2015 Report

King County's Point-In-Time Count of Homeless & Unstably Housed Young People

March 2015

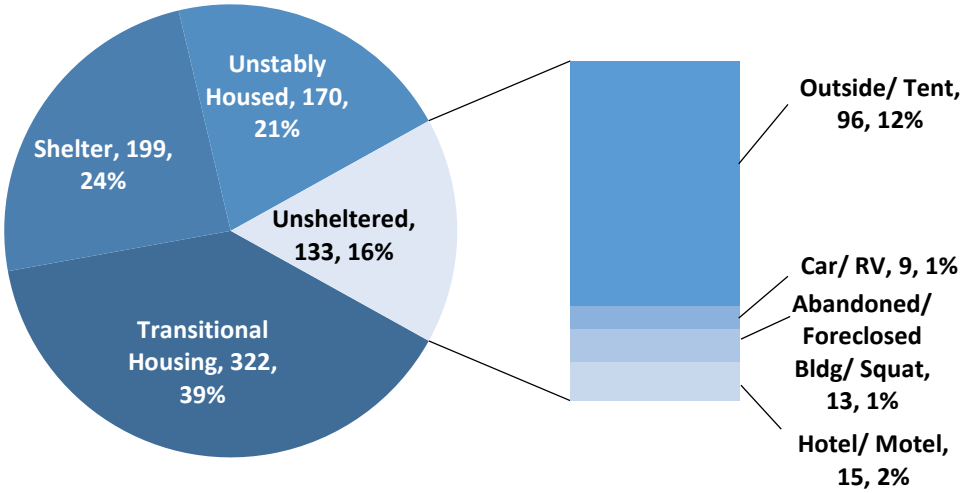
Executive Summary

Count Us In is King County's annual effort to count youth and young adults (YYA) ages 12-25 who are homeless or unstably housed. Count Us In documents the nature and extent of homelessness, and builds better understanding about this unique population. On January 22, 2015, King County held its fifth annual Count Us In.

824 → **The number of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults identified through Count Us In.**

This number includes unaccompanied YYA identified through the Count Us In survey *(administered by partner locations throughout King County on 1/22/2015)* and **unaccompanied YYA staying in shelter or transitional housing** *(identified through Safe Harbors/HMIS on 1/21/2015)*.

Housing Status of Youth and Young Adults on January 21, 2015



Count Us In: Results at a Glance	
2014	**2015**
779 YYA on January 22, 2014 *159 in shelter* *193 unstably housed* *303 in transitional housing* *124 unsheltered*	**824 YYA on January 21, 2015** *199 in shelter* *170 unstably housed* *322 in transitional housing* *133 unsheltered* • **6% increase in homeless and unstably housed YYA**
46 partner locations administered the survey	71 partner locations administered the survey • **46% increase in partner locations**
Consistent Profiles of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth Are Emerging	
12% under age 18 32% African American/Black 12% Hispanic 22% LGBTQ 41% stayed with family at some point in the past 3 mos.	12% under age 18 34% African American/Black 13% Hispanic 22% LGBTQ 47% stayed with family at some point in the past 3 mos.
Homeless and unstably housed YYA come from nearly every zip code in King County	

Table of Contents

Executive Summary……..*i*

Introduction to Count Us In……..…1

Methodology……..2

Results……5

Conclusion……..15

Appendix……16

A. Count Us In 2015 Survey and Training Tool
B. Definitions and Terminology
C. Count Us In Partner Locations
D. Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH)
E. Comparability: 2014 to 2015
F. Acknowledgements

Introduction

Count Us In is King County's annual effort to count youth and young adults (YYA) ages 12-25 who are homeless or unstably housed. On January 22, 2015, King County held its fifth annual Count Us In, making efforts to improve the count each year. While the inaugural year had eight partner locations, just five years later it has grown to 71. Our community's commitment to this issue is strong.

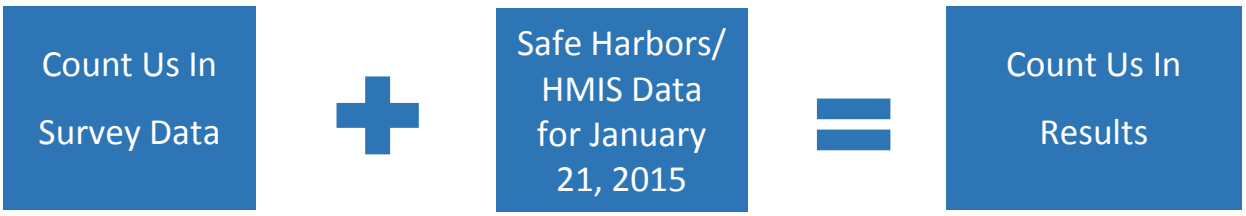
Count Us In takes place alongside our community's One Night Count, an annual point-in-time count of people who are experiencing homelessness that is mandated by HUD and organized locally by Seattle/ King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH).[1] Count Us In allows for a "deeper dive" into the scope of youth and young adult homelessness by documenting the nature and extent of homelessness, which helps build a better understanding about this unique population.

> *"Count Us In is an example of King County's commitment to understanding and addressing youth and young adult homelessness. It is a model for communities across the country as they look for ways to improve outreach and count all homeless and unstably housed young people. Learning more about the youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness will lead to a more complete understanding for the types of interventions and services that are most needed in communities."*
>
> *- Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*

[1]Results from the 2015 One Night Count are available at http://homelessinfo.org/what_we_do/one_night_count/2015_results.php

Methodology
of Count Us In

The methodology for Count Us In continues to improve each year. In 2015 we engaged 25 new survey sites/community partners in the count. Not only is Count Us In a means to document the unique needs and experiences of homeless and unstably housed YYA, it is also an opportunity to spread awareness about this important issue.



Count Us In uses a survey of YYA *and* HMIS data to create an overall profile of youth homelessness on a single day.

Count Us In Surveys

King County homeless youth and young adult providers and community partners surveyed young people as part of Count Us In during the day and evening of January 22, 2015.[2] Surveys were conducted at a total of 71 agencies and partner locations.[3]

Surveys were administered by agency staff and volunteers. Training sessions were provided prior to the event, inviting staff and volunteers to learn about Count Us In and the survey tool, and receive survey and publicity materials (t-shirts, posters, and handbills). The United Way of King County provided a small stipend to each participating provider agency to help support activities for Count Us In and provide incentives to encourage youth participation.

Count Us In took place on the day prior to King County's One Night Count; these complementary events use a different methodology and result in different data pertaining to their purposes. As the day of January 22nd drew to an end and the overnight One Night Count began, three agencies serving homeless youth hosted "sleepover sites" from January 22-23. Youth who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets were encouraged to gather at these locations at night in order to complete a Count Us In survey and to be counted as part of the One Night Count between 2am and 5am.

[2] The Count Us In survey and training tool are provided in Appendix A.
[3] Count Us In partners are listed in Appendix C.

1717 surveys were completed for Count Us In. Surveys not eligible to be included in the analysis included YYA who had already completed a survey, YYA who had stayed in a shelter or transitional housing program, youth whose survey responses indicated that they were stably housed, or youth who were not within the valid age range. 303 surveys indicated that a youth was homeless or unstably housed; these youth are included in the analysis in this report.[4] An additional 230 youth who were not homeless or unstably housed on January 21, 2015 reported having been unstably housed at some point in the past.

