

Capital Region Point in Time Youth Count

2018

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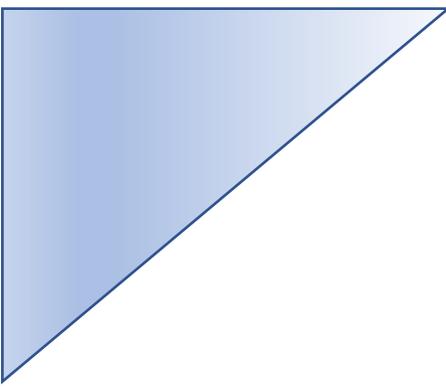
Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness

The Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness was created in 2016 and includes local representatives of homeless service providers and state agencies with the Capital Region who are committed to preventing and ending homelessness. These stakeholders convened with the shared goal of collaborating and sharing resources in order to collect and report more accurate, clear, and convincing data regarding youth homelessness. This data will be used to educate the public, elected officials, state and federal agencies, other non-profits interested in serving homeless youth and to provide valuable information for grant writing and advocacy.

A federal vision, developed by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), calls for ending youth homelessness among unaccompanied youth, or youth with a parent or guardian, by 2020. The Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness is committed to making this vision a reality in the Capital Region. The mission of the Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness is to 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 youth are experiencing homelessness in the Capital Region must be collected and analyzed.

The Point in Time Youth Count is conducted through eight (8) Capital Region counties including Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington Counties in October. The Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness will use the data to obtain a clear picture of the prevalence of youth homelessness and offer findings and recommendations for the community of providers and interested partners to create an appropriate, coordinated community response to end youth homelessness in the Capital Region. The Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness is comprised of the following members;

CAPTAIN Community Human Services	St. Anne Institute	WAIT House	SAFE Inc.	Albany County DCYF
Unity House	NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance	NYS Office of Children and Family Services	St. Catherine's Center for Children	Equinox
Albany County DSS	Joseph's House			



Definitions of Terms

Continuums of Care are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or entire state.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a secure, computerized data collection system that captures client-level information regarding the characteristics and services needs of homeless and at-risk individuals and families.

Homeless Youth are those individuals, aged 13 – 24 years, with no adequate nighttime residence, who are staying in a nighttime residence that was designed for temporary living, who are living in a state or privately operated emergency shelter, who are living in residential Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs, and/or who are staying in public or private places not meant for human habitation.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that provides federal money for homeless assistance programs and mandates that local school districts provide a homeless student liaison for all children and families that present to the school district.

Point-in-Time Count refers to the unduplicated one day and night (24-hour period) estimates of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations and are conducted by Continuums of Care annually.

Runaway Youth is person under the age of 18 years who is absent from his or her legal residence without the consent of his or her parent, legal guardian, or custodian.

School District Homeless Liaison is responsible for ensuring compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and ensuring children and youth experiencing homelessness receive all protections and services necessary for them to succeed in school.

Unaccompanied Youth is a student who is not the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian; this includes young people who have run away from home, have been kicked out of their homes, or have been abandoned by parents.

Unsheltered refers to an individual staying in a place not meant for human habitation and includes staying in a car or other vehicle, abandoned building, vacant unit, train/bus, train/bus station, and anywhere outside.

Methodology

Every year, the annual PIT Count by Continuums of Care (CoCs), as directed by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is designed to capture the full scope of homelessness within a CoC, but unfortunately is better at capturing data and numbers about adult populations and families, and not very good at capturing data on youth. With this understanding, the Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness purposely designed a youth-specific PIT Count with broader definitions of homelessness to provide a better, more accurate picture and scope of youth homelessness.

As mentioned earlier, the Capital Region Point in Time Youth Count (Youth Count) was conducted throughout eight (8) Capital Region counties including Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington Counties. This was the third year of the Youth Count and allowed the Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness to form a clearer picture of youth homelessness and create recommendations for an appropriate coordinated community response to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Capital Region.

The Youth Count was conducted on October 18th, 2018, and captured data for youth ages 13 – 24 years. The Youth Count included data collected from three (3) distinct data sets; 1.) ***On-the-Street Surveys of Youth***, 2.) ***School Data from Homeless Student Liaisons***, and 3.) ***Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)***.

Surveys

Surveys were created utilizing recommendations of key stakeholders, including youth, the groundbreaking work of Chapin Hall and Voices of Youth Count national survey, and building on past years' experience and survey tools. Surveys were anonymous and voluntary, and youth that agreed to participate in the survey were given a gift card for participating. Each County and communities participating in the Youth Count identified a lead agency to develop the plan for the day of the Youth Count, including recruiting and training volunteers to conduct street surveys. Volunteers covered specific areas of the community and identified "hot spots" where target youth may congregate in order to survey as many youth, aged 13 – 24 years, as possible.

School

On October 18th, school liaisons were asked to report the total number of enrolled homeless students (ages 13 – 21 years) on their caseload or registered with the school district and, of those students, the total number of unaccompanied homeless students. Data was collected from **52** out of 77 Capital Region schools.

HMIS Data

Using relevant data from HMIS, the Capital Region Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness looked homeless, runaway, and unaccompanied youth and young adults staying in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing on October 18th across the Capital Region.

Findings and Recommendations

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 Homelessness. 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. Sharing this information with the public is a priority for the Advisory Board and providing a comparison of 2018 data to the 2017 Youth PIT Count allows for a better understanding of the needs of homeless, runaway, and unaccompanied youth in our region.

To provide context to the report, it is important to note during 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.

A key aspect of this report is summarizing the findings and providing recommendations for the community to better address youth homelessness.

Major Finding #1

Student homelessness increased by 15% since the 2017 Youth Count.

Recommendation

- Increased focus, funding, and training to support local school districts to the needs of homeless students and their families.
- All school districts should ensure their Homeless Student Liaison is properly supported and trained to administer McKinney – Vento Legislation and requirements.

Major Finding #2

The number of homeless youth surveyed increased by 56% since the 2017 Youth Count.

Recommendation

- Increased need for additional Street Outreach services to reach youth who are homeless, runaway, or unstably housed to connect them with services and housing options.
- Increased focus on emergency and transitional housing options to help move youth from crisis to permanent housing with supportive services.

