

Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance

Integrating Healthcare and Supportive Housing



- The Community Support Program for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness (CSPECH) is a unique innovation between the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) and the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP), the state's private Managed Care Organization of behavioral health services for Medicaid patients.
- Through the 1115 Waiver that Massachusetts uses, CSPECH provides Community Support Services (CSS) Medicaid reimbursement for chronically homeless individuals who are placed in permanent housing, providing these individuals with the tools and support necessary to retain their housing over time.
- CSPECH has served 372 tenants to date and it is estimated that this intervention has resulted in a net Medicaid savings to the Commonwealth of more than \$3 million when accounting for pre-housing emergency and prolonged medical costs.

CSPECH

Home & Healthy for Good

- ▶ Funded by state initially in FY07 at \$600,000
- ▶ Began Sept '06
- ▶ Increased in FY08 to \$1.2 million, level funded since
- ▶ Flexible funding – Housing or Services
- ▶ Embraced by Commission to End Homelessness as best practice
- ▶ Model for ICHH regional networks
- ▶ Housing and services provided by 12 agencies
- ▶ Cost evaluation mandated by Legislature

- High Utilizers of Emergency Services (HUES) to Home, is a unique integration of HHG and CSPECH. **HUES to Home targets chronically homeless frequent users of the Boston Medical Center (BMC) emergency room for housing.**
- BMC and MHSa member agencies Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP), with leadership from MHSa, identified 35 homeless individuals with serious mental health, substance abuse and chronic medical conditions. **Over eight months, these individuals accounted for an average of \$103,000 each in Medicaid costs paid to BMC**
- HUES to Home provides permanent housing and intensive supportive services for this most costly and difficult to serve “high user” population. With signed consents, MHSa will measure housing retention, cost savings and quality of life improvements to promote this approach as a replicable strategy nationwide.

