

About Family Homelessness in King County (2015)

The Scope of the Problem

- January 2015, **3,772 men, women and children in our community were living outside– on sidewalks, in cars, and in tents. This is a 21 percent increase from 2014.**
- [The State’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) released their annual report on K-12 Homeless Students on January 20th.](#) The number of Washington State homeless students has increased every year since 2001 (when school districts were required to report annually the number of homeless students). **The 2013-2014 school year counted 32,494 homeless kids**, up from 30,609 in 2012-13. (Note a portion of the increase could be attributed to better collection of data and identification of homeless students).
- Our local (King County) Family Housing Connection (coordinated entry system) reports **approx. 200 families living in emergency shelter – with more than 500 families who are literally homeless (not doubled up, but are living on the street, cars or tents).**

About Homeless Families

- Families become homeless due to:
 - Living at or below the poverty level
 - Unforeseen financial crisis / Job loss or reduced hours
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Domestic Violence
 - Health Crisis/ Mental Illness/ Substance abuse
- For many of these families, their family and friends are also living in poverty, working low paying jobs, which makes it hard for them to help out.
- The majority of homeless families (about 75% according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness) exit with financial assistance and limited case management– never to return.
- It’s logical that the quicker a homeless family moves into housing the less long term trauma and damage the experience causes.
- Some families who are chronically (or multiple experiences) of homelessness need more long term support. Many service providers offer permanent supportive housing to keep these families safe.
- Children suffer serious consequences due to homelessness which include: developmental and speech delays, emotional behavior and learning disabilities.

For More Information

- Committee to End Homelessness in King County : cehkc.org or cehkcstrategicplan.org
- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness: homelessinfo.org
- Seattle University’s projectonfamilyhomelessness.org and faithandfamilyhomelessness.com
- National Alliance to End Homelessness: naeh.org