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# **The Intersection of Homelessness and Medicaid Use**

2017 Governor's Conference on Housing and  
Economic Development

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Speakers: Katelyn Cunningham – Monarch Housing Associates  
Paul Rossi – Foothold Technology  
Joel Cantor, Sc.D, - Rutgers University Center for State Health Policy

# Overview

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- What is HMIS and what is it and what can it be used for? How does NJ use HMIS?
- National research using Medicaid and HMIS data
- Current project overview
- Preliminary findings

# What is HMIS?

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- HMIS - Homeless Management Information System
- An HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and persons at risk of homelessness

# National Research Using HMIS and Medicaid: Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

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- Michigan has a statewide HMIS implementation
- Looked at HMIS and Medicaid data between 2006 - 2010
- 80% of HMIS records matched with DCH/Medicaid
- 72% of HMIS records matched with DHS Poverty Programs

CSH - Using Medicaid Data to Strengthen State Investment

<http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/StateInvestment.pdf>



# National Research Using HMIS and Medicaid: Massachusetts Statewide Pilot Housing First Program

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- In 2006 Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance implemented a Housing First program for serving chronically homeless
- As of 2017 Progress Report they have housed and provided supportive services for a total of 960 chronically homeless adults
- MassHealth (Medicaid) analysts reviewed billing claims data in March 2009 for 96 HHG participants who had Medicaid eligibility in both the year before and the year after moving into housing. Providing actual Medicaid costs for participants, including inpatient and outpatient medical care, transportation to medical visits, ambulance rides, pharmacy needs and dental care

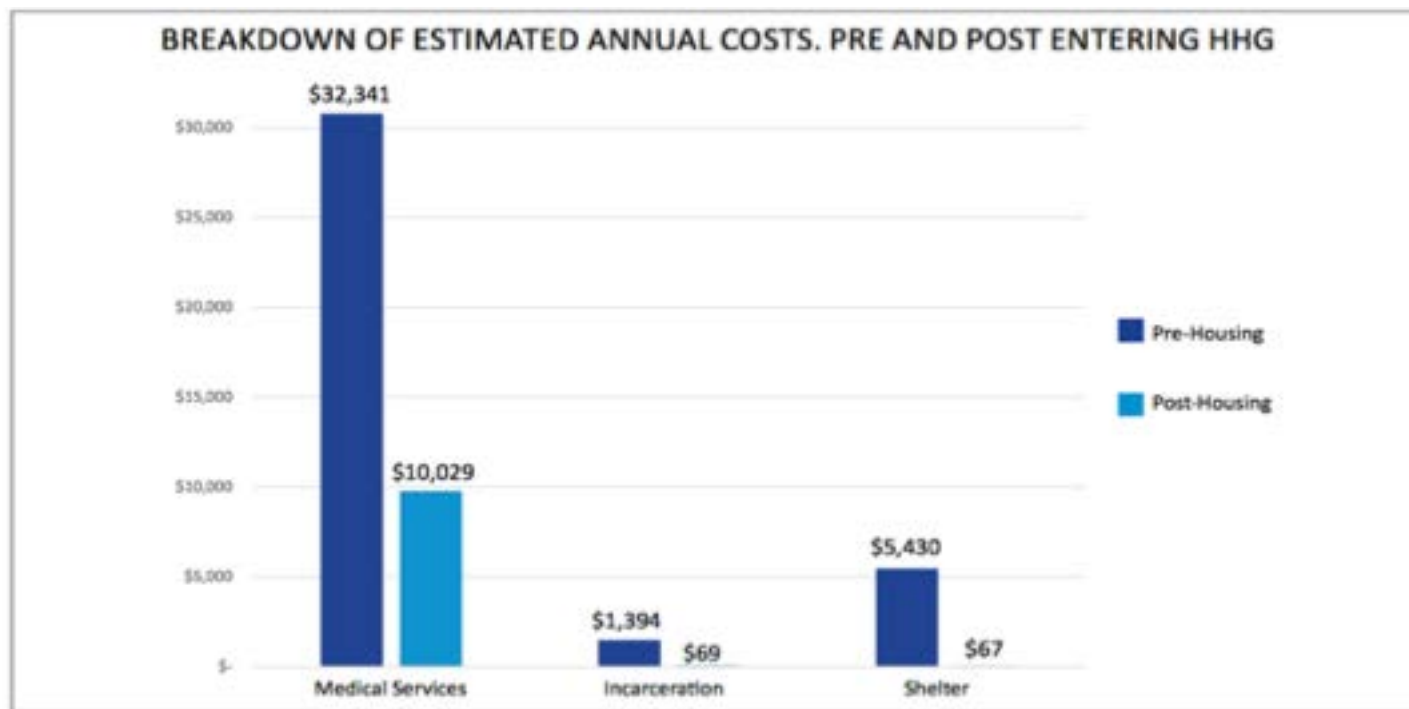
Home & Health for Good: Permanent Supportive Housing: A Solution-Driven Model – March 2017

<http://www.mhsa.net/sites/default/files/March%202017%20HHG%20Report.pdf>



# National Research Using HMIS and Medicaid: Massachusetts Statewide Pilot Housing First Program

While actual Medicaid costs were provided for a subset, the breakdown below is based on estimates for the full 960 clients based on follow up interviews.



