

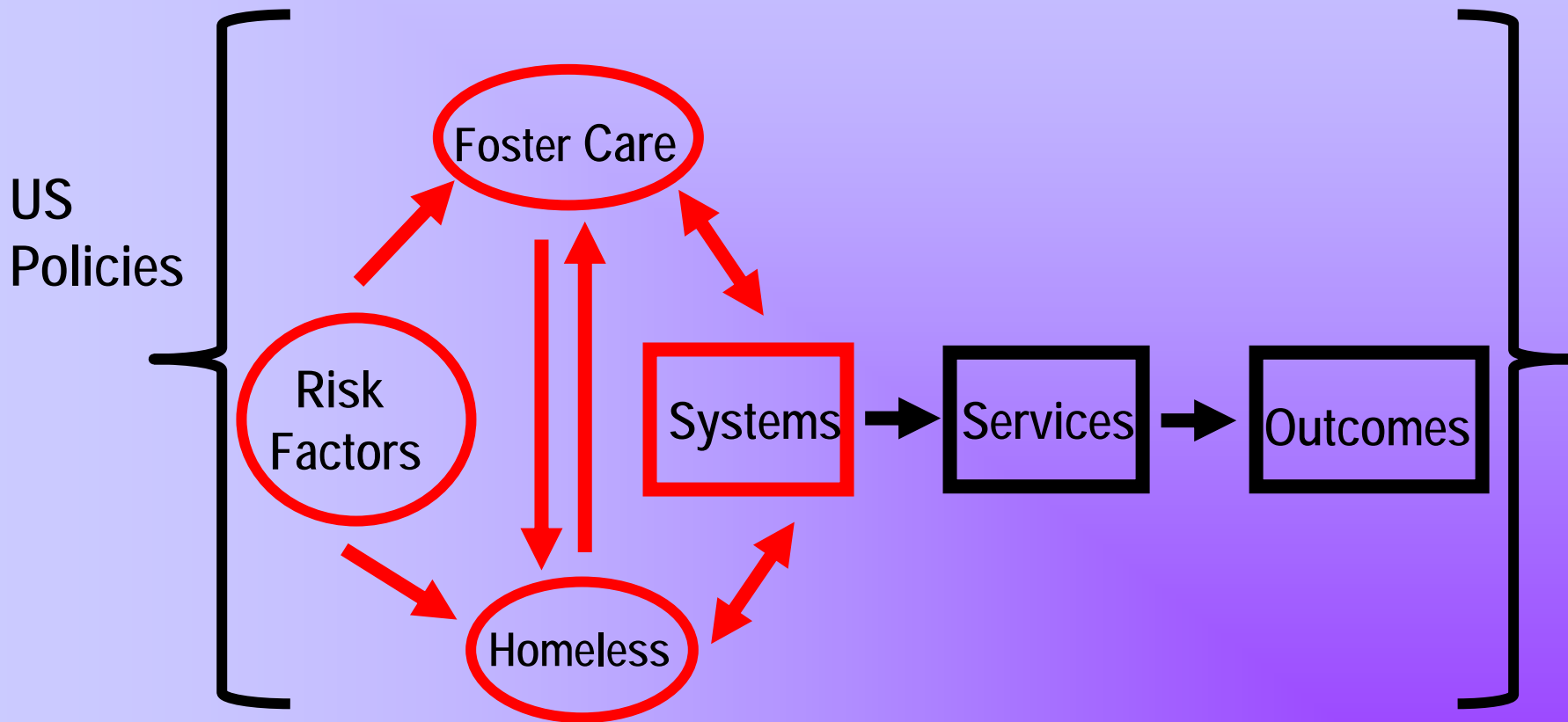
# Family Homelessness: A Multi-system's Dilemma

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# Study Model



# Outline of Presentation

I Legislation Influencing Family Homelessness

II A Vignette

III The Systems

III A Possible Framework

IV Opportunities for Intervention and Study

V Discussion

# Summary of Legislation Influencing Services for Homeless Children and Families

1987 – Stewart B. McKinney (Homeless Assistance) Act  
PL 100-77, Section 340(a)

1992 – Primary Health Services for Homeless Children  
PL 101-645, Section 340 (s)

1996 – Health Center Consolidation Act  
PL 104-299, 110 Stat. 3626

2003 – Chronic Homelessness Initiative  
Federal Register Vol. 68, No. 17

2009 – HEARTH Act  
PL 111-22, Stat. 1003

# Stewart B. McKinney Act 340(a)

## Stewart B. McKinney Act (1987) (DHHS)

“an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is (a) a supervised or publicly operated shelter...(b) an institution that provides a temporary residence...(c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular accommodation for human beings.”

## **McKinney Act –Homeless Children 340 (s)**

### **Stewart B. McKinney Act (1992) (DHHS)**

“ . . . include children living in precarious housing situations, ...the foster care system, children living with relatives or other adults who are not their parents, and unattached adolescents.”

# Health Center Consolidation Act of 1996

## Health Center Consolidation Act of 1996 (DHHS)

The term 'homeless individual' means an individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing.

# Chronic Homelessness

**HUD 2003** - Federal Register

**Chronic Homelessness is defined as**

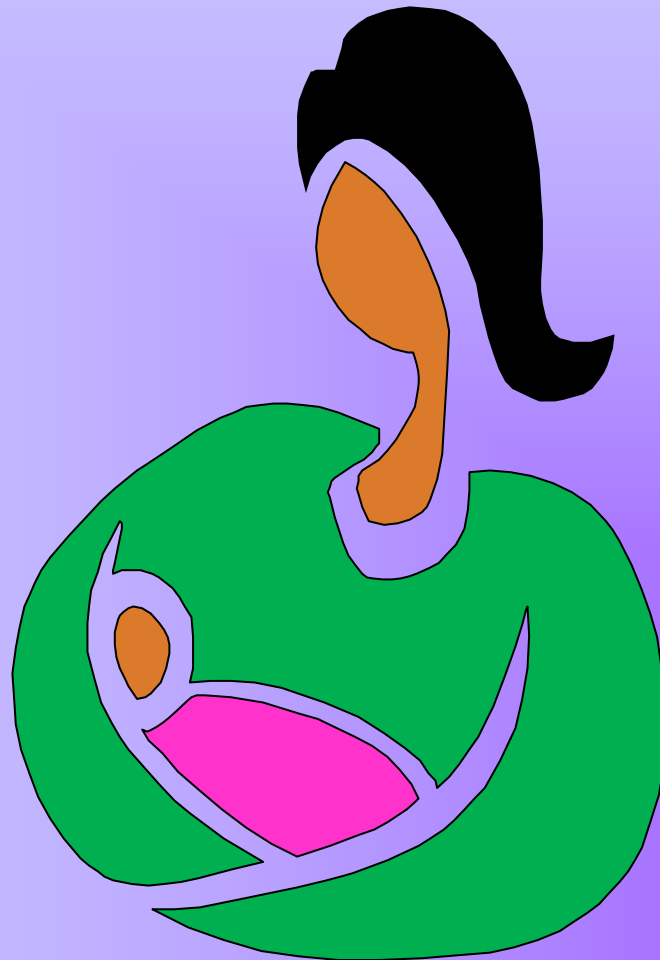
“an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years”

