



Making connections. Informing solutions.

No Place Like Home: Challenges and Trends of Youth Homelessness in CT

Impact Statement

There is a pressing need to examine this trend and to better understand how homelessness disrupts a young person's ability to transition into adulthood—**educationally, emotionally, and socially.**

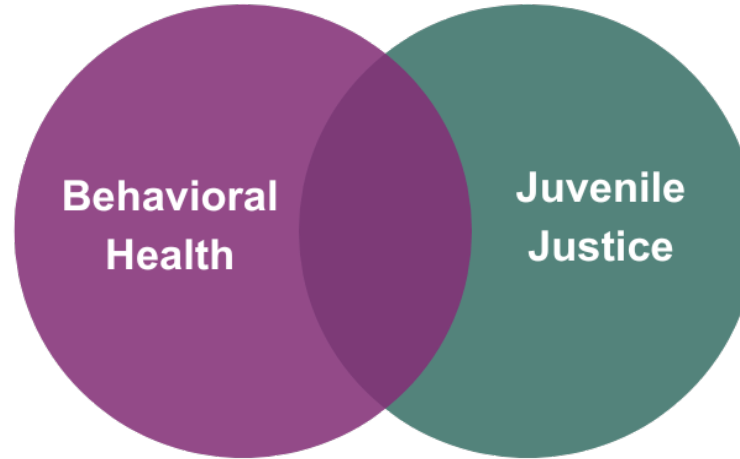
- Homelessness is a pervasive issue that **affects every aspect of a young person's development.**
- Youth and young adult **homelessness (ages 18–25) continues to rise.**
- Rates have increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, **revealing gaps in the frameworks established by federal, state, and local agencies.**

Risk Factors for Homelessness

120%



LGBTQ+ youth are significantly overrepresented, being **approximately 120% more likely** to experience homelessness compared to their heterosexual and cisgender peers.



- **Dual-system youth** are at higher risk due to **lack of stable support systems** that facilitate a smooth transition into adulthood.



Black youth are markedly overrepresented in the **homeless** youth population relative to their share of the general population, **reflecting broader systemic inequities.**

Effects of Homelessness on Youth

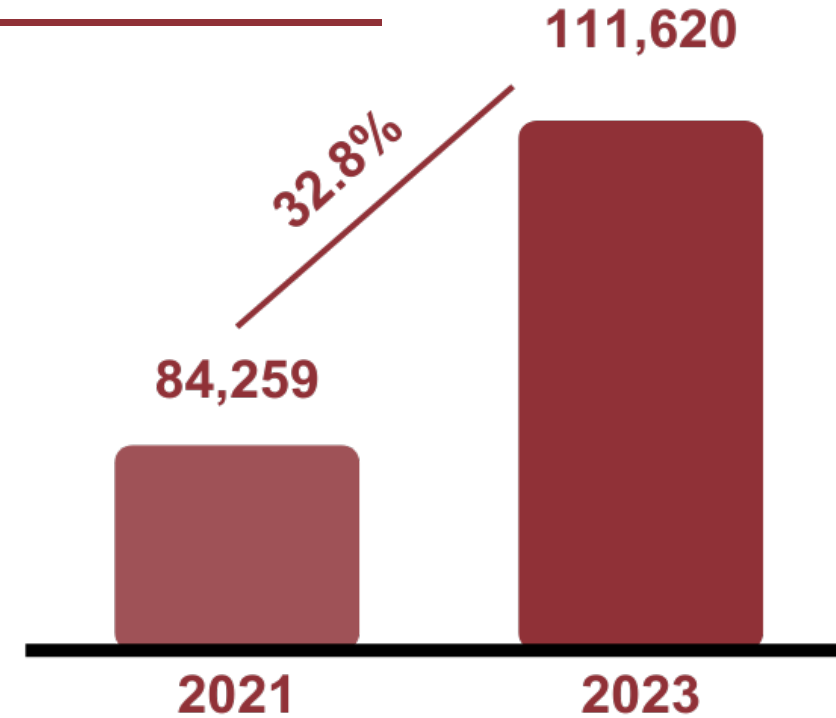
- Youth are more likely to develop mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), resulting in trauma from abuse, neglect, or violence experienced before or during homelessness.
- Homeless Youth are at risk for also developing substance use disorders, using drugs or alcohol as coping mechanisms.
- Limited access to healthcare leaves them vulnerable to untreated illnesses and chronic health issues.
- Securing employment is a major challenge, as they often lack the basic resources needed to apply for jobs, including a stable address, reliable transportation, and valid identification.

