



Family Options Study – Short-term Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families

July 8, 2015



Contents of today's presentation

- Family Options Study overview
- Findings of the Short-term Impacts Report
- Lessons about interventions



Family Options Study overview

Family Options Study



- Generates evidence about which types of housing and services interventions work best for families experiencing homelessness
- The study examines three types of interventions
 - Permanent housing subsidy (SUB)
 - Community-based rapid rehousing (CBRR)
 - Project-based transitional housing (PBTH)
- With comparison to the usual care (UC) available in communities

Conceptual framework

SUB <i>Permanent housing subsidy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long-term subsidy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addresses housing affordability ▪ Prevents recurrence of homelessness ▪ Mainstream services address barriers ▪ Housing stability may have radiating effects on family well-being
CBRR <i>Community-based rapid re-housing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swift exit from homelessness minimizes harm ▪ Short-term assistance encourages self-sufficiency ▪ Mainstream services address barriers
PBTH <i>Project-based transitional housing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Families have barriers that must be addressed ▪ Housing subsidies alone may be insufficient ▪ Address barriers in supervised residential setting ▪ Goals extend beyond housing stability

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12 communities participated

- 2,282 families in the study
- 148 programs provided housing or shelter and services



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Study timeline



<p>Family enrollment September 2010- January 2012</p>	<p>Short-term impacts report July 2015</p>	<p>Long-term impacts report 2016</p>
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≈20 months after
enrollment

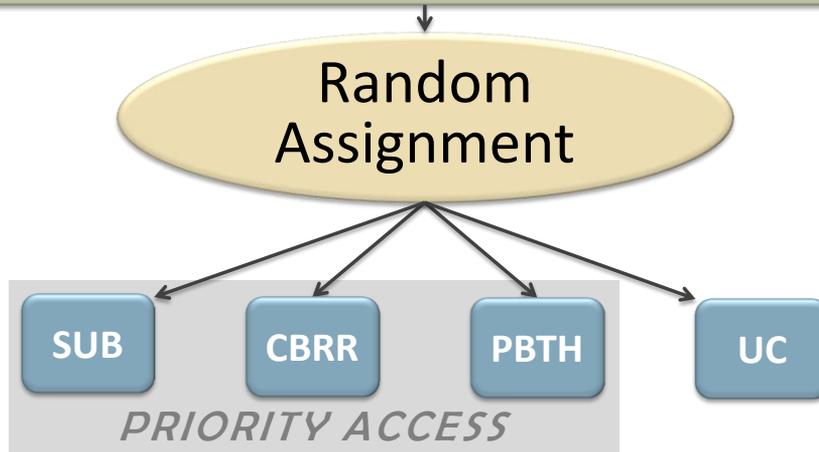
≈ 36 months after
enrollment



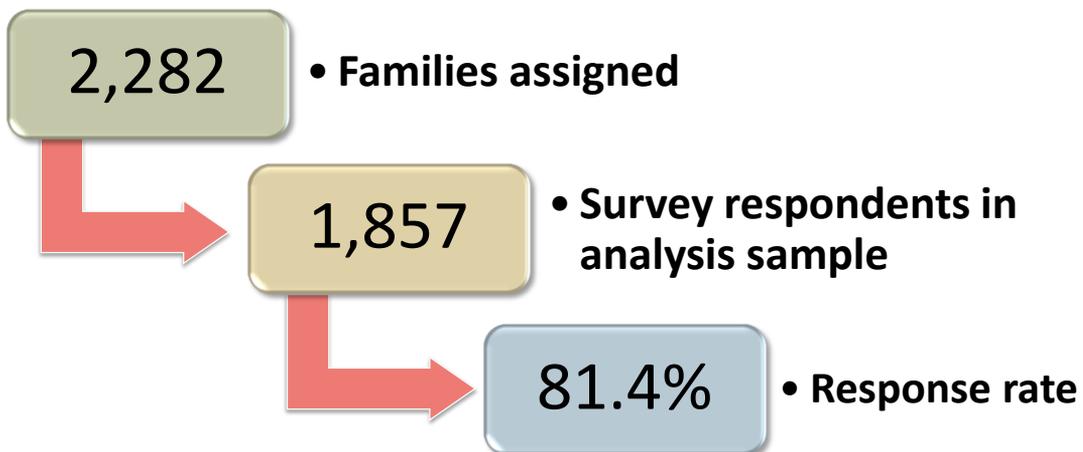
Research
approach

Study design

Families in shelter who consent to participate in study



Sample size



Study families



- Typical family = 29 year old woman with one or two children
- \$7,400 median annual household income
- 30% with psychological distress or PTSD symptoms
- 63% had a prior episode of homelessness

