

Default Report

Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition Survey 2021

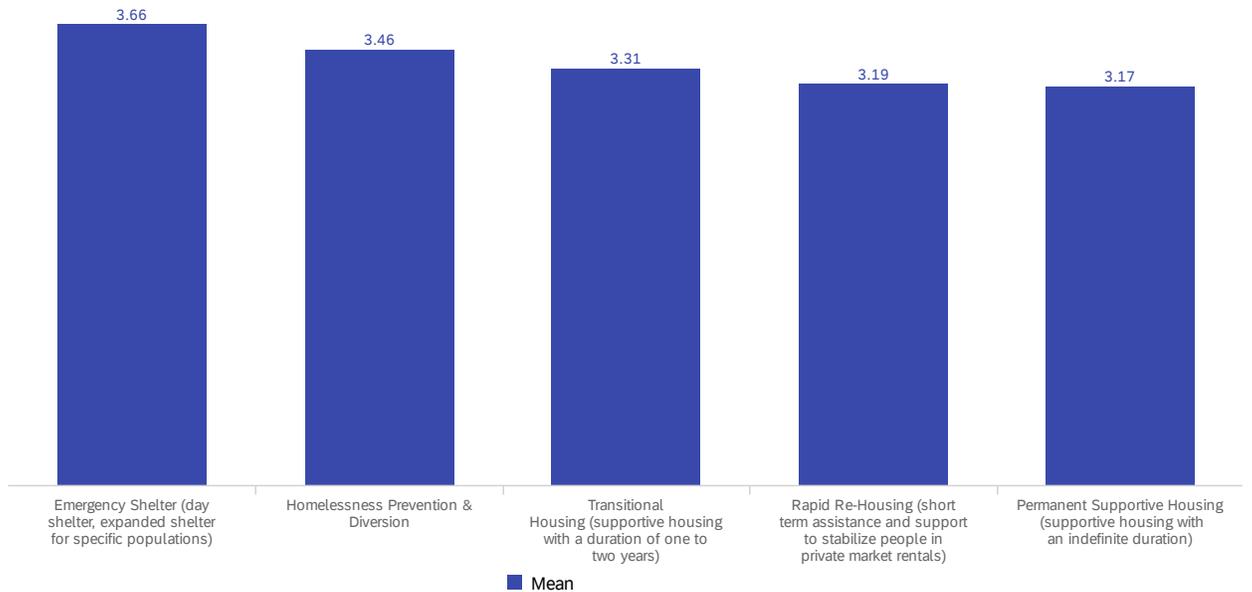
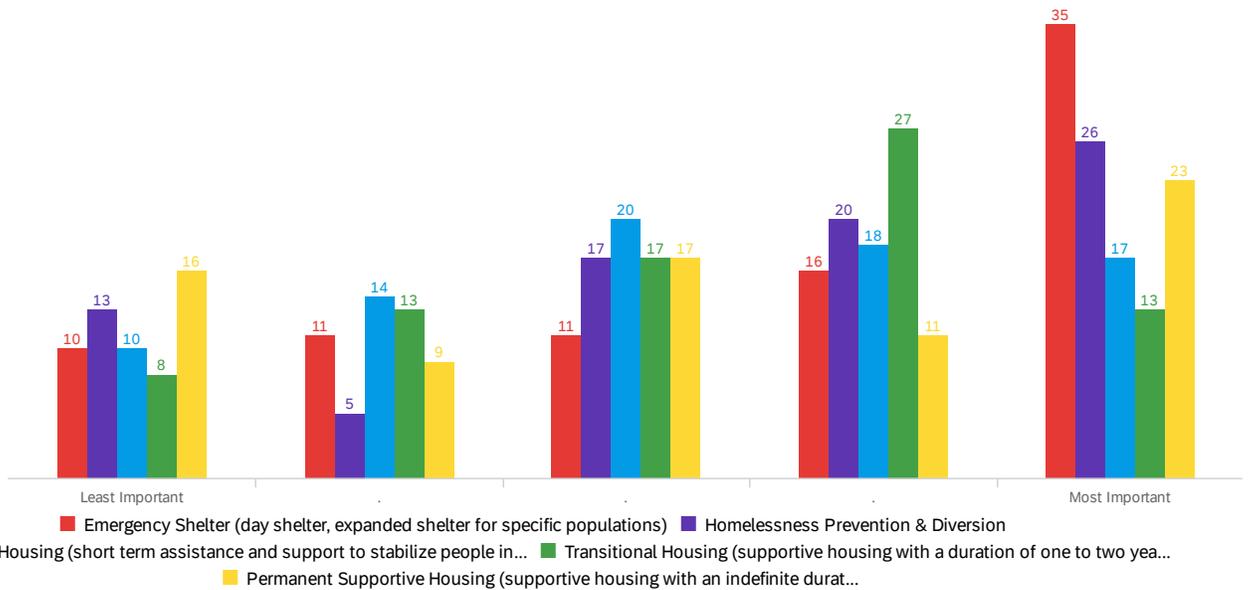
April 30, 2021 4:59 AM MDT

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Q1 - Please prioritize which service areas the Fairbanks Housing and Homeless

Coalition should focus on for the next year. Please place into order from 1-5. (1= least

