

Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative



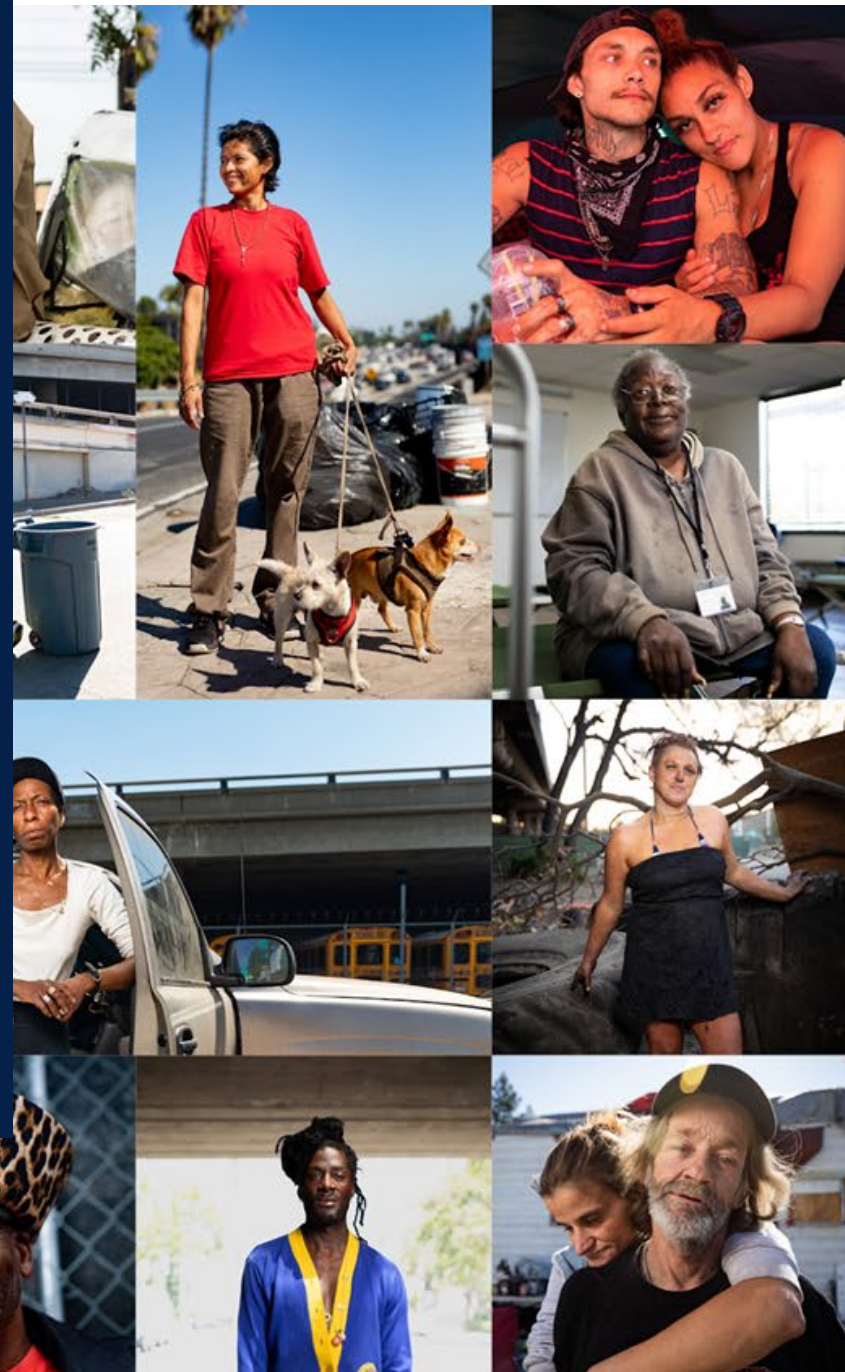
University of California
San Francisco

Unsheltered Homelessness

Findings from the California Statewide Study of People
Experiencing Homelessness

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9/25/24



CASPEH Key Findings

78% of California's homeless population is unsheltered.

