



CALIFORNIA POLICY LAB

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Policy Lab Hosts Conference to Improve Lives for the High-Needs, High-Cost Population

Attendees share new evidence on reducing utilization of hospitals, homeless shelters, and jails

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Berkeley, CA – The California Policy Lab today hosted experts from around the country to discuss new research to improve outcomes for the high-needs, high-cost population that cycles in and out of emergency rooms, homeless shelters, and jails.

“The small fraction of people who are frequent utilizers of social programs and emergency interventions account for a large share of the costs,” said Jesse Rothstein, the Lab’s Faculty Director at UC Berkeley. “Municipalities around California and the nation are experimenting with how to improve outcomes and reduce costs for this population.”

Over 150 policy leaders, academics, and advocates gathered to discuss ways to better serve frequent users of social programs and learn about innovative efforts underway around the country.

The speakers featured experts specializing in healthcare, housing and homelessness, and criminal justice. Participants discussed patterns and trends in utilization and results from new research and interventions.

The conference, entitled *Breaking the Cycle: Improving Outcomes for California’s High Need, High Cost Population*, was the first for the California Policy Lab. The Lab started in February and seeks to pair experts from California’s flagship public universities with government agencies to work on policy-relevant research.

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About the California Policy Lab:

The California Policy Lab is a new initiative at UC Berkeley and UCLA that creates better lives through data-driven policy. CPL's mission is to improve people's lives by generating evidence that transforms public policy. It does this by forming lasting partnerships between government and California's flagship public universities to harness the power of research and administrative data. CPL works on California's most urgent problems, including homelessness, poverty, crime, and education inequality.

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