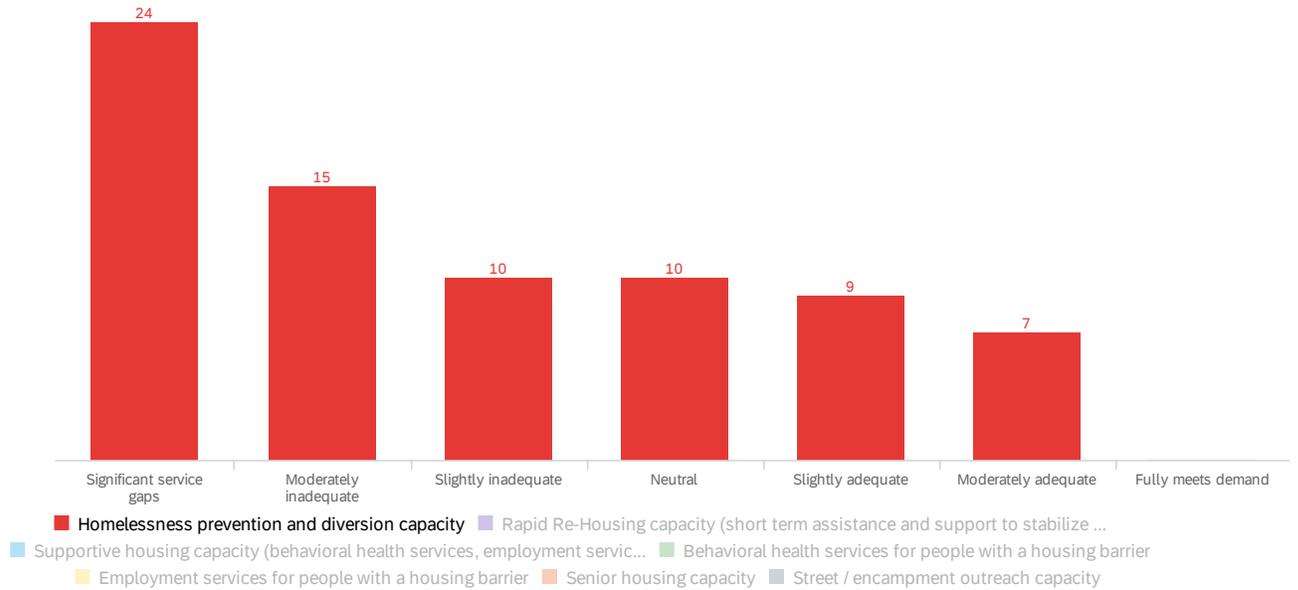
5= most)



