



# Housing as Healthcare

Navigating the Intersection for Emergency  
Medicine

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Disclosures

None

## Objectives

- Understand the correlation between stable housing and patient health outcomes, including how housing insecurity can exacerbate chronic health conditions and impact emergency department utilization.
- Explore the role of emergency physicians in identifying and addressing housing-related health issues, emphasizing the importance of social determinants of health in emergency medicine practice.
- Evaluate community-based interventions and partnerships between healthcare providers and housing services, discussing strategies for emergency physicians to advocate for and support patients in securing stable housing.





People experiencing homelessness are consumed with finding shelter and food, which means that health care is at best a secondary concern.

## Definition of Homelessness

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided. The only significant change from existing practice is that people will be considered homeless if they are exiting an institution where they resided for up to 90 days (it was previously 30 days), and were in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering that institution.

## Definition of Homelessness

- People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing. HUD had previously allowed people who were being displaced within 7 days to be considered homeless. The proposed regulation also describes specific documentation requirements for this category.

## Definition of Homelessness

- Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state. This is a new category of homelessness, and it applies to families with children or unaccompanied youth who have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment.

## Definition of Homelessness

- People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. This category is similar to the current practice regarding people who are fleeing domestic violence.

## Fast Facts - Homelessness

On a single night in 2023, 653,104 people were experiencing homelessness.

143,105 individuals experience chronic homelessness on any given night.

32% of people who experienced homelessness had SMI (serious mental illness).

While only one in 12 people in the U.S. has a diagnosed substance use disorder, one in five people experiencing homelessness suffer from a substance use disorder.

Schizophrenia affects less than 1 percent of the general U.S. population, but some estimates suggest that up to 20 percent of people experiencing homelessness are living with the disorder.

Veterans who seek medical treatment for opioid use disorders are 10 times more likely to experience homelessness than the general veteran population.

People experiencing homelessness and overdose on opioids are nine times more likely to die than their stably housed counterparts.

## Characteristics of the Unhoused

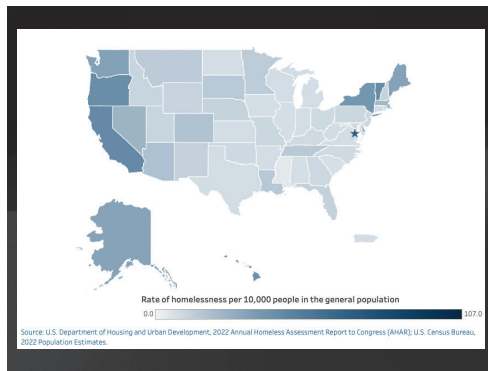
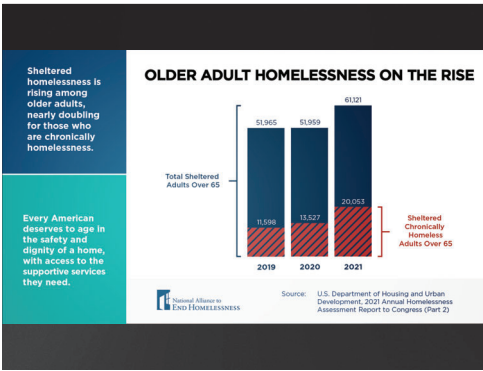
**Age Distribution:** The sheltered homeless population includes about 8% under the age of 18 and 8% aged 65 and over.

**Racial and Ethnic Composition:** This population is composed of 32% non-Hispanic White and 37% non-Hispanic Black individuals. People of color are notably overrepresented in the homeless population compared to their proportions in the general U.S. population.

**Gender Distribution:** Approximately 40% of the sheltered homeless population are female.

**Employment and Education:** About 15% of the adult sheltered homeless population are unemployed, and 61% are not in the labor force. For those over the age of 25, nearly 25% do not have a high school degree, while just over 7% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Health and Disability:** A significant portion, 35%, of the sheltered homeless population have a disability, highlighting the intersection of health issues and homelessness.



