

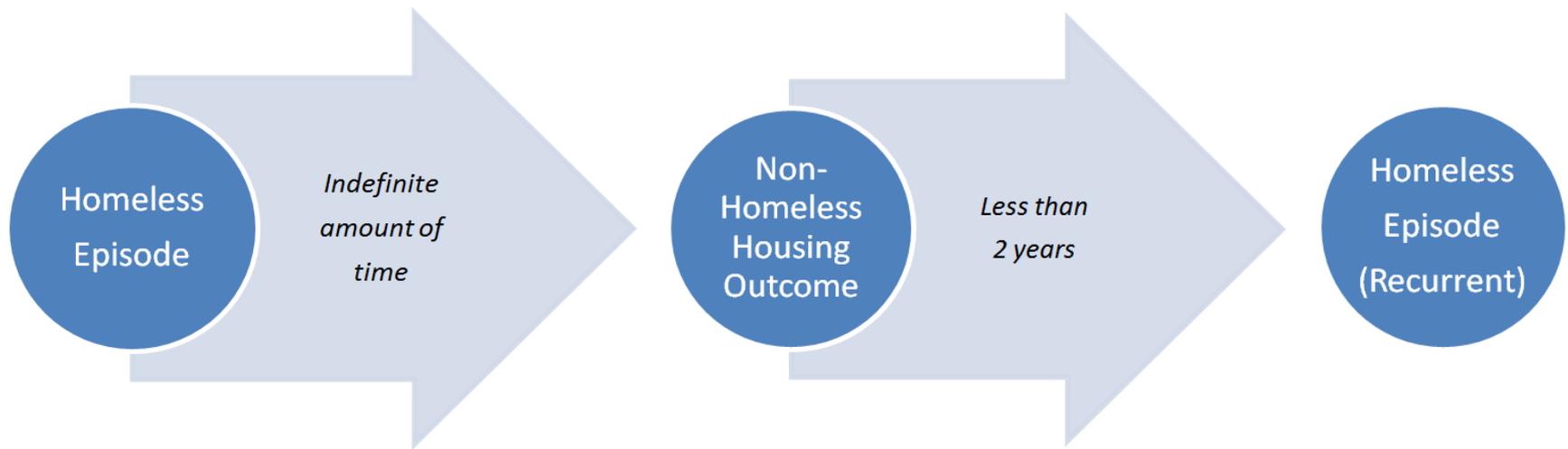
# Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Recurrence in Georgia

