Child and Youth Homelessness: Two Approaches

ASDHHHC’s Annual Homeless Summit
June 6, 2017

School House Connection
Overcoming Homelessness Through Education
About SchoolHouse Connection

A national organization promoting success for children and youth experiencing homelessness, from birth through higher education.

We engage in federal and state legislative advocacy, co-lead a national campaign to increase high school graduation rates for students experiencing homelessness, provide technical assistance, offer a scholarship, and cultivate Young Adult Leaders.
Today’s Agenda

- Roll call
- Child and Youth Homelessness
- Two approaches to change the statistics:
  - Nurture Resilience
  - Legislation
- Something to take with you
First: Your Help

- A physical representation of youth homelessness- causes and outcomes
Fight or Flight brain vs. Analytical brain

Amygdala

Prefrontal cortex
Core features of resilience

- Social competence
- Good problem-solving
- Self-aware
- Sense of purpose and belief in bright future
PJ’s Resilience Rules

- Resilience is the rule, not the exception.
  - Close to 70% of youth growing up in the most challenging, high-risk conditions develop resilience and lead successful lives.
- It’s not in the genes.
- Resilient people are not super human.
- You can nurture resilience!
Fostering resilience is a **process**, not a **program**.

- Believe in the potential of each person.
- Focus on listening.
- Provide opportunities for real participation and contribution.
Voices of Youth

vimeo.com/pjulianelle
Being homeless doesn't just mean living in shelters...

- 78% of formerly homeless students surveyed say homelessness was something they experienced more than once.
- 47% say they were homeless both with a parent or guardian and alone.
- 94% stayed with other people rather than in one consistent place they called home.
- 50% slept in a car, park, abandoned building, bus station or other public place.

Learn what matters. Get involved. GradNation.org/Homeless

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT
HOMELESS STUDENTS IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#UnseenStudents
South Dakota
Data on Child and Youth Homelessness

SY 2014–2015

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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>1,835</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Children</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>339</td>
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<td>UHY</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>113</td>
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- **Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care**
- **Doubled-up (e.g., living with another family)**
- **Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned building)**
- **Hotels/Motels**
The Homeless Children and Youth Act

- Bipartisan
- H.R. 576/S. 256
- helphomelessyouthnow.org
How will you change the statistics?

- Nurture Resilience
- Legislation
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- GradNation and Hidden in Plain Sight
  
  www.americaspromise.org/report/hidden-plain-sight

- Homeless Children and Youth Act
  
  www.helphomelessyouthnow.org
Research sources


- Ann Masten, Ph.D. University of Minnesota Institute of Child Development.


- Resilience in Action.
