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# **NEW YORK CITY YOUTH COUNT REPORT 2016**

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**The City of New York  
Mayor Bill de Blasio**



**Center for Innovation  
through Data Intelligence**



**Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development**

**EVERYONE COUNTS!**



**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9 – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12**

## **Acknowledgments**

CIDI and DYCD would like to thank the service providers, City agencies, and youth who participated in the count. We would especially like to acknowledge the members of the Methodology Workgroup who provided tremendous knowledge and insight during the planning process.

## **About the Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence**

The Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI) is a research/policy center located in the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York under the auspice of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. As part of the Office of the Mayor, CIDI conducts citywide interagency research to identify areas of service need in the City. The vision of CIDI is to make data come alive to inspire change. To learn more about CIDI, please visit [www.nyc.gov/cidi](http://www.nyc.gov/cidi).

# Background

Stability in youths' lives is critical for youth to thrive and successfully transition to adulthood. Unfortunately, many youth experience homelessness and housing instability at some point during their young adulthood, but this population can be difficult to locate or identify. Increasing attention is being given to identifying methods to better estimate this population, including enhancing existing count methodologies to be more sensitive to the characteristics of homeless youth.

Each year, New York City conducts a point-in-time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless adults, families, and youth based on the guidelines put forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For the past two PIT counts, NYC agencies, runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providers, and advocates have collaborated to improve upon the traditional PIT methodology for counting homeless youth. A full description of 2015 effort and its results can be found [here](#).

In 2016, the youth count was expanded to include more locations, greater outreach to community partners, and youth participation in the planning process.

# Methods Overview

## Planning

*Workgroup:* A group of city agencies, RHY providers, and advocates met monthly beginning several months prior to the count to plan and coordinate the count.

**New  
in  
2016**

### **Youth Count Coordinators**

Two part-time youth count coordinators who were interns at participating RHY providers helped with outreach to community programs, Borough President's Offices, and potential new sites for the count.

### **Focus Groups with RHY Youth**

Focus groups were conducted at six drop-in centers for RHY youth to learn about potential new sites for the count and get feedback on the flyers used to advertise the count and the count survey.

## Categories of Living Situations

### Definition

Data were collected from every youth, age 24 years and younger, who came to a program or were encountered during outreach.

The youth were then categorized by living situation based on where they spent the night on Monday, February 8, 2016.

Although imperfect, these categories generally represent a spectrum of living situations from least stable to most stable. It should be noted that youth can move between these categories on any given night and often do. See Living Situation analyses on pages 11-12 for more information.

Only youth who were categorized as unsheltered were submitted in the HUD PIT tabulations. Other categories of youth are reported here to present information on a broader spectrum of unstably housed youth.

### Unsheltered (According to HUD PIT definition)

- Streets / Walked around / Park
- Abandoned Building / Stairwell / Lobby / Yard / Car / Squat
- Fast food restaurant / 24-hour Store / Bank / internet café
- Subway / Train / Ferry / Bus
- Working (if they did not have a place to go the following morning)
- Other private place not meant for sleeping

### Other unstable living situation

- Shelter / Drop-in Center / Transitional Living / Church
- Couch surfing (due to lack of stable housing)
- Boyfriend / Girlfriend's place (due to lack of stable housing)
- Hospital / Mental Health Facility
- Hotel/Motel
- Jail / Juvenile Detention / Prison
- Sex for shelter
- Forced sex for shelter / trafficked

### Stable living situation

- Own Apartment / Room / Dorm
- Parent's apartment
- Other relative's apartment
- Friend's place (for social reasons)
- Boyfriend / Girlfriend's place (for social reasons)
- Group home (residential foster care)

## Count Structure

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### WHEN

Tuesday, February 9 to Friday, February 12, 2016.

In accordance with HUD regulations, the PIT count must ask about one specific day. Youth who participated were asked where they spent the night on Monday, February 8, the same date as HOPE and the shelter census.

### HOW

Between Tuesday and Friday, program staff and/or volunteers (at the libraries and one large drop-in program) at the 63 participating programs aimed to ask every youth who came into the program or were encountered during outreach to complete a short survey.

