Youth Experiencing Homelessness Have Unique Needs & Characteristics

- Youth are more likely to be female, more likely to be Black and/or Latin(x), are less likely to have a substance abuse or mental illness.
- There is a high intersection between child welfare, youth criminal justice, and homelessness.
- One in five youth experiencing homelessness reported being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or sexual orientation nonconforming.
- One in five community college students experience housing insecurity.
- The drivers of homelessness among young people are very different.
- They often don’t have a job or housing history, a support system or positive adult relationships. We need to problem-solve at every step.
The Youth System is Different from the Adult System

- Positive youth development
- Assets, not deficits
- Lived experience centered
- Build confidence, hope and goals
Youth COVID-19 Response

The Youth Count was conducted from **January 22-31**, before the global pandemic.

The youth system swiftly responded to COVID-19 in order to continue to serve Transitional Age Youth (TAY) safely:

- Though less represented among the highest vulnerable population, **COVID-vulnerable TAY are accessing PRK rooms.**
- The **Recovery Bridge** PSH bridge model will be available to TAY at high risk of COVID.
- **TAY Access Centers** include **Tier 1 assessments** for COVID-vulnerable TAY.
- Campus Peer Navigators and Educational Coordinators, available remotely, have seen increased referrals.
- **Rapid rehousing and employment programs** will be expanded to serve increased needs due to the pandemic.
Why We Count

Since 2017, the Youth Count has been done to ensure that young people are represented accurately in the Homeless Count. This helps to ensure that funding is distributed accordingly and that their unique needs are being met.

Youth experiencing homelessness are a hidden population with unique barriers.

Community members, service providers, and youth with lived experience all conducted interviews and captured data for the Youth Point-in Time Count.
Youth Homelessness in Los Angeles County
Youth Count Overview

LA County Number: 4,775
LA County Percent Change: 18.75%
City of Los Angeles Number: 3,061
City Percent Change: 18.55%
CoC Number: 4,673
CoC Percent Change: 19.03%
# Youth Count Overview (SPA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region ID</th>
<th>Total Youth Count 2019</th>
<th>Total Youth Count 2020</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPA 1 – Antelope Valley</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>47.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 2 – San Fernando Valley</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>1,138</td>
<td>65.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 3 – San Gabriel Valley</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>12.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 4 – Central LA</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>1.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 5 – West LA</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>-16.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 6 – South LA</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>69.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 7 – East LA</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>-40.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 8 – South Bay/Harbor</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>12.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoC</td>
<td>3,926</td>
<td>4,673</td>
<td>19.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Youth Homeless (LA CoC)</th>
<th>Total Homeless (LA CoC)</th>
<th>LA County Population*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Racial/Other</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*U.S. Census Data
These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs

### Youth Gender Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Youth Homeless (LA CoC)</th>
<th>Total Homeless (LA CoC)</th>
<th>LA County Population*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male (includes transgender)</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (includes transgender)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Non-Binary (includes transgender)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 1 in 5 youth report being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or sexual orientation non-conforming.
## Countywide

### Sheltered/Unsheltered

The youth homeless services system continues to help more youth than ever before. The sheltered population increased by 20% from 2019.

The sheltered youth population includes youth who are in crisis, bridge, and transitional housing in LAHSA's Housing Inventory Count or LAHSA-funded interim housing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total (Unsheltered)</th>
<th>Total (Sheltered)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,648 (55.5%)</td>
<td>1,773 (44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,127 (44.5%)</td>
<td>4,775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers are for LA County
## Young Families Experiencing Homelessness

The number of sheltered families **increased by 42%** from 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>1,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young families are defined as at least one adult 18-24 years old having at least one child under the age of 18. Pregnant youth are not included.

These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs.
Youth Connections to Education and Employment

An estimated **586 out of 2,585** unsheltered youth report being employed.

An estimated **1,120 of 2,585** unsheltered youth report actively seeking employment.

An estimated **198 of 2,585** of unsheltered youth report being enrolled in school.

About **1 in 5 unsheltered youth** report being employed

About **2 in 5 unsheltered youth** report actively seeking employment

Data for transitional age youth 18+ and unaccompanied minors
These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs
Time in Los Angeles County

**Place of residence before becoming homeless**
- LA County: 70.5%
- Other County in SoCal: 20.1%
- Other County in CA: 6.1%
- Out of State: 3%
- Outside of the US: 0.3%

**Length of Time in LA County**
- < 1 Year: 25%
- 1 Year - 5 Years: 60%
- > 5 Years - 10 Years: 7%
- > 10 Years: 8%

Numbers are for unsheltered transitional age youth 18+ and unaccompanied minors for the LA CoC only.
These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs.
Inflow

L.A. housed more young people than ever, yet our housing affordability crisis drove a net rise in youth homelessness.

