



**NATIONAL
COALITION^{FOR}
THE
HOMELESS**

[HTTPS://NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG](https://nationalhomeless.org)

Violence and Hate Against Unhoused Americans: 2020-2022

May 2024

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Compiled by Annie Leomporra, former NCH Staff, **Adam C. Sloane**, Esq, MAYER BROWN LLP

Written by Bob Erlenbusch, NCH Board of Directors; Executive Director, Sacramento Coalition to End Homelessness

Edited by Bernard Ohanian

Designed by Kai Erlenbusch, Consultant, **Megan Hustings**, NCH Staff

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At the National Coalition For the Homeless, we envision a world where everyone has a safe, decent, affordable and accessible home. Our mission is to prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected. We believe that safe, decent, and affordable housing is a human right [as written in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article Twenty-Five, Section One].

Thank you to the millions who have experienced housing instability. Your ongoing strength, determination, and kindness, in the face of hate for your situation, inspire us daily. If you have experienced violence because of your housing status, and your story is not printed, please know you are not forgotten. Your health and safety are our top concerns. Please consider reporting violence to local law enforcement.



Homelessness is not a moral failure of a person, it is a moral failure of society. It is immoral to choose displacement and eviction over safety and equality.

Donald H. Whitehead, Jr.
NCH Executive Director

SUMMARY

Criminalization has Consequences

Over the past 23 years, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has documented nearly 2000 incidents of violence against people who were homeless. At least 588 of unhoused victims lost their lives in violent attacks during this period.

These crimes appear to have been motivated by a perpetrator's bias against people experiencing homelessness, and to have been facilitated by a perpetrator's ability to target homeless people with relative ease. The crimes are a litany of atrocities: beatings, rapes, mutilations, and murders. The murder victims died in unfathomable ways: not only shot or stabbed to death, but also set on fire, drowned – even beheaded.

This year, we've documented shocking levels of law enforcement involvement in attacks against people experiencing homelessness, as well as serial attacks on people experiencing homelessness. And while NCH has compelling data on the number and severity of attacks in general, many of these acts remain underreported (in part because people experiencing homelessness tend to live on the outskirts of communities). The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that in 2019 "less than half (44%) of violent victimizations (of people experiencing homelessness) are reported to police." Furthermore, many attacks were likely even more gruesome than available reports imply.

Why do these attacks occur?

Since the 1980s, the homeless community—and poor people in general—have been ostracized and dehumanized. According to the [National Homelessness Law Center](#), at least 187 cities and 48 states have enacted laws over the past three decades to criminalize life-sustaining acts such as camping, sleeping, and panhandling. Most recently, a new law in Kentucky legalizes violence against people experiencing homelessness under the infamous stand-your-ground defense. In the proposed legislation, force up to and including deadly force can legally be used to remove people experiencing homelessness from private property.

In addition, the United States Supreme Court is set to rule on a case – [Grants Pass v Johnson](#) – that could endorse a city’s ability to prohibit people experiencing homelessness from sleeping in public. Such a ruling could open the door to mass criminalization of people experiencing homelessness, which in turn could lead to more lost lives.

We believe there’s a direct link between these growing criminalization efforts and the increase in violence and vitriol toward people experiencing homelessness. Included in this report is a case study on Oregon, which saw the highest levels of violence against people who were unhoused we have ever documented.

Elected officials must recognize the impact of the decision to criminalize homelessness in their communities. Criminalizing homelessness not only villainizes people experiencing homelessness; it also forces them into isolation, making them easy targets for those intent on causing harm to them. Homeless people are already far more likely than the general population to be victims of violent crime; criminalizing and isolating them only makes it more likely that they’ll be attacked.

Anti-homeless violence lays bare the structural and economic injustice suffered by those who live unsheltered on the streets of America. The severity of these attacks necessitates immediate policy changes, enhanced services, and legislative reforms.



Image: Kevin Wolf, Associated Press

KEY FINDINGS

1999–2022: Over this 23-year period, NCH documented **1,923** reported acts of violence towards people experiencing homelessness. (Throughout this report, “people experiencing homelessness” and “unhoused people” are used interchangeably.) **Seventy-one percent** of these acts were non-lethal, while **29%** were fatal acts of violence.

2020–2022: Over this three-year period, since our December 2020 report “20 Years of Hate” —which included data up through 2019 — NCH documented **97** reported acts of violence towards people experiencing homelessness.

- Almost **half** of these acts of violence (**48%**) were fatal.
- **2022** was the **most violent** of the three years, with **60%** of fatal acts reported during the 3-year period occurring in 2022.

Geography

- Acts of violence occurred in 24 states and the District of Columbia, with 45.3% occurring in just three states: California (19.5%), Oregon (15.5%), and Florida (10.3%).
- Of the 47 fatal acts of violence, almost half (48.9%) occurred in just two states: Oregon (29.8%) and California (19.1%).

Types of Violence

- **Serial violence:** There were five serial acts of violence over the three-year period, of which four were fatal.
- Non-fatal beatings and **law enforcement:** Of the non-lethal acts of violence, 53.3% were beatings — of which more than a third (37.5%) came at the hands of law enforcement.
- **Fatal:** Four in five (81.9%) of the fatal acts of violence fell into one of three categories: shootings (45.5%); beatings (21.2%); and stabbings (15.2%).



KEY FINDINGS (cont.)

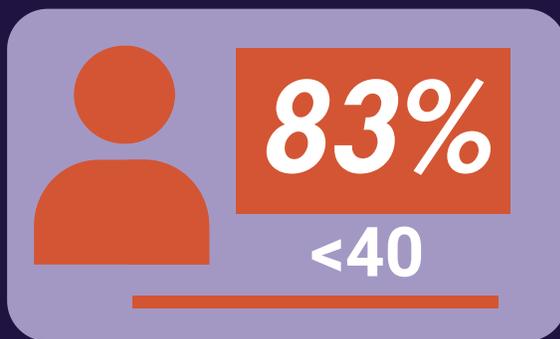
Victims

- **Age:** Half of the victims of non-fatal acts were between the ages of 21 and 40. A little more than four in five (80.5%) of the victims of fatal acts were between the ages of 21 and 60, with half of them between the ages of 21 and 40.
- **Gender:** A significant majority of the victims of both non-lethal (66%) and fatal (87.2%) acts were male.

Perpetrators

- **Age:** Nearly four in five (79.5%) of the perpetrators of non-fatal acts were 40 years old or younger; more than four in five (82.3%) of the perpetrators of fatal acts were **40 years old or younger**.
- **Gender:** To even a higher degree than with the gender of the victims, a significant percentage of the perpetrators of both non-lethal (80.7%) and fatal (87.5%) acts of violence were **male**.

Since 1999, the **OVERWHELMING MAJORITY** of known perpetrators have been males under the age of 40.



Background

Since 1980, the United States has endured more than 40 years of sustained mass homelessness, the longest such period in our nation’s history.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, an estimated 653,000 people experienced homelessness on any given night. For purposes of comparison, this is about half the population of Hawaii, or about 20 of every 10,000 people in the entire country.

The 2023 estimate represents an increase of more than 70,000 people since 2019. The HUD report also estimates about 40% of those experiencing homelessness, or 256,000 people, were unsheltered on any given night in 2023. For purposes of comparison is about half the population of Wyoming.

This human tragedy has been buttressed by public policies that have created an epidemic of income inequality and racial injustice that sustains the homelessness crisis.

Homelessness is not an intractable social crisis. Rather, widespread homelessness is manufactured by failed policies at every level of government. Our country continues to choose NOT to address the lack of affordable and accessible housing; lack of access to health and behavioral health care; and an absence of living wages. Over the last 40 years, our public policy responses have focused on managing homelessness — including by criminalizing unhoused people — as opposed to ending and preventing it.

This report looks at a *tragic byproduct* of the homelessness crisis: *the violence, sometimes deadly, directed at people experiencing homelessness.*

Life expectancy for someone who is homeless can be 20-30 years younger than the general population

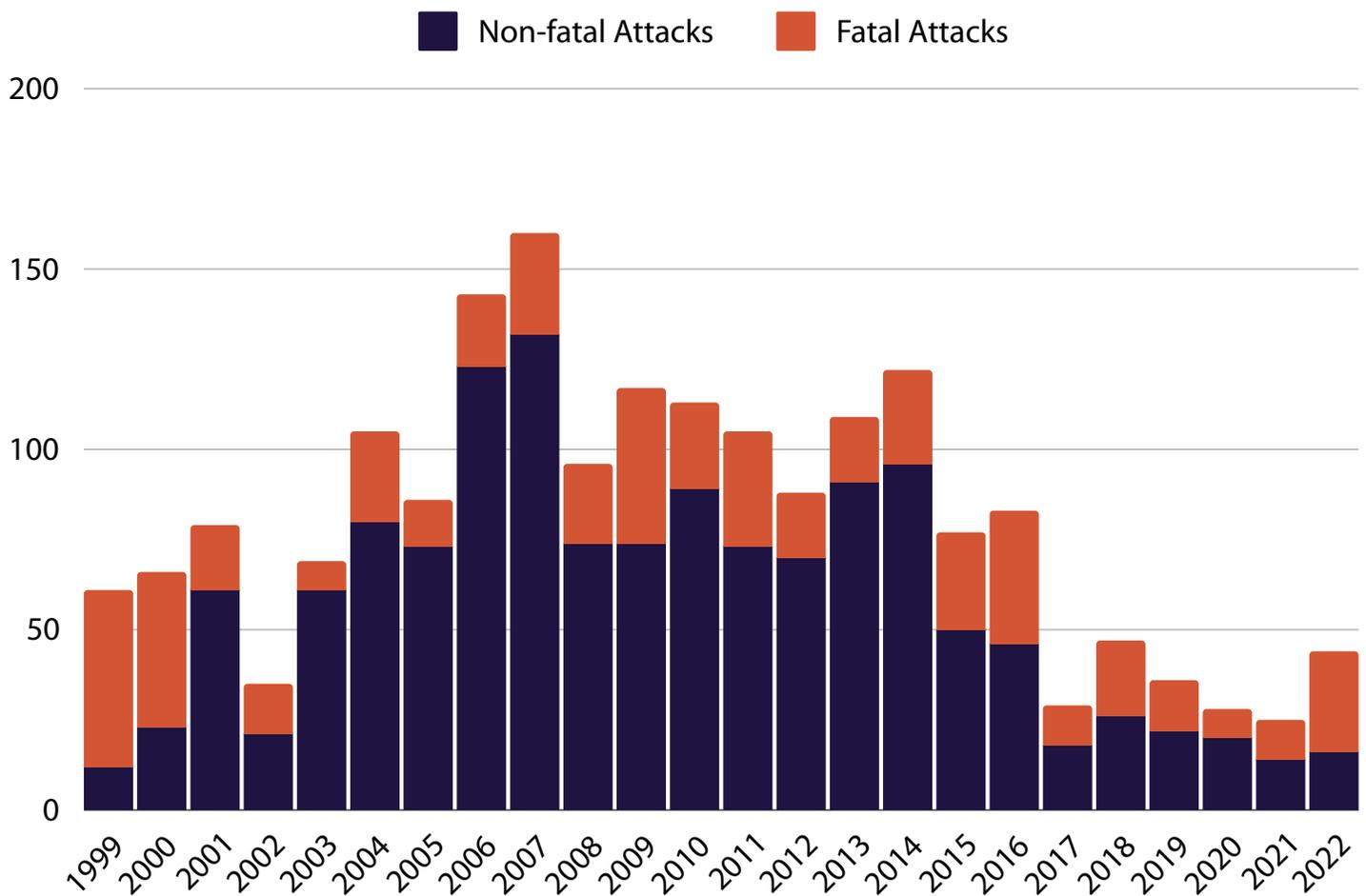
Two landmark studies, published 24 years apart, documented the same violence that NCH has documented during this same period:

- ***Homelessness: Programs and People who Serve Them: Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients [1999]:***
This study, based on surveys performed in 1996 — including 76 sampling areas in the nation, more than 6,300 phone surveys of service providers, and 5,700 mail surveys — found that 22% of people experiencing homelessness had been physically assaulted or beaten up, and 7% had been sexually assaulted.

- ***Toward a New Understanding: The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness [2023]:***
This study, based on 3,200 surveys of people experiencing homelessness in California, found that “homelessness increases the risk of violence”:
 - 38% of unhoused people experienced physical or sexual violence:
 - 42% of those unsheltered
 - 39% of those sheltered in vehicles
 - 26% of those who spent time in other sheltered locations
 - Of those who experienced **physical violence**, almost half (49%) reported that the perpetrators were strangers while 21% of the violence was committed by an intimate partner.
 - Of those who reported experiencing **sexual violence**, 54% said the perpetrator was a stranger and 22% said it was committed by an intimate partner.

Findings 1999 - 2022

Over this 24-year period, NCH has documented **1,923** reported acts of violence towards people experiencing homelessness. Seventy-one percent of these acts were non-lethal, while 29% were fatal acts of violence.



Please note: This report makes the distinction between attacks that ended in the death of a person experiencing homelessness (fatal or lethal), versus those attacks where the victim survived (non-fatal or non-lethal).

Geography of All *Acts of Violence*

Acts of violence towards unhoused people have occurred in 48 states; the District of Columbia; and Puerto Rico. Three states accounted for 40% of these acts of violence: California (19%); Florida (14%); and Texas (6%).

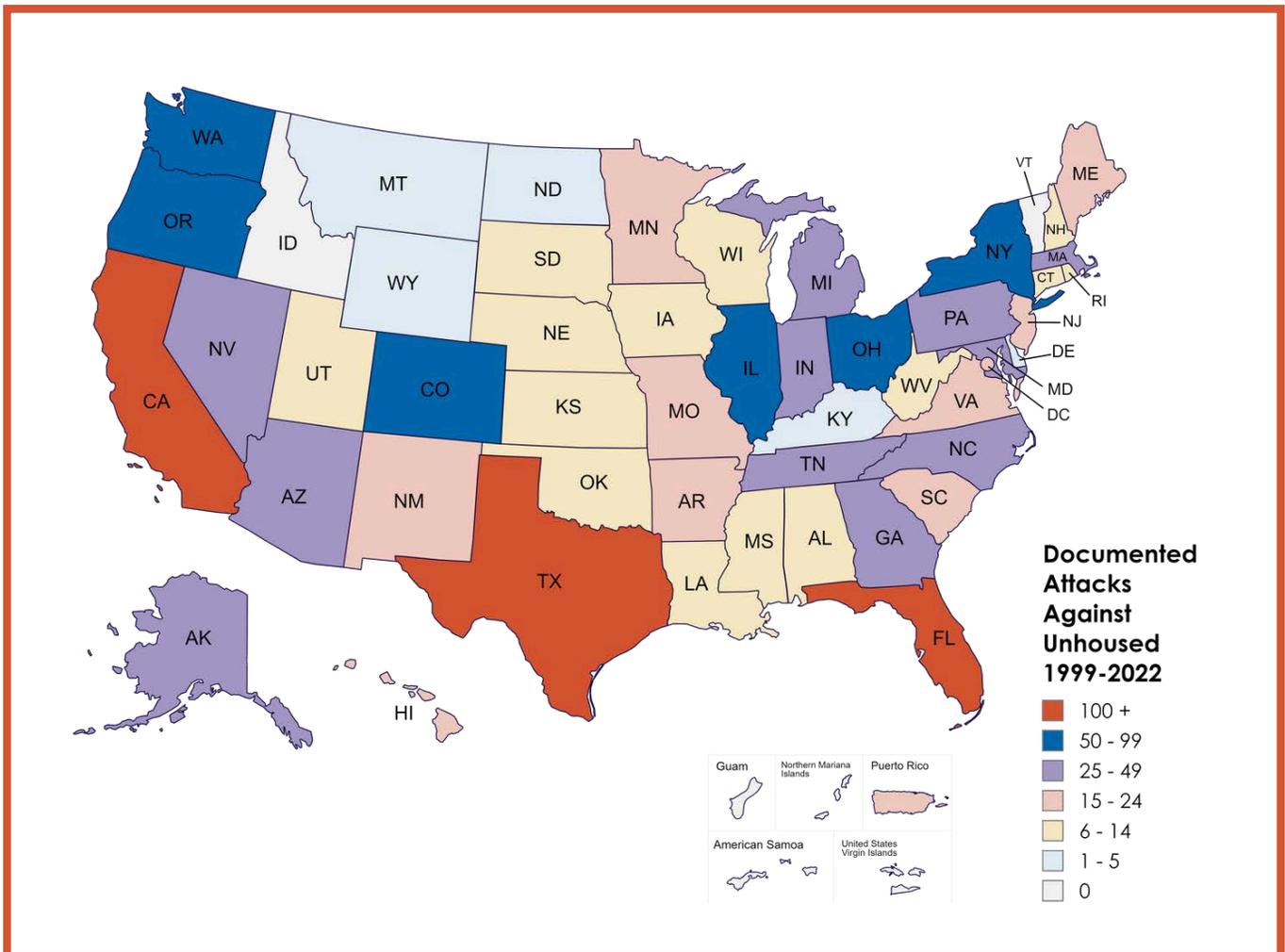


Image: Camp Resolution, Sacramento

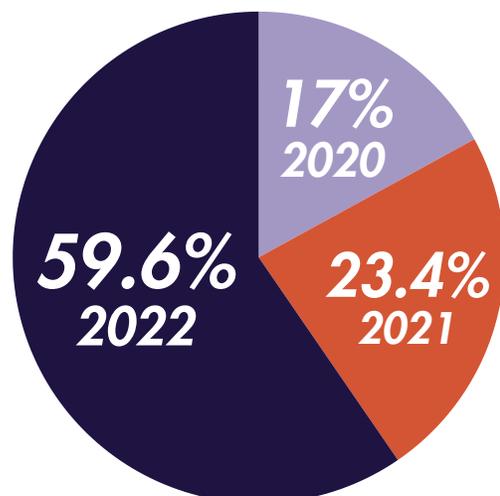
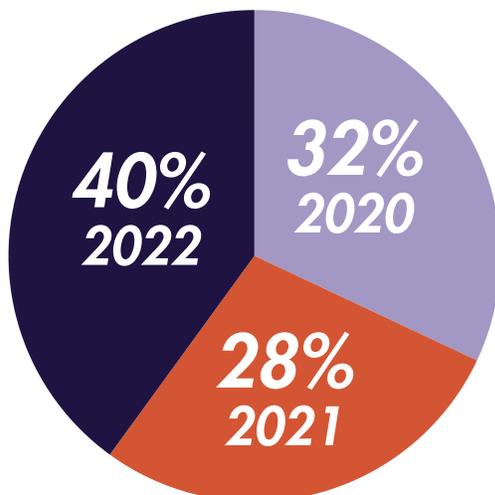
Findings 2020 - 2022

Over this three-year period, NCH documented **97** acts of violence towards people experiencing homelessness, almost half of which (48%) resulted in a fatality and 52% of which were non-lethal. After a drop during the pandemic, violence against people who were unhoused was higher in 2022.



Non-Lethal Acts of Violence: Between 2020 and 2022 there were 50 non-lethal acts of violence, with 40% occurring in 2022 alone.

Fatal Acts of Violence: Between 2020 and 2022 there were 47 fatal acts of violence, 59.6% of which occurred in 2022 alone.