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The study estimates impacts in five domains



- 1** Housing stability
- 2** Family preservation
- 3** Adult well-being
- 4** Child well-being
- 5** Self-sufficiency

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Data sources



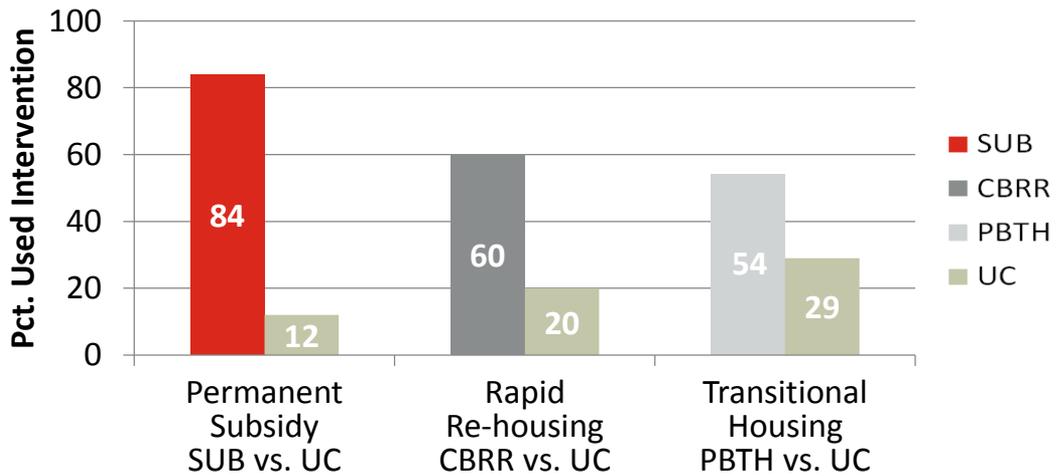
Study records	Family surveys	Intervention provider data	Administrative data systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random assignment enrollment data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline • Tracking • 18-month follow-up • Child assessments • Child survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment verification • Program information • Cost information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIS records • HUD's PIC records • HUD's TRACS records

Impacts of assignment to the intervention



- Impact estimates comparing SUB vs UC reveal the *average* impact of offering a family priority access to the SUB intervention relative to usual care
- Tests priority access to an intervention regardless of whether or not the families used the assigned intervention (or used others instead)
- Similar tests for other interventions (CBRR, PBTH)

Take-up of assigned intervention



Report Exhibits 6-2, 7-4, 8-6

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Summary of
intervention
impacts

Preview of impact results



SUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Striking improvements in housing stability ▪ Benefits extended to family preservation, adult well-being and child well-being ▪ Reduced labor market engagement; improved food security
CBRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased income and food security ▪ Quicker exit from shelter compared to UC, but not more rapid than priority access to SUB or PBTH ▪ No improvements in housing stability or most other outcomes relative to UC
PBTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced stays in emergency shelter and on the street compared to UC ▪ No other effects

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Housing stability outcomes



Indicator	Measure	UC Average
Homeless	At least one night in shelter, street, or place not meant for human habitation in past 6 months	24%
Shelter stay	Any stay in emergency shelter in months 7 to 18 after random assignment	28%
Doubled up	At least 1 night doubled up in last 6 months because they could not find or afford a place of their own	31%

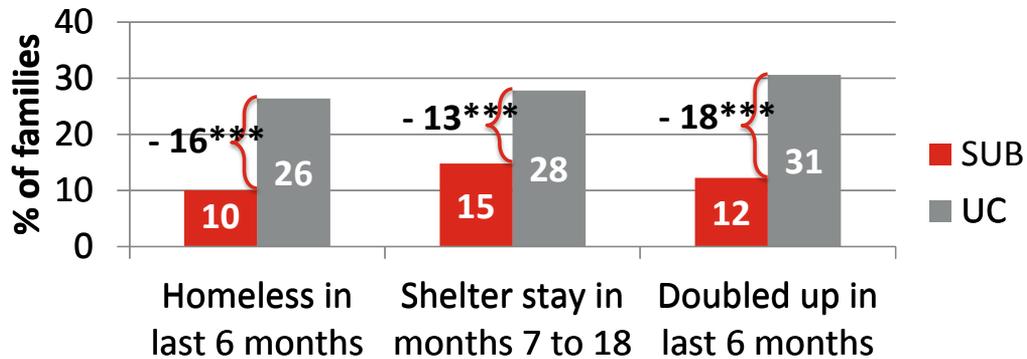
Intervention goal: *lower values*

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Housing stability impacts: SUB versus UC



