Using Data to Advocate for Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
General Housekeeping

- Webinar will last 1 hour and 15 minutes
- Audio is muted - please ask questions through Q&A
- Session is being recorded
- Follow-up email after the session will include the recording, powerpoint, and resources
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.

WEBSITE: schoolhouseconnection.org

NEWSLETTER: schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Erin Patterson, Director of Education Initiatives, SchoolHouse Connection

Omari Baye, Manager, Building Early Learning Links, HopePHL

Tracy Duarte, Director, PA Head Start State Collaboration Office
Overview
DEFINITION

Who is Eligible?

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 reasons.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
McKinney-Vento Act requires liaisons to proactively identify children and youth experiencing homelessness and ensure enrollment in Head Start and ECE programs. For public PreK, provides immediate enrollment, stability, transportation.

Categorical eligibility for homeless families. Also requires proactive outreach, grace periods for immunizations, prioritized enrollment. Allows programs to reserve slots.

Requires prioritization, use of funds for outreach and enrollment of homeless families, expedited enrollment.

Requires programs serving families to designate a staff person to ensure enrollment in early childhood programs and school.
Families often stay with others temporarily because of lack of shelter availability, and the fear of having children removed from their custody.

Staying with others puts families, infants, and toddlers in vulnerable, harmful situations, and conditions that may contribute to developmental delays. Parents may stay with abusive/exploitive people, or trade sex in order to have a place to stay.
DEFINITION

Unaccompanied Youth

A child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Youth run away from home due to abuse or neglect.

- 40-60% of unaccompanied youth were abused physically at home.
- 17-25% of unaccompanied youth were abused sexually at home.
- Research links parental substance abuse and youth running away from home.

Parents force youth out of the home due to conflicts.

- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Pregnancy
Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

1.3 MILLION babies, toddlers, and young children under age 6 experienced homelessness in 2018-2019

(USED 2018-2019 Profiles)

44% of young women (age 18-25) and 18% of young men experiencing homelessness are current or expectant parents to over

1.1 MILLION young children

(Chapin Hall, University of Chicago)
Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

15.4%
Of infants and toddlers live in crowded housing, which is known to jeopardize child development. 2.9% of babies and toddlers have moved three or more times since birth.

State of Babies Yearbook 2022 (Zero to Three)

Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black Babies

Have a higher incidence of living in crowded housing, and low-income babies are nearly three times more likely to live in crowded housing.
Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.

The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.

The impacts of homelessness on young children are long-lasting, even once families are housed, including on children’s school readiness.
Homelessness Also Has Long-Term Consequences

The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is 68% compared to 85% for all students. This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.

High school students who experience homelessness are 10x more likely to become pregnant or get someone pregnant.

In addition to the academic impacts, homelessness in the early years can cause developmental delays, social-emotional challenges, and long-term trauma.
Homelessness Creates Barriers to Accessing Early Childhood Programs

- High Mobility of families moving in and out of motels, staying with others, living in cars, etc.
- Lack of documentation and other enrollment barriers, including child immunization and parent work requirements
- Lack of transportation to and from programs
- Lack of awareness among early care providers of both the definition of homelessness and the best ways to reach families
Infants and Toddler Experiencing Homelessness: Prevalence and Access to Early Learning across Twenty States
DATA COLLECTION & METHODOLOGY

Population

How did we calculate the total population of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness in each state?

First grade students identified as homeless in each state

Total number of first grade students in each state

Kids Count estimate of children ages 0 to 4 in each state

This is a conservative estimate. Underidentification is a known issue in k-12 schools. Younger children face a greater risk of homelessness.
Enrollment

Which early childhood data did we use to get enrollment rates?

- Early Head Start (birth - 3)
- Child Care (birth - 3)
- Home Visiting (Parents as Teachers, birth - 3)

What data is missing or incomplete?

- Two states’ child care data is listed as “insufficient” via the Office of Child Care
- It would be important to have some additional home visiting data, as well as Early Intervention
Data Trends & Key Takeaways
Across all 20 states, there are approximately 311,961 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness. 22,220, or 7%, are currently identified and served by an early childhood program. That means there are 289,741 who are not identified and/or enrolled in an early childhood program.
An estimated 311,961 infants and toddlers experienced homelessness across the 20 states analyzed during the 2020-2021 school year, representing approximately 3% of the 0-3 population.

