

Infographic: Early Childhood Homelessness

A person in the U.S. is most likely to experience homelessness in the first year of life.¹

A person is next most likely to experience homelessness at ages 1 to 5.¹

Almost half of children in shelter are under age 6.²

More than 150,000 very young children stay in shelters each year, and even more are sharing housing with others due to economic hardship.²

Homelessness during pregnancy and in the early years is harmful to children's development.³

Pregnant women experiencing homelessness are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care⁴ and their children are at increased risk for low birth weight.⁵

1 Gubits, D., Shinn M., Bell S., Wood M., Dstrup S., Solari, C...Abt Associates, Inc.. (2015, July). *Family options study: Short-term impacts of housing and services interventions for homeless families*. Washington, D.C.: Prepared for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research by Abt. Associates and Vanderbilt University. Retrieved from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/FamilyOptionsStudy_final.pdf

2 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2016, October). *The 2015 annual homeless assessment report (AHAR) to Congress: Part 2: Estimates of homelessness in the United States*. Washington, DC: Solari, C., Morris, S., Shivji, A., & de Souza, T. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5162/2015-ahar-part-2-estimates-of-homelessness/>

3 Center for Housing Policy and Children's Health Watch. (2015, June). *Compounding stress: The timing and duration effects of homelessness on children's health*. Sandel, M., Sheward, R., & Sturtevant, L. Retrieved from http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/Compounding-Stress_2015.pdf

4 Richards, R., Merrill, R. M., Baksh, L., & McGarry, J. (2011). Maternal health behaviors and infant health outcomes among homeless mothers: US Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) 2000–2007. *Preventive Medicine, 52*(1), 87-94.

5 Stein, J. A., Lu, M. C., & Gelberg, L. (2000). Severity of homelessness and adverse birth outcomes. *Health Psychology, 19*(6), 524. Richards, R., Merrill, R. M., Baksh, L., & McGarry, J. (2011). Maternal health behaviors and infant health outcomes among homeless mothers: US Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) 2000–2007. *Preventive Medicine, 52*(1), 87-94.