

# Understanding the Long-Term Outcomes of Diversion and Rapid Rehousing

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Westat

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# Presentation Overview

Background of the Homeless Families Systems Initiative and Evaluation

Description of the diversion and rapid re-housing interventions

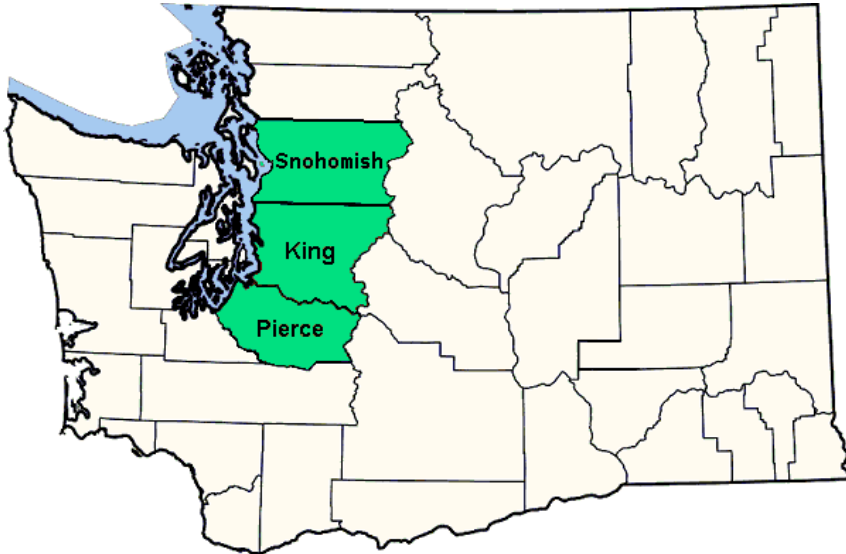
Spotlight on subset of families in the systems “receiving “ diversion and rapid rehousing:

- *Who received diversion or rapid re-housing?*
- *What did they receive?*
- *What are their housing trajectories?*



