



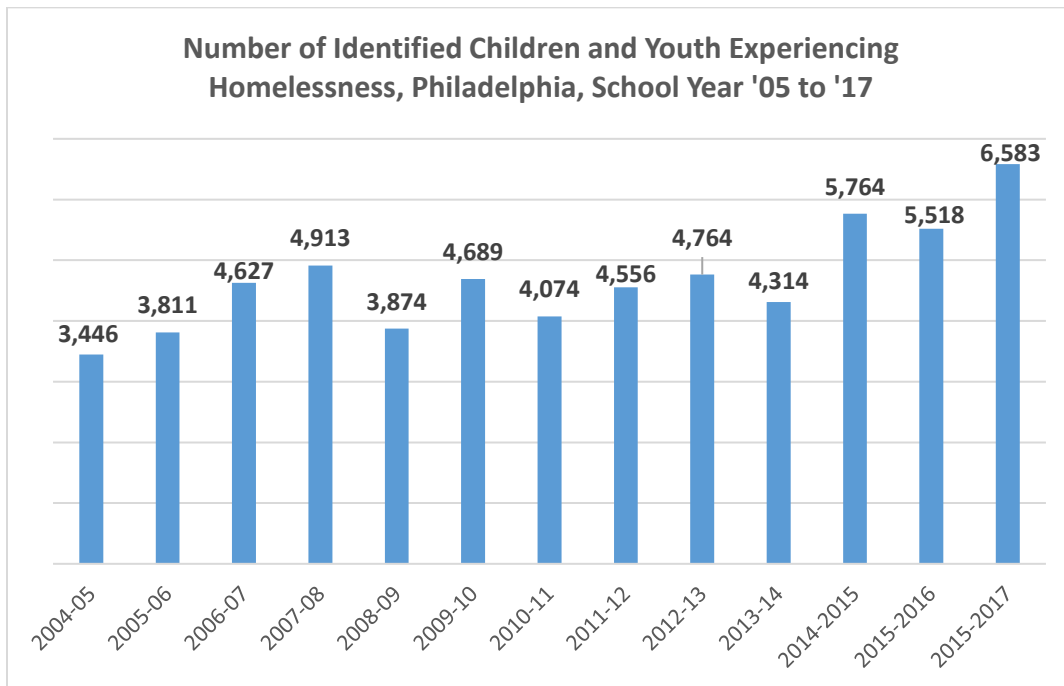
BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://bit.ly/2iaczvQ>.

## ***6,583 Children and Youth in Philadelphia Experienced Homelessness during the 2016-2017 School Year***

The number of children and youth who experienced homelessness in school year (SY) 2016-2017 was **6,583**, according to reports by the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This is an **increase of 819 children compared to the 2014-2015** school year.

