

# Students Experiencing Homelessness in Broward County School Years (SY) 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 Turn the Curve Report

Homeless Youth and Families (HYF) – A Broward Children’s Strategic Plan (BCSP) Committee: in partnership with Broward County Public Schools, Broward County Homeless Continuum of Care, Broward Partnership, and Children’s Services Council of Broward County



**Children's  
Services  
Council**  
of Broward County  
Our Focus is Our Children.

# Contributors/Presenters

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# Danielle C's Story

Danielle C. was 35 when she and her two children, ages 5 and 16, became homeless after her father was diagnosed with cancer. While paying for his medical costs, she fell behind on rent and was evicted from her home in November 2020.



**“I became homeless because my father got cancer and I had to leave my home in Broward to take care of him in Ocala. When I came back after he passed away, I had nothing and nowhere to stay.”**

# Definitions/Acronyms

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act “Literally Homeless”** - Students experiencing homelessness who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes:

- Sharing the housing of friends/family (doubled-up) due to loss of housing/economic necessity
- Residing in a local emergency/transitional homeless shelter
- Residing in a hotel/motel due to loss of housing/economic necessity
- Residing unsheltered in places not intended for human habitation (e.g., vehicles and parks)

**Housing and Urban Development (HUD) “Literally Homeless”** - Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public/private place not meant for human habitation
- Is living in a publicly/privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements
- Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

**Broward County's Homeless Continuum of Care (HCoC)**

**School Year Annual (SYA)**

# Broward County Students Experiencing Homelessness

Pre-Kindergarten to High School students experiencing housing instability last school year via the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

6,027

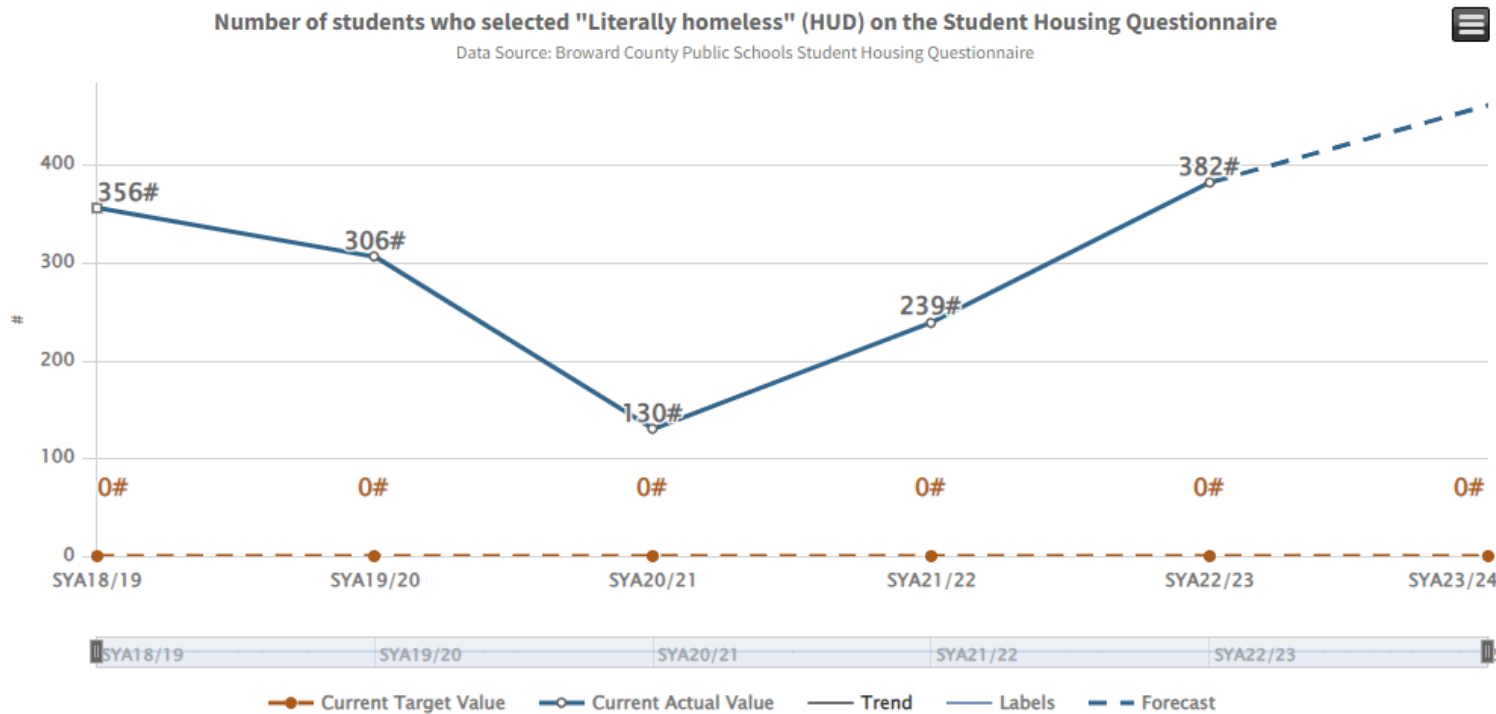
## SY23/24 Breakdown by Grades:

- Pre-K = 4%
- **Elementary School = 55%**
- Middle School = 20%
- High School = 21%

## Night-time Residence:

- Emergency/Transitional Shelters = 4%
- **Sharing housing (Doubled-up) = 78%**
- Unsheltered (cars/parks) = 8%
- Hotels/motels = 13%

# Indicator #1 – # students who selected “literally homeless” (HUD) on the Student Housing Questionnaire

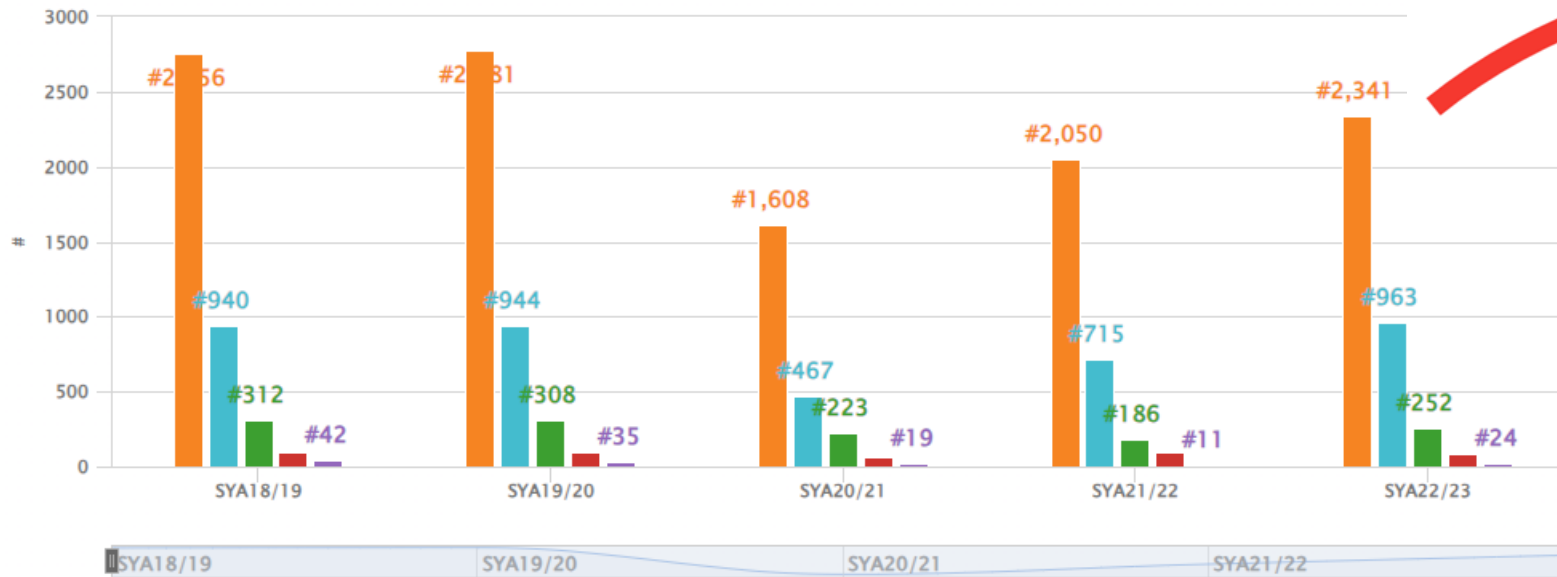


**Negatively increasing since SY20/21**

# Black and Brown students are more affected by homelessness

FDOE Disaggregated Data of Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento) by Race Broward County - Comparison

