

# Identifying Medical Care at Low-Barrier Harm Reduction Housing Sites

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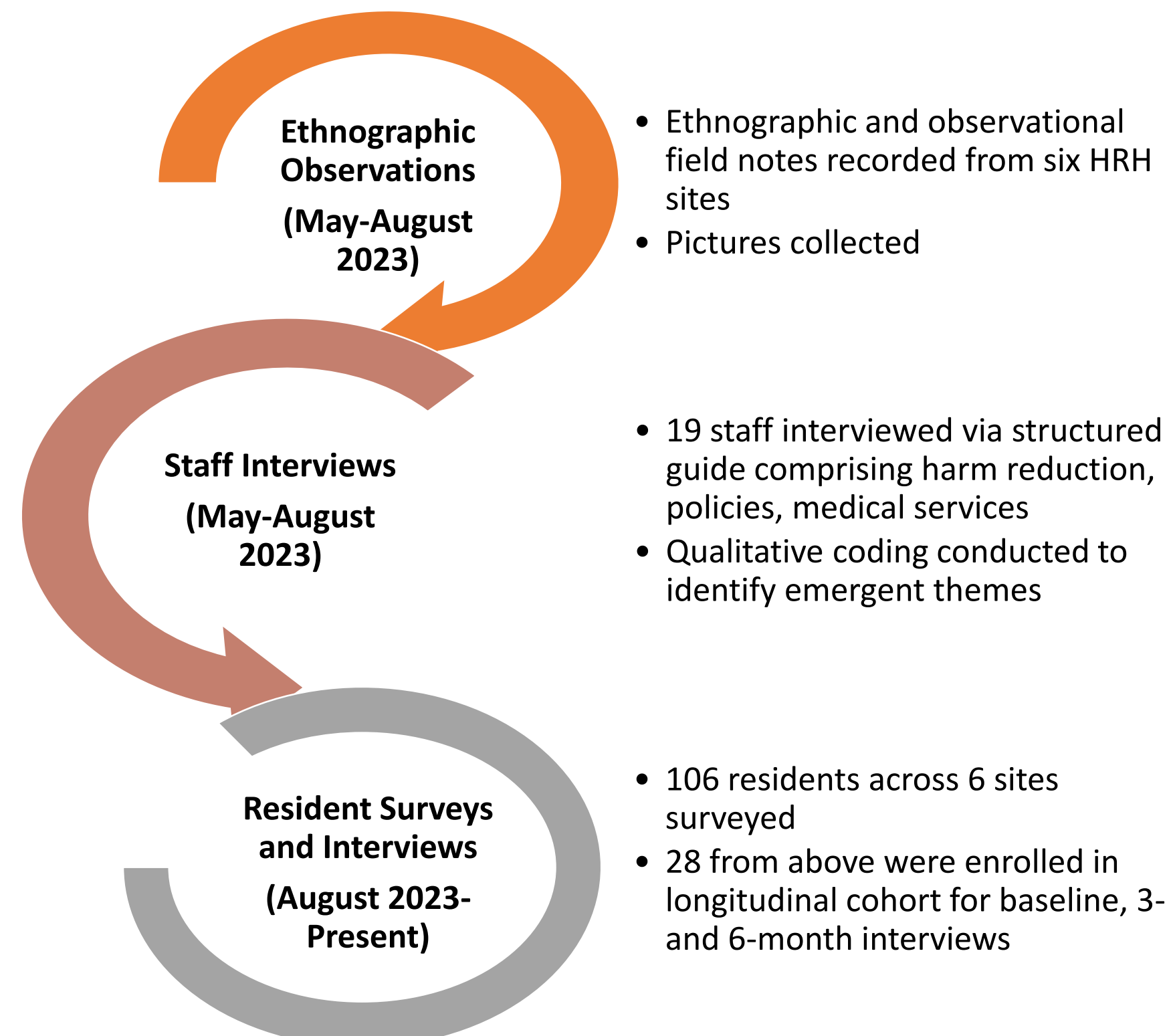
## Background

- Cities around the U.S have pursued sweeps in response to increasing tent encampments
- The city of Boston aimed to re-house those effected by the sweeps in novel harm reduction housing (HRH) where sobriety is not required and harm reduction, housing, and medical services are provided.

