

Homeless Facts & Figures

Evansville and Vanderburgh County



WHO has no home?

- On average there are 400 individuals in shelter or transitional housing on any given night in Evansville.
- One third of these individuals are children.
- In the '08-'09 school year, EVSC identified 503 students who had experienced homelessness sometime during the school year. Of that number, 208 or 41% were teenagers (grades 7-12). (No data exists yet for knowing the number of teens who were on their own or "unaccompanied.")
- At least 131 young adults (ages 18-23) experienced homelessness in 2008.
- Approximately 60 families are homeless daily. (summer 2004 Homeless Survey)
- Uncounted others (at least 40-50) are living in places not meant for habitation or are doubled-up due to an inability to find safe, clean, affordable independent housing. (Summer 2004 Department of Metropolitan Development point-in-time survey)
- The 2000 Census documented that Vanderburgh County had the highest percent of homeless persons per capita than any other Indiana county.

BARRIERS – WHAT hinders having a home?

("Out of Reach Report," National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2009, unless otherwise noted)

- 2009 Fair Market Rent for 1BR in Evansville is \$502.00.
 - An individual receiving SSI (674.00/month) can afford monthly rent of no more than \$202 based on HUD's affordability standard.
 - A minimum wage earner (earning \$7.25 per hour) can afford rent of no more than \$377 per month.
- A wage earner at 30% AMI (Area Median Income), or \$18,270, can afford \$457 per month for housing (rent + utilities).
- A worker must earn \$12.00 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Evansville or work 66 hours at minimum wage or 1.7 minimum wage jobs.
- 33% of Vanderburgh Co. households are renters; 45% cannot afford FMR for a 2BR (\$624/mo.)
- Vanderburgh County's percentage rate of poverty for 2000 was 11.2% compared with the state level of 9.5%. Among families with children under the age of five, the rate dramatically increases to 20.4% compared to the state rate of 13.7%. (2000 Indicators of Well-Being in Indiana Counties – Department of Workforce Development)

AT-RISK – WHO is in danger of losing a home?

- The 2000 ECHO Homeless Survey identified 3,051 households over the course of the year in Evansville as homeless or at-risk of immediate homelessness (in need of financial assistance to prevent eviction or living with others due to lack of resources for own housing).
- According to the 2000 Census, 8,215 Vanderburgh county households are paying more than 30% of their income on rent. This means that at least 37.6% of our households are paying rates that are higher than is considered affordable.
- 1,243 home mortgages were foreclosed in 2008, a 143% increase over 2007. By June 2009, 679 properties had already been foreclosed. (Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office)
- 916 bankruptcies were filed in 2008 in Vanderburgh County. (United States Bankruptcy Court)
- One of the greatest groups at-risk for homelessness is single headed households. Vanderburgh County had the highest rate of single female head of households of any Indiana County in the 2000 Census.
- 20% of children, ages 0—17, live in poverty in Vanderburgh County (2009 Kids Count Data)
- At least 4500 families are at risk of becoming homeless due to their incomes not matching housing costs.

SERVICES – Operating at or above capacity

- The waiting list for the Section 8 program is up to two years, project based section 8 is one to one and one-half years and public housing is upwards of six months.
- Requests for financial assistance are on the rise according to local service providers.
- Shelter utilization rates from spring 2002 to spring 2003 increased 18%. From spring 2003 to summer of 2004 utilization rate increased an additional 8%.
- Family shelters in Evansville remain at full occupancy and turn families away daily.

Homeless Facts & Figures

National & Special Populations



National Statistics & Research

- Approximately 744,313 people in the U.S. on any given night are homeless (Data Snapshot: Doubled Up in the United States, Homeless Research Institute, National Alliance to End Homelessness, March 2008, as per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of homeless) ["The data shows that expanding the definition to include people who are doubled up for economic reasons would increase the current homeless population (744,313 on a given night) by 3.8 million" or 4,544,313.]
- In 2005, between 2.4 million and 35 million people were living in doubled up housing situations and approximately 2.4 million to 10.5 million of those who were living in doubled up situations fell below the poverty level. (Data Snapshot: Doubled Up in the United States, Homeless Research Institute, National Alliance to End Homelessness [NAEH], March 2008 www.naeh.org)
- Homeless persons in families, in 2007, represented 37% of the homeless population (down from 41% in 2005) (Homelessness Counts: Changes in Homelessness from 2005 to 2007, NAEH)
- Chronically homeless persons represented 18% of the homeless population in 2007 (down from 23% in 2005). (Homelessness Counts: Changes in Homelessness from 2005 to 2007, NAEH)
- In 2007, the unsheltered homeless made up 42% of the homeless population (down from 44% in 2005). (Homelessness Counts: Changes in Homelessness from 2005 to 2007, NAEH)
- The lack of affordable housing has been identified as the most common reason for homelessness by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for at least the last four years.

HOMELESS IN AMERICA



Special Populations

Domestic Violence (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2007 www.endhomelessness.org)

- The immediate cause of homelessness for many women and children.
- In November 2006, over 22,000 victims of domestic violence—12,000 children and 10,000 adults—received housing services from 1,243 domestic violence service providers.
- Victims are often isolated from support networks and financial resources by their abusers, meaning they may lack steady income, employment and credit histories, and landlord references.
- Safe and stable housing is the most immediate need for survivors of domestic violence to prevent them from staying with their abuser or sleeping on the streets.

Youth (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2007 www.endhomelessness.org)

- 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.
- The same factors that contribute to adult homelessness, such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, low education levels, unemployment, mental health, and substance abuse, can lead to homelessness among youth. Beyond these factors, youth homelessness is largely a reflection of family breakdown

Veterans (Vital Mission: Ending Homelessness among Veterans, 2007)

- Nationwide, a total of 194,254 homeless veterans slept on the street, in shelter, or in transitional housing on any given night in 2006 and 495,400 were homeless over the course of the year.
- In Indiana alone last year, approximately 1200 veterans were homeless on any given night.
- In Vanderburgh County, of the 400+ individuals who homeless on any given night, at least 10-11% are veterans.

Chronic Homelessness (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2007 www.endhomelessness.org)

- According to HUD's definition: an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. In order to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.
- There are approximately 150,000 to 200,000 chronically homeless individuals nationwide.

Rural Homelessness (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2007 www.endhomelessness.org)

- The number of people who experience rural homelessness is unknown, but the last national count of homeless people found that 9% live in rural areas.
- The same structural factors that contribute to urban homelessness—lack of affordable housing and inadequate income—also lead to rural homelessness.
- One of the most important strategies in ending rural homelessness is prevention.