**The Datasets:**

1. PHA-“program type”-level[[1]](#footnote-1) data about the state of subsidized housing in the United States in 2014, courtesy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Though HUD engages in several different housing assistance program types, we limited our analysis to Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs. [*https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html*](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html)
2. PHA-person-level data about the compensation (salary, bonus and total compensation) of the top three paid employees at every public housing authority in the United States. We limited this data to the top paid individual at each PHA*.* [*https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/public\_indian\_housing/programs/pha\_executive\_compensation*](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/pha_executive_compensation)

**The Analysis:**

By limiting the data in the two ways described above, we constructed a PHA-level dataset with programmatic, geographic and compensation information about every HCV program in the United States, as well as rich demographic data about each program’s clients.

We first did descriptive analyses on:

* Where voucher-recipients live, by region, and by head of household gender. Most households are headed by women, but we were surprised to see that nearly half of those women do not have children.
* The distribution of total compensation of the highest paid employee for each PHA. The most common compensation appears to be around $80k.
* The distribution of “rent burden” or the ratio of average monthly household income to average monthly pre-subsidy rent. Pre-subsidy refers to the sum of the household contribution and the HCV-contribution. We observe next to no ratios of under 0.5, and most hover around 1:1. A substantial number are above that.
* The distribution of months on a wait list. We fit this PDF with an exponential function. This curve arises when examining the length of time between events in Poisson processes. It makes sense then that an exponential curve fit this analysis very well.

1. PHA stands for public housing authority. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)