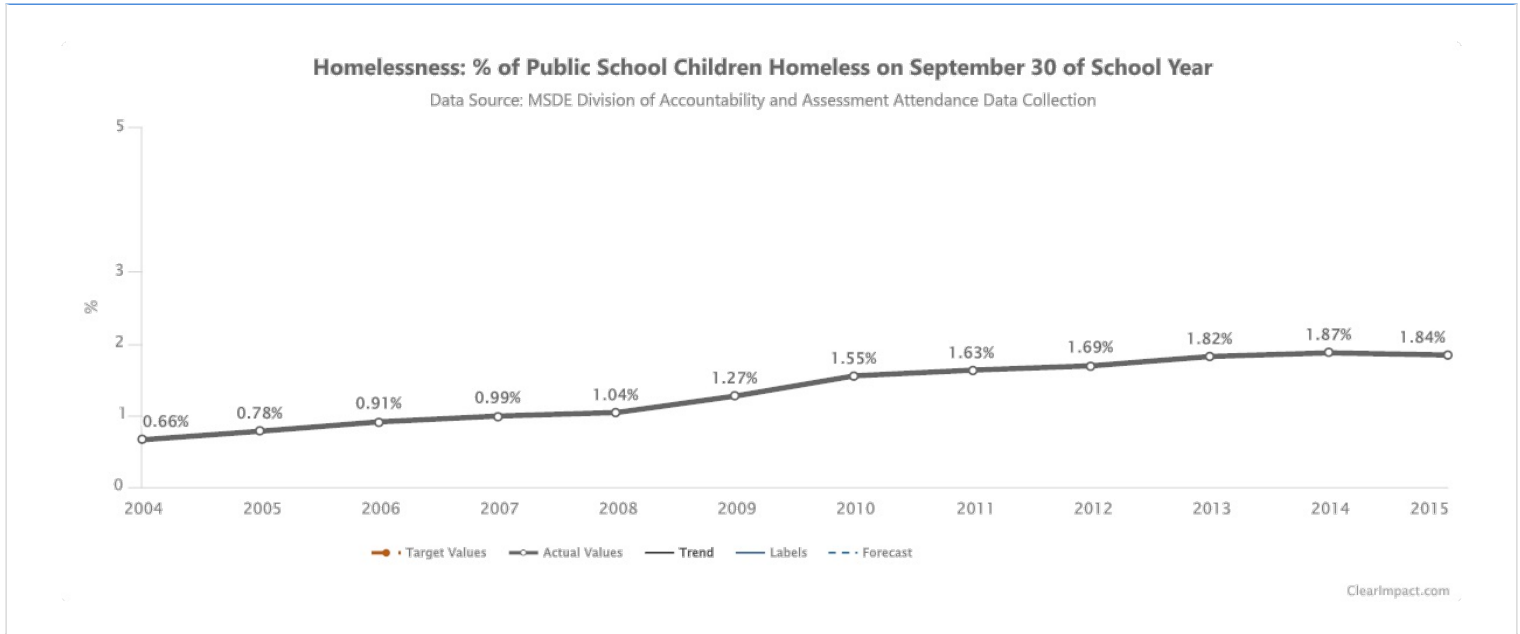


R Families are Safe and Economically Stable (Statewide)

I Homelessness: % of Public School Children Homeless on September 30 of School Year



Story Behind the Curve

Data reported for the homelessness indicator include the number of children enrolled in a Maryland public school and experiencing homelessness at some point during the 2014-2015 school year. Approximately 874,514 children and youth were enrolled in Maryland public schools during 2015, 1.84% of whom were homeless at some point during the year. Since the 2009-2010 school year, the percentage of enrolled children and youth who are homeless steadily increased from 1.55% to 1.87% in 2013-2014, but there was a small decrease in the homeless children count in 2014-2015. These data are collected annually and submitted to the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability by the Homeless Coordinators at every local education agency. These data are then submitted to the United States Department of Education via the Consolidated State Performance Report and the Education Data Exchange Network on an annual basis.

What Works

The McKinney-Vento Act provides local school systems access to grant funds to provide programs for homeless children and youth, including supplemental instruction, transportation, professional development, and referrals to health care. If a school-aged child becomes homeless, the McKinney-Vento Act allows for the child to either continue at the "school of origin" for the entire time he or she is homeless or until the end of the academic year in which he or she moves into permanent housing or transfers to a school nearest to the child's temporary shelter; or be sent to a school other than one the child's parent/guardian has requested.

Per Title I of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001, the Maryland State Department of Education distributes funds to local school systems through a competitive grant process. The McKinney-Vento Act ensures that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children and youth. State and local school systems are required to develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth. All children and youth experiencing homelessness are eligible for Title I services in Title I schools, non-Title I schools, and other settings in which they reside. Funds may also be set aside through Title I Part A for every local school system whether they have received a McKinney-Vento grant or not.

Local Highlight

The interventions implemented by the Local Education Agencies are determined by the priority needs of the children and youth experiencing homelessness in the local jurisdiction. Therefore, the interventions and services provided vary statewide. Examples of innovative approaches being implemented include:

- **Howard County Public Schools:** Offer a College and Career-Ready Mentoring Program for homeless high school students. The program implements strategies and activities to increase both the graduation rate and college entrance rate of students experiencing homelessness. The program is currently being offered in 13 high schools in the county.
- **St. Mary's County Public Schools:** Implements an evidence-based intervention, Check and Connect, to close the gaps, in respect to increasing attendance and achievement, as well as decreasing suspensions, between students receiving services under McKinney-Vento and the total student population at Great Mills High School. Students receive instruction in executive function skills.
- **Baltimore County Public Schools:** Offers extensive tutoring resources across six Baltimore County homeless shelters. In addition, summer camp opportunities are provided where young people have the opportunity to earn academic credit, seminars and mentoring in life skills, employment skills, and college entrance requirements, and placement of students in a paid job site for 7 weeks.

Data Discussion

The percent of children enrolled in the public school system who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or who are awaiting foster-care placement.