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OF MINNESOTA

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Minnesota-Linking Information for Kids

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Does a Drop-in and Case Management Model Improve Outcomes for Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness: A Case Study of YouthLink

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Background

- Economic analysis of 2011 YouthLink cohort (April 2016).*
 - High comprehensive, lifetime cost to taxpayers:
 - 1,451 non-disabled youth will cost taxpayers \$360m, or \$249K per youth (2011 dollars).
 - Low break-even on interventions:
 - If 89 youth (6% of cohort) became financially self-sufficient at age 20, the expected savings would fund all supports and interventions to entire cohort for 2011.
- What happened?

* Details available at <http://www.youthlinkmn.org/the-cost-of-homelessness/>

YouthLink



Demographic Characteristics of the YouthLink Cohort in 2011

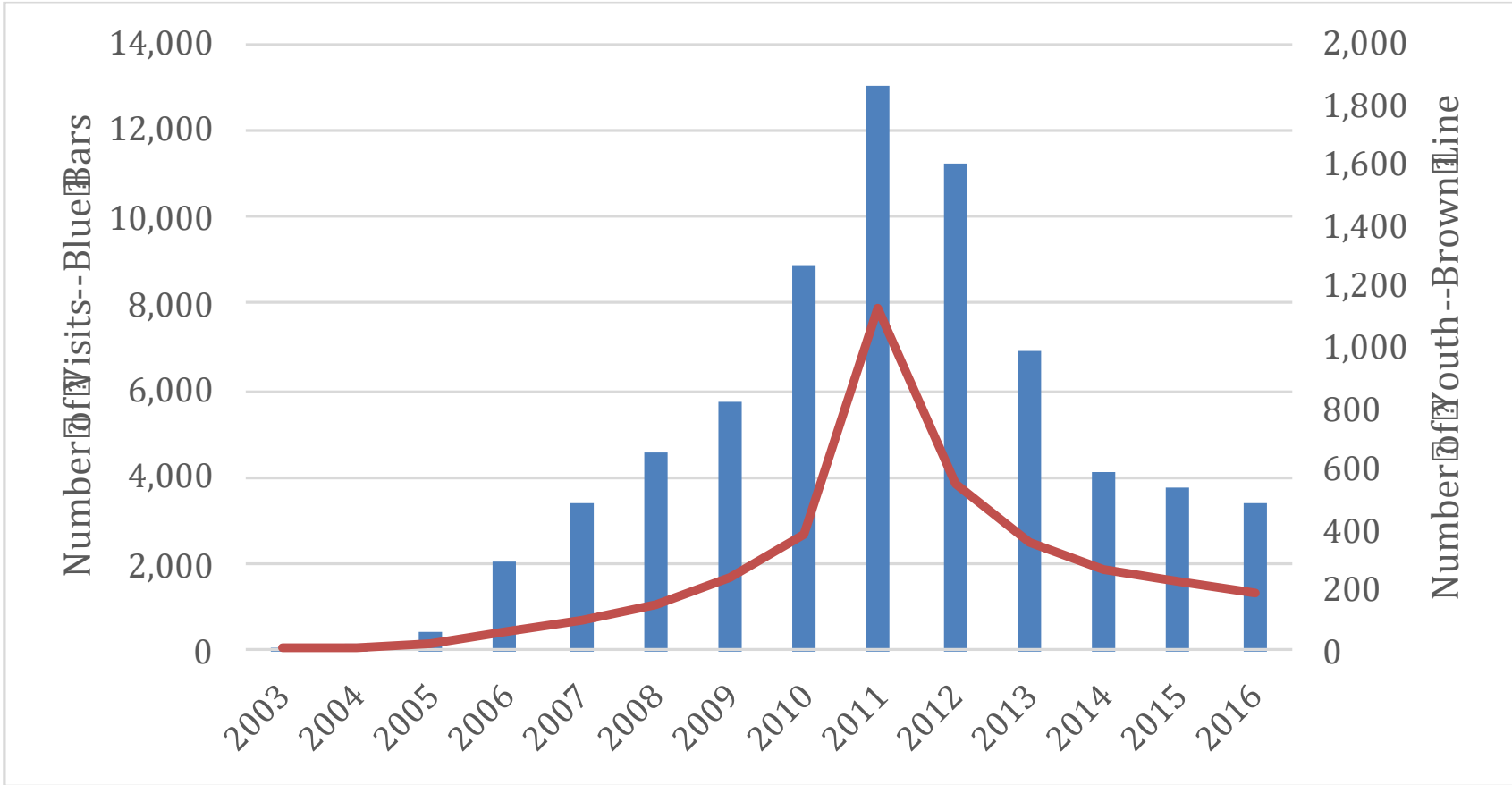
Characteristic	
Median age	20 years
Female	61.0%
Youth of color	85.8%
Last known residence in Hennepin/Ramsey counties	66.9%
Previously received free/reduced lunch for 2+ years	88.5%
Number of years homeless or identified as at risk of homeless between 2008 and 2011	
	1 35.4%
	2 28.4%
	3 17.2%
	<u>4</u> <u>19.0%</u>
	Total 100.0%
Previous child mental health case management	15.5%
Previous child protective services	50.0%
Previous out-of-home placement	35.2%
Receiving an assistance program from DHS in 2011	56.7%
History of special education services	37.5%
Earned high school diploma	14.9%
Earned GED certificate	5.4%



