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**CAMDEN COALITION ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS AMONG
INDIVIDUALS WITH PATTERNS OF HIGH HOSPITAL UTILIZATION PUBLISHED IN
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Article in BMC Health Services Research is the Camden Coalition's second peer-reviewed journal publication in 2019

New research from the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers revealing the prevalence of behavioral health conditions among people in Camden with patterns of high hospital utilization was published Friday in the international journal [BMC Health Services Research](#). The study found that nine out of ten patients in the group had psychiatric and/or active substance use disorders, and most were connected with primary care, but few were getting treatment.

"We anticipated finding a high prevalence of behavioral health and social needs among the patients who were assessed," wrote Laura Buckley and Dawn Wiest, two of the study's authors, in a summary for the Camden Coalition's blog, [The Hotspot](#). "What was most surprising to us was learning that while nearly all of the patients had a primary care provider, and two out of three patients had a recent primary care visit, only a fraction of those with active behavioral health needs were receiving treatment to address those needs."

The article highlighted the opportunity to diagnose and address behavioral health conditions in the primary care setting, and that better connections between primary care and existing behavioral health and social services would be key in addressing patients' unmet needs. However, the authors suggested that supportive policy and funding are crucial, yet missing, components of primary care's ability to provide integrated behavioral health services. The findings also emphasize the importance of providing trauma-informed care, and of addressing social determinants of health, particularly housing instability.

BMC Health Services Research is a United Kingdom-based peer-reviewed journal that covers all aspects of health services research. The article was published just two weeks after researchers from the Camden Coalition published an [article on the 7-Day Pledge](#) program in JAMA Network Open.



“The Camden Coalition is committed to sharing what we learn from our work in Camden with the rest of world so others can replicate our successes and avoid our mistakes,” said Camden Coalition CEO Kathleen Noonan. “The assessments used in this study were conducted to help our team better coordinate care and improve health and wellbeing among our patients. We’re proud to be able to disseminate this research through a respected peer-reviewed journal like BMC Health Services Research.”

About the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers is a multidisciplinary nonprofit organization working to improve care for people with complex health and social needs in Camden, NJ and across the country. The Camden Coalition works to advance the field of complex care by implementing evidence-based interventions and piloting new models that address chronic illness and social barriers to health and wellbeing. Supported by strong data, cross-sector convening, and shared learning, our community-based programs deliver better care to the most vulnerable individuals in Camden and beyond.

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