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Student Homelessness: Examining the Problem

Elena Gavin

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Student Homelessness

Examining the Problem

Elena Gavin
Seton Hall University

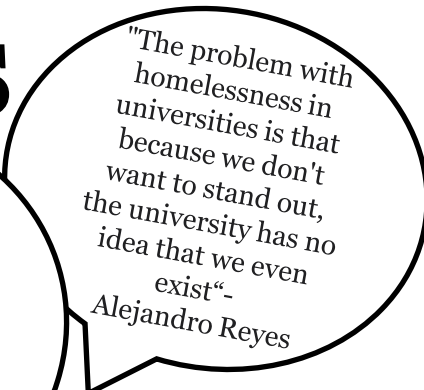
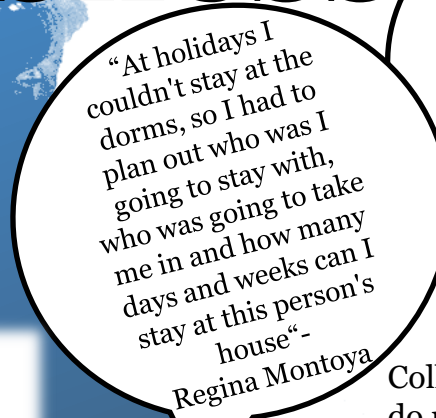


Regina Montoya, a senior at California State University, Sacramento, struggled with housing insecurity when she started college.

Questions

- ❑ How many students are impacted?
- ❑ What are we NOT doing?
- ❑ What programs are currently in place to help?
- ❑ What more can we do as a society to eliminate it?

- UCLA has an on-campus food pantry where students can pick up items for free – no questions asked.
- College and University Food Bank Alliance supports existing and emerging campus food banks and pantries.



Issue

Colleges and universities do not come with built-in social service centers to assist homeless students and their families.

Recommendations

- ❑ Focus on outreach efforts to inform homeless students and their families of their rights.
- ❑ Actively connect homeless students to outside supports.

Barriers to Finishing

Their Degree

- ❑ Securing year-round housing.
- ❑ Gaining a job to supplement financial aid packages.
- ❑ Finding reliable transportation.
- ❑ Receiving academic support.

- ❑ An estimated 56,000 college students nationwide are homeless.
- ❑ More than a third of college students don't always have enough to eat and they lack stable housing.
- ❑ 36 percent of college students say they are food insecure. Another 36 percent say they are housing insecure, while 9 percent report being homeless.

"It really undermines their ability to do well in school. Their grades suffer, their test scores appear to be lower, and overall, their chances of graduating are slimmer. They can barely escape their conditions of poverty long enough to complete their degrees."

- Sara Goldrick-Rab, professor of higher-education policy at Temple University



Preston Roberson-Charles, a student at LaGuardia Community College who was homeless for two years.



Alejandro Reyes, a 23-year-old UCLA student who was homeless and living out of his car.