



Institute for Children,  
Poverty & Homelessness

Bullying Prevention Month

# The Staggering Impact of Homelessness and Bullying

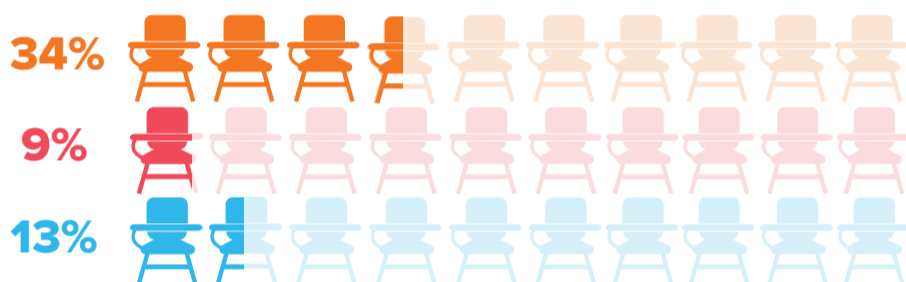
## Effects of Bullying

**42% of homeless high school students report being bullied. This is almost 2X the rate of their housed peers (23%).**



For homeless high school students, not having a safe and stable place to call home often leads to constant stress, academic interruptions, and sleep deprivation. When the trauma of homelessness is compounded by bullying, these students are at heightened risk of missing school, experiencing depression, and even attempting suicide.

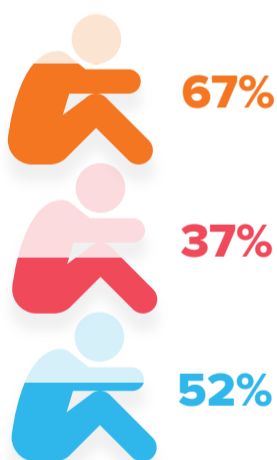
## Missing School



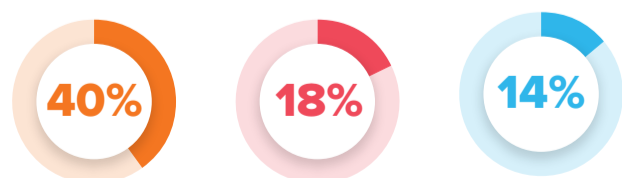
Among **homeless students who are bullied**, one third reported missing school due to safety concerns in the past month. This figure is **4X** the rate of their **homeless peers who were not bullied** and more than **2X** the rate of **housed students who were bullied**.

## Mental Health

Two in three **homeless students who were bullied** reported feeling depressed in the past year, compared with one in three **homeless students who were not bullied** and half of **housed students who were bullied**.



**Homeless students who reported being bullied** were more than **2X** as likely to attempt suicide as their **homeless peers who were not victims of bullying** and nearly **3X** as likely as **housed students who were bullied**.



The **combined impact of housing instability and bullying on homeless students** is staggering. Schools are on the front lines of supporting homeless students and preventing bullying. When students feel safe and supported at school, they are more likely to cultivate trusting relationships with teachers and peers. Positive school climates can prevent bullying and benefit homeless students' academics, mental health, and overall well-being.



\*Note: Data are weighted estimates from the 2016–17 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) from the states and cities of Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin, and the school districts of Cleveland, OH, DeKalb County, GA, Los Angeles, CA, New York City, NY, Oakland, CA, Palm Beach, FL, and Philadelphia, PA.