Geographic Patterns of Absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism Among Homeless Students

SY 2014–15

- 17.3%–26.5%
- 26.6%–33.4%
- 33.5%–39.5%
- 39.6%–42.5%
- 42.6%–52.9%
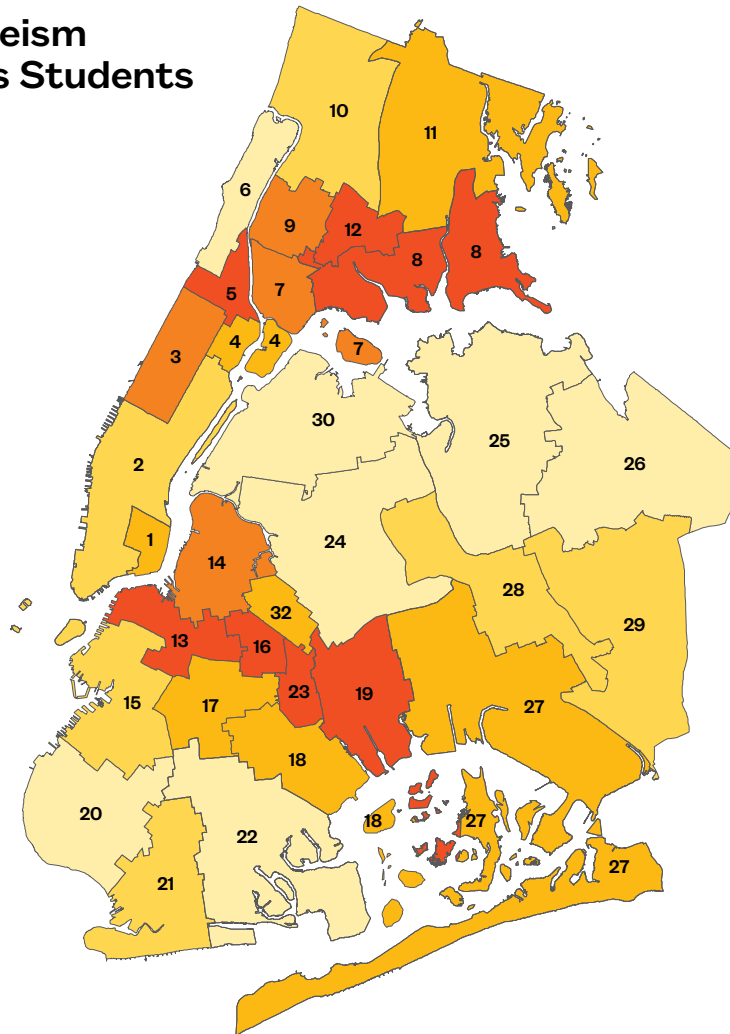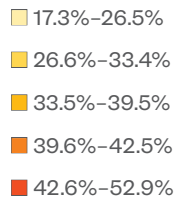
Note: Data are by school district for SY 2014–15 and do not include schools in non-geographic districts.

Source: New York City Department of Education, unpublished data tabulated by the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, SY 2014–15.

On average, 22% of students in New York City and 37% of all homeless students were chronically absent, missing 20 or more days of school in SY 2014–15.

Across all school districts, homeless students living in shelter had the highest rates of chronic absenteeism when compared to all other housing and income groups. Over half of students in shelter were chronically absent compared to 25% of their homeless peers living doubled up, 23% of their low-income housed peers, and 15% of their non-low-income housed peers.

The seven geographic school districts with the highest rates of chronic absenteeism among homeless students were: Hunts Point and East Tremont in the Bronx (Districts 8 and 12), Central Harlem in Manhattan (District 5), and Brooklyn Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York, and Brownsville in Brooklyn (Districts 13, 16, 19, and 23). In each of these districts, over 43% of homeless students were chronically absent from school.

In New York City's Special Education District (75) and Alternative Schools & Programs District (79), homeless students were particularly vulnerable to chronic absenteeism. More than two-thirds of all homeless students, and three-quarters of students living in shelter, missed 20 or more days of school.

