

State-Level Brief Update

A Call for Action:

Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania

February 2024

This brief is brought to you by the Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office and HopePHL, in partnership with Grace Whitney, PhD, MPA, IMHE®.

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A State-Level Brief, Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania
(January 2022)

A State-Level Brief, Participation of Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness in Early Childhood Programs in PA
(July 2023)

This *State-Level Brief Update* highlights key state-level housing, education, and early childhood sector data regarding young children experiencing homelessness and it expands earlier efforts by including data related to young children in foster care. This brief continues and broadens the discussions of earlier *State Level Brief* documents, and it includes in the Appendix more extensive information such as trend data and links to obtain local data. The brief provides templates that can be used by communities to guide data

gathering and planning at the local level and concludes by posing questions to consider as efforts are made, and action is taken to ensure equitable participation of the priority populations of young children experiencing homelessness and young children in foster care in quality early childhood programs.

[Appendix 1](#) contains two templates that can be used by communities to guide the gathering and analyses of available data.

Young Children in Pennsylvania

Although there was a slight increase in births and the number of children under the age of 1 in 2022, data over time indicate a steady decline in the population of young children in Pennsylvania.¹ From 2016 to 2022 the population of infants and toddlers decreased by nearly 7% and the population of preschoolers decreased almost 4%. In

Find additional population data for Pennsylvania and links to obtain local data in [Appendix 2](#).

2022 the population of children in Pennsylvania under the age of 5 was 671,205 and the population of children under age 6 was 812,182, and while quality early childhood programs for preschool-aged children are more plentiful, in 2022 there were 121,165 more infants and toddlers than preschoolers in the Commonwealth, or 396,185 children ages birth to 3 compared to 275,020 children ages 3 and 4 years old.² Notable is that in 2014 it was projected that the number of children younger than 5 would reach 750,166 by

¹ Data source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Total Births in Pennsylvania and Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* (last updated July 2023), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](https://www.aecf.org). Retrieved October 10, 2023

² Data source: Same as above.

2020, however the actual population that year for this age group was 689,299, or 8% less than anticipated.³ These shifts in population may offer opportunities to modify the design of early childhood systems, and these data can be helpful in efforts to increase responsiveness to the needs of young children experiencing homelessness and young children in foster care within the broader context of early childhood service capacity to promote school readiness.

Young Children Living in Poverty in Pennsylvania

Data consistently show that young children are more likely to live in poverty and in extreme poverty than children ages 6 to 17. **In 2022, 125,360 children under age 6 were reported to be living below 100% of poverty in Pennsylvania⁴**, or 16% of young children compared to 15% of children ages 0-17.⁵ Further, data suggest that at least 9% of young children may be living in extreme poverty, or below 50% of poverty.⁶ At the time of this writing, data on extreme poverty for young children as a subgroup was last available in 2018⁷ which is unfortunate since extreme poverty is associated with a greater risk of both homelessness and foster care.

Find additional poverty data for Pennsylvania and links to obtain local data in [Appendix 3](#).

Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania

It has been estimated that perhaps 3% of infants and toddlers experience homelessness.⁸ It has also been reported that the percentage of young children experiencing homelessness prior to school entry increased from 5% to 6% from school years 2013-14 to

Find additional information and links to obtain local data from Pennsylvania's ECYEH program [Appendix 4](#).

³ Data source: Pennsylvania State Data Center, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Population Projections – Estimated Number of Children and Young Adults (Age 0-24) by Age Group in Pennsylvania* (last updated October 2014), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](#). Retrieved October 10, 2023

⁴ Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Poverty Level – Population (Birth to age 5) in Pennsylvania* (last updated September 2023), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](#). Retrieved October 19, 2023

⁵ Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in Poverty in Pennsylvania* (last updated September 2023), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](#). Retrieved October 19, 2023

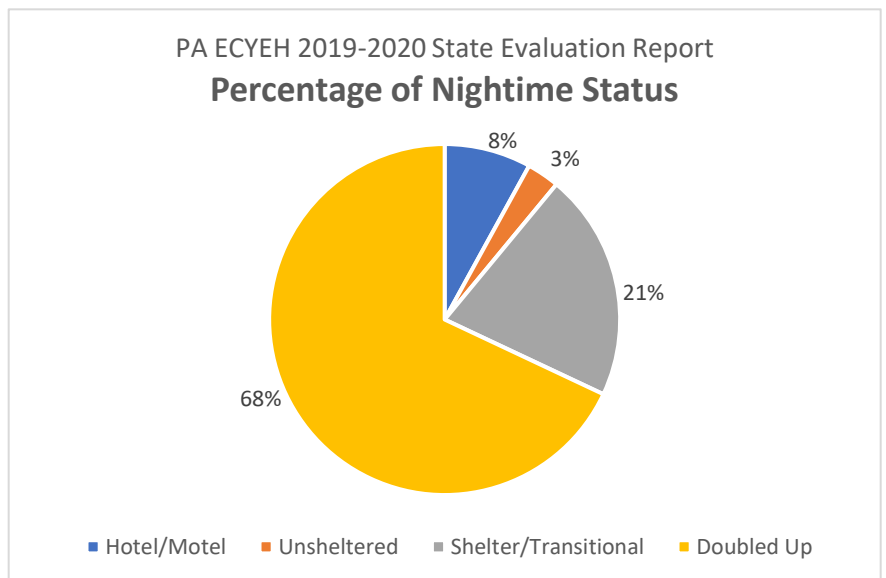
⁶ Data source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in Extreme Poverty in Pennsylvania* (last updated September 2022), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](#). Retrieved June 6, 2023

⁷ Data source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in extreme poverty (50% of poverty) in Pennsylvania*, [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](#). Retrieved July 12, 2021. Data by age for years after 2018 and report by age unavailable.

