



## ***Cook County, Illinois***

**Report on Youth Homelessness:  
Findings from the Youth Count, Brief Youth  
Survey, and Provider Survey**

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## Report on Youth Homelessness in Cook County: Findings from the Youth Count, Brief Youth Survey, and Provider Survey

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The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. Chapin Hall is solely responsible for the accuracy of the opinions, statements, and interpretations contained in this publication and do not necessarily reflect the views of the government or any of Chapin Hall's other partners.

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# Executive Summary

Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) is a national, multicomponent research initiative focused on the experiences of runaway, homeless, and unstably housed youth. VoYC aims to accelerate progress toward ending youth homelessness by filling critical knowledge gaps. More and better evidence is needed to inform federal, state, and local policy and improve communities' response to this national problem. This work also builds a foundation for future research.

VoYC partnered with 22 counties across the US. The counties were selected using a stratified random sampling approach that was designed to ensure geographic diversity as well as variation in population density and homeless youth services infrastructure. Cook County is one of the counties that was selected.

Together with its county partners, VoYC has engaged in a variety of research activities. This report presents results from three of those activities: the Youth Count, the Brief Youth Survey, and the Provider Survey. The purpose of the Youth Count and Brief Youth Survey, which were conducted in Cook County on August 4–5, 2016, was to produce a point-in-time estimate of the size of Cook County's homeless and unstably housed youth population and to collect information about the characteristics and experiences of those youth. The purpose of the Provider Survey, which was launched on September 12, 2016, was to gather information about the services available to runaway and homeless youth (RHY) Cook County, including how those services are funded, and to identify any gaps in service provision. We also provide county-level data on the number of homeless students enrolled in Cook County schools.

## Key Findings

- On a single night in Cook County in August 2016, there was an overall count of 862 homeless and unstably housed youth, ages 13 to 25 years old. This report discusses strengths, limitations, and context of the count.
- Fifty-one percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed youth were sheltered the night before the count and 23 percent were unsheltered.
- Eleven percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed youth were 13 to 17 years old.
- Black or African American and multiracial youth were overrepresented among the Cook County population of homeless or unstably housed youth. Sixty-five percent of the surveyed youth identified as Black or African American and 6 percent as multiracial, yet they represented only 24 percent and 2 percent, respectively, of the overall Cook County population.
- Forty-eight percent of the homeless and unstably housed 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County were neither in school nor working compared to 15 percent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County.
- Fifty-nine percent of the male youth in Cook County who reported having a pregnant partner being a parent had custody of their children compared to 47 percent of homeless and unstably housed male youth in the 22-county aggregate sample.
- Thirty-four percent of the female youth in Cook County reported being pregnant or a parent.
- Thirty-five percent of the homeless and unstably housed youth either had been in foster care or spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison only but 14 percent had experienced both.
- Though Cook County has more RHY providers than most of the other large VoYC counties, it has fewer RHY providers that offer mentoring or legal services.
- Less than one-fourth of the RHY-run emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, and rapid rehousing programs serve youth under age 18.
- Most of the RHY providers that offer transitional housing and supportive housing programs reported that their programs had waiting lists and most of the emergency shelters reported having to turn youth away.
- Analysis of homeless student enrollment data indicate that there were 3,030 unaccompanied students reported in the Cook County public schools during the 2014-15 school year.

The 13- to 17-year-olds in Cook County were less likely to be categorized as sheltered and more likely to be categorized as unsheltered than their peers in the other large VoYC counties or in the 22-county aggregate sample. That Cook County Provider Survey respondents reported having only 28 emergency shelter beds for minors, coupled with the number of Cook County providers that do not have programs for this population, may indicate that minors who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Cook County are generally not seeking or receiving services from homeless services providers. This is supported by the fact that school districts in Cook County identified 3,030 unaccompanied students<sup>1</sup> who were eligible for McKinney Vento education-system services during the 2014–15 school year.

The 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County were more likely to be categorized as sheltered than their peers in the 22-county aggregate sample. Yet, there remains an unmet need for housing, as the majority of transitional housing and supportive housing programs reported having waiting lists and two-thirds of the emergency shelters and half of the transitional housing programs turned youth away during the past year. Taken together, these findings suggest a need for increased capacity to provide youth ages 18 and older with both emergency and longer term housing options.

More than half of the runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providers offer family reunification services. In addition, the RHY providers and YSOs that offer services to prevent youth from running away or becoming homeless were nearly as likely to offer prevention services to youth over age 18 as they were to youth under age 18. Even with these services, the 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County were less likely to be categorized as “unstably housed” than their peers in the 22-county aggregate sample. Additional services and supports are needed to prevent youth from becoming homeless and to reduce the length of time youth remain homeless.

Forty-eight percent of the homeless or unstably housed 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County were neither attending school nor working, compared to 15 percent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County.<sup>2</sup> Although we do not know why these young people were not working or in school, their lack of education and employment could be a barrier both to finding and maintaining housing, to their well-being in other domains, and to their ability to participate productively in the economy.

Compared to their peers in the other 21 VoYC counties, male youth who reported having a pregnant partner or being a parent in Cook County were more likely to report having custody of their children than male youth in the 22-county aggregate sample. There is a need

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<sup>1</sup> Schools count a child, regardless of age, as an unaccompanied youth if the child is living with a caretaker who is not the child’s parent or legal guardian.

<sup>2</sup> Because the Brief Youth Survey was administered during the summer months, and some youth who were enrolled in school may have responded “no” to the school attendance question, these percentages may overestimate the percentage of 16- to 24-year olds who were disconnected.

for collaboration between the homeless youth sector and the homeless families sector to ensure that parenting youth can access developmentally appropriate services.

Finally, 49 percent of the Cook County homeless and unstably housed youth reported having spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison, in foster care, or both, making them far more likely to have been in foster care or in detention, jail, or prison than their peers in the general population. Greater cross-sector investment and collaboration are clearly needed to ensure successful transitions for young people exiting the child welfare and juvenile or criminal justice systems.

These data from the Youth Count, Brief Youth Survey, and Provider Survey can be used by local communities to support the mobilization of a coordinated, system-level response involving a broad array of service providers and range of service options that can address the diverse needs of this vulnerable population. They can also inform the development of federal, state, and local policies to prevent and end youth homelessness. Other VoYC research components will shed further light on the impact of federal, state and local policies on the ability of communities like Cook County to address those needs, the life trajectories of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and interventions that have been shown to improve runaway and homeless youth outcomes.

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# Background

Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) is a national, multicomponent research initiative focused on the experiences of runaway, homeless, and unstably housed youth. The purpose of the initiative is to inform the development of federal and state policies related to runaway, homeless, and unstably housed youth; improve the provision of services to that population; and build a foundation for future research with the ultimate goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness. The VoYC research activities include:

- **Youth Count:** a point-in-time visual count of homeless and unstably housed youth;
- **Brief Youth Survey:** a survey of homeless and unstably housed youth administered in conjunction with the Youth Count to collect information about the demographic characteristics and experiences of this population;
- **Provider Survey:** an online survey of runaway and homeless youth service providers, providers of services to homeless adults and families with children, and youth-serving organizations about the services they provide to runaway and homeless youth and how those services are funded;
- **In-Depth Interviews:** timeline narrative interviews with and survey of youth who have experienced homelessness or housing instability to explore housing trajectories and factors that shaped those trajectories, survival strategies, use of services, and perceptions of service effectiveness;
- **Analyses of Existing Data:** leveraging of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS),<sup>3</sup> child welfare, and McKinney-Vento (schools) data to improve site-specific estimates and supplement the survey and interview data;

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<sup>3</sup> HMIS is the Homeless Management Information System that all HUD-funded homeless services agencies and organizations are required to use. In many communities, HMIS is used by most, if not all, homeless service providers, regardless of their funding source.

- **National Survey:** a survey of over 13,000 adults about 13- to 25-year-old household members who had run away, couch surfed, or been homeless in the past year;
- **Policy and Fiscal Analysis:** an examination of the implications of specific federal policies on the ability of communities to address the needs of runaway and homeless youth; and
- **Evidence Review:** a systematic review of evaluations to summarize what is known about programs and services intended to improve outcomes of runaway and homeless youth.

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## Definition of Homeless or Unstably Housed Youth

VoYC defines its target population broadly to include 13- to 25-year-olds who are either homeless or unstably housed. Homeless youth can be **sheltered** (i.e., sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or hotels or motels) or **unsheltered** (i.e., sleeping on the street, in parks, or otherwise outside; in vehicles or in abandoned buildings/vacant units; on trains/buses or in train/bus stations; or at 24-hour restaurants, laundromats, or other retail establishments). Youth **staying with others**<sup>4</sup> include youth who lack a stable place to stay and are sleeping in their own apartment, the home of a parent or other relative, the home of a friend/girlfriend/boyfriend, a foster or group home, a hospital/emergency room, a residential treatment facility, at the home of someone the youth was having sex with, or at a juvenile detention center or jail.

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## Research Questions

VoYC focused on six research questions:

1. How many runaway, homeless, or unstably housed youth are there and what are their characteristics?

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<sup>4</sup> In the Brief Youth Survey, youth were asked where they stayed the night before the count, and depending on their response, if they had a stable place to stay. Youth were classified as “staying with others” if they indicated that they did not have a stable place to stay. This includes youth who were living in their own apartments. Youth in their own apartment could be unstably housed if, for example, they were in the process of being evicted. Please see Appendix B for more information about the survey instrument.

2. How do runaway, homeless, or unstably housed youth survive and how are they faring?
3. What factors are associated with how long and how often youth are homeless or away from home?
4. What services do runaway, homeless, or unstably housed youth use and which are likely to lead to better life outcomes?
5. In what ways are the experiences of runaway, homeless, or unstably housed youth influenced by local, state, or federal policies?
6. Why do youth become homeless or run away from home?

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## Partnerships

To address these research questions, VoYC partnered with 22 counties across the US. In each county, VoYC identified a lead agency. Lead agencies included homeless service providers, continuums of care, local government organizations, and universities. The VoYC lead agency engaged a broad network of local stakeholders and provided extensive support to ensure the success of local data collection activities.

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## Site Selection

We selected the VoYC counties using a stratified random sampling approach that was designed to ensure geographic diversity as well as variation in population density and homeless youth services infrastructure. Communities were identified as urban, suburban, medium or small town, or rural based on the US Center for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics classification system.<sup>5</sup> Five of the 22 counties were selected as sites for in-depth youth interviews based on geography, population density, and the distinctiveness of the context for studying homeless and unstably housed youth. Cook County was one of the five counties that were selected (see Figure 1).

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\\_access/urban\\_rural.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm)

Figure 1. Voices of Youth Count Sites



This report presents results from the Youth Count, Brief Youth Survey, and Provider Survey for Cook County. It includes a point-in-time estimate of the county’s homeless and unstably housed youth population, information about the characteristics and experiences of those youth and the availability of services and gaps in service provision, and county-level data on homeless students enrolled in Cook County schools.

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# Cook County

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## Local Context

The experiences of homeless and unstably housed youth are influenced by the community context in which they live. This context includes the local climate, the service provider infrastructure, and the other systems with which youth are likely to interact.

Cook County is located in northeast Illinois and its county seat is Chicago. It is one of 13 urban counties that partnered with VoYC. In 2015, the population of Cook County was 5,238,216 and 17.1 percent of the population was between 13 and 25 years old.<sup>6</sup> The poverty rate in Cook County was 16.2 percent.<sup>7</sup>

While some government functions cover all of Cook County, most exist for either Chicago or suburban Cook County. This distinction is mirrored in the homeless services community, with two Continuums of Care in the county. Chicago has an extensive youth homeless services network, including a number of organizations focused on runaway and homeless youth. The homeless youth provider network works together regularly, partnering to address the needs of homeless youth in Chicago. The homeless services in suburban Cook County have fewer youth programs and some homeless services providers only operate seasonal shelters.

While the two networks in Cook County collaborate, they largely have distinct infrastructures.

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<sup>6</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Bridged-Race Population Estimates, United States July 1 resident population by state, county, age, sex, bridged-race, and Hispanic origin. Compiled from 1990-99 bridged-race intercensal population estimates (released by NCHS on 7/26/2004); revised bridged-race 2000-09 intercensal population estimates (released by NCHS on 10/26/2012); and bridged-race vintage 2015 (2010-15) postcensal population estimates (released by NCHS on 6/28/2016). Available on CDC WONDER Online Database. Accessed at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-v2015.html> on March 28, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cookcountyillinois/PST045216>



The Chicago Taskforce on Homeless Youth (Taskforce), co-chaired by Teen Living Programs and the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, served as the VoYC lead agency in Cook County. Together with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, the suburban Cook County continuum of care, and Aunt Martha's, a youth services and health service provider in suburban Cook County, the Taskforce engaged the broader community, identified and convened stakeholders, and provided extensive support to ensure the success of data collection activities. Youth and adult homeless services organizations, feeding programs, workforce development agencies, advocacy groups, child welfare agencies, schools, and funders were important partners in the planning efforts.

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## Youth Count and Brief Youth Survey

The VoYC Youth Counts were conducted over a 24-hour period on different dates in each of the 22 counties. In each community, the VoYC lead agency helped identify and recruit young people who had lived experience with homelessness or housing instability and a broad array of local service providers and other stakeholders to plan and execute the Youth Count.

## Methods

The VoYC Youth Counts were conducted using the same methodology in all 22 communities. The complete Youth Count methodology is detailed in the *VoYC Toolkit*, which is available for download.<sup>8</sup>

The key features of the VoYC Youth Count approach included:

- Counting youth experiencing *homelessness or housing instability* to capture youth with a diverse set of experiences.
- Engaging currently and formerly homeless youth as experts in the planning of the count and full participants in the execution of the count.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://voicesofyouthcount.org/resource/conducting-a-youth-count-a-toolkit/>

- Engaging a broad set of community stakeholders, including service providers, who support and are connected to the diverse population of youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Data collection for the Youth Count and Brief Youth Survey included three components: a Street Count, an Organizational Count, and a Community Count.

**The Street Count.** The Street Count focused on “hot spots,” or locations identified by community members as places where youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability were likely to be found. Youth who had experienced homelessness or housing

instability, as well as service providers connected to those youth, participated in focus groups a few weeks prior to the Youth Count to identify the hot spots and determine when the Youth Count should be conducted. On the day of the count, teams composed of youth who had experienced homelessness or housing instability (Guides) and a supportive community volunteer (Team Leader) were given maps of the hot spots where they were to count and survey youth.

Teams conducted a visual count of youth in the hot spots as well as in other areas where homeless or unstably housed youth were likely to be found. The teams used tally sheets (see Appendix A) to record information about youth who appeared to be homeless or unstably housed and between 13 and 25 years old. Immediately following the visual count, these youth were approached by Guides and asked to complete a Brief Youth Survey (see Appendix B) that included questions about where youth had slept the night before as well as demographic and other background characteristics. Although teams made every effort to

## VOYC YOUTH COUNTS

### Strengths

- Youth driven
- Collaboratively planned
- Hot spots mapped
- Multiple settings for surveying youth
- Integrated data
- Age-appropriate surveys

### Limitations

- Difficult to count youth experiencing more hidden forms of homelessness
- Snapshot approach may undercount sporadic homelessness
- Limited school engagement during the summer

administer surveys to every youth who was counted, this was not always possible. For example, some youth left the area before they could be surveyed and some youth were sleeping.

**The Organizational Count.** Staff or other volunteers administered the Brief Youth Survey to youth in shelters, transitional living programs, drop-in centers, and other organizations from which homeless or unstably housed youth may have received services on the day of the count. A visual count was not conducted in these locations.

**The Community Count.** Volunteers also administered the Brief Youth Survey to youth at locations in the community, including parks and libraries. Youth were notified of these opportunities to be surveyed through service providers, social media, and other forms of outreach. A visual count was not conducted at these sites.

## Cook County Youth Count Context

The Cook County trainings were held on August 4, 2016 and the Youth Count was conducted on August 4 and 5. Twenty-seven teams, including 64 Guides and 34 Team Leaders, conducted the Street Count. Twenty-two organizations participated in the Organizational Count by administering surveys to youth they were serving on the day of the Youth Count. Suburban Cook County covers a large area and has limited public transportation, which hindered recruitment and counting efforts. Additionally, the state of Illinois was in its 13<sup>th</sup> month without a state budget at the time of the Youth Count. This ongoing budget crisis had detrimental impacts on the social service safety net in Illinois, and a number of youth-serving organizations (YSOs) were unable to participate in the Youth Count because of staff reductions.

## Cook County Results

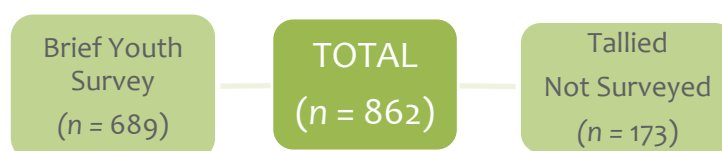
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### Youth Count

The Youth Count total integrates data from two sources: the Brief Youth Survey and the visual count. Of the 1,039 youth who were surveyed in Cook County, 689 were between 13 and 25 years old and categorized as homeless or unstably housed based on where they had

slept the night before.<sup>9</sup> Another 173 homeless or unstably housed youth were tallied but not surveyed. The VoYC point-in-time count total for Cook County was 862 homeless or unstably housed youth (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Cook County Youth Count**



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## Brief Youth Survey

In this section, we present the Brief Youth Survey results. They include information about the locations where youth were surveyed and where they slept the night before the count. They also include information about youths' demographic characteristics, education, employment, history of systems involvement, and whether they were pregnant or parenting. The percentages reported below are calculated out of the total number of youth who responded to the relevant survey question. This number is often less than the total sample size.

