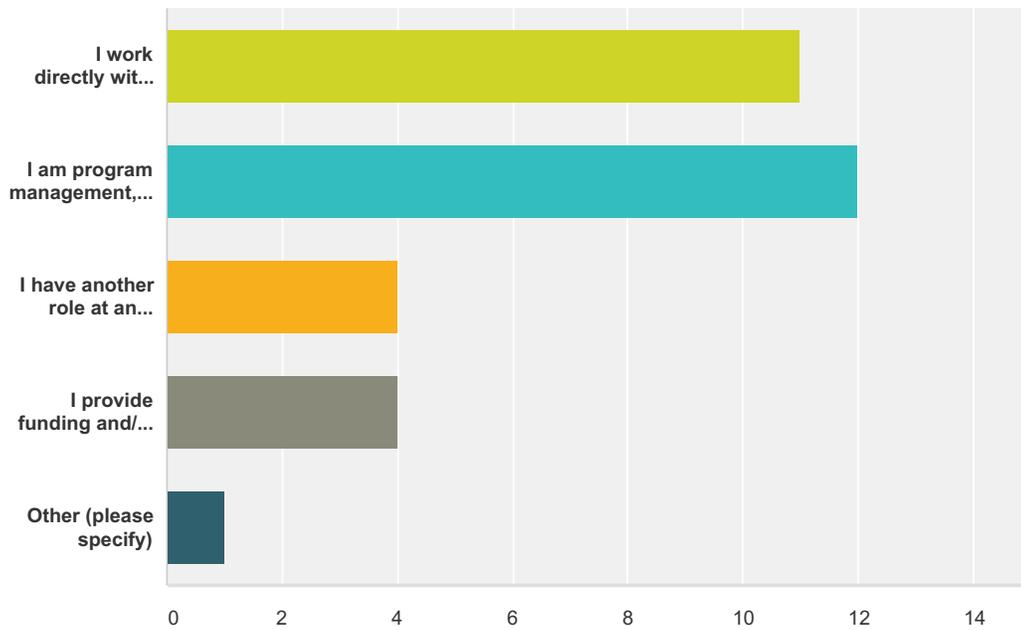


Q1 The following best describes my current position...

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0

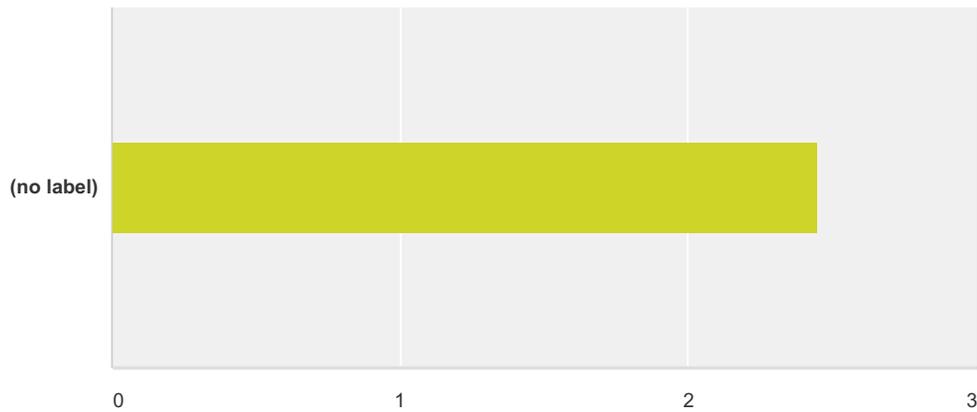


Answer Choices	Responses
I work directly with people experiencing homelessness (core function of my position)	34.38% 11
I am program management, helping to supervise frontline staff and/or manage programs that directly serve people experiencing homelessness	37.50% 12
I have another role at an organization that provides shelter, housing &/or direct services to people who have experienced homelessness	12.50% 4
I provide funding and/or other support to homeless assistance organizations/the Continuum of Care	12.50% 4
Other (please specify)	3.13% 1
Total	32

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Not-for-profit administrator	12/4/2014 6:22 PM

Q2 Regardless of what common tool is chosen, we want to understand how you feel in general about the idea of all homeless assistance agencies using a common screening or assessment tool to determine the level and type of help needed to help people regain stability in permanent housing. We assume that the use of any tool will require strong collaboration, communication and training across the Continuum of Care. Please choose the response that best describes your level of comfort in the idea of a common tool:

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



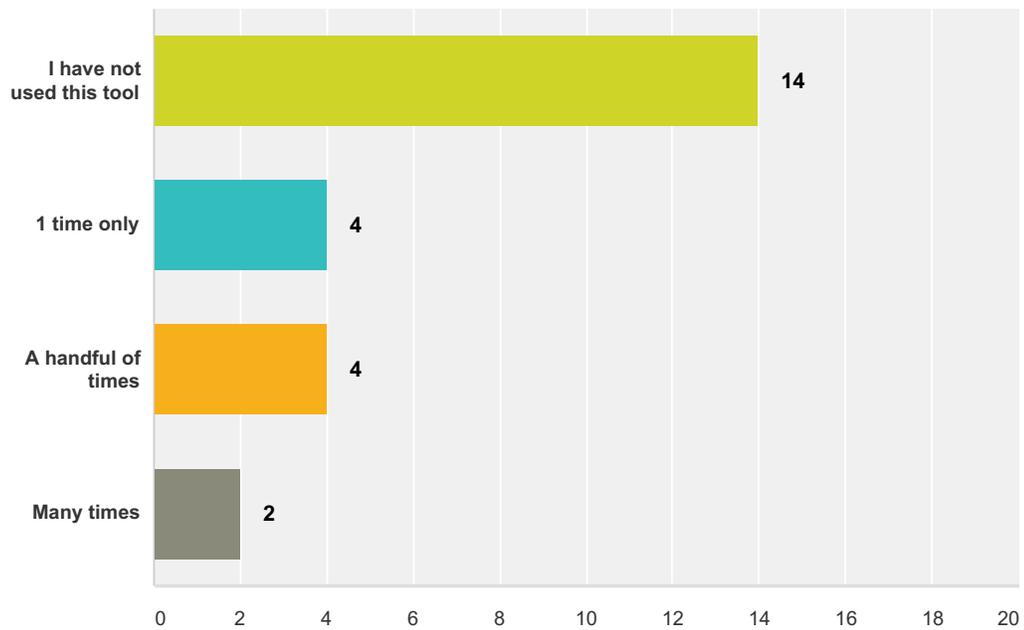
	I am not at all comfortable with the idea of a common tool for this purpose	I am somewhat comfortable with the idea of a common tool for this purpose	I am very comfortable with the idea of a common tool for this purpose	I do not have enough information to answer	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	6.25% 2	37.50% 12	46.88% 15	9.38% 3	32	2.45

#	Comments welcome:	Date
1	I dispute the relevance of this question. The introduction states that the use of a common tool is a requirement, i.e. that it is mandatory and non-negotiable, and therefore requests that a specific tool (the VI-SPDAT and F-SPDAT) be evaluated as a possible tool to fulfill this requirement. This question asks how we feel "in general about the idea of all homeless assistance agencies using a common screening or assessment tool" regardless of what particular tool is chosen. This question flatly contradicts the purpose of the survey as it only tells us respondents' subjective feelings concerning the general idea of using a common tool, but this is a moot point because the use of a common tool is a "requirement" regardless of how we may "feel" about it. I would also like to reiterate and highlight that S. 578.7 of the CoC Program Interim Rule clearly states that "The Continuum of Care must...establish and operate either a centralized or coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services." It is not an efficient use of time and resources to debate how we feel about doing something that is clearly and categorically mandated by HUD.	1/6/2015 4:59 PM
2	Without common HMIS platform it may be a challenge	1/6/2015 3:37 PM

