

FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS AND COMMUNITY

Feel free to creative with how you use these facts! You could use them as topics for discussion in the classroom, include facts in awareness-building posters or videos, announce information over the intercom...what else?

- On average, nearly 1,000 students experience homelessness in the Poudre School District each year.
- More than 1.6 million children in America slip into homelessness every year.
- There are more than 10,000 people who are homeless in Colorado...right now.
- Children who are homeless become sick about four times more often than children who are not homeless.
- People become homeless for many reasons: loss of work, cost of housing, health problems, domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse and more.
- People who are homeless struggle to do many things that others might take for granted: eat three meals per day, wash clothes, get mail, travel from place to place, store belongings, use the phone and use the computer.
- It is estimated that one person who is homeless can cost the community more than \$50,000 per year (it costs the community money as that person goes in out of jails, hospitals, shelters, etc.) Studies show that getting people into housing actually saves the community money (long-term).
- There is one “permanent supportive housing” facility in Fort Collins (it is called RedTail Ponds). Permanent supportive housing means permanent housing *with* accessible and optional services.
- “Chronically homeless” means a person who is 1) unaccompanied with a disabling condition and has either 1) been homeless for more than a year or 2) experienced homelessness four times in the past three years.
- About 15% of the homeless population is “chronically homeless.”
- People define “homeless” in different ways. For example, some people consider “couch surfing” or staying in a motel as being homeless, while others do not.
- The number of people living “doubled up” has grown significantly over the last several years.
- The number of military veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has decreased by about one-third over the past four years.
- Many people who are homeless (half, according to many estimates) have jobs.
- There is about a 2% housing vacancy rate in Fort Collins. A simplified example of “2%” would mean that for every 100 residences, 2 would be available.
- According to some studies, over 80% of children that are homeless have been exposed to at least one serious violent event by age 12.
- The average life expectancy of someone who is homeless in Colorado is about 47 years old and the average life expectancy of someone who is not homeless is about 78 years old.
- People who are homeless are almost two times more likely to have chronic health conditions than people who are not homeless.
- A person would need to earn \$21.97 per hour to afford a two-bedroom in Colorado. This means that a person with a minimum wage job would need to work more than 90 hours per week. (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2015).
- Non-profit organizations receive funding from a variety of sources: grants and foundations, corporate donations, individual donations, fundraising efforts, events and more.