More than 10,000 Children and Youth in Philadelphia Identified as Experiencing Homelessness in School Year 2024

October 2025

HopePHL™

Introduction

10,705 children and youth were identified as homeless in Philadelphia in School Year (SY) 2023-24, according to reports from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Find the PDE reports here.

HopePHL is sharing this data to increase awareness of children and youth experiencing homelessness in hopes of inspiring action to support them.

Who Should Read This?

We encourage human service providers, the City of Philadelphia, and policy makers to learn about Philadelphia's most vulnerable children.

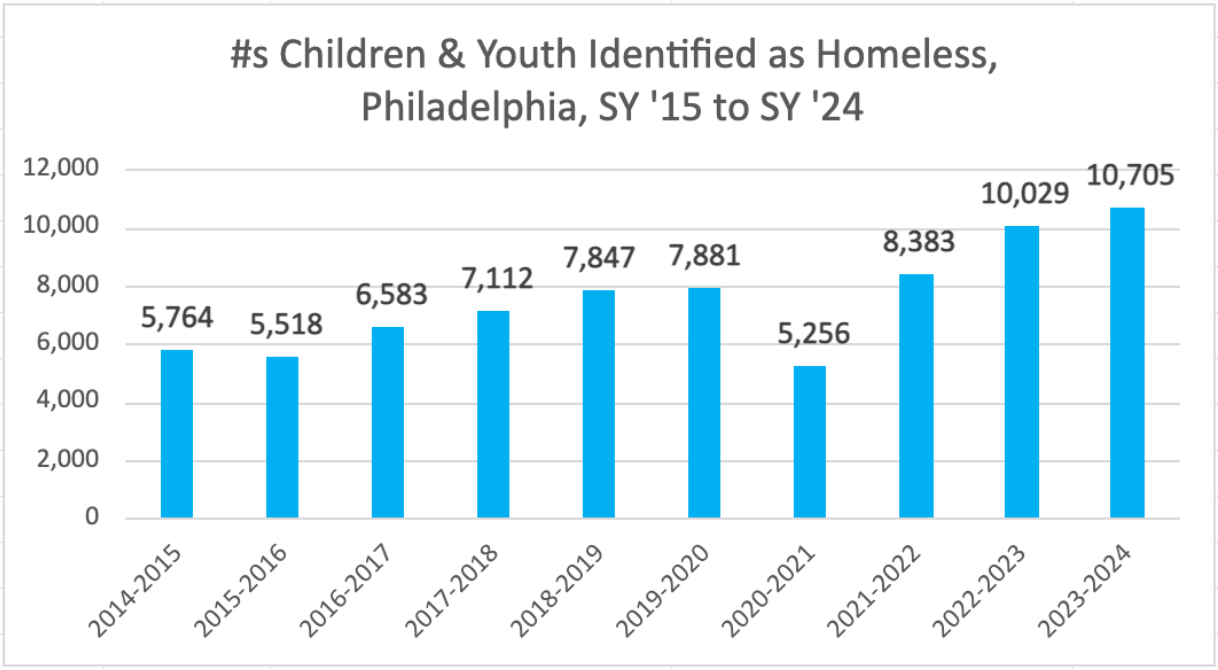
Summary of Key Findings:

- Philadelphia identified and supported 10,705 children and youth as experiencing homelessness in School Year (SY) 2024, **a 28% increase** since 2022 and an 86% increase since 2015.

- Of the 10,705 children and youth:

    - There were **3,289 infants, toddlers and PreK children**, or 32% of all homeless children and youth. Of this total, there were 1,187 infants and toddlers.
    - There were **4,851 children in grades 1 through 8.**
    - There were **2,565 youth in grades 9 through 12.**

