



Greying of Homelessness in Ohio

Understanding Rising Rates of Homelessness, Aging Population of those Experiencing Homelessness and Supportive Housing as a Response

Ohio Association of AAA Conference March 5, 2025



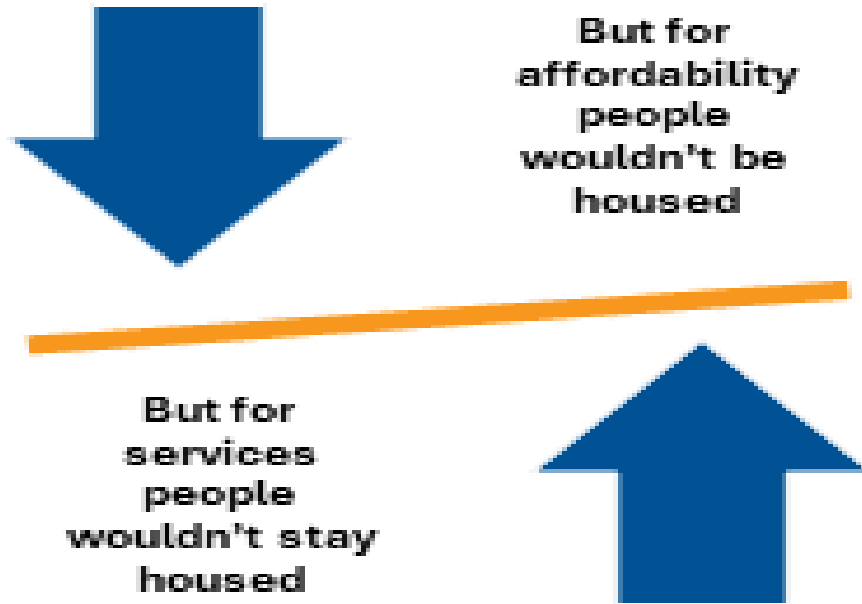
About **CSH**

CSH collaborates to advance solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, maximize public resources and build healthy communities.



[csh.org](https://www.csh.org)

