BETTER HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING

UI Health is improving the health of our community through housing and support.

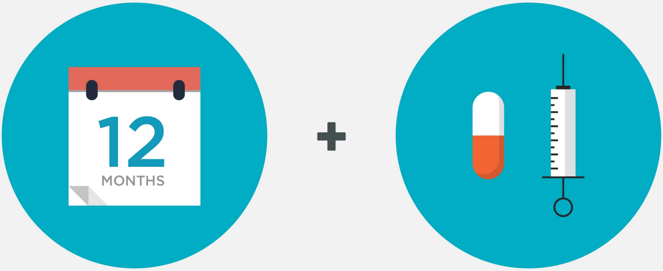
HOMELESSNESS IN CHICAGO

On a given night, we may have:

6,700+ homeless

1,000+ chronically homeless

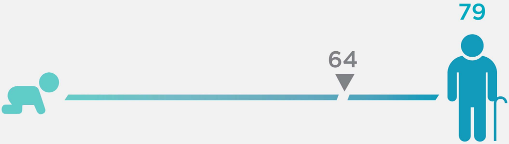
Who are the chronically homeless?



Individuals who have been homeless for at least **1 year** and can be diagnosed with **1 or more medical conditions**, including substance abuse or mental or physical illness

THE PRICE OF CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Shorter lives:



Average life expectancy in the

United States: **79**

Average life expectancy for the chronically homeless: **64**

High-cost services:

- $ Psychiatric care
- $ Emergency care
- $ Jails
- $ Courts
- $ Temporary shelters

In a recent year at UI Health, **48 chronically homeless** patients accounted for:

776 emergency visits

148 hospital stays

Average healthcare costs that are **5 times** more expensive than other patients.

WHAT IS BETTER HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING?

An initiative from UI Health to improve the health of our community by providing housing.

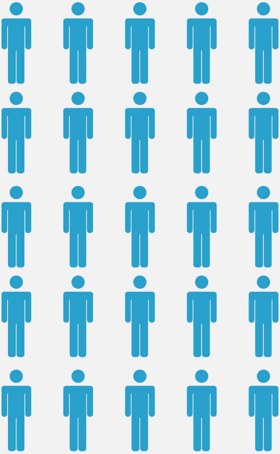
Identify chronically homeless patients who frequently visit emergency rooms.

Move them directly from emergency rooms into permanent housing.

Provide a support system to keep them healthy and help them integrate back into the community.

The Better Health Through Housing system supports:

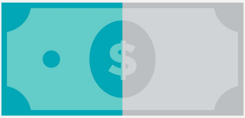
1. Mental health
2. Physical health
3. Substance abuse treatment
4. Education
5. Employment



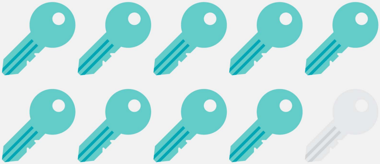
In its first year, UI Health will provide housing for **25 people**.

PROVEN RESULTS

Communities with ‘Housing First’ initiatives like Better Health Through Housing have seen:



Healthcare costs reduced by **more than 50%**



After 2 years, **nearly 90%** of individuals continue to be in stable housing

Similar savings for **courts, jails, and social services**

Together, we can improve the health of our homeless population. For updates on Better Health Through Housing, visit **hospital.uillinois.edu/BHTH**.

UI Health | UIC

HH Center for Housing & Health

HEALTHY CHICAGO
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY & SUPPORT SERVICES
BUILD • SUPPORT • EMPOWER

Better Health Through Housing is a partnership of the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System, the Center for Housing and Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Additional sources: City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services; National Health Care for the Homeless Council; Pathways to Housing; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Homelessness Resource Center; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness