. **80%** of these individuals reported having been diagnosed with mental/psychiatric conditions.



Negative Effects of Homelessness Most Severely Impact the Unhoused Themselves – They Share Concerns about Environmental Stressors such as Cleanliness, Safety, Crowdedness, and Harassment.



Individuals reported **significant difficulties** and a noted **lack of dignity** around **sleeping outside**, **living near trash**, **having few places to shower or use the restroom**, **having their private matters take place in public**, and **relying on others for basic necessities**. Individuals reported dissatisfaction with seeing their community struggle in this way.

A handful of respondents reported trying to mitigate the impact of these realities on others by spending time cleaning up, seeking to remain discrete, and aiming to not inconvenience anyone else.

Significant Personal and Communal Ties to the French Quarter

Individuals reported feeling a unique **sense of family, community, security, and belonging** in the French Quarter. They have connections that include work, arts and culture (selling art pieces and performing music or other acts), as well as often decades-long personal and family history.

These individuals see themselves as **part of a community fabric** in the French Quarter.



Recommendations to French Quarter Management District

Eight recommendations created in light of both:

(a) data yielded from a 95-item survey administered to 129 individuals encountered on the streets of the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) and (b) realities of current French Quarter Management District capacity and mission.

Read the full recommendations report [here](#).

Engage in Practical Program Evaluation

Questions useful to determining which programs and/or interventions **most effectively respond to the needs of unhoused while also efficiently using funding and staffing resources** are outlined in the full recommendations report. **Priority should be given to those interventions that can measurably end homelessness for those who are unhoused in the area.** Programs that simply yield a large volume of interactions with those who are unhoused or that simply spread information about services but do not themselves facilitate service delivery that is focused on ending homelessness **should not be prioritized.**



Invest in a Street Outreach Case Manager to Serve Area

Neighborhood-Specific Street Outreach uses a resource-efficient model to provide effective, housing-focused services. Its strengths include that it:

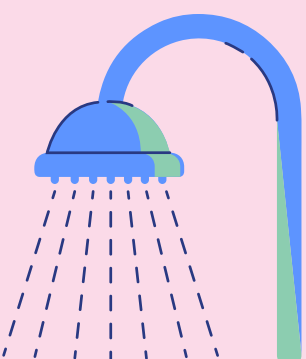
- Brings services (including housing access) to where people are, which reduces barriers
- Is proactive, not reactive
- Reaches the "hard to reach"
- Is considered a national best-practice
- Doesn't exclude people from services
- Is a cost effective model
- Is flexible to meet diverse needs
- Is a visible presence to stakeholders



Collaborate for the Co-location of Basic Services

FQMD can partner with existing service providers and/or portalet companies to both meet basic needs of the unhoused and mitigate ill effects of a large unhoused population on the area (trash, waste, bathroom over-usage) while longer-term structural changes are considered.

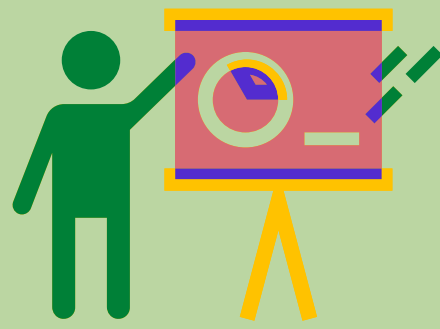
This can involve the funding or contracting of non-profit services which already provide such services either within the French Quarter or using mobile hygiene units elsewhere in the city to increase basic service availability within the Quarter.



Modify Police and Public Safety Protocol

Police and public safety officials working in the French Quarter can improve their interactions with unhoused individuals and their capacities to assist in several ways:

- Better documentation of service calls related to homelessness so true volume and needs can be understood
- Training and regularly updated resource materials provided by street outreach
- Partner with outreach service providers to meet the needs of most vulnerable
- Clearer communication about laws and policies to the unhoused



Educate and Involve Stakeholders

FQMD can share data in the full report with stakeholders to provide education, dispel myths about those who are unhoused, and foster understanding.

FQMD can provide resource guides and/or trainings for interested stakeholders.



Utilize Partnerships within French Quarter

FQMD should explore partnership with French Quarter entities. Entities like the French Market Corporation have a similar stake as FQMD and both parties would likely benefit from administrative coordination. Opportunities to foster direct connections for unhoused individuals should be considered – including identifying businesses who would hire or showcase the artwork of unhoused individuals.

Use French Quarter Management District Platform to Stay Involved

As FQMD endeavors to serve its unhoused population, it will gain additional, corresponding data relevant to advocating for, advising, or adjusting social services and programs, such as information about the available number of housing opportunities for unhoused individuals in the city. Bringing such data to City and State arenas in which FQMD already has a platform benefits unhoused individuals by elevating their concerns to larger public spheres.



Treat "Move Along" Policies with Caution

Policies that "move along" unhoused individuals from one location to the next or that force individuals into shelter have limited efficacy, can waste resources, and raise legal and ethical concerns:

- Is the policy only enforced while people are sleeping or are individuals profiled as potentially homeless during all hours in public spaces?
- Is the policy only enforced when shelter is available?
- What happens to those barred from shelters?
- Are individuals cited or incarcerated if they refuse shelter? This represents significant personal trauma and expense.

