



MARYLAND YOUTH COUNT 2017

A report on the findings from Youth REACH MD's second survey of unaccompanied youth & young adults experiencing homelessness

November 2017

Prepared by
Amanda Miller, Jay Unick & Deborah S. Harburger
The Institute for Innovation & Implementation
University of Maryland School of Social Work

With the
Youth REACH MD Steering Committee

For the
Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development



Acknowledgements: This report is the result of the dedication and hard work of the Youth REACH MD Steering Committee, as well as the ten local Continuums of Care and their local partners who participated in the 2017 Youth Count. We are grateful to the Maryland General Assembly for their continued support of this work; the 2013 Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Taskforce and the Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness for their guidance and recommendations; Epstein Creative Group for the powerful designs and materials; and, to the YES Drop-In Center and Youth M.O.V.E. National for providing input and guidance on meaningfully engaging youth and young adults. A special thank you to the 1,830 youth and young adults who were willing to share their stories and experiences and to the many youth ambassadors, volunteers, and staff who helped make this Youth Count possible. We could not have done this without you!

2017 Youth REACH MD Steering Committee Members

Patricia Arriaza, Governor's Office for Children
Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Maryland State Department of Education
Justin Bieler, Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services
Taylor Braxton, Office of Delegate Mary Washington
Josh Brusca, Healthcare for the Homeless
Delores Bullock, Blessed in Tech Ministries, Inc.
Stuart Campbell, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development
Marsha Dawson, Howard County Office of Local Children's Board
Shannon Frey, Somerset County Health Department
Diana Fulchiron, Washington County Community Action Council
Carrie Gould-Kabler, University of Maryland School of Social Work
Carol Gilbert, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development
Elizabeth Greeno, University of Maryland School of Social Work
Erika Hamlet, Baltimore County Public Schools
Deborah Harburger, University of Maryland School of Social Work
Bernard Hennigan, Baltimore County Public Schools
Stephen Holt, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development
Terri Kingeter, Baltimore County Department of Planning
Jim Kunz, McDaniel College
Lanny Lancaster, Three Oaks Center
Ingrid Löfgren, Homeless Persons Representation Project
Danielle Meister, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services
Amanda Miller, University of Maryland School of Social Work
Jackie Neil, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Bridget Patton, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services
Dana Pentoney, Washington County Public Schools
Renee Pope, Prince George's County Department of Social Services
Greta Rolland, Homeless Alliance for the Lower Shore
Jamie Sexton, Office of Delegate Mary Washington
Heather Sheridan, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (FRM Dept. of Human Services)
John Summerlot, Prince George's County Department of Social Services
Jay Unick, University of Maryland School of Social Work
Mary Washington, Maryland General Assembly
Christina Drushel Williams, Governor's Office for Children
Corae Young, Lifestyles of Maryland, Inc.
Steven Youngblood, Maryland Department of Human Services



Youth REACH MD was coordinated by The Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Funding for Youth REACH MD was provided by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development with support from the Maryland General Assembly. For more information about Youth REACH MD, please visit www.youthreachmd.com.

Suggested citation: Miller, A., Unick, J., & Harburger, D.S. (2017). *Maryland Youth Count 2017: A report on the findings from Youth REACH MD's second survey of unaccompanied youth & young adults experiencing homelessness*. Baltimore, MD: The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
A Brief History of Youth REACH MD.....	2
Youth Count Survey Methods	2
Planning for the Second Youth Count.....	2
Expansion to Additional Continuums of Care	4
Revisiting the Timing of the Youth Count	5
Refining the Youth Count Survey	6
Marketing & Outreach Redesign	6
Youth Engagement.....	7
Local Use of Funds	8
Youth Count Survey Strategies	8
Education Partnerships	12
Data Collection and Analysis.....	12
Administrative Data	13
Findings from the 2017 Youth Count	13
Comparison to 2015 Youth Count Results	23
Comparison to Point-in-Time Count Data.....	27
Initial Impacts of Youth REACH MD	28
Lessons Learned and Limitations	30
Implications and Policy Recommendations in Support of the 2017 Youth Count Findings	33
Recommendation: Invest in Housing and Support Services for Youth Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness	35
Continue Support of Ongoing and Improved Monitoring of Youth Homelessness for Data-Informed Decision-Making	36
Grow Local and Regional Capacity to Track and Address Youth Homelessness Locally.....	37
Conclusion.....	38
References	39
Appendix A: 2017 Youth REACH MD Survey	40
Appendix B: Survey Field Guide	45
Appendix C: Local Implementation Strategies.....	49
Appendix D: Marketing Material Samples	58
Appendix E: County and Regional Data Findings	60

Introduction

Across Maryland, there are youth and young adults living on their own and experiencing homelessness and housing instability, unsure of where they will sleep each night. These youth¹ experience homelessness for a variety of reasons, many of which are beyond their control. Escaping an abusive relationship, being rejected by family members for their gender identity or sexual orientation, and recent exits from the child welfare or juvenile justice systems are just a few of the many complicated and challenging situations youth experiencing homelessness face (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). In addition, youth often face systemic barriers, such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty, and structural racism, which further contribute to the challenges they face (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). Despite these challenges, youth experiencing homelessness often go to school and have jobs and they are resourceful, often finding places to sleep by staying with friends, family, or acquaintances on a short-term basis and moving from place to place, known as couch-surfing (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). Typically less likely to identify as homeless or access traditional homeless services, it is challenging to identify and accurately assess the number, characteristics, and needs of youth experiencing homelessness, (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016).

Designed to go beyond the numbers to explore who these youth are, Youth REACH MD is an initiative developed to help Maryland better understand how to connect with and support youth experiencing homelessness. Through annual Youth Counts and collection of administrative data from various service systems, Youth REACH MD is developing a consistent mechanism through which youth homelessness in Maryland can be monitored over time.

Youth REACH MD aligns with the federal United States Interagency Council on Homelessness goal to end youth homelessness by 2020; effectively ending youth homelessness means that any experience of homelessness by a youth should be rare, brief, and non-recurring (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2015). Consistent monitoring of the number of youth experiencing homelessness is a key strategy towards achieving this goal.

This report presents the process of and findings from the second Youth Count in Maryland conducted as part of Youth REACH MD. These findings are followed by a comparison to the 2015 Youth Count findings² and 2017 local U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Point-in-Time Count data, initial impacts of Youth REACH MD, implications from the Youth Count findings, and policy recommendations.

Goals of Youth REACH MD

1. Engage youth, young adults, local community members, and federal, state, and local constituencies in preventing and ending youth homelessness through participation in the design and implementation of the Youth Count and the associated policy & evaluation activities.
2. Conduct an effective Youth Count as an ongoing way for federal, state, and local constituencies to track progress in understanding and meeting the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults that will result in programmatic, budgetary, and policy changes to end and prevent youth homelessness.
3. Incorporate housing and homeless services and programs ... to provide quality, up-to-date, longitudinal data and information related to overall program efficiency and effectiveness in serving the children, youth, & families of Maryland.

¹ The term *youth* is intended throughout this report to be inclusive of all youth and young adults up to age 25.

² For a detailed description of the findings from the first Youth Count, see the Youth REACH MD Phase 2 Report, available at www.youthreachmd.com/publications.

A Brief History of Youth REACH MD

In 2013, Maryland established the Task Force to Study Housing and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Chapter 544, 2013). The Task Force gathered information about the needs of youth who are on their own and struggling with housing and made recommendations to the State on how to begin to address youth homelessness in Maryland. In its final report, the Task Force recommended that Maryland invest in collecting information on the “number, characteristics, and needs” of youth experiencing homelessness (Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Taskforce, 2014). Following this recommendation, the Maryland General Assembly mandated that an unaccompanied homeless youth pilot count be conducted with a minimum of six Continuums of Care (CoCs)³ to better understand how to count and connect with youth experiencing homelessness (Chapter 425, 2014).

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) contracted with The Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (The Institute) to manage the primary activities of Youth REACH MD and a steering committee of key stakeholders was formed. With guidance from the Steering Committee, The Institute coordinated an initial Youth Count in the fall of 2015 with six CoCs representing eight jurisdictions: Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, the Lower Shore (comprised of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties), Prince George’s County, and Washington County. *Through this initial Youth Count, 834 youth were identified as unaccompanied homeless youth* within these six CoCs, nearly double the 481 estimated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the entire State (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). The 2017 Youth Count builds on the findings of and lessons learned during the first Youth Count to continue to improve the understanding of youth homelessness in Maryland.

For a more detailed history of the Youth REACH project and the initial planning and development, please see the Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports, available at www.youthreachmd.com/publications.

Youth Count Survey Methods

The primary goals of the 2017 Youth Count were to (1) refine and improve upon the methods used for the first Youth Count, and (2) expand the Youth Count efforts in Maryland to additional CoCs. To that

2017 Youth Count Goals

- Refine and improve Youth Count methods
- Expand the Youth Count to additional CoCs

end, a significant amount of effort was put into revising the survey and count materials, revamping the marketing campaign, and reaching out to additional CoCs to participate. A detailed explanation of these processes follows in the sections below, followed by a description of the 2017 Youth Count survey strategies and lessons learned.

Planning for the Second Youth Count

The original Youth REACH MD Steering Committee continued to guide and consult throughout the planning and execution of the second Youth Count, with some small changes in membership over the course of the project,

³ “A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals” and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing to provide outreach, intake, assessment, and referral for individuals with housing needs in their community, to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing to those in need, and to monitor both the number of those with housing needs and the scope of the services available to them within their area (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2010).

Youth REACH MD defines *unaccompanied homeless youth* as those individuals who are:

- Under age 25;
- Not in the physical custody or care of a parent or legal guardian; and,
- Lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence.

operating as the central planning and decision-making body for the Youth Count.⁴ In addition to the Steering Committee, each participating CoC had a local planning body comprised of key community stakeholders and led by the organization the CoC identified as their local implementing entity. This organization was responsible for participating in planning activities with and reporting to The Institute and Steering Committee throughout the course of the project.

In both the first and second Youth Counts, the Steering Committee recognized the importance of employing differing strategies in different parts of the state based on local characteristics and resources available. Therefore, CoCs were given significant autonomy within the planning process to allow them to employ their knowledge of their own local area to identify strategies that were best suited for their jurisdiction. Allowing for a diverse array of strategies also provided the richest information about successful strategies for conducting future Youth Counts. Local strategies will be discussed in more detail later in this report, and a detailed account of each CoC's efforts is available in Appendix C.

Prior to the first Youth Count, the Steering Committee developed a uniform, inclusive definition of unaccompanied homeless youth that is comprised of the common elements across definitions established by federal government departments for use in educational institutions, homeless service providers, and others. By this definition, youth are considered to be unaccompanied homeless youth if they are (1) under the age of 25, (2) not in the physical custody or care of a parent or legal guardian, and (3) lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). Details of how this definition was developed are included in the Youth REACH MD Phase 2 report.

After the first Youth Count, some questions were raised by members of the Steering Committee as to whether a minimum age should be added to the definition; however, it was decided that the second Youth Count would utilize the definition as originally developed for consistency and inclusivity. Only youth who met the three conditions of the definition were counted as unaccompanied homeless youth in the 2017 Youth Count.

In preparation for the 2017 Youth Count, the Steering Committee also recognized that the Youth Count may be the only opportunity to connect with some of the youth being surveyed, and, as part of the Youth Count, youth should be connected with services and supports. Therefore, CoCs were encouraged to develop a plan as to how they would connect youth with services during the Youth Count, and strategies were discussed over the course of several Steering Committee meetings. As a result, The Institute developed a separate half page 'Need Help Card' that youth could fill out separately from the survey with their name, contact information, and current needs, so that local staff could follow up with them to provide needed services or supports. These cards were kept separate from the youth's survey responses to protect their privacy. Several CoCs reported this being a successful strategy, and, in

Figure 1: Need Help Card

NEED HELP?
If you would like someone to follow up with you, fill out the form below and someone will contact you.
This information will be kept separate from your survey to make sure your survey answers stay confidential.

Name: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

What is the best way to reach you? Phone Call Email Text

What is the best time to reach you? Morning Afternoon Evening

If you were previously in foster care, there may be additional services available to you. Would you be interested in this? Yes No Maybe

Anything else we should know? _____

⁴ Members of the Steering Committee are listed on page I of this report.

several cases, reported being able to house youth initially reached through the Youth Count. The ‘Need Help Card’ is available, along with the other Youth Count materials, at www.youthreachmd.com.

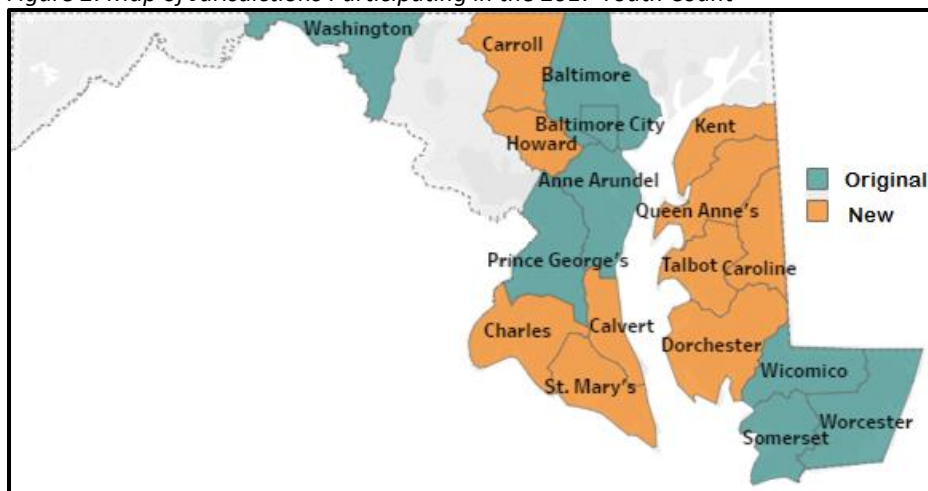
Expansion to Additional Continuums of Care

One goal of the second Youth Count was to begin expanding Youth REACH MD to additional CoCs. The Steering Committee discussed possible strategies for expansion, and made the decision to reach out to CoCs who had shown interest in addressing youth homelessness and/or were in a position to grow the understanding of successful strategies in more rural areas. Regional CoCs, i.e. CoCs comprised of more than one jurisdiction, were also prioritized as coordination over multiple jurisdictions required additional strategies in the first Youth Count, and the Steering Committee wanted to grow understanding of strategies to support these CoCs. Based on these metrics, the Mid-Shore (comprised of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties), Southern Maryland (comprised of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties), Montgomery County, and Frederick County were identified by the Steering Committee as CoCs to invite to participate. The Mid-Shore and Southern MD CoCs both agreed to participate. Frederick County was unable to participate due to concern over available staffing to support the effort in the coming year. Montgomery County was initially planning to participate, but could not find a local implementing entity in sufficient time to participate. As these initial invitations were being extended, Carroll County expressed interest in the project as well, and the Steering Committee agreed to extend an additional invitation to Carroll County, who agreed to participate.

During the planning of the 2017 Youth Count, the Steering Committee learned that Howard County was conducting a similar youth count effort through funding provided by their Local Management Board (LMB), and invited Howard County to utilize the Youth REACH MD materials and strategies. The Institute also agreed to provide the same data analysis support as provided to the other participating CoCs, should Howard County choose to utilize the Youth REACH MD survey. Howard County participated in several Youth REACH planning meetings, and in March chose to conduct a parallel Youth Count using the Youth REACH MD survey and timeframe.⁵ As a result, Howard County strategies and findings are included in this report.

Ten CoCs in total participated in the 2017 Youth Count, representing 18 Maryland jurisdictions. A map of the participating CoCs is shown in Figure 2, with the new expansion CoCs indicated separately.

Figure 2: Map of Jurisdictions Participating in the 2017 Youth Count



⁵ Due to Howard County’s parallel, but separate planning process, the results of their Youth Count are included in the findings section of this report, however some of their planning activities and Youth Count strategies are not reflected in this report, as they occurred outside of the Youth REACH MD activities.

Revisiting the Timing of the Youth Count

The timing of the first Youth Count in late September through early October proved to be a challenge for surveying within local schools, as school personnel were busy at the beginning of the school year and often had not yet had the opportunity to get to know the students and identify those who may be struggling with housing. In order to increase school participation in the Youth Count, the Steering Committee considered different possible timings for the Youth Count that would better align with school calendars. The Steering Committee agreed to avoid the winter as the cold weather would make it less likely that youth would be outside, where it would be easier to connect with them. Summer was also eliminated from consideration due to the concern that youth may be moving around more during this time for employment or other reasons, and would not be in school. Late spring was also a concern due to the end of the school year being a busy time for school personnel as well.

The Steering Committee decided to look for a period of time in March or April that would not conflict with school breaks or testing in within the participating jurisdictions. In comparing all 17 school district calendars, March 1-14 was identified as the only period of time without significant conflicts. However, when this was shared with the Steering Committee, several CoCs expressed concern about these dates following too closely after the federally mandated Point-in-Time (PIT) Count⁶ that occurs annually in the last week of January and is also conducted by the CoCs. Due to this concern, a decision was made to allow each CoC to select their own two-week window between March 1 and April 14, 2017 to conduct their Youth Count, with the agreement that each CoC would take into account the calendars of their local school districts. The participating CoCs selected the following dates shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Youth Count 2017 dates by CoC

Continuum of Care	Start Date	End Date
Lower Shore (<i>Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester Counties</i>)	3/1/17	3/14/17
Prince George's County	3/1/17	3/14/17
Anne Arundel County	3/8/17	3/21/17
Carroll County	3/12/17	3/25/17
Washington County	3/14/17	3/27/17
Southern MD (<i>Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's Counties</i>)	3/19/17	4/1/17
Baltimore County	3/20/17	4/2/17
Mid-Shore (<i>Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties</i>)	3/20/17	4/2/17
Howard County	3/26/17	4/8/17
Baltimore City	4/1/17	4/14/17

In three instances, these dates were extended due to logistical challenges or unforeseen circumstances that impacted the time available for the count. In each instance, the CoC made an extension request, which had to be approved by both the principal investigator at The Institute and DHCD, to ensure it wouldn't have significant detrimental impact on the findings. The first request was a one-day extension for Anne Arundel County due to a snow storm, which impacted their street outreach schedule. The other requests included a three-day extension for health clinic and school surveys in Prince George's County, and a one-week extension for surveys being completed in St. Mary's County Public Schools within the Southern Maryland CoC. In these instances there were logistical challenges that delayed the start of the surveying in these areas. All three requests for extensions were approved.

⁶ The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a local count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals on a single night in January that each CoC is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to plan, coordinate, and carry out locally each year (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2017).

Refining the Youth Count Survey

Data analysis and feedback regarding the first Youth Count survey indicated that the length of the survey and the complexity of some of the questions resulted in skipped and misunderstood questions. In addition, some concerns were raised regarding the wording of the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) questions. As a result of this feedback, the survey was shortened from 140 to 47 items, and several of the questions were simplified. This revised survey was reviewed by the Steering Committee and several youth from the participating CoCs provided feedback on the new survey questions, including a focus group of Baltimore City's Youth Advisory Board. Further revisions were made based on this feedback.

The final survey utilized for the 2017 Youth Count is included in Appendix A. A survey guide was developed to provide instruction on how to administer the survey and to provide direction on each question and is available in Appendix B. An accompanying 27 minute recorded training webinar on the survey administration was also developed for CoCs to show as part of their volunteer training sessions. Both the survey guide and the survey training webinar reviewed the goals of Youth REACH MD, emphasized the voluntary and confidential nature of the survey, discussed general interviewing strategies and how to ask questions respectfully, gave example introduction and ending scripts, provided details about the goal of each of the survey questions, and explained how to respond to a youth's potential questions or concerns regarding the various survey questions. These materials are available at www.youthreachmd.com.

Marketing & Outreach Redesign

After the first Youth Count, several jurisdictions provided feedback regarding the marketing and outreach materials. Several CoCs stated that although the materials engaged service providers, youth found them to be a negative portrayal. As a result, The Institute issued a Request for Quotes from marketing companies for the second Youth Count, receiving three responses. The Institute developed a review form to rank each response based on several key factors, including their plan to involve youth throughout the process, relevant experience with youth, and awareness of youth culture. Several Steering Committee members reviewed the responses and provided a ranking for each response utilizing the ranking form. As a result of this process, Epstein Creative Group was selected to conduct the marketing and outreach redesign.

Epstein Creative Group (Epstein) conducted market research, including a discussion with the Steering Committee and a focus group with Baltimore's Youth Advisory Board, to gain a better understanding of the youth and marketing strategies that may be effective. As part of this research, Epstein identified an additional audience for the marketing campaign – those who support youth experiencing homelessness by allowing them to stay with them on a short-term basis (e.g. relatives, parents of friends). This group was referred to as 'hosts.'

After conducting this initial research, Epstein generated four possible marketing campaign themes, which were reviewed by Steering Committee members and local youth across several CoCs. From these four themes, the "You Count" theme was chosen. This theme utilizes bright colors and empowering images around a central message that youth matter and are able to bring change to their communities by having their voices heard. Epstein used this theme to develop flyers, posters, wallet cards, social media images and posts, and website graphics customized for each CoC with their contact information and dates of their Youth Count. Examples of all materials developed can be seen in Appendix D and on the Youth REACH MD website.

In addition, Epstein developed a marketing toolkit for the CoCs, which included key talking points on Youth Count, goals of the marketing campaign, descriptions of the various audiences, guidance on

where to post flyers, suggestions for partner organizations to spread the word about the Youth Count, drafted social media messages and timelines for posting, radio ad scripts, and more. This toolkit is also available online on the Youth REACH MD website.

