

Testing a Typology of Family Homelessness

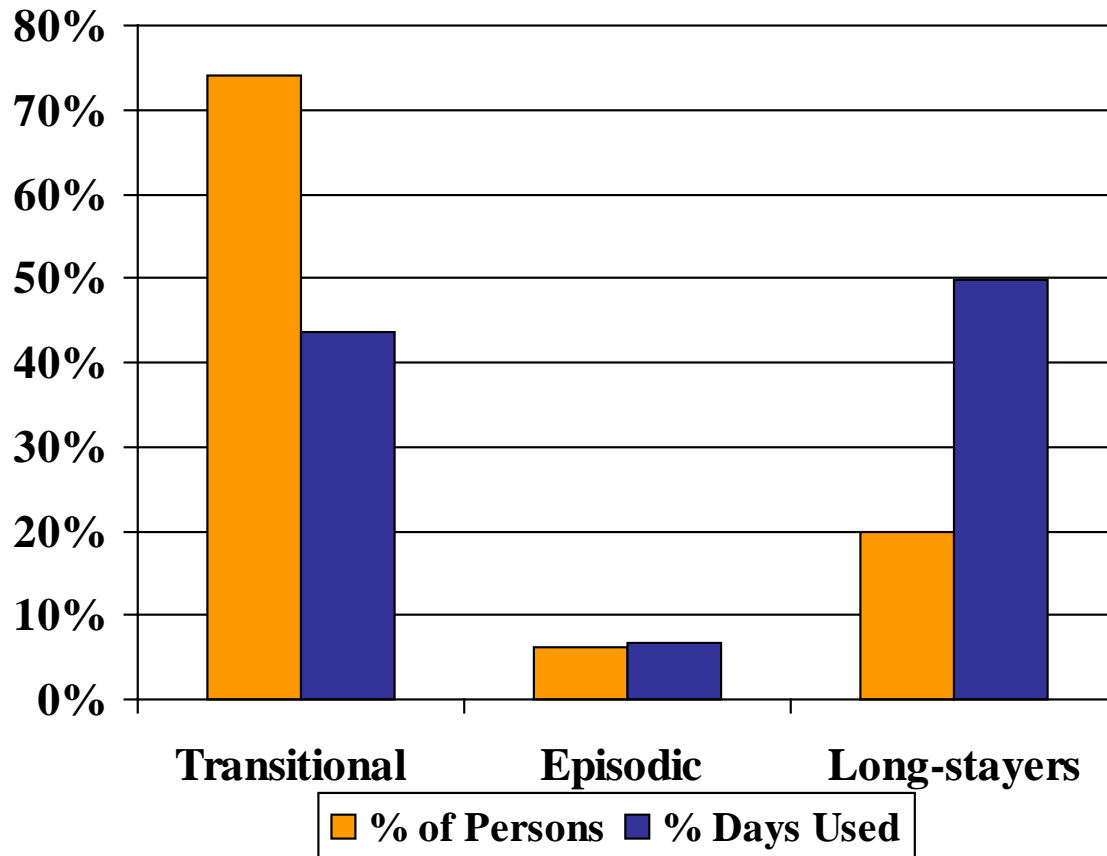
