

An Overview of Public Policy and Homelessness in Miami-Dade County

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While homelessness is on a decline in Miami and the United States as a whole, it remains a persistent and widespread social problem. About 553,742 people experienced homelessness in 2017 32,190 of which resided in the state of Florida (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2017). While a number of initiatives both public and private have been implemented to curb and control homelessness, it has been shown time and time again that policy initiatives such as TANF, social security, and support for permanent housing are the most effective ways to reduce homelessness. Throughout this thesis, I will analyze a number of both primary and secondary sources on programs aimed at supporting and assisting homeless people as well as conduct interviews with homeless people to gain a better understanding of policy initiatives and the effects they have had on both the rates of homelessness and the livelihoods of homeless people in Miami-Dade County. Through this analysis, I will deepen the understanding we as a society have on the effects individual policy initiatives have had on homelessness rates and the quality of life of homeless people. This research will answer the questions: What is the most effective way of reducing and ultimately eliminating homelessness? And which policy initiatives specifically have proven to be most effective? While there is a lot of research on homelessness and which methods are effective at reducing it, there isn't any focusing specifically on policy initiatives taken in Miami-Dade County and the effects those have had on homeless people. In better understanding the effects of public policy and entitlement programs on the lives of homeless people, we can more effectively implement the policies in the future that have proven to be effective and expand upon those that are working positively in our community with the ultimate goal of supporting homeless people and eliminating homelessness.

References:

National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2017). State of homelessness. Retrieved from

<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-report/>