



Addressing the Educational Challenges of Early Childhood Homelessness Through Cross-sector Collaboration & Research Across the Policy Lifecycle

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Bernadine Futrell, National Head Start Association

Mandy Sorge, National Association for Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education

Barbara Duffield, SchoolHouse Connection

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Presentation Overview



Addressing the Educational Challenges of Early Childhood Homelessness Through Cross-sector Collaboration & Research Across the Policy Lifecycle

Amy Yamashiro, Research Analyst, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation & Policy Development (OPEPD), Office of the Chief Data Officer (OCDO)

❖ *Session Chair*

Marsha Basloe, President, Child Care Services Association

❖ *Developing and Using the Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles*

Bernadine Futrell, Senior Director, National Head Start Association

❖ *Head Start at the Intersection of Policy and Practice in Early Childhood Education*

Mandy Sorge, Executive Director, National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education

❖ *How Policymakers Use Early Childhood Homelessness Data to Inform Decision-making*

Barbara Duffield, Executive Director, SchoolHouse Connection

❖ *Early Childhood Homelessness: Federal and State Policy Advocacy*

John McLaughlin, Program Specialist, Federal Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children & Youth U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Office of Formula Grants (OFG)

❖ *Discussant*

Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles (Annual Report)



Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles

Data Collected in 2017-2018

Early Childhood Homelessness: National (2017-2018)

Early childhood experiences with homelessness have long lasting impacts on a child's well-being. Access to educational services can help mitigate some of these negative effects. ¹ Federally-funded early childhood education (ECE) programs are only able to serve a small portion of children who experience homelessness. Taking action to mitigate the impacts of early childhood homelessness is critical to ensuring all young children have the opportunity to thrive.

Early Childhood Homelessness

Children under age 6

Total population²

23,977,152

Estimated number experiencing homelessness³

1,455,537

or
1 in 16 children

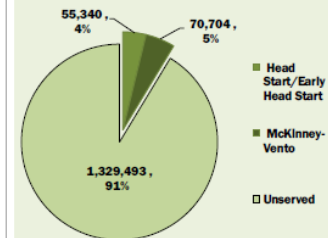


Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Children under age 6 experiencing homelessness

9% served by Head Start/ Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2018⁵

National



Related Factors

Families experiencing homelessness, whether chronic or episodic, often face other barriers to affordable housing. By understanding these related challenges, states can create sustainable and proactive policy solutions that better address homelessness in their communities.



31% of families with children under 18 have a high housing cost burden⁴



8% of children under age six had no resident parent in the U.S. labor force⁴

For detailed information on indicator definitions, data sources, and methodology, please see Appendix III.

Notes:

1. McCoy-Roth, M., Mackintosh, B.B., & Murphy, D. (2013). When the bough breaks: The effects of homelessness on young children. Early Childhood Highlights, 3.
2. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (June 2019). SC-EST2018-AGESEX-CIV: Annual Estimates of the Civilian Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/file-layouts/2010-2018/sc-est2018-agesex-civ.pdf>
3. Calculations by authors using methodology established by Bassuk, et al. (2014) and 2018 data from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
4. Data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT data center.
5. Data from U.S. Department of Education. (2019). Consolidated State Performance Reports, Part I and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Retrieved July 23 2019. (2018). Program Information Reports. Data on children under 6 experiencing homelessness served through Federally-funded child care and home visiting programs will be collected for the first time in 2017.



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Early Childhood Homelessness: District of Columbia (2017-2018)

Early childhood experiences with homelessness have long lasting impacts on a child's well-being. Access to educational services can help mitigate some of these negative effects. ¹ Federally-funded early childhood education (ECE) programs are only able to serve a small portion of children who experience homelessness. Taking action to mitigate the impacts of early childhood homelessness is critical to ensuring all young children have the opportunity to thrive.

Early Childhood Homelessness

Children under age 6

Total population²

54,099

Estimated number experiencing homelessness³

7,211

or
1 in 8 children

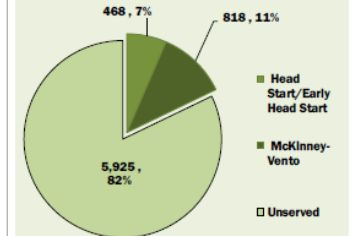


Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Children under age 6 experiencing homelessness

18% served by Head Start/ Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2018⁵

District of Columbia



Related Factors

Families experiencing homelessness, whether chronic or episodic, often face other barriers to affordable housing. By understanding these related challenges, states can create sustainable and proactive policy solutions that better address homelessness in their communities.



