

Youth Homelessness in the Michigan Great Lakes Bay Region

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Oversight

The Great Lakes Bay Region Youth Homelessness Study was commissioned through the Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District by Jana Kullick, McKinney-Vento State Grant Coordinator of Midland, Clare, and Gladwin Counties, and in collaboration with Robin Greiner and Michele Gunkelman, former and current Directors of Housing and Crisis Response for Shelterhouse Midland.

The project plan content and methodology were reviewed, approved, and monitored by the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (ORIC) Human Participant Research Projects Institutional Review Board (IRB). (oric@mphi.org, 517/324-7387)

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Introduction

Youth homelessness is a community issue that is largely invisible and is difficult to define. Most definitions and available supports for homelessness are based on understanding of adult needs. Additionally, even when information about homeless youth is available, causes and solutions for youth homelessness are not homogeneous. Although trends over the past several years indicate decreasing rates of youth homelessness in Michigan (Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, 2019), during the 2015-2016 school year Michigan ranked the 6th highest among states for the most homeless students (Erb-Downward & Evangelist, 2018) and in 2020, according to the State Index on Youth Homelessness, Michigan ranked 28th out of 51 across the nation and had a total score of only 48 out of a possible 100 (Wageuspack & Ryan, 2020).

The purpose of this project was to define the needs of youth and young adults in Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region who are experiencing homelessness. It is hoped that this document will be shared with, and utilized by, local program leaders, advocates, and policymakers to enable effective solutions for our most vulnerable community members.

Context and definitions

Who is homeless? The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines **"homeless"** as children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence which may include a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings such as living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings. The McKinney-Vento definition also includes sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as "couch surfing"); living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; and youth who are abandoned in hospitals (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 1987).

Youth experiencing homelessness ("YEH") refers to children and adolescents/young adults who meet the criteria of homelessness. These youth may, or may not, be experiencing homelessness within a family unit and under the supervision of a parent. **Unaccompanied homeless youth** ("UHY") are children and adolescents/young adults who meet the criteria of homelessness and are not in the company of a parent or legal guardian. Although these categories are distinct, in this document **"youth/young adults experiencing homelessness"** is used broadly to incorporate both YEH and UHY and further emphasize the fact that homelessness is dynamic and not a singular, fixed experience for any one person or group of people.

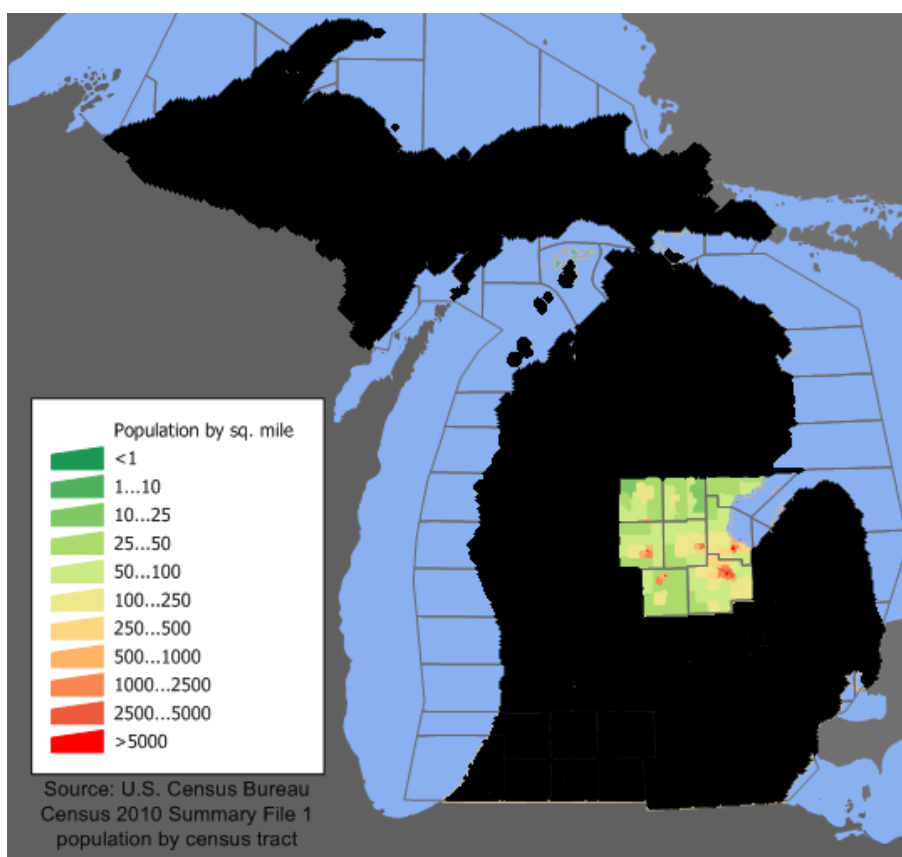
Receiving shelter from a non-custodial family member, friend, or acquaintance is referred to as **"doubling-up"** or **"couch surfing."** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD)'s definition of homeless does not include these individuals (HUD Exchange, 2014), so these youth often do not appear in prevalence counts or qualify for homelessness assistance resources.

The **Great Lakes Bay Region**, for the purposes of this study, was defined as Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw Counties. These 8 counties comprise Prosperity Region 5 as defined by the State of Michigan (Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative, 2014).

The Great Lakes Bay Region is geographically and demographically diverse. Based on the 2020 Census, there are nine urban areas with populations over 10,000 (Bridgeport, Monitor Township, Thomas Township, Union Township, Bangor Township, Mount Pleasant, Bay City, Saginaw Township, and Saginaw) and four of these urban areas are located within Saginaw County. Notably, Arenac, Clare, and Gladwin Counties have no urban areas with populations above 5,000 (Whereig.com).

The experience of rural youth differs from urban youth, and unfortunately the majority of studies on youth homelessness center on the latter. In part, this is because rural communities are hard to define. For simplicity, **rural** in this document is simply "not urban," i.e., not a densely populated area.



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Background

In addition to conflicting definitions of what constitutes being homeless, there are many other reasons why it is difficult to obtain precise counts of youth experiencing homelessness. First, youth have to encounter a service system that collects and reports this data. If not specifically funded or authorized by a state or federal initiative that requests such data, many programs are reluctant to collect this information due ethical concerns and necessary cautions regarding gathering sensitive information from minors.

Even when in contact with a system that collects this information, youth may not report being homeless. Reasons may include fear of judgment or discrimination from peers and support sources, a desire to avoid foster-care placement, fear of being forced to return to a hostile or rejecting home environment, or motivation to retain independence.

In 2018, according to HUD data, 367 unaccompanied homeless youth ages 24 and younger were reported to be living in the Great Lakes Bay Region (Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness as reported by Ostyn & James, 2019).

In the 2020-21 school year, the public schools of the Michigan Great Lakes Bay Region identified at least 1,159 enrolled students who were homeless. (Numbers less than ten are not reported to the public, therefore numbers were not available for four schools in the region). The majority of these students (71%) were temporarily living in shared homes (Michigan's Center for Educational Performance and Information, 2022) which would not qualify them as homeless under the HUD definition. These numbers reflect youth who were still enrolled in public primary school and does not include youth who dropped out or graduated.

Results of a 2017 study (Morton et al, 2017) reveal that experiences of youth homelessness are much more prevalent than estimated by either point-in-time counts or school records. This study, was conducted by adding questions to Gallup, Inc.'s US Politics and Economics Daily Tracking Survey, which endeavors to conduct 500 telephone interviews every day. The data revealed that, nationally, 4.3% of all 13-17 year-olds, and 9.7% of 18-25 year-olds experience homelessness within a given year. Factors that significantly increased risk of homelessness were youth who were:

- unmarried and had children of their own,
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT),
- black or African-American,
- without a high-school diploma or GED,
- from or in a household with an annual household income of less than \$24,000.

Using a combination of enrollment data and prevalence statistics, the Great Lakes Bay Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Youth Advocacy Council (SOGI YAC) estimated that of the 39,583 junior high and high school students enrolled in the region in 2015-2016 (High-Schools.com), at least 649 LGBTQ+ students experienced homelessness (including couch surfing) during 2020 (SOGI

YAC, 2021) (Figure 1). This annual number fits within the estimate derived from the same school count data, research-based estimate of number of LGBTQ+ students (Kann et al., 2018), and data from the 2020 Trevor Project report (Trevor Project, 2020). The Trevor Project report indicated that 29% of LGBTQ+ youth had experienced homelessness (including being kicked out or running away), producing a total estimate that at least 1,710 LGBTQ+ high school students in the region were homeless or had experienced homelessness during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual Estimates of LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness in the Great Lakes Bay Area

County	# High School Students ^e	LGBTQ+			Transgender		
		# LGBTQ+ youth ^a	# homeless ^c	# displaced ^d	# transgender youth ^b	# homeless ^c	# displaced ^d
Arenac	725	108	2	12	13	0	1
Bay	8047	1199	24	132	145	3	16
Clare	2,188	326	7	36	39	1	4
Gladwin	1,540	229	5	25	28	1	3
Gratiot	3,854	574	11	63	69	1	8
Isabella	3,400	507	10	56	61	1	7
Midland	6,430	958	19	105	116	2	13
Saginaw	13,399	1996	40	220	241	5	27
Great Lakes Bay Totals	39,583	5,898	118	649	712	14	78

^a based on 14.9% high school population prevalence per Kann, L., McManus, T., Harris, W.A., et al. (2018). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States. MMWR Surveillance Summaries, 2018;67(No.8).

^b based on 1.8% high school population prevalence per Johns MM, Lowry R, Andrzejewski, et al. (2019). Transgender Identity and Experiences of Violence Victimization, Substance Use, Suicide Risk, and Sexual Risk Behaviors Among High School Students – 19 States and Large Urban School Districts, 2017. MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: 68:67–71.

^c based on 2% within last year reported of 14 to 26 year olds, 2017 SOGI Youth Survey Report (apprecots.com)

^d based on 11% within last year reported of 14 to 26 year olds, 2017 SOGI Youth Survey Report (apprecots.com)

^e source <https://high-schools.com/directory/mi/counties/midland-county/26111/>

Figure 1

There are differences between urban and rural youth homelessness. When rural communities experience economic downturn or a substance abuse epidemic, disadvantaged families can become destabilized and local community resource safety nets are either not available or are insufficient. Although prevalence statistics are similar between urban and rural youth (Morton & Dworsky, 2018), rural youth experiencing homelessness are about half as likely to be staying in shelters, less likely to be connected to services, and more likely to:

- be out of school and work,
- be sleeping outside,
- have a history of involvement with juvenile detention or the adult legal system (further reducing their ability to secure employment or housing).

Methods

In preparation for this study, established programs serving homeless youth in Michigan were identified and contacted with requests for interview. Phone interviews were conducted with Innerlink (Saginaw), the Ruth Ellis Center (Highland Park), Listening Ear (Mt. Pleasant), OutFront Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo), Ozone House (Ann Arbor), and Pete's Place (Traverse City). Program leaders were asked questions about the populations they served and the design of their programs. Information obtained helped inform the design of the research activities of this study and will also be referenced in the Recommendations section of this report.

Two research methods were implemented in parallel:

1. Focus groups with adults who had supported youth experiencing homelessness, either formally or informally, within the previous five years; and
2. An online survey of youth and young adults with personal familiarity of the situation of homelessness.

Focus group participants (n=18) were adults with recent history of being in support roles (e.g. teacher, coach, mentor, case manager) to youth who had experienced homelessness. Participants were recruited via outreach by an emailed letter distributed by community partners and McKinney-Vento liaisons in school districts throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region [Appendix A]. Focus group participants were offered a pizza voucher for their participation.

Four focus groups were scheduled. Due to the number of individuals who responded with willingness to participate but inability to attend any of the offered times, one focus group was conducted as scheduled (n=5) and the other volunteers were interviewed individually at a time of their convenience. Results from both group and individual interviews are consolidated in this report and are referenced as "focus group" participants and results.

Interviews were recorded and transcribed via an artificial intelligence transcription service, and keyword coded by members of the research team. All participants were asked the following questions:

1. What are some of the reasons that youth in our region are homeless?
2. Where do youth who are experiencing homelessness sleep or stay?
3. How do youth experiencing homelessness survive on their own?
4. Besides a place to stay, what other needs do local youth have while experiencing homelessness?
5. What resources are available to local youth experiencing homelessness?
6. What are some barriers for local youth to get the help they need?
7. What suggestions do you have to help youth who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity?

Focus group participants represented the counties of Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw and a variety of youth-service settings (school, religious organization, homeless or drop-in shelter, youth organization, mental health agency, community services organization, and Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Child Services). Eighty percent (80%) identified themselves as female, and 20% identified themselves as male. Nearly one-half (46%) indicated their age between 40-55 years old, with the remaining participants evenly split between the ranges of 25-39 (27%) and 56-70 (27%).

The online **survey** [Appendix B] was conducted with youth between the ages of 14-24 who were invited via flyer across Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw counties to share their experiences of homelessness (either primary or secondary). Recruitment flyers were distributed with an accompanying introductory letter to McKinney-Vento liaisons, youth-serving agencies within the target geographic area, listservs (including 400+ members on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Youth Advocacy Council list), and to news media outlets in the region. Agencies and programs with existing and active social media accounts (e.g. Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook) were encouraged to share the flyer through their official channels, as well.

After answering all survey questions, youth participants were offered an electronic gift card. To claim the gratuity, they were required to provide an email address which was automatically sent by embedded process to a third-party vendor who sent the reward. The e-certificate vendor received no other information about the youth or their survey responses.

Of the survey responses generated (n=353), 252 met the inclusion criteria for the study. The self-reported race representation of the youth participants was predominantly white (86%), and also included black or African American (4%), American Indian or Alaska Native (3%), Asian (3%), and other (2%); two-percent (2%) were unsure or chose not to answer. Gender representation was female (49%), male (42%), non-binary or gender non-conforming (5%), and transgender male (3%), another one-percent (1%) chose not to provide their gender. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the youth described their sexual orientation as heterosexual/straight, followed by bisexual/pansexual (15%), other (4%), unsure (3%), and gay/lesbian (1%); nine percent (9%) selected the option "choose not to answer" [Appendix C].

Findings

Why are youth homeless in the Great Lakes Bay Region?

National data suggests that although there are various reasons why children move away from their parents, most fall into one of the following broad categories:

1. The parents pose a danger to children due to domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, or dysfunction;

2. The parents are unavailable as a result of military deployment, illness, incarceration, deportation, or death;
3. The parents lack resources to care for children because the parent is very young, economic crisis, family homelessness, parent-child conflict, or the child's health or mental health needs. (Vandivere et al., 2012)

These three categories largely align with the common reasons for child/parent estrangement in Michigan: parental abuse, neglect, or parents' struggles with addiction, mental health problems, or extreme poverty (Erb-Downward & Northaft, 2022).

In line with national and state findings, focus group results indicated the majority of youth known by participants to experience homelessness were homeless due to child and parental discord (n=8). Most of these focus group examples (n=6) were examples of a child's negative behavior escalating to the point of the parent kicking the child out of the home. Focus group participants also indicated abuse in the home (n=3), absent parent(s) (n=3), and/or substance abuse (of youth, n=2; of parents, n=2) as causes. One notable set of examples, affirmed by other focus group members (n=2), were cases of 17-year-old students whose parents had decided they were "close enough" to 18 to force them to find a place to live outside of the parental home.

Youth survey participants painted a slightly different picture of the causes of youth homelessness. Thirty-nine (n=39) respondents had experienced homelessness and indicated by answering "Yes" to either of the questions "Have you ever been homeless? Meaning, have you ever been without a regular, long-term place to stay and keep your things" and/or "Have you ever been on your own and homeless? (Meaning, you were not staying in the same place as your parent(s) or legal guardian and didn't have your own house, apartment, or dormitory.)" From the youth who had experienced homelessness, the top three self-reported reasons were:

1. Family lost housing (30%);
2. Kicked out of home by parents/caregivers (14%); and
3. [tie] Left by own choice due to disagreements/arguments (8%)/
Moved out as a young adult but could not afford the costs (8%).

(See Figure 2.)

Survey participants were also asked about other youth/young adults they knew who had experienced homelessness; 101 reported knowing at least one person under the age of 25 who was experiencing or had experienced homelessness (n=101). The most frequent responses for others' homelessness were:

1. Kicked out of home by parents/caregivers (26%);
2. Family lost housing (20%);
3. [tie] Moved out as a young adult but unable to keep up with costs (9%)/
Living with parents/caregivers was not safe due to physical or sexual abuse (9%).

(See Figure 3.)

