

HOMELESSNESS

AWARENESS TIPS



People without safe and/or stable housing are incredibly vulnerable and are more likely to be the victim of a violent crime, especially if they are a homeless woman, teen or child.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022, more than **52,000 people in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties** accessed some type of **homeless service**, including prevention, clothing and food assistance.

- Coalition for the Homeless



In the Houston region, **50% of homelessness** is caused by an **economic crisis** like job loss or an unexpected medical expense.

- Coalition for the Homeless



Homelessness in Houston has **declined by 63%** since 2011.

- Coalition for the Homeless

MYTHS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS*



- **Myth: People are homeless by choice.**

Fact: Homelessness is caused by many different factors. Sudden job loss or an unexpected medical emergency can drain people of their financial resources, leaving them unable to afford their mortgage or rent payment. Women may be trying to escape domestic violence and find themselves without a stable home to go to. Many struggle with mental illness, depression, post-traumatic stress or simply cannot cope with trauma in their lives. Poor choices can contribute to homelessness, but outside circumstances strongly influence those choices.

- **Myth: People who are homeless are violent, dangerous, and/or are lawbreakers.**

Fact: While a larger number of people experiencing homelessness have substance abuse disorders than the general population, a person who is homeless is no more likely to be a criminal than a housed person and is in fact more likely to be the victim of a violent crime, especially if they are a homeless woman, teen, or child.

- **Myth: Homeless people don't try hard enough to find a job or a place to live.**

Fact: 53% of people living in homeless shelters and 40% of unsheltered people are employed, either full or part-time (University of Chicago). Even with a job, there is no state in the US where a full-time minimum wage worker can afford a one-bedroom apartment. It is also difficult to maintain employment when you don't have a place to bathe, prepare meals, or electricity for an alarm clock.

* pitinoshelter.org, State of Washington Department of Commerce



RESOURCES

- **211 Texas:** free, anonymous social service hotline available 24/7 that connects Texas residents with resources that can provide to food, housing, childcare, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment.
- **The Beacon:** a non-profit organization that serves individuals experiencing homelessness with daily services, civil legal aid, counseling and mentoring and access to housing. www.beaconhomeless.org
- **Coalition for the Homeless:** provides data and leadership to direct provider agencies, as well as public education and other resources for people experiencing homelessness. www.homelesshouston.org
- **Houston Housing Authority:** online directory of services that help homeless or newly housed individuals in crises and provide short-term aid. www.housingforhouston.com
- **Healthcare for the Homeless:** provides transportation services to homeless individuals and families seeking healthcare and services. www.homeless-healthcare.org



EMERGENCY SHELTERS.....

For Men:

- Star of Hope Men's Development Center
 - » 1811 Ruiz St., Houston, TX 77002
 - » (713) 227-8900
 - » sohmission.org
- Salvation Army – Center of Hope
 - » 1717 Congress St., Houston, TX 77002
 - » (713) 752-0677
 - » salvationarmyhouston.org

For Women & Families:

- Star of Hope's Cornerstone Community
 - » 2575 Reed Rd., Houston. TX 77004
 - » (713) 748-0700
 - » sohmission.org
- Salvation Army – Family Residence
 - » 1603 McGowen St., Houston, TX 77004
 - » (713) 650-6530
 - » salvationarmyhouston.org

For Youth (18-21):

- Covenant House
 - » 1111 Lovett Blvd., Houston, TX 77006
 - » (713) 523-2231
 - » covenanthousetx.org
- Salvation Army – Young Adult Resource Center
 - » 1621 McGowen St., Bldg. A, Houston, TX 77002
 - » (713) 658-9205

For Veterans:

- VA McGovern Drop-In Center (Veteran Service Center)
 - » 1418 Preston St., Houston, TX 77002
 - » (713) 797-2913
- Nonprofit Housing Corporation of Greater Houston

CRIME STOPPERS RESOURCE CENTER.....

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