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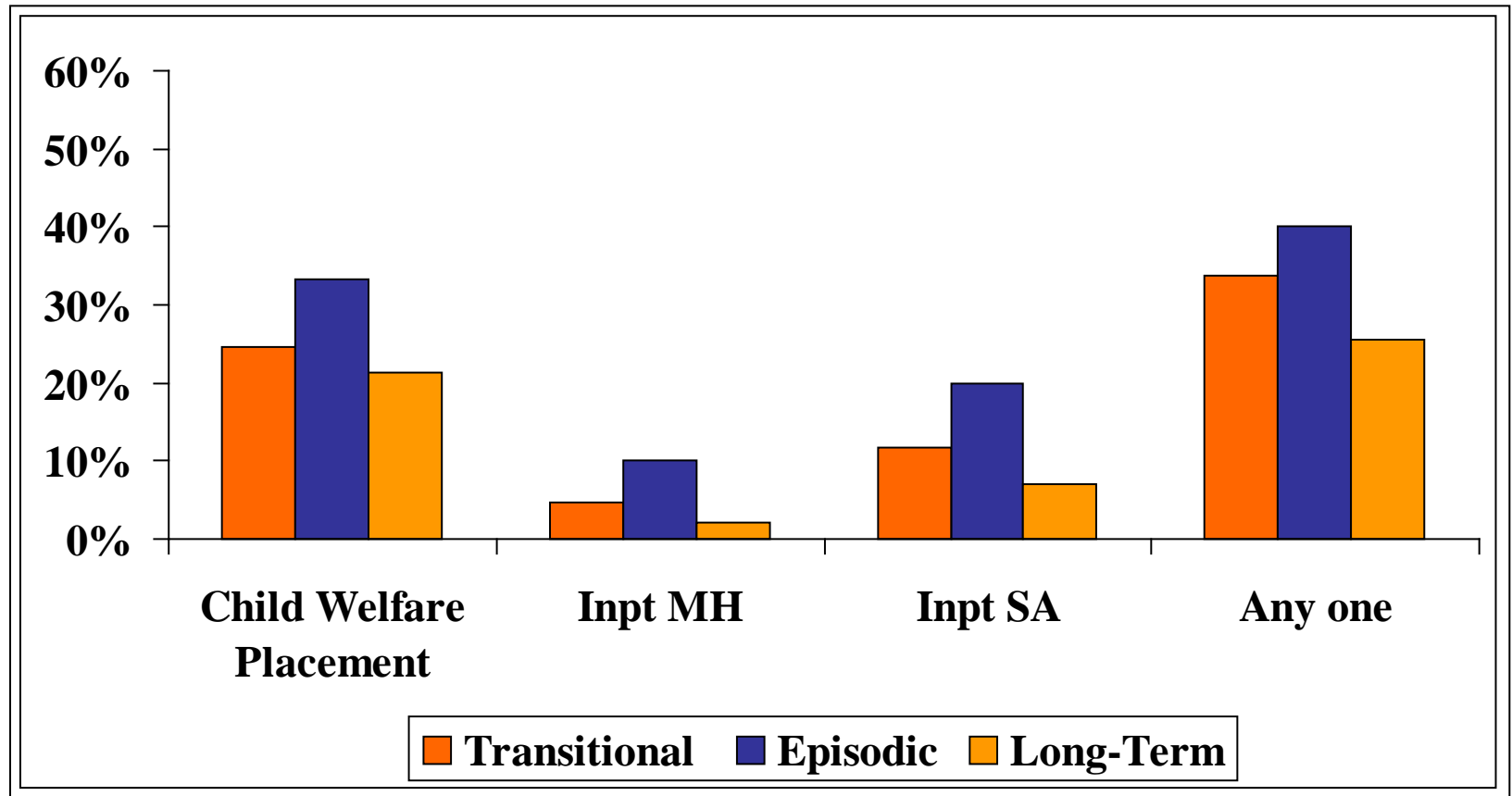
Results: Cluster Solution