# Family Homelessness Initiative

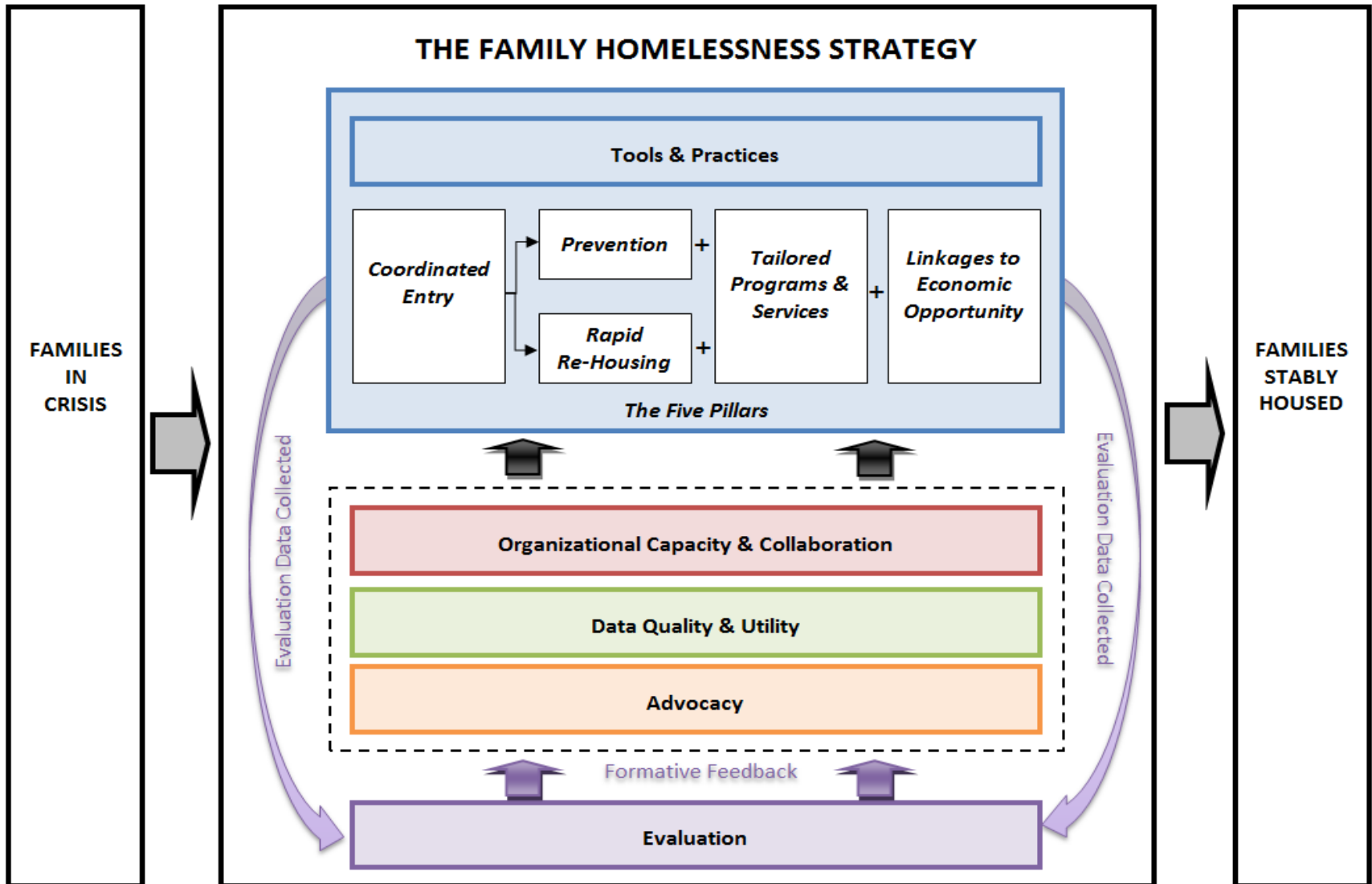
## Tri-County Focus in Washington State



BILL &  
MELINDA  
GATES  
*foundation*



# Theory of Action



# Evaluation Overview

Comprehensive mixed-methods, longitudinal

Focus on development, implementation, outcomes, and costs of the systems

Family impact sub-study tracked family outcomes:

