# **Data Sourcing**

Team Number: 120

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**Topic: Homelessness and Rising Rental Costs in the US**

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## Business Problem

Many Americans today have chosen to rent housing vs. buying. Some of the reasons for their choices are no maintenance costs to cover, no real estate taxes to pay, access to complimentary amenities, or even more flexibility if the renter decides to relocate. Rental properties were forced to lock in on current rental rates during the pandemic. However, now that Americans are returning to normalcy, rental rates have risen.

Typically, the highest rent increase was about 3% in the past. However, America is seeing at least an 11% increase from a year earlier, with some larger cities showing 30-40% increases. Unfortunately, the average renter’s income is not increasing at these same rates, causing renters to become homeless. Even though many homeless people might be employed, they just cannot afford housing.

Our goal is to create a data-driven tool that will demonstrate whether there is a link between rising rent and homelessness in the United States.

## Business Impact

Homelessness has a massive impact on the health and well-being of families nationwide. Among numerous health issues, homeless people are exposed to more outside elements – hot, cold, rain, snow, hurricanes, tornados, which increase the likelihood of getting sickness, injury, or disease can spread.

Additionally, [Bridges](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00111287221087957) (2022) has reported a strong correlation between homelessness and crime, which does not necessarily mean that homeless people cause offense. But due to harsh living conditions and a lack of defending themselves, they are vulnerable to hate crime.

Finally, [Ventriglio et al.](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Homelessness_and_Mental_Health/4_hQEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0) (2022) gave an outstanding review of the link between homelessness and mental health illnesses, which is obvious. Social and economic issues such as poverty, migration, unemployment, access to healthcare, and urbanization significantly impact both. As a result, understanding the cultural context is necessary for providing the best care in the community.

The public might be interested in having a tool that can show how changes in rent costs impact the level of homelessness in the USA. Despite that, several government agencies should be another potential audience because they can develop creative strategies to mitigate the problem. Solutions can cover programs such as temporary housing, career training, financial management, and childcare services.

## Data

The data planned to obtain and review in this project will focus on geography, population, household population, education, employment status, income, housing tenure, housing cost and homelessness by state. Data timeframes reviewed will be 2007 to 2021.

## Database List

**US Population Database**

File name: project\_data.csv (US population indexes) 2010 – 2020

Name: US Population and People

Size: 3.6 MB

Source: <https://data.census.gov>

Direct link: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States>

**US Homelessness Database**

File name: 2007-2021-PIT-Counts-by-State (2007 – 2020)

Name: PIT and HIC Data Since 2007

Size: 1.1 MB

Source: <https://data.census.gov>

Direct link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>

**State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition**  
The number of people experiencing homelessness (2017-2020)  
Size: 201 KB  
Source: [Home - National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://endhomelessness.org/)

Direct link: [State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition - National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2021/)

**Apartment List National Rent Report**

Size: Unknown

Tables within this website will be reviewed

Source: [https://www.apartmentlist.com](https://www.apartmentlist.com/)  
Direct link: <https://www.apartmentlist.com/research/national-rent-data>

**All-Transactions House Price Index for the United States, Index 1980: Q1=100, Quarterly, Not Seasonally**

How has the house price index (HPI) impacted in the United States over time?

Size: 225KB  
Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/USSTHPI>  
Direct link: [All-Transactions House Price Index for the United States (USSTHPI) | FRED | St. Louis Fed (stlouisfed.org)](https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/USSTHPI)