Major Finding #3

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

Recommendation

- Increased focus and funding for Street Outreach services to connect homeless, runaway, and street-involved youth with housing services and providers.
- More community-level planning to address the needs of homeless youth and analyze the current emergency and transitional housing systems for youth to ensure increased access.

Major Finding #4

18-24 year olds represented the majority of those surveyed (who were homeless or unstably housed); but **fewer** were seen sheltered between 2017 and 2018.

Recommendation

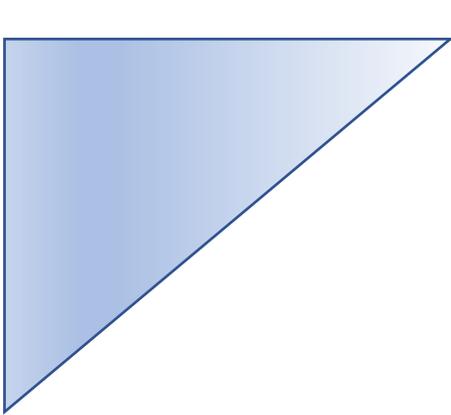
- Address gaps in the current emergency and transitional housing programs and homeless services systems for meeting the needs of young adults ages 18 – 24 years.
- Increased need for community-level and Continuum of Care action to address this issue and increase funding to support new programming specifically designed to meet the needs of this sub-population of homeless youth.

Major Finding #5

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 sheltered than in 2017.

Recommendation

- Increase focus on addressing the needs of youth of color within the homeless services system, particularly emergency and transitional housing programs.
- Identify gaps, weaknesses, or issues with meeting the needs of youth of color in housing service programs and systems.
- Increased awareness around the issue and focus on cultural competency training for programs and staff at all levels of service.



Data Sets

School Data

McKinney-Vento 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 for those districts that reported in 2017 and 2018:

- 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 Housed¹

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 olds** 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 is 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).

<u>Homeless Youth Reasons for Current Housing</u>	<u>Unstable Youth Reasons for Current Housing</u>
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)

* Please refer to Appendix for additional information and data.

¹ 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 analyzed². 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.

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.

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

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%

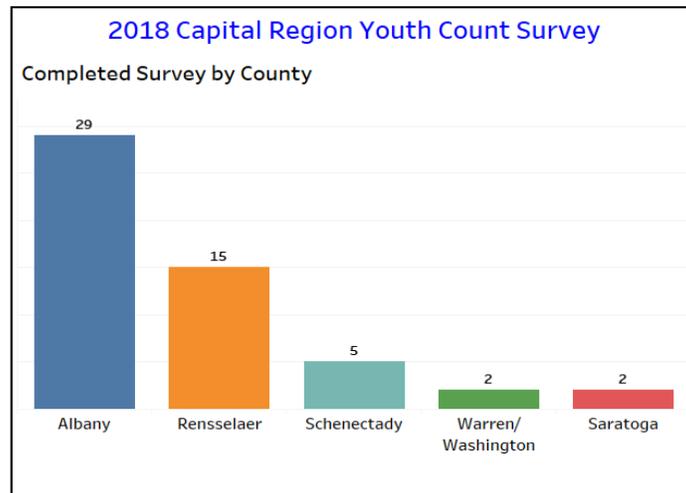
- Total parenting youth **decreased** by **77%** (from **23** to **13**).
- Total number of parenting youth households **decreased** by **86%** (from **54** to **29**).
- Parenting youth who are Black/African American represented the **majority** of parenting youth on the given dates (6 parents in 2017 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).

² The data presented is based on reported data in HMIS; not all homeless service providers report into HMIS.

Appendix

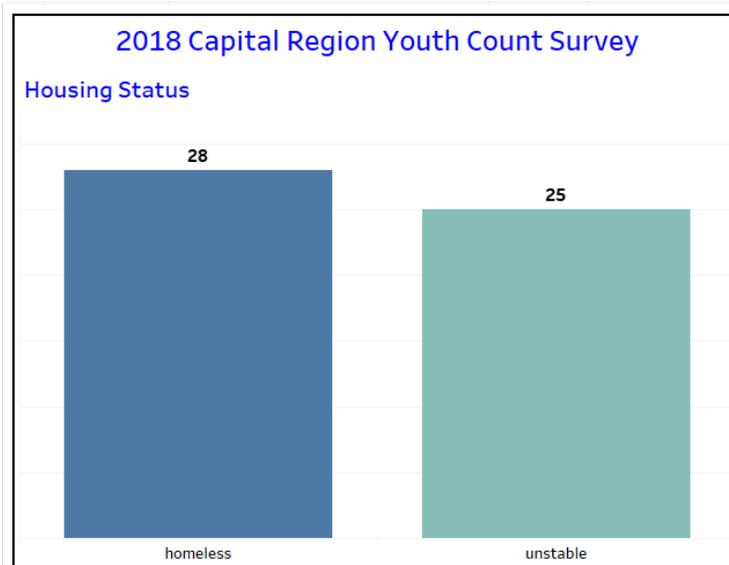
COMPLETED SURVEYS BY COUNTY

There was a total of 53 surveys completed in 2018 that were determined to be unstably housed. In 2017 there were 60 surveys completed that were determined to be unstably housed. An 11% decrease of unstably housed youth in the Capital Region.



UNSTABLY HOUSED BREAKOUT

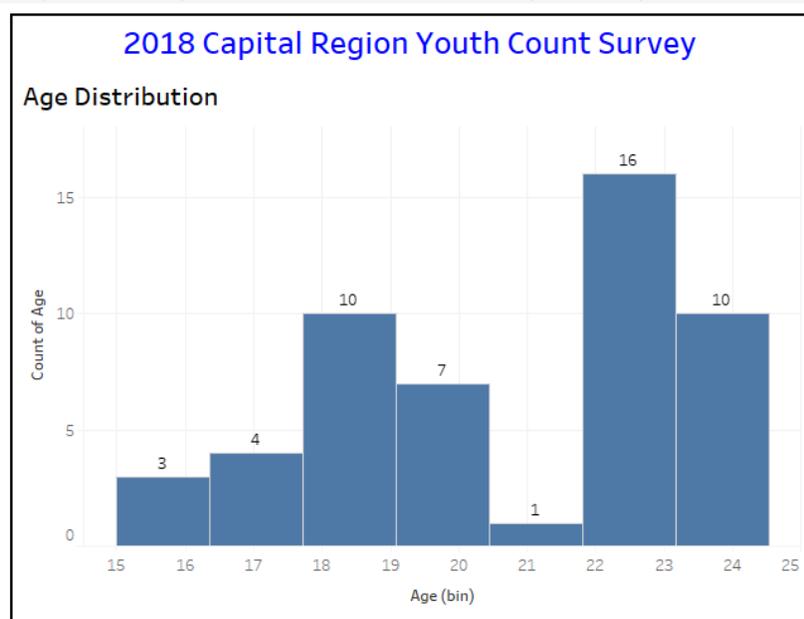
Of those 53 youths that were determined to be unstably housed, 28 of them were considered homeless and 25 of them were considered to have unstable housing. Looking at the percentages, we see that youths considered to be homeless increased in 2018 and youths with unstable housing decreased in 2018.



Year	Total unstable	Homeless %	Unstable housing %
2017	60	43%	57%
2018	53	53%	47%

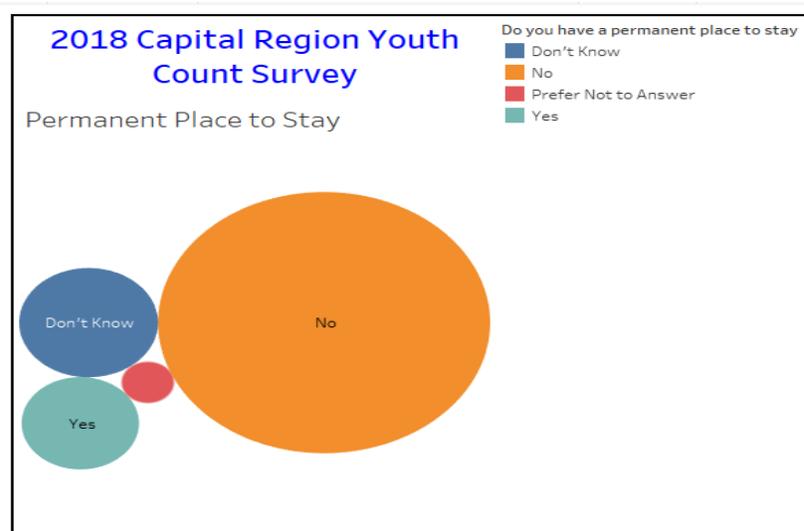
AGE RANGE

The age range of those surveyed in 2018 was 15 years old to 24 years old. The average age for the year was 20 years old, and Albany county surveyed more youths than any other county. The most surveyed for the year was from ages 22-23.



PERMANENT PLACE TO STAY

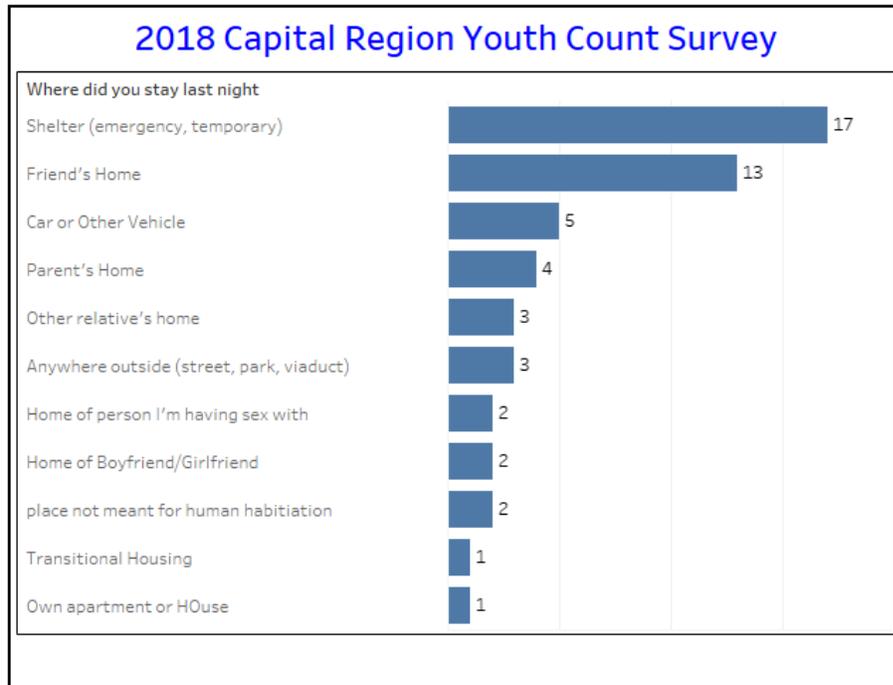
Of those 53 youths that were determined to be unstably housed, when asked if they had a permanent place to stay, 75% of them indicated no, in 2017, 62% had indicated that they did not have a permanent place to stay. Looking at the table, the percentage of youths who said that they did not have a permanent place to stay in 2018 increased by 13%. All other answers to this question decreased within the year.



Year	No	Yes	Don't Know	Prefer not to Answer
2017	62%	14%	17%	7%
2018	75%	9%	13%	2%

STAYED LAST NIGHT

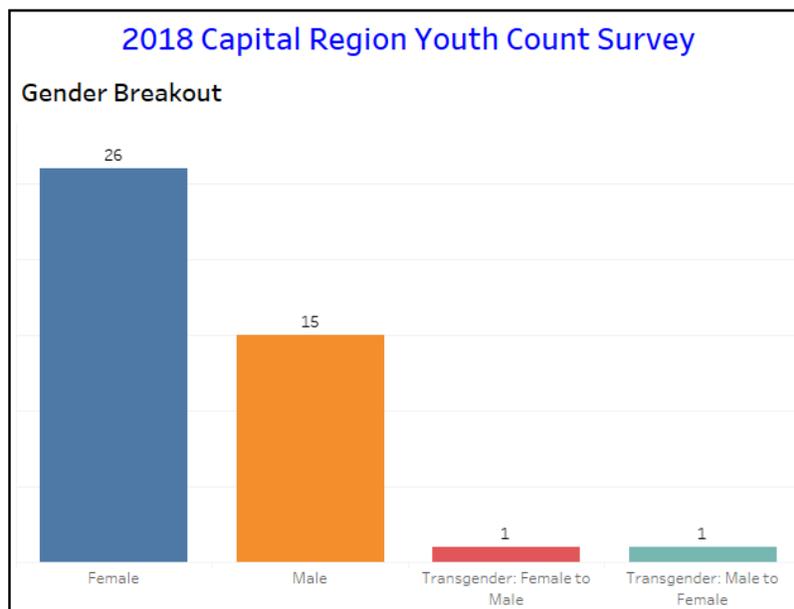
Of those 53 youths that were determined to be unstably housed, when asked where they stayed the previous night, 32% had indicated they stayed at a shelter (emergency, temporary) followed by 25% who indicated a friend's home. In 2017, friend's home was the top response for where the youths had stayed the previous night followed by shelter.



