

# Seniors and Homelessness



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# Health Care for the Homeless Baltimore

- Care with dignity for **10,000 people/year**
- 3 main clinic sites, mobile van, medical respite
- Services include medical, behavioral health, psychiatry, dental, case management, community health workers, & supportive housing
- NCQA Level III PCMH offering co-located, integrated care teams
- Advocacy for quality health care, affordable housing and livable incomes for all



## Map Key

- = Outreach + Mobile Clinic sites
- = Clinic sites

# Homelessness in Maryland



- Over 50,000 Marylanders experience homelessness every year
- According to the Baltimore Point-in-Time count 2017, 2,669 people were staying on the streets or in shelters



# Subsidized housing is disappearing

- Over the last 15 years, Baltimore's public housing stock has diminished by 40%.
- The waiting lists for the Housing Choice (Section 8) Voucher Program in Frederick, Harford and Montgomery counties and Baltimore City are closed.
- After a decade of being closed, Baltimore City opened its waiting list in 2014—for nine days. Though 74,000 households applied for 25,000 slots, only 6,000 to 9,000 will get vouchers in the next six years. Meanwhile, Baltimore County's Section 8 wait list is open—estimated wait time: nine years.



# Seniors and homelessness

- There are 10 older adults for every one unit of supportive housing for the elderly
  - Supportive Housing refers to scattered-site housing with intensive wrap-around services
- In our case managers' experience, wait lists for senior housing for low-income seniors age 62+ in Baltimore City are 2-3 years long
  - Included in this are “mixed-population” project-based buildings and privately run 55+ housing run by agencies such as Catholic Charities
  - Most senior buildings include some social services and programming for seniors



# Seniors and homelessness

According to DHCD projections for 2005-2014 included in the Maryland Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness from 2005:

Nearly 20,000 Maryland seniors with incomes less than 30% of the median paid more than 30% of their income towards rent. These seniors are vulnerable to potentially slipping into homelessness.



# Challenges for seniors

- Among homeless adults 50+, 44% experienced their first episode of homelessness after age 50.
- People experiencing homelessness experience health issues similar to those 10-20 years older, yet they can't access SSI/SSDI until age 62.
- Undocumented seniors lack a safety net.
- Thirty percent increase in seniors age 65+ at Health Care for the Homeless projects nationally from 2013-2015.



# Demographic Trends

“Contemporary homelessness is in large part a birth cohort phenomenon, disproportionately affecting people born in the later half of the post-War baby boom (1955-1965)”

- from The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness

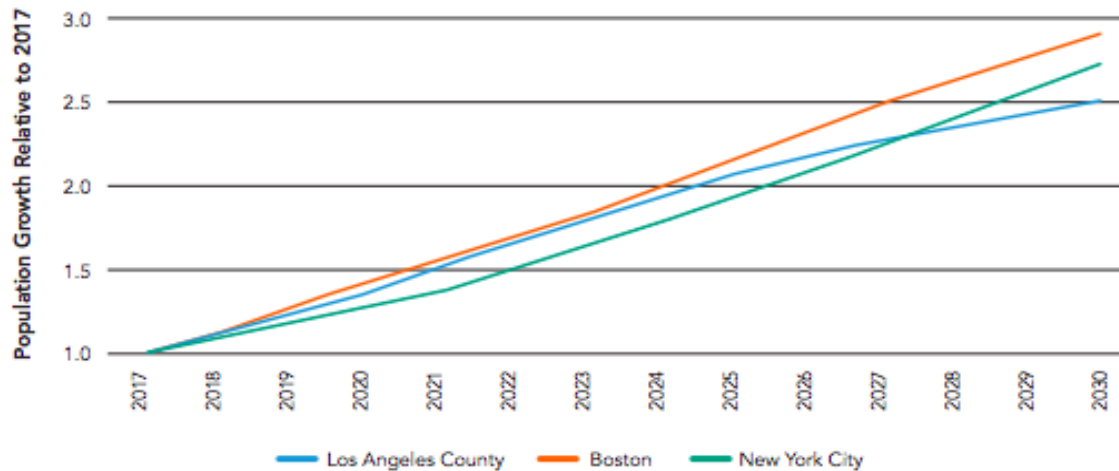




# Demographic Trends

The aged homeless population is growing rapidly and will continue to grow for the next decade.

**Figure 2: Forecasted Relative Change in the 65 and Older Homeless Population Compared to 2017**



from The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness



# Potential costs (in millions)

	Service Costs without a Housing Strategy	Housing Strategy Costs	Average Service Cost Reductions	Net Offsets (Service Cost Reductions- Housing Strategy Costs)
NYC	\$408	\$157	\$177	\$20
Boston	\$67	\$39	\$30	(\$9)
LA County	\$621	\$241	\$274	\$33

from The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness



# Addressing the crisis

“That large sums of public funding will go toward this crisis whether we act or not should motivate us to find the best and most responsible use of those funds”

- from The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness

Do we want to care for our seniors in shelters?

What is Maryland’s role in addressing this crisis?



# Addressing the crisis

- Are there enough senior buildings for low-income residents given demographic trends?
- Are there enough nursing home beds for seniors with “light-levels” and are reimbursement rates discouraging nursing homes from accepting these patients?
- Could we develop a safety net for undocumented seniors similar to what we have for undocumented children?



# Resources

The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness: Could Housing Solutions Be Funded by Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital and Nursing Home Costs?

<https://www.aisp.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness-1.pdf>

Health & Housing Partnerships for Older Adults: Aging in Place in Supportive Housing

<https://www.csh.org/resources/health-housing-partnerships-for-older-adults-aging-in-place-in-supportive-housing/>

How to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Older Adults

<https://www.justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Homelessness-Older-Adults.pdf>

Bridging the Health and Housing Gap

<https://www.communityplans.net/research/housing-gap/>

Baltimore Health Care for the Homeless [www.hchmd.org](http://www.hchmd.org)

