

Homelessness in Chattanooga, Tennessee Digitalized Text

Megan Pool

ENGL 3134 R50

Module 4 Assignment

Dr. Michael Briggs

October 30, 2022

Homelessness in Chattanooga

As you walk, drive, or ride through the streets of Chattanooga, Tennessee, you will see numerous people facing homelessness. There are currently thousands of homeless men, women, children, and families who do not have a permanent address.



"Over 4,000 individuals experience homelessness each year in Chattanooga, with over 1,000 homeless children in public schools. Each night, an estimated 600-700 individuals sleep outside or in shelters, with nearly 200 of them in families" (*Facts about homelessness*).

Issues Faced in the Homeless Community

Environmental Issues

The most pressing issue homeless people face is that they "are more exposed to environmental stresses and threats than are people with homes, and about half of the adults who are homeless have substance use disorders, major depression, and other co-occurring mental illness" (McKenzie & Pinger, 2014, p. 215).

Difficult Decisions

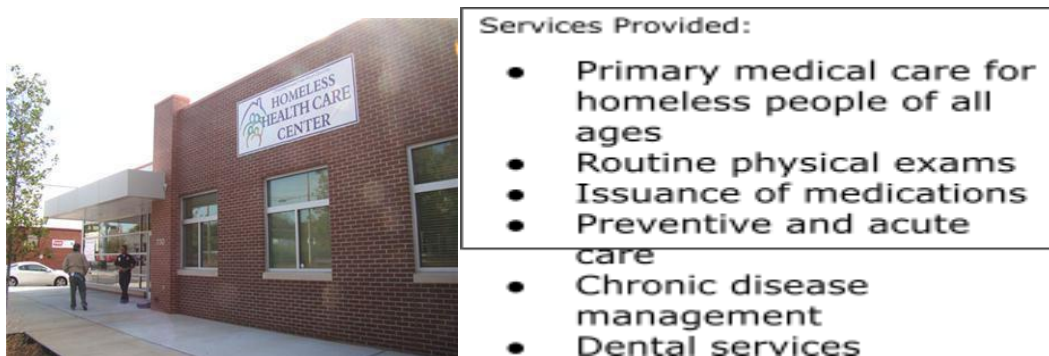
People facing homelessness must choose what they deem essential which often does not include many personal hygiene items, but rather the necessities to get them through each day and night. While only a few problems are emphasized here, there are many other problems homeless people encounter as well.

Heath Promotion Strategies

Access to Health Services and Centers

Health promotion strategies such as access to health care centers, wellness checks, medical services, the community kitchen, shelters, and transportation are already in place in the community. The major health care center for homeless people in Chattanooga is the

[Homeless Health Care Center \(hamiltontn.org\)](http://hamiltontn.org)



There are many current health promotion strategies for homeless people and a major contributor to their access to health care in the community is the Homeless Health Care Center. This organization is one of the health promotion strategies already in place in the community and has a huge impact on the homeless community.

[Homeless Assistance in Chattanooga, TN - Chatt Foundation](http://chattfoundation.org),

located just across the street from the health center, is yet another health promotion strategy which houses the following:

Community Kitchen

Clothing Services

Employment



Resources for the Homeless Community

Importance of Education

The most important resource is education. “Many people seem to believe homelessness can be stereotyped into the panhandler, the beggar, the bum” but more often than not it is simply not the case (*Facts about homelessness*). Homelessness is often caused by uncontrolled circumstances, and it can happen to anyone.

Transportations Role

Another resource that can be improved within the community is the transportation. Chattanooga has the CARTA transportation system, [Home | CARTA | Chattanooga's Ride \(gocarta.org\)](#), as a cost-effective way to get around town.

Because not everyone will have internet access for the CARTA website, Chattanooga needs to take this already useful system and increase the awareness and use of it by having more signs and brochures to include:

- where the bus stops are located
- how often busses run
- where the busses go



As people become more educated on the issues of homeless people

and what is needed of the community to improve the issues, bigger changes can start to occur.

Resources

Facts about homelessness. Chattanooga Community Kitchen. Retrieved November 17, 2021,

from

<https://www.homelesschattanooga.org/facts-about-homelessness>

Homeless Health Care Center. Health.hamiltontn.org. Retrieved November 17, 2021, from

<http://health.hamiltontn.org/AllServices/HealthCenterLocations/HomelessHealthcareCenter.aspx>

Chattanooga Community Kitchen. Chattanooga Community Kitchen. Retrieved November 17,

2021, from

<https://www.homelesschattanooga.org/>

McKenzie, J., & Pinger, R. (2014). *An Introduction to Community Health* (Brief Edition, p. 215)

[Review of *An Introduction to Community Health*]. William Brottmiller.

Who We Are | CARTA | Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority CARTA.

Www.gocarta.org. <https://www.gocarta.org/about/who-we-are/>