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Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Crisis

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Abstract

Urban homelessness has been extensively studied, but rural homelessness, especially in one city, has not. This study compares rural homeless people to metropolitan ones to highlight their hardships. The book chapter titled "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Crisis" provides insight into the phenomenon of homelessness in rural regions. The authors have utilized pre-existing research to underscore the distinct obstacles that homeless individuals encounter in rural areas. The challenges encompass restricted availability of resources and amenities, social seclusion, and the absence of reasonably priced housing. The chapter delves into an examination of the origins and outcomes of homelessness in rural areas, encompassing factors such as destitution, joblessness, psychological disorders, and drug addiction. The contention put forth by the authors is that the issue of homelessness in rural areas is frequently disregarded and inadequately financed, rendering it a concealed crisis. The chapter also offers prospective remedies and policy suggestions to tackle the issue, including augmenting the availability of housing, healthcare, and support services. In general, this particular chapter of the book offers significant perspectives regarding the intricacies of homelessness in rural areas and emphasizes the critical necessity of taking action to tackle this pressing concern.

Keywords: Rural, Urban, Homeless, Hilbilly

1. Introduction

Rural homelessness occurs when rural residents lack permanent residence (Gilbert, 1985). Policymakers and the media often neglect it since it is less visible than urban homelessness. Rural homelessness is caused by a lack of affordable housing, poverty, unemployment, mental health care, and domestic abuse. Due to resource and support shortages, rural homeless people may find it harder to receive help. Rural homelessness has been related to poor health, drug abuse, and fewer educational and professional options. Several rural homelessness initiatives include shelters, services, and advocacy groups (Shamblin, et al., 2012). Rural areas need long-term solutions to this calamity. The study's declared goal is to help the range realize their abilities and inform the central government about the homeless rate and employment shortage in this urban area. There was little historical literature on the range at this time. Academic studies rarely address rural homelessness, while many have examined urban homelessness. This study examines gaps in homelessness research. The rural environment distinguishes it from urban homelessness. Understanding the particular issues people in these two diverse

geographic regions experience will help us help homeless people and prevent others from becoming homeless. This study compares metropolitan locations on homelessness factors, services, and remedies. Discuss the book's homelessness description here. Rural homelessness, which affects everyone, is rarely reported. Rural homeless individuals struggle with limited services and affordable homes. Hence, recovering may be challenging. This study examines rural homelessness and its challenges. This study also explores new approaches to this issue. The first part discusses rural homelessness and its many causes (Aron & Barron, 2006). The second part will address the causes of rural homelessness, including economic and social concerns, insufficient alleviation, and inefficient methods. Finally, the third part examines rural homelessness (Frommeyer, 2020). This encompasses the implications on both physical and mental health, as well as the influence on educational possibilities and jobs, as well as the broader social and economic consequences for rural communities. The fourth and last parts will evaluate contemporary approaches to tackling rural homelessness, including policy initiatives, grassroots efforts, and community-based solutions (First et al., 1994). This part will showcase excellent practices and offer recommendations for successful solutions to solve rural homelessness. With the help of this study, a thorough comprehension of the unrecognized emergency that is homelessness in rural areas will be formed, and actionable solutions will be suggested to deal with this problem. The outcomes of this research will contribute to the creation of evidence-based policies and initiatives that can help to improve the lives of rural homeless individuals and families. In the end, the purpose of this study is to raise awareness about the need for social justice and build support for its implementation (Ford, 2014).

1.1 The Unique Challenges of Rural Homelessness

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness in rural areas face several obstacles that make it difficult for them to break the cycle of poverty and rebuild their lives. The shortage of reasonably priced homes in rural areas is a major obstacle. Housing in rural locations is sometimes scarce, and the cost of living might be higher than in cities due to variables such as transportation expenses. Another significant problem that people who are homeless in rural areas face is a lack of services. Homeless people sometimes have a harder time getting the medical care, mental health treatment, and job chances they need to start over in places with a smaller population density. For the homeless in remote areas, transportation is another major concern. It can be challenging for residents of many rural places to get to and from work and other necessary locations due to the scarcity of public transportation options. The inability to get around further cuts off homeless people from their social networks, increasing their feelings of isolation and melancholy. Being homeless in a somewhat small and remote community adds another layer of difficulty. Those who are homeless may face stigmatization and prejudice because of the way society views homelessness as an indicator of moral deficiency (Roth & Bean, 1986). Homeless people in rural areas often struggle to protect their privacy and dignity due to the absence of anonymity in these areas. The disparate causes of homelessness in rural areas stress the importance of locally relevant responses to these problems. It is impossible to effectively combat rural homelessness without addressing the related issues of a lack of cheap housing, poor access to services, and inadequate means of mobility.

