

Housing Support Services

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Background

- **2017–19:** Biennial state budget created position in DMS to focus on services and policies for members experiencing homelessness.
- **2020:** Governor Evers signed into law a bill, which had bipartisan support, directing DHS to submit to the appropriate federal authority to CMS to provide housing support services to Wisconsin Medicaid members.
- **2021:** CMS released updated guidance for Medicaid programs to provide housing support services to non-institutionalized/long term care members.

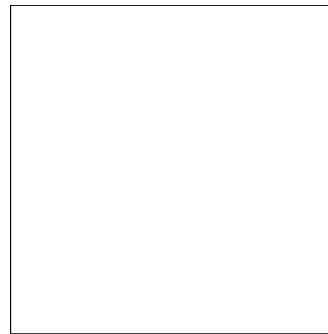
DMS Activities

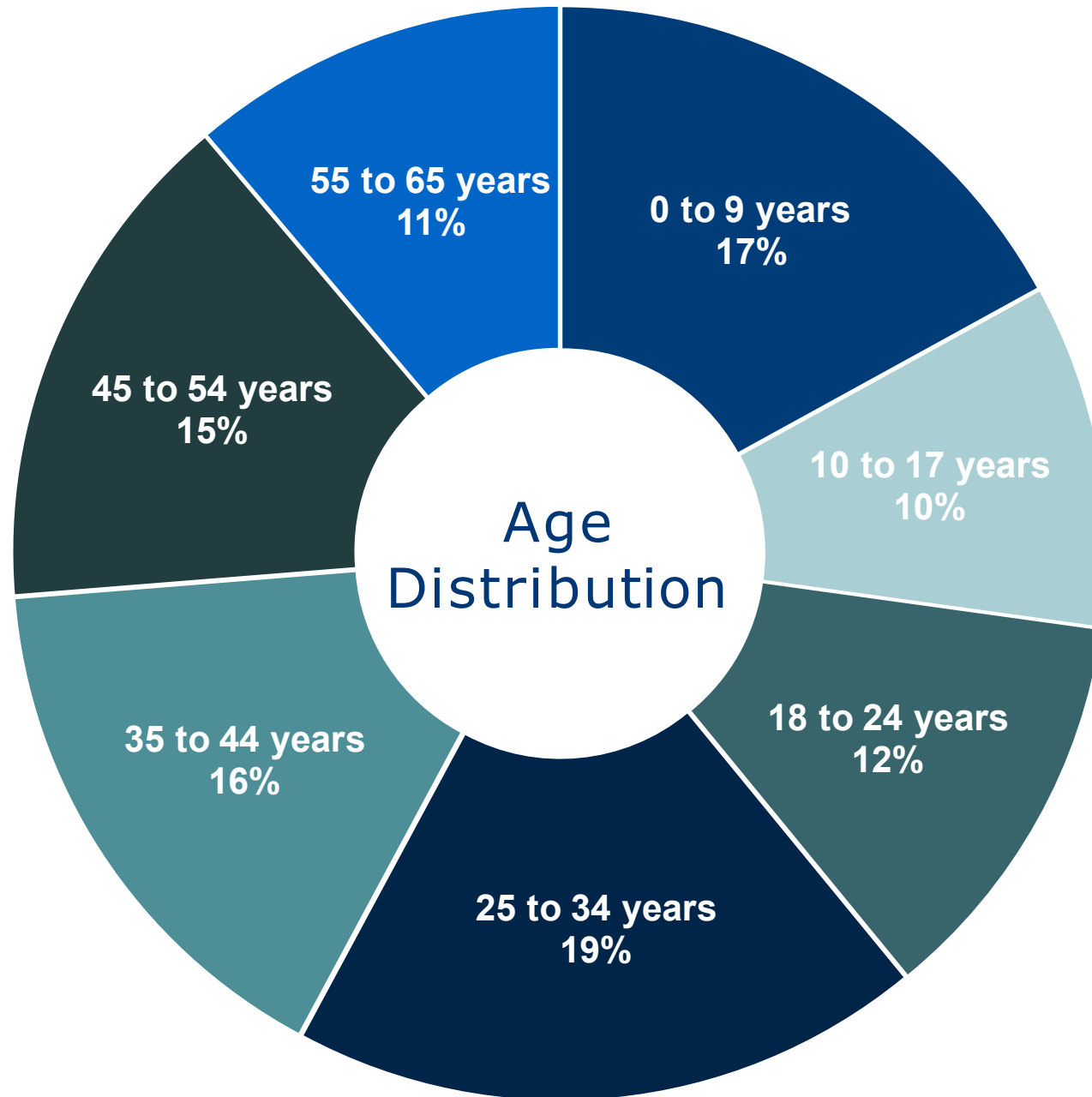
- Matching Medicaid and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data
- Represent DHS on the Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Conduct monthly meetings with homeless assistance providers
- Selected to participate in a 10 state learning collaborative with CMS focusing on housing for members with substance use disorder (SUD)

