

Governor's Task Force on Housing Supports for Vulnerable Populations

Agency Brief—Department of Social Services (DSS)

KEY DSS FINDINGS

- Members deemed high need within DSS were most likely to be involved with DMHAS (81.6%) and JBCSSD (78.4%), and least likely to be involved with DCF (51.4%).
- Due to the overlapping methodology used for the agencies' high need criteria, many DSS high need members were also high need within DMHAS (322 members, 69.5% of DSS high need group).
- DSS high need members were the oldest (avg. age of 46) of all the agencies' high need cohorts. The DSS high need sample size was also the smallest (463).
- Since the high need criteria for DSS was defined prior to the data integration, the identification of families involved with this agency was not available, and, as a result, DSS high need family members were underrepresented compared to other agencies.

KEY DETAILS

- Study Period: 9/1/2018—11/30/2019
- Total Sample was 10,420 people with at least 1 day in shelter and Medicaid enrolled during study period
- DSS high need analysis only looked at adult members

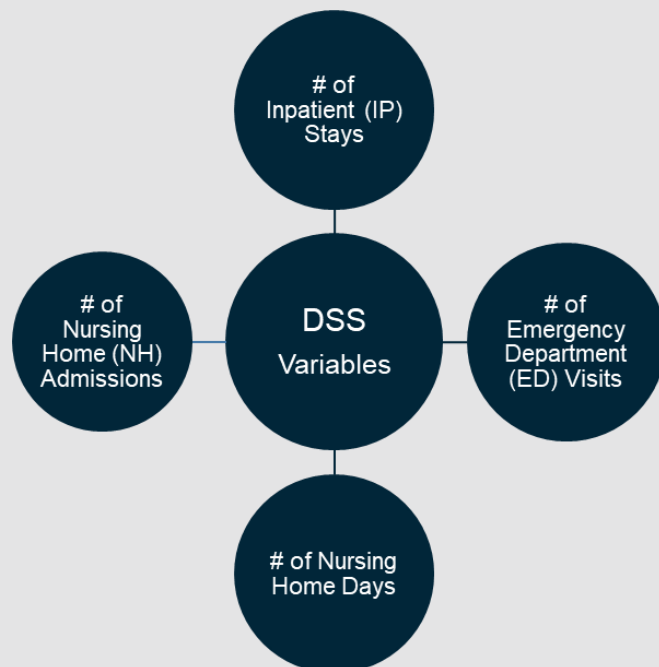
DSS/MEDICAID SAMPLE

Every member in the total sample must have spent at least one day in shelter during the study period and be Medicaid enrolled, therefore the DSS/Medicaid-involved sample is reflective of the total study sample:

10,420	Total Sample		
8,478	Adults	Avg. Lifetime Days in Shelter	155
7,329	Individuals (not part of a family)	Avg. Days in Shelter in Study Period	91
1,233	Adult Family Members	Avg. Shelter Episodes	1.7
1,042	Families		

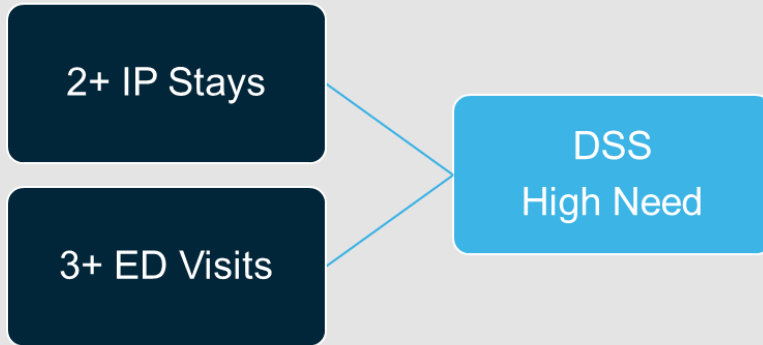
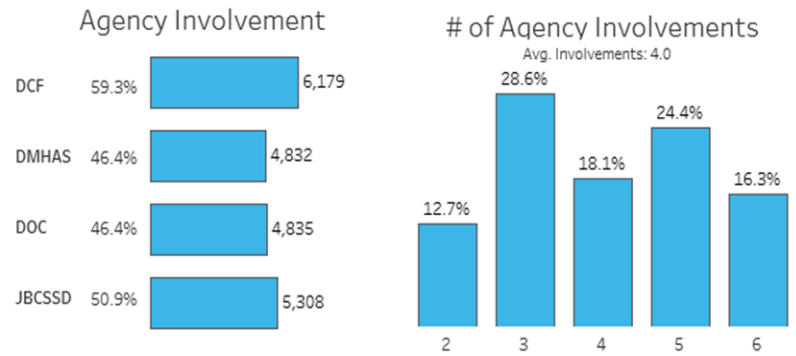
DSS DATA

