



with NCHE





Get to Know NCHE

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program

NCHE has:

- A comprehensive website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
- A toll-free helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- A listserv: <http://nche.ed.gov/listserv.php>
- Products for ordering or downloading: <http://nche.ed.gov/products.php>





TODAY'S TOPIC

**Understanding
Doubled-up**



Setting the Context

- The McKinney-Vento Act
 - Primary federal legislative response to homelessness
 - Subtitle VII-B focuses on the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness



Setting the Context

- The McKinney-Vento Act
 - Establishes the definition of *homeless* used by schools and the rights given to eligible students
 - Ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal and immediate access to public education
 - Provides educational support to promote school success
- Download or order NCHE educational rights posters at http://nche.ed.gov/pr/er_poster.php





McKinney-Vento Reauthorization

- The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act was reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act in December 2015
- McKinney-Vento amendments are scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 2016, with the exception of the removal of “awaiting foster care placement” from the definition of *homeless* on December 10, 2016
- Visit <http://nche.ed.gov/legis/essa.php> for more information

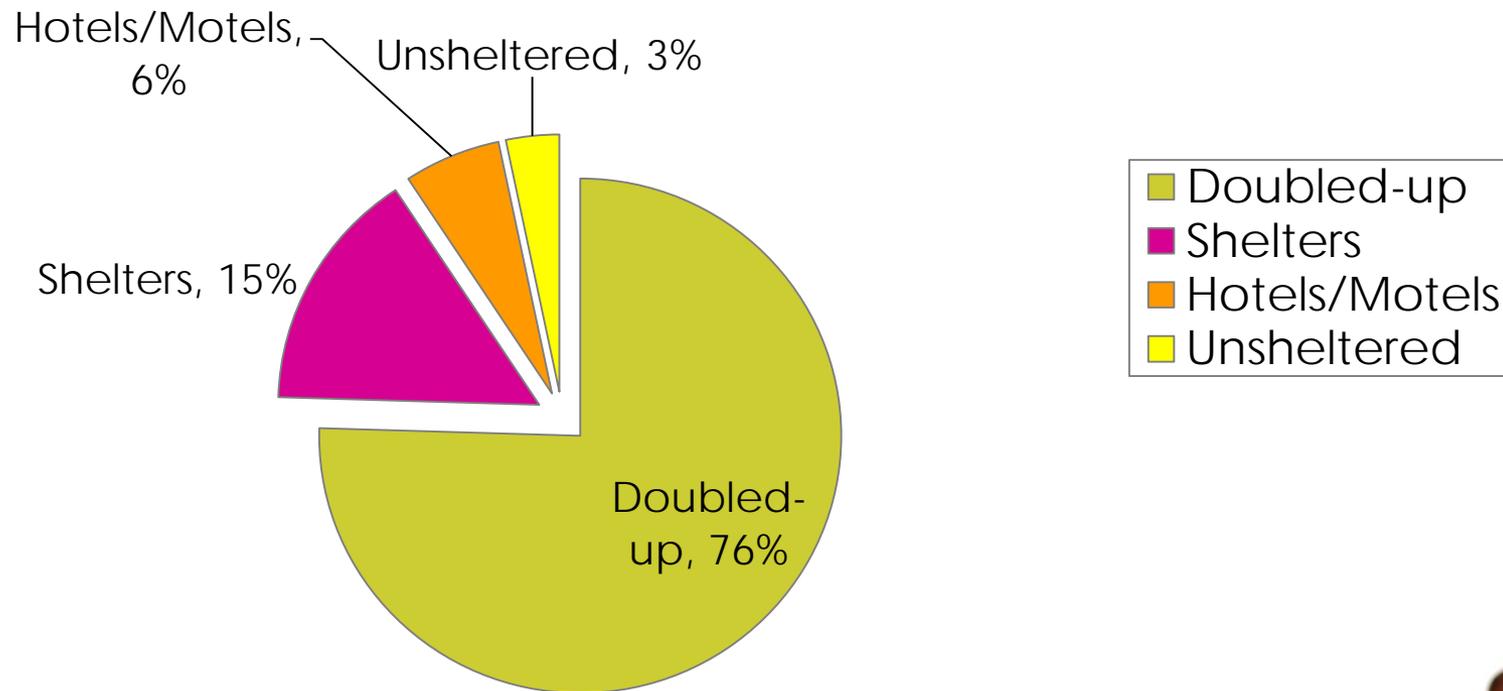




National Data

SY 2013-2014 Total enrollment:
1,301,239 students experiencing homelessness

Enrolled by Primary Nighttime Residence



Source: <http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/data-comp-1112-1314.pdf>





The Dynamics of Doubling Up

- A shelter stay is not always an option:
 - Shelters don't exist in every community
 - Shelters often are full
 - Shelter policies may create barriers
 - Shelters may generate safety concerns
 - Shelters may have stay limits
- Doubled-up arrangements often serve as temporary shelter, but may not last or may place the family or youth in danger





The Legislative Wording

The term homeless children and youth means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;

and includes...

children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason





“Fixed, Regular, and Adequate”

- **Fixed**
 - Stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular**
 - Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis
 - Consider the relative permanence
- **Adequate**
 - Lawfully and reasonably sufficient
 - Sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments
- Download *Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services* at <http://center.serve.org/nche/briefs.php>





“Sharing the housing of other persons...”

- Implies that the child or youth is staying in someone else’s residence
- Clarifying questions:
 - Does the family or youth have any legal right to be in the home?
 - Can the family or youth be asked to leave at any time with no legal recourse?





Justin



“...due to loss of housing...”

- Implies that the student has no personal housing available
- Did the family or youth lose previous housing due to:
 - An eviction or foreclosure?
 - Destruction of or damage to the previous home?
 - Unhealthy or unsafe conditions?
 - Domestic violence?
 - Abuse or neglect?
 - The absence of a parent or guardian due to abandonment, parental incarceration, or a similar reason?



The Petersons



“...economic hardship...”

- Implies that limited financial resources have forced the family or youth to leave the personal residence and share housing due to an inability to pay the rent/mortgage and other bills
- Clarifying question:
 - Did economic hardship due to an accident or illness, loss of employment, loss of public benefits, or a similar reason force the family or youth to share the housing of others temporarily?



Celia and Melanie





Helpful Considerations

- Consider:
 - how the shared housing came about
 - the intention of the residents
 - the family's or youth's housing options if not sharing housing
 - the fixed, regular, and adequate guiding phrase
- Make determinations on a case-by-case basis