



PROJECT 50

**A Two Year Demonstration Project in Skid Row
Launched in December 2007
With Unprecedented Multi-agencies Collaboration**

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Exploding the Myth

2

“Project 50 exploded the myth that the hardcore homeless on Skid Row couldn't be helped,” said Los Angeles County (LAC) Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who championed the Project 50 pilot.

Dreaming Together

3



"When we dream alone, it is only a dream.

*When we dream together, it is the
beginning of reality."*

- Dom Helder Camara

Project 50 Overview

- In November 20, 2007, as a result of a motion introduced by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Board of Supervisors committed to funding a highly integrated demonstration project to house the 50 most vulnerable chronically homeless people on Skid Row through a Housing First, Permanent Supportive Housing approach.
- The project built upon a “Streets to Home” approach used by Common Ground to dramatically reduce the number of people living on the streets in New York City’s Times Square.
- The Board also specified that Project 50 would begin outreach to and enrollment of people within 100 days.

Major Components of Project 50

5

- 1) Memorandum Of Understanding with 24 agencies
- 2) Registry Creation
- 3) Outreach and Engagement Team
- 4) Integrated Housing Team
- 5) Integrated Supportive Services Team

Project 50 MOU

24 Collaborating Agencies

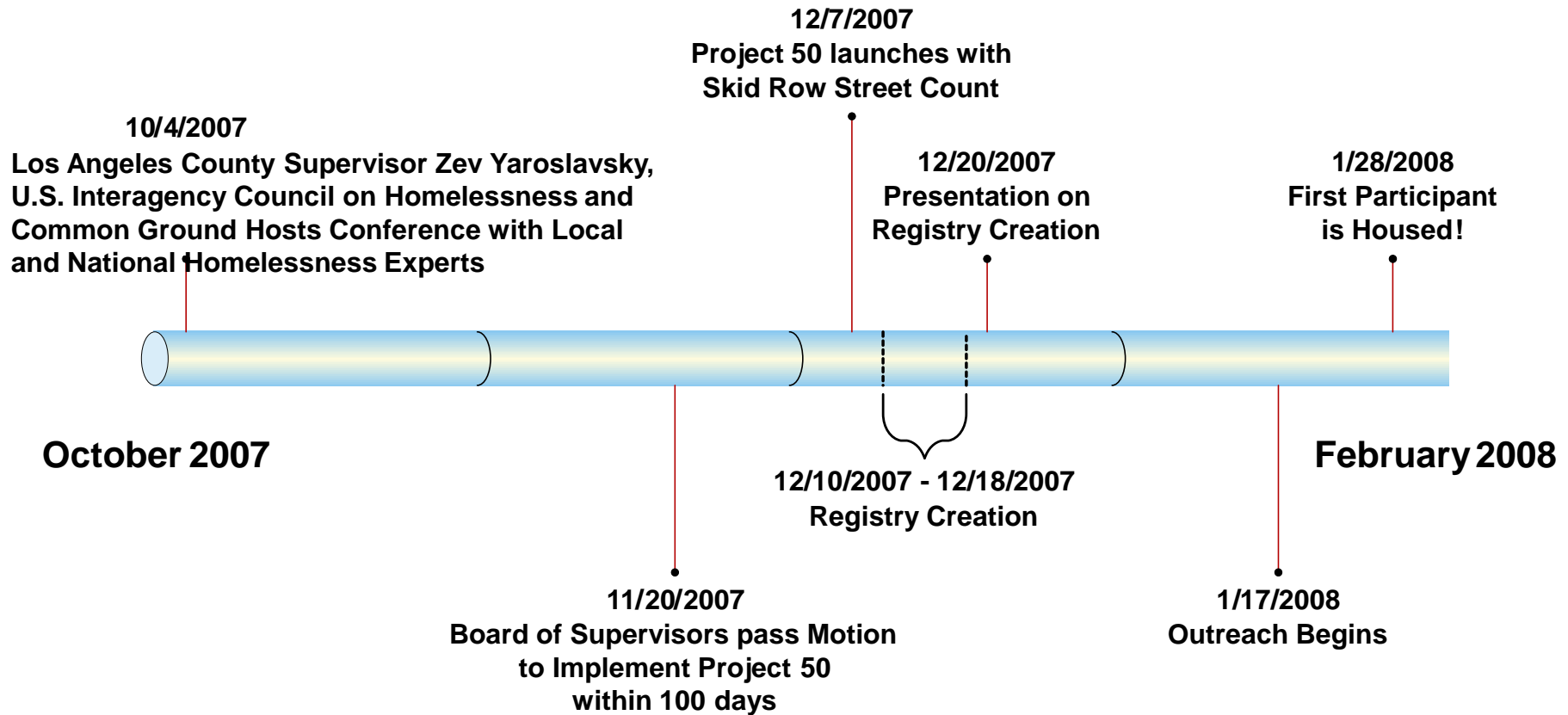
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LAC Board of Supervisors
LAC Chief Executive Office
LAC Dept. of Mental Health
LAC Dept. of Health Services
LAC Dept. of Public Health
LAC Dept. of Public Social Services
LAC Sheriff's Dept.
LAC Probation Dept.
LAC Alcohol Drug Program Administration
LAC Community Development Commission
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
US Veterans Affairs

LA City Mayor's Office
LA Police Dept.
LA City Attorney's Office
Housing Authority City of LA
Courts
Public Counsel
Public Defender
Skid Row Housing Trust
JWCH
Didi Hirsch
Volunteers of America
Common Ground

Project 50 Early Timeline

7



Phase I: Registry Creation

8

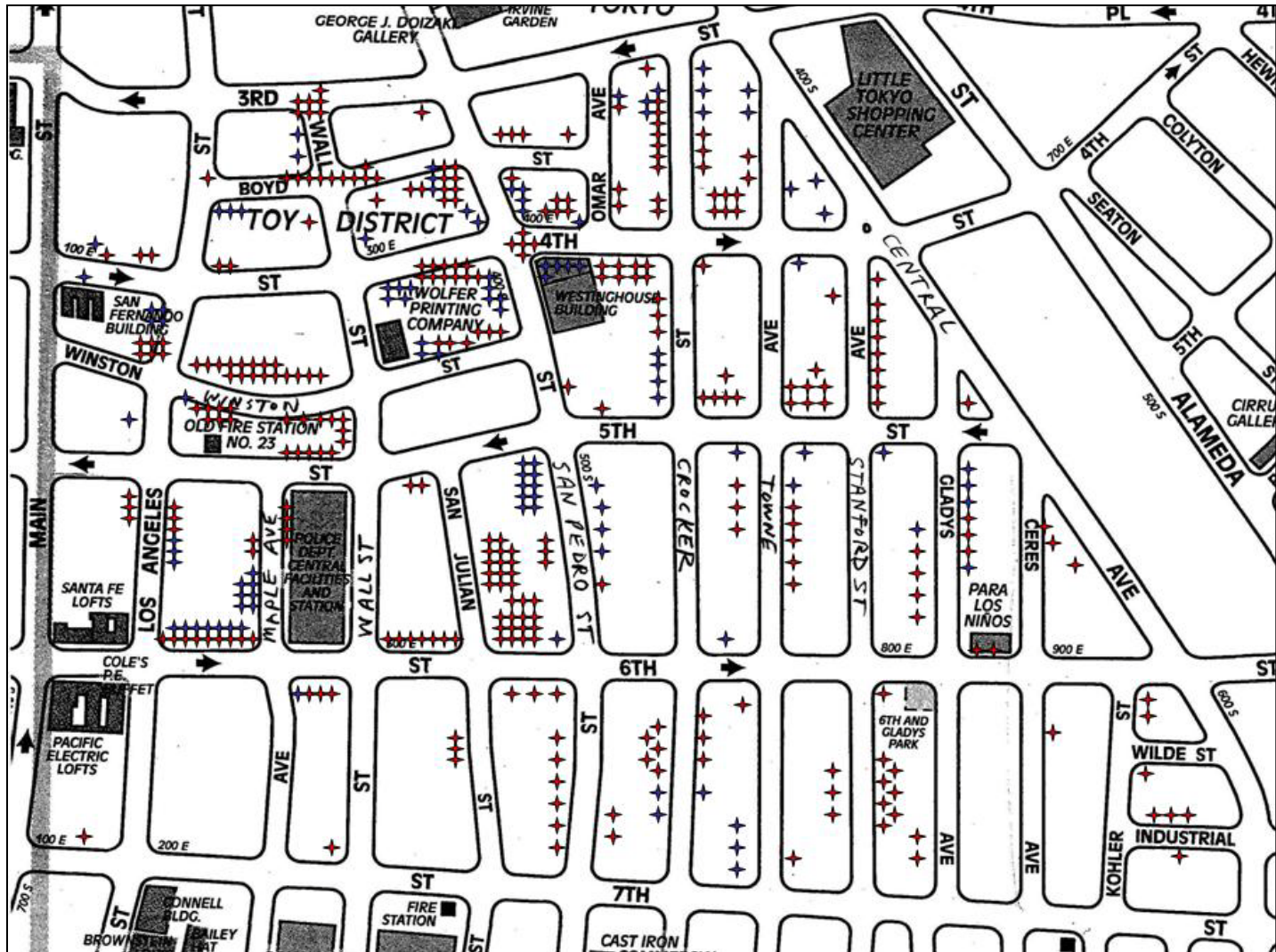
- ❑ 25 personnel from various County, community and other public/private partners (with assistance from the Los Angeles Police Department) counted 471 homeless individuals and surveyed 350 in the Skid Row area over a ten day period. The top 50 most vulnerable were selected based on a vulnerability index developed by health experts in Boston.
- ❑ Gift card incentives.
- ❑ 250 of the 350 allowed Outreach personnel to photograph them (used later during Phase II to identify prospective participants).
- ❑ 140 respondents met at least one high risk criteria.

