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### Title

Risk Factors for Falls in Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness: Results from the HOPE HOME Cohort Study

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1 Title: Risk factors for falls in older adults experiencing homelessness: Results from the HOPE  
2 HOME cohort study

3 *Running Title: Falls in older adults experiencing homelessness*

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ABSTRACT

Background: More than half of homeless adults are age  $\geq 50$  years. Falls are a common cause of morbidity in older adults in the general population. Risk factors for falls in the general population include poor health, alcohol use, and exposure to unsafe environments. Homeless adults  $\geq 50$  have a high prevalence of known risk factors and face additional potential risks.

Objectives: To examine the prevalence of and risk for falling in a cohort of older homeless adults.

Design: Longitudinal cohort study with participant interviews every 6 months for 3 years; data analyzed using generalized estimating equations (GEE).

Participants: 350 adults aged  $\geq 50$  homeless at study entry recruited via population-based sampling.

Measures: The dependent variable is any falls in prior six months; independent variables include individual (i.e. illness, behaviors) and social/environmental factors (i.e., social support, experiencing violence, living unsheltered).

Results: Over three-quarters of participants were men (77.1%) and Black (79.7%). The median age was 58 (IQR 54, 61). At baseline, one-third (33.7%) reported a fall in the prior 6 months. At follow-up visits, 23.1% to 31.2% of participants reported having fallen. In GEE models, individual risk factors (non-Black race, being a women, older age, functional impairment, urinary incontinence, history of stroke, and use of assistive devices, opioid, and marijuana) were associated with increased odds of falls. Environmental and social factors (spending any nights unsheltered (AOR = 1.42, CI 1.10-1.83) and experiencing physical assault (AOR = 1.67, CI 1.18-2.37) were also associated.

Conclusions: Older homeless adults fall frequently. Likely contributors include having a high prevalence of conditions that increase the risk of falls, compounded by heightened exposure to unsafe environments. Fall prevention in this population should target those at highest risk and address modifiable environmental conditions. Providing shelter or housing and addressing substance use could reduce morbidity from falls in homeless older adults.

1 INTRODUCTION

2 In the United States, over half a million people experience homelessness each night.<sup>1</sup> The  
3 proportion of single homeless adults over age 50 is increasing.<sup>1</sup> Homeless adults age 50 and  
4 over experience a higher prevalence of geriatric conditions (e.g. falls, urinary incontinence, and  
5 functional, sensory, and cognitive impairments) than adults 20 years older in the general  
6 population.<sup>2,3</sup>

7 In the general population, falls are prevalent, occurring in approximately one-third of  
8 adults age 65 or older.<sup>4,5</sup> Falls are associated with adverse outcomes including restricted mobility,  
9 deconditioning, and loss of independence.<sup>6,7</sup> In the United States, medical costs due to fatal and  
10 non-fatal falls are approximately \$50 billion a year.<sup>5</sup> Individual risk factors for falls include  
11 medical problems (e.g. stroke, depression, functional and cognitive impairment), health-related  
12 behaviors (e.g. tobacco or alcohol use)<sup>8-11</sup>, and social factors (e.g. lack of social support).  
13 Environmental triggers are factors external to the individual that heighten the risk for slipping or  
14 tripping. These include surface (e.g. uneven exteriors, obstructive ground-level objects), ambient  
15 (e.g. poor lighting), and weather-related conditions.<sup>12,13</sup>

16 Falls result from an interaction between an individual's underlying vulnerabilities and  
17 their exposure to environmental conditions.<sup>8,14</sup> People experiencing homelessness have a high  
18 prevalence of factors known to be associated with falls in the general population, including  
19 chronic diseases, functional impairment, alcohol and opioid use problems.<sup>2,15</sup> Homeless older  
20 adults have high prevalence of other factors that could be associated with falls, such as substance  
21 use and heightened exposure to physical violence.<sup>15,16</sup>

22 People who are homeless live in a variety of environments, including homeless shelters  
23 and unsheltered spaces that expose them to environmental hazards and violence. In each of these

1 settings, homeless individuals have limited control over their environment, especially when  
2 living in unsheltered environments.

3 We examined the prevalence of and risk factors for falls in a longitudinal cohort of adults  
4 aged 50 and older who were homeless at study entry. We hypothesized that homeless adults  
5 would have a high prevalence of falls and high exposure to environmental hazards. We  
6 hypothesized that factors known to be associated with falls in the general population would be  
7 associated with falls in our cohort. We further hypothesized that several factors that are plausibly  
8 related, but have not been studied (use of marijuana and stimulants, exposure to physical assault,  
9 and uncontrolled environments), would be associated.

