



WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HOMELESS RIGHT NOW?

IT'S THE RENT

A person needs to make \$41k per year to afford a studio apartment in Clark County



Rents increased at a higher rate than wages. Rents have increased because supply did not keep up with demand-21% increase in population vs. 17% increase in housing units
Average rent for 1 bedroom apartment in Clark County is \$1,400/month in 2017, up about \$400/month since 2014.

EMPLOYMENT

Why don't they go get a job?



Percentage of population employed in WA is increasing, household income is increasing, but not enough. In fact, more than 40% of people experiencing homelessness have a job, many have more than one.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Isn't everyone who is homeless addicted to drugs or mentally ill?



People who are housed have the same rate of addiction as those who are un-housed. The difference is that people who are un-housed have run out of personal safety nets. Alcohol use disorder in WA has declined, and illicit drug use in WA has remained stable, with only opioid use on the rise.

HOW TO HELP



Encourage kindness to people living outside; dispel myths, provide information
Volunteer at a Winter Weather Shelter : www.councilforthehomeless.org/winter-shelter-volunteering
Donate to CFTH or another agency to support solutions that end homelessness
Encourage those needing assistance to call the Housing Hotline: 360-695-9677