

- **Family Homelessness:** the fastest growing homeless population group nationally. ([Source](#))
- In 2018, Cleveland family homelessness increased 35% since 2015. ([Source](#))
- Estimates state at least 1 in 30 children experience homelessness. ([Source](#))
- Cleveland's child poverty rate: among the worst of any large U.S. city. ([Source](#))
- In 2017, 48.7% of Cleveland children lived in poverty. ([Source](#))
- Every family shelter in Cuyahoga County operates at full capacity.

Here are the voices of some Cleveland students describing where they've been living recently:

“For a while we lived in a motel and then with another family.”

“We lived with another family and with my grandmother. It's ok, but there is a lot of fighting. They treat me like they don't want us there.”

“We live with grandma. Before that it was in a hotel. I like living with grandma, but not the hotel because it had bed bugs.”

“We were living in a building. It wasn't good. I threw up. It wasn't safe.”

“We lived in our car.”

“I used to live around bad people. There were gun shots, fireworks, and yelling.”

“I lived at Grandma's house. We did not have electricity or water.”

“We had to buy water.”

THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN
THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN
THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN

- Children experiencing homelessness are sick and/or go hungry at twice the rate of children who have homes. ([Source](#))
- Often, they'll suffer twice as many ear infections, have four times the rate of asthma, and five times more diarrhea and stomach problems. ([Source](#))
- The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll on their health. This can and often does have a life-long impact on the child, their family, and the community.

Listen as some moms describe the impact of being homeless on their child's health:

“For a while we lived in a motel and then with another family.”

“He has asthma. If he gets worked up, it will cause an asthma attack.”

“I was staying in a home that had lead in it and was not aware until I went to my daughter's 1 year check-up. Her level was high.”

“We were hospitalized for mold. My 2-year-old almost died. Two of my kids have bad asthma. My kids miss school because they're often sick.”

THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN
THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN
THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN

- Children experiencing homelessness have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems compared to their housed peers. ([Source](#))
- 1 in 2 students without a stable home environment experience depression and anxiety. Adolescents have over twice the risk of severe emotional distress, self-injury, suicidal thinking and attempted suicide. ([Source](#)) ([Source](#))
- By age 12, 83 percent of children experiencing homelessness have been exposed to at least one serious, violent incident and almost 25 percent have witnessed intimate partner violence. ([Source](#))

Listen as some moms describe the impact of an unstable environment on their child's mental health:

“He is on medication and sees a psychologist one time a week.”

“My youngest daughter started biting her nails. She also has become extremely attached because of being around strangers.”

“We have weekly mental health appointments and medications.”

“She gets sad because things are changing so much. She would like us to have a place of our own.”

“My daughter takes medication. It hasn't been easy dealing with her.”

“It breaks my heart. I feel like I caused their anxiety or added to it. It's hard because anger often comes out too.”

“My almost 3 year old is showing signs of anxiety. We had to make some big changes in his life and he is not doing well with the transition.”

“She has anxiety due to domestic violence and so many transitions.”

- Children experiencing homelessness are twice as likely to have a learning disability, repeat a grade or be suspended from school. ([Source](#))
- Economically disadvantaged children are more likely than their advantaged peers to move and change schools multiple times. ([Source](#))
- Studies show that changing schools decreases math and reading achievement for elementary school children, equivalent to a 3-4 month learning disadvantage. ([Source](#))
- Children experiencing homelessness are more likely than their peers to drop out of school, repeat grades, perform poorly in school, disengage in the classroom and suffer from learning disabilities and behavior problems. ([Source](#))

Listen as some children describe the impact homelessness has on their school and educational experience:

“I’m in 3rd grade and I’ve changed schools about 6 times. It’s hard because I have to leave my friends. Sometimes it’s hard making new friends, it’s hard to learn, too, because I don’t know the school, teacher, or the kids.”

“I’m in 3rd grade and I’ve changed schools about 4 times. It’s hard to learn when you’re scared.”

“I’m in 4th grade. I’ve changed schools more than 5 times.”

“I’m in 4th grade. I’ve changed schools 5 times. Making new friends was hard because people are mean. It’s hard to learn when you change schools.”

“I’m in grade 5th grade. I was supposed to change schools when we went to my grandmother’s, but my dad never got us into school so I missed a lot of days. Now I don’t know how that will hurt my grades since I came back.”



SEE - STAND - SERVE
5310 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
216.431.3510
www.thecitymission.org

Their moms know this impact well. Listen as they describe the challenges their students face:

“She was stressed out and worried about our situation and couldn’t learn.”

“It was a struggle to build relationships with peers and teachers. Her peers teased her because I could not buy her new tennis shoes or dress down clothes.”

“Her education has been greatly impacted. She wants us to have a place of our own and to get my son back in the home.”

“They’re sad they’re leaving friends and mad at me for not being able to stay.”

“My son failed 6th grade.”

“She’s so tired. She was sleeping on the floor and it was hard to see my child go through that.”

“My son is failing school and doesn’t want to go.”

“My 11 year old had a breakdown.”

THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN
THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN
THIS IS WHY WE STAND IN

As we Stand In now, let us reflect and pray during a moment of silence.