
Challenges in Homelessness Research: What Data Will Make a Difference?

Stephen Hwang, MD, MPH

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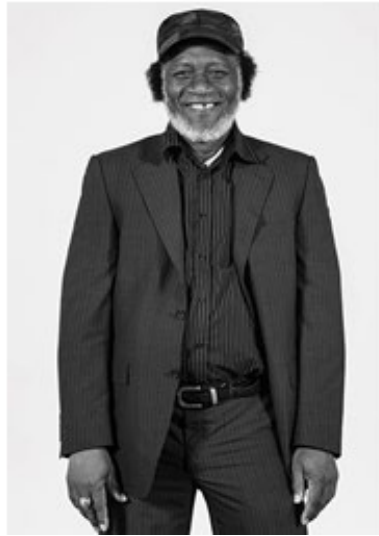
4th Annual Homelessness Data Sharing Initiative

Calgary, Alberta

May 2019

Challenges in Homelessness Research: What Data Will Make a Difference?

- Where have we come from?
- Where should we go?
- What important questions do we need to answer?
- What changes are needed in how we obtain, share, and use data?
- Focus on impact on the front lines



Credit: Rosie Holtom

Important Ingredients

- Good Data & Good Analysis
- New Insight



Ontario



Important Ingredients

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- New Insight
- Actionable
- Powerful Narrative
- Advocacy Strategy

A Typology of Homelessness

Applying Cluster Analysis to Test a Typology of Homelessness by Pattern of Shelter Utilization: Results from the Analysis of Administrative Data

Randall Kuhn and Dennis P. Culhane¹

University of Pennsylvania

American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol. 26, No. 2, 1998

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Housing First

Housing First, Consumer Choice, and Harm Reduction for Homeless Individuals With a Dual Diagnosis

| Sam Tsemberis, PhD, Leyla Gulcur, PhD, and Maria Nakae, BA

(Am J Public Health. 2004;94:651–656)

Housing First

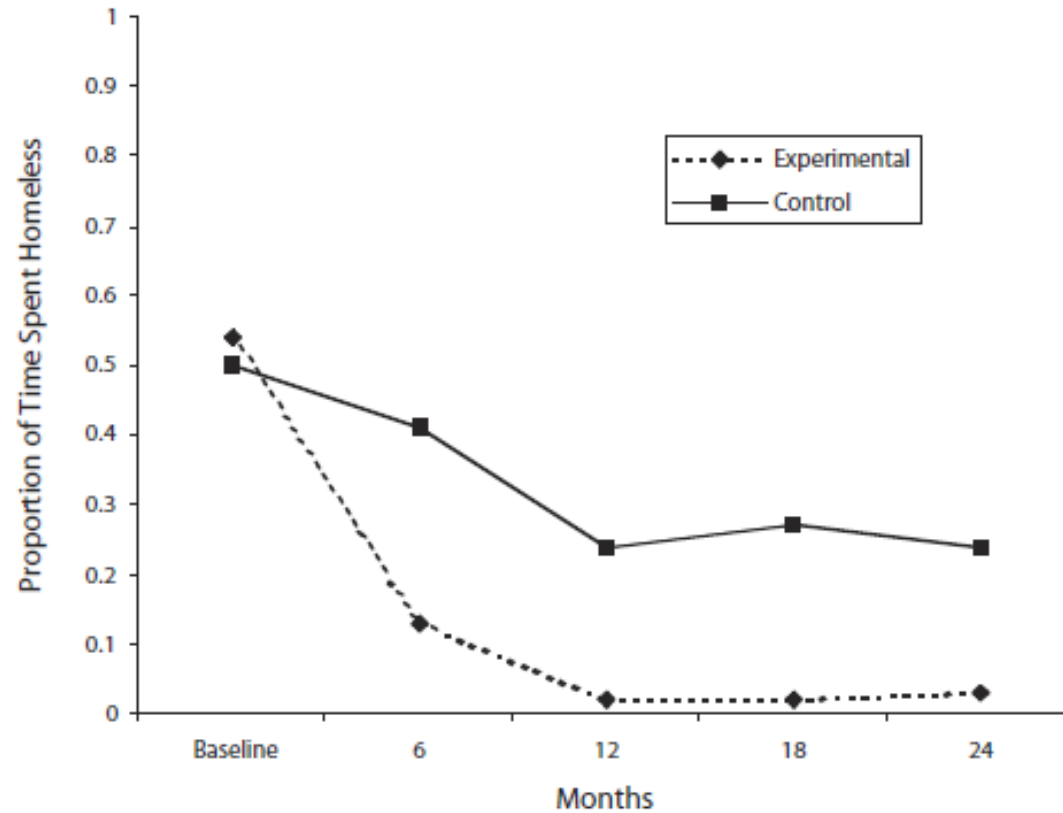


FIGURE 2—Proportion of time spent homeless: baseline-24 months.

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THE NEW YORKER

DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MILLION-DOLLAR MURRAY

Why problems like homelessness may be easier to solve than to manage.

BY MALCOLM GLADWELL

Murray Barr was a bear of a man, an **M**ex-marine, six feet tall and heavy-set, and when he fell down—which he did nearly every day—it could take two or three grown men to pick him up. He had straight black hair and olive skin. On the street, they called him Smokey. He was missing most of his teeth. He had a wonderful smile. People loved Murray.

homeless people of Reno did, which is to walk through the casinos and finish off the half-empty glasses of liquor left at the gaming tables.

