Homeless teens/children

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“Imagine what it's like to be 15 years old and wonder where your next meal will come from or where you're going to sleep, or walking the streets alone in the dark and the cold, never seeing a friendly face and always wondering when – not if – you're going to be abused and terrorized again”

Mental health in teens/children

~Teens and children face many mental health issues due to how critical social and emotional development is at that age

~Homeless issues amongst youth is also caused by neglectful and abusive families (Runaways)

~Homeless youth also have less access to mental health resources

- Mental health issues include..
  - Depression, anxiety, aggression, substance abuse (in teens)
  - If not treated it will last a lifetime
- Mental health caused by schooling
  - caused by how they think other peers look at them

MORE THAN
2/3

Financial stress on teens

Homeless teens and families. Yeah I know that’s what I supposed to be typing to you about. It’s amazing to me the number of homeless families and what they go through. And the question is how do teens suffer financially from being homeless? That’s kind of an obvious question to me because they are homeless and when you are homeless you tend to have no money. It hits hard for teens because they have no money and as a college student I can somewhat know their pain and understand them. I'd say the hardest part is finding a job and then keeping that job for homeless teens and trying not to spend their money on a lot of things right away because they're homeless and they're going to need a lot of things. The most common way teens become homeless is mostly if their parents who they lost their job can't pay for like insurance or their medical bills or something and they're in debt. According to the National Alliance to end homelessness “Almost 60,000 families with children (57,971) are homeless on any given night in the United States, according to the 2017 federal Point-in-Time count. Nationally, that means 7.4 out of every 10,000 families are homeless. But family homelessness is not experienced equally across all states.” I took that from their website.

Physical Health in teens/children

Homelessness in children can lead to poor health, lack of education and sometimes children being taken away.

- Poor health
  - Malnutrition
  - Exposure to environmental toxins
  - Chronic illnesses
  - Less likely to have adequate health and dental care
- Poor Education
  - 97% of homeless children move throughout the school year, making learning hard
  - Twice as likely to have a learning disability, repeat a grade, or be suspended
- Statistics
  - 22% of homeless children are taken from their families
  - 2.5 million children are homeless each year in America. 1 in every 30 children are homeless

Social life for teens

- A 2002 report shows that 21-41% of teens have been sexually assaulted compared to 1-3% of the general youth population.
- 2.3% of homeless youth under the age of 25 have HIV.
- Lack of transportation, guardianship, not meeting residency requirements, and school attendance policies cause homeless teens to denied from schools. Not having access to an education affects their ability to live independently. They will not know how to support themselves emotionally and financially. Teens will develop learning and communication problems.

Resources: Freedom House

- Offers a wide range of help to single or married people with children
- They provide..
  - Housing
  - Food
  - Essentials needed to live
- They have many rules and expectations for people to follow
  - they must be seeking a job
  - must be paying off debts
  - must help clean
  - must be respectful to other families
- Provides free mental and physical healthcare
- Help families live in apartments and furnish their homes.