Only 7% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness were enrolled in an early childhood program (Early Head Start, Child Care, or Parents as Teachers Home Visiting) in 2020-2021.

Of the three early childhood programs for which data was available, Early Head Start has the highest enrollment rate of children experiencing homelessness (4.2%).

Across the 20 states, there is significant variation in the enrollment rates of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.
DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

State-Level Breakdown

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

- **OR**: Estimated Total 7,134, % Served 8.55%
- **CA**: Estimated Total 92,126, % Served 4.04%
- **NV**: Estimated Total 6,825, % Served 4.76%
- **NE**: Estimated Total 1,011, % Served 35.89%
- **IL**: Estimated Total 14,235, % Served 14.91%
- **OH**: Estimated Total 11,581, % Served 8.52%
- **MD**: Estimated Total 5,420, % Served 6.59%
- **DC**: Estimated Total 3,093, % Served 20.52%
- **TX**: Estimated Total 37,084, % Served 7.35%
- **LA**: Estimated Total 5,504, % Served 8.59%
- **SC**: Estimated Total 5,862, % Served 8.87%
- **NY**: Estimated Total 55,973, % Served 1.89%
- **NJ**: Estimated Total 4,332, % Served 20.52%

**Enrollment**

**Key Takeaways**
Enrollment

Across 20 states:

- **Child Care Programs** enroll 2.3% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.
- **Early Head Start Programs** enroll 4.2% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.
- **Home Visiting Programs (Parents as Teachers)** enroll 1% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.
DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

State-Level Breakdown: Child Care Enrollment
Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

State-Level Breakdown: Early Head Start Enrollment

- **OR**: Estimated Total 7,134, Early Head Start 581
- **CA**: Estimated Total 92,126, Early Head Start 2,756
- **NV**: Estimated Total 6,825, Early Head Start 150
- **NE**: Estimated Total 1,011, Early Head Start 392
- **WA**: Estimated Total 14,577, Early Head Start 473
- **WI**: Estimated Total 11,882, Early Head Start 578
- **MI**: Estimated Total 14,235, Early Head Start 556
- **PA**: Estimated Total 12,376, Early Head Start 659
- **NY**: Estimated Total 55,973, Early Head Start 1,018
- **NJ**: Estimated Total 4,332, Early Head Start 329
- **NC**: Estimated Total 10,941, Early Head Start 445
- **SC**: Estimated Total 5,862, Early Head Start 188
- **TX**: Estimated Total 37,084, Early Head Start 969
- **AR**: Estimated Total 4,891, Early Head Start 344
- **LA**: Estimated Total 5,504, Early Head Start 168
DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

State-Level Breakdown: Home Visiting

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

**Enrollment**

**Key Takeaways**
Data Trends & Key Takeaways

Key Takeaways

1. **Infants, toddlers, and families** experiencing homelessness are significantly under-enrolled in early childhood programs.

2. **Some infants, toddlers, and families** experiencing homelessness may be enrolled in, but not identified by, early childhood programs.

3. **More data and better reporting mechanisms** are needed to get a clearer picture of the need and to inform policy and practice.
Recommendations

**Early Childhood Programs & Providers**

Improve outreach, identification, and support

**Federal Agencies**

Provide stronger oversight to existing policies to remove barriers for families experiencing homelessness

**State Agencies**

Strengthen policies and practices, and direct funding, to connect families experiencing homelessness to high-quality early childhood programs.

**Congress**

Increase investment across all prenatal-3 programs, with specific policies to remove barriers and increase and incentivize support for families and children experiencing homelessness.
Omari Baye
Manager, Building Early Learning Links, HopePHL
Using Data to Advocate for Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania
Presenters

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HopePHL
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Building Early Links for Learning (BELL)

Works to increase equity and access to high quality early childhood education for children experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.
Current Trends, BELL Project

# pre-birth -3yrs

• Sept. 2022
• 140-160 (in emergency or transitional housing)
# Current Trends, BELL Project

