

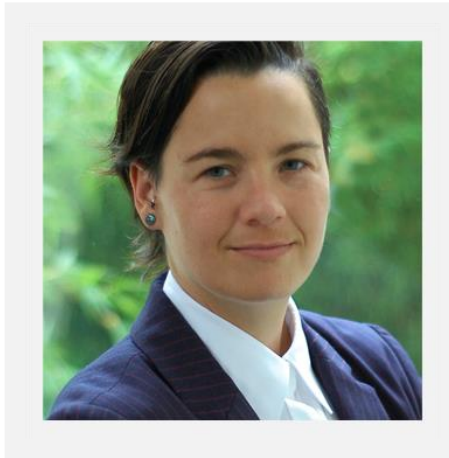


An Introduction to Youth Homelessness

June 28, 2022

Seattle, WA

Faculty: An Introduction to Youth Homelessness



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Introduction to Youth Homelessness

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH PREVENTION & PROTECTION

6/28/2022



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Office of Homeless Youth's Guiding Vision

Every family and youth in Washington State has the individualized support they need so that no young person has to spend a single night without a safe and stable home. Every community has services that are equitable, accessible, effective, responsive, and coordinated.

Defining “Youth homelessness”

Youth: ages 12 through 17

Young adults: ages 18 through 24

Unaccompanied: living on their own, without a parent or guardian, and are without a safe, stable living arrangement

Root Causes

- **Individual & relational factors:** family conflict or dysfunction, rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity
- **System involvement:** foster care, justice system, physical and mental health care
- **Structural factors:** economic instability, underemployment, generational poverty, disparate opportunities and outcomes in institutions or systems

Source: Gaetz, S., Schwan, K., Redman, M., French, D., & Dej, E. (2018). The Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness. A. Buchnea (Ed.). Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Root Causes

SYSTEM FAILURES

RELATIONAL

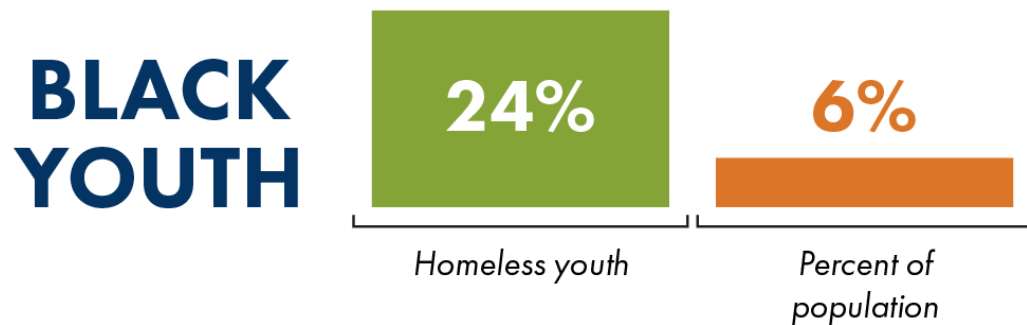


INDIVIDUAL

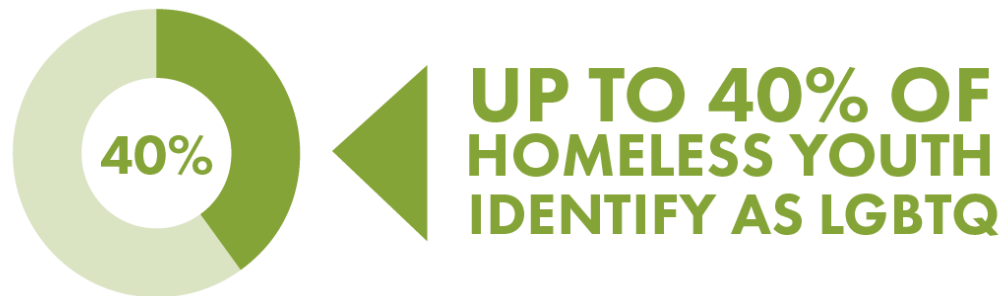
STRUCTURAL FACTORS

BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth at highest risk

In Washington state.....



Nationally.....



In Yakima County,
American Indian youth
represent **10%** of youth
accessing services, but only
make up **5%** of the population

Sources: Washington State Homeless Management System (HMIS); Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., Matjasko, J.L., Curry, S.R., Schlueter, D., Chávez, R. & Farrell, A.F. (in press). Prevalence and correlates of youth homelessness in the United States. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

A unique period that demands a tailored approach

- **Adolescence is key developmental window**
- **Young people who experience homelessness often:**
 - Lack work experience
 - Have not completed their education
 - Do not have experience living independently
 - Have never been on their own lease before
 - Don't have established credit
 - Are at greater risk of victimization

Beyond Crisis Response: a Prevention Framework

PRIMORDIAL PREVENTION

Education for larger population of the state, youth and families

PRIMARY PREVENTION

Supporting youth and families prior to system involvement to reduce risk of housing instability for youth

EARLY SECONDARY PREVENTION

Early system (CPS or Juvenile or Criminal Justice) interaction that does not lead to out of home placement or incarceration.

LATER SECONDARY PREVENTION

Preventing deeper system involvement and housing instability.

TERTIARY PREVENTION

Preventing housing instability for those exiting the system

Ensuring those who are experiencing homelessness move quickly into safe and stable housing and receive appropriate supports



Thank you!

