

# Student Homelessness

## *in New Hampshire*



Editor's Note: The federal McKinney-Vento Act requires State Education Agencies identify and count the number of homeless children in public schools annually. The numbers are reported by school year (e.g., the 2012-2013 count is from the fall and spring semester of a single school year). To simplify our presentation, we refer to the 2010-2011 school year as 2011, the 2011-2012 school year as 2012, and the 2012-2013 school year as 2013, and so on. Data from 2015 became available from the NH Department of Education in September 2015, and are the most recent data.

— NH DOE Office of Homeless Education

# Homelessness in NH

## Introduction

The McKinney-Vento Act is a landmark piece of legislation designed to ensure children and youth experiencing homelessness receive the same free and appropriate education to which all children in the United States are entitled.<sup>1</sup>

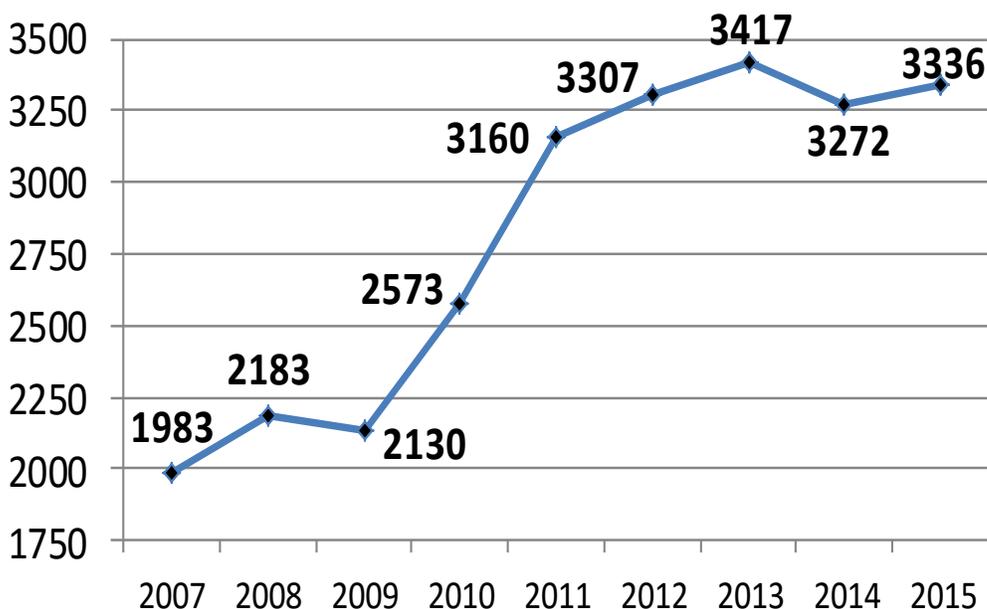
McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons identified more than 1.3 million homeless children and youth during the 2015 school year, including more than 3,300 in New Hampshire.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot on the state of youth homelessness in New Hampshire.



*1 in 56 NH students were identified as homeless in 2015*<sup>3</sup>

## Identified Homeless Students in New Hampshire 2007 to 2015<sup>4</sup>



## Homeless Defined

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

- 42 U.S. Code § 11434a(2)(A)

This includes students living unsheltered, as well as those living doubled-up, in hotels or motels, or in emergency or transitional shelters.

