# MIRACLE MONEY CALIFORNIA

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# Executive summary

"Everyone is someone's somebody"

— Kevin F. Adler, Founder & CEO

Miracle
Messages

## Overview

In May of 2022, we began recruitment into a randomized controlled trial to study the impact of Miracle Money (M$), which is a basic income and social support intervention for people experiencing homelessness. Since then, 103 people experiencing homelessness in either the San Francisco Bay Area or Los Angeles County have been randomly selected to receive $750 per month for 1 year.

A full description of the study protocols can be found here:

https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-3287846/v1

This report provides a description of those selected to receive Miracle Money and how they spent their money. It also compares how the 69 people who have received at least 6 monthly payments are doing compared to a control group (n=86) who accessed usual homeless services.
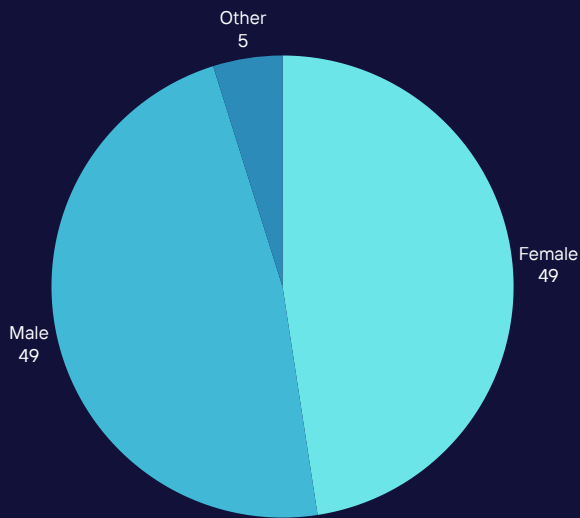
Two key findings thus far include that people who received M$ for 6 months are:

- Less likely to be unsheltered as compared to those who accessed usual services;
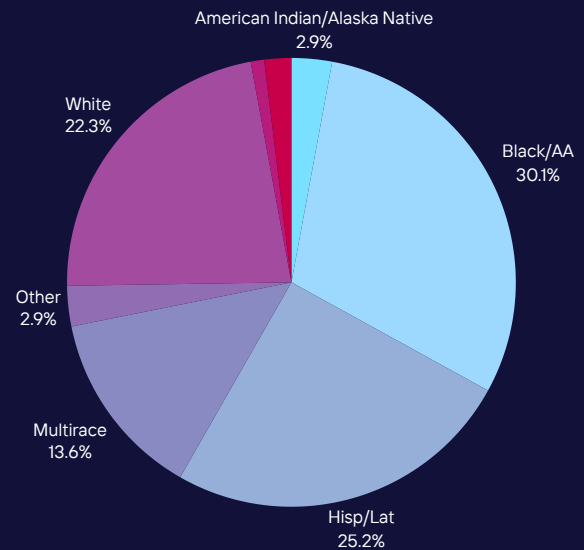- Less likely to have unmet basic needs as compared to those who accessed usual services.

# Demographic characteristics of people receiving guaranteed income (n=103)
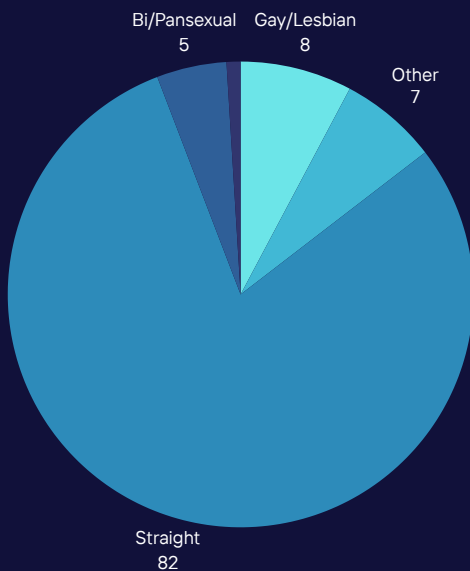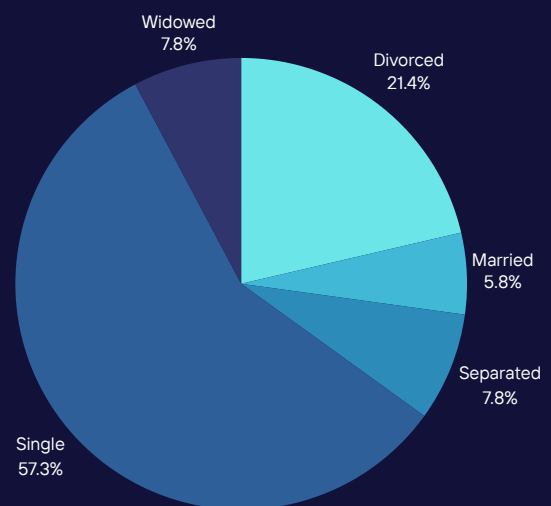
## Average Age: 47

