

Sacramento County 2016 Homeless Deaths Report

February 27, 2017

Medi-Cal Managed Care Committee

Bob Erlenbusch, Executive Director





Sacramento County 2016 Homeless Deaths Report

Dedicated to the memory of all the people who experienced homelessness who have died in our community



Presentation Outline

- **Purpose of the report**
- **Findings**
- **Advocacy results**
- **Advocacy Next Steps**

Purpose of Report

- *A dignified memorial to homeless people who have died in our community;*
- *Identify gaps in homeless service delivery system and provide recommendations;*
- *Be a catalyst for change – galvanizing political and community will to identify action plan to ending and & preventing homelessness*

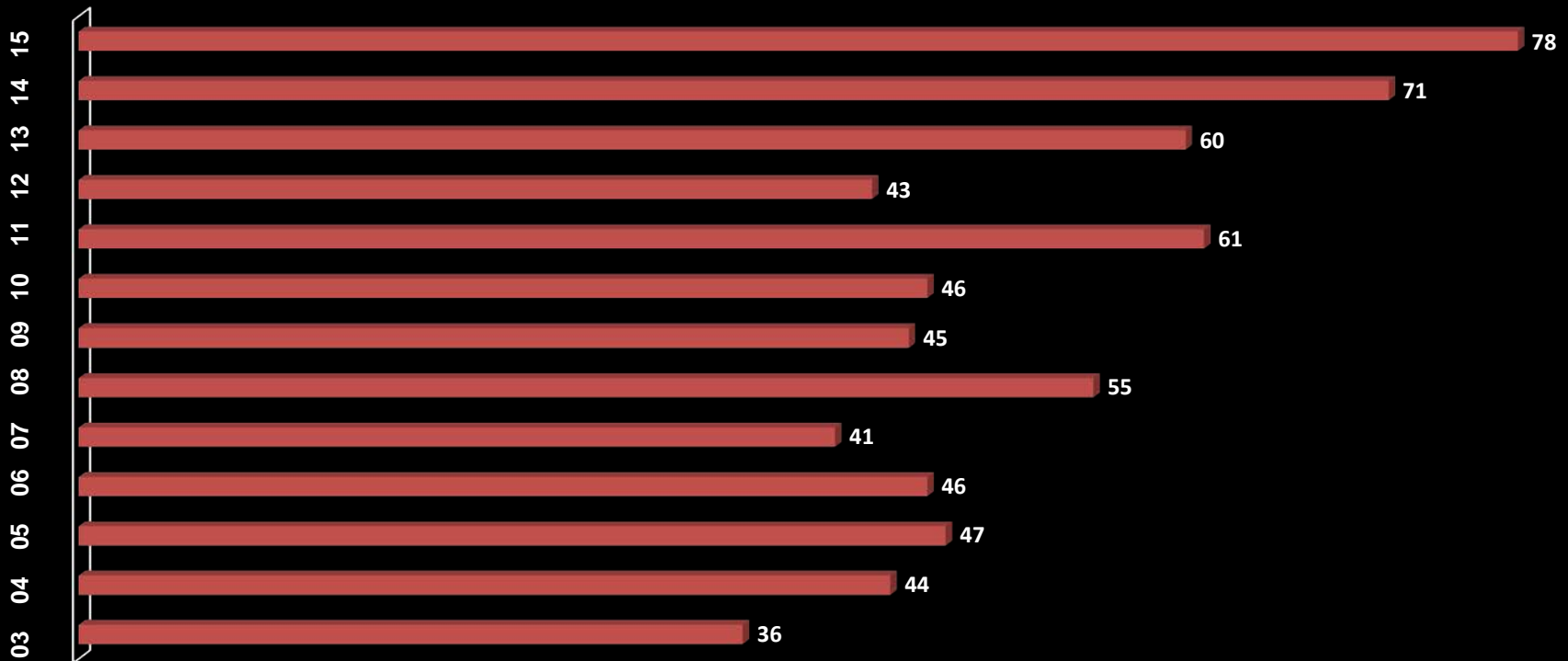


RESULTS:

705 Homeless Deaths 2002 –2015

for 13 years or

one person every 7 days for 13 years!



Average of 55 deaths per year

Demographics

Age Range: 21 – 73

18 – 29: 5.1%

30 – 39: 11.5%

40 – 49: 19.2%

50 – 59: 42.3%

60+: 21.8%

Average Age of deaths:

Men: 49.9

Women: 47.4



Gender: *overwhelmingly male*

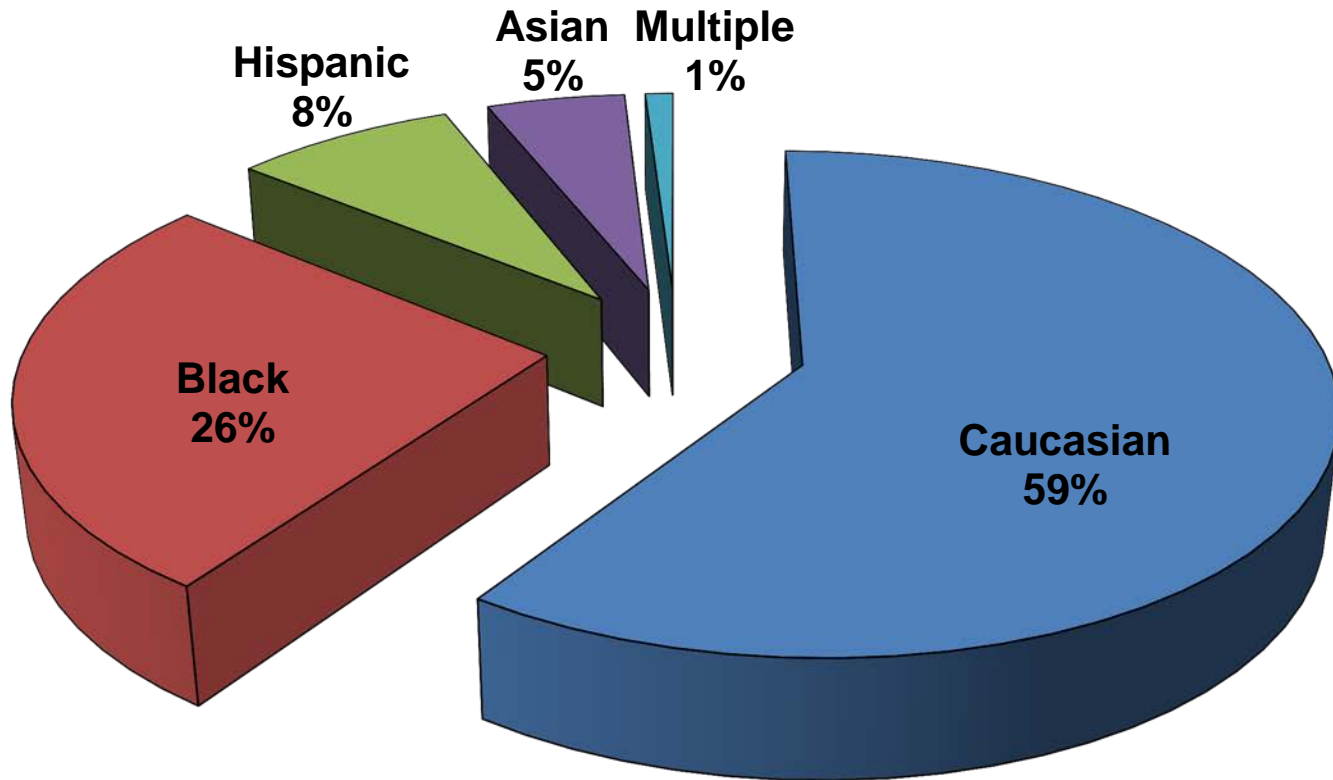
83% men



17% female



Ethnicity



% of Years of Life Lost Due to Untimely Death: 34% or 25 years

Gender:

Women:	37%
Men:	34%

Ethnicity:

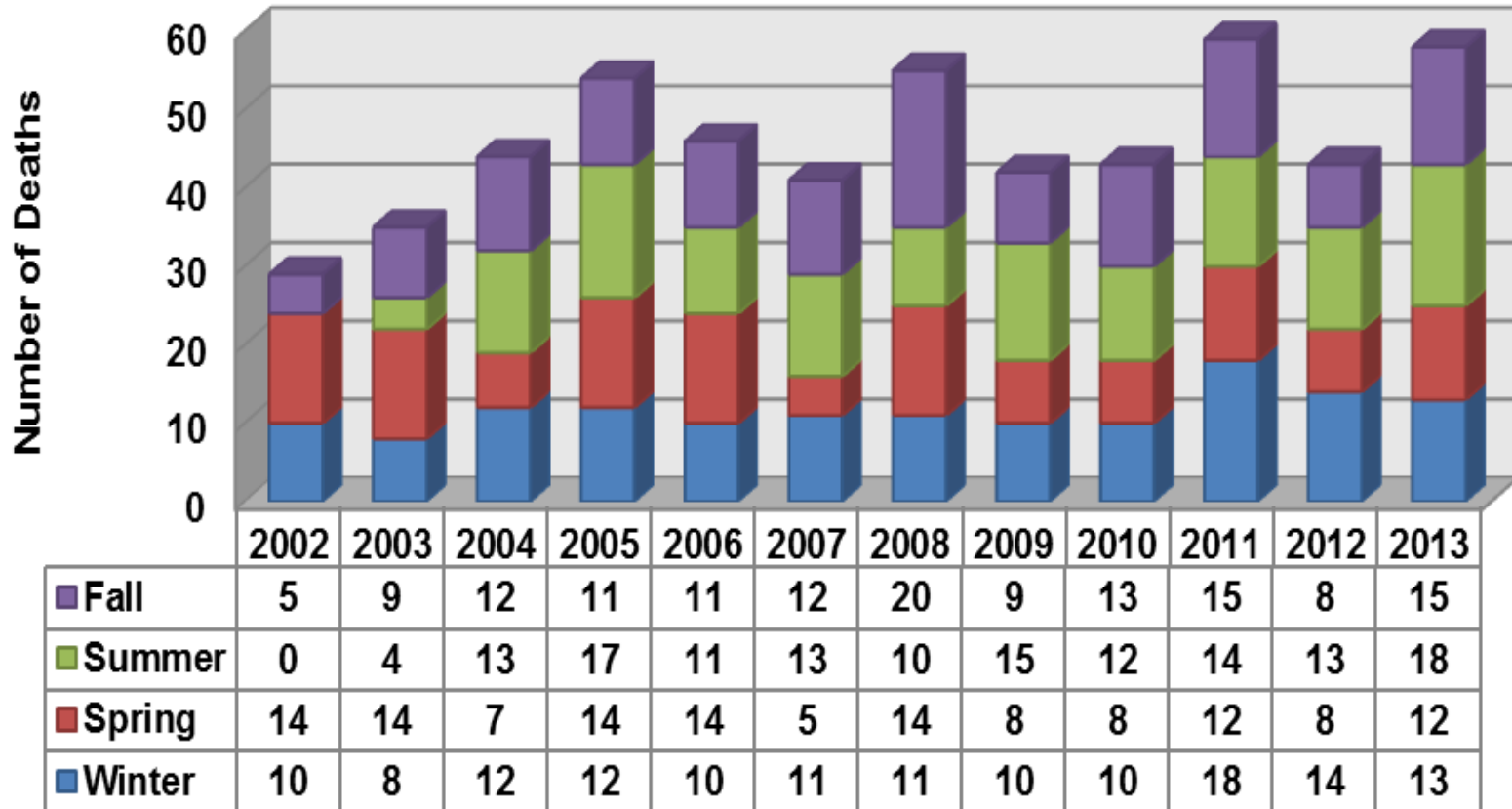
Latino:	39%
Black:	35%
White:	33%
Asian:	32%

**DYING TOO
YOUNG.**



Seasons of the Year:

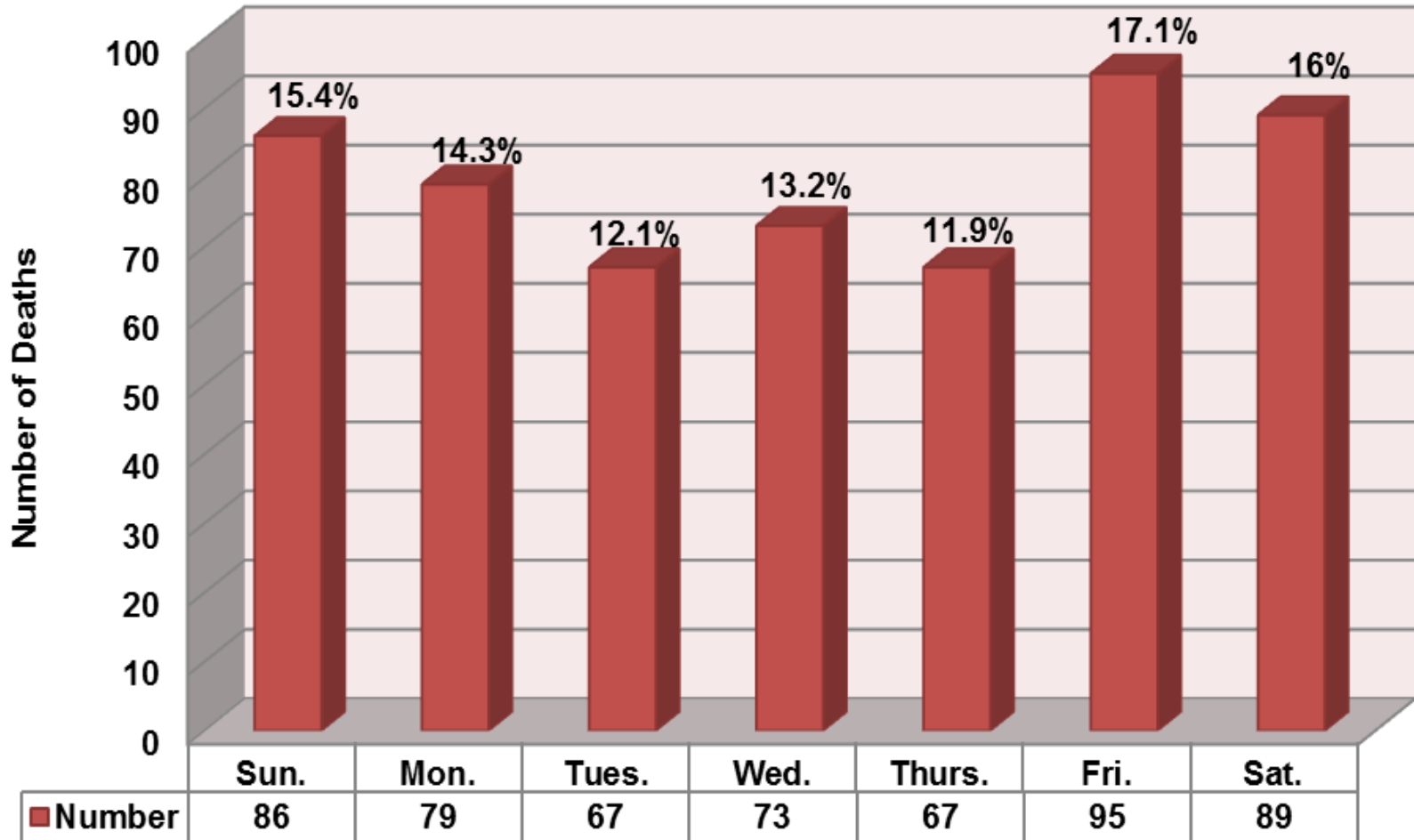
evenly distributed



**Summer: 25.5%; Fall: 25.5%;
Winter: 25.3% Spring; 23.7% Fall**

Days of the Week:

