



Student Homelessness in America

School Years 2017-18 to 2019-20

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National Center for Homeless Education
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO



With funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro provides critical information to those who seek to remove educational barriers and improve educational opportunities and outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

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Overview

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence with the right to the same free, appropriate, public education that other students receive. Each year, to ensure the law is fully implemented by school districts and states, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) collects demographic and academic data on students eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act.¹ Using the most recently available data, this brief examines the number of students experiencing homelessness, the type of housing they used when first identified by school districts, and subgroups of students experiencing homelessness.

Key findings in this brief:

- During School Year (SY) 2019-20, public schools identified 1,280,886 students who experienced homelessness. This represents 2.5% of all students enrolled in public schools (NCES, 2021).
- While student enrollment in public schools remained stable (NCES, 2021), the number of identified students experiencing homelessness decreased by nearly 8% between SYs 2018-19 and 2019-20. The number of identified students experiencing homelessness decreased by 15% between SYs 2017-18 and 2019-20.²
- Despite recent decreases, there has been an average annual increase of 5% in the number of students experiencing homelessness since SY 2004-05.
- Seventy-eight percent of students identified as homeless during SY 2019-20 doubled-up with others, while 11% stayed at shelters, 7% stayed at hotels or motels, and 4% stayed in unsheltered situations. These rates are comparable to primary nighttime residence rates for SY 2018-19.
- Unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) make up 9% of all students experiencing homelessness. UHY doubled-up at higher rates than students experiencing homelessness overall, but were less likely to stay in shelters and hotels or motels than students experiencing homelessness overall. The percentage of

¹ Data on students experiencing homelessness included in this report are collected by the U.S. Department of Education through the ED*Facts* Initiative. To learn more about the ED*Facts* Initiative, visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/index.html>. The first school year for which ED*Facts* data are available is SY 2004-05. Archives of education for homeless children and youth national summary reports are available at <https://nche.ed.gov/data-and-stats>.

² The national state of emergency due to COVID-19 began on March 13, 2020, during the reporting year ending June 30, 2020; several states have reported that it impacted their ability to collect and validate data from school districts. Additionally, some states have reported significant increases or decreases between reporting years due to natural disasters. As states submit data to ED, they may submit notes that explain changes in student data. Additional notes may be provided by states as ED completes a quality review of data to identify possible errors or anomalies. ED includes these data notes with public releases of data on <https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/>.

UHY who were unsheltered is the same as the percentage of students experiencing homelessness overall who were unsheltered.

- While the number of students in each subgroup of students experiencing homelessness went down, the percentage of students in each subgroup remained stable. Students with disabilities account for 19%, English learners account for 17%, and migratory students account for 1% of students experiencing homelessness.
- Students of color experience homelessness at higher proportions than expected based on the overall number of students. Hispanic and Latino students accounted for 28% of the overall student body but 38% of students experiencing homelessness; Black and African American students accounted for 15% of the overall student body but 27% of students experiencing homelessness (NCES, 2021). While White students accounted for 46% of all students enrolled in public schools, they represent 26% of students experiencing homelessness.
- The scope of this report is from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, which overlaps with the first three and a half months of the COVID-19 pandemic and national state of emergency. During this time, many public school districts stopped providing in-person instruction and services and moved to online or hybrid instruction. This change often resulted in a reduced number of hours and weeks for the remainder of the school year. Many students experiencing homelessness had difficulties accessing online instruction, completing classwork and homework, or remaining engaged over time given their housing circumstances. Therefore, the pandemic may have impacted the identification and enrollment of students experiencing homelessness for more than a quarter of the reporting year in SY 2019-20. However, this report does not analyze or assess the causes for decreases or increases in the identification and enrollment of students experiencing homelessness.
- To address the impact of the pandemic on schools and students, including those experiencing homelessness, federal pandemic recovery funds have been provided to state and local educational agencies. The American Rescue Plan Act specifically included \$800 million for the purposes of identifying students experiencing homelessness as well as for providing wrap-around services and assistance needed to enable students experiencing homelessness to attend school and participate fully in school activities. Students experiencing homelessness served by these funds will be reported mainly in briefs for SY 2021-22 through SY 2024-25.

Students Experiencing Homelessness and Educational Rights

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (McKinney-Vento Act) defines a student experiencing homelessness as one who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(2), 2015). The McKinney-Vento Act requires public school districts to appoint a liaison to ensure the identification of students experiencing homelessness in coordination with other school personnel and community agencies (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(i)). It also outlines circumstances that fall under this definition. While the list of circumstances described in the McKinney-Vento Act is not exhaustive, it helps liaisons determine which students are eligible for services under the law. Circumstances which meet the criteria of lacking fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence include students

- sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- staying in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative, adequate housing;
- staying in emergency or transitional shelters;
- abandoned in hospitals;
- staying in public or private places not designed for humans to live; and
- staying in cars, parks, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings, or substandard housing.

The definition also includes migratory students who are living in a situation that meets the homeless definition criteria (42 U.S.C. § 11434(a)(2)).

Once identified, students have the right to remain in their school of origin or enroll in the local school where they are staying based on what is in the students' best interest, receive transportation to the school of origin, receive free school meals, and receive educational and related supports under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA, 2015). The McKinney-Vento Act also provides grants to state educational agencies, which make competitive subgrants to school districts to provide educationally-related support services to students experiencing homelessness.

Student Enrollment by State

States identified 1,280,866 students experiencing homelessness during SY 2019-20. When compared to the overall number of students, students experiencing homelessness accounted for 2.5% of students enrolled in public schools (NCES, 2021). The District of Columbia, Bureau of Indian Education, and New York had the highest rates of homeless students at seven, six, and five percent respectively. Connecticut, New Jersey, and Vermont had the lowest rates of homeless students at 1% or less.

