

Community Training & Outreach

Property Justice Law Clinic

SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW
*HOMELESS RIGHTS ADVOCACY
PROJECT (HRAP)*

The background is a solid dark red color. A large, lighter red semi-circle is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the dark red background.

What is a Sweep?

Sweeps Defined

Sweeps are...

the forced displacement of
homeless encampments on
public property.



Sweeps are...

the involuntary removal of both unhoused individuals and their property from that area.



Sweeps are...

authorized by law – criminal,
public health, sanitation, parking
enforcement, parks.

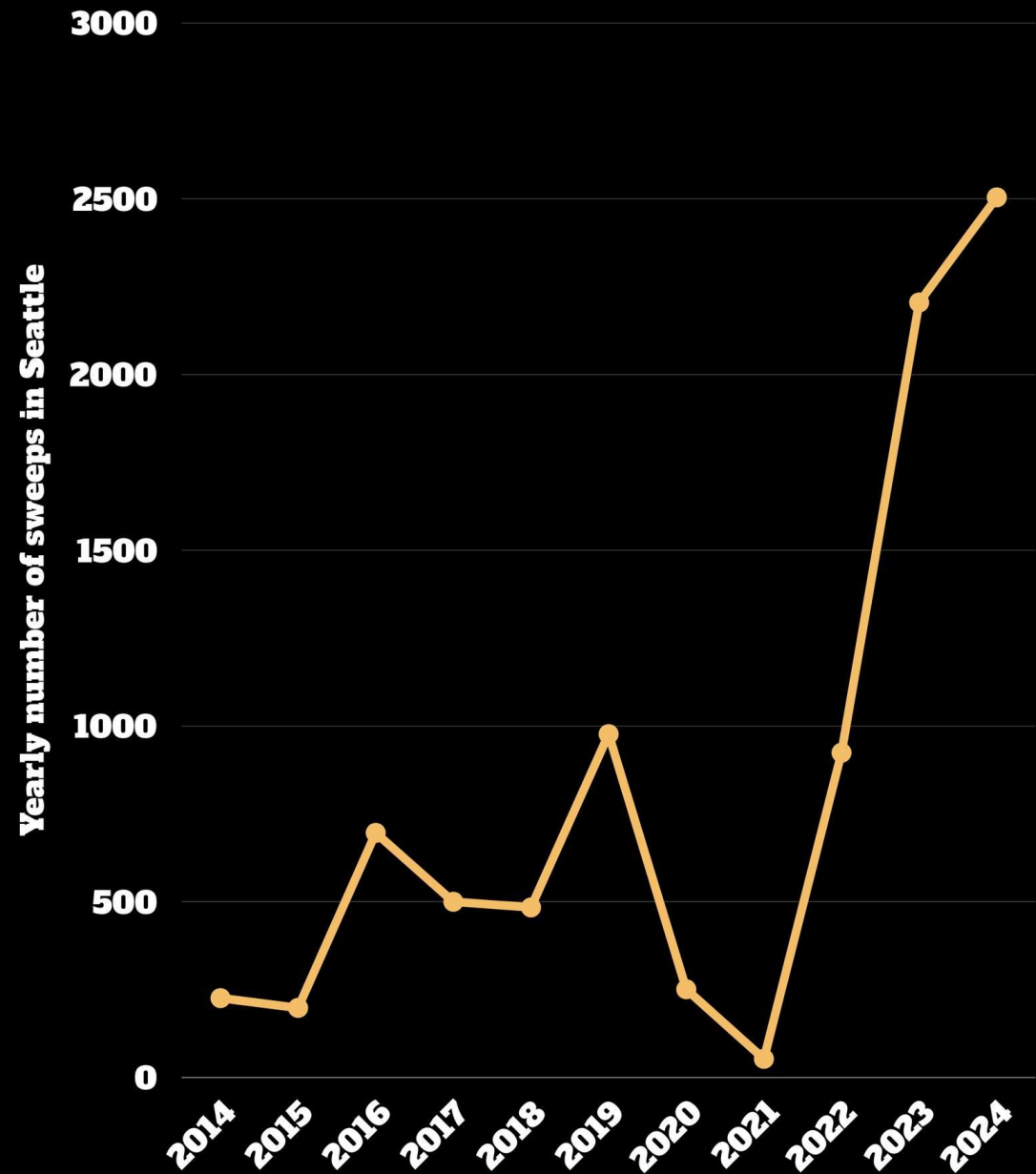


How Sweeps Harm Communities



Sweeps
are...