39% of families with children under 18 have a high housing cost burden⁴



14% of children under age six had no resident parent in the U.S. labor force⁴

For detailed information on indicator definitions, data sources, and methodology, please see Appendix III.

Notes:

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2. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (June 2019). SC-EST2018-AGESEX-CIV: Annual Estimates of the Civilian Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/file-layouts/2010-2018/sc-est2018-agesex-civ.pdf>
3. Calculations by authors using methodology established by Bassuk, et al. (2014) and 2018 data from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
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Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles (Five-year Trend)



Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles: 2013-14 to 2017-18

Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles: **National** | (2013-14 to 2017-18)

Early childhood experiences with homelessness have long lasting impacts on a child's well-being. Access to educational services can help address some of these negative effects.¹ Federally-funded early childhood education (ECE) programs currently serve a small portion of children who experience homelessness. With better awareness, training, practices, and collaboration to leverage existing resources, stakeholders can take actions to understand the impacts of early childhood homelessness to ensure all young children have the opportunity to thrive.

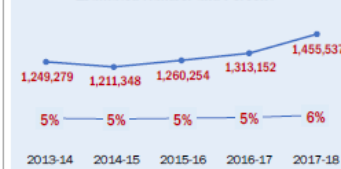
Early Childhood Homelessness

All Children Under Age Six²



Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness³

Estimated Number and Percent

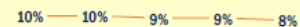


Related Factors⁴

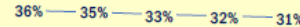
Families experiencing homelessness, whether chronic or episodic, often face other barriers to affordable housing. By understanding these related challenges, states can create sustainable and proactive policy solutions that better address homelessness in their communities.



Children Under Age Six With No Parent in the Labor Force in the United States



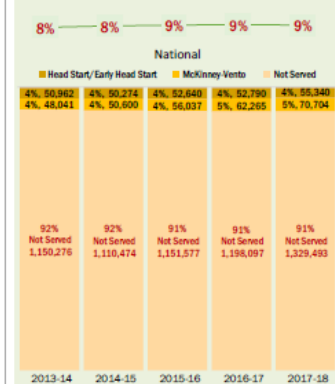
Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden in the United States



Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Children Under Age Six Served or Not Served by Head Start/Early Head Start or McKinney Vento ECE Programs⁵

Served by Federally-Funded ECE Programs



For detailed information on indicator definitions, data sources, and methodology, please see full report, *Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles: 2013-14 to 2017-18*, Appendix III.

Notes:

- McCoy-Roth, M., Mackintosh, B.B., & Murphy, D. (2012). When the tough breaks: The effects of homelessness on young children. *Early Childhood Highlights*, 3.
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- Data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT data center.
- Data from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Data on children under 6 experiencing homelessness served through Federally-funded child care & home visiting programs will be collected for the first time in 2017.



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Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles: **District of Columbia** | (2013-14 to 2017-18)

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Early Childhood Homelessness

All Children Under Age Six²



Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness³

Estimated Number and Percent

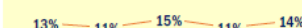


Related Factors⁴

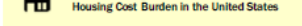
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Children Under Age Six With No Parent in the Labor Force in the United States



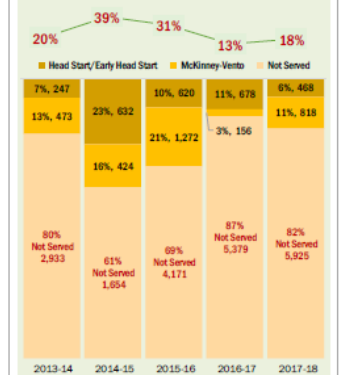
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Developing and Using the Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles

Marsha Basloe, President
Child Care Services Association



Developing and Using the Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles



Who are homeless children?

