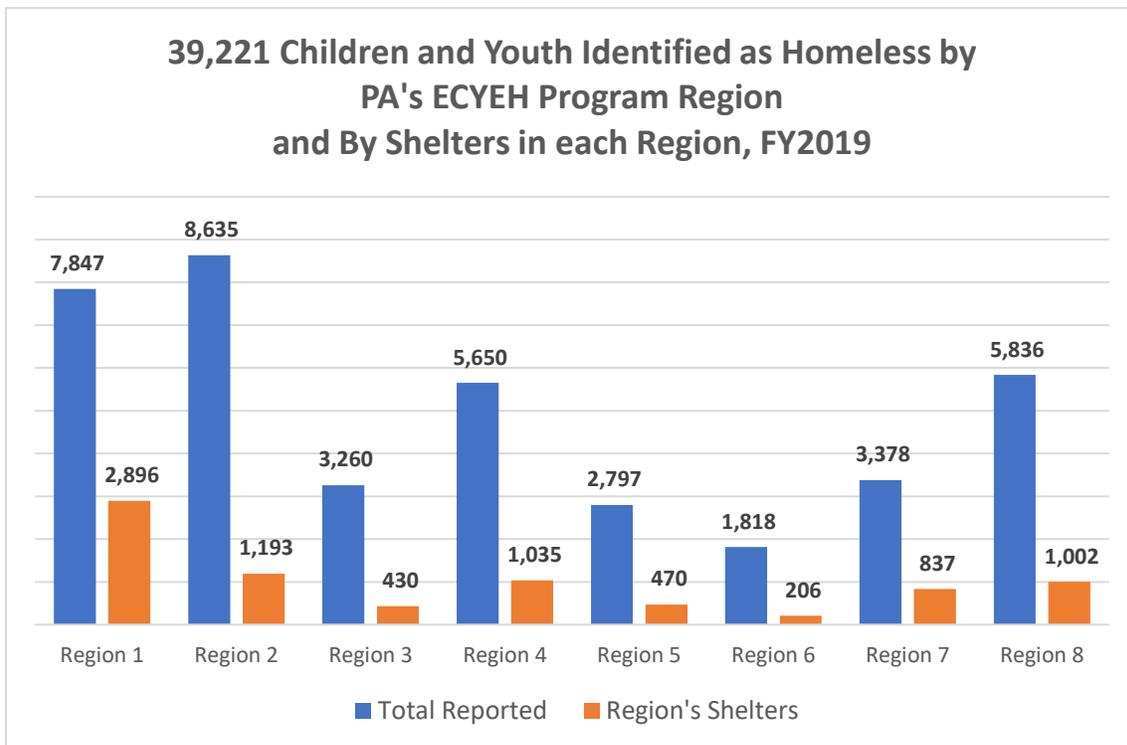


Overwhelming Majority of Pennsylvania’s Children and Youth Identified as Homeless are not in Shelter

PEC reviewed the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s report entitled “*Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2018-19 Counts by Entity.*” Pennsylvania’s education and community agencies identified **39,221** children and youth experiencing homelessness and served by **Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH)** program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, compared to 36,793 students in FY 2018.



The chart above shows the number of students identified by ECYEH region compared to the number of students accounted for by shelters in each region. **Find the original reports here [Homeless Education \(pa.gov\)](http://pa.gov).** Read the other parts of this series at: pec-cares.org/policy-publications.

According to the PA Department of Education's report,

"For the 2018-19 program year, education and community agencies identified 39,221 children and youth experiencing homelessness and served by Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) program (unique, unduplicated count). The population includes children under the age of five and youth enrolled in pre-K through grade 12. The unique count is based on where the child or youth was identified as homeless AND attributed to the local education agency (LEA) (school district, comprehensive technical school, or charter/cyber charter school) or entity (shelter, early intervention, pre-K program, etc.)."

Highlights

- **8,069 children and youth** were identified as being in shelter, or **20.6%** of all homeless children and youth. Most students experiencing homelessness – or **79.4%** –**are either living doubled up with friends or relatives, living in places not fit for human habitation, or living on the street.**
- Children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified **throughout** the Commonwealth, including rural, suburban and urban regions.
- School Districts and charters identifying less than 10 children are not reported separately (for privacy), although their counts are included in the total for the state.
- Philadelphia and Pittsburgh school districts identified more than 1,000 homeless children and youth again this year.
- Reading and Lancaster school districts identified more than 1,000 homeless students in 2018 but are now identifying fewer than one thousand students experiencing homelessness.
- Four school districts – Allentown City, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Reading School Districts identified from 500 to 999 homeless students.
- Thirty-nine school districts, including several charters, identified between 100 and 499 homeless students. Charter schools in this category include Insight PA Cyber, Commonwealth Charter Academy, PA Cyber, Chester Community, and Angora Cyber.

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The unique count is based on where the child or youth was identified as homeless AND attributed to the local education agency (LEA) (school district, comprehensive technical school, or charter/cyber charter school) or entity (shelter, early intervention, pre-K program, etc.).”

At the end of this document is an Appendix with a map of Pennsylvania and a chart of the districts and how many homeless students that they reported.

To compare this information to the data from FY2017-18, [visit the state’s website](#). See PEC’s summaries of that report see [part 1 here](#) and [part 2 here](#).

Who Should Read This?

Policy makers and their staff, funders, youth-serving agencies including county human services, school personnel, family advocates, voters and concerned community members are encouraged to understand the data and consider expanding efforts to reach out to children and youth who experience homelessness.

They are encouraged to understand that:

1. **No explanations** are provided in the PDE reports, nor does PEC offer that insight. Additional investment in research is key to address root causes to children and youth homelessness.
2. In PEC’s opinion, the **best use** of this data is to assist people who serve children and youth or address family homelessness to understand the trend.

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.

For additional publications from our policy department, visit pec-cares.org/policy-publications.

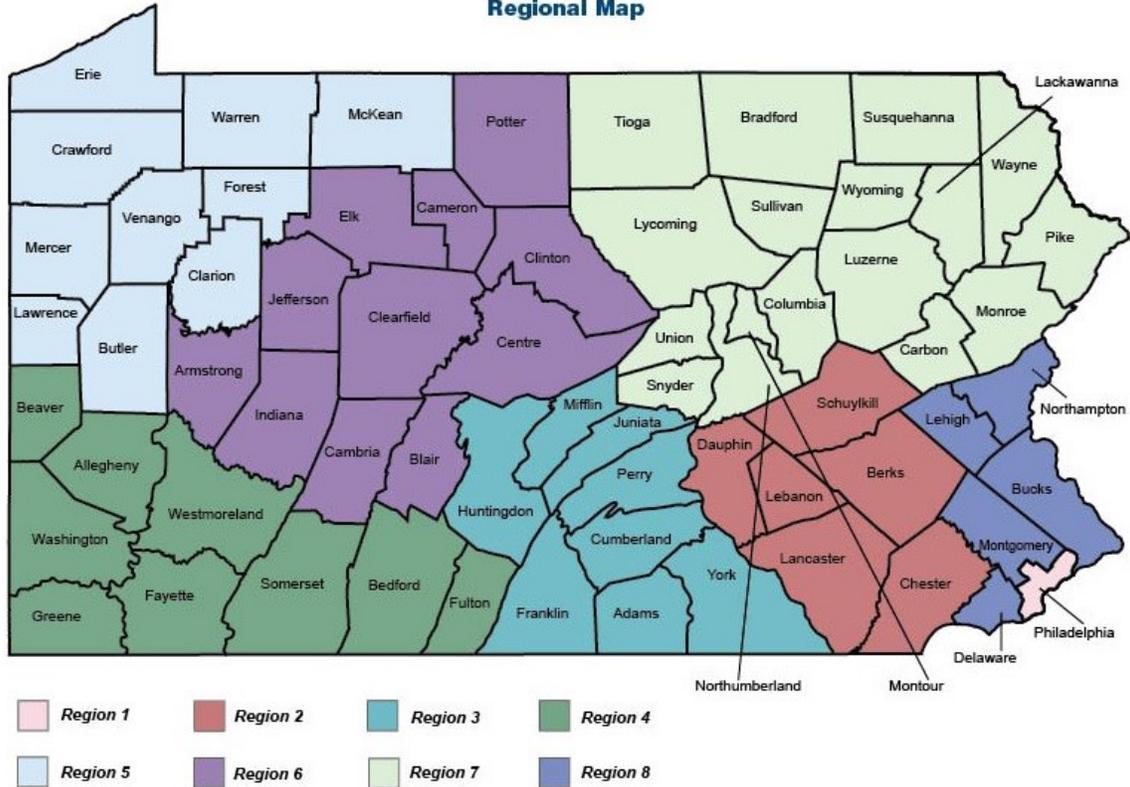
(Appendix follows this page.)

APPENDIX

Regional Map and Index of Districts and Number of Reported Homeless Students

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

Regional Map



School Districts with more than 100 - 499 identified children and youth who were homeless in SY 2019	
School District (County)	
Altoona (Blair)	248
Angora Cyber Charter (Montgomery)	201
Avon Grove (Chester)	126
Bensalem Township (Bucks)	156
Bethlehem Area (Northampton)	407
Bristol Township (Bucks)	190
Carlisle (Cumberland)	118
Central Dauphin (Dauphin)	259

Chambersburg (Franklin)	150
Chester Community Charter (Delaware)	267
Coatesville Area SD (Chester)	194
Commonwealth Charter Academy (Dauphin)	119
Conestoga Valley (Lancaster)	157
East Stroudsburg Area (Monroe)	157
Easton Area (Northampton)	173
Erie City (Erie)	149
Gettysburg (Adams)	135
Harrisburg City (Dauphin)	482
Highlands (Allegheny)	130
Insight PA Cyber CS (Chester)	104
Kennett Consolidated (Chester)	263
Mifflin (Mifflin)	110
Norristown Area (Montgomery)	200
Oxford Area (Chester)	111
PA Cyber Charter (Beaver)	337
Penn Manor (Lancaster)	141
Pocono Mountain (Monroe)	120
Pottstown (Montgomery)	161
Red Lion (York)	106
Scranton (Lackawanna)	235
Seneca Valley (Butler)	100
Shikellamy (Northumberland)	106
Solanco (Lancaster)	111
Upper Darby (Delaware)	226
Warren County (Warren)	117
West Chester Area (Chester)	120
Wilkes Barre (Luzerne)	142
Woodland Hills (Allegheny)	168
York City (York)	494

**School Districts with more than 500 - 999 identified children and youth
who were homeless in SY 2019**

Allentown City	702
Lancaster	889
Lebanon	500
Reading	960

School Districts with more than 1,000 identified children and youth who were homeless in SY 2019	
Philadelphia	3,635
Pittsburgh	1,040