

Health and Housing: A Response to the Unique Needs of Hoosiers Experiencing Homelessness

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HHID

HOMELESS HEALTH INFECTIOUS DISEASE



Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

Today's Agenda

- The foundation for the Homeless Health Infectious Disease (HHID) Program
- A top-down view of Homelessness in Indiana
 - Federal definitions
 - Homelessness by the numbers
- Conditions that disproportionately affect People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)
- Our impact
 - Infectious Disease Guidance
 - Informational webinars
 - Subject-Specific Quick Guides
- The Future of HHID

THE FOUNDATION FOR HHID



Indiana
Department
of
Health

The Need

- The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and amplified the health disparities and weaknesses within our public health system that inequitably impact marginalized and underserved populations in the United States.
 - People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) face disproportionate rates of underlying chronic health conditions such as substance use disorders, stigma, and marginalization that prevents them from receiving health and social services.
 - Insecure housing leads to an increased risk of infectious disease transmission and adverse outcomes.



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HOMELESS HEALTH
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Community-based agencies are uniquely qualified to inform epidemic (outbreak) risk mitigation for the specific needs of people experiencing homelessness.

- Homeless shelters have valuable lessons learned on the front lines during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- **“Building the plane as it flies”**



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FEDERAL DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

MCKINNEY-VENTO

Children and youth that lack a fixed, permanent nighttime address that is stable, safe, and secure.

Can include those staying in shelters, places not meant for habitation, and those that are doubled up or staying with another family temporarily.



IMPORTANT NOTE

It is not your responsibility to determine the type of homelessness. If you suspect a housing crisis, refer them to the Coordinated Entry Lead Agency. A Coordinated Entry assessment is probably needed for households experiencing Category 1 and 4 Homelessness.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Category 1 **Literally Homeless**

Living somewhere not meant for habitation or in a shelter

Category 2 **Imminent Risk**

Can be reasonably assumed to be homeless in the next 14 days AND no resources to obtain new housing

Category 3 **Runaway and Homeless Youth**

Unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 or families with children and/or youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless

Category 4 **Fleeing Domestic Violence**

Individual or family considering, attempting to, or fleeing domestic violence AND has no other residence or the resources to obtain housing

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Individuals:

Who lack housing

Whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations;

Who reside in transitional housing

Who reside in permanent supportive housing or other housing programs that are targeted to homeless populations.

Homeless Status can be maintained for up to 12 months after a change in housing

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT 2023

- **Point-In-Time Count (PIT):**

- A count of individuals experiencing Category 1 homelessness on one night in January.
- Counts individuals experiencing HUD Category 1 Homelessness that night
- Report released in early July every year by IHCDA
- Report released with national numbers by HUD in December

- **Housing Inventory Count (HIC):**

- Occurs on the same day as the PIT
- Counts Homeless Services Beds
 - Emergency Shelters, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven beds
- Reports available [here](#).

