

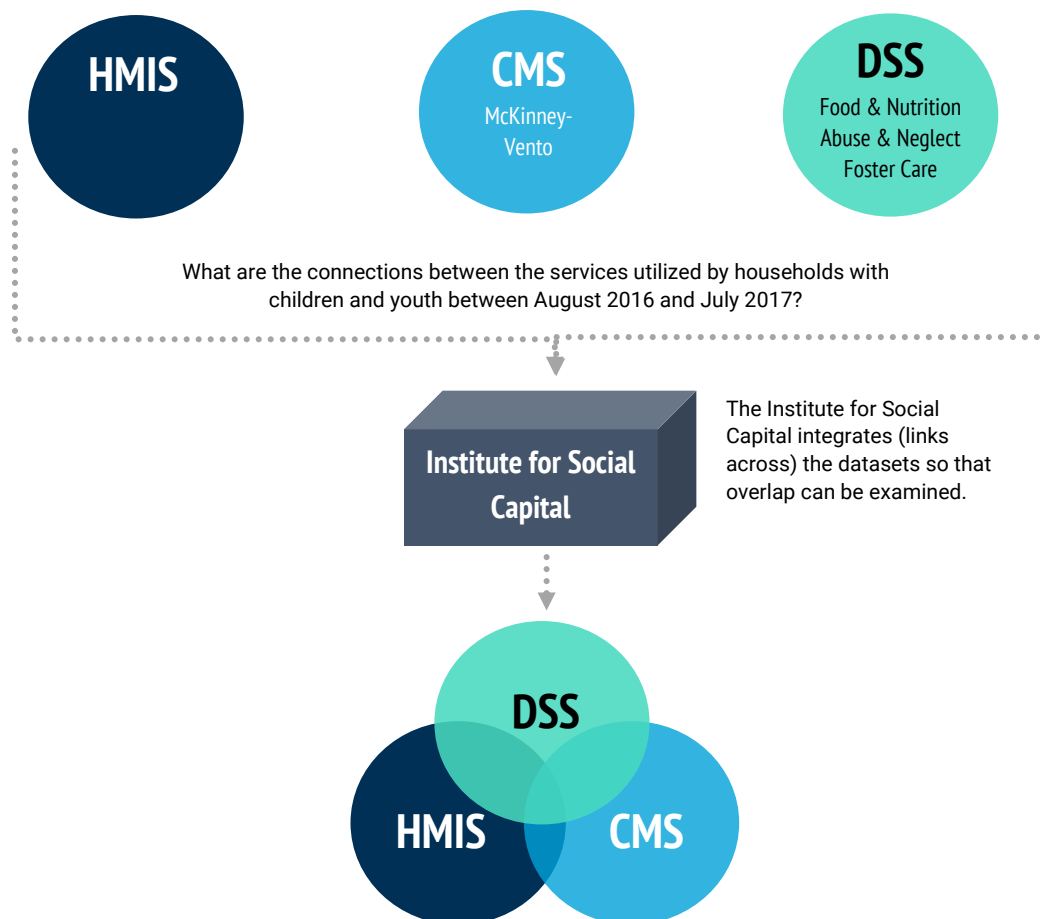
PART 2: How many children and youth experienced homelessness, housing instability, or recent homelessness from 2016 to 2017?

This is Part 2 in a five-part integrated data report exploring the connections and gaps in services used by children and youth currently or previously experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability. Part 2 explores connections between children and youth accessing services from HMIS agencies and students identified for McKinney-Vento services by CMS. For more background on the integrated data report, read Part 1.

HMIS and McKinney-Vento (CMS)

Services provided by HMIS agencies support a household during and after a housing crisis to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Children or youth experiencing homelessness may be connected to available temporary housing (ES or TH) or housing resources through Coordinated Entry. Children and youth sheltered in ES and TH are considered by definition “homeless”; Homelessness Prevention services are targeted toward households facing housing instability. Children and youth may access supportive services only or as a service provided in addition to permanent housing services.

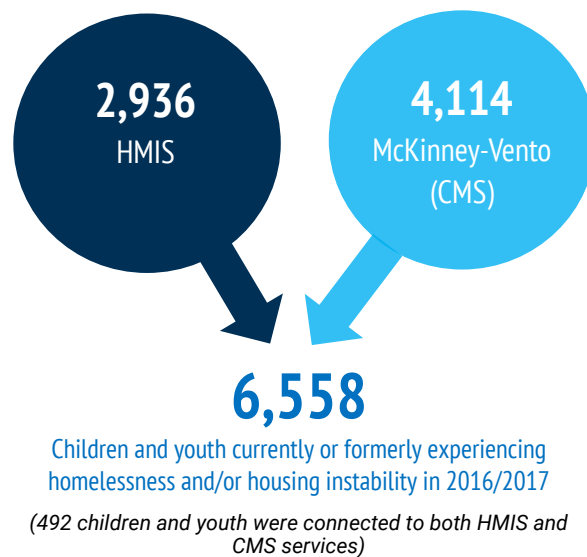
The McKinney-Vento Act ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to public education. McKinney-Vento services are designed to prevent the segregation of homeless students; require transportation to and from a student’s original school; require an expeditious enrollment process; make placement determinations based on the best interests of the child; and designate a local liaison for homeless children and youth. Children and youth identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento services may be considered either literally homeless (unsheltered or sheltered) or experiencing housing instability (such as in a hotel/motel or doubled up with family/friends).



