The Socioeconomic and Cultural Impact of the Homeless on the Denton, Texas Community

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My research will be conducted on the social and economic impact of the homeless population in the Denton community, and what those homeless contribute to the community.

I will do a meta-analysis in order to obtain a broad, varied, and unbiased base of literature to review. In my search, I will include both homelessness itself and governmental measures that affect it. Much of the literature I cover should also be past interviews of homeless people in order to accurately gauge the impact of homelessness on the community.

I will also conduct my research through in-person interviews. Interviews will offer current and more centralized data for my research. Statistical research within the context of the meta-analysis and interviews will be beneficial as well. By studying the statistics of homelessness and the socio-economic standing of the city, I will be able to accurately report the socio-economic impact of the homeless on that city.

Several studies suggest that the main causes of homelessness among adults are unemployment, criminal activity, foreclosure, and personal choice (Cronley, 2010; Hatchett, 2004).

Society generally has one of two responses: Ignore it or pass legislation to try to get rid of it. Most of the legislation, however, addresses only emergency situations such as medical care (Hatchett, 2010).

One study covered the cause-and-effect cycle of homeless youth, addressing in-depth concerns about prostitution, the drug trade, and other criminal activity (Flowers, 2010).

For many street youth, crime begins as a means of survival. Many are abducted or seduced into the sex trade, with both very young girls and boys targeted. Many individuals believe that “people become homeless… not because of a dysfunctional system but because of a dysfunctional self” (Cronley, 2010).

The McKinney Act assigned responsibility for the homeless to the federal government, but the system to care for the homeless today is still a mix of federal and privatized care.

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