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

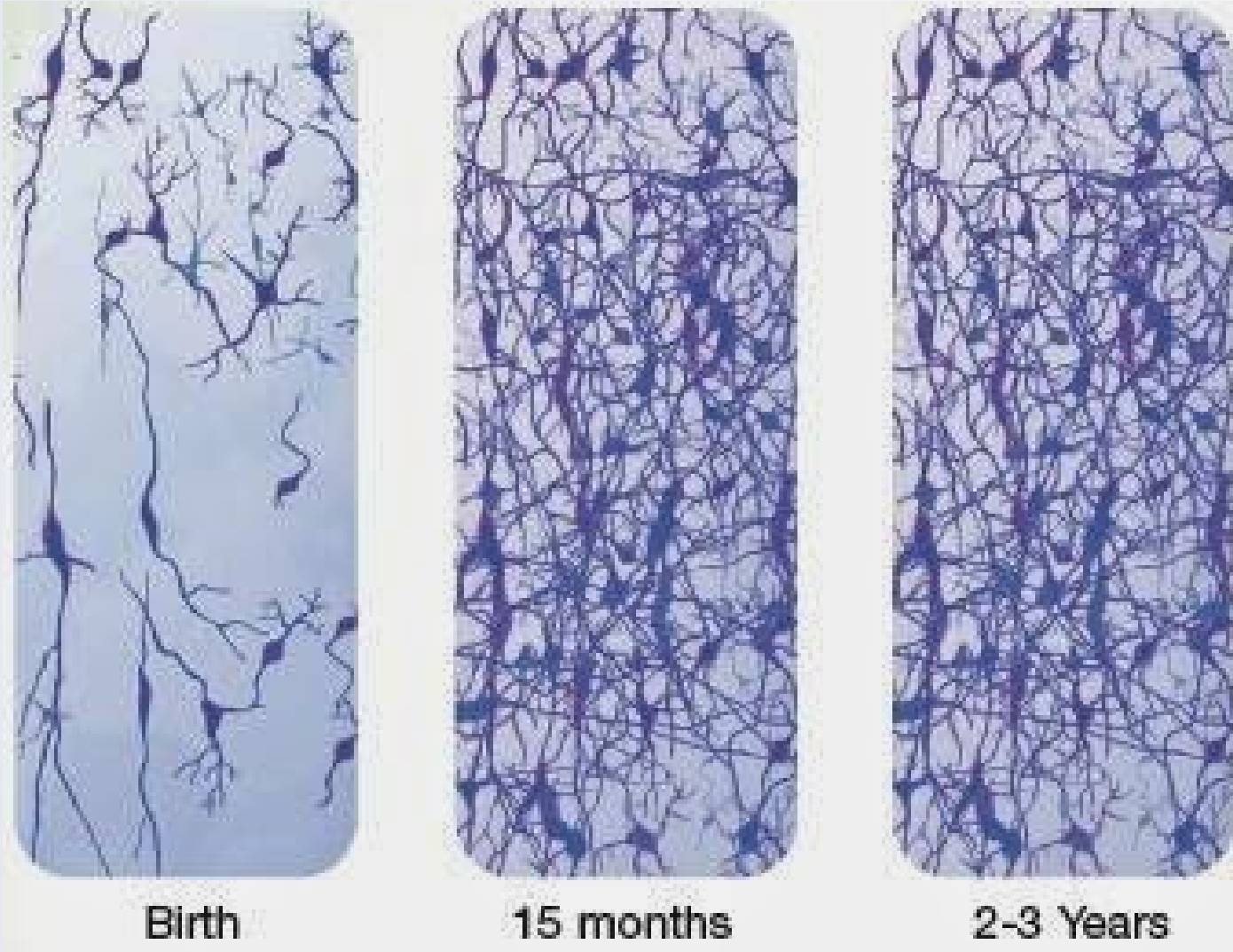
Methodology

Multiple data sources used

- The National Center on Family Homelessness Data on Early Childhood
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (ED)
- Head Start and Early Head Start (HHS)
- United States Census Bureau American Community Survey
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services data (CMS)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Children's Defense Fund
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Why the First Five Years Matter

The Foundational Early Years



- Birth to Five is a time of unparalleled growth!
- During early childhood, the brain strengthens the connections that are being used, while pruning away those that are unengaged
- Relationships, experiences, and environments shape development
- Early experiences lay the foundation for later success...or challenges

North Carolina Using Data Survey Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' Knowledge and Practice Related to Families Experiencing Homelessness

Using the Data

- Yay Babies! Work with ECAP (Early Childhood Action Plan)
- Conducted online survey; All CCR&R agencies across the state invited to participate
- Worked with ACF to release the validated/updated Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Shelters <https://bit.ly/34Nder8> – now part of NC PDG grant
- All state CCDF agencies to collect and report whether a CCDF family experiencing homelessness is receiving services.
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/e cd/homeless_table_ccdf_fy2019_fy2021_state_plans_final_182020.pdf
- North Carolina Preschool Eligibility Crosswalk: ESSA Title I, Part A and Head Start Act , LEA/Head Start Coordination Guidance <https://bit.ly/3IP5GMh>

Head Start at the Intersection of Policy and Practice in Early Childhood Education

Bernadine Futrell, Senior Director
National Head Start Association





NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

Head Start

Covid-19





Head Start now serves more than one million children and their families each year in urban and rural areas in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories, including many American Indian, Alaska Native, and migrant children.

