

January 2016

WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

WITHOUT HOUSING

DECADES OF FEDERAL HOUSING CUTBACKS

MASSIVE HOMELESSNESS

AND POLICY FAILURES



www.wraphome.org

Member Organizations

Coalition on Homelessness

San Francisco, CA
www.cohsf.org/en/

Denver Homeless Out Loud

Denver, CO
www.denverhomelessoutloud.org

Los Angeles Community Action Network

Los Angeles, CA
www.cangress.org

Right 2 Survive PDX

Portland, OR
www.right2survive.wordpress.com

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee

Sacramento, CA
www.sacshoc.org

St. Mary's Center

Oakland, CA
www.stmaryscenter.org

Sisters Of The Road

Portland, OR
www.sistersoftheroad.org

Street Roots

Portland, OR
www.streetroots.org

Street Spirit

San Francisco, CA
www.thestreetspirit.org

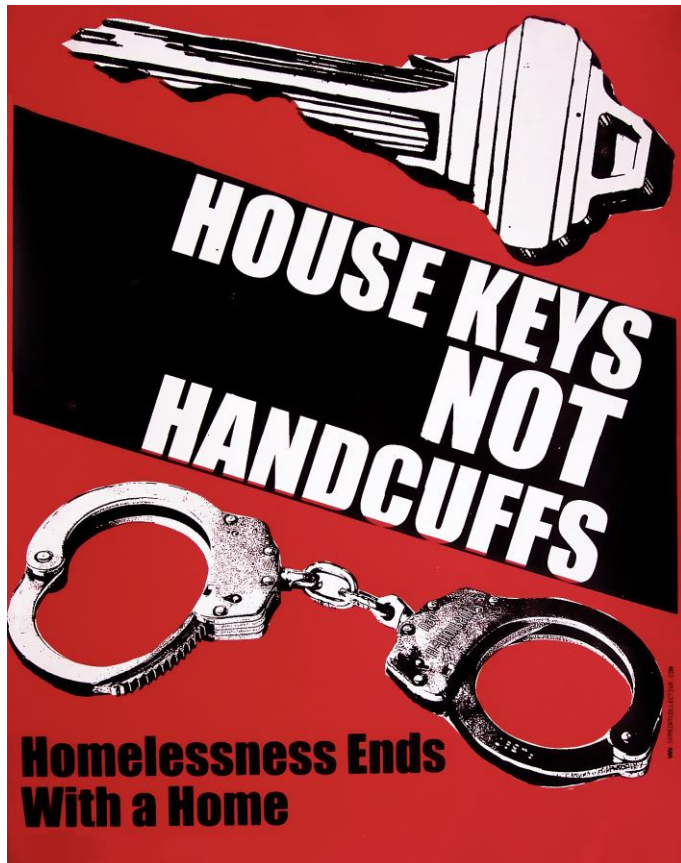


Coalition on Homelessness
San Francisco



ST. MARY'S CENTER
Everybody needs a place

Overview



Artist: San Francisco Print
Collective

1. Historical Context
2. Political & Economic Factors
3. Cuts to Low-Income Housing Programs
4. Homelessness in the U.S.
5. Band-Aid Solutions
6. Federal Funding Priorities
7. What *must* be done!



A Tale of Two Acts

Over the last century there have been two episodes of mass homelessness in the United States. Legislation from each era tells the story...