# HEARTH Act

## Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009

“an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; (or lives in) a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation...; (or lives in) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter...; (or resides) in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation; (or) will imminently lost their housing...; (and) unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes...”

# A Vignette – Introduction to □□□□□



# Family Homelessness: Systems

1. Housing : Doubled up and Shelters
2. Mental Health: Parent and Child
3. Child Welfare: Foster Care and Group Home
4. School
5. Substance Abuse
6. Criminal Justice

# Doubled - Up and Transient The Hidden Homeless

## RDD National Data

- 21.7% of doubled-up are families
- 28% of doubled-up families lived in doubled-up arrangement for more than 6 months with another family that was low-income themselves

(Bolland & McCallum, 2002)

# AHAR Numbers

## Exhibit 3-2

### Number of Sheltered Homeless Between February 1 and April 30, 2005

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>95% CI</u>
Total Homeless	704,146	399,244-1,009,048
Individuals	462,381	
Families	241,765	
Households	72,754	

- HUD Definition
- HMIS – Homeless Management Information System

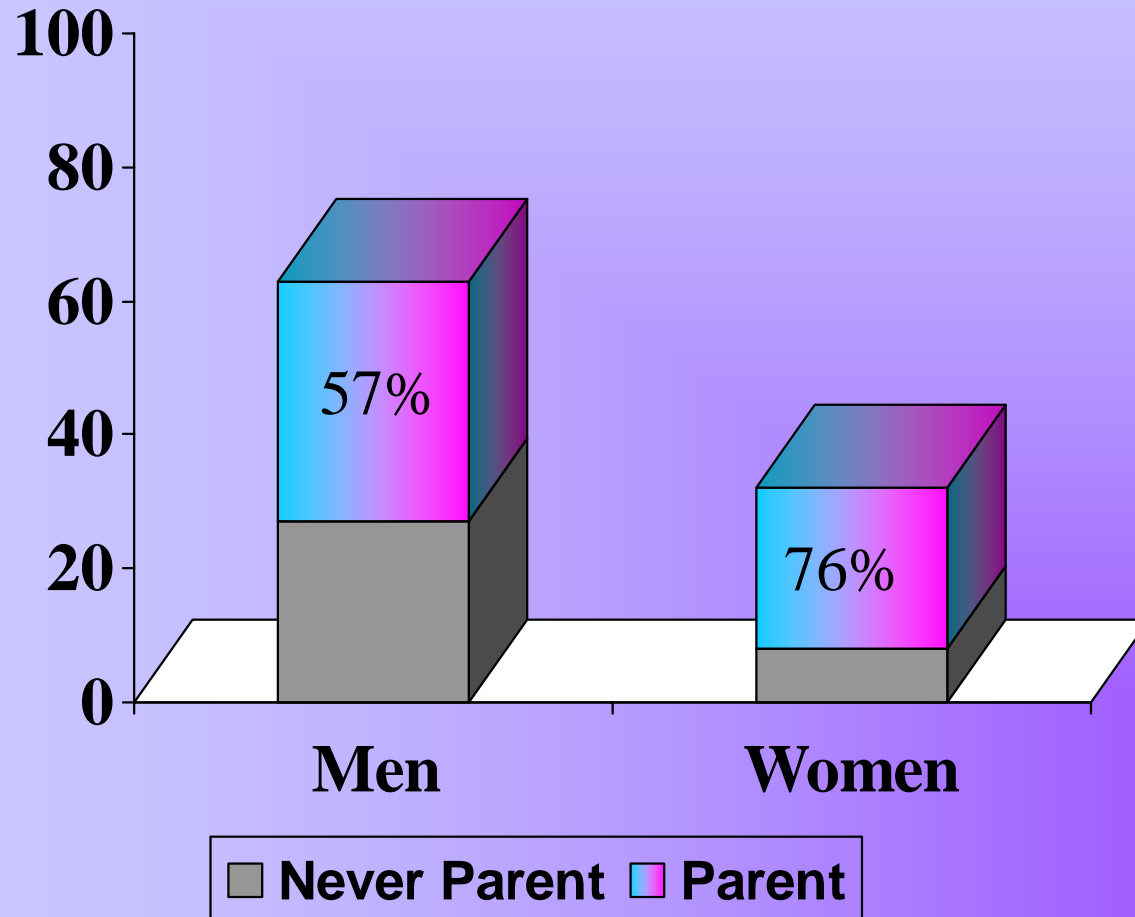
# Shelter Beds

**Exhibit 3-2 Number of Shelter Beds Nationwide**

	<u>Units</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Single</u>
Total Beds	64,173	215,955	222,357
Emergency	30,593	100,730	117,217
Transitional	33,580	115,225	105,140