HUES to Home

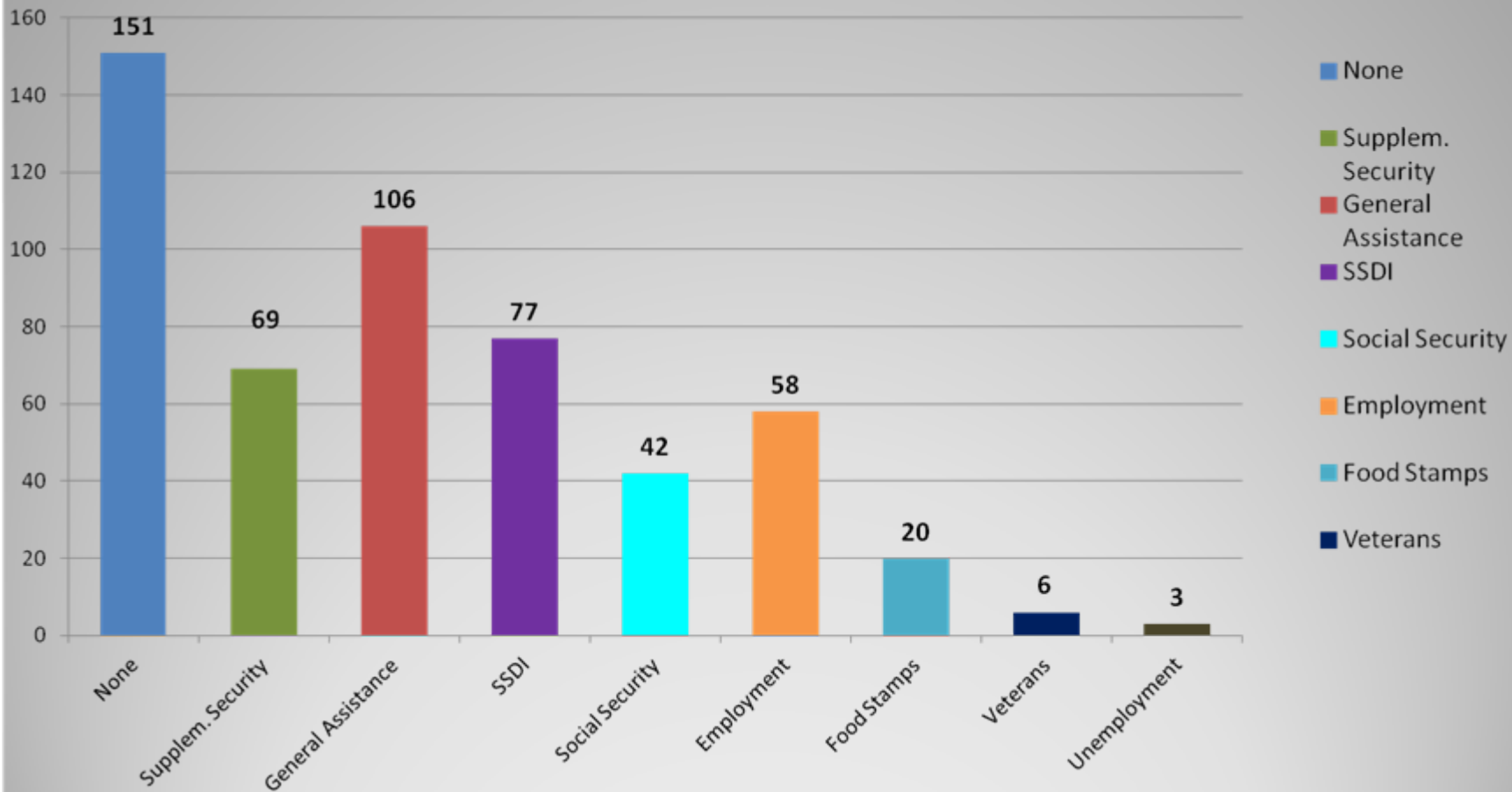
Implementation

- DHCD
 - MHSA
 - Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
 - Community Health link
 - Duffy Health Center
 - Father Bill's & Mainspring
 - Friends of the Homeless
 - HomeStart
 - hopeFound
 - Housing Assistance Corporation
 - Veterans, Inc
 - Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
 - Pine Street Inn
 - Heading Home.
 - Somerville Homeless Coalition
 - South Middlesex Opportunity Council

Housing & Services

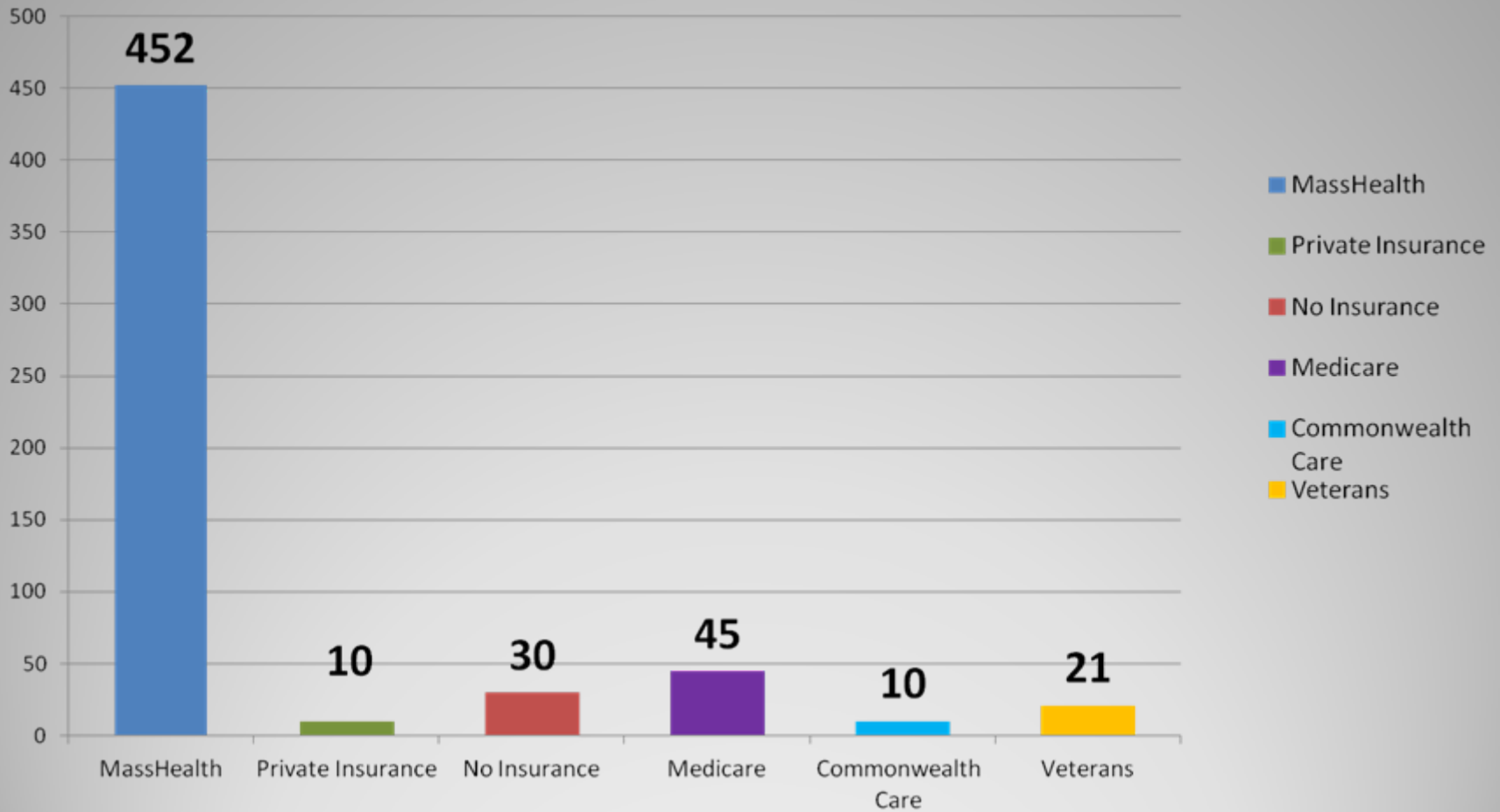
- **Harm Reduction**
- **Intensive Case Management**

