



## Crime Reduction, Healthcare Pressure Alleviation, with Achieved Savings Through Supportive Housing

What is the most effective, evidence-based solution, to reduce crime?

While there are many possible and worthwhile interventions that may be considered, none is as effective at reducing crime as **supportive housing**. This is strongly backed by peer-reviewed research:

- Denver, Co: [A 5-year Urban Institute study](#) shows that supportive housing breaks the Homelessness-Jail cycle and reduces demand on emergency healthcare. Participants experienced reduced criminal justice involvement, fewer emergency healthcare visits, and overall government savings of \$7,000 per person.
- [Seattle, Wa](#), Business-driven analysis [prompted by business community concerns of growing crime](#) found a small number of “prolific offenders” - many struggling with addiction, mental health and homelessness - caused much of the crime. Housing interventions significantly reduced justice system involvement ([International Journal of Drug Policy](#)).
- Minnesota, [“The Evidence is Clear: Housing First Works”](#), showed a 90% reduction in jail stays, and significant reductions in substance use, homelessness, hospitalization and emergency room use.
- Charlotte, NC: This [Housing First report](#), revealed city savings of \$2.4 million annually, including 71% fewer ER visits and a 37% drop in substance use.
- Vancouver, BC: [This randomly controlled trial](#) funded by Health Canada and the Mental Health Commission of Canada housed homeless individuals, where 67% had prior criminal justice involvement, found significant reduction in re-offending.
- Portland, Maine: [A pre-post study](#) showed reduced costs in healthcare, jail, and police involvement within a year of participants entering supportive housing.

In addition to reducing crime, supportive housing also alleviates healthcare pressure and spending. As outlined in the “Frequent User” study below, individuals without housing use disproportionately higher ER, Ambulance and Hospital resources. Housed individuals use fewer emergency health and other public services.

### A Solution That Pays For Itself

Not only does supportive housing deliver triple benefits—reducing crime, homelessness, and emergency healthcare usage—it also provides a net-positive financial benefit for us as taxpayers. For every \$1 invested in supportive housing, there is a net savings of \$1.40.

### Cost Savings Highlighted in Studies:

- A Community Prevention Services Task Force study found economic benefits exceeding costs of providing supportive housing ([American Journal of Preventative Medicine](#)).
- The study, [“Health Care and Public Service Use and Costs Before and After Provision of Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons”](#) found that the costs of intervention for chronically homeless individuals are more than offset by savings in public service use.
- This [2021 study published in Social Science & Medicine](#), reveals long-term savings for homeless individuals with severe mental illness.
- [New York City’s FUSE II “Frequent User” initiative](#) saw increased housing stability while reducing jail stays resulting in net savings of \$15,680 per person in public spending.
- [The At Home/Chez Soi study](#) showed that the cost to taxpayers of supporting an individual living rough, in Moncton NB, was over \$53,000 per year in 2014, and that Housing First interventions significantly reduced individuals’ use of public services (ER, Ambulance, Police, Justice, etc.).

The evidence is clear: the most effective and financially beneficial action that a municipality can take to reduce crime, alleviate emergency healthcare pressure, and achieve savings is to develop supportive housing. Compiled By: 12 Neighbours Community, [info@12neighbours.com](mailto:info@12neighbours.com)