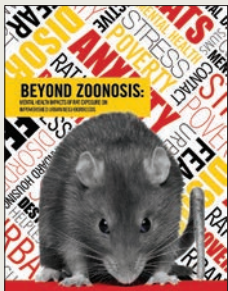


# Environmental Health

Dedicated to the advancement of the environmental health professional

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## ABOUT THE COVER



Rats are a common problem in cities worldwide. Most of the public health research has focused on disease transmission related to rat exposure and infestations; however, little is known

about the nonphysical consequences of rat exposure. This month's cover article, "Beyond Zoonosis: The Mental Health Impacts of Rat Exposure on Impoverished Urban Neighborhoods," explores the often-neglected impacts of rat exposure on mental health. Results of the article suggest that rat exposure consistently has a negative impact on mental health. By developing a better understanding of potential rat-related health risks—both mental and physical—public health officials can better evaluate, refine, and develop their policies regarding rats.

See page 8.

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