

# Supporting Patients and Their Families: An Exploratory Review of Medical Housing in the United States

Peter Campbell MD, MHS<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Owens ScD, MS<sup>1</sup>;

## BACKGROUND

- Healthcare costs in the United States have grown to over 18% of GDP over the past two decades.<sup>2</sup>
- These costs place an extreme strain on patients and their families.
- Many patients from rural or underserved areas must travel significant distances to receive specialty care.
- The additional costs of housing, other living expenses, and support are largely not included in healthcare cost analyses.<sup>3</sup>
- There is a dearth of research assessing the existence, quantity, and quality of medical housing in the United

## OBJECTIVES

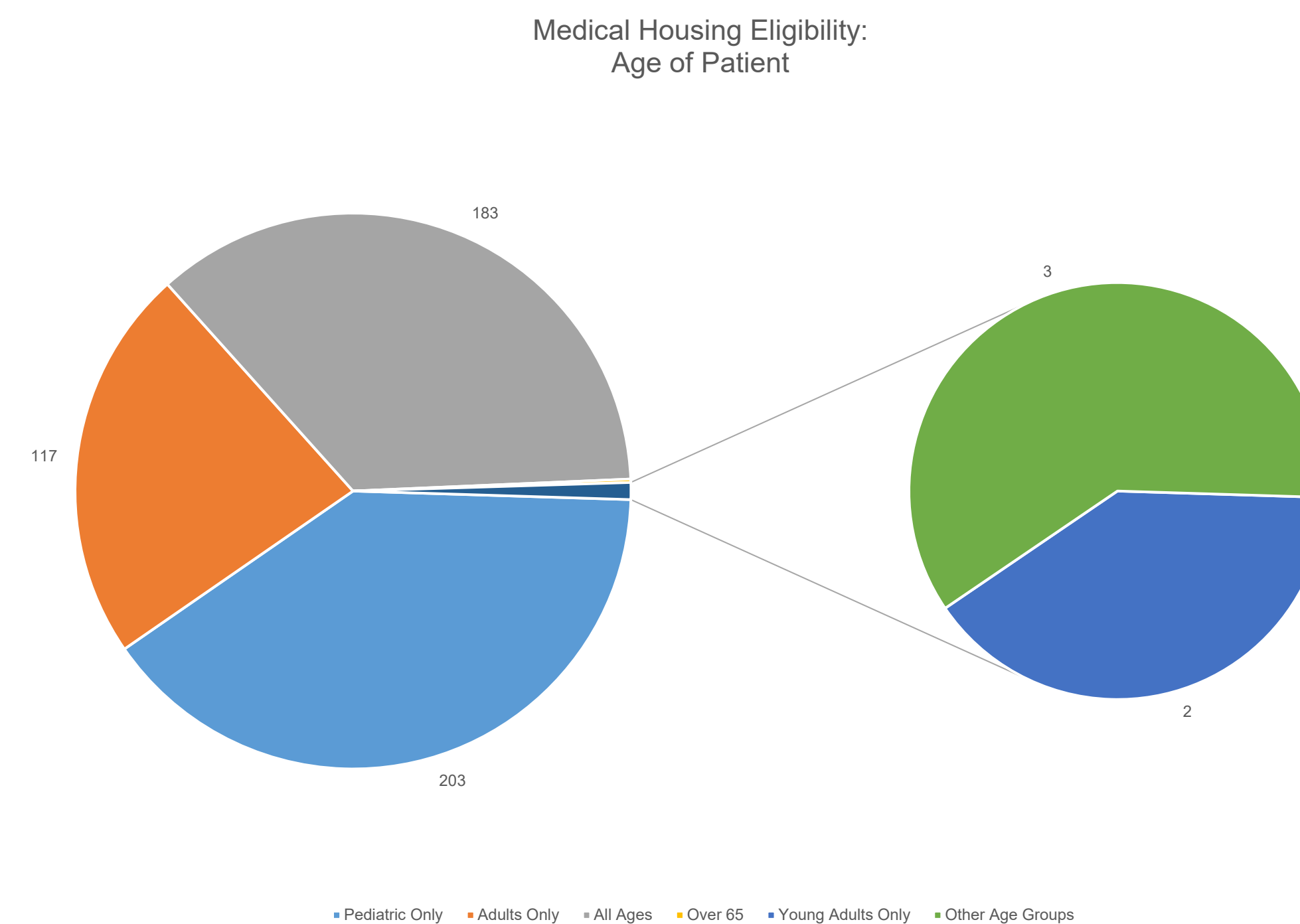
- We seek to provide an overview of eligibility criteria for medical housing
- Our primary focus was age of the patient receiving care
- We additionally assessed the ages of family members or caregivers allowed to stay in these facilities
- Provide a foundation for future research in this important area of public health