Geography of All Acts of Violence 2020-2022



Three states accounted for 45% of these acts of violence



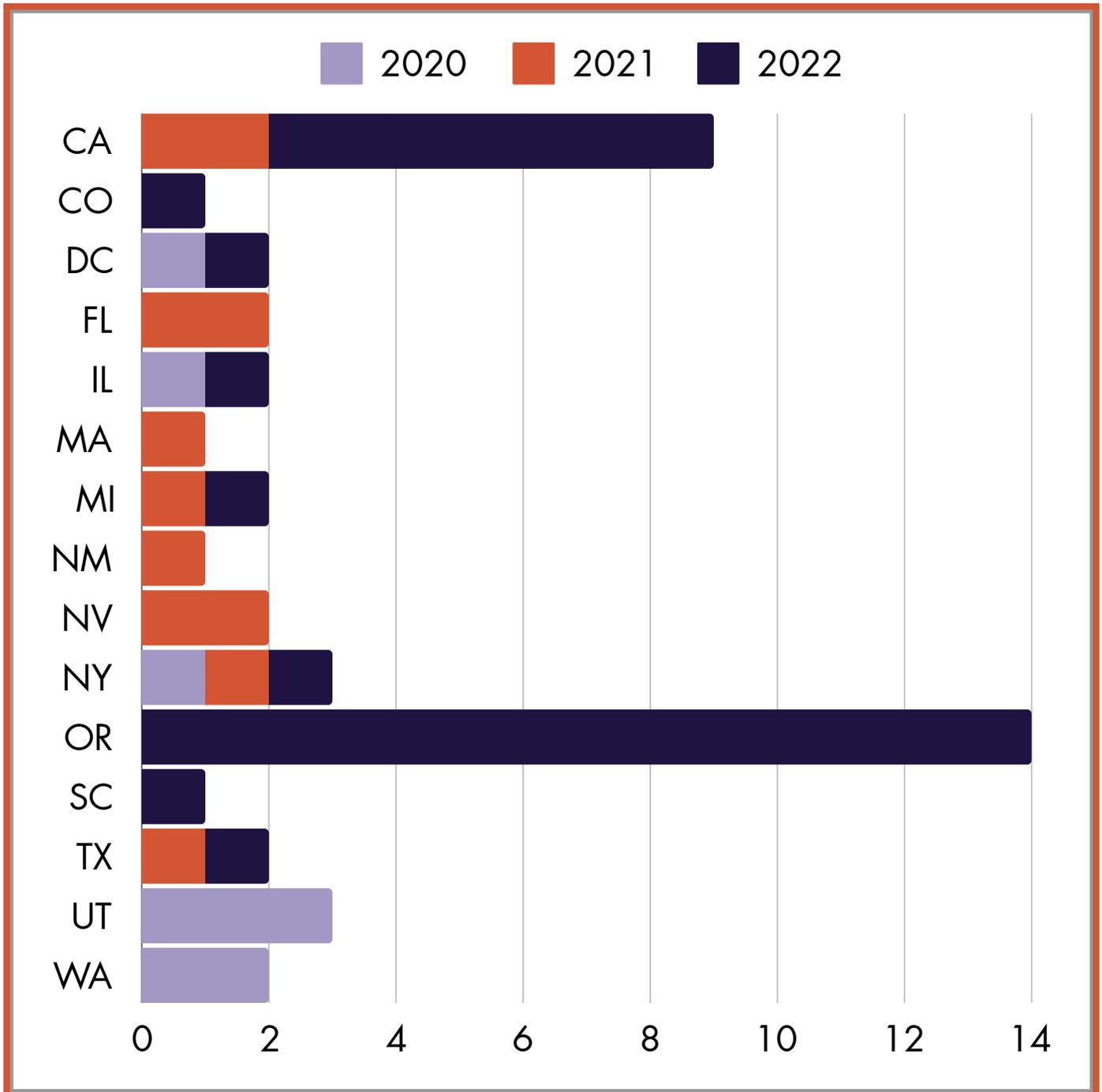
08 **2020:** Eight fatal acts of violence in four states plus the District of Columbia.

11 **2021:** Eleven fatal acts of violence in eight states.

28 **2022:** Twenty-eight fatal acts of violence in eight states plus the District of Columbia — half of them in Oregon alone.

KEY POINTS

- Of the fatal acts of violence in 2020, 2021, and 2022, six in ten (60%) occurred in 2022 alone.
- Two states — Oregon (30%) and California (19%) — accounted for 49% of the total fatal acts of violence between 2020 and 2022.



TYPES OF VIOLENCE

Of all the meaningless violence committed against people who were unhoused, most terrifying might be five serial acts of violence recorded. For this report’s purpose, serial violence refers to crimes of a repetitive nature, where similar crimes were committed against more than one victim or at more than one time and place.

Another notably large number of assaults on Americans experiencing homelessness came at the hands of law enforcement, seemingly just because of the victim’s housing status. More than one-third (35%) of non-fatal beatings were perpetrated by members of law enforcement.

Following is an examination of the types of violent crimes committed, as well as demographic information of victims and perpetrators.

NON-FATAL ATTACKS

During the reporting years, 2020 - 2022, violent incidents were determined to fall into eight different types of attacks. Beatings and assaults accounted for 54% of these acts of non-lethal violence, many committed with a baseball bat. Additionally, there were 19 incidents determined to be harassment in nature.

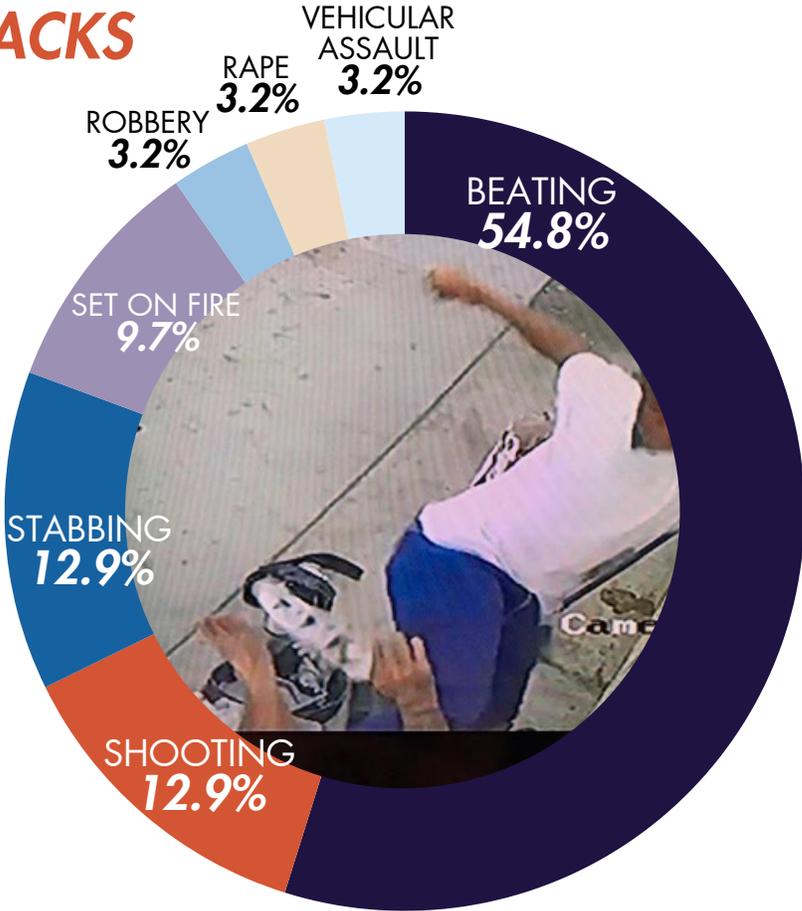


Image: Security camera footage of a random attack on a man resting on the sidewalk in Twentynine Palms, CA

FATAL ATTACKS

During the reporting years, 2020 - 2022, almost half of the incidents recorded led to the deaths of victims who were unhoused. Almost half of the fatalities of people experiencing homelessness were due to gunshots (45.5%), reflecting growing vigilantism.

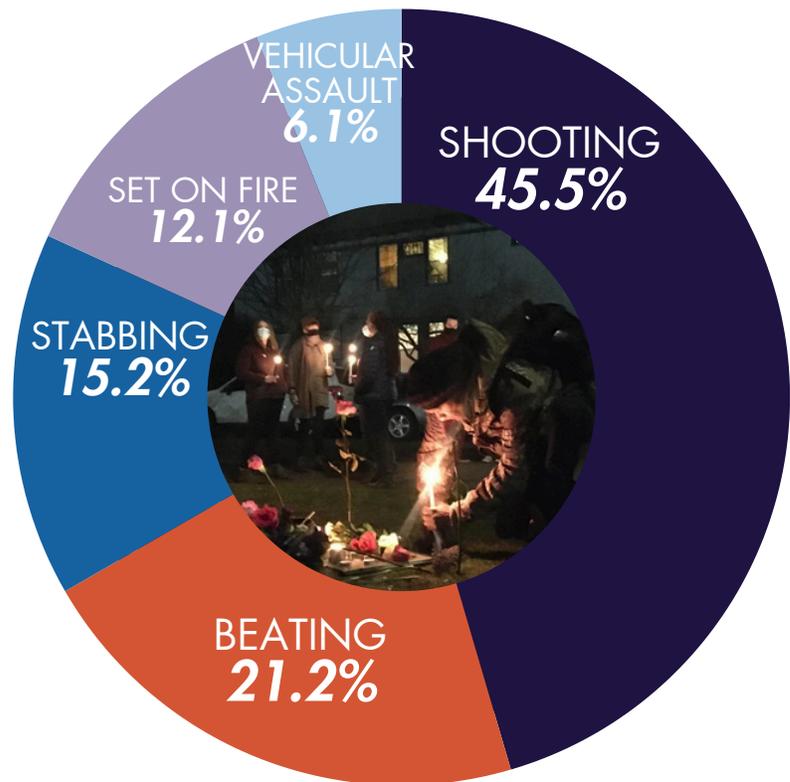


Image: Will James, KNKX - Memorial for suspected vigilante shooting victim in Takoma, WA

Despite their lack of training and authority, civilians feel entitled to harass and remove homeless people and their shelters from public space under authority of laws that treat them as offenders simply for existing.

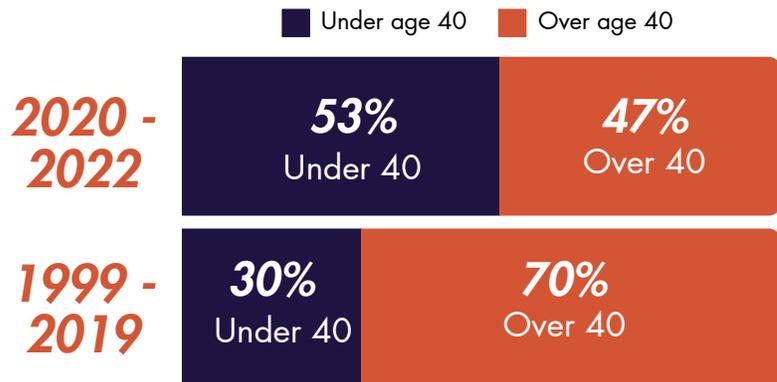
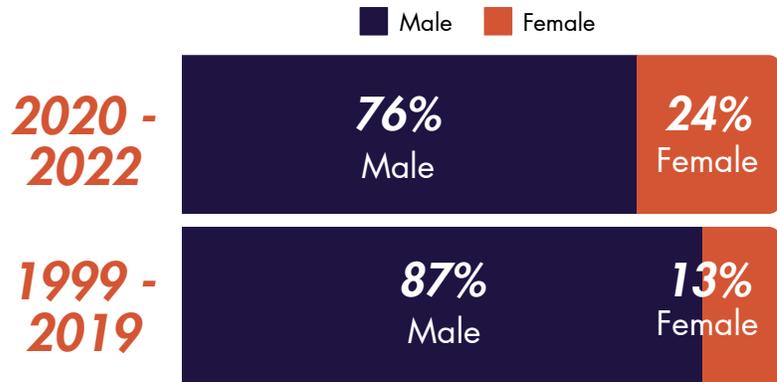
While some acts of violence are intended to cause serious bodily harm, others are aimed at humiliating and excluding homeless people from places where they are unwanted.

