

Press Release

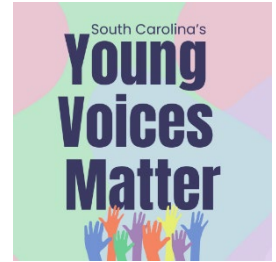
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The SC Interagency Council on Homelessness Releases Statewide Report on Unstably Housed Youth

[SC, Greenville, September 3, 2026] The SC Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH), in partnership with the SC Department of Social Services and agencies serving unstably housed youth statewide, planned and carried out South Carolina's first statewide count of youth experiencing homelessness.

The initiative, known as the SC Young Voices Matter (SCYVM) Campaign, “represents one of the most coordinated statewide efforts to identify and engage young people experiencing homelessness,” said Campaign Chairman Curtis Joe, CEO of Sea Haven for Youth. “Through partnerships with agencies, Continuums of Care, volunteers, and community organizations across all four regions of the state, more than 350 youth participated in 40-plus outreach events statewide. The report also includes data from the SC Department of Education’s (SCDE) McKinney-Vento Program, a federal program that supports children in South Carolina schools who are experiencing homelessness.”

The campaign’s goal was to identify the services needed to support and house these vulnerable young people. To achieve this, the group organized “Make Your Voice Matter” survey events to gather data from youth ages 18 to 24 who lack stable housing and to identify gaps in available services. Data gathered from the SCDE on the homeless experiences of youth K3-12th grade rounded out the report.

Each year, 4.2 million youth in the United States experience homelessness, including 700,000 unaccompanied minors without the protection of a parent or guardian. Alarming, one in three teenagers is at risk of being lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.

“These statistics were alarming to us,” said SCICH Chair Bruce Forbes. “Even more alarming is that 18,300 school-age children in South Carolina are unstably housed, most living temporarily with friends or family, according to McKinney-Vento data.”

Across the initiative, youth overwhelmingly identified a stable, safe place to call home as their greatest need. To read the full report, visit <https://www.schomeless.org/resources>.

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