Integrating for Impact: Housing, Homelessness & Health

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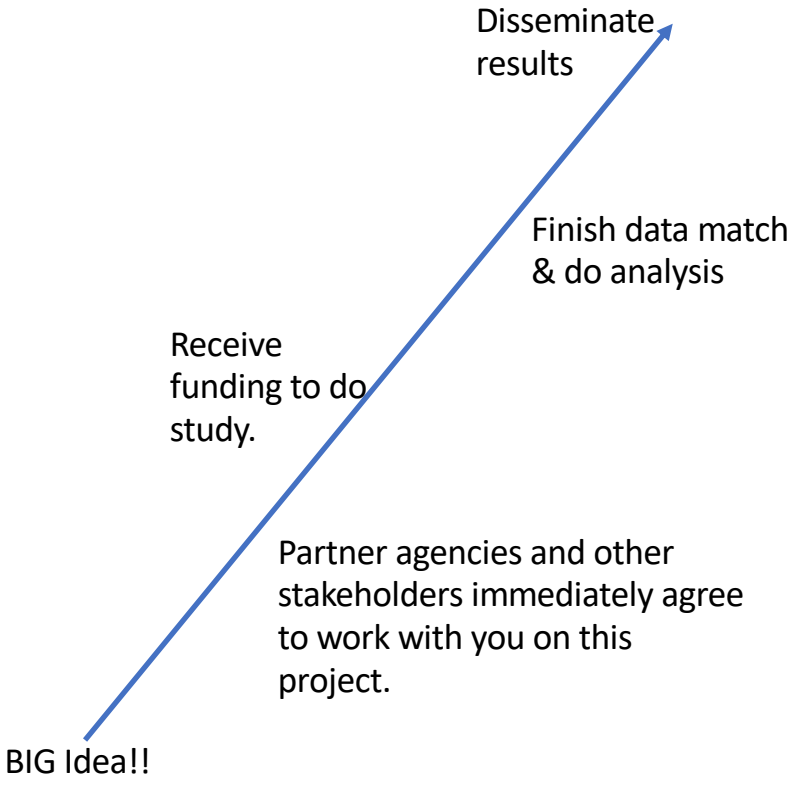
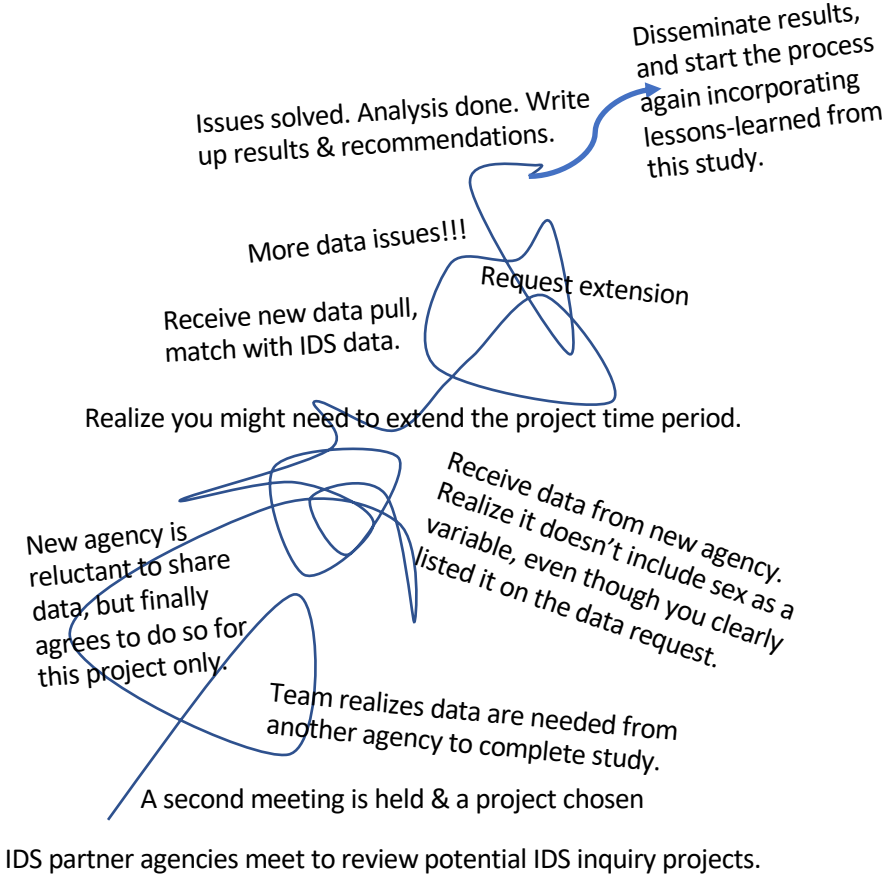
ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE
FOR SOCIAL POLICY

