

## Homelessness and Reentry



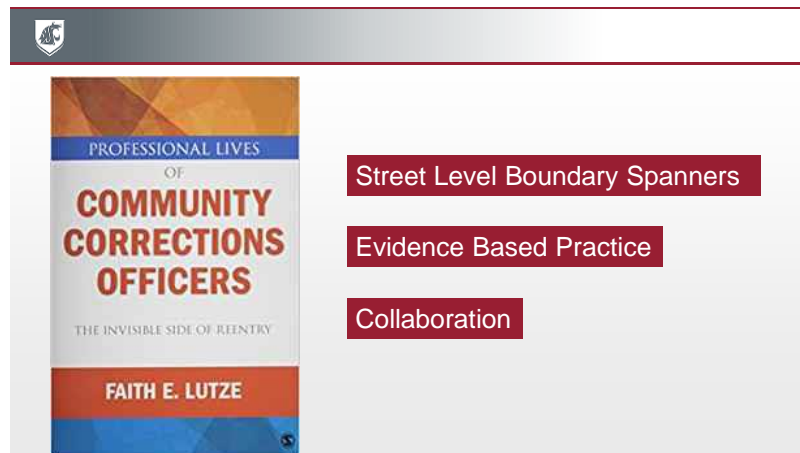
Achieving Housing Security for  
High Risk Ex-Offenders

Faith E. Lutze, Ph.D.  
Department of Criminal Justice  
and Criminology

## Introduction

- Contextualize housing and homelessness
- Complexity of housing situations for justice involved individuals
- Reentry Housing Pilot Program (RHPP) by WA State Department of Commerce
- Importance of housing to successful reintegration and termination from supervision





### The Importance of Having a Home

- Social and psychological refuge from external threats
- Consistency and control of day-to-day routines
- Place to build social networks and an identity of personal worth
- Foundational "launch pad" for employment, treatment engagement, community network, etc.
- Supervision compliance



### Understanding Homelessness in a CJ Context

- Increases social stigma, exposure to antisocial peers, victimization by others
- “Shadow work” such as panhandling, scavenging, and street vending—criminalized in some jurisdictions
- Crimes such as theft, prostitution, and drug sales
- Places individuals in social contexts/situations that are highly correlated with treatment failure, violation of supervision, and recidivism

### Safe, Secure, Affordable

#### Safe

- Physical conditions
  - Structurally sound, electricity, plumbing, water, heat, weather proof
- Physically safe from danger
  - Emotional abuse, physical violence, and intruders

## Safe, Secure, Affordable

### Secure

- Ability to live in the same place over time
  - Ownership—lease, rental agreement, or deed
  - Economic security
  - Relational vulnerability

## Safe, Secure, Affordable

### Affordable

Meets the basic needs of occupant without undue financial stress

- Basic utilities, transportation, food, clothing, or living expenses

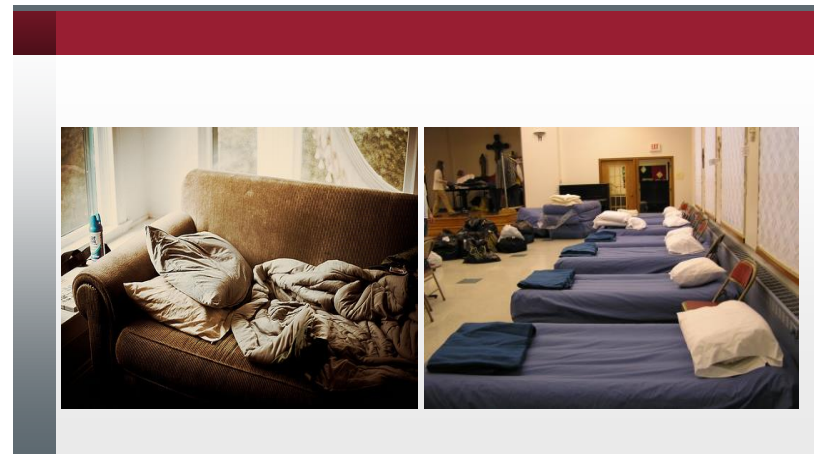
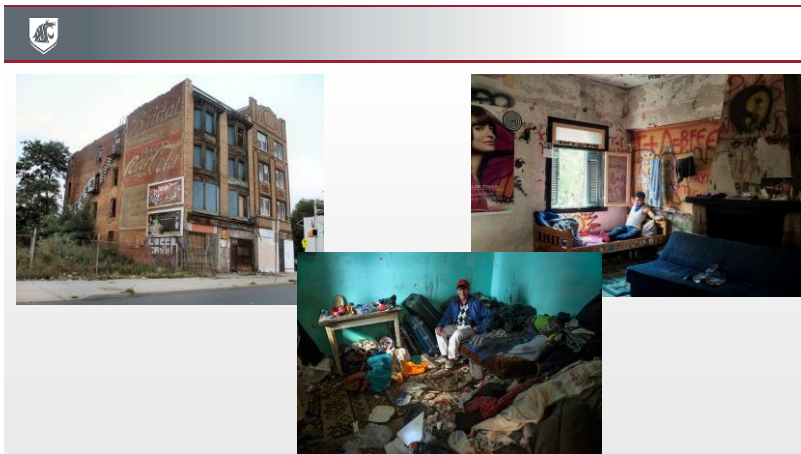
### Continuum of Housing

