



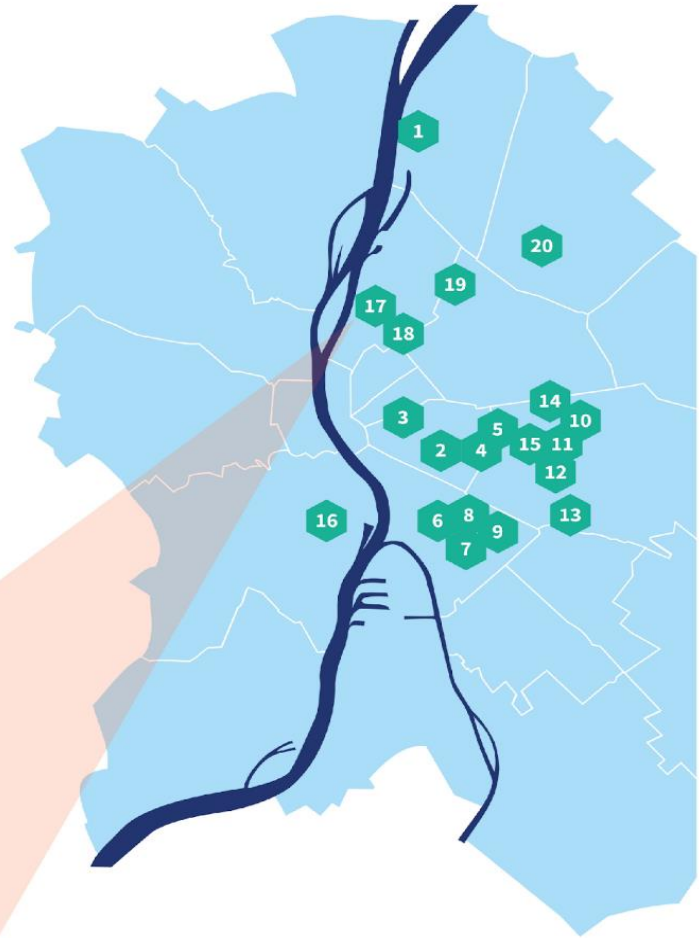
BMSZKI

Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ és Intézményei

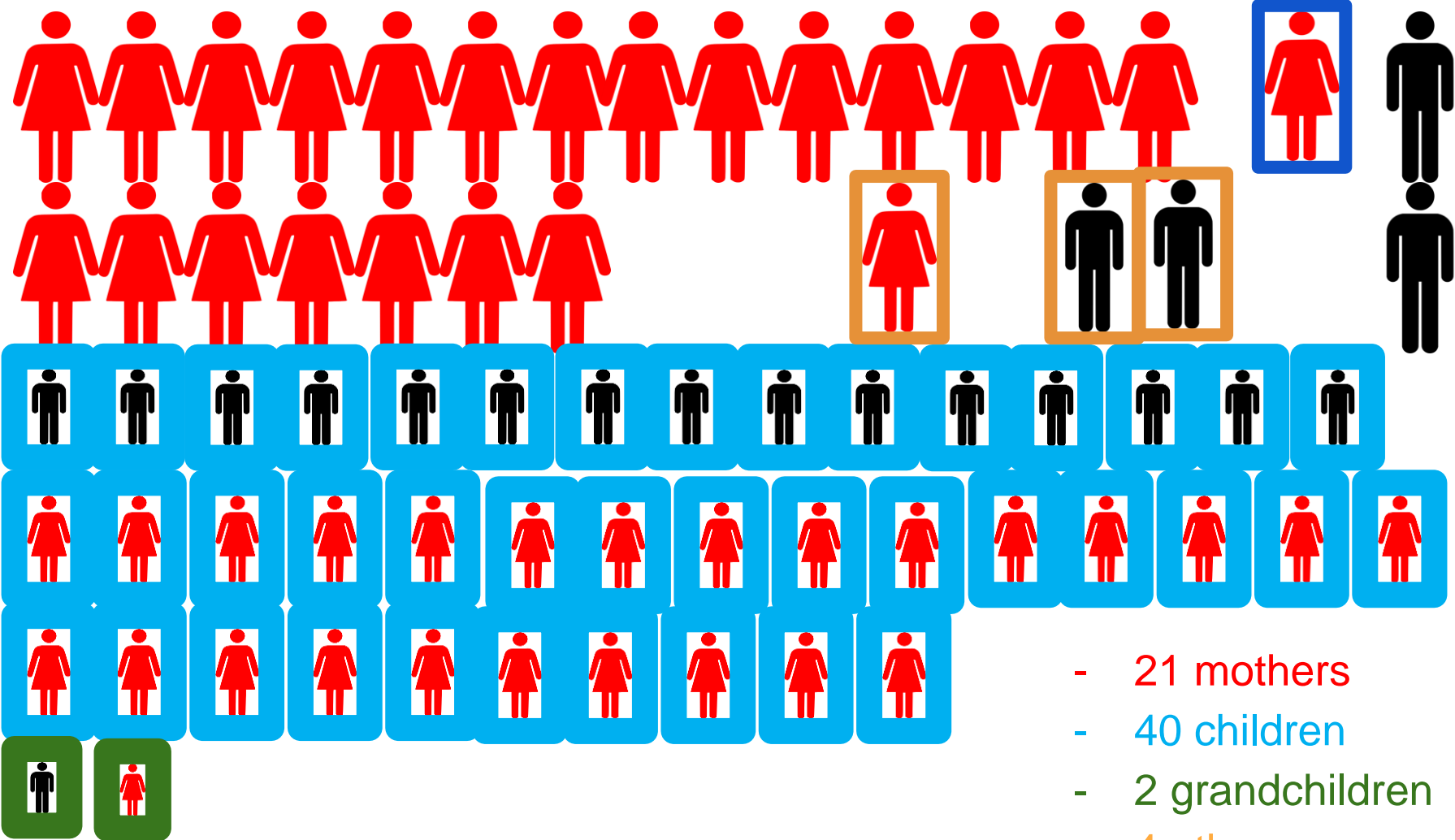
Second Generation Homelessness - Stories of Homeless Women and their Families

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BMSZKI, Hungary

BMSZKI is the largest provider of accommodation services to homeless people in Hungary. 2500 beds in 15 locations. About 1/3 host women.



21 families - 69 individuals



- 21 mothers
- 40 children
- 2 grandchildren
- 4 others
- 2 husbands



The Data (2013-2023)

- First interviews - temporary acc. 46 p
 - care documentation and evaluation
- Application form of temporary acc. 15 p