Policy

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- McKinney-Vento includes preschool (0-5)

Head Start Program Performance Standards

- May reserve up to 3% of funded capacity

Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule

- Increases alignment with other ECE policy



Action Steps to Prioritized Access and Participation in Head Start for Children Experiencing Homelessness

1. Prioritization
2. Reserving Slots
3. Categorical Eligibility
4. Verification
5. Grace Periods
6. Staff Learning
7. Continuity of Care

NHSA Priorities for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- Fully funding of Head Start (NHSA Advocacy)
- Focus on mothers and infants (Early Head Start)
- Prioritizing Social and Emotional Learning and Skills during pandemic
- Prioritize staff learning and empathy

How Policymakers Use Early Childhood Homeless Data to Inform Decision-making

Mandy Sorge

National Association for Early Childhood
Specialists in State Departments of Education



What is NAECS-SDE

- National Association for state education staff that oversee Early Childhood Education and sit in SEA
 - PD Leads, PreK Coordinators, Directors of ECE Accountability, etc.
- 250 member listserv
- Representation from 45 states
- 100+ Affiliate Members



Governors and Early Childhood Education



Source: NGA Winter Meeting 2017

Data for Policymakers

- State Profiles
 - Individualized data for each state
- Rankings
 - By state or region
- National Data Disaggregated by groups
 - Tribal level
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Socio-Economic Status

Why This Matters

- Policymakers make connections
 - Unique state context
 - 4-5 similar states to watch
 - National Media Attention
- Making Connections across Sectors
 - Housing, Health, Social Services, Education
- The Big Ask “I want to see more data on this in our state”

Louisiana's Early Childhood Education Summit



The Opportunity



Early Childhood Homelessness: Federal and State Policy Advocacy and Implementation

Barbara Duffield
Schoolhouse Connection





What's the goal of federal policy on homelessness?

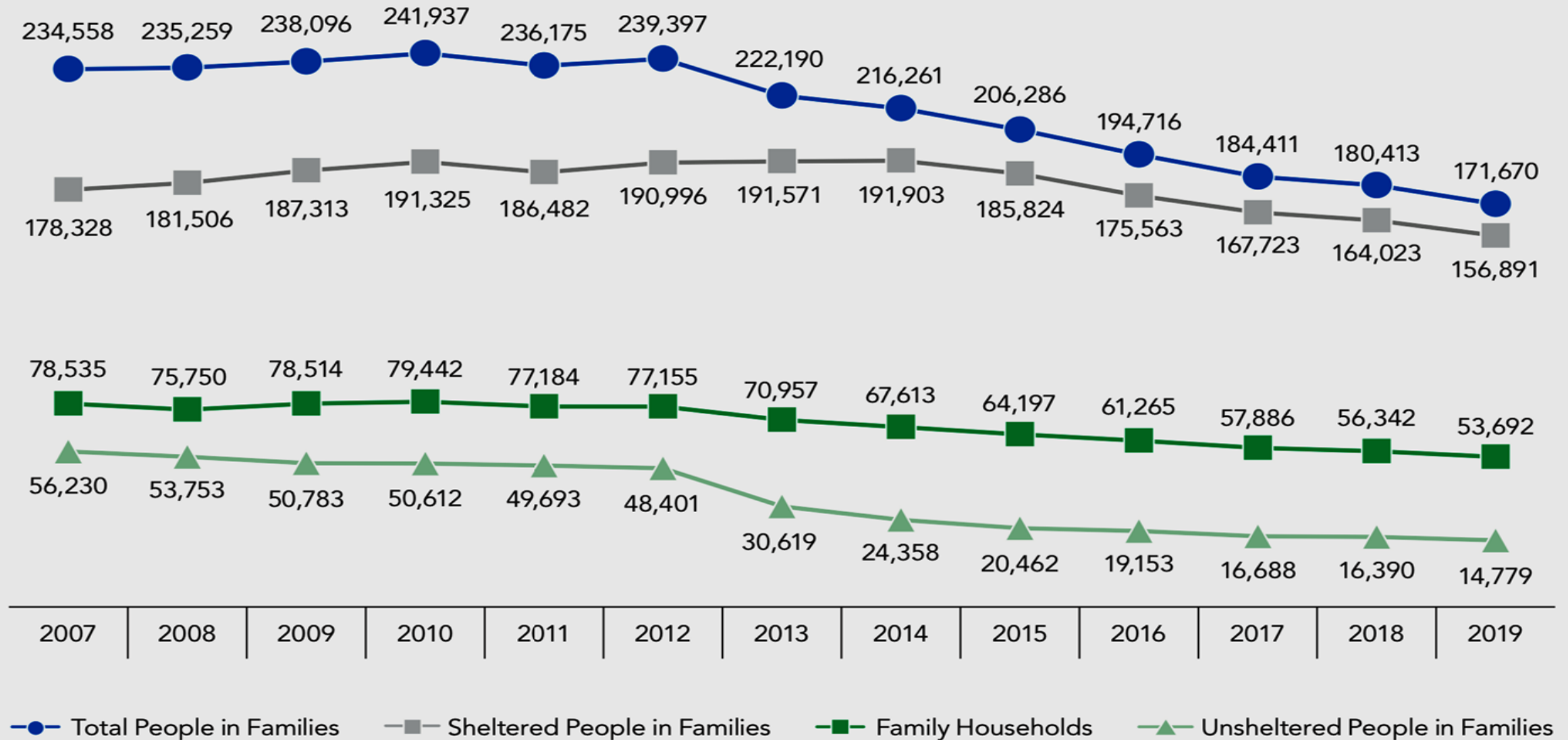
How effective are current federal and state policies for young children and families?