⁸ SchoolHouse Connection. (November 2022) *Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness*. Washington, DC: SchoolHouse Connection. <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/infant-and-toddler-homelessness/>.

2017-18.⁹ This same report estimated that **in Pennsylvania the percentage of children under age 6 experiencing homelessness increased from 2% in 2013-14 to 4% in 2017-18, or from 20,638 to 29,659 young children.**¹⁰ It is unclear just how many young children experience homelessness, however, since comprehensive and timely data are unavailable and definitions vary, so estimates must be used with caution.

The source of perhaps the most extensive data on young children experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania can be obtained from Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) programs which gather data by school district on the number of children **identified** as experiencing homelessness. ECYEH is required to collect and submit data to the US Department of Education and the data is used to compile the state profile reports. **For the 2021-2022 school year, 6,760 children under age 5 (not yet in kindergarten) were identified as experiencing homelessness by ECYEH,**¹¹ far fewer than what estimates would suggest. The figure *Percentage of Nighttime Status*¹² shows how children's nighttime settings vary hindering identification especially for young children. The vast majority are living temporarily in the homes of others. In fact, for the 2019-20 school year, 68% of children identified as experiencing homelessness were living doubled-up with others. This same report found that only about 20% of identified children were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.



⁹ Data source: US Department of Education. (2020). *Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles: 2013-14 to 2017-18*. Washington, DC: US Department of Education. Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development Office of the Chief Data Officer. www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles-2020-a.pdf

¹⁰ Data source: Same as above.

¹¹ Data source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. (May 2023). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2021-22 State Evaluation Report.

¹² Pennsylvania Department of Education. (August 2021). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2019-20 State Evaluation Report.

Additional data on children staying in sheltered and transitional housing programs is gathered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD collects data from its Continuum of Care (CoC) programs in local communities across the nation for its Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. HUD's AHAR Part 1 is published each year and Part 2, which contains information about the age of those participating in their programs, is published less frequently. The most recent AHAR Part 2 reports that nationally, children under age 6 made up 29% of all persons in sheltered family households in both 2019 and 2020, representing almost a third of all those in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs despite this age group making up less than 15% of the total US population.¹³

Although not automatically aggregated and reported out by state, in 2022 the 16 Continuums of Care **in Pennsylvania** were contacted to obtain their data by age as reported to HUD. Thirteen of Pennsylvania's CoCs responded.¹⁴ Survey results showed that in the year 2021, **6,074 children under age 6 were served by shelters and**

Find links to contact Continuums of Care in Pennsylvania to obtain additional information and local data in [Appendix 5](#).

transitional housing, or 42% of all children ages birth to 17 in shelters and transitional housing. Note that young children and families also receive temporary or emergency housing through HUD-funded Diversion and Rapid Rehousing programs, intimate partner/domestic violence programs, and recovery programs, but their data are not included in this brief.



¹³ 2019-2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress PART 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States (July 2022), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-2.pdf>

¹⁴ Jung, J, Cutuli, J.J., and Willard, J. (October 2022) Childhood Homelessness in Pennsylvania. Nemours Children's Health and HopePhL. www.phila.gov/media/20221117095314/Childhood-Homelessness-in-Pennsylvania.pdf

Young Children in Foster Care in Pennsylvania

Inadequate housing is the most influential factor affecting the out-of-home placement of children.¹⁵ As noted earlier, the total population of young children in the Commonwealth has declined in recent years as has the number of young children in foster care. At the same time, young children are making up an increasingly larger portion of children in foster care overall. **In 2021, 3,420 children under age 6 entered foster care, or 47% of all children entering foster care**¹⁶ and of the total of 13,636 children birth to age 20 who were in foster care in 2021, 5,549 were children under the age of 6, or 41% of all children in foster care in Pennsylvania.¹⁷ The number of young children in foster care was less than 1% (0.68%) of the total population of young children. Though not specific to children younger than 6, in 2020-2022 an additional 67,000 children birth to age 18 were placed in kinship care¹⁸ with relatives or friends often lacking categorical eligibility for support or priority enrollment into early childhood programs.

Find additional information, data, and links to local foster care contacts in Pennsylvania in [Appendix 6](#).

Early Childhood and Early Learning Programs in Pennsylvania

Despite the current challenges to sustaining quality early childhood systems due to the recent pandemic, funding limitations, and staffing concerns, the field of early childhood/early learning has grown tremendously over the past two decades, most notably with the expansion of federally supported Head Start and child care, and considerable state investments in prekindergarten and supplements to federal Head Start and child care programs. While there has not been the same expansion of early intervention services (Part B/preschool and Part C/infants and toddlers of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA), evidence-based home visiting programs for families of infants and toddlers have also expanded due to federal, state

Find additional information, data, and links to local early learning contacts in Pennsylvania in [Appendix 7](#).

¹⁵ Choi, M. (2017). The effects of economic factors on the out-of-home placement for maltreated children. *Children and Youth Services Review*, (81), 40-53.

¹⁶ Data source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children entering foster care by age group in Pennsylvania*, Updated April 2023. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](#). Retrieved August 25, 2023.

¹⁷ Data source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in foster care by age group in Pennsylvania*, Updated April 2023. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](#). Retrieved August 25, 2023.

¹⁸ Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in kinship care in Pennsylvania*. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](#). Retrieved January 11, 2023

and foundation financial support. Each of these components of the early childhood system aim to ensure children’s health and readiness for school while additionally supporting young families, often using intentional outreach strategies, priority enrollment, accommodations, and supports that ensure access and overcome persistent barriers to enrolment and ongoing participation.