The fields below were included in the data integration to potentially show high need for DSS members. Only 37 members populated the Nursing Home variables and so the variables were excluded from the final high need determination. The low number of nursing home stays may be an artifact, reflecting that it is not possible to be in a shelter and in a nursing home at the same time thus limiting the number of nursing home users in the overall sample that required at least one nursing home day.



CROSS-AGENCY INVOLVEMENTS

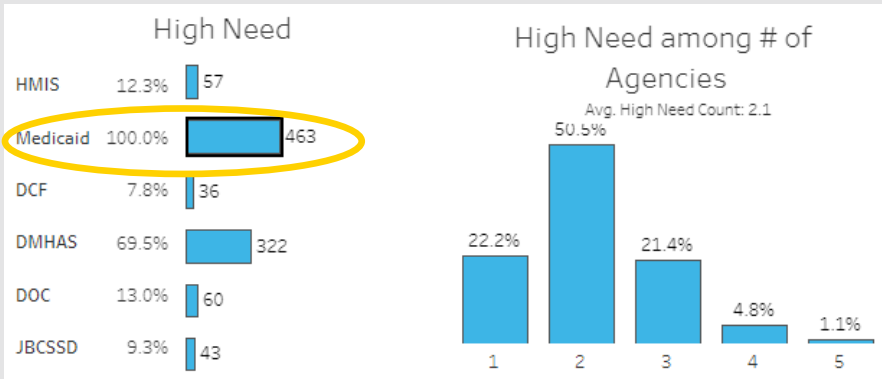
Since every member included in the sample must have been involved in the homeless service system (HMIS) and enrolled in Medicaid, the lowest number of agency involvements a member could have was 2 and the most was 6.



DSS/MEDICAID HIGH NEED

DSS high need was based on the National Governor’s Association methodology for a high cost, high need, housing-insecure cohort. In this project, DSS high need was defined as 2+ IP and 3+ ED visits using behavioral health or medical claims in the most recent six-month claim period of the study period.

Since this criteria was defined prior to the data integration, the identification of families was not yet available and resulted in an under-representation of DSS high need families.

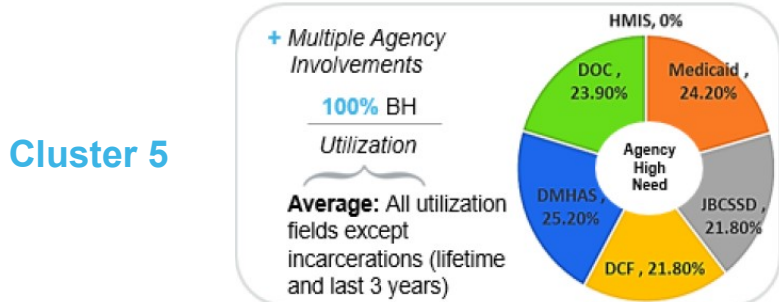


- 463** DSS high need members
- 4.8** Avg. # of agency involvements
- 2.1** Avg. # of agencies where these members were high need
- 69%** Also high need within DMHAS

CLUSTER ANALYSIS

This project used a cluster analysis to identify distinct patterns of agency utilization across a number of services among individuals with 4+ agency involvements. Number of IP and ED visits were included as part of the input variables.

Individuals in cluster 5 had the highest percentage of DSS high need members, with 24.2% of the DSS high need cohort belonging to this cluster. Individuals in cluster 5 were 3.3 times more likely to have a higher number of days in shelter than individuals in cluster 1 (reference cluster).



DSS HIGH NEED SAMPLE

Compared to the total sample, DSS high need members were more:

- 73%** Male
- 64%** White
- 78%** Non-Hispanic
- 46** Older (Avg. Age)

