

### Local Numbers

- On average there are 400 individuals in shelter or transitional housing on any given night in Evansville.
- One third of these individuals are children. (Numbers do not include those who are sheltered in motels or “doubled up” by temporarily living with friends or family.)
- The 2000 Homeless Survey found: Of 3,051 homeless households, 37% had a total of 1,626 children. The 1,626 children ranged in ages from infants to 2 young adults. Of that number, 49% were ages 5 and under.
- In the 2008-2009 school year, EVSC identified 503 students who had experienced homelessness sometime during the school year.
  - 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.”)
  - Of the total number of teens identified, during their experience of homelessness, 70% were doubled-up, 19% were sheltered, and 11% were in a hotel/motel.
  - Most of those teenagers were in 12th grade, or 33% were seniors.
  - In shelters, the highest number of teens were in 9th grade, followed closely by 10th graders.
  - For K-6 grades, 2nd & 3rd 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.
- At least 131 young adults (ages 18-23) experienced homelessness in 2008.
- Approximately 60 families are homeless daily. (summer 2004 Homeless Survey)
- At least another 4,500 families are at risk of becoming homeless.



### State Numbers (America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness, 2009 from [www.homelesschildrenamerica.org](http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org))

- 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)
- Of the 285,000 children living in poverty in Indiana, 1 out of every 20 (5%) is homeless. (American Community Survey, 2006)

### Education & Homeless Children (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 Mc Kinney-Vento subgrants.
- 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.

### Housing

- In Indiana, approximately 90% of the households on the Section 8 waiting lists and 67% on the public housing waiting lists are families with extremely low incomes. (National Low-Income Housing Coalition, 2004)

### Child Care

- Child care is essential for families seeking to secure and maintain work, search for housing, attend school and job training opportunities and more. The average annual cost for child care for a four-year old in Indiana is \$5,408, which is slightly lower than the national average of \$5,719. (Children's Defense Fund, 2007)

### National Numbers

- The Urban Institute estimated in 2000 that 1.35 million children will experience homelessness in a given year, with 500,000 of those age 5 and under. (Urban Institute, 2000)
- The number of children and youth in homeless situations (PreK—12) identified by the U.S. Department of Education increased from approximately 841,700 in 1997 to 930,000 in 2000.
- In a recent national report, *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness*, researchers found that 1 in 50 children in America are homeless and 1.5 million children are homeless each year. Of the 2.3 to 3.5 million Americans who are homeless each year, 34% are families. ([homelesschildrenamerica.org](http://homelesschildrenamerica.org))

# Common Signs & Effects of Homelessness in Children



## Physical

- Unwanted weight loss, frequent colds, dizziness
- Unmet dental needs
- Eczema, failure to thrive
- Sleep disturbances (fall asleep in class)
- Visibly tense
- Lacking immunizations



## Emotional

- Depression/sadness
- Loneliness
- Anxiety/fearful/worry
- Low self-concept
- Hyper vigilant
- Oscillate between protectiveness toward parent & anger

## Social

- Difficulties with problem solving
- Difficulties with conflict resolution
- More likely to be physically aggressive (domestic violence)
- Socially withdrawn
- Lack empathy for others

## Cognitive

- Can display cognitive deficits
- Can display problems in learning
- Difficulty paying attention in school— intrusive thoughts of safety or violence
- Less likely to play and explore freely
- Instability may lead to poor school performance

## Continuity Issues

- No records from previous schools
- May have attended many schools
- May not have medical records
- Can't remember home address

## Behavioral

- Hoards food
- Hygiene issues
- Overly concerned about safety of belongings
- Erratic attendance or tardiness
- Loses books/homework frequently
- Avoidance of class trips
- Need for immediate gratification
- Change in behavior
- "Old" beyond years

## Reactions from Children or Parents

- Anger or embarrassment when asked about current address
- Mention of staying with relatives, friends, or motel
- Parents appear unwilling to communicate with school
- Comments such as:  
"We've been moving around a lot."  
"I don't remember the name of my last school."  
"We're going through a bad time now."  
"I don't know where Mom/Dad are." or  
"I haven't seen Mom/Dad for awhile."

*adapted from list compiled by EVSC Homeless Liaison*

## Effects on Children

### Shortened childhood

- Assume responsibility for younger children
- Lack of normal age appropriate activities – birthday parties, sleepovers, play time

### Increased physical problems

- Compared to children with homes, homeless children have:  
• 2X the rate of TB, ear infections, hospitalizations, respiratory infections  
• 4X as many asthma attacks  
• 5X more stomach problems  
• 6X as many speech problems  
• 7X the risk of anemia

### Impaired Child Development

- Compared to children with homes, homeless children have:  
• 2X the rates of learning disabilities  
• 3X the rate of emotional and behavioral problems  
• 4X the rate of development delays  
• New research indicates an impact of stress to the development of the brain

### Impaired School Performance

- 41% of homeless children attend two or more schools and  
• 28% attend three or more in one year  
• 75% of homeless children test below grade level in reading  
• 54% of homeless children test below grade level in math

### Psychological issues of trauma

- Within a single year 97% of homeless children move, many up to three times  
• 47% of homeless school age children suffer with anxiety, depression or withdrawal, compared to 18% of housed children.

*Source: 1999 – Better Homes Fund*

