

## Continuum of Care Fact Sheet

February 2025

# Heartland

IL-513

Recognizing a need to better understand the state of health of people experiencing homelessness, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health have partnered to produce this fact sheet. It augments the Statewide Illinois Homelessness Mortality and Morbidity Report by summarizing death certificate and hospital data specific to each Continuum of Care (CoC). A fact sheet will be provided to each CoC following the release of the statewide report.

The goal of the fact sheet is to provide stakeholders within your CoC actionable data to help understand mortality and morbidity patterns that can support systemic changes that promote health equity for people experiencing homelessness and housing instability.



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# Statewide Report Highlights

**Research demonstrates that people experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk and severity of many acute and chronic health conditions. Many chronic age-related conditions affect people experiencing homelessness 10-20 years earlier than the general population, often resulting in premature death. An analysis of statewide data for the period \*2017-2022 showed the following:**

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A total of 2,520 deaths involving people experiencing homelessness (PEH) were identified in the Illinois vital records. The average age at the time of death was almost 20 years younger among PEH compared to the general population, with an overall increase of 36.6% in deaths since 2020.

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Compared to the general population, people experiencing homelessness disproportionately die from drug-related overdoses, traumatic injuries, excessive cold, and assaults.

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PEH decedents in Illinois have signs of greater social isolation relative to the general population. They are less likely to ever be married and to have a family member act as the key informant providing personal information about the decedent to the individual who completes the death certificate.

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When evaluating the hospital data, the most common comorbidities noted for people experiencing homelessness included hypertension, chronic pulmonary disease, substance use disorders, psychoses, and depression.

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People experiencing homelessness frequently required hospital care following assaults and suicide attempts.

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The majority of people experiencing homelessness were discharged to home or self-care. For PEH, this may be a discharge to a shelter or the streets, which may result in difficulty accessing continued care or treatment, as amenities available to adequately control chronic health conditions may not be available in these settings.

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People experiencing homelessness who are high utilizers of medical care in the hospital setting are disproportionately diagnosed with an array of serious cardiovascular, respiratory, neurologic, and renal disorders, as well as psychiatric and substance use conditions. Chronic conditions are exacerbated during periods of homelessness because of inadequate access to the medical care necessary to manage these chronic conditions.

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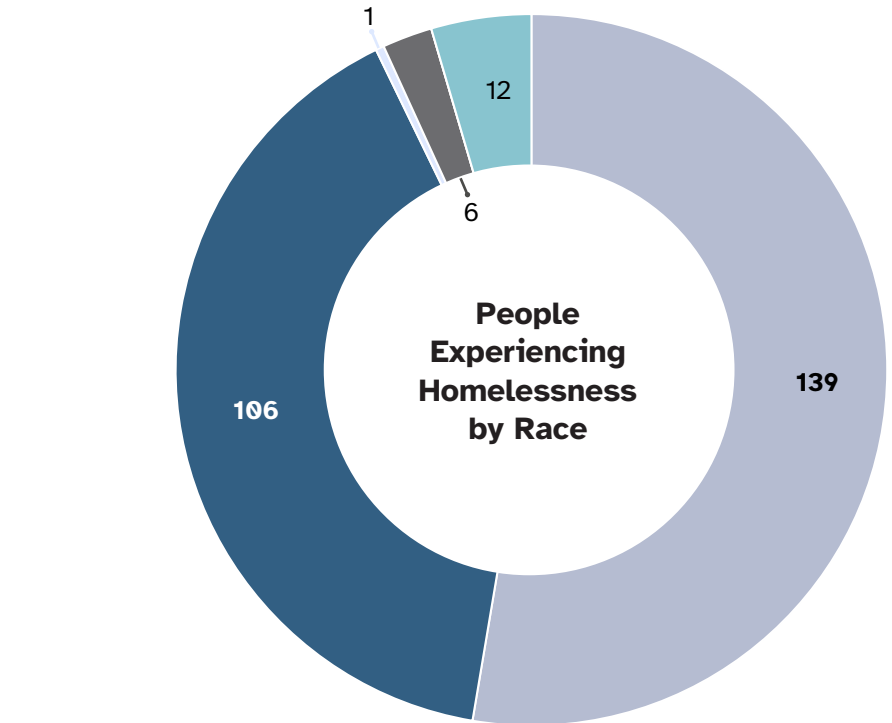
*\*The numbers in this sheet will not directly align with the state report due to differences in the years of data included. This sheet focuses on the most recent five years of data and the state report includes all available data.*