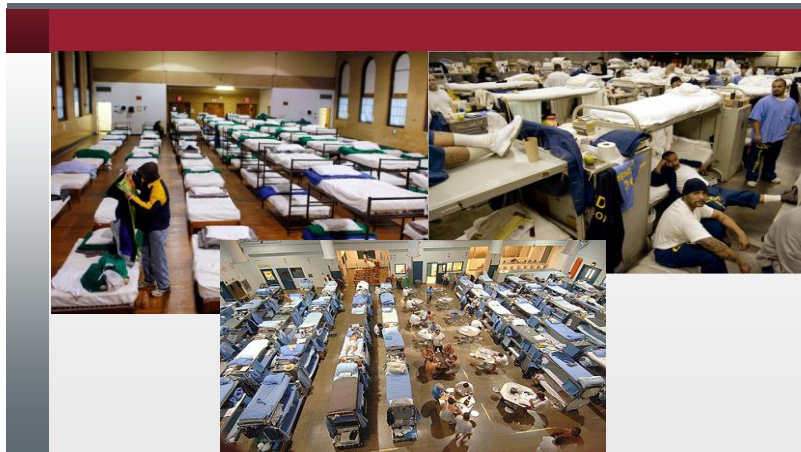
Homelessness is often defined as “not having customary and regular access to a conventional dwelling” (Lee, et al., 2010).



### What is housing?







## Homelessness

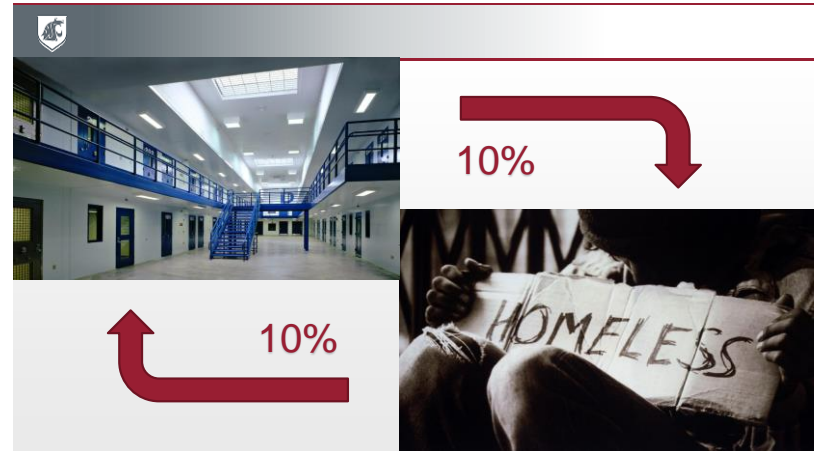


- Fluid over the life course
- Minimum wage (women)
- Children (women)
- Deep poverty—race and ethnicity
- Domestic violence and sexual assault
- Traumatic experiences
- Mental illness (20% greater)
- Substance abuse (18% greater)

