



NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

Homelessness (Youth)

INDICATOR

Rate of homeless students per 1,000.

Numerator	Number of homeless individuals
Denominator	Individuals enrolled in any school program, aged three to 18 year old

DESCRIPTION

This metric includes homeless children aged 3-5 through grade 12, as well as ungraded youth (enrolled in classes with no grade-designations, but are of school age). "Homeless" means that the students "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence," (dpi.wi.gov) which may include living in temporary housing, public spaces, cars, or other locations not regularly used as sleeping facilities.

IMPORTANCE

Homelessness is an extreme stressor for a child or youth. Homeless children are more likely to repeat a grade or fail out of school, and to have experienced additional stressors such as physical or sexual abuse, or neglect (Edidin, 2012). These children are among the most marginalized with the greatest need for services (Rohde, 2001).

LIMITATIONS

- This metric only includes homeless youth who attend school, which is likely an underestimation of the total number of homeless youth.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Homelessness in Wisconsin increased from 2011-2014 by over 25%, one of the highest rates of increase across the US. In 2014/15, Wisconsin youth homelessness increased and is now higher than the national rate.

National Analyses

YEAR:		2014/2015	
WI	US	Best	Worst
21.1*	15.77	35.7	4.4
per 1,000		DC	CT
PAST YEAR:		2013/2014	
WI	US		
16.3*	20.0		
per 1,000			

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

SOURCE

- Edidin, Jennifer P., et al. (2012). The mental and physical health of homeless youth: a literature review." *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, 43(3), 354-375.
- National Center for Homeless Children. (2016). Federal Data Summary School Years 2012-13 to 2014-15 [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/data-comp-1213-1415.pdf>.
- Rohde, Paul, et al. (2001). Depression, suicidal ideation and STD-related risk in homeless older adolescents. *Journal of Adolescence*, 24(4), 447-460.