Where relevant, we provide context for interpreting the Cook County data by comparing the responses of the homeless and unstably housed youth surveyed in Cook County to:

- data collected from the 22-county aggregate sample of 4,139 youth;
- data collected from the large-county sample of 2,772 youth (i.e., counties with a population greater than 1,000,000);

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<sup>9</sup> See the VoYC definition of homeless or unstably housed on page 2.

- Cook County data from the 2015 American Community Survey, which is administered annually by the US Census Bureau; or
- data from a recent Gallup poll of 18- to 25-year-olds across the US.<sup>10</sup>

Additional results from the Brief Youth Survey conducted in Cook County can be found in Appendix C. Comparison data for the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample can be found in Appendices D and E, respectively.

It is important to keep in mind that these data provide a snapshot of youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Cook County during a 24-hour period in August 2016. They do not necessarily reflect the experiences of youth who are homeless or unstably housed at other times during the year or whose homelessness is more hidden because they are couch surfing, doubled up, or do not want to be found or surveyed.

Additionally, although the focus of VoYC is on unaccompanied homeless youth, the youth who completed the survey were not asked if they were staying with a parent or legal guardian. It is possible, for example, that some of the youth who reported sleeping at the home of a friend or family member may have been doubled up together with a parent. For this reason, we do not use the term “unaccompanied” in reporting the Brief Youth Survey results.

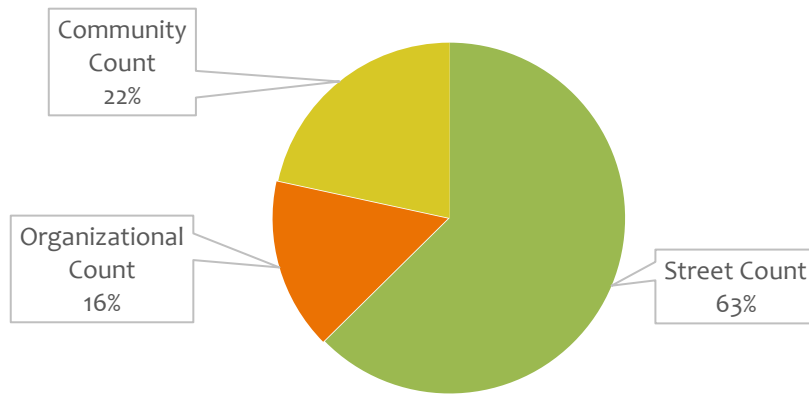
### Locations of Surveyed Youth

Of the 689 homeless and unstably housed youth who were surveyed in Cook County, 431 were surveyed during the street count, 109 were surveyed during the organizational count, and 149 were surveyed during the community count (see Figure 3).

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<sup>10</sup> VoYC also includes a national population-based survey on youth homelessness that included both landline and cell phone samples. During this survey, all participants, both stably and unstably housed, were asked about high school completion and current employment. The information gathered from all respondents offers a nationally-representative sample of the experiences of 18- to 25-year-olds. The results of this national survey will be presented in greater detail in a separate report.

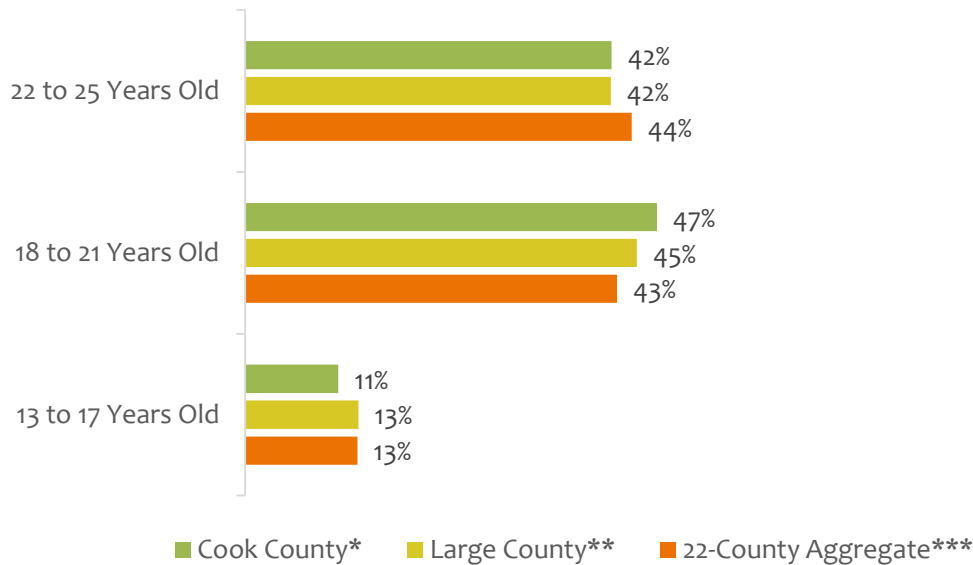
**Figure 3. Locations of Surveyed Youth**



### Demographic Characteristics

We asked youth for their date of birth and used this to calculate their age. Eighty-nine percent of the Cook County sample were over the age of 18, which is comparable to the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Age of Sample**



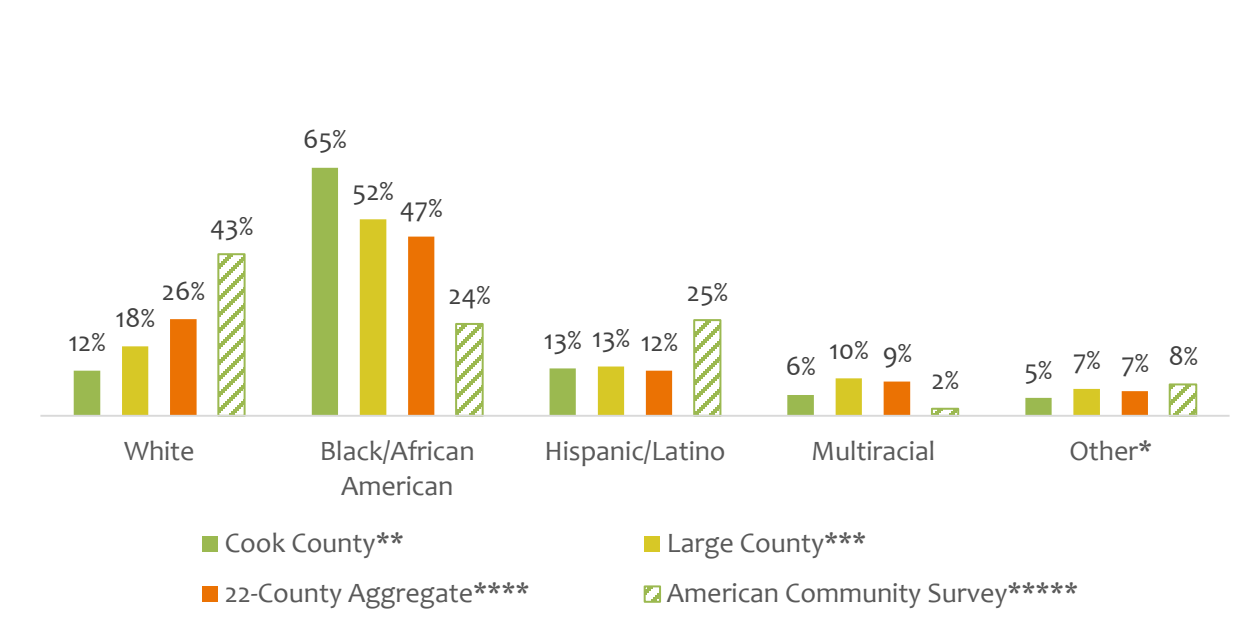
\* 88 respondents in the Cook County sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

\*\* 158 respondents in the large-county sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

\*\*\* 223 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

We also asked youth about their race or ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Black or African American youth were overrepresented among the Cook County population of homeless or unstably housed youth (see Figure 5). Sixty-five percent of the surveyed youth identified as Black or African American, yet they represented only 24 percent of the overall Cook County population.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 5. Race and Ethnicity**



\* “Other” includes youth who identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, and Other.

\*\* Data were missing for 33 respondents in the Cook County sample.

\*\*\* Data were missing for 123 respondents in the large-county sample.

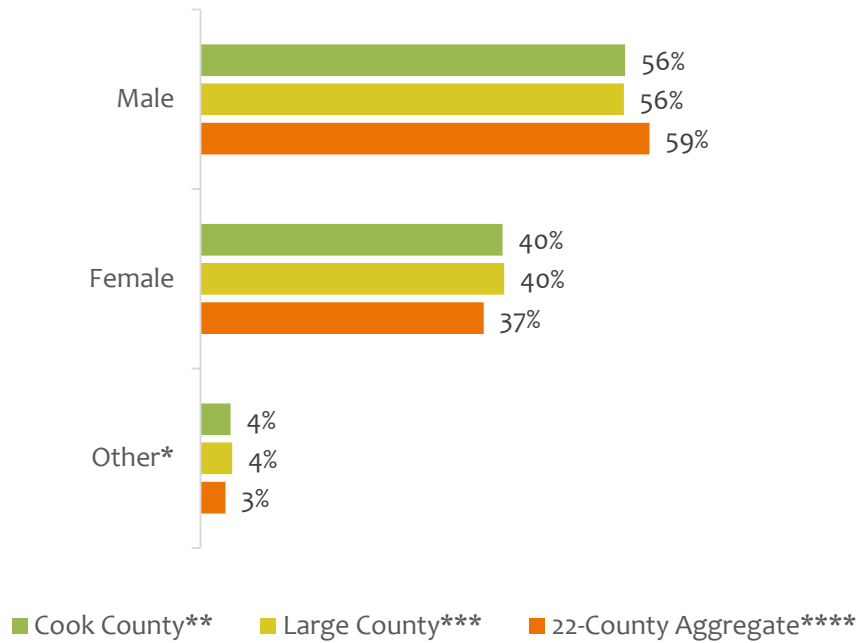
\*\*\*\* Data were missing for 192 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample.

\*\*\*\*\* The American Community Survey is data about the entire population of Cook County. It adds to more than 100% because individuals may have identified as both Hispanic/Latino and another race.

Like both the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample, the Cook County sample was disproportionately male (56%; see Figure 6).

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/17031>

Figure 6. Gender Identity



\* “Other” includes youth who identified as transgender, genderqueer/nonconforming, intersex, or other.

\*\* Data were missing for 70 respondents in the Cook County sample.

\*\*\* Data were missing for 310 respondents in the large-county sample.

\*\*\*\* Data were missing for 470 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample.

Twenty-five percent of the Cook County homeless and unstably housed youth identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or asexual (LGBQA) to some extent (see Figure 7).<sup>12</sup> The percentage of youth who identify as LGBQA may be higher than these data suggest because some young people may have felt uncomfortable sharing information about sexual orientation. Nonetheless, the percentage of youth in Cook County who identified as LGBQA is very similar to the percentage of youth who identified as LGBQA in both the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample. In all three samples, the percentage was

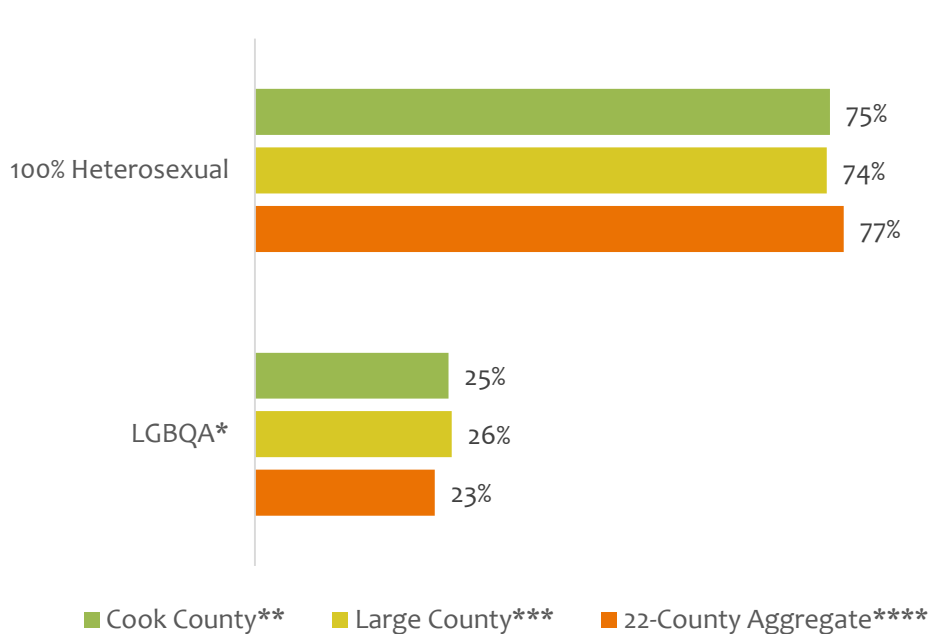
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<sup>12</sup> We counted youth as bisexual if they identified themselves as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, or mostly gay or lesbian.



significantly higher than the percentage of youth who identify as LGBQA in the general population.<sup>13</sup>

**Figure 7. Sexual Orientation**



\* “LGBQA” includes youth who identified as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, mostly gay or lesbian, 100% gay or lesbian, not sexually attracted to either males or females, or other.

\*\* Data were missing for 49 respondents in the Cook County sample.

\*\*\* Data were missing for 181 respondents in the large-county sample.

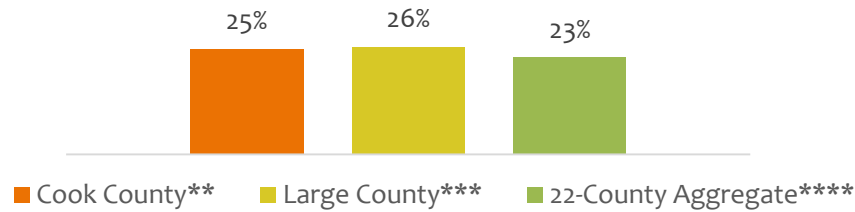
\*\*\*\* Data were missing for 269 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample.

When responses to both the gender identity and sexual orientation question are taken into account, we find that 25 percent of homeless and unstably housed youth in Cook County identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, transgender, or asexual (LGBTQA) to some extent (see Figure 8).<sup>14</sup> This was comparable to the percentage of youth who identified as LGBTQA in both the large-county and 22-county aggregate samples.

<sup>13</sup> A recent Gallup poll found that approximately 7% of millennials in the US identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender ([http://www.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identification-rises.aspx?g\\_source=Social%20Issues&g\\_medium=newsfeed&g\\_campaign=tiles](http://www.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identification-rises.aspx?g_source=Social%20Issues&g_medium=newsfeed&g_campaign=tiles)).

<sup>14</sup> We counted youth as transgender if they identified themselves as transgender F-M, transgender M-F, intersex, genderqueer/nonconforming, other, or do not know.

**Figure 8. Percentage of Youth who Identified as LGBTQA\***



\* “LGBTQA” includes youth who identified as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, mostly gay or lesbian, 100% gay or lesbian, not sexually attracted to either males or females, transgender F-M, transgender M-F, intersex, genderqueer/nonconforming, other, or do not know.

\*\* Data were missing for 87 respondents in the Cook County sample.

\*\*\* Data were missing for 388 respondents in the large-county sample.

\*\*\*\* Data were missing for 579 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample.

## Where Youth Slept Last Night

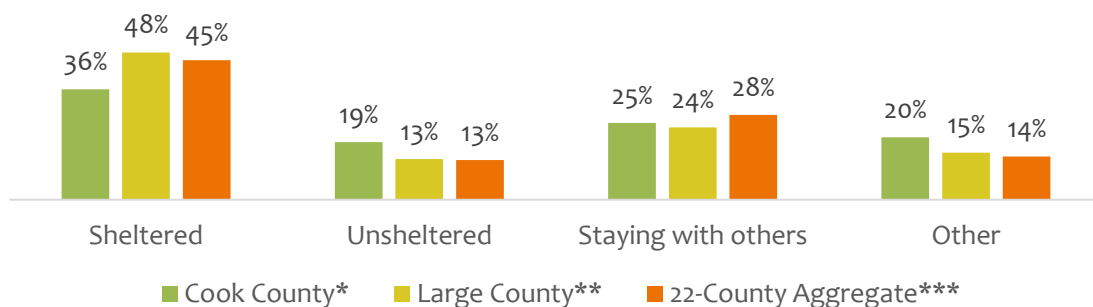
We asked youth “Where did you sleep last night?” and categorized them as belonging to one of four groups based on their responses to this question. Youth who responded that they were staying in their own home or the home of a friend or relative were also asked if they had a stable place to stay. Those who said “no” were categorized as unstably housed. See Appendix B for more information about the survey instrument.