(Massachusetts, family shelter users)

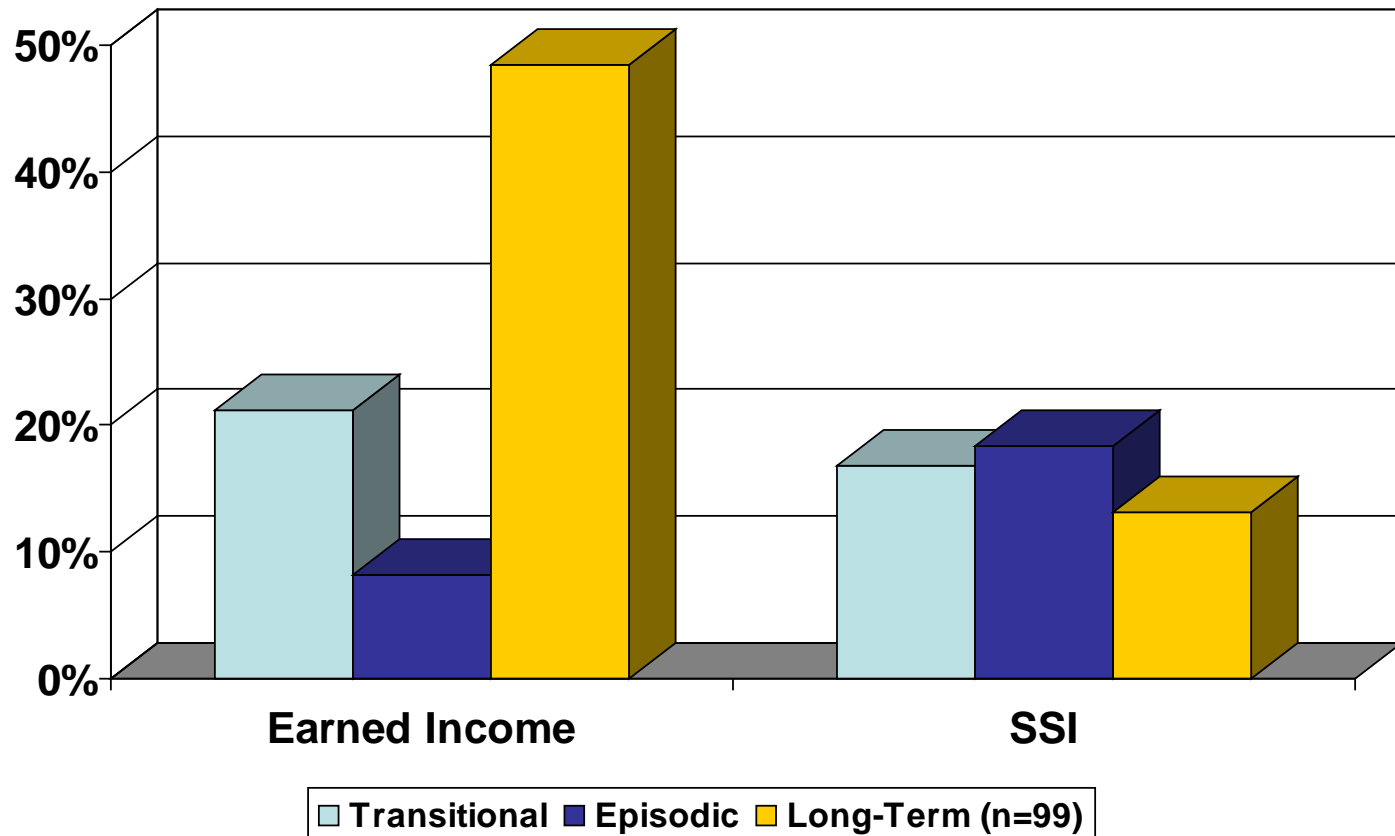


- ❖ **Transitionals:**
 - ❖ 1.0 stays
 - ❖ 105 days
- ❖ **Episodics:**
 - ❖ 2.0 stays
 - ❖ 195 days
- ❖ **Long-Stayers:**
 - ❖ 1.0 stays
 - ❖ 444 days

Intensive Service Histories of Families



Income Sources



The Average Cost of Shelter Stays by Type

(Massachusetts)

- Transitional
\$11,550
- Episodic \$21,450
- Long-term \$48,440

Does not include McKinney-Vento funding or non-DTA public service contracts.