## Gender



- Other 5
- Female 49
- Male 49

## Race



- American Indian/Alaska Native 2.9%
- White 22.3%
- Black/AA 30.1%
- Other 2.9%
- Multirace 13.6%
- Hisp/Lat 25.2%

## Sexual Orientation



- Bi/Pansexual 5
- Gay/Lesbian 8
- Other 7
- Straight 82

## Relationship Status



- Widowed 7.8%
- Divorced 21.4%
- Married 5.8%
- Separated 7.8%
- Single 57.3%
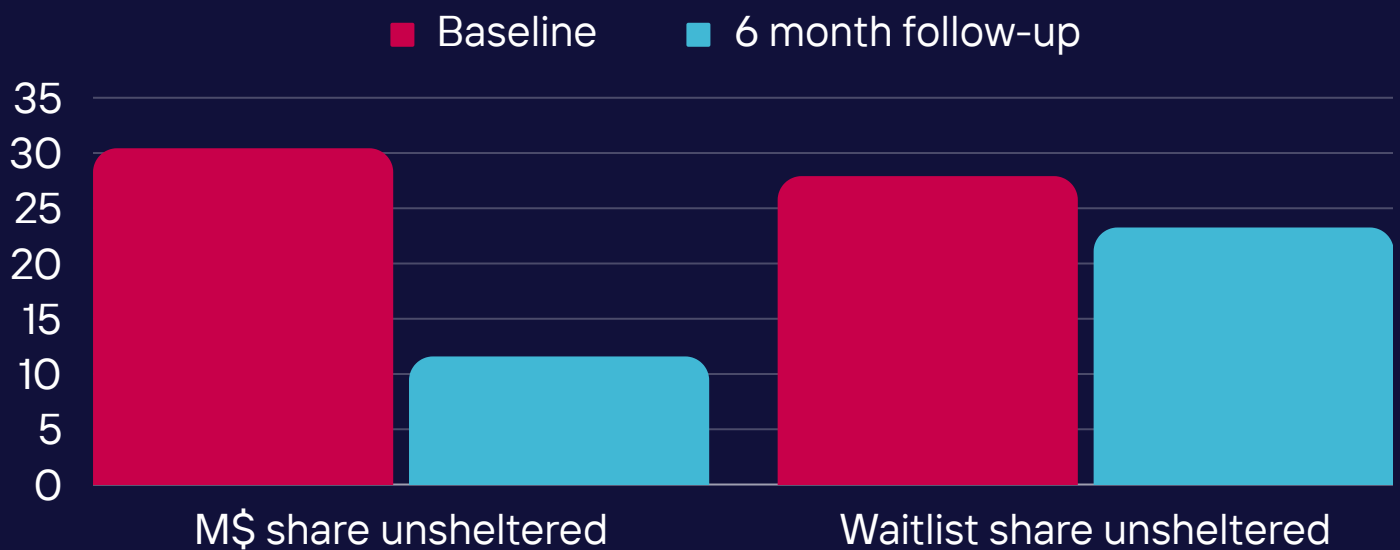
# Key findings

For people who received M$, the proportion of people who reported spending time unsheltered in the past month decreased from 30% at baseline to under 12% at the 6-month follow-up, which was a statistically significant change (p<.05) . For those in the control group, a modest decrease from 28% to 23% was not statistically significant.



