



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

Housing First

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May 2008

IMPROVING POLICY | BUILDING CAPACITY | EDUCATING OPINION LEADERS

Housing First

- What is Housing First
- How does it work
- Why Housing First
- What are the benefits to various stakeholders
- What are the results

What is Housing First?

- Homeless people move into permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- Services are delivered primarily following a housing placement to promote housing stability, recovery, and individual well-being.
- Housing is not contingent on compliance with treatment or services.

How does Housing First work?

Housing First programs provide:

- intensive housing search assistance
- low barrier housing
- long-term rent assistance (e.g. Section 8)
- ongoing services, including case management, mental health, substance abuse services, etc.
- close relationship with property managers, with guarantees to intervene when there are problems with a tenant or possibly a master lease

Why Housing First?

- It's what homeless people want.
- Minimizes the amount of time somebody is homeless/minimizes the harm.
- Services are most effective when they are delivered when a person is stable in their own home.
- Services are most effective when they are voluntary.
- It works!

Benefits

Property Owner/Manager

- A relationship with a Housing First provider can make it easier to keep rental units leased up.
- Property manager can utilize the housing first provider to help solve problems.
- Goodwill

Benefits

Homeless person

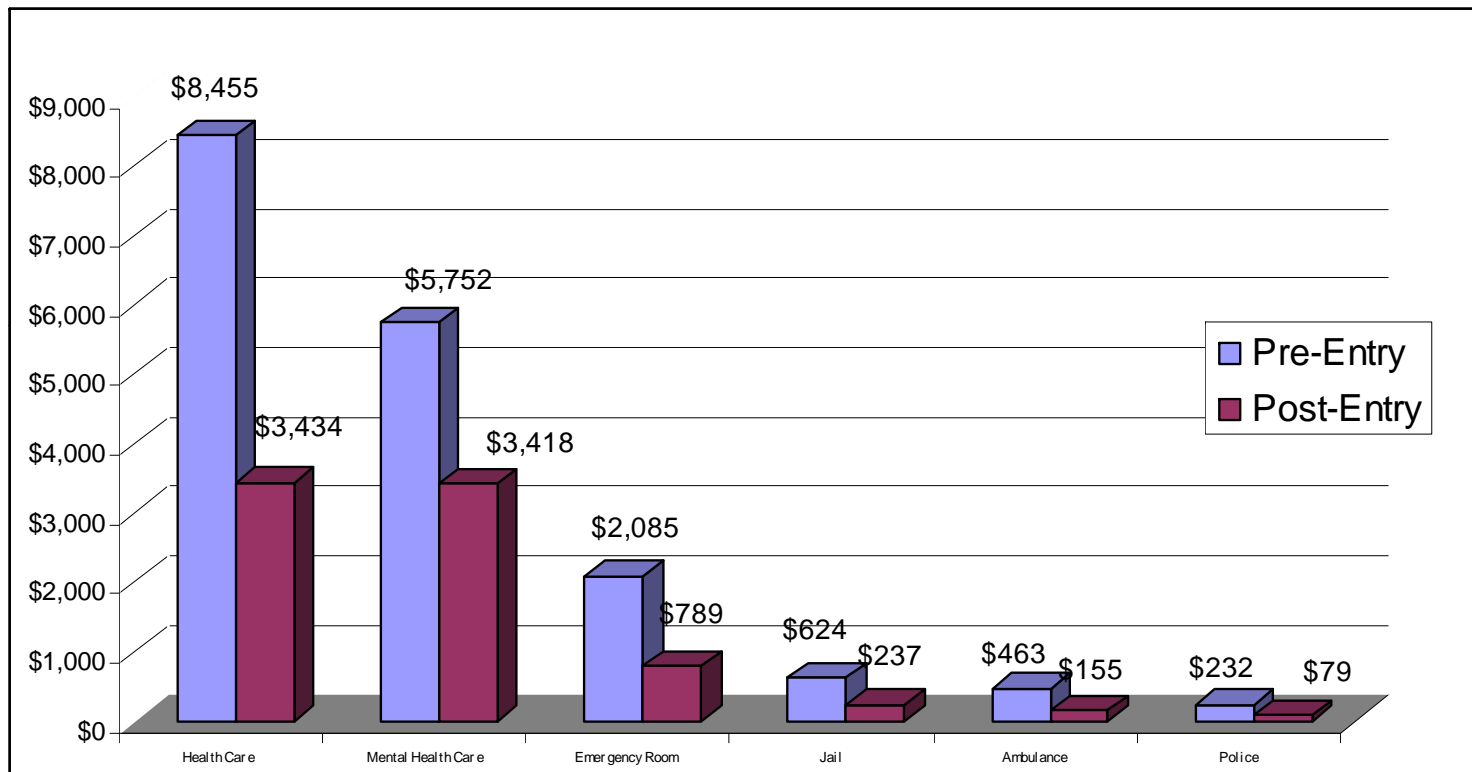
- Improved physical and mental health
- Improved employment and income
- Greater physical security
- Greater integration with community
- More opportunity for self improvement