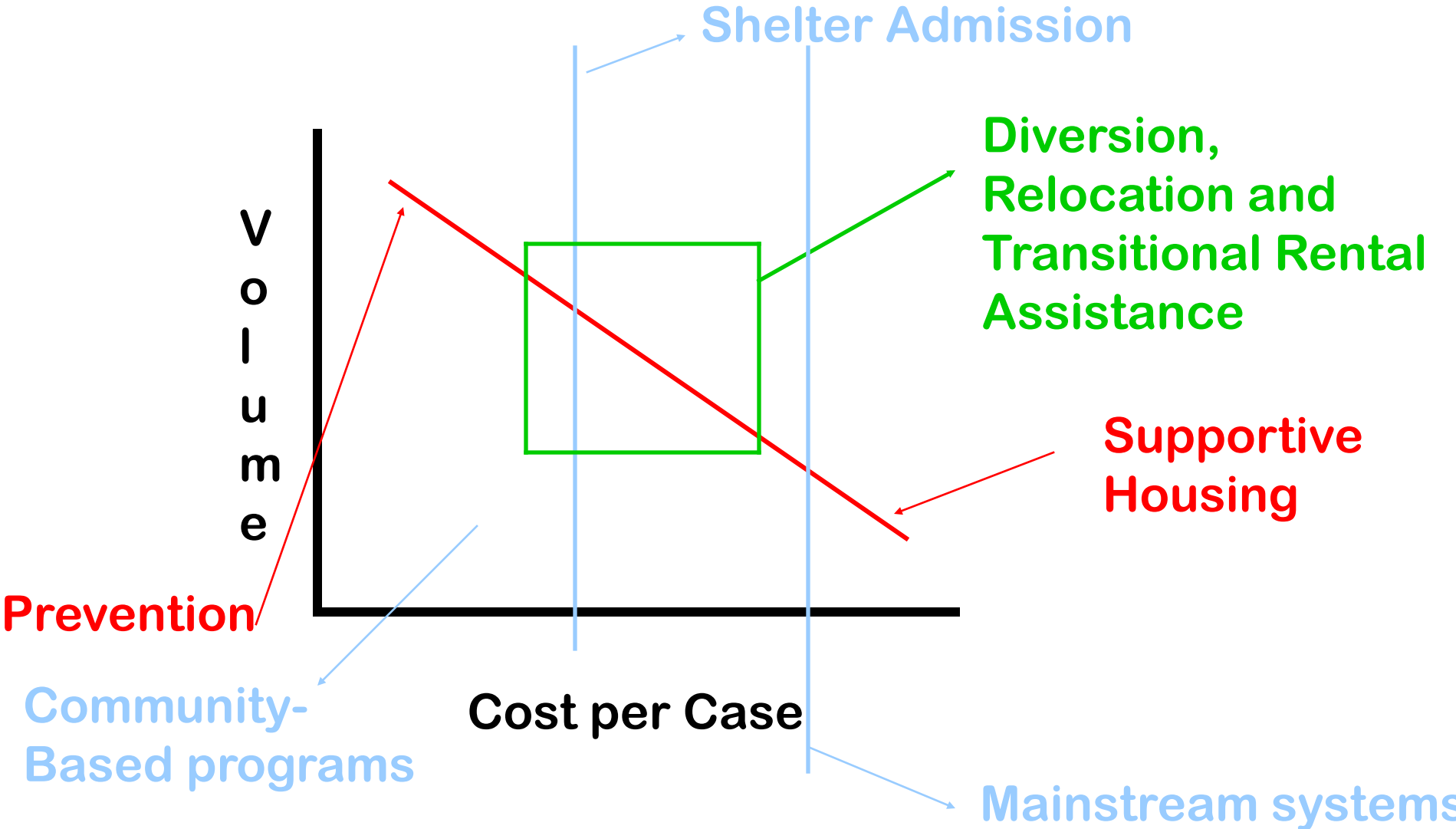
Summary

- Cluster patterns are robust across sites
- Most families (75%) leave quickly and don't return
- A small number (5%) return repeatedly
- 20% of families have long stays, using 50% of resources
- BUT – unlike singles – long stays do not indicate personal barriers to housing stability

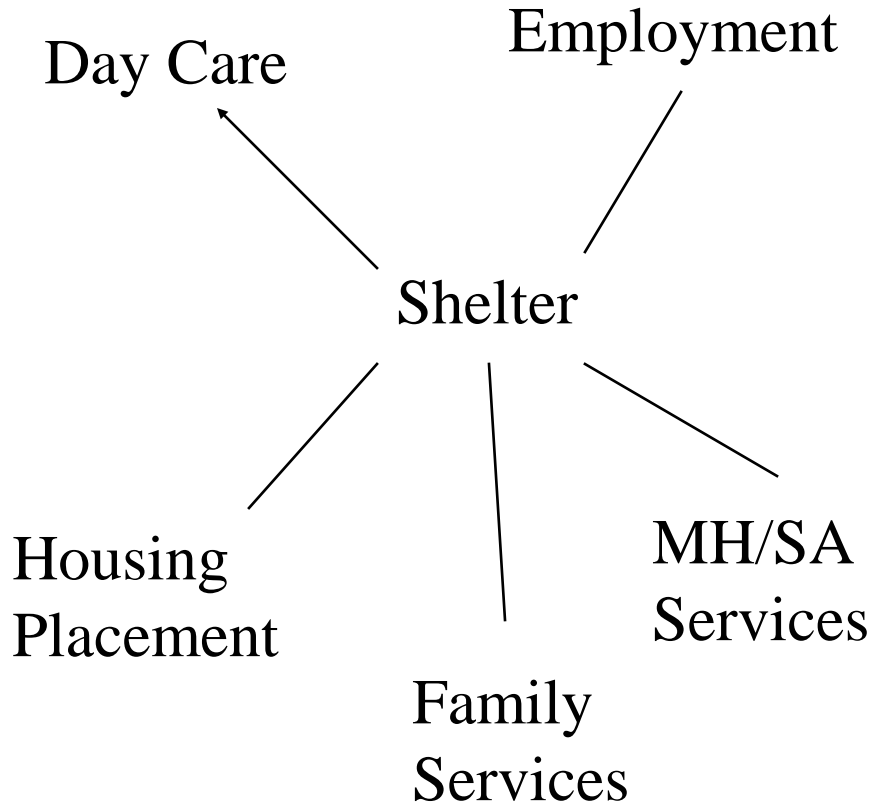
Conclusions

- Policies and programs driving long stays
- Characteristics of “graduates” may reflect selection effects of policies and programs
- Most costly service users are not differentially service-needy
- Need for reform

