

Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. In FY 2017 approximately 39,677 students in Georgia were considered Homeless.

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

In FY 2017, the Georgia Department of Education sub-granted

\$2,082,366



48 school districts

EXAMPLES OF MCKINNEY-VENTO PROGRAMS

BARTOW COUNTY

The district's McKinney-Vento program engages parents, school staff and community partners through the Bartow "Give A Kid A Chance" program. It provides back to school supplies, haircuts, hearing, vision and dental screenings, books and other resources to McKinney-Vento students.

\$43,858

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Atlanta Public Schools has partnered with the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) to provide 50 housing vouchers to children and families that are identified as homeless based on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

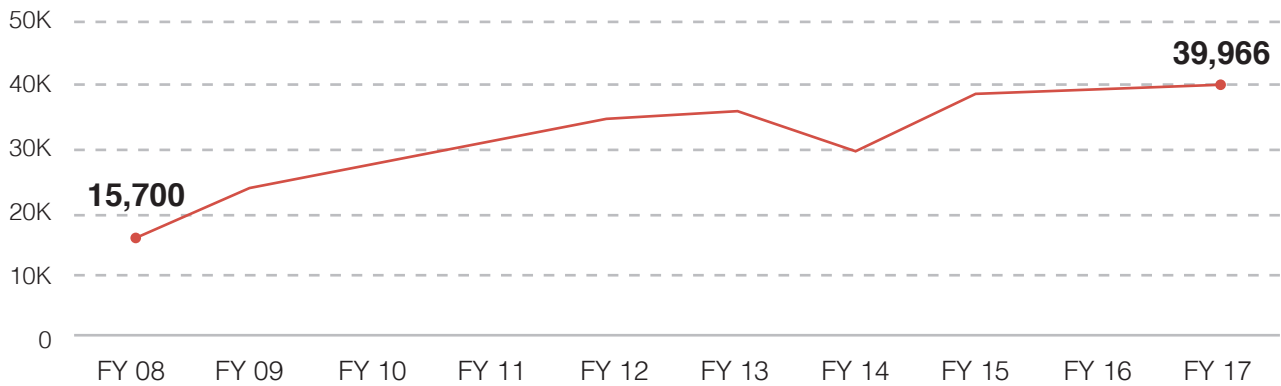
\$93,698

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

The district's Homeless Liaison worked closely with Family Connection as well as 20 community agencies and numerous community volunteers to provide school supplies, food, and hygiene products as well as informational resources to approximately 400 McKinney-Vento Students.

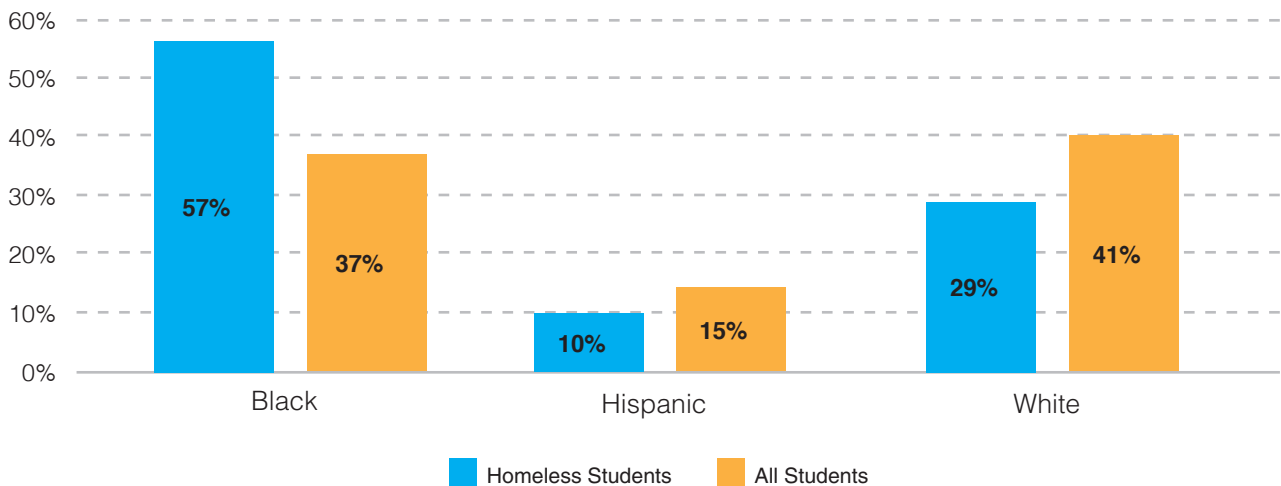
\$42,298

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 the availability and equitable distribution of quality and affordable housing.
- Support policies, including rent subsidies, which protect families and children from unsafe housing, hardship, baseless evictions, and unjustified fees and penalties.
- Identify and disseminate successful models of interagency coordination across child welfare, homelessness, and housing networks.
- Improve access to educational opportunities that will ensure success for children and youth who are homeless.
- 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.