A TYPOLOGY
of Transition-Age Youth

November 2018

The City of New York
Mayor Bill de Blasio

Center for Innovation
through Data Intelligence

INTRODUCTION

- Young adulthood is a challenging time of transition. Youth who do not have appropriate supports may be at risk of housing instability or homelessness.

- It is important to match youths' needs with available housing placements and other services and to understand gaps in services.

- A typology of youths' outcome trajectories can help understand differences in system use across different domains and be used to prioritize youth with specific risk factors for housing resources.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the primary patterns of service use for youth once they exit homeless shelters or foster care?
- Do these patterns differ based on exit system (e.g., foster care or different types of homeless shelters)?
- What early service use and demographic factors predict these patterns?

SAMPLE

- 18 to 21 years old when they exited from one of the systems listed below
- Exited between July 2011 and 2013
- Outcome period was three years after exit

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ACS)

- Foster Care

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DYCD)

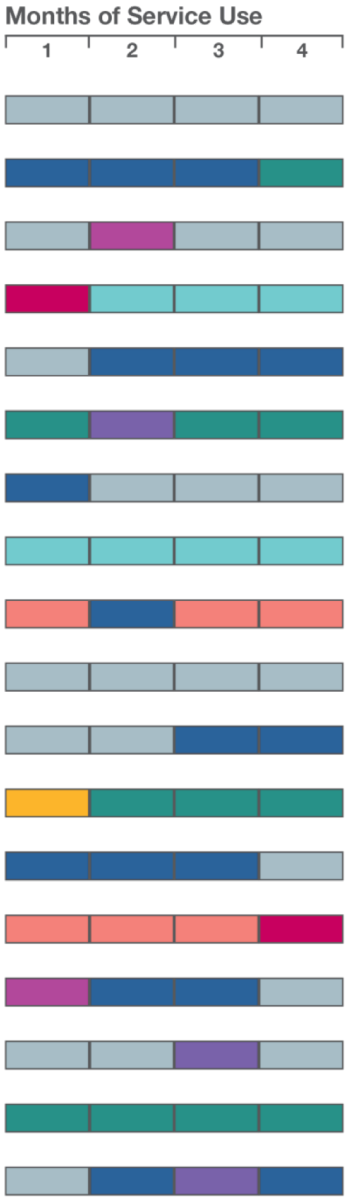
- Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Crisis Shelter
- Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Program

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES (DHS)

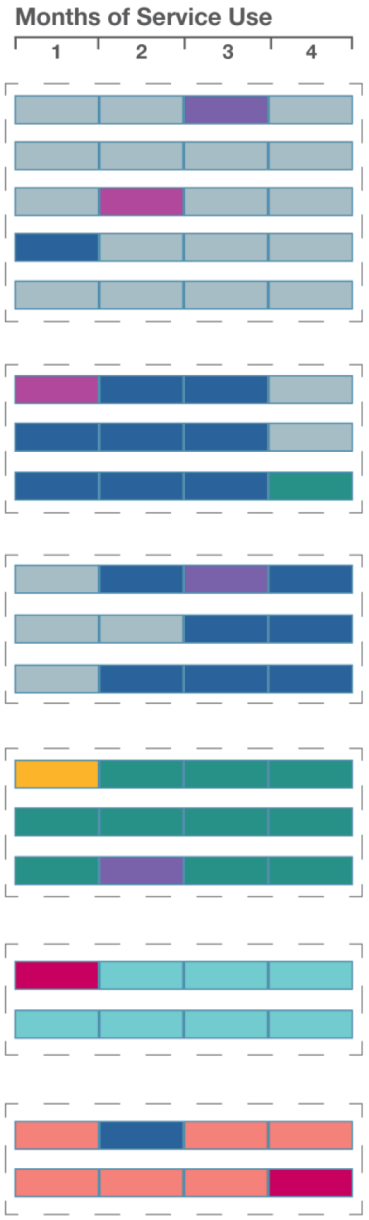
- Single Adult (SA) Shelter
- Adult Families (AF) Shelter
- Families with Children (FWC) Shelter

