

April 2021

WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

WITHOUT HOUSING

DECADES OF FEDERAL HOUSING CUTBACKS

MASSIVE HOMELESSNESS

AND POLICY FAILURES



Ronnie Goodman 1960 - 2020



www.wraphome.org

Member Organizations

**SISTERS
OF THE
ROAD**



Coalition on Homelessness
San Francisco, CA
www.cohsf.org

**Sacramento Homeless
Organizing Committee**
Sacramento, CA
www.sacshoc.org



**Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco**



Housekeys Action Network Denver
Denver, CO
<https://housekeysactionnetwork.com>

St. Mary's Center
Oakland, CA
www.stmaryscenter.org

**Los Angeles Community Action
Network**
Los Angeles, CA
www.cangress.org

Sisters Of The Road
Portland, OR
www.sistersoftheroad.org



Right 2 Survive PDX
Portland, OR
www.right2survive.wordpress.com



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



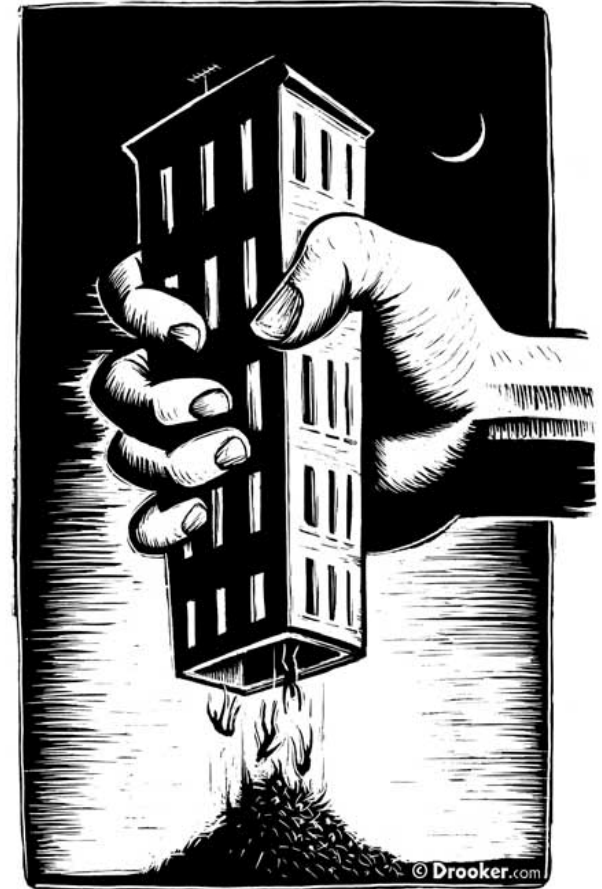
Artist: Claire
Leighton

- **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

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.

