Until the 1980s, the
American homeless population comprised mainly older males.
Today, homelessness strikes much younger part of society. In fact, a
25-city survey by the U. S. Conference of Mayors in 1987 found that
families with children make up the fastest growing part of the
homeless population. Many homeless children gather in inner cities.
this transient(   ) and frequently frightened student
population creates additional problems both legal and educational
for already overburdened urban school administrators and teachers.
Estimates of the number of homeless Americans range from 350,000
to three million. Likewise, estimates of the number of homeless
school children vary radically. A U.S. Department of Education
report, based on state estimates, states that there are 220,000
homeless school-age children, about a third of whom do not attend
school on a regular basis, But the National Coalition for the
Homeless estimates that there are at least two times as many homeless
children, and that less than half of them attend school regularly. One
part of the homeless population that is particularly difficult to count
consists of the " throwaway" youths who have been cast of their
homes. The Elementary School Center in New York City estimates
that there are 1.5 million of them, many of whom are not counted as
children because they do not stay in family shelters and tend to live
by themselves on the streets. Federal law, the Stewart B. McKinney

Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, includes a section that addresses the educational needs of homeless children. The educational provisions of the McKinney Act are based on the belief that all homeless children have the right to a free, appropriate education. 1. It is implied in the first paragraph that _____.

A) the writer himself is homeless, even in his eighties B) many older homeless residents are going on strike in 25 cities C) there is a serious shortage of academic facilities D) homeless children are denied the opportunity of receiving free education 2. The National Coalition for the homeless believes that the number of homeless children is _____. A) 350,000 B) 1,500,000 C) 440,000 D) 110,000 3. One part of the homeless population is difficult to estimate. The reason might well be _____. A) the homeless children are too young to be counted as children B) the homeless population is growing rapidly C) the homeless children usually stay outside school D) some homeless children are deserted by their families 4. The McKinney Act is mentioned in this passage in order to show that _____. A) the educational problems of homeless children are being recognized B) the estimates on homeless children are hard to determine C) the address of grade-school children should be located D) all homeless people are entitled to free education 5. The passage mainly deals with _____. A) the legal problems of the homeless children B) the educational problems of homeless children C) the social status of older males D) estimates on the homeless population

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