- Basic information 8 p



Structure of our presentation

Demographical data

- poverty,
- number of children,
- education,
- background

Trauma, child protection system





Demographics

Age distribution

- between 18-69 years old
 - mothers: 39-69 yrs
 - children: 19-48 yrs
 - **grandchildren (3 families!): 18-20 yrs**

Previous dwelling place

- most slept in an apartment prior to BMSZKI
(26)

Education



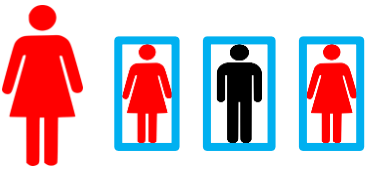
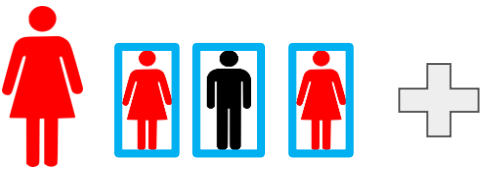
- 8 grades of elementary

Income



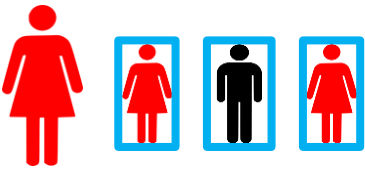
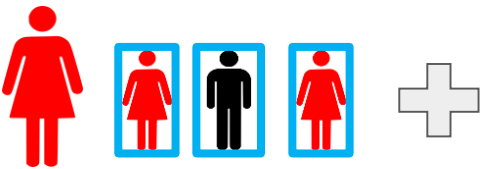
- $\frac{1}{3}$ have income from employment