People who received M$ also reported significantly less unmet basic needs on a scale of 1 (i.e., "Completely") to 5 (i.e., "Not at all") after 6 months (p<.05) as compared to the control group whose unmet needs did not change over time.
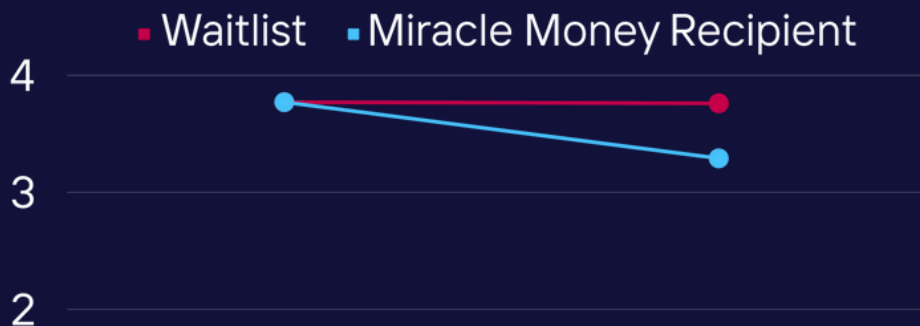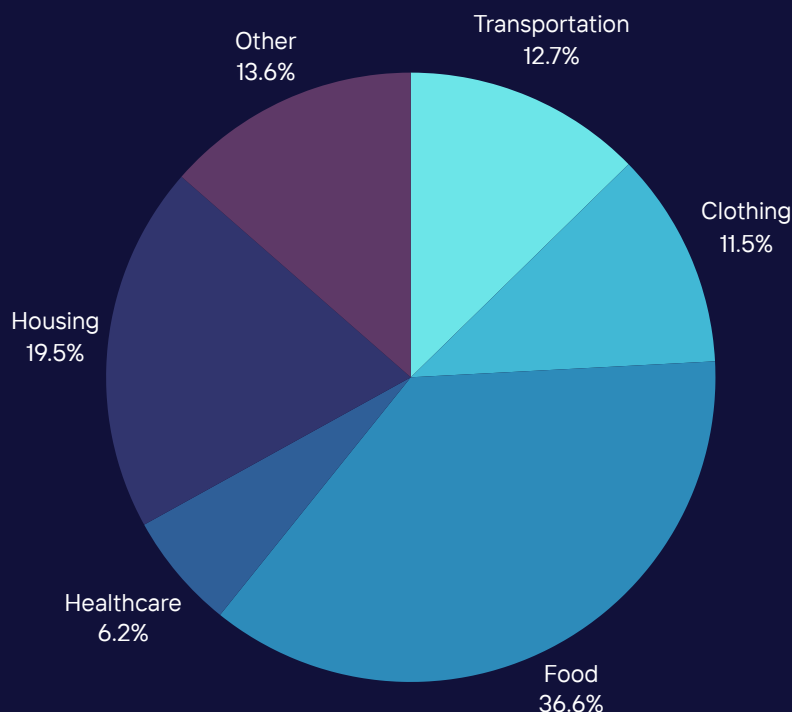
# Use of funds

In-depth qualitative interviews with a subsample of 20 individuals in M$ provide some examples of how people are spending money.

"I used the money to catch up on bills. I did a car repair that was gruesomely needed, right back brakes, playing catch up on some deferred maintenance on the car, making a couple payments. Catching my phone payment up."

"I live in a Tiny Homes Site and the food here is not diabetic friendly. And so now I can buy healthier food, eat a salad or something healthier."

"I spent a lot of the money on food on the go. Simple, cheap things like bean and cheese burritos. I eat on the run while I bike/work for DoorDash. I also bought a membership to REI, so I could get my bike fixed for free."

The figure below shows the self-reported monthly budget allocation (at month 6) from those receiving M$. The single biggest expense was for food with 37% of monthly income being spent on food, followed by 20% on housing expenses, 13% on transportation, and 12% on clothing. Healthcare costs only made up 6% of monthly expenses with the remaining 14% on other expenses.



Pie chart showing monthly budget allocation:
- Transportation 12.7%
- Clothing 11.5%
- Food 36.6%
- Healthcare 6.2%
- Housing 19.5%
- Other 13.6%

# Conclusion

Data collection for this experiment is scheduled to end by October 2024 with a final report expected by the end of 2024. Additional interim reports are expected in the first half of 2024 and can be found at:

[https://dworakpeck.usc.edu/research/centers/homelessness-housing-health-equity](https://dworakpeck.usc.edu/research/centers/homelessness-housing-health-equity)

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