



# **COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE:**

**ENDING THE LINK BETWEEN YOUTH JUSTICE  
AND HOUSING INSTABILITY**



# About C4C

Collaborating for Change is a partnership between the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, National League of Cities, and National Network for Youth to end the link between justice-system involvement and housing instability.

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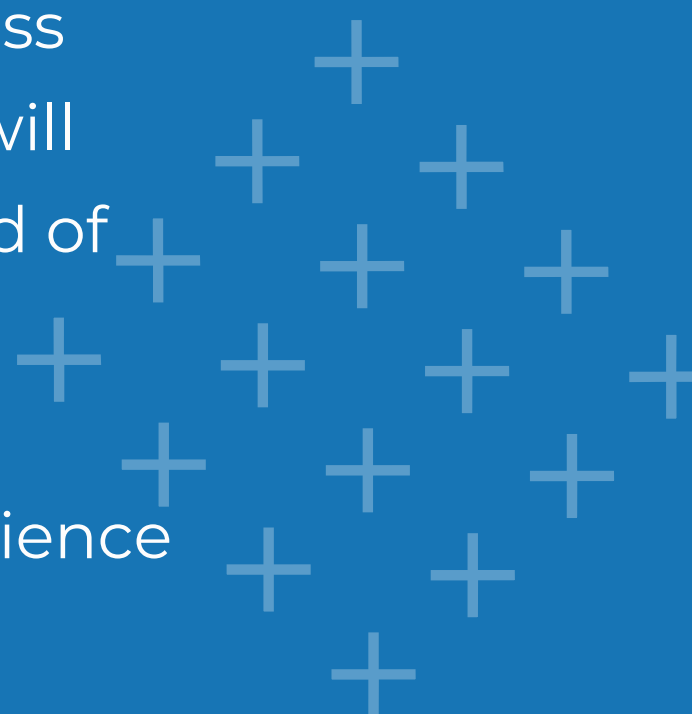


## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS & JUVENILE JUSTICE

The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that 4.2 million young people will experience homelessness for some period of time.

1 in 30 youth between 13 and 17 will experience homelessness in a year.

Each year almost 700,000 children will have contact with the juvenile justice system.





What percentage of youth who are homeless report that they have come into contact with law enforcement?

- A. 17 percent
- B. 35 percent
- C. 78 percent
- D. 92 percent





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# Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth And Homelessness

Not all youth experiencing homelessness are justice system-involved, but there is overlap between the populations.

654  
youth

Interviews of 654 runaway and homeless youth in 11 U.S. cities conducted for the U.S. Administration for Children Youth and Families found that, at some point in their lives:



11

U.S. cities

NEARLY

44 %

had stayed in a jail, prison or juvenile detention center



ALMOST

78 %




had at least one interaction with the police

NEARLY

62 %



had been arrested



# COMMONALITIES AMONG SYSTEMS

Young people who are experiencing homelessness are disproportionately more likely to be youth of color as a result of over policing and other forms of racial bias.

LGBTQ and gender expansive youth are over represented in the youth legal system and among youth experiencing homelessness.

