



METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

WHO ARE THE HOMELESS, HOW CAN WE HELP



PERSON FIRST LANGUAGE

- Frayed social safety net
- Inadequate mental health care system
- Lack of substance abuse treatment
- Underfunded education system
- Generational poverty
- Lack of access to primary health care
- Criminal justice system focused on punishment and ability to pay



A MOMENT FOR DEFINITIONS

“Literally” homeless – a person residing in a homeless shelter, a transitional housing program, or a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. a car, a park, a vacant building)

“Couch” homeless – (also precariously housed, doubled up, sofa surfer) a person living, without benefit of a lease or other legal contract, at the residence of another



COUCH HOMELESS

- 5 to 7 times the number of literal homeless (Maybe 8,000 in Oklahoma City alone)
- 5,474 kids enrolled in OKCPS in 2016-17 reported at least one night of homelessness
- Typically less substance use, less mental illness, fewer barriers than literally homeless



LITERALLY HOMELESS - HOW MANY AND WHO ARE THEY?

2017 Point in Time Count – 1,368

- 451 (33%) self-report serious mental illness
- 547 (40%) self-report a substance use disorder
- 238 (17%) were found to be chronically homeless
- 141 (10%) reported being a veteran
- 64 (<5%) were unaccompanied minors, and
- 63 (<5%) report being a survivor of domestic violence

