

Call for papers: Special Issue on Unhoused Individuals, Mental Disorders, and the Criminal Justice System

Special Issue Editors:

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Invitation

Nearly 150 million people are homeless worldwide. The United Nations has documented that there are around 1.6 billion people residing in poor housing worldwide, with around 15 million being forcibly evicted each year. No country in the world is “homeless immune.” Causes for rising numbers of unhoused individuals include the lack of affordable housing, consequences of natural disasters, increasing prevalence of highly addicting substances, as well as the lack of adequate mental health services to appropriately treat individuals who suffer from a serious mental illness. The plight of unhoused individuals with a mental disorder goes far beyond the lack of shelter as many become diverted into the criminal justice system and/or become victims of violence while trying to survive on the streets. A current review of “what works best” is needed to disseminate the most affective approaches to address the staggering number of those with a serious mental illness who have no place to call home.

Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health invites submissions of articles on reporting original, meta-analytic research introducing effective approaches or review articles on interventions relevant to unhoused individuals with mental and/or substance use disorders. We also welcome articles that advocate public policy solutions or changes to current practices for individuals who are homeless with a serious mental illness. For example, authors might address questions such as:

- *What is the prevalence of serious mental illness (e.g., psychotic and mood disorders) among unhoused individuals?*
- *What is the prevalence of substance use disorders among unhoused individuals? What trends in particular substances are noted (e.g., fentanyl or methamphetamine)?*
- *What approaches work best for placing unhoused individuals with a serious mental illness into permanent housing (e.g., housing first vs. treatment first models)?*
- *What treatment interventions may be effective for unhoused individuals with a serious mental illness who remain unhoused?*
- *What does the research indicate regarding the risk of unhoused individuals with a serious mental illness becoming violent and/or involved in the criminal justice system?*
- *What are the long term legal consequences for individuals with a serious mental illness who become involved in the criminal justice system (e.g. being found trial incompetent, not guilty by reason of insanity, and/or conserved)?*
- *What is the role of trauma related to unhoused individuals with a serious mental illness?*
- *What does the research indicate regarding the risk of unhoused individuals with a serious mental illness becoming a victim of violence while being homeless?*

- What public policy approaches have demonstrated efficacy in decreasing homelessness for individuals with a serious mental illness?

Author instructions

Manuscript formats: All article types will be considered. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health's* [author guidelines apply](#).

Open Access: Our publisher may have your Open Access fee covered. Authors are invited to [check their eligibility for Open Access funding](#).

Peer review: All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed. All authors should be prepared to peer review other submissions to this issue given that we anticipate submissions from the key experts in this subspecialty area.

Deadline: Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and initial submission will be expected by **January 31, 2024**.

Authors are encouraged to email the special issue editors concerning any questions on potential manuscript submissions. During submission, please indicate the title of this special issue when prompted by our submission portal.