48.5% on Friday, Saturday & Sunday



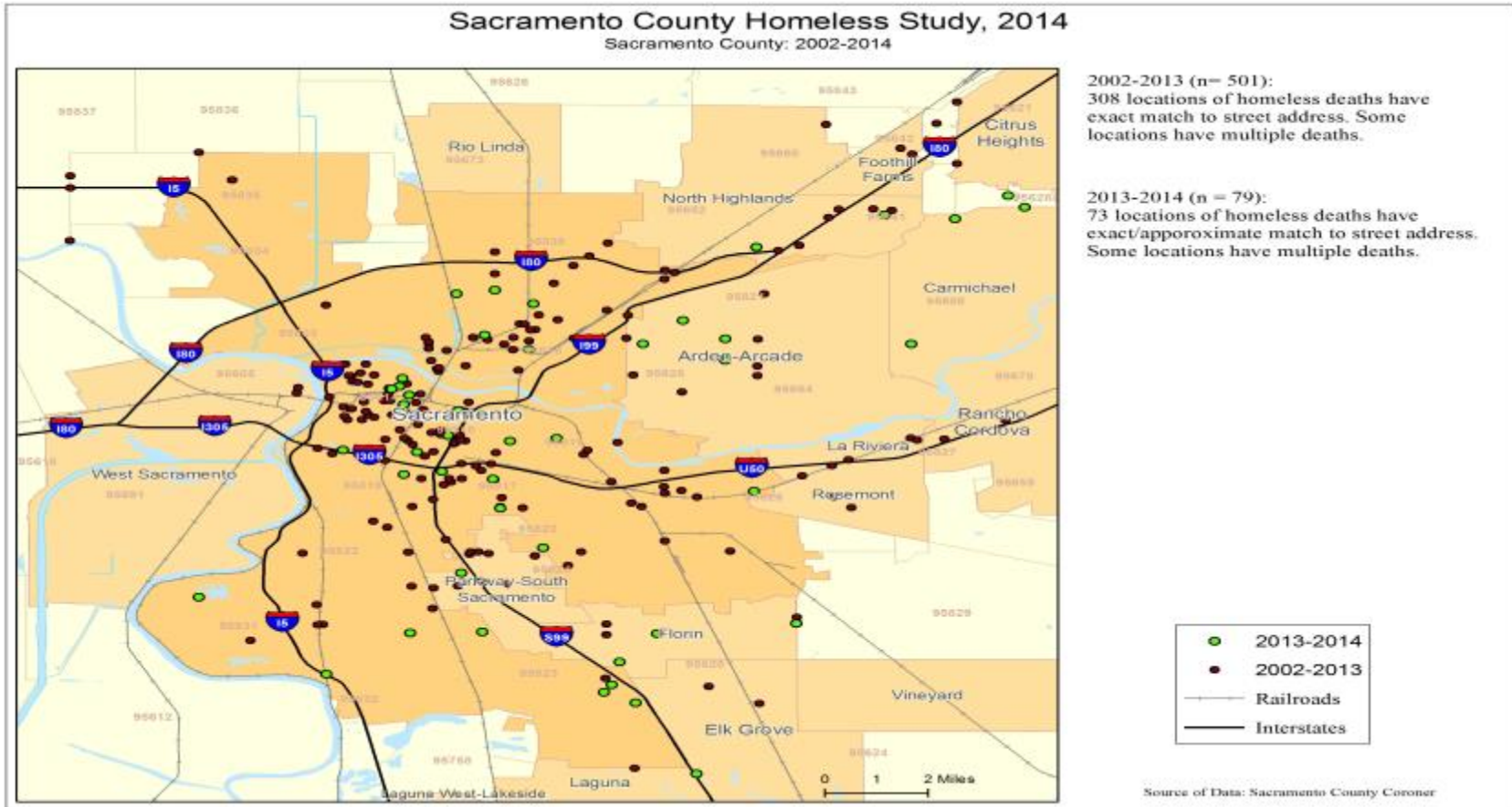
Location of Homeless Deaths

38% - Outside – alley, highway, field, park

35% - Hospital – emergency room or inpatient



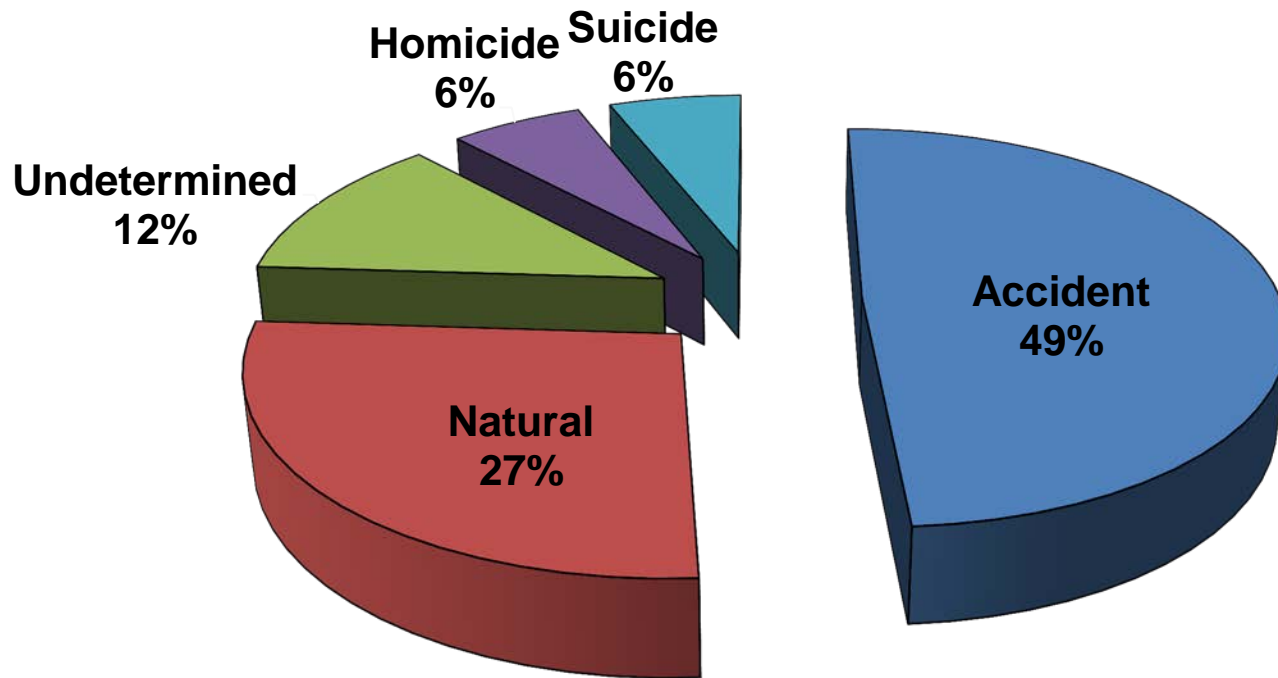
Regional Geography: downtown and along transit corridors



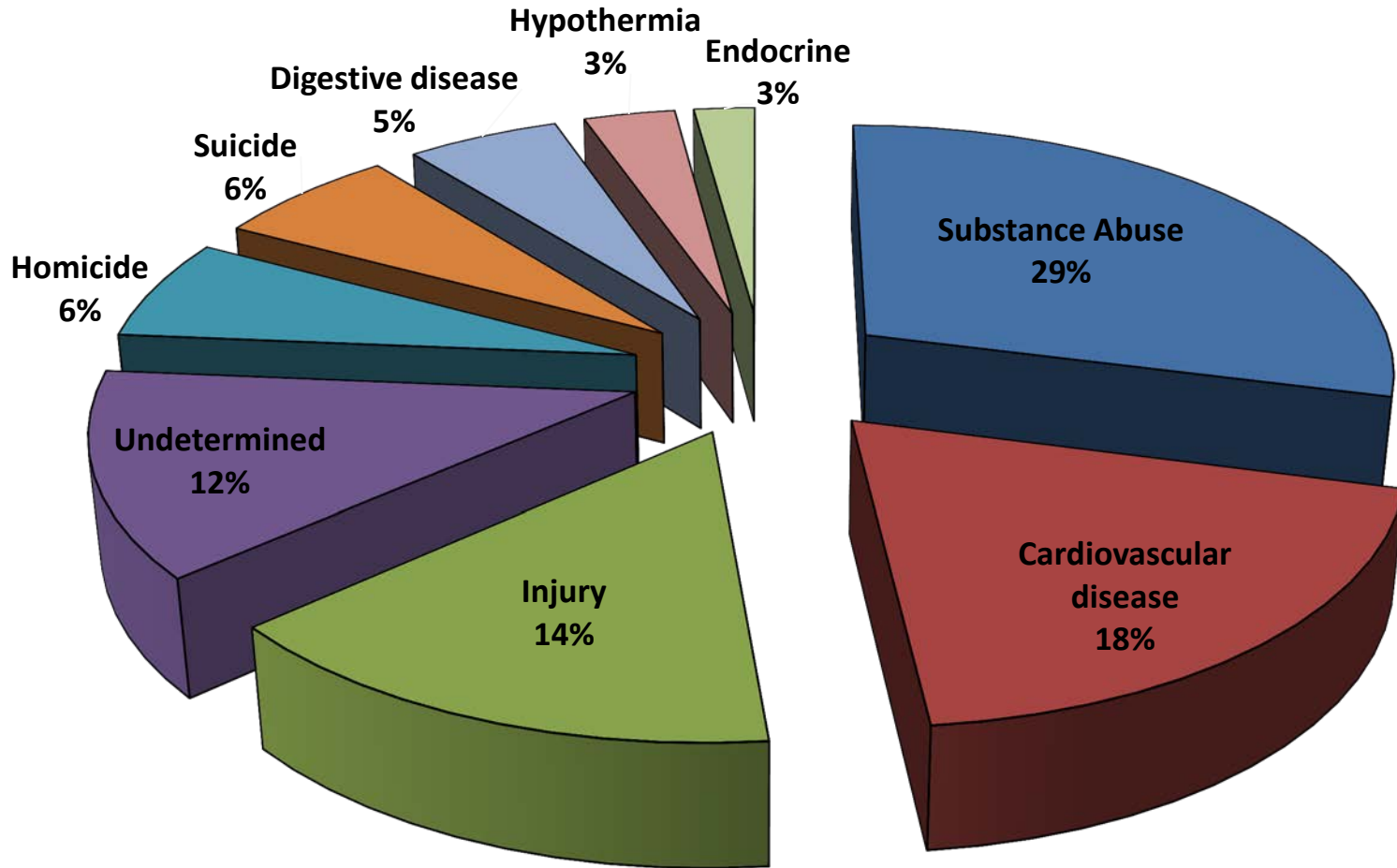
**Underscores need for
regional approach for preventing & ending homelessness**

