



Infants, Toddlers, and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Preview of SchoolHouse Connection's Data Dashboards

Prepared for Pritzker Children's Initiative

Tuesday, September 20th

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

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Overview

DEFINITION

Who is Eligible?

Children and youth
who lack a fixed,
regular, and adequate
nighttime residence.



Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.



Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.



Living in emergency or transitional shelters.



Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Families often stay with others temporarily because of lack of shelter availability, and the fear of having children removed from their custody.

Staying with others puts families, infants, and toddlers in vulnerable, harmful situations, and conditions that may contribute to developmental delays. Parents may stay with abusive/exploitive people, or trade sex in order to have a place to stay.



DEFINITION

Unaccompanied Youth

A child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.



Youth run away from home due to abuse or neglect.

- 40-60% of unaccompanied youth were abused physically at home.
- 17-25% of unaccompanied youth were abused sexually at home.
- Research links parental substance abuse and youth running away from home



Parents force youth out of the home due to conflicts.

- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Pregnancy

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

1.3 MILLION

babies, toddlers, and young children under age 6 experienced homelessness in 2018-2019

(USED 2018-2019 Profiles)

44% of young women (age 18-25) and 18% of young men experiencing homelessness are current or expectant parents to over

1.1 MILLION young children

([Chapin Hall](#), University of Chicago)

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness



Infancy is the period of life when a person is most at risk of living in a homeless shelter. (HUD Annual Report to Congress)



Homelessness is more than a housing problem; it has many systemic drivers and complex causes, as well as far-reaching consequences for child development.



Families experiencing homelessness face multiple barriers to accessing quality early childhood programs that can provide comprehensive support and connections.

OVERVIEW

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

15.4%

Of infants and toddlers live in crowded housing, which is known to jeopardize child development. 2.9% of babies and toddlers have moved three or more times since birth.

[State of Babies Yearbook 2022 \(Zero to Three\)](#)

Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black Babies

Have a higher incidence of living in crowded housing, and low-income babies are nearly three times more likely to live in crowded housing.

Homelessness Has Serious Consequences for Young Children



Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.



The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.



The impacts of homelessness on young children are long-lasting, even once families are housed, including on children's school readiness.

Homelessness Also Has Long-Term Consequences



The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is **68% compared to 85% for all students**. This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.



High school students who experience homelessness are **10x more likely to become pregnant or get someone pregnant**.



In addition to the academic impacts, homelessness in the early years can cause **developmental delays, social-emotional challenges, and long-term trauma**.

OUR ANTICIPATED IMPACT

50,000

infants, toddlers, and families experiencing homelessness will be enrolled in and served by early childhood programs across all PCI states by 2026.

AUGUST 2022

DECEMBER 2022

MARCH 2022

Data dashboards

Data for all PCI-funded states to include the total number of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness, enrollment, disaggregation by race, ethnicity

Practical assistance to states

Bring together state-level leaders to develop an action plan for increasing enrollment

Intensive support for communities

Within those states, work with programs in select communities to conduct focus groups, trainings, and develop action plans for improving practice

Data Collection & Methodology

DATA COLLECTION & METHODOLOGY

Population

How did we calculate the total population of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness in each PCI-funded state?

First grade students identified as homeless in each state

Total number of first grade students in each state

X

Kids Count estimate of children ages 0 to 4 in each state



This is a conservative estimate. Underidentification is a known issue in k-12 schools. Younger children face a greater risk of homelessness.

DATA COLLECTION & METHODOLOGY

Enrollment

Which early childhood data did we use to get enrollment rates?

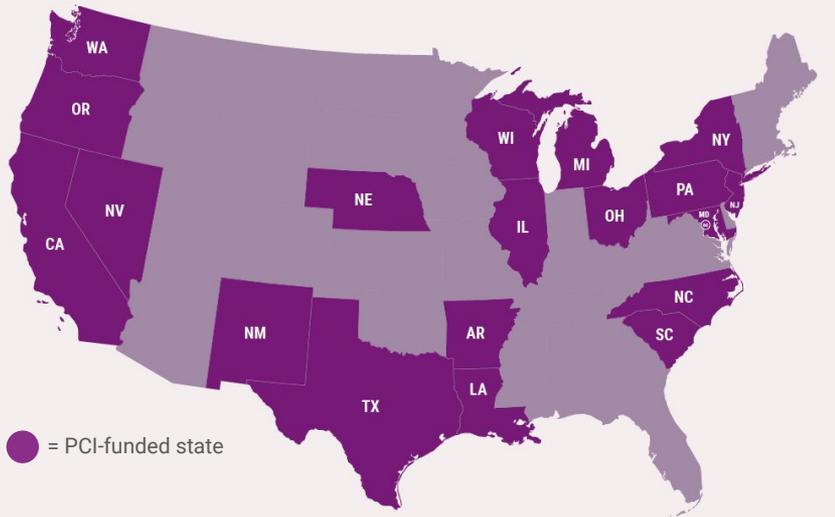
- Early Head Start (birth - 3)
- Child Care (birth - 3)
- Home Visiting (Parents as Teachers, birth - 3)