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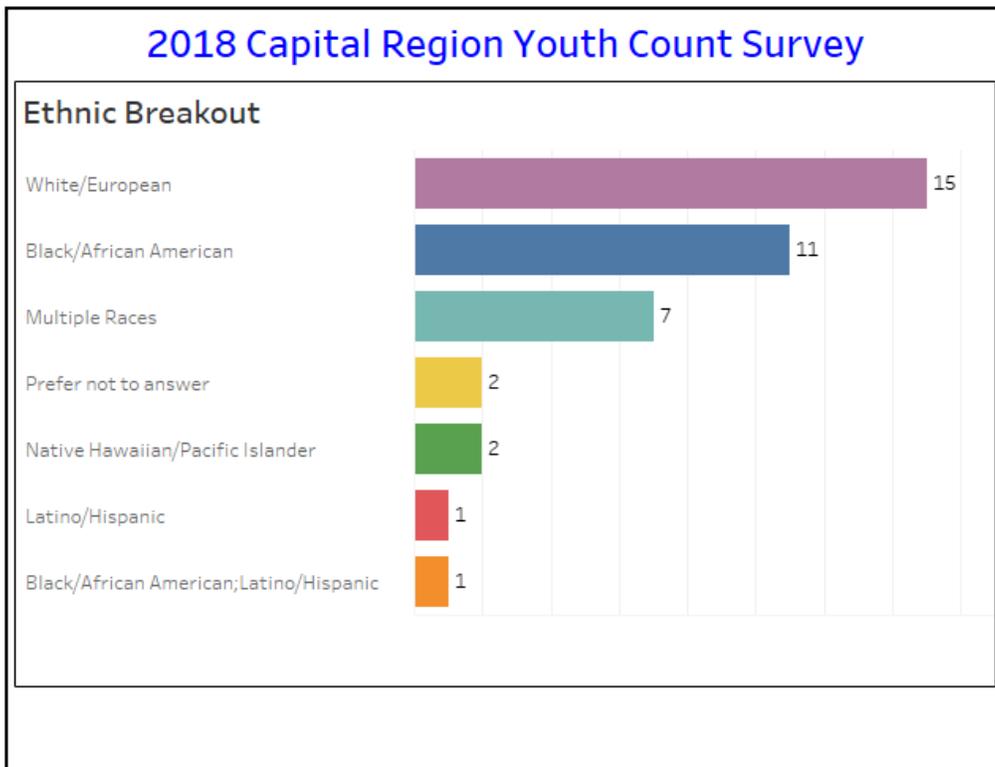
GENDER

In 2018, females ranked the highest responders. In 2017, males and females were the same number of responders. Males responses decreased by 57% and female responses decreased by 26% in one year. With the different methodology for calculating unstable and homeless youth in 2017, can explain the huge decrease in responders.



ETHNICITY

Looking at the Ethnic breakout for 2018, we can see that White/European is the top answer among the youths surveyed followed by Black/African American. In 2017, Black/African American was the top answer among the youths surveyed followed by White.



Additional HMIS Data

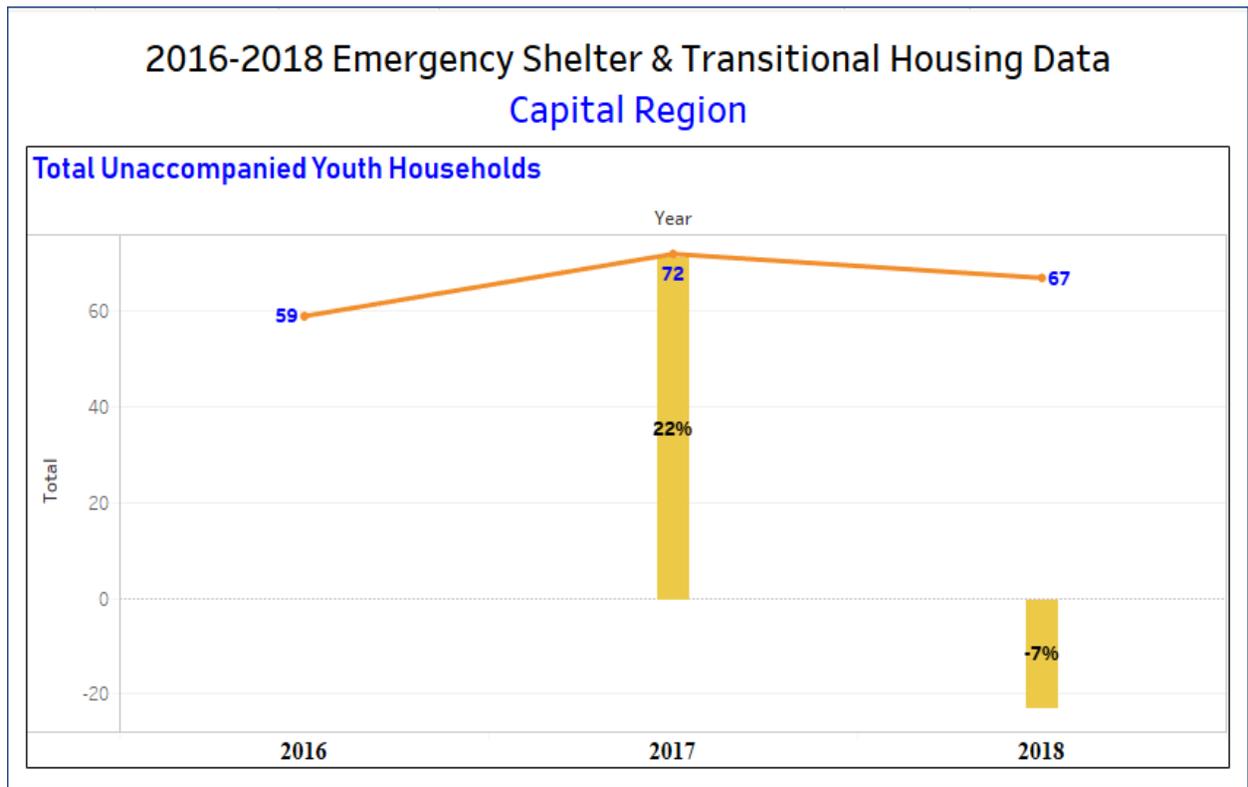
Using relevant data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing data for the past three years were pulled. The point in time date for all three years used was October 18th for consistency. The focus of this analysis is two parts; 1.) Unaccompanied youth, which can be described as anyone under the age of 25, and 2.) Parenting youth, which can be described as youth with children. The total numbers are the sum of the following counties: Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

