

Rapid Re-Housing

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Marge Wherley, Abt Associates, Inc.

What is Rapid Re-Housing?

People experiencing homelessness should be assisted to quickly and directly move into permanent housing--without pre-conditions for treatment, sobriety or “housing readiness.”

Components:

- 1. Assistance securing housing.** RRH programs support landlords who accept tenants with poor credit, rental, criminal histories. The larger the landlord network, the greater the housing choices.
- 2. Temporary financial assistance.** Housing start-up costs and limited rental assistance: the least assistance for the shortest period necessary.
- 3. Case management.** Landlord and tenancy supports, linkage to income-enhancing options, expense reduction, other supports clients choose.

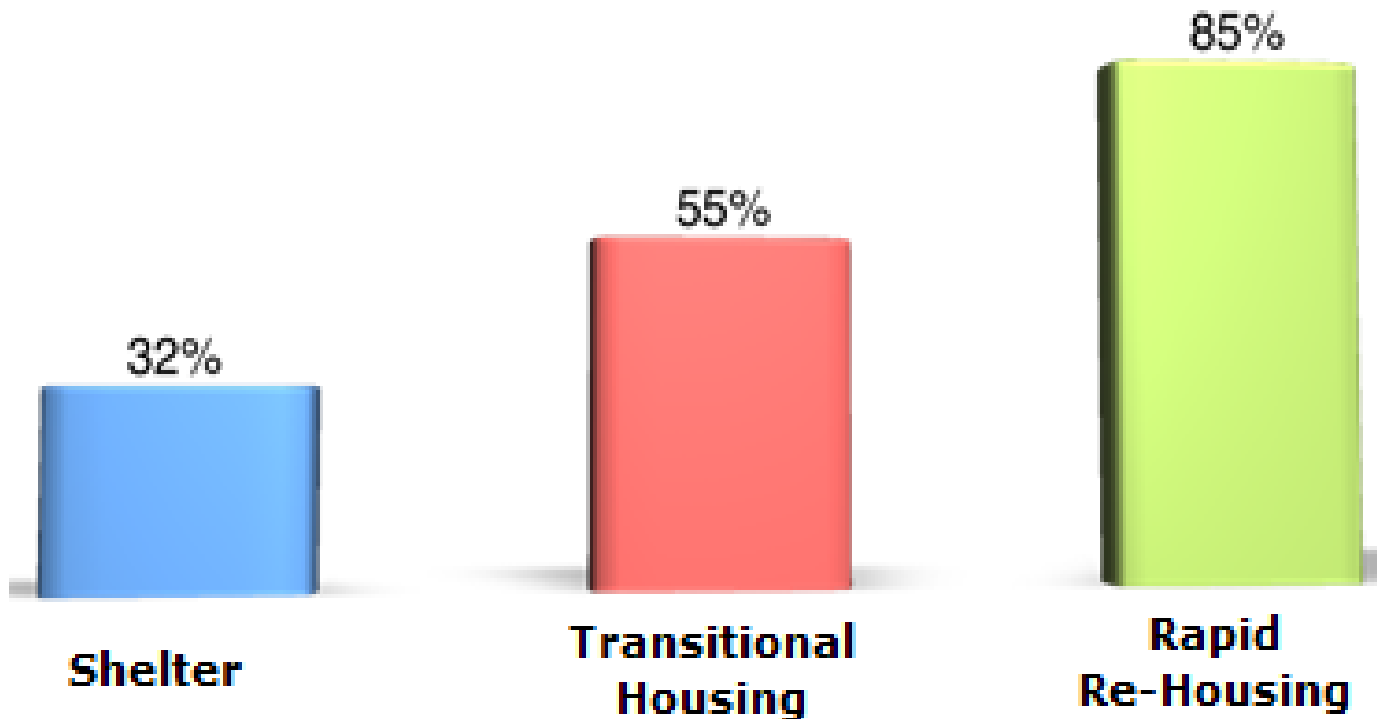
Why RRH? The Rationale:

- **Housing First:** People experiencing homelessness deserve housing FIRST, without any preconditions.
- **Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs:** Survival and safety needs will drive behavior until these needs are met. Only then can a person focus on other “higher” needs.
- **Crisis/Stress Biology:** The neurohormones released during stress drives people to unconsciously prioritize short-term rewards. The prefrontal cortex, responsible for longer-term planning, is over-ridden.

