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Medium-term effects of the Housing first intervention for families with children in Brno, CZ

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Housing First for families in Brno

- ESF project from 2016-2018, first Housing first project in Czech Republic
- 50 families moved from homelessness into standard housing
- municipal housing
- individual support from organization IQ Roma Servis
- RCT evaluation
  - 50 families in treatment group and 100 families in control group
  - baseline interviews and interviews at 6 months, 12 months and 5 years
  - after 5 years evaluation was expanded by administrative data analysis
    - Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic
    - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,
    - Employment Office,
    - Czech Social Security Administration,
    - Schools and educational institutions,
    - Authority of Social and Legal protection of children
    - Non-profit organization IQ Roma Servis

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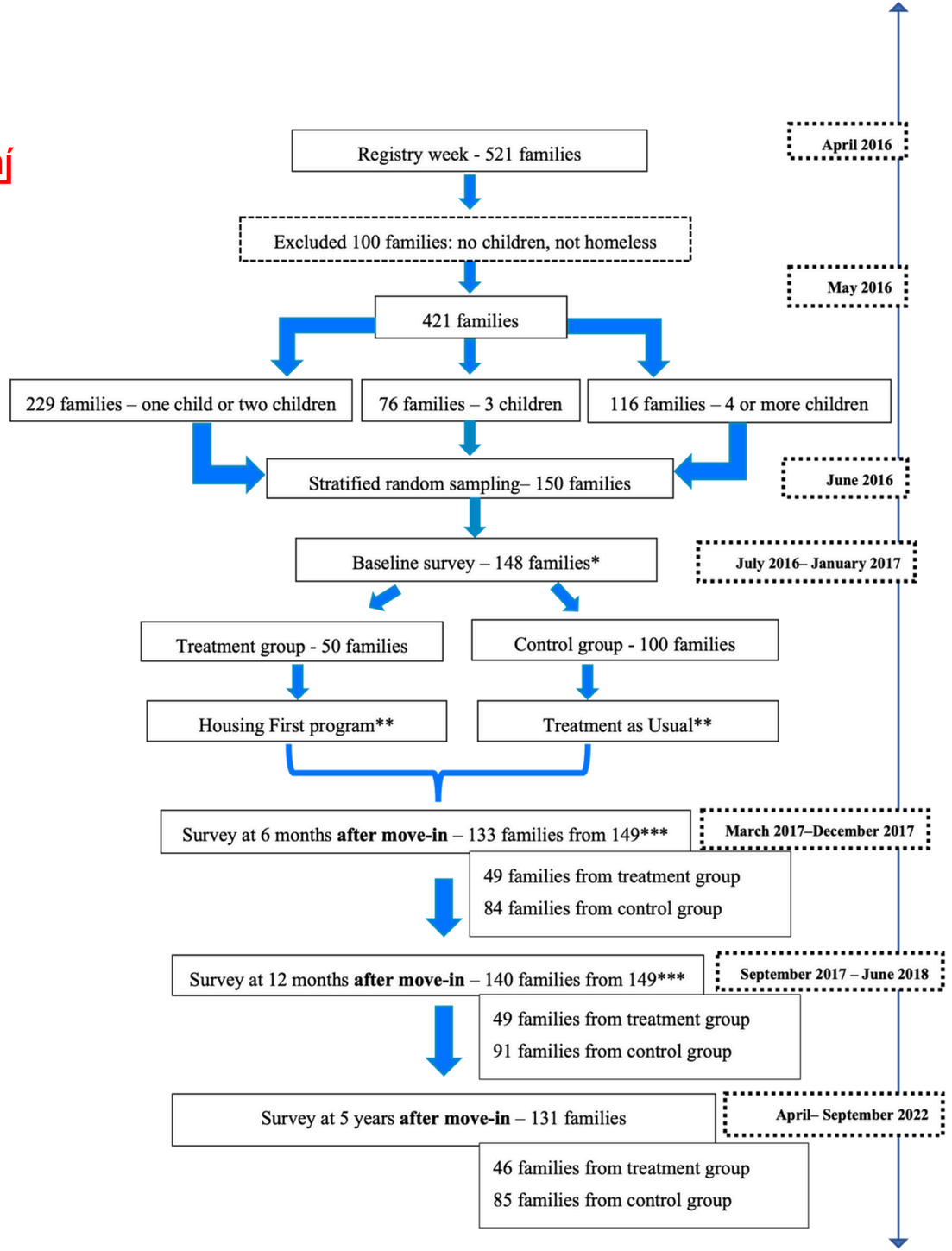