Level Setting

National Landscape



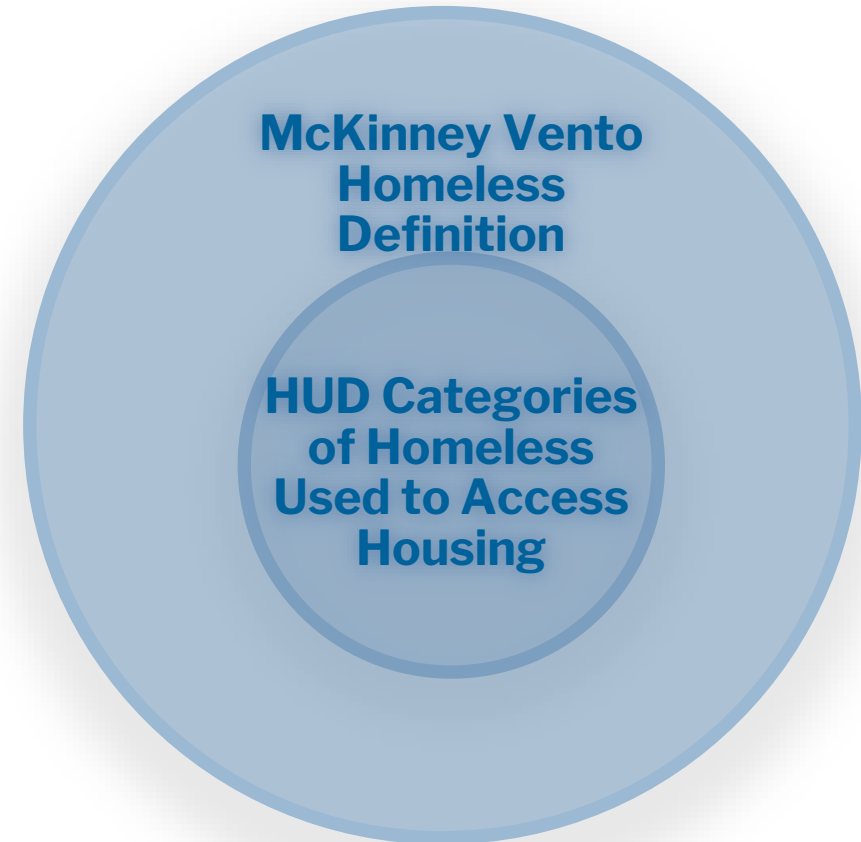
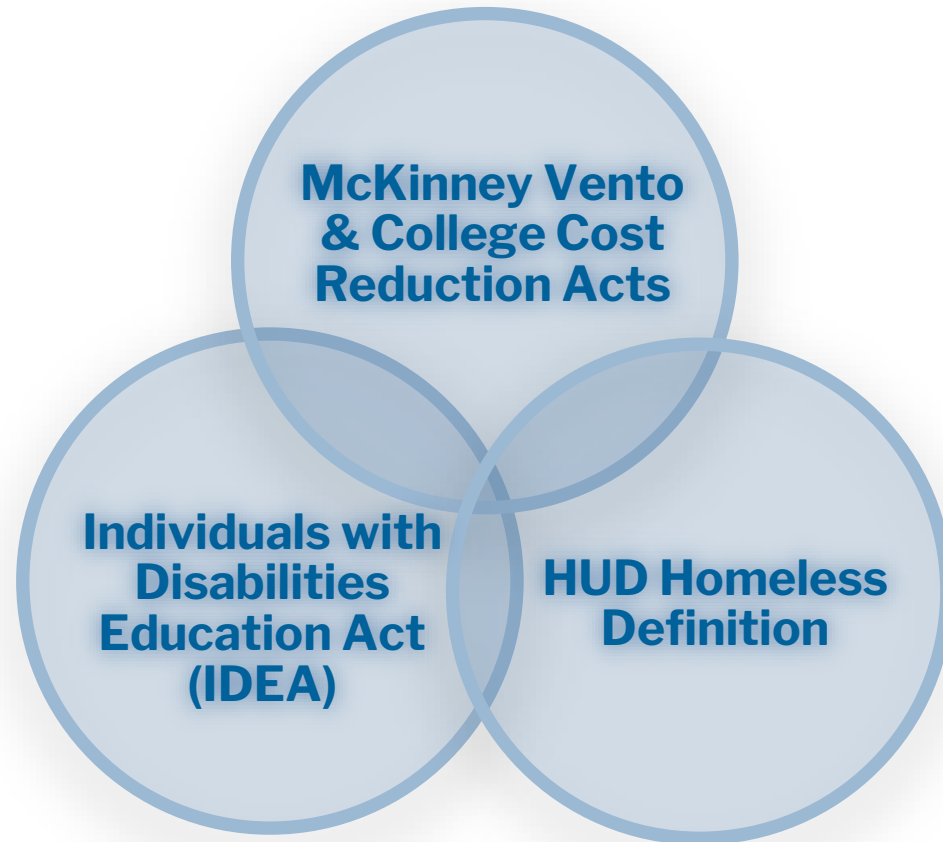
According to HUD's annual Point-in-time survey, **148,238 children** experienced **homelessness** within 10 days in January.



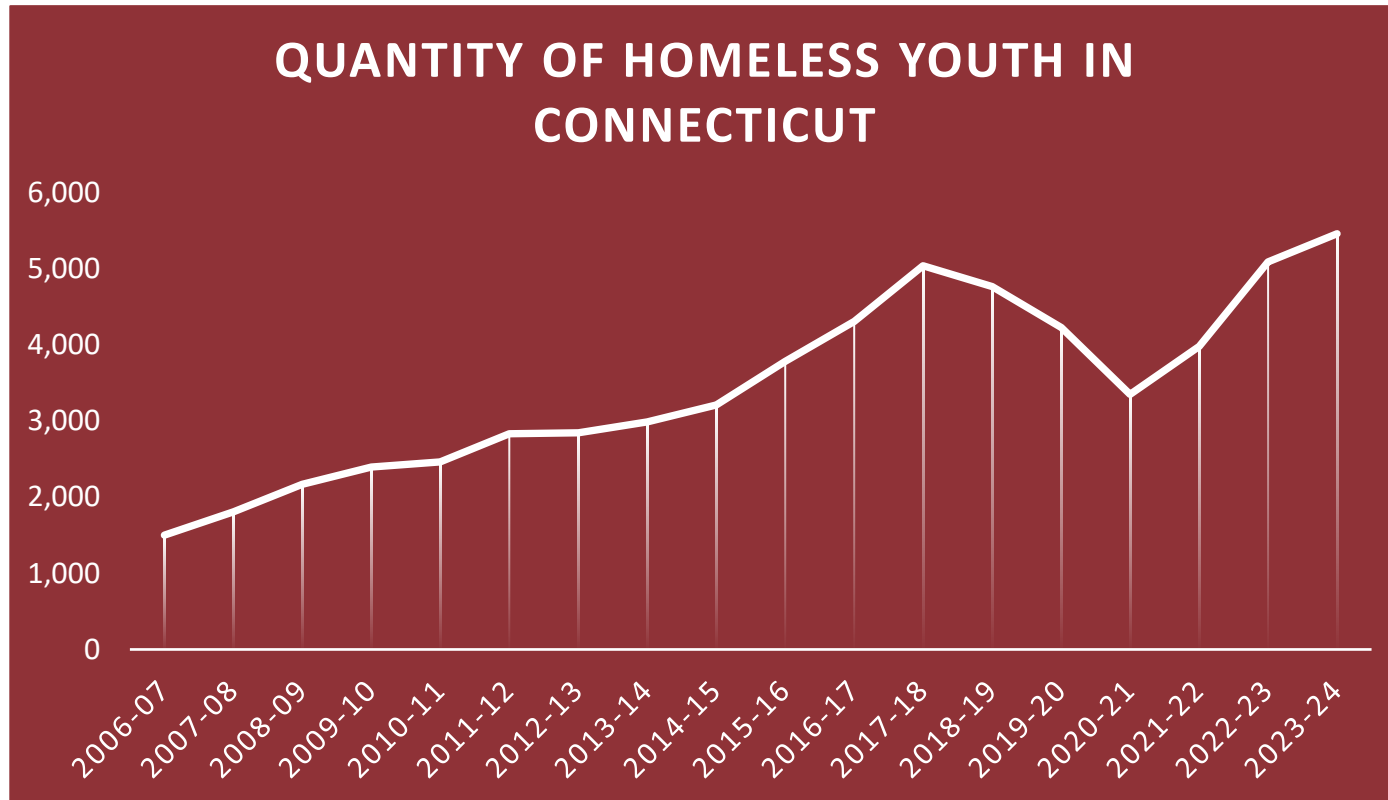
In the same survey there was a **38.2% increase** in from 2021 to 2023.

