

Impact of the COVID Pandemic on Women Experiencing Homelessness

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Thank You to The Encampment Med Research Team

Quotations from Interviews



"Its never been better because everybody's off the streets, we own the town. I asked the cops when they first did this 5 o'clock shut down thing, I said 'What about us?' he goes 'You guys don't count - have fun'"



"My housing expired. Everywhere I go is closed. Even if it's in my price range, the owner won't let me visit the place because of the virus. What am I supposed to do? I've lost my housing because of it."

BACKGROUND

- Homelessness in CA is greater than in any other state (60%)
- Population of unhoused women is on the rise (39%)
- COVID created unique challenges for this community

OBJECTIVES

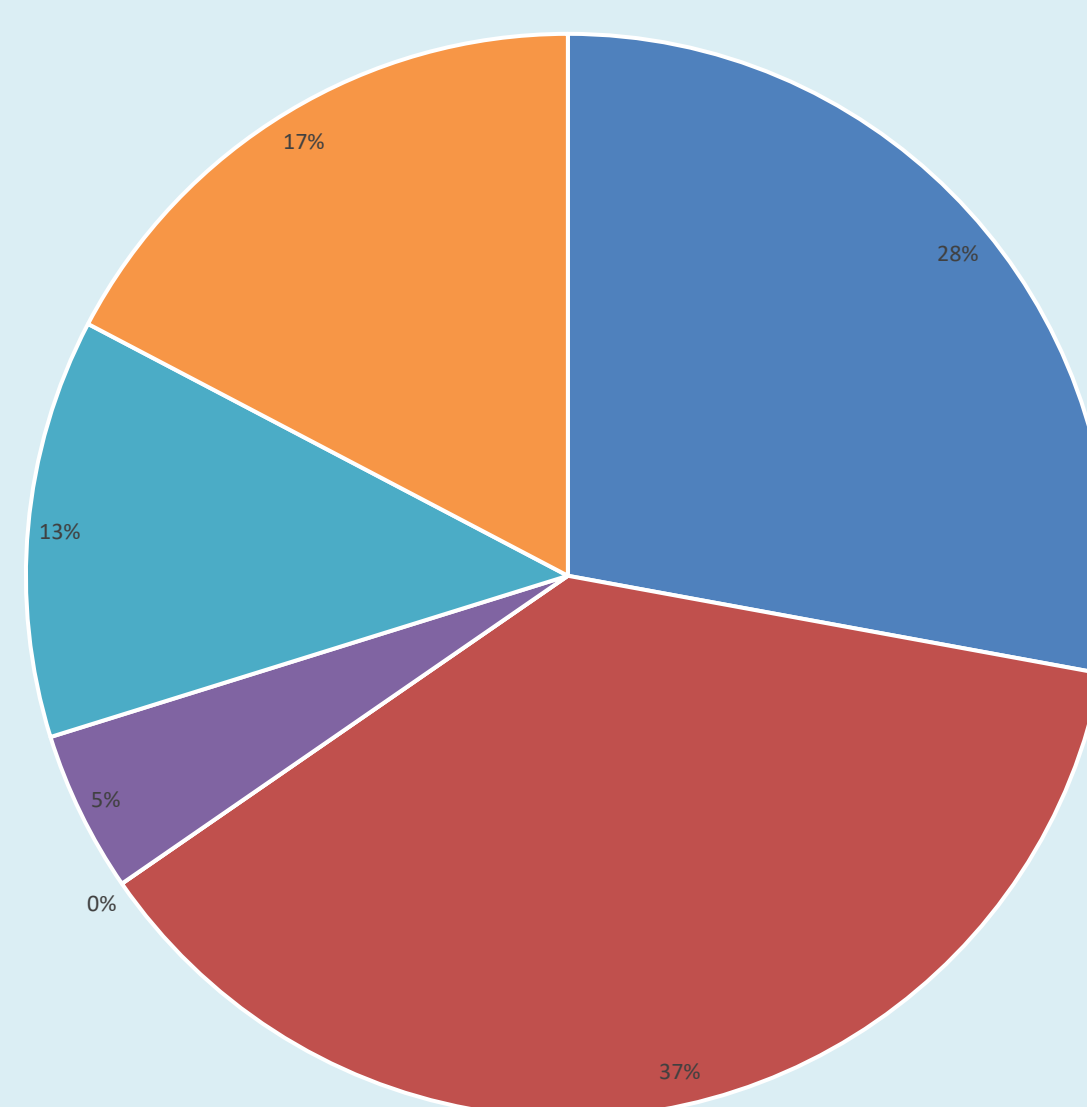
1. Determine demographics of unhoused female population
2. Describe lived experiences of homeless women during the pandemic → use this to inform future advocacy work and policies

