

10 CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION



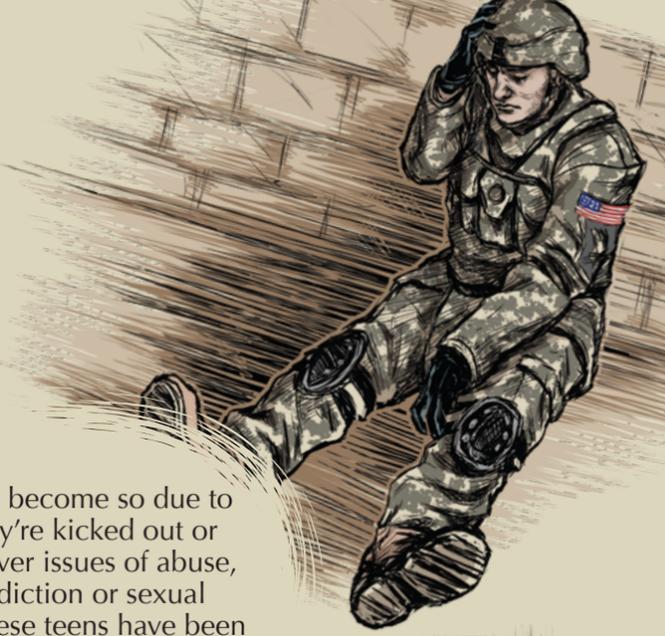
ADDICTION

68% of U.S. cities report that addiction is their single largest cause of homelessness. Effective addiction recovery programming that addresses the root causes of addiction is essential to successfully transition hurting people from homelessness to stable housing.



TEENS

Homeless teens often become so due to family conflicts. They're kicked out or choose to run away over issues of abuse, teen pregnancy, addiction or sexual orientation. 63% of these teens have been physically or sexually abused.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Nationally, 50% of homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence. When a woman is abused, she faces a crisis of safety. If she stays in the home, she'll be beaten again. If she leaves, she'll have little means of support. Either choice is a tremendous risk.



RELATIONAL BROKENNESS

By the time hurting men or women come the Mission for help, they've burned through every supportive relationship possible. Friends and family are no longer able or willing to help. What relationships they have left are usually predatory. In a sense, their situation is less about homelessness and more about unwantedness.



MENTAL ILLNESS

20-25% of the homeless population suffers from chronic mental illness. For these men and women, ordinary tasks such as maintaining their physical appearance and health, or managing a job and paying rent, can be insurmountable without assistance.



GRIEF

It's not uncommon to discover that homeless men and women are burdened by grief. Unable to deal with the death of a loved one or other significant trauma, they numb their pain in addiction. They are consumed with grief, which causes them to neglect their job, lose their home, even abandon their will to live.

JOB LOSS & UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Lately the economy has left many Americans under-employed at wages that can't sustain them, or in desperate circumstances after layoffs and job cuts. Unemployment benefits and savings run out, leaving people homeless who never thought it could happen to them.



DESPAIR

"Once you get down this low, it's hard to get back up," we often hear homeless men and women say. The longer they are homeless, the more difficult it becomes to combat the lies they hear in their heads. They believe there's no way out. They don't deserve another chance. They'll never break free from addiction. They'll always be a failure. More than anything, these men and women need hope.



FORECLOSURE

Even people who have jobs have found themselves upside down with their mortgages. At the start of the recession, foreclosures jumped by 32%. One survey estimates that as many as 10% of people seeking help from homeless organizations do so due to foreclosure.



Compassionate support from friends like you helps us offer hope to thousands of hurting men, women and children in our community. Meals, shelter and recovery care restore them to life and offer a way back home. Thank you.

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Statistics courtesy of the National Coalition for the Homeless