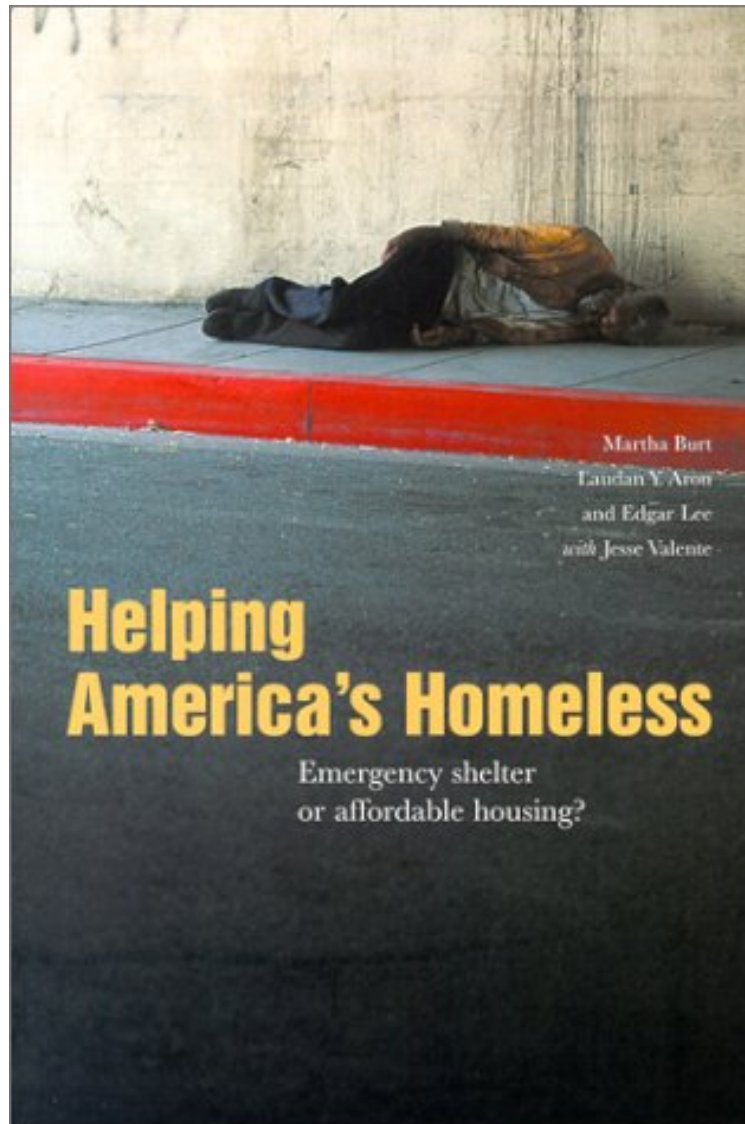


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## Helping America's Homeless: Emergency Shelter or Affordable Housing?

*Laudan Aron, Martha Burt, Edgar Lee*  
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Homelessness has now been on the American policy agenda for close to two decades. In 1989, when Martha Burt wrote *America's Homeless*, (with Barbara Cohen, Urban Institute Press), policymakers and the public may have hoped that we could end the crisis relatively quickly. The arrival of the new millennium has not fulfilled that expectation. In this volume, Martha Burt and colleagues return to the issue with the most in-depth analysis of homelessness that has ever been published. Drawing on data from the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients (NSHAPC), and extending their pioneering work, the authors examine every aspect of the issue, from how many homeless people there are, where they are, why they became homeless, and how long their homelessness lasts. They examine the programs that provide assistance to the homeless, and how they are configured within communities of different sizes. Finally, the authors explore what these data say about how policymakers have approached this problem, and about our prospects for effectively addressing it in the new millennium.

...a rich and informative overview of who is homeless and why. -- Carla I. Javits, President and CEO, Corporation for Supportive Housing  
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This landmark study should end pointless ideological bickering and provide a rock-solid foundation for finally ending this national disgrace. -- Robert Rosenheck MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health, Yale Medical School, National Director, Evaluation of VA Homeless Programs  
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About the Author  
Martha Burt is the director of the Social Services Research Program at the Urban Institute. She has been involved in research and evaluation pertaining to a wide variety of populations and issues. Her work has included the first national survey of homeless individuals, conducted in 1987. She is the author of a number of books and reports on homelessness and of the federal report based on the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients  
Laudan Y. Aron is a research associate at the Urban Institute's Labor and Social Policy Center. Her work has covered a wide range of social welfare issues, including child welfare and child support; health, disability, and family planning; education; employment and training; and homelessness  
Edgar K. Lee is currently pursuing graduate studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and is a researcher at the Civil Rights Project at Harvard Law School. Jesse Valente, now at Abt Associates in Boston, was a research assistant at the Urban Institute from 1998 through 2000.