2023 RESULTS AT FIRST GLANCE

HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT



158
Organizations



313
Projects



8,789
Beds



81%
Utilization Rate



34
Non-HMIS projects

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



4,398
People Counted



Sheltered
2,610 households
and **3,594** persons



Unsheltered
753 households and
804 persons



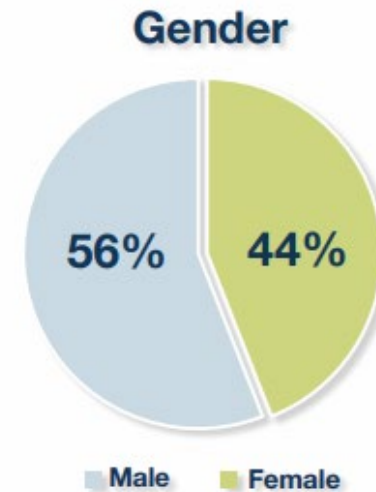
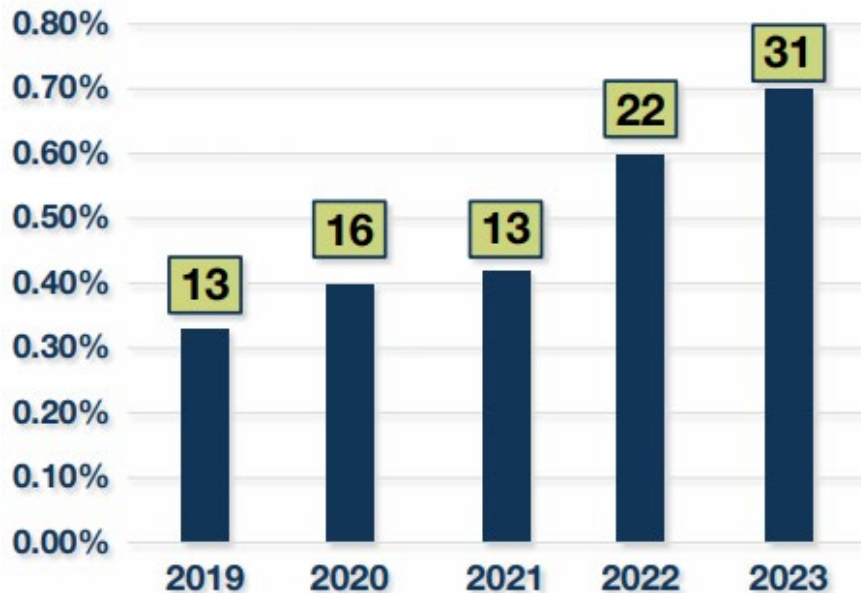
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POINT-IN-TIME COUNT / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT 2023



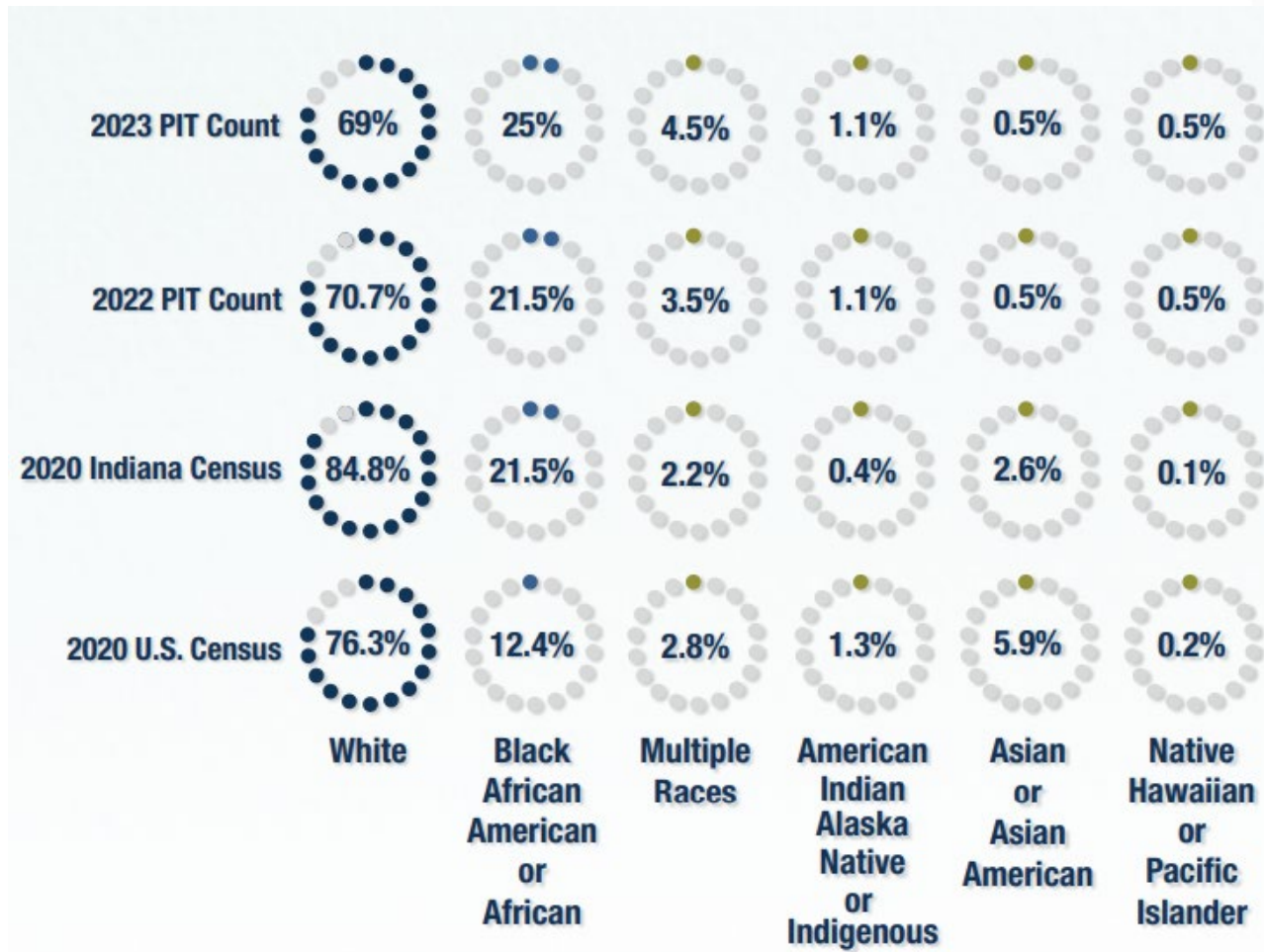
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT 2023

