



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>.

Differences between Urban and Suburban Homelessness Among Children and Youth

Overall, Philadelphia identified **7,112** children and youth in FY 2018, and Region 8 identified **4,809**. However, in many categories, **homelessness in suburban Philadelphia is more pervasive than in the City of Philadelphia.**

Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Regions 1 and 8 together identified **7,733** children and youth experiencing homelessness who were **economically disadvantaged; 6,159** attended schools where **≥ 60%** of families live in **poverty; 1,483** were **unaccompanied**; and **5,984** were **doubled-up**.

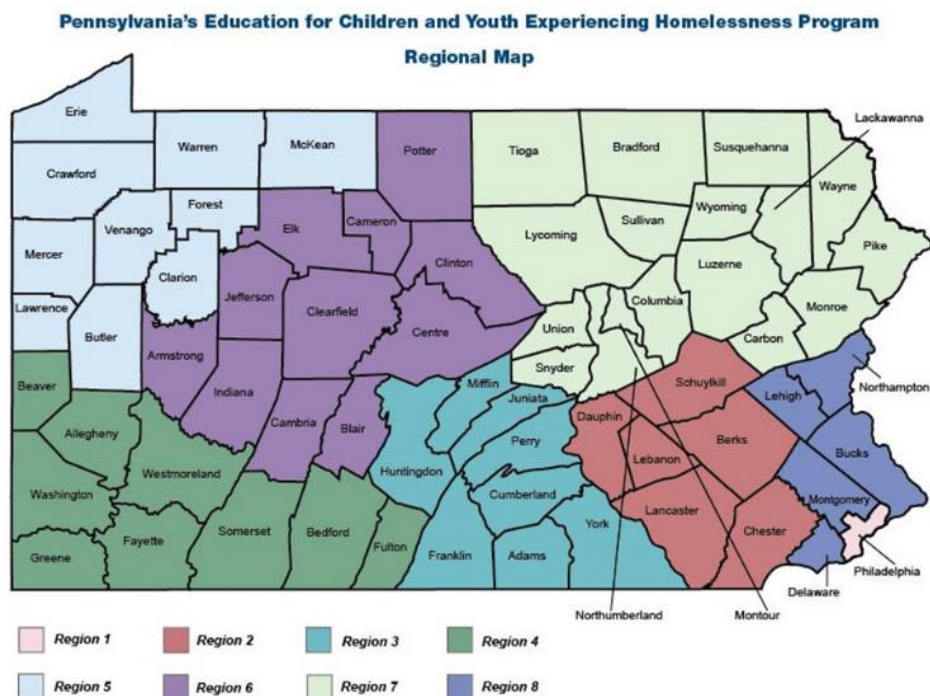


This report considers child and youth homelessness in the counties of Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, Lehigh, Northampton, and Philadelphia as identified by the ECYEH program, which is managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) as reported in PDE’s *Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (EYCEH) 2018-18 State Evaluation Report* can be found at <http://bit.ly/2Y0P3nQ>. The first five counties are organized as “Region 8” of the state; Philadelphia is Region 1. See the map below.

People’s Emergency Center summarized this report to inform the region’s leadership about children and youth experiencing homelessness.

