

Medical-Legal Partnership:

Bridging Legal, Health & Public Health
Sectors to Address the Social
Determinants of Health

Ellen Lawton, Lead Research Scientist

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership

www.medical-legalpartnership.org

Milken Institute School
of Public Health

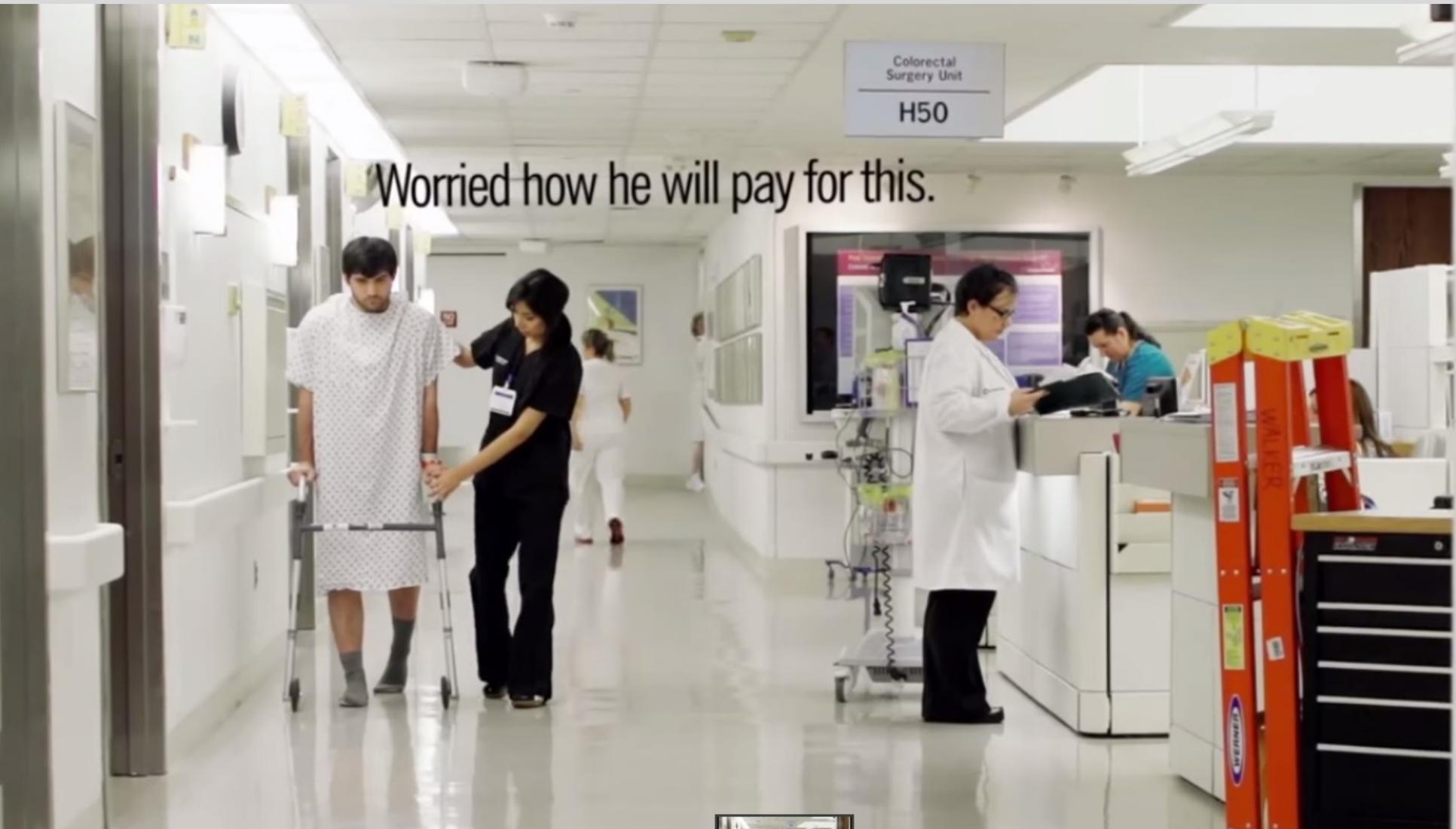
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Only 18% of Americans
surveyed believe that
“lawyers contribute a lot to society.”