A unique element of Count Us In is the partnership between agencies in the homeless youth continuum of care, agencies serving youth and families without an explicit focus on homelessness, and community partners such as libraries and parks and recreation facilities. Participation in Count Us In brings together agencies and community organizations who might not otherwise be considered as working with homeless young people. Efforts are ongoing to ensure count methodology is appropriate and inclusive for all youth, regardless of housing status or self-identification as homeless. The involvement of young people in implementing and improving Count Us In is integral to the success of this effort. Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH) visited four partner locations for Count Us In 2015 and shared feedback about the effort.[5]

> *"Participation in this event gave us an opportunity to learn more about our patrons and how we can better serve them. It is an honor to participate in this important community endeavor."*
>
> *-a librarian who administered Count Us In surveys*

Consistent with previous years, a debriefing session was held during the week following the count. This gathering was a celebration of the diversity of provider agencies and organizations who had contributed to Count Us In, and invited individuals to share stories, feedback and comments about their experiences during the coordination and implementation of the count. This information will be used to improve subsequent years of Count Us In.

HMIS Data

In addition to the survey process described above, data from the Safe Harbors HMIS were also pulled for the night prior to the count to correspond with the "where you stayed last night" question on the survey. HMIS data show that 521 YYA (ages 12-25) unaccompanied by parents or guardians were in shelters and transitional living programs on the night of January 21, 2015. This is an increase from 2014, reflecting the expanded capacity of resources in our community through the increase of young adult shelter beds at two emergency shelters and operation of one new rental assistance program.

[4] Details regarding how survey data were used to determine which youth were unsheltered or unstably housed are included as Appendix B.

[5] A description of YAEH involvement in Count Us In is included as Appendix D.

Data Quality

Count Us In is the most comprehensive count of YYA in King County. The dataset includes a large sample of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults in King County and therefore the demographic profile is meaningful. These demographic data represent the best available point-in-time profile of our homeless/unstably housed YYA population. However, some limitations to the data are described below.

Expansions to Count Us In present challenges for the comparability of data from year to year. Count Us In continues to grow in breadth and sophistication each year, and is an example of our community's strong commitment to serving homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults. By adding count locations, Count Us In is likely to reach more young people. While the priority of Count Us In is to collect the best data possible, expansions to Count Us In also present challenges for comparing data from year to year.

The data reflect, in part, the profiles of youth who use participating programs. This might result in omitting youth who do not access services, are outside of the target demographic or geographic reach of these programs, and those who did not respond to outreach methods. The inclusion of providers not focused exclusively on serving homeless youth and young adults, such libraries and community centers, is an effort to address some of these limitations.

While updates to HMIS as of October 2014 ask providers to record data regarding YYA sexual orientation, this practice is not consistent. HMIS is missing sexual orientation for 68% of YYA who stayed in a shelter or transitional housing program on January 21, 2015. Due to low data quality, these data are not included in this report, though there may be opportunity to analyze these data in future years.

YYA surveyed at King County Juvenile Detention are not unsheltered or unstably housed, but may have a history of housing instability. One of our new partner locations for Count Us In 2015 is King County Juvenile Detention, as housing instability is often experienced by young people who are incarcerated. Due to being in detention at the time of Count Us In, these youth were not classified as unstably housed on the night of Count Us In and therefore are not included in most data throughout the report. However, they may be included in the count of YYA who have a history of housing instability. In addition, four supplemental questions were included for the surveys administered at detention; collection of these data presents an opportunity to identify the housing trends and needs of youth in detention.[6]

[6] The supplemental questions included for Count Us In surveys administered at King County Juvenile Detention are included in Appendix A.

Results:

Survey + HMIS Data

On the night of January 21, 2015, 824 YYA ages 12-25 were homeless or unstably housed, based on data from HMIS and Count Us In surveys.

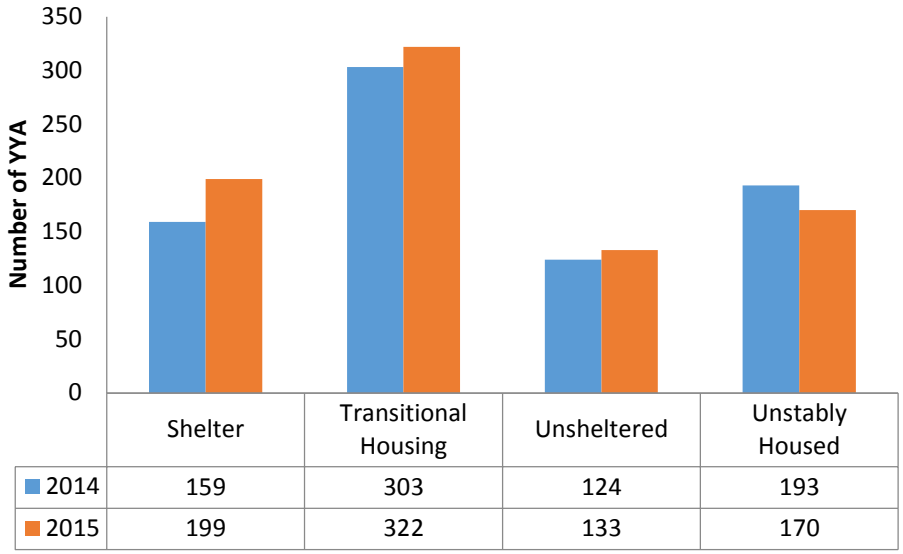
An additional 230 who were not homeless or unstably housed on the night of the count reported having a history of housing instability. These YYA are not included in the demographic profiles throughout this report because they did not report being homeless or unstably housed for Count Us In; however, the large number of these youth highlights that many youth experience periods of both stable and unstable housing over time.

The following section will provide data for the 824 YYA identified as homeless or unstably housed through HMIS and Count Us In surveys.

Overview of Findings

Of 824 homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults identified through Count Us In 2015		
24% (199) stayed in shelter 39% (322) stayed in transitional housing		16% (133) were unsheltered 21% (170) were unstably housed
12% (102) under age 18		
54% (448) youth of color		
13% (108) Hispanic, 75% (619) non-Hispanic		
49% (203) female	49% (203) male	1% (9) transgender/gender-queer
Homeless and unstably housed YYA come from nearly every zip code in King County • 75% (622) YYA were last housed in King County • 5% (40) YYA were last housed in WA, outside of King County • 10% (81) YYA were last housed outside of Washington State		

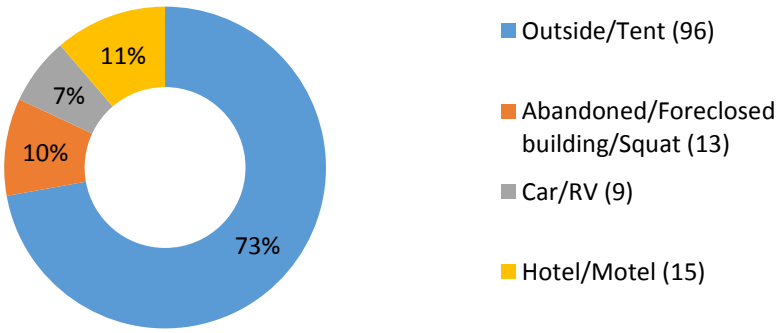
Housing Status of Youth and Young Adults Surveyed During Count Us In 2014 and 2015