- Two cohorts of approximately 500 families each, one prior to system reform and one after
- Each tracked over 18 months
- Aimed at understanding effects of system changes on families' experiences and outcomes

# Findings in Focus Today

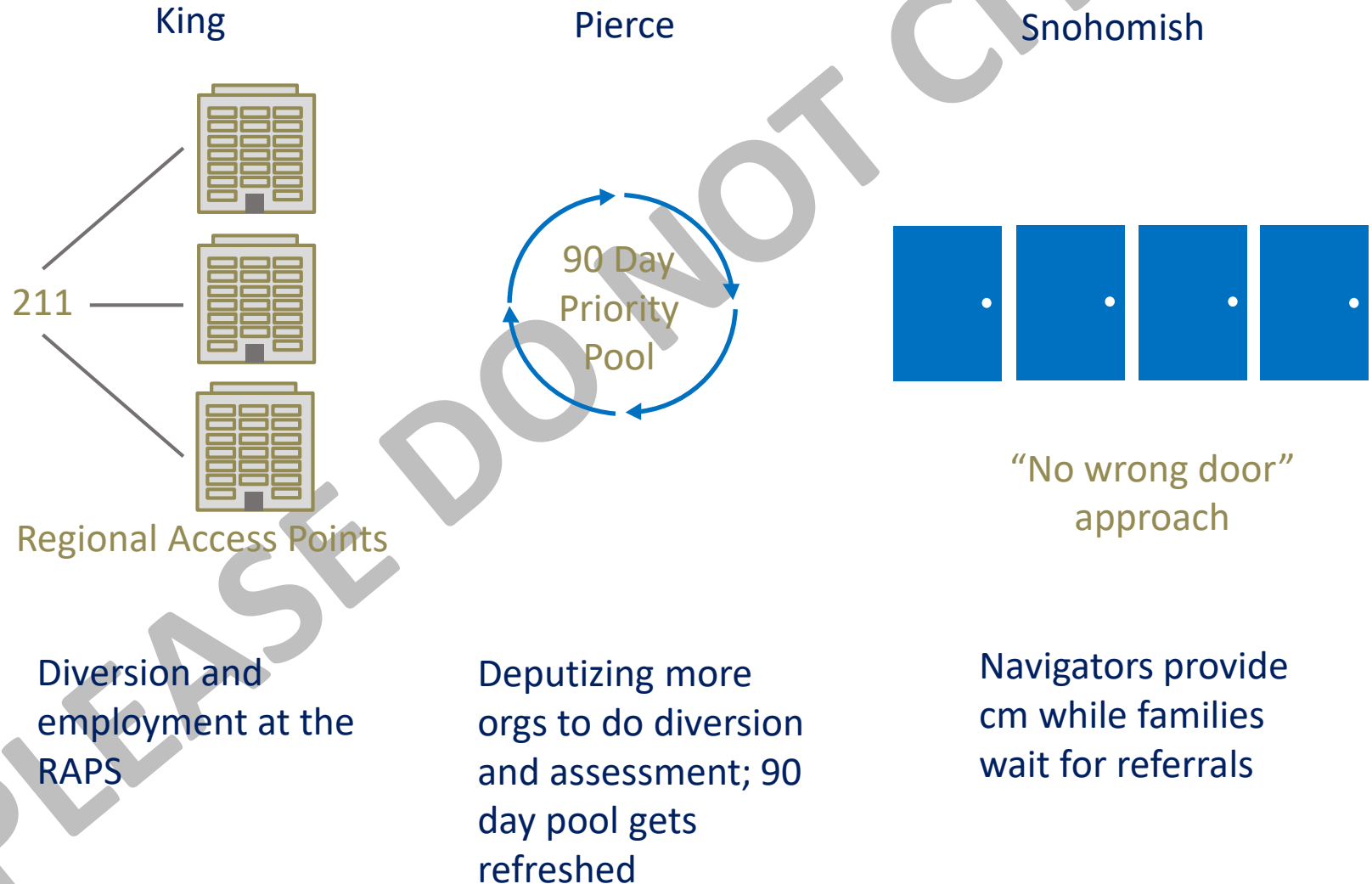
Exploratory examination of families assigned to diversion or rapid re-housing after systems reform (in Cohort 2)