## 10 METHODS

### 11 *Study Overview*

12 We conducted a 3-year prospective cohort study of 350 homeless adults aged 50 and older, the  
13 Health Outcomes in People Experiencing Homelessness in Older Middle age (HOPE HOME)  
14 study.<sup>17</sup> We interviewed participants at baseline and every 6 months for three years; at each  
15 interview, trained research staff administered a structured interview and conducted clinical  
16 assessments. The institutional review board of the University of California, San Francisco  
17 approved this study. The datasets we analyzed during the current study are available from the  
18 corresponding author on request.

### 19 *Study Sample*

20 Between July 2013 and June 2014, we recruited 350 adults age 50 or older who were homeless at  
21 study entry. We recruited from all local shelters open to older adults (n=5), all free and low-cost  
22 meal programs that served at least three meals a week (n=5), one recycling center, and areas  
23 where adults slept unsheltered in Oakland, California (Figure 1). To create a sample that best

1 represented the target population, including the high number of people living unsheltered in  
2 Oakland, we randomly selected potential participants using sampling frames that included  
3 encampment sites, recycling centers, shelters, and meal programs.<sup>18</sup> We describe our Methods  
4 in more detail elsewhere.<sup>17-19</sup>

5 Eligibility criteria included: (1) homeless according to the Homeless Emergency  
6 Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) definition that includes any person  
7 living unsheltered, staying in an emergency shelter, or facing eviction in the next 14 days, (2)  
8 age 50 years or older, (3) English-speaking, and (4) able to provide informed consent as  
9 determined by a teach-back mechanism.<sup>20</sup> Participants received \$25 for the screening and  
10 enrollment interview, \$5 for monthly check-ins, and \$15 for follow-up interviews.

#### 11 *Measures*

##### 12 *Outcome Variable*

13 Our primary outcome was self-reported falls in the prior six months, assessed at each study  
14 interview. We defined falling as “a sudden, unintentional change in position from an upright  
15 posture coming to rest on the floor or ground.” For descriptive purposes, among participants  
16 who reported a fall, we asked how many times the participant fell and whether they sought  
17 medical treatment for their fall.

##### 18 *Independent Variables*

##### 19 *Individual Risk Factors*

20 We identified demographic risk factors as time-constant (assessed once at baseline) and other  
21 risk factors, health status, and health-related behaviors as time-varying (assessed at each visit).

22 We assessed age, gender, and race/ethnicity.<sup>21</sup> In our analyses, we dichotomized race as  
23 Black versus non-Black. Participants reported their highest educational attainment. We

1 classified participants as having graduated from high school or earned a General Educational  
2 Development (GED) certificate versus no high school diploma/GED.

### 3 *Health Status*

4 Using modified questions from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey  
5 (NHANES), we asked participants whether a healthcare provider told them they had: myocardial  
6 infarction, congestive heart failure, stroke, arthritis, diabetes, or chronic lung disease (chronic  
7 obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma); we included these as separate variables.<sup>22</sup> If a  
8 participant reported a medical condition at any time point, we considered them to have that  
9 condition in subsequent visits.

10 We assessed visual impairment using the Snellen test, and defined visual impairment as  
11 corrected visual acuity <20/100.<sup>23</sup> We defined hearing impairment as self-reported difficulty  
12 hearing.<sup>24</sup> To evaluate cognitive impairment, we used the Modified Mini-Mental State  
13 Examination (3Ms). Those who scored below the 7<sup>th</sup> percentile (1.5 standard deviations below a  
14 reference cohort mean) or were unable to complete the assessment were defined as cognitively  
15 impaired.<sup>25</sup>

16 We asked participants about their ability to complete activities of daily living (ADLs).  
17 We defined an ADL impairment as reporting difficulty with bathing, transferring, toileting,  
18 dressing or eating.<sup>26</sup> We assessed lower extremity function with the Short Physical Performance  
19 Battery (SPPB) test and classified those who scored  $\leq 10$  as having reduced physical  
20 performance.<sup>27</sup> We assessed urinary incontinence in the past six months by asking participants  
21 whether they had "leaked urine, even a small amount."<sup>28</sup>

22 We measured height and weight and calculated Body Mass Index (BMI), classifying a  
23 BMI  $\geq 18$  to <25 as normal weight, 25 to <30 as overweight, and  $\geq 30$  as obese. We used the

1 Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) to assess depressive symptoms;  
2 we considered scores  $\geq 22$  as indicating depressive symptoms.<sup>29</sup> We assessed pain by asking  
3 participants to score their average pain in the past week using a 10-point Likert scale. We  
4 categorized pain as mild (0-4); moderate (5-7) and severe (8-10).<sup>30</sup> We assessed whether  
5 participants used an assistive device—such as a cane, crutches, walker, wheelchair, or scooter—  
6 in the past six months.

