
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: ADDRESSING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS AND ECONOMIC INSECURITY

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

1:30 PM ET / 12:30 PM CT / 11:30 AM MT / 10:30 AM PT



THE SCALE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS

4.2 million youth and young adults experienced homelessness on their own during a 12-month period, including **3.5 million** between 18-25.

29% of young adults who experienced homelessness were enrolled in college or an educational program.

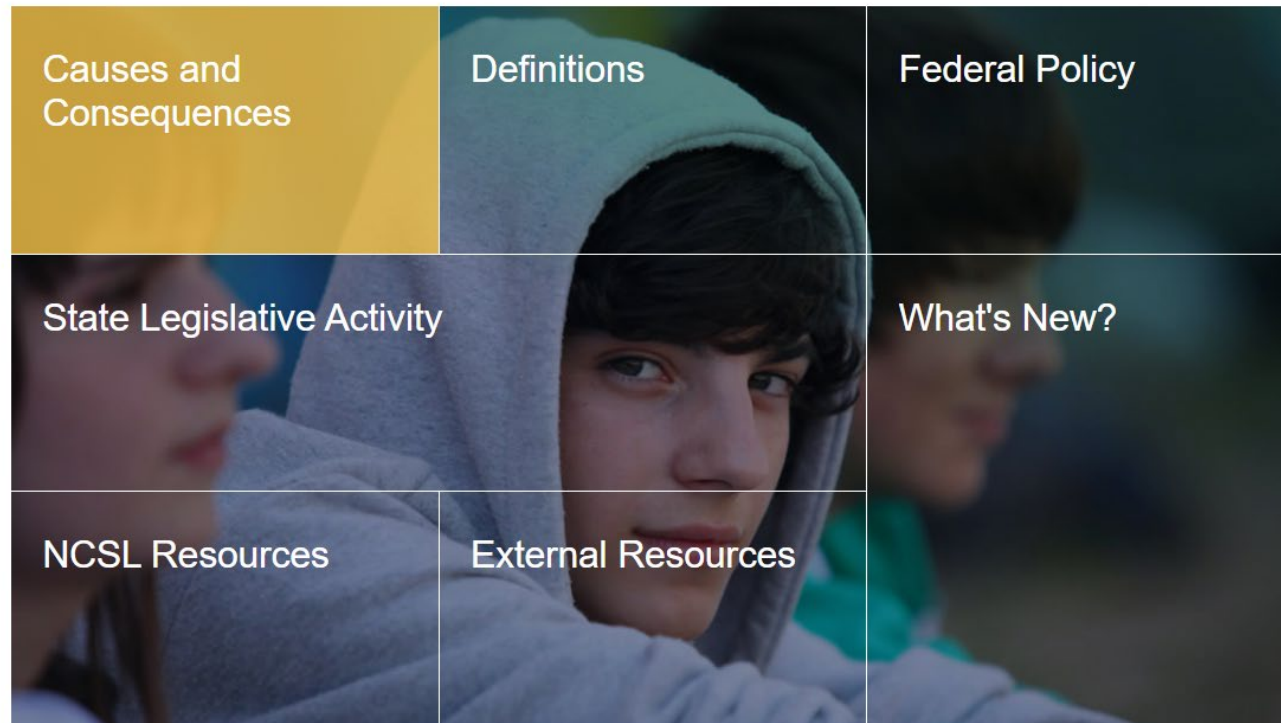


RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS



NCSL OVERVIEW ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Youth Homelessness Overview



STATE LEGISLATION

Housing and Homelessness Legislation



- 2021 Legislation – as of 5/25/21
 - 8 bills in 7 states focused on youth homelessness
- Notable Legislation
 - Higher education student liaison
 - Unaccompanied minors' access to health care
 - Unaccompanied minors' vital records

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OFFERS HISTORIC ECONOMIC RELIEF SUPPORTS

- \$800 million for children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN & STUDENT DEBT



- Federal student loan payments are deferred, interest is waived, and collection actions, penalties and fees are suspended through Sept. 30, 2021.
- Tax-free status for all student loan forgiveness and student loan calculation through Dec. 31, 2025.

TODAY'S EXPERTS



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES



American Rescue Plan: An Opportunity to Address Youth and Young Adult Homelessness and Economic Insecurity

June 24, 12:30PM -1:30PM Mountain



About SchoolHouse Connection

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

- Website:
<http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org>
- Non-partisan State Policy:
<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/policy-advocacy/state-policy/>
- COVID resources
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships



SchoolHouse
Connection

ARP and Youth Homelessness:



- McKinney-Vento Act
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)
- American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP HCY) 101
- Other ARP Funds
- Using Funds Strategically

McKinney-Vento Act

McKinney-Vento Act

Federal law

- Provides educational rights to children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Immediate enrollment, school stability, support for success
- [State Coordinators](#) and Local Liaisons

Definition of “homeless”

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship; motels; inadequate housing
- 1.4 million homeless students

ESSER

Required local education agency (LEA) reservation of ESSER funds:

20% for activities to address learning loss, ensure these interventions meet students' academic, social, and emotional needs, and **respond to the disproportionate impact** of the pandemic on specific student groups, including low-income students, students with disabilities, students who are English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, **students experiencing homelessness**, and students who are in foster care.

Other allowable LEA uses for ESSER funds:

Includes **activities to address the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness**, mental health services, planning and implementing summer learning and after-school programs, purchasing sanitization supplies, and addressing learning loss among students experiencing homelessness through tracking attendance and improving student engagement, and other means.

ARP Homeless Children and Youth: 101

ARP HCY: How much funding is available?

Going out to states in two batches:

\$199,750,000

available as of April 23, 2021 (“ARP-HCY I”)

\$599,250,000

Coming later this summer (“ARP-HCY II”)

Who administers the funds?