1.2 The Causes of Rural Homelessness

Economic, social, and policy considerations all have a role in contributing to the problem of homelessness in rural areas. Causes of homelessness in rural areas include unemployment and poverty tend to be more severe in rural areas than in metropolitan ones. When people can't find work, they can't make enough money to provide for their fundamental needs like food, housing, and healthcare. Problems with affordability due to lower housing supply and other factors, rural areas may have a higher cost of living than cities. This can make it tough for people with low incomes or who are currently homeless to locate accommodation that fits their budget. Substance abuse and mental health problems: Homeless people commonly struggle with substance abuse and mental health problems, but these problems are rarely addressed well in remote locations. Women and children are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence and family instability, which can lead to them becoming homeless. There may not be enough services available to victims of domestic violence in rural locations. Policy failures: federal, state, and local policy failures can all contribute to homelessness in rural areas. Cuts in social service funding, for instance, can restrict people's ability to get help with things like housing, medical treatment,

and psychological care. In rural areas, homes and lives can be lost in the wake of natural disasters and economic upheavals. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and economic shocks such as plant closures, can all cause extensive property damage, forced relocation of residents, and general economic unrest.

1.3 The Effects of Rural Homelessness

Individuals, families, and entire communities are all negatively impacted by homelessness in rural areas for a variety of reasons. The following is a list of some of the most significant repercussions of homelessness in rural areas, homelessness can have a detrimental effect on a person's physical health because it restricts their access to essential resources such as food, shelter, and medical care. It's possible that those who are homeless have a higher risk of developing chronic diseases, infections, and traumas. Another issue is how homelessness affects mental health. Homeless people may acquire anxiety, sadness, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Homeless children and teens may struggle to attend school regularly. This may hurt their grades and future prospects. Homeless people may struggle to locate and hold well-paying jobs. Homeless people may lack career resources and assistance (Easterday et al., 2019). Communal isolation homelessness often causes social isolation. This makes it harder to form meaningful relationships and build support networks to make significant life choices. Law enforcement is more likely to harass, detain, and criminalize homeless people. Because law enforcement targets homeless people more easily, they are more likely to become criminals.

2. Literature Review

People experiencing homelessness is a serious problem in every country (Maser, 2017). Despite the common perception that homelessness is only a problem in big cities, studies have proven that it is a serious and growing issue in rural areas as well. Debra Sabia's "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Problem" delves deep into the problem's origins, effects, and potential remedies.

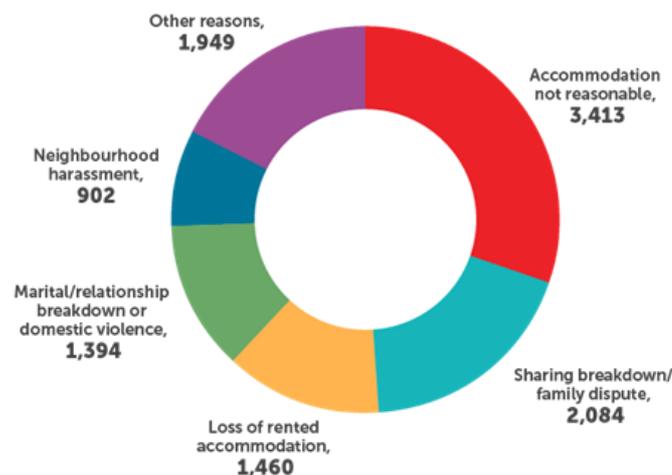


Figure 1: Crisis UK.(2020)

Source: Homelessness Monitor | Crisis UK | Together We Will End Homelessness. Crisis. <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/homelessness-monitor/>

In previous studies, people developed a tool to measure the homelessness crisis called homelessness monitor as shown in Fig. 1. The crisis-funded homelessness monitor is a longitudinal study that analyses the effects of recent economic and policy changes on UK homelessness. The post-2007 economic and housing market slump, recovery, and policy changes are examined. The homelessness monitor uses a broad definition of homelessness and examines how policy and economic changes affect the following homeless groups

- Rough sleepers

- Hostels, shelters, and subsidized housing for single homeless people.
- Statutorily homeless households—households that apply for municipal housing aid because they are homeless.
- "Hidden homeless" households are homeless but not "visible" on the streets or in official statistics.

