



Year One Research Report Executive Summary

About the Denver Basic Income Project

What is the Denver Basic Income Project?

The Denver Basic Income Project (DBIP) is studying the impact of providing a guaranteed income (GI) to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The project is the first and largest of its kind in the United States to study the impact of guaranteed income on unhoused individuals and families at this scale.

Research Basics

The Denver Basic Income Project is a program providing unconditional payments to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Denver. The aims of the program are to test the feasibility and impact of guaranteed income for unhoused individuals and families.

The project's research is led independently by the University of Denver's Center for Housing and Homelessness Research. The study uses a mixed methods randomized controlled trial (RCT) designed to test the impact of receiving a guaranteed basic income compared to receiving typical care and services.



Research Design



DBIP partnered with **19 community-based organizations** to recruit participants.



48% of DBIP participants are male, 48% female, about 2% nonbinary or non-conforming, less than 1% transgender.



Ultimately, **807 participants enrolled** in DBIP.



27% identified as Black, 7% identified as Indigenous or Native American, 34% identified as White.

Participants were randomly assigned to one of the following groups:

Group A

\$1,000
a month

Group B

\$6,500
the first month +
\$500
a month for the
following months

Group C

\$50
a month

Quantitative Findings Overview

The Denver Basic Income Project's Year One Quantitative Report Findings showed incredibly promising results from enrollment to the ten-month mark across a number of report metrics.



All payment groups showed significant improvements in housing outcomes, including a remarkable increase in home rent and ownership, and decrease in nights spent unsheltered.



Participants reported positive shifts in financial wellbeing, with an increase in financial stability and a greater ability to pay bills and reduced reliance on emergency assistance.



Analysis found that project participation is tied to substantial cost savings in public spending and a large reduction in public service utilization, including emergency room visits, hospital nights, and jail stays.



Project participation was especially helpful for families, noting that parenting distress and food security improved throughout the duration of the project for all three payment groups.



Additionally, the project positively influenced participants' engagement in recreational activities and reduced time spent accessing resources, indicating enhanced social connectedness and leisure opportunities.

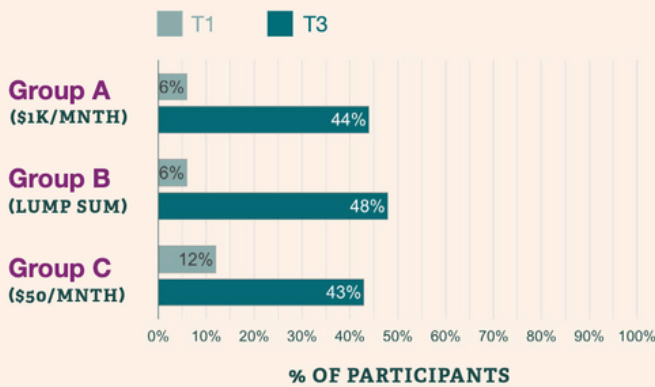


"I am able to buy the food I need to have lunch at my job every day...I don't have to struggle to find the funds for gas or food, and I have new clothes so I don't have to look like someone who just crawled out of the gutter. I'm able to buy good things like a good razor to shave my face."

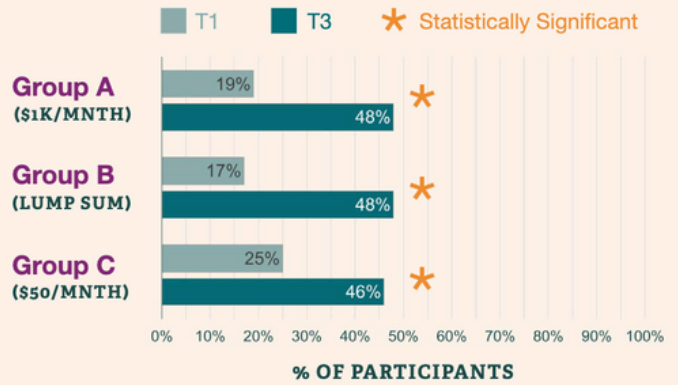
—DBIP Participant

Housing

Percentage of Total Participants in a House or Apartment They Rent or Own at Timepoint 1 and Timepoint 3



Change in Perception of Stable Housing from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3



Roughly **45% of participants** in each group reported having their own house or apartment at Timepoint 3.



