

## Lesson 2

# What is Homelessness?

Second level

SOCs: 2-15A, 2-16A

Learning Intention: To understand what homelessness is, and why it still happens in Scotland today.

Success Criteria:

- I can explain what homelessness means.
- I can list 3 reasons a person might become homeless.
- I can explain the difference between chance and choice.

## Teacher's Notes

Please note that the statistics in this lesson are correct as of October 2017.  
For this lesson, you will need enough dice for each pair or group.

### What is homelessness?

Homelessness means not having a home. You don't have to be living on the street to be homeless – even if you have a roof over your head you can still be without a home.

Every 19 minutes a household in Scotland is assessed as homeless.

### Which situations mean you're homeless?

- Sleeping on the streets
- Staying with friends or family
- Staying in a hostel or bed and breakfast hotel
- Living in overcrowded conditions

### Reasons which might lead to you becoming homeless

- You can't afford to pay your rent
- Losing your job
- Health problems
- Your relationship breaks down
- A disaster such as fire or flooding

### What do Shelter Scotland do?

We help people in crisis, who are at risk of losing their home. We offer advice and support to anyone in Scotland who is homeless or in bad housing. We believe that everyone should have a safe place to call home.

## How many households are homeless in Scotland

- Over 28,000 last year
- This includes over 6000 children – that's more than 2 children in every primary school in Scotland without a home

### Activity

- Next, move onto the Chance not Choice board game. This game is designed like snakes and ladders. The snakes represent something that might lead to a person losing their home, and the ladders represent something that might lead to a person maintaining their home.
- Print enough snakes and ladders games for pupils to play in small groups.
- After a set amount of time playing the game (10-15 minutes), ask everyone who stood on a snake to stand.
- Ask each group some detail about which snakes they stood on, what happened in their life to make that happen, and how it would make them feel if that happened.
- Use this discussion to explain to the class that homelessness is a chance not a choice, that it can happen to anyone irrespective of their choices.

### Extension

This [link](#) gives an option for teachers to investigate further, and find information on homelessness in their schools local authority.