HOUSING

By W. David Bradford and Felipe Lozano-Rojas

# Higher Rates Of Homelessness Are Associated With Increases In Mortality From Accidental Drug And Alcohol Poisonings

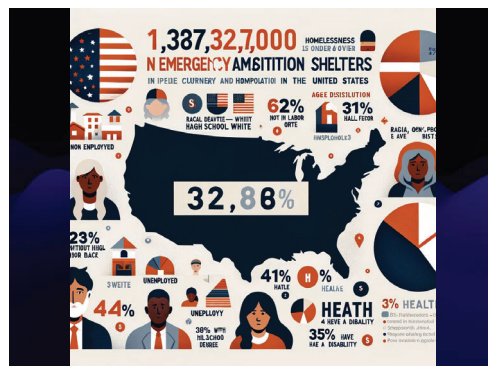
JAMA Network | **Open.**

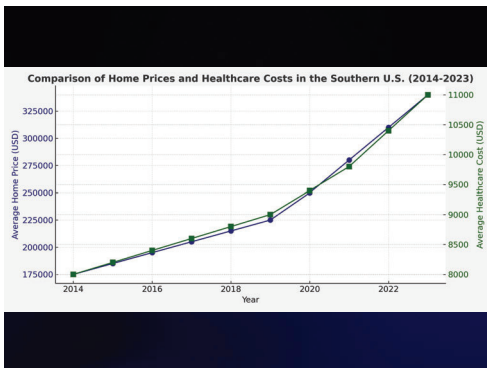
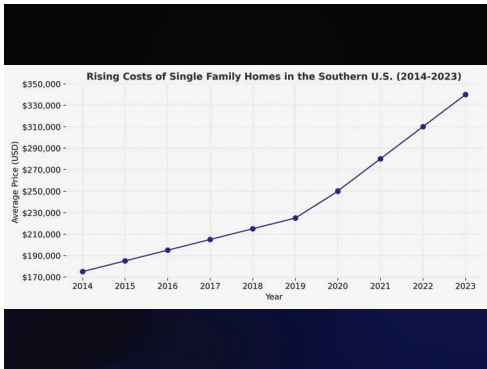
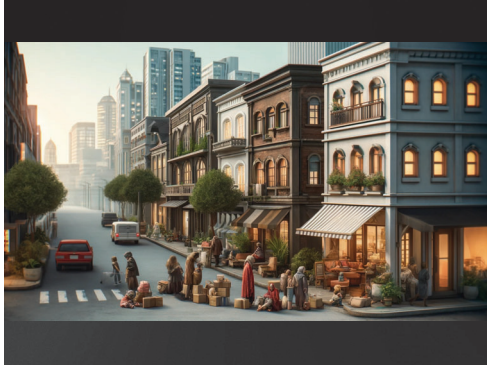
Original Investigation | Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

## Characteristics and Health Care Utilization of Patients With Housing Insecurity in the ED

Madeleine A. Z. Ball, BS; Daniel E. Sack, MD, PhD; Sophia A. Druffner, BA, MEd; Ian Jones, MD; Jesse O. Wrenn, MD, PhD; Mitchell M. Sexton, BS, MBA; Marybeth Shinn, PhD; Jennifer J. Hess, MD

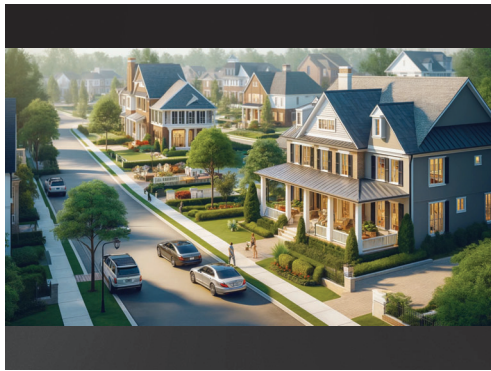
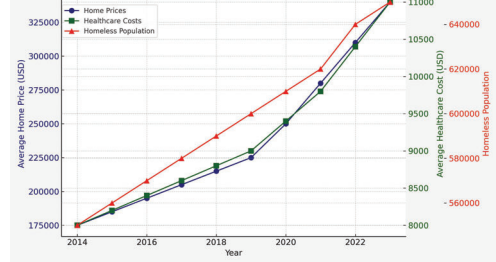
5% Housing instability  
Male, uninsured, SMI







is in Home Prices, Healthcare Costs, and Homelessness in the Southern U.S. (2014-2023)



What can we do?



**HOUSING**

By Cheyenne Garcia, Kelly Doran, and Margot Kushel

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**OVERVIEW**  
**Homelessness And Health:  
Factors, Evidence, Innovations  
That Work, And Policy  
Recommendations**

HOUSING

By Katie Huber, Raman Nohria, Vibhav Nandagiri, Rebecca Whitaker, Yolande Pokam Tchuisseu, Nicholas Pylpyiw, Meaghan Denison, Brianna Van Stekelenburg, Amanda Van Vleet, Maria Ramirez Perez, Madlyn C. Morreale, Andrea Thouni, Michelle Lyn, Robert S. Saunders, and William K. Bleser

## Addressing Housing-Related Social Needs Through Medicaid: Lessons From North Carolina's Healthy Opportunities Pilots Program

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By Mariana C. Arcaya, Ingrid Gould Ellen, and Justin Stell

OVERVIEW

## Neighborhoods And Health: Interventions At The Neighborhood Level Could Help Advance Health Equity

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By MaryCatherine Arbour, Placidina Fico, Sidney Atwood, Na Yu, Lynn Hur, Maahika Srinivasan, and Richard Gitomer

## Primary Care-Based Housing Program Reduced Outpatient Visits; Patients Reported Mental And Physical Health Benefits

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By Mir M. Ali, Ashley C. Bradford, and Johanna Catherine Maclean

## **TennCare Disenrollment Led To Increased Eviction Filings And Evictions In Tennessee Relative To Other Southern States**



HOUSING

By Devlin Hanson and Sarah Gillespie

## **'Housing First' Increased Psychiatric Care Office Visits And Prescriptions While Reducing Emergency Visits**



## Effects of California's New Patient Homelessness Screening and Discharge Care Law in an Emergency Department

McKenzie Eakin<sup>1</sup>, Vania Singleterry<sup>2</sup>, Ewen Wang<sup>3</sup>, Ian Brown<sup>3</sup>, Olga Saynina<sup>4</sup>, Rebecca Walker<sup>3</sup>

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## Taking Action

- The voice of healthcare is powerful
- Collaborate with our allies - mental health providers and law enforcement
- Screen for SDOH and connect to community resources
- **Support Housing First Initiatives**
  - Advocate for affordable housing

