

Facts about poverty ...

About 45 percent of families in Missouri with limited incomes report they often do without food or proper medication in order to pay home energy bills.

If you are a child in the Midwest your chances of living in poverty are increasing. Child poverty has increased 12% nationally since 2000, while the rise in the Midwest was a stunning 29%, by far the most substantial of any region.

An estimated 26,100 Missourians are homeless, and 19,600 live in over-crowded dwellings. When families experience temporary financial crisis it can severely jeopardize household stability.

Of the 5.6 million people living in our state, 13.3% or 749,000 Missourians are living in poverty. This is more than 1 in every 7 Missourians struggling to make ends meet.

Only 26 percent of people earning \$25,000 a year or less have health insurance paid by employers, compared with 83 percent of people earning \$75,000 or more.

Affordable rental housing is in short supply, 41 percent of renters in Missouri spend 30 percent or more of household income on housing.