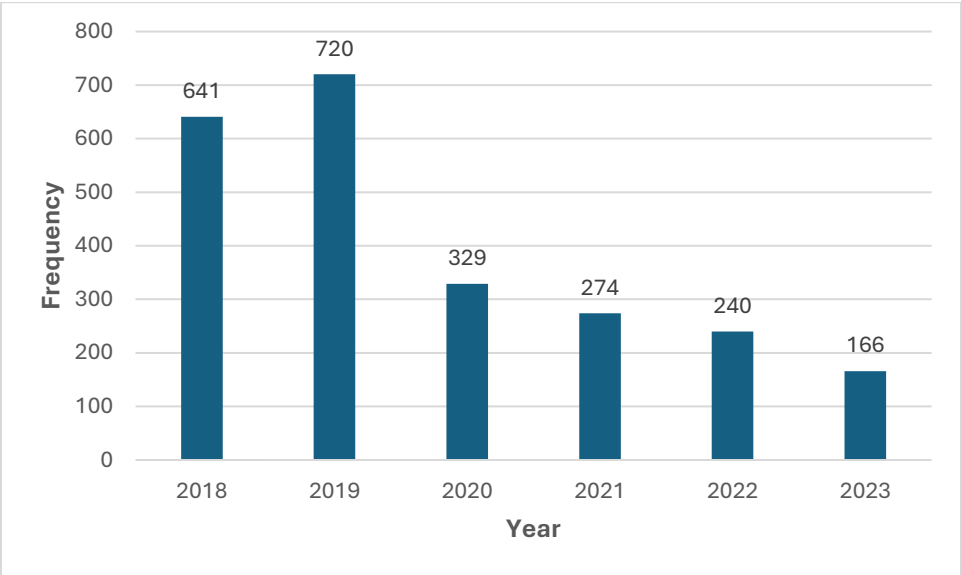# Trends in Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals in Nassau County, January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2023

This report describes health care visits for patients reported as homeless in Nassau County from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023. Unique claim transaction IDs were utilized and values less than 11 were suppressed to meet data suppression criteria.

Background

Homelessness impacts a large portion of Americans and continues to increase across the United States. [1] This population is considered medically vulnerable as individuals that experience homelessness often face higher rates of hospitalization than those not experiencing homelessness.[2] Additionally, the population faces higher readmission rates, particularly for mental illness and diseases of the digestive and circulatory systems, due to financial and structural barriers that impact access to quality healthcare.[3]

Figure 1 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Year of Admission

Nassau County had 2,434 health-care visits for homeless individuals from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023. 64 visits did not report date of admission but had a discharge date from 2018 to 2023.
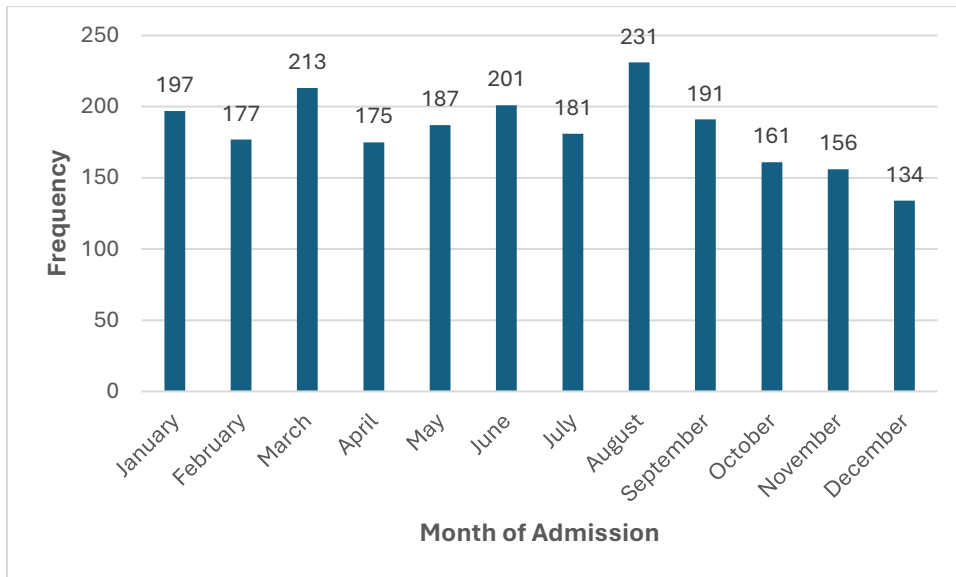
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[1] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Fact Sheet: 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report." 2023.