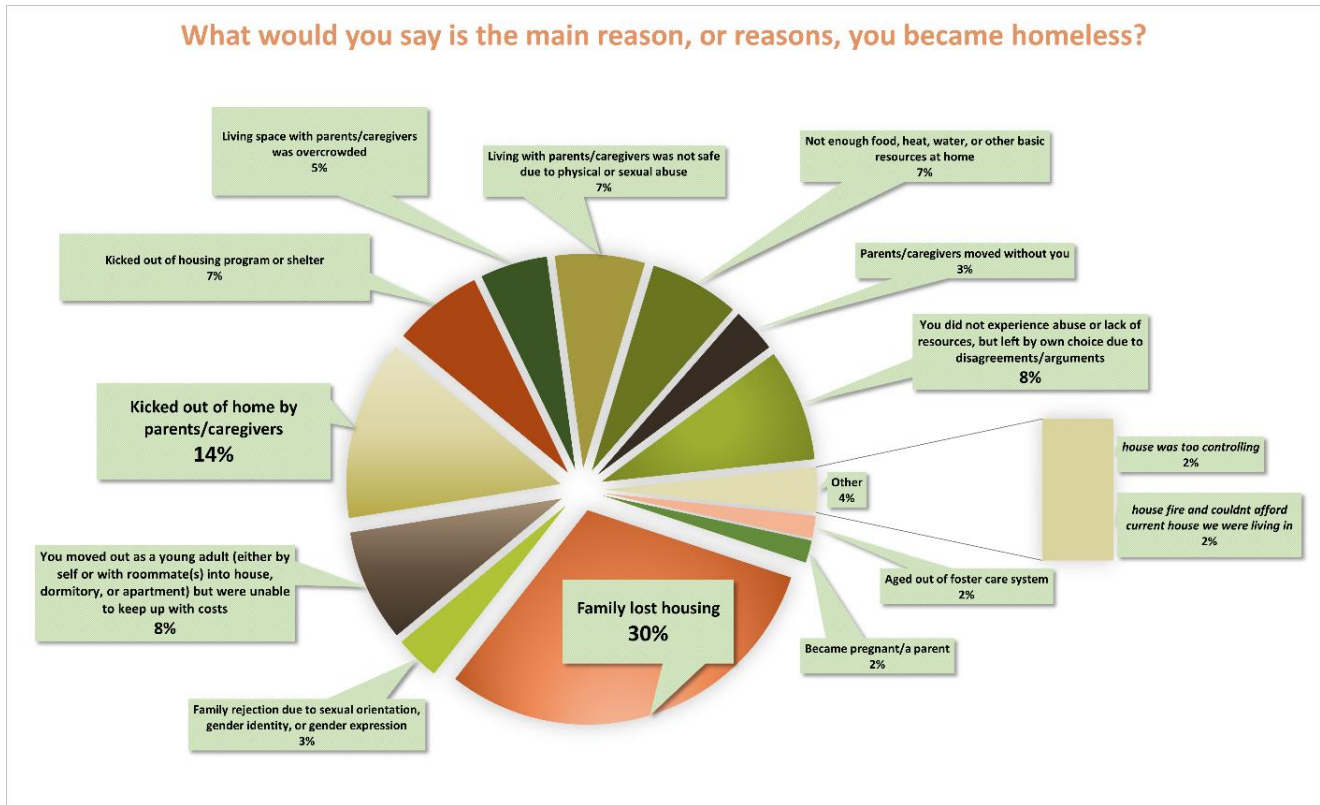


Figure 2

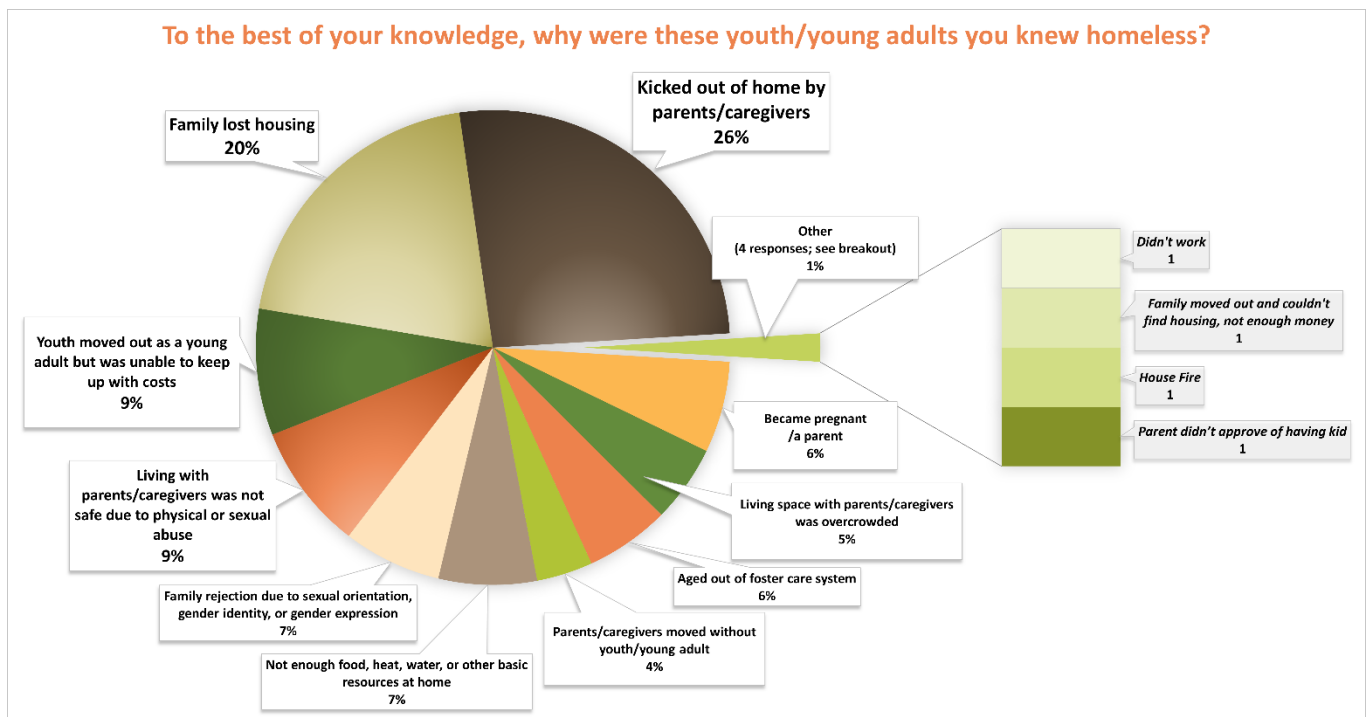


Figure 3

Although all of the focus group and youth-generated reasons for homelessness fall into the major national and state categories, it is important to note a potential disconnect between local program and professional understanding of homelessness causation and what youth are reporting experiencing first- and second-hand. **The vast majority (65%) of reasons youth indicated they or someone they knew experienced homelessness were not by choice (unsafe, lack of resources, etc.),** whereas 100% of focus group participants indicated the top reason youth leave their home was a matter of choice (disagreement with home rules, wanting to live with a significant other).

“Most kids my age lose their home because their parents can’t take care that [sic] of them or don’t want to take care of them. Lots of people will automatically think we lost our homes because of something we did.”

- Youth survey respondent, re: “What do you think other people in our community need to know about youth homelessness?”

Factors by county

While each county reported varying counts of reasons for youth homelessness [Appendix E], Clare and Gratiot counties’ measured rates were statistically similar. That is to say, in these two counties, the reasons youth reported for experiencing homelessness were not statistically different – i.e., they were a match.

However, the survey data revealed there were statistically significant differences between the Clare + Gratiot pair and the following counties: Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw [Appendix D: Table 1]. No other pairs of counties showed significant differences [Appendix D] between each other, meaning that while Clare + Gratiot were similar to each other, no other pair of counties matched or showed statistically significant differences between them. Thus, Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw counties were not statistically significantly different from each other but also did not match with any other county.

Where do Great Lakes Bay youth/young adults stay while homeless?

The relatively high rate of “hiddenness” in rural counties that point-in-time counts and other administrative data are likely to underestimate the true extent of the scale of youth homelessness in rural areas (Morton et al., 2018). Based on national survey data assessing the prevalence of youth homelessness broadly, it is estimated that most (72%) of the youth who experienced literal

homelessness (sleeping in emergency shelters or unsheltered locations) also spent some time "couch surfing" (Morton et al., 2017).

Both the focus group (n=15) and survey data (n=252) reflected a normal distribution of unfixed, irregular, inadequate shelters. Combined average frequencies for self-reported and other youth/young adults' sleep locations while unhoused:

1. "Couch surfing" - staying in a house or apartment of a friend, family member, or acquaintance (36%)
2. Vehicle - car, van, truck, recreational vehicle (17%)
3. Hotel or motel (14%)
4. Outdoors - under a bridge or highway overpass, alleyway, sidewalk or street, non-recreational camping (8%)
5. Abandoned or empty building (7.5%)
6. Emergency shelter/homeless youth shelter (5%)
7. Foster home (5%)
8. Bus station, airport, train station (3%)
9. Other (2%) - This category was open-ended and included responses "laundromat" (n=1), "none" (n=3), and "unsure" (n=1).
10. Transitional housing/transitional shelter (1%)

(See Figures 4 and 5.)

If you have ever been homeless, where did you stay or sleep?

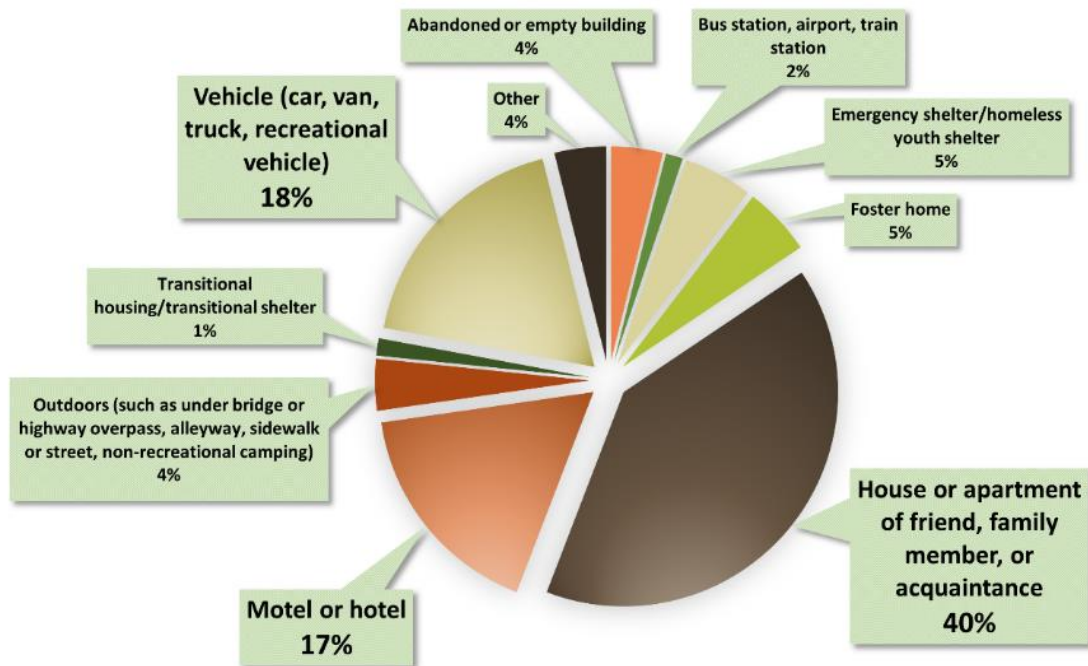


Figure 4 (n=39)

"[Funders] are looking at, you know, their [Chicago] urban homelessness where it is kids staying on park benches and walking the streets. And it's, it's a challenge to explain our experience, and what it looks like here in rural Michigan."

- Focus group participant, re: the challenge of rural YEH experiences aligning with national expectations

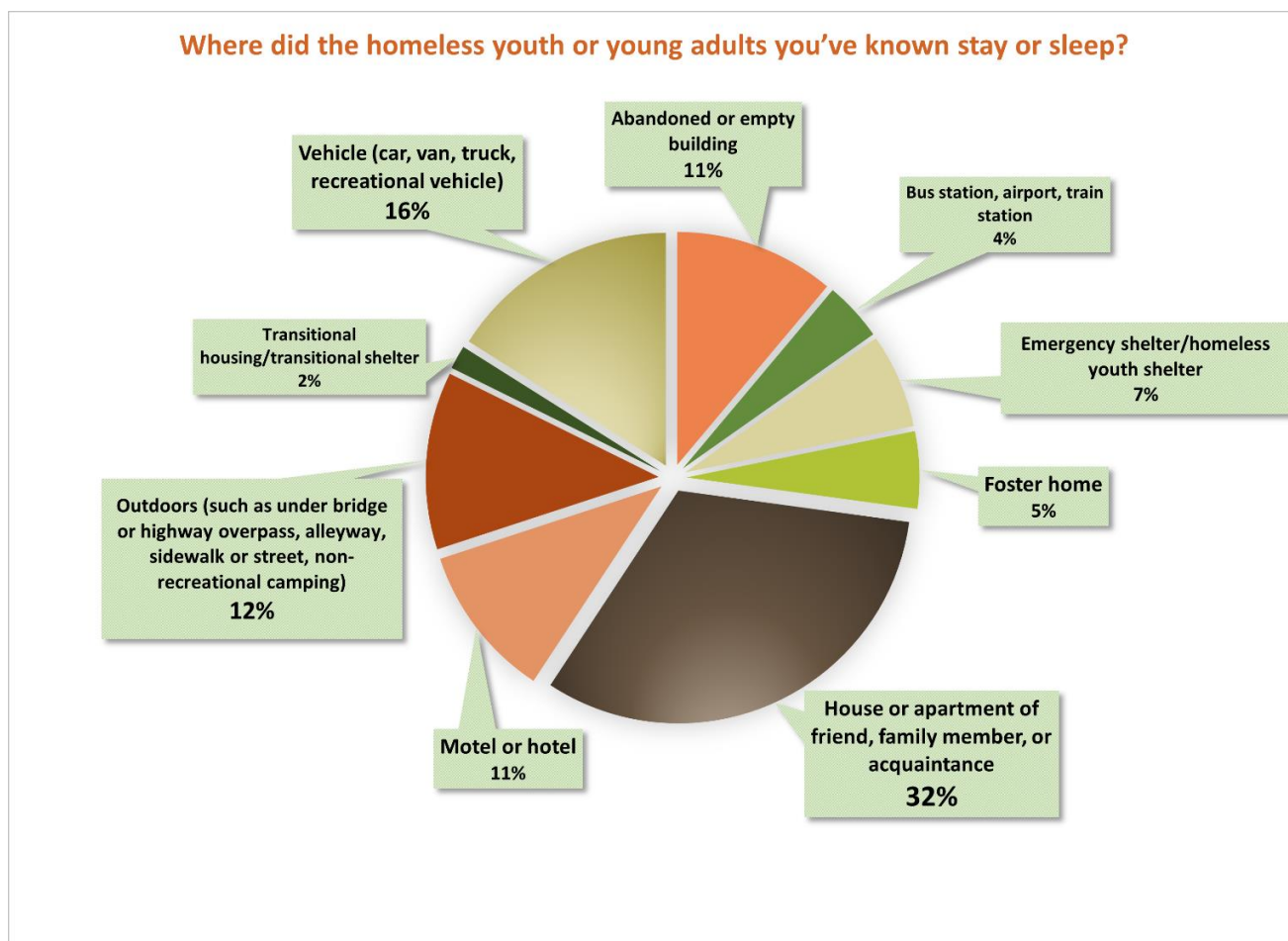


Figure 5 (n=101)

Beyond Housing: Barriers faced while homeless

National and state data provide a broad understanding of the risk factors that lead to housing instability. However, there is little evidence to describe the lived experience of these youth in rural communities specifically. In order to more fully understand the lived experience of youth homelessness in the Great Lakes Bay Region, it is important to identify what barriers are most commonly faced once the youth is between or without stable housing.

Three main categories emerged from the both the survey and focus group data to describe the barriers youth/young adults face in the Great Lakes Bay Region:

1. Transportation/access to services;

2. Developmental factors; and
3. Legal age limitations for both individuals and programs.

Transportation

Focus group participants identified transportation as either the primary or secondary barrier for youth/young adults experiencing homelessness in the Great Lakes Bay Region (n=11). Problems stemming from a lack of available and reliable public or private transportation intersected with nearly every other barrier identified in the focus groups and survey. Complications to consider:

1. Youth may not be old enough to drive
 - a. Transportation might be obtainable, but is very impractical
2. Youth may not have the documents needed to obtain a driver's license
3. Youth may not have funding for ID, Driver's Ed, insurance, a vehicle, and/or gas

Homeless students have the highest high school dropout rate of any group in Michigan. During school years 2012-13 to 2016-17, one in five homeless students dropped out of high school (20%), a rate six percentage points higher than that of economically disadvantaged students (14%) and 11 percentage points higher than the statewide average of 9% (Erb-Downward, 2018).