As stated earlier, in 2022 there were 671,205 children under age 5 in Pennsylvania, which included 396,185 infants and toddlers (under age 3) and 275,020 preschool aged children (ages 3 and 4).¹⁹ During this period the number of young children by age group participating in each of the principal early childhood programs is displayed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Participation of young children in early childhood programs in Pennsylvania in 2022 (2021-2022)

	Infants and Toddlers	Preschoolers	Total Young Children
Total PA population < age 5	396,185	275,020	671,205
Number participating in Early Head Start and Head Start (includes federal and state supplemental) ²⁰	8,979	24,991	33,970
Number participating in Child Care Works/CCDF Child Care Subsidy ²¹	26,508	45,280	71,788
• No STARS, STARS 1 & 2	16,113	24,742	40,855
• STARS 3 & 4 (High Quality)	10,395	20,538	30,933
Number participating in PreK Counts ²²	0	30,210	30,210
Number receiving EI/Early Intervention ²³	46,254	59,106	105,360
Number participating in Home Visiting ²⁴	7,719	4,400	12,119

¹⁹ Data source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Total Births in Pennsylvania and Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* (last updated July 2023), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](https://www.aecf.org/). Retrieved October 10, 2023

²⁰ Data source: Office of Head Start. Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report for 2021-2022. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

²¹ Data source: OCDEL, PELICAN, SFY 2021-2022

²² Same as above.

²³ Same as above.

²⁴ Pennsylvania Family Support Data Collection System, SFY 2021-2022.

Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania

Since actual data are unavailable, figures were calculated for the total number of young children experiencing homelessness and in foster care using population data and the suggested estimate of 3% of children under age 5 experiencing homelessness and the actual percentage of 0.68% of children under age 6 in foster care and these figures appear in [Table 2](#). Available data from the various early childhood sectors have been gathered. Note the different levels of participation for young children experiencing homelessness and foster care reflected in the data.

Table 2. Participation of young children experiencing homelessness and in foster care in early childhood programs in Pennsylvania in 2022 (2021-2022)

	Children Identified as Experiencing Homelessness	Children in Foster Care
Estimate of number of infants, toddlers, preschoolers (< age 5)	>20,000*	>4,500**
Number participating in Early Head Start/ Head Start (includes federal and state supplemental) ²⁵	2,003	1,146
Number participating in Child Care Works/CCDF Child Care Subsidy ²⁶	573	2,165
• No STARS, STARS 1 & 2	348	1,089
• STARS 3 & 4 (high quality)	225	1,076
Number participating in PA Pre-K Counts ²⁷	101	314
Number receiving EI/Early Intervention ²⁸		
• Infant and toddler	90	1,011
• Preschool	110	567
Number participating in Home Visiting ²⁹	266	Data not collected.

NOTES:

*The number of children experiencing homelessness was calculated using the suggested 3% of the population of children under age 5 in 2022, or 3% of 671,205 which equals 20,136.

**The number of children in foster care was calculated using the actual 0.68% of children under the age of 6 in 2022 with the population of children under the age of 5, or 0.68% of 671,205 which equals 4,564.

²⁵ Data source: Office of Head Start. Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report for 2021-2022. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

²⁶ Data source: OCDEL, PELICAN, SFY 2021-2022.

²⁷ Same as above.

²⁸ Same as above.

²⁹ Pennsylvania Family Support Data Collection System, SFY 2021-2022.

As illustrated in Tables 1 and 2, information on young children experiencing homelessness and in foster care is available from several sources with considerable variation in how data items are defined, collected, and reported. The descriptions above have included specific references to the age groups used, with some using children prior to age 5 and others using children prior to age 6 as representing young children. Not fully captured is that definitions vary, with some data based on just those children housed in emergency shelter or



transitional housing programs, some data based on the broader McKinney-Vento definition, and still others, like home visiting having definitions that may vary across models used. Also, data varies by reporting period which may be based on the calendar year, fiscal year or school year. All must be taken into consideration.

For children in out-of-home care, the data available vary for those in formal foster care compared with those in less structured kinship care although this difference in status, or type of out-of-home care, is key in determining eligibility for and access to supports for children and their foster or kinship caregivers.

Finally, conditions during the pandemic have influenced protocol overall, with some data sets omitting whole years of data. Thus, care must be taken in interpretation. However, when considered together, these data sets can be helpful to better understand the scope of need and they can be useful for planning purposes.

Participation of Young Children by Family Income in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania

In addition to prioritizing young children experiencing homelessness and young children in foster care, publicly funded and subsidized early childhood programs prioritize children and families with lower household incomes. [Table 3](#) contains data on the number of children in Pennsylvania living below and above 100% of poverty and, as available, the number of young children participating in early learning

programs by family income. Note that for Head Start, additional categories of eligibility are used which do not take income into account thus totals omit these families.

Table 3. Participation of young children served in early childhood programs by income group in Pennsylvania in 2022 (2021-2022)

	<100% Poverty	>100% Poverty
Total number of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers (< age 5)	125,360	545,845
Number participating in Early Head Start/ Head Start (includes federal and state supplemental) ³⁰	20,937	3,040
**Number participating in Child Care Works/CCDF Child Care Subsidy ³¹	27,811	43,977
• No STARS, STARS 1 & 2	16,599	24,256
• STARS 3 & 4 (high quality)	11,212	19,721
**Number participating in PA Pre-K Counts ³²	11,713	18,497
Number receiving EI/Early Intervention ³³	Income data unavailable	Income data unavailable
**Number participating in Home Visiting ³⁴	6,980	3,494

NOTES:

*Source: Head Start Program Information Report 2021-2022: Income is used to determine eligibility at enrollment and represents income at that time. Eligibility criteria includes additional categories public assistance, foster care, homeless, 'other' and incomes between 100 % and 130% of poverty. 'Incomes between 100 % and 130% of poverty' is used for '> 100% poverty' in Table 3.

