Health Care for the Homeless: An Aging Demographic 2006 to 2010

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Background: Health Care for the Homeless medically cares for and collects data about homeless patients. Objectives: To study demographics, health care needs unique to the rapidly growing elderly female population. Methods: De-identified surveys completed at 300 national clinics. Results: Increase in elderly females. Improved illness, cancer screen, but still below national averages. Conclusion: Subset is susceptible to age, gender-related disease, mental health illness, lack of coping skills and poor resources.

Methods
- Data collected by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) and reported to the Uniform Data Systems (UDS).
- Data collected in de-identified surveys and published in aggregate annual, national reports.
- Frequencies of key demographic variables and diagnostic, preventative health variables examined across 2010 and 2020.
- Data were compared graphically and statistically using non-parametric Chi-square tests.

Results
- Elderly homeless population is increasing; elderly females rising more rapidly than males.
- Elderly female population has unique co-morbidities of chronic disease, age-related cognitive impairment and frailty, mental illness, and gender-related disease.
- Trends of increased mammograms, pap tests, diabetes, hypertension, mental illness screens, but still well below national averages.
- Fewer patients living in homeless shelters, on the street; more in transitional living facilities, doubled-up.
- Fewer patients uninsured; more Medicaid, Medicare, other public and private insurance.

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