

## **What do you know about homelessness? \*Answer Sheet**

Why do people become homeless?

- Lack of affordable housing
- Low wages
- Health crisis – mental or physical
- Untreated substance abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Lack of social / community supports

How many students are homeless in my state?

- Updated Washington State data can be found here:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/default.aspx>
- 2013/2014 School Year 32,494 students were counted as homeless in WA state
- Increase of 14%

What are the effects of homelessness on children?

- 4 times more likely to have development delay than stably housed peers
- 75% of homeless children under the age of 5 have a developmental delay in speech
- 3 times the rate of emotional behavior disorders than children who are stably housed
- 2 times the rate of learning disabilities
- Half of children who are homeless experience anxiety, depression and withdrawal

(source – Child Homelessness & Toxic Stress: Far Reaching Consequences, Seattle University Project on Family Homelessness, Handout 2)

Where do homeless families stay if the shelters are all full?

- Doubled up sometimes in unsafe situations
- Car, vans, other
- Street, greenbelt