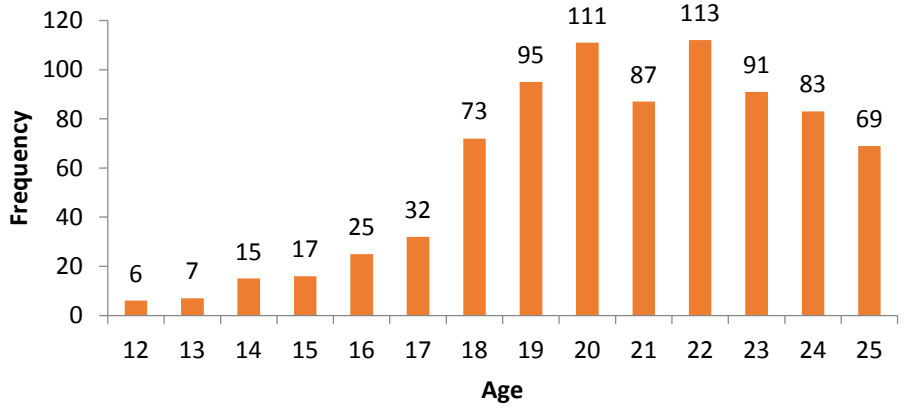
Count Us In found that on January 21, 2015:

- 24% (199) YYA stayed in shelter
- 39% (322) YYA stayed in transitional housing
- 16% (133) YYA were unsheltered
- 21% (170) YYA were unstably housed

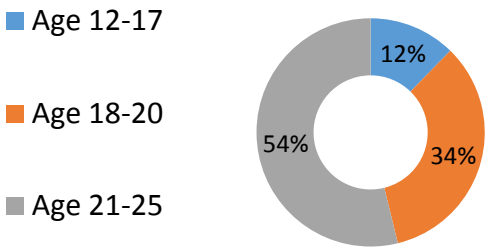
Where Unsheltered Youth and Young Adults Slept on January 21, 2015



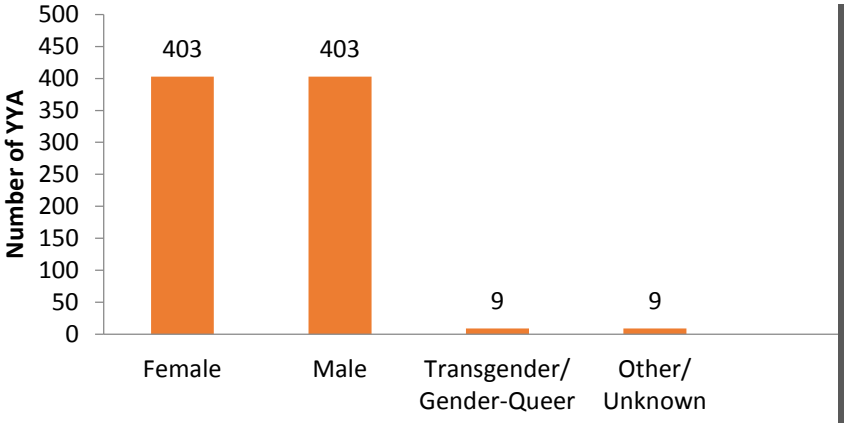
Ages of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults



Most homeless and unstably housed young people are between the ages of 21-25.

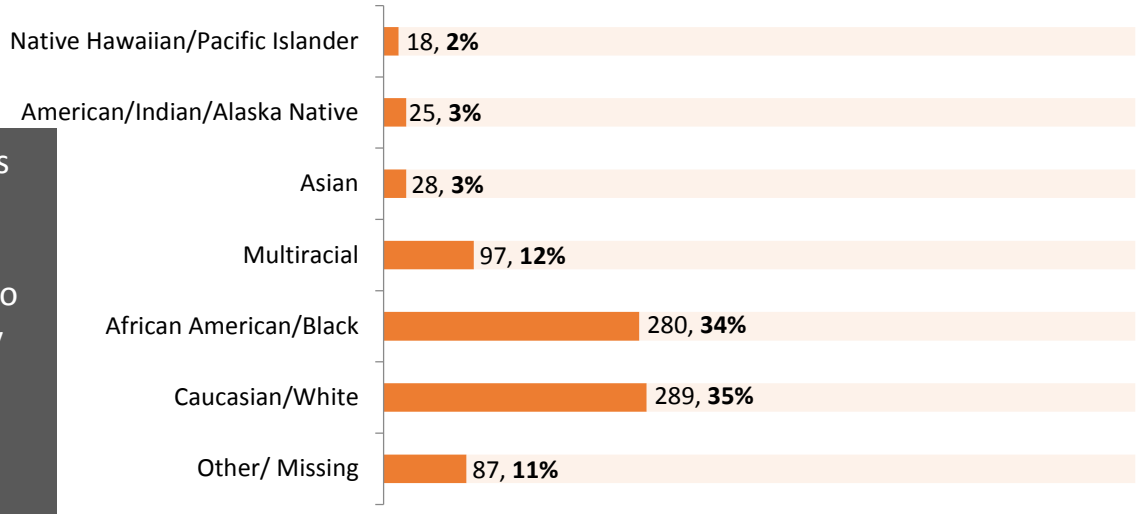


Gender Identity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults



Young people who identified as male or female were evenly represented among those who experienced homelessness and housing. 49% (403) of homeless and unstably housed YYA identified as female, 49% (403) identified as male, and 1% (9) identified as transgender or gender-queer.

Race of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults

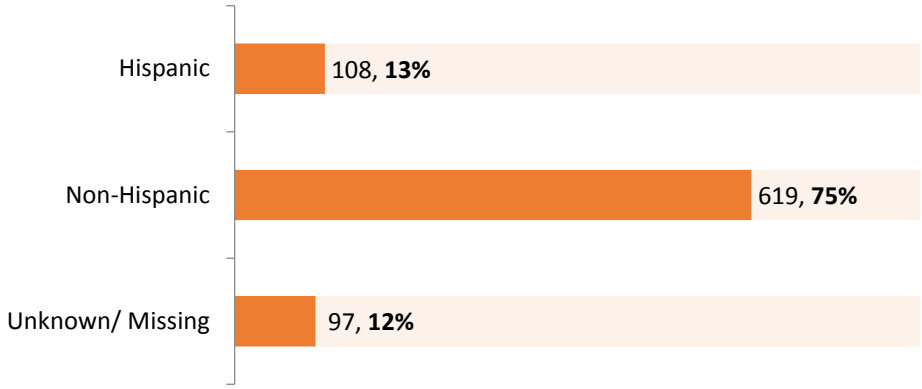


54% (448) of homeless and unstably housed YYA were youth of color. This compares to 35% of all King County residents, and 42% of King County residents living below poverty.

In addition, 13% of homeless and unstably housed YYA were Hispanic.

