



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing and Homelessness

Hosted by NLIHC and the
Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition
March 15, 2021

Agenda



Welcome

- Paul Kealey, NLIHC

New Housing/Homelessness Resources in the American Rescue Plan

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Expanded Child Tax Credit

- Richelle Friedman, Coalition on Human Needs

Resources for Mixed-Status Immigrant Households

- Jackie Vimo, NILC

New Report on COVID-19 Mortality Rates Among People Experiencing Homelessness

- Dr. Kathryn Leifheit, UCLA
- Dr. Chelsea Shover, UCLA

Field Updates

- Elissa Margolin, Housing Action NH
- Katie West, Homes RI, Housing Network of RI
- Melina Lodge, Housing Network of RI
- Cathy ten Broeke, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

What's Next: Campaign for Long-Term Solutions

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Welcome



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New Housing/Homelessness Resources in American Rescue Plan



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Expanded Child Tax Credit



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Resources for Mixed-Status Immigrant Families



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New Report on COVID-19 Mortality Rates Among People Experiencing Homelessness



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Elevated mortality among people experiencing homelessness with COVID-19

Kathryn M. Leifheit, PhD MSPH

Chelsea L. Shover, PhD

National Call on COVID-19, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness

March 15, 2020



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Acknowledgements & Disclaimer

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Disclaimer: This research has not yet been peer reviewed, so results should be viewed as preliminary.

Increased risk of COVID-19 exposure & infection

- Lack of permanent shelter means
 - inability to mitigate exposures through social distancing
 - difficulty preventing infections (e.g. through hand hygiene)
- Health authorities have reported
 - high seroprevalence among people experiencing homelessness (PEH)
 - large outbreaks at homeless shelters and encampments.

Increased risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19

- **Accelerated aging:** PEH develop age-related health problems decades earlier than their housed counterparts
 - Rates of COPD among PEH are 2-3x those of the general population
- 42 to 52-year life expectancy among chronically homeless
- Increased risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes

And yet

- Few data exist to gauge the impact of homelessness on COVID-19 outcomes.
- Few jurisdictions are prioritizing PEH for vaccination
- These are interconnected problems

Filling the data gaps: Case Fatality Rates

$$\left(\frac{\# \text{ deaths}}{\# \text{ cases}} \right) \times 100\%$$

CFRs tell us

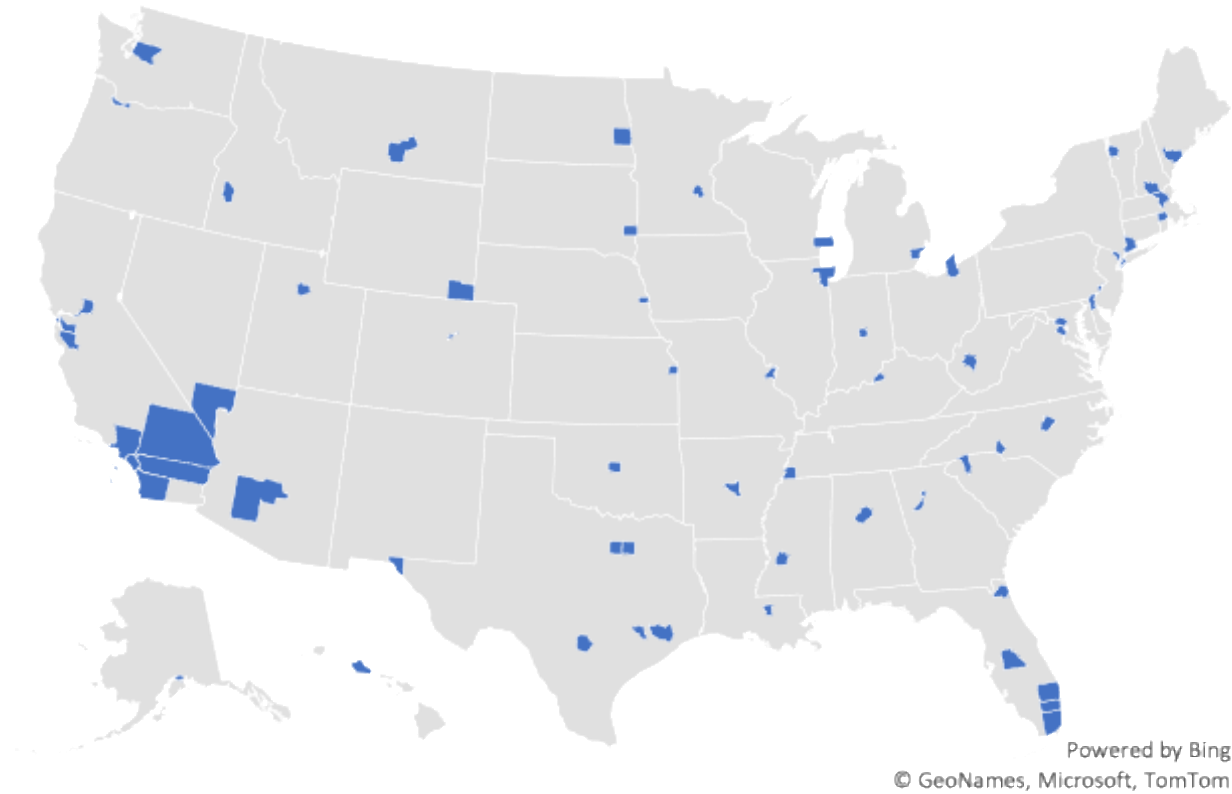
- which populations are most likely to die if infected
- who needs vaccine protection most urgently