As noted by both focus group participants and reporting from the Greater Grand Traverse Continuum of Care Project (Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness, 2017), rural youth express a strong desire to remain in their communities. This is supported by McKinney-Vento, which can provide funding to support bus transportation to/from foster placement to their school of origin. Thus, while traveling to school may be *technically achievable*, in rural areas this can often mean an unreasonable commuting scenario. Here's an example as described by a school

"A gut-wrenching feeling."

- Focus group participant, re: losing track of children who aren't able to attend school as a result of limited transportation options

principal:

"If you're trying to navigate cross-county transportation, unless you have somebody to drive [the student] unless you have a person with a vehicle - a good working vehicle with plates and insurance - you're talking about a bus meeting a bus [at the county line]. Yes, it's doable. Yes, it can happen. But now you have a really long commute. And, you know, the money's there, the paperwork happens, we can make those things we paid for. But the time to go from point A to point B, because our resources are often cross county... It's very, very difficult."

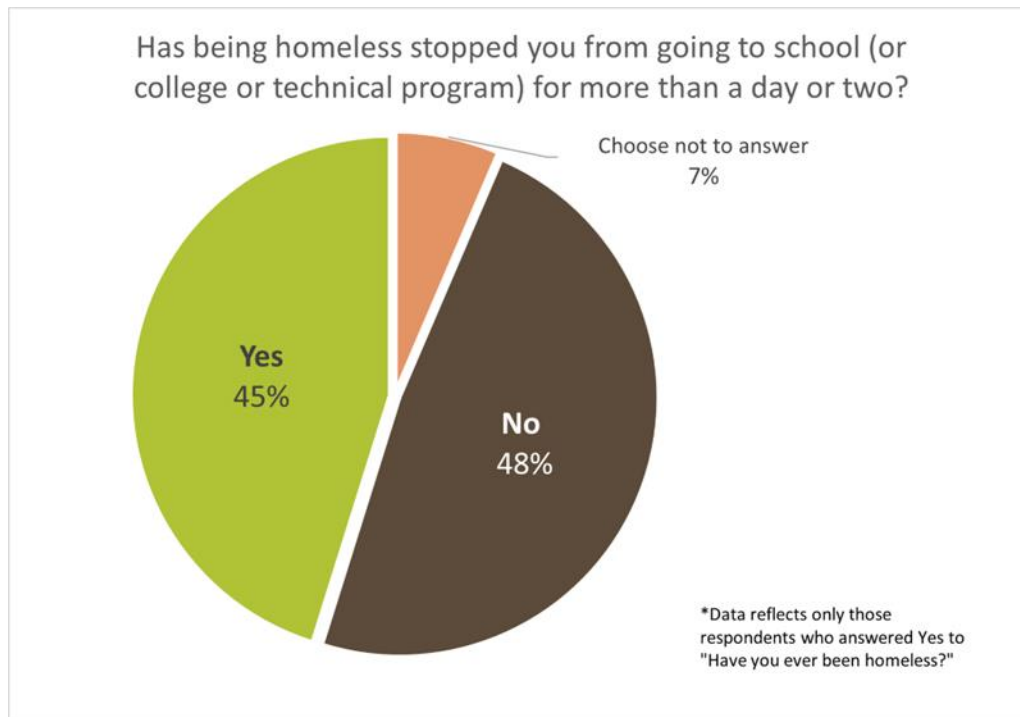


Figure 6

Beyond transportation to school, YEH have even fewer options for getting to appointments, work, or community events. One youth survey respondent detailed their troubles with local transportation to/from work:

"It's VERY difficult to find transportation that doesn't cost a lot. The busses in this county only run 7 am-7 pm Mon-Fri. If I work second or third shift, I can't get to work without paying for a taxi company to transport me. I had no resources when I started out and it took me forever to find a job that would try to work with the local bus schedule and even then I missed days because I was unable to find rides on weekends or nights."

Rural youth experiencing homelessness are statistically more disconnected from education and employment than their urban counterparts (Morton et al., 2018). Due to limited-service infrastructure and remoteness, youth often travel long distances to seek out services or go without:

- The vast majority of homeless, unaccompanied minors in Michigan are not accessing shelter supports: just 11% of unaccompanied minors were served in/by Michigan youth shelters (Erb-Downward & Northaft, 2022).
- Just 37.2% of Michigan's homeless youth reported seeing a doctor or nurse in the past year, as compared to 75.7% of housed youth (Erb-Downward & Northaft, 2022).

- Per a widely-cited study done in a service-rich urban location, only 9% of YEH access mental health care (De Rosa et al., 1999). Though no singular rural counterpart study exists, national survey data shows that homelessness affects youth living in rural, suburban, and urban communities at similar rates (Morton et al., 2017). Meanwhile, rural services are less available, *accessible*, affordable, and culturally acceptable (National Rural Health Association, 2015). Therefore, it is hypothesized by these researchers that rural YEH likely access mental health care at an even lower rate.

"Transportation in town is not so bad, but the county is full of young people that just can't get around."

- Focus group participant, re: rural YEH

Developmental Factors

In addition to transportation, focus group participants and open-ended survey responses highlighted the theme of social-emotional developmental barriers. A person's success in coping with the demands of their environment at any given life stage depends on the developmental readiness of the individual to cope with those demands (Hutchison et al., 2016).

Stressful events can become toxic when they are prolonged and uncontrollable. For young people, this especially includes stressful experiences without access to support from caring adults. Youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, or other forms of parental abandonment may have difficulty trusting others. Toxic stress can cause negative changes in the brain's structure, such as by inhibiting reasoning, planning, and impulse control. Ongoing exposure to toxic stress can lead to stress-related physical and mental illness in adulthood. (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2005/2014). Youth who are deemed uncooperative or volatile are often disqualified from access to programs.

When asked "What do you think people in our community need to know about youth homelessness?", a majority of the youth survey responses (n=17) fit into the developmental theme. Some examples:

"I think that they need to understand that a lot of homeless teens might not accept the help they are offered."

"Offer support in any way you can, but don't overexert your support. This could end up scaring people off because they don't want to seem hopeless."

"It looks just like people with a house to go to. People are good at hiding what they don't want to be found out, and if they don't trust you, they aren't going to tell you."

"Keep an open mind. Many people will be grateful, but they may also have tramatic (sic) experiences that keep them from being willing to accept help."

The illustration below (Figure 7) includes all the developmental themes identified across the focus groups and survey responses, and how they connect with each other. Two major internal barriers for YEH were lack of knowledge and limited resilience. If youth are unaware of services, or unable to identify what needs they have or those that could be met, that often is a stopping point for young people to accessing services they need. Focus group respondents provided more than a dozen examples of navigating confusing systems, including being met with negative attitudes on the part of service staff, as the stopping point for youth accessing help.

"...yeah, we want people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But these are children. And they don't have the wherewithal to do that."

- Focus group participant, re: navigating systems of care in the GLB Region

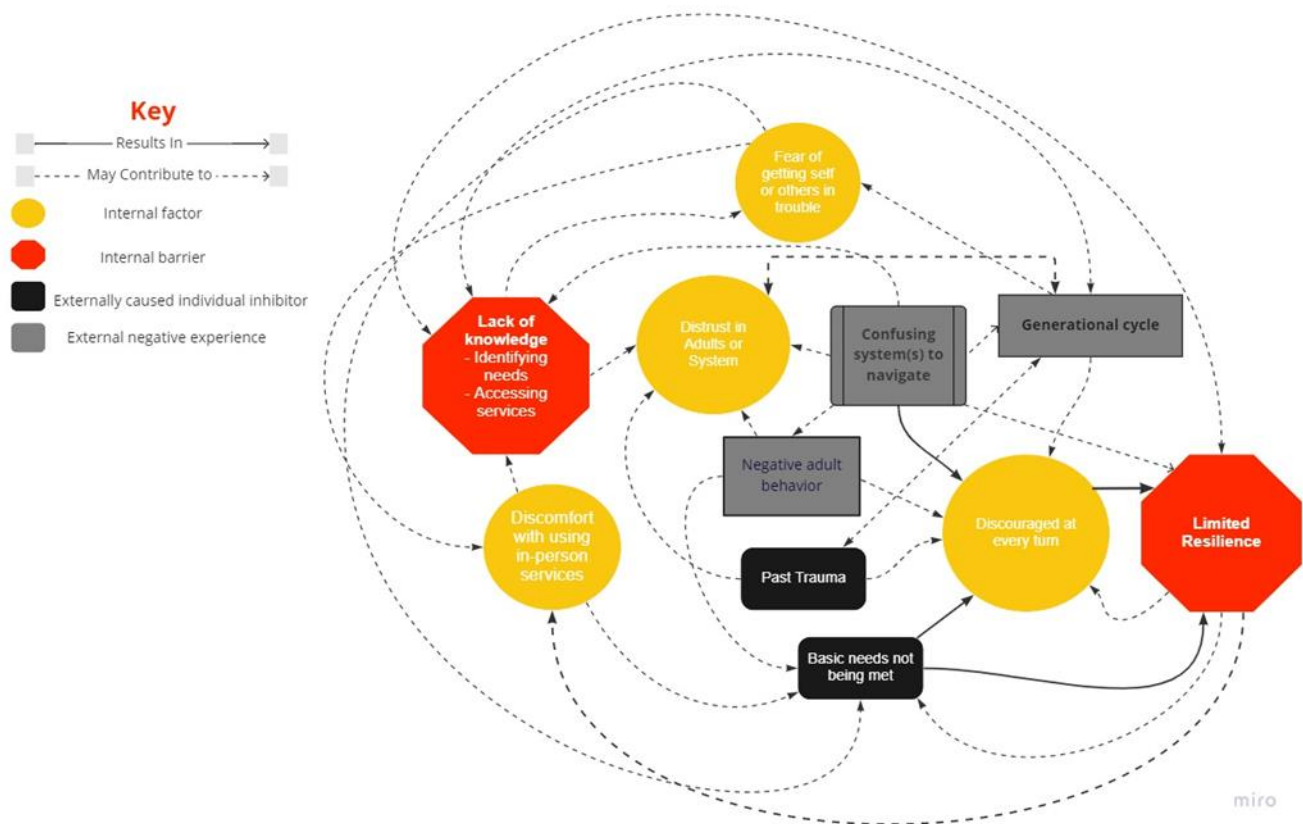


Figure 7

Age

While social-emotional development can correlate with age, the prominent age-related barriers for youth experiencing homelessness are procedural and/or legal in nature. The real or perceived lack of agency for YEH prohibits both individuals and programs from accessing shelter, funding, and necessary identification documents, which contributes to longer periods of crisis. Based on the focus group responses, here are the most common roadblocks for youth needing or seeking services in the Great Lakes Bay Region:

1. In Michigan, youth cannot legally consent to shelter service. Further, Youth Emergency Shelters are required to obtain parental permission within 24 hours – a challenge for many youths in familial relationship crisis (Erb-Downward & Northaft, 2022).
2. Michigan law also prohibits “Harboring a Runaway” (Aiding or Abetting Violations of Juvenile Court Orders, 1968) – allowing a minor who has run away from home to stay elsewhere without alerting the police and/or their parents. Although state law considers 17-year-olds as adults for the purposes of criminal law, anyone under the age of 18 is legally a minor.

3. Youth cannot consent to basic medical care (Emancipation of Minors Act, 1968); e.g. treatment for strep throat.
4. Youth may not have access to their birth certificate, Social Security card, immunization records, or other important identification documents.
5. Youth cannot sign housing leases or other agreements.
6. If the youth is old enough to work, jobs available for young people often do not provide enough hours or pay enough money to support living independently.

(See Appendix F for a review summary of laws that impact homeless youth.)

"It isn't always their fault but sometimes it is their own choice. Either way, it shouldn't be illegal to foster a runaway when they are 17 years old because they can't be forced to return to their actual home. That law is basically forcing you to be homeless."

- Youth survey respondent

The major overlapping age-related complication for programs is that grants and funding for supporting youth experiencing homelessness do not always align with the immediate and/or consequential needs of youth; i.e., inflexible or limited use grants that do not allow for purchases or payments on behalf of a minor. As one focus group participant asked rhetorically, "Who will buy a homeless 16-year-old makeup? Who will buy them a Christmas gift?"

One of the principal costs incurred by youth living separately from their parent that goes unfunded (as identified by focus group participants) is the ability to contribute to household bills or expenses while couch surfing. As explained by focus group participants, youth and young adults often want to help pay for food or heating costs where they are staying temporarily. They don't want to feel as if they are a burden or will jeopardize their host's ability to access services.

"There's just nothing."

- Focus group participant, re: program funding available for minors

YEH often go without needs being met, but they also make attempts to fill in gaps by utilizing a variety of typical routes: food pantries (n=15), getting loans from friends or family (n=14), working part-time (n=14), accessing government programs (n=13), and more (see chart below). "Under the

table” or risky methods of survival were also reported: odd jobs for cash (n=11), panhandling (n=3), and trading sex for money or other items (n=3). Notably, in the last case, 2/3 of respondents identified as bisexual/pansexual and reported having been homeless for a year or more. (See figure 6

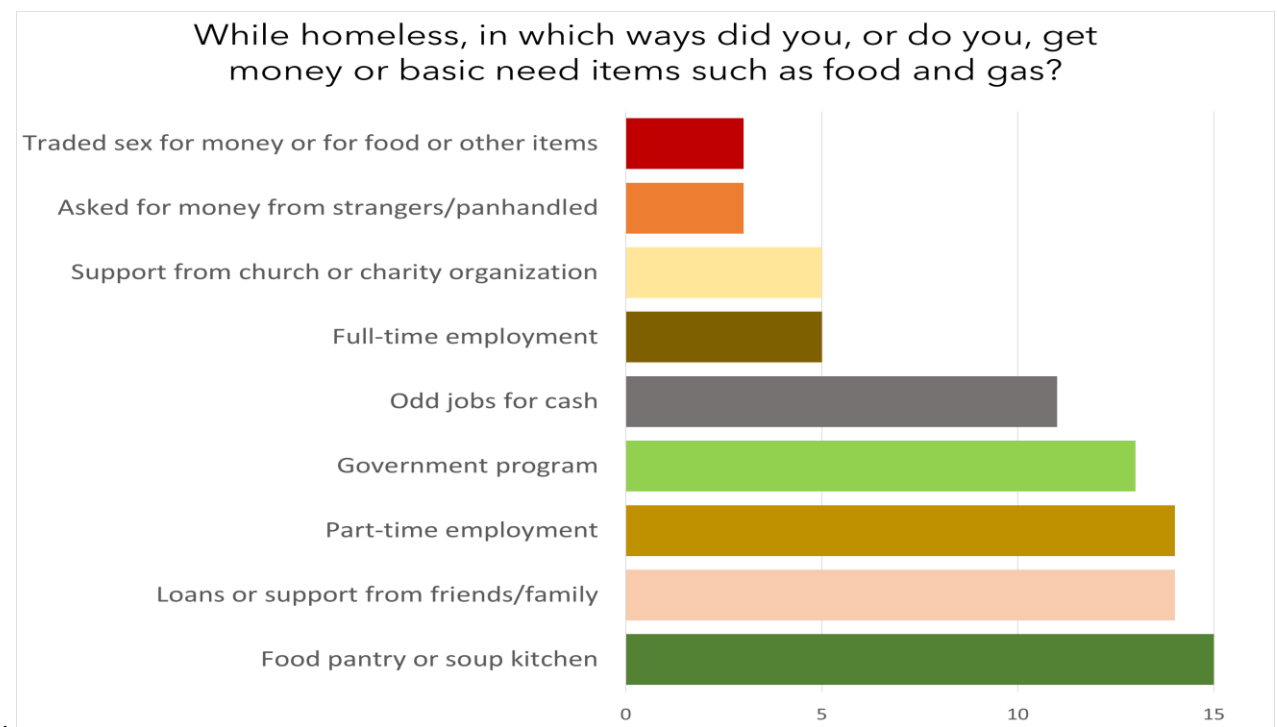


Figure 8

Other barriers

Shelters and shared housing programs are often divided by gender. Gender divided housing can provide safety to women who have experienced sexual violence from men. However, if programs are designed to provide housing only to females or males, individuals who are non-binary, gender-fluid, intersex, or transgender may not qualify for housing even when beds are available.

“Trans[gender] individuals are in danger if they are not passing [as their identified gender] or their name doesn’t match how they appear, they could be in danger.”

