



HOUSING TRAJECTORIES

of Transition-Age Youth

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About the Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI)

CIDI is a research and policy center located in the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York under the auspice of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. CIDI conducts citywide interagency research to identify areas of service need in the City. The vision of CIDI is to make data come alive to inspire change. To learn more about CIDI, please visit www.nyc.gov/cidi.



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Executive Summary

Young adulthood is a time of transition which poses particular challenges for youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those exiting foster care. The instability of being homeless puts youth at greater risk of many poor outcomes, including physical and mental health conditions, decreased prospects for education and employment, justice system involvement, and recurring future homelessness. As a result, connection to relevant housing resources and services are critical to ensure that young adults have the opportunity to succeed.

Given that there are limited housing resources, it is important to match youths' needs with available housing placements and other services. Although each housing resource requires eligibility, there is currently no system in place to prioritize individuals for specific housing programs based on their characteristics or needs. Better aligning youths' needs with relevant housing resources can help young adults become and remain stably housed, leading to better lifetime outcomes.

This study provides a better understanding of the housing trajectories of young adults who exit foster care and residential programs for homeless young adults, including emergency shelters and transitional living programs. Using administrative data to follow a cohort of young adults, this study documents which housing resources are used by youth and assesses which youth may be suited for supportive housing or other specific housing resources.

METHODOLOGY

The study uses administrative data to follow a cohort of 19,963 young adults, from ages 18 through 21, who exited foster care or homeless services between 2008 and 2013. For the purposes of this study "homeless services" refer to homeless shelters and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services.

Subsequent service use after exit, including utilization of homeless services, jail, and supportive housing, was measured for one-, two-, and three-year outcome periods. Risk and protective factors for subsequent service use were also analyzed based on prior service use, demographic characteristics, and history of foster care.

FINDINGS

Service Use

Within two years of exit, 63% of the sample did not return to either homeless services or jail. Notably, these youth may access and continue to need other non-housing services not captured in this study, such as support services for health, employment, or education.

Within two years, 14% of the sample had a stay in a single adult shelter, 12% had a stay in a families with children shelter, 2% had a stay in an adult families shelter, and 13% had a jail stay. 20% of age-eligible youth had a stay in a Runaway and Homeless Youth crisis shelter, and 7% had a stay in a transitional independent living program. Approximately 2% of the sample moved into a supportive housing unit. The report also explores outcomes for one- and three-year time periods.

Factors Impacting Future Service Use

In all models, compared to youth exiting foster care, youth who exited homeless services had higher risks of both subsequent system use and being high system users (in the top 10% of the sample).

Prior service use affected the risk of later use: Accessing multiple systems prior to exit increased risk by about 20-30% per system. Length and number of stays in homeless shelters and jail also increased risk for several of the models.

Gender also differentially impacted risk of later service use. Compared to men, women had an increased risk of having a homeless shelter stay or being a high service user of homeless shelters. However, women had a lower risk of overall service use (i.e., a homeless shelter and/or jail stay). Youth identifying as transgender had elevated risks of future service use compared to men.

Having a subsidized exit substantially reduced the likelihood of both future system use and being a high service user in all models—by about two-thirds and 85%, respectively. Youth who were older at exit also had a decreased risk of later service use.

For youth who had a foster care history, those with a residential placement or placement in a residential treatment facility were more likely to have a shelter or jail stay within two years. Multiple movements in foster care also increased the risk of later service use and high service use.

Positive Exits and Retention in Supportive Housing

Of youth who moved into supportive housing, 43.2% had a positive exit from supportive housing or retained the supportive housing placement. The only factor that decreased the likelihood of a positive exit or retaining housing was having a substance abuse diagnosis on the supportive housing application.

CONCLUSION

Several factors consistently increased the risk of future homelessness and criminal justice involvement: Multiple stays and longer stay durations in the justice system and/or homeless services; utilizing services from multiple agencies; and multiple moves while in foster care. Additionally, having a subsidized exit from a system significantly decreased the risk of later service use.

Several factors regarding previous service use predicted later use of homeless shelter services and jail systems. These same factors were not found to decrease the likelihood of success in supportive housing for individuals who had been placed. Therefore, using these factors to prioritize housing resources may help better match youths' needs to services without decreasing the success of the program. These factors can help shape policies and tools to prioritize youth for housing resources, including supportive housing.

Future Directions

This study describes housing trajectories of transition-age youth from multiple agencies. Future studies building on the current work will incorporate additional data sources, including hospitalizations and public housing utilization. Additionally, the data will be used to develop typologies of service use among youth including patterns of service use across systems. Developing typologies of youth will help us to better understand the spectrum of services that may be needed for transition-age youth and provide these services to youth who need them.



Introduction

BACKGROUND

Young adulthood is a time of transition which poses particular challenges for youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those exiting foster care. The instability of being homeless puts youth at greater risk of many poor outcomes, including physical and mental health conditions, decreased prospects for education and employment, justice system involvement, and recurring future homelessness. As a result, connection to relevant housing resources is critical to ensure that young adults have the opportunity to succeed.

In New York City, a range of resources exist for youth facing homelessness. Housing and shelter options include independent living, shelters, and supportive housing. Supportive housing combines housing with intensive programming and social services. Many vulnerable youth may benefit from the services provided in supportive housing, while those who are not in need of intensive services may be better suited for subsidized independent housing options, such as through New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) public housing or Section 8 vouchers. Adult shelter services are open to youth starting at age 18, and the City offers some shelters specifically for young adults within the adult system. Residential services for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY), funded by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) are available through age 20. Additionally, many youth facing housing instability or early trauma may have limited formal and informal support systems, including family and friends who have the resources to help

in times of transitions or stress. These youth may never or only occasionally access housing-based supports, but instead may use—and remain in need of—additional services, such as education support, employment assistance, or mental health services.

Given that there are limited housing resources, it is important to match youths' needs with available housing placements and other services. Although each housing resource requires eligibility, there is currently no system in place to prioritize individuals for specific housing programs based on their characteristics or needs. Better aligning youths' needs with relevant housing resources can help young adults become and remain stably housed, leading to better lifetime outcomes. Additionally, better understanding the needs of youth who may not need intensive supportive housing is also instructive for additional support services that can be provided outside of housing, such as trauma-informed care, independent living skills training, and employment and education services.

This study fills a gap in the research literature by comprehensively examining the service utilization patterns of vulnerable transition-age youth. It explores which housing resources young adults access after interacting with homeless services and/or the foster care system. The study identifies factors that differentiate which youth end up in which housing program, as well as factors that impact housing stability after placement. The results can inform the development of targeted measures to prioritize specific housing resources for vulnerable youth based on their needs, and identify how services can be streamlined to better serve youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

YOUTH POPULATIONS AT RISK

Common factors underlying youth homelessness and housing instability include combinations of poverty and conflict with family members (Heinze et al., 2012; Dworsky et al., 2012; Edidin et al., 2011), aging out of institutional care such as the foster care system (Kimberlin & Lemley, 2010; Brown & Wilderson, 2010; Berzin, Rhodes & Curtis, 2011), isolation related to developing mental health conditions (Hawkins & Abrams, 2007), and family conflict related to youths' sexual orientation (Hunter, 2008; Cochran et al., 2002). Black and Hispanic youth, as well as LGBT youth, are over-represented among homeless youth compared to the general population (Gwadz et al., 2017; Cochran et al., 2002). Dually-involved youth who have interacted with both the foster care and justice systems are also at particular risk of homelessness and housing instability (CIDI, 2015). Young adults belonging to each of these populations have varying needs for services that can help ease their transition to stable housing during adulthood.