3	As long as coordinated entry is created with the interest of the folks it serves in mind I think this could be a very powerful tool. There is a risk in regards to protecting personal information, but that information can be protected if done correctly. Matching someone's level of need to an agency's available services is mutually beneficial and can increase the efficacy of care for programs throughout the entire continuum.	1/6/2015 1:45 PM
4	We need to have a way to better coordinate housing placement efforts, and a common assessment tool is central to that effort.	1/5/2015 11:28 AM
5	The tool should address domestic violence as a cause of homelessness and the unique needs this population has with regard to housing and support services.	1/5/2015 11:26 AM
6	I think that using a common tool to evaluate the level and type of help "needed" by persons experiencing homelessness to regain stability in permanent housing has the potential to be helpful when it comes to allocating resources that are too limited to help all service seekers. It can be hard for direct service staff to be objective when considering what order clients should be helped in, and a common tool would eliminate the guesswork. People are not numbers, though, and any tool runs the risk of dehumanizing clients and "flattening" the context of each person being served. In addition, the tool will likely fail to take into account the uniqueness of the community the service seekers live in.	12/5/2014 11:56 AM
7	I am not sure that I am comfortable with the specific VI-SPDAT and F-SPDAT tools and how they are conducted. I think we would need a high level of training to correlate with the intrusive nature of many of the questions. I think we need to all analyze the tool and give input into the questions needed and the way we are asking questions and setting expectations for clients.	12/4/2014 2:08 PM
8	We have put substantial effort into developing an intake process that meets the needs of many varied funding sources, both private and public. Through our experience with our Housing Review Team, I understand that many of our partners use widely varying intakes and applications. I'm frankly doubtful, given the climate of our CoC, that a tool such as this would do anything other than add yet another layer (or more) of data collection, input, and management to our process. This tends to take away valuable staff time from working with those in need and increases administrative desk time. I'm not yet convinced that a common tool would allow those responsible for the administration and the outcomes of grant funding enough control over the process. The CHG grant as currently administered is a prime example of greater input from many grantees and non-grantees hampering a successful program.	12/4/2014 1:21 PM
9	A common assessment would require a functional HMIS and someone to oversee it. We are so far from having that as a reality that a common assessment tool would just be another step that direct service staff would need to take. Until the COC is able to outline clearly how they will collect the data, organize it, and actually use it to house people I don't see how this could work.	12/4/2014 12:57 PM
10	I'm sure the survey is a way to evaluate the "vulnerability" of the homeless population. I'm glad the volunteers were able to sit down with my clients and others and get to know them. However, I have an issue with the overarching system. The people who work directly with the homeless population need to be more involved because life is not a check list or a list of survey questions. While I'm glad to see some systematic objectivity making its way through, we have to keep in mind that we work in a very "subjective" field. Those who deserve housing vouchers should not be determined by a 20 minute survey, but rather by truly becoming acquainted with their present, past, and future. It is my opinion that interpersonal relationships trump surveys, 10/10 times.	12/4/2014 10:23 AM
11	Who would hold the data, for how long, and to what point or purpose	12/4/2014 8:44 AM

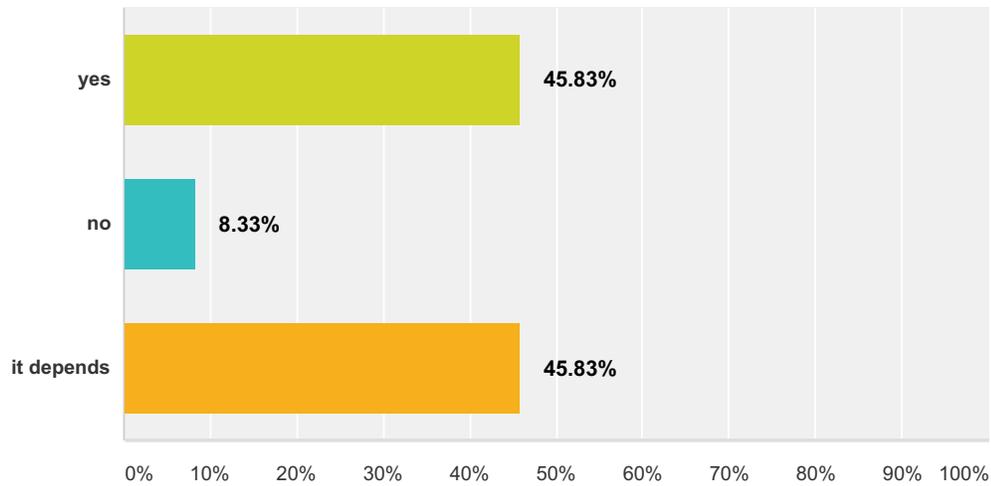
Q3 We need your opinion about the VI-SPDAT and F-SPDAT tools whether you have used them in the past or not, but we also want to understand whether people answering the survey have experience with the tools. Have you used the VI-SPDAT or F-SPDAT tools? If so, about how many times have you used it?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 8



Q4 Would the VI-/F-SPDAT tools be appropriate for use with the population you serve?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 8