- Homeless youth program director

Recommendations

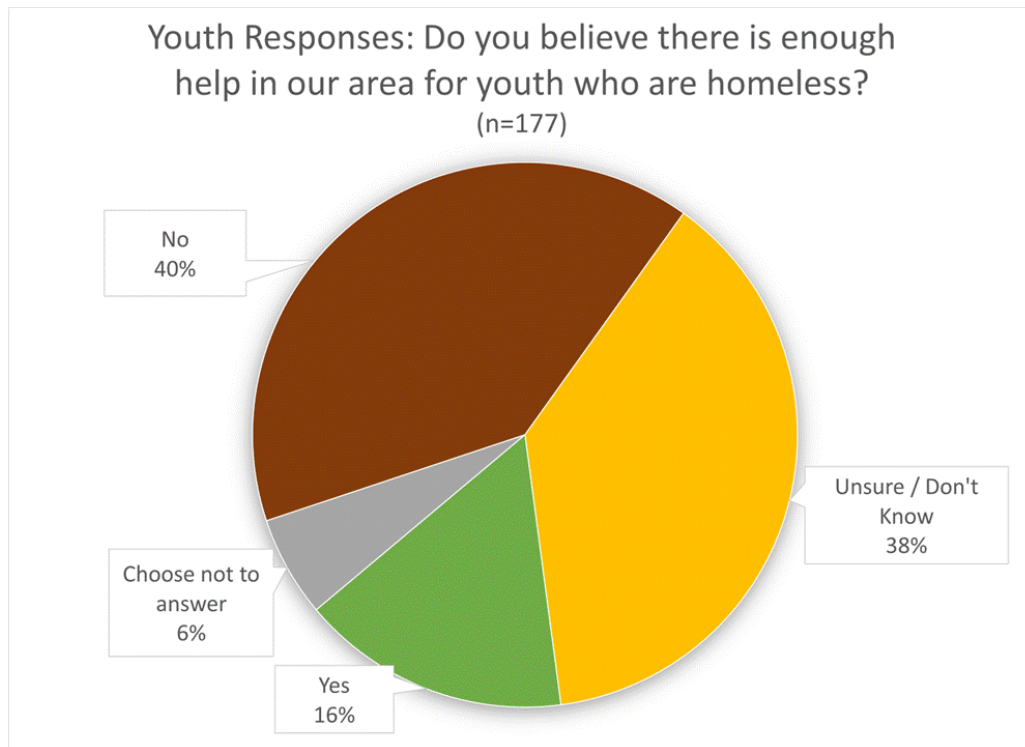


Figure 9

Housing

Youth survey respondents overwhelmingly identified more informal or flexible temporary housing as the most helpful resource needed for our area. This aligns with the University of Michigan Poverty Solutions' Youth Policy Brief top recommendation for expanding shelter and transitional living services (Erb-Downward & Northaft, 2022). Rural youth have access to fewer affordable options vs. their urban counterparts, but exacerbated by the Covid-2019 pandemic and resulting economic downturns, there is also a lack of affordable housing in urban areas, as well. Focus group respondents also identified more age-appropriate and accessible youth housing as an immediate need to be met. (See Figure 10.)

Case managers can help youth seek affordable rental options. Programs with funding typically pay damage deposits and other up-front fees required by the lease as well as underwrite a percentage of the monthly rental cost that is paid directly to the landlord. Once permanent housing is secured, youth need to be supported with maintaining the housing. This aftercare need also includes follow-up support when youth are reunified with parents and return to the family home.

Although Michigan youth cannot legally be housed without parental permission, when asked parents will often provide legal consent for their youth to be sheltered out of the parent’s home. Homeless youth shelters, such as Innerlink of Saginaw and Ozone House of Ann Arbor, and programs that utilize host homes, such as OutFront Kalamazoo and Listening Ear of Isabella and Clare Counties contact parents on behalf of the youth and acquire consent to shelter their child. For youth age 17 and younger, when parent permission can’t be obtained the youth cannot be housed for longer than an established emergency length of time (usually 23 to 72 hours depending the program’s license) and Youth Protective Services must be contacted.

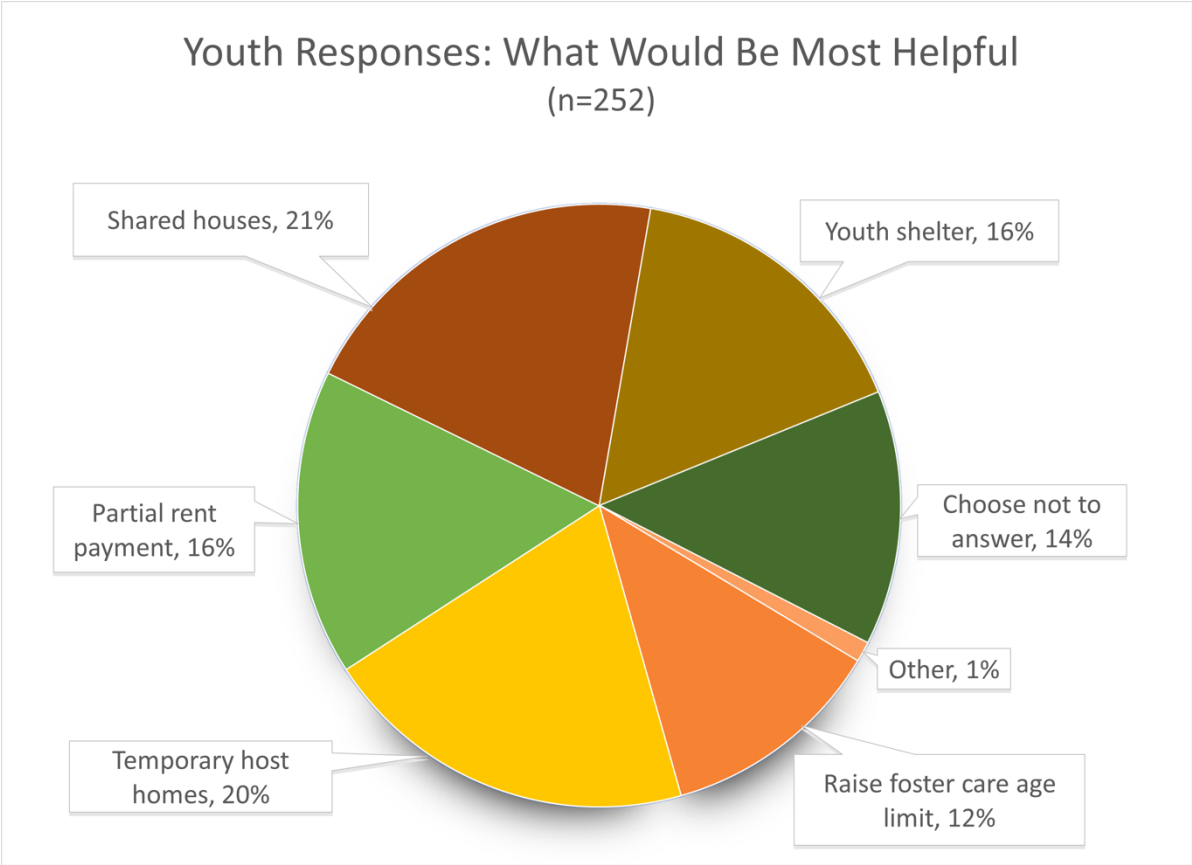


Figure 10

One shelter alternative, drop-in centers, appeal to homeless youth as there are fewer restrictions when compared to shelters. Homeless youth are twice as likely to use drop-in centers than shelters. Drop-in centers are often a youth’s initial resource for services after leaving home, allowing these centers to be the first opportunity to direct a young person to more formal services (Pederson, Tucker, Kovalchik, 2016). At this time, not every county in the Great Lakes Bay Region has a youth drop-in center. Youth report barriers to seeking services outside of drop-in centers due to lack of transportation, high cost, and other relevant pervasive factors in the Great Lakes Bay Region (Kelly, Caputo, 2007).

Drop-in centers typically offer limited, set hours (e.g., one or two evenings a week) and offer free services such as food pantry, clothing closet, laundry facilities, camping gear, computer lab, access to a stocked kitchen with appliances and/or hot meals, social activities, and connection to resources. Drop-in centers usually require no pre-registration or eligibility determination and appeal to youth who are reluctant to fully enroll in a program. Upon arrival, basic demographic information could be collected and uploaded to a local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to track usage, help get to know the youth who are utilizing the centers, and connect youth to additional services. Drop-in centers can be hosted at shelter locations or any location with the available space and equipment, such as churches, schools, or even laundry mats.

Transportation

Dedicated public transit or individual options for transportation was the most frequent recommendation from focus group participants. Coordination across county lines will need to be addressed and made more collaborative in the region to negate the burden on individuals accessing these needs. This is crucial, particularly for youth who work shifts after school hours. Public transportation options in the Great Lakes Bay Region vary from county to county, but none provide around the clock or late hour services. As of May 2022, the average used car price in Michigan (\$32,154) is 18.8% higher than in 2021 (Blackley, 2022) (after an average national increase of 16.8% from 2020 to 2021). Coupled with current gas prices, youth are impacted the most by the region's limited transportation.

Funding

Successful, stable programs should look to incorporate more than one type of funding source, such as a blend of private fundraising, foundations, corporate sponsors, state and federal grants. Grants could be sought that not only address the direct symptom of homelessness, but also underlying causes or needs, such as how the Ruth Ellis Center's housing program of Highland Park, Michigan utilizes funding to assist victims of human trafficking.

More (and more flexible) funding is needed to address the needs of rural youth experiencing homelessness. It is also clear from the focus group and youth survey responses that some monies will need to be set aside or shifted from school and/or agency access to reach the youths in need directly. Due to categorical spending restrictions that accompany grant and other government program funds, this will likely require acquiring and knowledgeable financial oversight of braided and blended multi-source funding.

Communities can also stretch funding by identifying all existing programs and carefully knitting together a system of care that allows for rapid identification of available resources. Such systems should include clear referral protocols for each program and warm handoff procedures to assist with continued engagement of the youth and to create seamless individual plans of care.

See Appendix G for a list of national resources, including federal funding sources.

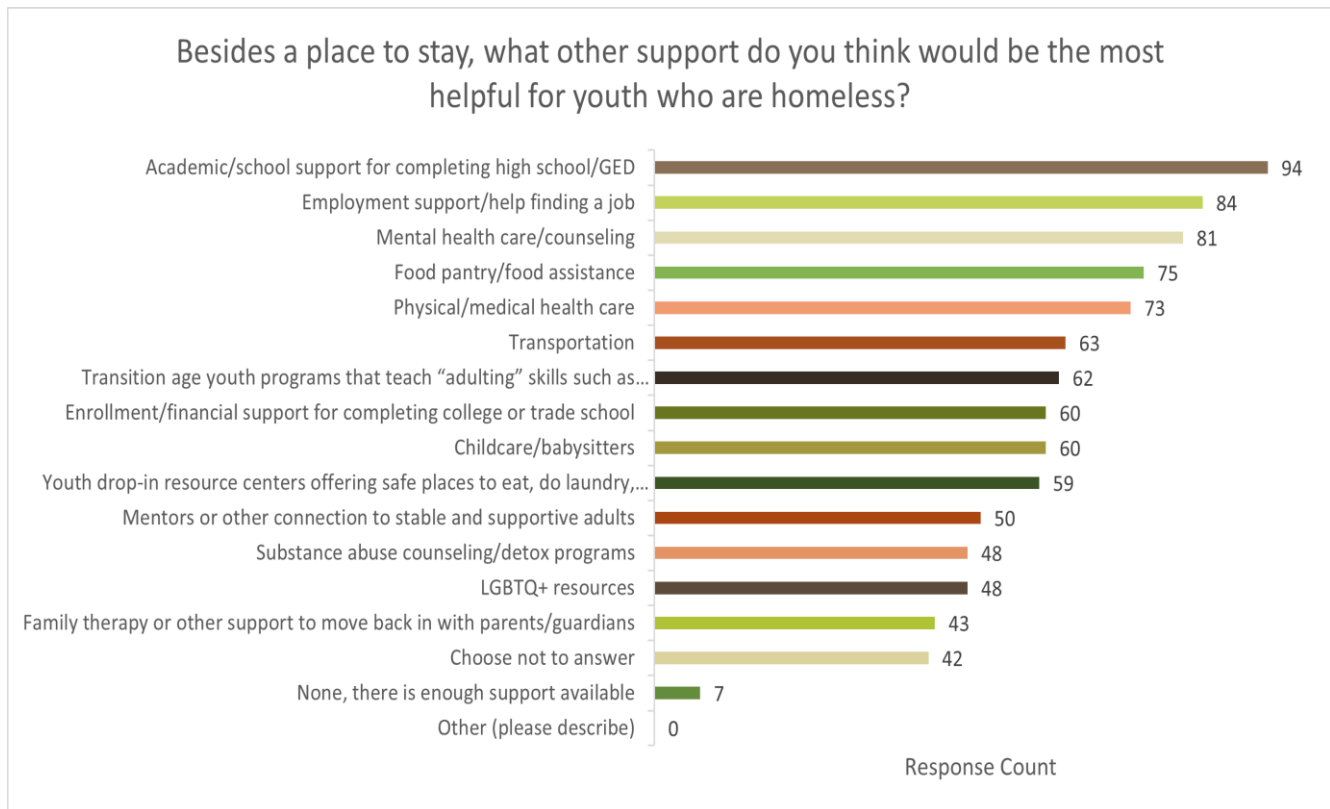


Figure 11

Access to services

Since young people are, perhaps as a result of the pandemic, even less likely to feel comfortable accessing services and offices in person, there is a definite need for co-located health, school, and other services. Limited financial resources, lack of health insurance, lack of streamlining among providers, limited eligibility, and problems navigating service systems were reported as barriers by YEH to seeking out health care and mental health services. The transient nature of some YEH also often conflicts with a provider's ability to share critical information relevant to a youth's on-going care (Gallardo, 2020). Further, streamlining the coordination of services so youth do not have to navigate systems solo – either with a patient navigator or case manager – will be important for our region. Service staff who work directly with YEH in the region should also ensure that all services are delivered in an inclusive, trauma-informed, and youth-friendly manner. One study also recommends youth be directly provided a cell phone, as having access to the internet directly corresponds with positive mental health outcomes and more frequent service awareness and access (Lai et al., 2021). Youth with access to a cell phone are more likely to achieve consistent and continued care, and are more easily contacted by providers for appointment follow-up, appointment reminders, or to share positive test results (Gallardo, 2020).

Other services often provided or coordinated by programs serving youth who are homeless, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, include:

- Family reunification/reconciliation support;
- Education;
- Employment/vocational planning;
- Healthcare (both physical and mental);
- Substance use support;
- Prenatal care/parenting support;
- Escape from human trafficking;
- Mentorships;
- LGBTQ+ support;
- Skill building:
 - Budgeting/financial management (including setting up a bank account),
 - Setting social boundaries (to avoid exploitation),
 - Cooking/nutrition,
 - Sexual health

To offset the cost of healthcare for YEH, Gallardo (2020) recommends providers use funding from multiple grants within and across healthcare agencies. Local financial assistance programs and public health insurance also help YEH seeking healthcare services.

A thorough individual assessment is essential for determining individual youth needs and developing an appropriate care and service plan. Interviews can be supplemented by tools designed to assess areas of particular relevance to youth in transition. One such example is the Casey Life Skills (CLS) Toolkit that is available at no cost to organizations that commit to the usage terms. Some of the functional areas that CLS assesses include (Casey Family Programs, 2022):

- Daily living and self-care activities
- Maintaining healthy relationships
- Work and study habits
- Using community resources
- Money management
- Computer literacy and online safety
- Civic engagement
- Navigating the child welfare system

Ongoing quality assurance

Our region should conduct ongoing assessments of service users' experiences to identify occurrences of organizational discrimination and retraumatizing. Hearing their stories and collecting user data will provide an accurate direction for agencies to implement protocols and procedures aimed to prevent further discrimination or marginalization, promote inclusivity, and

allow for service flexibility. More outreach will be needed to gain the perspectives of YEH-serving providers located in rural communities.

Community collaborative bodies (systems of care) should be identified or created that can collect data, facilitate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) between organizations for referrals and sharing of resources, and address gaps between programs. The following examples, provided through interviews of youth housing program leaders across Michigan, illustrates why a systems of care approach is necessary:

We cannot be a housing option, so if they're currently in a hospital or juvie they can't use us as a placement. They need to find housing prior to coming to us.

Another barrier is systems not working together. For instance, the court says the youth assaulted their parent and issued a no contact order, so now the youth can't live at home. Another youth was adopted, then kicked out by their parent as a teenager during an argument. CPS was involved but meanwhile the kid was gone for over 6 months and had been trafficked and gotten addicted to meth in that process. The youth went through detox and ended up at the shelter because there was no other place to put them.

Right now, the only option is to get CPS involved and that's also not guaranteed to do anything because they have their own guidelines. Sometimes youth come to our program, and we try to do our best for them, but sometimes because they finish the program, or we're not the right program for them, we can't find them the one that they need. So sometimes this isn't the best program for a kid but we take them anyway because we don't have anywhere else to put them.

Limitations

Studies of adults experiencing homelessness are more plentiful than data focused exclusively on youth, particularly under-18 youth and rural youth. Researching children and young people requires a higher level of risk management and outreach on the researchers' part. To protect minors and those at risk of victimization, our youth survey did not collect any identifiable data. Though important, this de-identification does limit long-term or follow-up study, and/or more in-depth questioning.

