



A Looming Public Health Crisis: A New Wave of Homelessness



**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**
leaves no one behind.

works for a lasting end to homelessness that

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



Mass unemployment over coronavirus could lead to a 45% jump in homelessness, study finds



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Expected Increase in National Homelessness - Methodology

- [The model](#) used unemployment projections and data on current homelessness using a standard regression developed by Dr. Kevin Corinth in “[The impact of permanent supportive housing on homeless populations](#),” published in the *Journal of Housing Economics* in 2017. Using data on homelessness and unemployment from 2007 to 2009, it found that for every 1% increase in the unemployment rate, homelessness per 10,000 people increased by 0.65.
- The baseline number of people experiencing homelessness was drawn from the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress ([AHAR](#)) [data from January 2019](#) — also known as the point-in-time count — which provides an annual estimate of people experiencing homelessness in the United States, nationally and by state.
- More info and data [at this link](#)

Expected Increase in National Homelessness - Findings

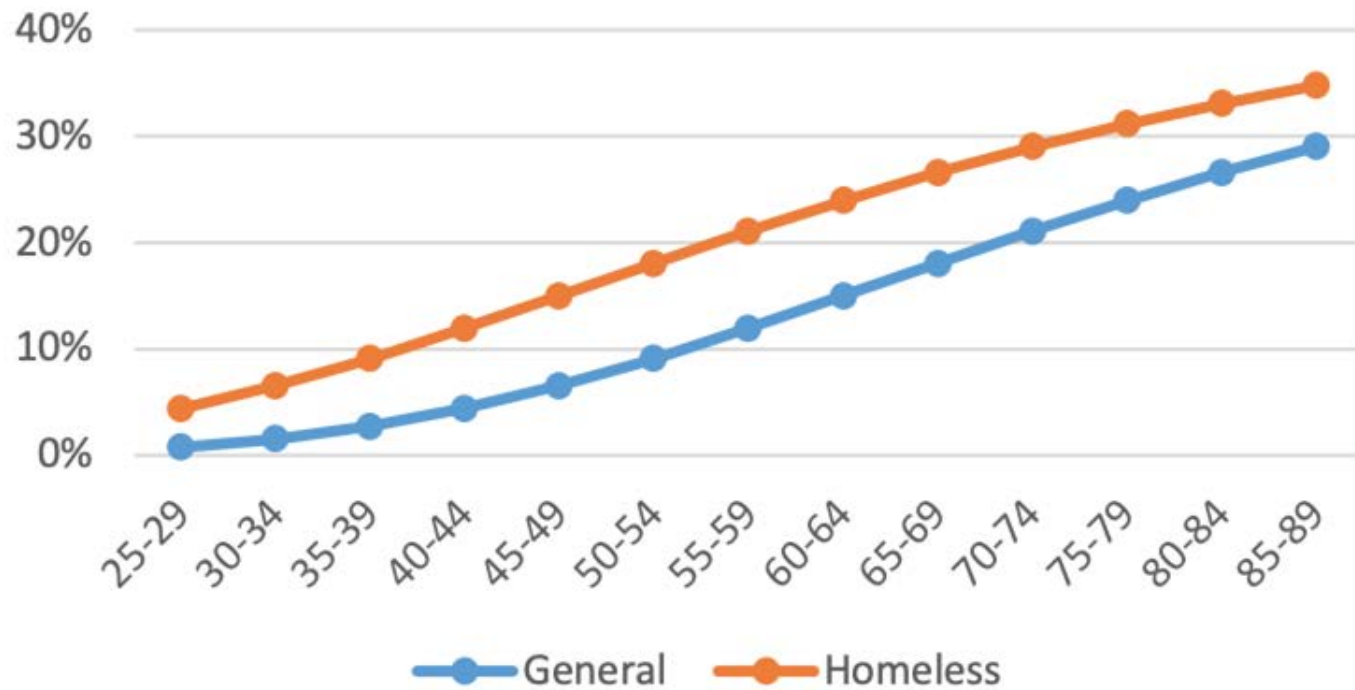
- Analysis conducted by Dr. Brendan O'Flaherty, economist at Columbia University
- Additional 250,000 people nationwide
- Likely to hit Black & Native Americans harder than other groups

Unique challenges increase COVID-19 risk

- **Inability to safely shelter themselves**
- **Inability to self-distance** in crowded shelters
- **Inability to follow hand-washing protocols** in absence of hand-washing stations or access to public bathrooms
- **Pre-existing health risks** including high rates of chronic illness, disability, an aging population and mental illness and addiction
- Extreme disparities in infection and fatality rates among **minority populations**