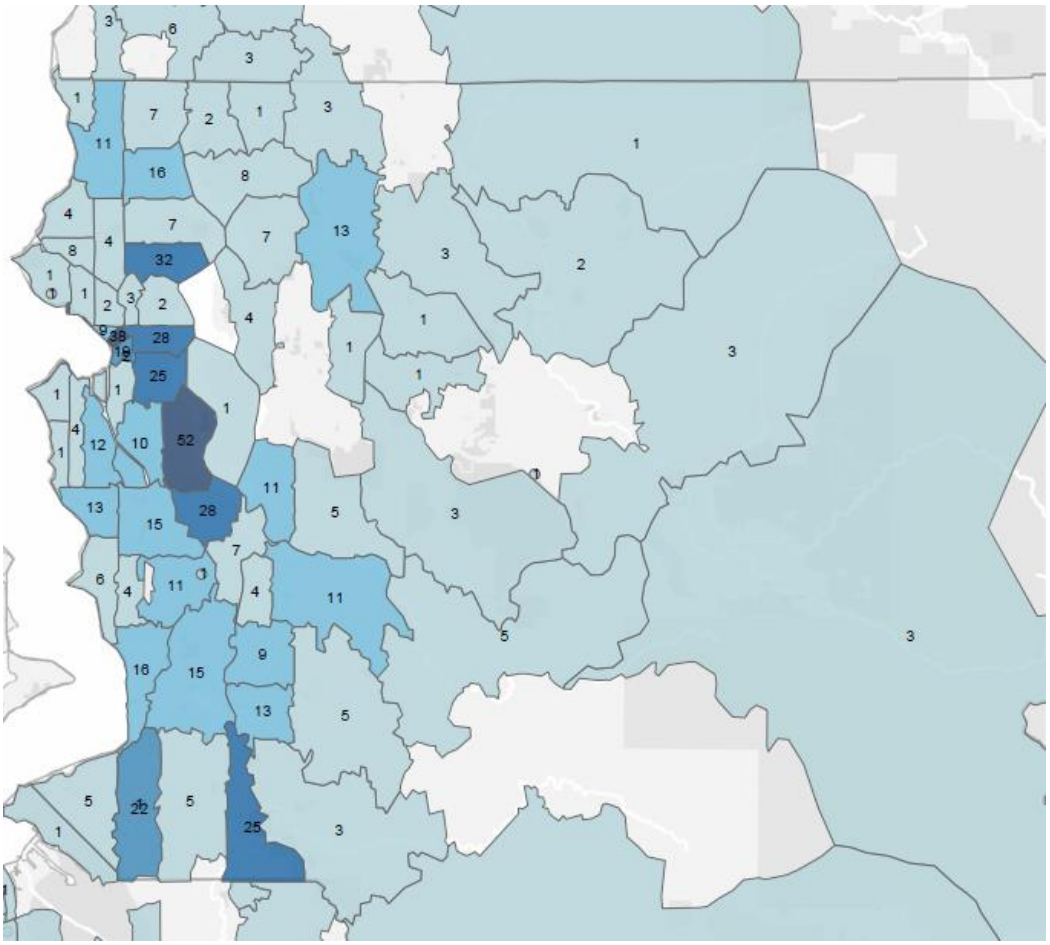
This is consistent with research showing that youth of color are disproportionately represented among homeless YYA. Moving forward, all benchmarks of the Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness will be disaggregated by race and ethnicity. As King County continues to work toward making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time, **the goal is parity in outcomes.**

Ethnicity of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults



> *"As an immigrant to this country my family realized that there was more food in the pet aisle than we had back home. In a place of such wealth it is unimaginable that housing is such an issue."*
>
> *-a service provider who administered Count Us In surveys*

Geographic Distribution of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults



Zip Code	# of YYA	Zip Code	# of YYA	Zip Code	# of YYA	Zip Code	# of YYA
98001	5	98036	6	98092	3	98133	11
98002	25	98037	2	98101	38	98134	1
98003	22	98038	5	98102	3	98136	1
98004	4	98040	1	98103	4	98137	1
98008	1	98042	5	98104	19	98139	1
98011	1	98045	3	98105	32	98138	1
98012	2	98050	1	98106	12	98141	2
98014	2	98052	13	98107	8	98144	25
98019	1	98053	3	98108	10	98146	13
98021	3	98055	4	98109	2	98148	4
98022	2	98056	11	98112	2	98155	7
98023	5	98057	7	98115	7	98166	6
98026	3	98058	11	98116	1	98168	15
98027	3	98059	5	98117	4	98177	1
98028	2	98063	1	98118	52	98178	28
98030	13	98065	3	98119	1	98188	11
98031	9	98072	3	98121	9	98198	16
98032	15	98074	1	98122	28	98199	1
98033	7	98075	1	98125	16		
98034	8	98087	1	98126	4		

Of the 824 homeless and unstably housed YYAs:

- The last zip code for 622 YYAs (75%) was in King County *(see details in table and map provided)*
- The last zip code for 40 YYAs (5%) was a county in Washington outside of King County. The last zip code for 81 YYAs (10%) was from outside of Washington State.
- Zip code data were unavailable for 81 YYAs (10%)

The most frequently reported zip codes were:

98118 – Rainier Valley
98101 – Downtown
98105 – University District
98122 – Central District
98178 – Tukwila
98002 – Auburn
98144 – Mount Baker

Results:

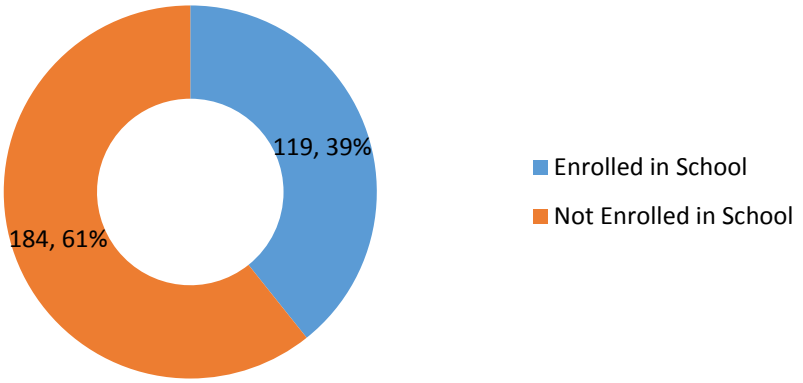
survey data only

The following section will provide data for 303 YYA identified through the Count Us In surveys. This data is not available in HMIS, but was collected from YYA who completed a Count Us In survey at one of the partner locations on January 22, 2015.

Overview of Findings

Of 303 homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults identified through Count Us In surveys
39% (119) are enrolled in school
46% (84) who are not enrolled in school have graduated from high school or received a GED
22% (66) identify as LGBTQ
25% (77) are currently employed
57% (172) are looking for a job
46% (138) have been to detention/jail
24% (74) have been in foster care
13% (39) are pregnant or parenting
47% (142) report having stayed with family during the past three months

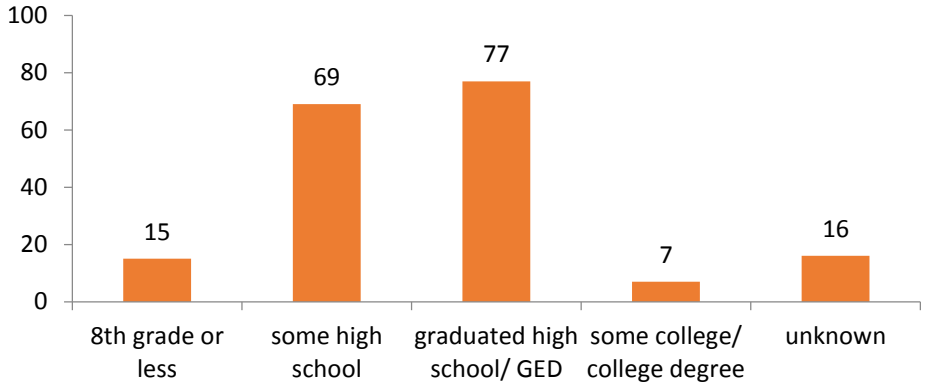
Education Status of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults



39% (119) of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults who completed the survey are enrolled in school.