ANALYSIS

Sequence Analysis



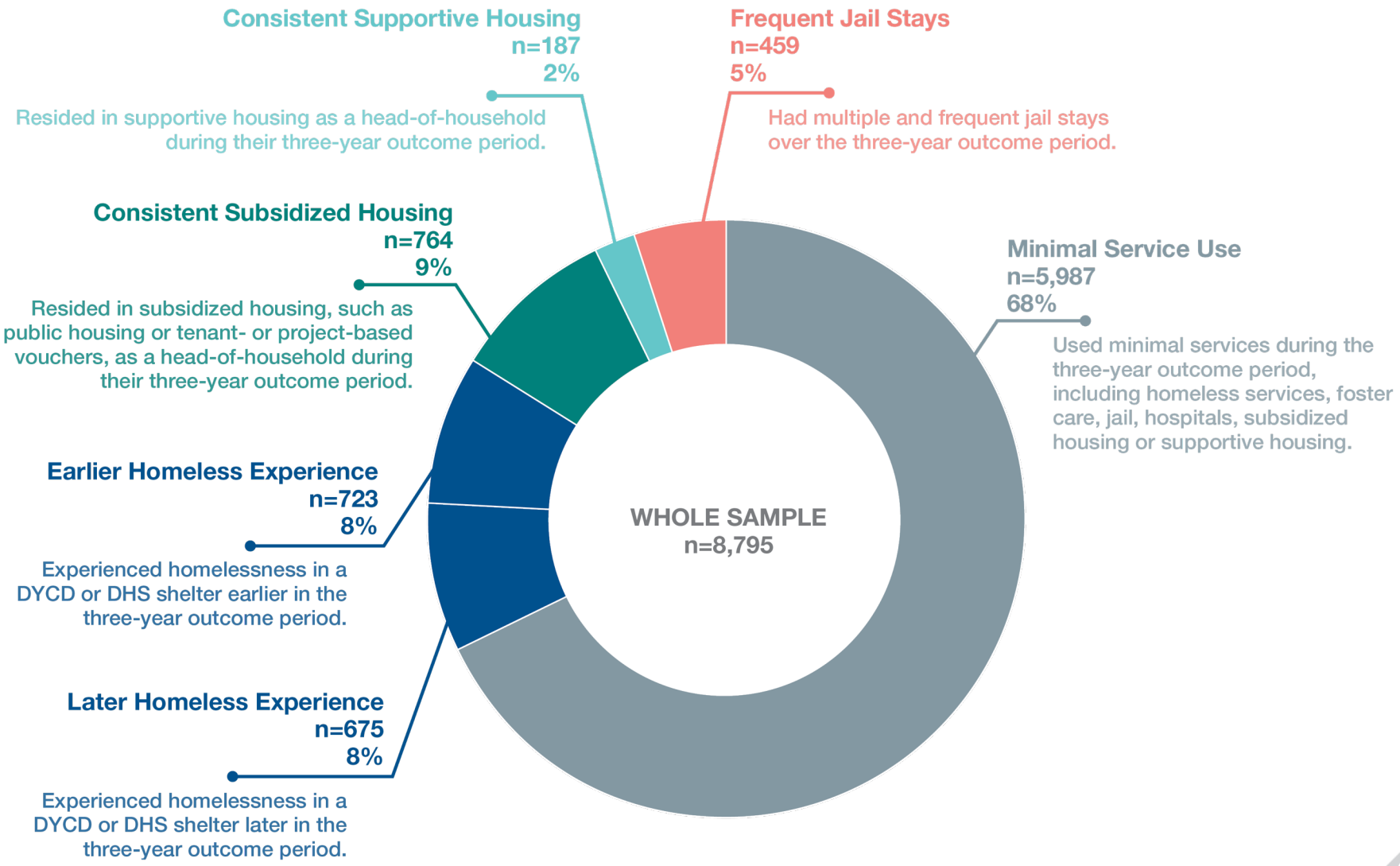
Cluster Analysis



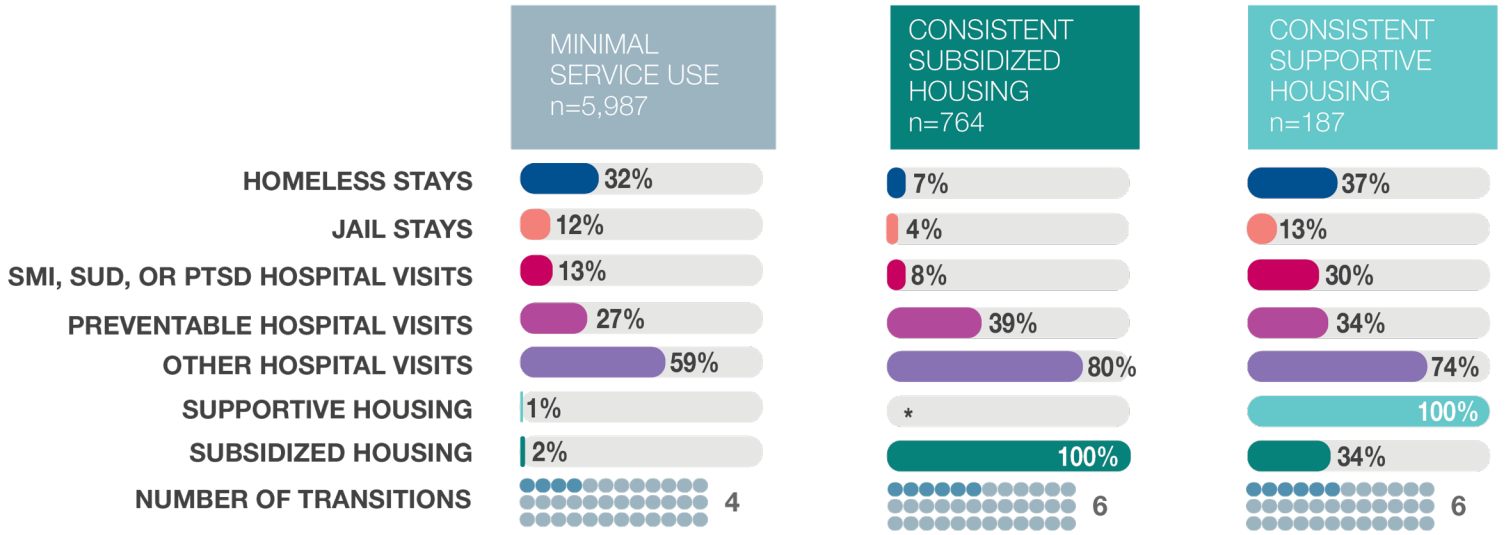
Types of Service Use

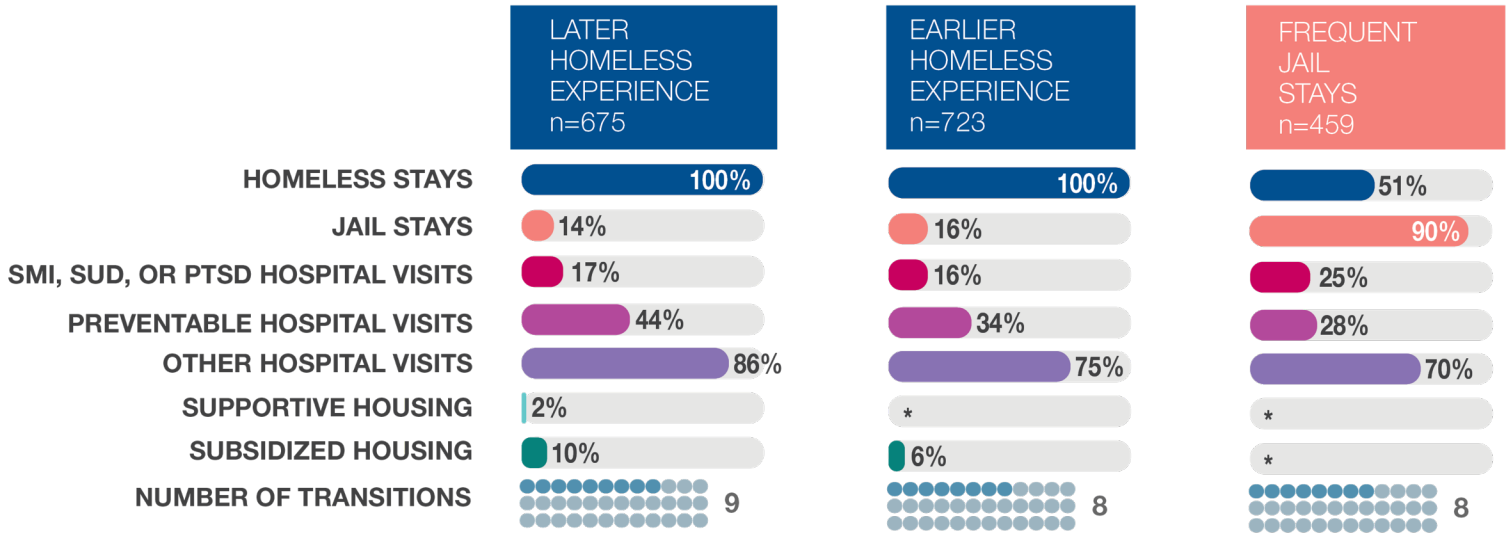
- Homeless Shelter Stays
- Jail Stays
- SMI, SUD, or PTSD Hospital Visits
- Preventable Hospital Visits
- Other Hospital Visits
- Supportive Housing
- Subsidized Housing
- Foster Care
- No System

OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME GROUPS



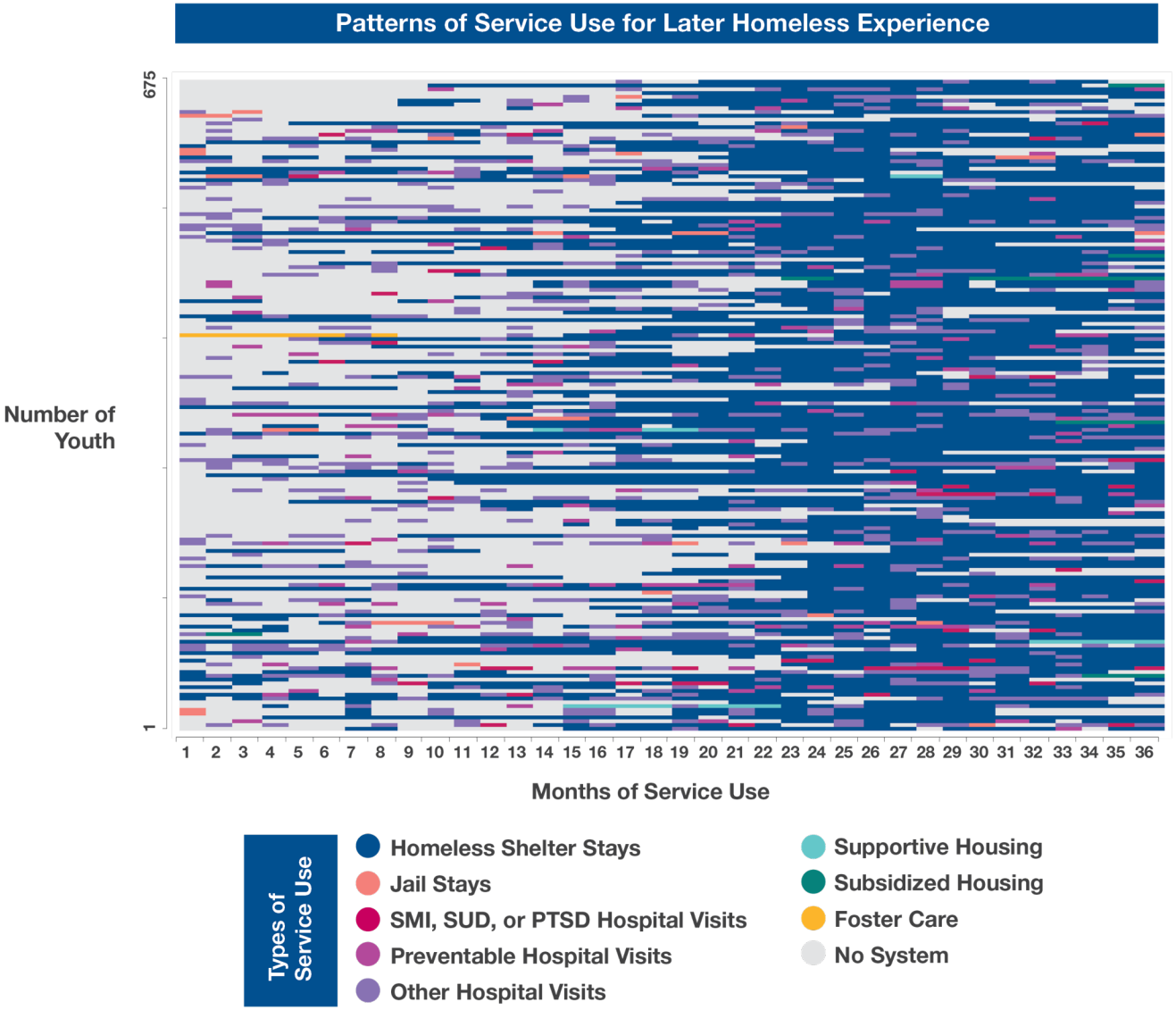