[2] CDC. "QuickStats: Rate of Emergency Department Visits, by Homeless Status – National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 2010-2021," 2023.

[3] Khatana, Sameed Ahmed, et. al. "Association of Homelessness with Hospital Readmissions—an Analysis of Three Large States." 2020.

Figure 2 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Month of Admission – January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022

August (231 visits) and March (213 visits) had the greatest number of cumulative visits for homeless individuals in this time period. 64 visits did not report date of admission but had a discharge date from 2018 to 2023.

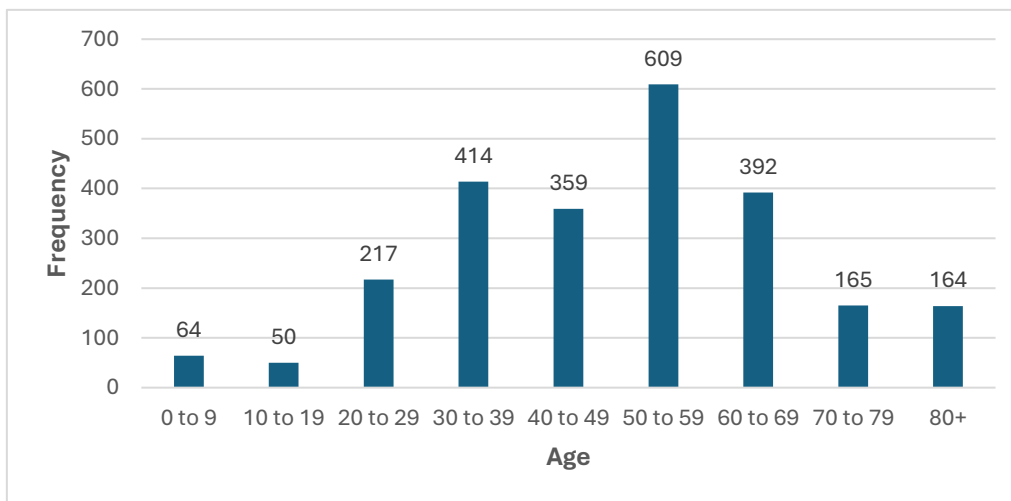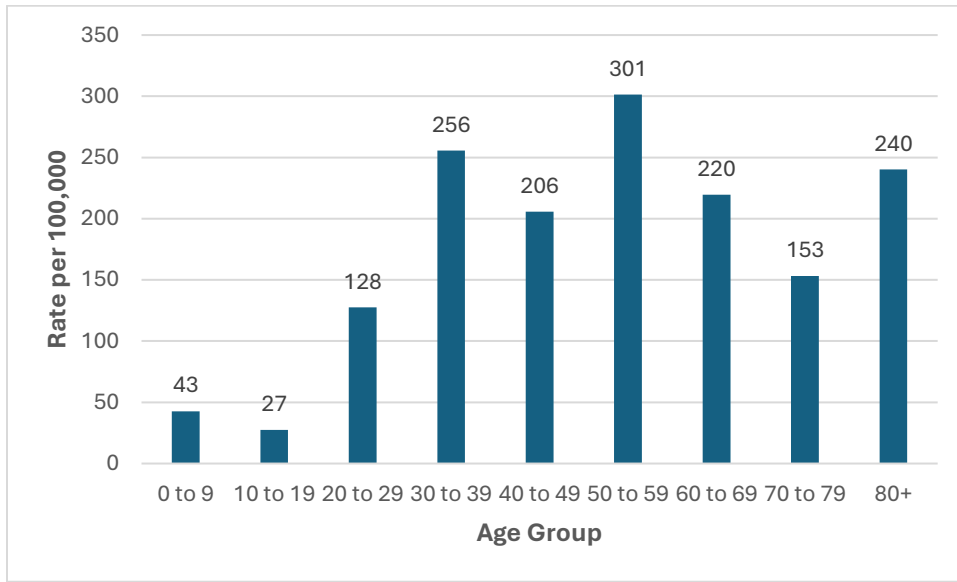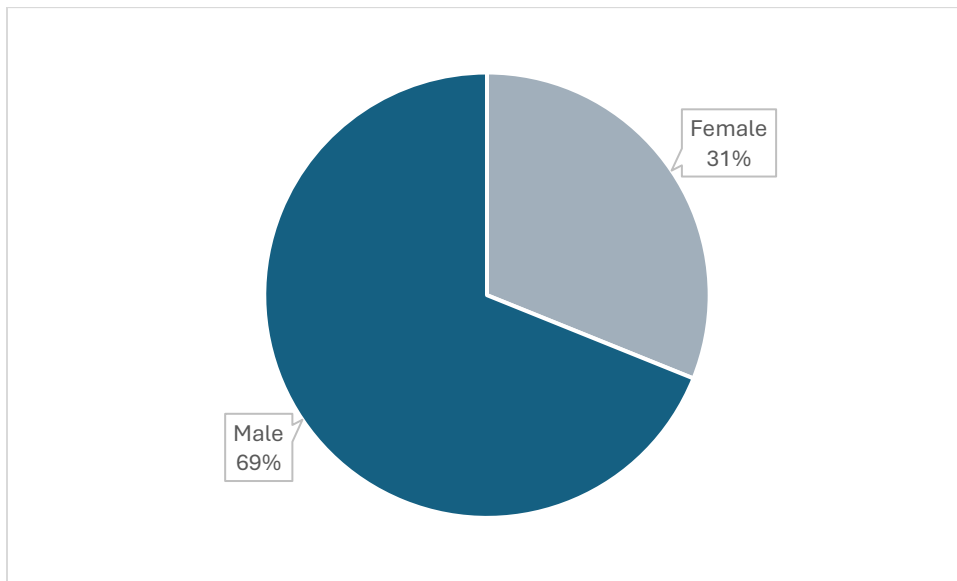**Figure 3 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Age**