-National Homelessness Law Center,
Housing Not Handcuffs 2019

PROFILE OF *UNHOUSED* VICTIMS

The victims of crimes during the 2020-2022 reporting years were overwhelmingly male, consistent with data from earlier reports.

The age of victims in recent years has tended younger than previously tracked. Although, our communities are consistently seeing more and more people across the demographic spectrum fall on hard times as the cost of living rises, but wages have remained stagnant.

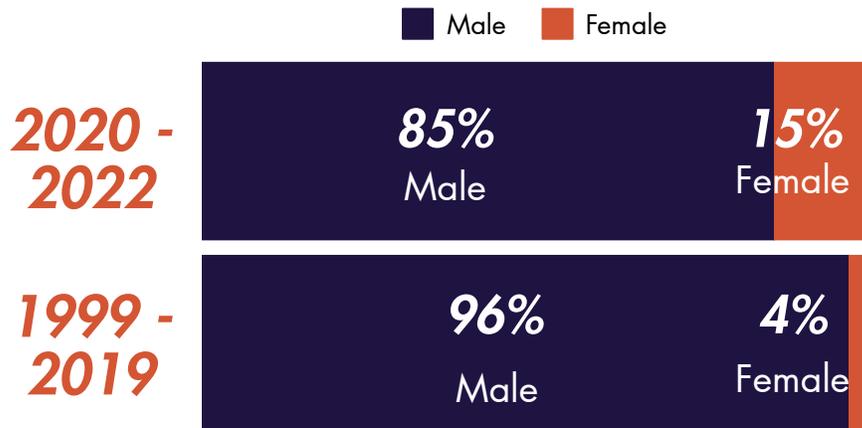


[In response to gruesome stabbings of several homeless women in Las Vegas] Dr. Timothy Jeider, a psychiatrist, says people experiencing homelessness are often easier targets. "They're often targeted and victimized, just because of the nature of how they live and where they are in their circumstances," Jeider explained.

Psychiatrist offers insight into stabbing attacks on homeless in Las Vegas, KTNV News, September 27, 2022

PROFILE OF *PERPETRATORS*

The reported perpetrators of the crimes tracked during the 2020-2022 reporting years were overwhelmingly male, consistent with data from earlier reports.



The age of perpetrators in recent years has tended slightly older than previously tracked. This could be due to increased incidents of vigilantism, often from nearby home or business owners who are often older adults.



DISCUSSION

The National Homelessness Law Center, in its 2019 report, *Housing Not Handcuffs*, analyzed ordinances in 187 communities that criminalize daily acts of survival for people forced to live outside due to lack of shelter, including sleeping and camping in all or some public spaces as well as panhandling in public spaces.

Despite guidance both from HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to “collaborate, don’t criminalize,” communities across the nation continue to brand the unhoused as criminals, enacting legislation that dehumanizes them to such an extent that they are no longer seen as fellow human beings but instead become easy targets of hate crimes.

These laws (ordinances like bans on “camping” in public, limits on sitting or lying down, prohibitions on panhandling or even feeding people in public) push a political cycle of structural violence, depicted below, that not only leads to negative perceptions of people who are homeless but also creates a lack of compassion and political will to invest in affordable housing and other proven solutions to endemic homelessness.

The Vicious Cycle of Homeless Policy



WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT: WITHOUT HOUSING

CRIMINALIZATION AND VIOLENCE: TOP STATES **CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA**

This political cycle of violence towards people experiencing homelessness is illustrated by California and Florida — two states that between them accounted for 35.1% of the 1,923 acts of violence documented by NCH against people experiencing homelessness between 1999 and 2022, California with 21.3% and Florida with 14.1%.

	Camping in public – statewide	Camping in particular locations	Sitting or lying in particular locations	Loitering in particular locations	Standing in Roadway	Panhandling in particular locations-statewide
California	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Florida	✓			✓	✓	✓

CRIMINALIZATION HAS **CONSEQUENCES**

Both California and Florida have warm climates that attract visitors and make sleeping outdoors marginally safer or more comfortable year-round.

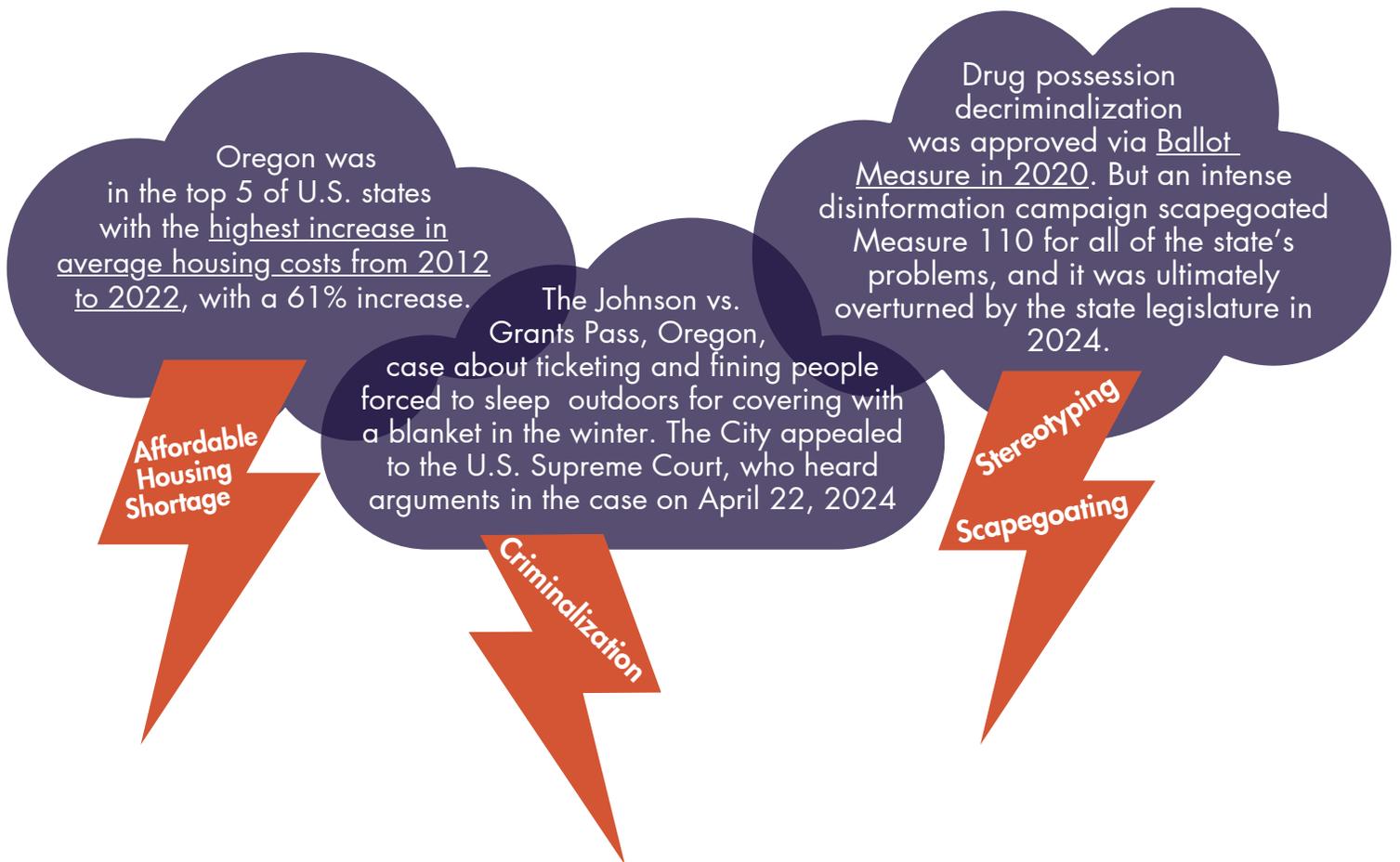
As homelessness tends to be more visible in these states, those who are forced to live outdoors are even more vulnerable to crimes of opportunity.

As a result of more visible homelessness, instead of increasing housing resources, these two states have implemented a plethora of state and municipal ordinances that criminalize people experiencing homelessness.

This public response of punishing residents for being unhoused directly relates to higher levels of violence against people experiencing homelessness.

CASE STUDY: OREGON

Attacks tracked in Oregon in 2022 further exemplifies the connection between, and consequence of, criminalizing the human necessities of humans who are unhoused. Several factors have combined to create a perfect storm of dehumanization of people on the margins:



The U.S. Supreme Court decided in January of 2024 to take up the case of City of Grants Pass, Oregon vs. Gloria Johnson, to determine if a local government can make it a crime for people to involuntarily live outside and unsheltered when adequate shelter is not available. The high court is reviewing a ruling of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that states are in violation of the Constitution's 8th Amendment clause prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment" when they enact laws criminalizing the act of sleeping outside when there is no other space available.

CASE STUDY: **OREGON** (cont.)

In the words of the National Homelessness Law Center, *Johnson vs. Grants Pass* “sets the stage for the most significant Supreme Court case about homelessness criminalization and the rights of homeless people in decades. At its core, this case will decide whether cities are allowed to punish people for things like sleeping outside with a pillow or blanket, even when there are no safe shelter options.”



Image: National Homelessness Law Center



Image: National Homelessness Law Center

NCH is hopeful that the Supreme Court upholds the 9th Circuit’s ruling, which would mean that jurisdictions around the nation would no longer be able to criminalize people experiencing homelessness with fines or jail. States and communities would then have to focus on creating affordable and accessible housing.

However, if the Supreme Court rules in favor of Grants Pass, communities around the nation would have legal permission to further criminalize unhoused people, which NCH fears would dramatically increase the violence against people experiencing homelessness that is documented in this report.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure that housing is a human right for all people

The core solution to ending and preventing homelessness is the funding of safe, decent, affordable, and accessible housing by all levels of government. Policymakers must embrace housing as a human right regardless of ethnicity, age, gender identify, sexual orientation, or ability.

Reverse ordinances and municipal practices that criminalize people experiencing homelessness

Communities across the nation have passed a range of anti-homeless ordinances that create an environment that allows harassment of — and potential violence against — people experiencing homelessness on the part of both law enforcement and the general public. An initial major step for communities is to repeal these mean-spirited and counter-productive ordinances and focus their resources instead on affordable and accessible housing, supportive services, and other systemic solutions to end and prevent homelessness.