Act I



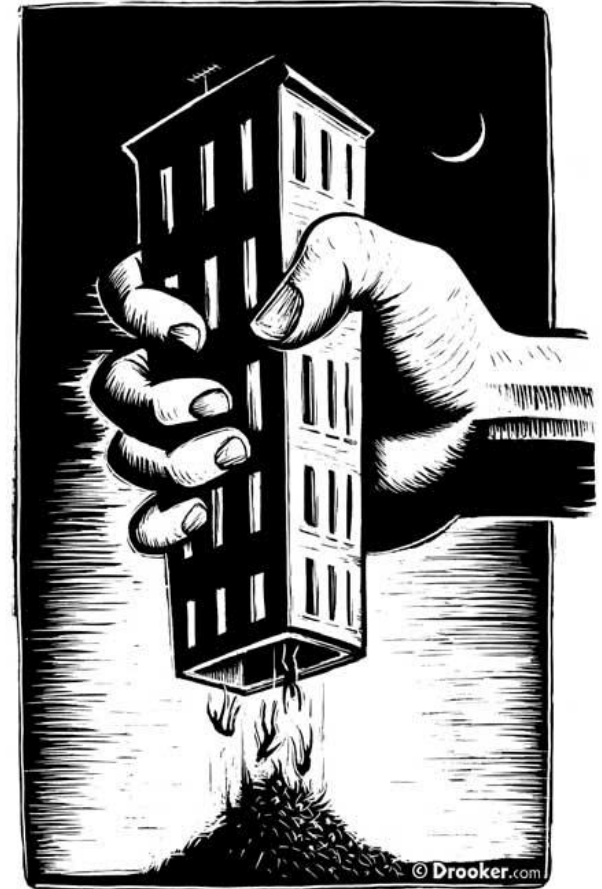
Artist: Claire
Leighton

- **The Housing Act of 1937 committed:**
“to remedy the unsafe & unsanitary housing conditions & the acute shortage of decent, safe, & sanitary dwellings for families of lower income...”

Act II

- The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 declared:

“the Federal Government cannot through its direct action alone provide housing of every American, or even the majority of its citizens.”



Artist: Eric
Drooker

War on the Poor



Artist: Art
Hazelwood

- Trickle-down economics
- Welfare reform
- Mass imprisonment
- Punitive immigration policies
- Attacks on unions
- Income inequality, job insecurity, & debt
- Privatization of public services

Housing As Commodity

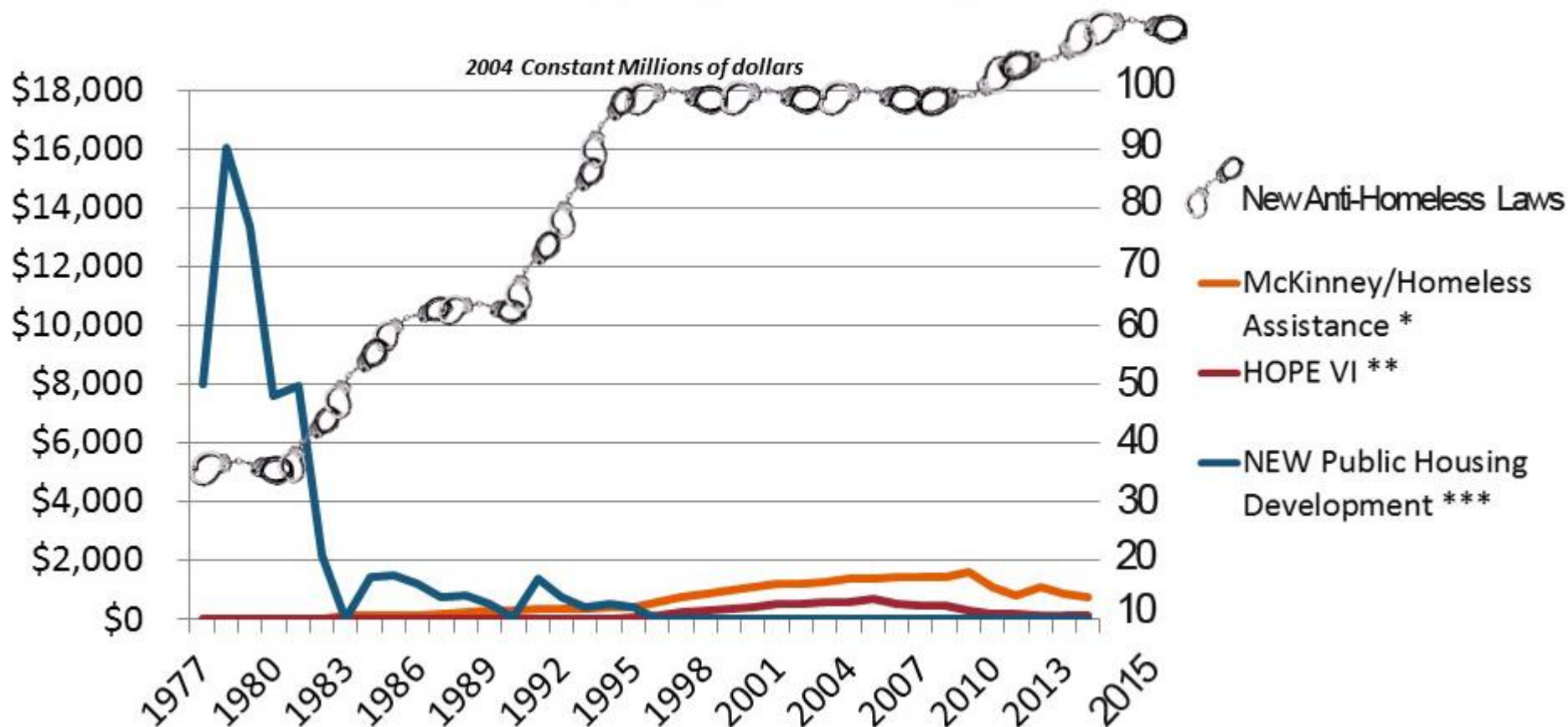
- Feds turn housing over to private market in the 1970s.
- 261,419 Units of Public Housing lost through sale, demolition & HOPE VI – Estimates including Project based Section 8 well over 360,000.
- Over 5 million foreclosures from 2008 - 2014.
- 13 million vacant housing units in 2013.



