

## *Youth Homelessness*

Compiled by Laura Lay, April 2013

[www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm)

Youth Homelessness in the United States affects an estimated 1.6 million youth between the ages of 12 and 17 each year. Homeless youth are individuals under the age of 18 who lack parental, foster, or institutional care. These young people are sometimes referred to as “unaccompanied” youth. Homeless youth face many challenges on the streets. Few homeless youth are housed in emergency shelters as a result of lack of shelter beds for youth, shelter admission policies, and a preference for greater independence. Because of their age, homeless youth have few legal means by which they can earn enough money to meet basic needs. This bibliography provides resources related to the causes, consequences, and scope of youth homelessness and an overview of related programs and policies.

- Anft, Michael. “Gay and Homeless Can Be a Tough Sell to Grant Makers.” *Chronicle of Philanthropy* 25, no. 1 (2012): 41. Available full text through [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net).  
Research finds that gay and transgender youth are over-represented among homeless youth, comprising anywhere between 20 and 39 percent of the total homeless youth population even though they make up less than 10 percent of the overall youth population.
- Bernstein, Nell, and Lisa K. Foster. *Voices from the Street: A Survey of Homeless Youth by Their Peers*. Sacramento, CA: California State Library, California Research Bureau, 2008. [www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-004.pdf](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-004.pdf).  
“Results from a California Research Bureau conducted survey of over 200 interviews of homeless and formerly homeless youth across the state. The youth interviewed describe their experiences – how they became homeless, what life on the street is like, their interactions with police, their education and aspirations, their mental health experiences, how they go about getting help – the services they need, and the changes they would like to see happen in policy or law.”
- Edwards, Mark Evan, Melissa Torgerson, and Jennifer Sattem. “Paradoxes of Providing Rural Social Services: The Case of Homeless Youth.” *Rural Sociology* 74, no. 3 (September 2009): 330. Available full text through [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net).  
“Economic and demographic changes in rural areas continue to introduce big-city problems in small towns. These communities’ ability and willingness to respond are likely to be influenced by the geography, culture, and array of organizations in rural places. But how these characteristics of rural places shape local response is hard to predict and as yet unexplored. This article reports data from interviews with social-service providers and homeless youth in a rural county in the northwestern United States.”
- Ensign, Josephine. “Health and Human Rights of Homeless Youth.” In *Homelessness in America: Faces of Homelessness*. Edited by Robert Hartmann McNamara. 3 vols: 157-174. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2008. (361.3/M23/pt.1)
- Hendricks, George, and William Barkley. “Necessary, But Not Sufficient: The McKinney-Vento Act and Academic Achievement in North Carolina.” *Children & Schools* 34, no. 3 (2012): 179-185. Available full text through [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net).  
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 (MCKV), which provides funds to local educational agencies, is almost a decade old, yet no evaluations of its academic effectiveness have been reported. This report discusses whether homeless students in grade six who received MCKV funding scored better in reading comprehension and mathematics on end-of-grade test scores than did those who did not receive MCKV funding.
- Hill, Rebecca A. “When the Library is the Only Place that You Have to Go.” *Voice of Youth Advocates* 35, no. 6 (February 2013): 538-539. [http://media.wix.com/ugd//2d3a6f\\_5f1fa1295387cc1bb5835794b2179b81.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd//2d3a6f_5f1fa1295387cc1bb5835794b2179b81.pdf).
- Hyatt, Shahera. *More Than a Roof: How California Can End Youth Homelessness*. Sacramento, CA: California State Library, California Research Bureau, 2013. <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/More-Than-a-Roof-FINAL.pdf>.  
A plan to address youth homelessness at the state-level, aiming to reduce the number of youth currently experiencing homelessness, preventing new cases of homelessness, and creating a system to provide safe and stable housing for unaccompanied youth.
- Julianelle, Patricia. *Housing + High School = Success: Schools and Communities Uniting to House Unaccompanied Youth: 2012 Update: New Successes, New Challenges*. Minneapolis, MN: National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, 2012. [www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/housing-high-school-success](http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/housing-high-school-success).  
This publication highlights seven communities in which McKinney-Vento school district liaisons and community partners worked together to provide housing to unaccompanied youth, discussing the highlights and obstacles of the programs.
- Katel, Peter. “Housing the Homeless: Is the Solution More Shelters or Affordable Housing?” *CQ Researcher* 19, no. 44 (2009): 1054-1075. (361.3/C761d)