Benefits

Community

- In many cases, housing first approach is less expensive
- Less utilization of emergency health care resources
- Fewer arrests/police involvement

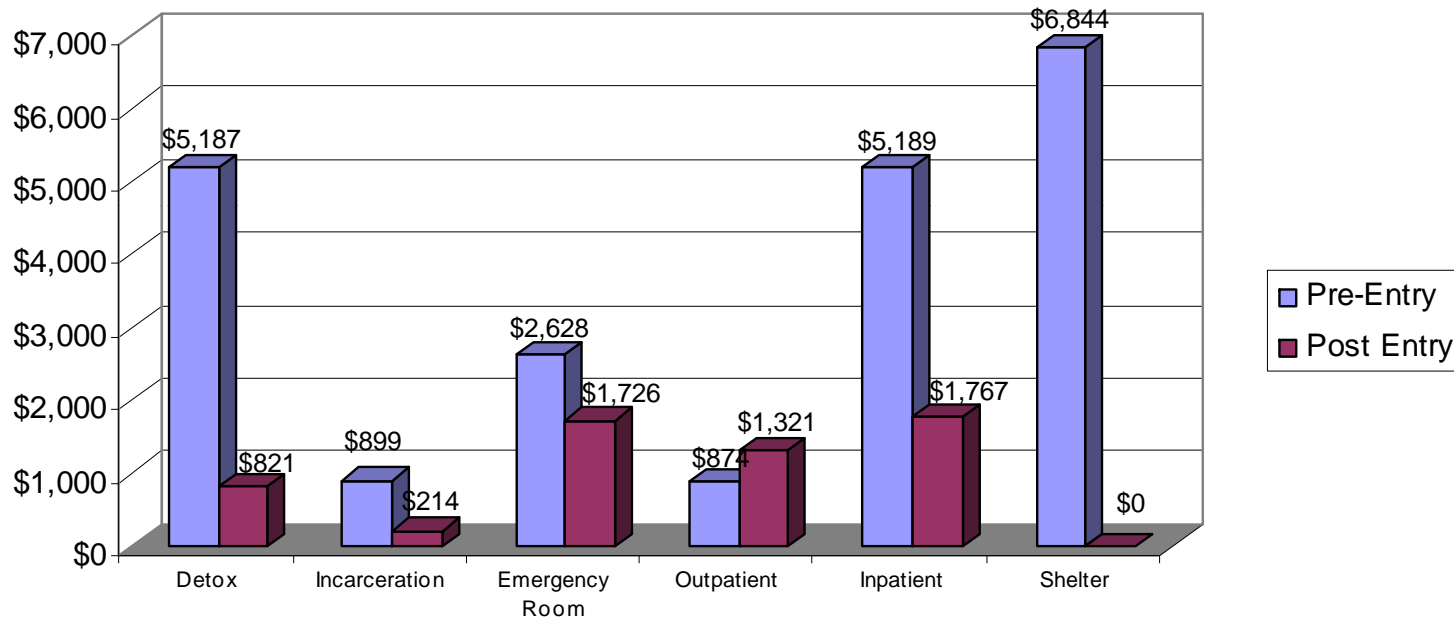
Results



Source: *Cost of Homelessness: Cost Analysis of Permanent Supportive Housing*. Melany Mondello, Anne B. Gass, Thomas McLaughlin PhD, Nancy Shore PhD. State of Maine - Greater Portland. September 2007.