Artist: Jos
Sances

Cause and Effect

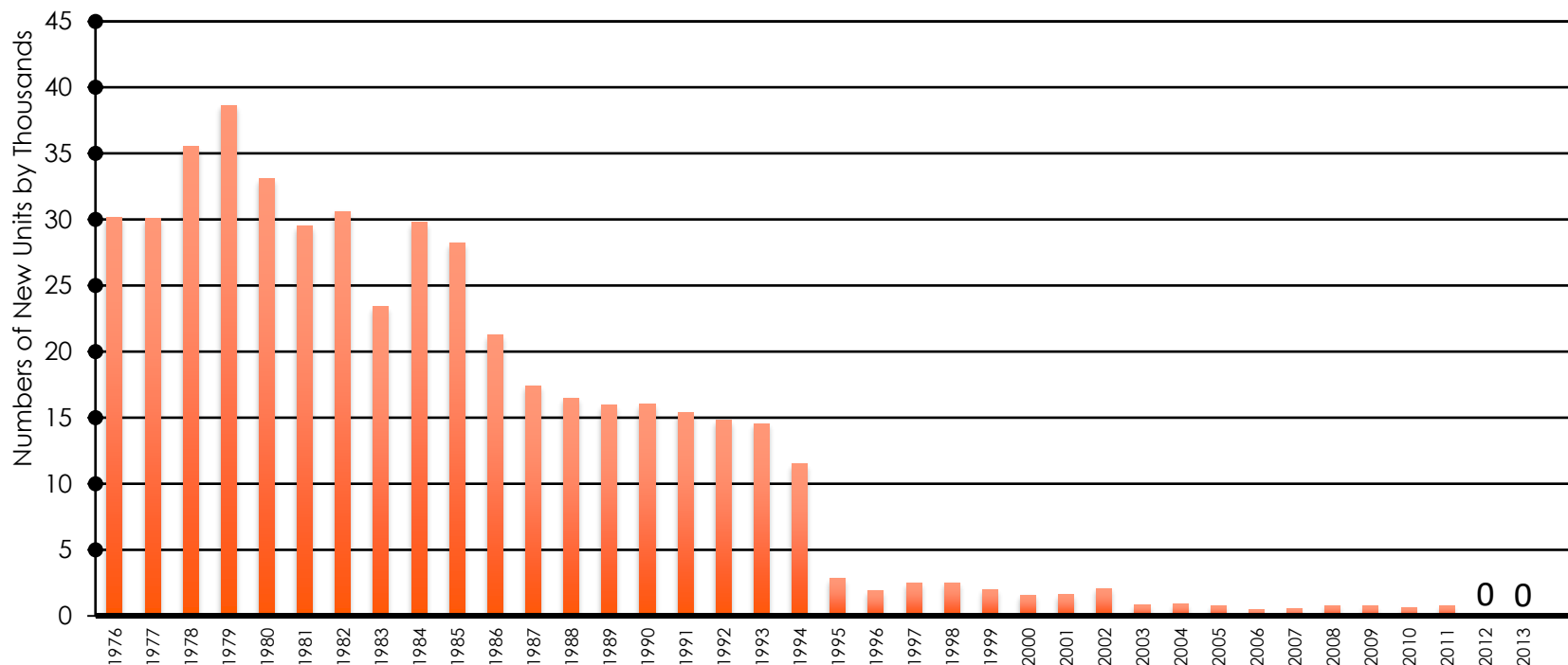
HUD's budget authority was cut by 77% from 1978 to 1983.
Since 1983 Laws Criminalizing Homelessness tripled (Calif).