Jason Rodriguez

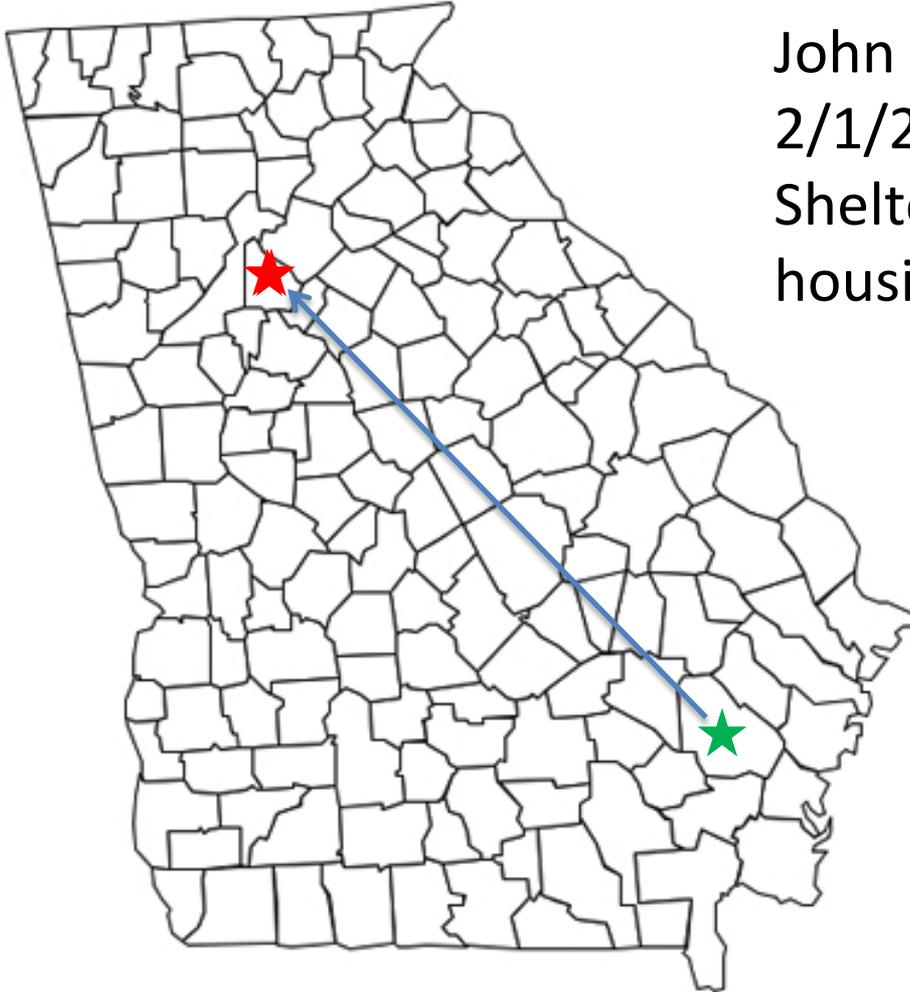
GA Dept of Community Affairs



# Homelessness Recurrence, *Defined*



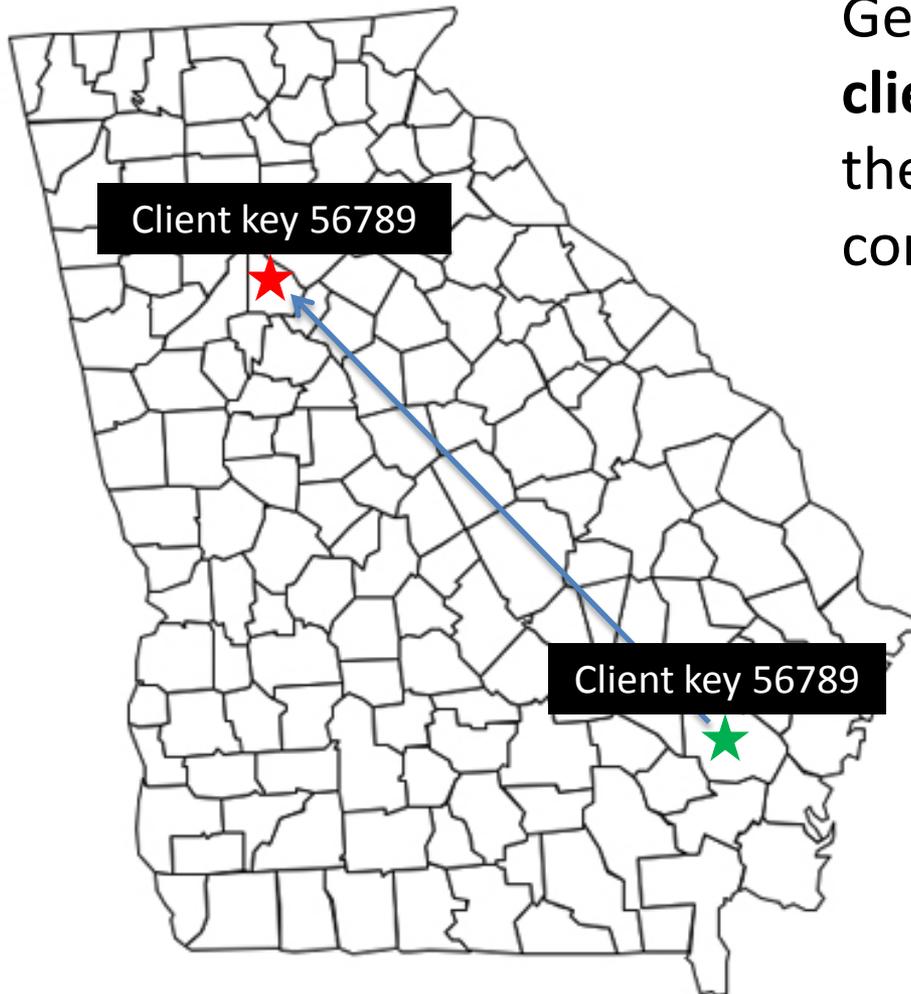
# Measuring Recurrence using HMIS



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

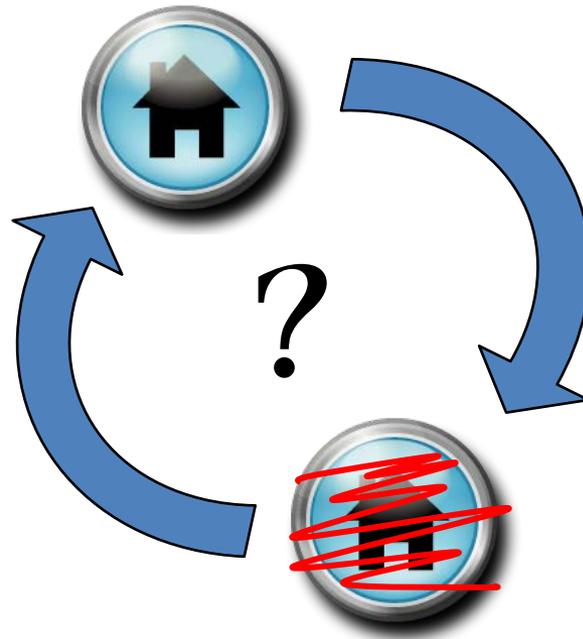


Georgia's HMIS can use John's **client key** to recognize that these two events are connected.

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

# Research question

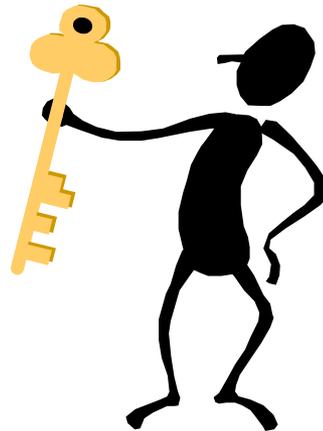
*Which client, program, and geographical characteristics exert the greatest influence on the likelihood that someone returns to homelessness?*



# Getting into My Sample

A client had to meet the following conditions...

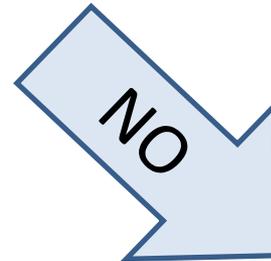
1. Was **literally homeless** when he/she entered the program
2. Exited between **11/20/2009** and **11/19/2010**
3. Exited to a **non-homeless** and **non-institutional** destination



**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 9,013 times...**



**Recurrence Rate: 28.6%**

# Overall Sample Characteristics

- Program type
  - 47.5% from Emergency Shelter
  - 28.2% from Transitional Housing
  - 17.1% from Rapid Re-Housing
- 33.4% of individuals in the sample had a prior homeless HMIS enrollment
- 85.5% had gone to an unsubsidized destination
- 35.7% had gone to a dependent living situation
- 28.3% had a disabling condition at exit