Manner of Death:

1 in 8 by murder or suicide



Causes of Death:



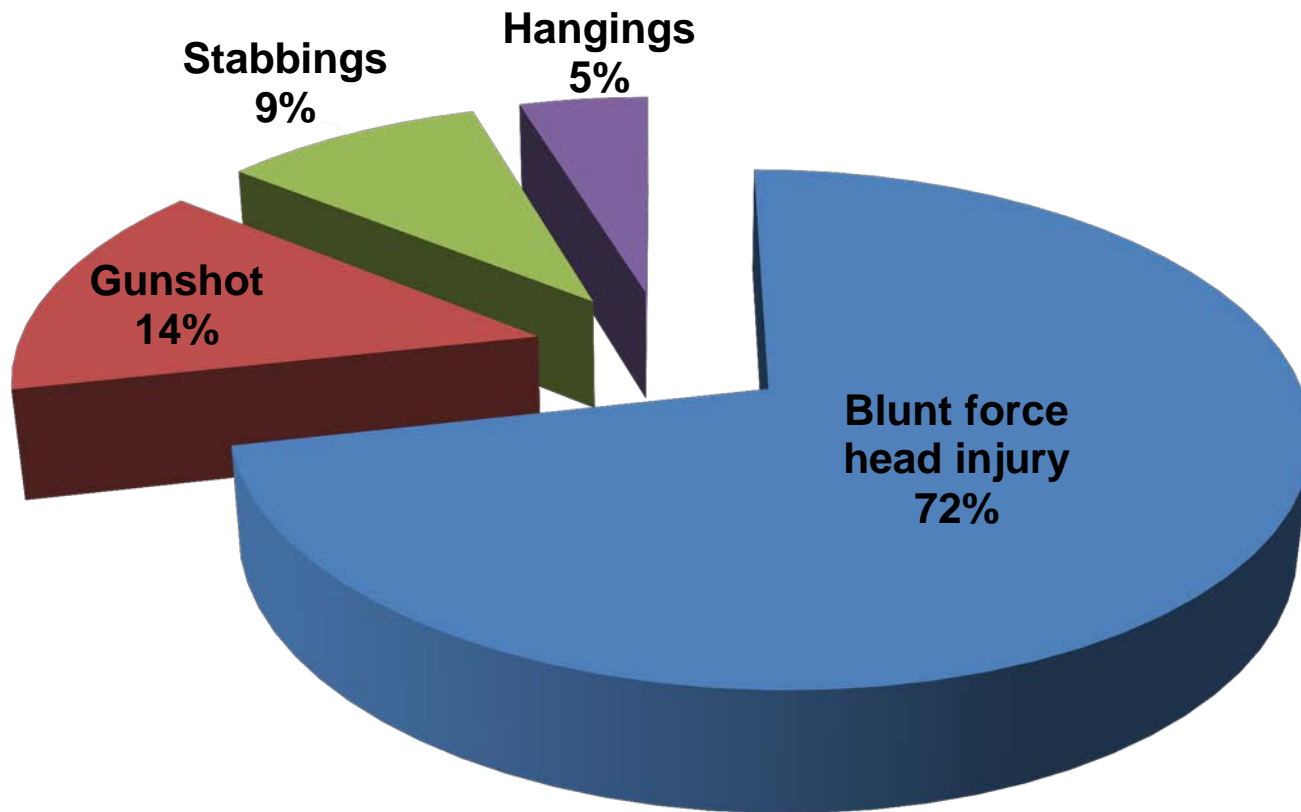
Top 5 Causes of Death:

Underlying Cause[s] of death	Percentage of homeless deaths
Alcohol/drug induced	27%
Cardiovascular disease	18%
Injury	14%
Homicide	6%
Suicide	6%

26% by blunt force trauma; gun shot; stabbing or hangings



Types of Violent Deaths: 2015



Manner of Death by Gender

Top Five Manner of Death	Females	Males	All
Accident	6%	42%	48%
Natural	4%	23%	27%
Other	4%	9%	13%
Homicide	3%	4%	7%
Suicide	1%	5%	6%

Manner of Death by Ethnicity

Manner of Death	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic
Accident	12.8%	28%	4%
Natural	10%	15%	1%
Homicide	3%	1%	1%

50% of Black homeless deaths were accidental deaths

People of color accounted for 80% of the homicides [4 out of 5]

Comparison of Mortality Rates of homeless population to general population: 2007 2015

Homeless mortality rates 2.4 – 4.2 times higher: 2007 - 2015

	Mortality Rate per 100,000 population			
Population	2007	2008	2009	2015
General Population	678	688	680	706
Homeless Population	1,672	2,054	1,607	2,933

Homelessness Kills



Comparison of Homicide rate: Homeless population to general population: 2015

Population	Mortality rate per 100,000
General population	6
Homeless population	188

Comparison of Suicide rate: Homeless population to general: population: 2015

Population	Mortality rate per 100,000
General population	16.6
Homeless population	865

Homeless mortality rates: 2015

4 X

Mortality rates






16 X

Suicide rates





31 X

Homicide rates

Recommendations

	Policy Recommendations	Findings
	Expand the Sacramento City & County Affordable Housing Trust fund to create more affordable housing	705 homeless deaths over 13 years: 1 death every 7 days The overall mortality rate for homeless people is 4 times higher than Sacramento's housed population
	Support for housing first approach, but were housing is lacking – increase the capacity of crisis response system to serve more homeless people through a no barrier Triage Center; year round emergency shelter; 1s Steps Communities and rapid rehousing	75% of the homeless deaths were in Spring; Summer & Fall – evenly distributed across seasons 48.9% died within 1 day – 6 months of leaving a homeless program
	Fund a Weekend Drop in Center to provide a safe location for homeless people	Almost 50% [48.5%] of the deaths were on either Friday, Saturday or Sunday 27% died of blunt force injury; gun shots; stabbings or hangings
	Increase funding for alcohol & other drugs and mental health treatment programs – increase effective linkage to Medi-Cal existing services; Refund VOA's free treatment on demand program	28% died of alcohol/substance abuse induced deaths – the leading underlying cause of death
	Expand funding for Respite Care facilities	Homeless people are routinely discharged to the streets by local hospitals – many need a respite care facility to recover from surgeries etc

Recommendations: *continued*

	Policy Recommendations	Findings
	<p>Increase funding for nurse street outreach program to assist homeless individuals into comprehensive ongoing care</p>	<p>38% of the homeless decedents never visited a primary care medical home</p>
	<p>Continue outreach, enrollment and navigation services for homeless people enrolled in MediCal or healthcare coverage</p>	<p>14% died of cardiovascular disease; 5% of infection; 4% internal disease and 1% of diabetes – many deaths preventable with access to preventative health care</p>
	<p>Ensure full enrollment of homeless people on CalFresh & full implementation of Restaurant Meals Program</p>	<p>Almost 50% [48.6%] of homeless people died of poor health conditions [high blood pressure etc.] which are related to poor nutrition</p>
	<p>Free or subsidized transportation for homeless people</p>	<p>Lack of transportation is a major barrier to access health care as well as substance abuse & mental health treatment programs</p>

NO MORE
HOMELESS
DEATHS

ADVOCACY SUCCESS!

- ✓ 2017: Councilmember Warren proposes “Tent City” as way to “save lives”
- ✓ 2016: Mayor Steinberg announced using city buildings as warming centers
- ✓ 2014: Sacramento County Board of Supervisors: allocated \$260,000 in FY 204-15 budget to increase RN street outreach to homeless people;
- ✓ Sacramento Steps Forward: Street outreach/system navigators focused on geographic areas of high mortality rates;
- ✓ Public Education: Community presentations & media coverage
- ✓ Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service: 2016 was 3rd Annual service – attended by over 150 community members including Mayor Steinberg & Board of Supervisor Kennedy

ADVOCACY NEXT STEPS

- Expand the Sacramento City & County Affordable Housing Trust Fund;
- Year Round Shelter
- Weekend Drop In Center
- Drug & Mental Health Treatment on Demand
- Ensure access to preventative health care

For more information:

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