

## Test Your Knowledge ANSWER KEY

### Homelessness Quiz

1. Name three major causes of homelessness and explain your answers.

1. Mental illness (studies indicate that approximately 16% of homeless people have a mental illness, and without access to affordable health care they can't get it treated so they end up not being able to keep a job or afford rent.

2. Domestic Violence (domestic violence is another leading cause in homelessness---many victims have nowhere else to go after they leave their abusive partners

3. Unable to pay rent (the average rent for a one bedroom apartment costs 80% of the minimum wage income, which is way too high for the average person to afford.

other answers can include: unaffordable health care and addictions to alcohol or drugs

2. What is the Act that defines who a homeless person is?

McKinney Act

3. How many people are homeless on any given night?

As estimated by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 750,000 people are homeless on any given night

4. What is the racial make-up of the homeless population in percentages? (Including African American, Caucasian, Native American, and Asian)

A study done by the US Conference of Mayors in 2007 reported that the homeless population is estimated to be comprised of 42% African American, 39% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, 4% Native American, and 2% Asian.

5. What are two government programs that provide assistance to homeless people?

1. section 8 housing

2. HUD grants (other answer could be health care for the homeless)

6. What is the estimated percentage of homeless people who have a mental illness?

16%

7. Name three ways that you can get involved in helping the homeless

1. volunteering at a soup kitchen

2. writing congressmen

3. donating clothing and school supplies

answers may vary—any appropriate answer is acceptable