



Fact Sheet on Homelessness and Poverty

- Homeless children are twice as likely as other children to repeat a grade, and more likely to score at the lowest levels of proficiency in math and reading. On average less than 25% will ever achieve a high school diploma. They are twice as likely to experience hunger, with 1 in 3 forced to skip meals, and 2 out of 3 actually worrying about where their next meal will come from. The chances a child becoming homeless at some point in his/her life time are 1 in 50. (1)
- Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Although children represent 24.5% of the overall population they make up 35.5% of the people in poverty. (2)
- According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau report, approximately, 14.3% of the total U.S. population lives in poverty. Of that, 14.8 million are children. (3)
- Roughly 40% of families facing eviction due to foreclosure are renters, and 61% of post-eviction living situations lead to an emergency shelter. (4)
- An individual earning the national minimum wage of \$7.25 must work 102 hours each week or 2.55 fulltime jobs in order to afford an average two-bedroom apartment. (5)
- The gap between the amount of affordable housing units available and the number of people who need them is about 4.5 million units. Public housing authorities and Section 8 vouchers (the federal assistance program for affordable housing) have a typical waiting period of 35 months. (6)
- Real income among all U.S. workers decreased by 1% in 2009. Those with an income below the poverty line saw a decrease of 2%. (7)
- On average cities reported a 25% increase in demand for food assistance, the largest demand reported since 1991. (8)
- In 2010, 1 in 5 people who were homeless had a job, the highest percentage ever. (9)
- In 33 states, the annual cost of childcare is more than the annual cost of attending a public university. An estimated 2.7 million people could be lifted from poverty if childcare assistance was provided. (10)

Sources

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