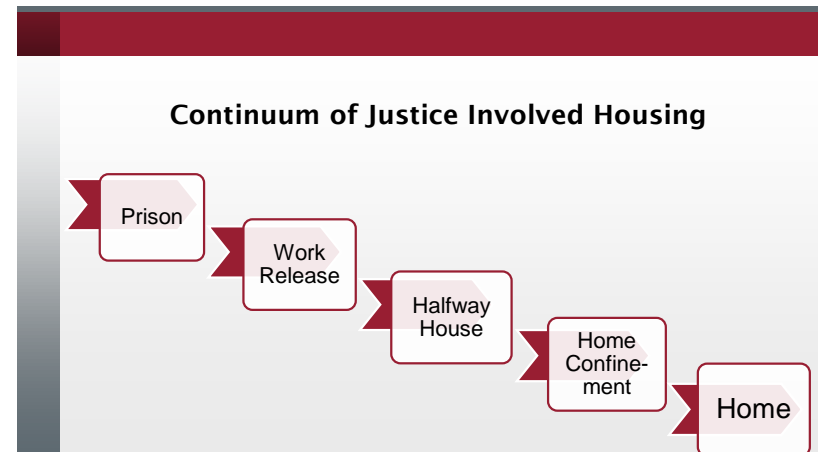
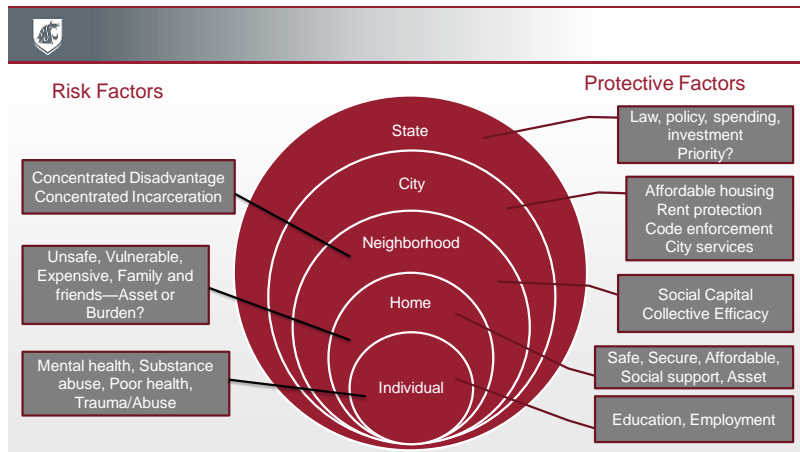
### Homelessness and Justice Involvement



- Prison history 4-6 times greater homelessness than general population
- Geller and Curtis (2011) Men—
  - 2x greater housing instability
  - 4x greater homelessness
  - 69% greater odds of housing insecurity than non-incarcerated comparison group







## Clark 2016 Minnesota

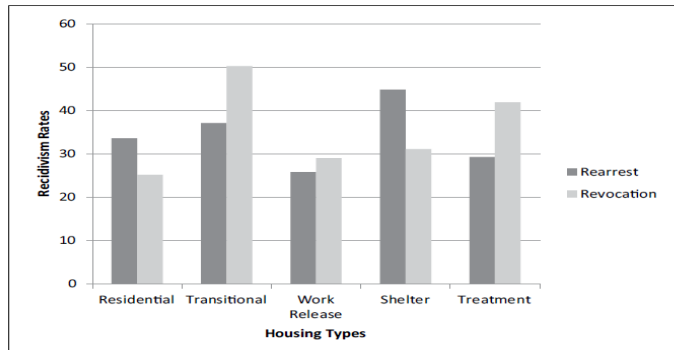


Figure 1. Recidivism rates by housing types.

## Clark 2016 Minnesota Findings

- “Landing Pads” (first address only) set tenor for reentry process
- Re-arrest highest for those released to emergency shelters (45%)
- Re-arrest lowest for work release (26%) and inpatient treatment centers (28%)
- Individual-level characteristics, including post-release housing placements, accounted for most of the variance in risk of re-arrest across neighborhoods

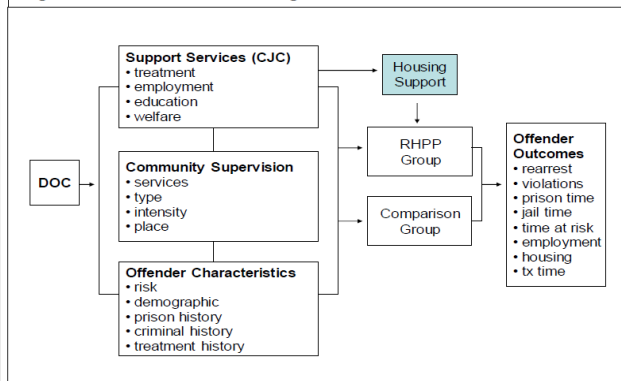
### Obstacles to Housing for CJ Involved

- Lack of affordable housing
- CJ Policies that require viable address before release
- Civil Penalties
- Community concerns: NIMBY
- Program policies

