

# **Administrative Data Integration and Policy Analysis in Los Angeles County:**

## **The Adult Linkages Project**

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## The Adult Linkages Project: Objectives and Capacities

- Los Angeles County's Adult Linkages Project (ALP) integrates administrative records on indigent adults receiving social and human services from multiple agencies in Los Angeles County.
- The ALP makes use of an analytical data warehouse containing the integrated service data.
- The ALP has the capacity to produce impact information on service utilization patterns, service gaps, the extent of service engagement, and costs before, during and after participation in Los Angeles County's General Relief (GR) Program for indigent adults.
- The overall objective of the ALP is to provide policymakers with empirical information that can support the enhancement of existing programs for indigent adults and advance social policy making in Los Angeles County.

## Methods and Procedures

- The ALP has established a baseline database for a cohort of GR participants who receive County services from multiple service delivery systems;
- The ALP uses an anonymous record linkage method to integrate data across departments;
- The ALP's record linkage method addresses the legal obstacles involved in sharing confidential information by de-identifying personal information provided in administrative data;

## Methods and Procedures

- The personal identities of the individuals in the ALP data warehouse are not relevant insofar as the system is being used for policy analysis as opposed to case management.
- The ALP data warehousing platform provides web access to information on common clients to County agencies engaged in service delivery.

## Overcoming Legal Impediments

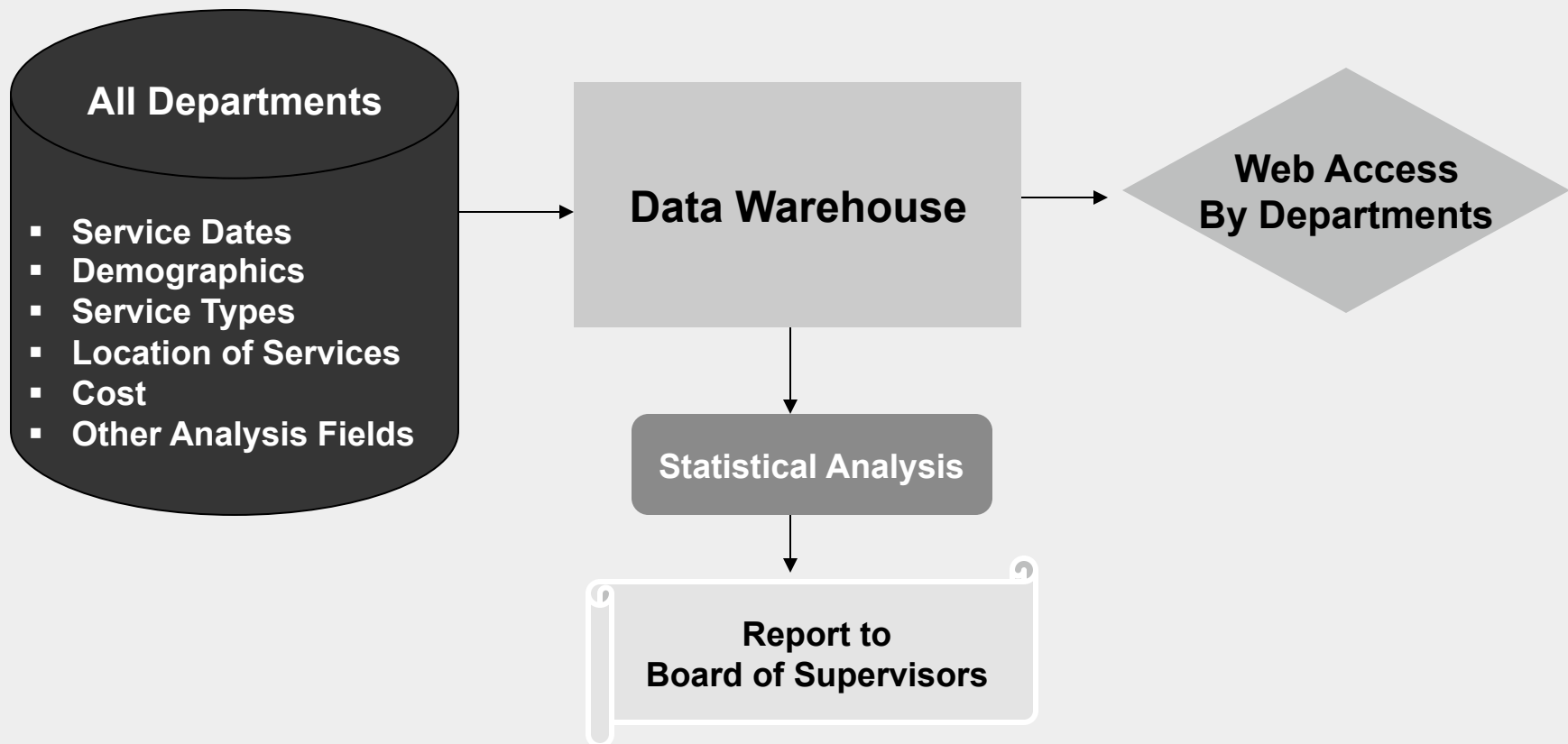
- Confidentiality and privacy rules have created significant barriers to the sharing of information on GR clients receiving services from different County departments.
- This has hindered the County's ability to integrate County services for the provision of services to indigent adults.
- The central legal challenge has been to implement a solution for evidence-based policy through which County departments can reduce the possibility of revealing confidential information and thus compromise the privacy of the clients they serve.

# The ALP Data Warehouse

- The ALP links the administrative files of multiple service agencies: Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Children and Family Services, Community and Senior Services, Probation, the Sheriff, and Public Social Services.
  
- The data warehouse includes:
  - Random project IDs for each participant. These markers do not identify any client personally;
  
  - Historical data on GR participants showing patterns and trends with respect to the following types of information:
    - Types of services delivered;
    - Length and timing of services;
    - Costs of service delivery;
    - Spatial distribution of service delivery;
    - Diagnostic Codes;
    - Patterns of multiple service utilizations;

# Analytics for Policy Making

## Linked Data Sets



## ALP System Access

- ALP is an open access system to nine County agencies who signed a collaborative agreement to implement the system.
- Access to outside institutions and researchers is subject to approval by the Chief Executive Office and the County agencies signing the Memorandum of Agreement

## Integration of Services and Policy Studies

- The ALP supports County agencies in launching pilot projects to better achieve service coordination. For example, the ALP methodology will be used to show which categories of GR participants should be targeted for special programs, which agencies should be targeted, and which geographical regions within the County may require the most attention.
- The ALP supports County agencies in identifying duplicative services provided by multiple independent service delivery systems, thereby producing cost avoidance, cost savings, and service enhancements.

## Policy Studies

- The ALP will provide the backbone for the eventual design of a system that can deliver services to GR participants in a coordinated, integrated and targeted manner.
- Using the ALP, we have recently completed a cost savings study of a pilot project for homeless persons receiving a rental subsidy:

\*The study, 'Examining the Cost Effectiveness of Los Angeles County's Homeless Prevention Initiative', was prepared for the County Board of Supervisors.

## Policy Studies and Governance

- We have planned a series of policy studies to examine the cost effectiveness of Los Angeles County's Homeless Prevention Initiative.
- A major study using ALP is being planned to enhance and integrate multiple service delivery systems for indigent adults.
- Using the ALP model, we are planning to expand the data warehouse to integrate service delivery information for families and children to advance social policy making in Los Angeles County.

# Thank You

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