The proportion of participants who spent at least one night unsheltered in the previous week decreased for all groups.



45% of Group A participants who were unsheltered at Timepoint 1 reported having their own house or apartment at Timepoint 3, compared to about 25% in Groups B and C.



For all participants, the proportion living in housing they considered to be stable more than doubled, from about 20% to 50%.

Percentage of Unsheltered Participants in a House or Apartment They Rent or Own at Timepoint 1 and Timepoint 3

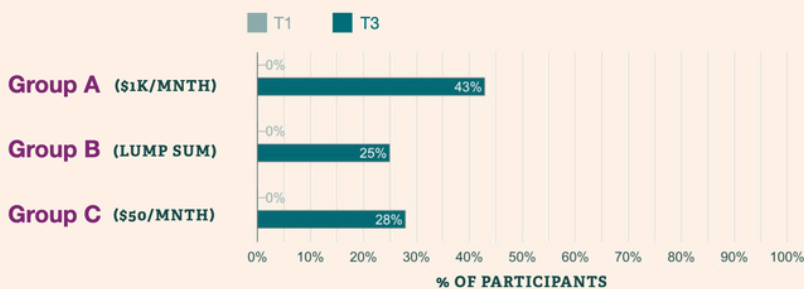


Figure 10 | See Table 5 in the Appendix for raw data.

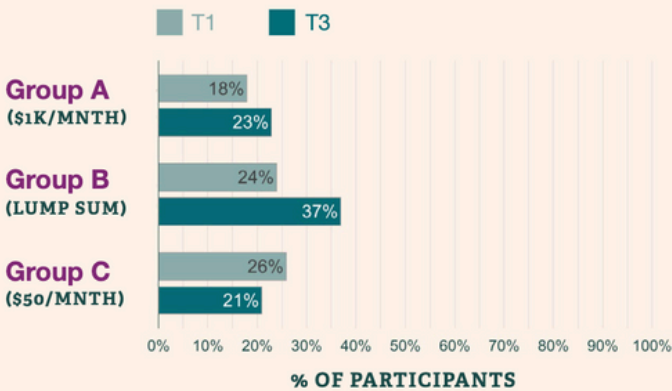


Key

Timepoint 1: Enrollment
Timepoint 3: 10 months

Financial Well-being

Change in Full-Time Employment from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3



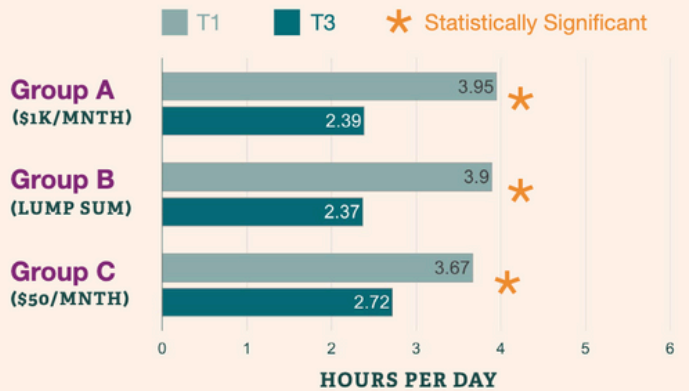
Participants in **Groups A and B** reported an **increase in full-time work** and participants in **Group C** reported a **decrease in full-time work**.



All groups reported improved financial wellbeing, but **Groups A and B** doubled their ability to pay all bills from Timepoint 1 to 3, while Group C noted a minor increase.

Time Use

Change in Hours Per Day Spent Accessing Resources from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3



Participants in **all three groups** reported a **decrease in the number of hours spent accessing resources**.



Participants in **Groups A and C** reported an **increase in the number of hours they spent on leisure activities**.



Participants in **Groups A and C** reported an **increase in the number of hours spent on leisure activities** like spending time with friends, religious activities, physical activities, or reading.

