

## Health of people from marginalised groups

### Summary:

Poverty and social exclusion severely limit an individual's possibilities for participating in social life and have lasting health effects. They are social phenomena that can affect people from all walks of life and at any time, but the risks are particularly high during periods of economic crisis or when people are undergoing major life changes, such as separation from or loss of a family member.

### Homeless

Homelessness is an extreme form of poverty. The German Federal Association, which provides aid to the homeless, estimates that the approximately 265 000 people in Germany do not have a home; others estimates place this figure as high as 591000. The largest concentration of homeless people is to be found in Berlin, in which a full 10.000 persons do not have a home.

Homeless people are at a particularly high risk of health problems and often have only limited access to medical aid and vital medicines.

### Undocumented Migrants

Migration is a complex global phenomenon. Migrants belong to different ethnic groups, religions and social classes and leave their countries for different reasons.

Some of these people belong to the so-called "undocumented migrants" who are without a regular residence status in a target country. Official figures for these groups of migrants are not available for Germany, there are estimates differ between an "absolute minimum" of 100 000 and a maximum of 1.5 million people.

We want to contribute to a deeper understanding of the health needs among homeless people and undocumented migrants, to facilitate targeted approaches to addressing their health problems.

Therefore, we are conducting systematic analysis of the social and medical data of people seeking healthcare services at the Jenny De la Torre Foundation Healthcare Centre in Berlin and collaborate with organisations providing aid projects for undocumented migrants.

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*Project duration:*

2008 - ongoing

*Project status:*

main phase

*Funding:*

Investigator initiated trial

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### Publication:

Meyer P. Charité-Studie: Diagnose "Obdachlosigkeit". Dt. Ärzteblatt 2009;106(9):A-400

Tinnemann P, Bauer TES, De la Torre Castro J, Binting S, Keil T. Street Health: Cross-sectional study identifying social medicine issues amongst patients of the health center for homeless in Berlin, Germany. Social Medicine 2014; 8, No 1