Research for 21st Century Scholarship

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Assignment #4 – Essay

Continuation of the SR953 Research for 21st Century paper that you began for Assignment #2.

1. Write a summary for each of your resources (see Assignment #2 instructions for

specifications). Use a Level 1 heading at the beginning of each summary. Level 2

and Level 3 headings are optional.

a. Include the following for each book from Assignment #2 (A minimum of two

books (minimum of one published in the last five years) relevant to your chosen

topic.)

• a short biography of the author and his or her credentials, and

• your assessment of each book’s (a) readability, (b) presentation of the

subject, and (c) relevance to your chosen topic.

b. Include the following for each journal article from Assignment #2 (A minimum of five

primary research journal articles relevant to your chosen topic; four articles must

be less than five years old.)

• the title, year, and author(s) of the research;

• the basic categories in the literature review section;

• a brief description of the research type and methods;

• a brief description of the population being studied and how the participants were selected for the research; and

• a brief description of the findings and conclusions.

**Summary of Resources**

**1. ProQuest Database (https//www.proquest.com)**

* Handunge, V. L., White, J. J., & Castillo, E. G. (2024). Housing, homelessness, and mental health. *Psychiatric Annals, 54*(7) <https://www.proquest.com/docview/3083201096/D574B57E0564709PQ/2?accountid=40162&sourcetype=Scholarly%20Journals>

**2. Google Scholar (**[**https://scholar.google.com**](https://scholar.google.com)**)**

* Gutwinski, S., Schreiter, S., Deutscher, K., & Fazel, S. (2021). The prevalence of mental disorders among homeless people in high-income countries: An updated systematic review and meta-regression analysis. PLoS medicine, 18(8), e1003750 <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1003750>

**3. Google Books (**[**https://books.google.com**](https://books.google.com)**)**

* Allen, J. (2024). Mental illness and homelessness. United States: ReferencePoint Press, Incorporated. <https://www.google.com/books/edition/Mental_Illness_and_Homelessness/oCm00AEACAAJ?hl=en>

**4. Open Access These and Dissertations (**[**https://oatd.org**](https://oatd.org)**)**

* Rajan, P. (2023). Co-creating Mental Health services that prevent a decent into Homelessness (Doctoral Dissertation). Vrije Amsterdam. Universiteit <https://research.vu.nl/en/publications/co-creating-mental-health-services-that-prevent-a-descent-into-ho>

**Short biography of the author and his or her credentials**

Author John S. Allen (*Mental Illness and Homelessness*) is a neuroanthropologist and writer with a focus on the evolution of the human brain. His research interests include medical anthropology, molecular genetics, nutritional anthropology and the history of anthropology. Allen did his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of California, at Berkeley, majoring in Anthropology and Molecular Biology and Biological Anthropology, and post-doctoral studies at Stanford. He was faculty member at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland, New Zealand and the Department of Neurology at the University of Iowa. He is considered an excellent writer who is comfortable writing in several diverse styles. Over the years he has written over 80 scientific research articles and papers, on a wide range of topics, in collaboration with dozens of authors. Allen has coauthored several books which include : *Medical Anthropology: A Biocultural Perspective* which he authored with Andrea S. Wily; *Biological Anthropology: The Natural History of Humankind* and *Biological Anthropology* which he authored with Craig Stanford and Susan Anton. Allen also wrote several books for general audiences which include: *The Omnivorous Mind: Our Evolving Relationship with Food*; *The Lives of the Brain: Human Evolution* *and the Organ of Mind;* and *Home: How Habitat Made Us Human*. In addition to several precise technical documents, he also made effective contributions to advertising copy and poetry. Allen has lives in Kentucky, is married and has two sons.

**Assessment of the Book: *Mental Illness and Homelessness*, authored by John S. Allen.**

**Readability**

Allen’s book on Mental Illness and Homelessness is well written, easy to read and understand, and include relevant references that will take the reader in many directions as the reader tries to gain additional information on the topics covered. The book is very informative, organized and solicits response. The book draws reader to reflect on many topics covered in the research.

**Presentation of the subject**

The book packs much information between the pages with relevant statistics, references, and photographs. The information presented is organized and easily transitions from one topic to the next. The statistics and photographed images add to the reader’s understanding, provide greater insight into the research focus, and improve the reader’s clarity in assimilating the analyses, conclusions and facts.

**Relevance to chosen topic**

The book and the topics discussed in *Mental Illness and Homelessness* are very relevant to my chosen topic of “Homelessness: The different dimensions, causation and consequences.” The book delved into the challenges faced by the homeless individuals who the lack of basic necessities for healthy living. The well-intentioned efforts made to deinstitutionalize the mentally ill homeless population, without considering their practical needs, resulted in people having no place to go, and no pre-planned services and healthcare, and an increased level of suffering. The book discusses various policies and legislature that provide support to the homeless, advocacy for a Homeless Bill Rights, and the ways that mental health treatment have has expanded to include outreach programs that attempt to provide housing solutions, and initiatives such as “street psychiatry teams.”. However, other policies like “hostile architecture” promote features in public spaces that are designed to be uncomfortable for homeless individuals. The book was additive to my knowledge regarding the causes and consequences of homelessness, and highlights solutions being pursued.

**Short biography of the author and his or her credentials**

Author Marcia A. Lusted, M (*Coping with Homelessness.)* isthe published author of over 200 books and over 600 magazine articles for young readers, as well as materials for adults, including business profile articles and consumer-facing medical information and interviews. Lusted completed undergraduate studies at Bradford College, A.A., and Keene State College, B.A., and obtained secondary education certification. As an assistant editor for Cobblestone Publishing and its award-winning history magazines, she has written widely on many different historical eras. Luster is also an instructor for the Institute of Children’s Literature, and an editor of curriculum materials as well as a reviewer for several children's magazines. Lusted is a freelance writer, editor for adults, and writing instructor, as well as a musician and permaculturist. Lusted’s book titles include: Innovators: The Stories Behind the People Who Shaped the World with 25 Projects: The Great Depression: Civic Unrest; Investigate the Struggle for Social Change; and The Roaring Twenties. Lusted was born in Peterborough, NH, lives in Hancock, New Hampshire, is married and has three sons.

**Readability**

Lusted’s book on *Coping with Homelessness* is very interesting, informative and understandable. The information presented is clear, the chapters well defined with illustrations and interviews and relevant statistics. Different fonts types, font sizes and colors were used throughout the book which made reading easy, pleasurable, and drew attention to areas of emphasis.

**Presentation of the subject**

The subject is presented in an organized manner, with content tiles of Introduction, Who are Today’s Homeless, Homelessness Through History, Homelessness and Teens, Help for the Homeless, What Can Be Done, and Moving Beyond Homelessness. Statistical information and the photos presented in the book provided balance in the approach to the subject, which help to reinforce and provide evidence in support of the research.

**Relevance to chosen topic**

The book and the topics discussed in *Coping with Homelessness* are very relevant to my chosen topic of “Homelessness: The different dimensions, causation and consequences.” The book branched on the factors contributing to homelessness from the perspective of homeless individuals and also from the author. Informative statistical information from the United Sates Department Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Health and Human Services; photographs and transcribed interviews and stories from homeless individuals were also shared and discussed. The research information in the book revealed a degree of empathy and reflection, and was additive to my knowledge about the different dimensions of homelessness.

**Journal Articles**

**Journal Article #1**

Financial strain, mental illness, and homelessness: results from a national longitudinal study. (2021). Authors: Elbogen, E. B., Lanier, M., Wagner, H. R., & Tsai, J.

Medical Care Section – American Public Health Association

Research Type and Methods: This study examined financial strain and severe mental illness (psychotic, bipolar, and depressive disorders in the past 12 months) as predictors of subsequent homelessness and financial strain as a mediator of the link between severe mental illness and homelessness by analyzing data from waves 1 and 2 of the National Epidemiologic Survey on alcohol and Related Conditions (n=34,653). Four financial strain variables were used: low income, worse employment, debts, history of homelessness.

Population Studied and how participants were selected for the research: National Longitudinal Study over a 3 year period with 34,653 participants representative of the U.S. population.

Findings and Conclusions:  The findings show that financial strain significantly (39%) mediates the association between severe mental illness and homelessness support assessment of financial well-being in the context of treatment of mental illness and homeless service programs. The results suggest that individuals experiencing homelessness who have severe mental illness may benefit from assistance increasing financial literacy, improving money management, and achieving financial well-being.

**Journal Article #2**

The prevalence of mental disorders among homeless people in high-income countries: An updated systematic review and meta-regression analysis. (2021) Authors: Gutwinski, S., Schreiter, S., Deutscher, K., & Fazel, S.

PLOS Medicine – Research Article

Research Type and Methods: The researchers systematically searched for observational studies that estimated prevalence rates of mental disorders in samples of homeless individuals, using Medline, Embase, PsycInfo, and Google Scholar. The researchers updated a previous systematic review and meta-analysis conducted in 2007, and searched until 1 April 2021. Studies from 39 sources were selected. Study quality was assessed using the JBI critical appraisal tool for prevalence studies and a risk of bias tool. Random effects meta-analyses of prevalence rates were conducted, and heterogeneity was assessed by meta-regression analyses. The mean prevalence of any current mental disorder was estimated at 76.2% (95% CI 64.0% to 86.6%). The most common diagnostic categories were alcohol use disorders, at 36.7% (95% CI 27.7% to 46.2%), and drug use disorders, at 21.7% (95% CI 13.1% to 31.7%), followed by schizophrenia spectrum disorders (12.4% [95% CI 9.5% to 15.7%]) and major depression (12.6% [95% CI 8.0% to 18.2%]).