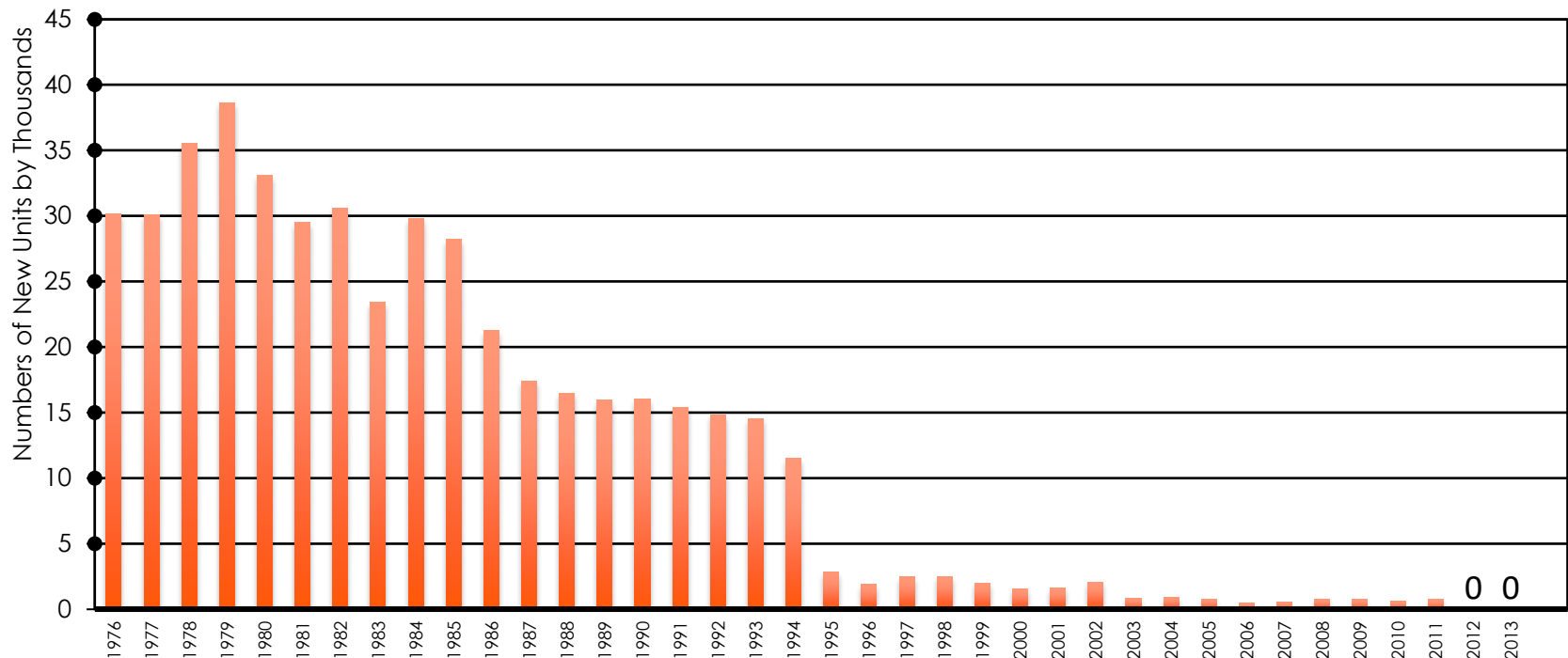


Artist: Jos
Sances

Rural Housing Cuts

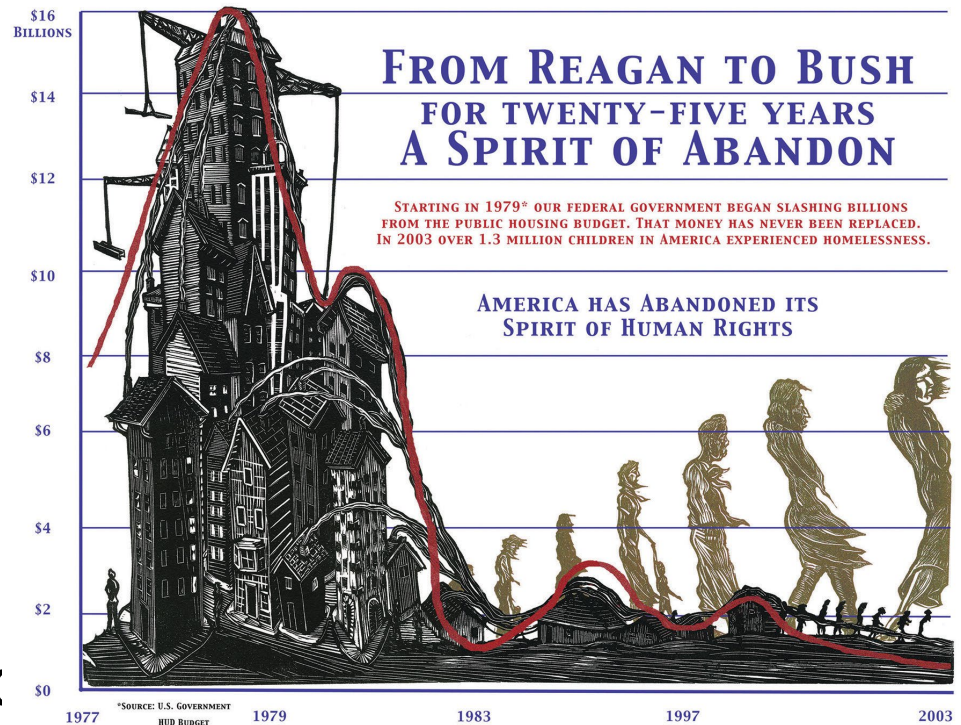
**USDA built 38,650 affordable housing units in 1979
& only 763 in 2011 — in 2012 & 2013 the number is 0.**

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.

