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MEDIA CALL

WHEN: Sept 10, 2014

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

CALL-IN INFORMATION: Members of the media can call in at 877-214-6371 and enter code 705014 to participate.

California's Homeless Students: Nearly 270,000 and Growing

New research shows Calif. students homeless at double the national rate

SACRAMENTO – Nearly 270,000 California public school students were homeless at some point during the 2012-2013 school year, according to newly released data from the [California Homeless Youth Project](#), an initiative of the California Research Bureau. That equates to about 4% of all California's public school students – double the national average.

The state, alone, accounted for over one-fifth of all homeless public school students in the U.S. that year, the largest share of any state.

A new issue brief, [California's Homeless Students: A Growing Population](#), released in partnership with kidsdata.org, a program of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, examines California's homeless youth population in the public educational system and provides data on the numbers of homeless students statewide, and by county, school district, and legislative district. Also on kidsdata.org are the number and percentage of homeless public school students by grade level and nighttime residence. These indicators are the most recent, local, and legislatively relevant data currently available.

The brief defines a student as homeless if he or she lacks a "fixed, regular, and adequate" nighttime residence at any point during the school year. This includes temporary or unstable housing arrangements such as staying in motels, homeless shelters or with family or friends.

"Children and youth experiencing homelessness encounter many obstacles to receiving an education," said Shahera Hyatt, Director of the California Homeless Youth Project, "Moving from shelter to hotel or couch to car, lack of access to basic necessities such as showers, transportation, and food, family conflict, poverty, and stigma about their living situation—all can make it difficult to stay in school and thrive in an educational environment."

Key Findings: The five counties with the highest percentage of homeless public school students in 2012-2013 are:

County	Number of Homeless Students	Percentage of Homeless Students
Trinity	215	13.3%

Santa Barbara	7,270	10.9%
Sierra	36	9.4%
Lake	771	8.4%
San Bernardino	33,274	8.1%

Assembly districts with highest number of homeless students:

Assembly District	Number of Homeless Students	Percentage of Homeless Students
District 53 (Downtown LA)	14,509	5.38%
District 65 (Fullerton)	13,344	4.94%
District 40 (Redlands)	12,965	4.8%
District 48 (West Covina)	10,699	3.96%
District 69 (Santa Ana)	9,847	3.65%

Senate districts with highest number of homeless students:

Senate District	Number of Homeless Students	Percentage of Homeless Students
District 34 (Huntington Beach)	22,125	8.2%
District 23 (Redlands)	20,917	7.75%
District 22 (San Gabriel Valley)	15,191	5.63%
District 19 (Santa Barbara/Ventura)	13,176	4.88%
District 29 (Fullerton)	12,854	4.76%

This brief also provides recommendations for improving educational access for homeless students and increasing capacity for data collection. To prevent and end youth homelessness, state-level policymakers must continue to focus on these young people and ensure that the federal rights of homeless students are upheld throughout California, the brief's authors say.

The California Homeless Youth Project is a research and policy initiative of the California Research Bureau supported by funding from the California Wellness Foundation and dedicated to educating local and state policymakers about young people experiencing homelessness. Learn more at <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/> # # #