

A stylized map of California is shown on the left side of the slide. The map is filled with a solid orange color and is covered with numerous dots of varying sizes. Most of the dots are orange, but there are two prominent blue dots: one in the northern coastal region and another in the southern coastal region. The title text is positioned to the right of the map.

Predicting and Preventing Homelessness

Janey Rountree, Executive Director

August 15, 2023

**CALIFORNIA
POLICY
LAB**

CPL's Mission



The California Policy Lab generates research insights for government impact.

Through hands-on partnerships with government agencies, CPL performs rigorous research across issue silos and builds the data infrastructure necessary to improve programs and policies that millions of Californians rely on every day.

We work across sectors:

- Education
- Labor and employment
- Social safety net
- Criminal justice
- **Homelessness**
- Health

What is homelessness prevention?



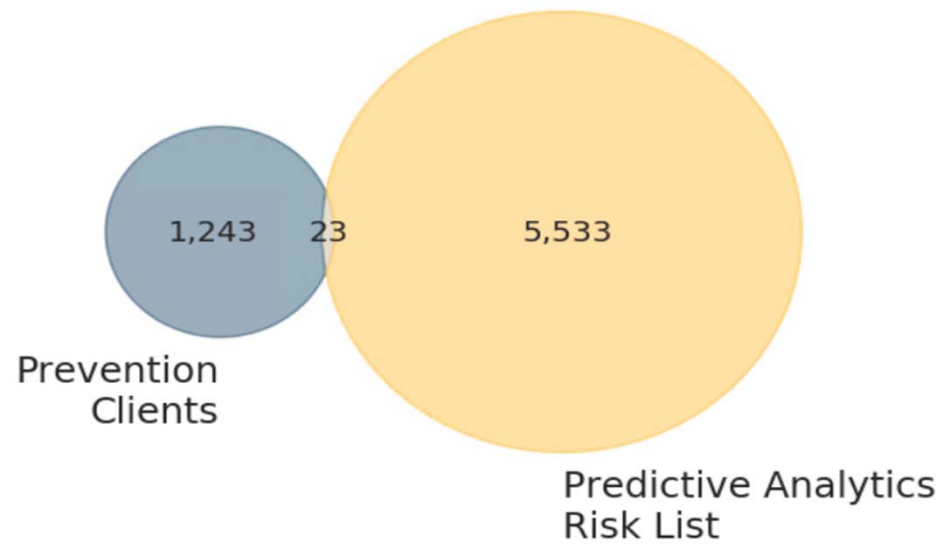
- **Universal or “up stream” prevention:** addresses social conditions that contribute to homelessness
 - Anti-poverty programs
 - Eviction prevention
 - Rental Assistance
- **Targeted homelessness prevention:** Aims to serve people who would become homelessness without assistance
 - Only 32% of people experiencing homelessness in CA entered homelessness from a leaseholder situation. Targeted prevention must reach the people at highest risk in order to reduce inflow.

****Los Angeles has invested in upstream prevention but does not yet have a centralized approach to targeted, homelessness prevention**

Two Approaches to Targeted Prevention

- **Centralized hotline or portal for people who self-identify as being at high risk**
 - Easy to find, centrally located
 - Has evidence-based eligibility criteria
 - Could include additional risk screening
 - Connects eligible clients to cash assistance and legal aid
 - Serves all household types
- **Predictive modeling to identify highest risk group (experimental)**
 - Data-driven process to identify those at highest risk among individuals already engaged in LA- County programs (health, behavioral health, benefits)
 - Generates a rank-ordered risk list
 - Allows for proactive strategies
 - Also includes cash assistance and service connections
 - Clients have more complex needs

Targeting: These approaches reach different groups



Impact evaluation is crucial



- **Process evaluations can answer the question “what happened to these clients who received help?”**
 - Example: did these clients stay housed?
- **But impact evaluations can try to answer the question “did this program cause the intended outcome?”**
 - Example: did this program reduce inflow to homelessness?
- **Impact evaluations help determine whether funding is achieving the desired result**
- **They require advance planning, including before and during program design**
- **Not always feasible, but preferable when conditions are there**