Health Equity for People Experiencing Homelessness

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NHCHC Mission

Grounded in human rights and social justice, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council’s mission is to build an equitable, high-quality health care system through training, research and advocacy in the movement to end homelessness.
Homelessness and Health

- Higher prevalence of physical illness, psychiatric disease, and substance abuse
  - Drug overdose is greatest cause of death
    - 8-9 times higher mortality rate compared to general population
- Unsheltered:
  - Unsheltered homeless 2-4 times more likely to die than sheltered homeless
  - 15 times more likely to die than general population
  - Average age of death of unsheltered people is 20-30 years younger than general population

Health problems cause homelessness

Homelessness complicates treatment and recovery

Connection between Homelessness and Health

Homelessness causes health problems
Homelessness in the United States

580,466 People experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2020.1

Housing Status

- People in Families, Sheltered: 36%
- People in Families, Unsheltered: 3%
- Individuals, Sheltered: 34%
- Individuals, Unsheltered: 27%

Race

- White: 40%
- African American: 36%
- Asian: 3%
- Native American: 2%
- Pacific Islander: 1%
- Multiple Races: 6%

Gender

- Male: 60.7%
- Female: 38.5%
- Transgender: 0.8%
Definition of Equity

Some Ways to Get Closer

Universal:
- Health Care
- Housing

Tailored:
- Special Services
- Special Outreach
- And ??