

AFD 214 Half Ep Feb 13 Homelessness

- Homelessness Policy
 - New Zealand Labour's key housing priority - bill
 - <http://www.labour.org.nz/housing>
 - What is the overall situation in NZ?
 - Statistics: Perhaps the worst per capita in the OECD (almost 1% in 2015), although numerically relatively small & defined broadly <https://www.oecd.org/els/family/HC3-1-Homeless-population.pdf>
 - No longer stereotypical population on the streets with mental health issues, but also whole families, often with unofficial places to stay (similar to the issue in Massachusetts with couch-surfing counts by the state gov't)
 - 44% increase in absolute numbers from 2001-2015
 - Conservatives in the recent National Party government bought 4 entire motels to try to provide emergency or even transitional housing, but this is not a permanent fix and they actually decreased permanent state housing ownership in key areas https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS_20170816_053400000/9-emergency-housing-government-purchase-and-use-of-motels
 - Ban on foreign housing speculation, more taxes on domestic speculators
 - Proposed Housing First policy (Will it be direct ownership or landlord contracts or non-profit contracts?)
 - Inspired (as in some other countries) by Canadian experiment <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/communities/homelessness/housing-first/supports.html> (Includes social services as well as funding grants for home improvements, maintenance, utilities, etc.); Canada's experiments are still fairly diversified and disparate. Some include rent share payments by the housed tenants.
 - Might involve providing permanent homes (as opposed to temporary/emergency housing) and providing "wrap-around services" https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/nzlabour/pages/4725/attachments/original/1476053092/CPHI_report_final.pdf?1476053092 - not sure if this would be government owned (currently under 6% of NZ stock) or government contracted (private or nonprofit) <http://www.oecd.org/social/affordable-housing-database.htm>
 - Plus some tailored reforms for Maori communities
 - Also improved safety & quality regulations on rental housing stock
 - Cost per person in NZ to "keep" them homeless instead of finding housing is US\$47,000; estimated cost per person to provide

long-term housing directly is less than US\$12,000 (these are direct conversions not adjusted for local purchasing power), which is a reminder that actual monthly rents per person are a drop in the bucket for a government to cover

- NZ Labour points out that one pitfall with state-owned housing is a tendency by conservatives to try to make it a revenue stream
- UK Labour home policies - nate
 - Home buying by the state
 - Land seizure by the state (“English Sovereign Land Trust”) at reduced prices based on real value not speculated future value
 - https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/feb/01/labour-plans-landowner-s-sell-state-fraction-value?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other
 - <https://labour.org.uk/manifesto/secure-homes-for-all/>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/05/tory-cost-council-housing-labour-planning-policy-liz-truss>
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/housing-bill_uk_5a61aa87e4b0125fd6357c69
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/labours-ruling-nec-votes-to-halt-harrogate-council-hdv-scheme_uk_5a67625be4b0e5630073f84d
- Tiny homes for the homeless - nate
 - <https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/08/28/san-jose-proposes-just-two-tiny-home-villages-for-homeless/>
 - <https://www.curbed.com/maps/tiny-houses-for-the-homeless-villages>
- United States - rachel
 - Utah, Idaho
 - <https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865678779/Is-Utah-still-a-model-for-solving-chronic-homelessness.html> Success was somewhat inflated by lack of nuance surrounding definition of “chronic homelessness” - homelessness > 1 year or 4 periods of homelessness over 3 years adding to over 1 year. There was a reduction in number and percentage of chronic homeless to 6% post-2015, compared to nationwide average of 22%; 900 people put into permanent housing. Now, focus is on expanding outreach to “persistently homeless” - those homeless for 90-365 days - with Homes not Jails program. Investors will only get paid if metrics are met “for reduced arrests, improved employment wages, and service hours worked by participants”. “State and local officials are moving aggressively to streamline homeless services. In a few dizzying weeks in February and March, state, county and local officials served, volleyed and slammed proposals for multiple smaller, dispersed facilities to replace the current center on Rio Grande. Their efforts have met with an outcry about a lack of transparency in decision-making from citizens whose neighborhoods would be affected.”

- <https://www.idahohousing.com/news/new-path-community-housing-breaks-ground-boises-housing-first-development-house-areas-chronically-homeless-fall-2018/> 41-unit building (1 for case manager, 40 for homeless people) built with funding from Idaho Housing and Finance Association, who issue municipal bonds to fund low-interest mortgages and provide other housing assistance.; for every 40 homeless people, \$2.1 million is spent on services annually (criminal system, detox, shelter, medical care), if they are housed, the cost would be approximately \$450k; voucher system for rent and utilities pre-funded by city and county, but money won't be used until building is in place and ready to house people; public-private partnership for services (local not-for-profit hospitals and Ada County)
- In 2015, according to the OECD, the US had over half a million homeless, including people with emergency or temporary accommodations
- Some US cities as far back as 1988 have experimented with Housing First programs but often through the non-profit sector more than through the government https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housing_First