

Homelessness

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Where do homeless people live?



Hidden & Complete Homelessness

- Complete homelessness - public
 - On the street
 - In homeless shelters
- Hidden homelessness
 - Couch-surfing with friends
 - In hotels
 - In cars
 - In college/university

What does homelessness mean?

- Does not have a regular night-time home
- Sleeps in a place that is public (like the street) or private that is not supposed to be for regular sleep (car, abandoned building, camping area)
- Can be homeless for a few days or can be for years

Brainstorm reasons for homelessness

What are some reasons why a young person might become homeless?

Brainstorm reasons for homelessness



Reasons for homelessness

- Unable to find work
- Unable to make enough money
- Unable to find rent they can pay for (housing too expensive)
- Run away from bad family situations
- Leaving foster care
- Disability - physical or mental illness, can't work

Combination of reasons for homelessness

- **Many small reasons put together!**
- Sara was given up by her parents when she was little. She was never adopted and lived in many group houses all her life. When she turned 18 years old, she no longer received housing and food from the government. She didn't finish high school and was working 3 part-time jobs but was having trouble with depression making it hard for her to go to work.

Statistics on youth homelessness

Every year more than 2 million kids in the US will face some time being homeless

About 50% of teens reported intense conflict or abuse in the home as a major reason why they are homeless

About 50% of young people who leave foster care at age 18 become homeless in 6 months

Almost 40% of the homeless in the US are under 18.

Why can't you just get a job to stop being homeless?

Why can't you just get a job to stop being homeless?

- Maybe didn't finish high school and don't have the skills
- Might not have a cellphone to respond to job applications
- Might not be able to get clean every morning for work - shower and have clean clothing
- Many jobs don't pay enough to pay for rent
 - You need to save money to pay a few months of rent before you move in

WITH A PARTNER: What are some things you would experience if you were a homeless young person?

- Emotional

- Physical

What are some things you would experience if you were a homeless young person?

- **Emotional**

- Scared
- Lonely
- Sad
- Unloved
- Stress

- **Physical**

- Hunger
- Cold/hot/rain
- Sickness
- Abuse by others
- Drugs/alcohol

Who can be homeless?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3mBA4ji2So>

What would you need to help you if you were homeless?

How do organizations help homeless youth?

- Temporary housing
- Food
- Clothing
- Job training & job search help
- Health care
 - Therapy!

Reading - life in a shelter

Life in a shelter

- Shelters are useful solutions for homelessness.
- However:
 - May not have enough space for everyone to stay
 - May have a lot of rules - no privacy, no freedom
 - Have to follow a schedule they give you
 - Not enough space
 - Can't stay in the building during the daytime
 - People may have behavior issues because of the stress of being homeless and having hard lives - may have lots of fights and arguments in a shelter

Pursuit of happiness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kerV6fijhNI>

Life outside a shelter