

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS FINDINGS EXAMPLE

People experiencing homelessness tend to live with unmanaged chronic diseases and limited access to healthcare, leading to health profiles commonly associated with older individuals (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2025). Older adults experiencing homelessness have unique needs compared to other populations experiencing homelessness, including higher rates of chronic diseases and disabilities. This was evidenced in a data analysis completed by **ILOCAL FQHC** in collaboration with the **ILOCAL SHELTER**.

Upon intake, shelter staff collect a series of questions, including a self-attestation of physical disability, chronic health conditions, disabling conditions, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders. It was found that older adults (50+) living in the shelter were 2.7 times more likely to have a chronic health condition, were 2.5 times more likely to report having a physical disability, were 2.14 times more likely to report a disabling condition, and 1.7 times more likely to report living chronically homeless, according to the HUD Definition of chronic homelessness. Alternatively, people <50 years were less likely to have a substance use disorder or mental health condition.

A review of diagnosis billing data also revealed differences in conditions that bring folks in for care. People aged 50 and older had more frequent appointments related to chronic health conditions (hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, joint disorders, diseases of the oral cavity and salivary glands, etc.) than younger PEH, who were more frequently seeking care for substance use disorder, mental health conditions, and infectious disease. The top ten most frequently used diagnoses at the time of the visit are detailed in the following table. Further, people aged 50 and older were two times more likely to remain in care (2+ visits per year for three years or more) than their younger counterparts.

Top Ten Visit Diagnoses, 50+	Top Ten Diagnoses, <50
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diseases of the oral cavity and salivary glands• Essential (primary) hypertension• High Cholesterol• Depressive disorder• Elevated blood glucose• Diabetes• Other joint disorders, not elsewhere categorized• Anxiety Disorder – PTSD• Dorsalgia• Eye conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diseases of the oral cavity and salivary glands• Opioid Use Disorder• Amphetamine Use Disorder• Anxiety Disorder• Depressive Disorder• Essential (primary) hypertension• Mood Disorder• Sleep Disorder• Hepatitis C• Abnormal blood pressure