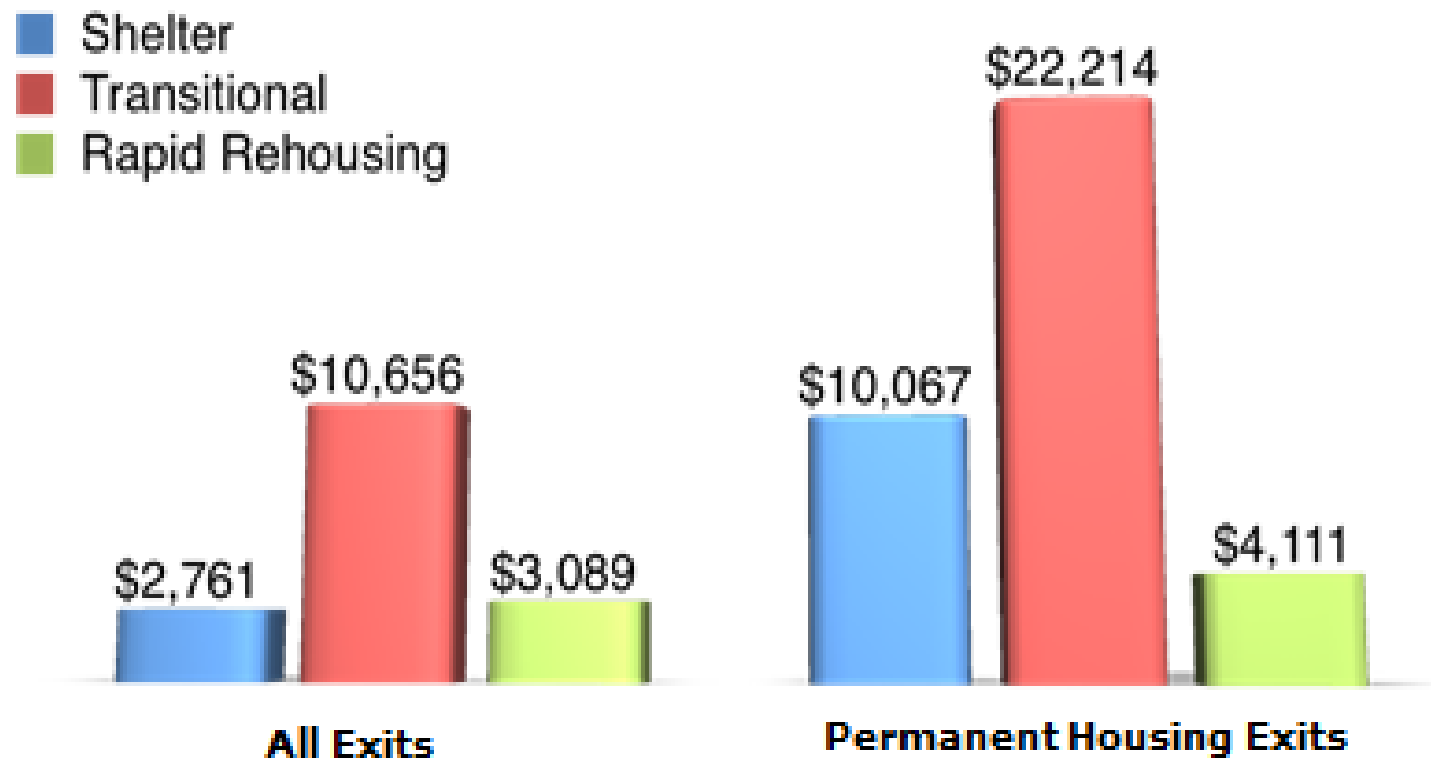
RRH: The Results

- **Reduced length of shelter stays makes crisis beds available to others in need**
- **Reduction in the negative impacts of prolonged homelessness:**
 - Job loss,
 - Reduced school attendance → lower performance → lower graduation rates,
 - Inability to follow medical prescriptions (medications, diet, etc.),
 - Increased substance abuse
 - Lower HIV viral load
- **Improved Outcomes:**
 - More discharges to permanent housing
 - Lower cost/household
 - Less recidivism to homelessness

Percent of Exits that are to Permanent Housing for Persons in Households with Children in 14 Communities

