Students and Homelessness

One sector of homelessness that is often under-studied and hidden is the epidemic of student homelessness. Students of color, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ students are significantly more likely to experience homelessness. In high school, Black students are 2.25 times more likely to experience homelessness, and Hispanic students are 2 times more likely to experience homelessness than their white peers. Heightened racial violence also contributes to the loss of trust in public schools, exacerbating challenges in re-engaging students who are homeless. Students with disabilities and English learners are also disproportionately represented among students experiencing homelessness.



Homelessness in Public Schools

The number of public school students in grades K-12 who are experiencing homelessness has been rising steadily in the U.S. over the past three years, from 1.26 million in the 2014-15 school year, to 1.30 million in 2015-16, to more than 1.35 million in 2016-17, the latest school year for which there are official statistics. [1]

Homelessness in College

A 2020 survey of 195,000 college students across the US still enrolled during the pandemic found that 14% had experienced homelessness in the past year, though only about 3% self-identified as homeless. Most described what they had been through as “couch-surfing” or staying with friends. [2]

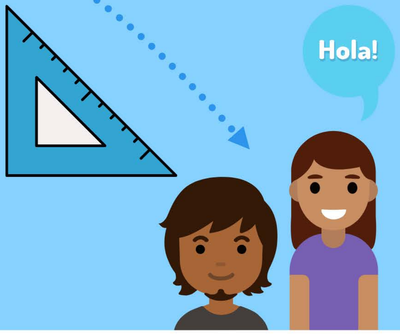


Black Students

Black youth were the most overrepresented group among all young people facing homelessness ages 18-24. Black youth accounted for 78% of this population, and all young people of color accounted for nearly 90%. [3]

Hispanic and Latino Students

Hispanic and Latino students accounted for 28% of the overall student body but 38% of students experiencing homelessness. Hispanic and Latino students were the largest subgroup experiencing homeless in comparison to other students. [4]



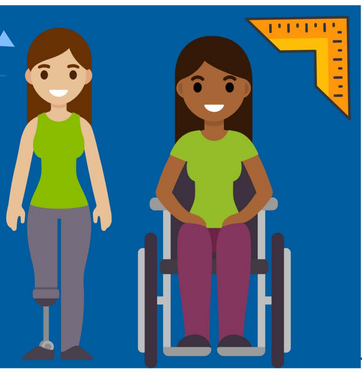


Indigenous Students

Indigenous students are 1.7x more likely to experience homelessness in comparison to their peers. Indigenous students were also 3x more likely to be sleeping in motel or hotels in unstable housing. [5]

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities account for 19% of homeless youth in the United States. [5]



2SLGBTQIA+ Students

Homelessness and housing instability were reported at higher rates among transgender and nonbinary youth, including 38% of transgender girls/women, 39% of transgender boys/men, and 35% of nonbinary youth, compared to 23% of cisgender LGBQ youth. [6]

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- The Act declares that students without reliable housing must have access to all school programs and services they are eligible for. Extracurriculars, special education assistance, school nutrition programs, online learning, summer school, and before and after-school activities are a handful of examples of programs they'll have access to.
- Education agencies must have a homeless liaison dedicated to guiding students experiencing homelessness. Securing documents and ensuring enrollment to courses and programs are a few of the liaison's responsibilities.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- The Act allows these students to remain in one school if they choose, despite temporary living rearrangements in another district. The school is responsible for providing adequate transportation.
- Students experiencing homelessness can enroll in class and begin immediately. Whereas most students must provide ample documents such as a birth certificate, proof of residency and guardianship, immunization forms, and other records, these students are excused. They may join courses even if they have missed the enrollment or application deadline. [7]

Local Resources for Students Experiencing Homelessness:

- **WAYNE RESA**: Hotline open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. 734-3340-1567
- **Detroit Phoenix Center:** info@detroitphoenixcenter.org | 313-482-0916
- **Michigan Alliance for Families:** info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org | 1-800-552-4821 | Para contáctanos en Español 313-217-1060
- **Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD)** - Mckinney-Vento Program Referral form - **bit.ly/MCKDetroit** (referral for parents/guardians/students)
- **CAM Hotline:** 313-305-0311 | Mon, Tues, Thurs & Friday from 9am - 5pm, Wed 11am-5pm

National Resources for Students Experiencing Homelessness

- **National Center for Homeless Education:** 800-308-2145 | homeless@serve.org
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** hud.gov/states
- **School House Connection:** 202-364-7392| schoolhouseconnection.org/contact/
- **National Network for Youth:** 202-783-7949 | nn4youth.org/about/contact-us/

information provided by

- 'My car is my home': The California students with nowhere to live, The Guardian, 2022. http://bit.ly/3SSCzc7
- How Race Impacts Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Homeless Youth Connection Arizona
- Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQ Youth, The Trevor Project, 2022
- Access to Food for Students Experiencing Homelessness, National Center for Homeless Education.
- Tips for Teachers & Staff: How to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness, Schoolhouse Connection, 2019

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