What data is missing or incomplete?

- Two states' child care data is listed as "insufficient" via the Office of Child Care
- It would be important to have some additional home visiting data, as well as Early Intervention

Data Trends & Key Takeaways

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness



Across PCI-funded states, there are approximately 351,630 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.



22,778, or 6.48%, are currently identified and served by an early childhood program.



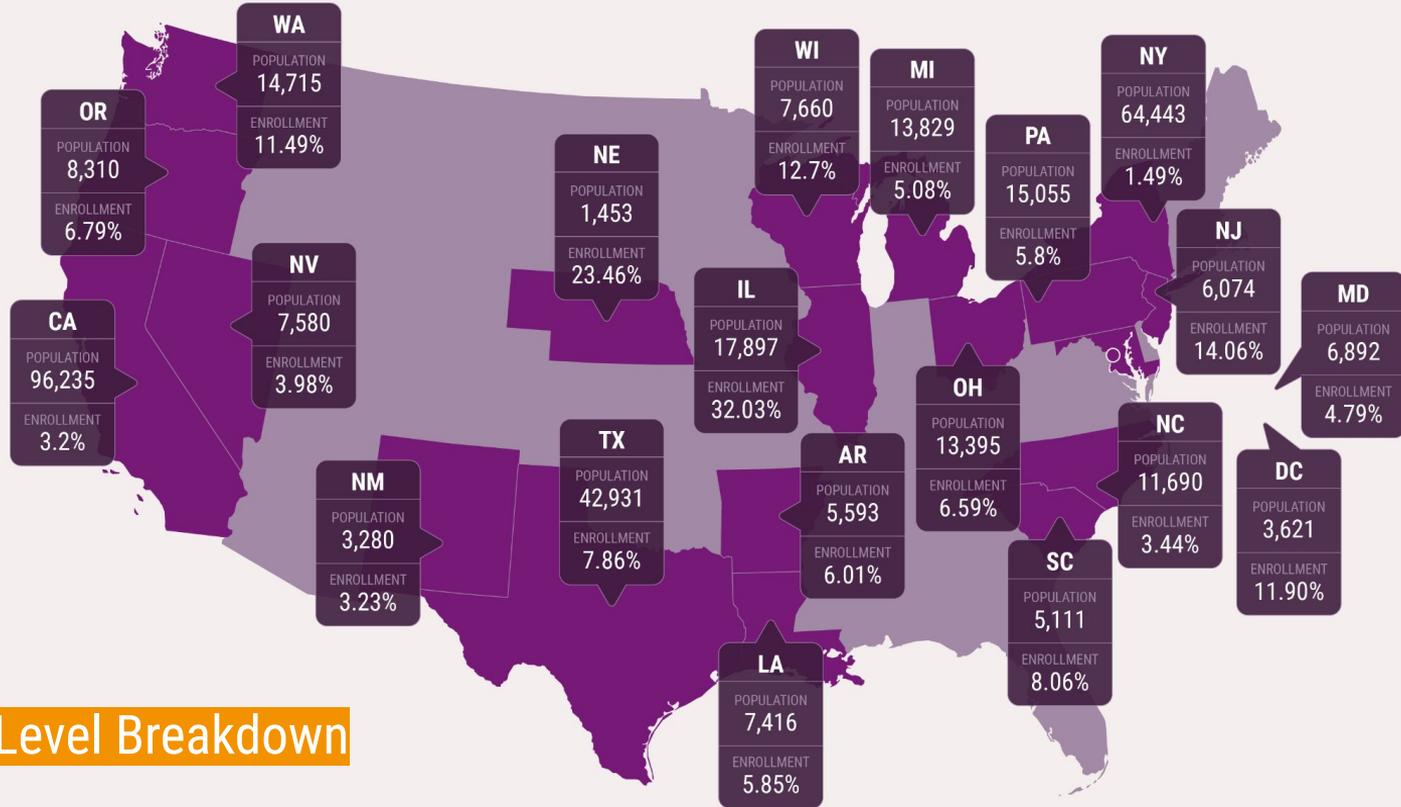
That means there are 328,851 who are **not identified and/or enrolled in an early childhood program**