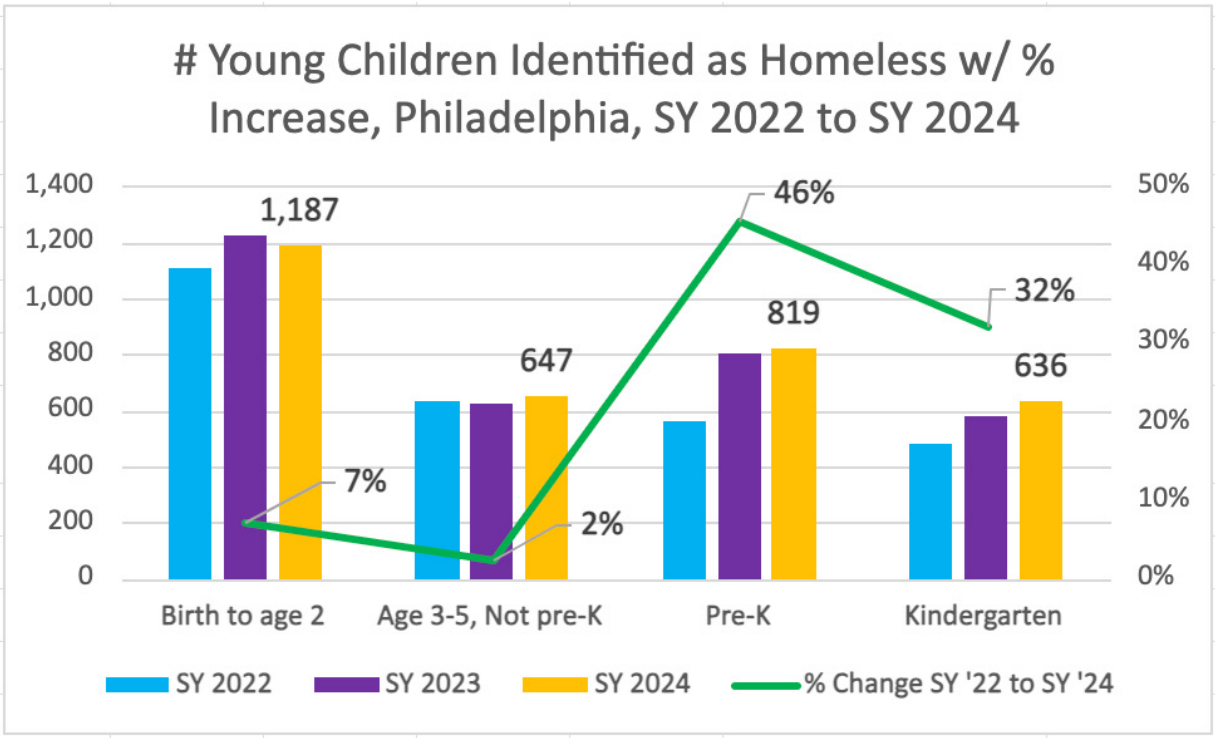
- Students identified as "**doubling up,**" living with others because of economic loss or hardship, **increased 5%** over the past year, and represent **68%** of all children and youth identified as homeless in Philadelphia.

