

OHDA Homeless Indicator  
Statistics Reference Sheet

**Table 1.** Demographics and Total Number of Identified Individuals in Kentucky<sup>1,1</sup>

Characteristics	Count (#)	Percent (%)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	1,490	35.8%
Male	2,672	64.2%
<u>Race</u>		
Black	596	14.3%
White	3,526	84.7%
Neither Black nor White <sup>1,2</sup>	40	1.0%
<u>Age</u>		
0 – 17 years	71	1.7%
18 – 35 years	1,356	32.6%
36 – 44 years	942	22.6%
45 – 64 years	1,594	38.3%
65+ years	199	4.8%
<u>Primary Health Insurance</u>		
Medicaid <sup>1,3</sup>	2,805	67.4%
Medicare <sup>1,4</sup>	780	18.7%
Commercial	325	7.8%
Other <sup>1,5</sup>	252	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,162</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1,1</sup>Individuals identified by OHDA to meet criteria as experiencing homelessness during their episode of hospital care.

<sup>1,2</sup>Includes individual identified as “American Indian or Alaska Native”; “Asian”; “Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander”; and “Other”.

<sup>1,3</sup>Includes the sum of fee for service Medicaid plans and managed care organization Medicaid plans.

<sup>1,4</sup>Includes Medicare Advantage plans.

<sup>1,5</sup>Includes designations of “Other”; “Self-Pay”; “Charity”; and “Pending”.

**Note:** The number of individuals identified as “Ethnicity = Hispanic” was sufficiently small that it could not be independently identified in this table. Therefore, racial demographics presented in this table include the sum of Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals.

**Table 2.** Top Ten Most Common Diagnoses Among Patients Experiencing Homelessness

MS-DRG <sup>2,1</sup>	Diagnosis (Abbreviated)	Count of Discharges
1. 885	Psychoses	3,552
2. 897	Alcohol/Drug Abuse or Dependence	2,130
3. 871	Septicemia ( <i>without mechanical ventilation &gt; 96 hours, with major comorbidities / complications</i> )	346
4. 881	Depressive Neuroses	292
5. 894	Alcohol/Drug Abuse or Dependence ( <i>left against medical advice</i> )	237
6. 638	Diabetes ( <i>with comorbidities/ complications</i> )	201
7. 291	Heart Failure & Shock ( <i>with comorbidities/ complications</i> )	156
8. 603	Cellulitis	154
9. 918	Poisoning & Toxic Effects of Drugs	149
10. 872	Septicemia ( <i>without mechanical ventilation &gt;96 hours, without major comorbidities / complications</i> )	144

<sup>2,1</sup>Medicare-Severity Diagnostic Related Group

**Note:** The sum of these 10 diagnostic categories (7,359) accounts for ~65% of all total discharges for this sample in 2019.



OHDA Homeless Indicator  
Statistics Reference Sheet

**Table 3.** Race and Identification as a Patient Experiencing Homelessness

	Black Patients	%	White Patients	%
<b>Patient Identified by Homelessness Indicator</b>				
Yes	596	1.66%	3,526	0.98%
No	35,347	98.34%	355,480	99.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,943</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>359,006</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** Due to sample size issues, Table 3 displays Black and White patients where those of Hispanic ethnicity and those of non-Hispanic ethnicity are summed together. Because Black and White racial groups are the two largest groups in terms of population size in this demographic category – and by comparison all other groups combined are so small – only Black and White patients are compared in this calculation. A chi-squared analysis results in a value of  $\chi^2 = 144.6$ ;  $p < 0.001$  – a statistically significant difference between Black and White patients. It is important to note that this statistic has at least two important limitations: (1) the sample of patients described here does not represent a random sampling of the population of Kentucky, which limits our ability to make strong conclusions about whether this result demonstrates true racial disproportionality, and; (2) this analysis does not consider important covariates and their relationship with homelessness (e.g., health insurance status, medical diagnosis, economic factors, etc.).

**Figure 1.** Race and Identification as a Patient Experiencing Homelessness (Odds Ratio)

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Black Patients} \longrightarrow \frac{596/35,347}{3,526/355,480} = \frac{0.0168614}{0.0099189} = 1.699 \\ \text{White Patients} \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

**OR = 1.699; 95% Confidence Interval = 1.5575 – 1.8553; p < 0.0001**

**Note:** The odds ratio above describes the odds of being identified as a patient experiencing homelessness. **What this odds ratio (OR) indicates is that the odds of a Black hospital patient being identified as experiencing homelessness was 70% higher than the odds for a White patient.** This difference is statistically significant – suggesting that this particular manifestation of homelessness was experienced to a greater degree by Black patients than White patients. It is important to note that this statistic has at least two important limitations: (1) because the OHDA homelessness indicator is entirely reliant on hospital records data – it is possible that this observed difference may be related to bias in documentation practices, and; (2) this analysis also does not consider important covariates and their relationship with homelessness (e.g., health insurance status, medical diagnosis, economic factors, etc.).

**Table 4.** Race and Health Insurance Coverage Among Patients Experiencing Homelessness<sup>4.1,4.2</sup>

Patient Race	Medicaid <sup>4.3</sup>		Medicare <sup>4.4</sup>		Commercial		Other <sup>4.5</sup>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Black	368	61.74%	142	23.83%	49	8.22%	37	6.21%
White	2,408	68.29%	636	18.04%	272	7.71%	210	5.96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,775</b>		<b>778</b>		<b>321</b>		<b>248</b>	

<sup>4.1</sup>Individuals identified by OHDA to meet criteria as experiencing homelessness during their episode of hospital care

<sup>4.2</sup>240 individuals were identified as “Neither Black nor White” (see Table 1) – they are not included in this analysis in order to maintain consistency with Table 3.

<sup>4.3</sup>Includes the sum of fee for service Medicaid plans and managed care organization Medicaid plans

<sup>4.4</sup>Includes Medicare Advantage plans

<sup>4.5</sup>Includes designations of “Other”; “Self-Pay”; “Charity”; and “Pending”

**Note:** The number of individuals identified as “Ethnicity = Hispanic” was sufficiently small that it was not able to contribute adequate value for interpretation in this table. Therefore, racial demographics presented in this table include the sum of Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals. Table 4 describes that a greater percentage of Black patients were insured by Medicare as compared to White patients, while a greater percentage of White patients were insured by Medicaid as compared to Black patients in this sample.



This document is a companion to the primary data brief on the creation of the Homelessness Indicator in the HFSD data.