

## **LISTEN TO THE ARTICLE and TAKE NOTES**

You should be able to answer the following questions :

- **WH questions** → Who/ What / Where / Why / When etc.
- **What kind of article is this?** (→ piece of opinion writing or factual article?)

**SPACE OUT YOUR NOTES**

## **PAIR WORK**

With your partner :

- Select the important facts / ideas
- Find transitions between them.

RV /ɑ: 'vi:/ = Recreational Vehicle



Now they are fielding requests from other community colleges asking how to provide parking for their own homeless students.

### **WRAP-UP SENTENCE :**

All in all, this article shows that the issue of homelessness among Americans who work or study is far from being resolved.

# Homeless people 'deeply failed' as deaths in UK reach record high

bbc.com, 8 October 2025

Michael Buchanan Social affairs correspondent



Met Police

Anthony Marks died in September 2024, weeks after being assaulted while sheltering in a bin shed

The number of people who died while homeless in the UK reached a record high last year, according to new figures.

The Museum of Homelessness, which compiles the data, said that 1,611 homeless people died in 2024.

The figure is 9% higher than the year before, with the majority of deaths being linked to suicide or drugs, with spice and nitazenes becoming increasingly deadly.

Matthew Turtle, director of the museum, said the deaths "show how homeless people continue to be deeply failed".

Homelessness Minister Alison McGovern described the figures as "heartbreaking" and said the government was "accelerating efforts to tackle the root causes of homelessness".

## 'Increasing levels of poverty'

The data is collated using information from coroner's courts, media coverage, family testimony and Freedom of Information requests. The government no longer publishes official data on the numbers of deaths of homeless people.

Among those who died was Anthony Marks, 51, who was assaulted in August 2024 near London's King's Cross station while sheltering in a bin shed.

Two weeks after being released from hospital, he was readmitted following a seizure and died. Four people have been charged over his death.

"We shouldn't be surprised that people are dying on our streets," said Tim Renshaw, chief executive of the Archer Project, a homeless charity in Sheffield.

"We have one of the worst systems in terms of making housing available to the poorest. We are looking at homelessness being related to health factors - trauma, depression, anxiety. And we've increasing levels of poverty."

In November 2024, three homeless women died within 10 days in Sheffield.

One of those, a woman in her 40s, was buried without a single person attending her funeral.

She'd been known to homeless services in Sheffield for a number of years, said Mr Renshaw, but the name they knew her by was not her registered name.

When her funeral was arranged in her official name, no-one recognised her.

"It was an absolute tragedy," he said. "We had people approaching us saying they'd liked to have attended her funeral."

## **TWO KEY QUESTIONS FOR A COMMENTARY :**

Is it the role of charities and NGOS or the government to help people in need?

Does the so-called American Dream still exist?