SERVICE USE IN OUTCOME PERIOD BY GROUP



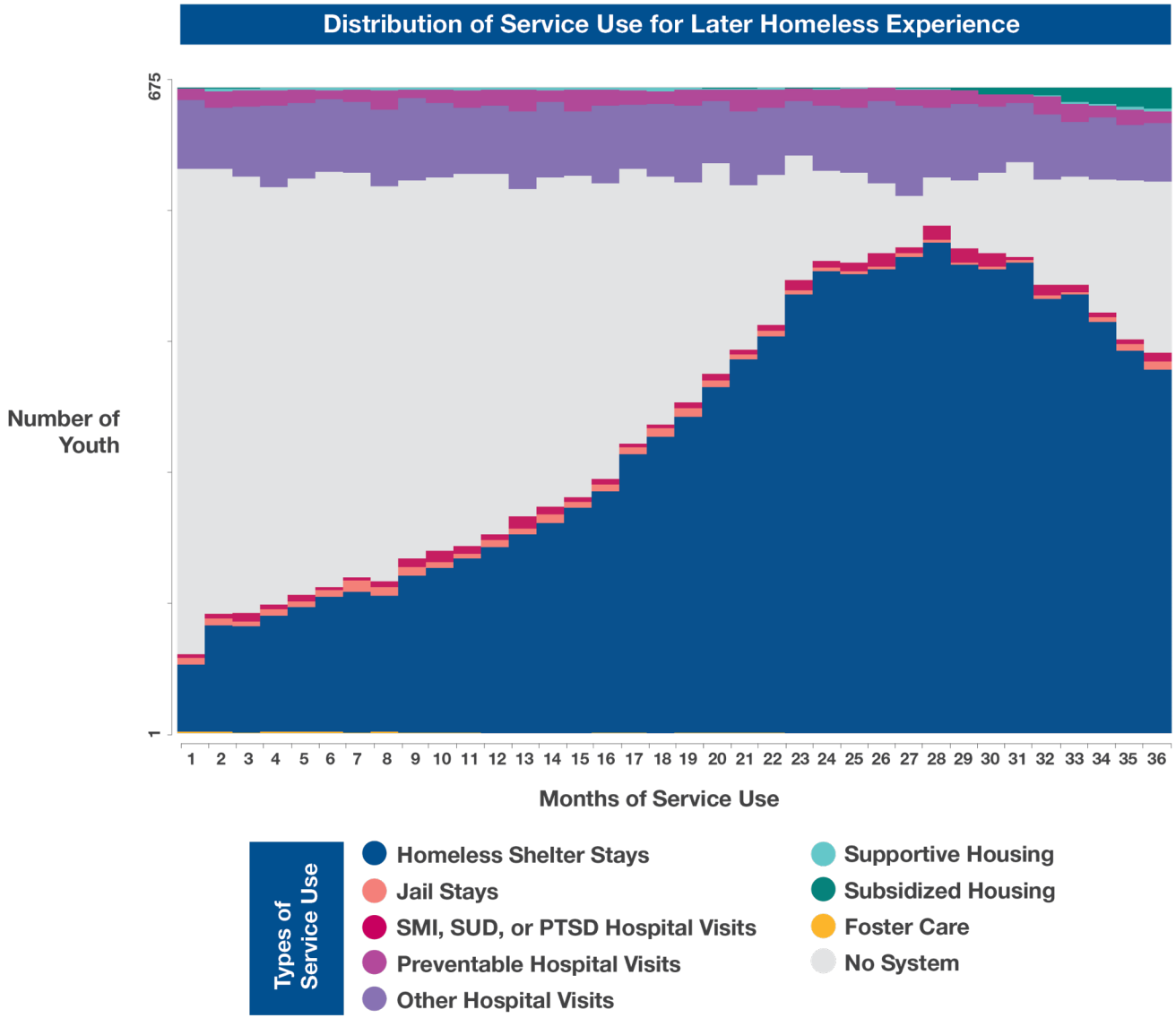


*Data not disclosed due to small cell size.