Phase I: Registry Creation

9



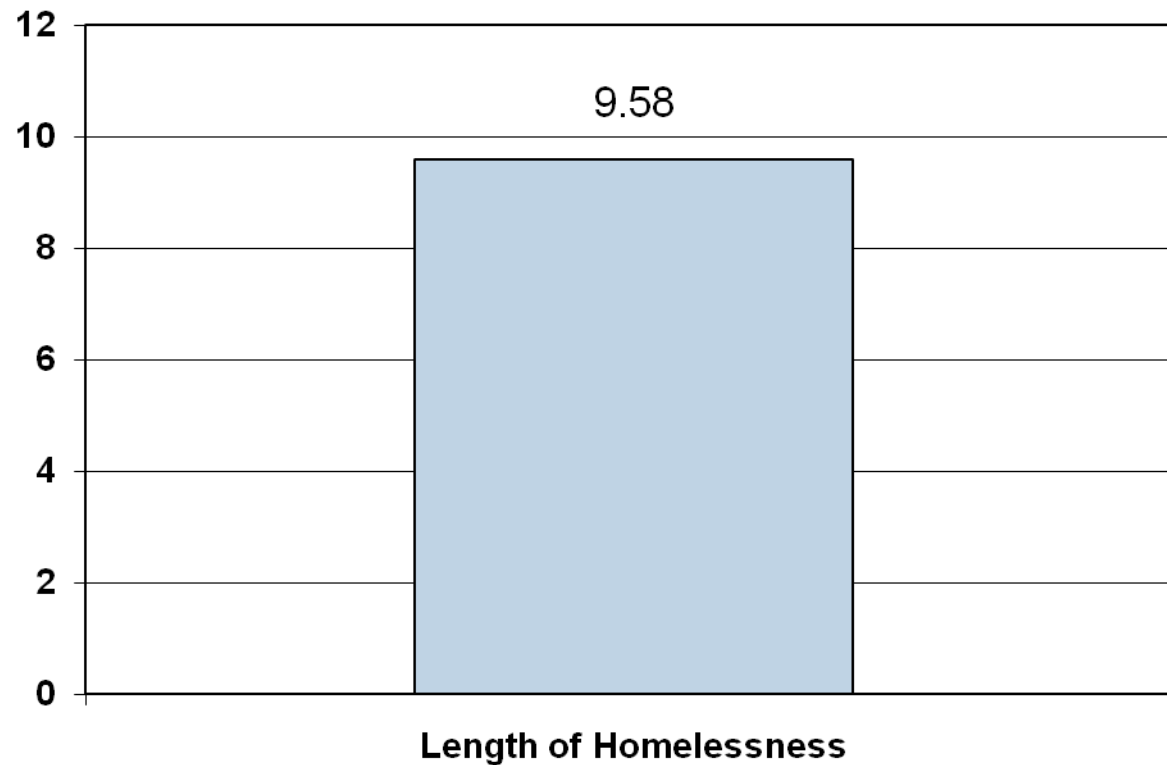
Phase I: Registry Creation



Phase I: Registry Creation

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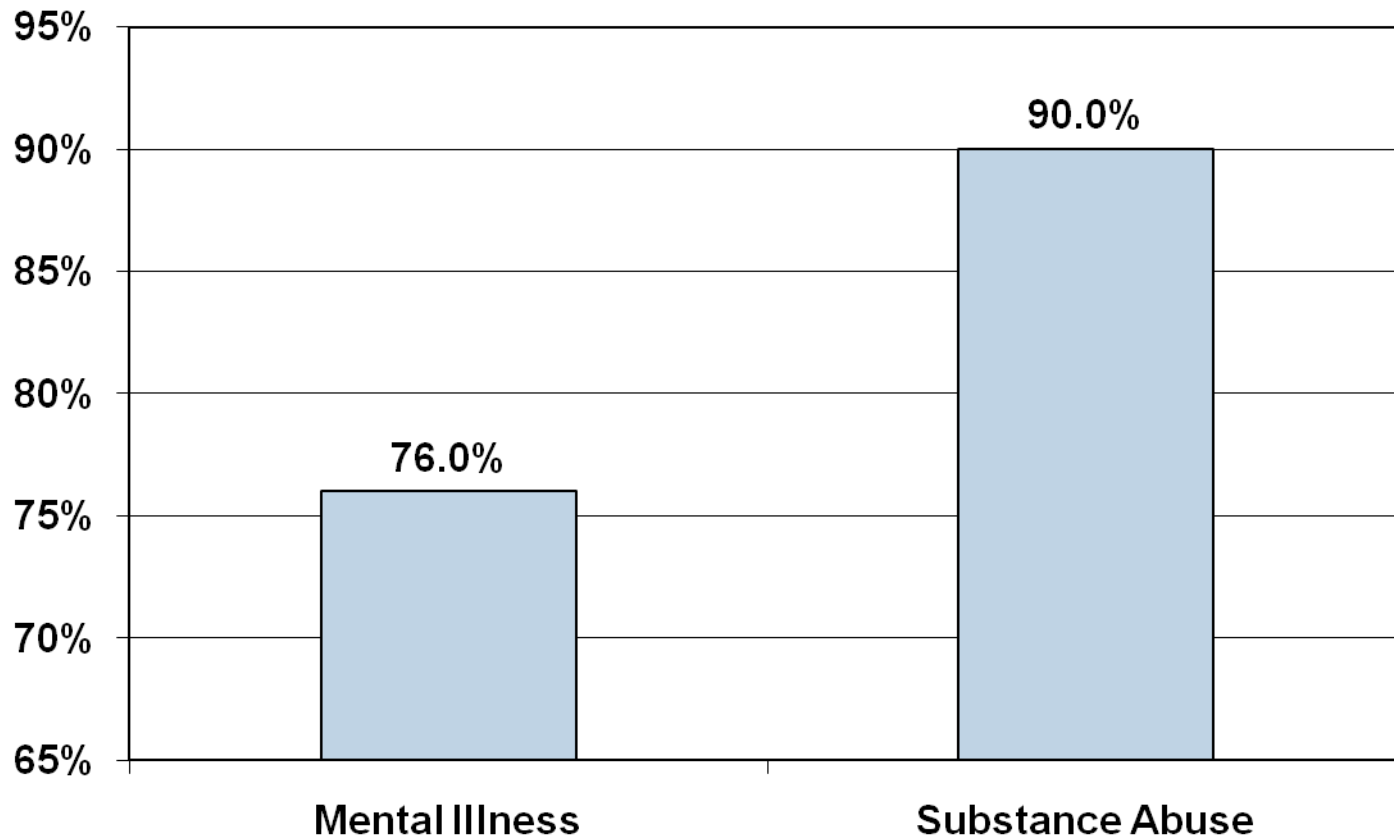
Average Years Homeless for the top 50 (as identified during Registry Creation):