Data Source: Florida Department of Education



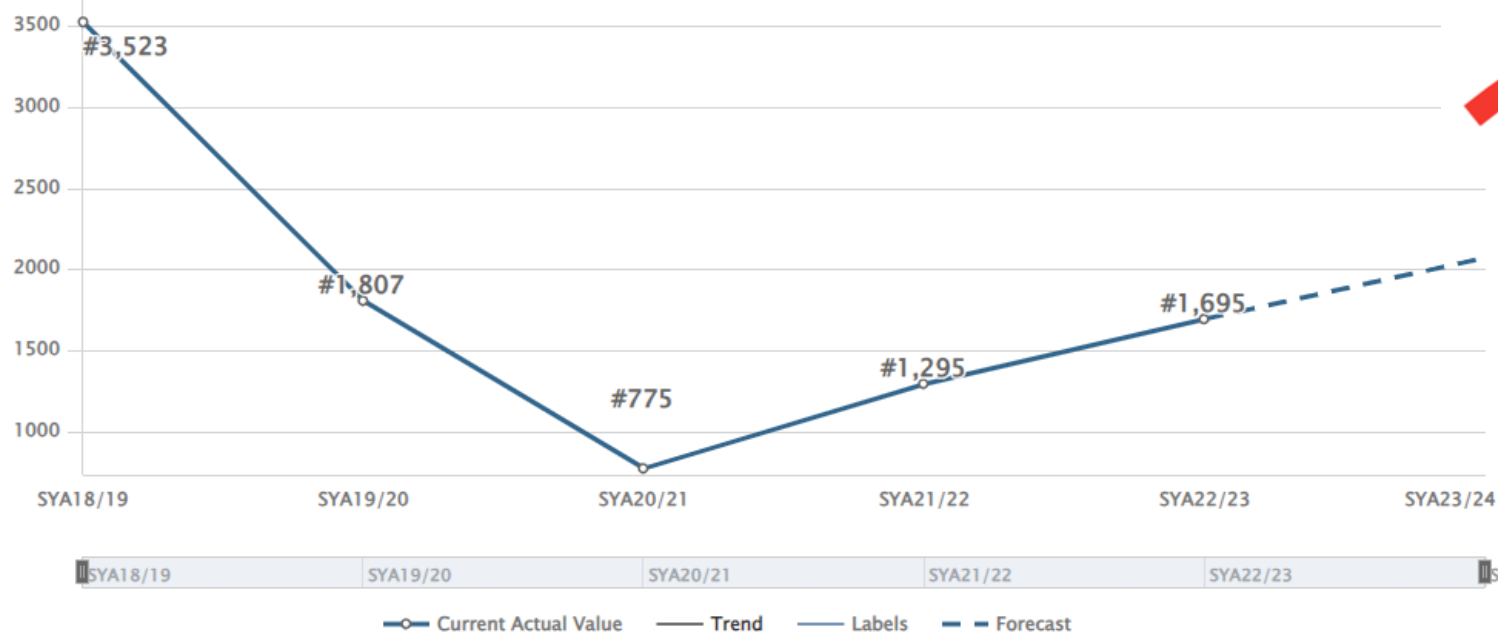
**disproportionately**

- [HYF] FDOE Disaggregated Data of Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento) by Race Broward County
- [HYF] FDOE Disaggregated Data by Race-Black
- [HYF] FDOE Disaggregated Data by Race-Hispanic
- [HYF] FDOE Disaggregated Data by Race-White
- [HYF] FDOE Disaggregated Data by Race-Two or More
- [HYF] FDOE Dissaggregated by Race-Asian

