



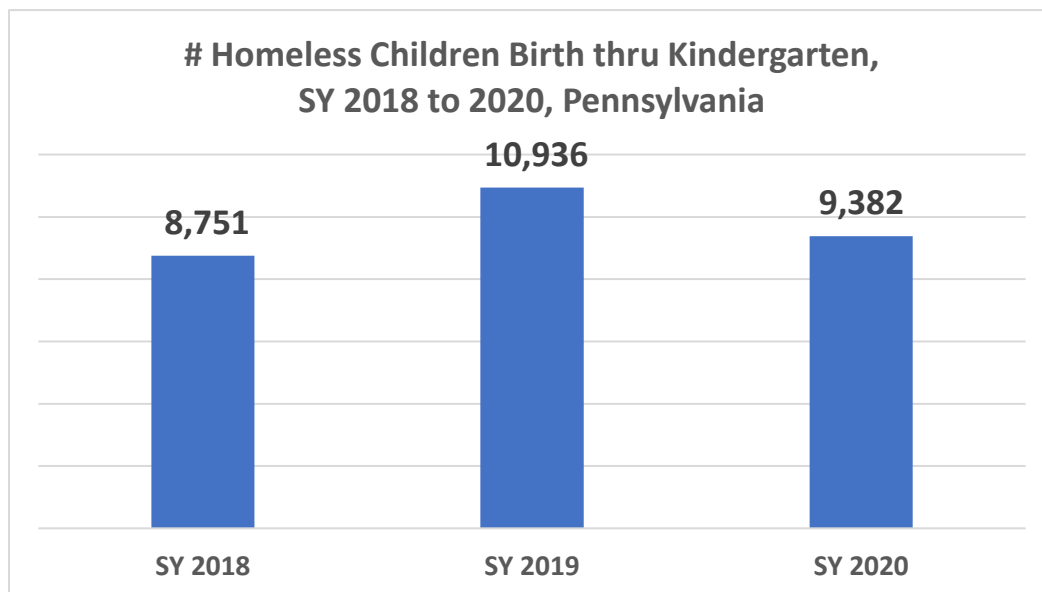
BrainGain

9,382 Children Ages Birth through Kindergarten Experienced Homelessness in Pennsylvania in School Year 2020

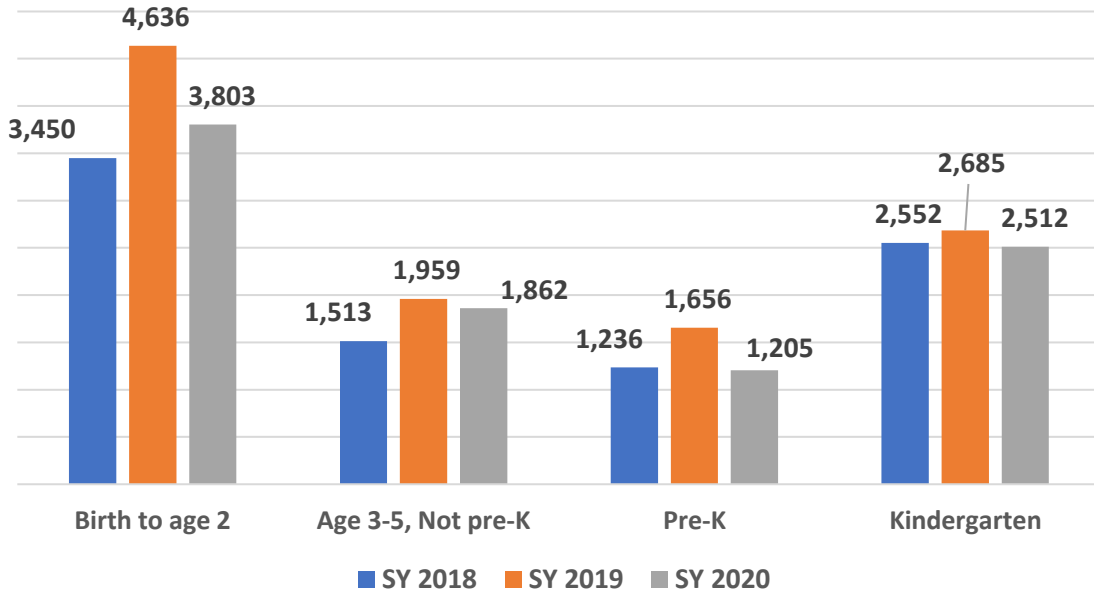
The number of children and youth who experienced homelessness in school year (SY) 2019-2020 was 9,382, according to a report by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This is a **decrease of 1,554 children, or 14%, compared to the previous year**. People’s Emergency Center (PEC) summarized this report to inform policy makers about young children experiencing homelessness, especially in the homeless housing system, in the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and in the Pennsylvania Homeless Stakeholders’ Groupⁱ.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s *Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) 2019-20 State Evaluation Report* can be read at [ECYEH 2019-2020 State Evaluation Report](#). The *Evaluation Report* has a wealth of information, but PEC focuses on what the report provides on young children.

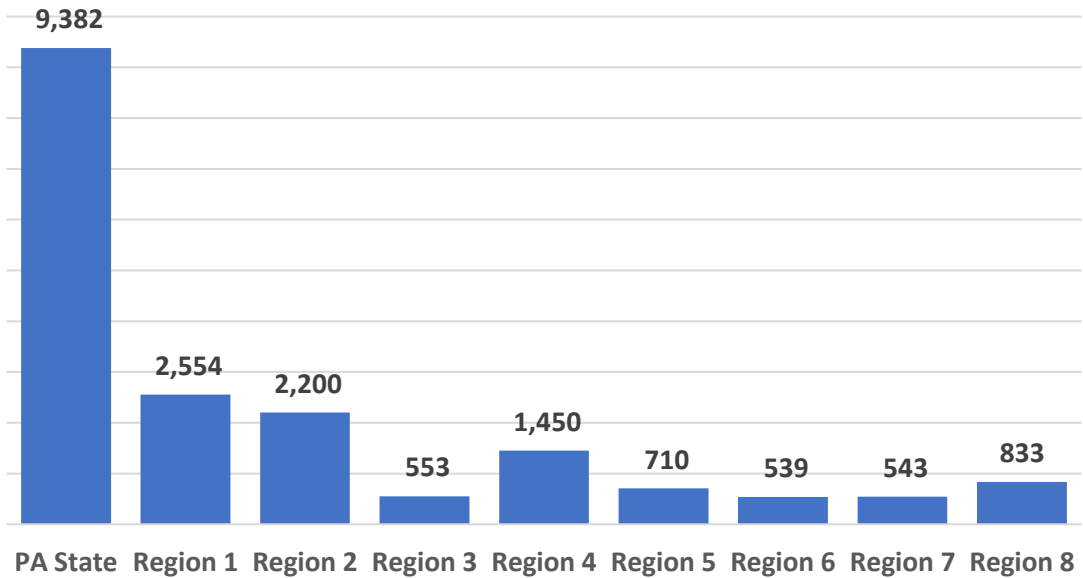
Find the original report here [ECYEH 2019-2020 State Evaluation Report](#).



Homeless Children Birth thru Kindergarten,
SY 2018 to 2020, Pennsylvania



Homeless Children Birth to Kindergarten, SY 2020, By
ECYEH Regions, Pennsylvania



Highlights

- **COVID** is credited with the reduction in the total number of children identified as homeless in SY 2020.
- There were 9,382 ages birth through Kindergarten, **less than** the 10,936 reported in the previous year but higher than reported in SY 2018.
- Children ages **birth through two** represent the **largest** number of homeless children by the four categories.
- Regions 2,4, and 5 identified **more** young children in SY 2020 than in previous years.