(Pew Research Study, July 2013).

The problems are visible.
The solutions are not.

Worried how he will pay for this.



Three sectors address social determinants of health in silos

HEALTHCARE

treats illnesses caused or exacerbated by SDOH.

LEGAL AID

ensures access to benefits & services, enforces laws that keep people healthy.

PUBLIC HEALTH

tracks diseases on population level, addresses laws & education aimed at prevention.

The National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership's work



Transform Policy & Practice Across Sectors



Convene the Fields



Build the Evidence Base



Catalyze Investment

What is Medical-Legal Partnership?

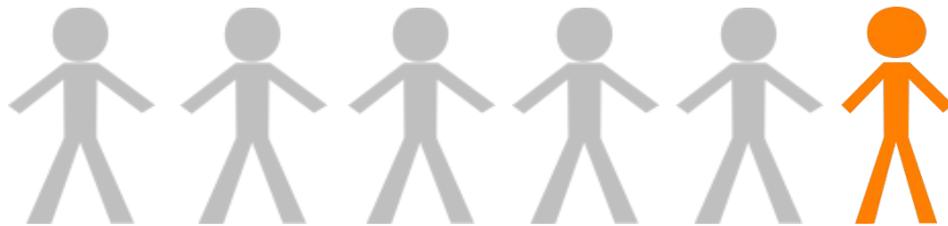


Medical-legal partnership embeds lawyers alongside health care teams to improve both individual and

Making the connection: Legal problems are health problems

Common Civil Legal Problem	HP2020 - Social Determinants of Health Framework
Families wrongfully denied food supports or housing subsidies	Economic Stability <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Food Security▪ Housing Stability
Children living in housing with mold or rodents, in violation of housing laws	Neighborhood and Built Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Quality of Housing
Seniors wrongfully denied long-term care coverage	Health and Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Access to Health Care

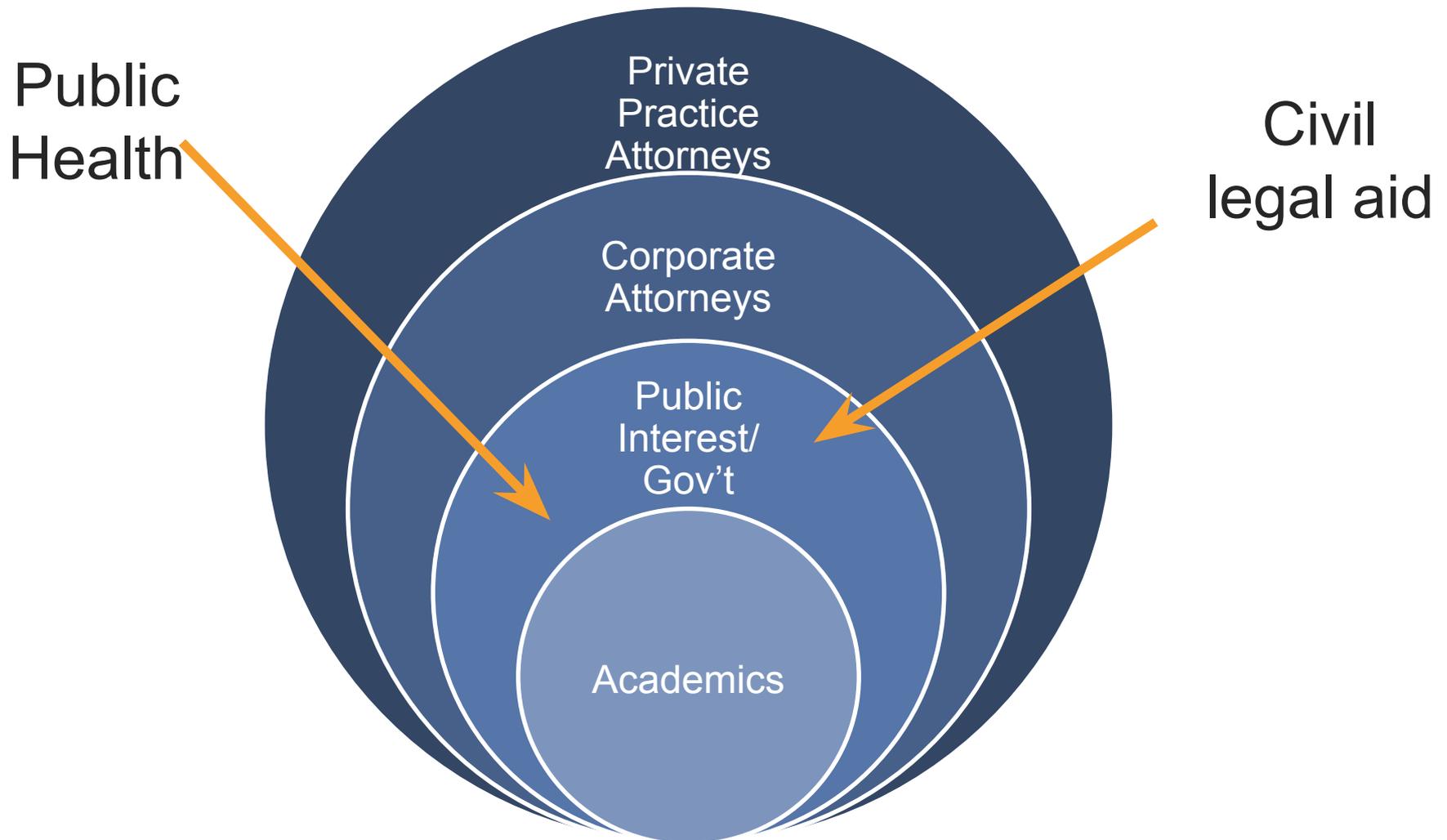
50 million Americans need legal care to be healthy.