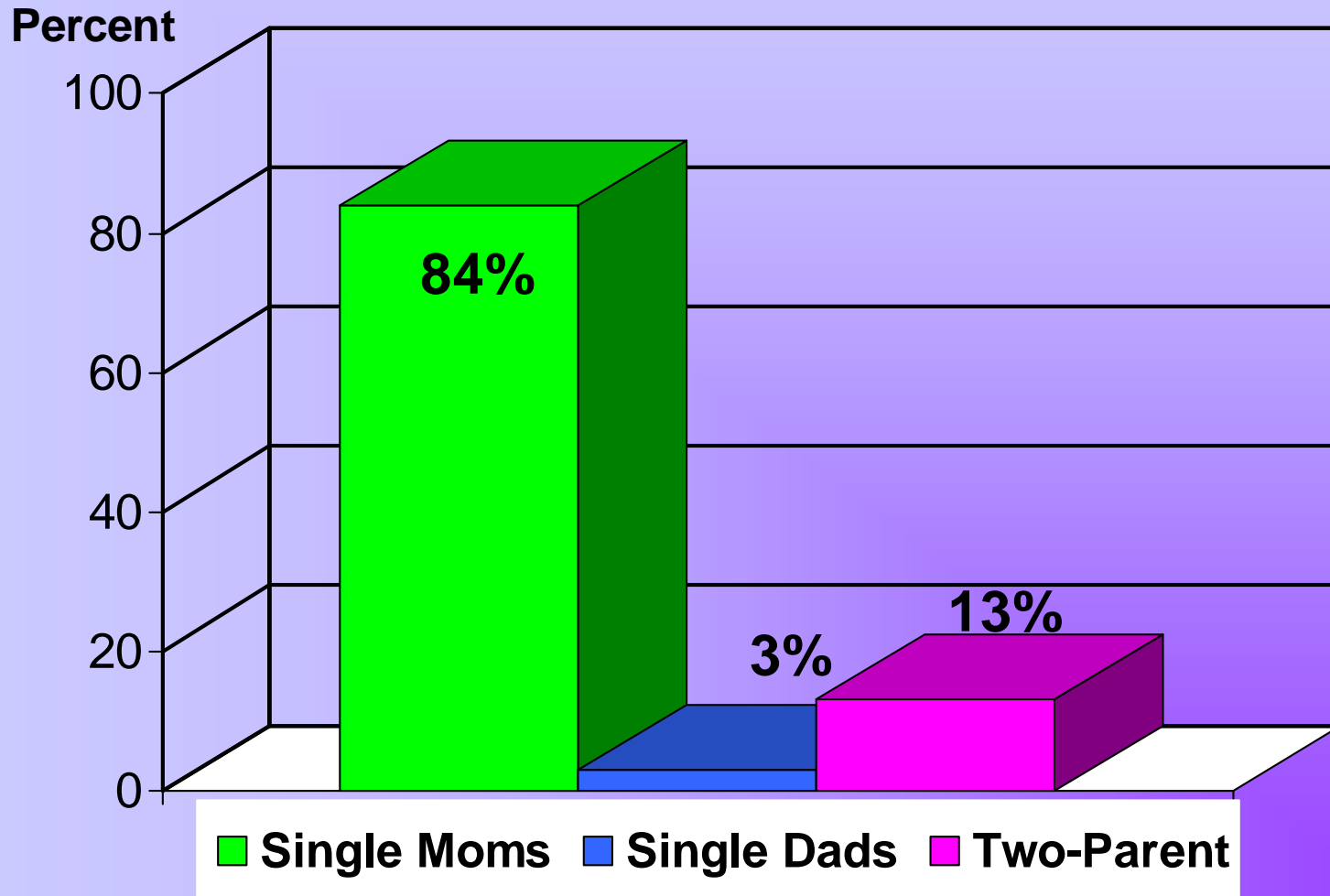
Among users of emergency shelters, there are almost 2.5 times as many unaccompanied persons (384,157) as persons in families (155,298) over the three-month study period

# Homeless Parents of Minor-Aged Children



(Burt et al, 2001)

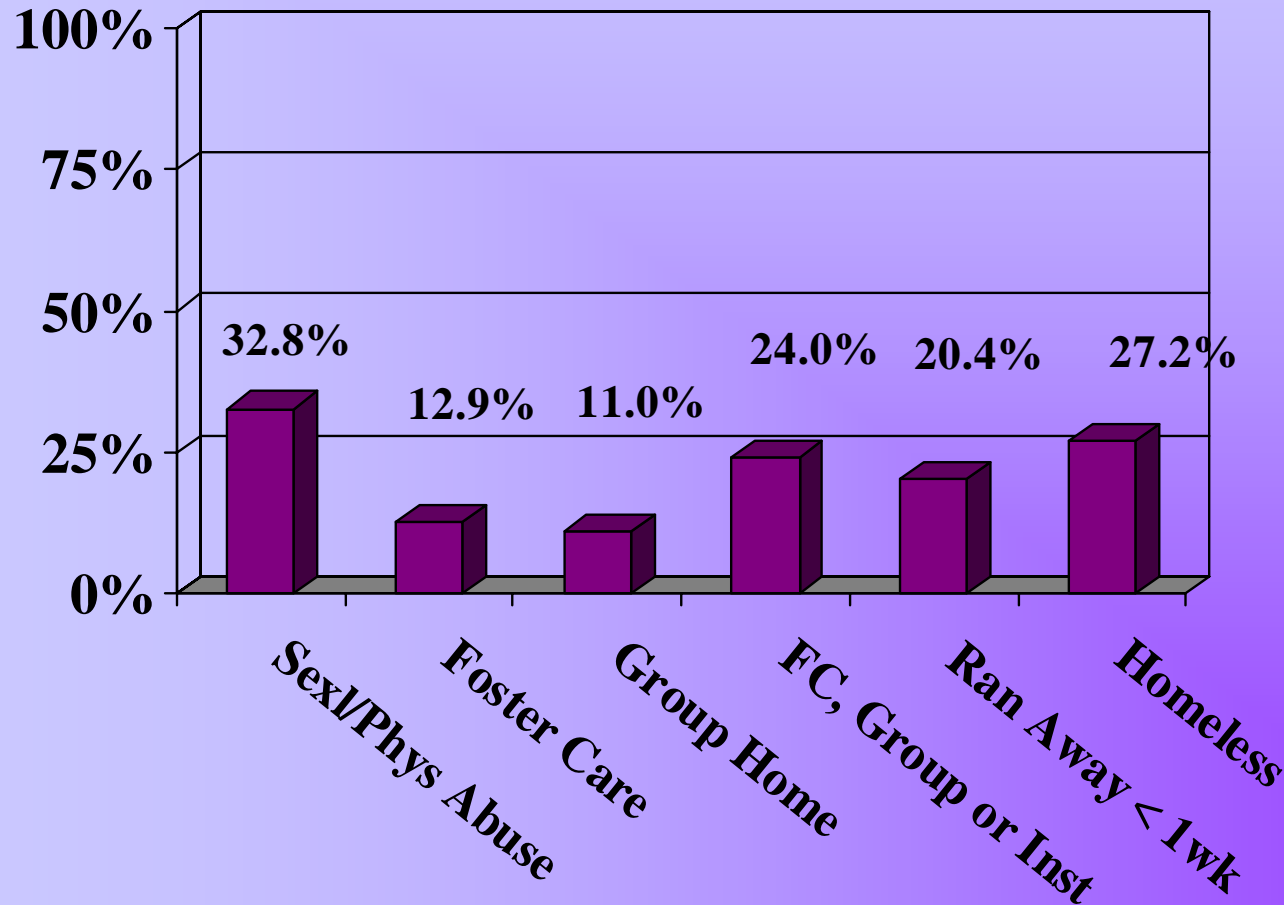
# Composition of Homeless Families



(Burt et al, 2001)