Unaccompanied Youth

Total Unaccompanied Youth:

The data showed that in 2018, there was a total of 67 unaccompanied youth in the Capital Region, a 7% decrease from the previous year. In 2017, there was 72 total unaccompanied youth and 59 total unaccompanied youth in 2016 which indicated a 22% increase in the total number of unaccompanied youth in the Capital Region within that year.

Overall, in three years, the total number of unaccompanied youth has increased by 14% in the Capital Region. Based on this data, it can be expected that unaccompanied youth will continue to increase within the next two years.

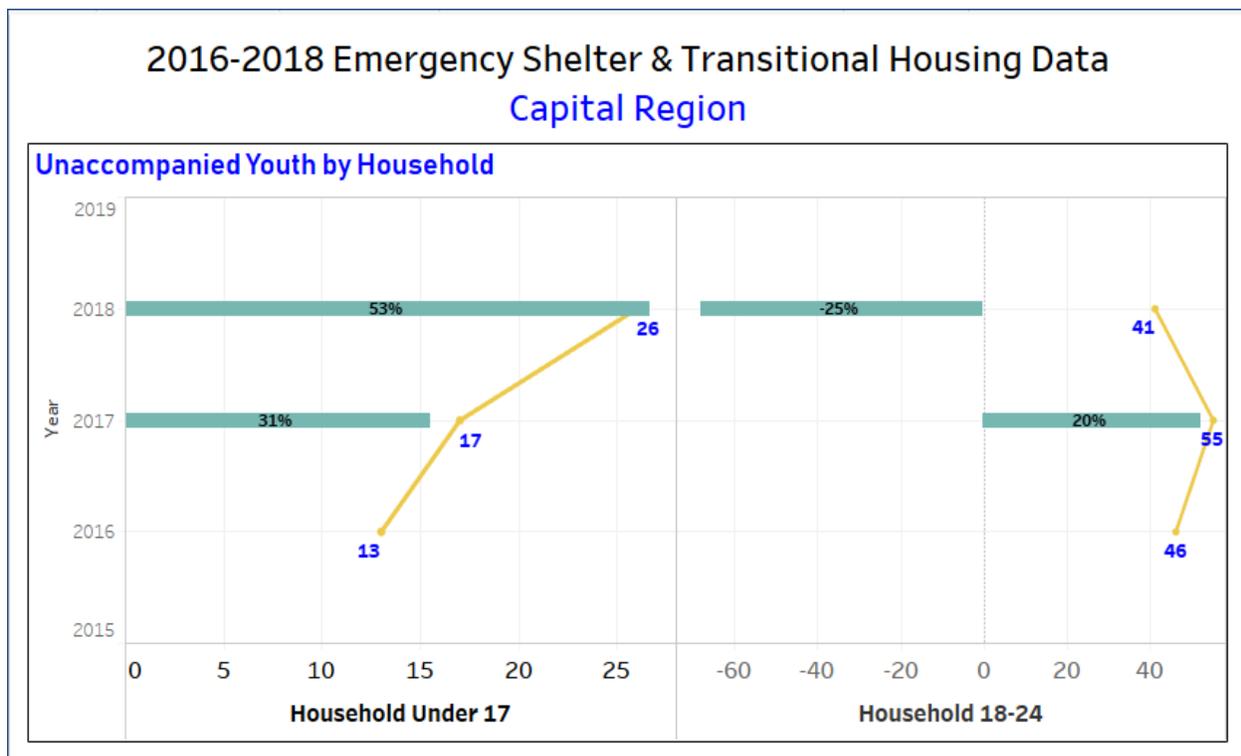


Household under 17:

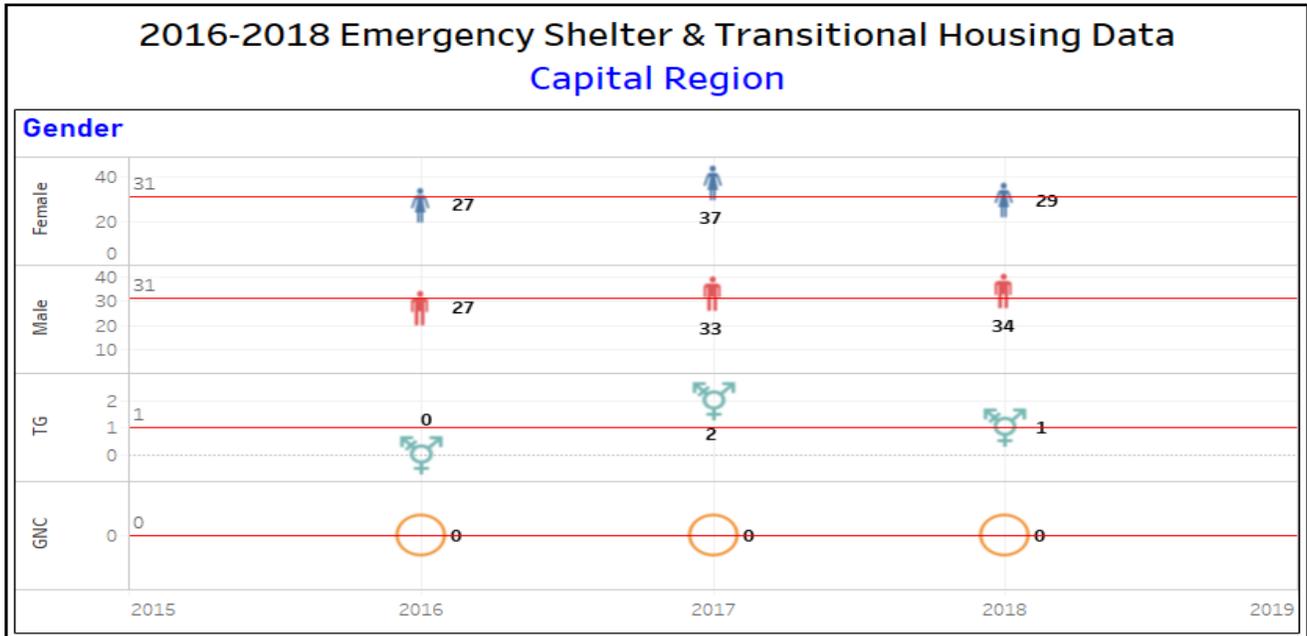
Next we looked at unaccompanied youth by household type. In 2018, there were 26 total unaccompanied youth in households under 17, a 53% increase from the previous year. In 2017, there were 17 total unaccompanied youths and 13 total unaccompanied youths in 2016, which indicated a 31% increase within that year. In three years, that's 100% increase in the number of youth in households under 17.

