



2019 Conference on the Young Years

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Welcome

- Introductions
- Outlook For Time Together

Data & Regulations –

- US Department of Health and Human Services
- Head Start and Early Head Start

The Impact of Homelessness on Children/Families Resources

Questions and Comments

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Participants will:

- Explore the behaviors and learn about stressors faced by homeless families and their children;
- Learn what they need to do to help identify and support children and families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness; and
- Share and discuss data, resources and strategies to support homeless children and families.

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2017 US Department of Health and Human Services Data for Missouri:

Early Childhood Homelessness in My State

450,128
children under age 6 live in Missouri

29,141
children under age 6 experienced homelessness in 2015 in Missouri *


1 out of every 15
Missouri children **EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS** in 2015

Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

5%
of children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start/Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento-funded ECE programs

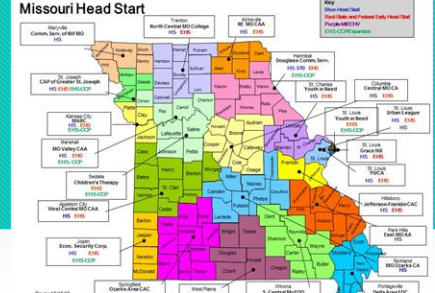
95%
of children experiencing homelessness were **unserved** by federally-funded ECE programs

Number of children under 6 served by federally-funded education programs for which data was available in 2015*



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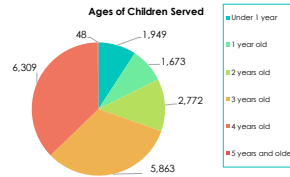
Missouri Head Start



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Children of Missouri Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

- o Total funded enrollment of 14,616 reported on 2017-18 PIR.
- o A total cumulative enrollment of 18,614 in Head Start and Early Head Start, inclusive of 468 pregnant women.
- o Of the children served in a center-based program, the number who received Head Start or Early Head Start services at a child care center partner was 1,059.



Ages of Children Served

- Under 1 year
- 1 year old
- 2 years old
- 3 years old
- 4 years old
- 5 years and older

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Families Served by Missouri Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

- 16,920 families were served by Head Start or Early Head Start agencies.
- The total number of homeless children served during the enrollment year was 1,140.
- Of the 1,009 homeless families served during the year, 371 acquired housing during the enrollment year.

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Head Start Performance Standards

- HS/EHS program must develop a community needs assessment at least once every five years. This assessment must reflect the needs of homeless children
- Homeless children are categorically eligible for HS/EHS based on the ED definitions of homeless and without the need for income verification
- HS/EHS have a variety of flexible options for verifying and documenting a child's homeless status for purposes of program eligibility
- HS/EHS may reserve up to 3% of slots for homeless and foster children
- HS/EHS program must establish collaborative relationships and partnerships with local liaison and homeless service providers

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Domains of Development

- Biological/Physical
- Cognitive
- Psychosocial

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Children of families in poverty tend to have worse health in general, due to their decreased access to health care.

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Related Factors

Families experiencing homelessness, whether chronic or episodic, often face other barriers to affordable housing. By understanding these related challenges, states can create sustainable and proactive policy solutions that better address homelessness in their communities.



26% of families with children under 18 have a high housing cost burden³



28% of families with children under age 6 are working, but remain low income³

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About Child Trauma



Children who suffer from traumatic stress are those who have been exposed to one or more traumas over the course of their lives and develop reactions that persist and affect their daily lives after the events have ended.

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Populations at Risk

Some groups of children and families are disproportionately represented among those experiencing trauma.



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Examples of Traumatic Experiences

Changes to:

- Where a child lives
- Where they attend school
- Who they are living with
- And their daily routines

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What Is a Traumatic Event?

A frightening, dangerous, or violent event that poses a threat to a child's life or bodily integrity.

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Harmful Effects of Family Homelessness on the Development of Young Children

- A higher prevalence of physical disabilities, developmental delays, emotional problems, and behavioral issues
- Stress levels high enough to trigger harmful biochemical impact on developing children – also known as “toxic stress”
- Little or no positive interaction with adults due to the tremendous challenges faced by parents experiencing homelessness

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Resources

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Resources Supporting Children & Families Experiencing Homelessness

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness>

8 MODULES:

- Overview of Family Homelessness
- Understanding Family Homelessness
- Understanding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act’s Definition of “Homeless”
- Determining a Family’s Homeless Situation
- Identifying and Reaching Out to Families Experiencing Homelessness
- Enhancing Program Access and Participation for Children Experiencing Homelessness
- Building Relationships with Families
- Connecting with Community Partners

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Resources

DESE website: <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/federal-programs/homeless-children-youth>



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Resources

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE): <https://nche.ed.gov/> 

SchoolHouse Connection:  <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>

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Questions



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