



ILLUMINATION
FOUNDATION

DISRUPTING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS



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PRESENTED BY


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Prevalence of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in U.S.

Unaccompanied youth made up over 6% of the total population of people experiencing homelessness, 11% were children under the age of 18




Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 2016-2017 School Year

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**Public Schools Report
Over 1.5 Million
Homeless Children and Youth**


Source: National Center for Homeless Education, Federal Data Summary School Years 2016-17 to 2018-19: Education for Homeless Children and Youth, April 2021

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- The number of homeless students in unsheltered situations (cars, parks, streets, etc.) **more than doubled** between 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 (104% increase).
- The number of homeless students staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing decreased by 2%.
- The number of homeless students staying in motels increased by 17%.
- The number staying with other people temporarily due to lack of alternatives increased by 9%.




Source: National Center for Homeless Education, Federal Data Summary School Years 2016-17 to 2018-19; Education for Homeless Children and Youth, April 2021

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Prevalence of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Boston

More than 4,000 Boston Public Schools students are experiencing homelessness in the school district.




Source: Boston Public Schools, Homeless Education Resource Network (HERN)

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Not completing high school is the greatest single risk factor for experiencing homelessness as a young person



Young adults with less than a high school diploma or GED were

4.5x

more likely to report experiencing homelessness than their peers who completed high school.



Young adults who experienced homelessness were less than

1/3

as likely to be enrolled in four-year college as stably housed peers.


Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Voices of Youth Count Research-to-Impact brief, November 2019

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- In U.S., 34 million children, 46%, have experienced at least one ACE and 22% have 2 or more
- Children living in poverty, including those experiencing homelessness, are more likely to carry high ACEs
- Children living below the Federal Poverty Line are 5 times more likely to experience ≥ 4 ACEs than those who live in financially stable households.


Source: 2016 NSCH data

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ACEs and Homelessness - Intergenerational Impact

- Experience of housing-insecurity significantly increases risk of ACE exposure in children
- Homeless children often have parents with high ACEs, increasing risk of adverse outcomes in children:
 - Environmental: impact on parenting
 - Physiologic: epigenetic changes—early experiences affect how genes are expressed
- Resulting in:
 - Higher rates of chronic illness, like asthma
 - Lower literacy rates compared with low-income children in secure homes; each school change can result in a loss of 4 months of academic skill
 - More than twice as likely to repeat a grade; behavioral issues; drop out of school, expulsion or suspension


Source: Devorah I & Dinoffo EA. *Pediatr in Rev*. 2018. Szilagyi MA et al. *Pediatrics*. 2015. Li-Scherban F et al. *Pediatrics* 2018. Schickelzare A. *Pediatrics* 2018.

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