



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

Love In the Name of Christ ■ www.loveinc.org

For most of us, the thought of not knowing where we will sleep tonight is inconceivable. But homelessness is a reality many Americans face each day and involves people in many different situations—whether it’s the underemployed single mom and her kids sleeping in an abandoned building because she can’t afford to pay rent, the retired couple living out of their car because they lost their home to foreclosure, the migrant family of six “pushing in” with relatives in an overcrowded apartment because they can’t find affordable housing, or the family bankrupt by their daughter’s medical crisis who sleeps in a shelter at night and lives on the streets by day. Those who experience the harsh reality of a personal housing crisis find themselves and their families trapped in a relentless cycle of physical and emotional turmoil that compromises their health, ability to achieve, and sense of security and purpose.

Consider these facts:

- Nearly 1.56 million people from 3,000 counties nationwide took shelter or moved into transitional housing programs between October 2008 and September 2009.
- On one single night in January 2009, an estimated 643,067 people were homeless—6 in 10 of them in shelters, nearly 40 percent on the streets. An estimated 643,423 beds were available through over 20,000 emergency and longer-term housing programs that year.
- Fewer individuals were homeless in 2008 and 2009 than previous years, but more families sought temporary shelter—victims of the recession, foreclosure, and lack of affordable housing.
- Homelessness increased overall between 2007 and 2009, including numbers of people who said they first lived with other family members before finally becoming homeless.
- Approximately 1.5 million children go homeless throughout the course of the year—that’s one in 50 children.
- An estimated 15.8 million American households struggle under severe housing cost burdens, paying over 50 percent of their income toward housing. 5.2 million of those households live in “worst-case housing,” meaning they earn less than 50 percent of the area median income and/or live in severe physically inadequate housing.
- RealtyTrac reported 2.8 million foreclosure filings in 2009 and is on track to surpass 3 million foreclosures in 2010.
- Efforts to provide affordable housing have decreased substantially in recent decades, shrinking the supply of affordable rental space. Over 170,000 public units have been lost to deterioration in the past decade alone.
- Families that exit shelters with a housing subsidy are 21 times more likely to remain stably housed over time than similar families exiting without a subsidy.

Sources: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](http://www.hud.gov), [U.S. Conference of Mayors](http://www.usmayors.org), [National Center on Family Homelessness](http://www.nationalhomelessness.org), [National Alliance to End Homelessness](http://www.nationalalliancetoendhomelessness.org), [RealtyTrac](http://www.realtytrac.com)

About Love In the Name of Christ

For more than 30 years, Love INC has been mobilizing the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. Love INC has over 155 affiliates in 30 states, representing a network of more than 9,000 churches, 7,000 community-based organizations, and 300,000 volunteers meeting more than one million needs each year.

To find out how you can make a difference in the lives of people in need, visit www.loveinc.org.