For example, upon exiting the foster care system, many youth face uncertainty about their next housing situation and are at risk of homelessness. Homelessness among foster care youth has been estimated at anywhere from 11% to 36% (Brandford & English, 2004; Reilly, 2003). In New York City, young adults in foster care can choose to be discharged at age 18, and at age 21 they age out of the foster care system. One study found that 22% of New York City youth exiting foster care at or after age 16 entered a public shelter within ten years (Park et al., 2004). A more recent New York City study found that for young adults who had been dually involved in both the foster care and justice system, 57.1% had a jail stay within 6 years of exiting foster care; 16.0% had a stay in a family shelter, and 10.8% had a stay in a single adult shelter (CIDI, 2015). Of those who went to family shelters, 66% had more than one stay, suggesting difficulty achieving housing stability after an initial period of homelessness. Of youth who exited foster care (and not the justice system), 20.0% had a stay in a family shelter, 7.6% had a stay in a single adult shelter, and 14.7% had a jail stay within 6 years (CIDI, 2015).

RISKS OF HOMELESSNESS FOR YOUTH

Homelessness puts youth at risk for poor outcomes in many areas, including education and employment, physical and mental health, and justice system involvement. High school dropout rates are high at about 66% (Cauce, et al., 2000), and as many as 66-71% of homeless youth are unemployed (Ferguson, Xie, & Glynn, 2012). Common health conditions include HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, hepatitis, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicide (Cauce et al., 2000; Rosenthal, Moore, & Buzwell, 1994; Gomez, Thompson, & Barczyk, 2010; Whitbeck, Hoyt, Yoder, Cauce, & Paradise, 2001). Homeless youth also often lack consistent access to health care and are vulnerable to emotional and physical abuse. When combined with the elevated health risks associated with homelessness, this can result in high utilization of costly emergency care (Klein et al., 2000). Homeless youth may also be vulnerable to physical, sexual, and financial exploitation and engage in high-risk activities to survive and acquire money, food, or shelter, putting them at risk for poor outcomes, including arrest and incarceration (Gaetz & O'Grady, 2002; Levin, Bax, McKean, & Schoogen, 2005). Housing stability—particularly when paired with improved access to services addressing the many risks facing transition-age youth—is therefore critical for youth to thrive and successfully transition to adulthood.

BENEFITS OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Studies of various housing programs have shown that providing access to housing assistance improves outcomes in a range of areas.

Subsidized housing is provided in New York City through NYCHA housing and Section 8 vouchers. A recent comprehensive long-term study demonstrated that families receiving long-term housing subsidies, such as vouchers, experience significant benefits in housing stability and many aspects of family well-being (Gubits et al., 2015). The study randomly assigned more than 2,000 formerly-homeless families at multiple sites nationwide to several types of housing interventions. The study found that access to long-term housing subsidies provided significant improvements—including less than half as many subsequent episodes of homelessness, decreased economic stress, decreased partner violence, improved adult mental health, and improved child well-being—compared to families receiving only the “usual care,” many of whom did not subsequently or consistently access housing services (Gubits et al., 2015).

Supportive housing offers both long-term housing and dedicated services, such as case management, which help homeless individuals build stability and reduce the need for other costly services. A rising number of evaluations, including several in New York City, have shown that supportive housing improves participant outcomes across service areas and produces net savings. A New York City study found that supportive housing placement for homeless individuals with serious mental illness was associated with decreased shelter use, time incarcerated, number of hospitalizations, and length of hospitalizations (Culhane, Metraux, & Hadley, 2002). A variety of subsequent studies in communities around the country have similarly shown that supportive housing reduces public costs, including health care, particularly when focusing on individuals with the highest prior utilization of health care and homelessness services (Burt, Wilkins & Mauch, 2011).

Several studies have shown supportive housing reduces service utilization for youth in particular. An evaluation in New York City found that compared to eligible but unplaced individuals, placement into supportive housing for 365 days was associated with average net savings of \$10,100 per person across all at-risk populations served. This study did not find a net savings for youth exiting foster care specifically (for these youth, there was a statistically significant cost of \$11,808, after accounting for the cost of supportive housing placement). However, the study did find reductions in Medicaid costs and fewer days in jails, shelters, and state psychiatric hospitals for this population (Levanon Seligson, et al., 2013). Another recent study of a supportive housing program for young adults in New York City who were aging out of foster care, homeless, or at risk of homelessness found that participation was associated with a reduction in single adult shelter use and jail stays during the two years after program entry (Raithel et al., 2017). A recent randomized trial in Vancouver involving homeless individuals over age 19 with serious mental illness and other support needs also showed that placement in “housing first” programs resulted in significantly more time spent stably housed during a two-year follow-up period (housing first participants spent 74% of the two years housed, compared to 25% for individuals using other existing services), as well as fewer emergency department visits and criminal convictions (Somers et al., 2017).

NEED FOR PRIORITIZATION OF HOUSING RESOURCES

Existing housing resources are limited and certain services, such as supportive housing, cannot serve every transition-age young adult. It is important to understand how youth are accessing these resources and which youth should be prioritized to best utilize these programs.

Although several tools to prioritize homeless adults for housing according to health status have been developed (Swanborough, 2011; Juneau Economic Development Council, 2009; Hwang et al., 1998; Flaming, 2011), a 2015 report by HUD notes that several evidence-informed existing tools, including the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT), are new enough that the evidence base remains limited (Levitt, 2015). In addition, only one tool focuses on prioritizing young adults for supportive housing. The tool offers six triage questions to identify the most vulnerable youth by asking about a self-reported history of risk factors: incarceration, substance use, pregnancy, and reasons for leaving home (Rice, 2013).

There are many additional factors which can impact individuals' success in specific programs. For example, one study of homeless adults in Los Angeles suggests that supportive housing programs may need to be tailored to individuals' needs based on gender (Winetrobe et al., 2016). In addition, variations in program structure may create barriers to housing eligibility or stability. Programs may impose strict rules for accessing and remaining in housing, such as curfews, room inspections, and drug testing (Ryan & Thompson, 2013). While these structures may be helpful for some young adults, others may thrive in a more independent setting. A 2016 literature review sought to identify characteristics of youth in drop-in centers that facilitated or hindered youths' access to these centers (Pedersen, 2016). The review notes that youth who access drop-in centers have different demographics and higher risk profiles than those accessing shelters. Family and home characteristics and certain demographics may also be associated with shorter periods of homelessness, perhaps resulting from greater receptivity to re-housing options: A two

year study in California surveyed 426 youth between ages 14-24 receiving homelessness services. It found that being younger and female, as well as having a home to which they were able to return and/or not having chosen to leave home (i.e., having been kicked out or removed) were each associated with shorter periods of inconsistent shelter (Tevendale, Comulada, & Lightfoot, 2011).