The Evaluators caution readers to “Care should be taken to avoid making comparisons across regions, as each region has differing numbers of LEAs, numbers of collaborating entities, reporting practices, ECYEH Program staff, and total child and youth counts. Additionally, regions have differing areas of focus based on regional need within the population experiencing homelessness. That said, differences among the regions can guide program improvement and technical assistance at the state level.” (p. 6)

Evaluation Report’s Recommendations Specific to Birth to Kindergarten

(the following is verbatim from the report)

1. Continue to educate and support LEA^s in the requirement of reporting their **under-five population**, be it those children who attend their prekindergarten programs, or non-enrolled younger siblings of enrolled students.
2. Continue to build collaborations with **prekindergarten partners** at the state and regional levels and ensure that all LEAs know the prekindergarten programs in their area and have the capacity to make referrals when they enroll students who have under-five siblings not enrolled in prekindergarten programs. **Connections between shelters and prekindergarten programs** may need to be established or strengthened.

Selected Comments from the Evaluation Report

(the following is verbatim from the report)

- The ECYEH Program’s focus continues to increase on the reporting of under-five children (not yet in kindergarten). **Differences** among regions in the prekindergarten categories are **most likely reflective of differing migrant populations**, differing numbers of

prekindergarten programs (both Local Education Agencies [LEA] and non-LEA), differing numbers of shelters among the regions, the extent to which each of these reporting entities reported on children in the under-five categories, and the extent to which LEAs report on non-enrolled siblings of identified students.

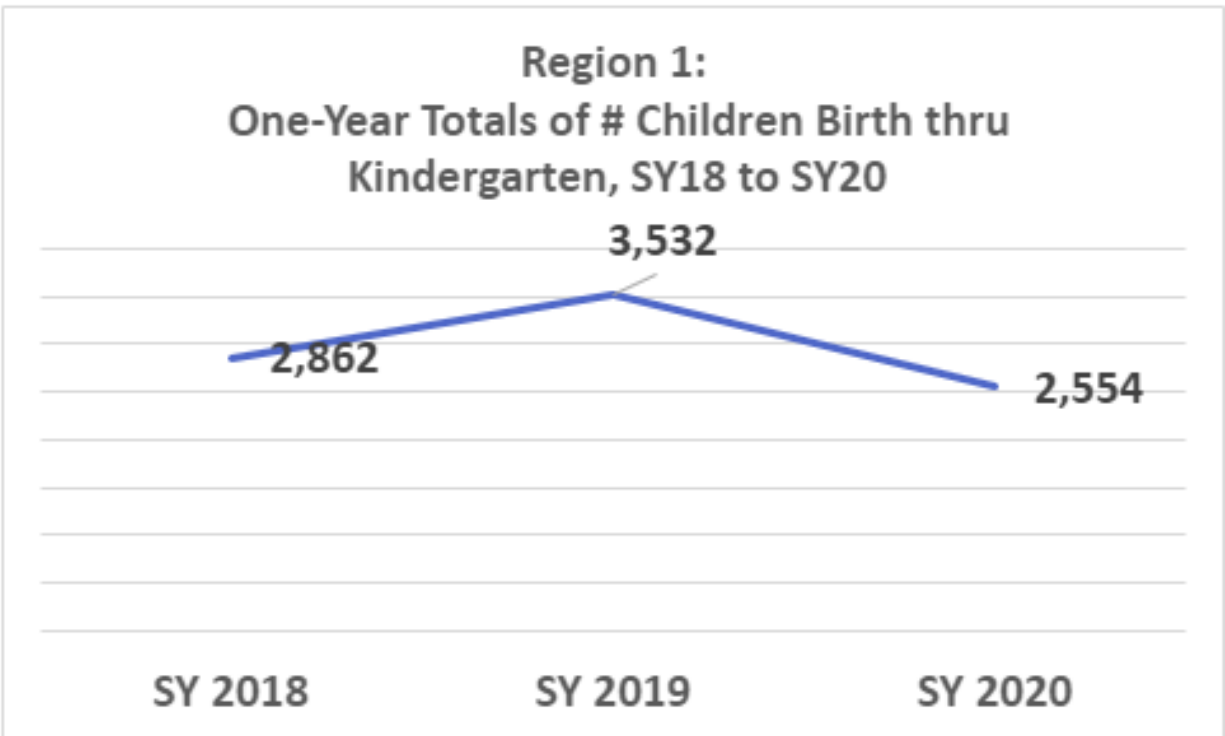
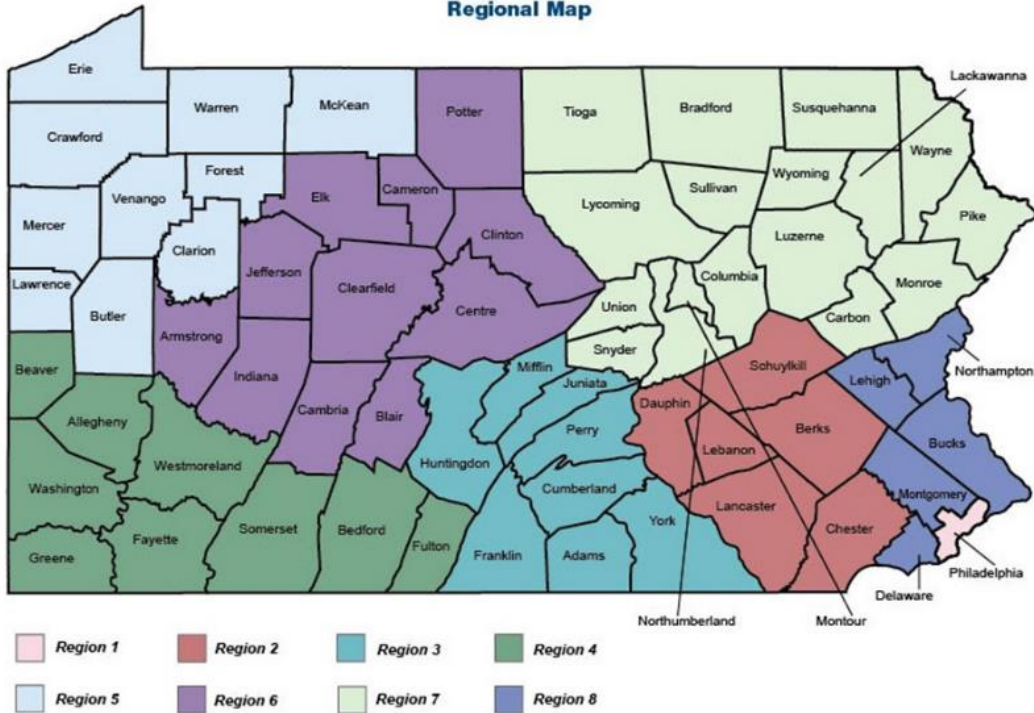
- The ECYEH Program typically identifies more children and youth experiencing homelessness with each additional year of operation. This continued growth in identified children and youth is a direct result of the ECYEH Program outreach to LEAs, shelters, and prekindergarten programs.
- Evaluators attribute the **decline** in identification in 2019-20 to the **closure of providers' physical spaces** as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic on or about March 13, 2020. Such closures may have reduced the ability of field staff to identify, serve, and report children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- In 2019-20, 88 non-LEA entities reported 8,202 children and youth (22 percent of identified children and youth) who could not be tied to an LEA. Many of the children and youth (5,104) reported by these facilities were birth to age two, ages three to five (not enrolled in prekindergarten), or attending non-LEA prekindergarten programs.
- Of the 28 non-LEA pre-kindergarten programs that received technical assistance support:
 - 12 entities (43 percent) received child-specific technical assistance, all 12 of which received this type of technical assistance 'often.'
 - 20 entities (71 percent) received child non-specific technical assistance, of which 12 entities received this type of technical assistance 'often' and eight entities received this type of technical assistance 'once.'
 - 27 entities (96 percent) received McKinney-Vento Act-related materials.
 - 19 entities (68 percent) received bulk supplies.