Approximately 100,000,000 years ago, a meteorite slammed into the surface of the Earth near what is now Middlesboro. The shifting of tectonic plates and the precise placement of rocks enabled erosion to construct the Cumberland Gap. Seventy-five percent or more of all settlers who made it to Kentucky did so by way of the gap blazed by pioneers like Daniel Boone (Diggs, 2019). 100 million years ago, the hills were also the site of the formation of minerals, including coal, copper, and gold; these resources have been both a boon and a bane to the people who live in the mountain area. The arrival of the industrial revolution in Appalachia presented a golden chance for locals to increase their wealth. Unfortunately, it relied heavily on extractive industries, leading to a surge in absentee landholdings and environmental devastation. Many Americans saw the development of the industrial revolution as a golden chance to improve their financial situations (Diggs, 2019).

2.1 Prevalence and Characteristics of Rural Homelessness

As there is typically less street homelessness in rural locations, Debra Sabia points out, it is easy to overlook the problem (Sabia, 2010). The author, however, imply that the issue is far more pervasive than was previously believed. Limitations in cheap housing, transportation, and social assistance, as well as the shame and isolation that typically accompany rural homelessness, are discussed by the writers (Fitchen, 1992). 53 percent of the property is owned by just one percent of the population, which includes corporations and government institutions. Absentee owners may also own a portion of the property. 99% of people who are still living there actually own only 47% of the land. Because of this, communities are negatively impacted in a wide range of distinct ways. Most landowners place a high value on the minerals or lumber that may be found on their property, and for this reason, they do not like to see any residential development take place there. Because of this, absentee landholders have a greater tendency to inflict environmental harm, and it is difficult to locate housing that is inexpensive and meets one's needs at the same time. This not only contributes to the lack of cheap housing but also has a negative impact on the surrounding environment and inhibits individuals from feeling attached to the land they live on. The authors contend that economic factors including unemployment, low wages, high housing costs, and a lack of social services all contribute to the prevalence of homelessness in rural areas. The impact of larger social and economic trends, such as the contraction of rural industries and the widening gap in income between the city and the country, is also discussed. Businesses that own the mountains are equally to blame for the poverty that exists in the surrounding communities. Coal miners, particularly in years gone by, were known to toil in perilous conditions for little wages. The villages were dependent on the mines since coal was the only available source of income and employment. The demand for coal is declining as a direct result of the rising number of rules governing the environment (Eller, 2008). In Appalachia, it is not uncommon for individuals to live paycheck to paycheck; as a result, if a mine or a corporation goes out of business, residents have no other source of income to rely on. This is only one of the numerous factors that contribute to people in the area being without homes.

2.2 Rural Homelessness and Its Repercussions

The catastrophic effects of rural homelessness are discussed by the authors, who look at issues like the toll it has on one's physical and mental health, the likelihood of being a victim, and the impediments to employment and education. Promoting economic progress and social well-being in rural areas is, according to the authors, contingent on ending homelessness there. Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked in Appalachia; thus, it is essential to have an awareness of the factors that have contributed to poverty. Before World War II, rich coal, copper, and other minerals were revealed in the hills. As a direct result of this discovery, mines began opening up, and villagers began selling their land to individuals who weren't living in the area at the time. As a result of this, labor was made available in an area that had previously been desolate and lacked chances for employment. As a result, individuals got a job in the mines with minimal pay; yet, this was still more cash than they had been earning before (Eller, 2008).

Work came to a halt once again during the great depression because the mines were unable to pay for new equipment. As a result, their coal prices were unable to compete with those of the mines located in other areas. During this time, the region struggled with high unemployment rates. The United States entered World War II, which raised the need for metals, timber, and coal to power industries in the northern United States. As a result, the region had a period of economic growth at this time. The mines were outfitted with superior machinery, and the populace enjoyed more stable employment and higher levels of income than in the past (Eller, 1982).

