

# POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITIES 2012 FACT SHEET

## Poverty Within the Superior School District:

### Homelessness (4K – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

School Year:	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>
Homeless Rate:	127 students	147 students	175 students	167 students

### Where are these homeless kids staying?

- 23 - Shelters
- 121 - Doubled-up (significant increase over past 4-5 years)
- 5 - Unsheltered (cars, parks, campgrounds)
- 18 - Hotels / Motels (can include transitional or emergency housing)

### Clothing Closet Data:

- The Clothing Closet started in 2008-09 at Superior Middle School and 2009-10 and Superior High School, providing lightly used or new clothing and hygiene products. They are open to any student in need.
- Over the course of the 2011-12 school year, there were
  - o 170 visits to the Superior Middle School Clothing Closet
  - o 40 visits to the Superior Senior High School Clothing Closet

### Free & Reduced Meals

Free :	1,891 students
Reduced :	342 students

Number of students on free and reduced meals for 2011-12 = 49%

**NOW (Nutrition on Weekends) Food Bags** – 70 students weekly  
or approximately 90 families during 2011-12

Compiled by Linda Culligan Bruce, Associate Professor, Douglas County Family Living Educator, University of Wisconsin-Extension

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# Poverty Within Douglas County:

## Food Assistance Participation in Douglas County

<u>Year</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Food Share Participation (number of recipients):</b>					
Monthly Avg	4,403	5,756	6,386	6,848	7,697
<b>Food Pantry Participation Averages:</b>					
<b>NWCSA*</b> (participants/year)	8,192	8,039	10,357	9,544	11,000 est.
<b>Faith Methodist</b> (households/month)	95	87	106	110	200

### Statistics -

- Births to teen mothers in Northwest Wisconsin
  - o 14.8% in Price County
  - o 30.2% in Douglas County
  - o 32% in Ashland County
- Births to unmarried women is approximately 37% in Douglas County
- Illiteracy rate for Douglas County is 6.9% (2003)
- Unemployment rate in Douglas County in 2012 is approximately 7%

## Housing Trends in Douglas County

<u>Year</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>Foreclosures:</b>	-	65	123	172	232	190
<b>Evictions:</b>	81	125	165	171	162	183

### Renters:

- 2000 = 28.7%
- 2011 = 30.8% (Median Rent = \$594 / month)

### 2010 – Percent of Household Income Spent on Rent:

- 36% of Renters paid 35% or more
- 46% of Renters paid 30% or more

### Is the alternative really an alternative?

#### Median Home Price

- 2007 - \$ 120,524
- 2011 - \$ 101,616

## Poverty Rates in Douglas County

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Statewide 2010</u>
All persons	12%	13%	14.9%	11.6%
Adults	11%	12.4%	13.7%	10.3%
Children	13%	18.3%	19.4%	15.8%

**Median Household Income (2010) in Douglas County: \$39,171 (State median \$51,598)**

## Common Issues Currently Facing Low-Income Families in Superior\*\*:

Food insecurity; food shelves are low
Evictions; difficulty in paying rent
Inability to secure housing
Foreclosures; or risk of in the near future
Utilities – reduced ability to pay, increased number of shut-offs
Keeping current with bills in general
Increased overall debt, especially credit debt
Medical bills
Access to dental treatment
Transportation or lack thereof, car repairs, maintenance, fuel costs, need for bus passes, no bus service available, uninsured vehicles, past fines, etc.
Basic school supplies and other costs associated with school- i.e. field trips, club & sports participation fees, year books, etc.
Unemployment or underemployment; lack of experience
Lack of training or education, and lack of funds to acquire training
Lack of child care - hours, cost, location, transportation, sick care, etc.
Alcohol and other drug use (both legal and illegal)
Mental health issues
Difficulty in applying for and keeping MA, W2, SSI or other benefits
Parenting skills
Budgeting skills
Increased child abuse reports and increase in substantiated rates of child abuse
Relationship between physical inactivity and obesity and chronic health conditions (related to poverty). [36% of children and 61% of adults considered obese or overweight in 2008]
Decreased assistance available in community
Multiple issues

\*\* As identified by service agency surveys, needs assessments, and interviews.

### MONTHLY INCOME CATEGORIES: FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS (FPL), 2012

Family Size	100% FPL	133% FPL	150% FPL	185% FPL	200% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$ 931	\$ 1,238	\$ 1,396	\$ 1,722	\$ 1,862	\$ 2,793
2	1,261	1,677	1,891	2,333	2,522	3,783
3	1,591	2,116	2,386	2,943	3,182	4,773
4	1,921	2,555	2,881	3,554	3,842	5,763
5	2,251	2,994	3,376	4,164	4,502	6,753
6	2,581	3,433	3,871	4,775	5,162	7,743
7	2,911	3,871	4,366	5,385	5,822	8,733
8	3,241	4,310	4,861	5,996	6,482	9,723

Example: A family of four would earn \$23,050 or less annually at 100% FPL.

**“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.**

— Mother Teresa

## References

American Community Survey  
Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse  
Douglas County Clerk of Courts  
Faith United Methodist Church  
Family Forum/Head Start  
Lutheran Social Services  
National Assessment of Adult Literacy  
\*Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency  
Superior Housing Authority  
Superior School District  
US Census Data  
UW-Extension for Community & Economic Development  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Wisconsin Food Share  
Wisconsin Realtor's Association  
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program



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