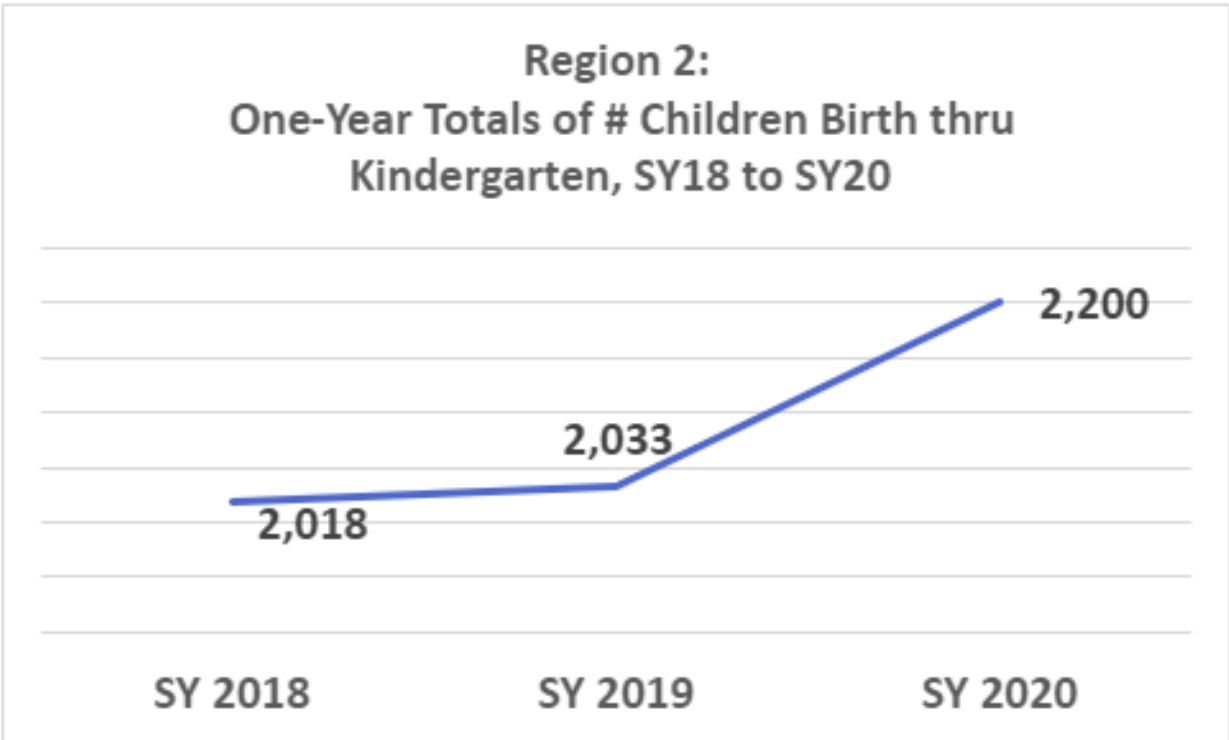
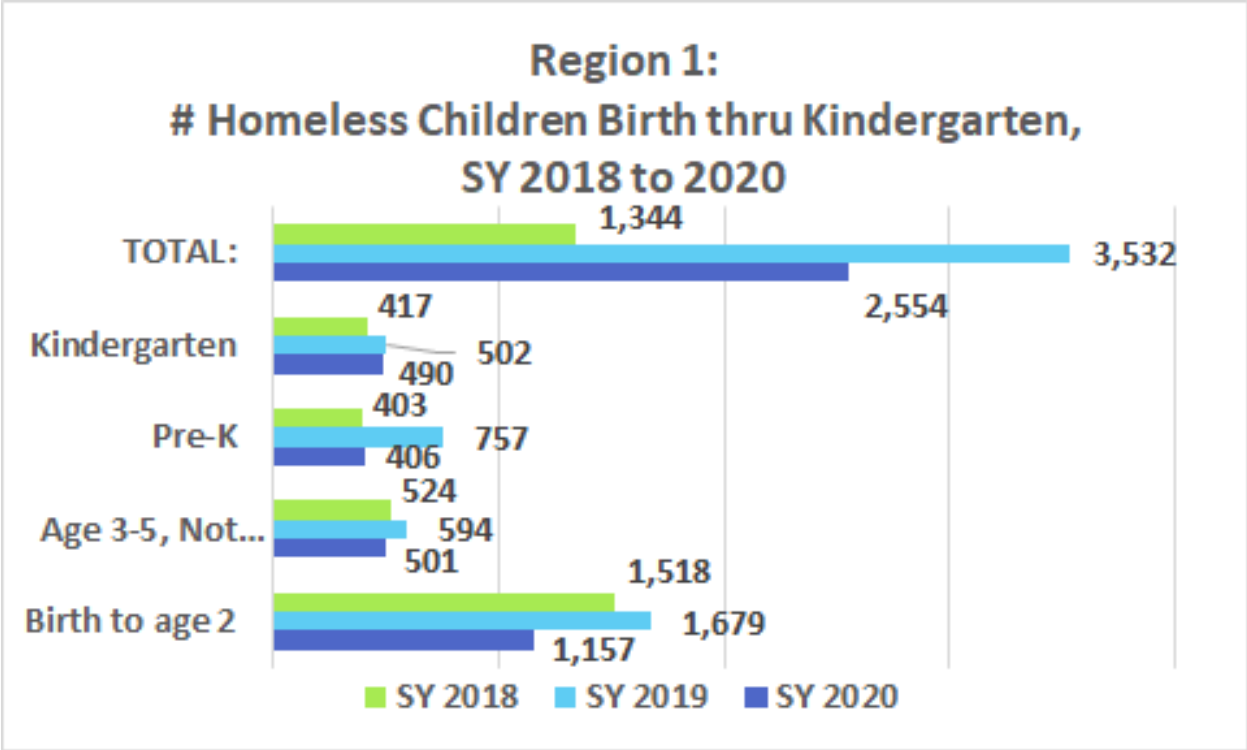
Trends by Region

