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Homelessness for Children in the US Some Startling Statistics

- The United States has the largest number of homeless women and children of any industrialized nation
- *The statistics below are the best estimates of the extent of homelessness, but it is important to note that they are undercounts.*

Startling Numbers

- 1 in 50 children in the US are homeless.
- On any give day, 200,000 children have no place to live.
- Homeless families comprise 34% of the homeless population.
- Almost 40% of the entire homeless population is under 18.
- 42% of these homeless children are younger than 6

Health Problems Due to Homelessness

- Homeless children are sick four times more often than other children.
 - Four times as many respiratory infections.
 - Twice as many ear infections.
 - Five times more gastrointestinal problems.
 - Four times more likely to have asthma.
 - Go hungry at twice the rate of other children. 57% of homeless kids spend at least one day every month without food.
- Have high rates of obesity due to nutritional deficiencies
- Have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems compared to non-homeless children

Experiences of Violence

- By age 12, 83% had been exposed to at least one serious violent event.
- Almost 25% have witnessed acts of violence within their families.

Educational and Developmental Issues

Children experiencing homelessness are:

- Four times more likely to show delayed development.
- Twice as likely to have learning disabilities as non-homeless children.
- At least 20 % of homeless children are unable to attend school.
- Within a year, 41% will attend two different schools and 28% will attend three or more schools and each change sets them back 4-6 months.
- Of homeless children in grades 3-12, only 48% were proficient in reading and only 43% were proficient in math.
- 36% of homeless children repeat a grade
- Approximately 1.16 million of homeless children today will not graduate from high school.