NEW YORK CITY
YOUTH COUNT REPORT
2017
Acknowledgments

CIDI and DYCD would like to thank the service providers, City agencies, and youth who participated in the count. We would also like to thank everyone who participated in planning for the Count.

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.
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 and 2017, the youth count was expanded to include more locations, greater outreach to community partners, and youth participation in the planning process. The 2016 report can be found here.
Overall Point-in-Time Count Data

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

**Overall Numbers from PIT**

The Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE)

YOUTH COUNT

Compilation of the censuses of transitional housing and emergency shelters across NYC

**UNSHeltered**

**SHELTERED**

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### Overall Youth PIT Numbers 24 and Under

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PIT Numbers</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>1,706</td>
<td>1,805</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>1,653</td>
<td>1,738</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>188</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>2,114</td>
<td>2,261</td>
<td>2,525</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,539</td>
<td>2,681</td>
<td>2,723</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Parenting Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>2,539</td>
<td>2,681</td>
<td>2,723</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,359</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,747</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,251</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td><strong>6,171</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,986</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td><strong>188</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth Count Method

Definition
Data were collected from every youth, age 24 years and younger, who came to a program or were encountered during outreach from Tuesday, February 7 to Friday, February 10 and Monday, February 14, 2017.

The youth were then categorized by living situation based on where they spent the night on Monday, February 6, 2017.

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 9-10 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.

Categories of Living Situations

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
- 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
- Working (if they did not have a place to go the following morning)

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)
Youth Count Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drop-in programs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach teams</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing programs, including transitional living programs and supportive housing</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelters for homeless youth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community centers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public defender’s office</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based probation sites</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public libraries</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing assistance program for foster care youth</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 6, where did you spend the night?

- **Total Surveys** 1,398
- **Analyzed Surveys** 1,057
- **HUD Unsheltered Estimate** 44

**Other Living Situations** 1,013

- **Other Unstable Living Situations n=194**
  - 138 Shelter/Drop-in Center/Transitional Living/Church
  - 34 Couch surfing (due to lack of stable housing)
  - 10 Boyfriend/Girlfriend’s place (due to lack of stable housing)
  - 6 Hotel/Motel
  - 2 Working
  - 2 Don’t know/Don’t remember
  - 1 Jail/Juvenile Detention/Prison
  - 1 Sex for shelter

- **Stable Living Situations n=791**
  - 516 Parent’s apartment
  - 131 Own Apartment/Room/Dorm
  - 90 Other relative’s apartment
  - 28 Friend’s place (for social reasons)
  - 21 Boyfriend/Girlfriend’s place (for social reasons)
  - 5 Group home (residential foster care)

- **Outside NYC** 28

*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>2015 n=857</th>
<th>2016 n=1,192</th>
<th>2017 n=1,057</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency %</td>
<td>Frequency %</td>
<td>Frequency %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-in</td>
<td>716 84</td>
<td>455 37</td>
<td>383 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>433 36</td>
<td>195 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NeON</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>179 15</td>
<td>223 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37 3</td>
<td>110 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>8 1</td>
<td>34 3</td>
<td>12 (TIL only) 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach*</td>
<td>105 12</td>
<td>34 3</td>
<td>84 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>28 3</td>
<td>19 2</td>
<td>34 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Defender</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11 1</td>
<td>2 0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## Surveys Conducted by Program Type: Unsheltered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>2015 n=68</th>
<th>2016 n=44</th>
<th>2017 n=44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency %</td>
<td>Frequency %</td>
<td>Frequency %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-in</td>
<td>52 76</td>
<td>32 73</td>
<td>23 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NeON</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>0 (TIL only) 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>17 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach*</td>
<td>15 22</td>
<td>6 14</td>
<td>3 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Defender</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Section 2: Living Situation Categories

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outside NYC</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Unstable Situation</th>
<th>Stable Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=25</td>
<td>n=38</td>
<td>n=174</td>
<td>n=723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Total n is lower because of missing data

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outside NYC</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Unstable Situation</th>
<th>Stable Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=25</td>
<td>n=38</td>
<td>n=183</td>
<td>n=773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 week</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 week to 1 month</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1 month to 3 months</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 3 months to 6 months</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 6 months to 9 months</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 9 months to 1 year</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1 year to 1.5 years</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1.5 years to 2 years</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years to 2.5 years</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2.5 years to 3 years</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 3 years</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Total n is lower because of missing data
What kind of places have you stayed 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 6.

