Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness

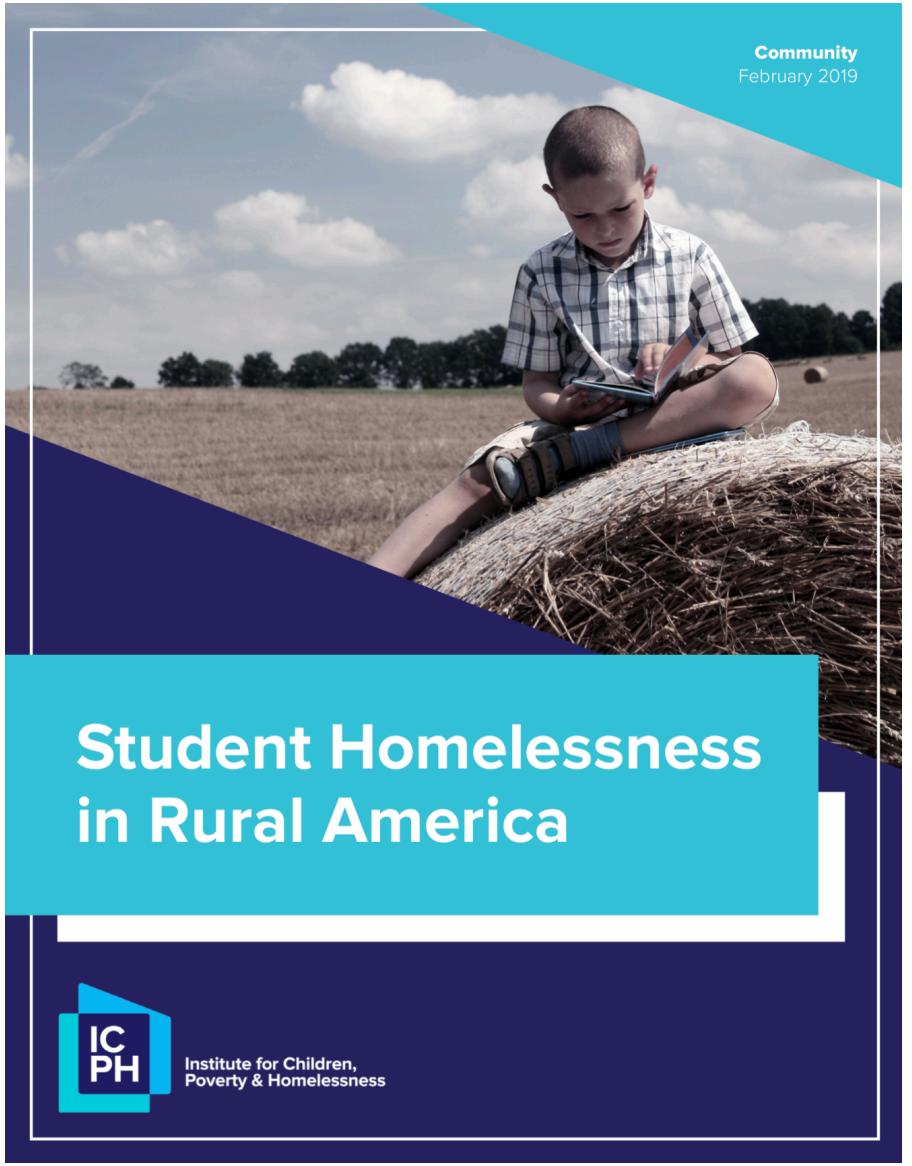
Supporting Children Experiencing Homelessness in Rural America

Today's Panelists

- **Derrick Lambert** – Senior Manager, "No Kid Hungry" campaign by Share Our Strength
- **Christina Dukes** – Federal Liaison, National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
- **Michelle Patton Swisher** – McKinney-Vento Liaison, Spotsylvania County Schools in Virginia
- **Lisa Dolan** – Lead School Social Worker, Spotsylvania County Schools in Virginia

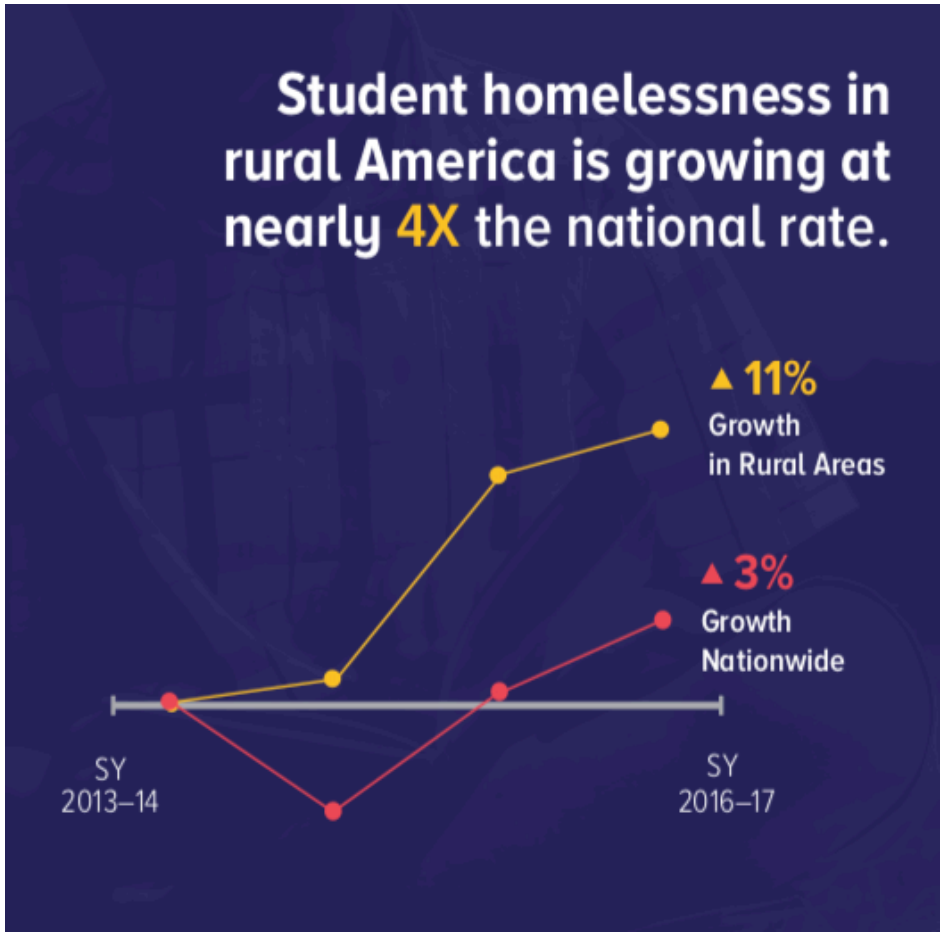
Student Homelessness in Rural America

- School district level data from U.S. Department of Education
- Homelessness seen as an urban issue, leaving little research and resources to homeless students in rural areas



