

POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

While rates of poverty and homelessness among Utahns are lower than national averages, poverty disproportionately impacts Utah women, and women often face homelessness in conjunction with other challenges (such as domestic violence). A Bolder Way Forward's [Poverty & Homelessness Spoke](#) is working to solve these challenges, with a focus on providing resources, helping people rebuild their lives, and assisting women to stabilize during crises. Learn more about how you can be part of solving poverty and homelessness in your community.

KEY FACTS

- Single-mother households in Utah are more likely to experience poverty, and when all children in the household are under age 5, the poverty rate is 36%, compared to 6% of households lead by married couples.
- For Utahns ages 75 and older, women's poverty rates are nearly double that of men's.
- During 2021, 9,368 females accessed homeless services; of those, 23% were under age 18.
- The number of Utah women accessing homeless services as a result of fleeing domestic violence has nearly doubled from 2017.

LONG-TERM NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- Individuals experiencing poverty are at increased risk for mental illness, chronic disease, higher mortality, and lower life expectancy.
- Childhood poverty is associated with developmental delays, toxic stress, chronic illness, and nutritional deficiencies.
- Individuals who experience childhood poverty are more likely to experience poverty into adulthood, contributing to generational cycles of poverty.
- 25- to 44-year-olds experience a mortality rate that is 9 times higher for men and 10 times higher for women who are homeless when compared to the general population.

DEFINITION

Poverty: "The official poverty measure, in use since the 1960s, defines poverty by comparing pretax money income to a national poverty threshold adjusted by family composition. The official poverty measure is used to determine eligibility for several government programs and has been used as a benchmark of economic well-being since its adoption."

United States Census Bureau

Homelessness: "Being 'at risk of homelessness' includes individuals and families who:

- Have an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD, and
- Do not have sufficient resources or support networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or place not meant for habitation, and
- Exhibit one or more risk factors of homelessness, including recent housing instability or exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care such as foster care or a mental health facility."

*U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development*

Click [here](#) to view sources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



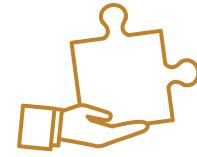
Learn about the root causes of poverty and homelessness and share this knowledge with others.

Understand and use appropriate language when discussing these challenges.



Contact developers and other community decision makers to ensure more attainable housing is available for all residents.

Raise awareness of the challenges around housing in your community and beyond.



Reach out to community leaders about the importance of identifying and listening to cost-burdened renters and homeowners so that effective solutions can be found.

Contact policy makers and participate in discussions around poverty and homelessness in Utah.

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Spoke Resources

- [Poverty & Homelessness Introductory Video](#)
- [Poverty & Homelessness Spoke Page](#)
- [Living Room Conversations – Poverty and Homelessness in Utah](#)
- [Introductory Podcast](#)

Research-Based Reports & Resources

- [Homelessness Among Utah Women](#) (Infographic, Podcast)
- [Poverty Among Utah Women: A 2022 Update](#) (Infographic, Podcast)
- [Poverty & Homelessness Research Summary](#)
- [7 Reasons Poverty is an Issue in Utah](#)
- [The Cliff Effect](#)
- [Poverty Simulation](#)
- [The Opportunity Atlas](#)

Organizations

- [Utah Office of Homeless Services](#)
- [Community Action Services & Food Bank](#)
- [Homeless Utah](#)
- [End Utah Homelessness Community Resource Guide](#)
- [Utah Services Board \(UHSB\)](#)
- [Circles Salt Lake](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity of Utah County](#)