



# Housing instability as a determinant of juvenile justice involvement & justice involvement as a determinant of youth housing instability: a scoping review

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# Conflict of Interest

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The research team has no conflicts of interest to disclose

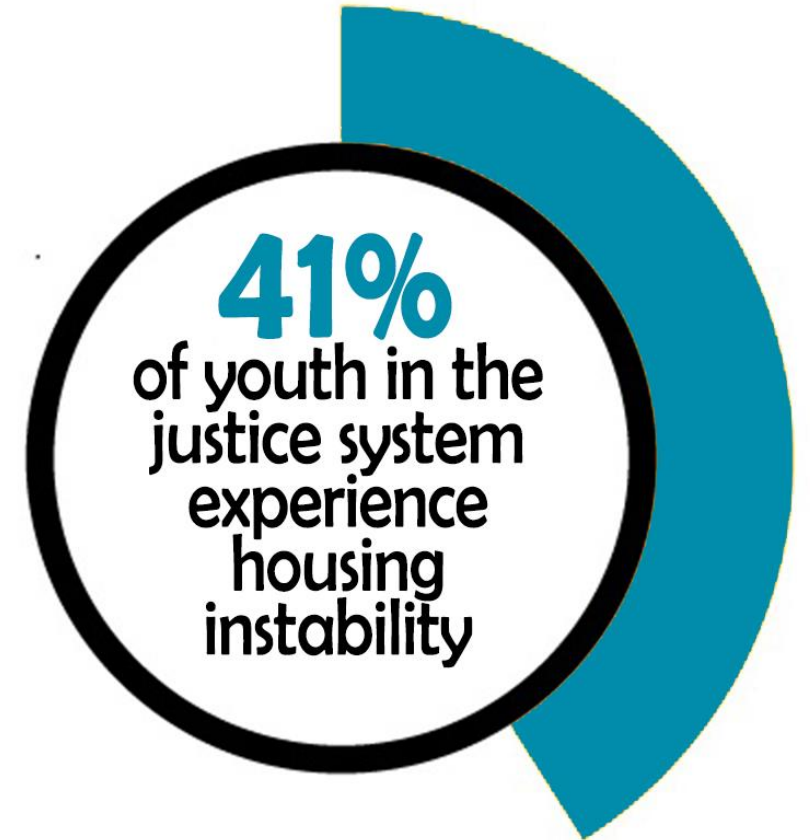
- The Problem: Youth Housing Instability & Justice System Contact
- A Solution? The Intersection of Criminology and Public Health
- Purpose of the Scoping Review
- Methods & Search Procedures
- Results
- Summary & Future Directions

# The Problem: Youth Housing Instability & Justice Contact

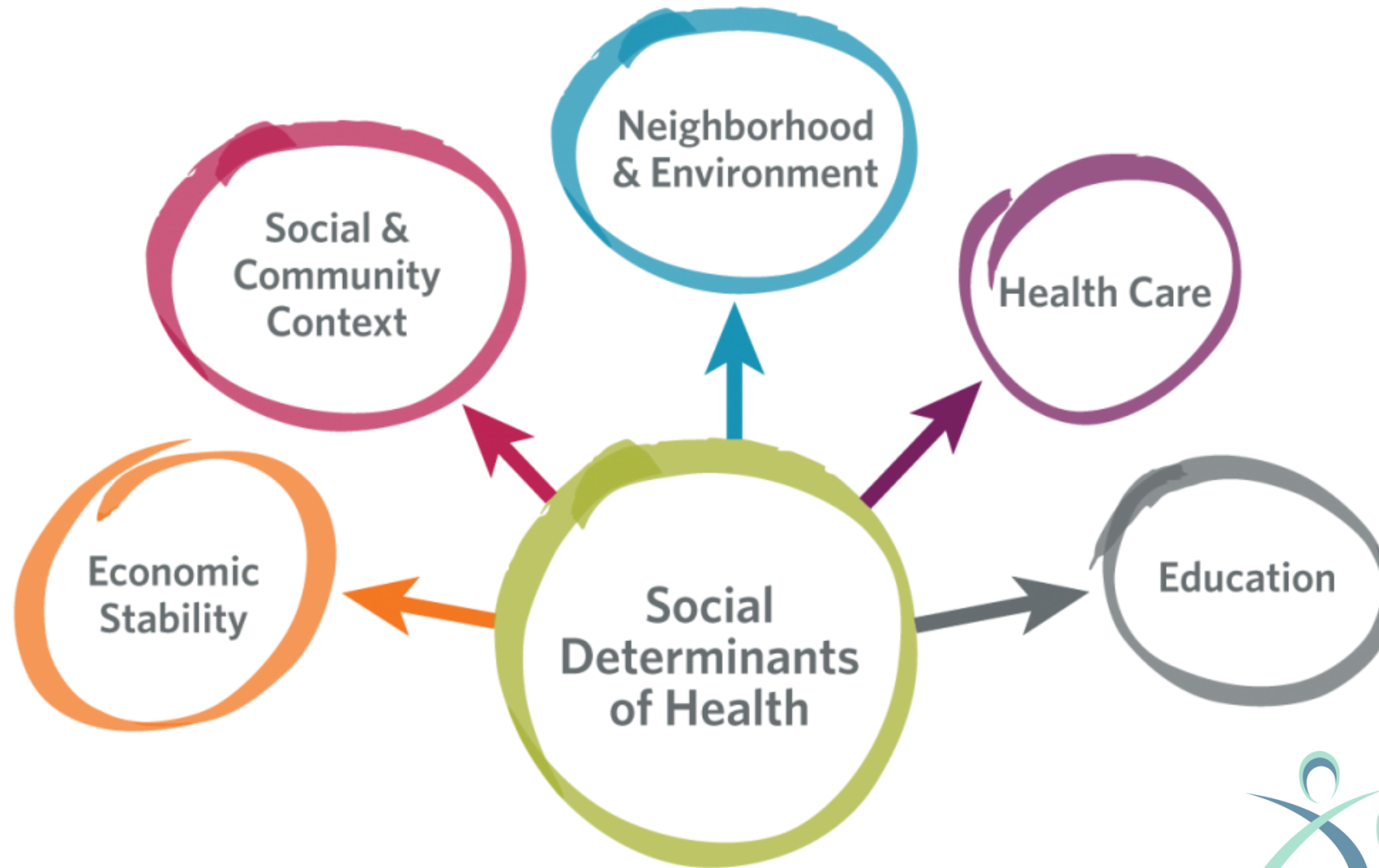
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**>75%**  
of homeless  
youth will have  
contact with the  
police

