Advocates for Children of New York

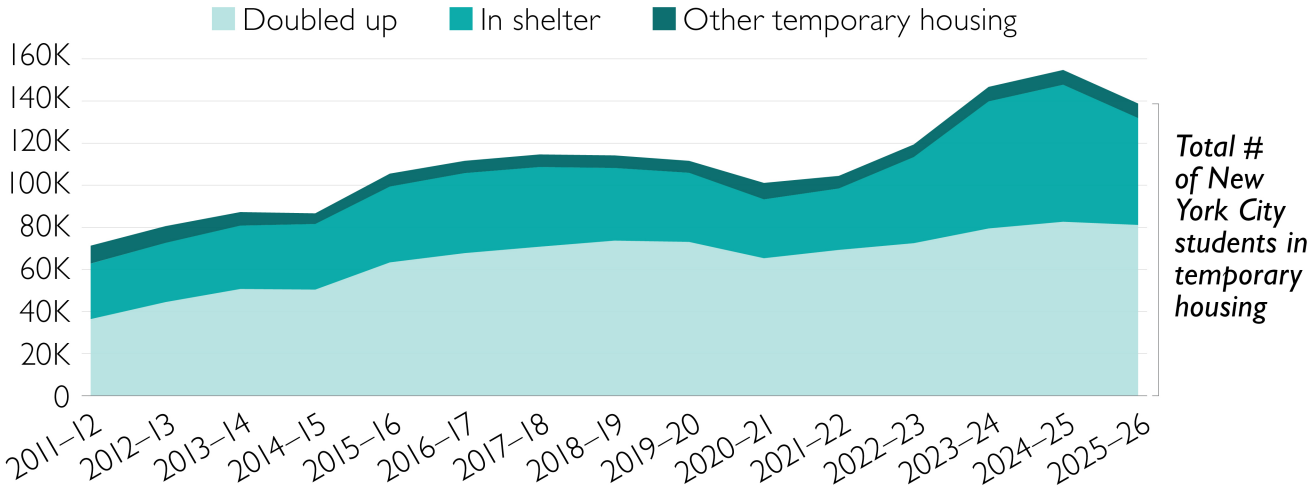
Protecting every child's right to learn

STUDENT HOMELESSNESS IN NEW YORK CITY, 2025–26

More than 138,000 New York City students—about one in every eight young people enrolled in the public schools—experienced homelessness last year.* This number represents a ten percent decline relative to the 2024–25 school year, when the number of students in temporary housing topped 150,000 for the first time. Nevertheless, it marked the eleventh consecutive year in which the number of City students without a permanent place to call home exceeded 100,000.

The overall decline in student homelessness was driven largely by a 22% drop in the number of students living in City shelters. Even with this decrease, however, **the shelter population remained 41% *larger* than it was a decade prior:** of the students identified as homeless in 2025–26, more than 50,700 (37%) spent time in shelter, as compared to about 36,000 students in 2015–16.

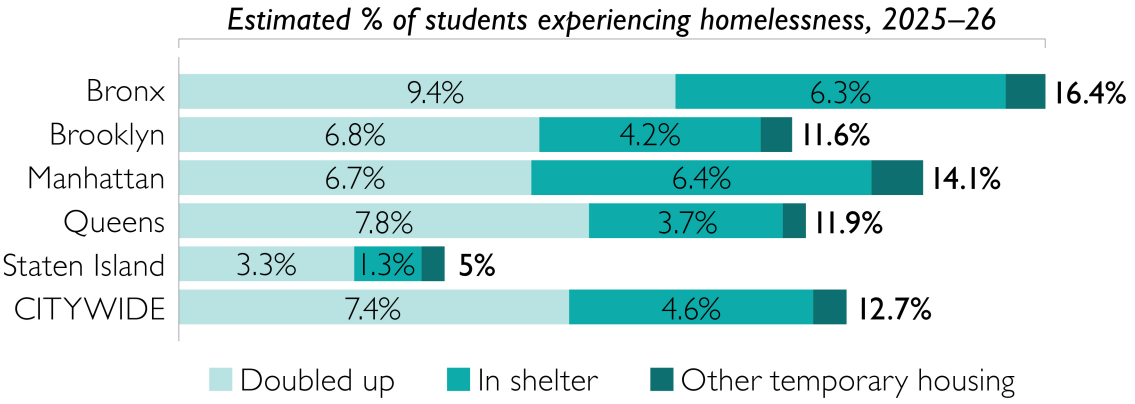
The number of students who were "doubled up," or temporarily sharing the housing of others because of a loss of housing or economic hardship, fell less than two percent from 2024–25 to 2025–26, to about 81,100 students (58% of all students in temporary housing). Citywide enrollment, by comparison, declined 2.4% last year.