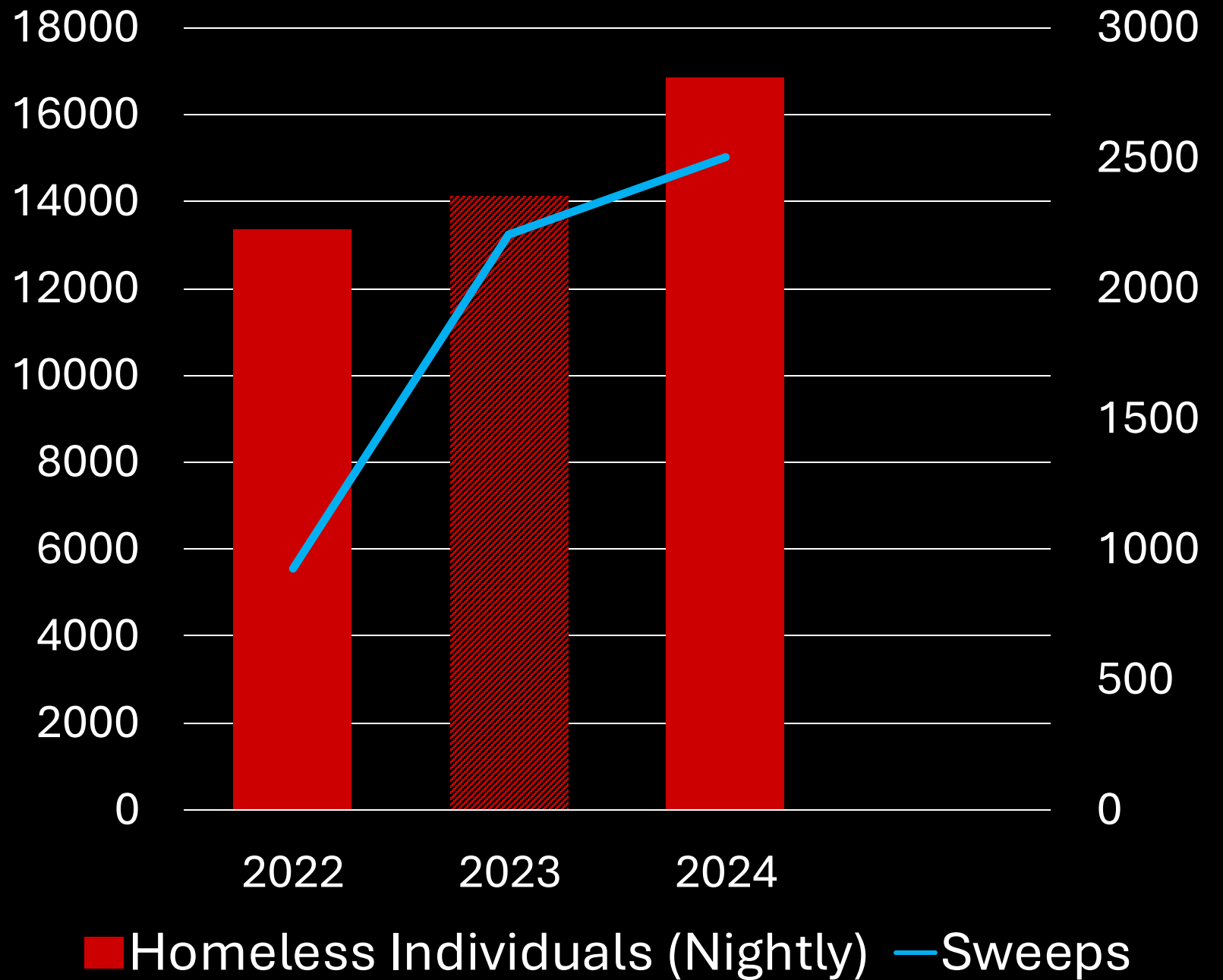
...pervasive



Source: Seattle Sweeps Open Data Repository.

