



# HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

## What is homelessness?

When someone is homeless, they might live outside on the streets or in a shelter with lots of other people. They don't have a place to put all of their belongings so they must carry everything with them in big bags or in a suitcase. Many homeless people do not have enough money for food or new clothes so they are often very hungry.

## Why are people homeless?

**Poverty:** People living in poverty are often not able to pay for housing.

**Housing:** A shortage of affordable housing and housing assistance programs contribute to homelessness.

**Other Factors:** Domestic violence, mental illness, and lack of job training or employment opportunity can cause homelessness.

## Homelessness Facts

### Homelessness in the United States:

- In 2014, school districts reported over 1 million homeless children in public schools.<sup>1</sup>
- Over 57,000 veterans are homeless each night.<sup>2</sup>
- Every year 600,000 families experience homelessness in the United States, making up about 50 percent of the homeless population over the course of the year.<sup>3</sup>

### Homelessness Globally:

- Nearly 100 million children are homeless worldwide, and often lack access to water, sewage, garbage collection, heating/cooling or electricity.<sup>4</sup>
- One in four people live in conditions that harm their health, safety, prosperity and opportunities throughout the world.<sup>5</sup>

1 <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/data-comp-1011-1213.pdf>

2 <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/ahar-2013-part1.pdf>

3 <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fact-sheet-on-homeless-families>

4 [http://www.youthxchange.net/main/b236\\_homeless-a.asp](http://www.youthxchange.net/main/b236_homeless-a.asp)

5 <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/world-habitat-day/housing-facts>



## How can you help?

- [Make hygiene kits](#) for kids in homeless shelters.
- Help your local homeless shelter [prepare for emergencies](#) by gathering supplies.
- Volunteer to make or serve a meal at your local shelter.
- Make Capes for Kids to remind them to be strong in the face of adversity.