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Match Data

HMIS Data Overview

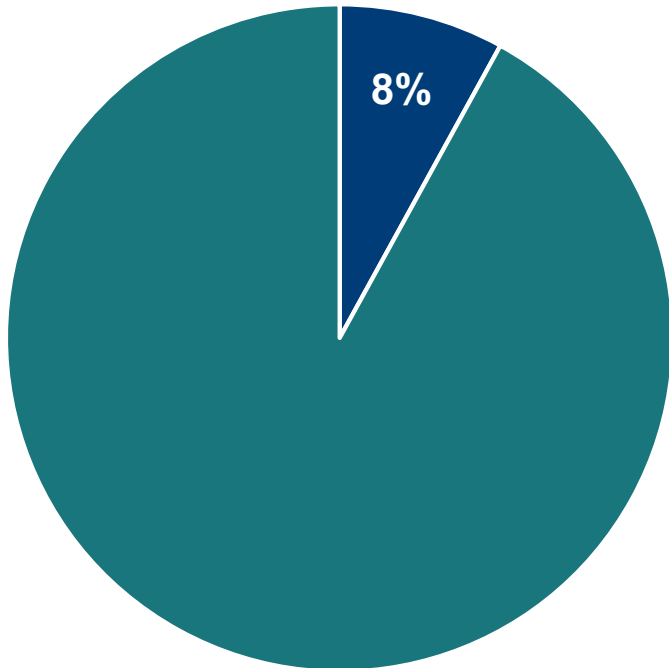
- HMIS data was matched against Medicaid data to identify members accessing homeless assistance services.
- All data is from May 2018 to May 2019.
- Approximately 6,900 members matched.