Number of children

	Number of children	Number of children's children
	7	5
	2	1
	1	4
	11	5

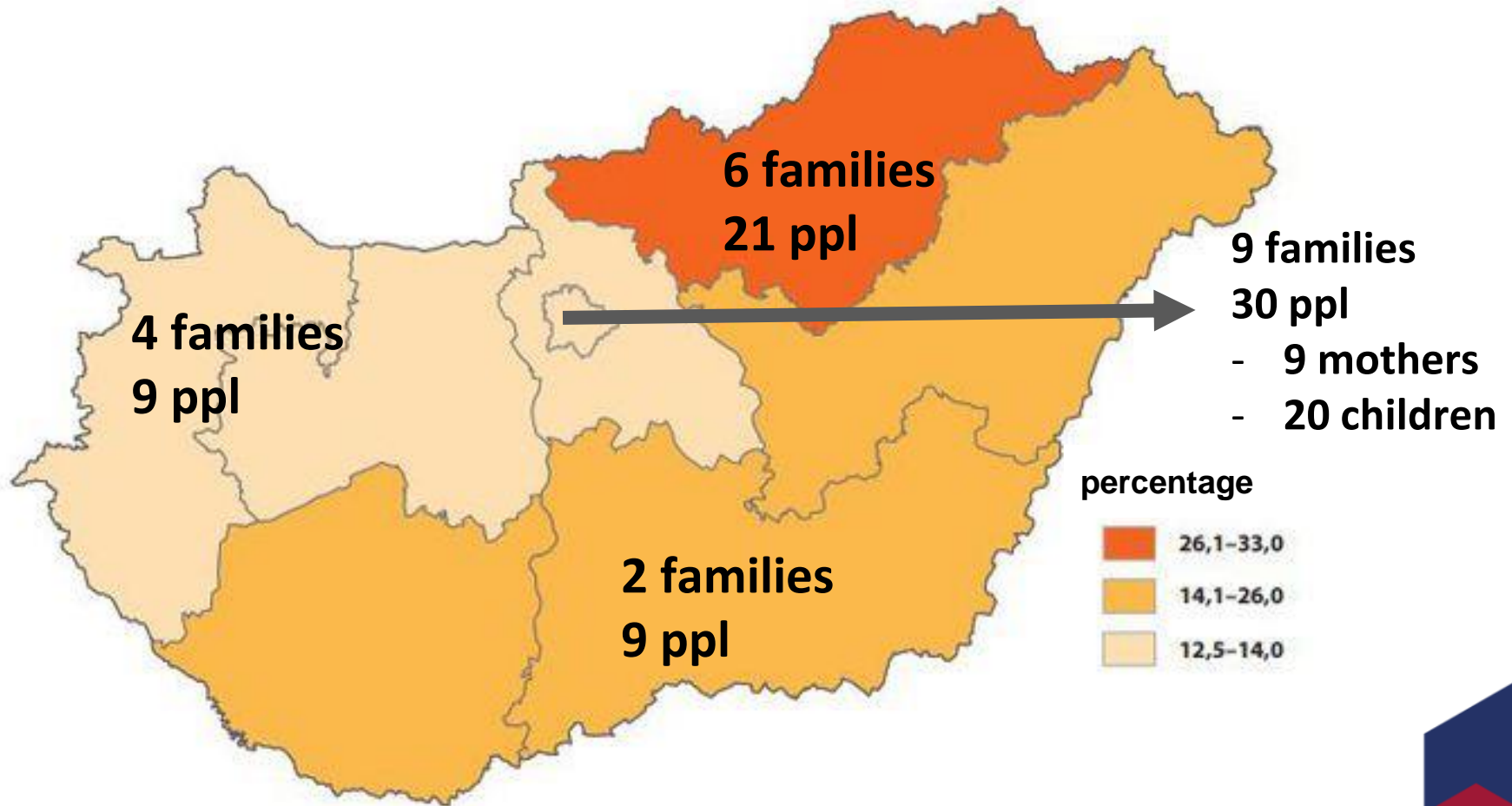


	Number of children in BMSZKI's service
	11
	4
	4
	2

Poverty - Origin of families



Regions according to poverty and social exclusion in Hungary, 2017





Level of education



	Parents' generation	Children
Less than 8 grades	8	4
8 grades	8	10
(9-12 grades)	1	4
Profession	8	7
Bac	0	2
Missing	1	14