Key qualifications for the findings:

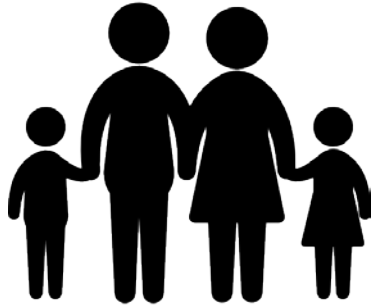
- Families are not randomly assigned
- No comparison
- Cannot attribute changes to what they received (changes could be due to 'who' received it)

But opportunity to understand families' experiences and housing outcomes in the 18 months after assigned to each intervention

# Distinctive Features of Coordinated Entry in 2016



# Diversion Figures in as Main Element in System



## DIVERSION CONVERSATION:

*Brainstorm ideas,  
assets, options*

Family to stay with?

Resources needed for housing?

Resources needed for job?

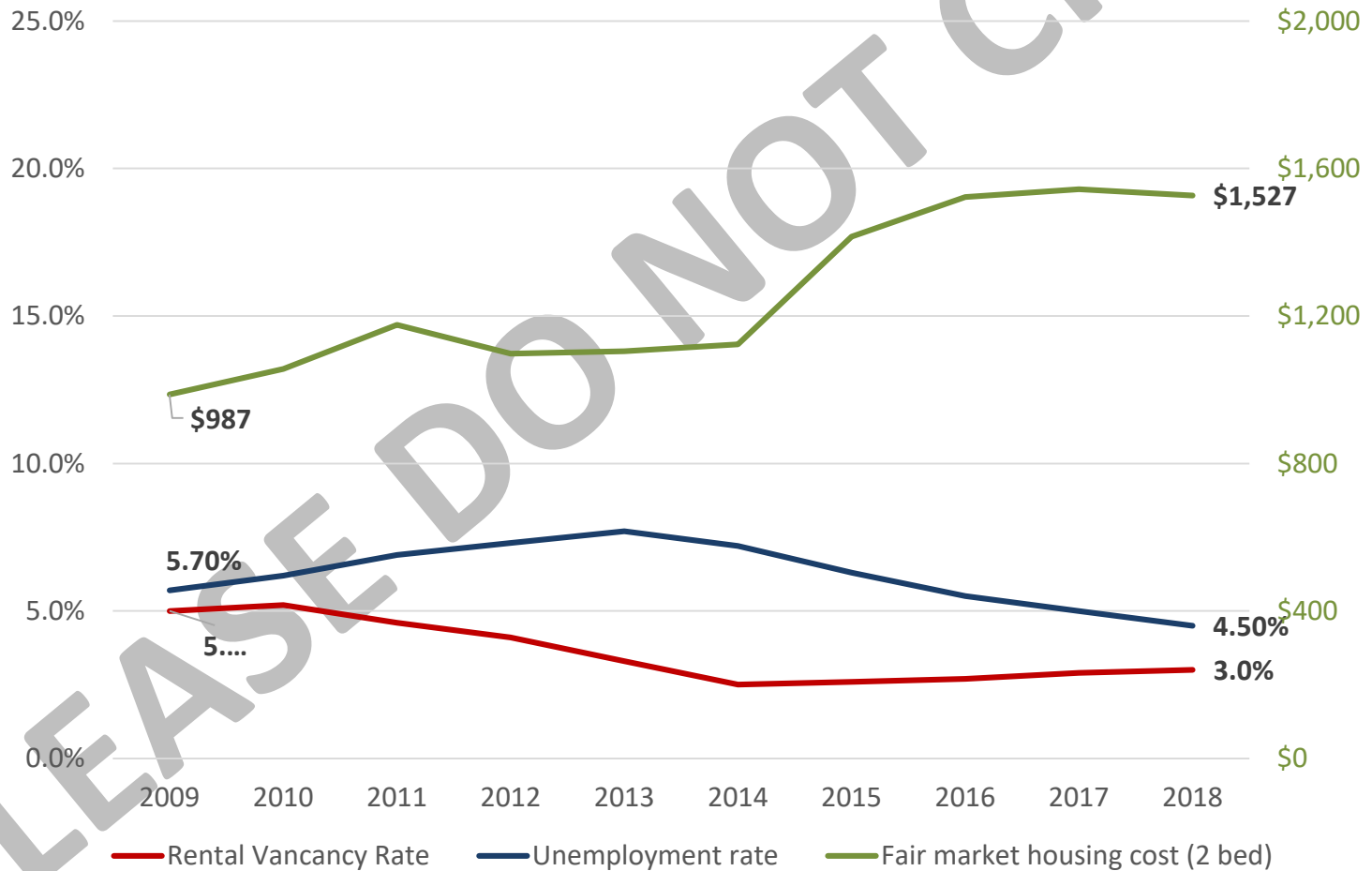


# From Continuum to Housing First

- Rapid re-housing has grown in its focus, initially through pilots and SIGs in the demonstration
- Models have varied within and across counties, usually involving multiple months of assistance with first and last month's rent
- Some provider skepticism about the model remains to varying degrees across counties
- Tight housing markets make placing families difficult