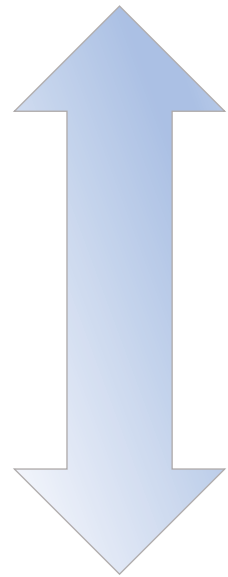
Tenants of Supportive Housing



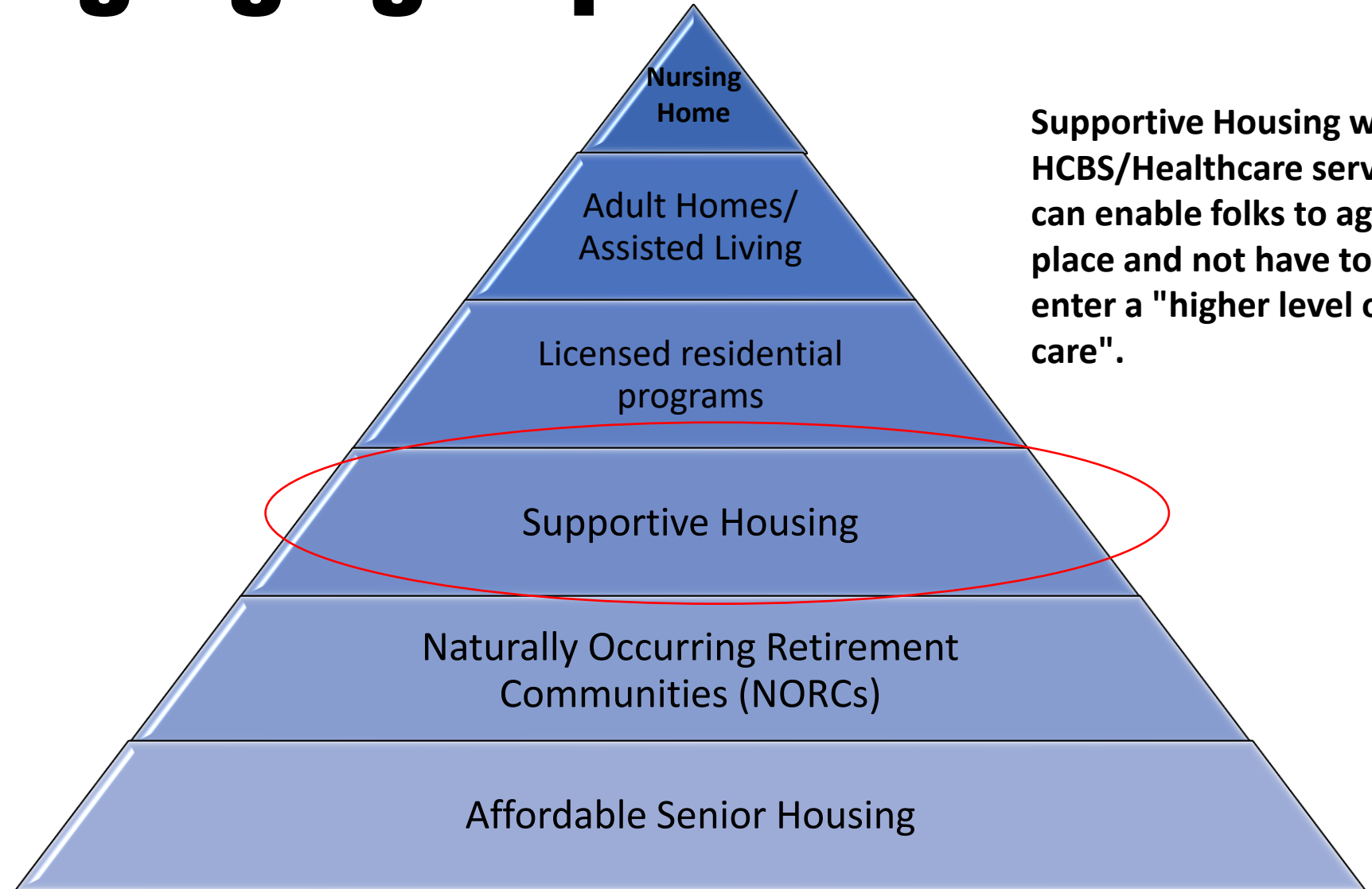
- Chronically homeless
- Chronic mental health challenges and substance use disorders
- Child Welfare involved Families
- Justice Involved
- Frequent Users of emergency services
- Person with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- **Seniors**
- Transition Aged Youth
- Veterans
- Medically Fragile

Housing and Support Services Needs for a Growing Aging Population

Highest Expense
and Support Need



Lowest Expense
and Support Need



Supportive Housing with HCBS/Healthcare services, can enable folks to age in place and not have to enter a "higher level of care".

FEATURE

Elderly and Homeless: America's Next Housing Crisis

Over the next decade, the number of elderly homeless Americans is projected to triple — and that was before Covid-19 hit. In Phoenix, the crisis has already arrived.



KHN

America's homeless ranks graying as more retire on streets

By ANITA SNOW April 10, 2022



Homelessness Among Older People Is on the Rise, Driven by Inflation and the Housing Crunch

