



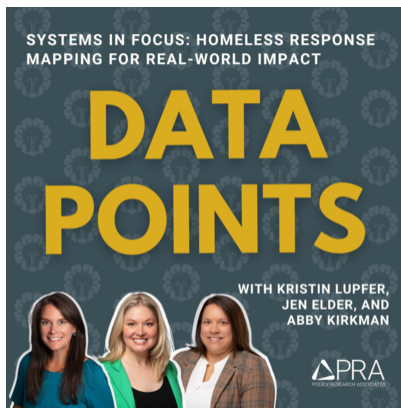
In February, Policy Research led a 2-day Homeless Response Systems Mapping (HRSM) Workshop in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Facilitators gathered community leaders to identify resources and service gaps and develop practical strategies to address homelessness across systems.

What Happened: Participants identified the community's current approach to homelessness, highlighting strengths and critical gaps in services.

Why It Matters: Homelessness significantly impacts community health and quality of life. In Mecklenburg County, where demand for housing stability and coordinated care continues to grow, the Homeless Response Systems Mapping Workshop offered an opportunity to align partners, identify service gaps, and strengthen prevention strategies.

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New Data Points Episode: Homeless

Response Mapping for Real-World Impact


Join Vice President Kristin Lupfer, MSW, and Senior Project Associates, Jen Elder, MSc, and Abby Kirkman, MA, in our newest episode of *Data Points*.

They explore how Homeless Response Systems Mapping Workshops help communities identify service gaps, build connections, and develop action-driven plans to prevent and end homelessness. 

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Real Communities, Real Change

Our Homeless Response Systems Mapping Workshops help communities build momentum by turning collaboration into practical action. In Mecklenburg County, NC, participants left the event energized and ready to act.

When asked about the most helpful aspects of the mapping workshop, attendees highlighted "rethinking the system through the lens of prevention, pathways in and out, and wraparound services..."  **[READ](#)**

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Research That Resonates: From Publication to Positive Social Change

 	Article
	Housing and Homelessness as a Public Health Issue: Executive Summary of Policy Adopted by the American Public Health Association
	Authors
	Jen Elder, MSc, & Ben King, PhD, MPH
	Journal
	Medical Care
	Year
	2019



In 2019, Policy Research Senior Project Associate Jen Elder, MSc, co-authored the article "[Housing and Homelessness as a Public Health Issue: Executive Summary of Policy Adopted by the American Public Health Association](#)." Elder and her co-author, Ben King, PhD, underscored that stable housing is critical for community health and can significantly reduce health risks and healthcare expenses associated with homelessness.

Research Impact: Since its publication, this article has informed housing initiatives across the country, including perspectives on paths to universal housing in California. It has also influenced public conversations around housing policies and homelessness prevention. Recent news coverage by *Finance & Commerce*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and *Yahoo! News* has underscored how investing in stable housing strengthens public health and community resilience.

Sketching Strategies for Reform: Inside PRI's IMPACT Network for Behavioral Health

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Since 2015, the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) has grown to an over \$400 million national initiative funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Policy Research, Inc. (PRI) has partnered with the MacArthur Foundation to help SJC communities reduce the number of individuals with mental illness, substance use, and other complex needs who are involved, or at risk of involvement with, their local criminal legal system. The following is a glimpse into the work of 17 SJC sites that have participated in a behavioral-health-focused peer learning model led by PRI.

[Learn More](#)

Sarah Desmarais Named to the NCJA Crime and Justice Research Alliance

President and CEO Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD, has been named an expert to the National Criminal Justice Association's [Crime and Justice Research Alliance](#). The Alliance provides policymakers, practitioners, reporters, and the public with the latest research on crime and the criminal legal system. As an expert, Dr. Desmarais will share her research and expertise on a national platform to advance criminal legal reform using evidence-based practices.

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Everything to Know About the Systems Mapping and Training Center at Policy Research

Policy Research leads the nation in driving sustainable, impactful change for people with behavioral health conditions. Ready to transform your community? [Contact us!](#)

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