

Homelessness in Casper, Wyoming

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General psychology: 1000

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Themes of homelessness carried within Casper have created growing numbers for the city, with illegal camping, disorderly behavior, and vandalism being the route of the cause. Despite Casper being held in one of the ruleset States, the extremity is still a cause for concern, with rather extraordinary incidents being said to have sprung from homeless members, Steurer, M. (2023, September 11). As reported by Wyoming news, events revealed squatters are camped within abandoned hotels, causing great damage, with Bruce Knell (the mayor) stating it “literally reminded me of being in a third world country”,

Usually, when researching homelessness, the cause stems from poverty, with wages becoming stagnant alongside heightened expenses, some members can't conform. With speculation, there's a rough estimate that 200 people are without a home, although homelessness is not quite objective. Based on research, different sources differ from where the breeding ground has been formed, are they from out of community or are they within Casper? The director of Development Cheryl Hackett, states “60% to 65% of people aren't out of towners” whereas, city officials, law enforcement, and social services organizations report the escalation is caused from other parts of the state and even other parts of the country, being an important element to consider.

However, what causes homeless individuals to venture towards the city?

“The city is one of Wyoming’s social service hubs”, causing resources to require extension due to the high demand which is slowly becoming unattainable.

When regarding the Casper Municipal Courts caseload of the last six months, homeless members are tallying these percentages, according to the Star-Tribune. Initially, the common offenses consisted of public intoxication, the failure to comply with payment of fines,

trespassing, and shoplifting with few being repetitive defendants, according to the Clerk of Municipal Court Leticia Drake. Additionally, she added these numbers are “only a slice of Casper’s homeless population”. The relationship between homelessness and crime isn't always black and white, initially, the characteristics and morals of the offender determine the type of offense. On the other hand, a peer-reviewed medical journal examined that homeless adults with severe mental illness were more likely to engage in criminal activity.

Despite Casper's apparent, continuous issues, aspirational pledges are underway through the Wyoming rescue mission. “Restoring lives through compassion and care for people’s immediate needs”, while also introducing the love of Christ and heavily reinforcing the statements of faith.

They have been able to serve over 60,000 meals, provide 41,037 beds, offer 92 discipleship recovery programs, thrift 1,208 items of clothes, and offer over 90,000 life-restoring classes.

Conditional donations can be granted by donating an amount of just \$2.48 to an individual within the rescue or becoming a subscription, donating monthly, automatically giving.

Alongside, incorporating a volunteer system to provide face-to-face interaction. Initially, the Wyoming rescue mission is predominantly the foundation of the steps to better the homelessness present in Casper. *HOME - Wyoming Rescue Mission - Shelter in Casper, WY.*

Wyoming Rescue Mission. (2023, August 18). <https://wyomission.org/>

Overall, homelessness in Casper is an apparent dilemma worth attention from the city, although there are resources available, does there need to be an extended proposal to other areas of the how’s and why homelessness has become so distinct? Factoring the significance of mental health among homeless people, although the Wyoming rescue mission is supportive, their aid is mainly through religion and Christ, frankly not on the mental psychology of the individual.