**School districts with the most enrolled homeless students <sup>5</sup>**

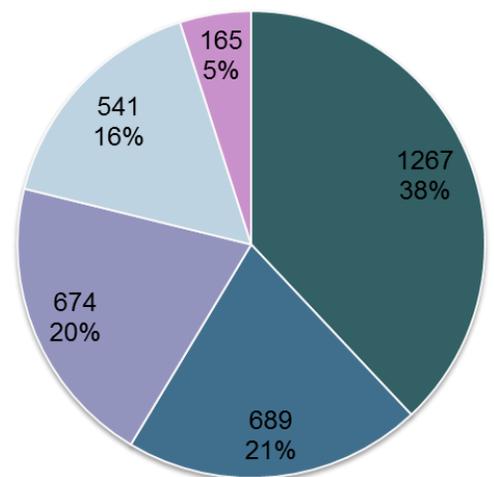
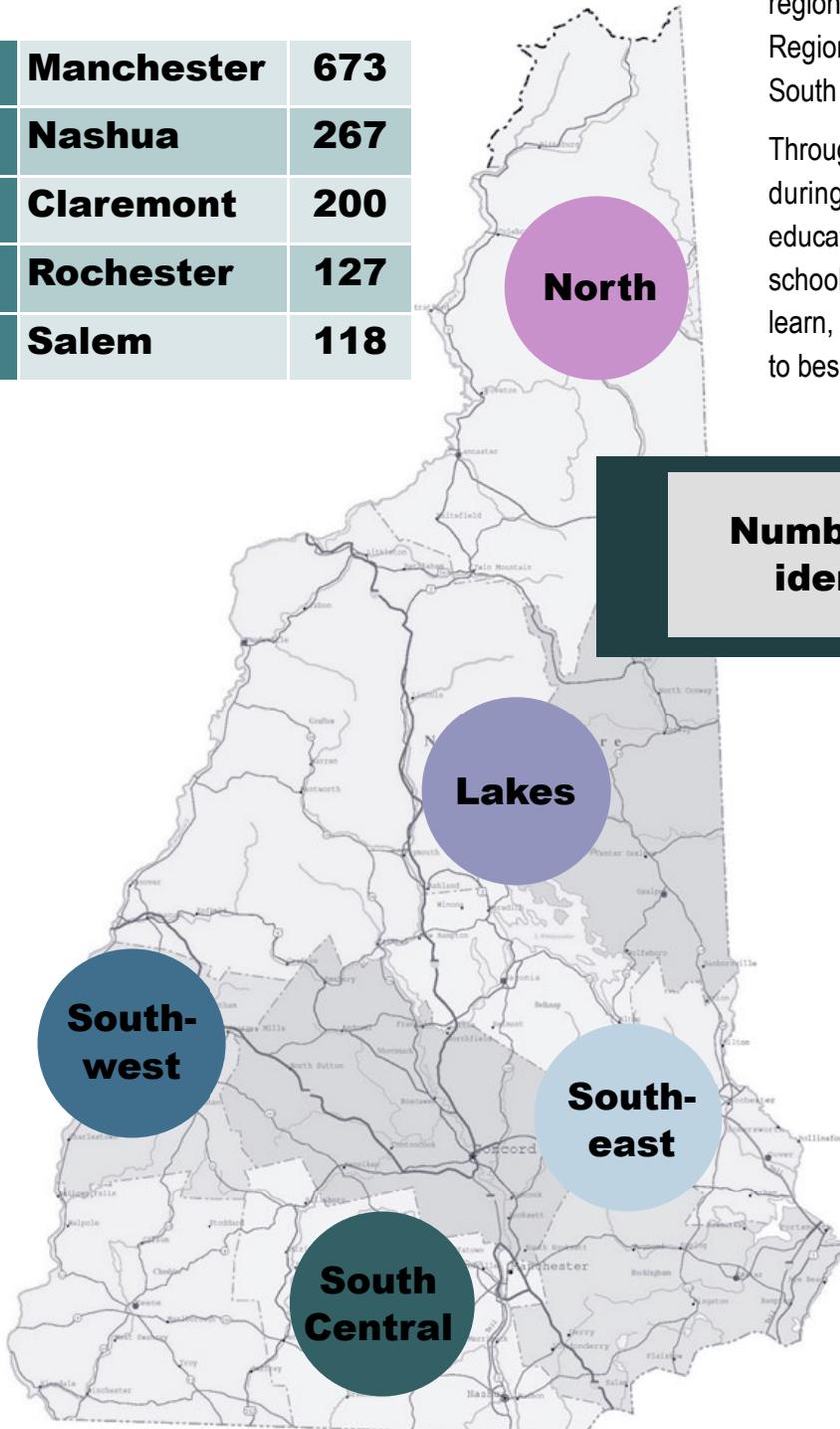
<b>1.</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>673</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Nashua</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Claremont</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Rochester</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Salem</b>	<b>118</b>

**A look at the regions: 2015**

The state of New Hampshire is divided into five regions for McKinney-Vento purposes: Lakes Region, Southeast Region, Southwest Region, South Central Region, and North Country.