Successfully Completing One IDS Inquiry Project



WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE



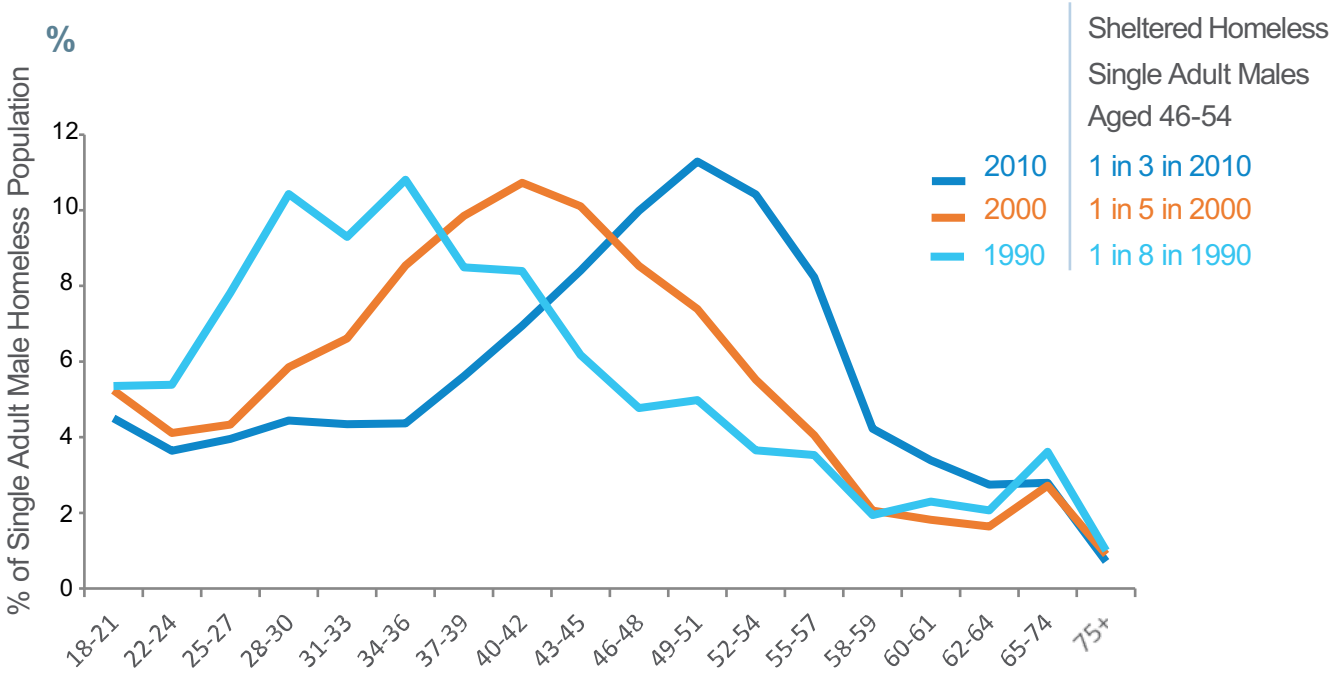
WHAT IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE

The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness:

Could Housing Solutions Be Funded by Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital, and Nursing Home Costs?

Homelessness: A Birth Cohort Phenomenon:

Single Adult Male Shelter Users, United States



Objectives

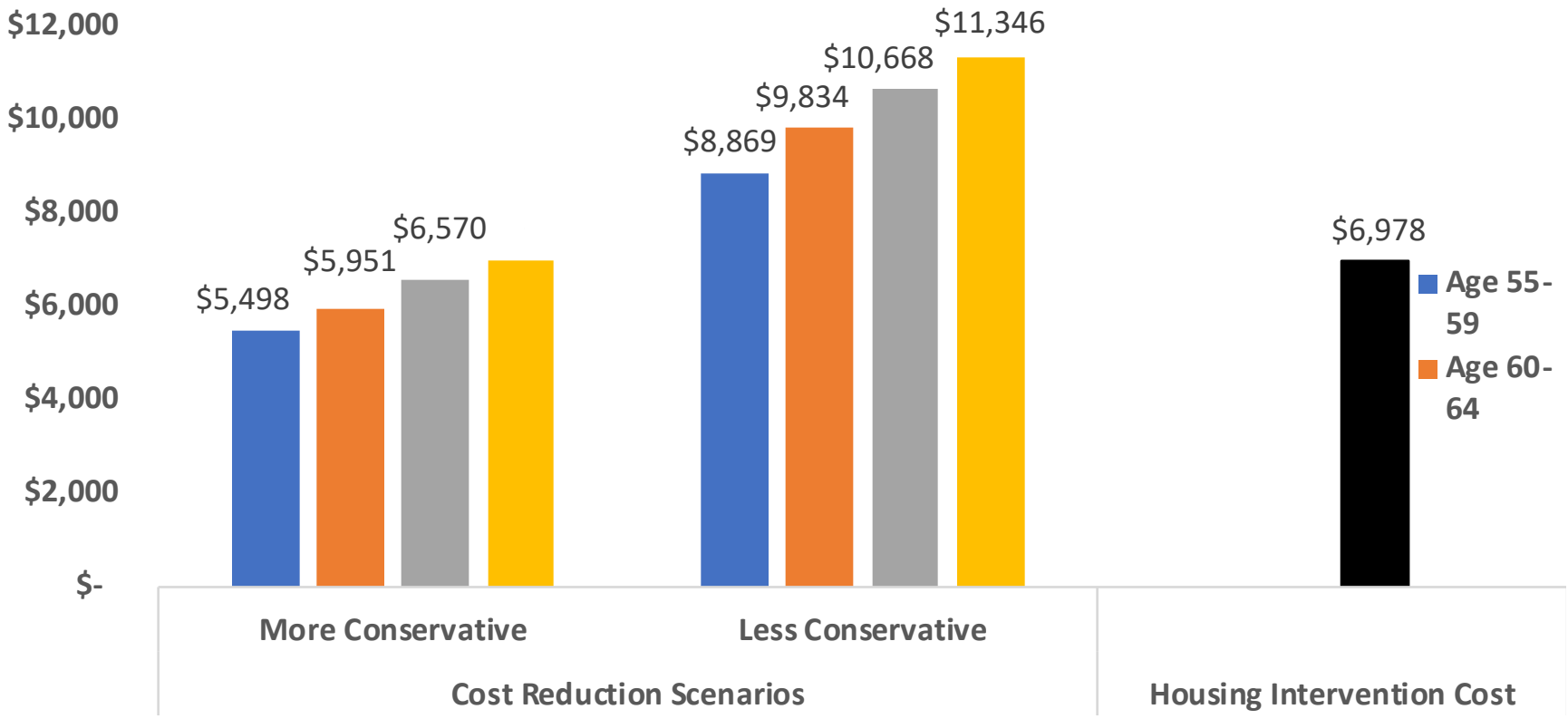
1. Project aging dynamics for sheltered homeless population using LAHSA HMIS data (2009-15) and demographic forecasting methods.
2. Apply age-group specific health care and shelter cost estimates to population projections for likely future cost dynamics
3. Use cluster analysis to match sheltered sub-populations to different housing interventions and estimate related service costs
4. Draw upon prior research to estimate potential cost offsets associated with housing under different scenarios
5. Compare costs of housing interventions to cost offsets

Core Data

Data Sources

- Boston
  - Shelter: City of Boston HMIS
  - Health care: MassHealth Medicaid Claims
- Los Angeles
  - Shelter: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority & Point-in-Time Count
  - Health care: LA Enterprise Linkage Project (Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, & Health Services), CMS (through Mission Analytics); California Office of Statewide Healthcare Planning & Development
- New York City
  - Shelter: NYC Department of Social Services
  - Health care: NYS Department of Health SPARCS Database, CMS (through Mission Analytics)

Cost Reduction Possibilities by Age Group:
LA County Average per Person Per Year



Annualized Average Projected Costs & Potential Cost Reductions
(in millions of $)

	Service Costs without an Intervention	Intervention Costs	Average Service Cost Reductions	Net Offsets (Service Cost Reductions – Intervention Costs)	Return Per Dollar Spent
New York City	$408	$157	$177	$20	1.13
Boston*	$67	$39	$30	-$9	.77
LA County	$621	$241	$274	$33	1.14

* Boston service costs and cost reductions exclude Medicare-reimbursed services. A forthcoming analysis estimating Medicare costs suggests that an intervention would be break-even or provide net savings

Aging Homeless Project: The Process

Overview: Discuss the Aging Homeless research process strengths and challenges

The Question? Could Housing Solutions Be Funded By Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital and Nursing Home Costs?

- Forecast aging homeless population; forecast medical costs, cluster into groups based on costs.
- Multi-city

Goals and Possible Benefits

- Help plan and advocate for appropriate housing and services to help this vulnerable and growing population
- Multi-city structure helps take heat of any one city; may lead to federal response and policy changes than research from only one city.
- Housing as a right and not a privilege

CIDI's Typical Research Process

Multi City Projects
Differences and Challenges of Multi-city research

- Stakeholders separated geographically
- Multiple analysts and people working with the data
- Idiosyncrasies in each city's data
- Different deadlines for different cities
- Different political environments
- Communication format is mostly phone calls and email
- More stakeholders, analysts, and datasets introduce more room for problems, problem solving and possibilities
- Potential powerful force as to how to interpret results to influence policy

The ideal multi-city research process

- Do not let perfection be the enemy of the good enough

    - Allow time for an iterative process, i.e. additional questions with additional requirements on datasets and methodology
    - Allow for an end product that is reliable and useful even if it does not have everything, i.e. not perfect
    - Even loose, acknowledge and negotiate on the boundaries around timelines and additional work

- "Minimum viable products": what is the minimum product that would answer the research questions, i.e., what is 'good enough'?
    - Produces written drafts/products more quickly to get timely feedback (as opposed to producing some analyses towards deadline which leaves little time for feedback and improvement)
    - Allows for a more flexible iterative process
    - Eliminates challenges that can arise from being a perfectionist

Questions?