## METHODOLOGY

- We conducted a nationwide census of all known medical housing organizations in the United States.
- We categorized these facilities based on their target demographic (i.e. age of patients served)
- We used multiple methods of communication to gather our data of interest: web searches, phone calls, emails, and contact forms.
- We ran descriptive models to assess our preliminary data.

## RESULTS

- We assessed the age of the patient population served by medical houses as well as ages of guests who were allowed to stay in the houses.
- Houses serving Pediatric patients only: 39.88%
- Houses serving Adult patients only: 22.98%
- Houses serving patients of all ages: 35.95%
- Other categories assessed were:
- Older than 65 only (0.002%, n=1)
- Young adults only (0.004%, n=2),
- Other age populations (0.006%, n=3)
- 86.64% of medical housing facilities (n=441) house those of all ages
- 11.00% (n=56) who house adults only
- 1.18% (n=6) who house other ages
- 1.18% (n=6) who are unknown

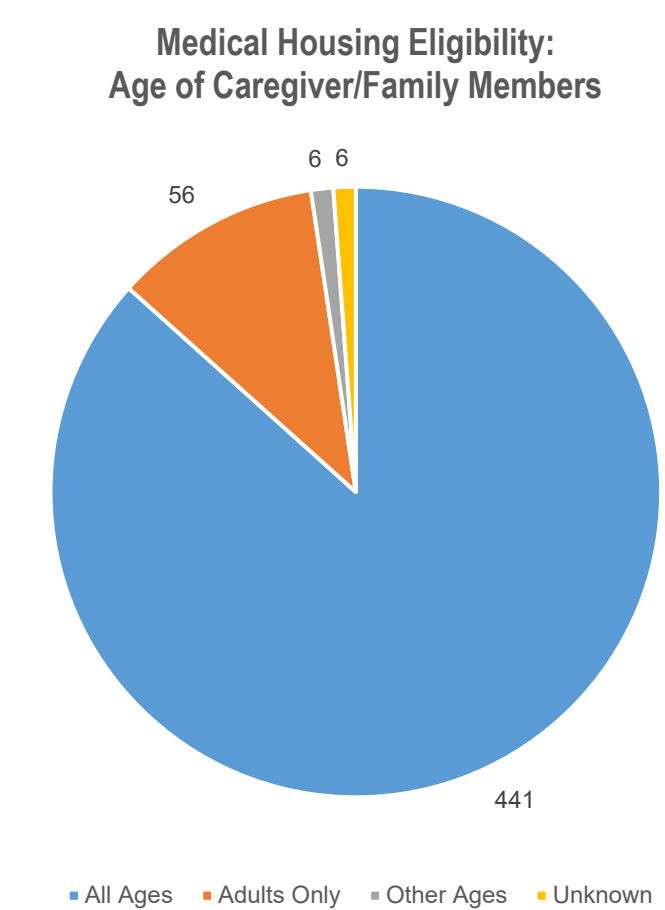


## CONCLUSIONS

- Medical housing eligibility is a complex aspect of the healthcare cost burden for families
- This is a necessary but difficult variable to assess
- There are multiple access gaps and hurdles for patients and their families to access these services.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Creation of a comprehensive list/network of medical housing options available to patients and their families across all areas of the United States.
- Elucidation challenges patients experience trying to access these services.
- Exploring how these facilities access and utilize funding.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### References

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