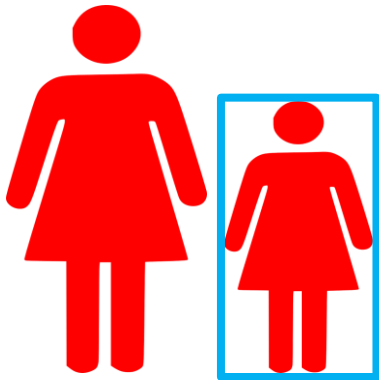
Level of education women

	Parents' generation		Children	
Less than 8 grades	8	8	4	4
8 grades	8	7	10	6
(9-12 grades)	1	0	4	3
Profession	8	6	7	5
Bac	0	0	2	1
Missing	1	0	14	9



Mothers with less than 8 grades (n=7)

- **ALL** grew up in extreme poverty (7)
 - Foster care (1)
 - **Health problems (7)**
 - Mental health diagnosis (3)
 - Homeless due to intimate partner violence (4)
-
- **ALL** have four or more children (7)
 - All together 47 children!
 - 1 raised them herself (4 children)
 - **6 lost them to foster care (43)**
 - Contact with them
 - 3 not with all
 - 3 regular
 - 1 occasional
 - **Children living in BMSZKI's services (18)**



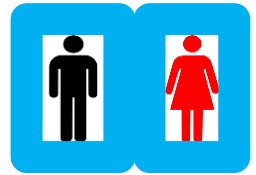
Bianca (36) - 2019



Eileen (54) - 2022

- *Born in a poverty stricken area of Hungary, with several siblings*
- *Suffered from depression and epilepsy as a child*
- *Her parents followed their children to Budapest, Eileen finished 4 grades there*
- *Got married early, had four children*
- *Husband abused her verbally and physically throughout the marriage*
- *Left husband with her children, moved to social housing*
- *Worked as a vendor in a market*
- *Health problems, lost employment*
- *Moved from one rented accommodation to another*
- *Several episodes of homelessness, with partner or alone*
- *Her sister took her in, but asked for her bank card in exchange*
- *She moved to a homeless shelter, recommended by her son!*
- *1 son in prison, 1 with grandparents*
- *panic attacks, bipolar disorder*

- *Born in Budapest, lived in poverty*
- *She only finished the first four grades of school*
- *She helped in her parents' business selling vegetables*
- *Her parents took a loan to buy their house that could not pay. Her smallest brother went to foster care.*
- *She had a child with a man, who turned out to be abusive. She went back to her parents with the baby.*
- *At 20, she met another man, who "offered to support" her and her child. He was involved in illegal dealings, went to prison. He is the father of her second daughter (now in foster care).*
- *Her eldest daughter has a baby, is in a mother's shelter with the child.*
- *Her third daughter is from a former homeless partner, who died of an overdose. He was highly abusive, even during her pregnancy. (This child is in foster care since birth.) They had been expelled from several shelters due to his behaviour.*
- *She sweeps streets.*
- *She uses alcohol, pills.*
- *(Two brothers are in prison.)*

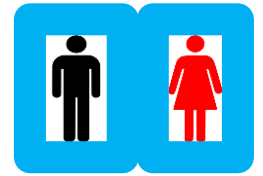


Children's background (n=33)

- Foster care (15, mothers 4)
- Disadvantageous family environment (18, mothers 6)
 - Extreme poverty (15)
 - Abuse by parents (6)
- 'Good' family environment (0, mothers 5)

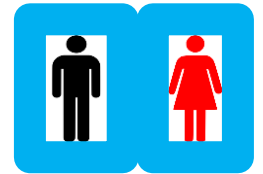
Similarities between “foster care” and “disadvantageous family environment”:

- Source of income (mostly from work)
- Intimate relationship (mostly with partner)
- Where they go from BMSZKI's services
- High rate of abuse
- Low rate of mental health diagnoses



