Homeless Students at Higher Risk of Violence

Homeless high school students face many challenges related to housing instability that impact their health, well-being, and ability to perform in school. Unfortunately, among the challenges often faced by these vulnerable students are feeling unsafe and increased exposure to violence, both inside and outside school.

Nearly 1 in 4 homeless students were threatened or injured with a weapon at school in the previous year...

...and an equal amount missed school during the previous month because they felt unsafe on their way to or from school.

Almost half of homeless students were in a physical fight in the previous year.

Compared to housed students, homeless students were:

- Nearly 2x as likely to be bullied at school or online in the previous year.
- More than 2x as likely to carry a weapon in the previous month.
- More than 7x as likely to carry a gun in the previous month.

Note: Data represents weighted estimates from states and large school districts that participated in the 2016-17 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Answers are self-reported and ask about experiences that occurred either in the last 30 days or last 12 months prior to survey administration.

Interventions that support the safety of students who experience homelessness and address their exposure to violence are essential. If homeless students are to have the same opportunities to learn as their housed classmates, they must feel safe both in and out of the classroom.

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https://www.icphusa.org/no-longer-hidden/