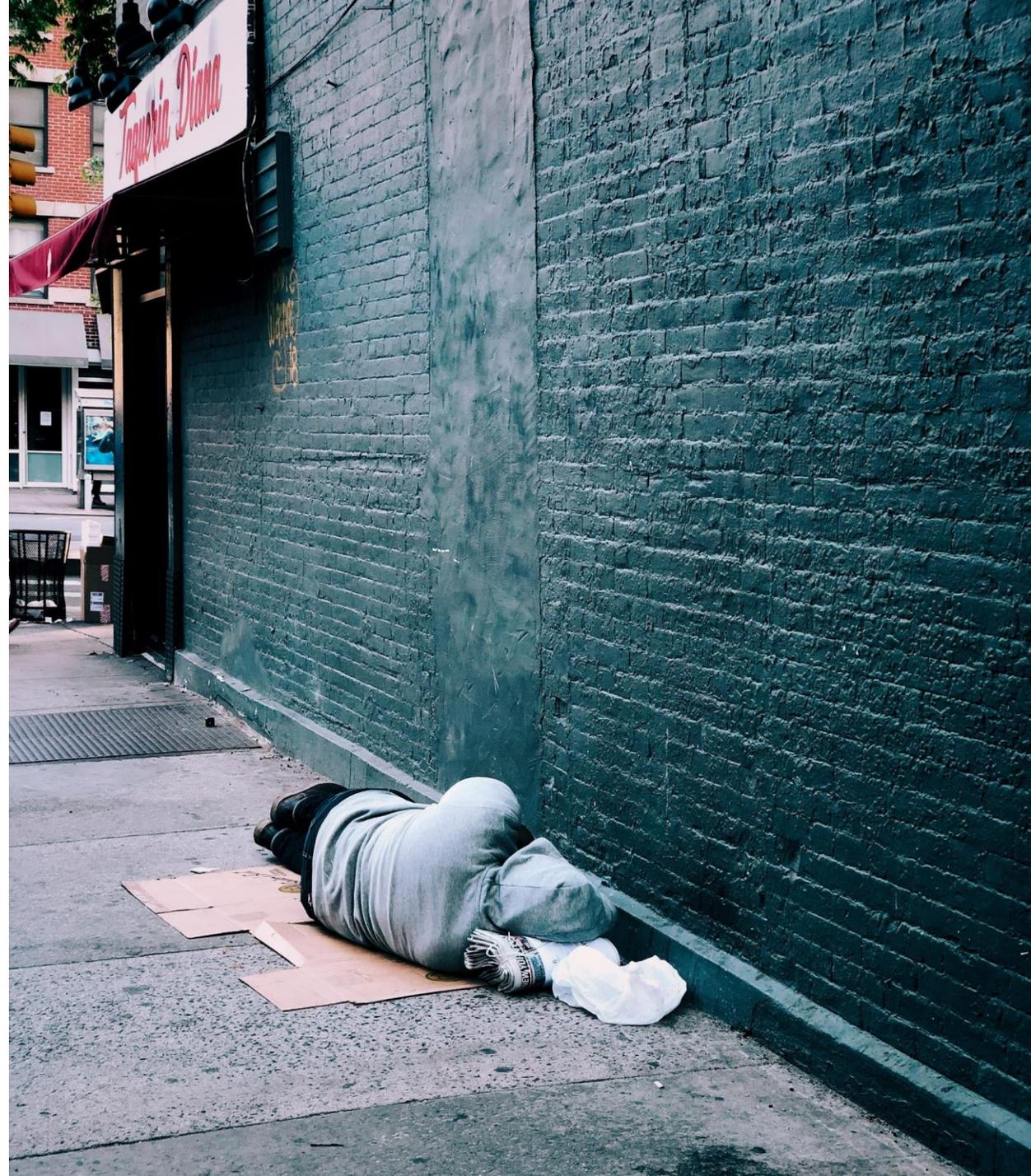




Meeting the Healthcare Needs of Unhoused People: State Policy Responses

February 3, 2026

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Meet Our Experts



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What is the National Health Care for the Homeless Council?

Who We Are

Since 1986, we have brought together thousands of [health care professionals](#), [medical respite care providers](#), and [people with lived experience of homelessness](#). Our Organizational Members include [Health Care for the Homeless](#) programs, medical respite programs, and housing and social service organizations across the country.

What We Do

We work to improve homeless health care through [technical assistance](#), [researching](#) and sharing best practices, [advocating](#) for real solutions to end homelessness, and [uplifting voices](#) of homeless individuals.

