

Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Recurrence in Georgia

Jason Rodriguez

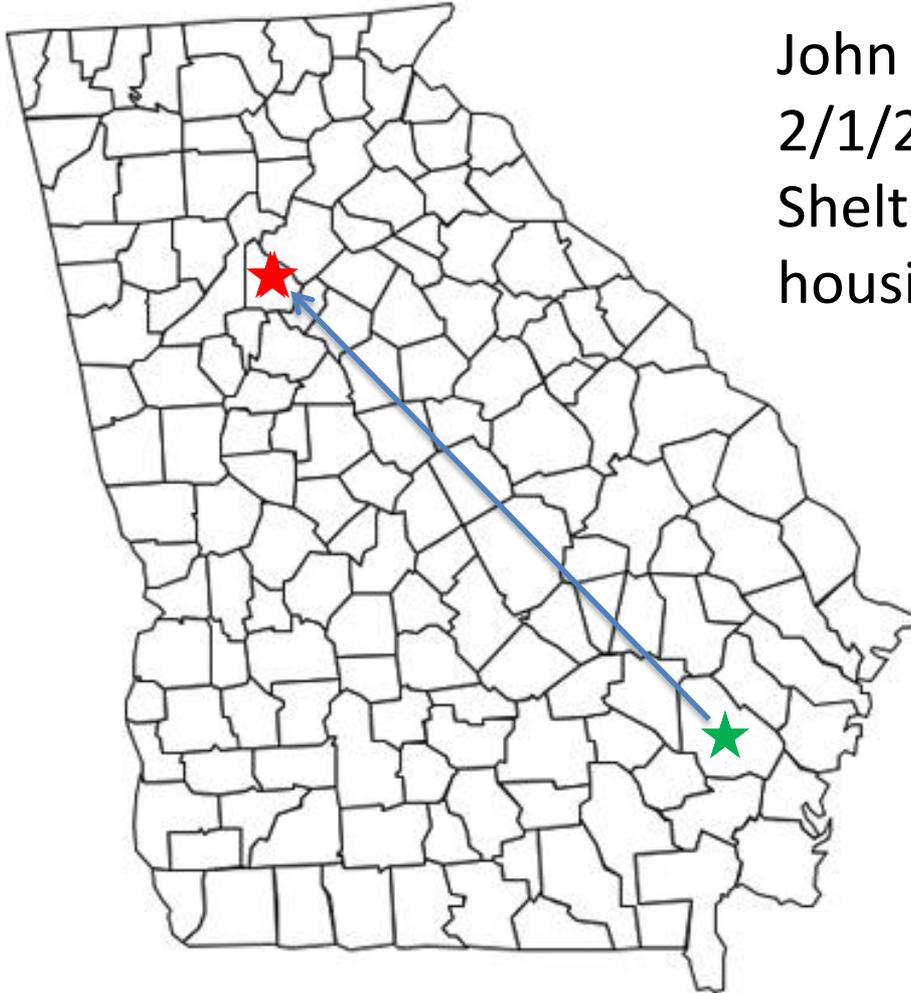
GA Dept of Community Affairs



Homelessness Recurrence, *Defined*



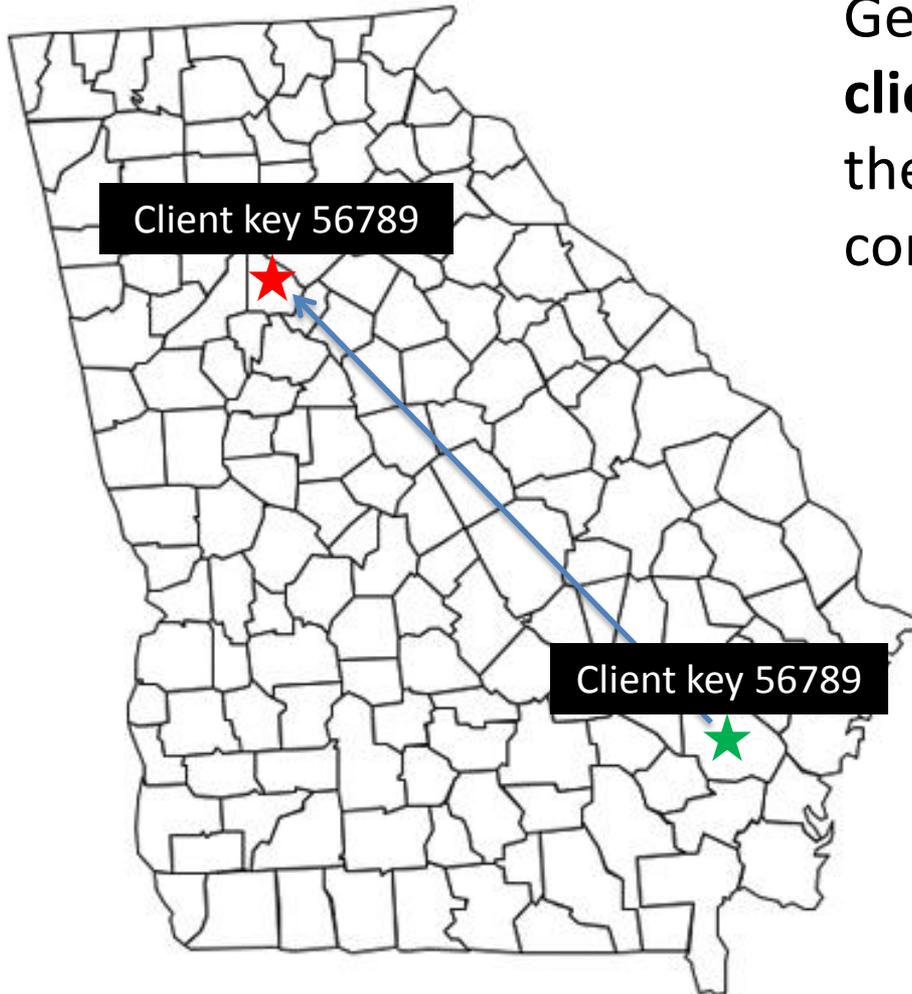
Measuring Recurrence using HMIS



John Doe is discharged on 2/1/2012 from Wayne County Shelter to a non-homeless housing destination.

John Doe is enrolled on 7/1/2012 into Completely Different Homeless Shelter, Inc.

Measuring Recurrence using HMIS

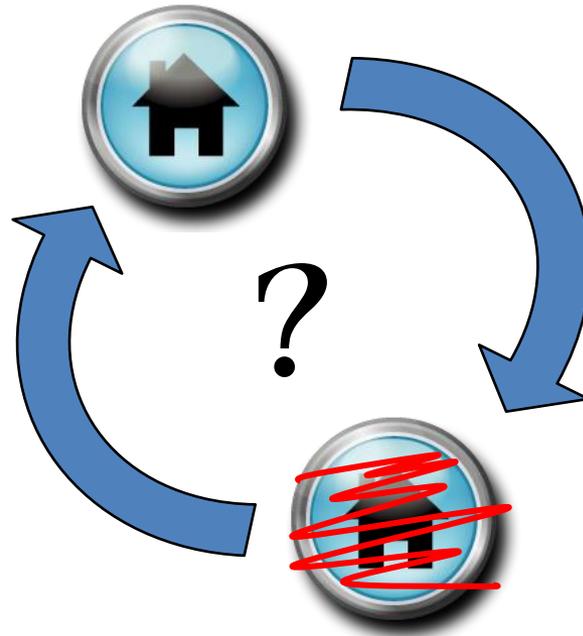


Georgia's HMIS can use John's **client key** to recognize that these two events are connected.

The second event (★) is identified as a “**recurrent homeless episode.**” It requires little data entry on the part of any agency – just an accurate enrollment. So it is a **relatively reliable** statistic.

Research question

Which client, program, and geographical characteristics exert the greatest influence on the likelihood that someone returns to homelessness?



Getting into My Sample

A client had to meet the following conditions...