Phase I: Registry Creation

12

Percentage of the top 50 (as identified during Registry Creation) with mental health and substance abuse issues:



Registry Data

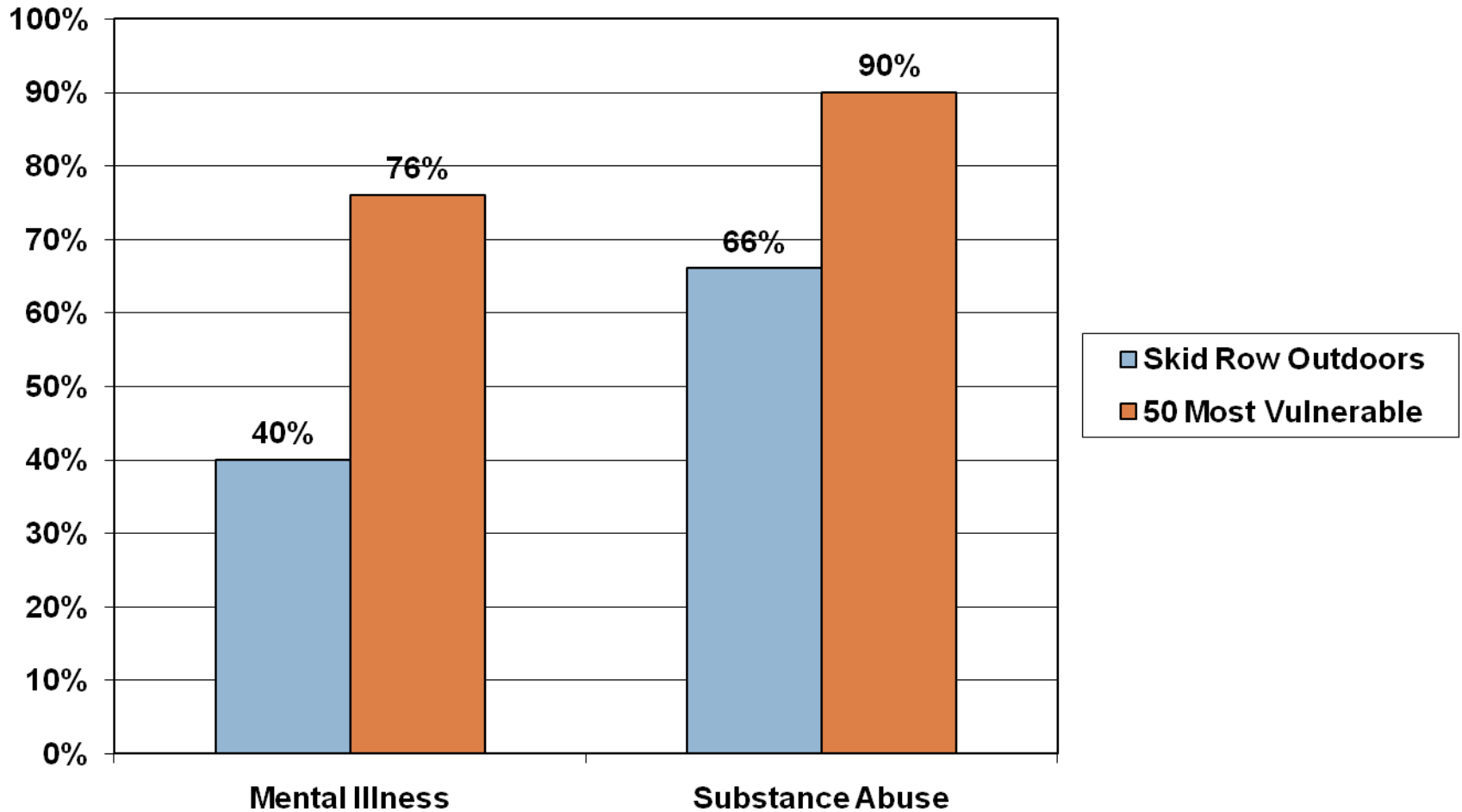
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Self-reported Risk Indicators of the top 50 (as identified during Registry Creation):

Risk indicator	% of Top 50
Tri-morbid	62%
3x hospital last year	60%
3x ER last 3 months	40%
Liver Disease	34%
Frostbite/Cold Weather	30%
> 60 years old	26%
Kidney Disease	26%
HIV+/AIDS	6%

