



The Homeless Facts

Overview

- On any given night, an estimated 842,000 people are homeless in the United States. Over the course of a year, 3.5 million people experience homelessness; 1.35 million of them are children (NCH, Fact Sheet #2, July 2007).
- The average age of a homeless person in the United States is 9 (ABC News Study, January 2007).
- Families are among the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, making up about 41% of the entire homeless population (NCH, Fact Sheet #12, August 2007).
- Requests for emergency shelter by families increased in 63% of cities in 2005. US cities saw an average increase of 5% in shelter requests by families (US Conference of Mayors, 2005).
- The study also found that 32% of the requests for shelter by homeless families were denied in 2005 due to a lack of resources.

Gwinnett County Facts

- There are no shelters for homeless families in Gwinnett.
- The Gwinnett County School System accommodated over 3,000 homeless students during the 2005-2006 school year.
- In 2008 there were 24,225 evictions and 13,758 foreclosures in Gwinnett County. At the average family size of 2.5 that equals approximately 94,957 family members that lost housing in 2008.
- It is estimated that 60% of the homeless family population in Gwinnett County are children and 50% of the children are under the age of six.