

# **Washington Families Fund Systems Initiative Data:**

## **Understanding Families' Residential (In)Stability, Human Capital, Service Needs and Access**

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**October Family Homelessness Strategy Convening**

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# Overview of Presentation

- Brief Overview of Design and Methods
- Prior Residential (In)Stability and Homelessness
- Profile of Service Needs and Housing Barriers
- Service and Entitlement Access and Unmet Needs
- Discussion Points and Questions

# Design and Methods

## Sample

### Purpose

“Baseline” cohort of families

To be compared to an “Intervention” cohort of families beginning late 2013

466 families

Speak English or Spanish

Recruited from 10/10 to:

1/12 King  
4/12 Snohomish  
7/12 Pierce

### Data Collection

From parent on:  
self, target child,  
and family

4 waves of data  
(B, 6M, 12M, 18M)

### Considerations

Does not include families who are non-English, non-Spanish speaking or who entered domestic violence shelters

Data were collected on 78% of those families considered eligible  
11% unreachable, 5% declined, 5% not interviewed because recruitment ended

# Understanding Residential (In)Stability

In the 12 months prior to entering shelter, families:

- Moved an average of 4 times

  - Only 10% of families have moved once

  - 2% of families have moved 10 or more times (up to 14)

- Yet, they had some level of stability, staying over 245 days (8 months) on average in their most stable housing arrangement (most commonly their own home)

  - Families in Snohomish had the shortest single longest stay (224 days) compared to King (257 days) and Pierce (253 days)

# Families' Recent Experiences in Own Place

In the 12 months prior to entering shelter:

- Over half of the families (57%) lived at least once in their own home
- 27% stayed in their own home 9 months of the year or more
  - 18% in Snohomish, 30% in King, and 32% in Pierce
- Over half (55%) had a lease in their own name in at least one housing situation

# Families' Recent Experiences with Prevention Services

In the 12 months prior to entering shelter:

- 45% of the families received at least one type of financial resource in an attempt to prevent their homelessness
  - Money to pay:
    - utilities 26%
    - own rent 24%
    - security deposit 17%
    - mortgage 1%

# Families' Prior Homelessness

- In the past 12 months, over a third of the families (35%) spent one or more nights homeless (shelter, streets, etc.)
- Less than a half (44%) report being homeless at least one time in their lifetime
- 16% were homeless as a child
- Snohomish families have a greater incidence of homelessness now and as youth, and longer time homeless than the other two counties

# Families' Homelessness

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
% homeless				
Past 12 months*	35%	31%	42%	33%
Lifetime*	44%	36%	44%	52%
Time homeless in past 12 months				
Mean (in days)*	23.7	16.8	24.3	29.7
Range	0-365	0-345	0-365	0-365
Time homeless in lifetime				
Mean (in days)*	5.6	4.4	5.8	6.5
Range	0-30	0-14	0-22	0-30
% homeless before 18 years of age*	16%	12%	13%	23%



# Families' Experiences Doubled-Up

- In the past 12 months, the majority of families (77%) have been doubled-up with family or friends at least once
- A similar percentage (79%) report being doubled-up at least one time in their lifetime
- On average, families stayed in their own place 138 days and doubled up 132 days
  - Snohomish families had on average fewer days (111) in their own home than Pierce families (160 days) and King families (142 days)

# Last Place Stayed

## ➤ Type of place stayed

37%	Doubled up (family/friends)
17%	Own place
16%	Parents' place
8%	On streets, other homeless situation
6%	A hotel/motel paid by self
4%	A homeless, family, or domestic violence shelter or motel voucher
3%	Substance abuse/detox program
3%	Boyfriend/girlfriend/partner's house
3%	Transitional housing
2%	Hospital
2%	Other place not mentioned

➤ Families stayed an average of 99 days in this place (median=48 days)

➤ 18% had their name on the lease

# Service Needs and Housing Barriers

# Human Capital, Income, Debt

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
Less than HS/GED**	28%	23%	24%	38%
% not worked in past 12 months**	38%	27%	44%	43%
% unable to work	21%	16%	24%	22%
% with no income	7%	6%	10%	5%
% monthly debt exceeds income	41%	40%	42%	40%