46%(84) of homeless and unstably housed youth not currently enrolled in school have graduated from high school or received a GED.

Highest Level of Education for Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth and Young Adults Not Currently Enrolled in School (n=184)

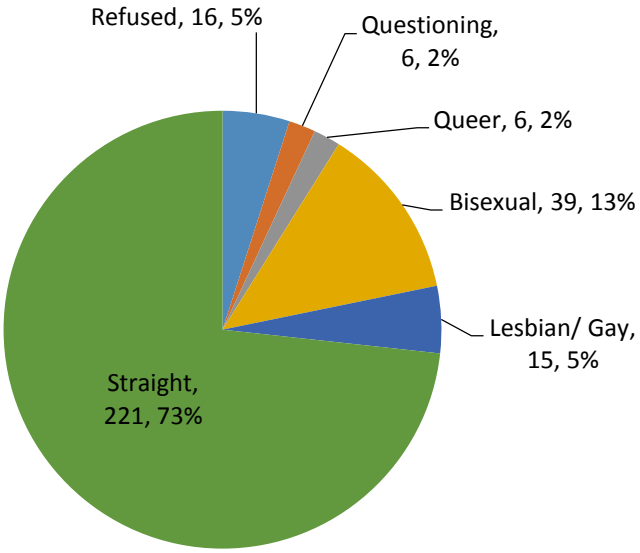


22% of homeless and unstably housed YYA identify as LGBTQ. This includes a cross-tabulation of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Consistent with other national and local research related to the demographics of homeless young people, Count Us In surveys indicate that a disproportionate number of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults identify as LGBTQ.

This is a priority of the Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness by 2020, which identifies the need to provide support for providers in working with young people who identify as LGBTQ and ensure responsiveness to their needs.

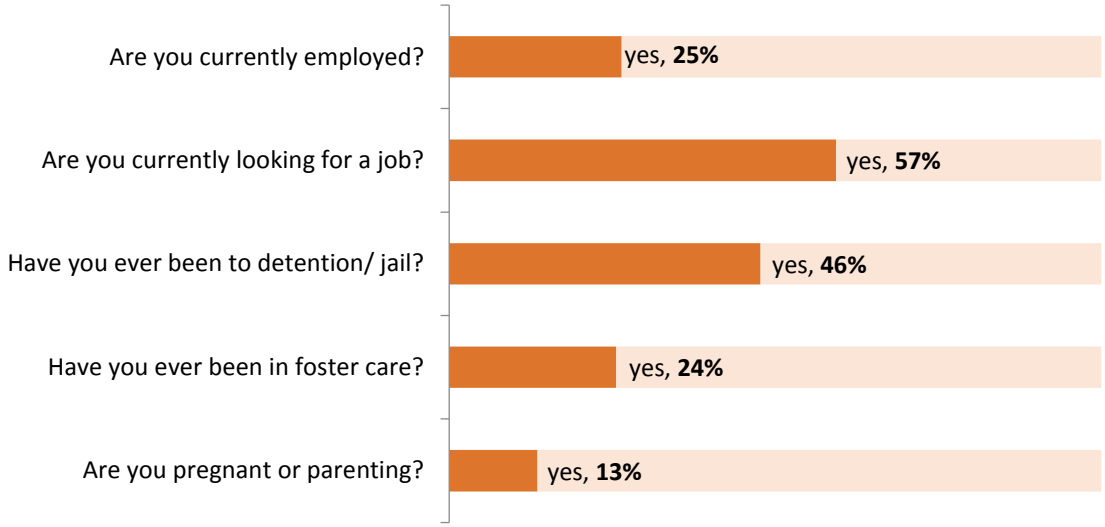
Sexual Orientation of Homeless and Unstably Housed YYA



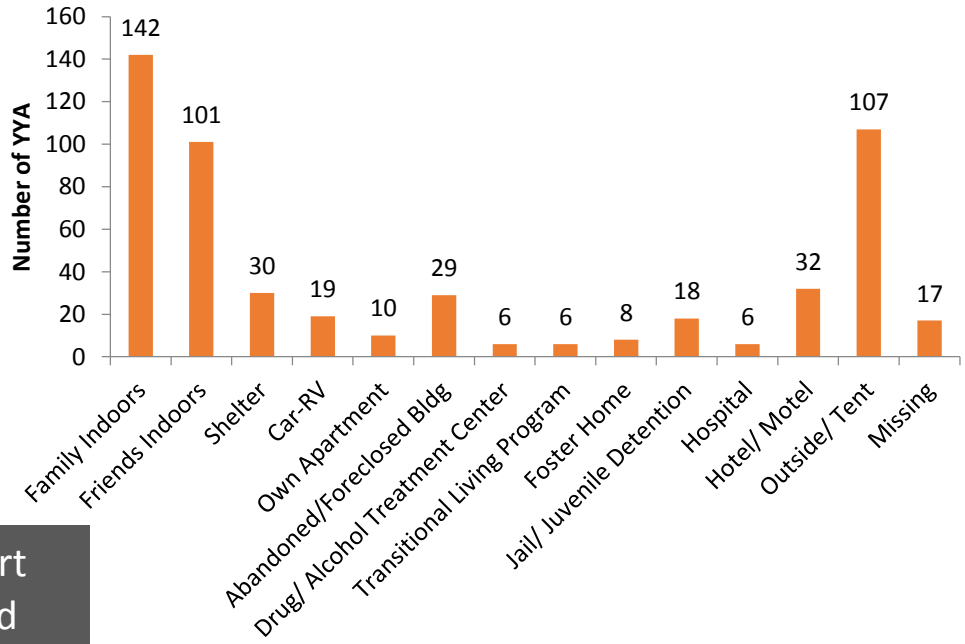
"It was amazing to visit the library sites and see what kinds of connections they were making with young people."

-a young person who observed the count and has experienced homelessness

Additional characteristics of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults



Where Homeless Youth and Young Adults Have Stayed During the Three Months Prior to Count Us In



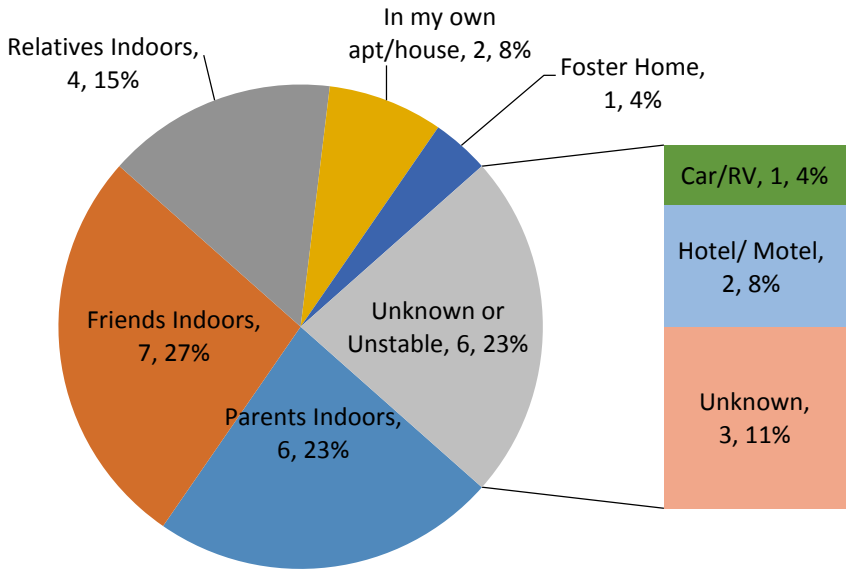
47% of YYAs report having stayed with their parents or other relatives at some point during the 3 months prior to Count Us In.

Results:

King County Juvenile Detention surveys

One of the new partner locations for Count Us In 2015 is King County Juvenile Detention, as housing instability is often experienced by young people who are incarcerated. The following section provides data for 54 YYA who completed the Count Us In survey at King County Juvenile Detention. They are not included in the above demographic profiles due to being housed in detention on January 21, 2015.

Housing Plans after Release of Youth and Young Adults with a History of Not Knowing Where They Would Sleep At Night (n=26)



48% (26) of YYA in detention report that they have a history of homelessness and/or housing instability.

Of these 26 YYA with a history of not knowing where they would sleep at night, **23% (6) identified that they would release to an unknown or unstable location upon release.**

Another 27% (7) indicated that they would stay with friends.

Conclusion

These are our young people. Homeless and unstably housed YYA in King County come from nearly every zip code. Count Us In is one of the critical annual benchmarks that tells us about the potential needs and resources of YYA, and if progress is being made. King County's regional effort to prevent and end YYA homelessness, which is captured through the Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness by 2020, will be renewed in spring 2015. The Committee to End Homelessness cannot do this work alone, neither can local government end homelessness on its own. Commitment and leadership from the community are essential. *It will take a community to end homelessness.*

We are improving our understanding of the scope of homelessness in our community. From multiple years of Count Us In and numerous other data sources, a consistent profile of the young people experiencing homelessness and housing instability is emerging. Count Us In provides us with invaluable information about these young people and is a critical tool in our effort to create a data-driven culture to *improve our response in meeting the needs of young people.*

This is a solvable problem. The 2015 count of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults increased by 6% from 2014, but the issue of homelessness remains one that we, as a community, can impact. Together we continue to work toward putting an end to youth and young adult homelessness, *because no young person should have to sleep outside.*

Appendices

A. Count Us In 2015 Survey and Training Tool
B. Definitions and Terminology
C. Count Us In Partner Locations
D. Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH)
E. Comparability: 2014 to 2015
F. Acknowledgements

APPENDIX A

Youth & Young Adult (age 12 – 25)

Housing Survey

Survey ID:

Have you already taken this survey today? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Age:_____ **Zip code of last permanent address:**_____

Which of the following best represents how you think of your gender? (check all that apply):
☐ Female ☐ Male ☐Transgender ☐ Gender-queer ☐ Gender non-conforming ☐ Other

Race (check all that apply):
☐ American Indian/Alaska Native ☐Asian ☐ African American/ Black
☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐ Caucasian/White ☐ Other

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic ☐ Non-Hispanic

Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?:
☐Straight ☐ Lesbian or Gay ☐ Bisexual ☐ Queer ☐ I don't know/questioning ☐ Refused

Where did you stay last night? (Check One)
☐ With my parent(s) indoors ☐ In my own apartment/house ☐ Foster home
☐ With my friend(s) indoors ☐ Abandoned/foreclosed building/squat ☐ Jail/juv detention
☐ With my relative(s) indoors ☐ Drug/alcohol treatment center ☐ Hospital
☐ Shelter ☐ Transitional Living Program ☐ Hotel/motel
☐ Car/RV ☐ Outside/Tent
☐ Other: _____

Can you live where you stayed last night for the next month? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I Don't Know

Where did you live in the last 3 months? (Check all that apply)
☐ With my parent(s) indoors ☐ In my own apartment/house ☐ Foster home
☐ With my friend(s) indoors ☐ Abandoned/foreclosed building/squat ☐ Jail/juv detention
☐ With my relative(s) indoors ☐ Drug/alcohol treatment center ☐ Hospital
☐ Shelter ☐ Transitional living program ☐ Hotel/motel
☐ Car/RV ☐ Outside/Tent
☐ Other: _____

Has there been a time in the past when you didn't know where you would be sleeping at night? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is the last grade you completed? _____ **Are you currently enrolled in school?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a job?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently looking for a job?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been in foster care?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been to detention or jail?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you pregnant or parenting?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If you don't have anywhere to sleep tonight, ask the staff to give you the green piece of paper.
Thank you for filling out this survey!

APPENDIX A

Count Us In at Juvenile Detention

Supplemental Questions

Were you attending school before coming to detention? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Where did you stay on the last night before you came to detention? (Check one)

☐ With my parent(s) indoors
☐ With my friend(s) indoors
☐ With my relative(s) indoors
☐ Shelter
☐ Car/RV
☐ In my own apartment/house
☐ Abandoned/foreclosed building/squat
☐ Drug/alcohol treatment center
☐ Transitional living program
☐ Foster home
☐ Hospital
☐ Hotel/motel
☐ Outside/Tent
☐ Other: _____

Where do you plan to stay when you are released back to the community? (Check one)

☐ With my parent(s) indoors
☐ With my friend(s) indoors
☐ With my relative(s) indoors
☐ Shelter
☐ Car/RV
☐ In my own apartment/house
☐ Abandoned/foreclosed building/squat
☐ Drug/alcohol treatment center
☐ Transitional living program
☐ Foster home
☐ Hospital
☐ Hotel/motel
☐ Outside/Tent
☐ I don't know
☐ Other: _____

APPENDIX A

2015 Count Us In
Survey Training Tool

This document provides training information for the 2015 Count Us In survey. Staff/volunteers can use this sheet as a reference to help participants answer the survey questions accurately and understand the importance of the information for youth and young adults (YYA).

On January 22, 2015, and into the early morning of January 23rd for slumber party sites, service providers across King County, in coordination with United Way of King County, will host a point in time count. The goal of this effort is to gain a clearer understanding of the number of young people without a stable place to live on any given night in King County. By enhancing the community's knowledge of this issue, we can further our efforts to create a community where no youth or young adult is left without a safe place to sleep.

To Begin: This is a survey about **housing**. The Count Us In survey does not have the word "homeless" anywhere on it, and any young person is invited to fill it out.

Have you already taken this survey today?
This question is very important because it is the one question used to de-duplicate the Count Us In survey. As you ask the question, show the YYA the form so they can identify if they have taken the survey that day.
No – proceed with filling out the survey
Yes – the YYA does not need complete another survey, but can still participate in your agency's Count Us In activities

Basic demographic information (Age, Zip Code, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation)
These questions are used to help identify the characteristics of YYA who are unstably housed or homeless. This information helps ensure we have services to accommodate specific populations.

Specific notes:

- Zip Code: The phrasing on the survey "Zip code of last permanent address" is consistent with how this information is collected in HMIS. A more youth-friendly way to ask this may be ***"What is your family's home zip code?"*** *or* ***"What was your last permanent zip code?"***
- Gender: YYA's may choose as many Gender options as they identify with.
- Race: YYA's may choose as many Race options as they identify with.
- Sexual Orientation: YYA's should check one

Where did you stay last night? (Check One)
This question asks where the participant stayed overnight from Wednesday to Thursday – check one option only.