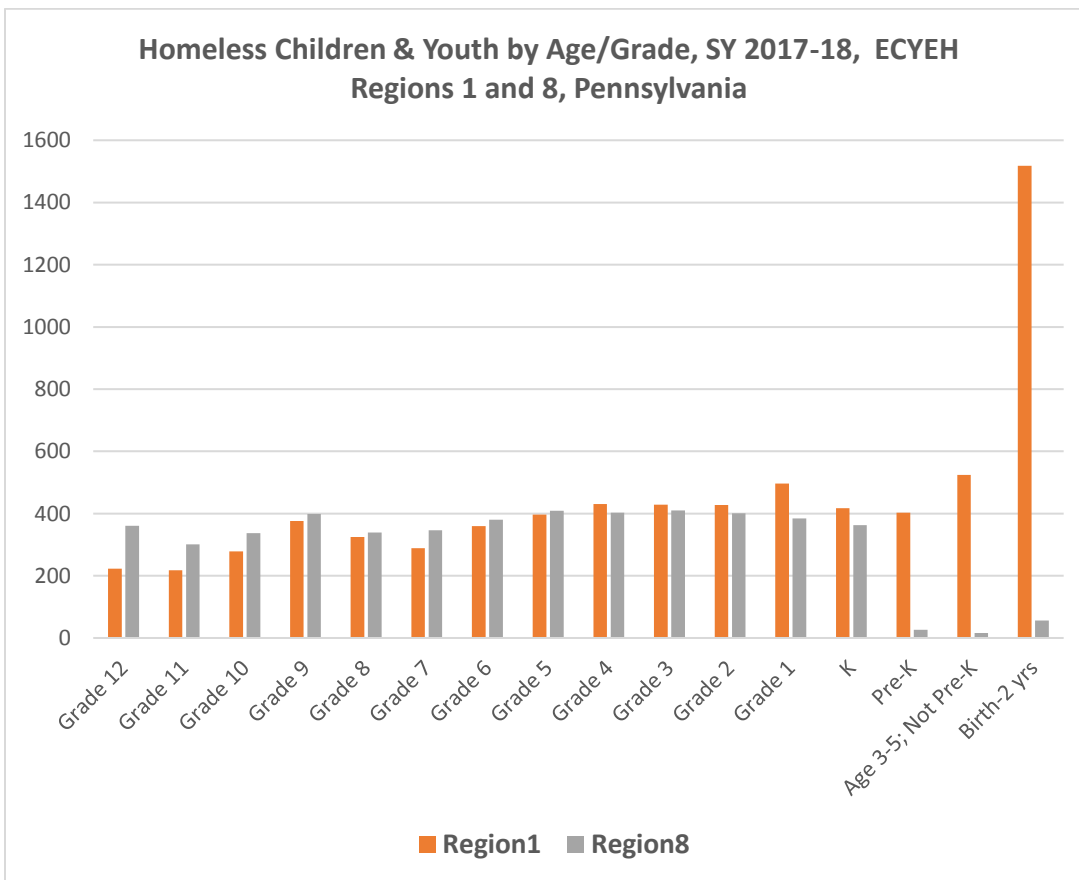
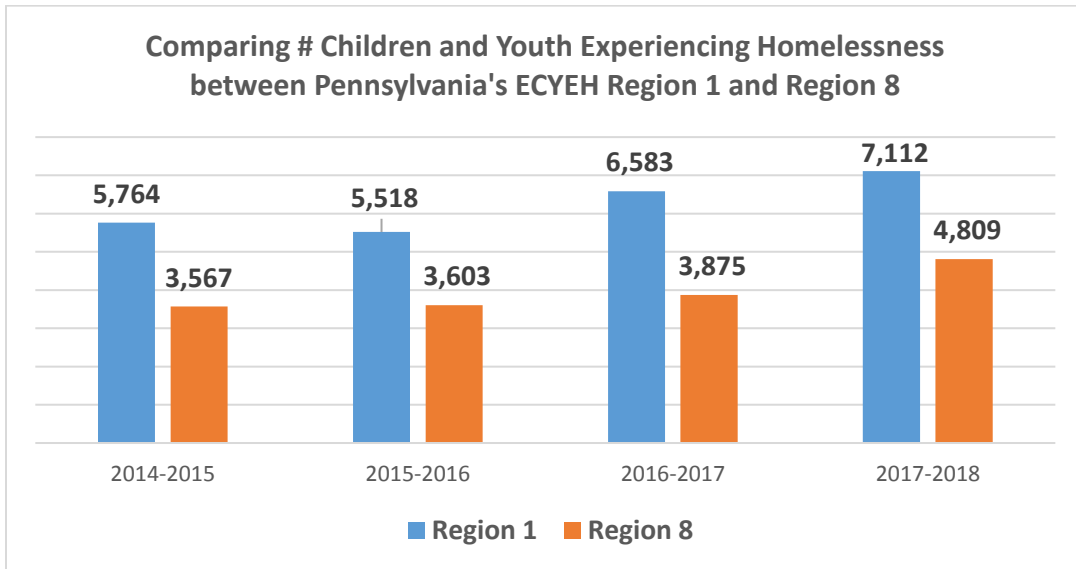
Highlights:

- From **birth to Pre-K**, **substantially** more children and youth were identified as experiencing homelessness in Region 1 than in Region 8. For all other Regions, numbers of identified children and youth in this age category were relatively similar.
- **More** children and youth experiencing homelessness were identified as **doubled up** than any other category of nighttime housing status.
- Region 8 had **27% more doubled up** children and youth than Region 1.
- Region 1 identified **411** K-12 students experiencing homelessness as **unaccompanied**; Region 8 identified **1,062**.
- Region 1 identified **3,613** children and youth experiencing homelessness as **economically disadvantaged**; Region 8 identified **4,120**.
- Region 1 identified **3,973** students enrolled in schools where **60% or more of families live in poverty**. Region 8 identified **2,166** students enrolled in schools with these same parameters of poverty.
- Region 1 identified **nearly twice as many migrant** children and youth experiencing homelessness as Region 8.

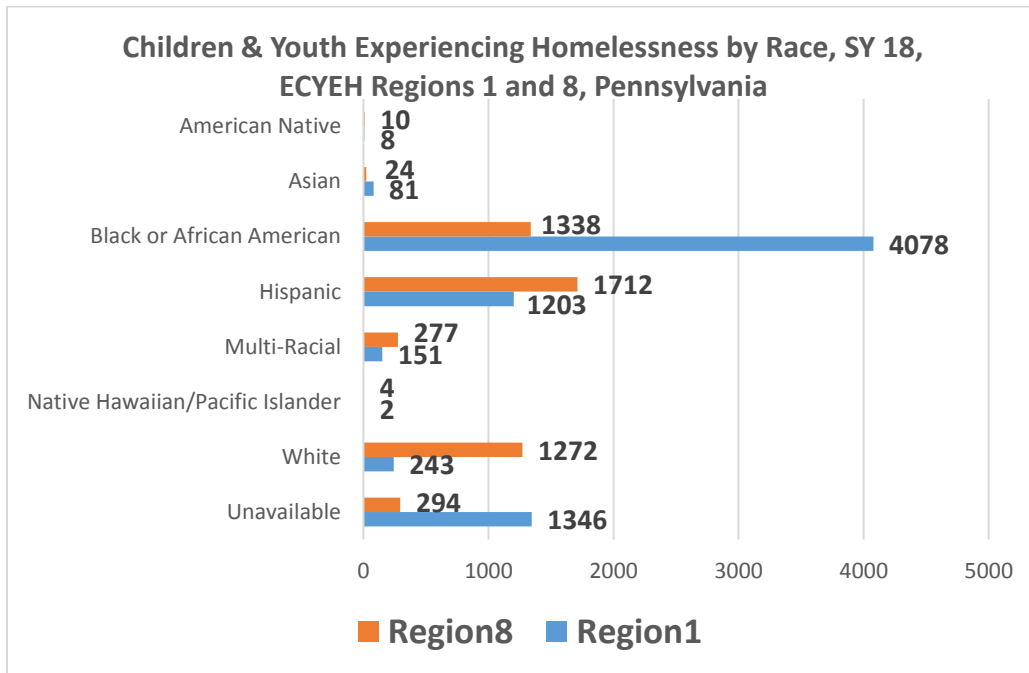


Note: This report is Part 3 of a 4-part series. Part 1 was a summary of the regional report from the School District of Philadelphia. Part 2 was a statewide report. Both reports can be found at <https://www.pec-cares.org/policy-publications.html>

