

**Characteristics of people with schizophrenia and recent homelessness in The Hague, The Netherlands: A first study**

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**Objective:** To report on a first study of the characteristics of people with schizophrenia and a history of homelessness in The Hague, Netherlands.

**Methods:** Parnassia is the sole mental health service provider for The Hague. We screened all 2723 electronic records of schizophrenia spectrum disorders patients at Parnassia in a recent year. We identified 112 patients with a homelessness history in the prior two years. We collected one-year data from the Parnassia Case Register on service use and clinical variables. In standardized interviews, we assessed clinical, substance use and homelessness histories of participants.

**Results:** The majority, 76% (N: 85) was contacted. Among those contacted, 14% was excluded and 14% refused to participate. We found no significant difference on service use, demographic and clinical characteristics for participants (N:60) and non-participants (N:52). The majority (88%) is male, 45% never married, mean age is 39 and 27% is foreign born. Mean education is 9 years. Prescribed medication history is high (87%), and 44% reports periods of 3 to 12 months and 32% reports periods of more than 12 months of lifetime homelessness. Lifelong substance use histories are high: 64% cocaine, 36% heroine, 25% amphetamine; 63% cannabis, 53% alcohol. Current use is considerable: 32% cocaine, 10% heroine, 15% amphetamine, 52% cannabis, 34% alcohol. The majority (76%) reports an incarceration history. They have a high HIV rate, 2 out of 32 tested (6.3%) were positive.

**Conclusions:** These individuals need specialized services to address their dual diagnoses, risk of homelessness, and prevent HIV and imprisonment.

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