

HOW DOES TRINITY SUPPORT STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY?

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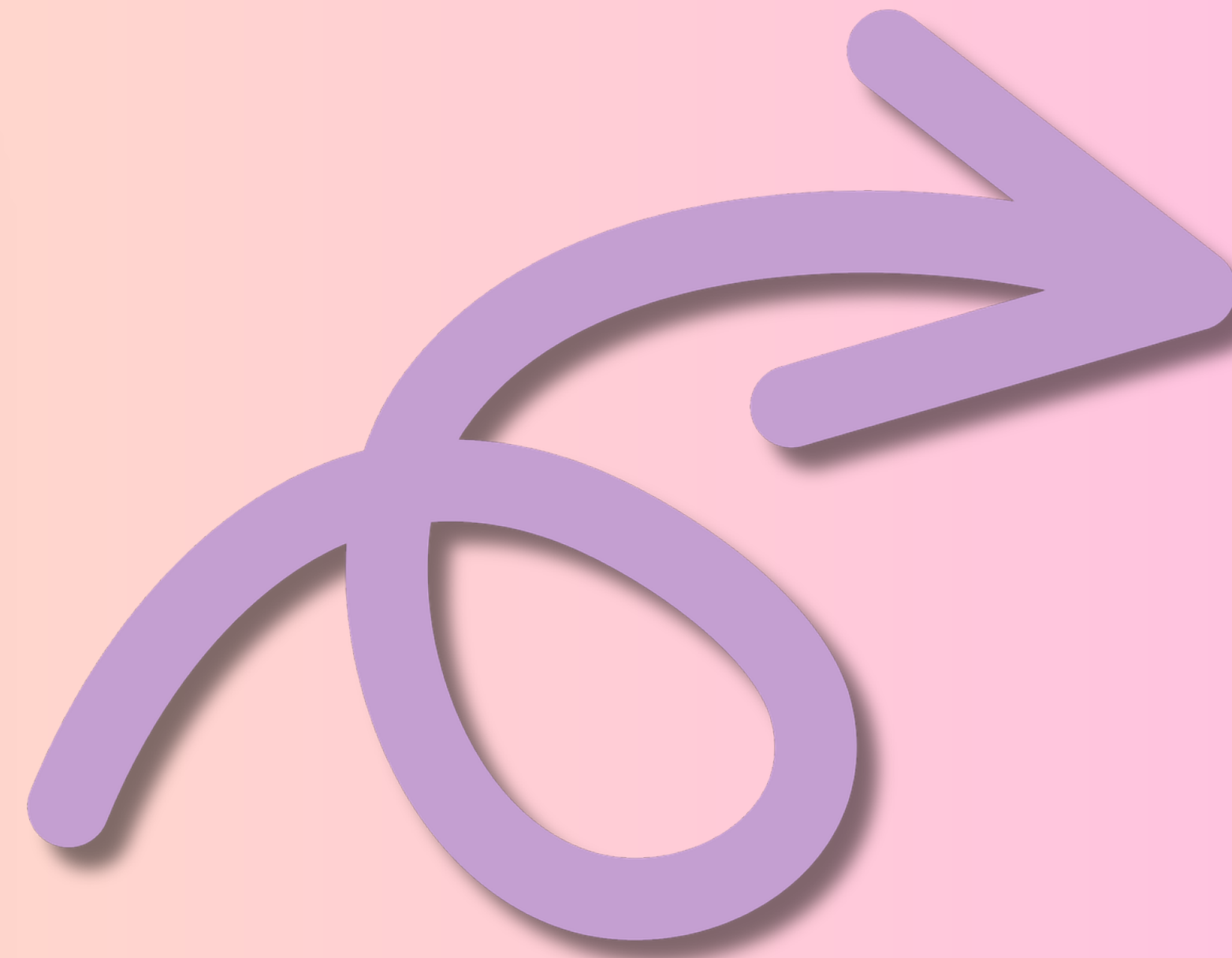
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CONTEXT

Student homelessness is not always visible.

Hidden homelessness can include couch surfing, temporary accommodation and overcrowding (Crawley et al., 2013).

Housing insecurity can negatively affect **sleep, wellbeing and academic success** (Haskett et al., 2021).



At least 346 students disclosed homelessness across Irish higher education institutions in 2024/25 (Mahon, 2026)

KEY FINDINGS

1. THE SCALE IS UNKNOWN

Housing insecurity is encountered regularly, but Trinity has **no centralised system for recording cases**.

2. HOMELESSNESS IS OFTEN HIDDEN

Reported experiences included **couch surfing, hostels, temporary or overcrowded housing, unsafe accommodation and unsustainable commuting**.

3. PARTICIPATION IS AFFECTED

Housing insecurity can disrupt **sleep, concentration, attendance, study, wellbeing and university participation**.

4. SUPPORT EXISTS, BUT IS FRAGMENTED

Trinity has significant supports, but there is **no single coordinated pathway** for students experiencing housing insecurity.

AIMS

Explore how Trinity identifies and supports student housing insecurity.

Examine existing supports and gaps.

Compare approaches across Irish universities.

Identify ways Trinity's response could be strengthened.

METHODOLOGY

Six-week qualitative scoping study combining:

Academic literature, policy and institutional sources

Consultations with **TAP, TCDSU and a Trinity Mental Health Social Worker**

Comparison with approaches across other Irish universities

No student-level or identifying data were collected.

ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Trinity's main challenge is not an absence of support, but **how support is identified, accessed and coordinated**.

Recommendations:

- Trinity-wide strategy
- define and monitor housing insecurity
- clear support pathway
- earlier intervention
- rapid crisis support
- flexible emergency accommodation
- stronger external partnerships.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Housing insecurity is an issue of educational participation, wellbeing and socioeconomic equality.

REFERENCES

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