- The homeless **sheltered** category includes youth who slept in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and hotels or motels.
- The homeless **unsheltered** category includes youth who slept in vehicles, abandoned buildings, or vacant units; on trains/buses or in train/bus stations; at 24-hour restaurants, laundromats, or other business or retail establishments; or anywhere outside (e.g., on the street or in a park).

- The **staying with others** category includes youth who did not have a stable place to stay and slept in their own apartment, the home of a parent or other relative, the home of a friend/boyfriend/girlfriend, or in a foster or group home.
- The **other** category includes youth who did not fall into any of the previous categories but lacked a stable place to stay. These are youth who had spent the night before the count in a hospital, emergency room, residential treatment facility, at the home of someone the youth was having sex with, or a juvenile detention center or jail. It also includes youth who didn't know where they had slept or who refused to answer.

Based on their responses, 36 percent of the youth aged 13 to 17 years old were categorized as sheltered, 19 percent as unsheltered, 25 percent as staying with others, and 20 percent as “other” the night before the count (see Figure 9). The 13- to 17-year-olds in Cook County were less likely to have been categorized as sheltered and more likely to have been categorized as unsheltered than 13- to 17-year-olds in the large-county sample or the 22-county aggregate sample.

**Figure 9. Where Youth Ages 13 to 17 years old Slept Last Night**



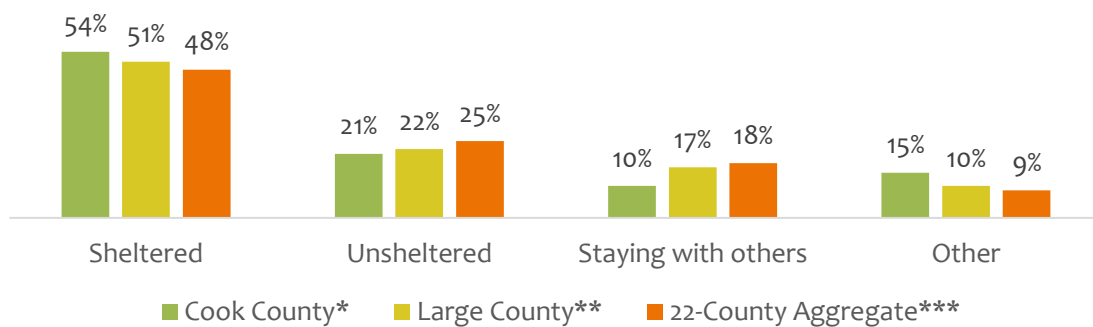
\* 88 respondents in the Cook County sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

\*\* 158 respondents in the large-county sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

\*\*\* 223 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

Based on their responses, 54 percent of the youth ages 18 to 25 years old were categorized as sheltered, 21 percent as unsheltered, 10 percent as staying with others and 15 percent as “other” the night before the count (see Figure 10). The 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County were slightly more likely to be categorized as sheltered and less likely to be categorized as staying with others than 18- to 25-year-olds in either the large-county sample or the 22-county aggregate sample.

**Figure 10. Where Youth Ages 18 to 25 years old Slept Last Night**



\* 88 respondents in the Cook County sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

\*\* 158 respondents in the large-county sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

\*\*\* 223 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample did not respond to the question about date of birth.

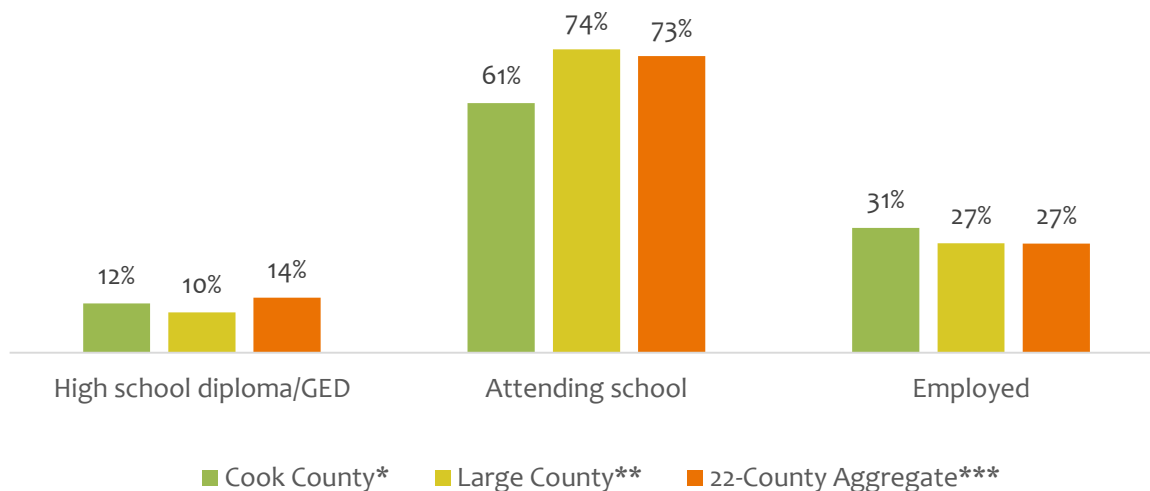
## Education and Employment

Youth were asked if they had a high school diploma or GED, if they were currently attending school or another education program, and if they were currently employed at a job for which they receive a pay-check. Because the Brief Youth Survey was administered during the summer months, some youth who were enrolled in school may have responded “no” to the question about school attendance. Thus, the percentage of youth attending school during the school year may be higher than these data suggest.

Twelve percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed 13- to 17-year-olds reported having a high school diploma or GED, 61 percent reported that they were currently attending school, and 31 percent reported that they were currently employed (see Figure 11). The 13- to

17-year-olds in Cook County were less likely to be attending school but slightly more likely to be employed than 13- to 17-year-olds in the large-county sample or the 22-county aggregate sample.

**Figure 11. Education and Employment Among 13- to 17-year-olds**



\* In the Cook County sample, data on high school completion were missing for 6 respondents, data on school attendance were missing for 5 respondents, and data on employment were missing for 5 respondents.

\*\* In the large-county sample, data on high school completion were missing for 17 respondents, data on school attendance were missing for 16 respondents, and data on employment were missing for 19 respondents.

\*\*\* In the 22-county aggregate sample, data on high school completion were missing for 21 respondents, data on school attendance were missing for 20 respondents, and data on employment were missing for 24 respondents.

Sixty-three percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed 18- to 25-year-olds reported having a high school diploma or GED (see Figure 12). This is much lower than for the general population of 18- to 25-year-olds—both the percentage of Cook County youth who graduate from high school (four years after entering; 82%)<sup>15</sup> and the percentage of 18- to 25-year-olds in a national sample who reported having a high school diploma or GED

<sup>15</sup> State and school district data from the US Department of Education: EDFacts Adjusted Cohort Graduate Rate (ACGR) for the 2013-14 school year. Measure of America mapped school districts to estimate the counties and recalculated the ACGR. See <http://opportunityindex.org/#8.00/41.598/-85.523/Cook/Illinois>

(86%).<sup>16</sup> However, it is comparable to the percentage of homeless and unstably housed youth who reported having a high school diploma or GED in the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample.

Twenty-nine percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County reported that they were currently attending school. This is comparable to the percentage of homeless and unstably housed youth who were attending school in both the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample.

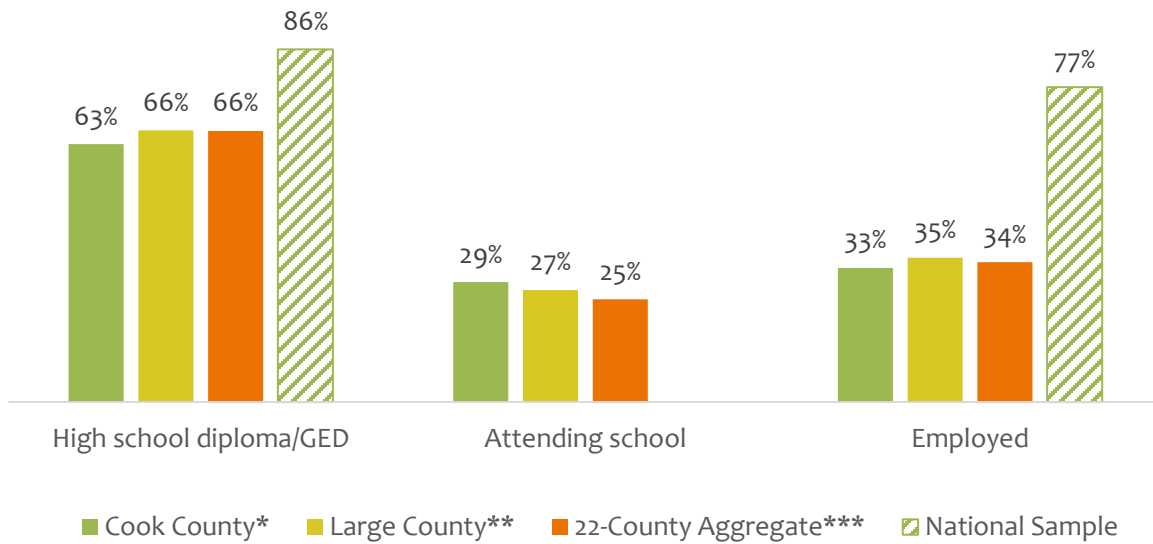
Thirty-three percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County reported that they were currently employed. This is comparable to the percentage of homeless and unstably housed youth who were employed in both the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample. The homeless and unstably housed 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County were about half as likely to be employed as a national sample of 18- to 25-year-olds.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> VoYC also includes a national population-based survey on youth homelessness that included both landline and cell phone samples. During this survey, all participants, both stably and unstably housed, were asked about high school completion and current employment. The information gathered from all respondents offers a nationally-representative sample of the experiences of 18- to 25-year-olds. The results of this national survey will be presented in greater detail in a separate report. Gallup, Inc. Daily Tracking Poll data from July to September 2016.

<sup>17</sup> Gallup, Inc. Daily Tracking Poll data from July to September 2016.

**Figure 12. Education and Employment Among 18- to 25-year-olds**



\* In the Cook County sample, data on high school completion were missing for 23 respondents, data on school attendance were missing for 22 respondents, and data on employment were missing for 18 respondents.

\*\* In the large-county sample, data on high school completion were missing for 71 respondents, data on school attendance were missing for 94 respondents, and data on employment were missing for 90 respondents.

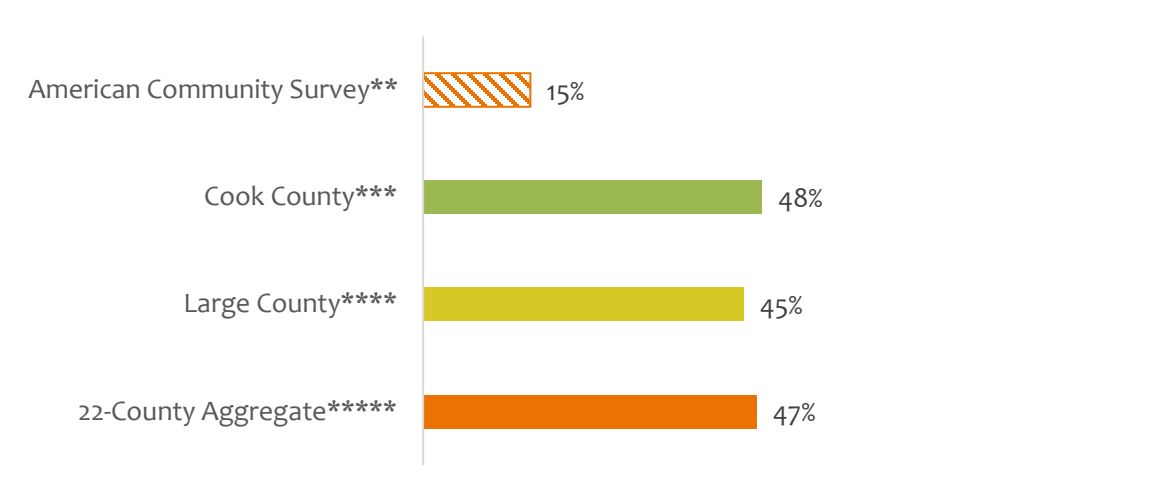
\*\*\* In the 22-county aggregate sample, data on high school completion were missing for 112 respondents, data on school attendance were missing for 141 respondents, and data on employment were missing for 137 respondents.

Disconnected youth are often defined as 16- to 24-year-olds who are neither working nor in school. Based on this definition, 48 percent of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County would be categorized as “disconnected” compared to 45 percent of the 16- to 24-year-olds in the large-county sample and 47 percent of the 16- to 24-year-olds in the 22-county aggregate sample (see Figure 13).<sup>18</sup> By contrast, 15 percent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County were categorized as disconnected based on analysis of American Community Survey data.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Because the Brief Youth Survey was administered during the summer months, and some youth who were enrolled in school may have responded “no” to the school attendance question, these percentages may overestimate the percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds who were disconnected.

<sup>19</sup> Measure of America analysis of data from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS Microdata (<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>) and custom tabulations for county and county equivalents provided by special arrangement with the US Census Bureau. See <http://opportunityindex.org/#8.00/41.598/-85.523/Cook/Illinois>

Figure 13. Disconnected 16- to 24-year-olds\*



\* “Disconnected” is often defined as neither being in school nor working.

\*\* The American Community Survey is data about the entire population, ages 16 to 24, of Cook County.

\*\*\* Data were missing for 23 respondents in the Cook County sample.

\*\*\*\* Data were missing for 99 respondents in the large-county sample.

\*\*\*\*\* Data were missing for 148 respondents in the 22-county aggregate sample.

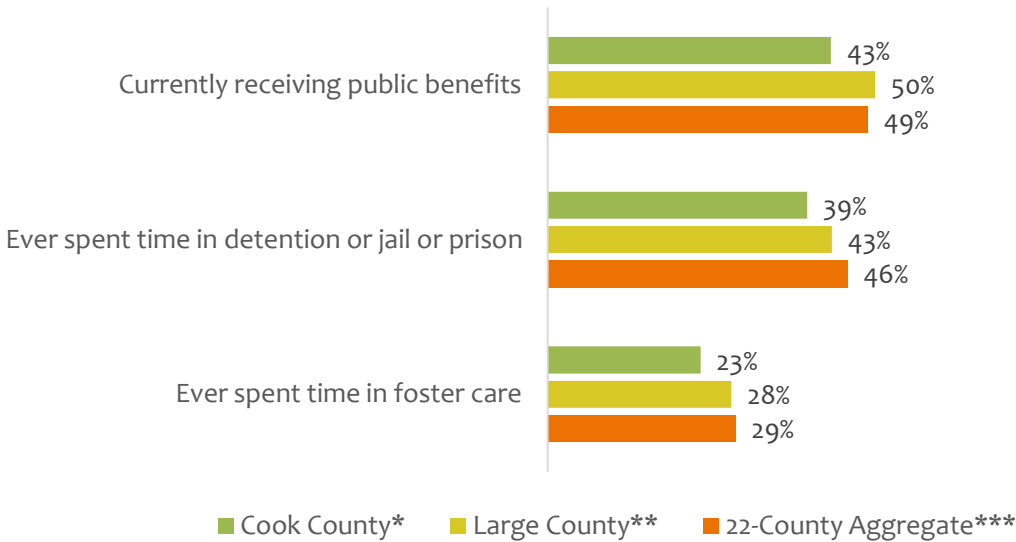
## Systems Involvement

Youth were asked if they were currently receiving any government benefits, had ever spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison, or had ever been in foster care (see Figure 14).

Forty-three percent of the Cook County youth were currently receiving benefits, 39 percent had ever spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison, and 23 percent had ever been in foster care. There was some overlap between the youth who had been in foster care and the youth who had spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison. Thirty-five percent of Cook County homeless and unstably housed youth had either been in foster care or spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison only, but 14 percent had experienced both. Compared to homeless and unstably housed youth in both the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample, the Cook County youth were less likely to have spent time in foster care or in juvenile detention or jail or prison, and were less likely to receive public benefits.



**Figure 14. Systems Involvement**



\* In the Cook County sample, data on benefit receipt were missing for 38 respondents, data on detention/incarceration were missing for 44 respondents and data on foster care were missing for 38 respondents.

\*\* In the large-county sample, data on benefit receipt were missing for 124 respondents, data on detention/incarceration were missing for 160 respondents, and data on foster care were missing for 113 respondents.

\*\*\* In the 22-county aggregate sample, data on benefit receipt were missing for 189 respondents, data on detention/incarceration were missing for 241 respondents and data on foster care were missing for 179 respondents.

