



# INICIATIVA COMUNITARIA

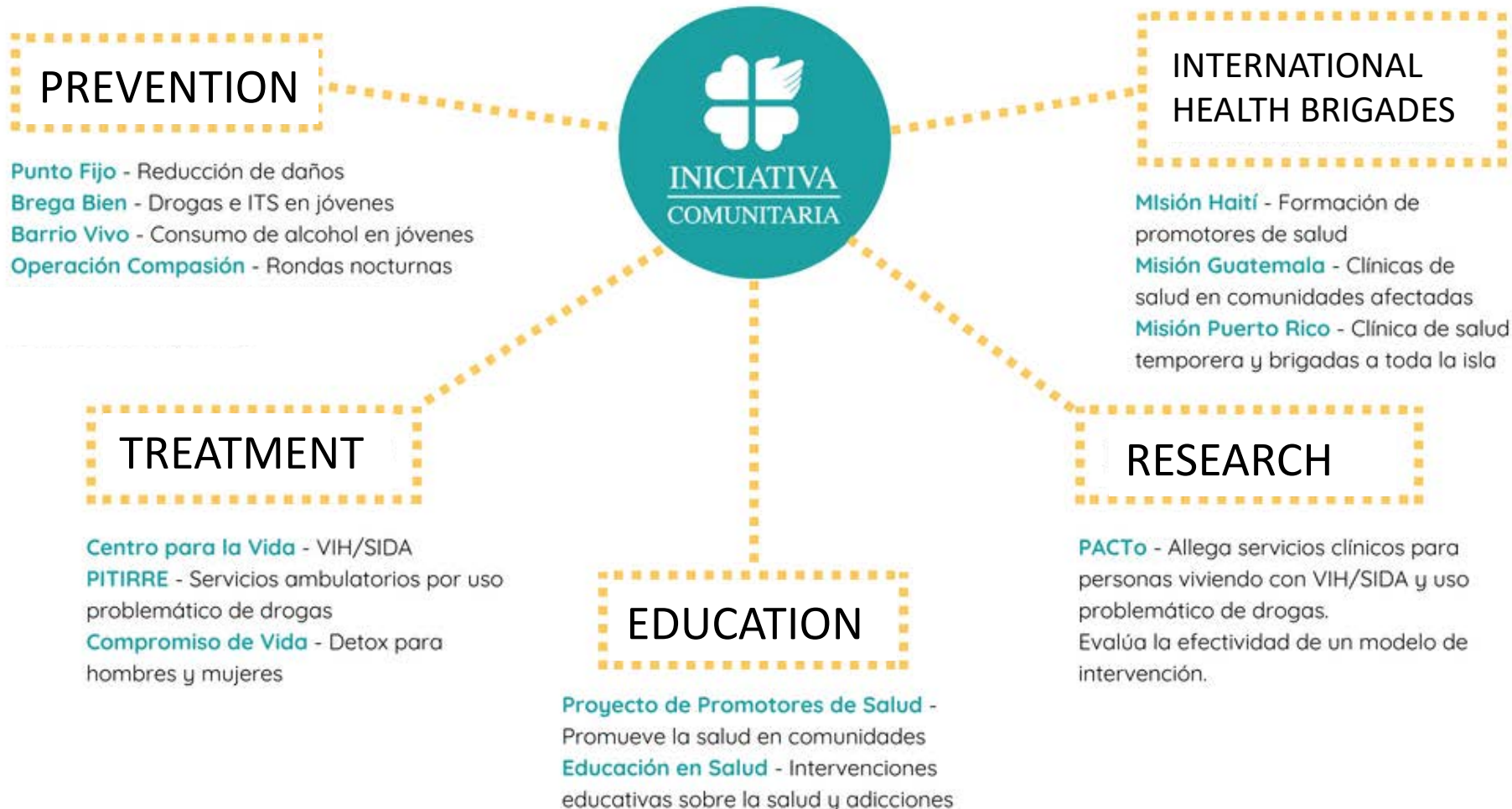
Somos un gran abrazo

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**Yorelys Rivera Amador**  
Executive Director