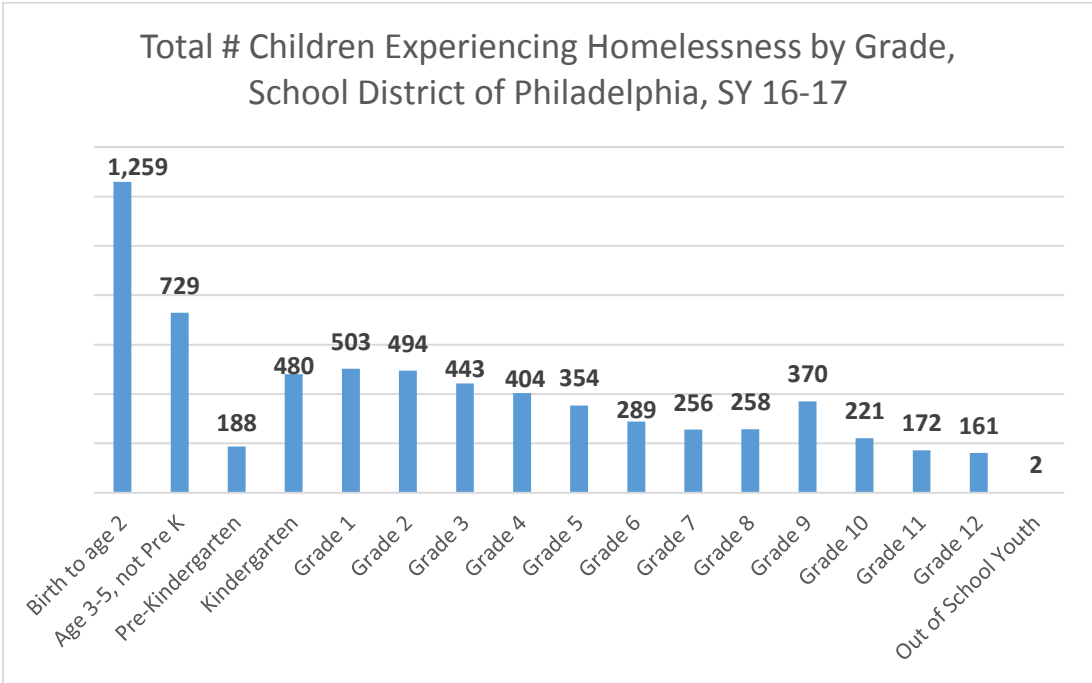
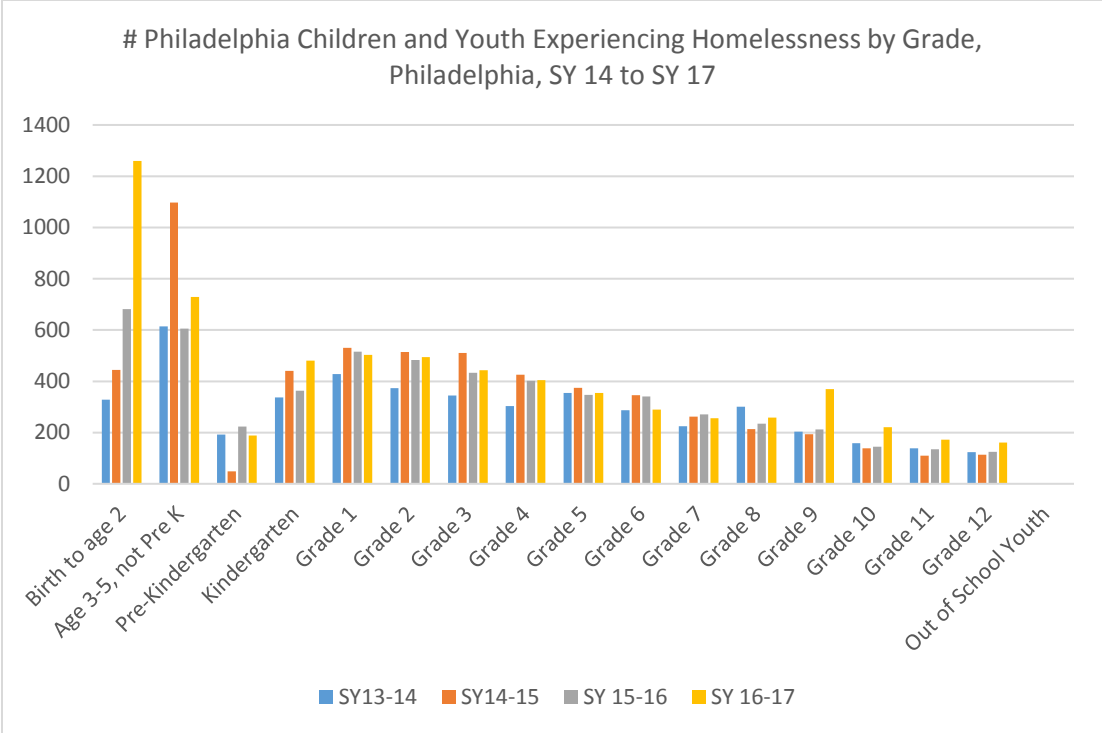
**If the average classroom contained 30 students each, this number would fill 217 classrooms.**

People’s Emergency Center summarized these reports to inform the region’s leadership about children and youth experiencing homelessness. These reports can be found at <http://bit.ly/2KpUC54> (SDP) and <http://bit.ly/2rEJGtm> (PDE). Please know that this report shows data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s February release of the data, and not their revised version released in March, 2018.