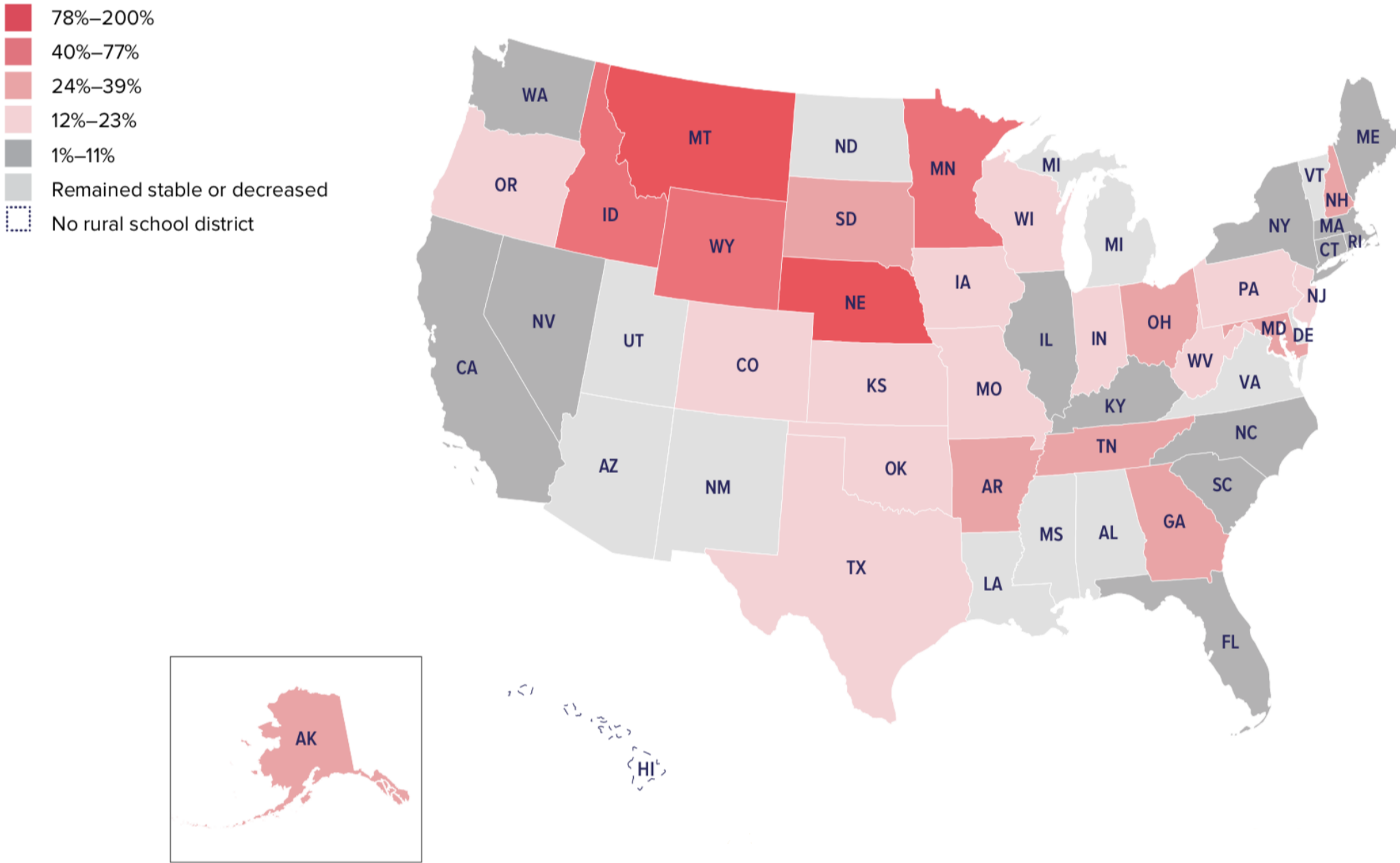
Student Homelessness Growing Fastest in Rural America

- Between SY 2013–14 and SY 2016–17, there was an 11% increase in rural student homelessness, compared with a 3% increase nationwide.
- 162,000 homeless students in rural parts of the country (12% of all homeless students)



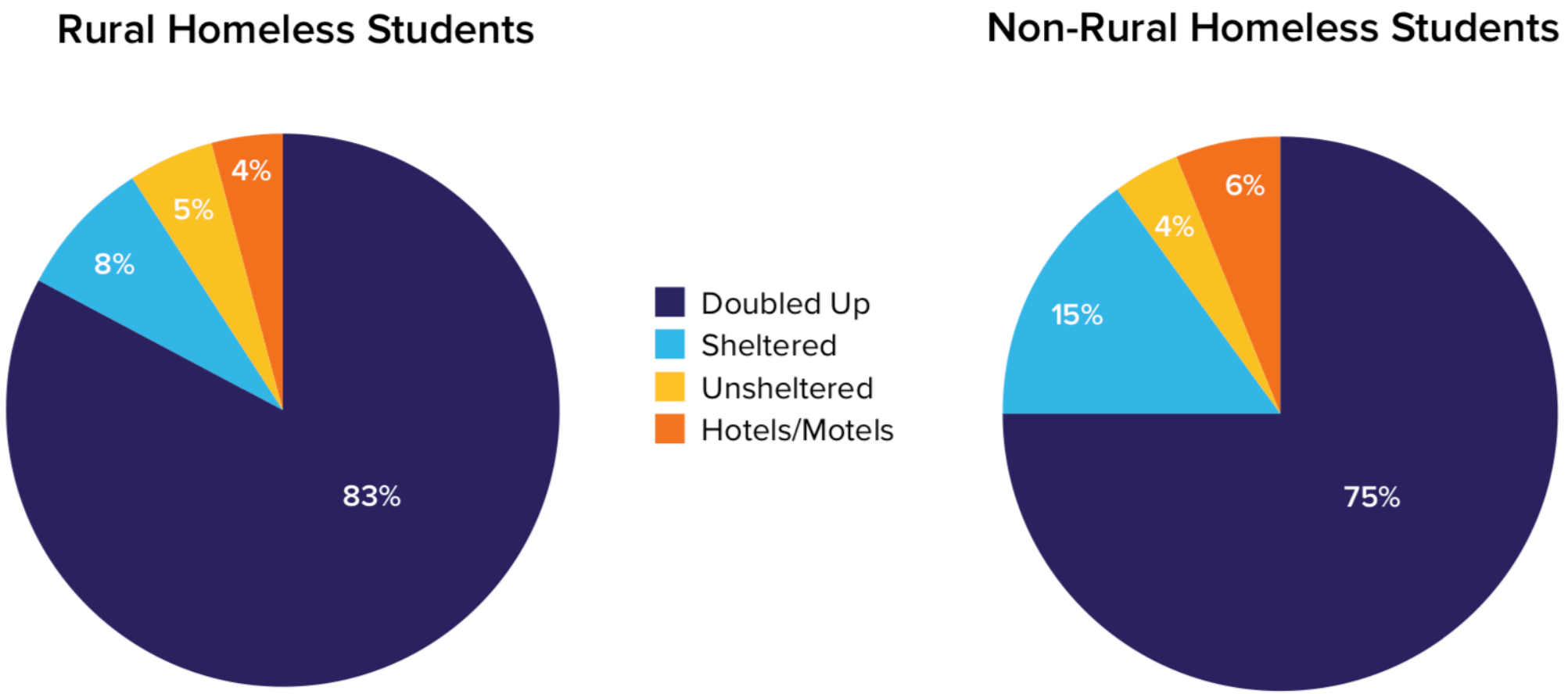
Growth in Student Homelessness in Rural America

SY 2013–14 to SY 2016–17



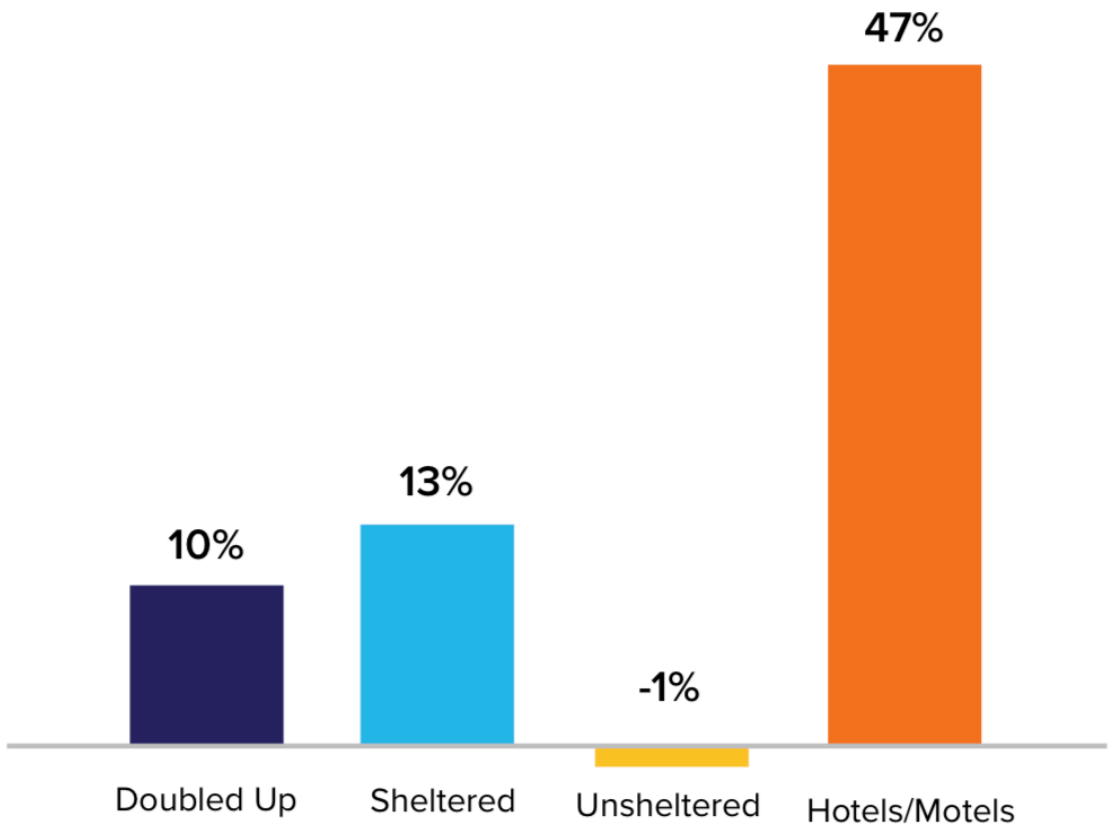
Rural Homeless Less Likely to Sleep in Shelter

SY 2016–17



Change in Where Rural Homeless Students Stay
SY 2013–14 to SY 2016–17

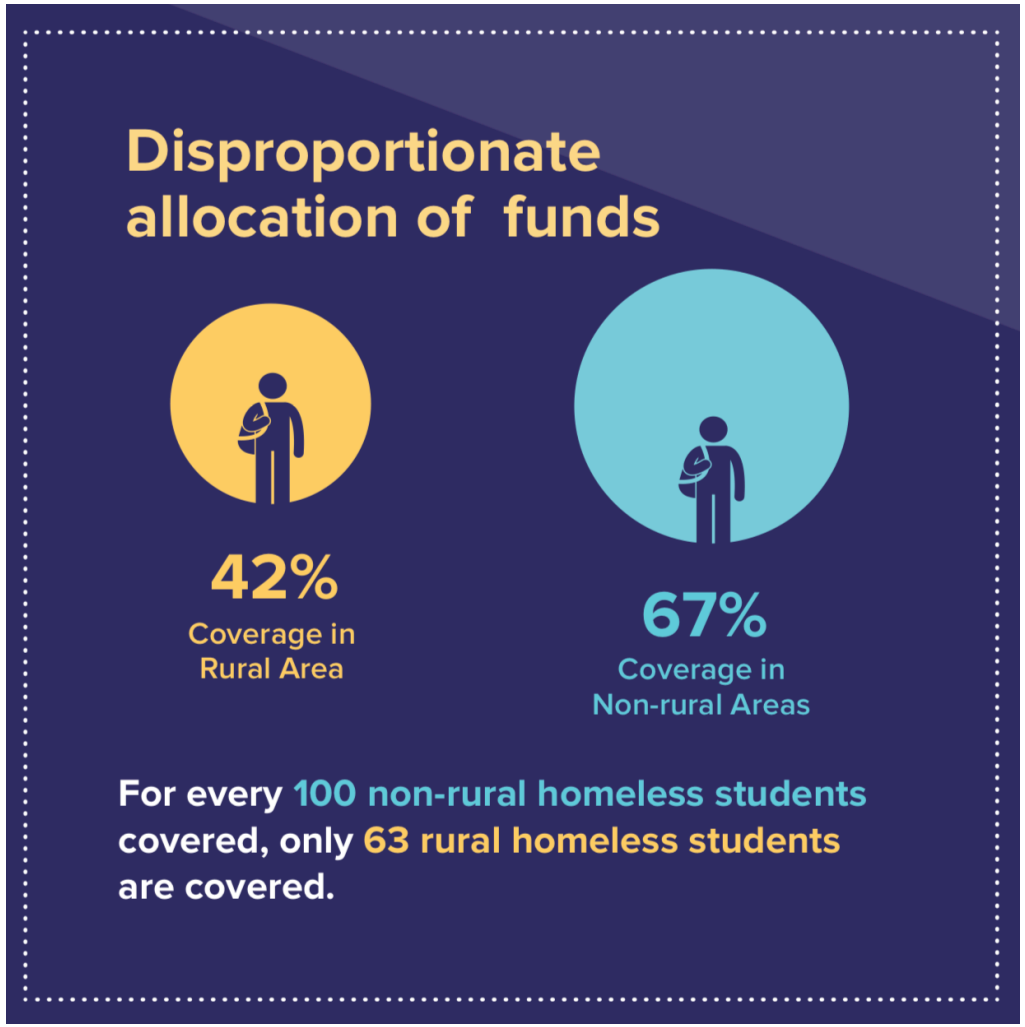
- 47% increase in children staying in hotels/motels
- Increase in almost all primary nighttime residences indicative of high demand



