

Utilization of HUD Section 8 Housing by Adults Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals in Eight States

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Abstract:

Access to safe and affordable housing for adults with serious mental illness is an important area of concern. This paper examines utilization of HUD Section 8 housing by adults discharged from state psychiatric hospitals in eight states. The analysis relies exclusively on anonymous extracts from the administrative databases of state psychiatric hospitals for adults discharged during calendar 2004 and residents of Section 8 housing programs on May 2, 2005. Findings indicate that adults discharged from state psychiatric hospitals were substantially more likely than individuals in the general population to live in Section 8 housing on a specified date. Among adults discharged, women were more likely than men in all states to use Section 8 housing. Results were inconsistent across states for age groups and race/ethnicity groups.