



CHICAGO  
STREET  
MEDICINE

# Suboptimal Healthcare for the Homeless

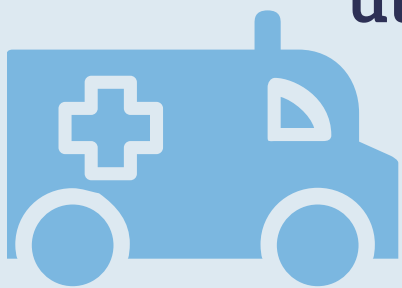
High rates of leaving against medical advice

**9.3%**  
leave AMA

9.3% of homeless patients leave the hospital AMA, compared with the national average of 1.3%.



Homelessness is one of the greatest predictors of Emergency Department (ED) super-utilization



Homeless persons are 3x more likely than members of the general public to use ED services  $\geq 1x$  per year.

ED Use:  
**3x**  
greater odds

30-day Hospital Readmission

**4x**  
greater risk



Within 30 days of leaving the hospital, >20% of homeless patients were readmitted, compared to 7% among matched controls.

Average Cost  
**\$13,800**

## Stigma and Judgment

*"I didn't feel like a ... person, I just felt like I was part of their job and they shoved me through. Get me in and out as fast as they can. A kind of process."*

(Nickasch and Marnocha, 2009)

# References

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- 4) Nickasch, Bonnie, and Suzanne K. Marnocha. (2009). "Healthcare Experiences of the Homeless." *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*.
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