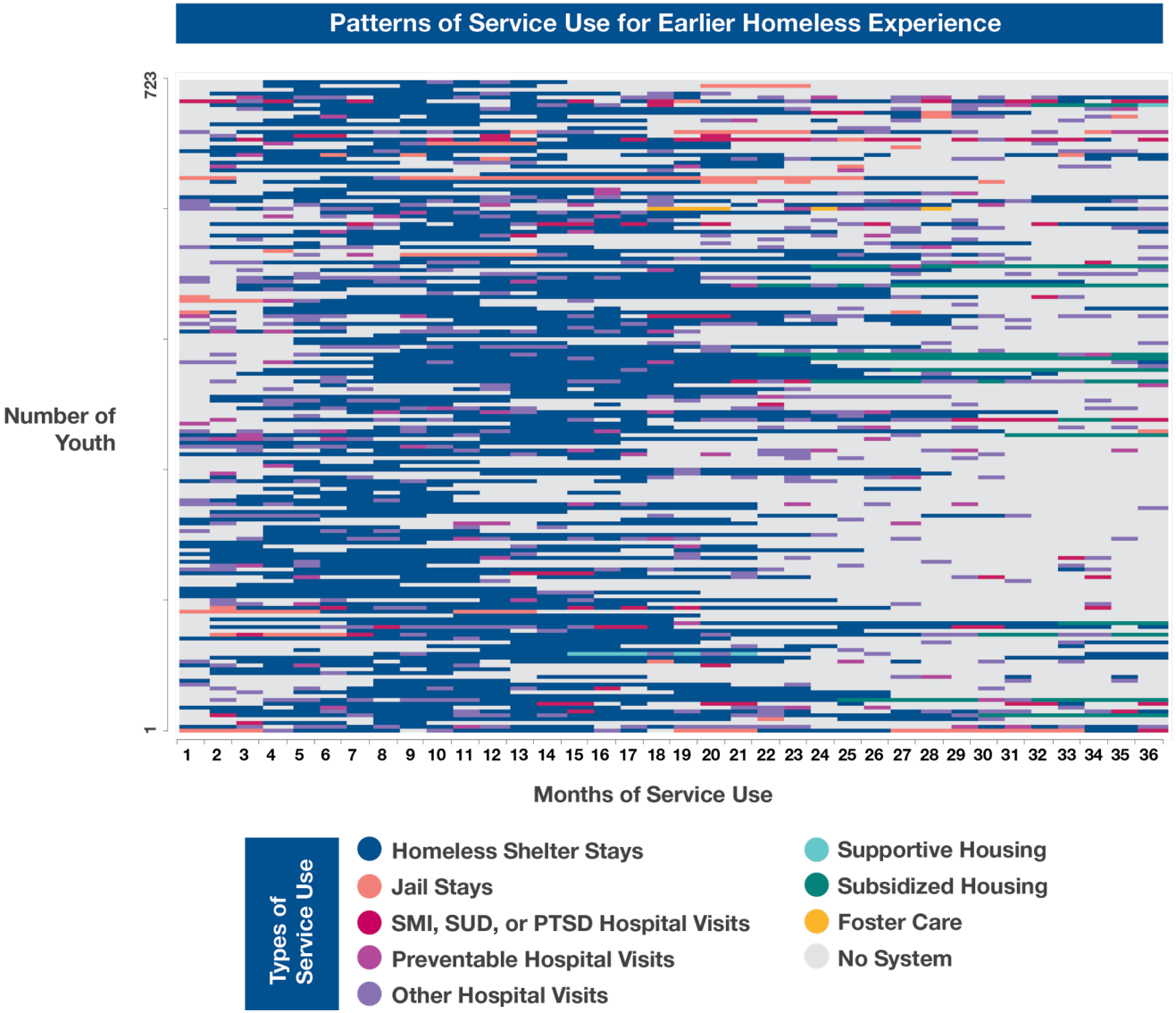
SEQUENCE PLOT EXAMPLE



DISTRIBUTION PLOT EXAMPLE



SEQUENCE PLOT EXAMPLE