Rural Housing Cuts

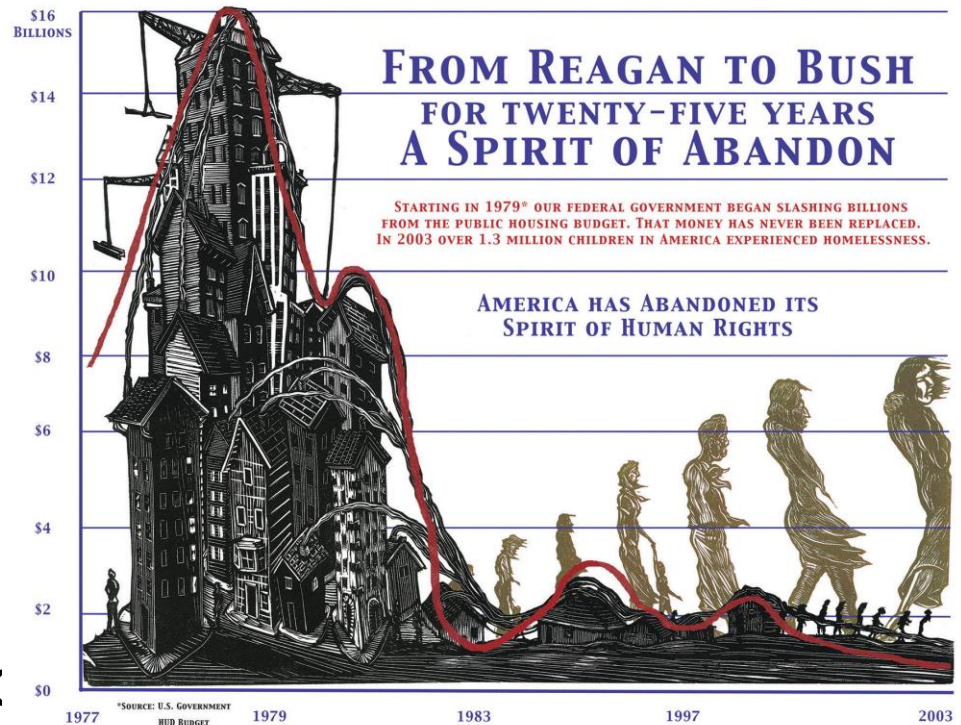
**USDA built 38,650 affordable housing units in 1979
& only 763 in 2011 — in 2012 & 2013 the number is 0.**

Rural Affordable Housing Units Created by Section 515 (USDA)



Starving Public Housing

- Over 260,000 units lost through sales, demolition, & HOPE VI program.
- \$26 billion in repairs needed due to ongoing capital fund cuts.
- HUD now says only private investment can save public housing.
- New demonstration allows 60,000 units to be mortgaged off.
- Nation's most permanent form of low-income housing is being lost.

