



Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil

by Joshua T. Dickerson



I woke myself up
Because we ain't got an alarm clock
Dug in the dirty clothes basket,
Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform
Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,
Cause the lights ain't on
Even got my baby sister ready,
Cause my mama wasn't home.
Got us both to school on time,
To eat us a good breakfast.
Then when I got to class the teacher fussed
Cause I ain't got a pencil.

Closing the Achievement Gap for Students Experiencing Homelessness

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DJ QuirinMai, OPI, Federal Programs Data Analyst





WHICH STUDENTS ARE HOMELESS?

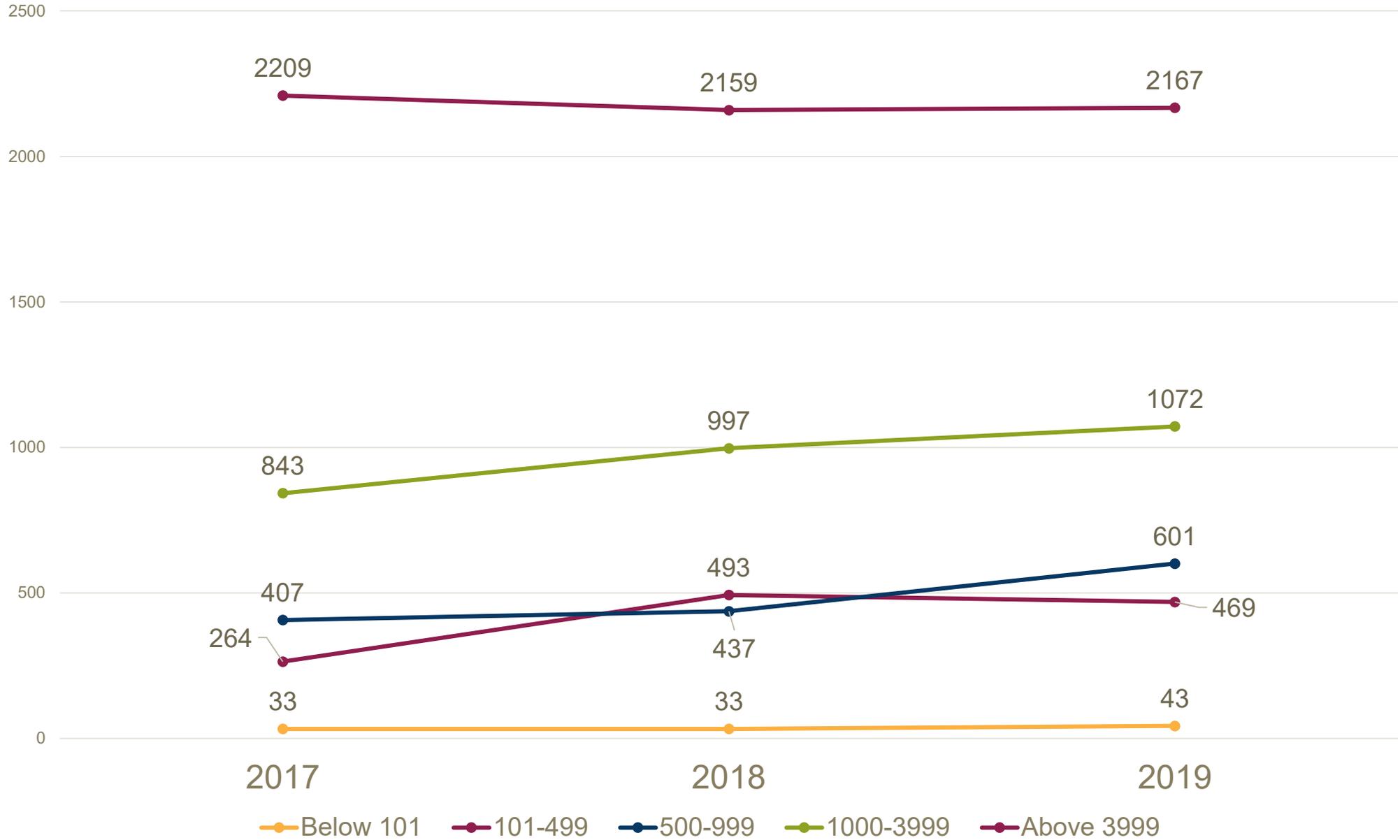
Students may be identified as homeless if they are living in any of the following situations –

1. In a shelter – domestic violence, emergency homeless shelter, transitional housing, etc.
2. Doubled-Up – living with friends or family members due to loss of housing related to a natural disaster (fire/flood), domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, job loss, or other financial crisis
3. Hotel or motel – because they cannot afford housing
4. Unsheltered – this includes living in a tent/RV, sleeping in a place not intended to be a home (barn, storage facility, etc) or living in substandard housing

