## 2023 | National Center for Homeless Education



## Student Homelessness in America

School Years 2019-20 to 2021-22

# National Center for Homeless Education <br> 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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# Student Homelessness in America 

## Overview

The purpose of Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) and funding provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP-HCY) ${ }^{1}$ is to ensure that students who experience homelessness have access to the education and other services they need to succeed academically. Each year, states submit information regarding the education of students who experienced homelessness to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) as a part of the EDFacts Initiative. Using the most recently available data, this brief examines the number of students who experienced homelessness, the type of housing they used when first identified by school districts, and subgroups of students who experienced homelessness. Additional information is provided on chronic absenteeism and the adjusted cohort graduation rates of students. ${ }^{2}$ While the primary audiences for this report are state coordinators and local school district liaisons, the information in this report may be of interest to other administrators, policymakers, educators, and service providers.

Key findings in this brief include the following:

## Enrollment Totals and Trends for Students Who Experienced Homelessness

- During School Year (SY) 2021-22, public schools identified 1,205,292 students who experienced homelessness. This represents $2.4 \%$ of all students enrolled in public schools (NCES, 2023).
- The total number of students who experienced homelessness in SY 2021-22 represents a 10\% increase from SY 2020-21 and a 6\% decrease from SY 2019-20. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may account for some of the variation, particularly for SYs 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- Between SYs 2004-05 and 2021-22, the number of students who experienced homelessness increased by $79 \%$. The number of students identified as homeless increased by an average of $4 \%$ annually during that same period.
- The number of students who experienced homelessness was relatively evenly distributed across the grades, with $7 \%$ to $8 \%$ of homeless students enrolled in each grade starting with kindergarten. Grade 11 students and students who were aged three to five years old but not enrolled in kindergarten are exceptions at $6 \%$ and $3 \%$, respectively. The split of students across grades has remained stable since SY 2013-14 (NCHE, 2017-2022).

[^0]
## Primary Nighttime Residence of Homeless Children and Youth at the Point of Identification

- The percentage of homeless students living in a particular type of housing remained relatively stable between SYs 2019-20 and 2021-22.
- In SY 2021-22, 76\% of students who experienced homelessness lived in doubled-up situations, 11\% lived in shelters/transitional housing, $9 \%$ stayed in hotels/motels, and $4 \%$ lived in unsheltered locations.


## Demographic Subgroups of Students Who Experienced Homelessness

- Students with disabilities and English learners accounted for the largest two reported subgroups of students who experienced homelessness. These subgroups of students are also disproportionately represented among students who experienced homelessness. In the general population, the percentage of students with disabilities is $15 \%$, whereas $20 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness were students with disabilities. Similarly, English learners make up 10\% of the general population (Irwin et al., 2023), but 20\% of students who experienced homelessness were English learners in SY 2021-22.3


## Race and Ethnicity of Students Who Experienced Homelessness

- The largest subgroups of students by race and ethnicity included Hispanic or Latino students at 39\%, followed by Black or African American students and White students at $25 \%$ each. Data for other racial and ethnic subgroups showed students with two or more races at $5 \%$, Asian students at $2 \%$, American Indian or Native Alaskan students at almost 2\%, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students at less than $1 \%$. With the exception of students who identified as Asian, students who experienced homelessness were disproportionately students of color compared to the overall student body.


## Student Outcomes

- The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) for students who experienced homelessness increased in nine states between SYs 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- The national four-year ACGR was $68.3 \%$ in SY 2021-22 for students who experienced homelessness.

[^1]
## Students Experiencing Homelessness and Educational Rights

The McKinney-Vento Act defines a student experiencing homelessness as one who lacks a 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 the definition of homelessness. 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:

- shared housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative, adequate housing;
- emergency or transitional shelters;
- public or private places not designed for humans to live; and
- 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. § 11434a(2)). Children and youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian are also eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act as unaccompanied youth if their housing meets the criteria for homelessness (42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)).

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 the student's 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 provides grants to state educational agencies, which make competitive subgrants to school districts to provide educationally related support services to students experiencing homelessness. ${ }^{4}$

## Student Enrollment by State

States identified 1,205,292 students who experienced homelessness during SY 2021-22. Compared to the overall number of students enrolled in public schools, students who experienced homelessness accounted for $2.4 \%$ of enrolled students (NCES, 2023). The District of Columbia, the Bureau of Indian Education, and New York had the

[^2]highest rates of students who experienced homelessness at nearly $7 \%$ for the District of Columbia, and $5 \%$ for the Bureau of Indian Education and New York.

Table 1. Number of enrolled students who experienced homelessness by state with percent of all students, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 12

| State | Students experiencing homelessness SY 2019-20 | Percent of all students SY 2019-20 | Students experiencing homelessness SY 2020-21 | Percent of all students SY 2020-21 | Students experiencing homelessness SY 2021-22 | Percent of all students SY 2021-22 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| United States ${ }^{1}$ | 1,280,268 | 2.5 | 1,099,269 | 2.2 | 1,205,292 | 2.4 |
| Alabama | 11,578 | 1.6 | 9,365 | 1.3 | 9,050 | 1.2 |
| Alaska | 3,126 | 2.4 | 2,578 | 2.0 | 3,092 | 2.4 |
| Arizona ${ }^{2}$ | 17,386 | 1.5 | 13,920 | 1.3 | 18,040 | 1.6 |
| Arkansas | 13,336 | 2.7 | 11,871 | 2.4 | 13,718 | 2.8 |
| Bureau of Indian |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education | 2,373 | 6.2 | 2,202 | 6.3 | 1,757 | 5.4 |
| California | 246,350 | 4.0 | 227,612 | 3.8 | 225,747 | 3.8 |
| Colorado | 20,821 | 2.3 | 15,176 | 1.7 | 16,540 | 1.9 |
| Connecticut | 4,183 | 0.8 | 3,310 | 0.7 | 3,979 | 0.8 |
| Delaware | 2,709 | 1.9 | 2,576 | 1.9 | 3,434 | 2.5 |
| District of Columbia | 6,332 | 7.0 | 5,026 | 5.6 | 5,871 | 6.6 |
| Florida | 79,357 | 2.8 | 62,971 | 2.3 | 77,203 | 2.7 |
| Georgia | 35,538 | 2.0 | 31,161 | 1.8 | 35,516 | 2.0 |
| Hawaii | 3,586 | 2.0 | 3,089 | 1.8 | 3,251 | 1.9 |
| Idaho | 7,835 | 2.5 | 7,358 | 2.4 | 8,428 | 2.7 |
| Illinois | 46,786 | 2.4 | 36,898 | 2.0 | 48,395 | 2.6 |
| Indiana | 17,324 | 1.6 | 15,373 | 1.5 | 16,334 | 1.6 |
| lowa | 6,042 | 1.2 | 6,057 | 1.2 | 6,517 | 1.3 |
| Kansas | 7,650 | 1.5 | 5,632 | 1.2 | 6,688 | 1.4 |
| Kentucky | 21,620 | 3.1 | 18,697 | 2.8 | 21,034 | 3.2 |
| Louisiana | 15,533 | 2.2 | 11,771 | 1.7 | 17,375 | 2.5 |
| Maine | 2,302 | 1.3 | 2,142 | 1.2 | 3,087 | 1.8 |
| Maryland | 15,548 | 1.7 | 11,760 | 1.3 | 16,529 | 1.9 |
| Massachusetts | 22,648 | 2.4 | 19,954 | 2.2 | 21,388 | 2.3 |
| Michigan | 32,935 | 2.2 | 26,867 | 1.9 | 28,724 | 2.0 |
| Minnesota | 13,295 | 1.5 | 10,588 | 1.2 | 14,587 | 1.7 |
| Mississippi ${ }^{3}$ | 7,973 | 1.7 | 7,754 | 1.8 | 5,556 | 1.3 |
| Missouri | 34,942 | 3.8 | 32,674 | 3.7 | 32,969 | 3.7 |
| Montana | 4,265 | 2.8 | 4,670 | 3.2 | 4,607 | 3.1 |
| Nebraska | 4,084 | 1.2 | 2,549 | 0.8 | 3,103 | 0.9 |
| Nevada | 18,277 | 3.7 | 15,119 | 3.1 | 16,476 | 3.4 |
| New Hampshire | 3,519 | 2.0 | 3,109 | 1.8 | 3,323 | 2.0 |
| New Jersey | 12,741 | 0.9 | 10,539 | 0.8 | 11,104 | 0.8 |
| New Mexico | 9,033 | 2.7 | 8,135 | 2.6 | 9,834 | 3.1 |
| New York | 143,329 | 5.3 | 126,343 | 4.8 | 133,578 | 5.2 |
| North Carolina | 27,073 | 1.7 | 22,682 | 1.5 | 28,631 | 1.9 |

Table 1. Number of enrolled students who experienced homelessness by state with percent of all students, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 12, continued

|  | Students <br> experiencing <br> homelessness <br> SY 2019-20 | Percent of <br> all students <br> SY 2019-20 | Students <br> experiencing <br> homelessness <br> SY 2020-21 | Percent of <br> all students <br> SY 2020-21 | Students <br> experiencing <br> homelessness <br> SY 2021-22 | Percent of <br> all students <br> SY 2021-22 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | 2,675 | 2.3 | 1,775 | 1.5 | 2,000 | 1.7 |
| North Dakota | 30,060 | 1.8 | 24,699 | 1.5 | 27,333 | 1.6 |
| Ohio | 25,010 | 3.6 | 22,438 | 3.2 | 21,145 | 3.0 |
| Oklahoma | 22,336 | 3.7 | 18,485 | 3.3 | 18,475 | 3.3 |
| Oregon | 31,876 | 1.8 | 27,235 | 1.6 | 34,043 | 2.0 |
| Pennsylvania | 4,058 | 1.4 | 2,424 | 0.9 | 2,661 | 1.0 |
| Puerto Rico | 1,531 | 1.1 | 1,109 | 0.8 | 1,461 | 1.1 |
| Rhode Island | 11,736 | 1.5 | 11,986 | 1.6 | 11,543 | 1.5 |
| South Carolina | 2,015 | 1.4 | 1,561 | 1.1 | 1,728 | 1.2 |
| South Dakota | 18,482 | 1.8 | 14,386 | 1.5 | 17,512 | 1.8 |
| Tennessee | 111,411 | 2.0 | 93,096 | 1.7 | 97,279 | 1.8 |
| Texas | 13,223 | 1.9 | 10,295 | 1.5 | 11,897 | 1.7 |
| Utah | 883 | 1.0 | 1,006 | 1.2 | 1,312 | 1.6 |
| Vermont | 17,496 | 1.3 | 13,752 | 1.1 | 16,416 | 1.3 |
| Virginia | 36,685 | 3.2 | 32,931 | 3.0 | 37,614 | 3.5 |
| Washington | 10,394 | 3.9 | 9,452 | 3.7 | 9,154 | 3.6 |
| West Virginia | 17,221 | 2.0 | 13,450 | 1.6 | 16,487 | 2.0 |
| Wisconsin | 1,747 | 1.8 | 1,661 | 1.8 | 1,734 | 1.9 |
| Wyoming |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ Enrolled students include those who were aged 3 through 5 but not in kindergarten, those enrolled in kindergarten through Grade 12, and those who are Ungraded. From SY 21-22, this table aligns with SEA education unit totals (EUT) reported via EDFacts and posted on ED Data Express (EDE). Please note that for past reporting years, previous NCHE reports may display somewhat different SEA totals because EUTs were not submitted, so NCHE aggregated age/grade totals for students experiencing homelessness.
${ }^{2}$ Arizona allowed LEAs to include students in more than one grade, resulting in duplicate counts during SY 2019-20.
${ }^{3}$ Mississippi does not include data on students who were identified as homeless but declined assistance from the schools (SYs 2018-19 and 2019-20).
NOTE: Any variation of state counts with ED Data Express (EDE) is because EDE uses SEA Education Unit Totals for homeless student enrollment. However, NCHE may use age/grade aggregate counts if they are higher, which occurs in subsequent report tables.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118, SEA Level (2020, 2021, 2022); National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, State nonfiscal public elementary/secondary education survey (2020-21 v. 1a), SEA level.

Figure 1 displays the change in the number of students who experienced homelessness between SYs 2019-
20 and 2021-22. Overall, 37 states showed a decrease in the number of students identified as homeless during this three-year period. By comparison, 49 states showed a decline during the previous three-year period (i.e., SYs 2018-19 to 2020-21), so fewer states are showing a decrease. Sixteen states identified more students in SY 2021-22 than SY 2019-20. In contrast, during the previous three-year period, only the Bureau of Indian Education, Mississippi, and Montana showed an increase in the number of students who experienced homelessness.

Figure 1. Percent change in enrolled students who experienced homelessness by state, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 12


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2021, 2023), SEA level.
Overall student enrollment decreased from 51,041,158 students in SY 2019-20 to 49,668,082 students in SY 2021-22 (NCES, 2022). This nearly 3\% decrease in the overall number of students enrolled in public schools represents the largest single-year decline in school enrollment since 1943 (Irwin et al., 2022). Overall student enrollment dropped again in SY 2021-22 to 49,634,110 students (Irwin et al., 2023). Even as overall student enrollment has decreased, the percentage of students who experienced homelessness among all enrolled students remained relatively steady at 2.5\% of all students in SY 2019-20 and 2.4\% of all students in SY 2021-22.

Furthermore, during the 18 years in which these data have been collected, counts of students who experienced homelessness have increased steadily regardless of the overall well-being of the economy and other social impacts. Between SYs 2004-05 and 2021-22, the number of students who experienced homelessness increased by $79 \%$ overall or an average of $4 \%$ annually, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Enrolled students who experienced homelessness by state, SYs 2004-05 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 12


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2006-2023), SEA level.

## Student Enrollment by Grade

The percentage of homeless students who were enrolled in each grade remained stable even as the number of students who experienced homelessness in a particular grade decreased. The number of students who experienced homelessness was relatively evenly distributed across the grades, with $7 \%$ to $8 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness enrolled in each grade starting with kindergarten. Grade 11 students and students who were aged three to five years old but not enrolled in kindergarten are exceptions at $6 \%$ and $3 \%$, respectively. The split of students across grades has remained stable since at least SY 2013-14 (NCHE, 2017-2022).