Kim Justice

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

www.commerce.wa.gov



June 28,
2022

Research to Impact on Ending Youth Homelessness

NCSL

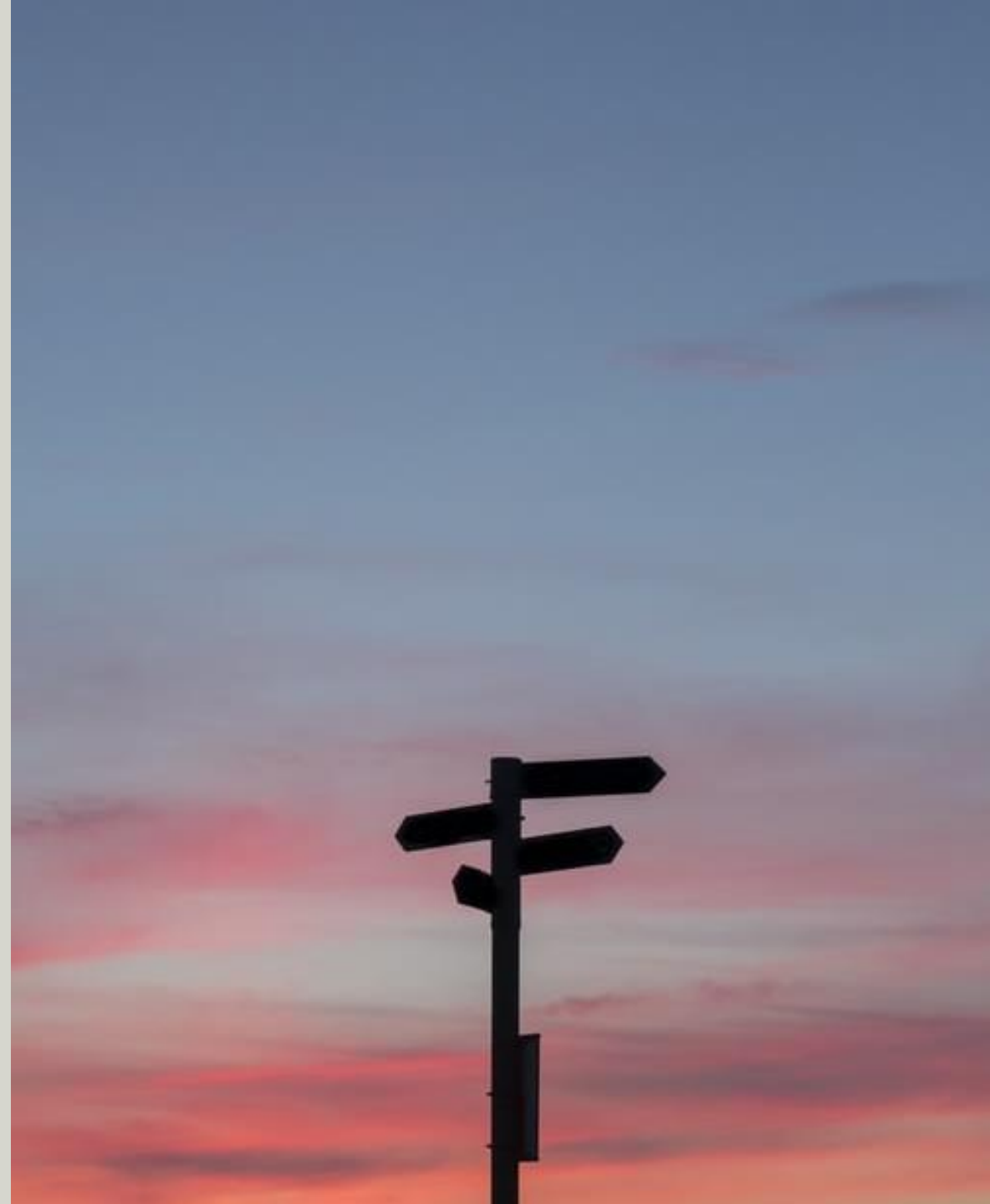
Dr. Matt Morton



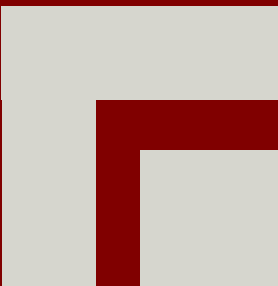
@mhmorton

@Chapin_Hall

 **CHAPIN HALL**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



The Challenge



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.

