



Facts About Homeless Youth and Young Adults

- The [King County Committee to End Homelessness](#) estimates that between 5,000 and 10,000 youth and young adults experience homelessness each year in King County.¹ On Jan 22, 2014, Count Us In volunteers surveyed more than 1,500 at-risk youth and young adults ages 13-25 who accessed services on that day and counted 779 among them who were unstably housed and/or homeless.² It is estimated that 1,000 youth and young adults are homeless on any given night in King County.³
- In King County, the number of homeless students counted by school districts rose 19% between 2010-11 and 2012-13, from 5,214 to 6,188.⁴
- Family crisis is the most prevalent reason youth and young adults identify for becoming homeless.⁵
- Contrary to popular stereotypes, approximately 70 to 75% of homeless youth are "local kids" who are from the immediately surrounding geographic area.⁶
- 20-40% of homeless youth experience sexual abuse, compared to 1-3% of the general youth population.⁷
- Up to 60% of homeless youth have experience physical abuse in their homes before ending up on the streets.⁸
- 20-50% of homeless youth have been placed in foster care or an institutional setting at some point in their life.⁹
- Up to 40% are LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning).¹⁰
- Studies have found high rates of mental problems among homeless youth; mental health issues manifest both as a cause and a consequence of homelessness.¹¹
- Homeless youth are remarkable young people with tremendous futures.

FOOTNOTES:

1. King County Committee to End Homelessness, [Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness: An Implementation Plan](#) (2012)
2. United Way of King County, [Count Us In 2014 Final Report](#) (March 6, 2014)
3. King County Committee to End Homelessness (see footnote 1)
4. [Schoolhouse Washington](#) (assembling publicly available data from school districts across Washington State)
5. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute; National Coalition for the Homeless, [An Epidemic of Homelessness](#) (2006)
6. Robertson, Toro, [Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy](#); National Symposium on Homelessness Research (1998)
7. [Sexual Abuse Among Homeless Adolescents: Prevalence, Correlates, and Sequelae](#)
8. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute; National Coalition for the Homeless. [An Epidemic of Homelessness](#), (2006); Tyler, K., [A Qualitative Study of Early Family Histories and Transitions of Homeless Youth](#), Journal of Interpersonal Violence. Volume 21, Number 10, October 2006, pg 1389
9. Cauce, A. M., Paradise, M., Embry, L., Morgan, C., Theofelis, J., Heger, J., & Wagner, V. (1998); *Homeless youth in Seattle: Youth characteristics, mental health needs, and intensive case management*. Toro, P. A., & Goldstein, M. S. (2000, August).
10. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute; National Coalition for the Homeless, [An Epidemic of Homelessness](#) (2006); [LGBTQ Youth Policy Paper](#), Seattle (2006)
11. Toro, Dworsky, Fowler, [Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and Intervention Approaches](#); National Symposium on Homelessness Research (2007)