

Housing Support Services

Leah Ramirez, M.S.
Policy Advisor
Division of Medicaid Services



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

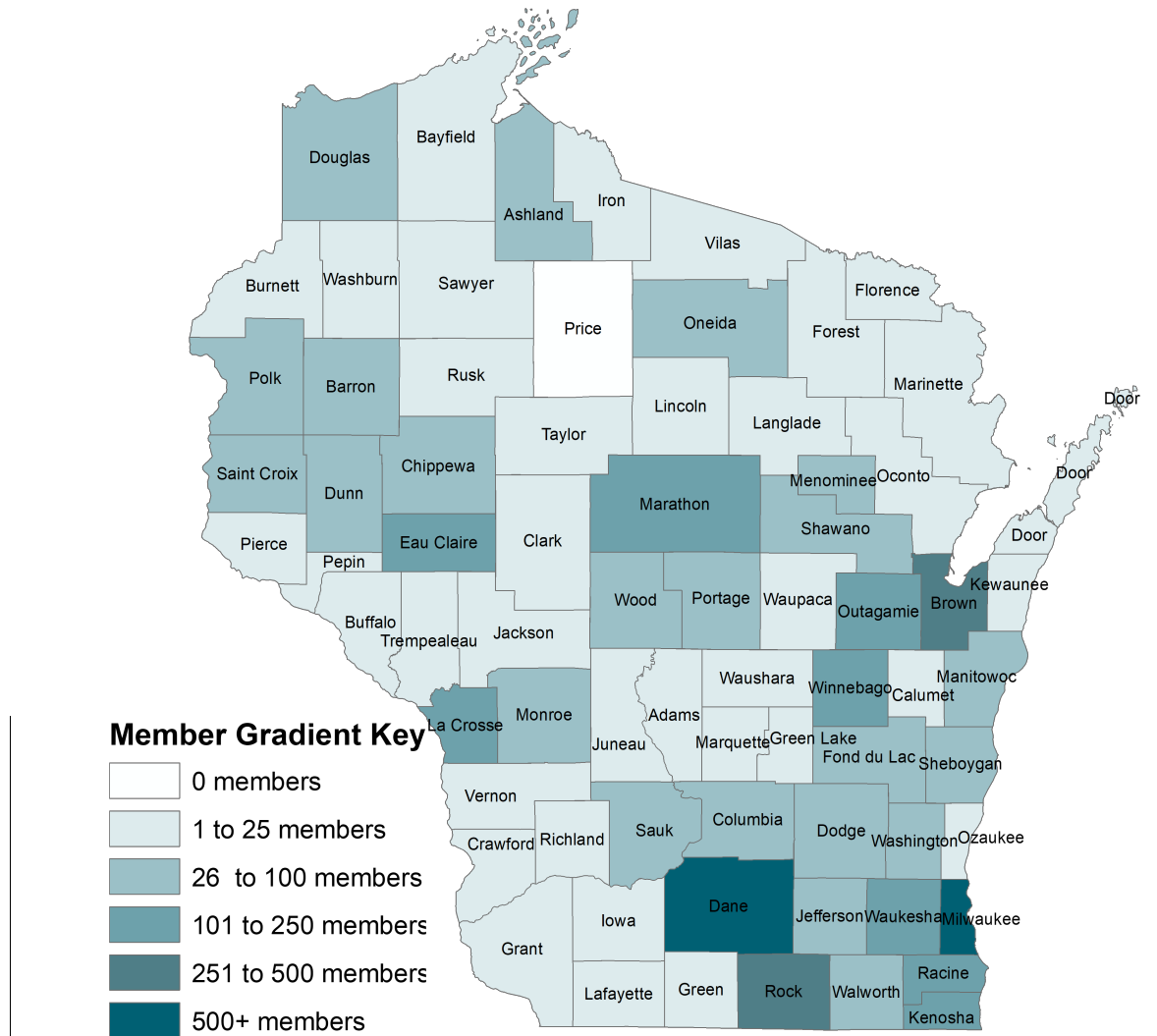
Background

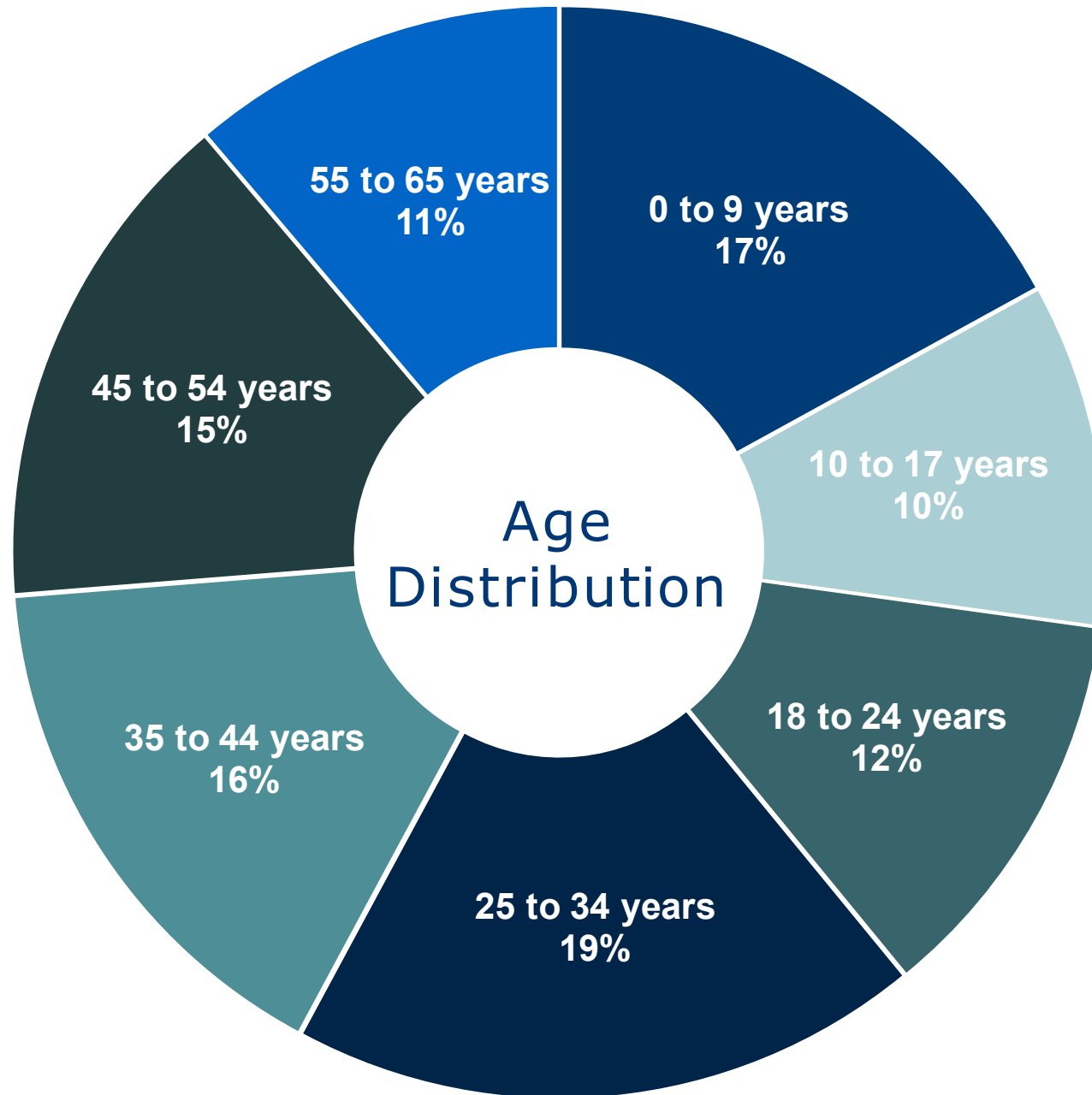
- **2017–19:** Biennial state budget created position in DMS to focus on services and policies for members experiencing homelessness.
- **2020:** Governor Evers signed into law a bill, which had bipartisan support, directing DHS to submit to the appropriate federal authority to CMS to provide housing support services to Wisconsin Medicaid members.
- **2021:** CMS released updated guidance for Medicaid programs to provide housing support services to non-institutionalized/long term care members.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS Data Overview

- HMIS data was matched against Medicaid data to identify members accessing homeless assistance services.
- All data is from May 2018 to May 2019.
- Approximately 6,900 members matched.





Utilization and Diagnosis



3,400 members accessed the Emergency Department
1,000 members had at least one inpatient hospital stay
200 members gave birth



60% had an SUD or mental health condition
10% had an opioid use disorder



\$57 million in total annual Medicaid costs

Housing Support Services



Housing Support Services



Housing Consultation



**Transition and Sustaining
Supports**



Relocation Supports

CMS Guidance

- CMS released a State Health Official letter in January 2021 superseding and updating its previous guidance regarding housing supports.
- The letter reinforced that CMS will **not** allow federal match money to be used to pay for room and board, but highlighted different authorities and strategies for how states can reimburse providers for housing support services.
- Two authorities DMS will be seeking to provide housing support services to more members:
 1. To serve low income families: Health Services Initiative (HSI)
 2. To serve BC+/SSI members: 1915(i) State Plan Amendment

Health Services Initiative

- **Goal:** Support agencies delivering housing support services to focus on **families and pregnant women under 200% FPL** at risk for or experiencing homelessness
- Based on HMIS data, approximately **2,000 children** enrolled in Medicaid alone, and **over 300 pregnant women** accessed homeless assistance services between 2018 and 2019.

1915(i) SPA

- **Goal:** Reimburse homeless assistance providers to deliver housing support services to adult BC+/SSI members experiencing homelessness **and** who have a SUD, mental health diagnosis, or whom are pregnant/postpartum
- Based on HMIS data, approximately **4,500 adult members** meeting this criteria accessed homeless assistance services between 2018 and 2019.

Questions & Next Steps

Leah.Ramirez1@DHS.Wisconsin.gov