

6 URBAN MYTHS ABOUT HOUSING BUSTED

1

“Street camping is responsible for all the trash we see on the city streets”

Two-thirds (2/3) of all illegal waste clean up by Metro came from businesses or people living in homes who have garbage service

-Metro Dashboard

“The increase in homelessness is due to drug use and mental illness”

Only 17% of people experiencing homelessness report having a serious mental illness, and only 15% report having a substance use disorder. The rates are higher for those living unsheltered, but studies show that the lack of affordable housing, and poor access to it is the leading factor. Housing helps improve recovery rates for both substance disorders and mental health

– 2020 U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development report

2

“No one’s doing anything to end homelessness”

In Multnomah County alone, 11,000 people that were previously homeless were placed in permanent housing from July 2020 thru June, 2021. Nearly 27,000 people at risk of homelessness were kept in their homes

– A Home for Everyone 2021 Q4 Report

“There’s more than enough room for people to sleep in shelter instead of on the streets”

There are only enough year round shelter emergency beds to serve fewer than half of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Oregon

– Technical Assistance Collaborative Report 2019

4

“People of color are less likely to experience homelessness”

5

Native Americans are five times more likely, and African Americans are twice as likely to experience homelessness

– Multnomah County’s 2019 Point in Time Count

“People choose to sleep on the streets, they could go to a shelter”

A congregate shelter does not work for everyone. There are very limited shelter options for families as they may not want to be divided as a family. Couples may not want to split up, those identifying as transgender may not be allowed to access shelter if their gender does not match their ID. Those with companion pets may not want to separate from their pets. BIPOC communities may not feel safe and/or supported in some shelter settings

– A Home for Everyone 2021 Q4 Report

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