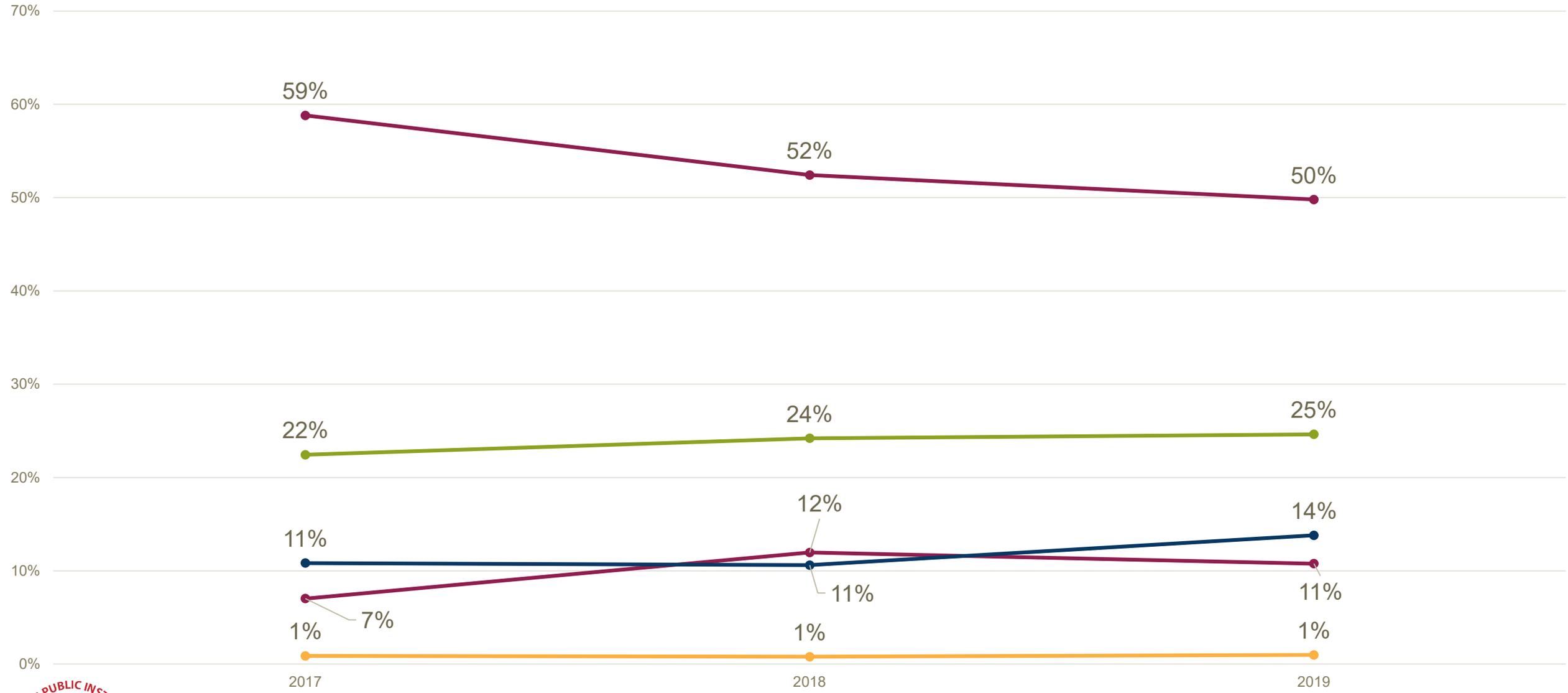
THE LAW

- Immediate enrollment
- School of origin
- Free school meals
- Transportation
- Equal Access to all programs, including extra-curricular programs