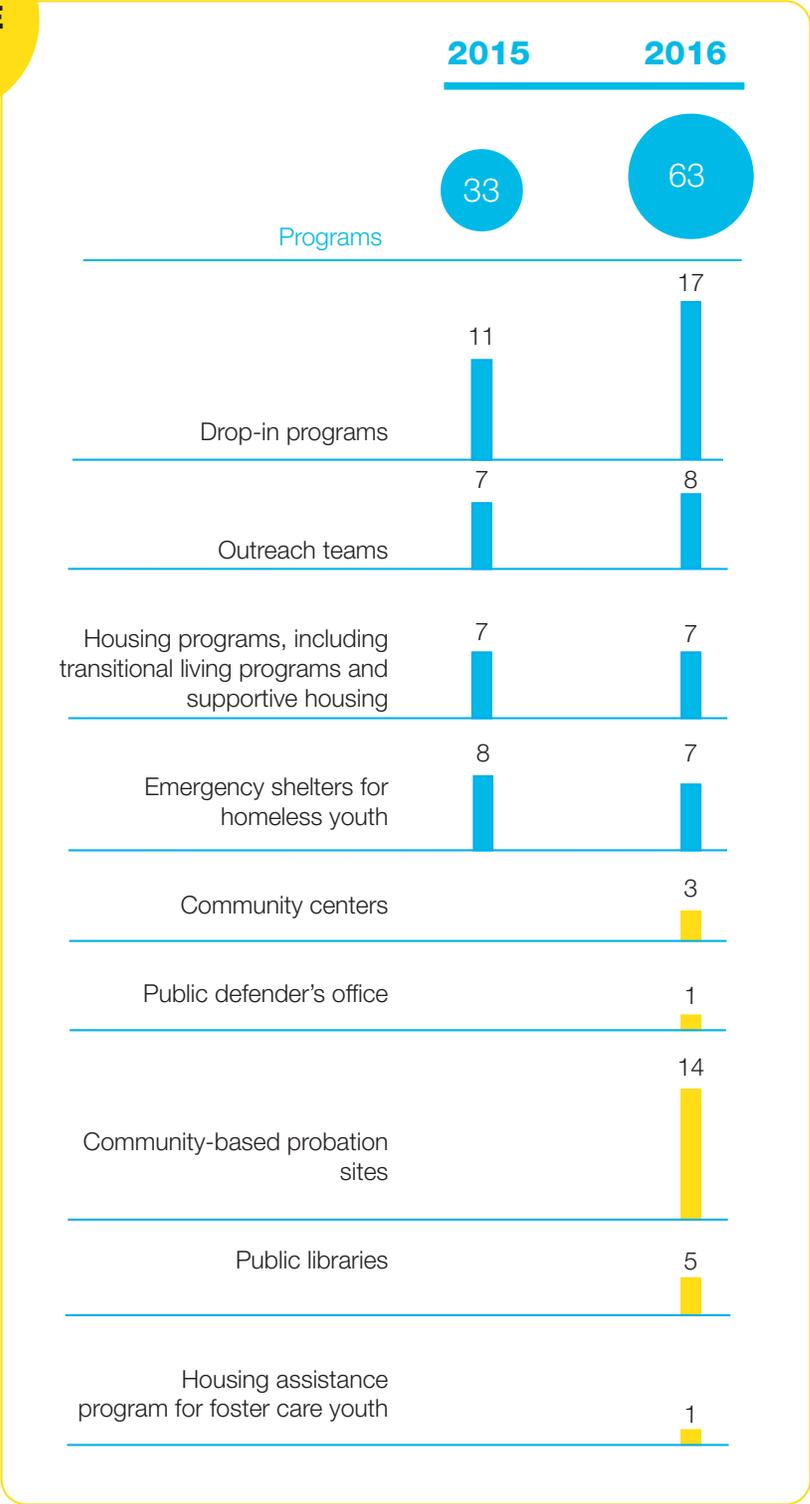
### New in 2016

The survey was completed on a tablet at most sites (instead of pen and paper) to ease data collection and reduce data entry.

Youth drop-in programs were also able to call known clients and complete the survey over the phone.

Communication about the count was expanded to community boards, Borough Presidents' Offices, public recreation centers, community programs and other City agencies.

**WHERE**

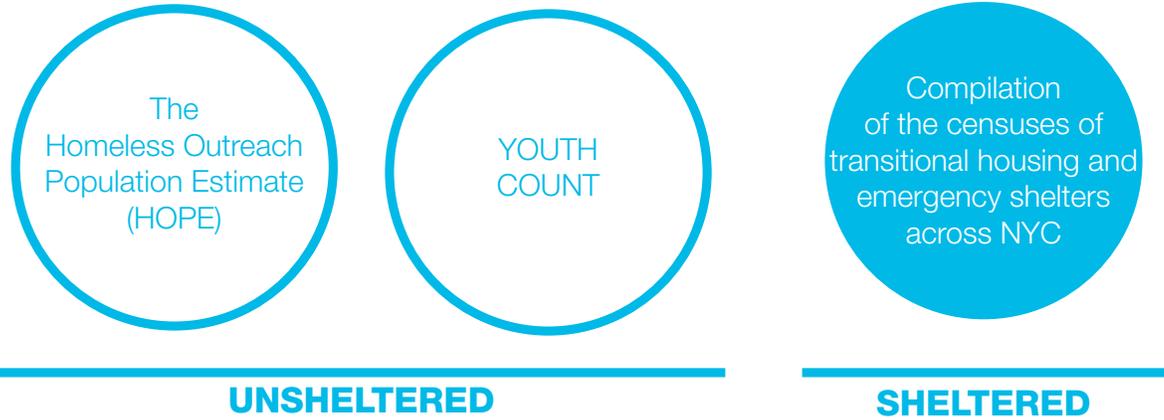


**New in 2016**

Included new sites: drop-in centers and outreach teams that serve adults (including young adults age 18-24), libraries, and other community-based services.

