TITLE: COVID-19 Vaccination Rates and Healthcare Utilization of Patients Experiencing Homelessness

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Program developers, healthcare

ABSTRACT: Background People experiencing homelessness (PEH) have a higher risk of COVID-19 infection and death from COVID-19 compared to the general population. However, PEH are a difficult population for healthcare systems to identify and follow. We compared COVID-19 infection rates, COVID-19 healthcare utilization, and COVID-19 vaccination rates across PEH vs patients not experiencing homelessness (PNEH) at a healthcare system in Oregon. Methods Patients with any contact within our healthcare system in 2021 were included. PEH were identified using a custom homeless registry within the electronic medical record (EMR) system. EMR data was collected on COVID-19 vaccination rates, COVID-19 infections, ED visits with COVID-like systems, and hospitalization with COVID-19 in 2021. Results 1,890 PEH and 236,245 PNEH were included. PEH had lower vaccination rates and a higher risk of COVID-19 infection compared to PNEH (RR=0.68, 95% CI = 0.64-0.71 and RR=1.28, 95% CI = 1.11-1.47). PEH had a higher risk of ED visits for COVID-like symptoms (RR = 3.32, 95% CI = 2.98-3.69) and hospitalization with COVID-19 (RR=3.86, 95% CI = 2.69-5.53).Implications EMR data can be leveraged to identify PEH. We support previous findings that PEH are at increased risk of COVID-19 infection and have increased disease severity compared to NPEH.

OBJECTIVE(S): Compare COVID-19 vaccination rates, COVID-19 infection rates, and COVID-19 healthcare utilization across patients experiencing homelessness vs patients not experiencing homelessness. Discuss the utility of leveraging electronic medical record data to help healthcare systems identify and track outcomes of patients experiencing homelessness.