

# *Housing, Homelessness, and Sexual Violence*

## *Annotated Bibliography*



This annotated bibliography highlights research articles documenting studies on the relationship between sexual violence, housing, and homelessness. The bibliography summarizes studies published between 2010 - 2020 on sexual violence experienced at different stages of the lifespan by people who have experienced homelessness or housing instability. Current research suggests that people who have experienced homelessness are at an increased risk for experiencing sexual violence, and that sexual violence is a risk factor for homelessness and housing instability. The research findings illustrate the importance of service providers understanding the connections between sexual violence and housing instability, and the importance of screening for sexual violence.

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### *I. General*

**Asberg, K., & Renk, K. (2015). Safer in jail? A comparison of victimization history and psychological adjustment between previously homeless and non-homeless incarcerated women. *Feminist Criminology*, 10(2), 165-187. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1557085114537870>**

This study of 169 women (ages 18-62 years) in a large county jail in Florida found that those who were homeless prior to incarceration (versus those who were not) were more likely to have experienced childhood molestation (64.4%), attempted fondling (64.4%), adult sexual

assault (74.6%), arrests for prostitution (40.7%), and to have been treated for substance misuse (70.9%). Previously homeless women also reported more experiences of sexual coercion and violence than non-homeless women. Overall, 39% were homeless, living in a shelter, or living in temporary housing such as a motel room prior to incarceration. This included one in four participants (24.5%) who reported that they were homeless, 2.8% who indicated they were living in a shelter, and 11.3% who were living temporarily in a motel room prior to incarceration.



**Breiding, M., Basile, K. C., Klevens, J., & Smith, S. G. (2017). Economic insecurity and intimate partner and sexual violence victimization. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 53(4), 457-464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2017.03.021>**

Using data from the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), a nationally representative survey of U.S. adults, researchers found connections between food and housing insecurity for both women and men and experiencing intimate partner and sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. The prevalence of housing insecurity in the 12 months prior to the survey was 46.3% for women and 40.5% for men. Women reporting recent housing insecurity were significantly more likely than women who did not report recent housing insecurity to experience all forms of intimate partner violence (IPV) (physical violence, contact sexual violence, stalking, psychological aggression, and/or control of reproductive or sexual health). Men reporting recent housing insecurity were also significantly more likely to experience all forms of intimate partner violence, except stalking. Women and men reporting recent housing or food insecurity were also significantly more

likely to experience contact sexual violence and noncontact unwanted sexual experiences compared with women and men who did not report recent housing or food insecurity. The study also found that those who reported food and housing insecurity were more likely to experience sexual violence by someone other than an intimate partner, suggesting that those experiencing economic insecurity are at a higher risk for experiencing sexual violence.

**Cronley, C., Cimino, A. N., Hohn, K., Davis, J., & Madden, E. (2016). Entering prostitution in adolescence: History of youth homelessness predicts earlier entry. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 25(9), 893-908. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2016.1223246>**

A study of 96 adult women who self-identified as having engaged in prostitution found that women with a history of youth homelessness entered prostitution almost eight years earlier than women who engaged in prostitution without a history of youth homelessness. About half of the respondents participated in multiple forms of prostitution, and 40% traded sex for things (survival sex). Almost 28% of the women experienced homelessness before the age of 18, and over 80% experienced sexual abuse before the age of 18.

**Deck, S. M., & Platt, P. S. (2015). Homelessness is traumatic: Abuse, victimization, and trauma histories of homeless men. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma, 24*(9), 1022-1043. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2015.1074134>**

This study of 152 men experiencing homelessness examined their experiences of trauma. Most participants (89.2%) had been incarcerated, and almost half (45.2%) reported having experienced one or more forms of abuse in their lifetime (35.9% for emotional abuse, 25.8% for physical abuse, and 11.2% for sexual abuse). The residents at the male-only homeless shelter responded to interview questions that suggested 23 to 30% screened positive for PTSD. Those who screened positive for PTSD had been homeless longer and were more likely to experience chronic homelessness. They were also more likely to be veterans and to report violent attacks, abuse histories, and mental health problems. This study illustrates the need for trauma-informed housing services.

**Huey, L. (2016). There is no strength in emotions: The role of street enculturation in influencing how victimized homeless women speak about violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 31*(10), 1817-1841. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260515570749>**

This study of 76 in-depth interviews of women staying in homeless shelters or transitional housing in Los Angeles found that women displayed varying attitudes toward violence they had experienced, violence they witnessed living on the street, and/or the violence they committed against others. Women who initially spoke of violence in a very casual, dismissive way eventually revealed they did so to put on a tough front. Over half of women experienced intimate partner violence (67%), 50% of women experienced sexual assault, 51% of women

witnessed significant violence, and 41% experienced non-partner physical violence. Women were asked about childhood experiences as well; 43% experienced physical abuse in childhood, 51% experienced childhood sexual abuse, and 55% witnessed significant violence as a child. Most women acknowledged feeling traumatized by the violence they experienced.