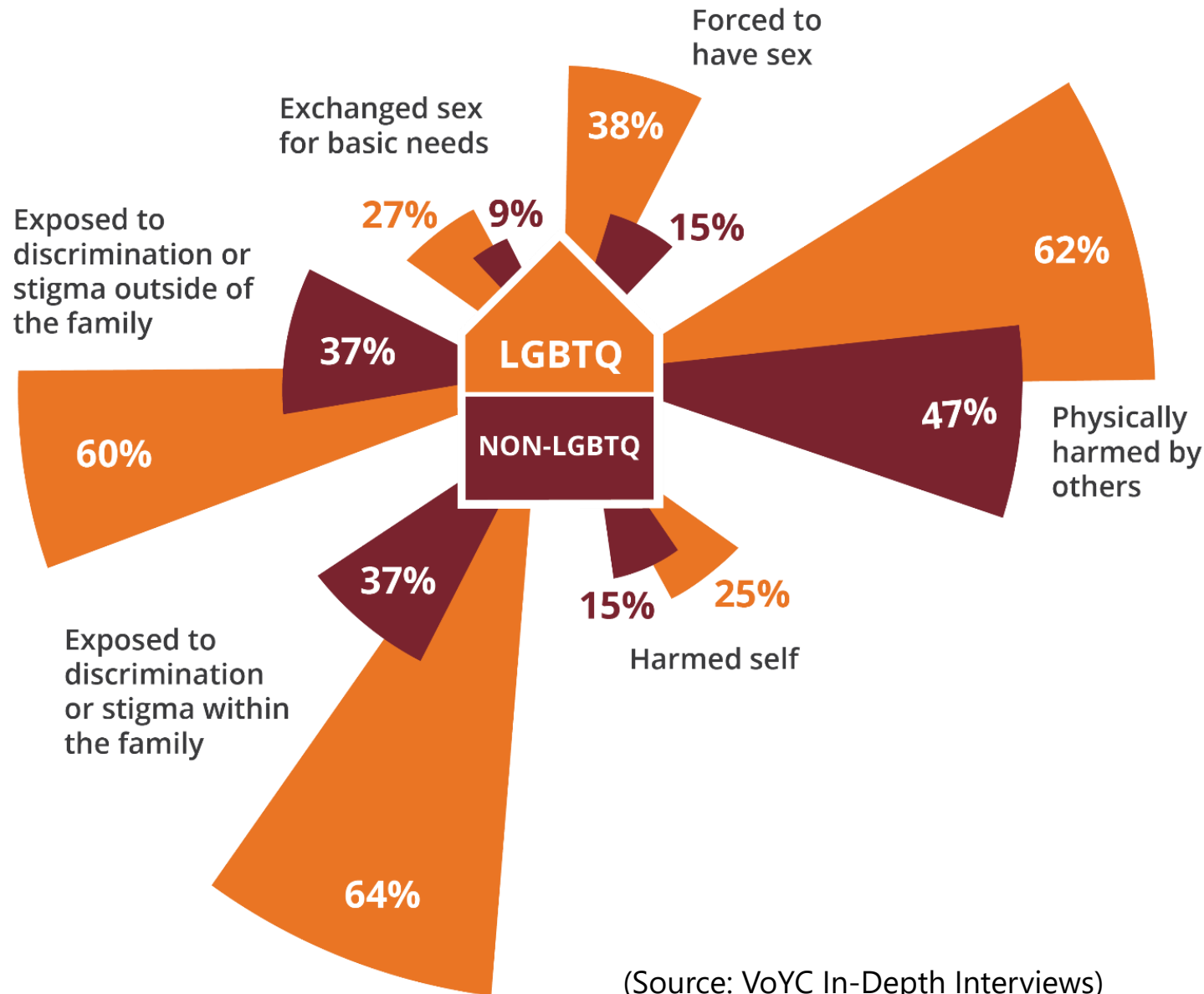
1 in 30

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

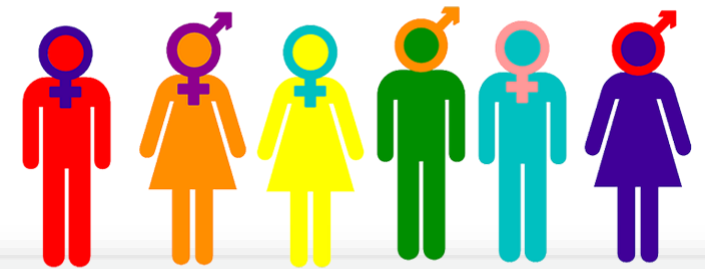
That's about 700,000 youth. About three-quarters of them involved explicitly reported homelessness (including running away or being kicked out) and one-quarter involved couch surfing only.

Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count study revealed a broad & hidden challenge of youth homelessness in America

LGBTQ youth come into systems with more adversities



(Source: VoYC In-Depth Interviews)



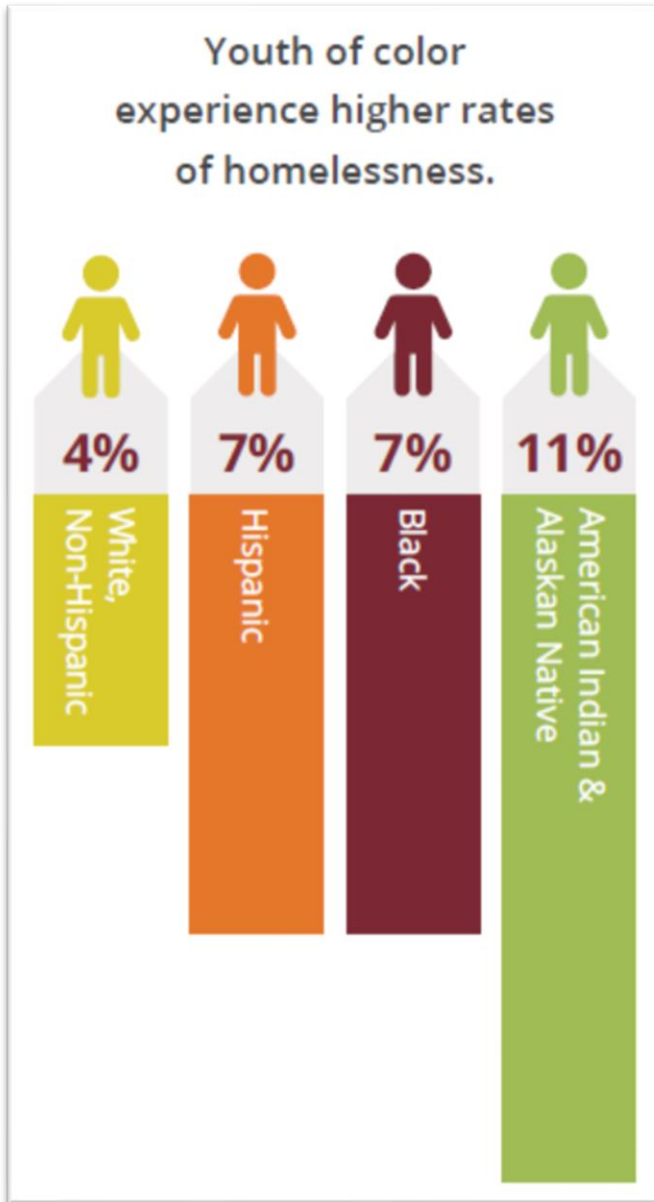
2.2x

LGBTQ youth

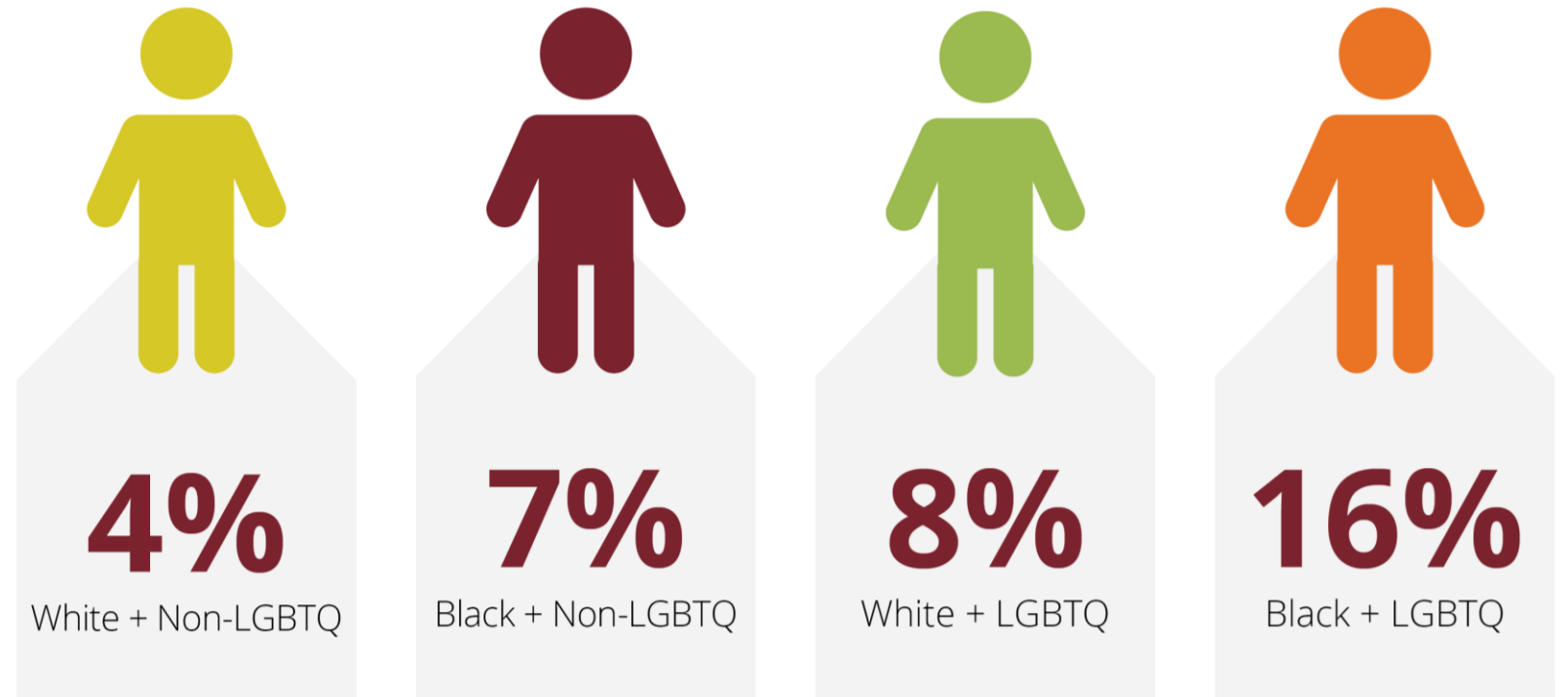
had 2.2 times the risk of reporting homelessness.

Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Race & intersectionality

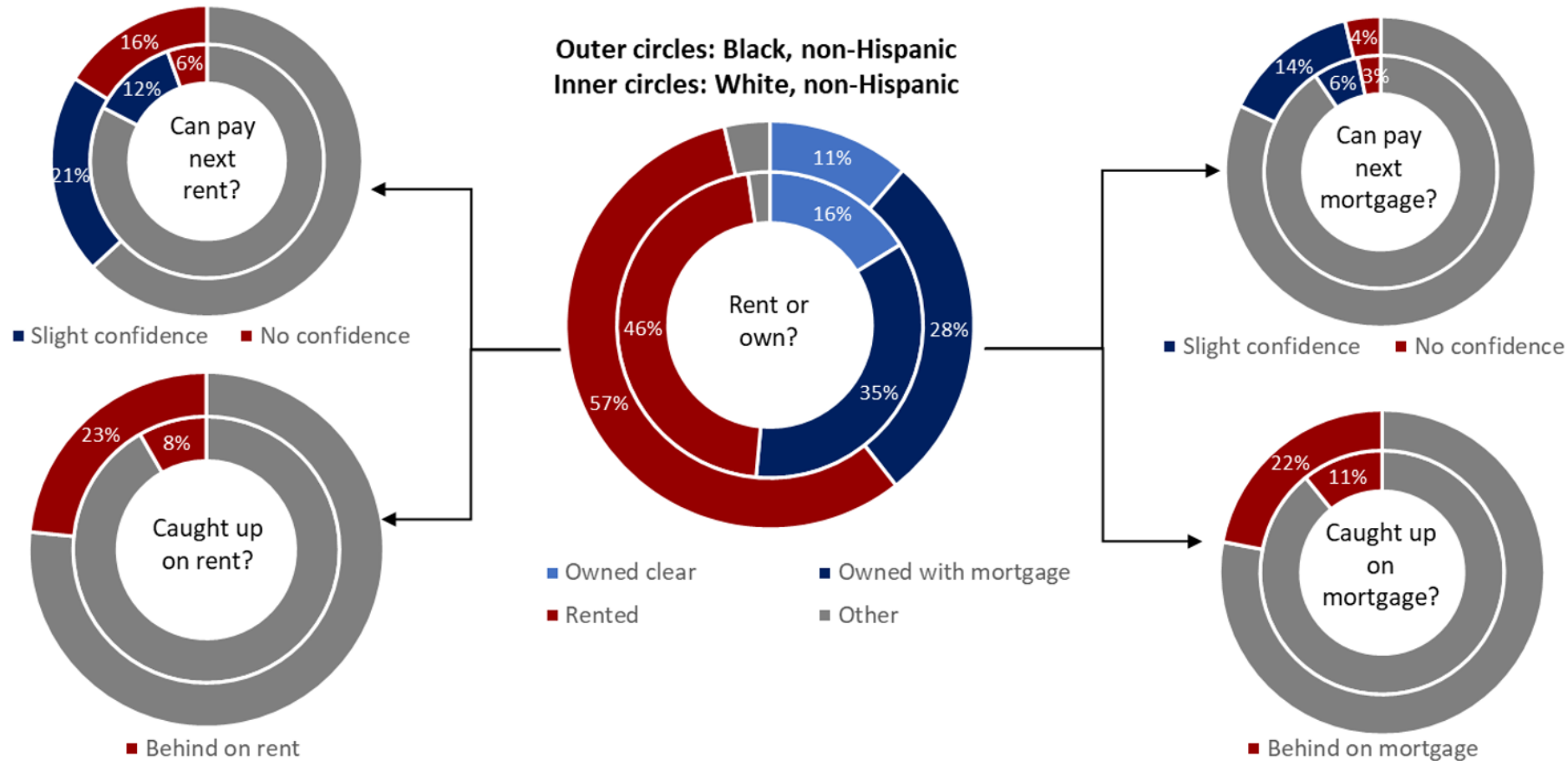


Explicit homelessness over the last 12 months, self-reported by young adults, ages 18-25. These estimates do not include reports of couch surfing only.



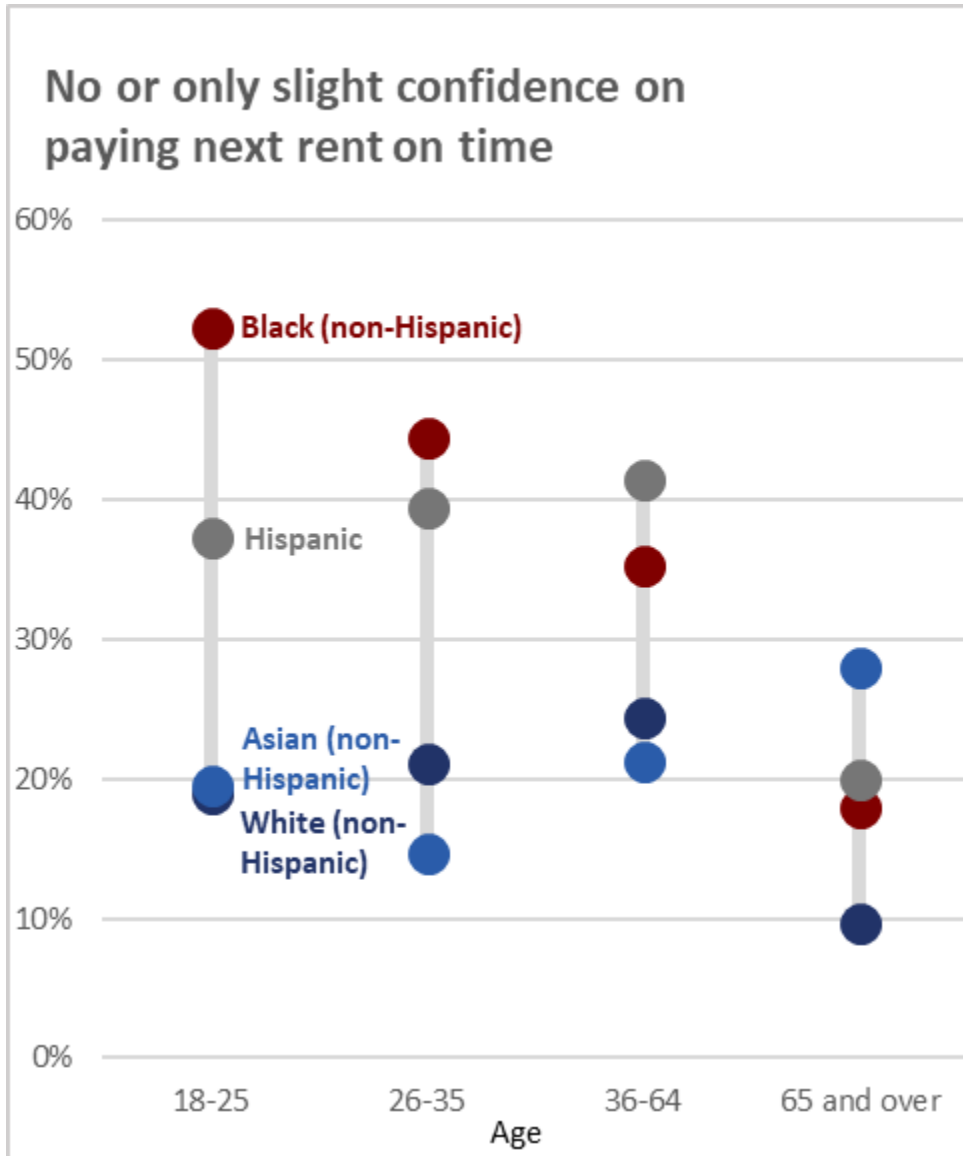
(Source: VoYC National Survey)

In every aspect of housing, Black young adults face disadvantages



Note: This figure depicts summary statistics for young adults ages 18-25 based on HPS data from Phases 2-3 (Oct. 28, 2020-Dec. 21, 2020). Estimates are weighted using person level weights.

(Source: Morton & Daniels, 2021)



Disparities exacerbated by COVID-19

UNTOLD STORIES

Young Adult & Racial Dimensions of COVID-19

Matthew Morton
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

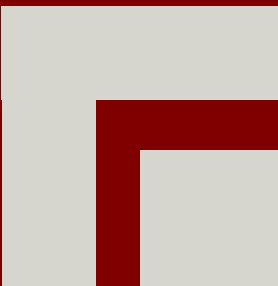
Gerald Daniels
Howard University

June 2021

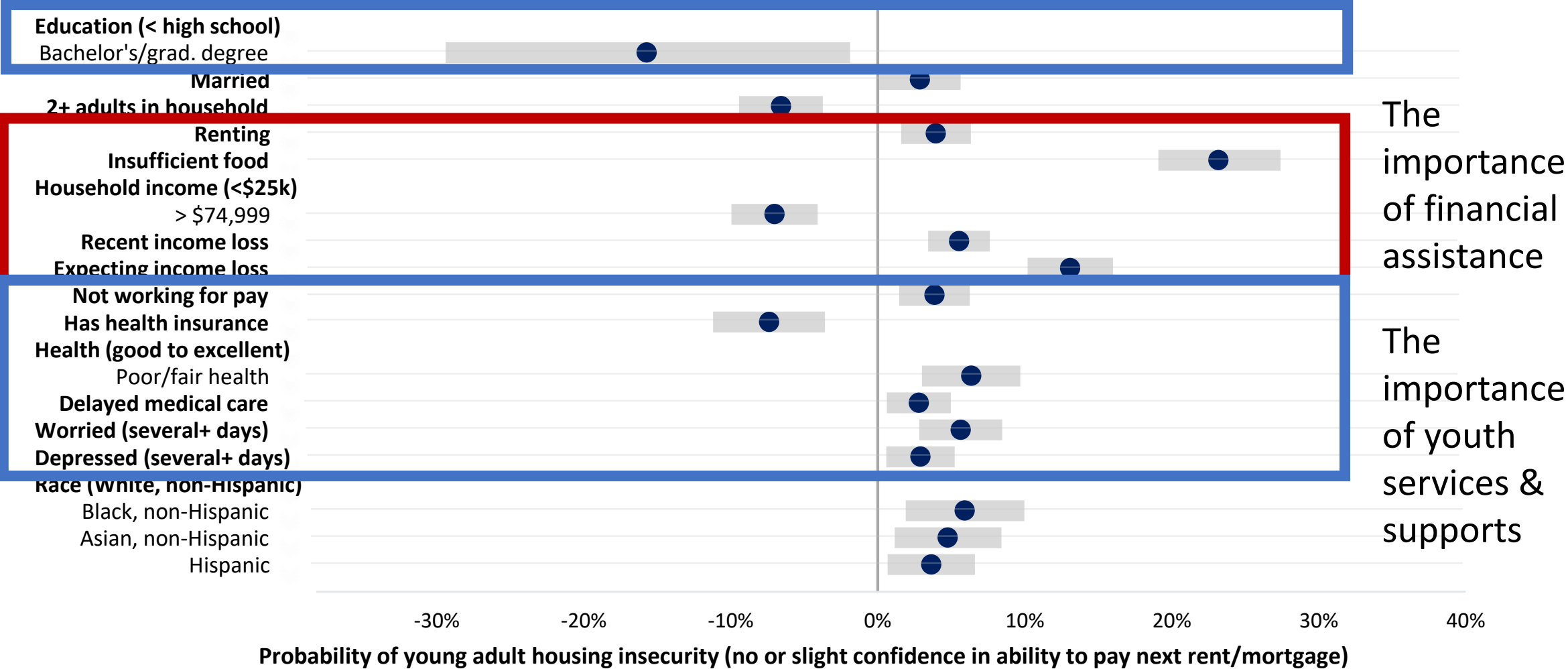


Compared to Other Racial and Age Groups, Black Young Adults in Single Adult Households Reported the Least Confidence in Ability to Pay Next Month's Rent

Youth-Driven Solutions

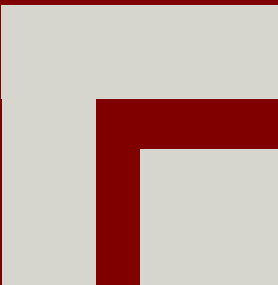


Factors associated with young adult housing insecurity



Morton, M. & Daniels, G. (2021). *Untold stories: Young adult & racial dimensions of COVID-19*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Moving Upstream



Rural youth homelessness: equally prevalent but more hidden

Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.

Youth 13-17

4.2%

Household prevalence in urban counties.

4.4%

Household prevalence in rural counties.

Young Adults 18-25

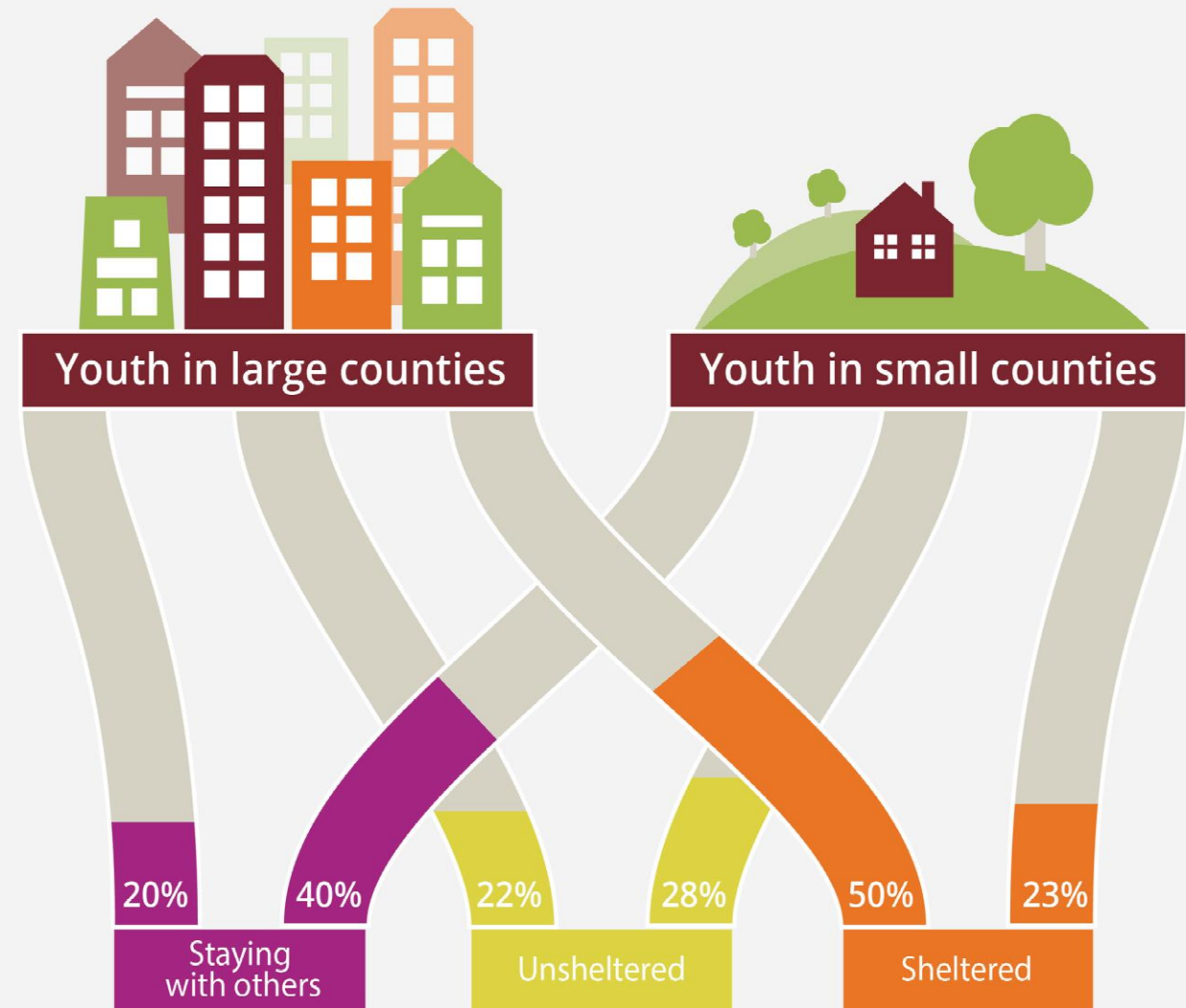
9.6%

Population prevalence in urban counties.

9.2%

Population prevalence in rural counties.

Where youth experiencing homelessness stayed on the night of the youth count.



Source: VoYC Brief Youth Survey

Perspective on Prevention



Missed opportunities across public systems

Among youth experiencing homelessness on a given night:

46%
ever in
**Detention or
Incarceration**
vs. 15% of general
(older) youth
population

29%
ever in **Foster
Care**
vs. 2% of general
youth
population

34%
had **less than
high school
diploma/GED**
(ages 18-25)
vs. 11% of general
youth population

(Source: Chapin Hall, VoYC Youth Count surveys)

In Washington State, the largest number of youth facing homelessness after a public system:

19%
from **residential
behavioral
health** became
homeless within
12 months

(Source: WA DSHS, 2020)

From Reactive to Proactive



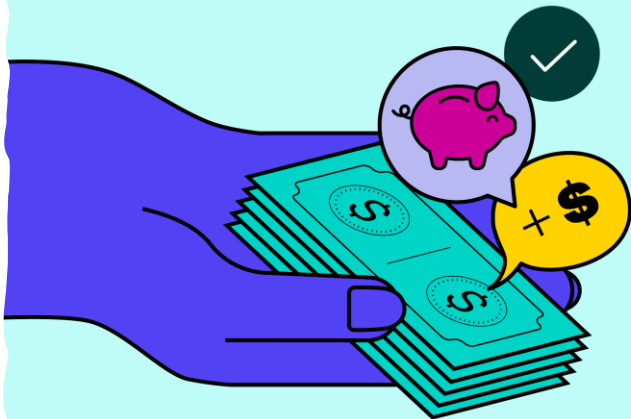
Define the problem • Identify causes, risk & protective factors • Develop & test interventions
Scale-up evidence-based solutions • Monitor implementation

(Source: Chapin Hall, 2019)

The Trust Youth Initiative: A “Cash Plus” Housing Solution

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE,
BY YOUNG PEOPLE:

Direct Cash Transfers



Cash

- **\$29,400 paid unconditionally over 24 months**
 - \$550 paid twice per month for 24 months
 - One-time \$3,000
- **UpTogether Platform:** multiple payout options (Venmo, PayPal, direct deposit, prepaid card)

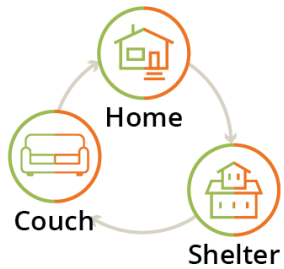
Plus

- **Support team:** Coach (social worker), peer support, program manager
- **Delivering:** Strengths-based coaching, benefits counseling, housing navigation, financial coaching, connections to care, education & career support
- **Evidence-based/informed** wherever possible
- **Flexible:** Virtual & in-person

Critical conditions driving Baylee’s tipping points: ■ Structural ■ Relational ■ Personal

Age 2-11

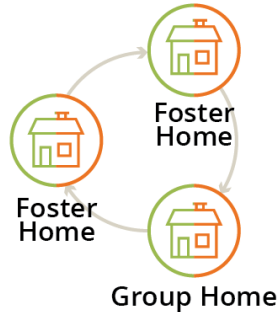
"I don't really remember [all the moves] because it's all I knew." For 10 years, Baylee and her family cycle in and out of homelessness, including staying at shelters and couch surfing.



