

Education & Employment



Permanent Connections



Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Safe & Stable Housing

Youth homelessness is a prevalent issue in the United States. Prospects for future educational attainment, employment growth, health stability, and family preservation significantly improve for youth living in a safe and stable housing environment.



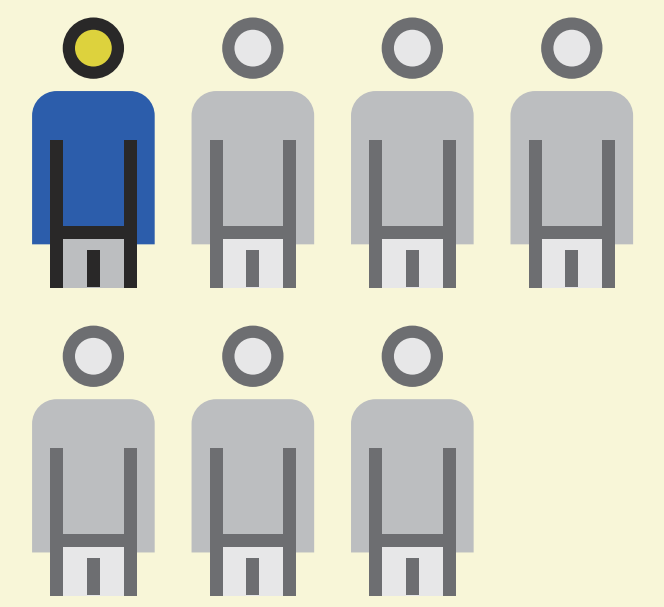
All Youth



1 in 30 adolescents & **1 in 10** young adults experience homelessness within in a year.¹

1 in 7

young adults who are solely responsible for rent reported being behind on rent during the COVID-19 pandemic.²

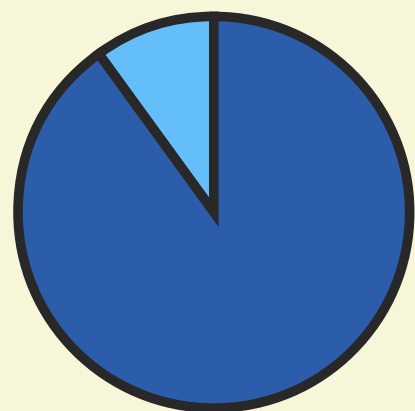


~32,000

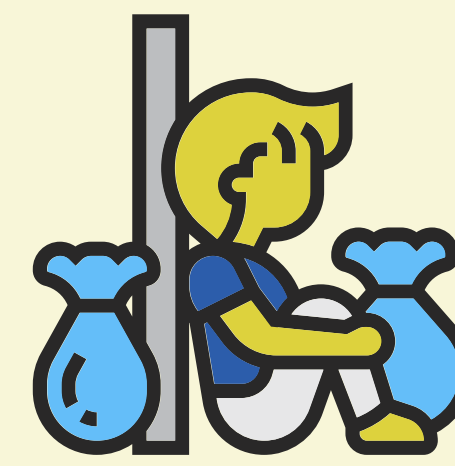
unaccompanied youth experienced unsheltered or sheltered homelessness in the United States, according to Point-in-Time (PIT) counts from January 2020.³



Of these youth...



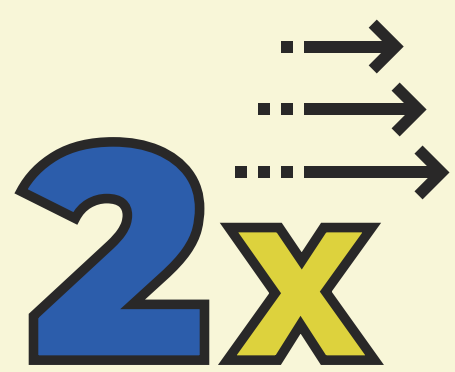
90% are young adults
10% are under age 18



50%

of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are unsheltered.³

Disparities Among Youth



African American young adults experience homelessness at about twice the rate of White non-Hispanic peers.⁴



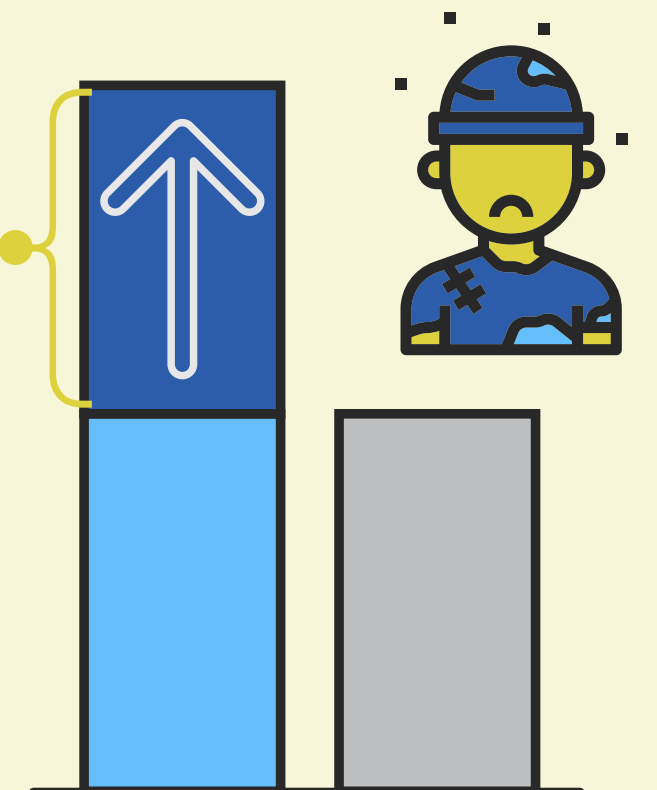
1 in 4 African American young adults experience housing instability