* Two families not reached
** One family from each group refused to be part of the experiment --> substitute family
*** One control family excluded ex post (not homeless)

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Results

- Primary outcomes
  - Decrease in time the family spent homeless
  - Improvement in security of tenure
  - Improvement of mental health of mothers
  - Decrease in the use of emergency health service
- Secondary outcomes
  - Stability of housing
  - Quality of housing
  - Improvement in health and quality of life of families
  - Improvement in social integration of parents
  - Improvement in financial stability of families
  - Reunification of families and prevention of institutionalization of children
  - Improved school attendance of children

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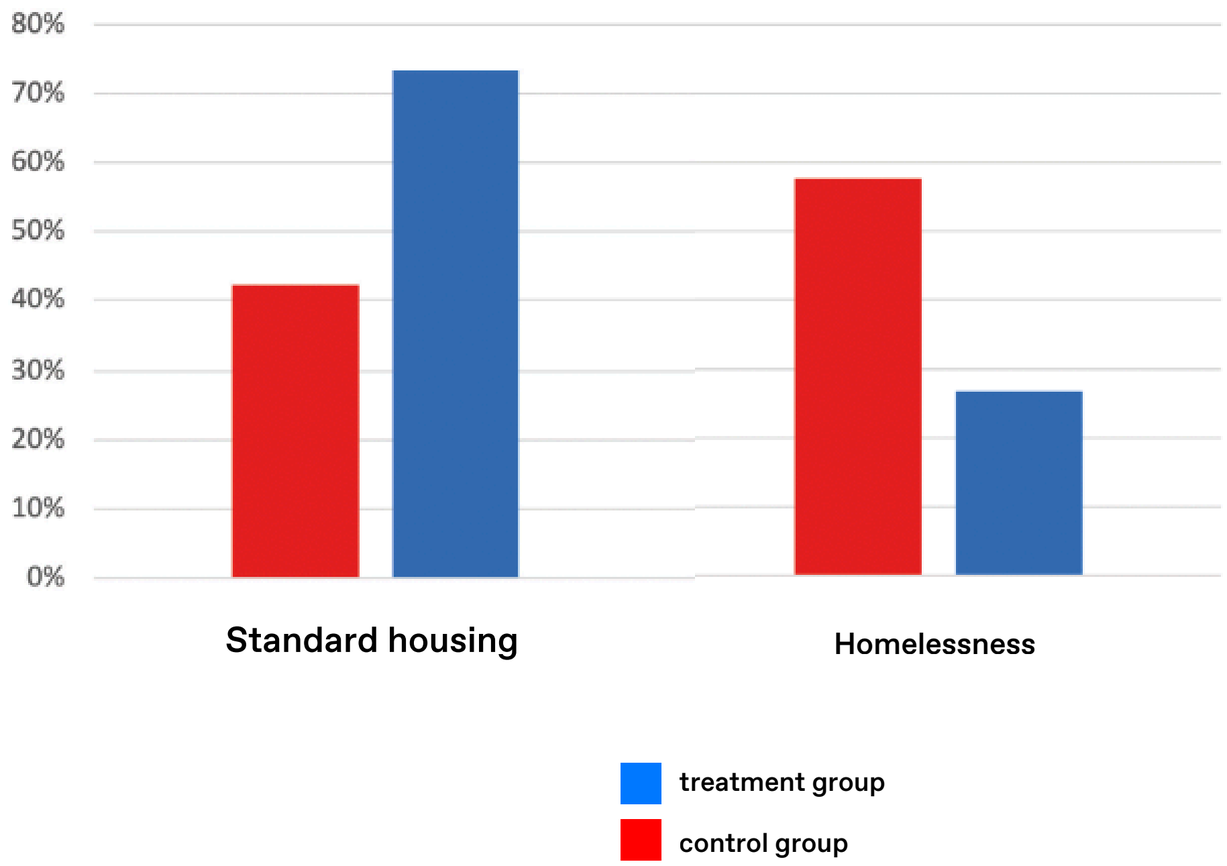
Current housing (2023)



