

Hampden County CoC • Recurrence of Homelessness

FY2013 Rate of Return to Homelessness

Overview

Hampden County CoC HMIS data from October 1st, 2010 to September 30th, 2013 was analyzed to determine the **rate of return to homelessness** among families and individuals.

The rate of return to homelessness is a systems-level performance indicator defined in the HEARTH Act. HUD has established the target rate of return as **less than 5%**. The rate must be based on 2 years of followup subsequent to a program exit.

This analysis establishes a baseline rate of return for the CoC by 1) identifying all exiters from the CoCs service system during FY2011 (October 2010 - September 2011); and 2) tracking them over the next two years to assess their outcome (returned/did not return). It answers the question: Of the 3,348 persons who exited the service system in FY2011, how many re-entered shelter or housing within the next two years, or otherwise re-engaged in services?

Results

Among all persons who exited shelter, supported housing or prevention programs in FY2011, 545 returned to the service system within 2 years. **The rate of return is 16%** (Table 1).

Table 1. Rates of Return by Program Type

Program or Setting	# Exits (FY11)	# Returns (FY12-FY13)	Rate of Return
All Programs	3,348	545	16.3%
Prevention and Rapid Rehousing	577	24	4.2%
ESG	64	3	5%
TPP	51	7	14%
HOPWA	7	1	14%
Other	455	13	3%
Shelter and Supported Housing	2,771	521	18.8%
PSH	192	22	11%
TH and Safe Havens	153	23	15%
Emergency Shelter	2,426	476	20%

Not all persons who returned to the service system actually returned to homelessness. Rather they engaged in prevention or rapid rehousing services (potentially averting the return to homelessness) or were placed directly in permanent housing.

Adjusting for this yields **a rate of return of 14.5%**.

Significantly, as many as 59 reoccurrences of homelessness were averted due to access to prevention and rapid rehousing services or permanent supportive housing.

Table 2 (next page) shows the types of programs or services accessed upon return. Table 3 provides basic population characteristics of all exiters vs. those who returned.

Table 2. Programs and Services Accessed Upon Return

Returned from...		
Shelter or Supported Housing		521
Returned to...		
ES	450	86%
TH	28	5%
PSH	8	2%
PREV/RR	35	7%
Prevention and Rapid Rehousing		24
Returned to...		
ES	8	33%
TH	0	0%
PSH	1	4%
PREV/RR	15	63%

Adjusted Rate of Return	
545 returns	
-59 returns to PREV/PH	
486 returns to homelessness	
<hr/>	
486 returns	= 14.5% rate
3,348 exits	of return
<hr/>	

Table 3. Comparison of All Persons Who Exited to All Persons Who Returned

Characteristics	Exiters	Returns
Household Type		
Individuals	54%	88%
Persons in Families	44%	9%
Adult Status		
Adults	74%	96%
Children	25%	4%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	49%	40%
Not Hispanic	47%	59%
Race		
African American/Black	22%	24%
Multiracial	1%	2%
White	67%	67%
Other	1%	2%
Gender		
Female	43%	23%
Male	57%	77%
Transgender	<1%	0

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% due to missing data.