



This info sheet is one of 12 two-pagers that highlights key findings and promising practices from the **Co-Creating Evidence (CCE)** study.

Co-Creating Evidence was an evaluation of eight different Canadian programs serving women at risk of having an infant with prenatal exposure to alcohol or other substances.

Improving Housing through Wraparound Programs

Many women who use substances have precarious housing. Safe housing provides women with a foundation for making changes to their substance use and health and can be key in ensuring that they are able to care for their child(ren).

In the CCE study, 3 programs offered on-site housing for some or all clients either as a core element of the program or as a result of partnerships with other organizations. At all eight programs, staff helped in accessing improved housing as a component of the wraparound services.

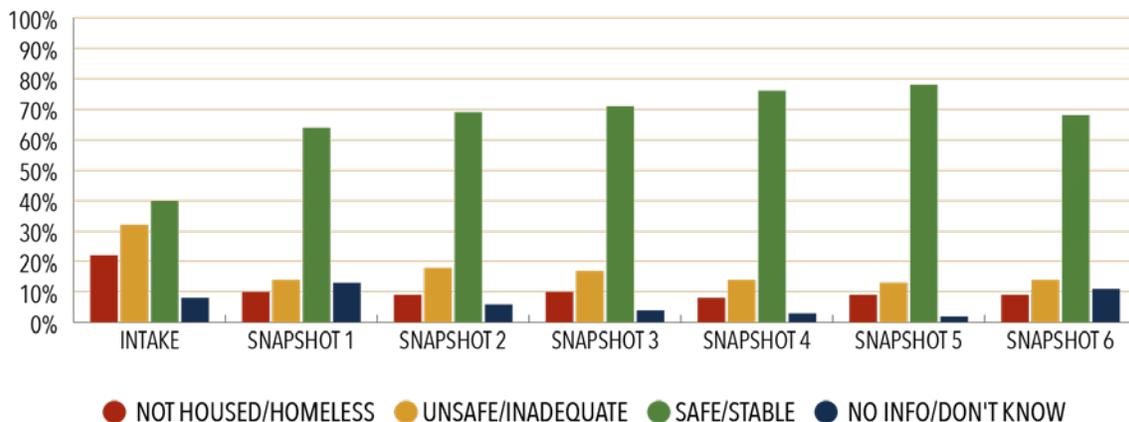
"I wanted better housing, support to keep me away from drugs and alcohol, and help with nutrition. [I wanted] to keep my baby."

The study found that accessing safe housing was both a top reason why women became involved in their program and a significant positive change for them since participating in it.

The study also found that accessing safe housing nearly always occurred with other pivotal life changes for women, such as ending substance use or keeping their child in their care.

- For the **1004** women participating in the 8 programs, **58%** had unsafe housing at intake.
- **Through involvement with their program, women made positive changes in their housing.**

Clients' housing over time, based on clients with 4 data 'snapshots' (n=321)



How wraparound programs help women improve their housing

Staff help clients with applications and/or referrals.

"Staff helped me complete the paperwork to apply for affordable housing. They even did a mock interview with me, so I was well prepared."



Staff provide clients with transportation to view housing.

"The Outreach Worker drove me to housing appointments – we went together to the housing unit that I got into."

Programs may be residential and also offer wraparound health and social services.



"I got housing at [the program]. The suite was fully furnished and supplied."

Programs partner with a housing-based organization that offers on-site or community-based housing.

Staff advocate for clients to access safe, affordable housing, making calls and writing letters.

"The [program] staff got me into housing with support letters."



Staff support clients to make the decision to leave unsafe housing, given partner violence.

"I ended the relationship. I gained confidence to leave him."

Programs partner with a housing-based organization to offer rent subsidies.

"[Staff] helped me apply for rent supplements for six months until I could get into second stage housing."

Programs help clients get set up with furnishings and household items.