Priority access to SUB results in large improvements in average housing stability over UC



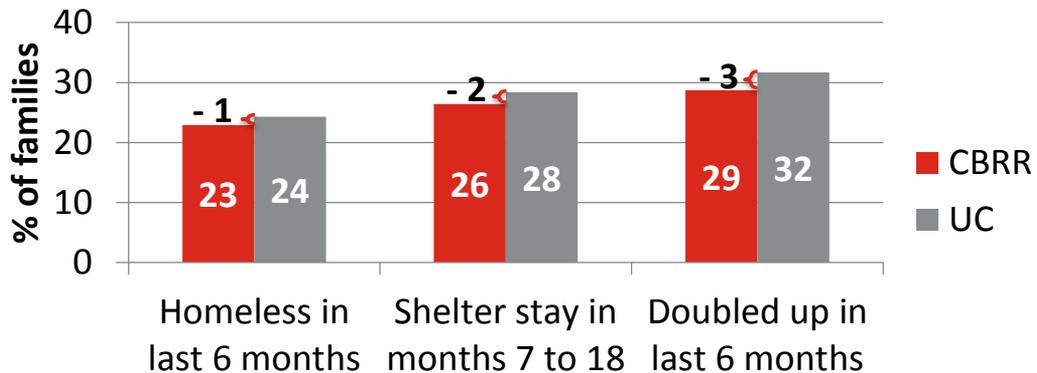
Report Exhibit 6-4

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Housing stability impacts: CBRR versus UC



Priority access to CBRR does not improve housing stability over UC



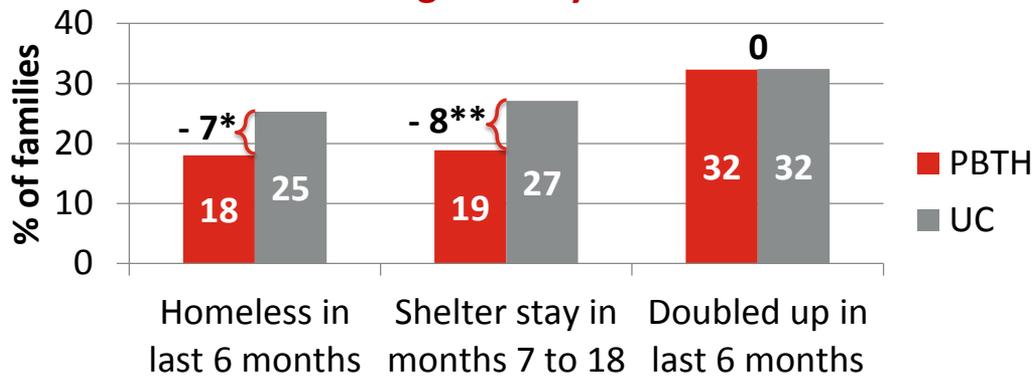
Report Exhibit 7-6

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Housing stability impacts: PBTH versus UC



Priority access to PBTH results in some improvements in housing stability over UC



Report Exhibit 8-8

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Family preservation outcomes



Indicator	Measure	UC Average
Child separation	Family has at least one child separated in last 6 months	15%
Spouse/partner separation	Spouse/partner separated in last 6 months (of those with spouse/partner present at RA)	37%

