

## Number of Homeless Students Rises to New High

More than 1.5 million public school students across the country were homeless at some point during the 2017-18 school year, the highest number recorded in more than a dozen years. Learn more about the characteristics of homeless students and discover the data for your state or jurisdiction at <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Federal-Data-Summary-SY-15.16-to-17.18-Published-1.30.2020.pdf>

## Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: An Interactive Learning Series for Early Childhood Professionals

This series of eight instructional modules was designed to enhance knowledge around family homelessness and the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act's definition of "homeless" as it refers to children and youth. Module topics include an overview, understanding family homelessness, understanding the McKinney-Vento 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, and building relationships with families. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness>

## Caring for the Health and Wellness of Children Experiencing Homelessness

This tip sheet summarizes the definition and causes of homelessness, then shifts to focus on strategies for supporting the health and wellbeing of children for whom that is an issue.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/homelessness-tip-sheet.pdf>

## National Center for Homeless Education's Resources on Parent Involvement

The Center provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness. For current information, legislation, and state/local contact information, visit

[http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/parent\\_inv.php](http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/parent_inv.php)

## Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness

This tool from the Ounce of Prevention Fund and the U.S. Department of Human Services Administration for Children and Families has been designed for child care, Head Start and Early Head Start, and public pre-k programs to guide them in welcoming and supporting families and children experiencing homelessness into their programs. The tool contains recommendations for making early childhood programs more responsive to the unique needs of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families who experience homelessness. It also identifies additional resources to support programs.

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/eecd/final\\_self\\_assessment\\_tool\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_programs\\_serving.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/eecd/final_self_assessment_tool_for_early_childhood_programs_serving.pdf)

## National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)

This organization is committed to ensuring educational equity and excellence for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The website features free resources for families and professionals. Under the resource tab, the section on educational resources features sections devoted to early childhood and children with disabilities. <https://naehcy.org/>

## Resources for Early Childhood Faculty Members and Instructors Whose Students May Be Homeless

A 2019 [survey of nearly 86,000 students](#) found that homelessness affected 18% of respondents attending two-year colleges and 14% of those attending four-year institutions. There are excellent, free resources available for better understanding issues of housing insecurity and supporting students for whom this is a reality. Consider the Schoolhouse connection website (<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/>) or NAEHCY (<https://naehcy.org/higher-education/>)

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3, their families, and the professionals and systems who serve and support them. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at [camille.catlett@unc.edu](mailto:camille.catlett@unc.edu)