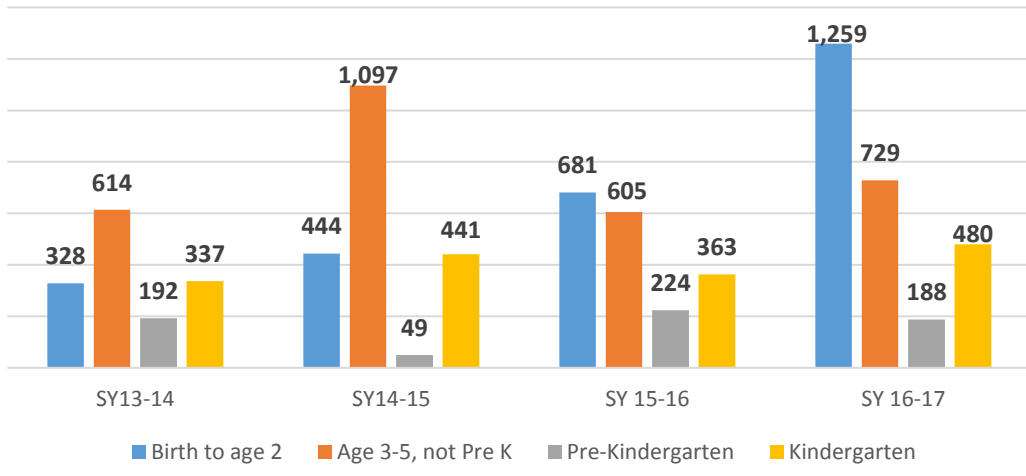


## Highlights:

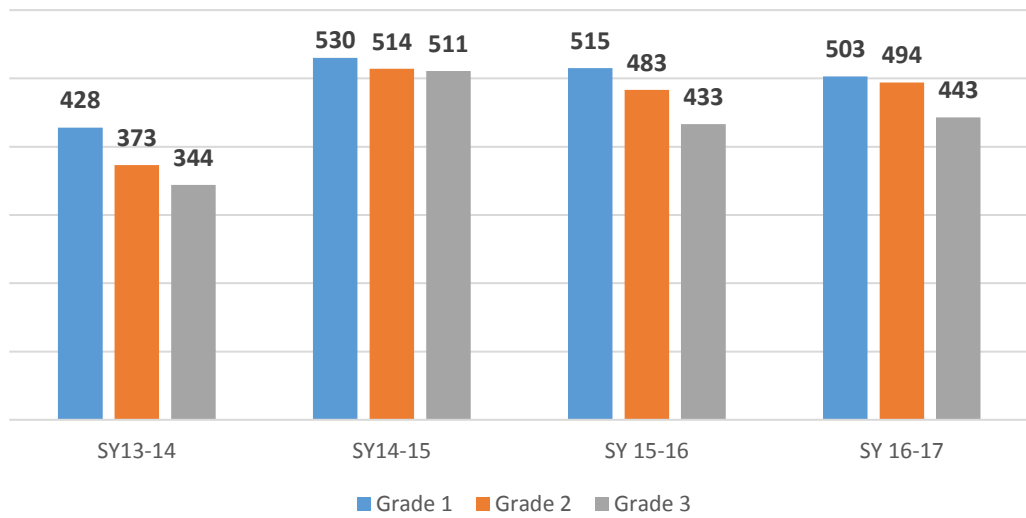
- Philadelphia has **6,583 identified children and youth identified as experiencing homelessness.**
- Not all children and youth in this number are SDP students. This number includes:
  - The number of children **birth through Kindergarten** was 2,656, or 40 percent of all children identified as experiencing homelessness.
  - The number of children in **grades 1 to 3** was 1,440, or 22 percent of the total.
  - The number of children and youth in **grades 4 to 8** was 1,561, or 24 percent of the total.
  - The number of youth in **grades 9 to 12** was 924, or 14 percent of the total.
- Only 23 were identified as '**unsheltered**,' i.e., living out doors or a place considered not fit for human habitation.
- There was a **dramatic change** in the number of identified students **who received transportation services**. In SY 2016, 1,167 students received transportation assistance; in SY 17, 450 received this service. The reports under review do not explain the change. Perhaps related, 62 percent of homeless-identified students had **10 or more unexcused absences**, compared to 38 percent of other District students. However, the SDP reported that **68% of homeless students** who received transportation assistance were **chronically truant**.



