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STREET SHEET is currently recruiting vendors to sell the newspaper around San Francisco.

Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for $2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money you make from sales! Sign up to earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 280 TURK ST FROM 10-4 ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10-NOON ON FRIDAY

BECOME A VENDOR
MAKE MONEY AND HELP END HOMELESSNESS:
The survey comes as local policymakers move to keep homeless people off the streets. That’s according to a new study of UC San Francisco that provides the most comprehensive look yet at California’s homelessness crisis.

In the six months prior to becoming homeless, the Californians surveyed were making a median income of just $960 a month. The median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California is nearly three times that, according to Zillow. And though survey participants listed a myriad of reasons why they lost their homes, more people cited a loss of, or reduction in, income than anything else.

The study’s authors say the findings highlight the idea that money, more than addiction, mental health, poor decisions or other factors, is the main cause of— and potential solution to— homelessness.

“I think it’s really important to note how desperately poor people are, and how much it is their poverty and the high housing costs that are leading to this crisis,” said Marisa Kendall, a physician who directs the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, which conducted the study.

Already the study—which the authors say is the most comprehensive look yet at California’s homelessness crisis— has highlighted the idea that money, more than addiction, mental health, poor decisions or other factors, is the main cause of— and potential solution to— homelessness.

The study’s authors say the findings highlight the idea that money, more than addiction, mental health, poor decisions or other factors, is the main cause of— and potential solution to— homelessness.

Losing income is the No. 1 reason Californians end up homeless—and the vast majority of them say a subsidy of as little as $300 a month could have kept them off the streets. Newsom has been more successful at addressing the health and housing needs of Californian’s and has been recognized by his administration.

The UCSF team surveyed 5,198 unhoused adults throughout California between October 2021 and November 2022, and conducted in-depth interviews with 365 of those participants.

WHAT DRIVES CALIFORNIA’S HOMELESS CRISIS?

When asked why they left their last home, respondents cited conflict between roommates, not wanting to impose on the person or people they were living with, domestic violence, illness and breakups.

A loss of or reduction in income was the most common response, with 12% of people saying that’s what caused their homelessness. Just 4% blamed their own substance use or drinking.

All of those varied factors that led people to lose their homes often have underlying roots in economic instability, said Jennifer Wolch, a professor emerita at UC Berkeley specializing in homelessness.

"This lack of income and severe living poverty and housing precarity, it has spillover effects on people's relationships, their use of alcohol and other kinds of problematic substances," she said. “It impinges on their health status.”

The story told by one survey participant, identified as Carlos, shows how someone can gradually descend into homelessness. He had to stop working after falling off a ladder and injuring his spine, but wasn’t eligible for workers’ compensation because he had been paid in cash. Unable to afford his rent, he moved out of his apartment and rented a room in a new place. He soon left home due to conflicts with his roommates.

He then briefly lived with his sister’s family, until they faced COVID-related job loss and he moved out to avoid becoming a burden. He lived in his truck until it was towed due to unpaid parking tickets. Now, he lives on the streets.

The survey comes as local governments press Gov. Gavin Newsom to distribute ongoing funding to fight homelessness, arguing the one-time grants he has doled out so far don’t allow them to make lasting progress. Newsom has resisted that kind of multi-year commitment, although he has administered a One-Time Grant totaling nearly $21 billion toward homelessness and housing since he took office. The UCSF team surveyed 5,198 unhoused adults throughout California between October 2021 and November 2022, and conducted in-depth interviews with 365 of those participants.

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NEW STUDY FINDS LOSING INCOME IS THE NO. 1 REASON CALIFORNIANS END UP HOMELESS

in an encampment in a park.

Most of the homeless Californians surveyed said a relatively small amount of cash would have saved them from the street. Seventy percent said a monthly rental subsidy of $300-$500 would have kept them from becoming homeless, while 82% believed a one-time payment of between $5,000 and $10,000 would have worked.

