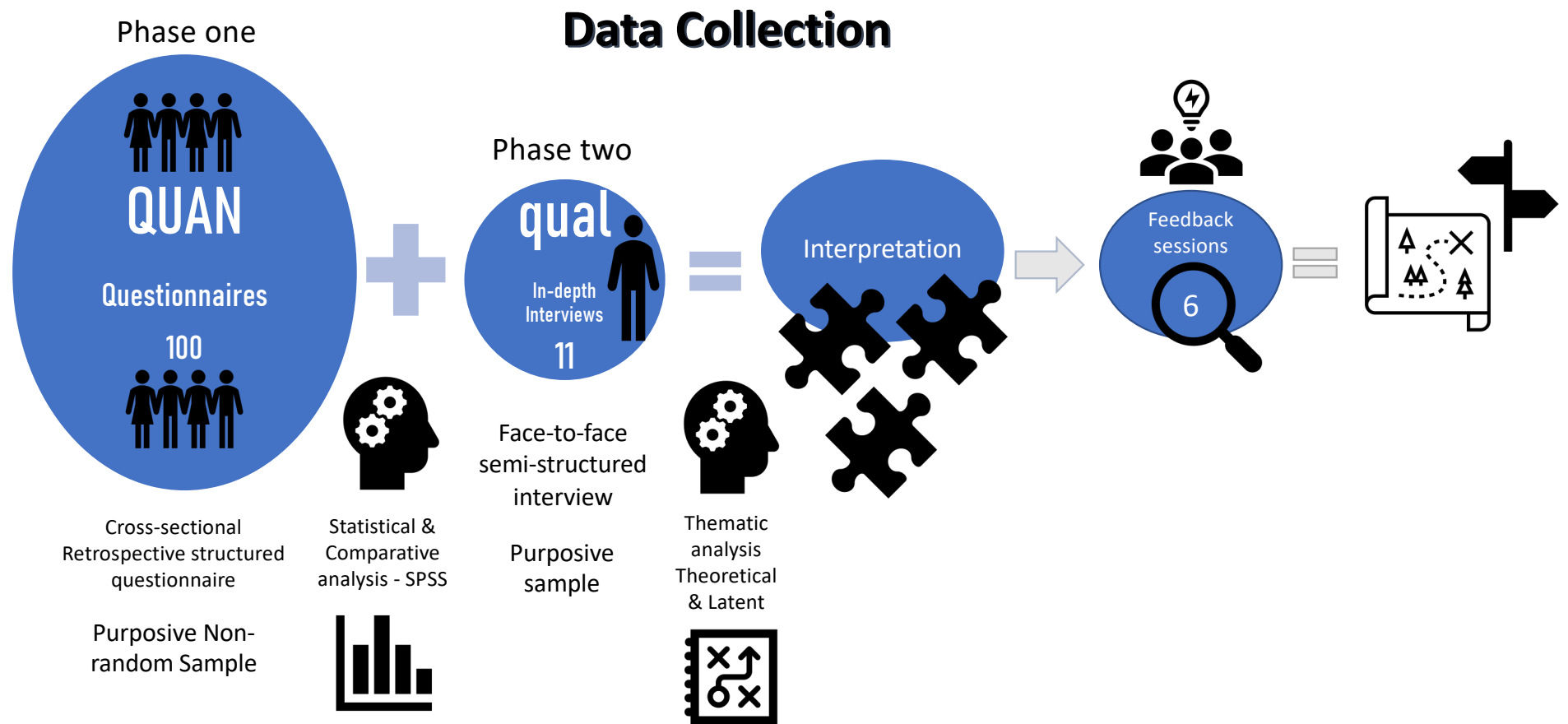




# Lost points of intervention in pathways to single adult homelessness in Hamilton, NZ

Dr Carole McMinn

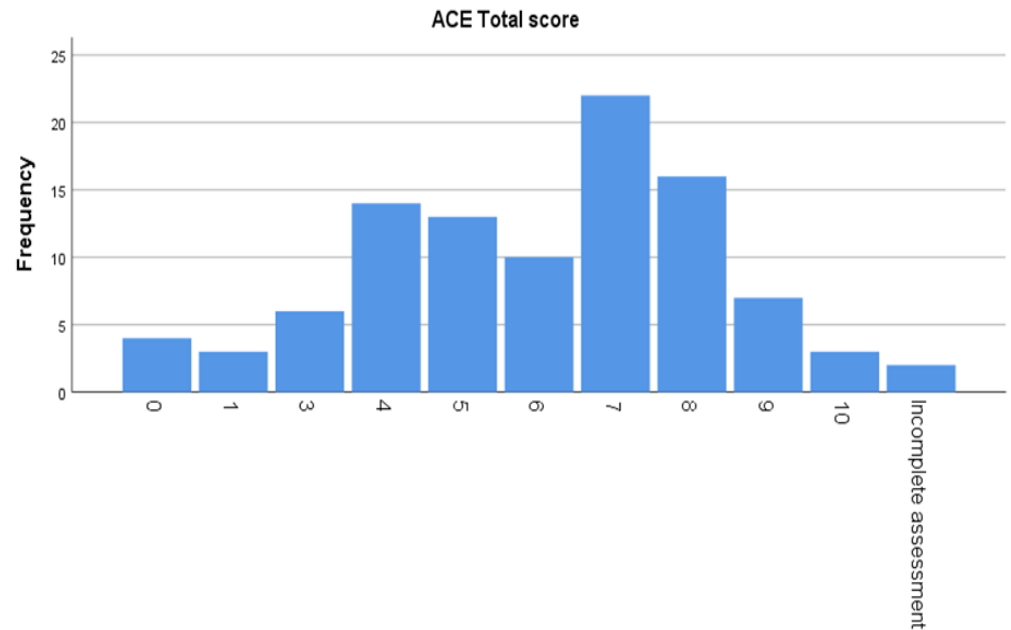


**Mixed method sequential explanatory design**

## Adverse childhood events before age 18 years old + Age of first occurrence

<i>ACE description</i>	<i>Prevalence (n)</i>	<i>Mean age</i>
Participant emotional abuse	81	7
Participant physical abuse	65	7
Participant emotional neglect	62	7
Participant physical neglect	43	7
Loss of a caregiver through separation, divorce, or death	53	7
Inter-partner violence between caregivers (against female)	56	6
Household problematic substance use	73	6
Household mental health issues including suicide	27	7
Household member incarcerated	7	9
Participant sexual abuse	43	9

Mean score : 5.89



### ACE context:

75 caregivers worked  
84 stable family home

A place to call home and working caregivers was not a protective factor.

# Common early-life experiences by mean age

<i>Experience</i>	<i>Prevalence (n)</i>	<i>Mean age</i>
Shared a bed/slept in a room other than bedroom before 16 years	48	7
No food at home before age 16 years	40	8
Slept rough with family before age 16 years	15	8
Homeless with family before age 16 years	15	8
Doubled up with family before age 16 years	23	8
Bullied at school	50	10
Entered out-of-home placement (e.g., foster care)	47	10
Ran away from home before age 16 years	68	11
Truant from school	71	12
Expelled/suspended from school	50	12
Exited out-of-home placement (e.g., foster care)	47	14
Left school	100	15
Victim of violent crime including domestic violence	63	16
