Working with the Homeless Population of Guam and the Impact of COVID-19

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VU 2012
Continuing Education Credits

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Objectives

At the end of this offering, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the scope of homelessness in Guam and the impact of COVID-19 on the homeless population.
2. Identify vulnerabilities faced by various homeless aggregates, which has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Discuss various approaches to addressing the issues facing the homeless during the pandemic.
4. Identify ways in which nurses can work to address the needs of the homeless including COVID-19 prevention and vaccination.
Guam, an unincorporated territory of the United States, has a population of 159,358 and is 212 square miles located in the Western Pacific approximately 4,000 miles west of Hawai‘i and 6,000 miles from the U.S. west coast.

The geographic location and U.S. affiliation positions Guam as a regional hub and bridge between the continental U.S. and the Asia and Pacific region.

The Chamorros (indigenous people of the Marianas archipelago) account for 37.3% of the population, 26.3% are Filipinos, 7.1% Whites, 7% Chuukese, and the remaining are primarily other Asians and Pacific Islanders.

(U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010).
HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE NOT THE PROBLEM.
THEY ARE THE RESULT OF THE PROBLEM.

I’M NOT HOMELESS,
MY HOME IS RIGHT HERE.

40% of homeless live in inadequate structures with missing walls, roofs, doors and windows.
## PIT Count Year to Year Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>1,085</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>682</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Age 24 years &amp; older</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Age 18 to 24 years</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Age 5 to 18 years</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Birth to 5 years</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unsheltered Birth to 5 years</strong></td>
<td>196</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>79</td>
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## Comparison of Top 10 Ethnicities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chamorro – Guam</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuukese</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Racial</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pohnpeian</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yapese</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamorro – CNMI</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palauan</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosraean</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Vulnerabilities and Risks

- In March 2020 when the state of emergency declared: there was a growing concern for our homeless population and the potential exposure to covid-19
- Closure of soup kitchens
- Lack of education/awareness
- Lack of masks, basic hygiene supplies
- Lack of access to services
- Poor management of chronic illness
- Declining access to mental health services
- Homeless are unable to reach covid-19 testing centers (especially drive through testing centers)
Vulnerabilities and Risks

• Lockdown of homeless shelters
• Inability for new homeless to access services during the height of the pandemic
• Increased homelessness due to layoffs and ongoing shutdown

• Homeless individuals in local hospitals without options
  • Further strain on hospital resources
  • Increased risk of covid-19 infection for the homeless inpatients
  • 14 at GMHA (1 patient well over 3500 days, 2 patients over 1200 days LOS)
  • LOS ranges from 10 days to 3500 days
  • GMHA is a 198 bed facility
  • Had to bring in travel nurses to help with the COVID surge
Project Safe Haven

- Project Safe Haven: first attempt to deal with homeless and COVID-19
  - Poorly planned
  - Patterned after Hawaii’s response but our situation on Guam quite different
  - Did not engage the Guam Homeless Coalition in planning phase
  - Paseo Stadium- an outdoor venue was deemed inappropriate and the GHC felt it would put the homeless at greater risk of contracting covid-19
  - No plumbing, flooding issues (dengue became identified on island the Fall before COVID-19).
  - A hardened shelter was recommended by federal officials and the Guam Homeless Coalition
  - Plan to open cancelled at the last minute- after much advocacy by the GHC and other health officials.
Project safe haven

Governor of Guam: Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero commented: (also a Registered Nurse)

- "A lot of (the homeless) don't want to be housed. So we need to also, in these challenging times, be very mindful of people's civil rights and civil liberties," Governor Leon Guerrero said. "The advice is not to do herding of all these homeless people into one big situation, one big space."

- “Her own preference is to ‘put them all in one place’ but the guidance states otherwise, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said Tuesday, of plans to assist the island's homeless amid the COVID-19 pandemic.”
2019 PIT COUNT

2019 PIT COUNT
Homeless passport to services

• COVID-19 testing for homeless

• Guam Homeless Coalition partnered with the Dept of Public Health and Social Services to conduct testing

• Testing conducted at various locations close to homeless encampments

• Positive cases were managed within 48 hours: two positives and were isolated in Govt. facility with their consent

• Housing assessment

• Services by homeless services offered

• Food/clothing provided

• Homeless Point in Time Count cancelled amid covid-19 concerns
Interagency Council for Coordination Homelessness Programs

- After the mishaps for the Safe Haven, the Gov. realized a collaborative plan was needed
- Executive Order No. 2020-23 on June 30, 2020
- Reconstituted the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless programs
- Established the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention at the Mayor’s Council of Guam
- Ordered a shelter be provided for homeless individuals and families
- The charge is to examine problems and develop and implement strategies and programs for a coordinated response to reduce homelessness.
Section IV of Executive Order No. 2007-20 relative to the Membership of the Council is hereby repealed. There shall be seven (7) members of the Interagency Council comprised as follows:

i. The Lieutenant Governor of Guam, who shall serve as chair;

ii. A Mayor designated by the President of the Mayor’s Council of Guam, who shall serve as Vice-Chair;

iii. The Executive Director of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority;

iv. The President of the Guam Housing Corporation;

v. The Executive Manager of the Guam Regional Transit Authority;

vi. A member of the general public appointed by the Governor; and

vii. An employee or volunteer of a member organization of the Guam Homeless Coalition appointed by the Governor.
New Shelter: Global Dorms

