



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



Ecumenical
Ministries
of Oregon

OREGON'S UNACCOMPANIED HOUSELESS YOUTH (UHY)

OREGON HAS:

1st **8,278** **18,358**

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

YOUTH IN NEED OF
SAFE HOUSING²

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

% of UHY
40-60%
20-40%
33%
Up to 40%
34%
51%

HOMELESS YOUTH ROSE

32%

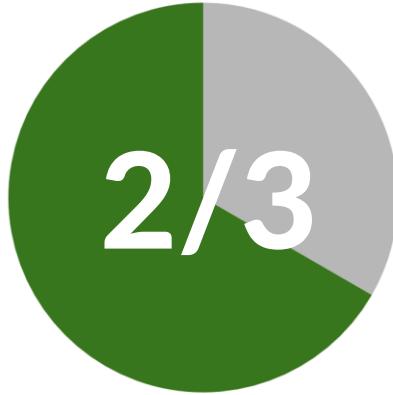
IN OREGON DURING
THE 2008 RECESSION

AS MANY AS

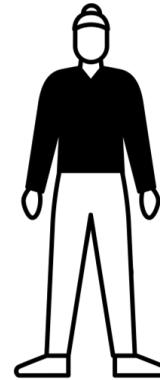
3/4

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.