

Multiple needs; **compounding needs**

- People with the most serious health problems and those most socially disadvantaged by illness or disability have more than one problem.
- The problems interact; they compound.
- Society's responses are major contributors to compounding need.

NSW Prison inmates – **mental** disorders 2003

- 12 month prevalence of any disorder - **74%** cf 22%
- At **reception 46%** had a severe disorder
- On sentencing 38% had a severe disorder
- 2 in 3 at reception had a substance use disorder
- 12 months prior to imprisonment 1 in 20 had attempted suicide
- **Females** higher rates ++ than males





Homeless Men Sydney 1976

- Tuberculosis 5%
- Bronchitis and emphysema 27%
- Asthma 10%
- Hay fever 13%
- Dry cough 43%
- Sputum production 62%
- Haemoptysis 19%
- Current smoking 88%

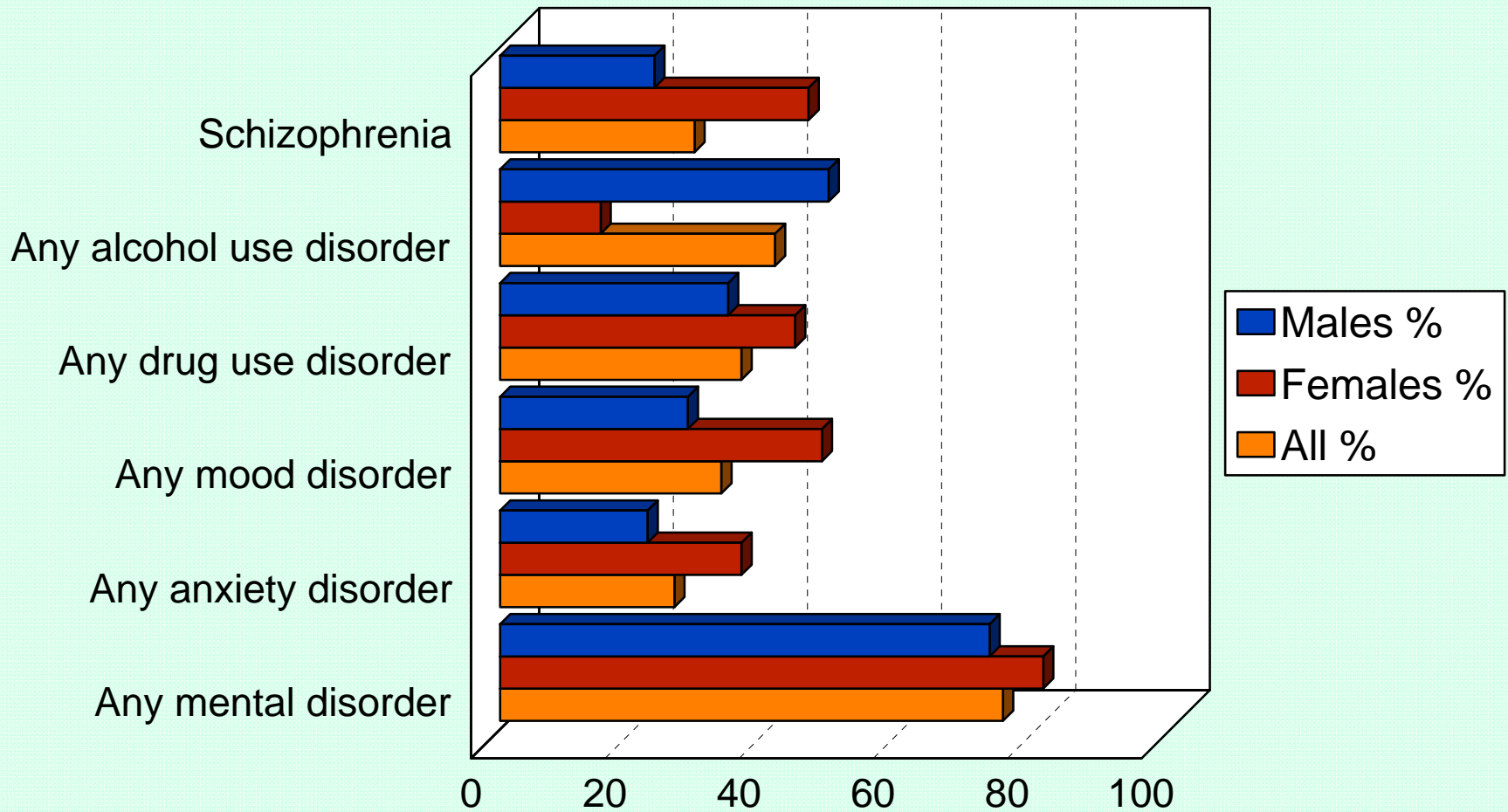
Homeless – medical conditions

- NY study of homeless common disease = 2 to 14 times higher than general population, 1987.
- NY street clinic homeless – average of **nine medical** conditions, NEJM 2004,