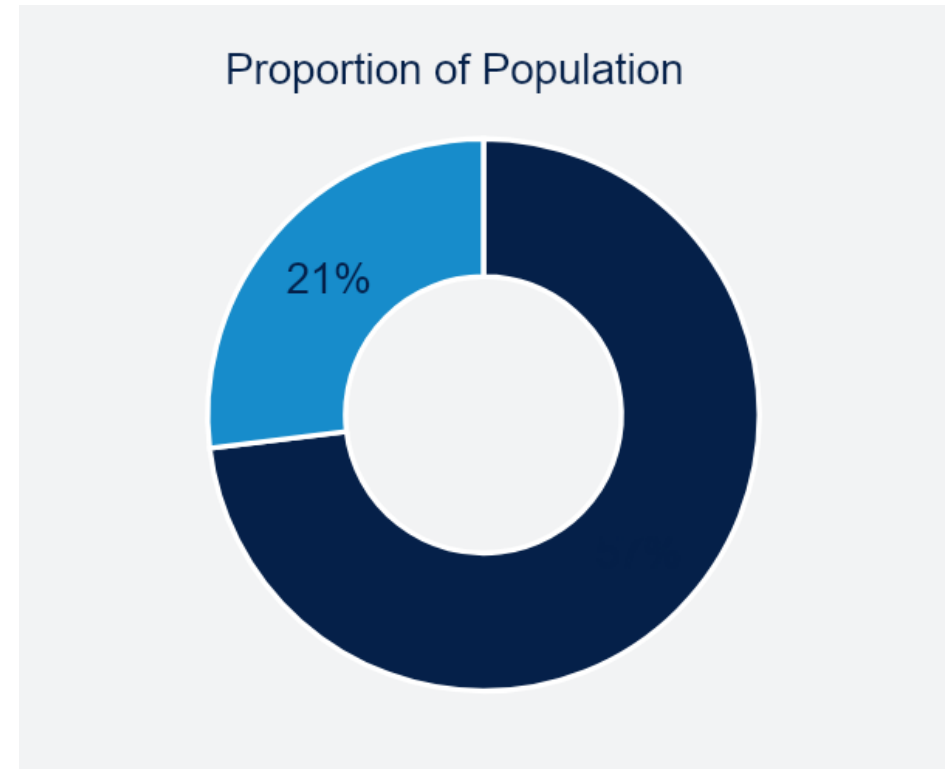
Those impacted live their lives in public, experiencing increased trauma, health risks, and safety issues, including violence.

72% of unsheltered individuals are people of color.

This highlights the impact of structural racism, particularly on Black and Indigenous communities.

Unsheltered homelessness has two main types.

57% of people experiencing homelessness in CA **spent most nights outdoors**, **21%** **in a vehicle.**



People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are predominantly older, people of color, and single adults.

- Median age **47**
- People of color **72%**
- Single Adults **93%**

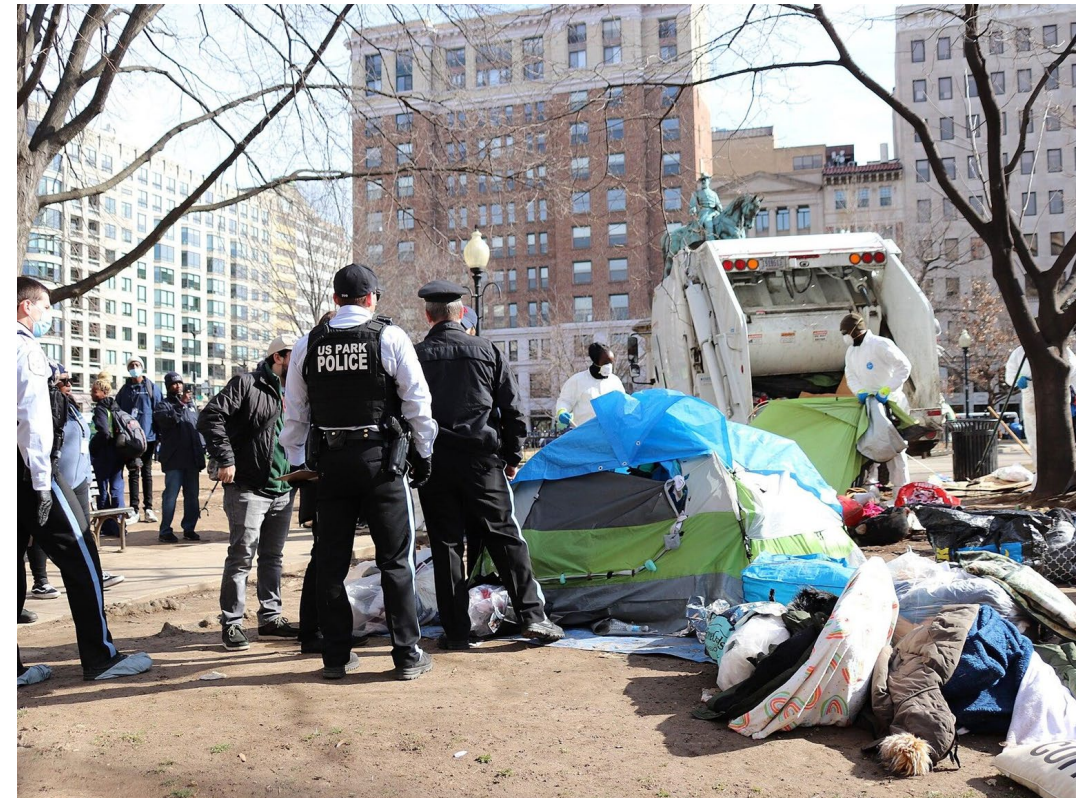
A higher proportion of homeless cisgender men (81%) are unsheltered, compared to cisgender women (70%) and transgender/gender-expansive (74%).