### 7 *Health-Related Behaviors*

8 We classified smoking status using the California Tobacco Survey, categorizing participants as  
9 never, current, or former smokers.<sup>31</sup> We asked participants to report how much alcohol they  
10 drank and considered those who drank  $\geq 6$  drinks on one occasion monthly as heavy drinkers.<sup>32</sup>  
11 To assess illicit drug use (cocaine, amphetamines, opioids and marijuana) in the last six months,  
12 we used the World Health Organization's (WHO) Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance  
13 Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST). We considered a score of  $\geq 4$  as indicative of moderate-  
14 to-severe use.<sup>33</sup>

### 15 *Social and Environmental Risk Factors*

#### 16 *Social Support*

17 We used a validated measure of social support, counting the number of people in whom the  
18 participant could confide (0, 1-5, or  $\geq 6$ ).<sup>34-36</sup>

#### 19 *Physical Assault*

20 To assess physical assault, we asked participants: “in the past six months, have you experienced  
21 physical violence by another person using an object like a gun or a knife, or did anyone ever  
22 slap, hit, punch, kick, choke, or burn you?”<sup>37</sup>



## 1 *Residential Status*

2 To assess exposure to environmental hazards at each visit, we used a residential follow-back  
3 calendar in which we asked participants to report each place they had stayed and number of  
4 nights in each setting during the prior six months.<sup>38</sup> We considered being unsheltered as  
5 indicative of the highest environmental exposure. We defined an unsheltered environment as  
6 sleeping outdoors or any place not meant for human habitation (e.g. transit terminal, abandoned  
7 building). We categorized participants as having spent any nights versus no nights in unsheltered  
8 settings.<sup>16</sup> In preliminary analyses, we evaluated nights unsheltered as a 3-level variable (0, 1-  
9 119, and 12-180 nights) and as a 6-level variable (0, 1-7, 8-30, 31-90, 91-120, and 121-180  
10 nights). Neither alternative exhibited a dose-response effect. Therefore, we used a dichotomous  
11 measure of any nights unsheltered in our analysis.

## 12 *Statistical Analyses*

13 To identify risk factors for falls, we chose independent variables based on our hypotheses. We  
14 assessed bivariate associations between a priori independent variables and recent falls (i.e., one  
15 or more falls in the past 6 months) using generalized estimating equations (GEE).

16 We built our multivariable model by including variables with bivariate Type 1 p-values  
17 <0.20. If a categorical variable had more than two levels, we included all levels in our  
18 multivariable model if any Type 1 p-value was  $p < 0.20$ . We reduced the model using backwards  
19 elimination retaining variables with p-values <0.05 in our final multivariable model. We  
20 conducted our analysis in SAS 9.4 using complete case analysis and robust confidence intervals  
21 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA, 2017).

22 In a sensitivity analysis, we assessed whether we had underestimated the probability of  
23 falls due to incomplete follow-up or mortality. We examined the prevalence of falls among

1 those: 1) with complete follow-up, 2) who had died during follow-up, or 3) who had not died but  
2 had missed any study visits over the 36-month study period. We used GEE to examine whether  
3 those who had died or missed visits were more likely to have experienced a fall in the past 6  
4 months than those with complete follow-up.

5 We included participants with a minimum of two visits. We used weighted linear  
6 regression with a second order polynomial and zero intercept term to plot a trend line.

## 7 RESULTS

### 8 *Participant Characteristics at Baseline*

9 The median age was 58.0 (IQR 54.0, 61.0). Of the 350 participants, the majority were men  
10 (77.1%) and Black (79.7%). More than a quarter had less than a high school education (25.7%;  
11 ~~)-(Table 1).~~ Over one-quarter were obese (26.6%). The majority of participants reported current  
12 tobacco use (65.4%) and 11.2% reported heavy drinking. Almost one-fifth was cognitively  
13 impaired (18.3%). The most prevalent substances with problematic use were cocaine (43.1%),  
14 marijuana (39.1%), and opioids (12.9%). Approximately one-third of the cohort (32.5%)  
15 reported not having any confidants; 10.1% experienced physical assault and 81.7% had spent a  
16 night unsheltered.