Youth and CoC representatives were involved in the review process of all marketing materials as much as possible; however, due to a short contracting period, this was somewhat limited. All initial youth feedback indicated that youth found the designs to be appealing and empowering.

Youth Engagement

Incorporating youth input and guidance throughout the planning process was a key element in both the first and second Youth Counts. Youth provided input in both the survey redesign and marketing campaign development, and, as much as possible, were compensated for their time in doing so.

Due to the successful involvement of youth ambassadors in the first Youth Count, CoCs were also encouraged to engage local youth ambassadors – youth or young adults who either currently or previously experienced homelessness or held some connection with youth who may be experiencing homelessness – to assist in the planning and execution of the Youth Count. Some CoCs reported difficulty recruiting or engaging youth as part of the first Youth Count, so a webinar was developed for CoCs on youth engagement strategies. This webinar was led by Youth M.O.V.E. National, an organization dedicated to improving services and systems that support youth through development of youth voice within these services and systems (www.youthmovenational.org), in conjunction with the Youth Empowered Society (YES) Drop-in Center in Baltimore. The webinar covered ways to assess an organization’s current level of youth involvement, how to improve youth involvement, strategies to respectfully and authentically engage LGBTQ youth, and youth engagement practices used in Baltimore City in the first Youth Count.



**YOUTH AMBASSADORS
WERE CRITICAL TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE
YOUTH COUNT**

While not every CoC was able to recruit youth ambassadors for the second Youth Count, those that were successful in recruiting youth ambassadors reported that they were a critical component of the success of the Youth Count. The most frequent barrier reported by the three CoCs that were unable to recruit youth ambassadors was insufficient time to find and engage youth prior to the count. These CoCs have plans to find and engage youth ambassadors for future youth counts.

Youth ambassadors assisted in a variety of ways across the CoCs, including:

- Acting as representatives for the project with local partners, community members, and youth;
- Promoting the count in their communities and through social media;
- Identifying ‘hot spots’ or places youth are likely to be during the Youth Count;
- Designing the local survey strategy, and mapping routes for survey administration;
- Developing marketing strategies and materials;
- Assisting in planning magnet events; and,
- Developing scripts to use when approaching youth.

These CoCs compensated the youth ambassadors for their time and assistance in a variety of ways. In Washington County, youth ambassadors were provided with a number of \$10 Sheetz gift cards in accordance with their time commitment to the program, and, for two youth ambassadors, the CoC paid for their driver’s education. In Anne Arundel County, each youth ambassador was provided a \$100 gift card, and youth ambassadors who took on a greater role in the project received an additional \$150 gift card. Youth ambassadors who supported Baltimore City’s Youth Count were compensated \$15 in Target gift cards for each hour they attended meetings and street count shifts.

Local Use of Funds

Each CoC was given a grant of \$13,700 to support local implementation of the 2017 Youth Count. These funds were provided as part of The Institute’s contract with DHCD to coordinate the Youth Count. To receive these funds, a lead organization was designated by each CoC, which agreed to act on behalf of the CoC as the local implementing entity and to participate in Youth REACH MD planning meetings; provide progress updates to The Institute and DHCD; provide technical assistance for other CoCs as needed; develop a local plan for the Youth Count; recruit and engage organizational partners, volunteers, and youth ambassadors; execute the Youth Count locally; provide surveys and administrative data for analysis by The Institute; participate in debriefing after the Youth Count; and, provide a detailed accounting of expenses. Each CoC employed these funds according to their local Youth Count plan developed through their local planning committee. The largest percentage of funds was utilized for survey incentives – items given to the youth to compensate them for their time taking the survey. The majority of additional funds was used for staffing and ongoing youth assistance and planning to continue to support local awareness and outreach efforts begun during the Youth Count. A summary of each CoC’s use of funds is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Youth Count 2017 Use of Funds

	Anne Arundel County	Baltimore City	Baltimore County	Carroll County	Lower Shore	Mid-Shore	Prince George's County	Southern MD	Washington County
Staff	Y	-	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y
Planning Committee	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tablets/Technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-
Volunteer Training Materials	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	-
Office supplies	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	Y
Marketing materials	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	-
Magnet event materials	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-
Youth ambassador stipends	Y	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	-	Y
Survey incentives	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Food	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	Y
Location Donations/Expenses	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-
Ongoing Youth Assistance/Planning	-	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y
Other	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-

Youth Count Survey Strategies

Each CoC was responsible for directing Youth REACH MD activities in their jurisdiction, with technical assistance from the Steering Committee and fellow CoCs. This included developing necessary partnerships, recruiting and training volunteers and youth ambassadors, and developing and executing a Youth Count strategy. CoCs who were new to Youth REACH MD were encouraged to reach out to CoCs

who had participated in the first pilot count for peer guidance and support. The following summarizes the overall execution of the Youth Count. For details regarding each jurisdiction’s execution of the Youth Count, see Appendix C.

CoCs were encouraged to convene a broad and diverse array of local partners to assist with the Youth Count, and were largely successful in doing so. Many of the CoCs explored new or expanding partnerships with local colleges, libraries, and other atypical partnerships. Several CoCs reached out to providers working with LGBTQ and Spanish-speaking or immigrant populations in an attempt to connect with youth who may be part of those communities. This was, in part, a response to the belief that the percentage of youth identifying as LGBTQ in the 2015 Youth Count was an undercount based on available national data on unaccompanied homeless youth (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). The complete lists of partner organizations and agencies for each CoC are listed in Appendix C.

CoCs also were responsible for recruiting volunteers as needed, although most CoCs relied on existing organization or agency staff support for much of the effort. Youth REACH MD buttons and pens were provided by The Institute for use by volunteers, youth ambassadors, and others assisting in administering the surveys.

Wallet cards with the details of the upcoming Youth Count were provided to all CoCs prior to their January Point-in-Time (PIT) counts to hand out to youth contacted through the PIT count, and to begin to raise awareness of the upcoming Youth Count. During the PIT Count, some CoCs left these cards at places they believed youth may be residing. Youth and host flyers (in both English and Spanish) and posters were posted prior to and during the Youth Count in schools, libraries, community centers, local businesses, shopping malls, shelters, service providers, gyms, churches, bus stops, college campuses, local departments of social services, local health departments, methadone clinics, community bulletin boards, parks, food banks, and job centers. The Institute provided all of the marketing materials for the CoCs.

In addition, the Institute managed a Youth REACH MD twitter account, and developed or revised Facebook pages for each CoC, providing some basic posts for all CoCs throughout the count, which CoCs were able to supplement with their own content, utilizing the toolkit provided by Epstein Creative Group. The degree to which social media was utilized varied among the CoCs, but in general it seemed social media efforts were the most successful at reaching other professionals who may be able to support or connect youth with the Youth Count, rather than reaching youth directly.

The Institute put out a press release prior to the count, targeting media outlets serving the participating jurisdictions. Several of the CoCs received coverage by local newspapers or television stations, including Carroll County, the Lower Shore, and Washington County. Other CoCs were able to partner with local news outlets or organizations to share stories on the Youth Count via social media.

Locations where Youth flyers and posters were posted:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Community centers
- Local businesses
- Shopping malls
- Homeless shelters
- Service providers
- Gyms
- Churches
- Bus stops
- College campuses
- Local DSS offices
- Local health departments
- Methadone clinics
- Community bulletin boards
- Parks
- Food banks
- Job centers

CoCs employed a variety of surveying strategies informed by the needs of their area, their youth ambassadors, and successful strategies used in the 2015 Youth Count. Strategies included magnet events, street surveying, school-based surveying, and site- or service-based surveying. All CoCs used a combination of surveying strategies; however, each CoC prioritized different strategies and implemented them based on their locally developed Youth Count strategy. In general, urban areas tended to prioritize street surveying, while more rural areas tended to prioritize site/service-based strategies. A general summary of each survey strategy is included in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Survey Strategies

<p>Magnet Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special events designed to draw youth, who can then be surveyed at the event. These events often provide food, music, and/or beneficial resources and services.
<p>Street Surveying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A geography-based strategy in which key locations where youth are likely to be (e.g. parks, streets, laundry mats, etc.) are identified prior to the surveying, often by youth ambassadors, and then canvassed by outreach or street teams during the count to survey any youth at those locations. Youth were encouraged to spread the word, and locations were often visited repeatedly.
<p>School-Based Surveying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often conducted with pupil personnel workers, or by other school personnel, students who may be homeless are identified and surveyed within their school.
<p>Site/Service-Based Surveying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers (e.g. drop-in centers), shelters, and other sites known to serve or accommodate youth experiencing homelessness, such as libraries or community centers, are identified and prepared as surveying locations. Youth who utilize these services during the Youth Count period will be surveyed, either by trained site staff or Youth REACH volunteers or staff.

CoCs had the option to utilize paper or electronic survey formats to administer the survey. Electronic surveys were available through an online link, QR code, or an offline app that could be downloaded to tablets or smartphones. Surveys were available in both English and Spanish in all formats. The link to the survey was not widely advertised so as to control the responses received; however, some CoCs suggested sharing the link more broadly in the future, and this will be considered by the Steering Committee for future youth counts. Table 4 summarizes the survey strategies and methods used by each of the CoCs participating in the 2017 Youth Count.

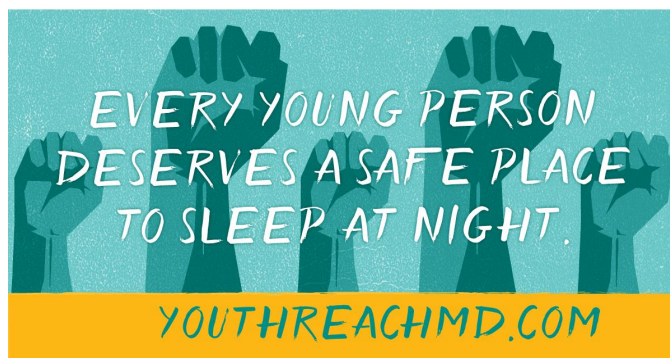


Table 4: 2017 Youth Count Methods and Strategies by CoC

		Anne Arundel County	Baltimore City	Baltimore County	Carroll County	Howard County	Lower Shore	Mid-Shore	Prince George's County	Southern MD	Washington County
Survey Methods	Paper	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Online	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y
	Offline	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Survey Strategies	Street	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Magnet Events	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y
	School	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Service Provider	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	# Youth Ambassadors	10	17	5	0	16	0	3	7	0	3
	# Volunteers	25	8	43	20	56	38	0	105	0	0

Most youth were able to complete the survey in 10-15 minutes. Many CoCs reported that they preferred having the survey administered by a youth ambassador or volunteer, rather than by a youth respondent on his or her own, to ensure accuracy and quality completion of the survey. However, this approach requires thorough training and oversight of youth ambassadors and volunteer surveyors, which in some cases was a challenge.

Incentives were provided to youth who completed the surveys to thank them for their participation and compensate them for their time. The Institute provided backpacks and water bottles to each CoC to be used as incentives for completing the survey. Additional incentives were determined by the CoCs and ranged from food and additional supplies to \$25 gift cards. The details of the incentives provided by each CoC are listed in Table 5. CoCs struggled to develop ways to provide incentives to youth who take the online survey at a location other than an organization participating in the service-based count. Two CoCs offered for youth to receive an incentive for participating by providing proof of survey completion at another location, but youth did not seem to engage with this strategy.

Table 5: Survey Incentives provided by CoC

CoC	Survey Incentives
Anne Arundel	\$10 Subway & McDonald's gift cards; backpacks with water bottles, socks, toiletries, & snacks; \$4-8 bus passes
Baltimore City	\$10 Target gift cards; backpacks; water bottles
Baltimore	\$15 Walmart or McDonalds gift cards; backpacks with water bottle and snacks; coupons for free haircuts
Carroll	Backpacks with gloves, water bottle, snacks & toiletries; various gift cards (for raffles at magnet events)
Howard	\$25 Target gift cards; Backpack filled with phone charger, earbuds, water bottle, notepad and pen, bus tokens, lip balm, and food
Lower Shore	Backpacks with water bottles, personal hygiene kits, radio/flashlight/phone charger, poncho, & blanket
Mid-Shore	\$25 Walmart gift cards; backpack filled with books, portable charger, sunscreen, bug spray, lip balm, sunglasses, hat, playing cards, runners arm band, personal care wipes, first aid kit
Prince George's	\$15 McDonalds gift cards; Backpacks with water bottles, personal hygiene items, socks, snacks, & first aid kit
Southern MD	\$20 gift cards (Dunkin Donuts, Google Play, McDonalds, Dairy Queen); backpacks; water bottles
Washington	\$10 Sheetz gift cards; backpacks with water bottles

Education Partnerships

During the 2015 Youth Count, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved the use of a passive consent process for surveys in the schools. Pursuant to this process, parents within the participating school districts were notified of the survey taking place and given the opportunity to opt their child out of participating; students signed a consent form prior to completing the survey. This strategy worked well in the first Youth Count and the Steering Committee decided to move forward with the same strategy for school-based surveys for the 2017 Youth Count.

In October 2016, Institute staff met with MSDE to request re-approval of survey administration in local schools, as well as to propose a data-sharing agreement that would allow incorporation of student data into a multi-agency data collaborative being developed as part of Youth REACH MD to identify youth experiencing homelessness across youth-serving state systems. The revised survey and additional supporting documents were provided in November 2016 for review by MSDE's Attorney General and State Superintendent. Although there were no significant changes from the materials and process used in the first Youth Count, approval was delayed, with the official memorandum approving local school district participation not sent out to local school districts until March 14, 2017.

CoCs were encouraged to work with their local school districts throughout the planning period, and, with knowledge of pending MSDE approval, several jurisdictions were successful in arranging administration of surveys within their local school districts. Other jurisdictions were able to move forward with their local school district approval process so that local approval was achieved more quickly once MSDE approval was announced. However, several other school districts had reservations about participating, and the delayed dissemination of the official memorandum from MSDE requesting local school district participation in the Youth Count, meant that not all school districts were able to fully participate.

Data Collection and Analysis

Each CoC submitted completed paper surveys to The Institute after the completion of their local Youth Count. These surveys were entered electronically into the Qualtrics survey software and combined with the online survey responses. Stata 15.0 was used to code the raw data. Free text responses to survey questions were coded to existing categories where possible or to new categories where necessary to best represent the youths' answers.

The survey responses were used to identify whether each youth met the definition of unaccompanied homeless youth, i.e. under 25, unstably housed, and unaccompanied. **Youth were considered stably housed if they said they spent the night prior to completing the survey in their own home or the home of their parent, guardian, foster parent or family member, and identified that they could stay there indefinitely.** Youth were considered unstably housed if they said they spent the night prior to completing the survey in a location other than those mentioned above or if they said they could not remain in home they stayed last night indefinitely. Youth who were unstably housed include individuals sleeping in a place not intended for human habitation, doubling up with friends, staying with strangers or staying in a shelter or hotel. They also include youth staying with a family member for a night or two but who cannot count on being able to stay in that residence indefinitely.

Of the 1,830 youth surveyed, **865** met the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth

Youth were considered unaccompanied if they either chose to leave their parent or guardian, their parent or guardian asked them to leave, and/or their parent or guardian was unable to care for them due to death, illness, incarceration, or immigration-related issues. Frequencies and percentages were calculated for the number of youth who met the definition of unaccompanied homeless youth in each

CoC, as well as their demographic characteristics, housing situations, and life experiences. These are presented in survey findings below.

Administrative Data

Administrative data sources were pursued to supplement the survey data. These sources do not provide the rich detail on the backgrounds and experiences of youth experiencing homelessness that the Youth REACH MD survey does, but do increase understanding of the number of youth experiencing homelessness in Maryland. To this end, each CoC was asked to provide administrative data from their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a database of individuals who accessed federally funded housing or shelter services in their area. Due to differences in each CoC's HMIS, some were more easily able to provide the requested data. **Eight CoCs were able to provide annual HMIS data for the 12 months preceding the 2017 Youth Count, seven of which were able to provide HMIS data with enough detail to ensure youth who were included in both the HMIS and Youth Count survey datasets could be identified and not counted twice** (for the eighth CoC all youth surveyed were subtracted from the HMIS data to ensure no youth were counted twice). A state data warehouse that would include data from local HMIS is in process of being developed, and initial conversations have begun to enable a report on unaccompanied homeless youth to be generated by this system in the future, which could be used to supplement future Youth Count data.

Administrative data were requested from the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Human Services, and responses are pending. The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services is modifying its intake assessment to capture data on youth homelessness in response to requests for data during the first Youth Count. Once these data are available, The Institute will request this data as well. The Institute will issue subsequent reports on the findings from these administrative data sources once agreements are in place to allow for use of these additional data sources.

Findings from the 2017 Youth Count

The results presented in this report are just one presentation of only some commonalities youth experiencing homelessness tend to share. This report should in no way diminish the importance of understanding the diversity of experiences among youth experiencing homelessness and the value of each young person's unique story. Furthermore, **the Youth Count on its own is not a census of youth in Maryland who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness**. The survey results presented here should be understood as a representative sample that gives us the best understanding to date of the characteristics and nature of youth homelessness in Maryland. These survey results, in conjunction with administrative HMIS data, provide information on the scope of youth homelessness in Maryland; however, **these results are still likely an undercount** due to the difficulty of connecting with youth experiencing homelessness and the current lack of services designed for youth experiencing homelessness across Maryland.

1,830 surveys were completed by youth during the 2017 Youth Count. Of the youth who were surveyed, 1,219 were under 25 and unstably housed or homeless; **865 met the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth.** Only 52% of youth who met the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth would also meet the HUD Category 1 definition of homelessness, required to be eligible for most HUD-funded homeless services.⁷ The number of youth

⁷ The HUD Category 1 definition of homelessness requires an individual be living in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, transitional housing, or hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014).

who are on their own and experiencing housing instability or homelessness but do *not* meet HUD’s definition also demonstrates the resourcefulness of youth experiencing homelessness, as well as the complex nature of their situations and the unique challenges that they face. This is illustrated by the survey results detailed in this section as well. Table 6 below details the number of youth surveyed who met the different definitions.

Table 6: Counts of Surveys and Types of Homelessness by CoC

Continuum of Care	Surveys Administered	Under 25 & Unstably Housed or Homeless	Under 25, Unaccompanied and Unstably Housed or Homeless	HUD Definition of Homeless
Anne Arundel County	258	137	101	36
Baltimore City	779	714	546	306
Baltimore County	327	131	82	44
Carroll County	26	18	16	8
Howard County	124	30	9	7
Lower Shore	31	18	9	12
Mid-Shore	18	14	12	7
Prince George's County	107	73	40	7
Southern Maryland	116	57	35	18
Washington County	30	21	13	4
Other/Unknown	14	6	2	1
Total	1,830	1,219	865	450

The 865 youth identified as unaccompanied homeless youth through the Youth Count survey represent an age-adjusted rate of unaccompanied youth homelessness of 1.05 youth out of every 1,000 youth. This rate is based on census data for youth age 10-24 in the 18 participating jurisdictions (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Table 7 below details of the number of youth who were identified as unaccompanied homeless youth within the HMIS data provided by the eight CoCs who were able to give HMIS data for inclusion with the Youth Count survey data.⁸ When considering these two data sets together, it is important to recognize the difference in timeframe in which the data was collected. The HMIS data provide information on *all* youth who accessed homeless services within each jurisdiction over the course of the *12 months prior* to administration of the Youth Count survey. Examining these data sets together, the number of unique unaccompanied homeless youth identified increases to 2,425, resulting in an increased age-adjusted rate of unaccompanied youth homelessness of 2.83 youth per every 1,000 youth. As in the 2015 Youth Count, there was little overlap

2,425 youth were identified as unaccompanied and homeless when combining Youth Count survey results and the prior 12 months of HMIS data from eight CoCs.

This indicates a rate of 2.83 unaccompanied homeless youth per 1,000 youth.

⁸ HMIS data from the Lower Shore CoC was not available with the specificity needed to identify if the youth surveyed were also represented in the HMIS data. Therefore, in identifying the total number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, all youth surveyed in the Lower Shore were subtracted from the number of youth identified in the Lower Shore’s HMIS data in order to avoid counting any youth twice, and calculations of the percentage of youth identified both in the HMIS and Youth Count survey excluded the Lower Shore data.

between youth surveyed and youth recorded in the HMIS data (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). On average, **only 5% of unaccompanied homeless youth surveyed in 2017 were also in the CoCs' HMIS system** (excluding Lower Shore data. See Footnote 8 for more information). This shows that there is a distinct population of youth who are on their own and experiencing homelessness who are not connecting with the homeless service system.

Table 7: Youth Count Survey and HMIS Combined Count of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Continuum of Care	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth only in HMIS	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth only surveyed	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth surveyed and in HMIS	Total Identified Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (via Survey or HMIS)
Anne Arundel County	76	91	10	177
Baltimore City	1,144	481	65	1,690
Baltimore County	131	82	0	213
Carroll County	44	10	6	60
Howard County	24	8	1	33
Lower Shore	111	9	9*	102
Mid-Shore	-	12	-	12
Prince George's County	-	40	-	40
Southern Maryland	11	29	6	46
Washington County	37	13	0	50
Other		2		2
Total	1,578	777	97	2,425

*All surveyed youth were considered to be also identified in the HMIS data to avoid counting any youth twice. See Footnote 8 for further explanation.

Note to readers regarding the data tables that follow:

- **All of the data presented in the findings below pertain to 865 youth who were identified through the Youth Count survey as meeting the Youth REACH definition of unaccompanied homeless youth** as described in the analysis section above.
- The number of youth who answered each particular question is indicated as the *n*.
- The count indicated in each table is the number of youth who responded affirmatively to that question.
- The count is followed by the percentage of youth who answered affirmatively out of the total number of youth who answered the question.
- For data on specific CoCs, see Appendix E.