Add housing status to protected class statutes

Because of the bias-motivated violence documented for the past 24 years, people experiencing homelessness must be included as a protected class under Federal, state and local statutes. Suggested implementation of vulnerable victims sentencing guidelines included in Appendix II.

Collect data on victimization of people experiencing homelessness

Government and law enforcement agencies should collect data on violence against people experiencing homelessness, with all arrest reports and death certificates noting if the victim or deceased was unhoused at the time of incident. We also encourage service providers to regularly survey their clients to understand levels and severity of victimization.

METHODOLOGY

Our methodology for researching and determining possible hate crimes committed against people experiencing homelessness because of their housing status has remained similar over the past 23 years.



Adam Sloane, of Mayer Brown LLP, engaged in a rigorous Westlaw database search looking for examples of attacks or violence involving people experiencing homelessness. Mr. Sloane examined 4,000 entries to the housing status of victims and perpetrators of crimes.

The data presented on violent acts committed against unhoused persons was also gathered from a variety of other sources:

- National and local news reports;
- Homeless advocates and service providers from around the nation;
- Community death reports;
- Most importantly, the voices of homeless and formerly homeless people who self-reported incidents they have experienced.



Every reported incident was subject to a rigorous fact-checking process designed to evaluate and verify accuracy. A series of staff, Board and outside researchers and editors reviewed data before this and past reports were published.

NCH acknowledges the limited nature of the methodology used to determine the bias-motivated crimes in this report. The examples of attacks listed should be seen as a sample, and undercount even, especially because people who are unhoused are so often mistreated by members of our law enforcement and other municipal agencies.

Resources cited and for further reading

- [2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR\) to Congress](#), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 2023
- [Exploring the Experiences of Violence Among Individuals Who Are Homeless Using a Consumer-Led Approach](#), National Health Care for the Homeless Council, 2014
- [FBI Hate Crimes Statistics](#), U.S. Department of Justice
- [HOMELESSNESS: Programs and the People They Serve](#), Urban Institute, August 1999
- [Housing Not Handcuffs 2019](#), National Homelessness Law Center, December 2019
- [Johnson vs. Grants Pass case website](#)
- [National Crime Victimization Survey](#), Bureau of Justice Statistics
- [Oregon has one of the highest increase in house prices, new research says](#), KOIN News, September 5, 2023
- [Oregon's Measure 110, What Really Happened](#), Drug Policy Alliance, February 28, 2024
- [Protecting the Unprotected: A Survey of Violence Experienced While Homeless](#), National Health Care for the Homeless Council, August 2019
- [Toward a New Understanding: The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness](#), Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, June 2023
- [Without Housing Organizing Toolkit](#), Western Regional Advocacy Project, January 2016

Appendix A: *Hate Crimes vs. Vulnerable Victim Status*

By Brian Levin, J.D., Calif. State Univ., San Bernardino, Blevin8@aol.com

Introduction: Hate Crime

Beginning in the late 1970s major metropolitan areas and various states began to address hate violence not only through new criminal laws but also through the formation of data collection, specialized police units, and new policies starting with Massachusetts.

In recent years, a debate has intensified about whether the criminal law should include targeted violence against the homeless in state and federal hate crime statutes and data collection efforts. Currently, almost half a dozen states include homeless status in their hate crime laws, although attempts at the federal level and in other states have stalled (Stoops, 2014). Hate crimes are discriminatory criminal acts committed because of an individual's actual or perceived membership in a particular socially identifiable status group. Status characteristics are those material attributes, like race or sexual orientation, common to a socially identifiable class of people. While hate crime laws and other modern legal protections on the basis of status are relatively recent enactments, their roots extend to the post-civil war era constitutional amendments.

Federal Law

The federal government does not protect the homeless in hate crime law (18 U.S.C. 249) or enumerate anti-homeless bias incidents in its related annual hate crime data collection, it does have a definition of homelessness and a numerical estimate of people affected by it. In its 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that there are 578,424 homeless individuals nightly, with 31% of those or 177,373 being unsheltered, compared with 69% residing in shelters (Henry, Cortes, Shivji, & Buck, 2014). The U.S. population is 319 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Appendix A: *Hate Crimes vs. Vulnerable Victim* (cont.)

Federal law has defined homelessness in part as those without a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence” that may include shelters and hotels as well as vehicles or public places not designed for housing, such as campsites, parks, or transportation facilities (The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 2009).

The overall rate of criminal victimization for these homeless Americans is staggering, far exceeding that of other groups. A series of state and local studies and surveys cited in Senate testimony showed annual criminal victimization rates for the homeless between 34% and 81.9% (“Crimes Against America’s Homeless,” 2010). In contrast, in 2013 the National Crime Victimization Survey showed the overall housed population 12 years and older faced an annual rate of victimization of 1.2% for violent crime and 0.4% for serious violent crimes (Truman & Langton, 2014).

Vulnerable Victim and Hate Crime Approaches

While there is little debate about the fact that the homeless face targeted violence, there are vastly differing views about how to address the problem. The NCH and other homeless advocates in the past promoted the inclusion of the homeless as a protected and enumerated category in hate crime laws and data collection initiatives, while others believe such efforts are misplaced. Prejudice and stereotypes against the homeless, and the apparent role these biases play in many violent attacks, are a strong foundational argument for their inclusion in hate crime laws, supporters contend.

Oppression and prejudice against them as a socially identifiable class Identical offenders such as bigoted skinheads, neighborhood defenders protecting their turf, as well as young male thrill offenders who share identifiable characteristics and motivations Identical methods of attack that revolve around personal or imprecise weapons that cause substantial suffering frequently hostile or ineffective legal response to protect them. Steiner (2009), observes,

Thus assuming homelessness were included as a prohibited bias motivation, the prosecutor would be required to show that the victimization occurred not merely because the victim was homeless, but rather because of a pre-existing negative attitude toward homelessness, a high standard to be sure. (p. 38)

Appendix A: *Hate Crimes vs. Vulnerable Victim* (cont.)

In contrast, federal vulnerable victim sentencing law's broad range arguably could already cover homelessness:

"Vulnerable victim" means a person (A) who is a victim of the offense of conviction . . . and (B) who is unusually vulnerable due to age, physical or mental condition, or who is otherwise particularly susceptible to the criminal conduct. (U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1, comment, [n.2])

Still, the most legally unambiguous wording would be a specific statutory enumeration of homelessness as a protected status in vulnerable victim law. Such inclusion only requires a showing that the victim was homeless when targeted, without the necessity of delving into motive at all. Alaska is the only state to address the issue in this way:

5)the defendant knew or reasonably should have known that the victim of the offense was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance due to advanced age, disability, ill health, homelessness, or extreme youth or was for any other reason substantially incapable of exercising normal physical or mental powers of resistance . . . (Alaska Stat. § 12.55.155)

Author Bio:

Brian Levin is a professor of criminal justice at California State University, San Bernardino, where his the director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. He has testified before both houses of Congress and various state legislatures on hate and extremism. He is also the principal author of various United States Supreme Court amicus briefs on hate crimes. He received his JD from Stanford Law School where he was awarded the Block Civil Liberties Award and his BA summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with honors in American History.

Appendix B: *Protected Class Resolution*

Homeless Protected Class Resolution, Adopted by the National Coalition for the Homeless

Whereas, the United States Government has adopted and is party to the United Nation's Document referenced as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which " confers on every member of society a right to basic economic, social, and cultural entitlements, that every (nation) state should recognize, serve, and protect, of which food, clothing, medical care, and housing are definitive components of the right to a minimum standard of living and dignity," and

Whereas, the United States Government has adopted, and is party to the United Nation's Document; the Habitat Agenda, which calls for certain actions that include but are not limited to: protection against discrimination, legal security of tenure and equal access to land including women and the poor; effective protection from illegal forced evictions, taking human rights into consideration, bearing in mind that homeless people should not be penalized for their status; by adopting policies aimed at making housing habitable, affordable and accessible, including those who are unable to secure adequate housing through their own means, and

Whereas, the United Nations Document: Habitat Agenda, calls for the "Effective monitoring and evaluation of housing conditions, including the extent of homelessness and inadequate housing policies and implementing effective strategies and plans to address those problems," and

Whereas, there is a shortage of affordable housing stock nationwide, and

Whereas, the national minimum wage is an insufficient amount of money to secure safe, decent, affordable housing even at the most basic financial level, and

Appendix B: *Protected Class Resolution* (cont.)

Whereas, more than the minimum wage is required in every state to be able to afford a one bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent, as set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, and

Whereas, the combined effect of these and other circumstances create a group of people that have no alternatives to living on the streets of our nation, and

Whereas, it is estimated that nationwide, there are at least 760,000 persons living without a permanent, fixed, individual residence on any given night, and

Whereas, at least 28% of our nations' homeless are United States Veterans, and

Whereas, approximately 25% of the single adult homeless population suffers from some form of mental illness, and

Whereas, the fastest growing segment of the population is women with children, and

Whereas, 36.5 million men, women and children of all ages are living in poverty (many of whom are already homeless), and

Whereas, there has been a collective, concerted effort at city and county levels to devise laws and ordinances that find homeless people guilty of having committed a crime for simple acts such as sitting, lying down, sleeping in public, or even in their own cars and

Whereas, there are certain life sustaining acts such as eating, breathing and sleeping that must be conducted by all persons including those that are homeless who must conduct these acts in public, and

Appendix B: *Protected Class Resolution* (cont.)

Whereas, these laws and ordinances are designed to criminalize and sweep these homeless persons from our nations' streets and imprison them, without regard for their personal safety or care for their personal belongings, for no reason other than they are lacking housing and as a result, are characterized as non-citizens, and are deprived of their human rights, and

Whereas, these impoverished persons are targeted and often made victims of malicious hate crimes and selective enforcement of these laws and ordinances, and

Whereas, camping, sleeping, sitting, lying and other anti-homeless laws including those that restrict the feeding of people who are hungry, are being enforced at a time when emergency housing shelters are consistently full and no housing alternatives remain available, and wages paid are wholly inadequate to afford people the basics of life: food, clothing and shelter, and

Whereas, the enforcement of such laws under such circumstances constitute cruel and unusual punishment and impinge upon these persons access to travel,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That persons without a fixed, permanent, individual place of residence, and those that are earning 100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or less, are sufficient in number characteristics, and vulnerability to compromise a distinct class of people, and as a result, shall hence forth constitute a Protected Class with all rights and protections under such a designation. Herein after, this Protected Class, will be referred to as the Unhoused Population.

Appendix B: *Protected Class Resolution* (cont.)