PURPOSE OF STUDY

This study provides a better understanding of housing trajectories of young adults who exit foster care and residential programs for homeless young adults, including emergency shelters and transitional independent living programs. Using administrative data to follow a cohort of young adults, this study documents which housing resources are used by youth and assesses which youth may be suited for supportive housing or other specific housing resources.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

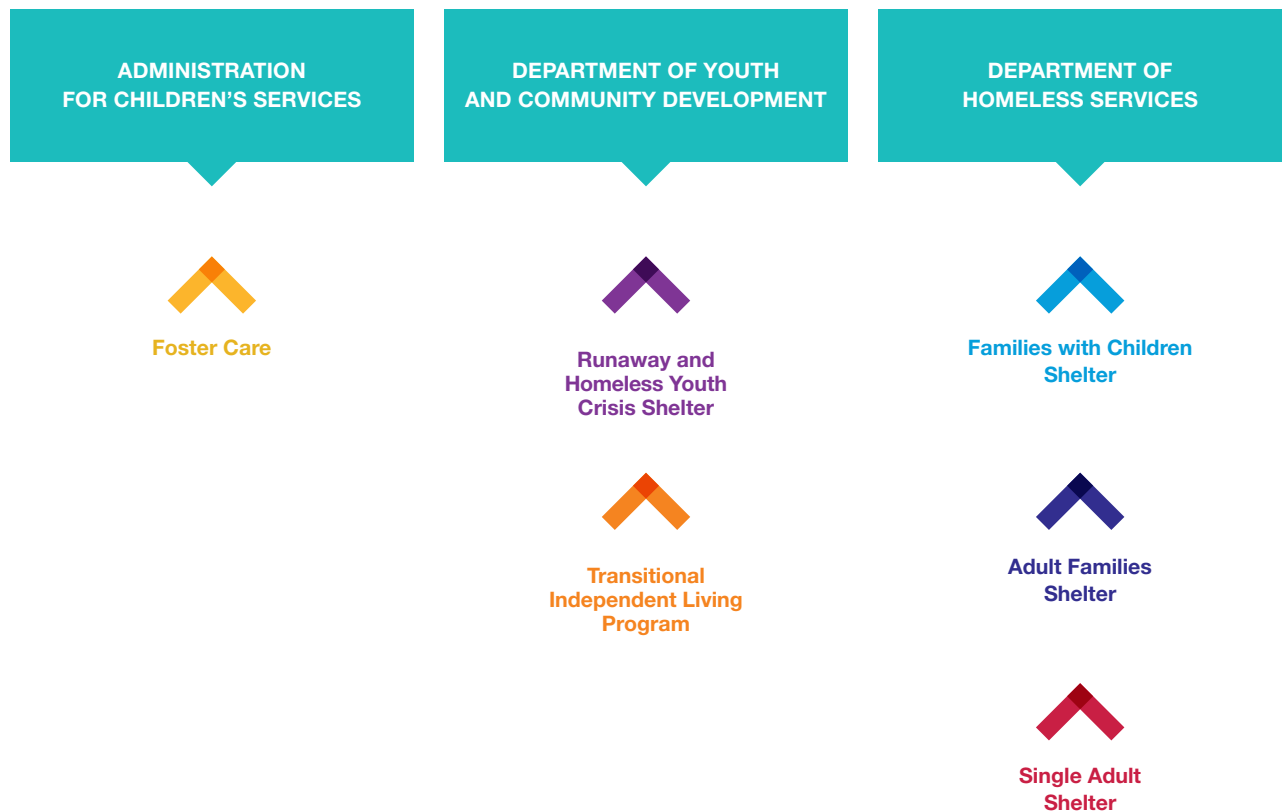
- 1 How many youth enter supportive housing, Department of Homeless Services (DHS) family and single adult shelters, Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Runaway and Homeless Youth shelters and transitional living programs, or jail within one, two, and three years after exiting foster care or homeless services?
- 2 How long do they stay in these systems?
- 3 Is there cross-system use among young adults (i.e., they access more than one service)?
- 4 What are the characteristics of young adults that impact later risk of homelessness and/or criminal justice involvement?
- 5 What are the characteristics of young adults that predict housing stability in supportive housing?



02 Methodology

SAMPLE

The sample consists of individuals who were 18 to 21 years old when they exited from one of the systems listed below. All individuals exited between 2008 and 2013 (exceptions noted in the descriptions on page 12). If an individual exited from multiple systems (approximately 9% of the sample) or exited a system more than once during that time frame, the earliest exit was used to categorize the exit system. This exit is referred to as the “index exit” throughout the report. These systems were chosen to represent transition-age youth who are homeless (i.e., utilizing DYCD or DHS services) or at risk of homelessness (i.e., exiting foster care) during young adulthood.



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ACS)



Foster care:

Individuals were included in the sample if they exited a foster care stay between the ages of 18 and 21, regardless of discharge reason. This includes young adults who aged out of foster care, as well young adults who were adopted, reunited, or discharged to other locations.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DYCD)



Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) crisis shelter:

Individuals were included in the sample if they exited a stay in a RHY crisis shelter between the ages of 18 and 21. Individuals age out of the Runaway and Homeless Youth system at age 21. Data were available beginning in 2011; therefore, only exits between 2011 and 2013 are included. Stays in RHY crisis shelters are limited to 30 continuous days at a time, with a possible extension of an additional 30 days.



RHY transitional independent living (TIL) program:

Individuals were included in the sample if they exited a stay in a TIL program between the ages of 18 and 21. Individuals age out of the Runaway and Homeless Youth system at age 21. Data were available beginning in 2011; therefore, only exits between 2011 and 2013 are included. Stays in TIL programs are limited to 18 continuous months at a time.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES (DHS)



Families with children (FWC) shelter:

Individuals were included in the sample if they were a head-of-household or other adult family member (e.g., sibling or partner of the head-of-household) and exited an eligible stay in a FWC shelter between the ages of 18 and 21. Children of the head-of-household who were over the age of 18 years were not included in the sample. The status of an "adult" versus a "child" is based on the individual's relationship to the head of household and not the age of the individual.



Adult families (AF) shelter:

Individuals were included in the sample if they were a head-of-household or other adult family member (e.g., sibling or partner of the head-of-household) and exited an eligible stay in an AF shelter between the ages of 18 and 21. Children of the head-of-household who were over the age of 18 years were not included in the sample. The status of an "adult" versus a "child" is based on the individual's relationship to the head of household and not the age of the individual.

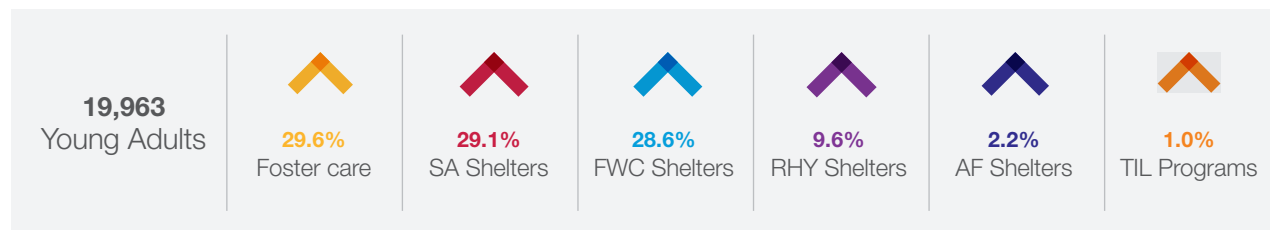


Single adult (SA) shelter:

Individuals were included in the sample if they exited a stay in an SA shelter between the ages of 18 and 21.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE

The sample consists of 19,963 young adults. Of the youth in the sample, 5,901 (29.6%) exited from foster care, 5,804 (29.1%) exited from SA shelters, 5,706 (28.6%) exited from FWC shelters, 1,907 (9.6%) exited from RHY crisis shelters, 440 (2.2%) exited from AF shelters, and 205 (1.0%) exited from TIL programs. Overall sample demographics are therefore more representative of the programs with more exits (foster care and SA/FWC shelters) than programs with fewer exits in this age range (AF shelters, as well as RHY crisis shelter and TIL programs).



Gender

Women constituted a greater share of the overall sample than men (62% were women). A small portion of the sample (<1%) also identified as transgender. However, data for this category is collected inconsistently across data sources and therefore is likely an underestimate of individuals who identify as transgender. A disproportionate share of individuals exiting from FWC shelters and AF shelters were women (85% and 72%, respectively), and a higher share of individuals exiting from SA shelters were men (58%). Gender distribution in exits from foster care, RHY crisis shelters, and TIL programs were comparable to the overall sample.

Race/Ethnicity

Overall, the sample was predominantly Black/African American (56%) or Hispanic/Latino (32%). This distribution was roughly the same across exit systems.

Age

Within the sample age range of 18 to 21, the sample skewed slightly older: 61% of individuals in the sample were between the ages of 20-21, while only 39% were between the ages of 18-19. This overall age distribution partially results from the high number of

individuals included in the sample whose index exit was from either foster care or SA and FWC shelters, where many exits were by older individuals.

Among those exiting foster care, the largest group (45%) were 20 years old; 25% left at age 18; 18% left at age 19; 12% left at age 21. Of exiters from RHY crisis shelters, about one-third each were age 18, 19, or 20 (at which point individuals age out of the DYCD residential services). Of TIL program exiters, most were age 19 or 20 (40% and 39%, respectively). Of exiters from all DHS shelters, very few (9-13%) were age 18; a larger share than in the general sample were age 21 (37-39%, compared to 26% of the sample).

Exit Year

For the full sample, index exits are distributed somewhat evenly across years. Later years have a slightly lower number of exits; this is likely due to the fact that only first exits of individuals were included. If they exited more than once from 2008 to 2013, only the earliest year would be included. As stated previously, data from DYCD begins in 2011 and therefore, there are no exits from RHY crisis shelters and TIL programs in prior years.

METHODOLOGY

TABLE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

INDEX EXIT* SYSTEM		Overall Sample n=19,963	Foster Care n=5,901	RHY Crisis Shelters n=1,907	TIL Program n=205	FWC Shelter n=5,706	AF Shelter n=440	SA Shelter n=5,804
GENDER	Female	62%	59%	59%	62%	85%	72%	42%
	Male	38%	41%	41%	38%	15%	28%	58%
	Transgender/Other	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%
RACE	Black/African American	56%	61%	55%	44%	53%	54%	55%
	Hispanic/Latino	34%	32%	26%	31%	44%	39%	29%
	White	4%	5%	5%	7%	2%	5%	6%
	Other	2%	1%	6%	10%	<1%	<1%	2%
	Missing	4%	1%	8%	7%	1%	1%	8%
AGE	18	17%	25%	32%	17%	9%	10%	13%
	19	21%	18%	34%	40%	20%	23%	21%
	20	35%	45%	33%	39%	32%	30%	29%
	21	26%	12%	1%	4%	39%	38%	37%
EXIT YEAR	2008	15%	18%	—	—	17%	19%	16%
	2009	19%	18%	—	—	25%	21%	20%
	2010	18%	18%	—	—	24%	21%	19%
	2011	17%	17%	22%	32%	15%	16%	17%
	2012	16%	16%	40%	35%	10%	11%	15%
	2013	15%	15%	39%	34%	9%	12%	13%

*The INDEX EXIT refers to the individual's first exit from foster care; an FWC, SA, or AF shelter; or an RHY crisis shelter or TIL program between 2008 to 2013.

DEFINITIONS OF STAYS

All stays were defined based on guidance from each agency.

Stays within each DHS shelter system were collapsed into one stay if the breaks between stays were less than 30 days. Durations of stays were calculated based on the actual days per shelter stay, not the collapsed stay duration. Stays that were less than one day in duration were not included in the study. Additionally, for both DHS family shelter systems (FWC and AF), only eligible stays were included. Families may be found ineligible due to the availability of alternative living accommodations or lack of required documents. Families can stay in a shelter while the eligibility process takes place; however, these stays are limited in duration.

Stays within the foster care system, RHY crisis shelters and TIL program, jail, juvenile detention, and supportive housing were collapsed with previous stays in the same system if they were continuous (i.e., one stay started on the same day or the day after the previous stay ended). Stays in foster care were not included if they were less than seven days long.

DATA LINKAGE

Datasets were matched using SAS Link King software.¹ This software uses a series of probabilistic and deterministic matching algorithms to determine whether multiple data entries are likely to be the same person. This allows the matching process to account for data entry errors and spelling variations. Data for the sample were de-duplicated and matched, and then matched to outcome datasets.

OUTCOME DATA DEFINITIONS

The outcome periods for the study are one, two, and three years from the individual's first exit from foster care; an FWC, SA, or AF shelter; or an RHY crisis shelter or TIL program between 2008 to 2013 (the "index exit"). If an individual exited from multiple systems (approximately 9% of the sample) or exited a system more than once during that time frame, the earliest exit was used as the index exit. Stays after the index exit were included as outcomes.

Characteristics of the stay associated with the index exit (the "index stay") were examined as risk and protective factors. These included if the individual received some type of housing subsidy or subsidized housing placement upon exit (such as supportive housing, public housing through NYCHA, or an ongoing rental subsidy through the shelter system). Characteristics of stays prior to the index stay were also analyzed as risk and protective factors (i.e., potential factors impacting later service use).

Data encompassing the sample's entire history of service use within the DHS shelter systems (including shelter stays as a child in the family systems) and the foster care system were included in analyses. Data from RHY crisis shelters and TIL programs begin in 2011. In addition to the systems comprising the sample, data from several additional systems were included as either risk/protective factors or outcomes, depending on age-based eligibility criteria that impact when individuals could have entered those systems. Individuals who commit crimes prior to age 16 are considered juveniles in New York, so stays in juvenile detention through ACS were included as a potential risk factor. Individuals age 16 and older are considered adults and would be sent to jail, so jail stays in the NYC Department of Correction (DOC) were used in both outcome and risk/protective factor analyses. Stays in supportive housing through the New York/New York III program were also used in both outcome and risk/protective factor analyses. The New York/New York III program provides supportive housing for several specified populations of individuals who are homeless or risk of homelessness, including individuals exiting foster care, adults who have a serious mental illness, and families who are chronically homeless and have a head of household with a serious mental illness. Of the 9,000 housing units in the program, a small portion were specifically for youth and families. During the years of the study, many of these units were still being developed.

All data are through 2015. As a result, the third year of outcome data is not available for individuals with index exits in 2013 and analyses are adjusted accordingly to only include exiters between 2008 and 2012.

¹ More information about SAS Link King can be found at: <http://www.the-link-king.com>.

TABLE 2: DATA INCLUDED AS OUTCOMES AND RISK/PROTECTIVE FACTORS

RISK/PROTECTIVE FACTORS	OUTCOMES
Families with Children (FWC) shelter stays (as a child and an adult)	Families with children (FWC) shelter stays (as an adult)
Adult families (AF) shelter stays (as an adult child and an adult)	Adult families (AF) shelter stays (as an adult)
Single adult (SA) shelter stays	Single adult (SA) shelter stays
Foster care stays	
Juvenile detention stays	
	RHY crisis shelter stays
	TIL stays
NY/NY III supportive housing stays	NY/NY III supportive housing stays
Jail stays	Jail stays
Demographic information	

STATISTICAL METHODS

Descriptive analyses are presented on how many young adults in the sample utilized each service prior to index exits, as well as one, two, and three years after exit. For those individuals who had stays, the analysis shows median cumulative length of stay in each system and the distribution of number of stays. This analysis uses the median because the distribution of average length of stay is often skewed by a small number of individuals with longer lengths of stay.

