

The Reintegration Centre:

Providing Reintegration Support and
Services for TSDC Releasees in South
Etobicoke

National Conference on Ending Homelessness
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Who We Are and What We Do

Mission Statement: Making our community safer by supporting the rehabilitation and re-integration of those who have been in conflict with the law.

The John Howard Society of Toronto is a non-profit organization committed to providing and developing programs that reduce the social, economic and personal cost of crime

JHS-T: 3 Types of Services and Programs



- Alternatives to prison/
Crime Prevention
- In-reach to prisons
- **Post-release strategies and services**

Post-Release Strategies and Services

- Addictions/Relapse Prevention
- Crossroads – 18 beds facility- federal parolees
- Pre-Employment
- Social enterprises- KLINK, Rideau Enterprises
- Record Suspension (Pardons)
- **Housing-** FTF, PIHS, TDTC- cycle of incarceration/homelessness
- **Etobicoke Reintegration Centre/Peer Program**

Correctional System 101

- Federal
- Provincial
- Crime rates falling
- Incarceration rates stable
- Remand rates increasing- lack of discharge planning
- Higher need population- mental health, substance use
- Lack of housing options (no provincial halfway houses since mid 90's), no specific transitional housing, bail residences etc.

Issues Facing Provincial Releasees

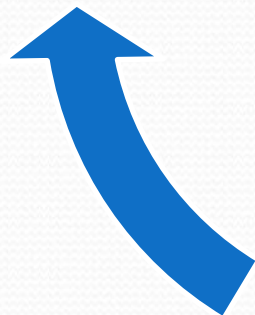
- Approximately 40% of Ontario inmates (2 years less a day) re-offended within 1 year after release
- Mental health/substance use
- Poverty
- Social isolation
- Barriers to employment
- Stigma
- HOMELESSNESS
 - **Evidence of cycle of homelessness/incarceration,**
 - Value of transitional housing for chronically homeless ex-prisoners

Making the Connection

**HOMELESS or
HOUSED**

INCARCERATION
(crimes related to
substance use,
high visibility etc).

HOMELESS



Justice and Injustice, 2006

Exploratory research, the 1st of its kind in Canada

Multi-method study, looks at various aspects of the **relationship between homelessness and the CJS**

- Literature review,
- Analysis of administrative data (MCSCS and T.O.HS),
- Review of over 870 client files
- Survey of 57 homeless people
- 22 in-depth interviews with homeless people
- 23 key informant interviews
- Extensive compilation of prevention programs

Key Findings

- **1 in 5 homeless people directly from corrections** (City of Toronto SNA supports similar numbers).
- **Cost of incarceration; Approximately \$183/day, Significantly higher than transitional and/or supportive housing**



Homeless and Jailed, 2010

Explores the **housing trajectory** of adult men serving sentences in Toronto area jails with an additional focus on immediate and anticipated service needs

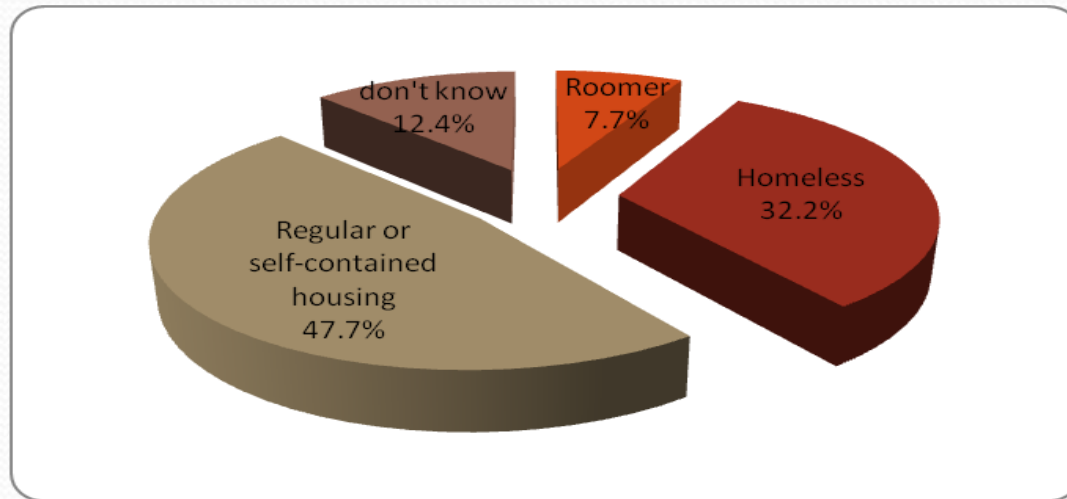
Residential locations are mapped in relation to selected neighbourhood characteristics

Survey results based on 363 interviews with sentenced prisoners within one week of release