Table 1. Number of students experiencing homelessness enrolled by state with percent of all students, School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 12

State	Homeless students SY 2017-18	Percent of all students SY 2017-18	Homeless students SY 2018-19	Percent of all students SY 2018-19	Homeless students SY 2019-20	Percent of all students SY 2019-20
United States¹	1,508,265	3.0	1,387,573	2.7	1,280,886	2.5
Alabama	15,023	2.0	16,118	2.2	11,578	1.6
Alaska	3,769	2.8	3,576	2.7	3,126	2.4
Arizona ²	24,399	2.2	21,062	1.8	17,386	1.5
Arkansas	14,052	2.8	13,910	2.8	13,339	2.7
Bureau of Indian Education	2,420	5.2	1,231	2.8	2,373	6.2
California	263,058	4.2	271,528	4.3	246,350	4.0
Colorado	22,369	2.5	21,560	2.4	20,821	2.3
Connecticut	5,015	0.9	4,722	0.9	4,183	0.8
Delaware	3,484	2.6	3,547	2.6	2,709	1.9
District of Columbia	7,445	9.0	6,858	7.7	6,332	7.0
Florida	95,167	3.4	91,068	3.2	79,357	2.8
Georgia	39,571	2.2	38,891	2.2	35,538	2.0
Hawaii	3,101	1.7	3,600	2.0	3,586	2.0
Idaho	8,080	2.7	7,810	2.5	7,835	2.5
Illinois	52,978	2.6	55,752	2.8	47,445	2.4
Indiana	18,625	1.8	18,252	1.7	17,324	1.6
Iowa	7,124	1.4	7,295	1.4	6,042	1.2
Kansas	8,471	1.7	8,369	1.7	7,650	1.5
Kentucky	23,964	3.5	24,177	3.6	21,620	3.1
Louisiana	18,320	2.6	17,330	2.4	15,533	2.2
Maine	2,443	1.4	2,552	1.4	2,302	1.3
Maryland	17,601	2.0	16,202	1.8	15,548	1.7
Massachusetts	23,601	2.4	24,658	2.6	22,648	2.4
Michigan	35,193	2.3	34,853	2.3	32,935	2.2
Minnesota	16,698	1.9	17,071	1.9	13,295	1.5
Mississippi ³	9,815	2.1	7,003	1.5	7,973	1.7
Missouri	36,006	3.9	34,029	3.7	34,942	3.8
Montana	3,977	2.7	4,216	2.8	4,265	2.8
Nebraska	3,723	1.1	4,375	1.3	4,084	1.2
Nevada	20,685	4.3	18,647	3.8	18,264	3.7
New Hampshire	3,982	2.2	4,021	2.3	3,518	2.0
New Jersey	13,234	0.9	13,929	1.0	12,741	0.9
New Mexico	10,683	3.2	11,588	3.5	9,033	2.7
New York	153,209	5.6	148,485	5.5	143,329	5.3
North Carolina	28,877	1.9	34,725	2.2	27,044	1.7
North Dakota	2,156	1.9	2,530	2.2	2,675	2.3
Ohio	34,180	2.0	32,780	1.9	30,060	1.8

Table 1. Number of and percent change in students experiencing homelessness enrolled by state, School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 12

State	Percent of all students		Percent of all students		Percent of all students	
	SY 2017-18	SY 2017-18	SY 2018-19	SY 2018-19	SY 2019-20	SY 2019-20
Oklahoma	25,623	3.7	23,372	3.3	25,010	3.6
Oregon	23,141	3.8	23,765	3.9	22,336	3.7
Pennsylvania	30,624	1.8	31,822	1.8	31,876	1.8
Puerto Rico	6,707	1.9	4,717	1.5	4,058	1.4
Rhode Island	1,523	1.1	1,475	1.0	1,531	1.1
South Carolina	12,426	1.6	12,545	1.6	11,736	1.5
South Dakota	2,037	1.5	1,907	1.4	2,015	1.4
Tennessee	17,766	1.8	19,747	2.0	18,482	1.8
Texas	231,305	4.3	114,055	2.1	111,411	2.0
Utah	13,838	2.1	13,745	2.0	13,223	1.9
Vermont	--	--	1,008	1.2	883	1.0
Virginia	20,393	1.6	20,443	1.6	17,496	1.3
Washington	40,112	3.6	39,972	3.6	36,685	3.2
West Virginia	9,716	3.6	10,522	3.9	10,394	3.9
Wisconsin	18,853	2.2	18,394	2.1	17,220	2.0
Wyoming	1,703	1.8	1,764	1.9	1,747	1.8

¹The United States total includes the Bureau of Indian Education, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Enrolled students include those aged 3 through 5 not in Kindergarten, those enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12, and those who are ungraded.

²Allowed LEAs to include students in more than one grade, resulting in duplicate counts.

³Does not include data on students who were identified as homeless but declined assistance from the schools.