https://bit.ly/3X5s7jx

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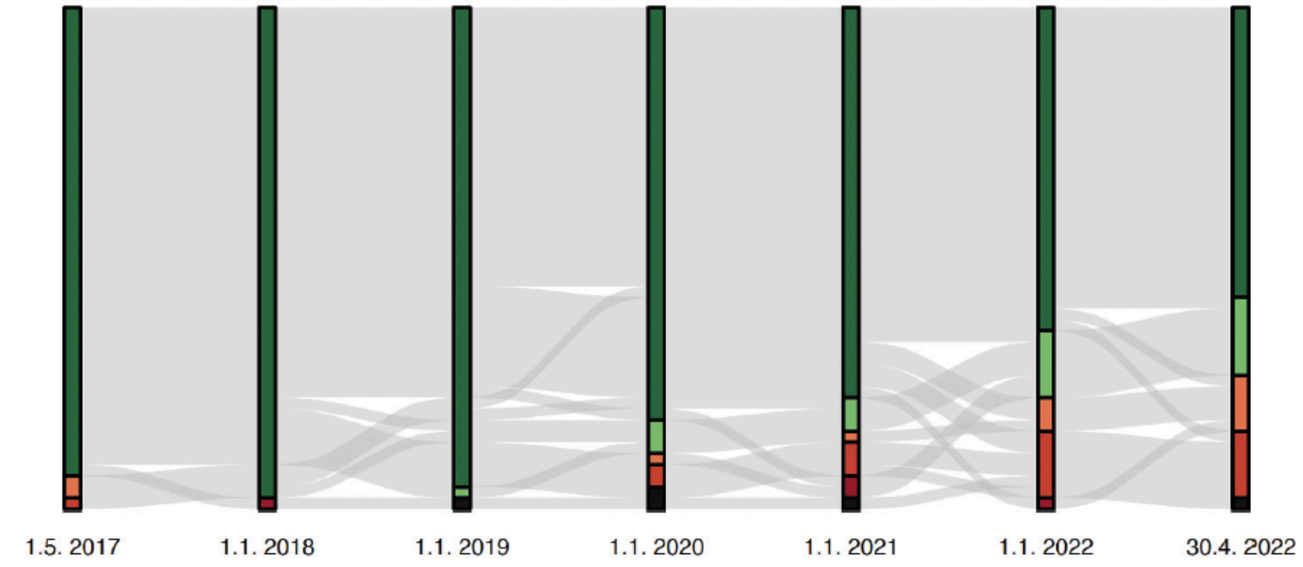
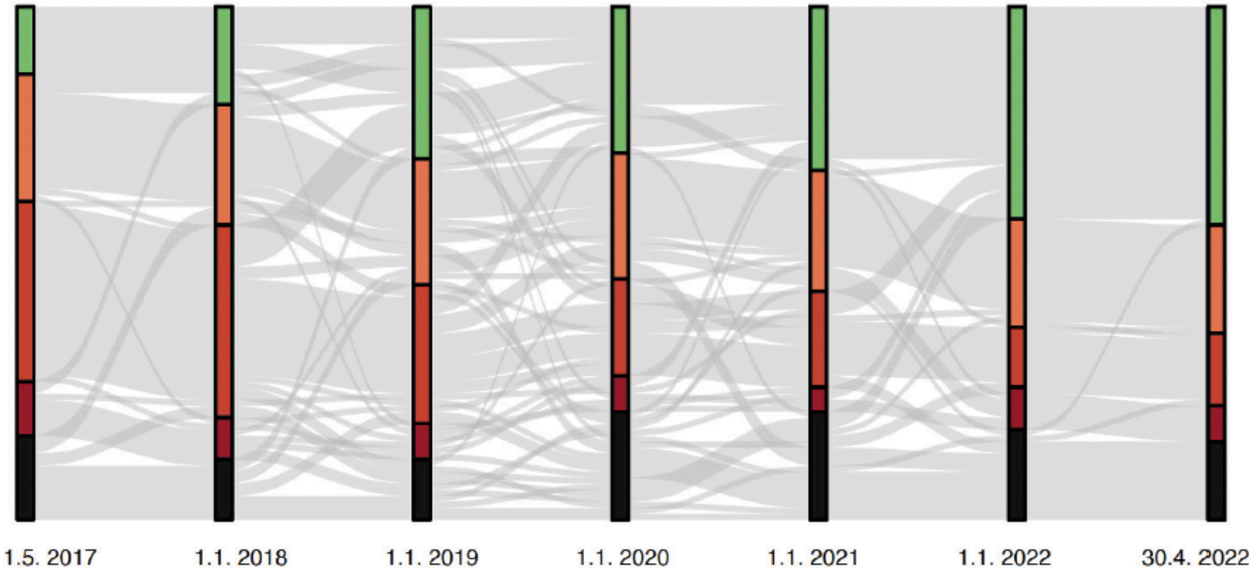
Treatment group



