



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.



The authors respond: The impact of COVID 19 on homeless individuals



Response to Authors,

We thank the authors for their interest in our work assessing rates of COVID-19 infection in homeless patients presenting to our emergency department (ED) published in American Journal of Emergency Medicine (AJEM).

We value the correspondence and appreciate insight on our methods and findings, as well as the valuable work from another population. The data the authors have provided in their correspondence to AJEM on COVID-19 testing in primary healthcare services in the Vatican City of Rome, Italy add valuable information to help global efforts in recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on individuals experiencing homelessness.

Their positivity rate of 8.2% which was higher than the 5.5% in our cohort. We agree with the potential reasons outlined by the authors, specifically how patients may present to EDs and primary care settings for different reasons and appreciate how the authors emphasized the known concept that rates may fluctuate (authors cite studies showing ranges from 2.8 to 11.7%) within homeless persons.

The authors further described risk factors and infection control measures in homeless populations and highlighted undervalued measures to mitigate risk including health education programs, strict hygiene rules, and routine surveillance. We appreciate the recommendation to prioritize scientific data and key health information via educational methods to homeless patients regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. Future research can better comprehend vaccination rate acceptance and

rates of infection broken down by vaccination status among persons experiencing homelessness.

We acknowledge our limitation of lack of data on whether tests were obtained on asymptomatic vs symptomatic patients. We appreciate the authors providing the perspective where almost two-thirds of their patients were asymptomatic.

In conclusion, we thank the authors for highlighting the strengths of our research and sharing their own data on this vulnerable population.

Matthew Keller M.D.

*Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Louisville (UofL),
United States of America*

*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: matthew.keller.1@louisville.edu

Jacob Shreffler PhD

*Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Louisville (UofL),
United States of America*

Kathleen Wilmes

Undergraduate Medical Education, UofL, United States of America

Andrew Polites

Undergraduate Medical Education, UofL, United States of America

Martin Huecker M.D.

*Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Louisville (UofL),
United States of America*