Homeless students by District size

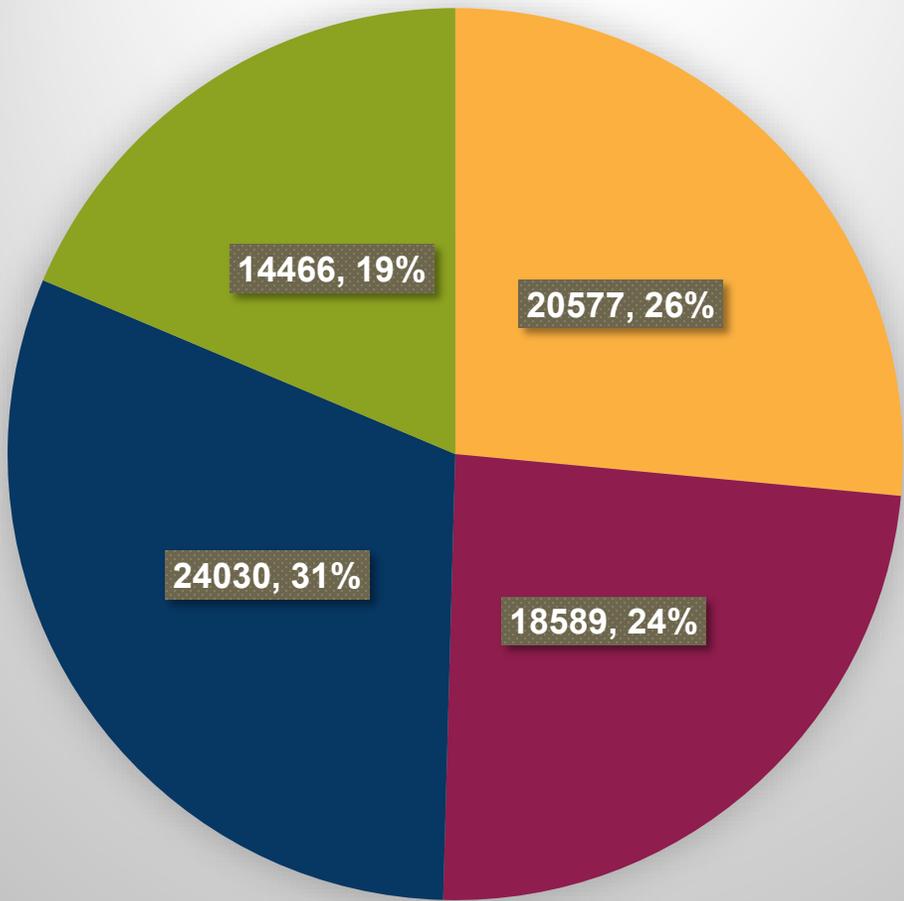


Percent of Homeless students



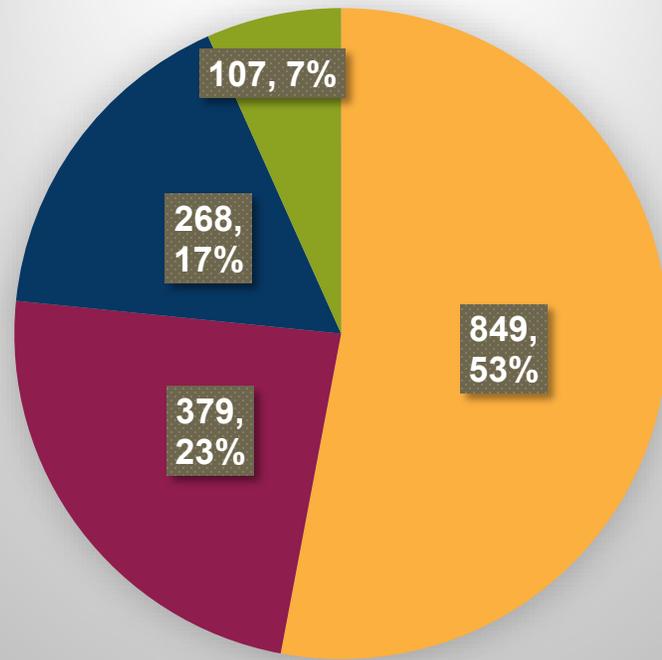
Below 101 101-499 500-999 1000-3999 Above 3999