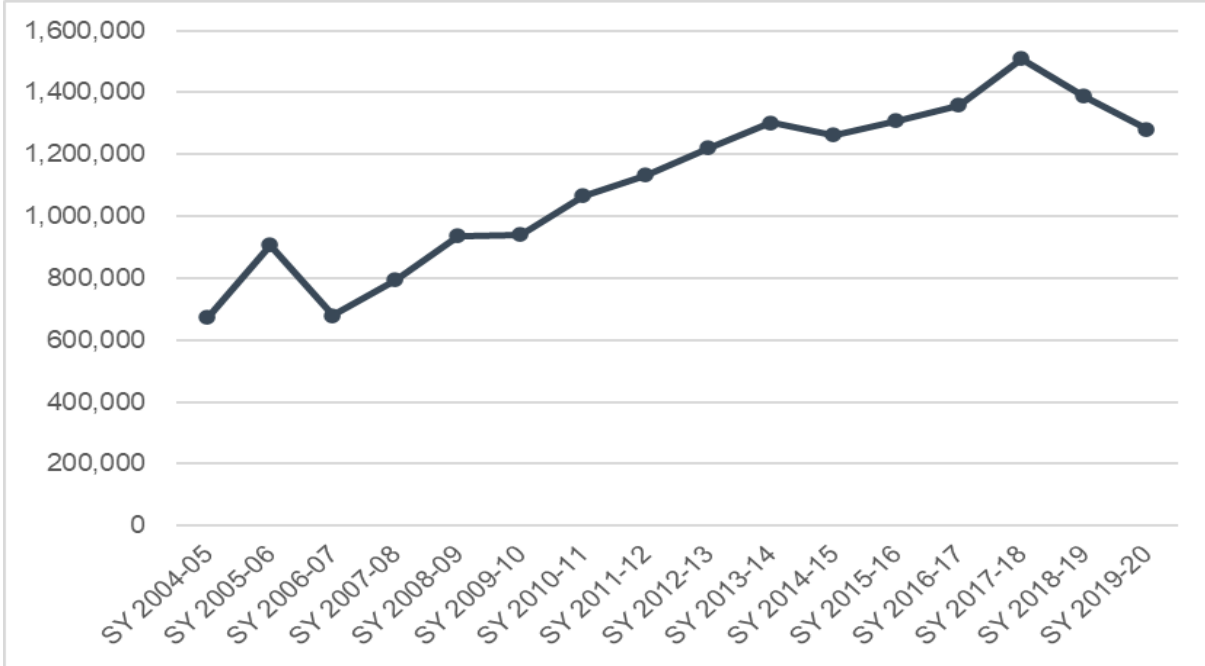
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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118, SEA Level (2019, 2020, 2021); National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, *State nonfiscal public elementary/secondary education survey* (2019-20 v. 1a.), SEA level.

The total number of students experiencing homelessness represents an 8% decrease from SY 2018-19 and a 15% decrease from SY 2017-18. Further examination of student data indicates that several states experienced large increases in students identified as homeless during SY 2017-18. While the cause of increased homelessness cannot be determined in each state, significant increases in a few of the states can likely be attributed in part to severe weather events.³ In contrast, one state noted the quieter storm season during SY 2019-20 resulted in fewer identified homeless students for that year. To better understand long-term trends of homelessness among students in light of the variability from year to year, the average change in the number of homeless students from year to year was calculated. Despite decreases in the number of students experiencing homelessness in SYs 2018-19 and 2019-20, there has been an average annual increase of 5% in the number of homeless students since SY 2004-05.

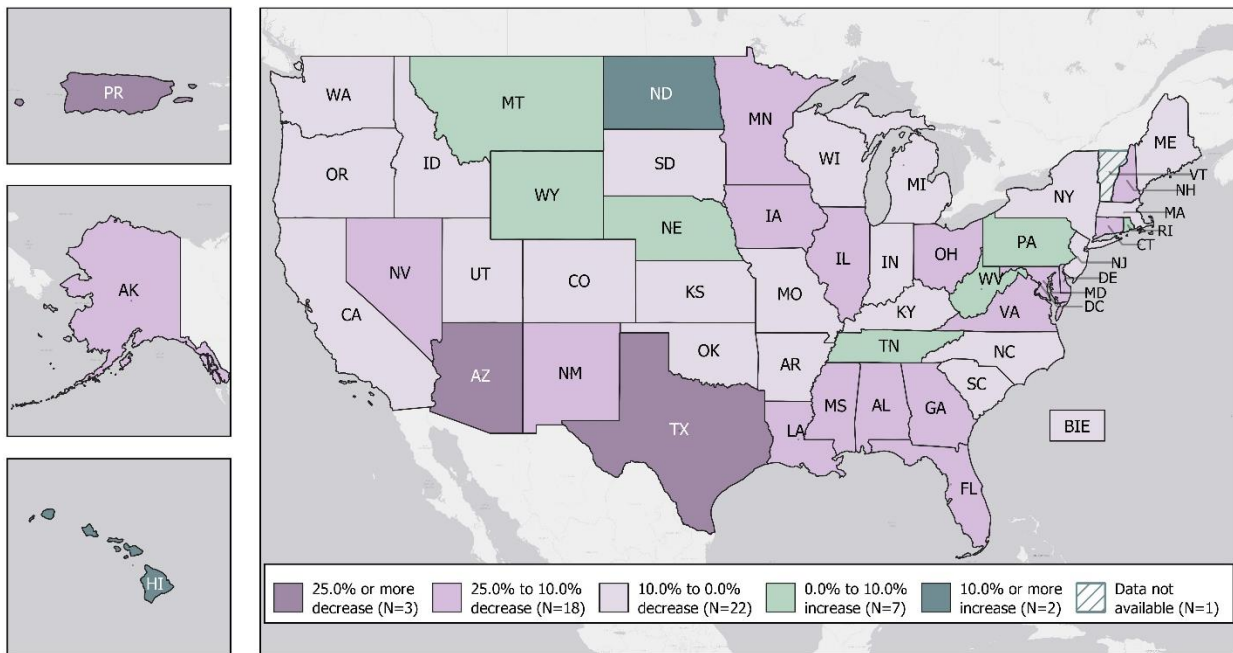
³ As they submit data to ED, states may submit notes that explain changes in student data. Additional notes may be provided by states as ED completes a quality review of data to identify possible errors or anomalies. ED includes these data notes with public releases of data.