Results

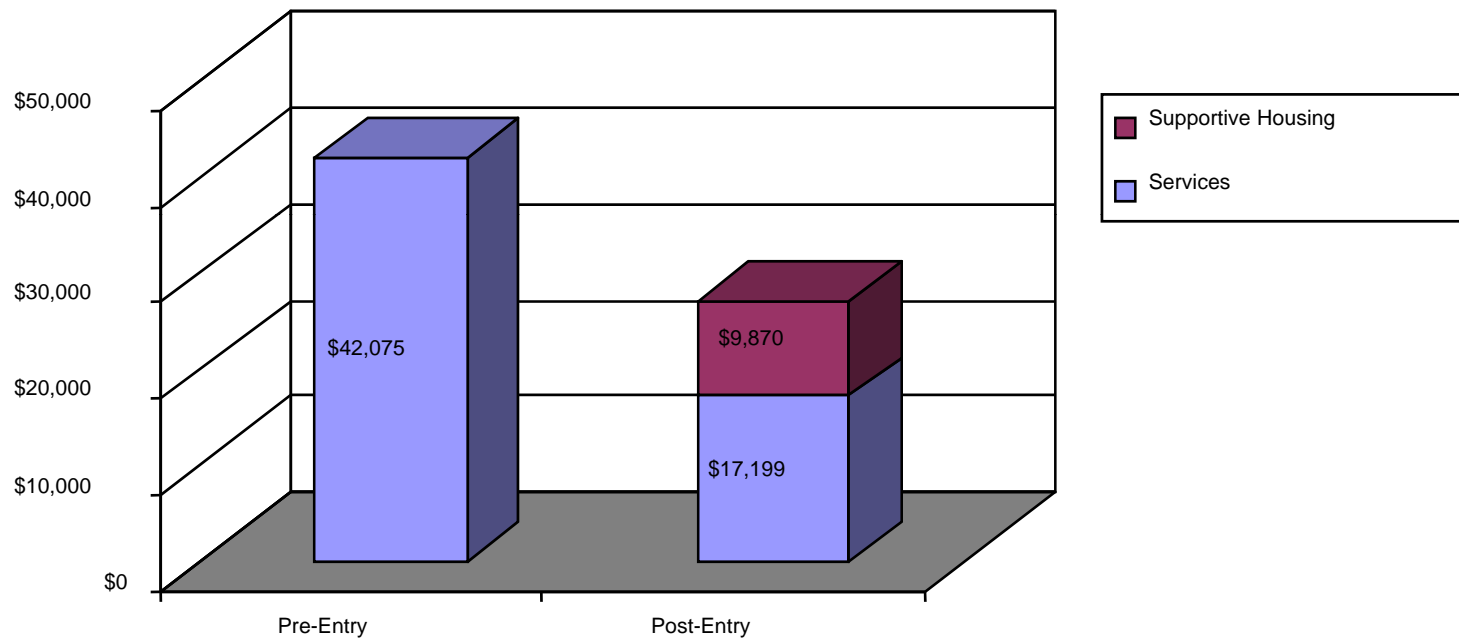
Exhibit 2: Annual Costs Before and After Entering Supportive Housing



Source: *Denver Housing First Collaborative: Cost Benefit Analysis And Program Outcomes Report*. Jennifer Perlman, PsyD, and John Parvensky. Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. December 2006.

Results

Exhibit 3: Annual Cost Before and After Entering Supportive Housing



Source: *Estimated Cost Savings Following Enrollment In The Community Engagement Program: Findings From A Pilot Study Of Homeless Dually Diagnosed Adults*. Thomas L. Moore, PhD. Portland, OR: Central City Concern. June 2006.



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