**Source: PELICAN, SFY 2021-22. Table 1: Numbers represent a distinct count of cumulative children served for the entire SFY 2021-22.

Child Care Works (CCW): Table 1: Care level and STAR level reference the child's last month of enrollment in the SFY. Children with more than one enrollment at both quality levels in their last month of enrollment in the SFY were counted in only the High-Quality category. Table 2: Children were counted as homeless if they were indicated as homeless in SFY 2021-22 or prior SFYs. Children were counted in foster care if they were indicated as being in foster care in any month in the SFY. Table 3: Poverty data are based on the child's last month of enrollment in the SFY. Federal HHS Poverty Guidelines are established yearly and updated in the PELICAN CCW system in February/March.

PA Pre-K Counts: Homelessness, foster care, and income are some of the risk factors used to determine eligibility at the local level and are collected at the time of the application. Therefore, this data represents a point in time at the start of the child's enrollment.

Home Visiting: Numbers reflect all state and federal funded EBHV in Pennsylvania, including the following models: Early Head Start - Home Based Option (EHS), Family Check-up (FCU), Healthy Families America (HFA), Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), Parents as Teachers (PAT), and SafeCare Augmented (SCA). The numbers in Table 3 do not add up to the same total from Table 1. This is because the children missing from Table 3 do not have complete data to determine poverty level. Caregivers have the option to decline to report their household income/number of people in the household.

³⁰ Data source: Office of Head Start. Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report for 2021-2022. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

³¹ Data source: OCDEL, PELICAN, SFY 2021-2022

³² Same as above.

³³ Same as above.

³⁴ Pennsylvania Family Support Data Collection System, SFY 2021-2022.

Additional Considerations Related to the Participation of Young Children in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania

As data are gathered and reviewed, important to consider are several questions:

- Are there ways to improve data accuracy and confidence in data interpretation?
- What do the data reveal regarding the different challenges and opportunities based on age cohorts, re: infants and toddlers versus preschool-aged children? How may capacity be disproportionate to demand, what are population trends saying, and is there opportunity to rethink designs for capacity and service type to better serve priority populations?
- Where are other aspects of inequity, like race, ethnicity, and privilege interacting with homelessness, poverty, and family? Does income over 100% or 200% of poverty result in greater access?
- Are there clarifications needed to better understand the intersection of early childhood and housing, and of early childhood and out-of-home care such as barriers caused by varying definitions and eligibility criteria, adequate training of staff on these variations, and is there sufficient collaboration to ensure ease of equal access to early learning for children facing adversity? Note especially the inconsistencies that can result from using different definitions for ‘homeless’ or for the different settings of foster versus kinship care.
- How can barriers to access, e.g., transportation, application processes, etc. be addressed?
- How might the COVID pandemic have impacted trends in the data and thus need to be considered in interpretation and future planning?

These and other considerations will be key to effective planning and action.

Concluding Comments/ Opportunities Ahead

The purpose of this document is to encourage discussion at the community level. The brief contains data sets and sources and presents examples of data analyses to guide the gathering and analysis of data. The templates in [Appendix 1](#) can help organize the data, and [Appendices 2](#) through [7](#) contain links to obtain the data. In the end it will be the work of each community to determine next steps to address the challenges presented with *a call for action*.



Appendices

Appendix 1.

- [Template A](#) – *Trends Related to Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in My Community*
- [Template B](#) – *Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in Early Childhood Programs in My Community*

[Appendix 2.](#) *Population Data - Young Children in Pennsylvania*

[Appendix 3.](#) *Poverty Data - Young Children in Pennsylvania*

[Appendix 4.](#) *Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania as Reported by the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH)*

[Appendix 5.](#) *Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania as Reported by Continuums of Care*

[Appendix 6.](#) *Young Children in Foster Care in Pennsylvania*

[Appendix 7.](#) *Participation of Priority Populations in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania*



Appendix 1. Template A

Trends Related to Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in My Community

Check one: Under age 3 Ages 3-5 Under age 5

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Contact, Source, Notes*, etc.
Population in my community						
Number in poverty (check one) <input type="radio"/> < 50% <input type="radio"/> <100%						
Number identified by ECYEH						
Number served by Continuum of Care						
Number in foster care						

*Notes can highlight caution in data interpretation due to variations in definitions used or levels of training in using definitions; different time periods, e.g., federal fiscal year, state fiscal year, school year, calendar year, monthly or point-in-time reflected; variations in age cohorts; etc.

Appendix 1. Template B

Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in Early Childhood Programs in My Community

Check one: Under age 3 Ages 3 & 4 Under age 5

Population in my community: _____

Year: _____	Experiencing Homelessness (est. 3% of population)	Foster Care (est. 0.68% of population)	Poverty (actual)	Notes*
Number of children in my community				
Number of children participating in Early Head Start/Head Start				
Number of children participating in Child Care Works/Child Care Subsidy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STARS 0, 1 & 2 • STARS 3 & 4 				
Number of children under age 5 participating in PA Pre-K Counts (preschool-age only)				
Number of children participating in Early Intervention				
Number of children participating in Home Visiting				

*Notes can highlight caution in data interpretation due to variations in definitions used or levels of training in using definitions; different time periods, e.g., federal fiscal year, state fiscal year, school year, calendar year, monthly or point-in-time reflected; variations in age cohorts; etc.

Appendix 2. Population Data - Young Children in Pennsylvania

Examining population trends for young children, both by single age and by cohort, is critical for planning purposes. Population data is gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau, and it is continually analyzed and reported by national and state entities focused on the needs of children and families.