Household 18-24:

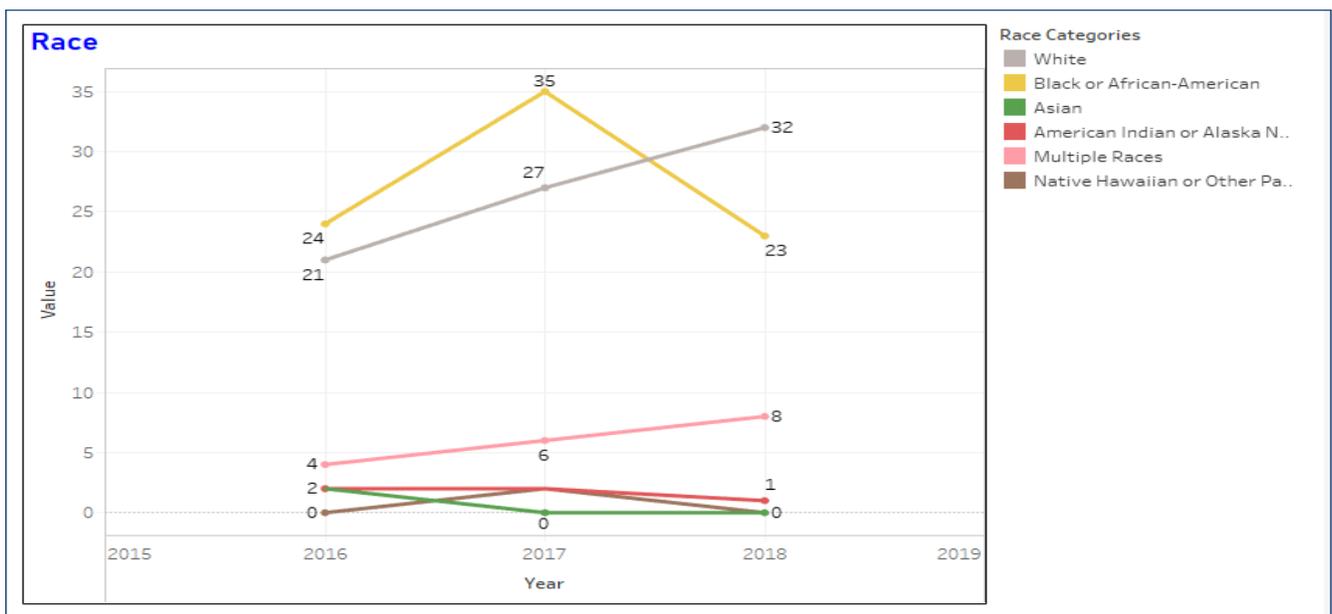
In 2018, there were 41 unaccompanied youth in households 18-24, a 25% decrease from the previous year. In 2017 there were 55 unaccompanied and in 2016 there were 46 unaccompanied youths in households 18-24. From 2016 to 2017 the total number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 17 in the Capital Region increase by 20%. In three years, that's an 11% decrease in the number of youth in households 18-24.



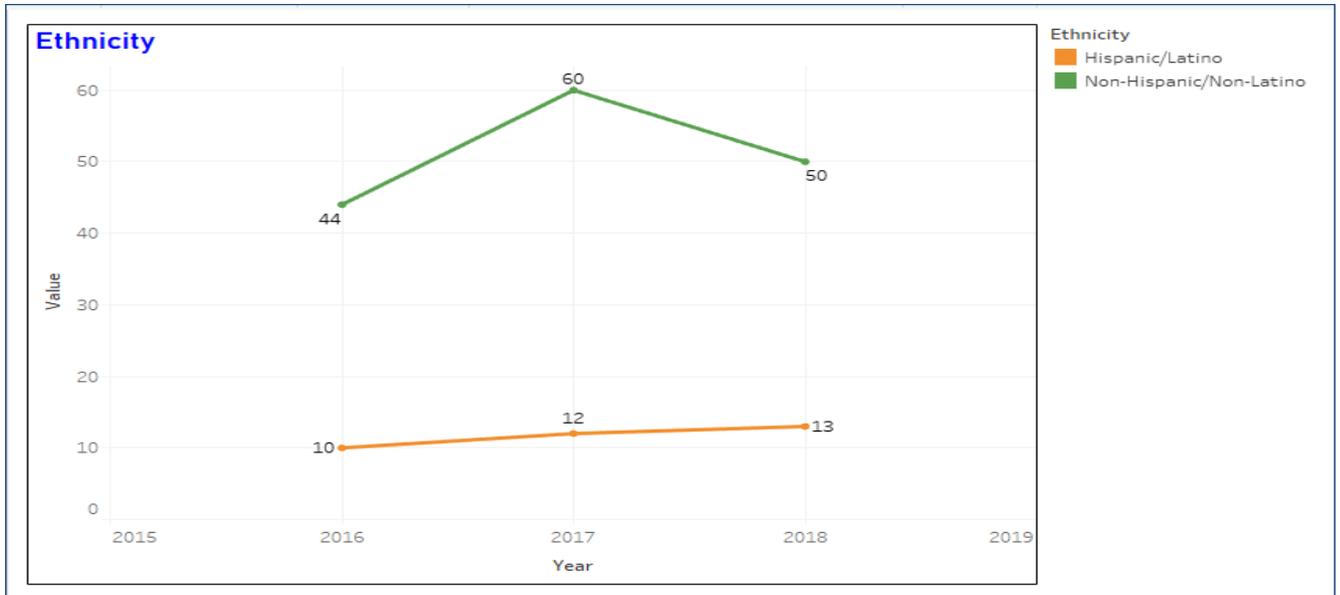
Gender: The highest reported genders are male and females, averaging around 31 persons annually. However, the female reported gender decreased 22% from 2017 to 2018 and the male reported gender increased 3% within the same year.



