

User's Guide

The *Atlas of Student Homelessness* is divided into four sections. **Section One** provides an overview of homelessness among students in New York City. It focuses on overarching characteristics and citywide trends important to framing policies and programs for students experiencing housing instability. **Section Two** explores the geographic distribution of homeless students across the city, providing context for conversations concerning resources and allocation of additional supports. **Section Three** examines how homeless student characteristics and educational outcomes vary by school district, and **Section Four** provides an in-depth look at student homelessness in each school district—information critical to local program planning and priority setting. Definitions of all terms, as well as a resource list and additional tables by Community, City Council, State Assembly, and State Senate Districts, are included in the Appendix.



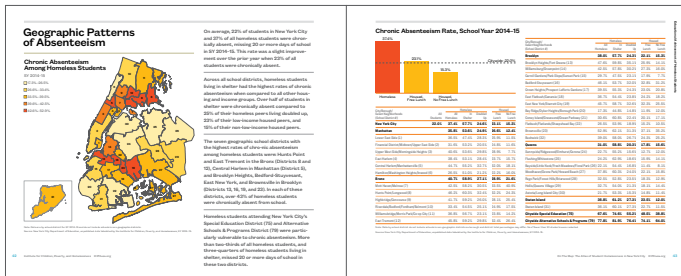
The data for the *2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness* were provided primarily by the New York City Department of Education. Federal law entitles homeless children to certain educational rights and supports including immediate enrollment in school without the usual required documents and records, which may not be readily available. Based on their needs and district resources, homeless students receive assistance that may include school supplies, transportation, clothes, and after-school programs, as well as other supports. In New York City,

schools receive technical support from the Students in Temporary Housing Unit (STH) within the Department of Education and from the New York State Technical & Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS TEACHS). Teachers and other school personnel are often the first to identify homeless children who have slipped between the cracks of the City's support systems. This "first responder" role makes schools a vitally important link for meeting the needs of homeless children and their families.¹

¹ New York City Department of Education, *Students in Temporary Housing*, <http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing/default.htm> (accessed July 20, 2015).

Citywide Maps

Citywide “heat” maps are included to enable visual comparisons across school districts. While the color of each map varies depending on the information presented, the darkest shade will generally represent the worst outcome and the lightest shade, the best outcome. Most citywide maps are accompanied by tables that enable comparison across school districts as well as by student poverty level and type of homelessness. The five groups shown in the table are: all homeless students, homeless students living in shelter, homeless students living doubled up, housed students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and housed students not eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch is a common proxy for low-income status. In the *2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness* text, “low-income students” is often used interchangeably with eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch. All homeless students are automatically eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.



Methodology

The New York City Department of Education provided access to de-identified student-level data for all students attending New York City public schools between the school years of 2010–11 and 2014–15. These data, recorded at the end of each school year, were linked to annual student housing status information through a unique scrambled student identifier. All students were geocoded based on their last school of enrollment and their school district number. In order to protect student privacy and adhere to the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, all numbers and percentages that could potentially reveal fewer than 10 students have been redacted. For data reliability, all percentages calculated using fewer than 30 students have also been omitted. Shelter locations and capacity were identified using multiple sources to corroborate addresses.² Based on the number of family shelters listed in the December 2015 *Shelter Repair Squad Scorecard—Shelter Building Listing*, 91% of total Tier II shelter units, 74% of total cluster site shelter units, and 83% of total hotel shelter units in New York City are included in the *2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness*. The remaining shelters are not included due to missing or incomplete address information (1,887 units out of 12,839 total family shelter units citywide).

² New York City Department of Homeless Services, *Shelter Repair Squad Scorecard—Shelter Building Listing*, December 2015; New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, *HPD Building, Registration, and Violation*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/index.page> (accessed May 2016); Legal Aid Society, *DHS Family Shelter Facilities*, <http://www.legal-aid.org/en/civil/civilpractice/homelessrightsproject/materials/toc.aspx> (accessed May 2016).

Out of 1,753 total public schools in New York City in SY 2014–15, 1,682 (96%) had a physical address and were mappable. An additional 322 schools in which fewer than 10 students were homeless were excluded to protect student privacy and one school was excluded because it was located outside of the geographic boundary of New York City, leaving 1,359 schools in the citywide map. Because of the large degree of variation in school district size, individual district maps are shown in six different scales, with the distance per inch at the bottom. Only schools that are administered by a given district are included in each map. For easy comparison, data groupings for the percentage of students homeless by school on district-level maps are matched to those used in ICPH's *2015 Atlas of Student Homelessness*. Natural breaks—a method of grouping data with similar values while maximizing the difference between groups—were used for all other maps, unless otherwise noted. Data analysis for the *2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness* was conducted in Stata and geographic maps were created in ArcGIS.

Limitations

Because homeless students are eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act to remain at their school of origin or enroll in their local school, data represent where students attend school and should not be interpreted as providing information about where homeless students live.³ Information presented in the *2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness* is specific to homeless students attending New York City Department of Education Public Schools and should not be generalized to New York City Charter Schools. While the total number of homeless charter school students is reported to the State annually, more detailed information on the outcomes of homeless students attending charter schools is not publicly available. Finally, information on homeless students and families is self-reported by the family. A family that does not wish to be identified as homeless may not report that status.