**Jayasundara, D. S., Legerski, E. M., Danis, F. S., & Ruddell, R. (2018). Oil development and intimate partner violence: Implementation of Section 8 housing policies in the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 33*(21), 3388-3416. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518798359>**

This study explores the impact of oil development on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in 33 counties in the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana. Through policy and qualitative data analysis of interviews and focus groups with community members, researchers assessed intimate partner violence in these communities. Data was collected from 185 participants, through 119 individual interviews and 13 focus groups. Many survivors qualify for public housing programs that are vital for survivors fleeing abuse; however, many survivors in the Bakken region had a difficult time accessing affordable housing. Many service providers were unaware of the provisions for survivors in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Eligibility restrictions prevented some from utilizing public housing programs, and some landlords opted out of Section 8 program participation at the height of the oil boom. Housing shortages in boom towns<sup>1</sup> led to housing inflation, and the lack of affordable housing options increased the vulnerability for survivors. Findings illustrate the importance of federal, state, and local housing protections for boom towns.

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<sup>1</sup>Boom town: "a small town that grows quickly as a result of a sudden increase in local economic activity." Boom town. (n.d.). In *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus*. Cambridge University Press. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/boom-town>

Meinbresse, M., Brinkley-Rubinstein, L., Grassette, A., Benson, J., Hall, C., Hamilton, R., Malott, M., & Jenkins, D. (2014). Exploring the experiences of violence among individuals who are homeless using a consumer-led approach. *Violence and Victims, 29*(1), 122-136. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.VV-D-12-00069>

Homelessness makes a person more vulnerable to violent victimization. This study of 500 people who were experiencing homelessness in five cities across the United States explored the prevalence and characteristics associated with violent victimization among people who are homeless. Sixty-two percent of respondents reported witnessing a violent attack on another person who was homeless, and nearly one half (49%) of the sample reported experiencing violence. Being homeless for longer than two years and being older increased the risk of experiencing a violent attack. About 15% of respondents were raped or sexually assaulted. Increased length of homelessness and being female predicted experiencing rape. This study found that 21% of female victims knew the person who raped them. Forty-six percent of the victims sought help after their most recent attack. Sixty-eight percent of those who sought and received help were unable to pay the associated medical bills. Only 14% of the victims were aware of the Crime Victims Fund, and 9% had actually tried to receive funds – none were successful in receiving funds. Findings suggest those who provide services to people experiencing homelessness be prepared to connect victims to medical care and mental health services.

Oliveri, R. C. (2018). Sexual harassment of low-income women in housing: Pilot study results. *Missouri Law Review, 83*(3), 597-640. University of Missouri School of Law. <https://scholarship.law.missouri.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4338&context=mlr>

This study looks at sexual harassment and exploitation of low-income women by their

landlords in private rental housing. A pilot study of 100 low-income women randomly selected from clients of the Columbia, Missouri, Housing Authority found that 16 (16%) indicated they had experienced some type of sexual harassment or other problematic sexual behavior (that would not meet the legal standard for sexual harassment) while 10 (10%) indicated they had experienced sexual harassment. Of the women who reported experiencing sexual harassment, 90% (9 out of 10) were women of color, were young (average age was 27.6), and were low-income or had no source of income at all. Only one woman attempted to report the abuse to police after her landlord repeatedly asked for sex in lieu of rent and came into her apartment uninvited. The police interviewed the woman but did not take further action. All women who experienced sexual harassment reported negative emotions at the time of the harassment.

Wilder Research. (2016). *Homelessness in Minnesota: Findings from the 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study*. Wilder Research. <http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2015/2015-homelessness-in-minnesota-11-16.pdf>

The Minnesota Homeless Study is a comprehensive study of people who are experiencing homelessness: adults, youth, and children in the state. The most recent study from 2015 included 3,672 in-person interviews with adults and unaccompanied youth. Interviews were also conducted in Spanish (25), Somali (15), and in Hmong (2). An estimated 40,000 people in Minnesota experienced homelessness in 2015. Children and youth under age 24, African Americans, and American Indians are most likely to be homeless in Minnesota. Experiencing violence is common for people who lack housing; 35% of women who are homeless are homeless as a result of domestic violence. One in five (19%) homeless adults reported being physically or sexually assaulted while home-

less. Twenty-five percent of adults who are homeless experienced sexual abuse as a child (36% for women vs. 14% for men). Among homeless youth, 14% have engaged in survival sex (14% for female youth and 15% for male youth), and 21% had been physically or sexually attacked while homeless (21% for female youth vs. 15% for male youth).



