Healthy Public Policy: Case of Homelessness

- Policy changed provincially and federally budgets modified due to At Home findings (Housing First model adopted/disseminated)
- Cross-sector partnerships strengthened—research & policy literacy built
- Strengthened cross-sectoral service delivery
- Involvement of Persons with Lived Experience to help shape the services and shed light on positive outcomes (beyond housing stability)
- Rigorous Randomized Trial of Housing First and study on what services to individuals who are homeless need—gender, immigration status, housing type, service rich/poor settings, etc.
- At Home/Chez Soi “Housing First” model for individuals who are homeless and living with a serious mental illness
- Rigorous evidence—Largest Randomized Trial in the world.
- Partnered approach to research at multiple levels
  - Identify Problem
  - Describe Problem
  - Problem Magnitude
  - Associations with the Social Determinants of Health
  - Evidence syntheses (theory/realist)
  - Program tailoring
  - Process & Implementation Evaluations
  - Developmental & Outcome Evaluations
  - Policy evaluations
  - Program scale-up
**Housing First Model**

At Home/Chez Soi

- Housing First model (scattered housing)
- Choice as to where to live in the city
- Choice about treatment, No requirement for participating in treatment
- Choice about access to services

**At Home/Chez Soi “Housing First”**

- model for individuals who are homeless and living with a serious mental illness

**Rigorous evidence**

- Largest Randomized Trial in the world.
- Process and implementation evaluation
- Economic analyses

**Partnered approach to research at multiple levels**
The At Home Study: Early Findings

For every 1,000 participants who received Housing First:

- **42,000** fewer nights in shelters
- **7,500** fewer nights in institutions
- **700** fewer emergency department visits
- **460** fewer police detentions

Cost Savings for Frequent Service Users during the first 12 months of the trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costs in $ and Savings Per Client</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-HF costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAU</td>
<td>$99,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF</td>
<td>$55,812</td>
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Changed Federal and Provincial Policies on Program Models to support Individuals living with homelessness and mental illness.
Problem Description
- Prevalence studies
- Risk factor identification
- Correlates with outcomes
- Trends over time

Solutions
- Systematic reviews of interventions
- Outcome evaluations of interventions or policies
- Realist evaluation
- Developing theories of change

Solutions II
- Evaluation cycles
- Implementation evaluation
- Program tailoring
- Program fidelity
- Developmental evaluation (cross-sectoral & complexity)
- Scaling up of programs

Canadian Housing First Toolkit
Developed to assist other Canadian communities that are interested in adopting the Housing First approach.

Overview
- Key Messages
- Key Questions
- Appendices & Resources

Plan
- Overview
- Planning Tasks
- Challenges & Strategies
- Additional Resources

Implement
- Overview
- Implementation tasks
- Challenges & Strategies
- Additional Resources
- Spotlight

Evaluate
- Key Messages
- Evaluation tasks
- Challenges & Strategies
- Additional Resources
- Spotlight

Sustain
- Key Messages
- What is Sustainability?
- Challenges & Strategies
- Sustainability Case Examples

Resources
- Additional Resources