HOUSING FIRST VALUES

CHOOSING LONG VIEW OVER SHORT TERM GAME

Presentation for Housing First Europe Hub Meeting
Feantsa Forum 2026 Warsaw

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HF PROGRAMS PL

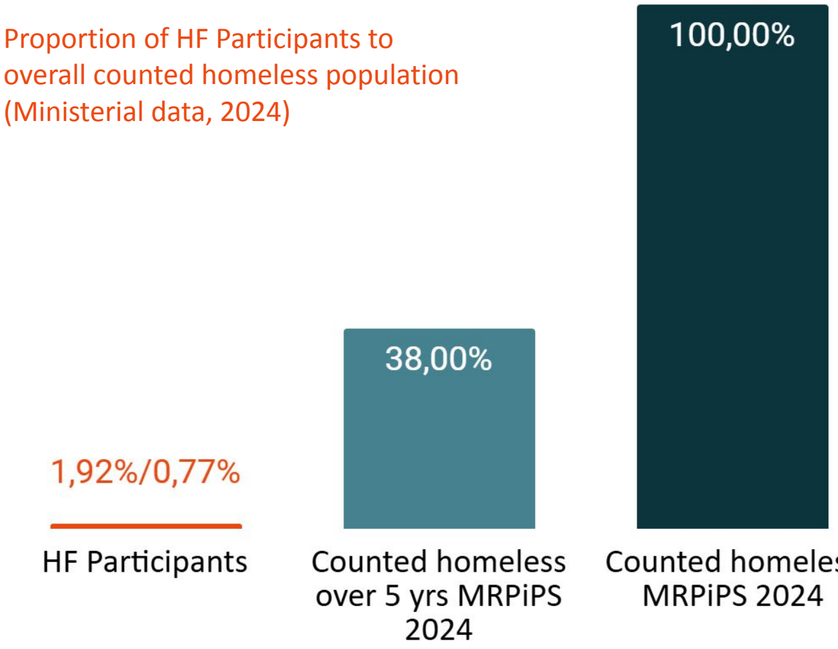
Participants 🤷
- 240 people are currently participating in all surveyed programs
- 494 people have participated (445 were confirmed in the current study) since the begining of HF in Poland in 2019
- Among participants there has been no person of non-normative gender and the gender proportion was 25%F 75%M
- Among participants of all programs there are people with intensive support needs.

