



# Homeless Children

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# Homelessness Introduction

- Homelessness stems from adverse situations
- When a young child is involved, the chances of them developing correctly is very slim
- Experiencing these conditions make it very hard for children to develop physically due to the harsh conditions & hardships their families are faced with



# Why are Children Homeless?

- Factors that contribute to homelessness among youth include:
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Poverty
  - Domestic violence
  - Substance and Sexual Abuse
- For many women and mothers, domestic violence causes them to flee with the home with their children and nowhere else to go

# About Homeless Children

- 1.5 million children go to sleep without a home each year
- There is a 1 in 50 chance a child experiences homelessness in America
- $\frac{2}{3}$  children worry they won't have enough to eat



# How Homelessness Affects Physical Development

- Homeless children exhibit more health issues than housed children
- Poor nutrition is common as well, contributing to health issues
- Homeless children and families also lack access to consistent health care, which increases severity of illness

# How Homelessness Affects Cognitive and Emotional Development

- Homeless children are more likely to develop emotional and behavioral problems, along with delayed development and learning disabilities
- The stress and trauma from their experience pile up, creating more issues for these children, as if it is the path is a domino effect
- Children are faced with traumatic events that they may not know how to handle, or are too young to understand



# Education

- Hardships of going to school while homeless:
  - Enrollment requirements
  - High mobility resulting in lack of school stability
  - Lack of transportation
  - Lack of school supplies
  - Prejudice and misunderstanding
  - Lack of guardians

# Ways To Help Homeless Children

- Understand who they are and educate yourself about the homeless community, scratch out the stereotypes
- Donate toys, clothing, supplies, food, etc.
- Volunteer at shelters
- Tutor homeless children
- Join organizations that focus on aiding those in need
- Push for state homelessness prevention programs



# Conclusion

- The homeless community has come a growing problem in the United States, with very little help from the public. Homelessness and poverty have a traumatic and huge domino effect in any child's life, and all areas of development are in some way either small or large negatively hurtful towards the child's growth



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