Figure 1. Enrolled students experiencing homelessness by state, School Years 2004-05 through 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 12



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED Facts file specification 118 (2006-2021), SEA level.

Figure 1. Percent change in enrolled students experiencing homelessness by state, School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 12



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED Facts file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

Figure 1 displays the percentage change in enrollment counts of students experiencing homelessness by state over a three-year period from SY 2017-18 to SY 2019-20. The shading reflects the percentage change over the three reporting years, including decreases of 25% or more, decreases of 10% to 25%, decreases of up to 10%, increases of up to 10%, and increases over 10%. Overall, 43 states showed decreases and nine states showed increases (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico).

Student Enrollment by Grade

The number of students experiencing homelessness is fairly evenly distributed across the grades, with 7% to 8% of homeless students in each grade starting with Kindergarten. Preschool aged homeless students are slightly overrepresented in comparison to the overall student population with 4% of students experiencing homelessness enrolled in preschool and 3% of all students enrolled in preschool. Students experiencing homelessness in Grades 10 and 11 are slightly underrepresented in comparison to the overall student population. Less than 7% of students experiencing homelessness are enrolled in Grade 10 while 8% of all students are enrolled in Grade 10. Similarly, just under 6% of students experiencing homelessness are enrolled in Grade 11, while more than 7% of all students are enrolled in Grade 11 (NCES, 2021).

Table 2. Number and percent change in students experiencing homelessness enrolled by grade, School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 12

Grade	SY 2017-18	SY 2018-19	SY 2019-20	Percent change SYs 2017-18 to 2019-20
Total¹	1,508,265	1,387,573	1,280,886	-15.1
Age 3 through 5	51,165	46,673	51,170	0.0
Kindergarten	123,754	114,366	98,673	-20.3
1 st	122,992	111,825	101,289	-17.6
2 nd	124,117	110,167	100,695	-18.9
3 rd	125,965	112,458	100,548	-20.2
4 th	122,687	110,679	99,151	-19.2
5 th	117,486	108,631	98,709	-16.0
6 th	108,811	103,088	97,076	-10.8
7 th	102,048	96,127	91,151	-10.7
8 th	99,310	91,260	87,402	-12.0
9 th	111,204	103,402	97,277	-12.5
10 th	96,310	88,820	83,289	-13.5
11 th	89,741	83,397	75,762	-15.6
12 th	108,954	103,408	95,580	-12.3
Ungraded	3,721	3,272	3,114	-16.3

¹The United States total includes Bureau of Indian Education, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

Student Counts by Primary Nighttime Residence

For data reporting purposes, the type of primary nighttime residence used by students is broken into four categories: doubled-up, sheltered, hotels or motels, and unsheltered. The *doubled-up* category includes students who are sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. The *shelters and transitional housing* category includes all types of emergency and transitional shelters.⁴ The *hotels or motels* category includes students residing in hotels or motels due to a lack of alternative, adequate housing. The *unsheltered* category includes students who are staying in substandard housing, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for humans to live. It also includes students staying in temporary trailers and campgrounds due to a lack of adequate, alternative housing. While the number of students decreased in each of the four housing categories, the percentage of students who lived in each type of housing during SY 2019-20 was virtually unchanged from SY 2018-19.

Table 3. Number of enrolled students experiencing homelessness and percent change by primary nighttime residence: School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20

Residence	SY 2017-18 ²	SY 2018-19 ³	SY 2019-20 ⁴	Percent change SYs 2017-18 to 2019-20
Total¹	1,507,904	1,379,043	1,279,039	-15.2
Doubled-up	1,117,144	1,058,463	991,300	-11.3
Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care	182,659	167,634	146,769	-19.6
Hotels/Motels	105,574	97,640	88,663	-16.0
Unsheltered	102,527	55,306	52,307	-49.0

¹Total count of students experiencing homelessness and reporting a primary nighttime residence includes the Bureau of Indian Education, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Enrolled students includes those aged 3 through 5 not in Kindergarten, those enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 13, and those that are Ungraded. Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students. Arizona, the District of Columbia, and Illinois did not provide data for all students.

²Alabama included young children not enrolled in school. New Hampshire and Tennessee did not provide data for all students.

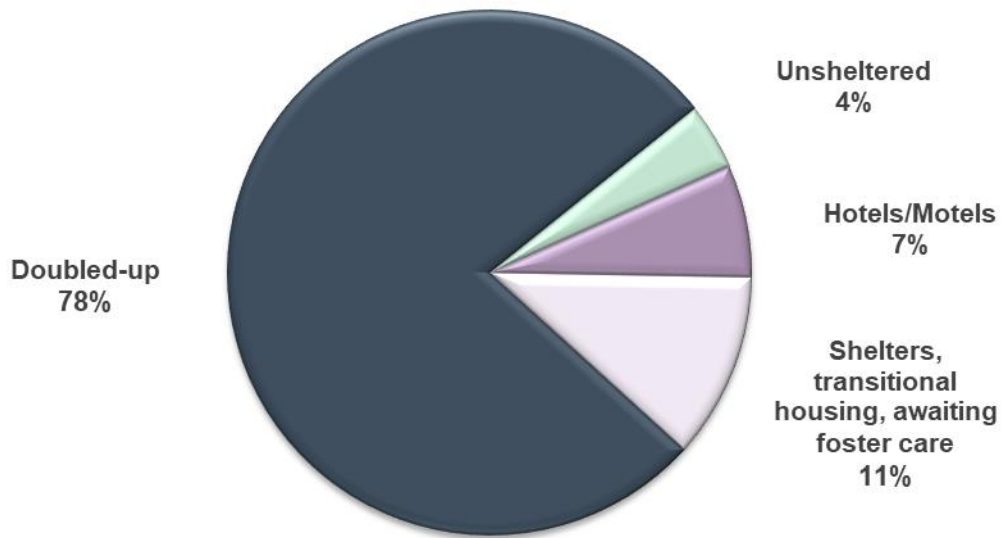
³Colorado included infants not enrolled in school. Hawaii, Montana, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Tennessee did not provide data for all students.

