END
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

ROBIN L SERENO
CHAIR, COMMITTEE TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
OVERVIEW

• Defining the Population
• Cold Hard Facts
• Youth Count 2019 Summary
• Unmet Needs
• Opportunities to Partner
DEFINITIONS OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

➢ Department of Housing and Urban Development (Under 25 y/o)
  ➢ Several categories generally covering people who are living in a place not meant for human habitation

➢ Department of Education (Through age 21 y/o & attending high school)
  ➢ School aged individuals who lack a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence”

➢ Department of Health and Human Services (RHYA under 22 y/o)
  ➢ Several categories of youth in need, including homeless youth, runaway youth, street youth, and youth at risk of separating from the family
My friends don't know I'm homeless
Impact of Homelessness on Children

- 3 times more likely to be placed in special education programs
- 42% dropped out of school at least once
- 7 times more likely to attempt suicide
- 8-9 times more likely to repeat grades
- 47% suffer from anxiety, depression, or withdrawal
What you don't know about YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

1 out of every 7 Youth will run away from home before their 18th birthday

1 in 3 RUNAWAYS have been forced to perform a sexual act against their will

More than 1 in 3 HOMELESS YOUTH Engage in SURVIVAL SEX, of them:
- 82% trade for money
- 48% trade sex for food or a place to stay
- 22% trade sex for drugs

32% Attempt SUICIDE

$148,767 Avg. cost to incarcerate a youth for one year in the U.S.

78% Had at least one interaction with the police

62% Have been arrested

11-40% Of ALL HOMELESS YOUTH identify as LGBTQ+

120% Higher risk of homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual and cisgender.

90% Trans Youth report Family Rejection
YOUTH COUNT 2019

- HSC's first survey targeting youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- Planned and carried out by the HSC Committee to End Youth Homelessness
- 21 days following the January PIT (January 25 – February 15, 2019)
WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE COUNT?

- Youth age 12-24 in all household types
- Youth identified as experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness

Total 190 Surveys Completed
PARTNERS

• Briarpatch Staff
• Dane County Human Services Staff (Joining Forces for Families, Independent Living, Juvenile Reception Center)
• The Beacon Staff and Volunteers
• Friends of the State Street Family
• MMSD TEP and School Social Work Staff
• The Road Home Dane County Staff
• Unify Volunteers
YOUTH COUNT 2019 SURVEY TOOL

18 Item Questionnaire

Basic Demographic Information
  - (Age, Zip Code, Gender Identity, Race, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation)

Where they Stayed the Night Before

Housing Stability

Safety

Education & Employment Status

Foster Care

Incarceration

Parenting Status
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Age**
- Age 18-24: 66%
- Age 12-17: 31%
- No Response: 3%

**Sex at Birth**
- Male: 50%
- Female: 47%
- No response: 3%
FINDING #1: DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION

Consistent with the national estimates, the following groups of youth were disproportionately represented in our count as experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness:

- **Black/African American Youth**
- **LGBTQ+ Youth**
- **Parenting Youth**
Compare to Dane County population demographics: 85.2% White, 6.2% Asian, 5.4% Black or African American, 2.7% Two or more races %0.5 American Indian or Alaskan Native.
(Data via most recent [US Census estimates](https://www.census.gov))
GENDER IDENTITY

- Not transgender or non-binary: 76%
- Transgender female: 3%
- Transgender male: 7%
- Other: 9%
- Non-binary/Questioning: 5%
- No response: 5%
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?

- 58% Straight (not bi, queer, gay or lesbian)
- 21% Queer, gay or lesbian
- 7% I don’t know / Am questioning
- 3% Other
- 10% Prefer not to answer / No response
PARENTING YOUTH

ARE YOU CURRENTLY PREGNANT OR PARENTING?

- No: 69%
- Yes: 20%
- No response: 11%
FINDING #2: OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP

Many youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are involved in other systems of care. We cannot end youth homelessness alone. We need to partner with them.

- Foster Care
- Criminal Justice System
FOSTER CARE

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN FOSTER CARE?

- No: 67%
- Yes: 31%
- No response: 2%
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN JUVENILE DETENTION, JAIL OR PRISON?

- No: 38%
- Yes: 59%
- No response: 3%
WHERE DID YOU STAY LAST NIGHT?

**SHELTERED**
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Hotel or Motel
- Someone that I am having sex with or working for in exchange for a place to stay

**INSTITUTION/OTHER**
- Hospital or Emergency Room
- Residential Treatment Facility
- Juvenile Detention Center or Jail
- Other

**UNSHELTERED**
- Car or other vehicles
- Abandon Building, Vacant Unit/Squatting
- Bus, Transfer Point, Bus Station
- 24-Hour Restaurant, Laundry Facility or other business/retail establishment
- Anywhere outside (street, park, camping, etc.)