The Office of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

ARP-HCY: When will LEAs receive funds?

ARP-HCY I: ED urges states to begin disbursing funds “quickly to meet the immediate needs of students experiencing homelessness.”

ARP-HCY II:
Later this summer or
early fall

How much funding will each LEA receive?

ARP-HCY I: Funds must be “administered in a manner consistent with all of the requirements of the Education for Homeless Children and Youths program.”


- Current McKinney-Vento subgrant recipients
- Applicants that applied but were not awarded a grant in the last competition.
- Recipients of a new ARP subgrant competition.

ARP-HCY II: Formula
(which may include poverty and the number of identified McKinney-Vento students in 2018-19)

ARP-HCY and other funds

- ARP HCY should be used to meet urgent needs, but not to replace funds that are otherwise available.
- ARP Homeless funds must supplement the supports and services provided with ESSER funds and not replace ESSER funds to support students experiencing homelessness.

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-use-arp-funds/>



ARP-HCY Needs and Uses: US Department of Education Dear Colleague Letter

- “Any expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness”
- “Address urgent needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness-- including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs”
- “So states and LEAs can increase capacity by hiring staff, dedicating resources, and planning partnerships with community-based organizations, among other strategies”

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/overview-of-used-guidance-on-arp/>

Community Partnerships

- ED encourages both state educational agencies (SEAs) and LEAs to “award contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as:
 - rural children and youth,
 - Tribal children and youth,
 - students of color,
 - children and youth with disabilities,
 - English learners,
 - LGBTQ+ youth, and
 - pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students, and
- connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services”

Other ARP Funds Available to Support Youth Experiencing Homelessness

1. **Early childhood:** child care, Head Start, Home Visiting
2. **Higher Ed:** Emergency Financial Aid Grants
3. **Housing Assistance:** HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Housing Choice Vouchers, Emergency Rental Assistance
4. **Technology and Connectivity:** E-Rate, Emergency Broadband Benefit
5. **Food:** National School Lunch Program, Pandemic-EBT, SNAP
6. **Health/Mental Health:** ESSER, Federal Insurance Market Place
7. **Income Support:** Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Stimulus Payments

**Using ARP Funds Strategically:
Helping Your State and Community Take
Advantage of this Historic Opportunity for
Youth**

Considerations for Using Funds Strategically



What are the needs of youth experiencing homelessness?

Solicit stakeholder feedback to understand.

Promote use of ALL available ARP funds for youth:

1) HUD funds for “at-risk”

Contact your [Continuum of](#)

[Care!](#)

2) Early childhood

3) Higher Education

4) Food

5) ESSER

6) ARP-HCY

SHC Resource: How to Use ARP Funds to Identify and Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

1. Hire systems navigators to connect youth to resources
2. Provide more and better transportation options
3. Increase mental health and social work services
4. Ensure young children have access to early childhood education
5. Launch a robust public outreach campaign to connect youth
6. Re-engage youth in high school and post-secondary education
7. Enhance communication options with youth
8. Provide academic coaching and in-person enrichment
9. Address the needs of minor unaccompanied homeless youth

Minor Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- 750,000 unaccompanied homeless youth ages 13-17
- Higher rates of suicide, rape, drug abuse
- Depending on state law, typically unable to access services

Poll

What services can unaccompanied youth under 18 years old experiencing homelessness can access without a parent or guardian in your state?

- Health care
- Behavioral health care
- Shelter and related services
- Signing a lease
- Access vital documents
- Other / I'm not sure

Minor consent for medical and behavioral health care

North Dakota [SB 2265](#) (2021):

- Allows unaccompanied homeless youth age 14 and older to consent for their own medical, dental and behavioral health care.
- Allows unaccompanied parents to consent for their children's medical, dental and behavioral health care.

Minor consent for shelter and services

Maryland HB [206](#) (2020):

- Allows unaccompanied youth to consent for shelter and supportive services as long as the youth understands the services and can communicate informed consent
- Requires providers to contact a parent, guardian, or adult relative within 72 hours, unless that is not in the youth's best interest, the youth refuses to provide such contact information, or the provider is unable to make contact.

ARP: Unprecedented funding for youth
experiencing homelessness in education,
housing, income, food.

A call for bold leadership!

The ARP & COVID Moment: Rethinking Policies to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

Joseph Bishop, Ph.D.

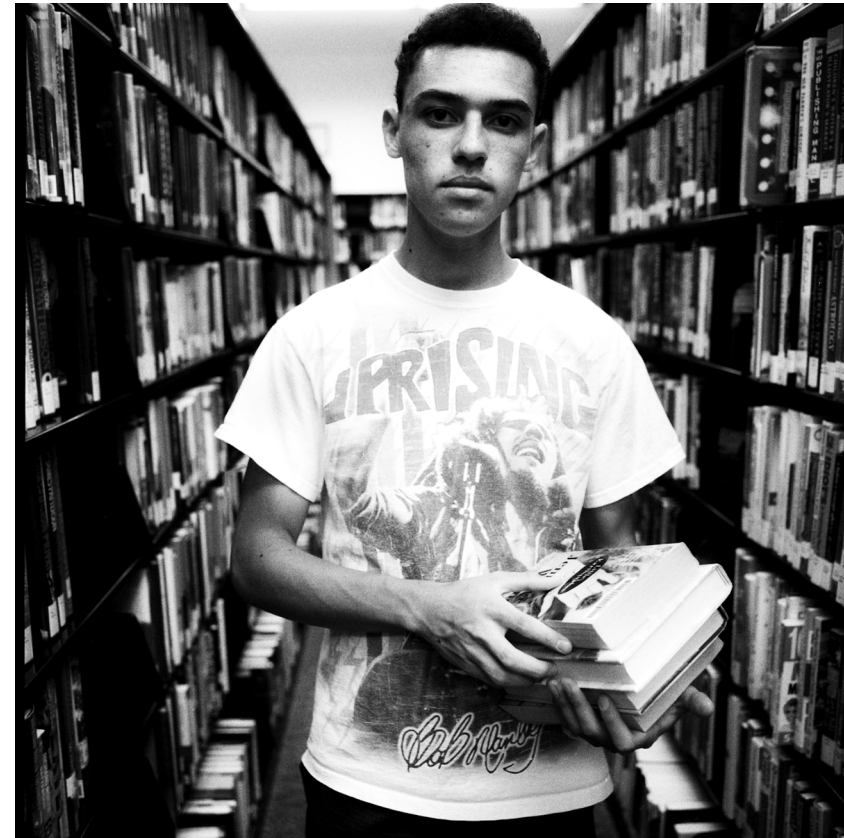
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) | June 24, 2021

