



**RAPID RE-HOUSING FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES
DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS EVALUATION REPORT**



**RAPID RE-HOUSING FOR HOMELESS
FAMILIES DEMONSTRATION
PROGRAMS EVALUATION REPORT
PART II: DEMONSTRATION FINDINGS—
OUTCOMES EVALUATION**



Visit PD&R's website

huduser.gov

to find this report and others sponsored by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R). Other services of HUD USER, PD&R's research information service, include listservs, special interest reports, bimonthly publications (best practices, significant studies from other sources), access to public use databases, and a hotline (800-245-2691) for help accessing the information you need.

**RAPID RE-HOUSING FOR HOMELESS
FAMILIES DEMONSTRATION
PROGRAMS EVALUATION REPORT
PART II: DEMONSTRATION FINDINGS—
OUTCOMES EVALUATION
FINAL REPORT**

Submitted to

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Policy Development and Research

Submitted by

Meryl Finkel
Meghan Henry
Natalie Matthews
Brooke Spellman
Abt Associates Inc.

Dennis Culhane, Principal Investigator

April 2016

Acknowledgments

Meryl Finkel led the design and implementation of the outcomes evaluation, with significant support from Meghan Henry, Brooke Spellman, Natalie Matthews, and Julia Brown. Tom McCall completed the analysis of followup survey data and administrative data received from each Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration (RRHD) site. Azim Shivji and Hiren Nisar assisted with administrative data cleaning and preparation.

Julie Pacer and Kelly Daley of Abt SRBI led the 12-month followup survey efforts and helped formulate key strategies to increase followup survey response rates.

Dennis Culhane, the principal investigator for the study, and Jill Khadduri, the Abt project quality advisor, each provided critical input during the evaluation, along with Martha Burt and Carol Wilkins, senior advisors to the study. Reviewers at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provided invaluable feedback on drafts of this report.

The authors greatly appreciate the time and dedication of RRHD program staff members, who provided information about their local programs and recruited participants for the followup survey; local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) staff, who devoted extensive time to collecting and preparing local administrative data through their local HMIS; and local Continuum of Care and community leaders, who provided general support and information throughout the evaluation.

The authors especially thank the families who participated in the followup survey and provided personal information to their community's local HMIS. Without them, none of this work would have been possible.

Foreword

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded funding to 23 communities to implement a demonstration program to expand a promising new intervention for addressing homelessness among families. The *Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration* (RRHD) program awarded the first set of federal funds intended to support the expansion of this new model of homeless assistance nationwide. Rapid re-housing is designed to enable households to exit shelter quickly by assisting them in finding a housing unit in the community and subsequently providing them with a short-term housing subsidy (not to exceed 18 months) along with a modest package of housing-related services designed to stabilize the household in anticipation of the conclusion of rental assistance.

HUD's evaluation of the RRHD program sought to understand the variations among rapid re-housing programs established in the demonstration communities and also the outcomes of the families served through the program. Key observations include—

- Grantees varied greatly in all aspects of program implementation, including (1) structure and length of the housing subsidy, (2) breadth of the package of supportive services offered, (3) intensity of case management, and (4) target population.
- Families had a low likelihood of returning to emergency shelter within the study period— a review of Homelessness Management Information System, or HMIS, data found that only 10 percent of households served experienced at least one episode of homelessness within 12 months of program exit.
- Families were highly mobile following the end of program participation—76 percent of households moved at least once within the 12-month period following their exit from the RRHD program.

From the perspective of the homeless assistance system, which has the role of reducing the number of households that experience homelessness, this outcome is excellent. That said, the high rate of mobility raises some concerns, as does the finding that family income showed little or no increase, and very few families exited the program with any type of subsidized housing assistance. These findings suggest that the short-term assistance offered may be just that, and that some families who continue to struggle with severe poverty may find themselves again in housing crisis before too long. From a homelessness prevention perspective, this finding is vexing.

Since the time that this demonstration was initiated in 2009, communities have moved swiftly to implement rapid re-housing programs and to refine the model to meet the needs of the homeless households presenting for assistance

and also the conditions of the local housing market. Considerable attention has also been paid to how communities measure the success of their rapid re-housing programs: Should the goal of the intervention be housing stability or avoidance of a return to shelter? Should rapid re-housing be considered an intervention with long-term or short-term goals? The evidence generated through this research effort does not definitively answer these questions, but rather it adds to the collection of findings that is helping to shape what we know about how rapid

re-housing programs are implemented and to considerations for the proper role of rapid re-housing programs in a communitywide response to homelessness.



Katherine M. O'Regan
Assistant Secretary for Policy Development &
Research
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Contents

Executive Summary	ix
Background on the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program.....	ix
Study Methodology	x
Study Cohort: Characteristics and Services Received	xii
RRHD Program Utilization by Families in the Study.....	xii
Housing Outcomes of RRHD Participants.....	xiii
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Background.....	2
The Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program	3
RRHD Design Requirements.....	4
The RRHD Communities	5
Chapter 2: Methodology	13
Homeless Management Information Systems Data.....	14
Challenges in Collecting HMIS Data.....	16
Followup Survey Interviews	16
Family Tracking Strategy	17
Survey Response Rates.....	18
Approach to Measuring Housing Stability Outcomes	20
Subsequent Homelessness	20
Housing Stability.....	21
Summary of the Universe Reported in Each Outcome Measure	22

Chapter 3: Study Cohort: Characteristics and Services Received.....23

Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants23

- Age23
- Race and Ethnicity24
- Household Composition.....24
- Veteran Status25
- Disability and Domestic Violence Experience25
- Employment and Income.....25

Program Utilization by Families in the Study27

- Length of Assistance Provided.....27
- Depth of Subsidy Provided28
- Frequency of Case Management.....29
- Intake Approach.....30
- RRHD Program Market Characteristics.....30

Chapter 4: Housing Outcomes for Families in the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.....33

Families’ Housing at RRHD Program Exit and 12 Months Later34

- Housing Situations.....34
- Housing Affordability35
- Housing Quality36

Housing Stability.....36

- Housing Stability and Family Characteristics37
- Housing Stability and RRHD Program and Housing Market Features.....40
- Housing Stability and Housing Affordability.....42
- Multivariate Analysis of Determinants of Housing Stability42

Subsequent Episodes of Homelessness46

- Family Characteristics and Subsequent Homelessness.....47
- RRHD Program and Housing Market Features and Subsequent Homelessness50
- Multivariate Analysis on Determinants of Subsequent Homelessness.....52
- Multivariate Analysis of HMIS Data in Subsequent Homelessness for a Larger Sample of Families Served by RRHD Programs54

Understanding Housing Stability.....55

- Barriers to Housing Stability55
- Neighborhood Problems58
- Reasons for Leaving the RRHD Program Unit.....59

Chapter 5: Indicators of Self-Sufficiency and Family Well-Being	61
Income and Employment Outcomes.....	61
Employment Status and Earned Income Change for Survey Respondents	61
Changes in Cash Income To Pay Rent Between RRHD Entry and Exit	64
Participation in Training	66
Indicators of Family Well-Being.....	67
Family Stability.....	67
Food Security	68
Health.....	70
School Behavior and School Attendance	70
 Chapter 6: Conclusion	 73
Are Families Successful in Obtaining Housing?	73
Do Those Assisted Remain Stably Housed in the Same Unit 12 Months After Exiting the RRHD Program?	73
Do Those Assisted End Up Returning to Homelessness After the RRHD Assistance Ends?	74
How Well Are RRHD Families Doing in Areas Beyond Housing?.....	76
What Do These Findings Suggest for Practitioners and Policymakers?	76
 References	 79
 Appendix A: Followup Survey Instrument	 81
 Appendix B: Description of 12-Month Followup Survey Tracking Activities	 125

Executive Summary

Rapid re-housing for homeless families is both a philosophy and a homeless assistance intervention designed to quickly move homeless families from literal homelessness into permanent housing. From a philosophical perspective, rapid re-housing tries to minimize the time that families spend being homeless. It is premised on the belief that time in shelters harms families and children and that most families do not need a long period of preparation before they can succeed in housing independently. Rapid re-housing interventions generally offer families a package of temporary assistance that may include housing search assistance, one-time financial assistance to offset move-in costs, case management, housing stabilization services, ongoing financial assistance to bridge the gap between family income and housing cost, and other supportive services or linkages to community resources to help families develop the capacity to sustain their housing into the future.

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded funds to 23 communities to implement the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration (RRHD) program. HUD contracted with Abt Associates Inc. (Abt) to conduct an outcomes evaluation of this demonstration. The study's basic research question is whether rapid re-housing is an effective intervention for

families who had moderate barriers to housing stability, with *effectiveness* defined primarily as whether families avoid homelessness and maintain stable housing during the 12 months after program exit. This report documents the characteristics, service use, and outcomes of families housed through RRHD and offers considerations for future rapid re-housing policy.

Background on the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program

In 2007, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$23.75 million to pilot rapid re-housing for homeless families in communities across the country. HUD sought proposals for demonstration programs through the 2008 application process for McKinney-Vento Act funds. To be eligible for funding, applicants had to demonstrate that they had a central intake process for identifying and screening homeless families and that they would use a standardized tool to systematically assess families' appropriateness for the RRHD program relative to other interventions available in the community. Local RRHD programs were supposed to be designed to serve families identified as having at least one moderate barrier to housing, based on the assumption that families who had low barriers to housing would not need the RRHD assistance to regain housing and that those families who had significant barriers would need more assistance than could be provided through rapid re-housing.

Grant applicants could propose to provide short-term rental assistance of 3 to 6 months or

long-term rental assistance of 12 to 15 months, although any household served through the program could be eligible for a maximum of 18 months of assistance, if necessary. Supportive services eligible under the program were limited to housing placement, case management, legal assistance, literacy training, job training, mental health services, childcare services, and substance-abuse services. To augment these supports, agencies running RRHD could partner with other agencies or leverage other funding sources to supplement and round out the services offered to families through RRHD.

The RRHD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) specified core design features and basic requirements for the RRHD programs, but it also gave applicants the latitude to design their RRHD proposals to meet their local needs and the context of their local system and partners. Some grantees embraced the principles in the NOFA, and others adapted them. As a result, the 23 local RRHD programs varied considerably: 5 grantees implemented rapid re-housing that offered only short-term rental assistance; 13 grantees offered only long-term rental assistance; and the remaining 5 grantees provided both short- and long-term assistance, depending on family needs.

RRHD grantees also implemented changes to the design of their RRHD programs after operating for some time. Of the 23 grantees, 19 adjusted their assessment process (including screening and assessment tools), the duration of assistance provided (short term, long term, or both), and the intensity of case management offered to families. Although these variations enabled HUD to learn about how rapid re-housing efforts function in different environments, the differences among programs across the 23 communities made it more challenging to draw clear conclusions about the effect of a specific model of rapid re-housing.

Study Methodology

The research team worked with the RRHD grantees to identify all families who were served

within RRHD and who exited the program by June 1, 2012. Grantees then invited these families to be part of an outcomes evaluation. Recruiting families proved challenging; 500 families consented to participate in the study – less than one-half of the families identified. The primary challenge to enrollment was timing. Many programs had already enrolled and served a significant number of families before the launch of the evaluation. Therefore, the process of recruiting families to participate in the study often happened retroactively, rather than when families were initially enrolling in the program. In some cases, program staff sought to recruit families into the outcomes evaluation after they had finished receiving RRHD assistance, and RRHD programs were unable even to locate families to ask about their interest in the study. Other families declined to participate.

Data Sources

The evaluation relies on four primary data sources:

- 1. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data recorded at RRHD program entry and exit for 490 of the 500 families who consented to be in the study.** HMIS data, collected directly from families by local RRHD programs, include demographic and disability information, income information collected at program entry and exit, information about participants' living situation before RRHD program entry, and destination (type of housing setting) at exit from the local RRHD program.¹
- 2. HMIS data on subsequent homelessness for 22 of the Continuums of Care (CoCs), in which 476 of the 490 study participants were served.** HMIS data provided by 22 of the 23 CoCs include dates associated

¹ HMIS is the information system designated by the local Continuum of Care (CoC) to record data on all people served within the CoC's shelter, housing, and service system for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Agencies collect information directly from people they serve and enter the data into their CoC's HMIS. The 10 families without HMIS data are excluded from the analysis presented in this report.

with enrollment in emergency shelters or transitional housing. These data are different from rapid re-housing, and families staying in beds provided by such programs are considered homeless. The data on shelter stays are used to measure whether the 476 study participants served in these 22 sites returned to the homeless system in the 12 months after RRHD program exit. HMIS data on returns to shelter were not available from the one RRHD site, which served 14 study families.

3. Data from 12-month followup survey for 201 of the 490 study participants. Attempts were made to collect survey data by phone approximately 12 months after each study family exited the local RRHD programs, and followup surveys were completed with 203 of the 500 family heads (41 percent) who consented to be in the study. Of the 203 survey respondents, 2 do not have HMIS baseline data and, therefore, are excluded from the analysis. The followup survey questions were designed to mirror HMIS data elements on income and living situations to allow for a comparison of participants' outcomes at RRHD exit (recorded in HMIS) with their outcomes 12 months later. Survey data also probe more deeply on current housing conditions, neighborhood conditions, previous housing history, employment and income information, education, family composition and well-being, and health conditions.

4. Address history data collected for nonrespondents. In the process of locating the 500 study participants who consented to participate in the study for the 12-month followup survey, the research team recorded information collected from their friends and family and commercial change-of-address databases about subsequent addresses for 147 of the family heads who did not complete the followup survey. From other tracking data, the research team was able to infer whether an additional 24 of the nonrespondents had moved or were still living in the unit in which they were

housed during the RRHD program. The tracking data on these 171 nonrespondents are combined with survey data for respondents to report study participants' housing stability. (See appendix B for a description of the 12-month followup survey tracking activities.)

The analysis in this report also relies on data collected about RRHD local program design, such as length of assistance offered, supportive service package offered, details about the assessment tool and triage process, and the definition of target population and participants' barriers. These data were collected during site visits in 2011 and telephone calls in 2013.

Definition of Housing Outcomes

The intent of the rapid re-housing intervention was to end homelessness for program participants and prevent its recurrence. The core housing outcome for this evaluation is accordingly defined as whether participants return to homelessness, immediately or at any point in the year after RRHD exit. This outcome is measured for 483 study participants who had either followup survey data or HMIS data. Because HMIS data on returns to homelessness are not available from one RRHD site for seven nonrespondents—those participants who had neither HMIS nor survey data—they are excluded from the return to homelessness measure.

Although the primary goal of rapid re-housing is to end families' current homelessness and prevent subsequent homelessness, the research team was also interested in understanding the extent of housing stability experienced by study participants who do not experience subsequent homelessness. That is, although participants do not experience homelessness, are they stably housed? Although housing mobility can be positive under some circumstances, the research team concluded that, for this population of families experiencing homelessness, an important indicator of housing stability is whether a family remained in the same housing unit in which it lived during the RRHD program.

This outcome can be definitively measured only from the 12-month followup survey. The reverse measure, however—changing addresses at least once during the followup period—can be determined for some of the survey nonrespondents as well. We measure housing stability for 380 study participants—the 201 survey respondents, the additional 171 nonrespondents for whom we have subsequent address data, and 8 additional nonrespondents for whom we have evidence of subsequent homelessness from HMIS. We exclude from the measure of mobility the 110 nonrespondents for whom we do not have sufficient data to confirm whether they moved from their RRHD-subsidized unit.

Study Cohort: Characteristics and Services Received

At the time of RRHD program entry, most study participants were—

- Women.
- African-American.
- Single parents with one or two children.
- Less than 35 years of age, with the largest group being between 25 and 34 years of age.
- Unemployed and without earned income.
- Recipients of cash or noncash benefits.

RRHD families were small in size. More than three-fourths of families in the study (78 percent) had only one adult in the household that entered the program. Most of the family heads (89 percent) were women, and the most common household composition at entry (32 percent) was a single adult woman with one child. Only 16 percent of study participants reported having a disability when they entered the RRHD program. More than one-third (35 percent) reported experiencing domestic violence at some time before entry. About one-third of study participants (34 percent) had earned income at the time they entered RRHD, most earning only modest amounts.

RRHD Program Utilization by Families in the Study

The 23 RRHD grantees all offered rental assistance and service supports to families they served. The rapid re-housing intervention varied in some fairly basic ways from site to site, however. The variables included the length of RRHD assistance provided, the depth of rental subsidy provided, the frequency of case management required for program participants, and the program's intake approach.

Length of RRHD Assistance Provided

The length of RRHD assistance provided to the families who participated in the study was chosen by each RRHD program as part of the design of the intervention. Most programs offered a flexible length of assistance, however, either by providing different levels of assistance based on assessment scores or by extending or reducing assistance based on case-by-case determinations. Of the study participants, 21 percent received RRHD assistance for 6 months or less. Slightly more than one-half (53 percent) received between 6 and 12 months of RRHD assistance, and about 29 percent of study participants received assistance for more than 12 months.

Depth of Rental Subsidy Provided

Local RRHD programs structured their rental assistance in several different ways. Most study participants were enrolled in programs with graduated rental assistance (57 percent), where families pay an increasing percentage of the rent during the course of program participation. Approximately one-third (31 percent) of study participants were enrolled in programs that required families to pay a percentage of their income (usually 30 percent) toward rent. Only 12 percent of study participants were in programs that were designed to pay the entire rent for the duration of the program.

Frequency of Case Management Required

Through case management, RRHD programs offered a variety of services to participants to help them achieve stable housing. Slightly more than three-fourths of study participants were in programs with infrequent case management, meaning they were required to meet with a case manager only once per month or less. One-fourth of participants were in programs with frequent case management, requiring them to meet with a case manager biweekly or weekly.

Intake Approach

To be eligible for RRHD funding, the CoCs in which the 23 RRHD grantees operated were required to have a centralized intake system, characterized by a single point of intake or a coordinated intake process supported by a universal assessment tool. Thus, in the process evaluation, the research team categorized the communities into two groups: (1) those communities with centralized—or largely centralized—intake systems and (2) those communities with decentralized intake systems that assessed whether the family should be accepted into the RRHD program but were without the ability to refer or place families elsewhere. Of the participants, 46 percent were served in sites with centralized intake, and 54 percent were served in sites with decentralized intake models.

Housing Outcomes of RRHD Participants

The theory of rapid re-housing is that support to facilitate permanent housing placement and temporary subsidies will probably help move families out of homelessness and back into stable housing. But skeptics wonder: Are assisted families successful in obtaining housing? Do those assisted families remain stably housed, or are they set up for future failure because the underlying factors that contributed to their homelessness have not been addressed? And if the underlying factors are important, does that suggest that rapid re-housing is not the most appropriate intervention for those families who have certain characteristics or needs? Given

small sample sizes, the diversity of the rapid re-housing model implemented, and the inability of this demonstration to randomly assign families to a control group, this evaluation could not definitively answer these questions. The findings in this report, however, add some evidence to the discussion.

Are assisted families successful in obtaining housing? Less than 2 percent (7 of the 450 study participants who had HMIS data on destination at exit) of the families in this study indicated that they were exiting the program to a homeless situation (exhibit E.1). Nearly all families assisted with RRHD were able to sustain a housing placement and not return to a shelter at the point that they stopped receiving RRHD assistance. Of the families, 18 percent were living in subsidized rental housing, including those families in the rental housing with a housing subsidy category (15 percent) and those families in the permanent supportive housing category (3 percent).

Do those assisted families remain in the same unit 12 months after exiting the RRHD program? About one-fourth (24 percent) of the 380 study participants for whom we had data on housing mobility were living in the same unit 12 months after exiting the RRHD program, meaning that the remaining 76 percent moved at least once during the 12 months after the end of their participation in the RRHD program (exhibit E.2). Respondents to the survey who had moved gave both “seeking better quality” (including size of unit and safety of location) and “reducing housing costs” as reasons why they chose to move.

Only two demographic characteristics—age and households with three or more children—were found to correlate with moving out of the RRHD unit during the year after the end of the RRHD assistance. Controlling for other family, program, and market features, families who had household heads ages 18 to 24 were significantly less likely (63 percent less likely, on average) to remain in the same permanent housing unit relative to households with older

Exhibit E.1: Housing Situation of Study Participants at the Time of RRHD Exit

Destination at RRHD Program Exit	Number of Study Participants	Percent of Study Participants
Rental housing without housing assistance	321	71
Rental housing with a housing subsidy	69	15
Permanent supportive housing	13	3
Doubled-up situations with family or friends	36	8
Homeless (including emergency shelter or transitional housing)	7	2
Other	4	1

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 450 study participants (40 of the 490 study participants were missing data on destination and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System data from RRHD program exit

Exhibit E.2: Housing Stability Outcomes of Study Participants

Housing Mobility	Number of Study Participants	Percent of Study Participants
Remained in same housing unit 12 months after RRHD program exit	93	24.5
Moved at least once within the 12 months of RRHD program exit	287	75.5

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 380 study participants (110 of the 490 study participants were missing the data to measure housing mobility and are excluded from this exhibit).

Sources: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data at RRHD program exit; RRHD followup survey data; tracking data; HMIS data on returns to homelessness

family heads. Families accompanied by three or more children were also significantly less likely (51 percent less likely, on average) to remain in the same unit.

The research team found no statistically significant differences in the likelihood of remaining in the program unit based on race/ethnicity, age of children, or domestic violence history. No significant relationships were, somewhat surprisingly, found between entering RRHD with income (either earned or unearned) or exiting the program with a housing subsidy and retaining the same permanent housing unit 12 months later. Housing stability outcomes were also not associated with differences in rental vacancy rates or Fair Market Rent levels, which are used as proxies for barriers to moving.

Although families who stayed in the same unit reported receiving case management once a month or less frequently and receiving graduated assistance (assistance that steps down, with the family paying a greater share of the rent over time) more often than those families who moved, multivariate analysis that controls for other factors did not find a significant relationship between local RRHD program design features and housing retention. These results may reflect a true lack of relationship, or it may be that the study was not able to detect relationships because of unobserved nuances in program features, small sample sizes, and the inability to randomly assign families to control for unobservable family characteristics. Furthermore, in some cases, programs altered their models during the course of the study, so the analysis

may not be characterizing program features accurately for each individual respondent. Because of small sample sizes in some sites, we could not add a variable to the analysis that controls for unobserved site differences.

Do those assisted families return to homelessness after the RRHD assistance ends? Of the 483 families for whom we had data on potential homelessness, 10 percent were found to have experienced at least one episode of homelessness within a year of exiting the program (exhibit E.3).

Families who returned to homelessness were more often headed by young parents – between 18 and 24 years of age – than those families who had no returns to homelessness. The likelihood of returning to homelessness based on number and age of children, domestic violence history, or presence of a disability had no statistical significance. The 10 percent of participating families whose cash income at entry was at least 30 percent of Median Family Income were significantly less likely to have returned to homelessness compared with families who had no cash income at entry. Cash income at the time of program exit had no detectable effect on return to homelessness, however. Overall, program features such as length of assistance, depth of assistance, and frequency of case management were not found to have a statistically significant effect on whether a family had an episode of homelessness during the 12 months after exiting RRH.

The rate of return among families who were served in RRHD was generally confirmed by analysis of HMIS data about the 490 study families plus an additional 969 families. In this HMIS analysis, which detects only subsequent shelter and transitional housing use recorded in HMIS, 6 percent of families used residential homeless programs within the 12 months after completing RRHD assistance. Multivariate analysis of the HMIS data for the 1,459 families did not find a correlation between returns to homelessness and personal characteristics, however. Some housing program and market features were associated with lower rates of return to homelessness.

How well are RRHD families doing in areas beyond housing? The study can report only on outcomes other than housing stability for families who were located and interviewed 12 months after they exited the RRHD program. One-third of those families who entered the RRHD without employment had gained employment by the time of the followup survey, bringing the percent employed at followup to 45 percent (91 of 201 respondents to the survey).

In addition to having modest levels of employment, families experienced other challenges 12 months after leaving RRHD, possibly because of the large proportion of their income being spent on rent. Of the 152 survey respondents living in their own unit, 35 percent paid more than one-half of their income for rent.

Exhibit E.3: Subsequent Homelessness of Families in the Study

Subsequent Homelessness Outcome	Number of Study Participants	Percent of Study Participants
At least one episode of homelessness within 12 months of RRHD program exit	50	10
No reported homelessness within 12 months of RRHD program exit	433	90

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 483 study participants (7 of the 490 study participants were missing the data to measure subsequent homelessness and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data at RRHD program exit; followup survey data; HMIS data on returns to homelessness

Families whose incomes remain low have to choose among food, housing, and other needed expenditures. More than one-half (56 percent) of those families who remained in the same permanent housing unit reported that, at some point, the food did not last until they had money to buy more; 16 percent of this group reported being without money for food often during the past year.

Achieving housing stability seems to align with improvements in perceived mental and physical health of participants and their children, however. Of the respondents who remained in the same unit, 39 percent reported feeling depressed, whereas more than three-fourths of respondents who experienced homelessness in the year after RRHD program exit reported feeling depressed.

What do these findings suggest for practitioners and policymakers? The study results affirm that rapid re-housing is effective at moving families into permanent housing and that most (90 percent) of those families who were placed do not return to homelessness. If 100 percent of the families remained housed, one might posit that the programs were not targeting those families who need the assistance to remain housed.

These findings are also consistent with previous research showing that family characteristics, such as the presence of a disability, that are often used to restrict rapid re-housing to a narrow group of families do not predict well which families will maintain stable housing and which will have subsequent episodes of homelessness. The finding that cash income greater than 30 percent of area Median Family Income (MFI) at the time of RRHD program enrollment was correlated with a lower likelihood of returning to homelessness demonstrates that income matters, but again poses the question: Is targeting rapid re-housing assistance to families who had incomes of more than 30 percent of MFI the best use of rapid re-housing resources?

The primary implication of these findings is that policymakers and practitioners should take

a practical view, acknowledging that rapid re-housing will not prevent future homelessness for all families and that those families who are housed will still live in challenging circumstances – not unlike those circumstances experienced by other extremely low-income families. To help families address these ongoing challenges, rapid re-housing programs can explore more formal linkages to mainstream supportive services programs such as job training assistance paired with planned safety net assistance and referrals to more intensive services if participants find themselves returning to homelessness. Permanent or very long-term rental assistance is likely to be needed to prevent subsequent homelessness for many formerly homeless families, especially those families in high-cost rental markets – a role more appropriate for the mainstream housing system than the homeless services system.

The only family characteristics that are statistically associated with housing instability are age and the presence of three or more children. We do not suggest that rapid re-housing programs exclude families headed by someone under age 25, but this finding may have implications for the intensity or type of services that should be offered to young parents or those families who have three or more children. Rapid re-housing programs may want to establish stronger follow-up protocols or additional followup services for these families.

Perhaps the results can free rapid re-housing programs to explore expanding eligibility to a broader group of participants than previously thought appropriate. Although all participants may not stay housed and some may experience subsequent homelessness, the analysis did not detect statistical differences in participants' housing outcomes correlated with characteristics that have been used by some RRHD programs to narrow participant eligibility. More research with larger sample sizes is recommended to explore the question of the relationship of personal characteristics and RRHD program features on housing outcomes.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Rapid re-housing for homeless families is both a philosophy and a homeless assistance intervention designed to quickly move homeless families from literal homelessness into permanent housing. From a philosophical perspective, rapid re-housing tries to minimize the time that families spend homeless. It is premised on the belief that time in shelters harms families and children and that most families do not need a long period of preparation before they can succeed independently in housing. Rapid re-housing interventions offer families a package of temporary assistance that may include housing placement search assistance, one-time financial assistance to offset move-in costs, case management, housing stabilization services, ongoing financial assistance to bridge the gap between family income and housing cost, and other supportive services or linkages to community resources to help families develop the capacity to keep their housing in the future.

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded funds to 23 communities to implement the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration (RRHD) program. Shortly thereafter, HUD contracted with Abt Associates Inc. (Abt) to conduct a process and outcomes evaluation of the demonstration program. The process evaluation, published as Part I of the final report, focused on learning how each local RRHD program operated, which families it served, what housing and service options it offered to families, how it fit into its community, and how it worked with prevention and other rapid re-housing programs in the community—if they existed. This report, Part II of the final report, documents the results of the outcomes evaluation, which was designed to examine the effectiveness of rapid re-housing, based on the outcomes for families housed through the demonstration program.

Where appropriate and relevant, the findings from the process evaluation phase have been incorporated into this report documenting the outcomes evaluation (Burt et al, 2015).

The study's basic research question is whether rapid re-housing is an effective intervention for families who had moderate barriers to stable housing, with effectiveness defined primarily as whether families avoid homelessness and maintain stable housing during the 12 months after program exit.

The study addresses the following issues.²

1. What are the demographic characteristics and barriers to housing of families who were assessed and served through the RRHD program?
2. What intervention (length of financial assistance, type and intensity of case management) was actually provided to families in the study?
3. Where are participating families living 12 months after exiting the RRHD program? Does their housing situation vary depending on family characteristics, the nature of the community in which the family was served, or on the features of the intervention received (for example, intensity of case management offered and length of assistance)?
4. To what extent are participating families able to remain in stable housing after exiting the RRHD program? Does this ability vary depending on family characteristics, the housing market in which the RRHD program is located, or on the features of the intervention received?
5. What share of participating families experience improvements on measures of self-sufficiency, employment, health, and

² The original research design included an additional question that we were not able to answer based on available data: How well do the assessment tools used by communities in the RRHD program predict which families will be most likely to maintain stable housing at program exit? Information related to this question was included in the process evaluation.

well-being? Do changes in earnings occur during program enrollment or after the family has left the program?

This chapter briefly describes the history of the rapid re-housing program model, the RRHD initiative, and the local programs funded under the demonstration. Chapter 2 of the report describes the data sources and methods used for the evaluation. Chapter 3 reports the characteristics of the study participants and the features and length of RRHD assistance they received. Chapters 4 and 5 answer the study's basic research question, which is whether rapid re-housing is an effective intervention for families who had moderate barriers, with effectiveness defined primarily as whether families avoid homelessness and maintain stable housing during the 12 months after program exit. Chapter 4 reports on study participants' housing outcomes, while chapter 5 reports on their income and employment growth and other indicators of well-being. The report closes with a brief summary and the authors' observations about potential policy implications associated with these findings.

Background

The history of rapid re-housing for homeless families goes back more than two decades, but only recently has it come into prominence as a "best practice." Although it was not referred to as rapid re-housing at the time, PATH Beyond Shelter, a local agency in Los Angeles, California, is heralded for developing rapid re-housing alternatives to emergency shelter for homeless families in the late 1980s. Two communities, Columbus/Franklin County, Ohio, and Hennepin County, Minnesota, are known as pioneers of implementing system-wide approaches to rapid re-housing for homeless families. Hennepin County began shifting to a rapid re-housing approach in 2000 and 2001. Columbus County used the approach even earlier but had a gap of some years because of funding changes. In both communities, rapid re-housing is part of a larger, carefully articulated

strategy built on the premise that extended shelter stays do not, by definition, end homelessness (that is, families in shelter are still homeless) and that shelter stays of any length (but especially long ones) are not good for children.³ Also, for communities that pay for shelter with public funds, long shelter stays are costly and do not demonstrably reduce homelessness.

Prior research suggests that housing availability and subsidies are the factors that best predict how long families will stay in shelter.⁴ Personal characteristics, such as age, race, education, employment, health, and mental health, have much less predictive power. If housing is relatively inexpensive or rent subsidies (short term, long term, or permanent) are available, and communities are organized to link families and landlords, families leave shelter faster than if housing is expensive, no landlord linkages exist, and the subsidy waitlists are years long. These findings support the value of providing families who had up-front move-in costs and a few months of rental assistance to keep their stay in shelter short.

Dissemination of evidence about rapid re-housing has catapulted this approach into the national spotlight, ultimately fueling a very significant investment in rapid re-housing through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funded under President Obama's American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA) (P.L. 111-5,

³ The evidence that homelessness specifically harms children is weak; homeless and poor housed children do not differ on most dimensions that research has measured (Rog and Buckner, 2007). The evidence that extreme poverty harms children is very strong, however, and homeless children are extremely poor, as are the housed children with whom they are compared in most recent studies. Children in families served by emergency shelters have been observed showing signs of great stress. Rapid re-housing is a way to reduce time in shelter to a minimum, thus removing at least the stress of homelessness from parents and children. Supportive services offered during the transition to housing and for several months after families regain housing are designed to help families who had budgeting and organizational skills that could lead to improved employment and earnings opportunities, better parenting, and other improvements that could help stabilize their lives and reduce some of the stresses associated with extreme poverty.

⁴ For a recent analysis and summary of past research, see Weinreb, Rog, and Henderson (2010).

February 2009). HPRP provided \$1.5 billion dollars to communities nationwide to be spent within a 3-year period on either of two eligible program types: homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. Rapid re-housing also has been given new emphasis within HUD's ongoing homeless assistance programs, Emergency Solutions Grants and the Continuum of Care programs, and through the creation of and significant federal investment in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program (regulations published November 2010).

The Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program

In 2007, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$23.75 million to fund the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration (RRHD) program to pilot rapid re-housing programs in communities across the country. Funds were also included to evaluate the demonstration program and determine its effect.

HUD sought proposals for demonstration programs through the 2008 application process for McKinney-Vento Act funds. To be eligible for funding, applicants were asked to demonstrate that they had a central intake process in place within the community to identify and screen all homeless families and that a standardized tool would be used to systematically assess families for appropriateness for the RRHD program relative to other interventions available in the community. RRHD programs were designed to serve families identified as having at least one moderate barrier to housing, based on the assumption that families who had low barriers to housing would not need the RRHD assistance to regain housing and that those families who had significant barriers would need more assistance than could be provided through the RRHD program.

Applicants could ask for support to provide short-term rental assistance of 3 to 6 months or long-term rental assistance of 12 to 15 months, although any household served by RRHD

could be eligible for a maximum of 18 months of assistance, if necessary. Supportive services eligible for RRHD funding were limited to housing placement, case management, legal assistance, literacy training, job training, mental health services, childcare services, and substance-abuse services. To augment these supports, agencies running local RRHD programs could partner with other agencies or leverage other funding sources to supplement and round out the services offered to families through RRHD.

Agencies in 23 Continuums of Care (CoCs) were awarded the 3-year RRHD grants. Well before HUD finished executing the grant agreements, however, the infusion of \$1.5 billion in HPRP funds was awarded to hundreds of state and local jurisdictions – three to four times more in federal funding than any of these jurisdictions had ever had for either homelessness prevention or emergency shelter. The rapid re-housing intervention may not have been mature, but the time-limited resources from HPRP enabled every community that was interested to launch a rapid re-housing program immediately. Every community that was awarded a RRHD grant also received HPRP funding, and most communities devoted some of these new resources to rapid re-housing. In this changed environment, RRHD communities had both the rapid re-housing funds that came with their new grant and HPRP funds that could be used for a similar purpose. The existence of the new grant funding and the temporary nature of the HPRP program, which ended in September 2012 and had tight expenditure deadlines, certainly affected the way communities implemented their RRHD programs.

Also in 2009, Congress passed the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009,⁵ which allows for rapid re-housing to be funded with

⁵ The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009: <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/HomelessAssistanceActAmendedbyHEARTH.pdf> (accessed on December 11, 2013).

both CoC program and Emergency Solutions Grants program funding. The amended McKinney-Vento Act provides communities with a sustainable funding source for rapid re-housing and signaled a national interest in and support for the rapid re-housing model. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program has similarly provided a significant infusion of resources, approximately \$300 million in federal fiscal year 2013, to fund prevention and rapid re-housing for homeless veterans and their families. Thus, the findings from this evaluation have even greater policy importance than originally envisioned at the time this study was first commissioned.

RRHD Design Requirements

When announcing RRHD funding availability, HUD identified specific criteria against which the department would judge proposals. These criteria, described in the following section, were based on the program elements deemed most important to the functioning of the few examples of successful rapid re-housing approaches that existed when the announcement was developed.

Eligibility

The HUD RRHD program funding announcement and related guidance specified that for families to be eligible for RRHD, they must meet four criteria:

1. Include at least one minor child.
2. Be literally homeless, meaning that they were staying in emergency shelter or on the streets for at least 7 consecutive days.
3. Be able to independently sustain subsidized or unsubsidized housing at the end of short-term housing assistance.
4. Have at least one moderate barrier to housing stability.

The HUD funding announcement further specified that “The family most appropriate for this demonstration should have, or be willing to obtain, employment that increases the income of the household to such a degree that it can independently sustain housing at the end of the short-term housing assistance.”

Moderate barriers were defined by HUD to include—

- A temporary financial strain.
- Inadequate employment or loss of employment.
- Inadequate childcare resources.
- A low level of education or low command of the English language, with a willingness to obtain language skills or education.
- Legal problems.
- Mental health issues that do not greatly affect the household's ability to independently sustain housing.
- A history of substance abuse without any active use.
- Poor rental history, including up to three evictions.
- Poor credit history.

Community Structures and Practices

The HUD funding announcement also described several structures and practices that characterized the pioneering rapid re-housing communities and would be required in communities that received RRHD grants: centralized intake, a single assessment tool that would be used to assess all families, and connections with mainstream service providers. For the purposes of the demonstration program, central or uniform intake was defined as a system through which homeless and at-risk families would be screened, assessed, and offered participation in one or more programs that fit their needs. In addition to central intake, HUD required the

community-wide use of a common screening and assessment tool that would provide the information needed to allocate housing and supportive service resources to families, in the array and intensity needed to help them. HUD permitted communities to structure their RRHD programs around different lengths of housing and other assistance, including short-term (3 to 6 months), long-term (12 to 15 months), or both levels of assistance. Recognizing that landlords are a vital part of the program concept without whose active cooperation rapid re-housing programs cannot work, HUD also placed a high priority on strong associations between the agencies proposed as RRHD providers and local landlords, ranging from long-term personal relationships to formal websites maintaining up-to-date lists of available apartments and landlords willing to accept homeless families.

The RRHD Communities

The RRHD Notice of Funding Availability specified core design features and basic requirements for the local RRHD programs, but also gave applicants the latitude to design their RRHD proposals to meet their local needs and the context of their local system and partners. Some grantees embraced the principles in the

notice, and others adapted them. As a result, the 23 RRHD programs vary considerably. Although these variations enable HUD to learn about how rapid re-housing efforts function in different environments, the differences among communities make it more challenging to draw clear conclusions about the effect of rapid re-housing.

Exhibit 1.1 presents some basic information about the 23 communities funded under the demonstration. RRHD grants ranged from \$78,300 to \$2 million. Five communities have RRHD programs that offer only short-term rental assistance, 13 communities offer only long-term rental assistance, and the remaining 5 sites provide both short- and long-term assistance, depending on family needs. The earliest month in which a local RRHD program enrolled a family was October 2009,⁶ and the last RRHD program to come on line enrolled its first family in October 2010. Some of the observations from the process evaluation about other RRHD program variations that are important considerations for interpreting the findings of the outcomes study are described in exhibit 1.1.

⁶ One program enrolled a few families directly after it learned it had been awarded a grant, in August 2009, but then stopped enrollment until the grant was actually executed.

Exhibit 1.1: RRHD Program Information (1 of 3)

Demonstration Site	CoC Number	Grant Amount (\$)	PIT Capacity	Month of First Enrollment	Length of Assistance Offered ^a	Amount of Rent Subsidy	Intended Frequency of Case Management
Anchorage, AK	AK-500	193,485	20	01/2010	Short (3 months) ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	Once per month or less
Austin, TX	TX-503	795,540	25	02/2010	Both ^b	Full rent	Once per month or less
Boston, MA	MA-500	1,896,587	24	01/2010	Long (15 months) ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
Cincinnati, OH	OH-500	1,678,310	60	02/2010	Long (18 months) ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month

Exhibit 1.1: RRHD Program Information (2 of 3)

Demonstration Site	CoC Number	Grant Amount (\$)	PIT Capacity	Month of First Enrollment	Length of Assistance Offered ^a	Amount of Rent Subsidy	Intended Frequency of Case Management
Columbus, OH	OH-503	844,634	40	03/2010	Short	Full rent	Once per month or less
Contra Costa County, CA	CA-505	510,971	12	10/2010	Medium	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
Dayton, OH	OH-505	784,700	36	03/2010	Both ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	Once per month or less
Denver, CO	CO-503	1,578,753	35	02/2010	Short (6 months)	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
District of Columbia	DC-500	1,866,274	17	03/2010	Long	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
Kalamazoo/Portage, MI	MI-507	232,318	20–21	10/2009	Long ^b	Graduated rent	Once per month or less
Lancaster, PA	PA-510	528,341	24	03/2010	Both ^b	Graduated rent	Once per month or less
Madison, WI	WI-503	247,280	6	12/2009	Both ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
Montgomery County, MD	MD-601	541,738	7	04/2010	Both	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
New Orleans, LA	LA-503	2,000,000	60	08/2010	Both ^b	Graduated rent	Once per month or less
Ohio BOS	OH-507	1,999,881	119 ^c	01/2010	Both	Graduated rent	Once per month or less
Orlando, FL	FL-507	1,171,934	64	05/2010	Both ^b	Graduated rent	Once per month or less
Overland Park, KS	KS-505	78,300	6	09/2010	Both ^b	Graduated rent	More than once per month
Phoenix, AZ	AZ-502	1,981,371	80	05/2010	Both (9 months target; 50% exiting at 3 months)	Graduated rent	Once per month or less
Pittsburgh, PA	PA-600	839,501	20	03/2010	Medium	Unit rent less % of family income	Once per month or less

Exhibit 1.1: RRHD Program Information (3 of 3)

Demonstration Site	CoC Number	Grant Amount (\$)	PIT Capacity	Month of First Enrollment	Length of Assistance Offered ^a	Amount of Rent Subsidy	Intended Frequency of Case Management
Portland, OR	OR-501	1,085,075	40	10/2009	Long	Unit rent less % of family income	Once per month or less
San Francisco, CA	CA-501	2,000,000	33	07/2010	Long ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	Once per month or less
Trenton, NJ	NJ-514	387,220	9 ^d	02/2010	Both ^b	Unit rent less % of family income	More than once per month
Washington BOS	WA-501	656,639	50	01/2010	Medium (9 months max) ^b	Graduated rent	Once per month or less

BOS = Balance of State. CoC = Continuum of Care. PIT = point-in-time. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

^a “Short” programs typically offer 3 to 6 months of assistance, and “Long” programs typically offer 12 to 15 months. Some offer “Both” short and long, based on the upfront assessment of families. “Medium” programs offer 6 to 12 months, not initially eligible in the Notice of Funding Availability but identified through the process evaluation.

^b This design is a change from the length reported in the Interim Report. The program later changed its design to try to accommodate family needs.

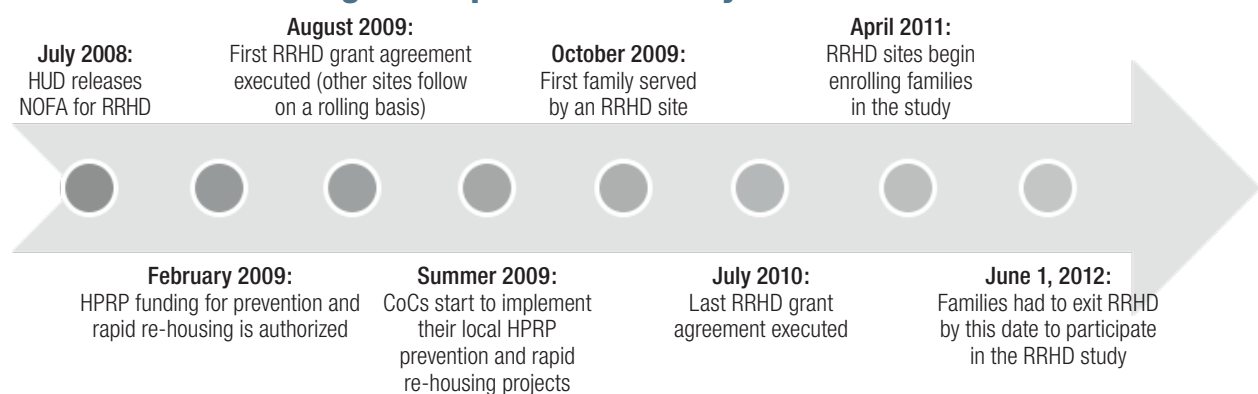
^c PIT capacity of Ohio BOS was reported as 358 in the Interim Report. This revision reflects what the site clarified to be the actual PIT capacity of the site.

^d These 9 slots are combined with about 40 slots supported by other rapid re-housing resources, and all are treated identically.

Source: RRHD process evaluation

Exhibit 1.2 provides a timeline for the RRHD grants and RRHD program implementation in relation to the availability of HPRP funds for rapid re-housing. The timeline also shows key milestones associated with family enrollment in the study.

Exhibit 1.2: RRHD Program Implementation Key Milestones



CoC = Continuum of Care. HPRP = Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. NOFA = Notice of Funding Availability RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

How Do RRHD Programs Fit Within Their Communities?

Local RRHD programs were developed, on the whole, with extensive consideration for the local landscape of community-level assistance already available for homeless families. All RRHD applications had active CoC involvement and support in their development; no successful RRHD application came from a single agency acting on its own. Most RRHD programs were designed by the community of homeless service providers and other stakeholders and guided by the local philosophy of homeless assistance within the context of local housing markets. The programs were designed to fill gaps in assistance for homeless families who had specific needs and to complement existing homeless programs. Given this context, the way RRHD programs were targeted was intended to complement (not duplicate) the targeting of other homeless assistance resources, the availability of temporary or permanent rent subsidies from other homeless and mainstream housing programs, and the extent to which RRHD designers felt participants could sustain rents after program completion.

This careful community planning took place before the existence of rapid re-housing funding through HPRP. By the time of RRHD awards, HPRP was readily available within communities. RRHD grantees indicated that they felt constrained by the choices they had made and to which they were contractually bound. For example, some RRHD grantees felt the glut of rapid re-housing for families was because of the sudden availability of HPRP. Others noted that the length of assistance they applied to provide (for example, 3 to 6 months or 12 to 15 months) did not make sense alongside the HPRP model of providing rental assistance for up to 18 months, based on 3-month recertifications. In a number of cases, RRHD grantees ended up modifying their models to meet the changed needs of their communities, but both CoC contacts and RRHD providers told the RRHD evaluation staff that, had they known

HPRP was coming, they would have made different design decisions to ensure that RRHD and HPRP would fill different but complementary niches in their CoCs' offerings for homeless families. This reaction demonstrates the importance stakeholders place on community planning and the broader homeless system context in designing individual interventions.

How Does the Intake and Assessment for Rapid Re-housing Work?

When the notice of funding availability for the demonstration was released, the term *centralized intake* was commonly used to describe all processes associated with systematically identifying, assessing, and referring families to appropriate homeless assistance interventions. By the time of the evaluation, the field had developed a more nuanced understanding of the models for assessment and referral and the term *coordinated assessment* was used to broadly describe these processes, while centralized intake was used to describe a specific single-point of entry structure. Through the process evaluation, the research team determined that access to RRHD programs was often coordinated, but not always centralized.

All 23 programs used some sort of centralized referral, such as a 2-1-1 community hotline, but only about one-third had the type of assessment systems envisioned by HUD during the drafting of the NOFA. The process evaluation revealed that the RRHD communities generally divided into two groups, depending on whether the communities have a centralized system of intake and referral among homeless programs or operate in a decentralized structure. Centralized intake structures provide a single point of entry into the homeless system that is organized to determine — *Of the several services available, what mix of housing and service assistance is best for this family?* Approximately one-third of the RRHD sites have tightly organized central intake structures, and four others have a modified form of central intake. RRHD sites with noncentralized intake structures use centralized

referral mechanisms but rely on individual programs to screen families and, at intake, each decides—*Should we accept this family into our rapid re-housing programs?* Eleven RRHD communities use a noncentralized system in which a family approaches the RRHD provider agency directly and the agency makes a decision about whether it thinks the family is right for this intervention.

During the process evaluation, which included site visits to or telephone interviews with the 23 communities, the research team found that communities that have implemented a systematic, centralized process to assess family needs and make appropriate referrals tend to make enrollment determinations simultaneously across multiple housing and service options. Those communities have a clear sense of the population they are targeting with RRHD assistance and have options that can be offered to respond to the needs of families who are not deemed appropriate for RRHD. In communities without centralized intake and screening, program staff make decisions about where to refer families, often without thorough knowledge of program availability or eligibility criteria and certainly without control over the outcome of the referral. Thus, communities with central intake appear to have more confidence that their RRHD program serves the families in the system best able to benefit from the RRHD assistance.

Who Is Served, and Who Is Not?

The process evaluation found that communities vary considerably in the characteristics of families they will accept into RRHD. These differences reflect a number of factors, including the availability of other rapid re-housing and permanent subsidy options within the homeless system's control, the tightness and affordability of the local housing market, prior community and RRHD agency experience with rapid re-housing, and agency philosophy with respect to "housing readiness." Screening and assessment tools in RRHD communities with greatly centralized intake and triage structures

tend to be lengthy and detailed, because they determine which among many housing support options, including but not limited to RRHD, would best meet a family's needs. Centralized intake processes may appear to be more burdensome for families at first, because they have to give more information up front. They may be less time-consuming and more effective in the long run, however, if they enable families to be referred to the programs that best suit them, thus relieving families of the burden of shopping around for assistance.

Some RRHD programs focus their selection decisions on domains relevant to housing stability and use the information gathered in other domains for case management purposes. In the process evaluation, the study team observed that these programs seem more willing to screen families who had housing barriers into their programs than communities that use a broader self-sufficiency scoring approach. Communities that weight all assessment domains equally are the most restrictive and more likely to restrict eligibility to families who had only very minor barriers. In several communities, restrictive screening is intentional, because housing is extremely unaffordable for families who had low incomes, the communities have other resources for families who had greater needs, or RRHD designers have philosophical beliefs about the limited role of rapid re-housing assistance in ending homelessness for the families they serve. As RRHD programs gain experience in selecting and serving families, some are revisiting their selection criteria, sometimes to expand eligibility for RRHD assistance and other times to narrow it.

What Housing and Services Do RRHD Programs Deliver?

All 23 RRHD programs provide housing search and placement assistance. RRHD housing assistance was originally designed to offer two packages: short-term rental assistance of 3 to 6 months and long-term rental assistance of 12 to 15 months. Some programs aimed to

re-house families within a couple of weeks, whereas others defined “rapid” in terms of months. A clear correlation could not be made between the type and duration of assistance planned for in the design of the community’s RRHD program and its housing market or the types of families being targeted.

All 23 RRHD programs also offer some level of case management to support families in the process of stabilizing and maintaining permanent housing. The analysis of outcomes presented in this report considers programs that meet with families once per month or less to provide infrequent case management and those programs that meet with families more than once per month to provide frequent case management. Most RRHD programs focus their case management on income growth strategies, such as employment, budgeting, and benefit linkage, either by providing these types of services directly with other resources available to the same agency, or by partnering or referring families to other agencies. Some RRHD programs also provide supportive services or referrals that will help families address other needs identified through the assessment process.

Changes to RRHD Programs

Knowing that the demonstration programs had the flexibility to adjust their program designs over time, the research team sought to update the findings of the 2011 site visits for the process evaluation through brief phone discussions in 2013 with each of the 23 RRHD programs. Observing the changes offers some insight on the program features that were problematic to grantees.

The sites that made changes to the RRHD assessment process (including screening and assessment tools), the type of assistance (short term, long term, or both), and the intensity of case management offered to families are shown on exhibit 1.3. Although only one site (Boston) stated that it had made adjustments to its RRHD program in the intensity of case management discussed, 19 of the 23 RRHD sites made changes to the assessment process, the length of assistance offered to eligible families, or both.

Many sites reported making adjustments to their screening and/or assessment tools, including one site that added more questions on mental health and substance abuse to the initial screening to ensure that it was targeting families who had only “moderate” barriers to housing stability. Other sites reported adding agencies as access points in their assessment process, and one site decided to remove the initial RRHD eligibility screening from its centralized intake process.

Many of the communities that originally intended to offer only short-term assistance or a mix of short-term and long-term assistance found that families had not been able to pay for housing on their own within the original timeframes, so they extended the length of assistance offered. Eight sites increased the maximum length of assistance offered to provide families additional time to stabilize in their housing. Two sites shortened the length of assistance offered to ensure that they could serve the number of families they had initially projected.

Exhibit 1.3: Changes to RRHD Programs

Demonstration Site	CoC Number	Assessment Process	Length of Assistance	Type or Intensity of Case Management
Anchorage, AK	AK-500		✓	
Austin, TX	TX-503		✓	
Boston, MA	MA-500	✓	✓	✓
Cincinnati, OH	OH-500	✓	✓	
Columbus, OH	OH-503			
Contra Costa County, CA	CA-505			
Dayton, OH	OH-505	✓	✓	
Denver, CO	CO-503	✓		
District of Columbia	DC-500	✓		
Kalamazoo/Portage, MI	MI-507	✓	✓	
Lancaster, PA	PA-510	✓	✓	
Madison, WI	WI-503	✓	✓	
Montgomery County, MD	MD-601			
New Orleans, LA	LA-503		✓	
Ohio BOS	OH-507	✓		
Orlando, FL	FL-507	✓	✓	
Overland Park, KS	KS-505	✓	✓	
Phoenix, AZ	AZ-502	✓	✓	
Pittsburgh, PA	PA-600		✓	
Portland, OR	OR-501			
San Francisco, CA	CA-501		✓	
Trenton, NJ	NJ-514		✓	
Washington BOS	WA-501	✓	✓	

BOS = Balance of State. CoC = Continuum of Care. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration. Key: A checkmark signifies a change in the program design since the process evaluation.

Sources: 2011 process evaluation interviews; 2013 followup discussions with RRHD program contacts

Chapter 2

Methodology

The outcomes evaluation was designed to answer the primary research question tested by the demonstration program: *Is rapid re-housing an effective intervention for addressing the needs of homeless families who had moderate barriers to housing stability?*

To answer this question, the research team collected data on a cohort of homeless families served within the 23 RRHD sites. Baseline data on study families was constructed using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data collected by RRHD programs at entry, and survey data were collected from study families 12 months after exit from the RRHD program. The identified universe of eligible study families who could have been enrolled in the outcomes evaluation totaled 1,098 families⁷ – this number of families were served within RRHD programs and exited by June 1, 2012. Recruiting families into the outcomes evaluation proved challenging, and in all, 500 families consented to participate in the study. The primary challenge to enrollment was one of timing – many programs had already enrolled and served a significant number of families before the launch of the evaluation, therefore, the process of recruiting families to participate in the study often happened retroactively, rather than at the point when families were enrolling into the program initially. In some cases, programs sought to recruit families into the outcomes evaluation after they had finished receiving RRHD assistance, and RRHD programs were unable to locate families to even ask about their interest in the study. Other families declined to participate.

The evaluation relies on four primary data sources:

1. **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data recorded at RRHD program entry and exit for 490 of the 500 families who consented.** HMIS data, collected directly from

families by RRHD programs, include demographic and disability information, income information collected at program entry and exit, and information about participant living situation before RRHD program entry, and destination at program exit.⁸ Because these HMIS data are used as baseline information for most of the analyses presented in this report, 10 individuals who consented to be in the study but do not have HMIS baseline data are excluded from the analysis.⁹ The remaining 490 families who consented are referred to as the “study participants.”

2. **HMIS data on subsequent homelessness for 22 of the 23 CoCs, in which 476 of the 490 study participants were served.** HMIS data provided by 22 of the 23 CoCs include dates associated with enrollment in emergency shelters or transitional housing beyond the RRHD programs. These data are used to measure whether the 476 study participants served in these 22 sites returned to the homeless system in the 12 months following RRHD program exit. Data on potential returns were not available for the 14 study participants served in the CoC from which HMIS data were not available.
3. **Data from 12-month followup survey for 201 of the 490 study participants.** Attempts were made to collect survey data by phone approximately 12 months after each study family exited the RRHD program, and follow-up surveys were completed with 203 of the 500 individuals who consented to be in the study. Of the 203 survey respondents, 2 do not have HMIS baseline data and, therefore,

7 The number of participants served who exited by June 1, 2012 (1,098) is based on enrollment totals provided to us by each RRHD site.

8 HMIS is the information system designated by the CoC to record data on all people served within the CoC’s shelter, housing, and service system for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Agencies collect information directly from people they serve and enter the data into their CoC’s HMIS.

9 Of the 500 families in the full sample who exited on or before June 1, 2012, 10 did not have valid HMIS entry dates: 1 family each in Anchorage, Contra Costa, Lancaster, and Ohio BOS and 2 families each from Orlando, Washington BOS, and Trenton.

are excluded from the analysis. The followup survey questions were designed to mirror HMIS data elements on income and living situations to allow for a comparison of participants' outcomes at RRHD program exit (recorded in HMIS) with their outcomes 12 months later. Survey data also probe more deeply on current housing conditions, neighborhood conditions, prior housing history, employment and income information, education, family composition and well-being, and health conditions. (See appendix A for a copy of the 12-month followup survey instrument.)

- 4. Data on household moves from 380 of the 490 study participants.** In the process of locating the 500 study participants who consented to participate in the study for the 12-month followup survey, the research team recorded information collected from their friends and family and commercial change-of-address databases about subsequent addresses for 147 of the family heads who did not complete the followup survey and were able to infer whether an additional 24 of the nonrespondents had moved or were still living in the unit in which they were housed during the RRHD program. The tracking data on these 171 nonrespondents are combined with survey data for respondents, and 8 additional nonrespondents who showed evidence of subsequent homelessness from HMIS, to report study participant mobility. Because absence of a subsequent address for the other nonrespondents does not mean the families are still living in the original unit, mobility rates based on the tracking data should be considered minimum estimates. (See appendix B for a description of the 12-month followup survey tracking activities.)

The analysis in this report also relies on data collected about local RRHD program designs, such as length of assistance offered, supportive service package offered, details about the assessment tool and triage process, and the

definition of target population and participant barriers. These data were collected during site visits in 2011 and telephone calls in 2013.

Exhibit 2.1 presents the data available for study participants by RRHD site.

More detail on each data source shown in the exhibit is provided in the next two sections of this chapter.

Homeless Management Information Systems Data

Given the timing of the study implementation relative to family enrollment, it was not feasible for the research team to directly interview study participants to collect data on their family composition, income, and other characteristics at entry into or exit from the local RRHD programs. Instead, the research team requested three types of HMIS data from all 23 RRHD communities: (1) HMIS data collected by RRHD grantees on study participants and their family members at RRHD program entry, (2) HMIS data collected by grantees on study participants and their family members at RRHD program exit, and (3) HMIS data collected across the CoC about any subsequent use of emergency shelter or transitional housing after RRHD program exit. Because only study participants who exited the RRHD program before June 1, 2012, were recruited to participate in the study, HMIS data associated with RRHD program entry and RRHD program exit were requested by the study team for the period for RRHD families served between October 2009 (the month the first RRHD program started enrolling families) and May 31, 2012. The third type of HMIS data, information about subsequent returns to shelter or transitional housing for the study participants was requested by the study team for the 1-year period after the family's RRHD program exit date.

The HMIS data enabled the research team to (1) explain who is being served by the RRHD programs; (2) describe the length of RRHD program assistance; and (3) measure returns to

Exhibit 2.1: Study Enrollment and HMIS Data Availability, by Site

RRHD Site Name	Study Participants Who Had HMIS Baseline Data	Study Participants Who Had HMIS Data on Returns to Shelter	Survey Respondents	Nonrespondents Who Had Tracking Data
Anchorage, AK	14 ^a	0	7	1
Austin, TX	15	15	5	8
Boston, MA1	11	11	5	3
Cincinnati, OH	23	23	7	11
Columbus, OH	39	39	12	18
Contra Costa, CA	6	6	3	1
Dayton, OH	21	21	6	11
Denver, CO	17	17	10	5
District of Columbia	10	10	4	3
Kalamazoo/Portage, MI	11	11	4	3
Lancaster, PA	9	9	5	4
Madison, WI	10	10	3	6
Montgomery County, MD	5	5	2	2
New Orleans, LA	61	61	22	22
Ohio BOS	45	45	18	17
Orlando, FL	38	38	22	8
Overland Park, KS	10	10	7	1
Phoenix, AZ	46	46	10	22
Pittsburgh, PA	12	12	6	3
Portland, OR	3	3	2	1
San Francisco, CA	7	7	3	3
Trenton, NJ	21	21	9	7
Washington BOS	56	56	29	11
Total	490	476	201	171

BOS = Balance of State. HMIS = Homeless Management Information System. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

^a The characteristics of these 14 participants are included in chapter 3, but the 7 nonrespondents are excluded from the outcomes analysis presented in chapter 4 that relies on HMIS data on returns to shelter or followup survey data. Source: RRHD process evaluation

homelessness for study families, particularly for those families who could not be located or decided not to complete the 12-month followup survey. This study represents the first time that HUD is using the “program-specific” HMIS data elements such as income, benefits receipt, and disability status to inform national homelessness research.¹⁰

In addition to identifiable data for families who consented to be part of the study, the team also received nonidentifiable HMIS data for another

¹⁰ In HMIS data collection requirements specified by HUD, all homeless assistance programs must collect a series of universal data elements, such as primary demographic elements and basic program utilization data. Projects funded with HUD’s CoC Program grants must also collect a more extensive set of program-specific data elements at program entry and exit to aid in grant-related annual performance reporting.

969 families who were served by and exited the RRHD programs before February 1, 2013 but that did not participate in the study. Data on the rates of return to homelessness for this group is reported in a supplementary report on the characteristics and subsequent homelessness of all families served by the RRHD program. Some of the findings in the supplemental report differed from those findings presented in the following chapters. The principal differences are presented in exhibit 4.16.

Access to the HMIS data were governed by a data use agreement with each site, and the research team worked closely with each local HMIS administrator to extract and upload the requested data into a secure data transfer site managed by the research team.

Challenges in Collecting HMIS Data

Although RRHD grantees were required to collect and enter uniform data on all people served by the RRHD program, the completeness and quality of HMIS data varied from community to community. More importantly, RRHD grantees do not directly manage their local HMIS databases; therefore, to extract the data, the research team had to work with local HMIS administrators who were not necessarily aware of what they would need to do to support this research. Not only were HMIS administrators frequently limited in their ability to devote the time and resources to support extracting the data needed to support the study analysis, but also many site employees lacked the technical skills to complete this task. In addition, many data elements exist—for example, health status and experience with domestic violence—with high levels of missing data.

Beyond the data recorded by RRHD grantees at program entry and exit, the HMIS also includes data about emergency shelter and transitional housing use within the CoC. HMIS administrators at each RRHD community were asked to provide Abt Associates (Abt) with HMIS data on any subsequent returns that RRHD study

participants made to emergency shelter or transitional housing programs within their local CoC during the 12-month period after the family exited the RRHD program. These data are not collected and reported by the RRHD programs, but by the agencies that administer emergency shelter and transitional housing within the CoC. HMIS administrators were asked to provide Abt with the program type (emergency shelter or transitional housing), and program entry and exit dates for all post-RRHD returns.

Because both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs serve people experiencing homelessness, returns to such programs can be viewed as a return to homelessness after receiving RRHD assistance.

This request was particularly challenging for many of the RRHD sites to fulfill, given that most software applications do not have preprogrammed reports to generate data files from both entry and exit for the same families and to match those families to entry data for other programs. The task ended up requiring a significant amount of manual review and manipulation of the HMIS data, especially for grantees that served a large number of families. Of the 23 RRHD sites, only 13 were able to provide the study team with HMIS data on returns to homelessness in time for the original deadline for this Final Report. HUD was committed to collecting this HMIS data, and granted a 3-month extension to the evaluation to allow for further outreach to these sites. Because of the extension, 22 sites were able to provide the evaluation team with HMIS data on returns to homelessness.

Followup Survey Interviews

In addition to the HMIS data, another source of data for the outcomes evaluation is information collected directly from study families in a followup interview conducted approximately 12 months after each family finished receiving RRHD assistance—referred to as the RRHD program exit date. The followup survey data help answer (1) where RRHD participants live

after the program ends and if they are stably housed; (2) what factors contribute to housing stability or lack thereof; and (3) whether families improve in domains beyond housing stability, including self-sufficiency, employment, health, and well-being.

The 12-month followup survey collected outcomes data on housing type, housing quality and stability, self-sufficiency, employment and earnings, education, food security, family well-being, and health. The survey collected information about outcomes at the time of the followup survey, and information about what had changed since program enrollment. Followup interviews were conducted using computer-aided telephone interview (CATI) technology and took approximately 30 minutes on average to complete. Respondents were offered a \$35 incentive payment in appreciation for their time.

Family Tracking Strategy

The biggest challenge of data collection proved to be locating the families who had agreed to participate in the study. As part of the consent process, families were asked to provide their address, phone number, and e-mail address, and information for their landlord and two to three additional family members or friends who would be likely to know where to find them at a future date. The tracking process began well before the 12-month followup survey. To keep track of family moves that might hamper locating for the 12-month followup survey, the survey team sent a 6-month tracking letter to the address provided by the family on the consent form reminding study participants of their agreement to participate in the RRHD study and requesting return of a contact update card.

The survey team unfortunately found that many families were not responsive to the 6-month letter, so the team instituted an early locating protocol and began sending welcome letters to study participants who enrolled later in the recruitment period. For early locating, the team tried to reach the study participants by phone

to confirm or update the family's contact information. If the study participant could not be reached, the team tried to locate the participant through directory assistance, all identified family contacts, and the landlord, up to three times each. The survey team also added a welcome letter for study participants who exited toward the end of the recruitment period. The welcome letter was sent in advance of the 6-month tracking letter and was intended to begin to build a relationship with the study participant (because each RRHD program enrolled the study participants in the study on behalf of the research team) and asked participants to send updated contact information at any point when their address or phone numbers changed.

Aggressive locating strategies were also employed at the time of the followup survey to maximize followup survey response rates. Approximately 12 months after each study participant's exit from a RRHD program, the research team attempted to contact the family to conduct the followup survey. The survey interviewers initially made up to seven attempts to reach the participant, stopping only if it was clear that the phone number or address was no longer associated with the participant. If study participants were not contacted after the initial attempts, specially-trained locating staff on the research team began more extensive locating efforts, while still trying each participant's viable direct contact information up to eight more times.

More extensive locating included attempting to locate the participant through directory assistance, attempting to reach each participant's secondary contacts (up to three times at various times of the day), and attempting to reach the participant's landlord. If a secondary contact was reached, locators tried to secure a current phone number or address for the study participant. If a new phone number for the participant was identified, the locating staff tried to reach the person at the new number, up to seven additional times. If the contact was uncomfortable

giving the respondent's information to the interviewer, locating staff provided the Abt SRBI toll-free study phone number. Locating staff conducted the same type of outreach to the participant's landlord to attempt to determine if the participant had moved from the original unit or left an updated address or phone number.

If the list of phone numbers we had available was not sufficient to locate the family, the survey team attempted to update and verify contact information using the Accurant Credit Information Bureau, which enabled us to conduct searches for last known addresses. In addition, participant addresses were run through the National Change of Address (NCOA) database to obtain address updates. In March 2013, the survey team began sending a trying-to-reach-you e-mail to participants who had provided an e-mail on the Participation Agreement Form and who continued to be unreachable after all other locating efforts. In July 2013, a final batch of addresses for matching was run through the NCOA database. The survey team then sent a final mailing of the 6-month tracking letter to study participants who had not completed the 12-month followup survey. Both the e-mail and letter informed participants that it was not too late to participate. Appendix B describes the tracking and locating activities conducted in more depth. For the 171 study participants who could not be reached for the followup survey itself, subsequent addresses and other housing-related data collected as part of the tracking process are used to determine whether they moved from their original RRHD-subsidized housing units. Because absence of a subsequent address does not mean the participant did not

move—only that the research team did not find out about the move—the housing mobility data gleaned through the tracking data should be considered a minimum rate of mobility rather than an explicit rate.

