

## Abstract

This research study explores homelessness and hospitalization among older adults. The study aims to identify themes that aid long-term care placements for this demographic. It will highlight the benefits and challenges older adults face in securing stable housing through hospitalization. The implications will advocate for age-specific interventions and policies, particularly in rural communities with higher poverty rates and limited resources.



## Purpose

The purpose of the research study is to gain insight through the perspective of healthcare service providers on the challenges and strengths of emergency hospital case management for older adults experiencing homelessness, focusing on facilitating their transition to care facilities. This study will identify key processes used in emergency hospital case management, with the goal of providing various strategies applicable to other facilities.



## Method

The study employed qualitative research methods, which focus on collecting and analyzing non-numerical data, such as resources, audio, and text (Busetto et al., 2020). This approach aids in understanding people's experiences (Busetto et al., 2020).

Participant choice of 10-question interview utilizing:

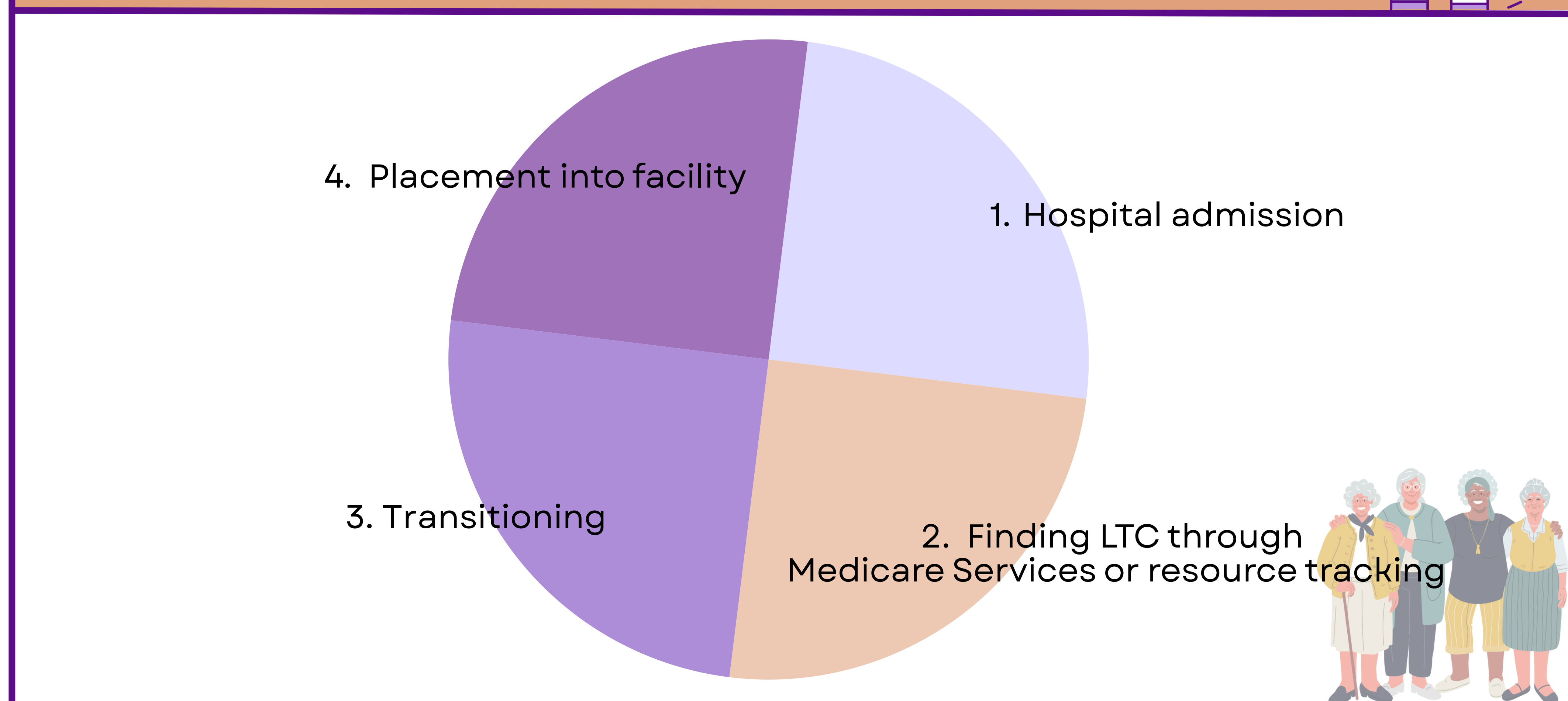
- Telephone/ Virtual Interview
- Survey

We aimed to collect data regarding:

- Intake process of patients
- Length of hospitalization
- Process of case management and transition for older adults
- Challenges that occur when placing patients
- Effective policies/practices in supporting patients