Sweeps
are...

...ineffective



Sweeps
are...

...expensive



Sweeps
are...

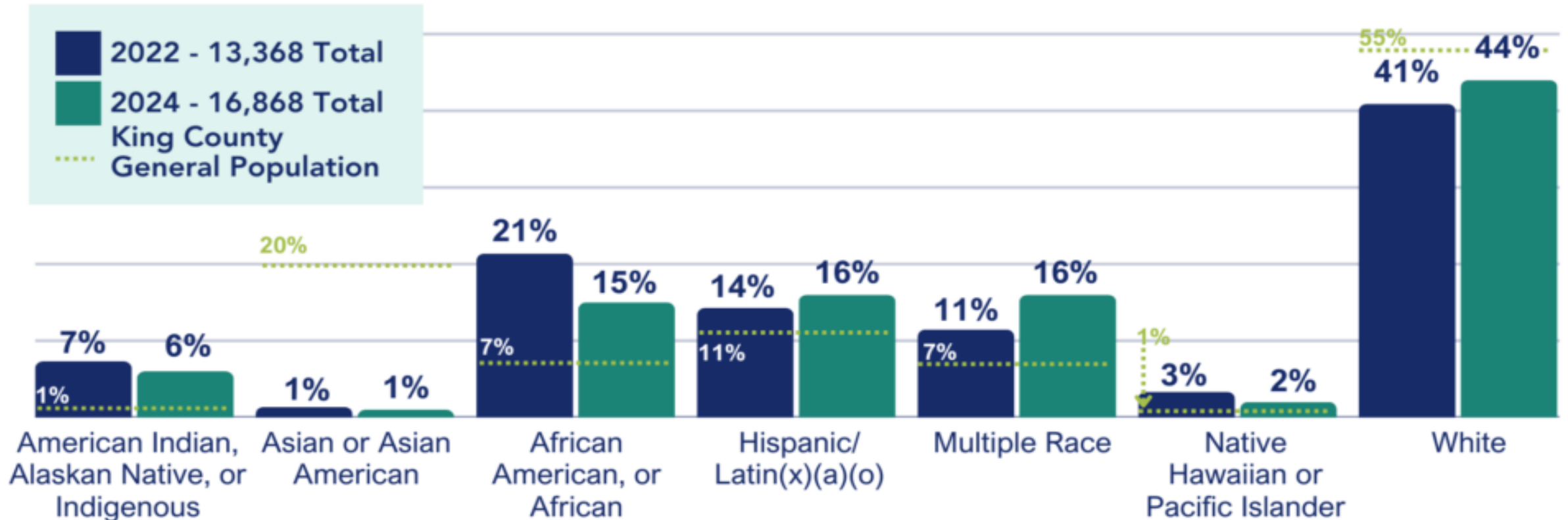
...expensive



Sweeps are...

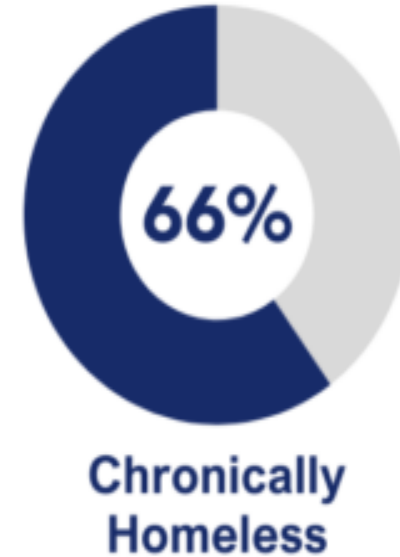
...disproportionately harmful

Racial Inequities in Homelessness in King County



Sweeps are...

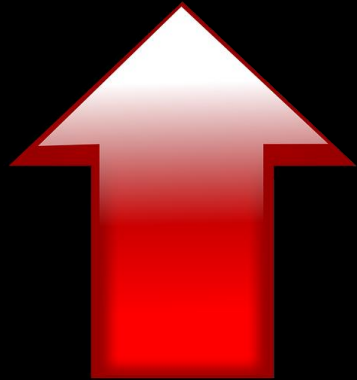
...disproportionately harmful



**These figures represent the fraction of all individuals experiencing homelessness who also reported experiencing one or more of these vulnerabilities, and individuals may be represented in more than one of these groups.*

Sweeps are...