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment

Key Takeaways



State-Level Breakdown

Enrollment

Across all PCI-funded states:

Child Care Programs

enroll 2.3% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

Early Head Start Programs

enrolls 4.2% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

Home Visiting Programs (Parents as Teachers)

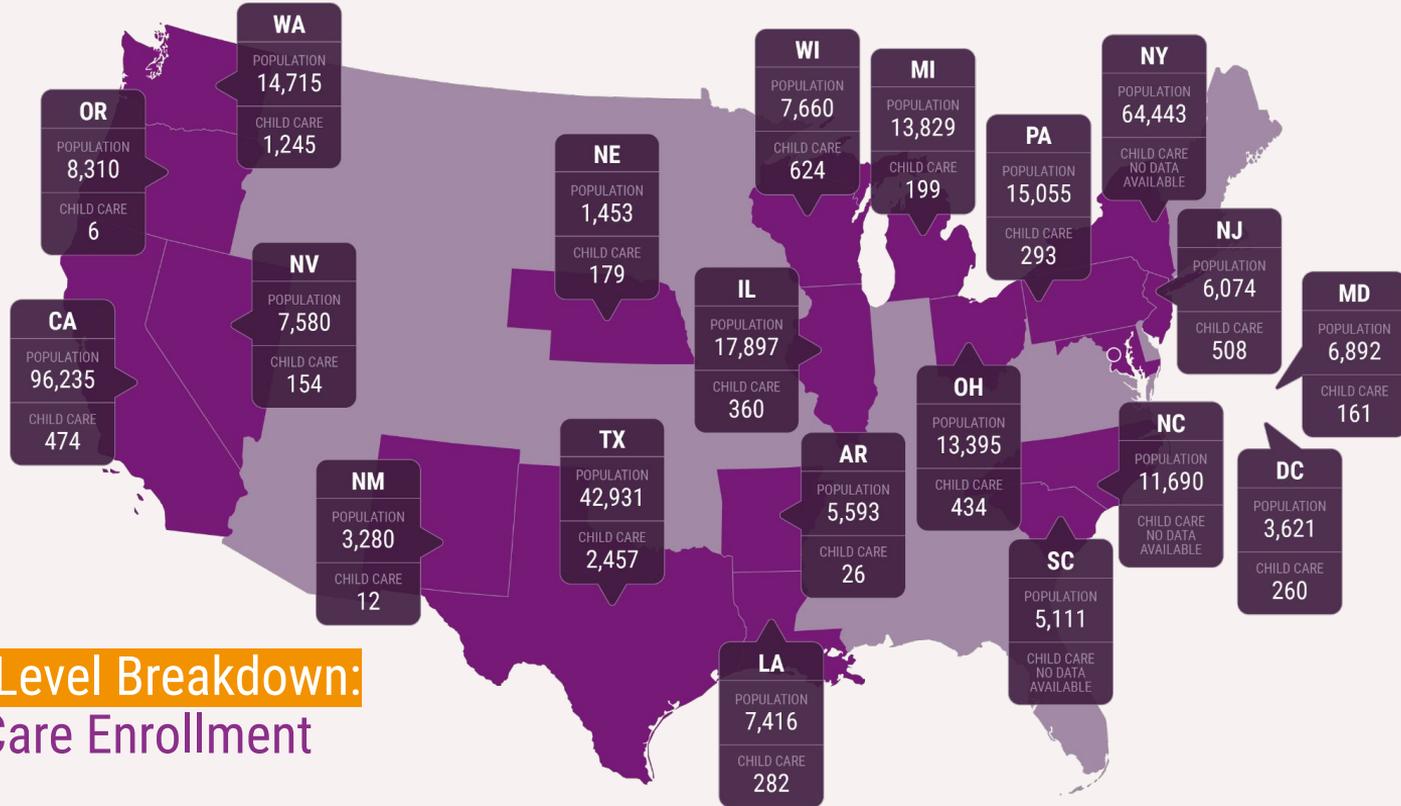
enroll 1% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