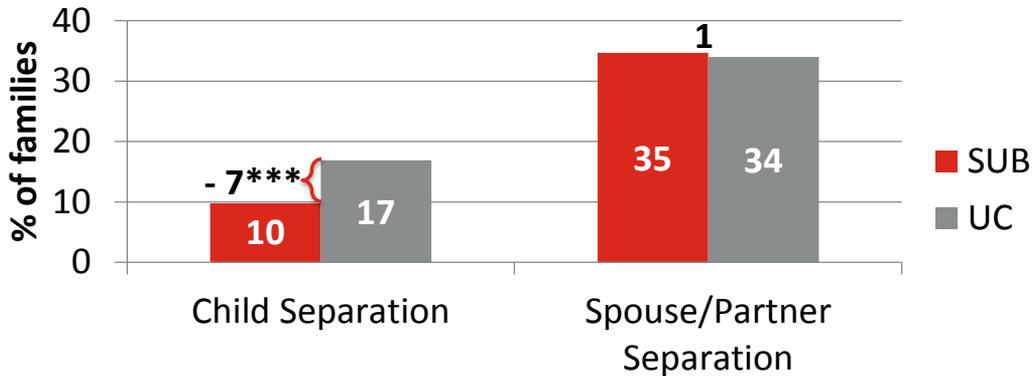
Intervention goal: *lower values*

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Family preservation impacts: SUB versus UC



Priority access to SUB results in a large reduction in child separation over UC



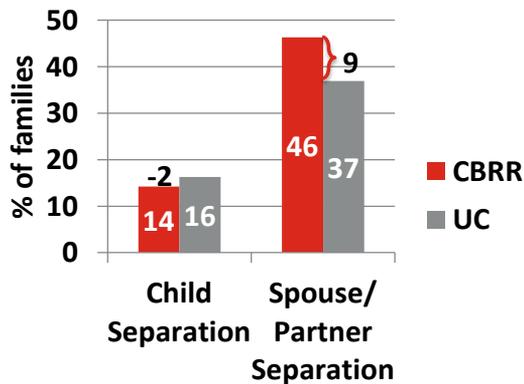
Report Exhibit 6-8

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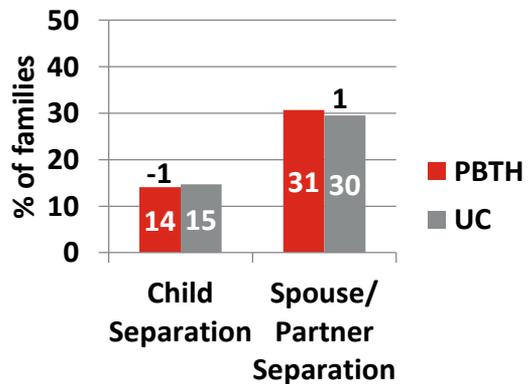
Family preservation impacts: CBRR versus UC, PBTH versus UC



Priority access to CBRR does not improve family preservation over UC



Priority access to PBTH does not improve family preservation over UC



Report Exhibits 7-10, 8-12

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Adult well-being outcomes



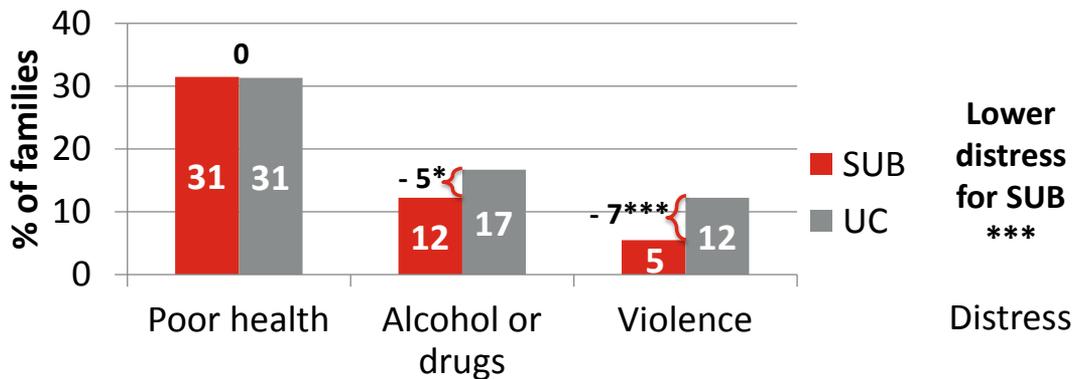
Indicator	Measure	UC Average
Poor health	Health in past 30 days was poor or fair	31%
Alcohol or drugs	Alcohol dependence or drug abuse	14%
Violence	Experienced intimate partner violence in last 6 months	12%
Distress	Psychological distress	--

