



## **Homelessness in the News 2013 Media Report**

Education and Advocacy Department

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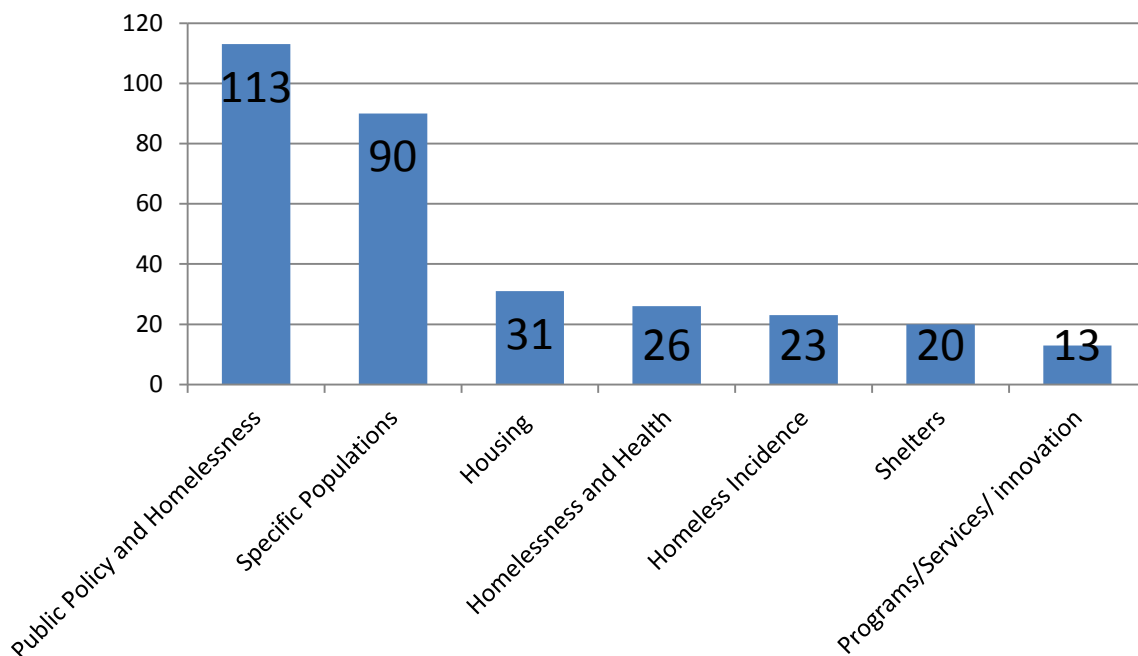
## Overview

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless publishes a weekly news update, *Homelessness in the News*, featuring reports from across the country that address homelessness. The purpose of the publication is to analyze national media discourse about homelessness in order to identify recurring themes, trends, best practices in homeless service provision, new research and reports, and to gather an overall perspective of how the media perceives the issue of homelessness. This informs the Education and Advocacy Department about how to more effectively propel community mobilization around what people know, think, and do about homelessness. This annual report analyzes all news items that were included in *Homelessness in the News* throughout the year and examines the major themes and trends in 2013.

On a daily basis, the Education and Advocacy Coordinator monitors news about homelessness through Google Alerts and internet searches by using key words such as “homeless,” “affordable housing,” and “camping ban.” Articles that are chosen reflect changes in trends or policy, public discourse, or events that have a remarkable effect on a population experiencing homelessness. News items were drawn from online print newspapers (204), television reports (41), radio (32), online news sources (16), monthly magazines (14), and government or organization reports (10). The most common sources were: *The New York Times*; *The Los Angeles Times*; *The Washington Post*; *The Boston Globe*; *The Sacramento Bee*; NPR; and *The Huffington Post*. Coverage included in *Homelessness in the News* came from across the country—including 41 states and the District of Columbia.

The 316 news items distributed by *Homelessness in the News* in 2013 covered a wide range of topics, places, and people. As seen in the chart below, the following seven themes emerged, in order of frequency: Public Policy and Homelessness; Specific Populations; Housing; Homelessness and Health; Homeless Incidence; Shelters; and Programs, Services and Innovation.

**Number of News Items by Theme**



Within these themes emerged more specific topics. Within Public Policy and Homelessness, the following topics were the most common:

- Criminalization of Homelessness
- Hate Crimes and Discrimination
- Federal Budget Cuts and Funding for Homeless Programs
- Tent Cities and Camping Bans

Within Specific Populations, the following populations were covered most often:

- Homeless Families
- Unaccompanied Youth
- Homeless Children in Schools
- Veterans

In Housing, the most common topic was the Affordable Housing Shortage. In Homelessness and Health, the most common topic was the Affordable Care Act and Access to Care. In Homeless Incidence, the most common topic was Increase in Homelessness. In Shelters, the most common theme was Shelter Emergency Preparedness. In the theme of Programs, Service and Innovation, no specific topic was covered much more than any other, though Outreach Efforts received the most coverage with seven articles throughout the year.

While the expansion of Medicaid and a reported decrease in veteran homelessness were cause for celebration in the media in 2013, it was a rough and tumultuous year for too many Americans. Harsh weather combined with budget cuts and an economy too slowly recovering made America a tough place to live in poverty in 2013, and the results were more and more American families without a place to call home. Stagnating wages and an affordable housing crisis with no end in sight meant shelters and service providers, often with tighter budgets than ever before, had a tough time meeting the needs of the many who found themselves out on the streets. The media covered this changing face of homelessness in 2013—a shift in the discourse on homelessness, which often focuses on disparaging stereotypes of homeless individuals, painting them as drunks or drug addicts with extreme mental illness. 2013 saw the harmful effects of that age old stereotype and the dehumanization of people experiencing homelessness with the increase in hate crimes and discrimination against people on the streets, especially at the hands of teenagers. This also came through as cities, desperate to clean up their image, continued passing ordinances that criminalized homelessness, more willing to jail citizens than to find a lasting solution.

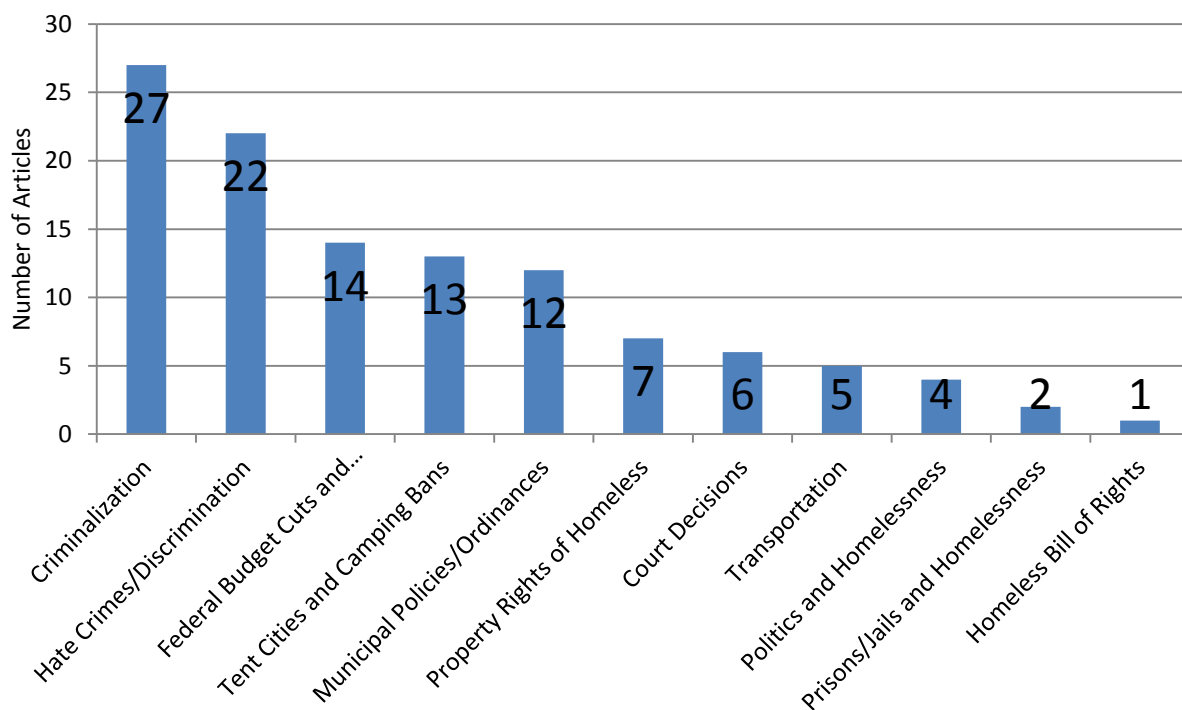
The following pages provide analysis of how the media portrayed the most common topics in 2013. Several of these topics overlap, demonstrating just how interconnected are the issues that impact homelessness. The overall trends portray a deteriorating safety net: a nation where it is easier to fall in to the cycle of homelessness, and harder to get out.

## **PUBLIC POLICY AND HOMELESSNESS**

Articles in this theme focused on how decisions and actions by city, state, and federal entities affect people experiencing homelessness. The topics that emerged were (in order of frequency):

- Criminalization of Homelessness
- Hate Crimes/ Discrimination
- Federal Budget Cuts and Funding for Homeless Programs
- Tent Cities and Camping Bans
- Municipal Policies/Ordinances
- Property Rights of People Experiencing Homelessness
- Court Decisions; Transportation
- Politics and Homelessness
- Prisons/Jails and Homelessness
- Homeless Bill of Rights

The following four categories will be discussed in more detail in this section: Criminalization of Homelessness; Hate Crimes/ Discrimination; Federal Budget Cuts and Funding for Homeless Programs; and Tent Cities and Camping Bans.



### **PUBLIC POLICY AND HOMELESSNESS: CRIMINALIZATION**

For years, communities across the country have been implementing laws that prohibit sleeping, eating, sitting, panhandling, or various other life-sustaining activities in public spaces—which disproportionately affect people without a safe and private place to call home. By their nature, these laws criminalize homelessness. They do not provide solutions to homelessness and often are

very costly for state and local governments. Over the course of 2013, *Homelessness in the News* highlighted 27 articles that touched on the topic of criminalization and focused on the various viewpoints on city ordinances, discussing the cost of jailing citizens for life-sustaining activities, and how these policies contribute to the cycle of homelessness.

**Miami** is one city that has had a case on the books since 1997 that *prevents* police from arresting individuals for life-sustaining activities without first offering available shelter. But in 2013, the city of Miami sought to change this. An article on the desired changes which would make it easier for police to arrest the homeless, *How Miami Is Grappling with the Rights of Homeless People*, describes the various viewpoints in the debate:



**Miami City Commissioner, Mark Sarnoff:** Homeless rights need to be weighed with “consideration for people who go to Heat games, people who come to visit the city of Miami, people who want to [shop] downtown, [or at] the outdoor cafes.”<sup>1</sup>



**Chairman of the Homeless Trust, Ronald Book:** “The last time I checked even homeless people were protected by the Constitution of the United States. While I wish we had the ability to force people into care or could force people off the streets, we don’t have that right. They have rights too. And while many of us don’t want to see homeless people and we don’t want to encounter homeless people—homelessness is not a crime.”<sup>2</sup>



**James Lature, a chronically homeless citizen of Miami:** “I think the city needs to do something about people if they want people off the street. They can’t just sit back and think that they can just live in their condo,” said Lature, “you got to *do* something to change things if you don’t want homeless people to be on the streets.”<sup>3</sup>

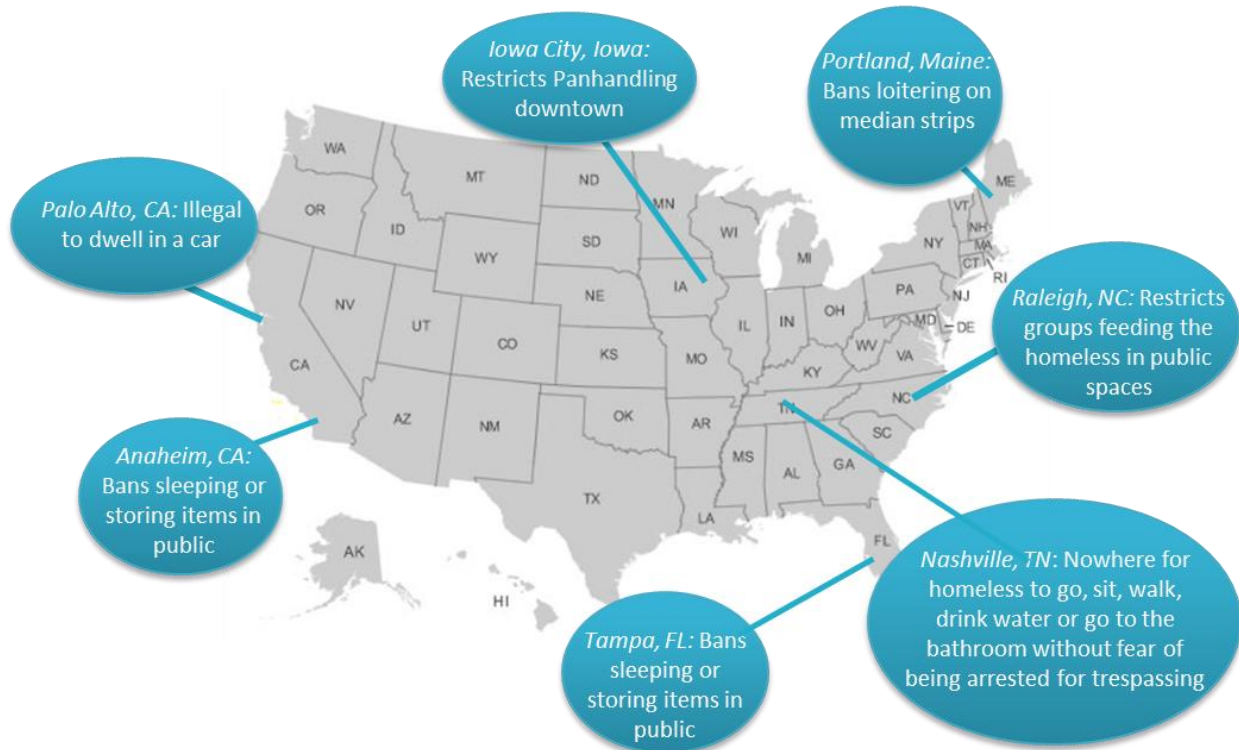
### **The cost of jailing citizens as opposed to providing safe housing:**

Scott Keyes, writing for *ThinkProgress*: “Taxpayers spend thousands of dollars to lock up the homeless for sleeping outside, and a day or two later, those same people are back out sleeping on the streets.”<sup>4</sup>

Tana Ganeva, *Salon*, writes: “Criminalization is both less effective and more expensive than investing in assistance programs. A 2004 study found that funding supportive housing costs anywhere from half to a third of what it costs to put people in jail. Programs like Seattle’s Housing First, which offered supportive housing to homeless alcoholics, have been found to substantially cut down the city’s costs, since the most expensive place for unhoused people to end up is in jail or in the hospital.”<sup>5</sup>

Bobby Ibarra, writing for *The Huffington Post*, sums up the general sentiment presented in the media on the issue of criminalization: “Passing criminal ordinances does not solve this problem; it only makes the situation of persons experiencing homelessness worse by giving them a criminal record that prevents them from obtaining the employment or housing that would allow them to overcome their current circumstance(s). If we want to do away with homelessness, we need to work on the long-term trends that have led us to the present situation. We need to work toward housing that is affordable to even the poorest among us, to jobs that pay enough to support families, and toward a health care system that does not cause financial crisis.”<sup>6</sup>

### Examples of Cities across America That Enacted Various Criminalization Ordinances



### PUBLIC POLICY AND HOMELESSNESS: HATE CRIMES/ DISCRIMINATION

*Homelessness in the News* highlighted 22 articles this year that portrayed instances of discrimination or hate crimes committed against individuals experiencing homelessness. While several cities and municipalities reported an increase in hate crimes against the homeless, these crimes may be well underreported due to the nature of homelessness—individuals often live in remote areas,<sup>7</sup> are loath to approach authorities, and are afraid of retaliation.<sup>8</sup> Stories distributed by *Homelessness in the News* focused on the death of Kelly Thomas, teenage violence against the homeless, the knockout game, and the prevalence of violence during life on the street.

**Kelly Thomas story:** Several news outlets out of Southern California recounted the unfolding story of three police officers charged in the beating death of a homeless schizophrenic man, Kelly Thomas, age 37. Five days after a violent interaction with these policemen, Thomas passed away in the hospital. Two of the officers were found not guilty and subsequently charges against the third were dropped. News stories detailed the incident and included graphic pictures of Thomas' beaten body. Discussing the trial, Ed Joyce writes, "Video of the beating shows Ramos putting on latex gloves and asking Thomas, 'Now see my fists? They are getting ready to f--- you up.'"<sup>9</sup>



**Teenagers:** The media described again and again the stories of young people committing acts of violence against people experiencing homelessness. An example from Detroit: “A young man and a 15-year-old boy have been ordered to stand trial on murder charges in the slaying of a 57-year-old homeless man in Flint...Police said [the man] was attacked after being taunted about being homeless, and died of head trauma. The beating lasted 10 to 15 minutes, according to court testimony.”<sup>10</sup>

**Knockout game:** The media increasingly covered a rise in what’s known as “the knockout game,” referring to random acts of violence committed against unsuspecting strangers, often people experiencing homelessness. An example: “Santiago was followed by the three teens while walking on 3rd Street between Adams and Jefferson Streets in Hoboken on September 10 when one of the juveniles threw a punch at Santiago’s head in what detectives believe was a game of ‘knockout.’ Santiago then collapsed onto the fence, wedging his neck between two iron fence posts, where he died, the prosecutor said.”<sup>11</sup>

**Detroit:** The media covered the story of police in Detroit physically removing homeless people from the streets and dropping them off miles away. An article by Tana Ganeva tells the story: “In April, the ACLU revealed that Detroit police were pulling homeless people off the street and just dropping them off miles and miles away. ‘DPD’s practice of essentially kidnapping homeless people and abandoning them miles away from the neighborhoods they know—with no means for a safe return—is inhumane, callous, and illegal,’ ACLU Michigan staff attorney Sarah Mehta told CBS local. ‘The city’s desire to hide painful reminders of our economic struggles cannot justify discriminating against the poor, banishing them from their city, and endangering their lives. A person who has lost his home has not lost his right to be treated with dignity.’” ([5 Shocking Ways America Abuses Its Homeless](#), Salon)

These are just examples of the violence that people experiencing homelessness encounter each and every day across the country. Regarding the **extreme level of violence people face**, Scott Keyes writes: “A cursory glance at crime news shows just how dangerous living on the streets is. Mark Lufkin, 39, died in April after he was attacked at a homeless campsite in Concord. A homeless man whose name wasn’t released, 40, was stabbed multiple times by a passer-by in Hampton Bays last month. Robert Kuntz, 61, was killed in August as well after being beaten to death by a man using a table leg. Two California men are behind bars after attacking a homeless man at 4 a.m. one morning in June with rocks, punches, and kicks as he slept on the streets. And the list goes on.”<sup>12</sup>

## **PUBLIC POLICY AND HOMELESSNESS: FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS AND FUNDING FOR HOMELESS PROGRAMS**

The unprecedented sequester and cuts in funding to homeless service providers that followed garnered a lot of attention in 2013. Fourteen articles highlighted in *Homelessness in the News* discussed the cuts in funding for various programs that affected low-income families, the direct impact cuts to the voucher program had on households, recounted anecdotes of individuals and families who lost the opportunity for housing, and how organizations lost the ability to do their work. Stories also covered the lasting impact of the sequester and the government shutdown, which lasted from October 1 through October 16, 2013.

Greg Kaufmann of *The Nation* puts the sequester in simple terms: “Here’s what it means when it comes to housing: up to 140,000 fewer low-income families receiving housing vouchers, more children exposed to lead paint, higher rent for people who can’t afford it and a rise in homelessness.”<sup>13</sup>

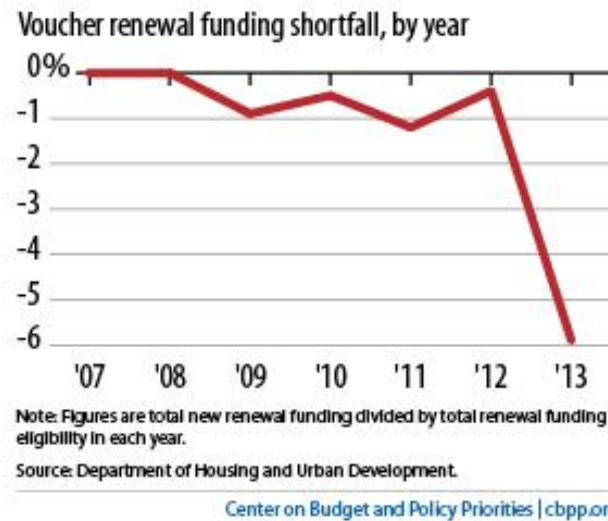


The media reported that cuts to housing vouchers had a direct impact on the increase in homeless families: “A \$938 million cut in the voucher program translates to a six percent shortfall below what is needed to maintain assistance to the same number of families in 2013 as last year. ‘Here we are in 2013 looking at severe cuts in the number of families that receive assistance, even at a time when the number of families in need has been rising sharply,’ said [Doug Rice, senior policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities]. There are currently ‘waiting lists for vouchers in almost every community,’ and only one in four eligible households receives a voucher or some other form of federal rental assistance.”<sup>14</sup>

In an NPR report, Pam Fessler tells a story out of Fairfax, Virginia: “Roger Bottomley thought a voucher was within reach after 10 years of homelessness when he was scheduled for an interview this month with the local housing authority. Then it was canceled. ‘They didn’t have the money for it, the way I understand it,’ he says. So he’s still living on the street. ‘I stayed at the bus stop last night,’ he says. ‘It wasn’t too cold out.’”<sup>15</sup>

Out of Pennsylvania: “With state budget cuts and decreasing grant money, organizations like Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton have had to make do with less, which has meant growing waiting lists for assistance and fewer resources to help people. ‘There is no funding with the sequester,’ [Joseph Kelly, executive director of Catholic Social Services] said, ‘Funding for rent assistance has all been used up by our agencies. There’s simply no money for rental of something.’”<sup>16</sup>

## Sequestration Will Create Largest Funding Shortfall on Record For Housing Choice Vouchers



*This graph highlights the drastic change in housing vouchers in 2013*

## **PUBLIC POLICY AND HOMELESSNESS: CAMPING BANS AND TENT CITIES**

In communities across the country, unsheltered Americans congregate in tent cities for safety, community, and as locations of last resort. The clearing of tent cities, often small encampments, by local authorities happened across the United States in 2013, and the news media grappled with how to cover this complicated issue. Several of the articles highlighted by *Homelessness in the News* demonstrate the struggle between neighbors who want camps cleared, advocates who defend the rights of the homeless to live somewhere, cities that enact policies to “clean up the streets,” and the needs of the homeless themselves. In the 13 articles *Homelessness in the News* distributed that touched on this issue, the media focused on: the various viewpoints in fights over encampments, city image, and cities failing to connect citizens with adequate services.

Yvonne Wenger, writing for *The Baltimore Sun*, includes the varying viewpoints in Baltimore: As the city of Baltimore cleared a camp on the side of I-83 and housed the dozen or so citizens who previously called this strip of land home, city officials pointed to available beds at a community shelter, protestors shouted “Fight, fight, fight. Housing is a human right,” and Rachel Kutler, an

advocate with Housing Our Neighbors said, "We want to draw attention to the fact homelessness was not solved today. What the city did was wash their hands of responsibility."<sup>17</sup>

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*"TENT CITIES ARE AMERICAN'S DE FACTO WAITING ROOM FOR AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING. THE IDEA OF SOMEONE LIVING IN A TENT IN THIS COUNTRY SAYS LITTLE ABOUT THE DECISIONS MADE BY THOSE WHO DWELL WITHIN AND SO MUCH MORE ABOUT OUR NATION'S INABILITY TO ADEQUATELY RESPOND TO OUR FELLOW RESIDENTS IN NEED." -NEIL DONOVAN, NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ([TENT CITIES IN AMERICA](#), NCH)*

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Local news covered the story of an unfolding ban on camping on city streets in Portland, Oregon: "Mayor Hales detailed further plans aimed at keeping people from camping long-term on city streets at a news conference Thursday. Hales said what isn't OK in front of City Hall is not OK anywhere. Other people need to use sidewalks and go about their business in the city. Hales said the sidewalk sweep is not about homelessness, but about lawlessness."<sup>18</sup> The article described the opinion of the mayor and the actions of police, but did not interview any individual experiencing homelessness nor any advocate for the homeless. Later on, the city made an agreement to allow a permanent encampment for about 50 to 60 people, as told in the story: [Homeless Camp Gets Permanent Spot](#).<sup>19</sup>

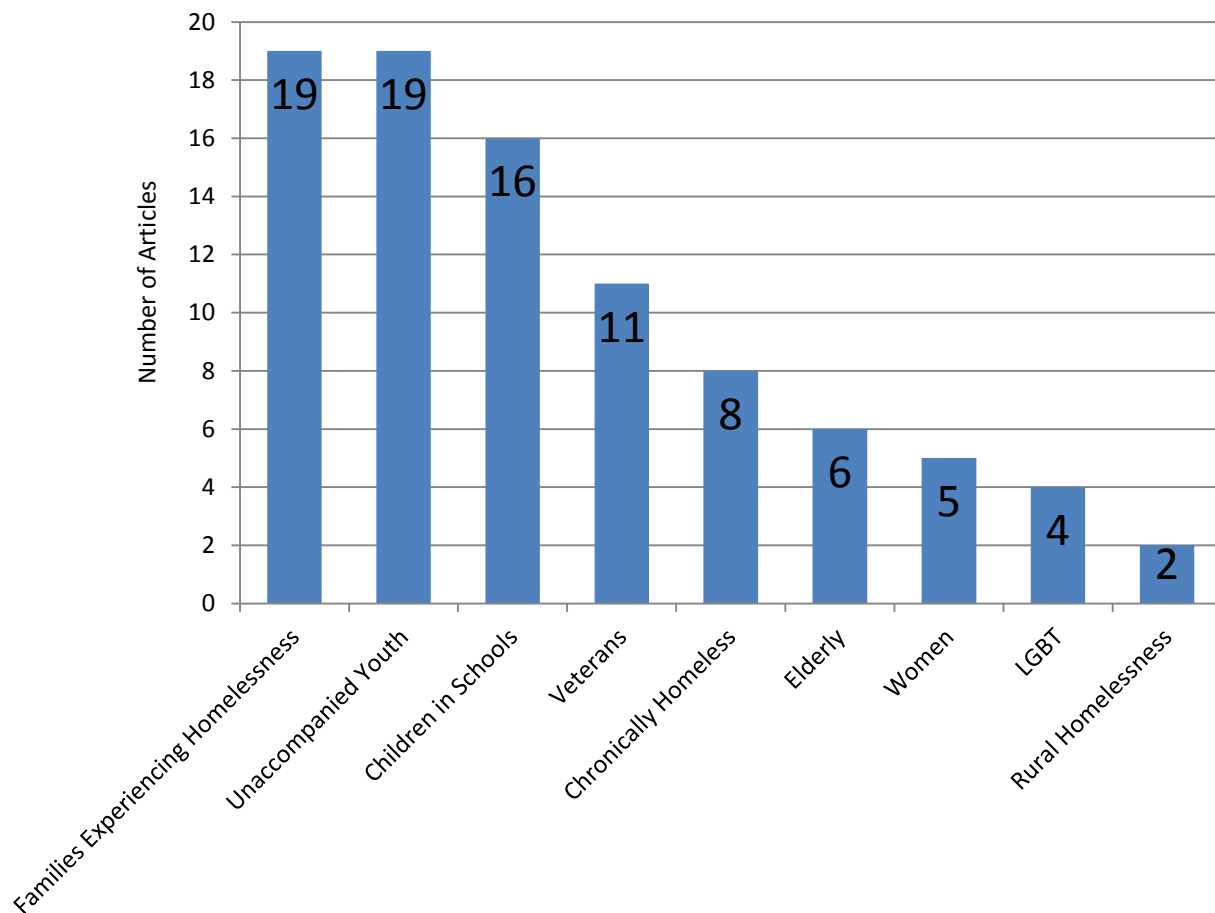
Almost always, cities promised to connect citizens who were being cleared out of camps with housing and services, but this example, from Fresno, California, demonstrates one instance of how often this fell short of the need: "City workers armed with backhoes and big brooms have dismantled three sprawling homeless encampments. For now, the plan is to use a \$1 million federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to start providing rental housing assistance for those who have been displaced. So far, the city has found housing for about 60 people. But hundreds more are roaming the streets of a tough neighborhood south of downtown. People are just hanging out. Some tents have started to pop up again just around the corner from where one encampment stood."<sup>20</sup>

Several of the stories touched on the concept of **Homeless Rights**. In the ongoing fights over encampments or tent cities across America, the ACLU has defended the rights of the homeless in numerous cases, and a *Homeless Bill of Rights* has passed or been debated in several cities and states.

## SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

All kinds of people experience homelessness in the United States, all with unique needs and challenges. The needs of families who fall into homelessness are very different from those of an individual who is chronically homeless. The media addressed these needs and the varying reasons these unique groups fall into homelessness. As more families, children, and youth found themselves on the streets, the media covered cities' efforts to grapple with this, service challenges, and the impacts and causes of these changes in the homeless population. The 90 articles in this theme discussed the following groups in order of frequency:

- Homeless Families
- Unaccompanied Youth
- Homeless Children in Schools
- Veterans
- Chronically Homeless
- Elderly
- Women



## **SPECIFIC POPULATIONS: FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

In a year when the overall number of people experiencing homelessness decreased and economists trumpeted a country climbing out of recession, the number of homeless families across the country continued to grow. Though the reality of homeless families is often hidden behind shelter doors or on a neighbor's couch, *Homelessness in the News* highlighted 19 articles throughout the year that focused on the increase in families experiencing homelessness. Themes in this topic included: the increase of family homelessness, a shortage of shelter space and resources for families, and the level of poverty in the United States. Articles that discussed *why* more families are falling into homelessness cited the primary cause as the affordable housing shortage, which will be discussed on page 15.



“THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D.C., IS FACING AN ONGOING CRISIS IN FAMILY HOMELESSNESS. THE LATEST DATA SHOW THAT MORE THAN A THOUSAND FAMILIES ARE HOMELESS, INCLUDING AT LEAST 1800 CHILDREN, A NUMBER THAT HAS RISEN ALMOST 75 PERCENT SINCE THE RECESSION STARTED IN 2008.” ([WASHINGTON DC FACING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS CRISIS](#), VOICE OF AMERICA)

New York City: “The number of families in shelters has nearly doubled in the last decade—as of this month, the shelter population included more than 10,000 families and nearly 21,000 children, according to city data.” ([The Return of Hooverville: The Deepening Crisis of Family Homelessness](#), New York Observer)

The media discussed why, in a year in which overall homelessness decreased, families continued to slip in to homelessness. On the state of poverty in America, Jeanna Smialek of Bloomberg writes: “The share of Americans experiencing ‘deep poverty,’ living at less than 50 percent of the \$23,492 poverty line for a family of four, climbed to 6.6 percent in 2012 from 4.5 percent in 2000, based on Census Bureau data released last month... For households with children, rising housing costs, elevated unemployment and stagnant earnings are increasingly placing rent beyond reach. The housing slump made matters worse as former homeowners turned into renters, increasing competition for available apartments.”<sup>21</sup>

## **SPECIFIC POPULATIONS: UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH**

An estimated 1.6 to 1.7 million unaccompanied youth experience homelessness each year in the United States. Most of these young people have left home due to severe family dysfunction, including abuse and neglect. Studies have found that twenty to forty percent of unaccompanied homeless youth were abused sexually in their homes, while forty to sixty percent were abused physically.<sup>22</sup> *Homelessness in the News* highlighted 19 articles that focused on youth who find themselves on the streets. Topics included: the importance of intervention at a young age,

challenges for youth in schools, the increase and causes of youth homelessness, the need for more youth-oriented shelters and services, LGBT youth, and stories of young individuals.

Tim Marx, CEO of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis: “If we don't get them on track then, their life trajectory and life chances many times become very unfortunate. They're on the streets, they run into predators. They often end up in emergency systems, jails. And they don't become workers and productive citizens of the community. This is many times a last chance to intervene and turn that trajectory in a positive way.”<sup>23</sup>

“Homelessness is devastating for any age bracket, but the risks are even greater for youth. Statistics suggest that within 24 hours kids are likely to be approached for exploitation or prostitution. And each time they move, they lose about three months of instruction.”<sup>24</sup>

**Columbus, Ohio:** “School officials estimate that about 15 percent of Whitehall-Yearling’s graduates this year didn’t have a permanent address. They escaped a violent home life or have been kicked out of their homes. They are staying in homeless shelters, squatting on couches at family and friends’ houses, or living in group or foster homes.”<sup>25</sup>

**Santa Clara, California:** “The census found that 17 percent of the total homeless population in Santa Clara County, California, now consists of young adults and unaccompanied minors. Advocates on the front lines say that’s no surprise considering the brutally high jobless rate among young people — a key contributor to this largely unrecognized problem.”<sup>26</sup>

**Causes:** “Service-providers say the ranks of young homeless are growing due to a confluence of factors including a lack of jobs, poor funding for programs targeted at youths, and a broken foster care system.” ([Fears of Another Lost Generation: Youth Homeless Numbers Rising](#), *San Jose Mercury News*)

“In the past, we mostly dealt with runaways, throwaways or lockouts,” Hamann said. ‘But when the recession hit, we started to see youths from intact (homes), with foreclosures. Some family shelters don't take adolescents, and they had to make the conscious decision to split up.’” ([Number of Homeless Youths on the Rise, Suggests Shelter, Hotline Data](#), *Chicago Tribune*)

**Connecticut:** “‘Try to find a shelter for a young person tonight and there is a waiting list,’ [Derrick Gordon] said. ‘Get in line with the other men at the adult shelter, that is your best option.’”<sup>27</sup> An article by Ellen Hirst in *The Chicago Tribune* details the story of two homeless youth, Sara Stokes and Lawrence Herbert, as examples of the increasing youth population and the challenges these young people face in building a better life. “Without a home or car, Stokes struggles to find a job. Herbert said it’s difficult to find reliable transportation for his job. The hardest part about being homeless for Herbert, who’s also attending classes at Pivot Point Beauty School, is not having a daily opportunity to shower.” Discussing the reasons behind the increase in youth homelessness and the effect this is having on shelters and youth, Hirst goes on to write: “Beth Cunningham, a youth attorney for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, said shelters she works with turn away children and young adults in increasing and ‘really disturbing numbers.’ At The Crib, a shelter for 18- to 24-year-olds in the Lakeview neighborhood, 9 p.m. is a stressful time. That’s when the 20 youths who will get beds that night are randomly chosen. On a recent Monday, Lawrence Herbert, 19, originally from Evanston, lucked out. He’d have a place to sleep that night, but that’s not always the case. A part-time cashier at an Evanston restaurant, he can’t make it to a shelter in time for check-in on the three nights each week that he works. ‘There have been nights when I had to sleep on the train, in the cold, or I would like sleep in a park,’ Herbert said. Herbert said he left home about two months ago after his relationship with his dad had become physically and verbally abusive. Herbert is gay, and he said his dad doesn’t accept that.”<sup>28</sup>



### **SPECIFIC POPULATIONS: CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS**

Headlines, including *Homeless School-Kids at 9-Year High, Economic Well-Being of U.S. Children Slips*, and *Student Homelessness Hits Record High*, demonstrate the growing incidence of children experiencing homelessness in this country. One in 45 children in the United States experience homelessness each year.<sup>29</sup> *Homelessness in the News* distributed 16 unique articles that focused specifically on homeless children in schools, plus articles that focused on families experiencing homelessness often touched on the challenges children face as well. These articles discussed the life-long effects of experiencing homelessness as a child, the immediate challenges children face, and the service challenges that schools and providers face when dealing with such an increase in children experiencing homelessness.

“Growing up in poverty, it just has these terrible repercussions and you see these associations with much lower rates of high school graduation, lower performance overall in school, much lower rates of college attendance and the cycle perpetuates,” said Curtis Skinner, director of Family Economic Security at the National Center for Children in Poverty.<sup>30</sup>

“Imagine spending the night in your car with your parents and siblings; doing homework without a desk; or having your school peers ask why you’d worn the same shirt every day for the past week.”<sup>31</sup>

“Research shows that children who are homeless, including those who are doubled up, are at higher risk for a variety of problems. They are sick four times as often as kids who are not homeless, twice as likely to be hungry, and suffer from emotional and behavioral problems at three times the rate of other children.”<sup>32</sup>



“Like many school districts, Baltimore has seen an increase in homeless students in the wake of the housing crisis and weak economy. There were more than 2,800 homeless children in the city’s school system last year, twice as many as there were five years ago, out of an overall population of 85,000.”<sup>33</sup>

In an article describing the unfolding crisis, Sarah Goodyear writes: “The raw numbers are shocking: in the 2011 school year, 1,168,354 homeless children were enrolled in preschools and K-12 programs. Even more disturbing is the trend those numbers show: nationally, they represent a 10 percent jump over the previous school year, and a stunning 72 percent increase since the beginning of the recession in 2008. The crisis is not confined to any one region. Forty-three states reported a rise in the number of homeless kids, and 10 showed jumps of more than 20 percent.”<sup>34</sup>

### **SPECIFIC POPULATIONS: VETERANS**

Veterans are the focus of several national and city plans to end chronic homelessness, and the media seized the opportunity to celebrate this. Phoenix became the first city in the country to eradicate chronic veteran homelessness. Aligning with the Obama Administration’s goal of ending homelessness among veterans by 2015, cities across the country enacted plans to house their veterans. The media covered this unfolding movement: the successes, the challenges, and the

people who lived it. Also addressed were the unique needs of veterans facing homelessness such as treatment for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and substance abuse.



**Phoenix:** In *Phoenix Becomes First City To End Chronic Homelessness Among Veterans*, Scott Keyes describes how Phoenix, Arizona used Housing First to successfully house the city's 222 homeless veterans.<sup>35</sup>

**Boston, Massachusetts:** Boston's NPR station detailed Massachusetts' plan to reduce the number of homeless veterans in the state by 1,000 before the end of 2015: "It's really trying to make sure that while they're in a house that's affordable and decent, that they are getting the support and case management assistance on a week to week basis," [Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray] told WBUR.<sup>36</sup>

**Los Angeles,** the city with more homeless veterans than any other in the United States, received more mixed reviews: Jon Wiener, writing for *The Nation*, revealed that land the VA (Department of Veteran Affairs) owns is being rented out to a rental car company, rather than being used to house and support some of those veterans.<sup>37</sup> On the other hand, Gale Holland, writing for *The LA Times*, wrote: "Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological diagnoses end up living in the streets because they're too disabled to seek help, advocates have long argued. The answer, they say, is permanent supportive housing, with medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment wrapped on-site around vets' residential complexes. Bureaucratic inertia and neighborhood opposition have stalled development of this type of housing, officials said. Now Los Angeles County, which has the most homeless veterans in the nation, has taken a step forward with a \$48 million permanent supportive housing project called New Directions Sepulveda I and II in North Hills in the central San Fernando Valley."<sup>38</sup>



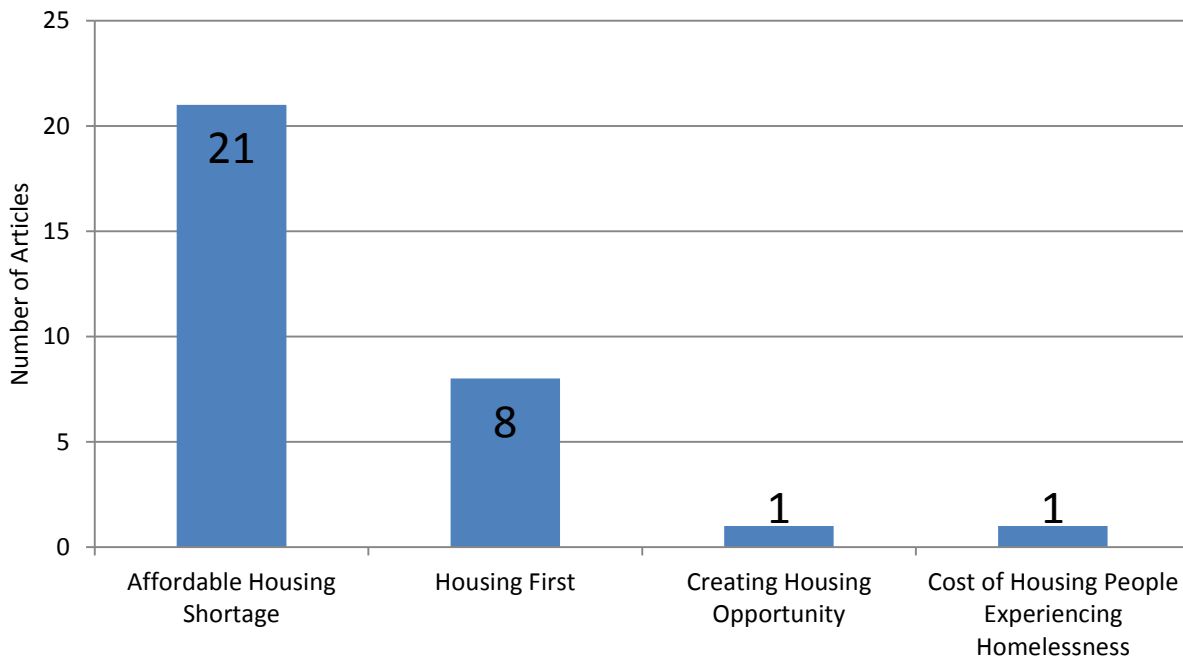
## HOUSING

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The issues of housing and homelessness are inextricably linked. The issue of housing was at the very least *mentioned* in countless of the articles distributed in *Homelessness in the News* in 2013, and 31 articles focused predominately on this theme. Four main topics emerged:

- The Affordable Housing Shortage
- Housing First
- Creating Housing Opportunity
- Cost of Housing the Homeless

As seen in the chart below, the Affordable Housing Shortage was the most heavily covered of these topics. Several of the articles that focused on families also touched upon this subject—this shortage explains why more and more families are falling into homelessness when overall, homelessness seems to be decreasing in this country.



### HOUSING: AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE

The majority of articles that grapple with the issue of homelessness—how to prevent it, how to solve it—discuss the massive affordable housing shortage in this country. While *Homelessness in the News* highlighted 21 articles that specifically covered the shortage, there are countless others that mention the facts: “for every 100 extremely low-income renters, there are only 30 affordable and available rental homes, and the shortage is getting worse every year.”<sup>39</sup> Articles focused on the fact that having a job doesn’t mean being able to pay the rent, specific communities that do not have adequate housing, lack of city investments in affordable housing, the direct link between affordable housing and homelessness, the growing number of cost-burdened families across the United States,

and what the national and local governments can do about it. Because New York City is one of the most expensive cities to live in, and also has a homeless population of over 52,000, many of the articles highlighted the problems in the city.<sup>40</sup>

### **A Job Doesn't Mean Getting Paid Enough To**

**Pay The Rent:** As recovery from the recession is slow, wages stagnate, and rent continues to increase, the media increasingly covered the fact that even having a job does not mean individuals, and in particular families, can pay the rent. Anywhere.

**Wyoming :** The article *In Wyoming, Many Jobs but No Place to Call Home*, tells the story of how Wyoming's resilient state economy drew people with the promise of well-paying jobs and an unemployment rate of only 5.1 percent. Yet, the homeless population grew by 67 percent. Why? "We literally do not have any place for people to live," said Marilyn Dymond Wagner, the executive director of Interfaith. "Vacancy rates are close to one percent, housing officials say, and two-bedroom apartments can rent for \$800 to \$1,000, out of reach for many of the working poor."<sup>41</sup>

**Portland, Maine:** Robert Marcroft, writing for *The Bangor Daily News*, decried the disproportionate use of city funds for new event venues, parking lots, and a hotel while millions less are allocated for the development of affordable housing.<sup>42</sup> [Read here.](#)

**Chicago:** There were 105,338 homeless in Chicago over the course of 2011 to 2012, according to a just-released report by the Chicago Coalition for Homeless. This is a 12 percent increase from the previous year. "The lack of affordable housing is the primary cause of homelessness in Chicago," said Julie Dworkin.<sup>43</sup>

In an article examining why this country's working class is more often falling into homelessness, Sarah Goodyear writes, "According to statistics from the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), overall homelessness in the United States declined slightly from 2011 to 2012, falling by 0.4 percent. But the number of people in homeless families actually rose over the same period, by 1.4 percent. The NAEH report states what may seem like the obvious to account for the problem: 'Homelessness is essentially caused by the inability of households to pay for housing.' The number of households spending more than 50 percent of their income on housing—more than 50 percent!—went up 5.5 percent over the same period, with some 6.5 million households exceeding that threshold." Goodyear continues to include the recommendations of Nan Roman, the President and CEO of the NAEH, who "believes that everyone who earns less than 30 percent of the area median income should be provided with rental assistance. [Roman] says that government needs to help create more affordable housing, and points out that we subsidize other housing types in countless ways, such as the home mortgage tax deduction. But in the current political climate, of course, every dollar of funding is a battle."<sup>44</sup>

### **NEW YORK:**

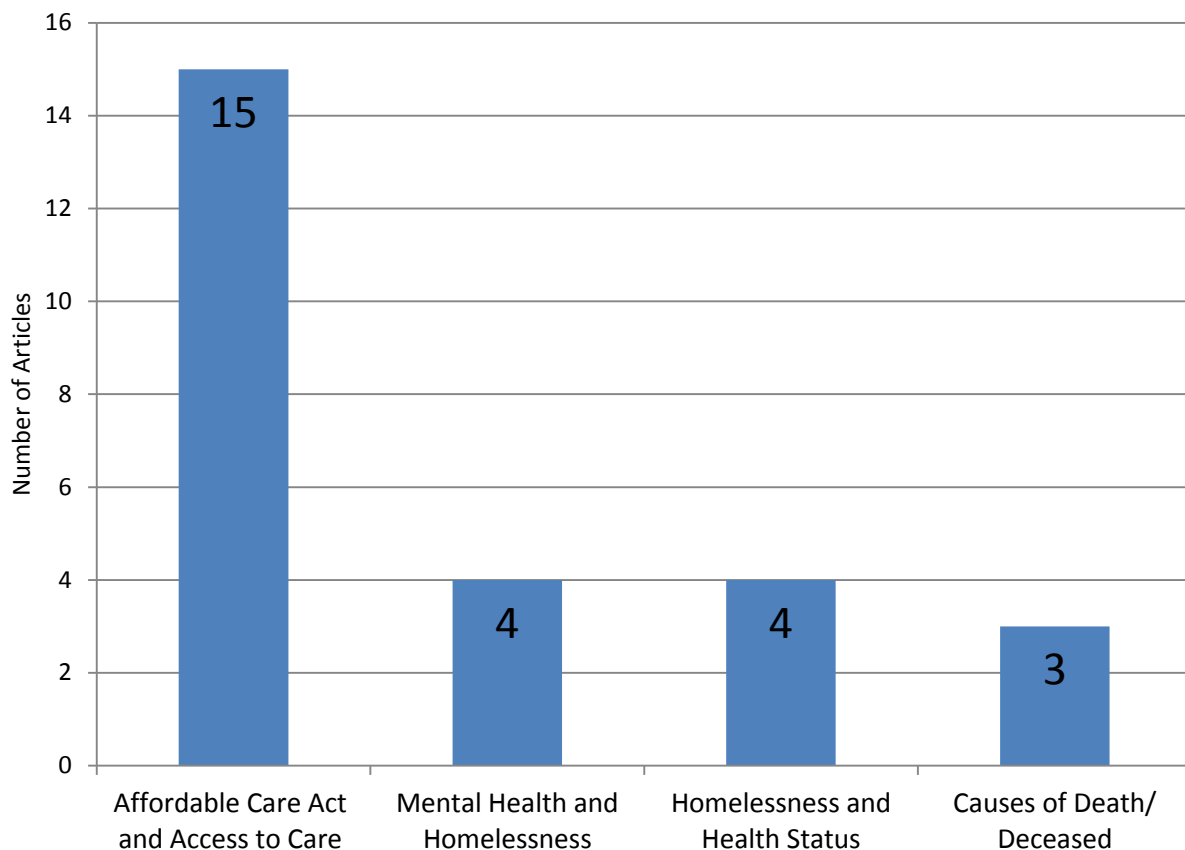
Based on the coverage of affordable housing, New York may be the hardest city to live in for low-income families and individuals: "The population of New York City's homeless shelters is at a record high but it's not because people can't find employment. Instead, it's **because a job doesn't mean getting paid enough to be able to pay the rent.**" ([The Disturbing Truth About New York's Homeless Population](#), PolicyMic)

"More than one out of four families in shelters, 28 percent, include at least one employed adult, city figures show, and 16 percent of single adults in shelters hold jobs. 'Without low-income housing, it's a maze with no way out,' Mr. Garza [Executive Director of Henry Street Settlement] said." ([In New York, Having a Job, or 2, Doesn't Mean Having a Home](#), NY Times)

Median rent in the city has increased by almost nine percent over the past half-decade while wages have dropped by about seven percent after adjusting for inflation. ([The Forgotten 50,000](#), NY Times)

## **HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH**

Health problems are both a cause and result of experiencing homelessness. While some become homeless because of crippling medical bills, once homeless, access to care becomes that much more difficult, new health issues arise, and existing issues are compounded. A life of homelessness leads to numerous health complications, and the average life expectancy among people experiencing homelessness ranges between 42 and 52, compared with 78 for the general United States population.<sup>45</sup> Out of 26 articles in this theme, the most discussed topic was the Affordable Care Act and Access to Care.



### **HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH: AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) promised to bring health care coverage to millions of low-income Americans (adults below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Line), a huge boost to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. However, after the Supreme Court ruled that states could not be forced to participate in the reform's Medicaid expansion (and 25 states have chosen not to expand the program so far), millions of Americans lost the opportunity to gain coverage—coverage that could help them stay in healthy homes. In states that did elect to provide coverage to their citizens, the reform promises to insure thousands of homeless individuals, benefiting their cities, states, hospitals, homeless service providers who can bill for services, and most importantly, the citizens themselves. *Homelessness in the News* distributed 15 articles that discussed how the ACA can prevent homelessness, the benefits the ACA will bring to those with mental health issues,

enrollment challenges, and the cost benefits to the states. Other articles discussed in more detail the health problems that people experiencing homelessness face, challenges to getting or staying healthy without a home, and the concept that housing is healthcare.

An article that looks at the various benefits the ACA has brought to the homeless in Oregon discusses **how the ACA can prevent homelessness**: “‘Having health insurance will prevent some people from becoming homeless in the first place,’ [Traci Manning, Director of the Portland Housing Bureau] says. ‘Because if you don’t have insurance and you have a serious health care crisis, and perhaps are already struggling to make ends meet, you suddenly have a lot of bills, maybe you start missing a lot of rent. You run through your savings and for some people right now, that may be the cause of their homelessness.’”<sup>46</sup>

An article in the *State Journal-Register* of Springfield, Illinois, examines the **benefits the ACA will bring to those with mental health issues**: “‘The ACA’s removal of pre-existing conditions for almost all health-insurance plans, as well as the law’s ban on lifetime cost limits, also will reduce the roadblocks that people with mental illness can face when seeking treatment. Of the 342,000 Illinoisans expected to fall within the new eligibility category and enroll in Medicaid by 2017, an estimated five percent will have serious mental illness, 12 percent will have experienced serious psychological distress and 15 percent will have substance-use disorders, according to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. ‘Many of them haven’t had access to mental-health and substance-abuse services in the past,’ said Julie Hamos, Healthcare and Family Services director.”<sup>47</sup>



**Challenges of enrolling:** *Affordable Care Act: Homeless, But Not Without Care on Skid Row* discusses how difficult it can be, despite the benefits, to enroll thousands of homeless. Obstacles include: outreach challenges, mental health, lack of knowledge of the ACA, and lack of paperwork or identification.<sup>48</sup>

**Cost Benefits:** “[Medicaid expansion] might also shift the burden of care from emergency rooms to doctors’ offices, with benefits for state budgets. Homeless people tend to use health care services in the most expensive ways,’ said Jennifer Ho, a senior adviser at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. ‘They show up when they’re sicker,’ she said. ‘They stay longer. And it’s harder to discharge them because they don’t have a place to go.’”<sup>49</sup>

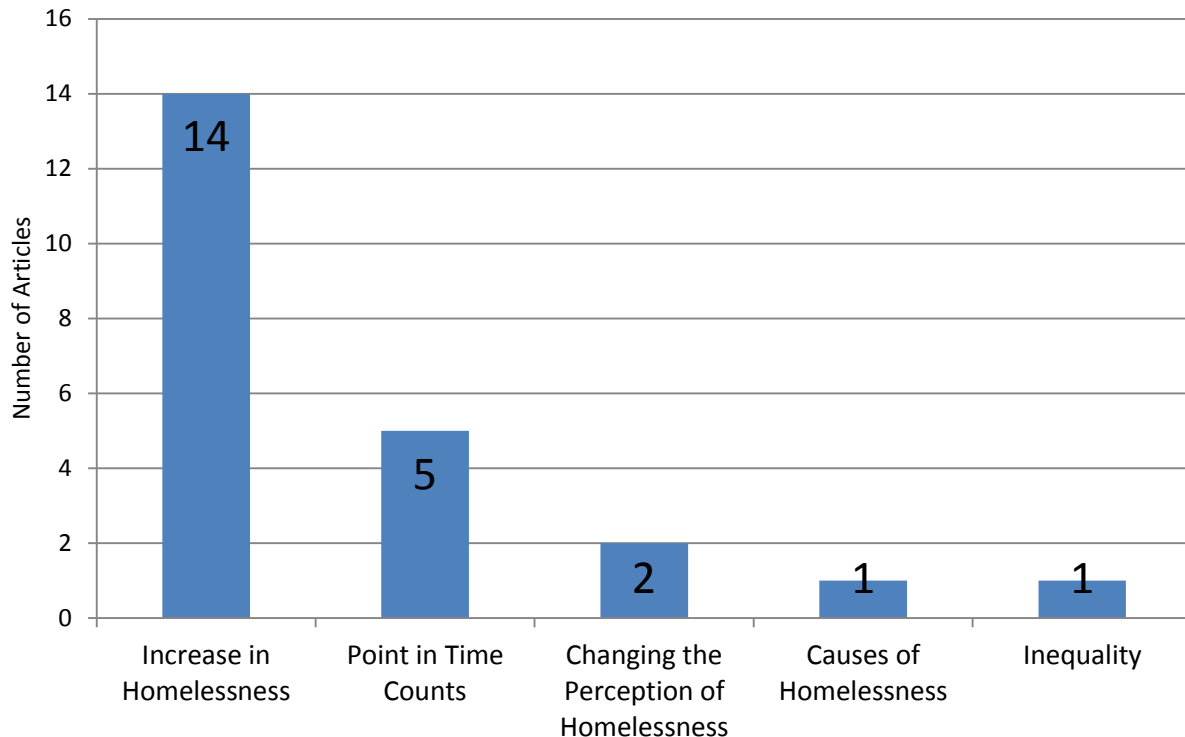
**Health status:** “‘The emergency room is a frequent destination for the homeless in every city across the U.S. The list of ailments for those living on the streets is long — blood clots, chronic pain, exposure, diabetes. It’s even longer for those in their 50s and 60s, which is considered elderly when you’re homeless.’”<sup>50</sup>

An NPR report detailed some of the many **challenges to staying or getting healthy while without a home**: “‘Diabetics have nowhere to refrigerate their insulin. They’re not allowed to bring syringes needed for such medication into homeless shelters. Medication is often stolen. And sometimes those with serious foot and leg problems can’t get to a doctor.’”<sup>51</sup>

**Housing is health care:** “[Rachel Post of Central City Concern] says the relationship between housing and health care cannot be overstated: ‘Housing is health care. We absolutely have to have people housed in order to address their many health issues.’ Consider the homeless man, she says, who spends days in a hospital recuperating from tuberculosis, only to be sent back out to live under a bridge.”<sup>52</sup> And a new housing for the homeless facility in the Bronx is even being built with Medicaid money: “The [state] administration said the money could be diverted for housing because doing so would save billions in health costs among the chronically homeless, who have some of the highest Medicaid bills in the state. ‘They basically use the emergency room as a shelter,’ said Brenda Rosen, Executive Director of Common Ground, which is building the 154-unit project, which will set aside 60% for homeless seniors.”<sup>53</sup>

## HOMELESS INCIDENCE

Twenty-three articles discussed the incidence of homelessness itself. Although nationwide numbers point to a slight decrease in overall homelessness, various communities across the country found themselves grappling with an increase in homelessness, especially among specific subpopulations, e.g. families. Point in Time Counts are the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated, once-yearly counts conducted by service providers to provide a count of the people experiencing homelessness on a given night.



### HOMELESS INCIDENCE: INCREASE IN HOMELESSNESS

Overall, the numbers point to a slight nationwide decline in homelessness from 2012 to 2013. Yet communities across the country found themselves grappling with a growing and changing homeless population. Fourteen articles highlighted by *Homelessness in the News* told the story of the growing number of families, youth, and people who found themselves with no place to turn. Headlines distributed in 2013 include: *Number of Homeless in State up 6%; New York City Leads Jump in Homeless; Homelessness Up More than 10% in Rhode Island, Minnesota Homelessness Trends Headed Wrong Way; Soaring Rents And Stagnant Incomes Leave Record Number Of Mass. Families Homeless; Homeless Population in Hudson County Seems to Be Growing; In Milwaukee, a Developing Crisis of Homelessness; and Stark Homeless Rate Rises Despite Community Effort.*

**California:** “According to a recent survey by EveryOne Home, the number of unsheltered homeless living with severe mental illness in Alameda County **has increased by 35 percent** over the past two years.”



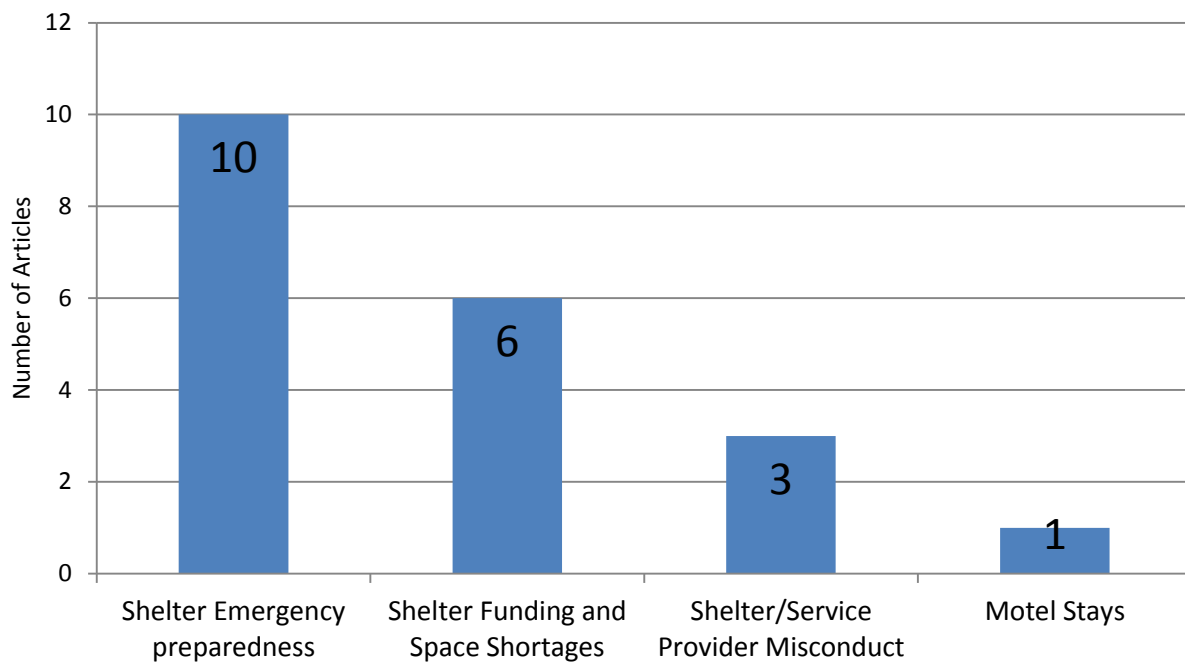
**Massachusetts:** “Libby Hayes, executive director of Homes for Families, says the situation is worse than it’s ever been in Massachusetts — with the state’s emergency shelter system now serving 4,100 homeless families, or **twice its capacity**.”<sup>54</sup>

**Portland, Maine:** “Homelessness is on the rise in Portland. From 2011 to 2012, the total number of people the Oxford Street Shelter provided a bed for increased from 1,667 to 2,079, a 25 percent increase. The number of people experiencing homelessness has **increased steadily since 2009**.”<sup>55</sup>



## SHELTERS

In a year with a long, cold winter and extreme budget cuts across the board, the media covered the issues that shelters faced in trying to meet the need of individuals and families in their community who face homelessness. In 20 articles focused on these issues, ten articles covered emergency preparedness. The majority focused on shelters grappling with space shortages during harsh winter nights, but also the need during heat waves and other weather related incidences. As government funding was cut or disappeared altogether, private funding also decreased, leaving many shelters in a bind.



### SHELTERS: SHELTER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Every year, homeless shelters grapple with extreme weather and the need to house more people during dire conditions. Across the country in 2013, with this reality exacerbated by funding cuts and growing instances of extreme weather, the media covered these stories. *Homelessness in the News* distributed ten articles that touched on issues from winter storms, heat waves, and over-capacity shelters. An additional six articles were highlighted that discussed shelter funding and space shortages. Headlines include: [Cold Snap could be Deadly for Homeless in Greater Minnesota](#); [Sacramento's Homeless Struggle to Survive Heat Wave](#); [Charlotte Emergency Shelter Forced to Say 'No' to Homeless Families](#); and [Crush of homeless overwhelming Phoenix shelter](#).

**Baltimore, Maryland:** “Kevin Lindamood, President of Health Care for the Homeless, a program that provides medical services and access to housing and jobs, is worried about those left out in the cold. ‘There hasn't been articulated a broader vision for a sufficient overflow capacity this winter,’ Lindamood said. ‘Unfortunately, I think that preventable weather-related death will be the

consequence.' Baltimore's 2,000 emergency beds at shelters and transitional beds in places like halfway houses are 'nowhere near enough,' and the need exceeds the beds by about 1,000 people, according to Lindamood. 'We've got a mass problem,' he said."<sup>56</sup>

**Nashua, New Hampshire:** "The Soup Kitchen can host 30 people in its two locations, and has only a few emergency cots for single homeless people in need. With the fire department and public health, you can only have so many people. We're at capacity all the time, pretty much."<sup>57</sup>

**Minnesota:** "Liz Kuoppala, who heads the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, said in rural areas, many homeless families live in their cars. When the temperature plunges below zero, many cannot afford to keep the engine running all night to stay warm. 'We've heard from some of our outreach workers, families are making their way to all-night places like Wal-Marts or McDonalds and just kind of huddling there and trying to stay warm and then moving on to another place,' Kuoppala said. 'But it's really tough to stay alive outside.'"<sup>58</sup>

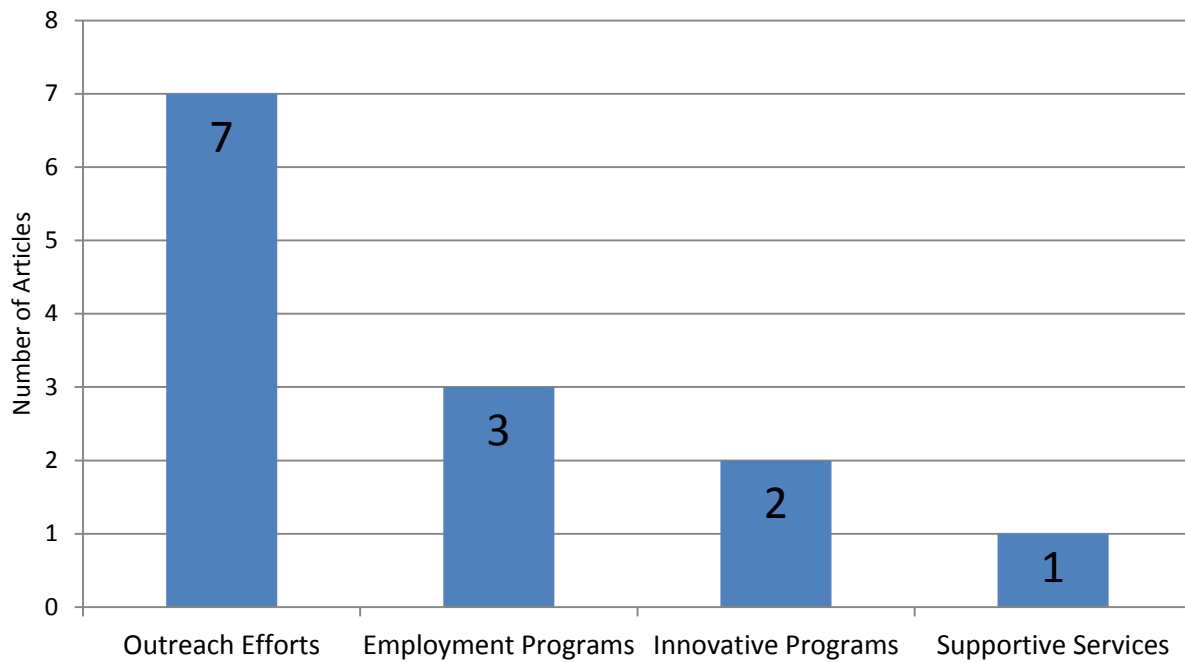


*Photo by Diedra Laird, The Charlotte Observer: An overflow sleeping area at the Salvation Army Center of Hope, Charlotte's largest emergency shelter for women and children, is full every night with no end in sight, as family homelessness grows in Charlotte.*

## **PROGRAMS/ SERVICES/ INNOVATION**

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This final topic encompassed various programs that service providers and cities executed or experimented with in 2013. Seven articles focused on various innovative outreach efforts, such as a library in San Francisco that employs a full-time social worker to work with clients experiencing homelessness.<sup>59</sup> Others highlighted a new mobile phone app to help track where people experiencing homelessness congregate, innovative fairs to match clients with services, and ways that organizations find people and help them transition out of homelessness.



## **Appendix: All Articles included in *Homelessness in the News* in 2013, Listed by Theme**

### **PUBLIC POLICY and HOMELESSNESS**

#### **Criminalization of Homelessness**

1. [Criminalizing Poverty](#)
2. [Police Policy Shift Follows Homeless Arrest](#)
3. [Counting the Homeless in the Cold](#)
4. [Orlando Rated Meanest City toward Homeless](#)
5. [Crimes of Homelessness: Homeless Court](#)
6. [Massachusetts City Sued Over Law against Aggressive Panhandling](#)
7. [Proposals Reignite Debate over Downtown's Homeless Population](#)
8. [Portland's Panhandling Restriction May Beg Bigger Question](#)
9. [Palo Alto Passes New Ordinance To Criminalize Homelessness](#)
10. [Police Stop Charities Feeding Homeless in Raleigh](#)
11. [South Carolina City Takes Steps to Evict Homeless from Downtown](#)
12. [Homelessness in Iowa](#)
13. [More Cities Sweeping Homeless into Less Prominent Areas](#)
14. [Raleigh Leaders Seek Compromise with Groups Feeding Homeless](#)
15. [Miami Seeks Changes in Treatment of Homeless People](#)
16. [5 Shocking Ways America Abuses its Homeless](#)
17. [Miami Moves to Overturn Court-Ordered Homeless Rights](#)
18. [Anaheim City Council Now Declaring War on Homeless](#)
19. [The Problem with Criminalizing Homelessness](#)
20. [Tennessee Voices: Police Charge Homeless with 'Crime' of Poverty](#)
21. [Minor Legal Issues Pose Major Barriers For Poor, Homeless](#)
22. [Homeless Sue Sheriff to Sleep at Ohio Courthouse](#)
23. [How Miami is Grappling with the Rights of Homeless People](#)
24. [San Francisco Could Make It Illegal for Homeless People to Sleep in Parks at Night](#)
25. [Los Angeles Considering Proposal to Ban Feeding Homeless People in Public Berkeley Homelessness Still Problem 1 Year after Failure of Measure S](#)
26. [Court Panel Appears Skeptical of L.A. Ban on Homeless Living in Cars](#)
27. [Arresting Homeless People for Sleeping Outside Costs Taxpayers](#)

#### **Hate Crimes/Discrimination**

28. [ACLU: Detroit Police Remove Homeless, Dump Them Outside City POLICE](#)
29. [Trial Date Set for Ex-cops in Beating Death of Homeless Man \(graphic image\) KT](#)
30. [Teens Accused of Attacking Elderly and Homeless in Fulton Mall TEENAGERS](#)
31. [Are Homeless 'Poisoning' Downtown?](#)
32. [Two Ordered to Stand Trial in Homeless Man's Death TEENAGERS](#)
33. [Police Crackdown on Crimes Targeting the Homeless INCRS](#)
34. [Police: People were Taking Cell Phone Pictures of Dead Homeless Man](#)
35. [Union Square Bookstore Accused of Using Sprinklers to Spray Away the Homeless](#)
36. [Lawmaker Takes Sledgehammer to Hawaii Homeless' Carts](#)
37. [Teen Charged in Attack on Homeless Man in Tarpon Springs](#)
38. [No Charges for OPD Officer Accused of Hitting Homeless Man with Car POLICE](#)
39. [The Most Dangerous State For Homeless People Is: Florida. Again.](#)
40. [Police: 'Knockout Game' Suspects Recorded Assault of Homeless Man](#)
41. [Neighbors Criticize Proposed Costa Mesa Homeless Facility](#)

