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/2YOP3nQ. 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

Comparing # Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness between Pennsylvania’s ECYEH Region 1 and Region 8

Homeless Children & Youth by Age/Grade, SY 2017-18, ECYEH Regions 1 and 8, Pennsylvania
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.

![Comparing # Unaccompanied Youth, SY 18, ECYEH Regions 1 and 8, PA](image)

- 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.

![# Children and Youth Birth - Kindergarten, ECYEH Regions 1 and 8, Pennsylvania](image)

- 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)

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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.