IDAHO'S JUSTICE SYSTEM AND HOMELESSNESS

WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Analysis of Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) and homelessness response service data from 2018–2025 demonstrates substantial overlap between Idaho's criminal justice and homelessness response systems, with important differences by incarceration history, gender, and region. This analysis does not include the 877 individuals in the dataset who were incarcerated throughout the study period, leaving 62,220 individuals eligible for analysis.

Of those **62,220 individuals**
13.0% (8,077) accessed homelessness response services.

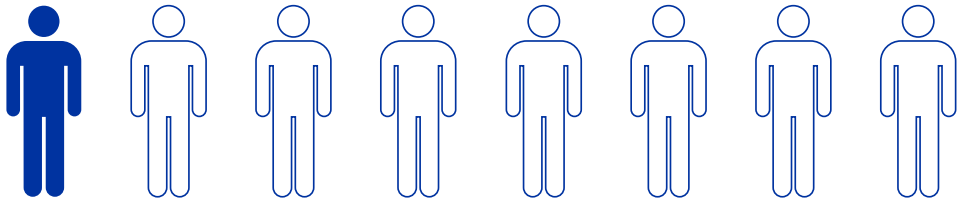
50.6% **93.4%**

31,464
experienced incarceration
21.8% (13,766) incarcerated more than once.

58,086
experienced community supervision
(probation or parole)

43.3% **27,330** experienced both

1 in 8 IDOC-involved individuals accessed homelessness response services.



Among the **8,077 IDOC-involved individuals** who accessed homelessness response services:

- 49.8% (4,019 people) had an emergency shelter record,
- 32.4% accessed housing assistance,
- 21.4% are in coordinated entry,
- 18.2% accessed homelessness prevention.

Individuals may have accessed more than one service type.

These service categories can overlap and reflect recorded service-system interactions, not necessarily mutually exclusive episodes of homelessness.

REPEAT INCARCERATION WAS ASSOCIATED WITH GREATER HOMELESSNESS-SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

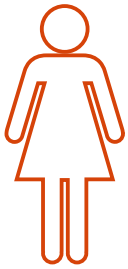
Among the **13,766 individuals** incarcerated multiple times,
18.8% accessed homelessness response services,
compared with **12.2%** of those incarcerated once.

Subsequent incarceration also varied substantially by type of homelessness response service.

Within 12 months of service enrollment, **21.6%** of IDOC-involved individuals entering emergency shelter experienced a new incarceration, compared with **11.9%** entering rapid rehousing and **7.0%** entering permanent supportive housing.

These differences are descriptive and do not establish that housing interventions caused the lower rates.

WOMEN WERE NEARLY TWICE AS LIKELY AS MEN TO ACCESS HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SERVICES

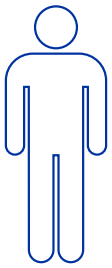


19.6%
(3,151 of 16,072)

of women accessed homelessness response services.

10.5%
(4,927 of 47,019)

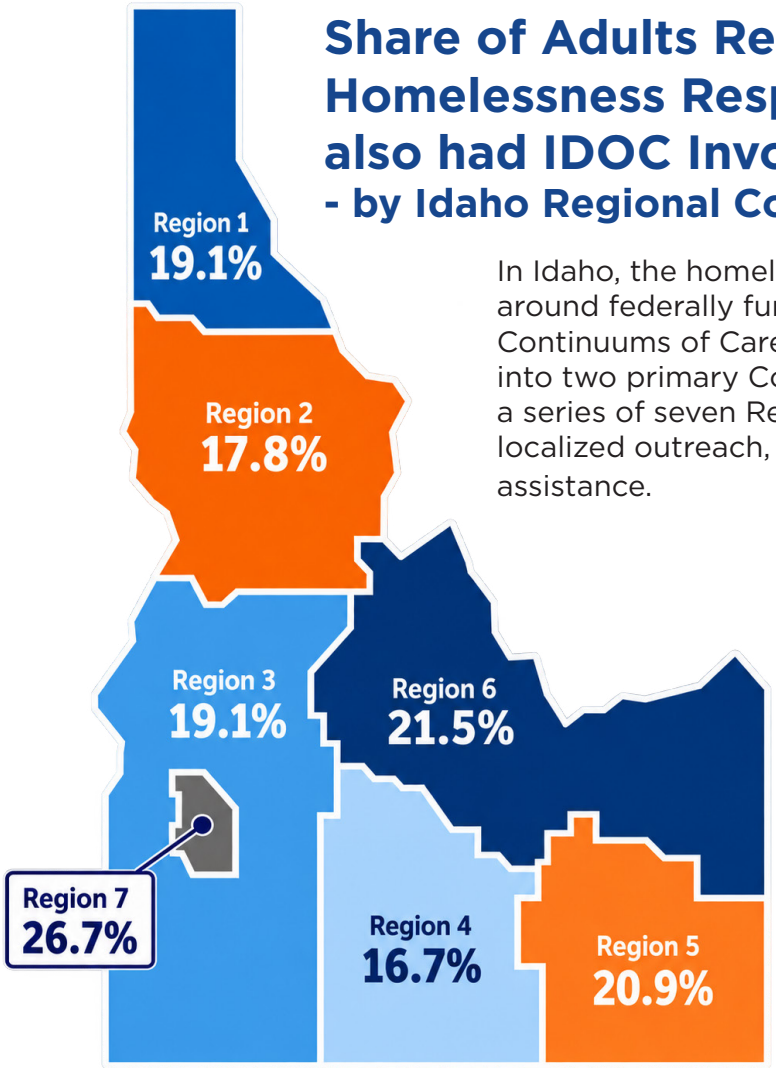
of men accessed homelessness response services.



WHY IT MATTERS

Idaho's criminal justice and homelessness response systems serve overlapping, but not homogeneous, populations. Differences by incarceration history, gender, geography, and service use suggest that different populations may require different interventions, from homelessness prevention and housing assistance to transitional housing and more intensive supports for people exiting incarceration. The lower rates of subsequent incarceration observed among individuals entering rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing further point to the importance of understanding how access to stable housing may support successful reentry. Stronger coordination and continuity across systems, coupled with services tailored to individuals' level and type of need, may help people stabilize in the community, reduce reliance on emergency homelessness services, and reduce both housing instability and future justice-system involvement.

Share of Adults Receiving Homelessness Response Services who also had IDOC Involvement
- by Idaho Regional Coalition



In Idaho, the homeless service network is structured around federally funded local networks known as Continuums of Care (CoCs). The state is divided into two primary CoC jurisdictions, within which a series of seven Regional Coalitions coordinate localized outreach, resource allocation, and housing assistance.

Among clients accessing services in **Region 7, 11.9%** also received services in another region, including

Among clients in **Regions 1–6, 3.6%** received services in more than one region.

Note: Homelessness response services provided to people experiencing homelessness include prevention, coordinated entry, emergency shelter, and street outreach as well as housing assistance such as transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

Regional boundaries reflect homelessness response service regions and differ from IDOC districts and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare regions. Region 7 represents Ada County.

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