Wong, L. H., Shumway, M., Flentje, A., & Riley, E. D. (2014). Multiple types of childhood and adult violence among homeless and unstably housed women in San Francisco. *Violence and Victims, 31*(6), 1171-1182. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.VV-D-15-00132>

This study looked at the relationship between different forms of childhood violence (emotional, physical, and sexual) and violence experienced in adulthood using a survey of 298 homeless and unstably housed women in San Francisco, CA. Since age 18, participants reported the average time of homelessness was six years. Of the women surveyed, 58% of participants reported engaging in transactional sex, 72% reported spending time in jail, 61% had an alcohol disorder, and 75% had a drug disorder. More than 70% of homeless and unstably housed women in this sample experienced childhood violence, and 78% had

experienced violence in adulthood. The majority of women (62.4%) reported both childhood and adult victimization. Almost 32% reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse, and almost 40% reported experiencing adult sexual victimization. Results indicated that experiencing specific types of violence in childhood such as sexual violence predicted experiencing the same types of violence in adulthood. The odds of experiencing adult sexual victimization were almost five times higher among women who also reported childhood sexual abuse.

## II. Advocacy

Hopper, E. K., Bassuk, E. L., & Olivet, J. (2010). Shelter from the storm: Trauma-informed care in homelessness services settings. *The Open Health Services and Policy Journal, 3*, 80-100. Bentham Open. <https://benthamopen.com/contents/pdf/TOHSPJ/TOHSPJ-3-80.pdf>

Many people experiencing homelessness have been exposed to trauma. Homeless services have traditionally provided services without acknowledging the trauma people who are homeless have experienced. Trauma-informed care is a framework for providing services to people while recognizing the impact of trauma they may have experienced. This article highlights the components of trauma-informed service delivery, conducting needs assessments, and implementing trauma-informed services. The article reviewed needs assessments of agencies serving people experiencing homelessness. Researchers found that providers feel they need to be better informed about trauma and violence, many providers do not have a process or systematic way of assessing for trauma, people served want services that are empowering, and mental health services are an important need for many people experiencing homelessness. Promising models of trauma-informed services in homeless service settings are also highlighted.



Huey, L., Broll, R., Hryniewicz, D., & Fthenos, G. (2014). "They just asked me why I became homeless": "Failure to ask" as a barrier to homeless women's ability to access services post-victimization. *Violence and Victims, 29*(6), 952-966. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.VV-D-12-00121>

Homeless shelter workers are in a position to help women who are homeless and who have experienced violence; however, women are rarely asked about their experiences of violent victimization and its effects. This article discusses findings from 42 interviews with victimized homeless women in Chicago and Detroit. Most women interviewed (31) reported being physically or sexually assaulted by a partner, 28 reported having experienced physical assault in childhood, and 22 reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse. Of those experiencing childhood sexual abuse, most women reported having been victimized by a family member such as an uncle, stepfather, brother, or cousin. Eighteen participants reported experiencing sexual assault as an adult, and 16 reported physical assault by a non-intimate partner. Women who are homeless face many barriers to receiving services after victimization such as lack of financial means, transportation, and knowledge of available services. Only nine of the 42 women interviewed were asked about their experiences of violent victimization by shelter staff, and five of those

nine had been specifically asked about intimate partner violence and not other forms of physical and sexual violence. Authors provide practical recommendations for improving victims' access to services.

Mostajabian, S., Maria, D. S., Wiemann, C., Newlin, E., & Bocchini, C. (2019). Identifying sexual and labor exploitation among sheltered youth experiencing homelessness: A comparison of screening methods. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16*(3), 363. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16030363>

Youth who are unstably housed or homeless are more vulnerable to human trafficking. This study looked at two tools, a standard psychosocial assessment tool and a human trafficking-specific assessment tool, to determine which was more effective in identifying human trafficking among youth. Findings indicate that the tool developed specifically to address human trafficking was more likely to identify youth experiencing sexual and labor exploitation and risk factors for human trafficking. Youth reported mistrusting the system, fear of involving the police, not wanting to interact with mental health care systems, and stigma as barriers they face for disclosing human trafficking. Health care providers caring for youth experiencing homelessness should adopt improved screening tools.

### *III. Housing After Conviction*

Levenson, J. S. (2018). Hidden challenges: Sex offenders legislated into homelessness. *Journal of Social Work, 18*(3), 348-363. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468017316654811>

Zoning laws prevent sex offenders from living within close proximity to schools and other places where children gather. In many communities, there are few housing options for people convicted of sex crimes, causing them to become homeless. This article provides a brief history of residence restriction laws, research around their effectiveness, and recommendations for reform. Residence restriction laws do little to prevent recidivism of sexual violence, and may undermine factors shown by research to be associated with reentry into the community and reducing recidivism.

Rolfe, S. M., Tewksbury, R., & Schroeder, R. D. (2016). Homeless shelters' policies on sex offenders: Is this another collateral consequence? *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 61*(16), 1833-1849. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X16638463>

Sex offender registration and notification and residence restrictions can cause many reentry barriers for people who have committed sex offenses. These laws have affected their ability to find and maintain housing and employment, and many may become homeless. This study looks at the policies of 57 homeless shelters on housing registered sex offenders. Sixteen of the 57 shelters accepted registered sex offenders (28.1%), and 41 shelters (71.9%) did not. Being located near schools or homes with children decreases the odds that homeless shelters will allow registered sex offenders. The study also found that, while many shelters were willing to make exceptions to other policies regarding accessibility, they were not willing to make exceptions for people who are registered sex offenders. This study highlights

the limited access to homeless shelters for registered sex offenders.