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# Most Recent Annual Point-In-Time Count

(2022)

Counts	IL-513	Statewide
Overall Homeless	264	9,212
<i>Unsheltered Homeless</i>	26	1,901
<i>Sheltered Homeless</i>	238	7,311
Overall Homeless People in Families	76	2,968
Overall Homeless Parenting Youth Under 18	0	0
Overall Homeless Parenting Youth Age 18-24	4	197
Total Homeless Children of Parenting Youth	5	259
Overall Homeless Veterans	23	524
Overall Chronically Homeless	51	1,430
Gender	IL-513	Statewide
Male	152	5,533
Female	109	3,620
Transgender	3	37
Gender that is not Singularly Female or Male	0	17
Gender Questioning	0	5
Age	IL-513	Statewide
Under 18 years	50	1,902
18 to 24 years	33	897
25 years and older	181	6,413
Ethnicity	IL-513	Statewide
Hispanic or Latino	10	1,078



Race	IL-513	Statewide
Black or African American	139	5,389
White (including Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity)	106	3,344
Asian	1	69
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	65
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	22
Multiracial, Declined, or Other	12	323

## Mortality Of PEH 2018-2022

Data Source: Illinois Death Records

People experiencing homelessness at their time of death were identified in Illinois death records if they met at least one of the following criteria: (1) there was a homelessness-related keyword in a narrative field, or (2) if the individual did not have a known residential address, or (3) a narrative/address field matched to a known shelter. The counts shown include individuals experiencing homelessness who died within the CoC service area and the entire state during the most recent five years of available data.

<b>Total Deaths</b>	15	2,190
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Gender	IL-513		Statewide	
Female	5	33.3%	504	23.0%
Male	10	66.7%	1,666	76.1%
Unspecified	0		20	0.9%

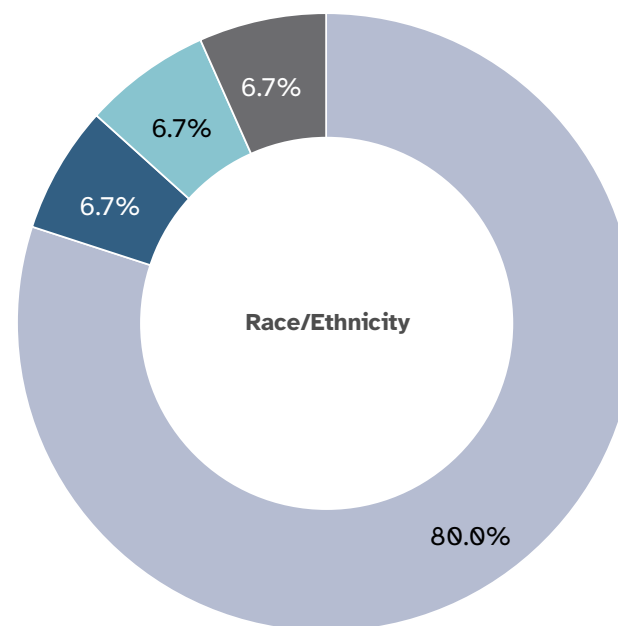
Mean Age	54		56	
Under 18 years	0		37	1.7%
18 to 54 years	6	40.0%	862	39.4%
55 and older	9	60.0%	1,246	56.9%
Unknown	0		45	2.1%

<b>Veteran</b>	2	13.3%	219	10.0%
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<b>Family Member was Key Informant*</b>	9	60.0%	1,413	64.5%
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*\*A family member was identified as the key informant providing personal information about the decedent to the individual completing the death certificate (all other informants were unrelated to the decedent).*

Race/Ethnicity	IL-513		Statewide	
White, Non-Hispanic	12	80.0%	1,016	46.4%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1	6.7%	890	40.6%
Hispanic or Latino	1	6.7%	187	8.5%
Other / Unspecified	1	6.7%	97	4.4%