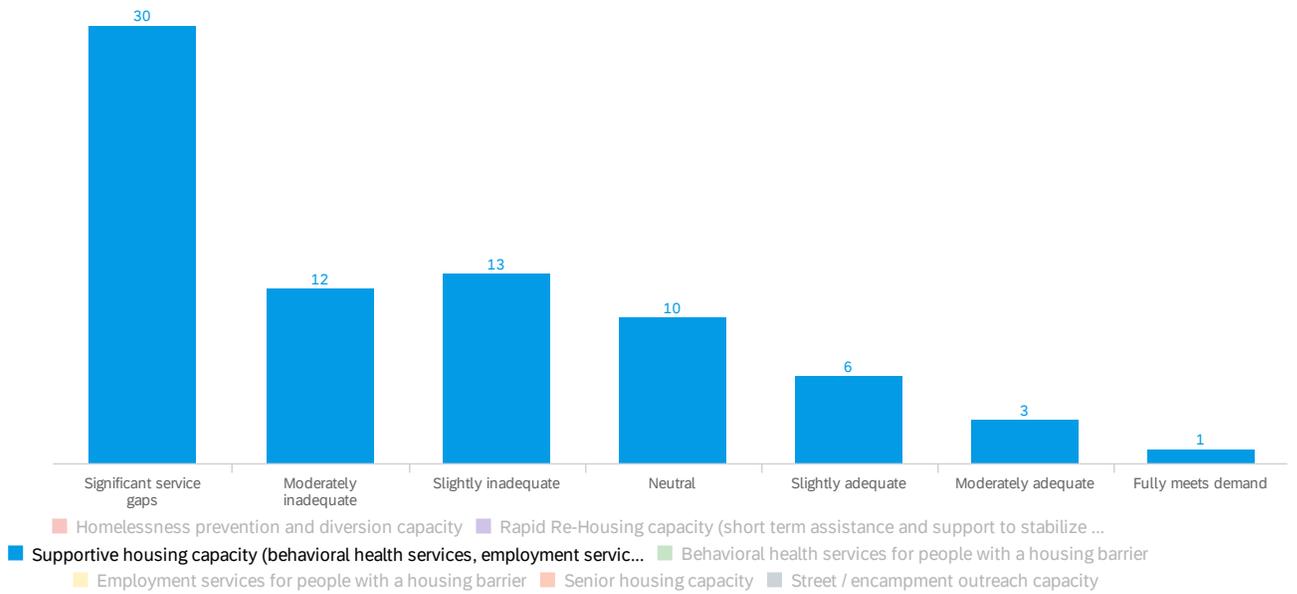
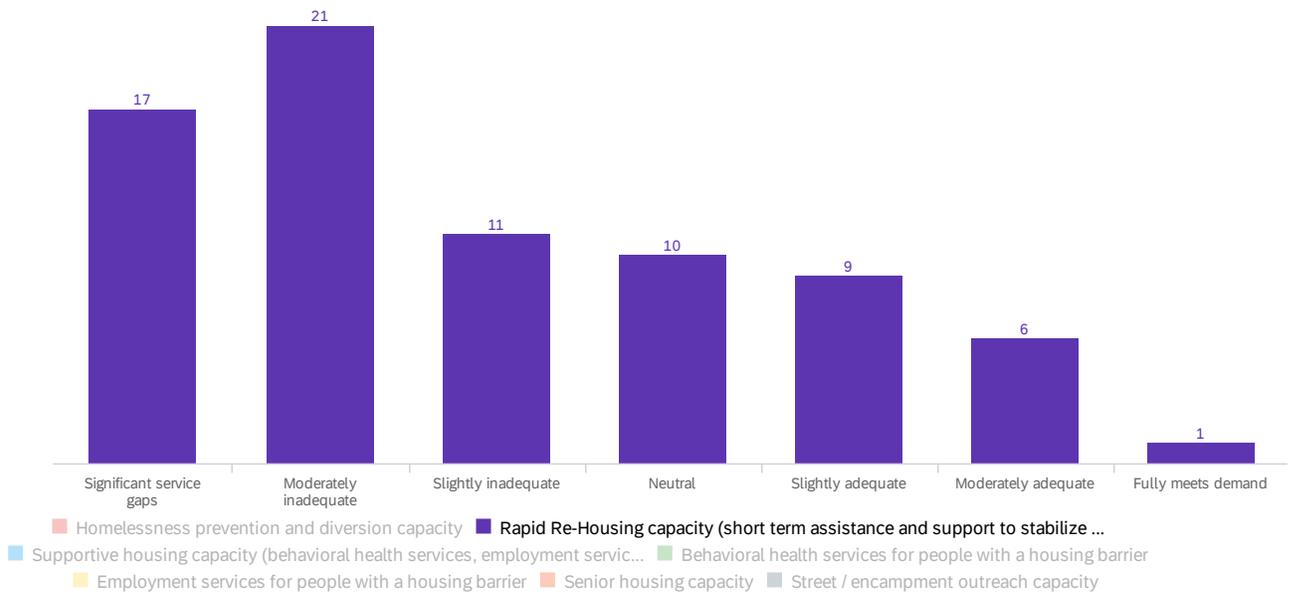
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
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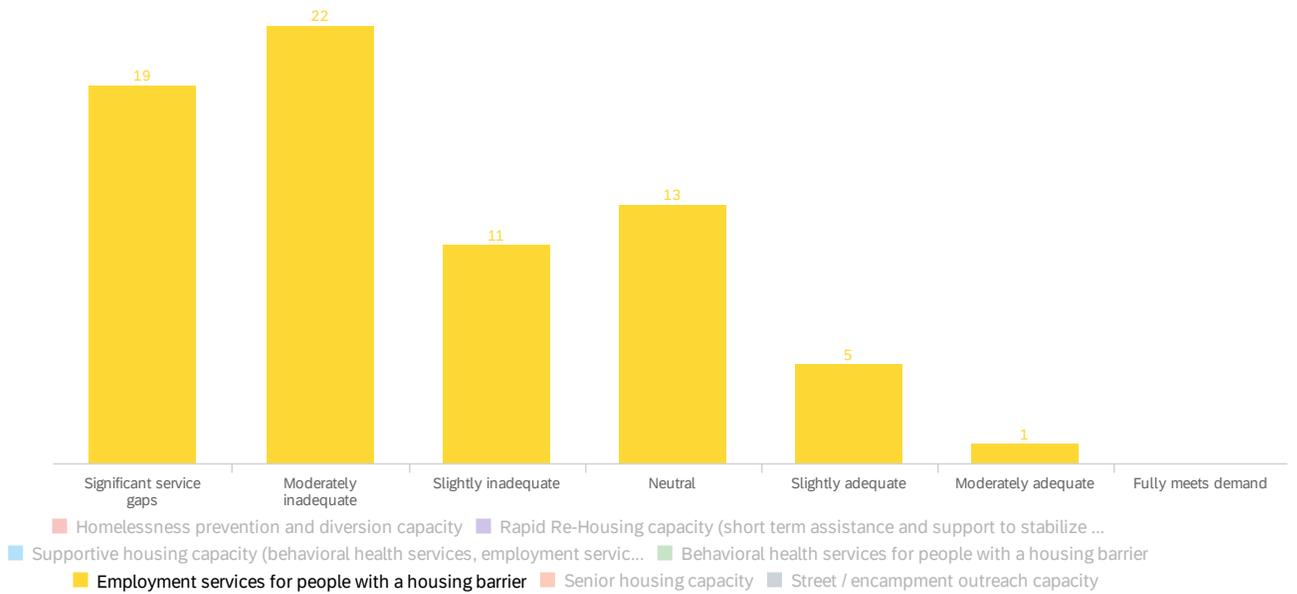
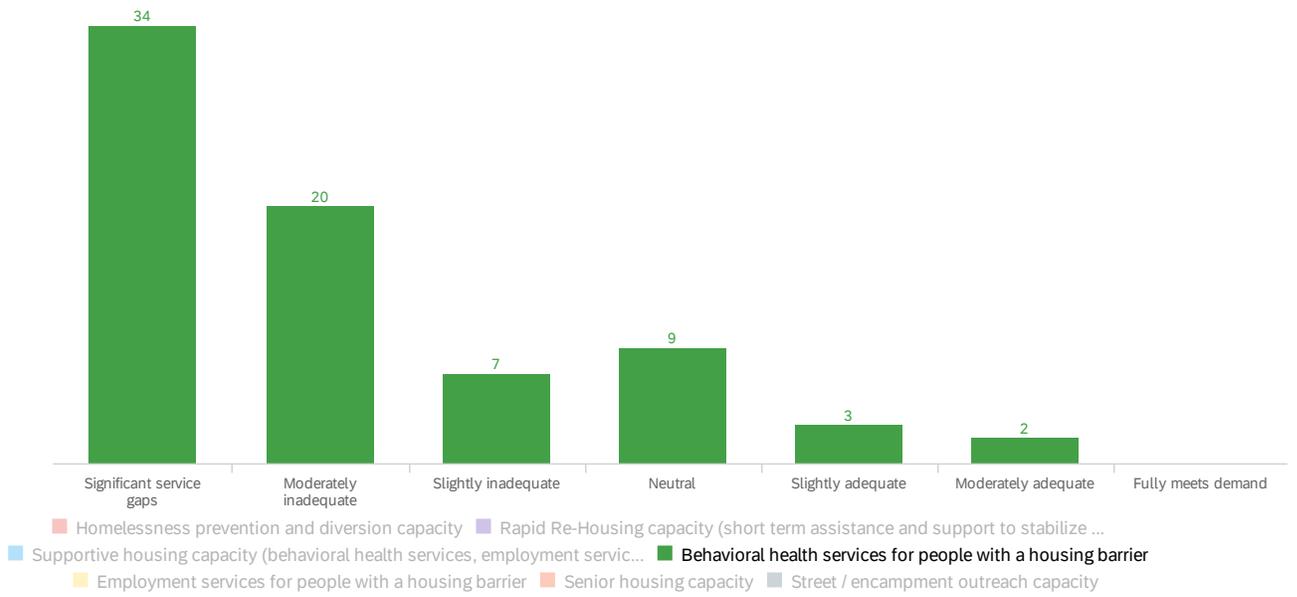
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Emergency Shelter (day shelter, expanded shelter for specific populations)	1.00	5.00	3.66	1.43	2.05	83
2	Homelessness Prevention & Diversion	0.00	5.00	3.46	1.45	2.10	82
3	Rapid Re-Housing (short term assistance and support to stabilize people in private market rentals)	0.00	5.00	3.19	1.35	1.83	80
4	Transitional Housing (supportive housing with a duration of one to two years)	1.00	5.00	3.31	1.22	1.50	78
5	Permanent Supportive Housing (supportive housing with an indefinite duration)	0.00	5.00	3.17	1.54	2.37	77