Table 2. Number and percent change in enrolled students who experienced homelessness by grade, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 12

|  |  |  |  | Percent change <br> SYs 2019-20 to |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Grade | SY 2019-20 | SY 2020-21 | SY 2021-22 | $2021-22$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 , 2 8 0 , 8 8 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 0 9 9 , 2 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 0 5 , 2 9 2}$ | -5.9 |
| Age 3 through 5 | 51,170 | 30,241 | 38,879 | -24.0 |
| Kindergarten $^{1^{\text {st }}}$ | 98,673 | 79,227 | 93,439 | -5.3 |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | 101,289 | 86,564 | 88,093 | -13.0 |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | 100,695 | 87,070 | 91,831 | -8.8 |

Table 2. Number and percent change in enrolled students who experienced homelessness by grade, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 12, continued

|  |  |  |  | Percent change <br> SYs 2019-20 to <br> Grade |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ | SY 2021-22 |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ The national totals in SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21 differ slightly from those in Table 1 because the aggregation method is different. Rather than using EUTs, the totals reflect the SEA totals for each grade-level category.
NOTE: ED Data Express (EDE) contains data for 19 students in $13^{\text {th }}$ grade across four states. Due to the inconsistent nature of reporting for $13^{\text {th }}$ grade students, they are omitted from a separate line in this table.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2021, 2022, 2023), SEA level.

## Student Counts by Primary Nighttime Residence

States report data for the type of primary nighttime residence used by students at the point of identification by the school district liaison based on four categories: doubled-up, shelters and transitional housing, 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. 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. The percentage of homeless students living in a particular type of housing remained stable between SYs 2019-20 and 2021-22 despite changes in the number of students residing in each type of housing at the time they were identified. Seventy-six percent of students who experienced homelessness lived in doubled-up situations, $11 \%$ lived in shelters/transitional housing, $9 \%$ stayed in hotels/motels, and $4 \%$ lived in unsheltered locations.

Table 3. Number of enrolled students who experienced homelessness and percent change by primary nighttime residence, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13

|  |  |  | Percent change <br> SYs 2019-20 to <br> $2021-22$ |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Residence | SY 2019-20 | SY 2020-21 | SY 2021-22 | $\mathbf{- 5 . 8}$ |
| Total ${ }^{1}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 8 0 , 8 8 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 0 9 9 , 2 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 0 5 , 2 9 2}$ | -7.6 |
| Doubled-up | 991,300 | 844,245 | 915,578 |  |
| Shelters \& transitional housing | 146,769 | 119,934 | 131,051 | -10.7 |
| Hotels/Motels | 88,663 | 85,422 | 106,621 | 20.3 |
| Unsheltered | 52,307 | 49,475 | 51,483 | -1.6 |
| Not Reported | 1,847 | 145 | 559 | -69.7 |

${ }^{1}$ Enrolled students include those aged 3 through 5 not in kindergarten, those enrolled in kindergarten through Grade 13, and those who were 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.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2021, 2022, 2023), SEA level.

Figure 3. Percentage of enrolled students who experienced homelessness by primary nighttime residence, SY 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13

$\square$ Shelters and transitional housing ■Doubled-up ■Unsheltered $\square$ Hotels/Motels
NOTE: Chart includes rounding to the nearest whole number. Grade 13 includes students who have successfully completed Grade 12 but stay in high school to participate in a bridge to higher education program.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2021, 2022, 2023), SEA level.

## Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) 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. § 11434a(6)). Students who are UHY can be of any age or grade. During all three school years included in this report, $9 \%$ of all students who experienced homelessness were unaccompanied. Ten states reported that $15 \%$ or more of the students who experienced homelessness were identified as UHY, while nine states reported less than $5 \%$ of its students were UHY.

Figure 4. Percent of children and youth experiencing homelessness who were unaccompanied, SY 2021-22: 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.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2023), SEA level.
A lower percentage of UHY resided in shelters, transitional housing, and hotels or motels compared to the overall population of students who experienced homelessness. While $11 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness overall resided in shelters and transitional housing, $9 \%$ of UHY resided in shelters. Additionally, while $9 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness overall resided in hotels or motels, only $2 \%$ of UHY resided in hotels or motels. Four percent of both students who experienced homelessness overall and UHY lived in unsheltered situations. Finally, while $76 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness overall resided in doubled-up situations, $85 \%$ of UHY resided in doubled-up situations.

Table 4. Number and percent of enrolled UHY by primary nighttime residence, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13

| Residence | SY 2019-20 | Percent of UHY | SY 2020-21 | Percent of UHY | SY 2021-22 | Percent of UHY | Percent change SYs $2019-20$ to $2021-22$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total ${ }^{1}$ | 112,822 | 100.0 | 94,363 | 100.0 | 110,664 | 100.0 | -1.9 |
| Doubled-up | 95,516 | 84.7 | 79,247 | 83.9 | 94,291 | 85.2 | -1.3 |
| Shelters \& transitional housing | 11,212 | 9.9 | 9,485 | 10.1 | 9,819 | 8.9 | -12.4 |
| Hotels/motels | 1,578 | 1.4 | 1,711 | 1.8 | 2,035 | 1.8 | 29.0 |
| Unsheltered | 4,350 | 3.9 | 3,984 | 4.2 | 4,507 | 4.1 | 3.6 |
| Not Reported | 166 | 0.1 | 64 | 0.0 | 12 | 0.0 | -92.8 |

${ }^{1}$ Enrolled students include those who were aged 3 through 5 but not enrolled in kindergarten, 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. The national totals in SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21 differ slightly from those in Table 1 because the aggregation method is different. Rather than using EUTs, the totals reflect the SEA totals for each primary nighttime residence category.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2021, 2022, 2023), SEA level.

## Additional Subgroups of Enrolled Students Who Experienced Homelessness

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

- who had disabilities;5
- who were English learners; ${ }^{6}$ and
- who were migratory. ${ }^{7}$

Subgroups of students who experienced homelessness may belong to some, all, or none of the subgroups based on whether or not they meet the criteria for each subgroup. Between SYs 2019-20 and 2021-22, the percentage of students who were migratory and experienced homelessness remained stable at approximately $1 \%$ of all students who experienced homelessness. While the number of students with disabilities decreased by about 8,800 , the percentage of students who experienced homelessness and also had a disability increased from $19 \%$ to $20 \%$, indicating that the number of identified students decreased more than the number of students with disabilities who experienced homelessness. In contrast to other subgroups, English learners who experienced homelessness increased in both number and percentage. The increase of more than 18,000 students resulted in the percentage of students who were English learners and experienced homelessness changing from $17 \%$ in SY 2019-20 to 20\% in SY 2021-22.