# Mental Health – Childhood Events

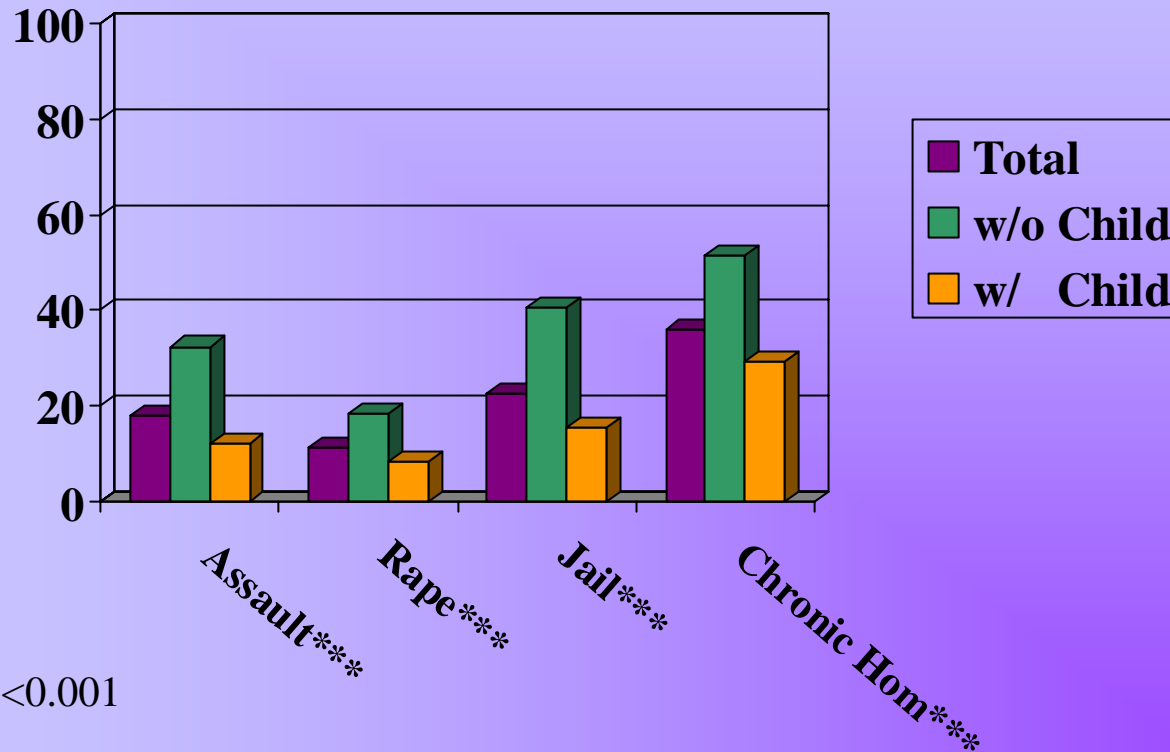
## Childhood Adversity among Homeless Mothers



(Zlotnick, Tam & Bradley, 2007)

# Mental Health – Adulthood Events

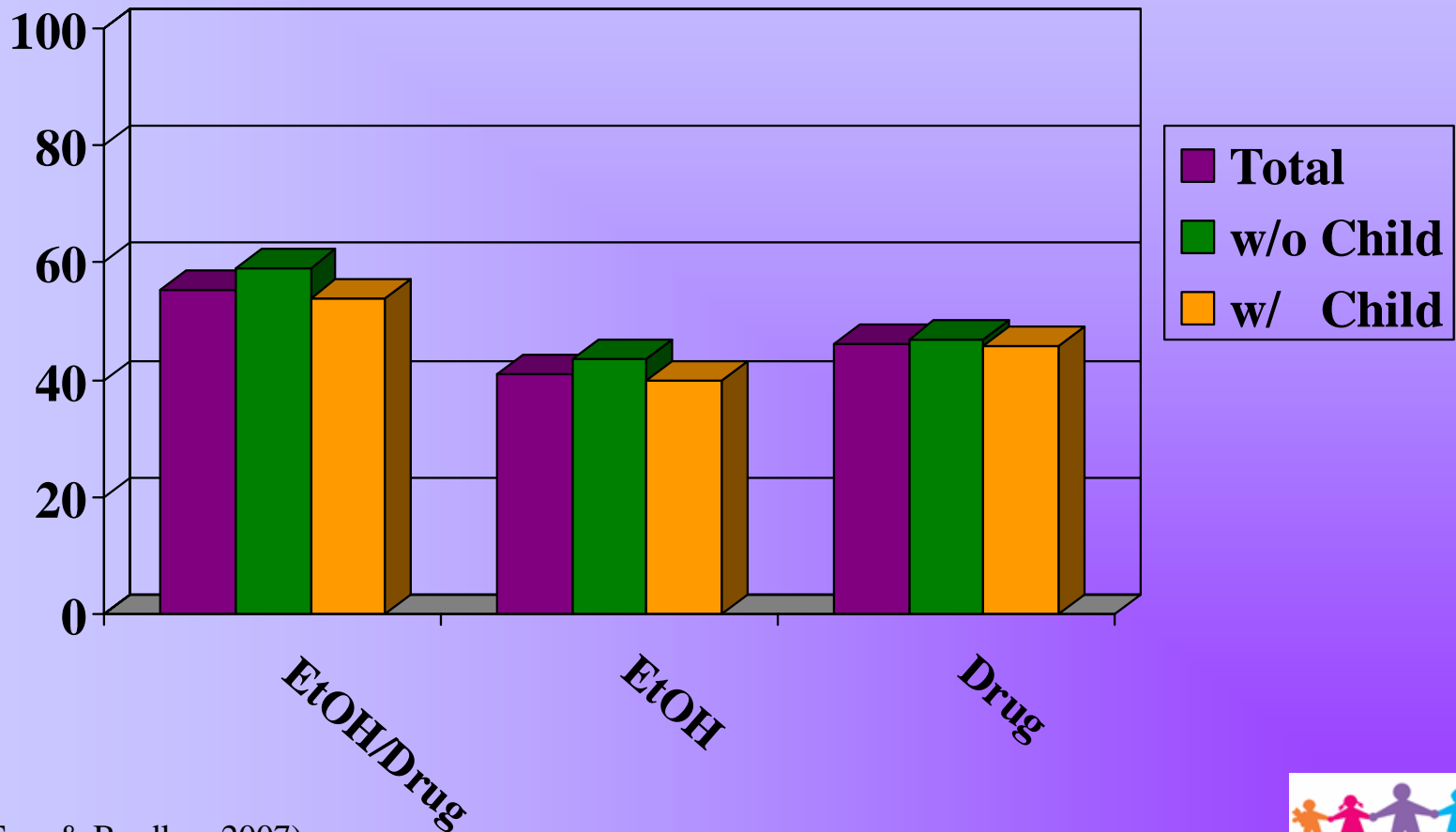
## Adulthood Adversity by Homeless Mother's Family Status



