

Local Initiative

# Philadelphia

## The People's Emergency Center

The People's Emergency Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania exists to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change in the Philadelphia community. They offer direct support to community members through housing, job training, and life skills classes. They also engage in strategic policy and advocacy, and have produced a number of research reports to support their cause and affect policy change. Using data published by the Philadelphia Department of Education about students experiencing homelessness, PEC released a series of reports entitled Looking Back to Plan Ahead that breakdown the data, highlighting key takeaways and recommendations for practitioners, community partners, and others. In their series they note that while student homelessness decreased across the U.S. from 2016-2019, it increased in Pennsylvania. Other reports in the series highlight data showing that the majority of students experiencing homelessness are in doubled-up living situations, and offer data summaries about chronic absenteeism, academic outcomes, and basic supports received through school. The People's Emergency Center also produces national analyses of youth homelessness data. Most recently, PEC published "High School Students Experiencing Homelessness: Findings from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)". Partnering with Nemours Children's Health System, PEC laid out several key findings from the YRBSS data, including that State Education Agencies typically under-report the number of students experiencing homelessness when compared to the YRBSS, which is considered more reliable because it is student-reported.