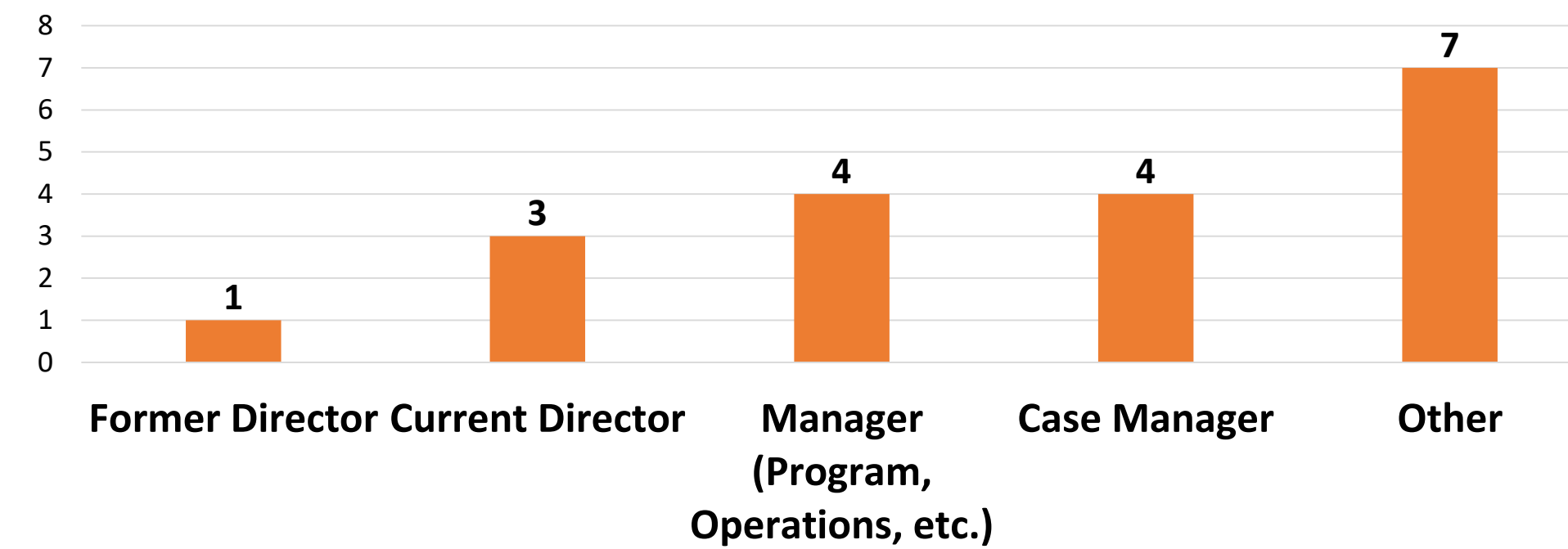
## Objective

*What is the role of medical care in six HRH settings across one city and how do residents access it?*

