

Presentation Title: A Measure to Measure Success

Research Focus: Poverty and Housing Assistance Programs

School: United States Naval Academy

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Abstract:

We analyzed Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) data provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 2009, 2014, and 2018 in order to evaluate the extent to which HUD alleviates the financial burden of households using tenant-based rental subsidies.

The HCV program gives lower-income households the freedom to choose where to live by providing them with rental subsidies. HUD intends for these subsidies to lower rent to 30% of a household's gross annual income. Across the entire dataset, HUD achieves this 30% mark about 41% of the time. Using a linear regression model, we took analyzed the effect of race, household size, and property location on HUD's success in meeting this goal.

We also established a Quality of Life (QoL) index by comparing the percentage of a household's gross annual income they would have paid for rent to the current percentage a household spends after receiving assistance. The QoL index attempts to quantify the impact a rental subsidy has on families. We also analyze this data in terms of race, household size, and property location. Additionally, we identify any trends across time.

This project explores whether a relationship exists between the amount the rental subsidy improves a household's quality of life and the characteristics of the household. Ultimately, we derive a model that predicts the positive impact a rental subsidy can have on a household based on the characteristics of that household.

(234 words)