African Americans and male-identifying youth were substantially overrepresented.

Federal Laws Protect Students Experiencing Homelessness



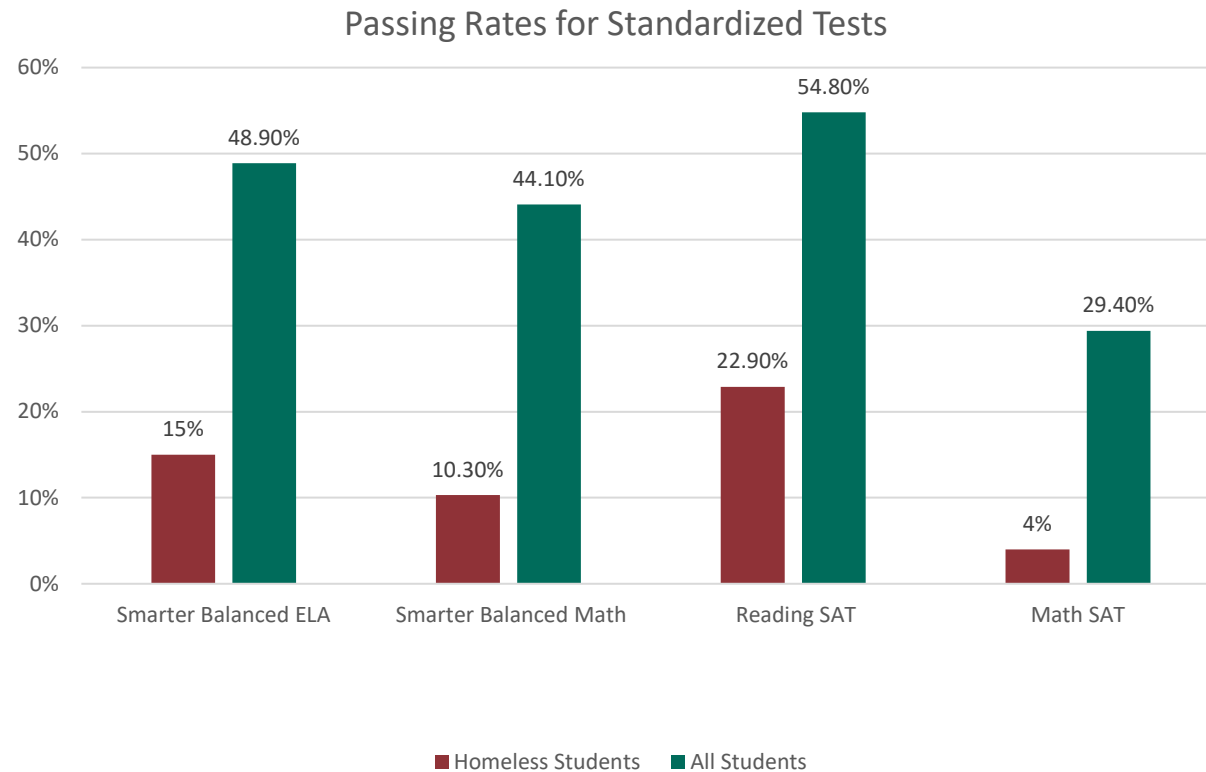
Connecticut Landscape



1% (5463) of Connecticut Youth experienced homelessness **at some point during the 2023-2024 School Year**

Connecticut Landscape

Youth experiencing Housing Instability and Homelessness have **significantly worse rates of educational proficiency compared to all students.**



There is a significant discrepancy in graduation rates, as **homeless youth are 15.3% to 18% less likely to graduate from High School than all students.**

Take Aways

“It is important to recognize that many children first experience homelessness as part of a family, and later experience homelessness on their own. Some youth may experience homelessness after becoming parents themselves. Others may become homeless because of their family’s lack of economic resources, or unaddressed family conflict. Providing services and support to youth and families individually and together can prevent homelessness, but a broader definition of homelessness is needed to ensure that communities are adequately addressing these issues.” NN4Y

How do we find these youth, identify their needs and provide education and needed supports?





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Questions to Panelists



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