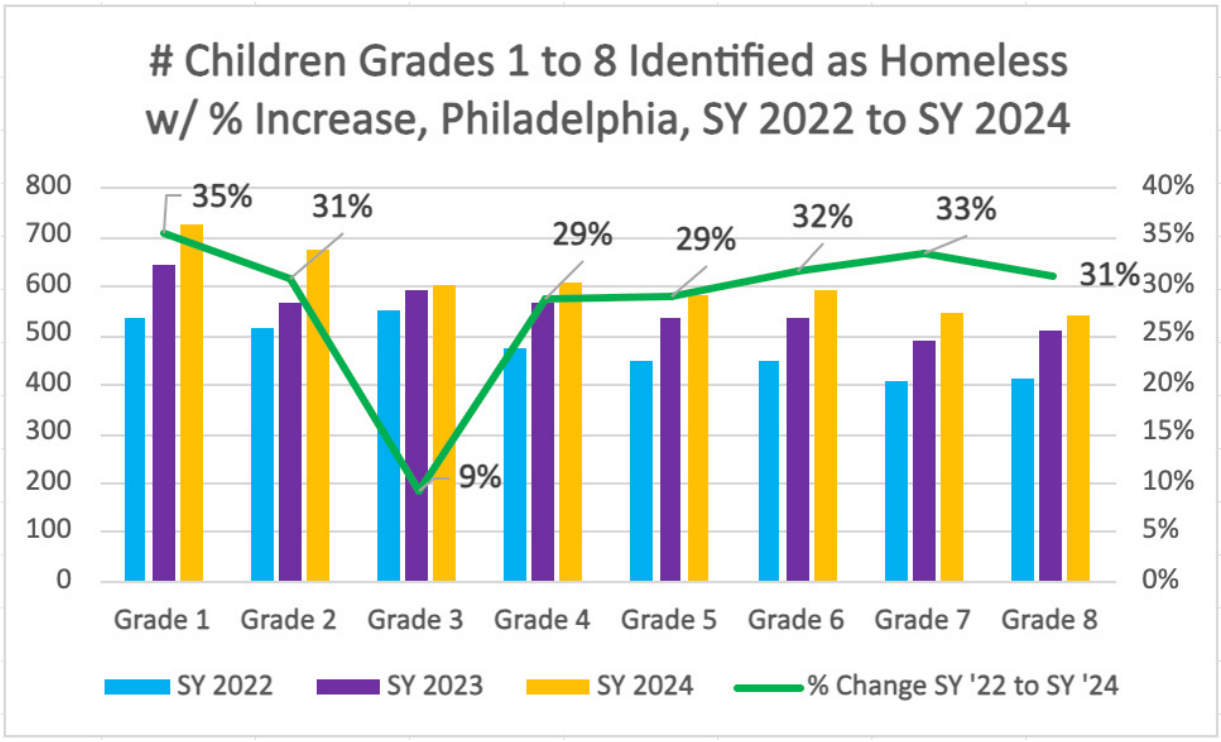


Note: In the above chart, not all children and youth are students. The education system is federally required to report on all children and youth experiencing homelessness.

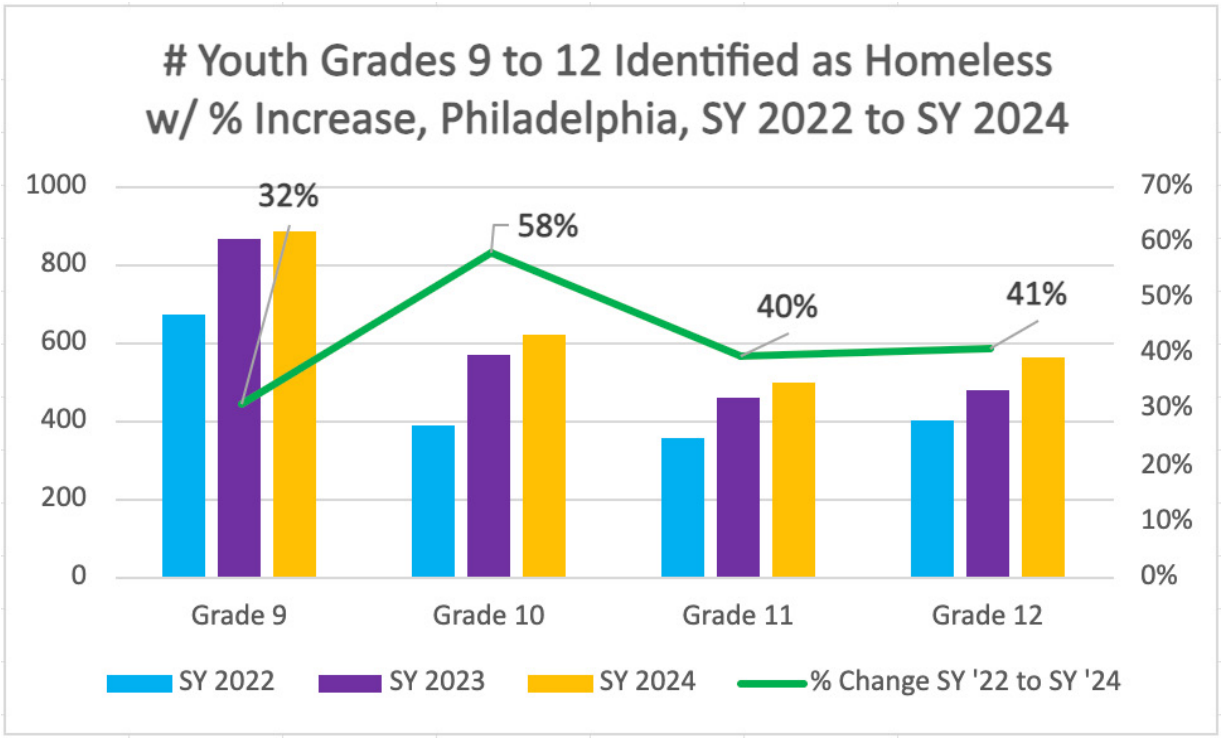
Children and Youth by Grade

There was a **46% increase** in identifying Pre K students (mostly in Head Start).



