

Being cities then what
people would like



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Being homelessness is a bigger problem in many cities than what people would like to admit. Many families are homeless not because they want to be like everyone wants to say. It's because life can come with unfortunate circumstances such as job layoffs and unemployment benefits. Then there are families that are employed, working hard every day and night, but still is not earning enough to support their families or themselves to provide a stable residence.

Which people just end up resorting to not paying rent, as a result, the families end up receiving eviction and not having a roof above their head for the time being. After getting evicted, either families cannot obtain affordable housing under the low-income status or can't afford the renter's market, which therefore they unwillingly become homeless. People are left between a rock and a hard place to figure out what their next move is going to be after the devastation of losing their home. Baum says, "Homelessness is not new to our nation, and it has greatly increased over the past ten years" (Baum 1-4). Overtime more people experience a sense of homelessness due to multiple reasons. This position puts people in an uncomfortable setting because it forces them to think quick on their feet about the next decision they should make in regard to their living situation.

In addition, people with children have a greater weight on their shoulders because now it's not only the adult who has to worry about themselves but for a child as well who's depending on the adult to take care of them. There are two different perspectives that the adult and child goes through during the hardship of being homelessness. The adult point of view is thinking about what can they possibly do to make things seem like they aren't as bad for

the child. The adult is trying to keep it together for the sake of the child and create a fictional illusion for the child to think that there is nothing wrong. However, on the other hand the child point of view is scattered in a million of pieces trying to put together a puzzle. The child point of view is experiencing some type of change but doesn't know why or what for. The child has questions but doesn't really know how to ask them because they're unsure of the whole situation itself.

It's a sense of consciousness that they are aware of but can't figure out the whole picture because all of the information is not presented to them. The information that the child doesn't have in order to understand the full picture is overwhelming and difficult to process at a child's level because it's not common for a child to understand such a high level social problem like homelessness. The child doesn't have enough life experience to grasp the complicated idea behind homelessness. Moreover, Baum says "For growing numbers of people, work provides little, if any, protection against homelessness. Low national unemployment levels do not mean that all working people are well-off" (Baum, 21-24) to highlight the fact that just because a person has a job doesn't mean they are fulfilled enough with taking care of their needs. People today are still experiencing a sense of struggle with their family because the money that they are making are just getting them by. Often times when articles or news reports state how national unemployment levels are low they don't bring into consideration that those specific people are struggling with their family because of the low education they have.

Education and money earned plays hand in hand with each other as time goes on. The more education a person has, the likely chance that their income is high too. People who continue to work at a job after several years without a raise or no promotion are people with low education. Not having a degree puts people in a stagnant position because they're not able to have the freedom to make other important decisions that would benefit their family.

Having a degree makes situations in life more manageable for a person to obtain because it demands a sense of attention that people are eager to notice. Earning a degree acts as a safety net for a person to have a strong foundation when put out into the world of finding a job. Being able to show jobs and companies the skills set a person managed to obtain and complete in college earns respect.

With respect that is earned puts people in a different category compared to those who don't earn a degree. Baum displays the problem in which articles or media put out in the world to make others think change is being done but in reality, there is still work that needs to be taken into consideration.

Without a degree people are not given an option to be able to decide how they want to handle a situation because most people do not listen to what they have to say if the degree isn't presented. For example, most listings for jobs today currently require work experience, a high school diploma and most likely a bachelor's degree to even apply so people who don't have all three of those things are limited in a sense of having any direction as to where to go and earn a living. Just because a person has a job doesn't mean that that person has all of its needs balanced with their income. Because of recent

past years there has been an unstable economy with high unemployment rates, which has made homelessness rise at an alarming rate.

With homelessness being at its worse in some areas of the United States. Now with only offering jobs that are no longer secure, results into fewer benefits for the workers and their family members. The United States was experiencing the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, which has really changed everything. Families now comprise a major segment of the homeless population. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, 222,197 people with families were homeless for a single night in 2013, accounting for 36 percent of all homeless people counted.

