HOMELESS YOUTH

Department of Commerce

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Background: *Homeless Youth*

How many: 42,038 homeless school-aged children – 6% of all students

Public / Permanent Housing 6%
n=44,370

Homeless 3%
m=19,207

Not Homeless, 88%
n=612,502

Double Up or Staying
with Friends/Family 3%
n=22,831

Homeless / Unstably Housed 6%
n=42,038
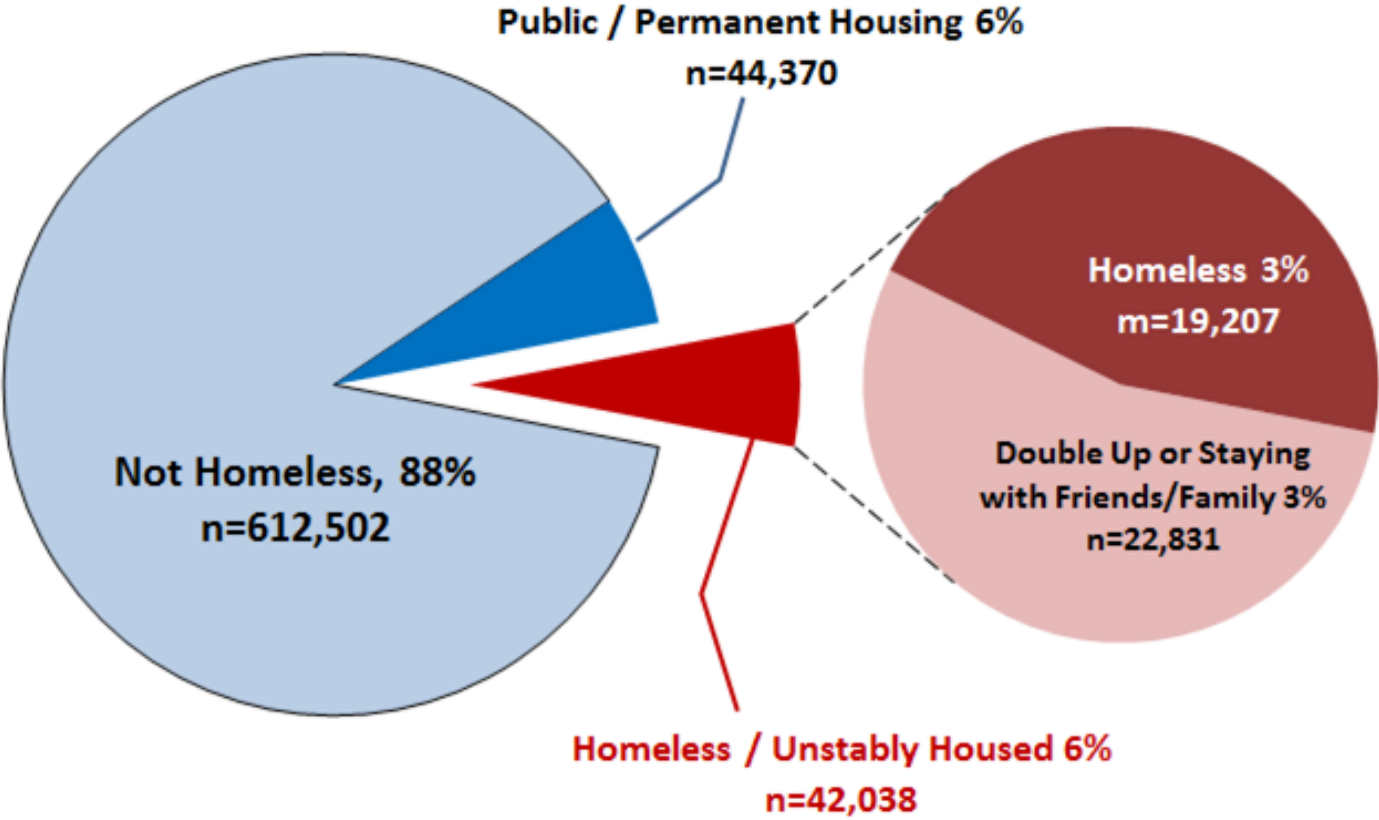
How many are unaccompanied? 4,600school-aged youth

Opportunity: *Lack of state focus on youth homelessness*

- Some indication that existing youth beds are under utilized

- No reliable measures of size and trend – youth homelessness is difficult to measure