As one focus group participant noted, it is likely that youth/young adults would not define themselves as "homeless" if they are staying with a friend or significant other, particularly if they left home by choice. Youth may not have the developmental capacity to forecast housing stability and/or may perceive the presence of temporary housing (no matter its limited nature) to disqualify them as "homeless." Though our study worked to define homelessness at the outset of the survey to include these unhoused/at-risk scenarios, we are constrained by the self-reported nature of the survey and must assume respondents understood and utilized the [definition](#) given.

Certain youth demographics of survey respondents did not align with the overall demographics of the Great Lakes Bay region. Although gender and age were proportionally distributed, other categories were not: race, sexuality, county of origin, and former foster youth. A larger, more geographically diverse sample should be sought in the future to further define/refine our learning.

Future Research

Studies like this are crucial to building a more locally representative dataset. Further study of - and with - youth in the Great Lakes Bay Region is needed in the following areas:

- More information about the prevalence of disabilities among youth who experience homelessness (learning and developmental disabilities, as well as behavioral health conditions).
- Thorough identification of service gaps for unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Expanded evidence for the impact of current/planned interventions on youth-level outcomes.
- Given the Great Lakes Bay Region's population of Native American Youth, and the national statistic citing that Native American youth are 2.2x more likely to experience homelessness (Morton, Dworsky & Samuels, 2017), it may be worthwhile to seek additional information on local Native American youths' experiences in collaboration with indigenous tribes in the region.

Conclusion

As stated previously, there are major gaps in knowledge transfer with regards to youth homelessness in rural settings like those in the Great Lakes Bay Region, and few examples of practical steps to prioritize for youth workers or policy developers.

Overcoming the barriers faced by homeless and unaccompanied youth in the Great Lakes Bay Region will take a collaborative, cross-sector approach. Thankfully, with the local needs now identified, there are concrete steps agencies and community organizations can take to begin to remedy urgent needs and recalibrate current priorities.

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Appendices

Appendix A - Copies of recruitment materials

Appendix B - Copy of youth survey

Appendix C - Demographics of survey respondents

Appendix D - Identifying significance in the frequency of reported reason(s) for youth/young adult homelessness: differences between counties

Appendix E - County by county reported reasons for youth/young adult homelessness. Two graphs per county: others' reasons for homelessness; self-reported reasons for homelessness.

Appendix F - Literature Review Summary of Laws Regarding Homeless Youth

Appendix G - Partial list of federal funding initiatives to address youth homelessness

Appendix A

Recruitment Materials: Focus Group Invitation Letter



April 25, 2022

Dear youth advocate,

APPRECOTS is looking for forty (40) adults in the Great Lakes Bay Area who have recent (within the last five years) direct experience supporting one or more unaccompanied homeless youth. By 'unaccompanied homeless youth,' we mean a young person between the ages of 14 and 24 who is not living with a parent or legal guardian and is without a fixed, regular nighttime residence. Some examples of being without a fixed, regular nighttime residence are that the youth may have been living in a shelter, a motel, out of a car, tent or other non-residential structure, or been "couch surfing" at a friend's home. The support you provided may have been facilitating resources, or it may have been less formal, like providing transportation after sports practice or being a trusted adult that the young person confided in.

Through the joint organizational efforts of Jana Kullick, McKinney-Vento State Grant Coordinator for Midland, Clare, and Gladwin Counties, and Robin Greiner and Michele Gunkelman, former and current Directors of Housing and Crisis Response for Shelterhouse, an initiative is underway to better understand and respond to the needs of unaccompanied youth facing homelessness and housing insecurity in the Great Lakes Bay Region. To inform these efforts, APPRECOTS has been contracted through McKinney-Vento funding to conduct a local needs assessment. As part of the assessment, APPRECOTS will be facilitating focus groups and would appreciate your consideration of participation, or for you to pass this invitation along to someone else who would be an ideal participant.

Focus groups will be held during the month of May via Zoom, will have up to ten participants in each group, and will last approximately one and one-half hours. Participants will be asked to share information about circumstances of youth homelessness and known community resources. Participants will be specifically asked NOT to share any information that will individually identify a particular youth. The focus group conversations will be recorded and converted into de-identified transcripts for analysis by the research team. Participants will be asked to provide contact information and consent for participation upon registration. After the focus group, each participant will be mailed an \$8 Little Caesars gift card as a token of appreciation.

Please go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/homelessyouthgroups to register.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact APPRECOTS by emailing admin@apprecots.com or calling (989) 759-9756.

In gratitude and appreciation,
Heidi Wale Knizacky
APPRECOTS, CEO

Appendix A

Recruitment Materials: Survey Recruitment Flyer

Are you between the ages of 14 and 24?

Do you live in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, or Saginaw County?
And have you ever experienced not having a stable place to stay OR know someone your
age who has had to couch surf, stay in a shelter, live out of their car, or in any other way
been homeless?

If so, we want to hear from you!

A group of local organizations are sponsoring a survey to learn more about the needs of
youth in our region who have ever been without a stable place to live. The information
learned will be used to help improve community resources for youth and young adults.

Please scan the QR code by opening the camera app on your phone or go to the web
address below to complete the survey. Be among the first to respond and you can get a
\$5 fast food e-voucher for your time.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/homelessyouthsurvey

You will not have to give your name or any other identifying information to complete the survey. You
will need to provide an email address if you choose to receive the e-voucher. If you choose to share an
email address, it will not be used for any other purpose than to send the gift voucher to you.

Survey ends June 1, 2022

If you would like to participate but do not have access to the internet,
you may call (989) 759-9756 between 1 and 5 PM, Monday through Friday, and speak to
someone over the phone who will read the survey to you and record your responses.

Thank you!

Questions about this project can be directed to APPRECOTS – Applied Research Consultants, LLC
admin@apprecots.com | (989) 759-9756

Appendix B

Youth Survey

Hello and Welcome!

Thank you for being here! We need to tell you why this survey is being done. You need to know what it means to take part. Then you can decide if answering the questions is right for you. This survey is designed to better know the needs of Great Lakes Bay Region youth who are or have been homeless. This study will be used to improve services in our area.

Eligibility

This is a survey for people

1. Between the ages of 14 and 24,
2. Who are living in, or who have lived in, the Great Lakes Bay Region (Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, or Saginaw Counties),
3. Who have known someone between the ages of 14 and 24 who was, or is, homeless (this person could be you)
4. Who are completing this survey for the first and (only) time

Possible Risks

You may find some of the questions make you uneasy. It is okay if you decide not to answer a question. Every multiple-choice question offers a "Choose Not to Answer" option. You may also exit out of the survey at any time by closing this window.

If you or anyone you know is considering suicide or is in crisis, please:

- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).
- Or contact the Trevor Project. They offer crisis services to LGBTQ young people over the phone by calling 1-866-488-7386 or text 'START' to 678-678.

If you or anyone you know is homeless or thinking about leaving home and need housing or other services, please call 211. You can call at any time of the day or night to talk to someone. You will be put in touch with resources. Calling 211 can also put you in contact with many other types of resources. You can learn about available help including food, pregnancy or parenting needs, and mental health services.

If you want to report child abuse or neglect, call 1(855) 444-3911 at any time of the day or night.

You might want to jot this information down. You can take a screenshot so you have the numbers any time you need them.

Benefits

Answering these questions may help with improving services for youth in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Confidentiality

None of the survey questions will ask for your name or for you to reveal who you are.

There are places in this survey where you may freely type your response. If you disclose any identifying information about someone who is abusing or neglecting a child, that information will be passed along to Child Protective Services as required by the Michigan Child Protection Law.

Thank-you gift

For as long as supplies remain, everyone who completes the survey will be able to receive a \$5 e-certificate from a local restaurant.

Questions or Concerns about this Research Study

If you have questions about this study, please contact the research team at admin@apprecots.com or 989-759-9756.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the MPHI Institutional Review Board (IRB) at oric@mphi.org or 517-324-7387.

You may wish to write down this information, add it to your contacts, print this screen, or take a screenshot so you can retrieve the contact information at a later time.

Thank you for sharing your time and knowledge with us!

About you

1. *How old are you?

- ☐ 14
- ☐ 15
- ☐ 16
- ☐ 17
- ☐ 18
- ☐ 19
- ☐ 20
- ☐ 21
- ☐ 22
- ☐ 23
- ☐ 24
- ☐ Choose not to answer

- ☐ other (specify)

2. *Which county are you staying in right now?

- ☐ Arenac
- ☐ Bay
- ☐ Clare
- ☐ Gladwin
- ☐ Gratiot
- ☐ Isabella
- ☐ Midland
- ☐ Saginaw
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

3. *What best describes the area where you are currently staying?

- ☐ In the country/rural area
- ☐ In a small town or village
- ☐ In a city/urban area
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please describe)

4. *What is your race?

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Unsure/Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. *Are you Hispanic/Latino?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure/Choose not to answer

6. *How do you define your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary or Gender Non-conforming
- ☐ Transgender Female
- ☐ Transgender Male
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

7. *Which best describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Bisexual/pansexual

- ☐ Gay/lesbian
- ☐ Heterosexual/straight
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

8. *Are you pregnant or a parent?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Choose not to answer

9. *Have you ever been involved with the foster care system?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Choose not to answer

These first questions are about other people you know.

10. *Not including yourself, how many people do you know under the age of 25 who are, or have been, homeless? (Meaning, they do or did not have a regular, long-term place to stay and keep their things.)

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6+
- ☐ Choose not to answer

11. *Not including yourself, how many people do you know under the age of 25 who are or who have been on their own when they were homeless? (Meaning, they did not stay in the same place as their parent or legal guardian and did not have their own house, apartment, or dormitory.)

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6+
- ☐ Choose not to answer

If you answered "0" to question 10, please skip to question 16.

12. Where did the homeless youth or young adults you've known stay or sleep? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Abandoned or empty building
- ☐ Bus station, airport, train station
- ☐ Emergency shelter/homeless youth shelter
- ☐ Foster home
- ☐ House or apartment of friend, family member, or acquaintance
- ☐ Motel or hotel
- ☐ Outdoors (such as under bridge or highway overpass, alleyway, sidewalk or street, non-recreational camping)
- ☐ Transitional housing/transitional shelter
- ☐ Vehicle (car, van, truck, recreational vehicle)
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Unsure

13. To the best of your knowledge, why were they homeless? (Select all that apply. You may also select options to describe different people if you know more than one young person who are or have been homeless.)

- ☐ Aged out of foster care system.
 - ☐ Became pregnant/a parent.
 - ☐ Family lost housing.
 - ☐ Family rejection due to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
 - ☐ Kicked out of home by parents/caregivers.
 - ☐ Living space with parents/caregivers was overcrowded.
 - ☐ Living with parents/caregivers was not safe due to physical or sexual abuse.
 - ☐ Not enough food, heat, water, or other basic resources at home.
 - ☐ Parents/caregivers moved without youth/young adult.
 - ☐ Youth did not experience abuse or lack of resources, but left by own choice due to disagreements/arguments.
 - ☐ Youth moved out as a young adult (either by self or with roommate(s) into house, dormitory, or apartment) but was unable to keep up with costs.
 - ☐ Choose not to answer
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Unsure

14. To your knowledge, were they ever offered a place to stay or support that they turned down?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Choose not to answer

15. If yes, why? (text box)

These questions are about you and your own experiences.

16. *Have you ever been homeless? Meaning, have you ever been without a regular, long-term place to stay and keep your things?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

- ☐ Choose not to answer

17. *Have you ever been on your own and homeless? (Meaning, you were not staying in the same place as your parent(s) or legal guardian and didn't have your own house, apartment, or dormitory.)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Choose not to answer

18. *If you have ever been homeless, where did you stay or sleep? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ N/A - Never been homeless
- ☐ Abandoned or empty building
- ☐ Bus station, airport, train station
- ☐ Emergency shelter/homeless youth shelter
- ☐ Foster home
- ☐ House or apartment of friend, family member, or acquaintance
- ☐ Motel or hotel
- ☐ Outdoors (such as under bridge or highway overpass, alleyway, sidewalk or street, non-recreational camping)
- ☐ Transitional housing/transitional shelter
- ☐ Vehicle (car, van, truck, recreational vehicle)
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

19. *How many separate times have you been homeless?

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ More than 5 times
- ☐ Unsure/Choose not to answer

20. *Were you ever offered a place to stay or support that you turned down?

- ☐ N/A - Never been homeless
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure/Choose not to answer

21. If yes, why? (text box)

22. *Have you ever had to switch schools or move more than 10 miles (more than a 15-minute drive) so that you could have a place to stay when you were homeless?

- ☐ N/A - Never been homeless
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure/Choose not to answer

23. If you had to move to a different county in order to get help when you were homeless, what county were you living in before?

- ☐ N/A - Never had to move to a different county to get help
- ☐ Arenac
- ☐ Bay
- ☐ Clare
- ☐ Gladwin
- ☐ Gratiot
- ☐ Isabella
- ☐ Midland
- ☐ Saginaw
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

24. *How many days in a row have you been homeless (for the longest time)?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ 1 - 6 days_____
- ☐ 1 - 4 Weeks _____
- ☐ 1 - 5 Months_____
- ☐ 6 - 11 Months
- ☐ A year or more
- ☐ Choose not to answer

25. *What would you say is the main reason, or reasons, you became homeless?

- ☐ N/A - Never been homeless
- ☐ Aged out of foster care system.
- ☐ Became pregnant/a parent.
- ☐ Family lost housing.
- ☐ Family rejection due to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- ☐ Kicked out of home by parents/caregivers.
- ☐ Kicked out of housing program or shelter.
- ☐ Living space with parents/caregivers was overcrowded.
- ☐ Living with parents/caregivers was not safe due to physical or sexual abuse.
- ☐ Not enough food, heat, water, or other basic resources at home.
- ☐ Parents/caregivers moved without you.
- ☐ You did not experience abuse or lack of resources, but left by your own choice due to disagreements/arguments.
- ☐ You moved out as a young adult (either by self or with roommate(s) into a house, dormitory, or apartment) but were unable to keep up with costs.
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

26. *Are you enrolled in school right now? (Please select the one best option.)

- ☐ Yes, and regularly attend classes
- ☐ Yes, but don't attend classes regularly
- ☐ No, I graduated from high school
- ☐ No, I received a GED

- ☐ No, I dropped out
- ☐ No, I was expelled
- ☐ Choose not to answer

27. *What is the highest grade level you have finished?

- ☐ Less than 5th grade
- ☐ 5th-6th grade
- ☐ 7th-8th grade
- ☐ 9th-10th grade
- ☐ 11th-12th grade
- ☐ Completed GED program
- ☐ College or post-secondary education
- ☐ Choose not to answer

28. *Has being homeless stopped you from going to school for more than a day or two (including stopping you from going to college or trade school)?

- ☐ N/A - Never been homeless
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Does not apply
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please explain) _____

29. *While homeless, in which ways did you, or do you, get money or basic need items such as food and gas?

- ☐ N/A - Never been homeless
- ☐ Asked for money from strangers/panhandled
- ☐ Food pantry or soup kitchen
- ☐ Full-time employment
- ☐ Government program (SSI, SSDI, food stamps, unemployment benefits, welfare)
- ☐ Loans or support from friends/family
- ☐ Odd jobs for cash
- ☐ Part-time employment
- ☐ Support from church or charity organization
- ☐ Traded sex for money or for food or other items
- ☐ Choose not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

The remaining questions are about your beliefs and opinions.

30. *Do you believe there is enough help in our area for youth who are homeless?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure/Don't know
- ☐ Choose not to answer

31. *Which one of the following do you think would be the most helpful for our area?

- ☐ Be able to stay in Foster Care until older

- o Host homes that offer temporary places to stay for youth who are not involved in the foster care system
- o Partial rent payment for youth who have their own lease
- o Shared houses for young people to live while in life skills programs and working and/or going to school
- o Youth shelter
- o Choose not to answer
- o Other (please describe)

32. *Besides a place to stay, what other support do you think would be the most helpful for youth who are homeless?

- o Academic/school support for completing high school/GED
- o Childcare/babysitters
- o Employment support/help finding a job
- o Enrollment/financial support for completing college or trade school
- o Family therapy or other support to move back in with parents/guardians
- o Food pantry/food assistance
- o LGBTQ+ resources
- o Mental health care/counseling
- o Mentors or other connection to stable and supportive adults
- o Physical/medical health care
- o Substance abuse counseling/detox programs
- o Transition age youth programs that teach "adulting" life skills such as financial management
- o Transportation
- o Youth drop-in resource centers offering safe places to eat, do laundry, get hygiene products, and/or socialize
- o None, there is enough support available
- o Choose not to answer
- o Other (please specify)

33. What do you think people in our community need to know about youth homelessness? (blank text box)

34. What other information or ideas would you like to share with people who are interested in helping youth who are homeless? (blank text box)

If you or anyone you know is considering suicide or is in crisis, please:

- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).
- Or contact the Trevor Project. They offer crisis services to LGBTQ young people over the phone by calling 1-866-488-7386 or text 'START' to 678-678.