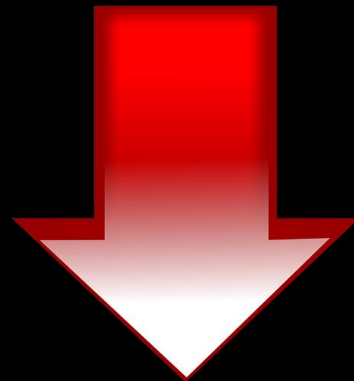
...traumatic & deadly



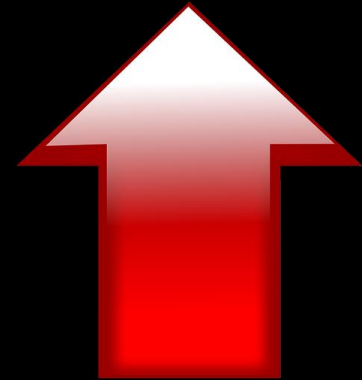
Hospitalization



Overdose



Opioid
Intervention



Death

Sweeps ...

are a punitive, dangerous, and temporary cosmetic fix that does little to effectively connect unhoused people to services and housing.



Sweeps ...

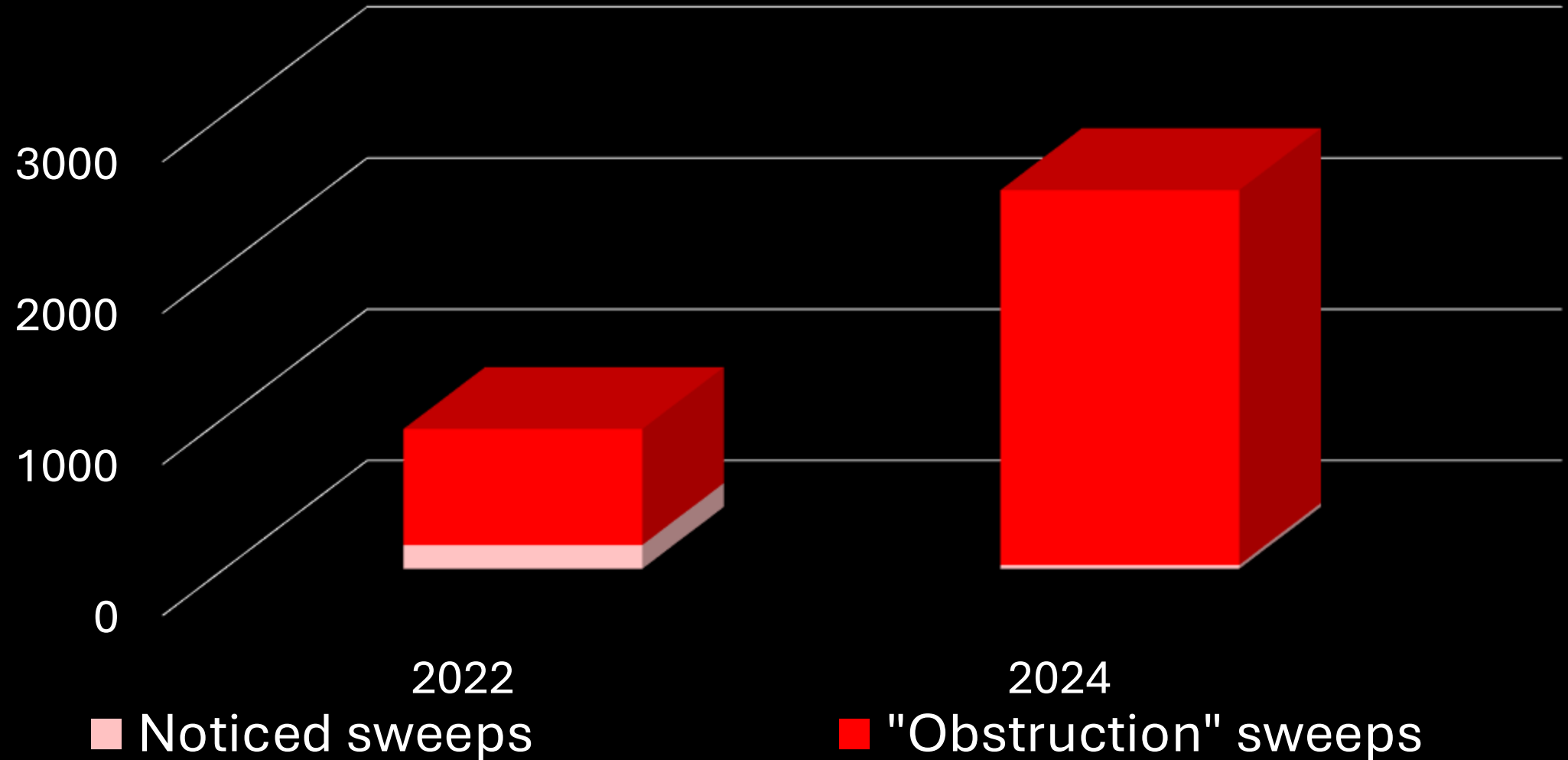
uproot lives, strip individuals of their dignity, and create even greater obstacles to stability and recovery.