Income

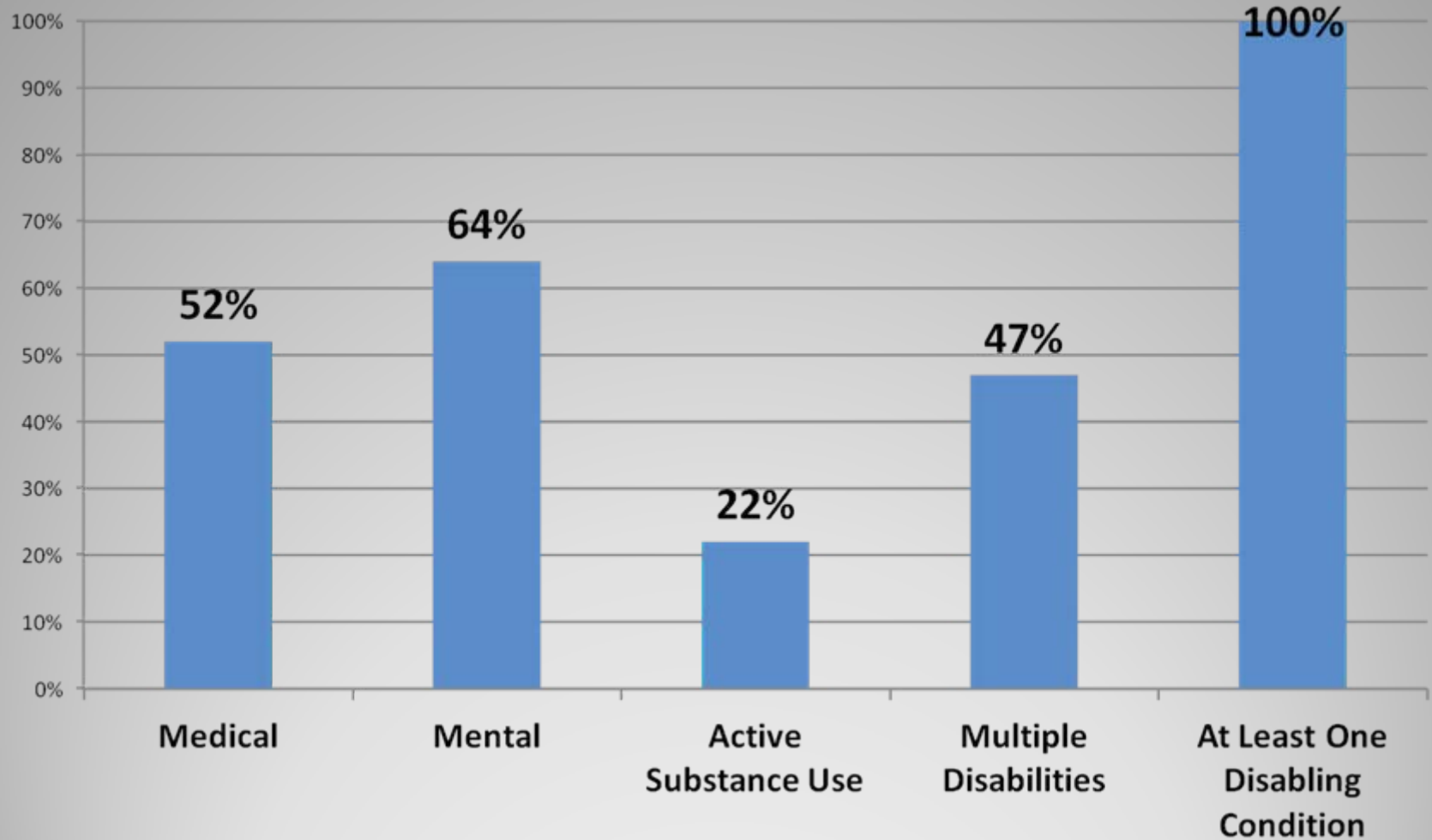


Income

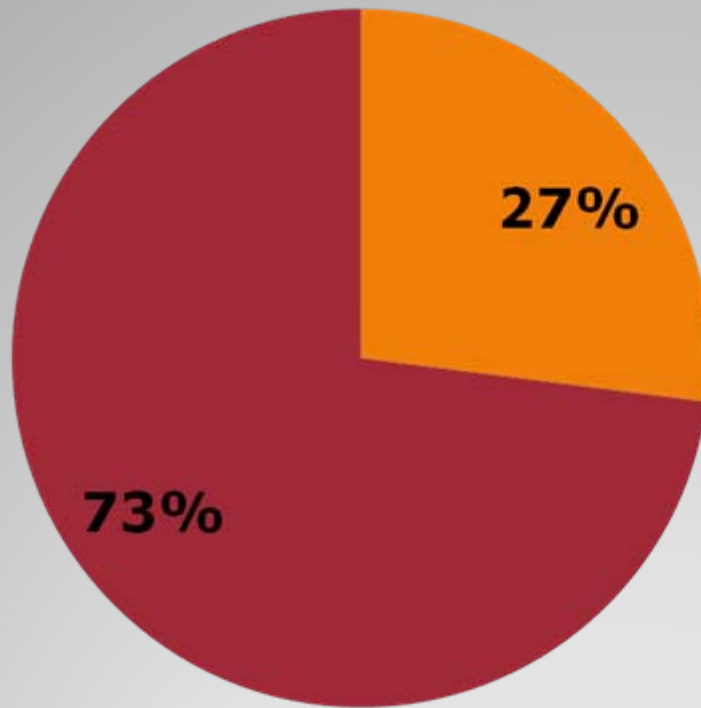
Health Insurance Status



Health Insurance



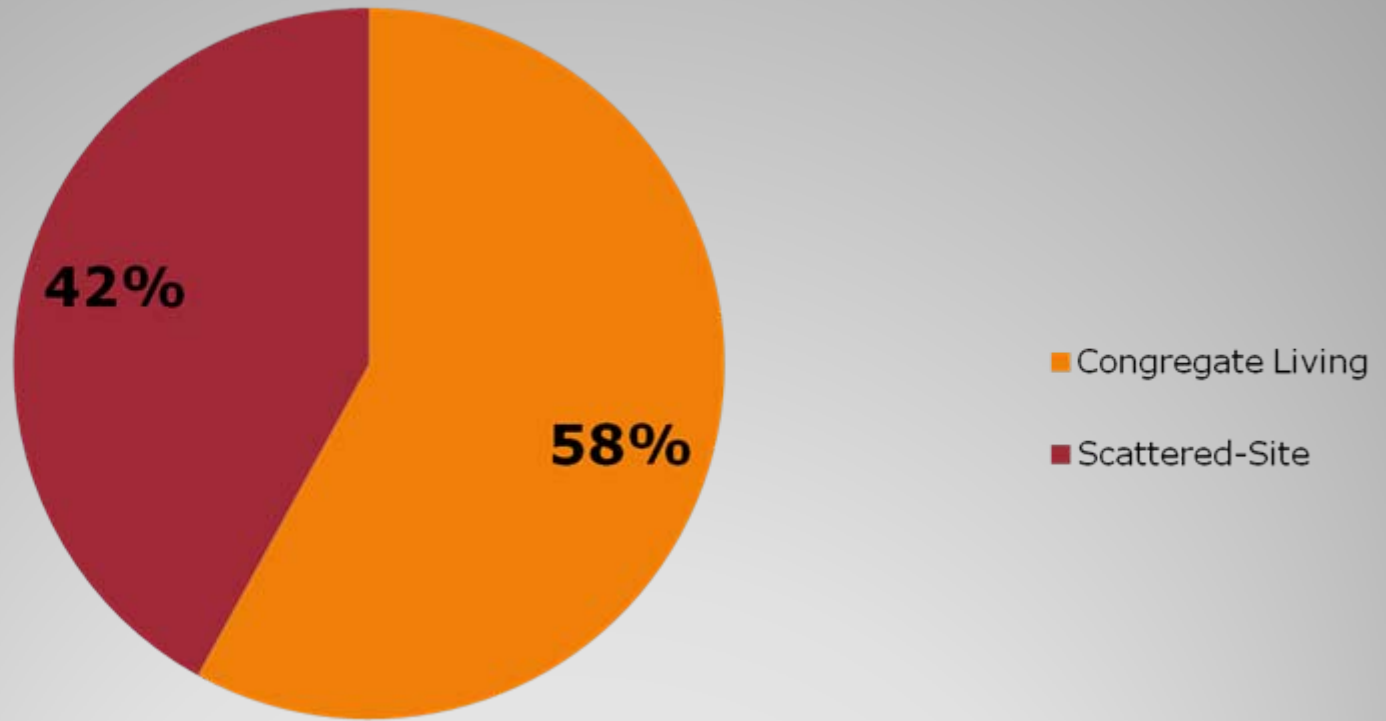
Disability



- Street Dwellers
- Sheltered or Unknown

