



For Immediate Release

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HOW SHOULD WE HOUSE OUR MOST FRAGILE CITIZENS?

NEW ANALYSIS OF A SWEEPING STUDY OFFERS UNEXPECTED ANSWERS

Humans are social animals and, in general, don't thrive in isolated environments. Homeless people, many of whom suffer from serious mental illnesses, often live socially isolated on the streets or in shelters. **Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness** (Harvard University Press; February 28, 2011; \$49.95) describes a carefully designed large-scale study to assess how well these people do when attempts are made to reduce their social isolation and integrate them into the community.

Should homeless mentally ill people be provided with the type of housing they want or with what clinicians think they need? Is residential staff necessary? Are roommates advantageous? How is community integration affected by substance abuse, psychiatric diagnoses, and cognitive functioning? *Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness* answers these questions and reexamines the assumptions behind housing policies that support the preference of most homeless mentally ill people to live alone in independent apartments. The analysis shows that living alone reduces housing retention as well as cognitive functioning, while group homes improve these critical outcomes. Throughout the book, Russell Schutt explores the meaning and value of community for our most fragile citizens.

Russell K. Schutt is Professor and Chair of Sociology at University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Lecturer on Sociology in the Department of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School.

Stephen M. Goldfinger is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Department Chair at SUNY Downtown Medical Center.

HOMELESSNESS, HOUSING, AND MENTAL ILLNESS

by Russell K. Schutt, with Stephen M. Goldfinger

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402 pages | 47 charts | 7 tables

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