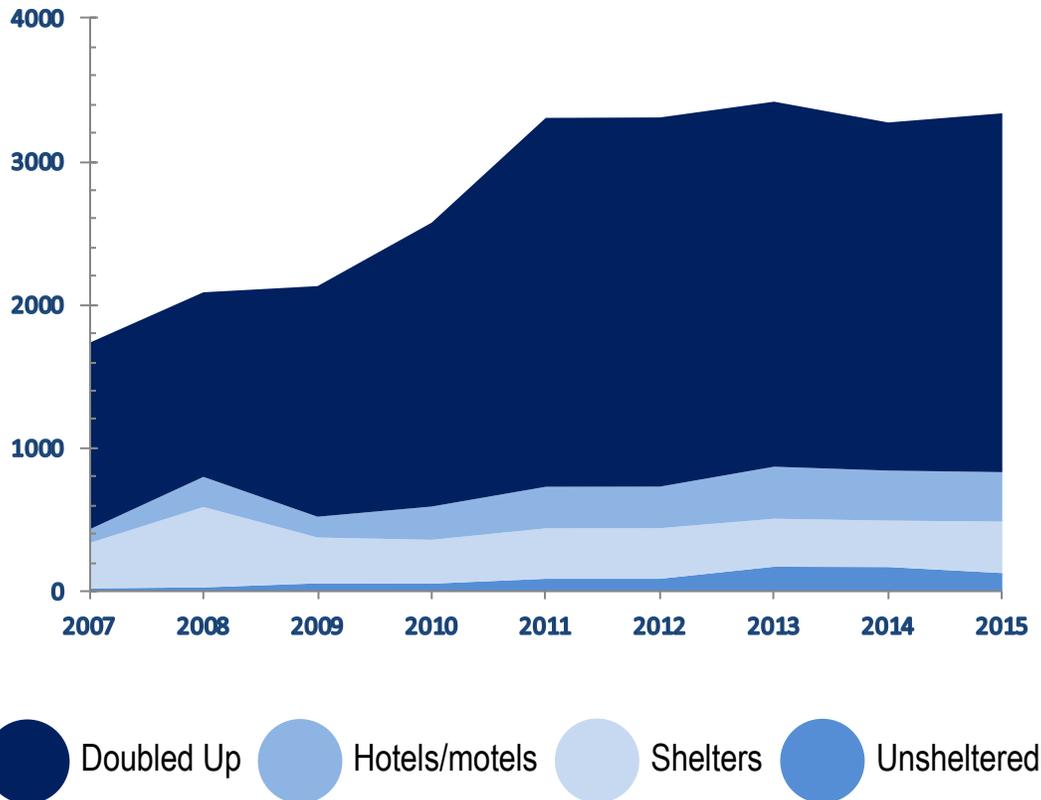
Throughout the year, regional meetings are held during which McKinney-Vento homeless educational liaisons, guidance counselors, school personnel, social workers, and others, learn, share information, and collaborate on how to best meet the needs of homeless youth.

**Number of homeless students identified in each region <sup>6</sup>**



# Housing and Academics

## Student Primary Nighttime Residence 2007 to 2015 <sup>7</sup>



- 75% (2504) of the identified homeless youth in New Hampshire schools in 2015 are children and youth who shared the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, commonly known as doubled up or couch surfing, slightly below the national average of 76%.<sup>8</sup>
- 4% (128) of identified homeless youth went unsheltered, e.g. living in cars, tents, sleeping outdoors, during the 2015 school year, slightly above the national average of 3%.<sup>9</sup>
- 10% (345) of homeless youth in 2015 lived in hotels and motels, above the national average of 6%.<sup>10</sup>
- 11% (359) of homeless youth in 2015 lived in shelters, below the national average of 15%.<sup>11</sup>