**Overall Numbers from PIT**

These totals are a compilation of the counts that are conducted for the HUD PIT tabulations.



**Overall Comparison of Youth 24 and Under**

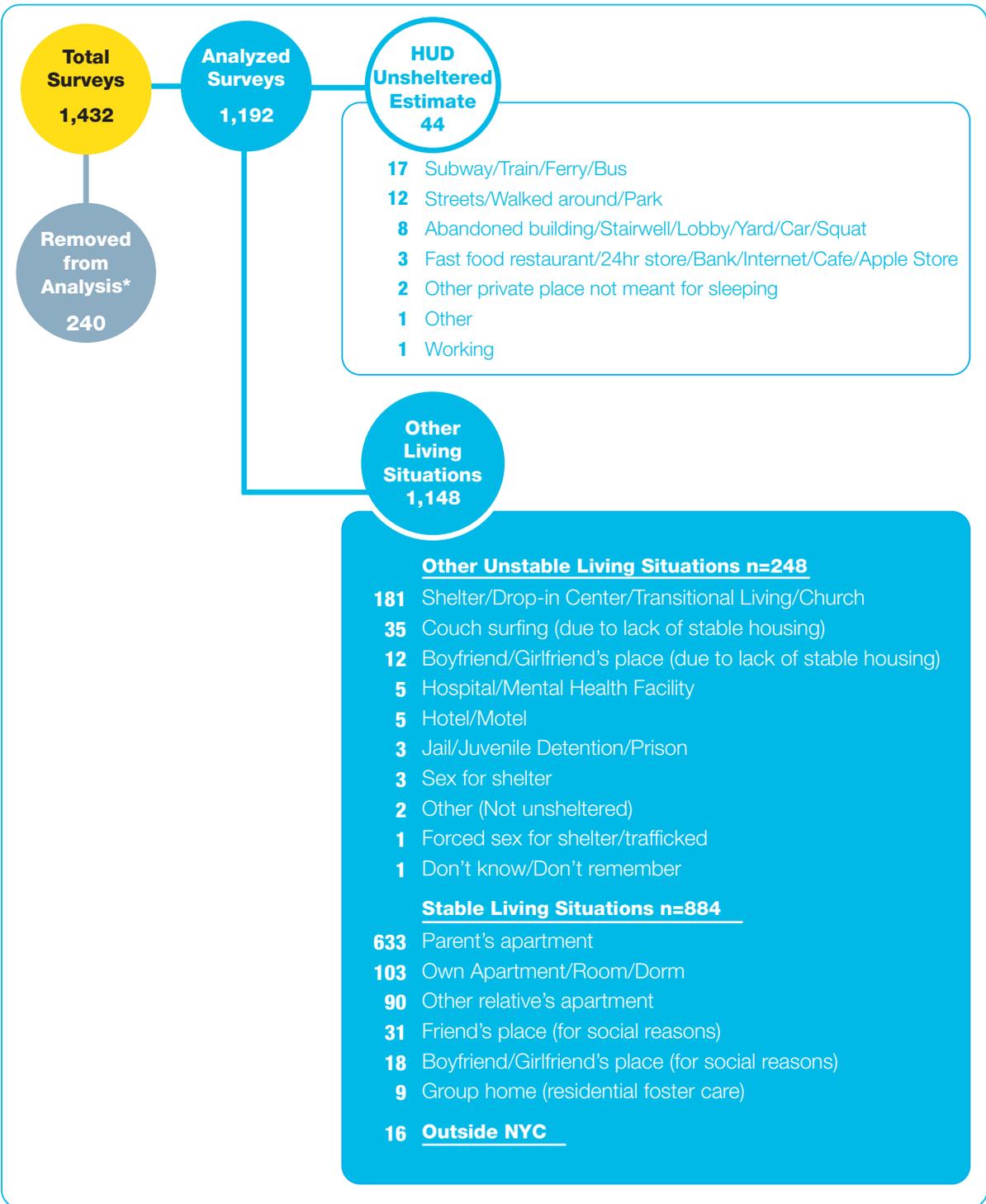
	PIT Numbers	
	2015	2016
Unaccompanied Youth	1,706	1,805
Sheltered	1,518	1,653
Unsheltered	188	152
Parenting Youth	2,114	2,261
Sheltered	2,114	2,261
Unsheltered	0	0
Children with Parenting Youth	2,539	2,681
Sheltered	2,539	2,681
Unsheltered	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>6,747</b>
Sheltered	6,171	6,595
Unsheltered	188	152

# Youth Count Data

Data included in these analyses are only from the Youth Count and does not include information about individuals counted through HOPE or the shelter census tabulations.

## Section 1: Overview of Surveys

### On the night of this past Monday, February 8, where did you spend the night?



\*Surveys were removed from analysis if the respondent did not consent to taking the survey, had already taken the survey, was surveyed by HOPE, or was over 24 years old. Additional surveys were removed because they were missing all relevant data.

**Surveys Conducted by Program Type: All**

Program Type	2015 n=857		2016 n=1192	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Drop-in	716	84	455	37
Library	-	-	433	36
NeON	-	-	179	15
Community Center	-	-	37	3
Housing	8	1	34	3
Outreach*	105	12	34	3
Shelter	28	3	19	2
Public Defender	-	-	11	1

**Surveys Conducted by Program Type: Unsheltered**

Program Type	2015 n=68		2016 n=44	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Drop-in	52	76	32	73
Library	-	-	2	5
NeON	-	-	0	0
Community Center	-	-	0	0
Housing	0	0	1	2
Outreach*	15	22	6	14
Shelter	1	2	1	2
Public Defender	-	-	2	5

\*At several sites in 2015, drop-in and outreach surveys may have been used interchangeably and therefore, these may not reflect the actual breakdown.

## Section 2: Living Situation Categories

### How many places have you stayed in the past month?

	Outside NYC n=16	Unsheltered n=39	Unstable Situation n=241	Stable Situation n=853
	%	%	%	%
<b>1</b>	31.3	15.4	47.7	63.7
<b>2</b>	31.3	7.7	29.1	23.8
<b>3</b>	25.0	15.4	10.4	7.5
<b>4</b>	0	18.0	5.4	2.6
<b>5</b>	0	12.8	1.2	1.2
<b>6</b>	0	5.1	1.7	0.4
<b>7</b>	6.3	2.6	0	0.1
<b>8</b>	6.3	2.6	1.2	0.2
<b>9</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>10+</b>	0	20.5	3.3	0.6

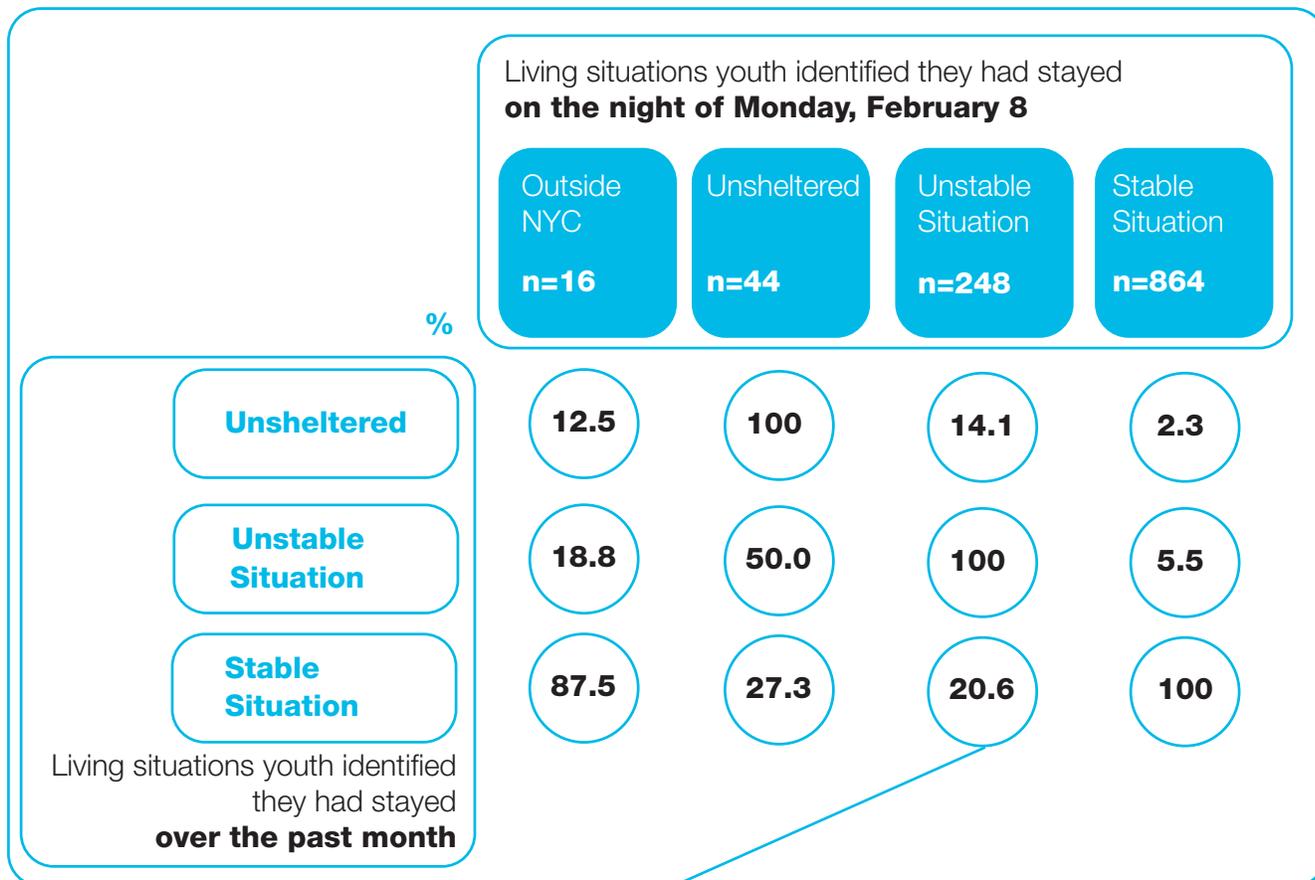
Note: Total n is lower because of missing data