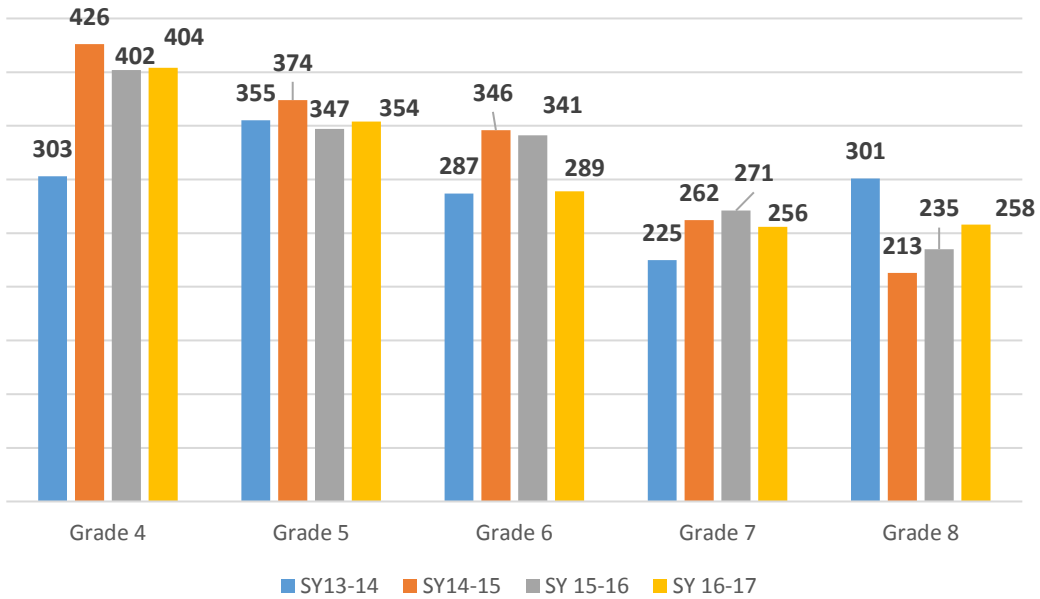
# Children Experiencing Homelessness by Birth to Kindergarten, Philadelphia, SY 16-17