**>50%**  
of homeless  
youth will be  
arrested



# A Solution? The Intersection of Criminology and Public Health



# Purpose of Scoping Review



## Three Animating Questions:

- 1) What is the state of the literature regarding the impact of youth housing instability and justice system involvement as determinants of one another?
- 2) What are the theoretical frameworks informing this research?
- 3) What implications do these findings hold for the next generation of juvenile justice-focused interventions?

## Databases

PubMed

Web of Science

Academic Search Complete

Google Scholar

## Search Terms

housing stability AND juvenile court

housing stability AND juvenile justice

housing stability AND juvenile detention

housing AND juvenile justice

housing AND juvenile court

housing AND juvenile detention

social determinants AND juvenile justice

social determinants AND juvenile detention

social determinants AND juvenile court

criminal justice AND youth AND housing

criminal justice AND youth AND homelessness

Search results returned:

2,154 titles

75 met eligibility for inclusion

33 of 75 abstracts met eligibility criteria

7 additional publications identified from 584 citing papers

40 texts under full review

**28 articles included** in this scoping review



## **General Characteristics of Existing Literature:**

- Quantitative (17/28 studies)
  - Cross-Sectional (11/17 quantitative studies)
- Focuses on risk-based epidemiological factors (16/28)
- Missing reviews (1/28) & theory-driven publications (1/28)

## Direction of Effects:

- 1) Housing instability as a predictor of justice system contact
- 2) Justice system involvement as a predictor of housing instability
- 3) Co-occurring housing instability and justice system contact

## 1) Housing instability as a predictor of justice system contact

- Greatest representation overall (18/28 studies)
- Disproportionately focused on experience of actively homeless youth (12/18)
- Overwhelmingly quantitative in methodology (14/18)
- Thematic emphasis on proximal risk factors (e.g., survival behaviors)

## 2) Justice system involvement as a predictor of housing instability

- Minimal representation overall (4/28 studies)
  - Actively homeless youth with prior justice contact (2/4)
  - Highlight youth exiting justice system (2/4)
- Thematic emphasis on structural and psycho-social barriers to housing stability created by system involvement

## **3) Co-occurring housing instability and justice system contact**

- Low/moderate representation overall (6/28 studies)
- Focused on experience of actively homeless youth (5/6)
- Thematic emphasis: punitive law enforcement response to survival behaviors, rather linking youth to community services

# Summary & Future Directions



- The Problem: Youth Housing Instability & Justice System Contact
- A Solution? The Intersection of Criminology and Public Health
- Purpose, Methods, & Results of the Scoping Review

# Summary & Future Directions

- **Literature overwhelmingly:**
  - Quantitative
  - Cross-sectional
  - Focused on risk behaviors
  - Actively homeless youth
  - Lacking in application of theoretical frameworks
  - Zero engagement of social determinants

# Summary & Future Directions



- Need more encompassing frameworks & cross-system partnerships
  - Potential for interdisciplinary collaboration between criminology and public health
  - Applying a social determinants lens → upstream engagement
  - Potential to shift justice response to community-based services response
- **Hope:** youth linked to post-exit housing options and relevant social services were more likely to obtain stable housing and avoid future contact with the justice system.
- Interventions at the system level hold promise for reducing youth homelessness for those in contact with the justice system



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