MARYLAND YOUTH COUNT 2018

A Report on the Findings from Youth REACH MD's Third Survey of Unaccompanied Youth & Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

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With the
Youth REACH MD Steering Committee

For the
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

DHCD
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

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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 youth[1] 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 faced by youth experiencing homelessness (*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, have jobs, and 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)*. They are also typically less likely to identify as homeless or access traditional homeless services, so 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 the 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 the 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 Youth Counts are designed to be inclusive of any youth who is on their own and experiencing any kind of housing instability, because no matter the specific circumstances, any youth experiencing housing instability is at higher risk for food insecurity, poor physical health, sexually transmitted infections, poor mental health including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide, unhealthy substance use, exposure to violence, exploitation and victimization, being arrested, poor school attendance and performance, and dropping out of school (*Aratani, 2009; Whitbeck, Lazoritz, Crawford, & Hautala, 2016)*. Therefore, the common elements across federal definitions of youth homelessness[2] were used at the beginning of Youth REACH MD to develop an inclusive definition of youth homelessness that aligns as much as possible with efforts to identify youth experiencing homelessness across systems. Youth REACH MD includes any youth who is (1) under the age of 25; (2) not in the physical care or custody of a parent or legal guardian; and (3) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (*Shannahan, Harburger, Unick, Greeno, & Shaw, 2016*).

> **Youth REACH MD Definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:**
>
> - Under the age of 25;
>
> - Not in the physical care or custody of a parent or legal guardian; and
>
> - Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

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

[2] The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines literal homelessness for youth as those under the age of 25 who have a primary nighttime residence that is not meant for human habitation or is a shelter; the Department of Education defines it as school-aged youth who lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence; and the Department of Health and Human Services defines it as those who are under the age of 21 who cannot live in a safe environment with a relative and have no other safe alternative (*Fung, Bradley, & Meckstroth, 2017; U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2018*).

Youth REACH MD aligns with the federal U.S. 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 (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2015). Consistent monitoring of the number of youth experiencing homelessness is a key strategy toward achieving this goal.

This report presents the process of and findings from the third Youth Count in Maryland conducted as part of Youth REACH MD. For more information on Youth REACH MD, including how the project developed and the results from Youth Counts, visit *www.youthreachmd.com*.

2018 Youth Count Goals

- Improve collaboration among Continuums of Care (CoCs) and better support sharing of best practices and strategies among CoCs

- Expand and improve Youth Count materials and tools

- Continue to expand the Youth Count to additional CoCs

- Improve Homeless Management Information System administrative data collection

Preparation for the 2018 Youth Count

The original Youth REACH MD Steering Committee continued to guide and consult throughout the planning and execution of the third Youth Count, with some small changes in membership over the course of the project, and operated as the central planning and decision-making body for the Youth Count.[3] In addition to the steering committee, each participating Continuum of Care[4] (CoC) had a local planning body composed of key community stakeholders and led by the organization the CoC identified as its 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.

The primary goals of the 2018 Youth Count were to (1) improve collaboration among CoCs and better support the sharing of best practices and strategies among CoCs, (2) expand and improve the tools available to CoCs to conduct the Youth Count, (3) continue to expand the Youth Count efforts in Maryland to additional CoCs, and (4) improve Homeless Management Information System[5] (HMIS) administrative data collection. To reach these goals for the 2018 Youth Count, lead regional CoCs were identified, additional materials were developed and existing materials refined, and two new CoCs were invited to participate. These will be discussed in greater detail in the following sections.

Improving CoC Collaboration and Support: Regional Lead Continuums of Care

Early on in the planning process, CoCs in each region of the state that had been original participants in Youth REACH MD and demonstrated successful strategies in prior Youth Counts were identified as lead CoCs for their region and tasked with providing guidance and support as requested by the other CoCs within their region as well as providing guidance to CoCs across the state highlighting strategies that were

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[3] Members of the steering committee are listed on page 2 of this report.

[4] 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*). They are responsible for implementing the Youth Count locally.

[5] A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness that each CoC is responsible for implementing and utilizing to manage care and report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (*HUD Exchange, n.d.*).

successful in their CoC (e.g., street outreach strategies or volunteer recruitment and training). Recordings of some of the webinars conducted through this effort are available at *www.youthreachmd.com*.

Figure 1 below shows how each region was defined and the lead CoC for that region. Because of the unique needs within Baltimore City, it was designated as its own distinct region; other regional divisions were determined based on similarities and differences among CoCs in an attempt to group similar CoCs in the same region.

Figure 1: Youth Count Regions and Lead CoCs by Region
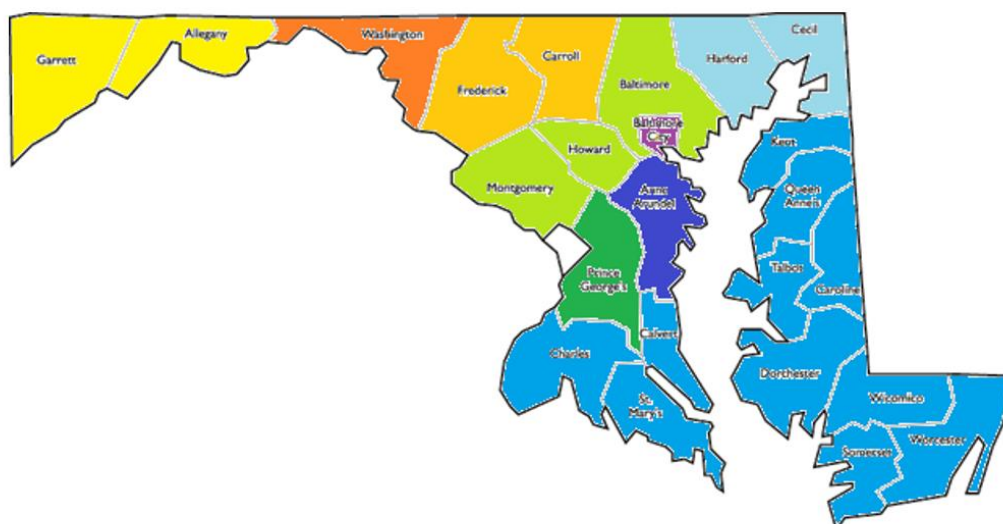
Western Region	Central Region	Baltimore City	Eastern Region
Lead: Washington County	Lead: Prince George's County	Lead: Baltimore City	Lead: Anne Arundel County
Currently Participating CoCs: • Carroll County • Frederick County Possible Future Additions: • Allegany County • Garrett County	Currently Participating CoCs: • Baltimore County • Howard County • Montgomery County		Currently Participating CoCs: • Lower Shore • Mid-Shore • Southern MD Possible Future Additions: • Cecil • Harford

Feedback from CoCs regarding the usefulness of the regional structure was positive overall, with most stating that it facilitated learning about other possible strategies from peer CoCs and that it positively impacted their planning and implementation of the 2018 Youth Count.

Expanding and Refining Youth Count Materials

As in prior Youth Counts, feedback on the Youth Count survey was collected and recorded. This information was used to further refine the Youth Count survey, leading to the removal or modifications of questions that did not generate useful or quality data in the previous Youth Count as well as adding additional response options for some questions based on write-in responses from the prior year. These changes included:

- Removal of a question asking if the youth had already taken the survey
- Adding a question to ask which county the youth is in currently

- Modifying the question that asks for the youth's current location from asking for a cross street or landmark to asking for a city, town, or neighborhood
- Modifying the question asking for the youth's age from open response to multiple choice
- Adding "more than a month but not indefinitely" as an additional response option to the question asking how long youth could stay where they stayed last night
- Adding "no, my parent or guardian is unavailable or unable to care for me" as an additional response option for whether the youth was currently with their parent or guardian
- Adding that their parent or guardian was deported or lost their immigration status, and their parent or guardian was very sick or died as additional response options for why they were not currently with their parent or guardian
- Combining race and ethnicity into one question so that youth could select Hispanic only
- Modifying the responses options for the question regarding the youth's sexual orientation to have gay and lesbian as one answer choice, and to include pansexual with bisexual
- Removing "not applicable" as an answer choice for if the youth was pregnant
- Modifying the question asking if the youth's children lived with them to specify that they should select yes if any of their children lived with them
- Modifying the question asking how many places the youth has lived in the past two months from open response to multiple choice
- Adding a college dorm as a place the youth may have spent the night
- Adding legal help, transportation assistance, LGBTQ support services, and drop-in or teen center as options for services the youth might have tried to access in the last year, and changing the question format from a matrix to multiple choice
- Adding that the youth didn't like how they were treated as a reason for the youth not accessing the services they needed
- Adding a question to ask what services would be most helpful for the youth right now
- Adding food stamps as a possible source of income

The survey guide was modified to reflect these changes and to include additional guidance on certain questions or answer choices that were reported as more challenging in the prior Youth Count. A new survey training was recorded based on this revised survey guide.

In addition, some of the CoCs that joined in 2017 identified that it would be helpful to have additional guidance on how to begin the planning process, as they did not benefit from the initial planning period before the first Youth Count. To assist with this, a readiness assessment (included in Appendix C) was developed that CoCs could use as a guide to help identify potential partners and build their planning team, select survey strategies, think about strengths and challenges, and form an action plan for the Youth Count. CoCs reported the partnership mapping exercise being particularly helpful in planning their Youth Count. The readiness assessment is included as part of a growing toolkit for jurisdictions that is based on the lessons learned from prior Youth Counts. The Institute currently is conducting an assessment of survey strategies by CoC to identify those associated with greater success in reaching and/or accurately identifying youth, which will be used to further build upon the readiness assessment and toolkit for future Youth Counts.

CoCs agreed that the marketing materials created for the 2017 Youth Count were successful and were used again with slight modifications for the 2018 Youth Count. Epstein Creative Group, which designed the 2017 materials, was brought in to update them for 2018. These modifications included further

reducing the amount of text on the flyers, modifying the marketing toolkit to include findings from the 2017 Count, creating a social media guide for volunteers and youth ambassadors, and developing public service announcement text and identifying radio stations that CoCs could contact to read the text on-air. At the conclusion of the Youth Count, CoCs reported that the marketing materials, particularly the marketing toolkit, 11-by-17 posters, and youth flyers, were helpful, but that most did not have sufficient time or capacity to connect with radio stations or local media but wanted to make a greater effort to do so in the next Youth Count.

Expansion to Additional Continuums of Care

As in 2017, Youth REACH MD prioritized continued expansion to additional jurisdictions to improve on the understanding of youth homelessness across Maryland. Three additional jurisdictions expressed interest and joined the 2018 Youth Count — Howard County, Frederick County, and Montgomery County. Howard County had partially joined later in the 2017 Youth Count but had not been previously funded through the project nor participated fully in the joint Youth Count planning. With the inclusion of these jurisdictions, **12 CoCs participated in the 2018 Youth Count, representing 20 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions.** A map of the participating CoCs is shown in Figure 2, with the year each CoC first participated indicated.

Figure 2: Map of Jurisdictions Participating in the 2018 Youth Count
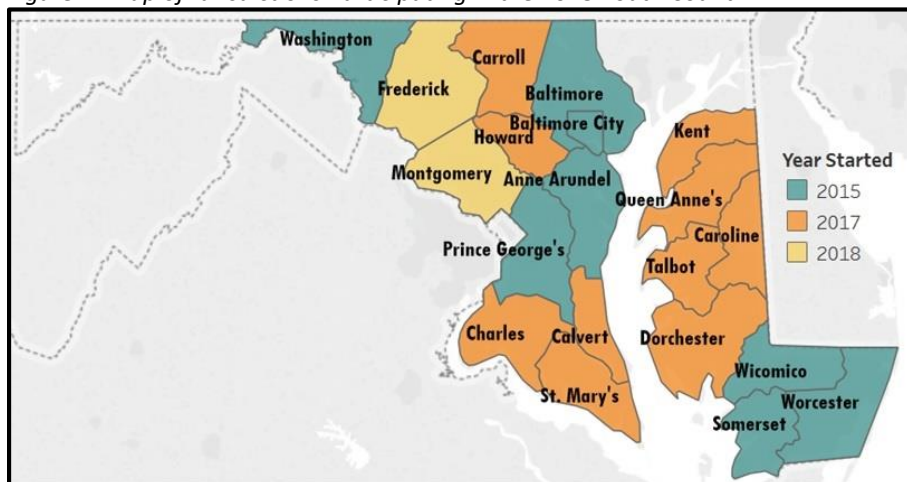
Improving Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Collection

In prior Youth Counts, collection of administrative data from each CoC's HMIS had been limited, due in large part to differing capabilities of and expertise in developing special reports out of each CoC's unique system. Without collecting administrative data from other systems that can be de-duplicated with the data received through collection of the Youth Count surveys, the Youth Count can only provide a constrained picture of the nature and scope of youth homelessness in Maryland. In 2018, an effort was made to build on the progress begun in collecting HMIS data in 2017. Maryland's Team HMIS, which supports the state in HMIS administration, worked to develop a special report template that all CoCs could utilize to pull the necessary data from their own HMIS system, based on the data requirements outlined by researchers at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. With this new reporting template, every participating CoC was able to provide HMIS data that could be de-duplicated with the survey data and included in the total count of youth experiencing homelessness. The findings from this are detailed below.

Survey Methods

For the 2018 Youth Count, the steering committee continued to recognize 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; however, CoCs were encouraged to utilize strategies that had been identified as successful in prior counts or by other CoCs. Recommended strategies included use of youth ambassadors, i.e., local youth with prior or current experiences of homelessness, who are paid as consultants to assist in planning and conducting the Youth Count locally (*see the 2017 Youth Count Report for more details*), marketing strategies as detailed in the marketing toolkit, and partnership with a wide array of potential partners as detailed in the readiness assessment (*see Appendix C*). This section will describe in aggregate the local strategies utilized in conducting the 2018 Youth Count.

For the timing of the Youth Count, the steering committee decided to use the same time period used in the 2017 Youth Count. Therefore, each CoC selected its own two-week window between March 3 and April 14, 2018, to conduct its Youth Count. The participating CoCs selected the dates shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Youth Count 2018 dates by CoC

Continuum of Care	Start Date	End Date
Anne Arundel County	3/3/18	3/16/18
Lower Shore	3/3/18	3/16/18
Baltimore City	3/5/18	3/18/18
Carroll County	3/10/18	3/23/18
Southern MD	3/11/18	3/24/18
Baltimore County	3/12/18	3/25/18
Prince George's County	3/14/18	3/27/18
Howard County	3/16/18	3/29/18
Mid-Shore	3/17/18	3/30/18
Washington County	4/1/18	4/14/18
Frederick County	4/2/18	4/15/18
Montgomery County	4/2/18	4/15/18

In four instances, these dates were extended because of 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 would not have a significant detrimental impact on the findings. Two requests were made for extension because of a snowstorm that impacted the street outreach schedule in Baltimore County and Southern Maryland. The other two requests were made because of a delay in starting the surveying in the schools for Baltimore City and Frederick County. All requests for extensions were approved.

Partnerships

In previous Youth Counts, CoCs that fostered a strong collaboration with a wide variety of community partners demonstrated greater success in their outreach efforts to youth. Therefore, CoCs were encouraged in 2018 to focus on developing community partnerships, particularly with partners who might be less likely to traditionally be involved. The Readiness Assessment tool provided guidance on conducting a partnership mapping to help CoCs identify potential partners and the roles partners could play in supporting the Youth Count. A wide variety of partnerships were developed across the CoCs.

Many of the CoCs explored new or expanding partnerships with libraries, places of worship, and other atypical partnerships. There was a significant increase in partnerships with local management boards[6] as well. Table 2 summarizes the number and types of partners developed that assisted in planning and/or executing the 2018 Youth Count locally. The complete lists of partner organizations and agencies for each CoC are shown in Appendix D.

Table 2: Number of Community Partnerships by Type in Each CoC

	Direct service providers	Homeless service providers	Government	Local management board	Police departments	Public school districts	Community coalitions	Libraries	Places of worship	Higher education	Legal/Advocacy
Anne Arundel	1		2	1		1			1		
Baltimore City	6	4									1
Baltimore Co.	3	11	3	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	
Carroll	5	1	2		1	1		1		1	
Frederick	4	3				1					
Howard		1	1	1							
Lower Shore		1	3	3		3					
Mid-Shore	1	3	6	5		5	1				
Montgomery	5	8	3				1	1	1		
Prince George's	8	6	6			1	2	1	1	1	1
Southern MD	1	1						1			
Washington	3		1			1	1	1			

CoCs also were encouraged to work with their local school districts to plan and conduct the Youth Count. Before the Youth Count, staff from the University of Maryland School of Social Work met with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to request re-approval of survey administration in local schools using the passive consent process initially approved for the 2015 Youth Count (see the Youth REACH MD Phase II report available at *www.youthreachmd.com* for more information). The revised survey and additional supporting documents were provided for review by MSDE's attorney general and state superintendent. After review and re-approval, an official memorandum approving local school district participation was sent to local school district superintendents on Feb. 13, 2018. This is the first Youth Count in which school participation was approved prior to the start of the Youth Count, and many of the CoCs reported that this had a significant impact on their ability to survey within schools. With this approval, several CoCs were successful in arranging administration of surveys within their local school districts, including some school districts that had not participated in previous years.

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[6] Local management boards "serve as the coordinator of collaboration for child and family services. They bring together local child-serving agencies, local child providers, clients of services, families, and other community representatives to empower local stakeholders in addressing the needs of and setting priorities for their communities" (*Maryland Governor's Office for Children, n.d.*). Local management boards are funded by the Governor's Office for Children and are tasked with targeting these resources to meet the needs of local children and families.

However, a few school districts, particularly those within CoCs for whom this was their first year participating, had reservations and did not fully participate.