### WA Reentry Housing Pilot Project

- High risk or high need offenders
- Clark, King (Seattle), Spokane (Large Metro Areas)
- Housing for 12 months
- Collaborative team in counties with DOC Community Justice Centers
- Wrap around services
- Safety plan
- Offender's agree to participate in treatment
- Started January 2008 and funding cut in June 2009
- Funded by WA State Department of Commerce

Figure 1. RHPP Research Design



**RHPP Service Delivery System King County, Sound Mental Health**

**PROGRAM DESIGN**

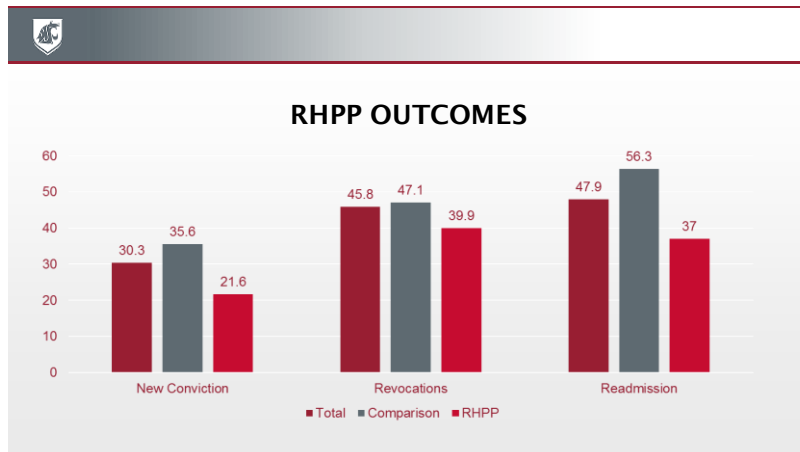
- Target Population**
  - Total 75/active 50
  - High Risk/High Need
  - No viable release plan
- Case Management Plan**
  - weekly team meeting
  - team: SMH and CTC/CCO's
  - ratio: 1:14
  - Multi-System (Each Case Manager will know all of the clients)
- Treatment Services**
  - mental health
  - substance abuse
  - life skills
  - educational/vocational
  - domestic violence
  - sex offender
- Accountability/Sanctions**
  - detention
  - arrest
  - Seattle day reporting Program (SDRP)
  - King County Special Needs Unit (SNU)

**PARTNERSHIPS**

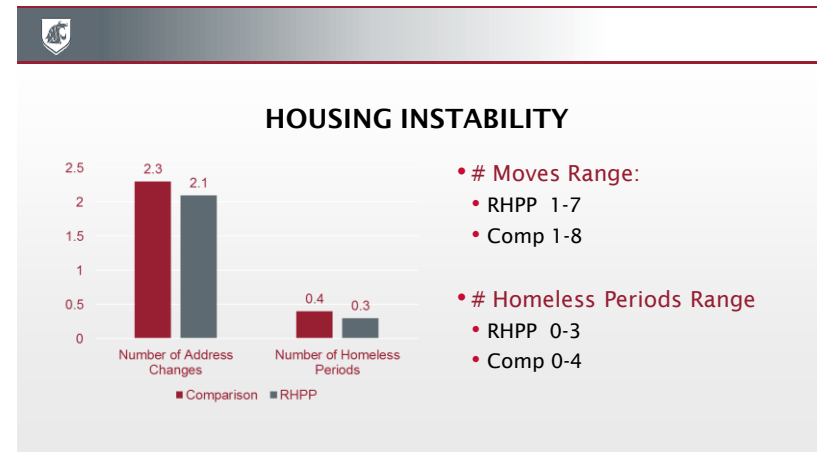
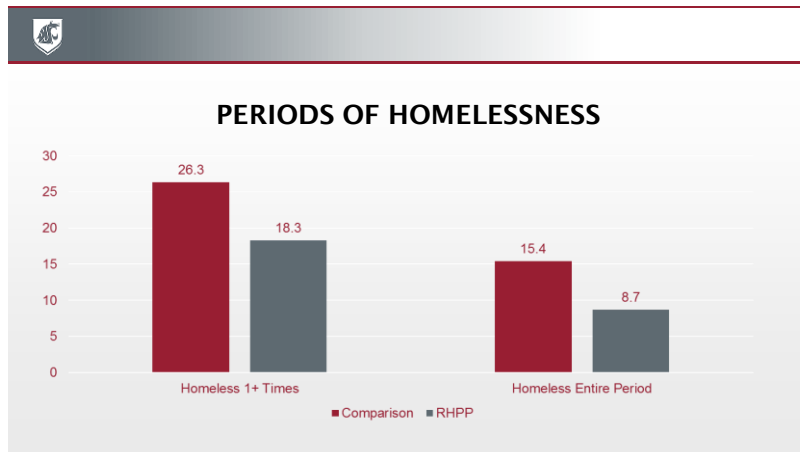
- CJ System**
  - DOC (CCO's, CTC, CJC)
  - Law Enforcement
    - King County Sheriff
    - Seattle City PD
    - U.S. Marshal
    - FBI
- Housing Providers**
  - Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)
  - GEM Property Management Company (private)
  - Private Landlords
- Treatment Providers (primary)**
  - DOC direct services
  - SMH Direct Services
- Treatment/Service Prov. (referral)**
  - A Second Chance (Employment Opportunities)
  - DSHS

