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Date: February, 2019

BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://bit.ly/2iaczvQ>.

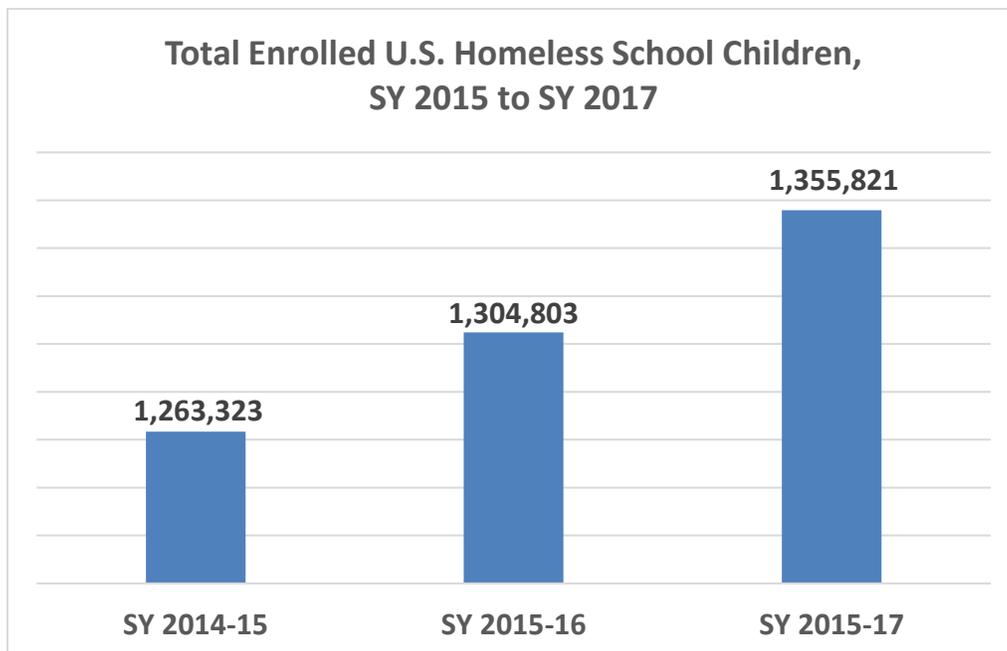
Pennsylvania exceeds national growth rate for identifying students who experience homelessness

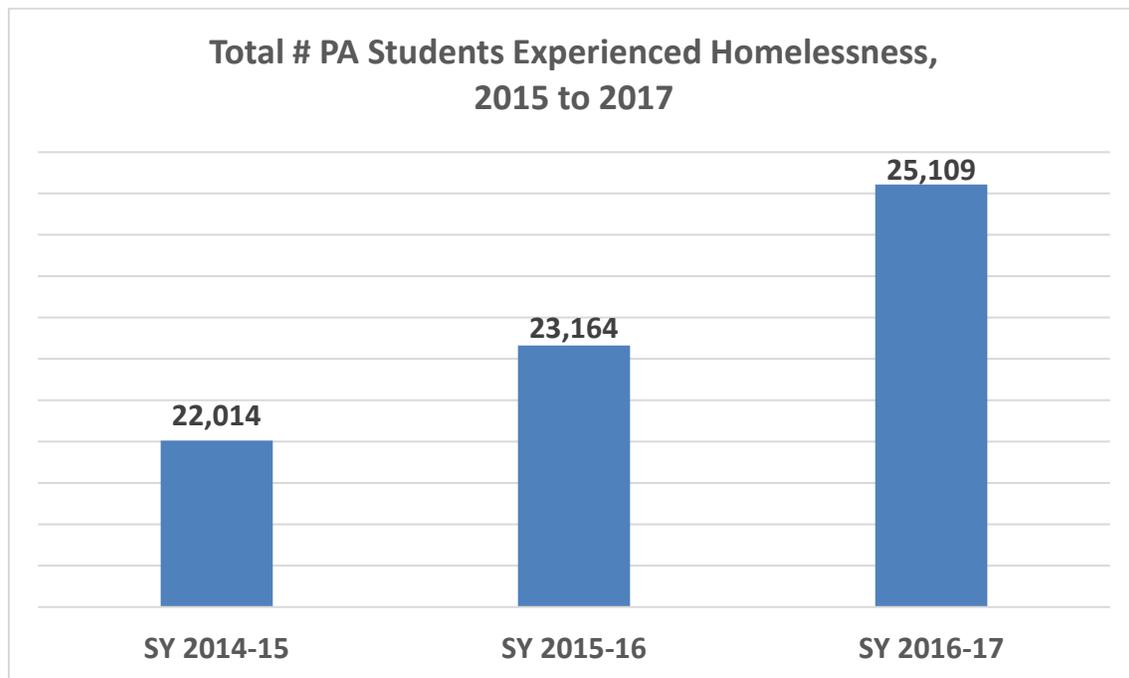
1.3 million Students Experienced Homelessness

PA identifies 14 percent more, while the national rate was 7 percent

A newly released report shows that homelessness among children and youth is increasing dramatically. In the United States, the number of students experiencing homelessness increased 7 percent since the School Year 2015, while Pennsylvania increased by 14 percent.

