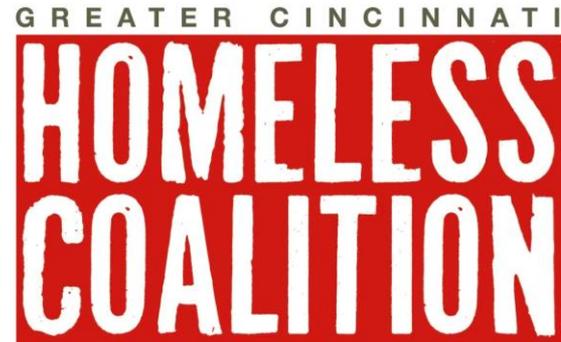


HOUSING INSECURITY IN CINCINNATI

UCCOM Class of 2026: LC 2

Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition

- The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition is a non-profit in Cincinnati that is made up of a collection of 50+ member organizations that all work to provide resources to individuals experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness
- **Mission:**
 - To advocate for municipally funded affordable housing projects in the Cincinnati area.
 - To advocate for the enactment of legislation that protects low-income residents of Cincinnati from displacement due to raising rent prices due to gentrification of lower income neighborhoods.
- Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition is supported through individual donations, which is why some of their bigger initiatives require additional support from local and city officials



Housing Insecurity has a Deleterious Effect on Health

- ***Unstable environment*** - extreme weather exposure leads to poor general and emotional health among persons experiencing homelessness (PEH)¹
- ***Poor nutritional access*** - up to 68% of PEH overweight; up to 17% underweight²
- ***Mental and emotional health*** - lack of social support systems, access to mental health care
 - Prevalence of mental illness in school-aged PEH are 2-4x higher than those experiencing poverty³
- ***Perpetuation of poor educational outcomes***
 - Children experiencing housing insecurity are susceptible to poorer educational outcomes⁴
 - Poor education outcomes → multimorbidity, functional limitations or disability⁵
- ***Vulnerability to public health crises***
 - PEH have lower vaccination rates and higher hospitalization rates for COVID-19
 - In 2022, CDC recommended a 10-day quarantine for PEH and a 5-day quarantine for the general public, despite the lack of quarantine space for PEH⁶

¹Anderson MC et al. 2021

²Huang C et al. 2022

³Bassuk EL et al. 2015

⁴Cuttuli JJ et al. 2013

⁵Zajacova A et al. 2018

⁶U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. 2022

Our Project - Last Semester

Seminar on the public health implications of homelessness:

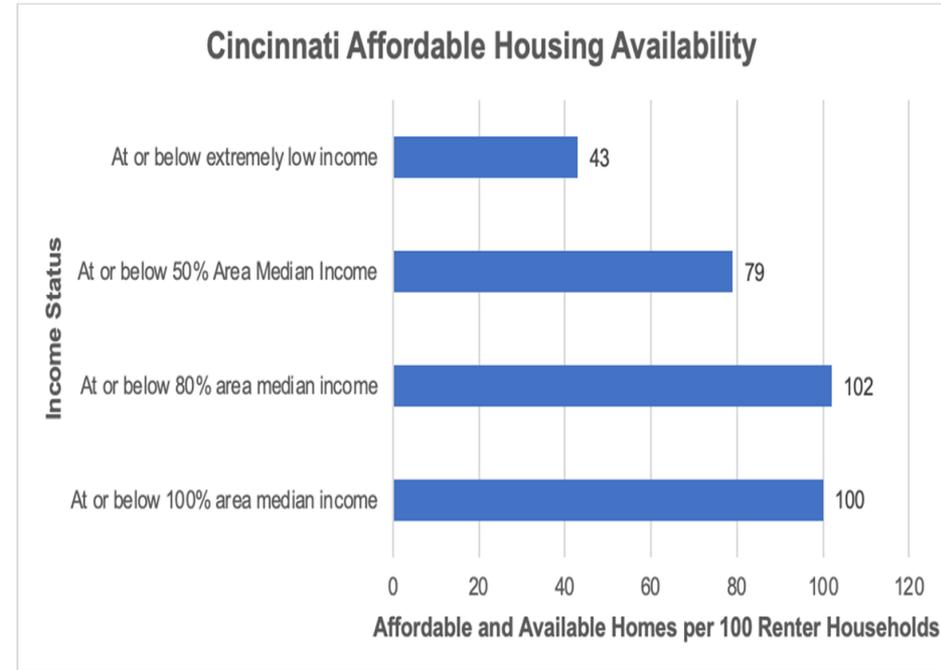
- Prevalence of housing insecurity in Cincinnati
- Physical health consequences
- Mental health consequences
- Healthcare costs of homelessness

Conclusions: Lack of affordable housing is a threat to the health of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati



Relevance to Cincinnati

- In 2015, 11,800 people in Cincinnati were experiencing homelessness⁷
- People experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati are exposed to health risk factors:
 - **Crime**
 - **Lack of proper nutrition**
 - **Exposure to the elements**
- 23.1% of homeowners are not living in affordable housing⁸
- 41.8% of renters are not living in affordable housing
- 48,117 rental unit deficit in Cincinnati⁹



⁷Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition. 2016

⁸U.S. Census Bureau. 2022

⁹National Low Income Housing Coalition. 2020.

What Can the City Council Do to Help the Coalition?

- Our goal was to ***bring awareness*** to the health implications that homelessness causes for thousands of members in our community, ***supporting the incorporation of the trust fund*** for housing security onto the recent ballot
- The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition got sufficient signatures to get their Affordable Trust Fund on the November 2023 General Election ballot
- Charter Amendment for Affordable Housing Tax for City of Cincinnati ***did not pass (68.78% voted “no”/31.39% voted “yes”)***
- We want to keep ***the issue of homelessness in Cincinnati as a prominent topic of discussion and consideration in city council meetings***
- We need to consider novel tactics to address this very prevalent issue in our community

Homeless Healthcare Costs Remain Unknown

We looked into published research, contacted local hospitals, and spoke with advocacy groups in our area; yet, no one was able to provide any data on the cost to our healthcare system.

Our Specific Ask:

- Collect data regarding the ***cost burden*** on Cincinnati healthcare caused by the health consequences of a lack of affordable housing
- Ask hospital systems in Greater Cincinnati to ***keep an accessible registry*** of ED visits and costs of individuals of the unhoused population
- Proportion of ***citizen tax dollars*** that are used to cover this cost burden



Thank you!