Photo: Danae Hudson

Involvement with YouthLink

Distribution of Members of the 2011 YouthLink Cohort and their Visits from 2003 through 2016



Does This Model Improve Outcomes?

- **Little Evidence Available on Effectiveness**

- Tracking outcomes is challenging
 - Highly mobile population that is difficult to reach
 - Follow-up studies are short-term and prone to non-response bias

- **Longitudinal Study**

- Follow 2011 YouthLink cohort (N=1,229) for 6 years through multiple data sources.
- Data aggregated at individual level using Minn-Link in a highly secure environment.

Research Questions


Study Aim 1:


- What is the overall impact of YouthLink’s drop-in and case management services model on long-term outcomes for youth?
- Approach: **Compare** YouthLink clients with a 1:1 matched group of other similar Minnesota youth experiencing homelessness.
 - Comparison group includes youth who also experienced homelessness but who never visited YouthLink.
 - Comparison group members may have received services from other organizations.
 - Only YouthLink had increased access provided by the Youth Opportunity Center.



Outcomes of interest:

✓ Educational outcomes	✓ Justice outcomes
✓ Housing outcomes	✓ Financial outcomes

Interpreting Results

 or  = statistically significant higher or lower estimated effect, and clearly favorable outcome effect

 = statistically significant higher or lower estimated effect, but favorability of outcome is open to interpretation

 or  = statistically significant higher or lower estimated adjusted effect, and clearly unfavorable outcome effect

Results

Statistically Significant Adjusted Long-term Outcomes, YouthLink Cohort versus Comparison Group, 2011-2016

Statistically Significant Outcomes	Test Statistic	Impact
Housing		
Shelter use (Odds ratio [OR])	2.86	
Shelter estimated mean length of stay (days difference)	5.61	
Permanent supportive housing use (OR)	1.86	
Permanent supportive housing estimated mean length of stay (days difference)	62.71	
Education*		
GED attained (OR)	1.90	
Juvenile delinquency and criminal justice involvement		
Any court appearance (OR)	1.51	
Any court appearance resulting in adjudication and/or conviction (OR)	1.45	

Results

Statistically Significant Adjusted Odds of Receiving Financial Support Programs in 2016, and Estimated Cumulative Financial Support Over Follow-up, 2011-2016, YouthLink Cohort versus Comparison Group

Program	Test Statistic	Impact
Use of General Assistance program (OR) in 2016	2.48	
Cumulative estimated mean cost difference per person of Emergency Assistance program, 2011-2016	\$14.64	
Cumulative estimated mean cost difference per person of SNAP, 2011-2016	\$293.06	
Cumulative estimated mean cost difference per person of any DHS program, 2011-2016	\$532.14	

Implications

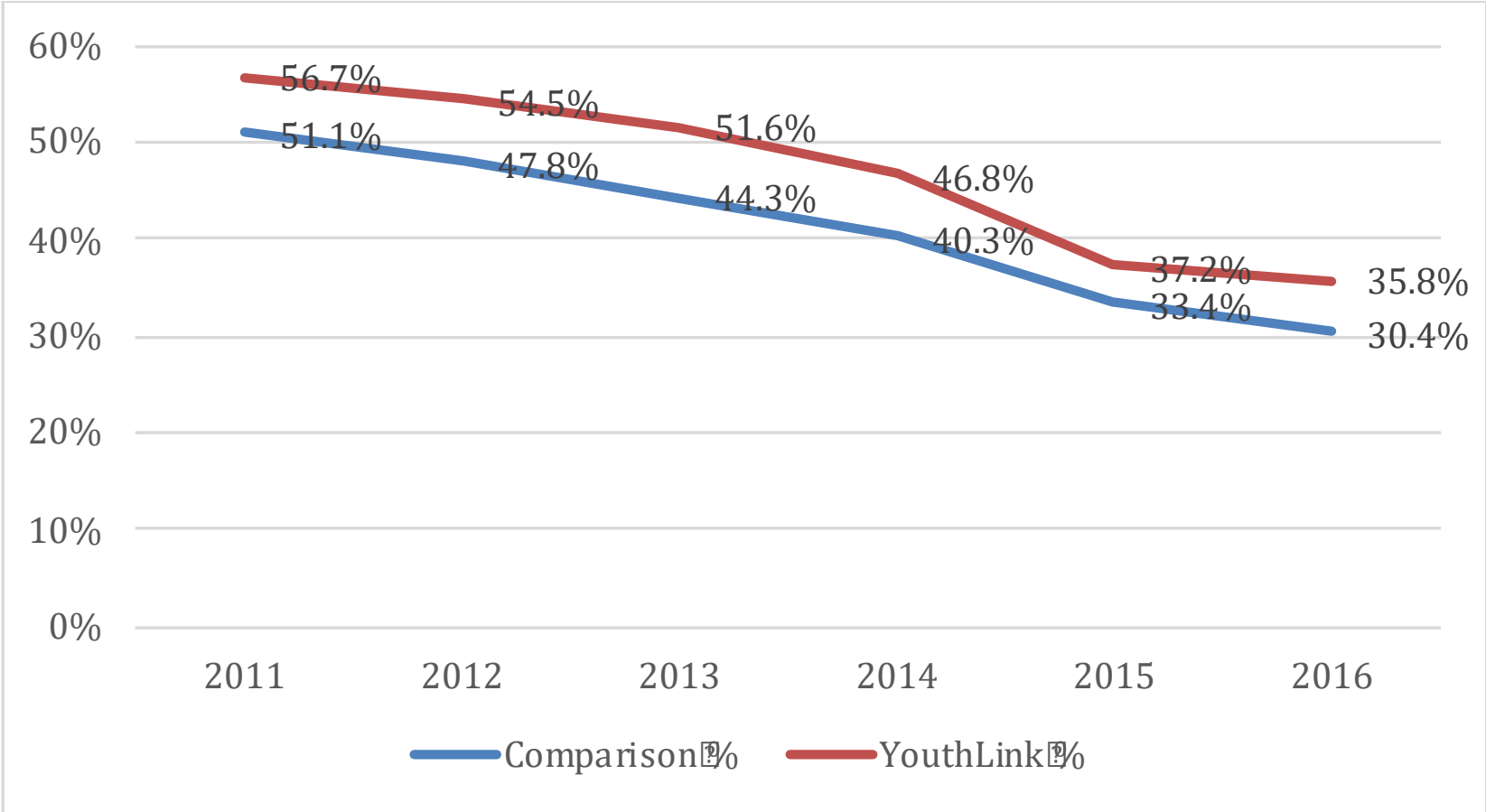
- The drop-in and case management model is effective for achieving desired long-term outcomes.
- This model is itself an intervention.
- YouthLink's staff, stability, youth-oriented focus, and the Youth Opportunity Center likely contributed to positive outcomes.