GENDER BREAKDOWN



- % People Who Identify with Other Genders
- Number of People Who Identify with Other Genders

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT 2023

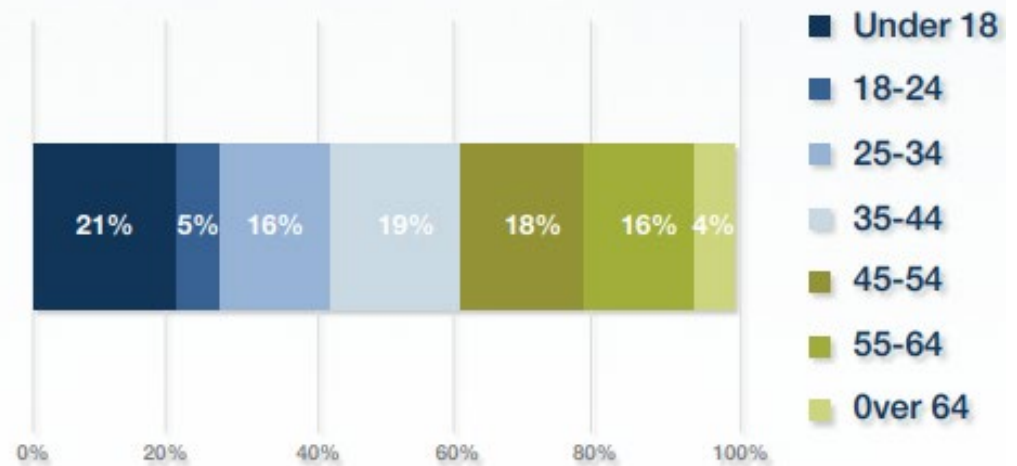


POINT-IN-TIME COUNT / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT 2023

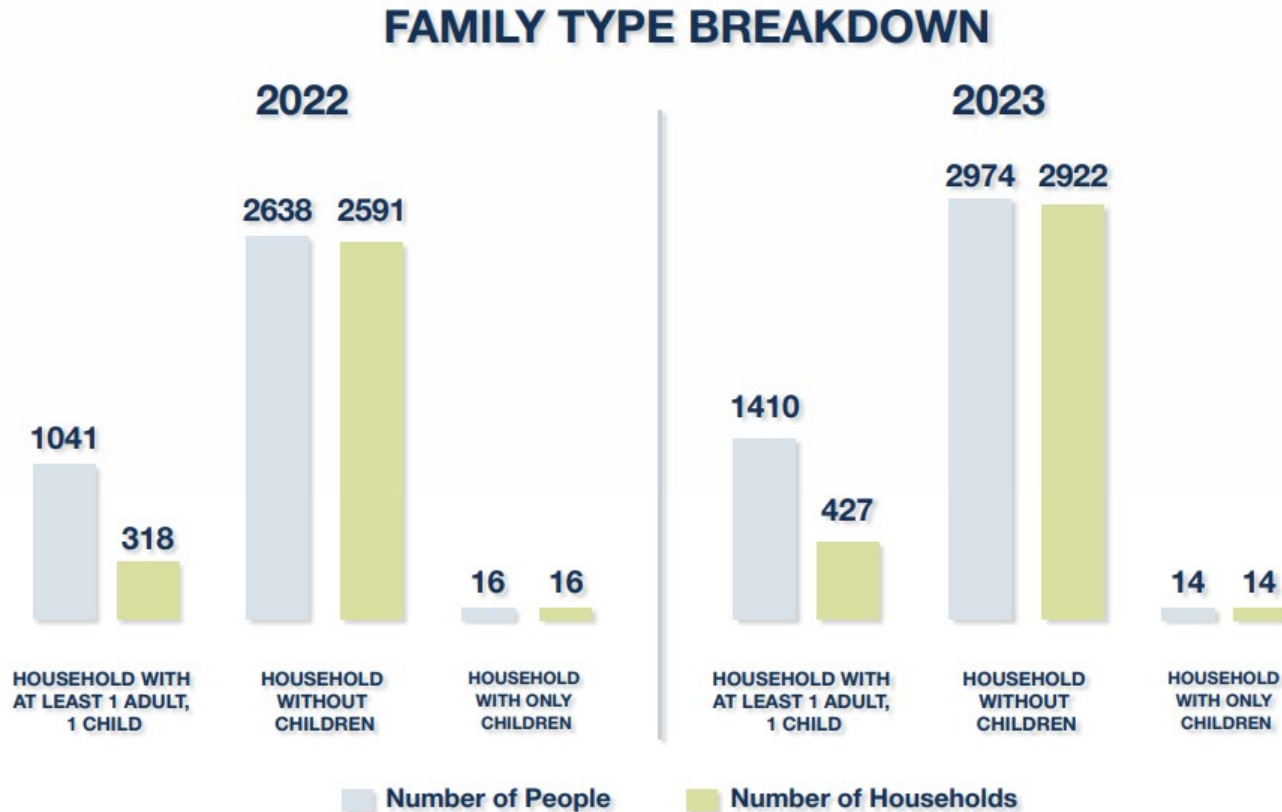
SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED COUNT



