

REGION VI HOMELESSNESS DATA

Compiled Fall of 2020

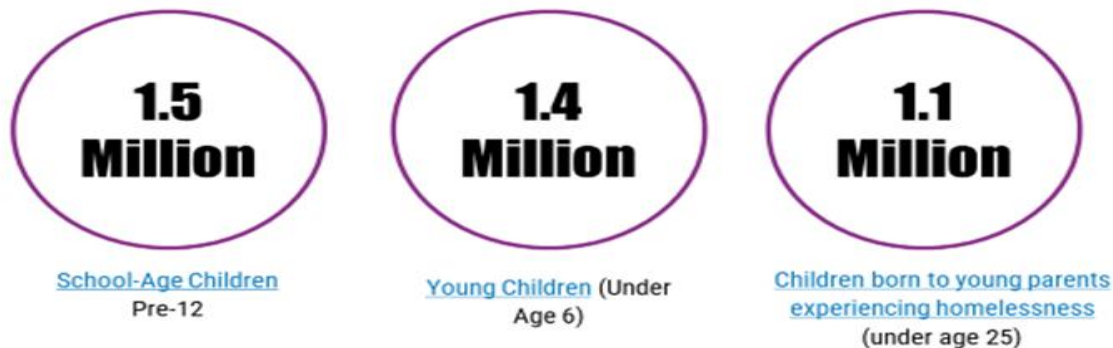
The following data was collected to determine the need for a Regional System supporting more intentional planning by Head Start/Early Head Start and Childcare Partnership grantees. One goal is to understand and be prepared to quickly support families with children birth to five who are by definition homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless. It is worth noting that the current Region VI Head Start data from PIR and ECLKC represent data reported pre-COVID. (2017 – 2018/19)

Early Childhood Homelessness Children

STATE	TOTAL POPULATION OF Children UNDER THE AGE OF 6	ESTIMATED NUMBER EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	NUMBER OF HOMELESS CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6
ARKANSAS	228,324	13,606	1 in 17
LOUISIANA	367,501	17,743	1 in 21
NEW MEXICO	150,579	10,347	1 in 15
OKLAHOMA	314, 101	24,765	1 in 13
TEXAS	2,431,014	224,020	1 in 11

Data Source ECLKC (2017 – 2018): US Census Bureau, Population Division (June 2019 annual estimates from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018)

Child and Youth Homelessness, Pre-COVID-19



Source: Schoolhouse Connection 1

- Region VI: **Average 1:15** children under the age of 6 are homeless
- The impact of homelessness on children, especially young children, is devastating and may lead to changes in brain architecture that can interfere with learning, emotional self-regulation, cognitive skills, and social relationships

Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

STATE	SERVED BY HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START	SERVED BY MCKINNEY VENTO	TOTAL PERCENT SERVED	TOTAL PERCENT UNSERVED
ARKANSAS	661 or 5%	662 or 5%	1,323 or 10%	12,283 or 90%
LOUISIANA	751 or 4%	210 or 1%	961 or 5%	16,782 or 95%
NEW MEXICO	309 or 3%	283 or 3%	592 or 6%	9,755 or 94%
OKLAHOMA	1,238 or 5%	1,241 or 5%	2,480 or 10%	22,285 or 90%
TEXAS	3,775 or 2%	9,127 or 4%	12,902 or 6%	211,118 or 94%

Data Source ECLKC (2017 – 2018): US Department of Education (2019) Consolidated State Performance Reports for 2018 retrieved July 23, 2019. PIR data on children under 6 experiencing homelessness served through Federally funded childcare and home visiting programs will be collected for the first time in 2017.

- Region VI: **Average Served 3.8%**
- Region VI: **Average Unserved 92.6 %**

Head Start (HS) was created in 1964 as a central piece of the War on Poverty. It was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with comprehensive programming to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. A key tenet of the program was that it be culturally responsive to the communities served.

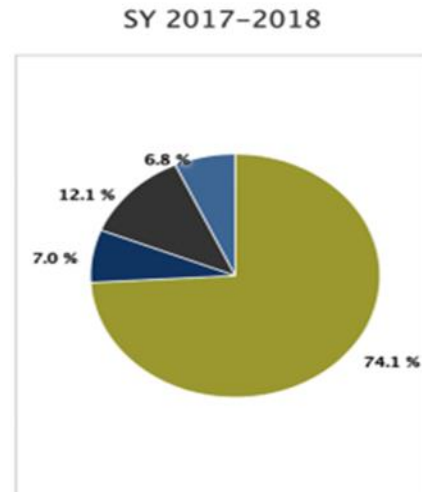
- Supporting the well-being of young children and their families who experience or are at-risk of experiencing homelessness (see above) is critical to meeting families' immediate needs and improving long-term educational outcomes for children.
- Head Start programs play an important role in ending incidences of family homelessness through community coordination, collaboration, and long-term partnerships.
- These partnerships look different depending on the needs of the community, area resources, and families served by Head Start grantee
- Approximately half of children living in federally funded emergency and transitional housing programs are age five or younger
- The age at which a person in the United States is most likely to stay in a homeless shelter is in infancy
- These young children are disproportionately more likely than their stably housed peers to experience an array of risk factors-including child maltreatment, lead toxicity, chronic health conditions, and food insecurity

Related Factors to Consider

Where do Families Experiencing Homelessness Stay?

- Shelters, transitional housing
- Doubled-up (Staying with others)
- Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned building)
- Hotels/Motels

Location when first identified by public schools; families move between these settings.



Source: Schoolhouse Connection

Housing Costs/Stable Employment

STATE	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 HAVE A HIGH HOUSING COST BURDEN	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 HAD NO RESIDENT PARENT IN THE US LABOR FORCE
ARKANSAS	24%	10%
LOUISIANA	30%	13%
NEW MEXICO	28%	14%
OKLAHOMA	26%	9%
TEXAS	31%	9%

Data Source ECLKC (2017 – 2018): Data from Annie E. Casey Foundation: KIDS COUNT data Center

Context and Causes of Family Homelessness

- Poverty: unemployment, low wages, low education
- [Lack of high school degree/GED is single greatest risk factor, followed by having a child](#)
- Lack of affordable housing
- Domestic violence
- Health (addiction, mental health)
- Intergenerational trauma

Systemic Racism throughout Housing, Health, Education, and Employment Systems is a Driver of Homelessness

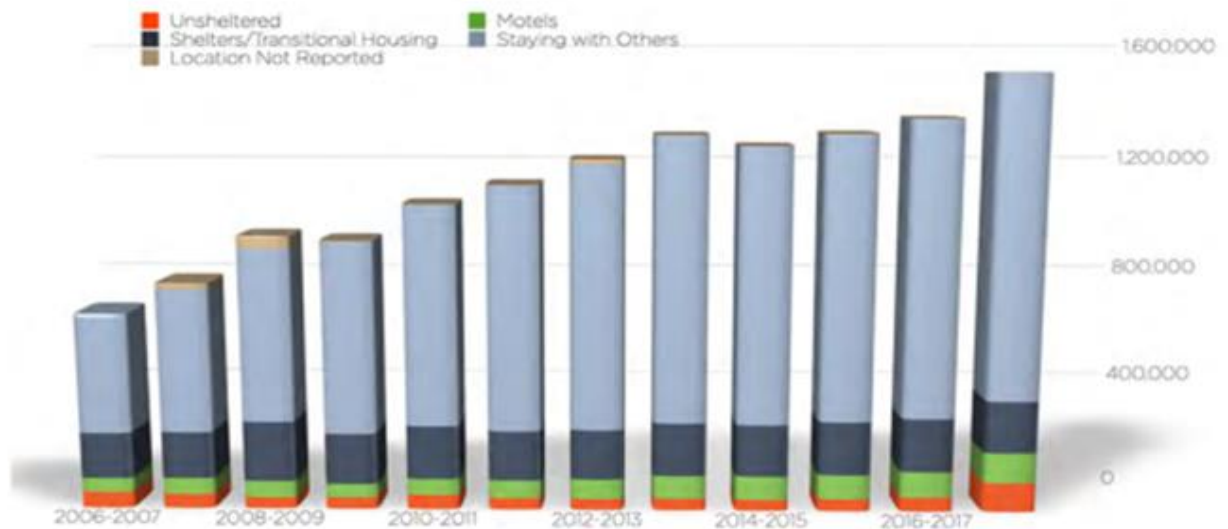
Source: School Connection

Head Start

STATE AND PROGRAM YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD START PROGRAMS	CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT	# OF FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	NUMBER/PERCENTAGE THAT ACQUIRED HOUSING
ARKANSAS				
2017	22	8,707	308	65 families / 21.10%
2018	22	8,089	309	69 families / 22.33%
2019	21	7,725	301	70 families / 23.26%
LOUISIANA				
2017	48	18,882	524	243 families / 46.37%
2018	49	19,606	532	165 families / 31.02%
2019	49	20,345	627	169 families / 26.95%
NEW MEXICO				
2017	30	8,050	223	51 families / 22.87%
2018	29	7,936	179	37 families / 20.67%
2019	29	7,743	260	59 families / 22.69%
OKLAHOMA				
2017	35	16,232	901	230 families / 25.53%
2018	34	15,784	336	84 families / 25.00%
2019	34	15,399	828	219 families / 26.45%
TEXAS				
2017	90	69,458	2,217	706 families / 31.84%
2018	89	67,787	2,573	677 families / 26.31%
2019	95	69,419	2,549	656 families / 25.74%

Data Source HSES PIR Data (2017 – 2019)

The number of children and youth experiencing homelessness (PreK-12) continues to rise.⁶



Source: School Connection

Early Head Start

STATE AND PROGRAM YEAR	NUMBER OF Early HS PROGRAMS	CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT	# OF FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	NUMBER/PERCENTAGE THAT ACQUIRED HOUSING
ARKANSAS				
2017	21	2,963	177	60 families / 33.90%
2018	21	3,687	291	84 families / 26.87%
2019	21	3,775	283	62 families / 21.91%
LOUISIANA				
2017	22	2,789	106	87 families / 82.08%
2018	27	3,382	166	73 families / 43.96%
2019	27	3,706	221	73 families / 33.03%
NEW MEXICO				
2017	21	2,423	162	54 families / 33.33%
2018	21	2,461	104	41 families / 39.42%
2019	22	2,522	92	37 families / 40.22%
OKLAHOMA				
2017	24	4,310	213	60 families / 28.17%
2018	31	4,728	336	84 families / 25.00%
2019	31	4,863	351	84 families / 23.93%
TEXAS				
2017	78	14,038	106	346 families / 37.32%
2018	81	14,588	166	314 families / 29.76%
2019	88	15,326	221	321 families / 27.72%

Data Source HSES PIR Data (2017 – 2019)

- The unrelenting stress experienced by parents, most of whom are women parenting alone, may contribute to residential instability, unemployment, ineffective parenting, and poor health.
 - Single parents – single mothers in particular – are more likely to face the challenges that lead to homelessness. The most significant statistic here is that the poverty rate for single-mother families in 2013 was 39.6 percent, nearly five times higher than the 7.6 percent rate for married-couple families. The result? Most homeless families—about 85 percent—in the U.S. are headed by a single mother. *(Source: The Hidden Homeless)*
 - Parents identified the following factors as contributing to being their being homeless:
 - Income too low – 64 percent
 - Unemployment – 58 percent
 - Rent too high – 44 percent
 - Eviction due to missed rent– 33 percent
 - Health or disability condition – 14 percent
 - Mental health condition – 14 percent

(Participants could identify more than one barrier to secure housing, so percentages add up to more than 100 percent. *(Source: The Hidden Homeless)*)

Additional Considerations

Disproportionalities Resulting from Systemic Racism

- Infants of color are 2-3 more likely to experience crowded housing than their white peers. ([Source: Zero to Three, 2020](#)).
- In 2019, 55% of families living in federally-funded homeless shelters were Black, and 29.4% were Hispanic/Latino. ([Source: HUD, 2019](#))
- Black high school students are 2.67 times more likely to experience homelessness, and that Hispanic high school students are 1.68 times more likely to experience homelessness, than white students. ([Source: SHC, 2019](#))

Source: Schoolhouse Connection

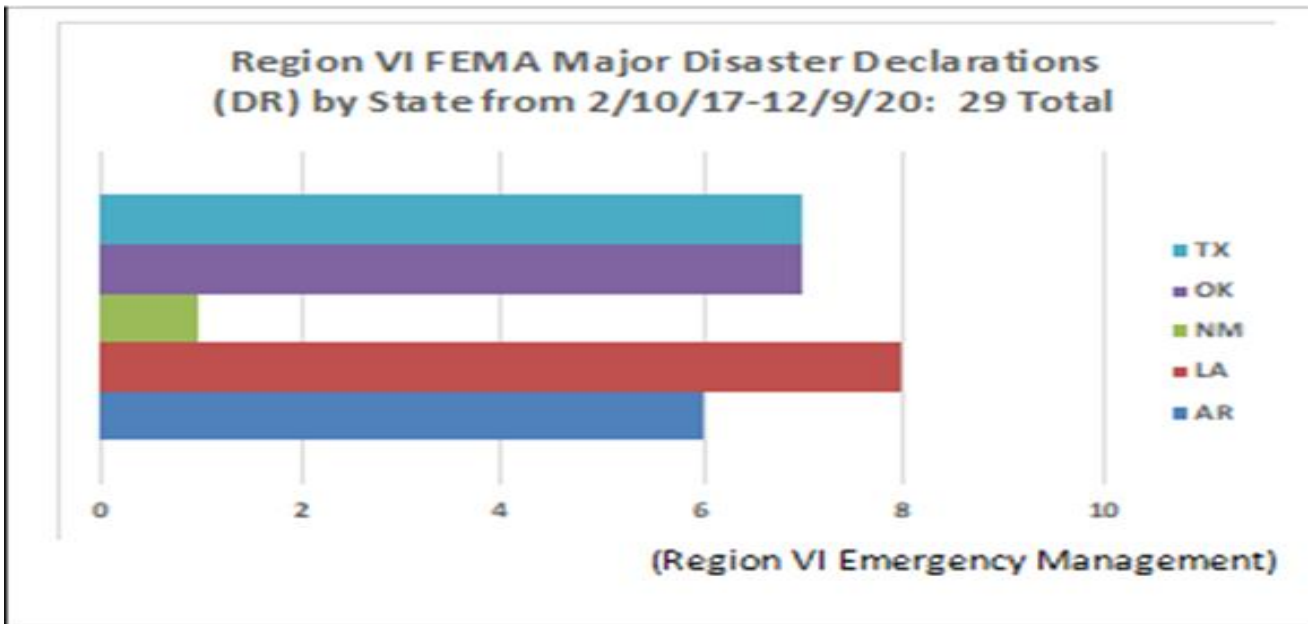
Impact of COVID-19 on Family Homelessness

- Fewer shelter beds/shelters due to social distancing
- Eviction moratoria fail to protect most (families in motels, families staying with others)
- Many working parents are essential workers
- Impact of school closures: challenges of identification, staying in touch
- More families likely to experience homelessness: economy + family stress

Source: Schoolhouse Connection

“To ensure optimal outcomes for infants and toddlers, all early childhood professionals who touch the lives of young children must join efforts, explore cross-sector collaboration strategies, and lead next and best practices in coordinated service delivery to change for the better the trajectories of our most vulnerable young children and families. Furthermore, across the country, State leaders are identifying, piloting, and continuously improving practices and partnerships that lead to effective collaborations between ECE and child welfare systems.” Programs must reach out to non-traditional partners. *Source: ECE Child Welfare- August 2011*

Pro-Active Preparation for Unknown Natural Disasters



Definitions: DR=Major Declaration (longer term disaster recovery assistance approved)

- FEMA IA= Individual Assistance. Provides limited shelter, housing, financial, or other help directly to eligible survivors in households
- FEMA PA= Public Assistance. Aids eligible state/local governments and non-profits to save lives, protect property, and help restore infrastructure after a declared disaster

Region VI PIR Data

- In 2020, 100% (503) of Region VI counties/parishes declared for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) in response to COVID-19. IA allows Crisis Counseling only.
- In response to natural disasters, between 2/10/17 – 12/9/20:
 - 88% (445) of counties/parishes in AR, LA, OK, and TX declared for PA. with 44% in LA
 - 32% (160) of Region VI counties/parishes declared for IA.
 - NM is the only state with no declarations related to natural disasters.
 - Some counties/parishes may have received IA or PA more than once in one year due to multiple disaster declarations for different events.

Summary

When looking at the number of homeless families across our region and focusing on those with children ages birth to five, more needs to be done to serve these children. Research indicates that the most underserved population nationwide are children ages birth to five. Head Start and Early Head Start programs are poised to be at the forefront of locating and providing services to homeless children, birth to five and their families. In addition to supporting education and development of children, the health and family wrap around services are also instrumental to helping these families. A research study of Houston Homeless, to identify barriers to employment revealed that there is considerable interest and motivation to secure employment. Medical or health problems were found to be a major barrier to obtaining and maintaining employment. The study noted that “health problems” were not a euphemism for substance abuse, however it

was reported as one of the other barriers along with the fact of being classified as homeless and the availability of proper clothing and equipment needed to successfully prepare for interviews.

Questions? /Considerations

- With such a low percentage of homeless families being served by Head Start and EHS Programs, do agency's policies/practices presume housing stability
- How are families being contacted when a spot opens? Are programs prepared to track families that are mobile within the community?
- Are homeless families being given the highest priority in the selection process? One program in Region VI that places a high priority on homelessness reported 36% of their EHS enrollment homeless, compared to 6% in Texas overall (from the 2018) state profile.
- Are programs partnering with homeless shelters in their community?
- Is transportation to and from shelters offered?
- As an intentional strategy to serve homeless children, are home-based services planned/offered to families waiting for slots to open? Or to pregnant moms?
- Are programs prioritizing caseloads? Family Advocates often have high caseloads and a wide range of responsibilities that have less to do with individual family services and can be more administrative, leaving less time to do the kind of intensive case management and attendance follow-up that many homeless families need.
- Are programs reluctant or not prepared to accept the additional challenge that comes with serving this most vulnerable population? Lower attendance numbers and lower developmental achievement scores, which of course homeless children with erratic attendance have, can result in lower outcomes for children, which gets programs into trouble with OHS oversight thus causing a "disincentive" to serve homeless children.

Next Steps

- Develop a 5 -year Plan of Action to support grantees to have a better understanding on how to serve homeless children and families through a better understanding and more intentional planning. (attached)
- Utilize the Homelessness Toolkit materials on the ECLKC as well as materials for collaborative partners that also have resources
- Collaborate with the Health, Mental Health and Family Services Specialists to strengthen support resources as they overlap within each areas scope of work.

“Aim as high as realistically possible. If there is a will there is a way.”

