
ABSTRACT

Social support and independent living of welfare recipients with past experience of homelessness

YOSHIKUMI, Takahiro
Chubu University

The purpose of the study was to investigate the social support and independent living of welfare recipients who had experienced homelessness. A total of 226 male participants (average age: 58.9 years) living on welfare were asked to complete a survey regarding social support, work experience in the past year, the General Health Questionnaire-12, and participation in social activities. The results showed that more than half of the participants had no social support; social support from their family and relatives was especially lacking. Participants with social support experienced work in the past year, maintained mental health, and participated in social activities more than did those who had no social support. These results indicated that social support had a significant relationship with their independent living as well as their social isolation. The study stressed the importance of providing support focusing on social relations.

Key Words: welfare recipients, homeless experience, social support, independence support