1. Was **literally homeless** when he/she entered the program
2. Exited between **11/20/2009** and **11/19/2010**
3. Exited to a **non-homeless** and **non-institutional** destination



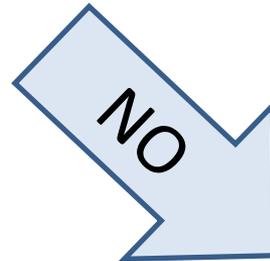
9,013
program
enrollments

Evaluating Each Enrollment

Did this person **enroll in another homeless program** within 2 years of their program exit?

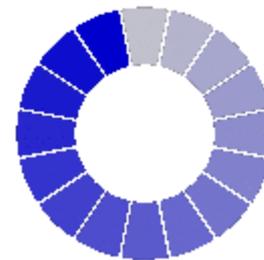


Recurrence = Yes

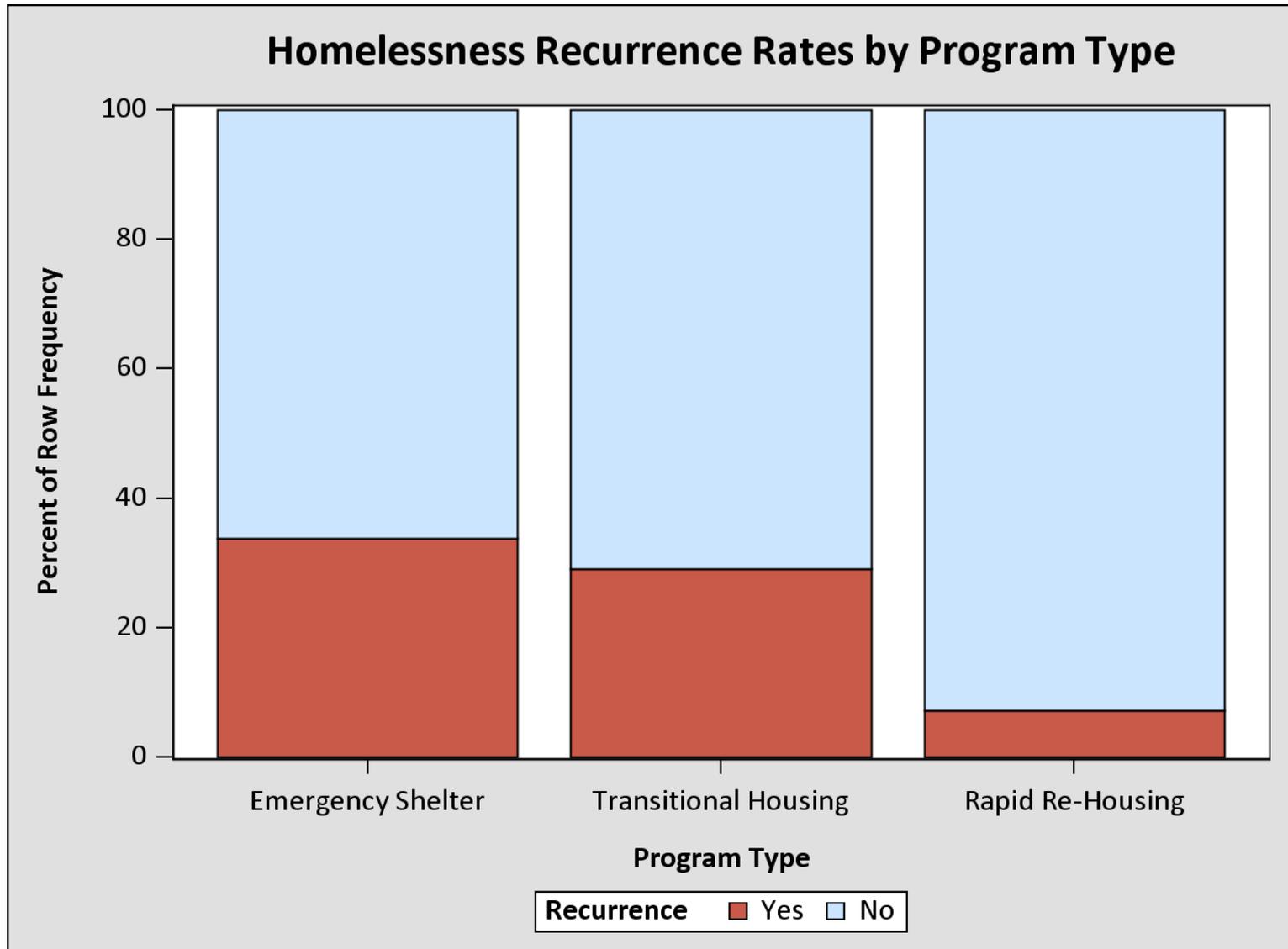


Recurrence = No

Repeat 9,012 times...