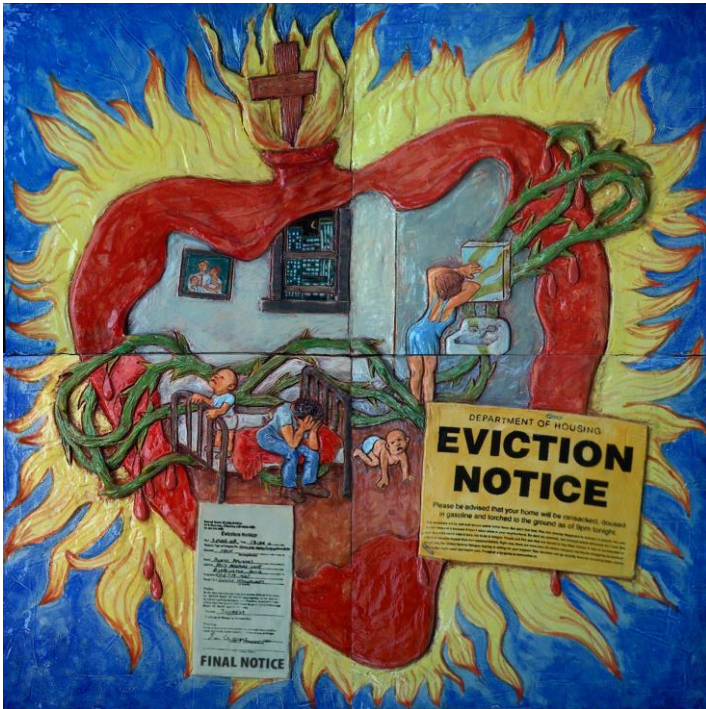


Artist: Art
Hazelwood

Race & Homelessness

Race/Ethnicity	Estimated % of nation's total population (from US Census Data 2010)	Estimated % of nation's homeless population (homeless counts/surveys between 1991 and 2009)
African-American	12.6%	40-56%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.8% - 0.2%	1-3% - 1%
Hispanic/Latino	16.3%	12-15%
Native American	0.9%	3-4%
White	72.4%	32-39%

Impacts on Communities



Artist: Jos
Sances

- Families with children are fastest growing group of homeless people.
- Seniors and people with disabilities can be found in shelters and under bridges in many communities.
- Lack of legal status, rights, & public benefits fuels homelessness amongst undocumented immigrants.

The Vicious Cycle of Homeless Policy



Criminalization of Homelessness / Poverty

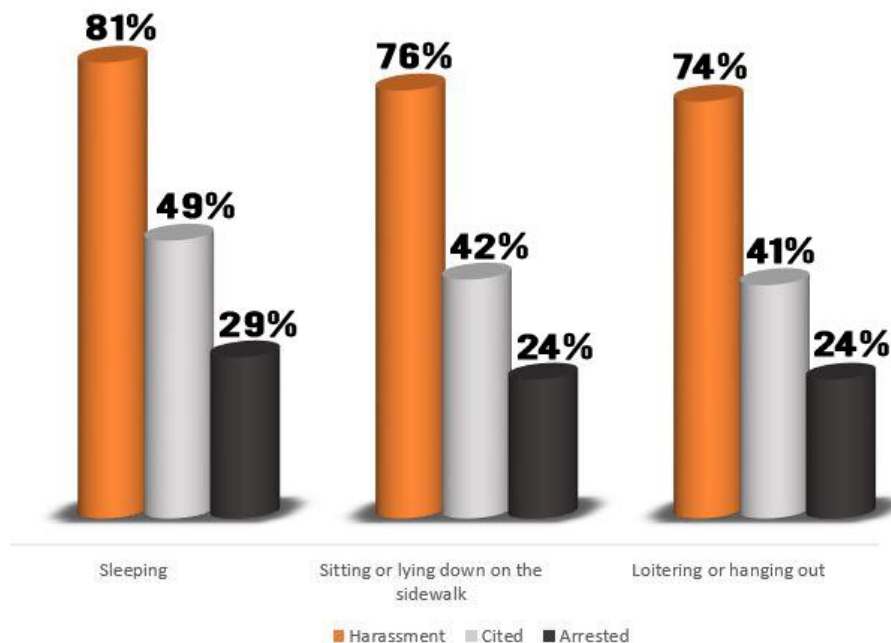
At the heart of our Civil Rights work is outreach to homeless and poor people that documents their experiences with local police and private security. We have recently surveyed **1,527** people in 17 cities throughout 8 states. There can be no denying that “Broken Windows,” “Quality of Life,” “Civil Sidewalks,” and “Safer Cities” initiatives are anything less than a reincarnation of “Ugly Laws,” “Anti-Okie laws,” “Sundown Towns,” “Bracero Treaty” and “Jim Crow” when you hear directly the voices of those who are the targets of today’s campaigns.

