

Developing Policies and Procedures to Identify and Serve Out-of-School and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



SchoolHouse
Connection

Overcoming Homelessness Through Education

Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Wednesday October 24, 2018

What do you hope to
learn today?



SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website:
<http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org>
 - Newsletter
 - Federal and state policy advocacy
 - Q&A from our Inbox
 - Webinars and implementation tools
 - Youth leadership and scholarships
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Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Definition



Definition:

A child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. 11434a(6)

Why?

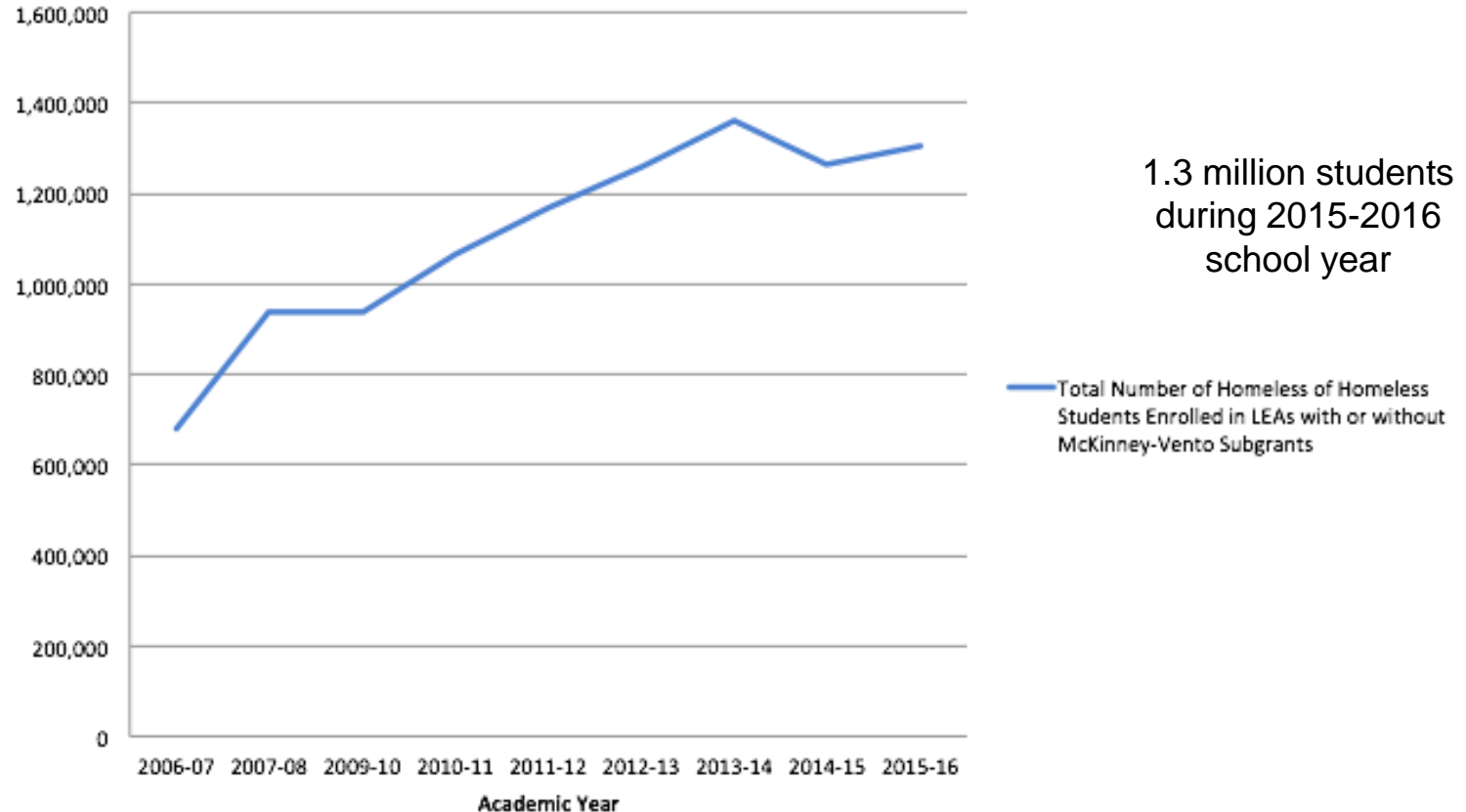
- Abuse and neglect (Runaway Safeline Data)
- 20-40% sexually abused
- 40-60% physical abused
- Domestic violence
- Deep poverty and lack of affordable housing
- Parental substance abuse and mental illness
- Family homelessness (nearly one-quarter of unaccompanied youth)
- Death of a parent or caregiver (over one-third of unaccompanied youth)
- Prior experiences of foster care (nearly one-third of unaccompanied youth)
- Told to leave at 18th birthday (family economics)

New Youth Experience Homelessness for the First Time Every Day



"Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in
America," Chapin Hall, University of Chicago, Voices of
Youth Count

Schools Nationwide are Identifying More Homeless Students



Specifically, Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

U.S. Department of Education Homeless Student Data SY2012-SY2015

SY2012-2013

SY2013-2014

SY2014-2015

SY2015-2016
(Preliminary)

% Four Year Change

Total Children and Youth Identified as Homeless and Enrolled in Public Schools (PreK-12)

1,219,818

1,301,239

1,263,323

1,304,803

7%

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Identified and Enrolled in Public Schools (K-12)

78,654

88,966

95,032

111,708

42%

Homelessness is Hidden, Including in Schools

Chapin Hall, University of
Chicago, Voices of Youth Count,

- At least 700,000 unaccompanied adolescents (ages 13-17) – 1 in 30
- Public schools: 111,753 unaccompanied homeless youth
- This suggests that for every unaccompanied youth identified by schools, we miss at least five.

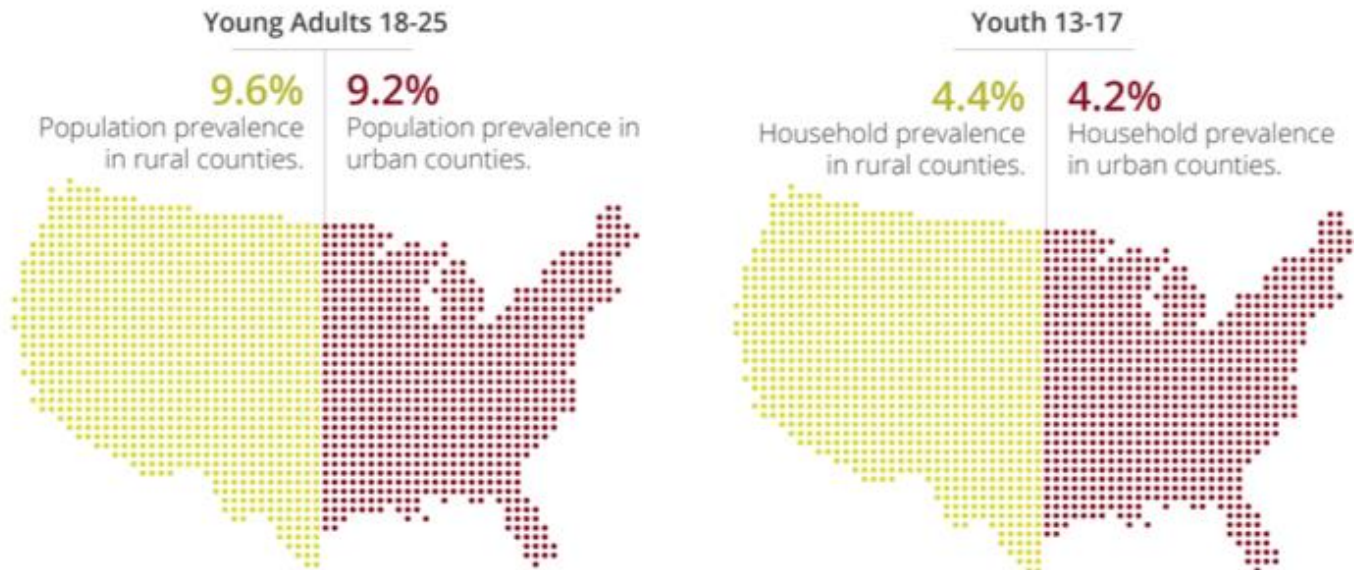
Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Centers for Disease Control

- Student reported rates of homelessness are significantly higher than school reported numbers, in all YRBS states/districts – sometimes twice as high or more.

"I went to a high school where the location and community had high poverty tax, so most of the people were wealthy. I was able to piggyback off of that, but that also meant that my experience was invisible."

Figure 4. Youth Homelessness Affects Rural and Urban Areas Alike

Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.



Lack of Education is Strongly Correlated with Youth Adult Homelessness

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk

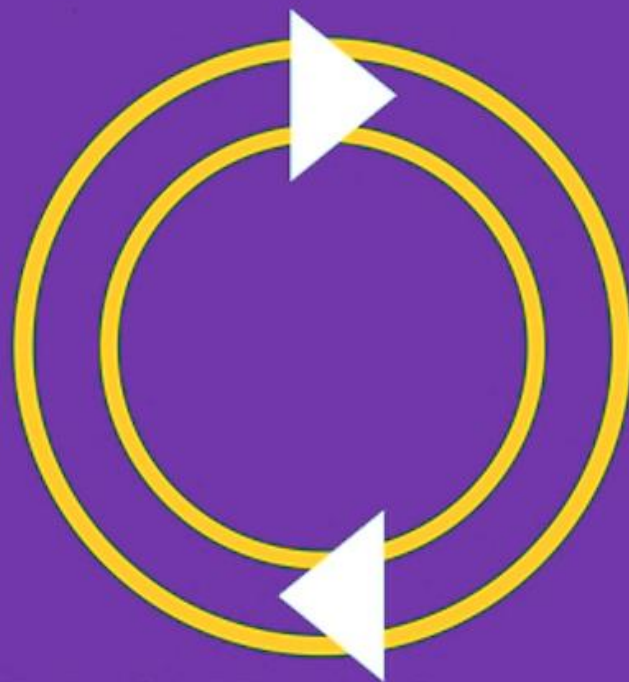


Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org



Source: Chapin Hall, http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall_VoYC_1-Pager_Final_111517.pdf

**Child/Family
Homelessness**



**Youth/Young
Adult
Homelessness**

Adult Homelessness

Education can Protect Against Homelessness

- Children in quality preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school and own homes.
- 99% of the jobs created since the Great Recession have gone to workers with at least some postsecondary education.
- High school and college graduation are linked to other important indicators of health and well-being.