What You Can Do

[Learn more about how you can help support our mission.](#)

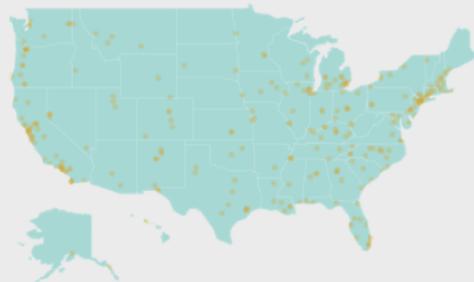
What is Health Care for the Homeless?

WHO WE ARE: The Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) program has been part of HHS's Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) [Community Health Center program](#) for 40 years, authorized under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. Funded and regulated by HRSA, HCH programs are a “special populations” category of health centers that are required to serve people experiencing homelessness.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE: Some HCH programs are stand-alone health centers focused solely on people experiencing homelessness, while other programs are part of larger health centers, hospital systems, or local public health departments. Service settings include health clinics, mobile vans, shelter-based care, street outreach, and drop-in centers.

300

HCH grantees across the U.S. provide health care in ~ 4,500 service sites



Nearly 1 million patients served through 5 million clinic visits



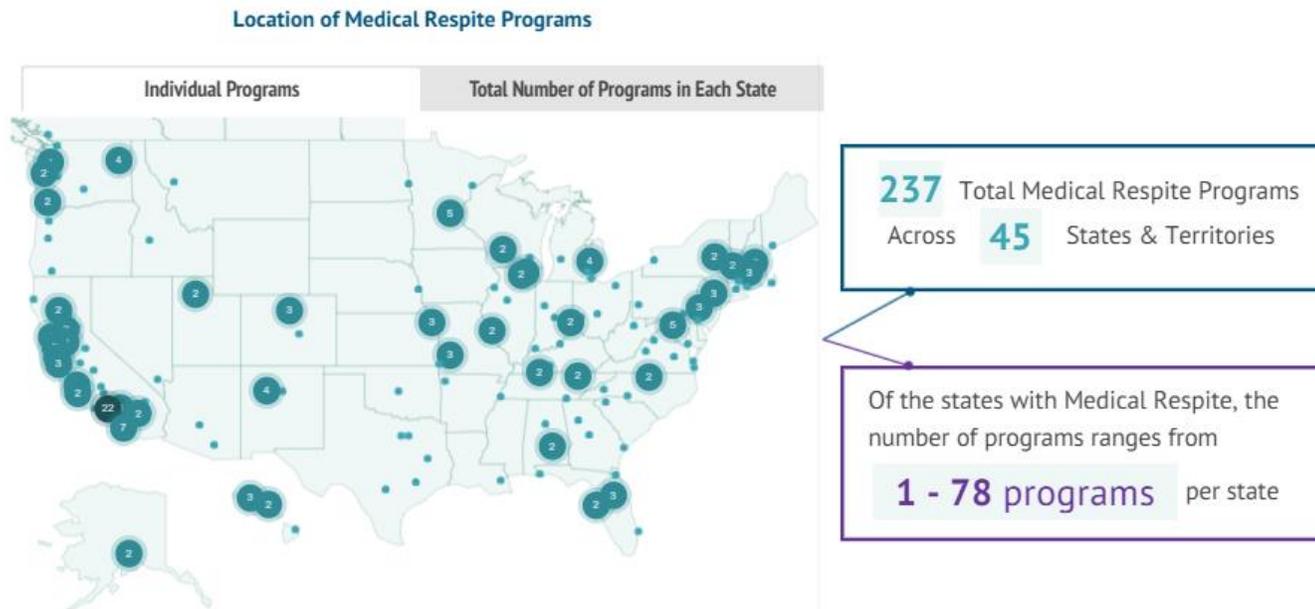
83% live at/below the poverty line



55% insured through Medicaid
28% uninsured

What is Medical Respite Care?

- Medical respite care, also known as recuperative care, is **acute and post-acute medical care for people experiencing homelessness** who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but who are not ill enough to be in a hospital.
- These programs provide a **short-term, safe place to stay** so people experiencing homelessness may have an opportunity to rest, recover, and heal in a safe environment **while accessing medical care and supportive services**.



