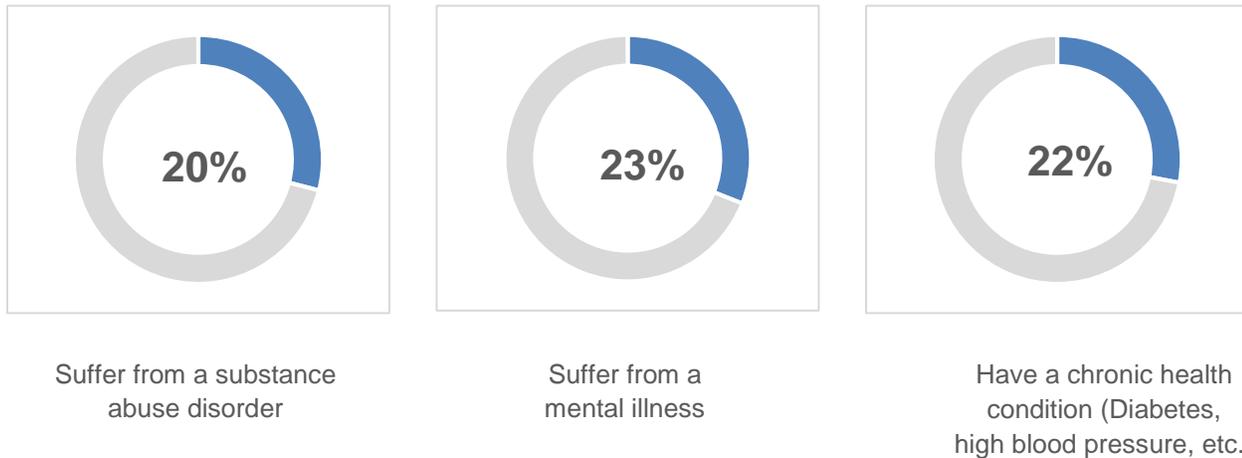




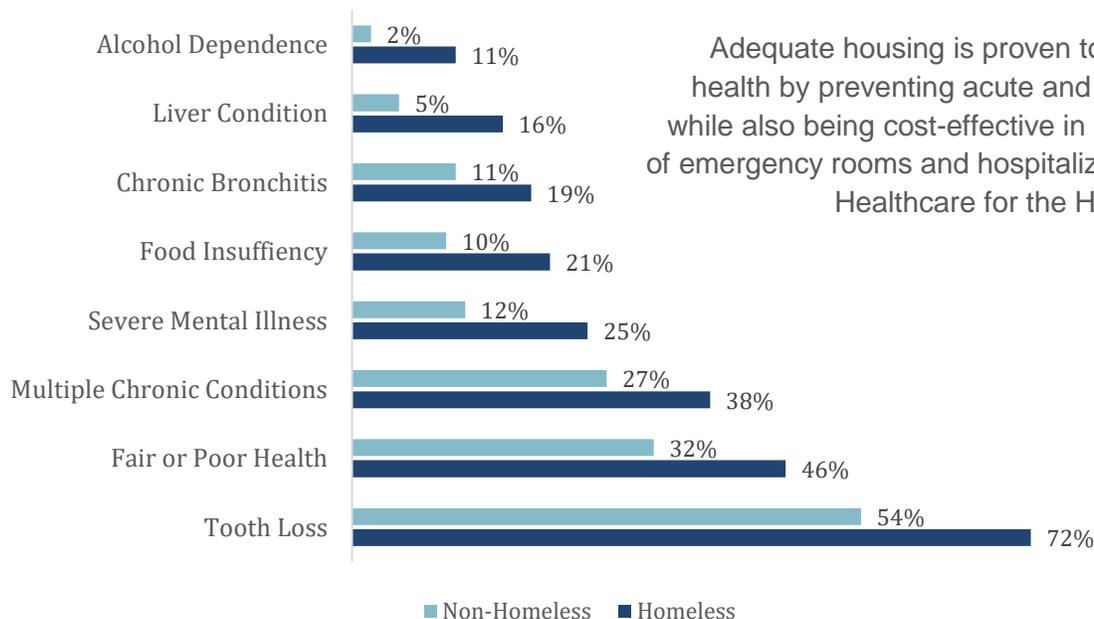
Health and Homelessness

People frequently become homeless in part because of serious health conditions, which also complicate their return to housing. In addition, the fact they are homeless often drastically increases their medical expenses, which becomes a burden on public health systems. In short, **our community could save millions** in healthcare costs by helping homeless people back into housing, people who might otherwise remain homeless for a long period of time because of their health issues.

Of those served in an Emergency Shelter in Hamilton County, Ohio¹



Housing Improves Overall Health*



Adequate housing is proven to improve overall health by preventing acute and chronic disease, while also being cost-effective in reducing the use of emergency rooms and hospitalization. – National Healthcare for the Homeless Council

* National Health Care for the Homeless Council: "Homelessness & Health: What's the Connection?", 2011

Homeless to Homes Plan addresses health needs

The Homeless to Homes Plan is a transformative initiative in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, helping the homeless move back into housing through coordinated high-quality shelters and services.

Implementation of the Homeless to Homes Plan has brought comprehensive on-site medical services to our shelter system. These improved facilities focus on individuals' health needs with services such as:

- Fully functioning on-site medical clinics
- Comprehensive daytime services and intensive case management
- Attention to prevention and early assessment for common health conditions
- Coordination with community health partners
- Healthier food services
- More hygienic restroom facilities
- Private "sick rooms" to aide in recovery from illness or injury

Reducing homelessness benefits the public health system

Stable housing not only provides privacy and safety, it is also a place to rest and recuperate from illness, surgery and other ailments without worry about where to sleep, find a meal, or how to balance these needs with obtaining health care and social services. The Journal of Urban Health reports that **even the best, most coordinated, medical services are not very effective if the patient's health is continually compromised by street and shelter conditions.**

According to a 2014 University of North Carolina study that tracked chronically homeless adults, compared to living on the streets, **the chronically homeless people housed in homeless assistance facilities had 78% fewer ER visits and 79% fewer hospital stays overall.** This amounted to \$1.8 million less in annual medical expenses for the group of 85 residents, who also saw dramatic decreases in arrests and time spent in jail. By reducing homelessness, our community is given significantly greater opportunities to use its resources in more productive ways.

Unless otherwise noted, all data presented in this report was gathered by Strategies to End Homelessness from VESTA™, our community's Homeless Management Information System, which is operated by The Partnership Center, Ltd.

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