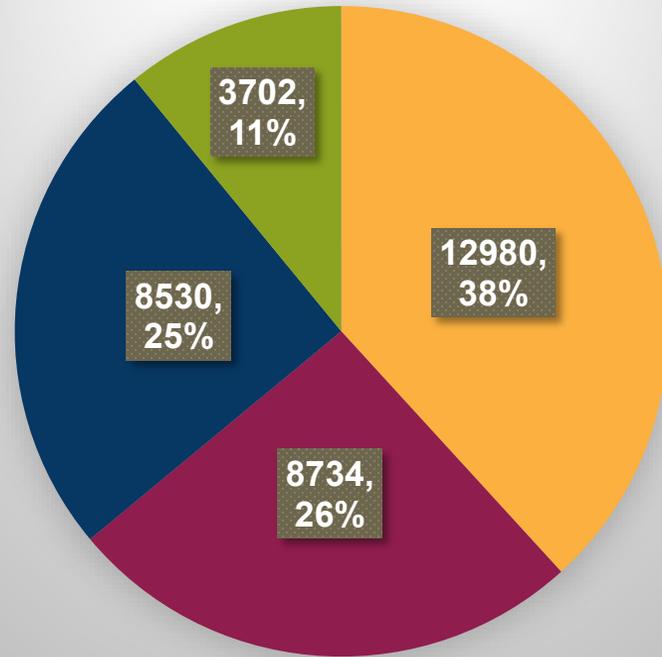


2019 All Students

- L1
- L2
- L3
- L4

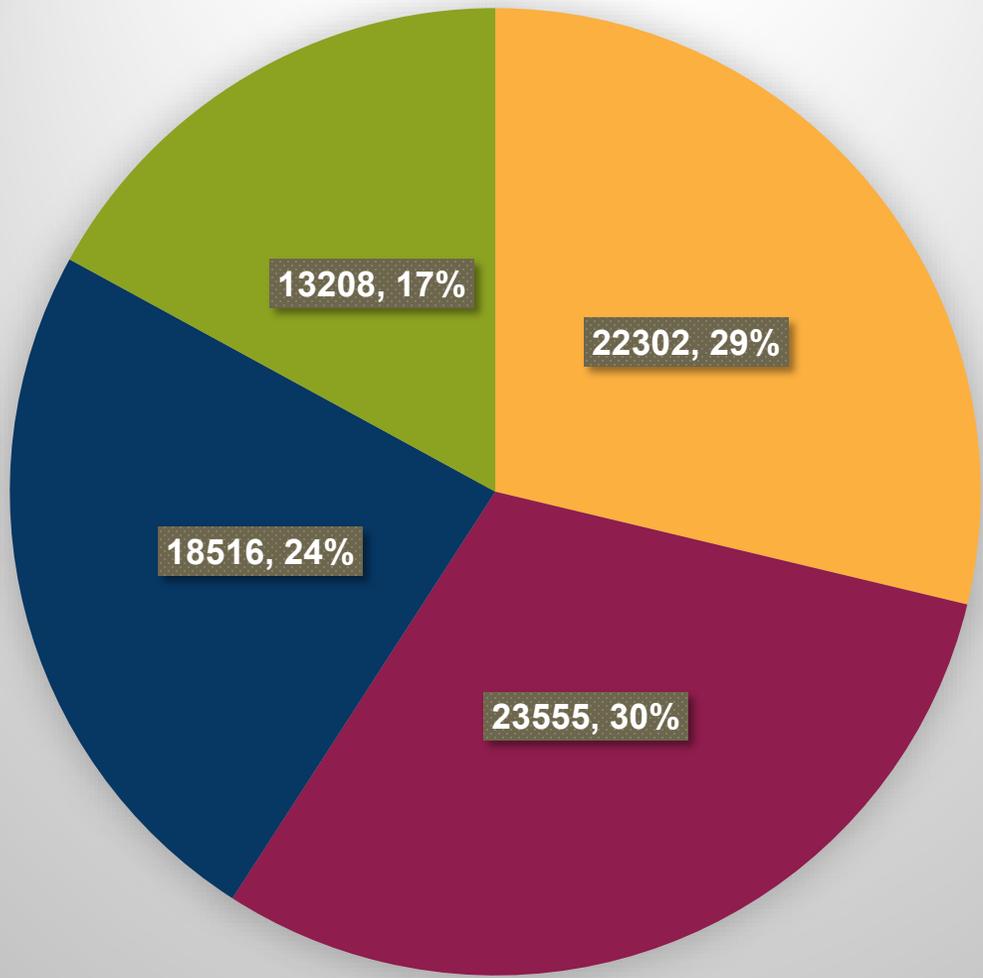


2019 Homeless Students



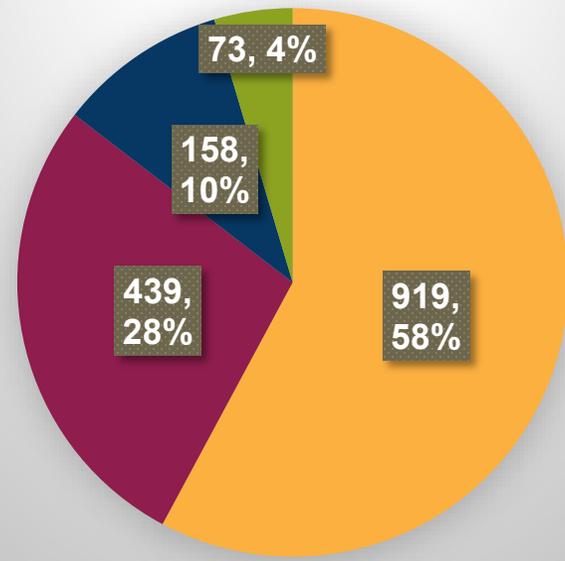
2019 Economically Disadvantaged Students