4,021
2019 Point-in-time count

+5,678
Estimated inflow over 2019

-2,134
Permanent housing placements

-2,790
Other exits to housing

4,775
2020 Point-in-time Count

311 youth prevented from entering homelessness

Numbers are for LA County
How Youth Become Homeless
Reasons for Youth Homelessness

2 out of 5 unsheltered youth have experienced homelessness more than once.

Of unsheltered youth experiencing homelessness for the first time, 3 out of 5 became homeless in 2019.

Economic hardship was reported by nearly two-thirds of youth as a reason for their homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percent of newly homeless population*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Time (&lt;=1yr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Hardship</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakened Social Network</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabling Health Condition</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Discharge</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents may choose more than one reason.

*Newly homeless is defined as individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time in the past year only.

These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs.
Youth System Involvement

Aging out of the foster care system and involvement with the justice system are drivers of youth homelessness.

These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs.
Domestic Violence

Gender of unsheltered homeless youth who report fleeing DV/IPV as the reason for homelessness

- Female: 67%
- Male: 27%
- Gender Non-Binary: 0%
- Transgender: 6%

Percent of adult and youth homeless populations who report fleeing DV/IPV as the reason for homelessness

- Youth: 7.72%
- Adult: 6.85%

These numbers are 2020 estimates for the LA CoC, which is LA County excluding Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach CoCs.
The Youth System
Key Elements of the Youth System

Connections to Housing
- Youth Housing Navigation
- TAY Access Centers
- Campus Peer Navigators
- Educational Coordinators
- DCFS/Probation Liaisons

Housing
- Youth Interim Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Independent Living Program
- Youth Rapid Rehousing
- Host Homes
We are expanding our programs to support youth experiencing homelessness

- The Host Homes program launched in Spring 2019.
- Campus Peer Navigators located on most community college campuses.
- DCFS/Probation Liaisons launched at the end of 2019.
- TAY Access Centers opened in June 2020 with one in each SPA.
Next Step Tool

Youth assessed via Next Step Tool (2019): 2,590

The Next Step Tool is the youth specific version of the CES Survey for Adults. It accounts for the unique vulnerabilities that youth experience and determines their eligibility for additional resources.

Youth can receive assessment via the Next Step Tool through youth specific programs including Youth Drop-In Centers, Access Points, Interim Housing, and outreach.
THE YOUTH SYSTEM

System Metrics

PREVENTION
- 2015: 75
- 2018: 295
- 2019: 311

INTERIM HOUSING
- 2015: 2,418
- 2018: 3,157
- 2019: 3,687

PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS
- 2015: 976
- 2018: 2,050
- 2019: 2,134

* Numbers from fiscal year 2019-20.

2020 | BRIEFING ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
There are important improvements we can make

Internal Improvements
- Systems integrations
- Family homelessness
- Prevention and diversion

Continued Partnerships
- Foster system
- Probation
- Higher education

Upcoming Focus
- Workforce Development
How to Support and Take Action

1. Advocate for system change to dismantle structural racism.

2. Advocate for expanded state and federal funding for LAHSA’s Covid-19 Recovery Plan and affordable housing and homeless services.

3. Ensure that the state continues to allocate 10% of homeless services funding for youth homeless services.

4. Support more interim and supportive housing in your local community by joining the Everyone In campaign.

5. Sign up for Host Homes.

6. Volunteer at your local homeless service agency.
An acknowledgement to the many community providers and volunteers who make our Youth Count possible. Without your guidance, participation, and commitment to serving youth experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles our efforts for the LA Youth Count would not be possible.

