

THE NEW FACE OF HOMELESSNESS

Looks Uncomfortably Familiar



MYTHS AND FACTS

People experiencing homelessness suffer from the hardship of their condition, but also face alienation and discrimination fueled by stereotypes. Here are some myths and realities of homelessness.

MYTH – People who are homeless stay homeless for a long time.

FACT – The vast majority of homeless Utahns (63%) are homeless for short periods of time. They stay in shelters for brief periods, for days or weeks, and often do not return.

MYTH – Most are single men.

FACT – Persons in families are the fastest growing group, comprising 45% of Utah's homeless population.

MYTH – The homeless population is transient, migrating to cities with the best services.

FACT – 88% of Utah's homeless population lived in Utah when they became homeless

MYTH – They are to blame for their situation.

FACT – Many are victims of circumstance, illness and trauma from violence or abuse. About 30% are children.

Sources: 2012 Utah Homeless Point-In-Time Count; Utah HMIS 2012 Data