

ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION
DISRUPTING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

if **ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION**
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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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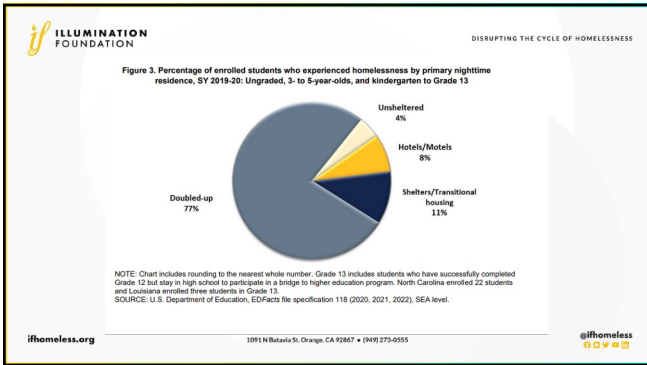
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Public Schools Report 1,099,221 Students who Experienced Homelessness during School Year 2020-21

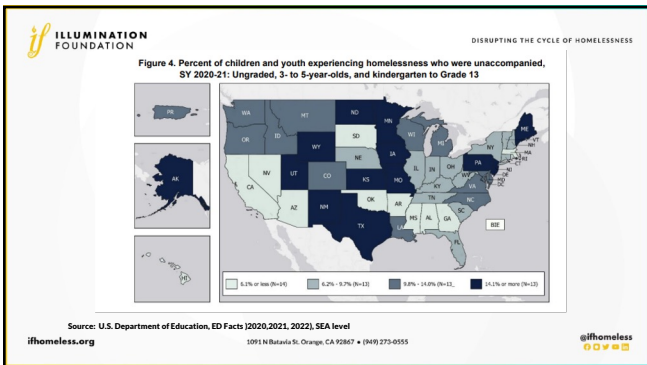
Source: National Center for Homeless Education, Student Homelessness in America, School Years 2018-19 to 2020-21

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Prevalence of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Massachusetts

Nearly 20,000 Public Schools students in Massachusetts are experiencing homelessness in School Year 2020-21

Source: National Center for Homeless Education, Student Homelessness in America, School Years 2018-19 to 2020-21

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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 chance 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: Dwomoh J & Dinoffo EA. *Pediatr in Rev.* 2018. Salogy MA et al. *Pediatrics.* 2015. LeScherban F et al. *Pediatrics* 2018. Schickedanz A. *Pediatrics* 2018.

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