Presentation Goals

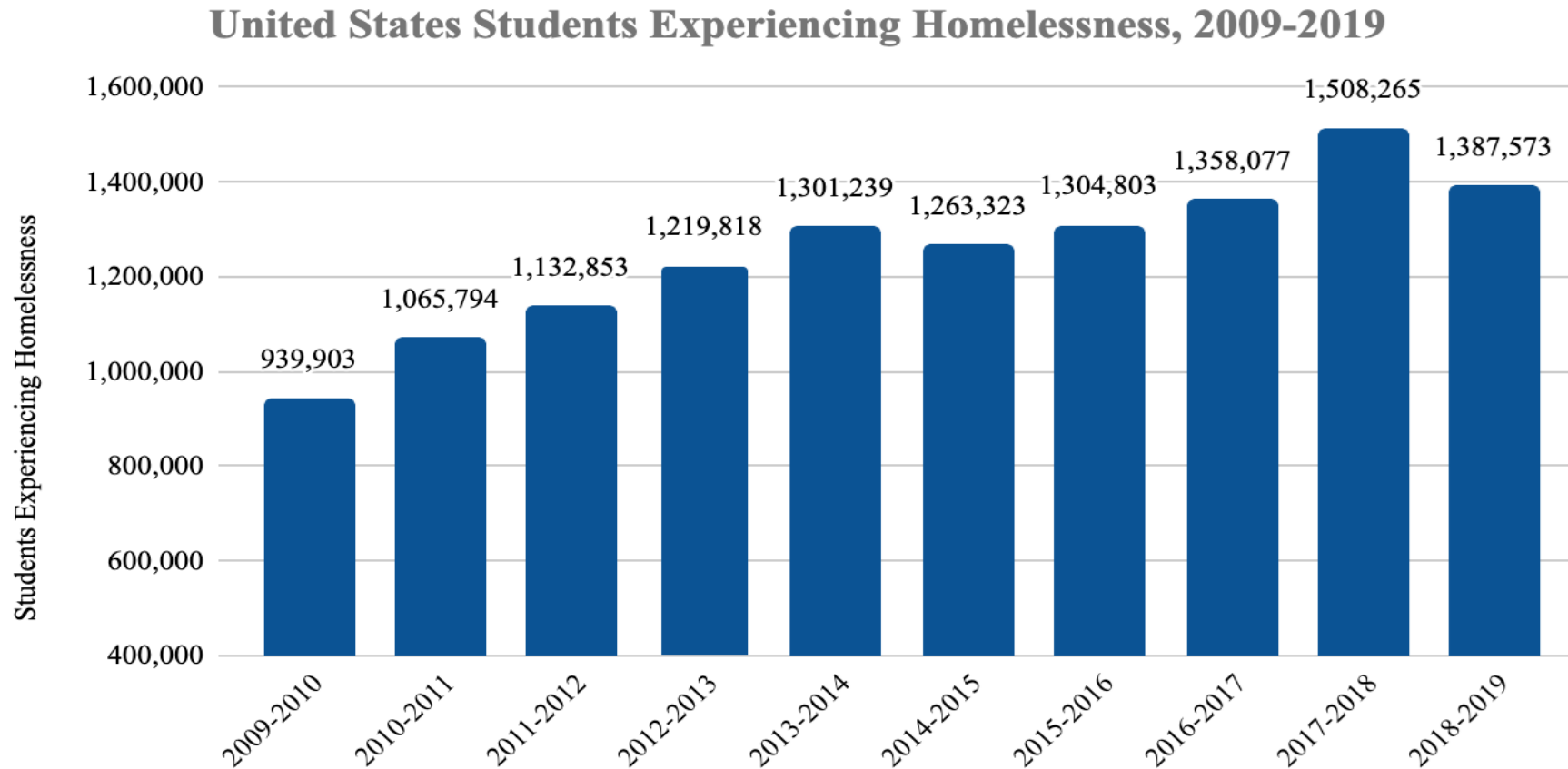
- 1. Understand landscape of students experiencing homelessness**
- 2. Review evidence-based practices**
- 3. Explore inquiry-based policy strategies for ARP**

How involved are you with the issue of youth homelessness in your state? (Poll)

- Not involved at all
- Somewhat involved
- Thinking about policies
- Developed policies