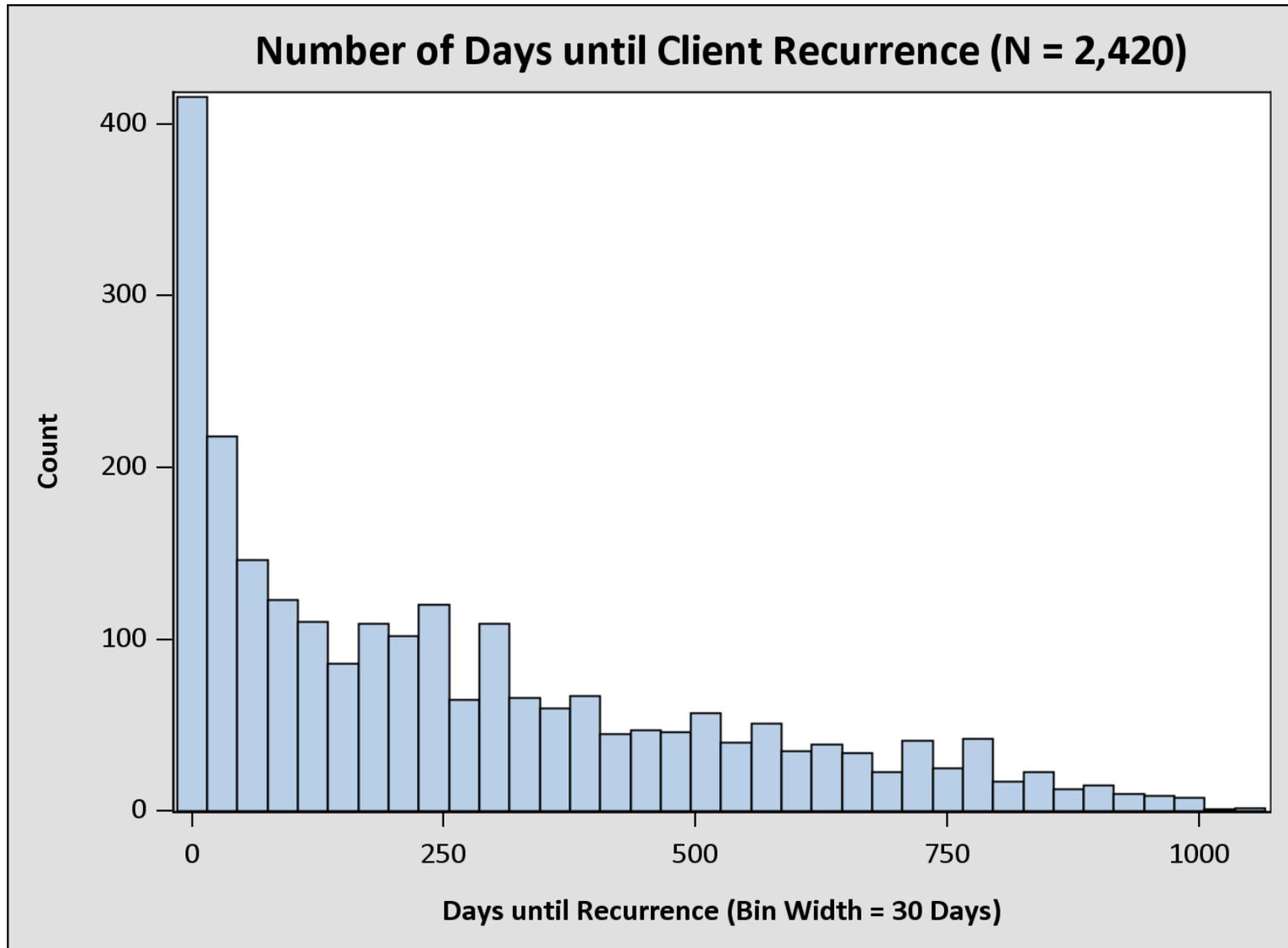
# Overall Sample Characteristics

- 47.8% were unaccompanied
- 81.4% had only one adult in the household
- 21.4% had at least one teenager in the household
- Average age of head of household: 38.8 years
- 49.4% were male
- Race
  - 23.1% were White
  - 72.4% were Black
- 2.6% were Hispanic
- 6.9% were veterans

# Overall Sample Characteristics

- Continuums
  - 37.9% were in City of Atlanta, Fulton County, or DeKalb County
  - 36.9% were in Balance of State
  - 8.3% were in Cobb County
- Regions (based on DCA's State Service Delivery Regions)
  - 62.3% from Metro Atlanta
  - 13.8% from Southeast Georgia
  - 9.7% from Northeast Georgia
- 7.7% were located in a rural county

# Overall Sample Characteristics



# More likely to return? Less likely to return? (What do you think?)

- People with a head of household older than 45
- People coming from Rapid Re-Housing programs
- People in a household with a teenage male
- People with an ongoing housing subsidy
- People with a history of homelessness
- People who had *shorter* program enrollments
- People who seemed like they were going to a “permanent destination” when they left the program

