

# **Ending Homelessness: How Research, Policy and Practice Are Working Together to Drive Progress**

Dennis P. Culhane  
University of Pennsylvania

---

# Historical Context

- Sense of intractability
- Focus on shelter and “rescue”
- McKinney-Vento 1987: Emphasis on services

# The Components of Transformation

- Research: “Intelligent Segmentation”
- Practice: Innovative Housing Models
- Advocacy: Focus on the Endgame - Housing
- Policy Leadership: Political Will to Resources
- Data: Continuous Quality Improvement

# Research: “Intelligent Segmentation”

Homelessness Typology:

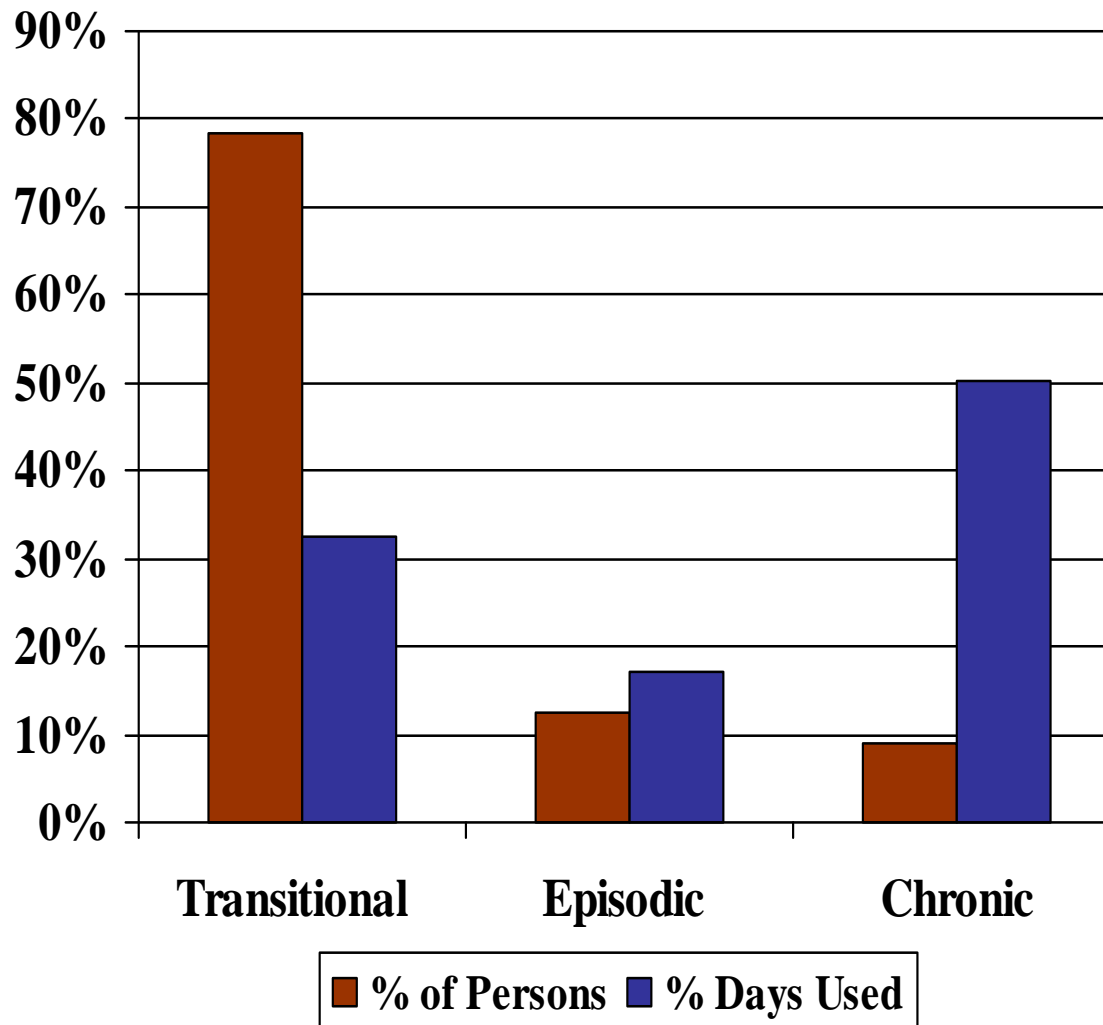
Crisis Homelessness

Episodic Homelessness

Chronic Homelessness

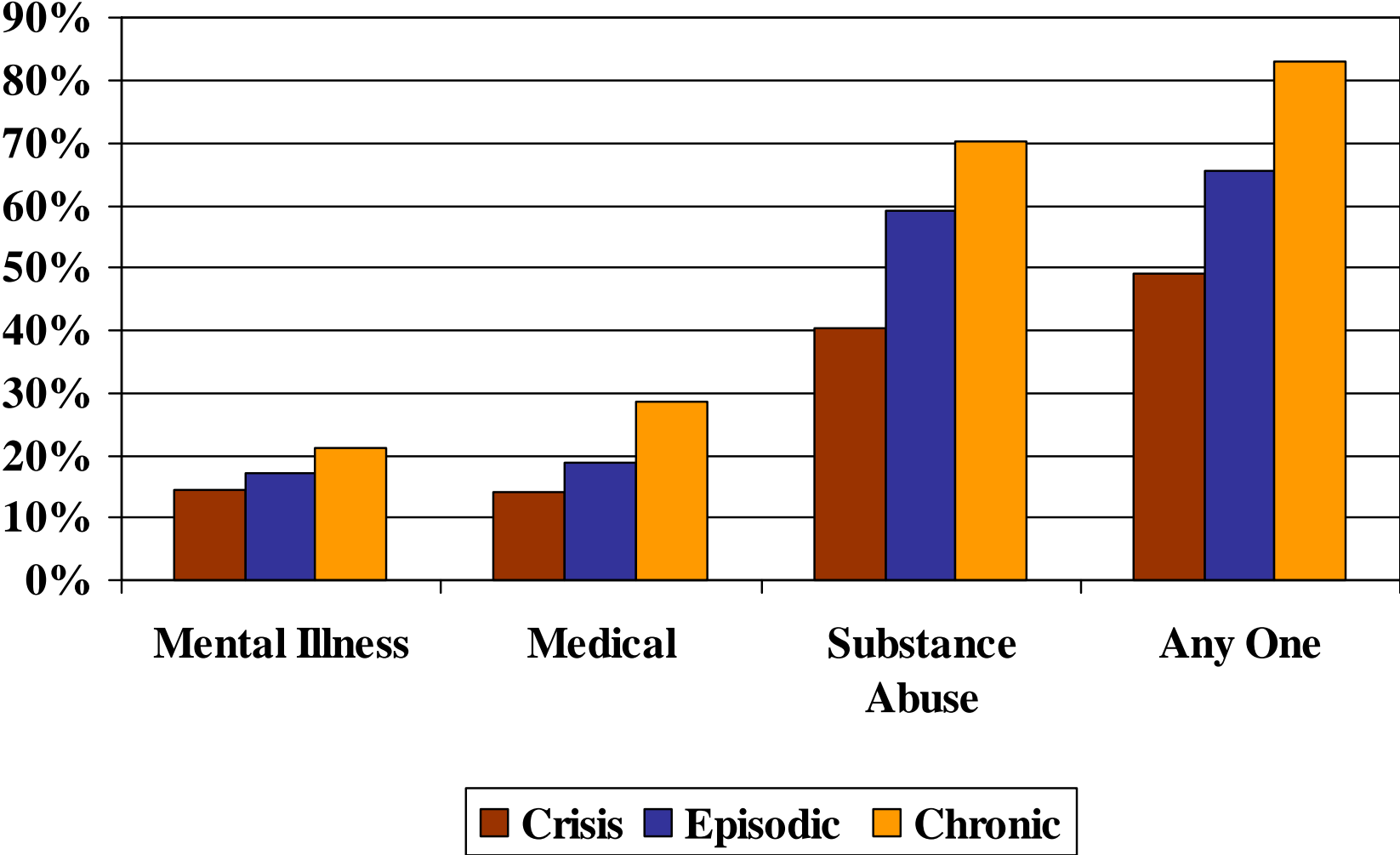
Leadership Focuses on CH: High Cost Super Users

# Cluster Distributions: Persons and Shelter Days Consumed (Single Adults in Philadelphia)



- Crisis:
  - 1.19 stays
  - 20.4 days
- Episodics:
  - 3.84 stays
  - 72.8 days
- Chronics:
  - 1.53 stays
  - 252.4 days

# Disability Condition & Veteran Status By Cluster (Single Adults in Philadelphia)



# The Cost of Homelessness

Service Provider	Mean Days Used (2-year pre-NY/NY)	Per Diem Cost	Annualized Cost
NYC DHS – Shelter	137	\$68	\$4,658
NYS OMH – Hospital	57.3	\$437	\$12,520
NYC HHC – Hospital	16.5	\$755	\$6,229
Medicaid – Hospital	35.3	\$657	\$11,596
Medicaid – Outpatient	62.2 (visits)	\$84	\$2,612
VA – Hospital	7.8	\$467	\$1,821
NYS DCJS – Prison	9.3	\$79	\$367
NYC DOC – Jail	10	\$129	\$645
Total			\$40,449

## Practice: Housing Models

- Consumers Lead: “Housing as Housing”
- Industry Innovators: Permanent Supported Housing Developers