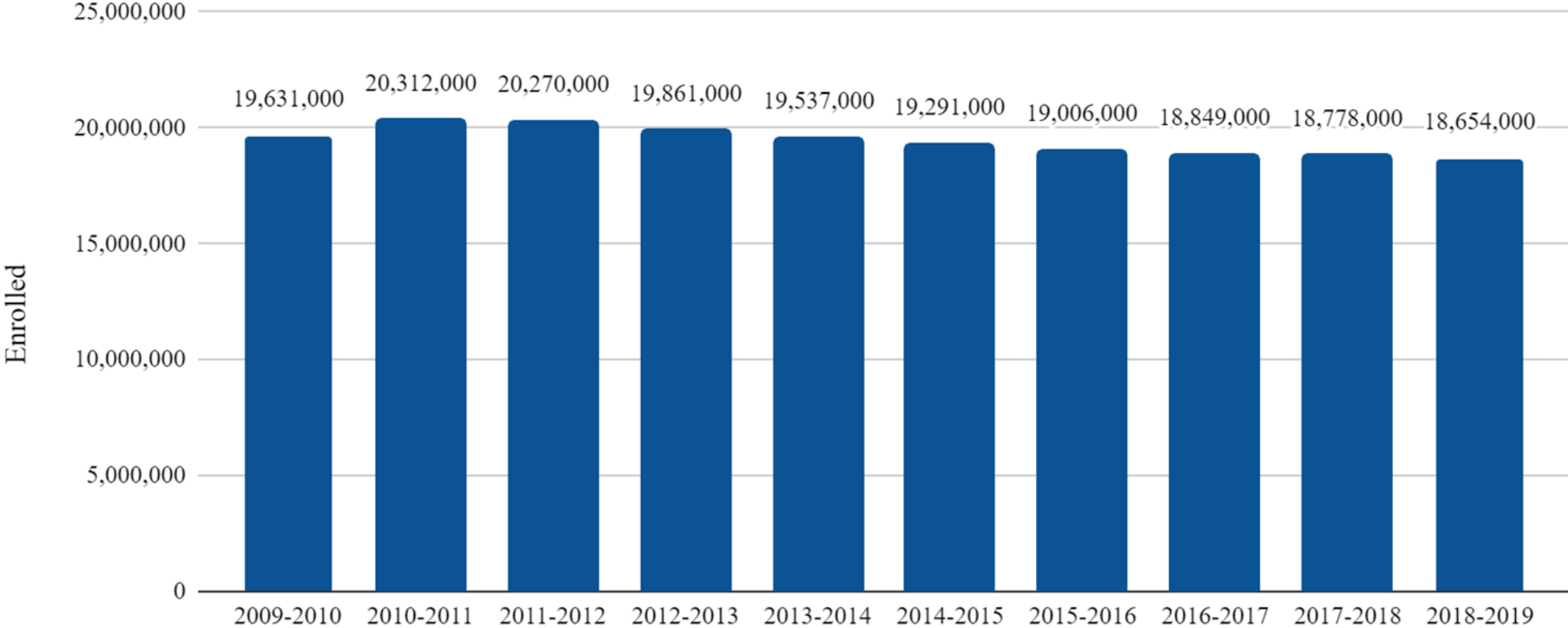


48% Increase in K-12 Students Experiencing Homelessness Nationally



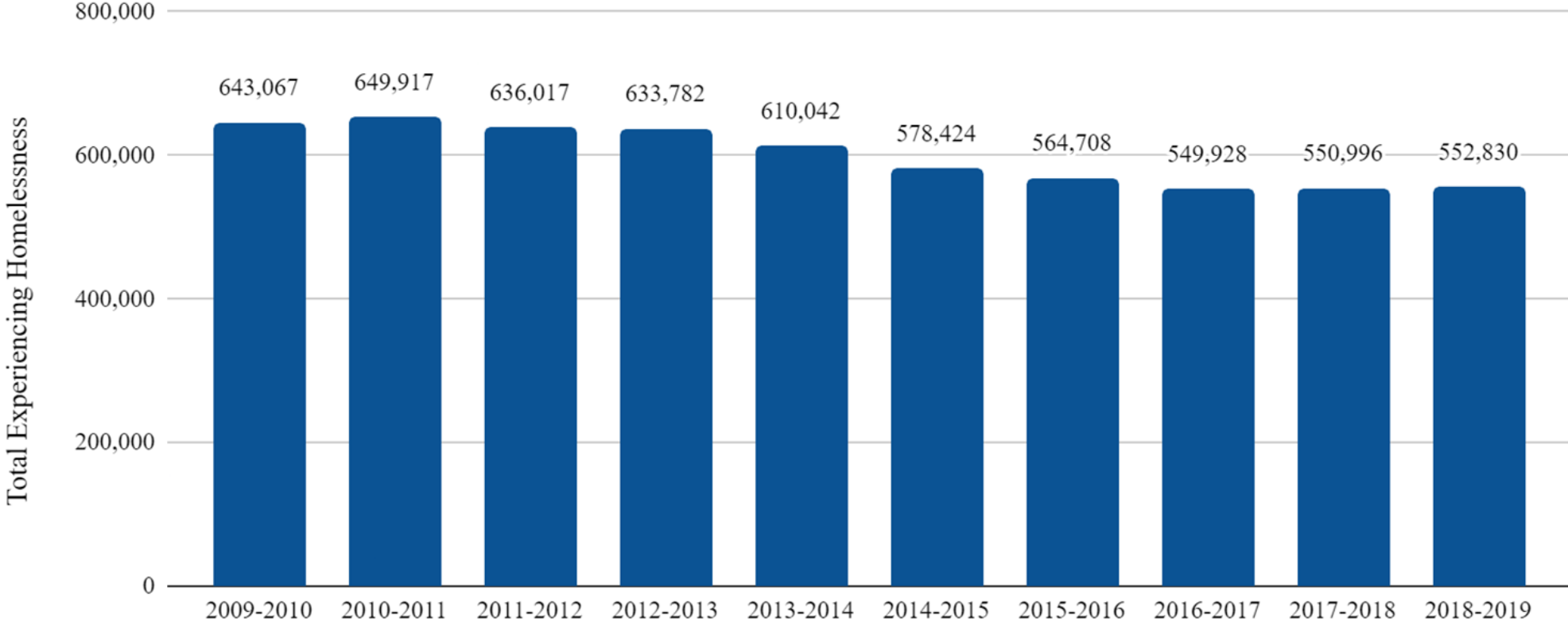
5% Decrease in College Student Enrollment Nationally