# Economic Context: King County

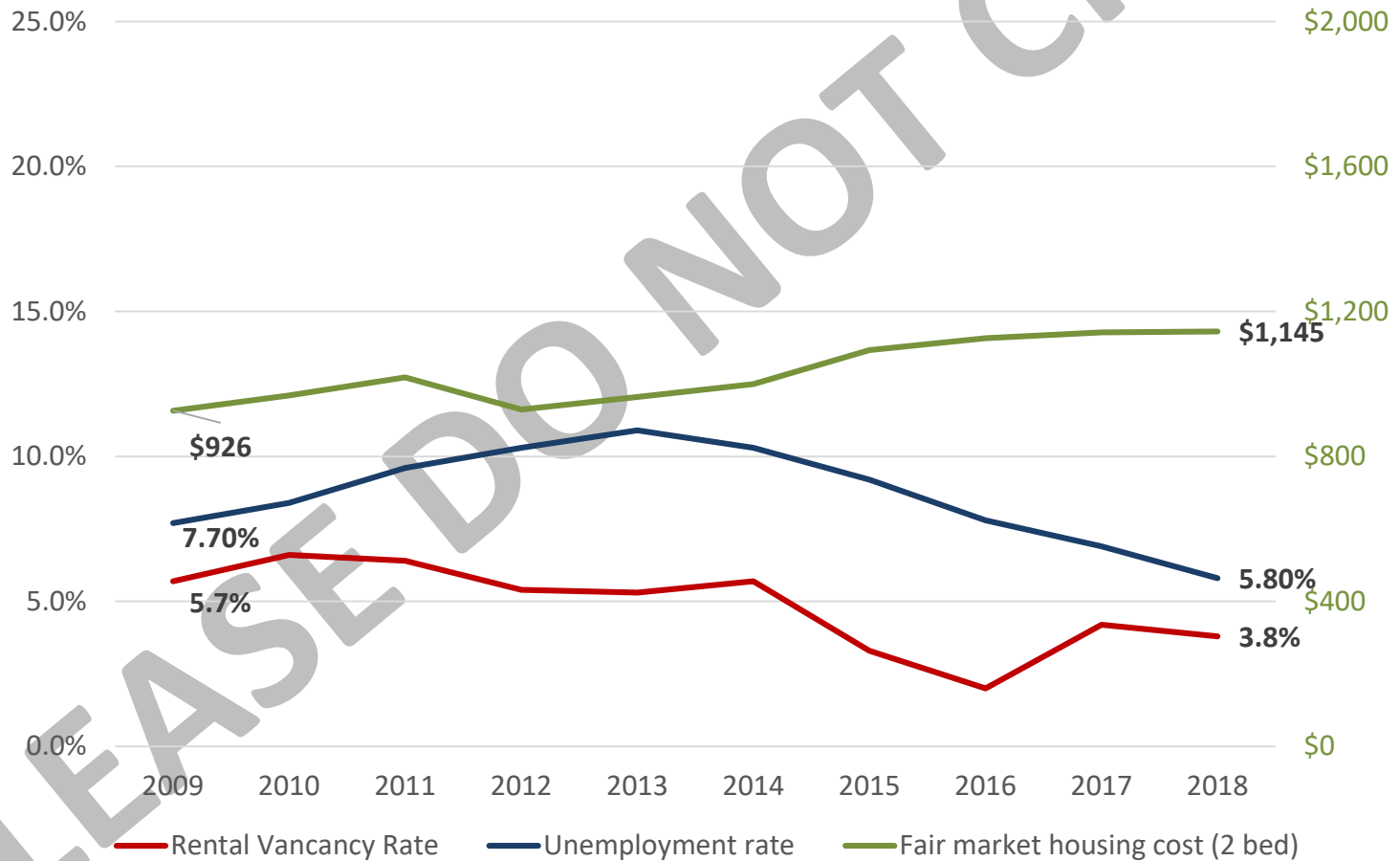


**Rental Vacancy Rate:** American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

**Unemployment Rate:** Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Fair Market Housing Cost:** Fair Market Housing Summary, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