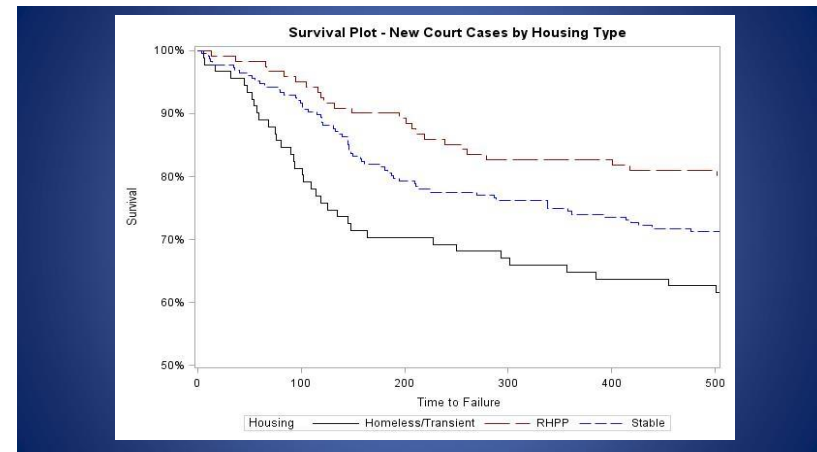
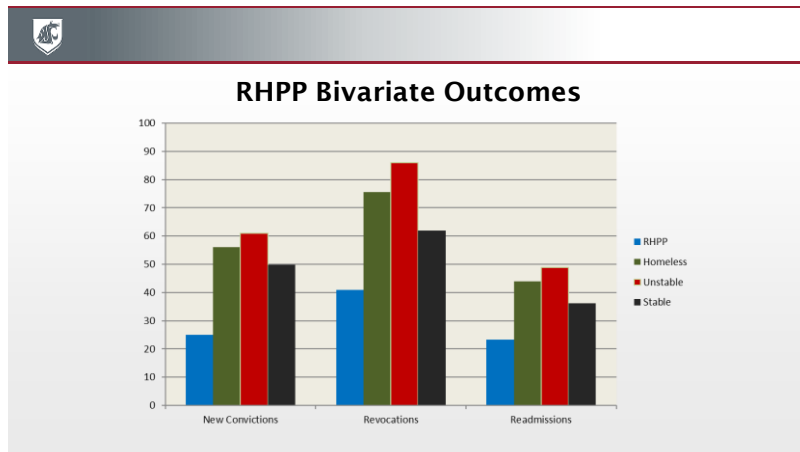
**HOUSING**

- Units Available**
  - LIHI: 30
  - GEM: open #
  - Private Landlords: 4 houses/12 rooms
- Self Sufficiency Plan**
  - Offender 33% income
  - RHPP 100% deposit
- Safety Plan**
  - Neighborhood SMH, DOC rapidly meet, find a resolution and enact a plan. Team intervention, increased supervision, and police involvement
  - Housing SMH has a 24/7/365 crisis response team, access to CTC/CCO 24/7 for consultation, and 2 assigned Seattle PD liaisons.



- ### WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO FAIL
- Younger
  - Male
  - Non-white
  - Homeless







### PERIODS OF HOMELESSNESS

2 Times More  
Likely to  
Experience a  
New Conviction

3 Times  
More Likely to  
Experience a  
Revocation

2 Times More Likely to be Readmitted to Prison



### Conclusion

- Housing matters: “landing pads” vs. “launch pads”
- Safe, Secure, and Affordable
- Wrap around services enhance positive outcomes for high risk and high need individuals
- Housing helps to prevent “cascading” events leading to catastrophic failure
- Cross agency collaboration matters: CCO’s are dynamic street level boundary spanners