

Homeless children and youth are those experiencing any of the following:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping ground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in an emergency or transitional shelter
- Living in a car, park, public space, bus/train station, abandoned building, substandard housing, or similar setting
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Migratory children
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

The primary piece of federal legislation focused on **addressing the needs of homeless people in the United States**. It was first signed into law in 1987, and has since been amended and reauthorized several times.

MCKINNEY-VENTO EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

The section of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act dealing with **problems faced by homeless children and youth with enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school**. This program requires state education agencies to ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as their peers.

RISK FACTORS AND CAUSES OF CHILD AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Economic Problems

Child and family poverty
Employment issues
Lack of health insurance
Lack of affordable housing



System Involvement

Involvement with foster care or the juvenile justice system
Transitioning out of foster care and residential or institutional facilities

Family Problems

Abuse/neglect and trauma
Single or youth parents
Mental illness
Substance abuse

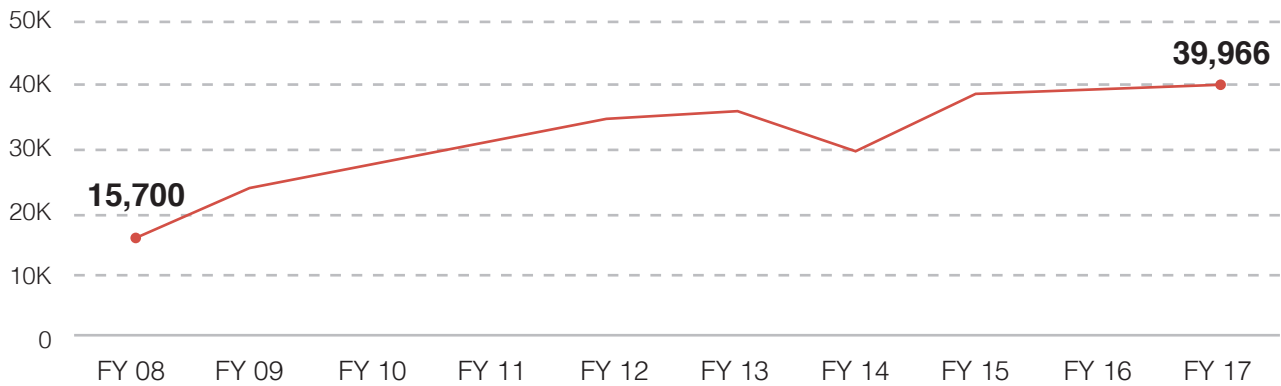


Population At Higher Risk

Racial/ethnic minorities and LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by child homelessness

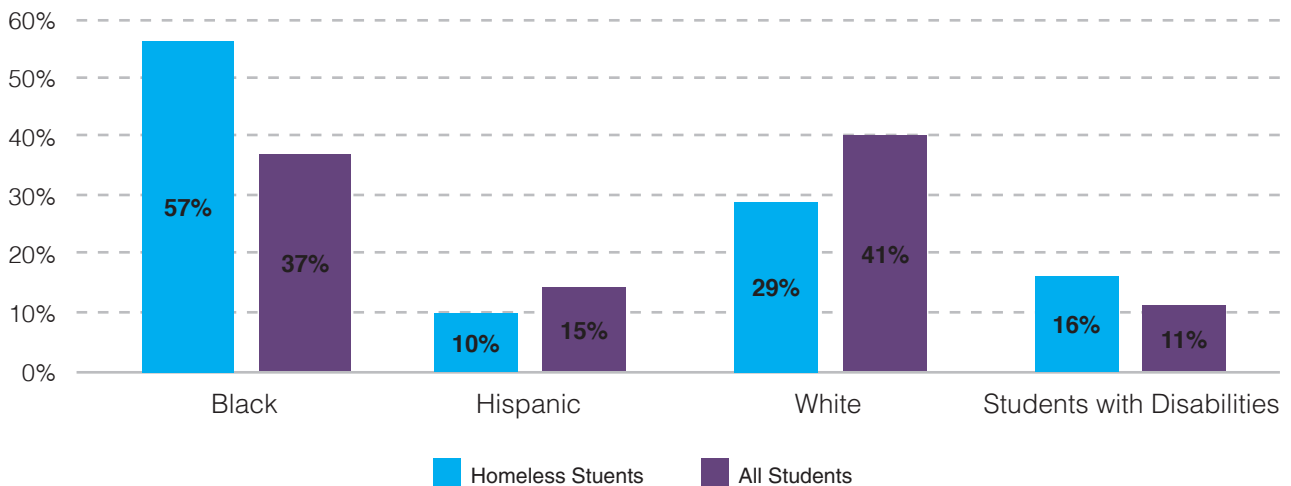


MCKINNEY-VENTO COUNT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS IN GEORGIA*



* Data most likely underreported, other estimates suggest that there were between 45,000 and 74,000 homeless youth in Georgia in 2013

DISPARITIES IN THE MAKEUP OF HOMELESS STUDENTS



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Increase **public awareness** of the scope and impact of homelessness on children and families



Improve **program design and service delivery** to meet unique needs of homeless children and families

Inform **state and local policies and plans** to address the needs of homeless children and families

- Increase collaboration and coordination among state agencies, service providers, communities, and families
- Increase access to quality, safe, and affordable housing
- Improve access to educational opportunities that will ensure success for children and youth who are homeless
- Provide supportive services to help homeless youth and families achieve stability
- Prevent youth who age out of foster care and unaccompanied youth from becoming homeless
- Collect data on housing status to increase knowledge of the scope of homelessness