



Numbers increasing of children and youth in Pennsylvania and in United States who experience homelessness

19,905 in Pennsylvania and 1,168,354 Children and Youth in the United States Experienced Homelessness in 2012

The number of children and youth in Pennsylvania and in the United States who experienced homelessness has increased over the past three years according to the National Center for Homeless Education's annual report Data Collection Summary for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program,ⁱ released in October 2013.

This report summarizes this report and the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2011-12 State Evaluation Reportⁱⁱ to provide state-specific data that matched the categories in the national report. This allows this PEC Policy Brief to compare Pennsylvania's homeless students with students nationally.

PEC summarized these reports to provide this information to policy makers and practitioners in the education and housing emergency systems that play a role in the education of students who experience homelessness.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- There was a 10 percent increase nationally in the number of homeless students between the School Year (SY) 2010-11 and SY 2011-12, and a 24 percent increase in the three-year period SY 2009-10 to SY 2011-12.
- Pennsylvania reported 19,905 children and youth as homeless in SY 2011-12, a 7 percent increase from the previous year total of 18,531.
- Most homeless students are living doubled up and not in shelters or in the outdoors.

Nationally, the number of students reported under this category has increased 32 percent since SY 2009-10. In Pennsylvania, 60 percent of homeless students lived doubled up in SY 2011-12.

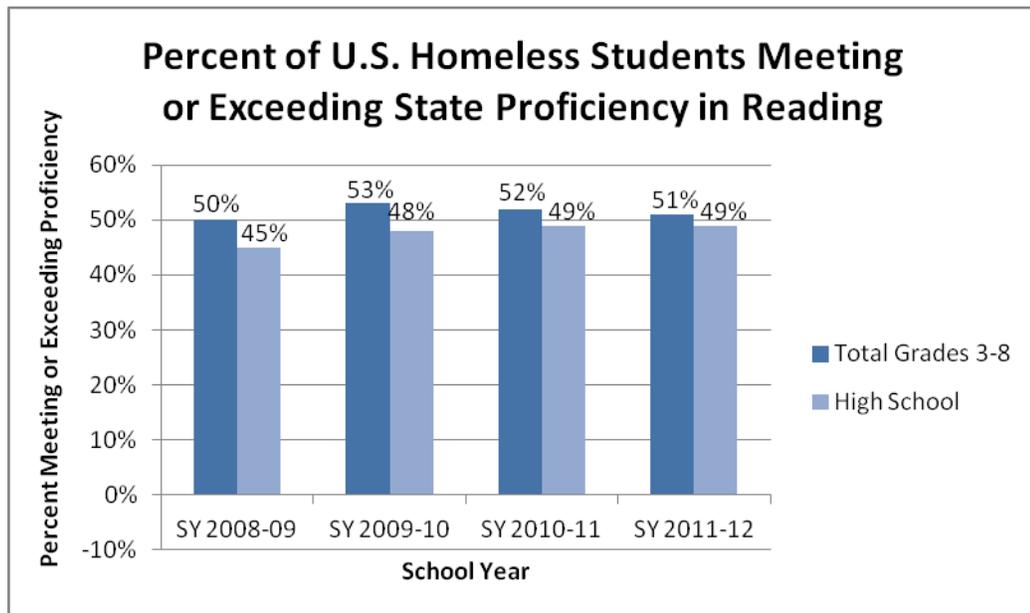
- The national report provides evidence that students experiencing homelessness scored lower in standardized reading and mathematics assessment tests than in the previous year.

Academic Achievement of Homeless Students

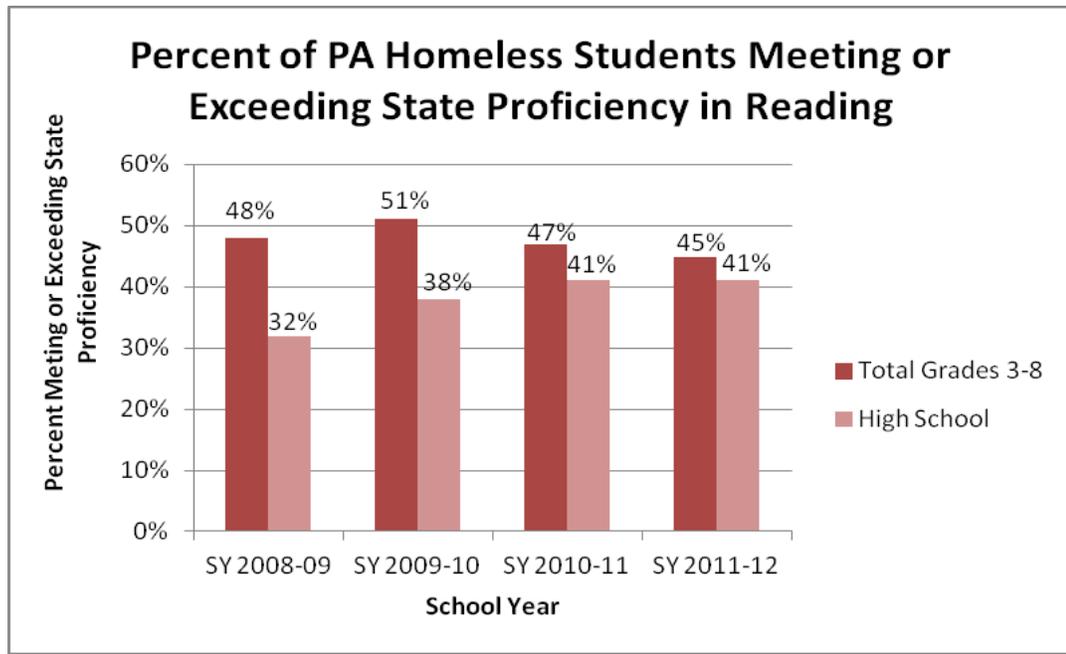
In the United States, standardized tests are designed and administered by state education agencies in order to measure the academic achievement of each state’s students. On these tests, students can score below basic, basic, proficient, or advanced. Those scoring proficient or advanced meet or exceed state proficiency standards. In Pennsylvania, academic achievement is measured using the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

READING:

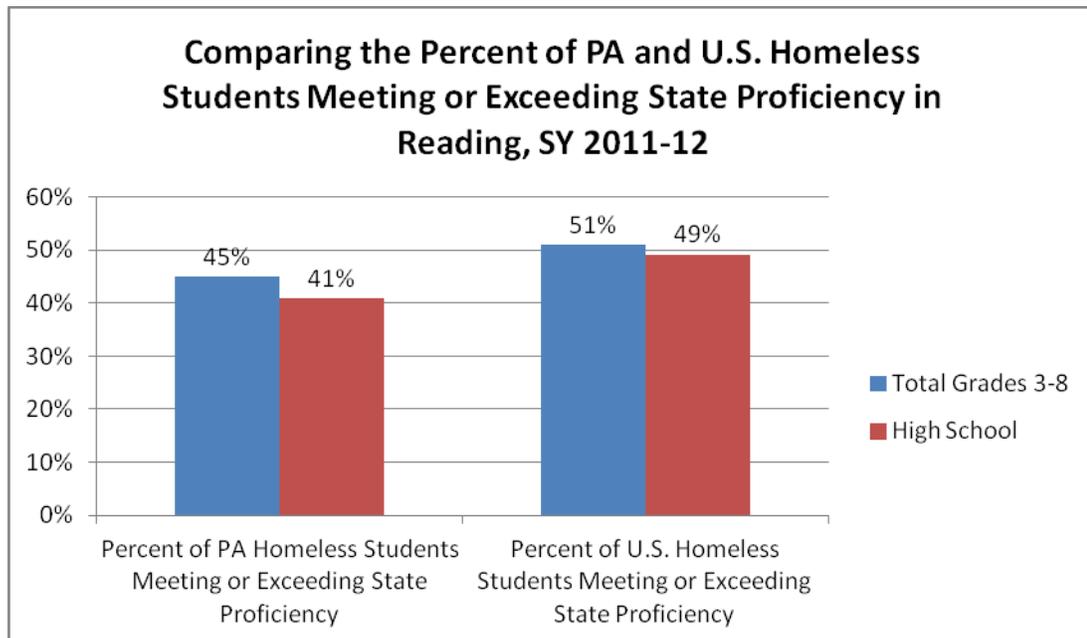
- Overall, academic achievement of homeless high school students in reading has been increasing since the 2008-2009 school year. However, the percentage of students in grades 3-8 meeting or exceeding state proficiency in reading decreased since SY 2009-10.



- In Pennsylvania, the percent of students in grades three to eight meeting or exceeding state proficiency in reading declined by 2 percentage points between SY 2010-11 and SY 2011-12. For high school students, reading scores improved 9 percentage points since SY 2008-09, but remained the same between SY 2010-11 and SY 2011-12.

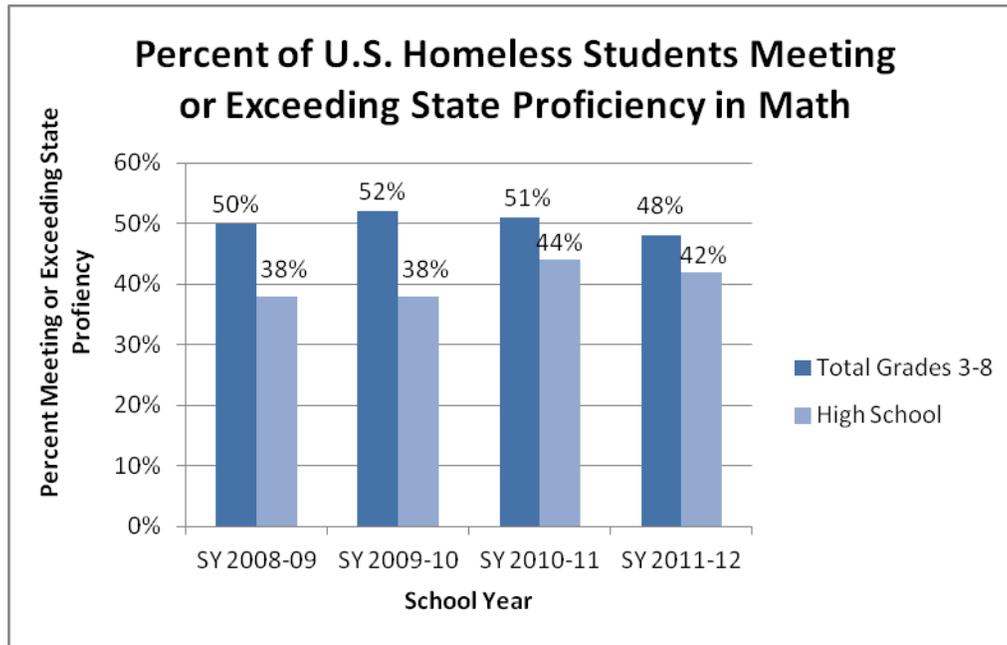


- Students who experience homelessness in Pennsylvania do not do as well as their colleagues nationally.



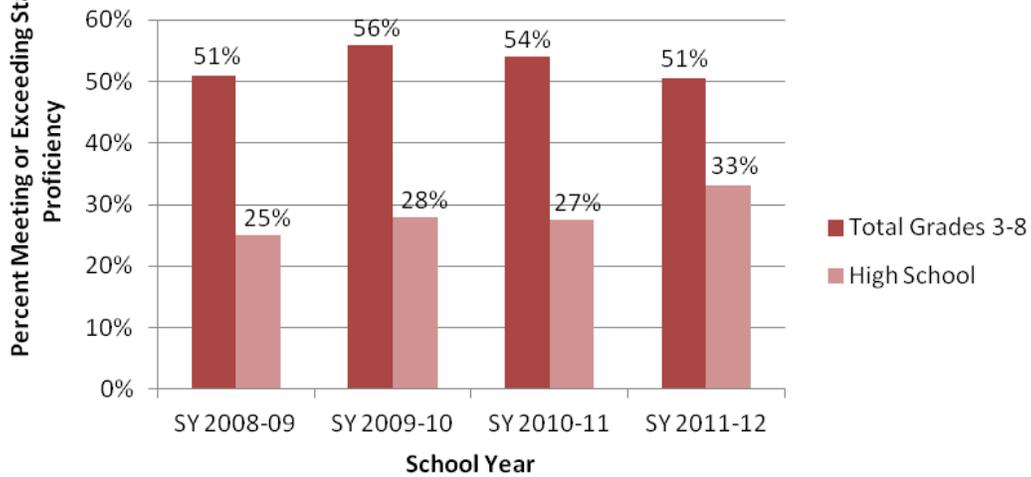
MATH:

- Fewer homeless students nationally in grades 3-8 met or exceeded state proficiency in math since SY 2008-09. However, more homeless high school students met or exceeded proficiency in the same time frame.

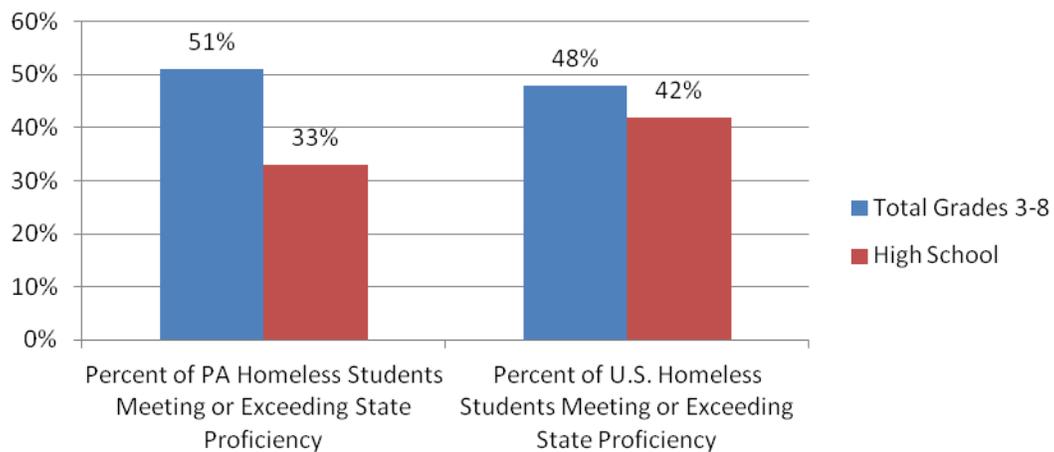


- In Pennsylvania, homeless students in grades 3-8 also experienced a similar trend of a decreasing percentage meeting or exceeding state proficiency, but the high school students scored higher in SY 2011-12 than in SY 2010-11.
- A higher percentage of Pennsylvania's homeless students in grades 3-8 met or exceeded state proficiency in math than their national colleagues, but a higher percentage of the national colleagues in high school fared better than Pennsylvania's high school students.

Percent of PA Homeless Students Meeting or Exceeding State Proficiency in Math



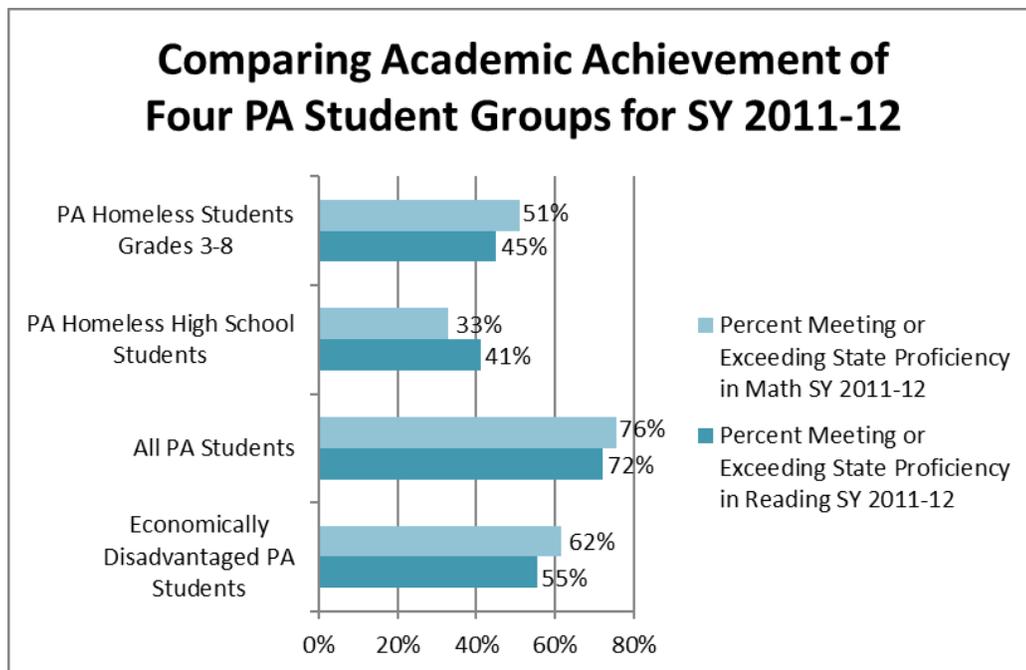
Comparing the Percent of PA and U.S. Homeless Students Meeting or Exceeding State Proficiency in Math, SY 2011-12



How do Pennsylvania’s homeless students compare to all Pennsylvania public school students and to students defined as “Economically Disadvantaged”?

To understand how Pennsylvania’s homeless students compared to other Pennsylvania student groups, PEC examined The 2012 PSSA Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing Statewide Level Proficiency Resultsⁱⁱⁱ.

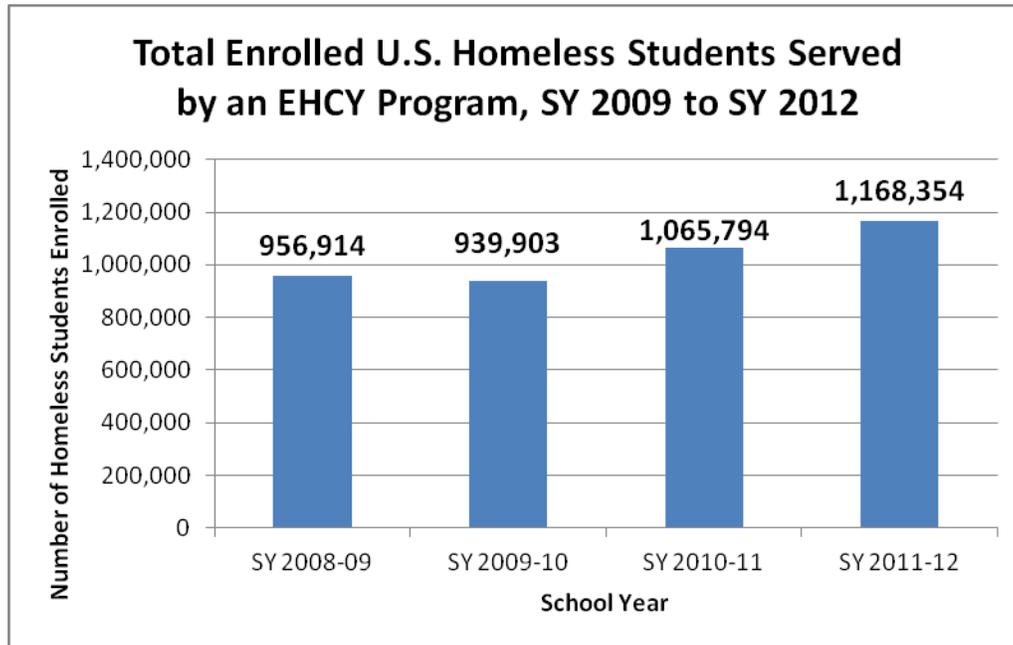
- When compared to all students in Pennsylvania and to economically disadvantaged students, the academic achievements of homeless students in Pennsylvania were not as high.



Number of Children and Youth Who are Homeless, United States

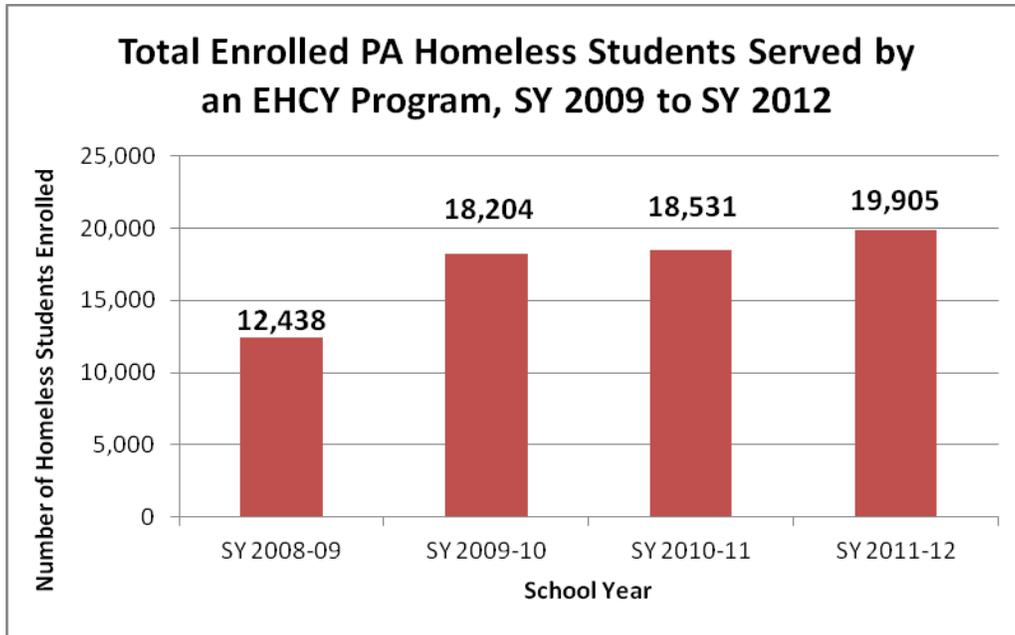
- According to the U.S. Department of Education, 1,168,354 homeless children were enrolled in the 2011-2012 school year, a 10 percent increase from the previous year total of 1,065,794 and a 24 percent increase from the 2009-2010 total of 939,903.
- Children and youth who are experiencing homelessness are considered “enrolled” in school if they are attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

- Nationally, 43 states (81 percent) reported increases in the total number of homeless children and youth enrolled in school. Included in the 43 is the Bureau of Indian Education.
- Ten states (19 percent) reported a decrease in the number of homeless children and youth. Included in the ten is the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.



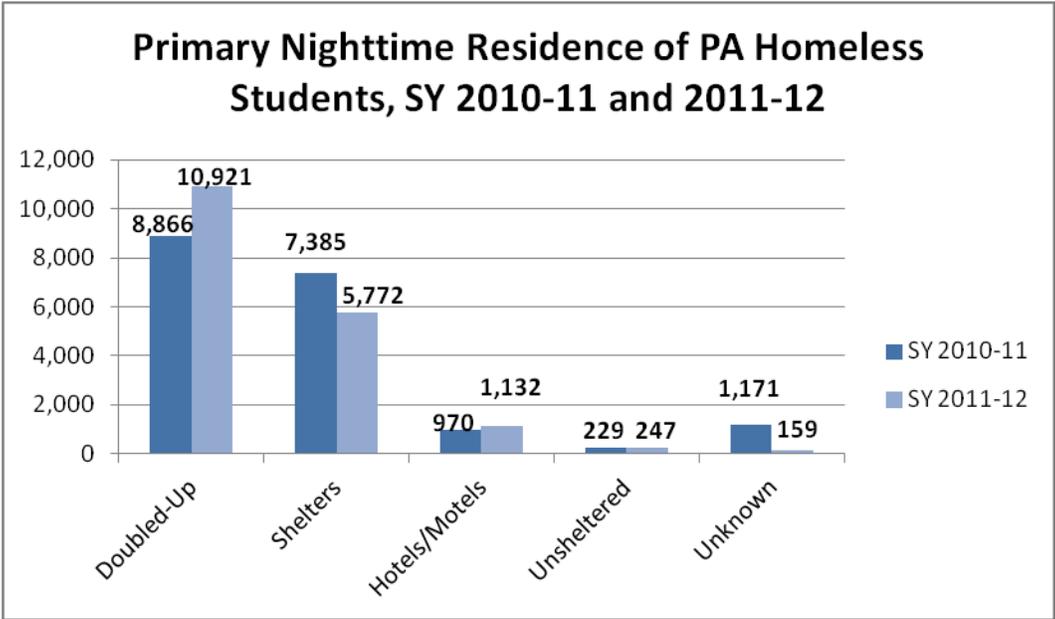
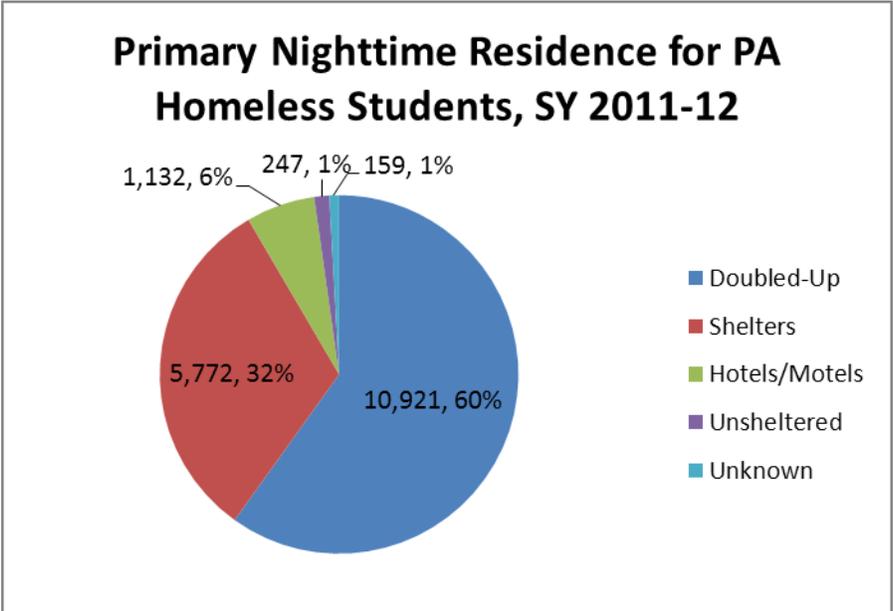
Number of Children and Youth Who are Homeless, Pennsylvania

- In the 2011-12 school year, 19,905 children and youth were counted as homeless, a 7 percent increase from the previous year's total of 18,531.
- Of all students experiencing homelessness, 4,831 (26.5%) were in high school.

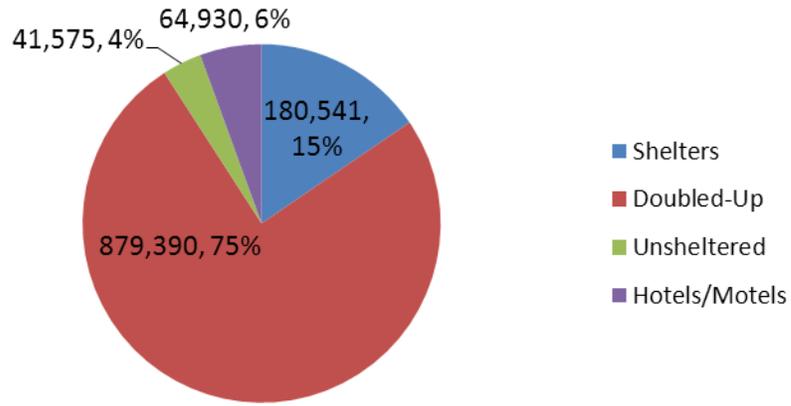


Nighttime Residence: Knowing where homeless students reside informs school personnel on their outreach strategies. Primary nighttime residence is defined as “the type of residence where a homeless child or youth is staying at the time of enrollment or the type of residence where a currently enrolled child or youth is staying when he or she is identified as homeless”. In addition to informing school personnel, this data also informs housing and youth service providers on the location of homeless youth.

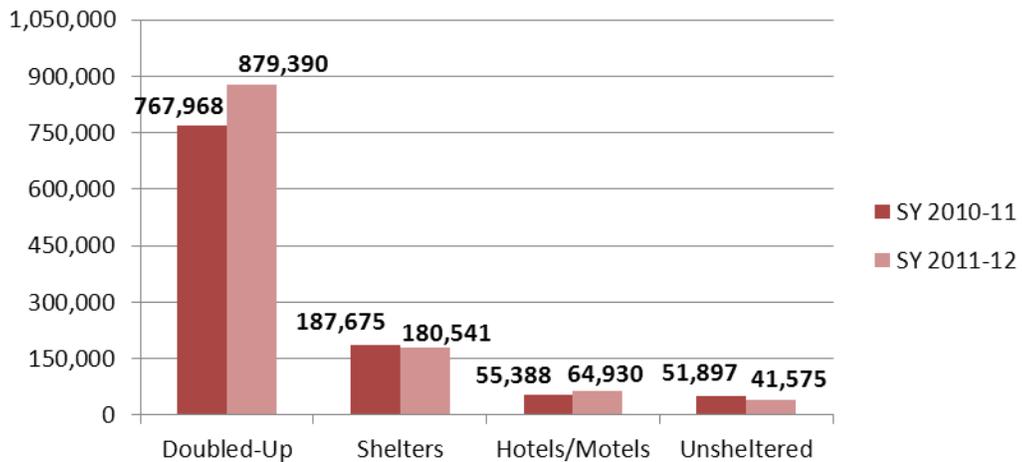
- Nationally, the number of homeless students living doubled-up continues to increase, while the number of homeless students living in shelters continues to decrease.
- Pennsylvania has followed the national trend. When compared to SY 2010-11, there was a 12 percentage point increase in the number of homeless students living doubled-up and an 8 percentage point decrease in the number living in shelters in SY 2011-12. In SY 11-12, 60 percent of EHCY program participants were living doubled-up, compared to 48 percent in SY 10-11. In SY 11-12, 32 percent of EHCY program participants were living in shelters, compared to 40 percent in SY 10-11.
- In Pennsylvania, 32 percent of homeless students are living in shelters compared to just 15 percent of all homeless students in the U.S.
- Six out of ten homeless children and youth in Pennsylvania are living doubled-up.



Primary Nighttime Residence for U.S. Homeless Students, SY 2011-12



Primary Nighttime Residence of U.S. Homeless Students, SY 2010-11 and 2011-12



The **People's Emergency Center's** mission is to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change in West Philadelphia. Through a community of more than 200 housing units and four educational centers offering job training, parenting and early childhood education, life skills training, and technology coursework, PEC seeks to change the life trajectory for the women and children who seek its services and inspire them to aspire to new heights. This report was written by Caroline Morgan and Joe Willard. All inquires can be sent to policy@pec-cares.org.

ⁱ National Center for Homeless Education. (2013, October). Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Data Collection Summary. Retrieved from <http://ftp.serve.org/NCHE/downloads/data-comp-0910-1112.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2013, February). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2011-12 State Evaluation Report. Retrieved from http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania's_education_for_children_and_youth_experiencing_homelessness_program/7491

ⁱⁱⁱ Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2011-2012 State Level Math, Reading, Science and Writing Results. Retrieved from http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/school_assessments