United States College Enrollment, 2009-2019



14% Decrease in Identified Experiencing Homelessness Nationally

Total Homeless in United States, 2009-2019



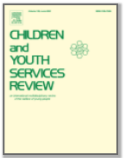
Summary of Effective Interventions & Strategies

- Prevention: individualized, intensive case work & counseling
- Family strengthening
- Transitional, supportive and subsidized housing
- Counseling & treatment programs
- Youth-centered case management
- Economic & employment Programs
- Outreach & service connections



Children and Youth Services Review

Volume 116, September 2020, 105096



Interventions for youth homelessness: A systematic review of effectiveness studies

Matthew H. Morton  , Shannon Kugley , Richard Epstein , Anne Farrell 

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105096>

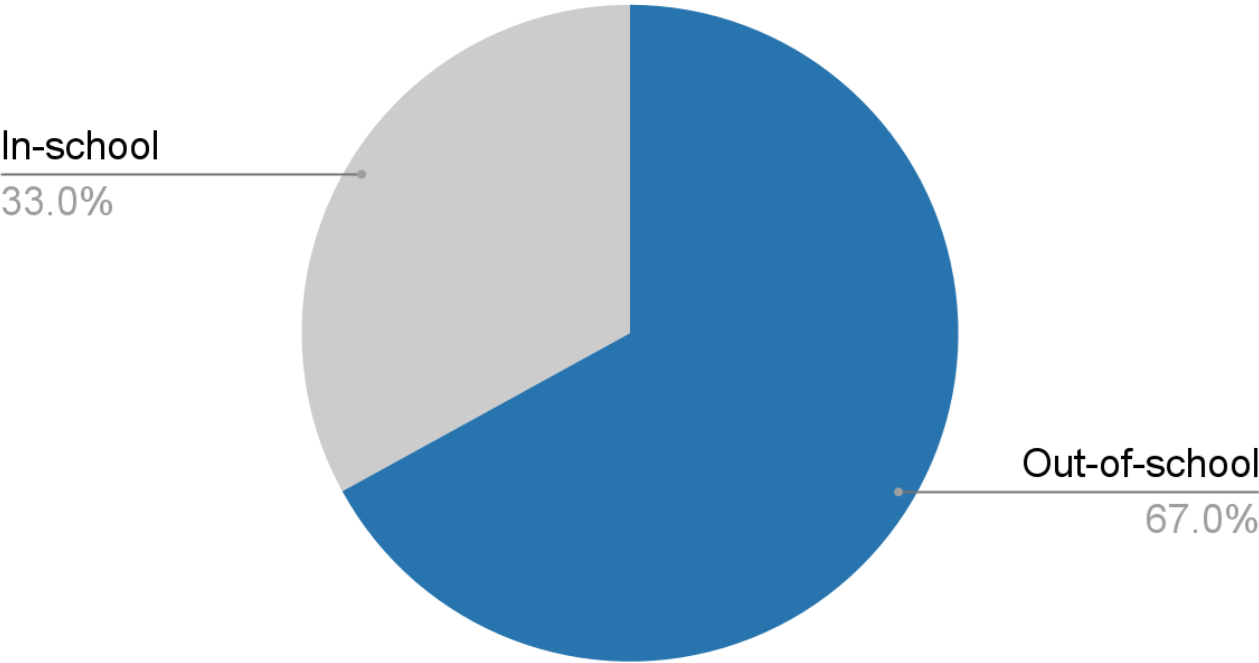
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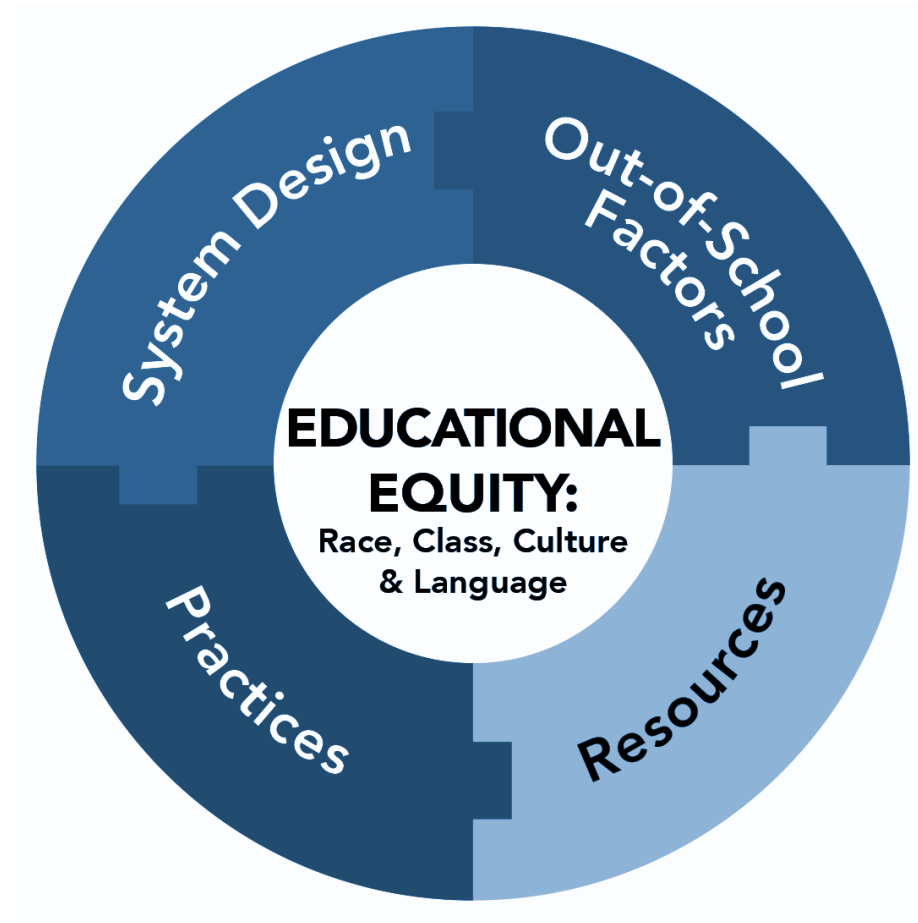
[open access](#)

Which has more influence?