If you or anyone you know is homeless or thinking about leaving home and need housing or other services, please call 211. You can call at any time of the day or night to talk to someone. You will be put in touch with resources. Calling 211 can also put you in contact with many other types of resources. You can learn about available help including food, pregnancy or parenting needs, and mental health services.

If you want to report child abuse or neglect, call 1(855) 444-3911 at any time of the day or night.

If you believe any of these services would help you or someone you know, please write down, print, or screenshot the contact information at this time.

Thank you for sharing your time and knowledge with us. As a thank-you for completing our survey, please accept this gift certificate. You will receive an email with instructions to receive your \$5.00 non-transferable code.

Provide your email address below in order to receive the gift. We have partnered with a third-party service called appyReward that electronically delivers gift cards. Your email address is used only to deliver you a digital gift card. No other information about you or survey responses will be shared with appyReward. The appyReward service does not keep your email address and we will remove email addresses at the end of the survey collection as well.

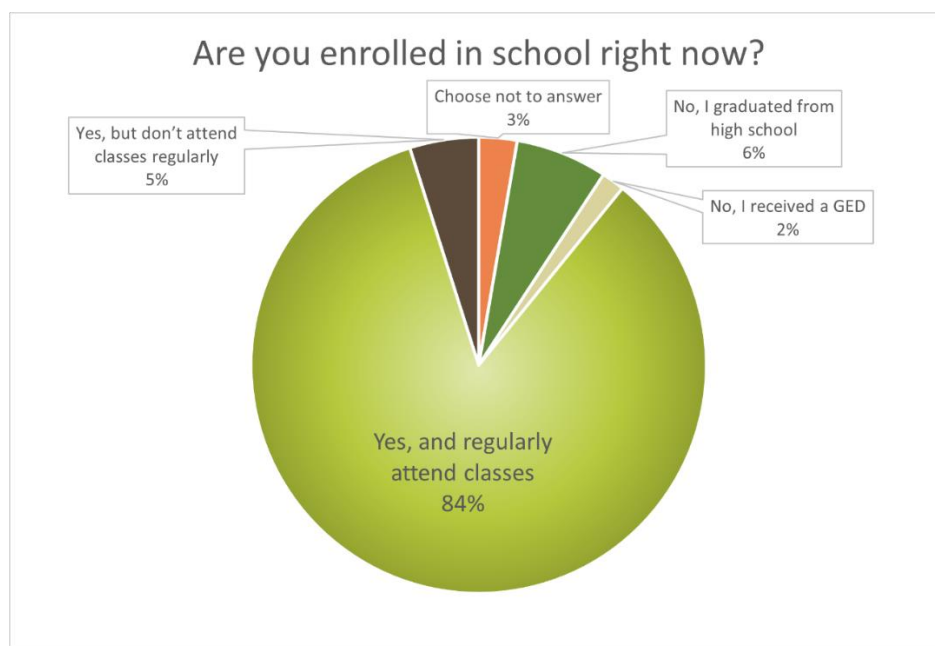
35. Please submit your email address if you would like to receive the reward.
Email Address

*Questions prefaced with an asterisk require a response

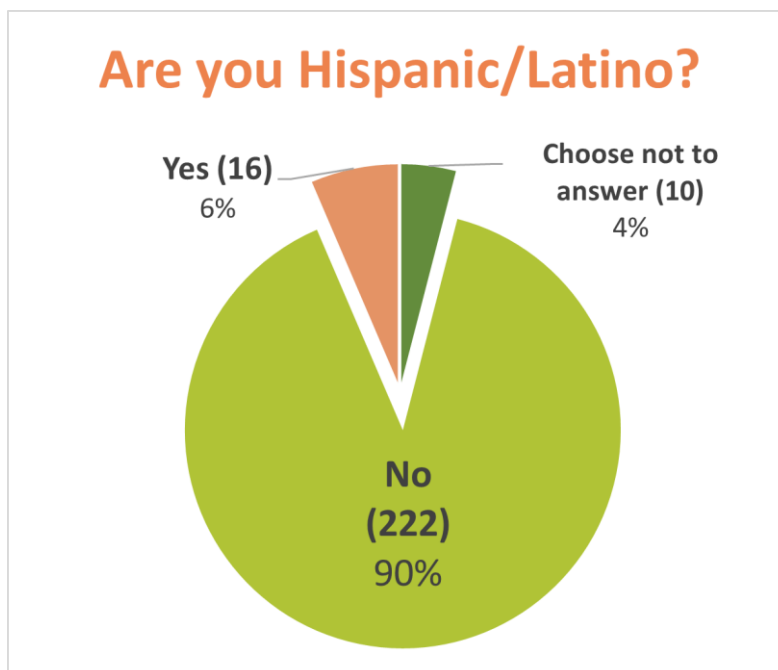
Appendix C

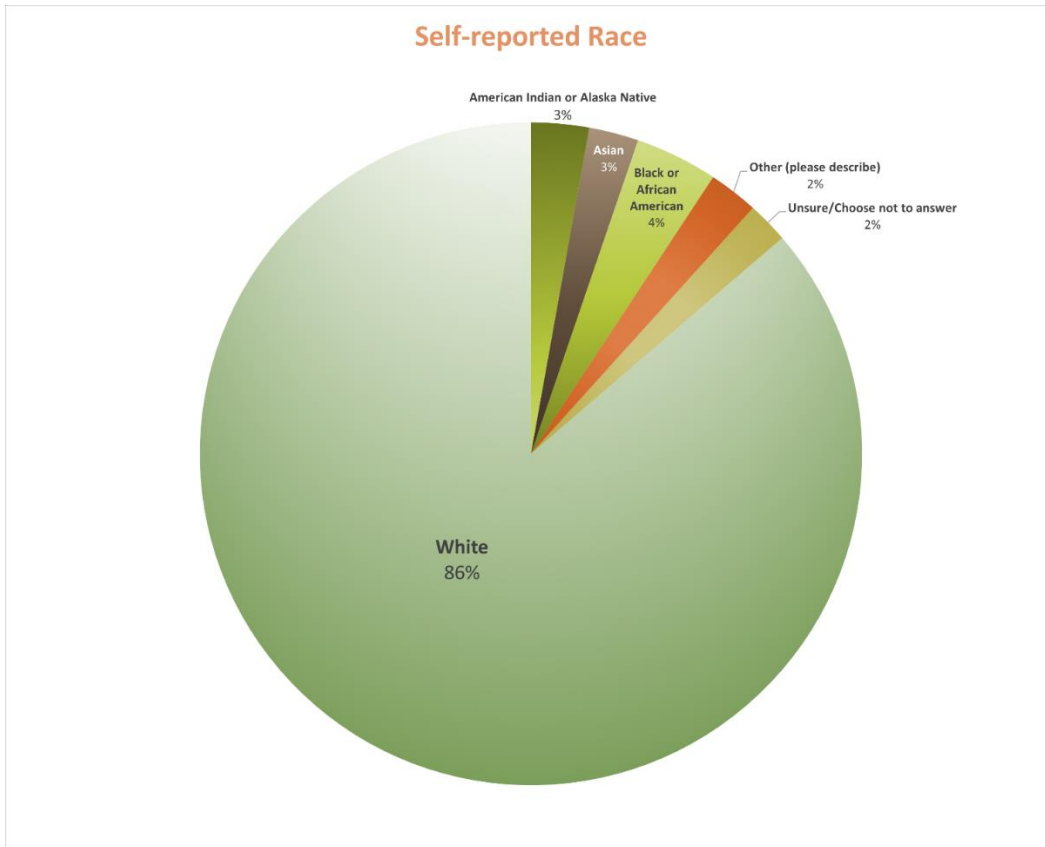
Demographics of Survey Respondents

School enrollment (n=184)

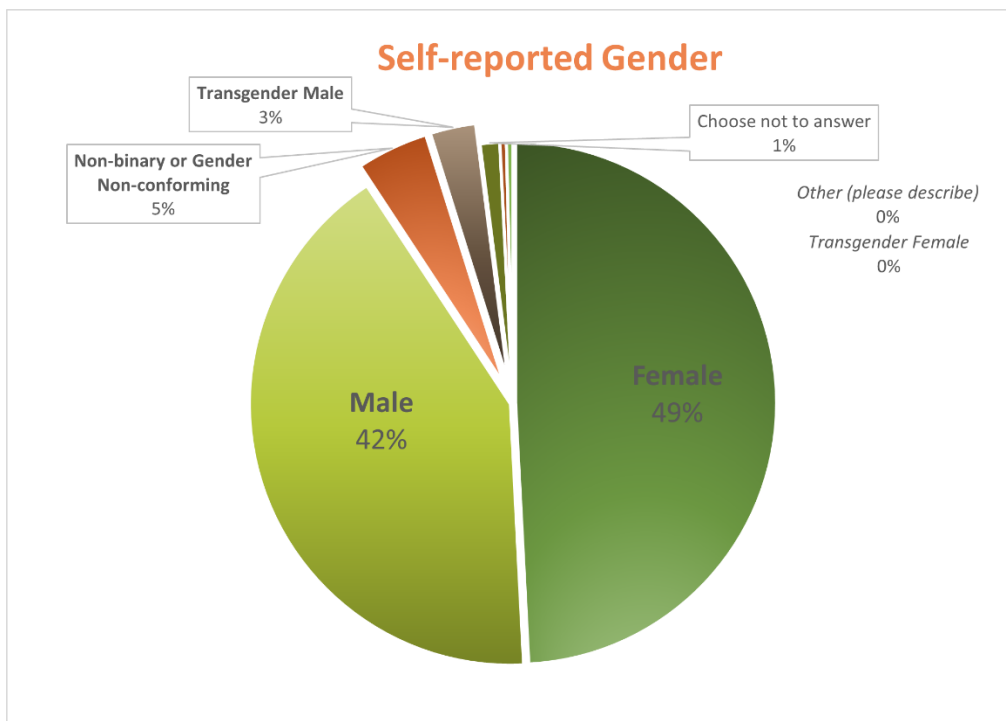


Race/Ethnicity (n=248)

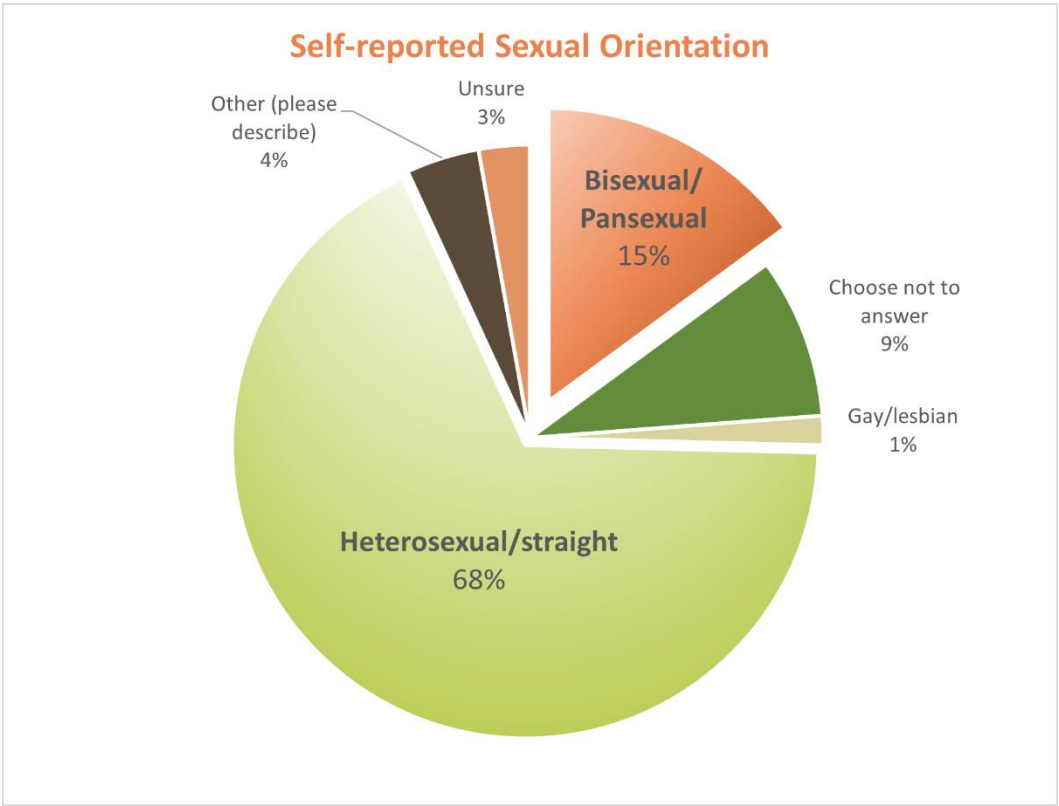




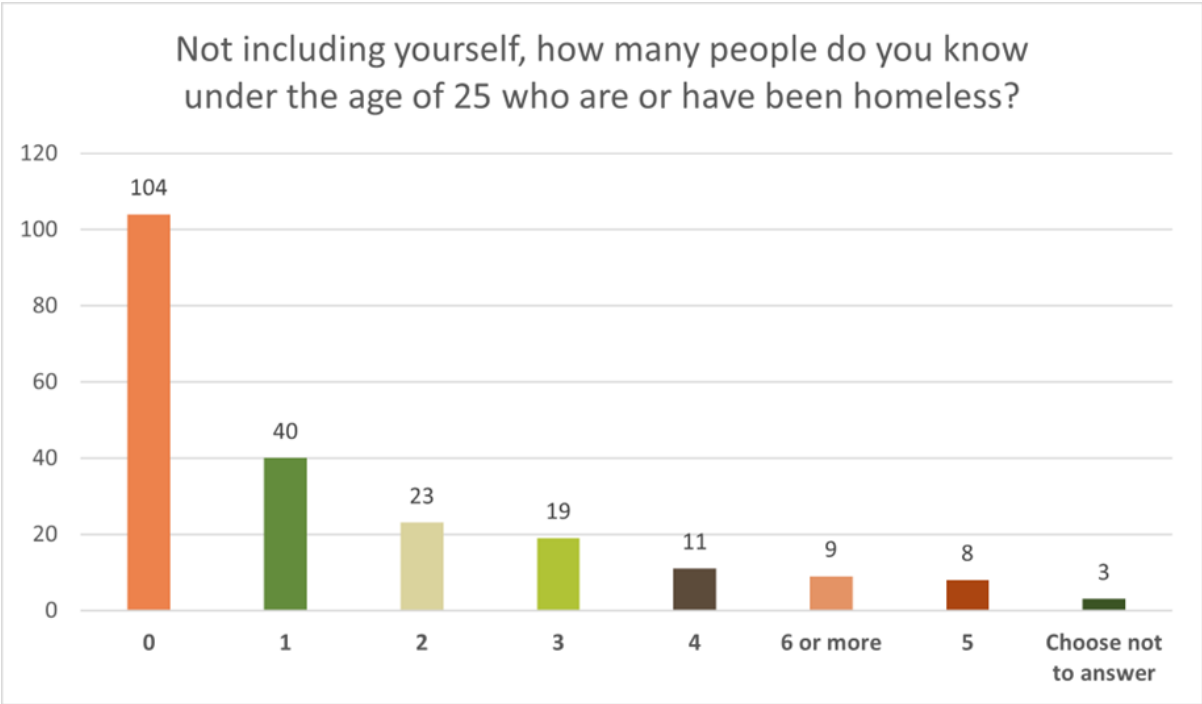
Gender (n=248)

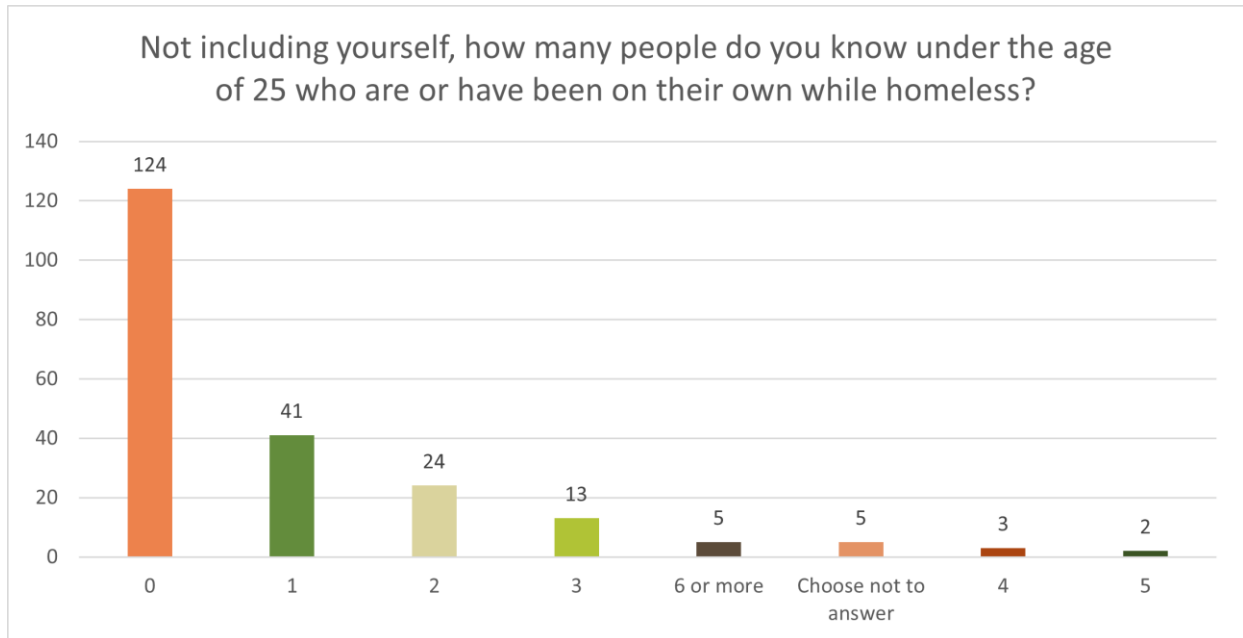


Sexual Orientation (n=248)



Reported awareness of other youth experiencing homelessness (n=217)





Appendix D

Significance in the Difference between Counties of Frequency of Reported Reason(s) for Youth/Young Adult Homelessness

Table 1

TUKEY HSD/KRAMER					
			alpha = 0.05		
group	mean	n	ss	df	q-crit
Arenac	1	6	0		
Bay	1	5	0		
Choose Not to Answer	1	1	0		
Clare	11.76923	13	956.3077		
Gladwin	5.16666	12	249.6667		
Gratiot	1	1	0		
Isabella	2.2	5	2.8		
Midland	4.09090	11	42.90909		
Saginaw	1.2	5	0.8		
		59	1252.48	50	4.5836

Table 1, cont.