Table 8 shows the demographics of the youth surveyed. More than two-thirds of the youth surveyed identified as black/African American. In the jurisdictions that participated in the survey, the percent of 10 -24 year old youth identifying as black/African American and white was 42% and 52% respectively in the 2015 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). Even after adjusting for differences in the poverty rate (a factor closely associated with homelessness (Embleton, Lee, Gunn, Ayuku, & Braitstein, 2016)), **black/African Americans are overrepresented and whites are underrepresented among the unaccompanied homeless youth who were surveyed.** When looking at each participating jurisdiction individually, black/African American youth were overrepresented when compared to jurisdictional census data for youth ages 10-24 except for Carroll and Prince George’s Counties.

Table 8: Demographics of Youth Surveyed

	Count	Percent
Age (n=865)		
17 and Under	111	13%
18 to 24 Years Old	754	87%
Race (n=854)		
African American	583	68%
White	184	22%
Multiracial	46	5%
Native American	18	2%
Other	15	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	1%
Hispanic (n=779)	53	7%
Gender (n=858)		
Male	463	54%
Female	362	42%
Transgender (F to M)	6	1%
Transgender (M to F)	20	2%
Other	1	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	6	1%
Sexual Orientation (n=857)		
Straight	648	76%
Gay	57	7%
Lesbian	34	4%
Bisexual and/or Pansexual	76	9%
Other	10	1%
Prefer Not to Answer	32	4%

A little over half of unaccompanied homeless youth identified as male. **23% of the youth identified as LGBTQ**, compared with approximately 7% in the general youth population (Jones & Cox, 2015). This significant overrepresentation is consistent with national surveys showing up to 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ (Durso & Gates, 2012).

28% of youth reported being currently in school; almost three quarters of the youth ages 17 and younger (73%) reported being in school currently. Of youth 17 and younger and in school, 88% were in high school; 51% of 18-24 year olds currently in school report being in high school. The full breakdown of current school attendance and highest grade completed is provided in Table 9.

Table 9: Education Level of Youth Surveyed

	Count	Percent
School type for those currently in school (n=232)		
Middle School	6	3%
High School	147	64%
GED Program	35	15%
College	29	13%
Vocational Training Program	8	4%
Other	7	3%
Highest Completed Grade (n=854)		
No Education	9	1%
8th Grade or Less	50	6%
9-11th Grade	299	35%
High School	327	38%
GED	81	9%
Some College	69	8%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	11	1%
College Degree	8	1%

A sizeable number of the youth surveyed were pregnant or parenting. **Four percent (4%) of the youth reported being pregnant (currently), and 26% of youth had children.** Of the youth who had children, 46% reported that their children were currently living with them. A breakdown of the percentage of youth who reported currently being pregnant or parenting is provided in Table 10. Only seven of the 219 respondents who reported having a child were under the age of 18.

Table 10: Pregnant and Parenting

	Count	Percent
Currently Pregnant (n = 704)	31	4%
Have Children (n = 848)	219	26%
Number of Children (n = 214)		
1	135	63%
2 - 3	53	25%
4 or more	26	12%
Live with their Children (n = 208)	96	46%

Youth reported a variety of life experiences and public system involvement, which may have impacted their ability to obtain housing or employment. The most commonly reported was spending time in jail, followed closely by juvenile detention, group homes, and foster care. The frequency with which youth were involved in these systems is provided in Table 11.

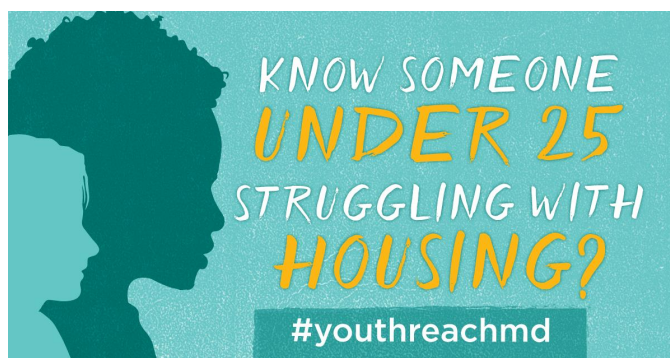
Table 11: Life Experiences

	Count	Percent
Ever stayed in jail (n = 853)	255	30%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 851)	209	25%
Ever stayed in group home (n = 820)	190	23%
Ever been in foster care (n = 805)	173	21%
Ever served in the military (n = 852)	22	3%

Many of the youth who reported foster care histories left the foster care system before the age of 18. However, the largest number of youth with foster care histories (39%) reported leaving foster care between the ages of 16 and 18, and an additional 19% reported leaving the foster care system after the age of 18. The breakdown of the age youth left foster care is included in Table 12.

Table 12: Age Youth Left Foster Care

	Count	Percent
Age left foster care (n = 135)		
1-5	15	11%
6-10	19	14%
11-15	23	17%
16-18	53	39%
Over 18	25	19%



The most frequently reported housing strategy for both the night before the youth completed the survey and in the two months prior to completing the survey was staying with friends or other family. Notably, 22% of youth reported staying outside, in a car, or other places not meant for human habitation; 10% reported staying in vacant or abandoned housing; and, 15% reported staying with a stranger in the past two months. A detailed breakdown is included in Table 13.

Table 13: Living Situation

	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=864)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 842)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Staying with friends	275	32%	379	45%
Shelter or motel	198	23%	261	31%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	117	14%	188	22%
In a transitional housing program	71	8%	77	9%
Staying with other family	47	5%	167	20%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	44	5%	88	10%
Staying with stranger	40	5%	128	15%
In a group home	20	2%	20	2%
Staying with immediate family	17	2%	116	14%
At my own apartment	12	1%	69	8%
In a jail or juvenile detention	11	1%	35	4%
In a treatment or medical facility	9	1%	27	3%
Staying with foster parents	2	0%	14	2%

Note: more than one answer can be selected for where youth stayed in the last two months

Youth also reported high frequencies of instability in their current living situation. Many reported not knowing how long they could stay at their current location or that they did not believe they could stay longer than a week. Only 13% reported having been able to stay in their current location for the past six months. See Table 14 for how long youth reported being able to stay in their current living situation.

Table 14: Length of Stay

	Count	Percent
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=865)		
As long as I want/indefinitely	80	9%
For the next month	112	13%
For the next two weeks	53	6%
For the next week	183	21%
I don't know	373	43%
I have already left	64	7%
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=851)		
1-6 days	273	32%
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	137	16%
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	124	15%
1-6 months	209	25%
More than 6 months	108	13%

This instability in the youths' current living situation led to reports of frequent relocation. **Over half of the youth reported moving multiple times within the past two months.** See Table 15, for a breakdown of the numbers of moves reported by youth.

Table 15: Number of Moves

	Count	Percent
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 804)		
None	184	23%
Once	174	22%
2-5 times	202	25%
6 or more	244	30%

Responses to the survey questions regarding the youth's relationship with their parent, guardian, or foster parent demonstrated the complexity of this issue for youth experiencing homelessness. For unaccompanied homeless youth, parents may not always be completely absent from the youth's life. Youth may still have some connection with their parent or guardian while still effectively living on their own due to the potentially unstable or conflicted nature of the youth's relationship with their parent or guardian. This is difficult to capture through the survey methods utilized in Youth REACH MD, so youth were allowed to give multiple answers to this question in an effort to better capture this information.

Table 16 shows the responses to whether the youth are currently living with their parent or guardian. Thirty-one (31) of the 848 youth who answered the question reported both that they chose to leave and that they were asked to leave, reflecting the complexity of family relationships and circumstances and the need to understand youths' own perceptions of the reasons for their homelessness in a nuanced way. Due to the challenge of accurately capturing a youth's relationship with their parents and whether they are currently living together has likely resulted in some youth's survey responses potentially not meeting the 'unaccompanied' requirement of the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth even though they may be effectively living on their own. In an effort to compensate for this, opt-out criteria were used to determine if a youth was unaccompanied. Specifically, youth that answered the question "Are you currently living with our parent/guardian/foster parent?" with yes were considered to be accompanied by their parent. All other youth were considered unaccompanied. Efforts will be made to continue to refine this question in future surveys.

Table 16: Reason for Not Living with Parent or Guardian

	Count	Percent
Currently living with parent or guardian (n=848)		
No, I was asked to leave	460	54%
No, I chose to leave	419	49%

Note: youth who indicated they were currently living with a parent or guardian are excluded from the table as they do not meet the definition of unaccompanied homeless youth.

Arguing or fighting with their parent, guardian, or foster parent was the most commonly reported reason for youth no longer living with their parent, guardian, or foster parent. Conflict was most frequently reported in combination with other reasons for leaving, which in some cases may have contributed to some of the conflict in the home. Of note is also the appearance of immigration related responses for not living with a parent or guardian. These were written in responses, and these types of responses were not seen in the 2015 Youth REACH MD Survey. The frequency of reasons for not living with parents or guardians is reported in Table 17.

Table 17: Reasons for not Living with Parent or Guardian

	Count	Percent
Reasons for not living with parents or guardian (n = 833)		
Fighting	337	40%
Youth wanted to leave	188	23%
Youth drug or alcohol use	120	14%
Asked to leave after 18	82	10%
Did not feel safe	81	10%
Abuse	72	9%
Not enough room	65	8%
Asked to leave before 18	52	6%
Parents' homelessness	51	6%
Parents' drug or alcohol use	51	6%
Released from Jail	50	6%
Youth sexual orientation	46	6%
Parents died	40	5%
Left foster care	31	4%
Parents unable to help	12	1%
Youth pregnancy or children	2	0%
Immigration related	2	0%

Note: more than one answer can be selected

Nutritional assistance, short-term housing, health care, and mental health services were the types of support most often sought by the unaccompanied homeless youth surveyed. Job training and long-term housing were also frequently sought, each by almost a quarter of the youth who responded. A breakdown of all the services and supports sought by youth is provided in Table 18.

Table 18: Services and Supports Sought by Youth

	Count	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=813)		
Nutritional Assistance	292	36%
Short-Term Housing	255	31%
Health Care Services	238	29%
Mental Health	211	26%
Job Training	193	24%
Long-Term Housing	186	23%
Educational	180	22%
Cash Assistance	175	22%
Food Banks	169	21%
Family Support	110	14%
Substance Abuse	84	10%
Child Care	77	9%
Police	43	5%
Drop-In Center*	5	1%
Church*	1	0%

Note: starred categories were developed from write-in responses

Of youth who sought assistance through any of these services, 56% reported that they did not receive all of the help they needed. **The most common barriers to receiving help were transportation needs and being put on a waiting list.** The full breakdown of reported barriers to receiving help are provided in Table 19.

Table 19: Barriers to Receiving Help

	Count	Percent
Reasons for not getting help (n= 460)		
Transportation	146	32%
Waiting list	106	23%
Said they could not help	69	15%
Wrong door	48	10%
Paperwork	19	4%
Didn't follow through	11	2%
Language barrier	4	1%
Lack Documents	4	1%
Didn't qualify	4	1%
Didn't know where to go	1	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%

When asked about sources of income, one third of the youth reported no source of income, which was the most common response. Only 37% reported any type of employment as an income source. The most common sources of income were a part-time job or money from family and friends. The breakdown of all reported sources of income is provided in Table 20.

Table 20: Sources of Income

	Count	Percent
Reported income sources (n=845)		
No income	280	33%
Part time job	160	19%
Family and friends	127	15%
Self-employment	97	11%
Panhandling	70	8%
Selling Drugs	60	7%
Full time job	58	7%
Sex work	47	6%
Social Security Income	35	4%
Unemployment benefits	28	3%
Child support	12	1%
Cash assistance	10	1%
Under the table work	2	0%

Comparison to 2015 Youth Count Results

With growing data from a second youth count, Youth REACH MD provides not only a snapshot of unaccompanied youth homelessness in Maryland, it also helps provide those snapshots of the number and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness over time. It is important to note that there were many changes in both the survey instrument and the sampling strategies used by the CoCs between the 2015 and 2017 youth counts, and so **it is strongly inadvisable to draw direct comparisons between the 2015 and 2017 youth counts**. With these limitations in mind, these data can highlight key areas to focus attention when planning for future youth counts and for designing, implementing, and funding new or improved services for youth.

Comparing the number of youth surveyed and the number of unaccompanied homeless youth identified across CoCs who participated in both 2015 and 2017 youth counts, **the number of unaccompanied homeless youth identified decreased despite an increase in the number of surveys administered**. While 309 more youth were surveyed in these CoCs in 2017, 43 fewer youth were identified as unaccompanied and homeless. This could be due to differences in survey methods in the CoCs between 2015 and 2017, but it could also suggest that initial efforts in these CoCs begun with the 2015 Youth Count have impacted youth homelessness in these jurisdictions. A decrease in youth homelessness was also seen between the 2015 and 2017 local HUD Point-in-Time Count data as well, which suggests that there may, in fact, be a decreasing number of youth experiencing homelessness in Maryland (See footnote 6 on page 5 of this report for more information on PIT counts).

A greater percentage of the youth identified as unaccompanied and homeless youth in the 2017 Youth Count **met the more restrictive HUD definition of homelessness** (see pages 13-14 of this report for further discussion of the HUD definition). In 2015, 27% met the HUD definition, whereas, in 2017, this increased to 52%. This could indicate that the reduction in youth homelessness was largely due to a reduction in youth who would not meet the more restrictive HUD definition. The breakdown of survey results across the six CoCs who participated in both youth counts is in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Comparison of Survey Results among Original Jurisdictions in 2015 and 2017

	Surveys Administered		Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)		UHY Meeting HUD Definition	
	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017
Anne Arundel County	67	258	46	101	4	36
Baltimore City	653	779	540	546	166	306
Baltimore County	145	327	54	82	17	44
Lower Shore	35	31	30	9	7	12
Prince George's County	273	107	122	40	28	7
Washington County	50	30	42	13	6	4
Total	1223	1532	834	791	228	409

For all of the following comparisons between 2015 and 2017 Youth Count results, percentages were recalculated based on the number of total unaccompanied homeless youth surveyed in a given year, rather than the number of unaccompanied homeless youth who answered the particular question (as done above), to better compare results across time with variations in question structure. As a result, **percentages in the tables below will differ slightly from those provided in the findings above**.

The youth surveyed in 2015 and 2017 have very similar demographic characteristics. Slightly more youth identified as white in 2017, which is consistent with the addition of CoCs that have higher proportion of

white residents according to local census data. Slightly more youth identified as male in 2017 as well, and more youth identified as LGBTQ, which, as previously discussed, aligns with national findings for youth experiencing homelessness. Slightly more youth also reported having completed high school or a GED, with slightly fewer reporting that their highest grade completed was 9th – 11th grade. See Table 22 below for the full comparison in demographics between 2015 and 2017.

Table 22: Demographic Changes, 2015 to 2017

	2015		2017		Percentage Point	
	Count	% of	Count	% of		
17 and Under	132	16%	111	13%	↓	3
18 to 24 Years Old	702	84%	754	87%	↑	3
No Education	9	1%	9	1%		0
8th Grade or Less	40	5%	50	6%	↑	1
9-11th Grade	314	38%	299	35%	↓	3
High School	310	37%	327	38%	↑	1
GED	66	8%	81	9%	↑	1
Some College	67	8%	69	8%		0
College Degree	9	1%	8	1%		0
Currently in School	243	29%	234	27%	↓	2
Black/African American	594	71%	583	67%	↓	4
White/Caucasian	109	13%	184	21%	↑	8
Native American/American Indian	6	1%	18	2%	↑	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	1%	8	1%		0
Multiracial	77	9%	46	5%	↓	4
Other	13	2%	15	2%		0
Hispanic	57	7%	53	6%	↓	1
Female	385	46%	362	42%	↓	4
Male	390	47%	463	54%	↑	7
Female to Male (Transgender)	3	0%	6	1%		0
Male to Female (Transgender)	15	2%	20	2%	↑	1
Prefer Not to Answer	4	0%	6	1%		0
Other	2	0%	1	0%		0
Straight	628	78%	648	75%		0
Gay	37	5%	57	7%	↑	2
Lesbian	29	4%	34	4%		0
Bisexual and/or Pansexual	83	10%	76	9%	↓	1
Other	8	1%	10	1%		0
Prefer Not to Answer	17	2%	32	4%	↑	2

While many of the results in 2017 were similar to those in 2015, there were a notable shifts in living situation, institutional history, services sought, barriers to accessing services, and income sources. These could be due to several different factors, including changes in how youth were identified and surveyed, the addition of new CoCs, changes in the services available locally for youth, larger economic shifts, and other factors. In some cases, improvement in the wording of the survey questions may have resulted in youth better understanding the question, which may have also led to some shifts in the responses

provided. To compare the questions between the 2015 and 2017, please visit www.youthreachmd.com/publications, where both surveys are available for comparison.

Staying with friends or family (couch surfing) was the most common response youth gave when identifying where they spent the previous night in both 2015 and 2017. In 2017, staying in a shelter or motel surpassed staying outside or in an abandoned building as the second most common response. The largest difference was seen in the reduction of youth staying with their immediate family. There was also a decrease in youth staying with strangers.

Somewhat similar shifts were seen among the locations the youth spent the night in the past two months, with two exceptions. The number of youth reporting having staying outside or in abandoned buildings decreased, though still remained the second most frequent response. The number of youth reporting they had stayed in a transitional, group, or therapeutic housing also decreased. Notably, having stayed with immediate family in the last two months dropped from the third most common response to the sixth most common response. A full comparison of all living situations reported by youth in 2015 and 2017 is provided in Table 23.

Table 23: Comparison of Living Situation, 2015 and 2017

	2015		2017		Percentage Point Change
	Count	% of UHY	Count	% of UHY	
Stayed Last Night					
Doubling Up with Friends or Family	262	31%	322	37%	↑ 6
Shelter or Motel	113	14%	198	23%	↑ 9
Outside or in Abandoned Buildings	123	15%	161	19%	↑ 4
Transitional, Group or Therapeutic Housing	71	9%	100	12%	↑ 3
Living with Stranger	86	10%	40	5%	↓ 6
Nuclear Family	103	12%	17	2%	↓ 10
In Own Apartment	39	5%	12	1%	↓ 3
Jail or Juvenile Detention	14	2%	11	1%	0
Living with Foster Parents	14	2%	2	0%	↓ 1
Stayed Anytime in Past 2 Months					
Doubling Up with Friends or Family	449	54%	546	63%	↑ 9
Outside or in Abandoned Buildings	338	41%	276	32%	↓ 9
Shelter or Motel	236	28%	261	30%	↑ 2
Living with Stranger	218	26%	128	15%	↓ 11
Transitional, Group or Therapeutic Housing	184	22%	124	14%	↓ 8
Nuclear Family	252	30%	116	13%	↓ 17
In Own Apartment	120	14%	69	8%	↓ 6
Jail or Juvenile Detention	96	12%	35	4%	↓ 7
Living with Foster Parents	81	10%	14	2%	↓ 8

In 2017, there was also a substantial increase in the number of youth reporting more than five moves in the last two months, from only 6% of the unaccompanied homeless youth surveyed in 2015 to 28% in 2017. Smaller increases were seen in less than two moves as well, with the most substantial decrease for youth reporting between 2 and 5 moves within the last two months (41% to 23%).

In reported involvement with public systems, there was a slight decrease in youth reporting previous time spent in jail or a juvenile detention facility, from 69% of unaccompanied homeless youth surveyed in 2015 to 58% in 2017.

Among youth seeking help in the past year, there was an increase in the percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth who reported seeking out half of the services listed in the survey. **The largest increases were seen with health care, nutritional assistance, and mental health care.** Food banks and educational services saw the next largest increases. The largest decrease was in long-term housing. See Table 24 below for the full comparison of how seeking supports has shifted between 2015 and 2017.

Table 24: Comparison of Services Sought, 2015 and 2017

	2015		2017		Percentage Points Changed
	Count	% of UHY	Count	% of UHY	
SNAP/Nutritional Assistance	207	25%	292	34%	↑ 9
Shelter/Short-Term Housing	278	33%	255	29%	↓ 4
Health Care	129	15%	238	28%	↑ 12
Mental Health	126	15%	211	24%	↑ 9
Job Skills/Training	166	20%	193	22%	↑ 2
Long Term Housing	242	29%	186	22%	↓ 8
Education	140	17%	180	21%	↑ 4
Welfare/Cash Assistance	154	18%	175	20%	↑ 2
Food bank	107	13%	169	20%	↑ 7
Family Support	104	12%	110	13%	0
Substance Abuse	82	10%	84	10%	0
Child Care	92	11%	77	9%	↓ 2
Police	52	6%	43	5%	↓ 1
Other	29	3%	6	1%	↓ 3

Youth reported fewer barriers to accessing services in 2017; however, transportation and waiting lists were still given as the most common barriers. Paperwork requirements and language barriers saw the smallest decrease in how frequently they were reported as a barrier. See Table 25 for the full comparison of reported barriers to accessing services.

Table 25: Comparison of Barriers to Accessing Services, 2015 and 2017

	2015		2017		Percentage Points Changed
	Count	% of UHY	Count	% of UHY	
Lack of Transportation	301	36%	146	17%	↓ 36
Waiting List	233	28%	106	12%	↓ 28
Wrong Door	150	18%	48	6%	↓ 18
Paperwork	38	5%	19	2%	↓ 5
Did not Follow-up	120	14%	11	1%	↓ 14
Did not Qualify	156	19%	4	0%	↓ 19
No Documents	108	13%	4	0%	↓ 13
Language barrier	27	3%	4	0%	↓ 3
Did not know where to go	102	12%	1	0%	↓ 12
Did not hear back	146	18%	0	0%	↓ 18
Did not feel safe/comfortable	69	8%	0	0%	↓ 8

There was also a small increase reported for most sources of income in 2017, with the largest increase seen in part-time and temporary employment. The largest decreases were seen in money from ‘under the table’ work and government cash assistance, with smaller decreases also seen in selling drugs and sex work. For a full comparison of the income sources reported, see Table 26 below.