### 17 *Fall Prevalence and Seeking Care for Falls*

18 At baseline, over one-third (33.7%) reported one or more falls in the past six months. (Table 1)  
19 Of the 118 participants who reported falling at baseline, 28.0% reported 4 or more falls, 35.6%  
20 two to three falls, and 36.4% one fall. One-third (33.1%) of participants who fell required  
21 medical treatment due to a fall.

22 During the 36-month study, 28 participants died. Of those who survived, 183 completed  
23 all six follow-up interviews; 72 completed 4-5, 32 completed 2-3, and 21 completed one follow-

1 up interview. We found a higher mean number of falls at baseline among those who died during  
2 follow-up (mean 0.42; standard deviation (SD) 0.50) and those who had not died but had missed  
3 visits (mean 0.38; SD 0.49) than among those who completed follow-up (mean 0.30; SD 0.46).

4 Of the 350 participants, 218 (62.3%) reported one or more falls in at least one study visit;  
5 107 (30.6%) reported falls in at least half of the visits; and 34 (9.7%) reported falls at all visits.

#### 6 *Factors Associated with Falls*

7 Those who reported falls at baseline had a higher prevalence of known risk factors for falls than  
8 those who had not fallen (Table 1). People with falls were significantly more likely to have less  
9 than a high school education, a history of stroke, difficulty with ADLs, mobility impairment, use  
10 of assistive device, increased urinary incontinence, and depressive symptoms. We found that  
11 those who fell were more likely to have moderate-to-high risk opioid and marijuana use, fewer  
12 social confidants, have spent at least one night unsheltered, or experienced physical assault.

13 In models adjusted for key covariates, individual risk factors associated with significantly  
14 higher odds of falls included older age (Adjusted Odds Ratio [AOR] 1.03, confidence interval  
15 (CI) 1.00-1.06), being a woman (AOR 1.45, 95% CI 1.02-2.04), having non-Black race (AOR  
16 1.65, 95% CI 1.12-2.43), having a history of stroke (AOR 2.17, 95% CI 1.42-3.32), reporting an  
17 ADL impairment (AOR 1.99, 95% CI 1.51-2.63), urinary incontinence (AOR 1.40, 95% CI 1.07-  
18 1.81), and use of an assistive device (AOR 1.86, 95% CI 1.39-2.50) (Table 2).

19 Moderate-to-severe marijuana use (AOR 1.93, 95% CI 1.47-2.55) and moderate-to-  
20 severe opioid use (AOR 1.64, 95% CI 1.02-2.65) were associated with increased odds of falling.  
21 Experiencing physical assault (AOR 1.67, 95% CI 1.18-2.37) and spending any night unsheltered  
22 (AOR 1.42, 95% CI 1.10-1.83) in the last six months were as well.

1 In a sensitivity analysis, we found that those who had died during study follow-up (AOR  
2 1.35, 95% CI 0.56-3.28) or who survived to study follow-up but had missed visits (AOR 1.24,  
3 95% CI 0.89-1.72) were more likely to experience falls.

#### 4 DISCUSSION

5 In this longitudinal study of adults 50 and older who were homeless at study enrollment,  
6 we found a high prevalence of falls. Despite a median age of 58 years, study participants  
7 reported a prevalence of falls higher than older adults with a mean age of 78 in the general  
8 population.<sup>3</sup> Many participants fell repeatedly throughout the three-year study period; over a  
9 third of the cohort reported falls in at least half of their study visits. We found an association  
10 between falls and several factors known to increase fall risk within the general population,  
11 including older age, gender, functional impairment, urinary incontinence, use of an assistive  
12 device, and stroke.