### How long have you been without a permanent place to stay?

	Outside NYC n=14	Unsheltered n=38	Unstable Situation n=239	Stable Situation n=756
	%	%	%	%
<b>N/A</b>	64.3	0	2.5	86.2
<b>Less than 1 week</b>	0	0	2.1	1.3
<b>1 week to 1 month</b>	7.1	7.9	8.0	1.6
<b>More than 1 month to 3 months</b>	14.3	13.2	10.5	0.7
<b>More than 3 months to 6 months</b>	0	7.9	15.5	2.1
<b>More than 6 months to 9 months</b>	0	7.9	9.6	1.3
<b>More than 9 months to 1 year</b>	0	10.5	8.0	0.9
<b>More than 1 year to 1.5 years</b>	7.1	5.3	14.2	0.9
<b>More than 1.5 years to 2 years</b>	0	5.3	5.0	0.8
<b>More than 2 years to 2.5 years</b>	0	2.6	7.1	0.8
<b>More than 2.5 years to 3 years</b>	0	10.5	3.8	0.9
<b>Over 3 years</b>	7.1	29.0	13.8	2.4

Note: Total n is lower because of missing data

### What kind of places have you stayed over the past month?



**Example:**

*Of the youth who were in an unstable situation on the night of Monday, February 8, 20.6% of them also stayed in a stable situation over the past month.*

In order to understand the transient nature of youth’s living situations, youth were asked to identify the types of places they had stayed over the past month. These were categorized according to the groupings on page 5.

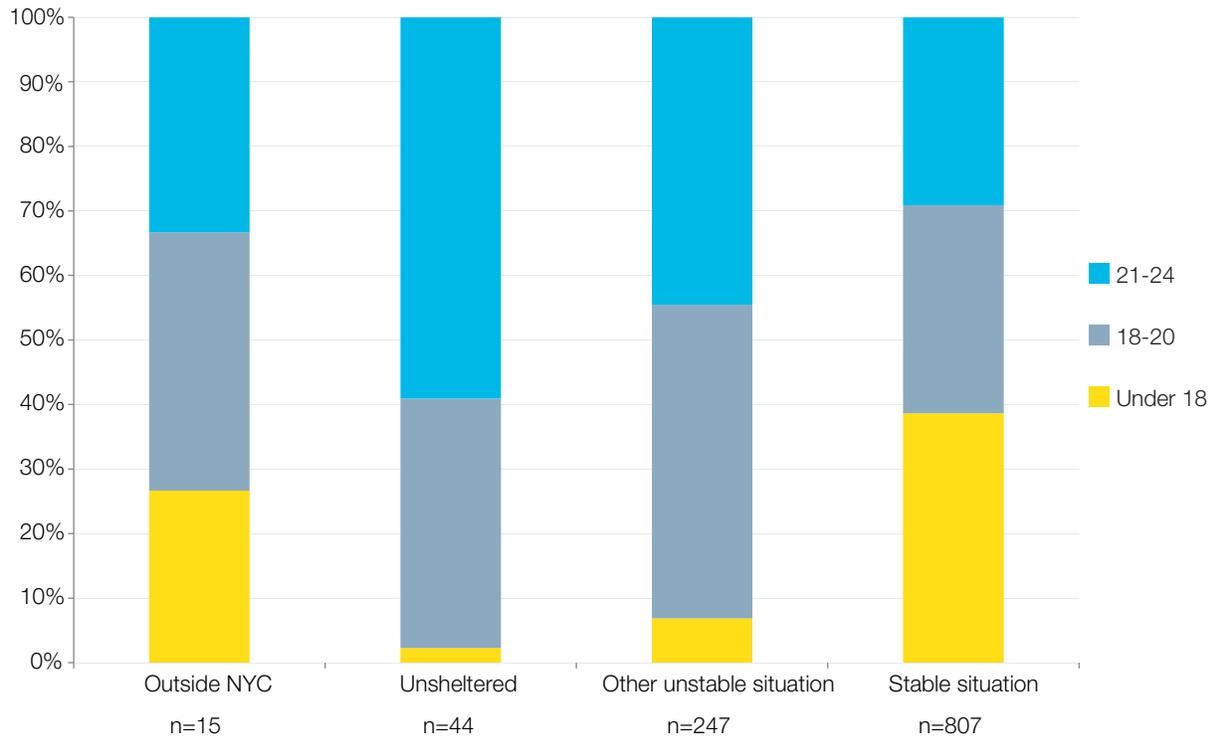
Along the top of the chart are the categories of living situations where youth stayed on the night of Monday, February 8.