[^3]Students with disabilities and English learners not only accounted for the two largest subgroups of students who experienced homelessness, but the percentage of students who experienced homelessness and belonged to those subgroups was larger than the percentages of students in the general student body. Fifteen percent of students overall received special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in SY 2020-21 versus $20 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness and were students with disabilities (Irwin et al., 2023). Similarly, while $10 \%$ of students overall were English learners, $18 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness were also English learners in SY 2020-21 (Irwin et al., 2022).

Table 5. Number and percent of students who experienced homelessness (SEH), by subgroup, SYs 201920 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13

| Subgroup | Enrolled SEH $^{1}$ SY $2019-20$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent of } \\ \text { SEH } \\ \text { SY 2019-20 } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Enrolled SEH SY 2020-21 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent of } \\ \text { SEH } \\ \text { SY 2020-21 } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Enrolled SEH SY $2021-22$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent of } \\ \text { SEH } \\ \text { SY 2021-22 } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total ${ }^{2}$ | 1,280,886 | 100.0 | 1,099,221 | 100.0 | 1,205,292 | 100.0 |
| Unaccompanied homeless youth | 112,822 | 8.8 | 94,363 | 8.6 | 110,664 | 9.2 |
| Migratory children/youth ${ }^{3}$ | 15,667 | 1.2 | 15,124 | 1.4 | 15,831 | 1.3 |
| English learners | 217,067 | 16.9 | 193,559 | 17.6 | 235,702 | 19.6 |
| Children with disabilities (IDEA) | 244,737 | 19.1 | 220,599 | 20.3 | 235,915 | 19.6 |

${ }^{1}$ SEH abbreviates "students who experienced homelessness."
${ }^{2}$ 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. The national totals in SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21 differ slightly from those in Table 1 because the aggregation method is different. Rather than using EUTs, the totals reflect the SEA totals for each subgroup.
${ }^{3}$ Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, and West Virginia do not operate migrant programs. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2021, 2022, 2023), SEA level.

## Race and Ethnicity

Starting with SY 2019-20, states reported information to ED on the race and ethnicity of students who experienced homelessness. Although not all states could provide complete data that year, all states reported race and ethnicity data for SYs 2020-21 and 2021-22.

In SY 2021-22, Hispanic or Latino students made up the largest subgroup of students by race or ethnicity, at 39\% of students who experienced homelessness. Both Black or African American and White students accounted for $25 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness. These same three subgroups were the largest based on race and ethnicity in SY 2019-20, but fewer Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, and White students were identified in SY 2021-22 than in SY 2019-20 (NCHE, 2021).

Data for other race and ethnicity subgroups showed students with two or more races at $5 \%$, Asian students at $2 \%$, American Indian or Native Alaskan at 2\%, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students at less than $1 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness. The number of students who experienced homelessness and were
identified as two or more races, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or Asian, increased in SY 2021-22 from SY 2019-20.

Table 6. Number of enrolled students by race, SY 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13

| Race/ethnicity | Homeless <br> students | Percent of <br> homeless <br> students | All students | Percent of all <br> students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 , 2 0 5 , 2 9 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 9 , 6 3 4 , 1 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |
| Hispanic or Latino | 473,309 | 39.3 | $14,262,450$ | 28.7 |
| Black or African American | 306,381 | 25.4 | $7,381,626$ | 14.9 |
| White | 300,830 | 25.0 | $22,325,966$ | 45.0 |
| Two or more races | 64,967 | 5.4 | $2,328,808$ | 4.7 |
| Asian | 27,640 | 2.3 | $2,657,629$ | 5.4 |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 22,357 | 1.9 | 485,020 | 1.0 |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific |  |  |  |  |
| Islander | 8,914 | 0.7 | 181,129 | 0.4 |
| Not reported | 894 | 0.1 | 11,482 | 0.0 |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED Facts file specification 118 (2023), SEA level; National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, State nonfiscal public elementary/secondary education survey (2021-22 v. 1a), SEA level.

Both Asian and White students were underrepresented among students who experienced homelessness. While White students accounted for $45 \%$ of all students enrolled in public schools, they represented $25 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness. Asian students accounted for $5 \%$ of students overall, but only $2 \%$ of students who experienced homelessness.

Figure 5. Ratio of students who experienced homelessness to total students by race, SY 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5 -year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2023), SEA level; National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey (202223 v.1a), SEA level.

Table 7. Number of enrolled students who experienced homelessness by race, SY 2021-22: Ungraded, 3to 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 States | 22,357 | 27,640 | 306,381 | 473,309 | 8,914 | 64,967 | 300,830 |
| Alabama | 100 | 41 | 4,053 | 1,387 | 19 | 353 | 3,097 |
| Alaska | 904 | 55 | 160 | 251 | 360 | 569 | 793 |
| Arizona | 1,774 | 243 | 2,416 | 9,032 | 92 | 799 | 3,684 |
| Arkansas | 118 | 110 | 2,733 | 1,619 | 511 | 664 | 7,963 |
| Bureau of Indian Education | 1,757 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| California | 1,788 | 8,986 | 17,811 | 165,064 | 1,271 | 8,788 | 22,039 |
| Colorado | 277 | 380 | 1,251 | 8,151 | 143 | 829 | 5,509 |
| Connecticut | 9 | 43 | 926 | 2,005 | -- | 237 | 759 |
| Delaware | 19 | 16 | 1,870 | 491 | 5 | 283 | 750 |
| District of Columbia | 14 | 8 | 4,871 | 859 | 4 | 80 | 35 |
| Florida | 233 | 472 | 27,166 | 25,699 | 150 | 4,008 | 19,475 |
| Georgia | 88 | 182 | 19,061 | 4,714 | 39 | 2,153 | 9,279 |
| Hawaii | 4 | 314 | 21 | 614 | 1,807 | 381 | 110 |
| Idaho | 196 | 67 | 206 | 2,518 | 74 | 361 | 5,006 |
| Illinois | 140 | 414 | 22,287 | 10,310 | 35 | 2,135 | 13,074 |
| Indiana | 46 | 283 | 4,737 | 2,482 | 30 | 1,271 | 7,485 |
| lowa | 92 | 108 | 1,598 | 1,391 | 196 | 537 | 2,595 |
| Kansas | 63 | 146 | 1,254 | 1,776 | 52 | 638 | 2,759 |
| Kentucky | 46 | 133 | 3,380 | 2,629 | 55 | 1,148 | 13,643 |
| Louisiana | 235 | 78 | 9,505 | 1,572 | 9 | 785 | 5,191 |
| Maine | 110 | 171 | 676 | 301 | 4 | 137 | 1,688 |
| Maryland | 53 | 129 | 7,938 | 4,627 | 15 | 1,071 | 2,696 |
| Massachusetts | 69 | 795 | 3,441 | 11,753 | 17 | 867 | 4,446 |
| Michigan | 388 | 183 | 8,009 | 3,365 | 45 | 2,196 | 14,538 |
| Minnesota | 1,202 | 471 | 5,151 | 2,079 | 23 | 2,515 | 3,146 |
| Mississippi | 16 | 24 | 3,250 | 422 | 5 | 299 | 1,540 |
| Missouri | 181 | 299 | 13,108 | 3,083 | 259 | 2,109 | 13,930 |
| Montana | 1,855 | 12 | 48 | 455 | 15 | 308 | 1,914 |
| Nebraska | 108 | 48 | 581 | 1,285 | 27 | 241 | 813 |
| Nevada | 188 | 263 | 4,734 | 6,346 | 362 | 1,455 | 3,128 |
| New Hampshire | 12 | 41 | 197 | 584 | 0 | 173 | 2,316 |
| New Jersey | 21 | 178 | 3,957 | 4,512 | 17 | 392 | 2,027 |
| New Mexico | 1,350 | 31 | 254 | 6,641 | 6 | 209 | 1,343 |
| New York | 1,258 | 8,104 | 38,627 | 69,153 | 384 | 2,666 | 13,386 |
| North Carolina | 235 | 166 | 14,721 | 5,250 | 53 | 1,985 | 6,221 |
| North Dakota | 554 | 14 | 283 | 298 | 20 | 167 | 664 |