Those who are still residing in the mountains have struggled to recover from the devastating loss of most of their workforce as well as a sizeable portion of their population as a result of the recent wildfires. There is still a huge issue with the region's population living in abject poverty. The patient outcomes, availability of high-paying employment and education, and affordability of homes are still not even close to being equivalent to those in other parts of the United States, even though roads, vehicles, and large box shops like Walmart have made it easier for people to acquire what they need. Moreover, even large box shops like Walmart have made it easier for people to acquire what they need. It is widely regarded as the most significant component of that particular region as a whole (Anderson, 2003). London has 59% of England's temporary accommodation households, including 75,580 children as shown in Fig.2. As inflation and living costs grow, our analysis predicts that many Londoners will struggle financially this winter, increasing demand. Local authorities may struggle to offer high-quality housing for everyone. They sometimes place homes in small "bed & breakfast" lodgings or move them outside their own borough, isolating them from critical connections.

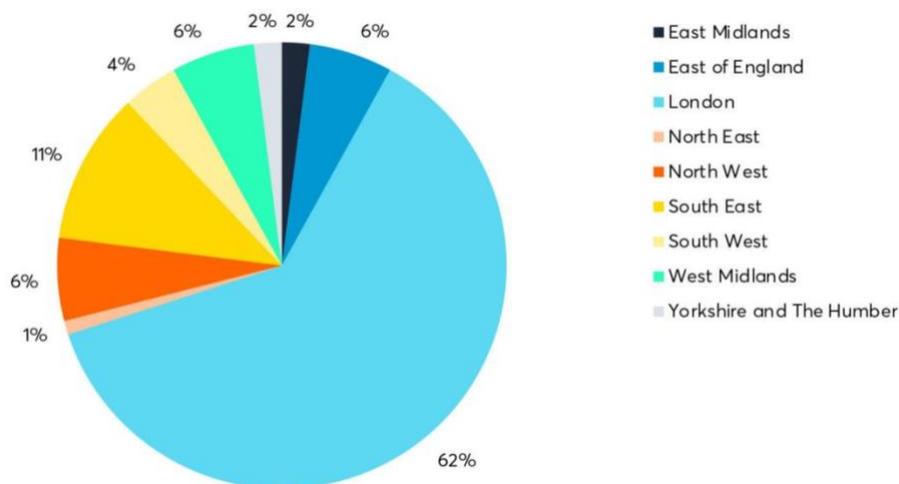


Figure 2: Temporary Accommodation

Source: London's hidden homelessness crisis. (n.d.). <https://centreforlondon.org/publication/temporary-accommodation/>

2.3 Possible Solution

Debra Sabia suggests a variety of approaches as potential answers to the problem of homelessness in rural areas (Sabia, 2010). Among these are boosting the rate of economic expansion in the local area, making it easier to gain access to social services, and expanding the number of affordable housing options that are available. The necessity of an atomistic plan that considers the contiguous interests of the homeless population as well as the underlying structural content that leads to homelessness in rural areas is something that is emphasized by a number of different scholars (Fowler, 1998).

3. Material and Methods

This research aims to provide a better understanding of the variables that contribute to homelessness in rural areas, as well as the gaps between those reasons and the available services and remedies. The methodology section of the book titled "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Issue" includes a comprehensive literature review of previous studies, statistics, and policies pertaining to homelessness in rural areas. This literature search was performed as part of the chapter's approach (Schiff, 2020).

Several academic journals, government reports, and non-profit publications were used to compile the information in this section. To ensure the accuracy and credibility of the information presented in this chapter, a stringent screening process was used to track down and evaluate the sources used to compile it (Yousey & Samudra, 2018). The author did a systematic search utilizing keywords and subject headings linked with rural homelessness to find relevant articles and papers (Lawrence, 1995). The papers and documents that were considered for inclusion in the study were reviewed on several different criteria, including their level of relevance, quality, and dependability (Cloke, 2002). The material was gathered from the literature study in order to identify important themes, trends, and problems associated with homelessness in rural areas. This analysis was used by the authors to give a thorough picture of the causes, effects, and potential solutions to homelessness in rural areas (Buck-McFadyen, 2022). The methodology that was employed in this book chapter consisted, in general, of a strategy that was rigorous and all-encompassing in its approach to acquiring and analyzing material pertaining to homelessness in rural areas (Parker et al., 2015). Because of this strategy, the material that is provided in the chapter is accurate, reliable, and informative.

