



Homelessness: The Pandemic Before *COVID-19*

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What is SARS-CoV-2?

- SARS 2003
- COVID-19 is a disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
- SARS-CoV-2 can cause serious illness and even death
- COVID-19 is an easily spread disease in 2020



SARS-CoV-2 statistics

**+10.5 M
COVID CASES
IN UNITED
STATES**

Reported since
January 21, 2020.

**242K
DEATHS IN
UNITED
STATES**

Caused by COVID-19
virus.
As of November 12,
2020*

**94%
DEATHS HAD
CONDITIONS**

As of Aug. 31, 2020*.
Many deaths also had
preexisting
contributing
conditions.

**+100K
NEW CASES
REPORTED**

Reported each day
as of November 12,
2020.



America's Issue With Homelessness

Homelessness is defined as living in housing that is below the minimum standard or lacks secure tenure.

- Emerged as an issue in the U.S. in the 1870s
- “New Homelessness” came about in the 1950s-- “Urban Renewal”
- 567, 715 American's facing homelessness as of 2019

And COVID-19 has only added fuel to the fire that is homelessness.

***National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
Medicine. 2018***

National Alliance 2020 End



Everyone

- Cannot self-quarantine, social isolate.
- Fewer resources to shelters.
- Hard to maintain clean and safe hygiene.



Existing Health Issues

- Pre-existing health problems: Physical and Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Trimorbidity Conditions.
- Less access to medications needed.



Aging

- Ages faster and experience geriatric conditions earlier than the average elder.
- ~107,194 individuals >45 living unsheltered on a single night in 2019.

Who is at risk?



A CASE
STUDY:
**PHILADELPHIA'S
ONGOING
EPIDEMIC**



Philadelphia's Epidemic

Homelessness in Philadelphia
prior to 2020 and COVID-19

Philadelphia is one of America's cities that faces a large influx of homelessness. This rise has a number of different causes, many very specific to Philadelphia.

- Gentrification and Construction
- Lack of resources and governmental support
- Homeless outreach
- 47,000 on waiting list for public housing

Philadelphia's homeless outreach engages street homeless individuals on a daily basis to offer hope, resources and opportunities, such as emergency shelter, treatment options for mental health and substance use disorders, medical services, and more. COVID-19 prevents a large amount of outreach from continuing.

Rosalind Pichardo

Introduction





What gaged you to begin focusing on social issues such as homelessness and justice reformation in the Philadelphia area? Was there a specific event that did this?





~52,723

Total COVID-19 Cases in Philadelphia

1,935

Total Deaths in Philadelphia

~1,200+

New Cases Each Day

As of November 12, 2020

Over the years, how have you seen the homelessness epidemic in Philadelphia change? Has it changed for the better or worse? Have you seen any changes since COVID-19 hit?





What demographic of the homeless population do you feel is most prominent?
Have you seen any changes since COVID-19 hit?





What did Philadelphia
do to support its
most vulnerable
population?

And how did it come
about?

TENT

CITY:

Encampments for those in need, but the government despises

- Encampments in Center City and North Philadelphia.
- Housed almost 150 homeless people.
- Organized by Jennifer Bennetch
- Appeared in June 2020, government officials pushed for them to be evicted frequently.
- On October 14, 2020 a compromise was met







The

Breakthrough

The city's protesters were relentless but in exchange for removing the large encampments, the city promised to provide 50 houses within six months, and two tiny-house villages by June 30.

More information has not been released, but not many homeless people will be able to take advantage of this

WHYY, 20

The Philadelphia Inquire

Do you believe the encampments on
the Ben Franklin Parkway and Centery
City been useful to managing
homelessness?





What are your opinions on the recent compromise made between encampment organizers and the city's housing organizations? Do you think any of the groups you work with will reap the benefits of this compromise?





Have any local laws/regulations made your work you've committed to doing easier or harder?



What Can We

Do? How to get involved in making a safer space for those in need:

- Get involved locally
- Donate and volunteer
 - The Housing Equity Framework
 - Project HOME
- Create discourse, educate your peers, do the work!
 - Push for housing reformation on a governmental scale





A few suggestions on how we can help during COVID-19, from an active outreach worker.



Rosalind Pichardo Contact Information





Thank You!

**DONATE. VOLUNTEER. CREATE THE
CONVERSATION.**

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