

HOUSING FOR HEALTH:

USING LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA TO STUDY THE CROSS-SECTOR IMPACTS OF A HOUSING PROGRAM

Ricardo Basurto-Dávila, PhD

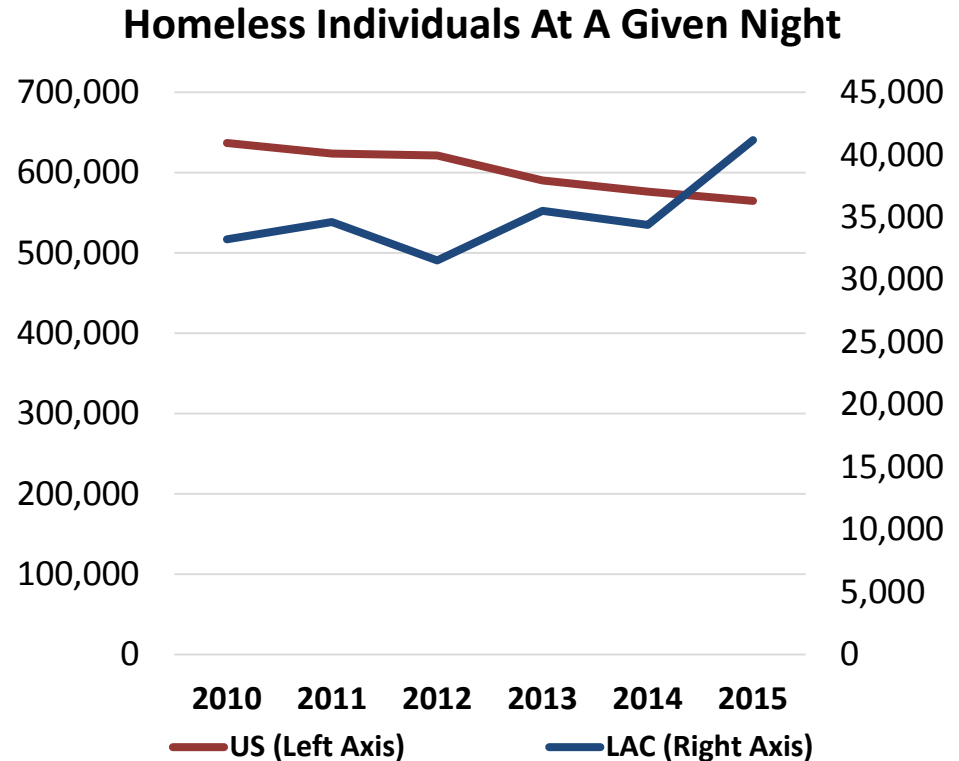
Chief Science Office

Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology



Homelessness in Los Angeles County

- In 2015, LAC had largest local population in the country of:
 - Homeless individuals (41,174; 7% of US)
 - Chronically homeless (14,173; 15% of US)
- Between 2014-15 LAC experienced largest increase in chronically homeless in the US



Sources: HUD, Annual Homeless Assessment Report, 2010-2015

Homelessness and Health

- Homeless populations are at higher risk of
 - Acute and chronic illness
 - Mental health disorders
 - Mortality
- Significant gaps in access to health services
- Heavily reliant on emergency department visits
- High rates of hospitalizations for preventable conditions