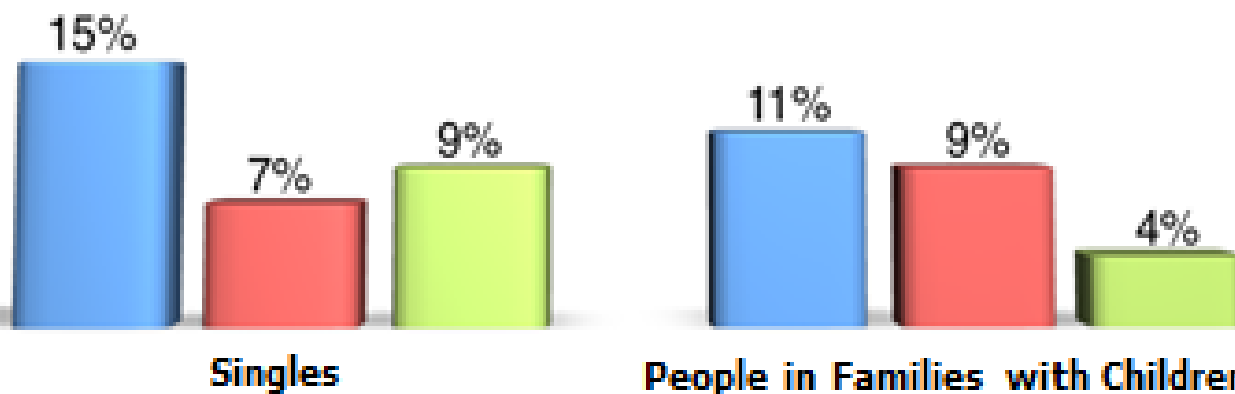


Average Cost Per Exit for Families with Children in 14 Communities



Rate of Return to Homelessness Within 12 Months of Exit for 7 Communities

- Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Rapid Rehousing



RRH isn't just for households with low → moderate barriers!

After Targeting All Families in Shelter:

	12 months post-exit with no shelter entry AGENCY A	12 months post-exit with no shelter entry AGENCY B
LEVEL 2	95%	99%
LEVEL 3	97%	98%
LEVEL 4	92%	88%
LEVEL 5	84%	97%

Rodriguez, 2013

- Studied 9,013 exits from homelessness during one year in Georgia (shelter, transitional housing, and RRH).
- Analyzed 21 variables, to determine factors related to recidivism

The top risk associated with a return to homelessness within two years:

Had NOT enrolled in Rapid Re-Housing

Our assumptions about homelessness risk are often wrong

Shinn & Greer et al (2013): followed 11,105 families who requested assistance to prevent homelessness. 12.8% who did not receive assistance entered a shelter within 3 years. Using risk data was more effective in predicting homelessness than worker judgment.

Risk factors NOT associated with homelessness:

- Youth
- Education,
- Work history,
- Having been a teen mom,
- Social ties,
- Mental illness,
- Substance abuse,
- Health problems,
- Imprisonment,
- Serious housing/building problems.

Why do some still believe RRH doesn't work?

- In the 1980s, research compared homeless families to ALL housed families and found more personal problems. **Current research compares poor homeless families with poor housed families—and differences vanish.**
- 30 years ago public benefits could cover rent. **TANF is no longer sufficient—it has not increased by \$1 in a quarter century, while rent has more than doubled**
- **Staff have little training or experience with families who are poor but remain housed or households who exit homelessness and don't return. This “case bias” prevents staff from trusting in the resilience of very low-income families.**

People with disabilities are over-represented among the homeless, but not for the reason you might think.....



People with disabilities are 200-300% more likely to be poor.

- If 15% of the U.S. population has some form of disability, then 30-45% of the homeless population might have a disability.
- People with disabilities are more over-represented among the poor than:
 1. all racial/ethnic minorities combined
 2. single parents.

Poor people become homeless; disabled people are poor.

- This is a social policy issue: some countries have a safety net that virtually eliminates the income disparity

Rapid Re-Housing

What Rapid Re-Housing does... 	And what Rapid Re-Housing <u>doesn't</u> do 
<p>Reduces the length of time people are homeless</p> <p>Minimizes the negative impact of homelessness on their lives</p> <p>Assists people to obtain resources that can help with longer-term goals--if they choose</p>	<p>Cure poverty</p> <p>Assure people will have affordable housing; i.e. eliminate rent burden</p> <p>Protect them from the impact of the housing market, job market, bad luck or bad judgment</p> <p>Eliminate housing mobility</p>

Takeaway: The Role of RRH

- **People are more resilient than you think** and RRH is effective, efficient, and sufficient for the great majority of families to permanently exit homelessness.
- **Once people exit homelessness, their stress levels can gradually or quickly return to “normal.”**
- **When the stress of homelessness is over—or reduced--**, people are more willing and able to identify -- and possibly address -- longer-term goals.
- **Assistance with those longer-term goals is the role of other community resources; RRH is a crisis response service.**