

HOMELESSNESS AND CHILDREN IN GEORGIA

In Georgia, someone is considered homeless if they don't have access—or are not expected to have access—to safe, clean, and affordable long-term housing.¹ This includes people staying in places not meant for living, like cars or abandoned buildings, or those staying in temporary shelters.



HOW MANY CHILDREN EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS?

Infants and Toddlers:

13,691 children under age 3 were estimated to experience homelessness in 2022-2023, with approximately 461 served in an early childhood development program ²

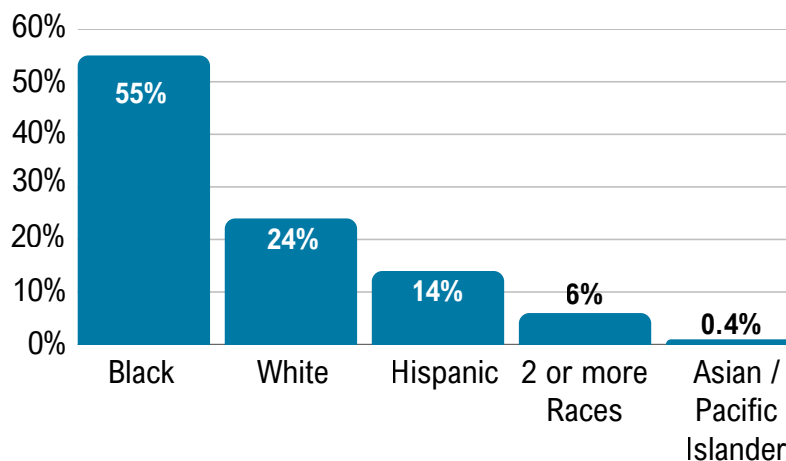
Pre-k through 12th Grade:

40,136 students identified as experiencing homelessness in the 2022-2023 school year ³

WHERE ARE UNSTABLY HOUSED CHILDREN LIVING (PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE)?⁴

- **70%** reported as being doubled up, i.e., staying with extended family or friends
- **22%** reported staying in extended stay hotels/motels
- **5%** reported staying in a shelter
- **2%** reported being unsheltered

WHO IS HOMELESS IN GEORGIA? ⁵



Homeless Students, by Race and Ethnicity

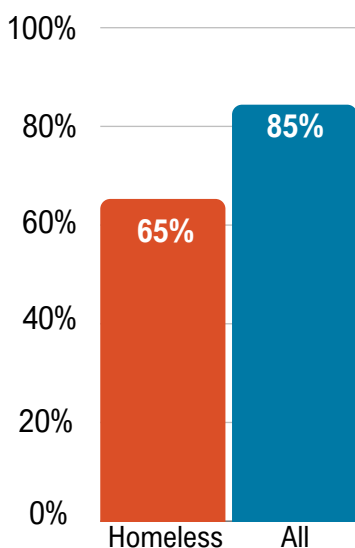


IMPACT OF CHILD AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS ON EDUCATION

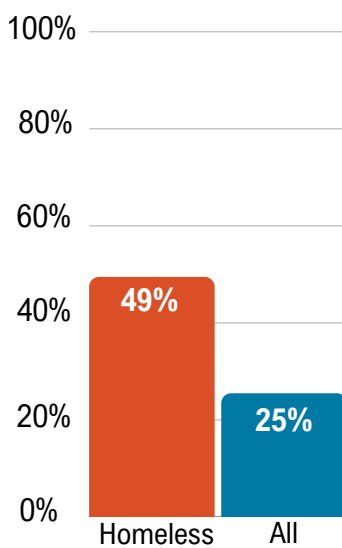
Students experiencing homelessness are more likely to: ⁶

- be suspended
- miss school
- have poor academic performance
- drop out of school

High School Graduation Rate ⁷



Chronic Absentee Rate ⁸



RISK FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HOMELESSNESS: ^{9, 10, 11}

- Family conflict/abuse/substance use
- Race (Black and Hispanic youth have a higher risk than their peers)
- LGBTQ+
- Youth pregnancy/ young parents
- Youth who do not complete high school
- Poverty/housing instability
- Involvement with foster care or juvenile justice systems, including transition-aged youth

HOUSING INSECURITY IN GEORGIA



Housing insecurity directly impacts children. According to the U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey taken at the end of October 2024, **21%** of adults in Georgia households with children say that they are likely to be evicted from their house in the next two months. ¹²