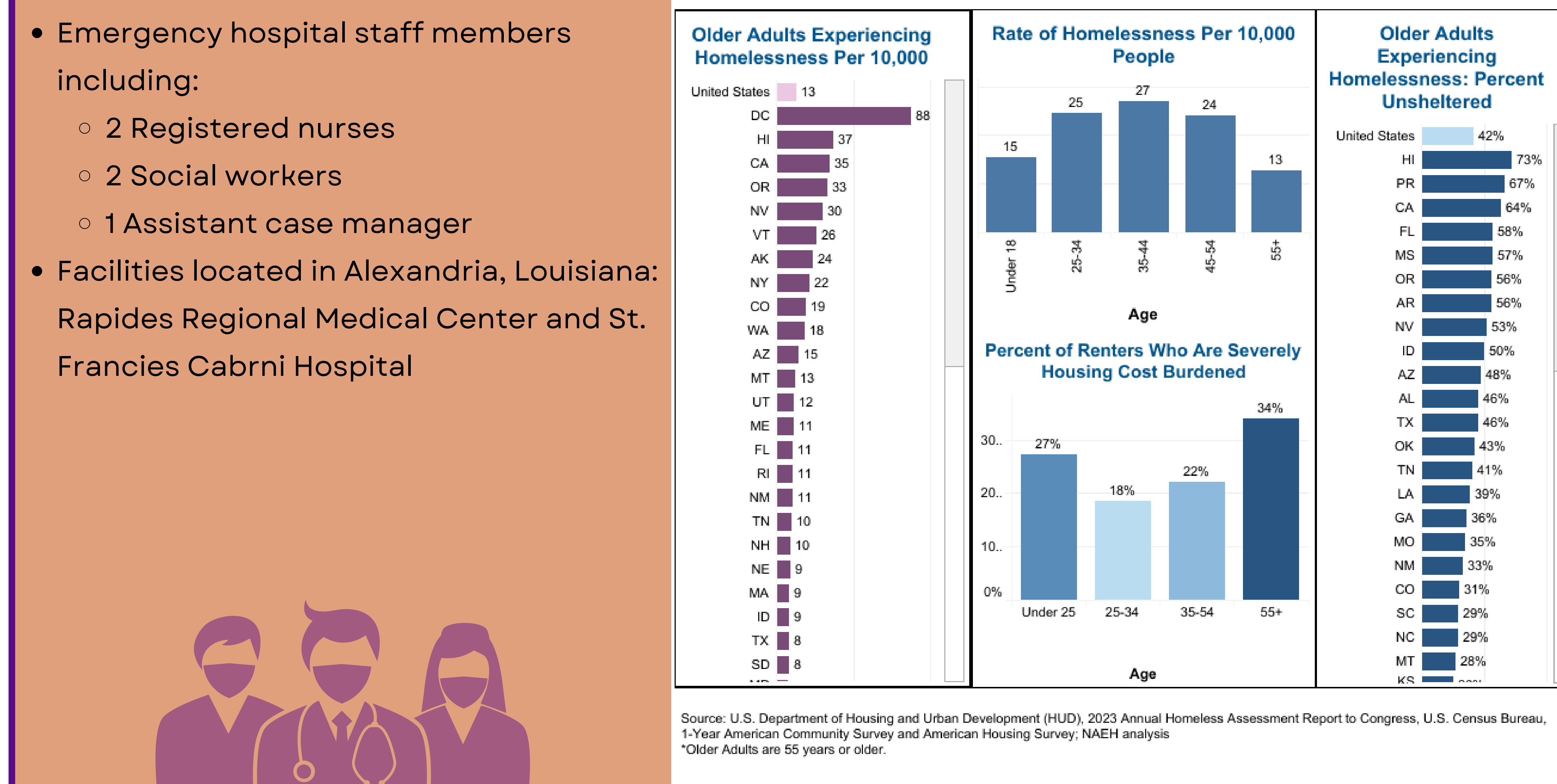
# HOW OLDER ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FIND LONG-TERM CARE PLACEMENT THROUGH HOSPITALIZATION

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## Participants

- Five women
- Emergency hospital staff members including:
  - 2 Registered nurses
  - 2 Social workers
  - 1 Assistant case manager
- Facilities located in Alexandria, Louisiana: Rapides Regional Medical Center and St. Francies Cabrni Hospital



## Results

- Comprehensive assessments upon admissions
- Patient insurance assists with facility payment
- Patient receives income and is willing to pay for placement into a facility
- Consistent communication between multidisciplinary teams and patient
- Proper documents are submitted and patient transitions

### Placement

- Limited resources for older adults experiencing homelessness
- Denied referral from facilities
- No income/ refusal to give up income
- No family support
- Extensive medical issues
- Negative outcomes increase the longer patient stays

### Challenges

## Conclusion

The study highlights that holistic, patient-centered care, grounded in thorough assessments and interdisciplinary communication, is essential in supporting older adults experiencing homelessness during hospitalization and transitions to long-term care.

However, there is an urgency for systemic improvements in policy, resource allocation, and interagency coordination. It calls for a more integrated approach that bridges healthcare, housing, and social services to better support aging, unhoused populations—especially in resource-limited rural areas like Alexandria, Louisiana.

References:  
Busetto, L., Wick, W., & Gumbinger, C. (2020). How to use and assess qualitative research methods. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 2(1), 1-10.  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-020-00059-z>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, U.S. Census Bureau, 1-Year American Community Survey and American Housing Survey; NAEH analysis  
\*Older Adults are 55 years or older.