Homelessness Also Costly to Other Public Sectors

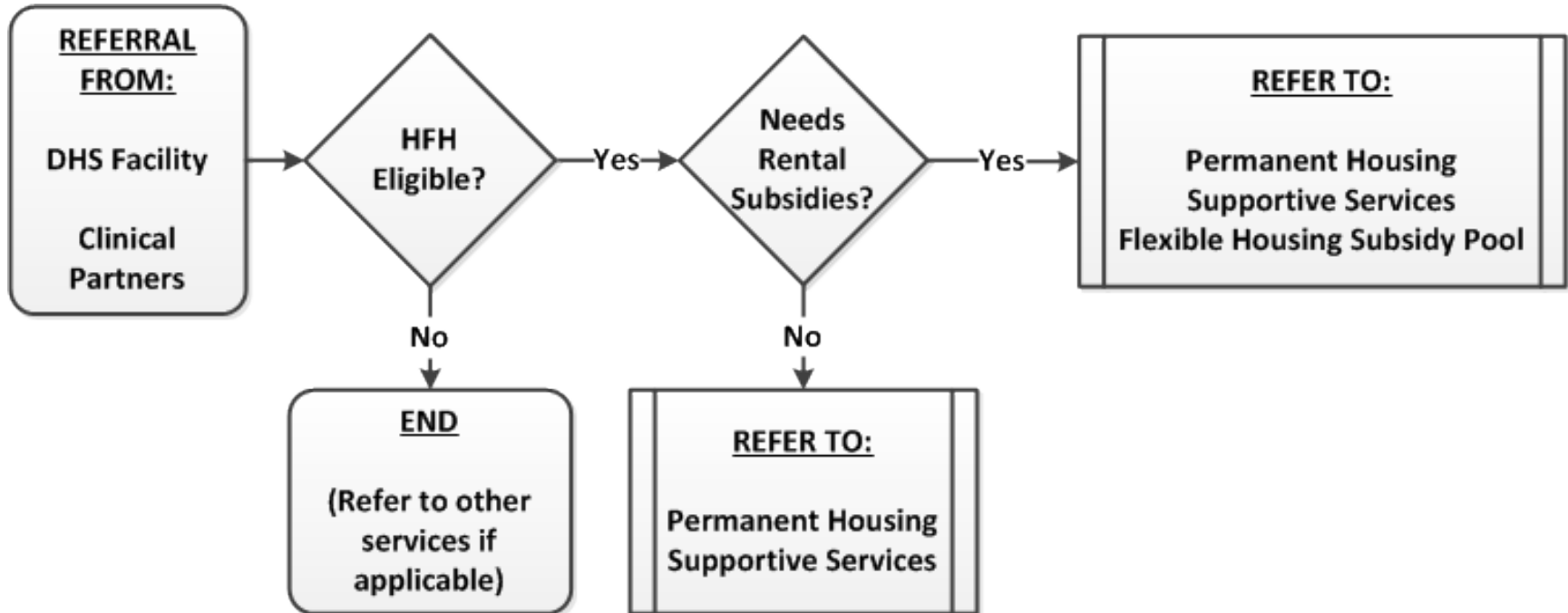
LAC Department	Unique Homeless Individuals Served	Expenditures on Homeless, FY 2014	Avg. Cost per Person
Social Services	114,037	\$ 293.7 million	\$ 2,600
Mental Health	39,073	291.7 million	7,500
Health Services	47,431	255.3 million	5,400
Sheriff	14,754	79.6 million	5,400
Public Health	6,939	32.2 million	4,600
Probation	2,795	12.1 million	4,300
TOTAL	148,815	\$ 964.5 million	\$ 6,500
Most Costly 10%	14,882	\$ 499.1 million	\$ 33,500

Source: Wu and Stevens, LAC CEO Report, 2016

Housing for Health Initiative (HFH)

- Created in 2012 by Department of Health Services
- Provides *permanent supportive housing* (PSH) and *rental subsidies* to homeless individuals who are high-utilizers of DHS services
- **Program Objectives:**
 - To reduce homelessness
 - To improve health outcomes among homeless
 - To reduce inappropriate use of expensive health care resources
- **HFH grew from 1,200 to >2,000 clients in 2016**

Housing for Health Client Process



HFH's Unique Approach to PSH

- By focusing on DHS high-utilizers, program aligns goals of health care and housing sectors
 - Probably other sectors as well
 - Clients likely high-utilizers of other agencies
- Reduces fragmentation in service delivery
 - Centralized contracting with providers
 - More intense oversight than typical PSH model
- Reduces fragmentation and uncertainty in financing mechanisms
 - Housing, supportive services, and rental subsidies financed through DHS general fund

