

BEST **DIGITAL LEADERSHIP** IN HEALTH EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

California's top ranked health system launches the Homeless Healthcare Collaborative to expand access to equitable, high-quality health care for people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles

PROBLEM

Every day, 227 people become homeless in Los Angeles. It may occur due to a lack of affordable housing, stagnant wages or systemic racism. But regardless of the reason, what is clear is that homelessness is directly related to health.

Living on the street can take more than 20 years off someone's life. Unhoused populations are more susceptible to illnesses, and they often can't access appropriate care. They also experience higher rates of hospitalization and disease, including tuberculosis, diabetes, asthma, hypertension and HIV/AIDS.

It's a common misconception that drug abuse and mental illness are the primary causes of homelessness. More often, homelessness itself can lead to physical and mental illness.

INSIGHT

As California's #1 health system and the #3 health system in the nation, UCLA Health has a responsibility to positively impact the health and wellness of homeless Californians — and we can.

UCLA Health studied more than 15,000 patient records from our emergency departments and current street medicine efforts to determine the greatest health and social needs among men, women and children experiencing homelessness.

Our analysis showed that more than 85% of those visits were due to primary or urgent care conditions that can be prevented or treated in the community.

Homeless Healthcare Collaborative

The UCLA Health Homeless Healthcare Collaborative is a direct-in-community program to expand access to efficient, equitable and high-quality health care for people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.

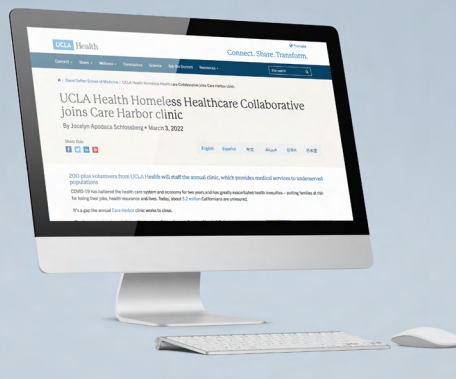
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Unhoused populations have increased in Los Angeles.

Every day **227 people** become homeless in L.A.

Living on the street can take more than **20 years** off one's life.



Care includes:

- Medical screenings
- Preventive care and vaccinations
- Primary care
- Continuity care for chronic medical conditions
- Urgent care
- Primary psychiatric care
- Referrals to housing and social services

SOLUTION

To address this issue, UCLA Health created the [Homeless Healthcare Collaborative](#). Care teams of doctors, nurses and social workers provide direct-in-community primary, preventive and urgent medical care, medical screenings and social service referrals. We also provide vaccinations, psychiatric care and continuity care for chronic medical conditions — all important and often essential services for unhoused individuals and families.

Our Homeless Healthcare Collaborative vans travel directly to people experiencing homelessness in street, shelter and interim housing sites. This makes accessing health care as convenient as possible to unhoused people.

The Homeless Healthcare Collaborative provides care throughout Los Angeles (west, south and convention center/downtown) as well as North Hollywood. Through this initiative, UCLA Health is working to achieve better health outcomes and help put Californians on the path to improved health and stable homes.



METRICS

The Homeless Healthcare Collaborative serves unhoused people in L.A.

20% of unhoused people in L.A. are families with children

17% are living with a disability

29% have experienced domestic violence