

# STATISTICS ON HOMELESSNESS

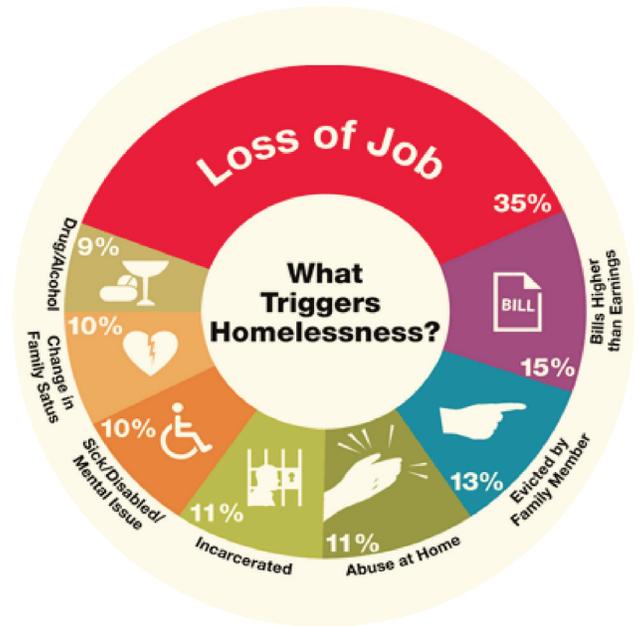
Homeless advocates estimate that **there are over 20,000 people experiencing homelessness in Nashville**. Of those 20,000 people, it is estimated that **around 8,000 are children**.<sup>1</sup> That means you could fill every seat in Bridgestone Arena with all the men, women, and children who are unhoused in Nashville.

**Homelessness in Nashville rose 9.8% from 2015 to 2016** which was the sixth-largest leap among major U.S. cities. - "The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Report on Housing and Homelessness," 2016

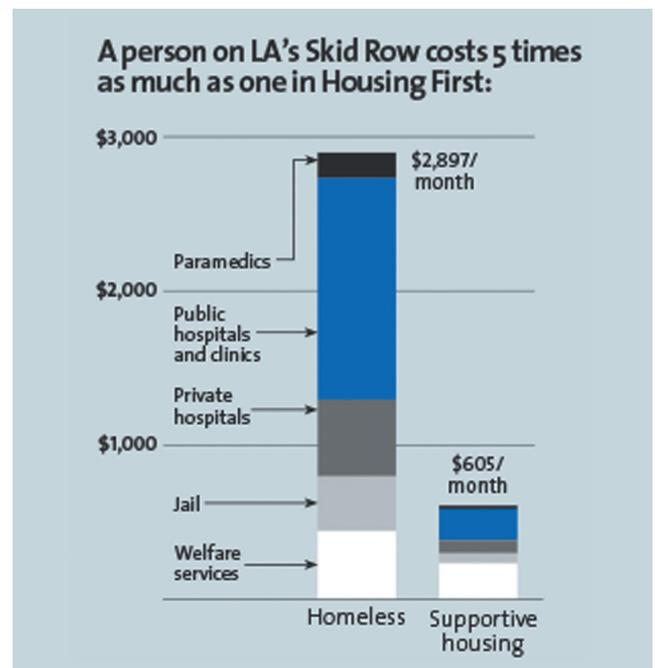
Study after study has shown that it is **less expensive to provide permanent supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness than it is to keep them on this streets** due to costs associated with emergency services, shelters, law enforcement, and other support services. A Colorado study found that the average unhoused person cost the state \$43,000 a year, while housing that person would cost just \$17,000. - The New Yorker, "Home Free?," 2014

People experiencing homelessness have an **average life expectancy as low as 41 years and are 3-4 times more likely to die prematurely** than their housed counterparts. - National Health Care for the Homeless Council

In 2016, **87 people from Nashville's homeless community died**. This means that in 2016, homeless deaths outnumbered homicides. - The Tennessean



"Homelessness 101" from Houston's Coalition for the Homeless.



"Where We Sleep: The Costs of Housing and Homelessness in Los Angeles" - Economic Roundtable

<sup>1</sup> This estimate was compiled by Open Table Nashville using data and estimates from The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Report on Hunger and Homelessness, Catherine Knowles (supervisor of the Homeless Education Program for Metro Nashville Public Schools), and the Nashville Rescue Mission and Room In The Inn. The 20,000 estimate includes people living in cars, on the streets, in camps, in motels, in hospitals, in shelters, and those doubling-up/couch surfing. There is a 10-15% margin of error with this estimate.

# STATISTICS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing is said to be **“affordable”** when rent costs no more than 30% of a household’s total income. Households spending over 30% of their income on housing are considered to be **“cost-burdened.”** In Nashville, **44% of all renters are cost-burdened, including more than 70% of low-income renters.** - “Housing Nashville: Housing Report from the Office of Mayor Megan Barry,” 2017

In 2000, Nashville had an estimated 2,000-unit surplus of affordable rental housing. By 2015 that surplus had become a deficit of 18,000 units. This means that **by 2025, Nashville could need to create as many as 31,000 affordable rental units.** - “Housing Nashville: Housing Report from the Office of Mayor Megan Barry,” 2017

**Average fair market rent for an apartment in Nashville was \$1,399 a month as of August of 2017.** On average, one bedroom apartments in Nashville rent for \$1,242 a month and two bedroom apartment rent for \$1,519 a month. - RentJungle.com, 2017

**A minimum wage worker earning \$7.25 an hour would have to work over 140 hours a week, 52 weeks a year to afford a one-bedroom apartment at “fair market rent” in Nashville without being cost-burdened.** Advocates say that one of the top reasons that homelessness is rising in Nashville is because of the **increasing rents** and **stagnating wages.**

When **the waiting list for Section 8 housing vouchers opened in September 2017, over 15,000 households applied** before the list was closed. In 2015, **29% of the Section 8 vouchers issued were not used** because the number of landlords accepting Section 8 dropped drastically. - Metro Development and Housing Agency

**Nashville is among the most income-segregated communities in the nation.** - “The New Urban Crisis” by Richard Florida, 2017

The redevelopment of the 12South neighborhood serves as a powerful demonstration of gentrification. **Between 2000 and 2012, 12South experienced a 269% increase in average housing costs and a 58% decrease in African American population.”** - “Equitable Development” by Nashville Next, 2014