Population Studied and how participants were selected for the research: A sample of 39 studies including information from 8,049 homeless participants in 11 countries were selected. Studies were included if they sampled exclusively homeless persons, diagnosed mental disorders by standardized criteria using validated methods, provided point or up to 12-month prevalence rates, and were conducted in high-income countries.

Findings and Conclusions:   Findings suggest that the burden of psychiatric morbidity in homeless persons is substantial, and should lead to regular reviews of how healthcare services assess, treat, and follow up homeless people. The high burden of substance use disorders and severe mental illness in homeless people represents a unique challenge to public health and policy. Future research should prioritize quantification of unmet healthcare needs, and how they can be identified and effectively treated. Research on subgroups, including younger people and immigrant populations, is a priority for prevalence work. Public health and policy interventions to improve the health of homeless persons should consider the pattern and extent of psychiatric morbidity.

**Journal Article #3**

Housing, homelessness, and mental health. (20214Authors: Handunge, V. L., White, J. J., & Castillo, E. G.

Psychiatric Annals

Research Type and Methods: Reviewing, assimilating and analyzing information in thirty-three (33) reference sources. Summarizing results in a table titled Evidence-Based Interventions for Individuals With Severe Mental Illness Experiencing Homelessness.

Population Studied and how participants were selected for the research: Scholarly research articles, books and journals.

Findings and Conclusions:  Homelessness remains a pressing humanitarian, public health, and policy challenge across the US, with several upstream drivers including housing unaffordability, housing unavailability, and structural racism. Lack of safe and accessible housing is responsible for a wide range of poor health outcomes. Despite many associations and shared risk factors with mental illness and substance use disorders, homelessness itself is distinct from mental illness, and evidence demonstrates that policies and interventions for individuals with mental illness who are also homeless must address both factors. Evidence-based interventions exist but have not been adequately implemented or funded. Ultimately, homelessness and housing interventions can have an impact across multiple domains of health and well-being. To support this process, psychiatrists can provide direct care and support for mental health issues while also advocating for interdisciplinary evidence-based interventions, such as ACT, and larger structural solutions to address the broader social determinants of homelessness. By doing so, psychiatrists can significantly improve physical health and mental health outcomes for the patients and the communities they serve.

**Journal Article #4**

Longitudinal interrelationships of mental health discrimination and stigma with housing and well-being outcomes in adults with mental illness and recent experience of homelessness. (2021)  Authors: Mejia-Lancheros, C., Lachaud, J., Woodhall-Melnik, J., O'Campo, P., Hwang, S. W., & Stergiopoulos, V.

Social Science and Medicine

Research Type and Methods: The Group-Based Trajectory Model was used to estimate the interrelationship (or intersections) between discrimination and stigma with housing stability, recovery, [quality of life](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/psychology/quality-of-life), and community functioning in a Toronto site, with randomized trial over a two-year follow-up period.

Population Studied and how participants were selected for the research: Population of 274 participants of the At Home/Chez Soi, phase 2, Toronto site.

Findings and Conclusions: Three distinct trajectory groups were observed for discrimination (Low, Moderate decrease, and moderate increase), stigma (Low, Moderate, and High), recovery (Low, Moderate, and High), and the quality of life (Low, Moderate, and High). Two-trajectory groups (Low and High) were identified for housing stability and community functioning. The analyses showed that the trajectory groups for discrimination and stigma are strongly and contemporaneously interrelated with the trajectory groups for housing stability, recovery, quality of life, and community functioning ability. The HF intervention had a mitigating effect on the changes across select trajectory groups, particularly for members of the Low and High discrimination and stigma trajectories group. Persistent mental health-related discrimination and stigma trajectories are longitudinally and contemporaneously interrelated with housing and well-being outcomes in persons experiencing mental illness and recent homelessness. These findings indicate the need for interventions and actions to reduce stigma toward this population. Such interventions may improve housing stability, quality of life, [mental health](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/psychology/mental-health) recovery, and community functioning.

**Journal Article #5**

Homelessness and Public Health: A Focus on Strategies and Solutions. (2021) Authors: Sleet, D. A., & Francescutti, L. H.

Environmental Research and Public Health

Research Type and Methods: Reviewing, assimilating and analyzing scholarly research information from 18 referenced sources.

Population Studied and how participants were selected for the research: Research on relevant articles.

Findings and Conclusions:  Shelter is a basic human need. Thus far, there is inadequate understanding of all the medical and nonmedical, public health, and infrastructural influences

that drive homelessness and why so many people are living without adequate shelter.

Housing is one of the most critical factors in addressing homelessness and one of the

best-researched social determinants of health. The ultimate goal is to encourage the development of better evidence to inform public health, social services, and medical care policies and practices that will result in better health for homeless populations.

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