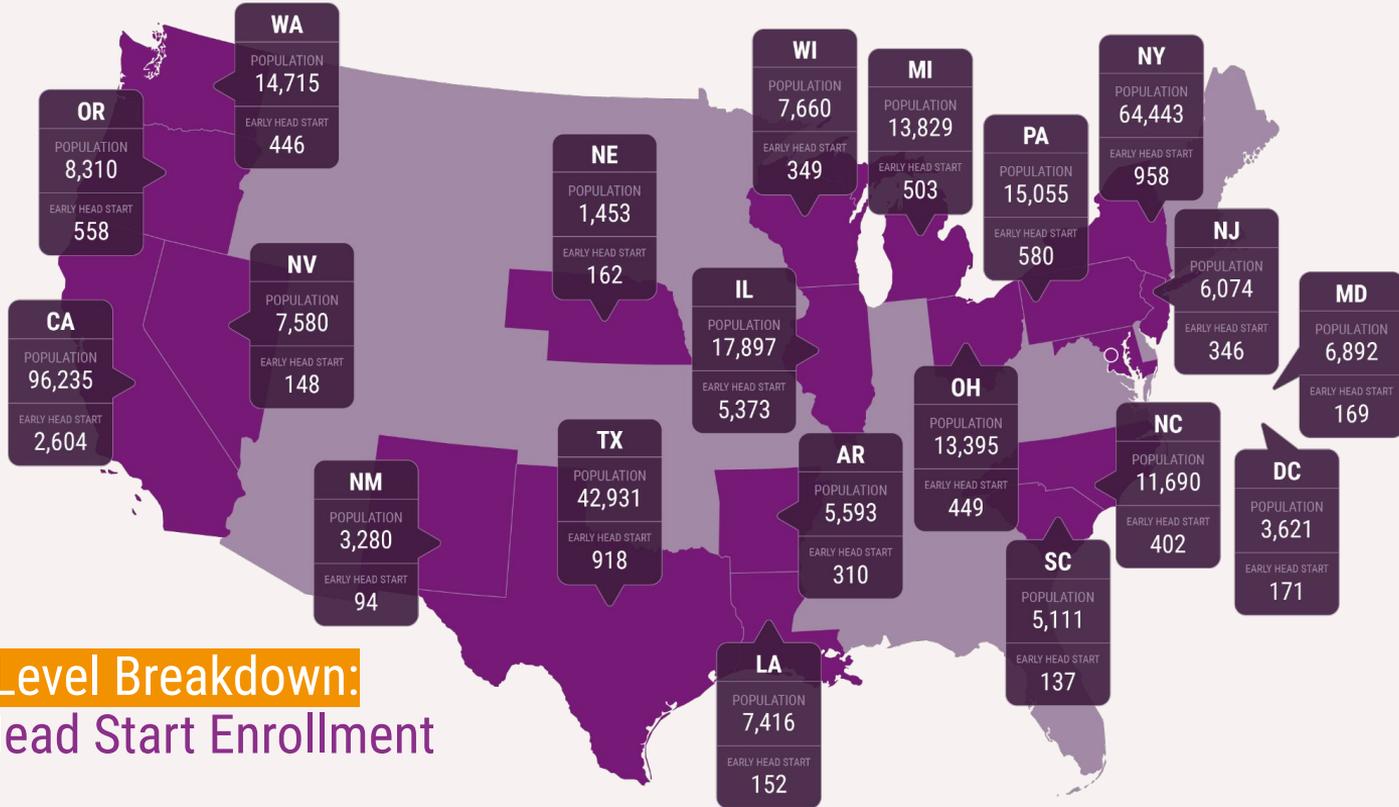
Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