Multivariate statistical models - modified Poisson (log-linear) regressions - were used to assess the outcomes of interest: (1) a homeless shelter and/or jail stay in the two years after exit; (1a) having a homeless shelter stay; (2) being a high service user of homeless services and/or jail; (2a) being a high service user of homeless services; and (3) having a positive exit from or remaining in supportive housing. Poisson models are typically used to model outcomes that are counts (positive integers); however, using robust error variance estimation, they can also be used to estimate risk ratios for common binomial outcomes, which are easier to interpret than odds ratios produced by logistic regressions.² All models focus on the outcome period of two years after the index exit so the entire sample could be utilized for estimation.

The first model assessed which factors increased or decreased an individual’s risk of having a stay in a homeless shelter (through DYCD or DHS) and/or jail during the two years after the index exit. A supplemental model examined factors that impacted the risk of having a homeless shelter stay independently.

The second model assessed which factors impacted the risk of being a “high service user” of homeless programs and/or jail stays based on cumulative length of stay in the DHS, DYCD, and jail systems within two years after the index exit. Cumulative length of stay for these systems was calculated for each individual, and those who were in the top 10% in terms of cumulative days were defined as high service users. This analysis was also conducted for homeless shelter stays alone.

The last model focused on individuals who entered supportive housing during their index stay or during the two years after. For these individuals, the model assesses which individuals were more likely to have a positive exit (i.e., a planned exit to a positive living situation) or to have remained in supportive housing for at least a year and were still in supportive housing at the end of the two-year outcome period.

² In models that are estimating the probability of rare events, odds ratios are roughly equivalent to risk ratios and are often interpreted as risk ratios. For events that are more common, however, odds ratios are not equivalent to risk ratios, but are often misinterpreted as such. Risk ratios are directly estimated here to avoid this misinterpretation.



03

Findings

PREVIOUS SERVICE USE

Table 3 describes the characteristics of previous service use (i.e., foster care, justice, and homeless services) for the sample. These characteristics are also included in the regression models. Approximately 42% of the sample had a foster care stay prior to their index exit (including those whose index exit was from foster care). Of those individuals who had a foster care stay, most (68%) had only one stay, while another quarter had two stays in foster care. The median length of stay was 1,890 days, or a little over five years. Excluding the index stay, approximately 23% of the sample had a foster care stay before their index stay.

More than a quarter of the sample had a stay in a FWC shelter as a child with a parent or guardian. Of those, 51% had one stay, 25% had two stays, and 12% had three stays, and 12% had four or more stays before their index stay. The median length of stay was 341 days. A much smaller proportion (1.5%) had a stay in an AF shelter with their parents or guardians and

almost three-quarters of those who had a stay had only one and their median length of stay was shorter, at 232 days.

Approximately 8.3% of the sample had a stay in juvenile detention before their index stay, with a median stay of 47 days. A little under half of those youth had just one detention stay, while 24% had two stays, 15% had three stays, and 13% had four or more stays.

In terms of multi-system use, prior to their index exit, 64.9% of the sample had utilized services in one system (adult homeless shelters; RHY crisis shelters or TIL programs; jail or detention; or foster care), meaning they had only utilized services in their exit system. 28.7% of youth had utilized services in two systems, 6.3% had utilized services in three systems, and 0.2% had utilized services in all four systems. Of youth who accessed more than one system, they most commonly accessed adult shelters and foster care (14.8%) and adult shelters and jail and/or detention (7.8%).

TABLE 3: SERVICE USE BEFORE AND INCLUDING INDEX STAY

SYSTEM	EVER STAY PREVIOUS TO INDEX EXIT (includes index stay)		
	% With Service Use (n)	Of those who had a stay...	
		Distribution of stays	Cumulative length of stay (Median)
Foster Care	42.4% (8,466)	1 stay: 68% 2 stays: 25% 3 stays: 6% 4+ stays: 1%	1,890 Days
FWC shelter (as child)	27.5% (5,483)	1 stay: 51% 2 stays: 25% 3 stays: 12% 4+ stays: 12%	341 Days
AF shelter (as child)	1.5% (297)	1 stay: 72% 2 stays: 22% 3 stays: 3% 4+ stays: 3%	232 Days
Juvenile Detention	8.3% (1,652)	1 stay: 48% 2 stays: 24% 3 stays: 15% 4+ stays: 13%	47 Days
FWC shelter (as adult)	29.3% (5,840)	1 stay: 95% 2 stays: 4% 3 stays: 1% 4+ stays: <1%	164 Days
AF shelter (as adult)	2.4% (478)	1 stay: 97% 2 stays: 3% 3 stays: <1% 4+ stays: <1%	146 Days
SA shelter	29.6% (5,905)	1 stay: 96% 2 stays: 3% 3 stays: 1% 4+ stays: <1%	9 Days
Jail	12.9% (2,575)	1 stay: 51% 2 stays: 23% 3 stays: 12% 4+ stays: 14%	20 Days

OUTCOMES AFTER INDEX EXIT

Overall, 72.3% of the sample did not utilize homeless services or have a jail stay within the first year after the index exit. 63.2% did not utilize these services within two years and 57.8% did not utilize these services within three years after the index exit. An additional 24.0% used services in one system (adult homeless shelters, RHY crisis shelters or TIL programs, or jail) in the first year, 3.6% used services in two systems within the first year, and 0.2% used services in all three systems. Within two years, 29.8% used services in one system, 6.6% used services in two systems, and 0.4% used services in three systems. Within three years after exit, 33.3% had used services in one system, 8.8% had used services in two systems, and 0.6% had used services in all three systems. Of youth who accessed multiple systems, they most commonly accessed both adult shelters and jail.

Within the first year after index exit, approximately 13% of the individuals still eligible (based on age) to enter an RHY crisis shelter had a stay there. Of those who had a stay, most (73%) had only one stay over the course of the year; 22% had two stays. The median cumulative length of stay was 30 days. Within two years after index exit, approximately 20% of the eligible sample had a stay in an RHY crisis shelter. Of those, about 37% had two or more stays.

Within the first year after index exit, 6% of the eligible sample stayed in a TIL program; over the course of two years, 7% had a stay. In both years, about 90% of individuals had just one TIL stay, with a longer

median length of stay than in the RHY crisis shelters.

Approximately 8% of the sample had a stay in a FWC shelter within one year after exit; this increased to 12% within two years and 16% within three years. Most individuals with a FWC shelter stay had only one stay and had a longer median length of stay than other systems.

A smaller proportion had a stay in an AF shelter: 1% in one year increasing to approximately 2% in three years. Over 90% had only one stay within three years and the median length of stay was under five months.

About 10% of individuals had a stay in an SA shelter within one year, 14% within two years, and 16% within three years. Although most individuals only had one stay within the three years, the proportion of individuals with multiple stays increased over time. For those who had a stay within three years after exit, 42% had two or more stays.

Within the first year after exit, 9% of the sample had a jail stay; by the third year, about 16% had a jail stay. By the third year, about half of the individuals who had a jail stay had two or more. The median length of stay was slightly more than a month in the second and third years after index exit.

A small proportion of individuals in the sample (1.5% within the first year and slightly more than 2% within three years) moved into supportive housing. The median length of stay for the two- and three-year outcome periods was over a year.