# OUR SERVICES



# Homeless Count 2019



**2, 535** people  
(27% cronic wonderers)



**79%** men / **21%** women



**45%** did not finish high school



**63.5%** problematic use of drugs,  
alcohol and prescription drugs



**38.8%** mental health disgnostic

# Main characteristics that define homeless people

Lack of social networks in their usual geographic location

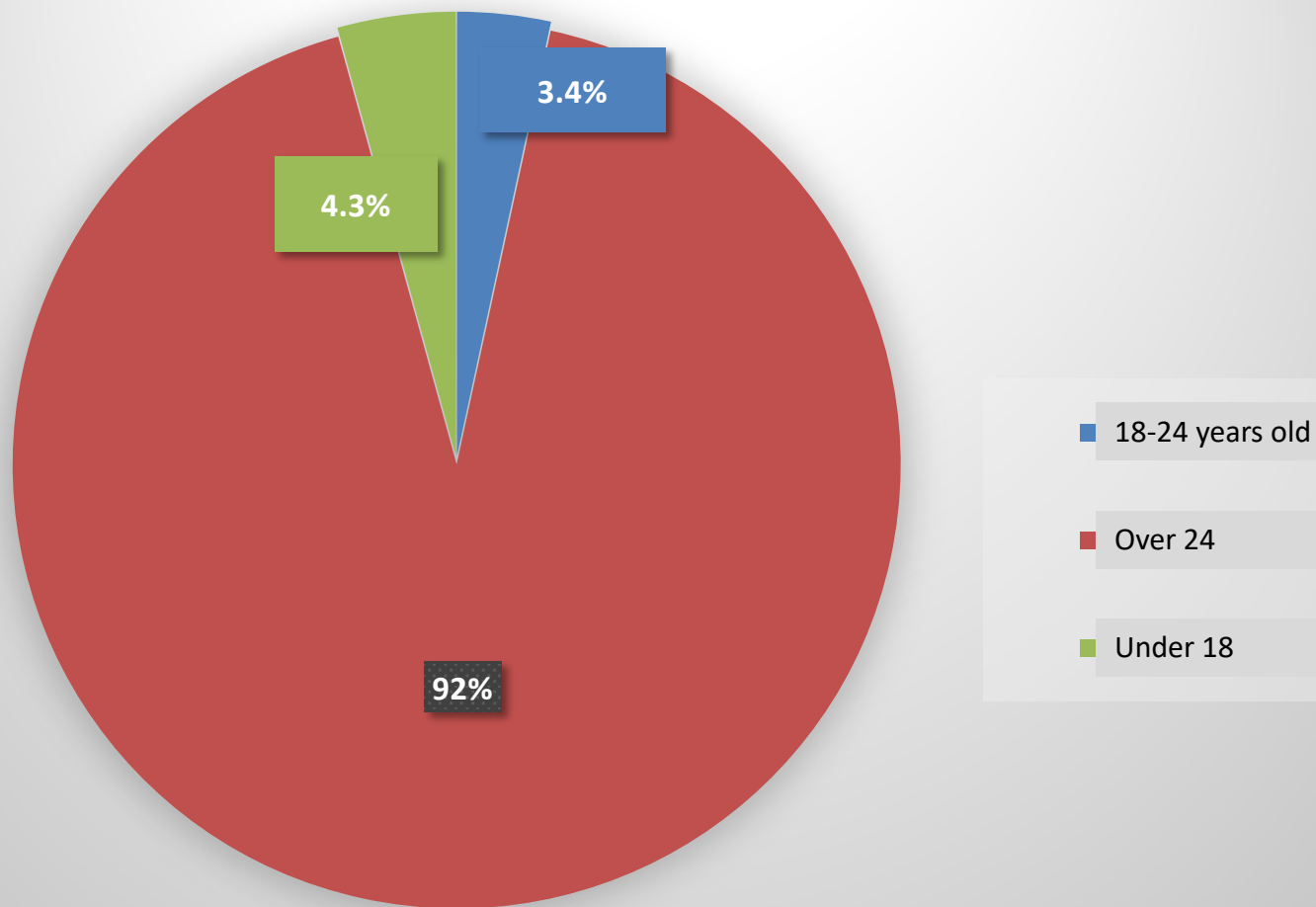
Solitude

Lack of self esteem

Invisibility

Misundertood by society

# Homeless people identified by age



Source: Censo de personas sin hogar, 2019

# Homeless youth



**85**

**homeless youth**

identified in the  
Homeless Persons  
Count, 2019



**38**

youth responded  
to the interview



**26 % (1 of every 4)**

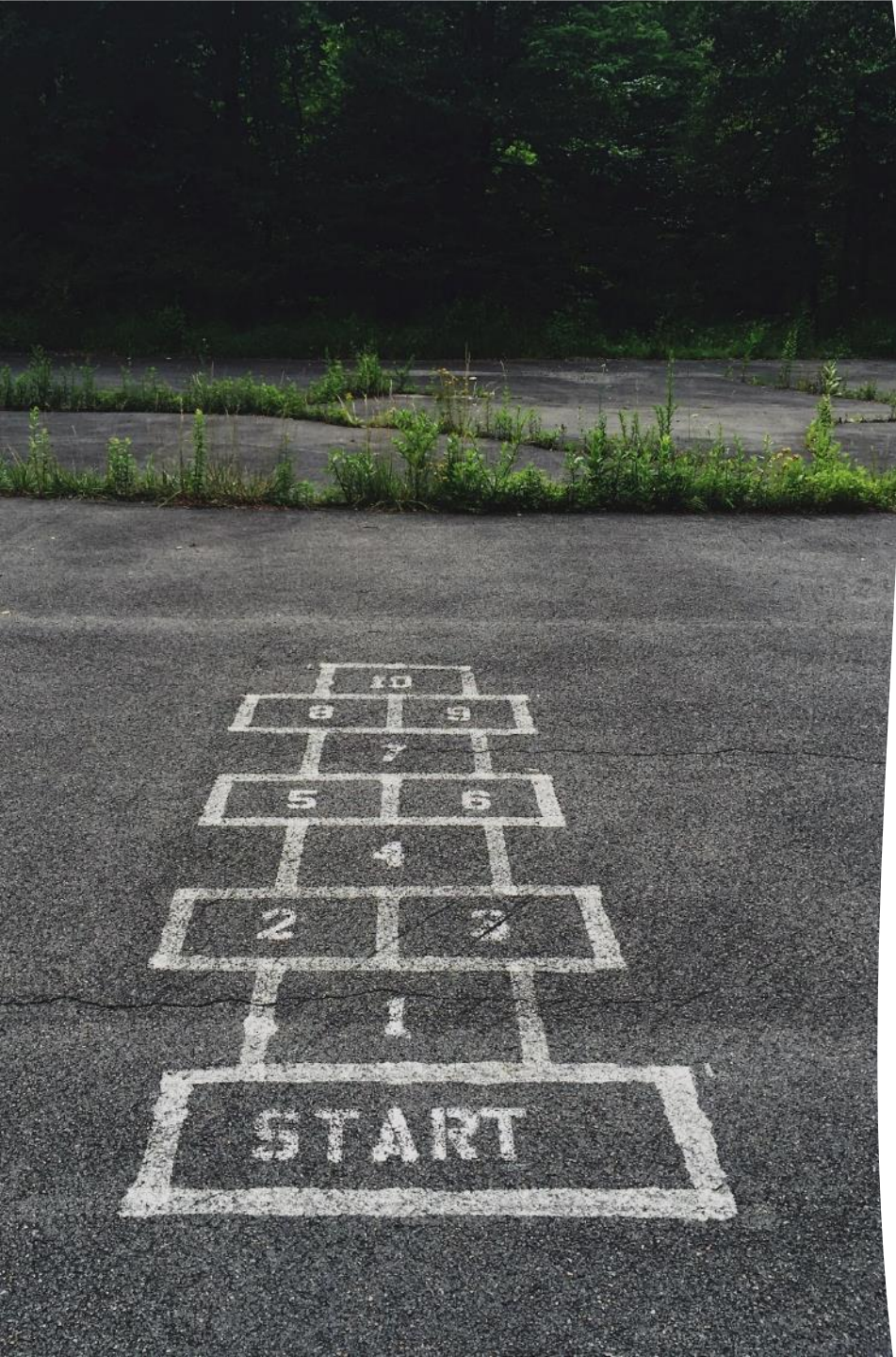
of these 38 young people  
confirmed having been under  
the tutelage of the Puerto  
Rico Family Department  
before being on the streets.

➔ 12% of young people between 16 and 19 years of age are not enrolled in the public, private or home school education system, nor do they have a job.

Source: Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud







- The homeless youth population is invisible
- Which leads us to have a phenomenon of hidden homelessness.



# The streets speak...



# The streets speak...

## Why are they on the streets?

Unemployment

Financial  
problems

Rejection from  
family because of  
sexual orientation or  
gender identity

Physical abuse, beating

Caregiver  
substance  
abuse

# Consequences:

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- The lack of job opportunities for young people is one of the roots of this phenomenon of homelessness.
- Failing to get a job they end up on the streets:
  - Drug Points
  - Forced into sex work
  - Subject to labor exploitation



## **Challenges for admission to shelters during the COVID-19 pandemic**

- Limited capacity of spaces for emergency shelters
- Shared room space
- Design of hostels with shared areas: bathrooms and kitchen
- COVID-19 rapid test
- COVID-19 molecular test

# Challenges for admission to shelters during the **COVID-19** pandemic

- Not be in active use of controlled substances
- Stabilized and with your medication if you have any mental health condition





# The streets speak...

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**They are  
not**

Bums

Regular drug user

Sex workers

# The streets speak...

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They are  
youth

Sedentary

They usually stay in certain places keeping the few social networks they have

That their greatest deficiency is not covered. The feeling of belonging to a society that has excluded them

# Learn more about INICIATIVA COMUNITARIA



787-250-8629



IniciativaComunitaria.org



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