# Sobering Results from the Tenderloin: The Northern California Experience with Sobering Centers



#### Clement Yeh MD

Medical Director
San Francisco Fire Department
San Francisco Department of Emergency Management
Associate Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine
University of California, San Francisco











#### EMS triage to Sobering Centers



- Be medically appropriate by meeting all the following criteria:
  - Indication of alcohol intoxication (odor of alcohol on breath, bottle found on person)
  - GCS 13 or greater
  - Pulse 60-120
  - Systolic BP >90
  - Diastolic BP <110
  - Respiratory Rate 12-24
  - Oxygen Saturation >89%
  - Blood Glucose 60-250
  - · No active bleeding
  - No bruising or hematoma above clavicles
  - No active seizures; and
  - No laceration that has not been treated

### Total Encounters (bar) with Unduplicated Clients (line) by Fiscal Year (2003-2016)



### Sobering Center as healthcare hub

Food: 3756

Laundry: 878

Shower: 1815

Clothing: 1526

Vitamins: 741

Wound Care: 89

\*started tracking in 2013\*

- Nursing
  - Wound Care
  - Lab Draws
  - ETOH withdrawal treatment
  - Medication management
- Intensive Case Management / Social Work
- ADL
- Hygiene/De-lousing

## Safety of EMS triage to Sobering?

- 2003-2017: >50,000 encounters, 12,500+ individuals
- Analyzed SF Sobering Center July 2013 June 2016
- 10,980 total encounters
- 4,045 (37%) triaged by EMS
- 4.2% secondary transport to ED
- Most common reasons for secondary transfer: tachycardia, alcohol withdrawal

Smith-Bernardin SM, Kennel M, Glenn M, Yeh C. EMS Can Safely Transport Patients to a Sobering Center as an Alternate Destination. Ann Emer Med. October 2017. 70:4 (S92)