Impact on Property

Sweeps are often...

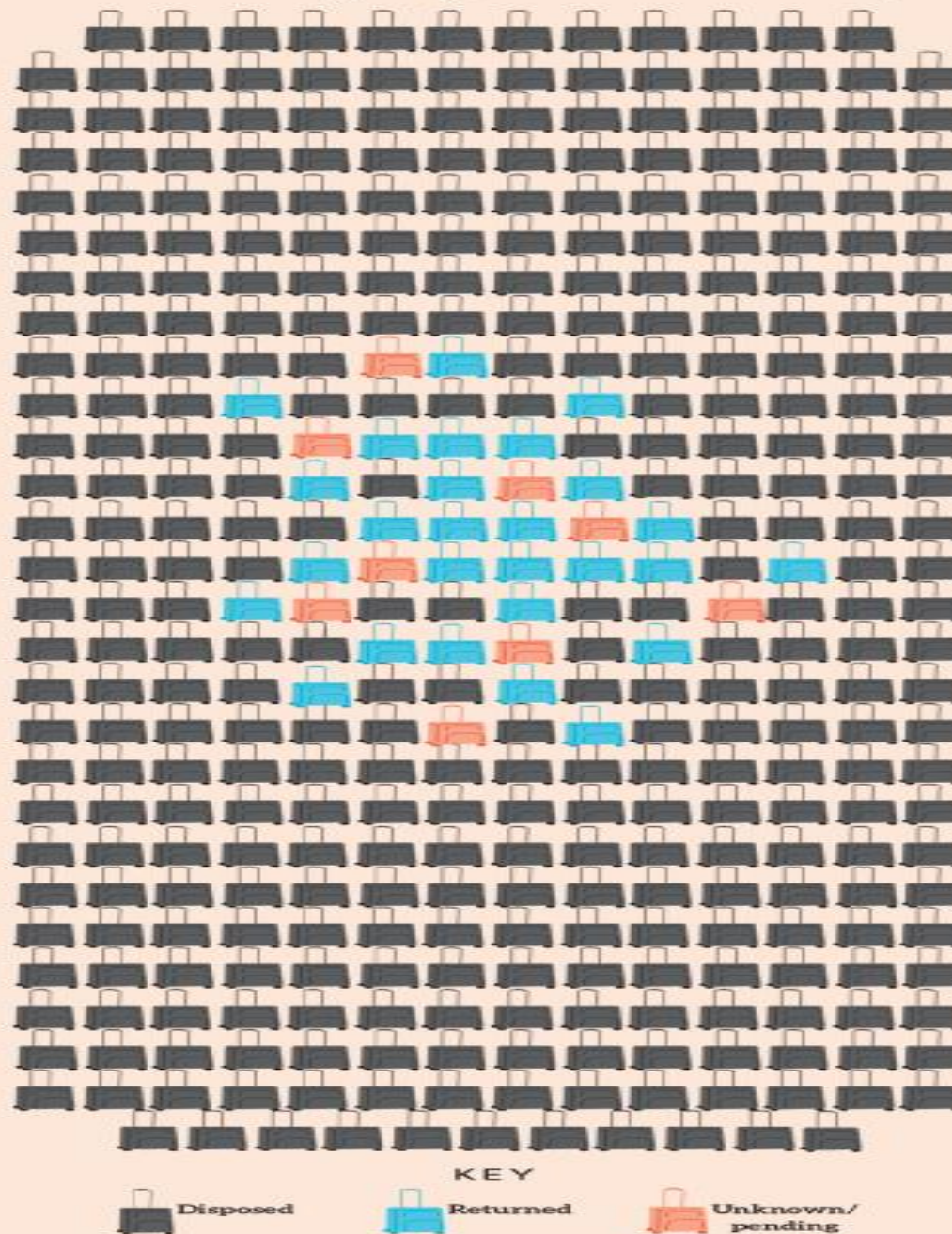
Unannounced



Sweeps
Often...

Lead to Property
Loss &
Destruction

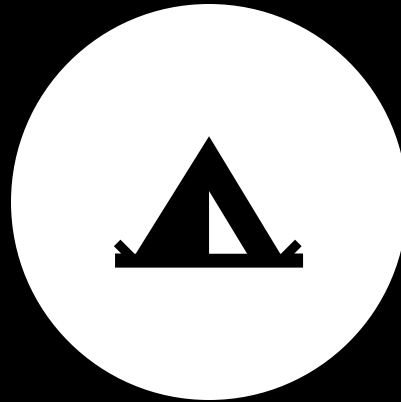
Seattle discards more than 90%
of belongings from sweeps



Property is Essential



CLOTHES, FOOTWEAR,
HYGIENE PRODUCTS



SLEEPING BAGS &
TENTS



ID & TRANSIT CARDS

Property is Valuable



ELECTRONICS &
TOOLS



CASH



BICYCLES, CARS, RVS