Between August 1, 2016 and July 31, 2017 (2016/2017), there were 2,936 children and youth accessing services through an HMIS agency. During the same school year, CMS identified 4,114 students as eligible for McKinney-Vento services.

In total, there were 6,558 children and youth that accessed services through an HMIS agency and/or were identified as McKinney-Vento in the 2016/2017 school year. Of those, 492 children and youth were accessing both HMIS and McKinney-Vento services.

The number of students identified as experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability is underreported by McKinney-Vento numbers. Students experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability may not be identified as McKinney-Vento for a variety of reasons such as lack of knowledge about the program; lack of self-report; or failure among staff to identify students. It is estimated that a large proportion of McKinney-Vento students are identified when transportation to school is needed.



HMIS

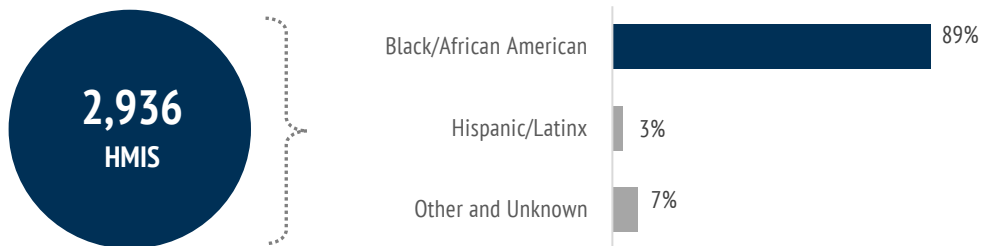
Age

Of the 2,936 children and youth in 2016/2017 receiving services from an HMIS agency, the largest share were children ages 6 to 12 years (34%), followed by children five years and younger (32%). Teenage children (ages 13 to 17) and youth (ages 18 to 24) represented smaller shares at 16% and 19% respectively.



Race

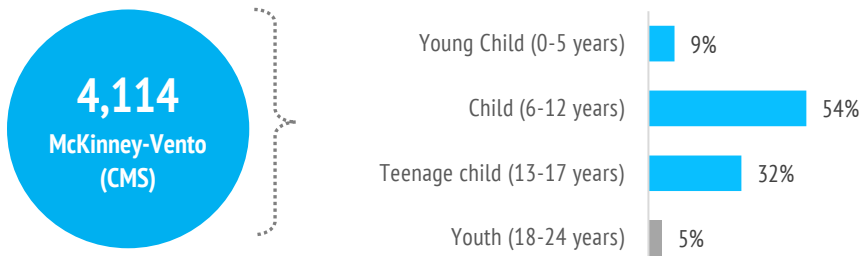
The majority (89%) of children receiving services from an HMIS agency identify as Black or African American. Three percent were Hispanic/Latinx and 7% were Other, which includes Asian, White, Multi-race, and American Indian or Unknown.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools- McKinney Vento Services

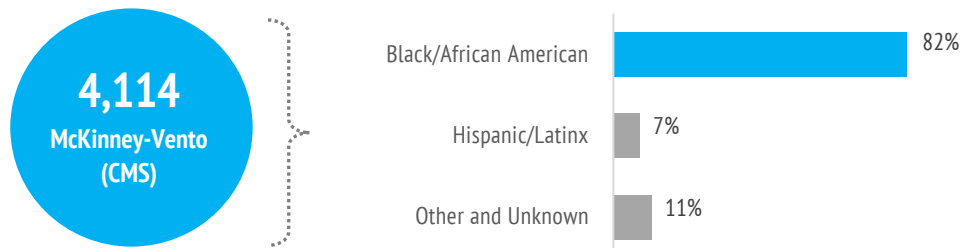
Age

During the 2016/2017 school year, 4,114 children and youth were identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento services by CMS. Of those, the largest share were children ages 6 to 12 years (54%), followed by teenagers ages 13 to 17 (32%). Young children (ages 5 and under) and youth (ages 18-24) represented a smallest share at 9% and 5% respectively. These smaller percentages make sense given that school age children typically range from 5 to 18 years old.