(Zlotnick, Tam & Bradley, 2007)

# Substance Abuse – Family Status

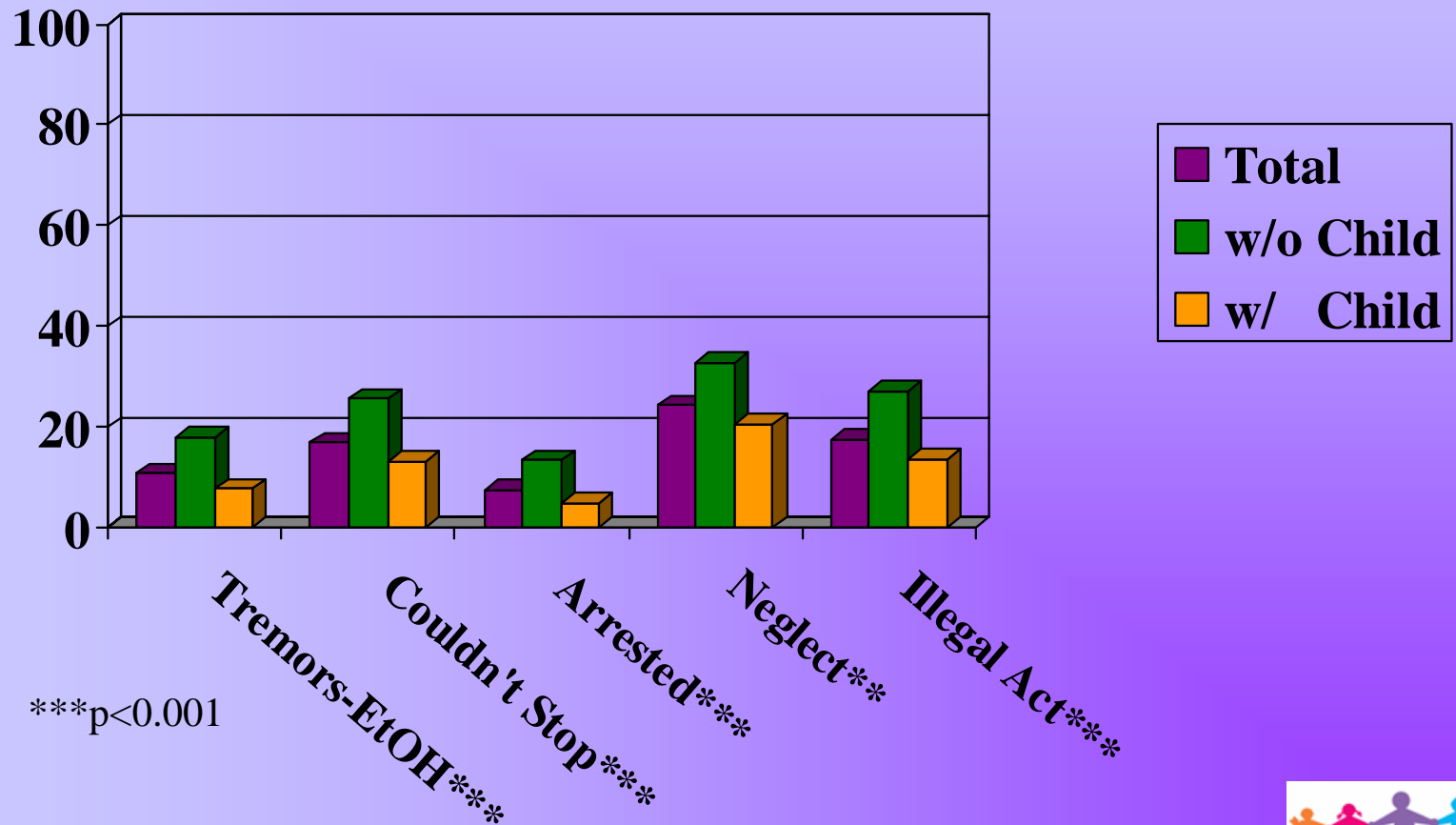
## Substance Abuse Morbidity by Homeless Mother's Family Status



(Zlotnick, Tam & Bradley, 2007)

# Substance Abuse - Severity

## Substance Abuse Severity by Homeless Mother's Family Status



(Zlotnick, Tam & Bradley, 2007)

# Family Status – Substance Abuse vs. Homelessness

- Homelessness is a stronger predictor of a child being in an out of home placement than substance abuse or other problems (Cowal et al., 2002).