Address history data are not used for survey respondents, because followup survey data explicitly ask participants about their current living situation, number of housing moves since RRHD program exit, and past experiences of homelessness.

Survey Response Rates

Of the 500 study participants, 41 percent (203 participants) completed the followup survey. Two of the survey respondents were dropped from the analysis of outcomes for study participants because they did not have HMIS baseline data. Of the participants, 59 percent (297 participants) did not complete the survey, nearly always because they could not be located at 12 months after RRHD program exit. Thirty participants decided they were no longer interested in participating in the study, and another 10 participants were not able or appropriate to complete the survey for various reasons, as shown in exhibit 2.2. Address or housing mobility data collected through the tracking process (described in the previous section) was recorded for 171 of the 297 nonrespondents and is used in the analysis of mobility outcomes for study participants.

The number of study participants who enrolled from each RRHD community and the number of participants who responded to the followup survey are shown in exhibit 2.3.

Exhibit 2.2: Summary of 12-Month Followup Survey Attempts

	Number	Percent
Total number of study participants targeted for 12-month followup survey	500	100
Completed 12-month followup survey	203	41
Did not complete 12-month followup survey	297	59
Unable to be located	257	51
Refused to participate in survey	30	6
Long-term health problems precluded completion of survey	1	< 1
Indicated they did not participate in an RRHD program	3	1
Language barrier prevented completion of survey	4	1
Unavailable during study period	2	< 1

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

Source: Abt SBRI RRHD followup survey locating records

Exhibit 2.3: Survey Respondents and Survey Nonrespondents by Site

RRHD Grantee	Survey Respondents		Survey Nonrespondents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Anchorage, AK	7	3.4	8	2.7
Austin, TX	5	2.5	10	3.4
Boston, MA	5	2.5	6	2.0
Cincinnati, OH	7	3.4	16	5.4
Columbus, OH	12	5.9	28	9.4
Contra Costa County, CA	3	1.5	4	1.3
Dayton, OH	6	3.0	15	5.1
Denver, CO	10	4.9	7	2.4
District of Columbia	4	2.0	6	2.0
Kalamazoo/Portage, MI	4	2.0	7	2.4
Lancaster, PA	5	2.5	6	2.0
Madison, WI	3	1.5	7	2.4
Montgomery County, MD	2	1.0	3	1.0
New Orleans, LA	22	10.8	39	13.1
Ohio BOS	18	8.9	27	9.1
Orlando, FL	23	11.3	17	5.7
Overland Park, KS	7	3.4	3	1.0
Phoenix, AZ	10	4.9	36	12.1
Pittsburgh, PA	6	3.0	5	1.7
Portland, OR	2	1.0	1	0.3
San Francisco, CA	3	1.5	4	1.3
Trenton, NJ	10	4.9	13	4.4
Washington BOS	29	14.3	29	9.8
Total	203	100.0	297	100.0

BOS = Balance of State. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

Notes: N = 500 study participants. This exhibit reflects all survey respondents and does not exclude the 10 families who consented but did not have baseline data and were therefore excluded from the study analysis.

Source: Abt SRBI RRHD followup survey data

Approach to Measuring Housing Stability Outcomes

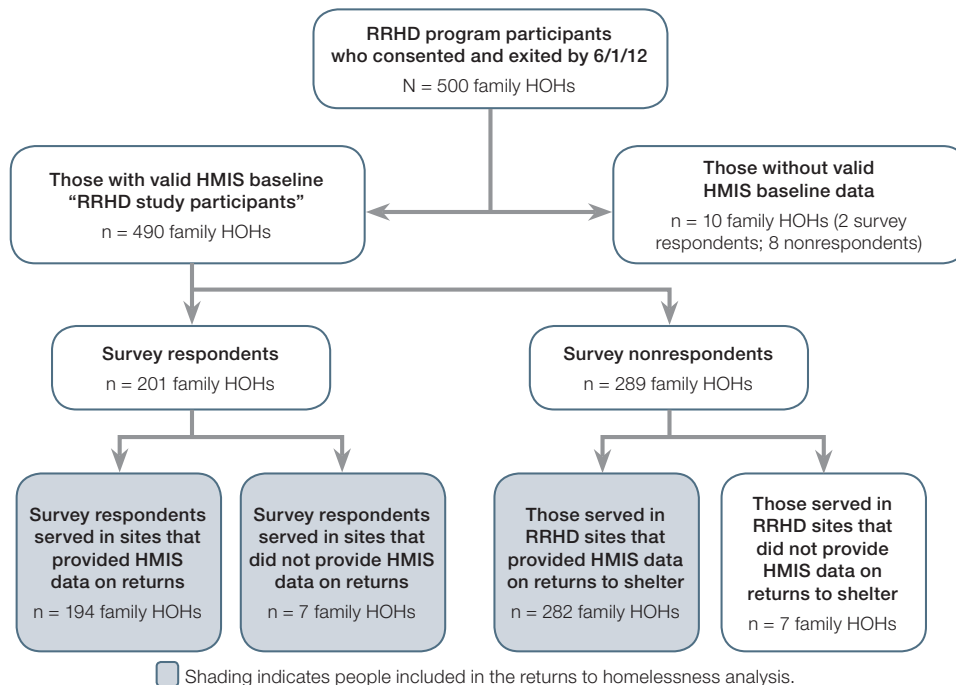
Although the 12-month followup survey collected data on a broad range of outcomes (housing status, self-sufficiency, employment, health, and well-being), the outcome of primary interest for this evaluation is housing stability. For the outcomes analysis in this report, the housing stability concept is defined using a spectrum and relies on HMIS data, followup survey data, and tracking data to measure housing outcomes. Although a variety of ways to define the concept of housing stability exist, for the purposes of this study, the research team identified three outcome categories of interest: (1) during the 12 months after exit from a RRHD program, the family remained stably housed in the same unit in which it resided while receiving RRHD assistance; (2) 12 months after exit from a RRHD program, the family was stably housed in a new unit, different from the unit in which it resided while receiving RRHD assistance; and (3) the family was unstably housed (either homeless or doubled up) at some time during the 12-month period after exit from a RRHD program.

Subsequent Homelessness

The intent of the rapid re-housing intervention was to end homelessness for program participants and prevent its recurrence in the short term. The core-housing outcome for this evaluation is accordingly defined as whether participants return to homelessness, immediately or at any point in the year after RRHD program exit. This outcome is measured for all participants who had either followup survey data or HMIS data – 483 study participants. The universe of study participants and data sources used to analyze returns to homelessness are diagrammed in exhibit 2.4.

HMIS baseline data about the study participants’ housing status at RRHD program exit are used to determine whether participants experienced homelessness immediately after the end of their participation in RRHD. Available HMIS data on subsequent shelter and transitional housing program entry data are used to measure whether participants returned to shelter or transitional housing in the year after RRHD program exit.

Exhibit 2.4: Universe for Returns to Homelessness Outcome Analysis



HMIS = Homeless Management Information System. HOHs = heads of households. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

For survey respondents, the followup survey results indicate whether people reported experiencing at least one night in the past year when they stayed in shelter or on the streets, which may reveal times that study participants were homeless but did not seek shelter from an emergency shelter or transitional housing program represented in the CoC's HMIS. For participants who had both HMIS and followup survey data, if at least one night homeless was recorded in either source, the household is categorized as returning to homelessness.

Because HMIS data on returns to homelessness are not available from one RRHD site, seven nonrespondents—those families with neither HMIS nor survey data—are excluded from the return to homelessness measure.

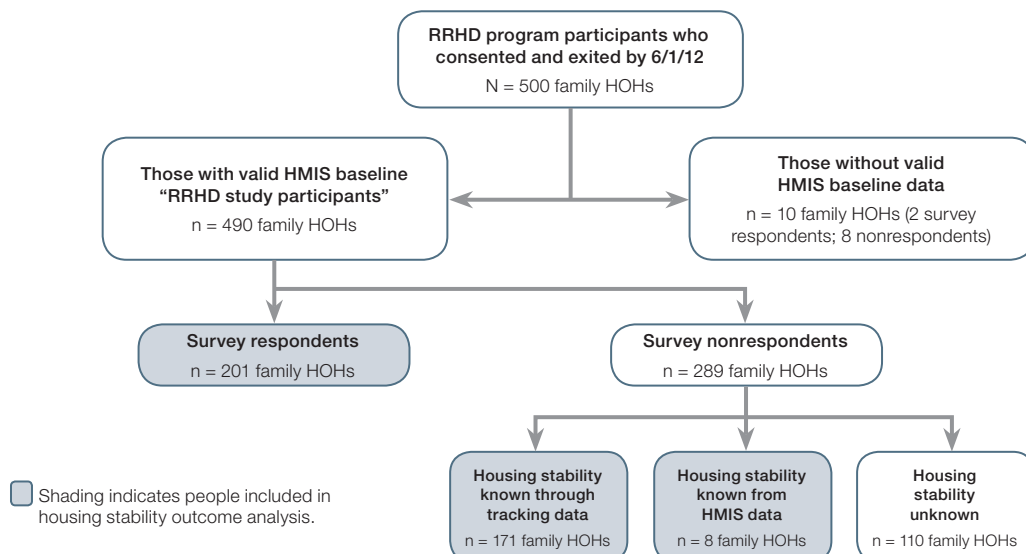
Housing Stability

Although the primary goal of rapid re-housing is to end families' current homelessness and prevent subsequent homelessness, the research team was also interested in understanding the extent of housing stability experienced by study participants who do not experience homelessness. That is, although participants do not experience homelessness, are they stably housed? Although housing mobility can be positive under some

circumstances, the research team concluded that, for this population of families experiencing homelessness, an important indicator of housing stability is whether family remained in the same housing units in which it lived during the RRHD program. This outcome can be definitively measured only from the 12-month followup survey. The reverse measure—changing addresses at least once during the followup period—can be determined for some of the survey nonrespondents as well, however.

When subsequent addresses were recorded during the followup survey tracking period, we can determine that these nonrespondents moved from their original RRHD-subsidized unit. In chapter 4, we present data on housing mobility for 380 study participants: the 201 survey respondents, the additional 171 nonrespondents for whom we have subsequent address data, and the additional 8 nonrespondents for whom we have evidence of subsequent homelessness from HMIS. We exclude from the measure of mobility the 110 nonrespondents for whom we do not have sufficient data to confirm whether they moved from their RRHD-subsidized unit. The universe of study participants and data sources used to analyze housing stability is diagrammed in exhibit 2.5.

Exhibit 2.5: Universe for Housing Stability Outcome Analysis



HMIS = Homeless Management Information System. HOHs = heads of households. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

Summary of the Universe Reported in Each Outcome Measure

Exhibit 2.6 summarizes the universe of study participants included in the analysis for each measure and the number of participants who had each data source, as relevant to each measure.

Exhibit 2.6: Universe of RRHD Study Participants Reported in Each Outcome Measure

	Study Participants From the 22 CoCs Who Had HMIS Data on Returns to Shelter	Survey Respondents	Non-respondents Who Had Tracking Data	Unduplicated Number of Study Participants Reported in Each Measure
Total study participants who had each data source ^a	476	201	171	490 ^b
Study participants included in the homelessness measure	476	201		483 (7 nonrespondents are excluded because they were served in the one site that did not have returns data)
Study participants included in the housing stability measure	8	201	171	380 (110 study participants are excluded because they did not have tracking data or followup survey data on stability)
Study participants included in outcomes that are based on followup survey data		201		201 (288 study participants are excluded because they did not complete the followup survey)

CoCs = Continuums of Care. HMIS = Homeless Management Information System. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

^a The full universe for which we report characteristics and RRHD program use. Although these data sources are generally available for the study participants listed in each row, sometimes specific data elements are missing for individual study participants and, therefore, fewer participants may be reported in subsequent exhibits.

^b An additional 10 individuals consented to be in the study, but they did not have RRHD program data recorded in their CoCs' HMIS; because these HMIS data are used as baseline to report family characteristics and to measure change, these 10 individuals and their family members are excluded from all the analysis presented in this report.

Chapter 3

Study Cohort: Characteristics and Services Received

The RRHD program was intended to serve families who have been in shelter or on the streets for at least 7 days and have moderate barriers to housing, but who also have the ability to independently sustain subsidized or unsubsidized housing at the end of a limited period of housing assistance. The HUD funding announcement further specified that “The family most appropriate for this demonstration should have, or be willing to obtain, employment that increases the income of the household to such a degree that it can independently sustain housing at the end of the short-term housing assistance.”

This chapter describes the demographic characteristics and prior living situation of the 490 study families who consented to participate in the evaluation and for whom the study team was able to obtain HMIS data. Study participants are generally the heads of the families served by the RRHD program. The baseline data on the characteristics of the study cohort are information collected by RRHD programs at program entry and recorded in their respective CoCs’ HMIS databases. In addition to demographic data, this chapter describes the type of assistance provided to study participants, including the length and depth of the assistance received. When possible, the study participants’ characteristics and experiences are compared with those characteristics and experiences of homeless families nationally to determine whether the population served through the RRHD program was markedly different from families experiencing homelessness

more generally. Comparison data are from the 2012 *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* (AHAR), representing families sheltered between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012 (HUD, 2012).

Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants

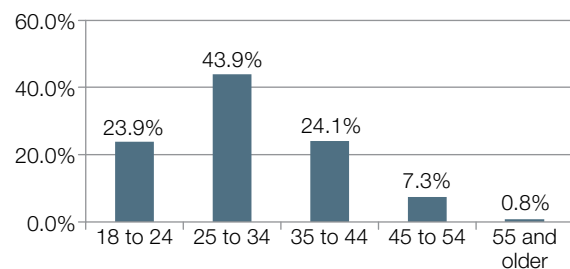
At the time of entering the RRHD program, most study participants were —

- Women.
- African-American.
- Single parents with one or two children.
- Less than 35 years of age, with the largest group between the ages of 25 and 34 years.
- Unemployed and without earned income.
- Recipients of cash or noncash benefits.

Age

Although the largest group (44 percent) of study participants was between the ages of 25 and 34, nearly one-fourth (24 percent) were young parents ages 18 to 24 (see exhibit 3.1). Young parents are over represented among study participants in comparison with sheltered homeless adults in families nationally. HUD’s 2012 *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* (AHAR) reports that 22 percent of all sheltered homeless adults in families were between the ages of 18 and 30. The Montgomery County, Maryland RRHD program explicitly targets

Exhibit 3.1: Age of Study Participants



N = 490 study participants.

Source: Homeless Management Information System at Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program entry

young families, but it is a very small program (five study participants), and thus could not be solely responsible for the over representation of young parents.

Race and Ethnicity

Of study participants, 10 percent identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino (see exhibit 3.2); the total rises to 12 percent when considering all people (adults and children) served as part of the study participants' families (not shown). By comparison, 21 percent of all sheltered people in homeless families identified as Hispanic or Latino (AHAR 2012). The number of Latinos served in RRHD programs is probably affected by the geographic location of the programs. The number may be lower than it would have been if applicants had not been asked to provide proof of citizenship to enroll in many of the

RRHD programs, however, thereby excluding undocumented families who some shelters in the nation do serve.

Most participants for whom race is known are African-American (52 percent). One-third are White, and only 4 percent identify as some other race, such as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. African-Americans make up a larger share of the RRHD study participant population than they do of all homeless families (52 compared with 45 percent of sheltered homeless families). The percentage of participants who identified as White is also larger than that of all homeless families (33 compared with 28 percent).

Household Composition

RRHD families are small in size (see exhibit 3.3) in comparison with sheltered homeless families

Exhibit 3.2: Race and Ethnicity of Study Participants

	Number	Percent
Hispanic (regardless of race)	48	10.4
Non-Hispanic Black or African-American	241	52.4
Non-Hispanic White	152	33.0
Non-Hispanic other	19	4.1

n = 460 study participants for race and ethnicity (30 study participants were missing race and/or ethnicity data and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System at Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program entry

Exhibit 3.3: Study Participant Household Composition at Entry

	Single Adult	Multiple Adults	Total
No children	4.0	0.6	4.7
One child	29.8	8.0	37.8
Two children	18.8	8.9	27.7
Three or more children	22.0	7.8	29.8
Total	74.6	25.4	100.0

n = 473 study participants (17 of the 490 study participants were missing household member information and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System at Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program entry

nationally. In approximately 78 percent of families in the study, only one adult was in the household at program entry. Approximately 22 percent had multiple adults, including spouses, adult children, and parents. Most (89 percent) of the family heads who agreed to be study participants were women. The most common household composition at entry was a single adult woman with one child (32 percent). Although 37 percent of RRHD study participant families included only two people, only 24 percent of the sheltered homeless families nationally have only two people (AHAR 2012). About 31 percent of study participants have families who had four or more people, compared with 47 percent of all homeless families nationally.

Veteran Status

A very small percentage of study participants identify as veterans. Only 10 study participants (or roughly 2 percent) self-identify as veterans, based on the HMIS data recorded at RRHD program entry. Although small, the share of families who have an adult who is a veteran is comparable with that of all homeless families (2 percent) (AHAR 2012).

Disability and Domestic Violence Experience

Approximately 16 percent of study participants reported having a disability when they entered the RRHD program (exhibit 3.4), similar to the percent of adults in homeless families nationally that are reported as having one or more disabilities in the 2012 AHAR (18 percent). During followup interviews with sites, some suggested that additional disabling conditions were discovered after families settled into their units. The rate of disability for study participants may consequently be slightly greater than 16 percent.

More than one-third (35 percent) of RRHD participants reported experiencing domestic violence at some time before entry (see exhibit 3.4). In some programs, emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence were sources of client referrals, which likely affected the percentage of domestic violence survivors among study participants.

Employment and Income

More than one-third of study participants (34 percent) had earned income at the time they entered a local RRHD program. This number is likely greater than the rate of all homeless

Exhibit 3.4: Disability and Domestic Violence Experience at RRHD Program Entry

	Number	Percent
Disability status^a	467	100.0
Disabled	76	16.3
Not disabled	391	83.7
History of domestic violence	443	100.0
No	290	65.5
Yes	153	34.5

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

n = 467 study participants for disability; 443 study participants for domestic violence (23 of the 490 study participants were missing disability status data and 47 were missing data on domestic violence and are excluded from this exhibit).

^a Disability status is based on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data element for disabling condition, a universal data element recorded for all people in HMIS.

Source: HMIS at RRHD program entry

families because of the RRHD program design and HUD-specified eligibility criteria; however, income is not collected universally and is therefore not reported in the AHAR. Many

RRHD programs require employment or clear “employability” to be eligible. Nonetheless, most study participants were not employed at program entry. As shown in exhibit 3.5, most

Exhibit 3.5: Income at RRHD Program Entry

	Number	Percent
Any cash income at program entry (earned and unearned)	490	100.0
Yes	380	77.6
No	110	22.4
Amount of any cash income at program entry as a percent of area MFI	480	100.0
No income	110	22.9
Greater than 0 to less than 15% of MFI	209	43.5
15 to less than 30% of MFI	112	23.3
30% of MFI or more	49	10.2
Amount of monthly earned income at program entry	484	100.0
None	319	65.9
Under \$500	24	5.0
\$500 to \$999	58	12.0
\$1,000 to \$1,499	40	8.3
\$1,500 to \$1,999	21	4.3
\$2,000 or more	22	4.5
Unearned income reported at program entry	490	100.0
Yes	252	51.4
No or not reported	238	48.6
Sources of unearned income reported at program entry	490	100
TANF	137	27.9
Child support	55	11.2
SSI	44	8.9
Unemployment insurance	25	5.1
SSDI	24	4.9
Noncash benefits reported at program entry	490	100.0
Yes	387	79.0
No or not reported	103	21.0

MFI = Median Family Income. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration. SSDI = Social Security Disability Insurance. SSI = Supplemental Security Income. TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. N = 490 for unearned income, sources of unearned income, noncash benefits, and MFI calculations (480 study participants had information on the amount of earned income and information on the amount of unearned income received, so 10 of the study participants were excluded from the MFI result; 484 study participants had information on the amount of earned income received, so 6 of the 490 study participants were excluded from the earned income amount received result).

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data at RRHD program entry; U.S. Census Bureau data for MFI

participants (66 percent) reported no earned income in the 30 days before entry. Of the respondents, however, 78 percent reported having some type of cash income, which includes earned income and unearned income. The most common sources of unearned income were Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (28 percent), child support (11 percent), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (9 percent), unemployment insurance (5 percent) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) (5 percent received).

To account for differences in the local economies and housing markets, the amount of income each family had at RRHD entry is reported within the context of the Median Family Income (MFI) for the RRHD site in which the family was housed. Families who have incomes less than 30 percent of the area MFI are considered “extremely low-income” families. Most study participants (90 percent) were heads of extremely low-income families, two-thirds had some income but less than 15 percent of MFI, and nearly one-fourth (23 percent) had no cash income.

Exhibit 3.6 shows all sources of cash income and noncash support for study participants. Many of the 22 percent of study participants who had no cash income did receive noncash benefits, as did nearly two-thirds of those participants who had cash incomes. In all, 79 percent of participants reported receiving noncash benefits at the time of RRHD entry. Medicaid and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits were reported most frequently.

Program Utilization by Families in the Study

Chapter 1 (exhibit 1.1) describes the basic features of the RRHD programs, including the length of assistance offered, the depth of the subsidy provided, and the frequency of case management offered. This section explains the features of the RRHD programs as used by the 490 families in the study.

Length of Assistance Provided

The length of RRHD assistance offered to the families who participated in the study was chosen by each local RRHD program as part of the design of the intervention. Some sites were strictly prescriptive in the level of assistance provided. For example, families were told they would receive 6 months of assistance at enrollment and were given 6 months of assistance. Most programs (57 percent) offered a flexible length of assistance, however, either by providing different levels of assistance based on assessment scores (the “Both” category in exhibit 1.1) or by extending or reducing assistance based on case-by-case determinations. Exhibit 3.7 provides information on the length of assistance actually received by study families, based on HMIS program entry and exit dates. Of the study participants 18 percent received RRHD assistance for less than 6 months. Slightly more than one-half (53 percent) received between 6 months and 12 months of RRHD assistance, and about 29 percent of study participants received assistance for 12 months of longer.

Exhibit 3.6: Cash Income and Noncash Benefits Receipt of All Study Participants

		Noncash Benefits		
		No (%)	Yes (%)	Total (%)
Cash income (earned and unearned)	No	8.2	14.3	22.4
	Yes	12.9	64.7	77.6
	Total	21.0	79.0	100.0

n = 490 study participants.

Source: Homeless Management Information System at Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program entry

Exhibit 3.7: Length of Assistance Received

Length of Assistance Received	Study Participants	Percent
Less than 3 months	9	1.8
3 to less than 6 months	79	16.2
6 to less than 9 months	139	28.5
9 to less than 12 months	117	24.0
12 to less than 18 months	123	25.3
18 months or more ^a	20	4.1
Total	487	100.0

n = 487 study participants (3 of the 490 study participants were missing data on length of assistance received and are excluded from this exhibit).

^a Although Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration (RRHD) programs were theoretically limited to 15 months of assistance, the Supportive Housing Program grants used to fund the demonstration allow for assistance to be provided up to 24 months and, in some instances, programs provided assistance beyond the intended 15-month design.

Source. Homeless Management Information System at RRHD program entry

Interesting discrepancies exist between the program design and the actual receipt. Although 18 percent of families in the study received less than 6 months of assistance, only 14 percent of participants were in programs designed to provide less than 6 months (not shown on exhibit). Nearly 30 percent of families received more than 12 months of assistance, but only 13 percent of families were enrolled in programs designed to provide more than 12 months of assistance. It appears programs often adjusted the length of assistance based on families' needs.

Nine study families received less than 3 months of assistance. These families are all nonrespondent families, perhaps signaling they left the RRHD program early without "completing" it.

Depth of Subsidy Provided

RRHD programs structure their assistance in several different ways. Some pay 100 percent of the participant's rent during the entire length of stay. Others require families to pay a percentage of their income (usually 30 percent). A few programs provide graduated or stepped-down assistance, where families pay an increasing percentage of the rent during the course of program participation. By stepping down rental

assistance, regardless of whether families were increasing their incomes, programs were pushing families to find a way to pay more for housing and encouraging work or other efforts to boost their incomes, rather than waiting for families to increase incomes before adjusting the rental assistance.¹¹

As shown in exhibit 3.8, most study participants (57 percent) were enrolled in programs with graduated rental assistance. Approximately one-third of study participants (31 percent) were enrolled in programs that required families to pay a percentage of their income toward rent. Only 12 percent of study participants were in programs designed to pay the entirety of the rent for the duration of participation. Nearly 88 percent of study participants were enrolled in programs that expect families to pay some amount of rent, unless they had no cash income.

Exhibit 3.9 shows the depth of assistance by the length of assistance received. Nearly two-thirds of families who received between 6 and 12

¹¹ The CoC Program interim rule generally specifies a strict "percentage of income" approach for programs that provide CoC Program-funded rental assistance; however, rapid re-housing programs are given latitude to impose different rent calculation approaches if specified by the CoC's broader written standards for providing CoC Program-funded assistance. [24 CFR parts 578.7 and 578.37].

Exhibit 3.8: Depth of Rental Assistance Provided by RRHD Programs

Depth of Assistance	Study Participants	Percent
Pays all rent	60	12.2
Graduated rental assistance	277	56.5
Percentage of income (30%)	153	31.2
Total	490	100.0

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 490 study participants.

Source: Process evaluation RRHD program interviews and enrollment data by site

Exhibit 3.9: Depth of Assistance by Length of Assistance

Depth of Assistance	Less Than 6 Months (%)	6 to Less Than 12 Months (%)	12 or More Months (%)
Pays all rent for duration of program	10.2	12.9	12.6
Graduated rental assistance	55.7	66.4	39.9
Percentage of income for entire program	34.1	20.7	47.6
Total	100	100	100

n = 487 study participants (3 of the 490 study participants were missing data on actual length of assistance received and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System data on actual length of assistance and process evaluation Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program interviews

months of assistance (66 percent) paid an increasing amount of rent during program participation. For study participants receiving longer lengths of assistance (12 months or more), a plurality paid a percentage of their income on rent (48 percent). About 40 percent of families who received longer lengths of assistance had graduated rental payments. The remaining 13 percent were not expected to pay rent for the duration of assistance.

Frequency of Case Management

Through case management, RRHD programs offer a variety of services to participants to help them stabilize in housing. Programs were sorted into high- and low-frequency case management based on how often programs require case management. Programs that require

meetings with a case manager once a month or less frequently were classified as “infrequent,” representing lighter touch programs. Some programs require participation in case management more frequently (for example, biweekly or weekly). These programs were classified as having “frequent” case management. It is possible that study families received more frequent case management than they were required to receive. This analysis is based on the program design rather than the specific experience of the study families.

Slightly more than three-fourths of study participants were in programs with infrequent case management (exhibit 3.10), and nearly one-fourth were in programs with frequent case management.

Exhibit 3.10: Frequency of Case Management

Case Management ^a	Study Participants	Percent
Infrequent case management	377	77.0
Frequent case management	113	23.0
Total	490	100.0

N = 490 study participants.

^a Programs that require meetings with a case manager once a month or less frequently were classified as “infrequent,” representing lighter touch programs. Some programs require participation in case management more frequently (biweekly or weekly). These programs were classified as “frequent” programs.

Source: Process evaluation Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program interviews and enrollment data by site

Intake Approach

As discussed in chapter 1, the 23 RRHD grantees were required to operate a coordinated assessment system as a condition of their selection by HUD as a demonstration site. In the process evaluation, the research team categorized the communities into two groups: (1) those communities with centralized – or largely centralized – intake systems and (2) those communities with decentralized intake systems that assessed whether the family should be accepted into the RRHD program but were without the ability to refer or place families elsewhere. Given the wide variety of systems across the 23 communities, this classification system is imperfect; nonetheless, through the process evaluation, we determined that some sites had more of the features of a centralized intake approach than others. Exhibit 3.11 shows that 46 percent of study participants were served in sites with a centralized intake system, while 54 percent were served in sites with a decentralized system.

RRHD Program Market Characteristics

Exactly as the features of RRHD programs vary by site, so too, do the housing markets within which the programs operate. Market characteristics such as rental vacancy rate and Fair Market Rent could affect how easily families are able to find and maintain units with reasonable rents (exhibit 3.12).

A principal indicator of whether housing markets are accessible to low-income families is the rental vacancy rate. Slightly more than three-fourths of participants were served by programs in communities with “loose housing markets,” those markets with rental vacancy rates more than 5 percent. The remaining 25 percent of participants were located in “tight markets,” with rental vacancy rates less than 5 percent.

Affordability is identified through Fair Market Rents (FMRs). FMRs are determined by HUD each year to reflect the 40th percentile rent of housing units in the area and are used to

Exhibit 3.11: Intake Structure

Intake Structure	Study Participants	Percent
Served in site with centralized intake	226	46.1
Served in site with decentralized intake	264	53.9
Total	490	100

N = 490 study participants.

Source: Process evaluation Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program interviews and enrollment data by site

determine subsidy standards for federally subsidized housing. None of the RRHD programs are in communities with “low” FMRs, areas where the FMR is in the bottom quartile nationally. Slightly less than one-half (48%) of study participants were housed in communities with

“moderate” FMRs (25th to 75th percentile nationally), and more than one-half (52 percent) were housed in communities with FMRs in the top quartile.

Exhibit 3.12: Market Characteristics of RRHD Programs

Market Characteristics	Study Participants	Percent
Rental vacancy rate	490	100.0
Above 5 percent	370	75.5
Below 5 percent	120	24.5
FMR	490	100.0
Low (less than 25th percentile)	0	0.0
Moderate (25th to less than 75th percentile)	236	48.2
High (75th percentile or greater)	254	51.8

FMR = Fair Market Rent. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 490 study participants.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau data; FMR data accessed from <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html>

Chapter 4

Housing Outcomes for Families in the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration

One primary goal of rapid re-housing is to help families experiencing homelessness obtain—and presumably to maintain—permanent housing, yet the meaning of maintaining permanent housing is not explicitly defined. For the purposes of this evaluation, the research team defined the most stable housing setting as when families remained in the same permanent housing unit in which they lived during the RRHD program and the least stable housing situation as a return to homelessness, either immediately at program exit or within the 12 months after program exit.

This measure of housing stability is not changing addresses—that is, the opposite of mobility. Mobility can in some cases be positive (a move to a better housing unit or a better neighborhood). But for this population of families experiencing homelessness, not moving within a 12-month period after the end of RRHD assistance is evidence that the RRHD program succeeded in stabilizing the family in housing.

For the families participating in this evaluation,¹² we found that—

- Of the 450 families for whom we have HMIS data about housing destination, 90 percent were living in permanent housing or permanent supportive housing at the time the RRHD assistance ended.
- Nearly one-fourth (24 percent) of the 380 study participants for whom we had data on housing mobility were living in the same

unit 12 months after exiting the RRHD program. Families in this group were ostensibly able to take over and sustain the rent of the unit on their own or with another form of housing assistance.

- More than three-fourths (76 percent) of the 380 study participants for whom we had sufficient data to measure housing mobility moved at least once during the 12 months after RRHD program exit.¹³
- Slightly more than 10 percent of the 483 study participants for whom we had data on potential homelessness were found to have experienced at least one episode of homelessness within 12 months of exiting the RRHD program.¹⁴ Only 7 families (16 percent of those families who had a homelessness episode, 1 percent of all 483 families included in this measure) exited directly to a homeless situation. Most of those families who experienced subsequent homelessness did so at some later point. The 10 percent returning to homelessness within a year should be considered a minimum, because families who could not be located for the followup survey may have experienced homelessness during the 12 months after program exit in settings not recorded in HMIS—for example, unsheltered homelessness or homelessness in another community.

A prevailing question about patterns of homelessness and interventions to prevent and end it is whether people with certain demographic characteristics achieve better or worse housing

¹² In this report, the term *family* is used interchangeably with *study participant*. Although technically we tracked and analyzed only data collected about the person who consented to be in the study (that is, the study participant), the experience of the person interviewed typically represents that of the participant's family.

¹³ The housing mobility outcome is based on 380 study participants: 201 with followup survey data, 171 with address history data from tracking that reveals mobility, and 8 other nonrespondents who had documented exits from the RRHD programs to homeless settings in HMIS data. Data were not available from any of these sources for 110 of the study participants, so they have been excluded from this measure.

¹⁴ The return to homelessness outcome is based on 483 study participants: 201 with followup survey data and 282 nonrespondents who had HMIS data on returns to shelter and transitional housing. Data were not available from these sources for 7 study participants, so they have been excluded from this measure.

outcomes than others. The following sections examine each of the housing outcomes—housing mobility and returns to homelessness—showing the characteristics of participants who had and did not have the housing outcome and then describing participant outcomes in relation to features of the programs and the housing markets in which they were served. Multivariate analysis is the final approach used to further explore the factors related to housing outcomes.

Families' Housing at RRHD Program Exit and 12 Months Later

The first indication of whether the RRHD program helped end homelessness for participating families is whether they successfully moved into permanent housing at the conclusion of RRHD assistance. Although the RRHD intervention itself involves placing families in permanent housing, the question remains whether they are able to remain in that housing after they become fully responsible for the rent.

This section describes the housing situations of study families at RRHD exit and 12 months later and the housing affordability and quality for families who were living in their own housing units at the time of the followup survey.

Housing Situations

Of the study families, 90 percent were in their own permanent housing at the time of RRHD program exit.

As reported in exhibit 4.1, less than 2 percent (7 of the 450 study participants who had HMIS data on destination at exit) of the families in this study remained homeless at completion of the RRHD program. Study participants largely exited the RRHD program to rental housing without housing assistance (71 percent or 321 people). Of the 450 participants, 69 (15 percent) exited the program to rental housing with a housing subsidy. The remaining participants exited to doubled-up situations (8 percent) or other situations such as institutional settings.