Living Situations Pre-Housing

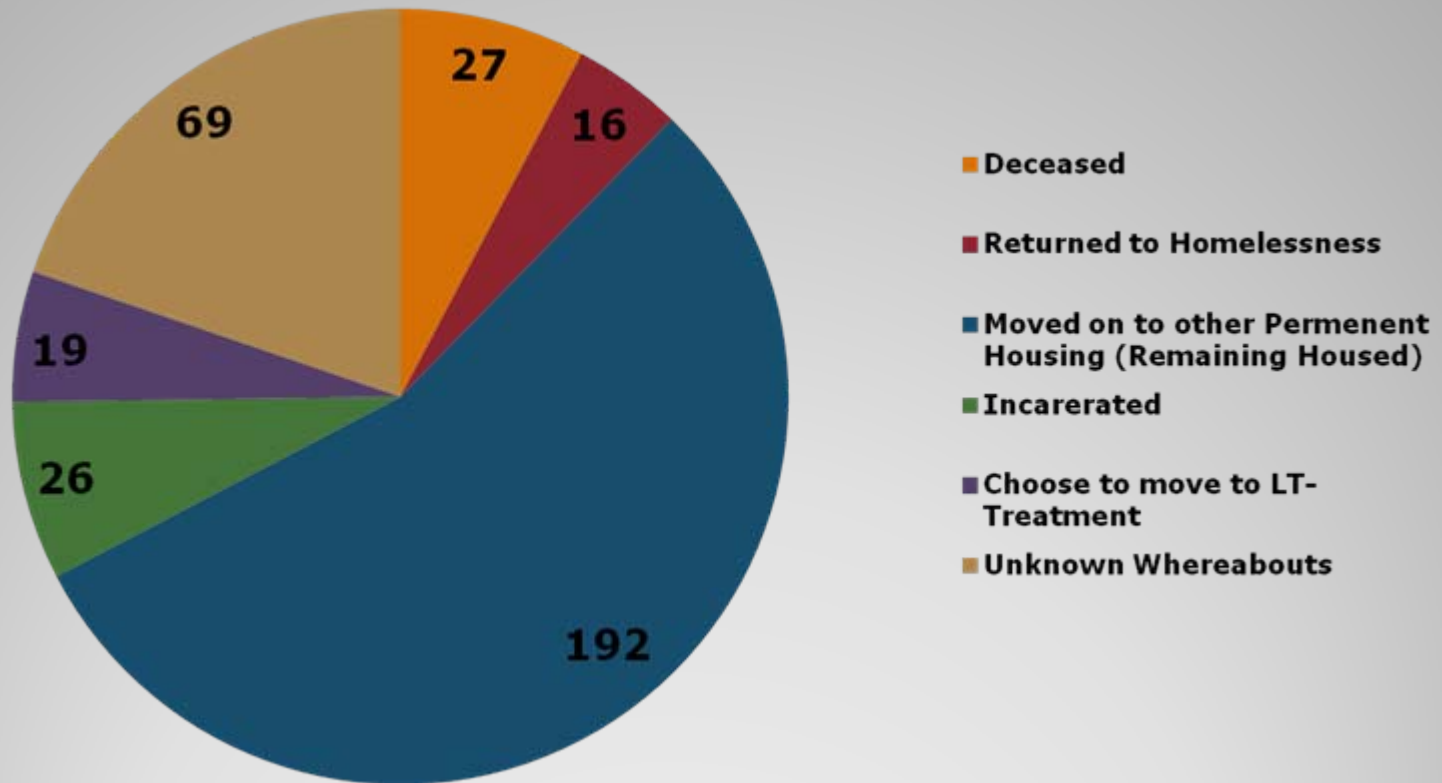
Housing Placement and Retention



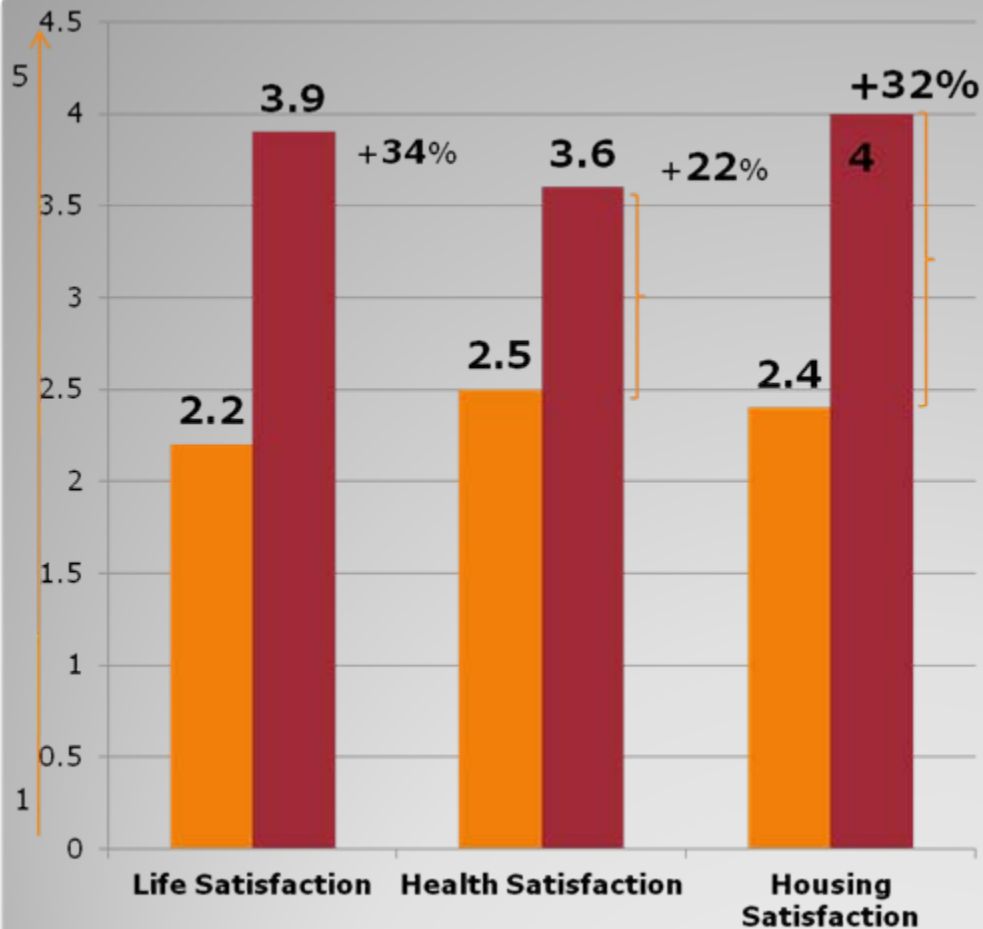
Percentage of Housing By Type

Housing Placement and Retention

Destination of People Who Have Left the Program