Left home for good	90	17
Anxious or depressed	92	18
Excess alcohol use (six or more drinks on a daily basis)	85	18
Attempted suicide	51	18
Used solvents or inhalants	70	18
Street drinking	65	20
Self-harmed	39	20
Detoxed in police cells	72	23
Sold substances to support problematic substance use	33	23
Prison for substance misuse offences	42	23
Used street drugs	70	24
Injected drugs	20	24
Mental health hospitalisation	31	25
Hospitalised for substance misuse	42	28

<b>Common adult experiences – over 18 years of age</b>	<b>Number Yes</b>
<b>Debt (average \$11,000 each)</b>	96
<b>Receiving a Jobseekers or Supported Living Benefit, Superannuation or Study link</b>	94
<b>Slept rough, lived on the street, in a garage, shed or vehicle</b>	94
<b>Diagnosed mental health issue</b>	89
<b>Stayed with friends/family when had nowhere to live</b>	89
<b>Diagnosed substance use issue</b>	87
<b>Lost contact with family</b>	82
<b>Multiple episodes of homelessness</b>	82
<b>Been discriminated against</b>	78
<b>Separated or divorced from long-term partner</b>	67
<b>Involved in street drinking</b>	63
<b>Been to prison (average of 6.7 years in total each)</b>	59
<b>Suffered with headaches or Traumatic Brain Injury</b>	58
<b>Survival shoplifting</b>	56
<b>Trouble reading, writing, or understanding documents</b>	55
<b>Trouble communicating with others</b>	51
<b>Tenancy tribunal order</b>	43





# Potential points of intervention

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Data shows evidence of many point of contact with a social sector organization from an average age of 6 years old.

