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Health and access to healthcare in homeless people: Protocol for a mixed-methods study

Submission date
03/01/2022

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
06/01/2022

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
13/02/2024

Condition category
Other

[_] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[_] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol
Background and study aims
Homelessness is a more complex problem than the simple lack of a place to live. Homeless people (HP) often suffer from poor health and premature death due to their limited access to healthcare and are also deprived of basic human and social rights. The study protocol described here aims to evaluate the complex relationship between homelessness and health, and identify the barriers and facilitators that impact access to healthcare by HP.

Who can participate?
The study aims to recruit about 300 adult homeless people in Palma.

What does the study involve?
The first phase of the study will involve HP completing specific health questionnaires to obtain information on health status, challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, self-reported use of healthcare, diagnoses, pharmacologic treatments, substance abuse, diet quality, depression, human basic needs, and social support. The second phase of the study will involve interviews with HP to determine the effects of different personal, family, and structural factors on their life and health status.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
There are no anticipated risks of participating. The results of this study will help to develop global health strategies that improve the health and access to healthcare in HP.

Where is the study run from?
The University of the Balearic Islands (Spain) in collaboration with Primary Care and General Direction of Public Health of the Balearic Islands (Spain)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
From January 2020 to December 2022

Who is funding the study?
The College of Nurses of Balearic Islands (Spain) and the Government of the Balearic Islands (Spain)

Who is the main contact?
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
PI2020/0576

Study information

Scientific Title
Evaluating the health situation of homeless people in Spain and identifying the barriers and facilitators that impact access to healthcare

Acronym
SENSELLAR

Study objectives
To evaluate the complex relationship between homelessness and health, and identify the barriers and facilitators that impact access to healthcare by homeless people.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 08/10/2020, the Ethics Committee of Clinical Research of the Balearic Islands (CEI-IB) (Calle del calçat, 2A, 2ª planta, Polígono de Son Valentí, 07011 Palma (Illes Balears); +34-971177 378; ceic_ib@caib.es), ref: IB4301/20PI

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Observational cross-sectional mixed-methods study using an explanatory sequential design

Study type(s)
Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Access to healthcare and health of homeless people

Interventions
The first phase will consist of a cross-sectional study of 300 homeless people. Specific health questionnaires will be used to obtain information on health status, challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, self-reported use of healthcare, diagnoses, and pharmacologic treatments,

substance abuse (DAST-10), diet quality (IASE), depression (PHQ-9), and human basic needs and social support (SSQ-6).

The second phase will be a qualitative study of homeless people using the “life story” technique with purposive sampling. The interviews will be structured and defined using Nussbaum's capability approach and will be used to determine the effects of different personal, family, and structural factors on the life and health status of participants

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
1. Health status measured using an ad hoc questionnaire at a single timepoint
2. Challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic measured using an ad hoc questionnaire at a single timepoint
3. Self-reported use of healthcare, diagnoses, and pharmacologic treatments measured using an ad hoc questionnaire at a single timepoint
4. Substance abuse measured using the Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-10) at a single timepoint
5. Diet quality measured using the Healthy Feeding Index (IASE) at a single timepoint
6. Depression measured using the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) at a single timepoint
7. Human basic needs and social support measured using the Social Support Questionnaire (SSQ-6) at a single timepoint

Key secondary outcome(s)
Effects of different personal, family, and structural factors on the life and health status of participants measured using a qualitative interview at a single timepoint

Completion date
31/12/2022

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Aged ≥18 years
2. Living in Palma and meeting the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS) classification
3. Agree to participate in the study and sign the informed consent document

Participant type(s)
Other

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. Staying overnight in a private or municipal shelter for >3 months during the previous year
2. Having an acute episode of mental disease or being under the influence of alcohol or any drug during recruitment

Date of first enrolment
12/11/2020

Date of final enrolment
30/05/2022

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Spain

Study participating centre
Universitat de les Illes Balears
Cra. de Valldemossa Km 7,5
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Sponsor information

Organisation
University of the Balearic Islands

ROR
https://ror.org/03e10x626

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
The College of Nurses of the Balearic Islands

Funder Name
Govern Illes Balears

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The selection of the datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be anonymised and stored in a publically available repository (http://zenodo.org).

IPD sharing plan summary
Stored in publicly available repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		18/02/2022	13/02/2024	Yes	No
Protocol (preprint)		15/09/2021	06/01/2022	No	No