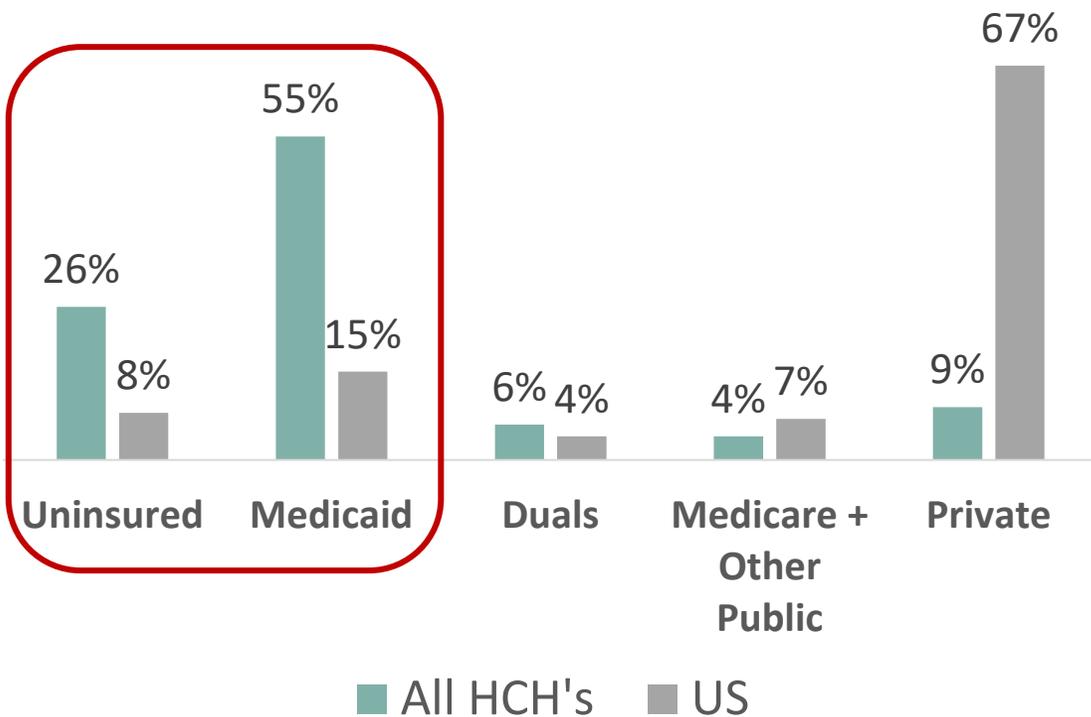
MRC is not...

Medical respite serves as a connector between the housing and healthcare continuum, but it is important to note that medical respite care is not a:

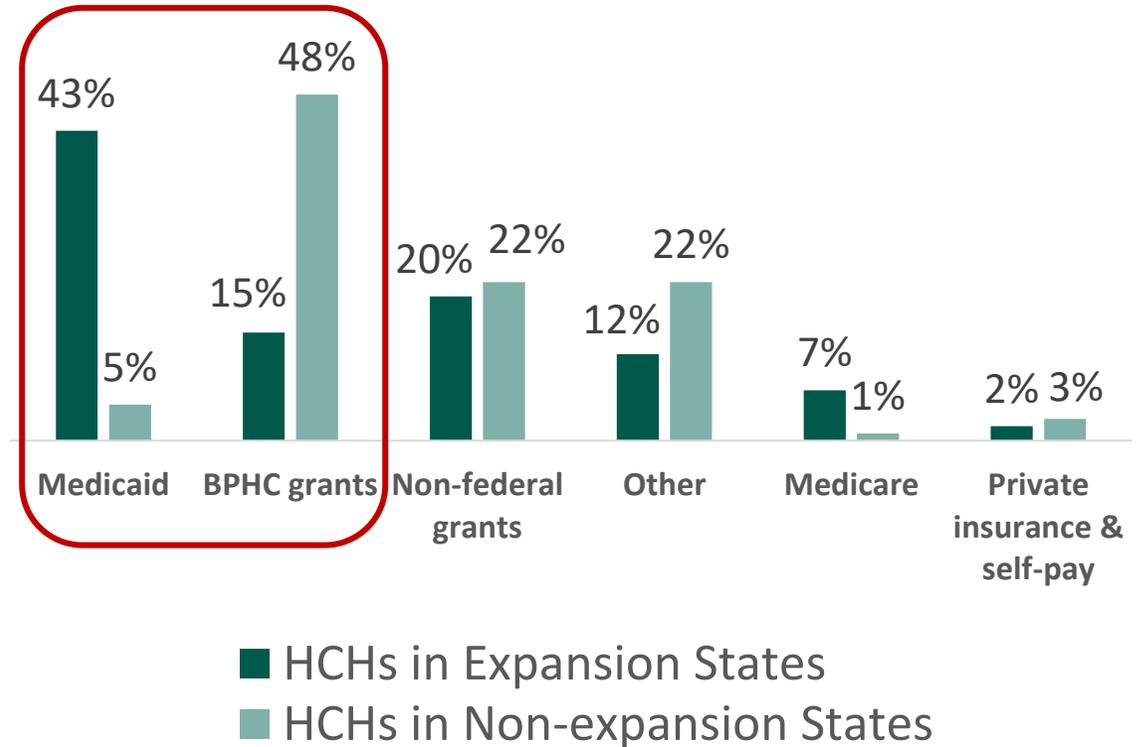
- Skilled nursing facility
- Assisted living facility
- Other long-term care facility
- Supportive housing program
- "Caregiver respite" facility