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that as a Protected Class they will be protected:

1. From laws against sleeping, sitting, lying down in public,
2. From laws that restrict them from being provided food,
3. From acts or laws interfering with their right to travel,
4. From wages that are so low that they are denied access to housing,
5. From laws or practices that disregard their rights of ownership, and protections for their personal belongings,
6. From being made targets of hate crimes/violence, and
7. From being characterized and treated as non citizens.
8. From being denied employment due to one's homeless or formerly homeless status.
9. From laws or practices that discriminate against people and deny them any type of housing based on their present or past condition of homelessness.



Image: National Homelessness Law Center

Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resource Guide*

Enacting Effective Hate Crime Legislation in Your Community

I. Goals to Achieve

Hate crime legislation serves many purposes. Primarily, it seeks to punish and deter individuals from committing bias-motivated crimes. In naming a vulnerable group, hate crime legislation makes a statement to the community that this group has the full protection of the law and is deserving of such protection. Such legislation also ensures the recognition of fundamental human rights.

While there is a clear need to include and protect homeless individuals in hate crime legislation, cities and states across the country differ in their approaches towards accomplishing this goal. NCH believes certain concepts are essential for comprehensive and effective hate crimes legislation. This guide will begin by outlining those concepts. It continues by explaining and analyzing enacted legislation in order to understand their strengths and weaknesses. It also evaluates unsuccessful attempts to amend hate crimes legislation and possible reasons for those failures. Finally, this guide will pose arguments raised in opposition to the inclusion of homeless status in hate crimes legislation, as well as possible counter-arguments. In understanding these models, other jurisdictions can create their

own comprehensive hate crimes legislation to ensure maximum protection for individuals experiencing homelessness.

II. Recommendations for Hate Crimes Legislation

NCH recognizes that different localities are governed by different laws and have varying needs. For this reason, it is important for state and local communities to determine what protections are already in place and what their goals are for proposing hate crimes legislation to protect the homeless. NCH also believes, however, that the homeless population is due certain fundamental protections and has identified concepts that are key to comprehensive hate crimes legislation at any level. These concepts include:

1. Recognition of the homeless on a person of "homeless status" as a protected class, thus, targeting a person due to their homeless status or perceived homeless status would qualify as violation of the law.
2. Use of a definition of homelessness in line with 42 USC 11302 (2012) as revised by the HEARTH Act.

Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resources* (cont.)

4. Criminal and civil sanctions (including injunctions, reasonable actual or nominal damages for economic or non-economic loss, punitive damages, or attorney's fees) for violations of hate crime laws.
5. Development of procedures that facilitate the data collection by law enforcement and local organizations and the distribution of the data to governing bodies while maintaining the privacy of the victims. This data should be used to create strong, supported recommendations to present to lawmakers.
6. Requirement of law enforcement to complete trainings on how to interact effectively and respectfully with homeless populations.
7. Coordination between law enforcement and local service providers to ensure homeless individuals receive necessary services.
8. Awareness campaigns amongst high school students and other young people about homelessness

Community Policy and Education Recommendations

NCH Advocates for the following:

1. "Homeless status" to be included in the federal hate crimes statistics statute. Doing so would require the Federal Bureau of Investigation to collect data on hate-motivated violence targeted against individuals who are homeless. H.R. 1136 was introduced in the 113th Congress by U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, and was identical to three bills introduced to previous sessions of Congress.
2. States with hate crime statutes to include "homeless status" within their current hate crimes frame-work.
3. The U.S. Department of Justice to issue a public statement acknowledging the hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness are a serious national problem.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice to issue guidelines for law enforcement agencies on how to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated crimes against people experiencing homelessness.

Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resources* (cont.)

4. Law enforcement agencies provide awareness training to trainees and officers about the causes and solutions to homelessness and how to deal effectively and respectfully with people experiencing homelessness in their communities.
5. Advocates and homeless service providers to provide opportunities for people who have experienced homelessness and survived bias-motivated violence to tell their stories. The Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureaus (composed of homeless and formerly homeless people), which visit both public and private schools in communities for the purposes of information and education, would be one method of providing opportunities for survivors to share their stories.
6. Federal, state, and local government to assure adequate affordable housing and services to bring an end to homelessness in our communities, and thus create safe alternatives to living in homeless situations

Image: Matt McClain, *The Washington Post*



Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resources* (cont.)

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR ALL LEGISLATION AND RESOLUTIONS

The following model language was prepared by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), in consultation with the National Homelessness Law Center (NHLC) and advocates across the country.

Whereas, hate crimes and violence against homeless persons has become a nationwide trend, 1,923 reported cases of violence against homeless people over the past 23 years (1999-2022), resulting in 558 deaths;

Whereas, the scope of prohibitions against the commission of hate crimes against certain groups of persons should include homeless persons;

Whereas, understanding violent crimes committed against homeless persons and adequate punishment for such crimes play key roles in preventing and managing violence against homeless persons; and

Whereas, law enforcement needs proper training to handle and prevent violent crimes against homeless persons;

Be it enacted:

(1) For the purposes of this legislation, a “homeless person” means an individual or member of a family as defined in 42 .S.C. § 11302 (2009) and any regulations promulgated thereafter.

(2) The state hate crimes statute shall be expanded to include homeless persons as a protected class.

Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resources* (cont.)

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR ALL LEGISLATION AND RESOLUTIONS (cont.)

(3) Prohibition on Hate Crimes against Homeless Persons – The following acts shall be deemed a hate crime and prohibited when carried out against a person on the basis that person’s status as a homeless person:

- (A) Assault, aggravated assault, battery, or aggravated battery upon the person; or
- (B) Acts that deface, damage, or destroy or attempt to deface, damage, or destroy the personal property of the person; or
- (C) Acts that result in the death of the person; or
- (D) Any other crime against the person.

(4) Punishments for Hate Crimes against Homeless Persons –

(A) A person convicted of aggravated assault or aggravated battery upon a homeless person based on the victim’s status as a homeless person shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 3 years and fined not more than \$10,000. The person shall be ordered by the sentencing judge to make any restitution to the victim of the offense and to perform 500 hours of community service work. Restitution and community service work shall be in addition to any fine or sentence that may be imposed and shall not be in lieu thereof.

(B) Whenever a person is charged with committing an assault or aggravated assault or a battery or aggravated battery upon a homeless person based on the victim’s status as a homeless person, the offense for which the person is charged shall be reclassified as follows:

(1) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.

(2) In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.

(3) In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.

(4) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resources* (cont.)

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR ALL LEGISLATION AND RESOLUTIONS (cont.)

(5) State Office of the Attorney General Study -

(A) The Office of the Attorney General shall assess the extent of the problem of crimes against home- less persons and develop a plan to prevent these crimes and apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes.

(B) In developing the assessment and plan, the Office of the Attorney General shall consult home- less persons, service providers and advocates for homeless persons and law enforcement agencies with experience investigating crimes against homeless persons.

(6) Law Enforcement Training on Hate Crimes against Homeless Persons –

(A) The lead state law enforcement agency shall develop a telecourse that shall be made available to all law enforcement agencies in the state. Every state, local, and correctional law enforcement agency shall certify that each of its officers has taken the course. The telecourse shall address crimes against homeless persons and methods of dealing effectively and humanely with homeless persons. The course shall include instruction on each of the following topics:

(1) Information about homelessness, including causes of homelessness, its impact, and solutions to homelessness.

(2) Indicators of hate crimes.

(3) The impact of these crimes on the victim, the victim’s family, and the community.

(4) The assistance and compensation available to victims.

(5) The laws dealing with hate crimes and the legal rights of, and the remedies available to, victims of hate crimes.

(6) Law enforcement procedures, reporting, and documentation of hate crimes.

(7) Techniques and methods to handle incidents of hate crimes.

(8) The special problems inherent in hates crimes against homeless persons and techniques on how to deal with these special problems.

Appendix C: *Hate Crimes Legislation Resources* (cont.)

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR ALL LEGISLATION AND RESOLUTIONS (cont.)

(B) The lead state law enforcement agency shall develop a protocol that law enforcement personnel are required to follow, including, but not limited, to the following:

(1) Preventing likely hate crimes by, among other things, establishing contact with persons and communities that are likely targets, and forming and cooperating with community hate crime prevention and response networks.

(2) Responding to reports of hate crimes, including reports of hate crimes committed under color of legal authority.

(3) Providing victim assistance and follow up, including community follow up.

(4) Reporting methods and procedures to track hate crimes against homeless persons.

(C) In developing the telecourse, the lead state law enforcement agency shall consult subject matter experts including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Homeless and formerly homeless individuals;

(2) The National Coalition for the Homeless

(3) Other local homeless service providers and advocates for homeless people;

(4) Experts on the disabilities homeless persons commonly experience; and

(5) Law enforcement agencies with experience in investigating hate crimes against homeless people.

Appendix D: Case Research & Citations

Year	City	State	Article Title	Publication	Publish Date	Article Link
2020	Siloam Springs	AR	Attack on homeless man in Siloam Springs results in 40-year prison sentence	Arkansas Online	September 22, 2022	https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2022/sep/22/attack-on-homeless-man-in-siloam-springs-results/
2020	Huntington Beach	CA	Person charged after 8 homeless people given poisoned food, California authorities say	11 News	June 1, 2020	https://www.wpxi.com/news/trending/person-charged-after-8-homeless-people-given-poisoned-food-california-authorities-say/MAHV5RTDW5CG7A76Y2VLI35VAY/
2020	Los Angeles	CA	Homeless Man Sues City, LAPD Over April 27 Altercation Caught On Camera	CBS Los Angeles	May 11, 2020	https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/05/11/homeless-man-sues-city-lapd-april-27-altercation-caught-on-camera/
2020	Los Angeles	CA	LAPD officer charged with assault after video surfaces of violent exchange	Jpost.com	June 11, 2020	
2020	Salinas	CA	Police: Salinas teen shot three homeless people; one died	The Californian	May 7, 2020	https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2020/05/07/police-salinas-teen-shot-three-homeless-people-killed-one/3093538001/
2020	Tustin	CA	Prosecutors: California man beat 75-year-old homeless woman unconscious, sexually assaulted her	Fox 6 Milwaukee	May 10, 2020	https://fox6now.com/2020/05/10/prosecutors-california-man-beat-75-year-old-homeless-woman-unconscious-sexually-assaulted-her/
2020	Twentynine Palms	CA	Suspect sought after random attack on a homeless man in Twentynine Palms	News Channel 3	August 19, 2020	https://www.kesq.com/news/2020/08/19/apparent-beating-captured-on-camera-in-29-palms/
2020	West Covina	CA	Homeless man stabbed to death in West Covina is identified	San Gabriel Valley Tribune	May 18, 2020	https://www.sgvtribune.com/2020/05/18/homeless-man-stabbed-to-death-in-west-covina-is-identified/
2020	Washington	DC	DC Police Seeking Arsonist Who Set Homeless Man on Fire on H Street	NBC Washington	May 13, 2020	https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-police-seeking-arsonist-who-set-homeless-man-on-fire-on-h-street/2301294/
2020	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	Men fatally stabbed on Fort Lauderdale beach were homeless	Local 10	June 13, 2020	https://www.local10.com/news/local/2020/06/14/men-fatally-stabbed-on-fort-lauderdale-beach-were-homeless/

Appendix D: Case Research & References (cont.)