- After 120 days into the pandemic: on July 10, 2020 New Homeless Shelter opened: Global Dorm facility housed 40 homeless individuals
  - Govt. contracted for 40 rooms in the motel facility
  - Catholic Social Services Guam contracted for case management services
  - By July 23, the facility housed 70 people (13 children)
  - By early August the number rose to 86 individuals
  - By November 2020 the total increased to 162 individuals:
    - 32 households
    - 39 children

- In Feb. 2021: ongoing case management having positive outcomes
  - 3 families housed in Jan/Feb (19 people total)
  - 20 families currently served by case management to find housing
New Shelter: Global Dorms

- Large numbers of children including toddlers and infants
- One unit is a student learning center
- Direct collaboration with Guam DOE
- Many donations for clothing, diapers, coloring books, toys, etc are received
- COVID stress impacting homeless
- Referrals made to Child Protective Services (lag in response)
  - CPS authority recently given to another Govt. Agency in response to lack of proper services
HUD’s Continuum of care funding

• In 2000, Guam became the first territory among the insular areas to receive CoC funds for the homeless from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

• This year, Guam awarded $1.4 million to fund local homeless programs ($2.5 billion awarded nationwide from HUD).

• Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority is the collaborative applicant with the Guam Homeless Coalition
  • Coordinated entry system
  • Support services and housing for victims of domestic violence
  • Housing for the disabled
  • Rapid rehousing programs
  • Homeless Management Information System
  • Permanent supportive housing for chronic homeless individuals and families
  • Continuum of care projects
  • Housing First Rental Assistance Programs
Role of nurses

- Be informed
- HUD exchange
- Outreach for education, testing, vaccination
- Education for homeless individuals and families
- Provide necessities
- Partner with Public Health and Homeless Service providers
- Connecting people to stable housing should be the priority
Role of nurses

- Universities can engage their students: UOG involve nursing, social work, health sciences, sociology, biomedical…….

- Teach homeless service providers how to resume care safely

- Continue to connect clients to care

- Improve access to handwashing facilities

- Advocate for COVID-19 testing

- Advocate for vaccinations for homeless if deemed appropriate in your tiered vaccination priority system.

- On Guam: homeless service providers were vaccinated end of January 2021
  - Homeless shelters began vaccination for residents and staff week of Feb. 8, 2021
GHC HealthCare Committee

- Newly established in 2015
- Private/Public partnerships
- First annual Medical Mission/Outreach- 92 people
- Dengue Outreach by UOG students 2019

Services:
- Health screening - WIC
- Immunizations - Guam Dept. of Education
- Eligibility for Medicaid - Public Health
- Headstart - books, toys, clothing donations

University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association of Guam
- Physicians
- Medications
- Supplies
Passport To Services 2014
2019 Dengue Prevention Outreach
COVID-19 UPDATES: FEBRUARY 13, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases Reported Positive</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Confirmed Positive</td>
<td>7,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tested Since March</td>
<td>120,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positivity Rate</td>
<td>1.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tested Negative</td>
<td>112,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases in Active Isolation</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Released from Isolation</td>
<td>7,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Tracing Cases</td>
<td>2,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19-Related Fatalities</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Doses Administered</td>
<td>78.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GMH: 5 Cases | 2 in ICU | 2 on Ventilator
GRMC: 2 Cases | 2 in ICU | 0 on Ventilator

CURRENT SCORE: 0.8

STRIVE FOR 5

- Wear a Mask
- Wash Your Hands
- Watch Your Distance

TOTAL VACCINES ADMINISTERED: 40,524
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS FULLY IMMUNIZED: 12,228
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>CURRENT ISOLATION LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Death</td>
<td>130 Female</td>
<td>3,227 Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Isolation</td>
<td>87 Male</td>
<td>4,462 Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not In Isolation</td>
<td>7,472 AGE GROUP</td>
<td>Isolation Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>7,303 0-9</td>
<td>474 Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Service Member</td>
<td>386 10-19</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel History</td>
<td>424 20-29</td>
<td>1,599 Household Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>371 30-39</td>
<td>1,425 Community Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>2 40-49</td>
<td>1,429 Workplace Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>5 50-59</td>
<td>1,117 Healthcare Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1 60-69</td>
<td>589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>44 70-79</td>
<td>199 North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1 80-89</td>
<td>58 Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identified in Quarantine</td>
<td>396 90+</td>
<td>11 South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-resident</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done.

We will be judged by this:

"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in."

Hungry not only for bread—but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing—but naked of human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a home of bricks—but homeless because of rejection.”

-Mother Teresa (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)
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