⁴Arkansas, New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin did not provide data for all students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

⁴ During SY 2017-18, the shelters and transitional housing category also included students awaiting foster care placement; this language was removed from the definition in SY 2018-19.

Figure 2. Percentage of enrolled students experiencing homelessness by primary nighttime residence, School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13

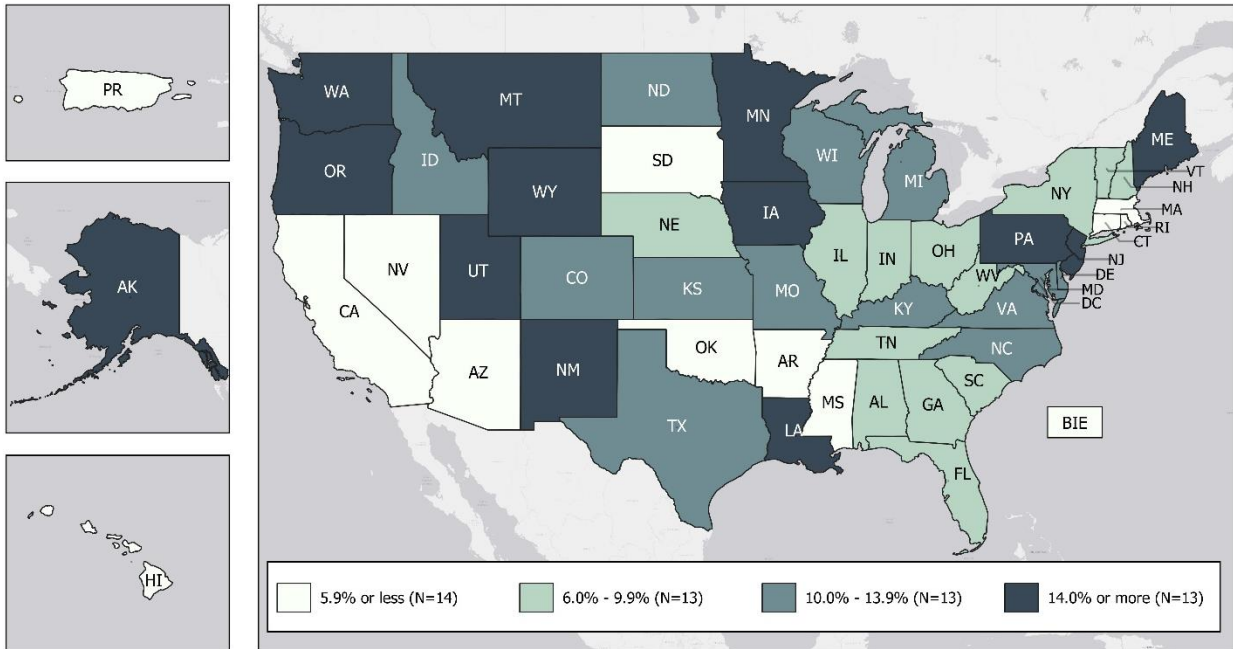


NOTE: Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Unaccompanied homeless youth are youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who meet the definition of *homeless* in the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. § 11434(a)(6)). There is no minimum age or grade level data reported for UHY or other subgroups. During all three school years included in this report, 9% of all students experiencing homelessness were unaccompanied.

Figure 3. Percent of unaccompanied homeless youth, School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5- year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13



NOTE: Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED Facts file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

A lower percentage of UHY resided in shelters, transitional housing, and hotels or motels compared to the overall homeless student population. While 11% of students experiencing homelessness overall resided in shelters and transitional housing, 10% of UHY resided in shelters. Additionally, while 7% of students experiencing homelessness overall resided in hotels or motels, only 1% of UHY resided in hotels or motels. Four percent of both students experiencing homelessness overall and UHY resided in unsheltered situations. Finally, while 78% of students experiencing homelessness overall resided in doubled-up situations, 85% of UHY resided in doubled-up situations.

Table 4. Number and percent of enrolled unaccompanied homeless youth by primary nighttime residence: School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20

Residence	SY 2017-18 ³	Percent of UHY	SY 2018-19 ⁴	Percent of UHY	SY 2019-20 ⁵	Percent of UHY	Percent change SYs 2017-18 to 2019-20
Total¹	116,067	100.0	124,255	100.0	112,656	100	-2.9
Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care ²	16,300	14.0	13,221	10.6	11,212	10.0	-31.2
Doubled-up ²	92,607	79.8	104,155	83.8	95,516	84.8	3.1
Unsheltered	5,067	4.4	5,041	4.1	4,350	3.9	-14.2
Hotels/motels	2,093	1.8	1,838	1.5	1,578	1.4	-24.6

¹Enrolled students include those ages 3 through 5, Kindergarten through Grade 13, and Ungraded. The following states included children from birth to Age 2: Colorado (SY 2018-19), North Carolina (SY 2017-18), and North Dakota (SYs 2017-18, 2018-19). Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students.

