Background
Christian Community Action is a non-profit organization that provides emergency housing, food, and a variety of support services, including case management, job search assistance programs, family counseling, and workshops, to families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In 2014 the city of New Haven had a population of approximately 130,553 people with approximately 49,945 households.¹ The city is divided into 20 different neighborhoods.

Methods
- Literature review was used to assess the evidence for health effects of homelessness and affordable housing.
- Mapping affordable housing availability and rent stress (defined as gross rent more than 30% of household income). Data was from the American Community Survey.

Objectives
- Understand the health effects of rent stress and homelessness.
- Assess the availability of affordable housing in New Haven.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank our teaching fellow Colette Matysiak, our instructor Dr. Debbie Humphries, our preceptors Rev. Bonita Grubbs and Merryl Eaton, and our faculty advisor Dr. Kathleen Duffany.

References
### Neighborhoods with Highest Median Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Census Tract #</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th># Of Households</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
<th>Median Gross Rent</th>
<th>Median Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>1407</td>
<td>4,165</td>
<td>1,833</td>
<td>$23,265.00</td>
<td>$979.00</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill</td>
<td>1403</td>
<td>2,762</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>$34,514.00</td>
<td>$1,251.00</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1404</td>
<td>3,931</td>
<td>1,288</td>
<td>$39,600.00</td>
<td>$1,178.00</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1405</td>
<td>3,934</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>$22,083.00</td>
<td>$1,178.00</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1406</td>
<td>4,276</td>
<td>1,441</td>
<td>$21,307.00</td>
<td>$1,064.00</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newhallville</td>
<td>1415</td>
<td>6,166</td>
<td>2,561</td>
<td>$26,588.00</td>
<td>$1,109.00</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results: Maps
- **Overall Median Household Income:** $37,508 a year or $3,125.67 per month
- **Overall Gross Rent:** $1,097 per month
- 17 out of 20 neighborhoods in New Haven have areas where median gross rent is greater than 30% of median household income.
- Of these neighborhoods, 3 neighborhoods had areas where median gross rent is greater than 50% of median household income.

### Conclusions

Dwight, Hill and Newhallville neighborhoods all have areas where median rent is greater than 50% of median household income, indicating rent stress. Both rent stress and homelessness affect health and wellbeing. Housing quality and affordability are important public health policy concerns, and action is needed to improve the housing situation in New Haven.

### Recommendations
- Further analysis of the availability of affordable housing in New Haven neighborhoods could look more closely at demographic differences such as transient students versus permanent residents.
- Additional research should explore how cities comparable to New Haven have addressed affordable housing concerns, particularly looking at policies alleviate rest stress.

### Limitations
- Data is not publically available on the health outcomes of individuals within census tracts, so the individual effects of rent stress and lack of affordable housing were not accessible. Future studies could look at this relationship by neighborhood or through interviews.
- Data was not available at the household level; therefore results were generalized to 600–1,300 households in block groups.

### References