



Homelessness is a health and nutrition issue

In the 2016–17 school year, there were 1.36 million homeless students in the United States. Hunger is one of many challenges these students face.

Homeless high school students were:



Over 5x more likely to go hungry than their housed peers (11% vs 2%).



More than 2x as likely to not eat breakfast in the past week (29% vs. 13%).



More than 2x as likely to report not eating fruits in the past week (24% vs 11%).



1.5x more likely to report not eating any vegetables in the past week (17% vs. 11%).

Across the country, 29.7 million children received free or reduced-price lunch in 2018. The National School Lunch Program is one important resource for students experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Rates of Student Homelessness and Free or Reduced Lunch Eligibility Across the United States, SY 2016-17