- The “Housing First” Corrective: Return to Roots



# NY/NY Savings: Per Housing Unit Per Year

Service	Annualized Savings per NY/NY Unit
DHS Shelter	\$3,779
OMH Hospital	\$8,260
HHC Hospital	\$1,771
Medicaid – Inpatient	\$3,787
Medicaid - Outpatient	(\$2,657)
VA Hospital	\$595
NYS Prison	\$418
NYC Jail	\$328
Total	\$16,282

# Advocacy: Focus on the Endgame

- National Alliance to End Homelessness:
  - Leadership: Nan Roman
  - PSH Set-Aside 1999
  - 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
  - Bush Chronic Homelessness Initiative

# Policy Leadership: Political Will to Resources

- US Interagency Council on Homelessness
  - Executive Director: Philip Mangano
  - “10-year Plans” Engage Local Leaders
  - Nationwide, Campaign-style Approach
- Congress and Bush White House
  - \$500 million increase targets PSH for CH
- Congress and Obama White House: Veterans
  - 70,000 Housing Vouchers: \$600 million

# Data: Continuous Quality Improvement

- Homeless Management Information System Requirement, 2000 Congress
- Uneven adoption til Scored
- Underutilized
- But – VA has pushed the envelope.....

# Crisis Homelessness: Prevention & Rapid Rehousing

- Once Again, Practice Takes the Lead
- Advocates Push Legislation
- Policy Leadership – Stimulus Act, \$1.5 Billion
- Research Documents Best Practices
- New National VA Program (SSVF):
  - 85% success
  - Works for Families *and* Singles

# Bringing it all together.....

Knowledge Development.... Practice Innovations...  
Advocacy and Political Leadership.... Willingness to  
Change Practice.... Continuous Use of Quality  
Data....

Collectively, this drives political sustainability (and  
some growth....)