Approach

1) Searched for PEH-specific COVID-19 case and death counts on websites from public health agencies with jurisdiction over the

- 25 most populous U.S. counties (n=25)
- 25 most populous U.S. cities (n=12 additional)
- most populous city in each state (n=39 additional).

Approach



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1) Searched for PEH-specific COVID-19 case and death counts on websites from public health agencies with jurisdiction over the

- 25 most populous U.S. counties (n=25)
- 25 most populous U.S. cities (n=12 additional)
- most populous city in each state (n=39 additional).

2) Extracted most recent case and death counts for PEH as well as the overall population (age-specific, if available)

3) Compared CFRs for PEH to the overall population

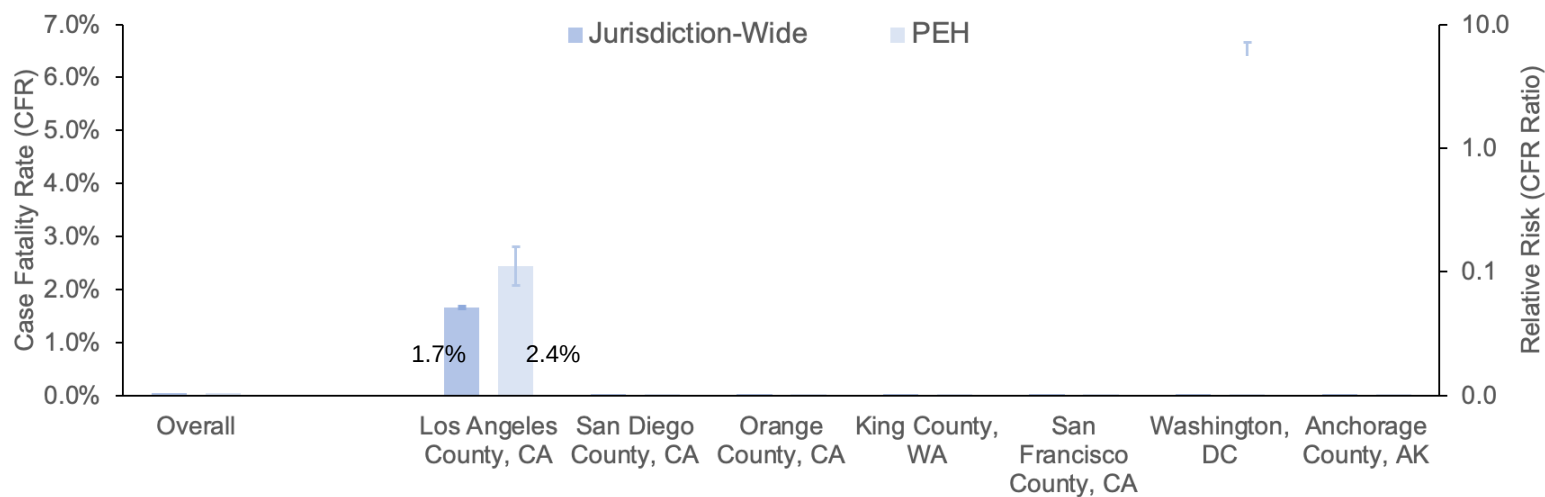
Data were collected from February 19th – 28th, 2021.