1 in 6 Americans
live in poverty.

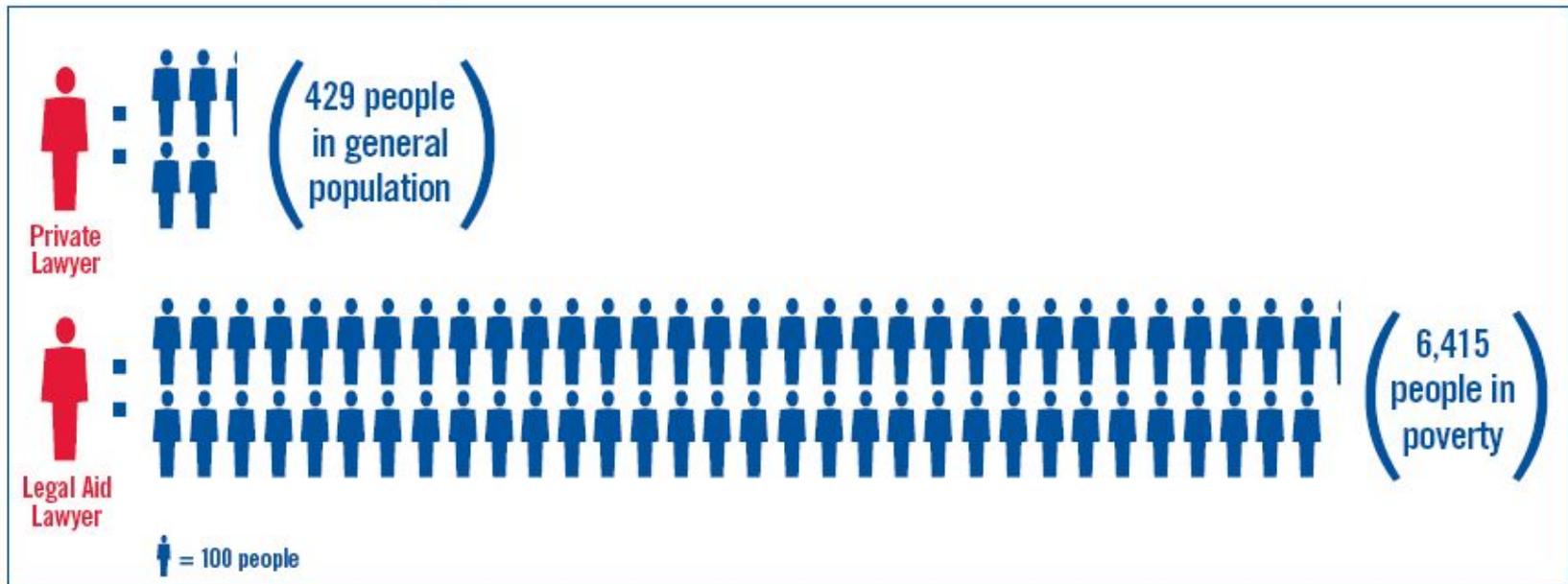
And every single one has a health-harming civil legal problem that negatively affects their health.