Control group



Project flat
Other standard flat
Inadaquate flat
Raugh sleeping/emergency accommodation
Temporary accommodation
Other

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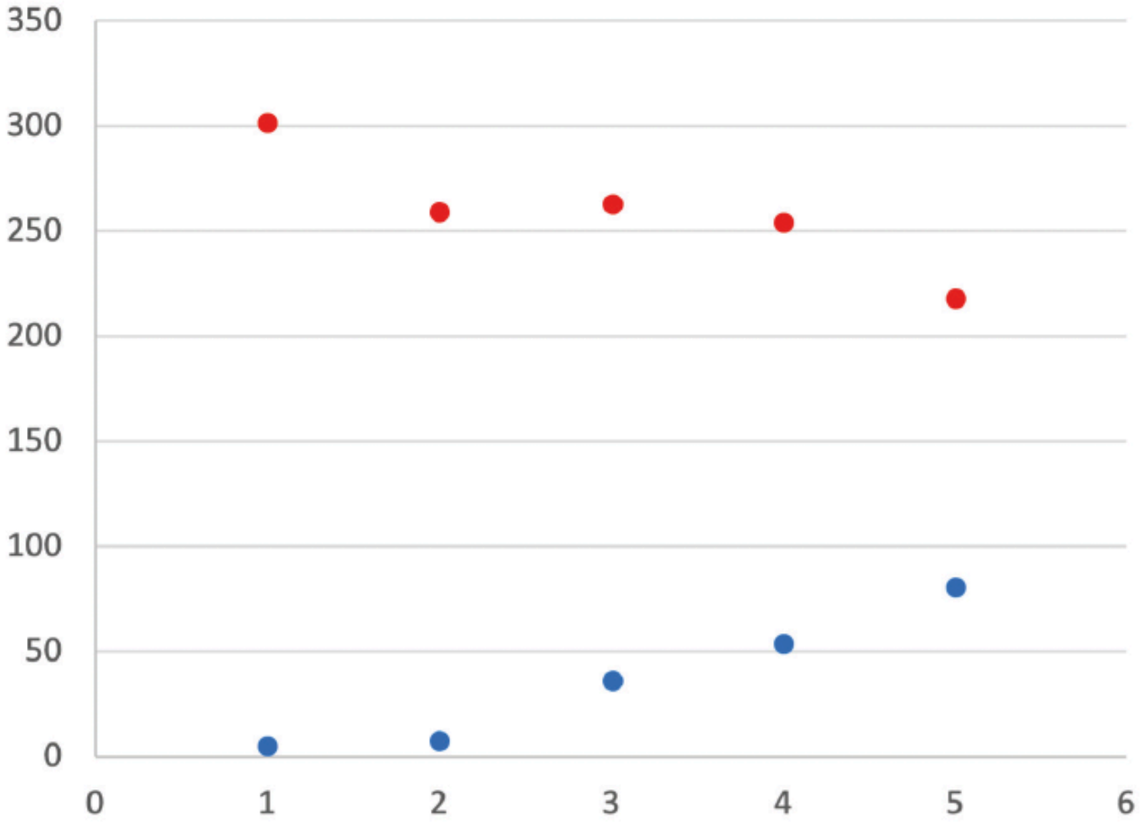
Number of days in homelessness



	Days in homelessness - treatment	Days in homelessness - control
1.5.2017 - 1.5.2022	**185 days (6.2 months)**	**1 298 days (3,6 years)**
1.5.2017 - 1.5. 2018	5.3 days	302 days (10 months)
1.5. 2018 - 1.5. 2019	7.9 days	259.5 days (8.7 months)
1.5. 2019 - 1.5.2020	36.4 days	263.4 days (8.8 months)
1.5.2020 - 1.5.2021	54.2 days	254.5 days (8.5 months)
1.5.2021 - 1.5.2022	81.3 days	218.4 days (7.3 months)

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Results

Question/indicator	Answer	Treatment (12 months)	Control (12 months)	p-value		Treatment (5 years)	Control (5 years)	p-value
Security of tenure (Q:"Do you think that you will be able to live in the place where you are living for as long as you want?")	Yes	0,91	0,43	<0,0001		0,86	0,54	0.00055
K-6 psychosocial distress	>13 (high level of psychosocial distress)	0,10	0,45	0,0003		0,3	0,36	0,5573
Number of uses of emergency health service	number/family/last 6 months			0,025/0,008/0,006				0,38/0,34/0,76