# Economic Context: Pierce County

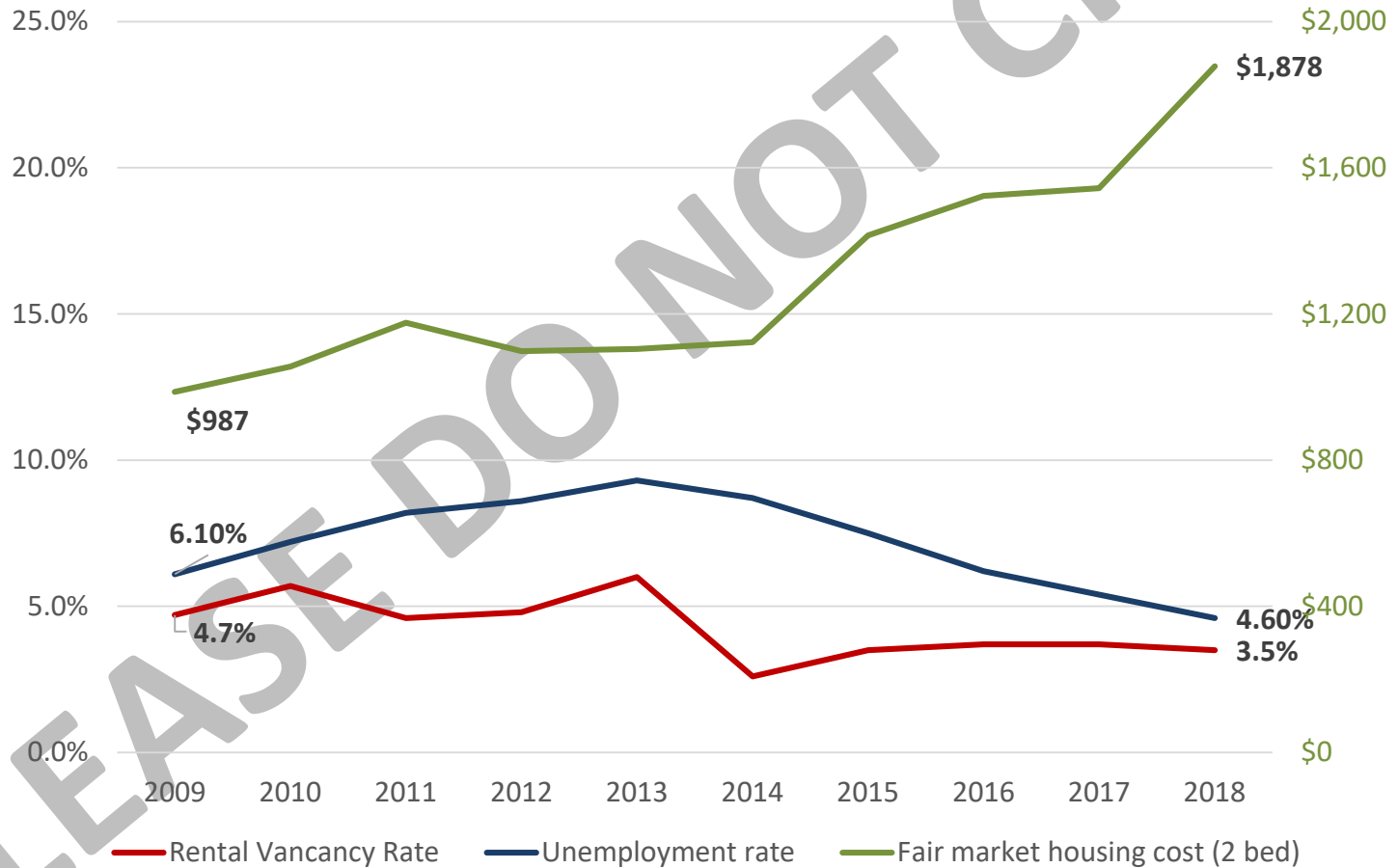


**Rental Vacancy Rate:** American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

**Unemployment Rate:** Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Fair Market Housing Cost:** Fair Market Housing Summary, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

# Economic Context: Snohomish County

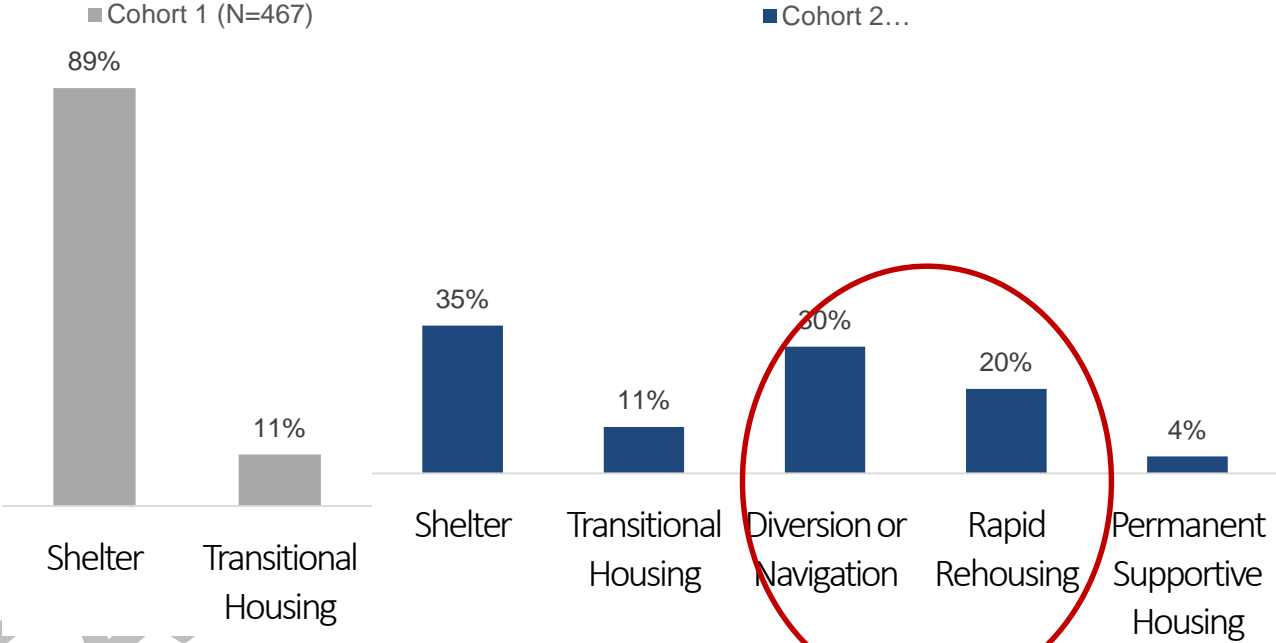


**Rental Vacancy Rate:** American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

**Unemployment Rate:** Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Fair Market Housing Cost:** Fair Market Housing Summary, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

# After systems reform, more families are provided housing-first options



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# Diversion and Rapid Re-housing Subsamples