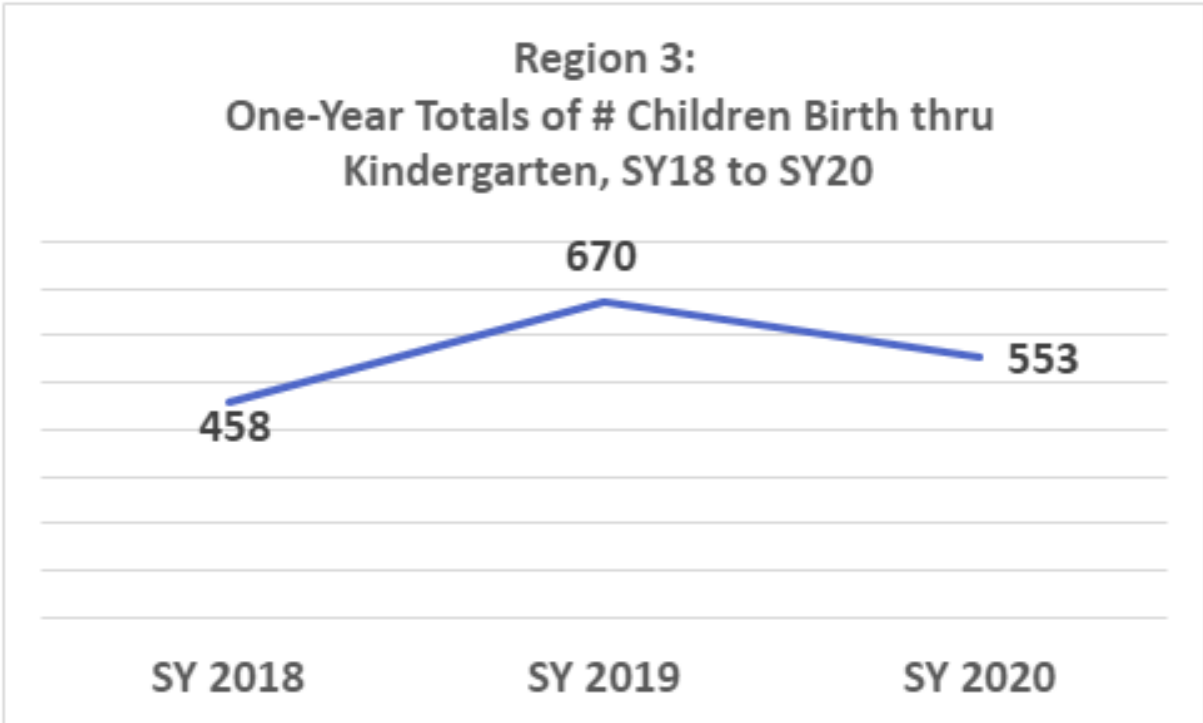
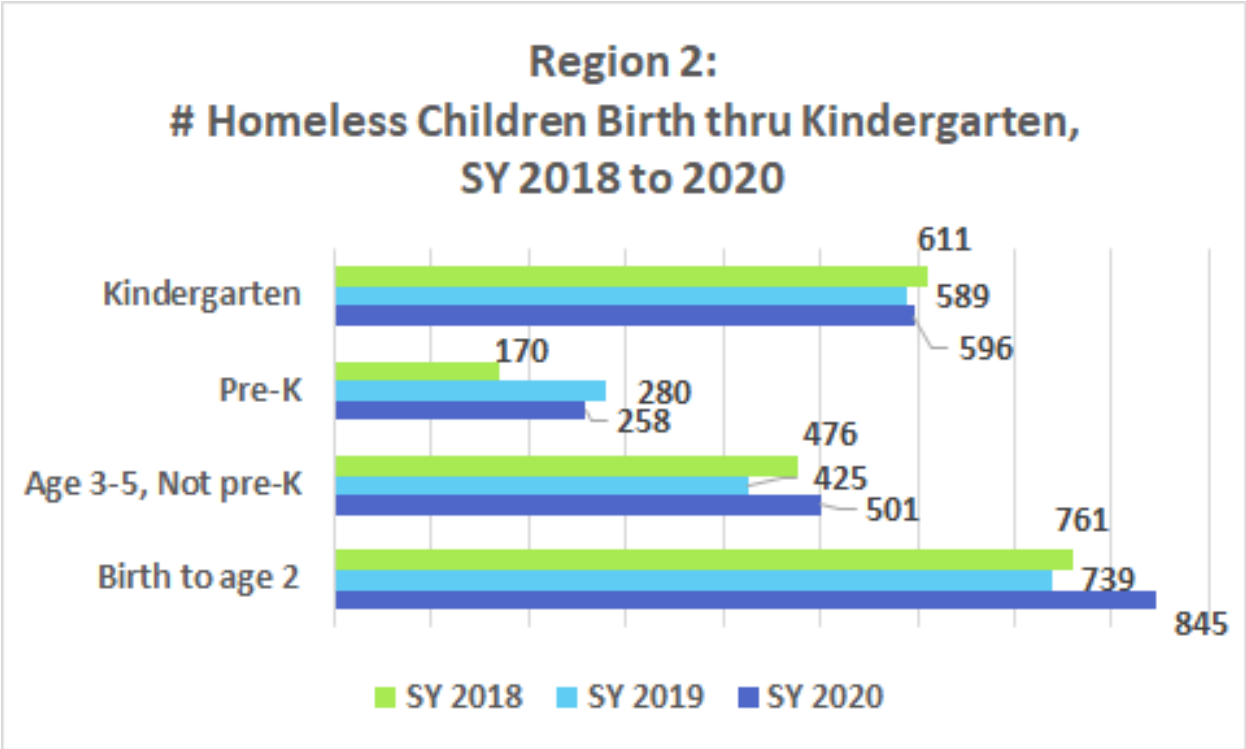
Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness delivers services through **eight** geographical regions. Information about each region is referenced in the charts that follow.

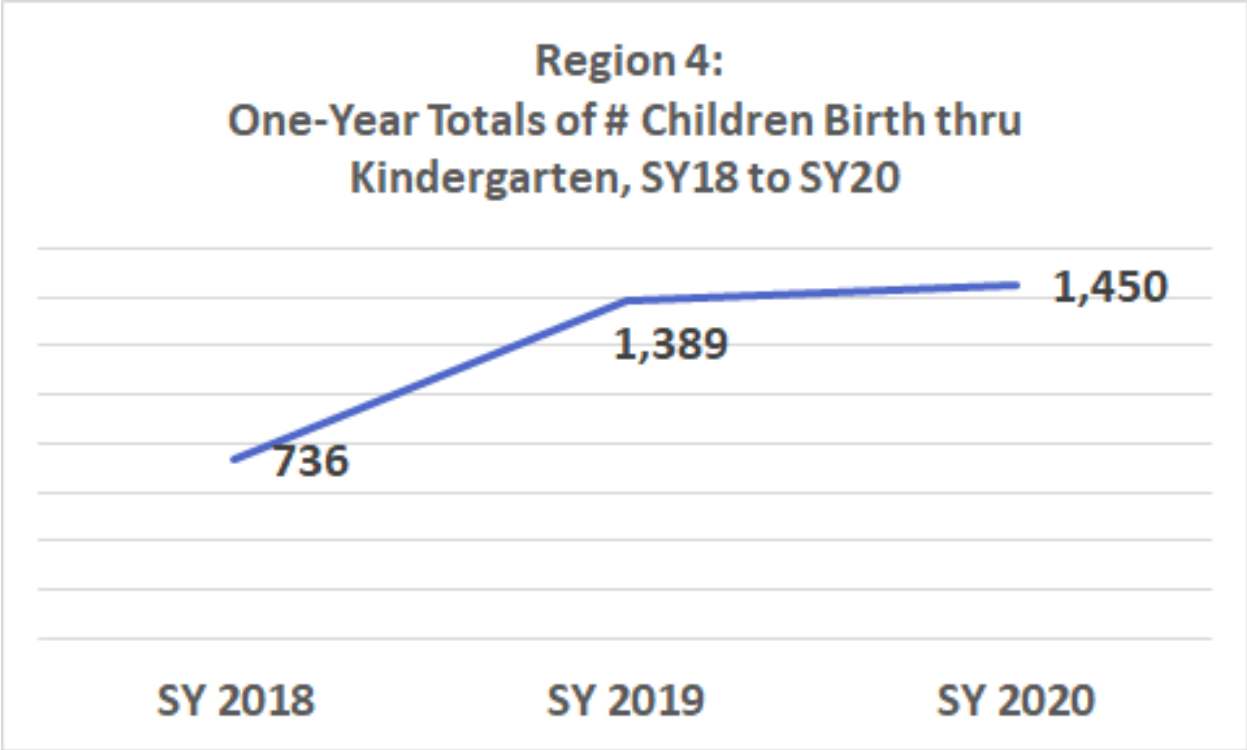
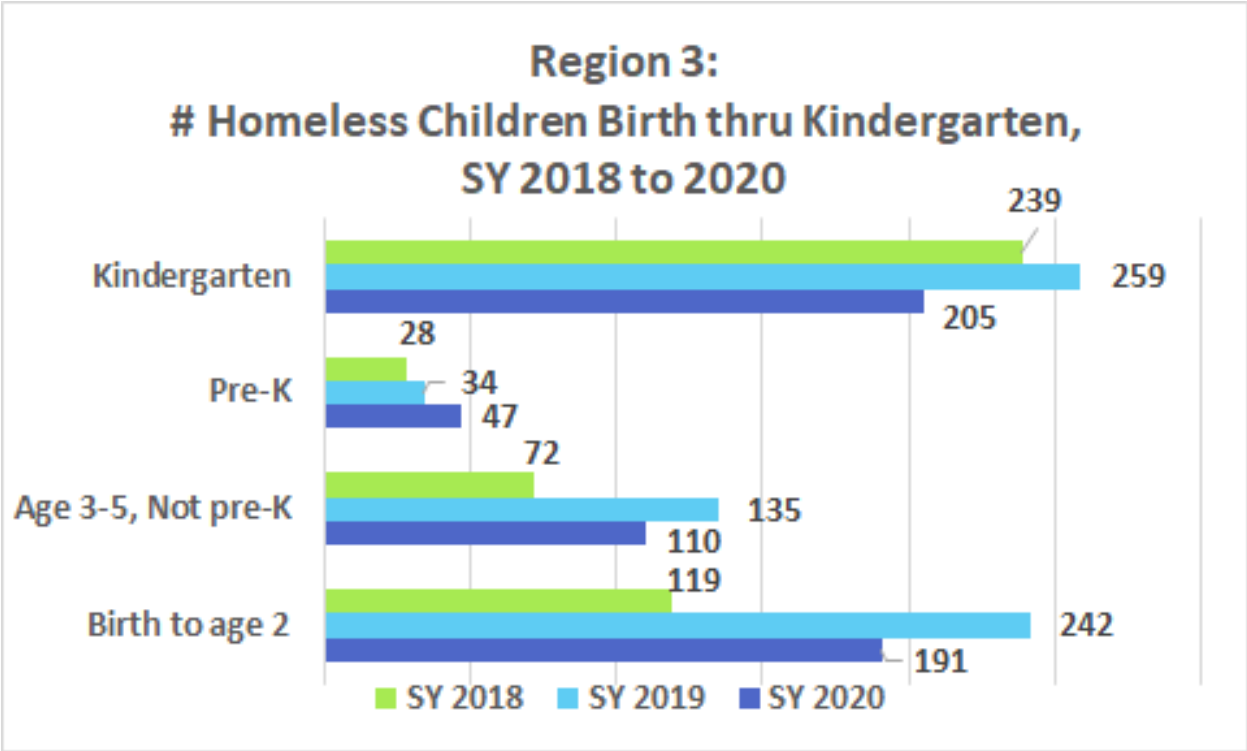
Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