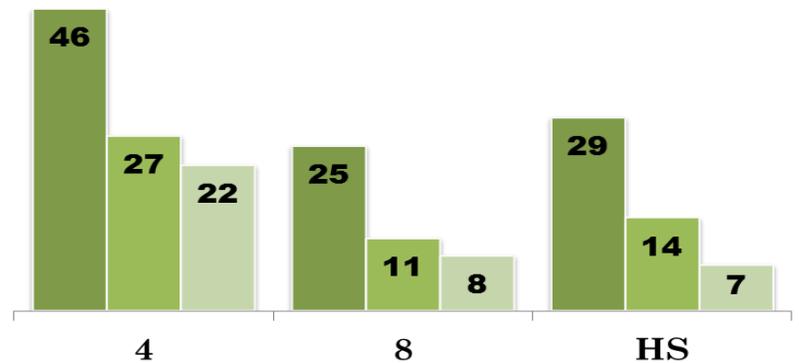
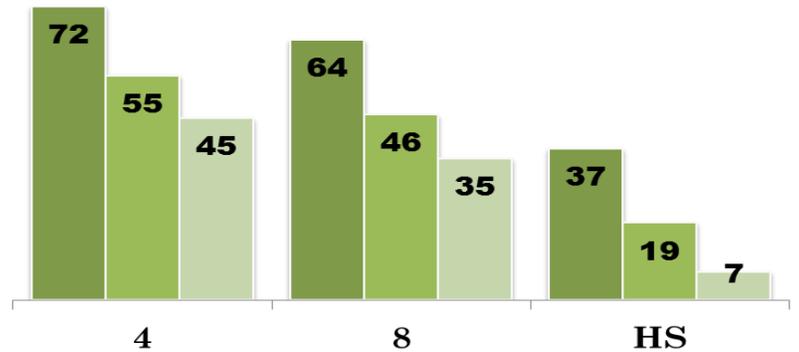
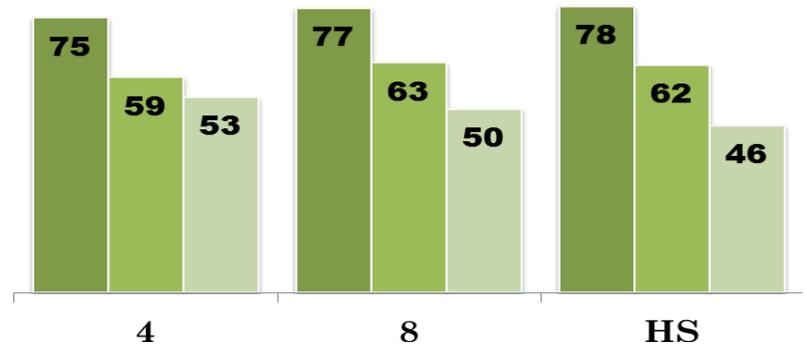
## Homelessness and Academic Outcomes

Students who experience homelessness face a number of challenges to their academic success, including school instability, isolation, and a lack of basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and school supplies.

The impact these challenges have on the academic success of students experiencing homelessness is evident in the proficiency levels of homeless youth, who consistently perform lower across grade level and subject matter than their peers not experiencing homelessness.



## Proficiency Among NH Students 2014 Academic School Year <sup>12</sup>



-  All Students
-  Economically Disadvantaged\*
-  Homeless Students

\*Economically disadvantaged students are those eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or other public assistance.<sup>13</sup>

Endnotes :

1. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987: 42 U.S.C. § 11301 et seq.
2. EDFacts/Consolidated State Performance Report, 2013-14: <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/data-element-explorer.cfm/tab/data/deid/5353/sort/idown/>; Consolidated State Performance Reports, Part I and Part II, New Hampshire, SY 2014-2015 (Submitted)
3. Consolidated State Performance Reports, Part I and Part II, New Hampshire, SY 2014-2015 (Submitted)
4. Consolidated State Performance Reports, Part I and Part II, New Hampshire, SY 2007-2014, 2015 (Submitted)
5. Id.
6. Id.
7. Id.
8. Consolidated State Performance Reports, Part I and Part II, New Hampshire, SY 2014-2015 (Submitted); National Center for Homeless Education, *Federal Data Summary School Years 2011-12 to 2013-14, Education for Homeless Children and Youths*, November 2015, pg.11: <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/data-comp-1112-1314.pdf>
9. Id.
10. Id.
11. Id.
12. Consolidated State Performance Reports, Part I and Part II, New Hampshire, SY 2013-2014
13. Kids Count Data center, *Economically Disadvantaged Students*, 2015: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8224-economically-disadvantaged-students?loc=45&loct=2#detailed/2/any/false/1246,1124,1021,909,857/any/16743,16744>



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