Schools as the Hub for Connection and Success

- Schools may be the **only service provider in the community** (no shelters in most places).
- Schools may be the most consistent component of a student's life, and their best source to **connect with caring adults** for help and support.
- Education is the **one of the best** interventions to prevent future homelessness.

*“Graduating from high school
was devastating. I lost my entire
support system.”*

Transition from High School to College

- Start outreach as soon as freshman year.
- Create checklist to review each time you meet
 - Be aware of deadlines
- ACT/SAT fee waivers
- Help students fill out the FAFSA
 - Scholarship options
- Host a college tour
- Be aware of state laws offering tuition/fee waivers
- Partner with college access programs and higher education supports
 - Pathways to Partnership
 - Summer Bridge

Resources

- SchoolHouse Connection: <http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>
- Hidden in Plain Sight: <http://www.americaspromise.org/report/hidden-plain-sight>
- National Center on Homeless Education: <https://nche.ed.gov>
- National Network for Youth: <http://www.nn4youth.org>
- DVDs for awareness-raising: vimeo.com/pjulianelle
 - “The McKinney-Vento Act in Our Schools”
 - “Education and Homelessness: Young Children to Young Adults”

Resources

- Higher Education Tip Sheets
- Pathways to Partnerships
- FAFSA
- Youth-facing Guides
- Webinars
- State Laws



<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/>

SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program



- Deadline November 9, 2018
- Eligible students:
 - Born on or after November 9, 1998
 - Entering college for the first time during the 2019-2020 school year.

<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/youth-leadership/scholarship-program/>

Contact Information

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Homeless Practices at the Elizabethtown Area School District

Jennifer Kenny, MSW, LSW
EASD Home & School Visitor

Identification

- o Registration flag
- o Any staff member → Jenn Kenny (streamline)
- o ECYEH form(aligned to website) sent to primary contacts, immediate implementation of services
- o Coordination with Counselors/school staff
- o Coordination with community agencies
- o Student Outreach – teaching about poverty in classes
- o Annual outreach in August to re-identify

Education/Professional Development

- o Annual Staff Notices – online
 - o Links to M-V Act, PDE, BEC, ECYEH Region site, training manual for new employees
- o Monthly “BearTracks” staff newsletter
- o Staff Meetings/In-Service Days
- o BCIU staff (also online for EASD staff) & Follow-up information
- o Individualized with staff as needed

Awareness

- o Posters in prominent areas (Every School, Registration, District Office, Nurse, ECHOS, Library, Winter Shelter)
- o EASD website “Homeless Services” under Student Supports tab
- o ECYEH Grant – promo items for community events, registration area, main offices
- o Collaborations with local agencies

Reducing Barriers

- o No computer/internet
 - o Info on Website, Virtual Backpack, Text, Mailed
- o Transport to register & ongoing related needs
- o Transportation of homeless students (Faithful Transport, Coordinator role creativity)
- o Social Work Supplies Budget
- o Basic needs – food, clothing, hygiene, supplies, etc.
- o Mental health needs
- o Staff/Community collaborations – Share along the way!
- o Creativity by all

Unique in Etown

- o Winter Shelter & history
- o ECHOS – *Elizabethtown Community Housing & Outreach Services*
- o Community Place on Washington
- o Ministerium/Churches That Care
- o Elizabethtown HUB

Assisting Unaccompanied Youth

Dr. Dave Lehman

Conemaugh Valley School District

Cambria County - Region 6

The student?

- o If the student had not been attending a school:
 - o Why they want to come back to school?
 - o What are their intentions?
- o Ask the student about previous experiences
 - o What was the last grade they completed?
 - o Testing to see where they are
- o Talk about goals
- o Who can they turn to for support
- o Consequences for not following through

Programs we offer:

- o Credit recovery

- o Lunch Recovery Program - students are in a monitored lunch completing assignments

- o On- line learning

- o Done in conjunction with attending in-school classes
 - o Learning Lamp (Program offered to students)

- o Connecting with a peer tutor

- o Tutoring

- o Teachers during study hall and other times throughout the day
 - o After school tutoring/test support

Other supports:

- o Talking with student on regular basis
 - o Building a support team
 - o Principal
 - o Guidance
 - o Teachers
 - o Peers
 - o Regional Coordinator (if possible)
- o Connecting the Regional Coordinator, when applicable
 - o What can they do?