



## ***America's Youngest Outcasts 2010*** **State Report Card on Child Homelessness**

*America's Youngest Outcasts 2010* documents the numbers of homeless children in every state, their well-being, risk for child homelessness, and state level planning and policy activities. Using findings from numerous sources that include well-established national data sets as well as our own research, we rank the states in each of four domains, then develop a composite of these domains to rank the states from 1 (best) to 50 (worst).

*America's Youngest Outcasts 2010* updates a previous report by The National Center on Family Homelessness that was itself an update of a landmark study we issued in 1999 that provided the first comprehensive profile of America's homeless children and families. Among the findings in *America's Youngest Outcasts 2010*:

- 1.6 million American children, or one in 45 children, are homeless in a year.
- This equates to more than 30,000 children each week, and more than 4,400 each day.
- Children experiencing homelessness suffer from hunger, poor physical and emotional health, and missed educational opportunities.
- A majority of these children have limited educational proficiency in math and reading.
- The risks for child homelessness—such as extreme poverty and worst case housing needs—have worsened with the economic recession.
- Planning and policy activities to support the growth and development of these vulnerable children remain limited. Sixteen states have done no planning related to child homelessness, and only seven states have extensive plans.

The top and bottom ranked states in 2010 are:

<u>Top Ranked</u>	<u>Bottom Ranked</u>
1. Vermont	41. Georgia
2. Minnesota	42. Florida
3. Nebraska	43. Nevada
4. North Dakota	44. Louisiana
5. Maine	45. New Mexico
6. New Hampshire	46. California
7. New Jersey	47. Arizona
8. Massachusetts	48. Arkansas
9. Montana	49. Mississippi
10. Iowa	50. Alabama

*America's Youngest Outcasts 2010* also analyzes trends in child homelessness over time:

### **2006: A Natural Disaster Strikes—Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

- 1.5 million American children, more than one in 50 children, go to sleep without a home to call their own in 2006.
- A significant spike in child homelessness occurs due to 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a historic natural disaster that leads to one of the greatest mass migrations in our nation's history, accounting for the large numbers of homeless children in 2006.

### **2007: Recovery from the Hurricanes—Child Homelessness Drops by 25%**

- 1.2 million American children, or one in 63 children, are homeless in 2007.
- The numbers of children experiencing homelessness decrease dramatically as families resettle after the two hurricanes. There are more than 385,000 fewer homeless children in 2007, a reduction of 25% from 2006.
- In the six states most impacted by Katrina and Rita, the numbers of homeless children decrease by more than 450,000 (Mississippi was an exception, with their numbers slightly increasing).

### **2007-2010: A Man-Made Disaster Strikes, Pushing Child Homelessness Up by 38%**

- Financial speculation sparks collapse of the housing market and financial institutions, a stock market crash, and the Great Recession. The numbers of homeless children increase by more than 448,000 from 2007 to 2010; 1.6 million (one in 45 children) are homeless in 2010—that is a 38% spike from 2007.
- Only five states report decreases in the numbers of homeless children from 2007 to 2010.
- Fallout from the man-made disaster is worse than the natural disaster, driving the national total of homeless children above the hurricane year (2006) by more than 60,000 children.
- All states are adversely affected by the economic downturn; changes in the structural determinants that contribute to the risk of homelessness vary by state.

*America's Youngest Outcasts 2010* offers solutions to this national tragedy in areas of housing, child care, education, domestic violence, and employment that will help stabilize vulnerable children and families. We also urge that programs addressing and preventing child and family homelessness not be cut further. For the complete report, visit [www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org](http://www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org).

### **Campaign to End Child Homelessness**

The Campaign to End Child Homelessness was launched by The National Center on Family Homelessness to increase public awareness, inform policy solutions, share tools and best practices with community caregivers, and lead state and national advocacy efforts. For more information, visit [www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org](http://www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org).

### **The National Center on Family Homelessness**

The National Center on Family Homelessness, founded in 1988, is the leading organization focused solely on ending homelessness for children and families in America. With the power of knowledge and the will to act, we can give every child a chance. For more information, visit [www.familyhomelessness.org](http://www.familyhomelessness.org). Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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