AGE BREAKDOWN



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT 2023



RISK FACTORS OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Communicable disease transmission rates are high among PEH due to multiple behavioral, social, and environmental factors. These include:

Living in crowded conditions (i.e. shelters) or visiting locations for services that may also be crowded (e.g. drop-in centers and hot meal locations)

Having limited opportunities to maintain personal hygiene and proper nutrition.

Having limited access to clean water for general use and consumption.

Suffering from a variety of chronic and acute conditions that may weaken the immune system.

Having limited access to care, which can translate into missed opportunities for vaccinations, especially among youth.

Lacking knowledge of disease outbreaks because of limited access to the internet and television.

Lacking ability to socially distance themselves in the event of an outbreak.

CONDITIONS THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT PEH

Respiratory Illnesses:

- RSV
- Influenza
- Pneumonia
- Tuberculosis

Enteric Illnesses:

- Shigellosis
- Norovirus i.e., stomach bug

Pest-Related:

- Pediculosis (head lice, body lice)
- Scabies
- Tick-borne

Weather-related/Temperature-Related Illnesses:

- Hyperthermia and Heat Stroke: heat-related conditions
- Hypothermia and Frostbite: cold-related conditions

Bloodborne Pathogen and Bodily Fluid Spread:

- HIV
- Hepatitis A/B/C
- Other STIs

Misc.

- Immunizations
- Nutritional issues
- Conjunctivitis
- Pain Management

Chronic Medical Conditions:

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Asthma

Mental Health:

- Depression
- Substance Use Disorder
- PTSD

HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE GUIDANCE

Target Population

- Minimal medical background
- Day-to-Day direct service
- Client-centered approach
- Voluntary

Limitations

- Limited space and resources
- Staff constraints
- Individual characteristics that may impact the ability to adhere to precautions
- Ease of access

Topic of the Guidance

- Complexity
- Risk assessment
- Needed interventions
- Seasonal nature/ timelines/ tailored approach to changing trends
- Health Equity
- Continuation of services