## Timeline & Methods

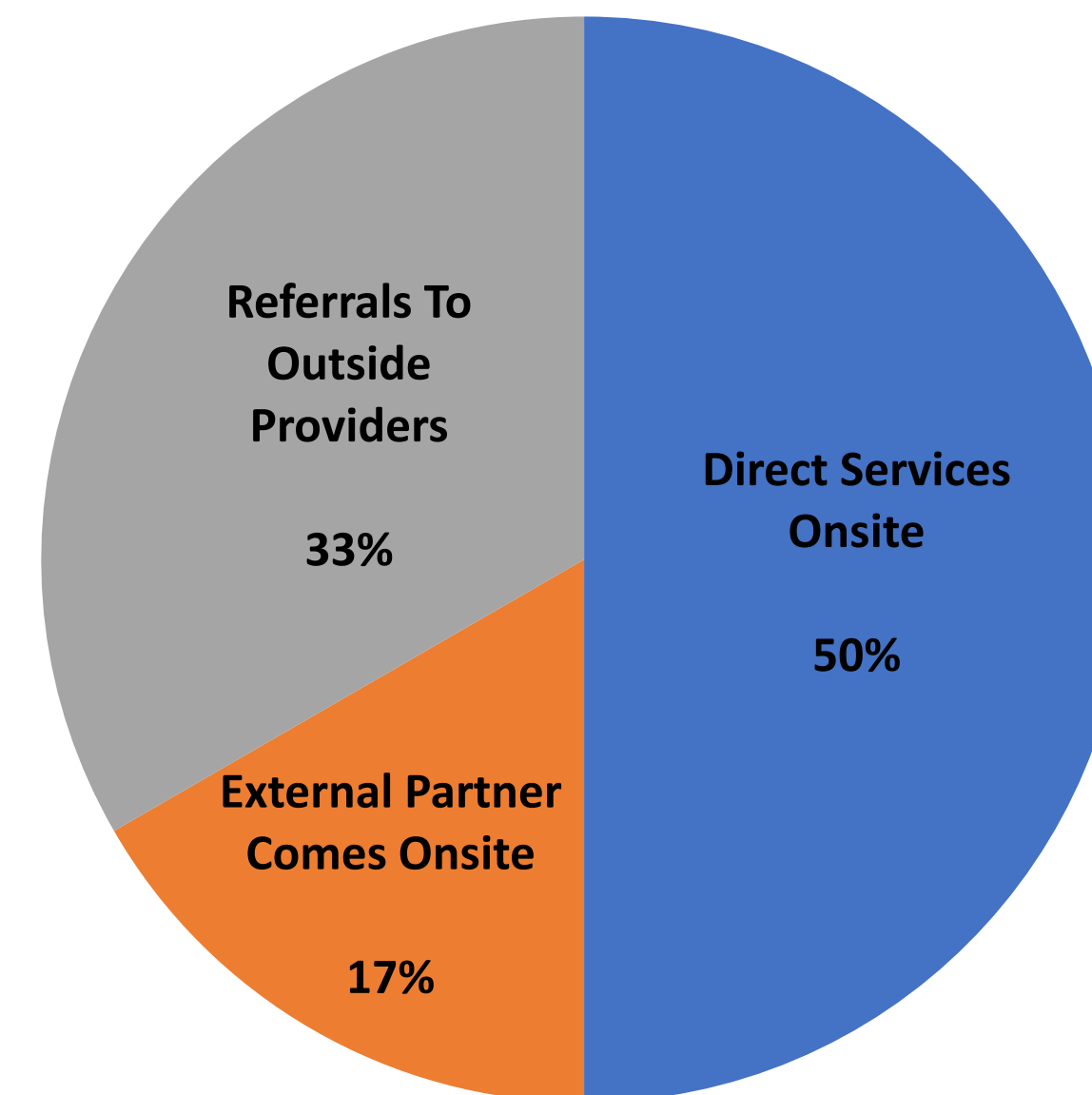


## Staff Interviewed



“Other” included roles such as recovery coach, nurse, Emergency Medical Technician, and mental health counselor.

## Medical Care for Addiction Among Six Sites



One site specifically provided methadone and buprenorphine care initiation: Both staff and residents spoke highly of this capacity and the flexibility it afforded.

## Results

- HRH staff had varying levels of knowledge on materials and services provided (e.g., case managers specifically initiate medication for opioid use disorder, but all staff know overdose protocol)
- Primary medical care in high demand as onsite services – need for health care in non-traditional settings due to more frequent and intense need, stigmas toward people who use substances, and developing health issues such as abscesses
- Psychiatric and mental health care less common among all sites

## Conclusions

- Harm reduction housing locations in this city are heterogeneous in offered services—particularly medical services
- Direct medical care provision is sometimes but not always a part of HRH services
- Outside referrals and staff advocacy for provision of care are key ways for residents to receive medical care

## Next Steps

- Analysis of 106 resident surveys, including quantitative analyses of knowledge of site policies
- Administration and analysis of 28 baseline, 3-month, and 6-month interviews: ongoing process with data collection, qualitative coding, and thematic development
- Additional round of staff interviews in summer of 2024, similar to those conducted one year prior

This study is funded by NIDA (R21DA058581-01). The research team has no conflicts to disclose.