# Indicator #2 – Families reported as homeless to the Broward County HCoC Helpline

Families reported as homeless to the Broward County HCoC helpline

Data Source: Broward County Government HMIS



Negatively increasing since SYA20/21

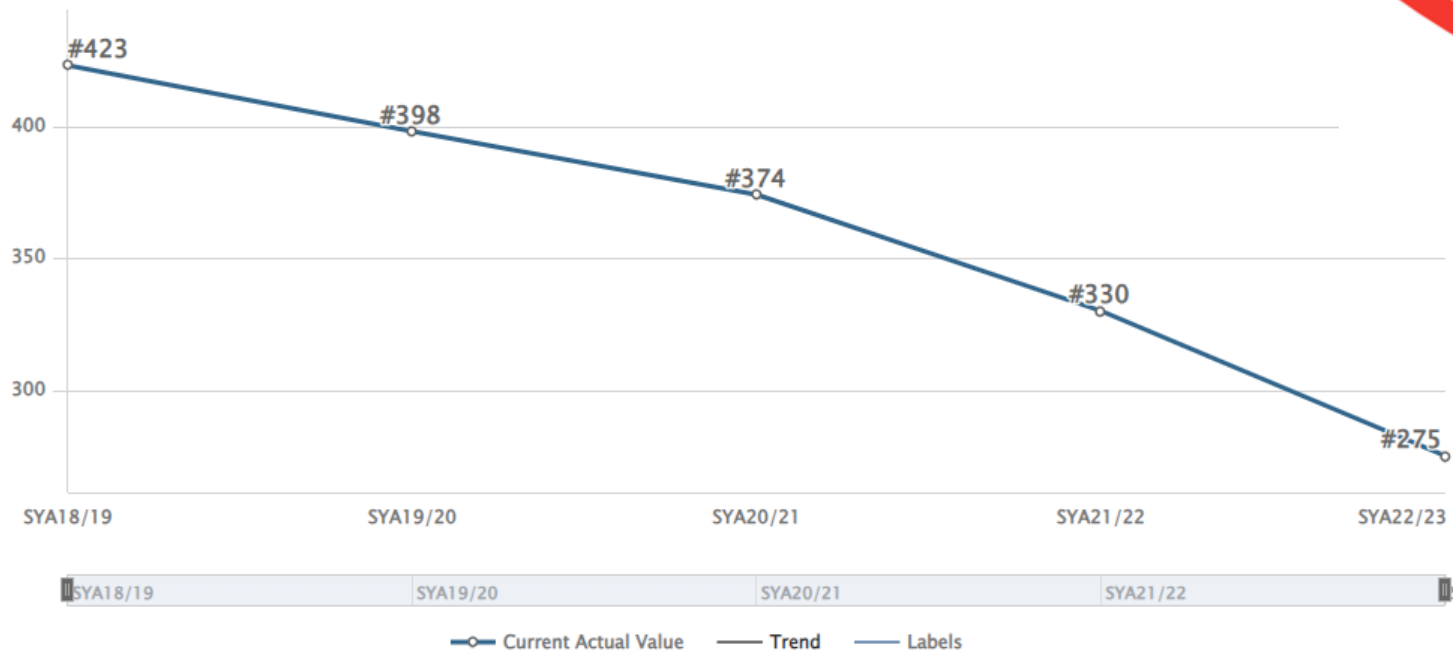
“Everyday was stressful when I was on the streets. Every thought was about survival.”  
– Danielle C.