Can you live where you stayed last night for the next month? (Yes, No, I don't know)
This question determines whether a YYA is permanently housed, unstably housed, or homeless.
Yes – YYA can stay where they stayed last night for the next month.
No – YYA cannot stay where they stayed last night for the next month. Includes if the YYA is moving from place to place during the month or is at-risk of eviction from their current housing.
I don't know – YYA is unsure where they will stay for the entire month

Where did you live in the last 3 months? (check all that apply)
This asks the YYA where they have stayed in the past 3 months. If the participant has stayed at more than one of the locations over the past three months then check all that apply.

APPENDIX A

2015 Count Us In
Survey Training Tool

Location explanations are as follows:

With my parent(s), with my friend(s), or with my relative(s) indoors –includes living with family or friends on a permanent or temporary basis (night-to-night, sleeping on a couch/ roof over their head, but a different couch each night/ looking for a couch to sleep on each night/ leaving before friend's parents get up because they are not allowed to sleep there/ a place to stay, but the YYA cannot stay there for over a month, etc.).
Does not include staying with any of the above in a car, abandoned building, shelter or outdoors.

Car/RV or Abandoned/foreclosed building/squat or Outside/Tent – includes YYA's who are living outside, under bridges, in the park, in doorways, in alley ways, etc. Abandoned/foreclosed building/squat includes YYA's who are squatting or illegally living in foreclosed or empty homes/trespassing. Living in a car includes YYA's finding shelter in a car, van, or camper. YYA's living in a tent includes any young person living outside in a tent as housing. Any place not meant for habitation also falls into these categories.

Hotel/Motel (paid for by the YYA, or through a housing voucher or an agency) – includes YYA's that are staying in a hotel or motel week-to-week or day-to-day due to a lack of money for long term housing. This situation is temporary and cannot be sustained. YYAs receiving hotel/motel vouchers, or an agency subsidy for hotel/motel payment are included in this category as well.

In my own apartment/house– includes private apartment or home, renting a room, or subsidized rental units (section 8, other Housing Authority vouchers, permanent supportive housing, or other subsidized non-time limited housing apartments).

Transitional Living Program (not associated with foster care) – includes most Transitional Living Programs in which age and/or time-limits are a factor such as YouthCare housing, YMCA shared housing, United Indians of All Tribes Youth Home, etc. This does not include juvenile detention facilities such as Spruce Street or foster care temporary placement homes.

Shelter – includes emergency shelter for youth, young adults, single adult men or women, and families (for young parents). Examples of shelters include YouthCare's Orion Center, Youth Haven, ROOTS, and Friends of Youth – The Landing. Also includes YYA's who are staying in a shelter with parents, friends, and/or relatives.

Foster home – includes youth currently under the care of DSHS (under 18) who are wards of the state, or young adults who have signed a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) with the state (if over 18) and live in foster homes or a temporary foster care facility.

Jail/ Juv detention – includes any YYA's who were in detention or jail. This also includes youth who stayed in county juvenile detention facilities, in a Crisis Residential Center such as Spruce Street, or in a residential program, such as Echo Glen Children's Center.

Hospital – includes YYA's who were admitted into the hospital for any reason including, but not limited to, the following reasons: medical, mental health, and chemical dependency.

Drug/Alcohol Treatment Center –includes a substance abuse inpatient treatment facility/rehab or a detox facility.

Other – this category is meant to capture all other options that may not fit into any of the above categories. Do not check this if the YYA is unsure, please look over the options with them and help them decide if their situation fits into one of the above categories before checking this box.

APPENDIX A

2015 Count Us In
Survey Training Tool

Has there been a time in the past when you didn't know where you would be sleeping at night? (Check one)
Yes – check if the YYA has ever been unsure of where they would sleep from night to night.

Education Status - Questions are designed to tell us more about the YYA's education history/goals
What is the last grade you completed?
Write in the last grade completed. (i.e.: If currently in 11th grade, they would write in "10th")
Are you currently enrolled in school?
Check yes if the YYA is currently enrolled in school, which can include college, technical school, high school, or GED programs.

The rest of the questions are yes/no questions designed to tell us more about the YYA's circumstances related to employment, and history of foster care, incarceration, and pregnancy/parenting.
Do you have a job?
Are you currently looking for a job?
Have you ever been in foster care?
Have you ever been to detention or jail?
Are you pregnant or parenting?

Survey Instructions:

1. Your agency will receive a packet of surveys with a cover sheet with your agency name and the number of surveys provided. Each survey will be numbered. Instructions for what to do if your site runs out of surveys are on the front of this packet.

2. PLEASE make sure that youth or young adults have filled out the *entire* survey before accepting it. Please have staff available to review submitted surveys and work with youth to answer any missed questions. Youth have the choice of participating in Count Us In, and quality data requires that each question is answered accurately.

3. After the count, please fill in the number of surveys that were used on the cover sheet (we will assess completeness/ validity) and BRING ALL SURVEYS TO THE COUNT US IN DEBRIEF ON JANUARY 27th (2-3:30pm, 2100 Building, Community Room B, 2100 24th Ave. S., Seattle)

THANK YOU!

Definitions and Terminology

History of Instability	YYA who reported that there has been a time in the past when they didn't know where they would be sleeping at night.
Survey Youth	YYA who completed the Count Us In survey on January 25, 2015 and met the following criteria: • Identified that they had not already taken the survey that day, • Were between 12-25 years of age, • Were either unsheltered or at risk of losing housing, and • Did not stay in shelter or transitional housing the night of January 21, 2015. Surveys of youth who identified that they stayed in shelter or transitional housing this night were removed from the eligible data to avoid duplication of HMIS data.
The Night of the Count	Data from HMIS was included for unaccompanied young people, 12-25, who were in shelter or transitional housing programs on the night of January 21, 2015. Count Us In surveys were administered on January 22, 2015. The question "Where did you stay last night?" was used to identify characteristics of homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults for Count Us In.
Unsheltered	YYA who slept in one of the following locations: outside, tent, car/RV, hotel/motel, abandoned building.[7]
Unstably Housed	YYA at risk of losing housing; YYA who a) did not stay in a shelter or transitional housing b) were not sleeping in one of the "unsheltered" locations, and c) did not know whether they could stay in the same place as the night of January 21, 2015 for the following month.
YYA	Youth and Young Adults

[7] Count Us In data in 2011-2012 used the term "literally homeless" to describe youth who slept outside, or in a tent, car/RV, hotel/motel or abandoned building. To avoid confusion with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of "literally homeless", Count Us In reports beginning with 2013 use the term "unsheltered" instead of "literally homeless" to describe these youth.

Count Us In Partner Locations

Partner Location	Number Surveyed	Number Analyzed
Asian Counseling & Referral Service	8	6
Atlantic Street Family Resource Center	19	8
Auburn Youth Resources	147	80
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service	54	14
Friends of Youth	185	54
Interagency - Alder*	17	5
Interagency - Beacon*	12	4
Interagency - Opportunity Skyway Academy*	21	5
Interagency - Orion*	0	0
Interagency - Queen Anne Recovery School*	3	2
Interagency - Southeast*	0	0
Interagency - Southwest Ed*	11	3
Interagency - Southwest*	0	0
Interagency - UDYC*	16	5
Interagency - YEP*	14	3
Interagency - YMCA 2100*	4	1
Interagency - YMCA/Columbia School*	3	3
King County Library System (KCLS) - Auburn Library	1	0
KCLS - Bothell Library	7	1
KCLS - Burien Library	36	11
KCLS - Carnation*	0	0
KCLS - Covington	17	1
KCLS - Des Moines*	14	3
KCLS - Enumclaw*	26	9
KCLS - Fairwood*	22	3
KCLS - Federal Way 320th*	0	0
KCLS - Federal Way Library	1	0
KCLS - Foster*	15	3
KCLS - Issaquah*	2	2
KCLS - Kent Library	15	6
KCLS - Kingsgate Library	8	0
KCLS - Lake Forest Park*	0	0
KCLS - Mercer Island*	0	0
KCLS - Newcastle*	3	1
KCLS - Newport Way*	0	0
KCLS - North Bend	1	0
KCLS - Redmond Library	0	0
KCLS - Renton Highlands*	7	2
KCLS - Sammamish*	0	0
KCLS - Shoreline*	2	1

*Denotes new partner in 2015.

