

had contact with the justice system. The *type* of criminal justice contact can play an important role in determining the best housing options for consumers as well. Persons returning from prisons and jails may have high-level needs given the requirements of supervision (e.g., remain drug free, obtain employment). Housing options should provide a balance between the often competing needs of criminal justice supervision and flexible social service provision.

Taking into consideration the reentry point of individuals can provide the basis for understanding how their mental health needs can be integrated with criminal justice system needs. When a person is under criminal justice supervision, housing and the services that come with housing must simultaneously satisfy the service needs of the individual and the demands of the criminal justice system. Furthermore, those returning to the community after being in the custody of the criminal justice system for long periods of time often lack awareness of the range of

housing options, as well as the skills to make appropriate housing-related decisions.

With regard to returning prisoners, research suggests that residential instability and incarceration are compounding factors influencing both later residential instability and re-incarceration. A large study examining persons released from New York State prisons found that having both histories of shelter use and incarceration increased the risk of subsequent re-incarceration and shelter use (Metraux & Culhane, 2004). Data collected on individuals in U.S. jails suggests that individuals who experience recent homelessness have a homelessness rate 7.5 times higher than the general population (Malone, 2009). Individuals with links to the mental health system had considerably higher proportions of shelter stays and re-incarcerations post release than those without links to the mental health system. Other studies have found that persons with

appropriate housing option for individuals may differ depending on which reentry point (i.e., diversion, jail, or

*housing first* approach can enhance residential stability and increase successful community integration (Burt & Anderson, 2005; Mayberg, 2003). Findings also indicate that programs serving the most challenging clients (those with longer histories of homelessness and incarceration) produce similar housing outcomes as programs serving less challenging clients (Burt & Anderson, 2005). Essentially, people with serious mental illness and histories of arrest or incarceration can achieve housing stability with adequate support.

Likewise, Malone (2009) examined housing outcomes for 347 homeless adults with disabilities and behavioral health disorders in a supportive housing program in Seattle WA and found that the presence of a criminal history did not predict housing success or failure. In fact, results of the study indicate that when adequate supports are utilized individuals with more extensive criminal history, more serious criminal offenses, and more recent criminal activity

all surim79(503.81W)11supportive 1supsing start artion arve 2(ar)toTJETEMC /Span #MCID 242 BDC BT/TT1 1 Tf11 0 0 11