“If he was on a runner, we could pick him up several times a day,” Patrick O’Bryan, who is a bicycle cop in downtown Reno, said. “And he’s gone on some amazing runners. He would get

Feb 13, 2006

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At Home/Chez Soi Study

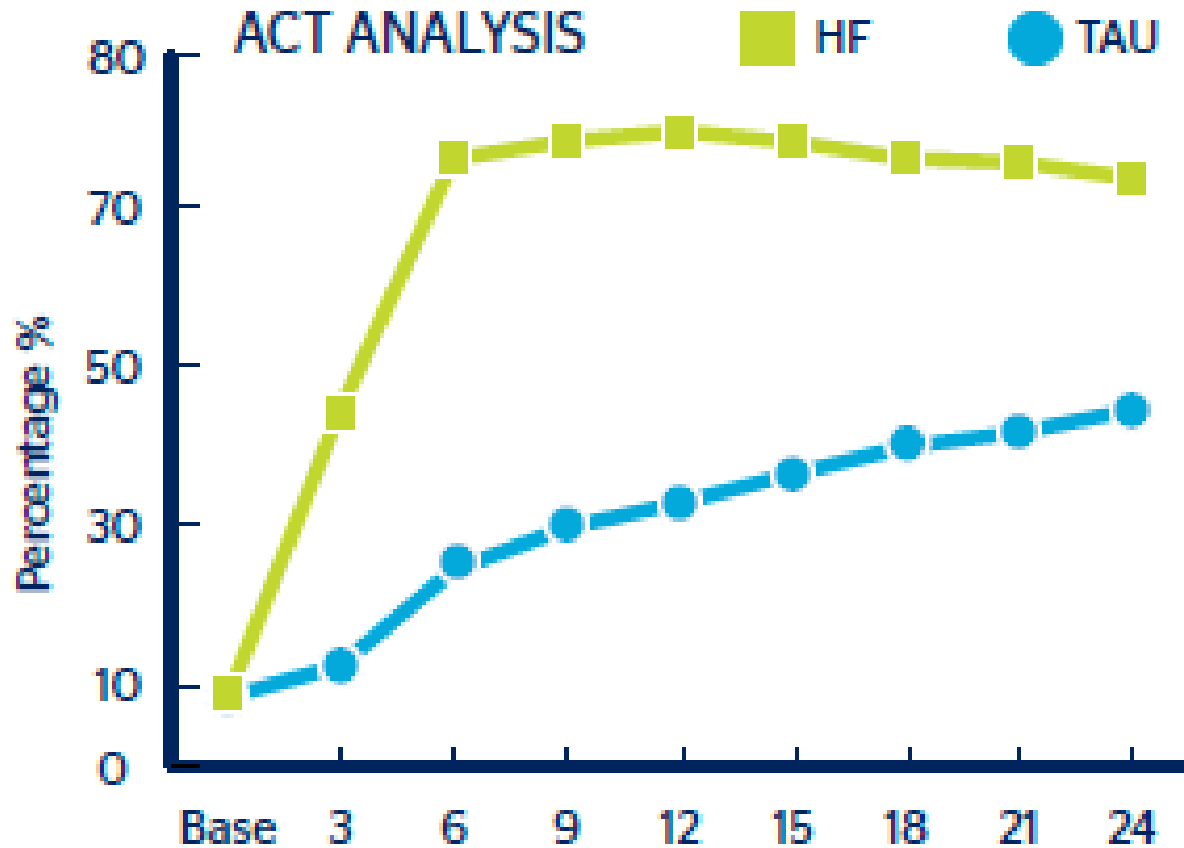
Original Investigation

Effect of Scattered-Site Housing Using Rent Supplements and Intensive Case Management on Housing Stability Among Homeless Adults With Mental Illness A Randomized Trial

Vicky Stergiopoulos, MD; Stephen W. Hwang, MD; Agnes Gozdzik, PhD; Rosane Nisenbaum, PhD; Eric Latimer, PhD; Daniel Rabouin, MSc; Carol E. Adair, PhD; Jimmy Bourque, PhD; Jo Connelly, MSW; James Frankish, PhD; Laurence Y. Katz, MD; Kate Mason, MHSc; Vachan Misir, MSc; Kristen O'Brien, MSc; Jitender Sareen, MD; Christian G. Schütz, MD, PhD; Arielle Singer, MD; David L. Streiner, PhD; Helen-Maria Vasiliadis, PhD; Paula N. Goering, PhD; for the At Home/Chez Soi Investigators

JAMA. 2015;313(9):905-915.

At Home/Chez Soi Study



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At Home/Chez Soi Study



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada

At Home/Chez Soi Interim Report

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1. Real-time linkage of data from health care systems to homelessness/housing services/interventions for individuals

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2. By-name lists, “personalized interventions,” and long-term tracking of outcomes

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3. Randomized controlled trials
(sometimes!)

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4. Data that demonstrates a brilliant new idea – one that I can't even imagine – that reshapes how we tackle the problem of homelessness

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5. How can data lead to change at the level of political and economic policies, rather than at the level of programs and interventions for individuals?

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Thank you!

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Solutions

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