2020 Hospital Homeless Count

On January 27, 2020—the same night of the New York City Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) throughout NYC streets and subways—the Health & Housing Consortium led an independent effort to count the number of people experiencing homelessness who were seeking care or shelter in NYC hospitals. This population is considered the “hidden homeless” because they are missed by the City’s estimate.

Volunteers surveyed individuals in emergency department (ED) treatment areas and waiting rooms and other non-medical locations such as lobbies and hallways.

60 individuals responded to a question on what brought them into the hospital that evening:

- Medical care for myself (47%)
- Medical care for someone I know (2%)
- Some place to sleep (38%)
- Both medical care + place to sleep (13%)

Hospitals serve a large number of patients who experience homelessness. Strengthening the connection between hospitals and homeless outreach would provide additional opportunities to engage these individuals in services and help move them into permanent housing. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals are not a safe place for people who do not need emergency care.

226 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness counted in NYC hospitals on a single night

- H+H (Public)
- Private

For the full report, visit https://healthandhousingconsortium.org/hospital-homeless-count/