Property can be Healthcare



PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS

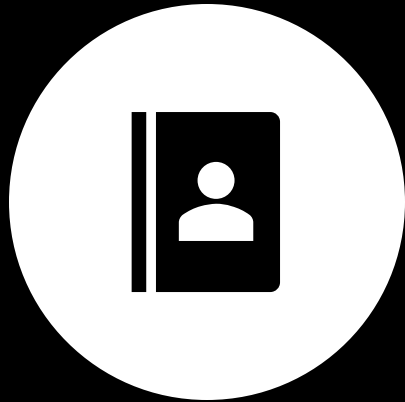


WHEELCHAIRS &
MOBILITY DEVICES

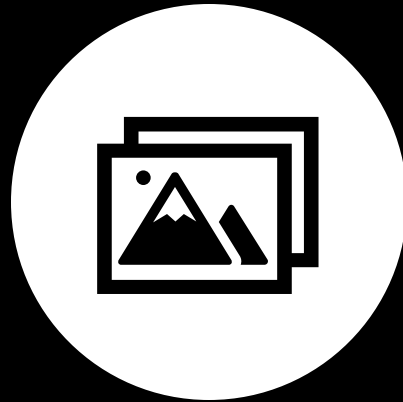


OTHER MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT

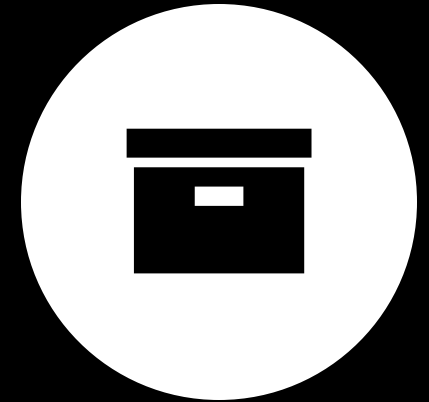
Property can be Irreplaceable



DIARIES &
FAMILY BIBLES



PHOTOGRAPHS &
CHILDREN'S
DRAWINGS



REMAINS



COMMUNITY
Property is DIGNITY
SURVIVAL