Table 26: Comparison of Income Sources, 2015 and 2017

	2015		2017		Percentage Points Different
	Count	% of UHY	Count	% of UHY	
Part-time job and/or temporary job	82	10%	160	18%	↑ 9
Money from family members or friends	95	11%	127	15%	↑ 3
Panhandling/begging on the street	54	6%	70	8%	↑ 2
Hustling/selling drugs	79	9%	60	7%	↓ 3
Full time Job	47	6%	58	7%	↑ 1
Exchanging sex for money/rent/etc	50	6%	47	5%	↓ 1
Social Security/disability payments	33	4%	35	4%	0
Unemployment benefits	14	2%	28	3%	↑ 2
Child support	13	2%	12	1%	0
Cash assistance from a government-funded program	63	8%	10	1%	↓ 6
Money from ‘under the table’ work	71	9%	2	0%	↓ 8

Comparing the results from the 2015 and 2017 youth counts, it seems that **while there is some decrease in youth homelessness in Maryland, youth who are experiencing homelessness are in increasingly unstable and unsafe living situations** in which more youth are living in places not meant for human habitation, **are having to move multiple times within two months**, and are less likely to have had one of their reported living situations be with immediate family. However, there are also some positive shifts represented. Youth reported **fewer barriers to accessing services, increases in part-time employment** and some reductions in unsafe living situations (e.g. staying with a stranger) or employment (e.g. selling drugs).

Comparison to Point-in-Time Count Data

In support of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness’ goal to end youth homelessness by 2020, HUD set 2017 as the baseline year for counting youth experiencing homelessness as part of the annual PIT Count (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2016) (See footnote 6 on page 5 of this report for more information on PIT counts). Only 264 unaccompanied homeless youth were identified in the 2017 PIT Count across all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland, which counted both sheltered and unsheltered youth who met the Category 1 HUD definition of homelessness that requires youth to be living in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation to be considered homeless (Burns, 2017).

Of the 264 unaccompanied youth identified in the PIT count, 192 youth were identified in jurisdictions also participating in Youth REACH MD. When these PIT Count data are compared with the Youth Count results, **Youth REACH MD was considerably more successful in identifying unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, even when only comparing to youth who would meet the HUD definition.** Table 27 provides a comparison of the results of the 2017 PIT count and the 2017 Youth Count.

Table 27: Comparison of 2017 Youth REACH MD and Maryland PIT Count Results

	PIT Count	Youth Count	Youth Count Using HUD Definition
Anne Arundel	14	101	36
Baltimore City	81	546	306
Baltimore County	24	82	44
Carroll County	0	16	8
Howard County	3	9	7
Lower Shore	9	9	12
Mid Shore	8	12	7
Prince George's County	20	40	7
Southern MD	26	35	18
Washington County	7	13	4
TOTAL	192	863	449

Note: PIT count data from “2017 Point in Time Results by Maryland CoCs” (Burns, 2017)

Initial Impacts of Youth REACH MD

Through two pilot youth counts over the past three years, Youth REACH MD has made significant progress in increasing awareness of youth homelessness in Maryland through a growing understanding of how many youth are experiencing homelessness, who these youth are, what they experience, and the barriers they face to achieve stable housing. As a result, many CoCs have reported that Youth REACH MD has increased awareness of youth homelessness in their communities, and that, prior to Youth REACH MD, many were unaware of the need to address this issue. This increased awareness has led to numerous stakeholders, including youth, local community members, and federal, state, and local constituencies, engaging in or supporting initial efforts to address youth homelessness. As a result, **a number of local initiatives employing the understanding gained from Youth REACH MD have begun to help address youth homelessness locally.** Highlights of some of these initiatives are featured below.

Carroll County is forming a Committee on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth as a joint venture of the Circle of Caring Homelessness Board and the Local Management Board, which will be focused on holding events to raise awareness and better connect with youth in their jurisdiction and provide needed support, possibly including the development of a drop-in center for youth.

Anne Arundel County has begun the process of creating a youth advisory board under the CoC to help develop strategies to assist youth experiencing homelessness.

Both *Anne Arundel County and Health Care for the Homeless* are applying for a federal grant from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to provide community services for youth experiencing homelessness. Anne Arundel County hopes to establish the county’s first teen drop-in center through use of these funds.

As a direct result of the Youth REACH MD counts, *the Lower Shore* CoC researched the number of youth experiencing homelessness in their area in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). To address an identified gap in service, the CoC requested additional HUD funds to provide permanent

supportive housing for youth experiencing homelessness. In the 2016 HUD CoC NOFA Competition,⁹ the Lower Shore CoC requested and received funding to provide two permanent supportive housing units for youth in conjunction with case management services. In the 2017 HUD CoC NOFA Competition, the Lower Shore Shelter requested two Rapid Re-Housing units to provide 12 months of permanent housing with support services for two youth experiencing homelessness.

Both *Baltimore City's Mayor's Office of Human Services and the Baltimore City CoC* have leveraged Youth REACH results, data, and awareness to bring in additional resources to serve homeless youth and/or improve our homeless system. Baltimore City has obtained over \$400,000 in new federal and private funds to expand youth rapid re-housing, increased funding for youth case management and supportive services by \$160,000, received \$75,000 in new State funding through DHCD to launch Baltimore's first youth Rapid Re-Housing program, and received \$125,000 in federal Emergency Solutions Grant funding to create Baltimore's first emergency shelter dedicated to youth 18-24, which will be opening in 2018. Philanthropic partners also utilized Youth REACH MD data and awareness to increase private grants to existing providers and become increasingly involved in CoC planning related to youth homelessness. With these additional resources and support, Baltimore City has expanded Restoration Gardens, a permanent supportive housing project for youth and created a new host homes pilot project for youth that launched in September 2017. Increased awareness of youth homelessness from Youth REACH MD has also led to traditional adult service providers in Baltimore City focusing on building cultural competency for working with youth after realizing that almost 30% of their clients are under the age of 25. Baltimore City CoC increased their score on the HUD CoC NOFA in 2016, in part due to increased investments in youth housing and services and improved data collection on youth as evidenced by Youth REACH MD.

Both *Prince George's County and Baltimore City* applied to be part of HUD's Youth Demonstration Program, a highly competitive federal grant to develop a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. While neither proposal was selected, both CoCs are now eligible to receive technical assistance to develop a coordinated strategic community plan to address youth homelessness and will have a second chance to be selected in the next fiscal year (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2017). With this technical assistance, Baltimore City is also participating in a 100-day challenge to end youth homelessness as part of the national A Way Home America Initiative to end youth homelessness (www.awayhomeamerica.org).

Baltimore County applied for and was awarded funding from the Governor's Office for Children for a youth outreach worker to join the county's homeless outreach team. As part of this effort, Baltimore County Communities for the Homeless has committed funds to support a strategic planning process to guide the creation and delivery of services for youth experiencing homelessness in the county. Baltimore County is also one of several jurisdictions who have requested funding to address youth homelessness through their Local Management Boards (LMBs). Of the eight LMB FY18 funded projects designed to address youth homelessness, six were in Youth REACH MD jurisdictions. FY18 also represented an increase in LMB funded projects addressing youth homelessness, with only four projects proposed and funded the prior fiscal year, of which three were in Youth REACH MD jurisdictions.

In addition, *several of the participating CoCs* have reported successes in connecting youth found through the Youth Count to needed resources and supports. As a direct result of the 2017 Youth Count, several

⁹ The annual HUD NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) is a yearly announcement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which details their funding priorities for their discretionary funding of CoC programs for the coming year. CoCs submit an application to compete for these funds based on the criteria given in the NOFA. This is typically a crucial source of funding for CoCs. Learn more and see priorities for the past two years at https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopp.

youth have been connected to housing, or received assistance in finding natural supports with whom they can achieve stable housing and receive support in achieving their goals of further education or employment. As one example, *Howard County* was able to assist a youth with staying in her motel placement by obtaining funds to extend her stay by a week and provide clothing and food resources for her children. Moving forward, it is important that the CoCs' efforts to connect with youth in the community are also capitalized on as ways to begin to end and prevent youth homelessness by addressing the needs of the youth who participate in the Youth Count. To this end, Howard County has recorded a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that will be used for outreach, education, and partnering with agencies that may serve youth.

Youth REACH MD also has been successful in beginning to build the infrastructure needed across the state to track youth homelessness over time and measure the impacts of these new initiatives to help prevent and end youth homelessness in the state. Work has been done to help support the collection of administrative data on youth homelessness across systems. In the past year, the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) revised its intake assessment, and Youth REACH MD consulted on the project to ensure DJS would be able to begin tracking homelessness for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system in Maryland. In addition, DHCD is working on developing a statewide homeless management information system (HMIS), which will assist in tracking youth homelessness across the State. Youth REACH MD is involved in supporting efforts to develop a youth homelessness report as a part of this new system. This will resolve some of the current difficulty in collecting this data due to variations among the local HMIS in use currently.

Lessons Learned and Limitations

There were several important lessons learned from the surveying strategies utilized by the CoCs. These include key strategies and components of a successful Youth Count, as well as some limitations and areas for further improvement in future Youth Counts.

Importance of Having a Youth Count

Results from the Youth Count illustrate the importance of having an **outreach effort specifically designed to engage youth**. Other methods for assessing the scope of homelessness that are not designed with youth in mind result in a severe underrepresentation of the number of youth who are experiencing homelessness. By utilizing an inclusive definition that recognizes the common living situations and experiences of youth, identifies strategies specifically effective for reaching youth, and employs these strategies in a separate effort centered on connecting with youth, Youth REACH MD has improved the understanding of the true scope of youth homelessness in Maryland.

Importance of Meaningful Engagement of Youth to Develop Youth-Centered and -Driven Strategies

Meaningful engagement and partnership with youth is another critical component of a successful Youth Count. **Youth involvement in the planning and execution** of the Youth Count is necessary to identify and develop strategies to specifically engage youth. Several CoCs noted the involvement and support of youth ambassadors as essential to their ability to find and connect with youth. Youth

Important Strategies to Monitor Youth Homelessness

1. Utilizing a definition that recognizes that couch surfing is a common living situation for youth experiencing homelessness;
2. Identifying strategies specifically designed to engage with youth (e.g. longer counts, multi-modal strategies, and creative methodologies); and,
3. Conducting a separate youth count utilizing these strategies in order to have the most accurate and comprehensive understanding of youth homelessness.

ambassadors should be involved as much as possible in the planning and execution of the Youth Count to ensure the strategies developed are relevant to youth experiencing homelessness and effective in

connecting with youth within the local community. Youth are also key partners in conducting successful outreach to youth, as youth are often more likely to initially connect with their peers. Creative compensation strategies for youth ambassadors is an important strategy for engaging youth ambassadors in the process and respecting their contribution to the success of the Youth Count.

Lessons Learned Include the Importance of:

- Having a dedicated youth count
- Meaningful engagement of youth to develop youth-centered and –driven strategies
- Developing a broad array of diverse community partners
- Flexible timing and a spring count
- Balancing local knowledge and strategies with standardization and consistency
- Continuing to refine methods to reach youth who are couch surfing
- Marketing efforts that are positive, empowering, and connect with youth
- Having a plan to provide direct support to youth during the count
- Improving school-based survey counts
- Simple survey and thorough survey administration training
- Diversity of experiences of youth and difficulty of capturing fluidity and complexity of experiences

Value of Cultivating a Broad Array of Diverse Community Partners

One key component of a successful Youth Count is the development and utilization of **broad array of community partners** who are engaged in the planning process. This seems to be key to developing strategies that are creative and meet the youth where they are within the community. It also allows for broad outreach to more effectively reach youth who are not typically found in shelters or on the streets. Public libraries were one particularly effective strategy for connecting with youth who may not otherwise be connecting with public programs or services. Local Management Boards were another key partner for connecting with local youth-serving systems and additional resources and increasing awareness of youth homelessness locally across service sectors.

Benefit of Flexible Timing and a Spring Youth Count

A **springtime** Youth Count seemed more successful and conducive to enabling the school personnel to assist with the administration of surveys as compared with the fall 2015 dates of the first Youth Count. Allowing each CoC the **flexibility** of determining a specific time period for their local Youth Count within a general window, also enabled CoCs to take into account local schedules and calendars, which helped support more effective local Youth Counts. Future Youth Counts would likely benefit from occurring during the same general time period and continuing this flexibility.

Balancing the Importance of Allowing Local Knowledge to Drive Planning and Standardizing of Local Surveying Strategies

Allowing for variations in local CoC Youth Count surveying strategies is critical in order to **maximize local effectiveness** through development of creative strategies while being responsive to local landscapes. It also increases understanding of which strategies for youth outreach are the most successful in different geographic locations; however, as some CoCs focused on surveying youth at service-based locations and others focused on connecting with youth via street outreach, this difference in surveying strategies could result in substantial differences among the youth surveyed through these methods, since youth accessing services may have experiences and histories that differ in substantial ways from youth who are not accessing services. Consequently, these differences in surveying strategies can make it difficult to compare results across CoCs. As more is learned regarding the best outreach strategies by geographic location, it may be beneficial

to standardize outreach strategies to some degree to improve the ability to compare data among locations and over time. The Steering Committee will examine where some standardization may be beneficial for future counts, and where it is important to allow for different approaches based on local needs and resources.

Continued Efforts Required to Reach Couch Surfing Youth

While Youth REACH MD has developed and improved upon strategies to reach youth who are on their own and experiencing homelessness or housing instability, there is still a **concern that some youth are still not being identified** through current outreach efforts, particularly youth who are couch surfing and not accessing any supportive services. This is in part due to the **continued challenge of finding and engaging with these youth who often do not consider themselves homeless**, but who have unstable housing situations that would qualify under the Youth REACH MD definition. Efforts will continue to improve strategies to engage with these youth for future Youth Counts.

Importance of Marketing Efforts that Engage Youth

The revised Youth Count marketing theme was well received. All CoCs reported that youth found the design and messaging **engaging and empowering**. Several have suggested that this theme be continued for future counts to maintain consistent messaging. However, marketing materials would have benefited from **more customization options** for the local CoCs to include the information most pertinent to their local Youth Count. Marketing strategies could also be improved by a greater focus on outlets that would reach youth directly, such as radio ads, in which several CoCs expressed interest, though none were able to move forward with a radio ad for the 2017 Youth Count. Initial outreach through the PIT Count in January may have helped generate some initial awareness among youth, and this should be explored further in future counts. In addition, several CoCs saw benefit in continued outreach have begun to develop year-round youth outreach and engagement efforts to improve efforts to reach youth. Social media strategies may also need to be enhanced to better reach youth and host audiences, as the general audience of the Facebook and Twitter pages seemed to be service providers and other professionals. Instagram and Snapchat are suggested social media channels to explore in this regard for future youth counts. Initial discussions to improve marketing efforts and create materials that are more customizable have begun, and these modifications will be made for future Youth Count materials and marketing strategies.

Importance of Assisting Youth through the Youth Count

It is also important to ensure that youth who are participating in the Youth Count are **helped through connections to local supports and resources**. Through use of the 'Need Help Cards' and greater intentionality and focus on supporting youth, several youth were able to receive necessary services and supports, including housing assistance, through the Youth Count. Youth have also learned that they can reach out for support to those involved in the Youth Count, and some CoCs report receiving calls from youth needing assistance even months after the Youth Count ended. This points to the importance of targeted outreach for youth, establishing a contact specifically for them, and maintaining youth outreach efforts throughout the year.

Value in Improving School-based Survey Efforts

School-based surveying is an important strategy for connecting with youth, particularly youth under the age of 18 and youth residing in **rural jurisdictions**, where there are a limited number of locations in which to find and engage youth. Early partnership with and support of MSDE and local school districts is critical for surveying youth within local schools. The logistical challenges some CoCs encountered in surveying youth within local schools may have led to a more substantial undercount of younger youth, particularly in rural jurisdictions. This limitation particularly impacted jurisdictions who scheduled their

counts for earlier within the Youth Count window. The Institute will continue to work with MSDE to ensure local school districts are able to participate in future youth counts through early partnership.

Importance of a Simple Survey and Thorough Survey Administration Training

Overall, CoCs reported no significant challenges with administering the survey, and **the shorter and simpler survey** improved the ability to conduct surveys, based on anecdotal reports from CoCs. In order to continue to improve the ease of survey administration and youth comprehension of the questions, there were some suggestions to further shorten the survey and clarify some of the wording of the questions, as well as to reconsider some of the placement and wording of the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and other more personal questions. Despite the survey training provided, one CoC reported that some youth ambassadors skipped multiple questions they felt were too personal, including SOGI questions, possibly resulting in an underrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in the findings. This also points to a need to ensure **thorough training on survey administration** is provided to all volunteers and youth ambassadors administering the survey. These suggestions will be reviewed by the Steering Committee prior to the next Youth Count.

Diversity of Experiences and Needs among Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Another key lesson learned is that that youth homelessness looks different across Maryland. The youth surveyed represent a **diverse array of unique and often complex situations**. One key example is from the Lower Shore CoC, where one of the most successful aspects of their Youth Count was in connecting with parents of youth who may be unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness as a means through which to connect with the youth. In some situations, particularly in more rural areas, youth may be living on their own due to their individual and family circumstances; however, they may still be in contact with parents or other past caregivers. It is important to recognize the variety of circumstances when developing strategies to engage and support youth experiencing homelessness and realize that an array of strategies and supports is needed to fully address youth homelessness.

Challenge in Capturing the Fluidity of Living Situations and Relationships for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The unique nature of youth homelessness, most especially the **heterogeneity and fluidity of living situations and support networks** of youth experiencing homelessness, is also difficult to capture through survey methods. The finite number of questions and response options make it challenging to document the nuance of the living conditions and relationships with parents or guardians of the youth surveyed. As a result, some youth with unstable living situations or inconsistent parent or guardian relationships may not have been accurately captured as unaccompanied homeless youth by the survey. While a survey may never be able to fully capture the diversity of experiences, efforts will continue to improve and refine our ability to accurately capture the often complex and nuanced circumstances of youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

These lessons learned from the 2017 Youth Count illustrate the importance of continued efforts and improvements through regular Youth Counts. Future efforts will work to build upon these lessons learned and continue to improve key strategies to engage with youth who are on their own and experiencing homelessness in Maryland, regardless of their living situation or level of involvement with service providers.

Implications and Policy Recommendations in Support of the 2017 Youth Count Findings

Although youth experiencing homelessness may be resourceful, they face significant risks, including increased risk of mental health problems and suicide; increased risk of criminal activity, victimization,

and trafficking; and, increased barriers to complete education or maintain employment, among many others (National Network for Youth, 2008). From what we have learned, youth experiencing homelessness typically are not seen at adult shelters, are less likely to identify as homeless, and are less likely to seek out supportive services (Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016). This makes it challenging to find and connect with youth experiencing homelessness, and makes it all the more important to learn how to best support youth experiencing homelessness, to meet them where they are, and to better understand what services can be developed to address the unique challenges they face.

The findings from the 2017 Youth Count suggest several areas of need where support can be targeted to most effectively begin to address youth homelessness:

- The number of youth identified in each participating jurisdiction show that **youth homelessness exists in every jurisdiction in Maryland, and at higher levels than initially thought.**
- The disproportional representation of black/African American youth suggests that structural racism is a driver of homelessness for youth, and that targeted efforts are necessary to **ensure that African American youth have equitable access to housing and other resources** needed to end their homelessness.
- The overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth suggests that **targeted interventions to prevent homelessness for LGBTQ youth**, as well as specialized supports and services to help them exit homelessness, are important for reducing youth homelessness.
- The number of youth without a high school diploma, in conjunction with the number of youth who are currently in high school, suggests that **educational support services and programs targeted towards high school students** may be beneficial in addressing youth homelessness.
- The number of youth who are parenting highlights a need for **services designed to support young parents** who are not in a stable living situation that provide two-generational service delivery approaches that address the unique needs of both youth and their children.
- The frequency of contact with juvenile services, child welfare, and the criminal justice systems suggests that these **youth-serving systems may be able to develop tools to identify youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and provide supports that will prevent homelessness** for youth.
- The number of youth who left foster care at the age of 16 or older and experienced homelessness prior to age 25 suggests a need for **additional supports for transition-age youth in the child welfare system** to reduce their risk of experiencing homelessness. A separate, federally-funded project to develop an intervention to address this need is currently being implemented and evaluated in the Mid-Shore region of Maryland (www.thrive25md.org), and may be able to inform State efforts in this regard.
- The frequency with which youth reported family conflict and youth and/or parent substance use as a reason for not currently living with their parent or guardian supports a need for **supportive therapeutic services and substance use treatment services** for youth and families as a means of preventing youth homelessness.
- The increasing number of moves within two months and the substantial level of instability of living situations reported by youth indicate that investment in **evidence-informed housing programs such as Rapid Re-Housing** is needed to ensure that youth are able to move quickly into safe, affordable housing.
- The number of youth reporting not receiving the help they needed, despite increases in youth reporting attempts to access services, suggests that there is an overall **lack of services designed to house and support youth.**

- The frequency with which youth report transportation and waiting lists as barriers to accessing needed services suggests that **transportation supports** and **expansion of services** to meet the demand is critical to addressing youth homelessness.
- The lack of income sources and full-time employment reported by youth indicates a need for **employment support services and job training** for youth as a means to prevent homelessness.
- The reduction in youth identified as unaccompanied and homeless, despite increases in the number of youth surveyed, suggests that **initial efforts to address youth homelessness may be beginning to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness.**

A Youth Count that recognizes the unique nature of youth homelessness and uses a variety of youth-centered strategies provides a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of youth homelessness in Maryland. These findings illustrate the wide variety of experiences and challenges of youth experiencing homelessness, and the challenge in fully and accurately capturing this diversity of experiences. While further work is needed to continue to improve strategies to reach youth experiencing homelessness, particularly youth who may be more disconnected from services or systems, this current data helps support efforts to address youth homelessness locally and to implement the diversity of collaborative strategies needed to prevent and end youth homelessness in Maryland.