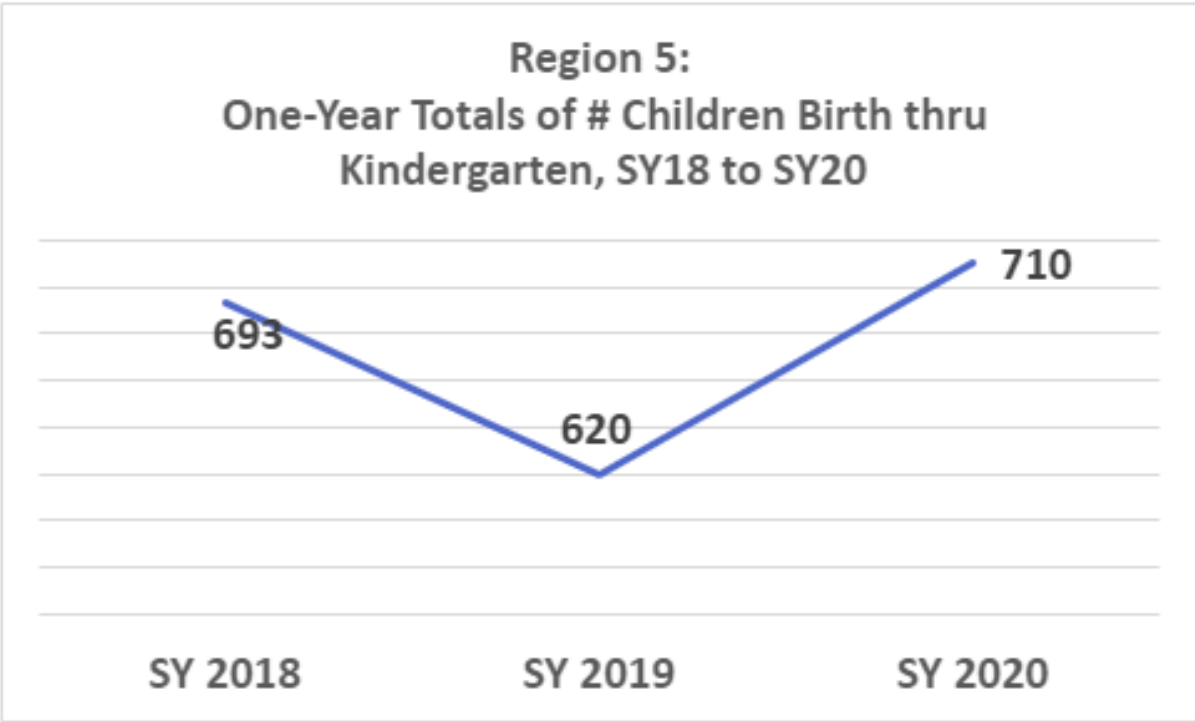
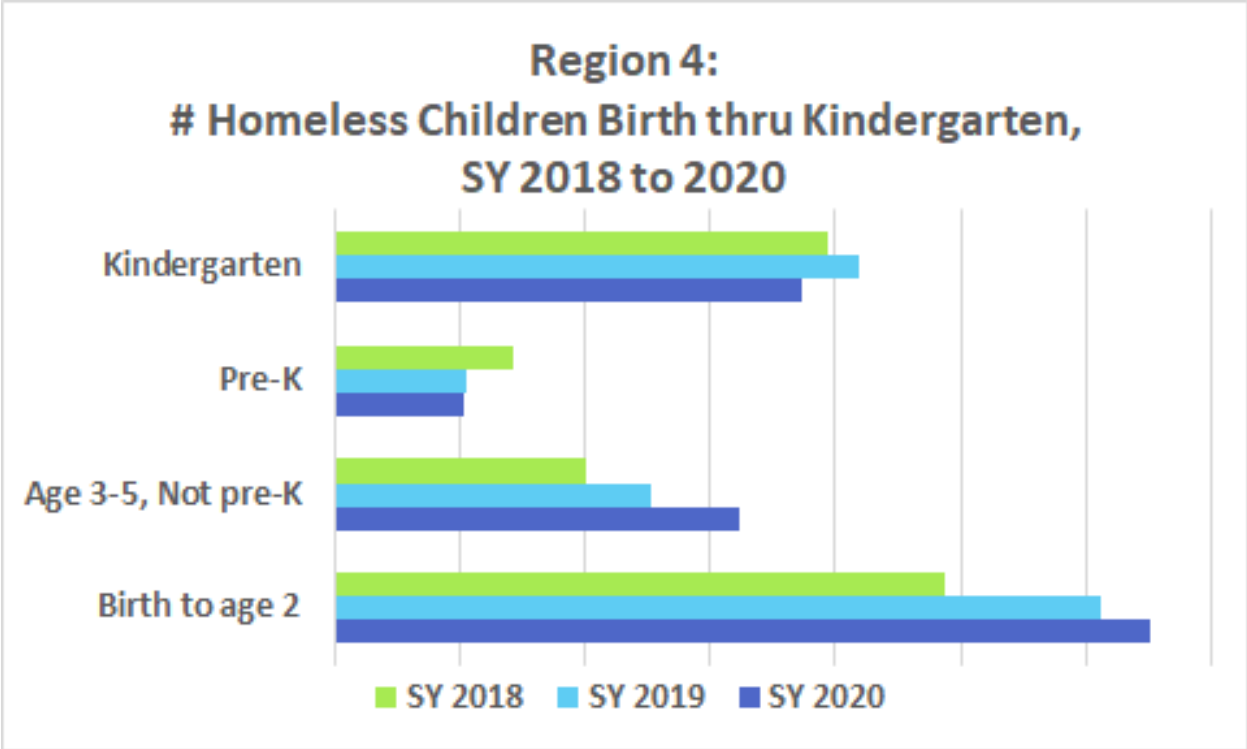
Regional Map



