

HOMELESS FACTS & FIGURES



Indiana, Evansville and Vanderburgh

WHO has no home?

- On average, there are 445 individuals in shelter or transitional housing on any given night in Evansville.
- During a single night in January, 532 individuals in Vanderburgh County were identified as being homeless. (Point-in-time count, Vanderburgh County 2012)
- In Vanderburgh County, the number of single homeless individuals decreased from 2011-2012, while the number of families increased.
- Uncounted individuals (at least 50-60) are living in places not meant for habitation or are doubled-up due to an inability to find safe, clean, affordable independent housing.



Barriers - WHAT hinders having a home?

- In 2013 Fair Market Rent for a 1BR apartment in Evansville is \$583.00
- An individual receiving SSI (\$674/month) can only afford a monthly rent of no more \$202 based on HUD's affordability standard. ("Out of Reach Report," National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2009)
- A minimum wage earner (\$7.25/hour) can afford rent of no more than \$377 per month. ("Out of Reach Report," National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2012) In Vanderburgh County, 35% of individuals are renters.
- A worker must earn \$13.43 an hour or work 74 hours a week at minimum wage to afford a 2BR apartment. ("Out of Reach Report," National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2012)
- As of 2011, 15.5% of Vanderburgh County residents live below the poverty line, compared with the state level of 14.1%. (United States Census Bureau)

State Statistics

- In Indiana, 180,900 low-income renter households pay more than half their monthly cash income for housing costs. About 15% of these severely cost-burdened renter households are headed by people who are elderly, 22% have disabilities, while 30% are other families with children. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Indiana Federal Rental Assistance Facts, 2012*)
- Approximately 6,196 homeless individuals reside in Indiana. (Spotlight on Poverty)
- More than 91,000 low-income households receive federal rental assistance. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Indiana Federal Rental Assistance Facts, 2012*)

Services

- The waiting list for the Section 8 is up to two years, project based section 8 is one to one and one-half years and public housing upwards of 6 months.
- Family shelters in Evansville remain at full occupancy and often must turn families away.

"Family homelessness is caused by the combined effects of a lack of affordable housing, extreme poverty, decreasing government supports... raising children alone... domestic violence, and fractured social supports. As the gap between housing costs and income continues to widen, more families are at risk of homelessness. For families with vulnerabilities or little safety net, even a seemingly minor event can trigger a catastrophic outcome and catapult a family onto the streets." - National Center of Family Homelessness

HOMELESS FACTS & FIGURES

National and Special Populations

Chronic homelessness is defined by HUD as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least (4) episodes of homelessness in the past (3) years. Individuals must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, or a developmental disability including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.

“Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.”

-Clarissa Pinkola Estés

National Statistics & Research

- Approximately 633,782 people in the U.S. on any given night are homeless. (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2012)
- Of that number 239,403 are people in families (Data Snap Shot, National Alliance to End Homelessness)
- Between 2009-2010 the “doubled up” population increased by 13% from 6 million to 6.8 million. (U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey public use micro data sample files, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- Chronically homeless persons, represented 16% of the homeless population in 2011. (Point-in-time counts, National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Special Populations

Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence touches 63% of homeless parents. (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2009)
- In 2008, 28% of families were homeless because of domestic violence. (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2008)
- On any given day, 1,740 victims of domestic violence could not be provided emergency shelter and 1,422 could not be provided transitional shelter. (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2007)

Youth (U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey public use micro data sample files, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

- Youth homelessness is disturbingly common. Although the prevalence of youth homelessness is difficult to measure, researchers estimate that about 5 to 7.7 percent of youth experience homelessness each year.
- 25 % of former foster care youth nation wide, report that they have been homeless at least two nights within two and one-half to four years after exiting foster care.
- 1 in 11 young adults who age out of foster care experience homelessness in the course of a year.
- An estimated 50,000 youths experience long term homelessness. (Snapshot of Homelessness, National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Veterans

- The Annual Homeless Assessment Report estimated that 62,619 veterans were homeless on a single night in 2012. That estimate represents a 7.2 percent decline compared to HUD's 2011 estimate. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)
- About 13% of the adult homeless population are veterans. Of this number, 51% of individual homeless veterans have disabilities. (National Coalition for Homeless Veterans)
- Veterans are twice as likely as other Americans to become chronically homeless. (National Coalition for Homeless Veterans)

Rural Homeless

- The number of people who experience rural homelessness is unknown, but the last national count of homeless people found that around 7% live in rural areas. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

