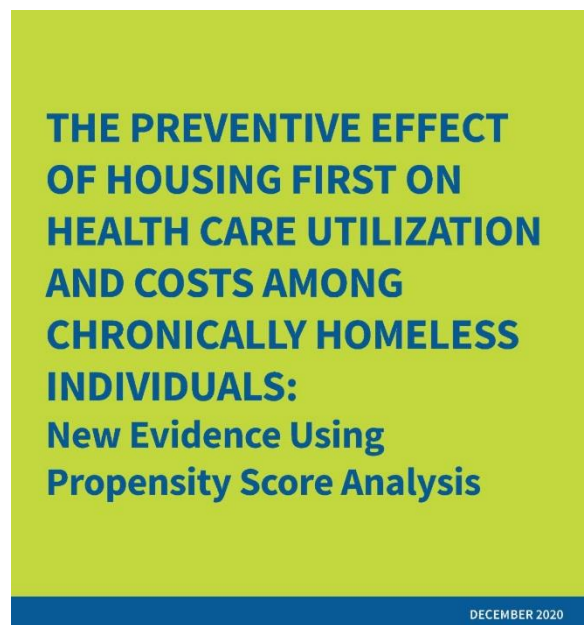




Study: Housing First and supportive services reduce total health care utilization and costs of chronically homeless individuals



The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation released a research report today that confirms the effectiveness of supportive housing programs for chronically homeless individuals. The study examined **Housing First** programs administered by MHSA and analyzed MassHealth claims data of program participants.

Key findings from the study demonstrate:

- Individuals enrolled in permanent supportive housing programs had significantly lower per-person, per-year average health care costs
- Individuals in the programs received significantly more mental health services but the cost was more than offset by lower utilization of inpatient and emergency department services

- Expanding supportive housing models may produce health care cost savings and also have preventive effects of more consistent access to mental health services

The research was completed through a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, and included collaboration with MHSA; Analysis Group, Inc.'s pro bono program; the University of Denver; and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. [Read the full research report here.](#)

Authors include:

- Kevin Brennan, Manager, Analysis Group
- Kathryn Buggs, Senior Analyst, Analysis Group
- John (Jack) Gettens, PhD, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Alexis Henry, ScD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry Research and Evaluation, University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Parag Kunte, MPH, Senior Biostatistician, University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Singumbe Muyeba, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- Pete Zuckerman, formerly Senior Analyst, Analysis Group

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