Webinar

Making Youth Homelessness Visible with Data Visualization

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time
**Housekeeping**

- Meeting will last 1 hour
- Session is being recorded
- Audio is muted - please ask questions through Q&A.
- Follow-up email after the session will include the recording and resources.
Introductions

Jillian Sitjar
Senior Higher Education Program Manager
SchoolHouse Connection
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.

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarship
- FB Group: facebook.com/groups/SchoolHouseConnection
- Newsletter: schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/
Goals:

Early Childhood - By 2026, young children experiencing homelessness will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers.

Graduation - A 90% high school graduation rate for homeless students by 2030.

Postsecondary - A 60% postsecondary attainment rate for homeless students by 2034.
Who is Considered Homeless Under Federal Education Law?

The McKinney-Vento Act definition: Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason. 78% of identified M-V students in 2019–20
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations. Motels: 7%
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters. 11%
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings. 4%
  - What is substandard? Check utilities; infestations; mold; dangers.
The California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP) is a research and policy initiative of the California Research Bureau at the California State Library, committed to bringing youth to the policy table and to informing policymakers, opinion leaders, and other stakeholders about the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in our state.

Pixie Popplewell, Project Director
they/them/their

CHYP is funded by private grants, which currently include The California Wellness Foundation and The Walter S. Johnson Foundation, and SchoolHouse Connection.
You Count Dashboard

A community-facing dashboard and interactive map that integrates publicly available and community-collected data on youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in California.

We know that official data currently available drastically underestimates the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in California.

Our efforts are to partner with community leaders, service providers, faith-based organizations, tribal entities, and youth advisory boards to help gather and present de-identified data for a more holistic portrait of the scale of the homelessness crisis that youth and young adults are experiencing.
6 Youth Homelessness Measures

- **Youth Homelessness**: Percentage that youth make up of the total population experiencing homelessness. Based on 2020 Point-in-Time Count.
- **Beds for Youth**: Percentage of total beds that beds dedicated for youth experiencing homelessness make up. Based on 2020 Housing Inventory Count.
- **Unaccompanied Youth**: Total number of youth experiencing homelessness who are not with a parent or guardian. Based on 2020 Homelessness Data Integration System.
- **Unsheltered Youth**: Percentage of youth experiencing homelessness who are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation. Based on 2020 Point-in-Time Count.
- **Youth Under 18**: Total number of youth under 18 experiencing homelessness including unaccompanied and in families. Based on 2020 Homelessness Data Integration System.
- **Homeless Students**: Percentage of public school students who are experiencing homelessness. Based on 2021 California Department of Education.
How Many Youth in California Experience Homelessness?
It Depends...
Youth Homelessness in California

- PIT Count: 29,532
- HMIS: 72,554
- CA Department of Education: 274,460

Number of Homeless Children and Youth
Youth Homelessness in California

72,554 youth experiencing homelessness – that's enough people to fill SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles.

But the California Department of Education estimates that there are 274,460 students experiencing homelessness, which is nearly the same amount of children and youth who live in the city of San Diego.
Youth Homelessness in California

274,460 youth experiencing homelessness (according to the California Department of Education's definition) is nearly 10x the amount, according to the PIT Count.
### Homelessness Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>HUD (PIT/HIC)</th>
<th>HMIS</th>
<th>McKinney-Vento</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residing in a Place not Meant for Human Habitation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Street, Bus/Train Station, Abandoned Building</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>RV/Shelter with No Plumbing or Electricity</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substandard Housing</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tent, Car, Encampment</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary Housing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency/Congregate Shelter and Safe Haven</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing Hotels/Motels Paid by Programs</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exiting Institution (e.g., jail, hospital)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abandoned in Hospital</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent Housing Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>(√)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Only</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Rehousing</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shared Housing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Doubled or Tripled Up</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couch Surfing</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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2021-2022 You Count Team

Project led by:
Pixie Popplewell, CHYP
Dr. Coco Auerswald, UC Berkeley Innovations for Youth (i4Y)
Claire Genese, Graduate Student Researcher

Student Researchers and Community Interns:
Racquel Richardson
Sophie Haugen
Julia Paxton Askew
Aen Navidad
Aliyah Quiroz-Pando

Photo missing Aen and Racquel
## Continuums of Care Selected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CoC</th>
<th>PIT</th>
<th>HMIS</th>
<th>McKinney-Vento</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>4,041</td>
<td>10,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>4,835</td>
<td>21,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>1,292</td>
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Collecting Community-Level Data Process

Collaborative planning process
● Outreach
● Interviews
● Data collection
● Data analysis
● Community-level data comparison to publicly available data
1. **Collaborative Planning Session**
   a. The first activity we did was a group brainstorming session with the guiding question: “If I were a youth looking for services in this specific region, what keywords or phrases would I search to obtain an organization’s contact information?”

- Where can I find free hygiene products in the Sacramento Area?
- Where Do I find free food in Humboldt?
- Free Legal Advice for Eviction Sacramento?
- Where can I get free STD testing in Humboldt County?
- Where can I go to escape Domestic Violence in Humboldt?
- How can I find low cost housing as a pregnant teen in San Diego?
- Is there a LGBT Youth emergency shelter in San Diego?
**Outreach Strategies**

- **Personalized emails are important**
- **Rural vs. Urban CoCs**
  - Cold calling more effective in rural
  - Cold emailing more effective in urban
- **Community connections and recommendations during interviews**
Data Request

2021 data was request from organizations interviewed. Some of the demographical data requested/received included:

- Age
- Racial and ethnic identity
- LGBTQ+ Identified (Gender Identity and/or Sexual Orientation or general LGBTQ+)
- Mental Health (Self identification or diagnosis)
- Substance Use (current or previous misuse)
- Parenting/Pregnancy Status
- Student status
- Experience of homelessness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CoC Community Organizations</th>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Outreached</th>
<th>Interviewed</th>
<th>Data Shared</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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Collaboration Among CoCs

How can we help California create a statewide Community Information Exchange (modeled after San Diego’s CIE)?

