Homelessness in High School

2019 YRBSS Data

Danielle Hatchimonji, Nemours Children’s Health System
Claire Flatley, Nemours Children’s Health System
Dan Treglia, University of Pennsylvania
J. J. Cutuli, Nemours Children’s Health System

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INTRODUCTIONS

Danielle Hatchimonji, PhD
Claire Flatley, BS
Dan Treglia, PhD
J J Cutuli, PhD
OVERVIEW

- Background
- Findings
- Recommendations
BACKGROUND
Homelessness disproportionately affects those who experience marginalization by race/ethnicity or LGBT identification, and it is closely linked to poverty.
Risks Associated with Homelessness

- Violence and Victimization
- Poor Mental Health
- Severe Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors
- Alcohol Abuse and Substance Use
- Risky Sexual Behaviors
- Poor Educational Functioning
How many students are homeless?

**McKinney-Vento:** Students considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**HUD Point-in-Time Count:** On a single night, in shelter or someplace unfit for human habitation.
Who are we missing?

- Likely missing many students
- How can we understand the scope of the problem?
CDC: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

- Anonymous survey
- Administered every two years
- More states and school districts asked about housing in 2019
Objectives

• **Estimate** prevalence of adolescent homelessness.
• **Describe** demographic characteristics and victimization experiences for students experiencing homelessness.
• **Examine** the relationship between homelessness and outcomes.
• **Provide recommendations** for identifying and supporting high school students experiencing homelessness.
FINDINGS
136,309 surveys ➔ 5.9 million students

24 States
26,230 surveys ➞ 522,916 students

12 Districts
Questions About Homelessness

During the last 30 days, where did you usually sleep?

- Parent/guardian's home
- In the home of a friend, family member, or other person because I had to leave my home or my parent or guardian cannot afford housing
- In a shelter or emergency housing
- In a motel or hotel
- In a car, park, campground, or other public place
- I do not have a usual place to sleep
- Somewhere else

During the past 30 days, did you ever sleep away from your parents or guardians because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned?

- No
- Yes
YRBSS: More high schoolers experience homelessness than identified by education systems.
High Schoolers Experiencing Homelessness

24 States

509,025 students

9.17%

169,580 found by education agencies
High Schoolers Experiencing Homelessness

12 Districts

56,848 students

13.68%

40,614 found by education agencies
How Many High Schoolers Did Education Systems Miss?

2 in 3
an estimated 339,445 missed

24 States

1 in 3
an estimated 16,580 missed

12 Districts
Students reporting homelessness more likely to be students of color, male, identify as LGBT.
More Likely to be Black, Indigenous, or Latinx

**More Likely**
- Black/African-American: 147% more likely
- Native American/Hawaiian: 135% more likely
- Latinx: 122% more likely

**Less Likely**
- Asian/Asian-American: 53% less likely

**As Likely**
- Multiple Races

Data from 24 States
More Likely to be Black, Indigenous, or Latinx

More Likely

- Black/African-American
- Native American/Hawaiian
- Latinx

As Likely

- Asian/Asian-American
- Multiple Races

Data from 12 Districts

- 82% more likely
- 197% more likely
- 72% more likely

Odds Ratio

Axes Title

Axis Title

Axis Title
Data from 24 States

More Likely to Identify as LGBT or Male

- LGBT: 124% more likely
- Male: 50% more likely
More Likely to Identify as LGBT or Male

- LGBT: 85% increased odds
- Male: 64% increased odds

Data from 12 Districts
Students reporting homelessness more likely to experience victimization
More Likely to Experience Victimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Victimization</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Victimization</td>
<td>315% more likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Victimization</td>
<td>363% more likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying Victimization</td>
<td>128% more likely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from 24 States
More Likely to Experience Victimization

Data from 12 Districts

- Sexual Victimization: 196% more likely
- Physical Victimization: 296% more likely
- Bullying Victimization: 128% more likely

Data from 12 Districts
Pile up of victimization for students experiencing homelessness
No Victimization Experiences

All Public High Schoolers: 63%

Subset of Public High Schoolers Reporting Homelessness: 37%
2 Types of Victimization Experiences

All Public High Schoolers

- 9%

Subset of Public High Schoolers Reporting Homelessness

- 25%
3 Types of Victimization Experiences

All Public High Schoolers

Subset of Public High Schoolers Reporting Homelessness

4%

12%
Homelessness in high schoolers linked to poor functioning.
High School Homelessness: Links to Poor Functioning

Severe Suicidality
Substance Use
Alcohol Abuse
Risky Sexual Behavior
Poor Grades

Odds Ratio

States
Districts
6.11% of public high school students reported homelessness on the YRBSS