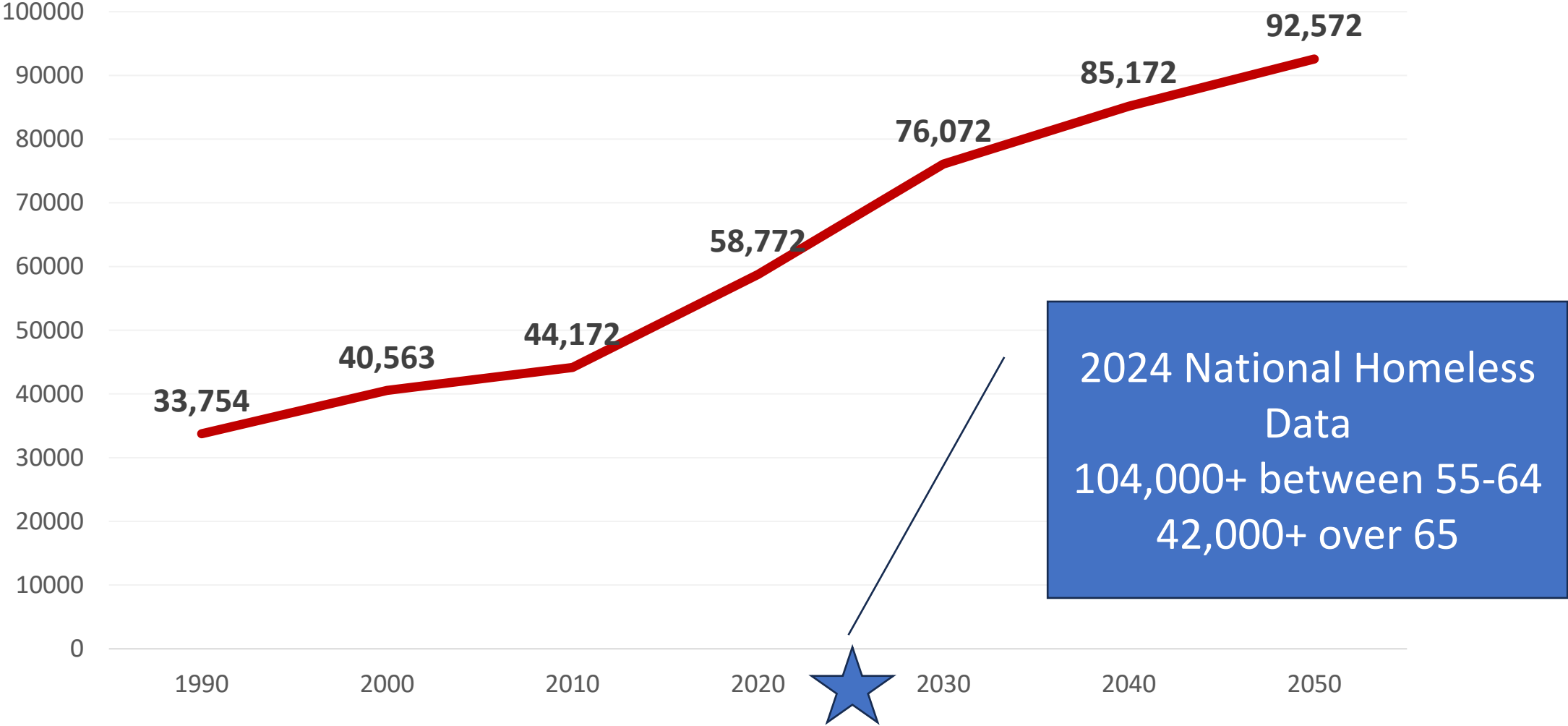
By [Aaron Bolton](#)

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

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Homelessness & Aging in the U.S.

Projection of Elderly Homelessness, 2010



Data Source: Sermons, M.W., & Henry, M. Demographics of Homelessness Series: The Rising Elderly Population. Washington, D.C.: Homelessness Research Institute; 2010.



Greying of Homelessness Nationally

20% of people experiencing homelessness in America were 55 or older, with many experiencing homelessness for the first time in their lives.

46% of people over 55 once homeless tend to stay homeless and live 'unsheltered' in places not meant for human habitation.

6-8% projected homeless increase by 2028 if there aren't any changes to housing



Supportive Housing and Older Adults

- Supportive housing tenants are getting older with about 40% of tenants 50 and older living in supportive housing.
- Providers are unprepared/under resourced to serve this growing population
- People mostly want to age-in-community and not in institutional settings, i.e. nursing homes.



Unique Health Issues of Homeless Adults 50+

Chronic Illness

- **4X** more likely to have **1 or more chronic illnesses** compared to younger homeless adults

Early-onset geriatric conditions

- **15-20** years earlier

Emergency Care

- More frequent visits to EDs
- More health crises than younger peers

Mortality Rates

- **3-4 times** higher mortality rates
- Life expectancy is **63 years** (*vs. 80 years for general population*)

CSH Aging and Housing Strategy

	Housing	Services	Economic Security
Goal(s)	Decrease first time homelessness among adults 50 and older and increase development/access to supportive housing	Increase the number of older adults thriving in supportive housing	Advocate and Support efforts to increase income for older adults
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Rental Assistance proposals that can be adapted across the county • Develop creative, fiscally responsible supportive housing models for older adults • Advance State Master Plan on Aging efforts that center equity and address housing instability and homelessness among older adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Innovative Models to Support Aging in Place • Improve access to Medicare, HCBS, and PACE for older adults in supportive housing • Increase health and housing sector partnerships • Increase knowledge between sectors • Increase capacity to support BIPOC tenants' access to housing, with a focus on tenant retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support advocacy to increase asset limits for SSI • Support access to employment supports for older adults who are interested in working

Policy and Advocacy

Multi Sector Aging Plan

- ✓ Housing lessons learned from other state plans

Advocate for Home Matters to Ohio Platform

Strengthening the Field

- ✓ Training for providers, increase in pay for front line staff

What if planning?

- Bring state and local constituents together considering federal upheaval



Thank you!

For more information

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