



UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

BEST PRACTICES & RESOURCES
FOR AID ADMINISTRATORS

Three FAFSA Questions about homelessness (date driven):

- **56.** Is student an unaccompanied homeless youth as determined **by high school/homeless liaison?**
- **57.** Is student an unaccompanied homeless youth as determined by **HUD-funded shelter/housing program?**
- **58.** Is student an unaccompanied homeless youth as determined by **director of homeless youth/transitional living center?**



CCRAA

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 established that unaccompanied homeless youth qualify as independent students for purposes of federal financial aid.

McKinney-Vento Act

Definition of Homeless Students: 42 U.S.C. § 11434A(2)(B)(i)

Individuals whose nighttime residence is NOT:

Fixed

Stationary,
permanent,
and not subject
to change

Adequate

Sufficient for meeting
both the physical
and psychological
needs typically met
in the home

Regular

Used on a
predictable,
routine, or
consistent basis

In other words:

Can the student go to the
SAME PLACE to sleep in a
SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE
EVERY NIGHT?

Definition of Unaccompanied:

Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; in practical terms, this means the youth does not live with the parent or guardian.

Two Step Process:

1. Does the student's living arrangement meet McKinney-Vento Act's definition of "homeless?"
2. If yes, can the student be considered as "unaccompanied?"



If student cannot answer “Yes” to one of the homeless questions but is still homeless and unaccompanied or at risk of being homeless, or is unaccompanied and providing for own living expenses, then the financial aid administrator can make homeless determination in Dependency Override section on CPS:



56. Is Student an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth as Determined by High School/Homeless Liaison?	No	Select ▼
57. Is Student an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth as Determined by HUD?	No	Select ▼
58. Is Student an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth as Determined by Director of Homeless Youth Center?	No	Select ▼
Dependency Override:		Select ▼
Step Four: Parental Information		Selected ISIR Value (Transaction #01) Select FAA override from dependent to independent FAA homeless youth determination

FAAs should determine if the student is unaccompanied and homeless or at risk of being so without regard for why the student is homeless.

Note: *In September 2017, ED made changes to the definition of “youth” as it pertains to homelessness.*

Beginning with the 2018-2019 cycle, students who are older than 21 but not yet 24 may qualify as independent students if they can answer “Yes” to FAFSA questions 56, 57, or 58.

Previously, applicants who were 22 or 23 could not self-identify on the FAFSA that they were homeless or at risk. The edits no longer make assumptions that an applicant is not homeless because s/he is over 21. Comment 297, which notified FAAs and applicants that ED assumed the applicant was a homeless youth, was also deleted.



- FAAs are NOT required to verify the answers to homeless youth questions **UNLESS** there is conflicting info, but many schools require verification of the status if homelessness is the only reason the student is independent.
- If a student receives a determination from a local liaison, RHYA- or HUD-funded shelter or transitional living program, the FAA must accept this determination.
- There is NO official federal form required, but NCHE and NAECHY have forms to aid in documenting student's status.

McKinney-Vento

Unaccompanied youth have the same rights as other students experiencing homelessness

Unaccompanied youth have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians

- *Over half report being physically abused at home*
- *Over one-third report sexual abuse*
- *Over two-thirds report that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol*



HOMELESS YOUTH IN WYOMING

2016-17

K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

93,261

ESTIMATED CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6

46,392

K-12 CHILDREN EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS

1,924

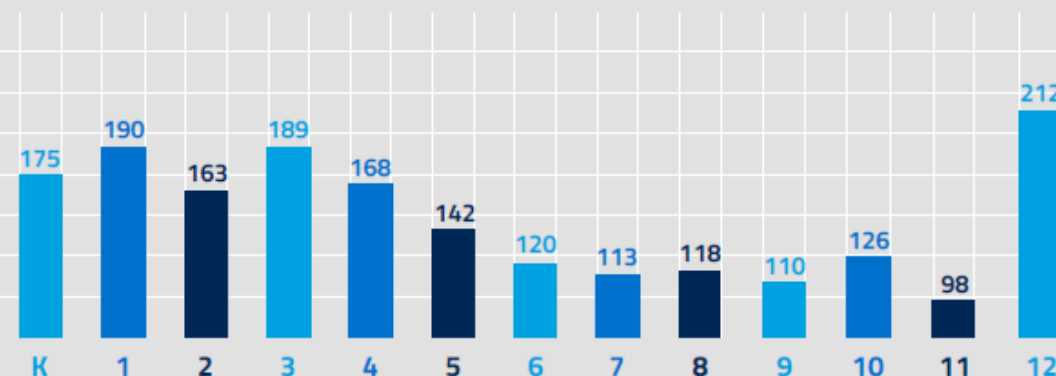
ESTIMATED CHILDREN UNDER AGE
6 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1,527

UNACCOMPANIED
HOMELESS YOUTH

295

NUMBER OF HOMELESS K-12 CHILDREN/YOUTH BY GRADE LEVEL



PRIMARY NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE

Shelters, Transitional
Housing

511

Doubled-up (e.g.
sharing housing due to
economic hardship)

1,190

Unsheltered (e.g. cars,
parks, campgrounds, or
abandoned buildings)

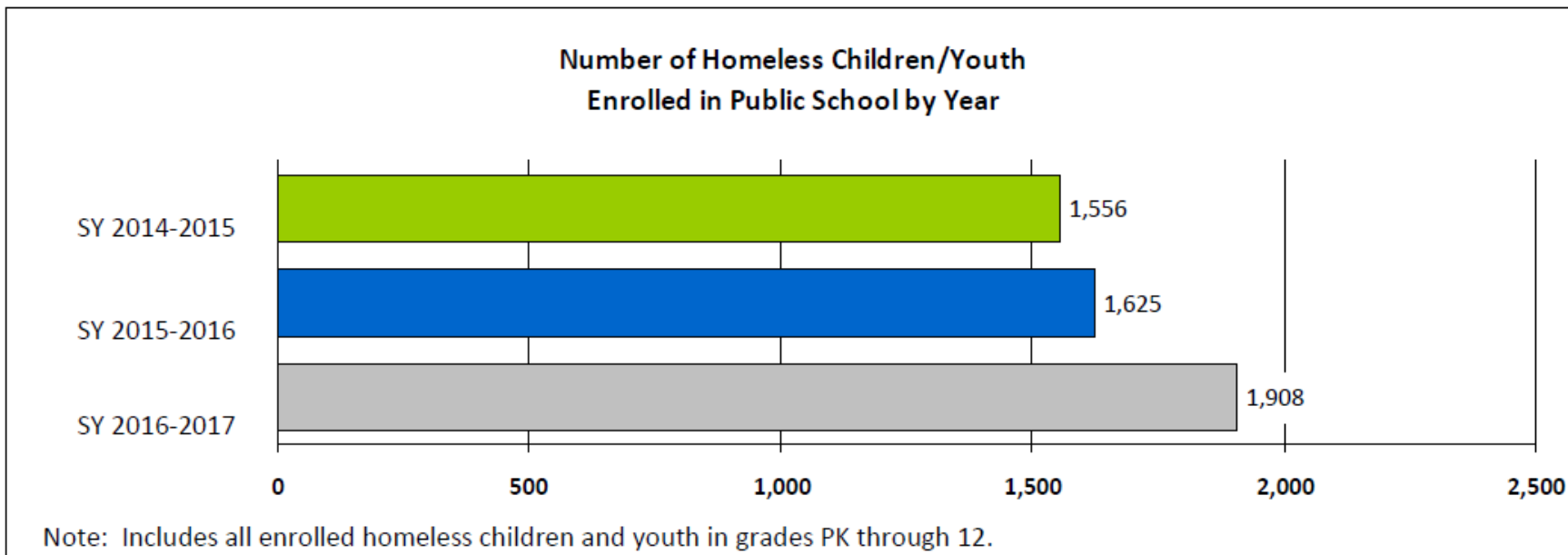
24

Hotels/Motels

199

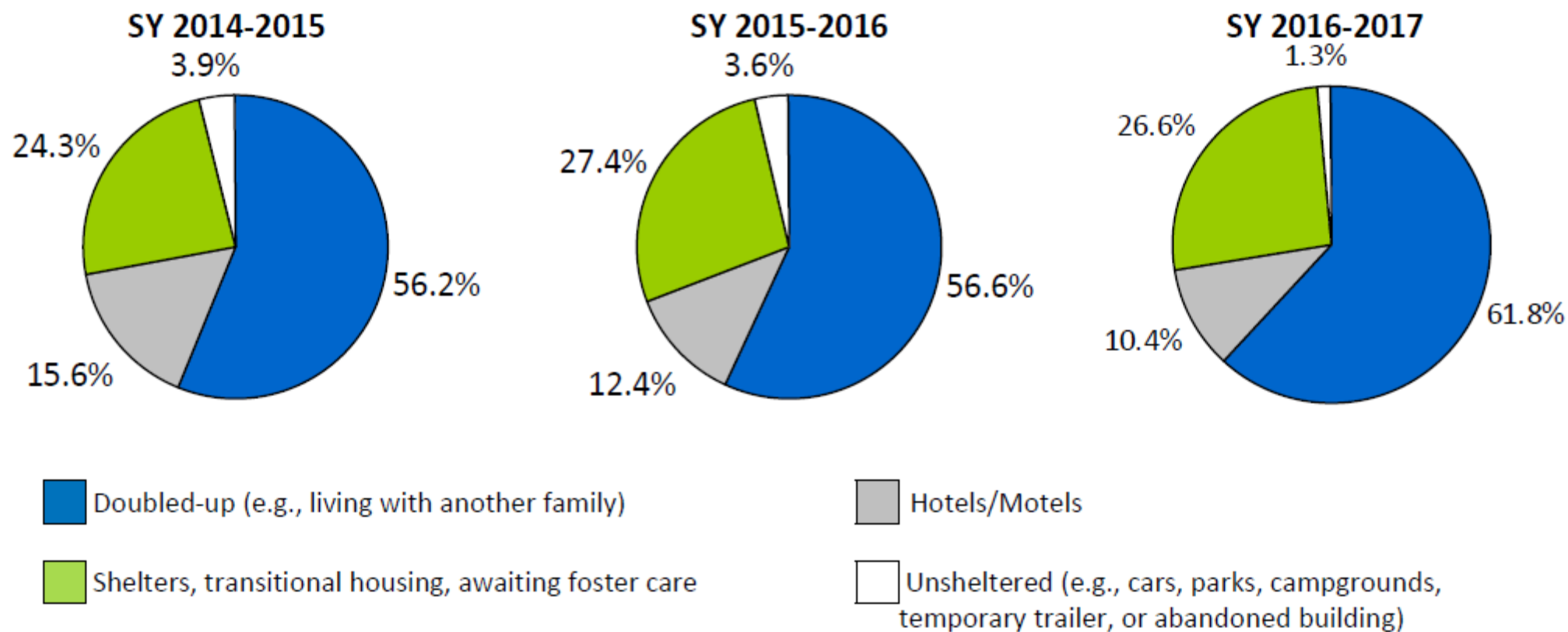
WYOMING

All data presented here are drawn from the most recently available years of the U.S. Department of Education's ED Facts Initiative unless otherwise noted. To learn more about the ED Facts Initiative, visit: www.ED.gov/EDFacts



Subgroups of Homeless Children/Youth			
Number of homeless children/youth enrolled in public schools who are:			
	SY 2014-2015	SY 2015-2016	SY 2016-2017
Migratory children/youth	0	4	0
Unaccompanied homeless youth		1,625	242
Children with disabilities (IDEA)	300	283	396
Limited English Proficient (LEP) students	83	107	107
Note: These subgroups are not mutually exclusive. It is possible for homeless students to be counted in more than one subgroup.			

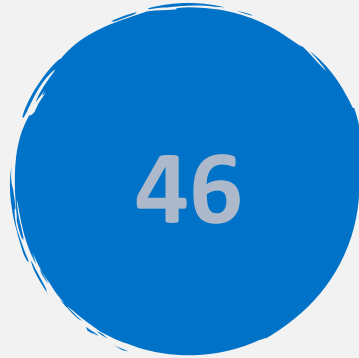
Percentage of homeless children/youth enrolled in public schools by type of primary nighttime residence



National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE



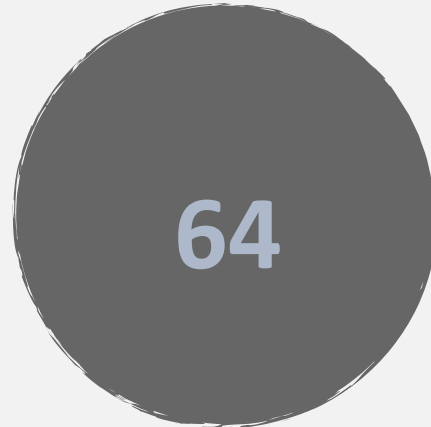
2013-2014



2014-2015



2015-2016



2016-2017

Wyoming's Homeless College Students

As reported for FAFSA on the
Web applicants only

*(according to National Center
for Homeless Education stats)*

National stats for homeless federal aid applicants *(from NCHE)*

Table 1. Homelessness determinants for unaccompanied homeless youth

Application Cycle	High School or School District	HUD Program	Youth or Transitional Program	School Financial Aid Administrator Determinant	Sum of Determined Requests for Homeless Consideration	Undetermined Requests for Homeless Consideration
2013-2014	18,214	4,430	5,686	1,382	29,712	26,452
2014-2015	22,438	4,156	3,872	1,739	32,205	30,010
2015-2016	22,435	3,822	3,506	2,185	31,948	27,243
2016-2017	23,053	3,571	3,323	2,792	32,739	24,902

Note: The counts in this report include only a portion of federal aid applicants who might be homeless and should not be construed to be representative of the entire population of homeless applicants. Additionally, year to year changes in homelessness reported here do not necessarily represent trends in homeless populations.

Resources:

Fee waivers are available for homeless students for:

Advanced Placement (AP) exams

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/waivers/guidelines/ap>

College entrance exams

- ACT: <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf>
- SAT: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers>

College application fees

- College Board: <https://satresourcecenter.collegeboard.org/college-application-fee-waivers>
- NACAC: <http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver/Pages/default.aspx>

Also contact your Educational Opportunity Center representative for possible fee waivers and other assistance for homeless students

Resources:

National Center for Homeless Education: <http://center.serve.org/nche/>

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth :
<http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed>

FSA Homeless Youth Fact Sheet:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/061016AvaloftheFSAHomelessYouthFactSheetonStudentaidgov.html>

FSA Foster Care Transition Toolkit: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/youth-transition-toolkit.pdf>

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/>

DISCUSSION