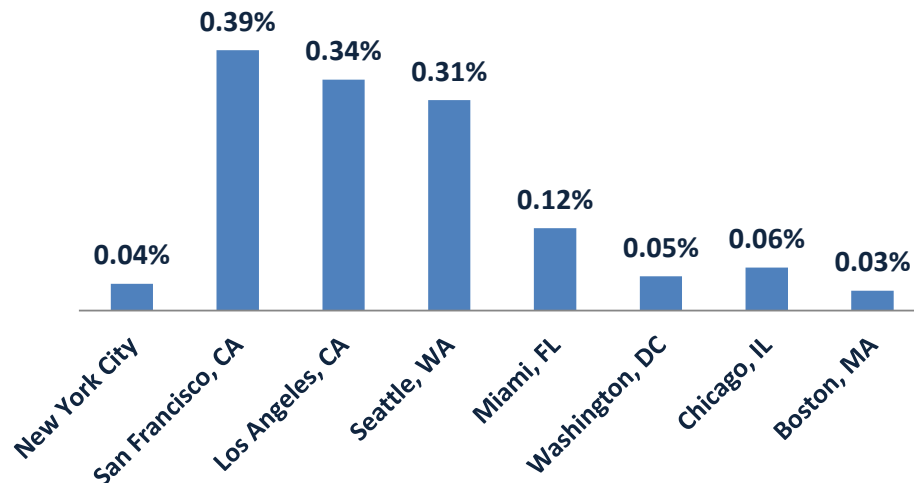


Quiz 6 terms for review: underclass, loose labor market attachment, the Gautreaux Program, W.J. Wilson's *More than Race and Truly Disadvantage* explanation of urban poverty, Kathy Morgan, [Angela Mooney](#), Trends in poverty and unemployment by racial group in the 1990s, Section 8 housing subsidies; precariously housed; literally homeless; doubled-up families; the Yotel motel (cubicles); Angela Mooney, homeless shelters; supported work; supported living. See ABC Nightline "[A Troubled Mind](#)" [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#).

**Figure H-1: Homeless as a % of city population
2010 to 2012**



Source: NYC Dept. Housing Services, 2012 Hope Street Survey

10.1 **What is the standard definition of homelessness?** (hint: [hope count, NYC](#)) In 1981, Vietnam Veteran and CCNV founder Mitch Snyder told the Congress and the press that there were 1.2 million homeless Americans. By 1983, Snyder claimed recession had pushed the number of homeless up to 3 million. In 1984 HUD administration did its own count—they found 250-350,000 homeless in major U.S. cities? How many shelter beds were available in major U.S. cities during this period? Why did HUD deny homelessness was a problem in American cities? Where did Mitch Snyder get his information? Why didn't the press check his numbers against the 1980 Census? Use the Rossi's "precariously housed" notion, or Jencks "doubled up" population to rationalize Snyder's numbers? Why is both the "literally homeless" and the precariously housed relevant for policy makers?

10.2 Briefly outline Jencks' proposals for reducing homelessness. Does [Jencks believe shelters "cause" homelessness](#)? How are his programs targeted? Compare his proposals with the shelter [Angela Mooney](#) became involved in Queens. What was Ms. Mooney's initial reaction to the cities plan to put a shelter in her neighborhood? What changed her mind? How does this shelter target the "literally homeless" as opposed to the "doubled up" or precariously housed? Why did the number of homeless in New York City appear to decline in the 1990s? Why were homeless shelters relocated to the outer boroughs (Queens) and suburbs such as Westchester County?

