

Background

In 2013 Value Options conducted an analysis of high utilizers of the Emergency Department and Inpatient Hospitalization including psychiatric inpatient and detoxification in free-standing programs and hospital units. A component of this analysis was to determine the profile of those who utilize these services versus those who don't use them, and those who are high utilizers. Homelessness emerged as a significant factor in the utilization of these higher levels of care.

Methodology and General Population Statistics

The study looked at Medicaid claims data for a two year period 2011-2012. For the purposes of this analysis, homeless members were identified in the following ways:

1. Members with addresses listed as "homeless".
2. Members with addresses of the area DSS office
3. Members with addresses of Homeless Shelters

More than 3% of the total Medicaid population was homeless for at least one day during the two year study period.

Total Medicaid Population: Homelessness		
Homeless?	# of Members	% of All Medicaid Members
Yes	17,151	3.18%
No	522,549	96.82%
Total	539,700	100.00%

When this data was further broken down by child and adult members, more than 5% of the adult members were identified as homeless and less than 1% of the children and youth. The data for the youth is questionable; more than 15% of the homeless were HUSKY A adults, the parents of the HUSKY A youth. It is possible that the homeless designation is attached to the "head of household" in the data set and not to the children or other individuals in the family. Youth homelessness may be underestimated.

Adult Medicaid Population: Homelessness		
Homeless	# of Members	% of Total
Yes	14,967	5.18%
No	273,797	94.82%
Total	288,764	100.00%

Youth Medicaid Population: Homelessness		
Homeless	# of Members	% of Total
Yes	2,184	0.87%
No	248,752	99.13%
Total	250,936	100.00%

To evaluate the duration of homelessness, four time spans were compared, as shown in the table below.

- **The MLIA members account for 33.98% of the Adult Medicaid population, but a far higher percentage of the homeless population.**

- The MLIA members consistently have more days of homelessness than any other eligibility group.
- MLIA Members represent from 66.35% to 88.76% of the individuals who are homeless within each of the timeframes.
- Of the more than 3,000 individuals who were homeless for the greatest percentage of the study time period (546-731 days), the MLIA members represented 88.76% of those individuals.

Homeless Adult Medicaid Population: Days Homeless by Benefit Group											
Benefit Group	Days Homeless								Total		
	1-180		181-365		366-545		546-731				
	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Member s	% of Total	% of Total Adult Medicaid
ABD/Other Single (HUSKY C)	617	10.52 %	298	7.84%	210	9.53%	193	6.23%	1,318	8.81%	10.43%
Charter Oak	- 0	0.00%	- 0	0.00%	1	0.05%	1	0.03%	2	0.01%	2.04%
Family Single (HUSKY A)	1,335	22.76 %	589	15.50%	216	9.80%	148	4.78%	2,288	15.29%	53.03%
LTC Single (HUSKY C)	22	0.38%	7	0.18%	5	0.23%	6	0.19%	40	0.27%	0.50%
MLIA (HUSKY D)	3,892	66.35 %	2,907	76.48%	1,771	80.39%	2,749	88.76%	11,319	75.63%	33.98%
Total	5,866	100%	3,801	100%	2,203	100%	3,097	100%	14,967	100%	

Homelessness and ED Visits

Homeless Adults and the ED

Not surprisingly, homeless adults were disproportionately visiting the ED.

- Among the adult population utilizing the ED, 19% of the ED visits with a primary BH diagnosis were by adults who were homeless at the time of their ED visit.
- Homeless adults were also over-represented among the adults in the ED with a primary Medical and secondary BH diagnosis.

Adult ED Visits: Homeless			
	# of ED Visits	% of Total ED Visits	% of Adult Medicaid Population
Yes	65,658	7.94%	5.18%
No	761,483	92.06%	94.82%
Total	827,141	100.00%	100.00%

Homeless by ED Diagnosis Indicator									
Homeless	ED Diagnosis Indicator								
	Behavioral Health Primary		Primary Med/Secondary BH		Medical Only				
	# of ED Visits	% of Total	# of ED Visits	% of Total	# of ED Visits	% of Total	Total # of Episodes	% of Total Episodes	% of Adult Medicaid Pop
No	63,853	81.00%	99,821	88.77%	597,809	94.01%	761,483	92.06%	94.82%
Yes	14,977	19.00%	12,624	11.23%	38,057	5.99%	65,658	7.94%	5.18%
Total	78,830	100.00%	112,445	100.00%	635,866	100.00%	827,141	100%	100%
Note: Behavioral Health category includes all ED visits that had a primary behavioral health diagnosis on the corresponding ED Claim Yes indicates the member was homeless at the time of the ED visit									

Adult Medicaid Population: ED Utilizer Demographics									
Homeless	# of BH ED Visits: Jan 1, 2011 - Dec 31, 2012								
	1 ED Visit		2 ED Visits		3+ ED Visits		Total		Comparison
	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	% of Medicaid Population
Yes	3,375	8.48%	1,758	12.67%	4,034	20.70%	9,167	12.53%	5.18%
No	36,418	91.52%	12,112	87.33%	15,450	79.30%	63,980	87.47%	94.82%
Total	39,793	100.00%	13,870	100.00%	19,484	100.00%	73,147	100.00%	100%
Note: Homeless = Yes indicates the member was homeless for at least 1 day in the two year study period									

Homeless Youth and the ED

- Youth who are homeless are slightly over-represented in ED utilization.