Change in Hours Per Day Spent for Social and Leisure from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3

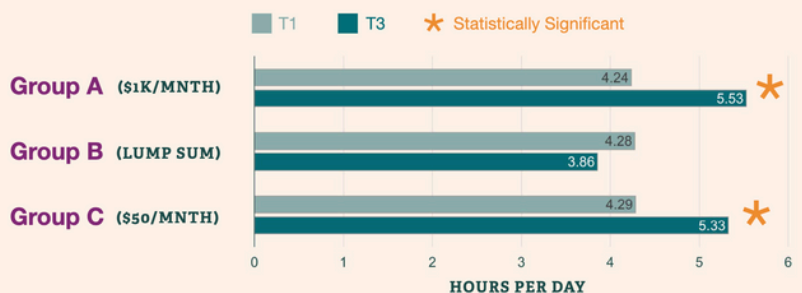
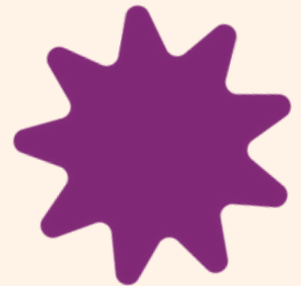


Figure 32 | See Table 26 in the Appendix for raw data.

Cost Analysis

While cost savings varied across payment groups, all cohorts demonstrated **significant reductions in public service utilization**, indicating the potential economic benefits of the Denver Basic Income Project.

Analysis of cost savings associated with project participation revealed **substantial reductions in public service interactions**, including emergency room visits, hospital nights, and jail stays.



Changes in Public Service Costs, T1 to T3

PUBLIC SERVICE	GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
	Per Capita Change	Total Cost Change	Per Capita Change	Total Cost Change	Per Capita Change	Total Cost Change
AMBULANCE TRIPS (\$69 PER TRIP)	-\$113	-\$14,248	-\$4	-\$414	-\$57	-\$7,452
DRUG OR ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTER NIGHTS (\$86 PER NIGHT)	-\$79	-\$10,234	-\$348	-\$35,527	\$74	\$9,546
ER VISITS (\$325 PER VISIT)	-\$460	-\$58,825	-\$42	-\$4,225	-\$218	-\$28,275
HOSPITAL NIGHTS (\$199 PER NIGHT)	-\$465	-\$59,501	-\$148	-\$15,124	-\$182	-\$23,482
JAIL TIME (\$179 PER TIME)	-\$78	-\$9,920	-\$265	-\$27,040	-\$584	-\$75,336
JAIL NIGHTS (\$160 PER NIGHT)	\$1	\$179	\$60	\$6,086	-\$3	-\$358
SHELTER VISITS (\$40 PER NIGHT)	-\$566	-\$71,319	-\$753	-\$76,073	-\$674	-\$87,672
TOTAL COST CHANGE	(-\$223,868)		(-\$152,317)		(-\$213,029)	
TOTAL COST SAVINGS	-\$589,214					



Qualitative Findings



Over the course of the program year, participants reported using the payments to:

- meet their immediate basic needs, including transportation, hygiene, groceries, and clothes
- cover or catch up on regular bills and expenses, including rent, debt, healthcare, and car repair
- and make bigger life changes, like changing housing or purchasing a car.

Areas of Impact

Supporting Basic Needs

The project helped some participants pay down debts or bills that were preventing them from accessing other options. Several individuals received vouchers to move into housing, received placements into nonprofit housing options, or were able to rent an apartment for the first time.

Mental and Financial Wellness

Almost all research participants noted feelings of relief, decreased stress, and increased hopefulness when asked about the impact of the project on their daily lives.

Impact on Caregivers

Caregivers highlighted positive effects of the payments on their relationships with children and grandchildren, expressing this through the items they were able to buy for children or grandchildren to support them, or through the experiences and time they were able to have with them due to additional financial security.

Planning for the Future and Goal Setting

Participants reflected on how the program allowed them space to consider budgeting and learning financial responsibility, and thus pursue housing and health opportunities. Being able to depend on DBIP's monthly funds allowed them to dream bigger, and to let the program serve as an antidote to prior feelings of hopelessness.

Group A and B participants shared that they were able to make the most **“bigger changes,”** while Group C participants reported used the money as an **emergency fund,** or as **leisure money** if they had other benefits to lean on, but did not count on the money for future needs.