Photo: Danae Hudson

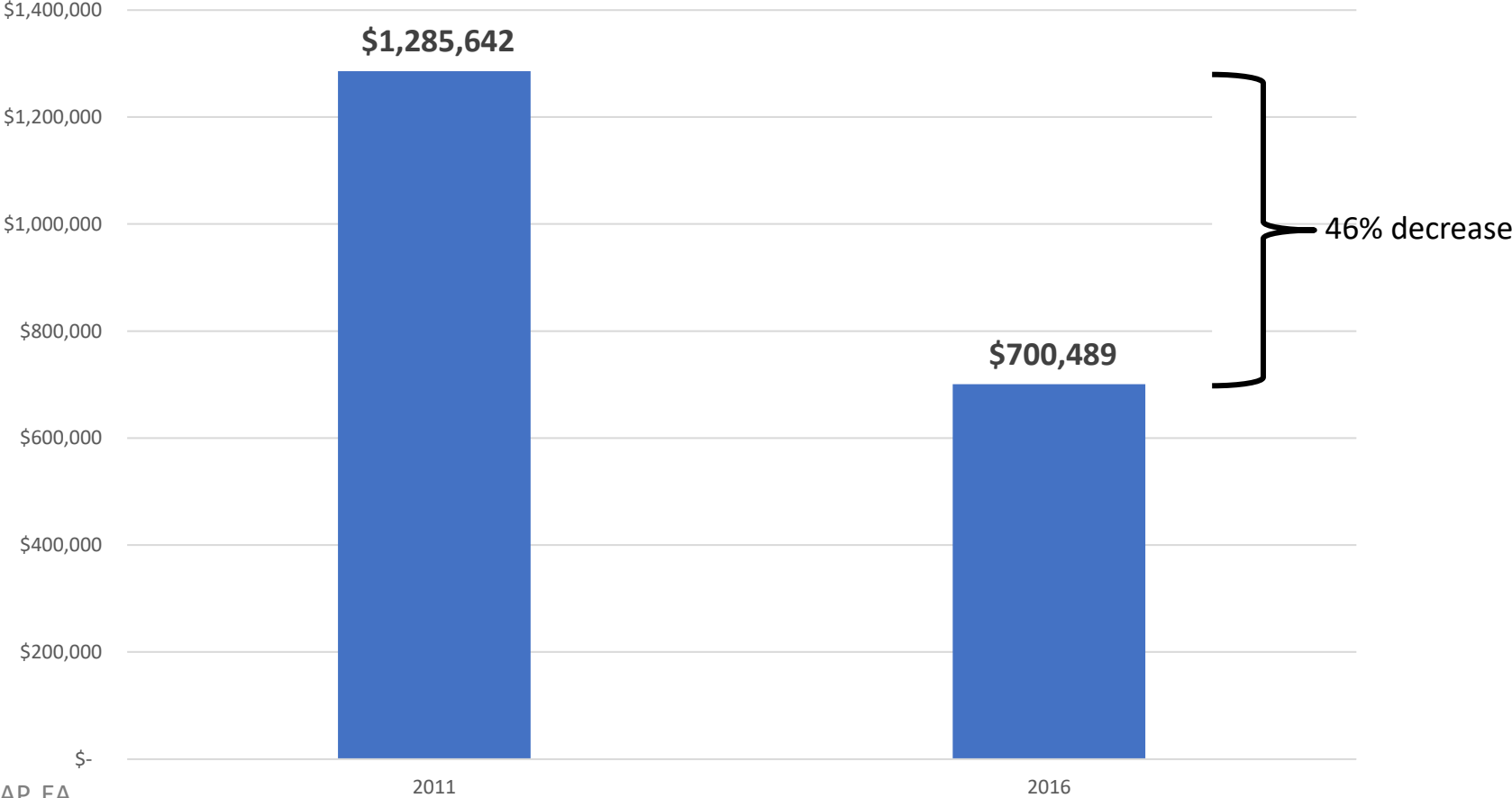
An Additional Finding

Observed Annual Use of Any DHS Financial Support Programs Before Statistical Adjustment, 2011-2016, YouthLink Cohort versus Comparison Group



An Additional Finding

Observed YouthLink Cost of All DHS Financial Support Programs,*
2011 and 2016



*Includes GA, MFIP, SNAP, EA

Do Case Managers Make a Difference?