(Cowal et al., 2002)

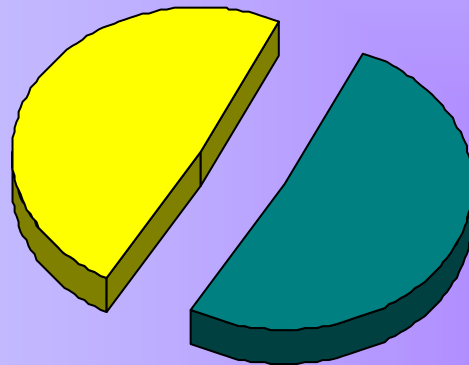
# Child Welfare vs. Out-of-Home Placement

- An estimated 44%-76% of homeless mothers have children in out of home placements; however, 24%-26% of homeless mothers have children in foster care

(Burt et al., 1999; Cowal et al., 2002; Park et al., 2004; Zlotnick, Tam & Bradley, 2007)

# Child Welfare – Foster Care

In a random sample of young children entering a County's foster care program, 48.7% of birth parents were homeless.



■ Homeless ■ Not Homeless

(Zlotnick, Kronstadt & Klee, 1998)

# Mental Health (Children) - Outcomes

## Homeless Children

Psychological/behavioral or

al problem

8%)\*\*

development

14% (vs.

Behavioral problem or developmental delay

78%

## Foster Care Children

Suicide attempts

15.3% (vs. 4.2%)\*\*\*

Any Drug Use

34.2% (vs. 18.1%)\*\*\*

Any Alcohol Use

40.0% (vs. 32.9%)\*

p<0.05\*   p<0.01\*\*   p<0.001\*\*\*

(Coker et al., 2008; Pilowsky & Wu, 2006; Zima et al, 1994)



# School System - Outcomes

## Homeless Children

- 34.5% repeated a grade
- 19.7% had been suspended

## Foster Care Children

- 25.0% repeated a grade
- 73% had been suspended
- Number of placements inversely related to GPA

# Criminal Justice – Foster Care Youth

Among youth in foster care/group placements, those with more placements were significantly more likely to have:

- more violence in dating relationships
- more trouble with the law
- higher rates of teenage pregnancy

(Reilly, 2003)

# Criminal Justice – Homeless/Runaway Youth

21% Selling Drugs

14% Stealing

5% Selling or Trading Sex

(Stein et al., 2009)

# Foster Care and Homelessness – Youth

Among runaway/homeless youth, twice as many have histories of living in foster care/group homes.



(Thompson & Pollio, 2006; Tyler, 2006)

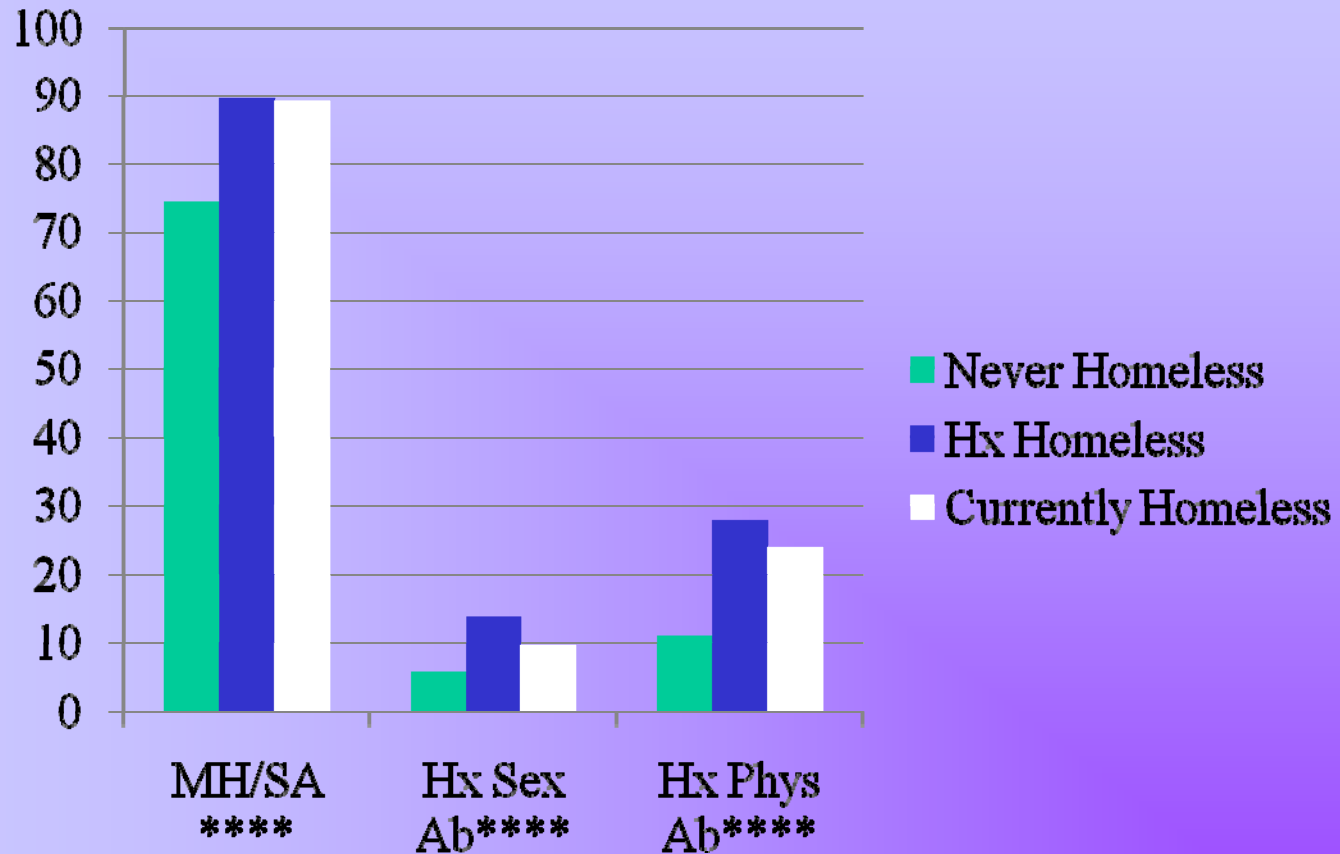
# Foster Care and Homelessness – Aging Out Youth

15%-22% of children aging-out of foster care experience homelessness within one year



(Kushel et al., 2007; Pecora et al., 2006)

