CECHI: CONNECTICUT ESTIMATING COSTS OF CHILD HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE

Presentation to Partnership for Strong Communities Policy iForum

April 26, 2016
AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

University of Connecticut:

Kathryn E. Parr Ph.D.
• School of Social Work
Anne F. Farrell Ph.D.
• UConn Center for Applied Research
• Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Preston A. Britner Ph.D.
• UConn Center for Applied Research
• Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Urban Institute:
Josh Leopold, Brent Howell

Research Assistance:
Jennifer A. Dealey, Alexander Reid, Tanya Wang, Jayaram Tadimeti, Brian Roccapiore, Jeanne Miner
Families at Risk

Fragile Families face:

- poverty
- unaffordable housing
- trauma exposure
- disrupted education
- fractured social supports

→ For vulnerable families even a minor event can trigger an episode of homelessness.

→ Homeless families touch multiple systems
Cost of Housing

- $1267 average monthly rent of a 2 Bedroom Apartment in CT*
  - High Stamford- Norwalk $1943
  - Low Windham $953

- $24.54 hourly wage needed for 30% rent burden

* HUD Fair Market Rent, 50% 20015
CECHI: BACKGROUND AND METHOD

- First two phases of exploring cost of homelessness

- CT Specific Estimate of Shelter Costs
  - Survey 18 CT homeless shelters that serve families + 3 Shelter Site Visits
  - Detailed costs / Number served
  - Services offered
  - Challenges and Resources in serving homeless families

- Social and government costs associated with family homelessness
  - Based on PA Study by People’s Emergency Center\(^1\)
  - Costs include the incremental increase in service use by homeless families over housed families based on a literature review

\(^1\)Perlman & Willard, 2012
**HOW MANY ARE HOMELESS?**

**PIT**
- Sheltered 807 children & youth
- Unsheltered 20 children

**HMIS**
- Sheltered Only 2031 children & youth

**School**
- Sheltered 788 school- age children
- Unsheltered 27 school- age children
- Doubled-Up 1787 school- age children
- Motel Stay 362 school- age children
CECHI SHELTER SURVEY RESULTS
Frequency of CT Per Bed Per Night Shelter Costs (n=13)

- $60 - $70: 20%  
  Per Bed Per Night Cost $55.87
- $50 - $60: 33%
- $40 - $50: 13%
- $30 - $40: 20%
Inadequate funding for targeted services to stabilize homeless families
Lack of personal and community support for families
Lack of affordable housing in CT
Too few employment opportunities for parents
Lack of child care and transportation to support parent employment
Lack of opportunities for parent training and education
CECHI Model Government & Social Costs
PHYSICAL HEALTH
- Homeless families use the ED more frequently and mothers have increased Inpatient usage\(^1\)
- Higher rates of chronic conditions among children and adults\(^2, 3\)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- Mothers & Children have high rates of trauma exposure
  - 83% of homeless children have been exposed to at least 1 serious violent event by age 12\(^4\)
  - 92% of mothers have experienced sexual or physical abuse\(^4\)

\(^1\)Hwang & Henderson, 2010  \(^2\)Weinreb, 1998  \(^3\)Edidin et al, 2011  \(^4\)Bassuk 1996
CHILD WELFARE INVOLVEMENT

- 15% or more of children will be placed in foster care within 3 years of their shelter stay\(^1\)
- 44% mothers homeless today lived outside homes at some point during their childhood – 20% were placed in foster care\(^2\)

EDUCATION

- Homeless children have lower proficiency scores, more absences and are more likely to fall behind their peers and drop out of high school\(^3,4\)
  - Increased use of early intervention and special education services\(^5\)
  - Increased use of including transportation and mandated homeless services\(^3\)

\(^1\)Park et al., 2004 \(^2\)Bassuk et al., 1997 \(^3\)Koch 2014 \(^4\)Aratani & Cooper 2015 \(^5\)Garcia Coll et al., 1998
Life Time Costs of Productivity from Dropping Out

Data Source: U.S. Census Fact Finder (2014)
TOTAL CT COSTS OF FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

- Lost Wages, $53,946,913
- Shelter, $11,409,570
- Maternal Health, $6,785,006
- Child Health, $6,351,784
- Fiscal Loss, $1,299,602
- Incarceration, $5,399,800
- Education, $6,862,003

Total Cost: $110,948,240
This Study Compared to Others:

CT Average Cost Per Person
$33,360 or $122,460 per family

Episode + Lifetime Education Costs (per child)
Perlman & Willard: $40,235
Koch: $20,015

Homeless Episode Only (per family)
Spellman et al.: $22,882
Culhane & Byrne: 42,923
Next Steps

Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System

- Project targets families who are DCF involved who have significant challenges
  - Housing
  - Parent functioning
  - Child functioning

- Eligible families are randomized and assigned to one of three groups:
  1. Supportive Housing for Families (SHF)
  2. Intensive Supportive Housing for Families (ISHF)
  3. Services or business as usual with DCF

Cost - Benefit Analysis will include program / shelter, health, education, public benefits, earnings, criminal justice costs and savings

Contact:

Kathryn Parr
University of Connecticut School of Social Work
Kathryn.parr@uconn.edu
SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDES
Children

- Doubled-up: 60%
- Shelters / Transitional housing / Awaiting foster care: 27%
- Unsheltered: 12%
- Hotels / Motels: 1%
### 3 Measures of Homeless in CT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PIT</th>
<th>HMIS</th>
<th>McKinney-Vento</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Sheltered</td>
<td>3,421</td>
<td>10,932</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Adults</td>
<td>2,122</td>
<td>7,606</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults in Families</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>2031</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Unsheltered</td>
<td>626</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Adults</td>
<td>595</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults in Families</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in Families</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Homeless</td>
<td>4,047</td>
<td>10,932</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ESTIMATING SOCIAL COSTS OF FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

- Shelter
- Education
- Health
- Generational Impacts
- Child Welfare
### Estimated Costs of Family Homelessness in CT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Type</th>
<th>Added Costs from Homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>$11,409,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Health</td>
<td>$6,351,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Health</td>
<td>$6,785,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$6,862,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Involvement</td>
<td>$18,893,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Future Wages for Children</td>
<td>$53,946,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Fiscal Loss</td>
<td>$1,299,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarceration</td>
<td>$5,399,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$110,948,243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>