Three partners that participated in 2014 did not participate in 2015, including Union Gospel Mission, Southeast Youth and Family Services, and Seattle Parks and Recreation, Southwest. Additionally, the partnership with KCLS and SPL branches continues to develop, with some changes to the branches administering the survey each year.

1717 surveys were completed for Count Us In. Surveys not eligible to be included in the analysis indicated that youth had already completed a survey, had stayed in a shelter or transitional housing program, were stably housed, or were not within the valid age range.

Sanctuary Art Center and Street Youth Ministries did not host survey sites, but supported logistics prior to the count and provided staff and volunteers to support the sleepover site hosted by Teen Feed.

APPENDIX C

Partner Location	Number Surveyed	Number Analyzed
KCLS - Skyway	31	4
KCLS - Vashon Island*	7	3
KCLS - White Center Library	14	3
KCLS - Woodmont*	11	6
King County Juvenile Detention*	54	54
Learning Center North*	67	25
Lifelong AIDS Alliance	10	4
NeighborCare Health – 45th Street Youth Clinic	9	0
New Horizons Ministries	41	24
Seattle Parks & Recreation – Internat'l Dist./ Chinatown	0	0
Seattle Parks & Recreation – Jefferson	67	8
Seattle Parks & Recreation – Rainier Beach	24	0
Seattle Parks & Recreation – Rainier	17	0
Seattle Parks & Recreation – Van Asselt	34	3
Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets	11	3
POCAAN/CURB	83	44
Renton YouthSource	38	17
Rising Out of the Shadows (ROOTS)	13	1
Seattle Public Library (SPL) - Ballard Library	0	0
SPL - Central Library	49	15
SPL - Columbia Library	1	0
SPL - Douglass Truth*	32	6
SPL - Greenwood*	0	0
SPL - Lake City*	9	2
SPL - University*	0	0
Teen Feed	48	28
The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse	14	11
Therapeutic Health Services	225	38
Washington Asian Pacific Islander Community Services	18	6
YMCA Young Adult Services	31	22
YouthCare – Orion Center	68	42
TOTAL	1717	605

The Mockingbird Society
Improving foster care | Ending youth homelessness

What is YAEH?

Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH) is a group of young people ages 13-24 from The Mockingbird Society who have experienced homelessness. Members are encouraged and trained to speak up, tell their stories, and advocate for programs and services they think will improve the lives of young people living on the streets throughout King County. YAEH participants advocate for budget and policy changes at all levels of government in the effort to end youth homelessness.[8]

YAEH Involvement

Count Us In is committed to involving young people in the effort to count homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults. This year, YAEH participants visited four Count Us In partner locations on January 22, 2015 to learn more about what young people recommended to improve the survey effort. Below is a summary of what they learned, which they also shared with partner locations during the debrief session held on January 27, 2015.

YAEH Findings: 2015

1. It is important for young people to understand the purpose of Count Us In. Rather than simply be given a survey, young people preferred to hear why they were being asked to take the survey, and why CUI data is important for service providers and advocates.

2. Knowing what the survey is for promotes the accuracy of responses. Young people confirmed that surveys will be more accurate if they understand how CUI data will be used to improve services in the future. If important systems changes are made due to CUI findings, young people would like to learn about them through appropriate communications channels prior to the next annual count.

3. Many youth and allies think that current Count Us In data undercounts homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults in our community, especially in outlying suburban and rural communities where service provision is relatively limited.

Next Steps

Recommendations from YAEH's involvement in Count Us In 2015 will help inform planning and training for Count Us In 2016. Additionally, The Mockingbird Society has hired an AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer who will help develop further recommendations, in partnership with YAEH participants, to improve next year's count.

[8] Additional information about YAEH is available at http://mockingbirdsociety.org/index.php/youth-advocates-ending-homelessness

Comparability: 2014 → 2015

Survey and HMIS Data

2014	2015
779 homeless and unstably housed YYA identified through Count Us In • 20% (159) in shelter • 39% (303) in transitional housing • 16% (124) unsheltered • 25% (193) unstably housed	824 homeless and unstably housed YYA identified through Count Us In • 24% (199) in shelter • 39% (322) in transitional housing • 16% (133) unsheltered • 21% (170) unstably housed
12% (92) under age 18	12% (102) under age 18
51% (401) youth of color	54% (448) youth of color
12% (93) Hispanic, 81% (631) non-Hispanic	13% (108) Hispanic, 75% (619) non-Hispanic
50% (387) female 48% (374) male 2% (12) transgender[9]	49% (203) female 49% (203) male 1% (9) transgender/gender-queer
Homeless and unstably housed YYA come from nearly every zip code in King County • 69% (538) YYA were last housed in King County • 18% (137) YYA were last housed outside of King County[10]	Homeless and unstably housed YYA come from nearly every zip code in King County • 75% (622) YYA were last housed in King County • 5% (40) YYA were last housed in Washington State, outside of King County • 10% (81) YYA were last housed outside of Washington State
222 additional YYA reported having a history of housing instability	230 additional YYA reported having a history of housing instability

[9] The 2014 survey tool did not provide "gender-queer" as a response.
[10] Previous reports do not distinguish between living outside of King County, but within Washington State.

APPENDIX E

Survey Data Only

2014	2015
317 homeless and unstably housed YYA identified through Count Us In surveys	303 homeless and unstably housed YYA identified through Count Us In surveys
30% (90) are enrolled in school	39% (119) are enrolled in school
47% (100) who are not enrolled in school have graduated from high school or received a GED	46% (84) who are not enrolled in school have graduated from high school or received a GED
22% (71) identify as LGBTQ	22% (66) identify as LGBTQ
21% (68) are currently employed	25% (77) are currently employed
70% (221) are looking for a job	57% (172) are looking for a job
47% (148) have been to detention/jail	46% (138) have been to detention/jail
20% (63) have been in foster care	24% (74) have been in foster care
13% (41) are pregnant or parenting	13% (39) are pregnant or parenting
41% (129) report having stayed with family during the past three months	47% (141) report having stayed with family during the past three months

APPENDIX F

Many thanks to the people and organizations who were vital in making Count Us In happen, as well as those who participated in discussions throughout this process.

Special thanks to…

Community partners who participated in Count Us In (listed in Appendix C). There were 71 Count Us In partners in 2015!

Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH) and **The Mockingbird Society** for commitment to improving Count Us In.

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) for partnership and ongoing conversations about counting young people in our community.

Teen Feed for administering Count Us In stipends.

United Way of King County for continuing to fund stipends for Count Us In partners.

Samantha Wiese, MSW student at the University of Washington, Seattle, who managed Count Us In logistics, data analysis, and wrote this report.

For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness Youth and Young Adult Initiative, please visit http://www.kingcounty.gov/youthhomelessness.