Rapid Re-Housing Outcomes for Families | *A Demographic Analysis*

BACKGROUND

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a Housing First intervention that prioritizes connecting families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing in the private rental market. RRH services should include housing-search assistance, case management, time-limited rental subsidies, and connections to community resources that can help families and individuals retain their housing long term. When done appropriately, the model gives decision-making power to the households, using their strengths, and is tailored to meet unique needs.

PURPOSE

Building Changes examined the effectiveness of RRH programs for families[1] in the Seattle-Tacoma-Everett metropolitan area.[2] We analyzed program data in the aggregate and by the following subgroups: age, gender, family composition, race/ethnicity, and veteran status.[3]

Our analysis sought answers to two questions:

* *How well is Rapid Re-Housing working for families?*
* *Is it working better for some groups of families than for others?*

OUTCOMES

We analyzed five different measures for families enrolled in RRH programs:

1. **Move-In Rate:** How successful are families at securing housing through RRH?
2. **Length of Time to Move In:** How long does it take families to secure housing?
3. **Successful Exit Rate:** Are families still in housing at program exit?
4. **Length of Time to Exit:** How long do families stay in the program?
5. **Return Rate:** Do families return to homelessness after program exit?

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[1] *Family is defined as a household with at least one member under the age of 18 and at least one member age 18 or older.*

[2] *Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data from King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties (combined) for 4,387 families that enrolled in and exited from Rapid Re-Housing programs from 2014 to 2018. Enrollment marks the start of the process to search for and secure housing in the private rental market. It does not mean a family actually has found and moved into a rental unit.*

[3] *For a more detailed description of the methodology, see the full analysis report:*
https://buildingchanges.org/images/documents/library/2020_RRHOutcomesforFamilies_Report.pdf

KEY FINDINGS

Rapid Re-Housing should do better at securing available housing for families in the program.

» *More than 40% of the families enrolled did not secure housing through the program.*

Families that secure housing through Rapid Re-Housing tend to be successful at retaining that housing.

» *More than 93% of the families that secured housing remained housed through the duration of the program.*

The vast majority of families that secure housing through Rapid Re-Housing do not return to homelessness soon after the program and rental subsidy ends.

» *Fewer than 1 in 8 families returned to the homeless system within six months after successfully exiting the program.*

Some subgroups experience less success in Rapid Re-Housing and likely would benefit from additional supports and/or system reforms that aim to eliminate any barriers to their success.

» *Families headed by a young adult (ages 18 to 24) were less likely to exit the program successfully and more likely to return to homelessness than families headed by an older adult (age 25 and older).*

» *Families headed by a woman were more likely to return to homelessness than families headed by a man.*

» *Families with only one adult were less likely to secure housing through the program than families with more than one adult.*

Some subgroups experience more success in Rapid Re-Housing.

» *Families headed by a veteran were more likely to secure housing through the program and move into that housing faster than families headed by a non-veteran.*

What follows is additional detail on each of the outcomes analyzed, along with questions for further exploration that the results raise.

MOVE-IN RATE

How successful are families at securing housing?

59.6%
of families enrolled in RRH secured housing

59.6%
Secured housing

40.4%
Did not secure housing
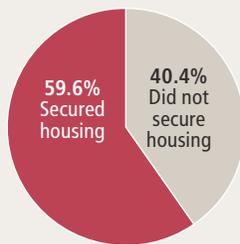
Families headed by a veteran
were more likely to secure housing than those headed by a non-veteran

70.6% — Veteran
57.9% — Non-Veteran
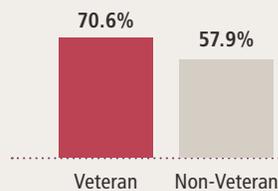
Families with only one adult
were less likely to secure housing than those with more than one adult

57.7% — Only one adult
63.4% — More than one adult
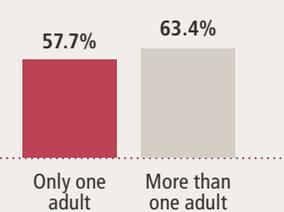
» *What systemic barriers contribute to 40.4% of families enrolled in RRH being unable to secure housing?*

» *What can communities do to eliminate those barriers and ultimately increase the move-in rate?*

» *Are better move-in outcomes for veterans the result of additional supports they receive?*

LENGTH OF TIME TO MOVE IN

How long does it take families to secure housing?

It took a median of
40 days
to move in
(among families that secured housing through RRH)

Families headed by a veteran
moved in faster than those headed by a non-veteran

Median days to secure housing

30 — Veteran
43 — Non-Veteran
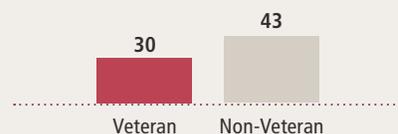
» *What solutions can RRH programs put in place to reduce the length of time to move into housing?*

SUCCESSFUL EXIT RATE

Are families still in housing at program exit?

93.4%
remained housed through the duration of the program
(among families that secured housing through RRH)

93.4%
Remained housed

6.6%
Did not remain housed
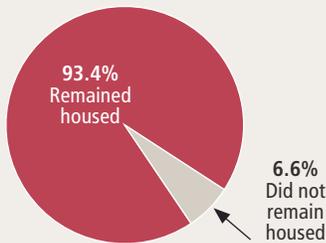
Families headed by a young adult were less likely to exit successfully than those headed by an older adult

Percentage that remained housed

90.0% — Young Adult
93.8% — Older Adult

American Indian/Alaska Native families were more likely to exit successfully than white families

98.0% — American Indian/Alaska Native
92.1% — White
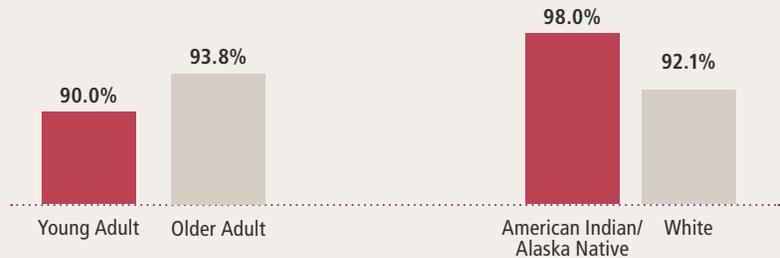
» *What supports are helping the vast majority of families to be successful once they move into housing through RRH?*

» *What additional supports can be given to families headed by a young adult in order to increase their chances for success?*

» *What factors contribute to the higher than average successful exit rates for American Indian/Alaska Native families?*

This analysis provides further evidence of the racial disproportionality that exists in family homelessness. For example, Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native families make up 5.8% of the total family population in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, yet accounted for 42.5% of the families experiencing homelessness enrolled in the Rapid Re-Housing programs. While it is promising that our analysis did not find poorer outcomes for families of color, the challenge to eliminate racial disproportionality remains.

Black/African American

5.0% — Percentage of all families in the region
40.4% — Percentage of families enrolled in RRH

American Indian/Alaska Native

0.8% — Percentage of all families in the region
2.1% — Percentage of families enrolled in RRH
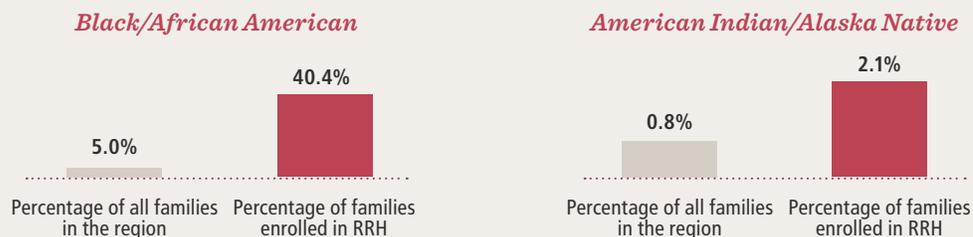
LENGTH OF TIME TO EXIT

Are families still in housing at program exit?

Families remained in RRH, from enrollment to exit, for a median of
217 days
(among families that secured housing through RRH)

Families headed by a veteran spent less time **in RRH** than those headed by a non-veteran

229

152

Veteran Non-Veteran
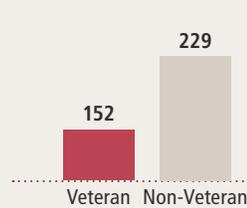
Families headed by a young adult spent more time in RRH **than those headed by an older adult**

252

214

Young Adult Older Adult

Families headed by a woman spent more time in RRH **than those headed by a man**

227

182

Woman Man
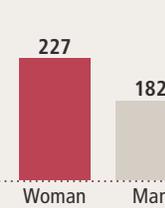
» *Are longer lengths of stay sometimes needed to help families secure stable housing?*

RETURN RATE

Do families return to homelessness after program exit?

11.6%
returned to homelessness within 6 months
(among those that moved in and exited successfully)

88.4%
Did not return

11.6% Returned
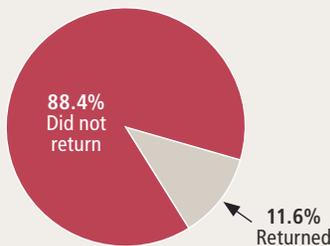
Families headed by a young adult were more likely to return to homelessness within 6 months than those headed by an older adult

16.9%

11.0%

Young Adult Older Adult

Families headed by a woman were more likely to return to homelessness within 6 months than those headed by a man

12.8%

7.8%
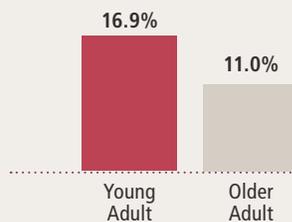
Woman Man
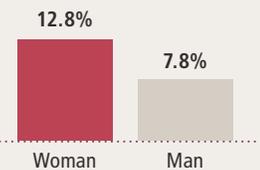
» *What additional supports can RRH programs put in place to ensure that families headed by a young adult and/or a woman do not return to homelessness after successfully exiting RRH?*