



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN INDIANA

The homeless enrollment in Indiana public schools has increased by 34.2% since the 2010-11 school year. ¹

Who Is Considered Homeless?

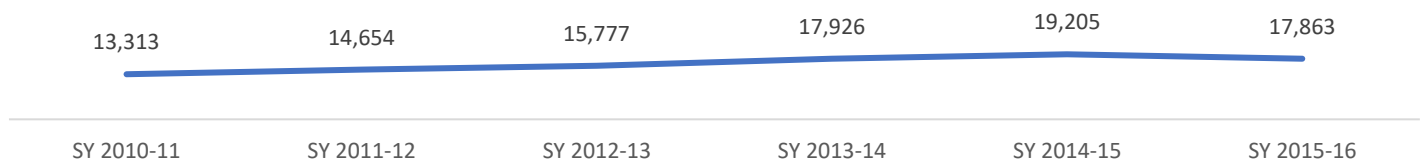
Under the McKinney-Vento Act, schools are required to keep track of the number of children whom they know lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence. Students experiencing housing instability may be living in motels, trailer parks, campgrounds, transitional shelters, or sharing housing with others because of economic hardship. ²

- Rising costs of basic household commodities, low wages, healthcare expenditures, climate disasters, and significant family instability are common factors that can lead to housing crises and eventually homelessness. ³
- Indiana (1.6%) ties for the lowest percentage of homeless public school students among neighboring states: Illinois (2.6%), Kentucky (4.0%), Michigan (2.7%), and Ohio (1.6%). ⁴
- The percentage of public school students identified as homeless or housing unstable in Indiana's counties ranges from 7.7% to 0.1%. ⁵
- In 2016, 17,863 Indiana public school students were identified as homeless or housing unstable. Indiana's increase over the past five years, 34.2%, is higher than the national increase of 22.4% over the same time period. ^{6,7}

Percentage of Public School Students Identified as Homeless: 2017	
10 Highest Counties	
Jennings	7.7%
Perry	7.2%
Cass	6.1%
Owen	5.8%
Morgan	4.3%
Howard	3.9%
Marion	3.3%
Adams	3.1%
Switzerland	2.8%
Putnam	2.6%

Source: Indiana Department of Education

Public School Students Identified as Homeless: Indiana SY 2010-11 to SY 2015-16



Source: Indiana Department of Education
*SY = School Year

Vulnerable Populations

Certain groups of children are especially vulnerable among youth who experience homelessness. These subpopulations include children with disabilities, youth involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. ⁸

- The number of unaccompanied students in Indiana, youth without the physical custody of a parent or guardian, has increased 23.7% from SY 2014-15 to SY 2016-17.
- Students with disabilities make up 19.2% of Indiana public school students experiencing homelessness.
- The number of migratory students in Indiana, youth who periodically move due to their parents' seasonal employment in agriculture, decreased by 30.0% from SY 2014-15 to SY 2016-17. ⁹

Impact of Homelessness

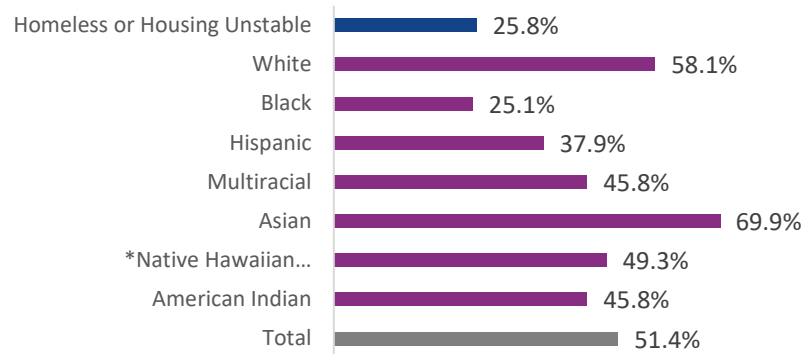
Children who lack a stable home are vulnerable to educational deficits, adverse outcomes, poor health, and difficulties in accessing health care.¹⁰