Is homelessness increasing or decreasing?



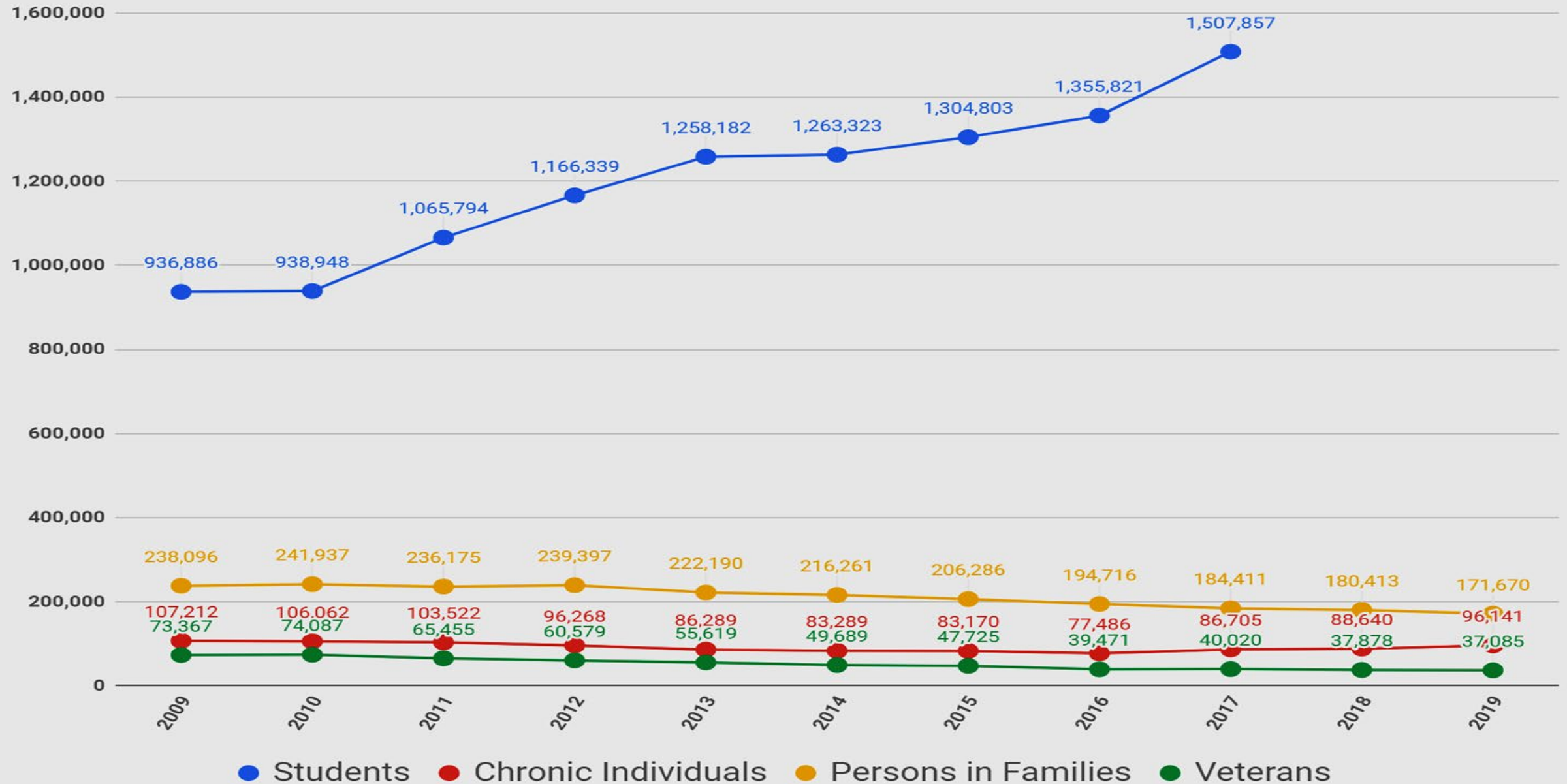
2019 HUD Annual Report to Congress

EXHIBIT 3.1: PIT Estimates of Homeless People in Families with Children By Sheltered Status, 2007–2019



The View from Public Schools: Education Data Compared to HUD Data

Counts of Homeless Population



Los Angeles

HUD PIT: Across all age groups of unsheltered homeless adults 25 years of age and older

- over a quarter said that their first homeless episode occurred when they were between 18 and 24 years of age
- a quarter say it was when they were 25 to 34
- a fifth say it was when they were children.

<https://economicrt.org/publication/escape-routes/>

Seattle

When asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness

- 18% of survey respondents (whether sheltered or unsheltered) were children under the age of 18
- 27% were young adults between the ages of 18 and 24
- 55% were adults over the age of 24.

http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-Report_KingCounty_FINAL.pdf

Short-term Goals that Undercut Long-term Goals

COVID-19 Concerns

- Under-identification in schools and early childhood programs due to school building closures, social distancing – at the same time as increasing homelessness due to economy and family stress, and fewer formal shelters. Lower numbers do not mean less homelessness.
- The invisibility of children and families means the dominant policy paradigm continues; for example, the priority for unsheltered adults continues, even though doubling-up poses greater risk of COVID transmission