In Georgia, **2,728** people in families with children and **578** unaccompanied youth were counted as homeless in a 2024 Housing and Urban Development point in time survey. ¹³

In FY23, approximately 19% of foster care placements cite inadequate housing as a reason for removal of a child from the home. ¹⁴

SCAN BELOW TO SEE
FACTSHEET CITATIONS



MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

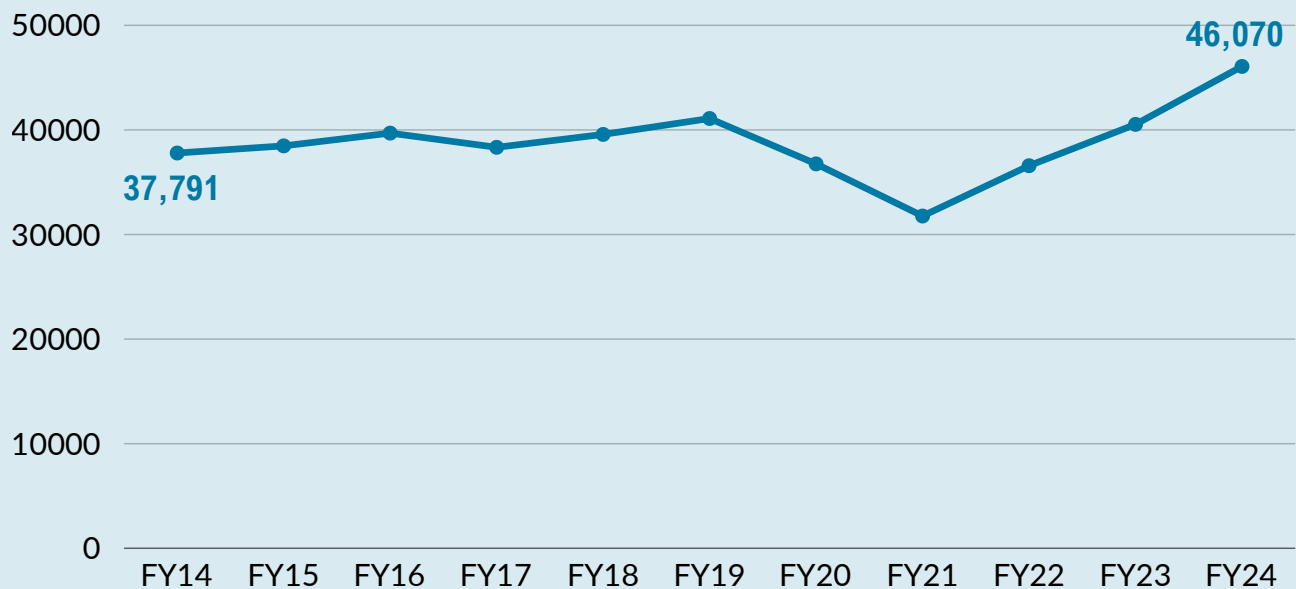
As the primary piece of federal legislation focused on **addressing the needs of homeless people in the United States**, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's definition of "homeless children and youth" means children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those who are:¹⁵

- sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- staying in motels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative;
- staying in shelters or transitional housing; or,
- sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings.

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

The section of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act dealing with **problems faced by homeless youth with enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school**. The program requires state education agencies ensure each homeless child has equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as their peers.

McKinney-Vento Count of Homeless Students in Georgia¹⁶



In FY25, the Georgia Department of Education subgranted **more than \$3 million** for homelessness initiatives in 51 school districts.¹⁷



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase the availability and fair distribution of quality and affordable housing, and support policies, including expanding the definition of housing instability and providing rent and mortgage subsidies, to protect families and children from unsafe housing, hardship or baseless evictions, and untenable fees and penalties.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers for families whose lack of adequate housing is the primary factor for removal of children or is delaying the reunification of children currently in foster care.
- Support policies that facilitate housing opportunities for people with past evictions, criminal histories, and mental or behavioral health conditions.
- Increase local school system (via the Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)) outreach to expand funding for McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth programs.
- Develop clear guidelines to better help youth who have matriculated out of or who have aged out of K-12 education and who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness.
- Create and fund community-based resources, such as drop-in centers and job-training, to prevent youth who age out of foster care and unaccompanied youth from becoming homeless.



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- 9 National Conference of State Legislatures. (March 2023). Youth Homelessness Overview. Retrieved May 14, 2025 from <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/youth-homelessness-overview>.
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