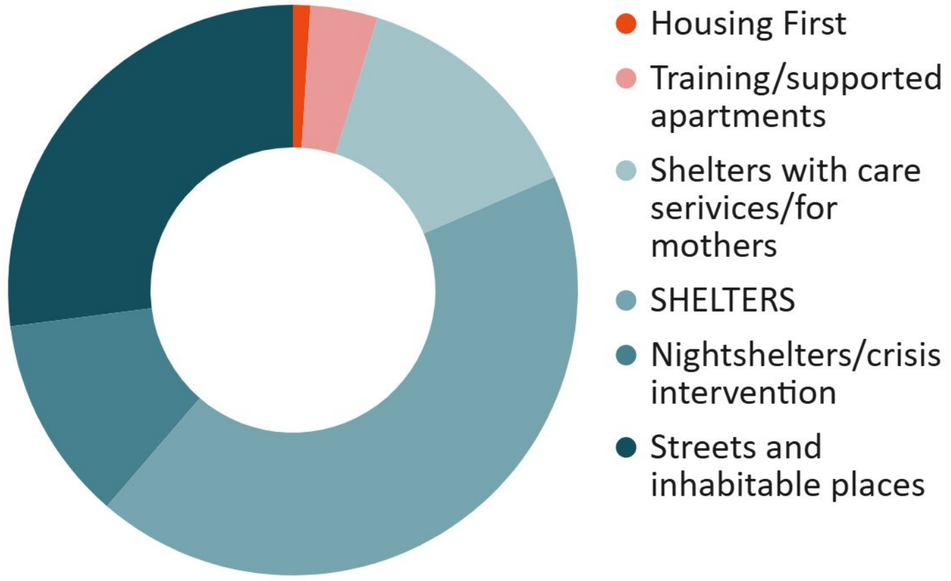


ARTICLE

THE STUDY OF HOUSING FIRST IN POLAND

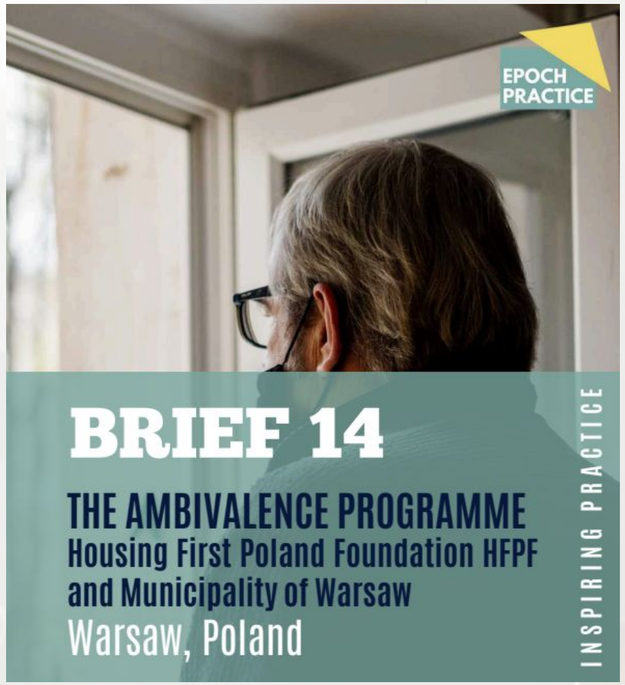
Proportion of HF Participants to overall counted homeless population (Ministerial data, 2024)

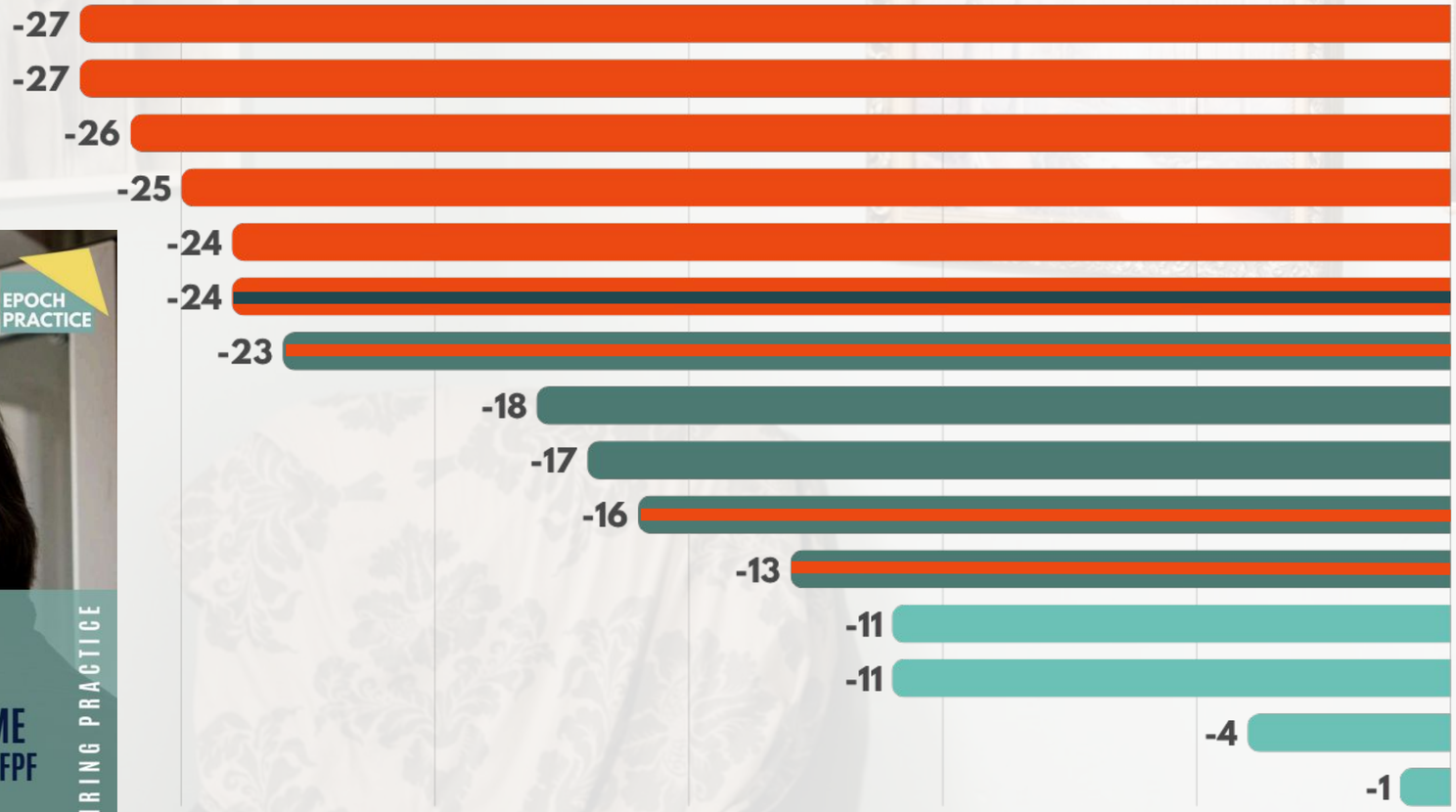




PROGRAM EXAMPLE - AMBIVALENCE FNMP

Concentration on long term support and HF Values





> 2 YEARS
(6 Participants)