Maryland is at a critical point where it is imperative to build upon findings, lessons learned, and initial efforts begun through Youth REACH MD to develop key strategies to address youth homelessness and grow these efforts across the State. **Continuing the work of Youth REACH MD increases our understanding of youth homelessness; bolsters local efforts to address youth homelessness; monitors the effectiveness of those efforts; supports a collaborative, community-based response to youth homelessness; and, ultimately, is likely to provide return on investment by preventing youth homelessness and maximizing federal, state, local, and private resources to address youth homelessness in Maryland.** To further the work of Youth REACH MD, it is critical that local CoCs utilize the findings and lessons learned from the youth counts to increase their capacity to understand, reach out to, and help youth experiencing homelessness in their area, and that CoCs have the support to do so through investments in housing and supportive services for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness and ongoing and improved monitoring of youth homelessness both locally and across Maryland.

Recommendation: Invest in Housing and Support Services for Youth Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness

Findings from both the 2015 and 2017 Youth Counts make clear that existing housing resources and supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness in Maryland fall far short of meeting the need. The 18 jurisdictions involved in the 2017 count collectively identified 2,425 youth who are on their own and experiencing homelessness, yet only three jurisdictions have housing programs specific to homeless youth and these programs must turn away youth every day (Family & Youth Services Bureau, 2016).

The existing housing programs for youth experiencing homelessness in Maryland are primarily funded by the federal departments of Housing and Urban Development and of Health and Human Services, but

Recommendations to Address Youth Homelessness:

- Invest in Housing and Support Services for Youth Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness
- Continue Support of Ongoing and Improved Monitoring of Youth Homelessness for Data-Informed Decision-Making
- Grow Local and Regional Capacity to Track and Address Youth Homelessness Locally

federal funding alone is insufficient. **A growing number of states are committing additional state and local funds to housing and supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness** for both fiscal and humanitarian reasons (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). According to the National Council of State Legislatures, “Expanding long-term housing options and providing supportive services — such as food, clothing and counseling— are examples of ways that states can help homeless youth . . . It is important to note that youth housing programs are more cost-effective than alternative out-of-home placements such as juvenile corrections facilities, treatment centers or jail” (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). Many states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington, have passed Homeless Youth Act or other similar legislation to establish effective and strategic use of state resources to end youth homelessness.

Data from Youth REACH MD could inform a similarly comprehensive strategy for **investment of state resources in housing and supportive services for youth**. In addition to housing, there should be supportive services that align with the needs identified through the Youth Count. These services should include education support services, including GED programs and services accessible to high school students; job training and employment support services, including mechanisms for accessing full-time employment with benefits; evidence-informed clinical and substance abuse services for youth and families; services for young parents who may be facing housing instability; improved transition-age youth services for youth exiting foster care and other youth-serving systems; and, increased availability and accessibility of nutritional assistance and health care for youth. These housing and support services should be coupled with focused efforts to ensure equitable access to these services and resources by youth disproportionately represented among youth experiencing homelessness, particularly Black/African American and LGBTQ youth. Development or expansion of these services should also take into account the barriers youth identified in accessing services, most especially lack of transportation, waiting lists, and personal documentation and paperwork requirements, and aim to reduce these barriers to accessing services and supports. As these investments are made, Youth REACH MD can also ask targeted questions through the Youth Count to assess the accessibility and impact of newly developed housing resources and support services to inform and refine best practices for addressing youth homelessness.

Recommendation: Continue Support of Ongoing and Improved Monitoring of Youth Homelessness for Data-Informed Decision-Making

As local and regional capacity grows and as curricula and tools are published to assist CoCs in monitoring and responding to youth homelessness in their area, the Maryland General Assembly should re-commit to addressing youth homelessness in Maryland through **legislation requiring all CoCs to conduct a Youth Count, beginning in 2019**. A fully statewide effort is the only means through which Maryland can have the most accurate understanding of the extent to which youth experience homelessness across the state, and the effects of local efforts to end and prevent youth homelessness in Maryland. A statewide effort will also go further towards raising awareness and sparking local efforts to address youth homelessness across the state. This statewide Youth Count should be coordinated across the jurisdictions, and modeled after the best practices learned and tools developed through the pilot youth counts.

In addition, jurisdictions should begin to **maintain an active list** of youth experiencing homelessness in their area to be updated and reviewed regularly to make decisions and allocate resources as needed. Both of these are key components of the United States’ Interagency Council on Homelessness’ recommendations for assessing whether and how a community can meet the criteria set out for achieving the goal of ending youth homelessness in accordance with their 2015 amended *Opening Doors* strategic plan to end homelessness (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2017).

Opportunities should be explored and data agreements should continue to be forged with state agencies to continue to build a **multi-agency data collaborative** at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, to provide quality, up-to-date, longitudinal data and information related to overall efficiency and effectiveness in serving youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness across Maryland. Key agencies will include, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Maryland Department of Human Services, the Maryland State Department of Education, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. As a statewide data warehouse is implemented, work should also be done to develop a reporting mechanism from this system to provide data at the state level on unaccompanied homeless youth served through housing and shelter services. The Maryland General Assembly should consider legislation to ask all appropriate Maryland State agencies to provide data to support this effort to monitor youth homelessness in Maryland over time, so that progress towards ending and preventing youth homelessness in Maryland can be accurately measured and monitored. These data will assist Maryland in tracking the effectiveness of its efforts as well as in responding to funding opportunities through the federal government or private sector.

Recommendation: Grow Local and Regional Capacity to Track and Address Youth Homelessness Locally

A key component of moving Maryland forward toward ending and preventing youth homelessness is to grow local and regional capacity to assess the needs and progress in their communities through regular multi-modal youth counts. To that end, it is recommended that CoCs are guided in a process to assess their local needs to continue the work of Youth REACH MD, and identify areas to increase capacity to conduct an annual Youth Count and grow their youth outreach and service efforts.

Through the first two pilot youth counts, it has been clear that increased community awareness, coupled with creative planning, partnerships, and strategies are critical for connecting with youth and beginning to address youth homelessness locally. It is essential that Maryland and each CoC continue to foster and expand community partnerships to support youth experiencing homelessness. CoCs should continue to explore new partner organizations, agencies, and businesses in their communities who can contribute to the local effort to end and prevent youth homelessness. In order to continue to grow these partnerships and increase community awareness of the issue, **CoCs should be encouraged to make Youth REACH MD a year-round effort** – spending much of the year raising awareness and marketing, recruiting community partners and youth ambassadors, and holding events that allow CoCs to connect with unaccompanied homeless youth, which then culminates in an annual Youth Count.

To assist in this effort and to continue to grow efforts to end and prevent youth homelessness locally, **regional hubs could be developed within CoCs** that have participated and shown increasing success in the first two pilot youth counts. These regional hubs should receive additional resources and supports to assist other regional CoCs in capacity building and development of key strategies. These regional CoC hubs will provide guidance to CoCs in their area on conducting a success youth count, and provide some local coordination for the 2018 Youth Count. The regional CoC hubs should also assist in leading outreach efforts across their region to regional partners, as well as to other Continuums of Care who may not have participated in the pilot youth counts about how they can begin to address youth homelessness in their area.

To support increasing local capacity, further development and refinement of successful tools and strategies should also continue, with particular emphases on certain populations of youth who are still not easily found, such as youth who may be “couch surfing” or “doubled up” with another family member or friend or youth who are staying in hidden locations, such as outside or in vacant buildings, and are disconnected from services. The toolkit developed in the pilot youth counts should be further expanded into a curriculum for CoCs and community partners, with best practices identified from the

pilot counts and expertise from CoCs who participated in the pilot counts included to address specific topics (e.g. mapping hot spots, recruiting youth ambassadors, developing a school-based survey administration strategy). In addition, a readiness tool, based on lessons learned from the pilot counts should be developed for new CoCs considering beginning a local youth count and outreach effort in their area to guide their initial planning and assessments

Several of the CoCs participating in Youth REACH MD have been able to capitalize on this effort to apply for additional funding to support housing and services for youth in their community. It is important to have a mechanism for identifying these opportunities, and providing CoCs and local organizations with the information needed to access and apply for these funding opportunities. To this end, a database and notification system of funding opportunities should be developed for which CoCs and other service providers can apply to increase their resources to address the needs of youth experiencing homelessness in their area. Each CoC should then receive notifications to regularly disseminate this information to the CoCs so they can act upon any of these opportunities as they become available.

Conclusion

While youth homelessness overlaps with family and adult homelessness, it is also a distinct social problem with conditions and causes that are unique to individuals transitioning from childhood to adulthood (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). Often youth experiencing homelessness do not consider themselves to be homeless and have difficulty accessing services designed to address housing instability. The Youth REACH MD survey allows Maryland to document and better understand the unique situations and needs of youth experiencing homelessness. Through the 2017 Youth Count and collection of local HMIS data, 2,425 unaccompanied homeless youth were identified across the 18 participating jurisdictions in Maryland. This number, while substantially higher than initial estimates of youth homelessness, is still an under representation of the true number of youth in Maryland who are on their own and struggling to find a safe, stable, and adequate nighttime residence. These youth are experiencing housing instability that interferes with their ability to complete education, secure employment and care for children.

By better understanding the scope of youth homelessness, and the unique challenges faced by youth experiencing homelessness, Maryland can prioritize and focus resources, services, and supports to address this issue. The critical next steps are to (1) improve housing and support services for youth through increased funding, cross-system partnerships and strategic planning; (2) continue to enhance ongoing monitoring of youth homelessness through youth-centered methods to ensure these efforts are effective for the youth they are intending to support; and, (3) grow local and regional capacity to track and address youth homelessness locally. It is through continuing and enhancing these efforts that Maryland can ultimately end and prevent youth homelessness.

References

- Burns, J. (2017). *2017 Point in Time Results by Maryland CoCs*. Baltimore, Maryland: Team HMIS.
- Chapter 425. (2014). *Md. Laws*.
- Chapter 544. (2013). *Md. Laws*.
- Durso, L., & Gates, G. (2012). *Serving our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Services Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Who Are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless*. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute with True Colors Fund and The Palette Fund.
- Embleton, L., Lee, H., Gunn, J., Ayuku, D., & Braitstein, P. (2016). Causes of Child and Youth Homelessness in Developed and Developing Countries. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 435-444.
- Family & Youth Services Bureau. (2016). *Maryland Runaway and Homeless Youth Grantees*. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grants/maryland-rhy>
- Jones, R., & Cox, D. (2015). *How race and religion shape millennial attitudes on sexuality and reproductive health: Findings from the 2015 Millennials, Sexuality, and Reproductive Health Survey*. Retrieved from <https://www.prrri.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/PRRI-Millennials-Web-FINAL.pdf>
- National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2010). *What is a Continuum of Care?* Retrieved from <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/what-is-a-continuum-of-care/>
- National Conference of State Legislatures. (2016). *Homeless and Runaway Youth*. Retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/homeless-and-runaway-youth.aspx>
- National Network for Youth. (2008). *NN4Y Issue Brief: Consequences of Youth Homelessness*. Retrieved from http://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/IssueBrief_Youth_Homelessness.pdf
- Shannahan, R., Harburger, D., Unick, J., Greeno, E., & Shaw, T. (2016). *Findings from Maryland's First Unaccompanied Homeless Youth & Young Adult Count: Youth REACH MD Phase 2 Report*. Baltimore, MD: The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, University of Maryland School of Social Work.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from American Fact Finder: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B02001&prodType=table
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2014, October). *HUD's Homeless Definition as it Relates to Children and Youth*. Retrieved from HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4062/huds-definition-of-homeless-as-it-relates-to-children-and-youth/>
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016, September 8). *Improving our Understanding of Youth Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/improving-our-understanding-of-youth-experiencing-homelessness/>
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). Retrieved from PIT and HIC Guides, Tools, and Webinars: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#general-pit-guides-and-tools>
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2017, July). *Advancing an End to Youth Homelessness: Federal and National Initiatives*. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/federal-national-youth-initiatives.pdf
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2017). *Assessing whether your community has achieved the goal of ending youth homelessness*. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth_Questions_to_Assess_02_2017.pdf
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Taskforce. (2014). *Report of the SB764/HB823 Task Force to Study Housing and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth*. Baltimore, Maryland: Governor's Office for Children.
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015, June). *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Washington, D.C.



2017 Youth REACH MD Survey

This survey is being administered by the Youth Count Steering Committee on Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth & this local Continuum of Care so that the state and local providers can better understand the housing and service needs of youth and young adults under the age of 25. Your answers will remain completely confidential. Thank you! We greatly appreciate your participation!

Basic Information

1. Have you taken this survey already this month? Yes No (If 'yes', stop and return survey)
2. What is your date of birth? (mm/dd/yy) ____ / ____ / ____
3. What are your initials? First _____ Last _____
4. How old are you? 17 and younger 18-24 25 and older (If '25 and older', stop and return survey)

Living Situation

5. Where did you stay last night? *Select the best answer.*

- In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
- At the house/apartment of my foster parent
- At my own apartment or a room I rent
- At the house or apartment of another family member
- At the house or apartment of a friend
- At the house or apartment of a stranger
- At a shelter/motel
- In a transitional housing program
- In a group home
- Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, transit station, car, etc.
- Inside an abandoned building, squat, porch, basement, hallway, etc.
- In a treatment or medical facility (such as a hospital, detox)
- In a jail or juvenile detention facility
- Other (please specify) _____

6. How long do you think you could sleep there without being asked to leave?

- As long as I want/Indefinitely
- For the next week
- For the next month
- For the next two weeks
- I have already left
- I don't know

(If chose answers within the gray box for BOTH questions 5 AND 6, stop and return survey)

Continue

7. How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night?

- 1-6 days
- At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks
- At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month
- 1-6 months
- More than 6 months

Education

8. Are you currently in school? Yes No

8a. If yes, are you in:

- Middle school
- High school
- GED program
- Vocational training program
- College
- Other (please specify) _____

9. What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed? *Select only one.*

- No education
- 8th grade or less
- 9-11th grade
- High school diploma
- GED certificate
- Some college credits
- College degree
- Post-secondary vocational training

Demographics

10. What is your race/ethnicity? *Select all that apply.*

- Black/African American
- Native American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please specify) _____

11. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a? Yes No Don't Know

12. How would you describe your gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender, Female to Male
- Transgender, Male to Female
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

Continue 

13. Which of the following best fits how you currently think about your sexual orientation?

- Straight
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

14. Are you pregnant? Yes No Not applicable

15. Do you have children? Yes No

15a. If yes, how many children? _____

15b. Do they live with you? Yes No

16. Have you ever served in the military? Yes No

17. Have you ever been in foster care? Yes No Don't Know

17a. If yes, what age did you leave foster care? _____

18. Have you ever lived in a group home or residential program? Yes No Don't Know

19. Have you ever stayed overnight or longer in juvenile detention? Yes No

20. Have you ever stayed overnight or longer in an adult jail or prison? Yes No

Housing History

21. How many times have you moved in the past 2 months? _____

22. In which locations have you spent the night in the past 2 months? *Select all that apply.*

- In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
- At the house/apartment of my foster parent
- At my own apartment or a room I rent
- At the house or apartment of another family member
- At the house or apartment of a friend
- At the house or apartment of a stranger
- At a shelter/motel
- In a transitional housing program
- In a group home
- Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, transit station, car, etc.
- Inside an abandoned building, squat, porch, basement, hallway, etc.
- In a treatment or medical facility (such as a hospital, detox)
- In a jail or juvenile detention facility
- Other (please specify) _____

Continue

Current Housing Status

23. Are you currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent? *Select all that apply.*

- No, I chose to leave
- No, I was asked to leave
- Yes, I am still living with my parent/guardian/foster parent

24. Why are you not currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent? *Select all that apply.*

- I was arguing or fighting with my parent/guardian/foster parent
- I left foster care and could not return home
- I was released from jail or a detention facility and could not return home
- My parent/guardian/foster parent or another household member was abusive (sexually, physically, or emotionally) or neglected me
- My parent/guardian/foster parent told me to leave before I turned 18
- My parent/guardian/foster parent told me to leave after I turned 18
- My parent/guardian/foster parent was experiencing homelessness and/or my family lost its housing
- My parent/guardian/foster parent abused drugs or alcohol
- I was/am pregnant or got someone pregnant
- My sexual orientation and/or gender identity
- My use of drugs or alcohol
- I wanted to leave
- My house was too small for everyone to live there
- I did not feel safe because of violence or unsafe activities in my house
- My parent/guardian/foster parent died
- Other (please specify) _____

Services & Supports

25. In the last year, have you tried to get help from any of the following services/programs? *Select all that apply.*

Short-term housing (such as shelter or transitional living program)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Long-term housing (such as Section 8 or public housing)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Educational support (such as enrolling in school or GED program)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Job training, life skills training, and/or career placement	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Health care services, including emergency room services and care to help with health conditions/disabilities	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Family support (such as conflict mediation or parenting support)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Child care	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Nutritional assistance (such as Food Stamps/SNAP or free meals)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Cash assistance (such as Welfare benefits or Social Security Disability benefits)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Counseling or other mental health care services	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Substance abuse/alcohol treatment programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Food banks	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Local police officers	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

26. Did you receive the help you needed? Yes No

Continue

26a. If no, what prevented you from getting the help you needed? *Select all that apply.*

- No transportation
- They sent me somewhere else
- They said they could not help me
- Language barrier
- Put on waiting list
- I did not want to fill out paperwork
- I didn't have necessary documents
- I didn't hear back
- I didn't know where to go
- I didn't qualify
- I didn't feel comfortable/safe
- I didn't follow through
- Other (please specify) _____

27. What are your personal sources of income? *Select all that apply.*

- Full-time job
- Part-time job and/or temporary job
- Money from 'under the table' work
- Self-employment
- Cash assistance from a government-funded program (federal/state/local)
- Social Security/disability payments
- Unemployment benefits
- Selling drugs
- Exchanging sex for money/rent/etc.
- Panhandling
- Child support
- Money from family members or friends
- Other (please specify) _____
- I do not have a personal source of income right now

Location

*** If you are completing this survey in a school, please skip this question ***

28. What is the closest street intersection (such as Main St & 8th Ave) or landmark (such as a library, community center, or park) to where you are now? _____

Comments

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey! Is there anything you would like to share to help us better serve you and other young people like you? _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER: _____

Code: First Letter of First Name/ First Letter of Last Name/ Gender Code [0=Female; 1=Male; 4= All Others]/ Birthday Month-Month/Day-Day/ Year-Year/ CoC code.

Appendix B: Survey Field Guide

This guide was provided in conjunction with a recorded webinar training to assist staff and volunteers conducting the Youth REACH MD Youth Count survey. A PDF of this document, as well as the recorded training are available at www.youthreachmd.com.



2017 Survey Guide

General Tips

Each question on the survey was designed to help us better understand more about youth who are experiencing homelessness in Maryland and the challenges they face. Each completed survey has tremendous value in helping us learn how to better address the needs of these youth and prevent future homelessness for youth in Maryland.

While our aim is to collect as many completed surveys as possible, this survey is completely voluntary. No youth should be made to feel guilty for not participating or coerced into providing information they do not feel comfortable sharing. The youth can choose not to take the survey, not to answer any question within the survey, or to stop taking the survey at any time. The youth does not need to answer all questions for their survey to be counted.

This survey is completely confidential. Always respect the youth's privacy and allow them to complete the survey on their own. We recommend providing an envelope to the youth with any paper surveys so the youth can return their responses confidentially in a sealed envelope.

Do not answer survey questions for a youth. If a youth does not understand a question or a given answer choice, you can provide more information to explain what a question or answer choice means, but try to give a simple, appropriate, and judgement-free explanation. If a youth is ever unsure of the answer to the question, you can instruct them to make their best guess. Always be sure the answer to the question is the youth's, not your own interpretation of what the youth may have shared.

Beginning Suggested Script

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm working with the [Name of CoC or Implementing Entity] as part of Youth REACH Maryland. Youth REACH Maryland is a project to help us better understand the housing experiences of youth and young adults in Maryland, and how we can better help youth who may not have a stable or safe place to stay at night. To do this, we are surveying youth under 25 so that we can better understand their housing experiences. I would like to ask you a few questions about that. You will receive _____ for taking the survey. It usually takes about 10 minutes to complete and your participation is voluntary. All of your answers will remain confidential and we will not share any information specifically about you with anyone. Even though we will keep your answers private, there is a small risk that someone outside of our team might see them. There is also a small risk that you might feel uncomfortable answering some questions. However, you can skip any questions you don't want to answer or stop the survey at any time.

Do you have any questions? Would you like to participate?

Question Guide

Question 1

If the youth has already taken the survey, you can stop at this question. Thank the youth for their willingness to participate and provide them any materials on resources available to them.

If the youth is not sure if they have taken the survey previously, instruct the youth to select “no,” and continue to the next question.

Questions 2 & 3

If the youth asks why this information is needed, you can explain that this helps us to make sure we are not counting the same person twice, and it will not be used to identify them.

