



# Health of the Homeless

## SICK ON THE STREETS

People experiencing homelessness have significantly worse health than the general population.

## Life Expectancy

**79 years**

Average life expectancy of the general US population in 2018

**47 years**

Estimates of life expectancy for the chronically homeless range from 42-52 years

---

## Greater Disease Burden

### ON THE STREETS THERE IS...

**10x**

Greater prevalence of Hepatitis C, HIV, and Tuberculosis

**5x**

Greater rates of Serious Mental Illness

**5x**

Greater rates of substance use disorder

**10x**

Greater rate of Suicidal Ideation

---

## Poorer Disease Control

**50%**

With Hep C on the streets are unaware of their infection.

**40%**

Rate of uncontrolled hypertension among the homeless, compared to 20% among the general population.

**4x**

Greater HIV Viral load among the homeless population.



# References

1) Bernstein, Rebecca S., et al. (2015). "Diabetes and Hypertension Prevalence in Homeless Adults in the United States: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." *American Journal of Public Health*.

2) Chen, Nadine E., et al. (2011). "Adherence to HIV Treatment and Care Among Previously Homeless Jail Detainees." *AIDS and Behavior*.

3) Gelberg, Lillian, et al. (2012). "Prevalence, Distribution, and Correlates of Hepatitis C Virus Infection among Homeless Adults in Los Angeles." *Public Health Reports*.

4) Greenberg GA, Rosenheck RA. (2010). "Mental health correlates of past homelessness in the National Comorbidity Study Replication." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

5) Grief, Samuel Neil, and John Paul Miller. (2017). "Infectious Disease Issues in Underserved Populations." *Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice*.

6) Martens WH. (2001). "A review of physical and mental health in homeless persons." *Public Health Reviews*.

7) McQuiston HL, Felix AD, Samuels J. Serving people who have mental illness and homelessness. In: Tasman A, Kay J, Lieberman JA, First MB, Maj M, editors. *Psychiatry. 3rd ed.* Chichester, England: John Wiley & Sons; 2008. pp. 2526–2537.

8) "Mental Health By the Numbers." NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2018.

9) Strehlow, Aaron J., et al. (2012). "Hepatitis C among Clients of Health Care for the Homeless Primary Care Clinics." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

10) Thompson, Ronald G., et al. (2013). "Substance-Use Disorders and Poverty as Prospective Predictors of First-Time Homelessness in the United States." *American Journal of Public Health*.