



Increasing Access to Medical Services in Low-Barrier Shelters



Agenda

BACKGROUND

TARGET POPULATION

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

DATA

QUESTIONS?

Background Information

- The # of people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Chittenden County has almost tripled from pre-pandemic
- While shelter access has stayed stagnant to what was available in Spring 2022
- Most recent data demonstrates a rise in unsheltered homelessness in Chittenden County from 80 individuals in 2022 to 367 individuals according to CRC data from September 2024 (including 6 families w/12 children)

Target Population

- We know anecdotally that majority of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness have substance use disorder and struggle to access basic needs including medical.

- Our shelters prioritize people who are unsheltered and because of this many guests in the shelter environment present with various medical needs including by certainly not limited to significant wounds due to substance use.

Last years pilot target population
breakdown by sites (18+ individuals):

Elmwood: 91 males, 15 females

Champlain Place: 48 males, 9 females

Winter Warming Shelter: 162 males, 71
females

Data from pilot project winter 2023

1. Total of 437 individual patients between 3 sites:

- 11 individuals referred to ED; 3 followed up
- 56 individuals referred to PCP; 17 followed up
- 157 individuals were seen for chronic issues
- 144 individuals were seen for acute issues
- 19 individuals were seen for psych
- 14 individuals were referred to substance use counselling

Most common chronic issues:

- Addiction, non-healing/infected wounds, need for dressing supplies, dental pain, foot issues and care coordination

Most common acute issues:

- Addiction, abscess/infection, OTC medications, dressing supplies, random supplies (socks, hand/foot warmers), care coordination (medication refills, appointments, help navigating the health care system)



Questions?

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