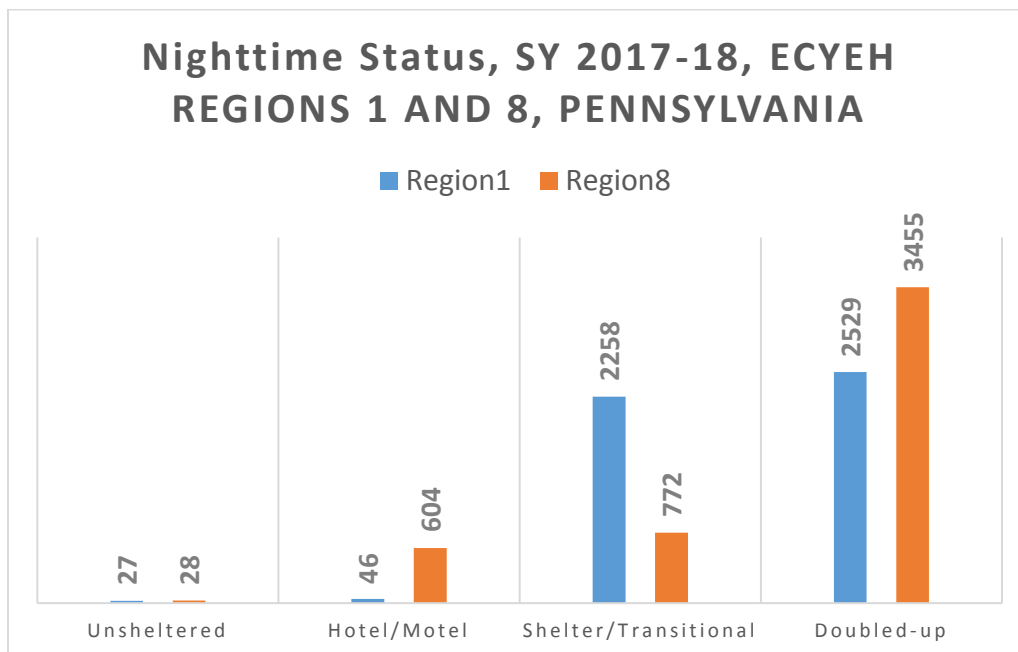
Comparing Philadelphia and Suburban Philadelphia Data of Children and Youth Who Experience Homelessness



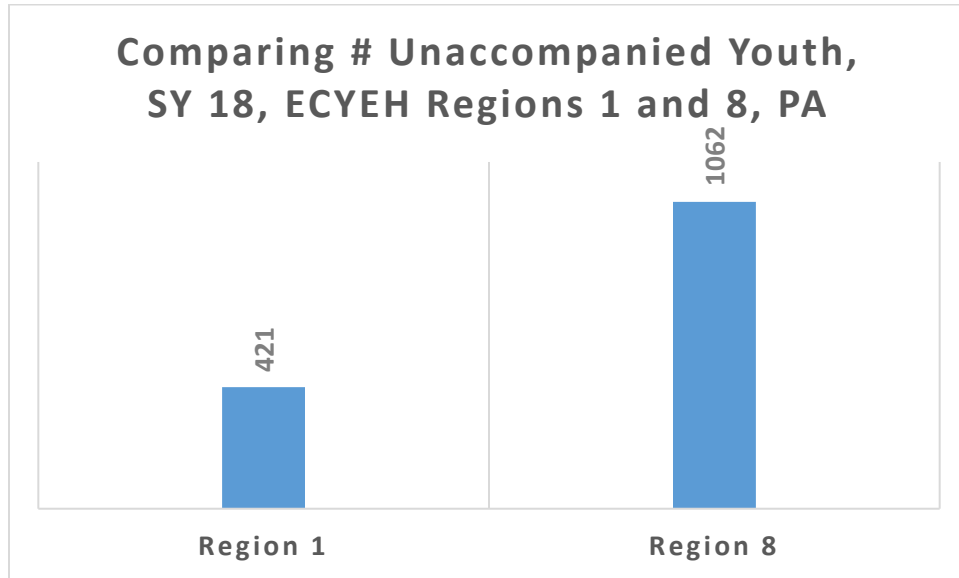
Children & Youth Demographics:



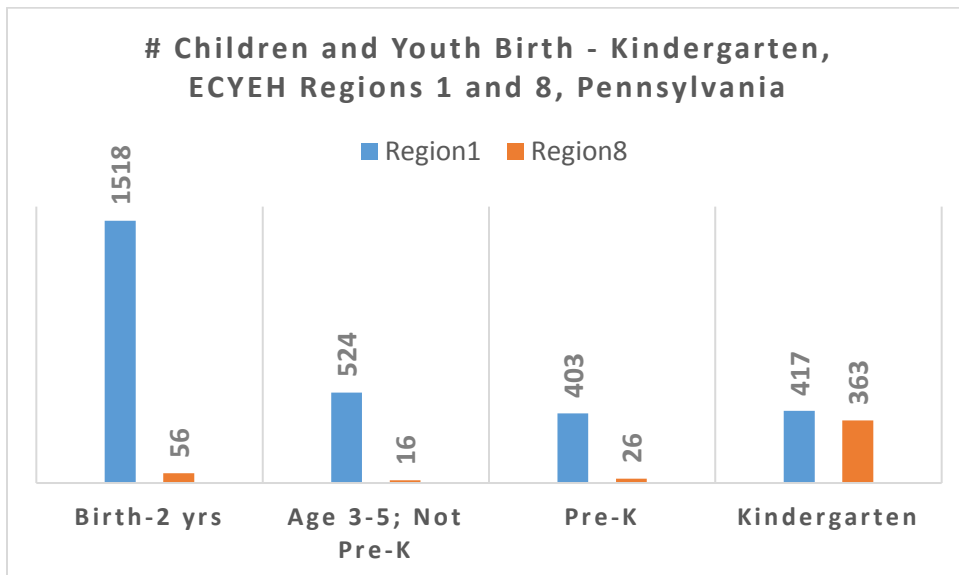
- In Region 1, the majority of children and youth experiencing homelessness were identified as **Black or African American**.
- In Region 8, the majority were identified as **Hispanic**.



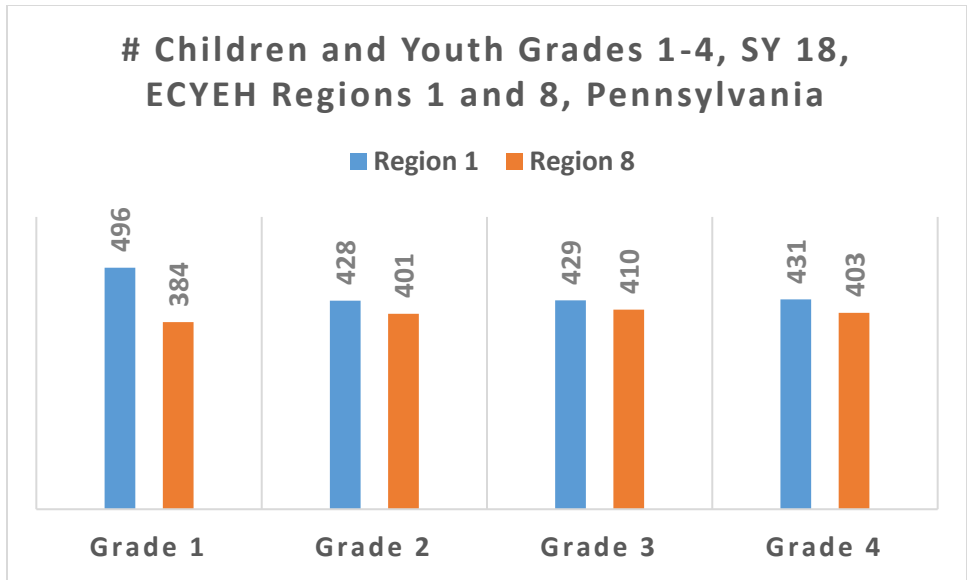
- More children and youth experiencing homelessness were identified as **doubled up** than any other type of housing situation. Region 8 identified **37% more** doubled-up children and youth than did Region 1.



