Nearly 270,000 of California’s public K-12 students experienced homelessness in 2018-19. This includes children temporarily staying with other families due to economic hardship, and children living in motels, shelters, vehicles, public spaces, or substandard housing.

Latinx, Black, Native American, and Pacific Islander students were disproportionately likely to experience homelessness. These same communities of color were already the most likely to be housing cost-burdened and at risk of experiencing housing instability. In addition, they have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 recession and experience the highest rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths.

Children experiencing homelessness are more likely to be chronically absent from school, struggle academically, and have difficulties with distance learning. Policymakers can support these children by investing in access to safe, affordable housing.

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