FINDINGS

TABLE 4: SERVICE USE AFTER INDEX EXIT (OUTCOMES)

SYSTEM	1 YEAR AFTER EXIT (n=19,963)		
	% With Service Use (n)	Of those who had a stay...	
		Distribution of stays	Cumulative length of stay (Median)
RHY Crisis Shelter*	12.9% (513)	1 stay: 73% 2 stays: 22% 3 stays: 4% 4+ stays: 1%	30 Days
TIL Program*	6.1% (241)	1 stay: 95% 2 stays: 5%	130 Days
FWC shelter	7.7% (1,541)	1 stay: 90% 2 stays: 9% 3 stays: <1%	123 Days
AF Shelter	1.1% (215)	1 stay: 96% 2 stays: 3% 3 stays: 1%	94 Days
SA Shelter	9.7% (1,941)	1 stay: 79% 2 stays: 17% 3 stays: 3% 4+ stays: <1%	25 Days
DOC Jail	9.0% (1,801)	1 stay: 68% 2 stays: 20% 3 stays: 7% 4+ stays: 4%	25 Days
Supportive Housing Move In	1.5% (306)	1 stay: 100%	265 Days

*The cohort for DYCD outcomes is limited to individuals who exited between 2011 and 2013 (for one- and two-year outcomes) and 2011 and 2012 for three-year outcomes to ensure a full outcome period. Estimates are adjusted based on age eligibility.

2 YEARS AFTER EXIT (CUMULATIVE) (n=19,963)			3 YEARS AFTER EXIT (CUMULATIVE)** (n=16,983)		
% With Service Use (n)	Of those who had a stay...		% With Service Use (n)	Of those who had a stay...	
	Distribution of stays	Cumulative length of stay (Median)		Distribution of stays	Cumulative length of stay (Median)
20.2% (373)	1 stay: 63% 2 stays: 22% 3 stays: 9% 4+ stays: 6%	35 Days	--	--	--
7.4% (137)	1 stay: 86% 2 stays: 14%	126 Days	--	--	--
12.0% (2,385)	1 stay: 82% 2 stays: 15% 3 stays: 2% 4+ stays: <1%	173 Days	15.9% (2,698)	1 stay: 76% 2 stays: 19% 3 stays: 4% 4+ stays: 1%	207 Days
1.5% (308)	1 stay: 92% 2 stays: 7% 3 stays: 1%	128 Days	1.8% (310)	1 stay: 88% 2 stays: 10% 3 stays: 2%	142 Days
13.6% (2,712)	1 stay: 65% 2 stays: 23% 3 stays: 8% 4+ stays: 4%	37 Days	15.9% (2,702)	1 stay: 58% 2 stays: 23% 3 stays: 11% 4+ stays: 8%	49 Days
13.0% (2,589)	1 stay: 56% 2 stays: 22% 3 stays: 11% 4+ stays: 11%	33 Days	15.8% (2,687)	1 stay: 50% 2 stays: 22% 3 stays: 12% 4+ stays: 16%	36 Days
2.1% (412)	1 stay: 99% 2 stays: 1%	406 Days	2.4% (412)	1 stay: 97% 2 stays: 3%	481 Days

**The cohort for three-year outcomes is limited to individuals who exited between 2008 and 2012 to ensure a full three-year outcome period.

FACTORS IMPACTING OUTCOMES

For all outcomes, factors that are discussed have p-values under 0.01 and the rounded confidence interval of the risk ratio does not include one. This is to limit error and to improve upon practical utilization: if an outcome is deemed statistically significant, but the confidence interval includes increases or decreases of less than one percent, it is less likely to be useful in targeting measures. Additional significant factors are marked in the tables and listed for each model.

For individuals who had a prior foster care stay, models were also run that included characteristics of those foster care stays (models not shown). Characteristics examined included age at first foster care placement, types of placements, reason for discharge from foster care, total movements in care, and final exit age. Only significant factors are reported below.

Model 1. Outcome: Any homeless shelter stay (DHS or DYCD) and/or jail stay

27.7% of the sample had a homeless shelter and/or jail stay in the first year after index exit, 36.8% had a homeless shelter or jail stay within two years after the index exit, and 42.2% had a stay within the three years after index exit.

Table 5 shows the risk ratios for the entire sample for the two-year outcome period. Females were 17% less likely than males to have a homeless shelter or jail stay in the two years after index exit; transgender individuals were 1.6 times more likely than males to have a homeless shelter or jail stay.

Individuals who exited from an FWC, AF, or SA shelter or RHY crisis shelter or TIL program had an increased risk of subsequent service use compared to individuals who exited from foster care. Individuals who exited from RHY crisis shelters and FWC shelters were 1.8 times more likely to have later service use, while individuals who exited from a TIL program were 1.4 times more likely, and individuals who exited from an AF or SA shelter were 2.1 and 1.9 times more likely to have later service use compared to individuals who exited foster care.

More time in jail and/or detention also increased risk of having a homeless shelter or jail stay in the two years after the index exit. For every three months that an individual was in jail and/or detention, risk increased by 3%. The total number of stays in jail and/or detention also increased risk of later service use. Each jail and/or detention stay increased risk by 5%.

Finally, use of multiple systems prior to index exit increased risk of later service use. For example, compared to individuals who used just one system prior to index exit, individuals who utilized two systems were 1.3 times more likely to have a homeless shelter and/or jail stay in the two years after exit.

Individuals who exited with a subsidy or into a subsidized housing program were 64% less likely to have later service use. These subsidized exits included individuals who moved into supportive housing, moved into public housing through NYCHA, or who received an ongoing rental subsidy through the shelter system.

Older age at exit also decreased the risk of later service use: each additional year of age decreased risk by 9%.

For individuals who had a previous foster care stay (model not shown; including both those whose index exit was from foster care and those who had foster care stays prior to their index stay in another system), individuals who had a residential placement or a placement in a residential treatment facility were 1.2 and 1.3 times more likely to have a homeless or jail stay in the two years after index exit. A higher number of movements in foster care also increased risk by 2% for each move.

Additional significant risk factors that did not have a p-value under 0.01 or had a rounded confidence interval of the risk ratio that included one were: longer length of stay and number of stays in homeless services as a child prior to exit, entering foster care during elementary or middle school years (compared to entering at age five and under), and being discharged to a placement labeled as “other.” Longer length of stay in foster care was an additional protective factor.



Table 5: Factors Impacting Homeless Shelter and/or Jail Stays Within Two Years of Exit

MODEL 1	Risk Ratio	95% Confidence Interval		
GENDER				
Female (vs male)	0.83	0.80	0.86	**
Transgender (vs male)	1.58	1.19	2.10	**
EXIT SYSTEM				
DHS AF shelter (vs ACS)	2.05	1.81	2.32	**
DHS FWC shelter (vs ACS)	1.79	1.64	1.94	**
DHS SA shelter (vs ACS)	1.90	1.75	2.06	**
DYCD crisis shelter (vs ACS)	1.82	1.66	2.00	**
DYCD TIL program (vs ACS)	1.35	1.10	1.66	**
EXIT				
Year	0.99	0.98	1.01	
Age	0.91	0.89	0.92	**
Subsidized	0.36	0.33	0.40	**
LENGTH OF STAYS				
In justice systems prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.03	1.01	1.05	**
In foster care prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.00	0.99	1.00	**
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.01	1.00	1.02	
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.01	1.00	1.01	*
NUMBER OF STAYS				
In a justice system prior to index exit	1.05	1.04	1.07	**
In foster care prior to index exit	1.00	0.97	1.04	
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit	1.09	1.05	1.13	**
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit	1.02	1.00	1.04	*
MULTI-SYSTEM USE				
In systems accessed prior to index exit	1.30	1.25	1.35	**

** p<0.01

* p< 0.05

FINDINGS

Model 1A. Outcome: Any homeless service use (DHS or DYCD)

21.6% of the sample had a homeless shelter stay in the first year after index exit, 29.3% had a homeless shelter stay within two years after the index exit, and 33.9% had a stay within three years after index exit.