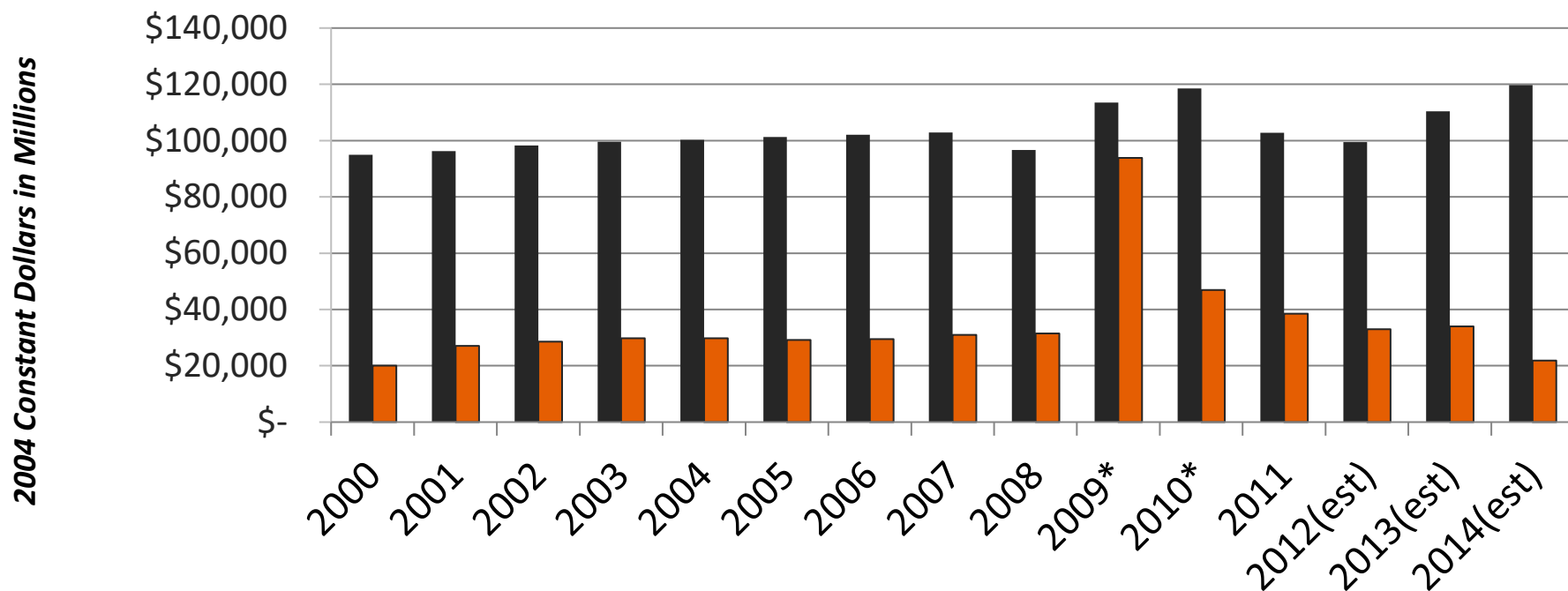


Artist: Art
Hazelwood

Mortgage Interest Deductions

■ Federal Tax Expenditures on Home Ownership

■ HUD Low/Moderate-Income Housing Assistance



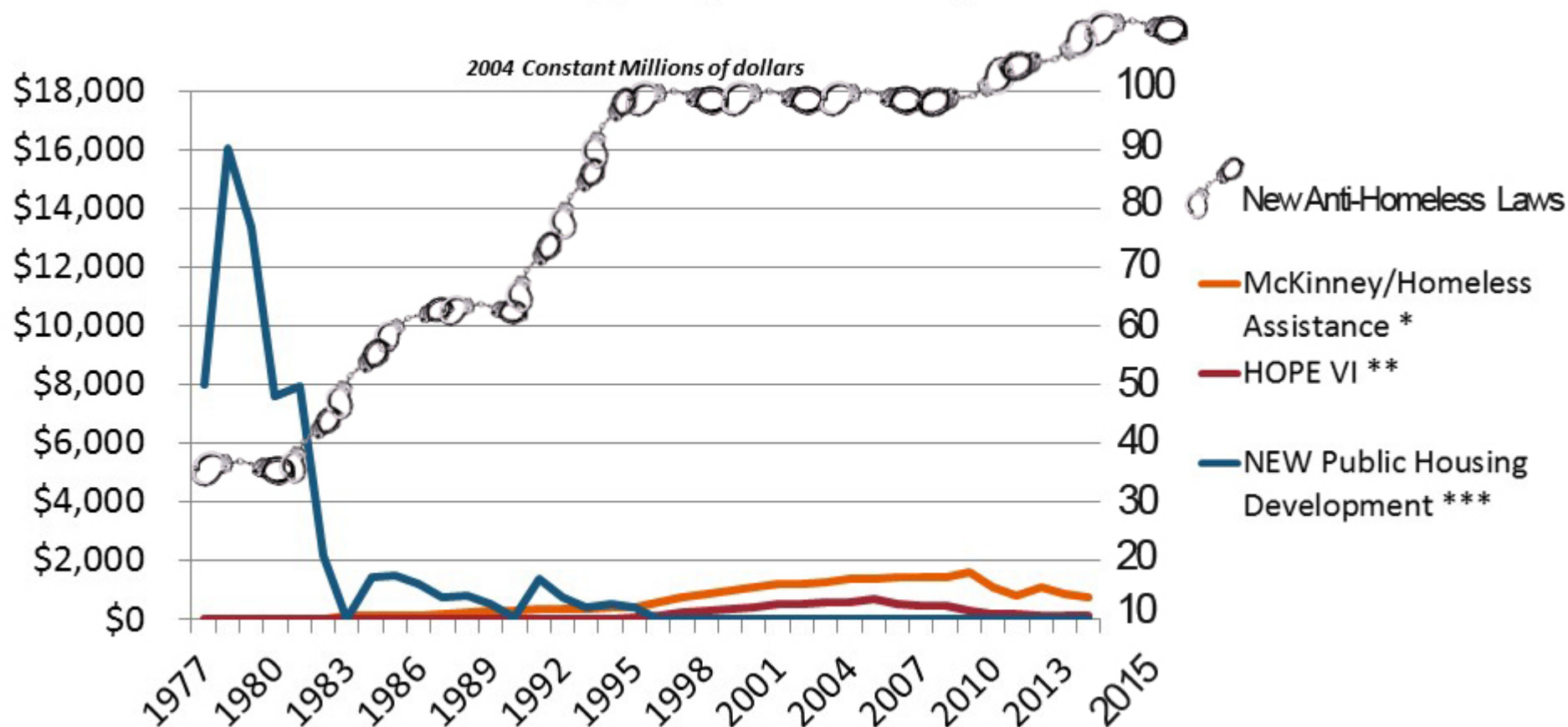
* Includes stimulus funding under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The Vicious Cycle of Homeless Policy



Cause and Effect

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



Criminalization of Homelessness / Poverty

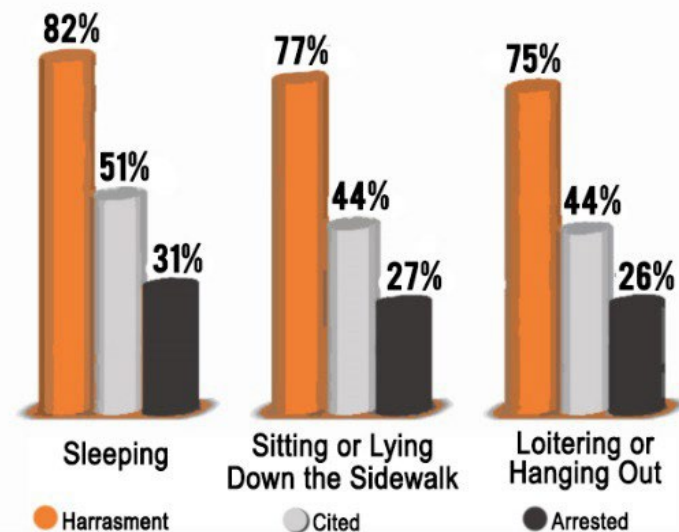
At the heart of our Civil Rights work is outreach to homeless and poor people that documents their experiences with local police and private security. We have recently surveyed **1,657** people in five states and twelve cities. There can be no denying that “Broken Windows,” “Quality of Life,” “Civil 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:

- **82%** for sleeping, with **51%** of these people cited and **31%** arrested
- **77%** for sitting or lying down, with **44%** of these people cited and **27%** arrested
- **75%** for loitering or hanging out, with **43%** of these people cited and **26%** arrested

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

- * **74%** No
- * **26%** Yes



Download Without Housing Report

www.wraphome.org



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