## Notable Risk Factors of Homelessness Recurrence

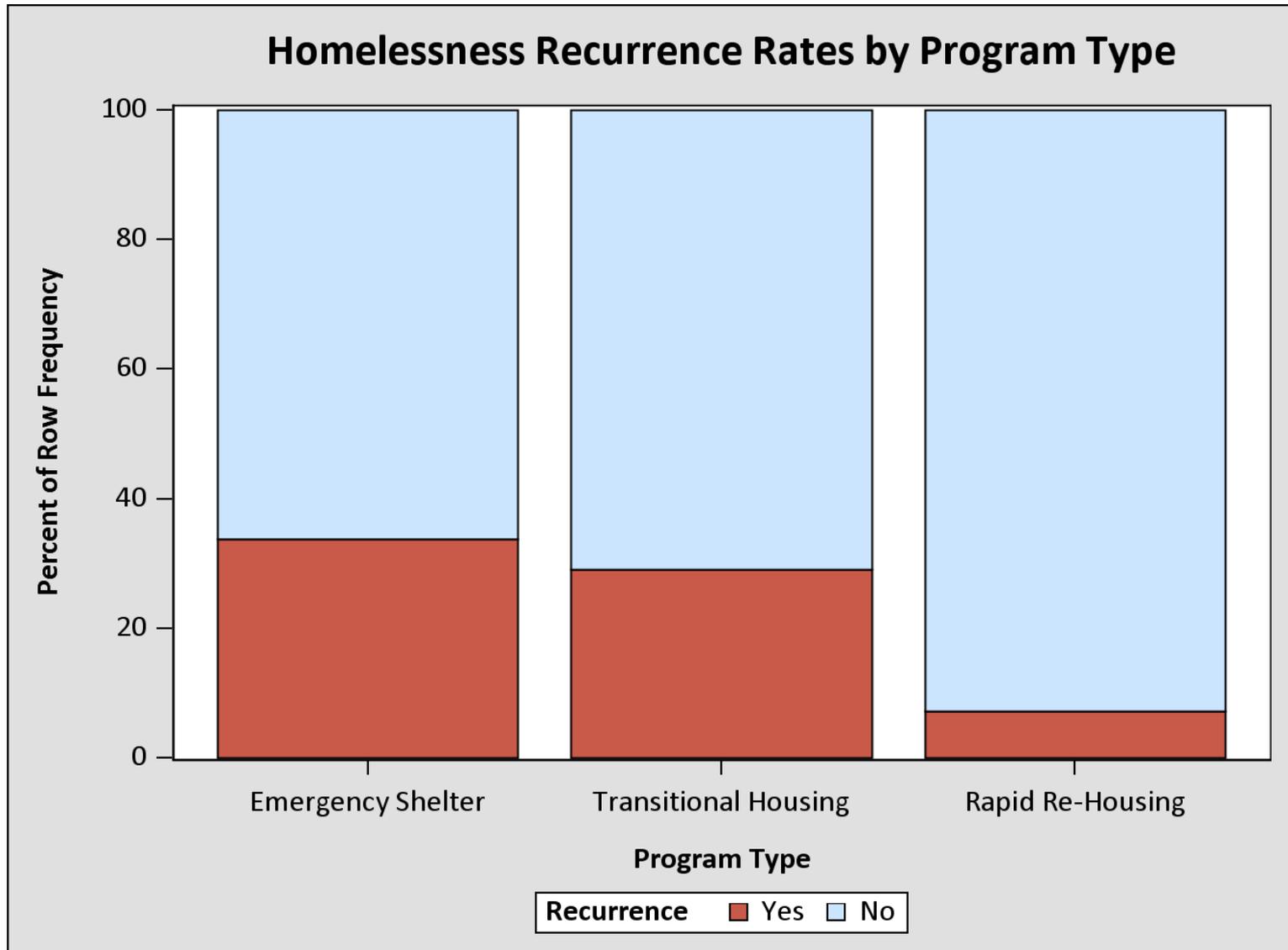
### *Different than what was expected*

- Persons without a teenage male in the household were 2.2 times more likely to return than others.
- Persons with a head of household age 45 years or older were 1.7 times more likely to return than others.
- Persons with an ongoing housing subsidy after leaving a program were not less likely to return than others.