The link to the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Book for data at the **state level** is:

www.aecf.org/interactive/databook

Links to recent Pennsylvania Partnership for Children “State of the Child” data **by county** are:

www.papartnerships.org/report/state-of-the-child-2020/

www.papartnerships.org/report/state-of-the-child-2019/

Additional data for discussion and consideration are below:

Appendix 2. Table 1. Total births in Pennsylvania 2015-2021.³⁵

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Births	141,047	139,409	137,745	135,673	134,230	130,693	132,622

Appendix 2. Table 2. Child population by single age and age groups in Pennsylvania 2016-2022.³⁶

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<1	140,009	137,312	137,090	134,272	133,055	129,283	131,552
1	141,997	141,005	138,488	137,949	134,596	134,230	130,017
2	142,970	142,869	141,737	139,206	138,101	135,505	134,616
3	143,080	143,882	143,688	142,411	140,080	138,653	135,996
4	143,607	143,765	144,586	144,049	143,467	140,606	139,024
TOTAL 0-4	710,663	708,833	705,589	697,887	689,299	678,277	671,205

5	144,441	144,120	144,353	145,063	145,025	143,812	140,977
TOTAL 0-5	856,104	852,953	849,942	842,950	834,324	822,089	812,182

Appendix 2. Table 2. Cont’d. Child population by single age and age groups in Pennsylvania 2016-2022.³⁷

TOTAL <1, 1 & 2	424,976	421,186	417,315	411,427	405,752	399,018	396,185
TOTAL 3 & 4	285,687	287,647	288,274	286,460	283,547	279,259	275,020
TOTAL 3, 4 & 5	431,128	431,767	432,627	431,523	428,572	423,071	415,997

TOTAL 0-4	710,663	708,833	705,589	697,887	689,299	678,277	671,205
Change		-.23%	-.46%	-1.09%	-1.23%	-1.60%	-1.04%

³⁵ Data source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Total Births in Pennsylvania* [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](http://www.aecf.org). Retrieved October 10, 2023.

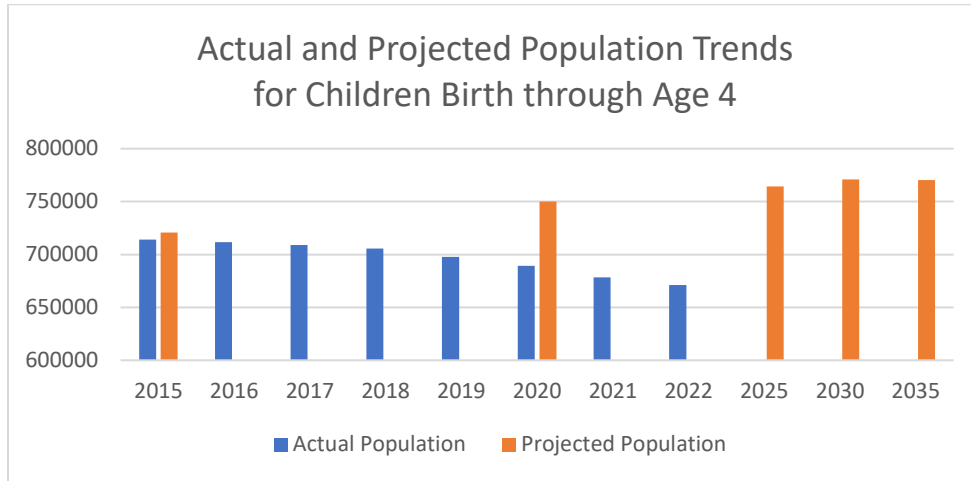
³⁶ Data source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau (last updated July 2023) cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](http://www.aecf.org). Retrieved October 10, 2023

³⁷ Data source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau (last updated July 2023) cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](http://www.aecf.org). Retrieved October 10, 2023

Appendix 2. Table 3. Child population and population projections by age in Pennsylvania for 2015-2022.³⁸

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Actual child population 0-4	714,005	689,299	NA	NA	NA
Child population projection 0-4	720,760	750,166	764,374	770,801	770,312

Appendix 2. Figure 1. Child actual population and population projections by age for Pennsylvania for 2015-2022.³⁹



³⁸ Data source: Actual population calculated using data from Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau (last updated July 2023) and population projections from Pennsylvania Data Center (last updated 2014) cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](https://www.aecf.org/research/child-population-by-single-age-in-pennsylvania). Retrieved October 10, 2023.

³⁹ Data source: Actual population from Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau (last updated July 2023) and population projections from Pennsylvania Data Center (last updated 2014) cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](https://www.aecf.org/research/child-population-by-single-age-in-pennsylvania). Retrieved October 10, 2023.

Appendix 3. Poverty Data - Young Children in Pennsylvania

Early learning programs are often designed to address the needs of young children whose families have incomes below federal poverty due to the multiple risks associated with poverty. Young children are disproportionately represented among all children and all individuals living in poverty. Examining poverty data can be helpful in designing early learning programs to address the impacts of poverty and promote overall child wellness and readiness for entry into school.

The link to the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Book for data at the **state level** is:

- www.aecf.org/interactive/databook

The links to recent Pennsylvania Partnership for Children “State of the Child” data **by county** are:

- www.papartnerships.org/report/state-of-the-child-2020/
- www.papartnerships.org/report/state-of-the-child-2019/

Additional data for discussion and consideration are below:

Appendix 3. Table 1. Children 0-5 poverty in Pennsylvania 2016-2022.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number/Percent < 200% poverty ⁴⁰	334,940 40%	329,920 40%	315,950 38%	318,580 39%	-- --	294,380 37%	278,730 36%
Number/Percent < 100% poverty ⁴¹	167,730 20%	162,960 20%	145,990 18%	143,020 17%	-- --	145,120 18%	125,360 16%
Number/Percent < 50% poverty ⁴²	89,045 10%	83,865 10%	81,480 9%	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --

Appendix 3. Table 2. Children 0-5 and 0-17 living in poverty in Pennsylvania 2016-2022.⁴³