Youth ED Visits: Homeless			
Homeless	# of ED Visits	% of ED Visits	% of Youth Medicaid Pop
No	301,794	99.05%	99.13%
Yes	2,892	0.95%	0.87%
Total	304,686	100.00%	100%

- Youth who are homeless are over-represented in all three categories of ED visits but most so for the ED visits with behavioral health components.

Youth Homeless by ED Diagnosis Indicator									
	Behavioral Health Primary		Med Primary/Secondary BH		MED		Total ED Visits		Comparison
Homeless	# of ED Visits	% of ED Visits	# of ED Visits	% of ED Visits	# of ED Visits	% of ED Visits	Total # of ED Visits	% of Total ED Visits	% of Total Youth Medicaid Pop
No	12,644	98.91%	8,172	98.29%	280,978	99.08%	301,794	99.05%	99.13%
Yes	139	1.09%	142	1.71%	2,611	0.92%	2,892	0.95%	0.87%
Total	12,783	100.00%	8,314	100.00%	283,589	100.00%	304,686	100.00%	100.00%

Homelessness and Inpatient Utilization

Homeless Adults and Inpatient

Not surprisingly, the adult homeless population utilized more episodes of inpatient services than those who were not homeless.

- While they represent 5.18% of the total adult population, they utilized 17.16% of the episodes of inpatient care.
- The homeless population were over-represented in every type of inpatient care, but particularly so for both types of detox.

Homeless adults were over-represented in all three categories of frequency of inpatient MH stays (1, 2, and 3 or more episodes) and increasingly so in the two multiple-stay categories. There appears to be a strong relationship between homelessness and multiple inpatient MH stays.

Adult Medicaid Population: Inpatient Mental Health Homelessness by Episode Frequency									
Homeless	# of IPF Episodes: Jan 1, 2011 - Dec 31, 2012								
	1 Episode		2 Episodes		3+ Episodes		Total		Comparison
	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	% of Total Adult Medicaid Population
Yes	1,299	17.31%	418	23.06%	426	27.68%	2,143	19.74%	5.18%
No	6,204	82.69%	1,395	76.94%	1,113	72.32%	8,712	80.26%	94.82%
Total	7,503	100.00%	1,813	100.00%	1,539	100.00%	10,855	100.00%	100.00%

Note: Homeless = Yes indicates the member was homeless at some time during the two year study period.

Adults who were homeless at some point during the two year study were not only over-represented in each category of frequency, but were also more likely to be overly represented in the categories of multiple episodes of detox in free-standing facilities.

- Adults who were homeless accounted for 5.18% of the adult Medicaid population and for 39.05% of the members who required three or more episodes of inpatient hospital detox.
- As the frequency of inpatient hospital detox increased, the percentage of members who were homeless at some point in the two year study period also increase

Adult Medicaid Population: Inpatient Detox <div>Free Standing</div> Homelessness by Episode Frequency									
Homeless	# of IPDF Episodes: Jan 1, 2011 - Dec 31, 2012								
	1 Episode		2 Episodes		3+ Episodes		Total		Comparison
	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	% of Total Adult Medicaid Population
Yes	1,424	24.66%	618	30.12%	747	38.31%	2,789	28.53%	5.18%
No	4,350	75.34%	1,434	69.88%	1,203	61.69%	6,987	71.47%	94.82%
Total	5,774	100.00%	2,052	100.00%	1,950	100.00%	9,776	100.00%	100.00%
Note: Homeless = Yes indicates the member was homeless at some point during the two year study period									

Adult Medicaid Population: Inpatient Detox Hospital : Homeless by Episode Frequency									
Homeless	# of IPDH Episodes: Jan 1, 2011 - Dec 31, 2012								
	1 Episode		2 Episodes		3+ Episodes		Total		Comparison
	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	# of Members	% of Total	% of Total Adult Medicaid Population
Yes	632	28.66%	165	32.23%	132	39.05%	929	30.41%	5.18%
No	1,573	71.34%	347	67.77%	206	60.95%	2,126	69.59%	94.82%
Total	2,205	100.00%	512	100.00%	338	100.00%	3,055	100.00%	100.00%
Note: Homeless = Yes indicates the member was homeless at some point in the two year study period									

Homeless Youth and Inpatient

No relationship between homeless youth and inpatient utilization was found. Several factors may contribute to this lack of a finding; 1) This may be due to what is presumed to be an underestimate of youth homelessness as noted above, and/or 2) rates of youth inpatient care are significantly lower than they are for adults.