Socia, K. M., Dum, C. P., & Rydberg, J. (2019). Turning a blind eye: Public support of emergency housing policies for sex offenders. *Sexual Abuse, 31*(1), 25-49. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1079063217720925>

In a national online survey, 773 citizens responded to questions about the living conditions of sex offenders residing at an emergency shelter budget motel. Online survey respondents were asked about their support for four different policy scenarios that promote or hinder access to safe housing for people who have been convicted of sex offenses. Survey respondents were typically indifferent to policies that would improve sex offender housing conditions regardless of how the proposed policy would affect the respondent.

### *IV. Mental Health*

Rattelade, S., Farrell, S., Aubry, T., & Klodawsky, F. (2014). The relationship between victimization and mental health functioning in homeless youth and adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 29*(9), 1606-1622. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260513511529>

This study explored the connection between childhood victimization and current mental health among homeless youth and adults. Three hundred and four homeless adolescents and adults were interviewed. Researchers found high rates of childhood sexual abuse among homeless girls and women. Forty-three percent of adult women and 42% of female youth reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse. Eighteen percent of adult men and 12% of male youth reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse. High rates of childhood physical abuse and witnessing family abuse were also reported from both male and female participants at all ages. Experiencing child-

hood sexual abuse and witnessing family violence were correlated with lower mental health scores. Findings indicate the need for service providers to be trained to understand childhood trauma.

**Riley, E. D., Cohen, J., Knight, K. R., Decker, A., Marson, K., & Shumway, M. (2014). Recent violence in a community-based sample of homeless and unstably housed women with high levels of psychiatric comorbidity. *American Journal of Public Health, 104*(9), 1657-1663. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2014.301958>**

In a study of 291 homeless or unstably housed women, 97% screened positive for one or more psychiatric conditions, 90% met criteria for at least one mental health disorder, 85% met the criteria for at least one substance-related disorder, and 78% met the criteria for both mental health and substance-related disorders. Women reported experiencing most violence from non-intimate partners – of women who experienced sexual violence, seven percent were assaulted by an intimate partner and 22% by non-intimate partners. Finding that most violence was perpetrated by a non-intimate partner suggests that health care and other service providers may miss violence if they only screen for domestic or intimate partner violence. The authors suggest screening people for all forms of violence.

**Tsai, A. C., Weiser, S. D., Dilworth, S. E., Shumway, M., & Riley, E. D. (2015). Violent victimization, mental health, and service utilization outcomes in a cohort of homeless and unstably housed women living with or at risk of becoming infected with HIV. *American Journal of Epidemiology, 181*(10), 817-826. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwu350>**

In a study using data from the Shelter, Health, and Drug Outcomes Among Women Study on 300 homeless or unstably housed women infected with or at risk of becoming infected with

HIV living in San Francisco, CA, researchers looked at the association between exposure to violence and mental health. Researchers found 207 women (69%) experienced child abuse. Revictimization was common: 62% reported a history of violence in both childhood and adulthood, and only 15% reported a history of violence during adulthood but not childhood. Recent exposure to violence was associated with lower mental health status and higher risks of mental health-related emergency department visits and psychiatric hospitalizations. Reducing ongoing violence may help improve mental health in women experiencing homelessness.



**Tyler, K. A., Kort-Butler, L. A., & Swendener, A. (2014). The effect of victimization, mental health, and protective factors on crime and illicit drug use among homeless young adults. *Violence and Victims, 29*(2), 348-362. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.VV-D-12-00091R1>**

Homeless youth typically have histories of victimization prior to leaving home and experience victimization when on the street. These experiences put them at greater risk for engaging in illegal behaviors (i.e. property and violent crimes and drug use). Little is known

about the protective factors homeless youth may have to cope with stress. This study of 172 young adults who were homeless or had a history of running away and being homeless examined the relationship between various forms of victimization, mental health, and protective factors against crime and drug use. Forty-seven percent of the youth in the sample had been sexually abused, 95% had been physically abused, and 78% had been neglected at least once. Since being on the street, 39% had been sexually victimized, 94% had been physically victimized, and 69% had been victimized by their partner at least once. Results from this study show that sexual and/or physical street victimization are important for understanding involvement in property and/or violent crime, and child maltreatment and partner violence are important in explaining drug use.

**Wong, C. F., Clark, L. F., & Marlotte, L. (2014). The impact of specific and complex trauma on the mental health of homeless youth. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 31*(5), 831-854. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514556770>**

This study of 389 youth aged 13-25 who have been homeless or precariously housed in the past year examined correlations between traumatic victimization and mental health symptoms. Respondents reported high rates of past and current trauma; about 70% of the sample reported growing up in adverse home environments. Prior to experiencing homelessness, 58.9% experienced emotional abuse/neglect, 51.4% experienced physical abuse, and 33.2% experienced childhood sexual abuse. Since becoming homeless, 37.3% experienced physical assault while on the street, 27.4% experienced harassment, 22.5% experienced intimate partner violence, and 13% experienced sexual assault while on the street. Participants who experienced multiple traumas earlier (including sexual abuse) were significantly more likely to have higher PTSD scores and were more likely to engage in self-injury.