What types of lawyers are there?



Availability of legal assistance in the U.S.

Table 6: Comparison of Private Lawyers to General Population and Legal Aid Lawyers to Low-Income Population



Source: Legal Services Corporation, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans* (September 2009).

There isn't enough in the legal aid pharmacy without changing how legal care is provided.



8,000 civil legal aid attorneys in U.S.



with a \$1.3 billion budget



& help from law schools & pro bono partners



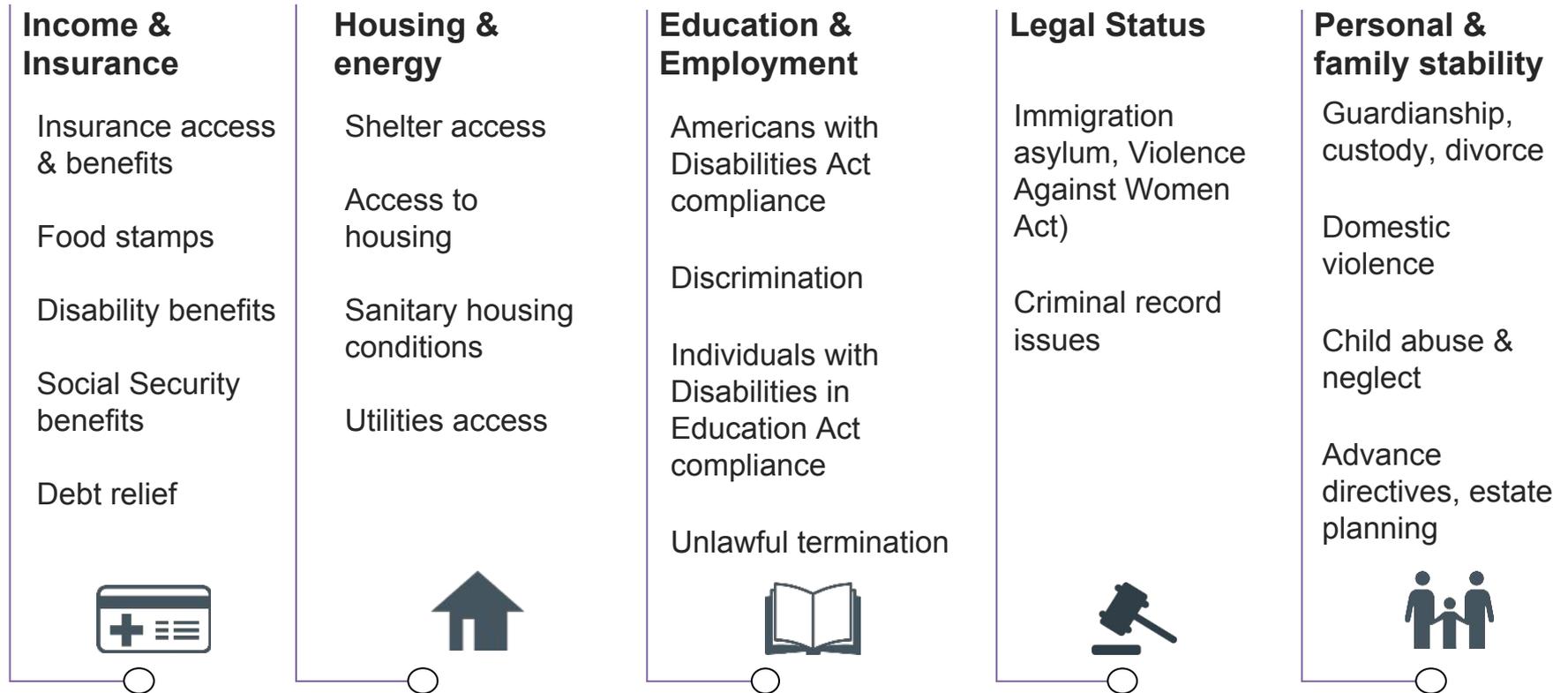
try to serve 50 million low-income people with 2-3 needs.