4. Results and Analysis

Individuals who are homeless in cities differ from their rural counterparts in several ways. It is likely that up to half of the population is homeless. An equal number of respondents listed access to healthcare and social acceptance as a more significant barrier (Bruce, 2006). These findings show that while urban and rural homeless people share some traits, they also differ. Evidence does not support the research question. Homelessness in urban locations has distinct causes, effects, and solutions than homelessness in rural areas. In the last few pages of the book chapter "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Issue," the nature, causes, and effects of rural homelessness are summarized. To provide a comprehensive overview of the topic, this chapter pulls from a variety of sources, such as academic research, reports produced by the government, and publications produced by groups that are not-for-profit. One of the most important things that were discovered in this chapter was that homelessness in rural areas is a complicated and multi-faceted problem that is frequently overlooked and underreported. Rural regions typically have fewer resources available to combat the issue of homelessness when compared to urban areas. Moreover, the public in rural places is frequently unaware of the problem's existence. Because of this, it can be difficult to adequately identify and measure the number of individuals and families in rural areas that are suffering from homelessness. Research indicates that homelessness in rural areas is a big issue that is also on the rise, despite the challenges that are there (Trella & Hilton, 2014).

The national coalition for the Homeless reports that the number of people living on the streets in rural areas is growing, and the severity and length of time spent on the streets in rural areas is typically far longer than in urban areas. This is in part because there is a shortage of cheap housing, restricted access to services, and the potential for social isolation and shame that comes with residing in a small town or rural community. It identifies several issues that lead to homelessness in rural areas, such as poverty, unemployment, a shortage of housing that is cheap, and limited access to healthcare, education, and transportation. It is common for rural areas to have lower earnings, higher rates of unemployment, and a higher frequency of poverty as compared to urban areas. Because of this, it may be difficult for individuals and families to purchase essentials such as food, shelter, and medical care. In addition, rural communities frequently lack the infrastructure and resources necessary to provide adequate support services, such as treatment for mental health and substance abuse, job training, and financial assistance (Waegemakers et al., 2016). This is a problem because these services are essential to the well-being of rural residents. The chapter also draws attention to the particular difficulties associated with managing homelessness in rural areas (Jackson, & Shannon, 2014).

Those who are suffering from homelessness may have a more difficult time gaining access to resources and support due, for instance, to the huge geographic distances between their locations and the absence of public transit in their areas. In addition, rural areas frequently lack the resources and the infrastructure necessary to provide emergency shelter as well as other forms of housing aid. In spite of these obstacles, the chapter identifies a number of viable techniques for combating homelessness in rural areas. They include expanding the availability of affordable housing, enhancing social safety net services, engaging the community in efforts to reduce homelessness, and tackling the core causes of poverty and unemployment. The conclusions of the book chapter "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Problem" underline the urgent need for a comprehensive and coordinated response to rural homelessness. This chapter places a strong emphasis on the significance of collaboration between government agencies, non-profit groups, and the corporate sector in order to create and put into practice effective methods for solving this extremely important issue. It may be possible to reduce the prevalence of homelessness in rural communities and improve the lives of individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness by focusing on the underlying factors that contribute to rural homelessness and working to increase the availability of affordable housing and support services (Vilsack, et al., 2015). This can be accomplished by addressing the factors that contribute to rural homelessness and working to increase the availability of housing and support services.

A swath of homeless individuals resting with their things in plastic bags or shopping carts can be seen against a horizontal backdrop in the picture. The photograph depicts the harsh reality of homelessness, in which people or families lack stable homes and are forced to live on the streets while dealing with financial hardship, mental illness, or substance abuse. The figure below, however, may also be seen as a rallying cry and a potential answer to the issue of homelessness. The graphic depicts the need for social services, support programs, and affordable homes for the homeless. Providing access to food, clothes, and sanitary services would help alleviate the hardships shown in the images of individuals pushing bags and carts. In a nutshell, the number might serve as a reminder of the gravity of homelessness and the need of finding systemic solutions to the problems that have led to it. It has the potential to motivate people and groups to assist those in need by engaging in voluntary work or financially supporting the causes they believe in.