## V. LGBTQ Issues

**Choi, S. K., Wilson, B. D., Shelton, J., & Gates, G. (2015). *Serving our youth 2015: The needs and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth experiencing homelessness*. Williams Institute. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1pd9886n>**

This report summarizes findings from the 2014 LGBTQ Homeless Youth Provider Survey, a survey of 138 homeless youth service providers. The most prevalent reason for homelessness among LGBQ (55.3%) and transgender youth (67.1%) was being forced out of their home or running away because of their sexual identity/expression. Housing was the top need of LGBQ youth (26%), followed by acceptance/emotional support of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression (18.8%) and employment (17.7%). This report found that 60% of the LGBQ and 75% of the transgender youth experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, and 10% of the LGBQ and 20% of the transgender youth experienced sexual exploitation/trafficking.

**Ecker, J. (2016). *Queer, young, and homeless: A review of the literature*. *Child & Youth Services, 37*(4), 325-361. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2016.1151781>**

This article reviews and analyzes the current literature on queer (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, two-spirited) homeless youth. The article summarizes the pathways into homelessness and the challenges and barriers that homeless queer youth face, such as mental health, substance use, sexual victimization, and discrimination. Sexual victimization was found to be a common occurrence for homeless queer youth both at home and on the streets. Survival sex (exchanging sex to meet one's survival needs) was common among homeless queer youth. Results from the review found that homeless queer youth are a unique population that requires specialized

services. The author concludes with practice recommendations, policy implications, and ideas for future research.



**Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018).** *Missed opportunities: LGBTQ youth homelessness in America.* *Voices of Youth Count.* <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2018.pdf>

This research brief highlights research related to the experiences of young people ages 18 to 25 who identify as LGBTQ and who are homeless. Voices of Youth Count is a nationally representative phone survey that asks people about their self-reported experiences of youth homelessness or the experiences of youth in their household. LGBTQ youth are at 2.2 times the risk of reporting homelessness compared to other groups. Youth who are Black and LGBTQ reported the highest rates of homelessness at 16%. LGBTQ youth who are homeless reported higher rates of trauma and adversity than non-LGBTQ homeless peers. LGBTQ youth who were homeless were more likely to report exchanging sex for basic needs (27% vs. 9% of non-LGBTQ homeless youth), and 38% of LGBTQ homeless youth reported being forced to have sex vs. 15% of non-LGBTQ homeless youth. Research showed that most LGBTQ youth became homeless as a result of family

instability and frayed relationships over time and not in the aftermath of “coming out.” The brief provides practical recommendations on serving LGBTQ youth.

## **VI. Veterans**

**Brignone, E., Gundlapalli, A. V., Blais, R. K., Carter, M. E., Suo, Y., Samore, M. H., Kimberling, R., & Fargo, J. D. (2016).** *Differential risk for homelessness among US male and female veterans with a positive screen for military sexual trauma.* *JAMA Psychiatry, 73(6), 582-589.* <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2016.0101>

This study of U.S. veterans on the connections between military sexual trauma (MST) and post-deployment homelessness found that among veterans with a positive screen for MST, the rates of homelessness were 1.6% within 30 days, 4.4% within one year, and 9.6% within five years. This is more than double the rates of homelessness in veterans with a negative MST screen (.7% within 30 days, 1.8% within one year, and 4.3% within five years). Male veterans who experienced MST were found to be at a greater risk for homelessness than female veterans who experienced MST.

**Tsai, J., Rosenheck, R. A., Decker, S. E., Desai, R. A., & Harpaz-Rotem, I. (2012).** *Trauma experience among homeless female veterans: Correlates and impact on housing, clinical, and psychosocial outcomes.* *Journal of Traumatic Stress, 25(6), 624-632.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jts.21750>

This study examined the lifetime exposure to traumatic events as reported by 581 female veterans enrolled in a Homeless Women Veterans Program. Almost all participants (99%) reported experiencing at least one traumatic event and multiple types and occurrences of traumatic events. Eighty-two percent of the women reported that someone close to them experienced a serious or life-threatening ill-

ness, and 67% of the women experienced rape. Trauma from sexual assault was associated with more days spent experiencing homelessness. Of those who reported experiencing rape, 32% reported the trauma was inflicted by a family member, and 42% reported it occurred in the military.

## VII. Youth

**Bender, K., Brown, S. M., Thompson, S. J., Ferguson, K. M., & Langenderfer, L. (2015). Multiple victimizations before and after leaving home associated with PTSD, depression, and substance use disorder among homeless youth. *Child Maltreatment, 20*(2), 115-124. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559514562859>**

In a study of 601 homeless youth, 79% reported experiencing multiple forms of childhood abuse prior to leaving home, and 28% reported multiple street victimizations. Thirty-four percent of the sample reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse, and 21% experienced sexual assault on the street. Each additional type of street victimization almost doubled a youth's odds of meeting the criteria for a substance use disorder, and each additional type of childhood abuse experienced more than doubled a youth's odds of meeting the criteria for PTSD. Findings suggest the need for screening and providing trauma-informed services for homeless youth.

**Heerde, J. A., Scholes-Balog, K. E., & Hemphill, S. A. (2015). Associations between youth homelessness, sexual offenses, sexual victimization, and sexual risk behaviors: A systematic literature review. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 44*(1), 181-212. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-014-0375-2>**

This literature review of 38 studies investigated the relationships between high-risk sexual behavior, sexual victimization (including commercial sexual exploitation), sexual violence perpe-

tration, and homelessness among adolescents and young adults. It found that sexual victimization estimates vary greatly among different studies. Estimates of sexual assault ranged from 15-30%, estimates of rape from 11-43%, and estimates of engaging in street prostitution from 3-46%. These wide ranges may be the result of different measures of homelessness and sexual violence in each study. Results also indicate that sexual violence against homeless youth and sexual risk-taking among homeless youth is under-researched. No studies analyzed correlations between homelessness and sexual violence perpetration among homeless youth.



**Heerde, J. A., & Hemphill, S. A. (2016). Sexual risk behaviors, sexual offenses, and sexual victimization among homeless youth: A systematic review of associations with substance use. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 17*(5), 468-489. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015584371>**

This meta-analysis of 23 studies on substance use by homeless youth and the relationship between sexual offenses, sexual risk behavior, and sexual victimization found that alcohol, marijuana, and stimulants were the most commonly used substances by homeless youth. Findings from the reviewed studies generally

showed substance use by homeless youth was associated with sexual risk behavior or sexual victimization. It is unclear if substance use came before or after engaging in risky sexual behaviors or experiencing sexual victimization. The results from this review support research indicating homeless youth experience various forms of sexual victimization.



**Heerde, J. A., & Hemphill, S. A. (2017). The role of risk and protective factors in the modification of risk for sexual victimization, sexual risk behaviors, and survival sex among homeless youth: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling*, 14(2), 150-174. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jip.1473>**

This study is a meta-analysis of eighteen studies examining sexual victimization, sexual risk behavior, and survival sex. Authors found the following were risk factors that increase the likelihood of experiencing sexual violence, engaging in sexual risk behaviors, or engaging in survival sex: substance use, exposure to violence and crime (both as victims and perpetrators of violence), childhood abuse, sexual behavior, and peer anti-social and sexual behav-

ior. Protective factors included peer and family social support – youth who reported having social support at home reduced their odds of experiencing sexual victimization by half. Protective factors reduced engagement in survival sex by two thirds. Findings suggest that risk and protective factors are important considerations to provide early intervention strategies for youth who are experiencing homelessness.

**Melander, L. A., & Tyler, K. A. (2010). The effect of early maltreatment, victimization, and partner violence on HIV risk behavior among homeless young adults. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 47(6), 575-581. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2010.04.010>**

This study examined the relationship between child maltreatment, physical and sexual victimization, and intimate partner violence with HIV risk behaviors. Data from the Homeless Young Adult Project (HYAP) was used, which included data from 172 young people aged 19-26 years old who were experiencing homelessness or who had a history of running away and being homeless. The study found that sexual abuse was directly linked with street sexual victimization. Street sexual victimization was associated with a greater number of HIV risk behaviors (unprotected sex, IV drug use, and/or ever having an STD/STI). Young people who experienced multiple forms of violence also experienced more forms of sexual and physical victimization.

**Murphy, L. T. (2016). *Labor and sex trafficking among homeless youth: A ten-city study – Executive summary*. Loyola University. <https://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Loyola%20Multi-City%20Executive%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>**

This study researched the prevalence of human trafficking of runaway and homeless youth aged 17-25. Six hundred and forty one youth receiving services through Covenant House's network of shelters, transitional living, apartment programs, and drop-in centers

were asked about their experiences of both labor and sexual exploitation. Youth were interviewed in ten cities across the United States and Canada. Nearly one in five interviewed youth were identified as victims of some form of human trafficking. Fourteen percent (92) were victims of sex trafficking, and 42% of them were minors involved in the sale of commercial sex and survival sex. Twenty-four percent of LGBTQ youth were trafficked for sex as compared to 12% of non-LGBTQ youth. Youth who had a history of involvement in the foster care system accounted for 29% of all sex trafficking victims and 27% of youth who engaged in the sex trade. Authors provide practical recommendations for prevention and intervention in serving homeless youth.

**Petering, R., Rice, E., Rhoades, H., & Winetrobe, H. (2014). The social networks of homeless youth experiencing intimate partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 29*(12), 2172-2191. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260513516864>**

This study examines the intimate partner violence (IPV) experiences of youth who are homeless. In a study of 386 homeless youth in Los Angeles, CA, one fifth of the respondents experienced IPV in the past year. Forty-four percent of participants experienced physical abuse by a family member as a child, 39% witnessed family violence, and more than one quarter experienced some form of childhood sexual abuse. Researchers found one quarter of homeless youth in this sample had experienced violence from an intimate partner. Female respondents who experienced IPV identified as having more friends in their network than those who did not report experiencing IPV. They also found that young women who experienced IPV had more male friends than young women who did not experience IPV. Researchers also found that young female homeless youth who witnessed family violence in childhood had more male friends, but those who experienced childhood

sexual abuse had fewer overall friends and fewer male friends. Researchers suggest that having more male friends in their social network may increase the likelihood of experiencing victimization. Male homeless youth showed very different networks of friendships from female youth. This research shows that the IPV experiences of homeless youth is an issue and needs to be addressed.

**Roe-Sepowitz, D., Brockie, M., Bracy, K., & Hogan, K. (2016). Youth experiences survey: Year three: Exploring the sex trafficking experiences of homeless youth adults in Arizona. Arizona State University School of Social Work. [https://socialwork.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2016\\_yes\\_study\\_full\\_report.pdf](https://socialwork.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2016_yes_study_full_report.pdf)**

This report details the results from the Youth Experiences Survey (YES), which researchers give to homeless young adults in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Of the 199 respondents, 33.2% indicated being sex trafficked, and 23.6% indicated experiencing sexual abuse. This study found that homeless young adults who had experienced sex trafficking are at an increased risk to have drug and alcohol problems. They are also more likely to have experienced abuse in childhood, to experience abuse in dating relationships, and to experience serious mental health challenges as compared to those who have not experienced sex trafficking.

**Santa Maria, D. M., Breeden, K., Drake, S. A., Narendorf, S. C., Barman-Adhikari, A., Petering, R., Hus, H., Shelton, J., Ferguson-Colvin, K., & Bender, K. (2020). Gaps in sexual assault health care among homeless young adults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 58*(2), 191-198. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2019.09.023>**

This study of 1,405 youth aged 18-26 looked at the gaps in sexual assault health care among homeless young adults. Twenty-three percent of the participants had engaged in the sex trade, 32% experienced sexual assault as a mi-

nor, and 39% experienced sexual exploitation. Twenty-four percent of the young adults reported experiencing forced sex. Of those, only 29% received a post-sexual assault examination. Of the youth who did not receive an exam (71%), the most frequently reported reasons were because they did not want to involve the legal system (44%) and they did not think it was important (35%). Researchers found that youth who experienced dating violence (58.3%), those who had been involved in the juvenile justice system (35.3%), or those who engaged in trading sex (52.7%) were significantly more likely to indicate they did not want to involve the legal system. Almost two thirds of youth who were forced to have sex did not get the medical care needed, representing a large gap in health care services for homeless youth. The authors highlight the need for targeted programs to address these barriers to ensure access to services and for post-assault medical care to be incorporated into sexual health programs serving youth experiencing homelessness.

**Tyler, K. A., & Beal, M. R. (2010). The high-risk environment of homeless young adults: Consequences for physical and sexual victimization. *Violence and Victims, 25*(1), 101-115. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.25.1.101>**

This study used data from the Homeless Young Adult Project (HYAP), a pilot study on the effect of neglect and abuse history on homeless young adults' mental health and high risk behaviors. Interviews of 127 homeless (36 women and 91 men) young adults (19-26 years old) were used for this study. The average age youth ran away was 14.5 years old, and most ran away two or three times. Sixteen percent of youth reported selling sex, and 32% reported having friends who did. Most of the respondents (94%) had experienced some type of physical victimization since being homeless, and 32% had experienced sexual victimization at least once. The study found that people who identify as women,

identify as part of a sexual minority, have an "unkempt" physical appearance, panhandle, and have friends who trade sex are more likely to experience sexual victimization.

**Tyler, K. A., & Schmitz, R. M. (2018). Bullying at school and on the street: Risk factors and outcomes among homeless youth. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518794024>**

In this study, 150 homeless youth aged 16 - 22 were interviewed on their experiences of homelessness and bullying. The study found that lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) youth experienced more frequent bullying at school. Youth who experienced more child abuse prior to leaving home were more likely to experience more bullying at school and on the street. Eighty-five percent of the young people reported being physically victimized at least once, and 32% experienced at least one type of sexual victimization since being on the street. Youth who have experienced sexual victimization while homeless were more likely to also experience frequent bullying, more likely to be female, and likely to have experienced more child sexual abuse than those who did not experience sexual victimization while homeless.

**Tyler, K. A., Gervais, S. J., & Davidson, M. M. (2013). The relationship between victimization and substance use among homeless and runaway female adolescents. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 28*(3), 474-493. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260512455517>**

This study examined the connections between homelessness, sexual victimization, transactional sex, and substance use among homeless female youth. In a Social Network and Homeless Youth Project study of 137 homeless and runaway adolescent girls ages 14-21, 51% had been physically abused, 43% reported experiencing sexual abuse, and one fifth reported engaging in transactional sex. Victims of sexual



abuse were more likely to have ever traded sex and to have experienced street sexual victimization. Older girls, those who had run away from home at a younger age, and those who had experienced sexual abuse were significantly more likely to have traded sex. Researchers also found that the longer youth were away from home, the more likely they were to experience more types of sexual victimization. Sexual abuse and sex trading were also correlated with more frequent marijuana and alcohol use.

**Tyler, K. A., & Melander, L. A. (2010). Foster care placement, poor parenting, and negative outcomes among homeless young adults. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 19(6), 787-794. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-010-9370-y>**

This study compared 172 homeless youth with and without a history of foster care placement. Results indicate that abuse and inadequate parenting are linked to many negative outcomes for youth who were in foster care and youth not in foster care. Researchers found that among youth who were in foster care, those who had a history of physical abuse and neglect were more likely to experience depressive symptoms, and those who experienced sexual abuse and neglect were more likely to experience delinquency and physical victimiza-

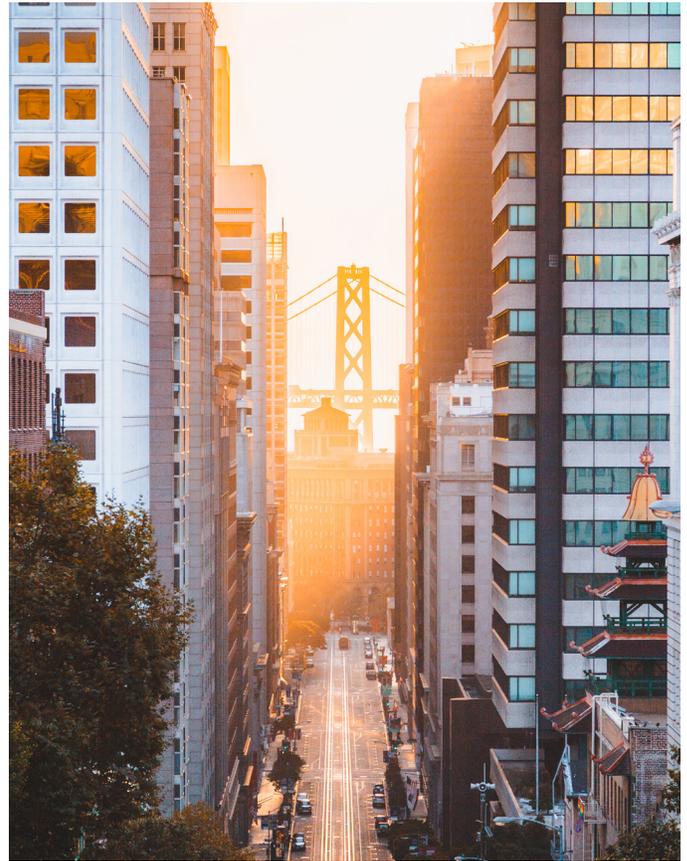
tion. Among youth without a history of foster care, physical abuse was related to more depressive symptoms, and sexual abuse was related with delinquency, sexual victimization, and substance abuse.

**Warf, C. W., Clark, L. F., Desai, M., Rabinovitz, S. J., Agahi, G., Calvo, R., & Hoffmann, J. (2013). Coming of age on the streets: Survival sex among homeless young women in Hollywood. *Journal of Adolescence*, 36(6), 1205-1213. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2013.08.013>**

Sixty young women (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness in the East Hollywood area of Los Angeles, CA, were recruited to participate in a survey on their experiences of childhood physical and sexual abuse and involvement in dependency or delinquency systems, psychiatric hospitalization, and suicide attempts. Young women who are homeless were found to have a high rate of experiencing childhood sexual abuse, be involved in dependency and delinquency systems, and have been hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital. Young women who engaged in survival sex disclosed higher rates of attempted suicide and higher rates of childhood physical abuse. Most young women involved in survival sex did so to meet basic needs such as a place to stay, food, and money.

Wolfe, D. S., Greeson, J. K. P., Wasch, S., & Treglia, D. (2018). *Human trafficking prevalence and child welfare risk factors among homeless youth: A multi-city study*. Covenant House International. <https://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Field%20Center%20Full%20Report%20on%20Human%20Trafficking%20Prevalence.pdf>

This study examined human trafficking among homeless youth by interviewing 270 homeless youth in three cities. Of those interviewed, 20% were victims of human trafficking and 17% were victims of sex trafficking. Among those homeless youth who were approached for paid sex, 22% were approached on their first night of homelessness; additionally, 14% engaged in survival sex to meet their basic needs, and 36% reported engaging in a commercial sex act at some point in their lives. Ninety-five percent of those who reported they were victims of sex trafficking had a history of child maltreatment (49% had experienced sexual abuse, and 33% had experienced physical abuse). Of those who were sex trafficked, 63% reported involvement with the child welfare system. LGBTQ youth reported more sex trafficking than non-LGBTQ youth. Finally, the study revealed that protective factors against sex trafficking include having supportive parents or family members and graduating from high school.



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