Survey respondents most often exited the program to rental housing without housing assistance (69 percent), 19 percent exited to housing with assistance, and 4 percent went to permanent supportive housing (PSH). HMIS data on a larger number of study participants (first two columns of the exhibit) show a similar percentages exiting to unsubsidized rental housing (71 percent) and slightly smaller percentage exiting to subsidized housing or PSH.

Exhibit 4.1: Housing Situation at RRHD Exit and 12 Months Later

Housing Situation	At Exit				At 12-Month Followup	
	All Study Participants		Survey Respondents		Survey Respondents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rental housing without a subsidy	321	71.3	130	69.1	94	47.2
Rental housing with a subsidy	69	15.3	35	18.6	62	31.2
Permanent supportive housing	13	2.9	8	4.3	1	0.5
Doubled-up situations with family or friends	36	8.0	10	5.3	29	14.6
Homeless setting	7	1.6	5	2.7	8	4.0
Other	4	0.9	0	0.0	5	2.5
Total	450	100	188	100	199	100

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

n = 450 survey respondents (40 of the 490 study participants were missing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data at RRHD program exit, and 2 of the 201 survey respondents were missing survey information about their housing situation at followup).

Sources: HMIS data at RRHD program exit; RRHD followup survey data

Exhibit 4.1 also shows the housing setting of survey respondents 12 months after exit. Nearly as many survey respondents were living in their own rental housing at followup as were at exit (156 compared with 165 respondents). More of those families were living in rental housing with some assistance, however. Nearly one-third of survey respondents reported receiving housing assistance at the time of the followup survey (12 months after exit) compared with only 19 percent at RRHD program exit. Housing assistance included Housing Choice Vouchers (14 families), project-based Section 8 (6 families), public housing (4 families), and other undefined assistance (36 families).

Fewer respondents remained in PSH; only one of the eight survey respondents who exited to permanent supportive housing was still residing in PSH 12 months later. A much greater share was doubled up with family or friends, 15 percent compared with 5 percent at exit. A slightly greater number, eight families at followup compared with five families at exit, were living in homeless settings. Three of the eight homeless families were living in transitional housing programs at the time of followup, three were living in unsheltered locations, and two were living in emergency shelters (not shown).

Housing Affordability

Although housed in permanent housing, nearly two-thirds of families surveyed were paying more than 30 percent of their income for rent after the RRHD assistance concluded.

Another indication of whether the intervention was successful was whether the participants would be able to maintain the housing beyond the first year after program exit. The survey asked respondents about their income and the amount of rent they paid monthly for the housing they were living in at the time of the followup survey. Exhibit 4.2 shows the percentage of income that survey respondents paid toward their rent. More than one-third (37 percent) were living in affordable housing, paying less than 30 percent of their income for rent. This collection of families is not surprisingly largely the respondents who had housing assistance. Of the families who had a subsidy, 83 percent were living in affordable housing compared with only 25 percent of those families who did not have a housing subsidy. More than 40 percent of families who did not have a subsidy (35 percent of all families) were living in extremely unaffordable housing, paying more than one-half of their income toward rent.

Exhibit 4.2: Housing Affordability of Survey Respondents

Percent of Income Spent on Rent	Without Subsidy	With Subsidy	Total
29% or less	31 (25%)	25 (83%)	56 (37%)
30 to 49%	38 (31%)	5 (17%)	43 (28%)
50% or more	53 (42%)	0 (0%)	53 (35%)
Total	122	30	152

N = 152 (data on income and/or rent were missing for 49 people—44 people without a housing subsidy and 5 people with a housing subsidy; 8 of the 49 were living in the same unit, the rest were living in a different unit). Respondents reporting no income were also excluded.

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Housing Quality

Two-thirds of families surveyed indicated the housing they were living in 12 months after RRHD exit was in good or excellent condition.

Survey respondents were asked to rate the condition of their current housing unit (Exhibit 4.3), meaning the unit they were living in at the time of the 12-month followup survey. Two-thirds of respondents reported their current housing was in good or excellent condition (66 percent), while 27 percent indicated their current housing was only fair, and 7 percent indicated their current housing unit was in poor condition.

The survey also asked respondents living in rental units how satisfied they were with their unit. A plurality (45 percent) was completely satisfied. Only 17 percent of renters reported dissatisfaction with their current unit (see exhibit 4.4).

Survey respondents provided feedback on a number of issues related to their current living space. Exhibit 4.5 shows that leaking water from internal broken pipes or from outside were the most commonly cited problems.

Housing Stability

Although 90 percent of study families were in their own permanent housing at the time of RRHD exit, only one-fourth of families surveyed remained in the same housing unit 12 months later. The remainder moved at least one time during the year.

Of the 380 families in the study for whom this outcome can be measured, more than 24 percent remained in the same unit in which they were placed through the RRHD program, and 76 percent moved at least once during the year after RRHD program exit, as shown in exhibit 4.6. The number of families who moved comprised

Exhibit 4.3: Housing Condition of Current Units Reported by Survey Respondents

Condition of Current Unit	Number of Survey Respondents	Percent of Survey Respondents
Excellent	57	28.5
Good	75	37.5
Fair	54	27.0
Poor	14	7.0
Total	200	100

n = 200 survey respondents (1 of the 201 survey respondents was missing housing condition information and is excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Exhibit 4.4: Satisfaction With Current Units Reported by Survey Respondents

Unit Satisfaction	Number of Survey Respondents in Rental Unit	Percent of Survey Respondents in Rental Unit
Completely satisfied	69	45.4
Partly satisfied	57	37.5
Dissatisfied	26	17.1
Total	152	100

n = 152 survey respondents (4 of the 156 survey respondents in rental units were missing housing satisfaction information and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Exhibit 4.5: Housing Quality Issues Reported by Survey Respondents

Housing Unit Issues	Number of Survey Respondents	Percent of Survey Respondents
Did water ever leak inside your unit from broken pipes?	63	31.3
Did water ever leak into your apt from the outside?	40	19.9
Have fuses blown more than twice in the past year?	39	19.4
Any open cracks or holes in the ceiling or walls?	32	15.9
Any signs of mice or rats inside your unit?	29	14.4
Was your home ever so cold for 24 hours it was uncomfortable?	29	14.4
Has the toilet been broken for more than 6 hours more than once?	26	12.9
Is the main source of heat unvented heaters?	23	11.4
Any peeling paint or broken plaster larger than 8 x 11 inches	15	7.5
Any holes in floor big enough to trip on?	4	2.0

n = 152 survey respondents (4 of the 156 survey respondents in rental units were missing housing satisfaction information and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Exhibit 4.6: Housing Stability During the Year After RRHD Exit

Housing Stability Outcome	Number of Study Participants	Percent of Study Participants
Remained in same housing unit 12 months after RRHD program exit	93	24.5
Moved at least once within the 12 months of RRHD program exit	287	75.5

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

n = 380 study participants (110 of the 490 study participants were missing the data to measure housing mobility and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System data at RRHD program exit, Followup Survey data, Tracking data, and HMIS data on returns to homelessness

those families who reported a subsequent move during the followup interview, those families who were confirmed as having moved through the followup survey tracking process (even if they were not located for the followup survey itself), and those families who were confirmed as having returned to a shelter or transitional housing program within the homeless system during the year (even if their housing status at the time of the 12-month followup is unknown).

Housing Stability and Family Characteristics

Exhibit 4.7 reports numbers and characteristics of study participants in relation to their housing stability during the 12 months after RRHD exit. Characteristics of the 110 participants are also reported to illustrate differences between those individuals with missing housing data and those individuals with known outcomes.

Exhibit 4.7: Housing Stability and Family Characteristics (1 of 2)

Characteristic	Participants Housed in the Same Unit at 12 Months	Participants Who Had at Least One Documented Move	Participants Who Did Not Have Sufficient Information to Measure Housing Mobility
Total participants	93	287	110
Gender	91	282	109
Female	80 (88%)	254 (90%)	94 (86%)
Male	11 (12%)	28 (10%)	15 (14%)
Participant age	93	287	110
18 to 24	10 (11%)	82 (29%)	25 (23%)
25 to 34	45 (49%)	123 (43%)	47 (43%)
35 to 44	21 (23%)	69 (24%)	28 (26%)
45 to 54	15 (16%)	13 (5%)	8 (7%)
55+	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)
Participant race/ethnicity	85	272	103
Hispanic (regardless of race)	12 (14%)	26 (10%)	10 (10%)
Non-Hispanic Black or African-American	37 (44%)	160 (59%)	44 (43%)
Non-Hispanic White	33 (39%)	79 (29%)	40 (39%)
Non-Hispanic other	3 (4%)	7 (3%)	9 (9%)
Household composition	91	275	107
No children	6 (7%)	13 (5%)	3 (3%)
One child	39 (43%)	102 (37%)	38 (35%)
Two children	25 (27%)	75 (27%)	31 (29%)
Three or more children	21 (23%)	85 (31%)	35 (33%)
Veteran status	92	285	108
No	91 (99%)	279 (98%)	105 (97%)
Yes	1 (1%)	6 (2%)	3 (3%)
Health	88	273	106
Disabling condition (universal indicator) ^a	17 (19%)	43 (16%)	16 (15%)
Physical disability	10 (11%)	15 (5%)	6 (6%)
Developmental disability	3 (3%)	6 (2%)	1 (1%)
Chronic health problem	8 (9%)	24 (8%)	9 (8%)
Mental health problem	16 (17%)	52 (18%)	17 (16%)
Substance abuse	3 (3%)	13 (5%)	6 (6%)
HIV/AIDS	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)
Domestic violence survivor	86	259	98
No	53 (62%)	167 (65%)	70 (71%)
Yes	33 (38%)	92 (35%)	28 (29%)

Exhibit 4.7: Housing Stability and Family Characteristics (2 of 2)

Characteristic	Participants Housed in the Same Unit at 12 Months	Participants Who Had at Least One Documented Move	Participants Who Did Not Have Sufficient Information to Measure Housing Mobility
Housing destination at exit	86	262	102
Rental housing without housing assistance	72 (84%)	176 (67%)	73 (72%)
Rental housing with a housing subsidy	9 (11%)	46 (18%)	14 (14%)
Permanent supportive housing	4 (5%)	6 (2%)	3 (3%)
Doubled-up situations with family or friends	1 (1%)	25 (10%)	10 (10%)
Homeless (includes emergency shelter or transitional housing)	0 (0%)	7 (3%)	0 (0%)
Any cash income reported at entry (earned or unearned)	93	287	110
Yes	74 (80%)	218 (76%)	88 (80%)
No or Not Reported	19 (20%)	69 (24%)	22 (20%)
Monthly earned income at entry	93	283	108
None	62 (67%)	190 (67%)	67 (62%)
Under \$500	4 (4%)	13 (5%)	7 (7%)
\$500 to \$999	10 (11%)	32 (11%)	16 (15%)
\$1,000 to \$1,499	6 (7%)	24 (9%)	10 (9%)
\$1,500 to \$1,999	3 (3%)	13 (5%)	5 (5%)
\$2,000 or more	8 (9%)	11 (4%)	3 (3%)
Any cash income reported at exit (earned or unearned)	93	287	110
Yes	72 (77%)	222 (77%)	88 (80%)
No or not reported	21 (23%)	65 (23%)	22 (20%)
Cash income as a percent of Median Family Income at entry	93	280	107
No Income	19 (20%)	69 (25%)	22 (21%)
Greater than 0 to less than 15%	37 (40%)	120 (43%)	52 (49%)
15 to less than 30%	21 (23%)	65 (23%)	26 (24%)
30% or greater	16 (17%)	26 (9%)	7 (7%)

HMIS = Homeless Management Information System. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration. N = 490 study participants.

^a Disabling condition, a universal indicator of disability status in HMIS, was missing for 23 people, including 5 people housed in the same unit, 14 people with at least one move, and 4 people with insufficient information to measure mobility. Specific disability conditions may be reported for people who did not indicate a general disabling condition. Note: Percentages should be read within each column and are calculated from the Ns for each panel of the column. Ns may vary from the number of total participants because of missing data.

Sources: HMIS and RRHD followup survey data

The three main differences between participants who remained in the same unit and those who did not are (1) age (younger participants moved more than twice as often), (2) race (African-Americans were more likely to move and Whites less likely), and (3) disability. Families who stayed in the same unit were more likely to report a disabling condition than those families who moved. This pattern is most pronounced for those families who have a member with physical disabilities.

Participants who did not have sufficient information to determine whether they were in the same unit had characteristics similar to participants who moved at least once. A few exceptions do exist: although the participants were still mainly female, this unknown group includes more men than the others; they are slightly older; fewer are non-Hispanic Black or African-American; more are non-Hispanic, White; and they are less frequently identified as survivors of domestic violence.

Families who remained in the same unit had incomes at or more than 30 percent of the local Median Family Income nearly twice as often as families who moved, 17 versus 9 percent. Most participants in the same unit exited to rental housing without a subsidy (84 percent). Somewhat greater percentages of families who moved had either exited to rental housing with a subsidy (18 versus 11 percent) or exited to doubled-up situations (10 versus 1 percent).

Housing Stability and RRHD Program and Housing Market Features

Exhibit 4.8 reports the proportion of families in each housing stability outcome group in relation to housing market indicators and RRHD program features to help explain whether housing market features or the nature or duration of RRHD assistance they received affect their outcomes.

A greater percentage of families who remained in the housing unit 12 months after exiting

the program lived in communities with tight housing markets, meaning markets with rental vacancy rates less than 5 percent, than those families who moved, 30 versus 25 percent. They also more often lived in areas with moderate housing costs (53 versus 48 percent) as measured by where that community falls in the national distribution of Fair Market Rents published by HUD.

Differences in the duration of the rapid re-housing assistance between the two groups are small. The largest difference is that 12 percent of those families who remained in the same housing unit during the 12-month followup period received assistance for 6 months or less, compared with 19 percent of those families who moved at least once. Most all families in the study were served in communities with decentralized intake structures. A slightly greater proportion of families who remained in the same unit rather than moving at least once were in these communities, 60 versus 50 percent.

A greater proportion of those families who stayed in the same unit (66 versus 52 percent) were in communities where the RRHD program used graduated rental assistance—that is, the amount of rent paid by the participant increased over time during the RRHD assistance period. Those who stayed in the same unit also were more likely to be in communities in which case management for RRHD participants was designed to occur less than once per month (82 versus 75 percent).

Participants who did not have sufficient information to determine whether they were in the same unit generally were in similar programs and housing markets as participants who moved, with a few exceptions. Participants in this unknown group were in slightly looser and slightly more affordable housing markets. They were also in the RRHD program for shorter lengths of time and received less intensive case management.

Exhibit 4.8: Housing Stability and RRHD Program and Market Features

Characteristic	Participants Housed in the Same Unit at 12 Months	Participants Who Had at Least One Documented Move	Participants Who Did Not Have Sufficient Information to Measure Housing Stability
Total participants	93	287	110
Rental vacancy rate	93	287	110
Above 5 percent	65 (70%)	216 (75%)	89 (81%)
Below 5 percent	28 (30%)	71 (25%)	21 (19%)
Fair Market Rent (two bedroom)	93	287	110
Low (less than 25th percentile)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Moderate (25th to less than 75th percentile)	49 (53%)	139 (48%)	48 (44%)
High (75th percentile or greater)	44 (47%)	148 (52%)	62 (56%)
Amount of assistance received	90	287	110
Less than 3 months	2 (2%)	5 (2%)	2 (2%)
3 to less than 6 months	9 (10%)	48 (17%)	22 (20%)
6 to less than 9 months	29 (32%)	79 (28%)	31 (28%)
9 to less than 12 months	22 (24%)	73 (25%)	22 (20%)
12 months to less than 18 months	26 (29%)	70 (24%)	27 (25%)
18 or more months	2 (2%)	12 (4%)	6 (5%)
Depth of assistance	93	287	110
Full rent for duration of program	9 (10%)	38 (13%)	13 (12%)
Graduated rental assistance	61 (66%)	150 (52%)	66 (60%)
Percent of Income toward rent	23 (25%)	99 (35%)	31 (28%)
Expected frequency of RRHD case management	93	287	110
Case management designed to occur once per month or less often	76 (82%)	214 (75%)	87 (79%)
Case management expected to occur more than once per month	17 (18%)	73 (25%)	23 (21%)
RRHD site intake approach	93	287	110
Served in site with centralized intake	37 (40%)	142 (50%)	47 (43%)
Served in site with decentralized intake	56 (60%)	145 (50%)	63 (57%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 490 study participants.

Percentages should be read within each column and are calculated from the Ns for each panel of the column. Ns may vary from the number of total participants because of missing data.

Source: Homeless Management Information System data and information from the process evaluation

Housing Stability and Housing Affordability

Exhibit 4.9 shows the differences in housing affordability at 12 months after RRHD exit between families who remained in the RRHD unit 12 months after exiting the RRHD program and those families that did not.

A greater percentage of those families who had a subsidy at 12 months and had moved were paying less than 30 percent of income for rent than of those families who remained in the same unit, 86 versus 78 percent. Some families may have moved to receive a subsidy or used a subsidy to move to housing with lower rent than the RRHD unit. A greater percentage of those families who had housing assistance at 12 months had moved than stayed in the RRHD units (70 versus 30 percent, not explicitly shown on the table).

Families in the same unit without a subsidy are less likely to be living in affordable housing (paying less than 30 percent of their income or less) than families living in a different unit without a subsidy, 18 versus 31 percent, perhaps reflecting that some families moved to find more affordable housing. Families living in the same unit without a housing subsidy are about as likely as those families who were living in a

different unit without a housing subsidy to pay 50 percent or more of their income toward rent, 44 and 43 percent, however.

Multivariate Analysis of Determinants of Housing Stability

Multivariate analysis revealed that participants ages 18 to 24 were significantly less likely (63 percent less likely, on average) to be stably housed in the same unit compared with participants 25 to 34 years of age. Families with 3 or more children were also significantly less likely (52 percent less likely) to be stably housed in the same unit compared with families who had fewer than three children or no children at all.

Although the demographic, housing market, and RRHD program characteristics of those families who remained in the same unit and those families who moved varied in some interesting ways, we cannot assume that a particular difference in characteristics is driving the difference in outcomes, because that observed characteristic may be correlated with something else about the participant, the program, or the community that is the real driving force behind the observed difference. Therefore, we conducted multivariate analyses to attempt to identify the factors most closely associated with remaining in the same permanent housing unit 12 months

Exhibit 4.9: Housing Affordability Among Survey Respondents

Percent of Income Spent on Rent	Without Subsidy	With Subsidy	Total
Same unit	50	9	59
29% or less	9 (18%)	7 (78%)	16 (27%)
30 to 49%	19 (38%)	2 (22%)	21 (36%)
50% or more	22 (44%)	0 (0%)	22 (37%)
Different unit	72	21	93
29% or less	22 (31%)	18 (86%)	40 (43%)
30 to 49%	19 (26%)	3 (14%)	22 (24%)
50% or more	31 (43%)	0 (0%)	31 (33%)

n = 152 (Data were missing for 49 people—44 people without a housing subsidy and 5 people with a housing subsidy; 8 of the 49 were living in the same unit, the rest were living in a different unit).

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey

after RRHD program exit. The benefit of a multivariate analysis is it identifies relationships of explanatory variables (such as age, number of children, income) to the dependent variable (housing stability) controlling for other factors. Multivariate analysis cannot control for factors that the study was not able to measure, however, such as whether the family had a history of housing moves before entering the RRHD program. The Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration was not implemented in a way that permitted random assignment of families to receive RRHD program services or not, or to receive different types of services. Random assignment is the only way a study can fully control for factors that may affect outcomes for participants.

The multivariate models use a logistic regression that estimates the relationship between the explanatory variables and the likelihood that the participant remained in the RRHD program unit.¹⁵ We tested a number of multivariate models, all with slight variations from the base regression model. The explanatory variables in the base regression model are as follows:

- Whether the family head of household age was between 18 and 24 and whether client age was more than 34. Family head of household age between 25 and 34 is the reference group.
- Whether the family had three or more children in the household.
- Whether any children under the age of 5 accompanied the family.
- Whether the family had any earned income at entry.
- Whether the family had cash income at program entry of more than 0 but less than 15 percent of Median Family Income; received 15 to less than 30 percent; or 30 or more percent. 0 percent is the reference group.
- Whether the family exited with any housing subsidy.
- Whether the family head of household had any disabling condition at program entry or exit.
- Whether the family's stay in RRHD program was less than 6 months or more than 12 months. Between 6 months and 12 months is the reference group.
- Whether depth of subsidy received was full rent or graduated rental assistance. Family paid 30 percent of income for rent is the reference group.
- Whether frequency of services was high. Low frequency is the reference group.
- Whether local rental vacancy rate was greater than 5 percent. A rental vacancy rate 5 percent or lower is the reference group.
- Whether Fair Market Rent (FMR) was great. Low or medium FMR is the reference group.
- Whether intake structure was centralized. Decentralized is the reference group.

The distribution of study participants by site may also have an effect on the analysis and findings on outcomes for study participants, because each site offered a slightly different approach to rapid re-housing. The multivariate analysis controls for a number of *measurable* differences in program features and market conditions, but site differences may have other effects on participant outcomes that are not explained or accounted for in the analysis.¹⁶

When possible, explanatory variables are entered as yes/no responses, and the coefficient for the variable reported can be interpreted

15 The logistic specification was used because the dependent variable is a yes/no variable—the participant either remained in the program unit or did not. The actual regression specification of the logistic model estimates the log-likelihood of the probability that the dependent variable equals 1, in this case meaning that the respondent remained in the program unit.

16 The survey response rate varied by site, which also may have an effect on the model of program outcomes. We would ideally want to have a site-specific explanatory variable (a “fixed effects” variable) in the model to account for any immeasurable differences in programs by site. A number of sites have very few participants, however, so the multivariate analysis cannot support a “site” explanatory variable.

as the effect of the presence of the condition described relative to its absence on the log-likelihood of the probability of the dependent variable being one. In this case, the coefficient is the effect on the probability of remaining in the program unit. When a variable has multiple response categories, we omit one category, and the coefficients of the included categories should be interpreted as the difference in the log-likelihood relative to the omitted category.

To make the results more intuitive, coefficients of a logistic regression are often converted into odds ratios using the exponential function. We can interpret the odds ratio as the proportional increase in the odds of the dependent variable being 1 if the respondent has the specific characteristic compared with someone who does not. When the odds ratio is greater than 1, it means that a respondent with the characteristic is more likely to have a value of 1 in the dependent variable compared with a respondent without the characteristic. When the odds ratio is less than 1, it means that the respondent is less likely to have a value of 1 in the dependent variable.

For example, the odds ratio for the age variable 18 to 24 is 0.37 in two of the models presented in the following exhibits. This ratio indicates that participants who are 18 to 24 years old are 37 percent as likely (or 63 percent less likely) to remain in the same unit compared with participants who are 25 to 34 years old. By contrast, the odds ratio for the age variable 34 and over is greater than 1 in all the models, indicating that participants over age 34 are more likely than participants ages 18 to 24 to remain in their program unit (although this number is not statistically significant).

Exhibit 4.10 shows the results of a number of specifications of multivariate models that account for the explanatory variables described in the previous section. The exhibit shows the variables included in each model, the odds ratio for each variable, and indicates whether each variable is statistically significant at the 95-percent confidence level.¹⁷

The base model uses 327 of the 380 study participants who had sufficient data on housing mobility and complete data on the specified explanatory variables. Age, subsidy at exit, or other key variables are missing for 53 of the 380 study participants. Those 53 participants were excluded from the multivariate analysis.¹⁸

The second model includes race/ethnicity and whether the respondent is a survivor of domestic violence. Including these variables requires reducing the sample by 53 respondents who are missing these data in the HMIS.

The third model replaces the explanatory variable for whether the client received income at entry with whether client received income at exit. The ratio of income at entry to Median Family Income is replaced by ratio of income at exit to Median Family Income.

The final and fourth model keeps depth of rental subsidy as an explanatory variable in the model but combines the reference group into a partial rent subsidy category, combining graduated rental payments and participant paid 30 percent of income into one category.

In the base model on housing stability, participants ages 18 to 24 were significantly less likely (63 percent less likely, on average) to be stably housed in the same unit compared with participants ages 25 to 34. Housing stability showed no statistically significant difference between participants ages 25 to 34 and participants 35 or older. Families with 3 or more children were also significantly less likely (52 percent less likely) to be stably housed in the same unit compared with families who had fewer than three children or no children at all.

17 Note that statistically significant coefficients in the logistic regression do not necessarily translate into statistically significant odds ratios. For more details on interpreting coefficients and odds ratios, see, for example, <http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/notes2/>.

18 To include all 380 respondents, we would have had to exclude the variables with missing data. Because age is often missing and it plays an important role in the model, however, we decided to exclude observations rather than limit the number of variables. Other variables are missing for only one or two observations so, again, we decided to drop observations rather than drop those variables from the model.

Exhibit 4.10: Factors Associated With Housing Stability

Explanatory Variable	Odds Ratio			
	Base Model	Includes Race/Ethnicity and Domestic Violence	Includes Income at Exit Instead of Entry	Includes Full Rent and Partial Rent Response Options
Participant's age (omitted category: ages 25 to 34 years)				
Ages 18 to 24 years	0.37**	0.43*	0.36**	0.37**
Ages over 34 years	1.29	1.42	1.36	1.38
Participant's race/ethnicity (omitted category: non-Black, non-Hispanic)				
Black non-Hispanic	NA	0.52*	NA	NA
Hispanic	NA	1.04	NA	NA
Accompanied by 3 or more children	0.48**	0.43**	0.51**	0.47**
Accompanied by children under age 5	0.83	0.69	0.93	0.84
Have any earned income at RRHD entry	0.57	0.55	NA	0.56
Have any income at RRHD exit	NA	NA	0.60	NA
Exited program with a housing subsidy	0.87	1.13	0.87	0.83
Participant income entry as percent of MFI (omitted category: no income entry)				
Income greater than 0 but less than 15%	0.99	0.82	NA	1.06
Income 15 to less than 30%	1.12	0.93	NA	1.15
Income 30% or more	1.93	1.56	NA	2.15
Participant's income exit as percent of MFI (omitted category: no income exit)				
Income greater than 0 but less than 15%	NA	NA	0.61	NA
Income 15 to less than 30%	NA	NA	1.23	NA
Income 30% or more	NA	NA	1.12	NA
Have any disabling condition	0.74	0.61		0.71
Domestic violence survivor	NA	1.04	NA	NA
Length of RRHD assistance received(omitted category: 6 months to 1 year)				
Received Less than 6 months of RRHD Assistance	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.67
Received More than 1 year of RRHD Assistance	1.31	1.34	1.42	1.21
Assisted in RRHD program with case management offered more than once per month	1.01	1.10	1.00	0.74
Assisted in RRHD program with specified subsidy model (omitted category: subsidy based on a percent of income)				
Program pays full rent	1.39	1.96	1.57	0.87
Participant rent contribution is graduated (or stepped up) over time	1.91	1.34	2.34*	NA
Site uses central intake model	0.82	0.67	0.93	0.78
Local rental vacancy rate greater than 5%	0.55	0.56	0.47*	0.70
Area FMR is in the greatest 25% nationally	0.80	0.84	0.87	0.78
Number of participants included in the model	327	281	329	327

FMR = Fair Market Rent. MFI = Median Family Income. NA = data not available. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

* Statistically significant at the 0.10-percent confidence level. ** Statistically significant at the 0.05-percent confidence level.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System and RRHD followup survey and tracking data

Controlling for income at exit rather than entry, families receiving a graduated rent subsidy were significantly more likely to remain stably housed than families receiving rental assistance based on constant percentage of their income. Families residing in an area where the vacancy rate was more than 5 percent were significantly less likely to be stably housed than other families.

A number of characteristics that differ between those families who remained in the same unit and those families who moved did not turn out to be statistically significant differences. For instance, then the likelihood of remaining in the same unit had no statistically significant difference for those families who had income at RRHD program entry in relation to those families who did not. In addition, exiting the program with a subsidy is not related to statistically significant differences in the likelihood of remaining in the RRHD unit 12 months later. No statistically significant associations could be made between being disabled and the likelihood of remaining in the RRHD unit.

None of the local housing market conditions are associated with statistically significant differences in the likelihood of remaining in the same housing unit 12 months after the RRHD program exit. Program characteristics (length of RRHD assistance, depth of subsidy provided, use of centralized intake, and frequency of case management) do not appear to be similarly related to the likelihood of remaining in the RRHD unit. Although differences related to frequency of case management appeared in simple comparisons of program characteristics and outcomes, those differences were not statistically significant in multivariate analysis that controlled for participants' demographic characteristics and for community characteristics.

In the model with race/ethnicity and domestic violence history explanatory variables, participants who are Black/non-Hispanic are one-half as likely to be stably housed in the same unit as White non-Hispanic and "other" families,

although this difference is statistically significant only at the 10-percent significance level. Families with heads between 18 and 24 years old were no longer significantly less likely to be associated with being stably housed in the same unit. The results of this model are likely affected by the omission of the outcomes of the 53 additional study participants who did not have the additional explanatory variables (race/ethnicity or domestic violence history).

Subsequent Episodes of Homelessness

At least 10 percent of families experienced homelessness at least once during the year after the end of the RRHD assistance, including some who exited the RRHD program and returned immediately to a homeless setting. The other 90 percent appear to have avoided homelessness in the year after RRHD program exit.

Of the 483 participants for whom this outcome can be measured, 10 percent experienced at least one episode of homelessness within a year of exiting the RRHD program, as shown in exhibit 4.11. Seven families (16 percent of those families who had a homelessness episode) exited the RRHD program directly to a homeless situation, but most of those families who experienced subsequent homelessness did so at some later point.

The followup survey reveals some additional information about the experience of the 201 study participants who completed the followup survey. Approximately 24 percent of all survey respondents who did not report episodes of homelessness still reported spending at least one night doubled up with friends or family within the 12 months after RRHD exit (exhibit 4.12). Of those participants who reported spending at least one night doubled up, 40 percent were housed in their own rental unit at the time of the survey (not shown on the exhibit). Of the respondents returning to homelessness at some point, 60 percent also reported doubling up with friends or family at some point during the year.

Exhibit 4.11: Subsequent Homelessness of Families in the Study

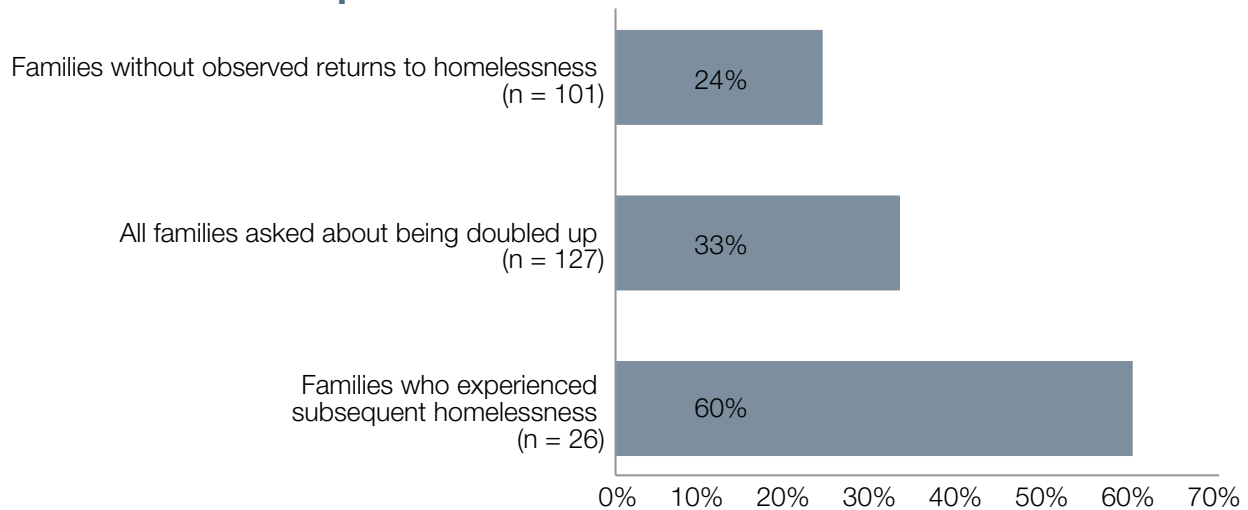
Subsequent Homelessness Outcome	Number of Study Participants	Percent of Study Participants
At least one episode of homelessness within 12 months of RRHD program exit	50	10.4
No reported homelessness within 12 months of RRHD program exit	433	89.6

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

n = 483 study participants (7 of the 490 study participants were missing data to measure subsequent homelessness and are excluded from this exhibit).

Sources: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data at RRHD program exit, followup survey data, and HMIS data on returns to homelessness

Exhibit 4.12: Families Who Report Spending at Least 1 Night Doubled Up During the 12-Month Followup Period



N = 127 followup survey respondents who were asked this question.

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Family Characteristics and Subsequent Homelessness

Exhibit 4.13 reports the number and characteristics of study participants in relation to whether they experienced subsequent homelessness. Characteristics of the 7 participants who had missing data on homelessness are shown in the exhibit but are not discussed given the small number.

The largest demographic difference between families who experienced homelessness at some point in the year after leaving the program and those families that did not was the age of the family head. Of those families who returned

to homelessness 38 percent were less than 25 years old, compared with 22 percent of those families who did not. Differences in race were observed between people who returned to homelessness and those families who had no observed returns. Nearly 35 percent of people who did not return to homelessness were non-Hispanic, White compared with 21 percent of people who returned to shelter. More than two-thirds of participants who returned to homelessness were non-Hispanic, Black or African-American, compared with 52 percent of those families who did not return.

Exhibit 4.13: Subsequent Homelessness and Family Characteristics (1 of 2)

Characteristic	Participants Homeless at Some Point Since Exit	Participants Who Had No Observed Returns to Shelter	Participants Who Did Not Have Sufficient Information on Returns to Homelessness
Total participants	50	433	7
Gender	49	426	7
Female	45 (92%)	379 (89%)	4 (57%)
Male	4 (8%)	47 (11%)	3 (43%)
Participant age	50	433	7
18 to 24	19 (38%)	95 (22%)	3 (43%)
25 to 34	20 (40%)	194 (45%)	1 (14%)
35 to 44	10 (20%)	106 (25%)	2 (29%)
45 to 54	1 (2%)	35 (8%)	0 (0%)
55+	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	1 (14%)
Participant race/ethnicity	48	405	7
Hispanic (regardless of race)	4 (8%)	43 (11%)	1 (14%)
Non-Hispanic Black or African-American	32 (67%)	209 (52%)	0 (0%)
Non-Hispanic White	10 (21%)	140 (35%)	2 (29%)
Non-Hispanic other	2 (4%)	13 (3%)	4 (57%)
Household composition^a	49	417	7
No children	1 (2%)	21 (5%)	0 (0%)
One child	19 (39%)	158 (38%)	2 (29%)
Two children	14 (28%)	115 (28%)	2 (29%)
Three or more children	15 (31%)	123 (29%)	3 (43%)
Veteran status	50	429	6
No	50 (100%)	419 (98%)	6 (100%)
Yes	0 (0%)	10 (2%)	0 (0%)
Health	48	412	7
Disabling condition (universal indicator) ^b	11 (23%)	65 (16%)	0 (0%)
Physical disability	3 (6%)	28 (7%)	0 (0%)
Developmental disability	3 (6%)	7 (2%)	0 (0%)
Chronic health problem	4 (8%)	37 (9%)	0 (0%)
Mental health problem	9 (18%)	76 (18%)	0 (0%)
Substance abuse	3 (6%)	19 (4%)	0 (0%)
HIV/AIDS	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Domestic violence survivor	46	387	6
No	32 (70%)	249 (64%)	6 (100%)
Yes	14 (30%)	138 (36%)	0 (0%)

Exhibit 4.13: Subsequent Homelessness and Family Characteristics (2 of 2)

Characteristic	Participants Homeless at Some Point Since Exit	Participants Who Had No Observed Returns to Shelter	Participants Who Did Not Have Sufficient Information on Returns to Homelessness
Housing destination at exit	44	399	7
Rental housing without housing assistance	21 (48%)	293 (73%)	7 (100%)
Rental housing with a housing subsidy	9 (21%)	60 (15%)	0 (0%)
Permanent supportive housing	1 (2%)	12 (3%)	0 (0%)
Doubled-up situations with family or friends	6 (14%)	30 (8%)	0 (0%)
Homeless (emergency shelter or transitional housing)	7 (16%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Any cash income reported at entry (earned or unearned)	50	433	7
Yes	37 (74%)	336 (78%)	7 (100%)
No or not reported	13 (26%)	97 (22%)	0 (0%)
Monthly earned income at entry	49	428	7
None	33 (67%)	285 (67%)	1 (14%)
Under \$500	3 (6%)	21 (5%)	0 (0%)
\$500 to \$999	7 (14%)	49 (11%)	2 (29%)
\$1,000 to \$1,499	5 (10%)	34 (8%)	1 (14%)
\$1,500 to \$1,999	0 (0%)	20 (5%)	1 (14%)
\$2,000 or more	1 (2%)	19 (4%)	2 (29%)
Any cash income reported at exit (earned or unearned)	50	433	7
Yes	40 (80%)	342 (79%)	7 (100%)
No or not reported	10 (20%)	91 (21%)	0 (0%)
Participant cash income at entry as a percent of MFI	48	425	7
No income	13 (27%)	97 (23%)	0 (0%)
Greater than 0 to less than 15%	24 (50%)	182 (43%)	3 (43%)
15% to less than 30%	10 (21%)	99 (23%)	3 (43%)
30% or greater	1 (2%)	47 (11%)	1 (14%)

MFI = Median Family Income.

N = 490 study participants.

^a Percentages should be read within each column and are calculated from the Ns for each panel of the column. ns may vary from the number of total participants because of missing data. n = 473 families. Information on age was missing for individuals in some families, so household composition could not be determined for 17 families.

^b Disabling condition, a universal indicator of disability status in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), was missing for 23 people, including 21 people who were not observed as homeless after program exit and 2 people who returned to homelessness. Specific disability conditions may be reported for people who did not indicate a general disabling condition.

Source: HMIS and Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Families who returned to homelessness more often had a household head with a disability (23 versus 16 percent). A slightly greater proportion of families who returned were domestic violence survivors at entry (70 versus 64 percent). Families who returned to homelessness and those families that did not had similar rates of having any form of cash income (earned or unearned) at entry and exit.

Differences in earnings are small; 67 percent of those families who returned to shelter and those families who did not reporting no earnings at baseline. Of the participants who returned to shelter, 12 percent reported monthly earnings of \$1,000 or more at program entry compared with 17 percent who did not return to shelter. When earnings at entry are measured in relation to the local Median Family Income (MFI), the differences in earnings are more pronounced. Families who returned to homelessness more often had incomes less than 15 percent of the area MFI than those families who did not return. Nonreturning families had incomes more than 15 percent of MFI much more often than families who became homeless again during the year (34 percent of nonreturners versus 23 percent of returners). Families who did not return to homelessness had incomes of at least 30 percent of MFI five times as often as families who accessed shelter again in the year after exiting the program, 11 versus 2 percent.

RRHD Program and Housing Market Features and Subsequent Homelessness

Exhibit 4.14 reports the proportion of families who experienced at least one episode of homelessness at some point in the 12 months after RRHD program exit, those families who did not, and those families who did not have sufficient information. The comparisons are made in relation to housing market indicators and RRHD program features.

Families who returned to homelessness were as likely to be located in tight housing markets (markets with rental vacancy rates less than 5 percent) as families who did not have observed returns to homelessness (24 versus 23 percent). Families who returned to homelessness lived in relatively higher cost housing markets with slightly more frequency than nonreturners, 54 versus 51 percent.

As for differences in the type of assistance received, the length of assistance provided to the study participants by the RRHD program did not differ greatly by group; slightly more than one-half of each group (53 versus 52 percent) received assistance between 6 months and 1 year. A greater proportion of those families who did not experience further episodes of homelessness received a full rent subsidy while they were enrolled in the program than those families who experienced subsequent homelessness (13 versus 6 percent). A similar percentage was in programs with frequent case management (23 percent of nonreturners versus 24 percent of families who returned to homelessness).

Exhibit 4.14: Subsequent Homelessness and RRHD Program and Housing Market Features

Characteristic	Participants Homeless at Some Point in 12 Months Since Exit	Participants Who Had No Observed Returns to Shelter	Participants Who Did Not Have Sufficient Information on Returns to Homelessness
Total participants	50	433	7
Rental vacancy rate	50	433	7
Above 5 percent	38 (76%)	332 (77%)	0 (0%)
Below 5 percent	12 (24%)	101 (23%)	7 (100%)
FMR (2BR)	50	433	7
Low (less than 25th percentile)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Moderate (25th to less than 75th percentile)	23 (46%)	213 (49%)	0 (0%)
High (75th percentile or greater)	27 (54%)	220 (51%)	7 (100%)
Amount of assistance received	50	430	7
Less than 3 months	2 (4%)	7 (2%)	0 (0%)
3 to less than 6 months	6 (12%)	72 (17%)	1 (14%)
6 to less than 9 months	13 (26%)	120 (28%)	6 (86%)
9 to less than 12 months	14 (28%)	103 (24%)	0 (0%)
12 months to less than 18 months	13 (26%)	110 (26%)	0 (0%)
18 or more months	2 (4%)	18 (4%)	0 (0%)
Depth of assistance	50	433	7
Full rent for duration of program	3 (6%)	57 (13%)	0 (0%)
Graduated rental assistance	30 (60%)	247 (57%)	0 (0%)
Percent of income toward rent	17 (34%)	129 (30%)	7 (100%)
Expected frequency of RRHD case management	50	433	7
Case management designed to occur once per month or less often	38 (76%)	332 (77%)	7 (100%)
Case management expected to occur more than once per month	12 (24%)	101 (23%)	0 (0%)
RRHD site intake approach	50	433	7
Served in site with centralized intake	21 (42%)	205 (47%)	0 (0%)
Served in site with decentralized intake	29 (58%)	228 (53%)	7 (100%)

BR = bedroom. FMR = Fair Market Rent. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 489 study participants.

Note: Percentages should be read within each column and are calculated from the Ns for each panel of the column.

Source: Homeless Management Information System data and information from the process evaluation

Multivariate Analysis on Determinants of Subsequent Homelessness

Multivariate analysis revealed that participants whose income at entry was at least 30 percent of Median Family Income were significantly less likely to have returned to homelessness compared with participants who had no cash income at entry. In addition, non-Hispanic, Black study participants were significantly more likely (more than three times more likely) to return to homelessness than participants who were neither Black nor Hispanic.

The multivariate analysis to identify the factors most closely associated with returning to homelessness during the 12 months after RRHD program exit is based on the 417 study participants for whom sufficient information was available on homelessness either at program exit or at some time during the 12 months after exit and on the explanatory variables used in the analysis.¹⁹

Exhibit 4.15 shows the results of four multivariate models that account for the same explanatory variables used for the model with mobility as the outcome. The exhibit shows the variables included in each model, the odds ratio for each variable, and indicates whether each variable is statistically significant. The odds ratios in the model can be interpreted as the relative odds of returning to homelessness for someone with the characteristic compared with someone without the characteristic.

The base model includes 417 study participants who had sufficient data to determine whether they returned to homelessness at any point and with complete data for each specified independent variable. The second model includes race/ethnicity and whether the respondent is a survivor of domestic violence. Including these variables requires reducing the sample by 66 respondents who are missing these data on the HMIS. The third model is similar to the base model, except that it replaces the two variables related to whether the respondent had cash income at entry with variables for cash income at exit. The final and fourth model combines

participants who paid graduated or stepped up rent with those families who paid a fixed proportion of income, so the model compares those families who received a full subsidy with those families who received a partial subsidy.

As was the case for the multivariate analysis for housing stability defined as maintaining the same housing unit, all four models show that age is associated with a statistically significant difference in the likelihood of becoming homeless in the year after RRHD program exit. In this case the relationship is less strong (statistically significant at the 10-percent level rather than at the 5-percent level). A family head younger than 25 is 2.0 to 2.3 times more likely to experience a subsequent episode of homelessness than a family head ages 25 to 34, depending on the specification of the model.

In models that included ethnicity/race and whether domestic violence was experienced at program entry, non-Hispanic, Black study participants were significantly more likely (more than 3 times more likely) to return to homelessness than participants who were neither Black nor Hispanic. Hispanic participants were also significantly more likely to return to homelessness than White, non-Hispanic and “other” participants (although this association was only at the 10-percent level). Experiencing domestic violence at program entry had no significant effect on returns to homelessness.

Across all models, participants whose income at entry was at least 30 percent of Median Family Income were significantly less likely to have returned to homelessness compared with participants who had no cash income at entry. Participants who had any earned income at

¹⁹ The model is based on the 417 survey respondents and nonrespondents who had sufficient data to determine whether they returned to homelessness at any point and those with complete data for each of the specified independent variables. The model omits 66 study participants who would have otherwise been included because of missing data on the explanatory variables, including 40 participants missing data on destination at program exit (the source for exiting with a housing subsidy). We decided to drop variables for race/ethnicity and whether the participant was a victim of domestic violence from the base model, because these data are missing for 61 participants, as shown in the second column of exhibit 4.15.

Exhibit 4.15: Factors Associated with Returns to Homelessness

Explanatory Variable	Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio
	Base Model	Includes Race/ Ethnicity and Domestic Violence	Includes income at Exit instead of Entry	Includes Only Full Rent/Other instead of Three Options
Participant age (omitted category: ages 25 to 34 years)				
Ages 18 to 24 years	2.14*	2.41*	2.31*	2.14*
Ages over 34 years	0.92	0.75	0.94	0.90
Participant race/ethnicity (omitted category: non-Black, non-Hispanic)				
Black non-Hispanic	NA	3.01**	NA	NA
Hispanic	NA	3.76*	NA	NA
Accompanied by three or more children	1.74	1.63	1.75	1.76
Accompanied by children under age 5	1.56	1.31	1.60	1.55
Have any earned income at RRHD entry	2.12*	2.42*	NA	2.14*
Have any income at RRHD exit	NA	NA	1.14	NA
Exited program with a housing subsidy	0.97	1.19	0.92	1.00
Participant income entry as percent of Median Family Income (omitted category: no income entry)				
Income greater than 0 but less than 15%	0.82	0.77	NA	0.81
Income 15 to less than 30%	0.45	0.40	NA	0.44
Income 30% or more	0.09**	0.08**	NA	0.08**
Participant income exit as percent of Median Family Income (omitted category: no income exit)				
Income greater than 0 but less than 15%	NA	NA	2.51*	NA
Income 15 to less than 30%	NA	NA	0.71	NA
Income 30% or more	NA	NA	0.63	NA
Have any disabling condition	1.52	1.65	1.33	1.54
Domestic violence survivor	NA	0.88	NA	NA
Length of RRHD assistance received (omitted category: 6 months to 1 year)				
Received Less than 6 months of RRHD assistance	0.71	0.48	0.64	0.71
Received More than 1 year of RRHD assistance	1.00	1.11	1.03	1.02
In RRHD program with case management offered more than once per month	0.81	0.74	0.75	0.91
In RRHD program with specified subsidy model (omitted category: subsidy based on a percent of income)				
Program pays full rent	0.28	0.71	0.31	0.32
Participant rent contribution is graduated (or stepped up) over time	0.79	1.34	0.84	NA
Site uses central intake model	0.81	1.17	0.75	0.85
Local rental vacancy rate greater than 5%	0.66	0.61	0.63	0.61
Area FMR is in the greatest 25% nationally	0.96	0.63	0.82	0.95
Number of participants included in the model	417	356	421	417

FMR = Fair Market Rent. NA = data not available. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

* Statistically significant at the 0.10-percent confidence level. ** Statistically significant at the 0.05-percent confidence level.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; RRHD followup survey and tracking data

program entry were significantly more likely (although only at the 10-percent level) to return to homelessness than participants who had no earned income at entry. Participants who had any earned income at program exit, however, were not significantly associated with returns to homelessness.

No statistically significant differences existed in the odds of experiencing another episode of homelessness associated with being accompanied by more than three children or being accompanied by children under five. Presence of a disabling condition likewise did not show statistically significant differences in the odds of returning to homelessness.

Neither program characteristics — such as frequency of case management, depth of assistance, use of a central intake system, or amount of subsidy — nor market indicators — such as vacancy rates or Fair Market Rents — were associated with a statistically significant effect on the likelihood of returning to homelessness.

Multivariate Analysis of HMIS Data on Subsequent Homelessness for a Larger Sample of Families Served by RRHD Programs

Of the 1,459 families served in RRHD, 6 percent had HMIS records that documented use of shelters or transitional housing within the year after completion of RRHD assistance. Unlike the primary study analysis described in the previous section, multivariate analysis for the larger sample did not find that families' characteristics were associated with greater likelihood of subsequent homelessness.

The multivariate analyses conducted in this study were replicated using HMIS data on a larger sample of 1,459 families served by RRHD, which includes the 490 families included in the primary study sample and an additional 969 families. The results of the analyses of the larger sample are reported in a supplemental brief, and are briefly summarized in the following exhibit.²⁰

The supplemental analyses found that 6 percent of the 1,459 families returned to shelter or transitional housing within 12 months of their exit from RRHD programs. This rate of return is fairly consistent with the 10 percent measured for the primary study, because the supplemental analysis was limited to a narrower definition of homelessness that could be measured from HMIS data — absent instances of homelessness that were reported by families through the followup interviews.

The multivariate analysis of outcomes for all families served by the RRHD program differs from the multivariate analysis of outcomes for the study population, however. Whereas personal characteristics were associated with statistically significant differences in the rates of subsequent homelessness for study participants, none of the personal characteristics included in the model for the larger sample were associated with a difference in the likelihood of becoming homeless again. Instead, the analysis for the larger sample detected a difference in returns to homeless programs based on the rental assistance model provided to families (7 percent lower likelihood for families who received a full subsidy than those families who received a partial subsidy based on families paying a specified percent of their income) and the vacancy rate of the rental market in which the family was housed (40 percent lower likelihood for families served in housing markets with a vacancy rate greater than 5 percent than housed in tighter housing markets), factors that were not detected in the primary study.

Exhibit 4.16 summarizes the results of the multivariate analysis on returns to homelessness for study participants compared with all families.

Given the absence of tracking and survey data, the supplementary analysis is limited only to this housing outcome.

²⁰ Characteristics and subsequent homelessness outcomes for all families served by the RRHD program are presented in Spellman et al. (2015).

Exhibit 4.16: Factors Significantly Associated With Returning to Homelessness Within 12 Months of Exit for Study Participants and All RRHD Families

Explanatory Variable	Odds Ratio for Shelter Return Within 12 Months	
	Evaluation Study Families (n = 417) ^a	All RRHD Families (n = 1,148) ^b
Family characteristics		
Ages 18 to 24 (omitted category: ages 25 to 34 years)	2.14*	—
African-American (omitted category: non-Black, non-Hispanic)	3.01** ^c	—
Earned income at entry	2.12*	—
Income at entry of 30% or more of MFI (omitted category: no income entry)	0.09**	—
Income at exit greater than 0 but less than 15% of MFI (omitted category: no income exit)	2.51 ^{ad}	—
Program characteristics		
Full rent paid by program (omitted category: subsidy based on a percent of income)	—	.07*
Market characteristics		
Local rental vacancy rate greater than 5%	—	.40*

MFI = Median Family Income. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

^a 417 of the 490 study participants had sufficient data to be included in the multivariate analysis (base model).

^b 1,148 of the 1,459 RRHD families had sufficient data to be included in the multivariate analysis.

^c Significant in an alternate model that includes race and incidence of domestic violence before entry, n = 356.

^d Significant in an alternate model that includes income at exit instead of income at entry, n = 420.

* Statistically significant at the 0.10-percent confidence level. ** Statistically significant at the 0.05-percent confidence level.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and RRHD followup survey and tracking data for evaluation study families; HMIS only for all families

Understanding Housing Stability

Survey respondents were asked a number of questions to understand the challenges they faced in remaining stably housed and to understand their subsequent housing choices. Although this section focuses on only the 201 participants who responded to the survey, their responses give us some insight into the pressures they faced and the reasons some families chose to leave the housing in which they lived with RRHD assistance.

Barriers to Housing Stability

Families surveyed frequently cited not being able to pay the rent and not being employed as big problems with respect to housing stability.

Survey respondents were asked the extent to which they believed various issues presented themselves as barriers to housing stability. They were asked to report each as a big problem, a small problem, or no problem. As shown in exhibit 4.16, 70 percent of respondents indicated that not having enough money to pay rent was a problem—57 percent reporting that it was a big problem. Not being currently employed was identified by 75 percent of respondents as being a problem, and 62 percent reported that it was a big problem.

After housing costs and income, the barriers most frequently identified by survey respondents were a series of health-related factors, when those factors applied to the family. Of the respondent

families who had a child who had a disability, 43 percent reported that having a child in the household with a disability was a barrier to obtaining housing, and 29 percent indicated it was a big problem. Of the respondent families who had an adult who had a disability in the household, 40 percent reported that it was a barrier to obtaining housing, with 20 percent reporting that it was a big problem. Having an adult who was frequently sick was reported as a problem by 16 percent of all respondents; 11 percent reported that having an adult frequently sick was a big problem. Having a child who was frequently sick was a problem reported by 12 percent of families; 4 percent reported it as a big problem. Having a child

in the household with a mental disability was reported as a problem (big or small) by 13 percent of all respondents.

Other issues identified as problems with relative frequency include having three or more children in the household (28 percent reported it was a big or small problem); family violence (12 percent reported it being a big or small problem); and having a criminal record (12 percent reported it as a big or small problem).

Examining the barriers identified by respondents as either big or small problems in achieving housing stability, distinct differences are based on housing status (exhibit 4.17). Nearly all barriers were identified with more frequency by

Exhibit 4.17: Barriers to Housing Stability

Percent of Respondents Reporting the Following Barriers	Big Problem	Small Problem	No Problem
Not being currently employed*	69 (62%)	14 (13%)	25 (23%)
Not having enough income to pay rent	115 (57%)	27 (13%)	59 (29%)
Having a child in the household that has a physical disability*	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	4 (57%)
Having an adult in the household who has a physical disability that requires specific housing modifications*	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)
Having three or more children in the household*	11 (16%)	8 (12%)	48 (71%)
Having an adult in the household who is frequently sick	21 (11%)	10 (5%)	170 (85%)
Having an adult in the household who has a mental disability	18 (9%)	12 (6%)	171 (85%)
Having problems with police or a criminal record or background	15 (8%)	7 (4%)	179 (89%)
Family violence	14 (7%)	10 (5%)	177 (88%)
Having a child in the household who has a mental disability	11 (6%)	13 (7%)	177 (88%)
Having a drug problem or a felony drug record	9 (5%)	3 (2%)	189 (94%)
Having a child in the household who is frequently sick	8 (4%)	15 (8%)	178 (89%)
Another family member who is having problems with police or a criminal record or background	7 (4%)	9 (5%)	185 (91%)
Another family member with a drug problem or a felony drug record	7 (4%)	3 (2%)	191 (95%)
Having an adult in the household with HIV/AIDS	4 (2%)	3 (2%)	193 (96%)
Having teenagers in the household*	1 (2%)	6 (10%)	53 (87%)

N = 201 survey respondents.

* For these barriers, percentages are calculated based on the number of households for whom the characteristic applied. For example, households without a person with a physical disability were excluded from the analysis of responses to barriers related to physical disabilities.

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

households who returned to homelessness at some point than by those families who did not.

As shown in exhibit 4.18, although 70 percent of respondents who remained in the same unit identified not being employed as a barrier, as did 75 percent of those families who moved but had no known episodes of homelessness,

87 percent of respondents who experienced homelessness reported lack of employment as a problem. Not having sufficient income to pay rent is similarly identified by a smaller share of respondents staying in the same unit and by families who moved but did not become homeless than by those families who had episodes of homelessness.

Exhibit 4.18: Respondents Reporting Barriers by Housing Status at Followup

Percent of Respondents Reporting the Following Barriers as a Big or Small Problem	Remained in the Same Unit (n = 70)	Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 30)	Moved, but No Known Subsequent Homelessness (n = 101)	All Survey Respondents (n = 20)
Not being currently employed*	22 (70%)	20 (87%)	41 (75%)	83 (77%)
Not having enough income to pay rent	46 (66%)	26 (87%)	70 (69%)	142 (71%)
Having a child in the household that has a physical disability*	2 (67%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	3 (43%)
Having three or more children in the household*	5 (24%)	4 (31%)	10 (29%)	19 (28%)
Having an adult in the household who has a physical disability that requires specific housing modifications*	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	2 (40%)
Having an adult in the household who is frequently sick	10 (14%)	6 (20%)	15 (15%)	31 (15%)
Having an adult in the household who has a mental disability	9 (13%)	6 (20%)	15 (15%)	30 (15%)
Having a child in the household who has a mental disability	9 (13%)	6 (20%)	9 (9%)	24 (12%)
Having teenagers in the household*	3 (11%)	1 (20%)	3 (11%)	7 (12%)
Family violence	7 (10%)	5 (17%)	12 (12%)	24 (12%)
Respondent having problems with police or a criminal record or background	6 (9%)	6 (20%)	10 (10%)	22 (11%)
Respondent having a drug problem or a felony drug record	5 (7%)	4 (13%)	3 (3%)	12 (6%)
Having a child in the household who is frequently sick	5 (7%)	5 (17%)	13 (13%)	23 (11%)
Another family member who is having problems with police or a criminal record or background	4 (6%)	2 (7%)	10 (10%)	16 (8%)
Another family member with a drug problem or a felony drug record	4 (6%)	1 (3%)	5 (5%)	10 (5%)
Having an adult in the household with HIV/AIDS	3 (4%)	2 (7%)	3 (3%)	7 (4%)

*For these barriers, percentages are calculated based on the number of households for whom the characteristic applied. For example, households without a person with a physical disability were excluded from the analysis of responses to barriers related to physical disabilities.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey and tracking data

Issues related to health vary among these groups as well. Having a child with a physical disability, having a child with a mental disability, and having an adult in the household with a mental disability were all more common among respondents who returned to homelessness at some point than those families who did not. Having a child who is frequently sick, family violence, and issues related to respondents having a drug problem or problems with police or a criminal record were all much more common among families who had returns to homelessness. Because family characteristics were available only from the followup survey, small sample sizes mean that the relationships to housing stability could not be tested through multivariate analysis and should be interpreted with caution.

Neighborhood Problems

The most common problems families identified about the neighborhoods in which they lived were groups of people hanging out on the street, people using or selling illegal drugs, and litter or trash in the streets.

Survey respondents were also asked about problems they observed in their current neighborhoods. The most common problems identified (big or small) were groups of people hanging out on the street, people using or selling illegal drugs, and litter or trash in the streets. As shown in exhibit 4.19, families who remained in the same unit more often identified most of the issues listed than respondents who did not remain in the same unit, including those families who returned to homelessness. Respondents staying in the same unit more often reported violent arguments between neighbors, public drinking, robberies or muggings, and gang fights as being problems than those families who returned to homelessness and sometimes more often than those families who moved but did not become homeless. They reported the sale and use of drugs, fighting with a weapon, and sexual assaults or rapes in their current neighborhoods with slightly more frequency than people who returned to homeless at some point. Families who returned

Exhibit 4.19: Respondents Reporting Neighborhood Problems by Housing Status at Followup

Neighborhood Problems	Remained in the Same Unit (n = 70)	Respondents Who Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 30)	Moved, but No Known Subsequent Homelessness (n = 101)	All Survey Respondents (N = 201)
Groups of people hanging out	31 (44%)	11 (37%)	46 (46%)	88 (44%)
People using or selling illegal drugs	33 (47%)	13 (43%)	35 (35%)	81 (40%)
Litter/trash in streets	25 (36%)	15 (50%)	40 (40%)	80 (40%)
Violent arguments between neighbors	30 (43%)	9 (30%)	33 (33%)	72 (36%)
Public drinking	28 (40%)	9 (30%)	35 (35%)	72 (36%)
Robberies or muggings	24 (34%)	6 (20%)	32 (32%)	62 (31%)
Abandoned buildings	13 (19%)	9 (30%)	29 (29%)	51 (25%)
Fighting with weapon	14 (20%)	5 (17%)	26 (26%)	45 (22%)
Gang fights	15 (21%)	4 (13%)	18 (18%)	37 (18%)
Police not coming when called	9 (13%)	4 (13%)	17 (17%)	30 (15%)
Sexual assaults or rapes	10 (14%)	4 (13%)	14 (14%)	28 (14%)

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey and tracking data

to homelessness at some point reported living in neighborhoods with abandoned buildings and the police not coming when called more often than families staying in the same unit.

Reasons for Leaving the RRHD Program Unit

Respondents who experienced homelessness at some point during the followup period most commonly identified the cost of housing as either a major or a minor reason for leaving the RRHD unit.

If family heads reported they were no longer in the RRHD unit, they were asked by the survey to identify the extent to which a series of issues contributed in some part to the reason they left.

Exhibit 4.20 provides the results for the 127 respondents who reported that they had moved from their RRHD unit. Results are provided for the group as a whole, and for those families who experienced homelessness at some point after program exit as compared with those families who moved but did not experience subsequent homelessness. Overall, the most common reasons (major or minor) for moving to a new unit were to find a better unit (55 percent), to move to a less expensive unit (49 percent), and to move to a bigger unit (36 percent).

Respondents who experienced homelessness at some point during the followup period most commonly identified the cost of housing as

Exhibit 4.20: Reported Reasons for Leaving the Program Unit by Housing Status at Followup

Issues Identified as Major or Minor Reasons for Leaving Program Unit	Number and Percentage of Respondents Who Moved		
	Respondents Who Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 30)	Respondents Who Had No Observed Returns to Homelessness (n = 101)	Total of All Respondents Not in the Same Unit (N = 134)
To have a change in rent/because your unit was too expensive	13 (50%)	49 (49%)	62 (49%)
Because it was part of the program's design	10 (38%)	32 (32%)	42 (33%)
Because utilities were too expensive	9 (35%)	31 (31%)	40 (31%)
For personal safety/domestic violence reasons	7 (27%)	15 (15%)	22 (17%)
To get away from drugs and gangs or other unsafe activities	6 (23%)	34 (34%)	40 (31%)
Because you did not get along with landlord	6 (23%)	25 (25%)	31 (24%)
Because of a change in marital/romantic status	5 (19%)	13 (13%)	18 (14%)
Because you wanted a better apartment/house	4 (15%)	66 (65%)	70 (55%)
Because you got a Section 8 subsidy	2 (6%)	16 (16%)	18 (14%)
To be near your family	1 (4%)	21 (21%)	22 (17%)
To get better schools for your children	1 (4%)	25 (25%)	26 (20%)
Because you wanted a bigger apartment/house	1 (4%)	45 (45%)	46 (36%)
To get or change job/to be near your job	1 (4%)	22 (22%)	23 (18%)
Because your unit failed Section 8 inspection	1 (4%)	12 (12%)	13 (10%)
Because you moved into public housing	1 (4%)	21 (21%)	22 (17%)
For better transportation	0 (0%)	18 (18%)	18 (14%)

Note: Data are missing for 4 of the 30 respondents who returned to homelessness.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey and tracking data.

either a major or minor reason for leaving the RRHD unit. Half (50 percent) reported that the cost of rent was a reason for leaving, and 35 percent reported that utilities were too expensive. More than 23 percent reported that the cost of both utilities and rent were major or minor reasons for leaving the program unit (not shown).

Among family heads who moved but did not experience subsequent homelessness, the three most commonly identified reasons (major or minor) for leaving their RRHD unit were that they wanted a better housing unit (65 percent), that the RRHD unit was too expensive (49 percent), and that they wanted a bigger unit (45 percent).

Respondents who moved but did not experience subsequent homelessness much more frequently attributed their motivation to the receipt of a permanent subsidy (public

housing – 21 percent; receipt of a Housing Choice Voucher – 16 percent) than those families who did return to homelessness.²¹ Only a few people who experienced homelessness attributed their move from the RRHD unit to receiving either form of housing assistance.

Both groups identified getting away from drugs and gangs and other unsafe activities as reasons for moving, although those families who returned to homelessness did so with less frequency (23 versus 34 percent). Family heads with a subsequent episode of homelessness more often cited domestic violence or personal safety as reasons for moving (27 versus 15 percent) and were less than one-fourth as likely to move to be nearer to family (4 versus 21 percent).

21 Ten people selected “both” as a reason (major or minor) for moving out of their unit.

Chapter 5

Indicators of Self-Sufficiency and Family Well-Being

The RRHD program is designed to improve self-sufficiency through increased earnings and benefits, and helping families stabilize in housing. This chapter reports on study participants' improvements in income and employment and indicators of family well-being such as health and food security. These outcomes are reported mainly for the 201 study participants who completed the 12-month followup survey. When HMIS data are available for a given outcome, these data are used to show changes for outcomes between RRHD entry and exit, and then followup survey data are used to show the family's status 12 months after exit. Self-sufficiency and family well-being outcomes are presented in terms of the housing stability patterns reported in chapter 4. These relationships should be viewed with caution because of small sample sizes, and they could not be supported by multivariate analysis that controls for other factors.

Income and Employment Outcomes

Although a small percentage of families demonstrate gains, rapid re-housing does not appear to be associated with substantial improvements in income or employment outcomes.

The HUD RRHD funding announcement specified that “The family most appropriate for this demonstration should have, or be willing to obtain, employment that increases the income of the household to such a degree that it can independently sustain housing at the end of the short-term housing assistance.” RRHD programs indicated that they provide assistance intended to help participants gain employment, obtain vocational training, and gain access to

the cash and noncash benefits for which they are eligible—either directly or through referrals to other agencies provided as part of case management. Some programs focus intensively on family heads' search for employment, coaching on employment options that align with their skills and training. Other programs focus on developing additional employment options through education and training. Most programs have at least some focus on access to benefits. This section describes employment and income growth outcomes of 201 survey respondents for whom we also have HMIS data²² and also the extent to which participants engaged in job training activities.

Employment Status and Earned Income Change for Survey Respondents

Of the families surveyed, 4 percent gained employment income during RRHD program participation. An additional 7 percent gained earned income in the year after RRHD exit.

Employed family heads with earned income increased by 11 percentage points between the time of program entry and 12 months after exiting the RRHD program, from 34 percent to 45 percent (68 people to 91 people). As shown in exhibit 5.1, slightly more than one-third of those families gained earned income during the time of program enrollment, and the other families gained earned income sometime between RRHD exit and the 12-month followup survey.

A modest increase (4 percentage points) was made in the number of respondents reporting unearned cash income such as TANF, SSI, child support, and disability benefits between entry and the 12-month followup survey. Receipt of noncash benefits, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Medicaid and Medicare, increased by 19 percentage points, from 78 percent to 97 percent 12 months after leaving the RRHD program. One family

²² The two survey respondents for whom we received no HMIS data are excluded from all analysis.

Exhibit 5.1: Families With Earned Income, Unearned Income, and Noncash Benefits at Entry, Exit, and Followup

	At Program Entry	At Program Exit	At Followup
Earned income	68 (34%)	77 (38%)	91 (45%)
Unearned income	104 (52%)	107 (53%)	112 (56%)
Noncash benefits	157 (78%)	156 (78%)	194 (97%)
Any income (earned or unearned, noncash benefits)	179 (89%)	175 (87%)	200 (>99%)
No income or noncash benefits	22 (11%)	26 (13%)	1 (<1%)

N = 201 survey respondents.

