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As the average age of the US population increases, the average age of the nation's homeless population is increasing as well. It has been shown that homeless persons age prematurely, where those who are 50 years of age have been found to have similar health to those 65 years old in the general population. The longer the time spent homeless, the higher the rates are of reporting poor or fair health status even after controlling for sociodemographic variables and health problems. When considering geriatric syndromes in older homeless adults compared to the general population, higher rates have been found in functional and mobility impairment, frailty, depression, visual impairment and urinary incontinence.

There is limited data on the perceptions of homeless or formerly homeless persons in regards to aging and health. It has been suggested that many geriatric syndromes are amenable to intervention, which could reduce adverse outcomes and acute care utilization. The purpose of this study is to gather the perspective of homeless or formerly homeless persons in Philadelphia that are age 50 and older currently enrolled in a Philadelphia city housing program. This is an IRB approved study which will entail an audio-recorded focus group. Questions are intended to elicit participants' perspectives on overall aging and health, geriatric syndromes (as listed above) and how they believe that being homeless or formerly homeless has affected their health. Afterwards, the data will be analyzed and coded for themes. Ultimately, this novel data may help guide our approach for interventions in such a vulnerable population.