Insurance & Revenue at HCH Programs

HCH Patient Insurance Sources, 2024

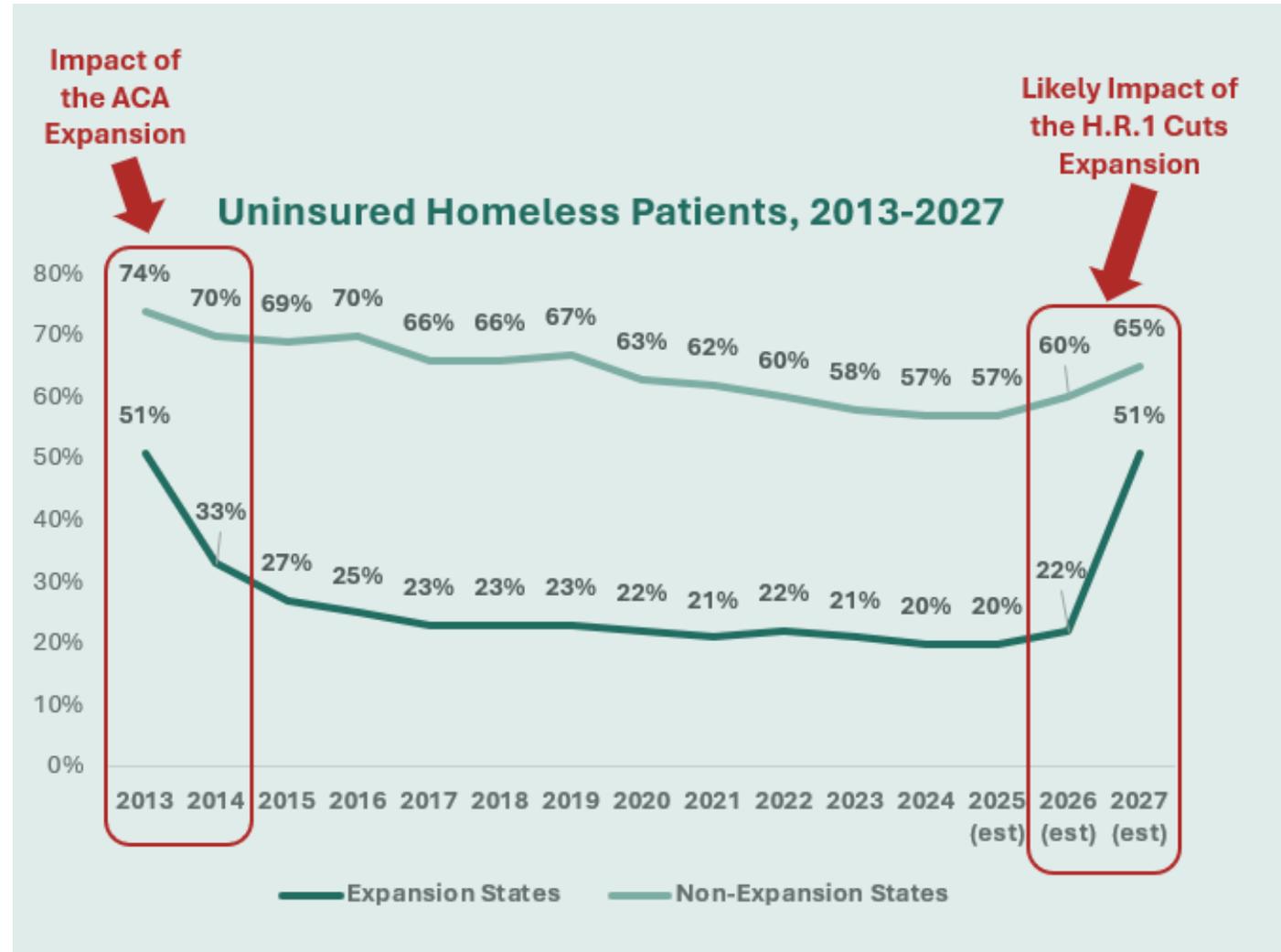


Funding for HCH Programs, 2024



Progress Over Time & Likely Impact of H.R.1

- In expansion states, uninsured rate decreased by **60% since 2013**
- In non-expansion states, UI rate decreased by **23% since 2013**
- Provisions of H.R.1 will likely reverse these trends
- [Our H.R.1 letter to states](#) with policy recommendations to reduce burden of new requirements on people experiencing homelessness



Panel Discussion

HMA

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HMA

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