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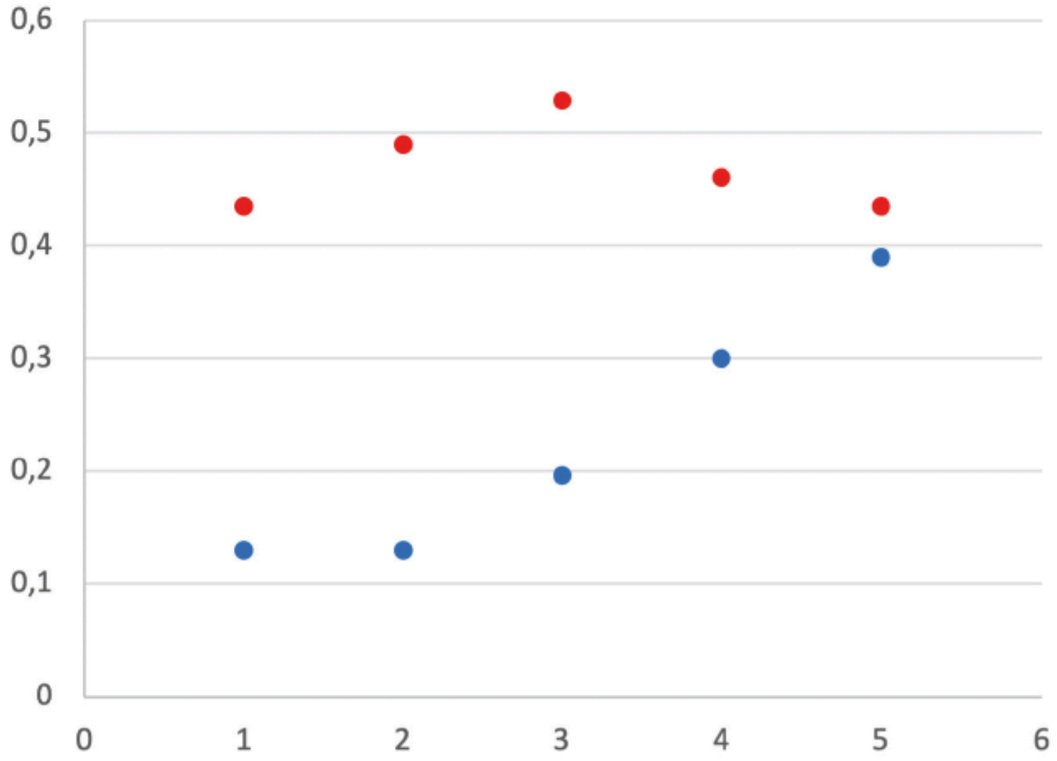
Number of moves



control group

treatment group

	Average number of moves - treatment	Average number of moves - control
1.5.2017 - 1.5.2022	**1,15**	**2,35**
2.5.2017 - 1.5. 2018	0,13	0,435
2.5. 2018 - 1.5. 2019	0,13	0,49
2.5. 2019 - 1.5.2020	0,2	0,53
2.5.2020 - 1.5.2021	0,3	0,46
2.5.2021 - 1.5.2022	0,39	0,435

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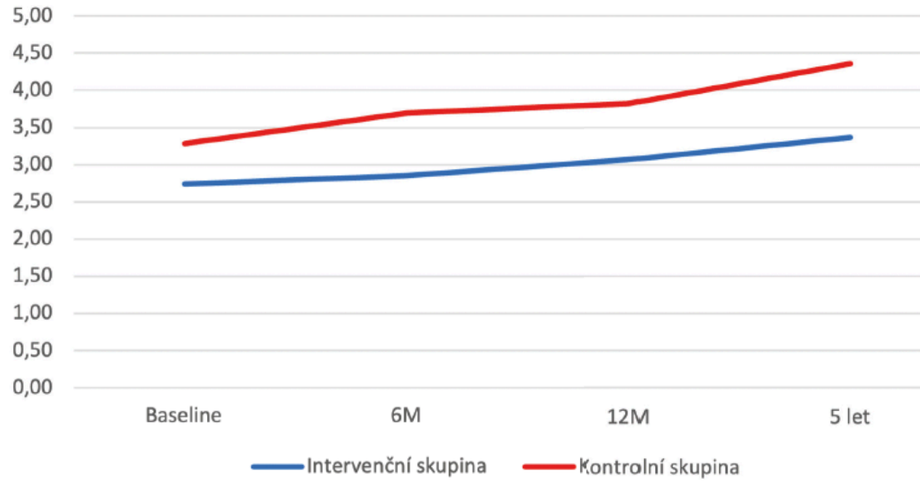
Outcome	Indicator	Effect after 12m	Effect after 5y
Quality of housing	Subjective assessment of housing quality	--	0
Improvement in health and quality of life of families	Subjective health assessment of parents	++	0
	Subjective health assessment of children	0	0
	Occurrence of asthma and injuries of children	0,0,++	0,0,0
	Life satisfaction of mothers	++	0
Improvement in social integration of parents	Level of anomia	--	--



