

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**.¹ That means you could fill every seat in Bridgestone Arena with all the people who are unhoused in Nashville.

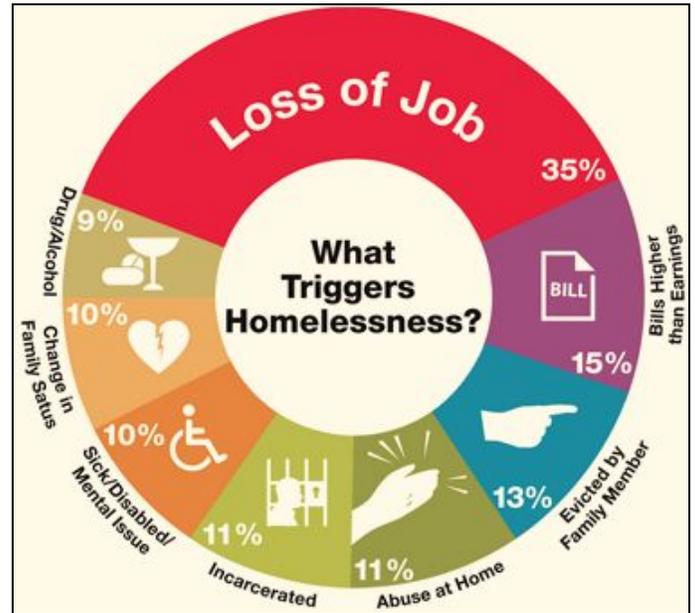
Study after study has shown that **it is less expensive to provide permanent supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness than it is to keep them on the streets** due to costs associated with emergency services, shelters, law enforcement, and other support services. A Colorado study found that 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

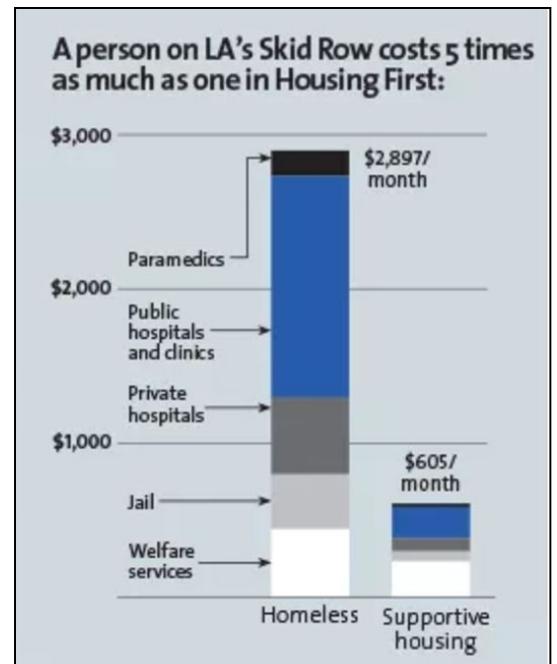
In 2017, Nashville service providers report **124 people from Nashville’s homeless community died**.

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 stagnant wages**.

Nashville has been rated by gobankingrates.com as the city whose **cost of living has increased most rapidly** of the 50 largest cities examined, primarily due to housing costs.



“Homelessness 101” from Houston’s Coalition for the Homeless



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

¹ 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

“**Affordable Housing**” is housing that an individual or family earning 60% or less of the MHI (median household income) can afford without being cost-burdened (spending over 30% of income on housing). Census.gov reports in Davidson County the MHI in 2016 was \$50,484. 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

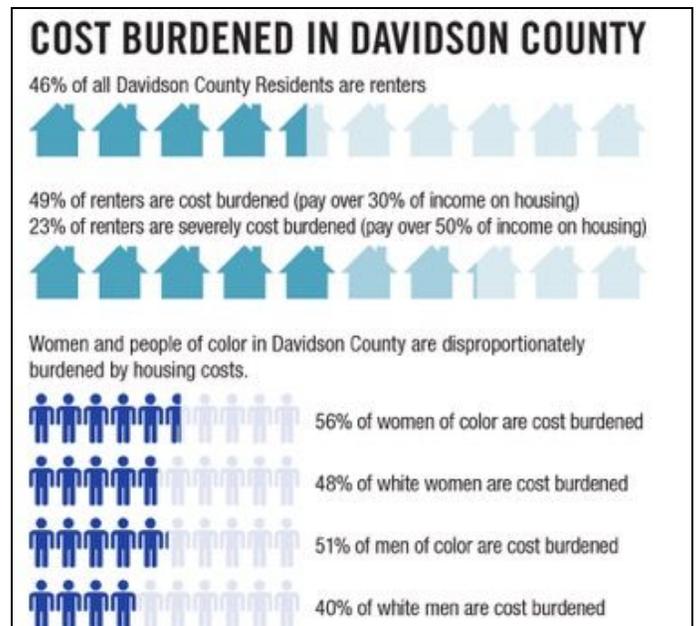
In 2017, average fair market rent for an apartment in Nashville was \$1,420 a month. Fair market rent is an estimate of the amount of money a property would rent/lease for in a given market. - RentJungle.com

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

“**Since 2011, rents have risen roughly 64% while average annual wages have grown by only 14%.**”

- Metro Human Relations Commission “Understanding Nashville’s Housing Crisis,” 2018

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



Metro Human Relations Commission “Understanding Nashville’s Housing Crisis,” 2018