³ U.S. Department of Education, "Laws & Guidance: Part C—Homeless Education," <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg116.html> (accessed July 20, 2015).

School District Pages

Select neighborhoods and location of school district in New York City.

Number of shelter units and shelters in the district for families with children. The number of units is a rough approximation of the total number of families in shelter in the school district.

The number of students who have experienced homelessness in the last five years is the ratio of students who are currently homeless plus students who are formerly homeless over all students in the district.

The average pre-K-8th grade per student Fair Student Funding is the total amount of Fair Student Funding received by the district for pre-K-8th grade students divided by the total district pre-K-8th grade enrollment at the end of the school year.

Rankings are shown by borough and citywide, with a ranking of 1 indicating the highest percent of students who are homeless.

City School District 8 Bronx

Hunts Point
Longwood



702

Shelter Units

23

Family Shelters

1 out of 6

Students Experienced Homelessness in the Last Five Years

\$4,877

Average Pre-K-8th Grade Per Student Fair Student Funding Based on End of Year Enrollment

Rank

By Highest Percent of Students Homeless

5

Out of Six City School Districts in the Bronx

10

Out of 32 Total Districts in New York City

School Year 2014-15

	Homeless			Housed	
	All Homeless	Ever In Shelter	Never In Shelter	Free Lunch	No Free Lunch
Number of Students	3,747	1,716	1,746	20,681	6,409
% Pre-K	10%	3%	6%	59%	31%
% Elementary School	14%	7%	7%	68%	18%
% Middle School	12%	5%	6%	69%	20%
% High School	9%	4%	4%	66%	25%
% Hispanic	11%	5%	6%	70%	19%
% Black	16%	10%	5%	64%	19%
% White	5%	1%	3%	58%	37%
% Asian	9%	0%	8%	65%	26%
% Other	12%	6%	6%	56%	32%
Mid-Year Transfer Rate	25%	33%	18%	12%	10%
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	46%	60%	32%	32%	24%
Received IEP Late	68%	-	-	46%	-
English Language Learner	19%	11%	29%	12%	11%
Math Proficiency 3-8 Grade	12%	9%	15%	22%	29%
ELA Proficiency 3-8 Grade	11%	7%	14%	19%	28%
Suspension Rate	4.6%	6.1%	2.4%	3.8%	3.4%
	Homeless			Housed	
	All Homeless	Ever In Shelter	Never In Shelter	Free Lunch	No Free Lunch
Dropout Rate	22%	8%	30%	18%	20%
Graduation Rate	39%	52%	32%	51%	57%

Educational Outcomes of Homeless Students

Mid-Year Transfer Rate	25%
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	46%
Received IEP Late	68%
English Language Learner	19%
Math Proficiency 3-8 Grade	12%
ELA Proficiency 3-8 Grade	11%
Suspension Rate	4.6%
Dropout Rate	22%
Graduation Rate	39%

Homelessness and Poverty Among Students



Where Homeless Students Sleep



Notes: The number of shelter units in a school district and the number of "in shelter" students are not the same; students in shelter may attend schools in districts where they do not live, and each shelter unit can house more than one child. The number of homeless students represents where students attend school; homeless students may attend schools in districts where they do not live. Students who experienced homelessness in the last five years is the ratio of currently homeless and formerly homeless students to the total number of students in the district. Formerly homeless students are defined as those who are currently housed but experienced homelessness at any point during SY 2010-11 to SY 2013-14. Notes on educational outcomes are listed in Section 3. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Sources: New York City Department of Education Division of School Budget Planning & Operations, FY15 Fair Student Funding Program Details; New York City Department of Education, unpublished data tabulated by the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, SY 2010-11 to SY 2014-15; New York City Department of Homeless Services.

Because homeless students do not always live in their school district, the number of students in shelter is not necessarily related to the number of shelter units in the district.

Comparison between homeless students, housed students who are poor, and housed students who are not poor within the district. Additionally, comparisons can be made

