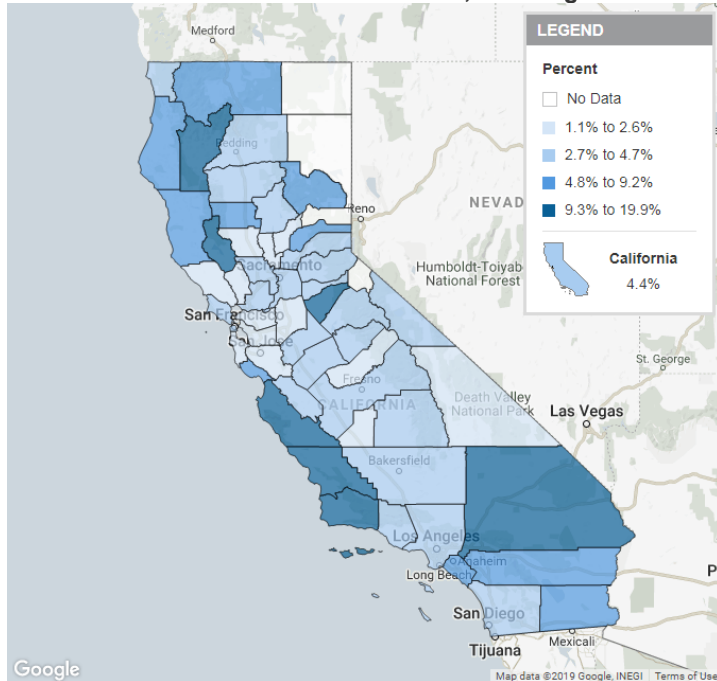


## Child and Youth Homelessness in California

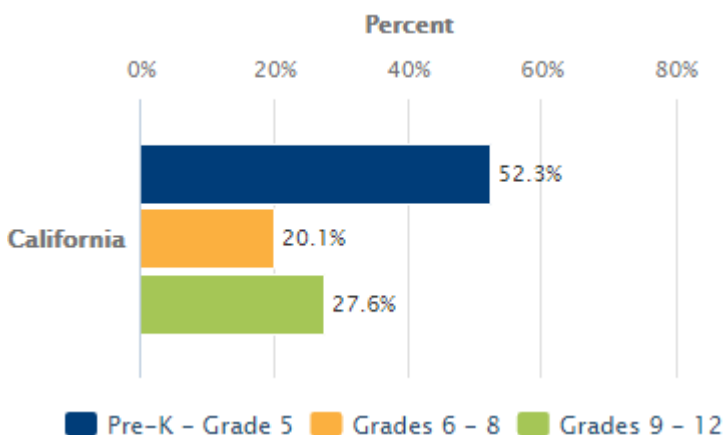
Homeless Public School Students: 2016; Showing Counties



**Definition:** Percentage of public school students recorded as being homeless at any point during a school year (e.g., 4.4% of California students were recorded as being homeless at some point during the 2016 school year).

**Data Source:** California Dept. of Education, [Coordinated School Health and Safety Office](#) custom tabulation & [California Basic Educational Data System](#) (May 2017).

Homeless Public School Students, by Grade Level: 2016



**Definition:** Percentage of public school students recorded as being homeless at any point during a school year, by grade level (e.g., among California students recorded as being homeless at some point during the 2016 school year, 52.3% were in grades Pre-K through 5).

**Data Source:** California Dept. of Education, [Coordinated School Health and Safety Office](#) custom tabulation (May 2017).

### What It Is

Kidsdata.org presents the number and percentage of public school students recorded as being homeless at any point during a school year, by grade level, and by nighttime residence. The estimated number of homeless public school students in each legislative district also is available. Data on homeless public school students are based on McKinney-Vento Act definitions,\* and include students whose nighttime residence is (i) shared housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason, (ii) a hotel or motel, (iii) a temporary shelter, or (iv) unsheltered.

Kidsdata.org also presents the number of unaccompanied children and young adults found to be homeless during the national point-in-time (PIT) count of homeless individuals.†

### Why This Topic Is Important

Homelessness causes severe trauma to children and youth, disrupting their relationships, putting their health and safety at risk, and hampering their development (1, 2). Homeless children are more likely than other children to experience hunger and malnutrition, and to develop physical and mental health problems (2). Emotional distress, developmental delays, and decreased academic achievement are also more common among this population (2). Many of these children and youth experience deep poverty, family instability, and exposure to domestic violence before becoming homeless, and homelessness increases their vulnerability to additional trauma (1, 2). In addition to the risks faced by homeless children, including increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation, youth without homes are far more likely than their peers to be infected with HIV and have other serious health problems (2, 3, 4).

During the 2015-16 school year, more than 1.3 million children in the U.S. public school system were homeless, a historic high for the nation (5). California, alone, accounted for approximately one-fifth of all homeless public schools students in the U.S. that year, and has ranked 48th of all 50 states in performance on issues of child homelessness (1, 5).

### How Children Are Faring

In California, 275,448 public school students—4.4% of all enrollees—were recorded as being homeless at some point during the 2015-2016 school year. This number is up from 2010-2011, when 220,708 public school students (3.6%) were reported to be homeless.

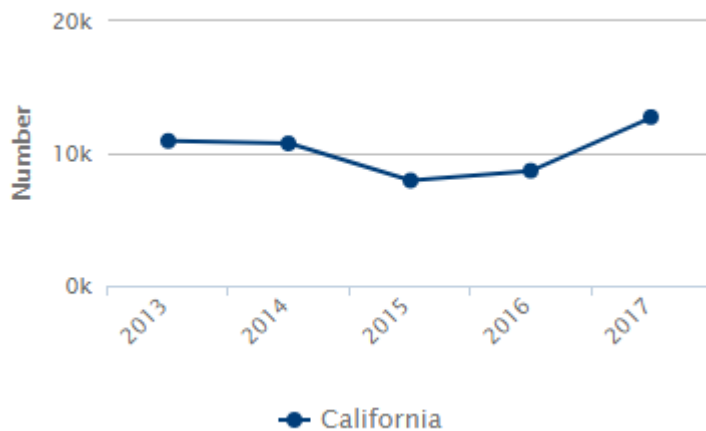
### Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Point-in-Time Count), by Age Group and Shelter Status: 2017

California Age Group	Number		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Ages 0-17	198	1,451	1,649
Ages 18-24	2,511	11,298	13,809
Total for Ages 0-24	2,709	12,749	15,458

**Definition:** Number of unaccompanied children and young adults found to be homeless during the national point-in-time (PIT) count of homeless individuals, by age group and shelter status (e.g., 1,451 California children ages 0-17 were found to be homeless and unsheltered during the 2017 PIT count).

**Data Source:** U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S. [2014](#) & [2017](#) (Mar. 2018).

### Unsheltered Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Ages 0-24 (Point-In-Time Count)



**Definition:** Number of unaccompanied children and young adults found to be homeless during the national point-in-time (PIT) count of homeless individuals, by age group and shelter status (e.g., 1,451 California children ages 0-17 were found to be homeless and unsheltered during the 2017 PIT count).

**Data Source:** U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S. [2014](#) & [2017](#) (Mar. 2018).

More than half of all homeless public school students in California (52.3%) were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 in 2015-2016, while 20.1% were in Grades 6-8 and 27.6% in Grades 9-12. Sharing housing with friends or relatives ('doubling up') was the most common type of nighttime residence among homeless students statewide (85.2%).

During the 2017 homeless point-in-time (PIT) count, 15,458 children and young adults ages 0-24 were found to be homeless and unaccompanied in California, up from 14,161 in 2013. Most of these homeless young people (12,749) were unsheltered, or residing in a place not ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation. The vast majority of unsheltered children and young adults were transitional age youth ages 18-24 (11,298), but a substantial number of unsheltered unaccompanied minors were identified as well (1,451). Almost two thousand more unsheltered transitional age youth were counted in 2017 than in 2013.

*View references for this text and additional research on this topic:*  
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/40/homelessness/summary>



**More Data:** [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org)

**Sign Up for Data Updates:** [www.kidsdata.org/signup](http://www.kidsdata.org/signup)

**This PDF Was Generated On:** 3/26/2019