Along the side are the categories of additional living situations where youth stayed over the past month, including the night of Monday, February 8.

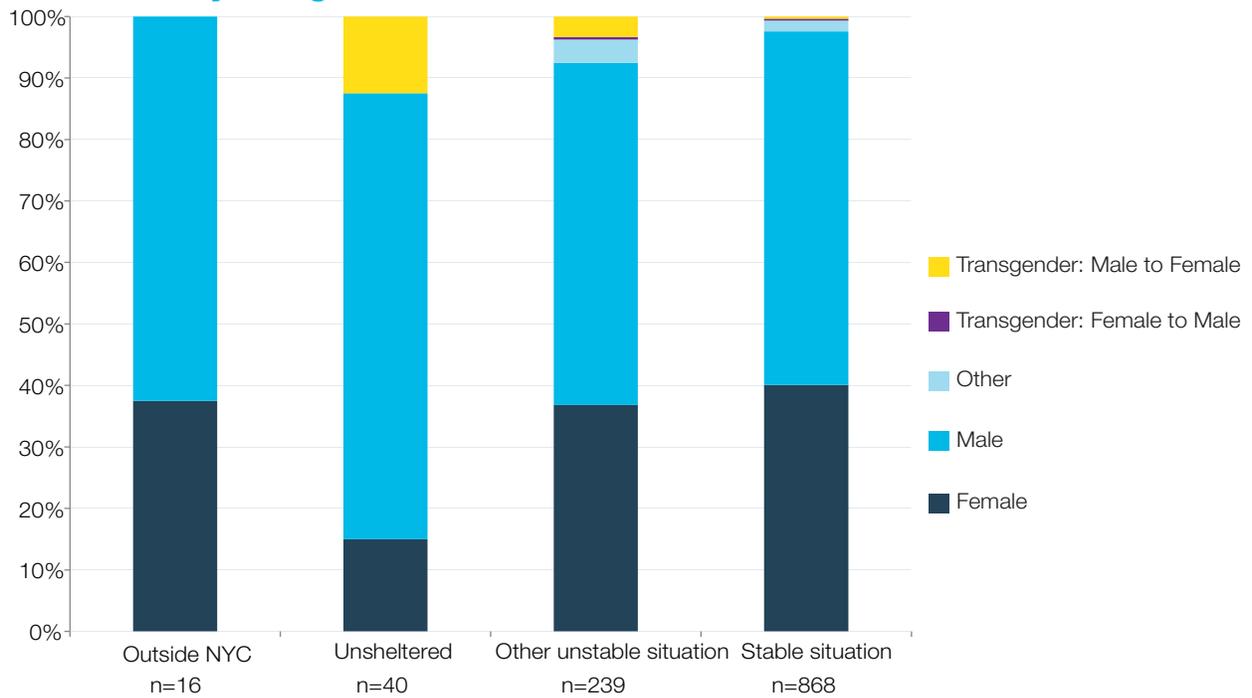
Because youth may have stayed in multiple categories of living situations, percentages total over 100%.