- Families and young children experiencing homelessness largely excluded from federal coronavirus relief legislation.



Federal Pending Legislation



Emergency Family Stabilization Act, H.R. 7950/S. 3923

Sponsored by U.S. Representatives John Yarmuth (D-KY), Don Bacon (R-NE), Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Don Young (R-AK) & U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Susan Collins (R-ME)

- Bipartisan legislation that introduces a new, flexible, emergency funding stream for community-based organizations (including schools) through the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Provides direct dedicated funding to meet the unique needs of families, children, and youth experiencing homelessness under the broader definition.
 - House bill provides \$2 billion
 - Senate bill provides \$800 million
- Funds can be used for a wide variety of emergency housing, health, education, and safety-related needs.
- Helping children, youth, and families through the systems to which they are most connected will stabilize them quicker and more effectively

Implementation of Federal Policy on Early Childhood Homelessness

Alignment of strong protections in statute and regulation:

- Head Start
- Child Care and Development Block Grant
- McKinney-Vento Act (public preschool)

But implementation is a tremendous challenge, in part due to invisibility and dominance of adult homelessness stereotypes.

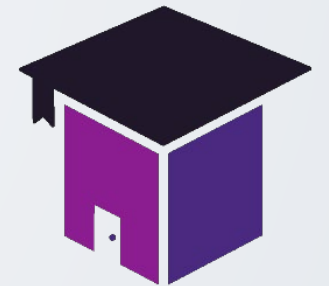
How do we know if we are making progress?