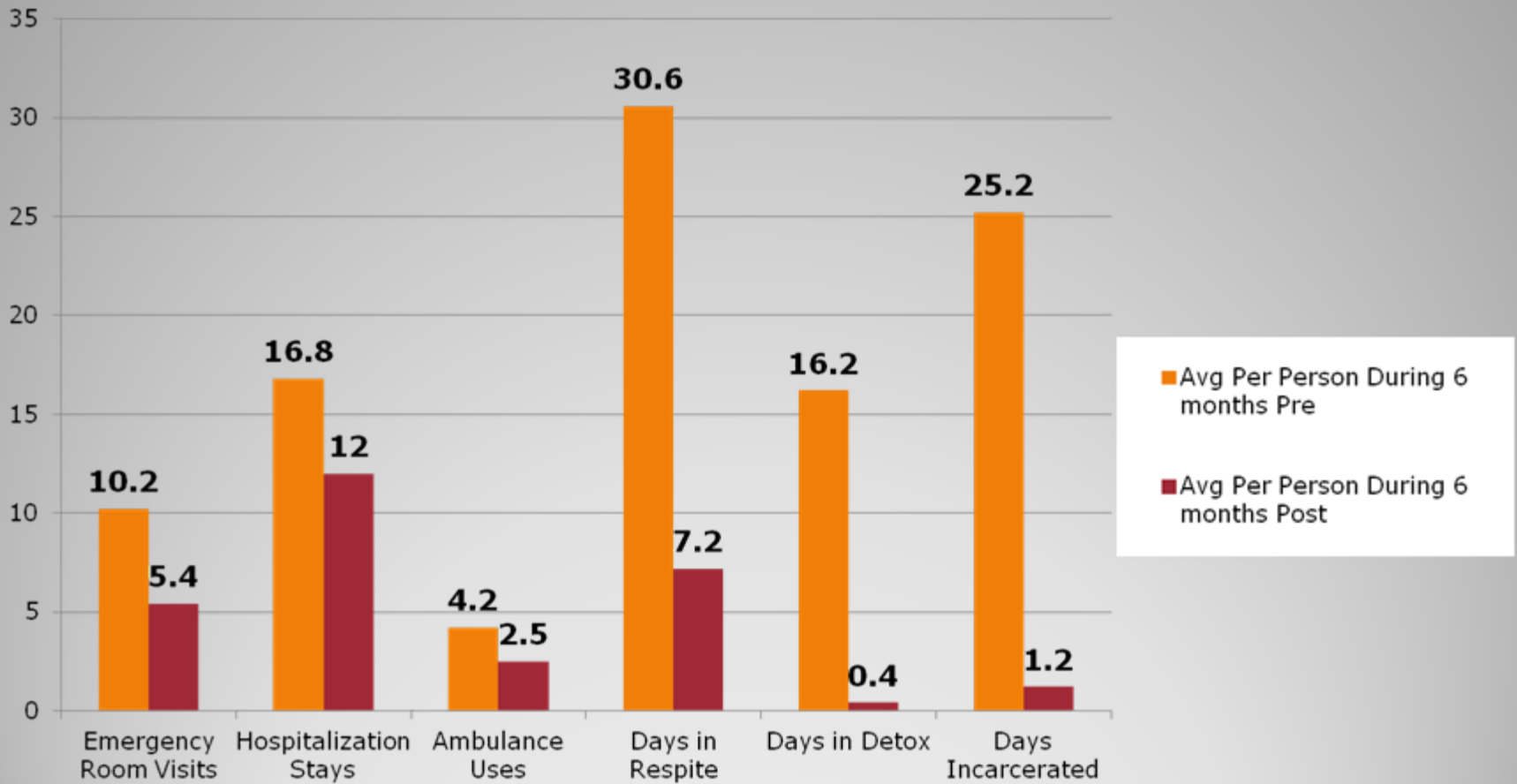
Outcome Data



- We have witnessed a significant positive link between permanent housing and a client's housing, health and overall life satisfaction.
- Between the time immediately prior to entering housing and in the follow up interviews conducted six months after entering the program, participants self-reported demonstrable increases in their satisfaction across all three metrics. This chart demonstrates this link.

