

# On Campus with Kids: Supporting Student Parents in Higher Education

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# Introduction

The student parent population

The evolution of student parent programs

Title IX protections for pregnant & parenting students

Hardships, Obstacles & Challenges:

- 63% experience housing insecurity
- 14% experience homelessness
- 63% experience low or very low food security



# Research Conducted by and for Student Parents





# Collaborative Action Research

- Intuitive research process beginning in direct response to a community need.
- Research process driven from beginning through dissemination by input and collaboration with student parents as project leaders and researchers.
- Researchers solicits and responds to community feedback
- Flexible and adaptive working practices leveraging technology allow national collaboration and student-parent friendly employment in their field of study
- Research is designed and implemented with intent of social impact/change.



# National Family Housing Database

294 colleges or universities in the United States have family housing (10%)

Region 1 (New England) - **21 (9%)**

Region 2 (Mid Atlantic) - **19 (4%)**

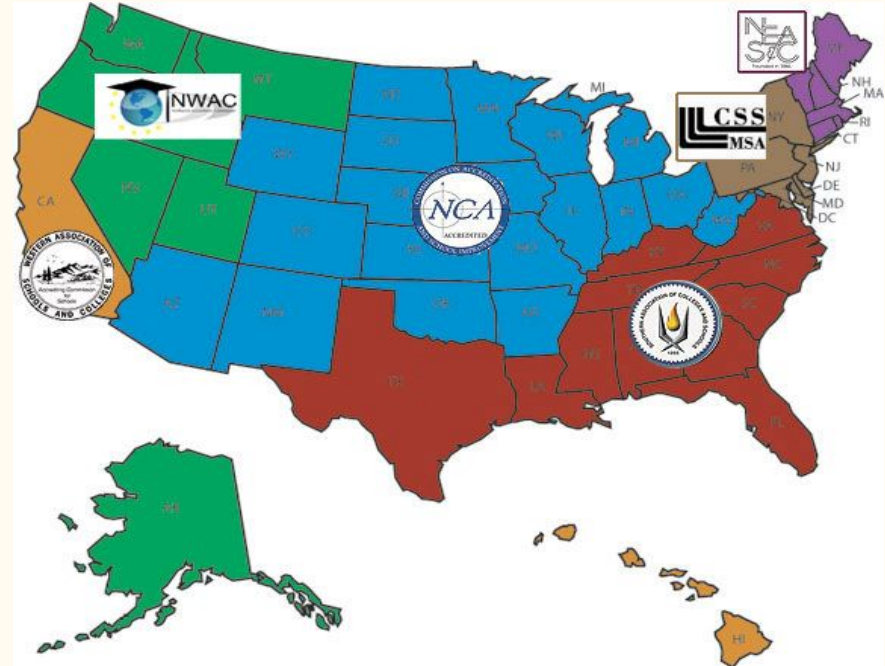
Region 3 (South)- **72 (9%)**

Region 4 East (Great Lakes) - **69 (10%)**

Region 4 West (Plains/Rockies) - **65 (20%)**

Region 5 (Pacific Northwest) - **33 (21%)**

Region 6 (West) - **15 (5%)**



# National Family Housing Database

- Family housing varies from college to college
- Closings
- Why is family housing closing?
- Affordability of family housing



# Find Your Way

*“If I was to go to college here, what resources and supports would be available to me as a student parent?”*

- Family Housing
- Childcare Centers
- Scholarships
- Women’s Centers
- Work/Life Offices
- Student Parent Centers/Programs
- Other Resources



# New England

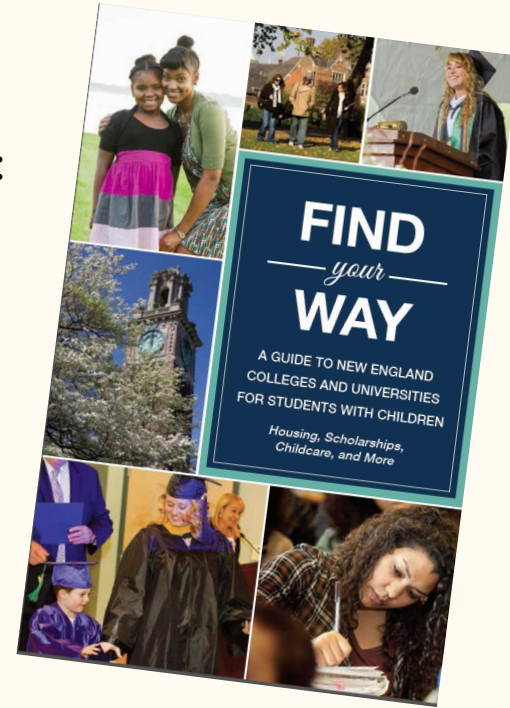
Of the 229 accredited colleges and universities in New England:

- 21 offer Family Housing (9%)
- 69 have a Campus Childcare Center (30%)
- 37 offer specific scholarships for student parents (16%)
- 34 have a women's resource center (15%)
- 16 have a work/life center (7%)
- 16 have a student parent center or program (7%)

*17.8% of New England Undergraduate Students are parents.*

*This reflects a 20.8% increase in this population between 2004-2012.*

\*\*Source: Noll, E.; Gault, B. and Reichlin-Cruse, L. 2017. *College Students with Children: National and Regional Profiles*. Report #451. Washington DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research.