Race: For the past three years, the highest reported races were White and African American consistently. Black or African American ranked the highest above Whites in 2016 and 2017. However, Whites increased by 19% in 2018 as the top reported race, while Black or African American decreased by 34%. Multiple race is the third highest reported race as their numbers also increased within the past three years.

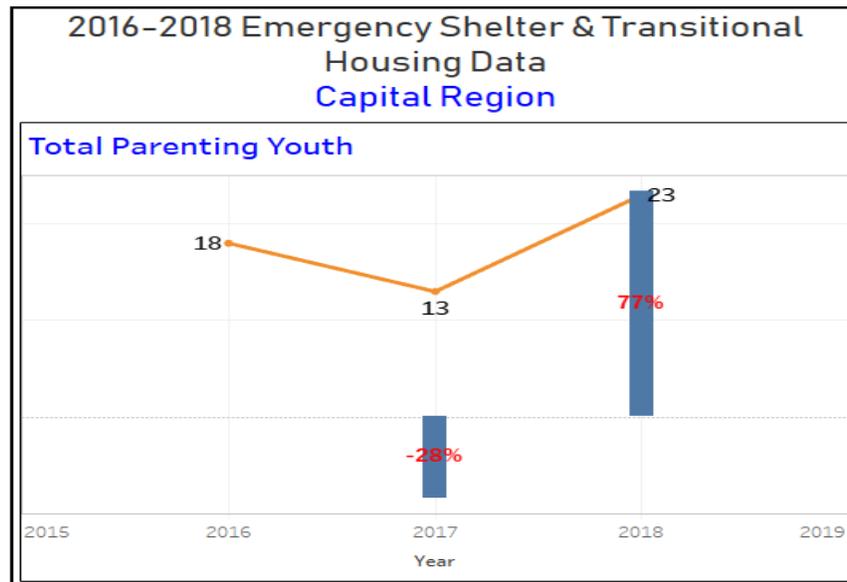


Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, has been the highest reported ethnicity for the past three years. However, there has been a 17% decrease in the reported number of persons identifying as Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino from 2017-2018. While the Hispanic/Latino persons have increased by 8% within the same year.