Table 6 shows the risk ratios for potential factors impacting the risk of a homeless shelter stay within two years after the index exit. For this outcome, both females and individuals who identify as transgender have an increased risk of a shelter stay. Similar to the previous outcome model, exiters from both DHS and DYCD services had a higher risk than individuals exiting from ACS foster care, ranging from about two to three times the risk.

Both the length and the number of previous stays in shelter, both as a child and as an adult, increased the risk of future shelter use. The number of stays in homeless shelters as an adult had the largest impact on risk, increasing risk by 14% for each stay.

Each additional system accessed prior to the index exit also increased the risk of future shelter use by 19%.

Similar to the previous outcome model, exiting at an older age or with some form of subsidy decreased the risk of having a homeless shelter stay within two years after the index exit.

Among individuals who had previous foster care stays, individuals who had a residential placement or a placement at a residential treatment facility were more likely to have a homeless stay.

Table 6: Factors Impacting Homeless Shelter Stays Within Two Years of Exit

MODEL 1A	Risk Ratio	95% Confidence Interval		
GENDER				
Female (vs male)	1.08	1.03	1.13	**
Transgender (vs male)	1.91	1.36	2.70	**
EXIT SYSTEM				
DHS AF shelter (vs ACS)	2.96	2.54	3.44	**
DHS FWC shelter (vs ACS)	2.45	2.20	2.74	**
DHS SA shelter (vs ACS)	2.71	2.44	3.02	**
DYCD crisis shelter (vs ACS)	2.75	2.43	3.10	**
DYCD TIL program (vs ACS)	1.94	1.54	2.44	**
EXIT				
Year	1.01	1.00	1.03	
Age	0.91	0.89	0.93	**
Subsidized	0.30	0.26	0.34	**
LENGTH OF STAYS				
In justice systems prior to index exit (3-month interval)	0.99	0.96	1.02	
In foster care prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.00	0.99	1.00	*
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.02	1.01	1.03	**
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.01	1.01	1.02	**
NUMBER OF STAYS				
In a justice system prior to index exit	1.01	0.99	1.04	
In foster care prior to index exit	1.03	0.99	1.08	
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit	1.14	1.09	1.19	**
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit	1.03	1.01	1.06	**
MULTI-SYSTEM USE				
Systems accessed prior to index exit	1.19	1.14	1.25	**

** p<0.01

* p< 0.05

A higher number of movements in foster care also increased risk.

Longer length of stay in foster care and having a foster care stay in kinship care were additional significant protective factors that did not have a p-value is under 0.01 or had a rounded confidence interval of the risk ratio that included one.

Model 2. Outcome: High service users – Homeless shelter stays and/or jail stays

By design, approximately 10% of the individuals in sample were categorized as high service users. For the two-year outcome period, these individuals had 239 or more days in jail and/or shelter.

Table 7 shows the risk ratios for potential factors

impacting the risk of being a high service user within two years after exit. Similar to the previous outcome models, individuals exiting DYCD or DHS shelters had an increased risk of being high users compared to those exiting ACS foster care.

Longer length and higher numbers of prior justice stays both increased the risk of being a high service user, as did length of time in homeless shelters as an adult. Multi-system use also increased risk of being a high service user by 22% per system. For individuals with a foster care history, a higher number of movements in care increased the risk of being a high service user.

Having a foster care stay in a residential placement was an additional significant risk factor that did not have a p-value is under 0.01 or had a rounded confidence interval of the risk ratio that included one.

Table 7: Factors Impacting High Service Use in Homeless Shelters and/or Jail

MODEL 2	Risk Ratio	95% Confidence Interval		
GENDER				
Female (vs male)	0.97	0.89	1.06	
Transgender (vs male)	1.71	0.70	4.19	
EXIT SYSTEM				
DHS AF shelter (vs ACS)	3.07	2.33	4.05	**
DHS FWC shelter (vs ACS)	2.33	1.90	2.85	**
DHS SA shelter (vs ACS)	1.62	1.32	1.98	**
DYCD crisis shelter (vs ACS)	2.07	1.64	2.60	**
DYCD TIL program (vs ACS)	1.85	1.22	2.82	**
EXIT				
Year	1.00	0.97	1.03	
Age	0.97	0.93	1.01	
Subsidized	0.15	0.11	0.20	**
LENGTH OF STAYS				
In justice systems prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.08	1.03	1.13	**
In foster care prior to index exit (3-month interval)	0.99	0.99	1.00	**
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.04	1.01	1.06	**
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.01	1.00	1.03	
NUMBER OF STAYS				
In justice system prior to index exit	1.07	1.04	1.10	**
In foster care prior to index exit	1.04	0.96	1.14	
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit	1.09	0.99	1.20	
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit	1.03	0.98	1.08	
MULTI-SYSTEM USE				
Systems accessed prior to index exit	1.22	1.12	1.34	**

** p<0.01
* p< 0.05

FINDINGS

Model 2A. Outcome: High service users — Homeless shelter stays

Exit system and the number of systems accessed prior to the index exit were both still risk factors for high use of homeless services; the only additional risk factor was prior length of stay in homeless shelter as an adult. Subsidized exits still greatly reduce the risk of being a top user of homeless services. No foster care characteristics significantly increased the risk of being a high service user of homeless shelters.

Additional risk factors that did not have a p-value is under 0.01 or had a rounded confidence interval of the risk ratio that included one were: longer length of stay in homeless services as a child prior to exit; higher numbers of stays in a justice system, homeless services as a child, and homeless services as an adult; and having a foster boarding home or residential placement in foster care. Longer length of stay in foster care was an additional protective factor.

Table 8: Factors Impacting High Service Use in Homeless Shelters Only

MODEL 2A	Risk Ratio	95% Confidence Interval		
GENDER				
Female (vs male)	1.46	1.32	1.61	**
Transgender (vs male)	2.28	0.95	5.46	
EXIT SYSTEM				
DHS AF shelter (vs ACS)	3.92	2.98	5.17	**
DHS FWC shelter (vs ACS)	2.99	2.41	3.70	**
DHS SA shelter (vs ACS)	1.94	1.57	2.42	**
DYCD crisis shelter (vs ACS)	2.63	2.06	3.35	**
DYCD TIL program (vs ACS)	2.30	1.53	3.46	**
EXIT				
Year	1.01	0.98	1.04	
Age	0.98	0.94	1.02	
Subsidized	0.16	0.12	0.20	**
LENGTH OF STAYS				
In justice systems prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.01	0.94	1.09	
In foster care prior to index exit (3-month interval)	0.99	0.99	1.00	**
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.03	1.01	1.06	**
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.02	1.00	1.03	*
NUMBER OF STAYS				
In a justice system prior to index exit	0.94	0.89	0.99	*
In foster care prior to index exit	1.02	0.93	1.12	
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit	1.12	1.02	1.23	*
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit	1.05	1.01	1.10	*
MULTI-SYSTEM USE				
Systems accessed prior to index exit	1.24	1.12	1.37	**

** p<0.01

* p< 0.05

Model 3. Outcome: Positive exit or retention of supportive housing

Of the individuals who moved into supportive housing during their index stay or in the two years after (n=509), 43.2% had a positive exit from supportive housing in the two years after index exit, or retained supportive housing (meaning they were still in supportive housing at the end of the two-year outcome period and had been in supportive housing for at least one year).

Having a substance abuse diagnosis on a supportive housing application was the only factor that decreased the likelihood of having a positive housing outcome.