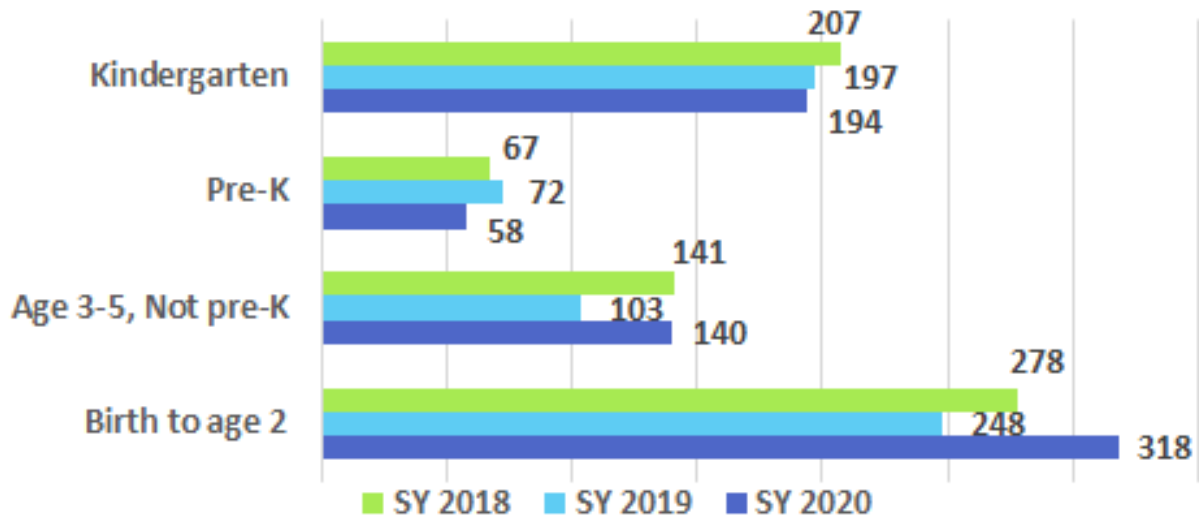




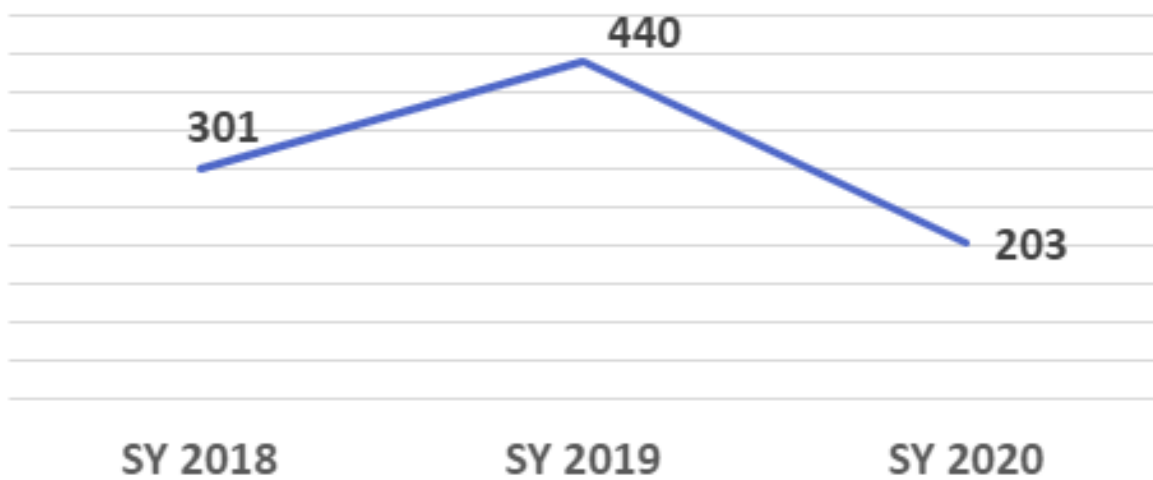


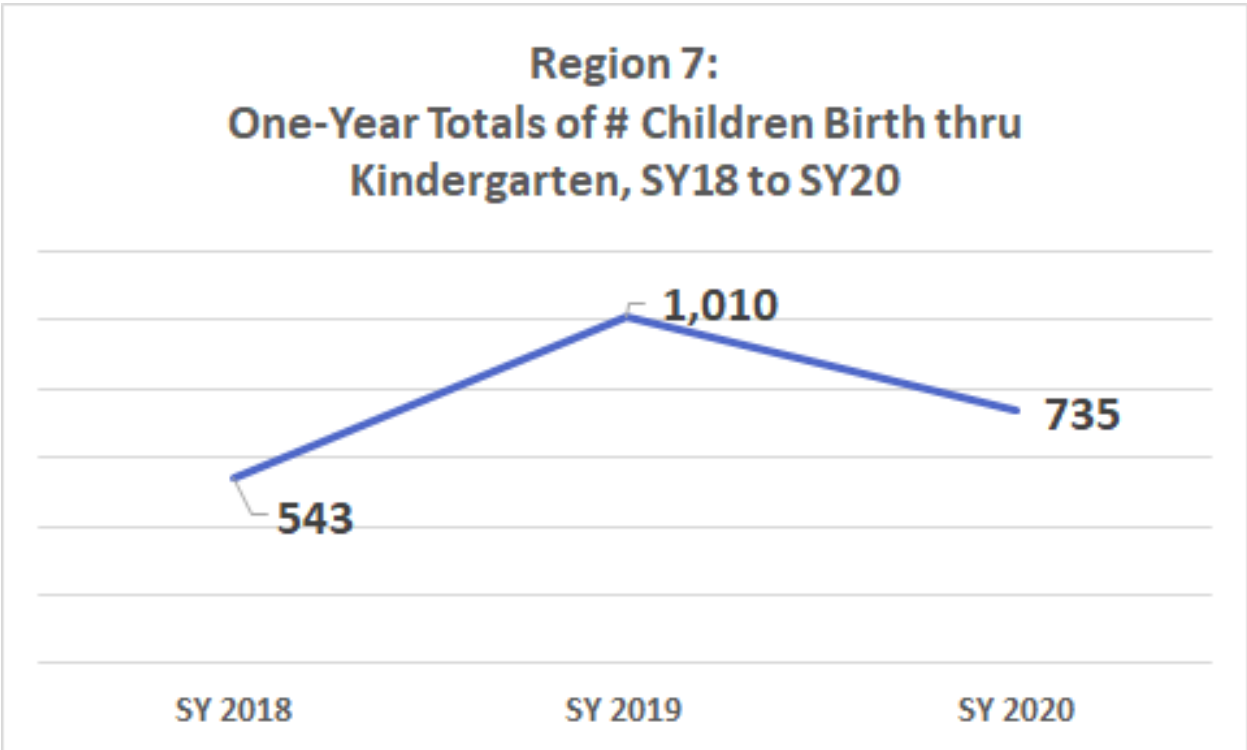
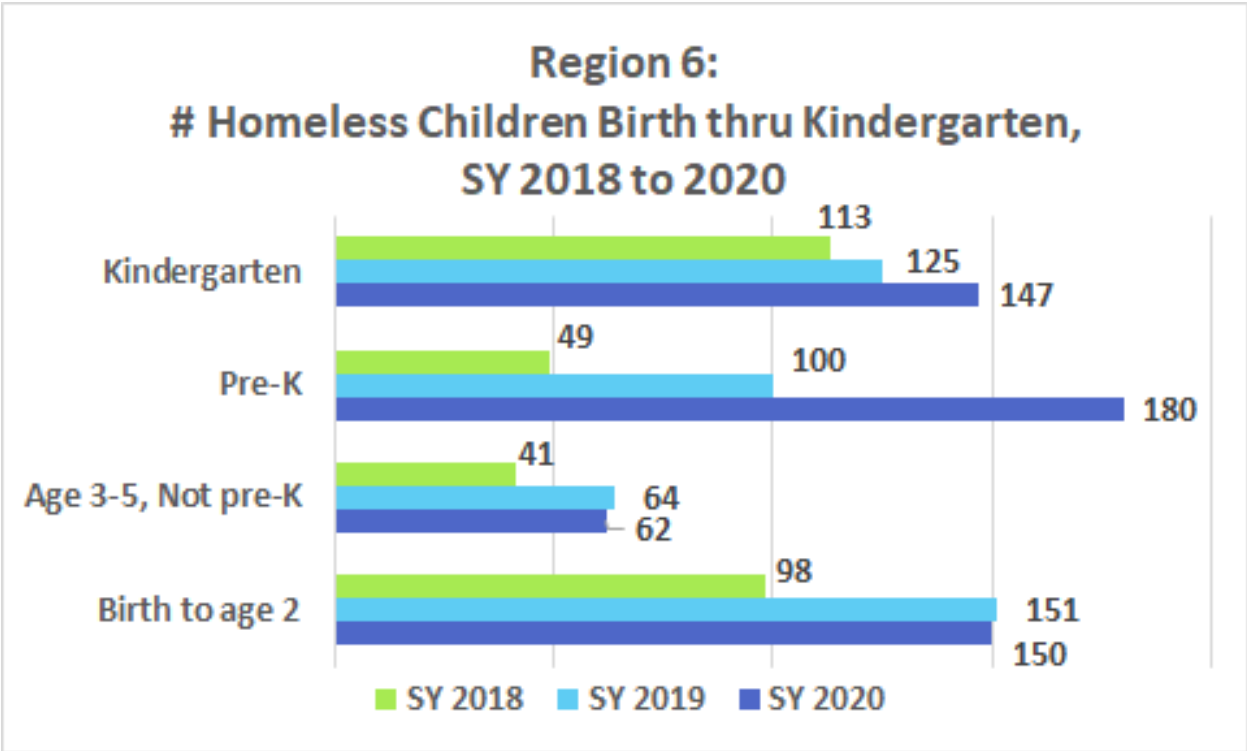