Source: Homeless Management Information System data from Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program entry and exit and followup survey.

lost its noncash benefits between program entry and exit (or at least did not report receiving them at exit), and all the increase in noncash benefits appears to have occurred after families exited the program.²³

Exhibit 5.2 provides additional details on participants' employment status (proxied by receipt of earned income) at RRHD program entry and at the time of the followup survey to show the extent to which families who had employment at RRHD program entry kept it and whether those families who were unemployed at RRHD program entry gained employment. Respondents who reported earned income at entry were more likely to also report earned income at followup (69 compared with 33 percent for those families who had no earnings at entry). More family heads with no reported employment income at entry also conversely

reported no income at followup (67 versus 31 percent among those families who had earned income at entry).

Survey respondents who did not work for pay in the week before the survey were asked to report the main reason they did not work. Exhibit 5.3 shows that, for nearly one-third of unemployed respondents, being disabled was the main reason for not working, and 19 percent reported not being able to find any work.

Beyond employment status, we measured changes in the amount of earned income received between RRHD program entry and the time of the followup survey to assess improvements in self-sufficiency.

²³ The increase in reported noncash benefits between RRHD exit and 12 months later may reflect benefits received by household members other than the head of household. HMIS data used to measure receipt of noncash benefits at program exit reflected benefits recorded only for the head of household.

Exhibit 5.2: Families' Employment Outcomes, RRHD Entry to Followup

	Earned Income at Entry	No Earned Income at Entry	Total
Earned income at followup	47 (69%)	44 (33%)	91 (45%)
No earned income at followup	21 (31%)	89 (67%)	110 (55%)
Total	68 (100%)	133 (100%)	201 (100%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 201 survey respondents.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System; RRHD followup survey data

Exhibit 5.3: Main Reasons Reported for Not Working at the Time of the Survey

Main Reason for Not Working	Number of Survey Respondents Who Indicated This Reason As the Main Reason for Not Working	Percent of Survey Respondents Who Indicated This Reason As the Main Reason for Not Working
Retired	1	0.9
Disabled	35	31.8
Unable to work	5	4.5
Has job but temporarily absent	1	0.9
Could not find any work	21	19.1
Childcare problems	6	5.5
Family responsibilities	5	4.5
Child with disabilities that requires full time attention	1	0.9
In school or other training	7	6.4
Waiting for new job to begin	2	1.8
Other	26	23.6

n = 110 survey respondents (110 of the 201 respondents indicated no earned income at followup).

Note: Respondents were permitted to choose only one selection as the main reason for not working at the time of the followup survey.

Source: Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

As shown in exhibit 5.4, 33 percent of all survey respondents were successful in increasing their household's earned income by more than 10 percent from the time they entered the RRHD program. Of the survey respondents, 19 percent reported an increase of 10 percent or more in the amount of earned income they received between the time they entered the RRHD program and exited it, and another 14 percent of respondents reported that their earned income increased by 10 percent or more in the year after exit. Survey respondents who had different housing outcomes had some variation in the changes in earned income. Families who did not become homeless were twice as likely to report increases in earned income between the time they entered the program and exited it as those families who returned to homelessness, 20 and 10 percent, respectively. People who remained in the same unit were nearly three

times as likely to improve their income by 10 percent or more between entry and followup as those families who returned to homelessness, 39 versus 14 percent.

More than one-half of all survey respondents had no earned income at program entry or exit. The percentage varies only slightly depending on housing status at followup. By contrast, as of the 12-month followup point, a greater percentage of respondents who returned to homelessness had no earned income at entry or followup (59 percent) than respondents in the same unit at followup (40 percent). We did not attempt to conduct multivariate analysis on the relationship between changes in income and housing outcomes, because data on income at followup are available only from the followup survey, and the sample sizes for the groups are too small to support rigorous analysis.

Exhibit 5.4: Changes in Earned Income Between RRHD Program Entry, Exit, and 12-Month Followup by Housing Status

	Remained in the Same Unit (n = 70)		Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 30)		Moved, but No Known Subsequent Homelessness (n = 101)		All Survey Respondents (N = 201)	
	Entry to Exit	Entry to Followup	Entry to Exit	Entry to Followup	Entry to Exit	Entry to Followup	Entry to Exit	Entry to Followup
No earned income either period	38 (54%)	28 (40%)	17 (59%)	17 (59%)	57 (58%)	44 (45%)	112 (56%)	89 (45%)
Earned income decreased by 10% or more	7 (10%)	12 (17%)	2 (7%)	7 (24%)	7 (7%)	17 (17%)	16 (8%)	36 (18%)
No change or nominal change in earned income (less than 10%)	11 (16%)	3 (4%)	7 (24%)	1 (3%)	14 (14%)	3 (3%)	32 (16%)	7 (4%)
Earned income increased by more than 10% ^a	14 (20%)	27 (39%)	3 (10%)	4 (14%)	21 (21%)	34 (35%)	38 (19%)	65 (33%)
Total	70 (100%)	70 (100%)	29 (100%)	29 (100%)	99 (100%)	98 (100%)	198 (100%)	198 (100%)
<i>Missing data on amount of earned income received</i>	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	3

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

n = 197 survey respondents (3 of the 201 survey respondents were missing the amount of earned income received at the time of the followup survey and are excluded from this exhibit, except for the last row reporting missing data).

^a People who were unemployed at entry but had employment at exit or followup are included in this category.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; RRHD followup survey and tracking data

Changes in Cash Income To Pay Rent Between RRHD Entry and Exit

A small percentage of families increased their cash income, earned and unearned, in relation to Median Family Income during RRHD program participation.

To examine income growth in terms of what study families could afford within their local environment after RRHD program participation ended, exhibit 5.5 shows receipt of cash income at RRHD program entry and exit framed in terms of the local Median Family Income (MFI). Cash income includes both earnings and unearned income such as SSI, SSDI, and TANF. The exhibit shows a modest upward shift in family income expressed in these terms for the

families who had HMIS data on the amount of cash income received at RRHD program entry and exit.

Exhibit 5.6 shows the change in participant income as a percentage of MFI between RRHD program entry and program exit, reported separately for families who remained in the same unit and for those families who moved at least once in the year after RRHD exit. Those who remained in the program unit improved their income in relation to MFI during the program stay more often than those families who moved. Of the same-unit families, 40 percent had incomes greater than 15 percent of MFI at entry, while 49 percent had incomes greater than 15 percent MFI at exit. In comparison, 33 percent

Exhibit 5.5: Amount of Cash Income Received, as a Percent of MFI

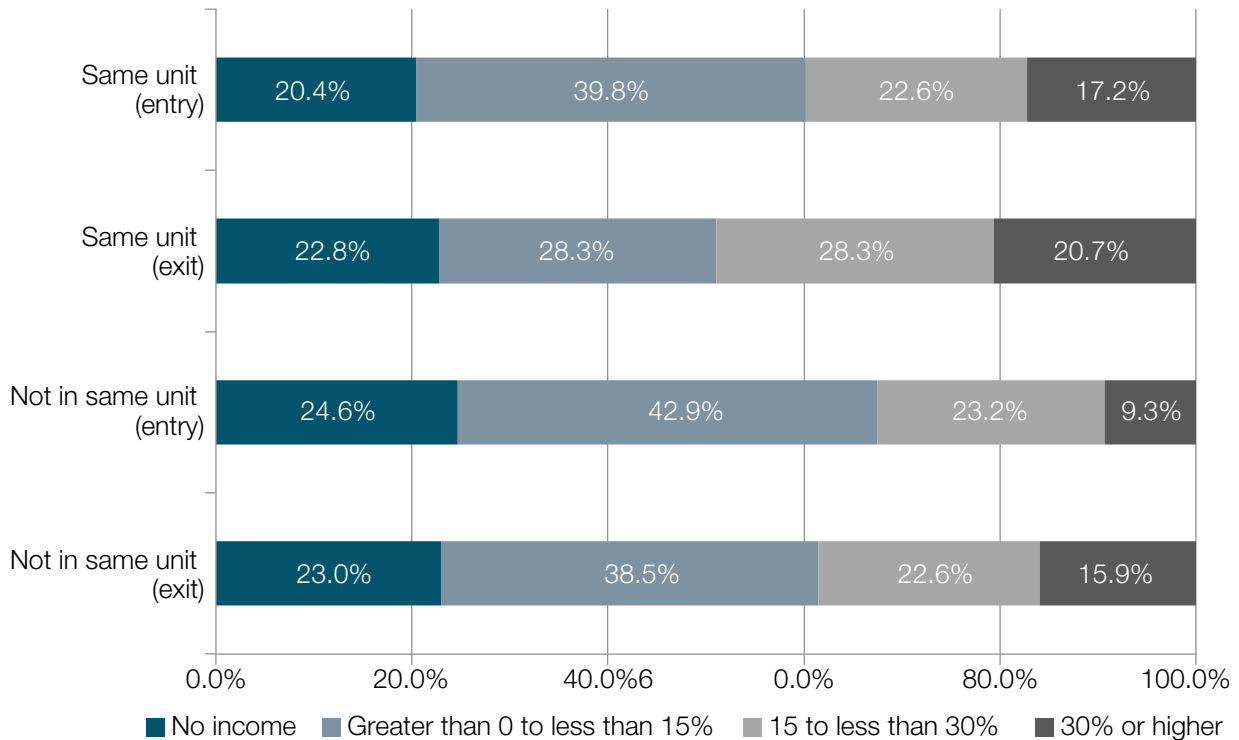
Amount of Cash Income Received, as a Percent of MFI	At RRHD Entry (%)	At RRHD Exit (%)
No cash income	22.9	23.3
Greater than 0 to less than 15% MFI	43.5	37.3
15 to less than 30% MFI	23.3	23.7
30% MFI or greater	10.2	15.7

MFI = Median Family Income. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 480 study participants at entry and 484 study participants at exit (10 of the 490 study participants were missing the amount of earned or unearned income received at entry or and 6 were missing earned or unearned income at exit and are excluded from this exhibit).

Source: Homeless Management Information System data

Exhibit 5.6: Change in Cash Income as a Percent of Median Family Income by Housing Stability



N = 490.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data at Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration entry and exit; Median Family Income based on county-level estimates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

of families who moved had incomes greater than 15 percent at entry and 39 percent did so at exit.

Exhibit 5.7 shows cash incomes relative to MFI at entry and exit, reported separately for families who returned to homelessness and those families that did not. More families who did not return to homelessness increased their income relative to MFI than those families that returned. Of those families who did not return, 34 percent had incomes greater than 15 percent of MFI at entry compared with 42 percent at exit. In comparison, 23 percent of those families who returned to homelessness had incomes greater than 15 percent of MFI at entry and at exit. As discussed in chapter 4, incomes of 30 percent or more of MFI were statistically significantly associated with returning to homelessness. Families with reported incomes of 30 percent of MFI

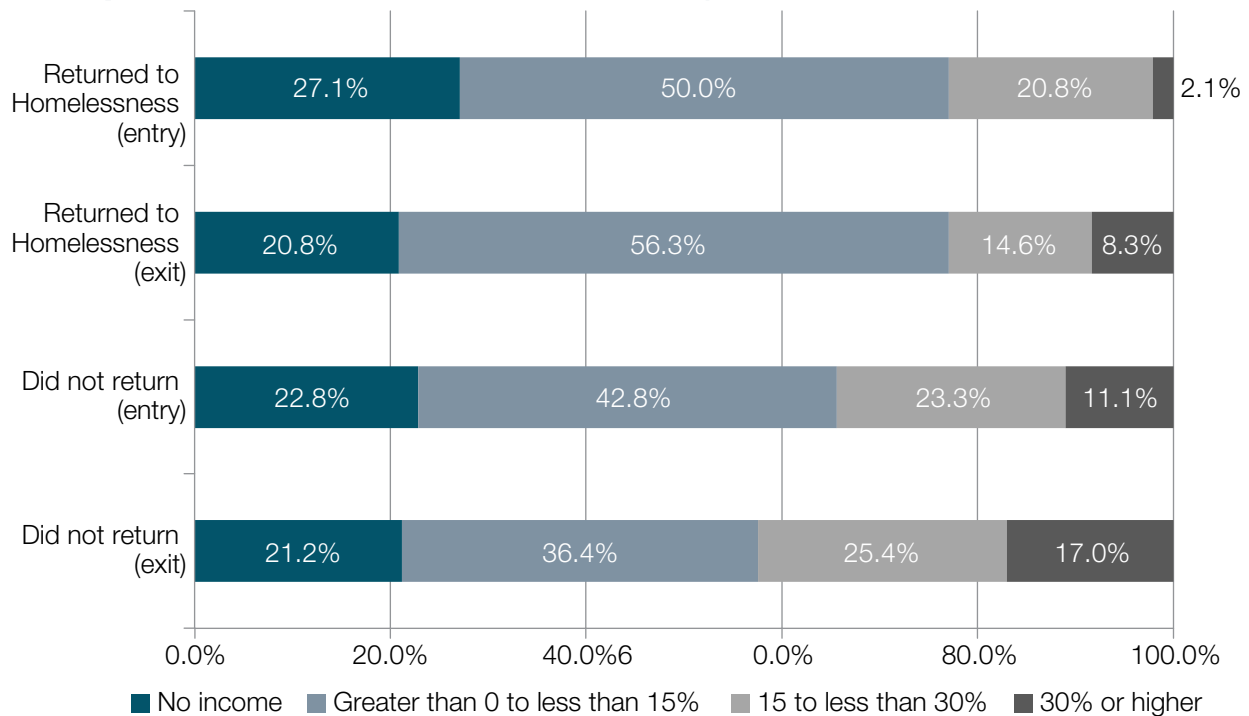
or greater were far less likely to return to homelessness than those families who had no income at the time of program entry.

Participation in Training

Heads of families who participated in job training at any point after entering the RRHD program more often increased their income than those families who had not participated in any training.

In addition to case management, many RRHD programs offered vocational or educational services or referrals to community programs. Some required families to participate in these services if not employed. Exhibit 5.8 shows the number of survey respondents who reported that they had participated in some sort of schooling or training designed to help find a job, improve job skills, or learn a new job in the period since RRHD program entry. The exhibit

Exhibit 5.7: Change in Cash Income as a Percent of Median Family Income by Subsequent Homelessness Status for All Study Families



N = 490.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data at Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration entry and exit; Median Family Income based on county-level estimates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Exhibit 5.8: Change in Earned Income by Participation in Job Training

	Received Training Between RRHD Entry and Followup	Did Not Receive Training
No earned income either period	33 (45%)	56 (46%)
Earned income decreased by 10% or more between entry and followup	8 (14%)	28 (23%)
No change or nominal change in earned income (within 10%)	2 (3%)	5 (4%)
Earned income increased by more than 10% between entry and followup	31 (42%)	34 (28%)
Total	74 (100%)	123 (100%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

n = 197 survey respondents (4 of the 201 survey respondents were missing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data on the amount of earned income they received and are excluded from this exhibit).

Sources: HMIS data; RRHD followup survey data

also presents the numbers within the context of their change in income between entry and followup. Family heads who participated in job training at any point after entering the RRHD program more often increased their income by 10 percent or more than those families who had not participated in any training (42 versus 28 percent). In addition, family heads of household who participated in training were about one-half as likely to experience a decrease in their income amount by 10 percent or more than those families who had no training (14 versus 23 percent). Respondents who had no earnings at entry or followup were as likely to have participated in training as they were to have received no training (45 compared with 46 percent).

Job training program participation had little variation based on survey respondents' housing outcomes.

Indicators of Family Well-Being

Many families surveyed indicated that they experienced challenges related to family well-being in the year after RRHD assistance.

Although most respondents were in stable housing at the time of the 12-month followup survey, many reported that they had experienced challenges related to family instability, health,

barriers to housing, and food security in the 12 months after RRHD program exit. These issues can force families to make difficult choices when household finances are limited, risking future housing stability. This section describes various indicators of family well-being for the 201 survey respondents.

Family Stability

Nearly one-third of families surveyed experienced a change in household composition in the year after RRHD assistance. Families with documented returns to shelter reported greater rates of household change than those families who remained in the same unit they were placed in through the RRHD program.

The evaluation design included efforts to measure whether participation in the RRHD program affects household composition—that is, whether stabilizing families in housing appears to improve family stability. Nearly one-third of survey respondents (31 percent) reported changes in household composition between the time of RRHD program exit and 12 months later. Seventeen respondents (8 percent of families) had a baby. More respondents had children leave the home (9 respondents) than return to the household (7 respondents). Separating from a partner (9 respondents) was as common as marrying or moving in with a partner (9 respondents).

Exhibit 5.9 also shows changes in household composition for families who had different degrees of housing stability. Compared with all survey respondents, families who experienced homelessness since exiting the program more often experienced a change in household composition than those families who remained in the same unit, 47 compared with 24 percent. Those who did not become homeless also had more family stability than those families who became homeless. Although numbers are small, families who returned to homelessness appear also to have moved in with family or friends at some point during the followup period.

Food Security

More than one-half of families surveyed indicated they experienced food insecurity during the year after RRHD assistance. A slightly greater proportion

of families who experienced subsequent homelessness reported experiencing food insecurity than those families who avoided homelessness.

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions related to food security for their families. Exhibit 5.10 shows that well more than one-half of all survey respondents experienced food insecurity during the year after program exit.

Of the survey respondents, 70 percent reported that at some point in the past 12 months they worried food would run out before they had money to buy more; 23 percent reported they felt this way often. Of the survey respondents, 61 percent reported they ran out of food at some point during the last 12 months before they had money to buy more; 18 percent reported that this occurred often.

Exhibit 5.9: Changes in Household Composition in the 12 Months Since RRHD Exit

Types of Household Changes	Remained in the Same Unit (n = 70)	Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 30)	Moved, but No Known Subsequent Homelessness (n = 101)	All Survey Respondents (N = 201)
Experienced a household change	17 (24%)	14 (47%)	30 (30%)	62 (31%)
Gained household members				
Had a baby	7 (10%)	3 (10%)	7 (7%)	17 (8%)
Married/partner moved in	1 (1%)	1 (3%)	7 (7%)	9 (4%)
Moved in with family/friend	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	5 (5%)	9 (4%)
Brought children back into home	2 (3%)	1 (3%)	3 (3%)	6 (3%)
Someone else moved in	2 (3%)	1 (3%)	2 (2%)	5 (2%)
Lost household members				
Divorced/separated	1 (1%)	2 (7%)	6 (6%)	9 (4%)
Children left the home	4 (6%)	1 (3%)	4 (4%)	9 (4%)
Other change	3 (4%)	1 (3%)	4 (4%)	8 (4%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

Notes: 10 households experienced more than one household change—73 changes occurred across 62 households. Percentages are calculated out of the total N reported within each column.

Source: RRHD followup survey data

Exhibit 5.10: Food Security in the 12 Months Since RRHD Exit

	Often True During the Post-Exit Year	Sometimes True During the Post-Exit Year	Never True During the Post-Exit Year
Worried about whether food would run out before the respondent had money to buy more	46 (23%)	95 (47%)	60 (30%)
Food did not last and did not have money for more	36 (18%)	86 (43%)	79 (39%)
Could not afford to eat balanced meals	28 (14%)	53 (26%)	119 (59%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 201 survey respondents.

Source: RRHD followup survey data

As shown in exhibit 5.11, whether a family stayed in the RRHD unit and whether the family returned to homelessness, only minor differences existed in respondents food security and hunger levels. Respondents who returned to homelessness reported food security issues with more frequency than those families who remained in the same unit (or moved but did not return to homelessness). Of the respondents who returned to homelessness, 73 percent reported that they worried that food would run out before having money to buy more compared with 69 percent of those families in the same unit. Families who returned to homelessness

more often reported that food did not last than those families in the same unit (70 versus 57 percent). Although respondents who returned to homelessness seem to face issues related to hunger more often, a sizable majority of respondents who remained in the RRHD unit faced food security issues. These findings confirm the speculation that, even when people are stably housed, they still experience challenges in other areas of their lives related to their low incomes and periodic need to make choices about what to pay for because their resources cannot cover all basic needs.

Exhibit 5.11: Food Security by Housing Status During the 12 Months Since RRHD Exit

Were the Following Issues Ever True in the Prior 12 Months (sometimes or often)?	Remained in the RRHD Unit (n = 70)	Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 30)	Moved, but No Known Subsequent Homelessness (n = 101)	All Survey Respondents (N = 201)
Worried about whether food would run out before the respondent had money to buy more	48 (69%)	22 (73%)	71 (70%)	141 (70%)
Food did not last and did not have money for more	40 (57%)	21 (70%)	61 (60%)	122 (61%)
Could not afford to eat balanced meals	30 (43%)	15 (50%)	36 (36%)	81 (40%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

Note: 1 of the 201 survey respondents was missing data on “Could not afford balanced meals” and is excluded from this exhibit.

Source: RRHD followup survey data

Health

Most family heads reported similar or improved health for themselves and their children in the year after completion of RRHD assistance.

Another important indicator of well-being is participant health. Survey respondents were asked if they believed their health and their children’s health had gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same since exiting the RRHD program. Exhibit 5.12 shows that participants were more likely to report improved health after RRHD program exit than declines in health for both for respondents and their children. More than one-half of respondents (54 percent) reported that their health had remained the same during the past year. About 29 percent reported improved health, while 17 percent reported that their health had worsened.

Survey respondents were asked to rate their health in the past month. Two-thirds responded that their health in the past 30 days was either good (31 percent), very good (15 percent), or excellent (18 percent). They were also asked about their current mental health, including whether they had had feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness, and depression during the month before the survey. Slightly more than one-half of survey respondents reported feeling depressed at some point during the past month, and these results varied greatly depending on a participant’s housing outcome. Survey respondents who returned to homelessness reported feelings

of depression much more often than those families in the same unit. More than three-fourths (77 percent) of family heads of household who returned to homelessness reported feeling depressed in the past 30 days. Of the respondents who remained in the same unit, 40 percent comparatively reported feeling depressed at some point in the past month.

When asked if they felt better, worse, or the same as they did at program exit, nearly 82 percent of respondents reported that they felt better (50 percent) or the same (32 percent). The percentages of participants in the same unit are greater – 92 percent reported feeling better or the same, while only 60 percent of participants who experienced homelessness reported feeling better or the same. Housing stability appears to have a stronger effect on improved mental health than it does on improved health overall.

School Behavior and School Attendance

Many family heads reported challenges related to their school-age children’s behavior and school attendance in the year after completion of RRHD assistance.

The followup survey included a series of questions about participants’ children’s behavior. The followup survey asked whether children had been expelled or suspended from school, whether participants had been called into school to discuss the behavior of their children, and whether children frequently missed school (exhibit 5.13).

Exhibit 5.12: Changes in Respondent’s and Children’s Health During the 12 Months Since RRHD Exit

	Better	Worse	About the Same
Respondent’s health since program exit	58 (29%)	34 (17%)	108 (54%)
Respondent’s children’s health since program exit	56 (28%)	7 (4%)	132 (66%)

RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

N = 201 survey respondents for respondent health; 199 for respondent children’s health (2 of the 201 survey respondents were missing child health data and are excluded from this exhibit).

Note: Percentages should be read across rows.

Source: RRHD followup survey data

Exhibit 5.13: School Behavior of Children by Housing Status

Indicator of Child Well-Being	Remained in the Same Unit (n = 55)	Experienced Subsequent Homelessness (n = 22)	Moved, but No Known Subsequent Homelessness (n = 69)	All Survey Respondents (N = 201)
Child was expelled or suspended in the last year	8 (15%)	3 (14%)	6 (9%)	21 (14%)
Child missed 15 or more days of school in the last year	13 (24%)	3 (14%)	14 (20%)	30 (21%)
Child missed 10 consecutive days in the last year	4 (7%)	2 (9%)	5 (7%)	11 (8%)
Parent was called in to school to discuss behavior issues in the last year	14 (25%)	7 (32%)	25 (36%)	46 (32%)

N = 146 survey respondents (55 of the 201 survey respondents do not have school-age children and are excluded from this exhibit).

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration followup survey data

Of the respondents who had school-age children, 22 percent reported having a child expelled or suspended in the past, and nearly 65 percent of those children were expelled or suspended in the past year. Of the families who had been homeless at some point, 18 percent had kids expelled or suspended from school, of which 75 percent indicated the expulsions or suspensions had occurred within the past year. Of the participants who remained in the same unit 20 percent had kids expelled or suspended from school, of which 73 percent indicated the expulsions or suspensions had occurred within the past year.²⁴

When survey respondents were asked whether they had been called into school to discuss the behavior of any of their children in the past year,

32 percent of survey respondents who had school-age children indicated that they had. Of the families who had returns to homelessness, 32 percent have been called into the school in the past year, as compared with 25 percent of respondents in the same unit.

Respondents were also asked whether a child had missed 15 or more days of school in the past school year and whether 10 or more of those days were consecutive. Of all the families responding to the survey, 21 percent indicated that at least one of their children missed more than 15 days of school, more than one-third of whom missed more than 10 days in a row. Exhibit 5.13 shows these indicators of child behavior by housing status.

²⁴ The research team did not conduct tests of the statistical significance of these differences because of the small samples.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The introductory chapter of this report described the underlying theory of rapid re-housing: if longer shelter stays are more closely tied to the limited availability of housing and subsidies than to personal characteristics, then permanent housing placement through temporary subsidies should be expected to help move families out of homelessness and back into stable housing. But skeptics wonder: Are families successful in obtaining housing? Do those assisted families remain stably housed, or are they setup for future failure because the underlying factors that contributed to their homelessness have not been addressed? And if the underlying factors are important, does that suggest that rapid re-housing is not the most appropriate intervention for those families who had certain characteristics or needs? Given small sample sizes, the diversity of the rapid re-housing model implemented, and the inability of this demonstration to randomly assign families to a control group, this evaluation does not definitively answer these questions. Another goal of rapid re-housing is to shorten episodes of homelessness for families, by moving them rapidly out of their homeless situation. This evaluation was not designed to examine whether rapid re-housing achieved this goal. The findings reported here do add some evidence to the discussion about the outcomes associated with rapid re-housing, however, while communities consider its role within their homeless assistance systems.

Are Families Successful in Obtaining Housing?

Less than 2 percent of the families in this study (7 of the 447 study participants who had HMIS data on destination at exit) were homeless at completion of the RRHD program. Although the research team does not have information about the housing in which all the study

participants were placed, their status at the point they left RRHD suggests that nearly all families were able to sustain a housing placement and not return to shelter as soon as they stopped receiving RRHD assistance.

Do Those Assisted Remain Stably Housed in the Same Unit 12 Months After Exiting the RRHD Program?

About 25 percent of the 380 study participants for whom we had data on housing mobility were living in the same unit 12 months after exiting the RRHD program, meaning that the remaining 75 percent moved at least once during the 12 months after RRHD program exit. Although housing mobility can be positive under some circumstances, the research team concluded that, for this population of families experiencing homelessness, an important indicator of housing stability is whether the program participant remained in the same housing unit in which she or he lived while receiving RRHD assistance. Respondents to the survey gave both seeking better quality, including size of the housing unit and safety of its location, and reducing housing costs as reasons they chose to move.

Age was found to be the most significant demographic characteristic relating to housing status 12 months after exiting RRHD. Controlling for other family, local program, and market features, relative to older family heads, those family heads of household who were ages 18 to 24 years were significantly less likely (by 63 percent, on average) to remain in the same permanent housing units. Families who stayed in the same unit 12 months after exiting RRHD generally had household heads that were older than 24. Families with 3 or more children were significantly less likely (52 percent less than families who had fewer than three children) to remain in the same unit. Although the relationship is not statistically significant, the presence of a disabling condition also was associated with a greater likelihood of remaining stably housed in the same unit.

Few program design features had an effect on housing stability defined as remaining in the RRHD unit for at least a year. In some models, families receiving a graduated rent subsidy (assistance that steps down, with the family paying a greater share of the rent over time) were found to be more likely to remain stably housed than families receiving rental subsidies based on a constant percent of their income.

Multivariate analysis that controlled other factors did not find a significant relationship between frequency of case management and housing stability. This analysis may reflect a true lack of relationship, or it may be that the study was not able to detect a relationship because of more nuanced differences in local program features that were not observed, small sample sizes, and the inability to randomly assign families to control for unobservable family characteristics. For example, variation in the actual use of case management or other services by families is not accounted for, only the intended design of the local program. Furthermore, in some cases, the local RRHD programs altered their models during the course of the study, so that the analysis may not be characterizing program features accurately for each individual respondent. Because of small sample sizes in some sites, we could not add a variable to the analysis that controls for unobserved site differences.

Rental vacancy rate is negatively associated with the likelihood of remaining in the RRHD unit during the year after assistance ended. Participants in high-vacancy areas are less likely than those families in low-vacancy areas to remain in their RRHD units. When more housing options were available within their community, families were less likely to stay in the same housing.

Do Those Assisted End Up Returning to Homelessness After the RRHD Assistance Ends?

Of the 483 families for whom we had data on potential homelessness, 10 percent were found to have experienced at least one episode of homelessness within a year of exiting the program. The survey asked about unsheltered homelessness during the year after RRHD exit. Because returns to homelessness for the 282 heads of household that did not respond to the survey include only returns to shelters and transitional housing programs and not unsheltered homelessness, however, this number is likely a lower bound estimate.

Family heads with cash income at or more than 30 percent of area Median Family Income (MFI) at the time they entered the RRHD program were significantly less likely to return to homelessness.

Families who returned to homelessness were 2 to 2.3 times more likely to be headed by young parents between 18 and 24 years old than those families who had no observed returns to homelessness. When race and ethnicity were included in the multivariate analysis, non-Hispanic, Black heads of household were significantly more likely to return to homelessness than other participants.

The presence of 3 or more children or of physical disabilities was not associated with significant differences in the likelihood of returning to homelessness. Local program features such as length of assistance, depth of assistance, type of intake system, and frequency of case management were not found to have a significant effect on whether a family had an episode of homelessness during the 12 months after exiting the RRHD program.

Local market conditions, vacancy rate, and the cost of housing do not appear to affect the likelihood of returning to homelessness.

The multivariate analyses conducted in this study were replicated using HMIS data on a

larger sample of 1,459 families served by RRHD, which includes the 490 families included in the primary study sample and an additional 969 families.²⁵ The supplemental analyses found that 6 percent of the 1,459 families returned to shelter or transitional housing within 12 months of their exit from RRHD programs. This rate of return is fairly consistent with the 10 percent measured for the primary study, because the supplemental analysis was limited to a narrower definition of homelessness that could be measured from HMIS data – absent instances of homelessness that were reported by families through the followup interviews. The multivariate analysis of outcomes for all families served by the RRHD program differs from the multivariate analysis of outcomes for the study population, however. Whereas personal characteristics were associated with statistically significant differences in the rates of subsequent homelessness for study

participants, none of the personal characteristics included in the model for the larger sample were associated with a difference in the likelihood of becoming homeless again. Instead, the analysis for the larger sample did detect a difference in returns to homeless programs based on the rental assistance model provided to families and the vacancy rate of the rental market in which the family was housed, factors that were not detected in the primary study.

Exhibit 6.1 summarizes the results of the multivariate analysis on returns to homelessness for study participants compared with all families.

Given the absence of tracking and survey data, the supplementary analysis is limited only to this housing outcome.

25 Characteristics and subsequent homelessness outcomes for all families served by the RRHD program are presented in Spellman et al. (2015).

Exhibit 6.1: Factors Significantly Associated With Returning to Homelessness Within 12 Months of Exit for Study Participants and All RRHD Families

Variable	Evaluation Study Families (N = 417) ^a	All RRHD Families (N = 1,148) ^b
Family characteristic		
Ages 18 to 24	More likely*	–
African-American	More likely** ^c	–
Earned Income at Entry	More likely*	–
Income at exit greater than 0 but less than 15% of MFI	More likely* ^d	–
Income at entry of 30% or more of MFI	Less likely**	–
Program characteristic		
Full rent paid by program	–	Less likely*
Market characteristic		
Local rental vacancy rate greater than 5%	–	Less likely*

MFI = Median Family Income. RRHD = Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration.

^a 417 of the 490 study participants had sufficient data to be included in the multivariate analysis (base model).

^b 1,148 of the 1,459 RRHD families had sufficient data to be included in the multivariate analysis.

^c Significant in an alternate model that includes race and incidence of domestic violence before entry, n = 356.

^d Significant in an alternate model that includes income at exit instead of income at entry, n = 420.

* Statistically significant at the 0.10-percent confidence level.

** Statistically significant at the 0.05-percent confidence level.

Sources: Homeless Management Information System data; RRHD followup survey and tracking data

How Well Are RRHD Families Doing in Areas Beyond Housing?

The study can report only on outcomes other than housing stability for families who were located and interviewed 12 months after they exited RRHD. One-third of those families who entered RRHD without employment (44 of 133 respondents) had gained employment by the time of the followup survey, bringing the percent employed at followup to 45 percent (91 of 201 respondents).

In addition to modest levels of employment, families experienced challenges in other areas of their lives 12 months after leaving RRHD, possibly because of the large proportion of their income they spend on rent. Families whose incomes remain low have to make choices among food, housing, and other needed expenditures. More than one-half (56 percent) of those families who remained in the same permanent housing unit reported that at some point the food did not last until they had money to buy more; 16 percent reported that it occurred often during the past year.

Nonetheless, achieving housing stability seems to be aligned with improvements in perceived mental and physical health of participants and their children. Of the respondents who remained in the same unit, 40 percent reported feeling depressed, whereas more than 77 percent of respondents who experienced homelessness in the year after RRHD program exit reported feeling depressed, 33 percent reporting feeling this way often.

What Do These Findings Suggest for Practitioners and Policymakers?

The study results provide preliminary support for the notion that rapid re-housing is an effective way to move families from homelessness into permanent housing. Most families placed into housing through the RRHD program (90 percent) did not return to homelessness in the year after the program ended, although that is probably an upper bound because families

may have experienced additional instances of homelessness that were not observed from available study data. In addition, 25 percent of families were known to have lived in the same unit for at least 12 months after exiting the RRHD program.

A 10-percent return to homelessness might be interpreted as a negative finding about rapid rehousing. If 100 percent of families served remained housed, however, one might posit that the local RRHD programs were not targeting those families who need rapid re-housing to gain and retain housing.

