

## Special Issue

# Health and Health Care for Homeless People in Various Contexts

### Message from the Guest Editors

Homelessness has increased in recent years in many industrialized countries. People experiencing homelessness are sicker than their housed counterparts. They are more likely to die prematurely—with a life expectancy no more than 50 years—have higher prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, heart attacks, chronic disease, invasive cancers, and mental health problems. The lack of secure and stable shelter, food, income, hygiene, and barriers in accessing health care make it nearly impossible to be healthy. Living conditions on the streets or in shelters (unstable housing, food insecurity, access to drinking water, irregular meal times, etc.) makes it more difficult to stick to complex medicine regimens and for medical follow-up. In addition, the homeless encounter many barriers to accessing health services, such as cost, language, transportation, and discrimination. The evolution in homelessness in various countries makes it important to study the specific characteristics of some subgroups of homeless.

### Guest Editors

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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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