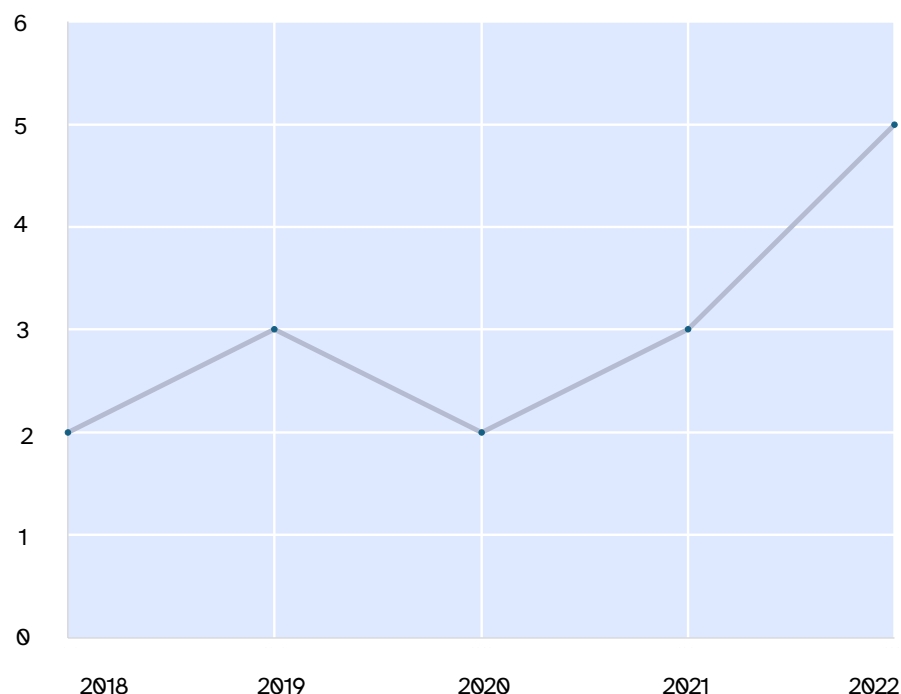


Marital Status	IL-513		Statewide	
Never Married	3	20.0%	989	45.2%
Married or Civil Union	0		148	6.8%
Divorced or Separated	6	40.0%	414	18.9%
Widowed	2	13.3%	136	6.2%
Unknown	4	26.7%	503	23.0%

## When Are People Experiencing Homelessness Dying In Our CoC?

Weekday Of Death	IL-513		Statewide	
Monday	2	13.3%	361	16.5%
Tuesday	1	6.7%	272	12.4%
Wednesday	4	26.7%	302	13.8%
Thursday	3	20.0%	317	14.5%
Friday	2	13.3%	325	14.8%
Saturday	2	13.3%	319	14.6%
Sunday	1	6.7%	294	13.4%

Year Of Death	IL-513		Statewide	
2018	2	13.3%	334	15.3%
2019	3	20.0%	342	15.6%
2020	2	13.3%	478	21.8%
2021	3	20.0%	476	21.7%
2022	5	33.3%	560	25.6%



Month Of Death	IL-513		Statewide	
Cold Months: November to March	10	66.7%	923	42.1%

## What Are The Most Common Contributing Causes Of Death?

Contributing Cause of Death	IL-513		Statewide	
Injury and poisoning	9	60.0%	980	44.7%
<i>Drug-Related Overdose</i>	6	40.0%	744	34.0%
<i>Traumatic Injury</i>	2	13.3%	259	11.8%
<i>Suicide</i>	0		34	1.6%
<i>Homicide</i>	0		67	3.1%
<i>Excessive Cold</i>	1	6.7%	88	4.0%
Disease of the circulatory system	7	46.7%	772	35.3%
Diseases of the respiratory system	4	26.7%	313	14.3%
Endocrine, metabolic, and nutritional diseases	0		223	10.2%
<i>Diabetes</i>	0		126	5.8%
<i>Nutritional Deficiencies</i>	1	6.7%	15	0.7%
<i>Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders</i>	0	0.0%	22	1.0%
Cancer	1	6.7%	149	6.8%
Infectious Diseases	1	6.7%	126	5.8%

Toxicology Results	IL-513		Statewide	
Positive for any drug associated with substance use disorders	6	40.0%	853	38.9%
Opioids	5	33.3%	609	27.8%
<i>Fentanyl Analogs and Precursors</i>	5	33.3%	545	24.9%
<i>Heroin</i>	2	13.3%	198	9.0%
<i>Methadone</i>	0		32	1.5%
Stimulants	3	20.0%	360	16.4%
<i>Amphetamine</i>	2	13.3%	55	2.5%
<i>Cocaine</i>	2	13.3%	318	14.5%
Alcohol	2	13.3%	338	15.4%
Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic	1	6.7%	93	4.2%
<i>Benzodiazepine</i>	0		38	1.7%