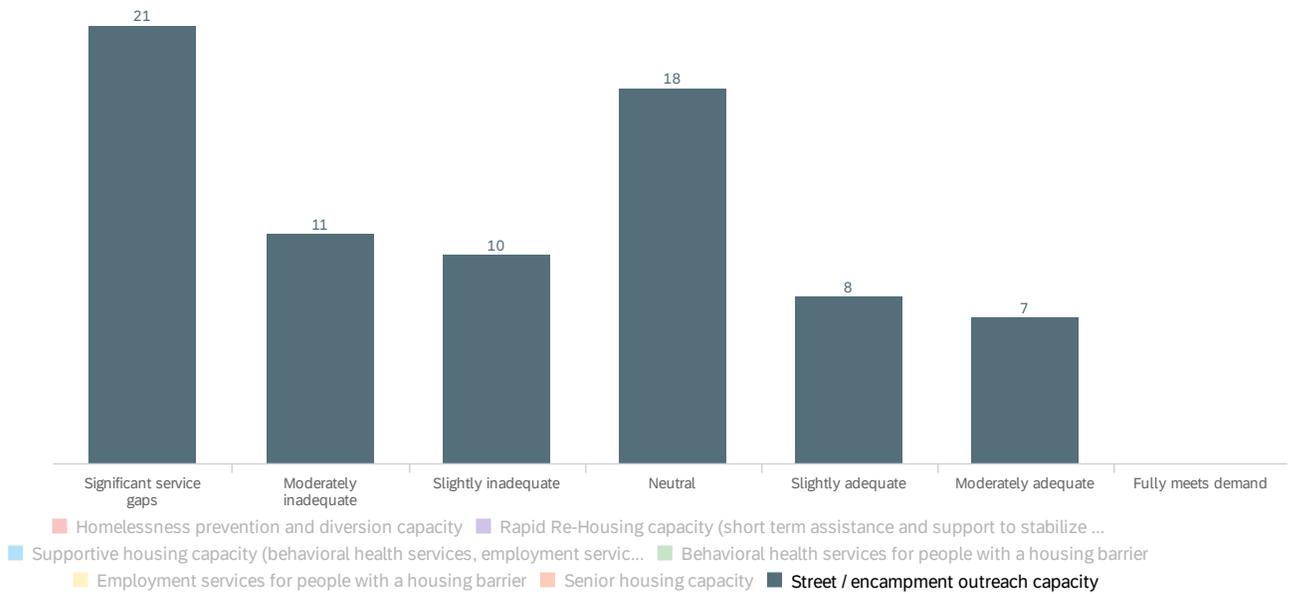
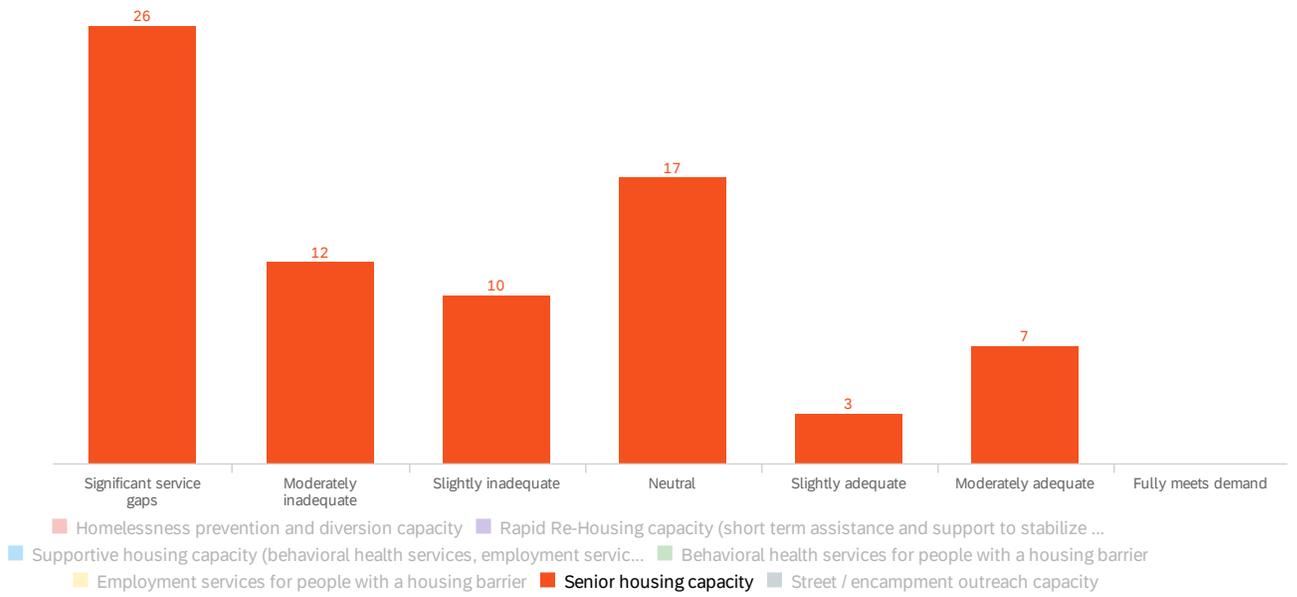
Q3 - Please rate Fairbanks' current...

