



Los Angeles Unified School District

Homeless Education Program

Homeless Student Fact Sheet



IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- OVER 1.35 MILLION CHILDREN EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS EACH YEAR.¹
- 39% OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION IS COMPRISED OF CHILDREN.²
- 42% OF HOMELESS CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE, AND ONLY 15% OF THESE CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL.²
- MANY HOMELESS CHILDREN LACK BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND A REASONABLE ENVIRONMENT TO DO HOMEWORK.¹
- UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH FACES THESE CHALLENGES AND OTHERS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF A CARING ADULT.¹

IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S EDUCATION

- AT LEAST 20% OF HOMELESS STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL.¹
- ONE IN TEN HOMELESS STUDENTS MISS AT LEAST ONE MONTH OF SCHOOL EACH YEAR.³
- WITHIN A YEAR, 41% OF HOMELESS CHILDREN WILL ATTEND TWO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS; AND 28% OF HOMELESS CHILDREN WILL ATTEND THREE OR MORE DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.¹
- WITH EACH SCHOOL CHANGE, A STUDENT IS SET BACK ACADEMICALLY ON THE AVERAGE OF FOUR TO SIX MONTHS.¹
- 36% OF HOMELESS CHILDREN HAVE REPEATED A GRADE.²
- 14% OF HOMELESS CHILDREN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY- DOUBLE THE RATE OF OTHER CHILDREN.²
- HOMELESS CHILDREN SUFFER FROM EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS THAT INTERFERE WITH LEARNING AT ALMOST THREE TIMES THE RATE OF OTHER CHILDREN.⁵

IMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

- HOMELESS CHILDREN ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL.³
- HOMELESS CHILDREN ARE TWO TIMES MORE LIKELY TO SCORE LOWER ON STANDARDIZED TESTS.³
- 38% OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION DO NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE BY THE AGE OF 18.²

- 50% OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION REPORT DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL SOMETIME DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR EDUCATION.²

IMPACT RELATED TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

- HOMELESS CHILDREN ARE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION.³
- 50% OF STATES REPORT THAT STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS AND HAVE DISABILITIES MAY NOT RECEIVE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.¹

BARRIERS TO ADDRESS SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS INCLUDE:

- LACK OF IDENTIFICATION AS NEEDING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES;¹
- DIFFICULTY WITH DIAGNOSIS DUE TO MOBILITY AND OTHER STRESSORS;¹
- LACK OF TIMELY ASSESSMENT, DIAGNOSIS, OR SERVICE PROVISIONS;¹
- LACK OF CONTINUITY OF SERVICES DUE TO SCHOOL TRANSFERS;¹
- LACK OF TIMELY OR EFFICIENT RECORDS TRANSFER WHEN ENROLLING IN A NEW SCHOOL;¹
- LACK OF AVAILABLE PARENT OR SURROGATE TO REPRESENT THE CHILD OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.¹

REFERENCES

1. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTP://WWW.SERVE.ORG](http://www.serve.org)
2. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTP://WWW.NLCHP.ORG](http://www.nlchp.org)
3. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTP://WWW.HOMESFORTHEHOMLESS.COM](http://www.homesforthehomeless.com)
4. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTP://WWW.HOMELESSNESS.COM](http://www.homelessness.com)
5. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTP://WWW.TBHF.ORG](http://www.tbhf.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, RESOURCES, OR REFERRALS, PLEASE CONTACT:
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