

Housing Plus Project Program Evaluation

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Abstract

The Housing Plus Project (HPP) is a short-term rental subsidy program funded through the states of California. The program was targeted to HIV+ individuals living in Orange County. This evaluation reviewed data collected from the program to see it's effectiveness in improving housing outcomes and to see how various factors affected a person's housing stability at exit as well as ones length of stay in the program. A correlation was found between receiving both the 50% subsidy and the 30% subsidy and remaining housed at exit from the program. Length of stay was also associated with remaining housed at exit from the program. Other than those factors, ethnicity, documentation status, subsidy level, length, and income ratio were not correlated to housing stability at exit. Similarly rent to income ratio, ethnicity, documentation status were not associated with longer or shorter stays in the program. This evaluation provided valuable data in the effectiveness of rental subsidies on changing housing outcomes as well as providing information on equity in service provision.

Introduction

- HPP provided a 50% subsidy until March 2018, program then provided 30% subsidy
- This evaluation looked at cases that exited the program before March 2020
- Client were limited to 24 months of assistance
- Client needed to be living in Orange County, be HIV+, and make under 80% of the Area Median Income
- Grant was provided from the State Office of AIDS and ends in March 2021
- See Below logic model for expected outcomes
- Client needed to be referred by partner agency
- Client worked with a housing case manager to develop a housing plan

Literature Review

- People who receive rental subsidies are less likely to utilize the ER and other health services (Lim et al., 2018)
- Being behind on rent has been associated with child hospitalizations and poor health of care givers (Krisberg, 2018)
- Being behind on rent has been associated with depression (Krisberg, 2018)
- Paying more than 30% of ones rent towards income is considered a burdensome rent (Swope & Hernández, 2019)
- Being rent burdened is associated with hypertension and poor mental health (Swope & Hernández, 2019)
- HIV+ individuals are more likely to have lower income, experience mental health disorders, have substance abuse issue and be housing unstable (Wiewel et al., 2020)
- Housing placement is associate with improved health outcomes and improved treatment adherence among HIV+ individuals (Zhong et al., 2020)

Methods

Evaluation Design

- One group pretest-posttest design
- Information was gathers about the participants at entry from the program, throughout the program and at exit

Sample

- Participants of the Housing Plus Project of exited the program before March 2020 were included in this evaluation
- To receive housing plus services a participants needed to be a resident of Orange County, HIV+ make under 80% of the area median income, provide required documents, have a case manager with partner agencies and develop a housing plan

Measures

- Housing Stability at Exit: Housing stability was defined as “Stable” or “Unstable”. Stable defined a household that exited to receive a permanent voucher program, or whose rent to income ratio was 30% or below at exit. Unstable defined other unstable housing situation such as paying more than 30% of income towards rent or becoming homeless
- Length of Services: This was reviewed to see if there were any factor that increased or decreased ones length of service in the program
- Demographic Variables: Other demographic variable looked at are Ethnicity, Case Management Level, Rent to income Ratio, Subsidy Level
 - Rent to income ratio was calculated by dividing rent by income
 - Subsidy level is categorized as receiving the 30% subsidy for the entirety of ones time on the program, receiving 50% subsidy for the entirety of ones time on the program or receiving both

Data Collection Procedures : Data was collected by the housing case manager through out the program and organized by researcher

Results

Demographic Results

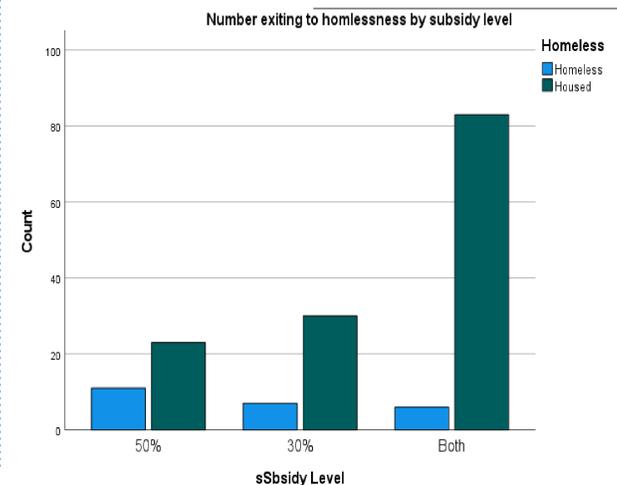
What is the effect of housing subsidy on stability at exit?

70% of those exiting only having received the 30% subsidy exited to an unstable environment. 79% of those only receiving 50% subsidy exited to instability and 76% of those having received both exited to instability. A significant association was found (Those who received both the 30% and 50% subsidy were more likely to maintain housing at exit (93.3%). 67.6% of those who had received only the 50% subsidy maintained housing and 81.1% of those who only received the 30% subsidy maintained housing.

Demographics of the Sample

Characteristics	%
Ethnicity (N=160)	
Hispanic	56.3
White	26.3
Black	8.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.8
Native American	.6
Gender Identity	
Male	78.8
Female	18.8
Trans or Non-Binary	2.5
Case Management	
Client Support Services	6.3
Medical Retention Services	11.3
Linkage to Care	1.3
Self Advocacy	55.6
Other Agency	25.6
Subsidy	
50%	21.3
30%	23.1
Both	55.6
Housing Stability	
Stable	21.3
Unstable	76.3

Independent variables	Housing at exit	
	Stable	Unstable
	%	%
Subsidy amount		
30%	24	7
50%	21	7
Both	20	6
Documentation		
Documented	24	7
Undocumented	10	9
Race/ethnicity		
Hispanic	26	7
White	17	3
Black	15	8
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	5
		9



What were the effects of other factors on stability at exit ?

The mean length of stay for those who exited to homelessness was significantly different than the length of stay for those who did not exit to homelessness. Those who exited to homelessness were more likely to spend less time in the program than those who exited to a housed environment whether it was a stable or unstable housing.

What were the factors that affected length of stay in the program ?

Other factors such as ethnicity, subsidy level, documentation status, were all tested to see if there were any correlations between those factors and an increased or decreased length of stay in the program. No differenced were found except for the previously mentions correlation between length of stay and those who exited to homelessness. Other than that no group differed by length of stay.

Independent variables	Length of stay	
	M	
Documentation		
Documented	14.22	
Undocumented	14.52	
Race/ethnicity		
Hispanic	15.01	
White	12.10	
Black	15.38	
Asian/Pacific Islander	14.93	
Subsidy Level		
50%	7.62	
30%	8.19	
Both	19.36	

Discussion

- No differences were found among length of services among ethnicities and documentation status
- A significant difference was found between receiving both subsidies and staying housed after program
- Those who received both subsidies were more like to be in the program for a longer amount of time

Recommendations

- Improved data collection procedures
- Improved measurement tools such as post program data collection or psychosocial measurements

References

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