# The Mid-Atlantic

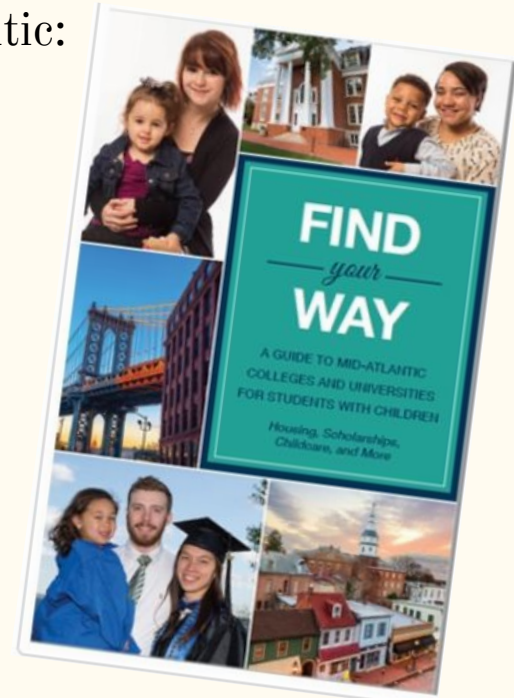
Of the 539 accredited colleges and universities in the Mid-Atlantic:

- 19 offer Family Housing (4%)
- 152 have a Campus Childcare Center (29%)
- 37 offer specific scholarships for student parents (7%)
- 69 have a women's resource center (13%)
- 3 have a student parent center or program (1%)

*19.6% of undergraduates in the Mid-Atlantic are parents.\*\**

*This reflects an 18.2% increase from 2004-2012.\*\**

\*\*Source: Noll, E.; Gault, B. and Reichlin-Cruse, L. 2017. *College Students with Children: National and Regional Profiles*. Report #451. Washington DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research.



# Preliminary Data from the South

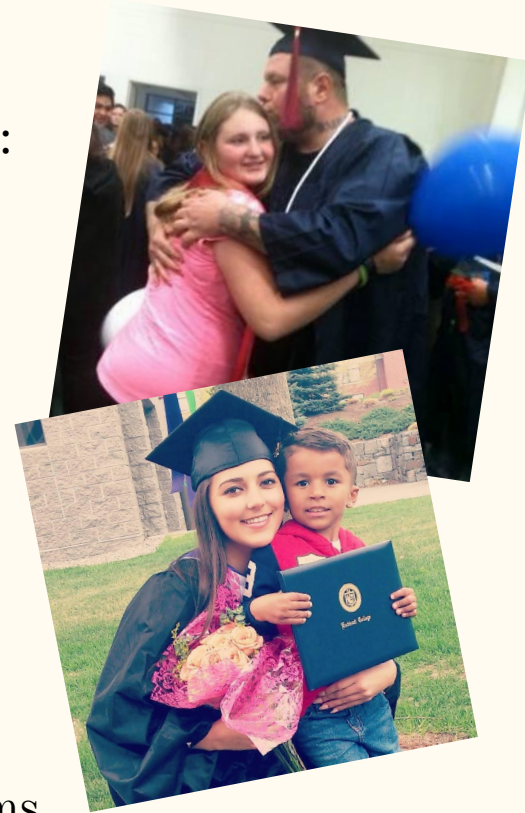
	<u>Florida</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Family Housing	7 (9%)	34 (21%)
Childcare	30 (39%)	37 (23%)
Scholarships	18 (23%)	17 (10%)
Women's Center	3 (4%)	10 (6%)
Student Parent Program	1 (1%)	5 (3%)



*Student parents represent 27% of undergraduates in the Southeast (Florida) and 34% of undergraduates in the Southwest (Texas). State-level data is not available.\*\**

# Limitations & Restrictions

- The existence of programs does not ensure student access:
  - Affordability
  - Capacity
  - Access
  - Many programs target faculty/staff retention over student retention
- Women's centers and Work/Life Centers
- Added additional services to protocol (e.g. food pantries, clothing banks, emergency loans, etc.)
- Programs are being eliminated or transitioned to other models (e.g. off-campus partnerships).
- Full dataset is still incomplete but will be the first comprehensive national dataset on student parent programs.



# Implications & Next Steps

- How might the shortage of supportive services for student parents across the higher education system reflect systems-wide exclusion protected against by Title IX?
- Identifying and defining best practices for higher education
- Building the case for supporting student parents
  - Higher Education Leadership
  - Policy Makers
  - Others





# Research into Action

- Distribution of Find Your Way Guidebooks
- Special Events & Convenings
- Partnership with National Networks (IWPR, Ascend at the Aspen Institute)
- Launching new student parent programs
- Legislative Advocacy (National, State & Local)
- Regional Advocacy
- Institutional Advocacy
- Media Outreach
- Public recognition



# More Information!

The National Center for Student Parent Programs

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