Intervention goal: lower values

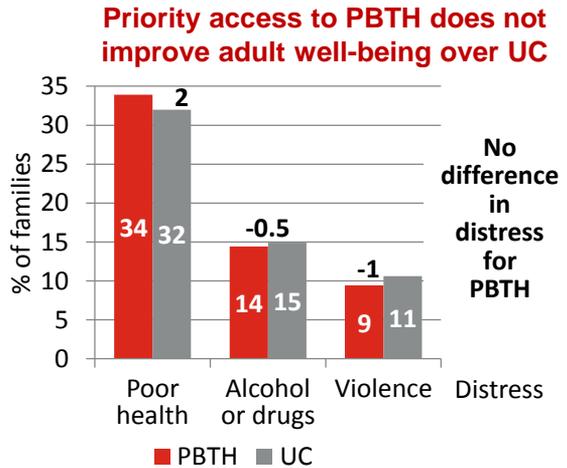
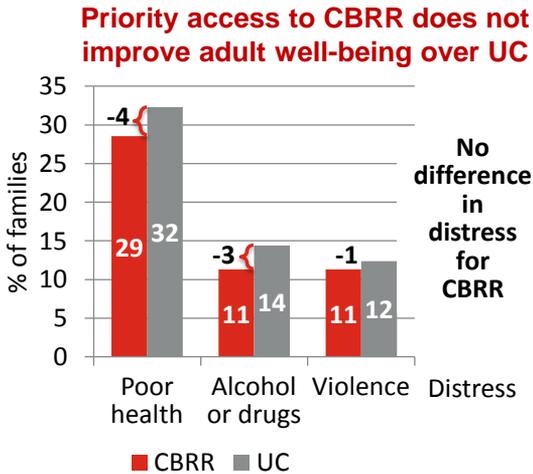
Adult well-being impacts: SUB versus UC



Priority access to SUB results in large improvements in adult well-being over UC



Adult well-being impacts: CBRR versus UC, PBTH versus UC



Report Exhibits 7-11, 8-13

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Child well-being outcomes

Indicator	Measure	UC Average
Schools attended	Number of schools attended since study enrollment	1.9
Absences	Childcare or school absences in last month	1 to 2
Poor health	Poor or fair health	5%
Behavior problems	Behavior problems	--

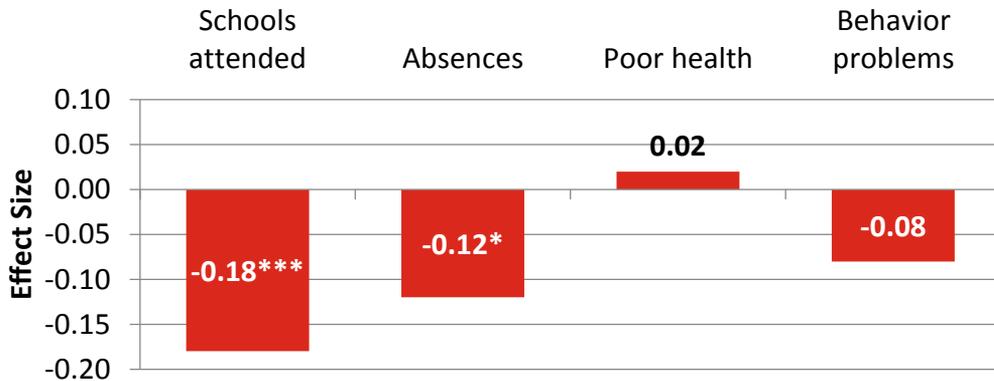
Intervention goal: lower values

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Child well-being impacts: SUB versus UC



Priority access to SUB results in some statistically significant improvements in child well-being over UC



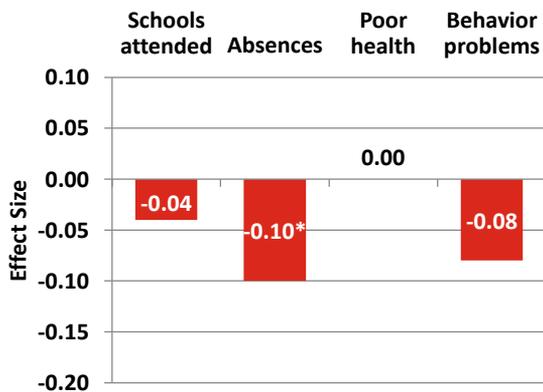
Report Exhibit 6-10

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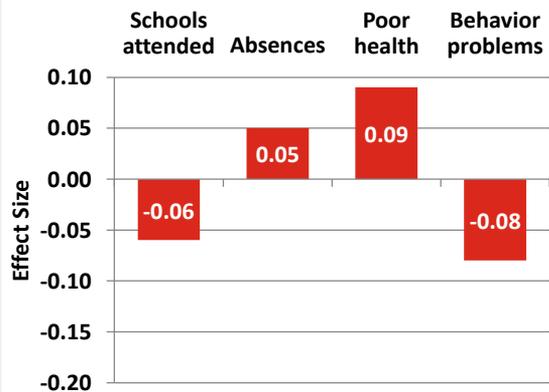
Child well-being impacts: CBRR versus UC, PBTH versus UC