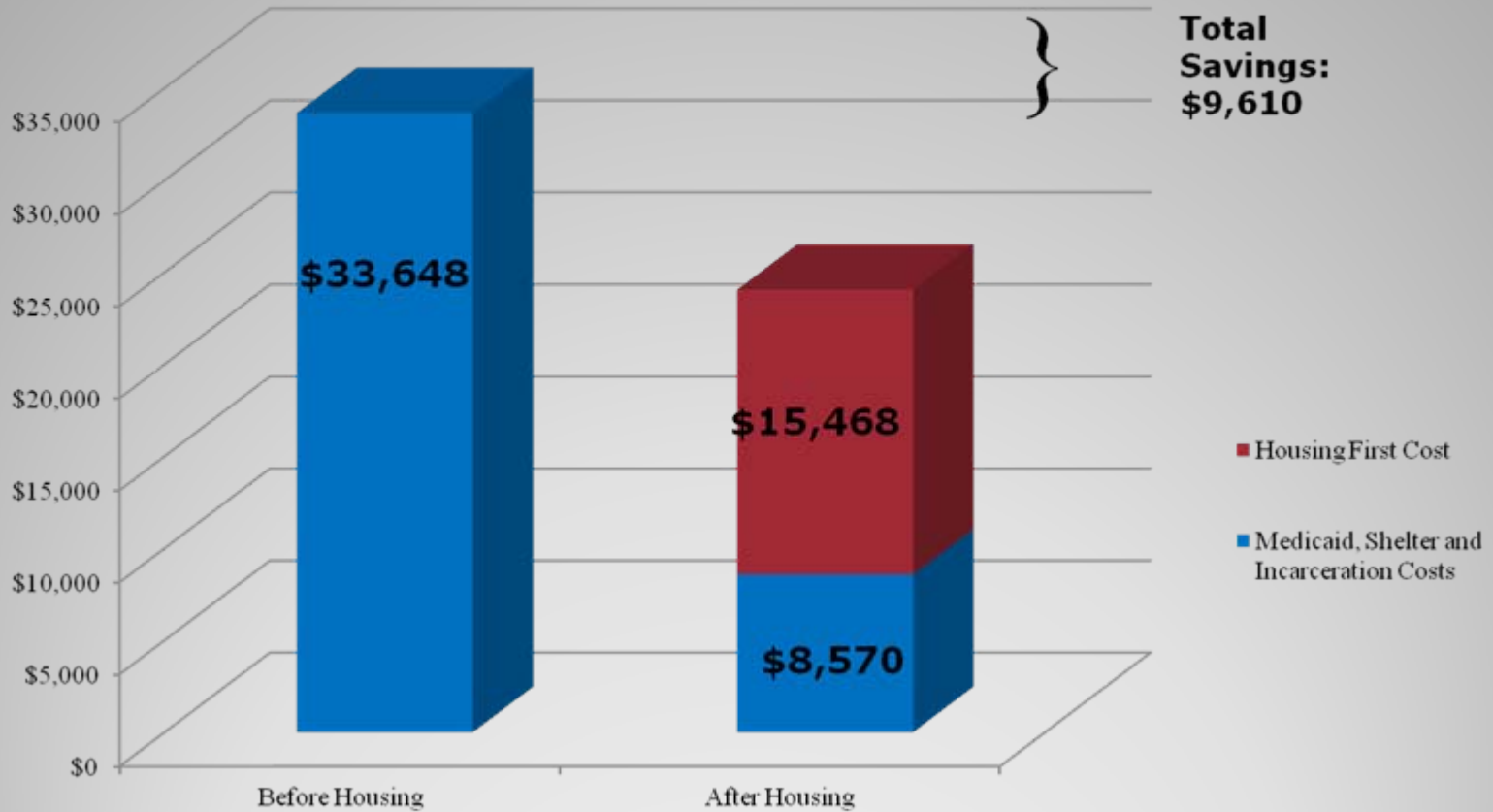
Quality of Life

Average Public Service Usage per Client 6 Months Pre and Post Housing



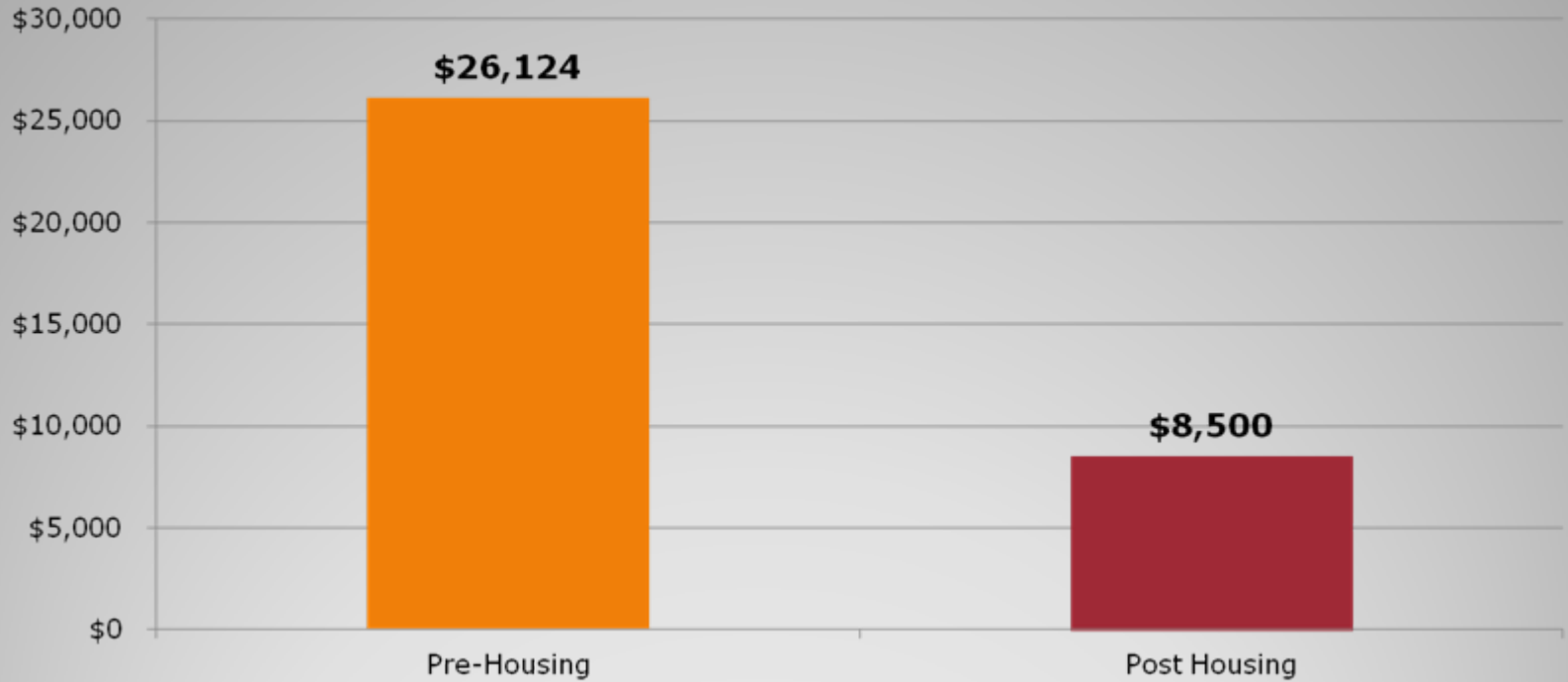
Outcome Data

Annual Savings Per Person



Cost Savings

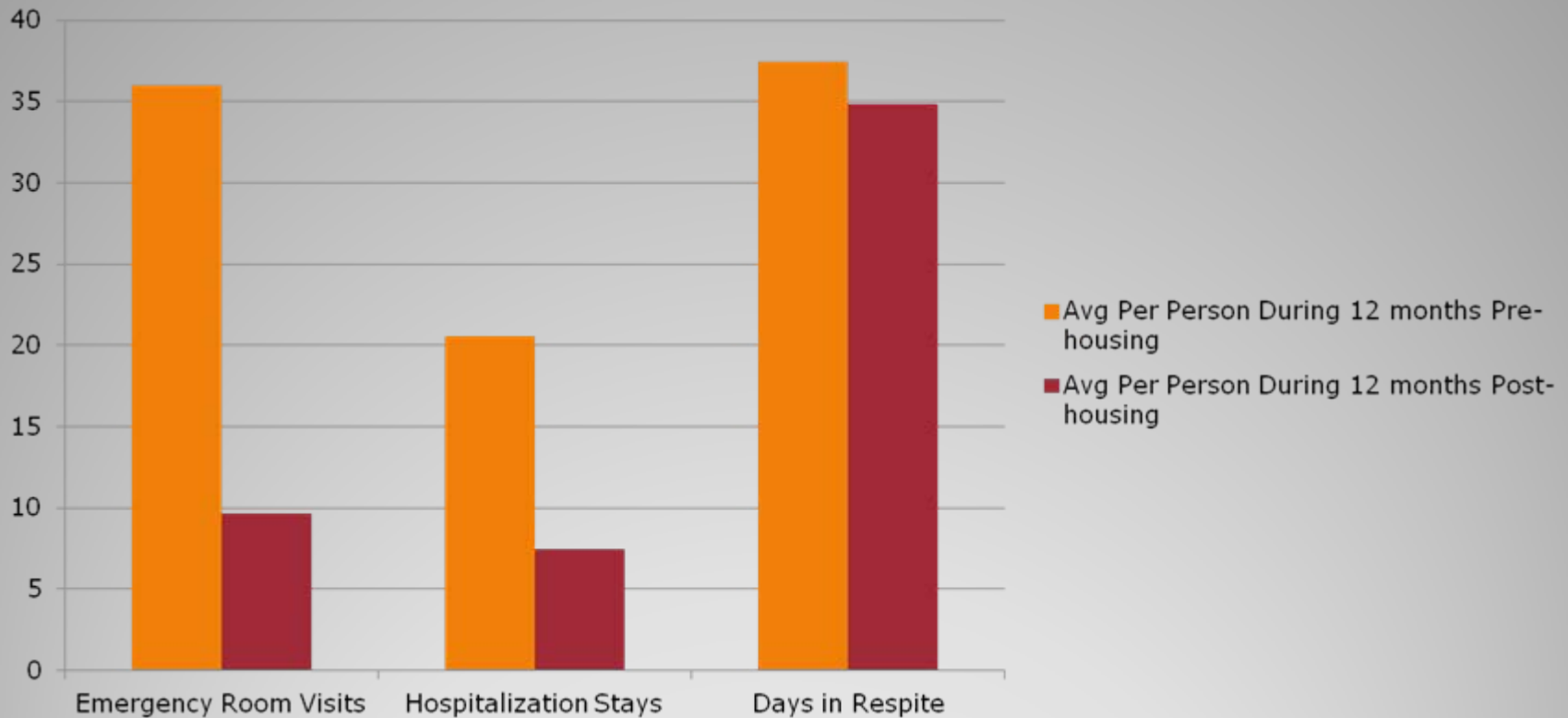
Actual Medicaid Claims Data



Cost Savings

Momentum in Boston

- Housing First programs document medical cost savings for chronically homeless individuals
 - MHSA's Home & Healthy for Good
- Public Health Commission convenes stakeholders around highest users of emergency services in 2007 to begin city-wide response
- Interest from local politicians
- Statewide advocacy group, MHSA, is key driver
- BHCHP invites Boston Medical Center to case conferences for highest users
- Small working group convinces hospital to share cost data



HUES to Home

Comparison of ER Visits and Admission Before and After Supportive Housing Placement

June, 2012

Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