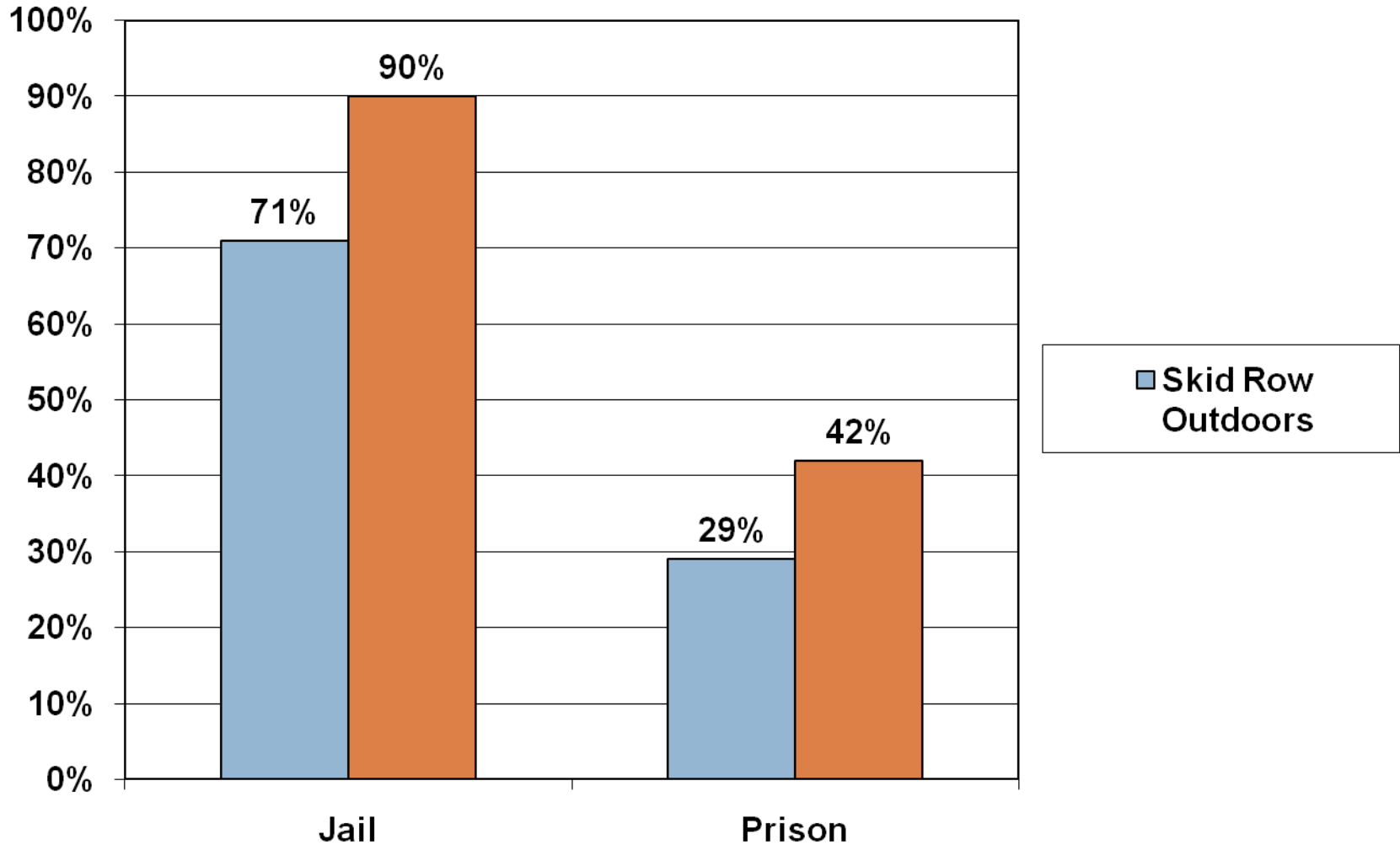
Registry Data

14



Registry Data

15



Phase II: Engagement Team

16

- ❑ Maintained regular contact with identified individuals to establish and maintain rapport and trust and to keep individuals engaged in the services including transitional and permanent housing.
- ❑ Offered immediate access to housing using a Housing First approach.
- ❑ Assessed needs and developed service goals with each individual. Connected and/or reconnected individuals to appropriate services and supports.

Phase III: Integrated Supportive Services Team

17

- ❑ Multi-disciplinary team provides integrated health, mental health, and substance abuse services.
- ❑ Services provided in offices on-site, or within the participant's place of residence, or anywhere necessary to maintain care.
- ❑ Intensity and types of services based on each participant's needs and desires.

Supportive Services

18

- ❑ Supportive Services include:
 - ❑ Physical health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment;
 - ❑ Benefit (re)establishment.
 - ❑ Money management;
 - ❑ 24 Hour/7 day crisis services;
 - ❑ Recovery-based self-help and support groups;
 - ❑ Employment services;
 - ❑ Transportation services;
 - ❑ Education opportunities;
 - ❑ Community reintegration services (museums, fishing trips, Dodgers game, etc.); and
 - ❑ Medication management.

First Participants Housed

19

- ❑ 100% diagnosed with mental illness
 - ❑ 95% participating in mental health treatment

- ❑ 83% reported a history of substance abuse
 - ❑ 80% of those reporting are participating in substance abuse treatment

- ❑ 100% have physical health issues
 - ❑ 100% are participating with physical health treatment

Integrated Supportive Services Team

20

- ❑ Mental health services - DMH Medi-Cal certified outpatient clinic.
- ❑ Physical health services - Federally Qualified Health Center.
- ❑ No matter which agency administers any element of the Integrated Services Team (ISST), all ISST staff work as an integrated team (could be multiple agencies):
 - One record
 - Daily team meetings
 - Regular consultation
 - Visits conducted together
 - Shared office space
 - Non-traditional contacts

Project 50 Outcomes

21

- ❑ Housed 133 participants since inception of the project in 2008.
- ❑ 71 participants are currently housed with Project 50.
- ❑ 19 participants voluntary exited the program.
- ❑ 25 participants are alternatively housed (appropriate levels of care – SNF; reunited/living with family; Section 8).
- ❑ 12 participants passed away due to medical issues or natural causes (all of whom were either housed with Project 50 or alternatively housed at the time of death).
- ❑ 6 participants left Project 50 due to incarceration.
- ❑ 80% retention rate after 4 years.

Project 50 Outcomes

22

Of the 71 participants currently housed at the Charles Cobb:

- ❑ 77% successfully applied for and are currently receiving SSI benefits,
- ❑ 10 are on GR and 1 of those participants are pending SSI,
- ❑ 99% are receiving benefits,
- ❑ 3 participants are currently employed.