10.3 What changes in mental health policy, drug addiction and marriage rates also contribute rising homelessness. How does this affect strategies to help the homeless? What percentage of homeless are diagnosed as [Mentally ill \(see Jencks, Table 4\)?](#) What double stigma did Chicago resident Denise White and her only son Brelynn White have to overcome? When did Brelynn become ill? Why did his mother, Denise White, have to throw him out of the house? Why didn't she have him committed to a mental

hospital (very likely). Do health professionals such as Alvin Poussaint of the Harvard Medical Center, Brelynn's psychiatrist Carl Bell and Fuller Torrey endorse her actions or advocate re-institutionalization of the mentally ill? What model of care do they advocate? Does this model fit the cases of John Nash, Moe Armstrong and Brelynn White discussed in the film? These three individuals were all homeless for a time, but now are not. What do these cases suggest about homelessness and mental illness? How can the current system of out patient care be improved to make the homeless and the streets safer? Denise White and Moe Armstrong organized community health services, in part because her son Brelynn White was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, came down with Schizophrenia. What do Moe Armstrong, John Nash and Brelynn White were all homeless and mentally ill as young men. What are they doing now? Were they victims or beneficiaries of what Jencks describes as "emptying the wards"

<http://class.povertylectures.com/JencksChapts10and11.pdf>

<http://class.povertylectures.com/JencksChapter3EmptyingTheBackWards.pdf>

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/downloads/pdf/vets_ProgReport2009.pdf

<http://class.povertylectures.com/Lang-HaveDream2.pdf>

Econ3240HomelessQueensBriarwoodShelter2.pdf ____ 3. *Spontaneously, during a speech at his old Harlem High school this wealthy Alumni promised to send any 6th grader that completed high school without getting arrested or pregnant to college, all expenses paid. She, on the other hand, gets every senior in her Bronx Catholic High school a scholarship to a respectable Northeastern college. (a) [Kathy Morgan](#) (b) [Eugene Lang](#) (c) [Debra Bounsell](#)*

11. **Counting the homeless:** a) What is the standard definition of homelessness? In 1981, Vietnam Veteran and CCNV founder Mitch Snyder told the Congress and the press that there were 1.2 million homeless Americans. By 1983, Snyder claimed the 1983 recession raised the number of homeless up to 3 million. In 1984 the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administration counted 250,000-350,000 homeless in major U.S. cities, about the same as the number of shelter beds available at that time. Academics such as Rossi, Jencks and Martha Burt agree HUD's estimates were more realistic than CCNVs. Was HUD correct to argue homelessness was not a major problem because there were already enough shelter beds? In what sense was Mitch Snyder correct? [hint: precariously housed or "doubled up"] b) Why didn't anyone check Mitch Snyder's numbers against the 1980 Census? Why are both the "literally homeless" and the precariously housed relevant for policy makers? How do these groups respond to government housing subsidies aimed at literally homeless families? Does Jencks argue that shelters can "cause" homelessness? How does Jencks propose government deal with this problem, how can one target the "literally homeless" without creating more of them? c) Should the government use housing subsidies such as section 8 or public housing to help the "precariously housed?" What is the risk in this strategy? Who should receive rent subsidies and well-managed public housing in big cities?
12. **Targeting the literally homeless:** a) Compare Jencks proposals to reduce homelessness with Angela Mooney shelter in Briarwood, Queens. What was Ms. Mooney's initial reaction to the cities plan to put a shelter in her neighborhood? What changed her mind? How does the Briarwood shelter target the "literally homeless" as opposed to the "doubled up" or precariously housed? What is the disadvantage of this approach compared to that of Jencks? C) Which sub groups of the homeless (see lecture notes or Jencks Tables 1-4) is Angela Mooney' approach most suited to? Which group does Jencks proposal target? d) Why did the number of homeless in New York City appear to decline in the 1990s? Why were homeless shelters relocated to the outer boroughs (Queens) and suburbs such as Westchester County? Connect this to overall trends in urban or ghetto poverty documented by Jargowsky (2004).
1. (a) Rags to riches: suppose a poor child in bottom 20% wants to get all the way into the top 40%, is it better to go to college or get adopted by "rich" top 20% parents (Brad & Angela?). (b) Discuss Sawhill & Ricketts definition of the term "[underclass](#)" and why it is fading into disuse. Still the failure of many to escape New Orleans just before Katrina hit reminds us that the consequences of geographic isolation and social exclusion can be severe. (c) What does the success of Eugene's Lang's "[I have a Dream](#)" program, [Kathy Morgan's college counseling](#) at a Bronx high school, and

the First Step employment program for [Debra Bounsell](#) suggest about the dangers of geographic isolation and what it takes to overcome it? These programs are expensive, but given poverty trends in the 1990s they are now more feasible—why? (d) Is there a parallel between these specialized, expensive programs and the geographic isolation of some developing countries (Uganda, Nepal, Bolivia, Mongolia)? What can be done to overcome social and geographic isolation? Why is this easier within than between countries? How are housing and school vouchers potentially helpful in this regard? Why are mobility enhancing programs always a hard sell politically?

