Unstably Housed Youth: Different Needs, Different Services

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Who is TAC?

TAC's core mission focuses at the intersection of affordable housing, health care, and human services policy and systems development. We work primarily with Continuums of Care, local and state governments, and HUD grant recipients.
Shallow Data Dive

“He’ll have to call you back. He’s in the middle of a shallow dive.”
Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

1 in 10
young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That’s 3.5 million young adults. About half of them involved explicitly reported homelessness while the other half involved couch surfing only.

1 in 30
youth ages 13-17 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That’s about 700,000 youth. About three-quarters of them involved explicitly reported homelessness (including running away or being kicked out) and one-quarter involved couch surfing only.
Prevalence of Homelessness among LGBTQ Youth

- Up to 40% of homeless youth population are LGBT.
- Up to 7% of general youth population are LGBT.

LGBT | NOT LGBT
Why does homelessness happen among LGBTQ youth?
2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress: Estimates of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
More PA Data

2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress:

- Eastern PA CoC had 209 unaccompanied homeless youth- #8 in the nation among “Smaller City, County and Regional CoCs”

- 23,164 homeless children enrolled in public school in SY15-16
  - 62% are doubled up (e.g. living with another family)
  - 6% are living in a hotel or motel
  - 30% are living in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care
  - 1% are unsheltered
  - 1% are unknown

- 30% White
- 28% African American
- 15% Hispanic
- 6% Other
Promising Program Models for Serving Youth
Prevention- How to Keep Youth out of Homeless System

The best outcomes for youth happen when they remain connected and housed with family whenever appropriate, and if this is not possible, that they are supported in a planned transition to stable housing.

Key features:

- Family Resiliency
- Supportive Foster Care Transitions
- School-based Prevention
- Discharge from Juvenile Justice or Adult Correctional Systems
Host Homes

Host Homes offer a home-like, non-institutional environment rooted in the community.

Key features:

- Host recruitment
- Supporting hosts
- Positive youth development
- Flexible model
- Formal partnerships
Best Practice Highlight: Host Homes
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

Rapid Re-Housing is a promising strategy for older youth with greater independent living skills who cannot reconnect to family or who need time to do so. RRH can be offered as part of a suite of possible housing and service options that includes host homes and family engagement services.

Key features:

- Housing First Approach
- Age Appropriate and Individualized Case Management
- Cultivate Landlord Base
- Long-Term Housing Stability
Best Practice Highlight: Rapid Re-Housing
Non-time-limited youth supportive housing is a specialized age-and-service-appropriate version of permanent supportive housing for youth with complex needs.

Key features:

• Highest Needs
• Housing First Approach
• Non-Time-Limited
• Housing and Service Operating Agreements
Best Practice Highlight: Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing
Best Practice Highlight: Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing (rural)
Resource Page

- **HUD’s Landing Page for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project**: This page has many youth-focused resources, including three guidebooks developed during the last round of YHDP funding.

- **A Safe and Decent Place to Live: Towards a Housing First Framework for Youth**: Guidance from the Canadian Youth Network assists planners of new programs to adopt a housing first approach.

- **Family and Youth Services Bureau Website, Assessment Tools for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs**: A list presenting various screening and assessment tools to help determine the best interventions and services for different youth in care.

- **Housing and Outreach Strategies for Rural Youth**: A document with best Practices from the Rural Youth Survey (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

- **Voices of Youth Count**: An effort to link evidence and action by capturing the experiences of runaway and homeless youth.

- **Youth Collaboration Toolkit**: Recently published by True Colors Fund, offers guidance of how communities & organizations can authentically partner with youth

- **A Way Home**: Published by the Homeless Hub in Canada, this is a guide for communities looking to develop a plan to address youth homelessness
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