Table 7. Number of enrolled students who experienced homelessness by race, SY 2021-22: Ungraded, 3to 5 -year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13, continued

| 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 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ohio | 56 | 118 | 10,803 | 2,810 | 57 | 2,569 | 10,920 |
| Oklahoma | 2,541 | 387 | 3,214 | 4,833 | 126 | 3,076 | 6,968 |
| Oregon | 377 | 253 | 720 | 6,259 | 321 | 1,421 | 9,124 |
| Pennsylvania | 98 | 502 | 10,567 | 8,264 | 30 | 2,289 | 11,432 |
| Puerto Rico | 4 | 0 | 6 | 2,632 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Rhode Island | 32 | 11 | 226 | 423 | 3 | 143 | 623 |
| South Carolina | 17 | 44 | 4,385 | 1,938 | 8 | 848 | 4,303 |
| South Dakota | 760 | 6 | 118 | 307 | 5 | 181 | 351 |
| Tennessee | 35 | 100 | 5,303 | 3,069 | 40 | 963 | 8,002 |
| Texas | 336 | 1,247 | 24,381 | 52,772 | 194 | 3,293 | 15,056 |
| Utah | 754 | 177 | 330 | 4,594 | 511 | 562 | 4,969 |
| Vermont | 7 | 7 | 64 | 93 | 4 | 56 | 1,081 |
| Virginia | 52 | 518 | 6,371 | 4,608 | 21 | 1,175 | 3,671 |
| Washington | 995 | 838 | 3,400 | 13,806 | 1,456 | 3,598 | 13,521 |
| West Virginia | 4 | 30 | 508 | 382 | 4 | 448 | 7,778 |
| Wisconsin | 563 | 390 | 5,651 | 3,413 | 26 | 1,455 | 4,989 |
| Wyoming | 223 | 4 | 53 | 388 | 4 | 81 | 981 |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2023), SEA level.

## Young Children Served by McKinney-Vento Subgrants

While most of this report focuses on students enrolled in public schools, states report additional information on the number of young children served by McKinney-Vento subgrants. These children may or may not be enrolled in public school as the ages of the students range from birth to five years old, but not yet enrolled in kindergarten. Data on school-aged children and youth served by the McKinney-Vento subgrants are not submitted to ED.

Table 8. Number of children from birth to age 5 but not enrolled in kindergarten served by McKinney-Vento subgrants: School Years 2019-20 through 2021-22

| State | Served by subgrants SY 2019-20 | Served by subgrants SY 2020-21 | Served by subgrants SY 2021-22 | Percentage change SYs 2017-18 to 2019-20 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| United States ${ }^{1}$ | 64,788 | 48,694 | 58,433 | -9.8 |
| Alabama | 93 | 114 | 93 | 0.0 |
| Alaska | 52 | 16 | 26 | -50.0 |
| Arizona | 129 | 86 | 99 | -23.3 |
| Arkansas | 651 | 642 | 406 | -37.6 |
| Bureau of Indian Education | - | - | - | - |
| California | 17,062 | 14,707 | 15,678 | -8.1 |
| Colorado | 828 | 609 | 772 | -6.8 |
| Connecticut | 78 | 52 | 93 | 19.2 |
| Delaware | 162 | 362 | 43 | -73.5 |
| District of Columbia | 630 | 470 | 679 | 7.8 |
| Florida | 2,063 | 1,593 | 1,894 | -8.2 |
| Georgia | 468 | 390 | 481 | 2.8 |
| Hawaii | 58 | 52 | 41 | -29.3 |
| Idaho | 485 | 471 | 517 | 6.6 |
| Illinois | 2,985 | 1,610 | 2,580 | -13.6 |
| Indiana | 109 | 107 | 115 | 5.5 |
| lowa | 60 | 82 | 124 | 106.7 |
| Kansas | 650 | 329 | 504 | -22.5 |
| Kentucky | 381 | 218 | 298 | -21.8 |
| Louisiana | 666 | 331 | 734 | 10.2 |
| Maine | 19 | 32 | 22 | 15.8 |
| Maryland | 661 | 271 | 483 | -26.9 |
| Massachusetts | 670 | 517 | 461 | -31.2 |
| Michigan | 2,274 | 1,541 | 1,380 | -39.3 |
| Minnesota | 440 | 380 | 395 | -10.2 |
| Mississippi | 152 | 18 | 39 | -74.3 |
| Missouri | 300 | 140 | 190 | -36.7 |
| Montana | 436 | 337 | 359 | -17.7 |
| Nebraska | 118 | 96 | 85 | -28.0 |
| Nevada | 820 | 374 | 374 | -54.4 |
| New Hampshire | 26 | 34 | 58 | 123.1 |
| New Jersey | 556 | 313 | 455 | -18.2 |
| New Mexico | 194 | 583 | 762 | 292.8 |
| New York | 7,981 | 4,304 | 7,574 | -5.1 |
| North Carolina | 824 | 468 | 911 | 10.6 |
| North Dakota | 136 | 177 | 74 | -45.6 |
| Ohio | 2,430 | 1,946 | 1,946 | -19.9 |
| Oklahoma | 423 | 308 | 281 | 33.6 |

Table 8. Number of children from birth to age 5 but not enrolled in kindergarten served by McKinney-Vento subgrants: School Years 2019-20 through 2021-22, continued

|  | Served by <br> subgrants SY <br> $2019-20$ | Served by <br> subgrants SY <br> $2020-21$ | Served by <br> subgrants SY <br> $2021-22$ | Percentage change <br> SYs 2017-18 to <br> 2019-20 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | 896 | 622 | 271 | -69.8 |
| Oregon | 6,870 | 6,039 | 6,760 | -1.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 34 | 11 | 34 | 0.0 |
| Puerto Rico | 23 | 22 | 29 | 26.1 |
| Rhode Island | 853 | 585 | 430 | -49.6 |
| South Carolina | 305 | 251 | 308 | -17.7 |
| South Dakota | 247 | 168 | 264 | 6.9 |
| Tennessee | 6,494 | 4,802 | 6,517 | 0.4 |
| Texas | - | - | - | - |
| Utah | 26 | 20 | 30 | 15.4 |
| Vermont | 446 | 498 | 529 | 18.6 |
| Virginia | 914 | 921 | 1,160 | 26.9 |
| Washington | 479 | 228 | 228 | -52.4 |
| West Virginia | 1,016 | 367 | 716 | -29.5 |
| Wisconsin | 115 | 80 | 131 | 13.9 |
| Wyoming |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ The United States total includes the Bureau of Indian Education, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

- Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED Facts file specification 194, SEA Level (2020, 2021, 2022).

## Chronic Absenteeism

Research correlates chronic absenteeism with lower standardized test scores and grade point averages. Chronic absenteeism also correlates with higher rates of grade retention and dropping out (UEPC, 2012). Being present in school is a necessary precondition to receiving instruction and the needed supports to help master lessons. As a result, many states now use a measure of chronic absenteeism as a component in the accountability system to evaluate public schools each year. Additionally, states submit chronic absenteeism data annually through the EDFacts Initiative for students enrolled in kindergarten through Grade 12 and comparable ungraded students.

EDFacts data include students who miss $10 \%$ or more of the days in which they are expected to attend school, regardless of the reason the student missed school. Students who were enrolled in a school for at least 10 days are included in the count of students, while students enrolled in a state institution are included if they have been in attendance for 60 days. ${ }^{8}$ Students also must participate in instruction or instruction-related activities for at least half of the school day to be considered in attendance. By basing the definition of chronic absenteeism on a percentage of the days a student is enrolled in school and the amount of time that a student participated in a school day, schools are able to consistently apply a standard for attendance that naturally accounts for students who attend more than one school during the year, intentionally planned half-days of school, and part-time.

[^4]The first year for which the data are available using these criteria is SY 2016-17. Before this, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) gathered data on chronic absenteeism using a different definition. ${ }^{9}$ This report does not address the chronic absenteeism data collected previously by OCR and instead focuses on the newly available data.

Approximately $52 \%$, or 632,129 , of students who experienced homelessness were chronically absent during SY 2021-22. COVID-19 and its impact on school operations in SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21 likely make it difficult to make comparisons over time. Idaho (21\%), Missouri (34\%), Tennessee (35\%), Louisiana (36\%), and Washington (36\%) had the lowest rates of chronic absenteeism among students who experienced homelessness. The average state rate of students who were homeless and chronically absent was $55 \%$ in SY 2021-22. By comparison, the national average of chronically absent students for all students in public schools was 31\%.

Table 9. Number and percent of students who experienced homelessness and chronic absenteeism, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13

|  | Students experiencing homelessness who were chronically absent |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Number SY |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $2019-20$ | Percent SY | Number SY | Percent SY | Number SY | Percent SY |
|  | $3019-20$ | $2020-21$ | $2020-21$ | $2021-22$ | $2021-22$ |  |
| United States | 351,702 | 33.1 | 459,972 | 41.9 | 632,129 | 51.7 |
| Alabama | 2,643 | 22.8 | 2,542 | 27.1 | 4,085 | 44.8 |
| Alaska | 1,285 | 40.5 | 1,418 | 55.0 | 2,248 | 72.1 |
| Arizona | 6,777 | 37.8 | 8,144 | 58.5 | 11,015 | 59.5 |
| Arkansas | 4,895 | 36.7 | 3,304 | 27.8 | 5,534 | 40.3 |
| Bureau of Indian |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education | 675 | 28.5 | - | - | 1,172 | 66.7 |
| California | - | - | 64,922 | 28.5 | 102,193 | 44.5 |
| Colorado | 10,132 | 47.3 | 8,787 | 57.9 | 9,723 | 54.1 |
| Connecticut | 1,439 | 33.5 | 1,716 | 51.8 | 2,042 | 50.5 |
| Delaware | 1,266 | 46.6 | 1,711 | 66.4 | 2,154 | 62.7 |
| District of Columbia | 2,462 | 37.8 | 2,330 | 46.4 | 3,622 | 59.1 |
| Florida | 35,645 | 44.6 | 38,689 | 61.4 | 49,841 | 63.5 |
| Georgia | 9,173 | 25 | 14,079 | 45.2 | 18,395 | 50.3 |
| Hawaii | 1,677 | 46.8 | 1,759 | 56.9 | 2,090 | 64.3 |
| Idaho | 1,582 | 19.5 | 1,983 | 27.0 | 1,839 | 20.9 |
| Illinois | 12,753 | 26.6 | 11,257 | 30.5 | 29,620 | 60.3 |
| Indiana | 5,205 | 29.6 | 8,073 | 52.5 | 9,691 | 58.3 |
| lowa | 1,977 | 32.1 | 3,383 | 55.9 | 3,877 | 58.6 |
| Kansas | 2,697 | 32.8 | 2,339 | 41.5 | 3,531 | 49.7 |
| Kentucky | 5,345 | 24.1 | 9,682 | 51.8 | 8,802 | 41.0 |
| Louisiana | 3,487 | 22.1 | 5,050 | 42.9 | 6,164 | 35.5 |
| Maine | 971 | 41 | 1,149 | 48.8 | 1,590 | 50.6 |

[^5]Table 9. Number and percent of students who experienced homelessness and chronic absenteeism, SYs 2019-20 through 2021-22: Ungraded, 3- to 5-year-olds, and kindergarten to Grade 13, continued

| State | Students experiencing homelessness who were chronically absent |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Number SY } \\ 2019-20 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent SY } \\ 2019-20 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Number SY } \\ & 2020-21 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent SY } \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Number SY } \\ 2021-22 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent SY } \\ 2021-22 \end{array}$ |
| Maryland | 7,775 | 49.2 | 6,866 | 58.4 | 11,291 | 67.4 |
| Massachusetts² | 7,361 | 30.7 | 9,025 | 45.2 | 11,552 | 52.1 |
| Michigan | 17,749 | 51.2 | 13,252 | 49.3 | 22,001 | 73.1 |
| Minnesota | 10,425 | 78.4 | 8,644 | 81.6 | 12,354 | 84.7 |
| Mississippi | 1,833 | 21 | 3,500 | 45.1 | 2,598 | 44.6 |
| Missouri | 7,697 | 22 | 6,561 | 20.1 | 11,432 | 33.8 |
| Montana | 1,570 | 36.3 | 2,514 | 53.8 | 3,092 | 65.4 |
| Nebraska | 1,735 | 42.2 | 1,332 | 52.3 | 1,762 | 56.3 |
| Nevada | 8,448 | 46.2 | 8,635 | 57.1 | 11,400 | 68.2 |
| New Hampshire | 1,549 | 44 | 1,918 | 61.7 | 2,331 | 69.0 |
| New Jersey | 2,753 | 21.6 | 3,660 | 34.7 | 4,342 | 38.2 |
| New Mexico | 2,934 | 32.5 | 3,691 | 46.5 | 4,683 | 47.6 |
| New York | 53,379 | 34.1 | 57,600 | 45.6 | 73,652 | 48.8 |
| North Carolina | 8,074 | 29.3 | 13,987 | 61.7 | 18,521 | 63.1 |
| North Dakota | 1,020 | 37.8 | 865 | 48.7 | 1,049 | 51.9 |
| Ohio | 11,488 | 38.4 | 14,124 | 57.2 | 16,783 | 61.6 |
| Oklahoma | 6,241 | 25 | 7,975 | 35.5 | 8,368 | 38.7 |
| Oregon² | 9,231 | 40.4 | 11,000 | 59.5 | 13,192 | 70.2 |
| Pennsylvania | 9,407 | 31.7 | 9,927 | 36.4 | 13,138 | 41.5 |
| Puerto Rico | 2,048 | 50.5 | 905 | 37.3 | 1,308 | 49.2 |
| Rhode Island | 849 | 54.8 | 728 | 65.6 | 1,016 | 69.0 |
| South Carolina | 3,008 | 25.3 | 5,109 | 47.9 | 5,946 | 50.6 |
| South Dakota | 803 | 39 | 1,034 | 66.2 | 1,184 | 68.0 |
| Tennessee | 4,108 | 21.4 | 5,091 | 35.4 | 6,540 | 35.4 |
| Texas | 23,812 | 20.8 | 32,783 | 35.2 | 48,540 | 48.7 |
| Utah | 3,066 | 23.2 | 4,084 | 39.7 | 6,031 | 50.7 |
| Vermont | 410 | 44.7 | 566 | 56.3 | 897 | 65.0 |
| Virginia | 4,917 | 27.7 | 4,627 | 33.6 | 6,422 | 38.6 |
| Washington | 12,380 | 32.8 | 16,583 | 50.4 | 13,880 | 35.8 |
| West Virginia | 3,596 | 34.6 | 2,431 | 25.7 | 4,345 | 47.5 |
| Wisconsin | 9,702 | 54.5 | 8,366 | 62.2 | 12,270 | 71.8 |
| Wyoming | 248 | 13.9 | 272 | 16.4 | 981 | 56.2 |

