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## Homelessness In America

*Jim Baumohl*

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# HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA



Edited by Jim Baumohl  
For the National Coalition for the Homeless

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**Jim Baumohl : Homelessness In America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homelessness In America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy aztecaGreat book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ThoughtfulBy Louis M.Jim Baumohl sets a logical foundation for causes of homelessness that is grounded in economic theory. The book is well written and his ideas are refreshing. A must read for those interested in solving the problem of homelessness.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent resource for issues

and causes of homelessness. By Wendy Chang (wchang@urmus.com) Homelessness in America is a comprehensive resource that examines the issues and causes of homelessness in the U.S., from poverty to housing, substance abuse, mental illness, race, and more. Wonderful stats, studies, and insights. As an employee of a rescue mission, I found this book helpful in understanding the homeless people we serve and in educating the public about their plight.

The number of homeless people in America has continued to grow at an alarming rate since the 1970s. Yet many members of the general public still have far more questions than answers about the magnitude and implications of this complex social problem and the reasons for its persistence. Now the answers can be found in Homelessness in America, the most current, comprehensive, and authoritative volume available on this subject. Focusing on the broad social issue of homelessness, the book's 19 essays offer in-depth examinations of policy-related issues by noted social workers, researchers, advocates, and other experts in the field. Chapter topics include the causes and prevention of homelessness, national and local advocacy movements, the local regulation of public space, and current policies on employment, income maintenance, and housing. Up-to-date statistics and tables are included along with an extensive bibliography and an appendix listing national or state advocacy organizations.

From School Library Journal Grade 11 Up. Baumohl sets the tone in his introduction as he lambastes conservatives and Republicans for their policies and advocates some redistribution of housing benefits away from the "well-to-do." He then presents a collection of papers by advocates for the homeless who support liberal solutions to the problem. The writings deal with the nature of homelessness, what can be done about it, and the consequences of sustained homelessness for those who experience it. The authors examine the characteristics of the homeless population and the social and economic arrangements that shape individual experiences. Part I deals with "History, Definitions, and Causes." Part II, entitled "Dimensions of Homelessness," includes discussions of rural homelessness, survival strategies on the street, the plight of homeless veterans, and the serious consequences that transience has on children in terms of their physical and mental health, their development, and their schooling. Part III addresses "Responses to Homelessness." Written on an adult reading level, the essays are clear and well organized. Tables and charts throughout provide a statistical picture of the scope of the problem and will be especially useful for reports. Appendixes include the names and addresses of clearing houses and both national and state organizations; chapter-by-chapter reference notes; and an extensive bibliography. This clearly written and well-organized title presents one side of a complex and emotionally charged debate. ?Dana McDougald, Cedar Shoals High School, Athens, GA Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. ... "a valuable collection of enlightened writings by those who know the challenges and realities first-hand. It comes at a time when the tide of opinion has turned against the poorest of the poor and is all the more essential for this reason." -Jonathon Kozol "This clearly written and well-organized title presents one side of a complex and emotionally charged debate." -Dana McDougald, Cedar Shoals High School Athens, GA... "a provocative look at the broad social issue of homelessness through 19 in-depth essays written by nationally respected scholars, researchers, advocates, and other experts in the field." -The Newsletter of the National Coalition for the Homeless ?This clearly written and well-organized title presents one side of a complex and emotionally charged debate. ?-Dana McDougald, Cedar Shoals High School Athens, GA?... a provocative look at the broad social issue of homelessness through 19 in-depth essays written by nationally respected scholars, researchers, advocates, and other experts in the field. ?-The Newsletter of the National Coalition for the Homeless?... a valuable collection of enlightened writings by those who know the challenges and realities first-hand. It comes at a time when the tide of opinion has turned against the poorest of the poor and is all the more essential for this reason. ?-Jonathon Kozol., "a provocative look at the broad social issue of homelessness through 19 in-depth essays written by nationally respected scholars, researchers, advocates, and other experts in the field." -The Newsletter of the National Coalition for the Homeless., "a valuable collection of enlightened writings by those who know the challenges and realities first-hand. It comes at a time when the tide of opinion has turned against the poorest of the poor and is all the more essential for this reason." -Jonathon Kozol About the Author JIM BAUMOHL is associate professor at the Graduate School of Social Work and Research at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. From 1970 to 1986, he was, among other things, a street worker, shelter director, and organizer of single-room-occupancy hotel tenants. He has written about homelessness since 1973. Professor Baumohl holds a doctorate in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley.