

LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR REACHING FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

February 8, 2023



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RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

Why Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood?

- Connect with your peers to problem solve, learn new strategies and share opportunities and challenges to your prenatal-to-three work
- Learn from experts at the local, state and national level
- Find resources on issues across the prenatal-to-three spectrum including child care, home visiting, infant/toddler mental health, prenatal and peri-natal health, economic supports for families and more
- Share your county's wins with peers and have the chance to be highlighted in the Counties for Kids newsletter, blog posts and webinars and events

How to Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

Visit www.ncitxchange.org/pn-3-leaders-champions/counties-for-kids and sign in to or create an account.

Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions

Counties for Kids

[Discussions](#) [HELP DESK](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [Members](#) [Topics](#)



Welcome to the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

The National Association of Counties Research Foundation has created this virtual space for county leaders interested in prenatal-to-three to come together and ask questions, share best practices and learn from experts and each other. This neighborhood is part of the [Counties for Kids](#) initiative and created in partnership with the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

If you need focused help with a problem, link to [I NEED HELP!](#)

[Start A Discussion](#)

[I NEED HELP!](#)

How to Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

Keep today’s conversation going!

This week! Local Strategies for Reaching Families and Young Children Experiencing Homelessness



Arabella Pluta-Ehlers 40.136.79.122 21 hours ago

Hello all, in case you missed it, we'll be hosting our first webinar of the year this week, **Local Strategies for Reaching Families and Young Children Experiencing Homelessness**. We will hear from partners at SchoolHouse Connection as well as a local leaders in Sacramento County, Calif. and northwestern Pennsylvania. The webinar will be held at 2pm ET on Feb. 8.

We are looking forward to a great discussion during the webinar and I encourage you all to use this forum to continue the conversation. Some questions to consider:

- What were your key takeaways from the webinar? What are you taking back to your county?
- What questions do you still have about infant/toddler homelessness?
- What's happening in your county that you want to share?

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Agenda

Local Strategies for Reaching Families and Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Opening Remarks
- Presentation: Increasing Access to Early Learning for Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness
- County Presentations
- Facilitated Discussion
- Audience Q&A



Speakers



Erin Patterson

Director of Education Initiatives
SchoolHouse Connection



Emily Halcon

Director, Department of
Homeless Services and Housing
Sacramento County, Calif.



Wendy Kinnear

Regional Coordination
Pennsylvania's Education for
Children and Youth Experiencing
Homelessness Program



Increasing Access to Early Learning for **Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness**

February 8, 2023

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

Definitions

Overview

Impact

Objectives

Overview

DEFINITION

Who is Eligible?

Children and youth
who lack a fixed,
regular, and adequate
nighttime residence.



Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.



Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.



Living in emergency or transitional shelters.



Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

CROSS-SECTOR FRAMEWORK

PUBLIC PRE-K

McKinney-Vento Act requires liaisons to proactively identify children and youth experiencing homelessness and ensure enrollment in Head Start and ECE programs. For public PreK, provides immediate enrollment, stability, transportation.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

Categorical eligibility for homeless families. Also requires proactive outreach, grace periods for immunizations, prioritized enrollment. Allows programs to reserve slots.

CHILD CARE

Requires prioritization, use of funds for outreach and enrollment of homeless families, expedited enrollment.

HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

Requires programs serving families to designate a staff person to ensure enrollment in early childhood programs and school.

Families often stay with others temporarily because of lack of shelter availability, and the fear of having children removed from their custody.

Staying with others puts families, infants, and toddlers in vulnerable, harmful situations, and, conditions that may contribute to developmental delays. Parents may stay with abusive/exploitive people, or trade sex in order to have a place to stay.





DEFINITION

Unaccompanied Youth

A child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.



Youth run away from home due to abuse or neglect.

- 40-60% of unaccompanied youth were abused physically at home.
- 17-25% of unaccompanied youth were abused sexually at home.
- Research links parental substance abuse and youth running away from home



Parents force youth out of the home due to conflicts.

- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Pregnancy

DATA

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

1.3 MILLION

babies, toddlers, and young children
under age 6 experienced homelessness
in 2018-2019

(USED 2018-2019 Profiles)

44% of young women (age 18-25) and 18%
of young men experiencing homelessness
are current or expectant parents to over

1.1 MILLION young children

([Chapin Hall](#), University of Chicago)

DATA

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

15.4%

Of infants and toddlers live in crowded housing, which is known to jeopardize child development. 2.9% of babies and toddlers have moved three or more times since birth.

[State of Babies Yearbook 2022 \(Zero to Three\)](#)

Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black Babies

Have a higher incidence of living in crowded housing, and low-income babies are nearly three times more likely to live in crowded housing.

CONSEQUENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness Has Serious Consequences for Young Children



Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.



The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.



The impacts of homelessness on young children are long-lasting, even once families are housed, including on children's school readiness.

CONSEQUENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness Also Has Long- Term Consequences



The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is **68% compared to 85% for all students**. This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.



High school students who experience homelessness are **10x more likely to become pregnant or get someone pregnant**.



In addition to the academic impacts, homelessness in the early years can cause **developmental delays, social-emotional challenges, and long-term trauma**.

BARRIERS TO HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness Creates Barriers to Accessing Early Childhood Programs



High Mobility of families moving in and out of motels, staying with others, living in cars, etc.



Lack of documentation and other enrollment barriers, including child immunization and parent work requirements

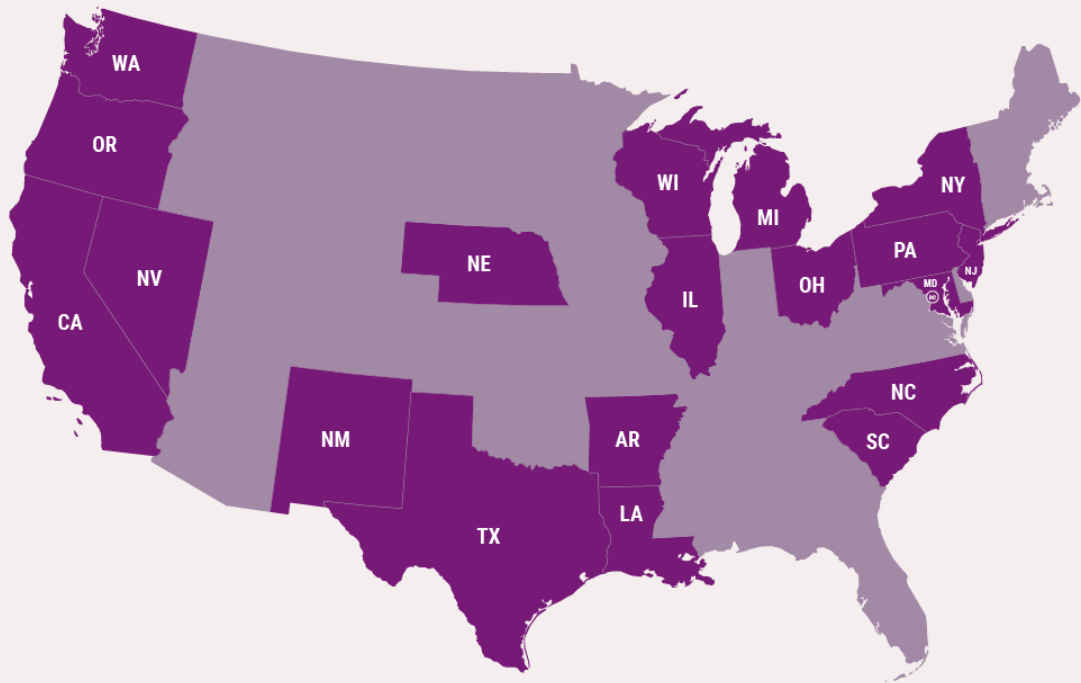


Lack of transportation to and from programs



Lack of awareness among early care providers of both the definition of homelessness and the best ways to reach families

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness



Across all 20 states, there are approximately 311,961 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.



22,220, or 7%, are currently identified and served by an early childhood program.



That means there are 289,741 who are **not identified and/or enrolled in an early childhood program**

Key Takeaways

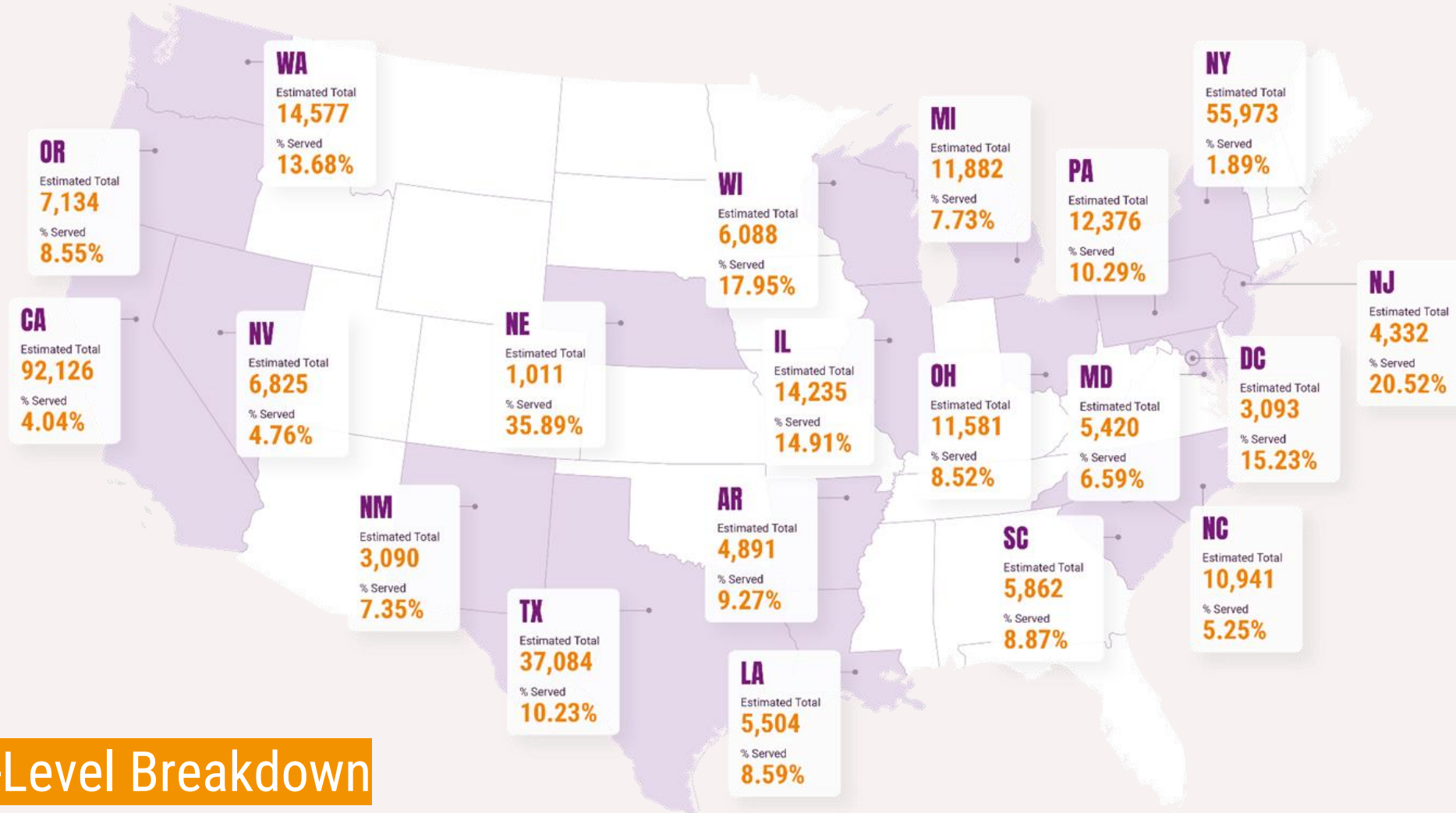
- 1 An estimated 311,961 infants and toddlers experienced homelessness across the 20 states analyzed during the 2020-2021 school year, representing approximately 3% of the 0-3 population.
- 2 Only 7% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness were enrolled in an early childhood program (Early Head Start, Child Care, or Parents as Teachers Home Visiting) in 2020-2021.
- 3 Of the three early childhood programs for which data was available, Early Head Start has the highest enrollment rate of children experiencing homelessness (4.2%)
- 4 Across the 20 states, there is significant variation in the enrollment rates of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment

Key Takeaways



State-Level Breakdown

Enrollment

Across 20 states:

Child Care Programs

enroll 2.3% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

Early Head Start Programs

enrolls 4.2% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

Home Visiting Programs (Parents as Teachers)

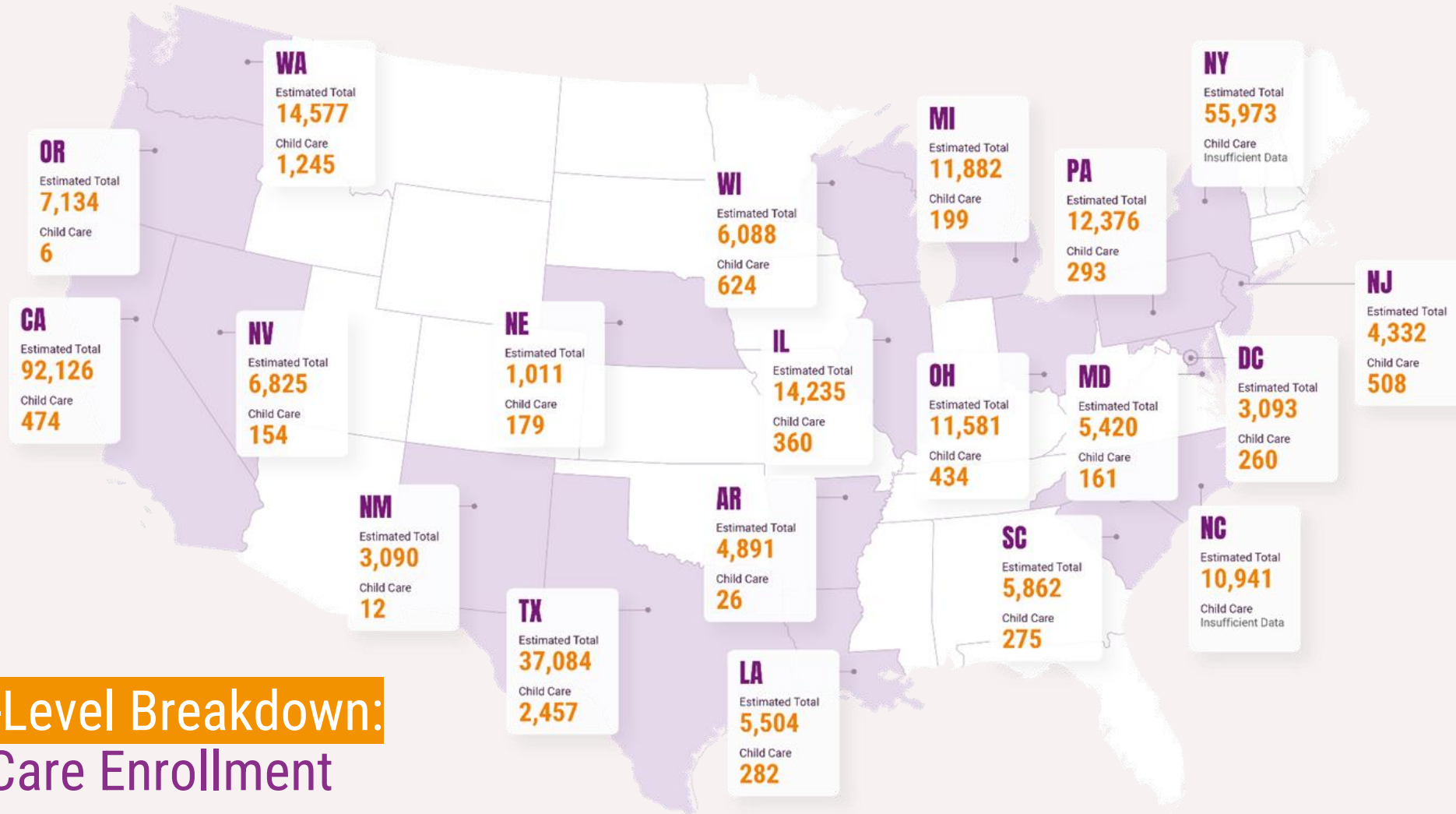
enroll 1% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment

Key Takeaways



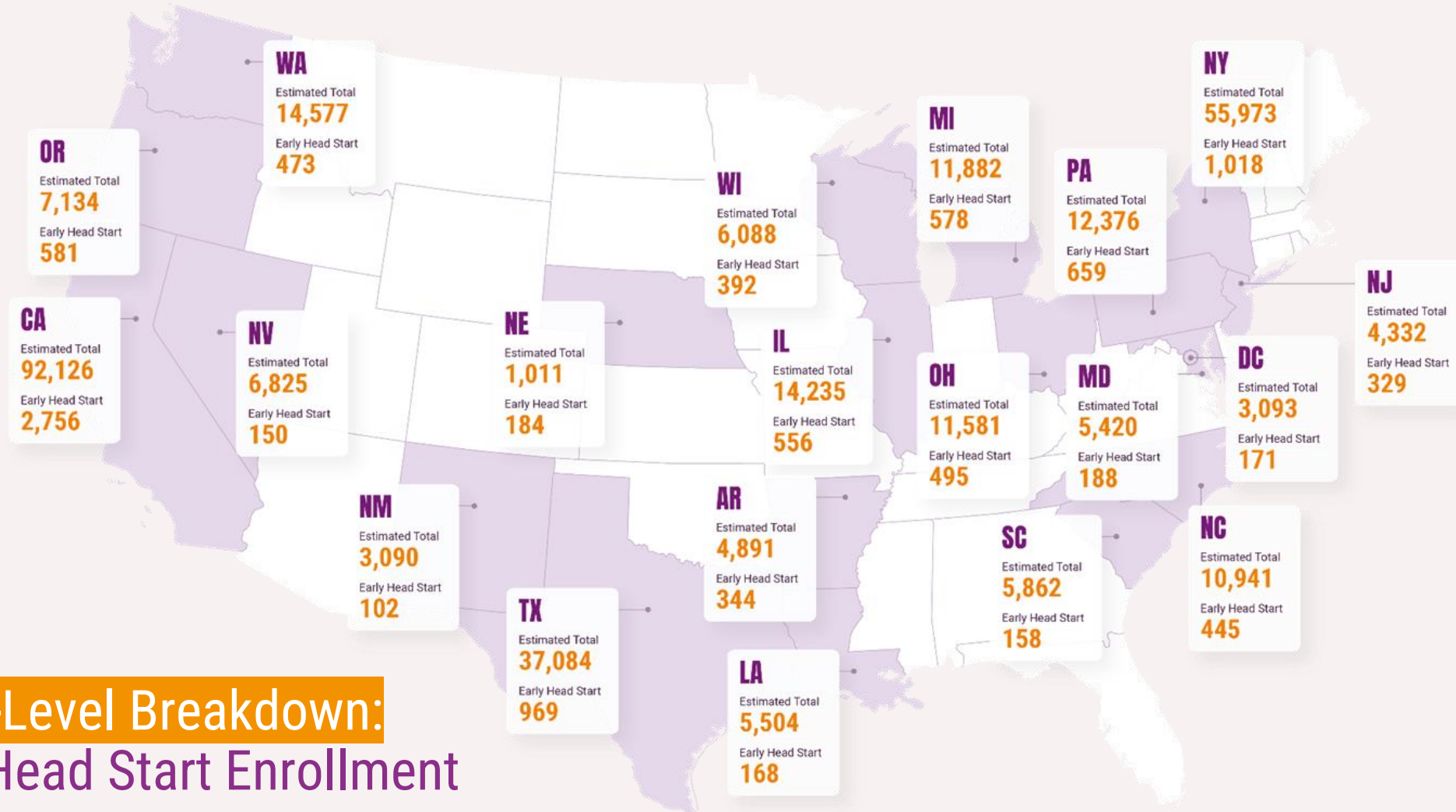
State-Level Breakdown: Child Care Enrollment

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment

Key Takeaways



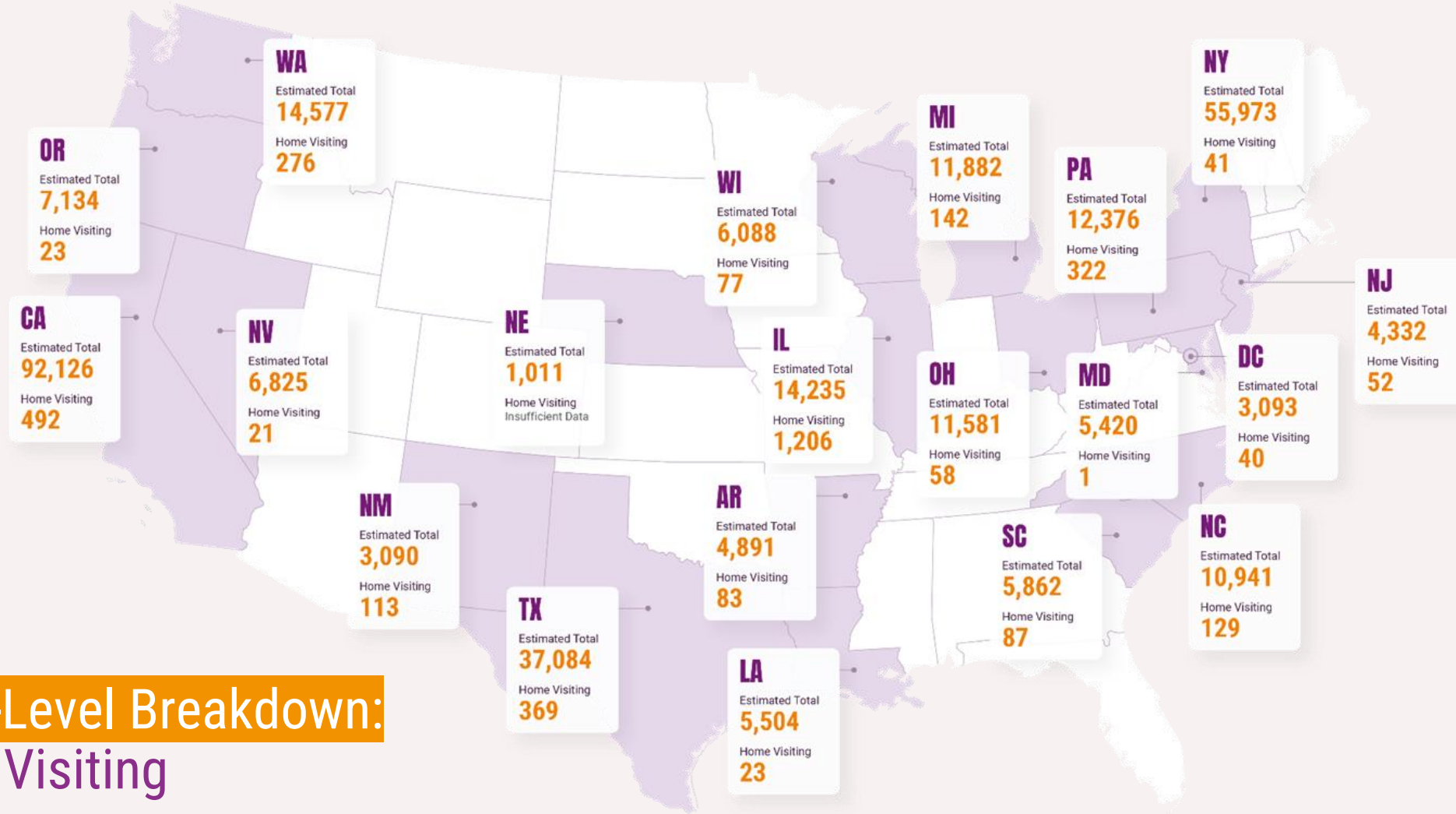
State-Level Breakdown: Early Head Start Enrollment

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment

Key Takeaways



State-Level Breakdown:
Home Visiting

Key Takeaways

- 1 **Infants, toddlers, and families** experiencing homelessness are significantly under-enrolled in early childhood programs.
- 2 **Some infants, toddlers, and families** experiencing homelessness may be enrolled in, but not identified by, early childhood programs.
- 3 **More data and better reporting mechanisms** are needed to get a clearer picture of the need and to inform policy and practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

Funding

How are you using relief funds to support children & families experiencing homelessness?

How will you sustain those efforts once funding expires?

Partnerships

Which agencies and organizations are currently serving children & families experiencing homelessness?

Data

What existing data is available, and what does it tell you about the needs in your county?

What additional data do you need?

QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS

Questions?

Contact

Erin Patterson, Director of Education Initiatives, SchoolHouse
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erin@schoolhouseconnection.org



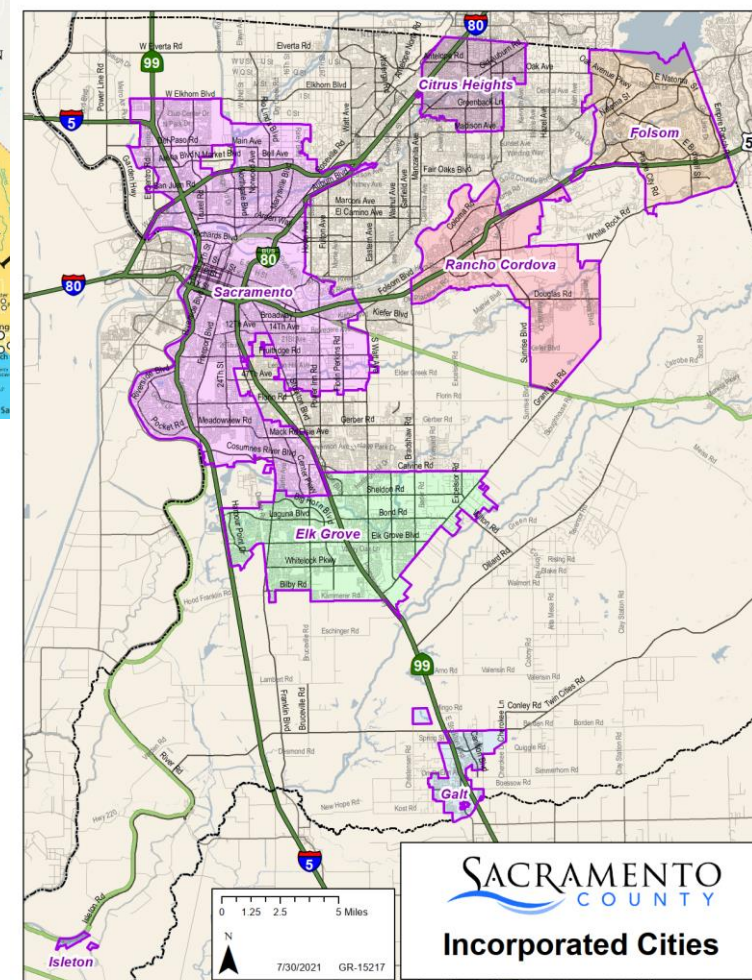
Local Strategies for Reaching Families and Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

February 8, 2023

Emily Halcon, Director of Homeless Services & Housing
Sacramento County



- ✓ 994 square miles
- ✓ 1.5 million people
 - 600,000 unincorporated
 - 972,000 in six cities
- ✓ 6% of population under age of 5
- ✓ 9.5% of population live in poverty



Homelessness is a housing-driven economic problem

homelessness happens when incomes don't match housing costs

In California...



shortage of over a 1,000,000
affordable and available rental units
for extremely low income households

76% of extremely low income
renters with severe cost burden



In Sacramento...



Working at minimum wage
\$15.00/hour



Each week a family needs to work
112 hours

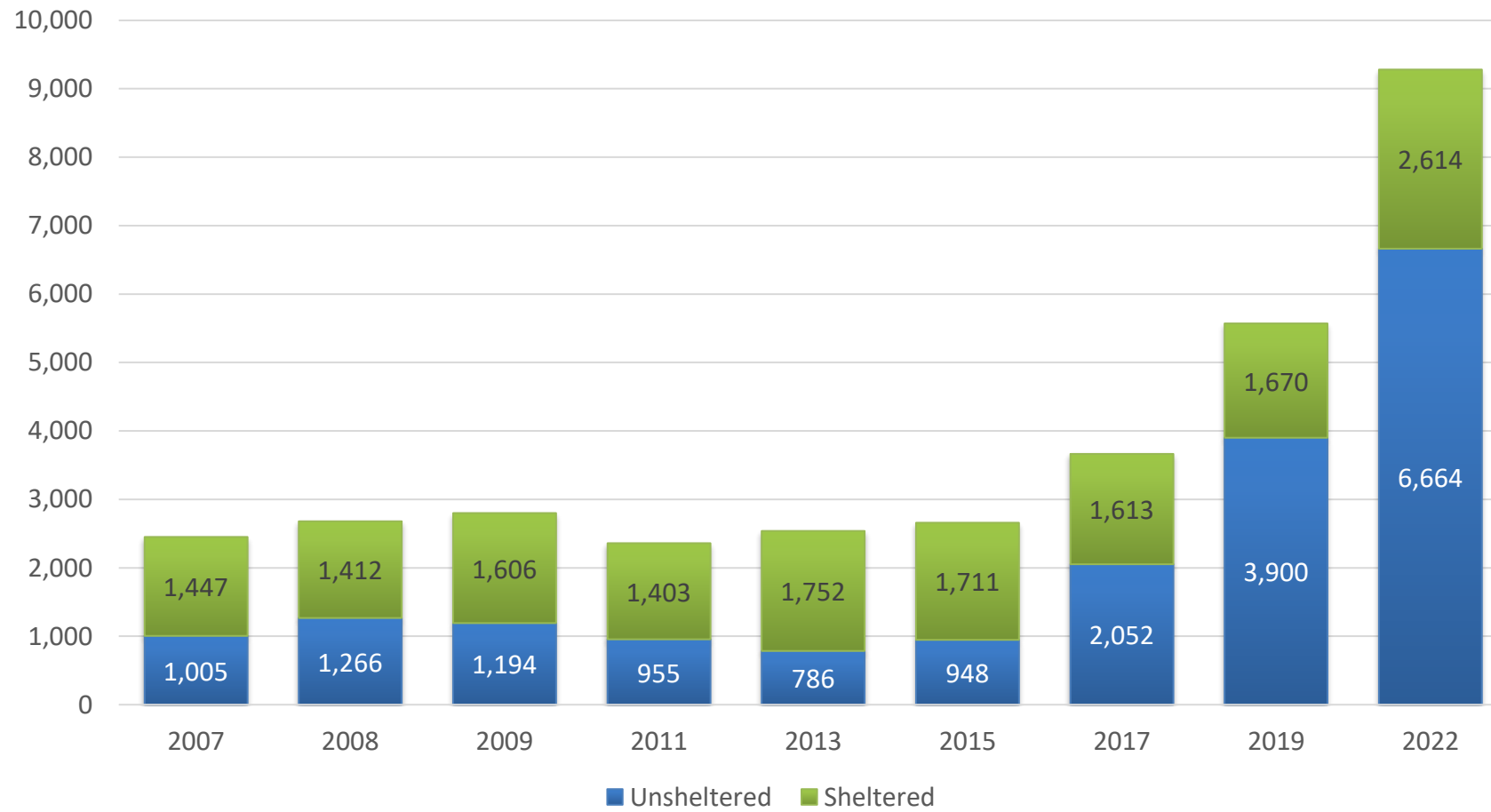


To afford a three-bedroom rental
home at fair market value

https://reports.nlihc.org/oorhttps://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/SHP_CA.pdf

Homeless Point-in-Time Count

Sacramento County, 2007-2022



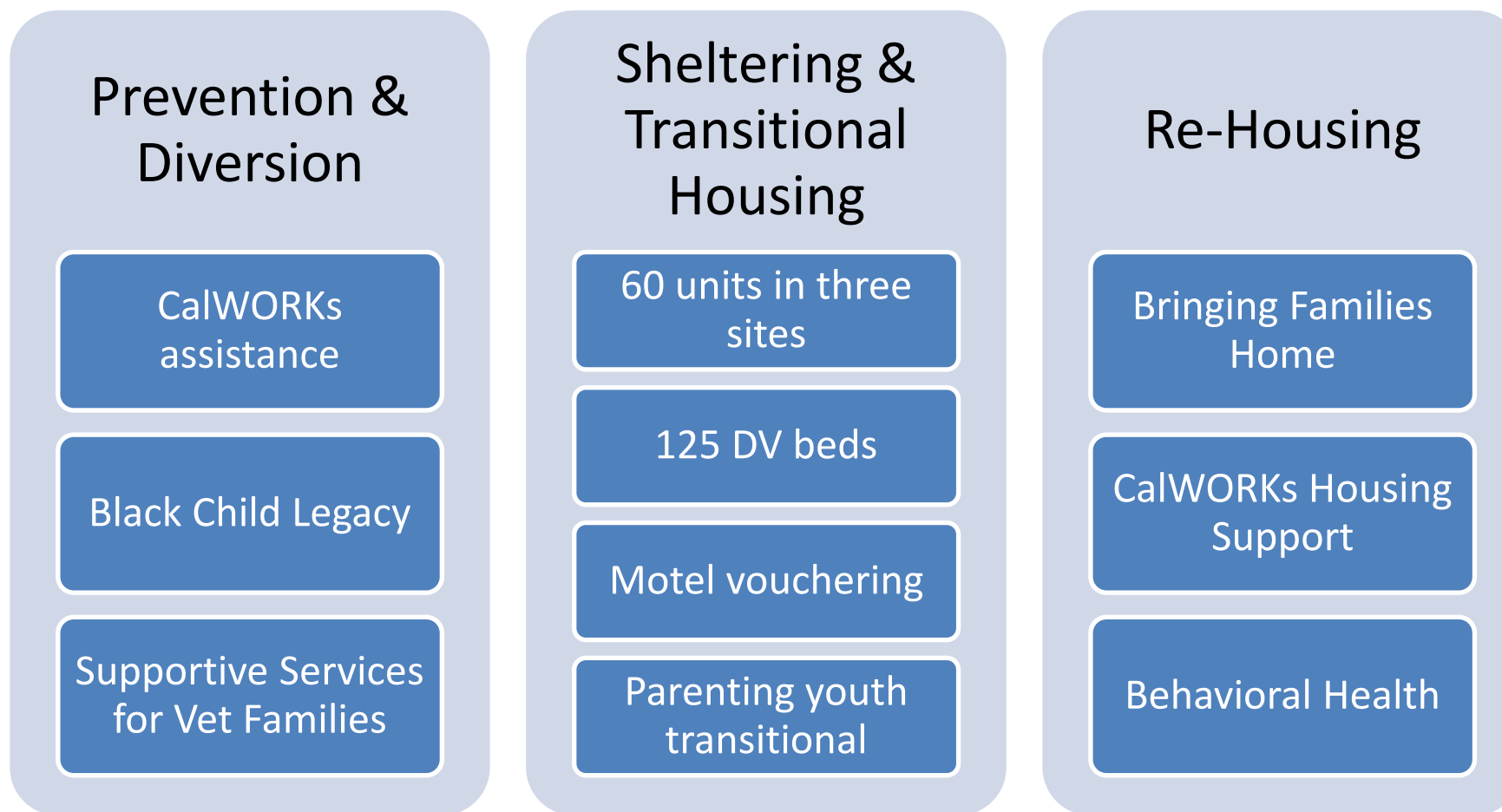
Family Homelessness

420 family households were experiencing homelessness in Sacramento on the night of the 2022 PIT

- 632 adults & 745 children (or 15% of entire PIT)
- 32% of homeless families were unsheltered
- 60% single parent households
- 43% African American (as compared to 11% in gen. pop.)
- 83% report being homeless 1+ years

44% of families experiencing homelessness report lack of affordable housing as key issues impacting their ability to exit homelessness

County Programs Addressing Family Homelessness



System Improvement Opportunities

How do we better row in same direction?

- Not duplicating services across many partners
- Fully leveraging new funding (CalAIM, State investments)

How do we improve impact of investments?

- Measuring impacts across different data systems
- Using common metrics to inform program & system improvement

Are we offering services that work for consumers?

- Access is complex and confusing
- Services offered may not match consumer needs/wants

Pennsylvania's Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness

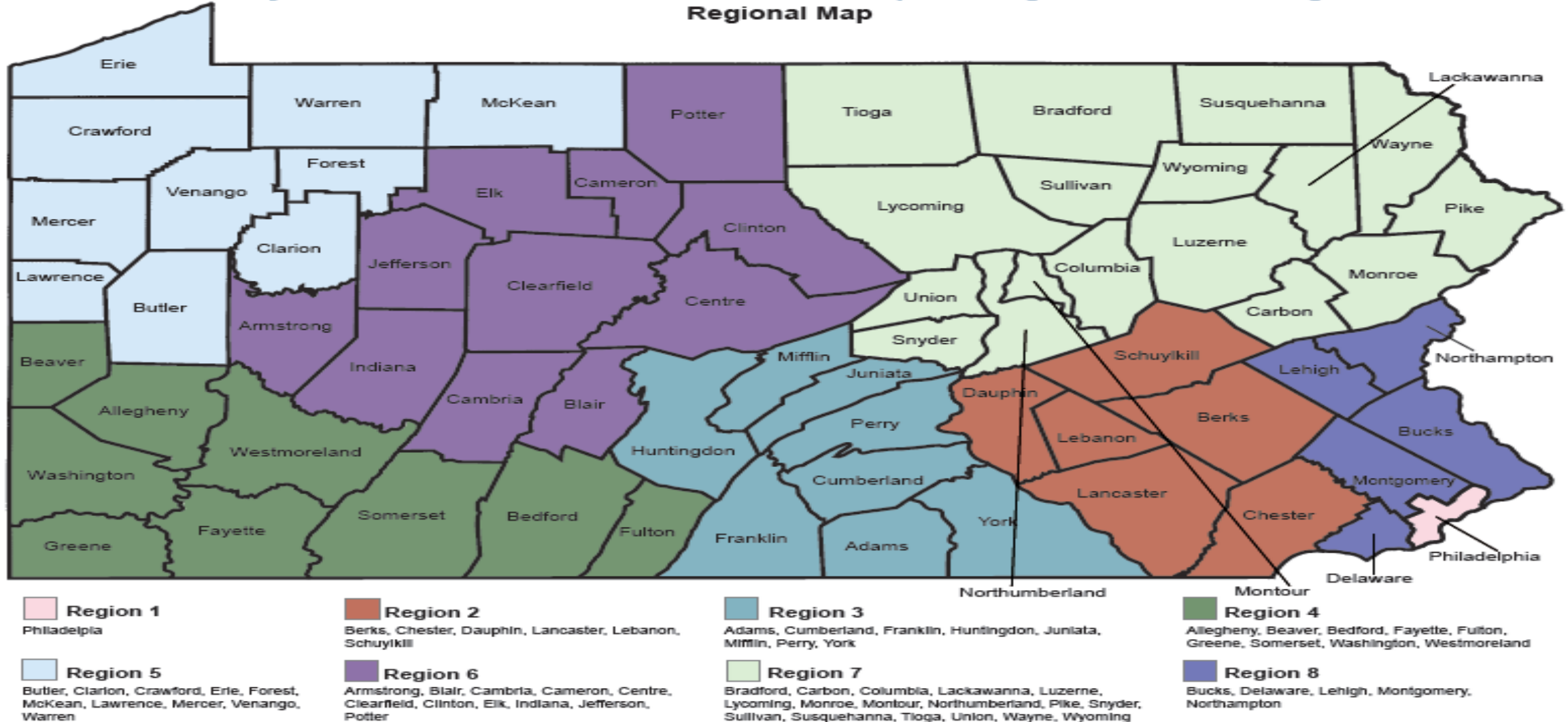
Early Childhood Connections

Wendy Kinnear, Regional
Coordinator, Region 5



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program
Regional Map**



ECYEH Region 5:



10 counties, 73 LEA's, 24 shelters, 4 Intermediate Units

2,826 children & youth experiencing homelessness in 2019-2020

Where were they?

1,808 Doubled-up, 433 Shelter, 132 Hotels/Motels, 112 Unsheltered

Approximately 70% of students identified as experiencing homelessness are living in "doubled-up" situations

22% are "unaccompanied youth"



Rural County Strengths and Challenges

Strengths:

- Natural supports
- Schools know their families
- More children outside of shelter settings are identified

Challenges:

- Lack of services and reluctance to accept services
- Transportation
- Lack of connectivity



Rural Vs. Urban:

Rural:

- Living in cars, parks, campgrounds, barns, tents, hunting cabins; run down homes often without running water or heat, windows are gone, roof covered with tarps; often doubled-up with other families
- Stable populations (do not move as frequently)
- More families identified
- Homeless is a “hidden” issue – people are under a roof
- Less likely to accept or seek our services
- Fewer resources available



Urban:

- More people living in shelters and transitional housing. Doubled-up families are rarely ID'd.
- Transient populations (families will move in and out of locations)
- More single adults identified
- Homelessness is a more “visible” issue – people sometimes on the streets
- Open to & often seeking services
- More resources and funding available

Identification

ARP - HCY I Funds:

- Data Review
 - Gaps
 - Counties with low ID
 - Target Areas

ECYEH Grant Funds:

- Data Sharing
 - Increase identification
 - Increase funding
-

Services

ARP-HCY 1 Funds:

- Outreach Specialist
 - ▣ Focus on Pre K Populations
 - ▣ Wrap around services
- Marketing Campaign
- Family Enrichment Opportunities
- Community Symposium

ECYEH Grant Funds:

- Supplies to PreK students
- Summer camps in shelters for PreK - Grade 12
- Cross Training
- County Meetings with Head Starts
 - ▣ Community Assessment
 - ▣ Advisory Committees

Speakers



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Thank you!



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