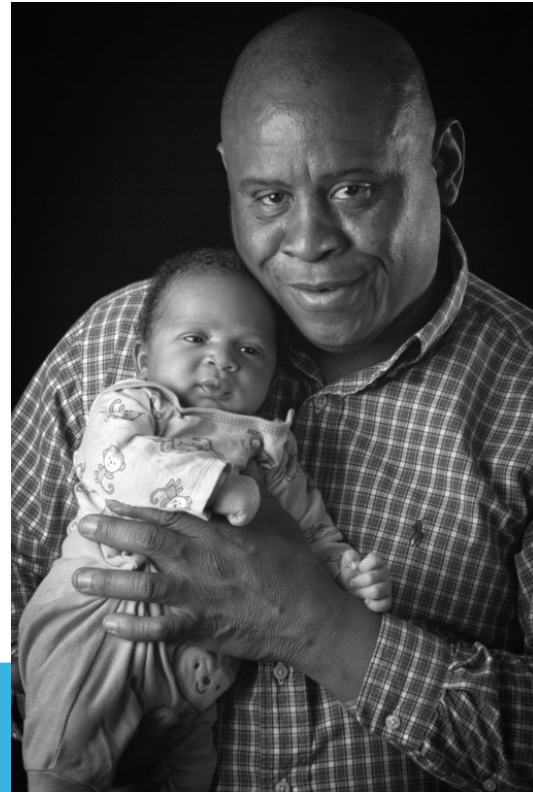


STEREOTYPE VS. REALITY

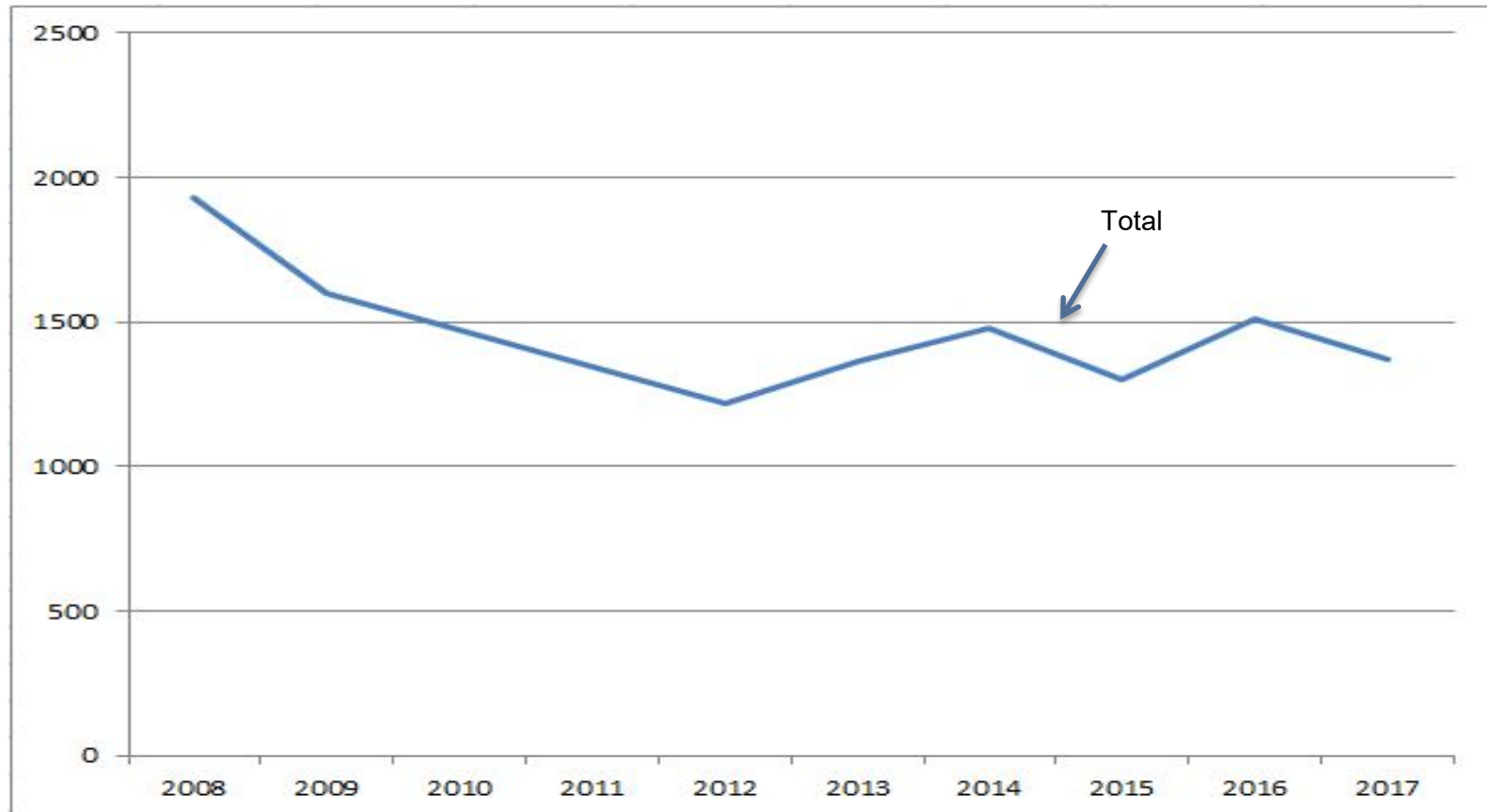
REALITY



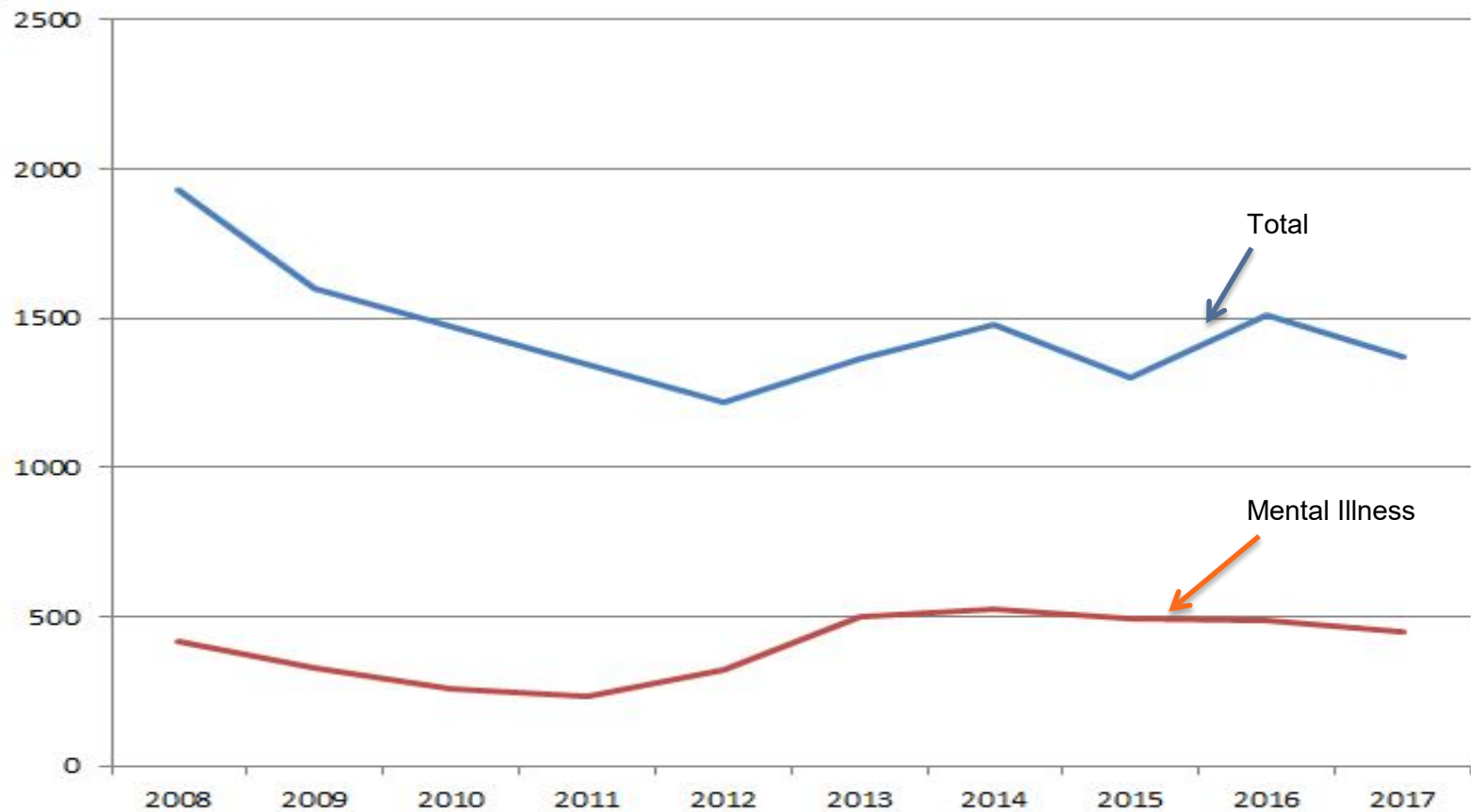
REALITY, TOO



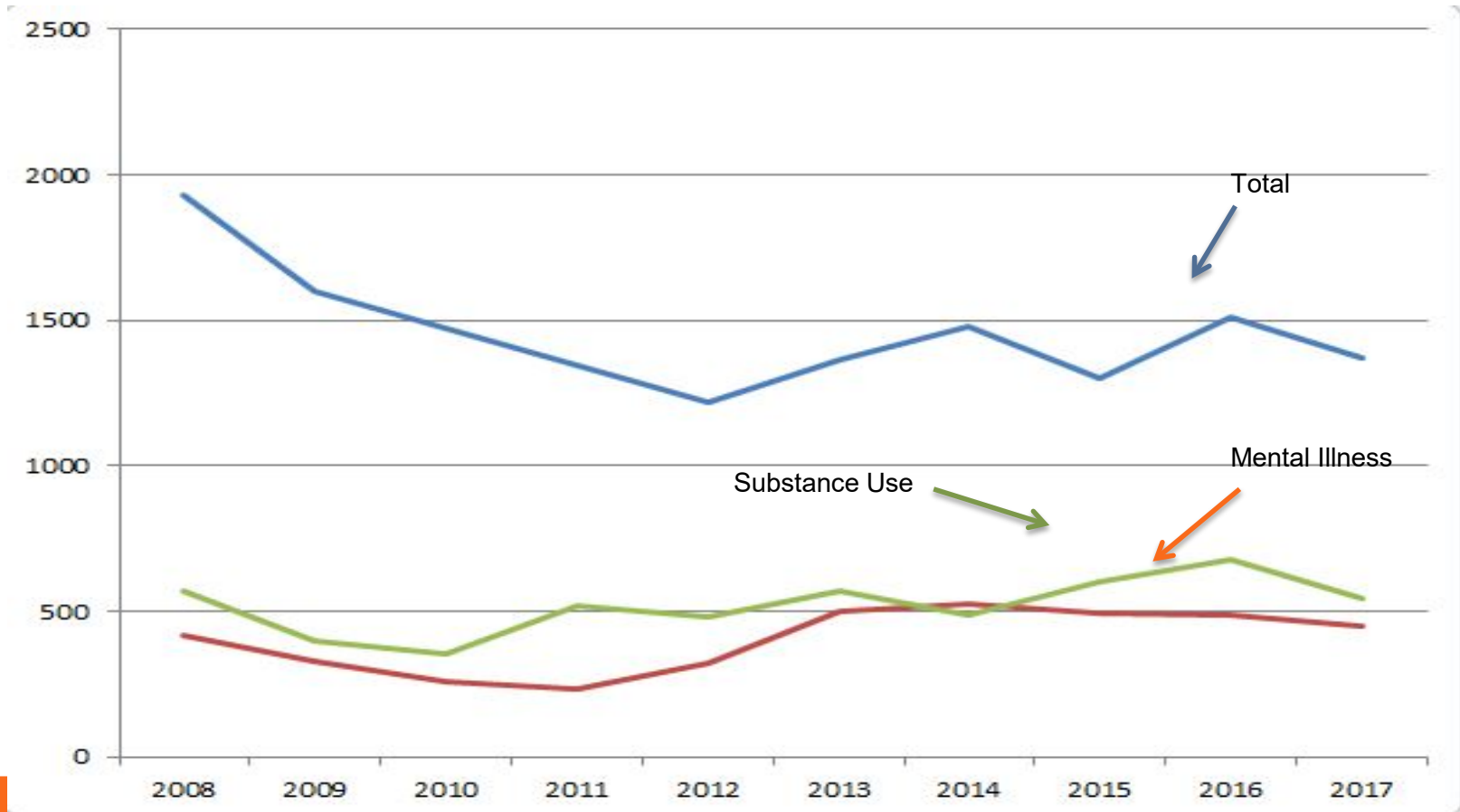
10 YEARS OF POINT IN TIME COUNTS



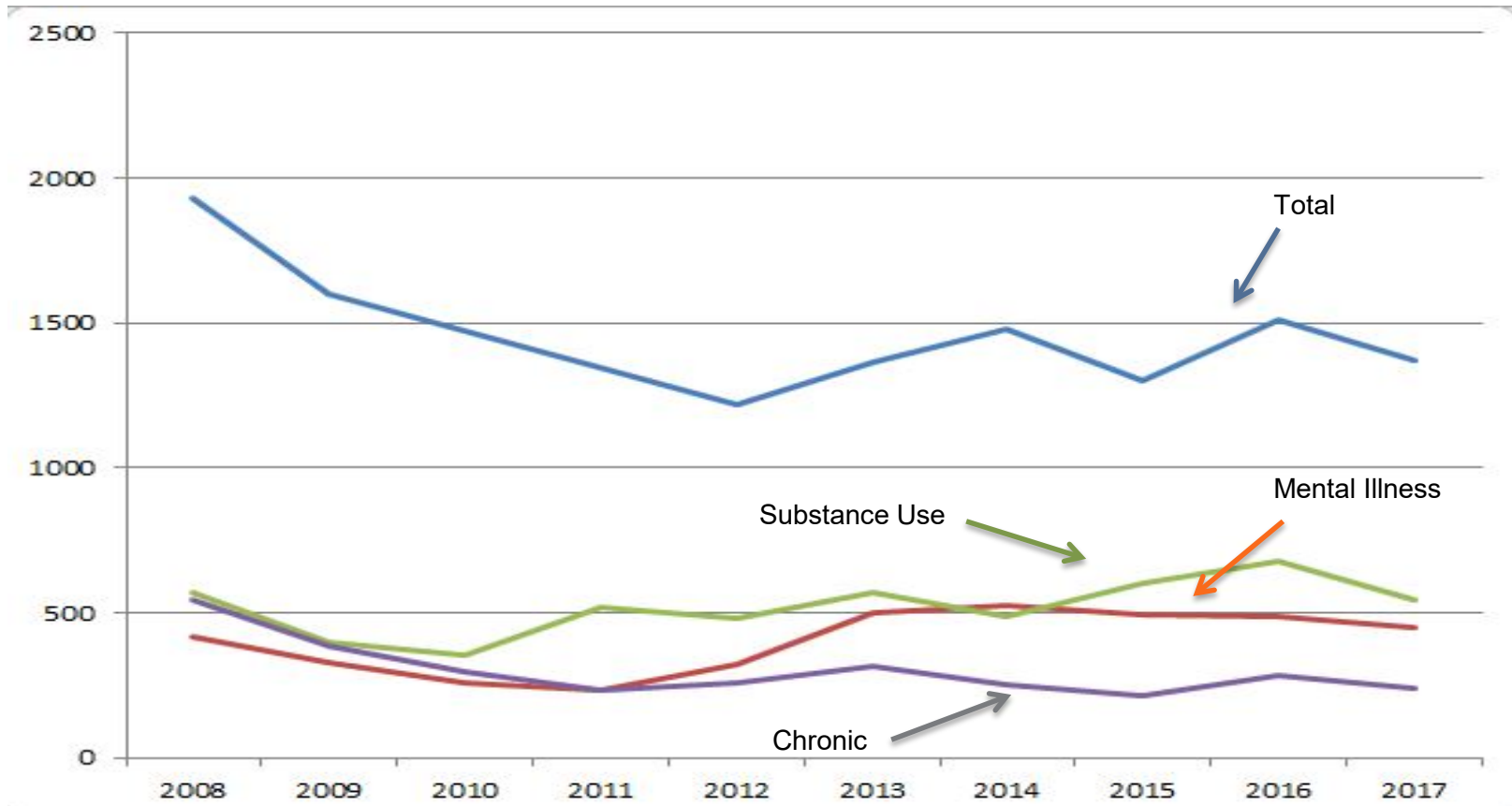
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CURRENT OVERNIGHT SHELTER CAPACITY

Salvation Army – 50 men's beds, 50 "family" beds, 4 beds for transgender

Grace Rescue Mission – 80 men's beds