Jennifer Loving, CEO of Santa Clara County nonprofit Destination: Home, hopes the study’s findings will help debunk what she says is a common myth that people are homeless because of their individual failings, rather than because rents are outpacing wages. She’d like to see California’s leaders take notice. “Hopefully it will inform a statewide strategy,” she said, “because we need a statewide strategy to be able to manage how we are addressing homelessness.”

ANOTHER CALIFORNIA HOMELESS MYTH

Another myth the study attempts to dispel is that most homeless people flock to California cities because of warm weather, liberal policies and generous services. In reality, 90% of the people surveyed said they were here for a relatively small number of reasons, including welfare, a place to live, better healthcare, a job, or to be near family.

“People who are homeless are your neighbors,” she said. “People who are homeless live in the same city that you do and they possibly have lived there longer than you have.”

The survey painted a bleak picture of the traumas and tragedies that made survey participants more vulnerable to ending up on the street. People reported growing up in depressed communities, with few job opportunities, where they experienced exploitation and discrimination. Nearly three-quarters said they had experienced physical violence during their lives, and one-quarter had experienced sexual violence.

In one in three people surveyed attempted suicide at some point.

Mental health and addiction also were a common undercurrent in the lives of many of the unhoused people surveyed, which is to be expected in a population that has suffered so much trauma, according to the researchers. Two-thirds of people reported experiencing mental health symptoms – including depression, anxiety or hallucinations – in the past 30 days. Homelessness and all it entails, including lack of sleep, violence and difficulty accessing medication, exacerbated their symptoms, many people said.

About one-third of people reported using drugs three or more times a week – mostly methamphetamines. And 1 in 5 people who reported regular drug or heavy alcohol use said they wanted addiction treatment but couldn’t get it.

JAIL TO HOMELESSNESS PIPELINE

The study also emphasizes the relationship between incarceration and homelessness, said Alex Visotzky, senior California Policy Fellow for the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

More than three-quarters of people surveyed had been incarcerated at some point during their life. And in the six months before becoming homeless, 43% were in jail or prison, or were on probation or parole. The vast majority of those who had been incarcerated received no help signing up for housing, healthcare or benefits upon release.

“That drove home for me this point: Incarceration, homelessness and then subsequent criminalization are fueling a really vicious cycle for marginalized people, especially Black and Latino Californians, that’s both causing and prolonging homelessness,” Visotzky said.

I think it’s really important to note how desperately poor people are, and how much it is their poverty and the high housing costs that are leading to this crisis,” said Margot Kushel, a physician who directs the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, which conducted the study.

We don’t have enough housing for poor folks

To solve the homelessness crisis, the main problem California needs to address is the lack of housing that’s affordable for extremely low-income residents, according to the researchers. The state has just 24 affordable and available homes for every 100 extremely low-income households, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Among the solutions the researchers proposed: expanding vouchers that use federal, state and local dollars to subsidize people’s rent. They also suggested piloting shared housing programs where multiple households live together and split costs, while also providing funds to help people remain with or move in with family or friends.

Kushel hopes the study helps drive public support for these ideas, which in turn will spur politicians to act.

“I hope that it really focuses our efforts on housing, which is the only way out of homelessness,” Kushel said. “It’s almost so obvious it’s hard to speak about. We don’t have enough housing for poor folks.”

This story was originally published in CalMatters. CalMatters.org is an nonprofit, nonpartisan media venture explaining California policies and politics.

Incarceration is a common factor

The stats point to a need for better support for people getting out of jail and prison, according to the researchers.

% of people had been incarcerated at some point during their life

% entered homelessness directly after being released from jail or prison

% spent time in jail in the six months prior to becoming homeless (% were on probation, % spent time in prison and % were on parole)

% of people leaving jail and % of people leaving prison received help finding housing

% of people were homeless at some point during their current episode of homelessness

Addiction, mental health conditions are common

1 in 5 of those who reported regular drug or heavy alcohol use said they wanted addiction treatment but couldn’t get it.

Any substance 1+ times a week 25%

Amphetamine 1+ times a week 15%

Cocaine 1+ times a week 10%

Opioids 1+ times a week 10%

% of people reported experiencing mental health symptoms, only 38% said they had received counseling or medications in the past 30 days.