These data indicate that Cook County youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability are far more likely to have been in foster care and to have been in detention or jail or prison than their peers in the general population. For example, the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) found that just over 2 percent of a nationally representative sample of young adults (ages 18 to 28) had ever lived in a foster home.<sup>20</sup> The Add Health Study also found that just over 15 percent of a nationally representative sample of 24- to 34-year-olds had ever spent time in a jail, prison, juvenile detention center or other correctional facility.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> The Add Health figure does not include young adults who were in group care settings but not in foster homes. See Harris, K. (2009). *The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), Wave III, 2001–2002*. Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

<sup>21</sup> The Add Health sample is considerably older than the VoYC sample, which makes the comparison even more compelling. See Harris, K. (2009). *The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add*

## Pregnancy and Parenthood

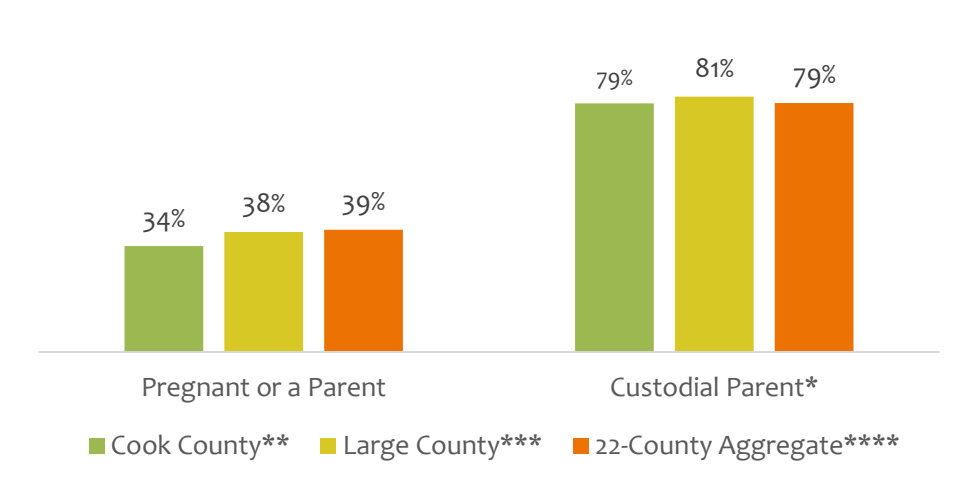
Youth were asked if they were pregnant or parenting, and youth who responded yes were asked if they had custody of their children. The question about custody was asked of all young people who responded affirmatively to the question about being pregnant or a parent. Thus, the data may underestimate the percentage of parents who have custody of their children.

Thirty-four percent of the female youth in Cook County reported that they were pregnant or a parent (see Figure 15). Seventy-nine percent of those young women reported having custody of their children. The percentage of Cook County female youth who reported being pregnant or a parent was slightly lower than the percentage of female youth in the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample, but Cook County female youth who reported being pregnant or a parent reported having custody of their children at similar rates to the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample.

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*Health*), Wave IV, 2007–2009. Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Figure 15. Pregnancy and Parenthood among Females



\* Only includes youth who reported being pregnant or a parent.

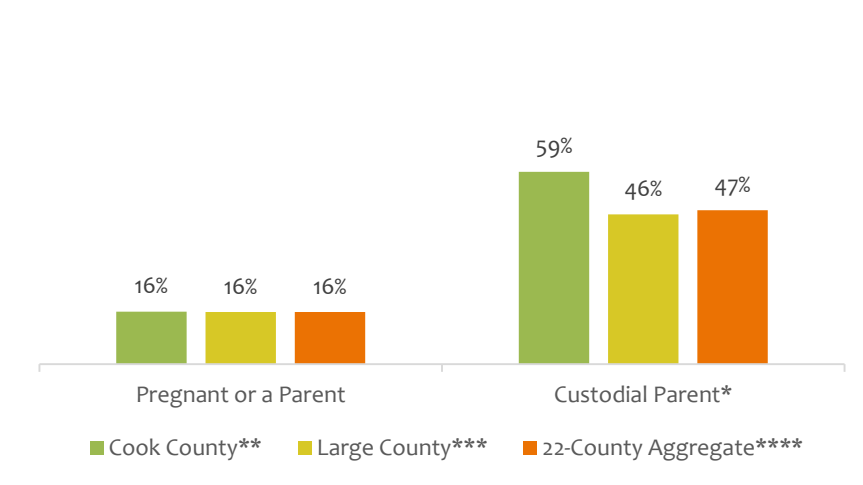
\*\* In the Cook County sample, data on pregnancy and parenthood were missing for 14 female respondents and data on custody were missing for 12 female respondents.

\*\*\* In the large-county sample, data on pregnancy and parenthood were missing for 31 female respondents and data on custody were missing for 28 female respondents.

\*\*\*\* In the 22-county aggregate sample, data on pregnancy and parenthood were missing for 44 female respondents and data on custody were missing for 44 female respondents.

Sixteen percent of the Cook County male youth reported that their partner was pregnant or that they were parents and 59 percent of those young men reported having custody of their children (see Figure 16). The Cook County male youth were about as likely as male youth in both the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample to have a pregnant partner or to report being a parent, but were more likely to report having custody of their children if they were a parent.

Figure 16. Partner Pregnancy and Parenthood among Males



\* Only includes youth who reported being pregnant or a parent.

\*\* In the Cook County sample, data on pregnancy and parenthood were missing for 10 male respondents and data on custody were missing for 8 male respondents.

\*\*\* In the large-county sample, data on pregnancy and parenthood were missing for 57 male respondents and data on custody were missing for 23 male respondents.

\*\*\*\* In the 22-county aggregate sample, data on pregnancy and parenthood were missing for 92 male respondents and data on custody were missing for 32 male respondents.

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## Provider Survey

The VoYC Provider Survey gathered information from service providers to better understand the range of services available to runaway and homeless youth in Cook County and how those services are funded.

## Methods

For each of the 22 counties, the VoYC team compiled a comprehensive list of organizations serving runaway and homeless youth (RHY), homeless adults, and families, and other youth-serving organizations (YSOs). A link to an online survey was sent to one representative from each of the provider agencies shortly after the Youth Count was conducted. The survey included questions about their agency, the programs they operate, how some programs are funded, and the services they provide.

## Cook County Provider Survey Context

The Cook County Provider Survey was conducted in September and October 2016. The survey link was sent to 119 service providers and 69 responded—a 58 percent response rate. Because more than one-third of the service providers to whom the survey link was sent did not respond, these results do not provide a complete picture of the services potentially available to Cook County’s runaway and homeless youth. Additionally, these results are based on the information self-reported by the agencies that participated in the survey. Some of that self-reported information may have been incorrect.

## Cook County Results

Below, we present the Provider Survey results. The results include information about the types of programs run by RHY providers as well as providers that serve homeless adults and families; the way programs run by RHY providers are funded; and the services provided to runaway and homeless youth by RHY providers and other youth-serving organizations (YSOs). Where relevant, we compare the responses of the Cook County providers to aggregate results from the large VoYC counties.

Additional results from the Provider Survey conducted in Cook County can be found in Appendix F.

Most of the Cook County providers were nonprofit organizations (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Type of Agency**

(n = 69)	
Type	# of agencies
Nonprofit organization	64
Religious/faith-based organization	2
Public/government agency	3
For-profit organization	0
Other	0

Twenty-one of the providers that completed the survey reported operating programs for runaway and homeless youth, 36 reported operating programs for homeless adults, 30

reported operating programs for homeless families, and 21 reported operating programs for other youth populations (see Figure 17). Some of these providers reported serving more than one population (e.g., RHY and homeless adults, homeless adults and homeless families).

Agencies were categorized as RHY providers if they indicated that they operated any programs specifically for runaway and homeless youth regardless of whether those programs were funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). Throughout the report, we use the short-hand “RHY provider” for these organizations. Similarly, agencies were categorized as “homeless adult” or “homeless family” providers if they indicated that they operated any programs for homeless adults without children or homeless families with children, respectively. Finally, agencies were categorized as YSOs if they indicated that they operated any programs youth ages 13 to 25 years old, regardless of their housing status.

**Figure 17. Populations Served**



In Table 2, we compare the number of providers of each type that participated in the Cook County Provider Survey to the number of providers of each type that participated in the other large VoYC county Provider Surveys. In Cook County roughly 20 providers of each type completed the survey. This is more than the other large VoYC counties.

**Table 2. County-Level Data on the Number of Providers by Provider Type for the Large VoYC Counties\***

<b>(n = 9)</b> Number of providers	<b>Provider Type</b>			
	<b>RHY</b>	<b>Homeless adults</b>	<b>Homeless families</b>	<b>YSOs</b>
Zero	0	0	0	0
1 to 5	0	0	0	0
6 to 10	4	3	4	4
11 to 15	3	1	3	2
16 to 20	0	4	1	2
More than 20	2	1	1	1

\*The shaded cells represent the categories into which Cook County falls.

### Types of Programs Operated by RHY Providers by Age of Youth Served

Table 3 shows the number of Cook County Provider Survey respondents that operate different types of RHY programs, the number that operate those programs for youth under age 18 and the number that operate those programs for youth age 18 and older. Cook County’s RHY providers are more likely to operate transitional housing programs (TLPs) than any other type of program, but most of those TLP operators don’t serve youth under age 18. None of the RHY providers in Cook County runs a host home program and only one operates a rapid rehousing program. Regardless of program type, Cook County RHY providers are more likely to serve youth age 18 and older than youth under age 18.

**Table 3. Programs Operated by RHY Providers by Age of Youth Served**

<b>(n = 21)</b>			
<b>Program types</b>	<b># of providers</b>	<b># of providers serving youth &lt; 18</b>	<b># of providers serving youth ≥ 18</b>
Drop-in centers	5	3	5
Street outreach	6	5	6
Emergency shelters	6	2	6
Transitional housing	14	3	14
Supportive housing	5	1	5
Host home	0	n/a	n/a
Rapid rehousing	1	0	1

Compared to the other eight large counties, Cook County has more RHY providers that operate drop-in centers, emergency shelters, and supportive housing programs (see Table 4). It is fairly typical with respect to the number of RHY providers that operate street outreach programs, transitional housing programs and rapid rehousing programs.

**Table 4. County-Level Data on the Number of RHY Providers Operating Programs for the Large VoYC Counties \***

(n = 9)	Program Type						
# of RHY providers	Drop-in centers	Street outreach	Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Supportive housing	Host home	Rapid rehousing
	Number of Counties						
Zero	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
One to two	2	1	3	1	4	4	5
Three to four	4	2	4	2	2	0	2
Five or more	3	6	2	6	3	0	0

\*The shaded cells represent the categories into which Cook County falls.

Table 5 provides a more complete picture of the provider landscape because it is based on the responses of all 58 of the homeless service providers that responded to the survey: RHY providers, providers that serve homeless adults, and providers that serve homeless families with children. Regardless of program type, most homeless service providers in Cook County operate programs that serve youth age 18 and over. Many fewer operate programs that serve youth under age 18. For example, youth under age 18 are only served by five of the 32 providers that operate transitional housing programs and only one of the 27 providers that operate supportive housing programs.



**Table 5. Number of Homeless Service Providers Operating Programs by Age of Youth Served**

<i>(n = 58)</i>			
Program type	# of providers	# of providers serving youth < 18	# of providers serving youth ≥ 18
Drop-in centers*	5	3	5
Street outreach	12	6	12
Emergency shelters	18	5	18
Transitional housing	32	5	32
Supportive housing	27	1	27
Host home**	0	n/a	n/a
Rapid rehousing	9	1	9

\*Providers were not asked about drop-in centers for homeless adults or families with children.

\*\*Providers were not asked about host home programs for homeless adults or families with children.

As is the case in all of the large VoYC counties, five or more providers in Cook County operate each of the following: street outreach programs, emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and supportive housing programs (see Table 6). Cook County has more providers that operate drop-in centers than the other large counties and, like half of the other large counties, has no RHY providers that operate host home programs.

**Table 6. County-Level Data on the Number of Homeless Service Providers Operating Programs for the Large VoYC Counties\***

<i>(n = 9)</i>	Program Type						
	Drop-in centers	Street outreach	Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Supportive housing	Host home	Rapid rehousing
	Number of Counties						
Zero	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
One to two	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
Three to four	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
Five or more	3	9	9	9	9	0	8

\*The shaded cells represent the categories into which Cook County falls.

### Number of Youth Served by and Capacity of RHY-Provider Run Programs

We asked the Cook County RHY providers that responded to the survey about the number of youth they do or can serve, but the questions varied by program type. Both the drop-in centers and street outreach programs run by RHY providers were serving approximately 169 youth per day but some youth may be served by both types of programs. The transitional

and supportive housing programs run by RHY providers were serving a total of 293 youth and 60 youth, respectively (see Table 7). By contrast, only seven youth were being served by rapid rehousing programs run by RHY providers. This may reflect the fact that using the rapid rehousing model with homeless youth is a relatively recent development.

The RHY providers that responded to the survey had a total of 147 beds for youth age 18 and older but only 28 shelter beds for youth under age 18. The disproportionate share of shelter beds for young adults may reflect both the difficulty of providing shelter to minors (e.g., due to licensing requirements) and the age distribution of the runaway and homeless youth population in Cook County. Although youth under age 18 are likely to have been undercounted, 89 percent of the youth who completed the VoYC survey during the Youth Count were 18 to 25 years old.

**Table 7. Number of Youth RHY Providers Served by Program Type**

<i>(n = 21)</i>		
<b>Program types</b>	<b>Total # of youth served per day</b>	<b>Total # of youth served at a point in time</b>
Drop-in centers ( <i>n = 5</i> )*	105	
Street outreach ( <i>n = 6</i> )**	64	
Transitional housing ( <i>n = 14</i> )		293
Supportive housing ( <i>n = 3</i> )***		60
Rapid rehousing ( <i>n = 1</i> )		7

\* One provider did not respond to this question.

\*\* Two providers did not respond to this question

\*\*\* One provider did not respond to this question.

We asked RHY providers that responded to the survey if they had waiting lists for their programs and if their programs had turned youth away during the past year. Most of the RHY providers that operate transitional housing and supportive housing programs reported that their programs had waiting lists and most of the emergency shelters reported having to turn youth away (see Table 8). These responses clearly demonstrate an unmet need for housing among Cook County’s homeless and unstably housed youth.

**Table 8. Number of RHY Providers with Unmet Demand for Services by Program Type**

<b>(n = 12)</b>			
<b>Program types</b>	<b># with waiting lists</b>	<b># turned youth away past year</b>	<b># either</b>
Emergency shelters (n = 6)	1	4	4
Transitional housing (n = 14)	9	7	10
Supportive housing (n = 5)	3	1	4
Host home (n = 0)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rapid rehousing (n = 1)	0	0	0

### Funding Sources

RHY providers were asked about their funding sources. Two-thirds receive funding from the federal government, state government, and individual donors (see Table 9).

**Table 9. RHY Provider Funding Sources**

<b>(n = 21)</b>	
<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>#</b>
Federal government	14
State government	13
Local government	11
Foundations/philanthropy	10
Individual donors	13

RHY providers in Cook County look similar to RHY providers in the other large VoYC counties with respect to their funding sources (see Table 10).

**Table 10. County-Level Data on RHY Provider Funding Sources for the Large VoYC Counties\***

<b>(n = 9)</b>					
<b># of providers</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>				
	Federal	State	Local	Foundations/philanthropy	Individual donors
	Number of Counties				
Zero	0	0	0	0	0
One to two	1	2	1	0	0
Three to four	2	3	2	0	1
Five or more	6	4	6	9	8

\*The shaded cells represent the categories into which Cook County falls.

## Services Offered to Runaway and Homeless Youth by Provider Type

We asked both RHY providers and other youth-serving organizations (YSOs) that serve runaway or homeless youth in Cook County about the types of services they offer. All but one of the RHY providers that responded to the survey offer case management services and many offer assistance with basic needs as well as employment, transportation, and mental and behavioral health services. All of the YSOs that responded to the survey offer case management, life skills training and employment services. Only a few RHY providers or YSOs offer legal assistance services (see Table 11).

**Table 11. Number of RHY Providers and Youth-Serving Organizations (YSOs) Offering Services to Runaway and Homeless Youth**

Service types	# of RHY Providers (n = 21)	# of YSOs (n = 8)
Case management	20	8
Assistance with basic needs	16	7
Life skills training	15	8
Employment	16	8
Transportation	17	5
Housing assistance	15	5
Education	12	6
Mental/behavioral health	16	5
Recreation	14	5
Family reunification	12	--
Physical health	10	3
Mentoring	2	5
Storage facilities	4	--
Legal assistance	2	3

Overall, there are more RHY providers offering specific types of services to youth in Cook County than the average number of RHY providers offering services to youth in the other large VoYC counties. This is likely due to the high number of RHY providers in Cook County. Surprisingly, Cook County has fewer RHY providers offering mentoring services, storage facilities, or legal assistance than the other large VoYC counties. In general, Cook County has

more YSOs offering services than the average large VoYC county, including twice as many that offer life skills, employment and legal assistance services (see Table 12).