**POSSIBLY PERMANENT**
- Own Apartment/House
- Birth Family Home
- Another Relative's Home
- Foster Family Home
- Group Home
- Home of Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Partner
- A Friend's Home
- Someone I don't know or met this week
FINDING #3: NEED FOR STABLE HOUSING

WHERE DID YOU STAY LAST NIGHT?

- **Unsheltered**: 12%
- **Sheltered**: 26%
- **Potentially Permanent**: 52%
- **Other**: 10%
- **Stable**: 5%
- **Not Stable**: 36%
- **Don't Know**: 6%
- **No Response**: 5%

164 youth age 12-24 stayed at temporary or unstable place the night before.

**Potentially Permanent**
- Own apartment/house
- Birth family home
- Another relative’s home
- Foster family home
- Group home
- Home of boyfriend/girlfriend/partner
- A friend’s home
- Someone I don’t know or met this week
FINDING #4: NEED FOR SAFETY

DID YOU FEEL SAFE WHERE YOU STAYED LAST NIGHT?

Only 49% felt safe at the place they stayed the night before.

19 (10%) respondents stayed with someone that they were having sex with or working for in exchange for a place to stay.

Additional 8 (4%) respondents stayed with someone they didn’t know or met that week.
SUBPOPULATION: TRANSITION AGE YOUTH  (18-24 Y/O)

125 OUT OF 190 RESPONDENTS
Where did you stay last night?

- Potentially Permanent: 48%
- Sheltered: 33%
- Unsheltered: 17%
- Other: 2%

- Stable: 1%
- Not Stable: 41%
- Don't Know: 4%
- No Response: 2%

119 youth age 18-24 stayed at temporary or unstable stable place the night before.
YOUTH 18-24: SAFETY

DID YOU FEEL SAFE WHERE YOU STAYED LAST NIGHT?

Only 46% felt safe at the place they stayed the night before.

16 (12%) respondents stayed with someone that they were having sex with or working for in exchange for a place to stay. Additional 4 (3%) respondents stayed with someone they didn’t know or met that week.
Are you currently attending school or another education program?

- No: 78%
- Yes: 21%
- No response: 1%

Do you have a high school diploma, GED or equivalent?

- No: 50%
- Yes: 50%
YOUTH 18-24: EMPLOYMENT

ARE YOU EMPLOYED AT A JOB THAT YOU RECEIVE A PAYCHECK?

- Yes: 63%
- No: 34%
- No response: 3%
SUBPOPULATION: PARENTING YOUTH

39 OUT OF 190 RESPONDENTS
### PARENTING YOUTH: AGE AND CUSTODY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 19</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 21</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 22</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you have custody of your child(ren)?

- Yes: 44%
- No: 54%
- No response: 2%
PARENTING YOUTH: SEX AND RACE

Sex at Birth:
- Female: 61%
- Male: 36%
- No Response: 3%

Race:
- Black/African American: 85%
- White: 10%
- Mixed race: 5%
PARENTING YOUTH: HOUSING STABILITY

WHERE DID YOU STAY LAST NIGHT?

- Potentially Permanent: 41%
- Sheltered: 42%
- Unsheltered: 12%
- Other: 5%
- Stable: 5%
- Not Stable: 34%
- No Response: 2%
PARENTING YOUTH: SAFETY

DID YOU FEEL SAFE WHERE YOU STAYED LAST NIGHT?

- No: 46%
- Yes: 33%
- No response: 21%
PARENTING YOUTH: EDUCATION

Are you currently attending school or another education program?

- Yes: 5%
- No: 92%
- No response: 3%

Do you have a high school diploma, GED or equivalent?

- No: 44%
- Yes: 56%
PARENTING YOUTH: EMPLOYMENT

ARE YOU EMPLOYED AT JOB THAT YOU RECEIVE A PAYCHECK?

No 49%
Yes 51%
LESSONS LEARNED

- **Involve more youth**
- **More time Planning**
  - Felt pressure from the short planning period
  - Too little capacity and too many hats
  - Improve training and quality control
  - Additional resources
- **Greater Awareness – Increased Partnership**
  - Expand coverage area (rural)
  - Social media
  - +/- Magnet events
- **Determine the best data points to be included**
- **Add a post-count debrief**
UNMET NEEDS

- Trauma Informed Services / Employment
- Housing (all types)
- Living Wage Employment
- Long Term Case Management
- Re-entry and Family Reunification Services specifically designed for youth
- Mental Health Services
- Transition Age Youth Emergency Shelter
- Youth Drop-In Center
OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER

• **Youth Action Board (YAB)**
• **Cross-System Collaborations**
• **Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)**
• **Private Citizens / Organizations**
QUESTIONS