COVID-19's projected impact on people experiencing homelessness

Panel A: Hospitalization

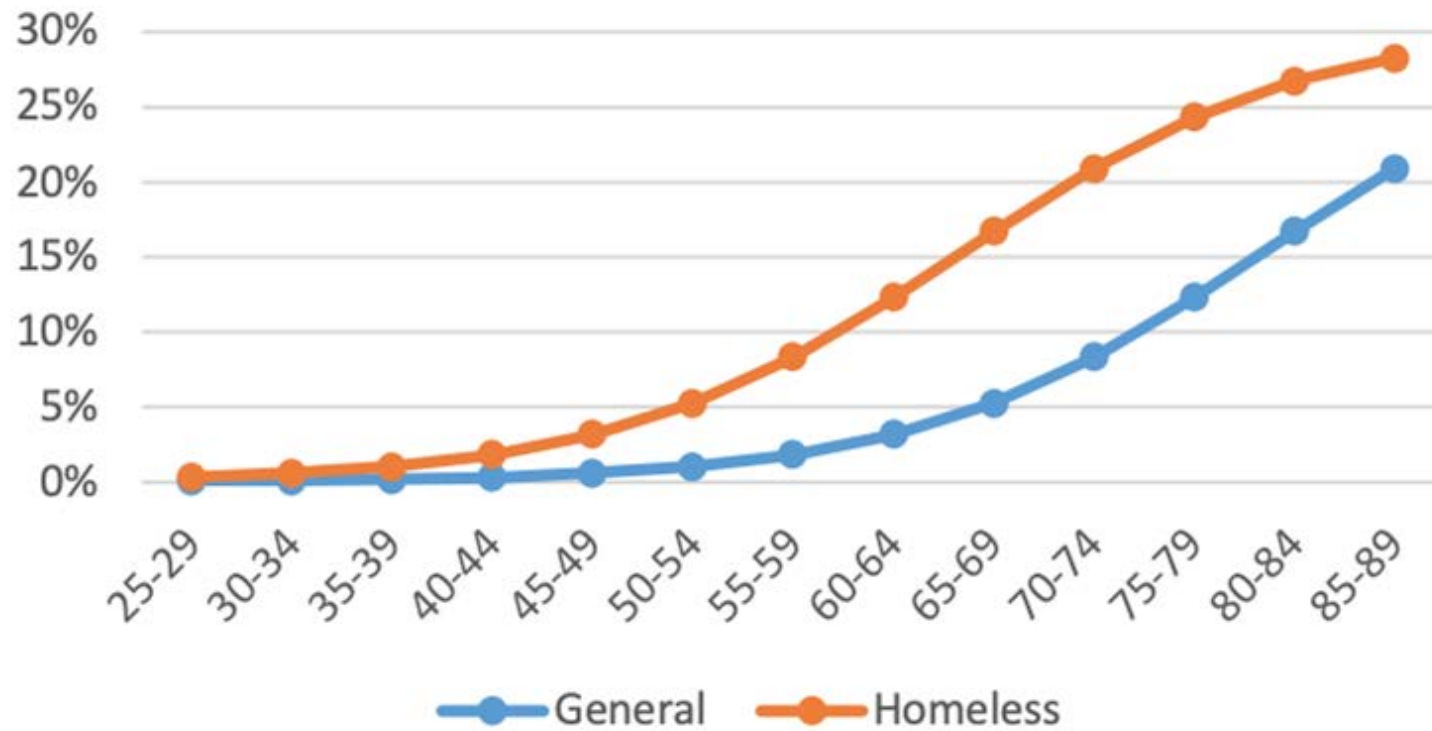


Infected homeless individuals may be twice as likely to be hospitalized.