**Table 12. Mean Number of RHY Providers and Youth-Serving Organizations (YSOs) Offering Services to Runaway and Homeless Youth for the Large VoYC Counties**

	Mean # of RHY Providers	Mean # of YSOs
Case management	11.6	4.9
Assistance with basic needs	10.4	4.7
Life skills training	10.2	3.8
Employment	9.9	3.2
Transportation	10.0	3.1
Housing assistance	9.6	2.8
Education	8.4	3.9
Mental/behavioral health	9.0	3.4
Recreation	8.0	2.8
Family reunification	3.0	----
Physical health	5.9	2.3
Mentoring	5.3	2.8
Storage facilities	7.1	----
Legal assistance	2.7	1.4

The ten RHY providers and six YSOs in Cook County that responded to the survey reported that they offer services to prevent youth from running away or becoming homeless (see Table 13). By comparison, an average of 5.7 RHY providers and four YSOs offer prevention services in the nine large VoYC counties.

Service providers in Cook County are nearly as likely to offer prevention services to youth over age 18 as they are to youth under age 18.

**Table 13. Prevention Services**

<b>Populations served</b>	<b># of RHY providers (n = 10)</b>	<b># of YSOs (n = 6)</b>
Youth under 18	8	5
Youth age 18 and older	7	5
Parents or guardians	4	3
<b>Services provided</b>		
Case management	7	4
Individual counseling/therapy	7	4
Group counseling/therapy	5	5
Family counseling/therapy	6	2
Crisis intervention	8	3

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## McKinney-Vento School Data

The US Department of Education’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education requires state educational agencies (SEAs) to submit information about the number and characteristics of homeless students enrolled in public school. These data are used to determine whether homeless children and youth have equal access to a free, appropriate public education as required under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which authorizes the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. The EHCY Program was reauthorized in December 2015 by Title IX, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

VoYC used the data on homeless student enrollment reported by the Local Education Agencies (LEA) in each of the 22 VoYC counties to calculate the number of homeless students in kindergarten through grade 12 who were eligible for McKinney-Vento services during the 2014-15 school year (the most recent year for which data were available).<sup>22</sup> Those data include information about the night time residence of the students, whether the students belong to one or more special populations (i.e., students with disabilities, limited

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/data-files/school-status-data.html#lep>

English proficiency, migrant students), and the number of students who are unaccompanied homeless youth. Because the data are reported at the LEA level and not at the individual student level, no additional analysis of the data was possible.

Cook County includes 149 LEAs, including 10 LEAs whose boundaries overlap with at least one but no more than three neighboring counties. The EHCY Program for LEAs located in Cook County reported a total of 28,044 students eligible for McKinney-Vento services during the 2014-15 school year (see Table 14). A majority of the homeless students in Cook County were doubled-up ( $n = 23,491$ ). Eleven percent ( $n = 3,030$ ) were identified as unaccompanied youth.<sup>23</sup>

The City of Chicago School District 299 accounted for about 71 percent of the students in Cook County who were eligible for McKinney-Vento services and for about 83 percent of the unaccompanied youth.

**Table 14. Students Eligible for McKinney-Vento Services\***

Number of Local Education Agencies (LEAs)	149
Largest LEA	City of Chicago School District 299
Total number of students eligible	28,044
Number of students reported by largest LEA	19,902
<b>Students who are unaccompanied youth</b>	<b>3,030</b>
Number of unaccompanied youth reported by largest LEA	2,520
Students living in hotels or motels	460
Unsheltered students	176
Sheltered students	2,970
Doubled-up students	23,491
Students with disabilities	5,035
Students with limited English proficiency	2,089
Migrant students	0

\*If the number students in a given category was  $\leq 2$ , the number of students in that category was not reported for the LEA. We assigned a value of 1 for our calculations.

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<sup>23</sup> Schools count a child, regardless of age, as an unaccompanied youth if the child is living with a caretaker who is not the child's parent or legal guardian.

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## Discussion

The 13- to 17-year-olds in Cook County were less likely to be categorized as sheltered and more likely to be categorized as unsheltered than their peers in the other large VoYC counties or in the 22-county aggregate sample. That Cook County Provider Survey respondents reported having only 28 emergency shelter beds for minors, coupled with the number of Cook County providers that do not have programs for this population, may indicate that minors who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Cook County are generally not seeking or receiving services from homeless services providers. This is supported by the fact that school districts in Cook County identified 3,030 unaccompanied students<sup>24</sup> who were eligible for McKinney Vento education-system services during the 2014–15 school year.

The 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County were more likely to be categorized as sheltered than their peers in the 22-county aggregate sample. Yet, there remains an unmet need for housing, as the majority of transitional housing and supportive housing programs reported having waiting lists and two-thirds of the emergency shelters and half of the transitional housing programs turned youth away during the past year. Taken together, these findings suggest a need for increased capacity to provide youth ages 18 and older with both emergency and longer term housing options.

More than half of the runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providers offer family reunification services. In addition, the RHY providers and YSOs that offer services to prevent youth from running away or becoming homeless were nearly as likely to offer prevention services to youth over age 18 as they were to youth under age 18. Even with these services, the 18- to 25-year-olds in Cook County were less likely to be categorized as “unstably

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<sup>24</sup> Schools count a child, regardless of age, as an unaccompanied youth if the child is living with a caretaker who is not the child’s parent or legal guardian.



housed” than their peers in the 22-county aggregate sample. Additional services and supports are needed to prevent youth from becoming homeless and to reduce the length of time youth remain homeless.

Forty-eight percent of the homeless or unstably housed 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County were neither attending school nor working, compared to 15 percent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in Cook County.<sup>25</sup> Although we do not know why these young people were not working or in school, their lack of education and employment could be a barrier both to finding and maintaining housing, to their well-being in other domains, and to their ability to participate productively in the economy.

Compared to their peers in the other 21 VoYC counties, male youth who reported having a pregnant partner or being a parent in Cook County were more likely to report having custody of their children than male youth in the 22-county aggregate sample. There is a need for collaboration between the homeless youth sector and the homeless families sector to ensure that parenting youth can access developmentally appropriate services.

Finally, 49 percent of the Cook County homeless and unstably housed youth reported having spent time in juvenile detention or jail or prison, in foster care, or both, making them far more likely to have been in foster care or in detention, jail, or prison than their peers in the general population. Greater cross-sector investment and collaboration are clearly needed to ensure successful transitions for young people exiting the child welfare and juvenile or criminal justice systems.

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<sup>25</sup> Because the Brief Youth Survey was administered during the summer months, and some youth who were enrolled in school may have responded “no” to the school attendance question, these percentages may overestimate the percentage of 16- to 24-year olds who were disconnected.

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## Conclusion

Youth homelessness and housing instability are a significant challenge for communities across the country. This report provides a snapshot of the number and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability in a particular county and the local services available to address their needs. It also points to gaps in service provision and the need for greater cross-system collaboration.

These data, along with the data from the other 21 VoYC counties, can be used by local communities to support the mobilization of a coordinated, system-level response involving a broad array of service providers and a range of service options that can address the diverse needs of this vulnerable population. They can also inform the development of federal, state, and local policies to prevent and end youth homelessness. Other VoYC research components will shed further light on the life trajectories of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, interventions that have been shown to improve runaway and homeless youth outcomes, and the policy changes that could improve the ability of communities like Cook County to expedite progress towards ending youth homelessness.

Additional results from the Brief Youth Survey conducted in Cook County can be found in Appendix C. Comparison data for the large-county sample and the 22-county aggregate sample can be found in Appendices D and E, respectively. Additional results from the Provider Survey conducted in Cook County can be found in Appendix F.

# Youth Point-In-Time Count Street Tally Sheet

COUNTY  TEAM  SEARCH AREA  PAGE  SHEET #

Deployment/Captain  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW

Shade Circles Like This → ●  
Not Like This → ○

Search area: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deployment Center: \_\_\_\_\_  
Team map: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Fill in one line per person counted.

15	Gender - Appearance			Age - Appearance		Race - Appearance					Has a child Mark if "yes"	Location (Address or nearest cross street)	Physical Characteristics Note physical description, permanent characteristics (e.g. tattoos, scars), or other distinguishing characteristics	Survey was completed Mark if "yes"	
	M	F	T	U	13-17	18-25	W	B	L	A					PI-NH
1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
13	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
14	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
15	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>

M = Male  
F = Female  
T = Transgender  
U = Unsure

W = White  
B = Black  
L = Latino  
A = Asian  
PI-NH = Pacific Islander-Native Hawaiian  
AI-AN = American Indian/Alaskan Native  
O = Other

Has a child = Please mark if the person has a child with them.

**Voices of Youth Count Brief Survey**

COUNTY  TEAM  AREA  TALLY SHEET  SS

Tally  
 Shelter  
 CBC

(Interviewer: Read question & answers to the respondent)

Shade Circles Like This--> ●  
Not Like This--> ⊗

SURVEY #

3.

4.

Interviewer's (Your) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team / map : \_\_\_\_\_

Hello. My name is [name of the surveyor] and I'm working with Voices of Youth Count. We are talking to youth between the ages of 13 to 25 so that we can better understand their housing experiences. I would like to ask you a few questions about that. Or, if you feel more comfortable talking to the Team Lead, he/she can ask you the questions. You will receive a \$5 gift card for taking the survey. It will take about 5 minutes and your participation is voluntary. Your answers will not be shared with anyone outside the Voices of Youth Count team. Even though we will keep your answers private, there is a small risk that someone outside of the team might see them. There is also a small risk that you will feel uncomfortable answering some questions. However, you can skip any questions that you don't want to answer or stop the survey at any time. Do you have any questions?

Would you like to participate?  Yes [GO TO Q1]  No [THANK RESPONDENT AND END SURVEY]

1. Have you already completed a survey with a person who has a badge like this [identifier badge]?

Yes [THANK RESPONDENT AND END SURVEY]  No [GO TO Q2]

2. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years  a  b  c

- a) If the person is 13 to 25 years old, go on to Q3.
- b) If the person is age 26 or older, THANK RESPONDENT AND END SURVEY.
- c) If the person is 12 or younger, THANK RESPONDENT AND END SURVEY.

3. What are your initials? First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  Don't know  Refuse to answer

4. What is your date of birth? MM \_\_\_\_\_ DD \_\_\_\_\_ YYYY \_\_\_\_\_  Don't know  Refuse to answer

5. Where did you sleep last night? [CHECK ONE RESPONSE THAT BEST MATCHES THE ANSWER; FOR "OTHER" WRITE IN RESPONSE]

**Sheltered**

- Shelter (emergency, temporary) (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Transitional housing (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Hotel or motel
- Home of person I'm having sex with

**Other**

- Hospital or emergency room
- Residential treatment facility
- Juvenile detention center or jail
- Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Don't know
- Refuse to answer

**Unsheltered**

- Car or other vehicle
- Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat
- On a train/bus or in train/bus station
- 24-hour restaurant/laundromat or other business/retail establishment
- Anywhere outside (street, park, viaduct)

**Potentially Permanent**

- Own apartment or house
- Parent's home
- Other relative's home
- Foster family home
- Group home
- Home of boyfriend/girlfriend
- Friend's home

} 6. Do you have a stable place to stay?

Yes  
 No

7. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?  Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

8. Are you currently attending school or another education program?  Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

9. Are you currently employed at a job for which you receive a pay check?  Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

10. Do you currently receive any public or government benefits, such as Medicaid, food stamps, SSI, or welfare cash assistance?  Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

11. Have you ever been in foster care?  Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

12. Have you ever been in juvenile detention, prison or jail?  Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

13. Are you pregnant or a parent?  
 Yes [GO TO Q13A]  No [GO TO Q14]  Don't know [GO TO Q14]  Refuse to answer [GO TO Q14]

→ 13a. Do you have custody of your child(ren)? In other words, are you responsible for caring for your child(ren) on a day-to-day basis?

Yes  No  Don't know  Refuse to answer

14. What is your race? [CHECK ALL THAT YOUTH MENTION]

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian
- Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Don't Know
- Refuse to answer

15. How would you describe your gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender - Male to Female
- Transgender - Female to Male
- Intersex
- Genderqueer/Gender-Nonconforming
- Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Don't know my identity
- Refuse to answer

16. Which of the following best fits how you think about your sexual orientation?

[READ LIST AND SELECT ONE THAT APPLIES; FOR "OTHER" WRITE IN RESPONSE]

- 100% Heterosexual (Straight)
- Mostly Heterosexual (Straight) but somewhat attracted to people of my own sex
- Bisexual-that is, attracted to men and women equally
- Mostly Gay or Lesbian, but somewhat attracted to people of the opposite sex
- 100% Gay or Lesbian
- Not sexually attracted to either males or females
- Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Don't know my orientation
- Refuse to answer

**Una Breve Encuesta de Voces of Youth Count**  
[Las Voces de los Jóvenes Cuentan]

COUNTY  TEAM  AREA  TALLY SHEET  SS

- Tally  
 Sheller  
 CBC

(Encuestador: Lea las preguntas & respuestas al encuestado)

SURVEY #   
3.     
4.

Nombre del entrevistador: \_\_\_\_\_

Team / map : \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANTE:** Por favor sombree los círculos así => ●

Hola. Mi nombre es [Nombre del entrevistador] y yo trabajo con *Voices of Youth Count*. Estamos hablando con jóvenes de 13 a 25 años para entender mejor sus experiencias de vivienda. Quisiera hacerte unas preguntas que tardarán más o menos 5 minutos. Tu participación es voluntaria y tus respuestas no serán compartidas con ninguna persona fuera del equipo de investigación. Aunque mantendremos sus respuestas en privada, hay un pequeño riesgo que una persona fuera del equipo de investigación vea sus respuestas. Hay también un pequeño riesgo de usted no sentirse a gusto contestando algunas de las preguntas. Sin embargo, si no quiere contestar alguna pregunta, no tiene que hacerlo y puedes terminar el cuestionario en cualquier momento. Por tu participación, tú recibirás una tarjeta de 5 dólares. ¿Tiene usted alguna pregunta?

¿Te gustaría participar en nuestra encuesta?  Sí [Pase a 1]  No [Agradezca al entrevistado y finalice la encuesta]

1. ¿Has completado un cuestionario con alguien que lleva una identificación como ésta [tarjeta de identificación]?

- Sí [Agradezca al entrevistado y finalice encuesta]  No [Pase a 2]

2. ¿Cuántos años tienes? \_\_\_\_\_ años  a  b  c

- a) Si el entrevistado tiene de 13 a 25 años, pase a la pregunta 3  
b) Si el entrevistado tiene 26 años o más, agradezca y finalice la encuesta  
c) Si el entrevistado tiene 12 años o menos, agradezca y finalice la encuesta

3. ¿Cuáles son tus iniciales? Primer nombre \_\_\_\_\_ Segundo nombre \_\_\_\_\_ Apellido \_\_\_\_\_  No sé  Decliné

4. ¿Cuál es tu fecha de nacimiento? Mes \_\_\_\_\_ Día \_\_\_\_\_ Año \_\_\_\_\_  No sé  Decliné

5. ¿Dónde dormiste anoche? [Marque la casilla que mejor representa la respuesta; Para "Otro", escriba la respuesta]

**Amparo**

- Amparo (emergencia, temporario)(Especifique: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Viviendas de transición (Especifique: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Hotel o motel  
 Casa de la persona con quien tengo relaciones sexuales

**Desamparo**

- Carro u otro vehículo  
 Edificio abandonado/apartamento vacante  
 En el tren/bus o en estación de trenes/buses  
 Restaurante/lavandería u otro negocio/establecimiento de reventa de 24 horas  
 En cualquier sitio (la calle, el parque, viaducto)

**Otro**

- Hospital o sala de emergencias  
 Centro de tratamiento residencial  
 Centro de detención juvenil o la cárcel  
 Otro (Especifique: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 No sé  
 Decliné

**Potencialmente Permanente**

- Propio apartamento o casa  
 Casa de tus padres  
 Casa de otro familiar  
 Casa de familia temporal  
 Orfanato/Group Home  
 Casa de novio/novia  
 Casa de amigo/amiga

6. ¿Tienes un lugar donde te quedas con frecuencia?

- Sí  
 No

7. ¿Tienes un diploma de escuela secundaria o GED?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

8. ¿Estás actualmente en la escuela o algún programa educacional?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

9. ¿Estás actualmente en un trabajo donde recibes un cheque?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

10. ¿Actualmente usted ha recibido beneficios del Gobierno tales como Medicaid (asistencia médica), Food Stamps (Estampillas de Comida o SNAP), SSI (Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario) o asistencia de dinero?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

11. ¿Alguna vez has estado con una familia temporal (Foster Care)?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

12. ¿Alguna vez has estado en detención juvenil o en la cárcel?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

13. ¿Estás embarazada o criando hijos?

- Sí [Pase a 13A]  No [Pase a 14]  No sé [Pase a 14]  No contesta [Pase a 14]

13a. ¿Tienes custodia de tus hijo(s)? En otras palabras, eres responsable por cuidar a tus hijo(s) diariamente?

- Sí  No  No sé  Decliné

14. ¿Cuál es tu raza? [Marque todas la mencionadas por el entrevistado]

- Blanco/Caucásico  Hispano/Latino  
 Negro/Afroamericano  Asiático  
 Islas del Pacífico/Nativo Hawaiano  Otro(Especifique: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Nativo Americano/Nativo de Alaska  No sé  Decliné

15. ¿Cómo describirías tu identidad de género?

