

# Identifying Barriers to Obtaining Long-term Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

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## INTRODUCTION

Many individuals in Rochester experience homelessness. Barriers to finding housing are diverse and varied, however very few prior studies describe barriers for adults living in a temporary shelter with social worker support. Similarly, there is not much available data locally about barriers for individuals experiencing homelessness in Rochester.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Rochester Emergency Action Committee for the Homeless (REACH) was founded in 2015 and has provided winter shelters and social services to individuals experiencing homelessness for the past 5 years. Although 40-50% of clients are able to obtain long-term housing through REACH, 50-60% of clients do not. In addition, there is little formal data on what barriers clients face. During the COVID19 pandemic, many REACH clients now reside at the Rodeway Inn, a hotel serving as a temporary shelter.

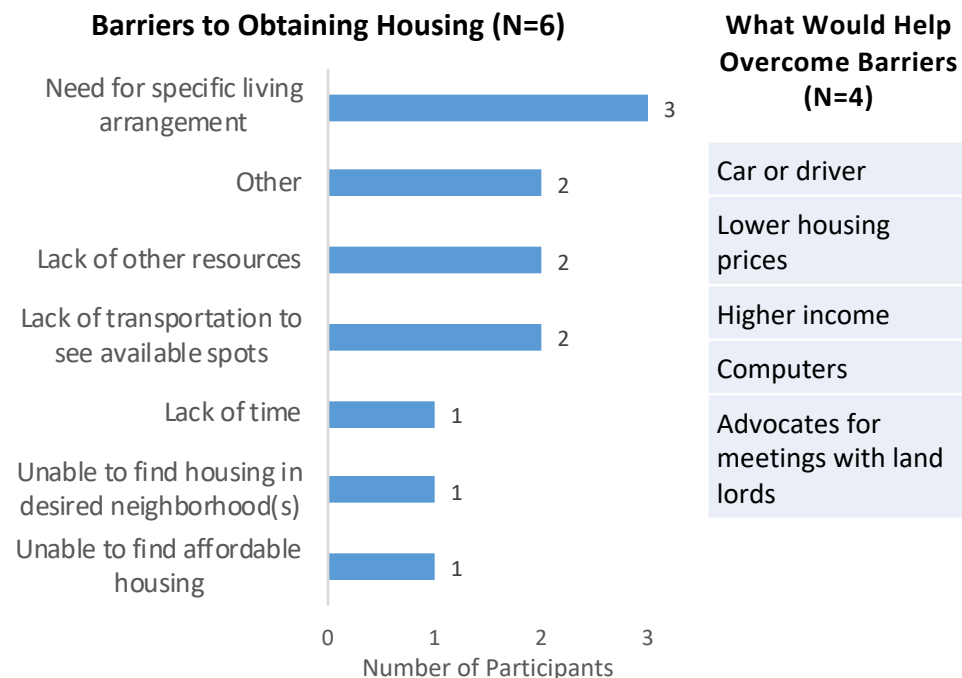
## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Identify barriers to finding long-term housing for REACH clients while they are staying at the Rodeway Inn and receiving assistance from their social worker

## COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A survey assessing barriers to housing was designed to be given to guests at the Rodeway Inn. Survey design and questions were created with Andy and frequently revised with feedback from both Andy and REACH social workers. Questions about barriers referenced prior studies and were informed by prior conversations with guests. Guests at the Rodeway Inn were referred by their respective social worker to be approached to participate in the survey. Guests were approached to participate in-person and by phone. Questions were verbally asked and recorded in REDCap.

## SURVEY RESULTS



## CONCLUSIONS

Barriers experienced were diverse. Commonly reported barriers included lack of transportation and need for a specific living arrangement. Interventions that may help participants overcome these barriers include access to a car or driver, lower housing prices, higher income, computers, and advocates for meetings. Due to COVID19 restrictions, recruitment was performed primarily via phone call, limiting recruitment as not all hotel rooms had working phones. Further surveys are needed to fully describe the barriers of this community.

## IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Impact: A report has been shared with REACH. Data has been shared via Google Forms. Sustainability: Two medical students have taken on the project. In the short-term, the two medical students are scheduling survey sessions with the social workers and interested clients. Andy and all social workers are working on becoming certified in Human Subjects Research. After a short trial of surveys with students, long-term goals will be for social workers to administer surveys during client intake.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am tremendously grateful to Andy, REACH, Dr. Speice, and Dr. Green for all of their support, feedback, and mentorship.