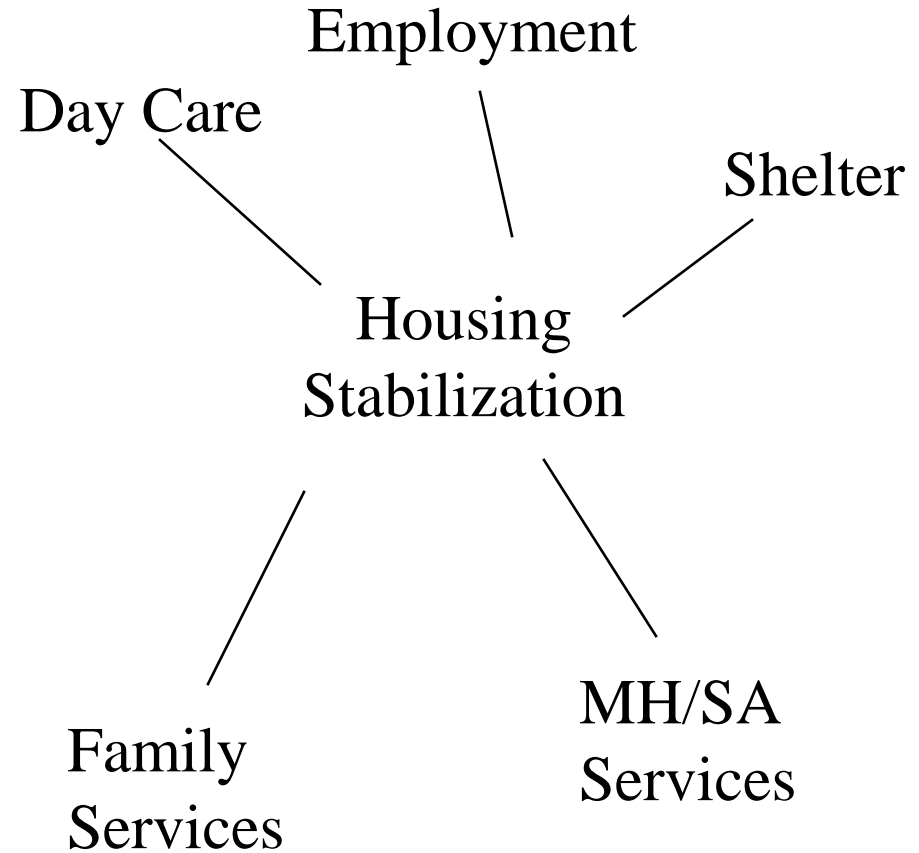
Model Cost by Volume Service System for Addressing Housing Emergencies



Prevailing Model



Emerging Model



Massachusetts DTA and CT CEH: Conceptual Framework

Community-based
Prevention
(Diversion and
Stabilization)

\$1-2k per case

Rapid
Exit:

Relocation

\$2-4k per
case

Up to 2-4
weeks
shelter

Housing
Stabilization
Service I

Relocation,
Critical Time
Intervention
CM, Temp
Rental Ass.

1 year shallow
rental subsidy

Housing
Stabilization
Service II

More
intensive
services, 1
more year of
Temp Rent
Ass.

Long-Term
Subsidy and
Service
Engagement

Transition to
mainstream
systems

Shelter exit

Shelter admission

The Massachusetts Commission: Highlighted Principles

- “The Right Resources, to the Right People, at the Right time”
- Effective coordination and delivery of prevention services to reduce shelter admissions
- Establish “regional networks” for housing relocation and stabilization for sheltered families
- Leverage mainstream services and permanent housing resources to support reform strategy

Other Strategies

“On the Drawing Board”

- Creating a defined “Emergency Assistance” benefit within TANF
- Families have an “account” for managing housing emergencies, eg. to spend on prevention, shelter and temporary rental assistance
- Licensed “housing stabilization” providers access and administer the account