METHODS

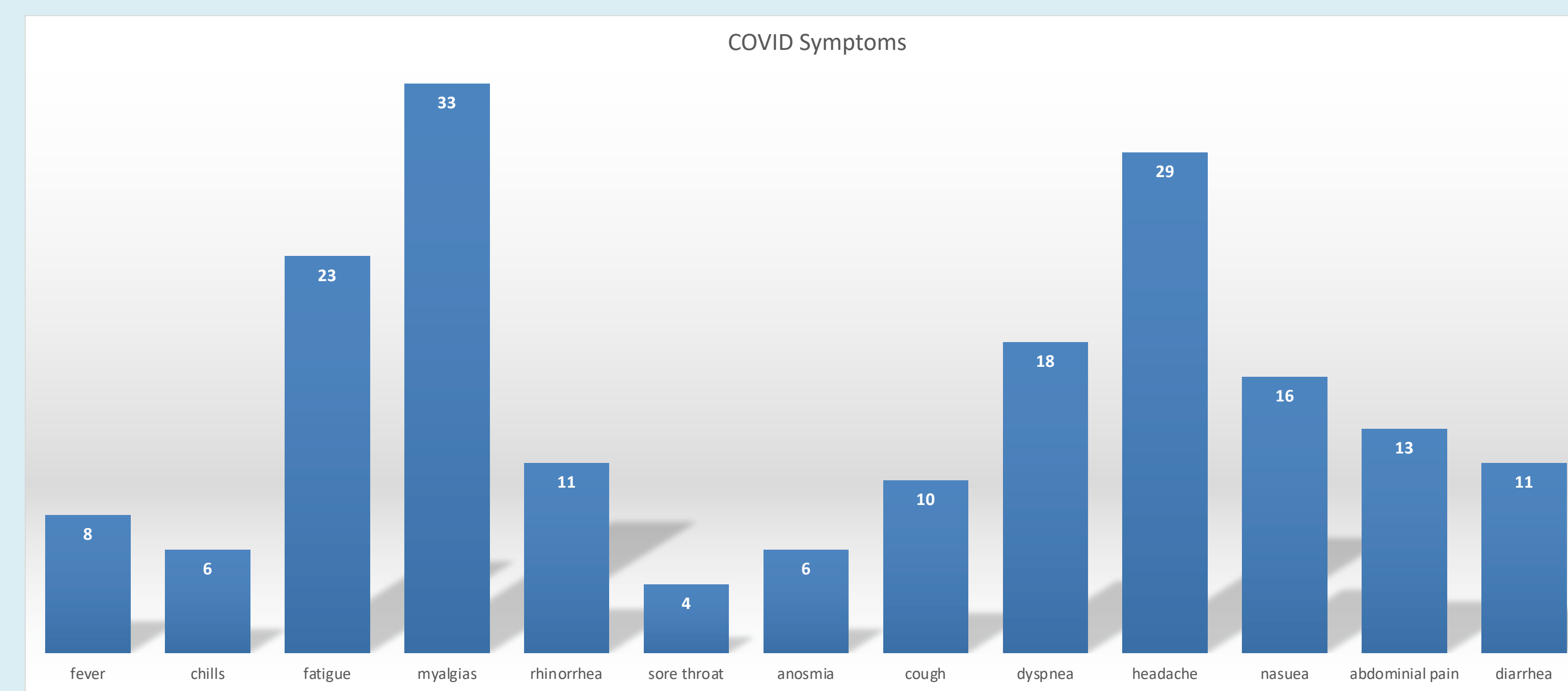
- Mixed method study of convergent design
- Data collected both via a quantitative survey (n=90) and in-depth person to person interviews (n=21) in 9 encampments and 4 motels

RESULTS

Mean Age : 50.1 years old (Range 19-73)



Race	% of Survey Population
Black/African American	28
White	37
Asian	0
Hispanic/Latino	5
Mixed	12
Other	17
Unknown	1



Women have high rates of COVID symptoms that they experience daily from chronic illness

Major Themes

1. Information and Communication about COVID 19
 - ❖ Internet, social media, TV
 - ❖ Limited Access
2. Access to basic necessities
 - ❖ Potable Water (83%), food (avg 3 meals/day), hygiene (shower - 78%)
3. Power and Fear
 - ❖ Police interactions were mixed

Conclusions

- Need for consistent access to food and water
- Need centralization and communication about available resources