compared to fewer than 1 in 10 for White non-Hispanic peers.⁵

African American young adults have an

83% increased risk

of experiencing homelessness compared to White non-Hispanic peers.⁶

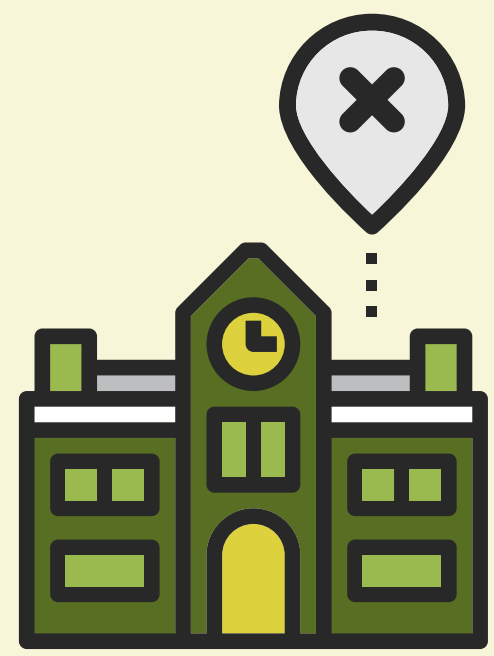


Education & Employment

Youth and young adults who experience homelessness are much less likely to remain and excel in school than their stably housed peers. Youth homelessness and educational attainment should be addressed with crosscutting strategies.



All Youth



Young adults who experience homelessness are **less than**

1/3 as likely

to be enrolled in a four-year college than stably housed peers.¹



Young adults with **less than a high school diploma or GED** are

4.5X more likely

to experience homelessness than peers who completed high school.²

Household income is highly associated with risk for young adult housing insecurity.³



Individuals with annual household income **less than**

\$24,000

are

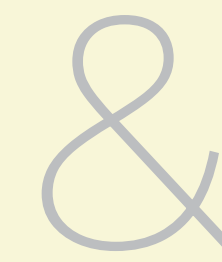
162% more likely

to be homeless than their wealthier peers.⁴



Of youth experiencing homelessness:⁴

nearly 70% report facing **mental health difficulties**



29% struggle with **substance use**



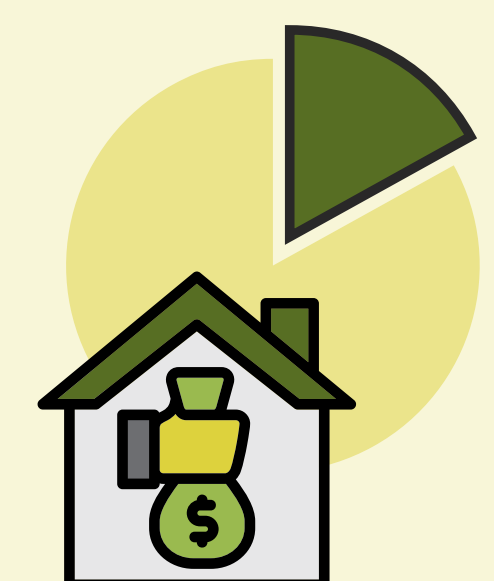
Disparities Among Youth



Only about 22%

of African American young adults experiencing homelessness have **completed at least some postsecondary education**