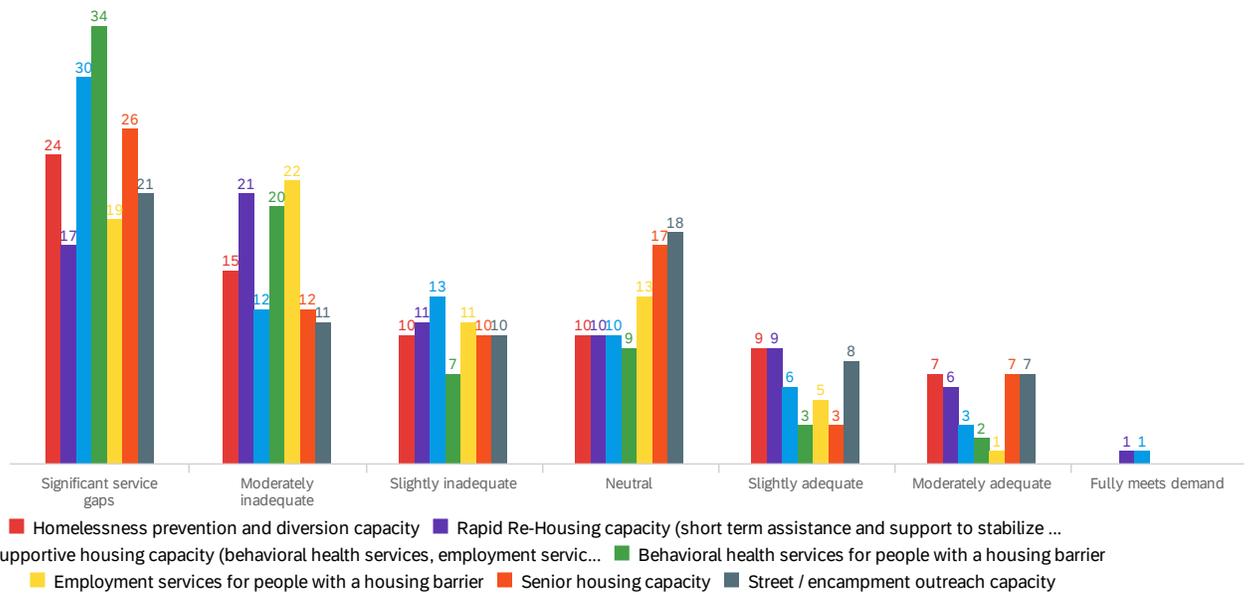


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Homelessness prevention and diversion capacity	1.00	6.00	2.81	1.70	2.90	75
2	Rapid Re-Housing capacity (short term assistance and support to stabilize people in private market rentals)	1.00	7.00	2.93	1.65	2.73	75
3	Supportive housing capacity (behavioral health services, employment services, case management)	1.00	7.00	2.51	1.59	2.54	75
4	Behavioral health services for people with a housing barrier	1.00	6.00	2.11	1.34	1.80	75
5	Employment services for people with a housing barrier	1.00	6.00	2.52	1.32	1.74	71
6	Senior housing capacity	1.00	6.00	2.73	1.64	2.70	75
7	Street / encampment outreach capacity	1.00	6.00	3.03	1.67	2.77	75









What service gap(s) do you see in the Fairbanks community?

I see the people always waiting for their next drink on CUSHMAN. I always see how they are in need of services. When it is cold they do need more services. I personally have had to have the ambulance to come and get people that were in medical need.

housing for individuals with mental illness damp shelter

The mentally ill have lost most of their programs and housing. They are having to go back to living on the streets.

Transitional or supported housing for those with mental health issues

We are in need of housing in every category except upper income. That seems adequate. . We need behavioral and financial support for people who experience FASD and other conditions that impede one's ability to make consistent plans, along with people who are In Early recovery, returning veterans and their families and people who need rehabilitation from an injury or other illness. This need ranges from an occasional text exchange To An actual medical visit or review. Thank you for asking. Thanks for asking

Genuine employment help for people who simply do not have the 'cookie-cut' profile to 'jump through the hoops' of the typical hiring procedure, i.e., bad employment history, bad credit, no or limited references, shaky rental history, even minor driving/criminal offenses, anxiety during interviews, etcl.

Low barrier, harm reduction housing and mental health supportive services. Housing First always has an extremely long wait-list (permanent supportive housing). Long term mental health services with housing is another gap (residential treatment longer term). Mental health services are inadequate across almost all populations in Fairbanks. Tenant rights education and advocacy is non-existent in Fairbanks to my knowledge.

I work on S Cushman in 2 different locations and consistently see people with no place to warm up or go in bitter temperatures. Several of the regulars I see have significant behavioral health concerns and I can't safely allow them to stay in the businesses I work in

Prevention Hiding for the vulnerable, disabled.

Child care is in limited supply and too expensive.