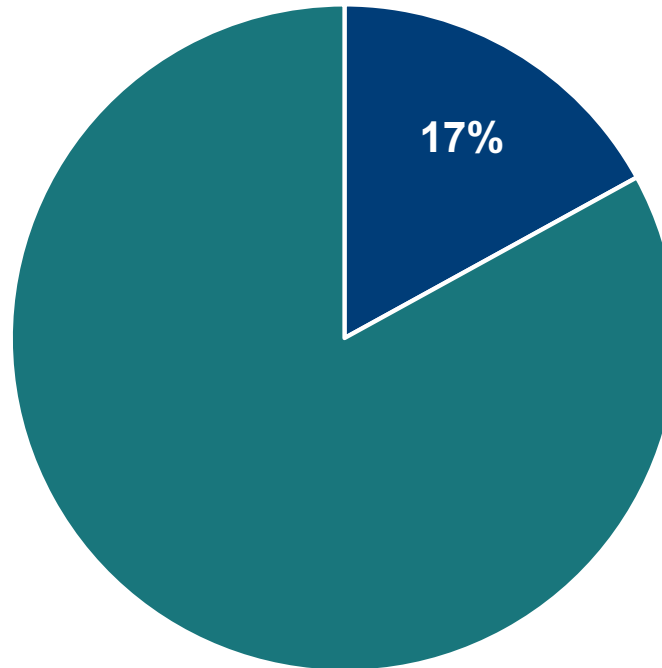


Racial Disparities

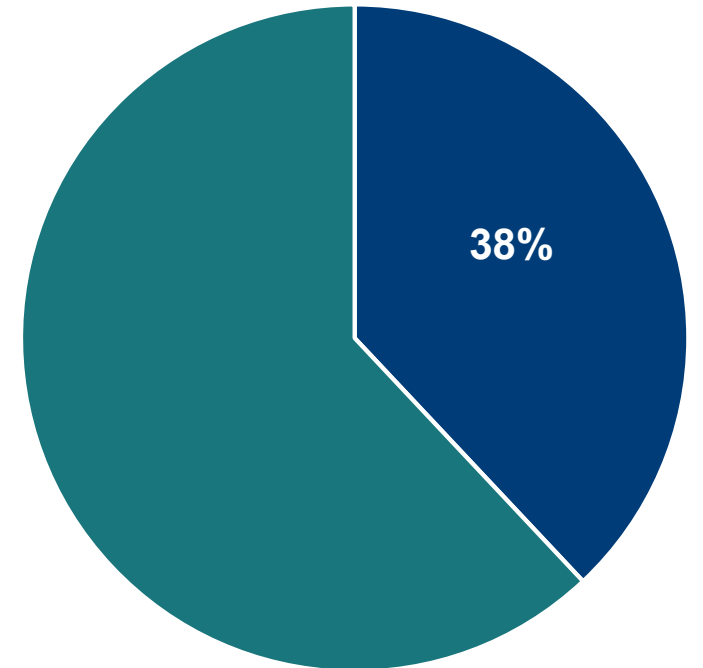
Wisconsinites
% African American



Medicaid Members
% African American



Medicaid Members in HMIS
% African American



Utilization and Diagnosis



3,400 members accessed the Emergency Department
1,000 members had at least one inpatient hospital stay
200 members gave birth



60% had an SUD or mental health condition
10% had an opioid use disorder



\$57 million in total annual Medicaid costs

Housing Support Services



Homeless and Housing in WI

- HUD funds Continuum of Care (CoC) leads in each state to oversee agencies that assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Coordinated Entry is HUD's approach to coordination and management of resources that allows agencies within each CoC to assess and prioritize individuals' needs to refer and connect them to available housing.
- Wisconsin has four CoC leads:
 - Milwaukee County, Dane County, Racine County, and the Balance of State

CoC agencies are the frontline provider and experts in delivering housing support services

Housing Support Services



Housing Consultation



**Transition and Sustaining
Supports**



Relocation Supports

CMS Guidance

- CMS released a State Health Official letter in January 2021 superseding and updating its previous guidance regarding housing supports.
- The letter reinforced that CMS will **not** allow federal match money to be used to pay for room and board, but highlighted different authorities and strategies for how states can reimburse providers for housing support services.
- Two authorities DMS will be seeking to provide housing support services to more members:
 1. Health Services Initiative (HSI)
 2. 1915(i) Home and Community Based Services State Plan Amendment (SPA)

Health Services Initiative (HSI)

HSI:

Activities that may protect and improve the health of children and families with incomes 200% below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

The purpose of the Housing Support Services HSI is to assist low-income families experiencing homelessness or families that are at risk for homelessness in finding and retaining housing.

Housing Support Services HSI

- **Goal:** Through a grant program, DHS will provide funding to homeless assistance providers to focus on **families and pregnant women under 200% FPL** at risk for or experiencing homelessness
- Based on HMIS data:
 - **2,000 children** enrolled in Medicaid alone, and **over 300 pregnant women** accessed homeless assistance services between 2018 and 2019

1915(i) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

1915(i) HCBS:

An optional state plan benefit that allows states to provide HCBS to individuals who meet state-defined needs-based criteria that are less stringent than institutional criteria

- HCBS can be particularly effective in addressing social determinants of health for Medicaid members, including finding permanent housing.
- HCBS authorities require the development of a person-centered service plan (i.e. housing support plan) that:
 - Outlines a member's goals and preferences
 - Documents their service and support needs to pursue them

1915(i) Housing Support Services

- **Goal:** Create a new Medicaid benefit covering HCBS housing support services through reimbursing homeless assistance providers to deliver these services
- **Eligibility**



Next Steps

- HSI technical assistance
- HMIS data integration
- 1915(i) Housing Support Services internal workgroup

Questions

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