13 Our findings indicate that the increased risk for falls in homeless older adults results, in  
14 part, from a high prevalence of geriatric conditions (e.g. functional and urinary impairment) and  
15 substance use (e.g. problematic opioid use) known to increase fall risk.<sup>2</sup> Some of these risk  
16 factors may be modifiable via physical and occupational therapy, although it is more difficult to  
17 intervene while someone is experiencing homelessness. As the average age of the homeless  
18 population continues to increase, the population will have increasing prevalence of geriatric risk  
19 factors.<sup>39</sup>

20 We identified novel risk factors: using marijuana, experiencing physical assault, and  
21 spending time unsheltered that contributed to the high fall prevalence in our population. Both  
22 opioid use and marijuana use were associated with increased odds of falling. Opioid use is  
23 associated with increased fall risk among older adults in the general population.<sup>40,41</sup> However,

1 despite research on marijuana use and injuries in community-dwelling older adults, little is  
2 known about how marijuana use impacts falls.<sup>42-44</sup> Marijuana—like opioids—may increase falls  
3 by affecting the sensorium, inducing dizziness, confusion, and drowsiness.<sup>42,45</sup> We found a high  
4 prevalence of marijuana use among study participants. People born in the study’s age cohort  
5 have had high prevalence of marijuana use their whole lives, including in older adulthood.<sup>46-48</sup> As  
6 marijuana use among older adults increases, due to changes in legal status and cohort effects,  
7 there may be increased falls associated with its use.

8       Experiencing physical assault is common among older adults who are homeless.<sup>16</sup>  
9 Physical assault can increase fall risk directly (as a complication of assault), or indirectly, by  
10 causing injuries that enhance underlying individual vulnerabilities associated with falls.<sup>16</sup> Future  
11 research should evaluate the role of marijuana use and physical assault in falls among housed  
12 older adults to determine whether these risk factors are unique to older adults experiencing  
13 homelessness.

14       People who are unsheltered have increased exposure to unsafe environments, with  
15 minimal control. They may stay in isolated locations with uneven surfaces and physical barriers,  
16 such as abandoned buildings, under bridges, or along highways. Unsheltered environments lack  
17 lighting or protection against environmental hazards. Avoiding falls requires intact executive  
18 function and physical agility to be able to process external stimuli and modify movements to  
19 remain upright.<sup>49</sup> For older adults with vulnerabilities—such as those common among homeless  
20 older adults—small external triggers (e.g. rain, sidewalk debris, or uneven surfaces) may  
21 precipitate falls. Housed older adults are able to modify their behaviors to avoid high-risk  
22 environmental exposures that predispose them to falls. For example, they can decrease how often

1 they walk outside on uneven surfaces or minimize their public transit use. In contrast, adults  
2 living in unsheltered settings have less ability to avoid high-risk environmental exposures.<sup>50</sup>

3 Our finding that non-Black race was associated with increased falls is consistent with  
4 research in housed adults.<sup>51,52</sup> Homelessness is caused by an interaction between structural factors  
5 and individual risk factors. Because Black Americans face structural racism, Black Americans  
6 with less individual vulnerability (such as substance use and mental health disabilities) are at risk  
7 for homelessness. While we adjusted for these conditions, there may be unmeasured confounders  
8 that we were unable to account for.<sup>1,53</sup>

### 9 *Limitations*

10 Our study has several limitations. We rely on six-month recall of falls. Other studies of falls in  
11 older adults use timeframes that range from monthly to biennial.<sup>54,55</sup> Participants without  
12 complete study follow-up had a higher prevalence of falls, indicating that our model may have  
13 underestimated the odds of experiencing falls. We did not ask about prescribed medications and  
14 could not report on the role of polypharmacy. We conducted the study in the San Francisco Bay  
15 Area, where 67% of people experiencing homelessness live unsheltered, compared to 5% in both  
16 New York and Boston.<sup>56</sup> Studies in cities with lower proportions of unsheltered homelessness  
17 may report lower rates of falls. Among individuals who are unsheltered, there are a wide variety  
18 of environments that may affect fall risk. We did not have detailed data on the variety of  
19 environments in which unsheltered homeless people stayed and cannot assess the risk of these  
20 different exposures.

### 21 *Conclusion*

22 Older homeless adults have a high rate of falls, similar to those of adults 20 years older. The  
23 increased risk is due to a high prevalence of individual risk factors and environmental exposures.

1 Identifying people at high risk for falls could allow targeted interventions, such as providing  
2 shelter, low-height accessible beds, counseling on marijuana and opioid use, and physical  
3 therapy. For older adults who live unsheltered, there are nascent efforts to have occupational  
4 therapists visit unsheltered settings to reduce fall risk by employing reflective tape and anchoring  
5 unstable environmental elements.<sup>57,58</sup> Finally, reducing unsheltered homelessness—either via  
6 increased shelters or, ideally, increased long-term housing—could decrease the number of falls  
7 in this high-risk population.

