

CASA Presentation on *Youth Homelessness* - August 2026 -



*This presentation resource has been developed by
UNL-Center on Children, Families, and the Law*



Key Terms and Definitions

<i>Couch Surfing</i>	Term often used to describe youth who are staying indoors, but do not have a stable place to live. Often staying with friends and families but lack their own room and often go between houses.
<i>Runaway Youth</i>	Youth (18 or younger) who have left their home. Somewhat misleading because many youth in this category were actually forced to leave home. Often grouped together with youth homelessness but is a separate population.
<i>System Involved</i>	Youth with a history of child welfare and/or juvenile justice involvement
<i>Street/Unsheltered Homelessness</i>	Living situations that are outdoors and/or places not meant for human habitation. Associated with increased risks and challenges.
<i>Chronic Homelessness</i>	An individual with a disability who has been homeless for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months.

Helpful Tips

When trying to determine whether a young person may be experiencing homelessness consider asking questions about their living situation rather than asking about “homelessness.”

- In the past month, how many places have you slept?
- Where did you sleep last night?
- Do you have a safe and consistent place to sleep at night?
- In the past (week, month, year, etc.) how many nights have you spent in:
 - someplace outdoors (cars, street, tent, abandoned building, etc.)
 - doubled up with friends or family (i.e. couch surfing)
 - an apartment/house with your own room/private space
 - an emergency shelter
 - hotel/motel
 - jail/juvenile detention
 - the hospital
 - a treatment center for substance use and/or mental health condition

CCFL Community Services Data

*Live data dashboards for
Lincoln and Balance of State*

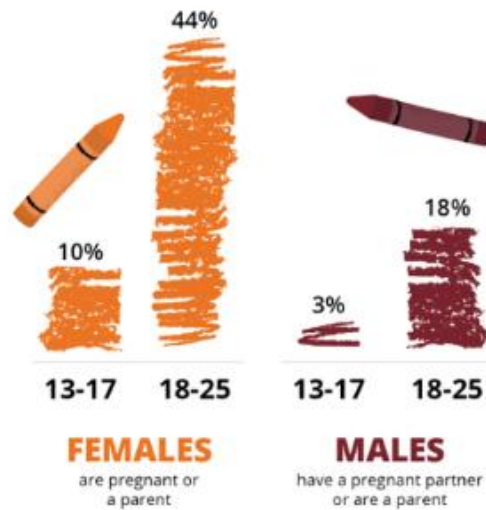


*PIT-C, HIC, and
other reports*



Statistics

Pregnancy and Parenthood are Common Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness



(Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago)

Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Systemic Factor - Education

The relationship between educational attainment and homelessness is bidirectional.

Low educational attainment is a risk factor for homelessness*....



Young adults with less than a high school diploma or GED were

4.5x

more likely to report experiencing homelessness than their peers who completed high school.

...and homelessness is a risk factor for lower educational attainment.



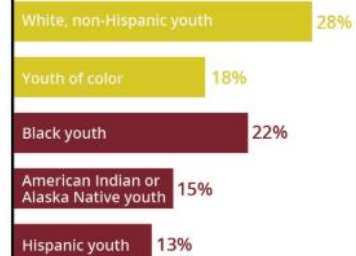
Young adults who experienced homelessness were less than

1/3

as likely to be enrolled in four-year college as stably housed peers.

Racial and ethnic inequities cut across both homelessness and educational outcomes.

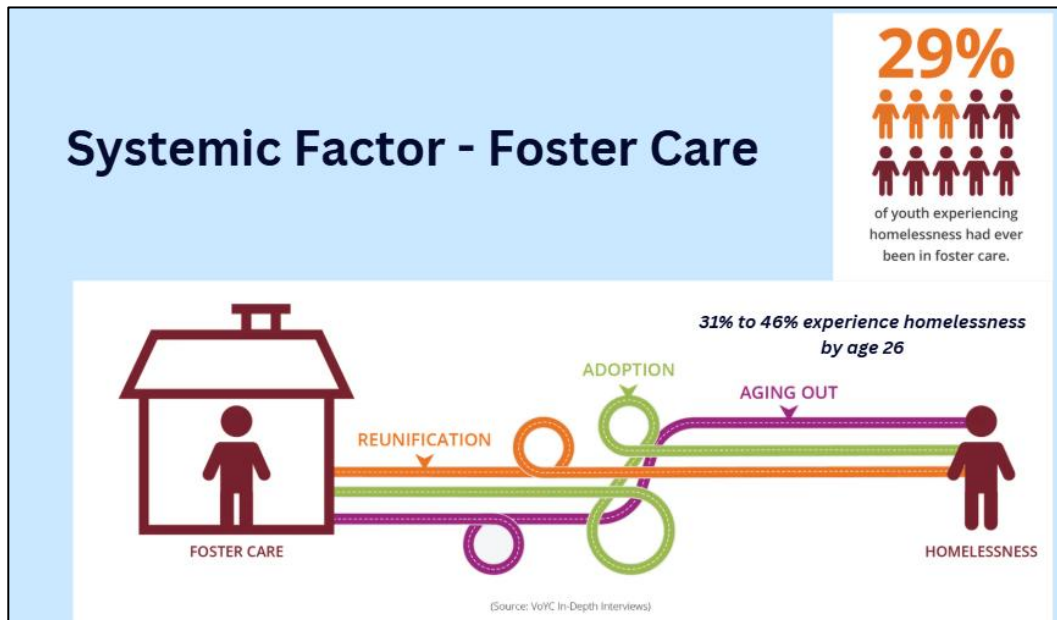
Among young adults, ages 18-25, experiencing homelessness, rates of at least some postsecondary education:



