

Underbelly of Sweeps

For those who survive the relentless emotional trauma of **being treated like cockroaches to be exterminated**, there is the logistical upheaval of having to constantly start over in the **endless cycle of loss**.

The following is taken from Section 1, of the CA Law, SB634, Oct. 10, 2025

“As of **2024**, on any given night, over **187,000 people** are experiencing homelessness in California, with data from the state’s Homeless Data Integration System showing over **308,000 people experiencing homelessness accessing services** over the course of the year and many more at risk of homelessness.”

“**Homelessness is a policy failure primarily**...decades of failed housing policy, coupled with structural and institutional prejudice...and excessive penalties.”

“**Arresting, fining, and jailing people experiencing homelessness for the act of living outside and conducting life-sustaining activities does not contribute to ending homelessness...(but) ...adds additional barriers** to ending someone’s homelessness, including causing people to lose touch with case managers, family, and friends seeking to assist them...” **“These Barriers include...**

- ...**missing** work and losing needed income to get back to housing...

- ...**missing** critical health care appointments that may contribute to deteriorating health.

- ...**loss of key property**, including identification, birth certificates, and other **documents** that are needed to access subsidized housing, essential services and public benefits.

- ...**financial penalties** that can increase debt damage credit, and result in bench warrants that result in additional jail time...”

Also, the **most unrecognized and insidious harm** of years to **decades of sleep deprivation** that comes from needing to stay awake at night, keeping vigilant against theft, physical attacks and the constant demands of police **raiding camps** and waking sleepers demanding they move, and their ultimately trying to catch up with random, and inefficient **attempts at “day sleeping.”**

****Such chronic sleep deprivation generally leads to severe mental and physical damage**, including memory loss, irritability and mood changes, lack of emotional control, heart disease, diabetes, and weakened immunity, leaving them vulnerable to staff and viral infections.

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Criminalization of the Homeless also penalizes those trying to help them, adding **excessively high (required) insurance costs** to the **actual cost** of providing the home or service from community-based service providers, organizations and community members, **hindering the responsiveness** of both publicly funded and other community-based responses to end homelessness.