2 -1 YEAR
(5 Participants)

< 1 YEAR
(4 recent engagements)

SYSTEM CHANGE

HF requires shifting many paradigms not one:
shelter ⇔ housing
social work ⇔ therapy and health
abstinence ⇔ harm reduction
expertise: support worker ⇔ participant
information sharing:
support worker and external institutions ⇔ participant and support worker

Other policy frameworks are chosen instead of HF:

- supported apartments with HF as a specialist service necessary to have high fidelity to American model
- deinstitutionalisation with strong emphasis that shelters are still needed, apartments should be scattered and streetwork as a overarching outreach service

Neglecting Housing First in the draft of welfare reform:
HFPF and 11 service provides issued a statement to include HF in the amendment to Social Welfare Act =>

POSITION ON INCLUDING HOUSING FIRST IN THE AMENDMENT TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACT

This is the position to include Housing First Program as a specialist service in the catalogue of the services provided by Polish local governments based on the Social Welfare Act.

Social Welfare Act is now under reform. The amendment was published by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy. The general declared purpose of the reform is to shift welfare services from provided in institutions to individual apartments in the community with services adequate to people's needs and choices.

Regardless of Housing First being the perfect example of such service, it has not been included in the reform. Housing First Poland Foundation together with 10 other organizations working with people with the experience of homelessness and mental health crises put forward this position to change it.

Polish data shows that providing Housing First to people with the long-term experience of homelessness could result in a reduction in the scale of homelessness by at least:

⬇ 25%

A decrease that has never been observed in Poland!

Stanowisko w sprawi...
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VALUE BASED APPROACH

RECOVERY

Recovery as the right to full physical, mental and social wellbeing with appreciation for each step towards better health and the fact that full health, such as abstinence from substances, is a goal rather than a means.

DECISIONS

Decisions as the right to take one's own decisions concerning one's life and goals, without them being suggested or enforced by support workers, without anticipation of their appearance, making sure that they develop one's agency.

RELATIONSHIP

Relationship as a safe space for support worker and the customer to express themselves and receive each others reactions; it is to model good behaviours.

SUPPORT

Support as access to individualised, multidisciplinary and continuous support relevant to health diagnosis and goals eg. personal assistae, trauma informed care, psychiatric and mental health services, general health services.

HOUSING

Housing as a right meaning access to an apartment which is independent, private and long term without any preliminary conditions concerning health, treatment, employment or 'readiness'.

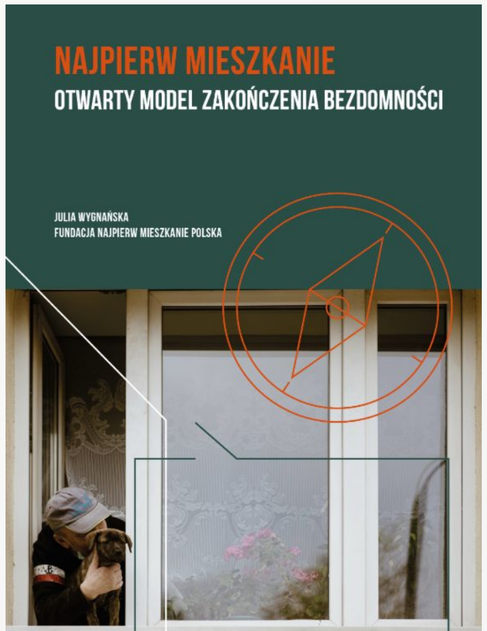
COMMUNITY

Community as the right to be addressed/treated as a member of the local community regardless of the kind of housing situation and the right to housing in a 'social mix' with full access to services available for all members of the community rather than in a special programme, isolated space or institution (deinstitutionalisation).

Inspired by Compass Approach to systemic change

Promoted by Housing First Poland Foundation in:

- Open Model for Ending Homelessness 2023
- presented on European Housing First Partners Conference in Berlin 2025
- tested in various settings e.g. SOLACE-CEE as value based approach 2024-2027



THANK YOU!

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