

# Homelessness and Children in Georgia

Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence.

**31,768**

K-12 students in Georgia were homeless in 2021.<sup>1</sup>

Approximately  
**36,000**

children under age six were homeless in 2019, with more than 1,500 served in Early Care and Education environments.<sup>2</sup>

Being homeless doesn't always mean sleeping outside. Of the students who reported experiencing homelessness, **72%** said they were staying with extended family or friends.<sup>3</sup>

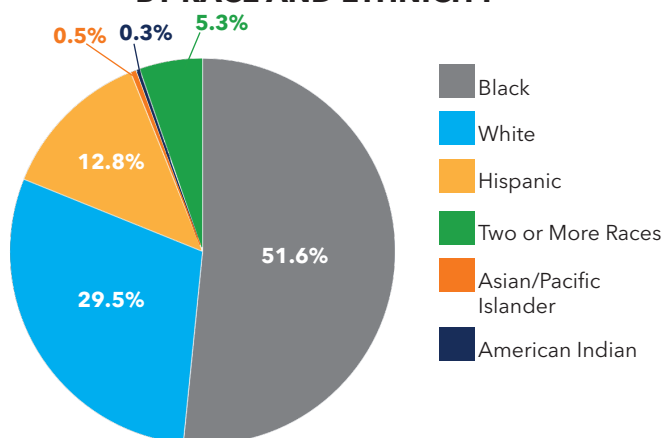
## COVID-19 AND HOMELESSNESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased housing insecurity in Georgia, which directly impacts children. According to the U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey, as of May 2022, approximately 21% of Georgia households with children surveyed reported little to no confidence in their next rent or mortgage payment on time.<sup>4</sup>

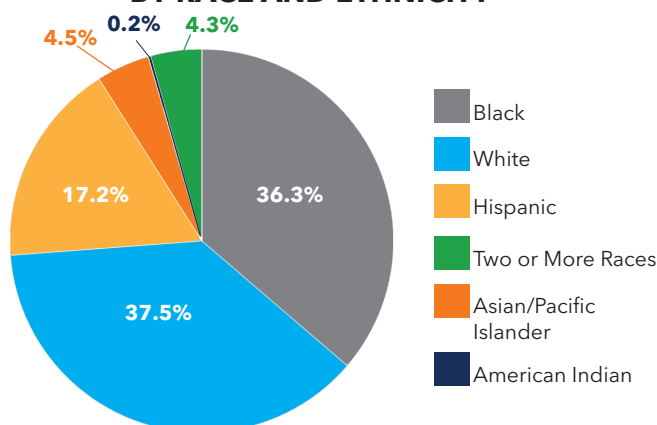
## WHO IS HOMELESS IN GEORGIA?

Black students make up a disproportionate amount of Georgia's homeless student population.<sup>5</sup>

### HOMELESS STUDENTS, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



### NON-HOMELESS STUDENT POPULATION, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



[www.georgiavoices.org](http://www.georgiavoices.org)

**In FY21, 20% of foster care placements cite inadequate housing as a reason for removal of a child from the home.<sup>6</sup>**

## IMPACT OF CHILD AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Georgia has a growing population of students experiencing homelessness. These students are more likely to:

- be suspended
- miss school
- fall far behind in reading and math

## RISK FACTORS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- Child and family poverty
- Employment issues
- Lack of health insurance
- Lack of affordable housing
- Abuse/neglect and trauma
- Single or youth parents
- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- LGBTQ+ youth
- Involvement with foster care or the juvenile justice system
- Transitioning out of foster care and residential or institutional facilities

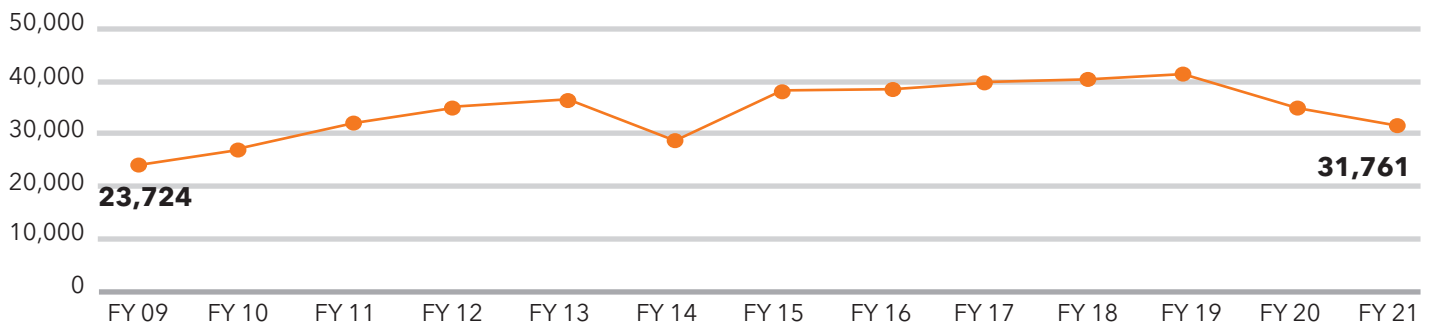
## MCKINNEY -VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

