

FACT SHEET

Sources

Key points:

- The **mission** of School on Wheels is to provide one-on-one tutoring and educational advocacy for school-aged children impacted by homelessness.
- School on Wheels, which was founded in 2001, is the **only organization in Indianapolis** that offers this unique service to the city's homeless community.
- Since its founding, School on Wheels has mobilized **over 1,700 volunteers** to tutor **over 3,200 school-aged homeless children**.
- The students that School on Wheels tutors represent **over 77 schools** in the Indianapolis area.
- The vision of School on Wheels is to **break the cycle of homelessness** by providing children with the educational tools they need to succeed in life.

Homelessness facts:

- There are **over 3,000 children** experiencing homelessness in Marion County on any given night.
 - CHIP Indy 2010 Homeless Count Report
<http://www.chipindy.org/uploaded/2010%20Homeless%20Count%20Report%20Final.pdf>
- More than half of these children who are homeless are **under the age of 12**.
 - CHIP Indy 2010 Homeless Count Report
<http://www.chipindy.org/uploaded/2010%20Homeless%20Count%20Report%20Final.pdf>
- Homeless children are **twice** as likely to repeat a grade in school.
 - National Center on Family Homelessness, page 4
<http://www.nhchc.org/ShelterHealth/ToolkitA/A2HomelessChildren.pdf>
- Homeless children are **four times** more likely to have learning disabilities than their non-homeless peers.
 - National Center on Family Homelessness, page 4
<http://www.nhchc.org/ShelterHealth/ToolkitA/A2HomelessChildren.pdf>
- Homeless youth change schools an average of **three times** while they are homeless, **needing four to six months each time** to recover academically.
 - Indiana Youth Institute, Monthly Column December 2009
<http://www.iyi.org/resources/articles/IYI-Monthly-Column-Youth-Homelessness-Dec09.doc>

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN INDIANAPOLIS

SOURCES

- Officials estimate that throughout 2011, between 4,500 – 7,500 people experience homelessness in Indianapolis.
 - CHIP Indy 2011 Homeless Count
http://www.chipindy.org/uploaded/Homeless_Count_2011_Final.pdf
- Families make up about 30 percent of the Indianapolis homeless population.
 - CHIP Indy 2011 Homeless Count
http://www.chipindy.org/uploaded/Homeless_Count_2011_Final.pdf
- As of January 2011, there are over 3,150 children experiencing homelessness in Marion County on any given night, and 63% of these children are under the age of 12.
 - CHIP Indy 2011 Homeless Count
http://www.chipindy.org/uploaded/Homeless_Count_2011_Final.pdf
- Most panhandlers are not homeless. Individuals who are homeless and do engage in legal, passive solicitation represent less than 1 percent of the homeless population in Indianapolis.
 - <http://www.chipindy.org/CountReport.php>
- Lost employment was the number one cause of homelessness in 2011.
 - http://www.chipindy.org/uploaded/Homeless_Count_2011_Final.pdf
- In 2009, homeless students were suspended from school at a rate nearly twice the state average.
 - Indiana Department of Education and "Homelessness up 26% among Indiana Students" article (in Indy Star on July 30, 2010, by Ken Kusmer, Associated Press)
- Homeless youth are more likely to be ill and do poorly in school.
 - Indiana Youth Institute, Monthly Column December 2009
<http://www.iyi.org/resources/articles/IYI-Monthly-Column-Youth-Homelessness-Dec09.doc>
- Homeless youth change schools an average of three times while they are homeless, needing four to six months each time to recover academically.
 - Indiana Youth Institute, Monthly Column December 2009
<http://www.iyi.org/resources/articles/IYI-Monthly-Column-Youth-Homelessness-Dec09.doc>
- Homeless youth have lower educational achievement among all grades. Only one-third of homeless youth are proficient in reading and math.
 - Chapin Hall Study, 2006
<http://www.chapinhall.org/research/inside/educational-achievement-lower-homeless-youth-all-grades>

AND Indiana Youth Institute, Monthly Column December 2009

<http://www.iyi.org/resources/articles/IYI-Monthly-Column-Youth-Homelessness-Dec09.doc>

- In 2006, the estimated graduation rate for homeless high school students in Indiana was less than 25 percent.
 - America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness (Indiana)
http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report_cards/short/in_short.pdf
- Disadvantaged students in the 1st grade have a vocabulary that is approximately half that of an advantaged student (2,900 and 5,800 words, respectively).
 - The Literacy Company: Education statistics
http://www.readfaster.com/education_stats.asp#educationstatistics
- Homeless children are enrolled in preschool less than half the rate of all children.
 - Homeless in America: A Children's Story
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/download/pdf/HOMELESS%20IN%20AMERICA.pdf>