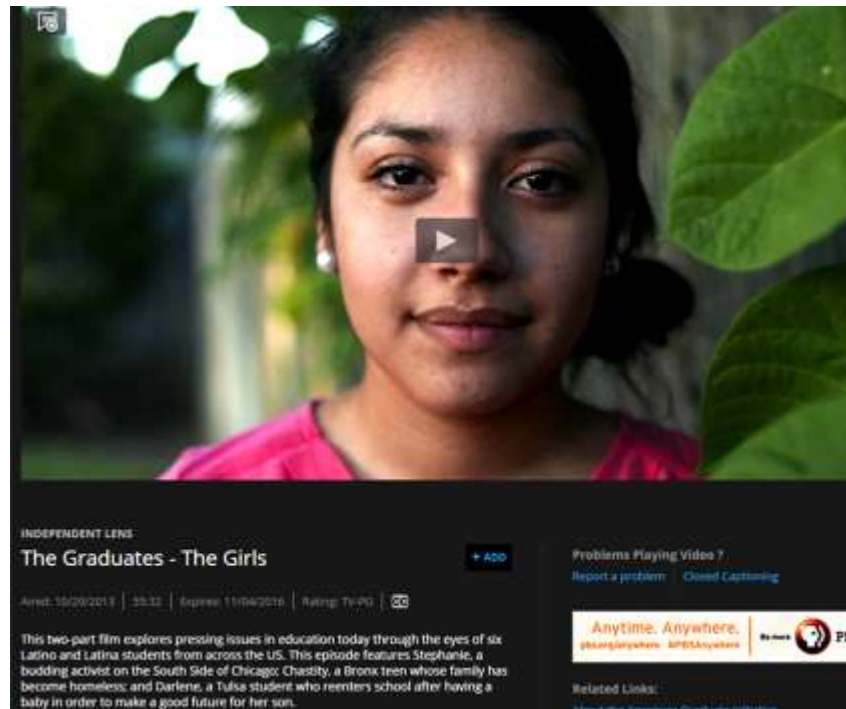
II. Homelessness and Urban Poverty Review Questions (cont.):

6. Extra Credit Option: mental illness, stigma and homelessness: In his Chapter 3 [Emptying the back ards](#) Christopher Jencks argues changes mental health policy also contributed rising homelessness in major U.S. cities. a) What percentage of the homeless are also mentally ill ([Jencks, Table 4](#) p. 22)? What “double stigma” did Chicago resident Denise White and her son Brelynn White overcome ([ABC ATM Part 3](#))? When did Brelynn become ill? Mentally ill Brelynn dissipates his social capital: eventually even his parents throw him out of the house. When Brelynn became homeless he suffered from three stigmas. Explain. In the end Brelynn, however, benefited from the fact that his family was middle class. How? Could the Whites have put Brelynn into a mental hospital? Did anyone in the film suggest this might have been a good idea? (see part c) (b) Had Phoenix police officers [Margiotta and David Beauchamp](#) encountered Brelynn when he was homeless and mentally ill, what would might have happened? (Assuming they would respond the same way they did to the man with schizophrenia in the story). Would this be a typical police response (given recent incidents in NYC and the South)? Where do many mentally ill homeless wind up? Is this cheaper for the government than supported work and living arrangements? (see Berstein [NYT Housing the Mentally Ill](#), 2001). c) Do health professionals such as Harvard’s Alvin Poussant, Brelynn’s psychiatrist Carl Bell and Fuller Torrey endorse Denise White’s approach to dealing with Brelynn’s illness? What model of care do they advocate? Does this approach to mental health care appear to have helped John Nash, Moe Armstrong and Brelynn White? What are they doing now? Were they victims or beneficiaries of what Jencks describes as the “policy train wreck” caused by “emptying the backwards?” How can the current system of outpatient care be improved to make both the mentally ill homeless and city streets safer? d) *Why does Jencks argue for more generous housing allowances for the mentally ill? Would this have kept Nash, Armstrong or Brelynn White off the streets? How were these homeless men helped by the fact that they came for middle class families? How can government replicate these benefits, or can it? Names EC for Quiz 6* Brelynn White, Moe Armstrong, John Nash, David Beauchamp, Alvin Poussant, Debra Bounsell, Carl Bell and Fuller Torrey homelessness and social capital (networks).