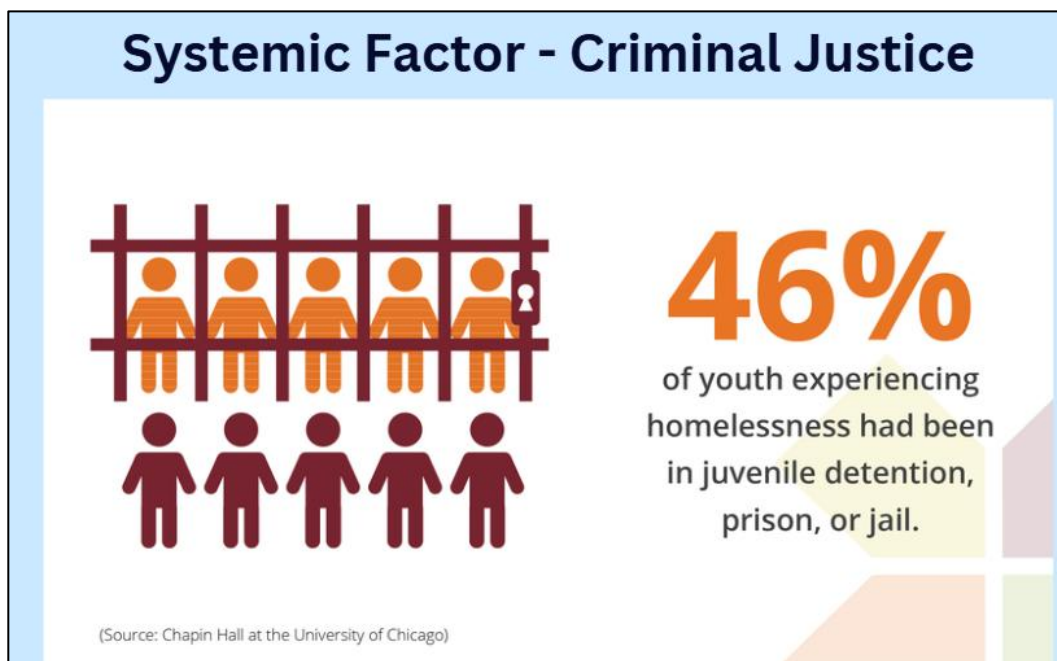
*Note: For this figure, the youth of color group includes Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Hispanic identifying young adults. The differences between Hispanic and White, non-Hispanic youth and between youth of color and White, non-Hispanic youth are statistically significant. The differences between Black or American Indian and Alaska Native youth and White youth are not statistically significant; this is likely due to smaller sample sizes, which make it hard to reach statistical significance.

Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Statistics

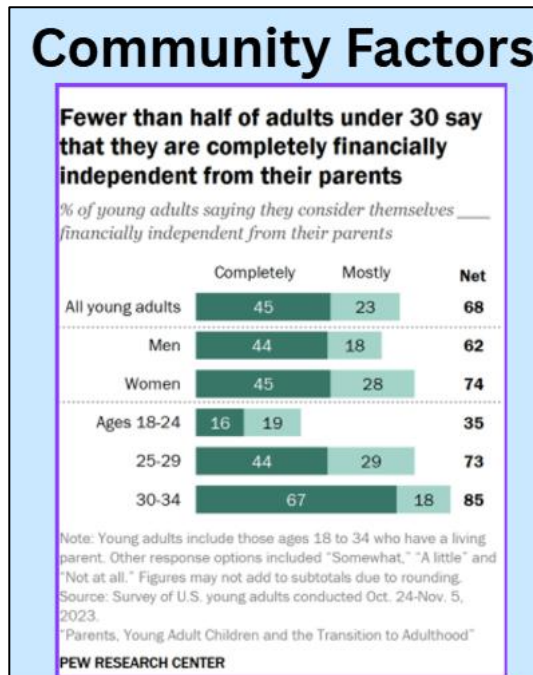


Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

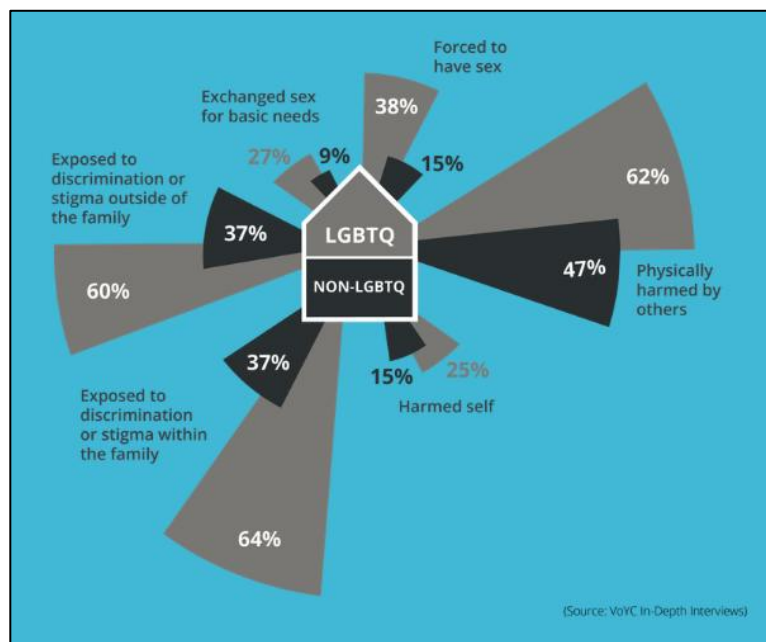


Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Statistics



Source: Pew Research Center



Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

CCFL Community Services Data

ADLH Coordinated Entry



Threshold Coordinated Entry



Hotlines and Emergency Contacts

Hotlines and Emergency Contacts			
Name	Purpose	Phone Number	Availability
988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline	Crisis support and suicide hotline	988	24/7 call or text
Trevor Project	2SLGBTQIA+ youth in crisis	1-866-488-7386	24/7 call or text
National Runaway Safeline	Homeless or runaway youth needing help	1-800-786-2929	24/7 call or text
National Immigration Detention Hotline	Help if detained by ICE	9233#	Call M-F 11 AM - 11 PM Eastern Time
Vital Documents Hotline	Access to ID, birth certificate, social security card	1-888-870-3627	24/7 for voicemails and texts
National Domestic Violence Hotline	Help leaving an unsafe relationship	Call 1-800-799-7233 OR text "START" to 88788	4/7 call or text

Source: "Know your Rights Toolkit for Youth Experiencing Homelessness" - National Network for Youth

Research, Resources, and Websites

	<u>Missed Opportunities: Evidence on Interventions for Addressing Youth Homelessness</u>
	<u>Mental Health & Addiction Interventions for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for Front-Line Providers</u>
	<u>National Alliance to End Homelessness</u>
	<u>National Network for Youth</u>
	<u>Youth Collaboratory</u>
	<u>HUD Exchange – Youth Homelessness</u>
	<u>National Health Care for the Homeless Council</u>
	<u>Find Help Website</u>
	<u>MyLNK</u> (Lincoln, Nebraska)
	<u>Answers for Families – Nebraska</u>
	<u>American Job Centers for Nebraska</u>
	<u>Blue Valley Community Action</u>
	<u>Bridge to Independence</u> (B2I)
	<u>Care Corps LifeHouse</u> (Fremont, NE)
	<u>CEDARS Youth Services</u>
	<u>Central Plains Center for Services</u>
	<u>Community Action of Nebraska</u>
	<u>Connected Youth Initiative</u>
	<u>Family Services</u> (Lincoln, NE)
	<u>Maryland Living Center</u> (Hastings, NE)
	<u>Region V Systems</u> (Lincoln, NE)
	<u>The HUB</u> (Lincoln, NE)
	<u>Wellbeing Initiatives</u>

Citations:

Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Robinson, S. R., & Curry, S. R. (2019). Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) In depth interviews: Technical report. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Morton, M., Dworsky, A., Samuels, G. M., & Patel, S. (2018). Voices of Youth Count Comprehensive Report: Youth Homelessness in America. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.