Finding #1: data scarcity

- Of the 76 jurisdictions reviewed, only 7 (9.2%) published data on PEH

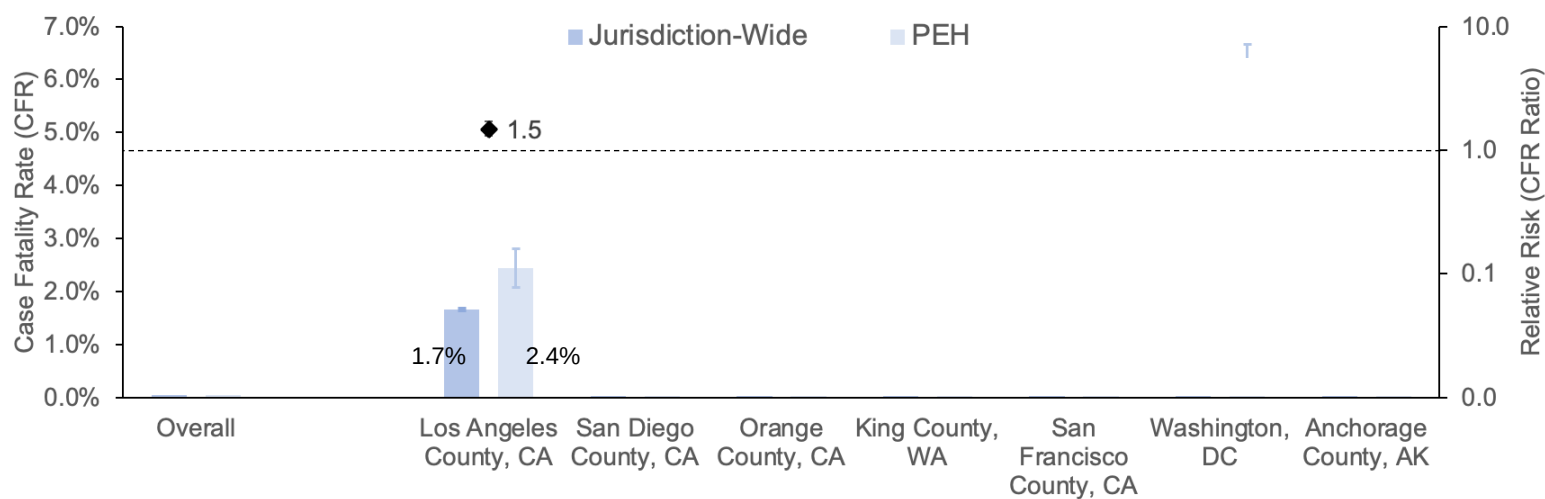
Finding #2: Elevated mortality risk among PEH

Figure 1A. COVID-19 case fatality in U.S. health jurisdictions:
People experiencing homelessness (PEH) vs. jurisdiction-wide
March 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021



