

2018 Capital Region Youth Count Summary

This document summarizes major findings from the 2018 Capital Region Youth Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, administered by the Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness¹. A full report detailing the full count will be made available by August 2019. The Youth Count is conducted throughout eight (8) Capital Region counties including Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington Counties. The Youth Count has been conducted on three occasions in 2016, 2017, and 2018. The Advisory Board has and will continue to use the data collected from the Youth Counts to obtain a clearer picture of youth homelessness and create an appropriate coordinated community response to end youth homelessness in the Capital Region.

2018 Youth Count Methodology

The 2018 Capital Region Youth Count was conducted on October 18th, 2018. The Youth Count includes data collected from three (3) data sets: school data from Homeless Student Liaisons, Street Outreach Surveys, and Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This three-pronged approach is essential to determining the state of youth homelessness, as homeless youth are notoriously difficult to identify and track.

Major Findings

- Over the course of 2018, there were **1,076 unaccompanied youth** and **21 parenting youth** (all unduplicated) who stayed in an Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing according to HMIS.
- Student homelessness **increased by 15%** since the 2017 Youth Count.
- The number of homeless youth surveyed **increased by 56%** since the 2018 Youth Count.
- Of those surveyed, **19%** were staying in places not meant for human habitation in 2018 – more than **twice** that of respondents in 2017.
- **18-24 year old's** represented the majority of those surveyed (who were homeless or unstably housed); but **fewer** were seen sheltered between 2017 and 2018.
- Among the unstably housed or homeless youth surveyed in 2018, **youth of color were represented two to three-times more** than the general population, but **fewer** youth of color were seen sheltered than in 2017.

¹ The mission of the Capital Region Youth Advisory Board is to provide leadership and develop, advocate, and coordinate community strategies to end youth homelessness in the Capital Region. In order to develop meaningful strategies, accurate data on how many youths are experiencing homelessness in the Capital Region. One of the primary ways in which the Capital Region Youth Count captures data on youth homelessness is through the annual Youth Count.

School Data

School liaisons were asked to report total number of enrolled homeless students (ages 13-21) and, of that number, the total number of unaccompanied homeless students. Data was collected from **52 out of the 77 Capital Region schools** (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington), compared to only 33 participating schools in 2017. The numbers below represent **only** schools that responded in both 2017 and 2018 only in order to allow for comparison.

Homeless students are defined by McKinney-Vento Legislation as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”, which includes “doubled up”. Unaccompanied is defined as “not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian”. While the numbers below exemplify the significant need among homeless youth in the region, it should be noted this is **likely an undercount**; only those students whose homeless status is reported to school administration were counted. It is likely that schools are unaware of additional youth experiencing homelessness.

School Data Findings:

- Total number of homeless students on October 18th, 2018: **591**
 - **15% increase** in homeless students from 2017 Youth Count
- Total number of unaccompanied homeless students: **132**
 - **27% increase** in unaccompanied youth from 2017 Youth Count

Year	Total homeless enrollment aged 13-21	Total homeless unaccompanied aged 13-21	Percent of Unaccompanied Youth
2018	591	132	22%
2017	513	104	20%
Percent Change 2017-2018	15%	27%	

Survey Data

Surveys were created utilizing recommendations of key stakeholders, including youth, and building on past years' survey tools. Surveys were anonymous and voluntary and youth that agreed to participate in the survey were given a gift card for participating. Each community identified a lead agency to develop the plan for the day of the count, including recruiting and training volunteers to conduct street outreach. Volunteers covered specified areas of the community and identified 'hot spots' in order to survey as many youth, aged 13-24, as possible.

Surveys: Homeless vs. Unstably Housed²

Between 2017 and 2018, the number of youth surveyed who were homeless increased by **56%** (from **11** to **25**).

County	Completed Surveys 2018	Completed Surveys 2017	Percent Change
Total Surveys	147	184	-25%
Total Unstable and Homeless numbers	53 (36%)	72 (39%)	-26%
Total Unstably Housed	28 (19%)	61 (33%)	-54%
Total Homeless	25 (17%)	11 (6%)	56%

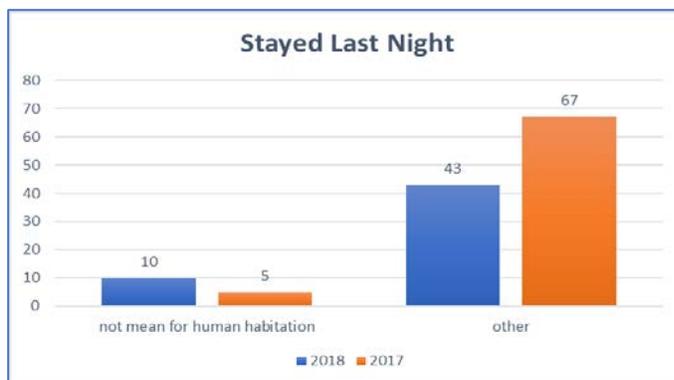
Surveys: Demographics

- In 2018, **18-24-year old's** represent most of the homeless and unstably housed youth surveyed. From 2017 to 2018, the percentage of homeless youth ages 18-24 **increased** by **52%**, while the percentage of unstably housed youth ages 18-24 **decreased** by **37%**.
- Youth of color**, specifically youth who are Black/African American, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, or two or more races – are represented **two to three times** as often in the homeless population as they are in the general population.

Surveys: Current State of Housing

The top 5 reasons for unstably housed and homeless youth's current state of housing is shown below for 2018. **Conflict with parent/guardian** was one of the top five reasons reported for both years. A higher number of youth were **kicked out** (7) compared to having run away (2).

Homeless Youth Reasons for Current Housing	Unstable Youth Reasons for Current Housing
Multiple factors	Multiple factors
Conflict with parent/guardian (kicked out)	Conflict with parent/guardian (kicked out)
Not enough space at parent/guardian's	Not enough space at parent/guardian's
Evicted from own place	Have to pay rent at parent/guardian's
Substance Abuse	Conflict with parent/guardian (ran away)



19% of respondents were staying in places not meant for human habitation in 2018 – more than **twice** that of respondents in 2017.

Examples of not meant for human habitation: abandoned building/vacant unit, anywhere outside, vehicle. Examples of other: friend's or boyfriend's/girlfriend's or relative's home, home of person having sex with, transitional housing, shelter.

² Homeless youth met HUD's definition and Unstably Housed youth were defined as being at imminent risk of losing housing or "couch surfing".

HMIS Data

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a technology system used to collect client-level data on homeless individuals, families, and persons at-risk of homelessness. Using relevant data from HMIS, Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing data for October 18th, 2017, and 2018 was analyzed³. The data is broken down by Unaccompanied Youth and Parenting Youth. Unaccompanied Youth are those individuals that are not in the direct custody of a parent or guardian. Parenting Youth are persons ages 13-24 who are not with a parent or guardian, and who have children themselves. Parenting Youth can include a couple with children, of which both persons are between 13 – 24 years old.

HMIS Data: Unaccompanied Youth

Over the course of 2018, there were **1,076** unduplicated **unaccompanied youth** who stayed in an Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing.

Youth Count Comparison:

Date	Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth Households Under 17	Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth Households 18-24	Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth
10/18/2018	26	41	67
10/18/2017	17	55	72
Percent Change	53%	-25%	-7%

- Total unaccompanied youth remained high at **67**.
- Households under the age 17 **increased** by **53%**, while households 18 – 24 years old **decreased** by **25%**.
- Unaccompanied youth who are white **increased** by **19%**; unaccompanied youth who are Black/African American **decreased** by **34%**.
- Unaccompanied youth who are non-Hispanic/non-Latino **decreased** by **17%**; unaccompanied youth who are Hispanic/Latino **increased** by **8%**.

HMIS Data: Parenting Youth

Over the course of 2018, there were **21** unduplicated **parenting youth** who stayed in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing during the year.

Youth Count Comparison:

Date	Total Number of Parenting Youth Households	Total Number of Persons in Parenting Youth Households
10/18/2018	13	29
10/18/2017	23	54
Percent Change	77%	86%

- Total number of persons in parenting youth households remained high at **29**.
- Parenting youth who are Black/African American represented the **majority** of parenting youth on the given dates (6 parents in 2017 and 14 parents in 2018).
- Parenting youth who are Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino represented the **majority** of parenting youth on the given dates (9 parents in 2017 and 16 parents in 2018).

³ The data presented is based on reported data in HMIS; not all homeless service providers report into HMIS.