Counting Young Adults and Youth: What Everyone Needs to Know about Counting Homeless Youth in the 2016 PIT Count

October 21, 2016

COHHIO

USICH and Framework to End Youth Homelessness: Data Strategy

- Developing better strategies for counting youth in PIT counts
- Coordinating Federal data systems
- Launching a national study on the prevalence and characteristics
- Using the national study methodology to make periodic estimates over time

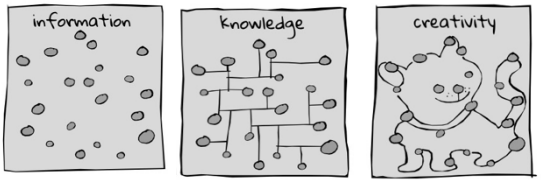
Progress

- Integration of Runaway and Homeless Youth Information System (RHYMIS) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- 2015 PIT count included Youth Households for first time

Why Count Youth??

- Limited local and statewide data
- Invisible and do not self-identify
- Methods for counting adults do not accurately capture youth

Information is Key to Knowledge, Planning and Creative Thinking



2014 Data: 1,236 Homeless Youth 18 to 24

State Name: Ohio

Summary by household type reported:

	Sheltered			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing[4]	Unsheltered	Total
Households without children[1]	4,587	2,029	888	7,504
Households with at least one adult and one child[2]	723	538	53	1,314
Households with only children[3]	29	6	1	36
Total Homeless Households	**5,339**	**2,573**	**942**	**8,854**
Persons in households without children[1]	**4,672**	**2,010**	**934**	**7,666**
Persons Age 18 to 24	492	243	77	812
Persons Over Age 24	4,180	1,817	857	6,854
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child[2]	**2,341**	**1,610**	**168**	**4,119**
Children Under Age 18	1,476	991	94	2,561
Persons Age 18 to 24	222	183	19	424
Persons Over Age 24	643	436	55	1,134
Persons in households with only children[3]	**30**	**7**	**1**	**38**
Total Homeless Persons	**7,043**	**3,677**	**1,103**	**11,823**

Factors that Contribute to Youth Homelessness

- Family dysfunction and/ or rejection
- Economic issues
- Systems involvement and/or aged out

Most Vulnerable

2016 PIT Count Planning

- Start early!!
- Involve youth as partners
- Form a **Youth Count Sub-Committee**
- Partner with youth serving agencies/ organizations
- Involve schools and McKinney-Vento Liaisons

Things to Consider

- Youth might not access homeless services
- Congregate in various areas during different times
- Youth might be reluctant or do not identify as homeless
- Methods to count homeless adults might not apply to youth

Magnet Events

- Advertise to all youth
- Location & access
- Plenty of food and drink
- Giveaways – bus tokens, gift cards, clothing, hygiene packs
- Activities
- Information
- Entertainment

Locations and/or Partners

Libraries
Tattoo parlors
Coffee shops
Churches
24 hour diners
Parks
Schools

2013-2014 Ohio Homeless Student Enrollment Data

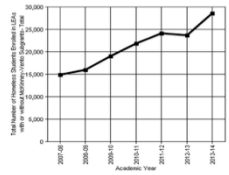
Total: 2013-14 [3]

The total unduplicated statewide number of homeless students who were enrolled in public schools in local education agencies (LEAs). [More about....]

Graphs & Tables | Data Mapping | Trend Lines | Conditional Analysis

Ohio - Total Number of Homeless Students Enrolled in LEAs with or without McKinney-Vento Subgrants- Total

The trend line below allows you to see the change in value of the selected data element across school years.



Academic Year	Ohio
2007-08 [2]	14,920
2008-09 [2]	16,059
2009-10 [2]	19,113
2010-11 [2]	21,849
2011-12 [2]	24,236
2012-13 [2]	23,748
2013-14 [2]	28,632

Key	
†	This symbol means not applicable.
-	This symbol means data value was not available.
n<4	This symbol means that the data have been suppressed.
#	This symbol means data value rounds to zero.
‡	This symbol means reporting standards not met.

Tip Sheet on Sharing Data About Youth Experiencing Homelessness

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/ehcy-interagency-data-disclosure.pdf

1. Schools may disclose non-identifying information or statistical data about students when proper public notice is given about the information that is to be shared, according to FERPA regulations. School districts may consider offering annual reports about homeless youth in schools, with all identifying information removed.
2. Schools and school systems can take part in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness. The school district's homelessness liaison can discreetly refer homeless youth and families to resources and let point-in-time volunteers know where homeless youth may congregate.
3. School systems can coordinate their information with data collected via HUD's Continuum of Care Housing Management Information System. Doing so makes sense because homeless youth and families may be being served by multiple agencies. See the tip sheet for examples of communities that have integrated school and continuum of care data.

Establish Presence and Trust

- Youth friendly and inclusive
- Knowledge of youth culture
- Be authentic
- Stay engaged

Survey Questions

- Instead of "Are you homeless?"…
  "Where did you stay last night?"
  "Can you live where you stayed last night for the next month?"
  "Do you have a place where you can sleep on a regular basis?"

Survey Questions

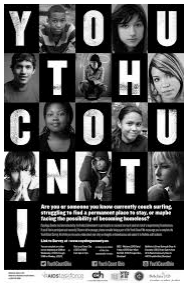
- Don't make assumptions…
  Gender identity – "When a person's sex (sex assigned at birth) and gender (how the person feels) do not match they might think of themselves as transgender. Which one response best describes you?"
- Don't be afraid to ask youth which pronouns they prefer

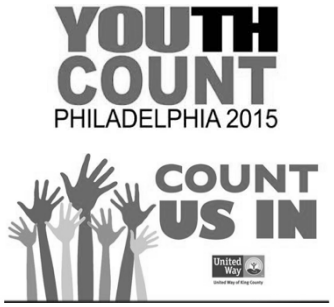
Additional Survey Questions

- "Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?"
  - Gay or lesbian
  - Straight (not gay or lesbian)
  - Bisexual
  - Questioning or I don't know
  - Something else
- "Have you ever been or are you currently in foster care?"
- "Have ever been to juvenile detention or jail?"
- "Are you now attending or are you currently enrolled in school?"

Get Local Support!

Brand It!





Promote It!

#ohioyouthcount
#endyouthhomelessness
#homelessyouthcount

Resources

- 40toNone's True Youth Count Toolkit – www.truecolorsfund.org
- Ohio McKinney-Vento School District Liaison (Homeless Liaison) – www.education.ohio.gov
- Family & Youth Services Bureau – Tip Sheet on Sharing Data about Youth Experiencing Homelessness – www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb
- Urban Institute – Youth Count! – www.urban.org/research/publications/youth-count-process-study

Thank You!

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