42. [Crime among Homeless Can Remain Hidden](#)
43. [Attacks on Homeless Worry Advocates; Safety Campaign Planned](#)
44. [Homeless Man Stabbed in Brockton](#)
45. [Homeless Shelter Burglary Sets Women, Families Back Again](#)
46. [Homeless Hoboken Man Whose Body was Found on Fence is Recalled as 'Very Humble,' 'Childlike'](#)
47. [Violence against Homeless People is on the Rise](#)
48. [Prosecutor: 3 Teens Charged In Beating Death of Homeless Man in N.J.](#)
49. [Couple Sentenced in Death of Homeless Man \(with videos\)](#)

#### **Federal Budget Cuts and Funding For Homeless Programs**

50. [White House Outlines Deep Cuts it Would Make Under Sequester](#)
51. [Homeless, Hungry, Hung Out to Dry](#)
52. [As Automatic Budget Cuts Go into Effect, Poor May be Hit Particularly Hard](#)
53. [Sequestration Puts Rental Assistance Programs in Jeopardy](#)
54. [This Week in Poverty: Sequestration, Housing, Homelessness](#)
55. [Sequester Cuts Hit Low-Income Families](#)
56. [Sequester Puts Some Needing Housing Aid 'Back to Square One'](#)
57. [Federal Budget Squabbles Wound Homeless Shelters](#)
58. [Cash-Strapped Cities Struggle to Bury Their Unclaimed Dead](#)
59. [Funding Limited to Support Homeless Population in Lackawanna County](#)
60. [Cuts Mean Fewer Homeless People in Upstate Will Get Help](#)
61. [How the Shutdown is Hurting Public Housing](#)
62. [\\$20 Million Endowment Pitched to Aid for Struggling Families](#)
63. [Housing Advocates Praise Funding Increase in Minnesota](#)

#### **Tent Cities and Camping Bans**

64. [City Clears Homeless Camp, Residents in Temporary Housing](#)
65. [As Winter Shelters Close, Concord Officials Look to Clear Homeless Camps](#)
66. [Homeless Campsite Options Explored](#)
67. [Lawsuit over Concord Campsites Claims Constitutional Rights for Homeless](#)
68. [Hales: Homeless Sweep is About Lawlessness](#)
69. [Concord Police Chief: Issues with Homelessness Still a Problem](#)
70. [Homeless Camp Gets Permanent Spot](#)
71. [City Revamps Homeless 'Rest Stops'; SLEEPS Says 'Too Little, Too Late'](#)
72. [Fresno Officials Dismantle Homeless Encampments](#)
73. [From the Daily: Listening to the Homeless](#)
74. [Homeless Can Move From Camps to Shelters outside Concord, State Argues](#)
75. [ACLU: Anaheim's Anti-Homeless Crackdown Legally "Disingenuous"](#)
76. [Man Found Dead Outside Northeast Fresno Shopping Center Spurs Homeless Outcry](#)

#### **Municipal Policies/Ordinances**

77. [Costa Mesa Confronts Homelessness Head-On](#)
78. [Nevada City Begins Granting Camping Permits to Homeless People](#)
79. [Los Angeles Approve Incentives for Developers of Homeless Housing](#)
80. [SLO Plan for Homeless Parking to Get Preview](#)
81. [The City's New Gambit to End Homelessness](#)
82. [SLO's Safe Parking Program for Homeless to Be Expanded](#)
83. [Police Honor Homeless Man's Good Deed](#)
84. [Sheriff: County Approaching Homeless with Compassion](#)

- 85. [Alaskans Debate the Opening of a 'Homeless Campus'](#)
- 86. [Task Force to Focus on Homeless](#)
- 87. [New Recycling Law Hurts the Poor and Homeless](#)
- 88. [Fate of Homeless People Uncertain After They Die](#)

### **Property Rights of Homeless**

- 89. [Venice Program Gives the Homeless a Place to Keep Belongings](#)
- 90. [L.A. to Ask High Court to Overturn Ruling on Homeless' Belongings](#)
- 91. [Los Angeles Asks High Court to Overturn Ruling on Homeless Belongings](#)
- 92. [Judge Orders City of Sacramento to Pay Almost \\$800,000 to Lawyers for Homeless](#)
- 93. [Skid Row's Storage Bins Tell Gritty Tales](#)
- 94. [Supreme Court Lets Stand Ban on Destroying Property of L.A. Homeless](#)
- 95. [L.A. May Appeal Again to Ease Ban on Seizing Carts of Homeless](#)

### **Court Decisions**

- 96. [San Luis Obispo Loses another Battle in its Fight against the Homeless](#)
- 97. [City Eligibility Policy for Homeless People Seeking Shelter was Enacted Illegally, Court Says](#)
- 98. [Stories from NJ Homeless Camp Going before Judge](#)
- 99. [Homelessness: Miami's Shadow City](#)
- 100. [Suit over Homeless Shelters in East New York](#)
- 101. [Judge Rules that Albany Can Clear Homeless Camp](#)

### **Transportation**

- 102. [Why Homelessness is a Transportation Issue](#)
- 103. [Homeless People on New York City Subways Rose 13% in January](#)
- 104. [Hawaii Homeless Initiative Would Send Some Back to Mainland](#)
- 105. [Human Services Officials, Providers Express Concern about Program to Fly Homeless to Mainland](#)
- 106. [Homeless Got 1-way Bus Tickets to Portland](#)

### **Politics and Homelessness**

- 107. [Homeless People in Park along Inaugural Parade Route Forced to Move](#)
- 108. [Homeless are a Challenge for Sarasota, Florida](#)
- 109. [Mayor Draws Fire with Remark on Homelessness](#)
- 110. [Mayor Faces Heat for Housing Stance](#)

### **Prisons/ Jails and Homelessness**

- 111. [Downtown Fort Lauderdale Homeless Population Swelled by Jail Releases](#)
- 112. [Neighbors Want Sex Offenders to Leave Lexington Homeless Shelter](#)

### **Homeless Bill of Rights**

- 113. [California Homeless Rights Bill Narrowed but Still Opposed](#)

### **SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

#### **Homeless Families**

- 114. [Homeless Families Still Struggle to Find Shelter, Nonprofit Says](#)
- 115. [D.C., Advocates at Odds over Homeless Families; 900 People Still in Shelter](#)
- 116. [Lack of Services for Homeless Families](#)

117. [Washington DC Facing Family Homelessness Crisis](#)
118. [This Week in Poverty: Ignoring Homeless Families](#)
119. [The Return of Hooverville: The Deepening Crisis of Family Homelessness](#)
120. [Homeless Families Protest Mayor's Plan to Move Them Out of Shelters](#)
121. [When Home is a House of Worship](#)
122. [Charlotte Family Illustrates Gaps in Help Available for Homeless](#)
123. [Evicting Children](#)
124. [For Homeless Moms, Child Care Major Hurdles to Keeping a Job](#)
125. [Homeless Dads Say they're Grateful for what they have](#)
126. [Area Has Stubborn Homeless Problem](#)
127. [Homeless Mothers, Kids Struggle Finding Shelter in D.C.](#)
128. [Osceola Converts Defunct Motel into Homeless Housing](#)
129. [Families With Kids Go Homeless as U.S. Rents Exceed Pay: Economy](#)
130. [Not the Typical Face of Homelessness, Families Face Unique Challenges](#)
131. [Hotels No Answer for Homeless](#)
132. [The New Face of Homelessness](#)

### **Unaccompanied Youth**

133. [Advocates Want \\$8M Boost for Housing, Services Aimed at Homeless Youth](#)
134. [Homeless Youth Find Refuge at Safe House in St. Paul](#)
135. [Number of Homeless Youths on Rise, Suggests Shelter, Hotline Data](#)
136. [Facility a Safe Haven for Homeless Teens](#)
137. [Legal Clinic Gives 'Voice' to Homeless Teens](#)
138. [Homeless Graduates](#)
139. [Invisible Kids: Homeless in Tulsa](#)
140. [Groups Press City Council on Budget for Homeless](#)
141. [Tampa Charity Starting Right, Now Sues Homeless Teens It Tried to Help](#)
142. [Center for Homeless Youth Gets State Help](#)
143. [Ten Percent of Students at MCTC are Homeless](#)
144. [Louisville Seeks Help for Rising Number of Homeless Young Adults](#)
145. [Report: Most Homeless Teen Parents Have Been Abused](#)
146. [Homeless Youth: Our Future Leadership Unless...](#)
147. [Seeking Shelter: The Experiences and Unmet Needs of LGBT Homeless Youth](#)
148. [Gov. Brown Signs 10 Bills to Help Homeless and Foster Youths](#)
149. [Fears of Another 'Lost Generation': Youth Homeless Numbers Rising](#)
150. [Connecticut's Invisible Homeless are Youths](#)
151. [An "Invisible" Problem: Homelessness in Connecticut](#)

### **Children in Schools**

152. [Number of Homeless Children in Wichita tops 1,800](#)
153. [Young - and Homeless](#)
154. [Life in a Homeless Shelter through the Eyes of an 8-Year Old](#)
155. [Homeless Babies and Toddlers Endure Tough, Long Days on San Diego Streets](#)
156. [Report: Economic Well-Being of US Children Slips](#)
157. [Hawaii Homeless Preschool Graduates 35 Children](#)
158. [First Day of School for Students at Homeless Shelter is Mix of Excitement, Shame](#)
159. [Connecticut Struggles to Identify Homeless Students](#)
160. [Homeless School Kids at 9-Year High](#)
161. [How Little Things Add Up to Keep Homeless Kids from School](#)
162. [Student Homelessness Hits Record High](#)



- 163. [Rise in Homeless Students Brings High Transportation Costs](#)
- 164. [America's Homeless Kids Crisis](#)
- 165. [Homelessness a Growing Challenge for Illinois Schools](#)
- 166. [Homeless Students a Growing Problem for Schools](#)
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