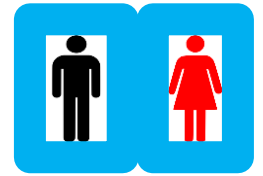
Differences according to children's backgrounds - Education

	Foster care	Bad environment
Less than 8 grades	0	3
8 grades	7	1
(9-12 grades)	0	3
Professional	2	3
Bacc	1	1



Differences according to children's backgrounds - Homelessness

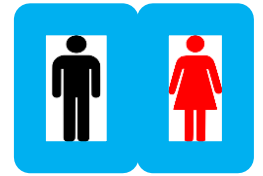
	Foster care	Bad environment
Eviction (due to payment)	1	4
Informal housing	0	3
Foster care	4	0
Prison	2	0
Fleeing violence	2	3
From the countryside to roughsleeping in the city	5	2



Differences according to children's backgrounds - Age of becoming a service user of BMSZKI

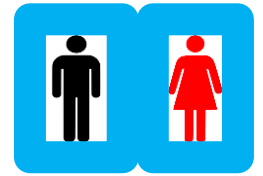
	Foster care	Bad environment
Under 20	6	2
21-25	4	5
26-35	3	8
36+	2	2

Two young people with a foster care background and six coming from a bad family environment **started to use services with their mother**



Differences according to children's backgrounds - Children's children

	Foster care	Bad environment
0	5	3
1	3	1
2	1	1
3	0	3
4+	1	4



Differences according to children's backgrounds - Problems when using services

	Foster care	Bad environment
Alcohol	1	1
Threatening behavior	2	4
Non payment	4	2
Conflicts with other users	2	6
Other	2	3



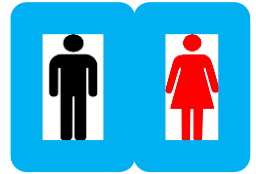
Grace (1960) – 2016.11
Roberta (1975) – 2012.11
Ariel (1986) – 2016.05
Dolly (1984) – 2017.08
Emily (1991) – 2017.10
Sam (1988) – 2018.03
Allan (2004), son of Dolly – 2022.

Grace

*Untreated hearing problems from birth.
5 grades of school. She was cooking at 8.
She went to live with a man at 13, had her first child at 15.
She is a widow at 20.
She has 10 children altogether, is abused by both husbands.
When she arrives at BMSZKI at the age of 56, she has complex health problems.
Only two of her children are to be told she is here.
She has debts but does not remember what for.*

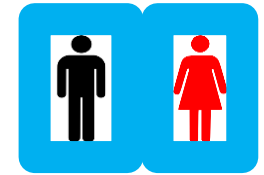
- *Only Roberta and Allan have finished 8 grades. Roberta has a profession (gardener).*
- *Roberta was raised by her grandmother with her smaller sister. She has three children. She managed to buy a house but lost ownership when her husband was in prison.*
- *Ariel asked to be taken to foster care at 12 because of beatings by parents. She remembers her childhood as awful. Later, she lives with her grandmother with two sisters. She marries a man who beats her as well.*
- *3 girls came to Budapest with partners and live with them in homeless services.*
- *At least two girls struggles with depression or had a „nervous breakdown“.*
- *Ariel now lives in a basement, she just had her eighth child. Dolly has six children, Emily one and was expecting twins. All their children ended up in foster care.*
- *Allan left foster care at 18 and sleeps rough in Budapest.*

Conclusions



- The education level of a mother can strongly influence the life of their children. **Even when she doesn't raise them herself.**
- While mothers were more likely to grow up with their parents and less problems have been shared, this doesn't necessarily mean better childhoods than their children.
- **Children coming from foster care tend to have better levels of schooling and finish school to a higher extent.** Still if this level is low, it doesn't prevent homelessness. They tend to have less behavioral issues in services, but they have less access to the housing market.
- **Children coming from a disadvantageous family background** become homeless a bit older, but pass on patterns of their families (more children, housing poverty, intimate partner plus parental violence).

Conclusions



PREVENTION

- Family strengthening
- Child protection services

Intense, interdisciplinary support is needed to prevent the re-generation of homelessness - possible focus on youth

Thank you!

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