These findings are also consistent with prior research showing that family characteristics, such as disability, that are often used to restrict rapid re-housing to a narrow group of families do not predict well which families will maintain stable housing and which will have subsequent episodes of homelessness. The finding that cash income greater than 30 percent of area Median Family Income (MFI) at the time of RRHD program enrollment was correlated with a lower likelihood of returning to homelessness demonstrates that income matters in terms of housing outcomes, but again, is targeting rapid re-housing assistance to families who had incomes more than 30 percent of MFI the best use of rapid re-housing resources?

The primary implication of these findings is that policymakers and practitioners should take a practical view, acknowledging that rapid re-housing will not prevent future homelessness for all families and that those families who are housed will still live in challenging circumstances – not unlike those circumstances experienced by other extremely low-income families. Designers of rapid re-housing programs can explore more formal linkages to mainstream supportive service programs such as job training assistance to help families address these ongoing challenges, paired with planned safety net assistance and referrals to more intensive services, if participants find themselves returning to homelessness. Permanent or very long-term

rental assistance is likely to be needed to prevent subsequent homelessness for many formerly homeless families in high-cost rental markets—a role more appropriate for the mainstream housing system than the homeless system.

The family characteristics that were strongly associated with housing instability were age and the presence of 3 or more children. We do not suggest that rapid re-housing programs exclude families headed by someone under 25 year of age or with 3 or more children, but this finding may have implications for the intensity or type of services that should be offered to those parents. Program designers may want to establish stronger followup protocols or additional followup services for younger participants.

The implications of this study’s findings may be the rapid re-housing programs should explore expanding eligibility to a broader group of participants than previously thought. Although all may not stay housed and some may experience subsequent homelessness, the analysis did not detect that differences in participants’ housing outcomes are statistically correlated with many of the characteristics programs use to determine eligibility.

From the perspective of CoCs, this research provides some preliminary support for the conclusion that centralized intake structures can more

effectively identify and place families who are likely to benefit from rapid re-housing than decentralized systems. Centralized intake structures provide a single point of entry into the homeless system that is organized to answer the question: Of the several services available, what mix of housing and service assistance is best for this family? RRHD sites with non-centralized intake structures use centralized referral mechanisms but rely on individual programs to screen families and, at intake, each program seeks to answer the question: Should we accept this family into rapid re-housing? Study participants served in the eight communities with centralized intake structures became homeless less often than those families served in communities with decentralized intake systems, although without statistical significance. Consistent with the direction required by the CoC program and Emergency Solutions Grants program interim rules, local stakeholders would do well to design clear points of entry for the homeless system, with strong coordination and agreement among local service providers about the population they are targeting with RRHD assistance, the options that can be offered to respond to the needs of families who are not deemed appropriate for RRHD, and processes that simplify referrals and housing placement for all people experiencing homelessness.

References

- Burt, Martha, Carol Wilkins, Brooke Spellman, Matt White, Tracy D'Alanno, Meghan Henry, and Natalie Matthews. 2015. *Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Programs: How They Work*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Rog, Debra J., and John C. Buckner. 2007. "Homeless Families and Children." In *Toward Understanding Homelessness: The 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research*, edited by Deborah Dennis, Gretchen Locke, and Jill Khadduri. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Chapter 5.
- Spellman, Brooke, Meghan Henry, Meryl Finkel, Natalie Matthews, and Tom McCall. 2015. *Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program: Subsequent Returns to Shelter for All Families Served*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2012. *The 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Volume II*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Weinreb, Linda, Debra Rog, and Kathryn Henderson. 2010. "Exiting Shelter: An Epidemiological Analysis of Barriers and Facilitators for Families," *Social Service Review* 84 (4): 597–614.

Appendix A

Followup Survey Instrument

Evaluation of the Rapid Re-Housing for Families Demonstration Program Followup Survey

CATI-5024

Introduction	82
Section A. Household Composition	84
Section B. Current Housing	96
Section C. Income and Employment	106
Section D. Housing Costs.....	112
Section E. Housing Barriers	116
Section F. Education.....	117
Section G. Food Security/Hunger.....	118
Section H. Family Well-Being.....	119
Section I. Health	122
Section J. Closing.....	124

[Sample Preload Info:

- Sample Type (Cell Number/ Landline)
- Respondent Name
- Program Name
- Program Site
- Month/Year Of Program Exit
- Month/Year Of Program Entry
- C2, C5 - Local Program Names
- Respondent Address]

INTRODUCTION

LANDLINE SAMPLE

INTRO1. Hi, my name is [INTERVIEWER]. I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, regarding a study on the Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program. Am I speaking with [RESPONDENT NAME]?

YES 1 [GO TO INTRO3]
NO 2 [GO TO INTRO1.1]
DON'T KNOW 8 [GO TO INTRO1.1]
REFUSED 9 [GO TO INTRO1.1]

INTRO1.1 May I speak with [RESPONDENT NAME]?

AVAILABLE 1 [GO TO INTRO3]
NOT AVAILABLE..... 2 [SCHEDULE CALLBACK]
NO SUCH PERSON..... 3 [GO TO THANK1]
NOT AVAILABLE – NEW NUMBER..... 4 [GO TO UPDATE1.1]
DON'T KNOW 8 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]
REFUSED 9 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]

UPDATE1.1 [IWER UPDATE PHONE NUMBER]

UPDATE1.2 Is that a landline or cell phone?

LANDLINE 1
CELL PHONE 2

[SCHEDULE CALLBACK]

CELL PHONE SAMPLE

INTRO2.1 Hi, my name is [INTERVIEWER]. I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, regarding a study on the Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program. Am I speaking with [RESPONDENT NAME]?

YES 1
NO 2
DON'T KNOW 8
REFUSED 9

[GO TO INTRO2.1]

INTRO2. If you are now driving a car or doing any activity requiring your full attention, I need to call you back later. Are you available now?

- AVAILABLE/NOT DRIVING..... 1
- NOT AVAILABLE/CURRENTLY DRIVING..... 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF INTRO2.1=1 AND INTRO2.1=1 THEN GO TO INTRO3
 IF INTRO2.1=1 AND INTRO2.1=2 THEN SCHEDULE CALLBACK
 IF INTRO2.1=1 AND INTRO2.1=8-9 THEN GO TO THANK 1 [SOFT REFUSAL]

[IF INTRO2.1 NE 1 AND INTRO2.1=1 THEN GO TO INTRO2.2
 IF INTRO2.1 NE 1 AND INTRO2.1=2 THEN SCHEDULE CALLBACK
 IF INTRO2.1 NE 1 AND INTRO2.1=8-9 THEN GO TO THANK 1 [SOFT REFUSAL]]

INTRO2.2 May I speak with [RESPONDENT NAME]?

- AVAILABLE 1 [GO TO INTRO3]
- NOT AVAILABLE..... 2 [SCHEDULE CALLBACK]NO SUCH PERSON 3 [GO TO THANK1]
- NOT AVAILABLE – NEW NUMBER..... 4 [GO TO UPDATE2.1]
- DON'T KNOW 8 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]
- REFUSED 9 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]

UPDATE2.1 [IWER UPDATE PHONE NUMBER]

UPDATE2.2 Is that a landline or cell phone?

- LANDLINE 1
- CELL PHONE 2

[SCHEDULE CALLBACK]

INTRO3. You may remember that you were told that HUD was studying the type of assistance you were receiving from the [PROGRAM NAME] program, sometimes referred to as Rapid Re-Housing. At the time, you agreed to participate in the study and you were told that someone would be contacting you a year after you left the program to hear about how things have been going for you. HUD is very interested in how the Rapid Re-Housing Program may have helped you deal with the situation you were in. I am calling to ask you some questions about your situation since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program in [MONTH/YEAR OF PROGRAM EXIT].

- CONTINUE..... 1 [GO TO INTRO4]

INTRO4. I'd like to remind you that your participation is completely voluntary, and all of your answers will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. Reports for the study will only discuss summary information about groups of families who have received assistance. No names or other information that could identify you will ever be used in any research report. Your participation in this survey will not affect any housing subsidy you may be receiving.

[CONTINUE]

I'll ask you a series of questions about who lives with you, your neighborhood, housing, employment, and health. Your participation in this study will help HUD to improve programs for families like yours across the country. At the end of your interview, we will verify your address so we can send you \$35 for your participation.

Is it okay to proceed with the interview? It will take about 35 minutes.

- YES 1 [GO TO A0]
- THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME 2 [SCHEDULE CALLBACK]
- NOT INTERESTED 3 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]
- DON'T KNOW 8 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]
- REFUSED 9 [GO TO THANK1] [SOFT REFUSAL]

TERMINATIONS:

THANK1. Thank you very much for the information. Those are all the questions I have at this time.

READMSG. [IWER: READ THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE INTO ANSWERING MACHINE:]

This is [INTERVIEWER] calling for a study that is being conducted for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We are conducting this study to ask you about the Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program you were enrolled in. You agreed to participate in this study when you exited the program. Study results will help HUD to improve programs for families like yours across the country, so your opinions are important. Your answers will be kept confidential. If you complete the survey, we will pay you \$35 as a token of our appreciation. We will call back within the next day or two, or you may call us at 1-866-296-9644. Thank you.

SECTION A. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

A0. Thank you for agreeing to continue with the interview. I'd like to start by asking you about the people in your family. First, I'll ask you about family members who live with you now. Then, I'll ask about certain family members who DO NOT live with you now.

CONTINUE..... 1 [GO TO A1]

- A1. How many ADULTS, that is, people who are 18 years old or older, in your family are LIVING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW? Please do NOT include yourself.

NUMBER OF ADULTS.....
 [RANGE: 0-4, 97=MORE THAN 4]

DON'T KNOW98
 REFUSED99

[IF GREATER THAN 0 GO TO A1a; ELSE SKIP TO A2]

- A1a. Please tell me the first names or initials of the ADULTS in your family WHO LIVE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF. By adult, I mean people who are 18 years old or older. [IF MULTIPLE ADULTS: Please list the names from the oldest to the youngest.]

A1a1. _____
 A1a2. _____
 A1a3. _____
 A1a4. _____

[LOOP UNTIL NAMES COLLECTED FOR ALL ADULTS REPORTED IN A1a, UP TO 4 LOOPS]

- A2. How many CHILDREN in your family are LIVING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW? By children I mean people 17 years old or younger.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.....
 [RANGE: 0-10, 10=10 OR MORE]

DON'T KNOW98
 REFUSED99

[IF GREATER THAN 0 GO TO A2a; ELSE SKIP TO A3]

A2a. Please tell me the first names or initials of the CHILDREN in your family WHO LIVE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW. By children I mean people 17 years old or younger. [IF MULTIPLE CHILDREN: Please list the names from the oldest to the youngest.]

A2a1 – A2a10. _____

[LOOP UNTIL NAMES COLLECTED FOR ALL CHILDREN REPORTED IN A2, UP TO 10 LOOPS]

A3. Do you have a spouse, partner, or significant other who IS NOT living with you right now?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF "YES" GO TO A3a; ELSE GO TO A4]

A3a. What is the first name or initials of your spouse/partner/significant other who is part of your family BUT IS NOT LIVING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW?

NAME _____

[IWER CONFIRM: This is your spouse or partner who is part of your family but not living with you right now.]

A4. Do you have any of YOUR OWN children who are part of your family but ARE NOT living with you right now? By children I mean people 17 years old or younger. [IF NECESSARY: Please do not include children 18 years old or older.]

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF "YES" GO TO A4a; ELSE SKIP TO A5]

A4a. How many of your own children are not living with you now? By children I mean people 17 years old or younger. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE CHILDREN 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____

[RANGE: 1-10, 97=10 OR MORE]

- DON'T KNOW 98
- REFUSED 99

[IF GREATER THAN 0 GO TO A4b; ELSE SKIP TO A5]

A4b. Now, can you please tell me the first name(s) or initials of any of your children who are part of your family BUT ARE NOT LIVING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW. By children I mean people 17 years old or younger. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE CHILDREN 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF. Please list the names from the oldest to the youngest.

A4b1 – A4b10. _____

[LOOP UNTIL NAMES COLLECTED FOR ALL CHILDREN REPORTED IN A4a, UP TO 10 LOOPS]

A5. Has your household remained the same during the past year? By same, we mean all the people who lived with you when you were getting help from the [PROGRAM NAME] program last year, are still living with you now and there are NO new people living with you.

Has your household remained the same?

- YES..... 1
- NO..... 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF “NO” GO TO A5a; ELSE SKIP TO A6]

A5a. Please tell me HOW your household has changed during the past year. [IF NECESSARY: Are there any new people living in your household or has anyone moved out?] [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY – DO NOT READ LIST]

- GOT MARRIED/PARTNER MOVED IN 1
- GOT DIVORCED/SEPARATED/PARTNER MOVED OUT 2
- MOVED INTO HOUSE OF FAMILY OR FRIEND 3
- MOVED OUT OF HOUSE THAT RESPONDENT PREVIOUSLY SHARED WITH ANOTHER FAMILY OR FRIEND 4
- HAD A BABY 5
- BROUGHT BACK CHILD(REN) WHO HAD BEEN LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOME 6
- CHILD(REN) WHO HAD BEEN LIVING WITH RESPONDENT LEFT THE HOME 7
- SOMEONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD DIED 8
- SOMEONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD MOVED TO AN INSTITUTIONAL SETTING 9
- SOMEONE ELSE (NOT SPOUSE/ PARTNER/ CHILDREN) MOVED INTO RESPONDENT'S HOME 10
- SOMEONE ELSE (NOT SPOUSE/ PARTNER/ CHILDREN) MOVED OUT OF RESPONDENT'S HOME 11
- OTHER (SPECIFY _____) 12
- DON'T KNOW 98
- REFUSED 99

Now, I would like to ask you some questions about you and the family members who are living with you now. Let's start with you and then move to the adult(s) and/or children living with you. [COMPLETE THE ROSTER FIRST FOR RESPONDENT, THEN FOR FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING IN CURRENT UNIT. ADD A CHECK TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE NAMED IN A1a AND A2a (ETC) IS ASKED ABOUT IN ROSTER. SKIP ADULTS IF A1=0 AND SKIP CHILDREN IF A2=0. IF NO NAME GIVEN IN A1a/A2a, THEN REFER TO AS FIRST, SECOND, THIRD ADULT/CHILD. ASK A7-12 FOR R, THEN A7-12 FOR ADULTS, THEN A7-12 FOR CHILDREN.]

	RESPONDENT	ADULT FAMILY MEMBER 1 (A1a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 2 (A2a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 3 (A2a2)
A6. What is [A1a1/A2a1]'s relationship to you?		HUSBAND OR WIFE 1 LOVER/PARTNER 2 CHILD 3 STEP-CHILD 4 FOSTER CHILD 5 CHILD OF LOVER/PARTNER 6 SON- OR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW 7 MOTHER OR FATHER 8 STEP-PARENT 9 MOTHER- OR FATHER-IN-LAW OR PARTNER'S PARENT 10 GRANDPARENT 11 BROTHER OR SISTER 12 BROTHER- OR SISTER-IN-LAW 13 GRANDCHILD 14 OTHER RELATIVE 15 DON'T KNOW 98 REFUSED 99	CHILD 3 STEP-CHILD 4 FOSTER CHILD 5 CHILD OF LOVER/PARTNER 6	CHILD 3 STEP-CHILD 4 FOSTER CHILD 5 CHILD OF LOVER/PARTNER 6 BROTHER OR SISTER 12 BROTHER- OR SISTER-IN-LAW 13 GRANDCHILD 14 OTHER RELATIVE 15 DON'T KNOW 98 REFUSED 99

	RESPONDENT	ADULT FAMILY MEMBER 1 (A1a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 2 (A2a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 3 (A2a2)
A7. [FOR R: IWER SELECT SEX. IF NECESSARY: Please confirm that you are male/ female.] [IF SON/ DAUGHTER IN A6, CODE MALE/ FEMALE AS APPROPRIAT E AND DO NOT ASK.] ELSE: Is [A1a1/A2a1] male or female?	MALE 1 FEMALE..... 2 DON'T KNOW 8 REFUSED 9	MALE 1 FEMALE..... 2 DON'T KNOW 8 REFUSED 9	MALE 1 FEMALE..... 2 DON'T KNOW 8 REFUSED 9	MALE 1 FEMALE..... 2 DON'T KNOW 8 REFUSED 9

	RESPONDENT	ADULT FAMILY MEMBER 1 (A1a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 2 (A2a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 3 (A2a2)
<p>A8. What is [R/A1a1/A2a1]'s Age right now? [PROGRAMMER: CREATE A VAR, HH15, WITH NUMBER OF HH MEMBERS AGE 15+ (FOR C3, C3a). IF ADULT AGE IS DK/REF, STILL COUNT IN HH15 BC WE KNOW THEY ARE 18+. CREATE A VAR HH6TO17, WITH NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGE6-17 (FOR H2-H3a). CREATE A VAR, HHTHEN=1 IF CHILDREN AGE 13-17 (FOR E1).]</p>	<p>_____ years old [RANGE: 18-99] DON'T KNOW 98 [GO TO A8a] REFUSED99 [GO TO A8a]</p>	<p>_____ years old [RANGE: 18-99] DON'T KNOW 98 [GO TO A8a] REFUSED99 [GO TO A8a]</p>	<p>_____ years old [RANGE:0-17. IF CHILD LESS THAN 1 YEAR CODE 0.] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED99</p>	<p>_____ years old [RANGE:0-17. IF CHILD LESS THAN 1 YEAR CODE 0.] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED99</p>

RESPONDENT	ADULT FAMILY MEMBER 1 (A1a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 2 (A2a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 3 (A2a2)
<p>A8a. [ASK ONLY IF A8=DK OR REF FOR ADULTS ONLY]</p> <p>Are you...? [READ LIST]</p> <p>18-24 1</p> <p>25-34 2</p> <p>35-44 3</p> <p>45-54 4</p> <p>55-64 5</p> <p>65 or older 6</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>	<p>Is [A1a1]...? [READ LIST]</p> <p>18-24 1</p> <p>25-34 2</p> <p>35-44 3</p> <p>45-54 4</p> <p>55-64 5</p> <p>65 or older 6</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>		
<p>A9. Does [R/A1a1/A2a1] have any disabilities that require any special housing features such as wheelchair access?</p>	<p>YES 1</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>	<p>YES 1</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>	<p>YES 1</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>
<p>A10. ASK IF [A2a1] IS 15 OR UNDER: Was there any time in the past year when [CHILD] did not live with you?</p>		<p>YES 1</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>	<p>YES 1</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p> <p>REFUSED 9</p>

RESPONDENT	ADULT FAMILY MEMBER 1 (A1a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 2 (A2a1)	CHILD FAMILY MEMBER 3 (A2a2)
<p>A11. ASK IF [A2a1] IS 15 OR UNDER AND IF A10=1: Please tell me all of the different places that [A2a1] has lived when s/he did not live with you. Did [A2a1] live ... [MARK ALL THAT APPLY.]</p>		<p>With his/her other parent.....1 With your Own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives.....3 In foster care, or.....4 A11a_1. → How long has [A2a1] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A2a1]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A8]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99 / 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p> <p>Anywhere else? Other:.....5 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>A12a_1. → Is [A2a1] currently attending school? YES.....1 NO.....2 NO BECAUSE OF SUMMER BREAK3 DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p>	<p>With his/her other parent.....1 With your Own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives.....3 In foster care, or.....4 A11a_2. → How long has [A2a2] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A2a2]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A8]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99 / 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p> <p>Anywhere else? Other:.....5 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>A12a_2. → Is [A2a2] currently attending school? YES.....1 NO.....2 NO BECAUSE OF SUMMER BREAK3 DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p>
<p>A12. ASK IF [A2a1] IS 5 YEARS OLD OR OLDER. Did [A2a1] attend school at all during the current (or most recent) school year? [INTERVIEWE R: COUNT HOME SCHOOLING AS YES]. [ASK A12A IF A12=YES, DK, OR REF] A12a. Is [A2a1] currently attending school?</p>		<p>With his/her other parent.....1 With your Own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives.....3 In foster care, or.....4 A11a_1. → How long has [A2a1] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A2a1]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A8]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99 / 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p> <p>Anywhere else? Other:.....5 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>A12a_1. → Is [A2a1] currently attending school? YES.....1 NO.....2 NO BECAUSE OF SUMMER BREAK3 DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p>	<p>With his/her other parent.....1 With your Own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives.....3 In foster care, or.....4 A11a_2. → How long has [A2a2] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A2a2]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A8]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99 / 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p> <p>Anywhere else? Other:.....5 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9</p> <p>A12a_2. → Is [A2a2] currently attending school? YES.....1 NO.....2 NO BECAUSE OF SUMMER BREAK3 DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED.....99</p>

Now I'd like to ask you about your family members WHO ARE NOT LIVING WITH YOU NOW. [NEXT, COMPLETE THE ROSTER FOR ALL PEOPLE LISTED IN A3a AND A4b, SPOUSE/PARTNER/SIGNIFICANT OTHER AND CHILDREN WHO R CONSIDERS PART OF THE FAMILY BUT WHO ARE NOT LIVING WITH R. SKIP ADULTS IF A3=2 AND SKIP CHILDREN IF A4=2. IF NO NAME GIVEN IN A3a/A4b, THEN REFER TO AS "your SPOUSE/PARTNER/SIGNIFICANT OTHER (WHO IS NOT LIVING WITH YOU)" OR "[FIRST/SECOND/THIRD/..] CHILD (WHO IS NOT LIVING WITH YOU)".]

	SPOUSE/ PARTNER/ SIG OTH (A3a)	CHILD MEMBER 1 (A4b1)	CHILD MEMBER 2 (A4b2)	CHILD MEMBER 3 (A4b3)
A13. What is [A3a/A4b1]'s relationship to you?	HUSBAND OR WIFE.....1 LOVER/PARTNER.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	CHILD.....3 STEP-CHILD.....4 FOSTER CHILD.....5 CHILD OF LOVER/PARTNER.....6 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	CHILD.....3 STEP-CHILD.....4 FOSTER CHILD.....5 CHILD OF LOVER/PARTNER.....6 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	CHILD.....3 STEP-CHILD.....4 FOSTER CHILD.....5 CHILD OF LOVER/PARTNER.....6 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9
A14. Is [A3a/A4b1] male or female?	MALE.....1 FEMALE.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	MALE.....1 FEMALE.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	MALE.....1 FEMALE.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	MALE.....1 FEMALE.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9
A15. What is [A3a/A4b1]'s age right now?	___ years old [RANGE: 18-99] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED99	___ years old [RANGE: 0-17] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED99	___ years old [RANGE: 0-17] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED99	___ years old [RANGE: 0-17] DON'T KNOW.....98 REFUSED99
A16. Does [A3a/A4b1] have any disabilities that require any special housing features such as wheelchair access?	YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9	YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW.....8 REFUSED.....9
A17. ASK IF [A4b1] IS 15 OR UNDER: How long has it been since [A5b1] lived with you?		___ Year(s) [RANGE: 0-99] ___ Month(s) [RANGE: 0-11. IF <1 MONTH CODE AS 0.] DON'T KNOW.....98/98 REFUSED.....99/99 [A4b1] has never lived with R.....97/97	___ Year(s) [RANGE: 0-99] ___ Month(s) [RANGE: 0-11. IF <1 MONTH CODE AS 0.] DON'T KNOW.....98/98 REFUSED.....99/99 [A4b2] has never lived with R.....97/97	___ Year(s) [RANGE: 0-99] ___ Month(s) [RANGE: 0-11. IF <1 MONTH CODE AS 0.] DON'T KNOW.....98/98 REFUSED.....99/99 [A4b3] has never lived with R.....97/97

	SPOUSE/ PARTNER/ SIG OTH (A3a)	CHILD MEMBER 1 (A4b1)	CHILD MEMBER 2 (A4b2)	CHILD MEMBER 3 (A4b3)
<p>A18. ASK IF [A3a/A4b1] IS 15 OR UNDER: Please tell me where [A3a/A4b1] is currently living, while not with you.</p>		<p>With his/her other parent1 With your own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives3 In foster care.....4 → A18a_1. How long has [A4b1] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A4b1]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A15]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99/ 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED99 Other:5 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9 YES.....1 NO2 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9</p>	<p>With his/her other parent1 With your own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives3 In foster care.....4 → A18a_2. How long has [A4b2] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A4b2]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A15]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99/ 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED99 Other:5 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9 YES.....1 NO2 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9</p>	<p>With his/her other parent.....1 With your own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives3 In foster care.....4 → A18a_3. How long has [A4b3] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A4b3]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A15]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99/ 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED.....99 Other:5 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED.....9 YES.....1 NO2 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED.....9</p>
<p>A19. ASK IF [A3a/A4b1] IS 15 OR UNDER. Have you done anything to try to get [A3a/A4b1] to move back in with you?</p>		<p>With his/her other parent1 With your own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives3 In foster care.....4 → A18a_1. How long has [A4b1] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A4b1]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A15]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99/ 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED99 Other:5 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9 YES.....1 NO2 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9</p>	<p>With his/her other parent1 With your own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives3 In foster care.....4 → A18a_2. How long has [A4b2] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A4b2]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A15]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99/ 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED99 Other:5 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9 YES.....1 NO2 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED9</p>	<p>With his/her other parent.....1 With your own parents or in-laws.....2 With other relatives3 In foster care.....4 → A18a_3. How long has [A4b3] been in foster care? [IWER: MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO [A4b3]'S AGE: [AGE FROM A15]] _____years/months/days [RANGE: 0-99/ 0-11/ 0-31] DON'T KNOW98 REFUSED.....99 Other:5 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED.....9 YES.....1 NO2 DON'T KNOW8 REFUSED.....9</p>

CHILD MEMBER 3 (A4b3)	CHILD MEMBER 2 (A4b2)	CHILD MEMBER 1 (A4b1)	SPOUSE/ PARTNER/ SIG OTH (A3a)	
<p>[IWER: MUST BE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO TIME GIVEN IN A17: [A17 YEARS, A17 MONTHS]]</p> <p>____ Year(s) [RANGE: 0-99] ____ Month(s) [RANGE: 0-11. IF <1 MONTH, CODE AS 0.] DON'T KNOW 98/98 REFUSED 99/99</p>	<p>[IWER: MUST BE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO TIME GIVEN IN A17: [A17 YEARS, A17 MONTHS]]</p> <p>____ Year(s) [RANGE: 0-99] ____ Month(s) [RANGE: 0-11. IF <1 MONTH, CODE AS 0.] DON'T KNOW 98/98 REFUSED 99/99</p>	<p>[IWER: MUST BE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO TIME GIVEN IN A17: [A17 YEARS, A17 MONTHS]]</p> <p>____ Year(s) [RANGE: 0-99] ____ Month(s) [RANGE: 0-11. IF <1 MONTH, CODE AS 0.] DON'T KNOW 98/98 REFUSED 99/99</p>		<p>A20. ASK IF [A3a/A4b1] IS 15 OR UNDER: IF A17=97/97 THEN SKIP A20 AND GO TO NEXT CHILD, OR IF NO MORE CHILDREN, GO TO B1. What would you say has been the total amount of time [A3a/A4b1] has spent living apart from you?</p>

SECTION B. CURRENT HOUSING

B1. Next we are going to ask about your current living situation. Which one of the following best describes your current living situation? Do you live in...? [IWER: READ EACH OPTION UNTIL R SAYS YES, CODE THAT RESPONSE AND CONTINUE. NO NEED TO READ EVERY OPTION.]

- A house or apartment that you rent
 [IF NECESSARY: A friend or relative’s house or apartment,
 BUT YOU ARE NOT paying part of the rent]1

- A house or apartment that you own
 [IF NECESSARY: That is, the mortgage is in your name. This does
 not include your parent’s or guardian’s home or apartment]2

- Your partner’s (boy/girlfriends/fiancé, significant other’s) place
 [IF NECESSARY: Your name is NOT on the lease.]3

- A friend or relative’s house or apartment, AND YOU ARE PAYING
 PART OF THE RENT
 [IF NECESSARY: This includes your parent’s or guardian’s house
 or apartment or other friend or relative’s apartment]4

- A friend or relative’s house or apartment, BUT YOU ARE NOT
 paying part of the rent
 [IF NECESSARY: This includes your parent’s or guardian’s house
 or apartment or other friend or relative’s apartment]5

- NONE OF THESE6 [GO TO B1a]
- DON’T KNOW8 [GO TO B1a]
- REFUSED9 [GO TO B1a]

[IF B1=1-5 THEN SKIP TO B2]

B1a. Would you say you live in...?

- A permanent housing program with services to help you keep your housing (on site or coming to you)1
- A transitional housing program2
- A voucher hotel or motel3
- A hotel or motel you pay for yourself4
- A residential drug or alcohol treatment program5
- Jail or prison6
- A domestic violence shelter7
- An emergency shelter8
- A car or other vehicle.....9
- An abandoned building.....10
- Anywhere outside
[IF NECESSARY: streets, parks, etc.] 11 [GO TO B4]
- Other (Specify) _____ 12 [GO TO B4]

- DON'T KNOW98
- REFUSED99

B2. Is this the same unit you lived in while you were receiving rental assistance from the [PROGRAM NAME] program?

- YES 1 [GO TO B3b]
- NO2 [GO TO B2a]
- DON'T KNOW8 [GO TO B3a]
- REFUSED9 [GO TO B3a]

B2a. How long have you lived in this unit?

- YEARS ONLY (RECORD YEARS)1
- MONTHS ONLY (RECORDS MONTHS)2
- YEARS AND MONTHS (RECORD YEARS AND MONTHS).....3
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

Years _____

[PUNCH 1:RANGE: 1-5, 8=DK, 9=REF; PUNCH 3: RANGE: 0-5, 8=DK, 9=REF]

Months _____

[RANGE: 1-12, 98=DK, 99=REF]

B2b. How many different places have you lived in during the past year?

_____ [RANGE: 2-10, 10=10 or more, 98=DK, 99=REF]

B2c. Why did you move out of the place you lived in at the end of the [PROGRAM NAME] program? For each of the following reasons, please tell me whether it was a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all for moving out. [DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

[READ REASON]. (Was this a major reason for moving out, a minor reason, or not a reason?)

[IWER: IF R INSISTS ON 1-2 REASONS, YOU MAY CODE AS MAJOR REASON AND CONTINUE WITHOUT READING EVERY OPTION.]

1. Because it was part of the program’s design
2. To get better schools for your children
3. Because of a change in marital / romantic status
4. For better transportation
5. Because you wanted a better apartment / house
6. Because you wanted a bigger apartment / house
7. To get or change job / to be near your job
8. To get away from drugs and gangs or other unsafe activities
9. To be near your family
10. Because you did not get along with landlord
11. To have a change in rent / because your unit was too expensive
12. Because utilities were too expensive
13. Because your unit failed section 8 inspection
14. Because you got a section 8 subsidy
15. Because you moved into public housing
16. For personal safety / domestic violence reasons
17. For any other reason: (Specify): _____

MAJOR REASON
 MINOR REASON
 NOT A REASON
 DON'T KNOW
 REFUSED

B3a. [ASK B3a IF B2=2, 8, OR 9, ELSE GO TO B3b] Was there ever a time during the past year, that is, since [MONTH/YEAR OF PROGRAM EXIT] when you did not have your own place to stay?

YES1
 NO2
 DON'T KNOW8
 REFUSED9

[IF B3a=1 GO TO B4; ELSE SKIP TO B6]

B3b. [ASK B3b IF B2=1] Was there ever a time during the past year that you temporarily left your own place (other than for vacation)? By “left your own place” we mean left to stay elsewhere, for some period of time.

- YES1
- NO2
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

[IF B3b=1 GO TO B4; ELSE SKIP TO B6]

B4. During the past year, when you did not have your own place to stay, we would like to know about any places where you stayed. Did you...

	YES	NO	DK	REF
B4a. Stay with a relative?	1	2	8	9
B4b. Stay with a friend?	1	2	8	9
B4c. Stay in a shelter?*	1	2	8	9
B4d. Stay on the street?	1	2	8	9

[*IF NECESSARY: A shelter is a homeless shelter, emergency shelter, or domestic violence shelter.]

[ASK B5 ONLY IF R HAS CHILDREN AGES 17 OR YOUNGER (A2>0 OR A4=1), OTHERWISE SKIP TO B6. REPEAT B5 FOR ALL CHILDREN.]

B5. During the time when you did not have your own place to stay in the past year, did [LIST EACH CHILD'S NAME FROM A2a AND A4b] live with you ..?

- All of the time.....1
- Part of the time2
- Not at all3
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

B6. [ASK B6 IF B2=1, ELSE SKIP TO B8] Did you ever receive help from an agency to pay your rent so you could stay in your own place? [IF NECESSARY: By “ever” we mean in the past year.]

- YES1
- NO2
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

[ASK B7a-B7d IF B6=1, ELSE GO TO B8]:

B7a. How often did you receive help? [IWER NOTE: IF R SAYS TWICE OR NAMES A NUMBER OF TIMES, ENTER INTO OTHER (SPECIFY).]

- ONCE1 [GO TO B7d]
- WEEKLY.....2 [GO TO B7a1]
- MONTHLY3 [GO TO B7a2]
- OTHER (SPECIFY)4 [GO TO B7b]
- DON'T KNOW8 [GO TO B7b]
- REFUSED9 [GO TO B7b]

B7a1. For how many weeks?

Total number of weeks received help _____
[RANGE: 1-99]

- DON'T KNOW98
- REFUSED99

[GO TO B7b]

B7a2. For how many months?

Total number of months received help _____
[RANGE: 1-99]

- DON'T KNOW98
- REFUSED99

[GO TO B7b]

B7b. Did you receive the same amount each time you received help?

- YES 1 [GO TO B7c]
- NO 2 [GO TO B7d]
- DON'T KNOW 8 [GO TO B8]
- REFUSED 9 [GO TO B8]

B7c. How much did you receive each time?

