# Professor Instructions

* Select a child welfare problem or issue
* Research the policies, programs, and services related to the topic
* Include statistics and factual and objective information
* Analyze the information obtained and address whether services and programs have been implemented in accordance with existing policy
* Discuss whether the needs of the population are being addressed
* Maintain an objective position throughout
  + Do not provide any opinions or suggestions on what should be done to remedy any problems
* Paper should be 8-10 pages long
  + Not including title page or reference page

# Original abstract

* about child homelessness in California
* what leads to child homelessness and why it is a continuing issue
* runaways, family poverty leading to homelessness, child abandonment or neglect, which can lead to child homelessness
* different physical, social, emotional, and psychological affects that child homelessness causes
* Some of the issues we will possibly touch on are, malnutrition, lack of education, joining gangs, drug use, child trafficking (prostitution), behavioral problems, depression/suicide, or death
* also talk about the different polices that there are in regards to the child homelessness.
* policies that California has in regards to child homelessness
* cities in California that are mostly affected by child homelessness
* second half of our paper we will be giving possible solutions and or our opinions on why or why not the policies and or programs and services may or may not be successful.

# <http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report_cards/long/ca_long.pdf>

* California’s ranks
  + extent of child homelessness: 48
  + child well-being: 15
  + risk for child homelessness: 28
  + state policy and planning: inadequate
  + overall rank: 40
  + states ranked 1-50 with 1 being best and 50 worst
  + California’s 40th place rank is a composite of the number of children currently homeless in the state, an assessment of how children are faring in various domains (i.e. food security, health, education), the risk of children becoming homeless, and the state planning and policy efforts
* Extent of child homelessness:
  + More than 292,624 California children experience homelessness each year according to the data collected by the McKinney-Vento Educational Programs
  + California ranks 49th in the number of homeless children and 48th in the percentage of children who are homeless
  + Of the 2,200,000 children living in poverty in California, thirteen out of every one hundred (13% ) are homeless.
* Age & race/ethnicity
  + California has 2,200,000 children living in poverty.
  + Fifty-one percent of California’s children living in families with incomes below the poverty level are Hispanic,
    - thirty-five percent are White, non-Hispanic
    - eight percent are Black, non-Hispanic.
  + Ages of homeless children
    - Under 6 years: 122K+
    - Grades k-8 (enrolled) 135K+
    - Grades 9-12 (enrolled) 33K+
    - Total homeless children 292K+
* Housing and income
  + Housing costs outpace wages and public assistance for low income citizens (in every state)
  + A 2-bedroom unit priced at the Fair market Rent (FMR) falls outside of the financial reach of a full-time worker earning minimum wage in California
    - One wage earner at the state’s minimum wage ($8/hr) would need to work 120 hours per week for 52 weeks per year to afford a 2 bedroom apartment at FMR
  + Even with 2 fulltime minimum wage workers, affordable housing is not attainable in most places in California
  + for a typical homeless family, which consists of a single mother with 2 children,
    - the average monthly income for a single mother in California who receives public assistance is less than 1,045, or roughly 33% of the amount needed to rent a two bedroom apartment
    - this family can afford to pay $314 per month in rent
  + California’s housing and income gap
    - Minimum hourly wage $8
    - Average hourly wage for renters: 16.67
    - Hourly wage needed to afford 2-bedroom apartment: $24.01
    - Fair market rent for 2-bedroom apartment $1249
* Food security:
  + 1 in 28 California households have very low food security, i.e. experiencing hunger
  + The national average is 1 in 26
  + Compared to middle-income families, homeless families in California suffer proportionately more moderate to severe health problems, including asthma, traumatic stress, and emotional disturbances
* Education
  + Homeless students in California have significant deficiencies as compared to non-homeless students
    - California has 2,200,000 children living in poverty. Fifty-one percent of California’s children living in families with incomes below the poverty level are Hispanic, thirty-five percent are White, non-Hispanic, and eight percent are Black, non-Hispanic.
    - approximately 17% of California’s 33,956 homeless high school students were tested and just nine percent of those were judged proficient in reading.
    - Approximately 25% percent of homeless students in grades three through eight were tested in mathematics. Of those, 15% were proficient in mathematics by NAEP standards
    - 17% of homeless high school students were tested in mathematics. Of those, just five percent were judged proficient by state standards
* Risk factors for child homelessness in California
  + s. When we consider risk factors for homelessness, we often focus on individual vulnerabilities, such as a recent pregnancy or hospitalization of a parent for a mental health or substance use problem
    - m. However, these individual factors only tell us who is more likely to be affected by adverse economic and housing factors
  + Why someone becomes homeless is determined by structural factors such as the lack of affordable housing and employment opportunities
    - This index is comprised of state-level indicators in three domains: socio- economic descriptors, housing market factors, and generosity of benefits.
* California’s planning and policy efforts
  + State planning: efforts have taken the form of developing state interagency councils on homelessness and in the development of 10-year plans to end homelessness and are summarized below for California.
    - state’s interagency efforts on homelessness:
      * In November 2005, representatives from California attended the federally sponsored Policy Academy on homeless families with children
      * n. In 2006, the California Homeless Families Team drafted a California Action Plan to Address Homelessness among Families with Children.
      * A Ten Year Chronic Homelessness Action Plan was also drafted in 2006 by the Policy Academy team appointed by the Governor
* California state policies
  + States can address the housing needs of low-income families through short and long-term strategies
  + California currently has 1,873 units of emergency shelter, 4,674 units (i.e., housing or shelter for one family) of transitional housing, and 2,904 units of permanent supportive housing designated for families.
  + Section 8 vouchers and public housing are two of the primary ways for homeless families to secure affordable housing
    - An analysis of waiting list data from Public Housing Authority (PHA) annual plans submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 20 reveals that over 80% of families on these lists have extremely low incomes and nearly all have children
    - In California, approximately 73% of the households on the Section 8 waiting lists and 76% on the Public Housing waiting lists are families with extremely low incomes
    - In California, approximately 73% of the households on the Section 8 waiting lists and 76% on the Public Housing waiting lists are families with extremely low incomes
  + Wages
    - $8 minimum wage covers only 33% of the hourly wage needed to afford a 2 bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in California
    - For families receiving the maximum monthly TANF (CalWORKS) payment, their monthly income covers only half (54% ) of the amount needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent.
    - Because of the federal five-year lifetime limit for receipt of TANF assistance, over half of the families on welfare in the state today receive no or drastically reduced payments and no services.
    - An Earned Income Tax Credit can give families living in poverty an economic “boost” that may help reduce child poverty and increase a family’s take-home earnings. California is one of 27 states that does not have a State Earned Income Tax Credit
  + Child care
    - The average annual cost for child care for a four-year old in California is $7,622, which is higher than the national average of $5,719.
    - Every state receives funding through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to provide child care assistance to low-income families. California families use their voucher for:
      * 85% employment
      * 6% training/education
      * Both employment and training/education 5%
      * These numbers demonstrate that child care vouchers help families engage in work and job training/ education activities, a key component of a family’s ability to exit homelessness
  + Food security: states can help families by motivating eligible individuals access food stamps, encourage schools to participate in school breakfast programs, and facilitate family enrollment into WIC.
    - California child enrollment in federal nutrition programs;
      * Food stamp enrollment among eligible children
        + Ca = 46%
        + National average = 61.9%
      * School breakfast participation among schools providing lunch
        + Ca = 79%
        + National average = 84.2%
  + Health: children who are uninsured are more likely than their insured peers to lack a regular source of care, to delay care, or to have an unmet medical need.
    - 12.3% of children in California are uninsured, compared to 10% nationally
    - California spends 17.3% of its total Medicaid budget on children, compared to the national average of 19.3%
  + Education:
    - California receives an average of $26 per child from the federal government to address the education needs of children and youth experiencing homeless
    - there is no state-level funding dedicated to the education of homeless children
  + Homeless definition:
    - At the time of this publication, California did not have a statewide definition of homeless