

Homelessness

Understanding the factors that lead to homelessness is not easy considering the heterogeneity of the population, and the fact that there are many pathways to homelessness. In most cases, it is the intersection of structural factors, personal histories and individual characteristics that lead to homelessness. Addressing the root causes is necessary to improve circumstance and foster stability in a person's life.



The causes of homelessness are complex and multiple. A slide into homelessness is the result of a number of economic and social factors that impact an individual or family at a personal level. No one chooses to be homeless and it can happen to anyone - from a teenager escaping an abusive home, to a senior citizen on a fixed income that cannot cover a rent or tax increase, to a child whose parents suddenly become unemployed.

Call this number:

555 555 5555



Stop homelessness!



Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Poor people are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, health care, and education. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of these necessities. Often it is housing, which absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped. If you are poor, you are essentially an illness, an accident, or a paycheck away from living on the streets.



Many factors can contribute to a person becoming homeless. These factors include (but are not limited to):

- **Poverty**
- **Lack of affordable housing**
- **Job loss**
- **Lack of health care**
 - **Mental illness**
 - **Substance abuse**
- **Domestic violence**



In 2007, 12.5% of the U.S. population, or 37,300,00 million people, lived in poverty. The official poverty rate in 2007 was not statistically different than 2006 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007). Children are overrepresented, composing 35.7% of people in poverty while only being 24.8% of the total population.



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