**# pre-birth -3yrs**
- Sept. 2022
- 140-160 (in emergency or transitional housing)

**#Enrolled, Any ECE**
- Sept. 2022
- 28% vs.
- 29% in 2001
## Current Trends, BELL Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># pre-birth -3yrs</th>
<th>#Enrolled, Any ECE</th>
<th># Enrolled in High Quality ECE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sept. 2022</td>
<td>• Sept. 2022</td>
<td>• Sept. 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 140-160 (in emergency or transitional housing)</td>
<td>• 28% vs.</td>
<td>• 17% vs.</td>
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<td>• 29% in 2021</td>
<td>• 11% in 2021</td>
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## Current Trends, BELL Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th># pre-birth -3yrs</th>
<th># Enrolled, Any ECE</th>
<th># Enrolled in High Quality ECE</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Sept. 2022</td>
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<td>• Sept. 2022</td>
<td>• Sept. 2022</td>
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<td>• 140-160 (in emergency or transitional housing)</td>
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<td>• 29% in 2021</td>
<td>• 11% in 2021</td>
<td>• 51% vs.</td>
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Cross Systems Collaboration

BELL rates of enrollment are currently higher than the PA average of 7%

Contributing factors:

• Dedicated ECE team
• Free trainings
• Collaboration between the emergency housing and ECE stakeholders including:
  • ELRC
  • School District of Philadelphia
  • Early Intervention
  • Office of Homeless Services
  • Directors of EH/TH/PSH programs
Challenges

❖ 45,523 Infant/toddlers living in Philadelphia
❖ 23,300 I-T slots
❖ Average cost of full-time care $1,232 (range $660-$2,336 per month)
❖ Reduction in the number of ECE programs and teachers
❖ Education and Emergency Housing systems report different numbers
“We thank our funders Vanguard Strong Start for Kids, William Penn Foundation, and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania & Southern New Jersey”
Using Data to Advocate for Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness in PA

Tracy Duarte
Director
PA Head Start State Collaboration Office
(PA HSSCO)
What is the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)?

• Liaison between federal Office of Head Start (OHS) and the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)

• Liaison between federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start recipients, OCDEL and other Pennsylvania State Government Agencies serving young children and families.

• Federal to local funding

• HSSCO Priorities prescribed by the Office of Head Start
PA HSSCO and HopePHL Collaboration

• Inspiration!!
• PA Early Childhood Homelessness Stakeholders
• Data / Reports
• Policy Advisory Committee
• Annual Summits
Review of data, policies and practices

- *A State-Level Brief: Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness*

- *Continuums of Care and Head Start Working Together to Address Housing Vulnerability of Pennsylvania’s Families*

- *Head Start Collaboration and Partnerships to Support Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness*
Challenges with available data

• Differing definitions (McKinney Vento vs. HUD)
• Provider eligibility staff knowledge of McKinney Vento definition, specifically when it pertains to “doubling up”
• Data collection methods
• Time periods of collection
Main goals based on the data

• Provide education and training to all systems regarding the McKinney Vento definition
• Increase the number of children experiencing homelessness that are enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start and other high quality early learning programs
Systems Engaged

- PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) staff
- Head Start & Early Head Start Grantees
- Early Learning Resource Centers (Subsidy and Child Care Resource and Referral)
- PreK Counts and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP)
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants
- PA Department of Education, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Regional Coordinators and School District Liaisons
- East and West Continuums of Care (Balance of State
- Early Intervention
Communities of Practice

- Head Start and Early Head Start (July 2021)
- Early Learning Resource Centers (September 2021)
- ECYEH and McKinney Vento Homeless Education Liaisons (February 2022)
- Housing Continuums of Care (May 2022)
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants (May 2022)
- PreK Counts and HSSAP (July 2022)
- Early Intervention webinar series
Summary Report
September 2022
Moving ahead in 2023

• Continued contract with Dr. Grace Whitney and collaboration with HopePHL

• Three-year strategic plan developed with PA Early Childhood Homelessness Stakeholders
  • Update data and re-release updated brief
  • Additional brief focused on health data
  • Added health lens to all the work
  • 2\textsuperscript{nd} round of Communities of Practice
  • State-wide round tables in partnership with 8 regional ECYEH Coordinators
  • Coordinated activities with PA Infant, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants
  • \textit{Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters}
Thank You

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