²Includes students awaiting foster care placement for SY 2017-18.

³Alabama, Delaware, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Vermont, and Virginia did not provide residence data. Arizona, North Dakota, Oregon, and Tennessee did not provide residence data for all UHY.

⁴For SY 2018-19, Arizona, the District of Columbia, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, and South Carolina did not provide residence data for all UHY. Illinois provided residence data for more UHY than were enrolled in school.

⁵For SY 2019-20, Illinois provided residence data for more UHY than were enrolled in school. Wisconsin did not provide residence data for all UHY.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

Additional Subgroups of Enrolled Students Experiencing Homelessness

In addition to reporting information about UHY, states report data on three additional subgroups of students experiencing homelessness, including students

- with disabilities,⁵
- who are English learners,⁶ and
- who are migratory.⁷

Subgroups of students experiencing homelessness are not exclusive. That is to say, students may belong to some, all, or none of the subgroups based on whether or not they meet the criteria for each subgroup. While students with disabilities made up 14% of the overall student population in SY 2019-20 (Zhang et al, 2021), they made up 19% of students experiencing homelessness. English learners are also overrepresented among students experiencing homelessness. Ten percent of students overall are English learners (Zhang et al, 2021), but 17% of students experiencing homelessness are English learners. Migratory students are the smallest

⁵ As defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 (2004).

⁶ As defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (2015).

⁷ As defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (2015).

subgroup of students experiencing homelessness, with only 15,667 students identified in SY 2019-20. Despite the decreases in the number of students experiencing homelessness, the percentages of students in each subgroup remained virtually unchanged.

Table 5. Number and percent of students experiencing homelessness, by subgroup: School Years 2017-18 through 2019-20

Subgroup	2017-2018 ³		2018-2019		2019-2020	
	Enrolled homeless students	Percent of homeless students	Enrolled homeless students	Percent of homeless students	Enrolled homeless students	Percent of homeless students
Total homeless student enrollment¹	1,508,291	100.0	1,387,613	100.0	1,280,268	100.0
Unaccompanied homeless youth	129,370	8.6	125,729	9.1	112,822	8.8
Migratory children/youth ²	16,054	1.1	16,938	1.2	15,667	1.2
English learners (EL)	261,384	17.3	226,724	16.3	217,067	17.0
Children with disabilities (IDEA)	271,464	18.0	266,739	19.2	244,737	19.1

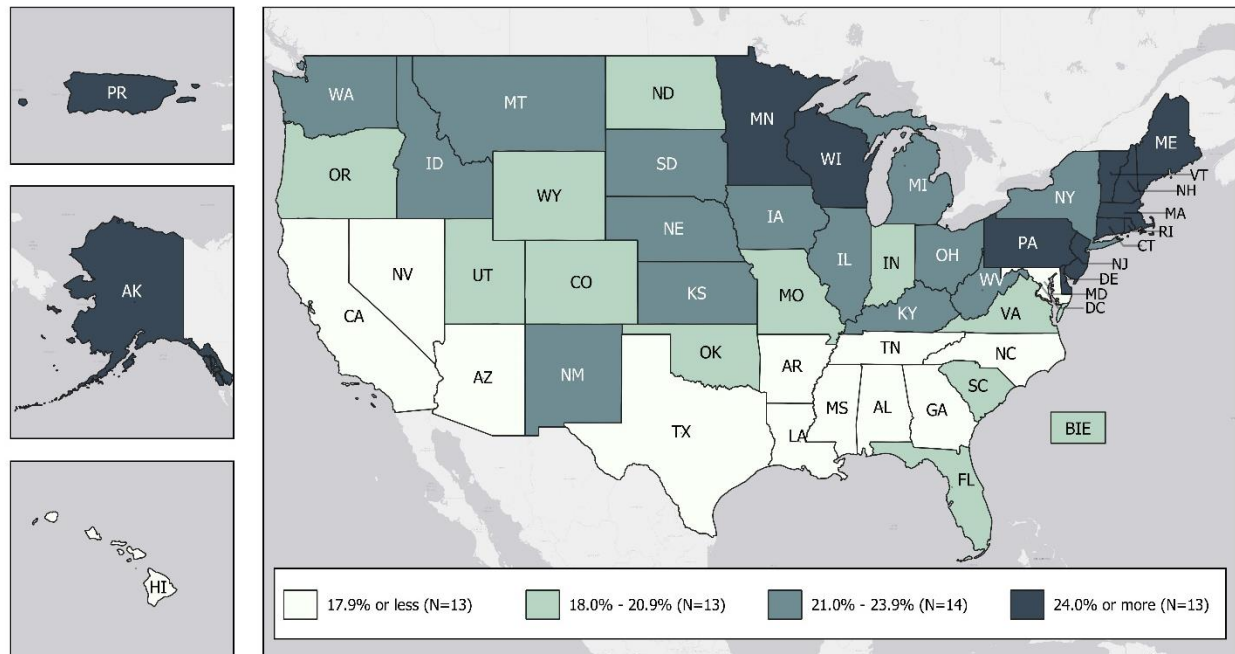
¹Totals include the Bureau of Indian Education, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Counts include students aged 3 through 5 not in Kindergarten, enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 13, and Ungraded. Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students.

²Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, and West Virginia do not operate migrant programs.

