

Debunking

HOUSING MYTHS



Common Misconceptions and Stigma Surrounding
Homelessness

Myth 2: People who are homeless are addicts and use substances.

“It is often mistakenly assumed that people experiencing alcoholism and drug use lack moral principles or willpower and that they should simply choose to change their behavior. Recovering from addiction is difficult for housed people; it is even more difficult for people experiencing the additional trauma of homelessness.”



Myth 1: Homelessness is a permanent problem.

Homelessness is an issue that has been created by unattainable housing prices and fiscal policies. The issue has been caused by legislation, so it can also be solved by legislation. Moreover, policies, like setting a required amount of permanent supportive housing and low-income homes, already are existing in current American legislation. Homelessness only seems permanent because the whole country has not set these policies in place.



Myth 3: People experiencing homelessness should just find a job.

It is difficult to find and maintain employment as a person experiencing homelessness. Challenges, such as lacking a permanent address, not having regular access to showers and transportation, and mental health issues.

Despite all of this, many people who are homeless are employed.



Myth 4: Homelessness is a personal issue and is a result from poor decision-making.

This is a harmful misconception as it implies that those who are homeless are not worthy of support. This normalizes exclusion.

Moreover, homelessness is a systemic issue which combines public health and economic challenges. COVID-19 especially heightened these challenges, where unexpected expenses left many people vulnerable to housing insecurity.



Sources

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