Tenant Profile - Before

23



Tenant Profile - After

24



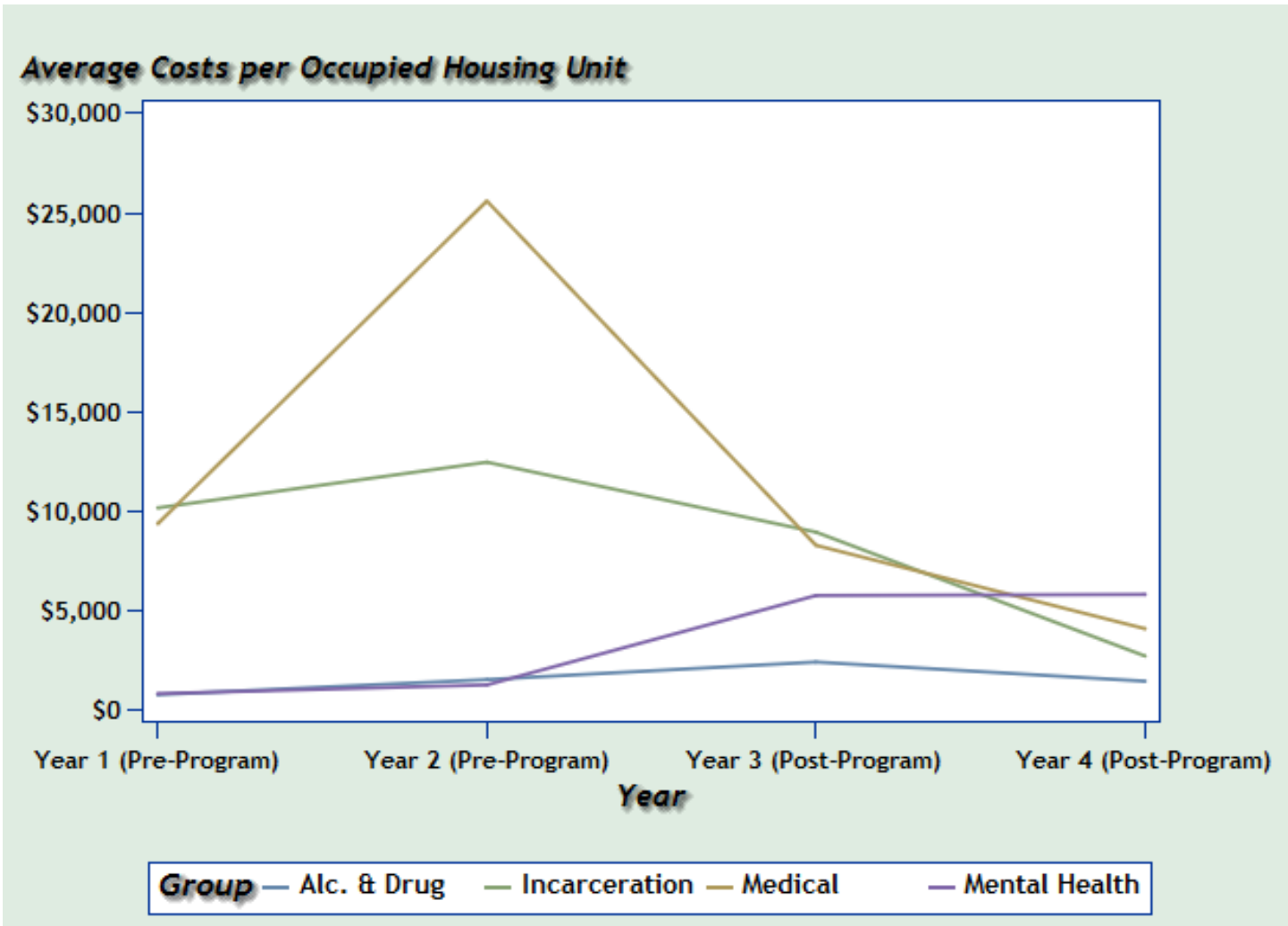
Project 50 Cost Analysis

25

- ❑ The efficiencies and cost savings of Project 50 were evaluated through analyses of two groups of homeless adults.
- ❑ The unit of analysis is an occupied housing unit that refers to one housing unit occupied by one person.
- ❑ The first group, referred to in the study as the “Program group,” consists of the 50 Program participants.
- ❑ The second group referred to in the study as the “Comparison group,” consists of the 46 adults: (a) surveyed and assigned a vulnerability index score; (b) for whom we were able to gather adequate identifying information; and (c) who did not participate in Project 50.
