



Alrov Institute for Real Estate Research
Coller School of Management
Tel Aviv University



"Housing the Homeless: The Effect of Housing Assistance on Recidivism to Homelessness, Economic, and Social Outcomes"

Thursday, January 21, 2021

8:00 AM Pacific Time/11:00AM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

(INVITATION-ONLY ONLINE ACADEMIC SERIES)



Elior Cohen

PhD Candidate in Economics, University of California, Los Angeles

Student Affiliate, UCLA California Center for Population Research

Funding for housing assistance programs serving the homeless has more than doubled in the past decade, with only scant evidence regarding the causal effect of housing assistance on recidivism to homelessness and economic and social outcomes such as crime, employment, and health. Using a random case worker assignment design and a novel dataset constructed by linking administrative records from multiple public agencies in Los Angeles County, I estimate that housing assistance for single adults experiencing homelessness reduces future recidivism to homelessness by 20 percentage points over an 18-month period, compared to a baseline mean of 40 percent. The decline is driven by housing programs that provide long-

term housing solutions and by individuals with physical disabilities and/or severe mental illness. Moreover, my findings suggest that housing assistance reduces crime, increases employment, and improves health, while not increasing reliance on social benefits. A simple cost-benefit analysis implies that up to 80 percent of housing costs are offset by these potential benefits in the first 18 months alone. Taken together, these findings demonstrate that well-targeted housing assistance for the homeless with a focus on long-term housing solutions can be rehabilitative for a large segment of the homeless population.

The [Alrov Institute for Real Estate Research at Tel Aviv University](#), [ESCP Business School](#), and the UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate's [UCLA Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Program in Real Estate, Finance and Urban Economics](#); and [Howard and Irene Program in Housing and Social Responsibility](#) are pleased to partner on a series of Zoom-based winter and spring 2021 research seminars with a focus on issues of housing and public policy.



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For questions, contact Julie Lindner at julie.lindner@anderson.ucla.edu
zimancenter.ucla.edu

110 Westwood Plaza, B100, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1481