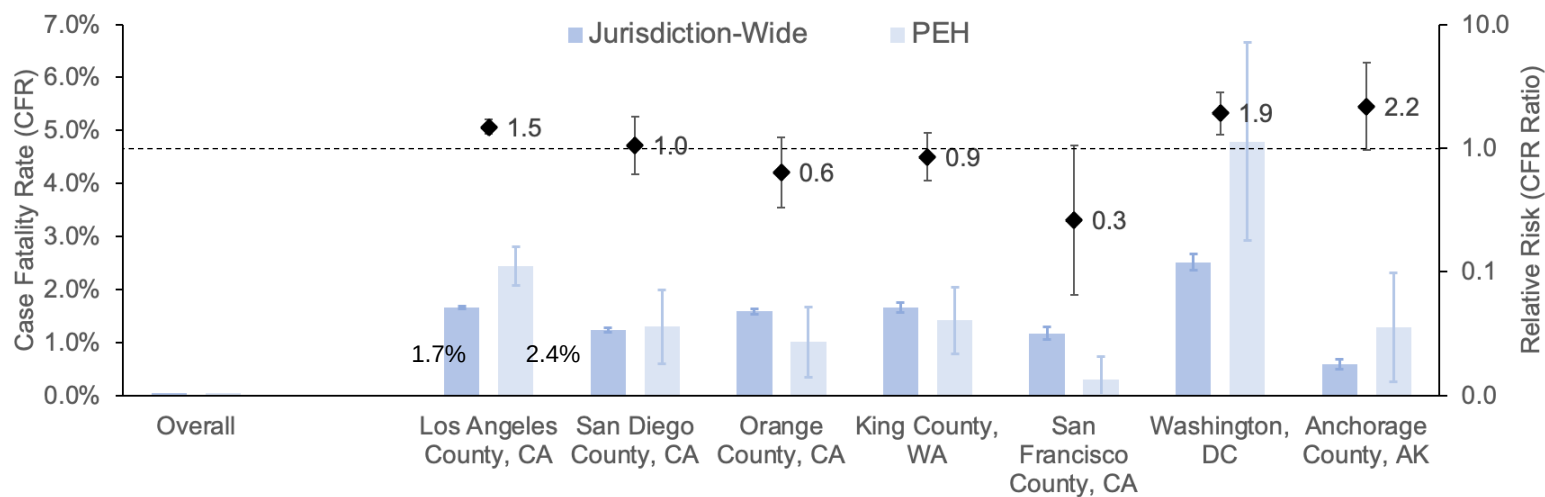
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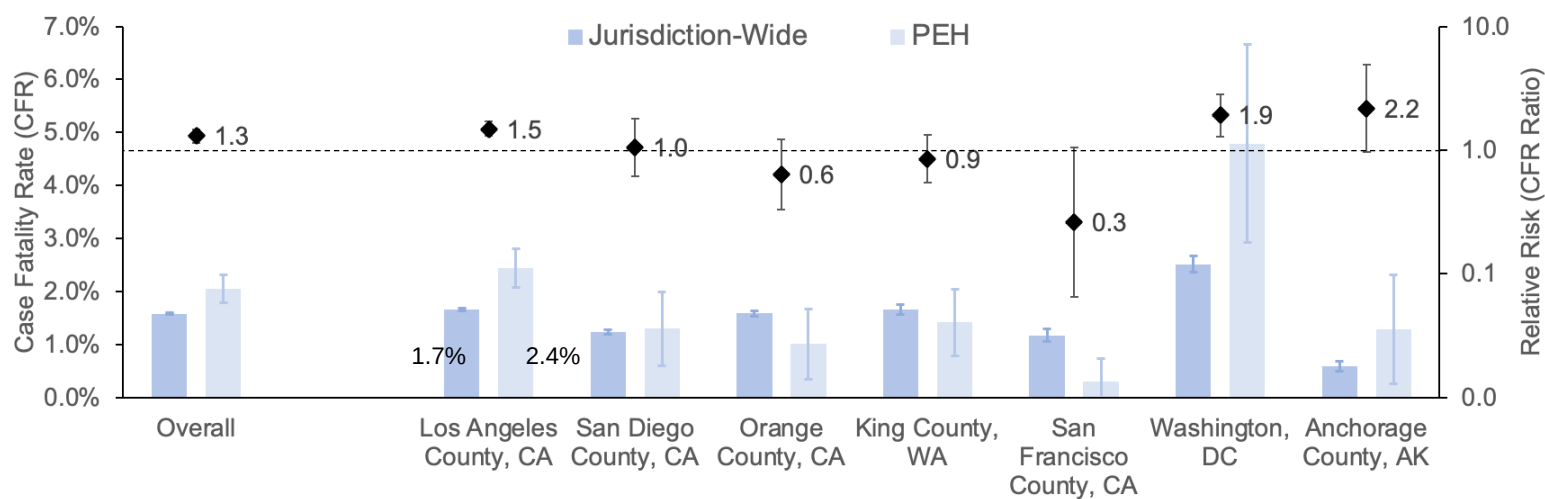
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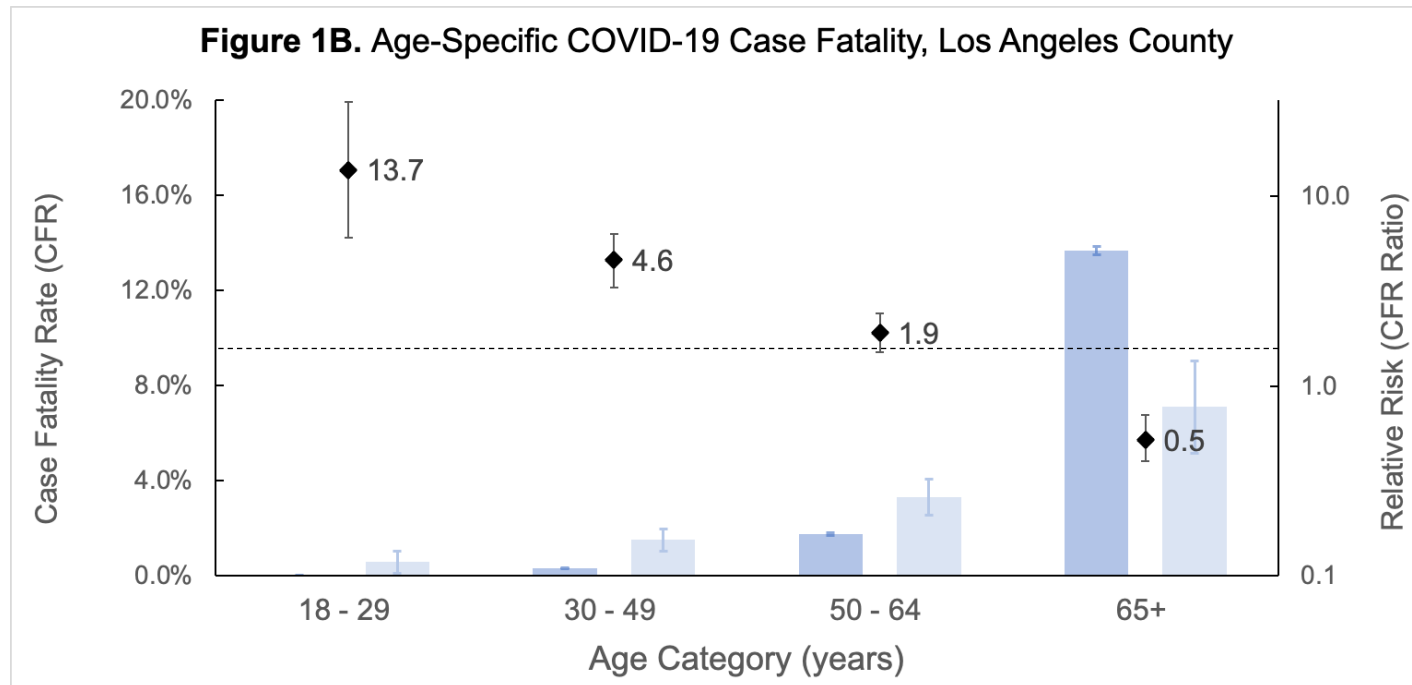