Mental health and substance abuse treatment

All of the above!!!! I work on BahU at FMH. AKBH doesn't even have a full time Psychiatrist right now. Let alone enough case managers, guardians or support personnel. It's a revolving door of the most vulnerable people on the planet and it breaks my heart.

Sober support housing

Permanent housing solutions for people staying at the Rescue Mission long term. Temporary encampments in the summer with populations not receiving health care or behavioral health services, treatment or employment assistance.

Mental health and youth services

Behavioral health services to identify the root causes of homelessness.

What service gap(s) do you see in the Fairbanks community?

I ran into a Housing First employee (blond woman) who was horribly negligent & disrespectful to an older white guy (vet). More money isn't going to necessarily solve a problem like that. I see people who are hard core chronic alcoholics soliciting others who have some money, who are not as far gone as the ones soliciting them, & sometimes the less disabled alcoholics become street drunks as a result. Have seen this over & over. Alcoholic women are beaten & raped with impunity by men they go off with so they'll have a roof over their heads for a night. I know a woman who was molested as a teen by family, was never removed from the home, was rightfully angry at her father, acted out (in pretty minor ways big picture), was put in API, drugged beyond comprehension (her village & relatives call it 'zombie' & oh, yes, she is). She was released after months due to efforts of competent relatives, has been since that time, for the most part, on the street in Fairbanks & is regularly beaten & raped, by pretty much anyone who gets his hands on her. Drugs are not the answer (could anything be more obvious?). Seems that is all Behavioral Health offers these days - big fail. A lot of the drug trafficking here contributes to all of the above. We had, at one point, some city cops who policed the homeless encampments for the sake of the homeless. They were so committed & so effective (still didn't prevent a woman from being murdered in an encampment; white man from out of town murdered her, btw). Don't know if that's the case anymore (this was under the police chief BEFORE Eberhart was mayor & the FPD chief before that)-way too much turnover in our police department. Can I repeat that drug trafficking contributes to the abovementioned problems? I fail to see how it is THAT hard to clean up, to a greater degree, the drug trafficking in such a small & isolated town as Fairbanks. The people who hang around Fred Meyer West seeking money for booze pull people into their habits. The Airport cops could EASILY search/police flights to villages for alcohol much more than they seem to. Fairbanks NEEDS a dedicated, trained, serious, committed, female sex crimes detective (not what you're asking about but related). And again, from what I've seen, there is pretty much no effective behavioral health service in Fairbanks, altho there is some success with Old Minto Recovery Camp & other longer-term recovery services administered by TCC. All of this is more than you asked but it's very much related. I give very high marks to IACNL & Brenda Stanfill & crew for trying to provide services to battered women in this severely misogynistic town. How does this all translate into service gaps? Idk.

There is not enough shelter space for transient individuals.

Using Senior Housing as a dumping ground for drug addicts' and mentally ill. The native community should be taking care of their own, not making us non-natives forced to tolerate their lifestyles.

You have identified the gaps.

For people who don't do well in group settings there are few overnight indoor options

Long term mental health support, educational and transitional living assistance, reemployment help, etc. Teaching life-long skills to people who never developed them to successfully reintegrate with the community.

There are inadequate mental health services in Fairbanks. The wait to be seen is long. People with chronic mental health issues are often unable to navigate the system available to them for help. There are very few housing options for the most mentally ill people in Fairbanks. Often due to their lack of treatment options available for mental health or through declining treatment, their behaviors do not allow them to utilize the shelter system in place, some are even trespassed for life. No landlords will rent to them even though they have funds to pay. They wander the streets of Fairbanks and often suffer injury and illness due to exposure to the elements. They cycle in and out of DOC and FMH.

Veterans and homeless get little to no services. Most of police think their disability is drug related instead of taking them for evaluation

There is a large need for emergency housing.

What I perceive from working with the population I most often serve is a need for long-term supportive, sober housing for individuals with chronic, long-term needs such as substance abuse and co-occurring disorders and/or individuals who are aging and cognitively impaired, but not to the point of needing assisted living.

Housing availability within the financial means of severely impoverished individuals (free long term housing).

The ones that are asked to leave examples; the rescue missions, shelters no where to send them but the streets.

There needs to be a shelter option for people who are under the influence (so denied at FRM) and who do not qualify for shelter at IAC. People with addiction barriers should not be freezing to death in the streets. Even if there was a drop in warm up building that operated 24/7. The key to serving people in a way they will not burn the bridge is to offer them as much privacy (eg not a shared room) as possible to reduce conflict between clientele. The few hours a day the Warming Center is open on S. Cushman is a joke. Money is going to creating more coalitions to pay more detached, overpaid people to continue to fail our community. Step it up.

What service gap(s) do you see in the Fairbanks community?

Case management services.

Fairbanks' only day shelter is wholly reliant on one organization operating outside of their mission work to meet this need. It is unconscionable that a City of our size, resources & latitude allows its most vulnerable citizens to be unsheltered for so much of the day. Many unhoused/housing insecure Fairbanksans struggle with profound mental health issues & when they "act up," they are punished with denial of services. It's a self-fulfilling cycle of poverty & trauma that is placed on people in crisis who are not in full control of their behaviour. A lack of trauma-informed, health-based care is harming the people we serve.

-Prevention/diversion programs for individuals and families at risk of homelessness -Rapid Rehousing programs (FRM's MyPlace has proven to be a sustainable housing model. We need more!) -Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless individuals with disabling condition(s) (TCC's Housing First model is a proven successful method of housing vulnerable populations. We need more!)

Housing supports for people who are not considered homeless (living in cars, couch surfing etc.)

Time to discuss cold weather plan. Support for the Warming Center and Warming Station

Housing for the mentally ill is desperately needed.

I'm not sure I have enough information on all the services provided to supply a fully coherent and in depth analysis.

