



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

“Health and well-being of homeless veterans participating in transitional and supported employment: Six-month outcomes”

Leddy, Meaghan, Elina Stefanovics, and Robert Rosenheck. / [Full Report](#)

Quick Takeaways:

- Supported employment programs that incorporate individual placement and support (IPS) are associated with improved competitive employment (CE) outcomes among veterans with severe mental illness (SMI).
- CE is associated with improved employment outcomes, such as higher work income, higher total income, and more days worked.

Study:

This observational study examined the combined cohort data from a previous VA demonstration program from January 2000. The first cohort consisted of veterans who were offered standard care, including transitional work experience (TWE), but not IPS. The second cohort was also offered standard care, with additional IPS provided. Both cohorts were surveyed using standard diagnostic tools on four axes: Employment Status, Health Status, Community Adjustment and Housing Status, and Attitudes Toward Employment, Self-Esteem, and Quality of Life. Each cohort communicated with researchers every three months for up to two years.

In analyzing this dual-cohort data, researchers sorted veterans into five categories: never worked, worked only in TWE, worked in TWE followed by CE, worked in CE without IPS, and worked in CE with IPS. Researchers attempted to analyze the data by controlling for as many confounding factors as possible. The six-month window of analysis was the result of six months being the furthest source of reliable data, resulting in a study size of 440.

Findings:

Because researchers were using data from two separate cohorts with very different characteristics, they attempted to control for some, but not all, factors. However, given previous research, they felt confident that their results tracked with past studies.

Researchers found that CE, regardless of how it was obtained, had higher positive outcomes, including higher income, more days worked, and less public assistance needed. IPS was associated with higher rates of CE placement. However, IPS was not associated with better CE outcomes in comparison to other programs. And no program was associated with more positive non-vocational outcomes.

Conclusion:

Given the observational nature of the study and its short period, researchers believe that while their results are similar to past research further attention is needed. Programs with IPS was associated more CE, and CE was associated with better employment outcomes. But IPS was not directly associated with better employment outcomes.

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