Study Aim 2:

- What is the impact of the intensity of case management services and topically focused efforts by YouthLink’s case managers on long-term outcomes for youth?
- Approach: **Investigate links** using a “dose-response” model between greater engagement with case managers and interventions offered through YouthLink and youths’ success.
- Same outcomes of interest:

✓ Educational outcomes	✓ Justice outcomes
✓ Housing outcomes	✓ Financial outcomes

Theories of Change

How case managers support youth to achieve their goals and better outcomes

Theories of Change:	Relationship Intensity	Transformative Services	Normative Social Behaviors
Measurements:	Minutes of contact per unique month	Proportion of case notes that focus on specific transformative services (housing, education, legal issues, employment)	Proportion of case notes that involve encouragement of normative social behaviors

Normative Social Behaviors

- Focusing on consequences and life choices.
- Maintaining safety in the drop-in.
- Adopting appropriate behaviors in relationships.

Results

Significant Long-term Adjusted Outcomes by Intensity and Topical Focus of Case Manager-Client Relationships, 2011-2016

Statistically Significant Outcomes	Greater Relationship Intensity*	Focus on Specific Topics*	Focus on Social Norms*
Housing			
Shelter use (odds ratio [OR])		2.0	2.5
Shelter estimated mean length of stay (days difference)		11	11
Permanent supportive housing use (OR)	4.2	2.5	4.0
Permanent supportive housing estimated mean length of stay (days difference)	176	85	206
Education**			
High school diploma attained (OR)	1.7	0.5	
GED attained (OR)		2.6	
Juvenile delinquency and criminal justice involvement**			
Re-offenses (OR)	1.8		
Conviction of felony (OR)			0.3

Results

Significant Estimated Adjusted Differences in Cumulative Financial Support, 2011-2016, by Intensity and Topical Focus of Case Manager-Client Relationships

Statistically Significant Outcomes	Greater Relationship Intensity	Focus on Any Specific Topics	Focus on Social Norms
Cumulative estimated mean cost difference per person of MFIP (\$), 2011-2016	-\$51		
Cumulative estimated mean cost difference per person of SNAP (\$), 2011-2016		\$102	\$106

Implications

- The positive outcomes found in this study resulted in large measure from case manager efforts.
- Caring adults reinforce normative social behaviors and work toward helping youth achieve their goals.
- There is value in supporting case managers.