Figure 4 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Age – Rate per 100,000 Age Group

The 50-59-year-old age group had the highest frequency and rate of health-care visits for homeless individuals.

Figure 5 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Sex

The majority of health-care visits among homeless individuals were among men.

Figure 6 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Sex and Age – Rate per 100,000
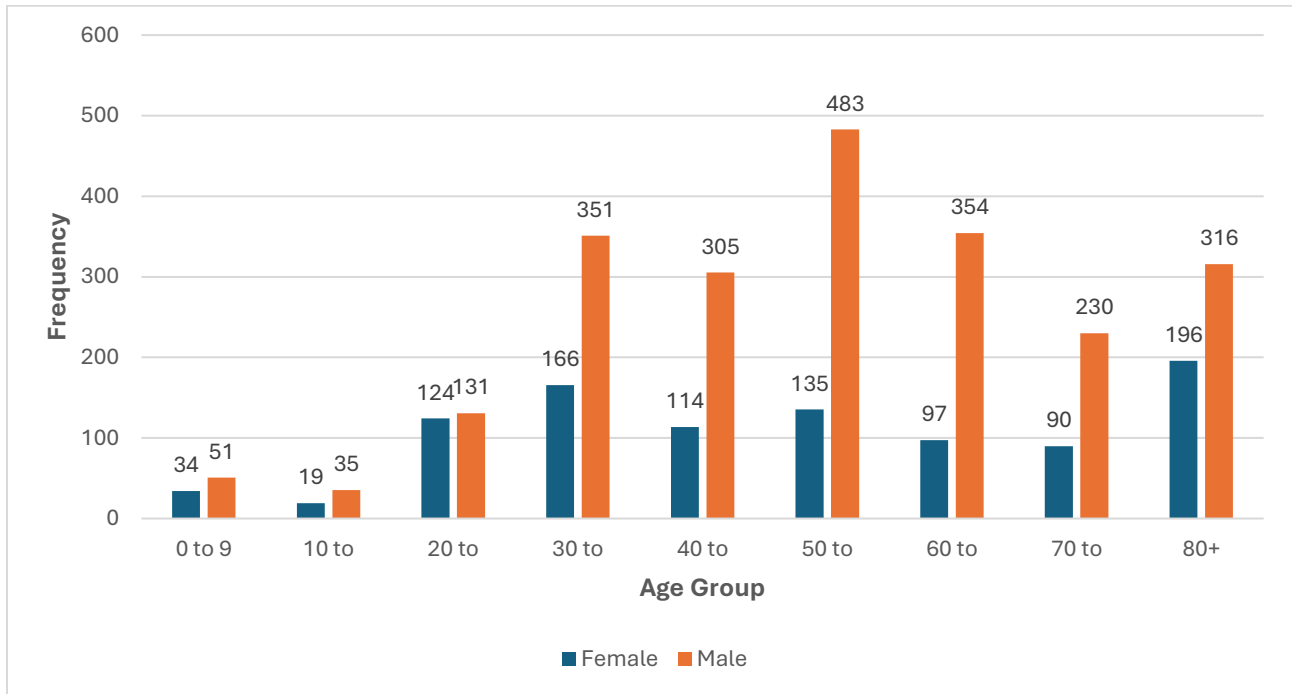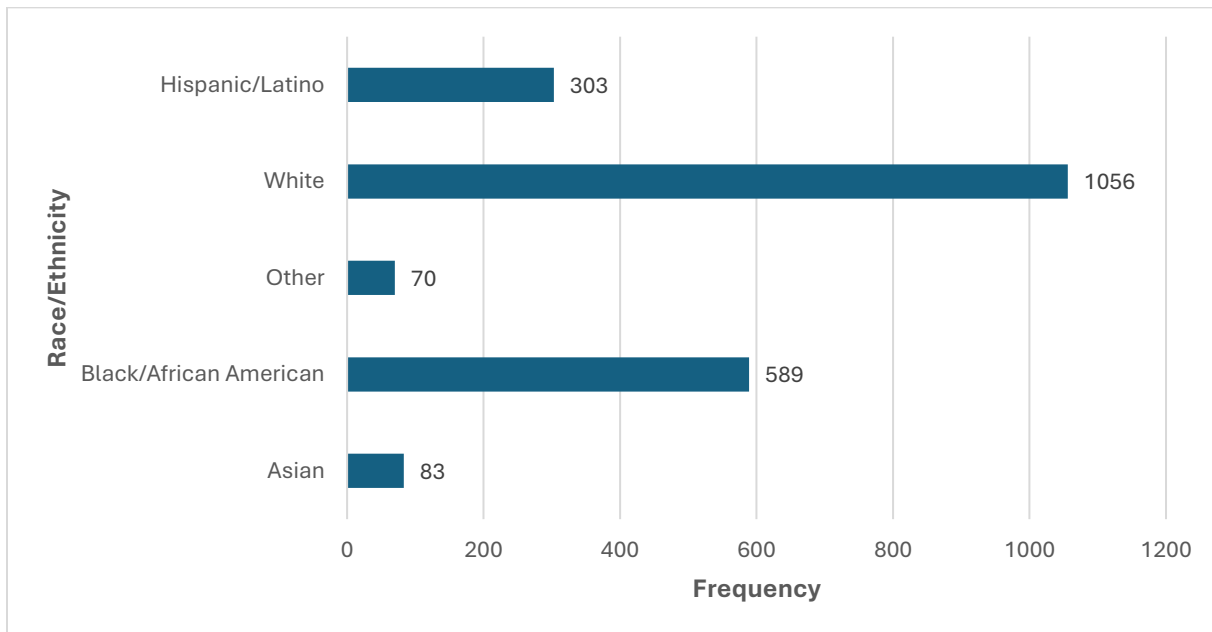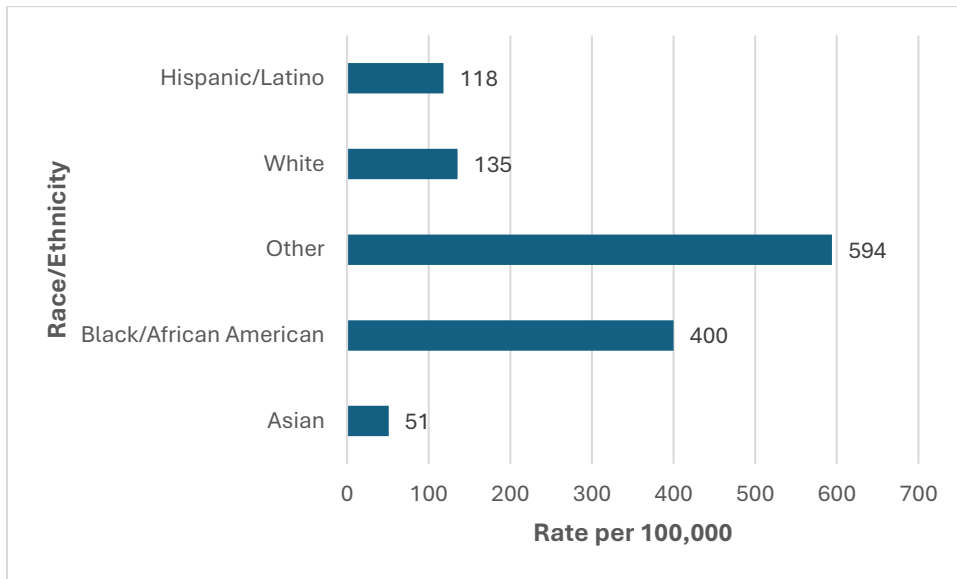

Figure 7 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Race and Ethnicity

Forty-three percent of health-care visits for homeless individuals in Nassau County identify as White. Twenty-four percent identify as Black. The ethnicity of 348 visits was unknown.
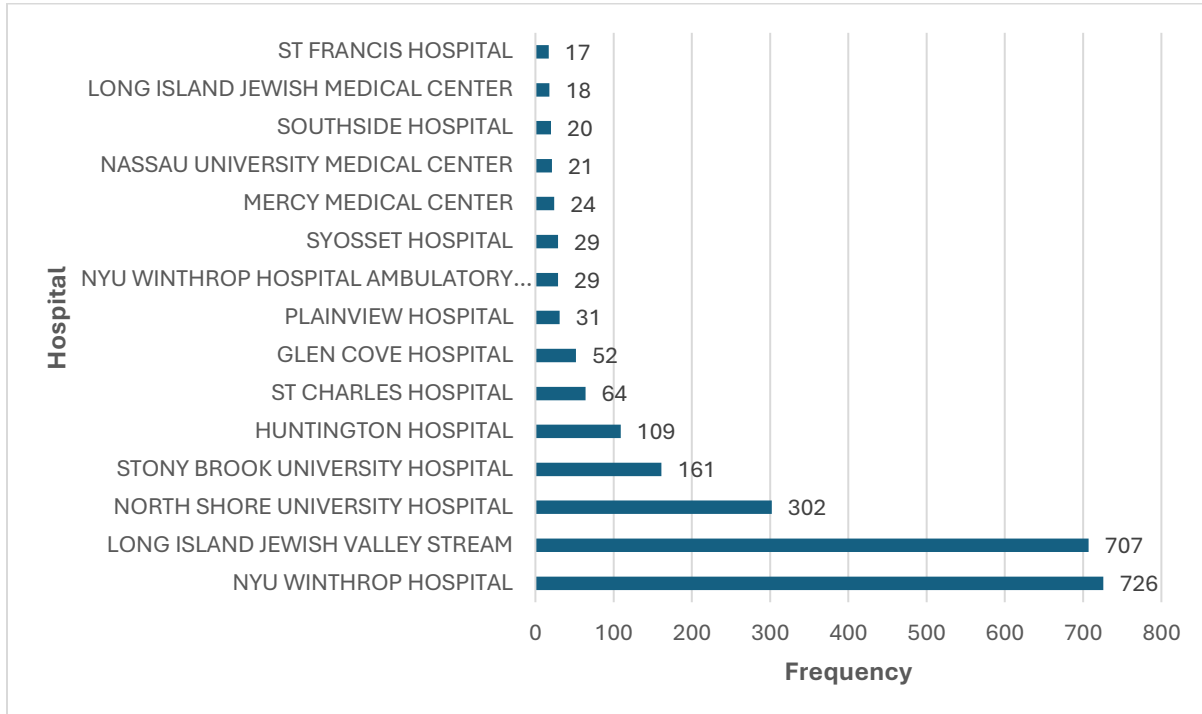
Figure 8 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Race and Ethnicity – Rate per 100,000 Population