${ }^{1}$ From SY 21-22, the SEA counts in this table align with the counts posted on ED Data Express. Please note that in NCHE's previous report on chronic absenteeism, different national and SEA totals may be displayed because ED Data Express did not display SEA counts then, and NCHE aggregated SEA counts from school-level data. ED Data Express SEA counts reported through SY 21-22 are aggregated from privacy-protected school and LEA counts.
${ }^{2}$ Massachusetts and Oregon allow for non-binary gender, resulting in missing chronic absenteeism data.
-- Not available
NOTE: Due to altered school operations as a result of COVID-19, absenteeism data may be impacted by variability in school districts' capacity to track attendance accurately. This data may not accurately represent the actual chronic absenteeism numbers in SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, ED Data Express SEA counts for file specification 195 (2023).

The percentage of students who experienced homelessness and chronic absenteeism represents an estimate; the actual percentage of students is likely lower. This is because chronic absenteeism data are only submitted at the school level, while enrollment data are submitted at the school district and state levels. As a result, a student who attended multiple schools may be included multiple times as a chronically absent student but only once as an enrolled student who was homeless. Starting with SY 2022-23, chronic absenteeism data will also be collected at the school district and state level, eliminating this issue.

In addition, the size of the population of students who experience homelessness is less stable than other groups of students. The number of students experiencing homelessness often increases or decreases more than other groups each year due to various economic, social, and environmental factors, while other groups of students remain relatively unchanged. For example, as a result of Hurricane Harvey in SY 2017-18, the number of students who experienced homelessness in Texas doubled compared to the previous year. During SY 2018-19, the number dropped to nearly the same level as in SY 2016-17. In contrast, the number of students enrolled in Texas public schools overall remained stable at 5.4 million in the fall of 2017 and the fall of 2018 (ED, 2021a and 2021b).

## Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

Each state calculates an ACGR based on the number of students who graduate with a high school diploma within four years of when they first start high school. ${ }^{10}$ A state may also adopt an extended-year ACGR (e.g., the number of students who graduate within five or six years of when they first start high school). Students who drop out of school or receive a GED/HiSET or other lesser credential may not be removed from a cohort (i.e., they are not counted as graduates but remain in the cohort). States may adjust their cohorts when a student has transferred out (and enrolls in a new school from which the student is expected to graduate), emigrated to another country, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or is deceased. To make the changes, the school must have written documentation that the student meets one of these criteria. The number of times a student has transferred and the time of year in which a student enrolls in school does not impact the student's status in the cohort. Even if a student is not on track to graduate on time, the student must be added to a cohort based on when the student enrolled in Grade 9 for the first time when they enroll in a new school.

All states must provide data on the number of students who graduated within four years for all students and each required subgroup, including students who experienced homelessness. Creating a cohort of students is straightforward for the general student population; all students are assigned to a cohort when they enroll in Grade 9 for the first time. When students transfer to a new school, they are still assigned to a cohort in the new school based on when they enrolled in Grade 9 for the first time. However, a student's status as homeless can change over time. In fact, it is common for students to experience multiple episodes of homelessness and to stay in

[^6]different nighttime living situations (Morton, Dworsky, and Samuels, 2017). ${ }^{11}$ As a result, states must develop procedures to determine when a student will be included in the graduation rate cohorts for students who experience homelessness. For example, a common method used by states is to assign all students who experienced homelessness at any point during high school to the cohort. Another method used by some states is to include only those students who experienced homelessness during Grade 9 in the cohort.

As a result of differences across states in the definition of a high school diploma and how students are assigned to the cohort for students who experienced homelessness, caution should be used when comparing ACGRs across states.

The ACGR increased for students who were homeless in nine states (18\%) between SYs 2019-20 and 2020-21. Overall, the ACGR for students who experienced homelessness decreased from 70\% to 68\% between SY 201920 and SY 2020-21. In nearly all states, the four-year ACGRs for all students are higher than those for economically disadvantaged students, which are higher than the four-year ACGR of students who experienced homelessness. This is true despite the fact that students experiencing homelessness most likely also meet the criteria for consideration as economically disadvantaged students and are included in the economically disadvantaged student ACGR. The four-year ACGR for students who experienced homelessness is higher than the four-year ACGR for students who were in foster care in all but four states.

[^7]Table 10. Four-year ACGR of students who experienced homelessness, were in foster care, were economically disadvantaged, and all students: School Years 2019-20 and 2020-21