Local Use of Funds

Each CoC was given a grant of $7,500 to support local implementation of the 2018 Youth Count. CoCs identified as regional leads received an additional $500 for each CoC they were supporting in their region. Each CoC employed these funds according to its local Youth Count plan developed through its 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. This is similar to how funds were utilized in the 2017 Youth Count. A summary of each CoC's use of funds is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Youth Count 2018 Use of Funds

	Anne Arundel	Baltimore City	Baltimore Co.	Carroll	Frederick	Howard	Lower Shore	Mid-Shore	Montgomery	Prince George's	Southern MD	Washington
Staff	✓				✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Planning committee					✓				✓		✓	
Tablets/technology									✓			
Volunteer training materials												
Office supplies			✓		✓						✓	
Marketing materials	✓					✓					✓	
Magnet event materials				✓								
Youth ambassador stipends	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓		
Survey incentives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Travel	✓								✓			
Ongoing youth assistance/planning				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Other							✓					

Youth Count Survey Strategies

Each CoC was responsible for directing Youth REACH MD activities in its 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 that were new to Youth REACH MD were encouraged to reach out to their lead regional CoC, and regional planning calls and topical webinars led by the regional lead CoCs were held to help support this peer exchange. The following summarizes the overall execution of the Youth Count across the state.

CoCs were responsible for recruiting and training volunteers and youth ambassadors, although most CoCs relied on existing organization or agency staff support for much of the effort. A revised survey guide and training video were provided to all CoCs to assist in the training of survey administrators.

As in prior years, Youth REACH MD marketing materials were provided to all CoCs before outreach to youth and young adults as well as their natural and professional supports. These included a marketing toolkit, 11-by-17 and 20-by-30 posters, pens, flyers, buttons, and wallet cards. Every CoC put up flyers and posters in a wide variety of locations in the community to raise awareness of the count and encourage youth to participate. In addition, The Institute managed a Youth REACH MD Twitter account and developed or revised Facebook pages for each CoC, providing 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, and several CoCs expressed the desire to improve their use of social media for future Youth Counts. Several CoCs put out their own news releases, and a few CoCs were successful in receiving coverage from local newspapers or television stations. In addition, Carroll County hosted a public screening of the movie *American Street Kid* that was well attended by the community and helped raise awareness about youth homelessness and the Youth Count occurring locally. In the Lower Shore CoC, local school districts created a YouTube video to discuss the Youth Count and resources available locally for youth experiencing homelessness.

Locations where flyers and posters were displayed:

- Local businesses
- Libraries
- Local government buildings
- Police/fire departments
- Community events
- Service providers
- Youth Hotspots (e.g., malls, clubs, community centers, parks)
- Colleges
- Places of worship
- Shelters
- Bus stops
- Public schools
- Hotels/motels
- Storage facilities

CoCs employed a variety of surveying strategies informed by the needs of their area, their youth ambassadors, and successful strategies used in their CoC and/or their region in the 2015 and 2017 Youth Counts. Strategies included magnet events, street surveying, school-based surveying, and site- or service-based surveying. A general summary of each survey strategy is included in Figure 3. 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- or service-based strategies.

Figure 3: Description of Youth Count Survey Strategies

Magnet Events
- 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.

Street Surveying
- A geography-based strategy in which key locations where youth are likely to be (e.g., parks, streets, laundromats, etc.) are identified before 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 visited repeatedly.

School-Based Surveying
- Often conducted with pupil personnel workers or by other school personnel, students who may be homeless are identified and surveyed within their school.

Site-/Service-Based Surveying
- 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 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. The link to the survey also was available at the Youth REACH MD website and shared by several CoCs via social media. Surveys were available in English and Spanish in all formats.

Most youth were able to complete the survey in 10-15 minutes. Surveys were most commonly administered by a volunteer or youth ambassador, but CoCs were strongly encouraged to allow youth to complete the survey on their own if they desired. A total of **142 volunteers and 46 youth ambassadors participated in the 2018 Youth Count**. Table 4 summarizes the survey strategies and methods used by each CoC participating in the 2018 Youth Count.

Table 4: 2018 Youth Count Methods and Strategies by CoC

		Anne Arundel	Baltimore City	Baltimore Co.	Carroll	Frederick	Howard	Lower Shore	Mid-Shore	Montgomery	Prince George's	Southern MD	Washington
Survey Methods	Paper	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Online	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔		✔	✔	✔	✔
	Offline				✔					✔	✔		
Survey Strategies	Street	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Magnet events				✔		✔						
	School	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔
	Service provider	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	# Youth ambassadors	10	15	5	4	0	NR	0	0	10	3	1	2
	# Volunteers	18	10	45	20	0	NR	0	15	6	4	13	7

NR – Not Reported

Table 5 provides a brief description of the survey strategies used within each CoC.

Table 5: Short Descriptions of 2018 Youth Count Survey Strategies by CoC

Anne Arundel	Because of the success of street outreach via youth ambassadors in 2017, street outreach was primarily instituted as a means to properly cover the entire county. In addition, surveys were administered at local schools, community partners, churches, libraries, and government agencies.
Baltimore City	Similar to previous years, Baltimore City used a combination of street outreach via youth ambassadors and site-based surveying at service provider locations. Additional outreach in 2018 targeted nightlife locations and LGBTQ hotspots. Because of logistical challenges, surveys were not administered at schools.
Baltimore County	A street outreach team surveyed in locations youth were known to reside. They also responded to calls from the county's coordinated entry system, which screened for youth during the Youth Count, and other service providers that encountered youth. The police department was more involved in 2018, with information about the Youth REACH survey provided at roll calls throughout the county and an officer designated to conduct the survey if contacted by other officers who encountered youth on the street. New survey locations in 2018 included the county detention center and methadone clinics. Surveys also were administered at soup kitchens, libraries, service providers, Department of Social Services/Health Department offices, emergency assistance centers, Prologue's homeless outreach drop-in center, and all county homeless shelters.
Carroll	Volunteers administered surveys at service providers, such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and the public library. Volunteers also conducted outreach in known encampments in the Westminster area. Two magnet events were held — a resource fair at a church in Westminster and a St. Patrick's Day-themed party at a youth drop-in center in Manchester.
Frederick	The majority of surveys were completed via outreach both in public areas where youth are known to go, such as the public library and downtown parks, as well as at service providers including soup kitchens and the Frederick Rescue Mission. Youth within the school system were surveyed via the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership's New Horizons counseling program.
Howard	Surveys were largely conducted through targeted surveying at providers serving youth, as well as targeted outreach with marketing materials that included the QR code for the survey. A job/resource fair also was held as a magnet event at which youth were surveyed.
Lower Shore	Surveys were conducted at all local shelters as well as online at local schools, which was a new addition for 2018.
Mid-Shore	Surveys were conducted solely through targeted surveying at service providers known to work with youth.
Montgomery	Surveys were conducted at all youth-serving organizations in the county in addition to street outreach with the volunteers and youth ambassadors. Two youth ambassadors conducted targeted youth outreach with immigrant and LGBTQ youth. Focus groups were conducted with youth across the county to identify potential hotspots and enhance the targeted recruitment of youth experiencing homelessness for the survey completion.

Prince George's	Surveys were conducted via street outreach at youth-identified hotspots as well as at schools and a variety of service providers throughout the county. A focus was placed on conducting surveys at service providers that focus on serving immigrant, LGBTQ, and youth in recovery, in a concerted effort to reach those youth.
Southern MD	The majority of surveys were conducted at local schools. In addition, service provider partners identified and conducted surveys with youth.
Washington	Surveys were largely conducted at the schools and service providers, including local shelters and agencies that meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Incentives were provided to youth who completed the surveys to thank them for their participation and compensate them for their time. 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 6. CoCs struggled to develop ways to provide incentives to youth who took 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 6: Survey Incentives Provided by CoC

Anne Arundel	Backpacks filled with a variety of donated and purchased items, $10 gift cards from various locations
Baltimore City	Assorted $10 gifts cards (CVS, Target, McDonald's, Subway, Starbucks) as survey incentives for the street count (but not for surveys completed at sites)
Baltimore Co.	$15 Walmart or McDonald's gift cards, backpacks, socks, portable phone power banks, granola bars, fruit gummies and other snacks, and coupons for free haircuts by Hair Cuttery
Carroll	Backpack, filled with supplies, and a $10 gift card
Frederick	$15 Sheetz gift cards
Howard	$15 gift cards and backpacks full of incentives
Lower Shore	School supplies
Mid-Shore	$20 Walmart gift card and backpack that included portable chargers, first-aid kits, LED safety lights, insect repellent towelettes, books, rain poncho, sunblock, sunglasses, personal bathing wipes, baseball caps, Chapstick, playing cards, and a water bottle (not all backpacks included all items)
Montgomery	$10 Chipotle gift cards
Prince George's	Backpacks of supplies (blanket, toiletries, water, snacks, socks, condoms, feminine hygiene products if needed, and $15 McDonald's gift cards)
Southern MD	$20 meal gift cards, earbuds, and sling bags
Washington	$10 Sheetz gift cards

Connecting Youth with Supports

Connecting youth who are identified during the Youth Count with local supports and services has been an increasing priority of the Youth REACH Steering Committee. CoCs were encouraged in 2017 and 2018 to develop plans for how to connect youth with services during the Youth Count outreach. In 2017, a "Need

Help" card was created to collect contact information for youth who would like to be contacted about available services that would be separate from their survey responses in order to keep the surveys confidential. These were provided to the CoCs again in 2018. Table 7 below summarizes the strategies used by each CoC to connect youth with supportive services.

Table 7: Summary of Strategies Used to Connect Youth to Supports and Resources by CoC

Anne Arundel	Direct contact numbers and resources were provided to youth by the volunteers and youth ambassadors conducting the surveys, and each backpack had a homeless resource card enclosed.
Baltimore City	All youth were given youth resource guides, and surveyors (especially youth ambassadors) shared tips on supports based on their knowledge and experiences.
Baltimore Co.	All youth surveyed received a resource sheet that provided information about available programs and services. Surveyors were knowledgeable about these services and could help connect the youth to many of these services on the spot if the youth was interested. In addition, all those surveyed were offered connection to Prologue's youth outreach worker, who followed up with all those who were interested.
Carroll	Surveyed youth filled out the "Need Help" card to obtain or be contacted regarding available resources and supports.
Frederick	Surveyors gave support materials to youth at the conclusion of the survey.
Howard	All outreach material included information on accessing the coordinated entry points for homeless and housing resources. The magnet event was a youth job/resource fair where resources were provided/co-located in one place.
Lower Shore	Youth were currently being served by a shelter or McKinney-Vento liaison when surveyed.
Mid-Shore	If youth were not already connected to services, they were referred through Roundtable partnerships.
Montgomery	A resource card was given to all youth, and they were connected to organizations if they needed immediate assistance.
Prince George's	Youth were immediately connected to mainstream services like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, emergency shelter, or supportive housing through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The DSS street outreach team followed up with youth who used the "Need Help" cards to connect them to services.
Southern MD	The outreach team supported youth in connecting with the local coordinated entry process for homeless services.
Washington	Connections to needed resources were made when the survey was administered, and information was collected via the "Need Help" cards if youth desired follow-up.

Data Collection and Analysis

Each CoC submitted completed paper surveys to The Institute after completing its local Youth Count. These surveys were entered electronically into a database 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 youth's 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 before 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 before completing the survey in a location other than those mentioned above or if they said they could not remain in the home they stayed in 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.

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 because of 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 the survey findings below.

Administrative Data Collection

In addition to administering surveys, each CoC provided administrative data from its HMIS, a database of individuals who accessed housing or shelter services within the CoC. The CoCs provided data on individuals who were under the age of 25 and identified as head of household who had accessed homeless services from May 1, 2017, through April 30, 2018.

Findings from the 2018 Youth Count

The results presented in this report are just one presentation of only some commonalities that 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** because of the difficulty of connecting with youth experiencing homelessness and the current lack of services designed for youth experiencing homelessness across Maryland.

> Of the 1,782 youth surveyed, **816** met the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth.

In total, 1,782 surveys were completed by youth during the 2018 Youth Count. Of the youth who were surveyed, 1,033 were under 25 and unstably housed or homeless (family or youth homelessness) and **816 met the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth.** Only 31 percent of youth who met the Youth REACH MD definition of unaccompanied homeless youth would also meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 1 definition of homelessness, required to be eligible for most HUD-funded homeless services.[7] The number of youth 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. The first half of Table 8 details the number of youth surveyed who met the different definitions.

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[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 a charitable organization (*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014*).

Table 8: Counts of Surveys and Types of Homelessness by CoC

CoC	Youth Count Surveys				Youth meeting Youth REACH definition in HMIS	Youth meeting Youth REACH definition - surveyed and in HMIS	Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (surveyed + HMIS)
	Total Youth Surveyed	Youth Surveyed - Under 25 and Unstably Housed	**Youth Surveyed - Meet Youth REACH Definition**	Youth Surveyed - Meet HUD Definition			
Anne Arundel	276	124	**84**	20	79	2	**161**
Baltimore City	337	300	**281**	103	1,276	53	**1,504**
Baltimore Co.	256	107	**87**	30	189	11	**265**
Carroll	24	18	**18**	9	32	8	**42**
Frederick	72	54	**48**	23	97	0	145
Howard	58	33	**28**	5	59	2	**85**
Lower Shore	27	15	**9**	4	86	3	**92**
Mid-Shore	31	17	**14**	2	53	1	**66**
Montgomery	354	205	**126**	17	221	30	**317**
Prince George's	118	57	**43**	16	152	14	**181**
Southern MD	155	56	**36**	10	12	3	**45**
Washington	74	47	**42**	12	14	2	**54**
Total	1,782	1,033	**816**	251	2,270	129	**2,957**

The second half of Table 8 details of the number of youth who were identified as unaccompanied homeless youth within the HMIS data provided by the CoCs. When considering these two data sets together, it is important to recognize the difference in time frame in which the data were collected. The

> **2,957** youth were identified as unaccompanied and homeless when combining Youth Count survey results and the prior 12 months of HMIS data from participating CoCs.

HMIS data provide information on *all* youth who accessed homeless services within each jurisdiction over the course of the *12 months before and including* administration of the Youth Count survey. Examining these data sets together, the number of unique unaccompanied homeless youth identified increases to 2,957. As in the prior Youth Counts, there was little overlap between youth surveyed and youth recorded in the HMIS data (*Miller, Unick, & Harburger, 2017*). On average**, only 1.72 percent of unaccompanied homeless youth surveyed in 2018 also were in the CoCs' HMIS system**. It is important to keep in mind that this percentage represents a lower bound, as youth do sometimes use pseudonyms when completing the surveys, which prevents matching their survey responses to their HMIS records. Despite this limitation, the lack of overlap among the survey and HMIS data 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.

A note to readers regarding the data tables that follow:

- All of the data presented in the findings below pertain to 816 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 9 shows the demographics of the youth surveyed. Over three-quarters (78 percent) identified as a person of color, with 53 percent identifying as black/African-American. According to Maryland census data, in the general state population of youth ages 10 through 24, only 52 percent identify as a person of color, 34 percent of whom identify as black/African-American (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2015*). When considering this comparison, it also is important to note that two-thirds of the 11 percent of youth who identified with more than one race/ethnicity identified as black/African-American in addition to another race/ethnicity.

Table 9: Demographics of Youth Surveyed

Age (n=816)	Count	Percent
17 and under	113	14%
18 to 24 years old	703	86%
Race/Ethnicity (n=801)		
Black/African-American	425	53%
White	174	22%
Multiracial	92	11%
Hispanic	79	10%
Other	15	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	1%
Native American	8	1%
Gender (n=801)		
Male	472	59%
Female	304	38%
Transgender (M to F)	14	2%
Transgender (F to M)	4	0%
Other	2	0%
Prefer not to answer	5	1%
Sexual Orientation (n=792)		
Straight	637	80%
Gay or Lesbian	64	8%
Bi(Pan)sexual	64	8%
Other	8	1%
Prefer not to answer	19	2%

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

Thirty-eight percent of youth reported being currently in school. The full breakdown of current school attendance and highest grade completed is provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Education Level of Youth Surveyed

Enrolled in school (n=789)	Count	Percent
Enrolled in middle school	9	1%
Enrolled in high school	166	21%
Enrolled in a GED program	74	9%
Enrolled in a vocational training program	9	1%
Enrolled in college	32	4%
Enrolled in other	9	1%
Not enrolled in school	490	62%
Highest completed grade (n=791)		
No education	7	1%
8th grade or less	35	4%
9th-11th grade	361	46%
High school	240	30%
GED	75	9%
Postsecondary vocational training	7	1%
Some college	62	8%
College degree	4	1%

A sizable number of the youth surveyed were pregnant or parenting. **Nine percent of the youth biologically able to become pregnant reported being currently pregnant, and 30 percent of the youth reported having children**. Of the youth who had children, **51 percent 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 11.

Table 11: Pregnant or Parenting Youth

	Count	Percent
Currently pregnant (n = 305)	26	9%
Have children (n = 790)	240	30%
Live with their children (n = 238)	121	51%
Number of children (n = 235)		
1	139	59%
2 - 3	86	37%
4 or more	10	4%

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 by juvenile detention, group homes, and foster care. The frequency with which youth were involved in these systems is provided in Table 12.

Table 12: Life Experiences

	Count	Percent
Ever stayed in jail (n = 785)	295	38%

	Count	Percent
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 788)	224	28%
Ever stayed in group home (n = 769)	189	25%
Ever been in foster care (n = 785)	157	20%
Ever served in the military (n = 786)	8	1%

Of youth who had spent time in the foster care system, the largest number (33 percent) reported leaving foster care between the ages of 16 and 18, and an additional 19 percent reported leaving the foster care system after the age of 18. A few youth reported being currently in foster care; they are included in the table below based on their current age. The breakdown of the age youth left foster care is included in Table 13.

Table 13: Age Youth Left Foster Care

Age left foster care (n = 143)	Count	Percent
0-5	15	10%
6-10	27	19%
11-15	27	19%
16-18	47	33%
Over 18	27	19%

When youth were asked where they stayed the night before the survey and all the places they had stayed in the last two months, the most frequently reported housing strategy for both was staying with friends. This aligns with findings nationally that youth homelessness is more likely to include "couch-surfing," or moving among homes of friends and relatives for short periods of time. A detailed breakdown of the reported living situations is included in Table 14.

Table 14: Living Situation

	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=814)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 842)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
With friends	229	28%	361	44%
In a shelter or motel	146	18%	223	27%
With other family	96	12%	162	20%
In a jail or juvenile detention	90	11%	113	14%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	59	7%	145	18%
In a transitional housing program	44	5%	43	5%
With immediate family	38	5%	110	13%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	33	4%	92	11%
At my own apartment	28	3%	49	6%
With a stranger	24	3%	99	12%
In a group home	6	1%	12	1%
In a treatment or medical facility	6	1%	24	3%
Other	6	1%	4	0%
In a college dorm	5	1%	13	2%
With foster parents	4	0%	3	0%

Note: More than one answer was allowed to be selected for where youth stayed in the last two months

Youth also reported high frequencies of instability in their current living situation. **Over half (52 percent) 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 or two. See Table 15 for how long youth reported being able to stay in their current living situation.

Table 15: Length of Stay

How long can you stay where you stayed last night? (n=812)	Count	Percent
As long as I want/indefinitely	82	10%
For the next week or two	102	13%
For the next month	66	8%
More than a month, but not indefinitely	175	22%
I have already left	69	8%
I don't know	318	39%
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night? (n=793)		
1-6 days	192	24%
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	71	9%
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	120	15%
1-6 months	281	35%
More than 6 months	129	16%

This instability in the youth's current living situation led to reports of frequent relocation. **Sixty-eight percent of youth reported living at multiple places within the past two months.** See Table 16 for a breakdown of the numbers of places youth lived within the past two months.

Table 16: Number of Housing Locations

How many places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 804)	Count	Percent
1 place	258	32%
2-3 places	369	46%
4-6 places	116	15%
7 or more places	53	7%

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 still may have some connection with their parent or guardian while still effectively living on their own because of 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 17 shows the responses to whether the youth are currently living with their parent or guardian. In each of the Youth Counts, it has proved difficult to accurately capture a youth's relationship with their parents or guardians and whether they are currently living together. In an effort to compensate for this, opt-out criteria were used to determine if a youth was unaccompanied. Specifically, youth who answered the question "Are you currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent?" with yes were considered to be accompanied by their parent unless they indicated reasons for not living with their parent or guardian that indicated instability in the relationship because of system involvement or being asked to leave the home by the parent or guardian. All other youth were considered unaccompanied.

Table 17: Reason for Not Living with Parent or Guardian

Currently living with parent or guardian (n=816)	Count	Percent
No, I chose to leave	287	35%
No, I was asked to leave	278	34%
No, they are unable/unavailable to care for me	257	31%
Yes	22	3%

Note: More than one answer was allowed to be selected

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. The frequency of reasons for not living with parents or guardians is reported in Table 18.

Table 18: Reasons for Not Living with a Parent or Guardian

Reasons for not living with a parent or guardian (n = 816)	Count	Percent
Fighting	264	32%
Youth wanted to leave	240	29%
Youth drug or alcohol use	111	14%
Told to leave after 18	95	12%
Not enough room	95	12%
Abuse	90	11%
Did not feel safe	78	10%
Parents' homelessness	69	8%
Parents' drug or alcohol use	55	7%
Youth sexual orientation or gender identity	51	6%
Parents sick or died	45	6%
Released from jail/detention and couldn't go home	41	5%
Youth pregnancy or children	41	5%
Parents unable to provide care	38	5%
Currently in jail/detention	35	4%
Told to leave before 18	34	4%
Other reason	28	3%
Left foster care and could not return home	22	3%
Currently living with parent/guardian	15	2%
Eviction	4	0%
Immigration related	3	0%

Note: More than one answer was allowed to be selected

Food assistance was by far the most sought-after service by youth, followed by emergency shelter, mental health services, job training, and health care. Eighteen percent of youth reported not trying to get help in the past year. A breakdown of all the services and supports sought by youth is provided in Table 19.

Table 19: Services and Supports Sought by Youth

Attempted to get help in the past year (n = 816)	Count	Percent
Food stamps/SNAP	431	53%
Food banks or free meals	180	22%
Emergency shelter	179	22%
Mental health services	177	22%
Job training	169	21%
Health care	160	20%
Long-term housing	149	18%
Have not tried to get help	143	18%
Educational support	115	14%
Government cash assistance	107	13%
Short-term housing	104	13%
Transportation assistance	104	13%
Legal help	84	10%
Substance use treatment	62	8%
Child care	57	7%
Family support services	53	6%
A drop-in or teen center	47	6%
LGBTQ support services	39	5%
Police officers	17	2%
Other	5	1%

Only 18 percent of youth reported receiving all of the help they needed. **The most common barriers to receiving help were transportation needs, being put on a waiting list, and lacking necessary documentation (like a birth certificate or driver's license).** The full breakdown of reported barriers to receiving help is provided in Table 20.

Table 20: Barriers to Receiving Help

Reasons for not getting help (n = 816)	Count	Percent
No transportation	313	38%
Put on a waiting list	194	24%
Lacked necessary documents	160	20%
Didn't know where to go	156	19%
Received all help needed	146	18%
Didn't qualify	127	16%
Didn't hear back	114	14%
Said they couldn't help me	113	14%
Didn't follow through	106	13%
Went to the wrong place	95	12%
Didn't feel comfortable	63	8%
Didn't like how I was treated	50	6%
Paperwork requirements	44	5%
Other	43	5%
Language barrier	16	2%

Because the services youth access are influenced significantly by the services currently available, an additional survey question was added in 2018 to ask youth what services would be most helpful to them. The responses are detailed in Table 21. The most commonly requested services were long-term housing, food assistance, and job training.

Table 21: Requested Services

Services that would be helpful (n = 816)	Count	Percent
Long-term housing	486	60%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	308	38%
Job training	294	36%
Transportation assistance	220	27%
Educational support	192	24%
Health care	177	22%
Government cash assistance	145	18%
Mental health services	140	17%
Short-term housing	125	15%
Legal help	103	13%
Family support	90	11%
Child care	75	9%
Substance use treatment	68	8%
LGBTQ support services	51	6%
Other	24	3%

When asked about income, the most commonly reported sources were family and friends and part-time employment. Seventeen percent reported no source of income. The breakdown of reported sources of income is provided in Table 22.

Table 22: Sources of Income

Reported income sources (n = 816)	Count	Percent
Family and friends	232	28%
Part-time job	220	27%
No income	142	17%
Food stamps/SNAP	141	17%
Under-the-table work	116	14%
Selling drugs	110	13%
Panhandling	100	12%
Full-time job	91	11%
Self-employment	54	7%
Sex work	51	6%
Cash assistance	48	6%
Social Security income	42	5%
Child support	15	2%
Other	15	2%
Unemployment benefits	2	0%

Comparison to Prior Youth Count Results

With growing data from a third Youth Count, Youth REACH MD provides not only a snapshot of unaccompanied youth homelessness in Maryland, but it also helps provide snapshots of the number and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness over time. It is important to note that there were many changes in the survey instrument and the sampling strategies used by the CoCs in each Youth Count in order to learn and develop the most effective strategies in each jurisdiction, and so **it is strongly inadvisable to draw direct comparisons among the 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.

Across the six CoCs that participated in all three Youth Counts to date, the overall number of youth surveyed is less than in previous years. This is largely because of a substantial decrease in the number of youth surveyed in Baltimore City, likely due to the lack of school participation in 2018. In the majority of CoCs, the percentage of youth surveyed who were unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness or housing instability increased, indicating possible improvements in outreach methods in these jurisdictions. As in 2017, the percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth identified in the 2018 Youth Count who met the more restrictive HUD definition of homelessness (see page 14 of this report for further discussion of the HUD definition), continued to decrease, from 68 percent in 2015 and 52 percent in 2017 to 34 percent in 2018. This may indicate improvement in outreach methods to youth who are not accessing traditional homeless services. The breakdown of survey results across the six CoCs that participated in all three Youth Counts to date is in Table 23 below.

Table 23: Comparison of Survey Results Among Original Jurisdictions in 2015, 2017, and 2018

	Surveys Administered			Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)			UHY Meeting HUD Definition		
	2015	**2017**	**2018**	**2015**	**2017**	**2018**	**2015**	**2017**	**2018**
Anne Arundel	67	258	276	46	101	84	4	36	20
Baltimore City	653	779	337	540	546	281	166	306	103
Baltimore Co.	145	327	256	54	82	87	17	44	30
Lower Shore	35	31	27	30	9	9	7	9	4
Prince George's	273	107	118	122	40	43	28	7	16
Washington	50	30	74	42	13	42	6	4	12
Total	1,223	1,532	1,088	834	791	546	228	409	185

The characteristics of the youth surveyed in 2017 and those surveyed in 2018 were largely similar, with a few notable exceptions. More youth reported currently being in school, likely because of the improved involvement of school districts in 2018. More youth reported spending a night in jail or juvenile detention, which may be because of an increased effort to survey youth in jails and detention centers by several CoCs in 2018. A smaller percentage of youth reported moving six or more times in the past two months, though this is likely attributable to the change in the wording of the question (see a description of the question modification on page 7). There were several reasons for being unable to access needed services that were much more frequently reported in 2018 — not having required documents (birth certificate, state-issued ID, etc.), not knowing where to go, not qualifying, not hearing back from the provider, and not following through with the provider. This may be due in part to changes in the question format as well, though it is interesting to note that the frequency with which other barriers were reported still is comparable to previous Youth Counts. Reported income sources also shifted, with less youth reporting no income in 2018 and more youth especially reporting income from family and friends, part-time employment, and under-

the-table work, with more general increases across most all income sources except self-employment, sex work, child support, and Social Security benefits.

Successes and Challenges of the 2018 Youth Count

At the conclusion of the 2018 Youth Count, CoCs were asked to report on their strategies for the Youth Count, the successes and challenges they experienced, opportunities for further improvement, and impacts participation had in their community. A summary of what the CoCs reported follows in Table 24. Additionally, CoCs were asked about the benefits and challenges of conducting Youth Counts in consecutive years. They reported that while it was helpful for keeping community momentum going and building continuity, it may be challenging to conduct the Youth Count annually in addition to the Point-In-Time Count in future years. All reported successes, challenges, suggestions, and impacts will be utilized to inform further Youth REACH tool revisions and planning for future Youth Counts.

Table 24: 2018 Youth Count Debriefing Responses from CoCs

Successes
• More targeted and effective surveying in schools (x4)
• Identifying more local hotspots and improving street outreach for youth (x3)
• Improvement in connecting youth with resources (x2)
• Improving upon and building new partnerships and collaboration across youth providers (x2)
• Procurement of donations
• Engaging youth with Youth Action Board
• Building on previous years' efforts to increase awareness and outreach
• Gaining commitments from human service agencies
• Increasing the number of youth surveyed who met the definition
• Developing an HMIS report that can be de-duplicated with Youth REACH data
• Improved partnership with the local management board
• Identification and engagement of youth ambassadors and local advocates

Challenges
• Getting the word out (x2)
• Gaining full participation of the local school district (x2)
• Finding volunteers (x2)
• Gaining involvement of community stakeholders (x2)
• Reaching couch-surfing youth and those who don't see themselves as homeless
• Reaching youth not connected to services
• Connecting with youth ambassadors in a stable-enough position to fully assist
• Juggling Youth REACH with other CoC requirements
• Vacant homeless youth coordinator position

Suggestions for Improvement
• Conduct outreach and marketing earlier (x2)
• Provide more services/supports for youth (x2)
• Start a local youth advisory council before the Youth Count
• Add Youth REACH participation into local provider contracts
• Identify youth ambassadors earlier
• Have the letter from MSDE earlier
• Further simplify marketing materials
• Partner with the Point-in-Time Count to reduce staffing challenges

- Improve question wording to capture experiences of immigrant youth
- Provide example media releases and focus group consents in English and Spanish

Community Impacts
- Increased community awareness (x5)
- Applying for and/or securing state or federal grants to address youth homelessness (x5)
- Provided a foundation for building a youth advisory council (x2)
- Increased donations to local providers
- Doubled funding for youth experiencing homelessness
- Developing a youth outreach worker
- Began community strategic planning process to address youth homelessness
- Increased community understanding of how to serve youth experiencing homelessness

Conclusion

While youth homelessness overlaps with family and adult homelessness, it also is 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 2018 Youth Count and collection of local HMIS data, 2,957 unaccompanied homeless youth were identified across 20 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. While higher than other estimates because of the youth-focused methodology of Youth REACH MD, it is important to recognize that this is still an undercount and that even more youth are on their own and struggling to find a safe, stable, and adequate place to sleep, hampering their ability to go to school or work and putting them at risk.

The 2018 Youth Count continues to positively impact participating CoCs by increasing awareness of youth homelessness locally, encouraging partnerships among stakeholders to address it, and growing capacity to access additional resources to launch, expand, and improve services to meet the unique needs of youth. The 2018 Youth Count findings continue to support the policy recommendations made in 2017 to:

(1) Increase housing solutions for youth
(2) Invest in support services for youth
(3) Explore opportunities to decrease disproportionate representation of black/African-American, LGBTQ, and pregnant and parenting youth among youth experiencing homelessness
(4) Continue to support ongoing and improved monitoring of youth homelessness over time (see the 2017 report for a full discussion of these impacts and recommendations)

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. It is through continuing and enhancing these efforts that Maryland ultimately can end and prevent youth homelessness.

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2018 Youth REACH MD Survey

This survey is being administered by the Youth REACH MD Steering Committee & this local Continuum of Care to help state and local providers better understand the housing and service needs of youth and young adults who are on their own and under the age of 25.
<u>*Your answers will remain completely confidential*</u>.

Thank you for participating and letting your voice be heard!

Basic Information

1. What county are you in right now?

1. ○ Allegany County
2. ○ Anne Arundel County
3. ○ Baltimore County
4. ○ Baltimore City
5. ○ Calvert County
6. ○ Caroline County
7. ○ Carroll County
8. ○ Cecil County
9. ○ Charles County
10. ○ Dorchester County
11. ○ Frederick County
12. ○ Garrett County
13. ○ Harford County
14. ○ Howard County
15. ○ Kent County
16. ○ Montgomery County
17. ○ Prince George's County
18. ○ Queen Anne's County
19. ○ Saint Mary's County
20. ○ Somerset County
21. ○ Talbot County
22. ○ Washington County
23. ○ Wicomico County
24. ○ Worcester County
25. ○ I don't know

2. What city, town, or neighborhood are you in right now? _____

3. What are your initials? First_____ Last _____

4. What is your date of birth? (mm/dd/yy) _____ /_____ /_____

5. How old are you? _____ *(If 25 or older, stop and return the survey)*

Living Situation

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

1. ○ In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
2. ○ At the house or apartment of my foster parent
3. ○ At my own apartment or a room I rent
4. ○ At the house or apartment of another family member
5. ○ At the house or apartment of a friend
6. ○ At the house or apartment of a stranger
7. ○ At a shelter/motel
8. ○ In a transitional housing program
9. ○ In a group home
10. ○ Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, transit station, car, etc.
11. ○ Inside an abandoned building, squat, porch, basement, hallway, etc.
12. ○ In a treatment or medical facility (such as a hospital or detox facility)
13. ○ In a jail or juvenile detention facility
14. ○ In a college dorm
15. ○ Other (please specify) _____

7. How long do you think you could stay there without being asked to leave?

1. ○ As long as I want/Indefinitely
2. ○ For the next week or two
3. ○ For the next month
4. ○ More than a month, but not indefinitely
5. ○ I have already left
6. ○ I don't know

Continue

8. How long have you been staying at the place where you stayed last night?
1. ○ Less than 1 week
2. ○ At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks
3. ○ At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month
4. ○ 1-6 months
5. ○ More than 6 months

9. Are you currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent? Select all that apply.
a. ☐ Yes, I am living with my parent/guardian/foster parent
b. ☐ No, I chose to leave
c. ☐ No, I was asked to leave
d. ☐ No, my parent/guardian/foster parent is unavailable or unable to care for me

10. Why are you not currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent? Select all that apply.
a. ☐ I was arguing or fighting with my parent/guardian/foster parent
b. ☐ I wanted to leave
c. ☐ My use of drugs or alcohol
d. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent told me to leave after I turned 18
e. ☐ I did not feel safe because of violence or unsafe activities in my house
f. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent or another household member was abusive (sexually, physically, or emotionally) or neglected me
g. ☐ My house was too small for everyone to live there
h. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent told me to leave before I turned 18
i. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent was experiencing homelessness and/or my family lost its housing
j. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent abused drugs or alcohol
k. ☐ I was released from jail or a detention facility and could not return home
l. ☐ My sexual orientation and/or gender identity
m. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent is very sick or died
n. ☐ I left foster care and could not return home
o. ☐ I was/am pregnant or got someone pregnant
p. ☐ My parent/guardian/foster parent was deported or lost their immigration status
q. ☐ Other (please specify) _____
r. ☐ None of the above, I am living with my parent/guardian/foster parent

Education

11. Are you currently enrolled in school?
1. ○ No, not currently enrolled in school
2. ○ Yes, in middle school
3. ○ Yes, in high school
4. ○ Yes, in a GED program
5. ○ Yes, in a vocational training program
6. ○ Yes, in college
7. ○ Yes, other (please specify) _____

12. What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed?
1. ○ No education
2. ○ 8th grade or less
3. ○ 9-11th grade
4. ○ High school diploma
5. ○ GED certificate
6. ○ Some college credits
7. ○ College degree
8. ○ Post-secondary vocational training