³No data available for Vermont for 2017-18.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED*Facts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

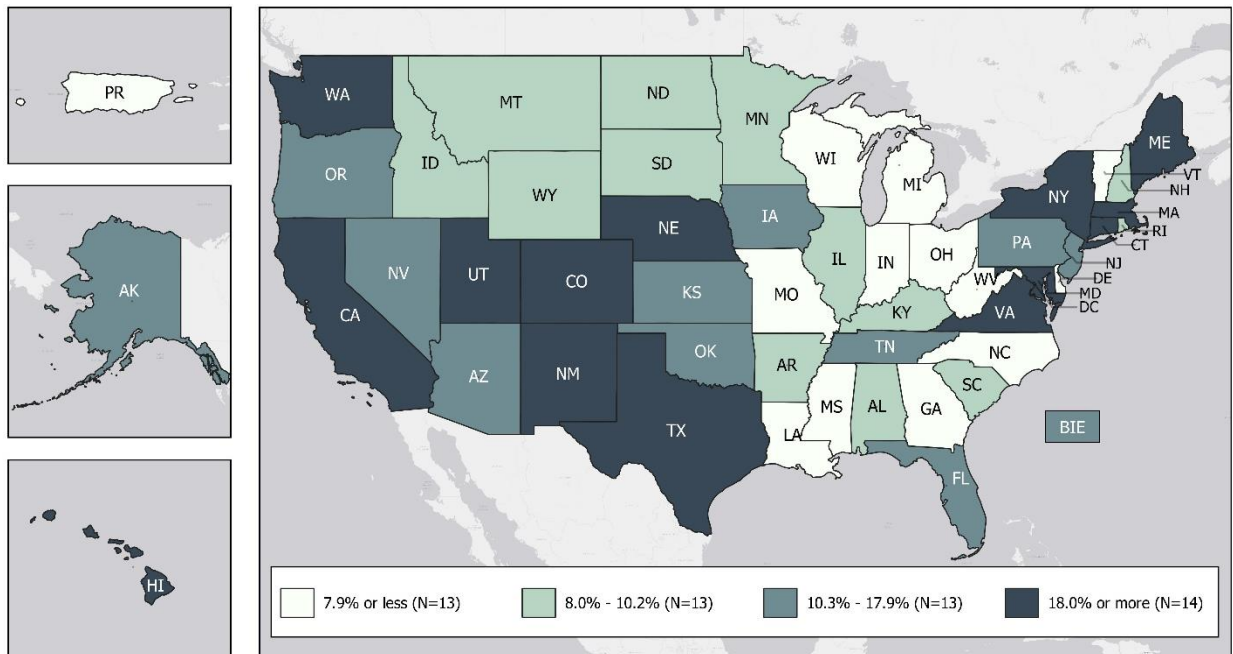
Figure 4. Percent of students experiencing homelessness with disabilities (IDEA), School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13



NOTE: Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

Figure 5. Percent of students experiencing homelessness who are English learners, School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13



NOTE: Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program. Only North Carolina enrolls students in Grade 13 and reported 29 students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level.

Race and Ethnicity

Information on the race and ethnicity of students experiencing homelessness was reported by states for SY 2019-20. Due to the fact that this was the first time states reported data on race and ethnicity for students experiencing homelessness, not all states reported complete data. The largest subgroups were Hispanic and Latino students, Black students, and White students, respectively. Hispanic and Latino students accounted for 28% of the overall student body but 38% of homeless students; Black and African American students accounted for 15% of the overall student body but 27% of homeless students (NCES, 2021). With the exception of students who identified as Asian, students of color were overrepresented among homeless students. Both Asian and White students were underrepresented. While White students accounted for 46% of all students enrolled in public schools, they represent 26% of students experiencing homelessness.

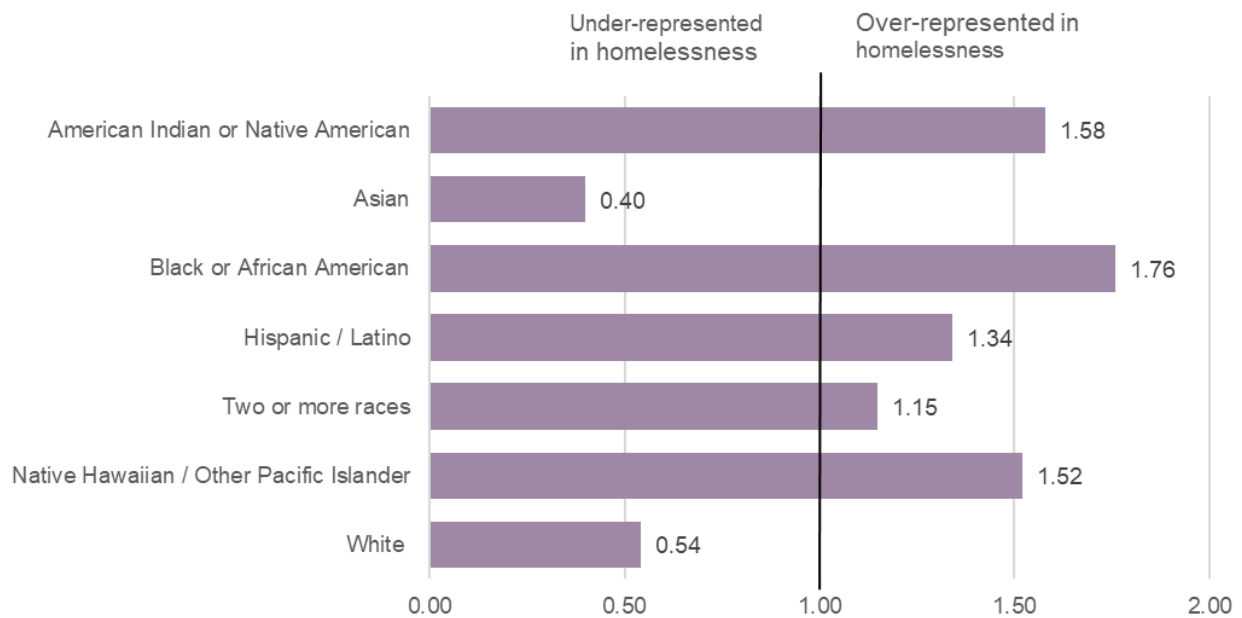
Table 6. Number of enrolled students, by race, School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13

