

Strategies to Reduce Frequent ED Use Among Persons Experiencing

Homelessness with Mental Health Conditions: a scoping review

R. Davis MS2 MPH, M. Lookabaugh MS2, K. Christnacht MS2

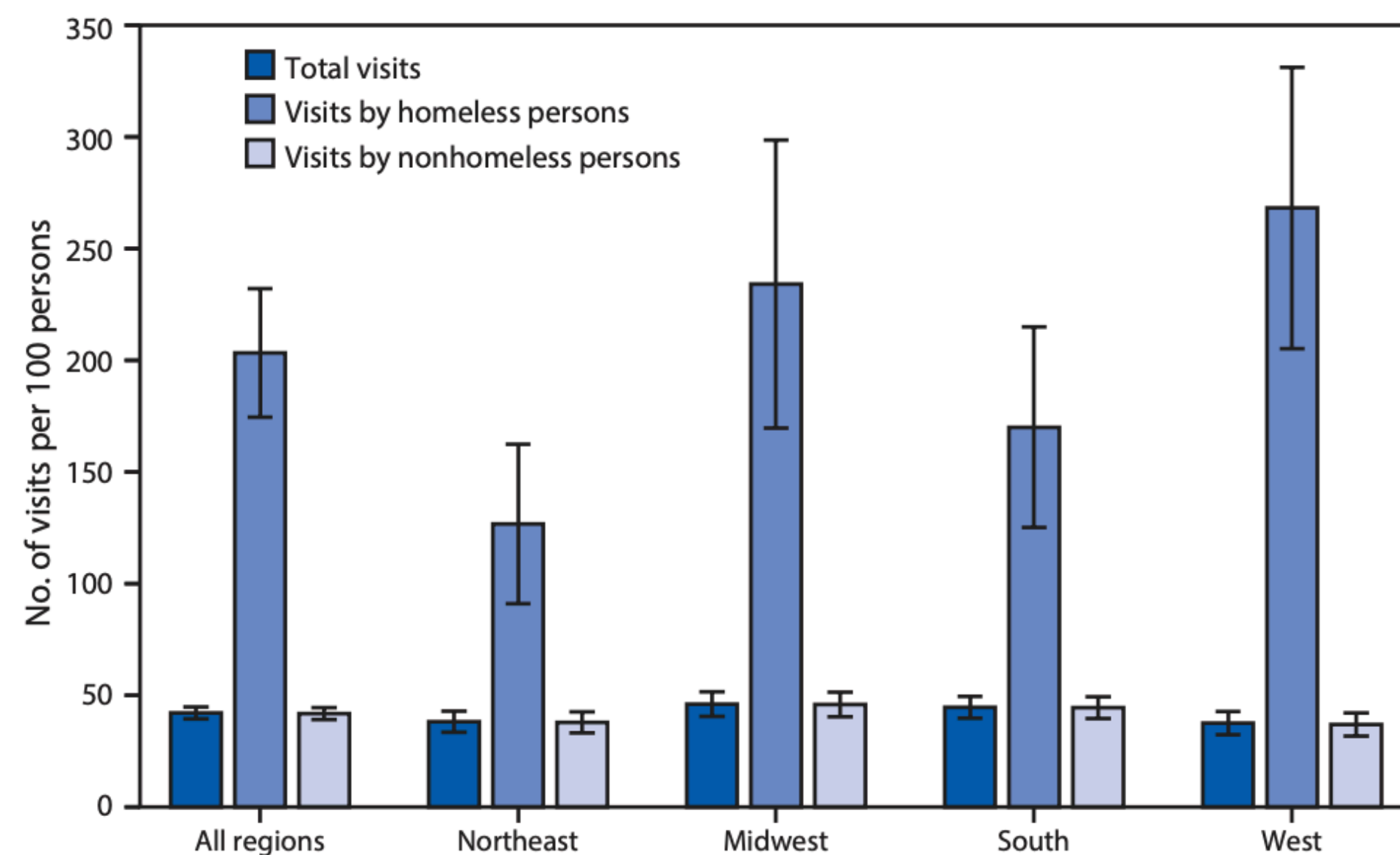
University of Colorado School of Medicine



