

#HHChat September 9th, 2014

How does the location of social services affect homelessness? Our guest for the tweet chat was Kyle Pakeman, a Master of Planning Candidate at Queen's University investigating how many cities in Canada have been, and continue to be designed in a manner that perpetuates socio-economic inequalities.

The morning of the tweet chat we published a blog post by Kyle Pakeman on the topic of homelessness and the design of cities. Kyle's post raised some interesting questions which we wanted to discuss in our monthly tweet chat.



THE SHAPE OF HOMELESSNESS: HOW THE LOCATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES AFFECTS HOMELESSNESS

Take a moment to imagine yourself strolling along a quiet, suburban street. Now picture a busy, downtown street. The experience and sights are obviously quite different. One of the most obvious, and certainly visible, differences is the physical contrast between the two settings.

 [HOMELESSHUB](#)



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Welcome everyone to today's tweet chat! Introduce yourself as you join us and make sure to use [#HHChat](#) for today's conversation.

A DAY AGO

Some introductions from our participants:



Raising the Roof
@RaisingTheRoof

Joining in now for today's [#HHChat](#) with [@homelesshub](#)! [@kyleplanman](#) to discuss the impact of urban planning on [#homelessness](#)

@EdmontonCRHC · A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

Shelba Waldron here from Florida. #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

Stephanie here from @ONPHA in Toronto. #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

@homelesshub Joining in from McMaster University. Master of Health & Aging candidate #HHChHHChat

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Joining us @kyleplanman Master of Planning Candidate @queensu investigating how city design perpetuates socio-economic inequalities #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

Hello everyone, incredibly excited to share my (growing) knowledge and passion for #socialjustice and #homelessness with everyone #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO

The tweet chat allowed everyone to answer the questions. This made it a more interactive experience.



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

If you've joined our previous chats, you might notice today we're changing our style slightly. We want to hear what YOU have to say. [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

For today [#HHChat](#) we're using Q/A format – we'll be posting a series of questions using Q1, Q2, etc. Please respond with A1, A2 ... Thanks!

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Welcome to the chat [@kyleplanman](#)! We're ready to begin with our first question. [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO

Question #1:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q1: In your community, where would you expect to find people who are unsheltered? Are they concentrated in a specific area? [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

To answer our first question just start your tweet with "A1" so everyone can see what question you are replying to. Thanks! [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A1: 1/3 The visible homeless are often found in the DT area of Kingston; in city parks and along Princess St. #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A1: 2/3 Rarely do you find unsheltered persons in the Kingston #suburbs #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A1: 3/3 If a #suburban or #rural resident becomes homeless, they are likely to move DT to access social services #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

@kyleplanman or perhaps couch-surf or live with relatives for a short time first. #HHchat (hidden homeless)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

@writingquirky that is certainly the case as well. Double bunking makes it difficult to determine the concentration of #homelessness #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

[@kyleplanman](#) Exactly. We start seeing overlap between those who are [#homeless](#) and those who are inadequately housed. [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



James Allen Kindler
@JamesKindler21

[@homelesshub](#) A1: They are largely in the city where the services are.

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A1: largely in the downtown core, along major streets, close to TTC stations. Where tourists might be and close to services. [#HHchat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

[@homelesshub](#) A1 In Pinellas County Fl. (St. Pete) they are in very specific pockets spread out through the various municipalities. [#hhchat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@homelesshub](#) A1: They tend to cluster downtown Hamilton as well [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO

Question #2:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q2: Why do you think this specific area has a high concentration of people who are homeless? #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A2: 1/4 The article mentions the 'zone of dependence' (ZOD) idea which plays an important role #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A2: 2/4 But other factors come into play, such as: #walkability (#urbanplanning term). See spacing.ca/national/2013/... #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A2: 3/4 #walkability matters because #homeless people need convenient and free access to all their needs. Transportation = \$\$ #HHchat

A DAY AGO



SPC Kingston
@spckin

.@kyleplanman: #walkability matters because #homeless people need convenient and free access to all their needs. Transportation = \$\$ #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A2: 4/4 [#Walkability](#) also creates high pedestrian traffic which offers homeless people access to a source of revenue by panhandling [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

[@homelesshub](#) A2 [#HHChat](#) Bus stops, payday loan sites, churches, and shelters

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A2: Walkable area with access to parks, services, transit. Steady people traffic generates opportunities for panhandling. [#HHchat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



James Allen Kindler
@JamesKindler21

[@homelesshub](#) [#HHChat](#) A2: It is where the shelters and meals are.