Race/ethnicity	Homeless students	Percent of homeless students	All students	Percent of all students
Total¹	1,252,906	100.0	51,010,849	100.0
Hispanic/Latino	479,147	38.2	14,287,046	28.0
Black or African American	335,784	26.8	7,599,017	14.9
White	320,150	25.6	23,540,022	46.2
Two or more races	62,867	5.0	2,188,855	4.3
Asian	27,303	2.2	2,691,917	5.3
American Indian or Alaskan Native	20,585	1.6	518,912	1.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	7,070	0.6	185,080	0.4

¹The United States total includes the Bureau of Indian Education, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Oklahoma did not provide race/ethnicity data for students experiencing homelessness. Illinois, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Pennsylvania did not provide complete race/ethnicity data for students experiencing homelessness. Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin provided greater counts of students experiencing homelessness by race/ethnicity than counts of total enrolled students experiencing homelessness.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019, 2020, 2021), SEA level; National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, *State nonfiscal public elementary/secondary education survey* (2019-20 v. 1a.), SEA level

Figure 6. Ratio of students experiencing homelessness to total students by race, School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019), SEA level; National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, *State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey* (2019-20 v.1a.), SEA level.

**Table 7. Number of enrolled students experiencing homelessness by race, School Year 2019-20:
Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13**

State	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White
United States¹	20,585	27,303	335,784	479,147	7,070	62,867	320,150
Alabama	119	65	5,980	1,431	28	264	3,691
Alaska	838	62	212	297	341	603	773
Arizona	1,450	54	2,421	8,572	63	1,223	3,603
Arkansas	118	74	2,688	1,552	397	497	8,013
Bureau of Indian Education	2,373	0	0	0	0	0	0
California	1,911	10,299	21,973	175,867	1,525	8,841	25,934
Colorado	369	192	2,038	10,352	131	1,045	6,694
Connecticut	8	28	1,036	2,146	6	216	743
Delaware	11	4	1,531	368	1	187	607
District of Columbia	10	14	5,426	767	4	78	33
Florida	273	428	29,576	23,829	148	3,829	21,274
Georgia	83	160	19,809	4,157	39	1,898	9,392
Hawaii	2	352	41	665	413	2,014	99
Idaho	216	30	134	2,218	56	325	4,856
Illinois	132	326	22,474	8,621	46	2,226	12,961
Indiana	49	237	4,742	2,387	20	1,354	8,535
Iowa	86	58	1,526	1,086	100	520	2,666
Kansas	88	61	1,608	2,043	37	713	3,100
Kentucky	32	137	4,249	2,261	26	1,065	13,850
Louisiana	112	58	9,519	1,511	7	578	3,748
Maine	12	5	493	138	3	104	1,547
Maryland	54	89	8,168	3,482	16	938	2,801
Massachusetts	53	518	4,332	11,843	27	906	4,969
Michigan	439	129	9,231	3,710	52	2,443	16,931
Minnesota	1,302	349	4,807	1,862	30	1,501	3,444
Mississippi ³	15	18	5,807	399	6	215	1,513
Missouri	179	146	14,180	2,608	219	2,003	15,607
Montana	1,707	10	63	362	10	200	1,913
Nebraska	118	87	1,057	1,673	25	245	879
Nevada	246	264	5,326	6,526	364	1,659	3,892
New Hampshire	13	39	186	574	2	147	2,255
New Jersey	7	319	4,831	4,601	24	462	2,497
New Mexico	1,328	21	276	5,766	11	192	1,439
New York	1,325	9,256	44,715	70,938	431	2,700	13,964

Table 7. Number of enrolled students experiencing homelessness by race, School Year 2019-20: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13, cont'd.

State	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White
North Carolina	195	124	14,758	4,055	29	1,706	6,206
North Dakota	736	14	317	448	23	171	966
Ohio	56	138	12,351	2,868	42	2,587	12,018
Oklahoma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oregon	473	226	852	6,715	365	1,692	11,026
Pennsylvania	78	302	10,155	7,580	23	2,270	10,403
Puerto Rico	4	0	0	4,043	0	0	11
Rhode Island	49	16	209	486	6	156	609
South Carolina	33	32	5,116	1,585	20	871	4,079
South Dakota	864	14	110	367	10	189	461
Tennessee	42	97	5,680	3,136	42	999	8,486
Texas	434	990	26,757	57,751	193	3,411	21,875
Utah	656	179	369	4,678	610	525	6,206
Vermont	8	7	59	36	1	48	724
Virginia	68	218	7,624	4,590	11	1,241	3,744
Washington	1,060	702	3,853	12,277	1,049	3,765	13,979
West Virginia	13	43	604	343	4	493	8,894
Wisconsin	465	307	6,471	3,214	26	1,478	5,260
Wyoming	273	5	44	363	8	74	980

¹The United States total includes the Bureau of Indian Education, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Illinois, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Pennsylvania did not provide complete race/ethnicity data for all enrolled students experiencing homelessness. Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin provided greater race/ethnicity counts of students experiencing homelessness than total enrolled counts of students experiencing homelessness.

²Does not include data on students who were identified as homeless but declined assistance from the schools.

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, *EDFacts* file specification 118 (2019), SEA level.

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