# Indicator #3 – The number of HCoC families and youth in emergency shelters

Number of HCoC families and youth in emergency shelters

Data Source: Broward County Government HMIS



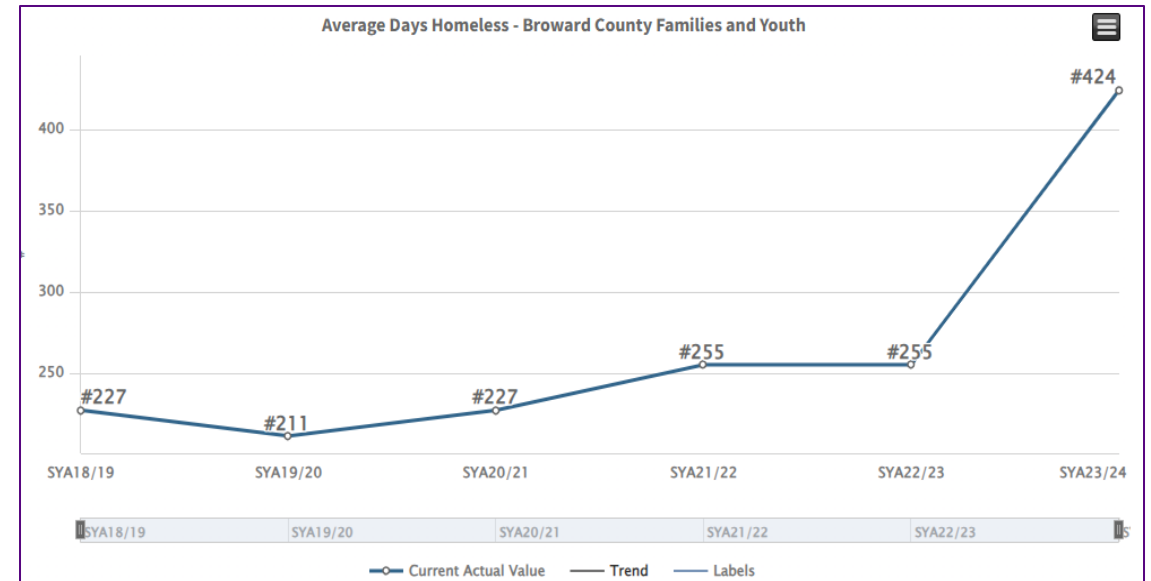
Decreasing  
since  
SY18/19

“Having children while you’re homeless is a challenge itself. Like, it was just so difficult to get into a shelter as a family because there were such few spaces.” - Danielle C.

# Indicator #3 – This decrease is attributed to 3 negative factors

1. Existing emergency shelter residents remain there for longer periods of time, preventing other families to access those beds
2. Since 2020, there have been fewer emergency shelters for families and youth due to social distancing requirements and necessary renovations to shelter space
3. At the end of 2022, Broward County lost Covenant House services for youth

Average Days Homeless: Families = 298; Youth = 126



# What Works to Reduce Student Homelessness

## 1. Systems/Community-Level (National/State/County/City)

- **Policy:**
  - Affordable housing policies
  - Sustainable rental subsidy endowment/program/fund
  - Incorporating youth voice in policy creation
  - Collaboration across systems (i.e., Advisory Boards and Councils)
- **Landlord Incentive Programs:** Project Home Again - encourages landlords to keep spaces at fair-market rate and be willing to work with individuals with a history of prior evictions or criminal record
- **Wraparound case management and life coaches** to youth/families living in transition to acquire independent living skills
- **Evidence-based peer-support models** that help individuals experiencing homelessness navigate the system of care

## 2. Family-Level

- Parent engagement through family-strengthening programs
- Education and job training - breaking the cycle of generational poverty
- Opportunities to access important pillars for success, e.g., employment, financial literacy, ownership, education courses, health care, mental health services, etc.

# Additional Evidence-Informed Strategies to Reduce Families/Youth Experiencing Homelessness

1. Invest in **staff-retention** strategies to prevent high turnover rates
2. Provide **safe parking** with centralized services and security
3. Improve **data-sharing** process to streamline access to services
4. Strengthen the **quality** of processes, procedures, and data
5. Build **shelters to accommodate large families** to keep families together
6. **Create access to more safe housing options for youth under 18**
7. **Expanding quality outreach**, i.e., street outreach vs. calls and appointments, and provide effective screening and assessment; more funding for street case management/housing navigation.
8. Continue to **optimize family-level access** to all pillars for success
9. **Connect with large pediatric offices**, e.g., Pediatric Associates who have access to data via their screening process to identify families experiencing homelessness

# HCoC/HYF Accomplishments

## HCoC:

- **Restructured the Coordinated Entry System**, creating efficiencies and effectiveness accessing HCoC-funded housing
- Expanded and strengthened **cross-system collaborations** to include varied systems, such as BBHC, Community Courts, the healthcare system/Hospital Liaison
- **Enhanced HMIS and Data Quality**
- **Increased funding** towards family/youth programs, PSH, and Outreach (Airport, Hospital, Transit)
- Refined **targeted family outreach**
- Enhanced collaboration between **HCoC and HEART**

## HYF:

- Established a partnership between the Broward Education Foundation and the DeLuca Foundation to provide scholarships for 25 high school seniors living in transition (2018-2019)
- Improved identification practices to ascertain Broward County Public School youth and families living in transition.
- Delta Sigma Theta provided mentorship to high school seniors living in transition entering college

# Students Experiencing Homelessness: Danielle C's Story

Danielle was waitlisted and homeless for a year and a half when she became eligible to receive the Broward County Housing Authority voucher and a housing unit.



**Staying at a homeless shelter in Broward County "was the best experience. They were helpful and gave me resources I didn't know about. I felt extremely supported and like I could finally breathe again." - Danielle C.**

# Students Experiencing Homelessness: References

- Indicator #1 – Number of students who selected “literally homeless” (HUD) on the Student Housing Questionnaire, Broward County Public Schools Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team Power BI Database
- FDOE Disaggregated Data of Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento) by Race Broward County, Florida Department of Education Database
- Indicator #2 – Families reported as homeless to the Broward County HCoC Helpline, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Database
- Indicator 3 – The number of HCoC families and youth in emergency shelters, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Database