Education: High mobility leads to school disruptions and is linked with lower levels of academic achievement and limited employment opportunities.¹¹ In 2017, only 25.8% of homeless or housing unstable students passed both English/Language Arts and Math ISTEP+, compared to the state percentage of 51.4%.¹²

Adverse Outcomes: Homeless youth are more likely to have experienced traumatic events, abuse, and neglect. These experiences have a lasting impact on behavior, emotional health, and physical health.¹³

Health: The prevalence of psychiatric disorders (depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder) for homeless youth are higher compared to peers.¹⁴ Chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, are also higher in the homeless population due to lack of permanent housing and barriers to health care services.¹⁵

Percentage of Students in Grades 3-8 Passing Both English Language Arts and Math ISTEP+, Indiana: 2017



Source: Indiana Department of Education
*Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Homelessness Intervention and Prevention

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recommends coordination across organizations, targeting supportive services, and increasing interventions to support youth experiencing homelessness.

- Schools offer students a sense of stability, a caring environment, a predictable schedule, and basics like breakfast and lunch. Data collection of homeless children is essential to ensure that all youth experiencing homelessness are identified and supported. Schools have a local homeless education liaison to help identify, enroll, and support the education of youth experiencing homelessness.¹⁶
- Community programs can coordinate and align services across sectors to work towards common goals. Interagency cooperation between community nonprofits and local government agencies can build needed prevention, early intervention, longer-term services, and aftercare.
- Trauma-informed care, screening and assessment of trauma, and social-emotional screening are central to intervention models that facilitate healing and recovery. Youth also benefit when these services are culturally appropriate and measure progress over time.¹⁷

IYI Resources

The latest data is at your fingertips with IYI's Data Center and Indiana KIDS COUNT Data Book. Search statistics and gather data to improve your program planning and grant writing. Go to www.iyi.org/data.



¹ National Center for Homeless Education (2017). Federal Data Summary School Years 2013-14 to 2015-16. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/data-comp-1314-1516.pdf>

² Indiana Department of Education (2017). Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth. Retrieved from <https://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/indiana-education-homeless-children-youth-inehy>

³ National Center for Homeless Education (2017). Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: An Introduction to the Issues. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/introduction.pdf>

⁴ National Center for Homeless Education (2017). Federal Data Summary School Years 2013-14 to 2015-16. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/data-comp-1314-1516.pdf>

⁵ Indiana Department of Education (2018). Homeless Enrollment. Retrieved from <https://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/data>

⁶ National Center for Homeless Education (2017). Federal Data Summary School Years 2013-14 to 2015-16. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/data-comp-1314-1516.pdf>

⁷ National Center for Homeless Education (2014). Analysis of 2012-2013 Federal Data Collection and Three Year Comparison. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/data-comp-1011-1213.pdf>

⁸ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (2015). Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf

⁹ National Center for Homeless Education (2018). Indiana. Retrieved from <http://profiles.nche.seiservices.com/StateProfile.aspx?StateID=19>

¹⁰ Child Trends (2015). Homeless Children and Youth. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/homeless-children-and-youth/>

¹¹ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (2015). Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf

¹² Indiana Department of Education (2018). Data Request

¹³ National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2015). Behavioral Health Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness. Retrieved from <http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/in-focus-behavioral-health-among-youth.pdf>

¹⁴ National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2015). Behavioral Health Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness. Retrieved from <http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/in-focus-behavioral-health-among-youth.pdf>

¹⁵ National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2016). Advance Care Planning for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness. Retrieved from <https://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/in-focus-advance-care-planning-final-for-posting.pdf>

¹⁶ National Center for Homeless Education (2017). Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: An Introduction to the Issues. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/introduction.pdf>

¹⁷ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (2015). Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf