

Local Initiative

Los Angeles

Black Male Institute at UCLA

The Black Male Institute at UCLA was founded in 2009 to address concerns around equity and access for Black males in education. They do this by engaging researchers, scholars, practitioners, community based organizations, policy makers and students in work across the P-20 spectrum. In 2021, they published The Unseen & Unsupported Students in Charter Schools: An Analysis of Charter School's Student Homeless Populations in Los Angeles County. Using data from the California Department of Education (CDE) Data Quest, Homeless Education Liaisons list, and CDE School Academic Report Card, researchers found that students experiencing homelessness in LA County charter schools experienced lower graduation rates and higher chronic absenteeism rates than students experiencing homelessness in traditional public schools. The report also analyzed the type of professional most likely to serve as a homeless education liaison, and found that charter school/network leaders and business/operations managers were more likely to serve in this role over family engagement specialists and counselors/social workers. Lastly, using research about economically disadvantaged families, the report predicts that LA County charter schools might be under-identifying students experiencing homelessness by nearly 6,500. Based on this data, the Black Male Institute recommends appointing homeless education liaisons who work closely with students and families, implement homeless student audits biannually to address underidentification, explicitly state the rights of students experiencing homelessness, and create a support team to strategically serve students and families.

