

BOUNDARIES & BARRIERS: DENVER'S POLICY CHOICES TO FORCE VISIBLE POVERTY FROM PUBLIC VIEW¹

Our unhoused neighbors in Denver are routinely excluded from "public" spaces. Boundaries & Barriers scrutinizes two methods Denver uses to push unhoused people away from necessary resources, community, and stability.

1

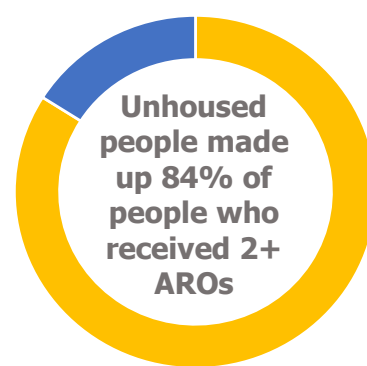
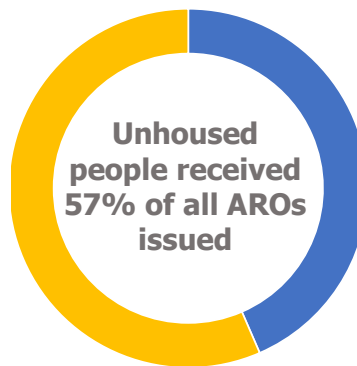
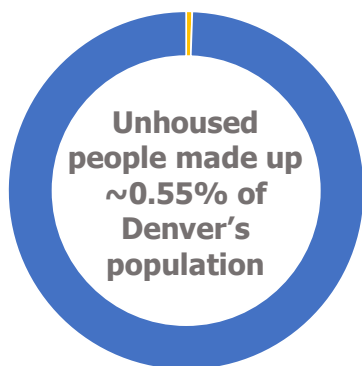
Area Restriction Orders (AROs): court orders banning individuals from certain geographic areas (e.g., parks, businesses, or even entire blocks or parts of the city)

2

Right-of-Way (ROW) encroachments: private "improvements" that are in, or intrude into, the public area between sidewalks and streets and prevent people from accessing this space (e.g., fences or rocks)

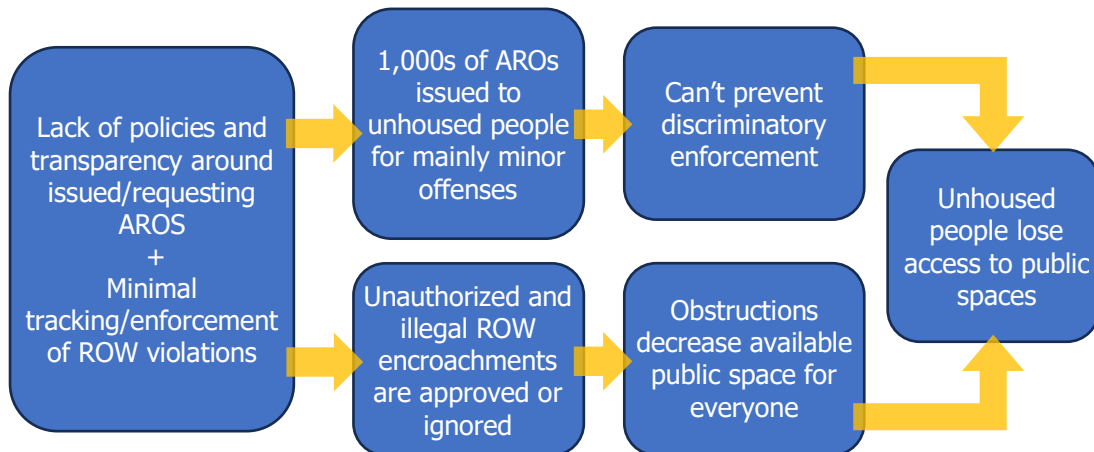
In collaboration with Housekeys Action Network of Denver (HAND) and other community partners, Denver Law students submitted records requests to various public entities and examined data from 2017-2022 to see how AROs and ROW encroachments disproportionately impact unhoused people in Denver.

Unhoused folks received AROs at **10,000x** the rate of Denver's total population, often for minor offenses that target unhoused people like trespassing or "disturbing the peace"



Data on AROs & ROW encroachments is inadequately tracked, and policies are ignored.

For example, in violation of its own policy, DOTI approved a ROW encroachment that explicitly sought to eliminate the presence of unhoused folks.



Denver's government must ensure that public spaces are public for *everyone*



¹ Available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4491752