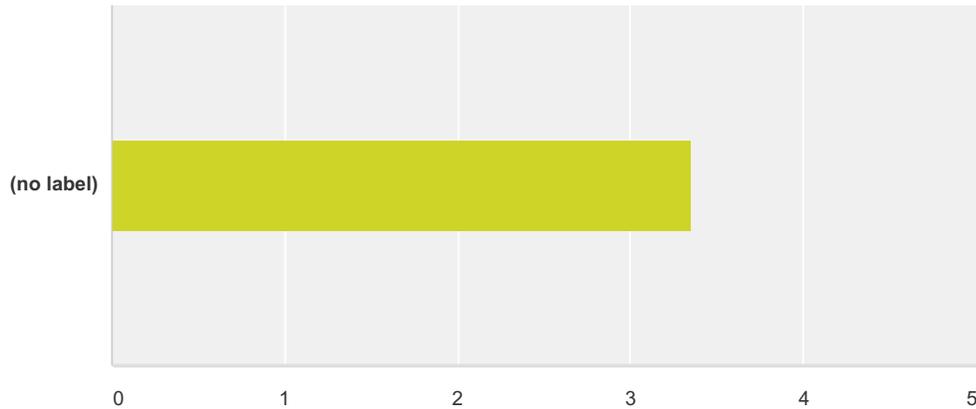


#	Please explain:	Date
1	In my professional experience and according to practices in other communities, the VI-/F-SPDAT is an excellent tool. It fulfills all the major criteria for choosing a standardized assessment tool. See http://www.clarityhumanservices.com/2014/08/vi-spdatt-standardized-assessment-tool-choice/	1/6/2015 4:59 PM
2	Not as an coordinated assessment tool but perhaps a more formal in depth tool.	1/6/2015 3:41 PM
3	Many of the questions are invasive, particularly those dealing with sex and alcohol/drug use. This might be a helpful tool after several months when a relationship is already established with a client. If it's part of the first few encounters, it's likely that the answers will be false or the conversation will be shut down completely.	1/5/2015 1:03 PM
4	It would help us identify the type of housing (i.e., supportive or not, intensity of support) that might be appropriate placements within our housing portfolio.	1/5/2015 11:34 AM
5	Not sure. I serve families who may be chronically homeless but usually are not on the streets or camping.	12/8/2014 11:12 AM
6	I think that finding a common tool to use to gauge the acuity of my clients' homelessness is as useful as putting a bandaid on a gunshot wound. Burlington (and Vermont as a whole) has such a massive problem with grossly inflated housing costs that don't reflect what average citizens earn in a month and far too little vacant housing for the people that can actually afford to live somewhere. As a result, I don't believe that the tool would work for the vast majority of our clients that are not chronically homeless (yet) and are experiencing homelessness due to the simple lack of affordable housing. Rather than finding a way to make it easier to help a small amount of people find housing in our broken system, let's work on fixing the system.	12/5/2014 3:23 PM
7	It would be useful for the very vulnerable populations I serve perhaps. It really depends on what we are going to be doing with the tool and how it may impact our eligibility requirements for clients who come in and are in need of assistance.	12/4/2014 2:20 PM
8	I have not used this tool because after studying it prior to its use in the 100K 'campaign' I do not believe that it at all resembles a good tool. On the family tool, questions 3-13, 15, 18, and 19 are intrusive, rude and do not align with trauma informed practices or motivational interviewing best practices. Questions 20,34,42,49 are sneaky and subjective. The answers to these questions are unreliable because they assume that the person doing the observation is a clinician, substance abuse, health, or mental health professional. These questions do not even appear to align to HUD guidelines as there is no option for the respondent to answer 'Don't Know'. Questions 35-42 may not be aligned with recovery and addiction practices. 51 contains a grammatical error (on the copy I have) and Question 54 is judgmental.	12/4/2014 1:56 PM

9	All the other programs and funding sources that we use require a separate application which collect some of the data elements outlined in the SPDAT. Adding another assessment tool without some give from these other application processes will add additional work on the direct service level and unless there is a clear outcome for those filling out the tool, I struggle to see how we could get buy in from direct service staff to complete the tool.	12/4/2014 1:09 PM
10	I need more education on the tool itself before making a decision.	12/4/2014 10:26 AM
11	some of the questions are very intrusive. I would like us to create one with input from service providers AND CLIENTS	12/4/2014 8:54 AM
12	Too many invasive questions	12/3/2014 8:36 PM