- Child protection services
  - Health
  - Education
  - Welfare
  - Corrections
  - Police
  - Other community groups and organizations
- 
- Pierse et al (2019) – TPP cohort had long-running relationship with multiple organization. This had not been a protective factor against homelessness.

## Contributing factors

Lack of access to safe, affordable, appropriate, permanent housing	Affordability	<i>"You're paying \$300 for a house, a home. It's not compatible with your benefit". (Rangitahi)</i>
	Adequacy	<i>"I really want a home. I don't want a little room. That's not a home". (Apples)</i>
	Difficulty accessing housing	<i>"You've got 10 to 15 people also looking at the same rental...they're picking and choosing". (Vee)</i>
	Discrimination	<i>"Judged on appearance and skin colour when viewing houses for rent". (QR-032)</i>
Poverty	Not enough income	<i>"...probably left with \$30-\$40...I try and make sure my rent, power, and gas <u>is</u> paid. I'm not really fussed on food. I'd rather be homed". (Sarah)</i>
	Cost of living/Precarity	<i>"...just one little hike in the price of something can through everything out...". (Ben)</i>
	Debt	<i>"But all this money they get...they got to pay it back...the government is just giving people money to pay the government back". (David)</i>
Traumatic childhood and youth experiences	Safety and survival	<i>"Being unsafe as a child...the impact for me was emotional impact and stability. I don't know how to settle down." (Apples)</i>
	Out of home placement	<i>"I was in the orphanage at (age) 10...Because of what happened to me when I was young, the only place that was safe for me was on the street". (Apples)</i>
	Alcohol contributing to domestic violence	<i>"...there was violence in the family when Mum and Dad were drinking...I built up a wall where I didn't want anyone to come close to me...Didn't really trust anyone". (Sarah)</i>

# Contributing factors

Disrupted social networks	Defining "Homeless"	<i>"Being alone, no family supports, breakdown in family, unsafe..." (QR-090)</i>
	Reasons lost contact with family	<i>"Separation of parents, put in foster care, not growing up with or around family". (DR-013)</i> <i>"Didn't want my children involved in abuse family put me though." (QR-078)</i>
Health issues	Problematic substance use	<i>"Battling with addictions...It's kind of part of the journey through life...that's about numbing the pain, a coping mechanism". (Craig)</i>
	Mental Health issues	<i>"It even gets to you when you get homeless...I thought the easy way to do it was to just end my life". (Sarah)</i>
	Co-morbid health issues	<i>"I've turned to the drugs. I've been so depressed". (Brosh)</i>
Organisational distrust	Poor treatment	<i>"When I first asked them for help...I was told "I can't help you. We only help families...and that's when I actually ended up in the park". (Vee)</i>  <i>"They judge you before then even know you...That's why I don't really like going to them. Because they always say "no"". (Sarah)</i>
	Unsupported exit from care/custodial settings	<i>"...once you're all cleaned up, you come back and all you know is the same thing that you knew when you went in...Because they just "see you later, Steps to Freedom". (Apples)</i>
Community discrimination and racism	Beneficiaries/Justice system record	<i>"...if you've been locked up, you can't get a job...You got no work, you're not going to get a place...They want people who are working." (Apples)</i>
	Health issues	<i>"Battling with addictions...same with mental illness and disability...you get judged by that". (Craig)</i>
	Racism	<i>"...if you're whiter than us...you've got a better chance in the end...of getting more help, more support". (Sarah)</i>





# Points and methods of intervention

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## Early intervention – mitigating early life adverse experiences

- Support survivors of traumatic life experiences
- Support families at risk
- Sustained support after out of home placement