- Indications that existing programs may inefficiently overlap

Strategies:

Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection

August 2015

- Implement new legislation,
- Create the Office,
- Appoint committee
- Hire staff

- Quantify number of unfilled beds,
- Identify barriers to placement of unsheltered youth

December 2015

Link existing administrative datasets
(Commerce, OSPI, DSHS)

January 2016

- Office fully operational

- Collect data on homeless youth characteristics and prevalence

- Identify opportunities for better system integration

December 2016

Report on policy changes and resources needed to end youth homelessness

Strategies:

I.   Create the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection

Create an office to centralize responsibility for implementing system changes to reduce youth homelessness, using data-driven planning
  ~ August 2015

II. Create meaningful measures of youth homelessness

Link existing administrative data sets from Commerce, DSHS, and OSPI to create measures of youth homelessness
~ December 2015

Strategies:

III. Promptly fill existing beds for homeless youth (HOPE, CRCs)

Quantify the number of beds unfilled, and identify barriers preventing placement of unsheltered youth
~ *August 2015*

IV. Develop plan to end youth homelessness

Identify policy and resources changes needed to end youth homelessness
~ *December 2016*

Strategy: *Federal McKinney-Vento Act:*
Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless Children and Youth: Washington

Homeless Students Reported by Districts

Year	Count
2008-09	20,780
2009-10	21,826
2010-11	26,049
2011-12	27,390
2012-13	30,609
2013-14	32,539
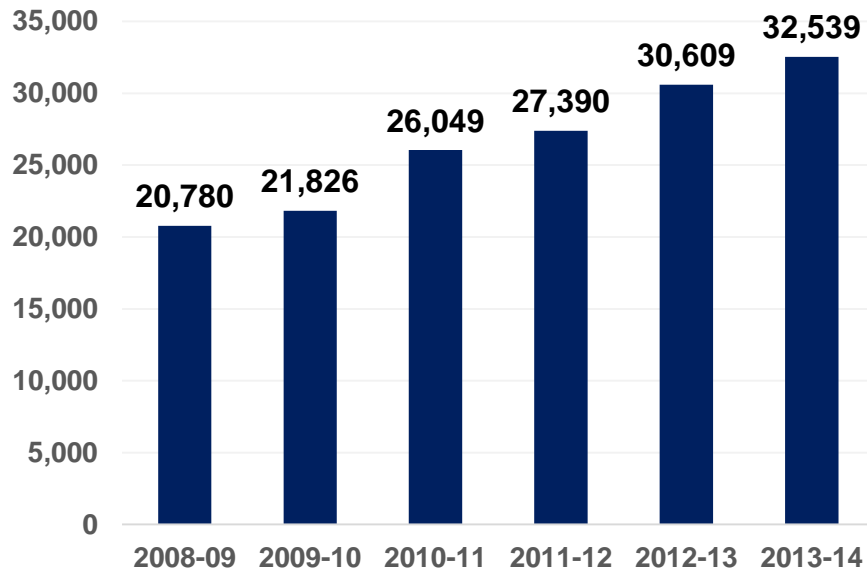
Purpose:
- School stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Immediate enrollment and access for students experiencing homelessness
- Services and supports in place for duration of homelessness

Key Provisions:
- Designated liaison in every district
- Immediate enrollment
- Students can remain in school of origin
- District provides services, including transportation

Issues:
- High mobility impacts all students
- Higher dropout rate
- Liaisons lack necessary time/resource
- Numbers of homeless students rising

Homeless Education: *http://www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/default.aspx*

Addressing Needs

- Active outreach for identification of students

- Immediate enrollment, even if students lack records
  (Enrollment=attending school and participating fully in all school activities)

- Immediate transfer of school records

- Addressing/eliminating barriers

- Transportation to school of origin

- Categorical eligibility for Title I and Free Meals

- Mediation of disputes

- Coordination with Early Learning Programs (Preschool/Head Start/ECEAP)

- Referrals to services (medical/dental/mental health, etc.)

- Coordination with community

Student: *Gianna Giordano*

Gianna

- Currently a Junior at Olympia High School
- Gianna's experience with homelessness

School Experience

- Supports received at school
- What made a difference?
- What if anything could be improved or changed?
- Goals for the future

OLYMPIA High School