Figure 3: Homeless people horizontal background Free Vector. (2019, September 4).

Source: Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/homeless-people-horizontal-background_5453457.htm

According to the data given above, many persons of a younger age opt to live on the streets of their own free will. They don't want to be held responsible in any manner. They do not want to be tied down to a 9 to 5 work (Kiffmeyer, 2008). But, in their opinion, they are enjoying their finest life. These individuals also stated that many people who chose homelessness do so on a temporary basis and do not spend the night outside. It is feasible to conclude from this that rural areas have a higher percentage of itinerant people who prefer to be homeless than urban areas. The discussion of the book chapter headed "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Issue"

focuses on the implications of the findings as well as alternative solutions for dealing with the problem of rural homelessness (Lee, 2012). The discussion highlighted the significance of adopting a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing rural homelessness that considers the unique challenges and opportunities that rural communities confront. The discussion raised a number of critical issues, one of which was the need for a greater understanding and comprehension of rural homelessness (Brott, et al., 2019). This chapter, in order to discover that rural homelessness is usually neglected and under-reported and that there is a lack of understanding about this issue among both the general public and policymakers (Akers & Richard 2022).

As a result, obtaining funding and resources to address the issue may be difficult, perhaps contributing to the persistence of a cycle of poverty and marginalization for individuals and families who are homeless in rural areas. The discussion focuses on the significance of improving collaboration and community involvement to overcome this challenge. Working with local groups, church communities, and other stakeholders to increase access to support services, raise awareness of the issue of homelessness, and advocate for community-based solutions to the problem could be part of this. It is expected that by including the community in efforts to prevent rural homelessness, it will be possible to create more awareness and support for the problem, as well as devise more effective battle strategies (Karabanow, 2014).

5. Limitations

For effective solutions to rural homelessness to be developed, it is crucial to consider the particular difficulties that these people experience (Carey, 2017). Finally, despite offering a number of potential remedies for rural homelessness, the chapter lacks a detailed implementation plan. To address the underlying causes of rural homelessness and increase access to resources and services for people impacted, future research and advocacy initiatives may need to concentrate on creating concrete plans and regulations. One of the chapter's other shortcomings is that it mostly focuses on the United States (Caton et al., 2007). It is possible that the findings of this chapter, which offer a detailed investigation of homelessness in rural areas of the United States, are not generalizable to other nations or locations. This research on rural homelessness has one drawback in that it might not adequately convey the variety of experiences and difficulties that homeless people in various rural regions confront. Depending on the geography and the unique circumstances of the afflicted individuals, the causes and remedies for rural homelessness may differ. To better comprehend the complexities of rural homelessness, it may be necessary to further study and analyze the problem on a more granular level (MacDonald, 2020). Another drawback is the neglect of the cultural and historical elements that fuel rural homelessness. The cultural and historical facets of rural communities, such as the effects of previous and current policies on housing, land use, and economic development, are not covered in depth in this chapter. Future research needs to pay more attention to these variables since they could have a big impact on how common homelessness is in remote areas. Further exploration of the intersectionality of rural homelessness, including the experiences of those who are homeless and identify as LGBTQIA+ or have disabilities, would also be beneficial for this chapter (Zhang et al., 2008). The reasons for, reactions to, and possible responses to homelessness in rural areas can vary widely based on local economic, social, and cultural variables, and addressing the issue may entail adopting a variety of strategies depending on the specifics of the situation. Finally, the chapter is constrained by the lack of available data on rural homelessness as well as the poor quality of that data. As was said in the preceding chapter, homelessness in rural areas is frequently overlooked and underreported, and there is a dearth of detailed statistics regarding the problem. Because of this, it can be challenging to have a complete understanding of the magnitude and effects of homelessness in rural areas, as well as to devise effective ways for dealing with the problem. Because of this, the analysis presented in the chapter may contain some degree of uncertainty as well as bias. Despite these drawbacks, the chapter makes a significant contribution to the existing body of research on homelessness in rural areas by focusing on the one-of-a-kind obstacles and possibilities that arise when attempting to address this problem in rural towns. The observations and recommendations presented in this chapter can be used to influence future research and policy efforts that are targeted at lowering the prevalence and effect of rural homelessness and improving the lives of individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness in rural areas (Zufferey & Parkes 2019).