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Special Populations

Elderly

- Among the sheltered homeless persons in 2008, 16.8% were 51 years of age or older while more than 30.6% of those who stayed in emergency shelters for more than 180 were 51 or older. (Annual Homeless Assessment Report, National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Increased homelessness among elderly persons is largely the result of poverty and declining availability of affordable housing among certain segments of the aging. There are at least 9 seniors waiting for every occupied unit of affordable elderly housing. (National Coalition for the Homeless, HEARTH, 2007)
- Federal Rental Assistance Programs enable 4.8 million low income households to rent modest housing. 56% of these households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
- 10% of Indiana's senior citizen population live under the poverty line. (Spotlight on Poverty)

LGBT

- Transgender people are often forced to classify themselves as a gender with which they do not identify in order to enter shelters. (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- 20% of homeless youth classify themselves as LGBT, compared to the 10% of the LGBT youth in the general population. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Impact of Homelessness on Children, Teens, & Young Adults

Local Numbers

- In the 2011-2012 school year, the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation identified 520 students who had experienced homelessness.
- 186 were teenagers (grades 7-12). (No data exists yet for knowing the number of teens who were on their own or "unaccompanied.").
- Of the total number of teens identified, during their experience of homelessness, 68.7% were doubled-up, 22.3% were sheltered, and 9.0% were in a hotel/motel.
- Most of those teenagers were in the 7th (8.5 %) and 8th (7.1%) grade.
- In shelters, the highest number of teens was in 8th grade, followed closely by 7th graders.
- For K-6 grades, 3rd & 6th graders were among the highest numbers experiencing homelessness. Most were in doubled-up situations. The most prevalent grade level of student in sheltered situations was Kindergarten.

State Numbers

- More than 13,012 of Indiana's children experience homelessness each year. (McKinney-Vento Educational Programs, 2007)
- Indiana ranks 27th in the number of homeless children and 12th in the percentage of children who are homeless. (McKinney-Vento Educational Programs, June 2007)



“Hyper-mobility... poses problems for both the hyper-mobile students themselves and for those around them. In schools with high rates of student mobility, the detrimental impact of moving also affects teachers and stable classmates — perhaps because the hyper-mobile students require a disproportionate share of teacher attention and school resources.” (Maya Brennan, Center for Housing Policy, *The Impacts of Affordable Housing on Education: A Research Summary*, 2011)

Common Signs & Effects of Homelessness in Children

Signs (1999 — Better Homes Fund)

Physical

- Unmet dental needs, visibly tense, lacking immunizations, frequent colds, dizziness

Emotional

- Anxiety/fearful, hyper vigilant, low self-concept, depression/sadness

Social

- Difficulties problem solving, socially withdrawn, more likely to be physically aggressive or lack empathy for others

Cognitive

- Difficulty paying attention in school — intrusive thoughts of safety or violence, less likely to play and explore freely

Continuity Issues

- No records from previous schools, may not have medical records

Behavioral

- Hygiene problems, erratic attendance or tardiness, “old” beyond years

State Numbers

(National Center for Homeless Education, 2007)

- 30% of Indiana’s homeless students enrolled in grades 3 - 8 took the 2005 state reading assessment. Of those, 51% were proficient in reading, by NAEP standards. These students were located in districts that received McKinney-Vento sub grants.
- Similarly, approximately 15% of Indiana’s 1,296 homeless high school students were tested and 41% of those were judged proficient in reading.
- 30% of homeless students in grades 3 - 8 were tested in mathematics. Of those, 54% were proficient in mathematics by NAEP standards.
- 15% of homeless high school students were tested in mathematics. Of those, 28% were judged proficient by National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) standards.

Effects of Housing Instability

- According to a study of the American Housing survey, over half of the poor families with moderate cost burdens (57%) and severe cost burdens (56%) moved within a two-year period.
- According to the making Connections Survey, fewer than half (46 percent) of families had lived in their current neighborhood for more than five years. Some 22 percent had lived in the neighborhood for one year or less and roughly 31 percent had lived in the neighborhood for one to five years.
- A study of sixth-graders in Chicago public schools found an educational gap of about one year between students who had changed schools four or more times and their peers who had not changed schools over a six-year period. (Kerbow, David. October 1996. Patterns of Urban Student Mobility and Local School Reform. Technical Report.)

Effects of homelessness on children

(1999 — Better Homes Fund)

Shortened childhood

- Assume responsibility for younger children, lack of normal age appropriate activities

Increased physical problems

- 2x the rate of TB, ear infections, hospitalizations etc.
- 5x more stomach problems and 7x the risk of anemia

Impaired child development

- 2x the rate of learning disabilities and 4x the rate of developmental delays

Psychological issues of trauma

- Within a single year, 97% of homeless children move, many up to three times.