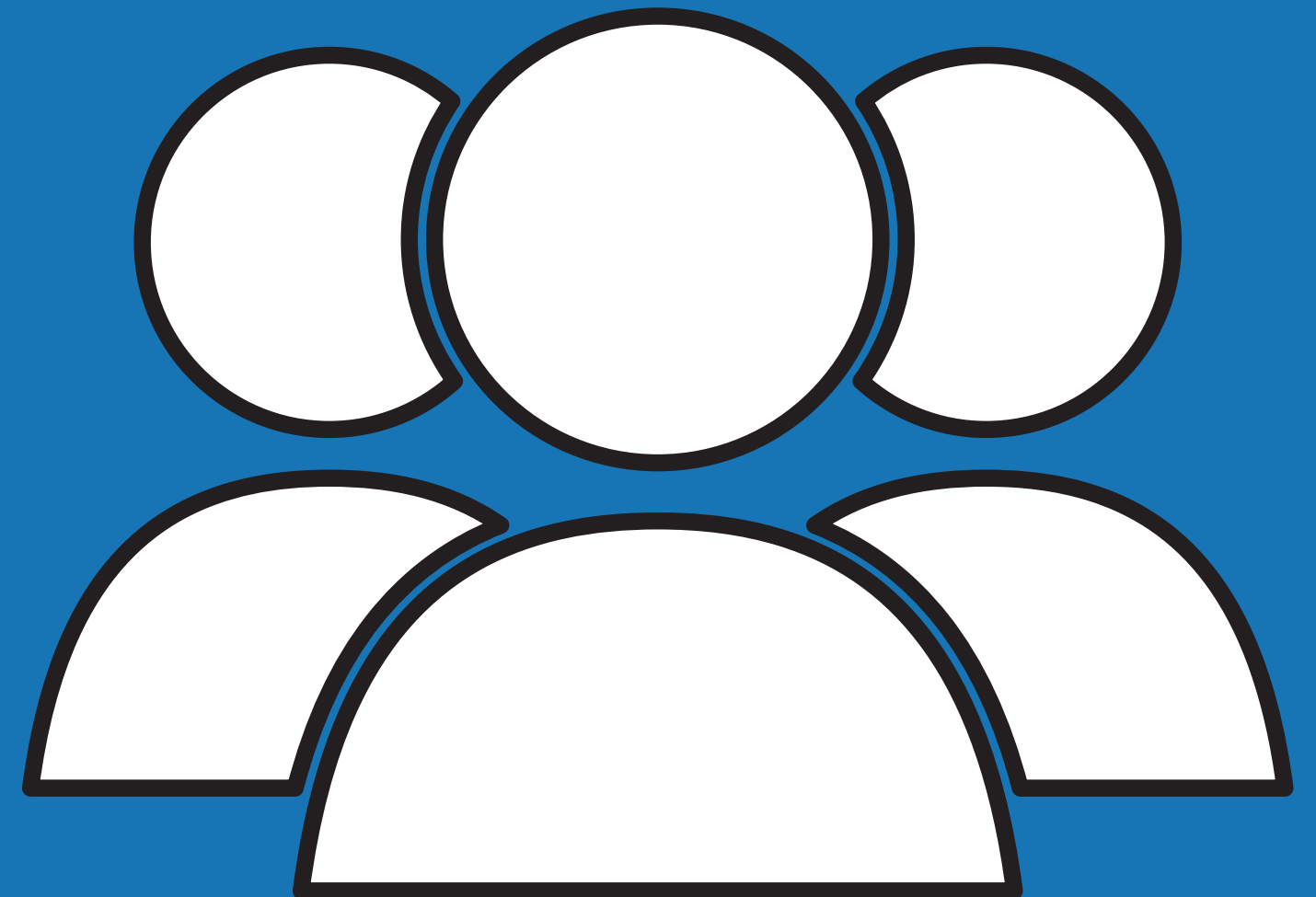


# Risk factors for juvenile justice involvement

Drug abuse, mental health issues, and lack of access to services

Length of time homeless/disconnected equals greater frequency/likelihood of legal involvement

Most effective services include housing, employment, and behavioral health supports





# Dangers for youth experiencing homelessness

Youth who experience homelessness are at risk for sexual and physical abuse.

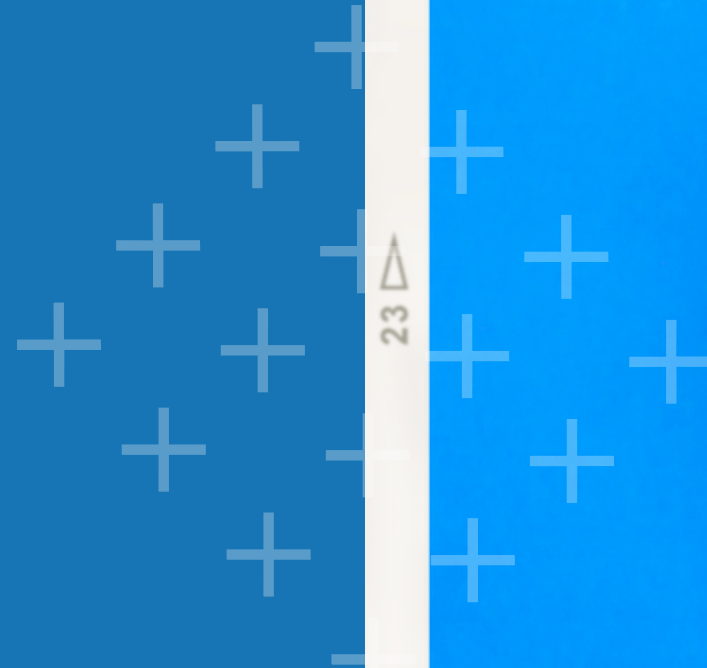
Youth experiencing homelessness are vulnerable to engaging in criminal activity that stem from necessity.

Young people without stable housing are also at increased risk of illness and suicide.



# TRUE OR FALSE?

Research shows that in some states children become homeless because no one picks them up from a detention facility when they are released.





# JUVENILE JUSTICE AND HOMELESSNESS

Some young people are homeless before they enter the system. This can include children who ran away from home or were forced out by their parents.

Some youth are forced out by parents as a result of system involvement.

Some are not picked up when they are released from incarceration.

Some young people experience homelessness upon aging out of the child welfare system.





# Transition planning

“Targeting release from the juvenile justice system as a point to combat youth homelessness can both benefit youth who are at risk of displacement and reduce rates of youth recidivism.”

Alone Without a Home, September 2012, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and National Network for Youth





# QUIZ

Depending on the state, a young person can face charges for:

A. Running away from home.

B. Skipping School.

C. Being out after curfew.

D. All of the above.



# Status offenses

Status offenses are behaviors that violate the law, but would not be an offense if committed by an adult.

Common examples include truancy, running away, curfew and liquor law violations and being beyond their parents' control.

Can be called PINS, FINS, CHINS, etc., but implications are still the same.

Mostly state law issue; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act serves as primary federal law in this area.







The National Census of Youth in Residential Placement found that in 2017 alone, more than 1,690 children were estimated to be incarcerated each day for behaviors such as running away from home, skipping school, or coming home after curfew.

This accounts for 3% of all youth in detention.





## OTHER LINKS

There are other ways that juvenile justice and homelessness intersect:

- “Quality of Life” Ordinances: prohibition on being in public parks, etc. after dark.
- Survival Crimes: shoplifting, trespassing
- Human Trafficking
- Family Violence
- Behavioral Health
- Collateral Consequences: limitation of housing options





# How can we address these challenges?





# CONTACT INFORMATION

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