Continue

Demographics

13. How would you describe your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply.
    a. ☐ Black/African American
    b. ☐ Native American
    c. ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander
    d. ☐ White
    e. ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a
    f. ☐ Other (please specify) _____

14. How would you describe your gender identity?
    1. ◯ Female
    2. ◯ Male
    3. ◯ Transgender, Female to Male
    4. ◯ Transgender, Male to Female
    5. ◯ Other (please specify) _____
    6. ◯ Prefer not to answer

15. Which of the following best describes how you currently think about your sexual orientation?
    1. ◯ Straight
    2. ◯ Gay or Lesbian
    3. ◯ Bisexual or Pansexual
    4. ◯ Other (please specify) _____
    5. ◯ Prefer not to answer

Life Experiences

16. Are you pregnant?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

17. Do you have children?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

    17a. If yes, how many children? _____

    17b. Do any of your children live with you?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

18. Have you ever served in the military?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

19. Have you ever been in foster care?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

    19a. If yes, what age did you leave foster care? _____

20. Have you ever lived in a residential treatment program, group home, or other live-in healthcare facility? 1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

21. Have you ever stayed overnight or longer in juvenile detention?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

22. Have you ever stayed overnight or longer in an adult jail or prison?　1. ◯ Yes　2. ◯ No

Housing History

23. How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months?
1. ◯ 2-3 places
2. ◯ 4-6 places
3. ◯ 7 or more places
4. ◯ I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months

24. Where have you spent the night in the past 2 months? Select all that apply.

a. ☐ In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
b. ☐ At the house or apartment of my foster parent
c. ☐ At my own apartment or a room I rent
d. ☐ At the house or apartment of another family member
e. ☐ At the house or apartment of a friend
f. ☐ At the house or apartment of a stranger
g. ☐ At a shelter/motel
h. ☐ In a transitional housing program
i. ☐ In a group home
j. ☐ Outside in a park, on the street, in a tent, transit station, car, etc.
k. ☐ Inside an abandoned building, squat, porch, basement, hallway, etc.
l. ☐ In a treatment or medical facility (such as a hospital or detox facility)
m. ☐ In a jail or juvenile detention facility
n. ☐ In a college dorm
o. ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Services & Supports

25. Which of the following services or programs have you tried to get help from in the past year? Select all that apply.
a. ☐ Food Stamps/SNAP
b. ☐ Short-term housing (such as a halfway house or transitional housing program)
c. ☐ Shelters
d. ☐ Health care services (including emergency room services and care to help with health conditions or disabilities)
e. ☐ Counseling or other mental health care services
f. ☐ Job training, life skills training, and/or career placement
g. ☐ Long-term housing (such as Section 8 or public housing)
h. ☐ Educational support (such as enrolling in school or a GED program)
i. ☐ Government cash assistance (such as Welfare benefits or Social Security Disability benefits)
j. ☐ Food banks or free meals
k. ☐ Family support (such as conflict mediation or parenting support)
l. ☐ Substance use or alcohol treatment programs
m. ☐ Child care
n. ☐ Local police officers
o. ☐ Drop-in or Teen Center
p. ☐ LGBTQ support services
q. ☐ Transportation assistance
r. ☐ Legal help
s. ☐ Other (please specify) _____
t. ☐ I have not tried to get help from any programs or services

Continue

26. What prevented you from getting all the help you needed? Select all that apply.
   a. ☐ No transportation
   b. ☐ They sent me somewhere else
   c. ☐ They said they could not help me
   d. ☐ Language barrier
   e. ☐ Put on waiting list
   f. ☐ I didn't want to fill out paperwork
   g. ☐ I didn't have necessary documents
   h. ☐ I didn't hear back
   i. ☐ I didn't know where to go
   j. ☐ I didn't qualify
   k. ☐ I didn't feel comfortable/safe
   l. ☐ I didn't follow through
   m.☐ I didn't like how I was treated
   n. ☐ Other (please specify) _____
   o. ☐ I received all the help I needed

27. What would be the most helpful for you right now? Select all that apply.
   a. ☐ Short-term housing (such as shelter or transitional living program)
   b. ☐ Long-term housing (such as Section 8 or public housing)
   c. ☐ Educational support (such as enrolling in school or GED program)
   d. ☐ Job training, life skills training, and/or career placement
   e. ☐ Health care services
   f. ☐ Family support (such as conflict mediation or parenting support)
   g. ☐ Child care
   h. ☐ Food Stamps/SNAP, food banks, or free meals
   i. ☐ Government cash assistance (such as Welfare benefits or Social Security Disability benefits)
   j. ☐ LGBTQ support services
   k. ☐ Counseling or other mental health care services
   l. ☐ Substance use or alcohol treatment programs
   m.☐ Transportation assistance
   n. ☐ Legal help
   o. ☐ Other (please specify) _____

28. In the last two months, where did you get money/income? Select all that apply.
   a. ☐ Full-time job
   b. ☐ Part-time job and/or temporary job
   c. ☐ Money from 'under the table' work
   d. ☐ Self-employment
   e. ☐ Cash assistance from a government-funded program (federal/state/local)
   f. ☐ Social Security/disability payments
   g. ☐ Unemployment benefits
   h. ☐ Food stamps
   i. ☐ Selling drugs
   j. ☐ Exchanging sex for money/rent/etc.
   k. ☐ Panhandling
   l. ☐ Child support
   m.☐ Money from family members or friends
   n. ☐ Other (please specify) _____
   o. ☐ I do not have a personal source of income right now

Continue

Comments

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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*.

2018 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 judgment-free explanation. If a youth is ever unsure of the answer to the question, you can advise 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 experiences with unstable housing and couch surfing. I would like to ask you a few questions about that. All of your answers will remain confidential. We will not share any information specifically about you with anyone and your answers will never be associated with your name. While we will be careful to keep your answers private, there is a small risk that someone outside of our team might see your answers if something unexpected happens. 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. You will receive _____ for taking the survey. It usually takes about 10 minutes to complete and your participation is completely voluntary.

Do you have any questions?

Would you like to participate?

Question Guide

Question 1: What county are you in right now?
If the youth is unsure as to which county they are in currently, you can provide them with this information, but please refrain from providing any answers for the youth for the remaining questions.

Question 2: What city, town, or neighborhood are you in right now?
If the youth asks why this information is needed, you can explain that this helps us gain a general sense of where services or programs might be useful. As with all questions, if a youth feels uncomfortable giving this information, you can remind them that their answers are confidential, but do not pressure a youth to answer the question.

Questions 3 & 4: What are your initials? What is your date of birth?
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 that it will not be used to identify them. As with all questions, if a youth feels uncomfortable giving this information, you can remind them that their answers are confidential, but do not pressure a youth to answer the question.

Question 5: How old are you?
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 incentives and materials or resources available to them.

Question 6: Where did you stay last night?
Youth should select the answer that best describes where they stayed last night. If none of the given answers describe where they stayed, advise the youth to select 'other' and to describe where they stayed in the space provided.

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

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

Question 7: How long do you think you could stay there without being asked to leave?
If the youth is unsure how to answer this question, advise them to make their best guess or select 'I don't know'.

Question 8: How long have you been staying at the place where you stayed last night?
If youth are unsure of how to answer this question, ask them to make their best guess.

Question 9: Are you currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent?
Youth should select all that apply if they express feeling that one or more of the answers may be true.

Question 10: Why are you not currently living with your parent/guardian/foster parent?
Youth should select all that apply. You can explain here that we understand that often these experiences are complicated and that there may be a number of different reasons that are applicable.

Question 11: Are you currently enrolled in school?
If the youth is currently enrolled in school, they should select the 'yes' response that corresponds with the level of school in which they are currently enrolled, even if they are not frequently attending.

Question 12: What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed?
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 13: How would you describe your race/ethnicity?
If the youth identifies as having more than one race or ethnicity, advise them to select all that apply to them.

Question 14 & 15: How would you describe your gender identity? Which of the following best describes how you currently think about your sexual orientation?
Youth may be more sensitive to being asked these questions due to their personal nature, so it is good to explain why you are asking these questions and the importance of this information. Here is an example of what you could say:

"The next two questions ask about your gender identity and sexual orientation. We ask about these because some research has shown that LGBTQ youth are more likely to experience housing instability, and gathering information about LGBTQ youth can help us better meet their needs. May I ask about your gender identity and sexual orientation?"

If the youth expresses discomfort with these questions, you can advise them to select the 'prefer not to answer' option. As with all questions, youth are not required to answer.

Question 16: Are you pregnant?
If a youth expresses having a partner who is pregnant, advise them to select 'no' for this question and ask if there is a way we may be able to also survey their partner.

Question 17 & 17a: Do you have children? If yes, how many children?
If a youth expresses concern about child protective services, remind them that survey responses are confidential and individual question responses will not be shared with anyone, but youth should never be pressured to provide an answer with which they are uncomfortable providing.

Question 17b: Do any of your children live with you?
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 18 – 22: Have you ever served in the military? Been in foster care? Lived in a residential treatment program? Stayed in juvenile detention? Stayed in an adult jail or prison?
If a youth is unsure as to the answer to any of these questions, advise them to select 'no'.

Question 19a: What age did you leave foster care?
If a youth is unsure at what age they left foster care, ask them to make their best guess.

Question 23: How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months?
If a youth is unsure how many different places they have spent the night in the past two months, ask them to estimate or make their best guess.

Question 24: Where have you spent the night in the past 2 months?
Youth should <u>select all answers that describe where they have spent at least one night</u> in the past two months.

If a youth has stayed somewhere that is not one of the given options, advise 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 25: Which of the following services or programs have you tried to get help from in the past year?
Youth should <u>select all that apply</u>. If a youth is unsure if they sought or received help from a listed service or program, you can provide a brief, judgment-free description of the service or program. If the youth is still unsure, advise them to not select that response option.

Question 26: What prevented you from getting all the help you needed?
Youth should <u>select all that apply</u>, even if they were eventually able to receive the help sought. If they always received the help they needed without any difficulties or delays, then they should select the last option, 'I received all the help I needed'.

Question 27: What would be the most helpful for you right now?
Youth should <u>select all that apply</u>, even if the service or program is not currently available to them.

Question 28: In the last two months, where did you get money/income?
Youth should <u>select all that apply</u>; however, some youth may be uncomfortable selecting certain answer choices due to the personal nature of some of the options. If a youth expresses discomfort or concern, remind the youth that their survey answers are confidential and explain that this question helps us understand how we can better support youth in being able to get the resources they need, but do not pressure youth to answer the question.

Question 29: 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 [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]

Youth Count Readiness Assessment

A Guide for Local Continuums of Care to Begin Planning a Local Youth Count

The tools within this Readiness Assessment Guide are designed to help your local planning team identify key strategies and partnerships to help inform an action plan for implementation of your local Youth Count. Feel free to use some or all of the tools based on the needs of your planning team. If using multiple tools, it is recommended that they be completed in the order they are provided so that they can inform each other.

How to Use this Guide to Inform your Youth Count Planning[1]

1. Schedule an initial planning meeting (or meetings, as it may be helpful to complete one of the tools per meeting) with your local planning team, including all stakeholders and youth ambassadors currently involved. Before this meeting, make copies of the tools and tool instructions and bring to the meeting to share with the participants.

    a. Designate a group facilitator for the planning meeting who has good listening and group process skills who can keep things moving and on track.

    b. Designate a recorder for the planning meeting. This person should use a flip chart or a large board to record the analysis and discussion points.

2. At the planning meeting, the facilitator should open by explaining the purpose of the meeting as assessing readiness and begin planning for the Youth Count, and let all participants introduce themselves.

3. The team should **identify any key goals** they have for the Youth Count to frame the following discussions and add these to the **action plan template**. If your CoC has conducted a Youth Count previously, these goals should be informed by lessons learned from prior Youth Counts. For example, is there a specific population you want to focus on connecting with? Are you wanting to expand outreach efforts or improve a certain strategy?

4. The facilitator should introduce each readiness assessment tool and its purpose to the planning team. This can be as simple as asking,
    a. **SWOT**: "Where are we currently, and where can we grow?"
    b. **Partnership Mapping**: "Who can help us?"
    c. **Hexagon Tool**: "What strategies should we use?"

5. If your planning team is larger than ten, divide participants into smaller groups of three to ten to ensure everyone present is able to contribute. Make sure each group contains diverse representation to ensure a range of perspectives, and have each group designate a recorder to record their discussion and results.

6. Hand out and review the goal and instructions for the first tool. Then direct the group(s) to complete the tool. Give the group(s) 20-30 minutes to brainstorm. Encourage them not to rule out any ideas in the beginning.

7. Reconvene the group at the agreed-upon time to share results. Gather information from the groups, recording and organizing each group's ideas on the flip-chart or board. Once a list has been generated, the group should discuss the results and refine it to the best ten or fewer ideas in order to focus the discussion and planning. As part of this process, reflect back on the goals your team identified for this Youth Count and see where goals may need to be modified and which strategies best support these goals. Identify follow-up action steps and add these to the action plan template.

8. Repeat Steps 6 and 7 for the additional tools. *For the Hexagon Tool, brainstorm key strategies your team is considering making part of your Youth Count strategy prior to beginning the activity, and assign each group one potential strategy to examine.*

9. After the meeting, prepare a written summary of your analyses to share with participants and stakeholders for continued use in planning and implementation.

Youth Count Action Plan

Goal	Action Steps	Org/Person Responsible	Resources Required (staff, materials, etc.)	Start Date	Due Date

SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis helps you identify your Youth Count team's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. **SWOT helps your team develop a shared understanding of the current context of your team and community to assist with informed decision making as you plan your Youth Count, identifying the issues or problems you intend to change, setting or reaffirming goals, and creating a strategic action plan**.

A SWOT analysis will be more effective if you involve many stakeholders. Each person or group offers a different perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of your program and has different experiences of both. The best results come when the process is collaborative and inclusive.

STEP 1: List your internal factors: Strengths and Weaknesses
Internal factors include your resources and experiences across all of your currently invested stakeholders. General areas to consider:
- Human resources - staff, volunteers, board members, target population
- Physical resources - your location, building, equipment
- Financial - grants, funding agencies, other sources of income
- Activities and processes - programs you run, systems you employ
- Past experiences - building blocks for learning and success, your reputation in the community

Don't be too modest when listing your strengths. If you're having difficulty naming them, start by simply listing your characteristics (e.g., we're small, we're connected to the neighborhood). Some of these will probably be strengths.

Although the strengths and weakness of your organization are your internal qualities, don't overlook the perspective of people outside your group. Identify strengths and weaknesses from both your own point of view and that of others, including those you serve. Do others see problems--or assets--that you don't?

How do you get information about how outsiders perceive your strengths and weaknesses? You may know already if you've listened to those you serve. If not, this might be the time to gather that type of information, and a great opportunity to *engage your youth ambassadors* and ensure you are capturing their thoughts and perspective.

STEP 2: Listing external factors: Opportunities and Threats
Cast a wide net for the external part of the assessment. No organization, group, program, or neighborhood is immune to outside events and forces. Consider your connectedness, for better and worse, as you compile this part of your SWOT analysis.

Forces and facts that your group does not control include:
- Future trends in your field or the culture of your community
- The economy - local, state, or national
- Funding sources - foundations, donors, government grants
- Demographics - changes in the age, race, gender, culture of those you serve or in your area
- The physical environment (Is your building in a growing part of town? Is the bus company cutting routes?)
- Regulations and legislations
- Local, state, or national events

STEP 3: Analyzing and Utilizing your SWOT
Once you have listed your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, think about how they impact each other. As you consider your analysis, be open to the possibilities that exist within a weakness or threat. Brainstorm strategies for how you can use your strengths and overcome your weaknesses in order to take advantage of opportunities, and how to use your strengths to avoid threats and minimize weaknesses. From these strategies, think about next steps and areas where there is an opportunity to expand or explore new possibilities, and identify key resources, areas for growth and expansion. These can all contribute towards development of your action plan for the Youth Count.

SWOT ANALYSIS

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
	1.	1.
	2.	2.
	3.	3.
	4.	4.
OPPORTUNITIES 1. 2. 3. 4.	**Opportunity-Strength (OS) Strategies** *Use the strengths to take advantage of opportunities* 1. 2.	**Opportunity-Weakness (OW) Strategies** *Overcome weaknesses by taking advantage of opportunities* 1. 2.
THREATS 1. 2. 3. 4.	**Threat-Strength (TS) Strategies** *Use strengths to avoid threats* 1. 2.	**Threat-Weakness (TW) Strategies** *Minimize weaknesses and avoid threats* 1. 2.

Partnership Mapping

As you prepare for your Youth Count, your team should continually ask "what other stakeholders should be on this team?" **Stakeholders** are individuals and organizations which might affect or be affected by partnership activities. Partnership Mapping will help you brainstorm and analyze stakeholder roles as potential partners by assessing their assets, interest level, influence, and potential role. Using the table as a guide:

1. Brainstorm potential partners in each category identified in the table. When selecting partners, go beyond the traditional community to access 'unusual suspects' who can bring new and valuable contributions.

   Helpful Tools: If you need ideas, see the *2017 Youth Count CoC Partners* (in Appendix A), and the *Voices of Youth Count Potential Leadership Team and Stakeholder Team Members* (at http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Potential-Leadership-Team-and-Stakeholder-Team-Members.pdf)

2. Discuss reasons for inclusion. Think about which stakeholders might become partners because of their **assets**, such as relevant expertise, financing capability, strong relationships, crucial services, or organizational capacity.

3. Identify and rank the stakeholders' **interest**. This provides you with a framework for approaching them to create a partnership. Will it be difficult or easy to "sell" this stakeholder on working with your team?

4. Identify and rank the stakeholders' **influence** on other organizations, entities, key decision makers, and their constituents or clients. What is that stakeholder's capacity for raising awareness, providing services, or impacting local policy? Do they have an authoritative or collaborative influence on these players?