Education Leads Home: A National Campaign Building Stronger Futures for Homeless Students

1. Young children will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.
2. A 90 percent high school graduation rate among homeless students by 2030
3. A 60 percent post-secondary attainment rate by 2034

www.educationleadshome.org



**EDUCATION
LEADS HOME**

State Policy



State Provisions to Help Children Experiencing Homelessness Access Child Care and Preschool

April 2020

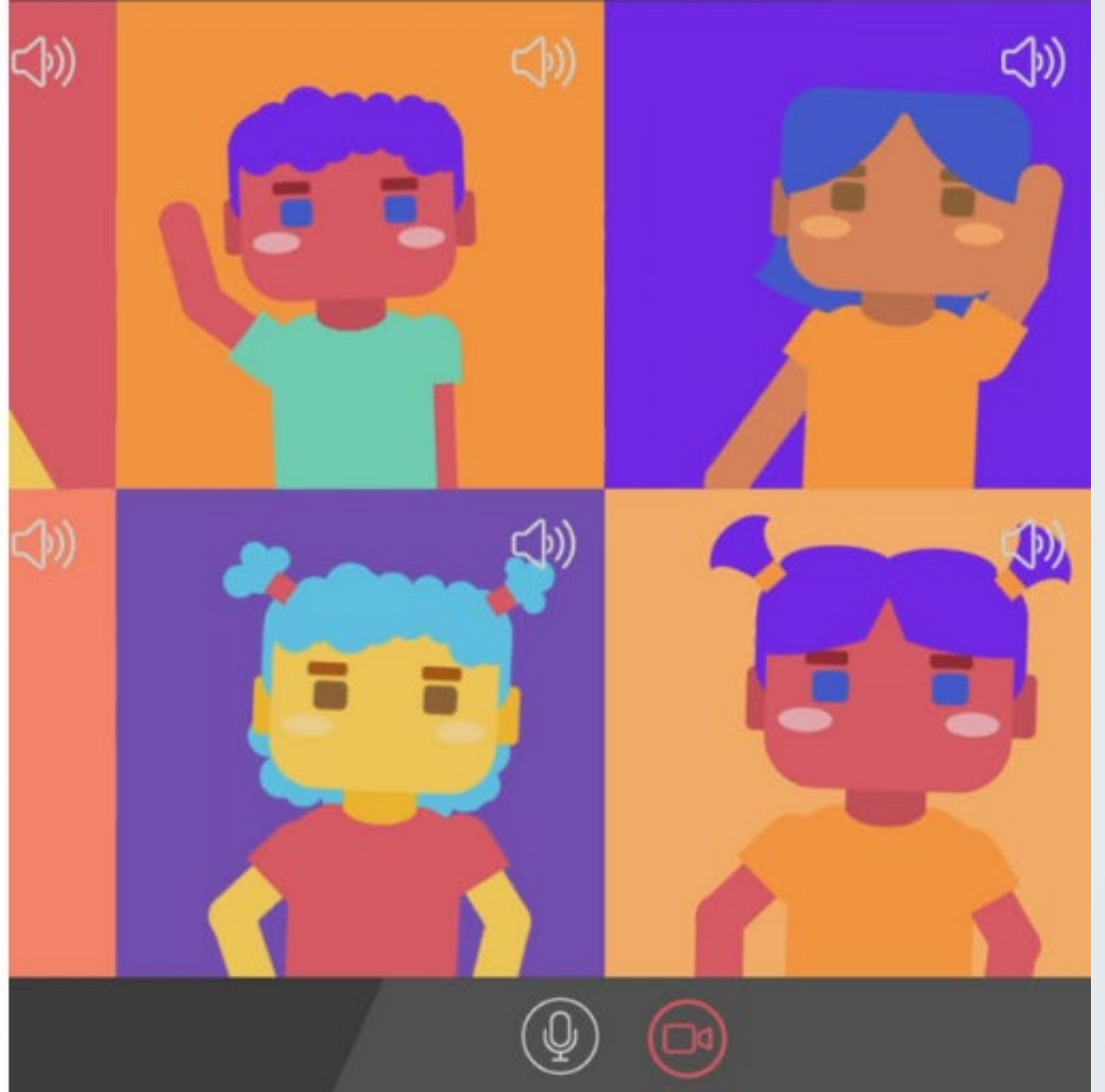


Quality early childhood programs can change the trajectory of a child's life. Yet homelessness creates unique barriers to accessing and participating in early childhood programs. Federal laws and regulations support prioritizing and streamlining access to child care and preschool for children experiencing homelessness.¹ Under federal regulations, states must prioritize children

experiencing homelessness for child care services. Families can start receiving services while working to assemble immunization, health and safety, and eligibility documents. Child care subsidy agencies must do specific outreach to families experiencing homelessness and improve their access to child care. [More information](#) on federal child care regulations is available on our website.