Collaboration Within CoCs

Can California use data from the Homelessness Data Integration System (HDIS) to allocate state funding for increased intra-community collaboration?

Centering Client Care

Can an integrated technology platform that centralizes client data help partners coordinate culturally competent, trauma-informed, racially equitable, and low-barrier services to clients?

Looking Forward
QUESTIONS SO FAR?
A Federal Policy Update with SchoolHouse Connection

Making Youth Homelessness Visible with Data Visualization | June 22, 2021, 11am ET
Federal Funding for Fiscal Year 2023
## What’s Hot (or not) on the Hill?

**Federal Budget for FY 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program</th>
<th>Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FY22 Funding Levels</strong></td>
<td>$114 Million</td>
<td>$140.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our Request</strong></td>
<td>$800 Million</td>
<td>$300 million</td>
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Flexible Funding &
Making ARP HCY “the New Normal”

Advocating for $800 million with flexible funding to be the annual EHCY appropriations level moving forward.
This $800 million investment came as a result of persistent advocacy efforts, in conjunction with the participation of McKinney-Vento liaisons nationwide, in the report, *Lost in the Masked Shuffle and Virtual Void: Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Amidst the Pandemic*.

- Eight times the annual appropriation
- More funding than the previous ten years of EHCY funding combined

SHC is advocating for this level of funding to be sustained moving forward, and we need your help.
92 Members of Congress have signed on in support to a “Dear Colleague” letter (DCLs) – a request from a group of members of Congress to other members of Congress, asking them to show support for certain federal programs.

This letter was distributed by EHCY and RHYA champions to other Members of Congress asking them to sign on to a letter to show support for increased funding.

The number of Members who sign the letter signals how much support the programs have, and can persuade leaders of the Appropriations Committees, which have jurisdiction over the funding process, to increase funding.
Current Status

The US House Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over funding levels for EHCY and RHYA is voting on funding levels THIS Thursday.
The ASK:

Please ask your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators to support robust increases for EHCY and RHYA programs

- Use this [action form](#) to contact your Reps. and Sens.
  - Takes 2 minutes!
Other Pending Federal Legislative Priorities for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families
The Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA)
H.R. 6278, S.1469

Corrects long-standing flaws in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homeless assistance for children, youth, and families.

1. Aligns federal definitions of homelessness by amending HUD’s definition so that children and youth identified by one of eight federal programs (including McKinney-Vento liaisons) would be eligible for HUD homeless assistance.
2. Requires HUD to honor local community priorities and needs.
3. Improves data collection on homelessness.

Sponsored by:
- U.S. Representatives Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) and Congressman Van Taylor (R-TX) in the House of Representatives
- U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rob Portman (R-OH).
In December 2020, the FAFSA Simplification Act passed, which removes barriers to financial aid for homeless and foster youth. Certain provisions are slated to go into effect in the upcoming 2023-2024 FAFSA.

- Removes the requirement for unaccompanied homeless youth to have their status redetermined annually.
- Allows additional entities could make determinations of UHY status (not just liaisons, RHYA programs, HUD programs).
- Requires financial aid administrators to make determinations for UHY who cannot obtain documentation from third parties (same as current guidance).
- Requires the Secretary of Education to ensure that the simplified FAFSA has a single question on homeless status.
- To read more about these and other changes, see SHC's FAFSA Fix Summary.
The “New” Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (S. 3616)

Bipartisan bill to remove barriers to higher education access and success.

- Require the designation of a higher education liaisons for homeless and foster youth (similar to K-12 liaison)
- Require a plan for housing during breaks and during semester, and priority for on-campus housing
- Require that admissions applications provide youth the opportunity to identify as homeless or foster youth for the purposes of being provided information about financial aid and student support services.
- Require that TRIO and GEAR-UP programs identify, conduct outreach to, and recruit homeless children and youth, and children and youth in foster care
- Provide homeless and foster youth in-state tuition.
- Prioritize homeless and foster youth for the Federal Work-Study Program.
The ASK:

Please ask your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor:

- The Homeless Children and Youth Act
- The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (HEASHFY)

The more co-sponsors, the more likely the bill is to be incorporated into other legislation that is moving. SIGN UP for our newsletter to stay in the loop!
QUESTIONS
The SchoolHouse Connection Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program
Helping Students Experiencing Homelessness Get To and Through Higher Education

$2000 Scholarship Award
Trip to a National Awards Ceremony
Trip to Washington, DC One Year Later
One on One Support from Staff
National Network of Peers and Mentors

Eligibility:

- Residing in the United States (undocumented applicants are eligible)
- Born On or After October 15, 2002
- Beginning College for the First Time in 2023
  - Four Year, Community College, or Trade School
- Experienced Homelessness in the Last Six Years

2022 APPLICATION DATES
JUNE 15- OCTOBER 15
Resources & Contact Information

CHYP You Count Dashboard
CA Youth Homelessness Data Story
Federal Policy Page
FAFSA Page

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Alleanne - alleanne@schoolhouseconnection.org