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Percent 0-5 <200%	40%	40%	38%	39%	--	37%	36%
Percent 0-17 <200%	38%	36%	36%	37%	--	35%	--

Appendix 3. Table 2. Cont’d. Children 0-5 and 0-17 living in poverty in Pennsylvania 2016-2022.⁴⁴

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Percent 0-5 <100%	20%	20%	18%	17%	--	18%	16%
Percent 0-17 <100%	19%	17%	17%	17%	--	17%	15%

Percent 0-5 <50%	10%	10%	9%	--	--	--	--
Percent 0-17 <50%	8%	8%	8%	8%	--	9%	--

⁴⁰ Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Poverty Level – Population (Birth to age 5) in Pennsylvania and Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* (last updated September 2023), [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](http://www.aecf.org). Retrieved October 10, 2023

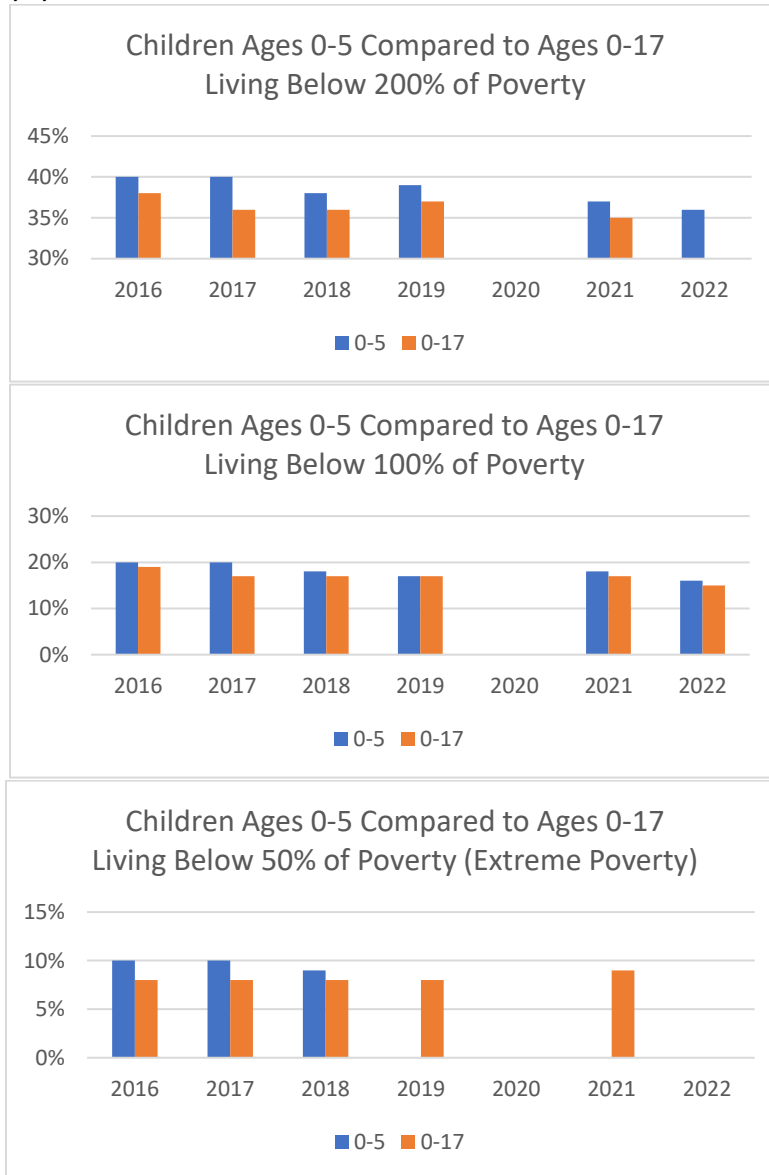
⁴¹ Data sources: Same as above.

⁴² Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in extreme poverty (50% of poverty) in Pennsylvania*, [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](https://datacenter.aecf.org/). Retrieved July 12, 2021. Note: Data for <50% (extreme poverty) by age cohort, e.g., 0-5, unavailable after 2018.

⁴³ Data sources: For age 0-5 same as above with percentages rounded. For ages 0-17 data is from U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>. Retrieved June 2, 2023.

⁴⁴ Data sources: For age 0-5 same as above with percentages rounded. For ages 0-17 data is from U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>. Retrieved June 2, 2023.

Appendix 3. Figures 1, 2, & 3.



Appendix 4. Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania as Reported by the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH)

The Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) programs serve as the central point of contact for educational services in local communities, provide a structure for the coordination of services, gather data to report to the US Department of Education, and publish **state level** and **district/county level data** annually in their State Evaluation Reports.

Link to PA ECYEH website: ecyeh.center-school.org/.

Link to regional ECYEH websites: directory.center-school.org/homeless/contacts/display

Links to ECYEH data for each of the 8 regions by grade for 2016-17 to 2021-22 and extensive information on the ECYEH program are below:

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (June 2019). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2017-2018. State Evaluation Report. www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Reports/2017-18%20Pennsylvania%20ECYEH%20State%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (March 2020). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2018-2019. State Evaluation Report. www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Reports/2018-19%20%20ECYEH%20State%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (August 2021). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2019-2020. State Evaluation Report. www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Reports/2020-21%20ECYEH%20State%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (May 2022). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2020-2021. State Evaluation Report. www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Reports/2020-21%20ECYEH%20State%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (May 2023). Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2021-2022. State Evaluation Report. www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Reports/2021-22%20ECYEH%20State%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf

PA's ECYEH program has Regional Coordinators and designated Local Liaisons in each school district who implement the federal www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html

Education for Homeless Children and Youth program under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which requires identification of students experiencing homelessness including preschool children. Data in Table 1 below show the distribution of the number of students in the Commonwealth identified as experiencing homelessness in school years 2017-2018 through 2021-2022. Data for each grade for each of the eight regions is available in the ECYEH evaluation reports listed above.

