

# HOMELESSNESS IN THE USA

## Myths about homelessness:

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/>

- **Homeless people can work, they just don't want to.**
  - 19% of all homeless people are working part or full-time
  - Many homeless people have disabilities which prevent them from working
  - The greatest barrier reported in finding work is the fact that they are currently homeless (no address, no phone, & social stigma attached to that).
- **Homeless people are all alcoholics or drug addicts**
  - While a sizable percentage (+/- 20%) are people who have an addiction problem, many more are not (+/-80%)
- **Homeless people are all mentally ill**
  - 16% of the homeless population suffers from mental illness. That leaves another 84% who are **not** mentally ill.
  - Many of the homeless include victims of domestic violence, as well as families with children, and the “new face of homelessness” brought on by the mortgage foreclosure crisis and high unemployment rates.
- **People choose to be homeless**
  - There is a huge difference in a person choosing to “go on the road” and “live off the land” and being homeless. The vast majority of homeless people (over 80%) are still living in the same area they first lost their homes in.

## Facts about homelessness:

### Databases:

Library → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → SIRS → “homeless” (follow “See also:”)

Library → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → CQ Researcher → “homeless”

Library → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → America’s Newspapers → [Local News] → “homeless”

Library → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → Wilson Web →

“homeless”

“homeless AND foreclosure”

“homeless AND mental illness”

“homeless AND veterans”

### Links

Institute for Children and Poverty: <http://www.icpny.org/>

National Coalition for the Homeless: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/>

National alliance to End Homelessness: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>

National Law center on Homelessness & Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org/>

## **Statistics on homelessness**

HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange: <http://www.hudhre.info/>

HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange Research and Reports:

<http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewResourcesByType&ProductTypeId=2>

National Coalition for the Homeless: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/>

HUD Annual Homeless assessment report:

<http://www.hmis.info/ClassicAsp/documents/2008AHARSummary.pdf>

US Conference of Mayors Annual Hunger & Homelessness Report:

<http://www.usmayors.org/publications/>

National Alliance to End Homelessness:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/data/homelessnessinst>

Housing Authority of the County of Butte: <http://butte-housing.com/>

Click on Reports --> Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care for statistics on homelessness in Butte County.

## **General information on mental illnesses and addiction**

Library → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → Health and Wellness Resource Center

Click “Diseases & Conditions” tab, use A-Z listing