Cancer-related mortality among people experiencing homelessness (PEH) is twice as high as that of the housed adult population in high-income countries (1). This stark disparity is further exacerbated by limited access to timely and quality healthcare services, including cancer prevention and early detection (2). To address this pressing issue, this study aimed to develop an integrated care model, called the Health Navigator Model, based on the principles of patient navigation and patient empowerment in a collaborative manner (3) in order to facilitate access to primary and secondary cancer prevention among PEH.

The collaborative discussions yielded a consensus on the Health Navigator Model, emphasizing its adaptability to local contexts. This comprehensive, long-term, community-based intervention aims to address primary and secondary cancer prevention and broader healthcare barriers. Key to this model are the “Health Navigators” with backgrounds in health and social care and deep insights into the needs of PEH. They will be strategically placed in accessible locations to identify PEH’s health needs, raise cancer awareness, and facilitate healthcare access, supported by comprehensive training in population-specific knowledge, interpersonal skills, cancer education, and local resources. Collaboration with various stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, is integral to their roles, and they will receive supervision. This approach ensures the model’s effectiveness in reducing cancer mortality among PEH while considering the unique challenges of each local context.

REFERENCES