\$ amount received each time _____
 [ROUND TO NEAREST DOLLAR. RANGE: 1-9999]

- DON'T KNOW 9998
- REFUSED 9999

[ADD 2 NEW VARIABLES AFTER B7C: HELPTOTAL1= B7a1xB7c, HELPTOTAL2=
 B7a2xB7c]
 [GO TO B8]

B7d. How much did you receive in total?

Total \$ amount _____
 [ROUND TO NEAREST DOLLAR. RANGE: 1-99999]

- DON'T KNOW 99998
- REFUSED 99999

B8. I have some questions about the house/apartment/living space you live in now. Overall, how would you describe the condition of your current house/apartment/living space? Would you say it was in excellent, good, fair, or poor condition?

- EXCELLENT 1
- GOOD 2
- FAIR 3
- POOR 4
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

B9. Excluding kitchens, bathrooms and hallways, how many rooms does the unit have?

Rooms _____
[RANGE: 1-20, 20=20 OR MORE]
DON'T KNOW98
REFUSED99

B10. IF B1=1 (FOR RENTERS): How satisfied are you with building maintenance? Are you:

Completely satisfied1
Partly satisfied2
Dissatisfied3
DON'T KNOW8
REFUSED9
Not applicable.....7

B11. Now I am going to ask you some questions about problems that people have in some homes/ apartments/ living spaces. Please think about whether you have had any of the following housing quality issues since you moved into your current unit: [RANDOMIZE]

	[DO NOT READ: NOT APPLICABLE]				DK	REF
	Yes	No				
B11a	1	2	3	8	9	9
B11b.	1	2	3	8	9	9
B11c.	1	2	3	8	9	9
B11d.	1	2	3	8	9	9
B11e.	1	2	3	8	9	9
B11f.	1	2	3	8	9	9
B11g.	1	2	3	8	9	9

	[DO NOT READ: NOT APPLICABLE]		DK	REF
	Yes	No		
(Please think about your CURRENT home, apartment, or living space)				
B11h. Does this unit have complete plumbing facilities that are for exclusive use of the unit? (IF NECESSARY: To have complete plumbing facilities, the unit must have exclusive use of hot and cold running water, a toilet, and a bathtub/shower in the bathroom).	1	2	3	8 9
B11i. Last winter, for any reason, was your housing unit so cold for 24 hours or more that it was uncomfortable?	1	2	3	8 9
B11i1. IF YES: Did that happen more than once?			3	8 9
B11j. Is all of the electrical wiring in the finished areas of this home concealed in the walls?	1	2	3	8 9
B11k. Have the fuses blown or breakers been tripped more than twice in the past year?	1	2	3	8 9
B11l. Has the toilet been broken for at least 6 hours ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION?	1	2	3	8 9
B11m. Is the main source of heat for your unit UNVENTED room heaters burning kerosene, gas, or oil?	1	2	3	8 9

Now let's talk about your neighborhood.

B12. Which of the following best describes how satisfied you are with your neighborhood? Would you say you are...?

- Very satisfied1
- Somewhat satisfied2
- In the middle3
- Somewhat dissatisfied4
- Very dissatisfied5
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

B13. Now I would like to ask you about problems that occur in some neighborhoods. In your neighborhood, how big of a problem is [INSERT PROBLEM]. (READ FIRST FEW TIMES, THEN AS NECESSARY: Would you say it is/ these are a big problem, a small problem, or no problem?) [RANDOMIZE PROBLEMS]

	Big problem	Small Problem	No Problem	DK	REF
B13a. Litter or trash on the streets or sidewalk?	1	2	3	8	9
B13b. People drinking in public?	1	2	3	8	9
B13c. Abandoned buildings?	1	2	3	8	9
B13d. Groups of people just hanging out?	1	2	3	8	9
B13e. Police not coming when called?	1	2	3	8	9
B13f. People using or selling illegal drugs?	1	2	3	8	9
B13g. Fighting in which a weapon was used?	1	2	3	8	9
B13h. Violent arguments between neighbors?	1	2	3	8	9
B13i. Gang fights?	1	2	3	8	9
B13j. Sexual assaults or rapes?	1	2	3	8	9
B13k. Robberies or muggings?	1	2	3	8	9

SECTION C. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

The next few questions are about your income and employment.

C1. Have you received any income from any source in the past 30 days?

- YES1
- NO2
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

[IF C1 = "NO" SKIP TO C3; ELSE GO TO C2.]

C2. In the past 30 days, have you received any income from [INSERT SOURCE]...

[IWER: IF R INSISTS ON 1-2 SOURCES, YOU MAY CODE AND CONTINUE WITHOUT READING EVERY OPTION.]

	YES	NO	DK	REF
C2a. A job	1	2	8	9
C2b. Unemployment Insurance	1	2	8	9
C2c. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1	2	8	9
C2d. Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	1	2	8	9
C2e. Veteran's disability payment	1	2	8	9
C2f. Private disability insurance	1	2	8	9
C2g. Worker's compensation	1	2	8	9
C2h. [[INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME or]- SEE State Program Names.RRHD Eval_for CATI.xls. IF NO PROGRAM NAME LISTED, THEN DO NOT DISPLAY]Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	1	2	8	9
C2i. [[INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME or] - SEE State Program Names.RRHD Eval_for CATI.xls] General Assistance (GA)	1	2	8	9
C2j. Retirement income from Social Security	1	2	8	9
C2k. Veteran's pension	1	2	8	9
C2l. Pension from a former job	1	2	8	9
C2m. Child support	1	2	8	9
C2n. Alimony or other spousal support	1	2	8	9
C2o. Any other source (Specify)	1	2	8	9

[IF ALL C2a-C2o = NO, DK, OR REF THEN INSTRUCT IWER TO GO BACK TO C1 AND CODE AS NO]

C2a1. How much INCOME did you receive in the past 30 days from [FILL IN SOURCE WHERE C2=1]?

\$ _____ [ROUND TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR]
 [RANGE: 1-99999]
 DON'T KNOW99998
 REFUSED99999

[IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED, ASK C2a2, ELSE GO TO C2A1 FOR NEXT SOURCE WHERE C2=1. IF NO ADDITIONAL SOURCES, GO TO C3.]

C2a2. Was it...?

Under \$1001
 \$100 – less than \$2002
 \$200 – less than \$3003
 \$300 – less than \$4004
 \$400 or more5
 DON'T KNOW8
 REFUSED9

C3. [IF OTHER PERSONS 15 OR OLDER IN THE HOUSEHOLD, BASED ON A8 (IF HH15>1), ASK C3, ELSE SKIP TO C4] Did any other persons who live with you in your household receive any income in the past 30 days?

YES1
 NO2
 DON'T KNOW8
 REFUSED9

[IF NO, DK, OR REF SKIP TO C4]

[IF [[HH15#]-1] = 1 THEN AUTOPUNCH AND GO TO C3b]

C3a. How many other persons who live with you in your household received any income?

_____ [RANGE: 1-[[HH15 #-]1], 98=DK, 99=REF]

C3b. What is the total income received by other persons in your household in the past 30 days?

\$ _____ [RANGE: 0-9999; 9998=DK, 9999=REF]

[IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED, ASK C3b1, ELSE GO TO C3c]

C3b1. Was it...?

Under \$100.....	1
\$100 – less than \$200	2
\$200 – less than \$300	3
\$300 – less than \$400	4
\$400 or more	5
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	9

C3c. Did any of these persons contribute any money toward rent?

YES	1
NO	2
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED SKIP TO C5]

C3d. What is the total amount these other persons paid toward your rent in the past 30 days?

\$ _____

[RANGE: 0-9999, 9998=DK, 9999=REF]

[IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED, ASK C3d1, ELSE GO TO C5]

C3d1. Was it...?

Under \$100.....	1
\$100 – less than \$200	2
\$200 – less than \$300	3
\$300 – less than \$400	4
\$400 or more	5
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	9

[SKIP TO C5]

C4. Did any other persons who do NOT live with you contribute any money toward your rent in the past 30 days?

YES	1
NO	2
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED SKIP TO C5]

C4a. What is the total amount these other persons paid toward your rent in the past 30 days?

\$ _____

[RANGE: 0-9999]

DON'T KNOW9998 [ASK C4a1]
 REFUSED9999 [ASK C4a1]

[IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED, ASK C4a1, ELSE GO TO C5]

C4a1. Was it...?

Under \$100.....1
 \$100 – less than \$2002
 \$200 – less than \$3003
 \$300 – less than \$4004
 \$400 or more5
 DON'T KNOW8
 REFUSED9

[SKIP TO C5]

C5. In the past 30 days, did you or anyone in your household receive (or are you on) any of the following BENEFITS? Did you receive...?

	YES	NO	DK	REF
c5a. Food Stamps (officially called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP))	1	2	8	9
c5b. [[INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME or] – SEE State Program Names.RRHD Eval_for CATI.xls] Medicaid health insurance program	1	2	8	9
c5c. [[INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME or] – SEE State Program Names.RRHD Eval_for CATI.xls] Medicare health insurance program	1	2	8	9
c5d. [[INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME or] – SEE State Program Names.RRHD Eval_for CATI.xls] State Children’s Health Insurance Program	1	2	8	9
c5e. WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	1	2	8	9
c5f. Veteran’s Administration (VA) Medical Services	1	2	8	9
c5g. TANF Child Care services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	1	2	8	9
c5h. TANF transportation services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	1	2	8	9
c5i. [[INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME or] – SEE State Program Names.RRHD Eval_for CATI.xls] Other TANF-funded services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	1	2	8	9
c5j. Health Insurance from work			8	9
c5k. Health insurance from a place you used to work			8	9
c5l. Health insurance you pay for yourself			8	9
c5m. Temporary rental assistance	1	2	8	9
c5n. Some other benefit (Specify)				

C5.1. [IF C5A=1 OR C5E=1 OR C5M=1 OR C5N=1 THEN ASK C5.1 FOR EACH, AFTER ASKING ALL OF C5] How much did you receive in the past 30 days from [BENEFIT]?

\$ _____
[RANGE: 1-9999]

DON'T KNOW9998
REFUSED9999

Now I'd like to ask a few questions about any jobs you may have.

C6. Last week, did you do any work for pay?

- YES 1 [SKIP TO C9]
- NO2
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

C7. What is the main reason that you did not work for pay last week? [DO NOT READ LIST]

- RETIRED01
- DISABLED02
- UNABLE TO WORK03
- HAS JOB BUT TEMPORARILY ABSENT04
- COULDN'T FIND ANY WORK05
- CHILD CARE PROBLEMS06
- FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES.....07
- CHILD WITH DISABILITIES THAT REQUIRES FULL TIME ATTENTION ... 08
- IN SCHOOL OR OTHER TRAINING09
- WAITING FOR A NEW JOB TO BEGIN.....10
- OTHER (SPECIFY): _____11
- DON'T KNOW98
- REFUSED99

[If C7=1 THEN AUTOPUNCH C8=3, IF C7=2 THEN AUTOPUNCH C8=4, IF C7=3 THEN AUTOPUNCH C8=5 AND GO TO D1. IF C7>3 THEN ASK C8.]

C8. Have you been doing anything to find work during the past four weeks?

- YES1
- NO2
- RETIRED3
- DISABLED4
- UNABLE TO WORK5
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

[SKIP TO D1]

C9. When did you first start working at this job?

- ___ / ___ / ___ Month / Year
[RANGE: 1-12] / [RANGE:1900-2013]
- DON'T KNOW98/9998
- REFUSED99/9999

C10. Through your employer, are you eligible for any of the following benefits? By eligible we mean the benefit is available for you now, even if you have decided to not receive it or have not needed it. Are you eligible for...

	YES	NO	DK	REF
C10a. Health insurance?	1	2	8	9
C10b. Sick leave?	1	2	8	9
C.10c Paid vacation?	1	2	8	9

SECTION D. HOUSING COSTS

D1. [IF RENTERS (IF B1=1, 3, OR 4, OR IF B1a=4) THEN ASK D1, ALL OTHERS SKIP TO D4]

Now I'd like to talk about how much you and your family pay each month for housing.

In the month just past, what did you and your family pay in rent? We are interested only in knowing the amount of the rent payment that you and your family paid, not any amount that may have been paid by other people or by a government agency and not including any utilities that you pay for directly to the utility company.

PER MONTH: \$ ___ __ __ __ .00
 [FOUR DIGITS, ROUNDED TO DOLLAR. RANGE = \$1-3000]

DON'T KNOW9998 [ASK D1a]
 REFUSED9999 [ASK D1a]

[SKIP TO D1b]

D1a. Can you give me a range? Is your monthly rent payment:

- Between 0 and \$200 per month1
- Between \$201 and \$4002
- Between \$401 and \$6003
- Between \$601 and \$8004
- More than \$800 per month5
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

D1b. What is the total contract rent that is paid to the landlord? That is the rent including any amount you and your family pay and including any amounts paid by other people or by a government agency.

PER MONTH: \$ _____.00

[FOUR DIGITS, ROUNDED TO DOLLAR. RANGE = \$[D1]-3000, IF D1=DK OR REF THEN RANGE=D1a LOWER RANGE – 3000, IF D1a=DK OR REF THEN RANGE= 0-3000]. GO TO INSTRUCTIONS AFTER D1c.]

DON'T KNOW 9998 [ASK D1c]
 REFUSED 9999 [ASK D1c]

D1c. Can you give me a range? Is the total monthly contract rent:

[SHOW ONLY THOSE OPTIONS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL D1 OR IF D1=DK/REF, SHOW ONLY THOSE OPTIONS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO D1a. IF D1a=DK/REF, SHOW ALL RESPONSE OPTIONS.]

- Between 0 and \$200 per month 1
- Between \$201 and \$400..... 2
- Between \$401 and \$600..... 3
- Between \$601 and \$800..... 4
- More than \$800 per month 5
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF

D1 < D1b, OR

D1 < LOWER RANGE D1C, OR

HIGHER RANGE D1a < D1b, OR

D1a=1 AND D1c=2-5, OR

D1a=2 AND D1c=3-5, OR

D1a=3 AND D1c=4-5, OR

D1a=4 AND D1c=5, OR

D1a=5 AND D1B NOT EQUAL TO \$801

THEN GO TO D2. ELSE SKIP TO D5.]

D2. Are you paying less than the contract rent because you receive assistance from the government, or some other program to pay part of your rent?

- YES 1 [GO TO D3]
- NO 2 [GO TO D5]
- DON'T KNOW 8 [GO TO D5]
- REFUSED 9 [GO TO D5]

D3. Is this assistance: public housing, a Section 8 Voucher, Program-based Section 8 or some other type of assistance?

- PUBLIC HOUSING 1
- A SECTION 8 VOUCHER 2
- PROGRAM BASED SECTION 8 3
- OTHER (SPECIFY): _____ 4
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[SKIP TO D5]

D4. [IF OWNERS (IF B1= 2), ASK D4, ALL OTHERS SKIP TO E1] In the month just past, what did you and your family pay for your mortgage? We are interested only in knowing the amount of the mortgage payment that you or your family paid, not any amount that may have been paid by other people or by a government agency.

PER MONTH: \$ _____.00
 [FOUR DIGITS, ROUNDED TO DOLLAR. RANGE = \$0-3000]

- DON'T KNOW 9998 [ASK D4a]
- REFUSED 9999 [ASK D4a]

[SKIP TO D5]

D4a. Can you give me a range? Is your monthly mortgage payment:

- Between 0 and \$200 per month 1
- Between \$201 and \$400 2
- Between \$401 and \$600 3
- Between \$601 and \$800 4
- More than \$800 per month 5
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

D5. Did you pay for any utilities that are not included as part of the RENT/MORTGAGE that you pay? By utilities, I mean electricity, heat, gas, and water, but NOT telephone and cable services.

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF D5>1 THEN GO TO E1]

D6. What is the total amount of all utility payments that you and your family pay in a TYPICAL month—that is NOT a month with unusually high or low heat or air conditioning bills?

MONTHLY UTILITIES: \$ _____.00
 [FOUR DIGITS, ROUNDED TO DOLLAR. RANGE: \$0-1000]

- DON'T KNOW 9998 [ASK D6a]
- REFUSED 9999 [ASK D6a]

[SKIP TO E1]

D6a. Can you tell me the range for your monthly utility payment? Was it...

- Between 0 and \$100 per month 1
- Between \$101 and \$200 2
- Between \$201 and \$300 3
- Between \$301 and \$400 4
- Between \$401 and \$500 5
- More than \$500 per month 6
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

SECTION E. HOUSING BARRIERS

E1. Next, I'd like to ask about things that make it difficult at times for some people to keep a place of their own to live. I'll read a list of reasons why some people might have trouble keeping housing. Please tell me if you think this is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all for you and your family. [DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

[READ REASON] – Is this a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem for keeping a place of your own to live?

	Big problem	Small Problem	No Problem	DK	REF
E1a. Not having enough income to pay rent	1	2	3	8	9
E1b. [ASK IF C6>1] Not being currently employed	1	2	3	8	9
E1c. Family violence	1	2	3	8	9
E1d. Your having problems with police or a criminal record or background	1	2	3	8	9
E1e. Another family member having problems with police or a criminal record or background	1	2	3	8	9
E1f. Your having a drug problem or a felony drug record	1	2	3	8	9
E1g. Another family member with a drug problem or a felony drug record	1	2	3	8	9
E1h. [ASK IF A2>2] Having three or more children in the household	1	2	3	8	9
E1i. [ASK IF HHTEEN=1) Having teenagers in the household	1	2	3	8	9
E1j. Having an adult in the household that is frequently sick	1	2	3	8	9
E1k. [ASK IF A9=1 FOR ANY ADULT] Having an adult in the household that has a physical disability that requires specific housing modifications	1	2	3	8	9
E1l. Having an adult in the household that has a mental disability	1	2	3	8	9
E1m. Having an adult in the household with HIV/AIDS	1	2	3	8	9
E1n. Having a child in the household that is frequently sick	1	2	3	8	9
E1o. [ASK IF A9=1 FOR ANY CHILD] Having a child in the household that has a physical disability that requires specific housing modifications	1	2	3	8	9
E1p. Having a child in the household that has a mental disability	1	2	3	8	9

SECTION F. EDUCATION

- F1. When you entered the [PROGRAM NAME] program, what is the highest grade or year of school that you had completed and gotten credit for?

GRADE (1-12): _____	
ONE YEAR OF COLLEGE	13
TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE (INCLUDES TECHNICAL, TRADE SCHOOL, ASSOCIATES DEGREE).....	14
THREE YEARS OF COLLEGE	15
FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE (INCLUDES B.A.).....	16
MORE THAN FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE.....	17
DON'T KNOW	98
REFUSED	99

- F2. [ASK IF F1<=12, ELSE SKIP TO F3]. [IF NECESSARY: When you entered the [PROGRAM NAME] program] Did you have a high school diploma or a GED? [PROBE FOR GED VS. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA]

GED.....	1
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2
BOTH.....	3
NEITHER.....	4
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	9

- F3. Now I would like to ask you about any schooling or any training you may have had SINCE you entered the [PROGRAM NAME] program, this is since [MONTH/YEAR OF PROGRAM ENTRY]. Have you participated in any additional schooling or in some other type of schooling or training program that lasted at least two weeks that was designed to help you find a job, improve your job skills, or learn a new job?

[IF NECESSARY: This includes regular schooling such as high school/ GED or college-level courses, technical or vocational training or trade school, and job training classes.]

YES	1
NO	2
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED SKIP TO G1.]

F4. What kind of schooling or training was that? [DO NOT READ LIST. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY] [IF NECESSARY: Schooling or training includes high school or college-level courses.]

- REGULAR SCHOOLING.....1
- GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA (GED)2
- ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE3
- COMPUTER TRAINING.....4
- WORK STUDY PROGRAM.....5
- TECHNICAL/ VOCATIONAL TRAINING/ TRADE SCHOOL6
- JOB SKILLS TRAINING [IF NECESSARY: Classes or assistance on preparing resumes and job applications, or calling employers].....7
- OTHER (SPECIFY) _____8
- DON'T KNOW98
- REFUSED99

F5. Did you get the training while you were in the [PROGRAM NAME] program, after, or both?

- TAKEN DURING THE [PROGRAM NAME] PROGRAM TIME1
- TAKEN SINCE PROGRAM EXIT2
- BOTH.....3
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

SECTION G. FOOD SECURITY/HUNGER

G1. Now I am going to read you three statements that people have made about their food situation. Please tell me whether the statement was often, sometimes, or never true for you and the other members of your household in the last 12 months. [RANDOMIZE]

		Was this often, sometimes, or never true in the past 12 months?				
		Often true	Some-times true	Never true	DK	REF
		1	2	3	8	9
G1a.	We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.					
G1b.	The food we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more.	1	2	3	8	9
G1c.	We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	1	2	3	8	9

SECTION H. FAMILY WELL-BEING

[ASK H1 IF A2>0, ELSE SKIP TO H2]

- H1. About how many days per week do you and your (child/children) you live with now, all eat dinner together?

NUMBER OF DAYS: _____
[RANGE: 0-7]

DON'T KNOW8
REFUSED9

[ASK H2 IF HAVE ANY CHILDREN BETWEEN AGES 6–17 (IF HH6TO17=1); ELSE SKIP TO I1]

- H2. Now I'd like to ask you about your involvement in your (child/children)'s schooling. In the past 12 months, have you or another adult who lives with you gone to any events at your (child/children)'s school such as a general school meeting, like a back-to-school night, parent/teacher organization meeting, a school play or sports event? [IF NECESSARY: Please think about the child/ children you live with now.]

YES1
NO2
DON'T KNOW8
REFUSED9

[ASK H3-H3a FOR EACH CHILD BETWEEN AGES 6–17 (WHERE HH6TO17=1)]

- H3. Did [CHILD] miss more than 15 school days during the past school year?

YES 1 [GO TO H3a]
NO2
DON'T KNOW8
REFUSED9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED GO TO NEXT CHILD; IF NO MORE CHILDREN GO TO H4]

- H3a. Were 10 or more of the missed days in a row?

YES1
NO2
DON'T KNOW8
REFUSED9

[REPEAT H3-H3a FOR EACH CHILD BETWEEN AGES 6-17. IF NO MORE CHILDREN GO TO H4.]

H4. [Has your child/ Have any of your children] ever been suspended or expelled from school?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED, SKIP TO H6.]

H5. Has this happened in the PAST YEAR, that is since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program in [MONTH/ YEAR PROGRAM EXIT]?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

H6. Have you ever been asked by any of your [child's/children's] schools to come in and talk about problems your child was having with behavior?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED, SKIP TO H8.]

H7. Has this happened in the past year, that is since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program in [MONTH/ YEAR PROGRAM EXIT]?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

H8. [Has your child/Have any of your children] ever gone to a special class for gifted students or done advanced work in any subjects?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED, SKIP TO H10.]

H9. Has this happened in the past year, that is since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program in [MONTH/ YEAR PROGRAM EXIT]?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

H10. [Has your child/ Have any of your children] gone to a special class or school or gotten special help in school for learning problems?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED, SKIP TO H12.]

H11. Has this happened in the past year, that is since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program IN [MONTH/ YEAR PROGRAM EXIT]?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

H12. [Has your child/ Have any of your children] gone to a special class or school or gotten special help in school for behavioral or emotional problems?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[IF NO, DON'T KNOW, OR REFUSED, SKIP TO I1.]

H13. Has this happened in the past year, that is since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program IN [MONTH/ YEAR PROGRAM EXIT]?

- YES 1
- NO 2
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

SECTION I. HEALTH

Now I'll ask you a few questions about your health.

11. Overall, how would you rate your health during the past month (that is the past 30 days)?

- Excellent1
- Very good2
- Good.....3
- Fair4
- Poor.....5
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

12. In general, has your health been better, worse or about the same in the last year, since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program?

- Better1
- Worse2
- About the same3
- DON'T KNOW8
- REFUSED9

13. During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel... [DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

Would you say you felt this way...?

	None of the Time	A little of the Time	Some of the Time	Most of the Time	DK	REF
I3a. Tired out for no good reason?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3b. Nervous?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3c. [ASK ONLY IF I3b=2-4] So nervous that nothing could calm you down?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3d. Hopeless?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3e. Restless or fidgety?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3f. [ASK ONLY IF I3e=2-4] So restless you could not sit still?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3g. Depressed?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3h. That everything was an effort?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3i. So sad that nothing could cheer you up?	1	2	3	4	8	9
I3j. Worthless?	1	2	3	4	8	9

14. I've just asked you about feelings that you might have had in the past 30 days. Taking them altogether, would you say that you feel better, worse or about the same in the last year, since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program?

- Better 1
- Worse 2
- About the same 3
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

[ASK I5-I6 IF QA2>0 OR QA4>0 (RESPONDENT HAS CHILDREN), OTHERWISE SKIP TO SECTION J]

15. Overall, how would you rate the health of your child(ren) during the past month (that is the past 30 days)?

- Excellent 1
- Very good 2
- Good 3
- Fair 4
- Poor 5
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

16. In general, has the health of your child(ren) been better, worse or about the same in the last year, this is, since you left the [PROGRAM NAME] program?

- Better 1
- Worse 2
- About the same 3
- DON'T KNOW 8
- REFUSED 9

SECTION J. CLOSING

CLOSE1. That completes all the specific questions that I have. Is there anything else that you would like to tell me about your neighborhood, or experiences, or any suggestions that you might have for HUD or for improving housing programs to help families avoid becoming homeless?

YES 1 [RECORD RESPONSE]
NO2
DON'T KNOW8
REFUSED9

CLOSE2. Please confirm your current address, so we can send you a money order for \$35.

[INSERT ADDRESS]

[PROGRAMMING: ADD ADDRESS CONFIRM SCREENS]

CLOSE3. Those are all the questions I have for you today. Thank you very much for your time. If you have any questions or would like further information about this study, you can call Julie Pacer at (1-312-529-9708) during normal business hours.

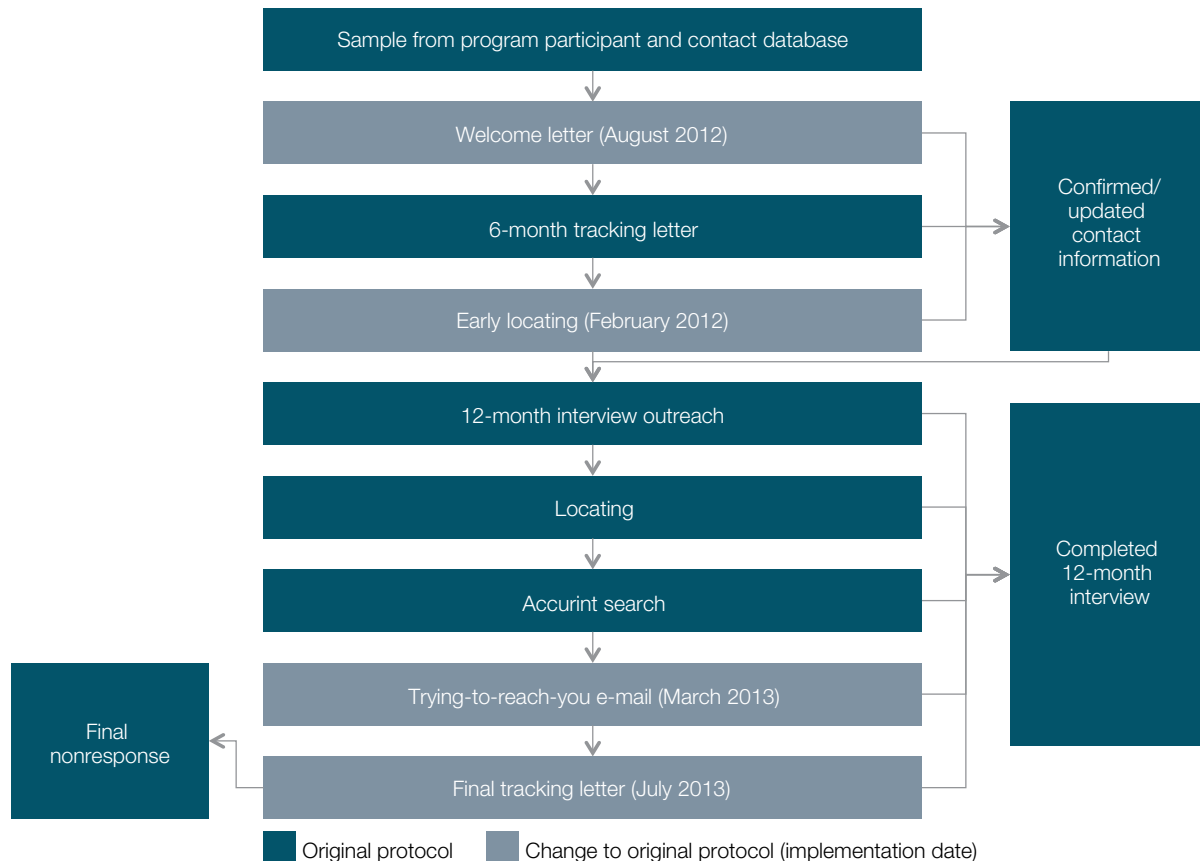
Appendix B Description of 12-Month Followup Survey Tracking Activities

The study was not originally designed to contact families until 6 months into the followup period, but the research team aggressively stepped up outreach efforts as it began to identify problems locating families. This appendix describes the extensive tracking activities conducted to maximize response rates to the followup survey.

The overall sequence of tracking activities is depicted in exhibit B.1, in the sequence in which they would be employed when attempting to contact and locate a family. The darker shading identifies activities that were planned as part of the original research design, and the lighter shading identifies activities that were added to improve locating results.

Six-month tracking letter. A 6-month tracking letter was sent to the address provided by the family on the consent form reminding study participants of their agreement to participate in the RRHD study. An address card (and self-addressed stamped envelope) was enclosed, requesting return of this card with update of their contact information or confirmation of no change. This mailing included a \$2 stipend as well to legitimize the effort and reinforce that we would provide them a \$35 stipend after participation in the followup interview.

Exhibit B.1. Overview of Efforts to Locate Study Participants



Early locating. In February 2012, “early locating” was implemented for all study participants who did not respond to the 6-month tracking letter within 4 weeks of mailing. Using the original guidelines, if a study participant did not respond, then no attempt to contact them was made again until the time of the 12-month followup survey. In early 2012, however, the research team hypothesized that we may have better success in reaching a study participant (or their contacts) to confirm or update their contact information sooner (closer to 6 months after they exited the RRHD program) than later (the time of the 12-month followup survey).

In early locating, we first tried to reach the study participant by phone to confirm or update the family’s contact information. If we could not reach the study participant, then we tried directory assistance, all identified family contacts, and the landlord provided to locate the participant, up to three times each.

Of the 500 study participants, 439 were eligible for early locating since this effort was added to the original research design, shortly after main data collection had begun.

Welcome letter. In August 2012, the research team implemented the practice of sending a welcome letter in advance of the 6-month tracking letter. The welcome letter was similar to the 6-month tracking letter except it also welcomed the participant into the study. Like the 6-month tracking letter mailing, an address card was enclosed and requested to be returned with either a confirmation or update of the participant’s contact information. This letter would have ideally been mailed as soon as the participant exited the RRHD program to act as a formal reminder and introduction to the study. Because the welcome letter was not implemented until August 2012, however, it was mailed anywhere from 2 to 4 months after a participant’s exit from the RRHD program, yet still before the 6-month tracking letter. Out of 500 total participants, 105 were mailed a welcome letter. If the welcome letter was returned to us as

undeliverable, the 6-month tracking letter was not mailed to the same address. Instead the participant went into early locating to try to identify a correct address and phone number for the participant.

12-month locating. Approximately 12 months after each study participant’s exit from the RRHD program, the research team attempted to contact the family to conduct the followup survey. The survey interviewers initially made up to seven attempts to reach the participant, stopping only if it was clear that the phone number or address was no longer associated with the participant. If study participants were not contacted after the initial attempts, specially-trained locating staff on the research team began more extensive locating efforts, while still trying each participant’s viable direct contact information up to eight more times.

More extensive locating included attempting to locate the participant through directory assistance, attempting to reach each participant’s secondary contacts (up to three times at various times of the day), and attempting to reach the participant’s landlord. If a secondary contact was reached, locators tried to secure a current phone number or address for the study participant. If a new phone number for the participant was identified, the locating staff tried to reach the person at the new number, up to seven additional times. If the contact was uncomfortable giving the respondent’s information to the interviewer, then the research team provided the contact with the Abt SRBI toll-free study phone number. The same type of outreach was conducted with the participant’s landlord to attempt to determine if the participant had moved from the original unit or left an updated address or phone number.

If the list of phone numbers we had available was not sufficient to locate the family, then the research team attempted to update and verify contact information using the Accurant Credit Information Bureau, which enabled them to conduct searches for last known addresses.

In addition, participant addresses were run through the National Change of Address (NCOA) database to obtain address updates.

The research design originally called for an in-person field followup effort in a small subset of RRHD sites to locate participants who could not be located by telephone. With the smaller than anticipated sample size and rolling enrollment, this strategy was no longer a cost effective option.

Trying-to-reach-you e-mail. In March 2013, the research team began sending a trying-to-reach-you e-mail to participants who continued to be unreachable after all other locating efforts (for example, not located in early locating, not reached in the 12-month followup survey call, not located during locating efforts, and unidentified after Accurint search). The e-mail was sent only to those families who had provided an e-mail address on the Participation Agreement Form. The text of the e-mail was based

on the 6-month tracking letter but in addition, explained that the research team had been trying to reach them to complete the 12-month followup survey, reminded them that they had agreed to participate in the study (the e-mail also included as an attachment a blank copy of the Participation Agreement Form), and informed them that it was not too late to participate.

Final tracking letter. In July 2013, the research team sent a final batch of addresses for matching through the NCOA database. A final remail of the 6-month tracking letter was then sent to study participants who had not completed the 12-month followup survey. Included in this mailing were participants who had initially refused to participate in the 12-month followup survey. Some of these participants had refused to participate several months earlier, but the research team wanted to extend the opportunity to participate again in case the study participant was later interested.

