



# HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

CONTRIBUTION FEANTSA

WHO webinar on housing

28/1/2021

# Homelessness

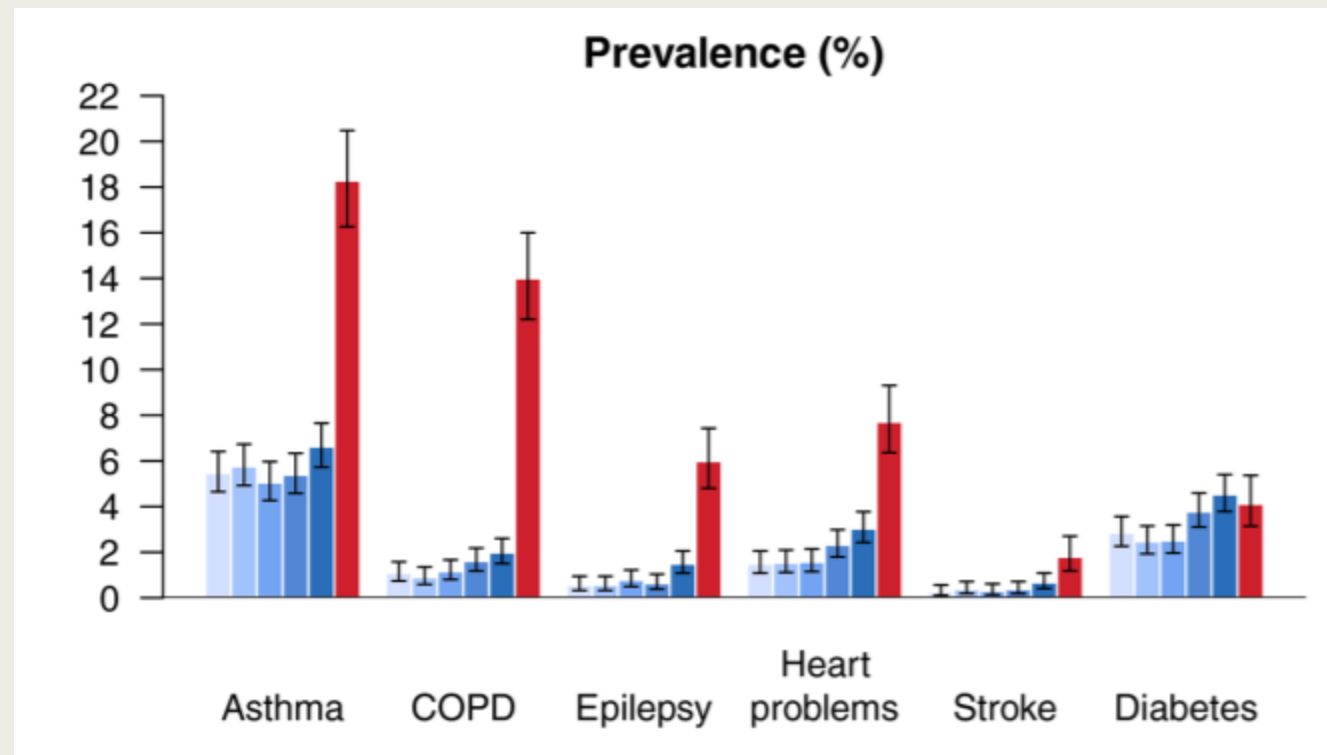
## *Some key stats*

- 700.000 people in EU (+ UK)
  - *Street & shelter*
  - *0.14% of population*
  - *70% increase in 10 years*
  - *Increase also in countries with strong social welfare systems*
  - *Prevalence – millions per year*
  - *« Chronification »*

# Homelessness & health

- Most homeless people are sick
  - *Physical & mental health problems*
  - *NCD & infectious diseases*
  - *Dynamic relation health – homelessness*
  - *Undiagnosed problems*
  - *Wealth of research*
    - Too little impact on policies & services
- Access to health care system is complicated
  - *Insurance & Stigma & Affordability & Needs*
  - *Ineffective use of health care*
    - E&A
  - *Parallel system of health care*
    - Irrespective of universal nature of health care system, NGO are main health care providers...
  - *Link health & social care systems problematic*
    - Hospital discharge into homelessness...
- Homeless is key health inequity issue
  - *Average of death of chronically homeless < 50*
    - Lower for women

# Slope & Cliff



# Housing as a « treatment » to homelessness

- Homelessness is housing & (public) health issue
  - *Resistance from homeless « sector »*
- Shelter makes people sick
  - *20% excess comorbidity*
- Housing First
  - *New approach*
  - *Works*
    - Housing stability – 80% to 95%
    - Health – but addiction...
    - Costs – important savings in health sector
  - *HF as health intervention*
    - Tap into health budgets
- Prevention of homelessness
  - *Spike in health care use before people become homeless*
    - Mobilise GPs in prevention programmes

# Housing = strong determinant of health

- Beyond « traditional » determinants like food, smoking, air pollution....
  - *Often overlooked*
- WHO Europe research 2019
  - *1% GDP more investment in housing reduces health equity gap by 2%*
  - *3 times more effective than increased investment in social protection or health*
  - ***Lets start with homelessness!***
- Corona crisis & homelessness
  - *Infections with delay*
  - *Impossible measures for homeless people*
  - *No priority for vaccination*
  - *Housing best protection against pandemic - also for homeless*
  - *Moratoria on evictions*
    - CDC

- Thank you for listening !