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Research Report

What are the factors leading to homelessness in Canada?

Work presented to

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As part of the course

Research Project in the Social Sciences

Collégial international Sainte-Anne

02/12/2022

Introduction

Through the eyes of many, homelessness appears as an urban phenomenon, one only located in important metropolises around the world. However, further research on the topic demonstrates how it is rather a societal issue than can be observed in all cities, from the furthest rural areas to the most populated cosmopolises (Rech, 2019). Canada stands by this fact, for this paper will specifically study the correlation between its citizens and homelessness. Nevertheless, in order to further explore the current situation in the country, it is crucial for readers to understand the history carried by this word.

Definitions

First and foremost, an operational definition of the term homelessness is imperative. In this regard, the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness defines it as: “The situation of an individual or family without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.” (Gaetz et al., 2012) In other words, it is the condition of a person who does not have a permanent civic address. Taking this into account, the four categories of people living in such circumstances should be analyzed. Firstly, *unsheltered*, known as the “absolute ” homeless, refers to the population lodging on the streets or in locations not expected for human habitation. Secondly, *emergency sheltered* regroups citizens who sleep in shelters intended for the homeless and for victims of domestic or family violence. Thirdly, *provisionally accommodated* include those whose accommodation is short-term or does not meet safety standards. Fourthly, *at risk of homelessness* is a group that ought to be more addressed in homelessness discussions, because it incorporates those whose actual economic and/or housing reality is insecure (Gaetz et al., 2012). For instance, the last resort solution of “couch-surfing” is associated with this last category because it invokes people who are “living or sleeping at the home of family and/or friends

for short periods of time” (Smith, 2022). Finally, it should be mentioned that, apart from its explanation as an experience lived by a person, homelessness’ definition unfolds as a social problem as well; one revealing a society who deals with an important amount of homeless people (Essert, 2016).

Origins

Homeless, nowadays, is a common term used by many of Canada’s inhabitants, for it defines a social problem frequently experienced by individuals of all provinces. However, this definition of the term only appeared in the mid-1980s, where the number of families residing on Canada's streets increased substantially (Rech, 2019). According to David Hulchanlski, before the emergence of the word “homeless” through society, the term “transient” made its way into conversations as it referred to “single men who lived in rooming houses and received help from charities such as the Salvation Army” (cited in Rech, 2019). Decades preceding the 1980s have not been spared from the emerging issue; nonetheless, attention and change was not needed as there was no problem to solve. Contrarily to the current situation, governments in the 20th century were of significant help to the population as they invested an important amount of money on adequate housing, which allowed citizens to have access to safe buildings (Rech, 2019). As decades went on, the attention brought on financial means of homelessness faded away, leading to the current situation in the country.

Current situation & Objective

Rightly so, it is all the more relevant to study this topic when looking into statistics on that issue. For that purpose, a national report on the state of homelessness in Canada issued by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness in 2016 asserted that “at least 235 000 Canadians experience homelessness in a year” and 35 000 actually end up sleeping in the streets on a given

night (Gaetz et al., 2016). Furthermore, the national occupancy rate of shelters rose by 10% between 2005 and 2014, which illustrates the importance for the government to address this social problem and take concrete actions regarding this matter. However, before talking about solutions, the roots of this growing phenomenon must be explored, for the objective of this report will specifically be to scrutinize different factors of importance in a person's pathway to homelessness.

Methodology

For this research project, previous studies will be looked into to answer the following research question: "What are the factors leading to homelessness in Canada?" To answer it, three main themes will be addressed: personal circumstances, the vulnerability of certain populations and the presence of aggravating societal factors. Apart from a literature analysis, links will also be drawn from a qualitative interview conducted on Monday, November 28 2022 with Daniel Boyer, who acts as the Community Engagement Coordinator at Welcome Hall Mission. This Montreal-based nonprofit organization is the "largest doorway for Montrealers in need" and has been helping the homeless community since 1892 (*Welcome Hall Mission*, 2022).

Individual circumstances

There are many factors that contribute to homelessness as such, one being individual circumstances. One's specific condition can lead to a loss of home and shelter, from which it is important to analyze the essence of these reasons. As every individual carries a different past and history, it is crucial to deconstruct the stereotypes that have been established to determine the different factors influencing one's individual path to homelessness. To do so, the two next paragraphs will be dedicated to mental health issues and substance abuse.

Mental health issues

Mental health plays a crucial role in one's well-being, for it influences many behaviors and actions on the daily. The consequences that emerge from suffering the effects of poor mental health are numerous, from where it is an essential factor to consider while analyzing the homeless. In fact, countless homeless individuals are helpless to the fate that is reserved for them as their mental state reduces their ability to leave the vicious cycle, they find themselves in. Goering et al. (2011) supported this idea by stating that psychological illnesses have a direct influence on the longevity of one's stay in the streets, as one is more likely to stay homeless a long period of time if affected severely by mental concerns (cited in Piat et al., 2015). Evidently, psychological troubles take a prominent place through the homeless community; however, no attention is brought to those in need, who are countless. Indeed, according to Rickards et al. (2010), "it is estimated that up to one-third of homeless individuals have a serious mental illness, including schizophrenia, depression or bipolar disorder" (cited in Piat et al., 2015). Likewise, Edidin et al. (2012) have concluded from their prior research that approximately 60% of youth living on the streets have suicidal thoughts (cited in Perlman et al., 2014). Nonetheless, it is apparent to conclude that mental health plays a key role in the journey of one experiencing this severe social issue. As could be expected, according to Susser et al. (1997) and Kuno et al. (2000), the risk of becoming homeless varies from being 10 to 20 times higher for individuals suffering from serious mental illnesses (cited in Stergiopoulos, 2014).

As previously mentioned, many consequences emerge from mental illnesses as such, ones that impact homeless individuals on the daily. The consequences of schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and many other psychological disorders have differing consequences, from where it is crucial to analyze them independently. Firstly, together with the entirety of the world's inhabitants,

around one percent of the current population suffers from schizophrenia (Gittelman, 2005), a common mental disorder among the homeless community. Despite the prominent illness, some manage to live an adequate lifestyle, nevertheless. However, others are further affected by schizophrenia's long-lasting effects as they can experience hallucinations and have trouble coping with the illness itself (Gittelman, 2005). The researcher makes the case that keeping a permanent house for themselves is proven to be a complex task, as they are not able to sustain a favorable and healthy lifestyle (Gittelman, 2005). In these cases, the mental illness directly impacts the individuals as their situation becomes more auspicious to homelessness. Secondly, depression also has a visible correlation on the homeless community. According to La Gory et al. (1990), "homelessness itself represents one of the least desirable life circumstances one could imagine, presenting significant daily difficulties for the individual." By this statement, the researcher sheds light on the fact that not having a permanent residence can be a trigger element to the development of depression. Signs of this mental illness are numerous, as they include pessimism, irritability, withdrawal from social activities, and many more. Hence, the lack of motivation due to depression can easily influence the situation of one as no energy is put in the maintenance of a permanent shelter. Plus, as many homeless individuals are consumed by this mental sickness, pessimism can alter their perception of a possible better lifestyle, one for which it is worth getting help for. In fact, according to Rech (2019), "loneliness, social exclusion, and psychological distress often go along with homelessness, and poor mental health contributes to poverty, disaffiliation and personal vulnerability", which sheds light on the inevitable impacts of mental illnesses on these populations. Hence, from the previous research on the topic, it is possible to notice how one with a poorer mental health has reduced chances of escaping this vicious cycle, homelessness as such.

Substance abuse

Some myths seem to be perpetuated through society regarding the homeless community's use of substances. Commonly, many characterize the homeless as resembling the image of the stereotypical alcoholic, which, according to Glasser et al. (1999), "may be considered the historical image of the homeless person." Nonetheless, while interviewed, Boyer (2022) confirmed these societal ideas by establishing the fact that "yes, many of those people do struggle with these illnesses. We have a degree of homeless people who are coming to our shelters that do struggle with drug and alcohol abuse." In fact, as the Community Engagement Coordinator at Welcome Hall Mission mentions, substance abuse is frequent among homeless communities, for it evidently has an impact on their stay on the streets. According to Rickards et al. (2010), 50% of those living on the streets of Canada suffer from substance abuse (cited in Piat et al., 2015). This fact sheds light on the major presence of drugs and alcohol among these communities, confirming partially the perpetuated myths. However, alongside these numbers, many consequences emerge from detaining a substance consumption problem, as they impact all spheres of one's life. The study conducted by Piat et al. (2015), consisting of interviews amidst homeless populations throughout Canada, has concluded that the use of substances, at any given age, has repercussions on social relationships. This is verifiable in view of the fact that participants admitted that dependence led to a rise in family conflicts. According to Piat et al.'s (2015) interviews, results showed that "severe family conflict and violence was a precursor to homelessness." In fact, "for many, family conflict and violence escalated during adolescence. Participants ran away or were kicked out of the home" (Piat et al., 2015). This complicates the relationships maintained in households as many are forced to find shelter elsewhere, for their behaviors, influenced by alcohol and drugs, are problematic. For the youth, living under the same roof as someone who suffers from substance use disorder can influence their risks of finding themselves later in the same situation. According to Iacopetti

(2021), children have a tendency to replicate their parents' behaviors throughout their respective lives, for it is all that they have truly known. Often seen as models to follow, parental figures who suffer from addiction directly alter their child's view of parenting, for it shows them a guide that leads them to failure as future parents. Thus, there is a correlation between parents who suffer from substance use disorder and the youth's probability of developing these same behaviors; nonetheless, these circumstances can potentially lead youngsters to the same ultimate fate, homelessness. It is undeniable that individuals enduring addiction spend an important portion of the acquired money on alcohol or drugs, for they feel the need to fulfill the dependence as such. Draanen et al. (2013) shed light on this fact as they conduct an experiment involving many homeless individuals, ones who claim having little control over the spending of their money. As savings are spent on alcohol and drugs, a minimal amount is dedicated to investing in adequate shelter, from where it becomes harder to follow an adequate lifestyle. Moreover, behaviors held by these individuals are numerous, including impaired thinking and memory impairment (*Signs & Symptoms of Alcoholism (Physical, Mental & Behavioral*, 2022). Nevertheless, obtaining and keeping a stable job may be a burdensome task, as certain of these behaviors don't concord with ones sought for in employees. With the inability of being employed, many of the homeless community, suffering from substance abuse issues, have no other choice but to accept and live daily with few savings. Hence, it is undeniable to consider substance abuse as an important factor leading to the social issue of homelessness.

Vulnerable populations

As many elements have the likelihood of being related to housing situations, vulnerable populations are imperative to set forth in order to draw a bigger picture of homelessness within Canada. Vulnerable populations are groups and communities at a higher risk of experiencing any form or definition relating to homelessness as a result of the barriers they experience from birth.

Indigenous populations

When looking into studies about homelessness in Canada, one major observation stands out; it being that Indigenous individuals make up for about 4.3% of the national population yet represent 28 to 34% of its itinerant occupiers. Not only are particulars of native descent severely over-represented within Canada's homeless population, but research has also proven that, as a population, Aboriginal Peoples are the least advantaged ethno-cultural group of all Canadian communities (Patrick, 2014). Strictly, Indigenous people living in cities are about eight times more likely to end up on the streets than the non-Indigenous population (Rech, 2019).

With all of that said, the high homelessness rates and low socio-economic status of Indigenous populations stems from multiple elements of origins. Although, the conditions and history leading to homelessness among these communities suggests that the substantial root of the matter is the legacy of colonialism. As revealed by statistics, the impact of the Indian Act and the former 'Canadian Indian residential schools' system exposed the population in question of the matter to diverse forms of abuse translating as factors of cultural disintegration. Furthermore, these two historical circumstances gave rise to numerous repercussions such as extreme poverty, great lack of opportunity and inadequate housing in native reserves within the Indigenous community (Rech, 2019). In the same way, discrimination testifies itself as being one of many other major barriers that individuals of native descent have to face on a daily basis, especially when it comes

to housing. If truth be told, renting appears to be a very difficult task for the Indigenous peoples of Canada as they often find themselves discriminated against when trying to obtain housing acceptances from landlords. In spite of the way the Canadian government keeps holding out that discrimination doesn't take place within their country, studies and testimonies prove otherwise (Boyer, 2022). For instance, ethnic minorities and Aboriginal participants in the Canadian cities of Winnipeg and Vancouver revealed personal experiences of discrimination from landlords along with housing instability and racism creating a surplus of obstacles in the attempted journey of exiting homelessness (Piat et al., 2015). Moreover, when interviewed, Boyer (2022) stated: "If you speak to some of them [Indigenous individuals], they'll tell you it's sometimes hard to find an apartment in Montreal because there are some landlords that don't want to rent to them and discriminate against them because of their preconceived notion of what it means to rent to someone from a population that's Indigenous."

Additionally, it is critical to be aware that the meaning of the word 'homeless' is not extensive to all communities as it is specifically the case for Aboriginal Peoples. Indigenous viewpoints of the term conceptualize homelessness as the combination of their lower educational attainments, their lower income levels and their higher unemployment rates deriving, once again, from ongoing colonization (Smith, 2022). Comprehensively, Métis-Cree scholar and lived expert Jesse Thistle redefined the term with the help of Indigenous elders and lived experts. The author expounds on the way Indigenous conceptualization is rather from a separation of 'All My Relations'; "Indigenous world-views conceptualize home more deeply as a web of relationships and responsibilities involving connection to human kinship networks [...]" (Thistle, 2022). Despite previously stated past and present conditions, truth lies in the fact that there exists more than a single pathway in finding oneself in the state of having no home for Aboriginal Peoples. This is

verifiable since homelessness usually results from a combination of individual and societal elements (Patrick, 2014).

Immigrants & Refugees

Although appearing to be under-represented in Canada's homeless population, immigrants and refugees constitute a vulnerable subgroup within the country's limits. Distinctively, foreign born individuals are more likely to have fewer housing options when they are caught in a housing crisis. This is not surprising because Canada breathes as a large metropolitan in which affordable housing comes about a declining pattern and that newcomer's resources are limited. (Newbold, 2010).

Among other aspects, this specific occurrence finds its essence in the separation from family and friends that foreigners must face as a matter of course. That is to say that when separated from their loved ones, refugees and immigrants face a shrinkage of their feasible social support. This may seem trivial, but as a matter of fact, limited social support has many possible repercussions on a newcomer. Indeed, this strikes out the possibility of putting into effect 'hidden homelessness'. This term is used to describe a living situation where people temporarily live with others, without guarantee of continued sheltering and habitation; hence, they are not included in homelessness calculations (Newbold, 2010). In other words, if an individual from the societal group in question finds himself in a critical housing situation, he doubtlessly doesn't have the option of crashing with a friend or a family member. Over and above that, the consequences of possessing a limited social circle further eliminate the probability of having a reliable co-signer agree to caution a lease. To expand, as a settler moves onto a new residential territory, they usually encounter lack of credit history. Therefore, landlords tend to request a reliable relative to co-sign the approved lease with the individual that desires to rent from them. Thus, the absence of any

reliable fellow may result in further difficulties in finding housing for immigrants and refugees. In the same range of idea, lack of credit opens the opportunity for systemic and indirect discrimination. In reality, lack of credit history in the case of newcomers has spawned the creation of a social prejudice, associating this phenomenon directly with this population and preventing them from easy access to housing once again (Émard, 2022). For instance, studies reported by Émard (2022) prove that the chances of discrimination taking place are greater when the profiles of tenants hold foreign-sounding names rather than local-sounding ones.

External factors

Finally, after having analyzed factors that are specific to each individual, it is undeniable that external factors unfavorable to social security are widespread across Canada; thus, the necessity to study their correlation with the homeless community. These external causes differ from previous ones explored in this paper as they are recognized to have an impact on all homeless individuals. This community can only suffer the consequences of these unsuitable circumstances, for the next two paragraphs will precisely explore the ones created by the lack of affordable housing and the system failures for youth and healthcare.

Lack of affordable housing

To begin with, it is a common belief that the situations of houseless people are characterized by a shortage of goods or an impossibility to access goods. Nevertheless, research demonstrates that their conditions are rather designated by a lack of rights, especially property rights (Essert, 2016). In fact, the lack of affordable housing emerges as the key factor of this research, for its components and impacts on the nationwide homeless community will be thoroughly explored. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a dwelling is

considered to be affordable when its occupants spend less than 30% of their pre-tax income on it (*The Homeless Hub*, 2021). In 2021, 10,1% of Canadian households exceeded this threshold and fell into the “core housing need” category (*Core Housing Need Rates Fall Across the Provinces and Territories, From 2016 to 2021*, 2022). Hence, this lack of low-cost housing unfolds as a predominant issue in this matter due to the magnitude of its widespread influence on all types of homeless people presented in the introduction. On one hand, the disproportionate rent prices are a major pitfall for “unsheltered” and “emergency sheltered” individuals with intention to get off the streets since it affects their hopes of such prospects. On the other hand, “provisionally accommodated” and “at risk of homelessness” people must constantly cope with the idea that they could end up on the streets at any given time as rental prices continue to rise (Kneebone & Wilkins, 2022). While interviewed, Boyer (2022) described this reality as such: “There’s a number of people who are working part-time or full-time minimum wage jobs and they [are] sort of straddling that line of poverty. And then if a person like that, who usually has no savings, no sort of buffer, if they lose their job, within a month or two, they could be out on the streets.” Nevertheless, the origins of this low-cost housing issue only appeared a few decades ago, when most of Canada’s urban centers started reducing their spendings on affordable housing or even destroying already existing units. For example, in the early 1960s, the city of Québec intended an eager project for urban renewal; hence, imposing construction sites such as the Dufferin highway one were set in motion. As identified by Gade (1998) and Hulbert (1994) such infrastructure constructions brought on substantial consequences in the services provided to the “working poor” as numerous units of housing were torn down along the process (cited in Glasser et al., 1999). Tying back to such instances, the internationally recognized Canadian homelessness expert Stephen Gaetz (2010) puts the blame for the country’s rise in homelessness on federal and provincial governments who took

a series of decisions in the 1980s, but mostly in the 1990s, that would significantly increase the nation's poverty rates. Gaetz highlighted that, at the time, "global and domestic" economic changes such as deindustrialization along with profound changes in social and housing regulations led to "growing numbers of people winding up on the streets or in emergency shelters because they lacked access to safe, affordable housing." (cited in Smith, 2022) Accordingly, an accumulation of bad shifts in Canadian social and housing policies orchestrated a national housing crisis which has a bearing on various groups (Piat et al., 2015). At the macro level, Lee et al. (2010) described this situation as the "housing squeeze" which means that there is "an excess of affordable housing demand over supply." Daily, homeless people must deal with barriers in the hope to access stable and adequate housing that could answer their financial means. Piat et al. (2015) put forward different testimonies of homeless people which enriched the reflection on the issue of affordable housing. In fact, an element that recurred in the responses was that once in the streets, a strong feeling of being in margin of the community acted as a burden for many; indeed, securing a housing seemed like a far-reaching task for one whose poverty and financial strain did not measure up to the society's norms (Piat et al., 2015). Actually, in most cases, the only type of accommodation they could afford was "substandard and undesirable" and failed to answer all three basic standards for a dwelling: adequacy, affordability, and suitability. In brief, this fence between the homeless and the access to quality low-cost housing comes across as a particularly difficult one to move past, as this population has no choice but to suffer the bearing of disadvantageous circumstances in the search for a place they could call "home".

System failure in foster care

Then, system failures are also directly associated with the broken system, one that ought to be reformed as it seems to do many things but help properly the most vulnerable go through

laborious periods. In this regard, system failures take place “when other systems of care and support fail, requiring vulnerable people to turn to the homeless sector” even though established services could have averted such a need (*The Homeless Hub*, 2021). Different angles could be addressed for this theme, ranging from the reintegration of prisoners into society to the support provided to new arrivants and people suffering from mental illnesses; however, the transition of youth from foster care and other institutions appears as a predominant factor in youth homelessness, for it will be pursued subsequently.

On one hand, as identified by Abramovich and Shelton (2017), the transition out of foster care and youth-related institutions is one of Canada’s biggest blind spots (cited in Smith, 2022). Prospective studies such as Metraux et al. (2007) and Pecora et al. (2006) have concluded that disproportionate rates of homelessness arise among young adults who experience such transition, “affecting one tenth to one-third of the alumni of these institutions.” (cited in Lee et al., 2010) Similarly, evidence by Pecore et al. (2005) suggested that “22% of children aging out of foster care become homeless within a year.” (cited in Piat et al., 2015) This statistic can be explained as follows; when young adults turn 18, governments immediately turn their backs on them, leaving them alone and empty-handed to face life’s confronting challenges. Absolutely no support is provided to them from their foster families once they come of age nor is a solid plan to which they could refer to while going through the complex period of transition to self-reliable living or other supportive care environments (Piat et al., 2015). Considering the difficulty of such a move, the conclusion of Piat et al. (2015) is no surprise: “Aging out of the foster care marked a key trajectory leading to homelessness.” Moreover, besides being left on their own and having to rely solely on themselves, young adults going through such change must often cope with painful family memories. During interviews conducted by Piat et al. (2015), many houseless persons reported the

difficulties engendered by the separation from family members or siblings, especially Aboriginal participants from Winnipeg who revealed that their families were literally torn apart by the system. To such an extent, the system has been failing youth, whether they move from group homes, the juvenile justice, or the foster care; hence, it is unsuccessful in preventing them from slipping “through the cracks of the conventional child welfare system.” Furthermore, an important nuance is brought on by Karabanow (2003) about young people who turn into runaways: “Homeless youth are ‘running away’ from problematic and traumatic environments rather than ‘running towards’ street cultures.” (cited in Karabanow & Kidd, 2014) Indeed, Hagan and McCarthy (1997) as well as MacLean et al. (1999) highlighted that drug and alcohol abuse along with criminality were found to be prevalent factors among parents with children who end up in the streets (cited in Karabanow & Kidd, 2014). Ringwalt et al. (1998) also denote that poverty is a prominent element, with a considerable percentage of these families on social assistance; this is where Canada’s justification to be unsustainable finds its most compelling argument. Instead of working hand-in-hand with households in need, governments have neglected their children, acting only in case of great danger; making them enter, in such cases, the vicious circle of foster care. Raychaba (1989) revealed that many young people talked about their child welfare settings as “unresponsive to their needs and perceived as ‘prison’ environments rather than loving and home-like structures.” (cited in Karabanow & Kidd, 2014) Hence, numerous studies such as Karabanow (2003, 2004, 2008); Kurtz, Jarvis and Kurtz (1991); van der Ploeg (1989) have associated troublesome child welfare placements as a chief factor for the entry of youth into homelessness (cited in Karabanow & Kidd, 2014).

Conclusion

To conclude, the factors leading to homelessness are numerous, as there are individual circumstances, the discrimination of vulnerable populations, as well as external factors; thus, every homeless individual goes through different situations and carry differing pasts. Firstly, this research report explored thoroughly the under themes of mental health issues and substance abuse, for they have a crucial impact on one's route to homelessness. On one hand, there is a prominence of mental illness among the homeless communities, including schizophrenia, depression, anxiety and many more. The consequences of suffering these disorders put these individuals in a more vulnerable position, as they are more inclined to experience hallucinations, isolation, and a lack of motivation, from where they sometimes have difficulty leading an adequate and healthy lifestyle. On the other hand, the frequent presence of substance abuse also impacts the community, as ones suffering from this issue concentrate all their energy and time on the obtention of alcohol and drugs. Hence, jobs are more difficult to secure as many of substance abuse's symptoms counter the qualities asked for in employees. Secondly, it was undeniably proved that individuals belonging to certain groups of population are increasingly prone to face homelessness compared to others. For instance, Indigenous individuals are said to be further disposed to experience any form of homelessness in their lifetimes by virtue of discrimination and conditions among these communities stemming from colonization such as cultural disintegration. In addition, the population that consists of immigrants and refugees demonstrates to be jeopardized in this sense as their resources are limited because of their conditions. Thirdly, outer factors have been argued to have a direct correlation in pathways to homelessness, as the Canadian system has shown unreliability for homeless people in specific instances: the access to affordable housing and the transition from foster care. On one hand, many barriers fall in the way of people wanting to secure

low-cost housing as controversial decisions have been taken by governments in the past, knocking down crucial housing units along the way, and the increased rental costs significantly slow down the homeless in their efforts. On the other hand, the governments have also proven themselves to be unqualified in ensuring that young adults age out of foster care, group homes or the juvenile system properly and safely, as illustrated by the statistics of youth homelessness. Finally, this study has large implications as it suggests that all factors leading to homelessness should be acknowledged and that the political institutions should establish effective policies to help Canadians who struggle with homelessness. Besides, Boyer (2022) claimed that municipal, provincial, and federal governments need to come together to discuss possible solutions and put them in place. Boyer insisted that if politicians keep on acting alone, progress will hardly be achieved, hence the necessity to invest in a communal matter. For example, it is not appropriate that Montreal homeless organizations only receive “little funding from the ministry of health and social services compared to some health programs.” (Fleury et al., 2014) Further literature on homelessness could look into what kind of impact is brought by the creation of facilities solely reserved for vulnerable homeless populations, such as the non-profit organization “Résilience” in Montréal.

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