# Health and Behavioral Health

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
<b>Physical health</b>				
Poor functioning*	13%	14%	17%	7%
<b>Mental Health</b>				
Hospitalized in lifetime	15%	10%	17%	18%
Have 1 or more MH indicators	80%	82%	76%	83%
Poor functioning	24%	26%	21%	25%
<b>Substance abuse</b>				
SA inpatient in lifetime***	21%	7%	21%	33%
Screen positive*	24%	17%	26%	28%

# Partner Violence and Criminal Justice

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
<b>Domestic Violence</b>				
In lifetime*	60%	54%	57%	68%
In last 3 months	9%	7%	11%	10%
<b>Criminal Justice</b>				
% with current parole	6%	6%	5%	8%
% with past felony**	17%	11%	25%	16%

# Family Composition

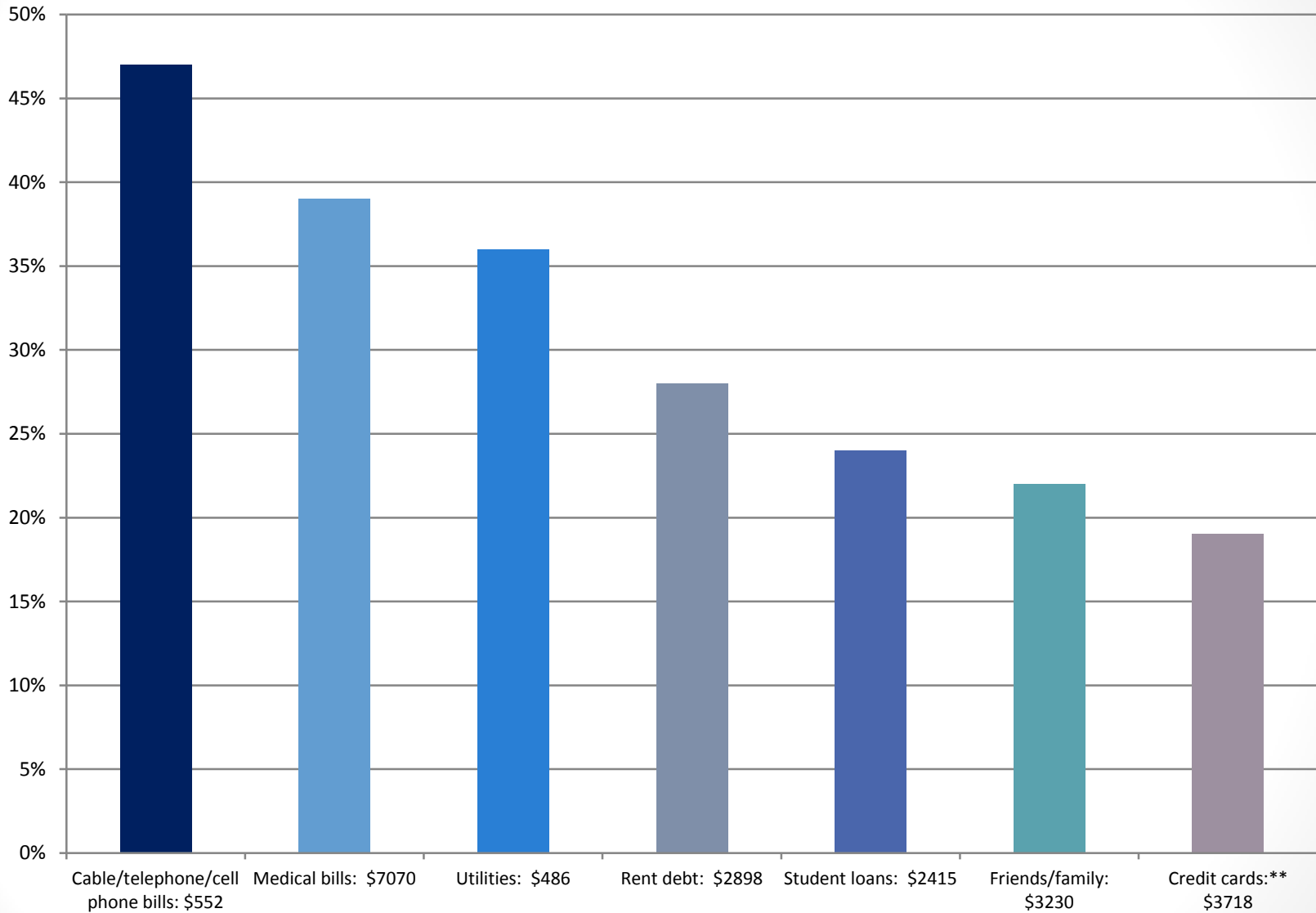
	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
% of households with child 5 or under or pregnant	62%	64%	58%	65%
% of families with child temporarily away*	27%	19%	30%	33%
% single parents**	75%	76%	67%	82%
% with 4 or more children	25%	24%	28%	22%

