

# Research shows homelessness in the early years is harmful to children's development.<sup>1</sup>

The McKinney-Vento Act (MVA) defines homeless children and youths as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.<sup>2</sup>

## UNSHELTERED CHILDREN

Living in cars, parks, beaches, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus and train stations

## CHILDREN IN SHELTERS

Living in emergency or transitional shelters

## FAMILIES LIVING DOUBLED UP

Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing and/or economic hardship



**45%**

Almost half of all children in federally-funded shelters are under age 6.<sup>3</sup>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2016

**3  
TIMES**

**MORE LIKELY TO  
NEED SPECIAL ED**



www.familypromise.org<sup>4</sup>

**8  
TIMES**

**MORE LIKELY TO  
REPEAT A GRADE**



www.familypromise.org<sup>5</sup>

**42%**

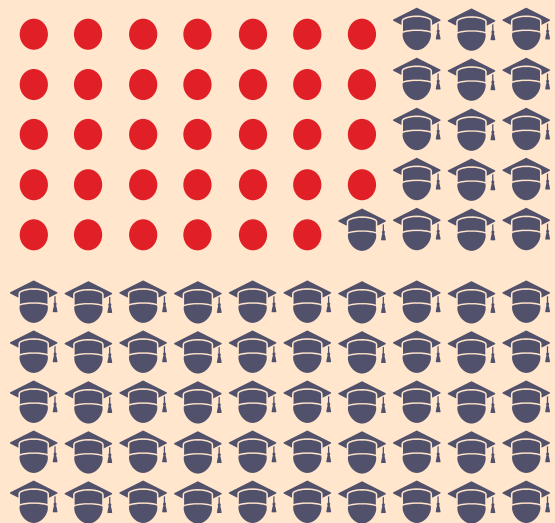
**DROP OUT OF SCHOOL  
AT LEAST ONCE**



www.familypromise.org<sup>5</sup>

**34%**

**DO NOT GRADUATE  
FROM HIGH SCHOOL**



Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE)<sup>7</sup>

# EARLY CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

## PREVALANCE IN HAWAII

**3,362**

**1 IN 32**

Children under Age 6 experienced homelessness in Hawaii (2015)

Administration for Children & Families, The estimate is based on federal Department of Education data 2015<sup>8</sup>

**333**

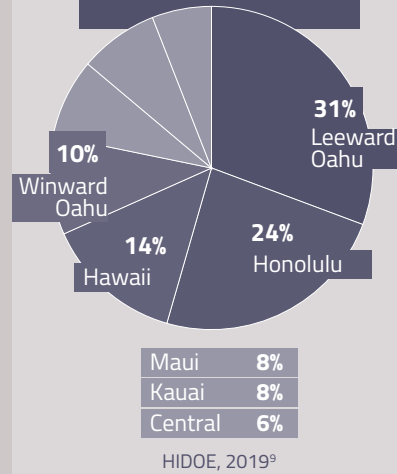
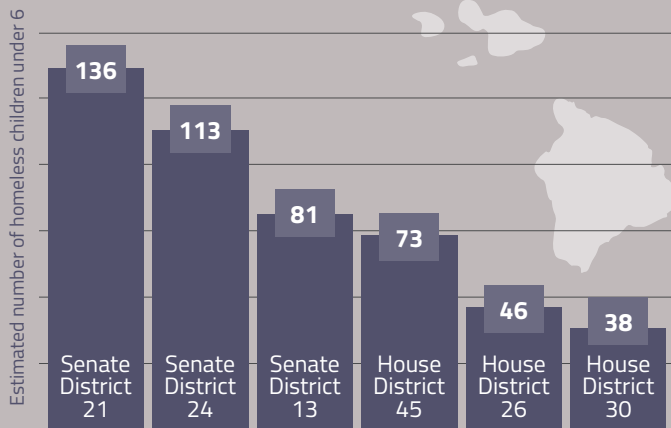
Homeless keiki in Kindergarten and public pre-school programs

**92%**

of children experiencing homelessness were unserved by federally-funded ECE programs

Administration for Children & Families, 2015<sup>10</sup>

Districts most impacted by early childhood homelessness



Homeless children in quality early care and education services are more likely to achieve strong protective factors against homelessness later in life;

- High school degree
- Full-time employment
- Financial and personal assets by their early forties

## CALL TO ACTION

Support the adoption and utilization of the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness across all departments

Support legislation to increase access to early learning programs for Keiki experiencing homelessness

Support legislation that will improve residential stability for families

Strengthen family tax credits

Support legislation to increase outreach services and strengthen wrap around services tailored to families with young keiki, including leveraging `Ohana Zone funding

### Endnotes

- Center for Housing Policy and Children's Health Watch. (2015, June). Compounding stress: The timing and duration effects of homelessness on children's health. Sandel, M., Sheward, R., & Sturtevant, L. Retrieved from [http://www.childrenshealth-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/Compounding-Stress\\_2015.pdf](http://www.childrenshealth-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/Compounding-Stress_2015.pdf)
- Hawaii DOE
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2016, October). The 2015 annual homeless assessment report (AHAR) to Congress: Part 2: Estimates of homelessness in the United States. Washington, DC: Solari, C., Morris, S., Shivji, A., & de Souza, T. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5162/2015-ahar-part-2-estimates-of-homelessness/>
- [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org)
- [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org)
- [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org)
- Hawaii DOE
- Administration for Children & Families, 2015
- The estimate is based on federal Department of Education data: [www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/epfp\\_50\\_state\\_profiles\\_6\\_15\\_17\\_508.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/epfp_50_state_profiles_6_15_17_508.pdf).
- Hawaii Department of Education, Longitudinal Data System, May 2019
- Administration for Children & Families, 2015

**earlychildhood**  
ACTION STRATEGY