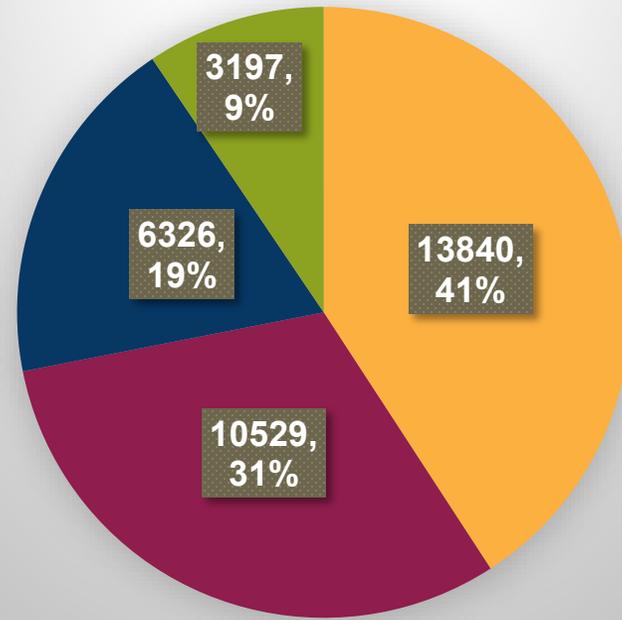


2019 All Students

- L1
- L2
- L3
- L4

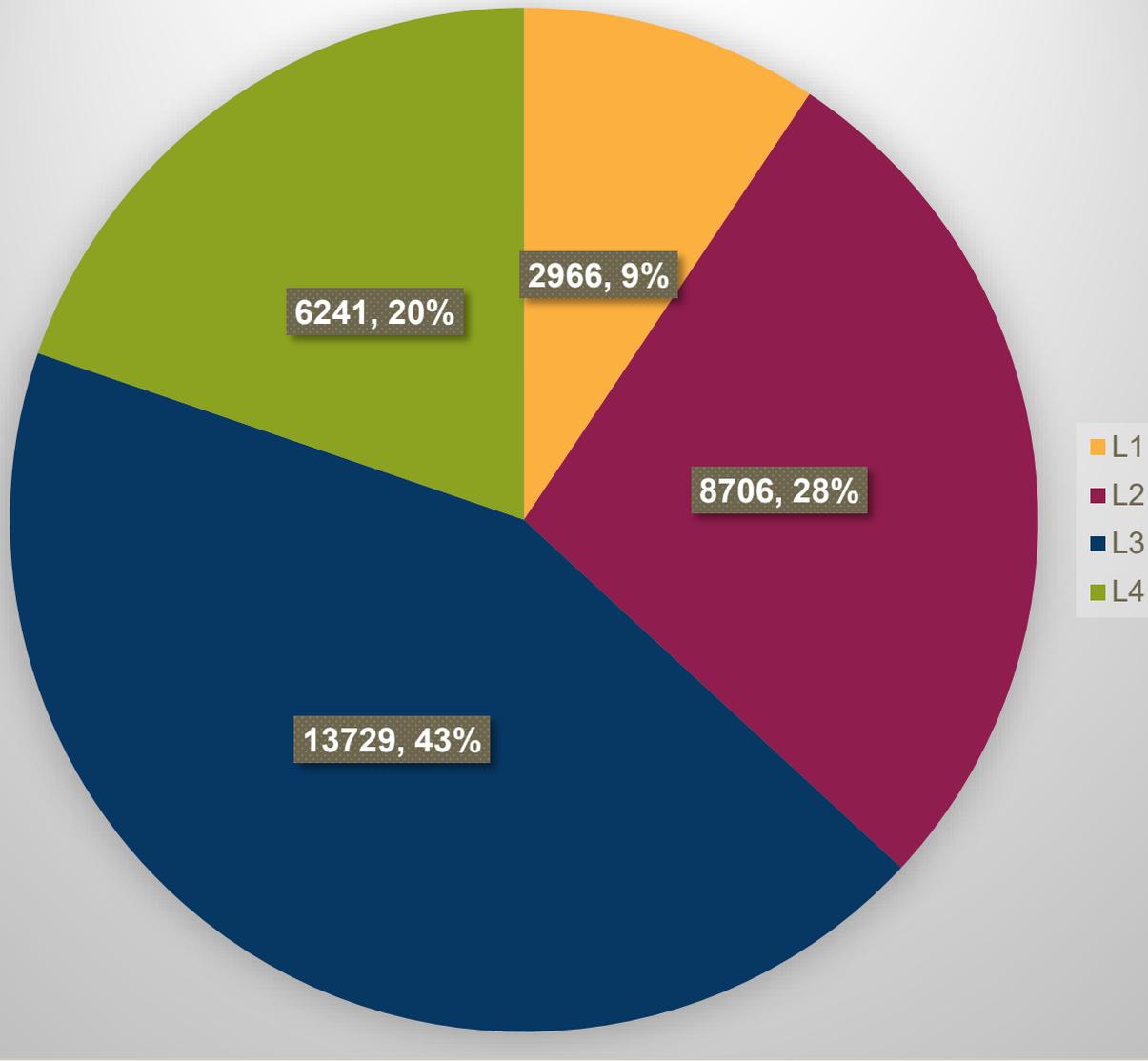


2019 Homeless Students

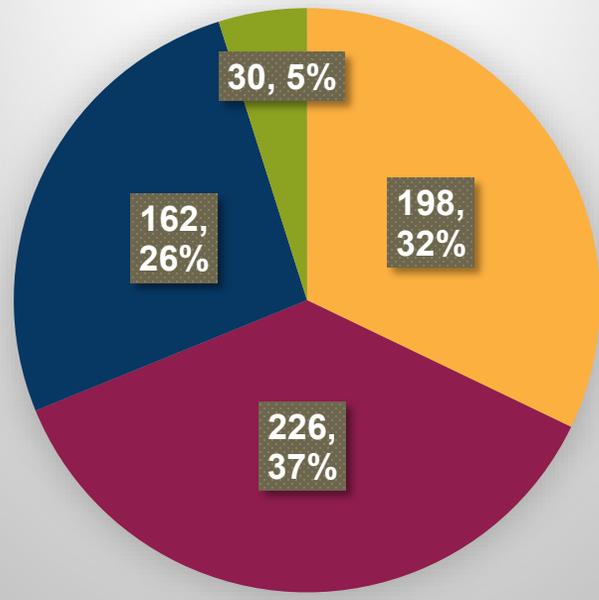


2019 Economically Disadvantaged Students