# Criminal Justice – Adult Homeless

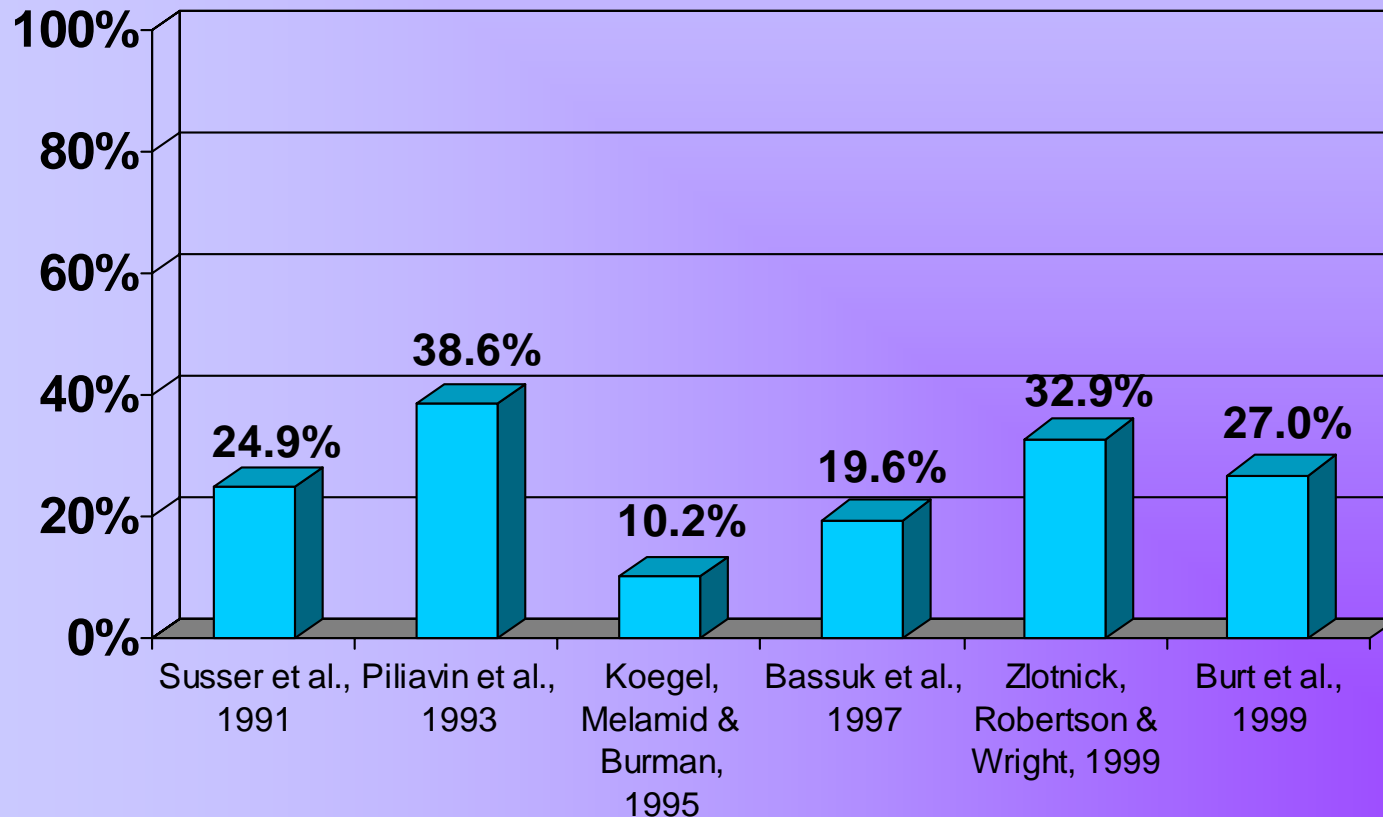


\*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$

(Greenberg & Rosenheck, 2008)

# Intergenerational Impact

## Homeless Adults with Hx Childhood Foster Care & Out of Home Placements



# A Framework: Life Course Epidemiology

- Some childhood events are related to adulthood sequelae.
- There are critical periods in life when an event has a greater impact.
- Intergenerational transmission of risk from childhood to adulthood is possible.



(Ben-Shlomo & Kuh, 2002)

# System's Circle – *Some Evidence*

Adults with versus without histories of childhood foster care were significantly more likely to experience adulthood mental health problems, poor physical health and problems with daily function...and homelessness (men).

	<u>United Kingdom</u> <sup>a</sup>	<u>US (CA)</u> <sup>a</sup>
Mental health	1.7 - males	1.71
Health Status	1.6 - males 1.8 - females	1.53 <sup>b</sup>
Daily Function		1.50
Homelessness	2.0 - males	

<sup>a</sup> Odds Ratios, significant  $p < 0.05$     <sup>b</sup> Adjusted for gender

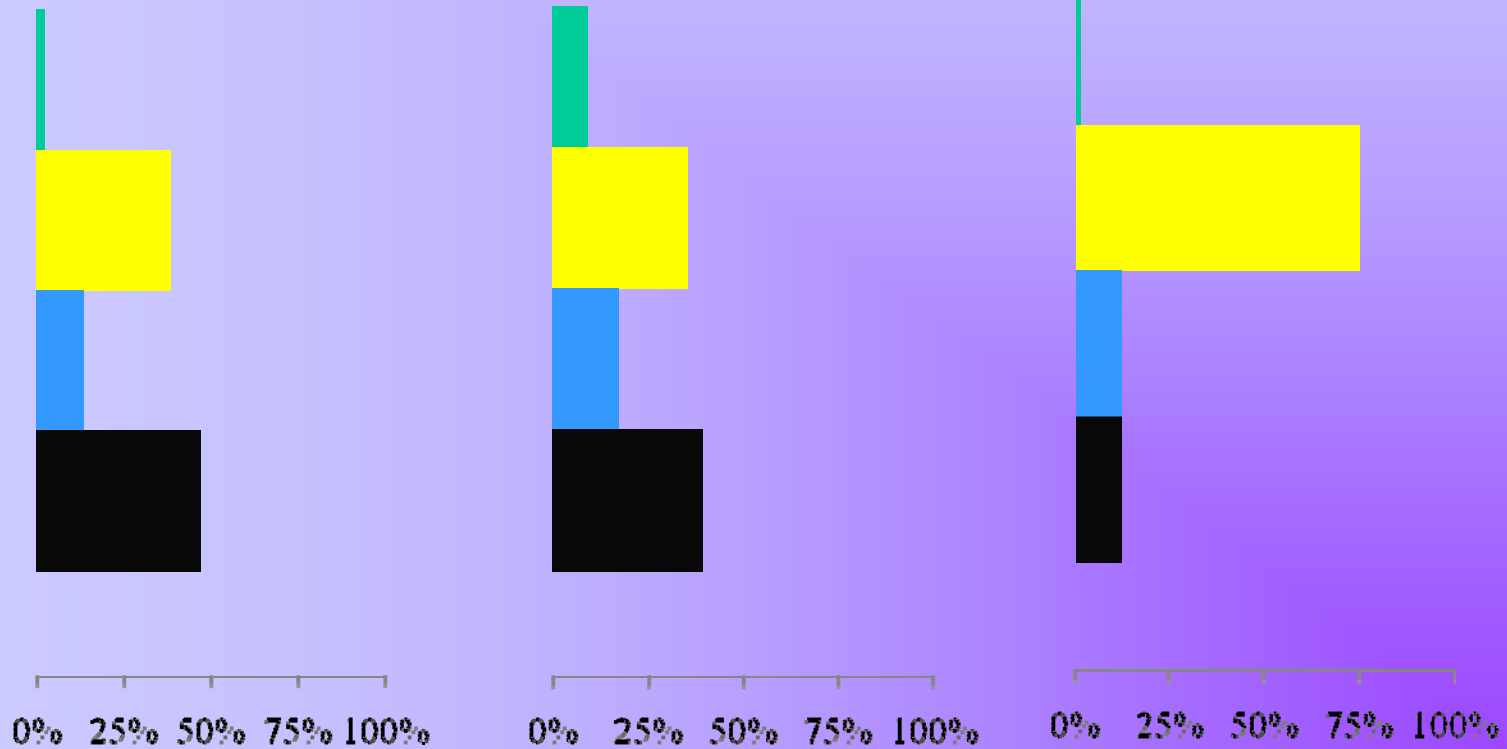
(Viner & Taylor, 2005; Zlotnick & Tam, 2007)

