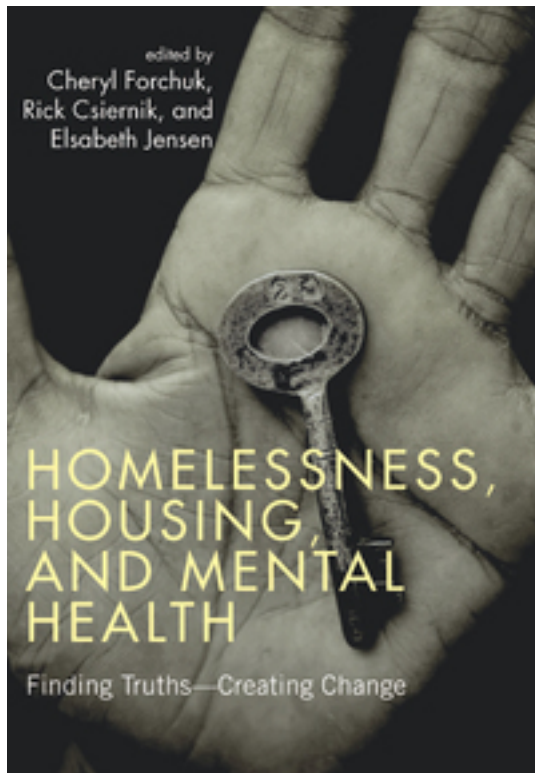


Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Health

Finding Truths — Creating Change



Subjects

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Some say mental illness is the last great stigma remaining in our communities. This book is a collection of twenty articles written by researchers, scholars, practitioners of nursing, social work, and community health, and survivors of mental illness and homelessness. Each piece speaks to a specific aspect of the linkages among housing/homelessness, poverty, and mental illness, interconnections that are complex and challenging to understand but essential to our addressing the problems.

Chapters include:

- The soul-destroying search for adequate housing for family members who are mental health survivors
- The impact of de-institutionalization in and the gaps left in services for mental health survivors
- Myths of mental illness and how they affect the popular stigma attached to survivors

Author Information

Cheryl Forchuk

****Cheryl Forchuk**** is a Distinguished University Professor in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing at Western University; a Scientist and Assistant Director at the Lawson Health Research Institute; and the Beryl and Richard Ivey Research Chair in Aging, Mental Health, Rehabilitation, and Recovery at the Parkwood Research Institute in London, Ontario.

Rick Csiernik

****Rick Csiernik**** is a Professor of Social Work at King's College, University of Western Ontario. Csiernik has authored and edited several popular Canadian Scholars' titles including: *Substance Use and Misuse, Third Edition* (2021); *Just Say Know: A Counsellor's Guide to Psychoactive Drugs* (2014); *Workplace Wellness* (2014); *Responding to the Oppression of Addiction* (co-edited with William S. Rowe, 2017); *The Drug Paradox* (with Tara Bruno, 2018), and *Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Health* (co-edited with Cheryl Forchuk and Elisabeth Jensen, 2011). The author of more than 100 journal articles, his research interests include addiction, employee assistance programming and workplace wellness, social work education, and program evaluation. Rick has been recipient of both the King's University College Award for Excellence in Teaching and the McMaster University Instructor Appreciation Award.

Elisabeth Jensen

Elisabeth Jensen is Associate Professor in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, York University.

Reviews

"I am so glad that this book has been written. The authors go beyond a traditional research focus to help identify both preventive strategies and health service interventions that can contribute to more thoughtful, respectful, and effective responses to homelessness and the needs of mental health consumer survivors."

Stephen Gaetz, Director, Canadian Homelessness Research Network, and Associate Dean, Research and Professional Development, Faculty of Education, York University

"This book is a tribute to psychiatric survivors who stood with us when we declared homelessness a national disaster in 1998. The authors have captured the ongoing results in a country still left without a national housing program; people left struggling to survive in the aptly named "tornado." Surely this book is proof we need safe, affordable housing to achieve health."

Cathy Crowe, street nurse, author of *Dying for a Home*

"This book is a tribute to psychiatric survivors who stood with us when we declared homelessness a national disaster in 1998. The authors have captured the ongoing results in a country still left without a national housing program; people left struggling to survive in the aptly named "tornado." Surely this book is proof we need safe, affordable housing to achieve health."— Cathy Crowe, street nurse, author of *Dying for a Home*

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Health and homelessness are inextricably linked. Health problems can cause a person's homelessness as well as be exacerbated by the experience. Health and Homelessness. An acute physical or behavioral health crisis or any long-term disabling condition may lead to homelessness; homelessness itself can exacerbate chronic medical conditions. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, people living in shelters are more than twice as likely to have a disability compared to the general population. On a given night in 2017, 20 percent of the homeless population reported having a serious mental illness, 16 percent conditions related to chronic substance abuse, and more than 10,000 people had HIV/AIDS. Community integration has been a central goal of mental health service policy since deinstitutionalization began in the 1950s, as homelessness increased in the 1980s, and as housing programs for homeless mentally ill persons developed in the 1990s. In 1990, an innovative experiment—the Boston McKinney Project—began to test alternative housing policies. Schutt's comprehensive analysis of the project's findings calls into question current housing policies that support the preference of most homeless mentally ill persons to live alone in independent apartments. Indeed, Homelessness, Housing and M... In a study in Western societies, homeless people have a higher prevalence of mental illness when compared to the general population. They also are more likely to suffer from alcoholism and drug dependency. It is estimated that 20–25% of homeless people, compared with 6% of the non-homeless, have severe mental illness. Others estimate that up to one-third of the homeless suffer from mental illness. In January 2015, the most extensive survey ever undertaken found 564,708 people were homeless on a given Homelessness: Causes, Effects & Solutions. Homelessness can be defined as living in housing that is below minimum standards or even lack secure and adequate shelter at all. The most prominent example is people living on the streets, however, there are several other forms of homelessness. Homelessness is a big problem since it has significant adverse effects for the homeless people themselves but also imposes large social costs. Housing became unaffordable for people with jobs that pay an average income and therefore the number of homeless people increased dramatically over the last decade. Unemployment. Mental health conditions may also lead to homelessness. People with mental health issues often feel lonely and not as a valuable part of our society.