% of people reported problems remembering, concentrating or understanding 10%

% hallucinations 10%
Joel died on or around April 20, 2022 in a gutter in San Rafael. I received the news, like most everyone from our encampment in Sausalito, around noon while about a quarter of our camp attended a court ordered settlement conference with the City of Sausalito. Joel was 24 years old, with a big goofy grin. The last time I saw him, he was catching a pigeon in the center of the city-operated camp in Sausalito. Joel had a child who lived up north. About two months prior, he had left his campsite to visit them. While he was away, the City of Sausalito stole his tent and belongings. When he returned, they refused to allow him back in the camp under orders of the City. City officials were not allowing anyone to return as they sought to eradicate the camp by attrition.

Joel had been in and out of drug treatment, going between addiction and recovery. He had numerous overdoses at the camp, from which people at the camp would revive him. People looked out for him. When he left, he had no one to look at for him. So on 4/20, when he took too much in celebration of that notorious holiday, there was no one to call the ambulance or administer Narcan. He stopped breathing there, dead at 24, in San Rafael where he moved involuntarily. Joel's story happens all across the world. Involuntary displacement of people who don’t have housing is a leading contributor to overdose deaths.

A recent study at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus showed long-term health effects of involuntary displacement of people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs, using data from 23 U.S. cities. The model suggests encampment sweeps, bans and move-along orders could contribute from 15 to 25% of deaths among the unsheltered population over 10 years.

Other dangers shown in other studies show that former encampment residents experienced a 28% rise in arrests and a 35% increase in risk of physical assault after an encampment sweep.

Everyone wept in the middle of the settlement meeting. “You are fucking killing us,” someone accused the City leaders in attendance. The meeting adjourned early.

We were in the settlement meeting for a series of restraining orders our folks at the camp won against the City of Sausalito that had been issued shortly after Joel had been evicted. Those restraining orders stopped the eviction of people from our camp—and poor Joel was just unlucky that we hadn’t figured out how to do these mini-restraining orders sooner.

We didn’t have the knowledge back then—but if we had, we would have likely been able to get a restraining order to allow Joel to get back into the camp. Then he wouldn’t have OD’d—someone would have been able to call the ambulance and administer the Narcan. The eviction caused him to be in a more dangerous situation. When he died, no one was around to catch him. Because of that, he died. While the drugs caused his body to shut down, the reason no one was around to revive him was because of a state-created danger.

Reprinted from Poor News Network/poormagazine.org
Know your rights and resources when it comes to an eviction

1.) NOTICE

A written notice is the first step in an eviction. Usually comes with scary, stern language "You must leave in 3 days". You do not need to move yet.

2.) UNLAWFUL DETAINER

After the notice has expired, your landlord must go to court and file an "unlawful detainer" to continue with the eviction. If you receive court documents, call EDC: (415) 659-9184

3.) SHERIFF'S NOTICE

After a tenant has lost their court case and has not left, the Sheriff will come and physically remove a tenant from their home. They will give a 1 week-notice.

Notice Stage
What does it mean?

- The first stage in an eviction case should be a written notice
- Notices have really stern, scary language
  - "After x amount of days you need to leave"
  - "You don't need to move yet"
- If you can cure the issue before the notice expires, there can be no eviction
- If you are having issues with your landlord, questions about your rights, please call Tenant Counselling Organizations to the right
- To proceed with an eviction, the landlord has to go to court and file an Unlawful Detainer

Tenant Counselling Organizations:
- HOUSING RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF SAN FRANCISCO:
  - Mission Office M-Th 1-5pm: (415) 703-8644
  - Westside Office M, W 9am-12pm: (415) 947-9085
  - http://hrccsf.org/
- SAN FRANCISCO TENANTS UNION:
  - (415) 282-6622
  - https://www.sftu.org/schedule
- CAUSA JUSTA:: JUST CAUSE
  - Monday & Friday 1-5pm
  - (415) 487-9203
  - https://www.cjjc.org/
- Mission SRO Collaborative
  - (415) 282-6209
  - https://www.dscs.org/

Unlawful Detainer
Who can help me in court?

- After a written notice expires, court documents may be served to you in 3 different ways:
  - Personal service: a tenant is handed documents
  - Substitute service: another responsible adult is handed documents, and mailed to the tenant
  - Posted on door and mailed
- A tenant could have as little as 5 days to file a response with the court
- If a tenant doesn't file a response in time, they will lose their case by default

If you are a tenant in San Francisco and have been served with an Unlawful Detainer, contact the Eviction Defense Collaborative (415) 659-9184 or legal@evictiondefense.org

Sheriff's Notice

- After a tenant has lost their court case, the next documents they will likely receive will be a 1 week's Sheriff's notice posted on their door.
  - In San Francisco, the Sheriff comes on Wednesdays.
  - Tenants can ask the court to let them stay in their home for an additional week.
  - Eviction Defense Collaborative helps with this application.
  - The court generally requires the tenants to pay one week's rent

If you are being evicted from your home, please call or email our legal assistance line
(415) 659-9184
legal@evictiondefense.org

Limited drop-in hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00am-11:30am, 1:00pm-2:30pm
976 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Now, they've analyzed it. Electrician's toolkit won't work for simplistic and inaccurate. You use it to be mean and tough: a deterrent. Preaching kindness. You are expected to be a Zen Buddhist in jail psychotic. I was psychotic while jailed. There is something to be said for having your car break down and getting you some podunk from Ohio or Michigan. I was out of work while I during the job, I was spurred on. I was not afraid to compete, that could be one of the things I could do. But if a disturbance or a difficulty shuts it down, and you are pulled back into autopilot with very little intervention. The job entailed working alone for 12 hours a day in very rough areas. I was the night janitor, washing floors in the East Bay. I had emotional pain, and I could feel it. Sometimes I would sit in my car, and I would feel it in my body. I could work and meditate while I worked; my body could do the job on autopilot with very little intervention from my thought processes. When I began the job, I was troubled. I had emotional pain, and I could feel it. My body was very physical. I was detoxing from antipsychotics. Additionally, I’d just had some very rough, anti. I was reading books on Buddhism and on mindfulness. I wanted to cure my psychotic condition through meditation. It almost might have worked. In fact, it wouldn’t have worked—just almost. My brain wasn’t going for it. In fact, it wouldn’t have worked for me. It was psychotic while jailed. You're not enlightened. You've become a doormat. If you live in the modern world, it isn't always workable to be kind. When I was 18, I was jailed briefly because of a psychotic break. I was psychotic while jailed. You can't be a Zen Buddhist in jail preaching kindness. You are expected to be mean and tough. Everyone there knows it is just a trick, and everyone knows that most are suffering there and want to work. I was delusional. I didn't want to go to the hospital. In 1984, I needed some time to let my developing brain get some exercise while not being medicated. I needed to be medicated. When I relapsed in 1990 and in 1996, I was worse off, so I had to take better off, from stopping medication. As a developed adult not too far from 50 with a psychiatric condition, I find myself scrambling to learn better survival skills. This could seem like an unusual thing for someone my age to be doing. Yet, I'm partly choosing this because I had to live in a group home or institution, it would be better miserable; I would have no choice. My situation was so unlivable. This is not an invitation to deal with things. Some of them are on very basic levels. You can't reliably be enlightened before you have survival dealt with. You could open your eyes while addicted. I was able to use my body to do physical work; medication would probably help. Depression isn't perfect. I couldn't permanently deter with antipsychotics, and the time I spent off of them made a big difference. On antipsychotics I couldn't function. I could not work. I could not think, I could not meditate, and I could not write. At that young age, my antipsychotics were a huge impairment.
HOW STREET PAPERS AND STREET SOCCER GO TOGETHER AT THE 2023 HOMELESS WORLD CUP IN SACRAMENTO

Tony Ingls

With the 2023 Homeless World Cup set to play in Sacramento, Califor-
nia from July 8 to 15, the International Network of Street Papers is celebrat-
ing the connection between street papers and street soccer. Street papers in seven countries—Argentina, Australia, Austria, China, Greece, Portugal, and Switzerland—either have street soccer projects connected to their work or are part of the same parent organisa-
tion. In some cases, a street paper was born out of a street soccer team, or vice versa. Let’s learn more.