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Key Takeaways



State-Level Breakdown: Child Care Enrollment



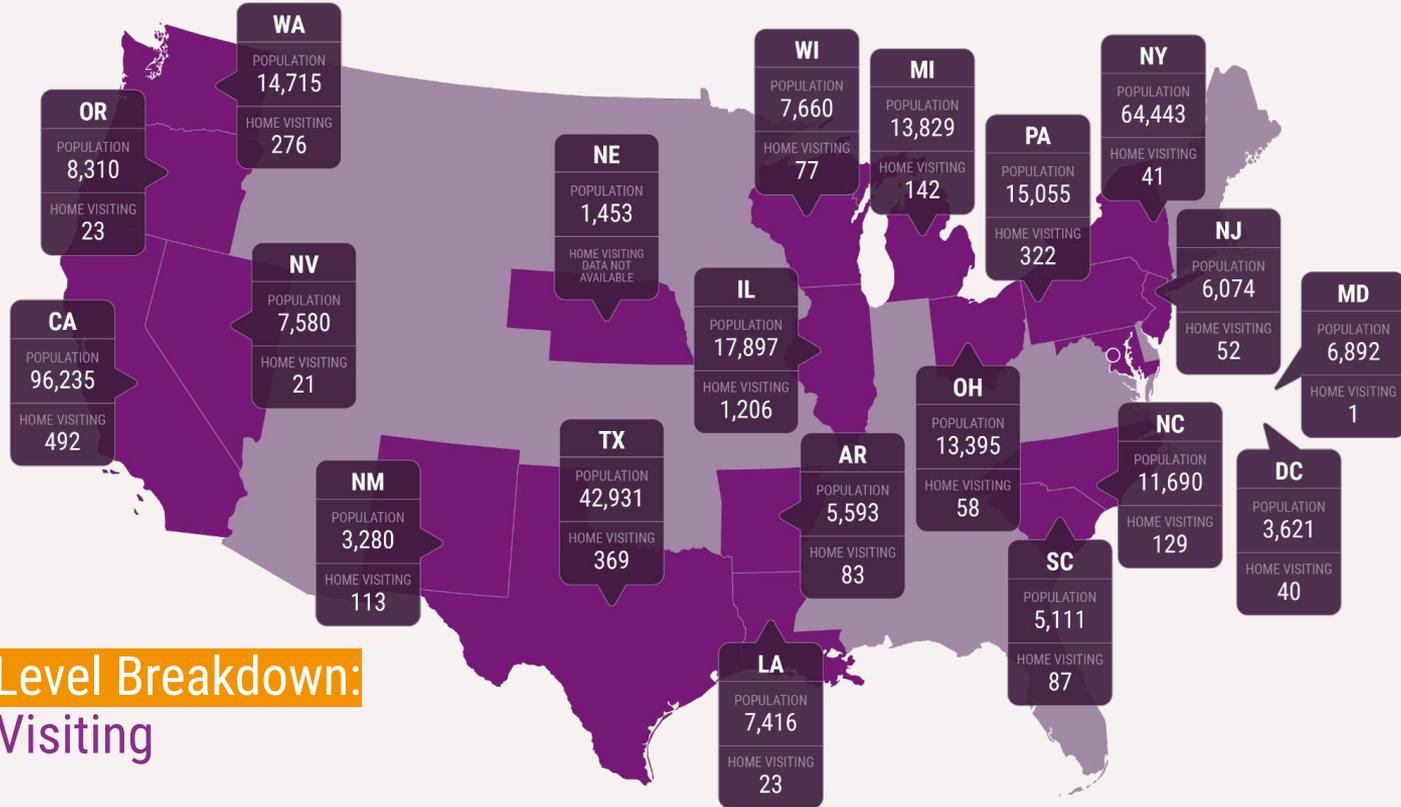
State-Level Breakdown:
Early Head Start Enrollment

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment

Key Takeaways



State-Level Breakdown: Home Visiting

Key Takeaways

- 1 **Infants, toddlers, and families** experiencing homelessness are significantly under-enrolled in early childhood programs.
- 2 **Some infants, toddlers, and families** experiencing homelessness may be enrolled in, but not identified by, early childhood programs.
- 3 **More data and better reporting mechanisms** are needed to get a clearer picture of the need and to inform policy and practice.

Questions & Next Steps

Questions



- 1 What **surprised you** about this data?
- 2 What **needs further** explanation/clarification?
- 3 Are there **additional sources** of data about infants, toddlers, and families experiencing homelessness in your state that we should incorporate?
- 4 How do you **envision using** this data?



Next Steps

Through March 2023, SchoolHouse Connection will be working to:

- Publish this data (*October 2022*)
- Work with a small group of PCI-funded states to begin setting specific goals for increasing enrollment
- Provide practical assistance to several communities within those states



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