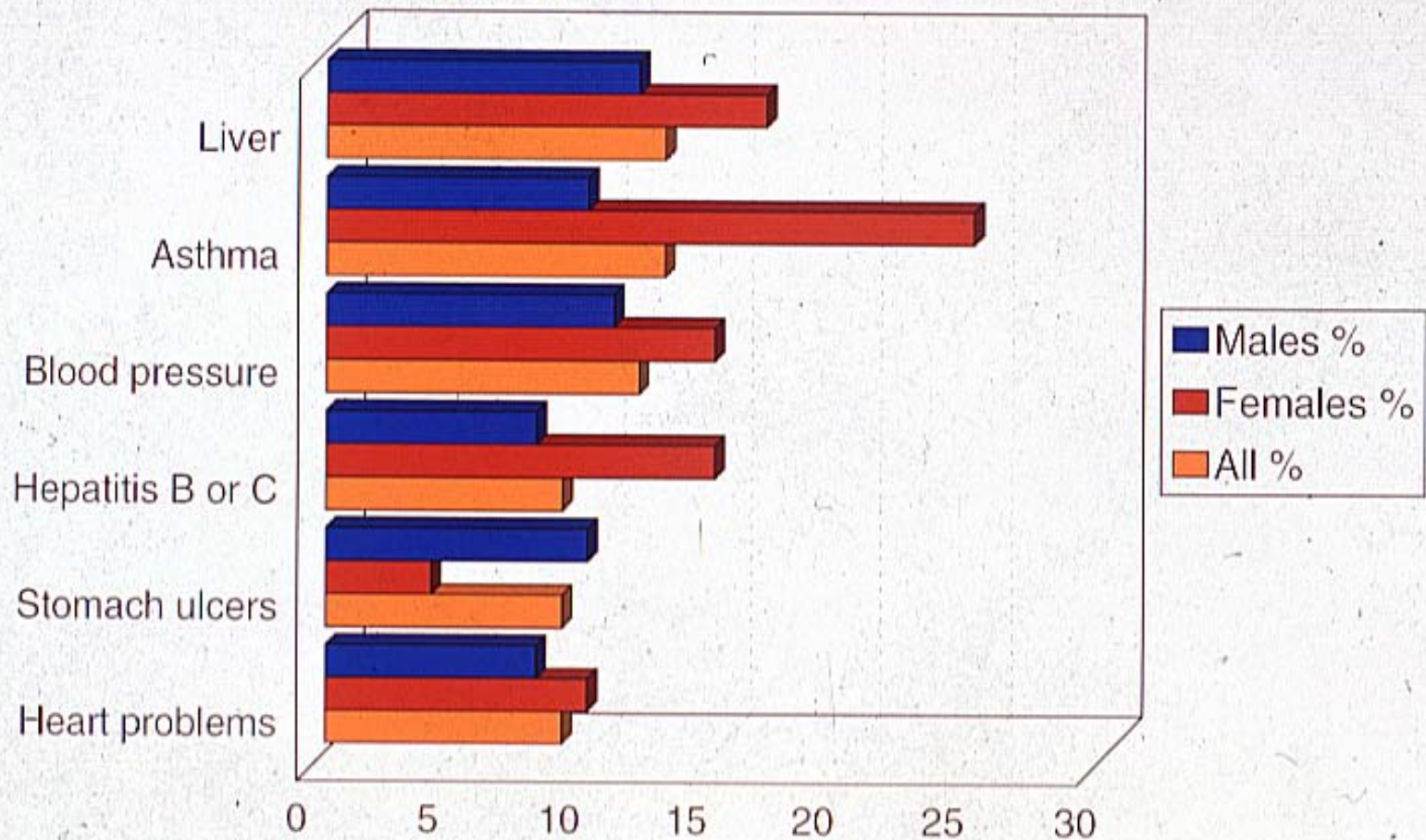
Homeless - Sydney 1998

- 3 in 4 have a mental disorder
- 1 in 2 have a chronic physical illness

Common mental disorders - homeless



Homeless: Self-reported chronic physical illness



Hodder T et al., 1998

Compounding needs

- Problems in several domains
 - Predicaments not diagnoses
 - Narrow eligibility criteria
 - Exclusion criteria
 - Someone else's problem
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- Likelihood of needs being met falls rapidly to zero

Social structural changes

- **Changing epidemiology** – mental health, alcohol and substance use, ageing, survival with diseases
- **Subspecialisation** in medicine
- **Institutional** services cf community services
- **Eligibility** criteria for income support - disability
- Changing prison populations (impaired people)
- Changes to ‘social housing’ (impaired people)

Solutions

- **Childhood and early interventions such as parenting**
- More **comprehensive** services
- Primary (health) care (GP)
- Community-orientated programmes
- **Reachout** programmes e.g. from mental health and drug and alcohol services