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Participants described frequent government and police contact, including losing essential belongings.

- **45%** of those living outdoors and **32%** of those living in vehicles **have had their belongings taken by a government agency or the police** in the last six months.
- **52%** of all unsheltered people **experienced being roughed up by police** during this episode of homelessness.



[Elvert Barnes, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons](#)

Many people wanted shelter and could not access it.

45% of people living outdoors and **31%** of those living in vehicles reported **wanting shelter but not being able to access it** at some point during their experience of homelessness.

Improving shelter utilization rates is key to solving unsheltered homelessness.

(the number of people who use the same shelter bed and exit to permanent housing)

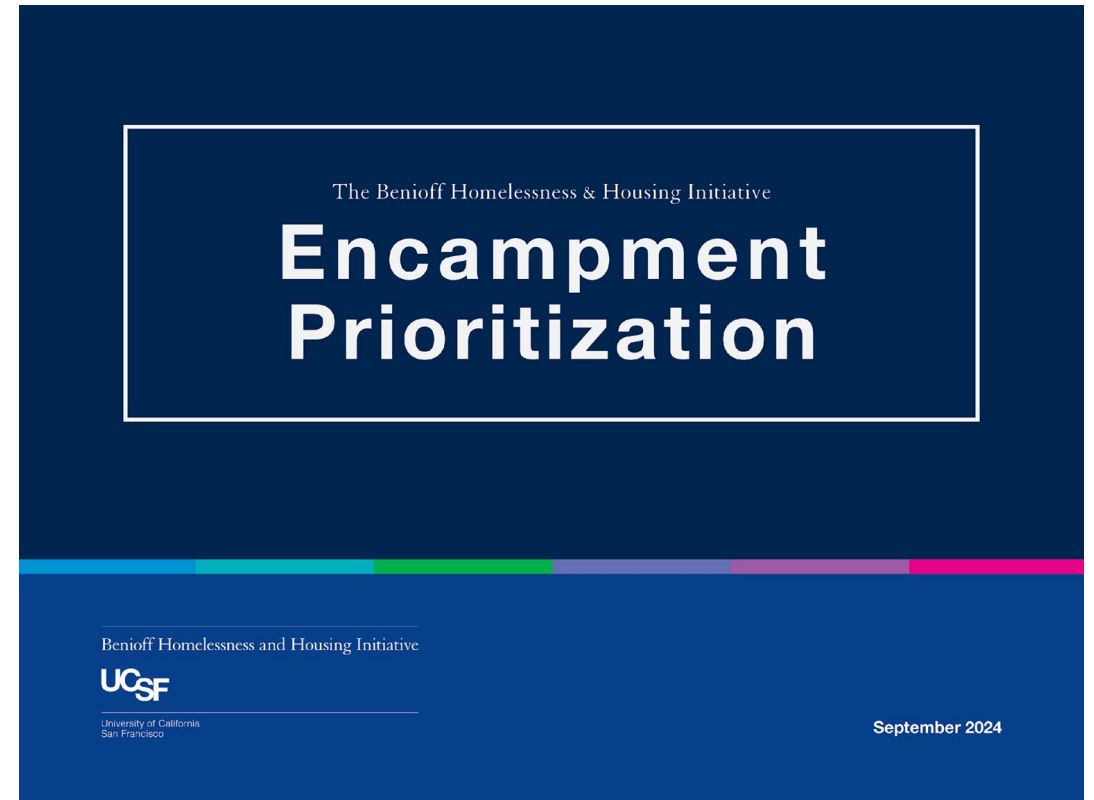
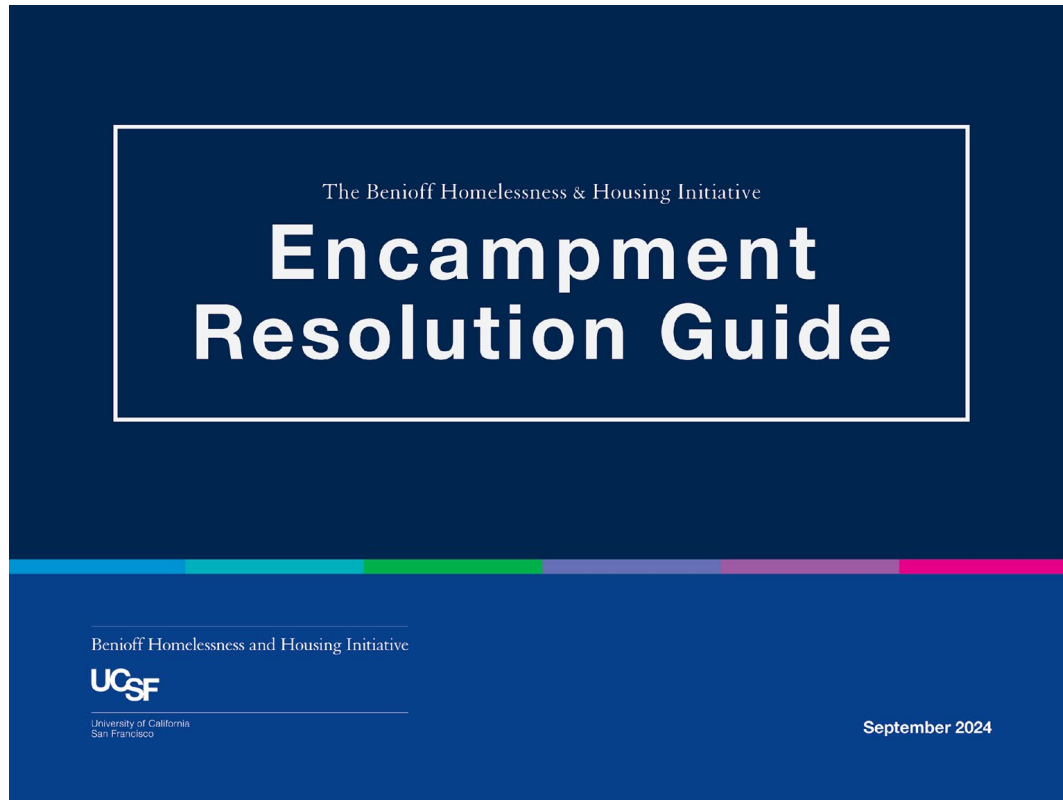
Key Metrics:

- Average length of stay
- Median length of stay
- Total # of people experiencing homelessness (PEH)
- Proportion of # PEH who are unsheltered



Encampment Resolution Resources

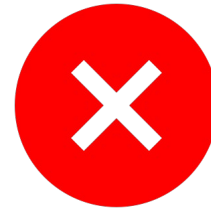
To help jurisdictions meaningfully reduce unsheltered homelessness.



What is Encampment Resolution?