YWCA – 80 family single women's beds for survivors of domestic violence

Be The Change – 12 beds for youth

Sunbeam – 12 beds for frail elderly

Wonderfully Made – 8 rooms for families

Youth Services – 8 beds for youth

Total – 304 (less DV = 224)



OVERNIGHT SHELTER

**But what about
City Rescue Mission
and Jesus House?**



UN-SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

Total Count 2013-2017

YEAR	SHELTER	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2013	820	249	293	1,362
2014	1,029	194	258	1,481
2015	908	192	200	1,300
2016	963	241	307	1,511
2017	888	212	268	1,368





HOMELESSNESS



CURRENT DAY SHELTER CAPACITY

OKC Day Shelter – up to 450, all welcome, average 300/day,
1,500/month

Catholic Charities Sanctuary – women and children only, 30-40





KENNEL



WHAT ISSUES ARE YOU SEEING?

- Sleep deprivation?
- Inappropriate relationships – public vs. private?
- Personal hygiene/clothing?
- Substance use?
- Mental illness?
- Trauma?



NOTES FROM THE WEBINAR

Communication styles

- Casual Register
- Limited vocabulary
- Public vs. private

Worldview

- Time Horizon
- Emotional contagion and reciprocity



NOTES FROM THE WEBINAR - CONFLICT

Lead, don't follow

Model good
behavior

Non-verbal
escalation stage



NOTES FROM THE WEBINAR - CONFLICT

Verbal Escalation phase



NOTES FROM THE WEBINAR - CONFLICT

Crisis stage

- Peacocking



NOTES FROM THE WEBINAR - CONFLICT

Crisis stage



Literature Slap Fight

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Know the resources in your community
- 2-1-1
- Know your limits



QUESTIONS?

THANKS