Question 4

If the youth is 25 or older, you can stop at this question. Thank the youth for their willingness to participate and provide them with any materials or resources available to them.

Question 5

Youth should select the answer that best describes where they stayed last night. If none of the given answers describe where they stayed, instruct the youth to use the “other” option and to describe where they stayed in the space provided.

To select the first option, the youth does not need to have their name on the lease agreement.

If asking this question at night, youth can select where they are currently spending the night.

Question 6

If the youth is unsure of how to answer this question, instruct them to make their best guess or select “I don’t know.”

If the youth selected answers in the gray boxes for Question 5 AND Question 6, you can stop at this question. Thank the youth for their willingness to participate and provide them with any materials on resources available to them.

Question 7

If youth are unsure of how to answer this question, instruct them to make their best guess.

Question 8

If the youth is not currently in school, they can skip Question 8a.

A vocational training program is training for a specific career or trade, which a youth would typically enroll in after they complete high school or receive their GED.

Question 9

If the youth is currently in school, they should select what they have most recently completed (for example, if they are a senior in high school, they should select “9-11th grade”), except if the youth is currently in college, in which case they should select “some college credits.”

Questions 10 & 11

If the youth identifies as having more than one race or ethnicity, instruct them to select all that apply to them.

Question 12 & 13

If the youth expresses discomfort with these questions, you can instruct them to select “prefer not to answer.” As with all questions, youth are not required to answer.

Question 14

If a youth expresses having a partner who is pregnant, instruct them to select “not applicable” and ask if there is a way we may be able to also survey their partner.

Question 15

If a youth expresses concern about child protective services, remind them that survey responses are confidential and individual question responses will not be shared.

If a youth is unsure if their children live with them, you can ask them whether they have the primary responsibility for caring for their children on a day-to-day basis. If yes, then the youth should select “yes” for Question 15c.

Questions 16 – 20

If a youth is unsure as to the answer to any of these questions, instruct them to select “no,” or “don’t know” where available.

Question 17a

If a youth is unsure at what age they left foster care, ask them to make their best guess.

Question 21

If a youth is unsure how many times they have moved in the past 2 months, ask them to estimate or make their best guess.

Question 22

Youth should select all answers that describe where they have spent at least one night in the past two months.

If a youth has stayed somewhere that is not one of the given options, instruct the youth to use the “other” option and to describe where they stayed in the space provided.

To select the first option, the youth does not need to have their name on the lease agreement.

Question 23

Youth should select both “no” responses if they express feeling that they both chose to leave and were asked to leave.

Question 24

Youth should select all that apply.

Question 25

If a youth is unsure if they received help from a listed service or program, you can provide a brief, judgement-free description of the service or program. If the youth is still unsure, instruct them to select “no.”

Question 26

If the youth sometimes received the help they needed, and sometimes did not receive the help they needed, instruct the youth to select “no,” then the youth should select all of the reasons they weren’t able to receive the help they needed for Question 26a.

Question 27

Youth should select all that apply.

If a youth expresses concern about indicating that they have participated in illegal activities, remind them that survey responses are confidential and individual question responses will not be shared.

Question 28

This question is **only** asked if a youth is **not** taking the survey in a school. If a youth is completing this question, we are looking for enough specificity in the youth's answer to gain a general sense of their location (e.g. youth should give the specific library name, rather than simply stating 'library').

Comments

The youth may share any information they would like in this section. If the youth requests guidance, you can share that they can write anything that would help us better understand their situation or important information that we did not ask about in the survey.

Ending Suggested Script

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey! If you know of others who might be interested in participating you can tell them about [insert magnet event info or contact info for CoC] or tell them to go to youthreachmd.com for more information on how they can participate.

[provide incentives]

Is there anything we can help you with right now? [provide Need Help? Card, list of resources and/or case management hotline number]

Appendix C: Local Implementation Strategies

Each Continuum of Care (CoC) developed implementation strategies based on their own local partnerships, resources, and demographics. This allowed for each CoC to work to determine the best strategies for their local area. The following is a summary of the Youth Count strategies employed by each CoC for the 2017 Youth Count.

Anne Arundel County

Second year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: county department of social services, YWCA, libraries, service providers, juvenile detention center, schools, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: The Anne Arundel County and Annapolis Coalition to End Homelessness; Blessed in Tech Ministries; i5 City Church; Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services Homeless Outreach Team; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; YWCA; Partnership for Children, Youth & Families; Organization of Hispanic/Latin Americans of Anne Arundel County; People Encouraging People

This year Anne Arundel County focused on meeting the youth where they were, so street outreach was the primary method used, and a plan was developed to cover the entire county. Youth ambassadors were a critical component of the outreach plan to identify key areas on congregation of unaccompanied youth, and reach the youth by fostering a sense of trust and willingness to participate. Targeted outreach to the local Spanish-speaking immigrant population was done through the Organization of Hispanic/Latin Americans of Anne Arundel County. In addition, community partners, churches, libraries, government agencies, and the local system were utilized as partners and provided central locations for youth to access the survey as well.

This year was the first year using youth ambassadors in Anne Arundel County, and it proved to be essential in the connection process of the unaccompanied youth, especially on the street and couch surfing. Ten youth ambassadors were recruited to survey youth and disseminate the flyers prior to and during the count. The youth ambassadors were between the ages of 18 and 30, and of all races to appeal to the overall targeted youth population as appropriate. During the count, the youth ambassadors were trained to use extreme sensitivity in conducting the survey with youth. . Each youth ambassador was provided a \$100 gift card, and youth ambassadors who took on a greater role in the project received an additional \$150 gift card.

Volunteers also helped support the count effort by assisting with marketing, coordination, administration and dissemination of flyers and surveys.

Outreach efforts included use of Facebook, Twitter, community partner's websites and local media outlets. Flyers were posted at schools, libraries, community centers, the Department of Social Services, area businesses, the mall, and shelters. Even with these efforts, it was still a challenge to get the word out, and a public service announcement or commercial would likely have been helpful.

The Need Help Cards were phenomenal and in most instances the most vulnerable temporarily sheltered with benefits onsite. After the count, we were able to disseminate the cards to the appropriate agencies for follow-up.

Baltimore City

Second year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: Service providers, shelters, schools, libraries, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: AIRS/City Steps; Youth Empowered Society (YES); Homeless Person's Representation Project (HPRP); Health Care for the Homeless; Baltimore City Schools; The Public Justice Center; Catholic Charities; Family League; Advocacy for Children; Mayor's Office of Human Services-Homeless Services Program; Geraldine Young House; Joy Baltimore; Star Track; YO! East Side; Weinberg Housing Resource Center; Penn North Recovery/Behavioral Health Center; My Sister's Place; Helping Other People through Empowerment (HOPE) Wellness and Recovery Center; Our Daily Bread; Turnaround, Inc.; House of Ruth; Hearts and Homes for Youth; Center for Urban Families; Franciscan Center; The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center (GLCCB)

Baltimore City used a combination of street outreach, site-based and school-centered approaches. For the street count component, Youth ambassadors who assisted with the prior Youth Count, and newly recruited youth ambassadors worked to lead this part of the count. Three Youth Ambassadors attended planning meetings before the count began, and helped to refine our target locations and hot spots for the street count. For the street count, 17 youth ambassadors were assigned equally across three teams by location (downtown, west side, east side). Each team was comprised entirely of formerly or currently homeless youths, and led by youth ambassadors who participated last year or were recommended by a service provider. Over the two week Youth Count period, a few youth had to leave their street outreach teams due to personal scheduling changes that made them unable to participate, and a few other youth joined who were not originally recruited, which led to some challenges in the consistency and cohesion of the street outreach teams. This likely impacted the number and quality of surveys collected. Additional and repeated training opportunities should be available for youth ambassadors throughout the count to address these challenges in the future. Due to the significant involvement of youth ambassadors in the Youth Count, only a few volunteers were utilized to support our street count teams. Youth Ambassadors were compensated \$15 per hour in gift cards for their time, and each youth that completed a survey was provided a \$10 gift card as a participation incentive.

For the site-based count, there was a significant increase in participation from the prior youth count, with 18 sites participating during the two-week count period. LGBTQ providers and providers that interact with the Spanish-speaking population were prioritized, since both were undercounted in the previous Youth Count.

Survey opportunities in Baltimore City Public Schools were increased significantly from the prior year – all homeless liaisons across the district were provided training and materials to conduct the survey online with youth. Additionally, the BCPSS Re-Engagement Center conducted surveys with youth who had dropped out of school or had entered GED/vocational programs. Work with the local school system improved in 2017, and BCPSS provided significant staffing support and coordination with the planning committee. The youth count team plans to expand efforts in future years to ensure 100% of schools are able to participate in future counts.

Outreach efforts included use of Facebook and flyers posted at service providers and libraries. Facebook was also used as a method of recruiting youth ambassadors. The most successful form of marketing was peer-to-peer recruitment. Future counts will also potentially include radio spots on the local radio station 92Q, which the youth ambassadors identified as the radio station to which youth most commonly listened.

Baltimore County

Second year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: shelters, soup kitchens, college campuses, libraries, county department of social services, county health department, county department of planning, methadone clinics, service providers, schools, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: Baltimore County Department of Planning; Baltimore County Communities for the Homeless; Baltimore County Public Schools; Baltimore County Department of Social Services; Baltimore County Health Department; Baltimore County Detention Center; Prologue, Inc.; New Pathways Center; Community College of Baltimore County; Towson University; Community Assistance Network; Baltimore County Department of Social Services; Baltimore County Local Management Board; Baltimore County Public Libraries; Patapsco United Methodist Church; Boulevard Christian Church; Mt Calvary AME Church; Eastside Family Shelter; Westside Men's Shelter; Family Crisis Center; Hannah More Shelter; INNterim Housing Corporation; Night of Peace; TurnAround; Streets of Hope; Northpoint Code Blue Shelter; On Our Own; emergency assistance centers; methadone clinics

Street outreach was provided primarily by Prologue, Inc, an agency the County contracts with to provide homeless outreach and services year round. They went into the woods, streets, and other places not meant for human habitation where they knew that unaccompanied youth were residing to complete surveys. An arrangement was also made with Prologue to have them respond to libraries, the County's coordinated entry system and other providers of services, should they encounter unaccompanied homeless youth. In addition, some of our youth ambassadors provided street outreach; going to locations that they knew that youth congregated and informing homeless youth of the project and where they could go to complete a survey.

Youth identified as homeless through Baltimore County Public Schools were surveyed at middle and high schools throughout the County. Prior to the start of the County's two-week count period, the school system identified through their computer system all students who were identified as unaccompanied homeless youth. Due to the large number of schools in the County, and the fact that only BCPS staff could be utilized to conduct the surveys, the pupil personnel workers, counselors and/or other individual school based staff conducted the surveys for students identified at that school, which was more challenging for those schools with higher numbers of students identified.

All Baltimore County homeless shelters and the County's Coordinated Entry System participated in the Youth REACH project. Just prior to the beginning of the count period, unaccompanied homeless youth residing at each of the County shelters was identified utilizing the County's HMIS system. Shelter staff conducted surveys for each youth identified, and then continued to look at each new intake to determine if persons entering the shelter after the start date where referred. In cases where this happened, the new residents were surveyed. In addition, staff from the County's Coordinated Entry system screened for unaccompanied homeless youth. When unaccompanied homeless youth were identified by the screening unit, but the youth could not be placed in shelter due to lack of available beds, the screening unit staff either conducted the survey over the phone at that time, or sent an e-mail to Prologue or Department of Planning staff with contact information, and staff from one of these agencies followed up to conduct the survey.

There were a total of five youth ambassadors that assisted with the count. The youth ambassadors played a critical role, both in the planning and implementation phases. Three of the youth ambassadors were on the planning committee and very involved in the entire project. Youth ambassadors advised that, rather than hold magnet events to try to draw youth to a venue that they did not know or trust, venues that youth were already attending should be identified and targeted to conduct surveys there. Youth ambassadors identified soup kitchens as venues likely to be successful, and so a date and time was selected to survey at each soup kitchen. A youth ambassador was assigned to each soup kitchen to spread the word, and announcements were made in advance at the three area churches and by other community partners. Volunteers then conducted surveys at the identified times, as well as at other soup kitchens and locations identified above.

The Youth REACH Planning Committee conducted marketing and outreach through BCCH, the Southeast Network, public libraries, the Homeless Roundtable and other groups/organizations. Baltimore County used both Facebook and Twitter and, in addition, the County sent out a press release. Posters provided through the project were placed in areas as described above, and the County created a simple flyer in addition to these that provided specific information to homeless youth on how to contact Prologue's Homeless Outreach Team. Prologue's Homeless Outreach Team did outreach to youth in the months/weeks prior to the start of the count, including as part of the Point in Time count. The youth ambassadors also did outreach directly to homeless youth.

In addition to the incentives, youth were provided with a listing of resources, including contact information about shelters, food and emergency assistance centers, homeless outreach, health programs, financial support, etc. We also provided information specifically about Prologue's Homeless Outreach Team, and gave them information on how to contact them. In cases where the youth said that they were willing to give their contact information so that Prologue could contact them, we also took this information and provided it directly to Prologue's Outreach team so that staff there could reach out to the youth.

Baltimore County is planning to expand the use of youth ambassadors for the next count. Having an established homeless outreach team was critical in helping to recruit ambassadors, helping to identify "hot spots," and also having trained outreach workers to connect with youth. An additional goal for future counts in Baltimore County is to improve the ability to reach youth who are couch surfing. As part of this plan, the County hopes to improve partnership with the local schools, and develop additional strategies to target the families who are opening their homes to these youth.

Carroll County

First year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: libraries, soup kitchens, schools, magnet events, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: Circle of Caring Homelessness Board; Carroll County Public Schools; Carroll County Department of Citizen Services; Human Services Program of Carroll County; Carroll County Business & Resource Center; Carroll County Public Library; Carroll County Sheriff's Office; Carroll County Department of Social Services; Carroll County Health Department; Carroll County Youth Services Bureau; Carroll County Local Management Board; Carroll Community College; McDaniel College; Family & Children's Services of Central Maryland; the PFLAG (Families and Allies of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Community) Carroll County Chapter

Carroll County held three magnet events: an event at our local "On Our Own", during which information was provided about youth-oriented resources (e.g. the local library, our local Business & Resource Center); a resource fair held in conjunction with a community meal (soup kitchen); and a "Spring Fling", described below. In addition, Carroll County had volunteers stationed at service providers, such as the cold weather shelter, community meals, and the library. Volunteers also visited locations in Westminster where unaccompanied homeless youth were likely to congregate, however the unexpectedly cold weather meant that youth did not congregate at many of the expected outside locations (e.g., the local skate park, outside our library). In addition to not yielding many interviews through street outreach, we heard from a number of sources about a large number of youth who were couch surfing, but could not locate them.

One of the magnet events was specifically designed as a way to reach out to the LGBTQ community – the "Spring Fling", a dance held at a local church. The church hosts meetings, and events, sponsored by the PFLAG (Families and Allies of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Community) Carroll County Chapter. We partnered with PFLAG for this event, with them helping us to publicize it. We also reached out to the GSA (Gay Straight Alliances) at the Carroll County public high schools.

We were unable to recruit any youth ambassadors, however several youth were identified during the count and assisted with subsequent events and may be able to participate as youth ambassadors in future counts. In addition, four McDaniel students helped with the count. All four were social work majors who had worked at our local cold weather shelter the year before and three of them had field placements at social service agencies in Carroll County, so they were familiar with the homeless population. They were recruited as interns for the spring academic semester. During the first week of the count, they administered the service provider-based surveys and did street outreach. They also attended all three magnet events.

We asked all youth to fill out the 'need help' cards that would allow us to connect them with resources and supports. Those forms were turned over to our Human Resources Program for follow-up. This was an effective strategy, which we will incorporate into our regular PIT Count. In addition, two of the three magnet events were resource fairs, with an explicit goal to connect youth with resources and supports.

Outreach efforts included posting flyers and posters in community centers, all library branches, and in businesses located in downtown Westminster, as well as regular Facebook posts. We reached out to our local paper, the Carroll County Times, who ran a front-page story on the count. This article was very helpful in getting the word out about the count and, more generally, raising awareness about unaccompanied youth homelessness. As the County's initial Youth Count, this count was successful in raising awareness about and increasing collaboration around the issue for providers, youth serving agencies, and the general public.

Howard County

First year participating in Youth REACH MD (though Local Children's Board funding)

Conducted surveys at: hospitals, service providers, community colleges, employment center, police department, service providers, magnet events, in the streets

Partnering Organizations: Howard County Office of Local Children's Board; Howard County Continuum of Care for Homeless Services and the Office of Workforce Development; Howard County Police Department; Howard County Department of Social Services; Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks; Howard County Food Bank; Howard Community College; Howard County General Hospital; Howard County Department of Health; Maryland Department of Juvenile Services; Howard County Public Schools; Bridges; Voices for Children; Humanium; Mental Health Authority; Solomon's Porch Worship Center; PFLAG; Day Resource Center; Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center; Columbia Workforce Center; Multi-Service Center

Howard County, through funding from its local children's board, conducted a street count, combined with nine site-based counts, and a job and resource fair magnet event. Volunteers were recruited and trained from the public, private, and religious communities to assist with the Youth Count. Fliers were posted in local businesses, retail and shopping areas as well as in public areas, which included libraries, hospitals and Howard Community College. Hot spots for the street count were identified in consultation with the Howard County Police Department human trafficking detectives, and Howard County Department of Parks and Recreation. Together they identified businesses where youth may be able to shower or stay overnight for long hours without much detection, i.e. gymnasiums, storage facilities, parking lots and libraries; The Other Barn (Teen Center); Columbia Mall; businesses along Route 1 including gas stations; hospital emergency rooms; public transportation; community associations; and, hotels, motels, truck stops and rest stops. These areas were canvassed by 40 volunteers in teams of 3. Resource cards were included in the backpack of incentives provided to each youth who completed the survey, and staff had instructions for how to connect a youth to services. While there was insufficient time to recruit a team of youth ambassadors, some youth were engaged to support at the magnet event, and others expressed interest in being involved more fully in future efforts.

Lower Shore

Second year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: shelters, magnet events

Partnering Organizations: Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Boards of Education; Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Health Departments; Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Departments of Social Services; Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Local Management Boards; HALO; HOPE, Inc.; Diakonia, Samaritan Ministries; Catholic Charities/Seton Center; Village of Hope; Joseph House; Christian Shelter; Remove all Hindrances to Success Ministries; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Telamon; Salisbury University

The Lower Shore had magnet events at five locations across all three counties for three days each during the Youth Count. In addition, shelters worked with youth staying their shelters to complete surveys. The primary volunteers for administering the surveys were the 28 students from Salisbury University. In addition to these students, 10 CoC members also participated in surveys and magnet events for a total of 38 volunteers. The students were trained in conducting the survey by the Social Worker professor and then they each went to magnet events where they stayed anywhere from 2 - 5 hours each day. They solicited youth to complete the survey and provided the incentives for participating youth. Resource information was included in each backpack given to youth during the Youth Count, and outreach efforts included flyers/posters in each of the magnet locations. One magnet location had a staff person who worked more directly with the Salisbury students and that location was more successful in getting surveys completed. Next year, if we use Salisbury University students, the lower shore will have a CoC member with them to help them engage Youth to encourage participation.

The Lower Shore also had plans to outreach to school-aged unaccompanied youth who were not permanently housed with their parents. We conducted a Tri-County Parent Conference, a magnet event with parents of homeless youth to encourage them to participate, and alleviate concerns expressed by some school personnel and partners regarding youth who are not permanently housed with a parent or legal guardian, but may still be in contact with them. The Tri-County Parent Conference was a huge success, and something the CoC would like to continue on an annual basis. At the conference, three BOE homeless liaisons educated parents on the services available to them and their children when they experience homelessness. Unfortunately, we did not receive the letter from the State Superintendent in time to conduct the count within the schools during our designated youth count period, which severely limited the CoC's ability to connect with these youth.

Mid-Shore

First year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: Mental Health Clinics, juvenile detention centers, libraries, community action agencies, schools, magnet events, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: The Mid-Shore Roundtable on Homelessness; Mid-Shore Behavioral Health; Local outpatient mental health clinics; Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot County Departments of Social Services; Department of Juvenile Services; Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot County Public Libraries; Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot County Community Action Agencies

The Mid-Shore planned a multi-layered approach focusing on magnet events, however provider-based service counts proved to be the most successful. Three youth ambassadors were recruited and employed to assist with the planning and execution of the Youth Count. They conducted the magnet events, and participated in street outreach with service providers and in schools. Unfortunately due to limited planning time, a comprehensive school-based strategy was not

developed for this Youth Count. Outreach efforts included social media, ads in newsletters, newspapers, and on radio shows, as well as flyers and posters placed at schools, libraries, and community bulletin boards. Resource guides were distributed to youth in conjunction with the surveys and assistance with linkages to service providers was provided, if needed.

