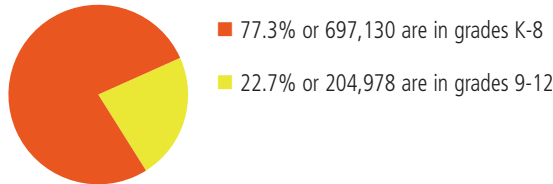


II. Snapshot of Child Homelessness

Extent of Child Homelessness Approximately 1,555,360 children living in families had no place to call home in 2005-2006.

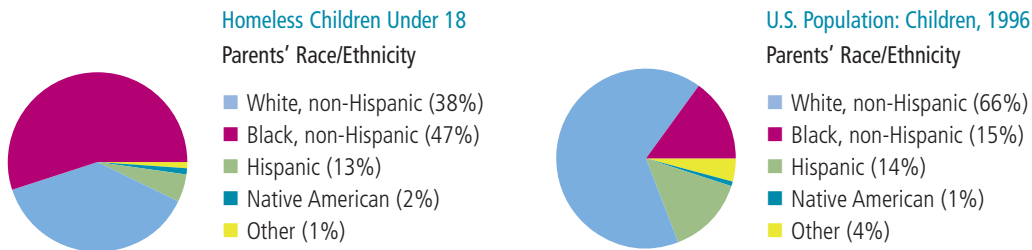
Age Forty-two percent (approximately 650,000 children) of homeless children are under the age of 6 years, compared to just 34% of all American children.

902,108 homeless children are school-aged and enrolled in school. Of these children:



Race/Ethnicity African-American and Native American children are disproportionately represented among homeless children.

Characteristics of Children under 18 Living with a Homeless Parent and the U.S. Population of Children: Parents' Race/Ethnicity¹⁸

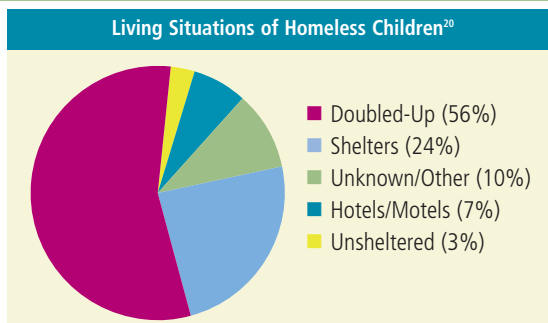


Race/Ethnicity of Sheltered Homeless Persons in Families and Poor Persons in Families¹⁹

Characteristics	Percentage of Sheltered Homeless Persons in Families	Percentage of Poor Persons in Families
Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic, non-Latino (all races)	78.2	69.2
Hispanic, Latino (all races)	21.8	30.8
Race		
White, non-Hispanic, non-Latino (nonminority)	21.3	36.3
White Hispanic, Latino	9.8	15.6
Black or African American	55.2	26.2
Asian	0.7	3.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4.9	1.8
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.2
Some other (alone)	n/a	13.8
Several races	7.3	3.1

Health More than one in seven homeless children have moderate to severe health conditions, including:

- Asthma: Almost one in nine homeless children are reported to have one or more asthma-related health conditions.
- Traumatic Stress: Almost one in 18 homeless children are members of families where adults hit or throw things.
- Emotional Disturbance: One in six homeless children suffer from emotional disturbances.

Residential Status**Educational Outcomes**

- Proficiency rates for homeless children in reading and math are on average 16% lower than the scores for all students.
- Less than one in four homeless children graduates from high school.

Loss in Lifetime Earnings

- Students who drop out of high school earn on average \$200,000 less over their lifetime than high school graduates.
- Approximately 1,166,520 of today's homeless children will not graduate from high school. These children stand to lose over \$230 billion in lifetime earnings.

Case Study: The Impact of Homelessness on a Child

For Jayden's mother, Suzanna, homelessness started with abuse. She is 24 years old, married, and the single mother of three. The walls of Jayden's room failed to protect him from the sights and sounds of his father threatening and beating his mother. After six years, it finally became too much. Concerned for their safety, Suzanna fled with Jayden and his siblings first to a domestic violence shelter and ultimately to a different state.

The family found refuge in an emergency shelter where Suzanna and her three children shared one room. Soon after arriving, Jayden developed an unrelenting cough that required several trips to the emergency room. Ultimately, Jayden was diagnosed with asthma and depression, for which he was prescribed medication...and a home for his family.

The experience of homelessness had taken a toll on Jayden's physical and emotional health. Asthma triggers pervaded Jayden's environment. He grew tired of his inhaler – his constant companion. His emergency room visits grew more frequent. Coughing and breathing difficulties limited his ability to play, talk, and sleep comfortably. Suzanna's homelessness made it difficult for her to access the services needed to address her central concern – Jayden's asthma.

Jayden feels excluded from the community in which he grew up. Emotionally isolated, he has had difficulty connecting with his peers at school. While Jayden is aware that the search for safety spurred his family's move, he still longs for the life that he has lost. He blames himself for their presence in the shelter and apologized to his mother for being unable to prevent his father's violence. Nightmares plague his sleep along with the pervasive fear that his father will return. His ailments interfere with school attendance and homework.

Jayden hopes his family will find a better life. His future depends in part on legislators and public leaders far away from the little room where he coughs his way through the night.