Priority access to CBRR reduces absences relative to UC



Priority access to PBTH does not improve child well-being over UC



Report Exhibits 7-12, 8-14

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Self-sufficiency outcomes



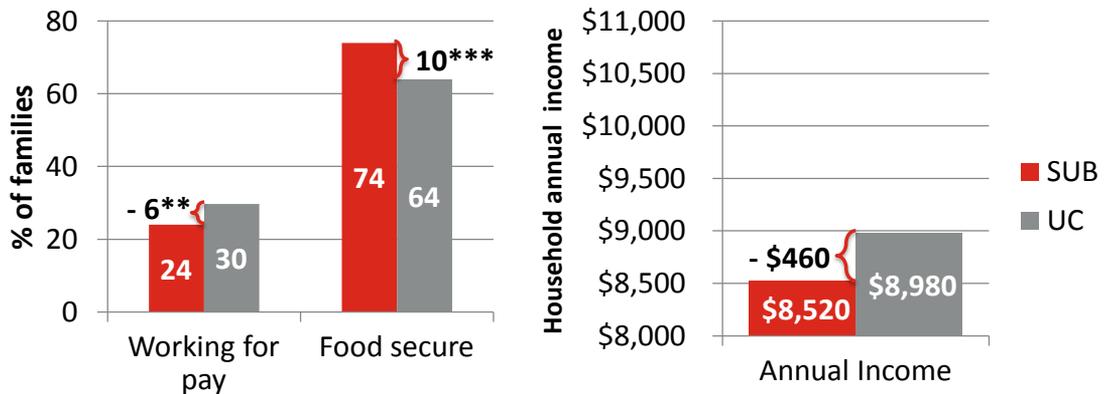
Indicator	Measure	UC Average
Work for pay	Work for pay in week before survey	31%
Food secure	Household is food secure	65%
Income	Total annual family income	\$9,067

Intervention goal: *higher values*

Self-sufficiency impacts: SUB versus UC



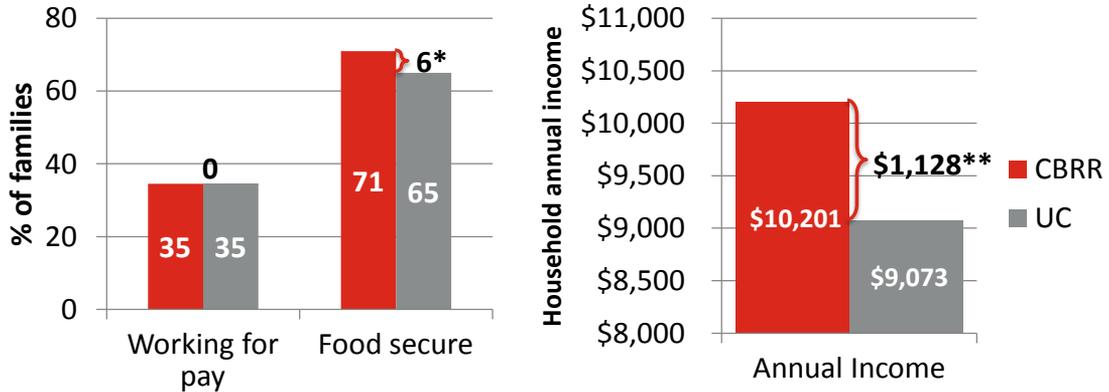
Priority access to SUB results in less work for pay, but improved food security relative to UC



Self-sufficiency impacts: CBRR versus UC



Priority access to CBRR results in greater income and higher food security relative to UC



