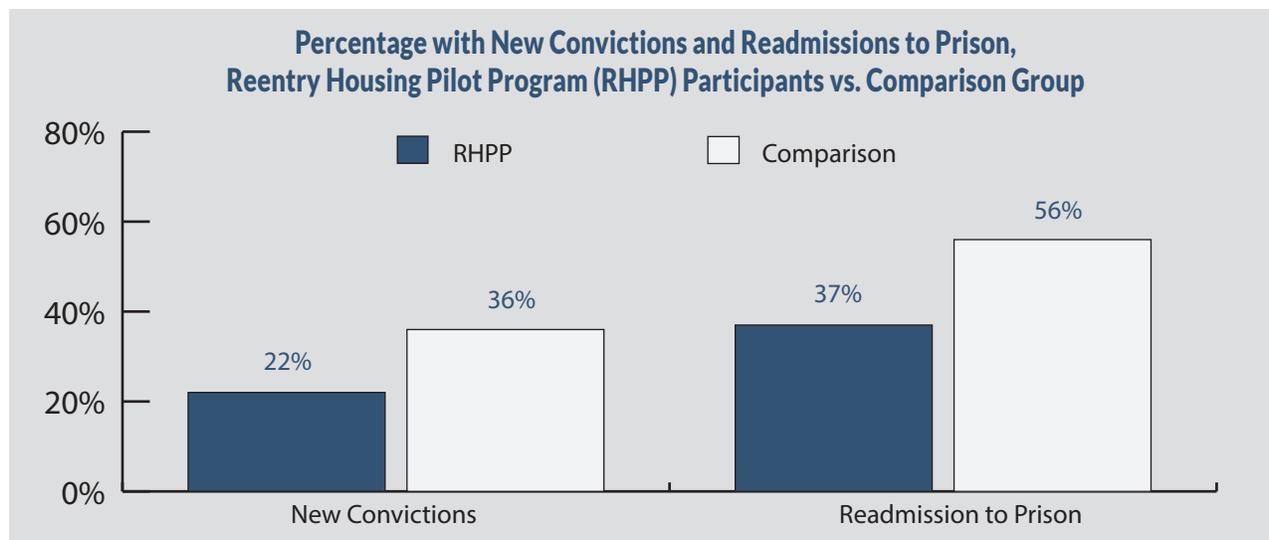




Post-Prison Housing and Wraparound Services Linked to Reduced Recidivism

A study recently published in *Criminal Justice and Behavior* found that certain individuals released from prison without a place to live who participated in a housing program had lower rates of recidivism¹ compared to similar individuals who did not. The Washington State Reentry Housing Pilot Program (RHPP) provided up to 12 months of “wraparound” housing and other services coordinated across multiple agencies to high-risk/need² individuals being released from prison without viable housing. Researchers compared recidivism results of those who received the RHPP intervention with similar individuals at risk of homelessness who did not.³ In the three years following release, 22% of RHPP participants had a new conviction vs. 36% of the comparison group. Similarly, 37% of RHPP participants had been readmitted to prison vs. 56% of the comparison group.⁴ The study also found that, regardless of participation in the RHPP intervention, periods of homelessness significantly increased the risk of recidivism. Researchers advised that policymakers and community corrections officers consider temporary housing as an alternative to revocation of community supervision, a solution that could be less expensive and more effective in decreasing recidivism.



Sources:

Lutze, F. E., Rosky, J. W., and Hamilton, Z. K. (2014). Homelessness and reentry: A multisite outcome evaluation of Washington State’s reentry housing program for high risk offenders. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 41 (4), 471-491.

Notes:

- ¹ Recidivism measures included new convictions (charges that resulted in a guilty plea or verdict following release); revocations (violations of the technical conditions of community supervision that resulted in admittance to prison, jail, or work release); and prison readmissions (a return to prison due to revocation or new conviction).
- ² Researchers used the Washington State Static Risk Assessment tool to measure risk of recidivism.
- ³ A sample of 208 individuals who received RHPP services was compared with a sample of 208 similar individuals who did not. To increase valid comparability between groups, researchers employed a strategy that matched the comparison group on 75 variables in 12 domains, such as prior criminal history and needs related to employment, housing, and mental health.
- ⁴ The RHPP group also had a lower rate of revocations than the comparison group (40% vs. 47%), but the difference was not statistically significant.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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