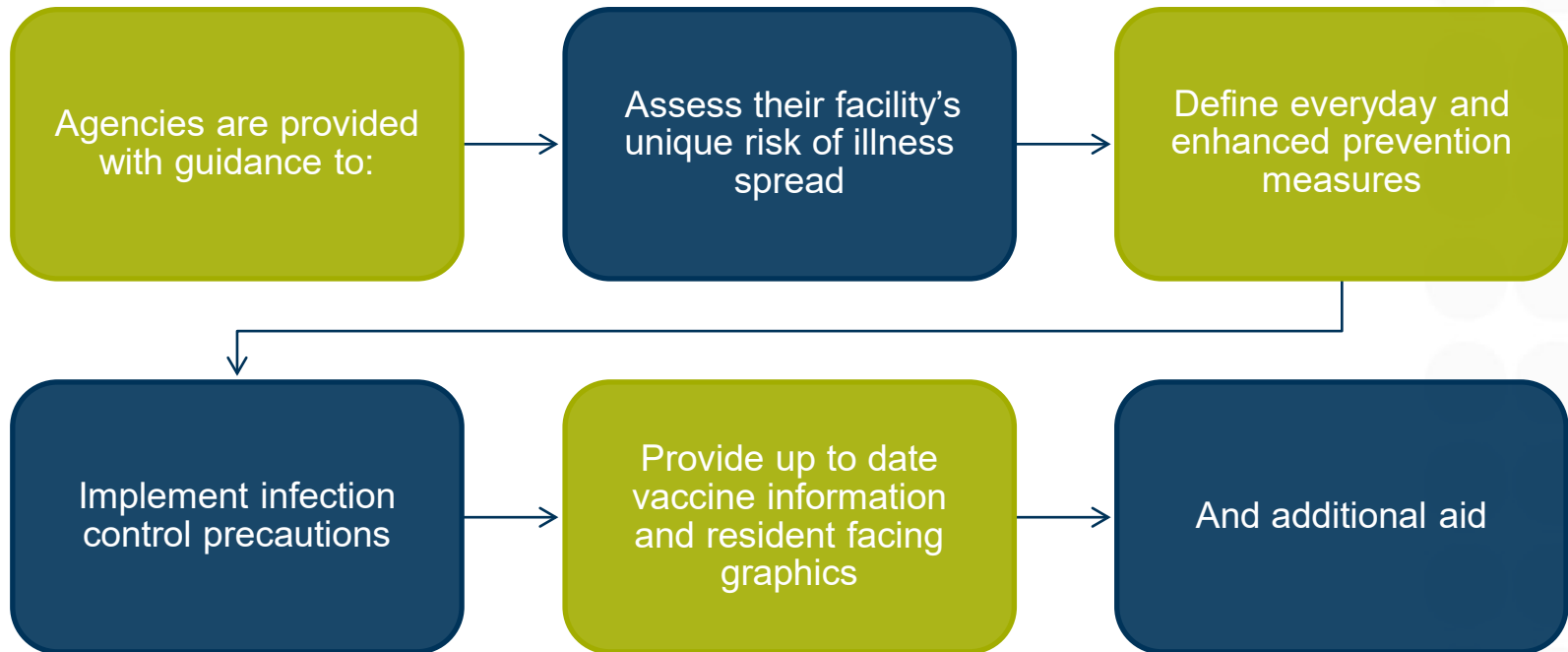
Quick Guides

- Short 1–2-page guidance sheets covering a specific topic or health risk.

Policy Guidance

- In depth–disease specific– transmission control guidance for agency implementation.

POLICY GUIDANCE FORMAT



TUBERCULOSIS GUIDANCE

General Overview

- What is TB?
- How is TB spread?
- Individual disease risk factors
- Shelter risk factors
- TB rates in Indiana

Latent TB and TB Disease

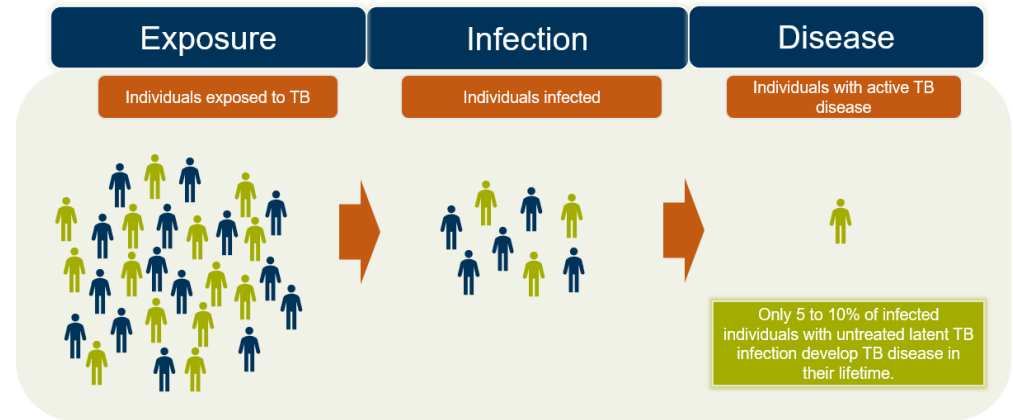
- Signs and Symptoms of LTBI and TB Disease
- HIV and TB

