

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S HOUSING FIRST EVALUATION SNAPSHOT

HOUSING FIRST IMPACTS

ARRESTS & INCARCERATION RATES

MAY 2017



Photo by Housing First Photovoice project participant, 2016

Housing First clients are less likely to be arrested & spend fewer days incarcerated than individuals still experiencing homelessness, decreasing the burden on the criminal justice system and improving client well-being.

This evaluation snapshot is one of four installments highlighting the impacts of the City and County of Honolulu's Housing First initiative in its first 2 years. Administered through the Institute for Human Services, the Housing First (HF) program is a community intervention that offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The HF model is unique because it does not require individuals to demonstrate that they are "housing ready" before placement.

This snapshot examines whether participating in the HF program resulted in changes in clients' likelihood of being arrested or incarcerated.

Criminal history data on adult HF clients ($n = 129$) were accessed via Hawaii's Adult Criminal Information database (eCrim). We also collected data on a comparison group of 175 individuals also struggling with homelessness but not receiving HF services. This snapshot compares the average number of charges and days incarcerated between the HF clients and the comparison group before and after the start of the HF program (Dec. 2014-Dec. 2016).

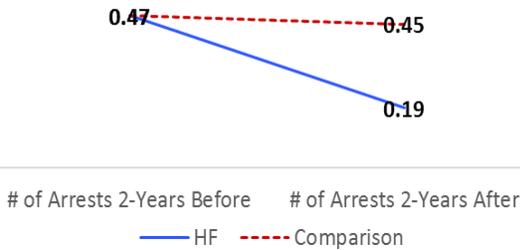
ARRESTS

After 1 year, HF clients experienced a 55% DECREASE in number of arrests, while the comparison group experienced a 36% INCREASE.

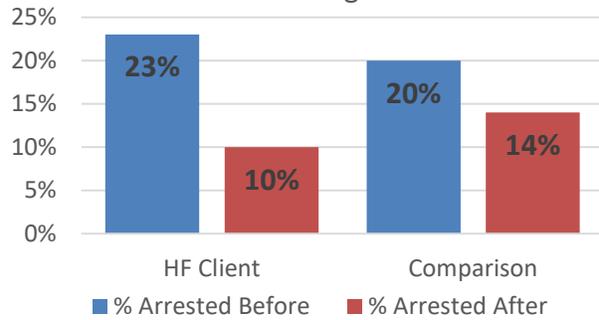
After 2 years, HF clients experienced 61% fewer arrests. The comparison group also experienced a drop in arrests, but the magnitude of this drop was much smaller.

Petty misdemeanors accounted for 65% of arrests for both groups. The most common charge was Petty Theft IV, theft of items or services valued less than \$100 (30% of charges for HF clients & 19% for the comparison group).

AVERAGE NUMBER OF ARRESTS (2-YEAR)



Percent of Clients Arrested 2 Years Before and 2 Years After the Start of Housing First



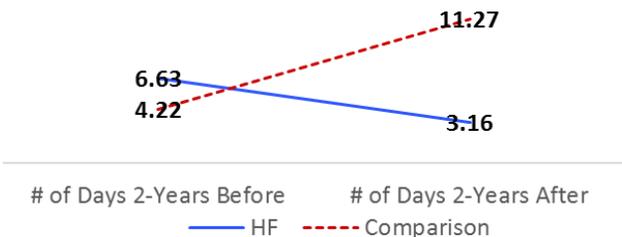
INCARCERATIONS

After 1 year, HF clients experienced a 74% decrease in average days incarcerated, while the comparison group saw an 86% increase.

Average Number of Days Incarcerated Per Arrest 2 Years Before & 2 Years After the Start of Housing First



AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS INCARCERATED (2-YEAR)



Before HF, the comparison group averaged 2 fewer incarcerated days than the HF group. After 2 years, the comparison group experienced a 3-fold increase in days incarcerated, while the HF group experienced a statistically significant decrease.

SUMMARY: Before HF, individuals in the HF and comparison groups were arrested at similar rates, but after 2-years in the program, HF clients experienced significantly fewer arrests and days incarcerated compared to similar individuals who did not receive HF services. Data also show that when individuals experiencing homelessness are arrested, they are more likely to be arrested for minor, non-violent crimes. These findings suggest that HF decreases the burden on the criminal justice system & improves client well-being.