Finding #2: Elevated mortality risk among PEH

Figure 1A. COVID-19 case fatality in U.S. health jurisdictions:
People experiencing homelessness (PEH) vs. jurisdiction-wide
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Finding #3: Elevated age-specific mortality



Conclusions

- Elevated risk of death among PEH, especially at young ages
 - Need to prioritize this medically vulnerable group
- Variability in risk between jurisdictions
 - Could reflect differences in COVID-19 dynamics, surveillance and testing practices, homeless services, and/or reporting
- Limited data on PEH
 - Limits our ability to 1) prioritize this group for public health interventions and 2) monitor disparities

Limitations

- Convenience sample – most places don't track housing status
- Misclassification possible – varying definitions of PEH
- More surveillance testing among PEH (diagnosing mild or asymptomatic cases) could mean these CFRs are underestimates

Policy Implications

Jurisdictions should

- Vaccinate PEH regardless of age or comorbidities
- Begin to track and report housing status as part of routine surveillance

Los Angeles Times

L.A.'s homeless residents are 50% more likely to die if they get COVID. Now they're a vaccine priority



Registered nurse Kevin Hernandez, right, delivers a COVID-19 vaccine to Kerry Cahee, 34, at Leimert Park Plaza. (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)

By BENJAMIN ORESKES, DOUG SMITH

MARCH 12, 2021 3:03 PM PT

Thank you!



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Field Updates



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Field Updates



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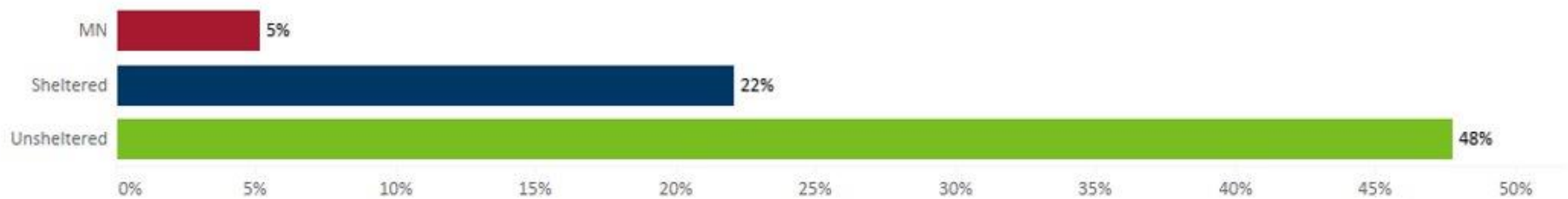
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Hospitalization Data

% EVER HOSPITALIZED



% EVER ICU



What's Next: Campaign for Long-Term Solutions



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Resources

Responding to Coronavirus
(<https://nlihc.org/responding-coronavirus>): Recommendations for Congress

Coronavirus and Housing/
Homelessness
(<https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-housing-homelessness>): National and Local Updates