

# United States

The period of life from prenatal through age three is critical for physical and social-emotional development, but the experience of homelessness jeopardizes healthy growth and can have long-term consequences. Early childhood development programs can mitigate the impacts of homelessness on child development, and connect families to housing and services. These data profiles are intended to create greater awareness of the prevalence of infant and toddler homelessness, and gaps in access to early childhood development programs.



Total Population Birth Through Age Three:  
**14,786,455**



Estimated Total Population Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness:  
**364,390 (2.5%) of all infants and toddlers**

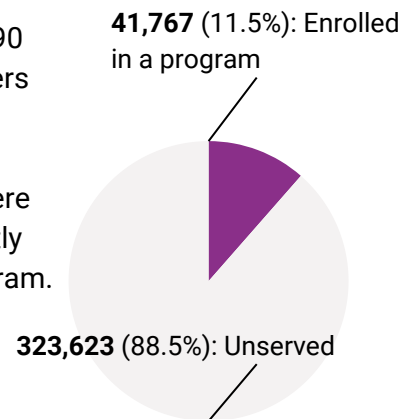


Total population Birth Through Age Three experiencing homelessness enrolled in a program:  
**41,767**

**Only 1 in 9 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness is enrolled in a program.**



Among the 364,390 infants and toddlers identified, only 41,767, which accounts for a mere 11.4%, are currently enrolled in a program.



## Prioritizing Children Experiencing Homelessness through Federal Law

Congress included specific requirements to identify and remove barriers to enrollment caused by homelessness in both the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 and the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) strengthened these policies in regulations for both federal programs in 2016, and proposed additional regulations in 2023. Federal law (the McKinney-Vento Act) also requires public schools who receive subgrant funds to collect data on infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness.

## Estimated Total Population of Children Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness Enrolled in an Early Childhood Program:



Home Visiting (8,064)



Early Head Start (18,098)



Identified & Served by an LEA (15,605)



**Unserved (323,623)**