

Homelessness Study Released

The Iowa Council on Homelessness has released a study that shows 17,476 Iowans were homeless in 2008 and were served by the Statewide Homeless Management Information System. This is the system used by most homeless agencies across Iowa, including those providing emergency and transitional beds.

This is a 6% increase compared to the previous year. The study found that 38% of Iowa's homeless and people at risk of homelessness were children.

In addition, 53% of the homeless had a high school diploma or GED. Also, 35% were still employed when they sought help from an agency.

Homelessness is usually a result of a complex set of circumstances in a person's life. According to the council, three to six months of education is lost every time a child moves. Homeless families often move several times before decent housing is found. In addition, pre-existing health conditions are aggravated, routine health care is ignored, and high risks of catastrophic health problems increase.