Q TEST

group 1	group 2	mean	std err	q-stat	lower	upper	p-value	mean-crit	Cohen d
Arenac	Bay	0.0000	2.1430	0.0000	- 9.8226	9.8226	1.0000	9.8226	0.0000
Arenac	Clare	10.769	1.7467	6.1655	2.7631	18.775 4	0.0020	8.0061	2.1517
Arenac	Gladwin	4.1667	1.7695	2.3547	- 3.9441	12.277 4	0.7641	8.1108	0.8325
Arenac	Gratiot	0.0000	3.8226	0.0000	- 17.521	17.521 3	1.0000	17.521	0.0000
Arenac	Isabella	1.2000	2.1430	0.5600	- 8.6226	11.022 6	1.0000	9.8226	0.2398
Arenac	Midland	3.0909	1.7961	1.7209	- 5.1418	11.323 7	0.9489	8.2328	0.6176
Arenac	Saginaw	0.2000	2.1430	0.0933	- 9.6226	10.022 6	1.0000	9.8226	0.0400
Bay	Clare	10.769 2	1.8624	5.7825	2.2329	19.305 6	0.0046	8.5364	2.1517
Bay	Gladwin	4.1667	1.8838	2.2118	- 4.4679	12.801 3	0.8191	8.6346	0.8325
Bay	Gratiot	0.0000	3.8768	0.0000	- 17.769	17.769 8	1.0000	17.769	0.0000
Bay	Isabella	1.2000	2.2383	0.5361	- 9.0594	11.459 4	1.0000	10.259	0.2398
Bay	Midland	3.0909	1.9088	1.6193	- 5.6584	11.840 2	0.9640	8.7493	0.6176
Bay	Saginaw	0.2000	2.2383	0.0894	- 10.059	10.459 4	1.0000	10.259	0.0400

Clare	Gladwin	6.6026	1.4168	4.6604	0.1087	13.096 4	0.0435	6.4938	1.3192
Clare	Gratiot	10.769	3.6726	2.9323	- 6.0647	27.603 1	0.5022	16.833	2.1517
Clare	Isabella	9.5692	1.8624	5.1382	1.0329	18.105 6	0.0175	8.5364	1.9119
Clare	Midland	7.6783	1.4499	5.2959	1.0328	14.323 9	0.0127	6.6455	1.5341
Clare	Saginaw	10.569	1.8624	5.6752	2.0329	19.105 6	0.0058	8.5364	2.1117
Gladwin	Gratiot	4.1667	3.6836	1.1312	- 12.717	21.050 6	0.9964	16.883	0.8325
Gladwin	Isabella	2.9667	1.8838	1.5748	- 5.6679	11.601 3	0.9694	8.6346	0.5927
Gladwin	Midland	1.0758	1.4773	0.7282	- 5.6955	7.8470	0.9999	6.7713	0.2149
Gladwin	Saginaw	3.9667	1.8838	2.1057	- 4.6679	12.601 3	0.8553	8.6346	0.7925
Gratiot	Isabella	1.2000	3.8768	0.3095	- 16.569	18.969 8	1.0000	17.769	0.2398
Gratiot	Midland	3.0909	3.6964	0.8362	- 13.852	20.033 8	0.9996	16.942	0.6176
Gratiot	Saginaw	0.2000	3.8768	0.0516	- 17.569	17.969 8	1.0000	17.769	0.0400
Isabella	Midland	1.8909	1.9088	0.9906	- 6.8584	10.640 2	0.9986	8.7493	0.3778
Isabella	Saginaw	1.0000	2.2383	0.4468	- 9.2594	11.259 4	1.0000	10.259	0.1998
Midland	Saginaw	2.8909	1.9088	1.5145	- 5.8584	11.640 2	0.9758	8.7493	0.5776

Pairs with $p < 0.05$ are highlighted in yellow. Note: no significant difference was observed in any pairing between a county and respondents who selected "Choose not to answer" ("CNTA") for their current county of residence. Those rows were removed from this table for clarity.

Appendix E

County comparisons

Note: In order to protect anonymity of participants, response graphs are not shown for counties with fewer than 8 responses.

Arenac County

Figure 1, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Arenac County)

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=6)

Figure 2, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Arenac County

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=3)

Bay County

Figure 3, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Bay County)

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=5)

Figure 4, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Bay County

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=2)

Clare County

Figure 5, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Clare County) (n=153)

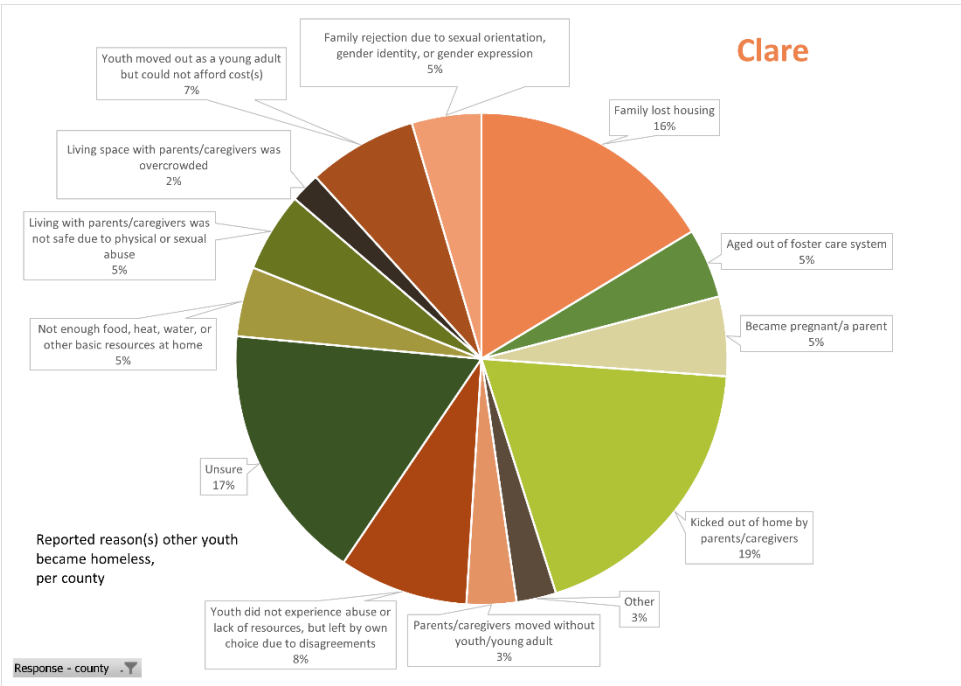
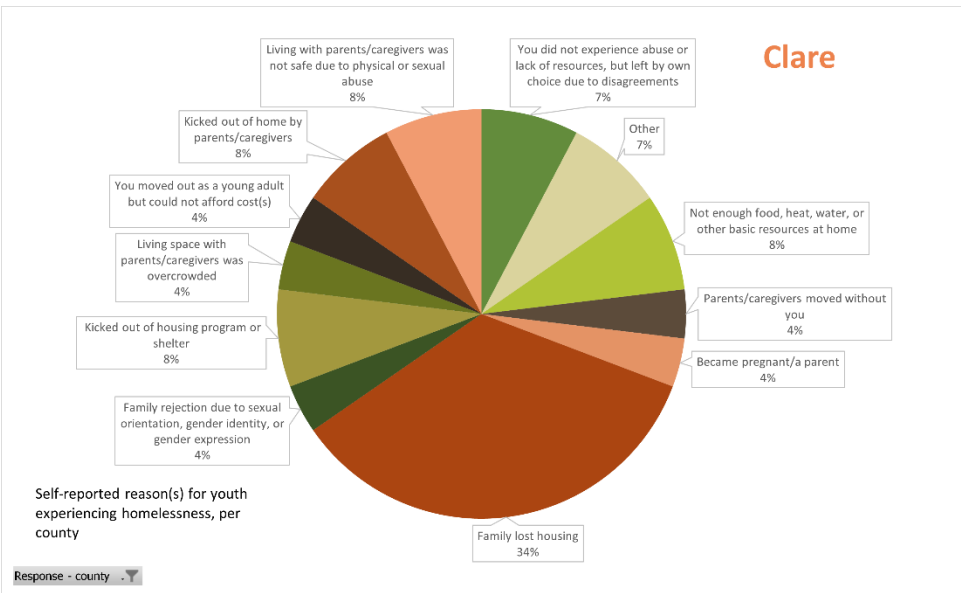


Figure 6, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Clare County (n=26)



Gladwin County

Figure 7, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Gladwin County) (n=62)

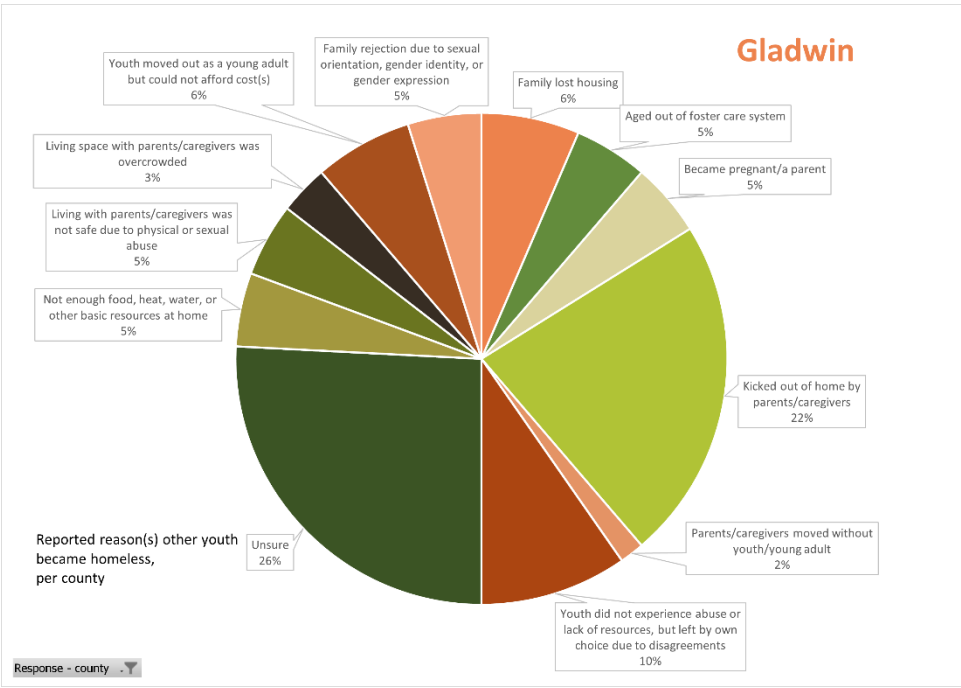
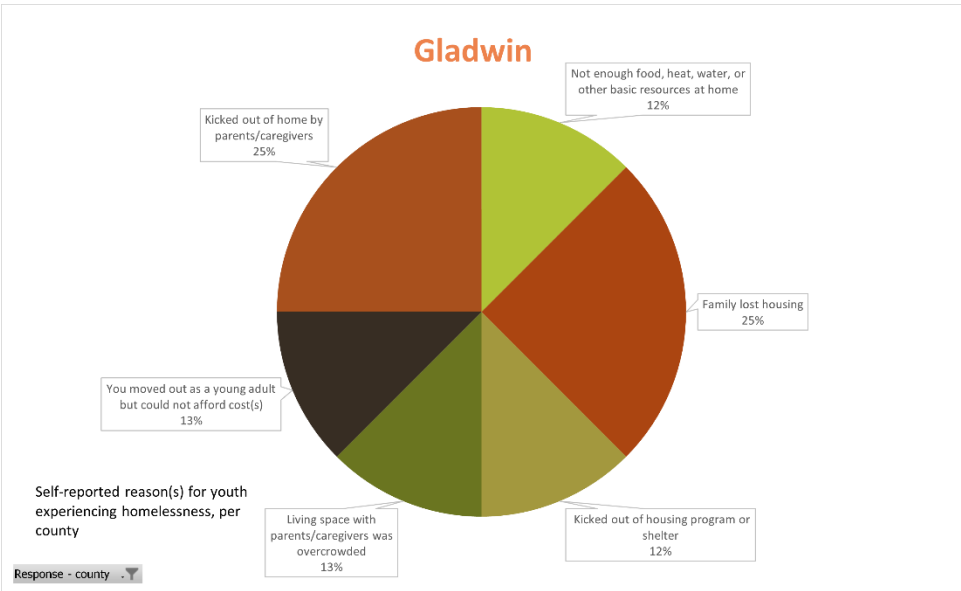


Figure 8, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Gladwin County (n=8)



Gratiot County

Figure 9, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Gratiot County)

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=1)

Figure 10, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Gratiot County

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=1)

Isabella County

Figure 11, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Isabella County) (n=11)

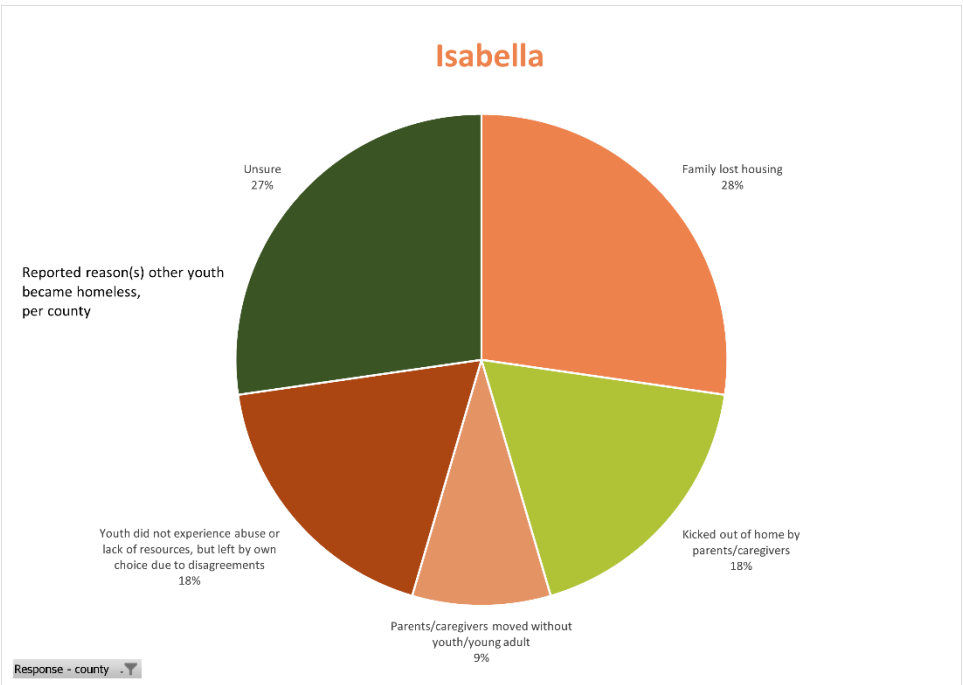


Figure 12, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Isabella County

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due to low number of
participants (n=6)

Midland County

Figure 13, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Midland County) (n=45)