Appendix 4. Table 1 Children identified by ECYEH Programs 2016-17 to 2021-22

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
All children identified thru grade 12	36,823	39,221	37,930	32,666	40,003
1 st grade	2,800	2,608	2,756	2,226	2,558
Kindergarten	2,552	2,685	2,512	1,628	2,368
Pre-K	1,236	1,656	1,205	1,290	1,346
Ages 3-5 not in PreK	1,513	1,959	1,862	1,935	2,036
Birth to age 2	3,450	4,636	3,803	2,814	3,378

Appendix 5. Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania as Reported by Continuums of Care in Pennsylvania

Continuums of Care provide for the coordination of housing services in local communities, serve as central points of entry, and **gather and report data** through their HMIS data management system to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its annual reports to Congress (AHAR).

Pennsylvania Continuums of Care are listed below by the link to their local websites:

[PA-500 - Philadelphia CoC](#)

[PA-501 - Harrisburg/Dauphin County CoC](#)

[PA-502 - Upper Darby, Chester, Haverford/Delaware County CoC](#)

[PA-503 - Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton/Luzerne County CoC](#)

[PA-504 - Lower Merion, Norristown, Abington/Montgomery County CoC](#)

[PA-505 - Chester County CoC](#)

[PA-506 - Reading/Berks County CoC](#)

[PA-508 - Scranton/Lackawanna County CoC](#)

[PA-509 - Eastern Pennsylvania CoC](#)

[PA-510 - Lancaster City and County CoC](#)

[PA-511 - Bristol, Bensalem/Bucks County CoC](#)

[PA-512 - York City and County CoC](#)

[PA-600 - Pittsburgh, McKeesport, Penn Hills/Allegheny County CoC](#)

[PA-601 - Western Pennsylvania CoC](#)

[PA-603 - Beaver County CoC](#)

[PA-605 - Erie City and County CoC](#)

Links to the AHAR Part 2 documents released most recently by HUD are below:

- The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress PART 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States (October 2016). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.
www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2015-AHAR-Part-2.pdf
- The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress PART 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States (September 2020). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.
www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2018-AHAR-Part-2.pdf
- The 2019-2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress PART 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States (July 2022). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.
www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-2.pdf

Below are recent AHAR data for comparison purposes:

Appendix 5. Table 1. Children as a percent of all persons in sheltered families

	2018	2019	2020
Children ages 0-5 (6-year span)	30%	29%	29%
Children ages 6-17 (12-year span)	32%	32%	32%
Adults ages 18 to over 65 (50+ year span)	38%	39%	39%

Data sources: (2018 AHAR p.3-5) (2019 and 2020 AHAR p.3-4)

Appendix 5. Table 2. Children 0-5 in sheltered families compared to children 0-5 in US

	2018	2019	2020
Children ages 0-5 in shelter	30%	29%	29%
Children ages 0-5 in poverty in US	19%	19%	18%
Children ages 0-5 in all US families	15%	15%	15%

Data sources: (2018 AHAR p.3-5) (2019-2020 AHAR p.3-4)

Appendix 5. Table 3. Children 0-17 in sheltered families compared to children 0-17 in US

	2018	2019	2020
Children ages 6-17 in shelter	32%	32%	32%
Children ages 6-17 in poverty in US	36%	36%	32%
Children ages 6-17 in all US families	32%	32%	36%

Data sources: (2018 AHAR p.3-5) (2019-2020 AHAR p.3-4)

Appendix 6. Young Children in Foster Care in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Child Welfare System is state supervised, and county administered. Every county has a designated Children and Youth Services Agency that organizes and manages the child welfare services that are available in that county. Foster care data does not capture all separations since many children will live with relatives or friends not formally designated as foster parents.

Links to Department of Human Services regional Children, Youth and Families Offices:

www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Regional-OCYF-Offices.aspx

Links to Directory of Children, Youth and Families SERVICES by county:

www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/About/Documents/c_260653.pdf

Links to **state level** and **county level data**:

Pennsylvania Child Protective Services 2021 Annual Report

www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/OCYF/Documents/2021-CPS-REPORT_FINAL.pdf

Pennsylvania Partnership 2022 State of Child Care Report with data by county

www.papartnerships.org/report/report-2022-state-of-child-welfare-september-2022/

Additional data for comparison and discussion:

Appendix 6. Table 1. Young child population in Pennsylvania 2016-2022.⁴⁵

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total child population ages <1, 1 & 2	421,186	417,315	411,427	405,752	399,018
Total child population ages 3, 4 & 5	431,767	432,627	431,523	428,572	423,071
Total child population ages 0-6	852,953	849,942	842,950	834,324	822,089

Appendix 6. Table 2. Young children in Pennsylvania in foster care

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All children ages 0-6 ⁴⁶	852,953	849,942	842,950	834,324	822,089
Children 0-6 entering foster care ⁴⁷	4,638	4,315	4,152	3,277	3,420
Children 0-6 in foster care ⁴⁸	6,513	6,269	6,051	5,697	5,549

⁴⁵ Data source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau (last updated July 2023) cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Child population by single age in Pennsylvania* [The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](https://www.aecf.org). Retrieved October 10, 2023

⁴⁶ Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Child population by single age*, Updated July 2023. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](https://www.kidscountdatacenter.org). Retrieved August 25, 2023. Note that slight variations in data compared to earlier state reports is due to ongoing updates of data tables.

⁴⁷ Data source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children entering foster care by age group in Pennsylvania*, Updated April 2023. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](https://www.kidscountdatacenter.org). Retrieved August 25, 2023.