Mom commits suicide

Age 11-13

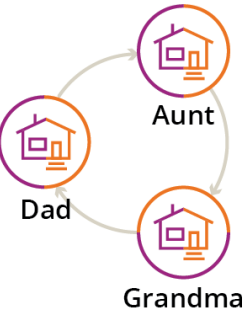
Baylee's mom commits suicide and she is placed in foster care. Over the next 2 years she is placed in 2 foster homes and then a group home.



Leaves foster care to live with Dad

Age 13-16

Baylee moves in with dad. But conflict increases between Baylee and stepmom. She attempts suicide several times. Baylee cycles between dad's and staying with aunt and grandmother.



Kicked out of Dad's house

Age 16-17

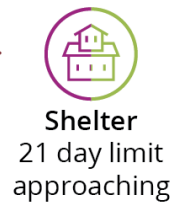
"If you leave then don't come back!" Dad gives ultimatum and Baylee leaves to a hotel room of friend whose family is homeless and then cycles between shelter, couch surfing, and exchanging sex for hotel money.



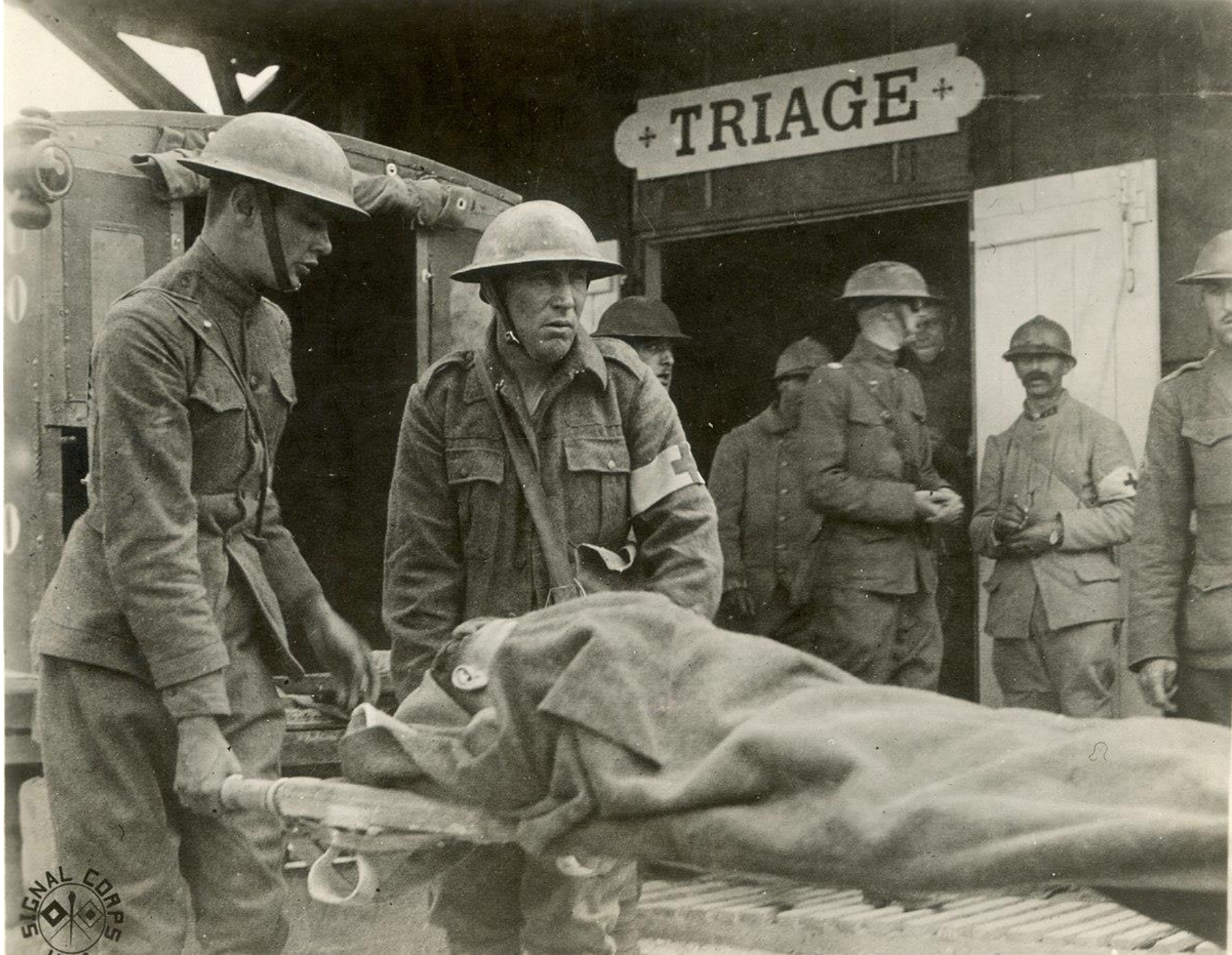
Dad signs papers for shelter

Age 17

Baylee is approaching the 21-day limit in shelter, hoping to get in to Job Corps and avoid placement into foster care.



(Source: VoYC In-Depth Interviews)





Youth homelessness
is a **solvable problem.**



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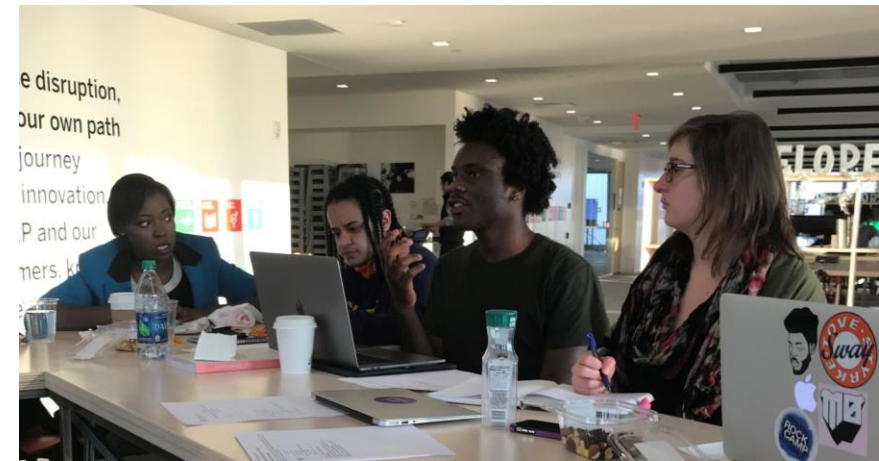
A Youth Homelessness System Assessment for New York City



MAY
2019

A system assessment surfaced priorities

- Collecting longitudinal data on young people's pathways through services & their outcomes; analyzing on equity.
- Piloting and evaluating flexible, quickly deployable interventions such as cash transfers with supports.





Our Aim

With our partners:
develop,
disseminate,
and embed
a collaboratively developed,
cross-systems,

NATIONAL STRATEGY



RECOMMENDATIONS



Partner with
and support BIPOC
young people and
BIPOC-led groups.



Prioritize youth
homelessness
prevention.



Expand and evaluate
direct financial
assistance and low-
barrier housing
resources for youth.



Ensure support
for basic needs
to and through
postsecondary
education.



Expand and evaluate
virtual, culturally
responsive mental
health service
delivery models



Invest in better,
replicable data on
youth and young
adult homelessness
and basic needs



N A T I O N A L
H O M E L E S S N E S S
L A W C E N T E R

State Index on Youth Homelessness: Overview

Katie Meyer Scott
Senior Youth Attorney

June 28, 2022



NATIONAL
HOMELESSNESS
LAW CENTER

NHLC is a national organization dedicated to using the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness and to protect the rights of people experiencing homelessness, through policy advocacy, public education, and impact litigation. Our team includes attorneys with lived expertise of homelessness, poverty, racism and other forms of discrimination.

2021

State Index on Youth Homelessness

by Aleya Jones, Gabriela Sevilla, Esq., and
F. Dylan Waguespack



The State Index

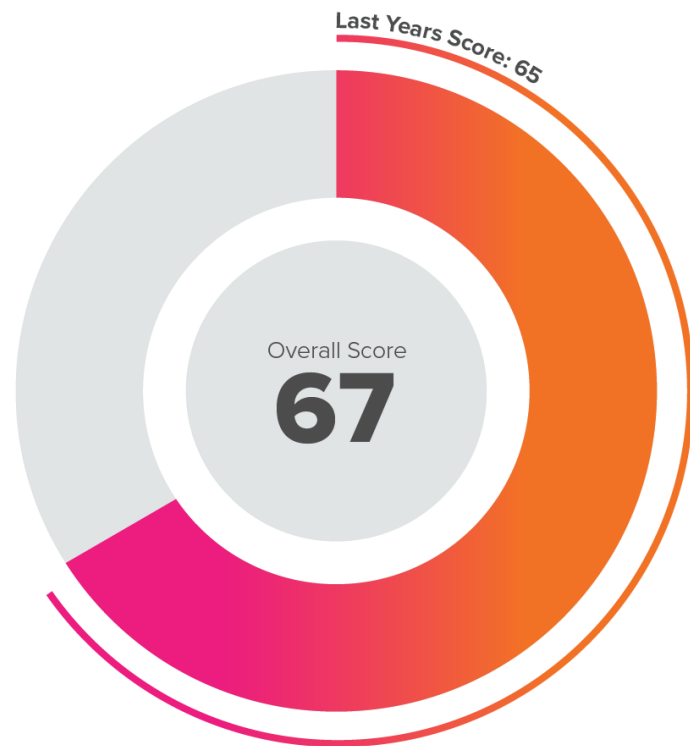
youthstateindex.com



- A grade for all 50 states & DC based on 65+ metrics tracking laws, policies, and institutions that youth experiencing homelessness interact with
- Updated annually to show progress and to keep up to date with best practices
- The Index is a measure of policy infrastructure – it is an indicator of a state’s **readiness** rather than a state’s **current success** in addressing youth homelessness



The State Index Evaluates



1. Laws & Policies
2. Systems
3. Environment

Laws & Policies



Surveying the state laws of all 50 states and DC to determine the current laws related to:

- definitions
- diversionary programs
- criminalization and status offenses
- emancipation
- right to contract
- health care access
- discharge from the juvenile justice system
- access to federal benefits
- access to public education
- access to shelter and services

Systems & Environment



- Are there SOGI protections in key state programs (child welfare, RHY, juvenile justice)?
- Is conversion therapy banned?
- Is there an interagency council on homelessness?
- Is there a statewide plan to prevent and end youth homelessness?
- Is obtaining a state-issued ID card easy or are there barriers?



Key Results: *Law & Policy*



- All states but 2 provide tuition waivers for foster youth and 37 states have laws or regulations that promote access to higher education for homeless youth.
- 5 states criminalize running away and 9 states allow homeless youth to be put in juvenile detention. Even more have exceptions/circumstances where it is easy for youth to end up in the juvenile justice system for being unhoused.

Key Results: *Systems & Environment*



- 24 states have a specific strategy to address youth homelessness.
- 8 have a strategy for LGBTQ youth homelessness.
- 11 states have a mechanism for consulting youth on issues of youth homelessness.



How to use the State Index website



youthstateindex.com

Moving the Index Forward



- New criteria may be introduced to further assess states readiness in preventing and ending youth homelessness
- We are planning to release a supplement in 2023 that looks at successes/best practices (and why some states score high but struggle with youth homelessness)
- Expect the 2022 State Index update in November 2022 (just in time to prep for legislative sessions!)



Keep in touch:



NATIONAL
HOMELESSNESS
LAW CENTER

www.homelesslaw.org

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National Homelessness
Law Center

Relevant Additional Resources

- Chapin Hall, Voices of Youth Count: <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>
- NCSL, Youth Homelessness Overview: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/homeless-and-runaway-youth.aspx#:~:text=Each%20year%2C%20an%20estimated%204.2,ages%2013%2D25%20experience%20homelessness.>
- National Homelessness Law Center: <https://homelesslaw.org/>
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Exchange; Youth Homelessness: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/>
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: <https://www.usich.gov/>
- Washington Department of Commerce, Office of Homeless Youth: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/office-of-youth-homelessness/>