



Substance Use, Mental Health, and Other Issues Related to Homelessness: Building the Evidence for Best Practices to End Housing Instability

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Homelessness and housing insecurity have peaked globally in the past decade. Many communities worldwide are affected by economic crises, natural disasters, and poverty and discrimination, which are often the root causes of homelessness. The opioid use crisis and lack of supportive systems and policies for mental health disabilities have led to millions living on the street, especially in large metropolitan cities such as in the United States.

Homelessness is not a new condition, but issues such as opioid overdose, skyrocketing housing prices, and unemployment resulting from COVID-19 have recently exacerbated it. Substance use and mental health instability can lead to homelessness, but homelessness also creates new trauma and drug addiction. Interventions within public spaces such as libraries for those unstably housed or low barrier access to medications for opioid use disorder are some strategies undergoing evaluation.

This Special Issue welcomes papers from any discipline that help to build evidence for tackling the ongoing and escalating homelessness crisis.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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