## Section 3: Demographics

### Age Groups by Living Situation

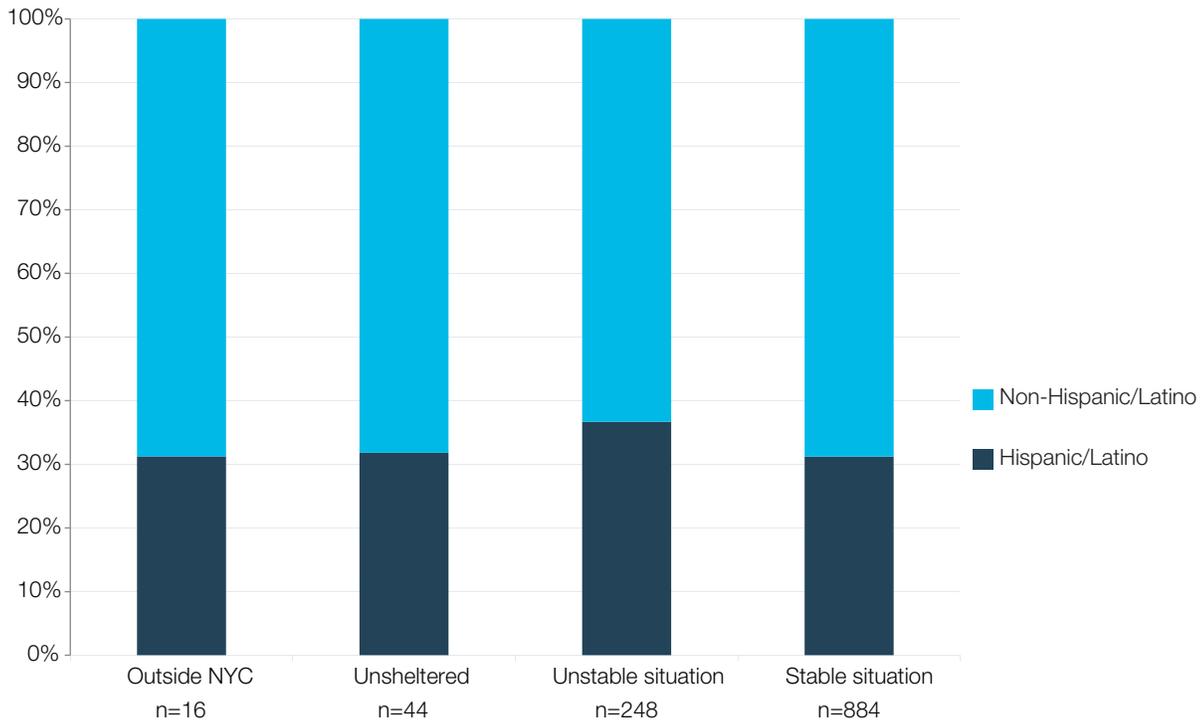


### Gender by Living Situation

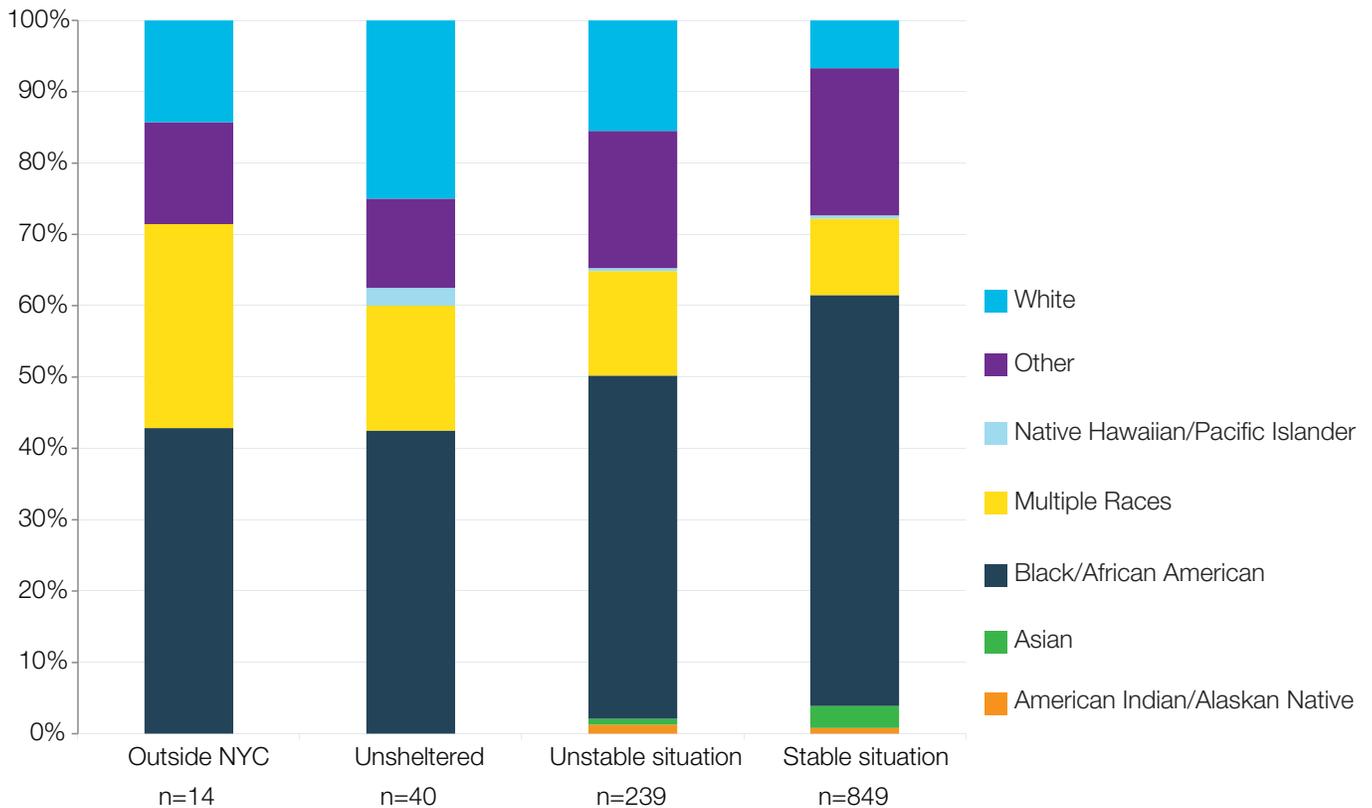


## Section 3: Demographics

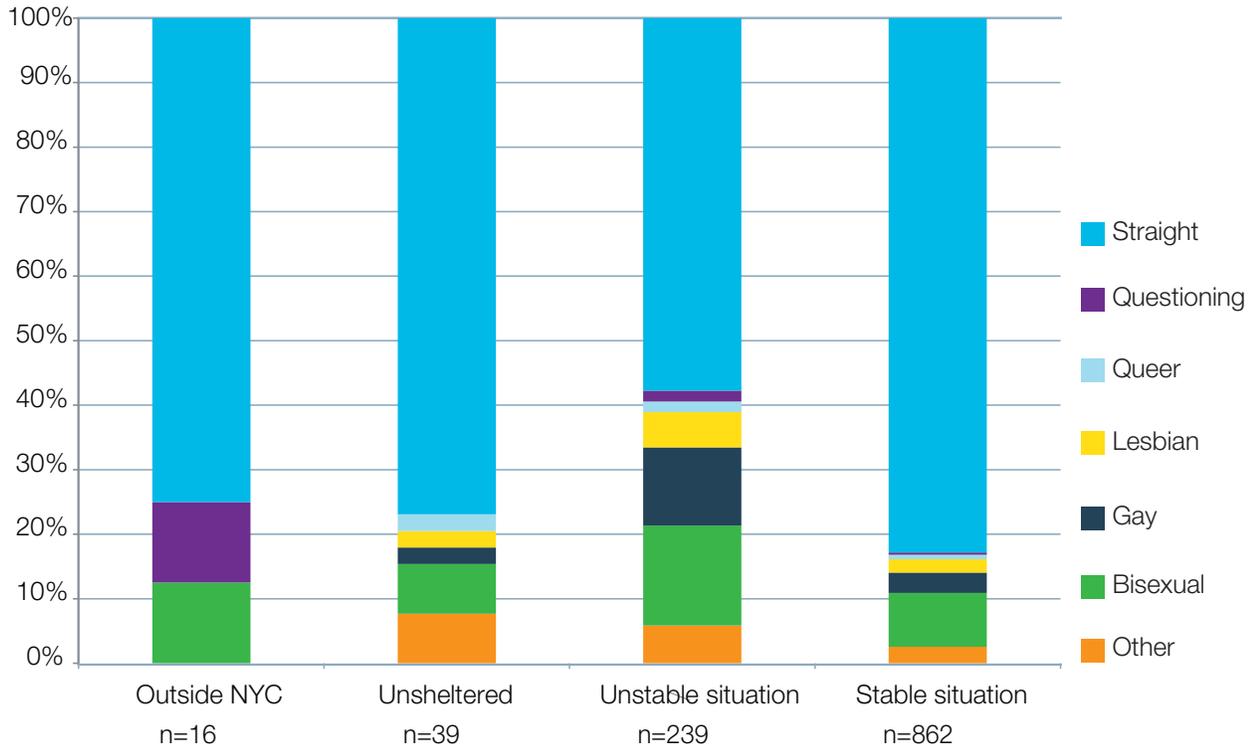
### Ethnicity by Living Situation



### Race by Living Situation



### Sexual Orientation by Living Situation



# Participating Programs

## Community Centers

Cornerstone Community Center - Bayview  
Cornerstone Community Center - MMCC-Pelham  
Diaspora Community Services

## Drop-in Centers

Ali Forney  
Cardinal McCloskey Services  
Children's Aid Society  
GEMS  
Harlem United  
Hetrick-Martin Institute  
Mainchance (Adult)  
Olivieri Drop-in Center (Adult)  
Project Hospitality (Adult)  
Project Hospitality  
Safe Space  
SCO Family Services  
Streetwork Project  
Streetwork Project LES  
The Door  
The Gathering Place (Adult)  
The Living Room (Adult)

## Community-based Probation Sites (NeONs; NYC Department of Probation)

Bedford-Stuyvesant NeON  
Brownsville NeON  
Camelot Counseling Center - NeON Satellite  
Castle Hill YMCA - NeON Satellite  
Daytop Village, Inc. - NeON Satellite  
East New York NeON  