Chronic Absenteeism Rate, School Year 2014–15

37.4%

23.1%

Citywide: 22.0%

15.3%

Homeless | Housed, Free Lunch | Housed, No Free Lunch
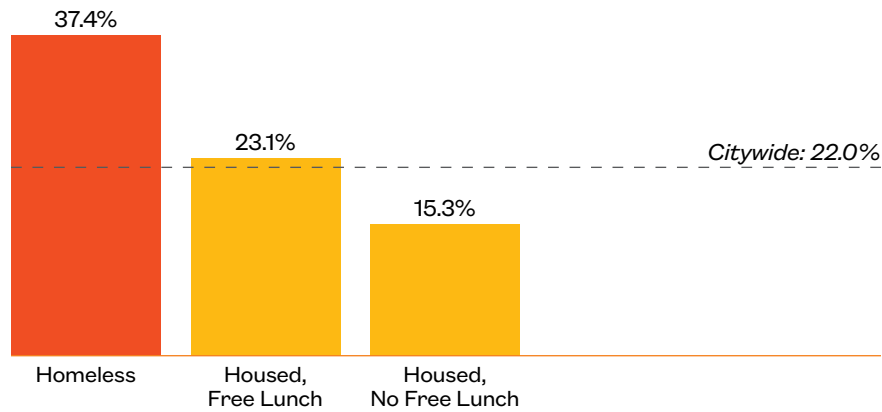
City/Borough/ Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	All Students	Homeless			Housed	
		All Homeless	In Shelter	Doubled Up	Free Lunch	No Free Lunch
New York City	**22.0%**	**37.4%**	**57.7%**	**24.6%**	**23.1%**	**15.3%**
Manhattan		**35.8%**	**53.6%**	**24.9%**	**26.6%**	**12.4%**
Lower East Side (1)		36.5%	47.4%	28.3%	25.9%	11.5%
Financial District/Midtown/Upper East Side (2)		31.6%	53.2%	20.5%	24.8%	11.6%
Upper West Side/Morningside Heights (3)		40.6%	53.6%	29.8%	28.9%	7.7%
East Harlem (4)		38.4%	53.1%	28.4%	23.7%	15.7%
Central Harlem/Manhattanville (5)		44.7%	55.2%	32.7%	32.0%	18.1%
Hamilton/Washington Heights/Inwood (6)		26.5%	51.0%	21.2%	22.2%	16.0%
Bronx		**40.7%**	**58.9%**	**27.1%**	**28.9%**	**21.6%**
Mott Haven/Melrose (7)		42.5%	58.2%	30.5%	33.5%	40.9%
Hunts Point/Longwood (8)		46.2%	60.3%	32.4%	32.2%	24.3%
Highbridge/Concourse (9)		41.7%	59.2%	26.0%	28.1%	25.4%
Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham/Belmont (10)		33.4%	54.5%	25.1%	24.9%	17.5%
Williamsbridge/Morris Park/Co-op City (11)		36.8%	56.7%	23.1%	23.8%	14.2%
East Tremont (12)		45.8%	59.2%	29.8%	32.4%	26.4%

City/Borough/ Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	Homeless			Housed	
	All Homeless	In Shelter	Doubled Up	Free Lunch	No Free Lunch
Brooklyn	**38.0%**	**57.7%**	**24.3%**	**22.1%**	**15.3%**
Brooklyn Heights/Fort Greene (13)	47.6%	59.8%	35.1%	25.9%	14.1%
Williamsburg/Greenpoint (14)	42.5%	57.8%	30.2%	27.3%	16.0%
Carroll Gardens/Park Slope/Sunset Park (15)	29.7%	47.5%	23.1%	17.9%	7.7%
Bedford-Stuyvesant (16)	46.1%	53.7%	32.0%	32.8%	31.2%
Crown Heights/Prospect Lefferts Gardens (17)	39.5%	55.3%	24.3%	23.0%	20.8%
East Flatbush/Canarsie (18)	36.7%	54.4%	23.8%	24.2%	18.2%
East New York/Starrett City (19)	45.7%	58.7%	32.6%	32.3%	25.5%
Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights/Borough Park (20)	17.3%	44.8%	14.8%	11.9%	12.0%
Coney Island/Gravesend/Ocean Parkway (21)	30.6%	60.8%	22.4%	20.1%	17.1%
Flatbush/Flatlands/Sheepshead Bay (22)	26.5%	53.9%	18.9%	15.2%	10.5%
Brownsville (23)	52.9%	62.1%	31.3%	37.1%	35.2%
Bushwick (32)	39.0%	58.0%	26.7%	24.3%	25.2%
Queens	**31.0%**	**58.8%**	**20.3%**	**17.8%**	**15.6%**
Sunnyside/Ridgewood/Elmhurst/Corona (24)	22.7%	55.2%	15.6%	12.7%	12.0%
Flushing/Whitestone (25)	24.2%	62.9%	18.6%	15.9%	14.1%
Bayside/Little Neck/Fresh Meadows/Floral Park (26)	22.1%	54.4%	16.8%	11.4%	8.1%
Woodhaven/Ozone Park/Howard Beach (27)	37.8%	60.3%	24.0%	22.1%	15.8%
Rego Park/Forest Hills/Briarwood (28)	32.5%	52.8%	23.5%	18.3%	12.9%
Hollis/Queens Village (29)	32.7%	54.0%	21.3%	18.1%	14.4%
Astoria/Long Island City (30)	21.7%	53.3%	15.3%	14.8%	11.4%
Staten Island	**36.8%**	**61.2%**	**27.3%**	**23.5%**	**12.0%**
Staten Island (31)	36.1%	60.1%	27.3%	22.7%	11.5%
Citywide Special Education (75)	**67.6%**	**74.6%**	**55.2%**	**48.5%**	**38.8%**
Citywide Alternative Schools & Programs (79)	**77.8%**	**81.9%**	**76.4%**	**74.1%**	**64.0%**

Note: Data by school district do not include schools in non-geographic districts so borough and district total percentages may differ. Ns of fewer than 30 students were redacted.

Source: New York City Department of Education, unpublished data tabulated by the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, SY 2014–15.