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@homelesshub](#) Easier to meet basic needs (when walking) DT than in rural areas [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Julie McKercher
@JulieMcKercher

[@RachelWeldrick](#) [@homelesshub](#) That's a great argument for expanding services to the rural areas

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@JulieMcKercher](#) Absolutely. Esp. due to lack of shelters, etc. in rural areas. [#Ruralhomelessness](#) deserves greater attention [#HHChat](#)

[@homelesshub](#) · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A2: I wouldn't underestimate the value of "interesting" when choosing a place to rest, panhandle etc. Walkable downtowns are lively. [#HHchat](#)

[@homelesshub](#) · A DAY AGO

Question #3:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q3: Do you think the location of homeless services limits or creates barriers for those who are homeless? [#HHChat](#)

[@RaisingTheRoof](#) · A DAY AGO



Julie McKercher
@JulieMcKercher

[@homelesshub](#) [#HHChat](#) of course. For many who hail from outside DT, lost are the social connections to communities of origin. Big barrier

[@DrJoshuaTepper](#) · A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@homelesshub](#) A3: Yes. Rural homeless, and small-town homeless, may have fewer resources (in some cases) [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A3: 1/3 It is hard to say. Clustering services may allow for easier access once they have entered the [#ZOD](#). However... [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A3: 2/3 However if [#homeless](#) people do not want to relocate from their existing communities, this will cause a significant barrier [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@kyleplanman](#) Or may not be able to relocate [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

[@RachelWeldrick](#) agreed!

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A3: 3/3 For [#ruralhomelessness](#), a lack of [#transportation](#) and the distance to these services may also pose a barrier [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

[@kyleplanman](#) Yep. Homelessness in car-dependent areas looks/feels very different. ore sleeping in cars, trailers, couches. Stigma. #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

A3: It significantly decreases the barriers. Especially w/ the issue of transportation. Fl. has awful transportation system. #hhchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

[@ShelbaWaldron](#) Miami is an interesting example of a FL city that has invested in public transportation, but not efficiently

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

#hhchat A3 Clarify. Services need to be near the homeless and in PINellas county we strive to do that.

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A3: Yes and no. Homeless tend to cluster in urban areas. Hard to determine whether population follows services or vice versa. #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

@writingquirky It's like the chicken and the egg debate. Which came first?
#HHChat

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

@homelesshub Exactly. Some studies are showing that homeless aren't as transient as people like to believe: vancitybuzz.com/2014/08/findin...
#HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

@writingquirky Very interesting. Thanks for sharing this. #HHChat

A DAY AGO

Question #4:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q4: How do you think the concentration of homeless services impacts public view of homelessness? #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Julie McKercher
@JulieMcKercher

@homelesshub I'd say the mere mention of Zone of DEPENDENCE says it all.
Negative perceptions

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@homelesshub](#) A4: Often people wrongly assume that homelessness does not exist in rural areas, as it may be less visible [#HHChat](#)

[@homelesshub](#) · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

[@RachelWeldrick](#) [@homelesshub](#) great point. people typically assume [#homelessness](#) is strictly a [#urbanproblem](#) [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

[@RachelWeldrick](#) [@homelesshub](#) Exactly. There is a strong mental image of homelessness and rural homeless often don't match. [#HHchat](#)

[@homelesshub](#) · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A4: 1/4 This depends on the size of the city/town and the size of the [#homeless](#) population [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A4: 2/4 In larger cities you get larger homeless populations and more concentration. Therefore [#homelessness](#) is more apparent [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@kyleplanman](#) Exactly. [#Ruralhomelessness](#) isn't always immediately apparent [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A4: 3/4 As [#homelessness](#) in a community increases, there may be more and more negative public views on homelessness. [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A4: 4/4 In smaller cities you get lower homelessness and concentration. There may be less [#stigma](#) attached to [#homelessness](#). [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@kyleplanman](#) Or perhaps more stigma (thinking small-town homeless, where someone may be known as "the homeless person") [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

[@RachelWeldrick](#) [@kyleplanman](#) Large urban centres offer the possibility of anonymity. There's still stigma, but it's less personal. [#HHchat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

[@RachelWeldrick](#) True. In very tight-knit communities the stigma may be even greater but it is probably directed to one person

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@writingquirky](#) [@kyleplanman](#) I agree. Another reason why [#RuralHomelessness](#) needs to be addressed on a larger scale. [#HHChat](#)

@JulieMcKercher · A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A4: concentration of services can set off NIMBY-style reactions from public, residents. [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

[#HHChat](#) 4. I'm not sure homeless service perception is the problem as much as the homeless perception in general is the problem.

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

People still struggle with the fact that children and the elderly are homeless. They don't get it. [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

@ShelbaWaldron It's true. Especially with aging populations, elder homelessness is rising each year. #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

@ShelbaWaldron Yes, unfortunately myths are plaguing society's view of homelessness. #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

@ShelbaWaldron We addressed some of the common questions and myths here: bit.ly/1wcoK6U #HHChat

A DAY AGO

Question #5:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q5: Has NIMBY ideas impacted the location of services in your area? What are some ways to change those ideas? #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q5 FYI: NIMBY stands for Not In My Backyard. Some more background on what this means: bit.ly/1qd7wqF #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A5: 1/4 I do not know any specific examples but I am confident NIMBYism had a role to play in the allocation of services in Kingston #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A5: 2/4 This article does a great job at explaining how #NIMBYism works in this context: homelesshub.ca/resource/makin... #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A5: 3/4 One way to combat NIMBY ideas is for municipalities to engage in community outreach. To help demystify #homelessness #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

A5: 4/4 Another strategy might be to promote 'civil empathy' among residents through education. thestar.com/news/insight/2... #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

@kyleplanman Love this term! #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Jonathan Weisman
@JJWeisman

@kyleplanman @homelesshub Why not make neighbourhoods develop plans to meet housing targets locally?

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A5: In #Toronto, resident groups were against relocating a shelter and used faux-altruism to prop their case. nowtoronto.com/news/story.cfm... #HHchat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

@writingquirky Kingston try to implement a lane-way housing policy to create #affordablehousing but #NIMBY got in the way because... #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

@writingquirky residents were concerned about the type of people #affordablehousing would attract #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

@kyleplanman Ugh. That's very, very frustrating. I see same arguments w.r.t. basement suites. #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Jonathan Weisman
@JJWeisman

[@writingquirky](#) [@homelesshub](#) Personally proud of our NH's support for supportive housing in the community. bit.ly/1scCobu

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

[@homelesshub](#) As an aside, TO is hosting its annual [@YIMBYtoronto](#) festival on Sept. 27th - Yes In My Backyard [#HHchat](#) Looking forward to it.

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Another good resource on the topic: The Homeless Crisis in Canada: If Not in My Backyard, Then Whose? bit.ly/1uHkTxM [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Greg Tedesco
@greg_tedesco

[@homelesshub](#) recent example in [#HamOnt](#) - response is critical; must address & challenge systemic inequities
httpcbc.ca/news/canada/ha...ChHHChat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@greg_tedesco](#) Thanks for sharing this article. I hadn't seen it. [#HamOnt](#)
[#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Greg Tedesco
@greg_tedesco

@[RachelWeldrick](#) there should be more on this specific case if you search - led to some pretty interesting discussion/responses at the time

A DAY AGO

Question #6:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q6: What can communities do to provide a more inclusive environment for those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness? [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

Q6: 1/2 Perhaps the best strategy would be to provide every community with the resources to deal with [#homelessness](#) [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

Q6: 2/2 Becoming homeless is a traumatic experience in itself. So to dispossess them of their community only does further harm [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

A6: Get more resources/funding to prevent homelessness through rent subsidies, \$ for rent/utility arrears, home repairs, etc. [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@writingquirky](#) You're right - prevention truly is the best course of action
[#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

[@writingquirky](#) Yes, the focus needs to be on prevention, and moving people out of homelessness. [#HHChat](#) For more see: bit.ly/WsJeMG

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

[@homelesshub](#) Q6: We focus on raising awareness on homelessness and those at risk during hurricane season. focus on the barriers. [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

[@ShelbaWaldron](#) [@homelesshub](#) Exactly. Reducing the barriers crucial
[#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

[@ShelbaWaldron](#) [@homelesshub](#) Hurricane season! Wow, must present quite a few challenges. [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

A6: Bring the stakeholders together. Counseling, Shelters, funders, education, child care, and 211. #HHChat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

@ShelbaWaldron The #housingfirst strategy will hopefully address the problem of uncoordinated resources #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

@ShelbaWaldron Great point. Resources could go a lot further if they were somehow connected/within reach of each other. #HHChat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

#HHChat Most public info for staying safe in a hurricane is geared toward the middle class. It's important to focus on those in need.

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

@ShelbaWaldron #naturaldisasters have a way of really exposing those that are the most vulnerable in our communities #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

@ShelbaWaldron aka #hurricanekatrina #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Shelba Waldron
@ShelbaWaldron

#HHChat JWB is a funder that brings stakeholders to the table every Friday to address family homelessness. jwbpinellas.org/family-service...

A DAY AGO



Greg Tedesco
@greg_tedesco

@homelesshub Q6 create/foster safe, open spaces where people can gather regularly & access diff levels of support when wanted/needed #HHChHHChat

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

We just have a few minutes left. @kyleplanman is doing a series on this topic in our blog. We hope to keep the conversation going! #HHChat

A DAY AGO



Stephanie Butler
@writingquirky

@homelesshub Excellent! Thanks @kyleplanman for hosting. #HHchat

A DAY AGO



Rachel Weldrick
@RachelWeldrick

[@homelesshub](#) Also, check out the work we've been publishing on [#homelessness](#) in late life [#HHChat](#) aginghomelessness.com/research-outco...

@homelesshub · A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Really great discussion everyone! Our next tweet chat will be in October in time for the release of our new [#SOHC2014](#) report. [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

State of homelessness in Canada [#SOHC2014](#) will highlight achievements from the past year & look at new ways of solving the problem. [#HHChHHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Thanks for participating everyone. A special thanks to [@kyleplanman](#) for joining us and providing insight on the topic. [#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Kyle Pakeman
@kyleplanman

It was a pleasure being a part of this chat! Let's continue the conversation at some later point, there is still work to be done! [#HHchat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Details on the upcoming tweet chats can be found here: bit.ly/1qEiJin
[#HHChat](#)

A DAY AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

You can also sign-up for our newsletter & get a reminder of our next tweet chat: [httpbit.ly/1qRV2ERChHHChat](http://bit.ly/1qRV2ERChHHChat)

A DAY AGO