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The Truth Behind Homelessness

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The Truth Behind Homelessness

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Nebraska Preparatory Academy

Grand Island Senior High 2022

University of Nebraska-Lincoln



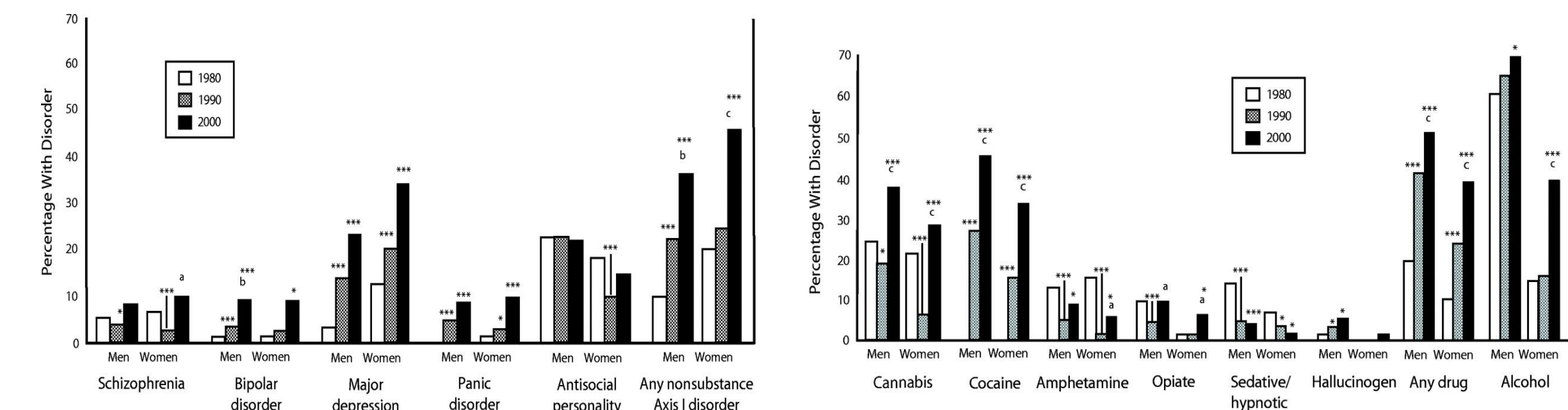
Abstract

To be homeless means not having permanent or stable housing in relation to many other things. Some of the main causes of homelessness can be things such as family breakdown, mental illnesses and/or mental health, or falling into a substance abuse disorder. Other factors such as affordable housing and geographical factors may also lead to homelessness. In the end, people remain trapped in a cycle where the things that previously led to homelessness make them more likely to become homeless again. If we know the reasons for homelessness, we can then help make better decisions towards preventing it.

Key Points

- Today around 1500 deaths per year are due to domestic violence; one out of ten men and one out of three women experience domestic violence in the United States (Huecker et al., 2021, Epidemiology).
- When families become homeless the children are prone to have a range of health and mental health problems that call for immediate attention (Buckner, 2008, p. 722).
- In 2004 major depression was involved in most non-substance abuse disorders when almost one-third of the homeless suffer from mental illnesses (Quigley et al., 2001, p. 38).
- A study of 445 homeless people showed that more than half had a diagnosis of substance use disorder (Caton et al., 2005, p. 1756). The homeless are also more likely to be exposed to illicit drugs (Chamberlain & Johnson, 2011, p. 11).
- Being unable to afford housing is among the main causes of homelessness. Very often homelessness becomes the better alternative than to pay more for lower quality housing (Quigley et al., 2001, p. 40).

Non-substance disorders vs Substance abuse disorders



North, C. S., Eyrich, K. M., Pollio, D. E., & Spitznagel, E. L. (2004). Are rates of psychiatric disorders in the homeless population changing?. *American Journal of Public Health*, 94(1), 103–108. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.94.1.103>

Conclusion & Discussions

As can be seen, most of the reasons why individuals become homeless are not a choice. Any of the risk factors may affect any person at any time. Once a person experiences one of the factors they are more likely to experience one of the other factors as well. It has been found that in some instances homeless individuals are not perceived as fully human (Harris, & Fiske, 2006, as cited in Johnstone et al., 2015). It is important to eliminate the stigma on homelessness and change people's attitude towards it so that something greater can be done to prevent it.

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