

9 PLACES HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

Living without a home of your own can bring great emotional turmoil. But sleeping without a home is downright difficult. Some of these places receive media attention. Others may surprise you. But all of these overnight accommodations are unacceptable for regular human habitation.

1. STORAGE UNITS Storage units have been called the modern-day cardboard box. They're not ideal, but they're dry, secure and beat the dangers of the street. People can keep some of their belongings rather than abandon them or have them stolen. However, living in a storage unit is illegal. Those who are caught face fines, eviction and possible confiscation of anything they've stored.



2. CARS Living out of a vehicle may seem like a bearable solution to losing your home. But cramped living with no easy access to showers or restrooms is wearisome. Finding a quiet, safe place to park without getting an expensive citation can be a daily challenge. And the nomadic lifestyle is isolating.



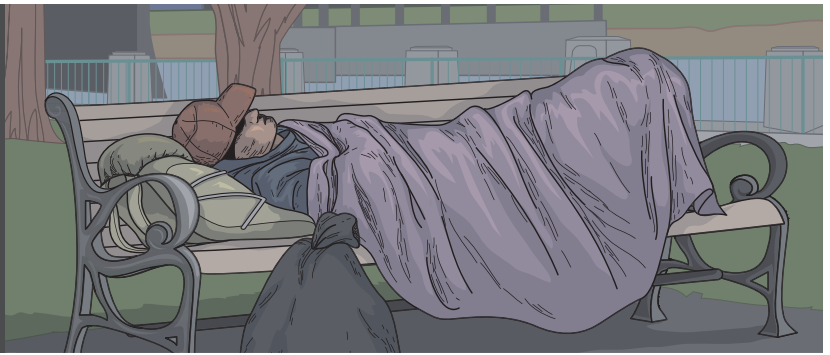
3. MOTELS For families, cheap motels can be a temporary alternative to shelter and safer than the streets. But with cramped rooms, unsafe conditions, and little space for cooking, it is far from a good alternative to safe, decent housing. And when money runs out, families are back on the street.



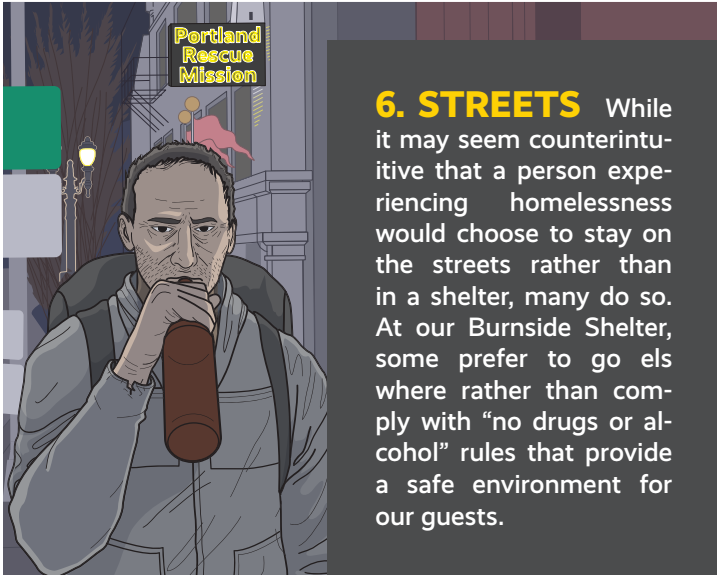
4. TENT CITIES Homeless encampments have been used as temporary solutions as far back as the Great Depression. Most are tent cities like Portland's "Right 2 Dream Too" with room for about 100 people downtown. Others have small makeshift houses, like "Dignity Village" in North Portland that houses around 60 people in a largely self-governing community. Though these encampments provide some safety and orderliness in urban homelessness, they're often surrounded by controversy and are far from a permanent solution.



5. PARKS After walking all day or night, it's tempting for a man or woman experiencing homelessness to stretch out on the lawn or a bench for some rest. Parks are open to the public and a decent place to get a nap during the day. But sleeping in the park at night can be dangerous and is usually interrupted by police asking offenders to move along.



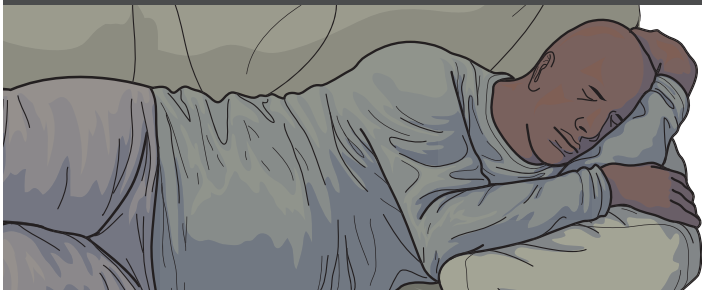
6. STREETS While it may seem counterintuitive that a person experiencing homelessness would choose to stay on the streets rather than in a shelter, many do so. At our Burnside Shelter, some prefer to go elsewhere rather than comply with “no drugs or alcohol” rules that provide a safe environment for our guests.



7. FORECLOSED HOUSES Across the country, hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes are boarded up, idle and empty. In urban areas there are empty warehouses and other abandoned buildings. At the same time, homelessness has been on the rise and the need for decent affordable housing is as great as ever. People may choose to become squatters in vacant homes.



8. COUCHES When homelessness strikes, friends and relatives are often the first place of refuge. Families and individuals sleep on couches, in garages, sheds and backyard tents. Although they are technically homeless, they are unseen and left uncounted in an official homeless census – until the hospitality wears out. Then they end up on the street.



9. WE DON'T KNOW For all of those individuals whose homeless living situations are documented, recorded, and broadcast to the public, there are hundreds more who remain anonymous. The methodology for finding and counting people without a home is imperfect. We simply do not find everyone.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our Hope Ministries provide meals, restrooms, showers, mail service and relational care to connect people to medical and other help. We provide overnight shelter for men, extended shelter (1-6 weeks) for men and women, and Connect, a 3-month program to give men and women

safety and stability as they find housing and employment.

Our New Life Ministries at The Harbor (for men) and Shepherd's Door (for women and children) provide a yearlong healing process with addiction recovery, spiritual renewal and life skills training to launch people into restored lives with strong relational support.

Compassionate support from friends like you helps Portland Rescue Mission to provide meals, shelter and recovery care to hurting men, women and children. WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG



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