

Health & Place

The Geography of Adult Homelessness in the US: Validation of State and County Estimates

by

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ABSTRACT

This study models geographic variations in the U.S. in lifetime occurrence of homelessness, length of homeless experience, and point-in-time estimates based on socioeconomic, demographic, and disability indicators, among 13,931 respondents in the National Comorbidity Replication and the National Latino Asian American surveys. It uses a small area estimation methodology to estimate county and state levels of homelessness. This study demonstrates high validity for the state estimates, but not for counties. Overall, the model generates a point-in-time estimate of adult homeless persons at 377,000, and an adult lifetime rate of 4.7% of the household adult population.