⁴⁸ Data source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in foster care by age group in Pennsylvania*, Updated April 2023. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](https://www.kidscountdatacenter.org). Retrieved August 25, 2023.

Appendix 6. Table 3. Young children in Pennsylvania as a subgroup of all children in foster care

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All children birth to age 20 in foster care ⁴⁹	16,890	16,565	15,526	14,354	13,636
Children 0-6 as percentage of all children in foster care ⁵⁰	38%	38%	39%	40%	41%
Children 0-6 as percentage of all children entering foster care ⁵¹	43%	42%	44%	45%	47%

Appendix 6. Table 4. Children birth to age 18 in kinship care Pennsylvania ⁵²

	2014-2016	2016-2018	2018-2020	2020-2022
Number	103,000	77,000	68,000	67,000
Percent	3%	3%	3%	3%

Appendix 6. Table 5. Young children in Pennsylvania in foster care participating in Early Head Start/Head Start⁵³

	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
Number (%) enrolled using foster care status	1,079 (2.42%)	1,124 (2.50%)	1,131 (2.52%)	769 (2.44%)	844 (2.44%)
Number (%) of children in foster care at any point during program year	1,327 (3.02%)	1,416 (3.20%)	1,410 (3.19%)	1,065 (3.44%)	1,146 (3.37%)
Number (%) of children referred by child welfare agency	1,219 (2.78%)	1,132 (2.56%)	1,162 (2.63%)	751 (2.43%)	887 (2.81%)

Appendix 6. Table 6. Foster family participation in Head Start/Early Head Start in Pennsylvania ⁵⁴

Head Start Families	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
Total number of families served	40,094	40,467	39,882	27,959	30,781
Number (%) of families who were foster families, not including relatives	699 (1.74%)	700 (1.73%)	705 (1.77%)	476 (1.70%)	512 (1.66%)

⁴⁹ Data source: Same as above.

⁵⁰ Data source: Same as above.

⁵¹ Data source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children entering foster care by age group in Pennsylvania*, Updated April 2023. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](#). Retrieved August 25, 2023.

⁵² Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau as cited by Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, *Children in kinship care in Pennsylvania*. [KIDS COUNT Data Center website](#). Retrieved January 11, 2023.

⁵³ Office of Head Start. (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022). Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Reports for 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022, respectively. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved January 12, 2023.

⁵⁴ Same as above.

Appendix 7. Participation of Priority Populations in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania

Each subsector of the system of early childhood and early learning has its own policies and procedures regarding outreach, engagement and enrollment of children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care, including how they approach identification, prioritization tracking and providing accommodations for special populations and practices vary widely.⁵⁵ The *2023 State of Early Care and Education in Pennsylvania*⁵⁶ provides a useful summary description of the different subsectors. Links to participation data related to young children experiencing homelessness and young children in foster care where available for each subsector appear below.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start data are the most extensive available. The Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) tracks enrollment and participation of children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care and additional data regarding family needs. While PIR data is not publicly available, data can be requested from Pennsylvania Head Start providers:

- for state level data contact the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office www.pakeys.org/pa-hssco/
- for local data for federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start and for PA's State Supplemental Head Start contact programs directly: eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator

Child Care

The US Administration for Children and Families tracks the number of young children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care who receive subsidized child care under the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) from monthly reports from states. In Pennsylvania this data is collected and tracked through Child Care Works and the PELICAN system.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts

Young children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care who participate in PreK Counts program are noted in ongoing data reports for the program through the PELICAN system.

Home Visiting

The federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program is the largest home visiting program which is beginning to enhance tracking of young children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care in the families they serve. Data is tracked through the Family Support Data Collection System. Links to other data and information sites appear below:

- Childhood Begins at Home www.childhoodbeginsathome.org/
- Fact Sheet www.papartnerships.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Pennsylvania-HV-Fact-Sheet.pdf
- papromiseforchildren.com/home-visiting-programs/

IDEA Part C/Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers

Pennsylvania is unique among states as state policy requires that young children experiencing homelessness receive services and Early Intervention (EI) under IDEA Part C tracks the number of young

⁵⁵ See [A State-Level Brief, Participation of Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness in Early Childhood Programs in PA, Page 21.](#)

⁵⁶ Available at: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/890097018/>

children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care. **State level** and **county data** were included in the infant toddler brief.⁵⁷

- Fact Sheet: www.papartnerships.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/PPC-Thriving-PA-EI-Fact-Sheet-April-2023-ONLINE.pdf

IDEA Part B/Early Intervention for Preschoolers, Title 1, and Charter Schools

Communities and school districts may have additional early learning programs under PA’s Department of Education that serve young children experiencing homelessness and in foster care, including IDEA Part B and Part C/Early Intervention, Title 1, and Charter Schools, which identify and support students and their families and can be an additional source of data as well as a resource for collaboration. ECYEH regional coordinators and local liaisons can provide information:

- Contacts and data at directory.center-school.org/homeless/contacts/display

Again, it must be emphasized that there is no known single source of data to capture the number of young children who are experiencing homelessness or who are in foster care and their participation in early childhood and early learning programs at the state-, county-, or community-levels. No one entity collects and combines data across individual programs. Additionally, many children may be participating but not yet identified and/or tracked, or they may remain unidentified and unserved. The templates in Appendix 1 of this document – *Template A – Trends Related to Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in My Community* and *Template B – Participation of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Young Children in Foster Care in Early Childhood Programs in My Community* are provided to guide the gathering of data in communities to create profiles and gain a better understanding of the participation of these priority populations in early childhood and early learning programs. The templates offer a way to begin to assemble and analyze data to determine current participation rates, to create plans and set future goals, and to establish action steps for moving forward.

⁵⁷ [A State-Level Brief, Participation of Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness in Early Childhood Programs in PA](#)