

Dementia and Homelessness

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Agenda

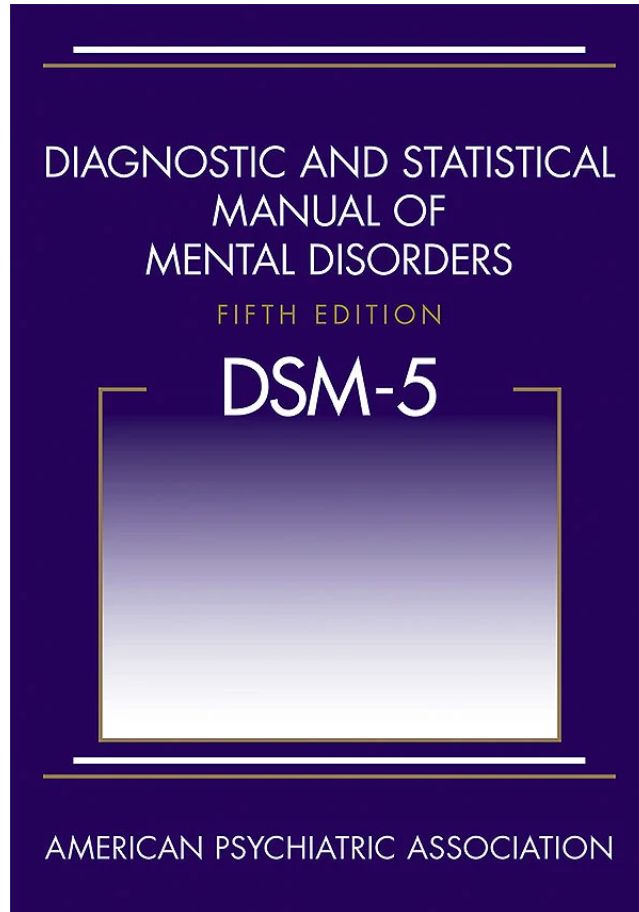
- Definitions
- Risk Factors
- Recommendations

Definition of Homelessness

1. Literally homeless
2. Imminent risk of homelessness
3. Other federal definitions (youth, families)
4. Fleeing/attempting to flee DV



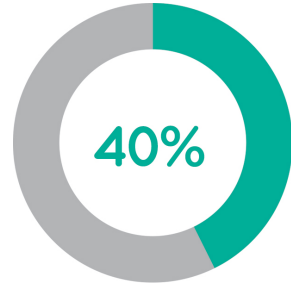
Definition of Dementia (major neurocognitive disorder)



- Evidence of significant cognitive decline from a previous level of performance in one or more cognitive domains (complex attention, executive function, learning and memory, language, perceptual-motor, or social cognition)...



Introductory Stats



>40% first became homeless at >50yo



Cognitive impairment prevalence in 70yo+
3 – 8x higher in people living homeless



~80% men, ~80% African-American

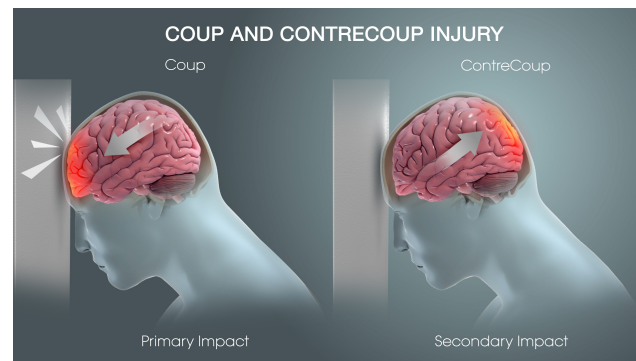
Risk for Dementia



older age, higher risk for dementia



Intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, stroke, epilepsy, or other neurological conditions



TBI is a red herring?

Substance Use



Alcohol use is associated with cognitive impairment. Opioid users may die due to unintentional overdose before developing severe cognitive impairment. Substance use may impact executive function that could affect abilities to regulate use.

Work History, Homelessness, and Dementia



People with unskilled work history 12x more likely to show cognitive impairment compared to those with skilled work history; education had weaker association

Homelessness ↑↑ dementia risk?



“likely that aspects of homelessness, such as stress, malnutrition, and environmental exposures may directly impair brain function”

Dementia ↑↑ homelessness risk?

William Utermohlen



“likely that planning, organization, and recall deficits interfere with the tasks necessary to sustain income to support housing, as well as in navigating and participating in preventative services or rehabilitative efforts toward reintegration once homeless”

Screening Recommendations



Mini-Cog®





References

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