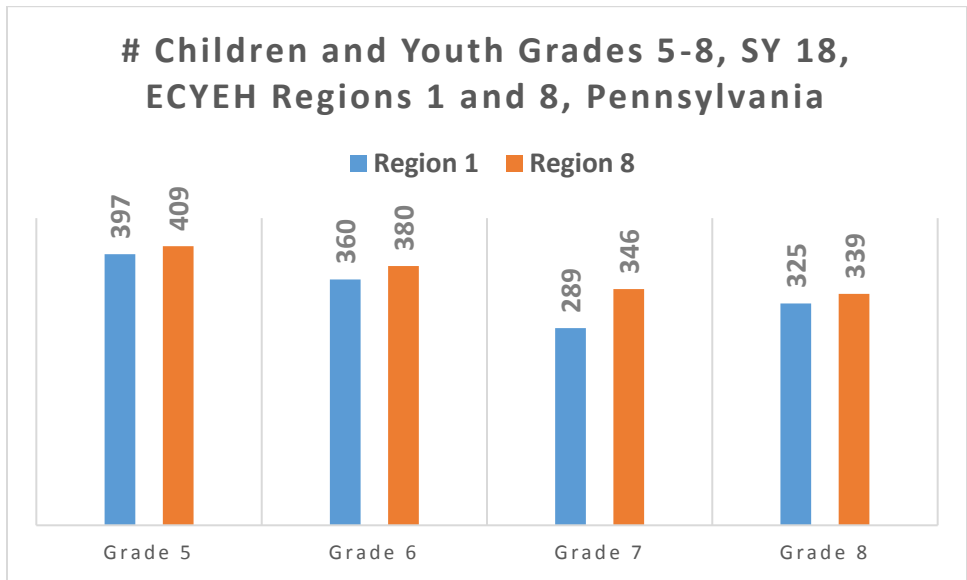
- In the mostly suburban Region 8, **1,062** school-age children and youth experiencing homelessness were **unaccompanied** by parents or other adult caregivers. In Region 1, the largest urban area in Pennsylvania, **421** were identified as unaccompanied.



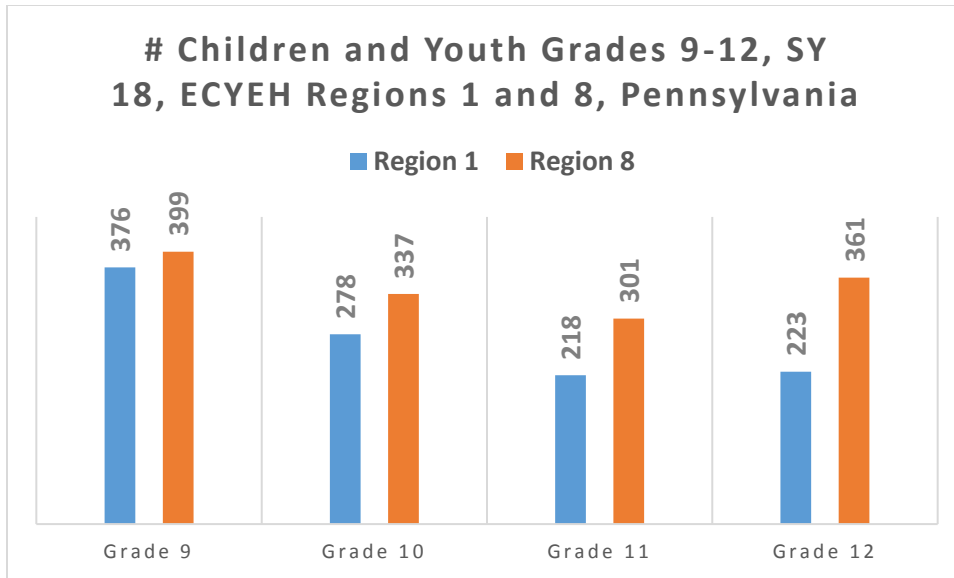
- Region 1 identified **more than 6 times** as many children and youth 5 years of age or younger experiencing homelessness than in Region 8.