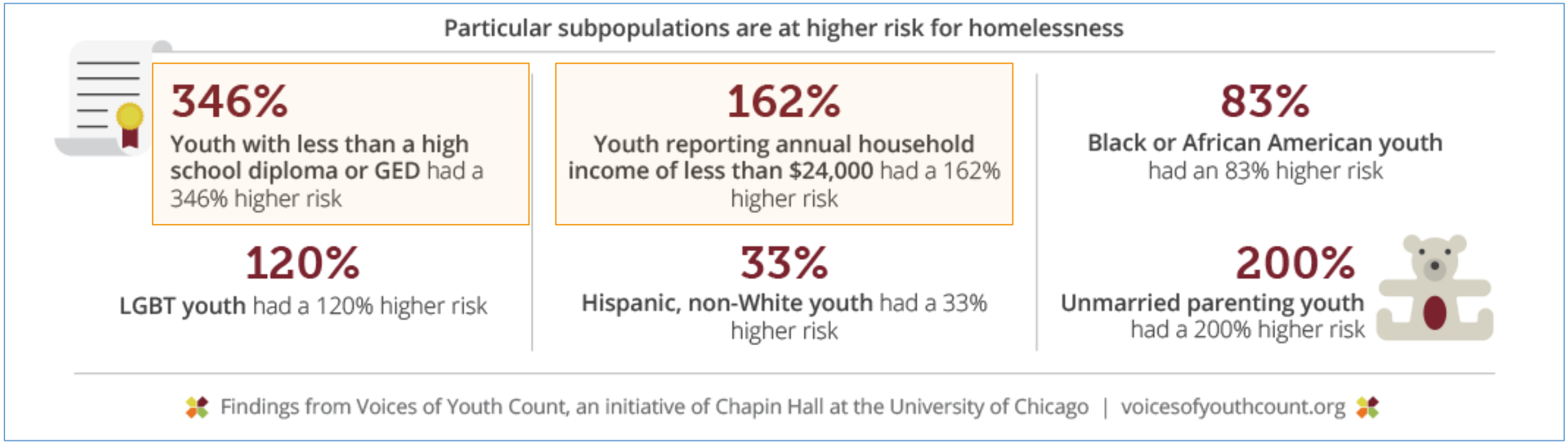
Rural Areas Are Underfunded and Underserved

- Only 42% of rural homeless students attend school in a McKinney-Vento funded district, compared with 67% of of non-rural students.

- Additional challenges:
  - Lack of primary healthcare and mental healthcare
  - Limited internet access
  - Transportation



Youth at Higher Risk of Homelessness



Source: https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/missed-opportunities-education-among-youth-experiencing-homelessness-in-america/

“The More You Learn, the More You Earn”

Figure 1. We need systemic solutions that address education and homelessness together

1. Supporting young people’s housing stability makes it easier for them to stay in school and focus on their educational success.

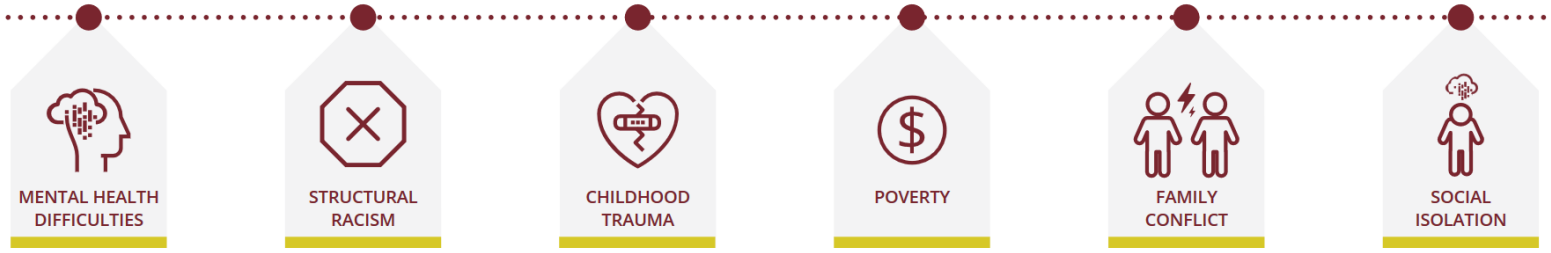
2. Helping young people with educational opportunities increases long-term income and safety nets needed to exit homelessness for good.

STABLE HOUSING

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

INCOME & SAFETY NETS

3. Identifying and addressing common underlying risk factors can help prevent both homelessness and school dropout.



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VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT

Urban Vs. Rural Prevalence

Source: http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Rural-Brief_2018.pdf

Nighttime Residence: Urban vs. Rural

Source: http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Rural-Brief_2018.pdf

THANK YOU!

media@ICPHusa.org
(212) 358-8086

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