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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Center for Housing and Homelessness Research

Homelessness in the West

Western Places/Western Spaces Conference 2020

Friday, March 6, 2020

Daniel Brisson





The Housing Affordability Crisis

- A Household in CO needs to earn \$25/hr to afford an average 2-bedroom
- In CO there are 43 affordable units for every 100 low-income renters
- In Denver there are at least 5,800 people experiencing homelessness on a given night
 - There are at least 10,000 in CO



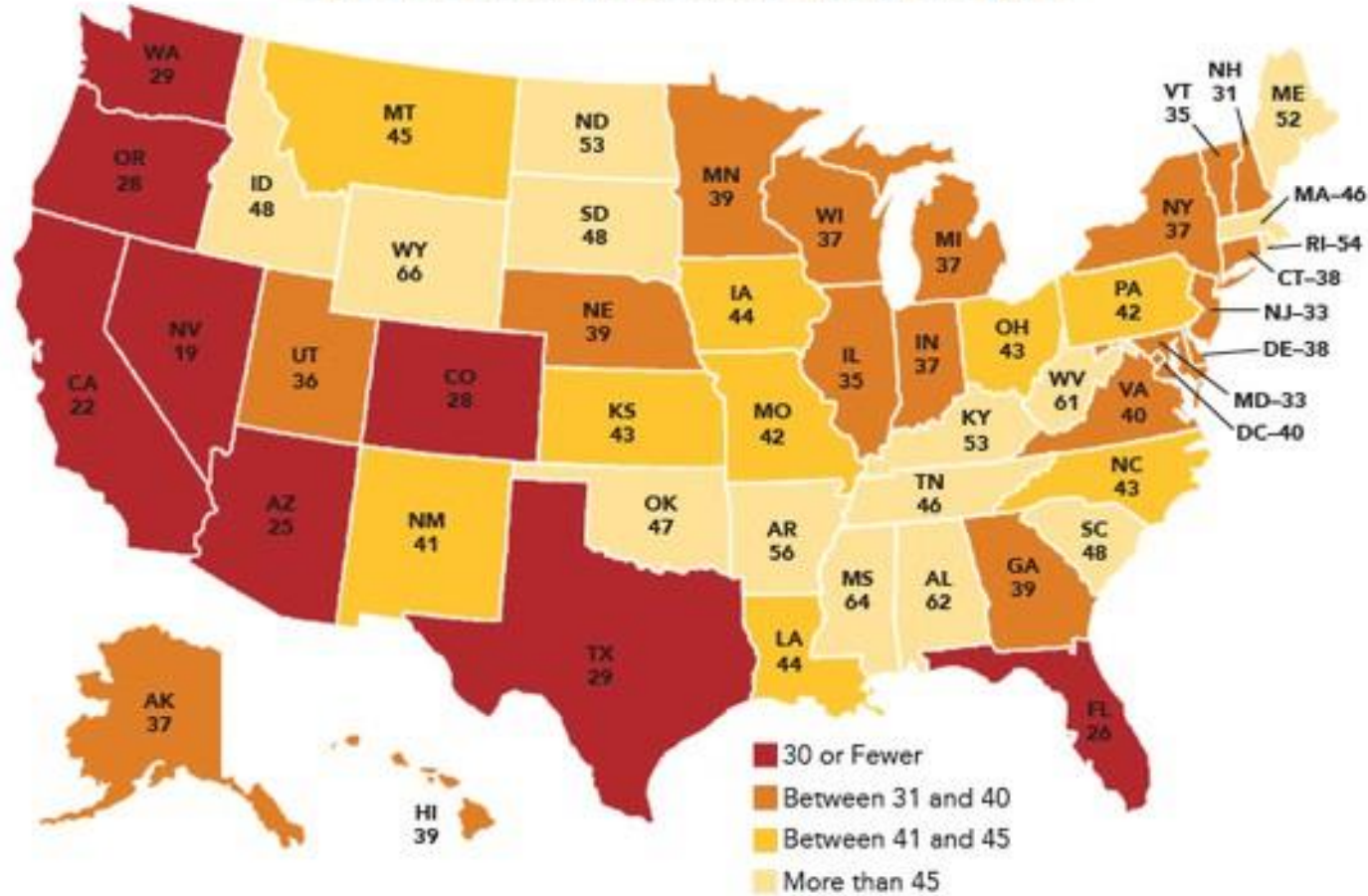
THE GAP



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RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE PER 100 EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY STATE



Note: Extremely low income (ELI) renter households have incomes at or below the poverty level or 30% of the area median income. Source: NUHC tabulations of 2017 ACS PUMS Data.