They are able to meet less than 20% of the need each year, and unfair, unhealthy systems go unchanged.

Why do people need civil legal aid?

Civil legal aid helps people solve legal problems of every day life

Legal Needs That Impact Health (I-HELP Model)



The medical-legal partnership approach

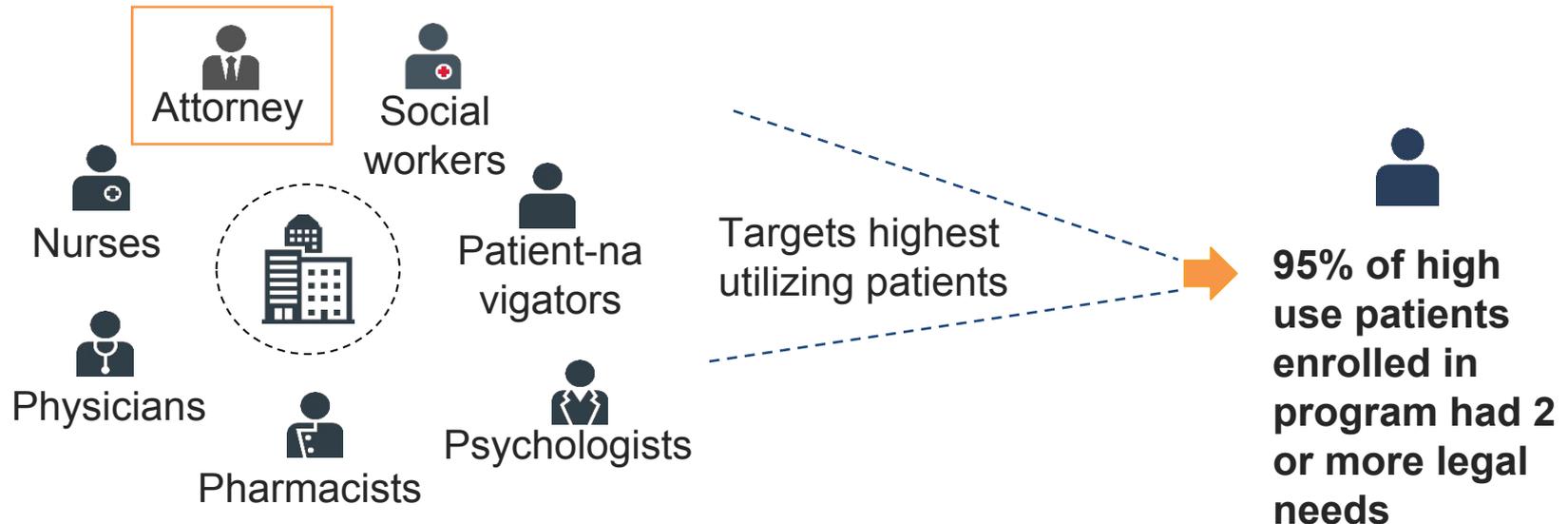


Individual patient interventions are pathways to finding policy interventions for improving population health.

Patient-Centered Health Care Model Includes MLP

Pilot Medical Legal Partnership Targets High-Need, High-Use Patients

Lancaster General Hospital's Pilot Program Embeds Attorney in the Health Care Team



Source: "[Embedding Civil Legal Aid Services in Care for High-Utilizing Patients Using Medical-Legal Partnership](#)"; *Health Affairs*, April 22, 2015.

Impact of treating legal problems with MLP

A circular icon containing a dark blue letter 'H', representing a hospital.

H

People with chronic illnesses are admitted to the hospital less frequently.



People more commonly take their medications as prescribed.



People report less stress.



Less money is spent on health care services for the people who would otherwise frequently go to the hospital.



Clinical services are more frequently reimbursed by public and private payers.

Best Practices In MLP

- On-site presence in healthcare facility
- Structured partnership - joint planning, priority setting, staffing, and funding
- Regular, structured communication and feedback between partners
- Aligned missions

For more information



www.medical-legalpartnership.org



NCMLP



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