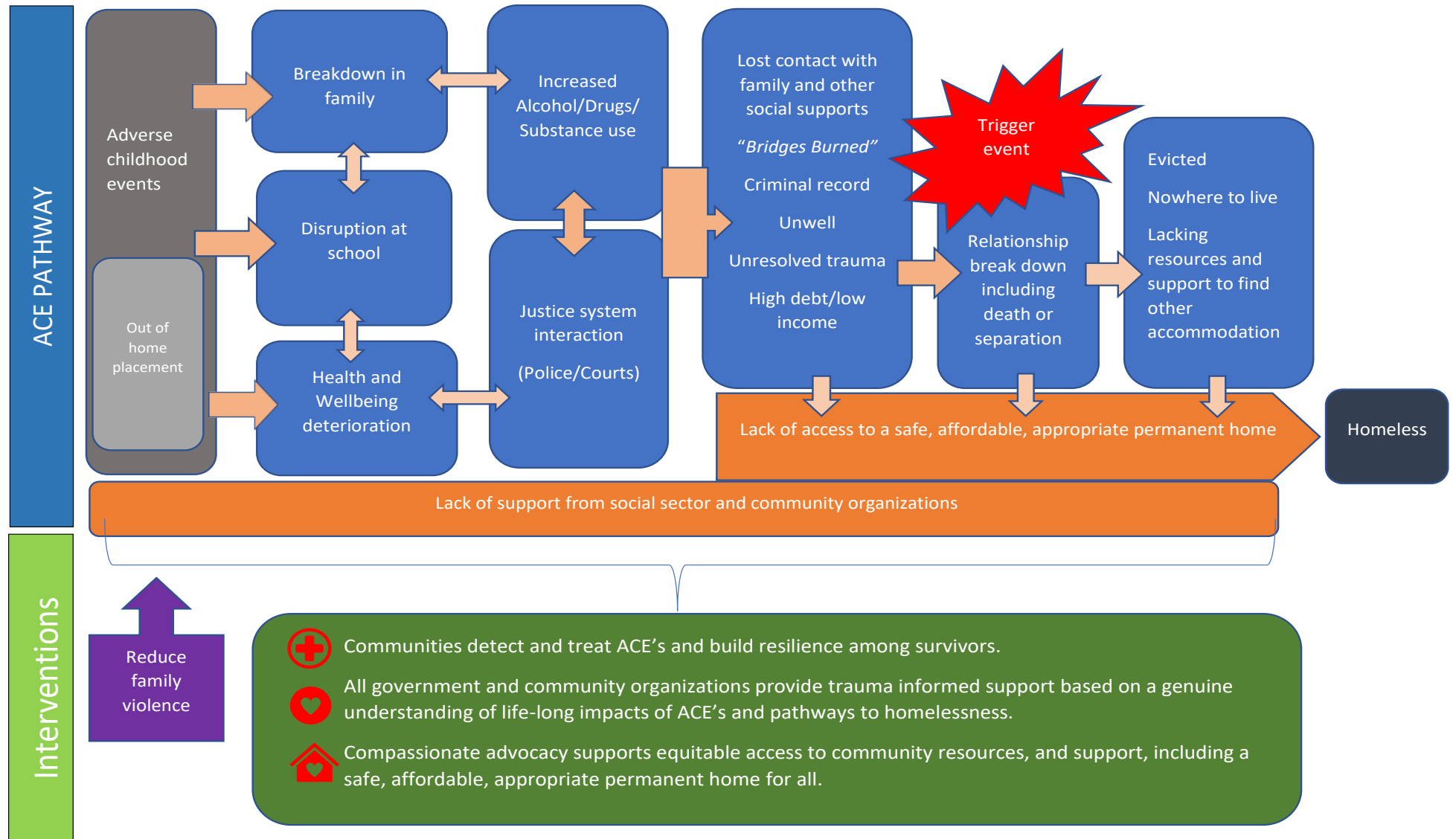
## Interrupting pathways – supporting those already on a pathway to homelessness

- Access to affordable, safe, appropriate permanent housing - Supply/ Support to access
- Adequate support with existing health and wellbeing issues for duration of need
  - Substance based coping mechanisms
- Adequate income and addressing barriers to work
  - Support to access work – PD, PEP – 75 had worked before. 41 held a steady , permanent job
  - Increase benefit amounts – how much is enough?

## Crisis response – avoiding additional homeless episodes

- Improved access to housing plus ongoing support

## ACE pathway to single homelessness in Hamilton, N.Z. and points of intervention.





# Policy implications.

## Lowering risk of single adult homelessness

Reduce family violence	Detect and address impact of ACEs	Trauma-informed support	Responsible institutional debt levying
Support families at risk  Build resilience among survivors	Detection across social sector and ongoing support  GPs to screen  Additional support for out of home placement survivors	A genuine understanding of the life-long impact of trauma and pathways to single adult homelessness	Prohibit excessive collective institutional debt levying

## Equitable access to resources

 A home	 Work
Support to access and sustain housing in a safe, affordable, permanent home	Support to access and sustain work  BAU for HF

# The End

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