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Sustainability in Housing First-pilots

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Housing First Helsingborg

The Housing First service in Helsingborg (Sweden) started as a pilot project in September 2010. The evaluation showed positive results, including a high housing retention rate. The results of the evaluation became important arguments when the city of Helsingborg decided to make the Housing first project a permanent part of their social housing programme.

Housing First Helsingborg 2017

51 tenants

3 social workers

Not by the book, but almost...

A follow-up study

The study is based on how social workers in the services assess the tenants' life conditions, but also on data from the tenants themselves. The study is interesting for various reasons; for example, it gives an indication of the sustainability in the services.

In the study, we compare the residents' living conditions today with their situation before they got housing through the Housing First services. The follow-up has focused on the tenants' social networks and socio-economic situation, but it also highlights drug abuse, crime and health.

Results

51 people have got apartments in Helsingborg Housing First services and the housing retention rate is 86,3 percent.

The study shows that the tenant's life conditions have improved in several respects.

Drug abuse
Relationships
Economy
Health
Trust

Table 1: Housing First Helsingborg 2010-2017.
Number of tenants, evictions and housing stability rate.

	Tenants (n)	Evictions (n)	Housing stability rate (%)
2010	7	0 (0)	-
2011	11	2 (2)	81,8
2012	17	1 (3)	82,3
2013	21	0 (3)	85,7
2014	37	0 (3)	91,9
2015	42	2 (5)	88,1
2016	49	1 (6)	87,7
2017	51	1 (7)	86,3

Table 2. Housing First Helsingborg 2015. Social workers estimation of the tenants life situation before housing first and their current situation.

	Situation when the service user came to HF	Current situation
Drug abuse	1,9	3,6
Crime	2,9	4,0
Subcultur	1,8	3,0
Mental health	2,1	3,4
Physical health	2,2	3,1
Housing situation	1,7	4,7
Economy	1,8	3,1
Employment	1,4	2,3
Leisure & Social commitment	1,6	2,3
Social relationships	2,1	3,2

Table 3. Housing First Helsingborg 2015. The tenants estimation of their life situation before housing first and their current situation.

	Situation when the service user came to HF	Current situation
Drug abuse	2,4	4,3
Crime	3,7	5,0
Subcultur	2,1	4,1
Mental health	2,4	4,4
Physical health	2,7	3,9
Housing situation	1,5	4,9
Economy	1,7	3,8
Employment	1,2	2,4
Leisure & Social commitment	1,3	2,0
Social relationships	2,1	3,4

Thank you for your time