

User's Guide

The *Atlas of Student Homelessness* is divided into seven sections. Section one provides an overview of homelessness among students in New York City focusing on the geographic distribution across the city. Sections two through six explore educational outcomes of homeless students, focusing on overarching citywide trends as well as how outcomes vary by type of homelessness and by school district. Section seven provides an in-depth look at student homelessness in each school district—information critical to local program planning and priority setting. Additional school-level data can be found on ICPH's Interactive Map of Student Homelessness. Definitions of all terms, as well as additional tables by community, City Council, State Assembly, and State Senate districts, are included in the Appendix.

The data for this Atlas were provided primarily by the New York City Department of Education, tabulated by the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness. Federal law entitles homeless children to certain educational rights and supports including immediate enrollment in school without the usual required documents and records, which may not be readily available. Based on their needs and district resources, homeless students receive assistance that may include school supplies, transportation, clothes, and after-school programs, as well as other supports. In New York City, schools receive technical support from the Students in Temporary Housing Unit (STH) within the Department of Education and from the New York State Technical & Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS TEACHS). Teachers and other school personnel are often the first to identify homeless children who have slipped between the cracks of the City's support systems. This "first responder" role makes schools a vitally important link for meeting the needs of homeless children and their families.¹

Citywide Maps

Citywide "heat" maps are included to enable visual comparisons across school districts. While the color of each map varies depending on the information presented, the darkest shade will generally represent the worst outcome and the lightest shade, the best outcome. Most citywide maps are accompanied by tables that enable comparison across school districts as well as by student poverty level and type of homelessness. The five groups shown in the table are: all homeless students, homeless students living in shelter, homeless students living doubled up, housed students eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch, and housed students not eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch. In graduation and late IEP data, the homelessness category "in temporary arrangement" is used to represent students who were homeless but did not live in a shelter. Eligibility for free- or reduced-price lunch is a common proxy for low-income status. In the *Atlas* text, "low-income students" is often used interchangeably with eligibility for free- or reduced-price lunch. All homeless students are automatically eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch.

1. New York City Department of Homeless Services, *Shelter Repair Squad Scorecard-Shelter Building Listing*, December 2015; New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, HPD Building, Registration, and Violation, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/index.page>, accessed May 2016; Legal Aid Society, DHS Family Shelter Facilities, <http://www.legal-aid.org/en/civil/civilpractice/homelessright-project/materials/toc.aspx>, accessed May 2016.

Select neighborhoods and location of school district in New York City.

District-level information critical to local program planning and priority setting for educators and policymakers.

Ratio of the number of fifth graders who are currently homeless plus those who have experienced homelessness during elementary school over all fifth graders in the district.

Ratio of the number of pre-K-12 students who are currently homeless plus those who have experienced homelessness at any point during the last six years over all pre-K-12 students in the district.

Number of shelter units and shelters, including hotels and cluster sites, for families with children.

The number of units is a rough approximation of the total number of families in shelter in the school district. Because homeless students do not always live in their school district, the number of students in shelter is not necessarily related to the number of shelter units in the district.

Rankings are shown by borough and citywide, with a ranking of 1 indicating the highest percent of students who are homeless.

City School District 1 Manhattan

Lower East Side



Explore Student Homelessness by School in Your Neighborhood
bit.ly/MapNYCHomelessStudents

Key Findings

Over 1,400 homeless students attended school in the district in SY 2015-16, including 570 students living in shelter.

District 1 homeless students had the best rate of identification of special educational needs (IEPs) of all geographic districts citywide. (39%)

1 out of 6 Elementary Students Experienced Homelessness by 5th Grade

1 out of 6 Pre-K-12 Students Experienced Homelessness in the Last Six Years

Family Shelters

Including hotels and cluster sites

126

Shelter Units

3

Family Facilities

Rank

By Highest Percent of Students Homeless

4

Out of Six City School Districts in Manhattan

14

Out of 32 Districts in New York City

Educational Outcomes of Homeless Students

| | SD1 | NYC |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Mid-Year Transfer Rate | 22% | 22% |
| Chronic Absenteeism Rate | 33% | 34% |
| Math Proficiency 3-8 Grade | 21% | 19% |
| ELA Proficiency 3-8 Grade | 19% | 21% |
| Received IEP Late | 39% | 54% |
| English Language Learner | 16% | 24% |
| Suspension Rate | 3.1% | 3.2% |
| Dropout Rate | 23% | 17% |
| Graduation Rate | 51% | 55% |

Student Homelessness and Poverty

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Homeless | 12% |
| Formerly Homeless | 4% |
| Housed, Free Lunch | 48% |
| Housed, No Free Lunch | 36% |

Where Homeless Students Sleep

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| In Shelter | 39% |
| Doubled Up | 55% |
| Unsheltered | 1% |
| Other | 5% |

Notes: The number of shelter units in a school district and the number of students in shelter are not the same; students may attend schools in districts where they do not live, and each shelter unit can house more than one child. Some shelters are not included due to missing or incomplete address information. See User's Guide for further notes about the family shelters included in this publication. The number of homeless students represents where students attend school; homeless students may attend schools in districts where they do not live. Ratio of elementary students who will experience homelessness by fifth grade is an estimate based on trends over the last six years; due to growing student homelessness, this is likely an underestimate. Students who experienced homelessness in the last six years is the ratio of currently homeless and formerly homeless students to the total number of students in the district. Notes on educational outcomes are listed in each section. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Dotted lines and dashes indicate missing data or data that have been redacted due to accuracy or student privacy. "In Temporary Arrangement" refers to students who were homeless living in other temporary settings, not in shelter.

Data specific to homeless students attending school within the district.

To enable comparison, educational outcomes are shown for homeless students in the district and overall homeless students in New York City.

Changes over time in enrollment of homeless students in the district.

Chronic absenteeism and mid-year transfer rates over time are critical indicators of school instability for homeless students.

In light of DOE policies to reduce suspensions for all students, district trends by housing status are shown as an indicator of which districts are keeping pace with the citywide decline.

A comparison of grades homeless students attend in the district compared to housed students.

Comparison between homeless students, housed students who are low income, and housed students who are not low income within the district. Additionally, comparisons can be made by type of homelessness by examining differences between homeless students in shelter and homeless students doubled up. Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch is used as a proxy for student poverty.