5. Remember, stakeholder **roles** and positions may change over time, especially as partnership activities become more concrete.

6. Identify incentives for entering a partnership with an organization as well as potential risks to overcome problems and help ensure partnership success.

Incentives for Including a New Partner Organization	Potential Risks for Including a New Partner Organization
• **Achieving objectives** • **Increased access to resources** • **Better access to information and risk management** • **Improved operational efficiency** • **Organizational innovation**	• **Reputational damage and loss of credibility** • **High transaction cost** • **Diversion of resources from priority issues** • **Loss of autonomy** • **Conflicts of interest**

Once new potential partners are identified, do your due diligence to assess the effectiveness of partnerships with individuals and organizations. For example, is the partner financially viable and do they have the relevant contacts and information? Much of the information you need should be in the public domain but you may have to draw on your own network to fill in any gaps in knowledge. Consider the following questions before you commit to a partnership (in confidence with regard to sensitive information):

- Respect within their own sector/field
- Wide-ranging and useful contacts
- Access to relevant information/resources/experience
- Relevant skills and competencies
- Sound management and governance structure
- Financial stability and reliability
- Professional staff team
- Other

Partnership Mapping

Stakeholder groups	Organization name(s)	Reasons for inclusion – what do they bring to the table?	Interest (1 = low, 5 = high)	Influence (1 = low, 5 = high)	Potential role
Youth and youth-specific organizations					
Direct service organizations (including orgs. focused on specific populations, e.g. LGBTQ or refugee youth)					
Government					
Coalitions					
Community Centers and Libraries					
Faith-based Organizations					
Legal services					
Advocacy organizations					
Hospitals and Emergency Service Providers					
Businesses					

Hexagon Tool

(Adapted from the National Implementation Research Network[3])

The Hexagon Tool helps teams systematically evaluate new and existing interventions via six broad factors:

- **Needs** of individuals; how well the program or practice might meet identified needs.
- **Fit** with current initiatives, priorities, structures and supports, and parent/community values.
- **Resource Availability** for training, staffing, technology supports, data systems and administration.
- **Evidence** indicating the outcomes that might be expected if the program or practices are implemented well.
- **Readiness for Replication** of the program, including expert assistance available, number of replications accomplished, exemplars available for observation, and how well the program is operationalized
- **Capacity to Implement** as intended and to sustain and improve implementation overtime.

The Hexagon Tool is a thorough exploration process focused on a proposed strategy that will help your Implementation Team have a productive discussion related to the six key factors, and to arrive at a decision to move forward (or not) grounded in solid information from multiple sources. That information will assist you in communicating with stakeholders and in developing an Implementation Plan for your Youth Count.

There are a number of discussion prompts listed under each area of the hexagon. These prompts are not exhaustive, and you may decide that additional prompts need to be added. The prompts direct you to relevant dimensions that your team may want to discuss before rating the factor.

For example, under the area labeled *Fit*, you are reminded to consider:

- How the proposed intervention or framework 'fits' with other existing initiatives and whether implementation and outcomes are likely to be enhanced or diminished as a result of interactions with other relevant interventions
- How does it fit with the priorities of your state, community, or agency?
- How does it fit with current state, community, or regional organizational structures?
- How does it fit with community values, including the values of diverse cultural groups?

Recommendations for Using the Hexagon Tool

1. The team will discuss information related to the six factors of the Hexagon Tool for the possible Youth Count strategy identified.

2. Following discussion, group members should individually rate each area on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 indicates a low level of acceptability or feasibility, 3 a moderate level and 5 indicates a high level for the factor. Midpoints can be used and scored as 2 or 4.

3. Average scores for each area across individuals and arrive at an overall average score for each of the six factors, with a higher score indicating more favorable conditions for implementation and impact. However, cut-off scores should not be used to make the decision.

4. The scoring process is primarily designed to generate discussion and to help arrive at consensus for each factor as well as overall consensus related to moving forward or not. **The numbers do not make the decision, the team does**. Team discussions and consensus decision-making are required because different factors may be more or less important for a given program or practice and the context in which it is to be implemented. There also will be trade-offs among the factors. For example, a program or practice may have been used effectively by several CoCs (Evidence), but that ongoing costs or staffing (Resource Availability) may be a concern for effective implementation. The team should discuss these trade-offs and how they affect the overall feasibility of the strategy.

5. We recommend that after reviewing information related to each factor, individually scoring each factor, summarizing ratings, and discussing the strengths and challenges related to each factor of the proposed intervention, that the team members decide on a process for arriving at consensus (for instance, private voting or round-robin opinions followed by public voting) as to whether to include the identified strategy as part of the Youth Count.

The Hexagon Tool
Exploring Context

The Hexagon Tool can be used as a planning tool to evaluate evidence-based programs and practices during the Exploration Stage of Implementation.

See the Active Implementation Hub Resource Library
http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu

Need in agency, community, state
- Health, human service & socially significant issues
- Parent & community perceptions of need
- Data indicating need

Fit with current Initiatives
- Agency, community, state priorities
- Organizational structures
- Community values

Resources and supports for:
- Practice Setting
- Technology supports (IT dept.)
- Staffing
- Training
- Data Systems
- Coaching & Supervision
- Administration & system

Evidence
- Outcomes – Is it worth it?
- Fidelity data
- Cost – effectiveness data
- Number of studies
- Population similarities
- Diverse cultural groups
- Efficacy or Effectiveness

Capacity to Implement
- Staff meet minimum qualifications
- Sustainability
  - Staff Competencies
  - Organization
  - Leadership
  - Financial
- Buy-in process operationalized
  - Practitioners
  - Families

Readiness for Replication
- Qualified purveyor
- Expert or TA available
- Mature sites to observe
- Several replications
- Operational definitions of essential functions
- Implementation components operationalized:
  - Staff Competency
  - Org. Support
  - Leadership

NEED · FIT · RESOURCES · EVIDENCE · READINESS · CAPACITY

EBP:

5 Point Rating Scale:
High = 5; Medium = 3; Low = 1.
Midpoints can be used and scored as a 2 or 4.

	High	Med	Low
Need			
Fit			
Resource Availability			
Evidence			
Readiness for Replication			
Capacity to Implement			
Total Score			
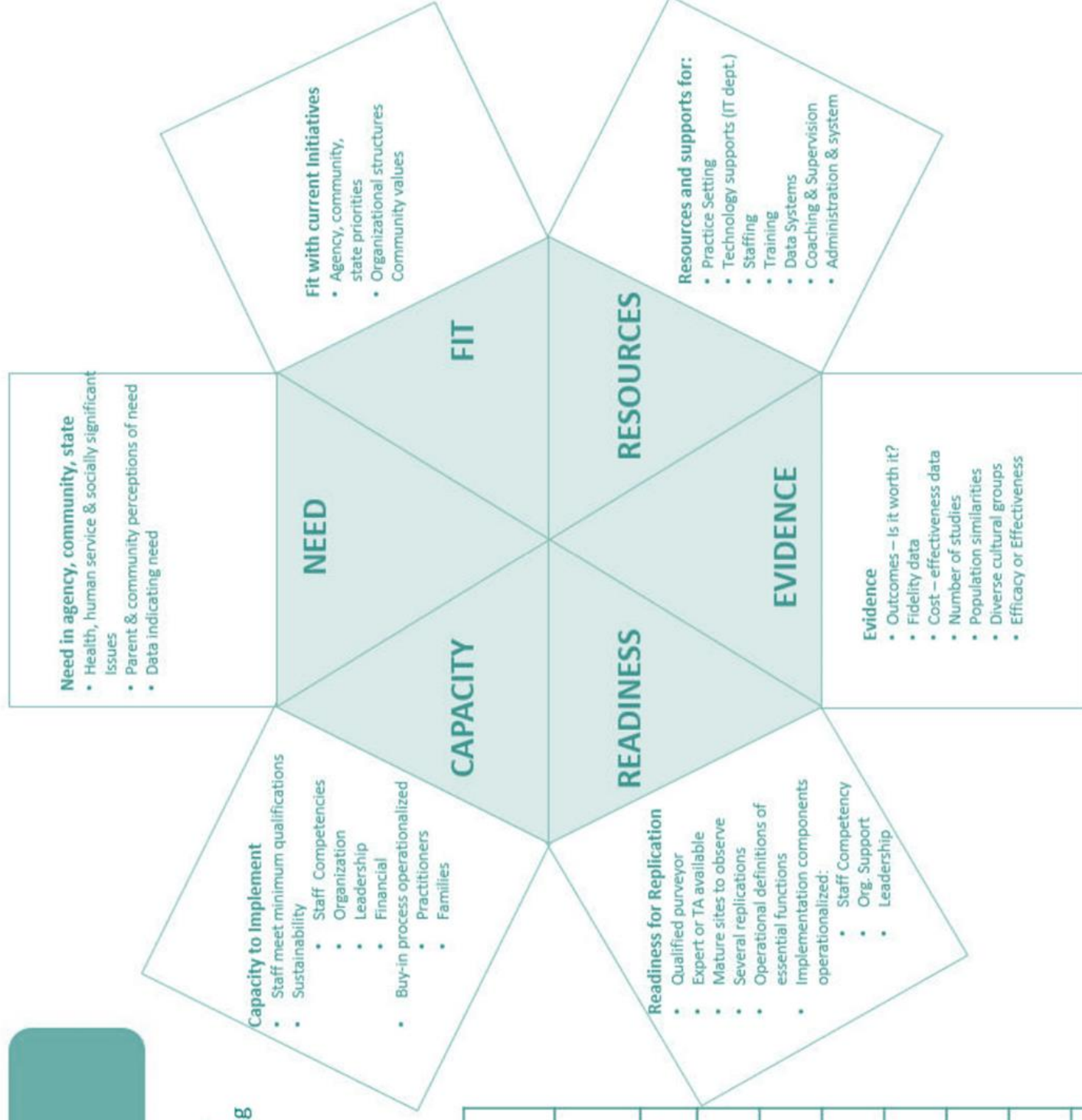
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[2] Global Green Growth Forum (3GF). (n.d.). *Partner Mapping.* Copenhagen, Denmark: Global Green Growth Secretariat, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Retrieved from http://3gf.dk/en/publications/

[3] Blase, K., Kiser, L., and Van Dyke, M. (2013). *The Hexagon Tool: Exploring Context*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: National Implementation Research Network, FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Retrieved from http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/sites/implementation.fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/NIRN-Education-TheHexagonTool.pdf

Appendix D: 2018 Youth Count CoC Partners

This list includes all organizations identified by Continuums of Care (CoCs) as partners in their implementation of the 2018 Youth Count. Partners are organized by category and then by CoC. Categories are ordered by popularity (the number of CoCs that pursued partnerships in this area).

Direct Services Partners

9/11 of CoCs partnered with organizations providing direct services, including job readiness/workforce development, mental health services, behavioral health services, crisis centers, meal centers, food pantries, clothing, and more.

Anne Arundel County
- Blessed in Tech Ministries

Baltimore City
- Youth Empowered Society (YES)
- Health Care for the Homeless
- Joy Baltimore
- Star Track
- YO! Baltimore East Side
- Our Daily Bread

Baltimore County
- Prologue, Inc., Homeless Outreach Team
- Emergency assistance centers
- Methadone clinics/treatment centers

Carroll County
- Carroll County Business & Resource Center
- Carroll County Youth Services Bureau
- Boys' & Girls' Club of Westminster
- Together We Own It
- Get Connected Project

Frederick County
- Seton Center
- Mental Health Association of Frederick County
- St. Vincent de Paul/Catholic Charities
- SHIP of Frederick County

Mid-Shore Counties
- Targeted case management providers

Montgomery County
- National Center for Children and Families
- Community Ministries of Rockville, Inc
- Cornerstone Montgomery
- EveryMind.
- Family Services, Inc.

Prince George's County
- Maryland Multicultural Youth Center
- Teen Challenge DC
- Adam's House
- Community Outreach & Development CDC
- Greenbelt Cares Youth Service Bureau
- Local Strength
- Mission of Love Charities, Inc.
- QCI Behavioral Health

Southern Maryland Counties
- Youth Service Bureau

Washington County
- Goodwill
- Potomac Case Management
- Office of Consumer Advocates

Homelessness Services Providers

8/11 of CoCs partnered with organizations providing day shelter, overnight shelter, emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing.

Baltimore City
- Weinberg Housing and Resource Center
- Loving Arms
- The Baltimore Station
- Hearts and Homes for Youth

Baltimore County
- Community Assistance Network
- Eastside Family Shelter
- Eastside Men's Shelter
- Eastside Transitional Shelter
- Westside Men's Shelter
- Family Crisis Center
- Hannah More Shelter
- INNterim House
- Night of Peace
- Turnaround, Inc.
- Streets of Hope

Carroll County
- Human Services Program of Carroll County

Frederick County
- Frederick Community Action Agency
- The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs
- Frederick Rescue Mission

Howard County
- Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

Lower Shore Counties
- Local shelters

Midshore Counties
- Local shelters
- Rapid rehousing providers
- Homeless prevention providers

Montgomery County
- Bethesda Cares
- Rainbow Place
- Stepping Stones Shelter
- Dorothy Day Place
- The Dwelling Place
- House of Divine Guidance
- Interfaith Works
- Shepherd's Table

Prince George's County
- Family Emergency Shelter
- Jobs Have Priority Inc.
- PG Plaza Day Center
- Sasha Bruce
- St. Ann's Center for Child, Youth & Families
- United Communities Against Poverty Inc.

Southern Maryland Counties
- Local shelters

Government

8/11 of CoCs partnered with government entities, including homelessness-specific programs, social services, human services, youth/juvenile services, health departments, local management boards, boards of education, parks and recreation, housing, and police departments.

Anne Arundel County
- Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services Homeless Outreach Team
- Partnership for Children, Youth & Families*

Baltimore County
- Baltimore County Department of Planning
- Baltimore County Department of Social Services – Foster Care Unit, Coordinated Entry Unit
- Baltimore County Detention Center
- Baltimore County Local Management Board
- Baltimore County Police Department

Carroll County
- Carroll County Health Department
- Carroll County Sheriff's Department
- Carroll County Department of Citizen Services

Howard County
- Local Management Board
- Office of Workforce Development

Lower Shore Counties
- Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Boards of Education – Homelessness Liaisons
- Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Local Management Boards

Mid-Shore Counties
- Local Management Boards
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Juvenile Services

Montgomery County
- City of Gaithersburg
- Montgomery County Income Maintenance Department
- Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Pre-Release center

Prince George's County
- City of Bowie
- Prince George's Department of Social Services – TNI@School
- Prince George's Health Department
- Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
- Maryland/National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- Prince George's Health Department Youth Wellness Centers

Washington County
- Washington County Department of Social Services

Public Schools

8/11 of CoCs partnered with local public schools or community schools.

- Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Baltimore County Public Schools
- Carroll County Public Schools
- Frederick County Public Schools
- Lower Shore local school districts
- Mid-Shore local school districts
- Prince George's County Public Schools
- Washington County Public Schools

Libraries

6/11 of CoCs partnered with local libraries.

- Baltimore County Public Libraries
- Carroll County Public Library
- Montgomery County Public Libraries
- Prince George's County Memorial Library System
- Southern Maryland public libraries
- Washington County Public Libraries

Community Coalitions

5/11 of CoCs partnered with local coalitions.

Baltimore County
- Baltimore County Communities for the Homeless

Mid-Shore Counties
- The Mid-Shore Roundtable on Homelessness

Montgomery County
- Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Prince George's County
- Prince George's County LGBT Youth Task Group**
- Maryland Coalition of Families**

Washington County
- Washington County Community Action Council

Places of Worship/Ministry

4/11 of CoCs partnered with religious institutions.

Anne Arundel County
- i5 City Church

Baltimore County
- Patapsco United Methodist Church
- Boulevard Christian Church
- St. Stephen Church

- Mt. Calvary AME Church
- Govans Presbyterian Church

Montgomery County
- Mount Calvary Baptist Church

Prince George's County
- Gethsemane United Methodist Church

Higher Education

3/11 of CoCs partnered with colleges or universities.

Baltimore County
- Community College of Baltimore County

Carroll County
- McDaniel College

Prince George's County
- Prince George's County Community College

Legal Services or Advocacy Organizations

2/11 of CoCs partnered with organizations providing legal services.