Q5 How useful do you think the VI-/F-SPDAT tools would be at helping to determine the level and type of services and assistance someone might need to regain stability in permanent housing?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 9



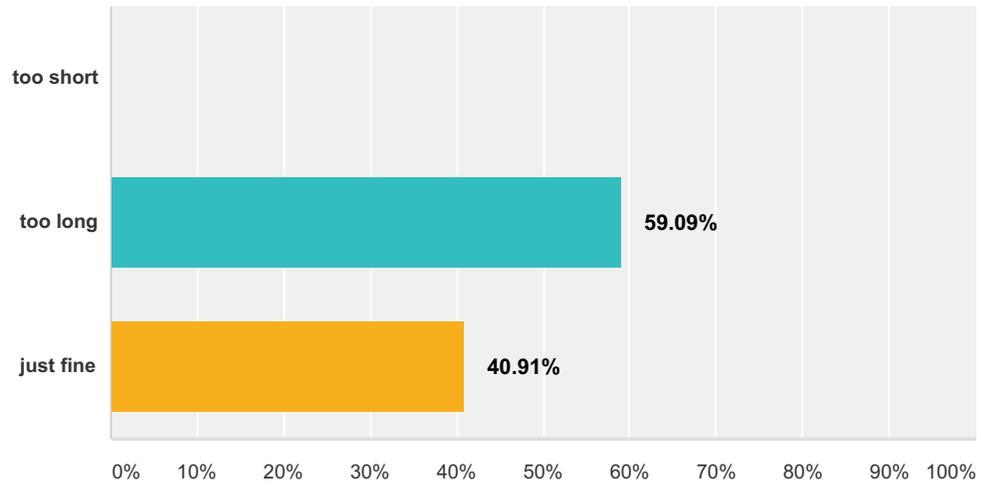
	not at all useful	a little useful	somewhat useful	very useful	extremely useful	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	8.70%	17.39%	30.43%	17.39%	26.09%	23	3.35
	2	4	7	4	6		

#	Comments	Date
1	The VI-/F-SPDAT uses a housing first frame which is what HUD calls for. It is very useful in triaging respondents for housing and services. It could be complemented by the full SPDAT survey. See http://www.orgcode.com/product/spdat/	1/6/2015 4:59 PM
2	It is a vulnerability tool for chronic homelessness and to determine risk of dying in streets, I think many folks we serve are not at that level.	1/6/2015 3:41 PM
3	I don't think this tool is more useful than the typical intakes that are already being used by most homeless service providers in our community.	1/5/2015 1:03 PM
4	I like the way the tool is used to prioritize based on vulnerability. We have a large chronically homeless population that really needs permanent supportive housing.	12/16/2014 1:30 PM
5	Other than standardizing data I'm not sure ow the tool can be of further help - never used the tool and have limited working knowledge.	12/8/2014 3:40 PM
6	I only think it could be useful if either a) we're planning to resign to the system as is and want to make it easier to pick a few "winners" to benefit from the scarce services we have or b) we get statistical proof of how many people are homeless only because there is nowhere affordable for them to live.	12/5/2014 3:23 PM
7	I think it is useful in understanding their needs and what resources in the community they should be directed to that best meet their needs. It can address a range of needed supports. In terms of assistance and rehousing it does not feel to be that useful.	12/4/2014 2:20 PM
8	It will be helpful in assessing crisis needs and seeing a general overview of the struggles that the client is dealing with. Any intake can do this though. This is just one version of an intake tool and many agencies already have a tool in place, which provides this function. I know part of the function of this tool is to rank clients based on need and then house them. Again, this would require a functional HMIS. Many of the vendors out there have the ability to add the SPIDAT to their systems. So it would be a form within a database.	12/4/2014 1:09 PM
9	Again, I need more knowledge.	12/4/2014 10:26 AM

10	It all depends on relationship building. Knowing the person you are dealing with and their strengths and challenges gives you a hands on idea of what some one might need rather than a survey	12/4/2014 8:54 AM
----	--	-------------------

Q6 What do you think of the length of the VI-/F-SPDAT tools?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 10