Longer length of stay in homeless services as a child was an additional risk factor that did not have a p-value is under 0.01 or had a rounded confidence interval of the risk ratio that included one.

Table 9: Factors Impacting Positive Exits and Retention in Supportive Housing

MODEL 3	Risk Ratio	95% Confidence Interval		
GENDER				
Female (vs male)	1.20	0.97	1.47	
EXIT SYSTEM				
DHS FWC shelter (vs ACS)	0.84	0.35	1.99	
DHS SA shelter (vs ACS)	1.02	0.57	1.82	
DYCD crisis shelter (vs ACS)	1.01	0.50	2.04	
DYCD TIL program (vs ACS)	1.49	0.52	4.24	
EXIT				
Year	1.01	0.95	1.07	
Age	1.15	1.00	1.32	
LENGTH OF STAYS				
In foster care prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.00	1.00	1.00	
In justice systems prior to index exit (3-month interval)	0.98	0.90	1.07	
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.03	0.99	1.08	
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit (3-month interval)	1.01	1.00	1.01	
NUMBER OF STAYS				
In a justice system prior to index exit	0.90	0.76	1.07	
In foster care prior to index exit	0.97	0.83	1.13	
In homeless services as an adult prior to index exit	0.80	0.51	1.23	
In homeless services as a child prior to index exit	0.85	0.75	0.97	*
MULTI-SYSTEM USE				
Systems accessed prior to index exit	1.17	0.91	1.51	
DIAGNOSIS				
Serious mental illness diagnosis on NYNYIII application	0.94	0.76	1.16	
Substance abuse disorder diagnosis on NYNYIII application	0.61	0.45	0.83	**
PTSD diagnosis on NYNYIII application	0.96	0.72	1.27	

** p<0.01

* p< 0.05



Conclusion

This study utilized administrative data to track young adults during their transition years and to identify risk factors that can help inform youth housing processes. Understanding service utilization patterns and multi-system service use can help identify intervention points early in a young adult's life to prevent them from entering or re-entering homeless services. Identifying characteristics of individuals who are most at risk of becoming homeless or re-entering homelessness can help to develop services and prioritization techniques that better meet youths' needs and/or provide them with additional housing or other assistance.

Factoring Impacting Service Use

Several factors consistently increased the risk of future homelessness and criminal justice involvement: Multiple stays and longer stay durations in both the justice system and homeless services; utilizing services from multiple agencies; and, for individuals who had been in foster care, multiple moves while in care. Additionally, youth who exited from homeless services had a higher risk of subsequent homeless and/or jail stays than individuals exiting from foster care, which emphasizes the need to improve access to housing resources for these youth. Having a subsidized exit from a system, on the other hand, significantly decreased the risk of later service use.

Positive Exits and Retention in Supportive Housing

The only factor found to decrease the likelihood of positive exits or retaining supportive housing was having a substance abuse diagnosis on supportive housing application. Other prior service use indicators, exit system, and diagnoses of serious mental illness or PTSD were not found to impact success.

Implications

Several factors regarding previous service use predicted later use of homeless shelter services and jail systems. These same factors were not found to decrease the likelihood of success in supportive housing for individuals who had been placed. Therefore, using these factors to prioritize housing resources may help better match youths' needs to services without decreasing the success of the program. These factors can help shape policies and tools to prioritize youth for housing resources, including supportive housing.

Future Directions

This study describes housing trajectories of transition-age youth from multiple agencies. Future studies building on the current work will incorporate additional data sources, including hospitalizations and public housing utilization. Additionally, the data will be used to develop typologies of service use among youth including patterns of service use across systems. Developing typologies of youth will help us to better understand the spectrum of services that may be needed for transition-age youth and provide these services to those who need them.

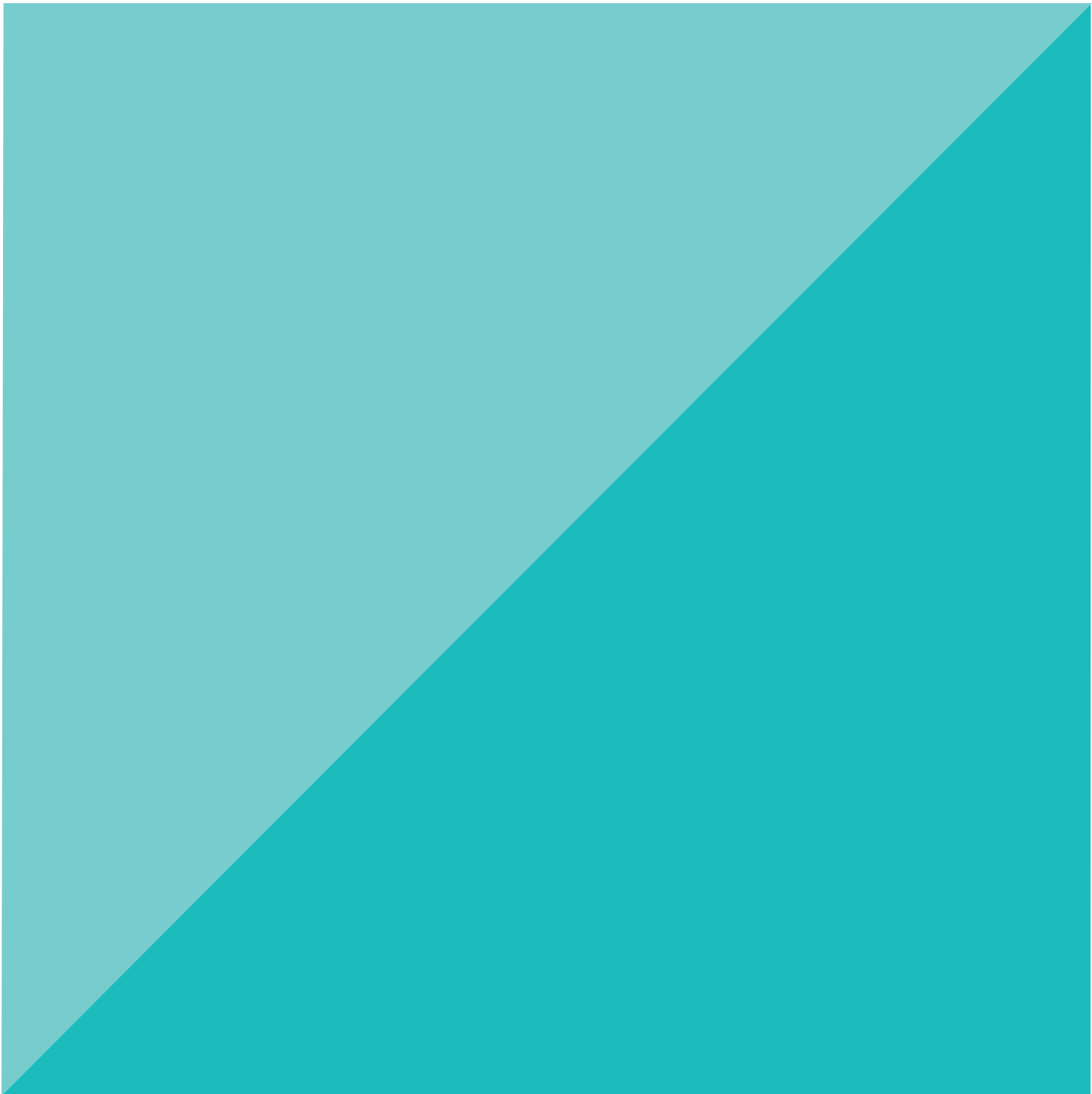


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