Previous Studies Have Found That PSH

- Increases housing stability
- Reduces:
 - Use of shelters
 - Use of acute care services
 - Hospital admissions
 - Hospital length of stay
 - Incarcerations

Limitations of Existing Evidence

- Most studies focused on impacts on single sectors (e.g., healthcare only OR criminal justice only)
- A few recent studies have used administrative data linked across sectors but they:
 - Compared PSH to individuals who did not receive housing, did not compare **different PSH approaches**
 - Have not explored **dynamic** aspects of program impacts:
 - Spillover effects/synergies
 - Feedback effects (e.g., health -> employment -> health)

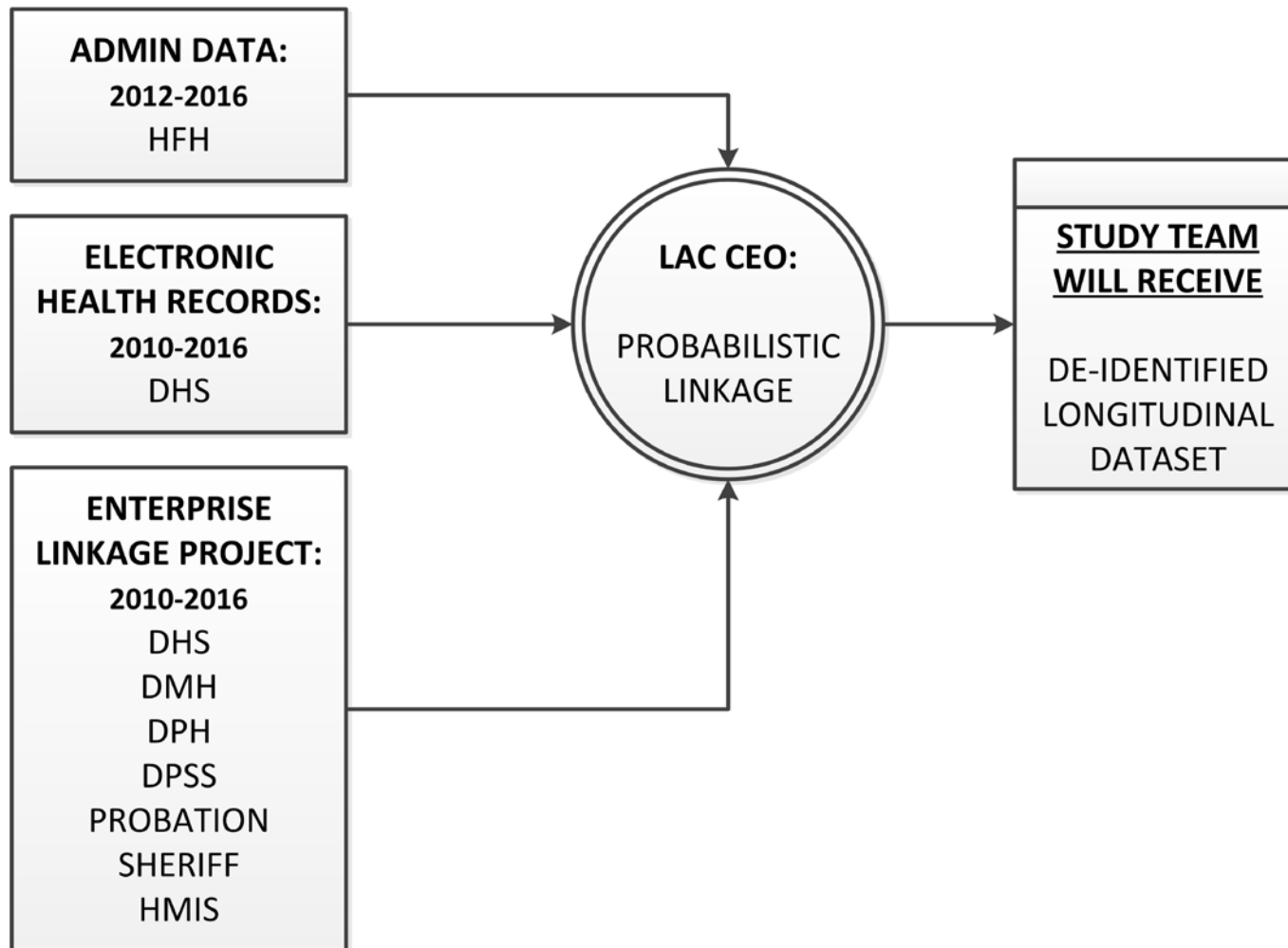
Our Research Questions

- Does HFH improve health outcomes?
- Does HFH improve the quality of healthcare received by its clients?
- How does the effectiveness of HFH compare to other PSH programs?
- How does HFH affect service utilization and costs across public sectors when compared to other PSH programs?
- Do client linkages to other sectors create synergies, thus improving **system-wide** outcomes and lowering costs?

Mixed-Methods: Qualitative Analysis

- **Between four and eight focus groups with:**
 - HFH clients
 - HFH service provider staff
 - Non-HFH PSH clients
 - Non-HFH PSH service provider staff
- **Semi-structured interviews with key informants**
 - Senior HFH and non-HFH staff
 - Senior staff at other LAC agencies (e.g., DHS, DPSS,...)