Home & Health for Good: Permanent Supportive Housing: A Solution-Driven Model – March 2017

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# National Research Using HMIS and Medicaid: Connecticut HMIS and Medicaid Data Match

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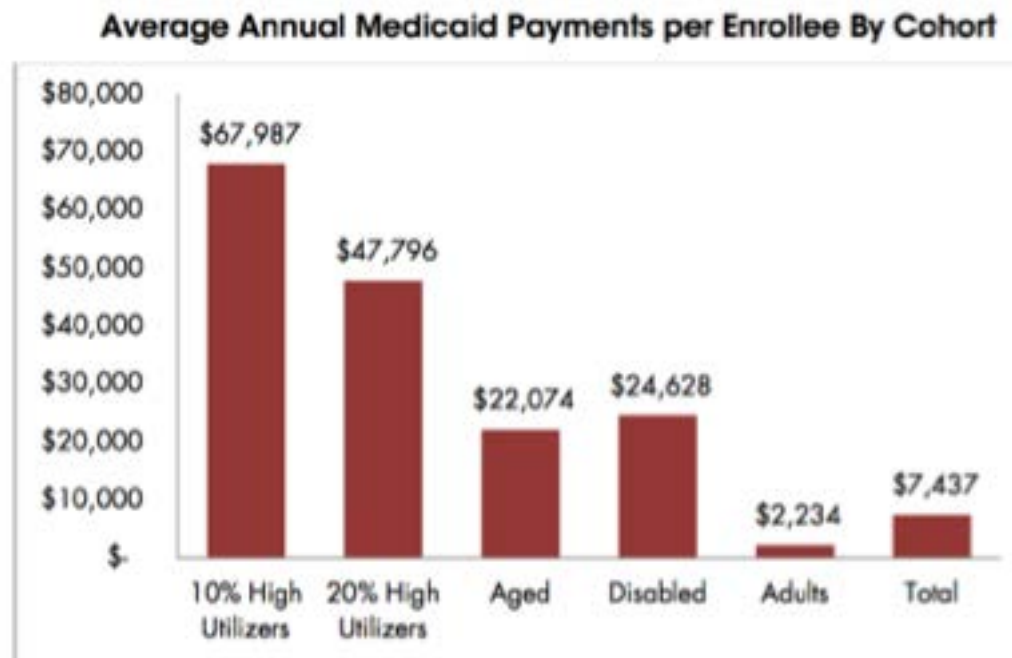
- Cost and claims data for adult Medicaid-recipients were matched with adults age 20-64 who spent at least one night in a Connecticut homeless shelter in 2011 to identify a population of people who are both homeless/at risk of homelessness and high-cost utilizers of Medicaid services
- 4,193 adults were matched. "High-cost utilizers" were defined as those with the 10% highest Medicaid costs
- Findings: The top 10% accrued more than 44% of the total spending of homeless population matched

First Match of State Medicaid and Homelessness Data Reveals Opportunities To Improve Health Outcomes, Reduce State Costs

[http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/RH-CSH\\_MedicaidHMISMatchSummary.pdf](http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/RH-CSH_MedicaidHMISMatchSummary.pdf)

# National Research Using HMIS and Medicaid: Connecticut HMIS and Medicaid Data Match

The top 10% of homeless, high-cost utilizers are 9 times more expensive than the average Medicaid beneficiary



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[http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/RH-CSH\\_MedicaidHMISMatchSummary.pdf](http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/RH-CSH_MedicaidHMISMatchSummary.pdf)





# National Research Using HMIS and Medicaid: Connecticut HMIS and Medicaid Data Match

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Research shows the supportive housing is able to reduce Medicaid costs by 41% among high utilizers through the reduction in hospitalizations and other crisis service use.

Per person Medicaid costs for homeless, high-cost utilizers	\$67,987
Potential % Medicaid cost offsets from supportive housing	41%
Potential per person Medicaid cost reductions from supportive housing	\$27,875
Annual average per person cost of supportive housing	\$19,500
Potential annual per person savings	\$8,375
Potential annual savings for 419 high utilizers	\$3,508,987

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