

# Counts of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania by County

Part 2 of the Children Cannot Wait Series  
Prepared by the Policy Department of HopePHL  
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## Introduction

A new report from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) shows that in School Year (SY) 2021-2023, **46,705 children and youth** were identified as homeless throughout the Commonwealth, an all-time high. This paper summarizes the PDE data by county.

HopePHL's series called the "**Children Cannot Wait Campaign**" (see <https://www.hopephl.org/policy--advocacy.html>) aims to increase awareness of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) is a federally funded program managed by the PDE to eliminate barriers to education for students experiencing homelessness. PDE contracts with eight regions in the Commonwealth for local implementation. The regions use the funds to train school personnel in 500 school districts and 176 charter schools. These funds provide direct services like transportation, mentoring, summer programming, school supplies, school uniforms, and more. The education system is the only federal agency required by statute to report on children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Find the PDE reports [here](#).

## Who Should Read This?

- We encourage policy makers, their staff, funders, child service agencies, school personnel, family advocates and others to read this document to gain an understanding of the data.
- Please be aware that the total number of children and youth are not all students. PDE reports children and youth birth to 5 who may not be in an educational setting.

## Highlights

- The number of children and youth experiencing homelessness is **increasing** in Pennsylvania.
- **60 counties (90% of 67 counties) identified more homeless children and youth in 2023 than in 2022.**

- Only 8 counties (12%) identified fewer homeless children and youth in 2023 than in 2022. These counties tend to be rural:

Cameron	Crawford	Jefferson	Snyder
Columbia	Forest	Monroe	Susquehanna

- 44 counties (66%) identified more homeless children in 2023 than in SY 2020 the previous year.
- 25 counties (37%) identified fewer homeless children and youth in 2023 than in 2020.

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## HopePHL Recommendations:

1. HopePHL recommends that **Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation** support continuing the funding provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Through the ARP, the Commonwealth received \$36 million for 500 school districts and 176 charter schools to engage and support students experiencing homelessness. Prior to this investment, Pennsylvania received less than \$6 million for the entire state.
2. The **Shapiro Administration** and the **Pennsylvania General Assembly** need to identify a funding source to supplement the federal investment, as Congress did not extend ARP funding.
3. Locally, the **homeless housing and the education systems** need to **cooperate** to connect housing to families experiencing homelessness, **especially** those living **doubled up**.
4. HopePHL supports the PDE's eight recommendations in the report, **especially** the suggestion to establish connections between shelters and pre-kindergarten programs.

## Findings:

From <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Pages/20222023countsbycounty.aspx>

By PA County 2020 to 2023	SY 2020	SY 2021	SY 2022	SY 2023	% Change SY '20 to '23	% Change SY '22 to '23
Adams	233	198	219	265	14%	21%
Allegheny	3,212	2,836	3,122	3,496	9%	12%
Armstrong	228	136	167	202	-11%	21%
Beaver	955	836	861	906	-5%	5%
Bedford	200	133	121	137	-32%	13%
Berks	1,849	1,652	2,488	2,961	60%	19%
Blair	526	379	358	467	-11%	30%
Bradford	193	132	152	271	40%	78%
Bradford/Tioga	-	304	-	-		
Bucks	713	743	834	1,268	78%	52%
Butler	405	435	506	517	28%	2%
Cambria	225	224	285	360	60%	26%
Cameron	15	23	25	14	-7%	-44%
Carbon	122	62	60	77	-37%	28%
Carbon/Monroe/Pike	17	-	-	-		
Centre	169	148	230	315	86%	37%
Chester	1,601	1,780	1,935	2,113	32%	9%
Clarion	119	104	138	194	63%	41%
Clearfield	262	346	257	248	-5%	-4%
Clinton	110	102	87	88	-20%	1%
Columbia	205	150	162	142	-31%	-12%
Columbia/Sullivan	17	13	-	-		
Crawford	226	176	200	199	-12%	-1%
Cumberland	584	497	616	678	16%	10%
Dauphin	1,557	1,325	1,794	2,373	52%	32%
Delaware	1,199	1,577	1,822	2,017	68%	11%
Elk	63	57	98	114	81%	16%
Erie	778	761	946	1,050	35%	11%
Fayette	269	191	214	235	-13%	10%
Forest	52	46	59	58	12%	-2%
Franklin	284	280	370	480	69%	30%
Fulton	12	16	19	36	200%	89%

Greene	43	36	30	51	19%	70%
Huntingdon	32	38	45	52	63%	16%
Indiana	164	128	136	156	-5%	15%
Jefferson	86	89	118	111	29%	-6%
Juniata	64	69	58	99	55%	71%
Lackawanna	426	501	480	542	27%	13%
Lancaster	2,547	2,186	2,295	2,426	-5%	6%
Lawrence	391	192	210	324	-17%	54%
Lebanon	701	611	663	807	15%	22%
Lehigh	1,228	822	1,055	1,082	-12%	3%
Luzerne	500	640	987	1,187	137%	20%
Lycoming	253	171	250	304	20%	22%
McKean	248	163	143	196	-21%	37%
Mercer	271	292	332	347	28%	5%
Mifflin	142	125	137	161	13%	18%
Monroe	373	335	431	411	10%	-5%
Montgomery	1,282	1,310	1,617	1,761	37%	9%
Montour	23	16	24	36	57%	50%
Northampton	674	581	627	750	11%	20%
Northumberland	119	159	199	232	95%	17%
Perry	93	101	114	125	34%	10%
Philadelphia	7,881	5,256	8,383	10,029	27%	20%
Pike	79	105	102	93	18%	-9%
Potter	42	53	42	50	19%	19%
Schuylkill	370	353	390	484	31%	24%
Snyder	48	51	46	40	-17%	-13%
Somerset	96	75	79	99	3%	25%
Susquehanna	59	46	61	57	-3%	-7%
Tioga	55	43	35	87	58%	149%
Union	23	16	21	35	52%	67%
Venango	222	170	201	233	5%	16%
Warren	124	71	84	100	-19%	19%
Washington	441	213	328	381	-14%	16%
Wayne	60	46	58	77	28%	33%
Westmoreland	464	377	388	484	4%	25%
Wyoming	-	13	33	-		
York	1,889	1,526	1,653	2,015	7%	22%
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>37,913</b>	<b>32,641</b>	<b>40,003</b>	<b>46,705</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>17%</b>

\* Sullivan and Wyoming counties identified less than 10 students experiencing homelessness and PDE is not required to post their numbers.

# 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 150 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. Visit us at [www.hopephl.org](http://www.hopephl.org).

HopePHL helps over 25,000 community members and residents annually to reach their goals of safe homes, economically secure and healthy families, and thriving businesses. People with Hope, thrive.

HopePHL advocates for urgently needed public policy changes on behalf of families and youth experiencing homelessness and the neighborhoods we serve. We have worked successfully with local, state, and federal government agencies to advance legislation and budgets that prioritize these communities.

The HopePHL Policy Advisory Council provides direction to the agency’s public policy and research goals.