- ❑ The comparison group was of similar age and gender distribution, as well as similar histories of County departmental service utilization as the program group but on average had lower vulnerability scores.

Average Costs per Occupied Housing Unit by Service for the Program Group over Four Years

26



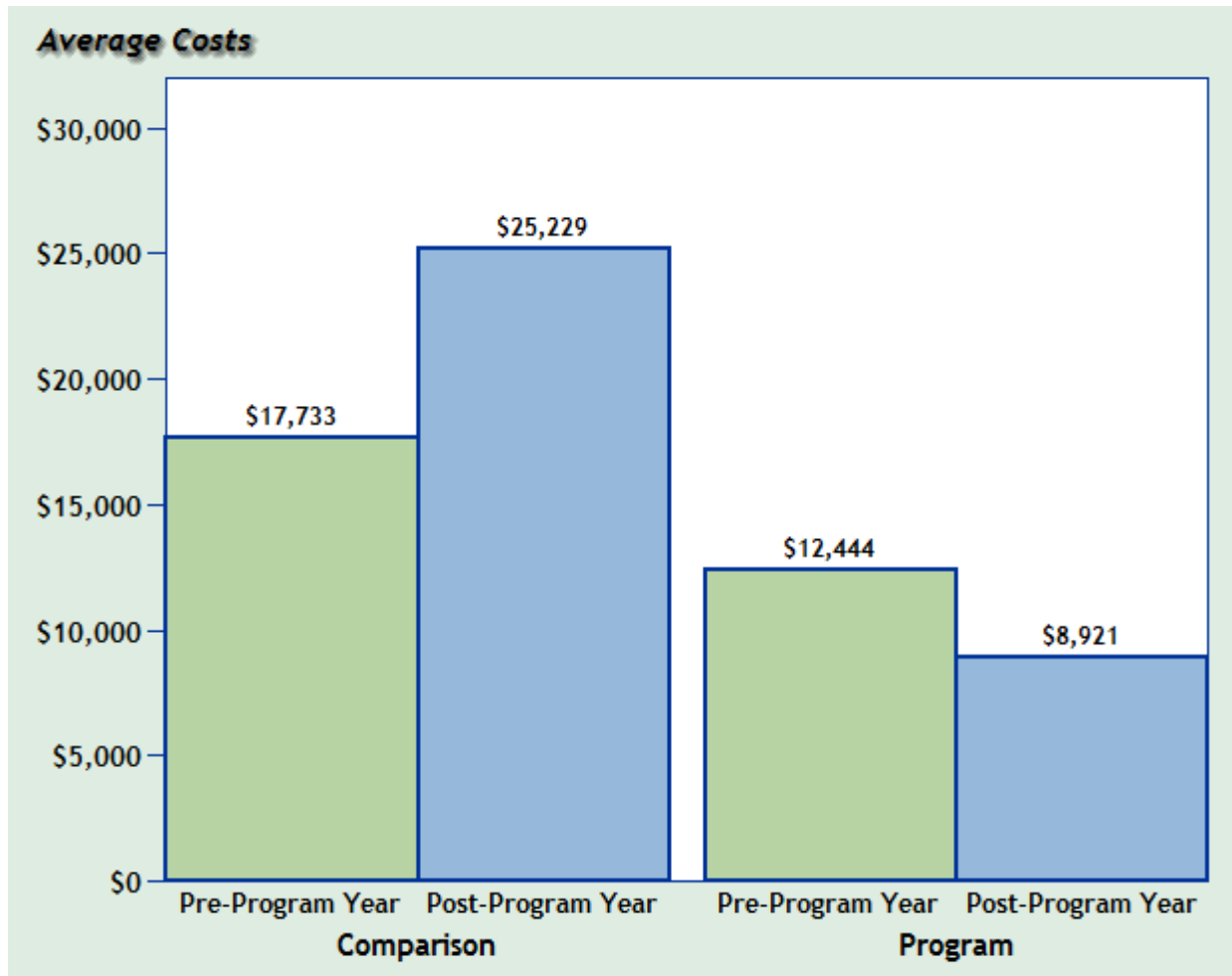
Average Costs per Occupied Housing Unit for Program Group for all Services

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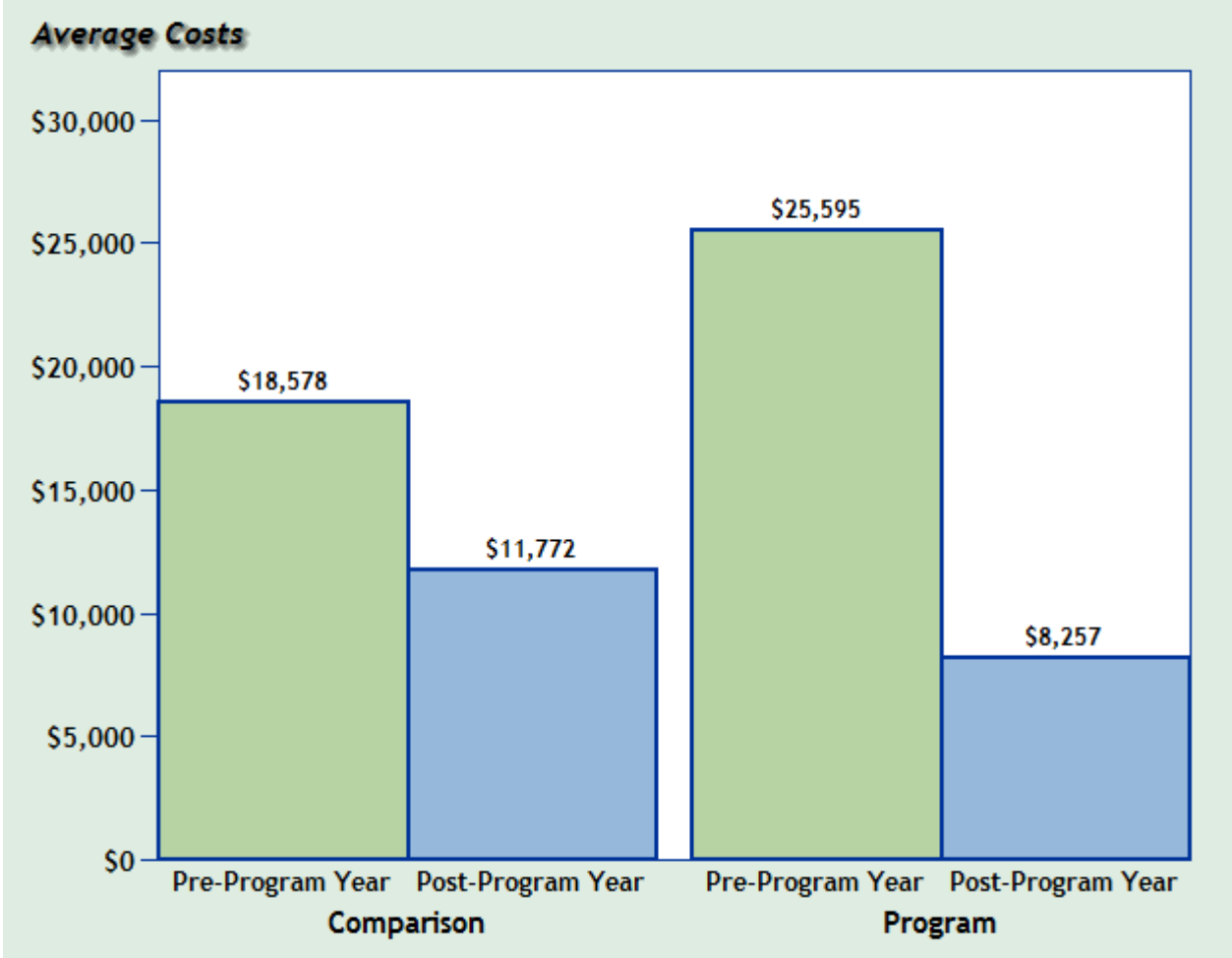
Time	Total Costs Per Unit
Year 1 (pre-program)	\$21,008
Year 2 (pre-program)	\$40,758
Year 3 (post-program)	\$25,285
Year 4 (post-program)	\$13,933
Cost Savings – Year 3	\$15,473
Cost Savings – Year 4	\$26,825
Cumulative Cost Savings – Year 3 and Year 4	\$42,298

