

# Homelessness/Poverty Fact Sheet

Updated Jan. 2022

- The [three most cited reasons](#) for family homelessness are:
  - 1) Lack of affordable housing
  - 2) Unemployment
  - 3) Poverty
- [2.5 million children](#) will experience homelessness this year in America. [1 in 30 children](#) in the United States experience homelessness annually.
- [1 in 19 children](#) experiences homelessness before the first grade.
- In 2020, just under [172,000 people](#) in families with children were experiencing homelessness.
- More than [1.3 million \(1,387,573\) students](#) experienced homelessness in the 2018-2019 school year.
- In 2018-2019, nearly [1.3 million, or 6 percent](#), of children under age six were experiencing homelessness
- [51% of homeless children are under age 6](#) and, therefore, too young for school and are not counted.
- Students experiencing homelessness are [87 percent](#) more likely to drop out of school than their housed peers.
- People in families with children make up [30 percent](#) of the nation's homeless population.
- Homeless families are often hidden from our view—they are living in shelters, cars, campgrounds, or doubled up in overcrowded apartments.
- [37.2 million people](#) in the U.S. live below the poverty line.
- Nearly [11 million children \(1 in 7\)](#) in U.S. live in poverty
- In 2020, [16.1% of people under age 18 lived in poverty](#).
- The [official poverty line](#) for a family of four with two children is \$26,200 per year.
- The federal minimum wage is \$7.25/hour. It has not been raised since 2009.
- A renter must earn [\\$24.90/hour to afford a 2-bedroom rental](#) in the U.S.
  - The average minimum wage worker must work almost [97 hours per week](#) to afford a two-bedroom rental home at the average Fair Market Rent.
  - The average minimum wage worker must work almost [79 hours per week](#) to afford a one-bedroom rental home at the average Fair Market Rent.
- In only [218 counties](#) out of more than 3,000 in the country can a worker making the federal minimum wage afford a Fair Market Rent one-bedroom apartment.
- In [no state, metropolitan area, or county in the U.S.](#) can a worker earning the federal or prevailing state or local minimum wage afford a modest two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.

- Adjusting for inflation, the [median rent in the U.S. rose 61%](#) between 1960 to 2016, while median renter income rose only 5%.
- 10.4 million households now spend more than 50% of their income on rent and utilities.
  - Of those 10.4 million severely cost-burdened households, [7.6 million \(72.5 percent\)](#) are extremely low-income renter households.
- Only [25 percent](#) of those considered eligible for federal housing assistance receive help, due to lack of funding.
- For every 100 extremely low-income households, there are only [37 affordable rentals](#) available on the market.
- The U.S. has a shortage of [6.8 million rental homes](#) affordable and available to extremely low-income renters.
- [10.5 percent of households](#) were food-insecure in 2020 (where they may not have consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life).
  - [6.1 million children](#) lived in food-insecure households in which children, along with adults, were food insecure in 2020.
  - Both children and adults were food insecure in [7.6 percent of households with children](#) (2.9 million households).