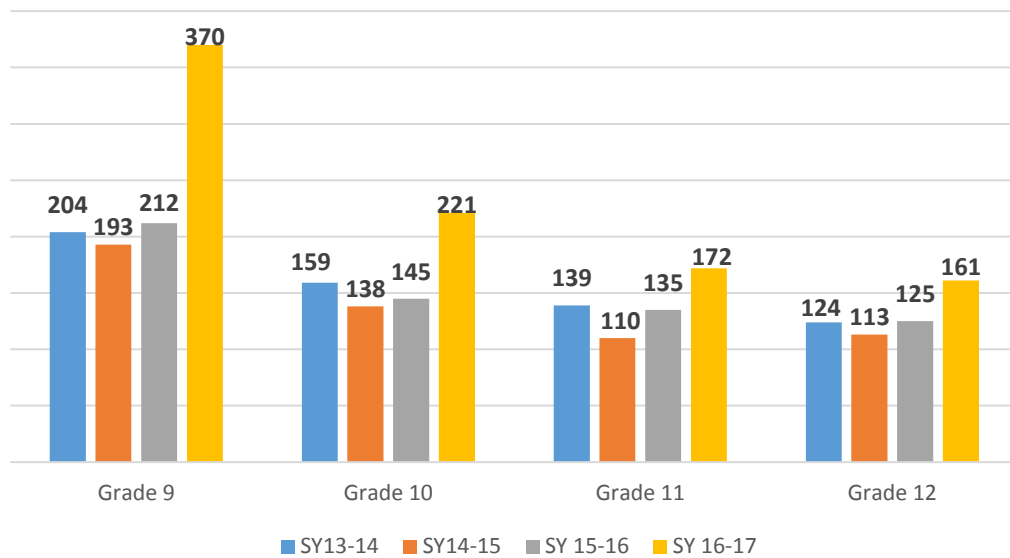
# Children in Grades 1-3 Experiencing Homelessness, Philadelphia, SY 14-17



# Children in **Grades 4 - 8** Experiencing Homelessness, Philadelphia, SY 14-17



# **Youth** Experiencing Homelessness & Enrolled in School District of Philadelphia by **Grades 9-12**, SY 14 to SY 17



## Academic Achievement

Table 1 suggests that homeless 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students are not achieving at the same rate as 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade homeless students throughout the state or all Pennsylvania 3rd Graders. Neither the PDE nor the SDP reports show the data to better understand achievement scoring.

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
% SDP Homeless 3rd Graders (n=241)*			21%	
% PA Homeless 3rd Graders (n=1,581)	29.6%	33.5%	31.8%	5.1%
All PA 3rd Grade Students (n=124,923)	12.1%	23.3%	47.6%	17.1%
* Philadelphia's report collapses 'Proficient' with 'Advanced'; this data is in the SDP report. The other figures are found in the PDE report.				

## Nighttime Residence

The definition of homelessness, in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, includes individuals whose “**nighttime residence**” is a public or private place not designed for humans to sleep (such as cars, bus and train stations). Identified homeless students who live in each kind of housing are listed in Table 1. This data comes from the PDE report.

Living Arrangement	Total K-12 Students (N=4,778)
Unsheltered	23 (0.5%)
Shelter/transitional/awaiting	1,648 (35%)
Doubled Up	1,867(39%)
Transitional*	890 (19%)
Other/Hotel	40 (0.8%)

\*Transitional was defined by ECYEH on July 14, 2014, as transitional housing.

## Services

In order to assist homeless students, the SDP's homeless education program offers several services to help alleviate the costs of a child going to school. The number of students who received uniform vouchers and transportation services for the past three school years is displayed below. Slightly under one-half of these students needed uniform assistance.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Total # Students 2014-2015</b>	<b>Total # Students 2015-2016</b>	<b>Total # Students 2016-2017</b>
Uniform Voucher	1,628 (45%)	1,516 (46%)	1,517 (49%)
Transportation	1,280 (35%)	1,167 (35%)	450 (15%)

## Student Mobility

Students who experience homelessness have the right to remain in their school. The PDE report shows that in examining the records of 4,468 SDP students experiencing homelessness, 58% remained in their school of origin, 19% attended 2 different schools, and 5% enrolled in more than 2 schools. See Table #4.

	<b># Students</b>	<b>% Students</b>
1 school	2,578	58%
2 schools	856	19%
More than 2 schools	229	5%
Unable to determine	805	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](mailto:policy@pec-cares.org).