The main “illegal offenses” that homeless people are being targeted with:

- * **81%** for sleeping, with **49%** of these people cited and **29%** arrested
- * **76%** for sitting or lying down, with **42%** of these people cited and **24%** arrested
- * **74%** for loitering or hanging out, with **41%** of these people cited and **24%** arrested

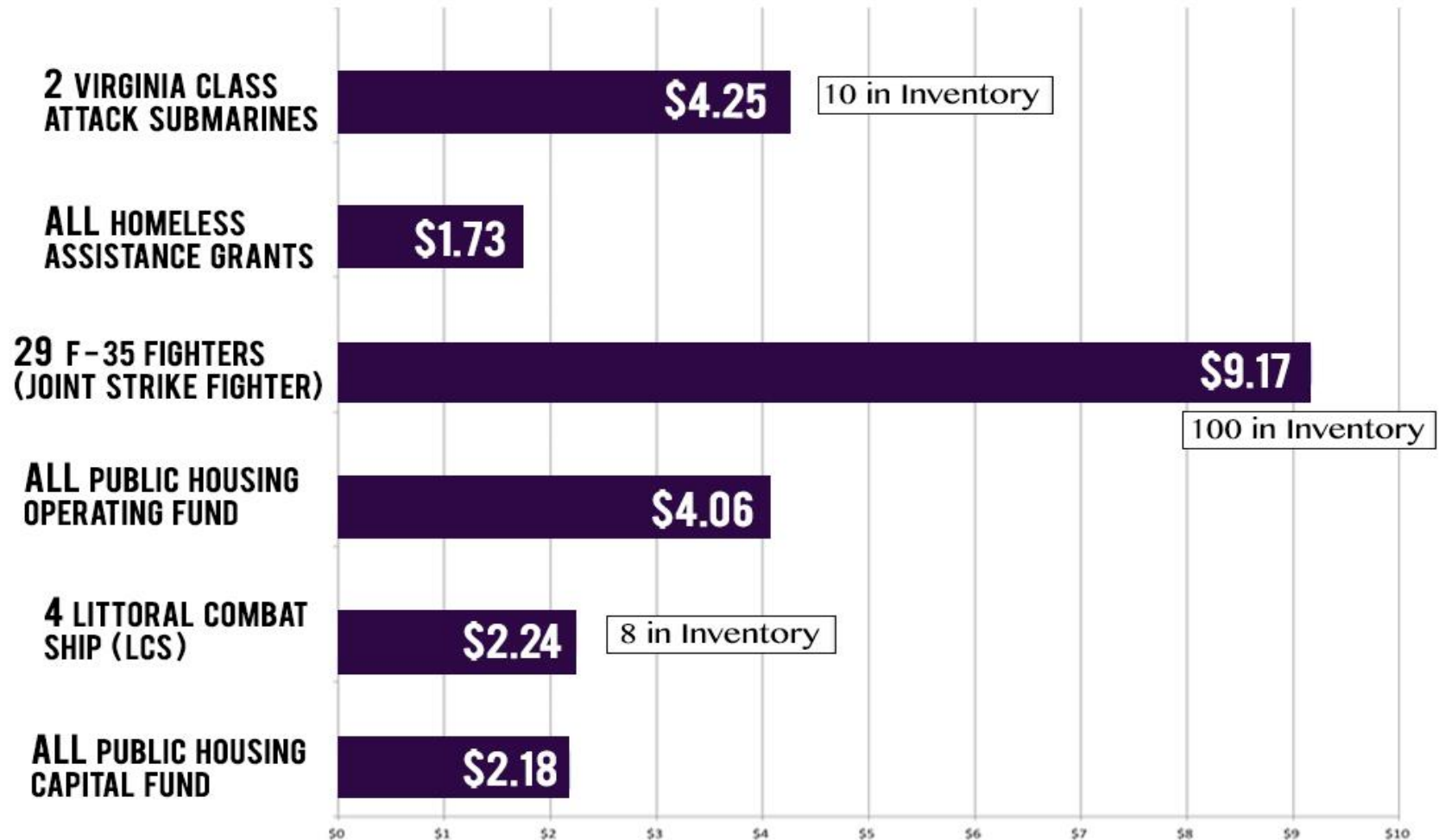
Do you know of places where it is safe and legal for you to sleep outside?