Year	City	State	Publication	Publish Date	Article Link
2020	Pompano Beach	FL	Local 10	August 13, 2020	https://www.local10.com/news/local/2020/08/13/bs0-searching-for-clues-in-homeless-mans-murder-near-pompano-beach-burger-king/
2020	West Palm Beach	FL	Palm Beach Post	June 8, 2020	https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/20200608/pbso-man-pimped-girlfriend-homeless-teen-across-south
2020	Atlanta	GA	Fox 5 Atlanta	June 15, 2020	https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/police-3-deadly-shootings-targeting-atlanta-homeless-may-be-linked
2020	Honolulu	HI	Star Advertiser	July 27, 2020	https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/07/27/breaking-news/2-homeless-men-robbed-in-downtown-and-chinatown-in-possibly-related-cases/
2020	Champaign	IL	News Channel 20	July 6, 2020	https://newschannel20.com/news/local/suspects-in-deadly-attack-on-homeless-man-at-large
2020	Chicago	IL	CBS Chicago	July 27, 2020	https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/07/27/police-search-for-man-suspected-of-stabbing-2-homeless-people-in-grant-park-on-different-days-killing-one/
2020	Indianapolis	IN	Fox 59	August 20, 2020	https://fox59.com/news/man-found-dead-with-severe-burns-at-homeless-camp-on-indys-near-southeast-side/
2020	Birmingham	MI	Fox 2 Detroit	August 11, 2020	https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/hit-and-run-kills-homeless-man-on-woodward-in-birmingham
2020	Camden	NJ	ABC Philadelphia	November 24, 2020	https://6abc.com/bobby-hill-camden-nj-murder-new-jersey/8236423/
2020	Egg Harbor	NJ	BreakingAC.com	August 10, 2020	https://breakingac.com/2020/08/homeless-man-found-killed-in-eh-t-cemetery/
2020	Las Vegas	NV	People.com	July 17, 2020	https://people.com/crime/vegas-man-arrested-for-allegedly-paying-homeless-man-6-to-do-backflip-which-resulted-in-fatal-injury/
2020	Las Vegas	NV	New York Times	July 21, 2020	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/21/us/las-vegas-homeless-man-thrill-killing.html
2020	New York	NY	Daily Mail	June 23, 2020	https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8449703/Video-shows-homeless-man-set-FIRE-NYC-man-throws-lit-firework-him.html
2020	Cincinnati	OH	Fox 19	August 27, 2020	https://www.fox19.com/2020/08/27/arrest-made-connection-beating-homeless-woman-otr-court-docs-say/

Appendix D: Case Research & References (cont.)

Year	City	State	Article Title	Publication	Publish Date	Article Link
2020	Tulsa	OK	Police arrest suspected killer after deadly shooting at homeless camp	Fox 23	September 2, 2020	https://www.fox23.com/news/local/police-arrest-suspected-killer-after-deadly-shooting-homeless-camp/BZTSJB3IJJGCPGHK3RU2F7BJKM/
2020	Philadelphia	PA	Police investigate 2 separate stabbing incidents near homeless encampment in Philadelphia	ABC Philadelphia	June 29, 2020	https://6abc.com/philly-stabbing-homeless-encampment-ben-franklin-parkway/6279478/
2020	Providence	RI	Homeless Man Struck With Rock, Robbed of \$12 in Providence's Kennedy Plaza	GoLocalProv	September 14, 2020	https://www.golocalprov.com/news/homeless-man-struck-with-rock-robbed-of-12-in-providences-kennedy-plaza
2020	Memphis	TN	Two men charged with attacking homeless man	Action 5 News	September 9, 2020	https://www.wmcactionnews5.com/2020/09/09/two-men-charged-with-attacking-homeless-man/
2020	Austin	TX	Outrage follows video of homeless man's bed set on fire during George Floyd protests in Austin	KSAT.com	June 1, 2020	https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/06/01/outrage-follows-video-of-homeless-mans-bed-set-on-fire-during-george-floyd-protests-in-austin/
2020	San Antonio	TX	Homeless man stabbed in an alley overnight, police say	KENS 5	November 12, 2020	https://www.kens5.com/article/news/local/homeless-man-stabbed-by-random-person-while-sleeping-police-say/273-500ac8bc-ac3f-4129-9df2-7e6cd8b28cbe
2020	Takoma	WA	Man shot, killed during suspected vigilante attack on homeless encampment, court records say	KNKX Public Radio	December 7, 2020	https://www.knkx.org/news/2020-12-07/man-shot-killed-during-suspected-vigilante-attack-on-homeless-encampment-court-records-say
2020	Lacrosse	WI	Person cited for posting signs against the homeless	WXOW.com	July 3, 2020	https://wxow.com/2020/07/03/a-n-individual-was-cited-for-posting-unauthorized-signs-all-over-downtown/
2020	Madison	WI	Madison police arrest suspect in attack on homeless man	WXOW.com	July 30, 2020	https://www.wkow.com/news/crime/update-madison-police-arrest-suspect-in-attack-on-homeless-man/article_3bc0d48b-2597-5d3b-b46b-e72450b86ede.html

Appendix D: Case Research & References (cont.)

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2020	Philadelphia	PA	Police investigate 2 separate stabbing incidents near homeless encampment in Philadelphia	ABC Philadelphia	June 29, 2020	https://6abc.com/philly-stabbing-homeless-encampment-ben-franklin-parkway/6279478/
2020	Providence	RI	Homeless Man Struck With Rock, Robbed of \$12 in Providence's Kennedy Plaza	GoLocalProv	September 14, 2020	https://www.golocalprov.com/news/homeless-man-struck-with-rock-robbed-of-12-in-providences-kennedy-plaza
2020	Memphis	TN	Two men charged with attacking homeless man	Action 5 News	September 9, 2020	https://www.wmcactionnews5.com/2020/09/09/two-men-charged-with-attacking-homeless-man/
2020	Austin	TX	Outrage follows video of homeless man's bed set on fire during George Floyd protests in Austin	KSAT.com	June 1, 2020	https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/06/01/outrage-follows-video-of-homeless-mans-bed-set-on-fire-during-george-floyd-protests-in-austin/
2020	San Antonio	TX	Homeless man stabbed in an alley overnight, police say	KENS 5	November 12, 2020	https://www.kens5.com/article/news/local/homeless-man-stabbed-by-random-person-while-sleeping-police-say/273-500ac8bc-ac3f-4129-9df2-7e6cd8b28cbe
2020	Takoma	WA	Man shot, killed during suspected vigilante attack on homeless encampment, court records say	KNKX Public Radio	December 7, 2020	https://www.knkx.org/news/2020-12-07/man-shot-killed-during-suspected-vigilante-attack-on-homeless-encampment-court-records-say
2020	Lacrosse	WI	Person cited for posting signs against the homeless	WXOW.com	July 3, 2020	https://wxow.com/2020/07/03/an-individual-was-cited-for-posting-unauthorized-signs-all-over-downtown/
2020	Madison	WI	Madison police arrest suspect in attack on homeless man	WXOW.com	July 30, 2020	https://www.wkow.com/news/crime/update-madison-police-arrest-suspect-in-attack-on-homeless-man/article_3bc0d48b-2597-5d3b-b46b-e72450b86ede.html

Appendix D: Case Research & References (cont.)

Year	City	State	Article Title	Publication	Publish Date	Article Link
2021	Los Angeles	CA	LAPD officer pleads no contest to assault on homeless man	Bakersfield Californian	August 19, 2022	
2021	Los Angeles	CA	Homeless person burned in attack near Lincoln Park, source says	Los Angeles Times	May 12, 2021	https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-05-12/homeless-person-burned-lincoln-park
2021	Redding	CA	Mercy Canyon murder is second attack on homeless person by a teenager in past weeks	KRCR ABC 7	October 21, 2021	https://krctv.com/news/local/mercy-canyon-murder-is-second-attack-on-homeless-person-by-a-teenager-in-past-weeks
2021	Mesa County	CO	US Teen Hid Head Of Homeless Man He Murdered In Closet To Satisfy "Fascination With Morbid"	NDTV.com	April 1, 2024	https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/moment-us-police-arrest-teen-who-hid-head-of-homeless-man-he-murdered-in-closet-5353873
2021	Miami	FL	Miami Real Estate Agent Labeled a Suspected Serial Killer Following Attacks on Homeless Men: Police	People.com	December 26, 2021	https://people.com/crime/miami-real-estate-agent-suspected-serial-killer-homeless-men-murders/
2021	Orlando	FL	Florida man paid bum \$100 to attack girlfriend, visited her in hospital, police say	Fox News	June 1, 2021	https://www.foxnews.com/us/florida-man-paid-bum-attack-girlfriend-visited-hospital-police
2021	Honolulu	HI	In horrific attack, suspect intentionally sets homeless man on fire in Downtown Honolulu	Hawaii News Now	May 12, 2021	https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/05/12/investigation-underway-after-man-injured-with-multiple-second-third-degree-burns/
2021	Detroit	MI	Man charged after vicious beating leaves homeless man clinging to life outside Pontiac gas station	Fox 2 Detroit	August 24, 2021	https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/man-charged-after-vicious-beating-leaves-homeless-man-clinging-to-life-outside-pontiac-gas-station
2021	Asheville	NC	Woman shot in face with airsoft gun describes what happened	ABC 13 WLOS	November 9, 2021	https://wlos.com/news/local/woman-shot-in-face-with-airsoft-gun-describes-what-happened
2021	New York	NY	2021 Was Deadliest Year on Record for Homeless New Yorkers	City Limits	March 8, 2022	https://citylimits.org/2022/03/08/2021-was-deadliest-year-on-record-for-homeless-new-yorkers/
2021	New York	NY	I am going to kill you': Man charged with murder in knife attacks that killed 2 homeless people in New York City subway system	USA Today	February 14, 2021	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/02/14/new-york-city-subway-knife-attacks-4-homeless-people-stabbed-2-die/4481437001/

Appendix D: Case Research & References (cont.)