Baltimore City
- Homeless Person's Representation Project (HPRP)

Prince George's County
- Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services

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, 84 of the 276 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =84)		
17 and Under	12	14%
18 to 24 Years Old	72	86%
Race/Ethnicity (n=84)		
African American	37	44%
White	22	26%
Hispanic	8	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	16	19%
Other	1	1%
Gender (n=84)		
Female	41	49%
Male	43	51%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=83)		
Straight	78	94%
Gay or Lesbian	0	0%
Bi(Pan)sexual	3	4%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	2%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 84)	30	36%
Number of Children (n = 30)		
One	20	67%
2 - 3	10	33%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 41)	1	2%
Live with Children (n = 30)	27	90%
Military Experience (n = 83)	1	1%
Foster Care Experience (n = 81)	14	17%
Age left foster care (n = 12)		
0-5	1	8%
6-10	1	8%
11-15	1	8%
16-18	9	75%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 80)	11	14%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 83)	15	18%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 83)	23	28%

YouthReach MD: Education	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =83)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	4	5%
9-11th Grade	37	45%
High School	34	41%
GED	4	5%
Some College	2	2%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	2	2%
Currently in School (n =83)	22	27%
Middle School	3	4%
High School	18	22%
GED Program	0	0%
Vocational Training	1	1%
College	0	0%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=84)		How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 84)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	2	2%	5	6%
Staying with foster parents	1	1%	0	0%
At my own apartment	3	4%	5	6%
Staying with other family	18	21%	25	30%
Staying with friend	36	43%	48	57%
Staying with stranger	1	1%	6	7%
At a shelter/motel	10	12%	14	17%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	1	1%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	8	10%	19	23%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	8	10%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	2	2%
In a jail or juvenile detention	4	5%	3	4%
In a college dorm	0	0%	0	0%
Other	1	1%	1	1%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=83)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	8	10%		
For the next week or two	12	14%		
For the next month	6	7%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	24	29%		
I have already left	1	1%		
I don't know	32	39%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=83)				
1-6 days	7	8%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	5	6%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	26	31%		
1-6 months	34	41%		
More than 6 months	11	13%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 84)				
2-3 places	24	29%		
4-6 places	18	21%		
7 or more	6	7%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	36	43%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=84)		
No, I chose to leave	22	26%
No, I was asked to leave	35	42%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	26	31%
Yes, I am living with my parent	4	5%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 84)		
Fighting	38	45%
Wanted to leave	15	18%
My use of drugs/alcohol	15	18%
Told to leave after 18	8	10%
Did not feel safe	6	7%
Abuse	7	8%
Not enough room	7	8%
Told to leave before 18	5	6%
Parents homelessness	13	15%
Parents drug or alcohol use	4	5%
Release from jail and could not return	6	7%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Parents sick/died	8	10%
Left foster care and could not return	1	1%
Youth pregnancy or children	18	21%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	3	4%
Parents unable to provide care	4	5%
Other reason	6	7%
I am currently living with parent	3	4%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=84)		
Full time job	11	13%
Part time job	25	30%
Under the table work	6	7%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	5	6%
Social Security Income	12	14%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	6	7%
Selling Drugs	1	1%
Sex work	5	6%
Panhandling	3	4%
Child support	7	8%
Family and friends	18	21%
Other	2	2%
No income	19	23%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=84)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	34	40%
Short-term housing	4	5%
Shelters	13	15%
Health care services	14	17%
Mental health services	11	13%
Job training	15	18%
Long-term housing	27	32%
Educational support	0	0%
Government cash assistance	10	12%
Food banks or free meals	9	11%
Family support	0	0%
Substance use treatment	1	1%
Child care	3	4%
Police officers	1	1%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	1	1%
Transportation assistance	3	4%
Legal help	16	19%
Other	3	4%
I have not tried to get help	11	13%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 84)		
Transportation	19	23%
Wrong door	1	1%
Said they could not help	7	8%
Language barrier	2	2%
Waiting list	33	39%
Paperwork	11	13%
Lack Documents	8	10%
Didn't hear back	12	14%
Didn't know where to go	5	6%
Didn't qualify	6	7%
Didn't feel comfortable	3	4%
Didn't follow through	11	13%
Didn't like how I was treated	1	1%
Other	2	2%
I received all the help I needed	26	31%
Most helpful services (n=84)		
Short-term housing	7	8%
Long-term housing	46	55%
Educational support	4	5%
Job training	18	21%
Health care services	4	5%
Family support	5	6%
Child care	9	11%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	9	11%
Government cash assistance	6	7%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Mental health services	7	8%
Substance use treatment	2	2%
Transportation assistance	11	13%
Legal help	9	11%
Other	8	10%

Baltimore City

In Baltimore City, 281 of the 337 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =281)		
17 and Under	34	12%
18 to 24 Years Old	247	88%
Race/Ethnicity (n=278)		
African American	203	73%
White	40	14%
Hispanic	4	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	3	1%
Multiracial	21	8%
Other	7	3%
Gender (n=279)		
Female	111	40%
Male	154	55%
Transgender (F to M)	3	1%
Transgender (M to F)	9	3%
Other	1	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=277)		
Straight	195	70%
Gay or Lesbian	45	16%
Bi(Pan)sexual	31	11%
Other	3	1%
Prefer Not to Answer	3	1%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 277)	90	32%
Number of Children (n = 88)		
One	50	57%
2 - 3	33	38%
4 or more	5	6%
Currently Pregnant (n = 112)	12	11%
Live with Children (n = 90)	24	27%
Military Experience (n = 275)	2	1%
Foster Care Experience (n = 277)	70	25%
Age left foster care (n = 64)		
0-5	8	13%
6-10	10	16%
11-15	13	20%
16-18	19	30%
Over 18	14	22%
Lived in group home (n = 268)	87	32%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 279)	93	33%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 272)	106	39%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =278)		
No Education	4	1%
8th Grade or Less	14	5%
9-11th Grade	117	42%
High School	82	29%
GED	37	13%
Some College	21	8%
College Degree	2	1%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	1	0%
Currently in School (n =276)	81	29%
Middle School	1	0%
High School	24	9%
GED Program	37	13%
Vocational Training	5	2%
College	11	4%
Other	3	1%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=281)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 281)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	9	3%	34	12%
Staying with foster parents	2	1%	0	0%
At my own apartment	2	1%	3	1%
Staying with other family	21	7%	49	17%
Staying with friend	83	30%	139	49%
Staying with stranger	21	7%	73	26%
At a shelter/motel	55	20%	103	37%
In a transitional housing program	28	10%	25	9%
In a group home	2	1%	5	2%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	25	9%	71	25%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	20	7%	62	22%
In a treatment or medical facility	5	2%	14	5%
In a jail or juvenile detention	3	1%	29	10%
In a college dorm	1	0%	4	1%
Other	4	1%	2	1%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=281)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	19	7%		
For the next week or two	56	20%		
For the next month	21	7%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	45	16%		
I have already left	52	19%		
I don't know	88	31%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=278)				
1-6 days	114	41%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	38	14%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	42	15%		
1-6 months	55	20%		
More than 6 months	29	10%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 277)				
2-3 places	156	56%		
4-6 places	47	17%		
7 or more	28	10%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	46	17%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=281)		
No, I chose to leave	110	39%
No, I was asked to leave	109	39%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	73	26%
Yes, I am living with my parent	3	1%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 281)		
Fighting	95	34%
Wanted to leave	80	28%
My use of drugs/alcohol	59	21%
Told to leave after 18	29	10%
Did not feel safe	27	10%
Abuse	32	11%
Not enough room	29	10%
Told to leave before 18	11	4%
Parents homelessness	12	4%
Parents drug or alcohol use	16	6%
Release from jail and could not return	10	4%
Youth sexual orientation	42	15%
Parents sick/died	18	6%
Left foster care and could not return	13	5%
Youth pregnancy or children	6	2%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	7	2%
Other reason	8	3%
I am currently living with parent	5	2%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=281)		
Full time job	15	5%
Part time job	61	22%
Under the table work	45	16%
Self-employment	26	9%
Cash assistance	18	6%
Social Security Income	10	4%
Unemployment benefits	2	1%
SNAP	74	26%
Selling Drugs	76	27%
Sex work	41	15%
Panhandling	71	25%
Child support	2	1%
Family and friends	79	28%
Other	9	3%
No income	31	11%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=281)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	191	68%
Short-term housing	49	17%
Shelters	74	26%
Health care services	60	21%
Mental health services	64	23%
Job training	65	23%
Long-term housing	76	27%
Educational support	43	15%
Government cash assistance	46	16%
Food banks or free meals	67	24%
Family support	24	9%
Substance use treatment	28	10%
Child care	23	8%
Police officers	3	1%
Drop-in or Teen Center	41	15%
LGBTQ support services	32	11%
Transportation assistance	51	18%
Legal help	26	9%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	43	15%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 281)		
Transportation	149	53%
Wrong door	40	14%
Said they could not help	39	14%
Language barrier	3	1%
Waiting list	66	23%
Paperwork	15	5%
Lack Documents	74	26%
Didn't hear back	52	19%
Didn't know where to go	60	21%
Didn't qualify	53	19%
Didn't feel comfortable	33	12%
Didn't follow through	44	16%
Didn't like how I was treated	26	9%
Other	11	4%
I received all the help I needed	32	11%
Most helpful services (n=281)		
Short-term housing	53	19%
Long-term housing	214	76%
Educational support	68	24%
Job training	117	42%
Health care services	78	28%
Family support	39	14%
Child care	27	10%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	131	47%
Government cash assistance	46	16%
LGBTQ support services	41	15%
Mental health services	59	21%
Substance use treatment	41	15%
Transportation assistance	95	34%
Legal help	34	12%
Other	2	1%

Baltimore County

In Baltimore County, 87 of the 256 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =87)		
17 and Under	21	24%
18 to 24 Years Old	66	76%
Race/Ethnicity (n=78)		
African American	40	51%
White	18	23%
Hispanic	10	13%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	4%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	7	9%
Other	0	0%
Gender (n=78)		
Female	32	41%
Male	42	54%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	1	1%
Other	1	1%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	3%
Sexual Orientation (n=75)		
Straight	59	79%
Gay or Lesbian	2	3%
Bi(Pan)sexual	7	9%
Other	2	3%
Prefer Not to Answer	5	7%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 75)	20	27%
Number of Children (n = 20)		
One	11	55%
2 - 3	9	45%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 32)	1	3%
Live with Children (n = 20)	14	70%
Military Experience (n = 76)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 75)	21	28%
Age left foster care (n = 17)		
0-5	0	0%
6-10	5	29%
11-15	3	18%
16-18	4	24%
Over 18	5	29%
Lived in group home (n = 75)	16	21%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 74)	14	19%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 75)	15	20%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =74)		
No Education	2	3%
8th Grade or Less	4	5%
9-11th Grade	32	43%
High School	24	32%
GED	7	9%
Some College	5	7%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training		
Currently in School (n =74)	35	47%
Middle School	2	3%
High School	22	30%
GED Program	3	4%
Vocational Training	1	1%
College	6	8%
Other	1	1%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=86)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 87)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	6	7%	15	17%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
At my own apartment	1	1%	4	5%
Staying with other family	14	16%	18	21%
Staying with friend	26	30%	39	45%
Staying with stranger	1	1%	5	6%
At a shelter/motel	22	26%	20	23%
In a transitional housing program	2	2%	3	3%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	7	8%	14	16%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	4	5%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	3	3%
In a jail or juvenile detention	7	8%	6	7%
In a college dorm	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=86)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	10	12%		
For the next week or two	7	8%		
For the next month	6	7%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	23	27%		
I have already left	1	1%		
I don't know	39	45%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=77)				
1-6 days	9	12%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	6	8%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	10	13%		
1-6 months	38	49%		
More than 6 months	14	18%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 78)				
2-3 places	34	44%		
4-6 places	12	15%		
7 or more	1	1%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	31	40%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=87)		
No, I chose to leave	31	36%
No, I was asked to leave	18	21%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	30	34%
Yes, I am living with my parent	1	1%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 87)		
Fighting	27	31%
Wanted to leave	25	29%
My use of drugs/alcohol	7	8%
Told to leave after 18	3	3%
Did not feel safe	11	13%
Abuse	12	14%
Not enough room	8	9%
Told to leave before 18	3	3%
Parents homelessness	9	10%
Parents drug or alcohol use	5	6%
Release from jail and could not return	3	3%
Youth sexual orientation	1	1%
Parents sick/died	2	2%
Left foster care and could not return	4	5%
Youth pregnancy or children	5	6%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	6	7%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	6	7%
Other reason	5	6%
I am currently living with parent	1	1%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=87)		
Full time job	12	14%
Part time job	21	24%
Under the table work	5	6%
Self-employment	2	2%
Cash assistance	6	7%
Social Security Income	7	8%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	15	17%
Selling Drugs	2	2%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	5	6%
Child support	2	2%
Family and friends	32	37%
Other	0	0%
No income	12	14%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=87)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	36	41%
Short-term housing	8	9%
Shelters	20	23%
Health care services	15	17%
Mental health services	24	28%
Job training	17	20%
Long-term housing	11	13%
Educational support	12	14%
Government cash assistance	13	15%
Food banks or free meals	17	20%
Family support	8	9%
Substance use treatment	4	5%
Child care	10	11%
Police officers	2	2%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	2	2%
Transportation assistance	14	16%
Legal help	12	14%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	14	16%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 87)		
Transportation	22	25%
Wrong door	9	10%
Said they could not help	12	14%
Language barrier	2	2%
Waiting list	20	23%
Paperwork	2	2%
Lack Documents	12	14%
Didn't hear back	10	11%
Didn't know where to go	12	14%
Didn't qualify	9	10%
Didn't feel comfortable	4	5%
Didn't follow through	9	10%
Didn't like how I was treated	3	3%
Other	5	6%
I received all the help I needed	20	23%
Most helpful services (n=87)		
Short-term housing	9	10%
Long-term housing	36	41%
Educational support	24	28%
Job training	28	32%
Health care services	14	16%
Family support	11	13%
Child care	11	13%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	26	30%
Government cash assistance	19	22%
LGBTQ support services	3	3%
Mental health services	16	18%
Substance use treatment	4	5%
Transportation assistance	20	23%
Legal help	10	11%
Other	4	5%

Carroll County

In Carroll County, 18 of the 24 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =18)		
17 and Under	0	0%
18 to 24 Years Old	18	100%
Race/Ethnicity (n=18)		
African American	2	11%
White	11	61%
Hispanic	1	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	4	22%
Other	0	0%
Gender (n=18)		
Female	8	44%
Male	8	44%
Transgender (F to M)	1	6%
Transgender (M to F)	1	6%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=18)		
Straight	12	67%
Gay or Lesbian	3	17%
Bi(Pan)sexual	2	11%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	6%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 18)	3	17%
Number of Children (n = 3)		
One	1	33%
2 - 3	2	67%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 9)	2	22%
Live with Children (n = 3)	1	33%
Military Experience (n = 18)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 18)	4	22%
Age left foster care (n = 4)		
0-5	1	25%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	1	25%
16-18	1	25%
Over 18	1	25%
Lived in group home (n = 18)	7	39%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 18)	3	17%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 18)	6	33%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =18)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	4	22%
High School	8	44%
GED	1	6%
Some College	5	28%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =18)	7	39%
Middle School	0	0%
High School	2	11%
GED Program	0	0%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	5	28%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=18)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 18)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	2	11%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
At my own apartment	0	0%	1	6%
Staying with other family	1	6%	3	17%
Staying with friend	4	22%	9	50%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	1	6%
At a shelter/motel	9	50%	8	44%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	0	0%	2	11%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	0	0%
In a college dorm	4	22%	5	28%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=18)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	3	17%		
For the next week or two	1	6%		
For the next month	4	22%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	6	33%		
I have already left	0	0%		
I don't know	4	22%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=18)				
1-6 days	5	28%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	0	0%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	3	17%		
1-6 months	8	44%		
More than 6 months	2	11%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 18)				
2-3 places	9	50%		
4-6 places	2	11%		
7 or more	2	11%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	5	28%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=18)		
No, I chose to leave	6	33%
No, I was asked to leave	6	33%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	7	39%
Yes, I am living with my parent	0	0%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 18)		
Fighting	10	56%
Wanted to leave	8	44%
My use of drugs/alcohol	2	11%
Told to leave after 18	3	17%
Did not feel safe	4	22%
Abuse	5	28%
Not enough room	5	28%
Told to leave before 18	1	6%
Parents homelessness	3	17%
Parents drug or alcohol use	2	11%
Release from jail and could not return	1	6%
Youth sexual orientation	1	6%
Parents sick/died	0	0%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	1	6%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	0	0%
Other reason	1	6%
I am currently living with parent	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=18)		
Full time job	3	17%
Part time job	5	28%
Under the table work	2	11%
Self-employment	1	6%
Cash assistance	2	11%
Social Security Income	1	6%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	5	28%
Selling Drugs	0	0%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	2	11%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	8	44%
Other	1	6%
No income	2	11%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=18)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	12	67%
Short-term housing	1	6%
Shelters	9	50%
Health care services	6	33%
Mental health services	7	39%
Job training	5	28%
Long-term housing	2	11%
Educational support	1	6%
Government cash assistance	1	6%
Food banks or free meals	7	39%
Family support	0	0%
Substance use treatment	3	17%
Child care	1	6%
Police officers	0	0%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	1	6%
Transportation assistance	3	17%
Legal help	2	11%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	1	6%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 18)		
Transportation	11	61%
Wrong door	2	11%
Said they could not help	2	11%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	6	33%
Paperwork	1	6%
Lack Documents	1	6%
Didn't hear back	3	17%
Didn't know where to go	4	22%
Didn't qualify	4	22%
Didn't feel comfortable	1	6%
Didn't follow through	2	11%
Didn't like how I was treated	2	11%
Other	0	0%
I received all the help I needed	3	17%
Most helpful services (n=18)		
Short-term housing	2	11%
Long-term housing	9	50%
Educational support	2	11%
Job training	5	28%
Health care services	9	50%
Family support	0	0%
Child care	0	0%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	5	28%
Government cash assistance	3	17%
LGBTQ support services	2	11%
Mental health services	4	22%
Substance use treatment	1	6%
Transportation assistance	7	39%
Legal help	0	0%
Other	0	0%

Frederick County

In Frederick County, 48 of the 72 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =48)		
17 and Under	3	6%
18 to 24 Years Old	45	94%
Race/Ethnicity (n=48)		
African American	14	29%
White	23	48%
Hispanic	5	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	4%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	3	6%
Other	1	2%
Gender (n=48)		
Female	15	31%
Male	32	67%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	2%
Sexual Orientation (n=48)		
Straight	38	79%
Gay or Lesbian	2	4%
Bi(Pan)sexual	7	15%
Other	1	2%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 45)	10	22%
Number of Children (n = 10)		
One	8	80%
2 - 3	2	20%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 15)	1	7%
Live with Children (n = 10)	5	50%
Military Experience (n = 45)	2	4%
Foster Care Experience (n = 45)	8	18%
Age left foster care (n = 7)		
0-5	0	0%
6-10	3	43%
11-15	2	29%
16-18	2	29%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 43)	8	19%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 46)	15	33%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 45)	19	42%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =48)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	18	38%
High School	23	48%
GED	3	6%
Some College	4	8%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =48)	12	25%
Middle School	0	0%
High School	8	17%
GED Program	1	2%
Vocational Training	1	2%
College	2	4%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=48)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 48)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	5	10%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
At my own apartment	3	6%	6	13%
Staying with other family	8	17%	12	25%
Staying with friend	9	19%	24	50%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	1	2%
At a shelter/motel	15	31%	25	52%
In a transitional housing program	2	4%	2	4%
In a group home	2	4%	2	4%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	6	13%	9	19%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	2	4%	5	10%
In a treatment or medical facility	1	2%	1	2%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	2	4%
In a college dorm	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=48)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	5	10%		
For the next week or two	7	15%		
For the next month	6	13%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	11	23%		
I have already left	2	4%		
I don't know	17	35%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=48)				
1-6 days	13	27%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	2	4%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	9	19%		
1-6 months	14	29%		
More than 6 months	10	21%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 48)				
2-3 places	24	50%		
4-6 places	4	8%		
7 or more	2	4%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	18	38%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=48)		
No, I chose to leave	19	40%
No, I was asked to leave	15	31%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	16	33%
Yes, I am living with my parent	1	2%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 48)		
Fighting	17	35%
Wanted to leave	21	44%
My use of drugs/alcohol	8	17%
Told to leave after 18	5	10%
Did not feel safe	2	4%
Abuse	4	8%
Not enough room	6	13%
Told to leave before 18	2	4%
Parents homelessness	7	15%
Parents drug or alcohol use	5	10%
Release from jail and could not return	2	4%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Parents sick/died	4	8%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	2	4%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	5	10%
Other reason	5	10%
I am currently living with parent	1	2%

YouthReach MD: Income	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=48)		
Full time job	10	21%
Part time job	17	35%
Under the table work	10	21%
Self-employment	1	2%
Cash assistance	2	4%
Social Security Income	1	2%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	7	15%
Selling Drugs	5	10%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	7	15%
Child support	1	2%
Family and friends	9	19%
Other	1	2%
No income	2	4%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=48)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	28	58%
Short-term housing	8	17%
Shelters	17	35%
Health care services	10	21%
Mental health services	13	27%
Job training	14	29%
Long-term housing	7	15%
Educational support	5	10%
Government cash assistance	3	6%
Food banks or free meals	22	46%
Family support	2	4%
Substance use treatment	6	13%
Child care	4	8%
Police officers	4	8%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Transportation assistance	6	13%
Legal help	4	8%
Other	1	2%
I have not tried to get help	5	10%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 48)		
Transportation	13	27%
Wrong door	3	6%
Said they could not help	5	10%
Language barrier	2	4%
Waiting list	10	21%
Paperwork	4	8%
Lack Documents	10	21%
Didn't hear back	3	6%
Didn't know where to go	14	29%
Didn't qualify	7	15%
Didn't feel comfortable	4	8%
Didn't follow through	11	23%
Didn't like how I was treated	3	6%
Other	6	13%
I received all the help I needed	6	13%
Most helpful services (n=48)		
Short-term housing	5	10%
Long-term housing	29	60%
Educational support	13	27%
Job training	12	25%
Health care services	8	17%
Family support	5	10%
Child care	5	10%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	20	42%
Government cash assistance	8	17%
LGBTQ support services	1	2%
Mental health services	8	17%
Substance use treatment	3	6%
Transportation assistance	12	25%
Legal help	2	4%
Other	3	6%

Howard County

In Howard County, 28 of the 58 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =28)		
17 and Under	4	14%
18 to 24 Years Old	24	86%
Race/Ethnicity (n=28)		
African American	8	29%
White	8	29%
Hispanic	6	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	4%
Native American	1	4%
Multiracial	4	14%
Other	0	0%
Gender (n=28)		
Female	5	18%
Male	22	79%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	1	4%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=27)		
Straight	22	81%
Gay or Lesbian	1	4%
Bi(Pan)sexual	3	11%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	4%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 27)	10	37%
Number of Children (n = 10)		
One	10	100%
2 - 3	0	0%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 5)	0	0%
Live with Children (n = 10)	3	30%
Military Experience (n = 26)	1	4%
Foster Care Experience (n = 26)	3	12%
Age left foster care (n = 2)		
0-5	0	0%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	2	100%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 27)	3	11%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 27)	9	33%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 27)	16	59%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =28)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	1	4%
9-11th Grade	14	50%
High School	7	25%
GED	2	7%
Some College	3	11%
College Degree	1	4%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =28)	14	50%
Middle School	8	29%
High School	6	21%
GED Program	0	0%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	0	0%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=28)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 28)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	3	11%	5	18%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	1	4%
At my own apartment	0	0%	3	11%
Staying with other family	3	11%	5	18%
Staying with friend	4	14%	7	25%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	0	0%
At a shelter/motel	1	4%	5	18%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a group home	0	0%	1	4%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	3	11%	4	14%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	1	4%	1	4%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	13	46%	11	39%
In a college dorm	0	0%	1	4%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=28)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	3	11%		
For the next week or two	1	4%		
For the next month	0	0%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	5	18%		
I have already left	0	0%		
I don't know	19	68%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=28)				
1-6 days	2	7%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	2	7%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	3	11%		
1-6 months	14	50%		
More than 6 months	7	25%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 27)				
2-3 places	14	52%		
4-6 places	0	0%		
7 or more	1	4%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	12	44%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=28)		
No, I chose to leave	5	18%
No, I was asked to leave	8	29%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	14	50%
Yes, I am living with my parent	3	11%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 28)		
Fighting	3	11%
Wanted to leave	5	18%
My use of drugs/alcohol	1	4%
Told to leave after 18	1	4%
Did not feel safe	3	11%
Abuse	3	11%
Not enough room	5	18%
Told to leave before 18	0	0%
Parents homelessness	1	4%
Parents drug or alcohol use	1	4%
Release from jail and could not return	2	7%
Youth sexual orientation	1	4%
Parents sick/died	2	7%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Immigration related	1	4%
Currently in jail/detention	10	36%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	3	11%
Other reason	1	4%
I am currently living with parent	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=28)		
Full time job	5	18%
Part time job	7	25%
Under the table work	6	21%
Self-employment	2	7%
Cash assistance	0	0%
Social Security Income	2	7%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	0	0%
Selling Drugs	2	7%
Sex work	2	7%
Panhandling	4	14%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	8	29%
Other	0	0%
No income	6	21%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=28)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	7	25%
Short-term housing	0	0%
Shelters	3	11%
Health care services	5	18%
Mental health services	0	0%
Job training	7	25%
Long-term housing	2	7%
Educational support	6	21%
Government cash assistance	1	4%
Food banks or free meals	7	25%
Family support	1	4%
Substance use treatment	1	4%
Child care	0	0%
Police officers	0	0%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Transportation assistance	2	7%
Legal help	5	18%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	10	36%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 28)		
Transportation	7	25%
Wrong door	2	7%
Said they could not help	3	11%
Language barrier	2	7%
Waiting list	3	11%
Paperwork	3	11%
Lack Documents	6	21%
Didn't hear back	2	7%
Didn't know where to go	7	25%
Didn't qualify	3	11%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	3	11%
Didn't like how I was treated	1	4%
Other	1	4%
I received all the help I needed	6	21%
Most helpful services (n=28)		
Short-term housing	0	0%
Long-term housing	11	39%
Educational support	9	32%
Job training	10	36%
Health care services	4	14%
Family support	1	4%
Child care	1	4%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	10	36%
Government cash assistance	4	14%
LGBTQ support services	1	4%
Mental health services	3	11%
Substance use treatment	1	4%
Transportation assistance	3	11%
Legal help	5	18%
Other	1	4%

Lower Shore

In the Lower Shore, 9 of the 27 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =9)		
17 and Under	2	22%
18 to 24 Years Old	7	78%
Race/Ethnicity (n=9)		
African American	1	11%
White	3	33%
Hispanic	1	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	11%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	3	33%
Other	0	0%
Gender (n=9)		
Female	1	11%
Male	7	78%
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	7	78%
Gay or Lesbian	1	11%
Bi(Pan)sexual	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	11%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 9)	1	11%
Number of Children (n = 1)		
One	0	0%
2 - 3	1	100%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 1)	0	0%
Live with Children (n = 1)	1	100%
Military Experience (n = 9)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 9)	1	11%
Age left foster care (n = 1)		
0-5	0	0%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	0	0%
16-18	0	0%
Over 18	1	100%
Lived in group home (n = 9)	4	44%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 9)	2	22%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 9)	3	33%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =9)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	8	89%
High School	1	11%
GED	0	0%
Some College	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =9)	5	56%
Middle School	0	0%
High School	5	56%
GED Program	0	0%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	0	0%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	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
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	2	22%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
At my own apartment	0	0%	2	22%
Staying with other family	1	11%	3	33%
Staying with friend	4	44%	7	78%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	0	0%
At a shelter/motel	3	33%	5	56%
In a transitional housing program	1	11%	1	11%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	0	0%	0	0%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	1	11%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	0	0%
In a college dorm	0	0%	1	11%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=9)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	2	22%		
For the next week or two	2	22%		
For the next month	1	11%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	2	22%		
I have already left	1	11%		
I don't know	1	11%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=8)				
1-6 days	3	38%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	13%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	0	0%		
1-6 months	3	38%		
More than 6 months	1	13%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 9)				
2-3 places	5	56%		
4-6 places	1	11%		
7 or more	1	11%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	2	22%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=9)		
No, I chose to leave	3	33%
No, I was asked to leave	5	56%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	2	22%
Yes, I am living with my parent	0	0%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 9)		
Fighting	4	44%
Wanted to leave	3	33%
My use of drugs/alcohol	3	33%
Told to leave after 18	0	0%
Did not feel safe	0	0%
Abuse	2	22%
Not enough room	1	11%
Told to leave before 18	0	0%
Parents homelessness	0	0%
Parents drug or alcohol use	0	0%
Release from jail and could not return	2	22%
Youth sexual orientation	1	11%
Parents sick/died	1	11%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	0	0%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	0	0%
Other reason	0	0%
I am currently living with parent	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=9)		
Full time job	1	11%
Part time job	4	44%
Under the table work	1	11%
Self-employment	0	0%
Cash assistance	1	11%
Social Security Income	1	11%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	2	22%
Selling Drugs	0	0%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	0	0%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	3	33%
Other	0	0%
No income	1	11%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=9)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	6	67%
Short-term housing	1	11%
Shelters	4	44%
Health care services	1	11%
Mental health services	3	33%
Job training	0	0%
Long-term housing	2	22%
Educational support	0	0%
Government cash assistance	2	22%
Food banks or free meals	1	11%
Family support	0	0%
Substance use treatment	2	22%
Child care	0	0%
Police officers	0	0%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	1	11%
Transportation assistance	0	0%
Legal help	1	11%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	1	11%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 9)		
Transportation	2	22%
Wrong door	1	11%
Said they could not help	1	11%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	2	22%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	1	11%
Didn't hear back	0	0%
Didn't know where to go	2	22%
Didn't qualify	1	11%
Didn't feel comfortable	0	0%
Didn't follow through	3	33%
Didn't like how I was treated	0	0%
Other	0	0%
I received all the help I needed	2	22%
Most helpful services (n=9)		
Short-term housing	2	22%
Long-term housing	6	67%
Educational support	2	22%
Job training	4	44%
Health care services	2	22%
Family support	0	0%
Child care	1	11%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	6	67%
Government cash assistance	2	22%
LGBTQ support services	1	11%
Mental health services	1	11%
Substance use treatment	1	11%
Transportation assistance	2	22%
Legal help	0	0%
Other	0	0%

Mid-Shore

In the Mid-Shore, 14 of the 31 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =14)		
17 and Under	4	29%
18 to 24 Years Old	10	71%
Race/Ethnicity (n=14)		
African American	2	14%
White	6	43%
Hispanic	2	14%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	3	21%
Other	1	7%
Gender (n=14)		
Female	5	36%
Male	9	64%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=14)		
Straight	12	86%
Gay or Lesbian	0	0%
Bi(Pan)sexual	2	14%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 14)	5	36%
Number of Children (n = 5)		
One	4	80%
2 - 3	1	20%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 5)	1	20%
Live with Children (n = 5)	2	40%
Military Experience (n = 14)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 14)	2	14%
Age left foster care (n = 2)		
0-5	0	0%
6-10	0	0%
11-15	1	50%
16-18	1	50%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 14)	2	14%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 14)	3	21%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 14)	3	21%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =14)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	8	57%
High School	3	21%
GED	2	14%
Some College	1	7%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =14)	7	50%
Middle School	0	0%
High School	7	50%
GED Program	0	0%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	0	0%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=14)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 14)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	3	21%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
At my own apartment	3	21%	3	21%
Staying with other family	4	29%	4	29%
Staying with friend	5	36%	6	43%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	1	7%
At a shelter/motel	2	14%	2	14%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	0	0%	1	7%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	0	0%	1	7%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	1	7%
In a college dorm	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=14)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	3	21%		
For the next week or two	1	7%		
For the next month	0	0%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	4	29%		
I have already left	1	7%		
I don't know	5	36%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=14)				
1-6 days	1	7%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	7%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	2	14%		
1-6 months	8	57%		
More than 6 months	2	14%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 14)				
2-3 places	7	50%		
4-6 places	0	0%		
7 or more	0	0%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	7	50%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=14)		
No, I chose to leave	3	21%
No, I was asked to leave	2	14%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	10	71%
Yes, I am living with my parent	1	7%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 14)		
Fighting	5	36%
Wanted to leave	7	50%
My use of drugs/alcohol	1	7%
Told to leave after 18	2	14%
Did not feel safe	2	14%
Abuse	2	14%
Not enough room	3	21%
Told to leave before 18	1	7%
Parents homelessness	2	14%
Parents drug or alcohol use	3	21%
Release from jail and could not return	1	7%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Parents sick/died	1	7%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	1	7%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	0	0%
Other reason	0	0%
I am currently living with parent	1	7%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=14)		
Full time job	1	7%
Part time job	7	50%
Under the table work	2	14%
Self-employment	1	7%
Cash assistance	3	21%
Social Security Income	0	0%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	5	36%
Selling Drugs	1	7%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	0	0%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	2	14%
Other	0	0%
No income	3	21%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=14)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	6	43%
Short-term housing	0	0%
Shelters	3	21%
Health care services	3	21%
Mental health services	5	36%
Job training	1	7%
Long-term housing	1	7%
Educational support	3	21%
Government cash assistance	2	14%
Food banks or free meals	6	43%
Family support	1	7%
Substance use treatment	2	14%
Child care	2	14%
Police officers	0	0%
Drop-in or Teen Center	2	14%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Transportation assistance	1	7%
Legal help	1	7%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	2	14%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 14)		
Transportation	6	43%
Wrong door	1	7%
Said they could not help	3	21%
Language barrier	2	14%
Waiting list	3	21%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	2	14%
Didn't hear back	2	14%
Didn't know where to go	2	14%
Didn't qualify	2	14%
Didn't feel comfortable	2	14%
Didn't follow through	2	14%
Didn't like how I was treated	0	0%
Other	0	0%
I received all the help I needed	4	29%
Most helpful services (n=14)		
Short-term housing	0	0%
Long-term housing	5	36%
Educational support	5	36%
Job training	5	36%
Health care services	3	21%
Family support	2	14%
Child care	3	21%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	2	14%
Government cash assistance	4	29%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Mental health services	2	14%
Substance use treatment	0	0%
Transportation assistance	6	43%
Legal help	3	21%
Other	0	0%

Montgomery County

In Montgomery County, 126 of the 354 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =126)		
17 and Under	4	3%
18 to 24 Years Old	122	97%
Race/Ethnicity (n=123)		
African American	72	59%
White	5	4%
Hispanic	27	22%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	3	2%
Multiracial	12	10%
Other	4	3%
Gender (n=123)		
Female	22	18%
Male	101	82%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=120)		
Straight	113	94%
Gay or Lesbian	3	3%
Bi(Pan)sexual	3	3%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	1%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 122)	48	39%
Number of Children (n = 45)		
One	20	44%
2 - 3	20	44%
4 or more	5	11%
Currently Pregnant (n = 22)	2	9%
Live with Children (n = 46)	29	63%
Military Experience (n = 121)	2	2%
Foster Care Experience (n = 120)	17	14%
Age left foster care (n = 16)		
0-5	2	13%
6-10	3	19%
11-15	3	19%
16-18	4	25%
Over 18	4	25%
Lived in group home (n = 118)	31	26%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 119)	57	48%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 122)	88	72%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =120)		
No Education	1	1%
8th Grade or Less	8	7%
9-11th Grade	52	43%
High School	29	24%
GED	14	12%
Some College	13	11%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	3	3%
Currently in School (n =120)	40	33%
Middle School	2	2%
High School	6	5%
GED Program	23	19%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	5	4%
Other	4	3%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation Last Night	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=125)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 126)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	9	7%	17	13%
Staying with foster parents	1	1%	0	0%
At my own apartment	12	10%	13	10%
Staying with other family	6	5%	9	7%
Staying with friend	7	6%	17	13%
Staying with stranger	1	1%	4	3%
At a shelter/motel	7	6%	9	7%
In a transitional housing program	9	7%	7	6%
In a group home	2	2%	1	1%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	3	2%	8	6%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	5	4%	6	5%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	1	1%
In a jail or juvenile detention	62	50%	56	44%
In a college dorm	0	0%	1	1%
Other	1	1%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=124)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	12	10%		
For the next week or two	7	6%		
For the next month	13	10%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	24	19%		
I have already left	2	2%		
I don't know	66	53%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=120)				
1-6 days	13	11%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	5	4%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	14	12%		
1-6 months	53	44%		
More than 6 months	35	29%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 121)				
2-3 places	40	33%		
4-6 places	12	10%		
7 or more	7	6%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	62	51%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=126)		
No, I chose to leave	47	37%
No, I was asked to leave	33	26%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	36	29%
Yes, I am living with my parent	2	2%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 126)		
Fighting	22	17%
Wanted to leave	34	27%
My use of drugs/alcohol	8	6%
Told to leave after 18	20	16%
Did not feel safe	6	5%
Abuse	4	3%
Not enough room	14	11%
Told to leave before 18	4	3%
Parents homelessness	7	6%
Parents drug or alcohol use	3	2%
Release from jail and could not return	10	8%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Parents sick/died	3	2%
Left foster care and could not return	1	1%
Youth pregnancy or children	3	2%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	19	15%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	4	3%
Other reason	0	0%
I am currently living with parent	2	2%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=126)		
Full time job	25	20%
Part time job	35	28%
Under the table work	23	18%
Self-employment	14	11%
Cash assistance	5	4%
Social Security Income	4	3%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	13	10%
Selling Drugs	20	16%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	3	2%
Child support	1	1%
Family and friends	25	20%
Other	1	1%
No income	23	18%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=126)		
	Frequency	Percent
Food Stamps/SNAP	48	38%
Short-term housing	15	12%
Shelters	15	12%
Health care services	19	15%
Mental health services	15	12%
Job training	30	24%
Long-term housing	12	10%
Educational support	25	20%
Government cash assistance	14	11%
Food banks or free meals	10	8%
Family support	4	3%
Substance use treatment	10	8%
Child care	8	6%
Police officers	0	0%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	1	1%
Transportation assistance	8	6%
Legal help	8	6%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	34	27%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 126)		
Transportation	34	27%
Wrong door	13	10%
Said they could not help	15	12%
Language barrier	1	1%
Waiting list	23	18%
Paperwork	5	4%
Lack Documents	16	13%
Didn't hear back	15	12%
Didn't know where to go	23	18%
Didn't qualify	16	13%
Didn't feel comfortable	6	5%
Didn't follow through	12	10%
Didn't like how I was treated	6	5%
Other	10	8%
I received all the help I needed	26	21%
Most helpful services (n=126)		
Short-term housing	25	20%
Long-term housing	65	52%
Educational support	44	35%
Job training	51	40%
Health care services	22	17%
Family support	12	10%
Child care	11	9%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	37	29%
Government cash assistance	24	19%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Mental health services	18	14%
Substance use treatment	10	8%
Transportation assistance	21	17%
Legal help	22	17%
Other	3	2%

Prince George's County

In Prince George's County, 43 of the 118 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =43)		
17 and Under	8	19%
18 to 24 Years Old	35	81%
Race/Ethnicity (n=43)		
African American	27	63%
White	0	0%
Hispanic	9	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	2%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	6	14%
Other	0	0%
Gender (n=43)		
Female	21	49%
Male	21	49%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	1	2%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=43)		
Straight	36	84%
Gay or Lesbian	3	7%
Bi(Pan)sexual	0	0%
Other	2	5%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	5%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 42)	5	12%
Number of Children (n = 5)		
One	4	80%
2 - 3	1	20%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 20)	0	0%
Live with Children (n = 5)	4	80%
Military Experience (n = 41)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 42)	6	14%
Age left foster care (n = 7)		
0-5	1	14%
6-10	2	29%
11-15	1	14%
16-18	2	29%
Over 18	1	14%
Lived in group home (n = 39)	8	21%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 41)	7	17%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 42)	6	14%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =43)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	0	0%
9-11th Grade	22	51%
High School	8	19%
GED	4	9%
Some College	7	16%
College Degree	1	2%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	1	2%
Currently in School (n =43)	27	63%
Middle School	0	0%
High School	21	49%
GED Program	2	5%
Vocational Training	1	2%
College	3	7%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=43)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 43)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	6	14%	12	28%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	0	0%
At my own apartment	3	7%	3	7%
Staying with other family	7	16%	12	28%
Staying with friend	9	21%	14	33%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	2	5%
At a shelter/motel	13	30%	16	37%
In a transitional housing program	2	5%	3	7%
In a group home	0	0%	2	5%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	1	2%	5	12%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	1	2%	2	5%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	0	0%
In a jail or juvenile detention	1	2%	2	5%
In a college dorm	0	0%	1	2%
Other	0	0%	1	2%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=43)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	3	7%		
For the next week or two	3	7%		
For the next month	5	12%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	7	16%		
I have already left	4	9%		
I don't know	21	49%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=42)				
1-6 days	5	12%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	8	19%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	2	5%		
1-6 months	18	43%		
More than 6 months	9	21%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 42)				
2-3 places	13	31%		
4-6 places	6	14%		
7 or more	2	5%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	21	50%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=43)		
No, I chose to leave	15	35%
No, I was asked to leave	19	44%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	10	23%
Yes, I am living with my parent	4	9%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 43)		
Fighting	15	35%
Wanted to leave	20	47%
My use of drugs/alcohol	1	2%
Told to leave after 18	8	19%
Did not feel safe	3	7%
Abuse	8	19%
Not enough room	6	14%
Told to leave before 18	3	7%
Parents homelessness	3	7%
Parents drug or alcohol use	2	5%
Release from jail and could not return	3	7%
Youth sexual orientation	2	5%
Parents sick/died	2	5%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	1	2%
Immigration related	1	2%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	1	2%
Parents unable to provide care	5	12%
Other reason	1	2%
I am currently living with parent	1	2%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=43)		
Full time job	5	12%
Part time job	14	33%
Under the table work	7	16%
Self-employment	4	9%
Cash assistance	2	5%
Social Security Income	1	2%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	5	12%
Selling Drugs	2	5%
Sex work	2	5%
Panhandling	3	7%
Child support	1	2%
Family and friends	25	58%
Other	1	2%
No income	13	30%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=43)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	21	49%
Short-term housing	10	23%
Shelters	10	23%
Health care services	8	19%
Mental health services	13	30%
Job training	10	23%
Long-term housing	5	12%
Educational support	5	12%
Government cash assistance	4	9%
Food banks or free meals	11	26%
Family support	6	14%
Substance use treatment	1	2%
Child care	2	5%
Police officers	2	5%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Transportation assistance	7	16%
Legal help	4	9%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	7	16%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 43)		
Transportation	10	23%
Wrong door	7	16%
Said they could not help	4	9%
Language barrier	2	5%
Waiting list	10	23%
Paperwork	1	2%
Lack Documents	13	30%
Didn't hear back	7	16%
Didn't know where to go	11	26%
Didn't qualify	12	28%
Didn't feel comfortable	2	5%
Didn't follow through	2	5%
Didn't like how I was treated	2	5%
Other	4	9%
I received all the help I needed	6	14%
Most helpful services (n=43)		
Short-term housing	13	30%
Long-term housing	27	63%
Educational support	11	26%
Job training	27	63%
Health care services	16	37%
Family support	5	12%
Child care	2	5%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	25	58%
Government cash assistance	14	33%
LGBTQ support services	1	2%
Mental health services	10	23%
Substance use treatment	2	5%
Transportation assistance	14	33%
Legal help	12	28%
Other	0	0%

Southern Maryland

In Southern Maryland, 36 of the 155 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =36)		
17 and Under	11	31%
18 to 24 Years Old	25	69%
Race/Ethnicity (n=36)		
African American	14	39%
White	13	36%
Hispanic	2	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Multiracial	7	19%
Other	0	0%
Gender (n=36)		
Female	16	44%
Male	20	56%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	0	0%
Sexual Orientation (n=36)		
Straight	31	86%
Gay or Lesbian	2	6%
Bi(Pan)sexual	1	3%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	6%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 36)	6	17%
Number of Children (n = 6)		
One	3	50%
2 - 3	3	50%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 16)	2	13%
Live with Children (n = 6)	3	50%
Military Experience (n = 36)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 36)	3	8%
Age left foster care (n = 3)		
0-5	0	0%
6-10	1	33%
11-15	1	33%
16-18	1	33%
Over 18	0	0%
Lived in group home (n = 36)	3	8%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 36)	1	3%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 36)	5	14%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =34)		
No Education	3	9%
8th Grade or Less	23	68%
9-11th Grade	8	24%
High School	0	0%
GED	0	0%
Some College	0	0%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =34)	24	71%
Middle School	1	3%
High School	22	65%
GED Program	1	3%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	0	0%
Other	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=36)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 36)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	3	8%	4	11%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	1	3%
At my own apartment	0	0%	2	6%
Staying with other family	8	22%	10	28%
Staying with friend	18	50%	23	64%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	2	6%
At a shelter/motel	4	11%	7	19%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	0	0%
In a group home	0	0%	0	0%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	2	6%	6	17%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	1	3%	0	0%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	1	3%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	2	6%
In a college dorm	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=36)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	7	19%		
For the next week or two	0	0%		
For the next month	0	0%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	14	39%		
I have already left	2	6%		
I don't know	13	36%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=35)				
1-6 days	8	23%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	1	3%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	3	9%		
1-6 months	19	54%		
More than 6 months	4	11%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 36)				
2-3 places	23	64%		
4-6 places	2	6%		
7 or more	3	8%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	8	22%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=36)		
No, I chose to leave	10	28%
No, I was asked to leave	13	36%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	17	47%
Yes, I am living with my parent	3	8%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 36)		
Fighting	12	33%
Wanted to leave	10	28%
My use of drugs/alcohol	3	8%
Told to leave after 18	7	19%
Did not feel safe	4	11%
Abuse	3	8%
Not enough room	4	11%
Told to leave before 18	3	8%
Parents homelessness	7	19%
Parents drug or alcohol use	6	17%
Release from jail and could not return	0	0%
Youth sexual orientation	0	0%
Parents sick/died	2	6%
Left foster care and could not return	0	0%
Youth pregnancy or children	2	6%
Immigration related	0	0%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	2	6%
Other reason	1	3%
I am currently living with parent	1	3%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=36)		
Full time job	2	6%
Part time job	10	28%
Under the table work	6	17%
Self-employment	2	6%
Cash assistance	2	6%
Social Security Income	1	3%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	4	11%
Selling Drugs	0	0%
Sex work	0	0%
Panhandling	1	3%
Child support	0	0%
Family and friends	10	28%
Other	0	0%
No income	12	33%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=36)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	18	50%
Short-term housing	4	11%
Shelters	6	17%
Health care services	9	25%
Mental health services	9	25%
Job training	3	8%
Long-term housing	2	6%
Educational support	8	22%
Government cash assistance	4	11%
Food banks or free meals	8	22%
Family support	4	11%
Substance use treatment	3	8%
Child care	1	3%
Police officers	1	3%
Drop-in or Teen Center	0	0%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Transportation assistance	3	8%
Legal help	4	11%
Other	1	3%
I have not tried to get help	9	25%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 36)		
Transportation	16	44%
Wrong door	4	11%
Said they could not help	7	19%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	4	11%
Paperwork	0	0%
Lack Documents	3	8%
Didn't hear back	2	6%
Didn't know where to go	7	19%
Didn't qualify	4	11%
Didn't feel comfortable	3	8%
Didn't follow through	4	11%
Didn't like how I was treated	0	0%
Other	2	6%
I received all the help I needed	11	31%
Most helpful services (n=36)		
Short-term housing	4	11%
Long-term housing	15	42%
Educational support	5	14%
Job training	9	25%
Health care services	7	19%
Family support	7	19%
Child care	2	6%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	13	36%
Government cash assistance	7	19%
LGBTQ support services	0	0%
Mental health services	6	17%
Substance use treatment	2	6%
Transportation assistance	14	39%
Legal help	2	6%
Other	3	8%

Washington County

In Washington County, 42 of the 74 youth surveyed were unaccompanied homeless youth.

YouthReach MD: Demographics		
	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories (n =42)		
17 and Under	10	24%
18 to 24 Years Old	32	76%
Race/Ethnicity (n=42)		
African American	5	12%
White	25	60%
Hispanic	4	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	1	2%
Multiracial	6	14%
Other	1	2%
Gender (n=41)		
Female	27	66%
Male	13	32%
Transgender (F to M)	0	0%
Transgender (M to F)	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	2%
Sexual Orientation (n=42)		
Straight	34	81%
Gay or Lesbian	2	5%
Bi(Pan)sexual	5	12%
Other	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	2%

YouthReach MD: Life Experiences		
	Frequency	Percent
Have Children (n = 41)	12	29%
Number of Children (n = 12)		
One	8	67%
2 - 3	4	33%
4 or more	0	0%
Currently Pregnant (n = 27)	4	15%
Live with Children (n = 12)	8	67%
Military Experience (n = 42)	0	0%
Foster Care Experience (n = 42)	8	19%
Age left foster care (n = 8)		
0-5	2	25%
6-10	2	25%
11-15	1	13%
16-18	2	25%
Over 18	1	13%
Lived in group home (n = 42)	9	21%
Ever stayed in juvenile detention (n = 42)	5	12%
Ever stayed in Jail (n = 42)	5	12%

YouthReach MD: Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Highest Completed Grade (n =42)		
No Education	0	0%
8th Grade or Less	1	2%
9-11th Grade	26	62%
High School	13	31%
GED	1	2%
Some College	1	2%
College Degree	0	0%
Post-Secondary Vocational Training	0	0%
Currently in School (n =42)	25	60%
Middle School	0	0%
High School	23	55%
GED Program	1	2%
Vocational Training	0	0%
College	0	0%
Other	1	2%

YouthReach MD: Living Situation	Where you stayed the night before survey (n=42)		All the reported places where youth stayed in the last two months (n= 42)*	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Staying with immediate family	0	0%	6	14%
Staying with foster parents	0	0%	1	2%
At my own apartment	1	2%	4	10%
Staying with other family	5	12%	12	29%
Staying with friend	24	57%	28	67%
Staying with stranger	0	0%	4	10%
At a shelter/motel	5	12%	9	21%
In a transitional housing program	0	0%	1	2%
In a group home	0	0%	1	2%
Outside in the park, on the street, in car, etc.	4	10%	6	14%
Inside an abandoned building or squatting	3	7%	3	7%
In a treatment or medical facility	0	0%	1	2%
In a jail or juvenile detention	0	0%	1	2%
In a college dorm	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
How long can you stay where you stayed last night (n=42)				
As long as I want/indefinitely	7	17%		
For the next week or two	5	12%		
For the next month	4	10%		
More than an month, but not indefinitely	10	24%		
I have already left	3	7%		
I don't know	13	31%		
How long have you been staying at the place you stayed last night (n=42)				
1-6 days	12	29%		
At least 1 week, but less than 2 weeks	2	5%		
At least 2 weeks, but less than 1 month	6	14%		
1-6 months	17	40%		
More than 6 months	5	12%		
How many different places have you spent the night in the past 2 months? (n= 42)				
2-3 places	20	48%		
4-6 places	12	29%		
7 or more	0	0%		
I have spent the night in the same place for the past 2 months	10	24%		

*More than one can be selected

YouthReach MD: Status of Relationship with Guardian		
	Frequency	Percent
Are currently living with parent or guardian (n=42)		
No, I chose to leave	16	38%
No, I was asked to leave	15	36%
No, Parent unavailable to care for me	16	38%
Yes, I am living with my parent	0	0%
Reasons for not living with parent or guardian (n = 42)		
Fighting	16	38%
Wanted to leave	12	29%
My use of drugs/alcohol	3	7%
Told to leave after 18	9	21%
Did not feel safe	10	24%
Abuse	8	19%
Not enough room	7	17%
Told to leave before 18	1	2%
Parents homelessness	5	12%
Parents drug or alcohol use	8	19%
Release from jail and could not return	1	2%
Youth sexual orientation	3	7%
Parents sick/died	2	5%
Left foster care and could not return	3	7%
Youth pregnancy or children	2	5%
Immigration related	1	2%
Currently in jail/detention	0	0%
Eviction	0	0%
Parents unable to provide care	2	5%
Other reason	0	0%
I am currently living with parent	0	0%

YouthReach MD: Income		
	Frequency	Percent
Reported income sources (n=42)		
Full time job	1	2%
Part time job	14	33%
Under the table work	3	7%
Self-employment	1	2%
Cash assistance	2	5%
Social Security Income	2	5%
Unemployment benefits	0	0%
SNAP	5	12%
Selling Drugs	1	2%
Sex work	1	2%
Panhandling	1	2%
Child support	1	2%
Family and friends	13	31%
Other	0	0%
No income	18	43%

YouthReach MD: Services and Supports		
	Frequency	Percent
Attempted to get help in the past year (n=42)		
Food Stamps/SNAP	24	57%
Short-term housing	4	10%
Shelters	5	12%
Health care services	10	24%
Mental health services	13	31%
Job training	2	5%
Long-term housing	2	5%
Educational support	7	17%
Government cash assistance	7	17%
Food banks or free meals	15	36%
Family support	3	7%
Substance use treatment	1	2%
Child care	3	7%
Police officers	4	10%
Drop-in or Teen Center	4	10%
LGBTQ support services	1	2%
Transportation assistance	6	14%
Legal help	1	2%
Other	0	0%
I have not tried to get help	6	14%
Reasons for not getting help (n= 42)		
Transportation	24	57%
Wrong door	12	29%
Said they could not help	15	36%
Language barrier	0	0%
Waiting list	14	33%
Paperwork	2	5%
Lack Documents	14	33%
Didn't hear back	6	14%
Didn't know where to go	9	21%
Didn't qualify	10	24%
Didn't feel comfortable	5	12%
Didn't follow through	3	7%
Didn't like how I was treated	6	14%
Other	2	5%
I received all the help I needed	4	10%
Most helpful services (n=42)		
Short-term housing	5	12%
Long-term housing	23	55%
Educational support	5	12%
Job training	8	19%
Health care services	10	24%
Family support	3	7%
Child care	3	7%
SNAP, food banks, or free meals	24	57%
Government cash assistance	8	19%
LGBTQ support services	1	2%
Mental health services	10	23%
Substance use treatment	2	5%
Transportation assistance	14	33%
Legal help	12	28%
Other	0	0%