- * **73%** No
- * **27%** Yes



Comparison of Federal Funding Priorities

2013 Dollars (in Billions)

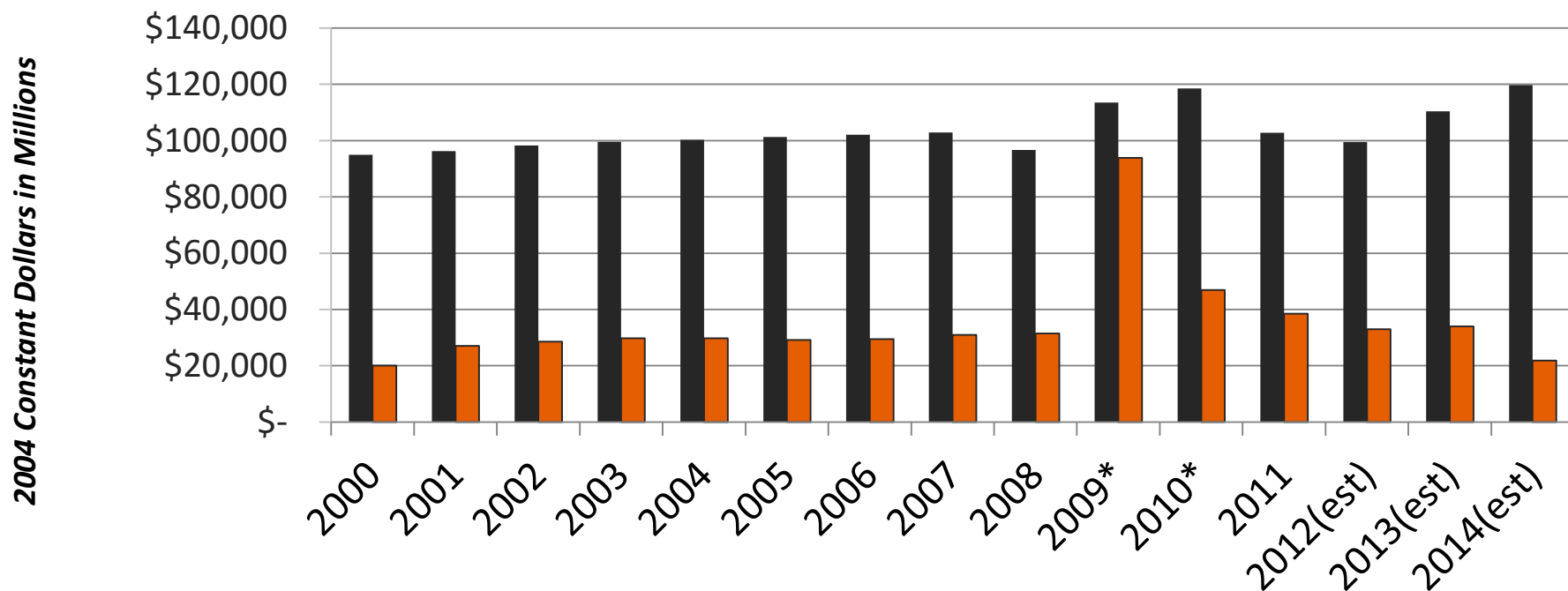


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Mortgage Interest Deductions

■ Federal Tax Expenditures on Home Ownership

■ HUD Low/Moderate-Income Housing Assistance



* Includes stimulus funding under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Organize Around People



Artist: Art
Hazelwood

- Build alliances across race, nationality, class, gender, & religion.
- Connect organizing for housing to education, health care, dignified work, immigrant rights, Native People's sovereignty, & economic security.
- Value mutual humanity.

Download Without Housing

www.wraphome.org



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