Source Control

- Cough Alert Policy
- Infection control planning
- Airborne Precautions
- Risk assessments
- Client attendance and bed numbers

Health Department Role

- Treatment
- Case management
- Establishing contact



TB Control Team at the IDOH will be active in the development and review process


SUBJECT-SPECIFIC QUICK GUIDES

Recognizing Hypothermia and Frostbite

- Guidance for Homeless Service Providers
- For person(s) coming in from the cold
- Hypothermia and Frostbite Symptoms
- When medical referral is necessary

Outreach Teams : Staying Safe During Respiratory Season

- Weather clothing recommendations
- Tips for interacting with unsheltered individuals
 - Respiratory /hand hygiene
 - 1-minute Respiratory Symptom Screening Tool



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Quick Guide: Recognizing Hypothermia and Frostbite
Homeless Health Infectious Disease (HHID)

General Guidance


Homeless Service Providers are encouraged to:

- Advise person(s) to seek shelter inside as much as possible, especially for sleeping during the winter months and/ or cold temperatures.
- Remind person(s) about the importance of dressing in layers to increase their protection from the elements.
 - Several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing will provide **more protection** than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Provide / recommend the use of a hat or head covering.
 - Heat loss is proportional to the amount of exposed surface area of the body.
- Provide / recommend glove and scarf usage.
 - Scarves can be used to protect the lungs from cold wind exposure that may lead to irritation and / or cough.
- Advise person(s) to stay as dry as possible.
 - **Water resistant outerwear** acts as the best protection for cold and precipitate conditions.
- Provide / recommend proper footwear use (socks / boots/ shoes) as appropriate.

Additional Measures:

- Provide clothing items discussed above and additional loose layers as available.

Quick Guide: Shelter Providers, Warming Center Staff, Outreach Staff and / or Volunteer
October 2023





Misconception

If you, hypothermia refer

For pers cold:

- Ren clot
- Pro and caff
- Ass folk the atte





Provide high – energy foods such as protein bars and snacks.

- Provide hearty soups and stews with high
- Enc or w
- Alcc loss
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Quick Guide: Outreach Teams - Staying Safe During Respiratory Season
Homeless Health Infectious Disease (HHID)

General Guidance

Outreach teams connecting with the community throughout the winter months are encouraged to:

- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather forecast - "bundle up" if necessary!
 - Several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing will provide **more protection** than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Utilize a hat and / or head covering.
 - Heat loss is proportional to the amount of exposed surface area of the body.
- Utilize gloves and scarves for additional protection.
 - Scarves can be used to protect the lungs from cold wind exposure that may lead to irritation and / or cough.
- Stay as dry as possible.
 - **Water resistant outerwear** acts as the best protection for cold and precipitate conditions.
- Utilize proper footwear (socks / boots/ shoes) as appropriate.

Interacting with unsheltered individuals and families:

- Never "sneak up" or "corner" someone.
 - Respect the person(s) personal space, physical space where they live, and the community in which they live.

Quick Guide: Outreach Teams – Staying Safe During Respiratory Season – Winter 2023



Green person(s) from a distance of 3-6 feet.

- Teams are encouraged to maintain distance throughout conversation for visibly symptomatic persons or those who report symptomatic.



Clearly identify yourself and your agency.

- Example: "Hello, my name is (insert name) and I am with (insert agency)."

Conduct "1 Minute Respiratory Symptom Screening" Tool.

- Respiratory symptom screening aims to identify Influenza Like Illness (ILI) or similar symptom producing respiratory illnesses. (See below)

Maintain good hand hygiene by regularly washing hands or utilizing hand sanitizer throughout the outreach shift. (See below)

- Wear gloves if you come into contact with individual belongings.

