

Women's Dermatologic Society Women's Shelter Initiative Program Impact

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SKIN HEALTH EDUCATION

The Women Dermatologic Society (WDS)'s **Women's Shelter Initiative** brings compassionate dermatologic care and education to those in need. Through accessible programming done with WDS Community Service & Public Education Committee member-developed presentations on **22 diverse topics**, and volunteer engagement, the initiative addresses health disparities and fosters confidence and self-care.

“Community-based education can improve knowledge, increase

confidence in self-care, and encourage engagement with dermatologic services.”

— Li, C. (2025), *WDS Annual Forum*

THE NEED

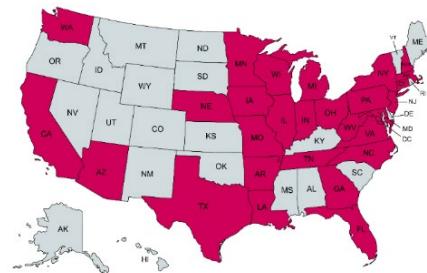
- **650,000+** individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2023
- Skin conditions like infections, inflammation, and cancers are more common among this population
- Access to dermatologic care is often limited by systemic barriers

PROGRAM REACH

Total Events Held: 237 (2018–2025)

U.S. States + Countries Reached: 29 states + D.C., India, & Canada

Participants Reached: 6,464 total (Avg. 27 per event)



PARTICIPANT VOICES