- Regions 1 and 8 had similar numbers of children and youth experiencing homelessness in grades 1-4, but Region 1 identified **186 more** children and youth in this category than Region 8.

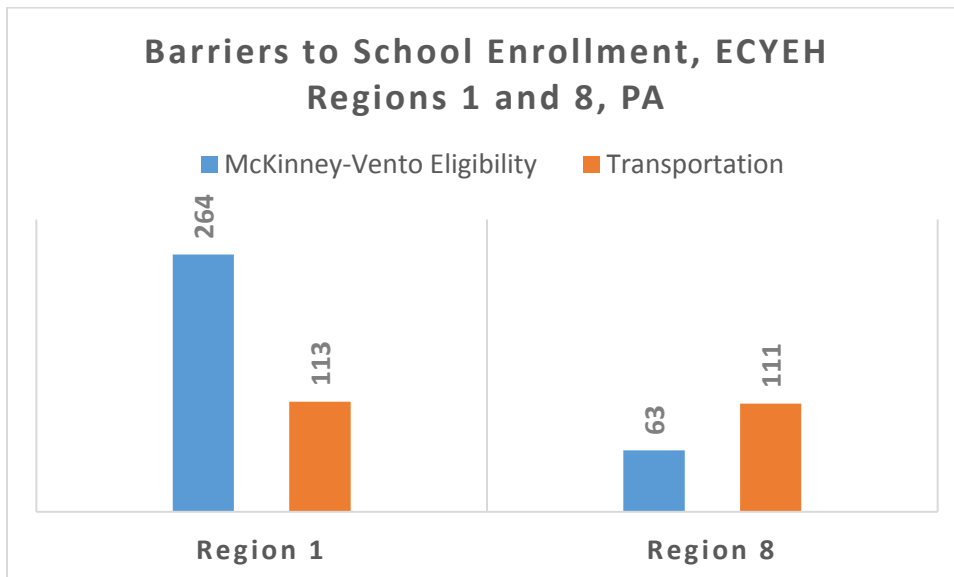


- Regions 1 and 8 also had similar numbers of children and youth experiencing homelessness in grades 5-8, but Region 8 identified **103 more** children and youth in this category than did Region 1.



- Region 8 had **more** children and youth experiencing homelessness in high school – **1,398** compared to **1,095**.

Student Barriers to Enrollment:



- Many more students experiencing homelessness faced difficulty in determining eligibility for **McKinney-Vento** funded support in Region 1 than in Region 8. Virtually the same number of students in the two Regions faced a **transportation** barrier to school enrollment.

Final Observations:

- School Districts and individual schools have improved systems for **monitoring** children and youth experiencing homelessness. However, this monitoring is not equitable across all school districts, resulting in **regional disparities** in identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Many students experiencing homelessness **continue to face significant barriers** to school attendance—mostly related to transportation and determining their eligibility for support from programs funded by the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Many more children and youth experiencing homelessness **were identified as doubled up** than any other category of residence.
- While there are demographic differences and other variations across the ECYEH Regions of Pennsylvania, **the issue of homelessness among children and youth persists** across all geographic categories in the state.
- In several categories, homelessness in suburban Philadelphia is more pervasive than in Philadelphia.

(Mobility refers to student attendance at one or more LEA-schools during the SY 2017-18)

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 240 housing units and five educational centers offering parenting and early childhood education and more, PEC seeks to change the life trajectory for the women and children who seek its services and inspire them to aspire to new heights. All inquiries can be sent to policy@pec-cares.org.