



## **Fact Sheet on Homelessness and Poverty (Washoe County)**

- It is estimated that approximately 7,500 individuals in Washoe County are at risk or are experiencing homelessness each year. (1)
- As of August 31, 2009 Washoe County Schools documented more than 1,926 homeless children enrolled since the beginning of the school year. (2)
- In Washoe County (and nation-wide) families are among the fastest growing population of those becoming homeless. (3)
- It is estimated that over the course of the year about 1.35 million children experience homelessness nationwide. (4)
- In Nevada, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$965. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities – without paying more than 30% of income on housing – a household must earn \$3,216 monthly or \$38,594 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year. This level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$18.55. (5)
- A minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$6.33. In order to afford a two-bedroom apartment, that minimum wage earner must work 117 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or a household must include 2.9 minimum wage earners working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two-bedroom affordable. (5)
- Homeless and low-income children are more likely than other children to experience chronic illness, domestic violence, learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral changes and disorders, and hunger. Many homeless children are separated from their families and placed in foster care. (6)
- According to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada 30% of households with children report that a parent, a child or both experienced hunger. 37% of the recipients of emergency food assistance were under the age of 18. (7)

## Sources

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