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## Continued

- McNamara, Robert Hartmann. "Shadow Kids: Runaway and Homeless Youth in the United States." In *Homelessness in America: Faces of Homelessness*. Edited by Robert Hartmann McNamara. 3 vols: 141-155. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2008. (361.3/M23/pt.1)
- Murphy, Joseph F., and Kerri J. Tobin. "Homelessness Comes to School: How Homeless Children and Youths Can Succeed." *Phi Delta Kappan* 93, no. 3 (November 2011): 32-37. Available full text through [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net).
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. *Beds Not Buses: Housing vs. Transportation for Homeless Students*. Washington, DC: National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty, 2011. [www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/HousingvTransport.pdf](http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/HousingvTransport.pdf).  
This report explores the idea that providing affordable housing to homeless families is more cost-effective than providing federally mandated transportation for homeless students.
- Nunez, Ralph da Costa. "A Shelter is Not a Home... Or Is It? New Communities of Opportunity." In *Homelessness in America: Solutions to Homelessness*. Edited by Robert Hartmann McNamara. 3 vols: 17-29. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2008. (361.3/M23/pt.3)
- Perl, Libby, et al. *Homelessness: Targeted Federal Programs and Recent Legislation*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 2012. [www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30442.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30442.pdf).  
With very little affordable housing being built, shelters have become one of the only housing options low-income families have. This article discusses how shelters may be the twenty-first century's version of affordable housing.
- Quintana, Nico Sifra, Josh Rosenthal, and Jeff Krehley. *On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth*. Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, 2010. [www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/issues/2010/06/pdf/lgbtyouthhomelessness.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/issues/2010/06/pdf/lgbtyouthhomelessness.pdf).  
Discusses steps the federal government can take to reduce the incidence of gay and transgender youth homelessness and improve services offered to this population.
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *Confidential Services Available to Youth in Wisconsin*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2008. <http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/files/sspw/pdf/confid.pdf>.
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *Number of Students Identified as Homeless Reported by the School District on the ESEA Consolidated Application as of 2/10/10 Sorted by Alpha District Name*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Education of Homeless Children and Youth, 2010. <http://worldcat.org/oclc/613678371/viewonline>.  
Information can also be found sorted by CESA and by county: <http://worldcat.org/oclc/613682718/viewonline> and <http://worldcat.org/oclc/613698485/viewonline>.
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *Ten Strategies School Districts Can Use to Help Homeless Students*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, n.d. <http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/files/homeless/pdf/ten-strategies-sch-dist.pdf>.
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *2007-2008 Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility Program Statistics*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Education of Homeless Children and Youth, 2010. <http://worldcat.org/oclc/613682759/viewonline>.
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *2006-07 McKinney-Vento Funded Statistics*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Education of Homeless Children and Youth, 2007. <http://worldcat.org/oclc/613682743/viewonline>.
- Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness. *Plan to End Homelessness in Wisconsin: "Homeward Wisconsin"*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2007. (HFS/H/s) (library use only) <http://worldcat.org/oclc/317484326/viewonline>.

### Related Web Sites

- National Alliance to End Homelessness. "An Emerging Framework for Ending Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness." Accessed March 19, 2013. [www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/an-emerging-framework-for-ending-unaccompanied-youth-homelessness](http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/an-emerging-framework-for-ending-unaccompanied-youth-homelessness).
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
- "Legislative Updates." Accessed March 19, 2013. [www.naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/legislative-updates](http://www.naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/legislative-updates).
  - "Unaccompanied Youth Toolkit for Shelters and Service Providers." Accessed March 19, 2013. [www.naehcy.org/toolkit-shelters](http://www.naehcy.org/toolkit-shelters).
- National Coalition for the Homeless. "Homeless Youth." Accessed March 13, 2013. [www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/youth.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/youth.html).
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "Unaccompanied Youth." Accessed March 19, 2013. <http://wiki.nlchp.org/display/Manual/Unaccompanied+Youth>.
- Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services.
- "Wisconsin Second Chance Homes." Accessed March 4, 2013. <http://wahrs.org/secondChanceHomes.html>.
  - "Wisconsin Homeless and Runaway Youth Programs." Accessed March 4, 2013. <http://wahrs.org/youthPrograms.html>.
  - "State Statute 48.227, Runaway Homes." Accessed March 4, 2013. <http://wahrs.org/stateStatute.html>.

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