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43 **Figure 1 Legend: HOPE HOME Sample Recruitment and Follow-up Sample Sizes.**  
44 The figure shows the number of individuals enrolled at baseline and followed at 6-month  
45 intervals over 36-months' follow-up. Deaths between each follow-up are noted.

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42 **Table 1: Characteristics of homeless adults age 50 and older with and without falls**  
43 **in the past 6 months at baseline interview (N = 350)**

Characteristics	Total (N=350)	Experienced falls in past 6 mo. (N=118)	No falls in past 6 mo. (N=232)	p-values
<i>Individual risk factors</i>				
Age, years median (Interquartile Range)	58.0 (54.0, 61.0)	58.0 (54.0, 62.0)	57.5 (54.0, 61.0)	0.57
Men, N (%)	270 (77.1)	87 (73.7)	183 (78.9)	0.28
Race/ethnicity, N (%)				0.11
Black	279 (79.7)	86 (72.9)	193 (83.2)	
White	38 (10.9)	18 (15.3)	20 (8.6)	
Hispanic	16 (4.6)	8 (6.8)	8 (3.4)	
Other	17 (4.9)	6 (5.1)	11 (4.7)	
Less than high school diploma/ General Education Development (GED), N (%)	90 (25.7)	37 (31.4)	53 (22.8)	0.09
<i>Health status</i>				
Myocardial infarction	32 (9.1)	15 (12.7)	17 (7.3)	0.10

Congestive heart failure	25 (7.1)	8 (6.8)	17 (7.3)	0.85
Stroke	39 (11.2)	25 (21.4)	14 (6.0)	<0.0001
Arthritis	156 (44.6)	59 (50.0)	97 (41.8)	0.15
Diabetes	50 (14.3)	18 (15.3)	32 (13.9)	0.72
Chronic lung disease	94 (26.9)	39 (33.1)	55 (23.7)	0.06
Visual impairment*	53 (15.9)	19 (17.1)	34 (15.2)	0.66
Hearing impairment	124 (35.6)	49 (41.9)	75 (32.5)	0.08
Cognitive impairment (3MS) <sup>†</sup>	64 (18.3)	20 (17.1)	44 (19.0)	0.67
≥ 1 ADL impairments <sup>‡</sup>	136 (38.9)	66 (55.9)	70 (30.2)	<0.0001
Physical performance - SPBB ≤ 10 <sup>§</sup>	201 (58.4)	84 (73.0)	117 (51.1)	<0.0001
Urinary incontinence	167 (48.0)	71 (61.2)	96 (41.4)	0.0005
<i>Body Mass Index, N (%)</i>				
<25	149 (43.6)	52 (47.3)	97 (41.8)	0.56
25 to <30	102 (29.8)	29 (26.4)	73 (31.5)	
≥30	91 (26.6)	29 (26.4)	62 (26.7)	
<i>Depressive symptoms; CES-D ≥ 22, N (%)</i> <sup>  </sup>	133 (38.3)	55 (46.6)	78 (34.1)	0.02
<i>Pain severity</i>				
Mild	151 (43.4)	43 (36.8)	108 (46.8)	0.11
Moderate	60 (17.2)	19 (16.2)	41 (17.7)	
Severe	137 (39.4)	55 (47.0)	82 (35.5)	
<i>Assistive device</i>	102 (29.1)	50 (42.4)	52 (22.4)	0.0001
<i>Health-related behaviors</i>				
<i>Smoking Status, N (%)</i>				
Non smoker	78 (22.3)	59 (25.4)	19 (16.1)	0.10
Current smoker	229 (65.4)	148 (63.8)	81 (68.6)	
Former smoker	43 (12.3)	25 (10.8)	18 (15.3)	
Heavy drinking <sup>¶</sup>	39 (11.2)	13 (11.1)	26 (11.3)	0.97
Cocaine <sup>#</sup>	151 (43.1)	57 (48.3)	94 (40.5)	0.16
Amphetamines	28 (8.0)	10 (8.5)	18 (7.8)	0.82
Opioids	45 (12.9)	22 (18.6)	23 (9.9)	0.02
Marijuana	137 (39.1)	58 (49.2)	79 (34.1)	0.006
<i>Environmental risk factors, N(%)</i>				
<i>Social Support, N (%)</i>				
0 confidants	113 (32.5)	38 (32.8)	75 (32.3)	0.02
1-5 confidants	205 (58.9)	75 (64.7)	130 (56.0)	