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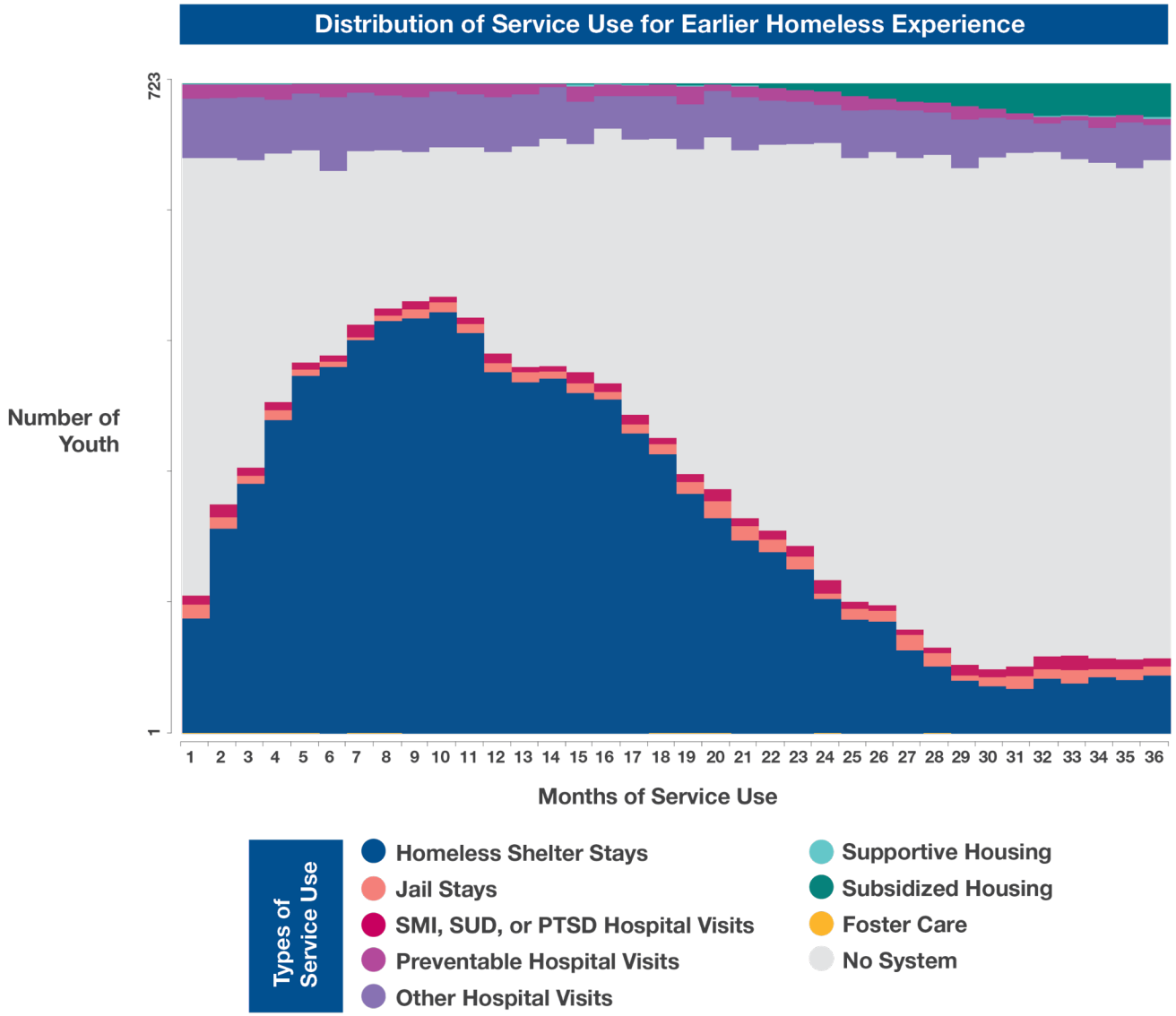
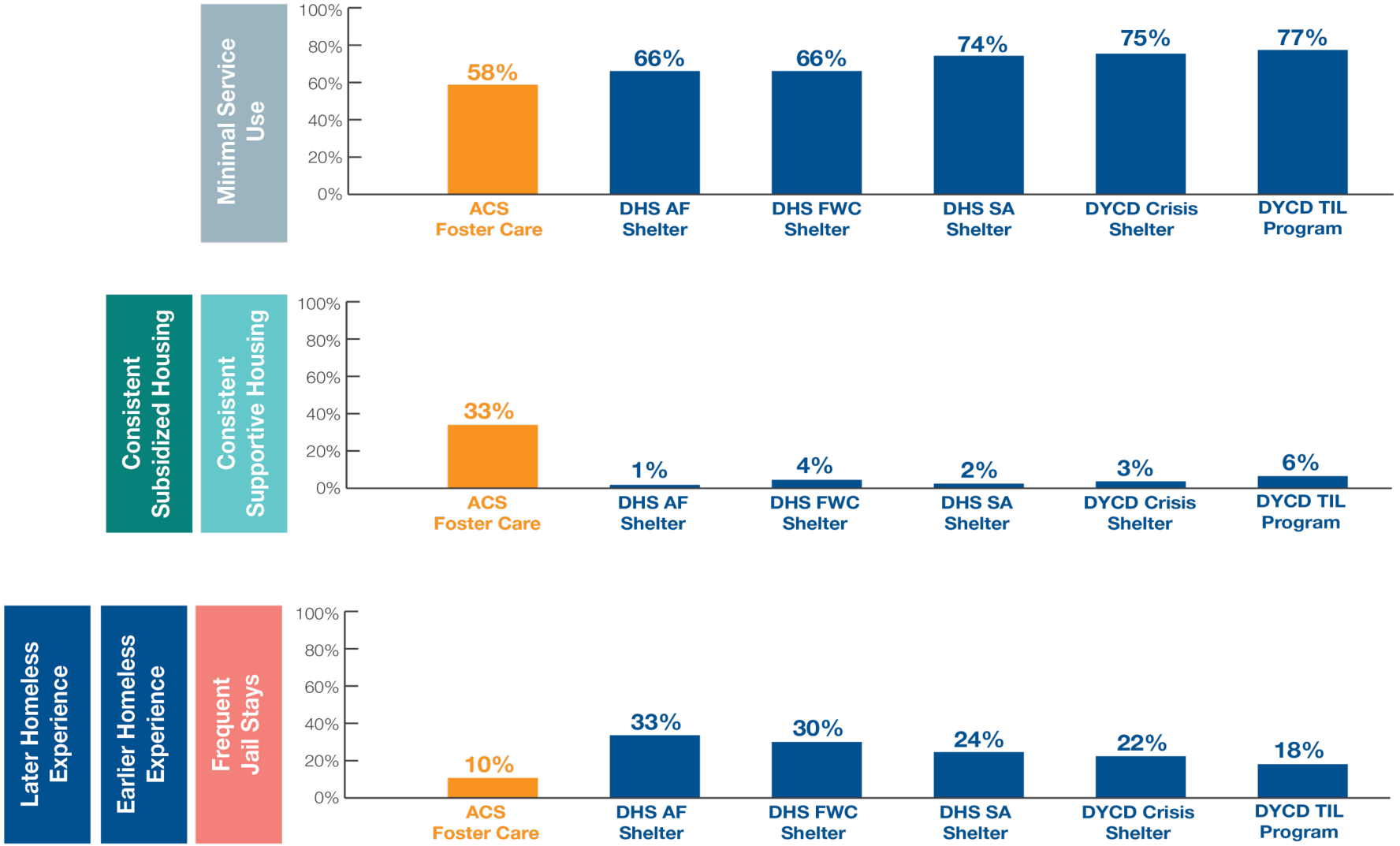