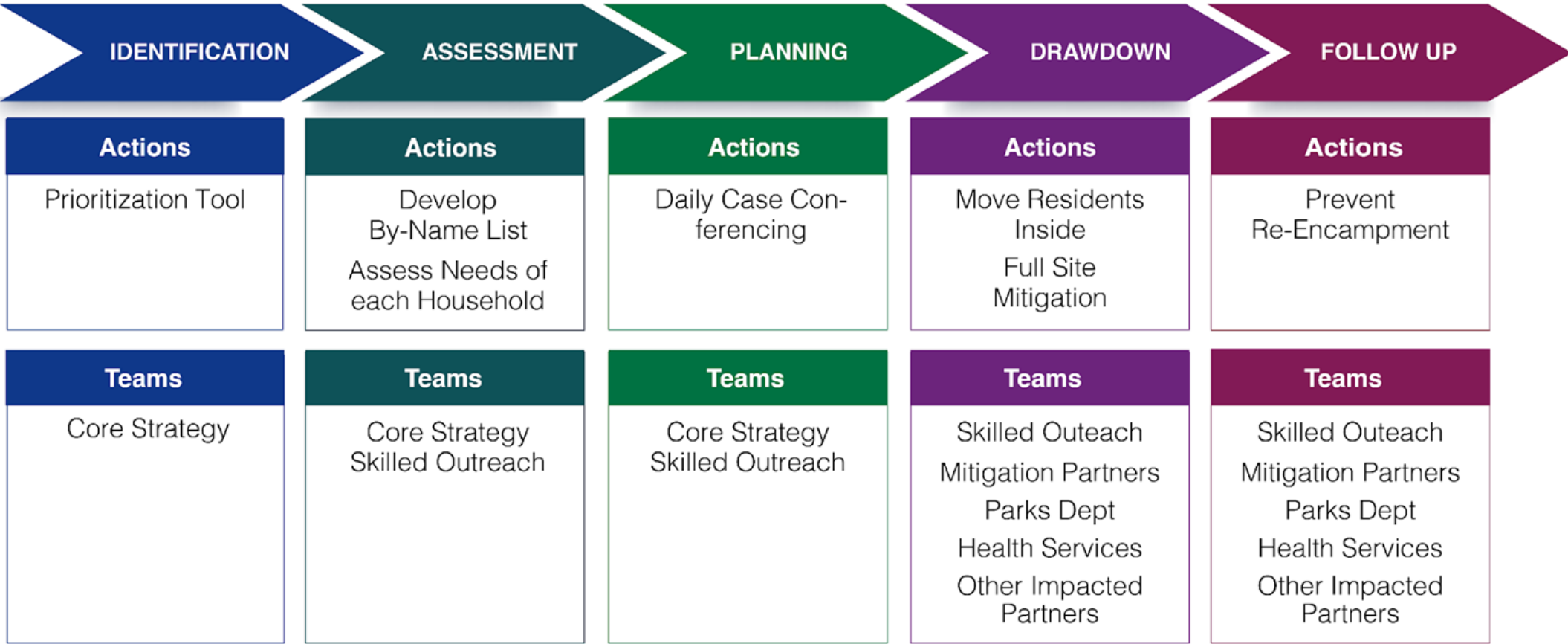


- A **coordinated, multi -system strategy** to address the impacts of unsheltered homelessness
- **Focuses on housing people first** , using shelter only when housing placement is not possible.



NOT the same as offering people shelter placements that are inadequate or declined and **then displacing** (also called ‘sweeping’) the encampment.

Encampment Resolution Process



Core Strategy Team Members

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Leadership Representative
- Housing-Focused Service Providers
- Outreach Lead Agency
- Property Owner(s)
- Law Enforcement Representative
- Mitigation Partners
- Parks Department Representative (if needed)
- Other Impacted Partners (if needed)
- Health Services Representative (if needed)

I. IDENTIFICATION

Prioritization Domains & Characteristics



Population Needs

- Age
- Medical Needs
- Behavioral Health Needs
- Limitations on Activities of Daily Living



Disorder

- Sexual Violence
- Physical Violence
- Uncontrolled Fires
- Conflict



Public Health

- Infestation
- Infectious Disease



Location

- Proximity to Sensitive Use
- ADA Concern
- Environmental Concern
- Challenge to Frequent Public Use
- Construction Zone
- Danger to Encampment Residents
- Department Access Issue



Geographic Targeting

- Jurisdictions may choose to prioritize certain locations
- e.g., downtown, near schools, or near critical infrastructure.