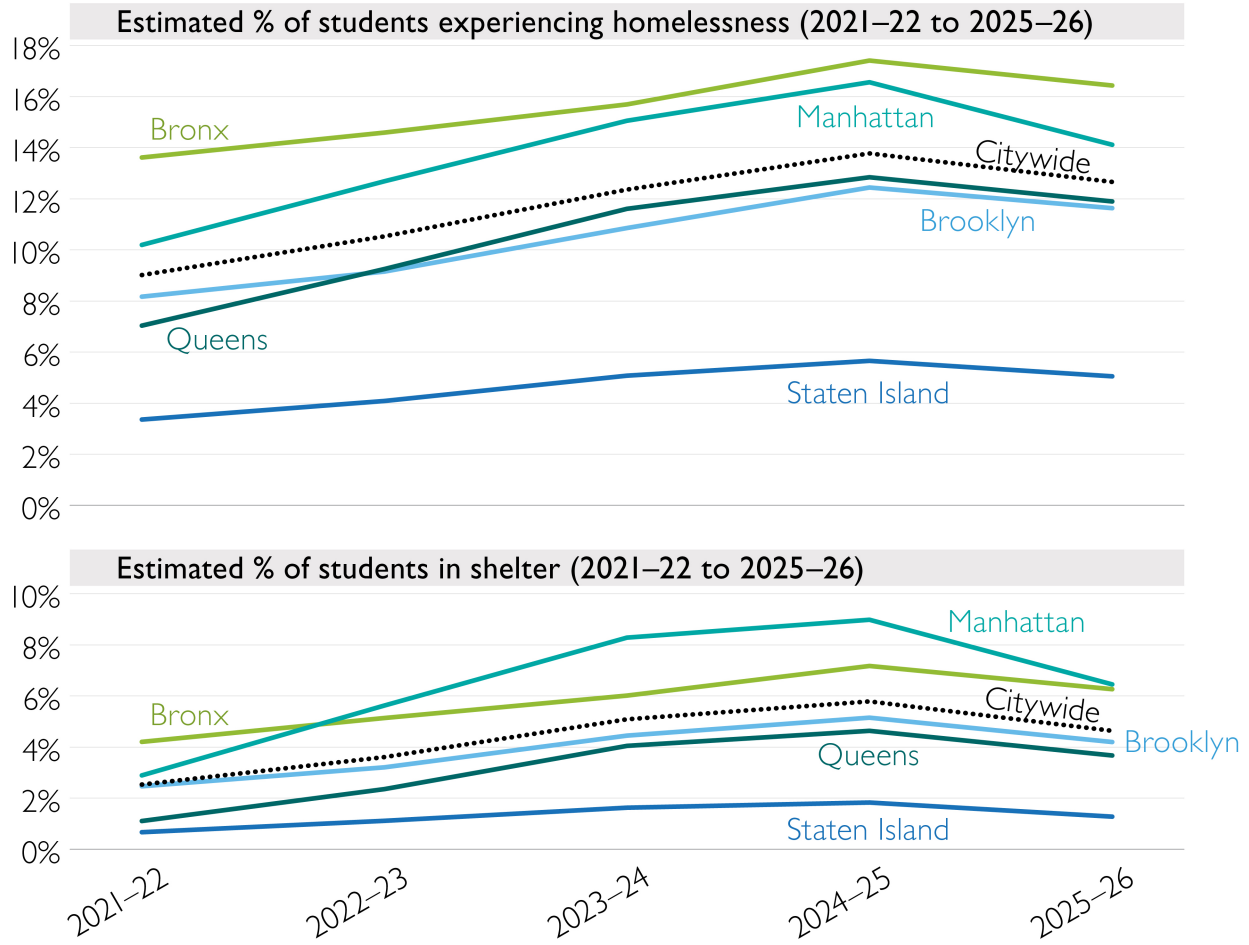
"Other temporary housing" includes students identified as unsheltered, living in hotels or motels, or otherwise lacking a regular and adequate nighttime residence; this sub-group consistently comprises around 5% of the overall population of students who are homeless.