In-school vs. Out-of-school factors



Whole System Ed Equity



State Responses to Youth Homelessness

- Remove barriers for child care or preschool eligibility
- Consent for housing or related services
- Greater flexibility & time towards graduation
- Rapid rehousing model & priority for college-age students



Other Relevant Federal Funding: Students Experiencing Homelessness

- Summer Enrichment, Afterschool programs, Education technology
- Unemployment Benefits
- Home visiting models
- Women & children supplemental health
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Investments)
- Homelessness Assistance
- Early education & childcare
- Community health & mental health
- Rural health and assistance centers
- Transportation





State *of* Crisis:

Dismantling Student Homelessness in California

REPORT AUTHORS



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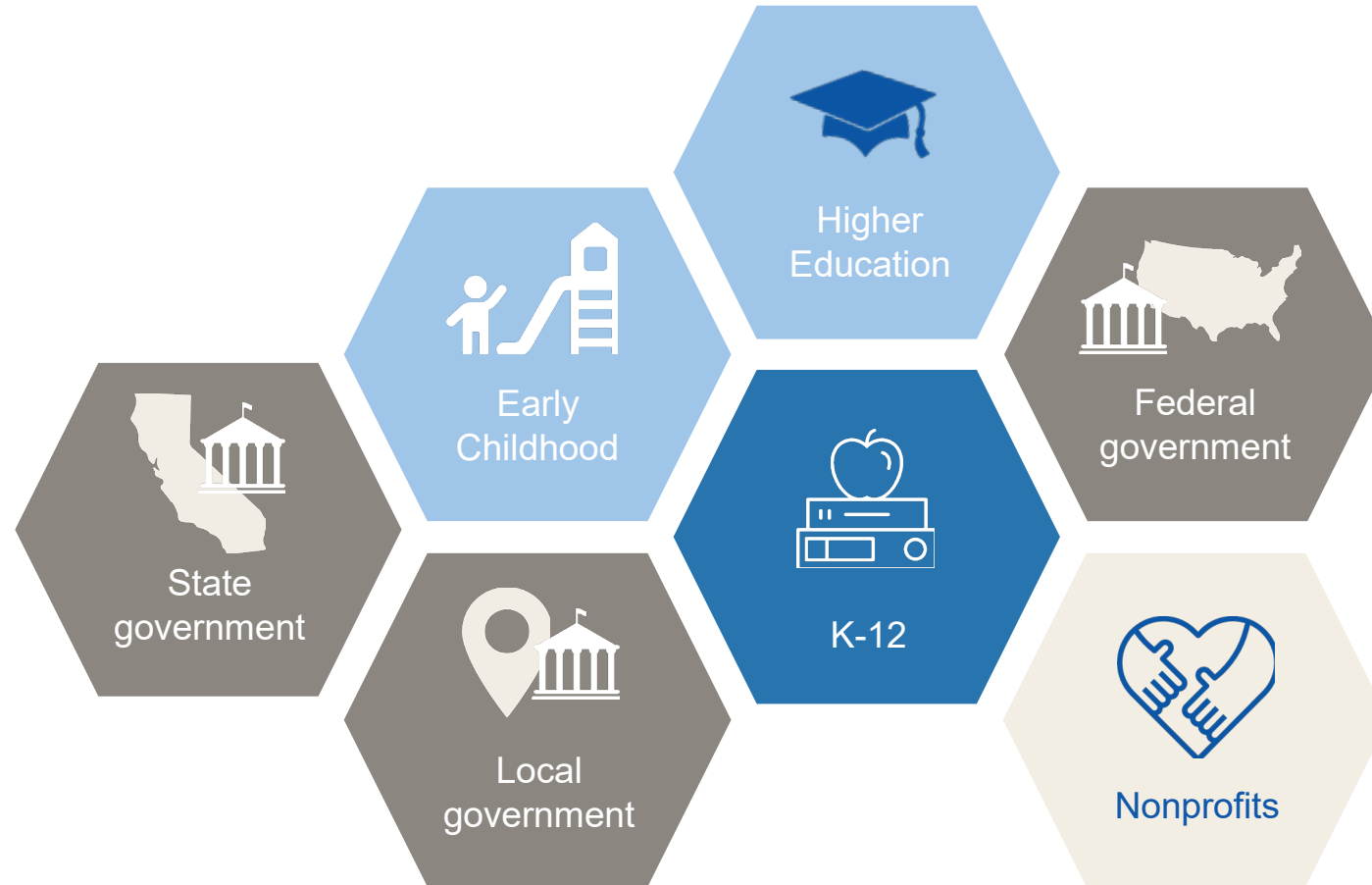
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Key Takeaway & Final Comments

No one system can address homelessness in isolation.
A coordinated, multi-pronged approach is needed.





There are over 269,000 students experiencing homelessness in California.