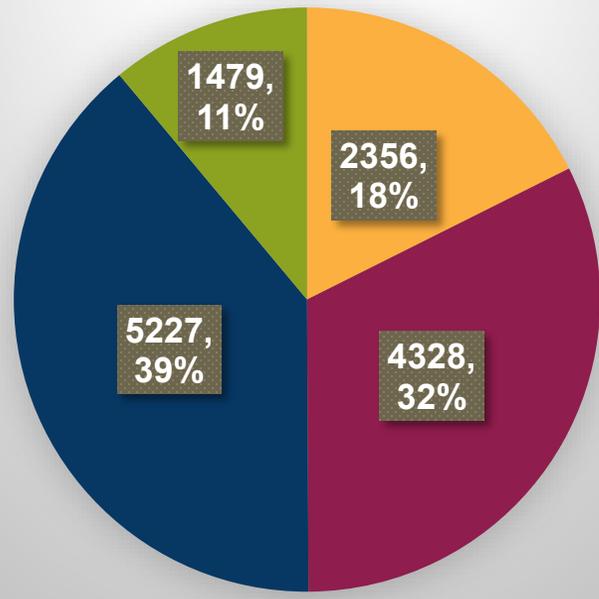




2019 All Students



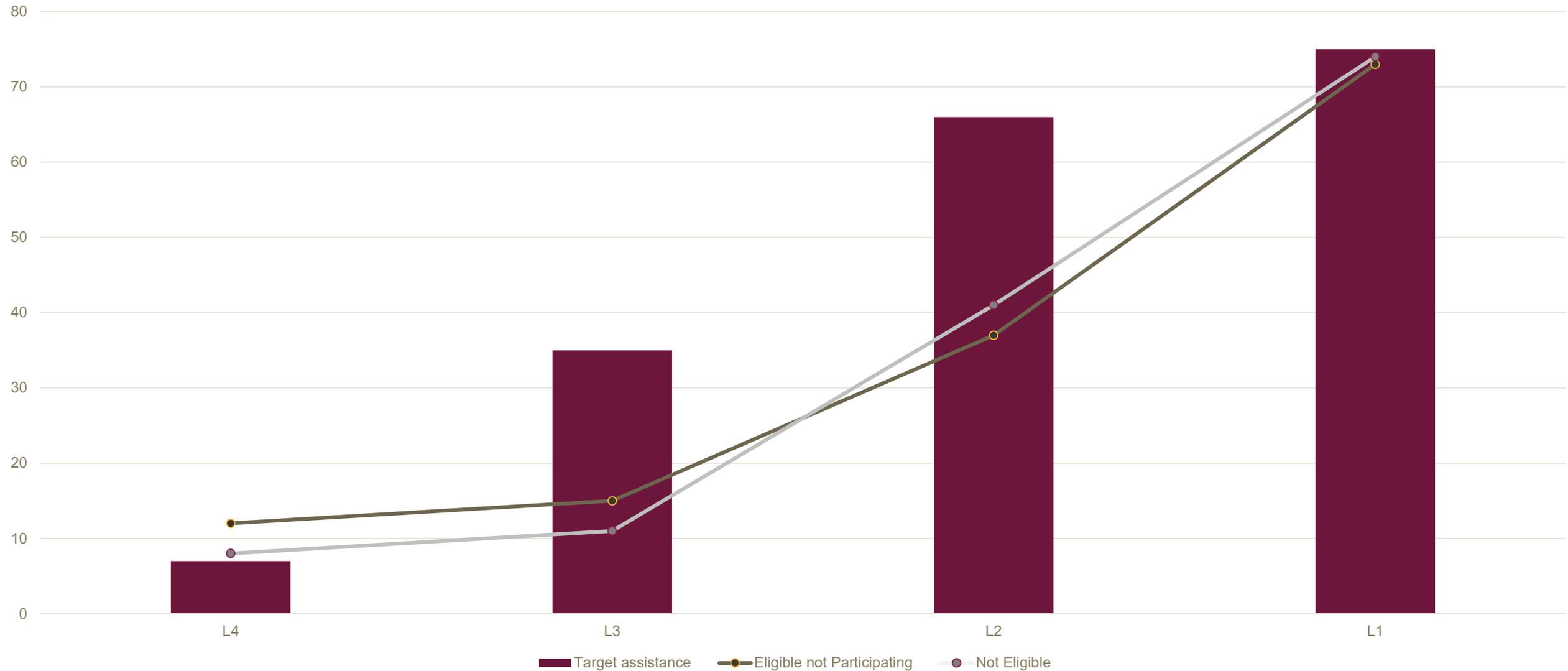
2019 Homeless Students



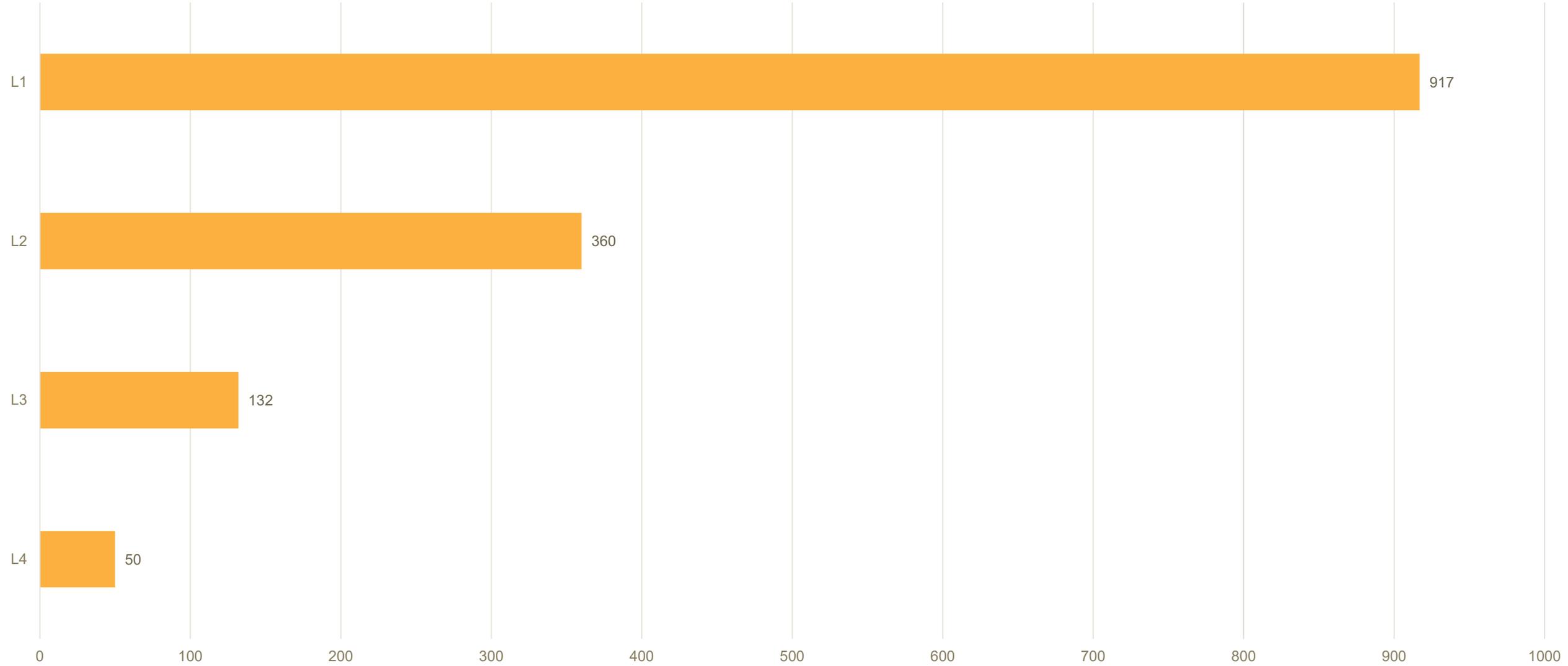
2019 Economically Disadvantaged Students