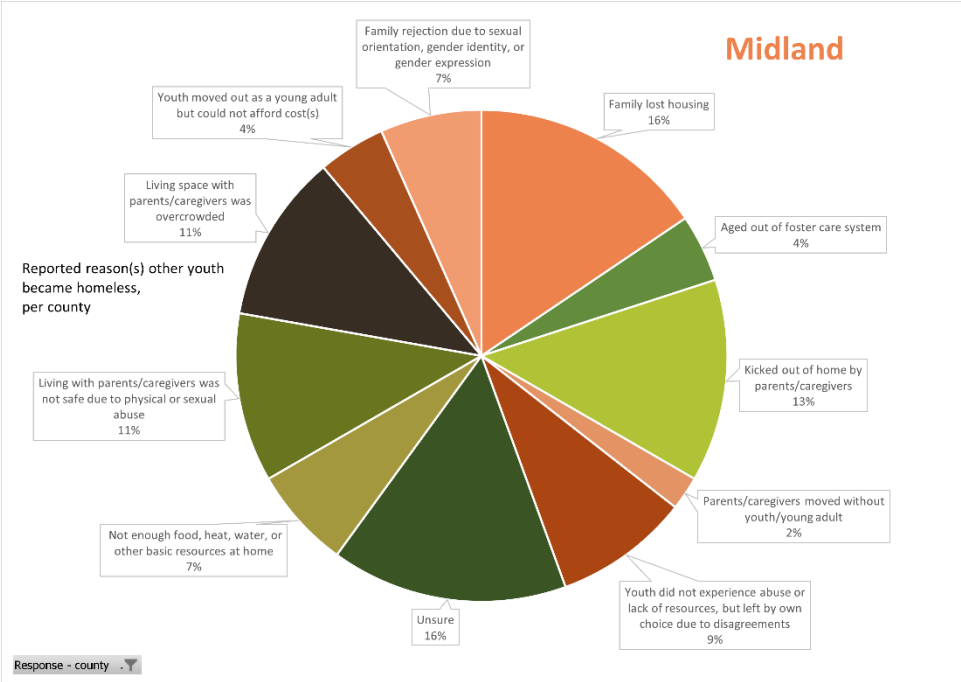
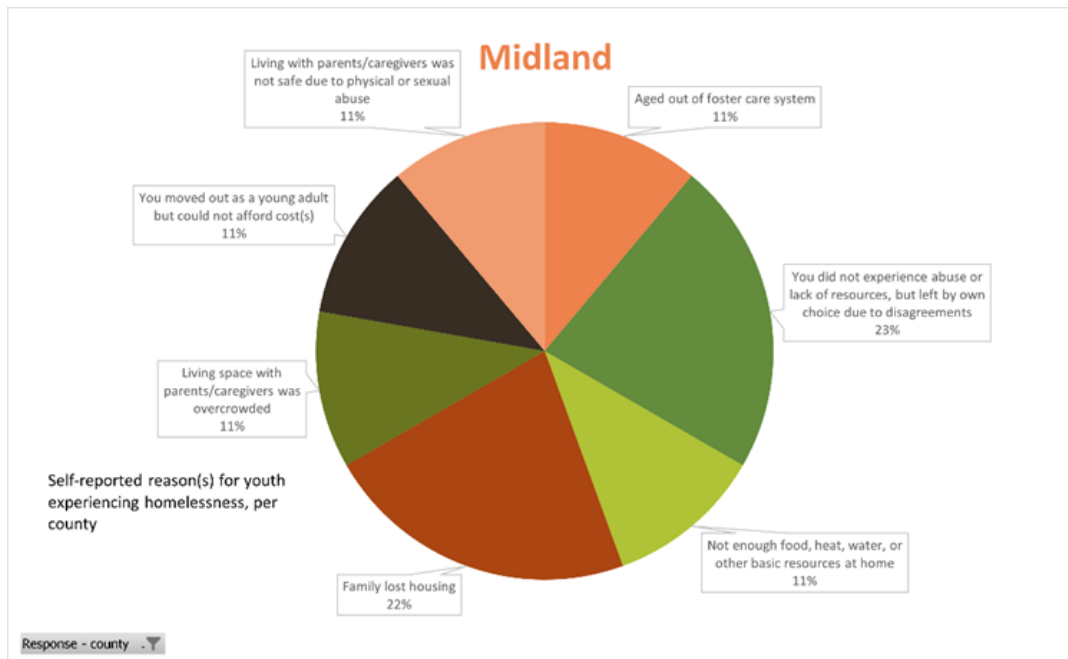


Figure 14, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Midland County (n=9)



Saginaw County

Figure 15, Reasons other youth/young adults became homeless (as reported by survey respondents residing in Saginaw County)

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=6)

Figure 16, Self-reported reasons for becoming homeless by survey respondents residing in Saginaw County

Graph not shown to
due to low number of
participants (n=4)

Appendix F

Literature Review Summary of Laws Regarding Homeless Youth

Definitions

Homeless children and youth - individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This definition includes children and youth who are

- Sharing the house of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Using a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, § 11434a, 1987)

Unaccompanied youth - a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, § 11434a, 1987).

Child - person under 18 years of age (Child Protection Law Act § 722.622, 1975)

Minor - person under 18 years of age

Parents - natural parents if married prior or subsequent to the minor's birth; adopting parents, if the minor has been legally adopted; or the mother, if the minor is illegitimate

Emancipation - termination of parental rights to the custody, control, services and earnings of a minor (Emancipation of Minors Act § 722.1, 1968)

Sheltering

Child Care Organization

Child care organizations include child caring institutions, child placing agencies, children's camps, children's campsites, children's therapeutic group homes, child care centers, day care centers, nursery schools, parent cooperative preschools, foster homes, group homes, or child care homes. Child care organizations do not include organizations that provide care to minors that have been emancipated or people over the age of 18 (Child Care Licensing Act § 722.111, 1973). Child care organizations must be licensed by the department of health and human services and therefore follow all requirements (Child Care Licensing Act § 722.115, 1973).

Child Care Institution

A child care facility licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services that receives minor children for care, maintenance, and supervision

A child under 6 years old cannot stay in a child care institution more than 30 days, unless it is best for the child (Bureau of Community and Health Systems, 2019).

Child Placing Agency

A nonprofit government organization or agency that receives children to place into private family homes, foster care, or adoption. The agency may investigate adoption or foster families. A child placing agency can supervise children between the ages of 16 and 20 who are living in unlicensed residences (Child Care Licensing Act § 722.111, 1973).

Temporary care may be provided to homeless, dependent, or neglected children through emergency receiving facilities. The county department of social welfare operates these facilities and must abide by state licensing regulations. Minors can remain in the temporary facility until they can be placed in their home, foster care, or another place deemed best for the child's health, safety, and welfare (The Social Welfare Act § 400.18d, 1939).

The department of health and human services can authorize an investigation of a foster family home/group home to assure compliance to licensing requirements. Members of the household must also show that they do not have a medical condition that might impact the care of the foster child (Child Care Licensing Act § 722.115, 1973).

A child care institution, foster home, child care center, child care home, must have individuals present who are certified in CPR and First Aid (Child Care Licensing Act § 722.112a, 1973).

Running Away/Unemancipated Minors

It is a crime to aid in violating juvenile court orders, or harbor minors under 17 years of age who have run from court custody or parents/guardians (Act 296 § 722.151, 1968).

Minors who disobey laws or ordinances can be taken into custody by a police officer, sheriff, county agent, or probation officer without a warrant. Parents, guardians, or custodians shall immediately attempt to be notified if the child is under 18 years of age.* The child cannot be held in a jail or detention facility unless isolated. Minors are to be placed (pending investigation) among one of the following options: with parent/guardian/custodian, in a court-supervised foster home, child care institution or licensed child placing agency, a suitable place of detention** (Juvenile code § 712A.14.amended, 1939) (Juvenile code § 712A.2.amended, 1939)

*Amended from 17 years of age effective October 1st, 2021

**Additional specifications regarding placement amended effective October 1st, 2021

Parents of unemancipated minors are equally entitled to services and earnings of minors unless otherwise ordered by the court (Emancipation of Minors Act § 722.2, 1968).

Curfew

Minors under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in any public street, highway, alley or park between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Minors under 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian in any public street, alley or park between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless they are attending to an errand or legitimate business directed by the parent/guardian (Act 41 § 722.751, 1960).

Emancipated Minors

Emancipated minors have the right to enter enforceable contracts, retain their own earnings, and establish separate housing. Emancipated minors have the right to act with the same rights and responsibilities in regards to property transitions and obtaining accounts for utilities, unless the court requires a conservator or guardian ad litem (Emancipation of Minors Act § 722.4e, 1968).

Emancipation may occur by petition or by operation of law

- a minor is married
- a person reaches 18 years of age
- a minor is in active duty with the armed forces
- a minor is consenting to routine medical or emergency care
- is in custody of a law enforcement agency and the parent/guardian cannot be promptly located
- for preventative health care while committed to a correctional facility or alternative incarceration unit if a parent/guardian cannot be promptly located

(Emancipation of Minors Act § 722.4, 1968)

Emancipation petition must be filed in the family division of circuit court in the county the minor resides. Minor must indicate ability to manage finances, personal, and social affairs. Petition requires the minor's present address and birth certificate (Emancipation of Minors Act § 722.4a, 1968).

Neglect

Courts have authority over minors under 18 years* who have

- violated municipal ordinances or laws
- deserted their home without sufficient cause when the child has been placed or refused alternative placement or the parent/guardian has exhausted or refused counseling
- been repeatedly disobedient toward parent/guardian
- repeatedly violated school rules and regulations including repeated absences

Courts also have jurisdiction over minors under 18

- whose parent/guardian neglects or refuses to provide proper or necessary support, education, medical, surgical, or other care necessary
- who have been abandoned by their parents/guardian
- who do not have proper custody or guardianship
- whose home is an unfit place to live

- who is dependent and in danger of physical or psychological harm. Juveniles are dependent when
 - homeless or not living with a parent or other legally responsible person
 - repeatedly run away from home, beyond the control of a parent/guardian
 - has committed commercial sexual activity
 - their parent or guardian has died or become incapacitated
- whose parent has failed to comply with a limited guardianship placement plan or court structured plan (Juvenile code § 712A.2.amended, 1939)

*amended from 17 years of age effective October 1st, 2021

Human Trafficking

It is a crime to allow a person under 16 years of age or less to live in a house of prostitution (Act 328 § 750.462, 1931)

A person shall not recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a minor for commercial sexual activity, forced labor or services, regardless of whether the person knows the age of the minor (Act 328 § 750.462e, 1931).

After recovering a child who was Absent Without Legal Placement (AWOLP), a foster care worker must ask questions regarding factors contributing to running away and activities engaged in while AWOLP. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services created a Conversation Guide for foster care workers to use upon the child's return from AWOLP (2018).

Indigenous American Youth

If the court suspects that a child is an Indigenous American Youth, the agency should contact any relevant Tribes to verify citizenship of the child or their parent. It is further recommended that state agencies collaborate with Tribes, parents, and any other relevant parties to provide efforts to reunite the family as soon as possible (Indian Affairs Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2016)

In any foster-care of an Indian child under State law, the child must be placed in the least-restrictive setting that:

- Most approximates a family, taking into consideration sibling attachment
- Allows the Indian child's special needs (if any) to be met
- Is in reasonable proximity to the Indian child's home, extended family, or siblings.

Unless a Tribe has established a different order of preference, in any foster-care placement of an Indian child under State law preference must be given, in descending order as listed below, to placement of the child with

- A member of the Indian child's extended family
- A foster home that is licensed, approved, or specified by the Indian child's Tribe
- An Indian foster home licensed or approved by an authorized non-Indian licensing authority
- An institution for children approved by an Indian Tribe or operated by an Indian organization which has a program suitable to meet the child's needs. (c) If the Indian child's

Tribe has established by resolution a different order of preference than that specified in ICWA, the Tribe's placement preferences apply, so long as the placement is the least-restrictive setting appropriate to the particular needs of the Indian child, as provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

The court must, where appropriate, also consider the preference of the Indian child or the Indian child's parent (Indian Child Welfare Act 25 § 23.131, 1901).

LGBTQ Youth

Michigan does not have state laws specifically including sexual orientation or gender identity as a protected class related to housing discrimination. However, the individual may be protected under the Fair Housing Act's description of protected classes (Fair Housing Act 42 § 804, 1968).

References

Act 41 of 1960, 41 § 722.751 (1960) <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-722-751>

Act 296 of 1968, 296 § 722.151 (1968) <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-722-151>

Act 328 of 1931, 328 § 750.462 et seq., (1931) <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-750-462>

Bureau of Community and Health Systems. (2019, December 18). *Licensing rules for childcare centers*. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/BCAL_PUB_8_3_16_523999_7.pdf

Child Care Licensing Act of 1973, 116 § 722.111 et seq., (1973).
<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-722-111>

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<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-722-1>

Indian Affairs Bureau of Indian Affairs. (2016, December). *Guidelines for implementing the Indian child welfare act*. <https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/bia/ois/pdf/idc2-056831.pdf>

Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 § 23.131, et seq., 1901) <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-25/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-23>

Juvenile Code of 1939, 288 § 712A.14.amended et seq., (1939)
<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-712A-14-amended>

Fair Housing Act of 1968, 42 § 804 (1968) <https://www.justice.gov/crt/fair-housing-act-2>

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. (2018, November 1). *Conversation guide on return from AWOLP*. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/DHS-5333_504432_7.pdf

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11434a, (1987)

[https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:42%20section:11434a%20edition:prelim\)#referenceintext-note](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:42%20section:11434a%20edition:prelim)#referenceintext-note)

The Social Welfare Act of 1939, 280 § 400.18d (1939). <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx/mcl-400-18d>

Additional Resources

Housing Discrimination and Persons Identifying as LGBTQ

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/housing_discrimination_and_persons_identifying_lgbtq#_Fair_Housing_Act

Indian Child Welfare Association Summary of Guidelines <https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017ICWAGuidelinesSummary-1.pdf>

Appendix G

National and Federal Resources

Casey Family Programs (<https://www.casey.org/>) Casey Family Programs provides free consulting services to child welfare systems; direct services to children and families; public policy resources; and research and analysis. A priority population is youth and families involved with the foster care system.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/) The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC provides funding to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation, promotes access to and utilization of mainstream programs, and optimizes self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth>) Through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY), FYSB supports street outreach, emergency shelters and longer-term transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect these young people. The FYSB also supports the National Runaway Safeline, National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families, and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center.

FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) (www.fema.gov/grants/emergency-food-and-shelter-program) EFSP funds are for people with non-disaster related emergencies, and can be used for a broad range of services. The EFSP supplements and expands the ongoing work of local social service organizations, both nonprofit and governmental, to provide shelter, food, and supportive services to individuals, families, and households who are experiencing, or at risk of, hunger and/or homelessness.

Grants.gov A searchable database of federal grants that can be sorted by topic, eligibility group, and dates.

Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC) (hhrctraining.org/) HHRC is the central hub of easily accessible, no-cost training for health and housing professionals in evidence-based practices that contributes to housing stability, recovery, and an end to homelessness.

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) (nche.ed.gov/resources/) NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. The site provides resources, training, data, legislation updates, and profiles of innovative programs.

National Network for Youth (nn4youth.org/) The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) is dedicated to preventing and eradicating youth homelessness in America. We work in communities with youth who have experienced homelessness, service providers, and systems to help accelerate the community's progress in ending homelessness and human trafficking among young people. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

Partnerships for the Common Good

(obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/faithbasedtoolkit.pdf) A partnership guide for faith-based and neighborhood organizations.

Rural Housing and Stability Assistance Program (www.hud.gov/hudprograms/rural-housing)

Provides re-housing or improves the housing situations of individuals and families who are homeless or in the worst housing situations in the geographic area; stabilizes the housing of individuals and families who are in imminent danger of losing housing; and improves the ability of the lowest-income residents of the community to afford stable housing.

Safe Place (www.nationalsafeplace.org/) Safe Place provides access to immediate help and supportive resources for youth in need. As a community initiative, the program designates schools, fire stations, libraries, and other youth-friendly organizations as Safe Place locations, which display the yellow and black sign. Safe Place locations extend the doors of the local youth service agency or shelter to support teens in crisis situations, creating a safety net for youth.

True Colors United (truecolorsunited.org/) True Colors United implements innovative solutions to youth homelessness that focus on the unique experiences of LGBTQ+ young people.

USDA Rural Development Rural Housing Service (www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-housing-service) USDA's Rural Housing Service offers a variety of programs to build or improve housing and essential community facilities in rural areas. The USDA also provides technical assistance loans and grants in partnership with non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, state and federal government agencies, and local communities.

United States Interagency Council of Homelessness (usich.gov) The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is the only federal agency with a sole mission focused on preventing and ending homelessness in America. The council consists of 19 federal agencies that help create and catalyze implementation of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. USICH works across federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector, to help communities create partnerships, use resources in the most efficient and effective ways, and employ evidence-based best practices.

Youth.gov (<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/lgbtq-youth/homelessness>) Information and links to resources.