#	Comments	Date
1	too long and too personal for a common assessment(screening) tool.	1/6/2015 3:41 PM
2	It is long but I think the information it is capturing is important for the measurement. It might benefit from being broken into sections with the most important ones first so that the most relevant information is captured early on.	1/6/2015 1:55 PM
3	If it is used properly, it only takes about 10 minutes.	12/16/2014 1:30 PM
4	don't know. haven't seen it and I can't open your link to look at it.	12/8/2014 11:12 AM
5	I think they are intrusive and WAYYYY too long. I also think they run the risk of retraumatizing an already traumatized population by causing someone to potentially have to discuss an intense amount of negative characteristics of their lives right in a row.	12/5/2014 3:23 PM
6	Very intrusive and personal, however. There is not the space for clients to elaborate on their answers, which feels offensive and lacks compassion.	12/4/2014 2:20 PM
7	It is not trauma informed to first meet someone and go into the issues that are outlined in this tool. If we do go down this road, I think there would be extensive training needed to teach staff how to administer this tool in a way that is supportive. It is not ethical to ask someone if they have engaged in sex work and have them say yes and then not address that at all.	12/4/2014 1:09 PM

Q7 Do you have any thoughts about what kind of questions are missing from these tools that would be important for understanding the level and type of services and assistance someone needs to regain stability in permanent housing?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 20

#	Responses	Date
1	Questions about abuse during homelessness would be helpful.	1/6/2015 4:59 PM
2	no	1/6/2015 3:41 PM
3	It would be helpful to ask what the participant wants out of this survey. Do they want housing? Do they want support in their current situation? This can help inform the way their needs are assessed.	1/6/2015 1:55 PM
4	I don't think there are missing questions. There are too many and the relevant ones just duplicate what we already ask as part of intake for most shelters and case management services.	1/5/2015 1:03 PM
5	Factors that affect eligibility for federal rental assistance won't always be picked up - and shouldn't be - on the tools, though they will affect housing options.	1/5/2015 11:34 AM
6	Not at this time.	12/16/2014 1:30 PM
7	no	12/8/2014 11:12 AM
8	I think we should ensure we have ample affordable housing before we try to determine who is in most need of assistance.	12/5/2014 3:23 PM
9	I think there could be better questions asked in better understanding their current period of homelessness and how they came to be in the situation that they are in. This helps to avoid the same thing from happening again. I think that we also need to gage their willingness to meet with service providers or continue to work with someone for long periods of time.	12/4/2014 2:20 PM
10	This tool is designed as a vulnerability index -whether a person is likely to die on the streets -and does at all address income, or any issues about regaining or retaining housing. It does not allow for consideration of housing track record or give an opportunity to a person to tell their story or, perhaps most importantly, to be listened to.	12/4/2014 1:56 PM
11	No	12/4/2014 1:09 PM
12	I would ask the clients	12/4/2014 8:54 AM

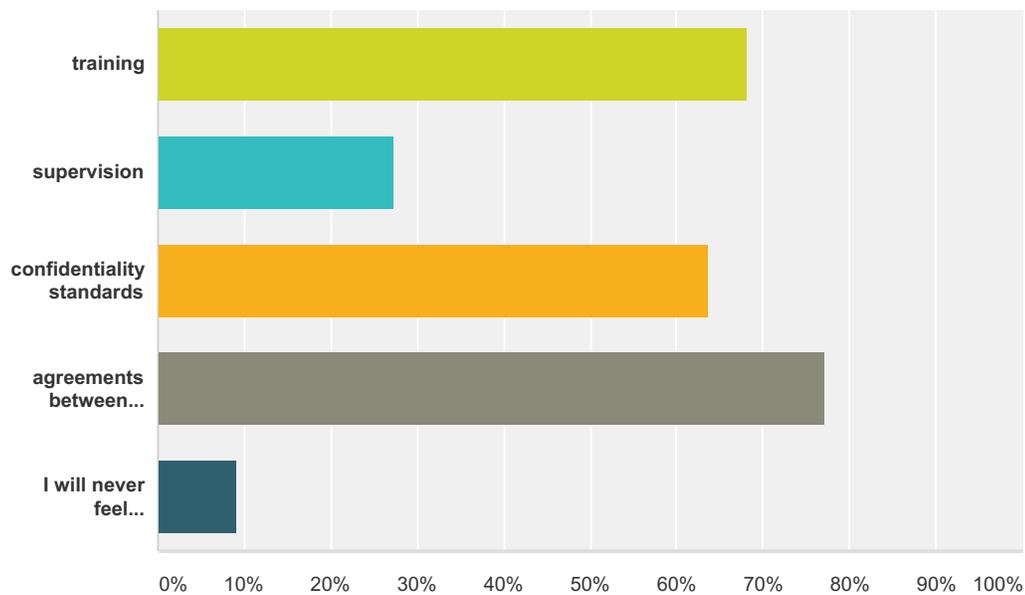
Q8 Any comments on what you like about either of these tools?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 23