EXIT SYSTEMS BY GROUP



SELECTED PREDICTIVE FACTORS

	Minimal Service Use	Later Homeless Experience	Earlier Homeless Experience	Consistent Subsidized Housing	Consistent Supportive Housing	Frequent Jail Stays
DEMOGRAPHICS AND EXIT SYSTEM						
Gender: Female (compared to Male)	▼	▲		▲	▼	▼
Gender: Transgender (compared to Male)	▼					▲
Race: Black/African American (compared to White)	▼				▲	▲
Exit Age (older)	▼		▼	▲	▲	▼
Exit System: DHS AF Shelter (compared to ACS Foster Care)		▲	▲	▼	▼	
Exit System: DHS FWC Shelter (compared to ACS Foster Care)	▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	
Exit System: DHS SA Shelter (compared to ACS Foster Care)	▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲
Exit System: DYCD RHY Crisis Shelter (compared to ACS Foster Care)	▲	▲	▲	▼		
Exit System: DYCD TIL Program (compared to ACS Foster Care)		▲	▲	▼		
PREVIOUS SYSTEM USE						
Multi-system use	▼	▲		▲		▲
Number of months in ACS Foster Care		▼	▼		▲	
Number of movements in ACS Foster Care						▲
Number of months in a homeless shelter as a child				▼		
Number of stays in a homeless shelter as an adult	▼		▲	▼		
Receiving temporary rental assistance upon exit from a DHS shelter			▼			
Number of months in the justice system			▼		▼	
Number of stays in the justice system				▼	▼	▲
Ever having a jail or detention stay for a felony	▼	▼	▼			▲
Ever having a jail or detention stay for a misdemeanor	▼	▼				▲
Having a hospital visit for SMI/SUD/PTSD			▼	▼	▲	▲

▲ = increases the probability of being in a group

▼ = decreases the probability of being a group

LIMITATIONS

- Although sequence analysis allows for more nuanced service use profiles, every youth's service use experience is not described perfectly by the six groups.

- The study relies on administrative data, so it was unable to include other factors that may be important, such as the resiliency, strengths, and resources of the youth.

- A mixed-methods approach would help incorporate personal narratives from youth with lived experience.

IMPLICATIONS

- Services can be better matched to youth's needs based on information from the service use profiles of each group.
- Services and resources can be better targeted to youth who need them based on information from the predictive factors.
- High rates of hospital use across all groups may indicate a need for better engagement and access to primary care.
- A coordinated entry system should ensure youth can access all resources regardless of which system they enter through.

QUESTIONS?

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Report can be accessed at:
www.nyc.gov/cidi