## Morbidity For PEH 2018-2022

Data Source: Illinois Hospital Discharge Data

People experiencing homelessness were identified in Illinois hospital records in two stages. In stage one, all emergency department visits or admissions with an ICD-10 code of Z59 for “homelessness” were identified. Z59 coding is used to identify patients with a lack of housing, including persons living in permanent/temporary housing or in a shelter. All other hospital visits involving the patients identified in stage one were identified in stage two. In these latter visits, the medical staff did not identify the patients as experiencing homelessness with a Z59 code. The housing status of hospital visits identified in stage 2 is unknown. The counts shown below only include hospital visits within the CoC service area compared to the state for the most current five years.

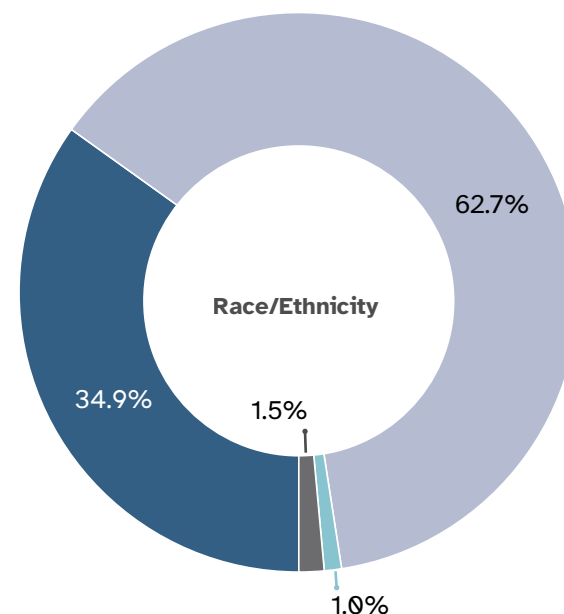
Hospital Visits	IL-513		Statewide	
<b>Total Number of Hospital Visits</b>	<b>32,828</b>		<b>1,191,716</b>	
<i>Total number of emergency department visits</i>	27,693	84.4%	908,557	76.2%
<i>Total number of hospital admissions</i>	5,135	15.6%	283,159	23.8%

<b>Median Number Of Hospital Visits Per Person</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>
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Gender	IL-513		Statewide	
Female	13,415	40.9%	391,710	32.9%
Male	19,413	59.1%	799,947	67.1%
Unspecified	0		59	

Mean Age at Date of Hospital Visit	43		45	
Under 18 years	331	1.0%	13,300	1.1%
18 to 54 years	24,101	73.4%	841,152	70.6%
55 and older	8,396	25.6%	337,264	28.3%

Race/Ethnicity	IL-513		Statewide	
Black, Non-Hispanic	11,454	34.9%	533,154	44.7%
White, Non-Hispanic	20,570	62.7%	489,448	41.1%
Hispanic or Latino	327	1.0%	83,544	7.0%
Other / Unspecified	477	1.5%	85,570	7.2%



Payer Type (Insurance)	IL-513		Statewide	
Medicaid	21,520	65.6%	732,051	61.4%
Medicare	7,397	22.5%	235,125	19.7%
Commercial Insurance	2,652	8.1%	97,157	8.2%
Self-Pay	1,033	3.1%	105,425	8.8%
Other	226	0.7%	21,958	1.8%

<b>Total Billed Charges*</b>	<b>\$366,744,803</b>	<b>\$16,221,878,896</b>
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\*This does not represent actual costs, as typically only a fraction of the total charges is reimbursed. This rate varies by payer but typically the reimbursed total will be 50% or more of the total charges.

## When Are People Experiencing Homelessness Utilizing Hospital-Based Services In Our CoC?

Day of Hospital Visit	IL-513		Statewide	
Monday	4,958	15.1%	177,971	14.9%
Tuesday	5,036	15.3%	182,152	15.3%
Wednesday	4,900	14.9%	180,538	15.1%
Thursday	4,874	14.8%	178,709	15.0%
Friday	4,798	14.6%	176,743	14.8%
Saturday	4,245	12.9%	152,728	12.8%
Sunday	4,017	12.2%	142,875	12.0%

Year of Hospital Visit	IL-513		State	
2018	6,978	21.3%	254,876	21.4%
2019	7,306	22.3%	258,776	21.7%
2020	6,397	19.5%	235,085	19.7%
2021	6,184	18.8%	224,591	18.8%
2022	5,963	18.2%	218,388	18.3%