# Families' Sources and Amounts of Debt

- 86% of families have debt
- The average amount of debt is \$14,138
- The median amount of debt is \$3,525
- Debt ranges from \$0 to \$1,439,999



# Common Sources of Debt



# Amounts of Debt

➤ 51% of families have housing related debt, with an average of \$9,541 per household.

➤ Highest Sources of Debt Per Family

Mortgage (1%)	\$297,833
Medical bills (39%)	\$7,070
Credit cards (19%)	\$3,718
Friends and family (22%)	\$3,230
Rent (28%)	\$2,898
Student loans (24%)	\$2,415
Payday loans, bad checks, and check cashing (12%)	\$1,779

# Strengths and Assets

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
% HS/GED or more**	53%	59%	49%	51%
% vocational degree	38%	42%	41%	32%
% earning \$25/hour at current/past job	2%	1%	3%	3%
% with any job benefits at current or past job*	22%	26%	20%	19%

# Strengths and Assets

- 14% of respondents do NOT have any current mental health indicators, recent domestic violence experiences, or positive substance abuse screening
- 56% of all respondents have no prior homelessness
  - Ranges from 48% in Snohomish County, 56% in Pierce County to 64% in King County
- More than half (55%) of families had their name on the lease in the past 12 months

# Entitlement Access

The majority of families have access to TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid.

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
% receiving TANF*	58%	54%	53%	66%
% receiving SNAP	96%	95%	96%	97%
% with Medicaid*	73%	58%	76%	84%

# Other Benefits/Services

## WIC

- Of those eligible, only 65% are receiving WIC

## WorkSource

- Forty-six percent have contacted WorkSource in the last three months

## WorkFirst

- One-half (50%) of families receiving TANF have been enrolled in a WorkFirst program in the last three months

# Service Receipt (Head of Household)

Unmet need is highest for dental and legal services.

	Received	Unmet Need
Physical health services*	58%	13%
Dental services	16%	56%
Mental health services***	31%	13%
Substance abuse services***	14%	2%
Domestic violence services	13%	6%
Legal services	15%	23%

# Service Receipt (Head of Household)

	Tri-County Total (N=466)	King County (N=156)	Pierce County (N=156)	Snohomish County (N=154)
<b>Physical health</b>				
Received*	58%	49%	62%	62%
Unmet need	13%	16%	10%	12%
<b>Mental health</b>				
Received***	31%	25%	27%	43%
Unmet need	13%	14%	12%	14%
<b>Substance abuse</b>				
Received***	14%	5%	15%	23%
Unmet need	2%	1%	3%	2%



# Discussion Points and Questions

- What do the data suggest for each of the pillars of intervention?

Emphasis? Titration among groups?

- What do the differences among counties reveal about needs for different strategies?
- Are there services or supports missing?
- What additional information would be good to have?

What else did you need to know?

How would you like to have it provided?