This shows how serious homelessness is and how it affected people just in a one day period. With the report given by the "Department of Housing and Urban Development" shows how homelessness could be temporary and long-term due to specific reasons that a person/family go through. Families who were homeless on a single night displayed a large number of people, no reason in particular were given reportedly by the Department of Housing and Urban Development because they wanted to point out the importance of how homelessness is a worry in which people should be aware about and figure what things need to be done in order to help people. Figuring the next steps as to what should be taken to make a difference for people who are experiencing homelessness or who have will put things in perspective as to why this social problem is happening. Showing people what some of the things they need to do in order to avoid homelessness could prevent others from being in that situation.

Preventing things from happening in the future could save a lot of time and money that way it could be used to help with a bigger issue.

Notifying people as to what they should do in order to get their income and earnings stable being informed are important factors that are necessary for people to understand. Creating a difference like this would make impactful things in others' life because then they could go out and inform others of how they got through the hardship of homelessness. Getting this situation handled and outlined creates a focus in which people need to pay attention to in a sense that would supply a need of change. So when reading the national coalition for the homeless, I came to read that in 1967, workers earning minimum wage year-round where they were paid just enough to raise a family of three with being above the poverty level. Then in 1981-1990 the cost of living went up by 48%, as minimum wage stayed \$3.

35 an hour. It takes a whole six years in 1996 for congress to raise minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour, for the next eleven years minimum wage stayed at rate of \$5.15 an hour. Then President Bush in 2007, signed a law that would increase minimum wage to \$7.25 over a two-year time span. That increase was not keeping up with the inflation in the past 20 years.

The actual value of minimum wage is 26% less than in 1979, which in turn is only \$4.42 dollars. In our current economy, a full-time worker is working 40 hours a week. Which means that it's just not cut it, for people. In 1987, the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act was put into law. (Burger, 68-83) But our government does not even want to address the causes of homelessness, but

instead focused on the individual responsibility of those who become homeless, and blaming their misfortune as their own fault.

(Baum, 5-9). Which is true if our government really focused or really care something would have already change, with push more programs and making business higher more people in the states, which has helped to increase the homelessness in our nation, and this will continue. If our government does not take a closer and more realistic look at the causes behind homelessness in our nation, and commits to ending homelessness through public education, policy advocacy, and technical assistance. By putting the necessary solutions to combat homelessness it will become a national disaster for the United States. The causes of homelessness not only include issues with financial stability but it can also lay behind serious health conditions and the lack of proper care and effort.

A physical or behavioral situation or any long-term disabling condition may lead to homelessness; homelessness itself can lead to long-lasting medical conditions. A person can become homeless when his or her health condition becomes disabling and stable housing is very hard to maintain without help. People living in shelters are more than twice as likely to have a disability compared to most people. On a given night in 2015, roughly 18 percent of the homeless population reported having a serious mental illness or conditions related to long-lasting dangerous over-use of drugs. Conditions such as disease where blood sugar swings wildly, heart disease, are found at high rates among the homeless population, sometimes three to six times higher than that of most people. People who have mental health and drug use sicknesses/problems and who are homeless are more likely to have

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immediate, life-threatening physical illnesses and live in dangerous conditions. Also, more than 10 percent of people many have mental health treatment in our public health system are homeless.

Let's contribute to the solution, becoming a part of the solution to build shelters to help end homelessness in America can bring us together as a nation. When housing is a platform, people with a substance abuse disorder, families with financial disabilities and or citizens with health issues who are experiencing homelessness have the opportunity to engage in treatment fully without the additional stress of living on the streets. Housing stability is a key contributor to long-term recovery and reduces relapse for people who are homeless.

For chronically homeless people, the intervention of permanent supportive housing provides stable housing coupled with supportive services as needed – a cost-effective solution to homelessness for those with the most severe health, mental health and substance abuse challenges. Those who are homeless face significant obstacles to finding and maintaining employment. Finding a home is an essential first step.

Job training and placement programs, such as those funded by the federal government, also provide the tools some people need to secure stable, long-term employment. Improving access to supportive services, such as childcare services and transportation assistance, would also go a long way in helping people stay employed, achieve housing stability and remain housed.