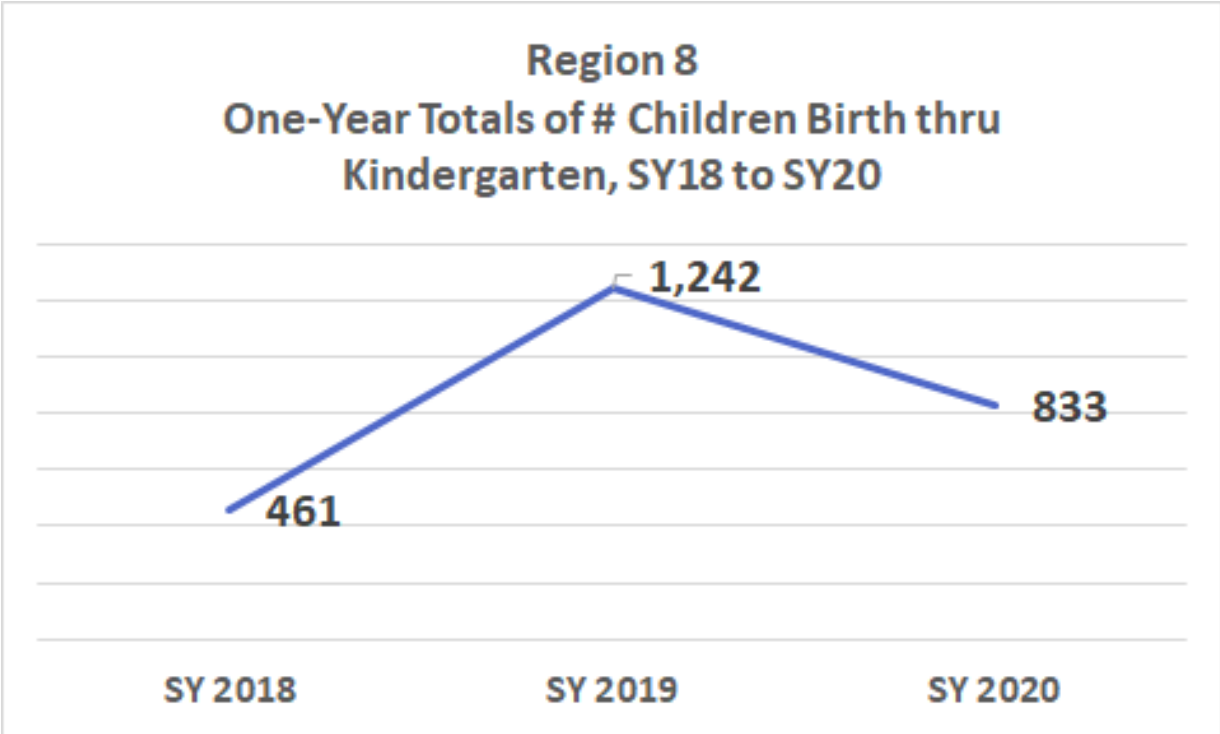
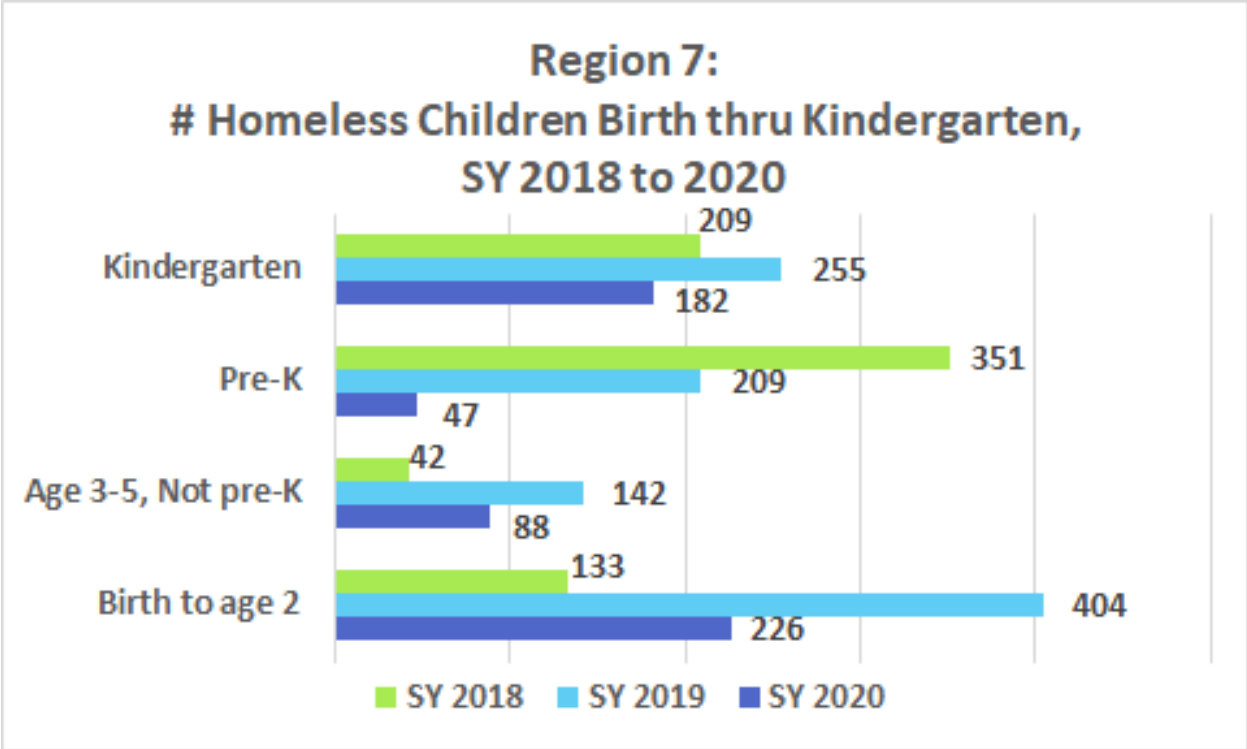
**Region 5:
Homeless Children Birth thru Kindergarten,
SY 2018 to 2020**

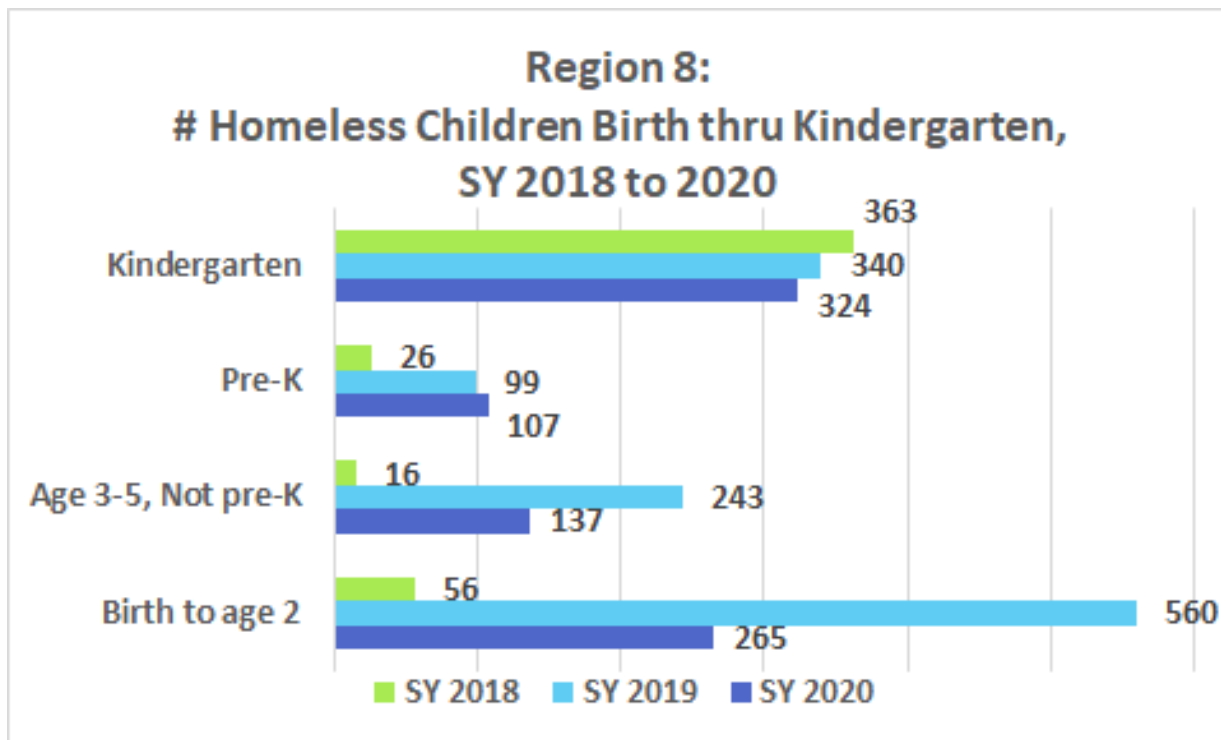


**Region 6:
One-Year Totals of # Children Birth thru
Kindergarten, SY18 to SY20**









About People’s Emergency Center (PEC)

[People’s Emergency Center \(PEC\)](#) uplifts our community by providing housing, social services, and quality of life supports that empower people and encourage more prosperous and safer neighborhoods.

For families and youth experiencing homelessness, we offer housing, social services, access to early childhood education, and educational programs in career training, parenting, financial literacy, life skills, and technology.

The PEC Community Development Corporation programs respond to community needs and build on neighborhood assets to help bridge the digital divide, expand mixed-income housing opportunities, stimulate economic growth, create wealth, and improve the quality of life for all West Philadelphia residents.

PEC advocates for urgently needed public policy changes on behalf of families and youth experiencing homelessness and the neighborhoods we serve. We have worked successfully with local, state, and federal government agencies to advance legislation and budgets that prioritize these communities.

ⁱ For information about the Pennsylvania Homeless Stakeholders group, contact Tracy Duarte of the Pennsylvania Head Start State Office Collaboration at tduarte@pakeys.org.

ⁱⁱ LEA stands for Local Education Agency