- Femenino  Genderqueer/Género-Inconforme  
 Masculino  Otro (Especifique: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Transgénero - Hombre a Mujer  No sé mi identidad  
 Transgénero - Mujer a Hombre  No desea responder  
 Intersexual

16. ¿Cuáles de las respuestas siguientes mejor describe como piensas de tu orientación sexual?

[LEA LA LISTA Y SELECCIONE UNA SOLA OPCIÓN; PARA "OTRO", ESCRIBA LA RESPUESTA]

- Totalmente Heterosexual o 100% heterosexual  
 Mayormente heterosexual pero con inclinación a sentir atracción hacia individuos del mismo sexo  
 Bisexual – soy igualmente atraído por hombres y mujeres  
 Mayormente homosexual/gay/lesbiana pero con inclinación a sentir atracción por individuos del sexo opuesto  
 Totalmente homosexual/gay/lesbiana o 100% homosexual/gay/lesbiana  
 Asexual – sin interés sexual por hombres o por mujeres  
 Otro (Especifique: \_\_\_\_\_)

No sé mi orientación

Decliné

# Appendix C. Cook County Brief Youth Survey Data Tables

## VoYC Brief Youth Survey Sample

**Table C1. Brief Youth Survey Records (*n* = 1039)**

	#	%
Total records	1039	100.0
Homeless or unstably housed	689	66.3
Records dropped	350	33.7
Not between 13 and 25 years old	2	0.6
Not homeless or unstably housed	332	94.9
Did not consent	0	0
Previously surveyed	0	0
Removed during de-duplication	16	4.6

**Table C2. Where Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth Were Surveyed (*n* = 689)**

	#	%
Street Count	431	62.6
Organizational Count	109	15.8
Community Count	149	21.6

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

**Table C3. Where Youth Stayed the Night Before the Count (*n* = 689)**

	#	%
<b>Sheltered</b>	354	51.4
Emergency or temporary shelter	229	33.2
Transitional housing	96	13.9
Hotel or motel	29	4.2
<b>Unsheltered</b>	159	23.1
Car or other vehicle	21	3.1
Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat	23	3.3
On a train/bus or in a station	27	3.9
24-hour retail establishment	4	0.6
Outside	84	12.2
<b>Unstably Housed</b>	76	11.0
Home of parent	15	2.2
Own apartment or house	6	0.9
Home of other relative	18	2.6
Foster family home	2	0.3
Home of BF/GF	3	0.4
Home of friend	32	4.6
<b>Other</b>	100	14.5
Residential treatment facility	6	0.9
Hospital or emergency room	10	1.5
Juvenile detention center or jail	6	0.9
Home of person youth is having sex with	74	10.7
Other	4	0.6

**Table C4. Age in Years of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (*n* = 601)\***

	#	%
13 to 17	64	10.7
18 to 21	284	47.3
22 to 25	253	42.1

\*Age could not be computed for 88 young people who did not respond to the question about date of birth.

**Table C5. Race/Ethnicity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 656)\***

	#	%
American Indian	6	0.9
Asian	11	1.7
Black/African American	429	65.4
Hispanic	82	12.5
Multiracial	36	5.5
Other	10	1.5
Pacific Islander	2	0.3
White	78	11.9
Don't know	2	0.3

\*Thirty-three young people who did not respond to the question about race/ethnicity.

**Table C6. Gender Identity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 619)\***

	#	%
Female	247	39.9
Male	347	56.1
Transgender M-F	14	2.3
Transgender F-M	5	0.8
Other**	6	1.0

\*Seventy young people who did not respond to the question about gender identity.

\*\*Other includes young people who identified as intersex and genderqueer/nonconforming.

**Table C7. Sexual Orientation of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 640)\***

	#	%
100% heterosexual/straight	479	74.8
Mostly heterosexual but attracted to own sex	21	3.3
Bisexual/equally attracted to men and women	82	12.8
Mostly gay/lesbian but attracted to opposite sex	7	1.1
100% gay/lesbian	39	6.1
Other**	12	1.9

\*Forty-nine young people who did not respond to the question about sexual orientation.

\*\*Other includes young people who identified as not sexually attracted to either males or females, other, or don't know.



**Table C8. High School Diploma or GED (*n* = 655)\***

	#	%
Yes	379	57.9
No	273	41.7
Don't know	3	0.5

\*Thirty-four young people who did not respond to the question about high school diploma/GED.

**Table C9. Currently Attending School (*n* = 657)\***

	#	%
Yes	206	31.4
No	449	68.3
Don't know	2	0.3

\*Thirty-two young people who did not respond to the question about current school attendance.

**Table C10. Currently Employed (*n* = 660)\***

	#	%
Yes	198	30.0
No	456	69.1
Don't know	6	0.9

\*Twenty-nine young people who did not respond to the question about current employment.

**Table C11. Ever in Foster Care (*n* = 651)\***

	#	%
Yes	151	23.2
No	488	75.0
Don't know	12	1.8

\*Thirty-eight young people who did not respond to the question about foster care.

**Table C12. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail, or Prison (*n* = 645)\***

	#	%
Yes	254	39.4
No	387	60.0
Don't know	4	0.6

\*Forty-four young people who did not respond to the question about current employment.

**Table C13. Currently Receives Public Assistance Benefits (n = 651)\***

	#	%
Yes	280	43.0
No	359	55.2
Don't know	12	1.8

\*Thirty-eight young people who did not respond to the question about public assistance benefits.

**Table C14. Pregnancy and Parenthood (n = 638)\***

	#	%
Yes	138	21.6
No	492	77.1
Don't know	8	1.3

\*Fifty-one young people did not respond to the question about pregnancy or parenting.

**Table C15. Custodial Parent (n = 117)\***

	#	%
Yes	80	68.4
No	32	27.4
Don't know	5	4.3

\*Only includes youth who were pregnant or parents. Twenty-one young people who were pregnant or parents did not respond to the question about custody.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Age

Tables C16 – C23 compare the homeless and unstably housed youth who were 13 to 17 years old to the homeless and unstably housed youth who were 18 to 25 years old.

<b>Table C16. Where Youth Stayed the Night Before the Count by Age*</b>				
	<b>13-17 year olds (n = 64)</b>		<b>18-25 year olds (n = 537)</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Sheltered</b>	23	35.9	290	54.0
Emergency or temporary shelter	13	20.3	186	34.6
Transitional housing	8	12.5	84	15.6
Hotel or motel	2	3.1	20	3.7
<b>Unsheltered</b>	12	18.8	112	20.9
Car or other vehicle	4	6.3	13	2.4
Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat	1	1.6	14	2.6
On a train/bus or in a station	1	1.6	20	3.7
24-hour retail establishment	1	1.6	2	0.4
Outside	5	7.8	63	11.7
<b>Unstably Housed</b>	16	25.0	56	10.4
Home of parent	4	6.3	11	2.1
Own apartment or house	1	1.6	5	0.9
Home of other relative	3	4.7	14	2.6
Foster family home	1	1.6	0	0
Home of BF/GF	0	0	3	0.6
Home of friend	7	10.9	23	4.3
<b>Other</b>	13	20.3	79	14.7
Hospital or emergency room	0	0	7	1.3
Residential treatment facility	1	1.6	5	0.9
Juvenile detention center or jail	1	1.6	4	0.7
Home of person youth is having sex with	9	14.1	61	11.4
Other	2	3.1	2	0.4

\*Eighty-eight young people did not respond to the question about date of birth.

**Table C17. High School Diploma or GED by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 58)*		18-25 year olds (n = 514)*	
	#	%	#	%
Has a High School Diploma or GED	7	12.1	324	63.0

\*Data were missing for six 13 to 17 year olds and twenty-three 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table C18. School Attendance by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 59)*		18-25 year olds (n = 515)*	
	#	%	#	%
Attending school	36	61.0	151	29.3

\*Data were missing for five 13 to 17 year olds and twenty-two 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table C19. Employment by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 18)*		18-25 year olds (n = 519)*	
	#	%	#	%
Employed	18	30.5	170	32.8

\*Data were missing for five 13 to 17 year olds and eighteen 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table C20. Ever in Foster Care by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 56)*		18-25 year olds (n = 515)*	
	#	%	#	%
Ever in Foster Care	5	8.9	122	23.7

\*Data were missing for eight 13 to 17 year olds and twenty-two 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table C21. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Age**

	13-17 year olds ( <i>n</i> = 58)*		18-25 year olds ( <i>n</i> = 508)*	
	#	%	#	%
	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	20	34.5	203

\*Data were missing for six 13 to 17 year olds and twenty-nine 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table C22. Public Assistance Receipt by Age**

	13-17 year olds ( <i>n</i> = 57)*		18-25 year olds ( <i>n</i> = 513)*	
	#	%	#	%
	Receives Public Assistance	15	26.3	248

\*Data were missing for seven 13 to 17 year olds and twenty-four 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table C23. Pregnancy or Parenting by Age**

	13-17 year olds ( <i>n</i> = 59)*		18-25 year olds ( <i>n</i> = 505)*	
	#	%	#	%
	Pregnant or a Parent	6	10.2	119

\*Data were missing for five 13 to 17 year olds and thirty-two 18 to 25 year olds.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Race/Ethnicity

Tables C24 – C28 show the relationship between the race/ethnicity of the homeless and unstably housed youth and several characteristics. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified as being a particular race or ethnicity.

**Table C24. High School Diploma or GED by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Has a High School Diploma or GED	
	#	%
Black/African American ( <i>n</i> = 416)	256	61.5
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 82)	34	41.5
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 36)	26	72.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 29)	17	58.6
White ( <i>n</i> = 76)	38	50.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	0	0

\*Data were missing for 48 respondents.

**Table C25. School Attendance by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Attending School	
	#	%
Black/African American ( <i>n</i> = 423)	140	33.1
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 79)	22	27.9
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 35)	16	45.7
Other ( <i>n</i> = 29)	6	20.7
White ( <i>n</i> = 76)	18	23.7
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	1	50.0

\*Data were missing for 45 respondents.

**Table C26. Employment by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Currently Employed	
	#	%
Black/African American ( <i>n</i> = 424)	138	32.6
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 81)	17	21.0
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 36)	16	44.4
Other ( <i>n</i> = 28)	8	28.6
White ( <i>n</i> = 76)	17	22.4
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	0	0

\*Data were missing for 42 respondents.

**Table C27. Ever in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
Black/African American ( <i>n</i> = 418)	95	22.7
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 78)	15	19.2
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 35)	12	34.3
Other ( <i>n</i> = 28)	8	28.6
White ( <i>n</i> = 76)	16	21.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	1	50.0

\*Data were missing for 52 respondents.

**Table C28. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
Black/African American ( <i>n</i> = 417)	165	39.6
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 76)	30	39.25
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 35)	12	34.3
Other ( <i>n</i> = 30)**	11	36.7
White ( <i>n</i> = 74)	30	40.5

\*Data were missing for 17 respondents.

\*\*Other includes youth who identified as don't know.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Gender Identity

Tables C29 – C35 show the relationship between the gender identity of the homeless and unstably housed youth and several characteristics. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified as being a particular gender.

**Table C29. High School Diploma or GED by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Has a High School Diploma or GED	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 241)	147	61.0
Male ( <i>n</i> = 339)	190	56.1
Other ( <i>n</i> = 25)	15	60.0

\*Data were missing for 84 respondents.

**Table C30. School Attendance by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Attending School	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 242)	80	33.1
Male ( <i>n</i> = 341)	109	32.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 25)	4	16.0

\*Data were missing for 81 respondents.

**Table C31. Employment by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Currently Employed	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 242)	84	34.7
Male ( <i>n</i> = 344)	93	27.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 25)	8	32.0

\*Data were missing for 78 respondents.



**Table C32. Ever in Foster Care by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 240)	58	24.2
Male ( <i>n</i> = 336)	74	22.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 25)	8	32.0

\*Data were missing for 88 respondents.

**Table C33. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 236)	62	26.3
Male ( <i>n</i> = 335)	168	50.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 24)	8	33.3

\*Data were missing for 94 respondents.

**Table C34. Pregnant or a Parent by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Pregnant or a Parent	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 233)	78	33.5
Male ( <i>n</i> = 337)	54	16.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 21)	3	14.3

\*Data were missing for 98 respondents.

**Table C35. Custodial Parent by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Custodial Parent	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 66)	52	78.8
Male ( <i>n</i> = 46)	27	58.7

\*Only includes young people who were pregnant or parents. Twenty young people who were pregnant or parent did not answer the question.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Sexual Orientation

Tables C36 – C37 show the relationship between the sexual orientation of the homeless and unstably housed youth and systems involvement. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified themselves as a certain sexual orientation.

Responses were coded as “at least somewhat attracted to same sex” if youth identified as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, mostly homosexual, or 100% homosexual; and “other sexual orientation” if youth identified as not sexually attracted to either males or females, other, or don’t know.

**Table C36. Ever in Foster Care by Sexual Orientation\***

Sexual Orientation	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
100% heterosexual ( <i>n</i> = 464)	96	20.7
At least somewhat attracted to same sex ( <i>n</i> = 147)	44	29.9
Other sexual orientation ( <i>n</i> = 12)	3	25.0

\*Data were missing for 66 respondents.

**Table C37. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Sexual Orientation\***

Sexual Orientation	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
100% heterosexual ( <i>n</i> = 463)	190	41.0
At least somewhat attracted to same sex ( <i>n</i> = 142)	52	36.6
Other sexual orientation ( <i>n</i> = 12)	4	33.3

\*Data were missing for 72 respondents.

## Education and Employment of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Tables C38 – C40 provide additional information about the education and employment of the homeless and unstably housed youth. In the first table, the percentages in the cells sum to 100%.

**Table C38. Employment by School Attendance for 18 to 25 Year Olds (*n* = 513)\***

	Yes ( <i>n</i> = 169)		Employed No ( <i>n</i> = 340)		Don't Know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Attending School</b>						
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 150)	61	11.9	87	17.0	2	0.4
No ( <i>n</i> = 361)	107	20.9	253	49.3	1	0.2
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2

\*Data were missing for 24 respondents.

**Table C39. School Attendance by High School Diploma or GED for 18 to 25 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Attending School	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 322)	92	28.6
No ( <i>n</i> = 183)	57	31.2
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	0	0.0

\*Data were missing for 18 respondents.

**Table C40. Employment by High School Diploma or GED for 18 to 25 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Employed	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 323)	128	39.6
No ( <i>n</i> = 185)	36	19.5
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	1	50.0

\*Data were missing for 115 respondents.

## Systems Involvement among of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Table C41 shows the relationship between whether the homeless and unstably housed youth had ever been in foster care and whether they had ever spent time in in juvenile detention, jail or prison. The percentages in the cells sum to 100%.

**Table C41. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Ever in Foster Care (*n* = 635)\***

Ever in Foster Care	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison					
	Yes ( <i>n</i> = 248)		No ( <i>n</i> = 383)		Don't Know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 150)	87	13.7	62	9.8	1	0.2
No ( <i>n</i> = 474)	158	24.9	316	49.8	0	0.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 11)	3	0.5	5	0.8	3	0.5

\*Data were missing for 54 respondents.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Pregnant or Parenting Status

Table C42 show the relationship between whether the homeless and unstably housed youth were pregnant or parenting and receiving public benefits.

**Table C42. Currently Receives Public Benefits by Pregnant or a Parent\***

Pregnant or Parenting	Currently Receives Public Benefits	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 133)	74	55.6
No ( <i>n</i> = 476)	192	40.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 7)	2	28.6

\*Data were missing for 73 respondents.

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# Appendix D. Large County Sample Brief Youth Survey Data Tables

## VoYC Brief Youth Survey Sample

**Table D1. Brief Youth Survey Records (n = 5150)\***

	#	%
Total records	5150	100.0
Homeless or unstably housed	2772	53.8
Records dropped	2378	46.2
Not between 13 and 25 years old	58	2.4
Not homeless or unstably housed	2102	88.4
Did not consent	120	5.0
Previously surveyed	1	0.0
Removed during de-duplication	97	4.1

**Table D2. Where Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth Were Surveyed (n = 2772)\***

	#	%
Street Count	1548	55.8
Organizational Count	576	20.8
Community Count	648	23.4

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

**Table D3. Where Youth Stayed the Night Before the Count (*n* = 2772)\***

	#	%
<b>Sheltered</b>	1389	50.1
Emergency or temporary shelter	771	27.8
Transitional housing	479	17.3
Hotel or motel	139	5.0
<b>Unsheltered</b>	615	22.2
Car or other vehicle	100	3.6
Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat	60	2.2
On a train/bus or in a station	48	1.7
24-hour retail establishment	8	0.3
Outside	399	14.4
<b>Unstably Housed</b>	469	16.9
Home of parent	75	2.7
Own apartment or house	35	1.3
Home of other relative	59	2.1
Foster family home	3	0.1
Group home	1	0.0
Home of BF/GF	12	0.4
Home of friend	284	10.3
<b>Other</b>	299	10.8
Residential treatment facility	40	1.4
Hospital or emergency room	17	0.6
Juvenile detention center or jail	15	0.5
Home of person youth is having sex with	203	7.3
Other	24	0.9

**Table D4. Age in Years of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (*n* = 2614)\***

	#	%
13 to 17	340	13.0
18 to 21	1177	45.0
22 to 25	1097	42.0

\*Age could not be computed for 158 young people who did not respond to the question about date of birth.