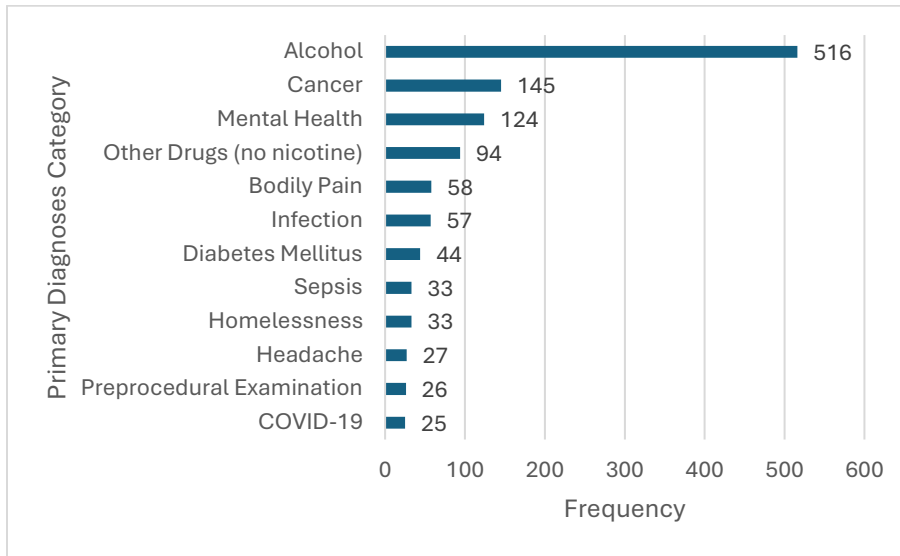The highest rate was observed among individuals identified as other race.

Figure 9 – Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Facility

Most health-care visits for homeless individuals were to NYU Winthrop or LIJ Valley Stream.
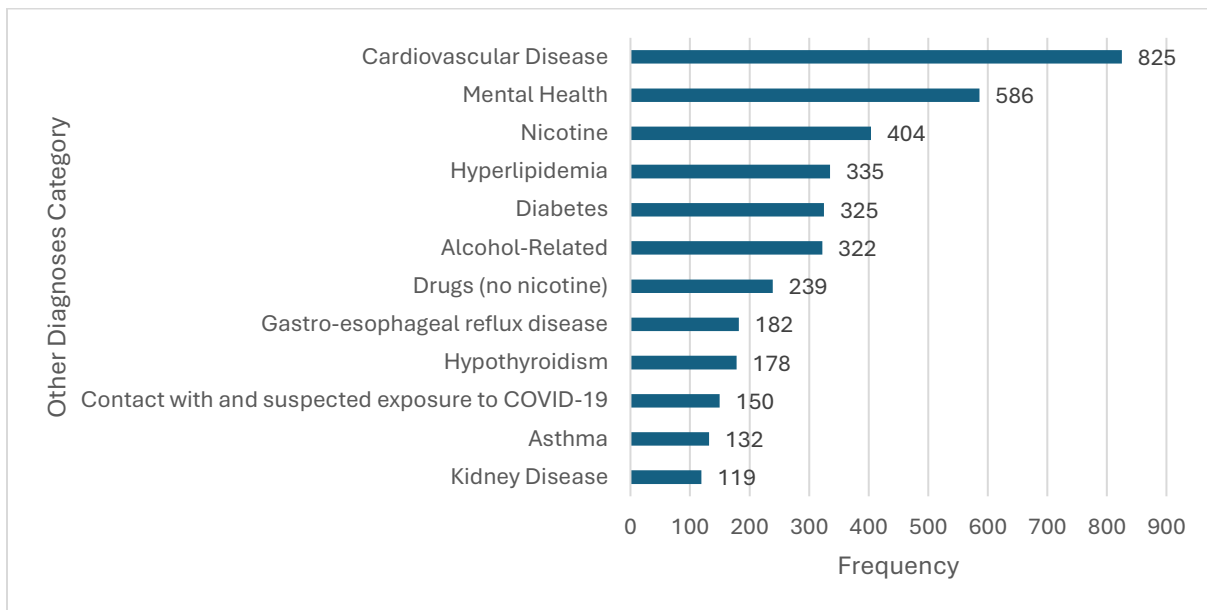
Figure 10- Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Primary Diagnoses

The most frequent primary diagnosis codes used in visits for homeless individuals were alcohol related. Twenty-one percent of visits for homeless individuals had an alcohol-related primary diagnosis.

Figure 11- Health-Care Visits for Homeless Individuals by Other Diagnoses

Diseases of the circulatory system were common other diagnoses among visits for homeless individuals. Thirty four percent of homeless health-care visits had a disease of the circulatory system other diagnosis.

Sources: NYS SPARCS Data

Disclaimer:

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