Exodus Transitional Community - NeON Satellite  
Fortune Society - NeON Satellite  
Harlem NeON  
Jamaica NeON  
Safe Space - NeON Satellite  
South Bronx NeON  
Staten Island NeON  
YMCA of Greater New York Counseling Services -  
NeON Satellite

## Libraries

Bronx Library Center (Bronx)  
Central Library (Brooklyn)  
Central Library (Queens)  
Ottendorfer Public Library (Manhattan)  
Port Richmond Library (Staten Island)

## Outreach Teams

Bronxworks (Adult)  
Common Ground (Adult)  
Manhattan Outreach Consortium (Adult)  
Hetrick-Martin Institute  
Project Hospitality (Adult)  
Streetwork Project  
Streetwork Project LES  
The Door

## Emergency Shelters

Ali Forney (Park Slope)  
Ali Forney (Sunset)  
Ali Forney (Taaffe)  
Covenant House (Mother and Child)  
Covenant House (Under 21)  
Maya's Place  
Streetwork Project

## Housing Programs

East 9th Street  
The Lee  
GEMS TIL  
GEMS Scattered Site  
Good Shepherd Services: Chelsea Foyer  
Rachel's Place  
Victory House

## Housing Assistance Program for Foster Care Youth

Housing Academy Collaborative (NYC Administration  
for Children's Services)

## Public Defender's Office

Brooklyn Defender Services