Prince George's County

Second year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: libraries, service providers, juvenile detention centers, schools and in the streets, parks, and other outdoor hotspots

Partnering Organizations: Prince George's County Department of Social Services Community Services Division (including SOAR Outreach team), Prince George's County Department of Family Services; Prince George's County Public Schools, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Prince George's County Local Management Board, Prince George's County Department of Parks & Recreation, Prince George's County Memorial Library System; Gethsemane United Methodist Church; Greenbelt Transitional Housing; Prince George's County Health Department (including community health workers and Healthy Teen Centers); Lifestyles of Maryland; University of Maryland Lutheran Campus Ministries; Maryland Multicultural Youth Center; Maryland Youth Service Bureaus; Prince George's County Community College; Prince George's County LGBT Youth Task Group; Promise Place Sasha Bruce Youth Shelter; Right Hands for Left Hearts; So Others Can Keep Striding; St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families; Teen Challenge DC; TNI@Schools; the Prince George's County Homeless Service Partnership; Shepard's Cove; and, the Maryland Coalition of Families' Youth Peer Support Group

Prince George's County conducted surveys through street outreach at over 26 identified providers, as well as pre-identified hot spots (e.g. outdoor basketball courts near a public restroom, 24-hour fast food or laundry mat locations with free Wi-Fi). Thirty volunteers were recruited to assist in the street outreach component. Volunteers were recruited from local churches, non-profits, CoC partners, health and human service agencies, educational institutions, youth recreational facilities, and other youth servicing community groups. At the provider sites, 50 staff were trained as volunteers to administer surveys with any youth or young adults during the count period. Eight youth ambassadors also assisted in the planning and implementation of the Youth Count, including assisting in the street outreach efforts. These youth were recruited from the CoC's existing Homeless Youth Advisory Board, as well as youth currently residing in emergency or transitional youth shelters. Surveys were also administered in the local public schools by community resource advocates already in the schools, or guidance counselors when community resource advocates were not available.

Prince George's County operated a command center link to respond to questions in the field as they arose during the count. All of the enumerators were trained to reach out to the CoC's Central Intake (Homeless Hotline) to make referrals to existing services and the Homeless Hotline was on alert for meeting the immediate shelter needs of any of the surveyed youth who were willing to go into emergency shelter. Additional volunteers were also deployed when youth were reported by a caller to the CoC's Central Intake who was not part of the survey teams to ensure timely linkage and survey response. Emergency intervention in the field and provision of client assistance (i.e.; replacement ids, birth certificates, clothes, food or medication), placement in shelter for youth who were on the street and agreed to the housing, referrals to mainstream services (i.e.; emergency food stamps and medical assistance) and connections to ongoing case management were all provided to youth who were engaged through the Youth Count. These strategies were essential to the trust building and harm mitigation that is essential to successful street outreach and ensured maximum participation among willing interviewees in the Youth Count process. More importantly, the wide distribution

of knowledge and materials created partnerships that have allowed for on-going identification of youth after the conclusion of the Youth Count.

Flyers and posters to raise awareness of the Youth Count were displayed in community centers, libraries, DSS service centers and area food pantries. Prince George's County actively utilized the Youth REACH Facebook page, including increasing shares by reposting posts on other DSS coordinated social media pages, and working with partnering organizations to share information about the Youth Count on their social media outlets. Future plans will focus on engaging partners earlier in the planning process to delegate planning responsibilities more broadly, and increasing marketing coverage in advance of the count, particularly increasing efforts to effectively use the press release, local radio spots, and increasing dissemination of information about the count through local partners. Prince George's County prioritized Hispanic and Latino youth who are traditionally under-identified, collaborating with the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center who has significant experience in those communities.

Partnerships with organizations who already have relationships with unstably housed or at-risk youth were the greatest asset and were invaluable in spreading the word about Youth REACH through networks of trusted connections and have the trust relationships already established with youth that support the honest completion of surveys.

Southern Maryland

First year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: service providers, libraries, soup kitchens, schools, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's County Public Schools; Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's County Departments of Social Services; Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's County Public Libraries; Charles County Department of Community Services/Housing Authority; St. Mary's County Housing Authority; St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services; Calvert County Department of Community Resources; Calvert County Health Department; Charles County Department of Health; Tri-County Youth Services Bureau; Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; Three Oaks Center; LifeStyles of Maryland; Project Echo; local soup kitchens and employment agencies

Street outreach was conducted in areas that were known to local providers as places where youth congregate. These areas were typically in town centers. Street outreach and canvassing was conducted by agency and public facilities staff. Youth ambassadors were not utilized in this count, due to a lack of sufficient time for recruitment, but will be utilized for future youth counts. For future youth counts, additional street outreach will be targeted during evening and weekend hours to connect with a greater number of youth.

Service providers across the three counties were identified and included in the planning and execution of the count. School-based surveys were conducted by the three local public school districts, each with its own lead, while local libraries provided the survey at their computer lab workstations. The school systems and libraries were instructed to notify the lead homeless services provider in each county to connect youth with resources when they were surveyed. Those homeless services providers worked alongside the local Departments of Social Services to connect persons with available housing options and other resources. The CoC will attempt to determine how many of the youth that were counted found favorable assistance and housing as a direct result of the survey. For example, among the seven youth counted by Three Oaks Center, three were connected with housing options that successfully got them off the streets

Outreach efforts included social media, information shared via with partnering agencies and through street outreach conducted at libraries, bookstores, tent encampments, parking lots, soup kitchens, as well as flyers and posters at schools, libraries, service providers, shelters, and employment centers.

Washington County

Second year participating in Youth REACH MD

Conducted surveys at: service providers, libraries, shelters, schools, magnet events, and in the street

Partnering Organizations: Washington County Public Schools; Washington County Public Libraries; Washington County Community Action Council; Washington County Department of Social Services; REACH of Washington County; The Salvation Army; Turning Point of Washington County; Washington County Homeless Coalition

Washington County targeted survey efforts in the school system, local shelters, and other areas identified where youth experiencing homelessness tend to spend time. Three students were recruited as youth ambassadors. They assisted the CoC and school staff in connecting with youth through face-to-face encounters and connections. Additional incentives for youth completing the survey (\$10 Sheetz gift cards) were provided to the youth ambassadors based on their time commitment to the program. For two youth ambassadors, the CoC paid for their driver's education.

Outreach efforts included a local newspaper article, social media, and flyers at schools, parks, shelters, food lines, and community agencies. Youth ambassadors managed the social media and flyer outreach efforts. There are plans for future counts to include outreach at elementary schools to reach young parents who may be unaccompanied and struggling with housing, as this is a population known in the county but with which the CoC has not yet been to connect.

Appendix D: Marketing Material Samples

Below are sample images of many of the marketing materials developed by Epstein Creative Group for the 2017 Youth Count. All materials were accompanied by a Marketing Toolkit, which included information about the Youth Count, goals of the marketing campaign, descriptions of the target audiences, guidance on where to post flyers, organizations to partner with to spread the word about the count, talking points, drafted social media messages and timelines for posting, radio ad scripts, and more. You can see the full marketing toolkit, as well as full-size samples of the marketing materials at <http://www.youthreachmd.com/toolkit2017/>.

Youth and Host Flyers:

YOU COUNT

Are you under 25 and on your own?
Staying with friends or couch surfing?
Are you under 25 and searching for a safe and reliable place to sleep at night?

You have the power to bring more services and resources to your community. Participate in the Youth Count in the Baltimore County area between **March 20th - April 2nd**. Take a brief, confidential survey to help identify housing needs and services for local youth and young adults who are on their own and need a safe, reliable place to sleep at night.

THREE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE COUNTED

- 1 Your experience counts.** What you know is valuable. It can help Youth REACH MD better understand what services and resources are needed in your community.
- 2 Your voice counts.** Knowing how many of Maryland's youth and young adults are in need of housing can create positive change in your community. It starts with the simple act of being counted.
- 3 You Count!** Too many of Maryland's youth and young adults go it alone to find stable and safe housing. Share your story to help build a better support system.

Be part of this important community effort. Look for Youth Reach MD in your area between **March 20th - April 2nd** or go to YouthREACHMD.com. Take the survey and be **COUNTED** to shape a better future.

HELP US REACH OTHERS. If you know someone under age 25 who is struggling to find a safe or stable place to sleep, please share this flyer. They count too!

ABOUT YOUTH REACH MD: Youth REACH MD is a statewide effort to identify unaccompanied youth and young adults under age 25 who are struggling with housing. By understanding the number, characteristics, and needs of these youth and young adults, we can improve the services and resources available to support them and create better opportunities for Maryland's young people.

CONNECT WITH US: 410-887-7959 • cwilliams@baltimorecountymd.gov
YouthReachMD.com
 @YouthReachMD | <https://www.facebook.com/YouthREACHBaltimoreCo/>

Are you providing a youth or young adult under age 25 a safe place to sleep at night?
You have the power to bring them and your community more resources.

YOU COUNT BECAUSE THEY COUNT ON YOU!

Youth REACH MD is sponsoring a Youth Count in Baltimore County area between **MARCH 20TH - APRIL 2ND** that will help identify housing needs and services for local youth and young adults who are on their own and lack a safe, reliable place to sleep at night. If you have someone staying with you, or know a youth who may be struggling to find housing, encourage them to be counted.

SHARE MORE THAN YOUR HOME

- 1 Share the importance of being counted.** If they're staying with you, they trust you. Explain how having their voice heard is valuable and will help discover what services and resources are needed.
- 2 Show Your Desire for Change.** Knowing how many of Maryland's youth and young adults are in need of safe and reliable housing can improve support. Share how being counted empowers young adults to create positive change.
- 3 Show Your Concern.** Too many of Maryland's youth and young adults go it alone to find stable and safe housing. Share your concern for their future and ask them to take the survey.

Be part of this important community effort. Encourage unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 to take the brief, confidential survey on **March 20th - April 2nd**. Or, go to YouthREACHMD.com. They count on YOU for a better future.

HELP US REACH OTHERS! If you know someone who is providing temporary housing to a youth or young adult under 25, please share this flyer and raise awareness of this important youth count on **March 20th - April 2nd**.

ABOUT YOUTH REACH MD: Youth REACH MD is a statewide effort to identify unaccompanied youth and young adults under age 25 who are struggling with housing. By understanding the number, characteristics, and needs of these youth and young adults, we can improve the services and resources available to support them and create better opportunities for Maryland's young people.

CONNECT WITH US: YouthReachMD.com
 @YouthReachMD | <https://www.facebook.com/YouthREACHBaltimoreCo/>

Poster:

YOU COUNT

3 REASONS WHY YOU COUNT

- YOUR EXPERIENCE COUNTS.
- YOUR VOICE COUNTS.
- YOUR COMMUNITY COUNTS.

Are you under 25?
Staying with friends or couch surfing?
Struggling to find a safe and reliable place to sleep?

You have the power to bring more services and resources to your community. Take a brief, confidential survey to help identify resources needed for youth who need a safe, reliable place to sleep at night.

Be part of this important community effort. Take the Youth REACH MD survey in _____ and be counted.

HELP US REACH OTHERS

@YouthReachMD
facebook.com/YouthReachMD
YouthREACHMD.com

ABOUT YOUTH REACH MD: Youth REACH MD is a statewide effort to identify unaccompanied youth and young adults under age 25 who are struggling with housing. By understanding the number, characteristics, and needs of these youth and young adults, we can improve the services and resources available to support them and create better opportunities for Maryland's young people.

Wallet Card:

YOU COUNT

You have the power to bring more resources to your community. Participate in the Youth Count in your area between **March 1 - April 15**. YOUTHREACHMD.COM

Are you under 25? Staying with friends? On your own?
Struggling to find a safe or stable place to sleep?

YOUR VOICE MATTERS. BE COUNTED TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.

Be part of this important community effort. Look for Youth REACH MD in your area between **March 1 - April 15** because YOU COUNT!
YOUTHREACHMD.COM

Facebook Cover Images:



Social Media Post Images:



Appendix E: County and Regional Data Findings

The following data tables show the results of the 2017 Youth Count for each jurisdiction. All descriptive data is given for the youth surveyed in the given county or region who met the definition of unaccompanied homeless youth.

Anne Arundel County

In Anne Arundel County, 101 of the 258 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =101)		
17 and Under	18	18%
18 to 24 Years Old	83	82%
Highest Completed Grade (n =101)		
No Education	1	1%
8th Grade or Less	9	9%
9-11th Grade	50	50%
High School	30	30%
GED	6	6%
Some College	1	1%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	3	3%
College Degree	1	1%
Currently in School	35	35%
Race (n=101)		
African American	40	40%
White	38	38%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	1%
Native American	4	4%
Multiracial	16	16%
Other	2	2%
Hispanic (n=96)	12	13%
Gender (n=101)		
Female	40	40%
Male	59	58%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	1	1%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	1%
Sexual Orientation (n=95)		
Straight	83	83%
Gay	4	4%
Lesbian	2	2%
Bi(Pan)sexual	7	7%
Other	1	1%
Prefer Not to Answer	3	3%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 94)	24	26%
Number of Children (n = 22)		
One	18	82%
2 - 3	2	9%
4 or more	2	9%
Currently Pregnant (n = 78)	3	4%
Live with Children (n = 22)	14	64%
Military Experience (n = 100)	2	2%
Foster Care Experience (n = 98)	24	24%
Age left foster care (n = 18)		
1-5	0	0%
6-10	3	17%
11-15	2	11%
16-18	12	67%
Over 18	1	6%
Lived in group home (n = 94)	24	25%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 99)	25	25%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 100)	25	25%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=101)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 100)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	3	3%	5	5%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with immediate family	2	2%	8	8%
Staying with other family	15	15%	23	23%
Staying with friend	44	44%	51	51%
Staying with stranger	1	1%	9	9%
At a shelter/motel	16	16%	21	21%
In a group home	2	2%	1	1%
In a transitional housing program	1	1%	2	2%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	2	2%	6	6%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	5	5%	11	11%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	10	10%	26	26%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=101)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	23	23%		
For the next month	11	11%		
For the next two weeks	3	3%		
For the next week	8	8%		
I don't know	47	47%		
I have already left	9	9%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=101)				
1-6 days	23	23%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	16	16%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	12	12%		
1-6 months	26	26%		
More than 6 months	24	24%		
Number of times moved in past 2 months (n= 91)				
None	25	27%		
Once	20	22%		
2-5 times	20	22%		
6 or more	26	29%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=98)		
No, I chose to leave	39	40%
No, I was asked to leave	62	63%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 99)		
Fighting	47	47%
Left foster care	4	4%
Released from Jail	6	6%
Abuse	12	12%
Asked to leave before 18	5	5%
Asked to leave after 18	15	15%
Parents homelessness	8	8%
Parents drug or alcohol use	7	7%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	17	17%
Youth sexual orientation	4	4%
Youth wanted to leave	25	25%
Not enough room	10	10%
Did not feel safe	12	12%
Parents died	5	5%
Parents unable to help	1	1%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=98)		
Full time job	11	11%
Part time job	28	29%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	7	7%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	6	6%
Unemployment benefits	2	2%
Selling Drugs	5	5%
Sex work	3	3%
Panhandling	6	6%
Child support	1	1%
Family and friends	19	19%
No income	29	30%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=94)		
Short-term housing	32	34%
Long-term housing	31	33%
Educational	29	31%
Job Training	34	36%
Health care services	29	31%
Family Support	21	22%
Child Care	10	11%
Nutritional Assistance	34	36%
Cash Assistance	21	22%
Mental Health	28	30%
Substance Abuse	11	12%
Food Banks	29	31%
Police	5	5%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	44	47%
No	50	53%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 54)		
Transportation	23	43%
Wrong door	8	15%
Said they could not help	11	20%
Language barrier	2	4%
Waiting list	16	30%
Paperwork	7	13%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	0	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	3	6%

Baltimore City

In Baltimore City, 546 of the 779 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =546)		
17 and Under	61	11%
18 to 24 Years Old	485	89%
Highest Completed Grade (n =538)		
No Education	8	1%
8th Grade or Less	34	6%
9-11th Grade	156	29%
High School	225	42%
GED	71	13%
Some College	35	7%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	3	1%
College Degree	6	1%
Currently in School	110	21%
Race (n=540)		
African American	440	81%
White	65	12%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	1%
Native American	11	2%
Multiracial	14	3%
Other	6	1%
Hispanic (n=474)	19	4%
Gender (n=541)		
Female	217	40%
Male	300	55%
Transgender (F to M)	4	1%
Transgender (M to F)	16	3%
Other	1	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	3	1%
Sexual Orientation (n=543)		
Straight	399	73%
Gay	46	8%
Lesbian	26	5%
Bi(Pan)sexual	48	9%
Other	7	1%
Prefer Not to Answer	17	3%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 537)	141	26%
Number of Children (n = 139)		
One	87	63%
2 - 3	38	27%
4 or more	14	10%
Currently Pregnant (n = 439)	13	3%
Live with Children (n = 134)	49	37%
Military Experience (n = 536)	18	3%
Foster Care Experience (n = 500)	109	22%
Age left foster care (n = 82)		
1-5	5	6%
6-10	10	12%
11-15	18	22%
16-18	30	37%
Over 18	19	23%
Lived in group home (n = 516)	125	24%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 536)	150	28%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 538)	180	33%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=546)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 527)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	4	1%	43	8%
Staying with foster parents	1	0%	11	2%
Staying with immediate family	12	2%	70	13%
Staying with other family	13	2%	89	17%
Staying with friend	161	29%	216	41%
Staying with stranger	38	7%	101	19%
At a shelter/motel	128	23%	160	30%
In a group home	18	3%	18	3%
In a transitional housing program	47	9%	52	10%
In a treatment or medical facility	8	1%	19	4%
In a jail or juvenile detention	6	1%	22	4%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	36	7%	56	11%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	73	13%	104	20%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=546)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	20	4%		
For the next month	65	12%		
For the next two weeks	39	7%		
For the next week	159	29%		
I don't know	222	41%		
I have already left	41	8%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=535)				
1-6 days	198	37%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	106	20%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	86	16%		
1-6 months	102	19%		
More than 6 months	43	8%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 505)				
None	90	18%		
Once	119	24%		
2-5 times	149	30%		
6 or more	147	29%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=540)		
No, I chose to leave	274	51%
No, I was asked to leave	277	51%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 521)		
Fighting	208	40%
Left foster care	18	3%
Released from Jail	36	7%
Abuse	27	5%
Asked to leave before 18	31	6%
Asked to leave after 18	33	6%
Parents homelessness	19	4%
Parents drug or alcohol use	18	3%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	83	16%
Youth sexual orientation	38	7%
Youth wanted to leave	102	20%
Not enough room	35	7%
Did not feel safe	40	8%
Parents died	17	3%
Parents unable to help	2	0%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=536)		
Full time job	22	4%
Part time job	77	14%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	84	16%
Cash assistance	3	1%
Social Security Income	15	3%
Unemployment benefits	26	5%
Selling Drugs	48	9%
Sex work	41	8%
Panhandling	49	9%
Child support	5	1%
Family and friends	57	11%
No income	176	33%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=507)		
Short-term housing	130	26%
Long-term housing	100	20%
Educational	94	19%
Job Training	104	21%
Health care services	129	25%
Family Support	57	11%
Child Care	45	9%
Nutritional Assistance	156	31%
Cash Assistance	100	20%
Mental Health	118	23%
Substance Abuse	59	12%
Food Banks	75	15%
Police	27	5%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	4	1%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	187	39%
No	294	61%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 310)		
Transportation	89	29%
Wrong door	30	10%
Said they could not help	34	11%
Language barrier	2	1%
Waiting list	52	17%
Paperwork	10	3%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	1	0%
Didn't qualify	1	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0
Didn't follow through	5	2%

Baltimore County

In Baltimore County, 82 of the 327 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =82)		
17 and Under	11	13%
18 to 24 Years Old	71	87%
Highest Completed Grade (n =81)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	5	6%
9-11th Grade	31	38%
High School	20	25%
GED	2	2%
Some College	20	25%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	3	4%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	35	43%
Race (n=81)		
African American	45	56%
White	28	35%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	1	1%
Multiracial	5	6%
Other	2	2%
Hispanic (n=80)	6	8%
Gender (n=82)		
Female	44	54%
Male	38	46%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=79)		
Straight	61	77%
Gay	2	3%
Lesbian	1	1%
Bi(Pan)sexual	11	14%
Other	2	3%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	3%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 82)	17	21%
Number of Children (n = 16)		
One	6	38%
2 - 3	3	19%
4 or more	7	44%
Currently Pregnant (n = 71)	7	10%
Live with Children (n = 16)	9	56%
Military Experience (n = 82)	1	1%
Foster Care Experience (n = 78)	14	18%
Age left foster care (n = 14)		
1-5	0	0%
6-10	3	21%
11-15	1	7%
16-18	5	36%
Over 18	5	36%
Lived in group home (n = 80)	16	20%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 82)	10	12%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 82)	24	29%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=82)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=81)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	3	4%	11	14%
Staying with foster parents	1	1%	1	1%
Staying with immediate family	1	1%	13	16%
Staying with other family	10	12%	23	28%
Staying with friend	22	27%	42	52%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	5	6%
At a shelter/motel	22	27%	36	44%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	3	4%	3	4%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	5	6%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	1	1%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	1	1%	9	11%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	19	23%	29	36%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=82)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	3	4%		
For the next month	14	17%		
For the next two weeks	2	2%		
For the next week	4	5%		
I don't know	55	67%		
I have already left	4	5%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=82)				
1-6 days	18	22%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	5	6%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	11	13%		
1-6 months	33	40%		
More than 6 months	15	18%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 69)				
None	24	31%		
Once	13	17%		
2-5 times	10	13%		
6 or more	31	40%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=80)		
No, I chose to leave	42	53%
No, I was asked to leave	48	60%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 81)		
Fighting	35	43%
Left foster care	4	5%
Released from Jail	5	6%
Abuse	15	19%
Asked to leave before 18	9	11%
Asked to leave after 18	17	21%
Parents homelessness	13	16%
Parents drug or alcohol use	17	21%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	8	10%
Youth sexual orientation	3	4%
Youth wanted to leave	23	28%
Not enough room	8	10%
Did not feel safe	11	14%
Parents died	8	10%
Parents unable to help	4	5%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=81)		
Full time job	8	10%
Part time job	18	22%
Under the table work	2	2%
Self-employment	3	4%
Cash assistance	4	5%
Social Security Income	6	7%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	3	4%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	6	7%
Child support	3	4%
Family and friends	20	25%
No income	28	35%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=81)		
Short-term housing	32	40%
Long-term housing	22	27%
Educational	25	31%
Job Training	23	28%
Health care services	34	42%
Family Support	9	11%
Child Care	8	10%
Nutritional Assistance	40	49%
Cash Assistance	27	33%
Mental Health	26	32%
Substance Abuse	5	6%
Food Banks	25	31%
Police	4	5%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	33	46%
No	38	54%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 44)		
Transportation	15	34%
Wrong door	5	11%
Said they could not help	14	32%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	21	48%
Paperwork	1	2%
Lack Documents	4	9%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	1	2%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	1	2%