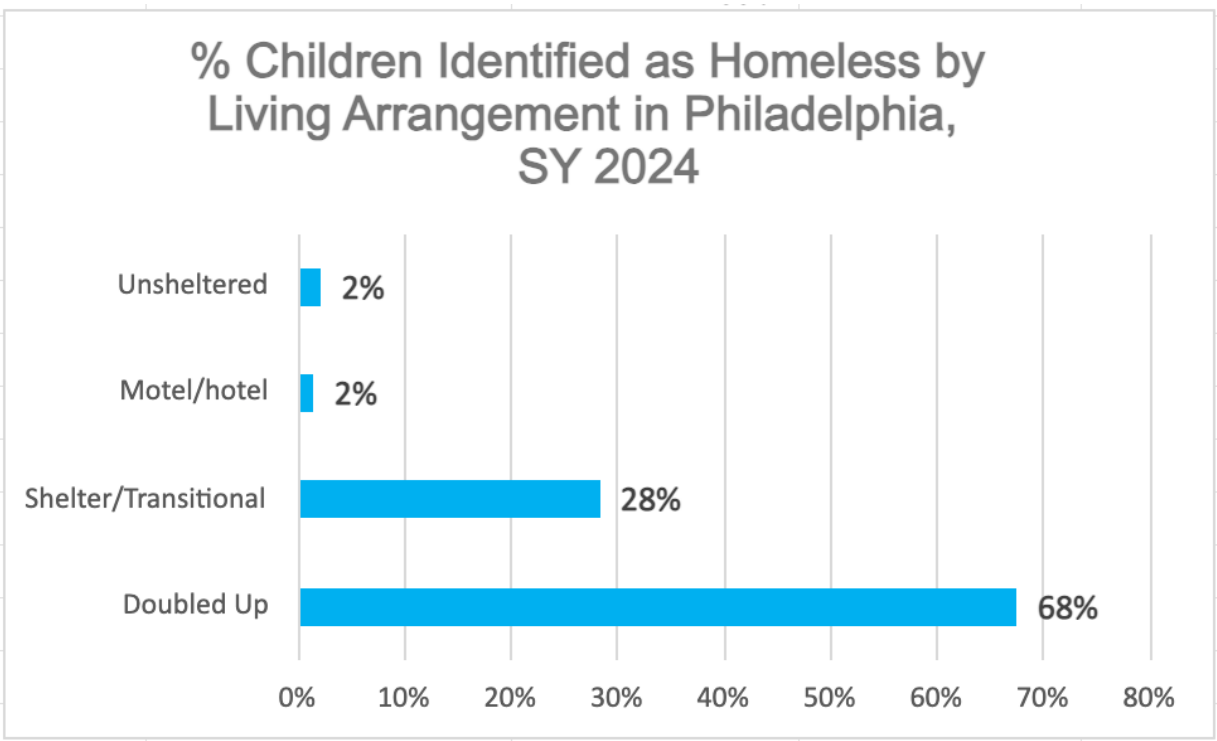


10th Grade high school students who were identified as homeless **increased by 58%** since SY 2022, the highest percentage of any other school grade.



Most Students Experiencing Homelessness Are NOT in Shelter

The PDE reviewed a subset of the total number of children and youth and found that **68%** of all children and youth identified as homeless were living **doubled up in SY 2024.**



Number of Students Experiencing Homelessness by School

The following table shows Philadelphia charter schools (CS) and the School District of Philadelphia as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Note:

- The data below for the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) is different from above due to different reporting requirements. SDP is required to report on all children experiencing homelessness, not just on the number of students attending school.
- Please be aware that the SY 2021 data collection effort was hampered by Covid. This influences the percentage changes.
- A hypen '-' means that the data was not reported or is unknown for the specified School Year. An asterisk (*) signifies that the number of homeless students was less than 10, a standard determined by federal guidelines.
- Not all schools are listed as some schools identified fewer than 10 homeless students. Also, some charter schools did not exist in previous years, and some closed in SY 2024.

