**Homelessness Resources**

**About Homelessness**

**Tennessee and National Numbers:**

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, there were an estimated 9,215 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in Tennessee in 2023. Of those, 1,600 (17%) were families with children. [The US Department of Housing and Urban Development](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf)

On Jan 5, 2017, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), released an[action plan to end chronic homelessness](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/news/2017/1/5/state-of-tennessee-releases-action-plan-to-end-chronic-homelessness.html) in the Volunteer State. The collaborative plan brings together multiple federal, state, county, and local government agencies, and community partners providing a systematic approach to help eliminate homelessness over the next 10 years.

According to the [January 2022 Point in Time Count](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2022-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html), **582,462 people** were experiencing homelessness in America (roughly **18 out of every 10,000 people**.) The vast majority (72 percent) were individual adults, and 28 percent were people living in families with children. [National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/)

**Intersectionality with Brain Injury**

Traumatic Brain Injury is both a **cause & consequence** of homelessness. **Over half** of those who are homeless or are in an insecure living situation have a TBI. **Twenty-five percent of those** were **moderate to severe** brain injuries. (10Xs higher than the general population). They have poorer general health and functioning than people who are homeless without brain injury. More than half experience their first TBI **before** becoming homeless. People who are homeless and have a TBI are more likely to report childhood trauma or violence.

**Common Challenges** in people who are homeless and have a TBI include: memory and new learning, attention, speed of processing, headaches, dizziness and balance Issues, problem-solving, impulse control, communication, irritability, frustration and agitation. These changes may make it harder to budget, apply for housing, pay rent, hold a job, maintain a property, remember appointments, remember to take medication, communicate needs, and be aware that they need services. **Best practice** when working with someone with a TBI who is homeless is to screen for prior history of Brain Injury, screen for deficits if they have a prior history, teach them to use accommodation and have staff use accommodations, and follow up more often and longer.

**Screening Tools**

For Homelessness, screening is for other co-occurring needs. See [TBF website](https://www.tndisability.org/tbf-systems-support) for related Resource pages.

[NASHIA’s OBISSS](https://www.nashia.org/obisssprogram) (Online Brain Injury Screening and Support System)

[Ohio State University TBI Identification Method](https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/neurological-institute/neuroscience-research-institute/research-centers/ohio-valley-center-for-brain-injury-prevention-and-rehabilitation/osu-tbi-id)

[Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)](https://everyonehome.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/VI-SPDAT-2.0-Single-Adults.pdf)

**Crisis Intervention Tools**

**Homeless Veteran:** 1-877-424-3838

**Veteran Crisis Line**: 1-800-273-8525

**Tennessee Websites**

[Tennessee Statewide 2-1-1 Resource Network](https://tn211.myresourcedirectory.com/): Please call 2-1-1 for listings of shelters in Tennessee

[TDMHSAS, Housing and Homeless Services](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/housing.html): Supports the housing needs of people living with mental illness, helping them find stable living situations to support their recovery.

[Tennessee Continua of Care by Care Region](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/housing/continua-of-care.html): A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals, primarily using funding received through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**HUD identifies four necessary parts of a continuum:**

* Outreach, intake, and assessment
* Emergency shelter
* Transitional housing
* Permanent and permanent supportive housing

[US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Tennessee](https://www.hud.gov/states/tennessee/homeless) Search for TN Services & Homeless Info

[TN Department of Education Homeless Students Education Program: McKinney-Vento and Immigrant Grant](https://www.tn.gov/education/students/student-supports-in-tn/homeless-students.html)

[TN Chapter of the National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-report/tennessee/)

[Nashville Homeless Planning Council](https://www.nashville.gov/departments/office-homeless-services/homelessness-planning-council)

[Nashville Rescue Mission](https://nashvillerescuemission.org/)

[Metro-Nashville Office of Homeless Services](https://www.nashville.gov/departments/office-homeless-services)

[Compassionate Hands](https://www.compassionatehandstn.org/)

[Volunteer Network](https://www.volunteernetworktn.org/)

[Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition](https://bettertennessee.com/partners/chattanooga-regional-homeless-coalition/)

[Knoxville Area Rescue Ministry](https://karm.org/)

[Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless](https://tvchomeless.org/) (serves Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Loudon, Monroe, Sevier & Union County. Hotline 888-556-0791

[Tennessee Homeless Solutions](https://www.facebook.com/TennesseeHomelessSolutions/)

**Charitable Health Care**

[Tennessee Charitable Care Network](https://www.tccnetwork.org/): The Tennessee Charitable Care Network supports, educates, and represents non-profit organizations that provide charitable health care services to low-income, uninsured, and underserved Tennesseans

Find Medical Care: <https://www.tccnetwork.org/find_a_clinic.html>

**Veteran Services in Tennessee**

[Tennessee Resources for Homeless Veterans](https://www.hud.gov/states/tennessee/homeless/veterans)

[Veterans Health Administration (medical centers and clinics by location) Benefits, Cemeteries](https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=TN&dnum=ALL)

[Nashville Veteran Affairs Medical Center](https://www.va.gov/tennessee-valley-health-care/locations/nashville-va-medical-center/)

[Memphis Veterans Affairs’ Medical Center Homeless Program](https://www.va.gov/memphis-health-care/health-services/)

[Knoxville Veteran Affairs Medical Center](https://www.va.gov/mountain-home-health-care/locations/knox-county-va-clinic/)

**National Websites**

[National Coalition for the Homeless](https://nationalhomeless.org/finding-help/) To speak with a caring person at any time, call 1-800-Miss-You to reach [Miracle Messages](https://www.miraclemessages.org/), or 988 for the [Suicide & Crisis Life Line](https://988lifeline.org/).

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://endhomelessness.org/) is a nonpartisan organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States.

[National Health Care for the Homeless Council](https://nhchc.org/) Their mission is to build an equitable, high-quality health care system through training, research, and advocacy in the movement to end homelessness.

[Adapting Your Practice: Recommendations for the Care of Patients Who Are Homeless or Unstably Housed Living with the Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury](https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/adapted-clinical-guidelines/tbi/) [Full PDF of the guidelines](https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/adapting-your-practice_final_10-22-181.pdf)

[Valor on the Fax](https://www.valoronthefax.com/) Housing concept in Colorado exclusively for those experiencing homelessness with Brain Injury

[Administration for Community Living (ACL) Housing and Resources Services Center](https://acl.gov/HousingAndServices/traumatic-brain-injury-partnerships-resources)

**Infographics**

[Where Does Homelessness Happen? Understanding the Definitions of Homelessness](https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/types-of-homelessness-infographic.pdf)

[Traumatic Brain Injury and Homelessness (Australia)](https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-08/apo-nid307156_0.pdf)

**Trainings**

[National Health Care for the Homeless Council Learning Hub](https://nhchc.org/learning-hub/)

[The Center for Learning: National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://learning.endhomelessness.org/store)

[Center for Brain Injury Research and Training (CBIRT) Housing Support Systems webinars](https://ar9.tbieventsportal.org/)

**TN Brighter Futures groups that are a part of this System of Care**

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| TDMHSAS, Housing and Homeless ServicesNashville Homeless Planning CouncilNashville Rescue MissionChattanooga Regional Homeless CouncilKnoxville Area Rescue MinistryTennessee Homeless Solutions | Memphis Veterans Affairs’ Medical Center Homeless ProgramTN Department of Education McKinney-Vento and Immigrant GrantCompassionate HandsMetro Office of Homeless Services Volunteer Network |

