Last year, 119,320 New York City students—roughly one in every nine children enrolled in the public schools—experienced homelessness.* This record-high figure represents a 14% increase, relative to the 2021–22 school year, in the number of students without a permanent place to call home. It is 4% higher than the previous peak (nearly 115,000 students in temporary housing), which occurred in 2017–18, when overall public school enrollment was 8% higher.

While the recent increase in the number of immigrant families and unaccompanied youth arriving in New York City and entering the shelter system has brought greater public attention to the issue, student homelessness is not a new phenomenon: 2022–23 was the eighth consecutive year in which more than 100,000 New York City public school students experienced homelessness.

Of the 119,320 students who were homeless in 2022–23, 40,840 (34%) spent time living in City shelters; more than 72,500 (61%) were “doubled up,” or temporarily sharing the housing of others because of a loss of housing or economic hardship; and the remaining 5% (about 5,900 students) were living in hotels or motels, unsheltered, or otherwise lacking a regular and adequate nighttime residence.

Across all five boroughs, both the number and percentage of students without permanent housing rose last year. The highest rate of student homelessness continued to be in the Bronx, where approximately one in every six students was homeless in 2022–23. The most significant jump, relative to the 2021–22 school year, was in Queens, where there was a 30% increase in the number of students identified as homeless.

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* Data on students in temporary housing obtained from the New York State Education Department by Advocates for Children; includes both New York City Department of Education (DOE) and charter school students. Enrollment data come from the DOE Demographic Snapshot; district-level counts do not include students enrolled in districts 75 and 79.
While students who are homeless attend school in every district, last year they were especially concentrated in Bronx district 9 (where an estimated 22.2% of students were homeless); Brooklyn districts 23 and 32 (20.2% and 20.1%, respectively); and Manhattan district 4 (19.8%). In other words, around one in every five students in these districts experienced homelessness during the 2022–23 school year. In districts 4 and 23, about one in every ten students spent time in shelter.