The Homeless World Cup returns in July for the first time in four years and 20 years since the first turn-
toment took place. That it will take place in California is apt: The state has been dealing with an ever wors-
ening and complex homelessness crisis.

California has a strong history of homelessness advocacy, and the presence of street papers there epitomises this. Following the attacks on San Francisco’s Street Sheet and Berkeley’s Street Spirit are two of the world’s longest running street papers. And Sacra-
mento, the city that will host this year’s Homeless World Cup, is home to two street papers: Homeword Street Journal.

The Homeless World Cup and the International Network of Street Papers has a long history. Both were established in the 1980s, around the time of the “street soccer” movement. And while, others, like CAIS in Portugal, are simply part of the programme of social justice or-
nisations.

While not all of them will be repre-
sented at the forthcoming turnamen-
t, the Homeless World Cup in Sacra-
mento, the site of this year’s turnamen-
t, will bring together players from around the world to talk about the work they do and their impact.

ARGENTINA

The Argentinian street soccer team started as a sports workshop for vendors of the street paper Hecho en Bs. As. in 2005, before becoming its own entity. It has since been around for four years later, but both are still working closely together.

“It meant we could share the project with other NGO’s and football clubs. The
other NGOs and people in public office work-
ing with the Urban League of Buenos Aires,” says Sergio J. Rotman, the project’s direc-
tor.

The project ran a monthly one-day turnamen-
t alongside workshops for participants in work, health, housing, circle breaking, and more. This has even branch out to other sports, like running and field hockey, and new form teams. And what started as a hockey team where 50 trans women have found a space to play and fight for respect.

Back on the street soccer front: “The [group] have dreams, maybe the same dreams as Lionel Messi and his teammates had at Qatar 2022,” says Rotman.

One such player is Pedro. “He had a child at a young age, so needed to work and load trucks, then he dedicated himself to street soccer, and later to study to become a physical trainer. He ignored bad influences that might encourage him to be violent and turn his life around.”

Pedro is now helping coach the cur-
cornt cohort of players ahead of the Surprise Street Soccer tournament. The project is leading a group of great people enjoying playing soccer,” says Rotman. “This is the real spirit of street soccer.

AUSTRALIA

George Halkias started the Commu-
nity Street Soccer Program in 2004 with a couple of soccer balls behind the former-city Magazine publishing head

quater
estate alongside the then-editor of The Big Issue Australia, Martin Mel Young, and that connection has lived on thanks to the collaboration of street papers and street soccer projects. In seven countries, there are around 1,500 street paper vendors and street soccer teams. Some street soc-
cer projects have been born out of street papers and vice versa, due to the similar values and mission inherent in both endeavours—namely to give marginalized people, and those ex-
periencing homelessness, poverty and other social disadvantages, a renewed sense of purpose. While others, like CAIS in Portugal, are simply part of the programme of social justice or-
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CONTRIBUTE TO STREET SHEET

WRITING: We are always looking for new writers to help us spread the word on the street! Write about your experience of homelessness in San Francisco, about policies you think the City should put in place or change, your opinion on local issues, or about something newsworthy happening in your neighborhood!

ARTWORK: Help transform ART into ACTION by designing artwork for STREET SHEET! We especially love art that uplifts homeless people, celebrates the power of community organizing, or calls out abuses of power! Cover dimensions are generally 10x13 but artwork of all sizes are welcome and appreciated!

PHOTOGRAPHY: Have a keen eye for beauty? Love capturing powerful moments at events? Have a photo of a Street Sheet vendor you’d like to share? We would love to run your photos in Street Sheet! Note that subjects must have consented to being photographed to be included in this paper.

VISIT WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/ OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO 280 TURK STREET TO BE CONSIDERED PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY OFFER PAYMENT, ASK FOR DETAILS!