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Výsledek	Indicator	Effect after 12m	Effect after 5y
Improvement in financial stability of families	Amount of money the family lacks to cover basic goods and services	0	0
	Number of days in month the family disposes cash	0	0
Reunification of families and prevention of institutionalization of children	Number of children living in foster or institutional care in time of interview.	--	0
	Number of children in foster or institutional care during reporting period	--	0
	Number of months the children spent in foster or institutional care.	--	--
Improved school attendance of children	Absenteeism of school children	0	0

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Cost benefit analysis

	12M: Average annual cost - treatmnet (CZK)	12M: Average annual cost - control (CZK)	12M: The Difference (CZK)	5Y: Average annual cost - treatmnet (CZK)	5Y: Average annual cost - control (CZK)	5Y: The Difference (CZK)
Social work (IQ Roma Servis)	45 429	0	45 429	13 151	0	13 151
Municipality coordination	21 955	0	21 955	-	-	-
Lost income due to reduced rents	27 869	0	27 869	-	-	-
Unpaid housing debt	1 752	0	1 752	10 381	0	10 381
State social support and Assistence in material need	134 393	88 712	45 681	178 890	160 808	18 082
Cost of emergency and temporary accomodation	0	69 460	-69 460	9 243	33 065	-23 822
Cost of medical procedures	8 640	27 672	-19 032	1 730	1 491	239
Cost of medicines (children under 6 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-2 661
Cost of institutional care of children	64 363	150 034	-85 671	154 157	200 993	-46 836
TOTAL (for 1 family)	**304 401**	**335 878**	**-31 477**	**367 552 (15 057 EUR)**	**396 357 (16 237 EUR)**	**-31 466 (1 290 EUR)**

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Follow-up qualitative research

The added qualitative research indicates a loss of control by service users (in this case mostly women - mothers) over the circumstances that subsequently led to moving out of the home.

The loss of control was caused by several factors. The first is a combination of various disadvantages that occur in the service user's lives or in their families, other factors are broken family ties and lack of adequate support.

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Findings

- With decreasing intensity and quantity of support there was increase in number of families which had to move out from project flat
- Convergence of the treatment and control group
- Savings in public expenditure due to intervention
- The key is sufficient housing capacity
- Sustainable and flexible support needed

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Challenges for HF in Czech Republice

- Financial sustainability of Housing First programmes
- Sufficient flexibility of support
- Capacity of housing
- Providing second, third or more chances to the service users who has lost the housing
- Early Prevention of debts, complaint of the neighbours, domestic violence, risk management
- Cooperation of HF program with other services, municipality or private landlords in the town or region

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Thank you for your attention!

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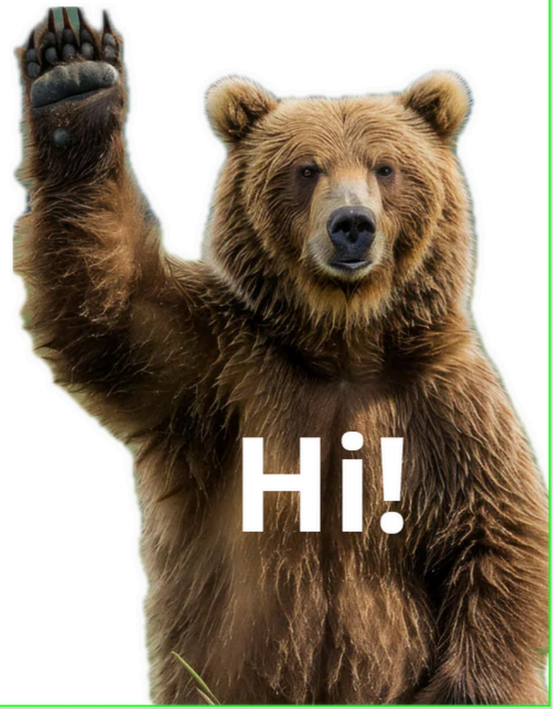
I am looking forward to hearing your questions.