### *Consistent with what was expected*

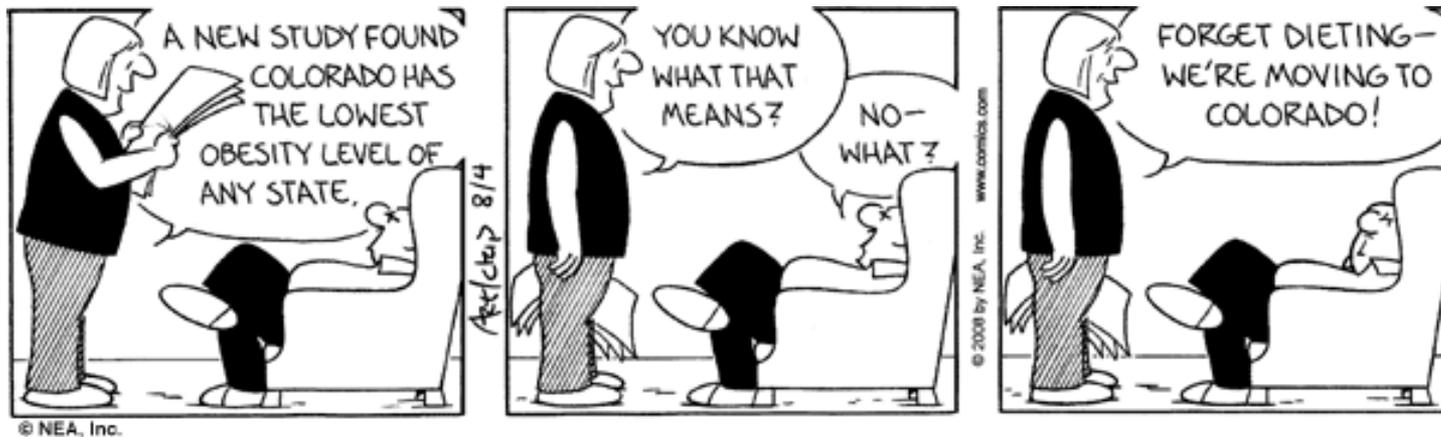
- Persons from Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs were 4.7 and 4.0 times more likely to return than persons from Rapid Re-Housing programs, respectively.
- Persons with a homelessness history in HMIS were 2.6 times more likely to return than others, providing support for thinking that this is a useful measure of the relative extensiveness of a person's homelessness history in general.
- Persons who were temporarily housed after their program enrollment were 1.9 times more likely to return than those who were permanently housed.
- Persons who had shorter enrollments were more likely to return than persons with longer enrollments, regardless of program type – but this association was mild.

# 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%**.

# Predicting Program-Level Recurrence

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Client</b>	<b>Likelihood of Recurrence</b>
Area Shelter	Susan	18.2%
Area Shelter	Dante	47.8%
Area Shelter	Jordan	65.9%
Area Shelter	Michael	26.4%
Area Shelter	Eliza	26.4%
...	...	...

The **average** of the likelihoods can be considered the **estimated recurrence rate** for Area Shelter.

# Comparing Programs (The Misleading Way)

- Homeless Program A
  - Transitional Housing program
  - 30 clients exited program in a year's time
  - 37% recurrence rate
  
- Homeless Program B
  - Transitional Housing program
  - 38 clients exited program in a year's time
  - 47% recurrence rate

# Comparing Programs (With Added Context)

- Homeless Program A
  - Transitional Housing program
  - 30 clients exited program in a year's time
  - 37% recurrence rate
  - Their expected recurrence rate was 19%
  
- Homeless Program B
  - Transitional Housing program
  - 38 clients exited program in a year's time
  - 47% recurrence rate
  - Their expected recurrence rate was 42%

