



Testimony of Doug Riggs

46+ ...non-profit programs which serve close to 100,000 youth

94% ...are facing poverty

44% ...are children of color

51% ...of homeless youth are children of color



OREGON'S UNACCOMPANIED HOUSELESS YOUTH (UHY)

OREGON HAS:

1st

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH HOUSELESSNESS IN THE U.S.¹

8,278

YOUTH IN NEED OF SAFE HOUSING²

18,358

K-12 YOUTH EXPERIENCED HOUSELESSNESS IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR³

% of UHY

Physically Abused at Home

40-60%

Sexually Abused at Home

20-40%

Formerly in Foster Care

33%

LGBTQIA+

Up to 40%

Black/African American

34%

Youth of Color

51%

HOMELESS YOUTH ROSE

32%

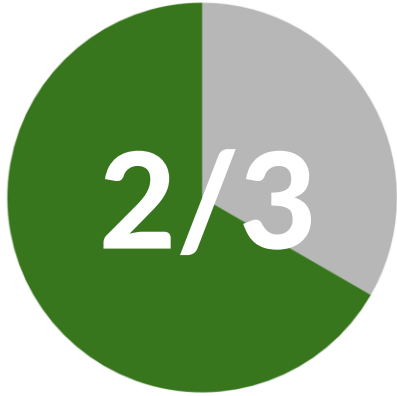
IN OREGON DURING THE 2008 RECESSION

AS MANY AS

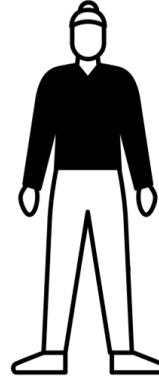
3/4

OF UHY LIVE WITH A CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITION

What Do We Know?



2/3 of youth who are homeless for as little as
3 months
go on to become homeless as adults.



The cost of one adult trapped in homelessness is
\$3.2-\$5 million

Data shows that for every **\$2 million** of investment, we can serve over **700** RHY youth.

So....

If just **50%** of those youth for a three-year period avoided homelessness as adults, the state could save **\$3.2 billion** over the next **20-30** years.

Bottom Line for Legislators:



Fact #1:

Being homeless as a youth for as little as 3 months is the #1 indicator of long-term chronic adult homelessness

Fact #2:

As a result, the # of homeless adults will continue to grow in Oregon UNLESS we reduce the supply & cut off the pipeline of homeless youth into chronic long term adult homelessness.

Bottom Line:

We cannot fix or end adult homelessness until every community has the resources to establish an evidence-based system of interventions and supports for youth - - where our efforts are more likely to succeed.