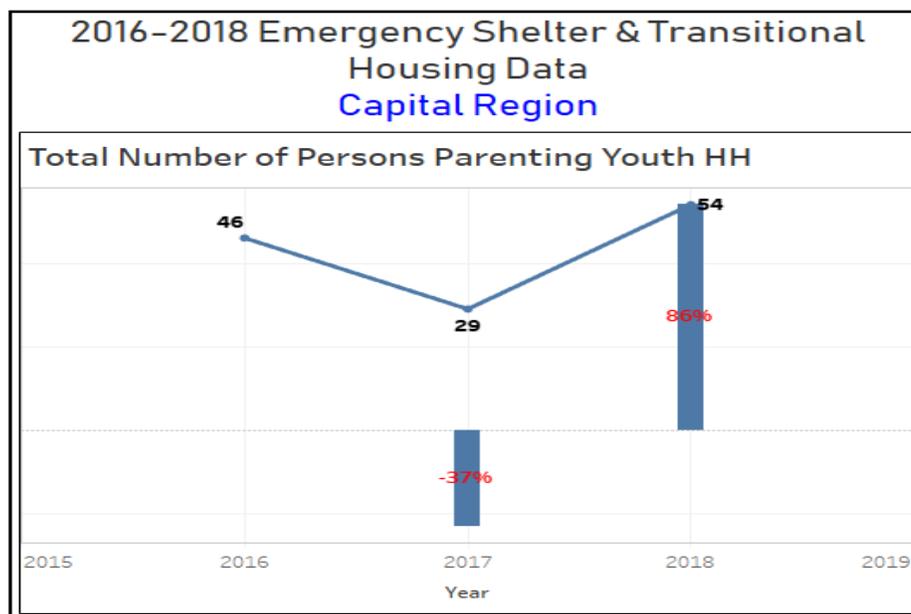


Parenting Youth

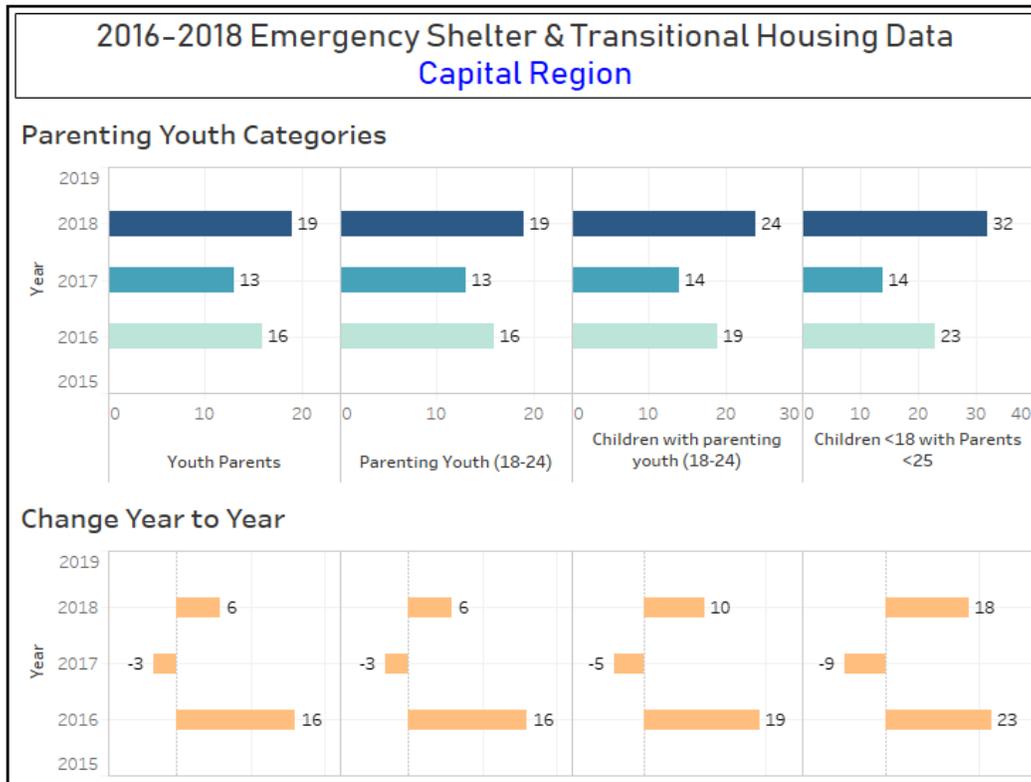
Total Parenting Youth: An analysis of this data showed that in 2018 the total number of parenting youth in the Capital Region was 23, a 77% increase from the previous year. In 2017 there were 13 total parenting you and in 2016 there were 18 total parenting youth which indicated a 28% decrease in the capital region within that year. Overall, in three years the total number of parenting you increased by 28% in the Capital Region. Based on this data, it can be expected that parenting youth will continue to increase within the next two years.



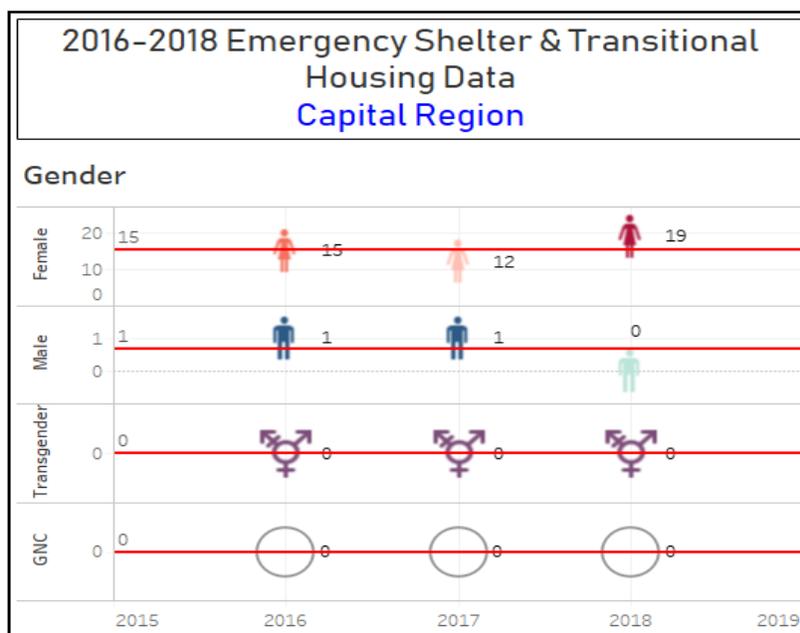
Total Number of Persons Parenting Youth Household: An 86% increase in the total number of persons parenting youth household is consistent with the total number of parenting youth. The charts compared with each other look very similar. From 2016 to 2017 there is a decrease in the total number of persons parenting youth. From 2017 to 2018 that number increases similar to the pattern above.



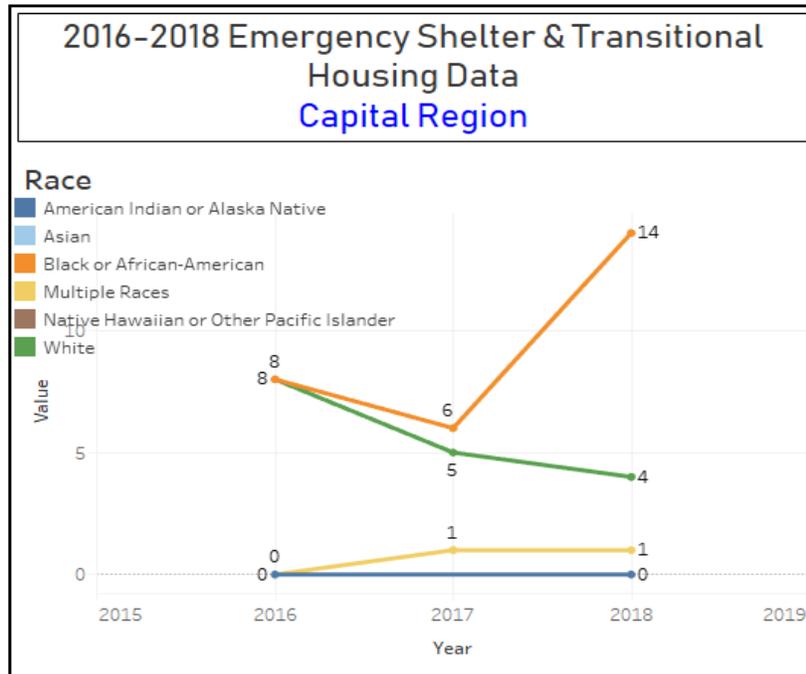
Parenting Youth Categories: Looking at the different types of parenting youth categories, the biggest increase from 2017 to 2018 were “Children with parenting youth 18-24” and “Children under 18 with parents under 25”. Youth parents and Parenting youth 18-24 showed a slight increase from 2017 to 2018. All categories showed a decrease from 2016 to 2017. It can be expected that these categories will continue to grow.



Gender: Females ranked the highest all three years in parenting youth. On average there were 15 females to 1 male. No one identified as transgender or gender non-conforming. 2018 saw the highest spike for those parenting youth identifying as females.



Race: Like unaccompanied youth, for parenting youth, the past three years, the highest reported races were White and African American consistently. Black or African American ranked the highest above Whites in 2016 and 2017. However, Whites decreased by 20% in 2018, while Black or African American increased by 133%.



Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, has been the highest reported ethnicity for the past three years.