Photo: Danae Hudson

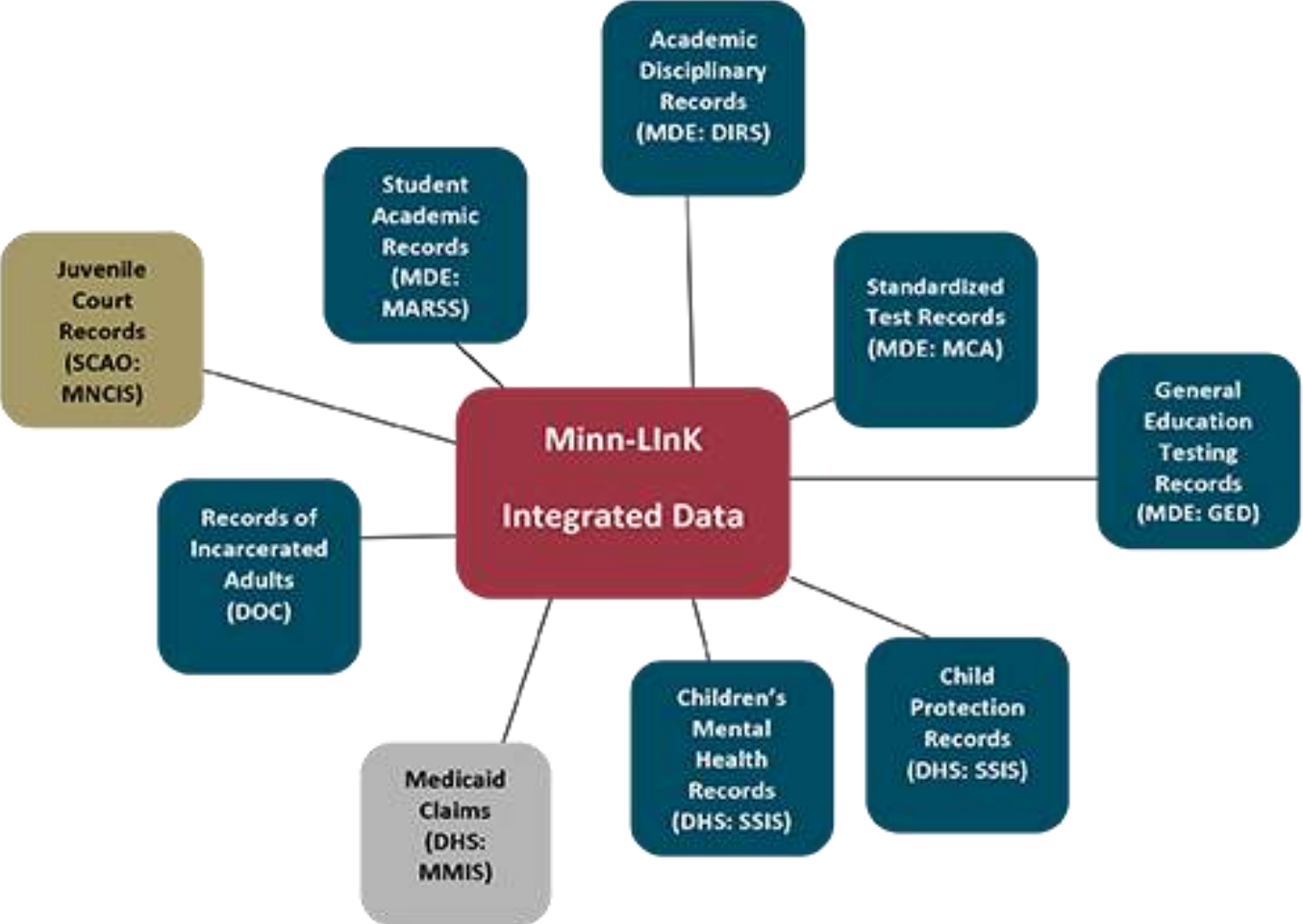
Conclusion

- Enhanced drop-in and supportive case management model is part of the solution to youth homelessness.
- Key components of model for success:
 - On-site one-stop-shop access to services
 - Organizational stability and experienced, youth-oriented staff
 - Adequate case management staff to develop intense relationships with interested youth
 - Case management focused on socially normative behaviors and working toward desired outcomes

Appendix: Minn-LInK and Data Sources

- What is Minn-LInK?
 - “The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare’s Minn-LInK project uses state administrative data from multiple agencies to answer questions about the effects of policies, programs, and practice on the well-being of children in Minnesota.”
 - Funded by NSF.
 - Long-standing data sharing agreements with MDE, DHS, DOC.
- Minn-LInK provided opportunity to
 - Create a valid comparison group of other similar youth.
 - Use data from multiple sources to approximate the severity/need of each individual and statistically control for these issues.
 - Objectively track over time at individual level what happens in multiple systems to 2011 YouthLink clients.
 - Examine associations and causal links between individual characteristics, participation in interventions and key outcomes.

Minn-LInK Data Sources



Data Sources for This Study

Analyzed:

- YouthLink (MARRS)
- Minnesota Departments of Education (Minnesota Automated Student Reporting System (MARSS))
- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA)
- Disciplinary Incident Reporting System (DIRS)
- General Education Development (GED)
- Human Services (Social Services Information System [SSIS])
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- State Court Administrators Office (SCAO)
- Office of Higher Education (OHE)
- Human Services (MAXIS)

Access denied/unavailable:

- Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)
- YouthLink (Youth Opportunity Center partners data)
- Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)