Program and Comparison Groups Analysis of Incarceration Costs

28

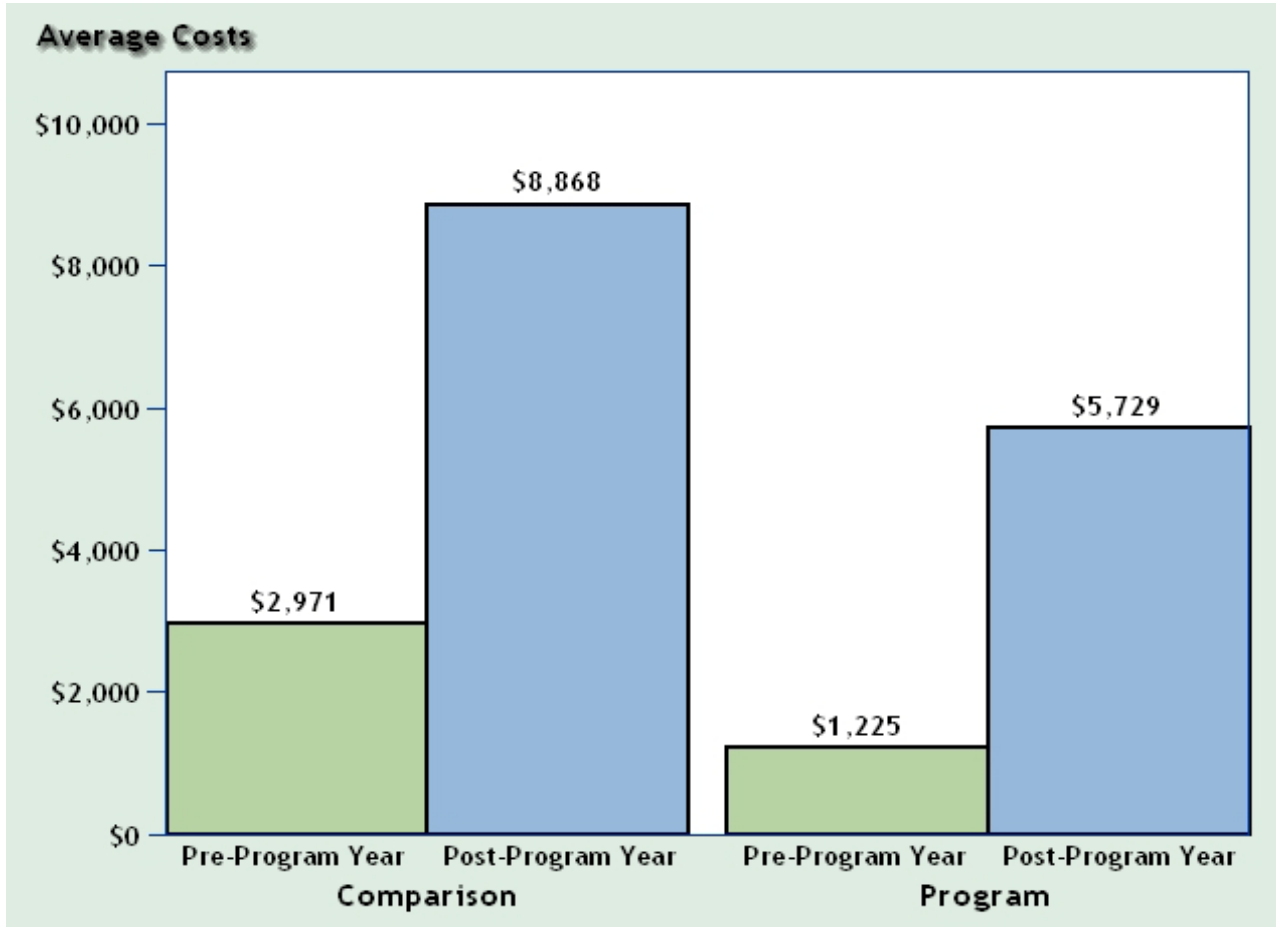


Program and Comparison Groups Analysis of Medical Costs



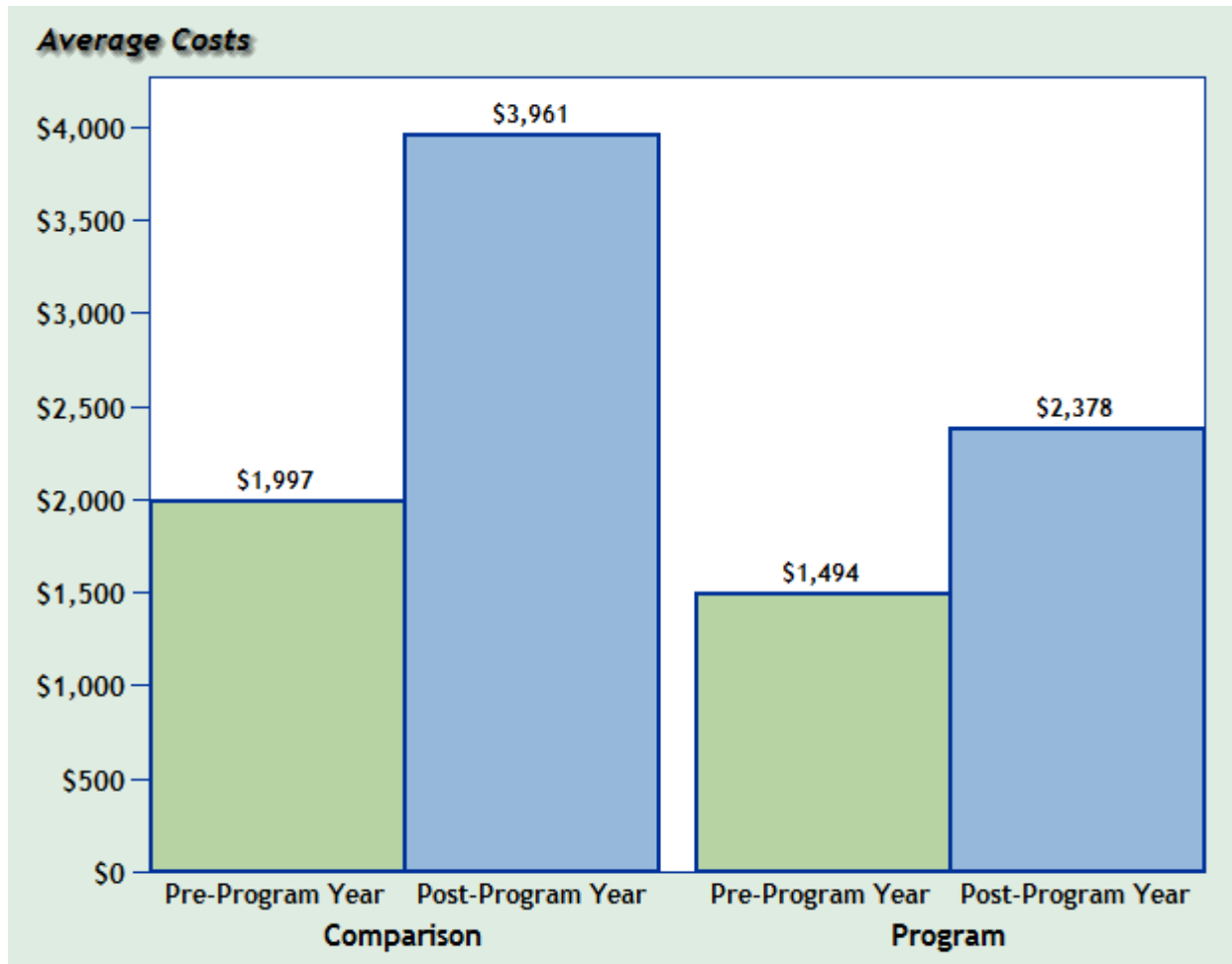
Program and Comparison Groups Analysis of Mental Health Treatment Costs

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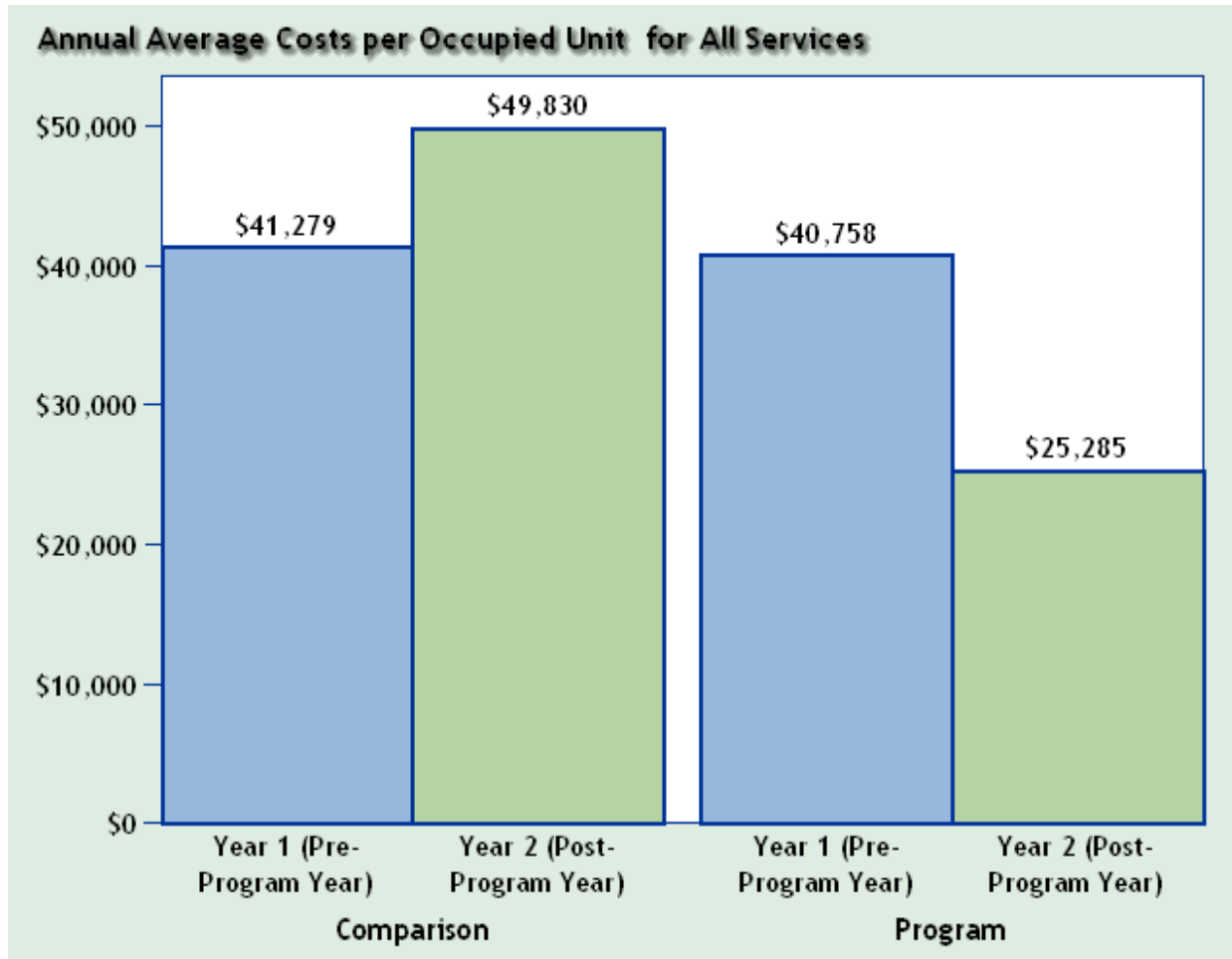