Philadelphia (note: not all charter schools are listed)	**SY 2021**	**SY 2022**	**SY 2023**	**SY 2024**	**% Change SY '21 to 'SY 24**
Alliance for Progress CS	22	12	20	12	-45%
Antonia Pantoja Community CS			13	17	-
Aspira Bilingual Cyber CS	-	40	140	87	-
Belmont CS	99	108	104	122	23%
Bluford CS			27	-	-
Boys Latin CS				15	-
Community Academy of Philadelphia CS	32	31	26	36	13%
Deep Roots CS				12	-
Esperanza Academy CS				23	-
Esperanza Cyber CS	-	87	106	199	-
First Philadelphia Preparatory CS	18	11	25	11	-39%
Frederick Douglass Mastery CS	26	25	16	19	-27%
Freire CS	-	11	16	29	-
Global Leadership Academy CS				12	-
Imhotep Institute CS	-	16	-		-
Independence CS West				19	-
Inquiry CS				25	-
John B Stetson CS	66	94	-	*	-
Keystone Academy CS	16	--	11	*	-
KIPP Dubois CS	-	13	18	28	-
KIPP North Philadelphia CS	17	20	22	23	35%
KIPP Philadelphia CS	21	17	28	27	29%
KIPP West Philadelphia CS	16	14	21	21	31%
Lindley Academy CS at Birney	45	58	78	80	78%
Mariana Bracetti Academy CS	56	92	112	90	61%
Maritime Academy CS	-	13	11	*	-
MAST Community CS	12	*	11	11	-8%
MAST Community CS II	15	22	14	15	0%
MAST Community CS III				17	-
Mastery CHS Lenfest Campus	15	18	19	*	-
Mastery CS John Wister Elementary	46	42	46	26	-43%
Mastery CS- Cleveland Elementary	21	24	32	34	62%
Mastery CS-Clymer Elementary	38	44	64	34	-11%
Mastery CS-Gratz Campus	62	71	62	37	-40%
Mastery CS-Hardy Williams	11	*	11	*	-
Mastery CS- Harrity Campus	35	30	53	33	-6%
Mastery CS- Mann Campus	12	12	*	12	0%

Mastery CS- Pickett Campus	22	33	41	34	55%
Mastery CS- Shoemaker Campus	-	23	16	16	-
Mastery CS- Smedley Campus	22	26	34	31	41%
Mastery CS- Thomas Campus	25	34	30	23	-8%
Mastery Prep Elementary CS				12	-
Memphis Street Academy CS @ JP Jones	11	*	21	24	118%
Multicultural Academy CS				15	-
New Foundations CS	12	16	31	24	100%
Northwood Academy CS				12	-
People for People CS				40	-
Olney Charter High School	27	80	-	-	-100%
Pan American Academy CS	28	44	41	34	21%
Philadelphia City School District	2,140	4,518	5,867	6,805	218%
Philadelphia Electrical & Technology CHS	16	25	23	18	13%
Philadelphia Performing Arts CS	14	11	59	43	207%
Southwest Leadership Academy CS	-	15	*	27	-
Tacony Academy CS				27	-
TECH Freire CS	15	14	26	19	27%
The Philadelphia CS for Arts and Science	24	28	24	30	25%
Universal Alcorn CS				11	-
Universal Audenried CS	26	19	17	13	-50%
Universal Bluford CS	21	*	27	-	-
Universal Creighton CS				13	-
Universal Daroff CS	16	14	-	-	-
Universal Institute CS	12	*	*	*	-
West Oak Lane CS	11	12	*	*	-
Wissahickon CS	--	13	*	16	-
Young Scholars CS				12	-
Youth Build Phila CS	20	16	18	13	-35%

Moving Forward

We strongly suggest that the Parker Administration, Philadelphia City Council, the School District of Philadelphia, and community-based housing agencies work together on the following recommendations:

- The City of Philadelphia has an opportunity to expand its work with housing providers by adding new revenue to the School District to work specifically with students experiencing homelessness. In 2024, the Parker Administration and the City Council, led by Councilperson Isaiah Thomas, approved a $1.5 million grant over three years to continue connections with housing programs to provide intensive case management to select schools. More housing agencies should be included.

- The City could leverage its leadership by creating a short-term ad hoc task force to identify and make recommendations to the Parker Administration, City Council, the School District of Philadelphia, and private foundations of changes to how best to support students experiencing homelessness. The task force ideally should focus on no-cost improvements as well as funded efforts, and focus on children not in the shelter system.

- Members of Pennsylvania delegation to the U.S. Congress should continue to resist eliminating the federal McKinney-Vento law; unfortunately, this year most voted to eliminate McKinney-Vento funding from a U.S. House budget proposal. Fortunately, the United States Senate rejected the House proposal.

- City leaders and Philadelphia delegations to the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the U.S. Congress should be vigilant to ensure that if a federal administration or Congress eliminate the rights of and responsibilities to homeless students as defined in the McKinney-Vento law, that the state create its own law defining the rights of homeless students. This would ensure that school districts and charter schools would continue to support homeless students.

About HopePHL

HopePHL™ (pronounced “hopeful”) was founded through an integration of two human service organizations in Philadelphia, PA: People’s Emergency Center (PEC) and Youth Service, Inc (YSI). Leveraging 120 years of combined service experience, it is HopePHL’s mission to inspire Philadelphia’s children, youth, families and communities to thrive by providing housing, advocacy, and trauma-responsive social services designed to promote equity, resilience, autonomy, and well-being. Learn more at www.hopephl.org.