Key Findings

- John Howard Society of Toronto's clients who were homeless at intake had fewer violent, but more property-related charges than those who were housed
- Lack of service co-ordination and inadequate discharge planning are major barriers to the community integration of ex-prisoners and contribute to homelessness

- 22.9% of inmates were homeless when incarcerated
- Within days of discharge, prisoner's housing plans indicate that their overall projected rate of homelessness would increase by 40%



- Overall 32.2% planned to use a shelter, live on the street, or couch surf.
- Another 12% did not know where they would go.
- Combined: 44.6% are homeless/at risk of homelessness

Making Toronto Safer, 2011

Cost benefit analysis commissioned and consulted on by JHS-T

Completed by Open Policy and Chronicle Analytics with John Stapleton, funded by the TCF

Focus on the cost of transitional housing and supports (THS) for two types of homeless ex-prisoners (homeless, s810 sexual offenders)

Key Findings

With transitional housing and supports in place the likelihood of re-offending decreases thereby creating safer communities

The per-person estimated savings provided by THS is estimated to be:

- \$350, 000 for a homeless person; and
- \$109, 000 for a Section 810 prisoner

The Toronto South Detention Centre



A Bit About the TSDC

- 160 Horner Ave. -Opened January 27, 2014
- Capacity for 1,620 male
- Limited visitation (CCTV)
- Short stays (90 days+; 11 days; remand- 30 days av.)
- 210 new admissions a week, **180-200 releases a week**, (plus bail via video)
- Built to maximum security specifications but can house all level of inmates.
- Locational challenges

The Reintegration Centre



Provides a HUB-like venue (United Way, 2005) for men leaving the Toronto South Detention Centre to access support and referral services (enhanced service continuity from contact made prior to release)

Focus on housing via S2H (FTF model- PIHSP)

Reduce chances of re-offending thereby increasing community safety and death caused by accidental OD (Heroin/fentanyl crisis)

How it works...

- Immediate triage, assessment, and “warm” referrals to:
- On-site partners and/or off-site services...
 - Homeless shelters
 - Addiction detox and treatment
 - Legal assistance
 - Transportation, food, clothing, phone, computer
 - Mental health assessment and referrals
 - HR education and OD prevention provided by PWLE
 - Housing help (S2H)- Post Incarceration Housing Support Program (PIHS)

Role of PIHSW Inside and at the RC

- In-reach; request directly from clients and social workers
- Accept calls related to housing/eviction prevention from inside (special toll free #)
- Begin building relationships, trust
- CASH applications
- Begin Housing Connections (HC) application
- Eviction prevention- liaise between ODSP, subsidized housing coordinators to allow for rent to be paid for 3 months
- Relationship building with landlords to hold rooms for short time

Role of PIHSW- Outside

- Complete HC application (ID)
- Accompany to view unit upon release
- Ensure housing is retained, rent paid, introduce client into recreational activities

- Referrals
 - mental health and other community agencies based on need including detox, addiction
 - affordable private market rentals (based on income),
 - education,
 - JHST-programs
 - Pre employment program
 - Relapse prevention

Other First Thing First components...

Once housed, follow-up support kicks-in for minimum of one year (less than 7 days after in unit)

When possible: provide transportation assistance, Furniture bank, clothing, sleeping bags and hygiene and HR supplies)

Peer Support Program

- The value of including people with lived experience in service delivery is in growing demand
- Traditionally used in a recovery model context (mental health, 12 step, in-prison)
- Importance of offering nuanced approach
- Accompaniment and support- shelter, detox, housing
- Harm reduction education and overdose prevention
- Exploring in-reach component at TSDC

The Need for Evaluation

- The Evaluation Committee
 - Unique collaboration- variety of participants
- Some evaluation work that has taken place
 - York U. Students- peer program
 - Development of intake tool for data collection- dashboard
- Endeavours
 - Proposals submitted via St. Mikes
 - In process of finalizing project with MCSCS

The RC Partners/Key Stakeholders

- Cota
- African Canadian Legal Clinic/LAO
- Margaret's
- F.E.A.T.
- Toronto Justice Collaborative
- 22 Division

- PARC
- Members of our Advisory Committee/Evaluation Committee
- Evaluation Committee
- Funders: City of Toronto, OTF

The Missing Piece...

Transitional Housing that is accessible immediately upon release for inmates exiting detention....

....but we are working on it!

“Fighting crime by building more jails is like fighting cancer by building more cemeteries”.

- Paul Kelly, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1997

(Source: Paul Kelly, elected City Director, helped defeat a "jail tax," a permanent sales tax increase to expand the county jail. "Fighting crime by building more jails is like fighting cancer by building more cemeteries." Kelly and state Rep Michael Booker, also of the New Party, argued that drug prevention and treatment, not the construction of more jail cells, was the proper way to fight crime)

<http://www.populist.com/97.12.dispatches.html>

Thank you!

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