| State | Students who experienced homelessness |  | Students who were in foster care |  | Students who were economically disadvantaged |  | All students |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} S Y \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ |
| Alabama | 74 | 77 | 67 | 69 | 85.5 | 86.6 | 90.6 | 90.7 |
| Alaska | 58 | 51 | 54 | 45 | 72.3 | 69.9 | 79.1 | 78.2 |
| Arizona | 48.6 | 41.6 | 45 | 41 | 73.6 | 72.3 | 77.3 | 76.4 |
| Arkansas <br> Bureau of Indian | 78 | 76 | 65 | 64 | 86.2 | 86.5 | 88.8 | 88.4 |
| Education | 73 | - | - | - | 65 | - | 65 | - |
| California | 69.6 | 67.8 | 58.2 | 55.7 | 81.2 | 80.4 | 84.3 | 83.6 |
| Colorado | 56.7 | 54 | 31 | 31 | 72.3 | 70.6 | 81.8 | 81.7 |
| Connecticut | 65 | 66 | 47 | 55 | 80.6 | 82.2 | 88.2 | 89.6 |
| Delaware | 73 | 57 | 74 | 45 | 82 | 70.8 | 89.0 | 80.5 |
| District of |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Columbia | 55 | 55 | 53 | 44 | 62 | 64 | 72.9 | 74.8 |
| Florida | 80.0 | 78.4 | 57 | 62 | 87.1 | 87.2 | 90.2 | 90.2 |
| Georgia | 65.8 | 63.6 | - | 45 | 79.6 | 80.6 | 83.8 | 83.7 |
| Hawaii | 69 | 69 | 69 | 67 | 81.5 | 81.1 | 86.2 | 86.0 |
| Idaho | 61 | 54 | 40 | 39 | 73.8 | 70.1 | 82.2 | 80.1 |
| Illinois | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Indiana | 88 | 78 | 67 | 59 | 89.8 | 84.8 | 91.0 | 88.2 |
| lowa | 76 | 65 | 64 | 62 | 85.6 | 82.3 | 91.9 | 90.2 |
| Kansas | 68 | 69 | 62 | 63 | 81.3 | 81.1 | 88.1 | 87.9 |
| Kentucky | 85 | 80 | - | - | 88.1 | 86.9 | 91.1 | 90.2 |
| Louisiana | 67 | 64 | 54 | 56 | 78.4 | 77.3 | 82.9 | 82.1 |
| Maine | 62 | 56 | 53 | 59 | 78.9 | 76.6 | 87.5 | 86.1 |
| Maryland | 66 | 65 | 50 | 57 | 79.2 | 79.0 | 86.8 | 87.2 |
| Massachusetts | 64 | 77 | 58 | 65 | 80.5 | 81.7 | 89.0 | 89.8 |
| Michigan | 60.0 | 54 | 40 | 40 | 71.6 | 68.8 | 82.1 | 80.5 |
| Minnesota | 50 | 45 | - | 37 | 71.6 | 70.3 | 83.8 | 83.3 |
| Mississippi | 75 | 71 | 65 | 60 | 85.9 | 90.0 | 87.7 | 88.4 |
| Missouri | 78 | 75 | 69 | 70 | 82.5 | 81.3 | 89.5 | 89.2 |
| Montana | 63 | 62 | 71 | 81 | 76.8 | 76.6 | 85.9 | 86.1 |
| Nebraska | 63 | 64 | 55 | 43 | 79.6 | 79.9 | 87.6 | 87.6 |
| Nevada | 75 | 73 | 50 | 43 | 79.1 | 79.0 | 82.6 | 81.3 |
| New Hampshire ${ }^{1}$ | 58 | 58 | 43 | 45 | 74.9 | 72.2 | 88.1 | 87.1 |
| New Jersey | 74 | 68 | 55 | 47 | 85.0 | 82.1 | 91.0 | 88.5 |
| New Mexico | 59 | 62 | 39 | 37 | 71.7 | 72.3 | 76.9 | 76.6 |
| New York | 60.9 | 64.3 | 57 | 49 | 77.2 | 79.7 | 83.5 | 84.9 |
| North Carolina | 72.3 | 69.3 | 57 | 57 | 82.3 | 80.1 | 87.7 | 87.0 |
| North Dakota | 65 | 61 | 73 | 45 | 77 | 73 | 89.0 | 87.0 |
| Ohio | 58.6 | 57.4 | 57 | 59.4 | 74.4 | 75.4 | 84.4 | 85.3 |
| Oklahoma | 66 | 62 | 58 | 65 | 87.2 | 82.6 | 80.7 | 80.0 |

Table 10. Four-year ACGR of students who experienced homelessness, were in foster care, were economically disadvantaged, and all students: School Years 2019-20 and 2020-21, continued

| State | Students experiencing homelessness |  | Students in foster care |  | Students who are economically disadvantaged |  | All students |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2020-21 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} S Y \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} S Y \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2019-20 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SY } \\ 2020-21 \end{array}$ |
| Oregon | 60.5 | 55.4 | - | 48 | 77.6 | 77.0 | 82.6 | 80.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 70 | 69 | 56 | 53 | 79.6 | 79.5 | 87.3 | 86.7 |
| Puerto Rico | 75 | 63 | S | - | 77.0 | 74.9 | 78.1 | 75.7 |
| Rhode Island | 57 | 61 | 57 | 49 | 75.9 | 76.3 | 83.6 | 83.7 |
| South Carolina | 64 | 62 | 44 | 38 | 76.2 | 75.5 | 82.2 | 83.3 |
| South Dakota | 53 | 40 | 43 | 38 | 69 | 69 | 84.3 | 82.9 |
| Tennessee | 78 | 73 | 60 | 54 | 84.4 | 82.1 | 90.4 | 89.3 |
| Texas | - | 79.2 | - | 61 | - | 86.7 | - | 90.0 |
| Utah | - | - | - | - | 78.3 | 77.8 | 88.2 | 88.1 |
| Vermont | 55 | 57 | - | 48 | 75 | 74 | 83.1 | 83.2 |
| Virginia | 62 | 65 | 54 | 55 | 82.5 | 83.3 | 88.8 | 89.8 |
| Washington | 69.4 | - | 50 | - | 75.2 | - | 83.1 | - |
| West Virginia | 82 | 77 | - | 63 | 87.1 | 85.4 | 92.1 | 91.1 |
| Wisconsin | 67 | 64 | 60 | 52 | 81.5 | 78.4 | 90.4 | 89.6 |
| Wyoming | 64 | 61 | - | 55 | 71.6 | 70.1 | 82.3 | 82.5 |

${ }^{1}$ New Hampshire counts only include those students who experienced homelessness by October 1.

- Not available.

S: Data suppressed to protect student privacy.
NOTE: Due to small student counts for graduating students in each group, many values in the table are rounded to the nearest whole number rather than the nearest tenth. The ACGR for groups with sufficiently large student counts is displayed rounded to the nearest tenth.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118, SEA level (2022, 2023).

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ School Year (SY) 2021-22 was the first year of implementation of ARP-HCY for many LEAs.
    ${ }^{2}$ Additional data, including academic assessment data, are available at https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts file specification 118 (2023), SEA level.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ NCHE offers a number of resources and tools on implementing the McKinney-Vento Act, including webinars and issue briefs: https://nche.ed.gov/resources/.

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ 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).

[^4]:    ${ }^{8}$ Examples of state institutions include department of health services schools and juvenile justice schools.

[^5]:    9 Information about data collected by OCR can be found at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/data.html. Furthermore, the 2015 CRDC data on chronic absenteeism is featured in a 2016 ED Data Story on Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools, available at https://www2.ed.gov/datastory/chronicabsenteeism.html.

[^6]:    ${ }^{10}$ Note that the ACGR includes students who receive a regular high school diploma or higher within four years or a student receiving an alternate diploma. It does not include a GED, certificate or completion or attendance, or similar lesser credential.

[^7]:    ${ }^{11}$ In the comprehensive prevalence survey completed by Morton, Dworsky, and Samuels (2017), half of youth experiencing homelessness within a year had experienced homelessness before.

