

Exploring Health Benefits of Home Weatherization

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Home weatherization is a process that improves a home's energy efficiency and comfort. Basic weatherization focuses on energy efficiency and critical health and safety improvements, while Weatherization + Health interventions include more extensive health and safety improvements in addition to basic weatherization strategies.

To better understand how weatherization may impact health in Vermont, this analysis explored how health care use and costs changed in the Vermont Medicaid population after weatherization services were received. The weatherization group refers to Vermont Medicaid recipients who received services through the state's Weatherization Assistance Program. The control group refers to Vermont Medicaid recipients who were demographically similar to the weatherization group, but did not receive weatherization services.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact ClimateHealth@vermont.gov.

Key Findings



Children in the weatherization group experienced a larger decrease in respiratory healthcare visits than the control group.



Adults in the weatherization group experienced a larger increase in inpatient visits for respiratory causes than the control group.



There was no change in rate of visits for cardiovascular causes for adults in the weatherization group. Rates increased for the control group.



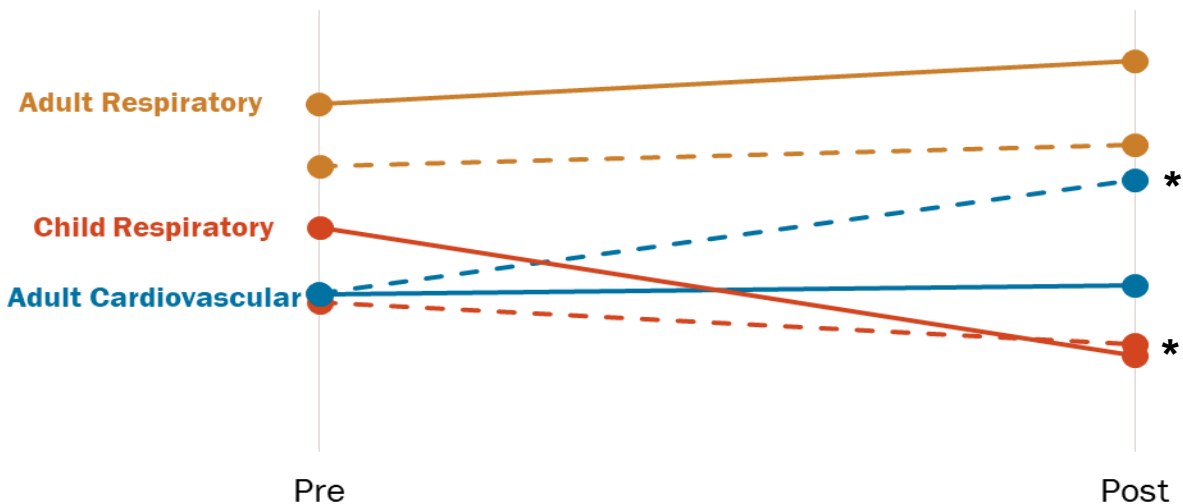
Medicaid costs were lower for the weatherization group for respiratory and cardiovascular care for the 2 years after receiving weatherization services.

What do the data show?

The chart and table below are a few highlights from a much larger analysis. For more data, please see the [visual summary](#) that accompanies this document.

Change in rate (per 10,000 average annual enrollments) of emergency department visits pre and post home weatherization intervention.

The weatherization group is shown with solid lines. The control group is shown with dashed lines.



Source: Vermont Medicaid Claims Data

*Statistically significant difference (increase in control group cardiovascular visits, decrease in control group respiratory visits for children).

Household Description	Medicaid Cost Savings over Two Years [^]
1 adult and 1 child	\$416
2 adults	\$706
2 adults and 1 child	\$768

[^]Cost savings for respiratory and cardiovascular care. Costs adjusted for inflation to 2023 dollars.

How did we do this?

The Agency of Human Services Institutional Review Board approved a data linkage project between a list of Vermont State Weatherization Assistance Program recipients and the Vermont Medicaid claims database. A de-identified dataset was shared with the Health Department for analysis. For more in-depth information about the analysis, please see the [technical summary](#) document.