

HEADLINE: Kentucky Homeless Numbers Released

DATE: August 28, 2009

SOURCE: Public News Service

AUTHOR: Bill Goodman



## Kentucky Homeless Numbers Released

August 28, 2009

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Nearly 30,000 Kentucky children do not have a place to call "home" each year, according to a new report on child homelessness from the *National Center on Family Homelessness*. Kentucky comes in 42nd in the state-by-state report, which means only a few states face problems more severe.

Penny Young, executive director of the *Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky*, says it is important the public understands that the face of homelessness is changing, as more families in the Commonwealth lose financial stability.

"We're seeing a growth amongst women with children; the stereotype of the past really is not there, when you take a look at the demographics across Kentucky."

The state has developed the Kentucky Council on Homeless Policy to prevent and end homelessness. Young says federal, and local governments also are engaged in such efforts - but it will take coordination to solve the problems.

"Access to services; we need to have really good housing policy. We need to build more affordable, permanent housing. If you look at the statistics in Kentucky, for a family to be able to afford a really good rental property, they need to have an income of almost \$12 an hour."

Adding to the level of distress these Kentucky families face, says Young, is that their children are nearly three times as likely to have health problems as middle-income families.

Bill Goodman, Public News Service - KY

Copyright © 2008 Public News Service