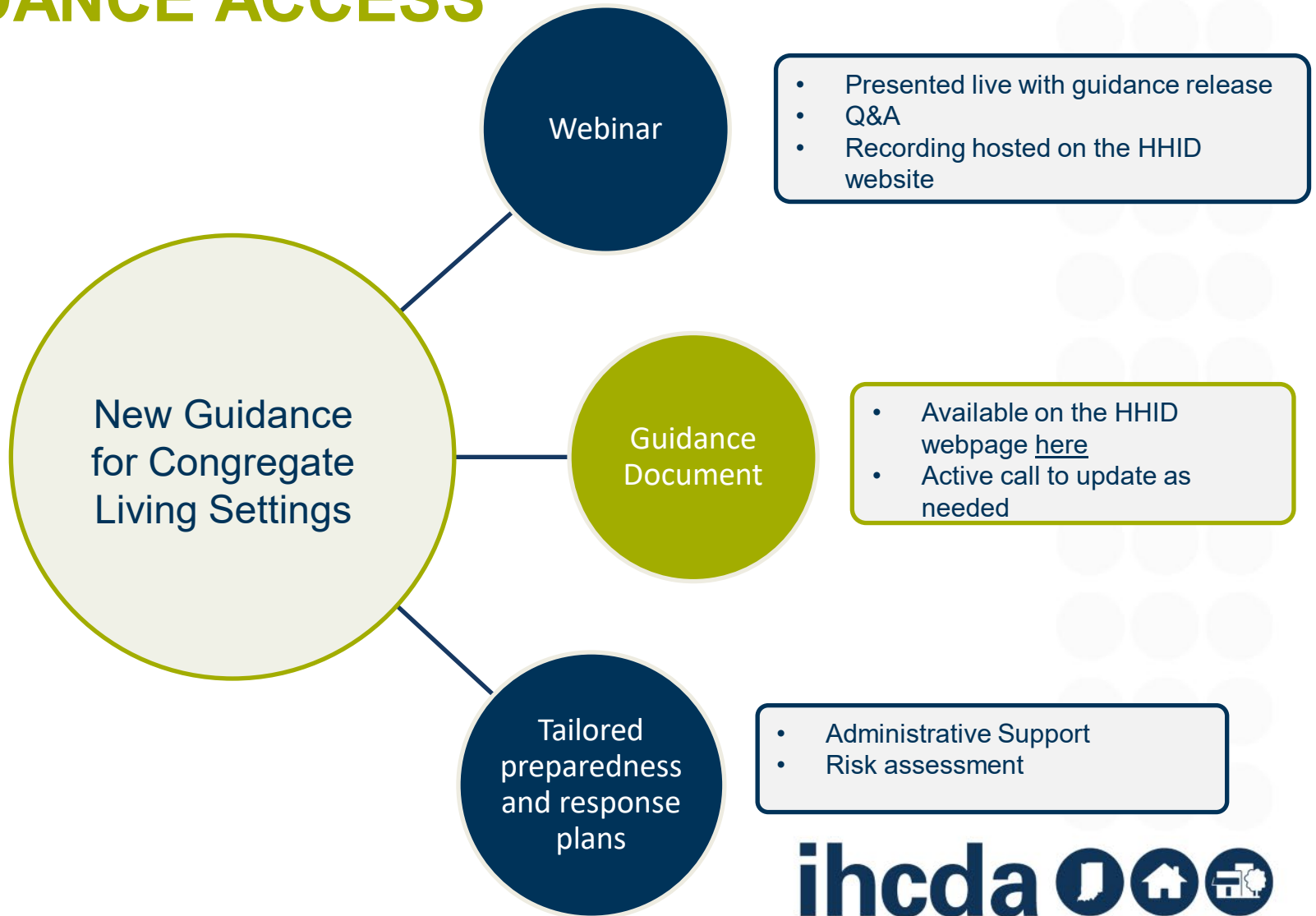
Teams are encouraged to wear a mask if they are unable to keep a 3–6-foot distance from symptomatic persons or those who report symptomatic.

- Provide clients with hygiene products and community resources as available.

Teams are highly encouraged to review stress management and coping resources following outreach shifts!

Always call 9-1-1 if you suspect an immediate health crisis!

GUIDANCE ACCESS



The Future of HHID

Increased collaboration

- Statewide monthly health update webinar for homeless services providers
- Assisting agencies in creating individualized infection control plans
- Working with communities to increase collaboration between Health Entities and Homeless Services Networks
- Promote and Support community-led health initiatives
- Highlight inter-disciplinary opportunities for involvement such as PIT/HIC or health fairs

IHCDA BoS CoC Regional Structure can be found [here](#).



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QUESTIONS AND FINAL THOUGHTS



General Inquires – HHID@ihcda.in.gov



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