Students Experiencing Homelessness were:
- More likely to be a Black/African American, Native American/Alaskan, or PI, 133% Greater Odds
- As likely to be a LGBT, 137% Greater Odds
- More likely to experience sexual victimization, 466% Greater Odds
- Usually slept in a homeless situation, 4.80% Greater Odds

Housing Reported (last 30 days)
- Did not experience homelessness, 93.89%
- Ran away/kicked out/abandoned, 3.18%
- Usually slept in a homeless situation, 2.00%
- Both homeless situations, 0.94%

Homelessness and Student Functioning
- Alcohol Abuse: 3.4
- Suicidality: 2.9
- Poor Grades: 3.2
- Risky Sexual Behavior: 3.1
- Substance Use: 4.1

Odds compared to students not reporting homelessness:
a. Males are compared to females; LGBT youth are compared to non-LGBT youth; Race/Ethnicity categories are compared to White; Odds are compared to students not reporting homelessness
b. Outcomes controlled for Age, Sex, LGBT Identification, Race/Ethnicity, and Victimization, Odds ratio = 1.0

10.91% of public high school students reported homelessness on the YRBSS

Students Experiencing Homelessness were:
- More likely to be a Black/African American, Native American/Alaskan, or PI, 120% Greater Odds
- As likely to be a LGBT, 105% Greater Odds
- More likely to experience sexual victimization, 133% Greater Odds
- Usually slept in a homeless situation, 85% Greater Odds

Housing Reported (last 30 days)
- Did not experience homelessness, 89.03%
- Ran away/kicked out/abandoned, 4.66%
- Usually slept in a homeless situation, 4.80%
- Both homeless situations, 1.46%

Homelessness and Student Functioning
- Alcohol Abuse: 2.9
- Suicidality: 2.5
- Poor Grades: 2.1
- Risky Sexual Behavior: 3.2
- Substance Use: 4.1

Odds compared to students not reporting homelessness:
a. Males are compared to females; LGBT youth are compared to non-LGBT youth; Race/Ethnicity categories are compared to White; Odds are compared to students not reporting homelessness
b. Outcomes controlled for Age, Sex, LGBT Identification, Race/Ethnicity, and Victimization, Odds ratio = 1.0
Recommendations & Conclusions
Summary of Findings

- Many more high school students experience homelessness than are identified by schools.
Summary of Findings

- Many more high school students experience homelessness than are identified by schools.

24 STATES

509,205

Student Homelessness on the YRBSS

9.17%

of all high school students

339,445

More than ID’ed by the schools all year
Summary of Findings

- Many more high school students experience homelessness than are identified by schools.

13.68%
Of all high school students

16,234
More than ID’ed by the schools all year

12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

56,848
Student homelessness on the YRBSS
Summary of Findings

• **Many more** high school students **experience homelessness** than are identified by schools.

• Homelessness reflects **inequity**.
  • Student homelessness more likely among:
    • Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American students
    • Students who identify as LGBT
    • Male students
Summary of Findings

• **Many more** high school students **experience homelessness** than are identified by schools.

• Homelessness reflects **inequity**.

• Homelessness and risk for **multiple forms of victimization**.
  • Physical Victimization
  • Sexual Victimization
  • Having been bullied
Summary of Findings

• Many more high school students experience homelessness than are identified by schools.

• Homelessness reflects inequity.

• Homelessness and risk for multiple forms of victimization.

• Homelessness and risk for poor functioning
  • Alcohol use problem
  • Hard drug use
  • Suicidality
  • Risky sexual behavior
  • Poor grades
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Improve systems for identifying and serving students who experience homelessness
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

$106,500,000     Federal Allocation - 2021

÷  1,387,573     Identified Homeless Students

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~$76     Funding per ID’ed homeless student
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

$106,500,000  Federal Allocation – 2021

÷ 1,387,573  Identified Homeless Students

4,162,719  Homeless Student Count (YRBSS)

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$76  Funding per ID’ed homeless student

$26  Funding per homeless student
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Improve systems for identifying and serving students who experience homelessness

• Develop, test, and fund best practice

• Promising practices:
  • Staff information and support
  • Support and coordinate systems
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Homelessness in the context of adolescence
• Relationships and strengths → Resilience
• Identity formation, stigma, and acceptance
• Voices of youth
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Prevent teen homelessness, when possible
  • Support families
  • Support teens

• When teen homelessness occurs...
  • Create safe spaces
  • Support adolescent development

• Work to end racism, poverty and other forces of systemic oppression
Final Comments
Thank you!