6. Recommendations

The following suggestions are provided for dealing with the problem of rural homelessness. These suggestions are based on the results and discussion that were presented in the chapter titled "Rural Homelessness: The Hidden Problem." Increase the amount of money spent on homeless prevention and services in rural areas. In rural locations, there is often a shortage of cheap housing, job prospects, and social services, all of which might play a role in contributing to the risk of homelessness. An increase in funding for programs that provide housing aid, employment support, and other services can help to avoid homelessness and provide support for individuals and families who are currently suffering from homelessness (Hilton & DeJong, 2010).

Promote the establishment of partnerships between the government, community members, and nonprofit groups. To effectively handle the issue of homelessness in rural locations, it is necessary to build strong ties between government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and residents of the community. This is because rural places have fewer resources and infrastructure. These collaborations can deliver total aid to individuals who are in need by relying on the capabilities and resources of each separate group (Kauppi et al., 2017). It is vital to create and implement focused policies that are suited to the requirements and resources of rural communities in order to effectively address the issue of homelessness in rural areas. Owing to the special problems involved in resolving homelessness in rural locations, it is vital that targeted methods be devised and executed. Constructing housing that is accessible to low-income residents, widening access to medical and social services, and encouraging more economic prospects in rural areas are all feasible ways (Milbourne & Cloke, 2006). In the chapter, it is claimed that the lack of comprehensive statistics on rural homelessness makes it impossible to adequately appreciate the extent and severity of the issue. Thus, it is vital to improve data collection and reporting on homelessness in rural areas (Galewitz, 2017). Improving the quality of data collection and reporting on homelessness in rural regions can help provide a clearer picture of the problem, which in turn can assist in shaping policy and programmatic responses. Take action to address the underlying causes of homelessness in rural areas. Poverty, a scarcity of cheap housing alternatives, and restricted access to medical care and social assistance are just some of the reasons that lead to homelessness in rural locations. The fundamental reasons for rural homelessness are diverse and multidimensional (Kearns, 2006). Addressing these underlying problems would necessitate considerable and coordinated efforts on the part of local, state, and federal governments. According to the poverty cycle, being born into poverty puts a person at a disadvantage relative to those who are not. Possible contributing factors include a lack of health insurance, inability to take vacations for prenatal care, and birth in a low-income area with higher rates of crime, violence, and subpar educational opportunities. Moreover, if there is a higher police presence in these areas, you have a higher chance of being arrested and receiving a criminal record. If you don't finish your degree, it might affect your salary. Childhood trauma increases the risk of many other things, including drug abuse, mental illness, and even death. Hence, many problems may be traced back to low income. Homelessness has flourished because of the perfect circumstances that have been created because of the pandemic, as well as the decrease in jobs and population. These initiatives should include policies that support economic growth, access to healthcare and education, and affordable housing. It is possible to minimize the occurrence and impact of rural homelessness by putting these ideas into action, which will also assist improve the lives of individuals and families who are already suffering homelessness in rural areas (Karabanow, 2014).

7. Conclusion

Understanding the differences between rural and urban homelessness is essential to preventing and addressing it. In this book, homelessness is more hidden, making it hard to count. This makes it tougher to calculate state funding for programs, which can be harmful. Rural homelessness requires a comprehensive and collaborative strategy. This chapter has highlighted some of the unique challenges of rural homelessness, including limited access to affordable housing, medical care, and social aid, social isolation, and guilt. More financing for prevention and services, partnerships between government, non-profits, and community members, focused initiatives, improved data collection and reporting, and tackling the root causes of rural homelessness are some possible answers. Although this chapter did not present a foolproof method for eliminating homelessness in rural areas, it did highlight a number of potentially fruitful lines of inquiry for future study and growth. It is abundantly obvious that homelessness in rural areas is a hidden problem that calls for prompt attention and

action. To make headway in lowering the occurrence and effect of rural homelessness, as well as enhance the quality of life for people who are currently suffering homelessness in rural regions to engage in preventive and assistance efforts and take on the core causes of rural homelessness.

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