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<https://nlihc.org/gap>



Housing Affordability Crisis Leads to Increases in Homelessness



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Current Systems

- Meeting about 25% of the need
- Shelters
 - For whom?
- Concentrating poverty
- Innovations?





New and Hopeful Approaches

- Individuals and families are finding their own solutions
 - Doubling up
 - Tent cities
- Build out of the crisis?
 - ADUs
 - Tiny Homes
 - Vacancy Tax
- New partners in the issue of homelessness
 - Police
 - libraries



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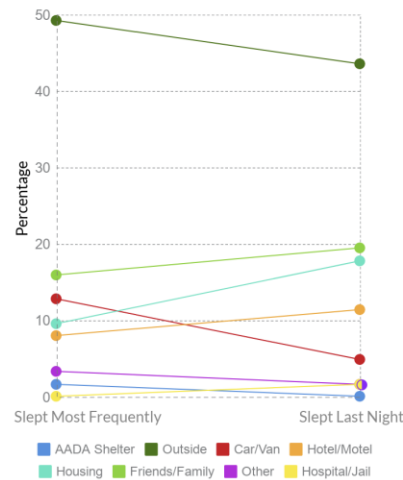
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Homelessness in Trinidad, Colorado

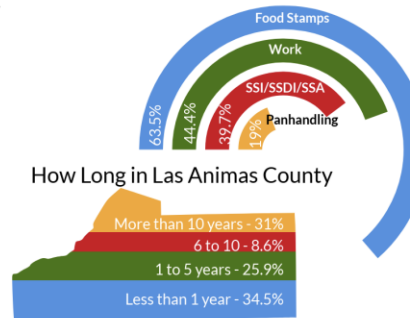
Sixty-three individuals experiencing homelessness in Trinidad, Colorado, were interviewed during June 13-14, 2018. The interviews were conducted by staff with the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness from the University of Denver in partnership with local volunteers. Interviews were conducted at the Trinidad library, Fisher Soup Kitchen, Trinidad Community Center, a local laundromat, as well as in public spaces. Not everyone encountered during these two days agreed to be interviewed. Data reflected below is self-reported by the interviewees.

History of Housing and Homelessness

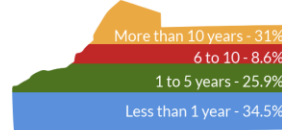
Where Slept Most Frequently v. Last Night



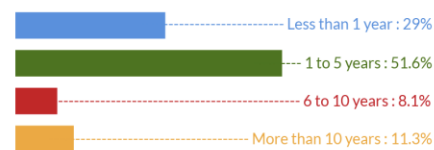
Method of Income



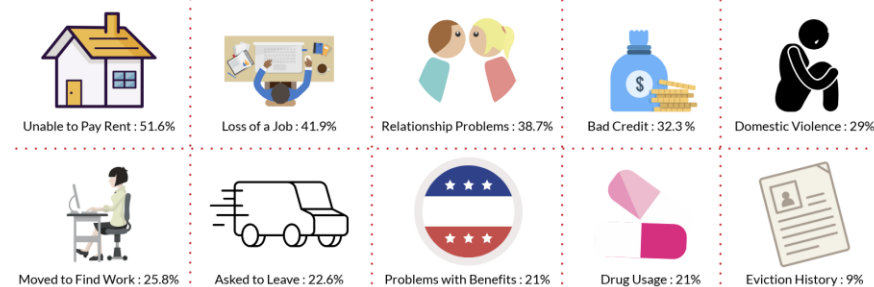
How Long in Las Animas County



Total Time Spent in Homelessness



Reasons for Homelessness





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<http://www.du.edu/burnescenter/>