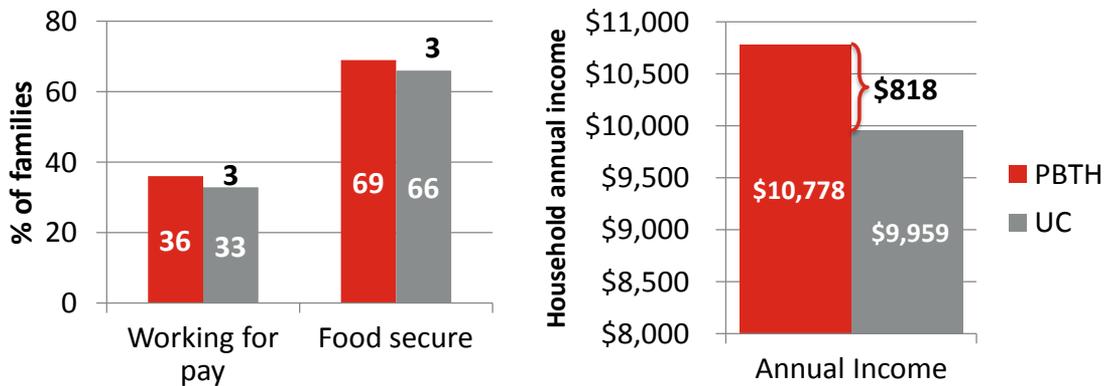
Report Exhibit 7-14

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Self-sufficiency impacts: PBTH versus UC



Priority access to PBTH does not improve self-sufficiency relative to UC



Report Exhibit 8-16

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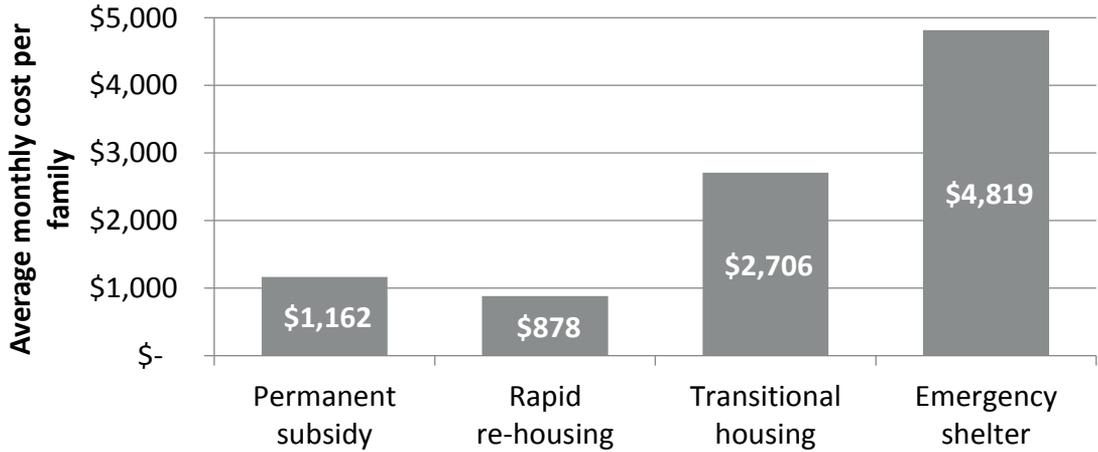
Costs and use of homeless and housing assistance programs

Cost measures



- **Per family monthly program cost:**
Cost of a program when a family uses it for a full month
- **Cost of all programs used during the followup period by families assigned to each intervention:**
Costs for *all* programs families used (full followup period)