Big Data: Linkage of Multiple Data Sources

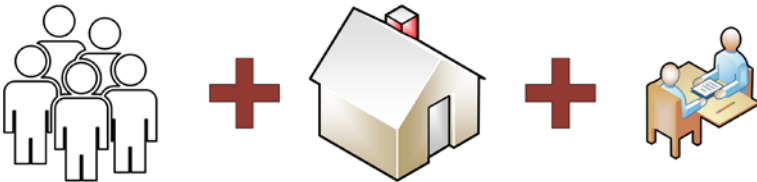


Comparison Groups

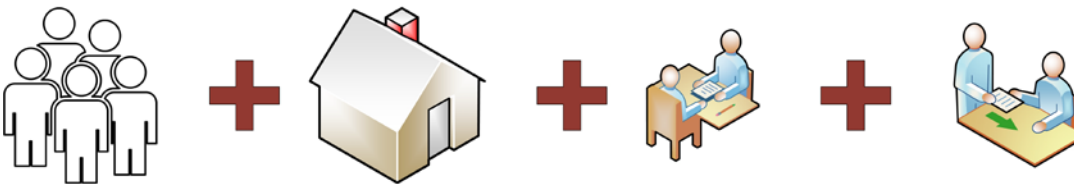
Homeless Throughout Study Period



Non-HFH Permanent Supportive Housing

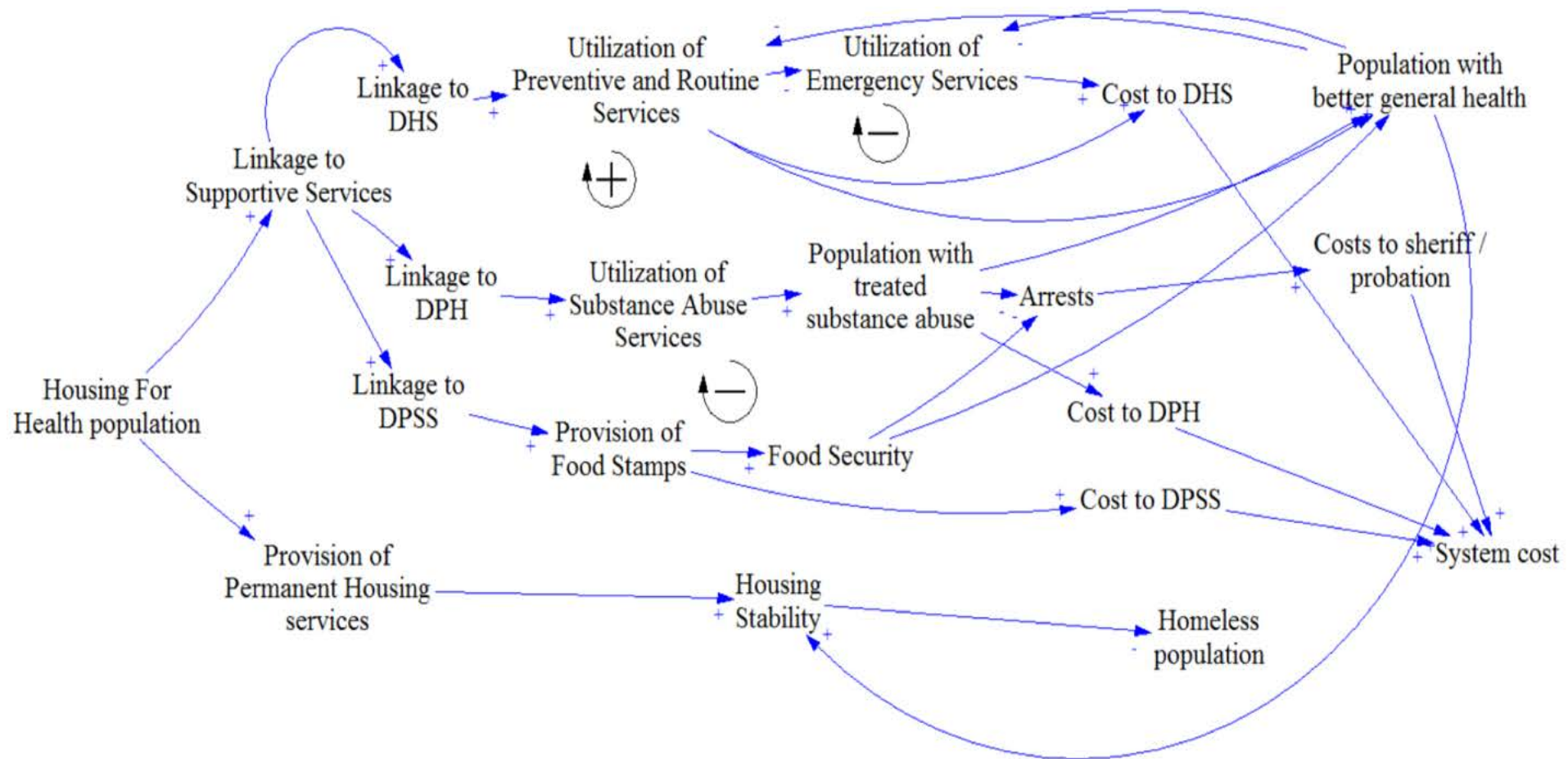


Housing for Health Permanent Supportive Housing



- **Health Outcomes**
- **Housing Outcomes**
- **Service Utilization and Costs**
 - SAPC
 - DHS
 - DMH
 - DPSS
 - Probation
 - Sheriff

System Dynamics Simulation Model



Significance: This Study Will Help Us...

- Assess whether HFH is achieving its goals
- Understand the spillover effects and synergies created by providing PSH to the homeless
- Learn whether there is a financial case for similar programs, which would make them **sustainable**
 - From the perspective of health agencies
 - From perspective of other agencies (e.g., DPSS)
 - Opportunity for cross-subsidizing negatively affected agencies

THANK YOU!

Ricardo Basurto-Davila (PI), rbasurto@ph.lacounty.gov
Corrin Buchanan (Co-PI), cbuchanan@dhs.lacounty.gov

***Support for this presentation was provided
by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,
through the Systems for Action National
Coordinating Center, ID 73693***

