Introduction
• Boston Health Care for the Homeless seeks to provide or assure access to the highest quality health care for all homeless men, women and children in the greater Boston area.

Background
• 97 percent of Homeless people in the city of Boston sleep in homeless shelters, we worked with the 3 percent who choose to sleep unsheltered
• These individuals have a mortality rate that is ten times that of the larger Massachusetts population (Roncarati, J)
• The all-cause mortality rate of homeless patients was nearly 3 times higher than the general homeless cohort.
• The most common causes of death for the unsheltered cohort were non communicable diseases and causes directly attributable to substance use.

Objective of Internship
The objective of this internship was to learn about the various barriers to healthcare homeless people in Boston face.

Work Profile
While interning with the Street Team at Boston Health Care for the Homeless we did medical outreach and aided this interdisciplinary team in medical care and housing placement.

Looking Ahead
• Gavin will be attending Medical School next year
• Mikaela will be minoring in Global Health and Health Policy
We both hope to take the lesson we learned on how to serve marginalized communities into our future work

Questions
• How can America better aid its homeless population?
• What is the ideal form of healthcare for homeless patients?
• What is the best way to transition individuals away from homelessness in a sustainable manner?

Reflections
• We learned about the wide range of social services in Boston and the systems in place to provide support to homeless people in Boston.
• While working with these vulnerable patients, we learned about the intersection of addiction, poverty and housing.
• We saw the bureaucracy of the housing market and the profound influence that housing can have on health.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank first and foremost the incredible team at Boston Healthcare for the Homeless. These doctors, case managers and rehabilitation coaches put their souls into this work and opened up their expertise to us. They welcomed us into their team and we learned so much from their unique perspective. Thanks to CHW and PICS for our summer funding.