Along the side are the categories of additional living situations where youth stayed over the past month, including the night of Monday, February 6.

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

Example:

Of the youth who were in an unstable situation on the night of Monday, February 6, 31.4% of them also stayed in a stable situation over the past month.
Section 3: Demographics

**Age Groups by Living Situation**

- **Outside NYC** (n=25)
  - Under 18: 0%
  - 18-20: 90%
  - 21-24: 10%
  - 25-30: 0%

- **Unsheltered** (n=42)
  - Under 18: 10%
  - 18-20: 80%
  - 21-24: 10%
  - 25-30: 0%

- **Other unstable situation** (n=179)
  - Under 18: 30%
  - 18-20: 50%
  - 21-24: 20%
  - 25-30: 0%

- **Stable situation** (n=743)
  - Under 18: 40%
  - 18-20: 40%
  - 21-24: 20%
  - 25-30: 10%

**Gender by Living Situation**

- **Outside NYC** (n=27)
  - Transgender Female: 0%
  - Transgender Male: 5%
  - Other: 5%
  - Male: 60%
  - Female: 30%

- **Unsheltered** (n=35)
  - Transgender Female: 0%
  - Transgender Male: 5%
  - Other: 10%
  - Male: 60%
  - Female: 30%

- **Other unstable situation** (n=180)
  - Transgender Female: 10%
  - Transgender Male: 5%
  - Other: 10%
  - Male: 50%
  - Female: 35%

- **Stable situation** (n=745)
  - Transgender Female: 20%
  - Transgender Male: 5%
  - Other: 10%
  - Male: 30%
  - Female: 45%
Section 3: Demographics

Ethnicity by Living Situation

Race by Living Situation
Sexual Orientation by Living Situation

- **Outside NYC (n=27):**
  - Straight: 100%
  - Lesbian: 10%
  - Bisexual: 90%
  - Gay: 0%
  - Other: 100%

- **Unsheltered (n=32):**
  - Straight: 90%
  - Lesbian: 10%
  - Bisexual: 90%
  - Gay: 0%
  - Other: 100%

- **Unstable situation (n=170):**
  - Straight: 80%
  - Lesbian: 20%
  - Bisexual: 90%
  - Gay: 0%
  - Other: 100%

- **Stable situation (n=692):**
  - Straight: 70%
  - Lesbian: 30%
  - Bisexual: 90%
  - Gay: 0%
  - Other: 100%
Participating Programs

Community Centers (NYC Department of Youth and Community Development)
Cornerstone Community Center - Edenwald
Cornerstone Community Center - Johnson
Cornerstone Community Center - Queensbridge
Cornerstone Community Center - Sheepshead
Cornerstone Community Center - Ravenswood

Drop-in Centers
Ali Forney
Cardinal McCloskey Services
GEMS
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Housing Works
Mainchance (Adult)
MCCNY (Sylvia’s Place)
Olivieri Drop-in Center (Adult)
Project Hospitality (Adult)
Project Hospitality
Safe Space
SCO Family Services
Sheltering Arms Far Rockaway
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
Castle Hill YMCA - NeON Satellite
East New York NeON
Harlem NeON
Jamaica NeON
South Bronx NeON
Staten Island NeON

Libraries
Broadway Library (Queens)
Central Library (Brooklyn)
Central Library (Queens)
Coney Island Library (Brooklyn)
Far Rockaway Public Library (Queens)
Lefferts Public Library (Queens)

Mid-Manhattan Public Library (Manhattan)
Mott Haven Library (Bronx)
New Lots Library (Brooklyn)
St. George Library (Staten Island)

Outreach Teams
Ali Forney
Bronxworks (Adult)
Common Ground (Adult)
Covenant House
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Housing Works
Manhattan Outreach Consortium (Adult)
Project Hospitality (Adult)
Streetwork Project Uptown
Streetwork Project LES
The Door
THRIVE NYC

Emergency Shelters
Ali Forney (Park Slope)
Ali Forney (Sunset)
Ali Forney (Taaffe)
Covenant House (Mother and Child)
Covenant House (Under 21)
Safe Horizon

Housing Programs
Diaspora Community Services
Good Shepherd Services: Chelsea Foyer
Maya’s Place
Project Hospitality TIL
Rachel’s Place
SCO Independence Inn I, II, III, IV, V
The LIGHT House

Housing Assistance Program for Foster Care Youth
Housing Academy Collaborative (NYC Administration for Children’s Services)

Public Defender’s Office
Brooklyn Defender Services

School
Jamaica Pathways to Graduation