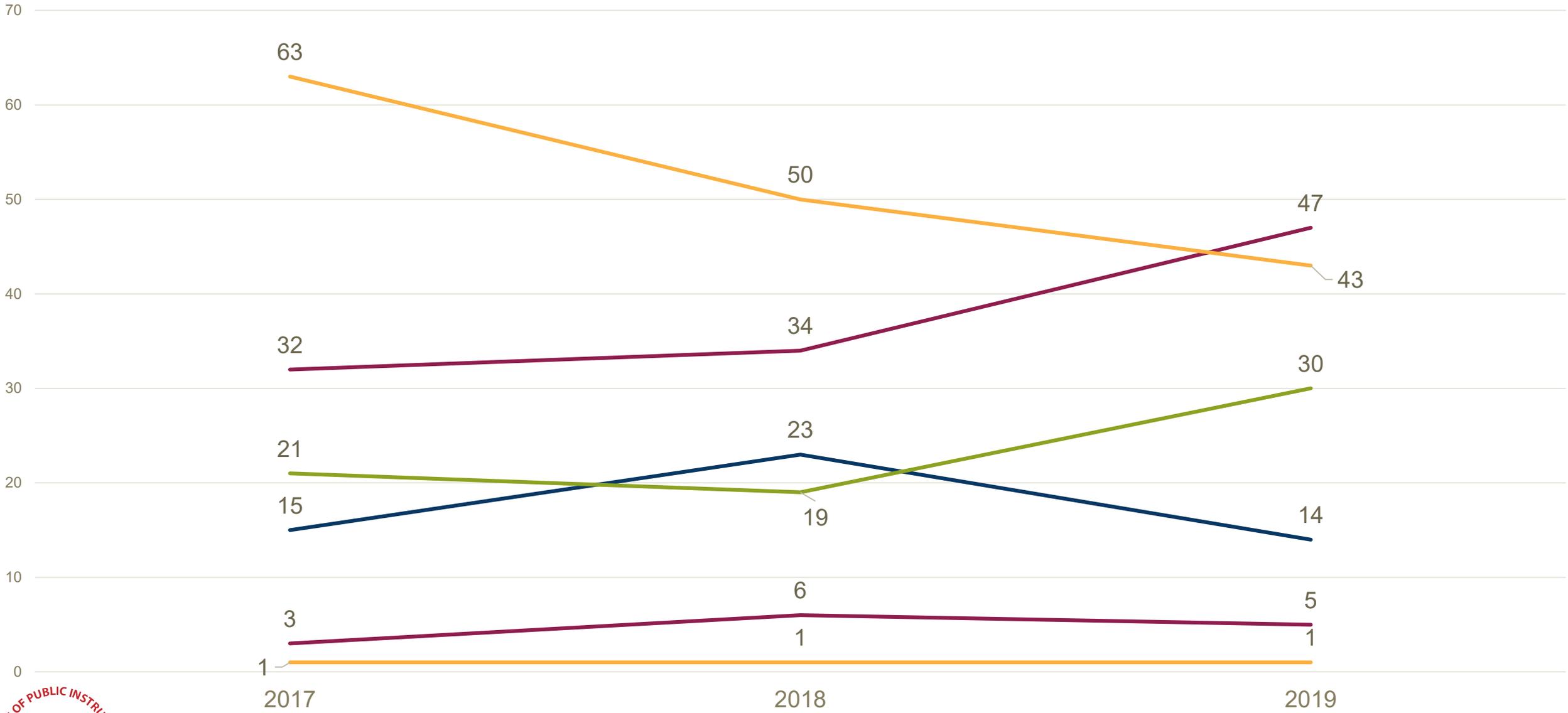
2019 Homeless Math Assessment Results with no Title I services