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

Background

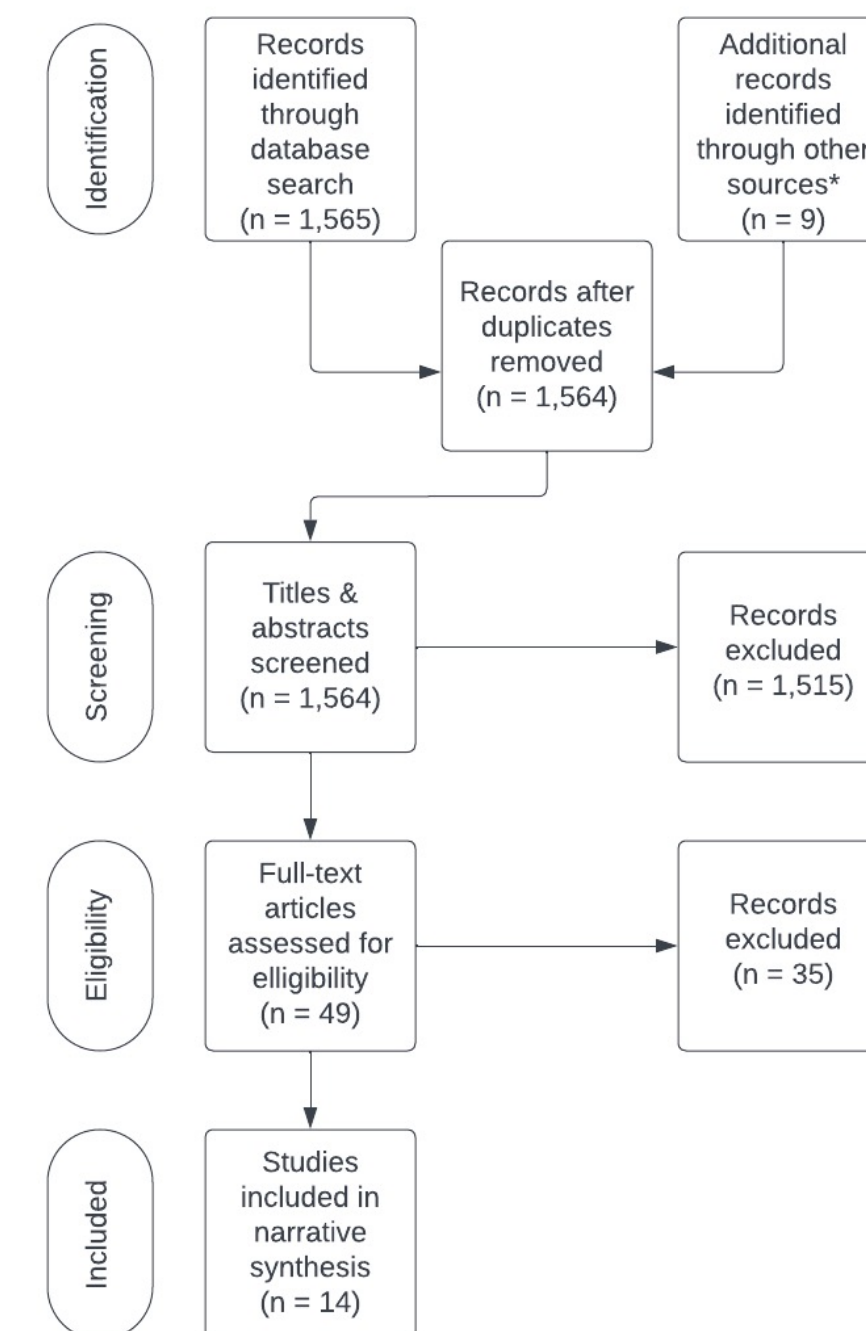
- The Emergency Department (ED) is an area under much scrutiny due to high cost of services
- The highest utilizers of the ED have been found to be diagnosed with a mental illness or substance use disorder, or be experiencing homelessness
- We reviewed the literature assessing interventions tried in the ED for patients experiencing homelessness with mental health conditions



<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6950a8-H.pdf>

Methods

- We conducted a scoping review of articles according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines using Pubmed and Web of Science databases as well as Google Scholar
- Evaluations of valid studies were performed by 3 independent reviewers
- Studies were screened to specifically evaluate programs that aimed to reduce ED usage by patients with mental illness experiencing homelessness



*Other sources - Google scholar

For more information, visit www.prisma-statement.org

Conclusions

- This review found that Interventions targeted at patients with mental illness experiencing homelessness can decrease ED visits, use of shelters, days spent on the street or in the hospital and increase community engagement, time spent in substance use treatment, and primary care usage

Implications

- This review indicates that expansion of housing based measures may be indicated in efforts where municipalities hope to reduce ED usage
- Further evaluation may be needed to determine whether community support teams and case managers with integrated care are also effective strategies

Disclosures

- The authors of this study received no funding and have no conflicts of interest