# Disparities

Homeless Children

Foster Care Children

U.S. Census

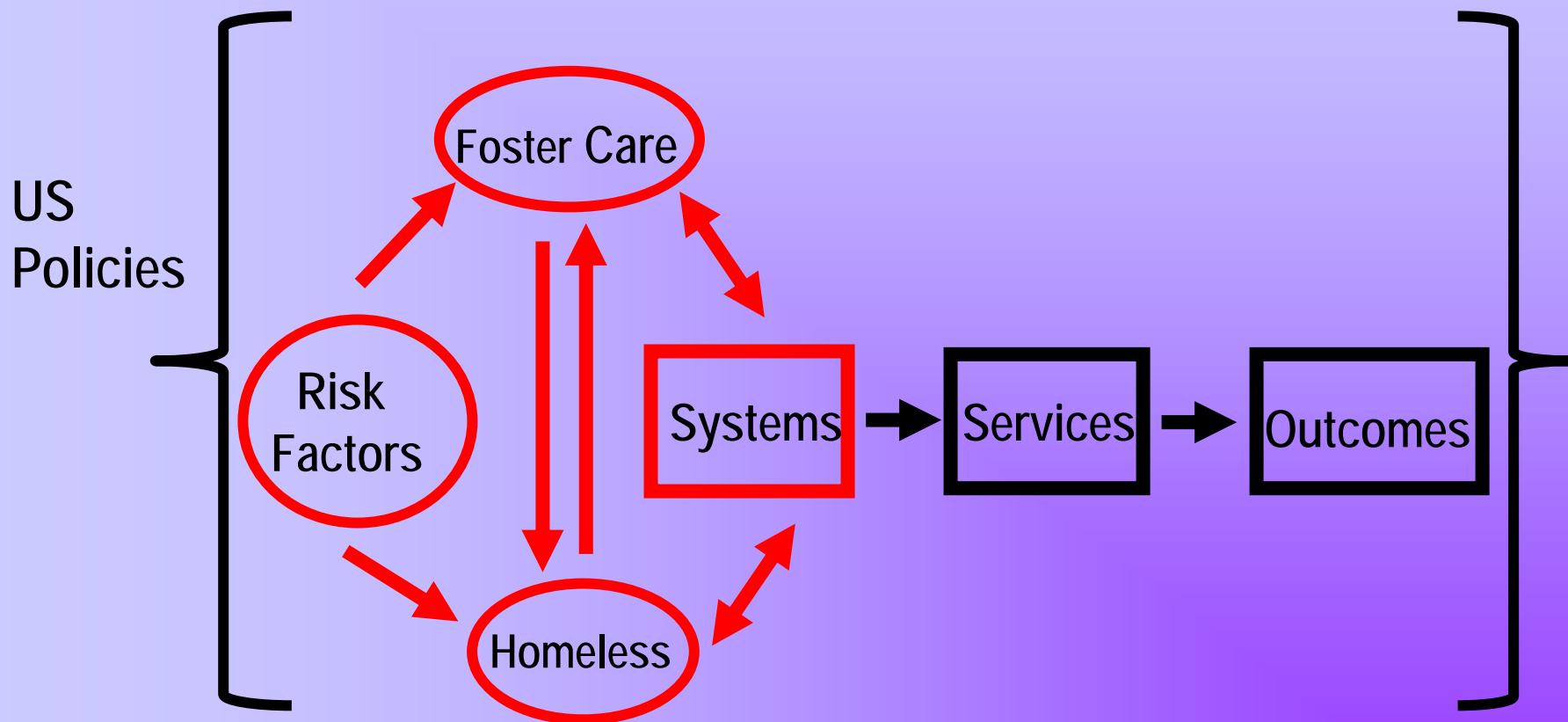


(Burt et al, 2001; AFCARS, 2000; Census.gov, 2000)

Other  
Latino  
White  
Black



# Study Model



# Opportunities for Interventions

1. Systems:
  - a. Safety-net agencies serving transitional children and families – not solely serving homeless or foster care children.
    - b. First Contact - Multiple systems/Agencies
  - c. Funding Transitional Families as a single target population
2. Services:
  - a. Vertical Case Management to Reduce Fragmented Care
  - b. Trauma-Based Services

# More Opportunities for Interventions

3. Clinical Interventions - Screen children living in transitioning families (children living in homelessness or in the foster care system) for mental health - primary care and social service

(Zlotnick, 2009)

# Research Ideas

1. Promising Practices – Families/children in transition
2. System with most common first contact
3. Approach resulting in most consistent contact
4. Most successful tracking and follow-up strategies
5. Approaches to serve doubled-up families

# Thank You!

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