* Data on students in temporary housing obtained from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) by Advocates for Children of New York (AFC); includes both students attending public schools managed by the New York City Department of Education (DOE) as well as students attending charter schools. Rates of student homelessness were estimated using cumulative 2025–26 enrollment data obtained from NYSED by AFC.

As in prior school years, the Bronx had the highest rate of student homelessness of any of the five boroughs, followed by Manhattan. Nearly one in every six students attending school in the Bronx and almost one in seven in Manhattan was homeless last year, as compared to about one in twenty students on Staten Island.



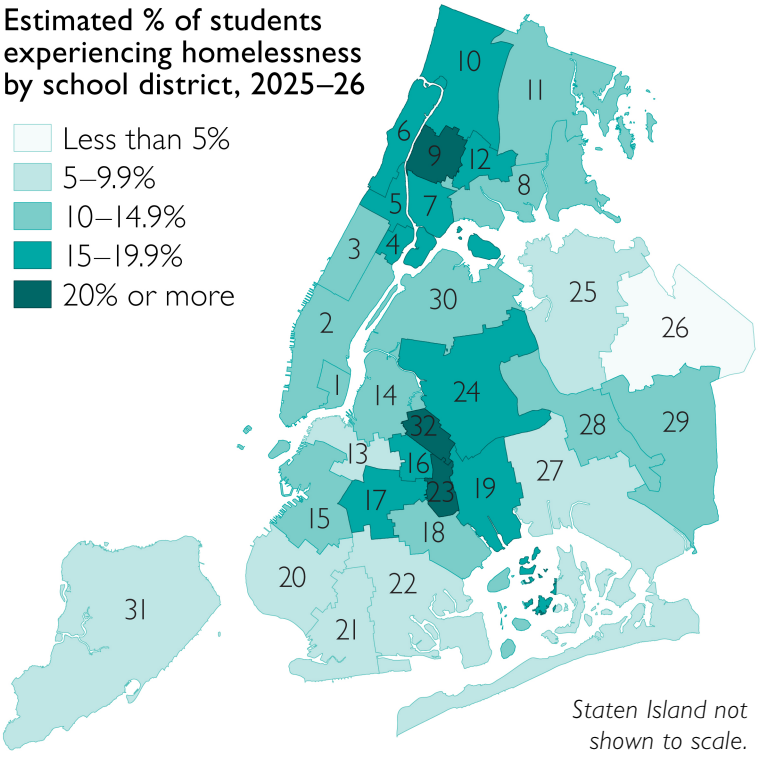
While both the number and percentage of students experiencing homelessness fell in every borough in 2025–26, relative to the preceding year, Manhattan experienced the most dramatic change, with an 18% drop in the total number of students in temporary housing. This drop was largely due to a 31% decline in the number of students in shelter enrolled in Manhattan schools.



At the community school district level, students in temporary housing were especially concentrated in upper Manhattan, the southwest Bronx, northern and central Brooklyn, and southwest Queens, again mirroring the pattern seen in prior years. More than one in five students attending school in District 9 (Highbridge and Grand Concourse), 23 (Brownsville), and 32 (Bushwick) experienced homelessness during the 2025–26 school year. Only one of the City's 32 community school districts—District 26 in northeast Queens—had an overall rate of student homelessness under 5%.

Citywide, one in every 22 students spent time in shelter last year, but there was dramatic variation between districts in the relative size of the shelter population. While more than one in eight students attending school in District 23 lived in shelter, the same was true for fewer than one in 170 students enrolled in District 20 (Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, and Borough Park). The proportion of students in each district who were identified as doubled up ranged from more than one in six (District 32) to about one in 30 (District 31).

Estimated % of students experiencing homelessness by school district, 2025–26



Staten Island not shown to scale.