- State policy is essential and often a faster way to make big changes
- SHC's state policy advocacy offers many resources, including [our summary of state policies on child care and preschool for children experiencing homelessness](#)

Public Awareness Campaign: Let's Educate Every Child



Cross-sector Collaboration to Address Early Childhood Homeless Education: Discussant Remarks

John McLaughlin

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Office of Formula Grants (OFG), Education of Homeless Children & Youth



Why does Early Childhood Education Data Matter?

- Increasing awareness of and access to early learning programs for young children experiencing homelessness
- Improving coordination and collaboration across agencies administering early childhood education and preschool programs
- Analyzing trends in inputs and outputs (and ideally outcomes)



Early Childhood Program Points of Coordination

1. EHCY and Head Start:

- EHCY State Coordinators list on NCHE website at <https://nche.ed.gov/data/> and Head Start State Collaborators at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/programs/head-start-collaboration-offices-state>
- Early Childhood State Advisory Councils and local coordination requirements in both EHCY and Head Start statute, use EHCY data in community needs assessments

2. EHCY and Special Education (including IDEA, Part C Early Intervention Services):

- The IDEA, Part C State Intervention Coordinating Council should include the EHCY State Coordinator (see <https://ectacenter.org/topics/intercoord/intercoord.asp>)
- The IDEA, Part B State Special Education Advisory Panels or Councils should include members with homeless education expertise

3. EHCY and Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program Coordination

- Triennial CCDF State Program Plans should address the needs of young homeless children: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/state-plans> (FFY 19-21)
- Share annual EHCY data on young homeless children served by LEAs with subgrants with lead child care State agencies and administrators: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/ccdf-grantee-state-and-territory-contacts>



Office of the Chief Data Officer

Resources

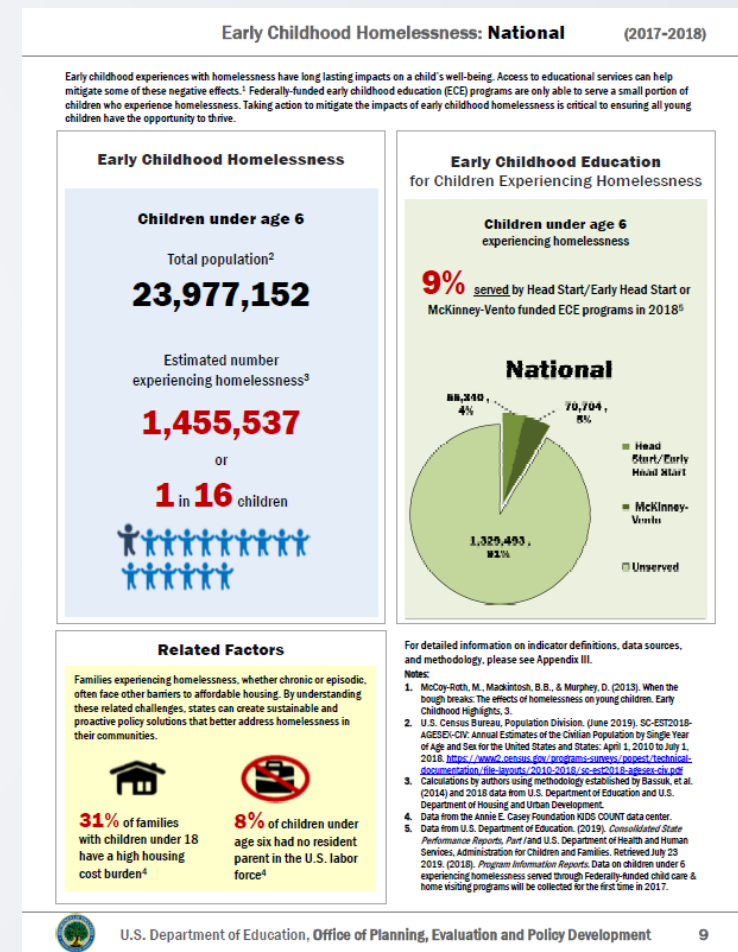
List of All Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles

Annual Reports by Year of Release

- **2016:** https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/homelessness_profile_package_blanks_final.pdf
- **2017:** https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/epfp_50_state_profiles_6_15_17_508.pdf
- **2018:** <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles.pdf>
- **2019:** <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles-2019.pdf>
- **2020:** <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles-2020.pdf>

Five-year trend Report

- <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles-2020-a.pdf>





Questions?

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