Short Stint at the Hospital; Long Time Out of a Home

So, is medical debt also associated with length of homelessness?

Medical debt can have severe consequences on housing status; Would universal healthcare solve this problem?

Presence of Any Medical Debt Associated With Two Additional Years of Homelessness in a Seattle Sample
Bielenberg et al. (2020)
journals.sagepub.com/home/inq

INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing

- More than 1 in 4 people are paying off medical debt
- 60%+ bankruptcies are linked to medical causes
- …is associated with a longer most recent episode of homelessness
  Extends homelessness by 2+ years
- …affects people of color disproportionately
  They had 1 year greater homelessness than white people
- …is associated with a longer most recent episode of homelessness
- …affects even those with health insurance
  >50% respondents had insurance when they incurred the most debt
- …can create financial chaos
  Even when it is small (<$300)
- 68% of respondents had current medical debt (N = 60)
- Surveyed 60 people experiencing homelessness in Seattle encampments/shelters

Medical debt can have severe consequences on housing status; Would universal healthcare solve this problem?