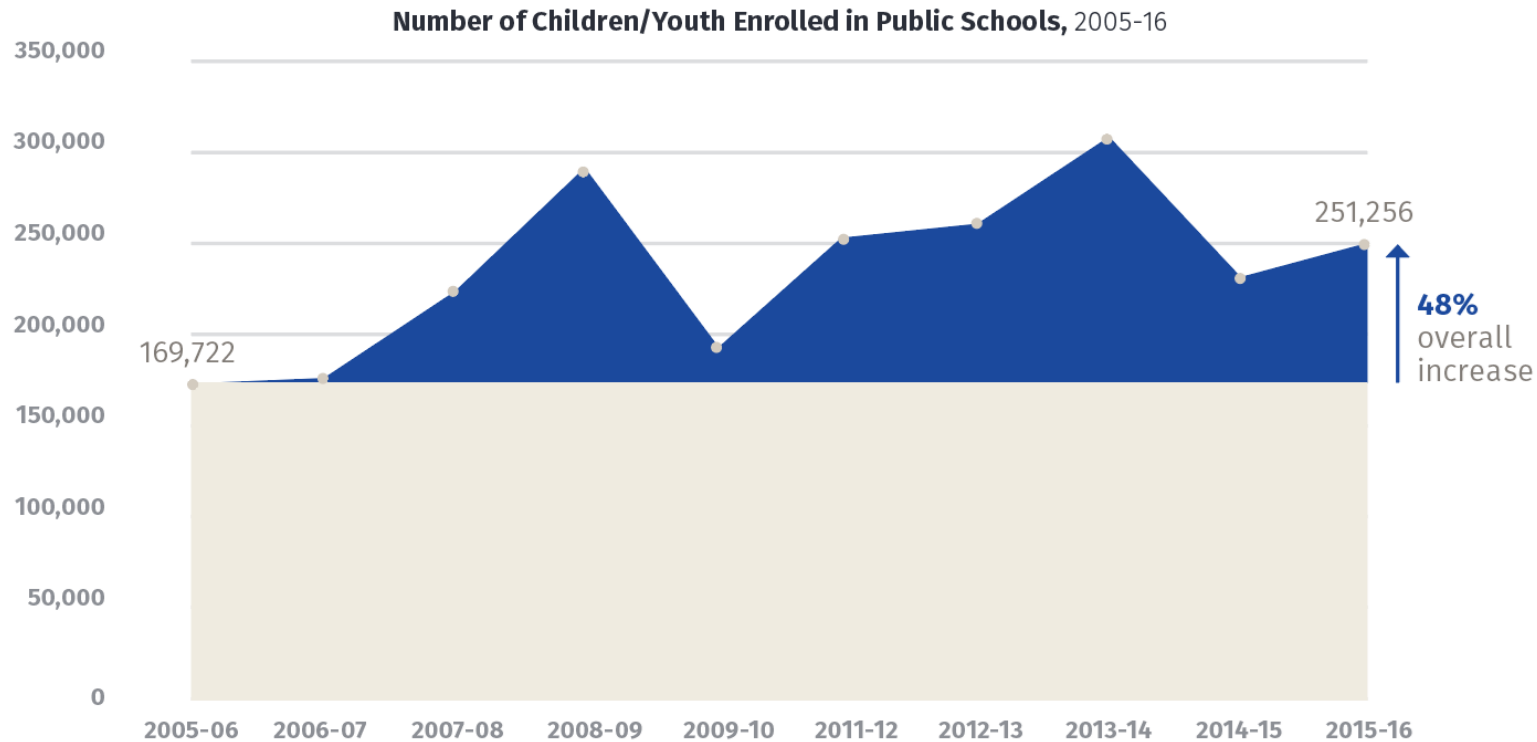
That's enough students to fill Dodger stadium nearly 5 times.

Underlying Challenges

Impacting the Academic Success of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Growth in the Numbers of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Figure 1. Student Homelessness in California (U.S. Department of Education; 2018)



- California has experienced a **48% increase in student homelessness over the last decade**
- Over **269,000** CA students in kindergarten through 12th-grade experience homelessness
- This figure is likely higher-many districts do not accurately report the number of homeless students due to factors such as the population's **underreporting, high degree of mobility, and instability.**

Key Data Points



Suspension Rates

3% Non-Homeless
6% Homeless



Graduation Rates

85% Non-Homeless
70% Homeless



Chronic Absenteeism

12% Non-Homeless
25% Homeless



College Readiness

52% Non-Homeless
29% Homeless

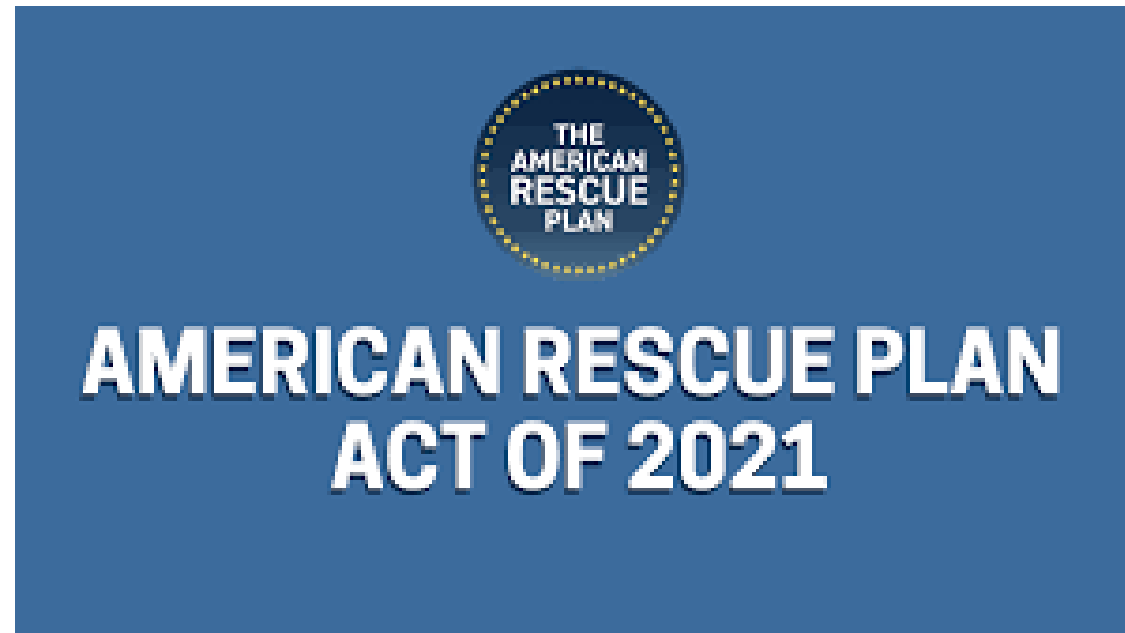
Student Enrollment by Race, 2018-2019



54%	Latinx	70%
23%	White	12%
5%	Black	9%
10%	Asian	3%
4%	Two or more races	3%
2%	Filipino	1%
1%	Not Reported	0.8%
0.5%	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.8%
0.4%	Pacific Islander	0.6%



American Rescue Plan



American Rescue Plan: Key State Agencies to Engage

1. State Department of Education
2. Department of Social Services
3. Department of Transportation
4. Department of Health Care Services



American Rescue Plan: Big Picture Questions

1. What statewide studies or data exists to determine the state of education & health for housing insecure youth (K-12 & postsecondary)? What role does student debt play for college age students?
2. How many students were experiencing homelessness in our state prior to COVID? What do we know about disconnected youth impacted by COVID? What patterns have we seen historically by race and age?
3. Where are students experiencing homelessness geographically concentrated?



American Rescue Plan: More Questions

1. What are the existing state policy priorities for students experiencing homelessness?
2. Who is the McKinney Vento state homeless coordinator? Who is receiving state subgrants?
3. What state agencies are responsible for the health and well-being of students experiencing homelessness? Do these state agencies collaborate?
4. Do we have statewide metrics or goals for supporting housing insecure youth?



Recap

Download here:

<https://tinyurl.com/hpdp6ef7>

The American Rescue Plan & COVID-19 Moment:

Rethinking Policies to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness



Students Experiencing Homelessness in the US

From 2009 to 2019 there was a **48% increase in K-12 students experiencing homelessness** nationally and a 5% decrease in college student enrollment nationally (NCES, 2019).

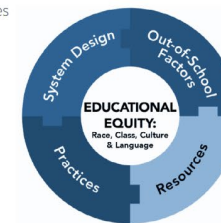
In the U.S. there is no robust data system tracking college students experiencing homelessness. However, NCHE data suggests that **41,243 FAFSA applicants were “determined to be (or at risk of becoming) unaccompanied homeless youth**, either by an agency (self-reported on the FAFSA) or by a school financial aid administrator.” These numbers do not include children and youth not identified as homeless, were not enrolled in school, or were not enrolled in preschools programs administered by local education agencies.

Relevant Research

In Interventions for Youth Homelessness: A Systematic Review of Effectiveness Studies by Morton et al. (2020), a range of interventions were evaluated which were grouped into seven broad categories: prevention; family-strengthening; transitional, supportive, and subsidized housing programs; individual counseling and treatment; non-housing case management and support; economic and employment programs; outreach and service connection interventions. Results suggest that **only a “small number of studies demonstrated reductions in occurrence of youth homelessness and housing instability”** while most “measured counseling and short-term well-being outcomes” (Morton et al., 2020).

Out-of-school factors have been found to have a 67% impact on children and their development, compared to a 33% impact from in-school factors.

To provide new insight on the strategies needed to support student growth and healthy development, **a micro-meso-macro approach is needed when thinking of ways in which the ecosystem that impacts children and their development functions at multiple levels.** Rarely are these environments and their interrelated influences considered when designing interventions and policies.



State of Crisis report on student homelessness in CA

Our recent report, [State of Crisis: Dismantling Student Homelessness in CA](#), revealed over 269,000 students experiencing homelessness in California, a 48% increase that mirrors national increases. That’s enough students to fill Dodger Stadium nearly 5 times. **They are twice as likely to be suspended and chronically absent, less likely to graduate or be college ready and more likely to be students of color.** At this time, there is no national database to collect this level of comprehensive student academic data.

Federal American Rescue Plan

The federal American Rescue Plan includes a historic investment of \$800 million in homeless education. State policymakers should consider engaging a number of state agencies to determine appropriate use of funds:

- State Department of Education
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Health Care Services

Big Picture Questions

- **What statewide studies or data exists to determine the state of education & health for housing insecure youth (K-12 & postsecondary)?** What role does student debt play for college age students?
- **How many students were experiencing homelessness in our state prior to COVID?** What do we know about disconnected youth impacted by COVID? What patterns have we seen historically by race and age?
- Where are students experiencing homelessness **geographically concentrated?**
- **What are the existing state policy priorities** for students experiencing homelessness?
- **Who is the McKinney-Vento state homeless coordinator?** Who is receiving state subgrants?
- **What state agencies are responsible for the health and well-being** of students experiencing homelessness? Do these state agencies collaborate?
- **Do we have statewide metrics or goals** for supporting housing insecure youth?



No one system can address homelessness in isolation. **A coordinated, multi-pronged approach is needed.**

American Rescue Plan: Poll

How are you prioritizing spending 20% minimum to prioritize students experiencing homelessness?

Why?



Contact

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Q&A WITH THE EXPERTS



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

RESOURCES AND FOLLOW UP



- Resource guide
- Recording and follow-up
- NCSL is here for you

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