PEC reviewed a new report from the National Center for Homeless Education called *Federal Data Summary School Years 2014-15 to 2016-17*, and summarized key data points (but not all) below. Find the original report here: <https://nche.ed.gov/data-and-stats/>





Highlights:

- The number of Kindergarten and First Grade students identified as experiencing homelessness decreased, similar to last year's data.
- Students in Grades 6 through 9 remained at a consistent rate
- Students in Grades 11 and 12 increased by 15 percent
- Students in high school, overall, saw the greatest increases, while early elementary grades saw the least growth
- 20 states reported growth of identified students of 10 percent or more (including Pennsylvania), while 9 states reported growth of 20 percent or more.
- 7 states reported a reduction of 10 percent or more, and four of these reported a decrease over two years
- Pennsylvania is one of 12 states experiencing 14 percent or higher increases
- 76 percent of students are living in doubled up housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Students with an identified disability under IDEA comprise the largest subgroup of homeless students, making up 18 percent of all homeless students.
- The number of unaccompanied youth increased by 25 percent
- The number of unsheltered youth increased 27 percent

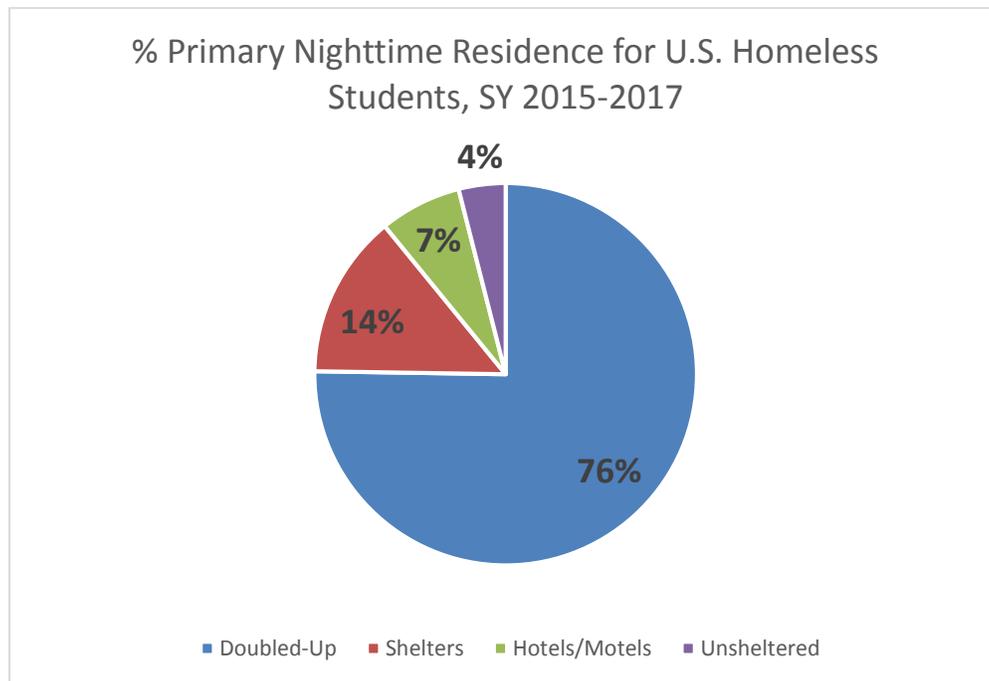
Where do homeless students sleep?

- **75 percent** of students experiencing homelessness are doubled up housing.
- **14 percent** are living in shelters.
- **7 percent** are living in hotels/motels.

- **4 percent** are unsheltered

Use of individual types of housing:

- The number of unsheltered students increased the most, **growing 27 percent**
- The use of hotels/motels grew 10 percent
- Doubled up category grew 7 percent
- Use of shelters grew by 3 percent



Categories of homeless students:

- **Unaccompanied youth:**
 - 8.5 percent of homeless students are unaccompanied students, an increase from 7.5 in SY 2014-15
 - 41 states, including **Pennsylvania**, indicated that unaccompanied youth account for 10% or more of all homeless students.
- **Children with Disabilities:**
 - Comprise the largest subgroup of homeless students, making up 18 percent of all homeless students
 - **Pennsylvania** is one of 10 states that has 23% or more of its homeless students with an identified disability under IDEA.
- **Migratory students:** Only 1.2 percent of all homeless students are migratory
- **English Learners:** 16 percent of all homeless students are English Learners

About PEC: PEC nurtures families, strengthens neighborhoods, and drives change. We are committed to increasing equity and opportunity throughout our entire community. We provide comprehensive supportive services to homeless women and their children, revitalize our West Philadelphia neighborhood, and advocate for social justice. Contact PEC at policy@pec-cares.org.