Month of Hospital Visit	IL-513		Statewide	
Cold Months: November to March	13,246	40.3%	483,259	40.6%

## What Are The Most Common Serious Comorbidities Among People Experiencing Homelessness In Our CoC?

Most Common Serious Comorbidities	IL-513		Statewide	
Hypertension	7,155	21.8%	291,582	24.5%
Psychoses	2,995	9.1%	188,455	15.8%
Depression	4,962	15.1%	174,599	14.7%
Diabetes	3,338	10.2%	132,452	11.1%
Heart Disease	3,653	11.1%	103,127	8.7%
Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders	2,536	7.7%	90,437	7.6%
Renal Failure	1,025	3.1%	40,341	3.4%
Liver Disease	936	2.9%	34,565	2.9%
Cancer	317	1.0%	12,455	1.0%
AIDS/HIV	101	0.3%	8,806	0.7%
Chronic Pulmonary Disease	210	0.6%	8,175	0.7%

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Diagnosis	15,426	47.0%	624,134	52.4%
SUD-Alcohol	4,322	13.2%	200,389	16.8%
SUD-Stimulants	2,071	6.3%	105,822	8.9%
SUD-Opioids	888	2.7%	99,123	8.3%
SUD-Polysubstance Abuse	841	2.6%	39,196	3.3%

## What Are The Most Common Primary Diagnoses Among People Experiencing Homelessness In Our CoC When They Visit A Hospital?

Primary Diagnosis	IL-513		Statewide	
Mental Disorders	4,585	14.0%	218,512	18.3%
Substance Use Disorder (Primary Diagnosis Only)	4,015	12.2%	210,372	17.7%
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders	3,230	9.8%	92,417	7.8%
Traumatic Injury				
Fracture	589	1.8%	17,968	1.5%
Open wound	488	1.5%	15,136	1.3%
Traumatic Brain Injury	97	0.3%	2,758	0.2%
Internal Injury of the Torso (including spine)	19	0.1%	658	0.1%
Other Traumatic Injury	1,405	4.3%	43,416	3.6%
Disorders of the Respiratory System	1,983	6.0%	54,474	4.6%
Disorders of the Circulatory System	1,143	3.5%	37,601	3.2%
Diseases of the Skin	852	2.6%	25,494	2.1%
Diseases of the Central and Peripheral Nervous System	790	2.4%	25,108	2.1%
Disorders of the Digestive System	818	2.5%	24,119	2.0%
Infectious Disease	619	1.9%	20,391	1.7%
Diseases of the Urinary Tract and Genitalia	808	2.5%	20,086	1.7%
Diabetes	602	1.8%	17,714	1.5%
Pregnancy and Perinatal Related	679	2.1%	17,621	1.5%
Diseases of the Oral Cavity	372	1.1%	10,122	0.8%
Anemias and Other Blood Disorders	233	0.7%	12,505	1.0%
Liver Conditions	302	0.9%	9,308	0.8%

## What Were Common Hospital-Based Courses Of Treatment Among People Experiencing Homelessness In Our CoC?

Hospital Measures of Severity	IL-513		Statewide	
Median Days In Hospital	5		5	
Underwent Surgical Intervention	1,765	5.4%	51,668	4.3%
Required Mechanical Ventilation	223	0.7%	9,270	0.8%
Received Obstetric Care	748	2.3%	21,145	1.8%
Received Drug Treatment Services	62	0.2%	22,615	1.9%
Administered Naloxone	38	0.1%	9,117	0.8%

Discharge Status From Hospital	IL-513		Statewide	
Routine Discharge (Home/ Home Health/Home Care Services)	29,204	89.0%	988,101	82.9%
Discharge to Another Acute Health Care Facility	340	1.0%	23,066	1.9%
Discharge to a Psychiatric Facility	592	1.8%	56,158	4.7%
Discharge to a Rehabilitation, Skilled Nursing, or Long-Term Care Facility	575	1.8%	47,322	4.0%
Left Against Medical Advice	1,737	5.3%	59,482	5.0%
Discharge to Court / Law Enforcement	252	0.8%	7,130	0.6%
Expired During Course of Hospitalization or Discharge to Hospice	81	0.2%	3,475	0.3%
Other/Unspecified	47	0.1%	6,982	0.6%