Homelessness: A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

In August 2017 Hurricane Harvey hit Southeast Texas bringing with it historic flooding and unprecedented impacts on affordable housing. The Houston Housing Authority reported damage to nearly 5,800 affordable housing units in its inventory. Nearly 18% of unsheltered people at the time of the Homeless Count & Survey reported that they became homeless due to Hurricane Harvey, whether it was their first time homeless or not.

96% of the unsheltered homeless population is aged 24 or older.

An estimated 20% to 25% of homeless people also struggle with severe and persistent mental illness while up to 66% self report problems with substance use or mental health problems. Many of these people are eligible for, but not currently receiving SSI benefits.