

Is someone you know at risk for homelessness?

Some factors that put people at risk for homelessness

- unemployment
- extremely low income
- family conflict
- substance abuse
- recently evicted or in danger of being evicted from current residence
- domestic violence
- victim of physical or sexual abuse
- chronic health problems
- mental health problems
- single mother with low income
- youth with unstable home life
- recently immigrated to the country and lacking stable housing and a network of family/friends
- recently spent time in a long-term health care facility
- has spent a lot of time in half-way houses
- been in and out of foster care
- past experiences with the criminal justice system
- recently served time in prison

Test your knowledge: assess the following people's risk level for homelessness

Scenario 1:

Cathy, a mother of two, recently moved to Canada. Although she has family in Vancouver, she is currently living in Toronto, where she doesn't yet know anyone. Despite the fact that she is qualified as a teacher, Cathy has been unable to get a job in Toronto because the fact that her degree is not Canadian has made many school boards hesitant to hire her. So far, she has only managed to get a part-time job working at a day-care, where she makes \$8/hour and works 20 hours/week. Cathy's youngest child suffers from a number of health problems and requires regular medical attention, including medication which is not covered under government health insurance.

Scenario 2:

Richard, a 30-year-old man from Winnipeg, was recently released from prison and is currently living in a half-way house, but he's only allowed to stay there for one more month. He's hoping to relocate to Toronto to live with his sister as soon as he can, but despite the fact that he is educated and physically able, he is struggling to find employment there due to his criminal past.

Scenario 3:

Sarah is a 13-year-old girl who currently lives with a foster family. She was removed from her parents' home four years ago when it was discovered that her father had been abusing both her and her mother. However, things have not gotten much better for Sarah at her new home. Her 17-year-old foster brother has continually tried to make sexual advances toward her and has occasionally touched her in ways that have made her extremely uncomfortable. Although she has tried to mention her concerns to her foster parents, they have repeatedly dismissed the issue. Recently, Sarah has begun avoiding going home by staying out late drinking with her friends almost every night of the week.