

Introduction

- Unhoused individuals encounter SUD at **significantly higher rates (40.8%)** compared to housed populations (18.8%)¹
- In 2022, **approximately 69%** of unhoused individuals reported chronic substance use²
- Unhoused individuals with SUD **reported lower quality of life** than those without SUD, and those with the lowest quality of life scores had the highest rates of SUD³

Aims

The goal of this narrative review was to **characterize the effect of homelessness on barriers to substance use treatment access and engagement**

Methods

Structured search

Defined search terms and defined inclusion/exclusion criteria

263 studies

Exclusion for relevance

58 studies

Exclusion for incorrect outcome/patient population

Final N=35 studies included in review

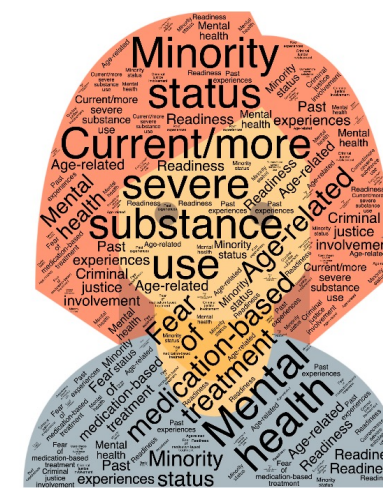
Results

Frequency of Barriers by Domain

Treatment Center-related



Individual



Environmental



Overall Frequency of Barriers



Conclusion

- **Unhoused individuals experience both exacerbated barriers common to housed individuals and face unique barriers specific to their experience of homelessness**
- Ways to mitigate these barriers include **removal of identification requirements, training to reduce stigma**, and development of more **programs that integrate mental health treatment**

References

1. Doran, K. M., Rahai, N., McCormack, R. P., Milian, J., Shelley, D., Rotrosen, J., & Gelberg, L. (2018). Substance use and homelessness among emergency department patients. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 188, 328–333. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.04.021>
2. (2022). (rep.). *HUD 2022 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*. Retrieved August 20, 2023, from https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_NatlTerrDC_2022.pdf.
3. Gentil, L., Grenier, G., Bamvita, J. M., Dorvil, H., & Fleury, M. J. (2019). Profiles of quality of life in a homeless population. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 10, 10.