Permanent supportive housing

Senior Mortgage /rental assistance for those that do not want to live in housing units.

Subsidized senior housing

What do you feel is the greatest barrier to ending homelessness in Fairbank...

It always boils down to money and not having enough of it. Bringing issue more to the public's attention

Centralized affordable housing.

Apartments are needed

Improved public transportation.

Early intervention to promote healthy options, follow up after release from hospital and jails, visits to underperforming students and wellness checks on Seniors.

Direct people who are not 'academically inclined' to enter workforce earlier during, say, 8th-11th grades...Vocational training as graduation requirement for such demographic.

A significant increase in housing vouchers for people who can live in private market housing and significantly more low barrier supportive housing that works with people experiencing homelessness meeting them where they are at.

Political, social, and economic will. High cost of rent and utilities. Lack of rehab for people who are struggling with addiction. Lack of methadone clinics. Lack of health care. Attitudes about drug and alcohol dependency or addiction that cause and allow employers and landlords to dismiss such people, even those who are functioning. Attitudes about people experiencing homelessness or those with limited job experience that promote or permit barriers to employment, education, health care, water, food, clothing, and housing to those who need them the most. Infrastructure should be in place, so that the process would be uncomplicated and quick to house the homeless who want a place, provide basic needs: safe shelter, health care, clean water, food, clothes; and THEN focus on the underlying causes for the homelessness of each individual or family, including (and especially) health issues, addiction, education, work skills, social skills, respect, dignity, etc. First house people, and go from there. The only way (and the logical first step) to prevent or end homelessness is to provide housing.

One of the greatest barriers to ending homelessness in Fairbanks is the desire on some people's part to remain homeless. I knew of people on the streets who have relatives in town willing to take them in but they would rather live outside of a structured home. A second is addiction problems. What little money received is used for alcohol, drugs or both.

Behavioral health resources

A. Substance use

Behavioral Health plus start with simple job & training in job skills (like the youth job program used to do for teens), advancing to Voc Rehab if the person sticks with it.

Prevention diversion and mental health services

Many people don't want homes. They just want handouts. Give them a ride to the south bank of the Tannana river.

Money and time

Money. Education to decrease the stigma and show our State government just how real this problem is! Fundraising, have judges and legislators tour FMH 4th floor to see first hand the reality of mental illness!

Housing is expensive, and weather conditions cause buildings to deteriorate. Heating fuel is expensive too, but I don't have a solution for that. I would like to see repairs and improvements made to properties, or condemnation of decaying buildings and removal of the debris. Educational support at all levels is crucial. Education and training to gain skills for the employment positions which are available. Employment can lead to community connectedness and finance housing and increase standard of living.

Affordable housing is the biggest barrier. There's a need for authority that can act as arbitration between tenants and landlords. Tenants with low incomes do not have adequate access to legal action when landlords act unlawfully

What do you feel is the greatest barrier to ending homelessness in Fairbank...

Not enough landlords involved

Wrap around health services for individuals to address all of their barriers whatever that might be: unemployment, addiction, mental health services, disability, etc.

The greatest barrier is always funding, but community support is also important. Outreach activities and fundraisers engage the community and share the struggles of those needing help to find a home.

Behavioral health services. Working with tribal agencies to provide local village services. I know that these have/are in place.....

Biggest barrier is the refusal of people to use services already in place Not certain what project can counteract a mental distaste for authority or established helping agencies already in place. Additionally if homelessness is due to alcohol or drugs, one cannot force someone to stay in a shelter, home or apartment or give up their addiction. They are the only ones who accomplish that

Booze, drugs, misogynistic, abusive attitudes, the utter failure of behavioral health services to do anything but drug people (with a side dish of enabling bullies because... 'Behaviorists'). Seriously, people need to empathetically approach these people (homeless) as individuals & try to steer them to detox & long-term recovery services. Need a Housing First-type facility in a less-barren environment, less asphalt & less street-urban environment (but still accessible to services/transportation), more trees (really).

I think most of the people who are chronically homeless in Fairbanks are choosing to be so. We need more shelter space for them.

Hopelessness leads to homelessness. Giving someone self-respect rather than a hand-out. Getting the mental-health community to get involved

I think we have some wonderful facilities in Fairbanks. I hope the City will continue to offer their support for the really good places we already have.

A few areas set aside with shelters and portapotties

Addiction. A large network of support would be helpful, but I am unsure how to make that happen... Living assistance, crisis counseling, mentorship, education/training - all of those things can help provide stability to someone going through addiction treatment, but I do believe the largest barrier to end homelessness is addiction .

Safe affordable housing alternatives combined with proactive addiction, mental health and employment assistance.

The lack of affordable housing and the availability of mental health services for everyone who needs them.

I'm really not sure.

Finding housing, finding jobs that pay enough, understanding how and what firms to fill out, and long waiting lists for housing.

Wrap-around case management services to the chronically homeless as they often have complex needs that are not being addressed by existing service providers.

Resources in regards to free, free, free...Case Management (where the CM has the availability to do all the steps with the clients and provide individualized transportation services to the clients), Transportation, Supplies, Treatment for Addictions and Mental Health, Smartphones with unlimited service, Lifeskills Classes. I don't have any brilliant ideas on which project will help the community mitigate the barrier.

the people on the street have need of many services: mental, physical and spiritual - they need one on one support.

Police arresting and jailing perpetrators of DV so victims do not have to leave their homes. Our justice system needs to match those of more progressive communities in addressing domestic violence and making homes safer for families, and jailing those who make our community unsafe. Police and advocates in our community need to be working closely together. Police need to stop sympathizing with and befriending abusers.

What do you feel is the greatest barrier to ending homelessness in Fairbank...

Connecting people in need to resources required. Having a stronger case management system would help them.