## *Diversion*

98 families across King and Pierce counties

- 80 families (82%) have housing data for the complete 18 month period

## *Rapid Re-Housing*

103 families across King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties

- 86 families (83%) have housing data for the complete 18 month period

# What are the Characteristics of Families Assigned to Diversion or RRH?

	<i>Diversion (N=98)</i>	<i>RRH (N=103)</i>
Female *	<b>85%</b>	93%
Hispanic	11%	7%
Non-white *	<b>78%</b>	21%
Age (mean)	35.4	33.6
Mental health indicator *	<b>63%</b>	49%
Substance abuse	19%	8%
Spouse	26%	25%
Number of kids	1.9	1.8
Child living away	19%	22%
Open CPS plan *	<b>1%</b>	5%
Felony Conviction	20%	17%
Less than HS diploma	14%	16%
Employed at entry *	<b>43%</b>	39%
Income *	<b>\$1,374</b>	\$1,209
Debt	\$13,059	\$20,288
Homeless in last 180 days *	<b>56%</b>	67%
On lease in last 180 days	46%	49%

There are no significant differences between families who received RRH and all other families.

# What Did Families Receive Through Diversion?

Most received some type of financial assistance:

- Move-in costs (1<sup>st</sup> months rent; security deposit)
- Utility deposits
- Past debt
- Application fees

Some even more tailored:

- U-Haul
- Work license, work clothing
- Propane gas for a month
- Furniture
- Transportation assistance (e.g. bus passes, car repairs)

Some do not receive any financial or material assistance (e.g., cannot find apartment to rent or other place to stay)

Some also note receiving financial assistance through other sources (e.g., child care support; utility support)



# What Did Families Receive Through RRH?

Most received multiple types of rental assistance:

- Multiple months of rental assistance
- Move-in costs (1<sup>st</sup> months rent)
- Security deposit
- Utility deposits
- Past debt
- Application fees

Other types of financial assistance include:

- Moving expenses
- Motel voucher
- Transportation assistance (e.g., gas cards, bus passes)
- Clothing
- Diapers/hygiene products

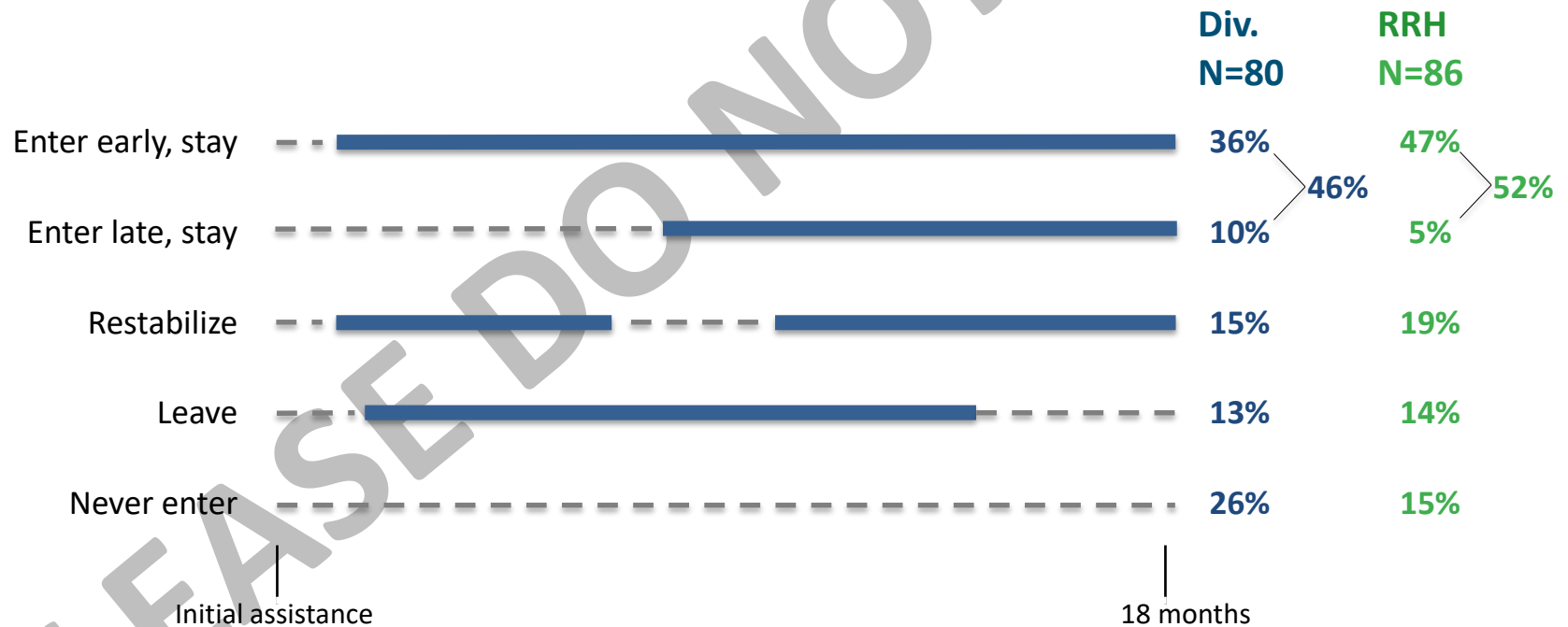
Additionally, families indicate receiving assistance working with landlords, checking credit reports, and connecting to employment services.

# What are the Housing Outcomes of Families Assigned to Diversion or RRH?

	Diversion (N=80)	RRH (N=86)
% in housing more than 1 year out of 18 months	45%	58%
Spend at least 1 night in own housing during 18 months	74%	85%
Among those with at least 1 night in own housing:		
<i>Average # days to enter permanent housing</i>	104	73
<i>Average # days in permanent housing</i>	370	388

# What are the Housing Trajectories of Families Assigned to Diversion or RRH?

## Trajectories in One's Own Place



# Where Diversion Families Stay Over the 18 Months: % Time in Each Setting

% time in:	Own place	Doubled up	Shelter	Transitional housing	Unsheltered	Other
<b>Complete Sample (n=80)</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Stable (early entry) (n=29)	89%	4%	<1%	0%	4%	2%
Stable (late entry) (n=8)	42%	43%	3%	5%	5%	2%
Restabilize (n=12)	77%	12%	2%	0%	4%	5%
Leave (n=10)	38%	27%	6%	0%	25%	5%
Never Enter Housing (n=21)	0%	58%	4%	4%	24%	9%

# Where RRH Families Stay over the 18 Months: % Time in Each Setting

% time in:	Own place	Doubled up	Shelter	Transitional housing	Unsheltered	Other
<b>Complete Sample (n=86)</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Stable (early entry) (n=41)	89%	4%	4%	<1%	2%	<1%
Stable (late entry) (n=4)	39%	28%	5%	0%	10%	17%
Restabilize (n=16)	74%	18%	6%	0%	1%	<1%
Leave (n=12)	41%	35%	6%	2%	12%	4%
Never Enter Housing (n=13)	0%	40%	17%	20%	19%	2%

# Few factors predict being in the stable housing trajectories

**Predicting Being in the Stable Housing Trajectory (Logistic regression)**

Covariates	Diversion Odds Ratio N=73	RRH Odds Ratio N=86
Age	0.97	1.06
Female	9.88	0.32
Race (compared to White)		
Black	0.11	1.57
Multiracial or other race	0.58	1.07
Hispanic	0.40	0.08
County (as compared to King)		
Pierce County	1.03	2.26
Snohomish County	NA	1.40
Spouse/partner	0.54	1.91
Number of children under 19 years old	1.13	1.03
Children living away	0.87	0.72
Education (compared to a high school graduate)		
Less than a high school degree	0.30	0.31
More than a high school degree	0.22	0.90
Employed at entry	3.00	1.23
Income at baseline	1.99*	0.97
Ever convicted of a felony	0.42	0.48
Nights homeless in 365 days before entering the system entry	1.00	1.00
Past eviction	0.10	0.44
Have housing subsidy	17.43*	1.48
Ever experienced Domestic Violence	0.40	1.70
Mental Health Indicator	0.06**	1.67
Substance Abuse Indicator	0.56	1.80

# Summary

The majority of families assigned to diversion or RRH experience housing stability during the 18 month period (even in tight housing market)

Few factors explain housing trajectories other than income and access to a housing subsidy

Initial review of qualitative data suggest:

- Some families who struggle connect back for additional assistance
- Some difficulties in getting and/or keeping housing may relate to past felonies and evictions, and domestic violence

# Implications and More to Come

Light touch assistance warrants greater understanding

Data thus far support tailoring interventions to families, with more progressive engagement

Analyses of families in RRH over 30 months (as well as those in shelter) will provide greater understanding of longer –term outcomes



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