6+ confidants	30 (8.6)	3 (2.6)	27 (11.6)	
Physical assault, past 6 months	35 (10.1)	19 (16.2)	16 (7.0)	0.007
Any nights spent in unsheltered settings, past 6 months	286 (81.7)	101 (85.6)	185 (79.7)	0.18

- 1 \* Visual acuity <20/100 using the Snellen test.
- 2 † Cognitive impairment defined as a Modified Mini-Mental State Examination score < 7<sup>th</sup> percentile (i.e. 1.5
- 3 standard deviations below the demographically-adjusted cohort mean).
- 4 ‡ ADL = activities of daily living.
- 5 § Short Physical Performance Battery (SPPB) test.
- 6 ¶ CES-D = Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale.
- 7 ¶ ≥ 6 drinks on one occasion ≥ once monthly.
- 8 # Moderate-to-severe illicit drug use past 6 months defined as a World Health Organization Alcohol,
- 9 Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test score for cocaine, amphetamines, opioids, marijuana
- 10 with score of ≥ 4.
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**1 Table 2: Odds of Experiencing Falls in the past 6 months over 3-Years in GEE Model**  
**2 Among Adults  $\geq$  50 years Who Were Homeless at Baseline 2013-2014**

1 \* Only bivariate variables with any Type 1 p-values  $p < .20$  are shown and were entered in the starting multivariate  
 2 model.  
 3 † GED = General Education Development.

Variables	Unadjusted odds ratio (OR) (95% CI)*	Adjusted odds ratio (AOR) (95% CI)
<i>Individual risk factors</i>		
Age, (continuous years)	1.03 (1.00-1.05)	1.03 (1.00-1.06)
Women	1.59 (1.11-2.27)	1.45 (1.02-2.04)
Non-black	1.68 (1.15-2.45)	1.65 (1.12-2.43)
< High school diploma/GED <sup>†</sup>	1.37 (0.94-2.01)	--
<i>Health status</i>		
Myocardial infarction	2.15 (1.30-3.57)	--
Congestive heart failure	1.70 (0.98-2.94)	--
Stroke	3.36 (2.07-5.47)	2.17 (1.42-3.32)
Arthritis	1.44 (1.04-2.00)	--
Diabetes	0.74 (0.49-1.10)	--
Chronic lung disease	1.61 (1.16-2.24)	--
Hearing impairment	1.49 (1.07-2.08)	--
≥ 1 ADL impairments <sup>‡</sup>	3.06 (2.34-3.99)	1.99 (1.51-2.63)
Short Physical Performance Battery score ≤ 10	1.82 (1.29-2.56)	--
Urinary incontinence	2.23 (1.71-2.91)	1.40 (1.07-1.81)
Depressive symptoms (CES-D ≥ 22) <sup>§</sup>	1.73 (1.31-2.28)	--
<i>Pain severity</i>		
Moderate	1.74 (1.26-2.40)	
Severe	2.51 (1.83-3.44)	
Assistive device	2.81 (2.11-3.75)	1.86 (1.39-2.50)
<i>Health-related behaviors</i>		
Current smoker	1.30 (0.96-1.77)	
Heavy drinking <sup>  </sup>	1.63 (1.08-2.47)	--
Cocaine <sup>¶</sup>	1.36 (1.00-1.86)	--
Opioids	2.13 (1.35-3.36)	1.64 (1.02-2.65)
Marijuana	1.85 (1.40-2.42)	1.93 (1.47-2.55)
<i>Environmental risk factors</i>		
<i>Social support</i>		
1-5 confidants	1.11 (0.84-1.46)	--
≥ 6 confidants	0.65 (0.36-1.15)	--
Physical assault, past 6 months	2.28 (1.65-3.17)	1.67 (1.18-2.37)
Any nights spent in unsheltered settings, past 6 months	1.49 (1.16-1.91)	1.42 (1.10-1.83)

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‡ ADL = Activities of Daily Living.

§ CES-D = Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale.

|| ≥ 6 drinks on one occasion ≥ once monthly.

¶ Moderate-to-severe illicit drug use past 6 months defined as a World Health Organization Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test score for cocaine, amphetamines, opioids, marijuana with score of ≥ 4.