Honestly, our biggest barrier is capitalism. Systemic poverty begets homelessness. There is enough everything for everyone - but less profit & personal glory in taking care of those who cannot "afford" the higher costs of living. While there's things we can do to ameliorate this (educating ourselves, increasing public assistance, integrating health care, reducing barriers to permanent supportive housing, supporting employment pathways, reducing criminal justice involvement) the root of the problem is still the same. Education & community building can help mitigate this barrier. Most people have blessedly not experienced homelessness & many hold on to ugly myths about the wealth/housing crisis America is currently experiencing. By educating our community & engaging them as real life allies, we can protect those we serve & build a stronger community together.

The greatest barrier: Not enough behavioral and mental health resources to address the systemic issues that lead to chronic homelessness. We must redistribute funds (statewide and locally) away from law enforcement efforts that have proven not to be effective at reducing homelessness and crime rates. Projects that help communities across the US mitigate this barrier is FUNDING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES to support individuals on substance misuse recovery and mental healthcare. We have the money in our community to address this enormous need. We need our community leadership to recognize that law enforcement and healthcare providers can PARTNER together to address the needs within the community for trauma-informed and culturally respectful interventions toward a shared goal of getting people sustainably, safely, and affordably HOUSED. Ongoing/long term case management services would have a huge impact on helping people stay in housing once housing has been achieved.

Warming Center and Warming Station is a good start, biggest project would be a Homeless Engagement Center and the support for it

I am unsure.

Communication is key and I think there are many that don't know these services are even in place.

No permanent supportive housing, less than accessible alcohol abuse treatment

Senior outreach

We don't have any true Housing First permanent supportive housing in Fairbanks. Long term permanent supportive housing for the most vulnerable community members.

Q6 - How should The Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition define success? The Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition is a partnership of community members and agencies that have come together to stop homelessness within the communities of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.



How should The Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition define success?...

Build housing and good good housing .

Build small house for the homeless.

Long term quantaitative analysis..

Built single homes for the homeless and don't be a dictator to them . Also don't lump the housing together . One with children should not be by each other . But spread all over Fairbanks.

provide tiny houses for them and places to warm up in the winter with snacks

How should The Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition define success?...

people have options for housing

One person at a time and please pat each of yourselves on the back for taking up the noble cause to make a difference to help people.

A room for everyone.

Should NOT be defined by how much \$ is obtained in gov't grants. That alone just perpetuates generational dependency cycle.

When you have provided adequate housing to all who need or want it. That is the first step. From there, focusing on what caused unwanted homelessness with each individual and family (and within the larger socio-politico-economic context), in order to help the people then take the next steps they need to take.

I honestly do not know. Those helped would have to weigh in.

Don't have that answer

Confined expansion of services

Number of new people sheltered and employed.

I think with what they have , they do an amazing job. The care and compassion is overwhelming. I think they should already be celebrated as successful

Seeing new housing, more options, alternative housing come to be.

The community has named homelessness and set up a coalition to direct services to funnel care to people in the community who are "down on their luck" . It is a success that the community has named this goal and realized that action was necessary.

Opening spaces in the rescue mission with less people living there.

When no one has to live on the streets because they have no other place to go.

Success is when all people have equitable access to housing opportunities and resources.

Reduction in the number of camps and homeless

When every person is housed & no one is at risk on the street. When no one is pulling others into the street life. When no one is allowed carte blanche to be predatory toward others - not until then.

Giving someone a free roof over their head and all the freebies does not change their attitudes. They still live like the reasons they were homeless in the first place.

Homelessness has many causes. No one idea will heal the issues which allow people to choose to make bad decisions which put them in harms way (such as drug and alcohol issues). I see issues as we move into 2021 and beyond with those who do not have jobs and were barely making ends meet before the COVID pandemic. I hope there will be a primary focus on getting people back into the job market, healing industries so that jobs are available, and supporting the facilities which will be the backbone of keeping as many people as possible in homes or other safe places.

Not sure

Shelter and assistance available for everyone who needs it.

How should The Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition define success?...

When everyone who desires to be housed has a place to stay.

Talk to probate court, police and services it needs to have a concession of suppliers

Individuals who are able to become self sufficient.

Reducing the number of individuals who are living on the streets or experience unwanted housing instability (such as couch-surfing) and successfully helping individuals who are at risk of losing their housing to maintain safe, stable housing.

Individuals housed. Certainly, I have additional items to add, however, I really am disheartened concerning successful outcomes and being housed, even if short term, is better on the community.

We are better together

People in our community (homeless, new-to-towners, general community members) should be able to easily find information on where to get help. Our community sucks at creating programs, mass producing quickly obsolete fliers or other distributed materials, then ending a program right as people begin to learn it exists. Rather than half assing so many projects, maybe focus on creating ONE very well run place with many service options- look into community service centers that other cities have- that offer a warming center, job services, free substance use assessments and referrals, and shelter all in one place. Advertise it well, keep consistent hours, do it right the first time and it will actually help people.

A reduction in the occurrence of homelessness.

Success is in building trust, community, advocacy & love... in this work, success is not an end-goal, it's the journey to a better, safer, more equitable future - together.

FHHC should define success as addressing the needs of homeless and at-risk populations with diverse forms of interventions that are based on data-informed decisions for each unique individual and household.

Defining success is not necessarily how many people got housed but how many people are at the table to tackle the barriers, obstacles and challenges so people can get housed.

Success is when we have met the needs of almost all (90%) of those seeking services.

Although I don't think homelessness is an issue than can fully be solved 100% I do think taking whatever current metrics and trying to improve the situation just a couple of percentages every so often would be beneficial. For example, if there's a way to determine the homeless population here, then trying to decrease that by 2-5% every couple of months or every year I think that would be a success.

One person at a time.

The ability to offer appropriate housing interventions to anybody that would accept them.