Source: Dennis Culhane, UPenn

COVID-19's projected impact on people experiencing homelessness

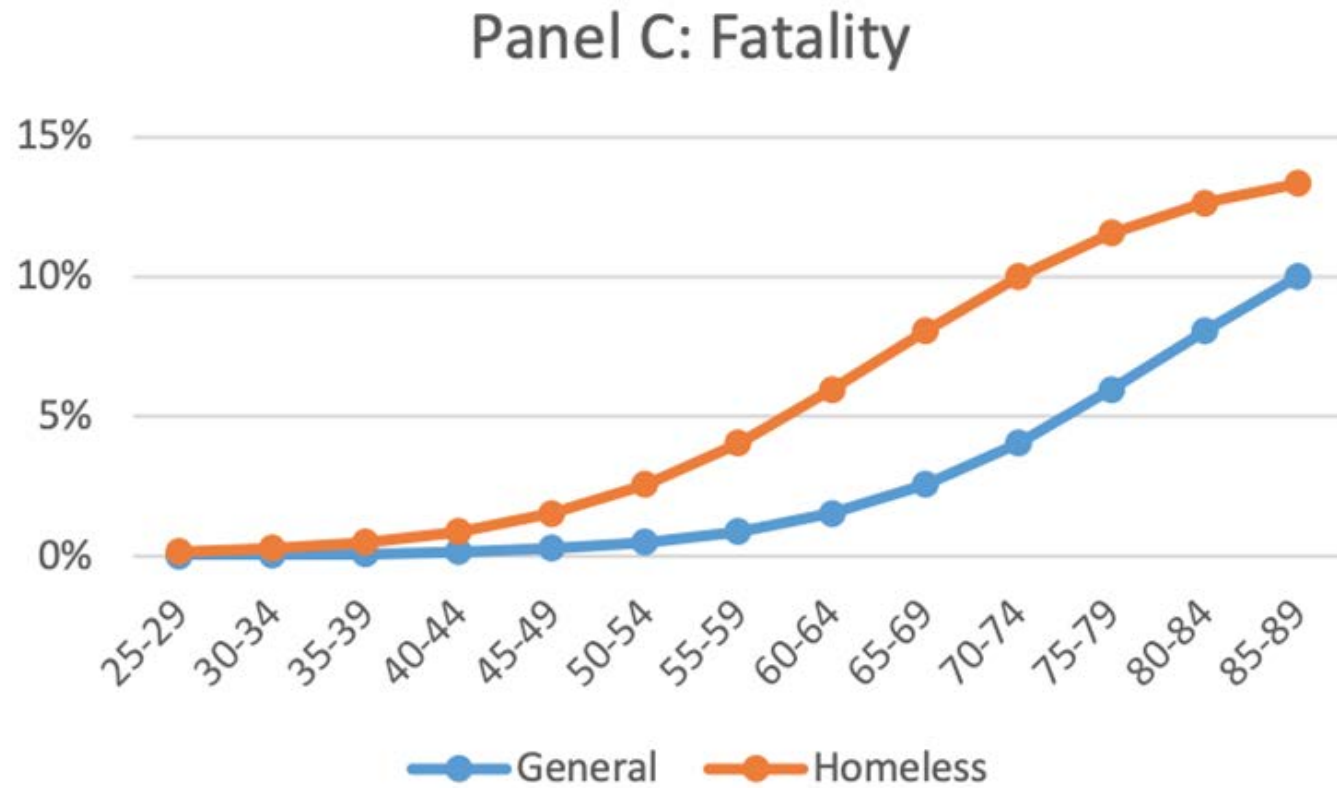
Panel B: Critical Care



Infected homeless individuals will be two to four times as likely to require critical care compared to the general population

Source: Dennis Culhane, UPenn

COVID-19's projected impact on people experiencing homelessness



Infected homeless individuals are predicted to be two to three times as likely to die from COVID-19 as the general population.

Source: Dennis Culhane, UPenn

Looking Upstream: Diverting People from Homelessness

- BfZ Large Cities Cohort capturing immediate diversion strategies during COVID
 - **Diversion** is the most effective inflow reduction strategy we have (disciplined problem solving with people *when* they show up asking for help)
 - Major increases in diversion + prevention dollars
 - VA's SSVF program (53% per community grant)
 - HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant

Looking Upstream: Inflow Mitigation

- Developing long-range inflow mitigation strategy, including key policy ideas:
 - Back rent elimination fund
 - Straight-to-landlord assistance options
 - Expansion of Housing Choice voucher program for low and extremely low income renters
 - Equity-focused implementation lens

Preventing new homelessness

North Hartford, CT

North Hartford Promise Zone

- 24,000 Residents, 73% African American, 24% Latinx
- Pre-COVID-19:
 - Unemployment: 33%
 - Family Poverty Rate: 36%
 - Average Income: \$12,099
- Rates of COVID-19 deaths highest among African American in CT



Stabilizing Housing

- Outreach to neighborhood landlords to mitigate evictions
- Informing residents of rights and sources of assistance
- Laying groundwork for community land trust with initial target of 100 affordable units
- Contributing to “zero inflow” into homelessness initiative



Preventing new homelessness Brownsville, Brooklyn NY

Brownsville

- 90,000 Residents
 - 76% African American
 - 20% Latinx
- Pre-COVID-19
 - Unemployment: 7%
 - Family Poverty: 28%
 - Median Income: \$27,282
- 1,767 cases, 213 deaths



“ For years we’ve known about mold, crowded apartments, poor air quality in public housing. Now those problems are making tenants more vulnerable to the virus.

--Brownsville City Councilmember
Alicka Ampry-Samuels

Supporting Resident-Led Solutions

- United for Brownsville
- Collaborating to meet basic needs
- Brownsville Mutual Aid Network
 - [Resource Guide](#)
- Brownsville Neighborhood Empowerment Network and Community Land Trust