#	Responses	Date
1	I like the fact that the VI-SPDAT is an evidence-based tool, implemented with demonstrated success in over 100 communities across the nation and developed and tested under extensive review and and rigorous evaluation.	1/6/2015 4:59 PM
2	It is an assessment tool not a screening tool	1/6/2015 3:41 PM
3	I think one challenge will be capturing accurate information in the first few questions about xy or z "in the past six months." I have experienced folks having a hard time with these kind of timelines. Sometimes having these questions presented with one month at a time... Such as "This month have you done x?" "When was the last time you did do x?" and even referencing things like the changing weather to help create a timeline. Six months is a long time to recall how many encounters someone has had, no matter what their situation might be. This kind of language can be covered if there is a training available on how to use the survey.	1/6/2015 1:55 PM
4	These SPADT tools have significant risk of souring the first encounter with clients, making them feel defensive or uneasy. I would be especially reluctant to use them with veterans. Or those who've experienced sexual assault. During a recent 100,000 Homes event, many people who did the SPADT forms told shelter staff that they just made up the answers because they wanted the Dunkin' Donuts gift cards. It would be far better to use a tool that doesn't risk getting truthful answers.	1/5/2015 1:03 PM
5	I like the fact that they've been used in so many other communities.	1/5/2015 11:34 AM
6	I have done work in the past that used some of these tools' predecessors to select clients that could benefit from Housing First as an intervention to curb excessive use of the emergency department at a major hospital in Boston. I have seen first hand how important and life changing this kind of service can be and absolutely want to see more of it. I do not, however, feel that it is a solution to homelessness in Burlington. It could help address chronic homelessness but would potentially impede true systemic change that would help prevent and solve large portions of the homelessness that our community is experiencing.	12/5/2014 3:23 PM
7	Very good baseline information	12/4/2014 6:23 PM
8	I do not like these tools.	12/4/2014 1:56 PM
9	paper vs people	12/4/2014 8:54 AM

Q9 What would you need to feel comfortable using these tools?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses
training	68.18% 15
supervision	27.27% 6
confidentiality standards	63.64% 14
agreements between agencies (about how the data will be used or shared)	77.27% 17
I will never feel comfortable using these tools	9.09% 2
Total Respondents: 22	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	The VI-SPDAT is very intuitive and easy to administer with basic training. OrgCode provides a basic manual for it: http://www.orgcode.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/VI-SPDAT-Manual-2014-v1.pdf	1/6/2015 4:59 PM
2	and the right conditions to ask folks, this is not a screening tool.	1/6/2015 3:41 PM
3	I would need to understand why this is better than the intakes that most providers already use.	1/5/2015 1:03 PM
4	Perhaps an MOU among agencies?	12/8/2014 3:40 PM
5	I have a general concern about the survey because it seeks to capture info on people who are on the streets or camping. I think this emphasis highlights the people the general public thinks of when the picture someone homeless and looks good for politicians who want to be seen as doing something about the issue but ignores the vast majority of individuals and families who double up with friends, stay in hotels, are in shelters.	12/8/2014 11:12 AM
6	A light at the end of the tunnel! I would feel comfortable using these tools if there was housing available once they told us who needs housing the most!	12/5/2014 3:23 PM

7	Unfortunately I am not sure how I feel about this specific tool. Perhaps if it was significantly reworded and conducted differently I would feel more comfortable. Certainly I would need all of the other items above too, particularly training and confidentiality.	12/4/2014 2:20 PM
8	This is huge undertaking and I worry that much like 100,000 homes the tool will begin to be used before the other 200 steps are in place. From a service provider perspective it was hard to see the registry week happen and then see little to no followup after that. I wouldn't want to use it in my program until all the steps above were completed.	12/4/2014 1:09 PM
9	client input	12/4/2014 8:54 AM
10	Fewer invasive questions	12/3/2014 8:36 PM