I. IDENTIFICATION

Hazard & Public Health Protocols



Hazard Protocol

Triggered when the **location of a site creates an extreme risk of death or severe harm for residents.**

Examples:

- Highway or freeway on- and offramps
- In the path of wildfires or other active natural disasters
- In floodplains during rainy seasons



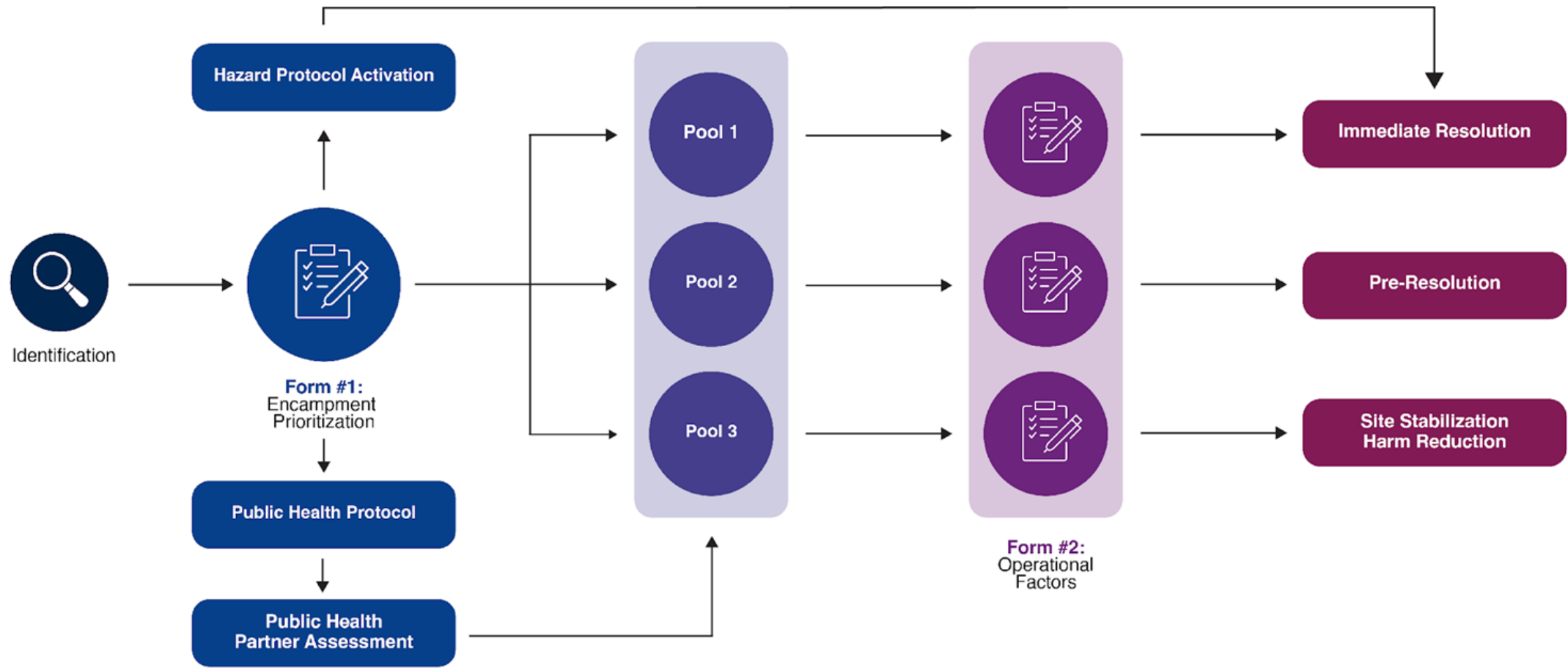
Public Health Protocol

Activated when **an encampment is suspected of having a significant infestation or significant infectious disease.**

Examples:

- Body lice, rats, mice, or other rodents
- Shigella, tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, or Covid-19.

Encampment Prioritization Process



II. ASSESSMENT

Domains & Characteristics



Organization

- Group Cohesion
- Self-Management
- Provider Engagement



Size

- Number of People



Population

- Needs
- Number and Type of Pets



Equity Factors

- Significant Percentage of residents are:
 - Black
 - Latino/a/x
 - Native/Indigenous Residents
 - LGBTQ+
 - Female-Identifying



Complexity

- Type of Structures
- Vehicles
- Density

Timeline

The timeline for an encampment resolution, not including mitigation or site activation, is typically 6 -8 weeks.

- Larger encampments may take longer—for example, one resolution of an encampment with 90 residents using a similar protocol took approximately 10 weeks.
- Timelines should be adapted according to the size of an encampment and the overall complexity of needs among residents.





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