Race

The majority (82%) of students receiving McKinney-Vento services identified as Black or African American. This is slightly lower than the share of children and youth receiving services from an HMIS agency (89%). The share of McKinney-Vento students who identify as Hispanic/Latinx (7%) is slightly higher than children and youth in HMIS (3%).

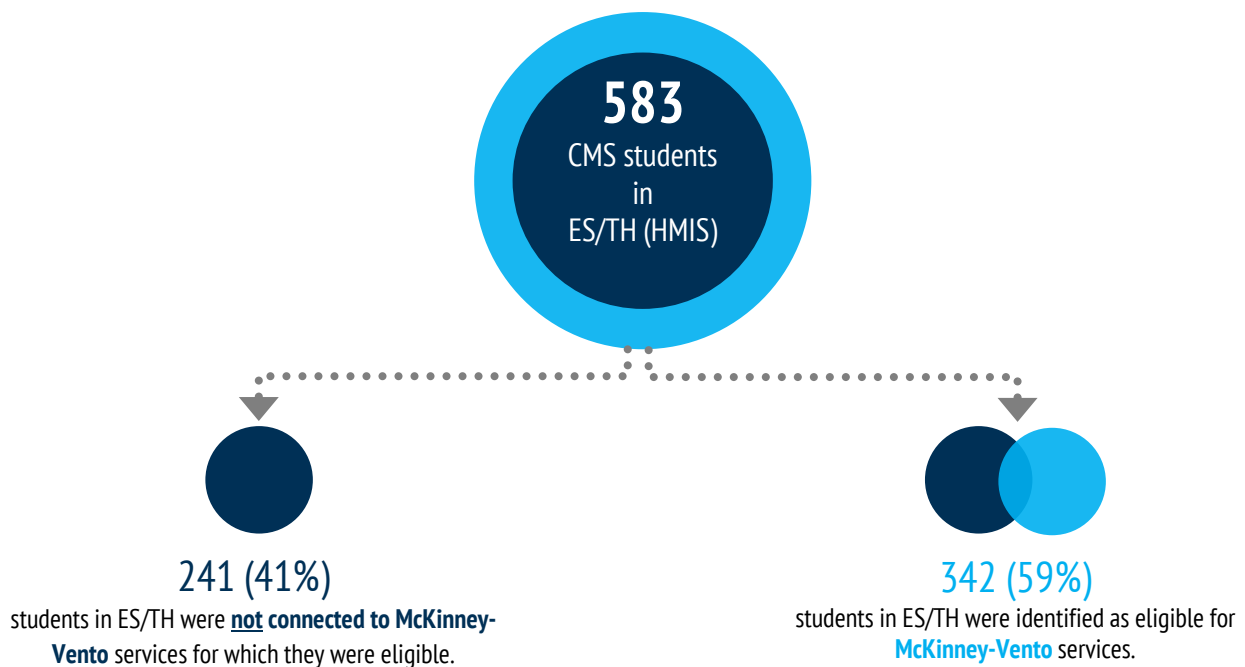


Cross System Service Utilization

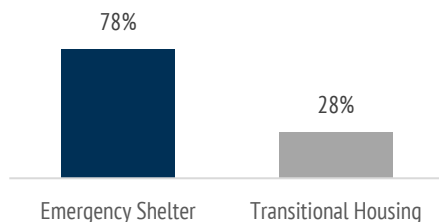
All students receiving emergency shelter (ES) or transitional housing (TH) services from an HMIS agency are eligible for McKinney Vento Services. However, as the following chart shows, not all who are eligible have been identified or connected with McKinney-Vento Services.

During the 2016/2017 school year, there were 583 Charlotte-Mecklenburg School (CMS) students that were sheltered in ES or TH at an HMIS agency. Of the 583 students living in ES or TH at some point during the school year, only 59% (342) were connected to McKinney-Vento services by CMS. Forty-one percent of students (or 241 students) in ES or TH were not identified for McKinney-Vento Services.

Students experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability may not be identified as McKinney-Vento for a variety of reasons such as lack of knowledge about the program; lack of self-report; or failure among staff to identify students. Transitional housing is considered homeless under HUD's definition, however a family in transitional housing may not self-identify as homeless.¹ Of the 241 students not identified as McKinney-Vento, 28% were in TH at some point during the year and 78% were in ES at some point during the year (15 students stayed in both TH and ES).



Of those not connected, 78% had stayed in emergency shelter at some point and 28% had stayed in transitional housing.



¹ After the 2014-2015 Family Snapshot report was released in 2017, CMS placed an additional social worker at the Salvation Army Center of Hope to try and decrease the gap in students experiencing literal homelessness and accessing MKV services. This change occurred in 2017, so the 2016/2017 data presented in this report come from before this change was implemented.