**Table D5. Race/Ethnicity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 2649)\***

	#	%
American Indian	51	1.9
Asian	37	1.4
Black/African American	1371	51.8
Hispanic	343	13.0
Multiracial	263	9.9
Other	64	2.4
Pacific Islander	32	1.2
White	484	18.3
Don't know	4	0.2

\*123 young people did not respond to the question about race/ethnicity.

**Table D6. Gender Identity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 2462)\***

	#	%
Female	986	40.1
Male	1375	55.9
Transgender M-F	36	1.5
Transgender F-M	13	0.5
Intersex	4	0.2
Genderqueer/nonconforming	32	1.3
Other	12	0.5
Don't know	4	0.2

\*310 young people did not respond to the question about gender identity.

**Table D7. Sexual Orientation of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 2591)\***

	#	%
100% heterosexual/straight	1927	74.4
Mostly heterosexual but attracted to own sex	119	4.6
Bisexual/equally attracted to men and women	286	11.0
Mostly gay/lesbian but attracted to opposite sex	42	1.6
100% gay/lesbian	140	5.4
Not sexually attracted to either males or females	26	1.0
Other	34	1.3
Don't know	17	0.7

\*181 young people did not respond to the question about sexual orientation.

**Table D8. Has High School Diploma or GED (*n* = 2672)\***

	#	%
Yes	1579	59.1
No	1089	40.8
Don't know	4	0.2

\*100 young people did not respond to the question about high school diploma/GED.

**Table D9. Currently Attending School (*n* = 2652)\***

	#	%
Yes	878	33.1
No	1762	66.4
Don't know	12	0.5

\*120 young people did not respond to the question about current school attendance.

**Table D10. Currently Employed (*n* = 2648)\***

	#	%
Yes	880	33.2
No	1748	66.0
Don't know	20	0.8

\*124 young people did not respond to the question about current employment.

**Table D11. Ever in Foster Care (*n* = 2659)\***

	#	%
Yes	743	27.9
No	1888	71.0
Don't know	28	1.1

\*113 young people did not respond to the question about foster care.

**Table D12. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail, or Prison (*n* = 2612)\***

	#	%
Yes	1125	43.1
No	1472	56.4
Don't know	15	0.6

\*160 young people did not respond to the question about juvenile detention, jail or prison.



**Table D13. Currently Receives Public Assistance Benefits (n = 2648)\***

	#	%
Yes	1316	49.7
No	1287	48.6
Don't know	45	1.7

\*124 young people did not respond to the question about public assistance benefits.

**Table D14. Pregnant or a Parent (n = 2585)\***

	#	%
Yes	615	23.8
No	1934	74.8
Don't know	36	1.4

\*187 young people did not respond to the question about pregnancy or parenting.

**Table D15. Custodial Parent (n = 555)\***

	#	%
Yes	374	67.4
No	166	29.9
Don't know	15	2.7

\*Only includes youth who were pregnant or parents; sixty young people who were pregnant or parents who did not answer the question.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Age

Tables D16 – D23 compare the homeless and unstably housed youth who were 13 to 17 years old to the homeless and unstably housed youth who were 18 to 25 years old.

<b>Table D16. Where Youth Stayed the Night Before the Count by Age*</b>				
	<b>13-17 year olds (n = 340)</b>		<b>18-25 year olds (n = 2274)</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Sheltered</b>	163	47.9	1154	50.8
Emergency or temporary shelter	93	27.4	636	28.0
Transitional housing	46	13.5	411	18.1
Hotel or motel	24	7.1	107	4.7
<b>Unsheltered</b>	45	13.2	510	22.4
Car or other vehicle	16	4.7	75	3.3
Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat	5	1.5	43	1.9
On a train/bus or in a station	3	0.9	37	1.6
24-hour retail establishment	2	0.6	5	0.2
Outside	19	5.6	350	15.4
<b>Unstably Housed</b>	80	23.5	374	16.5
Home of parent	23	6.8	51	2.2
Own apartment or house	2	0.6	33	1.5
Home of other relative	8	2.4	48	2.1
Foster family home	1	0.3	1	0
Group home	1	0.3	0	0
Home of BF/GF	0	0	12	0.5
Home of friend	45	13.2	229	10.1
<b>Other</b>	52	15.3	236	10.4
Residential treatment facility	3	0.9	36	1.6
Hospital or emergency room	1	0.3	13	0.6
Juvenile detention center or jail	4	1.2	10	0.4
Home of person youth is having sex with	37	10.9	161	7.1
Other	7	2.1	16	0.7

\*158 young people did not respond to the question about date of birth.

**Table D17. High School Diploma or GED by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 323)*		18-25 year olds (n = 2203)*	
	#	%	#	%
Has a High School Diploma or GED	32	9.9	1462	66.4

\*Data were missing for seventeen 13 to 17 year old and seventy-one 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table D18. School Attendance by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 324)*		18-25 year olds (n = 2180)*	
	#	%	#	%
Attending school	240	74.1	597	27.4

\* Data were missing for sixteen 13 to 17 year olds and ninety-four 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table D19. Employment by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 321)*		18-25 year olds (n = 2184)*	
	#	%	#	%
Employed	86	26.8	770	35.3

\* Data were missing for nineteen 13 to 17 year olds and ninety 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table D20. Ever in Foster Care by Age**

	13-17 year olds (n = 320)*		18-25 year olds (n = 2197)*	
	#	%	#	%
Ever in Foster Care	68	21.3	636	29.0

\*Data were missing for twenty 13 to 17 year olds and seventy-seven 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table D21. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Age**

	<b>13-17 year olds</b>		<b>18-25 year olds</b>	
	<i>(n = 319)*</i>		<i>(n = 2157)*</i>	
	#	%	#	%
Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	90	28.2	986	45.7

\*Data were missing for twenty-one 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and seventeen 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table D22. Public Assistance Receipt by Age**

	<b>13-17 year olds</b>		<b>18-25 year olds</b>	
	<i>(n = 320)*</i>		<i>(n = 2185)*</i>	
	#	%	#	%
Receives Public Assistance	92	28.8	1178	53.9

\*Data were missing for twenty 13 to 17 year olds and eighty-nine 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table D23. Pregnancy or Parenting by Age**

	<b>13-17 year olds</b>		<b>18-25 year olds</b>	
	<i>(n = 318)*</i>		<i>(n = 2132)*</i>	
	#	%	#	%
Pregnant or a Parent	20	6.3	576	27.0

\*Data were missing for twenty-two 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and forty-two 18 to 25 year olds.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Race/Ethnicity

Tables D24 – D28 show the relationship between the race/ethnicity of the homeless and unstably housed youth and several characteristics. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified as being a particular race or ethnicity.

**Table D24. High School Diploma or GED by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Has a High School Diploma or GED	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 51)	25	49.0
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 37)	25	67.6
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1346)	835	62.0
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 340)	160	47.1
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 263)	150	57.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 64)	43	67.2
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 32)	15	46.9
White ( <i>n</i> = 480)	289	60.2
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	1	25.0

\*Data were missing for 155 respondents.

**Table D25. School Attendance by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Attending School	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 51)	12	23.5
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 37)	10	27.0
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1351)	472	34.9
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 336)	130	38.7
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 257)	90	35.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 62)	17	27.4
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 32)	11	34.4
White ( <i>n</i> = 475)	119	25.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 167 respondents.

**Table D26. Employment by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Currently Employed	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 48)	9	18.8
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 36)	15	41.7
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1346)	489	36.3
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 338)	100	29.6
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 256)	93	36.3
Other ( <i>n</i> = 64)	26	40.6
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 32)	13	40.6
White ( <i>n</i> = 477)	124	26.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	1	25.0

\*Data were missing for 171 respondents.

**Table D27. Ever in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 50)	18	36.0
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 37)	8	21.6
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1344)	373	27.8
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 338)	79	23.4
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 262)	94	35.9
Other ( <i>n</i> = 64)	19	29.7
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 32)	9	28.1
White ( <i>n</i> = 480)	126	26.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 161 respondents.

**Table D28. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 49)	31	63.3
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 36)	8	22.2
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1330)	534	40.2
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 329)	135	41.0
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 254)	117	46.1
Other ( <i>n</i> = 64)	32	50.0
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 30)	12	40.0
White ( <i>n</i> = 471)	231	49.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 205 respondents.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Gender Identity

Tables D29 – D35 show the relationship between the gender identity of the homeless and unstably housed youth and several characteristics. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified as being a particular gender.

**Table D29. High School Diploma or GED by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Has a High School Diploma or GED	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 974)	571	58.6
Male ( <i>n</i> = 1354)	788	58.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 97)	67	69.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	1	33.3

\*Data were missing for 344 respondents.

**Table D30. School Attendance by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Attending School	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 969)	342	35.3
Male ( <i>n</i> = 1349)	426	31.6
Other ( <i>n</i> = 97)	27	27.8
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	2	66.7

\*Data were missing for 354 respondents.

**Table D31. Employment by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Currently Employed	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 969)	342	35.3
Male ( <i>n</i> = 1348)	429	31.8
Other ( <i>n</i> = 96)	28	29.2
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	2	66.7

\*Data were missing for 356 respondents.

**Table D32. Ever in Foster Care by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 975)	277	28.4
Male ( <i>n</i> = 1351)	379	28.1
Other ( <i>n</i> = 96)	27	28.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	1	33.3

\*Data were missing for 347 respondents.



**Table D33. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 961)	311	32.4
Male ( <i>n</i> = 1323)	675	51.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 92)	38	41.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	2	66.7

\*Data were missing for 393 respondents.

**Table D34. Pregnant or a Parent by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Pregnant or a Parent	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 955)	363	38.0
Male ( <i>n</i> = 1318)	209	15.9
Other ( <i>n</i> = 91)	7	7.7
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	0	0.0

\*Data were missing for 406 respondents.

**Table D35. Custodial Parent by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Custodial Parent	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 335)	271	80.9
Male ( <i>n</i> = 186)	85	45.7
Other ( <i>n</i> = 7)	1	14.3

\*Only includes young people who were pregnant or parents; 51 young people who were pregnant or parents who did not answer the question.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Sexual Orientation

Tables D36 – D37 show the relationship between the sexual orientation of the homeless and unstably housed youth and systems involvement. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified themselves as a certain sexual orientation.

Responses were coded as “at least somewhat attracted to same sex” if youth identified as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, mostly homosexual, or 100% homosexual; and “other sexual orientation” if youth identified as not sexually attracted to either males or females or other.

**Table D36. Ever in Foster Care by Sexual Orientation\***

Sexual Orientation	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
100% heterosexual ( <i>n</i> = 1897)	502	26.5
At least somewhat attracted to same sex ( <i>n</i> = 581)	191	32.9
Other sexual orientation ( <i>n</i> = 60)	21	35.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 17)	3	17.7

\*Data were missing for 217 respondents.

**Table D37. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Sexual Orientation\***

Sexual Orientation	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
100% heterosexual ( <i>n</i> = 1869)	831	44.5
At least somewhat attracted to same sex ( <i>n</i> = 567)	230	40.6
Other sexual orientation ( <i>n</i> = 59)	26	44.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 17)	3	17.7

\*Data were missing for 260 respondents.

## Education and Employment of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Tables D38 – D40 provide additional information about the education and employment of the homeless and unstably housed youth. In the first table, the percentages in the cells sum to 100%.

**Table D38. Employment by School Attendance for 18 to 25 Year Olds (*n* = 2154)\***

Attending School	Employed					
	Yes ( <i>n</i> = 764)		No ( <i>n</i> = 1374)		Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 16)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 582)	271	12.6	307	14.3	4	0.2
No ( <i>n</i> = 1560)	492	22.9	1061	49.3	7	0.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 11)	1	0	5	0.2	5	0.2

\*Data were missing for 279 respondents.

**Table D39. School Attendance by High School Diploma or GED for 18 to 25 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Attending School	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 1441)	335	23.3
No ( <i>n</i> = 723)	258	35.7
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	0	0.0

\*Data were missing for 265 respondents.

**Table D40. Employment by High School Diploma or GED for 18 to 25 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Employed	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 1448)	576	39.8
No ( <i>n</i> = 720)	187	26.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	1	33.3

\*Data were missing for 261 respondents.

## Systems Involvement among of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Table D41 shows the relationship between whether the homeless and unstably housed youth had ever been in foster care and whether they had ever spent time in in juvenile detention, jail or prison. The percentages in the cells sum to 100%.

**Table D41. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Ever in Foster Care (n = 2593)\***

Ever in Foster Care	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison					
	Yes (n = 1117)		No (n = 1462)		Don't know (n = 14)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes (n = 722)	424	16.4	294	11.3	4	0.2
No (n = 1844)	682	26.3	1161	44.8	1	0.0
Don't know (n = 27)	11	0.4	7	0.3	9	0.3

\*Data were missing for 179 respondents.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Pregnant or Parenting Status

Table D42 show the relationship between whether the homeless and unstably housed youth were pregnant or parenting and receiving public benefits.

**Table D42. Currently Receives Public Benefits by Pregnant or a Parent \***

Pregnant or Parenting	Currently Receives Public Benefits	
	#	%
Yes (n = 605)	394	65.1
No (n = 1902)	865	45.5
Don't know (n = 31)	12	35.3

\*Data were missing for 231 respondents.

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# Appendix E. 22-County Aggregate Sample Brief Youth Survey Data Tables

## VoYC Brief Youth Survey Sample

**Table E1. Brief Youth Survey Records (*n* = 7839)\***

	#	%
Total records	7389	100.0
Homeless or unstably housed	4139	56.0
Records dropped	3250	44.0
Not between 13 and 25 years old	133	4.1
Not homeless or unstably housed	2717	83.6
Did not consent	245	7.5
Previously surveyed	8	0.2
Removed during de-duplication	147	4.5

**Table E2. Where Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth Were Surveyed (*n* = 4139)\***

	#	%
Street Count	2318	56.0
Organizational Count	862	20.8
Community Count	959	23.2

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

**Table E3. Where Youth Stayed the Night Before the Count (*n* = 4139)\***

	#	%
<b>Sheltered</b>	1968	47.6
Emergency or temporary shelter	1179	28.5
Transitional housing	582	14.1
Hotel or motel	207	5.0
<b>Unsheltered</b>	998	24.1
Car or other vehicle	147	3.6
Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat	89	2.2
On a train/bus or in a station	54	1.3
24-hour retail establishment	17	0.4
Outside	691	16.7
<b>Unstably Housed</b>	774	18.7
Home of parent	109	2.6
Own apartment or house	52	1.3
Home of other relative	84	2.0
Foster family home	8	0.2
Group home	1	0.0
Home of BF/GF	22	0.5
Home of friend	498	12.0
<b>Other</b>	399	9.6
Residential treatment facility	45	1.1
Hospital or emergency room	29	0.7
Juvenile detention center or jail	22	0.5
Home of person youth is having sex with	268	6.5
Other	35	0.9

**Table E4. Age in Years of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 3916)\***

	#	%
13 to 17	504	12.9
18 to 21	1672	42.7
22 to 25	1740	44.4

\*Age could not be computed for 223 young people who did not respond to the question about date of birth.

**Table E5. Race/Ethnicity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 3947)\***

	#	%
American Indian	67	1.7
Asian	48	1.2
Black/African American	1861	47.2
Hispanic	470	11.9
Multiracial	354	9.0
Other	92	2.3
Pacific Islander	41	1.0
White	1006	25.5
Don't know	8	0.2

\*192 young people did not respond to the question about race/ethnicity.

**Table E6. Gender Identity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (n = 3669)\***

	#	%
Female	1371	37.4
Male	2176	59.3
Transgender M-F	40	1.1
Transgender F-M	16	0.4
Genderqueer/Nonconforming	36	1.0
Intersex	7	0.2
Other	18	0.5
Don't know	5	0.1

\*470 young people did not respond to the question about gender identity.

**Table E7. Sexual Orientation of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth (*n* = 3870)\***

	#	%
100% heterosexual/straight	2964	76.6
Mostly heterosexual but attracted to own sex	166	4.3
Bisexual/equally attracted to men and women	379	9.8
Mostly gay/lesbian but attracted to opposite sex	52	1.3
100% gay/lesbian	206	5.3
Not sexually attracted to either males or females	36	0.9
Other	45	1.2
Don't know	22	0.6

\*269 young people did not respond to the question about sexual orientation.

**Table E8. High School Diploma or GED (*n* = 3984)\***

	#	%
Yes	2365	59.4
No	1608	40.4
Don't know	11	0.3

\*155 young people did not respond to the question about high school diploma/GED.

**Table E9. Currently Attending School (*n* = 3959)\***

	#	%
Yes	1228	31.0
No	2714	68.6
Don't know	17	0.4

\*180 young people who did not respond to the question about current school attendance.

**Table E10. Currently Employed (*n* = 3952)\***

	#	%
Yes	1292	32.7
No	2631	66.6
Don't know	29	0.7

\*187 young people who did not respond to the question about current employment.



