

## Quiz about families, poverty and homelessness

The following exercise, courtesy of <http://familypromise.org/>, is derived from national statistics (sources are noted) but put in the context that really matters—the story of an individual family.

*Imagine yourself as a mom with two children. You worked as customer service representative, but your job was scaled back to fewer hours available due to the company's economic hardships. Finally it became more financially prudent for you to stay home with your children than to pay for childcare, so you left the work force. Although your household never had a lot of money, you and your husband were able to rent a place and get by.*

*But now hard times have hit. Your husband has left and your savings have been quickly depleted. You have no family in the area and all of your friends are trying to make ends meet too. What are your options?*

1) Having been out of the work force for awhile, you update your resume and start sending it out. What is the average number of weeks unemployed job seekers spend before securing another job? ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))

- a) 12            b) 21            c) 27            d) 35

2) Retail work best matches your skill set and experience, and you find a job in it that pays minimum wage. You're grateful to have a job, and you know that you can cut corners in your budget somehow. After all, how much do you need to make per hour working a 40 hour week to be able to afford a 2 bedroom apartment in the area? What hourly wage allows you to afford a fair-market rental in the area? ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#))

- a) \$11.50        b) \$14.00        c) \$17.80        d) \$19.30

3) How many hours a week would an employee have to work to afford the same 2 bedroom apartment at minimum wage? ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#))

- a) 68            b) 79            c) 93            d) 109

4) You can look to food aid to supplement your household budget. If you use food stamps, you'll be joining \_\_\_\_\_ million other Americans who receive them. ([USDA](#))

- a) 15            b) 25            c) 32            d) 40

5) You work, but you are still a low-income family (as defined by the US government as earning less than twice the federal poverty level). What percentage of low-income families with children have at least one working parent? ([National Center for Children in Poverty](#))

- a) 50%      b) 62%      c) 72%      d) 80%

6) Your youngest daughter is not in school yet, and the cost of child care while you work is putting a lot of pressure on your limited budget. Child care costs are higher than public college tuition in how many states? ([National Association of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies](#))

- a) 20      b) 28      c) 33      d) 43

7) The apartment you get is in a dreary part of town. Low income families often face elevated health risks from environmental factors (e.g., air pollution, water contamination, exposure to lead/asbestos). For example, low income children are \_\_\_% more likely than non-low income children to have suffered an asthma attack in the past year. ([EPA](#))

- a) 20      b) 30      c) 40      d) 50

8) You—and your children—below the poverty line. Although children make up 25% of the general population, they make up what percentage of people in poverty? ([US Census](#))

- a) 27%      b) 30%      c) 35%      d) 40%

9) When the car needs repairs and one of your children gets sick, your budget falls apart. You're behind on rent and are facing eviction. Maybe you know of a homeless shelter in your area that you request take you and your children in – but what percentage of requests by families at homeless shelters are not met? ([National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness](#))

- a) 18%      b) 24%      c) 29%      d) 32%

10) Your oldest child is a 15 year old boy. In \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the cities, families may have to break up in order to be sheltered. In 48 percent of the cities families may have to spend their daytime hours outside of the shelter they use at night. ([Corporation for Enterprise Development](#))

- a) 23%      b) 40%      c) 48%      d) 57%

11) You have gotten yourself on the list for public housing. The average wait time is \_\_\_\_\_ months. ([National Center on Family Homelessness](#))

- a) 6            b) 12            c) 16            e) 20

12) Your children have experienced homelessness. They join the more than \_\_\_\_\_ children will be homeless in this country over the course of a year. ([National Coalition for the Homeless](#))

- a) 300,000    b) 600,000    c) 800,000    d) 1,000,000    e) 1,300,000

## **Answers to Quiz**

- 1) 27 weeks
- 2) \$17.80
- 3) 109
- 4) 40 million (14% of the American population, or 1 in every 7 people)
- 5) 72%
- 6) 43
- 7) 40%
- 8) 35%
- 9) 32%
- 10) 57%
- 11) 20
- 12) 1,300,000

