

HEALTH

Health disparities in medical and preventative care disproportionately impact women experiencing homelessness

- ▶ Homeless women continue to face challenges necessary medical services. Although the vast majority surveyed (84.2%) possessed some form of health insurance, a majority (63.2%) had also visited the emergency room within the last year, suggesting they were not regularly accessing primary or preventative care.
- ▶ A majority (54.9%) of women said they live with a mental health or psychiatric disability, and nearly two-thirds (63.5%) received treatment for mental health issues.

Homelessness is not inevitable.

It is a societal problem that bears especially hard on women. We need committed community members like you to help us develop policies that will transform systems and change lives.



ADVOCACY ACTIONS

- 01 EXPAND** transgender and gender-based discrimination protections, and ensure equal access to healthcare and housing.
- 02 CREATE** policies and practices for follow-up care and discharge from emergency rooms, including connection to housing services and affordable, accessible medical aftercare.
- 03 INCREASE** access to trauma-informed and women-specific preventative, primary, and dental care services in every neighborhood. Train staff in providing trauma-informed medical care to women engaged in sex work.
- 04 INCLUDE** comprehensive mental health services as part of case management and general service provision.
- 05 ENHANCE** access to Medi-Cal Health Homes and Whole Person Care 1115 Waiver programs for women.

Visit the
**Downtown
Women's Center
online** to read
the full report.

The Downtown Women's Center is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.

We envision a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy.

www.DowntownWomensCenter.org

#EveryWomanHoused