Carroll County

In Carroll County, 16 of the 26 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =16)		
17 and Under	2	13%
18 to 24 Years Old	14	88%
Highest Completed Grade (n =16)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	1	6%
9-11th Grade	6	38%
High School	7	44%
GED	0	0%
Some College	2	13%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	4	25%
Race (n=16)		
African American	0	0%
White	14	88%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	2	13%
Other	0	0%
Hispanic (n=16)	1	6%
Gender (n=16)		
Female	5	31%
Male	8	50%
Transgender (F to M)	1	6%
Transgender (M to F)	1	6%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	6%
Sexual Orientation (n=16)		
Straight	10	63%
Gay	1	6%
Lesbian	1	6%
Bi(Pan)sexual	3	19%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	6%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 16)	4	25%
Number of Children (n = 4)		
One	1	25%
2 - 3	2	50%
4 or more	1	25%
Currently Pregnant (n = 11)	3	27%
Live with Children (n = 3)	0	0%
Military Experience (n = 16)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 15)	6	40%
Age left foster care (n = 6)		
1-5	1	17%
6-10	3	50%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	2	33%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 16)	6	38%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 16)	7	44%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 16)	8	50%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=16)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=15)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	0	0%	2	13%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	2	13%
Staying with other family	2	13%	2	13%
Staying with friend	5	31%	10	67%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	4	27%
At a shelter/motel	5	31%	9	60%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	1	6%	2	13%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	2	13%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	3	19%	7	47%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=16)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	2	13%		
For the next month	2	13%		
For the next two weeks	3	19%		
For the next week	1	6%		
I don't know	5	31%		
I have already left	3	19%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=16)				
1-6 days	8	50%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	2	13%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	0	0%		
1-6 months	5	31%		
More than 6 months	1	6%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 12)				
None	2	17%		
Once	1	8%		
2-5 times	3	25%		
6 or more	6	50%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=15)		
No, I chose to leave	8	53%
No, I was asked to leave	7	47%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 16)		
Fighting	7	44%
Left foster care	2	13%
Released from Jail	1	6%
Abuse	5	31%
Asked to leave before 18	3	19%
Asked to leave after 18	2	13%
Parents homelessness	0	0%
Parents drug or alcohol use	1	6%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	4	25%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Youth wanted to leave	8	50%
Not enough room	2	13%
Did not feel safe	4	25%
Parents died	1	6%
Parents unable to help	1	6%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=16)		
Full time job	0	0%
Part time job	1	6%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	1	6%
Social Security Income	4	25%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	1	6%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	3	19%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	3	19%
No income	7	44%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=16)		
Short-term housing	10	63%
Long-term housing	7	44%
Educational	5	31%
Job Training	3	19%
Health care services	9	56%
Family Support	2	13%
Child Care	0	0%
Nutritional Assistance	10	63%
Cash Assistance	5	31%
Mental Health	6	38%
Substance Abuse	4	25%
Food Banks	8	50%
Police	3	19%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	9	64%
No	5	36%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 5)		
Transportation	1	20%
Wrong door	0	0%
Said they could not help	1	20%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	3	60%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	0	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	1	20%

Howard County

In Howard County, 9 of the 124 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =9)		
17 and Under	0	0%
18 to 24 Years Old	9	100%
Highest Completed Grade (n =9)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	3	33%
High School	6	67%
GED	0	0%
Some College	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	0	0%
Race (n=9)		
African American	5	56%
White	3	33%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	1	11%
Multiracial	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Hispanic (n=9)	0	0%
Gender (n=9)		
Female	6	67%
Male	2	22%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	1	11%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=9)		
Straight	8	89%
Gay	0	0%
Lesbian	0	0%
Bi(Pan)sexual	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	11%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 9)	5	56%
Number of Children (n = 5)		
One	2	40%
2 - 3	2	40%
4 or more	1	20%
Currently Pregnant (n = 8)	1	13%
Live with Children (n = 5)	5	100%
Military Experience (n = 8)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 9)	2	22%
Age left foster care (n = 2)		
1-5	2	100%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	0	0%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 9)	1	11%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 9)	2	22%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 9)	3	33%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=8)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=9)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	1	13%	2	22%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	1	11%
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	4	44%
Staying with other family	1	13%	6	67%
Staying with friend	2	25%	4	44%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	1	11%
At a shelter/motel	3	38%	5	56%
In a group home	0	0%	1	11%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	1	11%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	1	11%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	0	0%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	1	13%	2	22%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	0	0%	2	22%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=9)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	2	22%		
For the next month	2	22%		
For the next two weeks	1	11%		
For the next week	0	0%		
I don't know	4	44%		
I have already left	0	0%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=9)				
1-6 days	3	33%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	11%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	2	22%		
1-6 months	2	22%		
More than 6 months	1	11%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 9)				
None	1	11%		
Once	0	0%		
2-5 times	4	44%		
6 or more	4	44%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=9)		
No, I chose to leave	5	56%
No, I was asked to leave	6	67%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 8)		
Fighting	1	13%
Left foster care	0	0%
Released from Jail	0	0%
Abuse	1	13%
Asked to leave before 18	0	0%
Asked to leave after 18	2	25%
Parents homelessness	1	13%
Parents drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Youth wanted to leave	2	25%
Not enough room	1	13%
Did not feel safe	0	0%
Parents died	1	13%
Parents unable to help	0	0%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=9)		
Full time job	3	33%
Part time job	2	22%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	0	0%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	1	11%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	0	0%
Child support	1	11%
Family and friends	1	11%
No income	3	33%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=9)		
Short-term housing	6	67%
Long-term housing	3	33%
Educational	2	22%
Job Training	1	11%
Health care services	2	22%
Family Support	2	22%
Child Care	2	22%
Nutritional Assistance	6	67%
Cash Assistance	1	11%
Mental Health	1	11%
Substance Abuse	0	0%
Food Banks	5	56%
Police	0	0%
Church	1	11%
Drop-in Center	1	11%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	3	43%
No	4	57%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 7)		
Transportation	2	29%
Wrong door	0	0%
Said they could not help	2	29%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	1	14%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	0	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	0	0%

Lower Shore

In the Lower Shore, 9 of the 31 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =9)		
17 and Under	0	0%
18 to 24 Years Old	9	100%
Highest Completed Grade (n =8)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	2	25%
High School	5	63%
GED	0	0%
Some College	1	13%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	1	13%
Race (n=8)		
African American	3	38%
White	4	50%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	1	13%
Other	0	0%
Hispanic (n=8)	0	0%
Gender (n=8)		
Female	6	75%
Male	2	25%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=9)		
Straight	5	56%
Gay	0	0%
Lesbian	0	0%
Bi(Pan)sexual	3	33%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	11%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 9)	5	56%
Number of Children (n = 5)		
One	0	0%
2 - 3	0	0%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 7)	0	0%
Live with Children (n = 5)	0	0%
Military Experience (n = 9)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 9)	1	11%
Age left foster care (n = 0)		
1-5	0	0%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	0	0%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 9)	0	0%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 9)	1	11%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 9)	8	89%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=9)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=9)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	0	0%	2	22%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	2	22%
Staying with other family	0	0%	2	22%
Staying with friend	1	11%	5	56%
Staying with stranger	1	11%	1	11%
At a shelter/motel	5	56%	6	67%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	1	11%	1	11%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	2	22%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	1	11%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	1	11%	2	22%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=9)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	2	22%		
For the next month	1	11%		
For the next two weeks	2	22%		
For the next week	0	0%		
I don't know	3	33%		
I have already left	1	11%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=8)				
1-6 days	2	25%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	2	25%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	3	38%		
1-6 months	1	13%		
More than 6 months	0	0%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 9)				
None	0	0%		
Once	1	11%		
2-5 times	1	11%		
6 or more	7	78%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=7)		
No, I chose to leave	6	86%
No, I was asked to leave	3	43%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 8)		
Fighting	2	25%
Left foster care	0	0%
Released from Jail	1	13%
Abuse	0	0%
Asked to leave before 18	0	0%
Asked to leave after 18	1	13%
Parents homelessness	0	0%
Parents drug or alcohol use	1	13%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	5	63%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Youth wanted to leave	2	25%
Not enough room	1	13%
Did not feel safe	0	0%
Parents died	0	0%
Parents unable to help	2	25%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=9)		
Full time job	1	11%
Part time job	1	11%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	1	11%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	0	0%
Sex work	2	22%
Panhandling	1	11%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	5	56%
No income	3	33%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=9)		
Short-term housing	6	67%
Long-term housing	1	11%
Educational	2	22%
Job Training	2	22%
Health care services	3	33%
Family Support	0	0%
Child Care	1	11%
Nutritional Assistance	5	56%
Cash Assistance	3	33%
Mental Health	4	44%
Substance Abuse	3	33%
Food Banks	2	22%
Police	0	0%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	5	63%
No	3	38%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 3)		
Transportation	1	33%
Wrong door	0	0%
Said they could not help	1	33%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	0	0%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	0	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	0	0%

Mid-Shore

In the Mid-Shore, 12 of the 18 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =12)		
17 and Under	2	17%
18 to 24 Years Old	10	83%
Highest Completed Grade (n =12)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	6	50%
High School	6	50%
GED	0	0%
Some College	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	3	25%
Race (n=12)		
African American	5	42%
White	6	50%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	1	8%
Other	0	0%
Hispanic (n=11)	1	9%
Gender (n=12)		
Female	2	17%
Male	10	83%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=12)		
Straight	9	75%
Gay	0	0%
Lesbian	0	0%
Bi(Pan)sexual	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	3	25%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 12)	2	17%
Number of Children (n = 2)		
One	2	100%
2 - 3	0	0%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 11)	0	0%
Live with Children (n = 2)	0	0%
Military Experience (n = 12)	1	8%
Foster Care Experience (n = 11)	2	18%
Age left foster care (n = 0)		
1-5	0	0%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	0	0%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 12)	2	17%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 12)	4	33%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 11)	1	9%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=12)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=12)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	0	0%	1	8%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	2	17%
Staying with other family	2	17%	3	25%
Staying with friend	2	17%	6	50%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	1	8%
At a shelter/motel	3	25%	3	25%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	1	8%	2	17%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	4	33%	6	50%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=12)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	2	17%		
For the next month	1	8%		
For the next two weeks	0	0%		
For the next week	2	17%		
I don't know	6	50%		
I have already left	1	8%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=12)				
1-6 days	3	25%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	2	17%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	1	8%		
1-6 months	3	25%		
More than 6 months	3	25%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 12)				
None	3	25%		
Once	1	8%		
2-5 times	4	33%		
6 or more	4	33%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=12)		
No, I chose to leave	9	75%
No, I was asked to leave	3	25%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 12)		
Fighting	3	25%
Left foster care	0	0%
Released from Jail	0	0%
Abuse	0	0%
Asked to leave before 18	0	0%
Asked to leave after 18	0	0%
Parents homelessness	0	0%
Parents drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Youth wanted to leave	7	58%
Not enough room	0	0%
Did not feel safe	1	8%
Parents died	2	17%
Parents unable to help	0	0%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=12)		
Full time job	1	8%
Part time job	2	17%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	1	8%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	0	0%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	0	0%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	1	8%
No income	7	58%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=12)		
Short-term housing	5	42%
Long-term housing	1	8%
Educational	4	33%
Job Training	5	42%
Health care services	2	17%
Family Support	2	17%
Child Care	0	0%
Nutritional Assistance	3	25%
Cash Assistance	2	17%
Mental Health	4	33%
Substance Abuse	1	8%
Food Banks	4	33%
Police	2	17%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	8	73%
No	3	27%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 4)		
Transportation	2	50%
Wrong door	0	0%
Said they could not help	0	0%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	0	0%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	1	25%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	0	0%

Prince George's County

In Prince George's County, 40 of the 107 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =40)		
17 and Under	4	10%
18 to 24 Years Old	36	90%
Highest Completed Grade (n =40)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	1	3%
9-11th Grade	13	33%
High School	13	33%
GED	2	5%
Some College	9	23%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	1	3%
College Degree	1	3%
Currently in School	18	45%
Race (n=38)		
African American	24	63%
White	4	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	8%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	4	11%
Other	3	8%
Hispanic (n=39)	8	21%
Gender (n=40)		
Female	19	48%
Male	18	45%
Transgender (F to M)	1	3%
Transgender (M to F)	1	3%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	3%
Sexual Orientation (n=39)		
Straight	30	77%
Gay	1	3%
Lesbian	3	8%
Bi(Pan)sexual	1	3%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	4	10%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 40)	15	38%
Number of Children (n = 15)		
One	11	73%
2 - 3	3	20%
4 or more	1	7%
Currently Pregnant (n = 35)	2	6%
Live with Children (n = 15)	13	87%
Military Experience (n = 39)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 39)	10	26%
Age left foster care (n = 8)		
1-5	4	50%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	1	13%
16-18	3	38%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 37)	12	32%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 39)	7	18%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 38)	3	8%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=40)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=39)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	1	3%	2	5%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with immediate family	2	5%	6	15%
Staying with other family	2	5%	5	13%
Staying with friend	7	18%	9	23%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	1	3%
At a shelter/motel	4	10%	6	15%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	20	50%	19	49%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	1	3%	0	0%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	1	3%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	3	8%	2	5%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=40)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	12	30%		
For the next month	6	15%		
For the next two weeks	1	3%		
For the next week	4	10%		
I don't know	16	40%		
I have already left	1	3%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=39)				
1-6 days	4	10%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	3%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	3	8%		
1-6 months	17	44%		
More than 6 months	14	36%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 38)				
None	25	66%		
Once	5	13%		
2-5 times	2	5%		
6 or more	6	16%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=39)		
No, I chose to leave	17	44%
No, I was asked to leave	23	59%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 38)		
Fighting	13	34%
Left foster care	2	5%
Released from Jail	0	0%
Abuse	3	8%
Asked to leave before 18	3	8%
Asked to leave after 18	4	11%
Parents homelessness	1	3%
Parents drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	2	5%
Youth drug or alcohol use	1	3%
Youth sexual orientation	1	3%
Youth wanted to leave	8	21%
Not enough room	4	11%
Did not feel safe	4	11%
Parents died	3	8%
Parents unable to help	0	0%
Immigration related	2	5%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=36)		
Full time job	5	14%
Part time job	14	39%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	2	6%
Cash assistance	2	6%
Social Security Income	1	3%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	1	3%
Sex work	1	3%
Panhandling	3	8%
Child support	1	3%
Family and friends	9	25%
No income	12	33%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=37)		
Short-term housing	23	62%
Long-term housing	17	46%
Educational	12	32%
Job Training	14	38%
Health care services	17	46%
Family Support	11	30%
Child Care	9	24%
Nutritional Assistance	21	57%
Cash Assistance	8	22%
Mental Health	11	30%
Substance Abuse	0	0%
Food Banks	11	30%
Police	0	0%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	20	53%
No	18	47%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 17)		
Transportation	5	29%
Wrong door	1	6%
Said they could not help	3	18%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	6	35%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	0	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	1	6%

Southern Maryland

In Southern Maryland, 35 of the 116 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =35)		
17 and Under	9	26%
18 to 24 Years Old	26	74%
Highest Completed Grade (n =34)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	20	59%
High School	12	35%
GED	0	0%
Some College	1	3%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	1	3%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	17	50%
Race (n=34)		
African American	14	41%
White	17	50%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	1	3%
Multiracial	1	3%
Other	1	3%
Hispanic (n=32)	2	6%
Gender (n=34)		
Female	14	41%
Male	20	59%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=35)		
Straight	29	83%
Gay	3	9%
Lesbian	0	0%
Bi(Pan)sexual	3	9%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 35)	6	17%
Number of Children (n = 6)		
One	4	67%
2 - 3	2	33%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 33)	1	3%
Live with Children (n = 6)	4	67%
Military Experience (n = 35)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 31)	6	19%
Age left foster care (n = 5)		
1-5	3	60%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	1	20%
16-18	1	20%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 32)	4	13%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 35)	1	3%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 35)	3	9%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=35)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=35)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	1	3%
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	6	17%
Staying with other family	2	6%	6	17%
Staying with friend	17	49%	23	66%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	3	9%
At a shelter/motel	12	34%	11	31%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	1	3%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	0	0%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	1	3%	5	14%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	3	9%	7	20%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=35)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	11	31%		
For the next month	8	23%		
For the next two weeks	1	3%		
For the next week	1	3%		
I don't know	10	29%		
I have already left	4	11%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=34)				
1-6 days	6	18%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	3%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	5	15%		
1-6 months	17	50%		
More than 6 months	5	15%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 35)				
None	11	31%		
Once	14	40%		
2-5 times	3	9%		
6 or more	7	20%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=34)		
No, I chose to leave	12	35%
No, I was asked to leave	24	71%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 35)		
Fighting	15	43%
Left foster care	1	3%
Released from Jail	0	0%
Abuse	7	20%
Asked to leave before 18	0	0%
Asked to leave after 18	6	17%
Parents homelessness	6	17%
Parents drug or alcohol use	5	14%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	2	6%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Youth wanted to leave	9	26%
Not enough room	1	3%
Did not feel safe	7	20%
Parents died	3	9%
Parents unable to help	0	0%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=35)		
Full time job	7	20%
Part time job	9	26%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	1	3%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	0	0%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	0	0%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	2	6%
Child support	1	3%
Family and friends	7	20%
No income	11	31%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=35)		
Short-term housing	10	29%
Long-term housing	4	11%
Educational	3	9%
Job Training	6	17%
Health care services	10	29%
Family Support	5	14%
Child Care	2	6%
Nutritional Assistance	12	34%
Cash Assistance	6	17%
Mental Health	10	29%
Substance Abuse	1	3%
Food Banks	6	17%
Police	2	6%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	21	60%
No	14	40%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 13)		
Transportation	6	46%
Wrong door	2	15%
Said they could not help	2	15%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	4	31%
Paperwork	1	8%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	1	8%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	0	0%

Washington County

In Washington County, 13 of the 30 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =13)		
17 and Under	4	31%
18 to 24 Years Old	9	69%
Highest Completed Grade (n =13)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	12	92%
High School	1	8%
GED	0	0%
Some College	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Currently in School	11	85%
Race (n=13)		
African American	7	54%
White	4	31%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	1	8%
Other	1	8%
Hispanic (n=12)	4	33%
Gender (n=13)		
Female	7	54%
Male	6	46%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=13)		
Straight	12	92%
Gay	0	0%
Lesbian	1	8%
Bi(Pan)sexual	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 13)	0	0%
Number of Children (n = 0)		
One	0	0%
2 - 3	0	0%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 9)	0	0%
Live with Children (n = 0)	0	0%
Military Experience (n = 13)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 13)	0	0%
Age left foster care (n = 0)		
1-5	0	0%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	0	0%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 13)	0	0%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 12)	2	17%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 13)	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night				
	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=13)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n=13)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
At my own apartment	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	2	15%
Staying with other family	0	0%	6	46%
Staying with friend	1	100%	12	92%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	2	15%
At a shelter/motel	0	0%	2	15%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	0	0%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	1	8%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	0	0%	2	15%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=13)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	3	23%		
For the next month	2	15%		
For the next two weeks	0	0%		
For the next week	4	31%		
I don't know	4	31%		
I have already left	0	0%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=13)				
1-6 days	6	46%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	8%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	1	8%		
1-6 months	3	23%		
More than 6 months	2	15%		
Number of times moves in past 2 months (n= 13)				
None	3	23%		
Once	0	0%		
2-5 times	6	46%		
6 or more	4	31%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Not currently living with parent or guardian (n=12)		
No, I chose to leave	5	42%
No, I was asked to leave	7	58%
Reasons for not living with parents our guardian (n = 13)		
Fighting	6	46%
Left foster care	0	0%
Released from Jail	1	8%
Abuse	2	15%
Asked to leave before 18	1	8%
Asked to leave after 18	2	15%
Parents homelessness	3	23%
Parents drug or alcohol use	2	15%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Youth drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Youth wanted to leave	1	8%
Not enough room	3	23%
Did not feel safe	2	15%
Parents died	0	0%
Parents unable to help	2	15%
Immigration related	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=13)		
Full time job	0	0%
Part time job	8	62%
Under the table work	0	0%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	1	8%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
Selling Drugs	1	8%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	0	0%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	5	38%
No income	4	31%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=13)		
Short-term housing	1	8%
Long-term housing	0	0%
Educational	4	31%
Job Training	1	8%
Health care services	3	23%
Family Support	1	8%
Child Care	0	0%
Nutritional Assistance	5	38%
Cash Assistance	2	15%
Mental Health	3	23%
Substance Abuse	0	0%
Food Banks	4	31%
Police	0	0%
Church	0	0%
Drop-in Center	0	0%
Did you receive requested help?		
Yes	6	60%
No	4	40%
Reasons for not getting help (n = 3)		
Transportation	2	67%
Wrong door	2	67%
Said they could not help	1	33%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	0	0%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	0	0%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	0	0%
Didn't qualify	0	0%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	0	0%