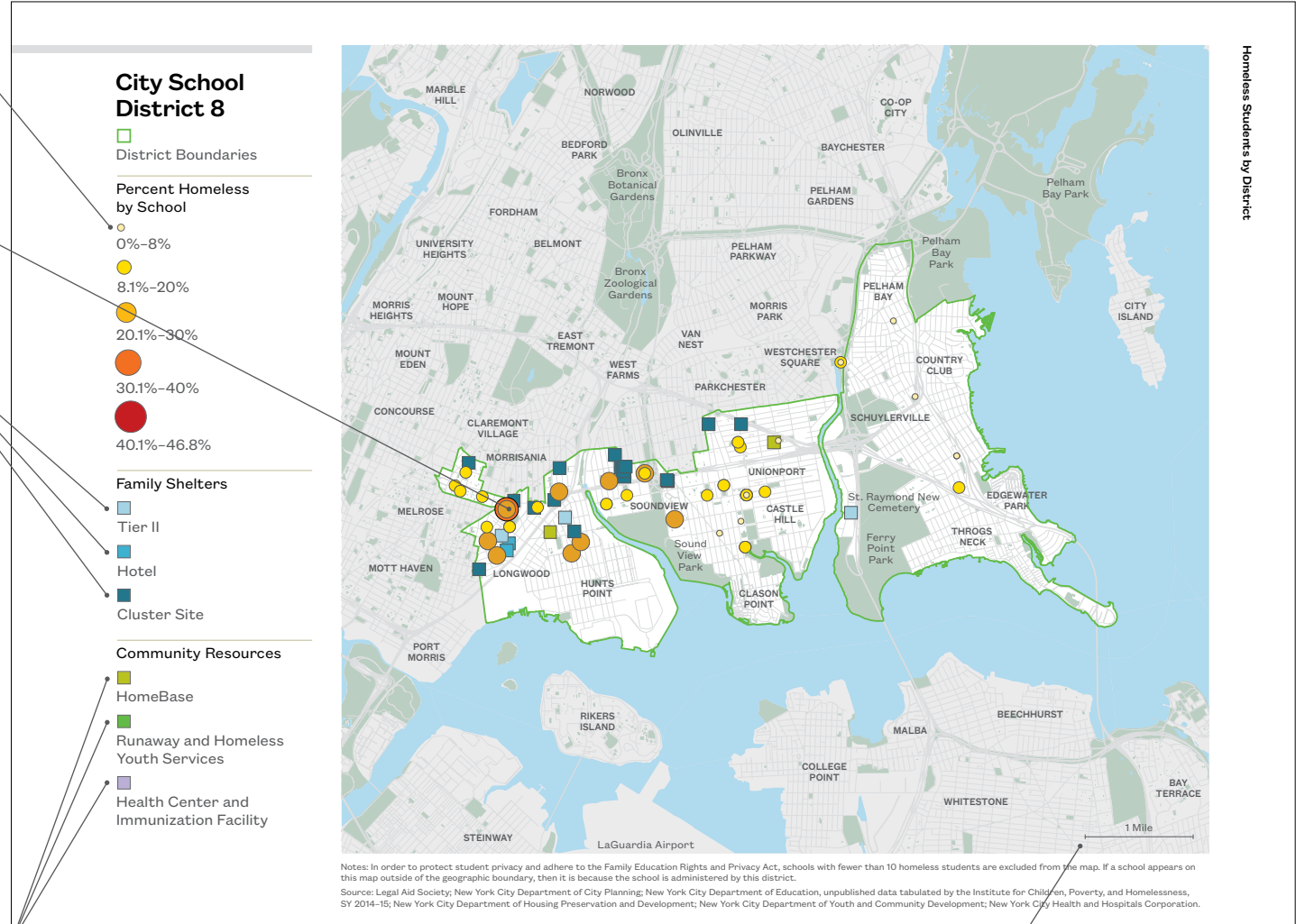
by type of homelessness by examining differences between homeless students in shelter and homeless students doubled up. Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch is used as a proxy for student poverty.

Data specific to homeless students attending school within the district.

Color and size of dots represent the proportion of homeless students at each school. As the percent increases, the color darkens and the dot size becomes bigger.

Concentric circles with multiple colors indicate co-located schools with differing rates of homelessness.

Blue squares indicate the three categories of shelters for families with children. Tier II Shelter: Shelter operators provide private rooms for homeless families, along with cafeteria meals or kitchen facilities. Hotel Shelter: Rooms in private hotels that the City pays for per night in order to house homeless families. Cluster Site: Private apartments that the City leases through non-profit and for-profit groups for the purpose of housing homeless families. Hotel shelters and cluster sites are more likely to operate as non-contracted emergency shelters on a per diem basis with the City. Recent City inspections have highlighted more health and safety violations in cluster site and hotel shelter than in Tier II facilities.¹



Green and purple squares indicate the locations of community resources. HomeBase locations offer resources and referrals such as eviction prevention mediation, financial counseling, short-term emergency funding, and public benefits for families struggling with poverty. Runaway and homeless youth services

provide a range of supports for unaccompanied youth, including Drop-in Centers, Crisis Shelters, and Street Outreach. Programs also support youth who are pregnant or parenting, LGBTQ youth and youth who have experienced sexual exploitation. Health and Immunization Centers are run by the New York City Health and

Hospitals Corporation. These provide free or low-cost medical care to people regardless of immigration status or ability to pay and can be valuable referral sites for homeless students whose immunization records are not up to date or for those who struggle with chronic health conditions such as asthma and diabetes.

Because of the large degree of variation in school district sizes, district maps are displayed at six different zoom levels. Maps at the two highest zoom levels include park names for additional geographic reference. Scales are included in all maps to show relative distance.

¹ New York City Department of Investigation, *DOI Investigation of 25 City-Run Homeless Shelters for Families Finds Serious Deficiencies*, March 12, 2015.