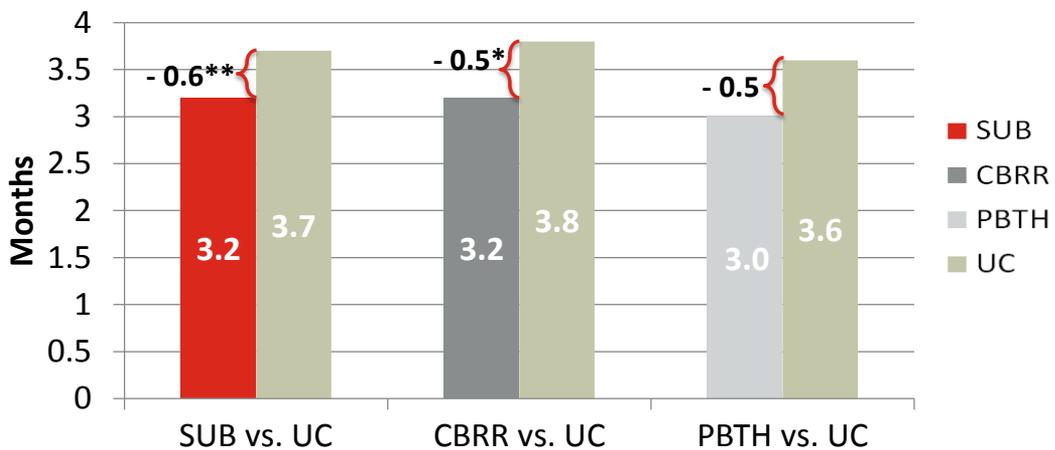
Per family monthly program cost



Report Exhibit 12-2

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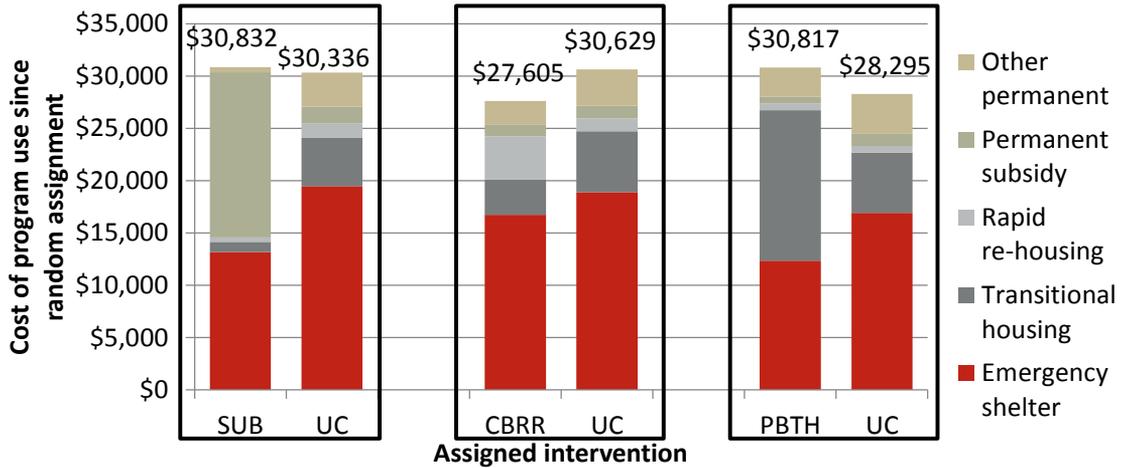
Length of initial stay in emergency shelter



Report Exhibits 6-7, 7-9, 8-11

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Cost of all program use during the followup period



Report Exhibit 12-19

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Lessons about each intervention

Lessons about UC



- Show what happens without special offers of assistance
- Spent on average 4 months in emergency shelter following random assignment
- Participated in homeless and housing assistance programs at fairly high rates with total cost of about \$30,000
- Were not faring well 20 months after study enrollment

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Lessons about SUB



- High rates of take up with a sustained period of use
- More rapid departures from emergency shelter than UC or PBTH; equivalent to CBRR
- Notable improvements in housing stability compared to CBRR, PBTH, and UC
- Benefits extended beyond housing stability to family preservation, adult well-being, and a few child outcomes
- Reduced labor market engagement; improved food security
- Total cost comparable to UC

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Lessons about CBRR



- Relatively low take up
- More rapid departures from emergency shelter than UC, but not more rapid than SUB or PBTH
- Equivalent to UC in preventing subsequent homelessness and improving housing stability
- Fewer school absences and increased family income and food security compared to UC
- Lowest cost per month of the programs studied

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Lessons about PBTH



- Relatively low take up
- Reduced homelessness compared to UC, but few benefits in other domains
- Cost less than shelters on a per-family, per-month basis, but total costs were higher than for UC

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Questions for the 36-month analysis



SUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do the relative benefits of SUB in housing stability, family preservation, and adult well-being continue? ▪ Are permanent housing subsidies more expensive than the other interventions over the longer term? ▪ Do families assigned to permanent subsidies continue to have lower work effort than other families?
CBRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do increased incomes continue and lead to improvements in other domains? ▪ Do families stabilize over a longer period?
PBTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do lower rates of shelter use persist after families leave PBTH programs? ▪ Do services to address psychosocial needs have a longer-term effect not evident at 20 months?