Year	City	State	Article Title	Publication	Publish Date	Article Link
2021	New York	NY	NYPD cop beats homeless man unconscious while clearing out homeless encampment on Manhattan sidewalk	Daily Mail	November 12, 2021	
2021	New York	NY	City in Crisis Burn Victim Dies Homeless man was set on fire	New York Post	November 21, 2021	
2021	Cincinnati	OH	Homeless advocates sound alarm over shootings	Fox 19	July 16, 2021	https://www.fox19.com/2021/07/16/homeless-man-hospitalized-after-attack-outside-church/
2021	Cincinnati	OH	Police are searching for three people accused of assaulting a homeless man	ABC 9 Cincinnati	October 15, 2021	https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/cincinnati/queensgate/hunt-on-for-three-who-assaulted-homeless-man
2021	Philadelphia	PA	Attacks against homeless people in Kensington are on the rise: 'Somebody is going to get killed'	Philadelphia Inquirer	April 29, 2021	https://www.inquirer.com/news/attacks-homeless-mcpherson-square-kensington-drugs-teens-20210429.html
2021	Philadelphia	PA	Penn State Brandywine Student Suspected In Paintball Attack Targeting Homeless People In Philadelphia	CBS News	December 8, 2021	https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/video-penn-state-brandywine-student-suspected-paintball-attack-homeless-people-philadelphia/
2021	Greenville County	SC	Multiple accused in 'brutal attacks' on homeless in Greenville Co.	WSPA News	July 28, 2021	https://www.wspa.com/news/local-news/multiple-accused-in-brutal-attacks-on-homeless-in-greenville-co/
2021	Nashville	TN	Unprovoked scooter attack on homeless man outside Ryman being investigated	Fox 17 Nashville	September 11, 2021	https://fox17.com/news/local/unprovoked-scooter-attack-on-homeless-man-being-investigated
2021	McAllen	TX	McAllen police: Homeless man in wheelchair dies following violent attack	KRGV.com	August 13, 2021	https://www.krgv.com/news/mc-allen-police-homeless-man-in-wheelchair-dies-following-violent-attack/
2021	Spokane	WA	SPD charges four juveniles involved in beating of homeless woman outside abandoned Shopko	KHQ.com	September 22, 2021	https://www.khq.com/news/first-on-khq-spd-charges-four-juveniles-involved-in-beating-of-homeless-woman-outside-abandoned/article_4f261910-0a87-11ec-a6c1-2760c50ba23c.html

Appendix D: Case Research & References (cont.)

Year	City	State	Article Title	Publication	Publish Date	Article Link
2021	National		Hostile Architecture: How our cities attack the homeless	The Current	February 17, 2021	https://nsucurrent.nova.edu/2021/02/17/hostile-architecture-how-our-cities-attack-the-homeless/
2021	New York		NYC homeless attack victim on the mend as family makes plans to get him off the street	New York Daily News	July 12, 2022	https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/07/12/nyc-homeless-attack-victim-on-the-mend-as-family-makes-plans-to-get-him-off-the-street/
2022	Crawford County	AR	3 COPS REMOVED FROM DUTY Video of Brutal Beating of Homeless Man	TMX.com	August 22, 2022	https://www.tmx.com/2022/08/22/cops-suspended-video-beating-homeless-man-mental-health-issues/
2022	Los Angeles	CA	2 Charged in Murder of Homeless Double-Amputee in Wheelchair	Los Angeles Magazine	September 1, 2022	https://lamag.com/news/2-charged-in-la-mcdonalds-murder-of-homeless-double-amputee-in-wheelchair
2022	Los Angeles	CA	Man sleeping in wheelchair outside McDonald's is killed, CA officials say	Sacramento Bee	September 2, 2022	
2022	Red Bluff	CA	Teen says he hates homeless people as pair stabs homeless woman 40 times	KRCR ABC 7	August 15, 2022	https://krctv.com/news/local/rb-pd-man-says-he-hates-homeless-people-as-he-stabs-woman-40-times
2022	Santa Cruz	CA	Santa Cruz teens arrested in connection to beating, stomping homeless man	CBS News Bay Area	October 5, 2022	https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/santa-cruz-teens-arrested-in-connection-to-beating-stomping-homeless-man/
2022	Stockton	CA	Hunt for Serial Killer: How police made an arrest in slayings that left homeless people 'scared to death.'	Los Angeles Times	November 6, 2022	
2022	Stockton	CA	Stockton 'serial killer' is hit with FOUR more murder charges	Daily Mail	December 28, 2022	
2022	Colorado Springs	CO	Lawyers call for criminal charges after footage reveals cops viciously beating up an unarmed homeless black veteran	Daily Mail	December 14, 2022	
2022	Fort Collins	CO	Teen suspected in fatal stabbing will continue to be charged as an adult	Fort Collins Coloradoan	April 7, 2022	

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2022	Tampa	FL	Florida man, 21, arrested after shooting at family of five, including three children, as they slept in their car in Tampa	Daily Mail	October 10, 2022	
2022	Chicago	IL	Chicago's "Walking Man" set on fire in River North; image of suspect released	CBS Chicago	May 25, 2022	https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/walking-man-homeless-man-set-on-fire-river-north-lower-wabash-avenue/
2022	Auburn	ME	The video was very disturbing: 'Teens charged in attack on homeless victims in Auburn	WGME	March 28, 2022	https://wgme.com/news/local/the-video-was-very-disturbing-teens-charged-in-assault-on-homeless-victims-in-auburn
2022	Auburn	ME	Video of assaults leads to arrests of three juveniles	Portland Press Herald	March 28, 2022	
2022	Detroit	MI	Three charged in slaying of Pontiac homeless man	Detroit News	April 1, 2022	
2022	Las Vegas	NV	Psychiatrist offers insight into stabbing attacks on homeless in Las Vegas	ABC 13 Las Vegas	September 27, 2022	https://www.ktnv.com/news/the-psychology-of-stabbing-christoper-martell
2022	New York	NY	8 Subway Attacks Over Weekend Show Challenge Adams Faces on Crime	New York Times	February 21, 2022	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/21/nyregion/nyc-subway-attacks-stabbing.html
2022	Toronto	ON	Chicago's "Walking Man" set on fire in River North; image of suspect released	Fox 5 New York	December 21, 2022	https://www.fox5ny.com/news/girls-kill-homeless-man-toronto
2022	Eugene	OR	Eugene man, 18, charged with murder after allegedly driving over unhoused woman along highway 99	Register-Guard	September 10, 2022	
2022	Grants Pass	OR	Homeless attack in Grants Pass stuns police, friend of victim	NBC KOBI 5	March 9, 2022	https://kobi5.com/news/local-news/homeless-attack-in-grants-pass-stuns-police-friend-of-victim-185440/
2022	Portland	OR	Homeless people are more likely to be victims of violence than housed people	Street Roots	July 13, 2022	https://www.streetroots.org/news/2022/07/13/violence-conflated
2022	Portland	OR	Family of victim in brutal attack claims police neglecting case because she's homeless	KTVL 10	October 4, 2022	https://ktvl.com/newsletter-daily/family-of-victim-in-brutal-attack-claims-police-neglecting-case-because-shes-homeless-82nd-avenue-portland-oregon

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2022	Portland	OR	Homeless homicides in Portland eclipse 2021	The Oregonian	October 23, 2022	
2022	Portland	OR	Unhoused Portlander stabbed a dozen times in Old Town	The Oregonian	July 1, 2022	
2022	Dallas	TX	Woman seen dancing after attacking homeless man now in custody, Dallas police say	FOX 4 KDFW	April 28, 2022	https://www.fox4news.com/news/woman-attacks-homeless-man-dallas
2022	El Paso	TX	Good Samaritans aid woman in late-night attack in Downtown El Paso; suspect arrested	El Paso Times	May 12, 2022	https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2022/05/12/downtown-el-paso-woman-random-attack-arrest-manuel-elucio-mendez-jr/9737759002/
2022	Wichita Falls	TX	Wichitan indicted for murder of homeless man	Times Record News	November 18, 2022	
2022	Bainbridge Island	WA	Man accused of attacking homeless woman sleeping in front of Bainbridge City Hall	Kitsap Sun	May 27, 2022	
2022	Mill Creek	WV	'Kill him': 3 arrested for recorded beating of local homeless man	WDTV 5	July 10, 2022	https://www.wdtv.com/2022/07/10/kill-him-3-arrested-recorded-beating-local-homeless-man/
2022	Canada		Advocate for homeless says 'very common' attacks on vulnerable people highlights dangers	The Canadian Press	January 27, 2022	https://globalnews.ca/news/8543353/alberta-homelessness-violence-advocates/
2022	DC/NYC		Targeted Attacks on Unsheltered New Yorkers Highlight Dangers of Homelessness	City Limits	March 15, 2022	https://citylimits.org/2022/03/15/targeted-attacks-on-unsheltered-new-yorkers-highlight-dangers-of-homelessness/
2022	DC/NYC		'Easy targets': Expert says killer of homeless men in NYC, D.C. may be drawn to vulnerable groups	NBC News	March 14, 2022	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/easy-targets-experts-say-killer-homeless-men-nyc-dc-may-drawn-vulnerab-rcna19978
2022	DC/NYC		Man indicted on murder, assault charges for 'bias' attacks on homeless people	Washington Post	November 12, 2021	

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2022	national		Homeless People in the US Are Being Murdered at a Horrific Rate	Jacobin	May 17, 2022	https://jacobin.com/2022/05/homeless-homicides-data-surge-victims-suspects
2022	national		Serial murders, beatings and beheadings: Violence against the homeless is increasing, advocates say	Washington Post	January 24, 2022	https://wapo.st/3UzjSLA
2022	national		Violent Attacks On People Who Are Homeless "Are Happening All The Time"	Buzzfeed News	March 21, 2022	https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/venessawong/violence-against-homeless



NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

National Coalition for the Homeless advocates for increased public investment in affordable housing, services, and resources for housing stability. We are creating lasting systems change by developing leaders with lived experience who know how to permanently solve homelessness. We all want the same thing - a safe place to call home.

We thank you for your contribution to larger changes in the way people experiencing homelessness are seen and treated in our society.

Contact

National Coalition for the Homeless
2201 P Street NW Washington, DC 20037
202-462-4822



www.nationalhomeless.org



info@nationalhomeless.org



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