Program and Comparison Groups Analysis of Substance Abuse Treatment Costs

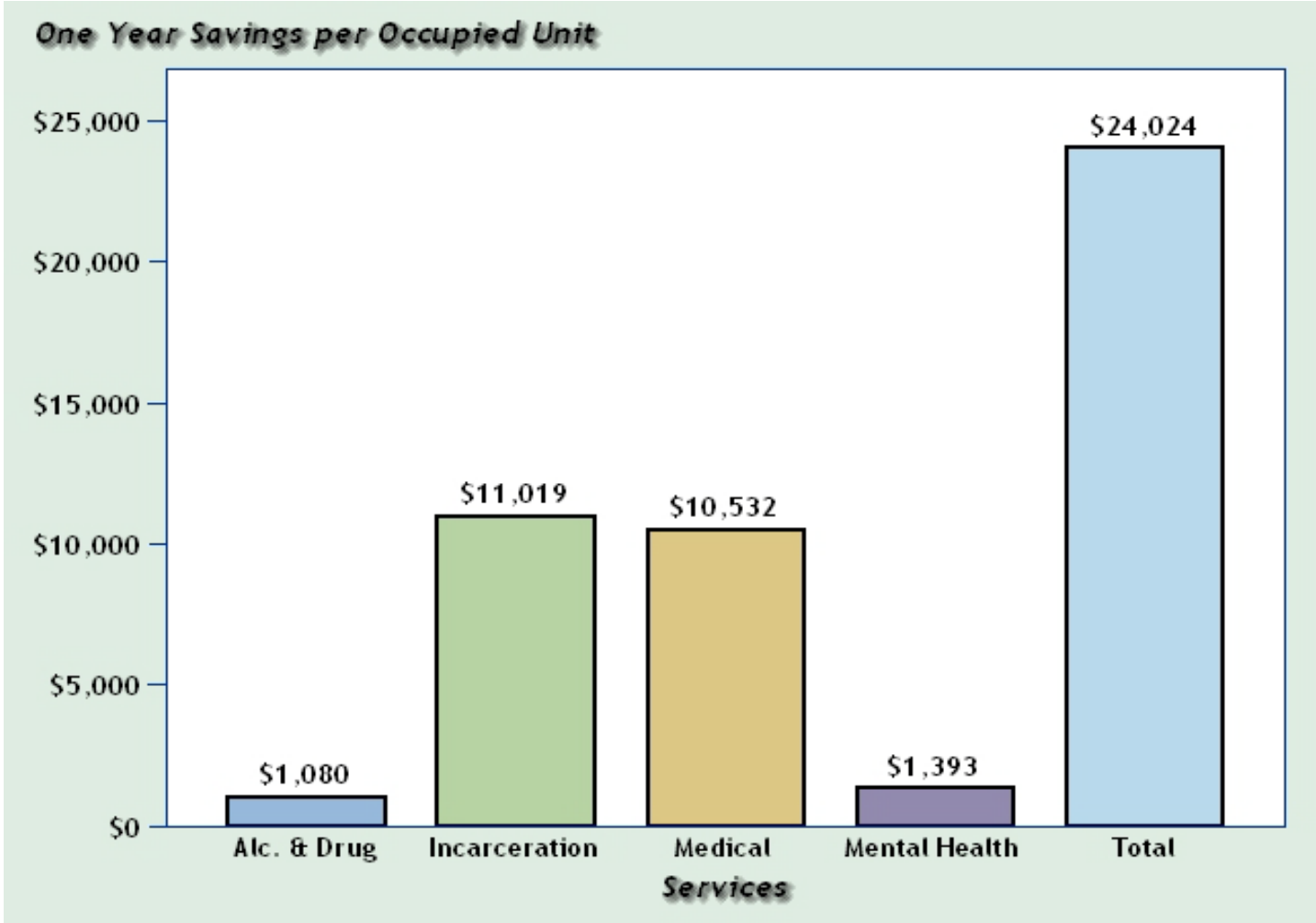
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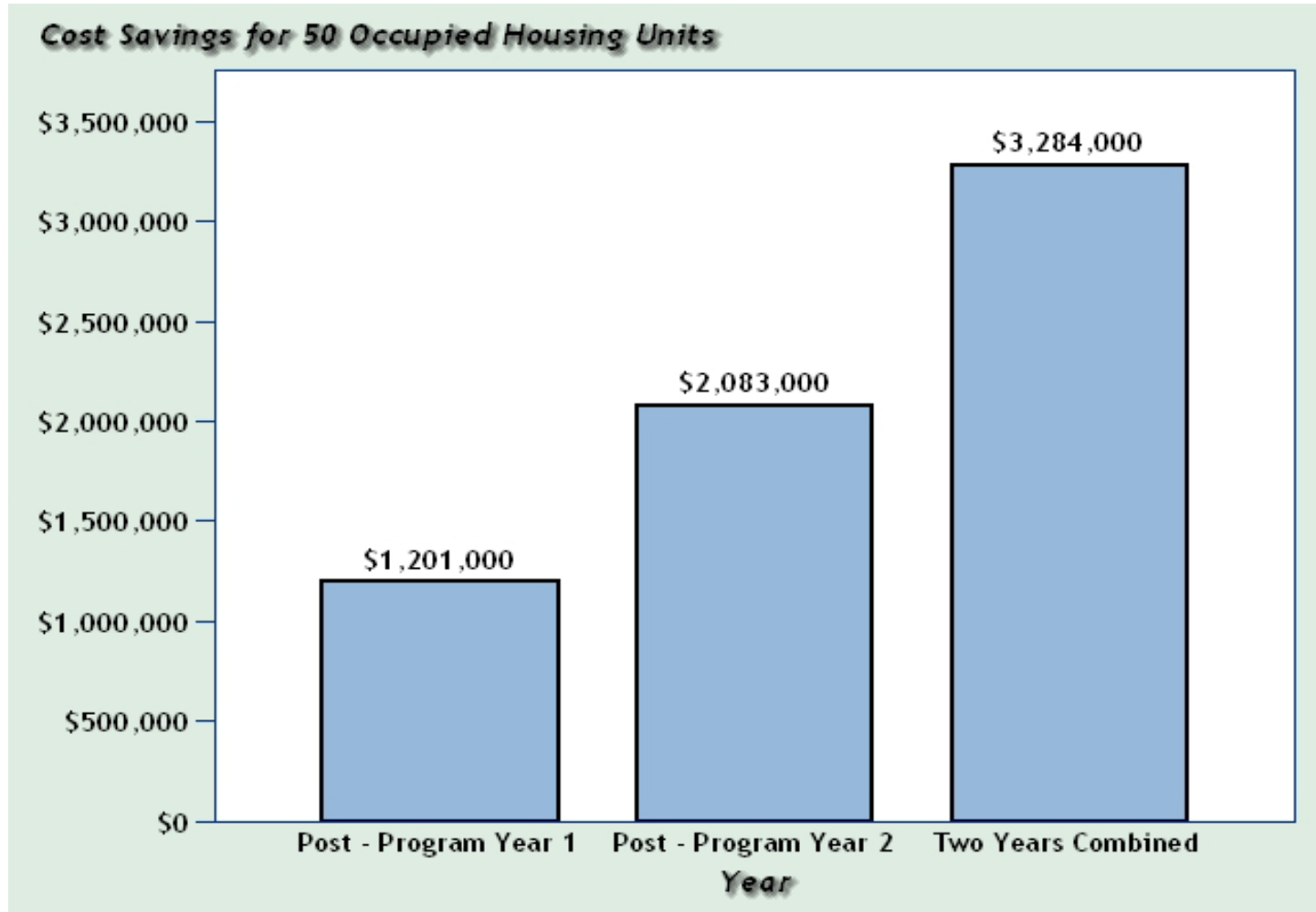
Before-and-After Comparison of the Program and Comparison Groups



Annual Cost Savings of Project 50 during the First Post-Program Year



Total Cost Savings of Project 50 over Two Years



Total Cost Savings of Project 50 over Two Years

35

- ❑ Over the two-year study period, Project 50 yielded total cost offsets of \$3.284 million, which is 108 percent of the money the program actually spent (\$3.045 million) in providing its participants with permanent housing and supportive services.
 - ❑ First year savings was \$1.2 million
 - ❑ Second year savings were estimated to be \$2.08 million

- ❑ Project 50 returned to the County more than the amount invested in the program, generating a surplus of \$4,774 per occupied unit over a two year period.

Project 50 Replications

36

Venice – Project 80 - St. Joseph Center

- ▣ Registry in 2009, updated in 2011
- ▣ Scattered site housing

Santa Monica – Project 200 - Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC), Step Up on Second, St. Joseph Center, City of Santa Monica

- ▣ Registry in 2009
- ▣ Scattered site housing

San Fernando Valley - Project 70 – SFV Community Mental Health Center

- ▣ Registry in 2009
- ▣ Scattered site and short term transitional housing

Hollywood – Project 40 – Step Up on Second

- ▣ Registry in May 2010
- ▣ Scattered site housing

Veterans Administration – Project 60 – VA, LA County, Non-profit Providers

- ▣ Registry conducted from Project 50 replication caseloads; launched Feb. 2011
- ▣ HUD-VASH scattered site housing

Project 50 Award

37

Los Angeles County 2009 Productivity and Quality Award (Top Ten):



Project 50 Visit

38

Senator Patrick Kennedy Visits Project 50 (2009)





February 10, 2011

Project 50: Before & After

40

Before:



After:



It Pays to Grow Project 50



Project 50 client, working in the rooftop garden of Skid Row Housing Trust's Cobb Apartments