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 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 youth with enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school**. The program requires state education agencies to ensure that each homeless child has equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as their peers.

## MCKINNEY-VENTO COUNT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS IN GEORGIA\*



\*The COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted data collection and homelessness may be higher than recorded.

**In FY 21, the Georgia Department of Education subgranted more than \$3.1 million for homelessness initiatives in 46 school districts.<sup>7</sup>**

## EXAMPLES OF 2020-2021 MCKINNEY-VENTO PROGRAMS<sup>8,9</sup>

*All are Grant Year 2020/21 examples.*

### CARROLLTON CITY SCHOOLS

The Carrollton City School District combined its efforts with community to provide McKinney-Vento youth with school supply boxes and assistance for families in transition.

**\$54,801**

### COBB COUNTY

The district used American Rescue Plan funds to identify and support 1,454 students to remain in their schools of origin at a 42% success rate.

**\$104,157**

### MUSCOGEE COUNTY

The district dedicated a week to allow students to attend college and career fairs, complete financial aid application, conduct scholarship searches, and prepare for college admission tests. They also used funds to deliver school supplies and uniforms to homes, shelters, and hotels and granted parents access to the on-campus store and computer lab.

**\$86,193**

## 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:

- Expand funding for and awareness of Find Help Georgia, a DFCS needs-based triage system for family support services that links families with DFCS-partnered, local organizations to help find resources for housing, food access, and other basic needs. Increase the availability and equitable distribution of quality and affordable housing.
- Improve Georgia's renter protection laws to reduce incidents of unsafe housing and eviction.
- Increase the availability and equitable distribution of quality and affordable housing and support policies, including rent and mortgage subsidies, which protect families and children from unsafe housing, hardship or baseless evictions, and untenable fees and penalties.
- Support policies that facilitate housing opportunities for people with past evictions, criminal histories and mental health issues.
- Improve access to educational opportunities that will ensure success for children and youth who are homeless.
- Create and fund community-based resources, such as drop-in centers and job-training, to 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.
- Conduct more research to identify interrupters of multi-generational homelessness.



## Sources for Homelessness and Children in Georgia

- 1 "Title IX, Part A 2020-2021 Annual Report: McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, January 2022, <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/Annual%20Report%20-%20FY21%20McKinney-Vento.pdf#search=mckinney%20vento>.
- 2 "Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles Data Collected in 2018-19". United States Department of Education. 2021. <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles-2021.pdf>.
- 3 "Title IX, Part A 2020-2021 Annual Report: McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, January 2022, <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/Annual%20Report%20-%20FY21%20McKinney-Vento.pdf#search=mckinney%20vento>.
- 4 Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2022). Kids Count Data Center, Households with children where there was little or no confidence in ability to pay their next rent or mortgage payment on time in Georgia. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10880-households-with-children-where-there-was-little-or-no-confidence-in-ability-to-pay-their-next-rent-or-mortgage-payment-on-time?loc=12&loct=2#detailed/2/12/false/2458,2463,2448,2418,2112,2104,2102,2101,2099,2098/any/21154>.
- 5 "Title IX, Part A 2020-2021 Annual Report: McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, January 2022, <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/Annual%20Report%20-%20FY21%20McKinney-Vento.pdf#search=mckinney%20vento>.
- 6 Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. (2022, August), Data request.
- 7 "Title IX, Part A 2020-2021 Annual Report: McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, January 2022, <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/Annual%20Report%20-%20FY21%20McKinney-Vento.pdf#search=mckinney%20vento>.
- 8 Georgia Department of Education, "McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Liaison Workshop, September 28, 2022", Accessed November 14, 2022. <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/Opening%20Session.pdf>.
- 9 "Title IX, Part A 2020-2021 Annual Report: McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, January 2022. <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/Annual%20Report%20-%20FY21%20McKinney-Vento.pdf#search=mckinney%20vento>.