In gratitude to the partners below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HYFLA</th>
<th>LACEYH PIT Crew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valley Oasis</td>
<td>Children’s Center of Antelope Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health of America</td>
<td>Green Thumb of Antelope Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Children and Family Services</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Youth Center</td>
<td>The Vine Refuge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Village Family Services</td>
<td>My Friends Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Care Cottage</td>
<td>LGBT Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Mental Health</td>
<td>Covenant House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH</td>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillview Mental Health Center</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mission College</td>
<td>Safe Place for Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri-City Mental Health</td>
<td>Daniel’s Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>David and Margaret</td>
<td>1736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hathaway Sycamore</td>
<td>United Friends of the Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Clinics</td>
<td>Sanctuary of Hope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Emerging Stronger</td>
<td>Coalition for Responsible Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step Up on Second</td>
<td>The Good Seed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wellnest</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watts Labor Community Action Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HOPICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kingdom Causes Bellflower</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whittier First Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helpline Youth Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harbor Interfaith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>El Camino College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Margaret’s Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McKinney-Vento Homeless Act Definition

**Determining “Fixed”**
A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent and not subject to change.

**Determining “Regular”**
A regular residence is one that is used on a regular basis [i.e. nightly].

**Determining “Adequate”**
An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Definition

**Determining “Fixed”**
Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.

**Imminent Risk of Homelessness**
Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and has no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

**Homeless Under Other Statutes**
Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved 2 or more times in the past 60 days and are likely to remain unstable because of special needs or barriers.

**Fleeing Domestic Violence**
Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who lack resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
Los Angeles County

School Districts:

- 80 + LACOE (alternative schools)
- + 350 charter schools
- Schools: 2,314
- Teachers: 72,650
- Total K-12 Enrollment: 1,523,212
- Free and Reduced Lunch: 1,023,956
How Do We Identify Homeless Youth?

*California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) is a longitudinal data system used to maintain individual-level data including student demographics, course data, discipline, assessments, staff assignments, and other data for state and federal reporting.*
Why Two Different Numbers?

The Los Angeles County Office of Education:

- Participates with LAHSA in the LACOE PIT Count = 57,726
- Collects cumulative information from the 18-19 school year = 68,161
LACOE PIT Count - January 2020
By Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under Age 3</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kinder</td>
<td>1174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>4642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>4089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>4371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>4455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>4462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>4348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>4576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>4384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>4122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>5107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>4581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>3588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>3664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LACOE PIT Count Total: 57,726
LACOE PIT Count – January 2020
Nighttime Residency

LACOE PIT Overall
- Sheltered: 87%
- Doubled up: 5%
- Unsheltered: 4%
- Hotel/Motel: 4%

Unaccompanied LACOE PIT Count: 429
- Sheltered: 18%
- Doubled up: 12%
- Unsheltered: 1%
- Hotel/Motel: 70%
LACOE PIT Count - January 2020
Race/Ethnicity – Total Count

- Latino: 41359 (71%)
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 383 (1%)
- Black or African American: 7858 (13%)
- White: 4478 (8%)
- Chinese: 664 (1%)
- Filipino: 883 (2%)
- Other: 2513 (4%)

Other:
- Tahitian: 5
- Guamanian: 12
- Hawaiian: 24
- Hmong: 1
- Japanese: 40
- Korean: 55
- Laotian: 39
- Vietnamese: 257
- Other Asian: 355
- Other Pacific Islander: 126
- Samoan: 146
- Asian Indian: 136
- Cambodian: 266
- Other: 1051
Four-Year Cumulative Count

Four Year Review Overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Cumulative Count</td>
<td>62,931</td>
<td>71,727</td>
<td>70,545</td>
<td>68,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making Connections

- Education is a prevention tool, an intervention tool and cycle breaker for TAY1
- Lack of a high school diploma is the biggest risk factor for experiencing homelessness
- School (k-12/higher education) can be one of the few stable places & serve as a protective factor
- Schools, both k-12 and higher education, by federal and state mandates are required to assist and support TAY homeless populations
- Schools serve as a tool to build resiliency, stability and ensure the cycle of homelessness is not extended into adulthood.

2 https://www.chapinhall.org/research/education-youth-homelessness/
3 H. Moore, R. Benbenishty, R. A. Astor, and E. Rice, “The Positive Role of School Climate on School Victimization, Depression, and Suicidal Ideation Among School-Attending Homeless Youth,”
Call to Actions

- Connect with the CES Educational Coordinator to look at educational options.

- Connect with your district's Homeless Liaison for K-12 students or connect with a Specific Point of Contact (SPOC) on higher education campus for support and services.

- During COVID — Devices and connectivity are critical. An Educational Coordinator can assist with helping to ensure K-12 students have the resources they need to be academically successful. Please reach out if this is a concern.

- Education is a journey, and the destination is wide open, it is never too late to reconnect back to education.