

Asthma Hospitalizations and Mental Illness of Homeless Youth: An Article Review

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Asthma Hospitalizations Among Homeless Children in New York State

The primary question posed by the study is whether homelessness is correlated with asthma hospitalizations in New York State. The important factor in this study is that asthma is widely prevalent among homeless children in the US. Indeed, asthma is the most common health condition faced by American children. The hypothesis of the researchers conducting the study is that rates of asthma hospitalization, severity of symptoms, and rates of admission to the emergency room will be higher among homeless youth compared with nonhomeless youth. The data was collected using a secondary data analysis, which identified homeless and nonhomeless child patients, who had a primary diagnosis of asthma. This sample was chosen from the New York statewide inpatient databases for the years between 2009 and 2014 (Chang et. al., 2019). The independent variables are the homeless and nonhomeless youths whose medical history is being inspected. The dependent variables that were measured were hospitalizations, readmission for asthma, admission through the emergency room, use of a ventilator, admittance to the intensive care unit, cost of hospitalization, and the length of stay. Each of these dependent variables was measured based on the rate of homeless and nonhomeless participants in each variable. The two independent variables were homelessness and nonhomelessness, and I do not know if there are levels to these. The type of research method that was used was called a secondary analysis to see the way information that has already been obtained correlates with other obtained information. According to the authors, this topic is important because the asthma hospitalization rate for homeless youth is thirty-one times higher than nonhomeless youth. The authors go on to write about how homeless youth already live under difficult circumstances, and this only makes life harder for them. The author also found it important to highlight the need for

individually made asthma control strategies for homeless youth and intervention by educational institutions.

The Prevalence of Mental Illness in Homeless Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

The primary question posed by the study is to see the prevalence of mental health/behavioral needs among homeless youth. The important factor in this study is that the numbers of children experiencing homelessness has increased recently and we need to understand their mental and behavioral needs. The hypothesis of this study was to find the rate of prevalence of mental illness in homeless children. Data was collected by reviewing previous publications, extracting data from them, and synthesizing the data based on qualitative and quantitative analyses. The odds of mental illness in homeless children were pooled using an inverse-variance random effects model. The researchers selected the sample based on a number of criteria which determined that one fit the literal definition of homelessness. This meant that the child was under eighteen, accompanied by a parent, and living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, places not meant for human habitation, and/or was fleeing domestic violence (Bassuk, et al., 2015). The independent variable is the homelessness of the child while the dependent variable is the rate of mental illness in these homeless children. The dependent variable was measured by taking data from twelve studies and reviewing them for occasions of mental health issues in hospitalized homeless youth. The only level of independent variable I am aware of is whether the child is homeless or not. The researchers used the inverse-variance random effects model, and meta-analyses to find the results

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of their study. This topic is important because the number of homeless youths with mental illness is growing and we need to formulate an intervention to help with this issue.

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