2019 Homeless Math Assessment Results with Title I Services



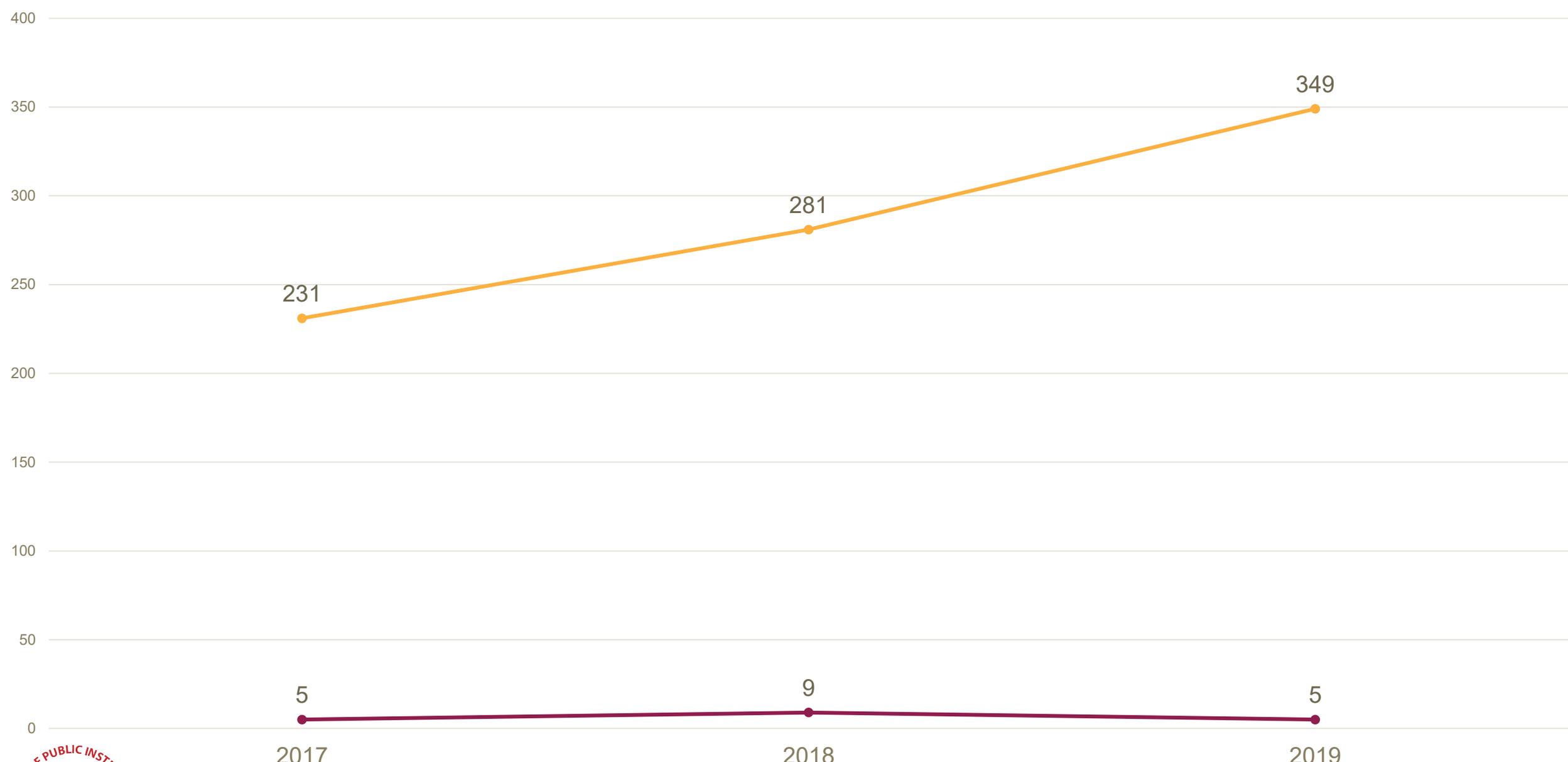
Drop Outs



7 8 9 10 11 12

Putting Montana Students First **A+**





040 - Graduates & Completers
 032 - Dropouts

—●— Graduated —●— Earned HiSET

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



FOCUS ON TEST SCORES

Are all students identified as homeless accessing Title I services?

Is there an achievement gap between homeless and low income students?

Our test is the ACT – do students take the test seriously if they do not think they college bound?

Test scheduling – are we scheduling the test when families have run out of SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits?

Studies from [Duke](#) and the [University of Wisconsin](#) show that student test scores are lower when families have run out of SNAP benefits.



YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY DATA

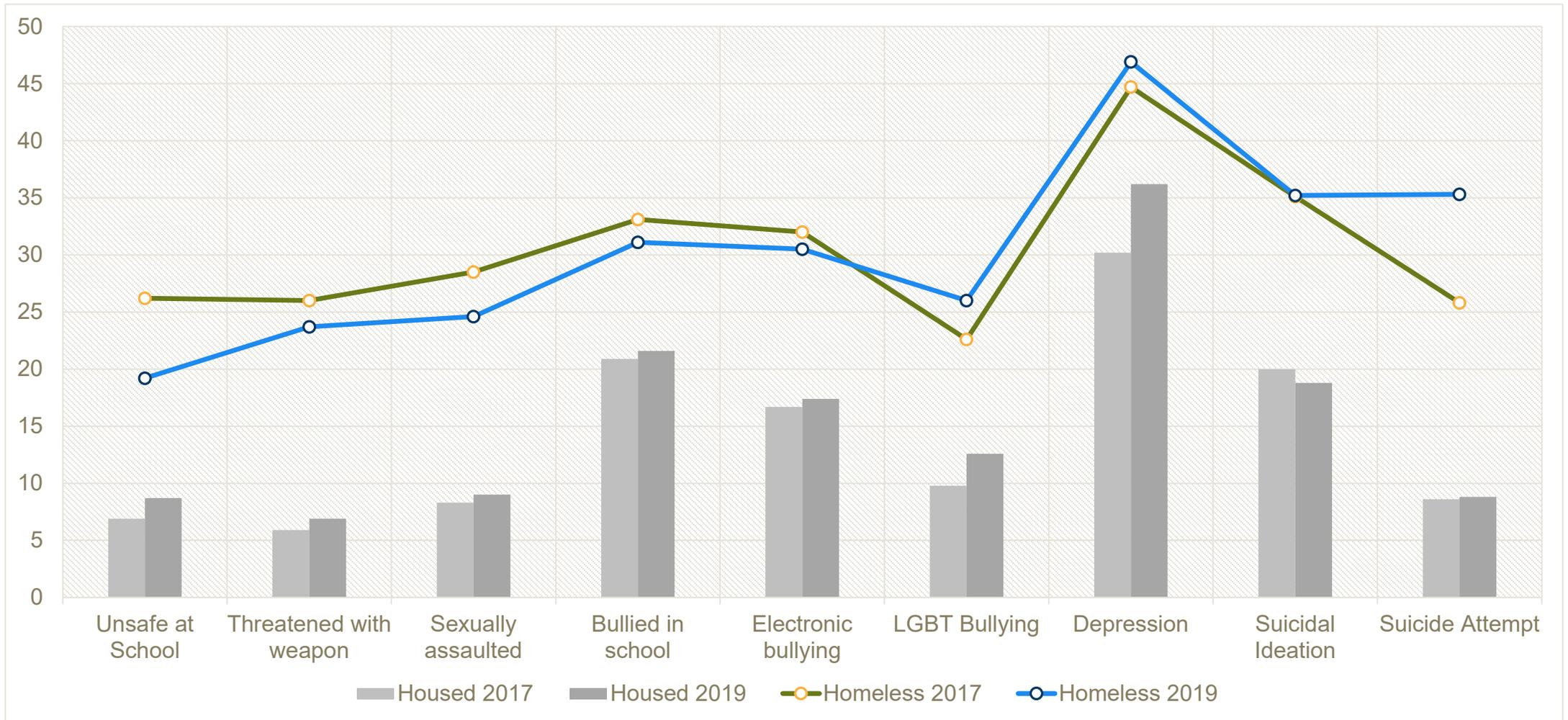
Statewide the reported rate of homelessness was almost 5%, in Montana.

In some urban districts in Montana it was as high as 10% of all students who responded to the survey.

[2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Special Report: Homelessness](#)

[2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Special Report: Homelessness](#)

SELF-REPORTED RISK FACTORS



SELF-REPORTED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

