Responsive Early Education for Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness

[Webinar] Wednesday, 5/27, 1PM ET

Pictures by Diane Nilan
HEAR US Inc.
https://www.hearus.us/
HAVE A QUESTION?
This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS
An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
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
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Barbara Duffield and Grace Whitney
SchoolHouse Connection

Darius Brown, MPA, Development Officer, Homeless Interventions and Solutions Division, San José, Manager of COVID-19 Emergency Shelter for Families and former Homeless Liaison in Santa Clara County

Irenka Domínguez-Pareto, PhD, Senior Program Associate
WestEd, Center for Child & Family Studies

Julie Nicholson, PhD, Professor of Practice
Mills College, School of Education

Jenna Juarez Ornbaun, MA, Family Support Specialist
Early Education Department, San Francisco Unified School District

Lawanda Wesley, EdD, Director of Quality Enhancement & Professional Development
Early Childhood Education Department, Oakland Unified School District
Safety and Grounding

- Person
- Object
- Place
- Word/Phrase
- Image
Meet Maggie

A young child experiencing homelessness
Children under age 6

Total population

23,977,152

Estimated number experiencing homelessness

1,455,537

or

1 in 16 children

Children under age 6 experiencing homelessness

9% served by Head Start/Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2018.

National

- 55,340, 4%
- 70,704, 5%
- 1,329,493, 91%
- Unserved

California

- 4,048, 1%
- 14,315, 6%
- 236,127, 93%
- Unserved

### Two Main Definitions of Homelessness

- The housing subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act
  - Homeless Assistance Programs (HUD)
  - Emergency Food and Shelter (Homeland Security)
  - Department of Veterans Affairs (all programs)
  - Department of Labor (all programs)

- The education subtitle of the McKinney Vento Act
  - Head Start Act (HHS)
  - Child Nutrition Act (USDA)
  - Violence Against Women Act (DOJ)
  - Elementary and Secondary Education (ED)
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (ED)
  - Higher Education Act (ED)
An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- Car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- Supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.

Note: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2019-2020 might change this definition.
Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason ("doubled-up");
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless
### WHAT IS MEANT BY “DOUBLING UP”?###

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doubled Up</th>
<th>Shared Housing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Experiencing Homelessness</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not Experiencing Homelessness</strong></td>
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<td>Loss of Housing:</td>
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<td>- Eviction: unable to pay bills</td>
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<td>- Serious damage to home</td>
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<td>- Unhealthy conditions: pest infestations, domestic violence, drug/alcohol abuse in home</td>
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<td>Sharing due to Hardship:</td>
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<td>- No legal right to be in the home; host can be evicted</td>
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<td>- Can be asked to leave at any time without legal recourse</td>
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<td>- Moved into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being in shelters or on the street</td>
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<td>- Living situation is intended to be temporary</td>
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<td>Fixed, Regular, Adequate:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Used on a regular, nightly basis</td>
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<td>- Family has keys to residence and is free to come and go as they please</td>
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<td>- Enough space for everyone</td>
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<td>Sharing Housing as a Choice:</td>
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<td>- Intent of sharing is a long-term arrangement for cultural or economic reasons</td>
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<td>- Moved in together to share a home and expenses</td>
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<td>- Sharing home equally—not just guests in home</td>
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<td>- Family not in fear of being asked to leave/kicked out</td>
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Questions
Diversity of Experiences
Thoughts and Questions
Major Causes of Homelessness for Children in U.S.

- High poverty rate
- Lack of affordable housing
- Continuing impacts of the Great Recession
- Racial disparities, systemic racism
- Challenges of single parenting
- Impact of trauma (especially domestic violence)
Nationally, what age group is the most likely to experience homelessness?

A) Infants
B) Toddlers
C) Preschool
D) Kindergarten
E) Over 6 years old
Nationally, what age group is the most likely to experience homelessness?

A) Infants
B) Toddler-age
C) Preschool
D) Kindergarten
E) Over 6 years old
Where do the majority of families with young children experiencing homelessness live?

A) In vans or cars
B) Shelters
C) Doubling-up
D) Outside/on the street
Where do the majority of families with young children experiencing homelessness live?

A) In vans or cars
B) Shelters
C) Doubling-up
D) In the street

C) Doubling-up
What prevents young children experiencing homelessness from accessing and participating in early learning programs?
Common Barriers Preventing Access to Early Learning Programs include:

- Subsidies for child-care
- Transportation
- Documentation/enrollment procedures
- Invisibility
- Mobility
- Reluctance to share information
- Lack of outreach by teachers/providers
- Others?
Thoughts, Comments and Questions
Homelessness is not abuse or neglect and is not reportable. Lack of housing alone is not legal grounds to remove a child from a family.

The following warning signs of neglect could also be signs of homelessness:

- Clothes that are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather
- Hygiene that is consistently bad (a child who is unbathed, has matted and unwashed hair, or has a noticeable body odor)
- A child who is frequently late or missing from school
- Untreated illnesses

Source: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabuserreportingguide.asp
Understanding Trauma
Implementing Trauma Informed Practices
Housing-sensitive
Responsive Family Relationships and Partnership
Ronny was a friendly and enthusiastic 4 year old in our PreK class. Midway through the year Ronny’s behavior began to shift in a troubling way. He became more prone to conflict in play, refused to share toys and would quickly become frustrated and give up. He would often tantrum and cry at school, especially when asked to come inside from outside time. He would fall asleep in the afternoon a few days a week. He also began arriving late and was absent a few times a week. After several weeks, the teacher spoke to the mom about his behavior and the school attendance policy. The mom apologized and rushed out the door.
Thoughts, Comments and Questions
Learn about your community

Building Cross-sector Partnerships

Collaboration across Systems
Supporting Maggie and Her Family
Children have a voice.....hear, see them
  ○ ‘puzzle’ versus ‘challenge’

Parents help us understand

Homelessness impacts us
Resources on Homelessness

To know find your State Coordinator for Homeless Education and the appropriate local liaisons, click here: https://naehcy.org/educational-resources/state-coordinator-contact-information/

SchoolHouse Connection’s Early Childhood Resources: https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/

HearUs: Giving voice and visibility to homeless children and youth (https://www.hearus.us/) for videos and content on the experiences of homelessness by young children.

National Center for Homeless Education https://nche.ed.gov/resources/.

Resources on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Practice


The National Child Traumatic Stress Network: [https://www.nctsn.org/](https://www.nctsn.org/)

Also see....
California Department of Education, Early Learning and Care Division: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/or/cdd.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/or/cdd.asp)

Contact Information

**Darius Brown**, MPA, Development Officer, Homeless Interventions and Solutions Division, San José Manager of COVID-19 Emergency Shelter for Families Former Homeless Liaison in Santa Clara County
dariusjamal08@yahoo.com

**Irenka Domínguez-Pareto**, PhD, Senior Program Associate WestEd, Center for Child & Family Studies idoming@wested.org

**Barbara Duffield**, Executive Director, SchoolHouse Connection barbara@schoolhouseconnection.org

**Julie Nicholson**, PhD, Professor of Practice Mills College, School of Education julie.m.nicholson@gmail.com

**Jenna Juarez Ornbaun**, MA, Family Support Specialist Early Education Department, San Francisco Unified School District jenna.ornbaun@gmail.com

**Lawanda Wesley**, EdD, Director of Quality Enhancement & Professional Development, Early Childhood Education Department, Oakland Unified School District lwesley77@gmail.com

**Grace Whitney**, PhD, MPA, IMHE, Early Childhood Initiatives SchoolHouse Connection grace@schoolhouseconnection.org