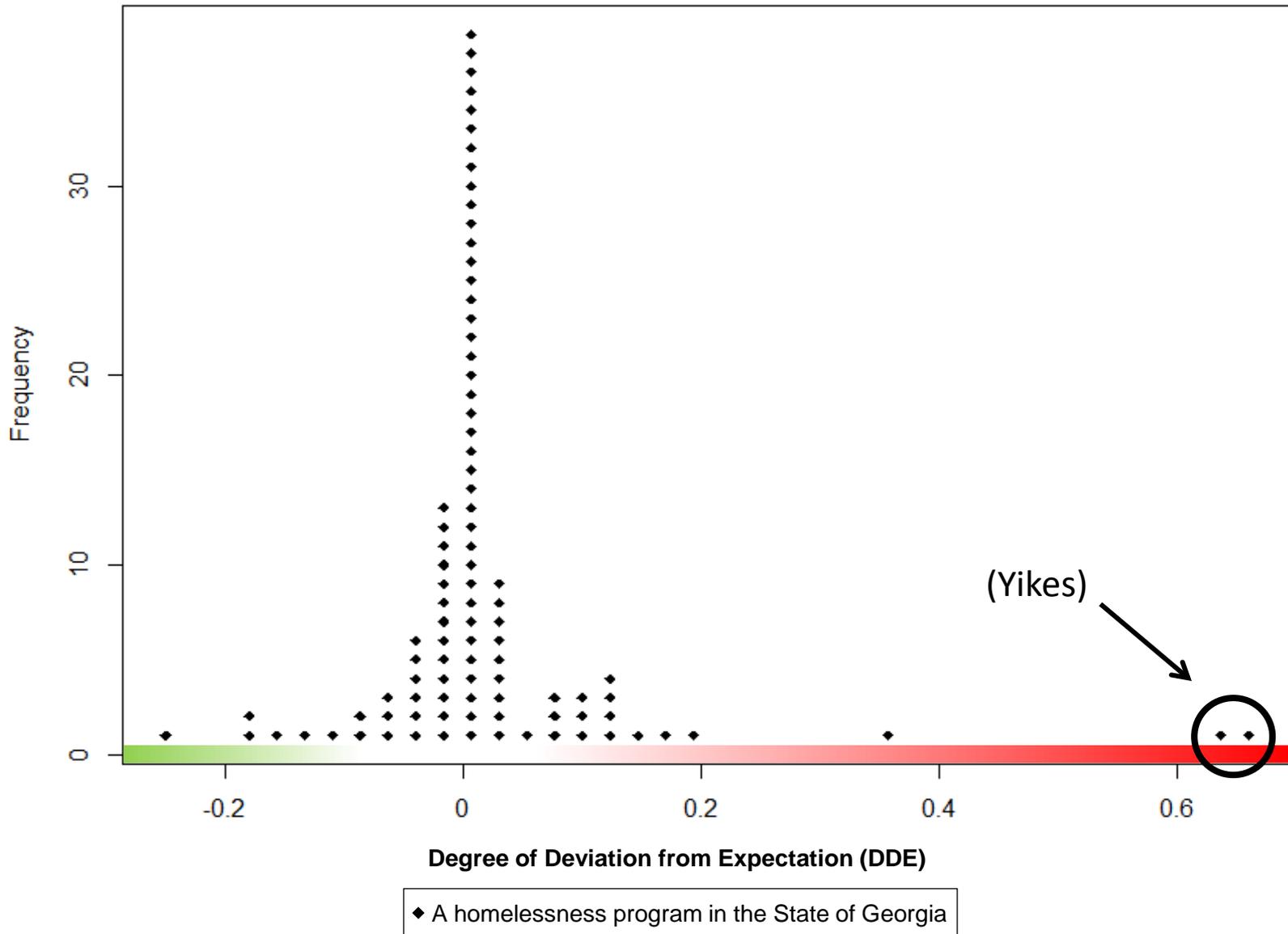
# Comparing Programs (With Added Context)

- Calculating the “degree of deviation from expectation” (DDE) can make it easier to compare programs directly.
  - The DDE quantifies how much a program’s **actual** recurrence rate deviates from the recurrence rate that was **expected** for its clientele.
  - A negative DDE means “better than expected.” A positive DDE means “worse than expected.”
  - A program’s DDE is zero when their actual recurrence rate and their expected recurrence rate are **equal**.
  - This study’s measure of DDE is always between -1 and 1.

# Comparing Programs (With Added Context)

- Homeless Program A
  - Transitional Housing program
  - 30 clients exited program in a year's time
  - 37% recurrence rate
  - Their expected recurrence rate was 19%
  - **DDE = 0.19**
  
- Homeless Program B
  - Transitional Housing program
  - 38 clients exited program in a year's time
  - 47% recurrence rate
  - Their expected recurrence rate was 42%
  - **DDE = 0.01**

# Homelessness Recurrence Outcomes among Georgia Programs For Client Enrollments that Ended between 11/20/2009 and 11/19/2010



# Next Steps?



- HTF has incorporated this performance measure in its **funding decisions**.
  - Is part of a holistic program evaluation that considers other criteria as well.
- During the grant year, a high DDE could trigger a **closer look** at a program.
  - Audit
  - Monitoring visit
  - In-depth analysis of program policies/procedures
- Conversely, what if a program is performing abnormally *well*?
  - Could be a way to identify best practices!

# Summary

- A procedure for calculating homelessness recurrence using HMIS was developed.
- The largest risk factor for recurrence that this study found was an absence of Rapid Re-Housing enrollment.
- A predictive model was developed that allows us to:
  - Control for the effects of other variables.
  - Calculate any given individual's likelihood of recurrence.
  - Create a context-driven performance measure that is fairer and better isolates the actual competence of program management and staff.

# 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...

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Or read the report at:

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