7. Globalization and U.S. urban poverty during the 1990s: a) What did W.J. Wilson expect to happen to African and Hispanic Americans during the 1990s globalization period: immigration expanded manufacturing imports and increasing demand for skilled workers. b) What in fact happened urban poverty and African American poverty during the 1990s? (see “[Stunning progress](#)” and the [ERP 2001 pp. 187-92](#)) Do these developments support the “behavioral” or economic view of urban poverty (or both)? How did shifts in housing policy from large projects to vouchers affect these developments? c) How did many African and Hispanic Americans escape high poverty neighborhoods—how did the research on Gautreaux Program in Chicago support this approach to reducing poverty? Why didn’t increased immigration increase poverty among these vulnerable groups?

8. Social isolation, contagion or neighborhood effects all suggest that a disadvantageous location make it more difficult to overcome poverty. a) What does the success of the G. Canada’s Harlem Children’s Zone and Eugene’s Lang’s “I have a Dream” program, Kathy Morgan’s college counseling at a Bronx high school, and the First Step employment program for Debra Bounsell suggest both about the dangers of social exclusion and what is necessary to overcome it? These programs are expensive, but given poverty trends in the 1990s they are now more feasible—why? b) Is there a parallel between these specialized, expensive programs and the geographic isolation of some developing countries (Uganda, Nepal, Bolivia, Mongolia)? c) What can be done to overcome social and geographic isolation? Why is easier to do this within the United States than between countries? How

are housing and school vouchers potentially helpful in this regard? Why are these mobility enhancing programs sometimes a hard sell politically? d) One sign of a complete loss of social capital is losing one's children to foster care. Explain. What does it take to "rebuild" social capital (relationships) in the case of Debra Brounsel? Why aren't regular welfare and job search programs be adequate to help someone like Debra Brounsel?



<http://video.pbs.org/video/2365097995/>

On helping homeless students:

Christopher Jencks arguments regarding homelessness and mental illness are meant to steer programs aimed at helping the homeless, not to argue they should not be helped. Both John Nash and Brelynn (in ABC nightline troubled mind, part 2 and part 3) were helped by the tolerance of people living in their respective communities (and Churches and a University). Does Jencks

Counting the Homeless: The problem of helping the homeless is complicated by the fact that the roughly 550,000 "[literally homeless](#)" are matched by those in shelters and swamped by the 2-3 million "doubled up" or "precariously housed." Programs that reach out to the homeless should avoid encouraging this last group to become "homeless" by giving them high priority for subsidized housing. This is "tough love" but necessary (as is tolerance of mentally ill relying on "community care.") to allow government to focus on the homeless already in the system.

Using Section 8 programs to encourage people in high rent cities to locate in the Suburbs

EC: [Homeless Students](#)

Always check the latest NYC hope count

Unsheltered Homeless		Total Population	UNSH homeless
New York City	3,262	8,175,133	0.04%
San Francisco, CA	3,106	805,235	0.39%
Los Angeles, CA	12,977	3,792,621	0.34%
Seattle, WA	1,898	608,660	0.31%
Miami, FL	487	399,457	0.12%
Washington, DC	305	601,723	0.05%
Chicago, IL	1,722	2,695,598	0.06%
Boston, MA	182	617,594	0.03%