

SUBJECT: Health Concerns in Homeless Populations
SUBMITTED BY: Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
REFERRED TO: 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 24

- 1 WHEREAS, the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) stated that nearly 600,000
2 people were experiencing homelessness on any given night in the United States; and
- 3 WHEREAS, the rates of homelessness increased for the first time in over seven years in 2017, and,
4 the population living outside when compare to those living in shelters substantially
5 increased; and
- 6 WHEREAS, homelessness, including living outside or in a shelter, has been found to increase the
7 risk of mortality by 60% when compared to populations with homes due to unmanaged
8 chronic disease, poor mental health, exposure to infectious disease, and injury; and
- 9 WHEREAS, individuals experiencing homelessness access care at the emergency department three
10 times more than the general population, and are often hospitalized for conditions that
11 could be managed in a primary care setting; now, therefore be it,
- 12 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourage all
13 physicians to partner with their communities to understand barriers to health and
14 improve access to healthcare for people living without homes; and, be it further,
- 15 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP support both social and health related resources for individuals and
16 families living without homes; and, be it further,
- 17 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP promote, fund, or develop programs that deliver primary and
18 preventive healthcare to all underserved populations, including those experiencing
19 homelessness.

FINAL ACTION: REFERRED TO MICHIGAN as of March 22, 2018

References:

1. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. December 2017.
2. Morrison, DS. Homelessness as an independent risk factor for mortality: results from a retrospective cohort study. *Int J of Epidemiology*. 2009;38: 877-883
3. White, BM, Newman, SD. Access to Primary Care Services Among the Homeless: A Synthesis of the Literature Using the Equity of Access to Medical Care Framework. *J Primary Care & Comm Health*. 2015;6(2): 77-87.