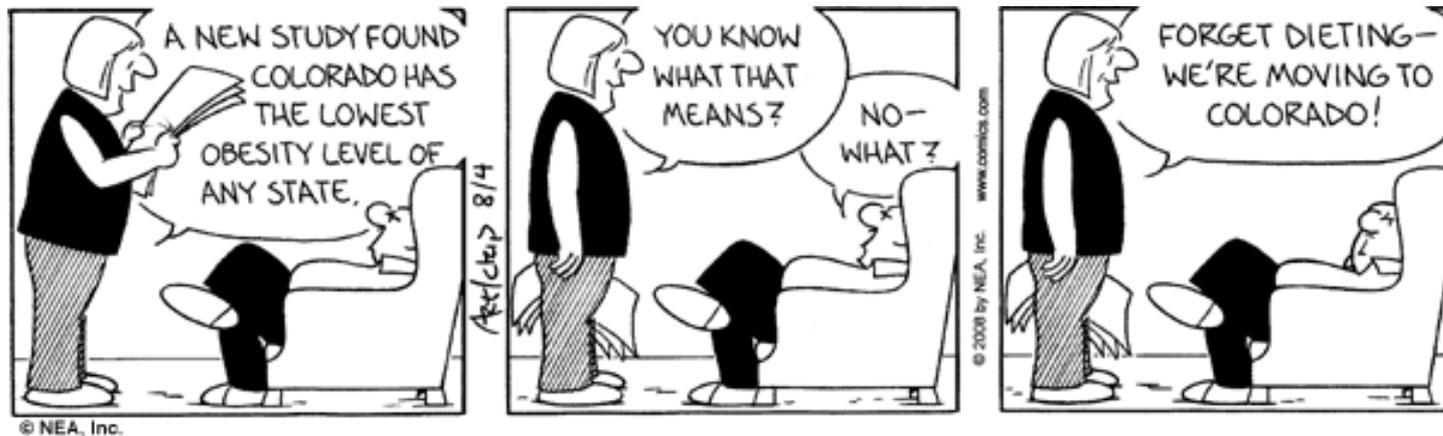


Key Finding



Controlling for Screening Practices, Etc.

- Does RRH's lower risk reflect program efficacy, or does it reflect something else?



Regression Analysis

- Relevant and available variables are mixed into the same statistical model.
- It is a way of controlling for “behind the scenes” influences.
- The result: a closer estimate of the **causal effect** of the key variable.

Results: Most Significant Predictors

1. Was not in a Rapid Re-Housing program
2. Had a history of homelessness
3. Went to a “temporary” destination
4. Was Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino
5. Was Non-White
6. Had a disabling condition at program exit
7. Program was in a non-rural county
8. Was male
9. Was unaccompanied
10. Was not with a teenage male

With Controls, RRH Still Has an Effect

- Susan left a RRH program. Other facts about Susan:
 - Had **never been homeless** prior to that enrollment
 - Left the program for a **temporary** destination
 - Was **not with a teenage male** (or **anyone at all** for that matter)
 - Her program was **not in a rural** county
 - She is **female, Non-White, and Non-Hispanic**, with **no disabling condition**
- Her likelihood of recurrence is **18.2%**.
- Tweak the program type to ES? Her likelihood jumps to **46.7%**.

Limitations

- Several key variables could not be included
 - Income, special needs, education...
 - Some of these are directly related to screening.
 - But it seems likely that they were still at least partially controlled for.
- Many recurrent episodes might not have been captured.
- Persons with unknown destinations were excluded from the sample.
- The findings are specific to Georgia.

For more information...

Contact Jason Rodriguez

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Or read the report at:

<http://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/SpecialNeeds>