**Table E11. Ever in Foster Care (*n* = 3960)\***

	#	%
Yes	1130	28.5
No	2795	70.6
Don't know	35	0.9

\*179 young people did not respond to the question about foster care.

**Table E12. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail, or Prison (*n* = 3898)\***

	#	%
Yes	1775	45.5
No	2106	54.0
Don't know	17	0.4

\*241 young people did not respond to the question about juvenile detention, jail, or prison.

**Table E13. Currently Receives Public Assistance Benefits (*n* = 3950)\***

	#	%
Yes	1918	48.6
No	1982	50.2
Don't know	50	1.3

\*189 young people who did not respond to the question about public assistance benefits.

**Table E14. Pregnant or a Parent (*n* = 3853)\***

	#	%
Yes	913	23.7
No	2894	75.1
Don't know	46	1.2

\*286 young people did not respond to the question about pregnancy or parenting.

**Table E15. Custodial Parent (*n* = 820)\***

	#	%
Yes	537	65.5
No	260	31.7
Don't know	23	2.8

\*Only includes youth who were pregnant or parents; 93 young people who were pregnant or a parent and did not answer the question.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Age

Tables E16 – E23 compare the homeless and unstably housed youth who were 13 to 17 years old to the homeless and unstably housed youth who were 18 to 25 years old.

<b>Table E16. Where Youth Stayed the Night Before the Count by Age*</b>				
	<b>13-17 year olds (n = 504)</b>		<b>18-25 year olds (n = 3412)</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Sheltered</b>	229	45.4	1643	48.2
Emergency or temporary shelter	118	23.4	1003	29.4
Transitional housing	77	15.3	477	14.0
Hotel or motel	34	6.8	163	4.8
<b>Unsheltered</b>	65	12.9	851	25.0
Car or other vehicle	22	4.4	115	3.4
Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat	8	1.6	68	2.0
On a train/bus or in a station	3	0.6	43	1.3
24-hour retail establishment	2	0.4	12	0.4
Outside	30	6.0	613	18.0
<b>Unstably Housed</b>	139	27.6	607	17.8
Home of parent	33	6.6	74	2.2
Own apartment or house	6	1.2	46	1.4
Home of other relative	9	1.8	72	2.1
Foster family home	5	1.0	2	0.1
Group home	1	0.2	0	0
Home of BF/GF	1	0.2	21	0.6
Home of friend	84	16.7	392	11.5
<b>Other</b>	71	14.1	311	9.1
Residential treatment facility	3	0.6	40	1.2
Hospital or emergency room	2	0.4	23	0.7
Juvenile detention center or jail	6	1.2	15	0.4
Home of person youth is having sex with	51	10.1	208	6.1
Other	9	1.8	25	0.7

\*223 young people did not respond to the question about date of birth

**Table E17. High School Diploma or GED by Age**

Has a High School Diploma or GED	13-17 year olds (n = 483)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3300)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	65	13.5	2185	66.2
No	416	86.1	1110	33.6
Don't know	2	0.4	5	0.2

\*Data were missing for twenty-one 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and twelve 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table E18. Currently Attending School by Age**

Currently Attending School	13-17 year olds (n = 484)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3271)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	351	72.5	822	25.1
No	132	27.3	2437	74.5
Don't know	1	0.2	12	0.4

\*Data were missing for twenty 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and forty-one 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table E19. Currently Employed by Age**

Currently Employed	13-17 year olds (n = 480)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3275)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	128	26.7	1121	34.2
No	349	72.7	2132	65.1
Don't know	3	0.6	22	0.7

\*Data were missing for twenty-four 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and thirty-seven 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table E20. Ever in Foster Care by Age**

Ever in Foster Care	13-17 year olds (n = 480)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3285)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	104	21.7	968	29.5
No	372	77.5	2289	69.7
Don't know	4	0.8	28	0.9

\*Data were missing for twenty-four 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and twenty-seven 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table E21. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Age**

Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	13-17 year olds (n = 480)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3230)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	128	26.7	1575	48.8
No	351	73.1	1640	50.8
Don't know	1	0.2	15	0.5

\*Data were missing for twenty-four 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and eighty-two 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table E21. Public Assistance Receipt by Age**

Currently Receives Public Assistance Benefits	13-17 year olds (n = 479)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3274)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	150	31.3	1701	52.0
No	306	63.9	1548	47.3
Don't know	23	4.8	25	5.2

\*Data were missing for twenty-five 13 to 17 year olds and one hundred and thirty-eight 18 to 25 year olds.

**Table E23. Pregnant or a Parent by Age**

Pregnant or Parenting	13-17 year olds (n = 472)*		18-25 year olds (n = 3192)*	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	29	6.1	855	26.8
No	433	91.7	2307	72.3
Don't know	10	2.1	30	0.9

\*Data were missing for thirty-two 13 to 17 year olds and two hundred and twenty 18 to 25 year olds.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Race/Ethnicity

Tables E24 – E28 show the relationship between the race/ethnicity of the homeless and unstably housed youth and several characteristics. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified as being a particular race or ethnicity.

**Table E24. High School Diploma or GED by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Has a High School Diploma or GED	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 66)	32	48.5
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 48)	30	62.5
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1828)	1140	62.4
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 465)	226	48.6
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 353)	210	59.5
Other ( <i>n</i> = 91)	58	63.7
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 41)	21	51.2
White ( <i>n</i> = 995)	593	59.6
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 7)	1	14.3

\*Data were missing for 245 respondents.

**Table E25. School Attendance by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Attending School	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 66)	18	27.3
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 48)	15	31.3
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1833)	623	34.0
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 461)	160	34.7
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 348)	112	32.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 89)	27	30.3
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 41)	13	31.7
White ( <i>n</i> = 989)	238	24.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 7)	3	42.9

\*Data were missing for 257 respondents.

**Table E26. Employment by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Currently Employed	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 63)	15	23.8
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 47)	20	42.6
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1827)	668	36.6
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 461)	143	31.0
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 347)	122	35.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 90)	35	38.9
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 41)	17	41.5
White ( <i>n</i> = 989)	254	25.7
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 7)	1	14.3

\*Data were missing for 267 respondents.

**Table E27. Ever in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 65)	22	33.8
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 48)	15	31.3
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1823)	487	26.7
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 461)	113	24.5
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 353)	143	40.5
Other ( <i>n</i> = 91)	32	35.2
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 41)	13	31.7
White ( <i>n</i> = 991)	276	27.9
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 7)	4	57.1

\*Data were missing for 259 respondents.

**Table E28. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Race/Ethnicity\***

Race/Ethnicity	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
American Indian ( <i>n</i> = 65)	35	56.5
Asian ( <i>n</i> = 48)	13	28.3
Black ( <i>n</i> = 1823)	752	41.5
Hispanic ( <i>n</i> = 461)	201	44.7
Multiracial ( <i>n</i> = 353)	163	47.5
Other ( <i>n</i> = 91)	47	48.5
Pacific Islander ( <i>n</i> = 41)	18	46.2
White ( <i>n</i> = 991)	505	51.7
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 7)	4	57.1

\*Data were missing for 259 respondents.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Gender Identity

Tables E29 – E35 show the relationship between the gender identity of the homeless and unstably housed youth and several characteristics. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is the number of youth who identified as being a particular gender.

**Table E29. High School Diploma or GED by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Has a High School Diploma or GED	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 1355)	788	58.2
Male ( <i>n</i> = 2142)	1273	59.4
Other ( <i>n</i> = 116)	77	66.4
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 522 respondents.

**Table E30. School Attendance by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Attending School	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 1345)	468	34.8
Male ( <i>n</i> = 2135)	618	29.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 117)	32	27.4
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 538 respondents.

**Table E31. Employment by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Currently Employed	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 1345)	471	35.0
Male ( <i>n</i> = 2134)	665	31.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 116)	38	32.8
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 540 respondents.

**Table E32. Ever in Foster Care by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 1348)	394	29.2
Male ( <i>n</i> = 2139)	599	28.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 116)	34	29.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 532 respondents.



**Table E33. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 1334)	450	33.7
Male ( <i>n</i> = 2101)	1118	53.2
Other ( <i>n</i> = 112)	49	43.8
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 4)	2	50.0

\*Data were missing for 588 respondents.

**Table E34. Pregnant or a Parent by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Pregnant or a Parent	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 1327)	513	38.7
Male ( <i>n</i> = 2087)	332	15.9
Other ( <i>n</i> = 110)	11	10.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 3)	1	33.3

\*Data were missing for 615 respondents.

**Table E35. Custodial Parent by Gender Identity\***

Gender Identity	Custodial Parent	
	#	%
Female ( <i>n</i> = 469)	370	78.9
Male ( <i>n</i> = 300)	141	47.0
Other ( <i>n</i> = 11)	1	9.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 1)	1	100.0

\*Only includes young people who were pregnant or parents; 76 young people who were pregnant or a parent and did not answer the question.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Sexual Orientation

Tables E36 – E37 show the relationship between the sexual orientation of the homeless and unstably housed youth and systems involvement. The denominator used to calculate the percentages is either the number of youth who identified themselves as a certain sexual orientation.

Responses were coded as “at least somewhat attracted to same sex” if youth identified as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, mostly homosexual, or 100% homosexual; and “other sexual orientation” if youth identified as not sexually attracted to either males or females or other.

**Table E36. Ever in Foster Care by Sexual Orientation\***

Sexual Orientation	Ever in Foster Care	
	#	%
100% heterosexual ( <i>n</i> = 2914)	781	26.8
At least somewhat attracted to same sex ( <i>n</i> = 792)	273	34.5
Other sexual orientation ( <i>n</i> = 81)	31	38.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 22)	5	22.7

\*Data were missing for 330 respondents.

**Table E37. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Sexual Orientation\***

Sexual Orientation	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison	
	#	%
100% heterosexual ( <i>n</i> = 2883)	1352	46.9
At least somewhat attracted to same sex ( <i>n</i> = 771)	334	43.3
Other sexual orientation ( <i>n</i> = 79)	35	44.3
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 22)	4	18.2

\*Data were missing for 384 respondents.

## Education and Employment of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Tables E38 – E41 provide additional information about the education and employment of the homeless and unstably housed youth. In the first table, the percentages in the cells sum to 100%.

**Table E38. Employment by School Attendance for 18 to 25 Year Olds (*n* = 3231)\***

Attending School	Employed					
	Yes ( <i>n</i> = 1111)		No ( <i>n</i> = 2098)		Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 22)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 804)	379	11.7	421	13.0	4	0.1
No ( <i>n</i> = 2415)	730	22.6	1672	51.7	13	0.4
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 12)	2	0.1	5	0.2	5	0.2

\*Data were missing for 181 respondents.

**Table E39. School Attendance by High School Diploma or GED for 13 to 17 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Attending School	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 33)	24	38.1
No ( <i>n</i> = 412)	318	77.2
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 2)	0	0.0

\*Data were missing for 27 respondents.

**Table E40. School Attendance by High School Diploma or GED for 18 to 25 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Attending School	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 2153)	464	21.6
No ( <i>n</i> = 1093)	352	32.2
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 5)	0	0.0

\*Data were missing for 161 respondents.

**Table E41. Employment by High School Diploma or GED for 18 to 25 Year Olds\***

High School Diploma or GED	Employed	
	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 2162)	836	38.7
No ( <i>n</i> = 1089)	273	25.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 5)	2	40.0

\*Data were missing for 156 respondents.

## Systems Involvement among of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Table E42 shows the relationship between whether the homeless and unstably housed youth had ever been in foster care and whether they had ever spent time in in juvenile detention, jail or prison. The percentages in the cells sum to 100%.

**Table E42. Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison by Ever in Foster Care (*n* = 3876)\***

Ever in Foster Care	Ever in Juvenile Detention, Jail or Prison					
	Yes ( <i>n</i> = 1764)		No ( <i>n</i> = 2087)		Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 16)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 1098)	673	17.4	420	10.9	5	0.1
No ( <i>n</i> = 2736)	1076	27.8	1658	42.9	2	0.1
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 33)	15	0.4	9	0.2	9	0.2

\*Data were missing for 212 respondents.

## Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth by Pregnant or Parenting Status

Table E43 show the relationship between whether the homeless and unstably housed youth were pregnant or parenting and receiving public benefits.

**Table E43. Currently Receives Public Benefits by Pregnant or a Parent \***

<b>Pregnant or Parenting</b>	<b>Currently Receives Public Benefits</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes ( <i>n</i> = 898)	579	64.5
No ( <i>n</i> = 2845)	1251	44.0
Don't know ( <i>n</i> = 44)	17	38.6

\*Data were missing for 352 respondents.

# Appendix F. Cook County Provider Survey

## Data Tables

**Table F1. Referral Sources for RHY Providers (n = 21)**

Referral Sources	RHY Providers	
	#	
Other homeless service providers	20	
Youth refer themselves	17	
Other runaway or homeless youth (peer referral)	15	
Schools	16	
Street outreach programs	13	
Child welfare agencies	11	
Law enforcement agencies	11	
Hospitals or other health care providers	13	
National Runaway Safeline	6	
Other	2	

**Table F2. Types of Housing Offered by RHY Providers by Program Type**

Housing Types	Transitional	Permanent
	Living (n = 14)	Supportive Housing (n = 5)
	#	#
Only Single Site Housing	10	0
Only Scattered Site Housing	1	5
Both Single and Scattered Site	3	0

**Table F3. Time Limits on RHY Program Participation by Program Type**

	Any Time Limit #	Maximum Length of Stay in Days #	Mean
<b>Emergency Shelters</b>			
Youth under age 18 ( <i>n</i> = 2)	2	2	21
Youth age 18 and older ( <i>n</i> = 6)	3	3	87
<b>Transitional Living Programs</b>			
Youth under age 18 ( <i>n</i> = 3)	2	2	639
Youth age 18 and older ( <i>n</i> = 14)	11	11	646
<b>Host Home Programs</b> ( <i>n</i> = 0)	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Rapid Rehousing Programs</b> ( <i>n</i> = 1)	1	1	300

**Table F4. Programs Operated by Homeless Adult Service Providers by Age of Youth Served (*n* = 36)**

Program Types	# of providers	# of providers serving youth < 18	# of providers serving youth ≥ 18
Street Outreach Programs	7	2	7
Emergency Shelters	11	4	11
Transitional Living Programs	15	2	15
Permanent Supportive Housing	21	1	21
Rapid Rehousing Programs	9	2	9

**Table F5. Programs Operated by Homeless Family Service Providers by Age of Youth Served (*n* = 30)**

Program Types	# of providers	# of providers serving youth < 18	# of providers serving youth ≥ 18
Street Outreach Programs	5	1	5
Emergency Shelters	10	1	10
Transitional Living Programs	15	2	15
Permanent Supportive Housing	14	0	14
Rapid Rehousing Programs	7	0	7

**Table F6. Types of Youth Serving Organizations Serving RHY (*n* = 8)**

<b>Target Population</b>	<b>YSOs</b>
	<b>#</b>
Low income youth	6
Foster youth/youth in the child welfare system	5
Delinquent youth/youth in the juvenile justice system	5
Pregnant or parenting youth	4
Youth who identify as LGBTQ	3
Middle school students	3
High school students	4
Disconnected (i.e., not in school or working) youth	5



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## Appendix G. Glossary of Terms

**Continuum of Care** – A Continuum of Care is a regional or local body designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; increase service coordination and integration; improve data collection and performance measurement; and allow programs to be tailored to the particular needs of homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families in each community.

**Drop-In Center** – Drop-in centers provide homeless youth immediate assistance with basic needs such as food, clothing, showers, laundry facilities, bus tokens, and personal hygiene supplies in an informal environment with limited rules or requirements. Drop-in centers may also serve as a hub for other services or connect homeless youth with other service providers.

**Emergency Shelter** – Emergency shelters provide runaway or homeless youth with a safe place to stay as well as short-term services including assistance with basic needs, crisis intervention, assessment, case management, and support for family connection. Basic Centers are federally funded emergency shelters for youth under age 18.

**Host Home** – Host Homes provide homeless youth with stable housing and supports in the homes of community members. Service providers offer coordination, host support, and case management.

**Supportive Housing** – Supportive housing provides “high needs” homeless youth (e.g., youth with mental health or substance use problems) with a combination of non-time-limited affordable housing with wrap-around supportive services.

**Rapid Rehousing** – Rapid rehousing is a housing first approach that provides time-limited rental assistance to help homeless youth become stably housed as quickly as possible. Case management and voluntary supportive services are provided as needed.

**Street Outreach** – Street Outreach focuses on developing relationships between outreach workers and homeless youth, address basic needs for clothing, food, and hygiene supplies, and make referrals to other services. Federally funded street outreach programs also aim to prevent street youth from being sexually exploited or trafficked.

**Transitional Housing**– Transitional housing is time-limited (usually 18-24 months) supportive housing for homeless youth that focuses on developing life skills and engaging youth in education and employment. Transitional housing models include clustered or single-site units with on-site supervision as well as scattered-site units. Federally funded transitional housing programs provide housing and services to youth ages 16 to 22.

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program**—This is the common name for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program which was authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). That legislation requires state educational agencies (SEAs) to ensure that every homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as their non-homeless peers.