compared to 28% of their White non-Hispanic peers.⁵

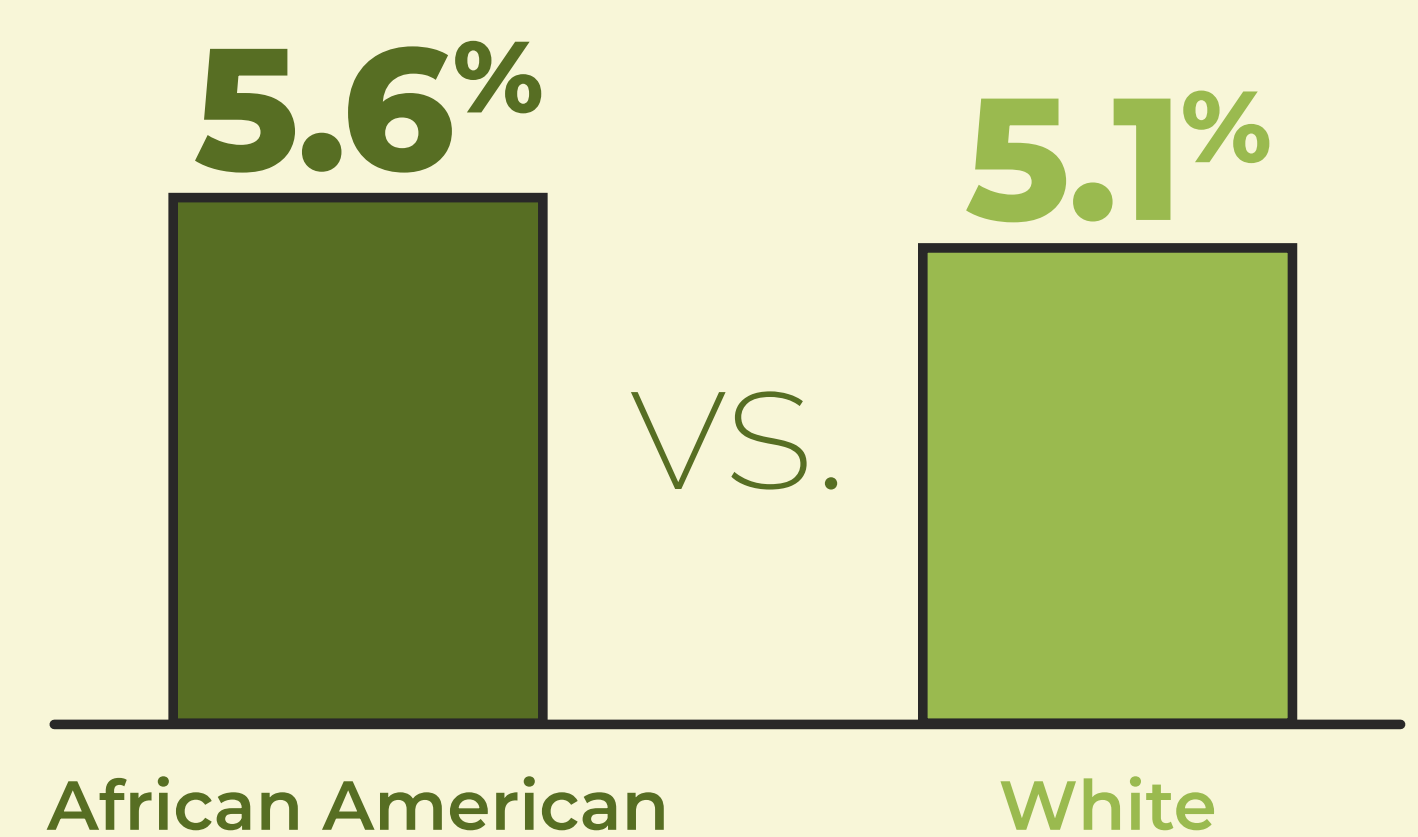


Only 17%

of African American young adults live in **households with an annual income of at least \$75,000**

compared to 34% of their White non-Hispanic peers.⁶

In 2019, a higher percentage of African American youth ages 16-24 were **neither enrolled in high school nor completed high school** than their White peers.⁷



Permanent Connections



Social & Emotional Wellbeing



Social, emotional, behavioral and mental wellbeing are important factors, influencing thinking, feelings, communication, actions and learning. These measures contribute to a youth's resilience and how they relate to others, respond to stress and emotions, and make choices.¹

All Youth

Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are

45% more likely

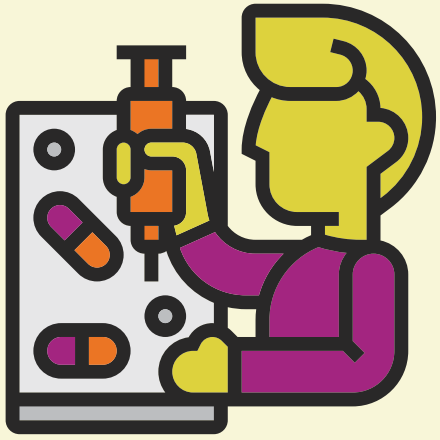
to **have considered suicide** when compared to youth who are stably housed.²



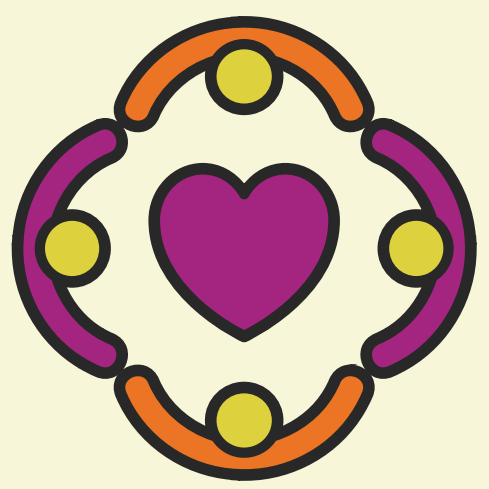
Factors associated with multiple or long episodes of homelessness among youth include...³

-  history of involvement in the **child welfare and/or juvenile justice system**
-  history of exposure to **abuse and violence** at home
-  being a high school **dropout**
-  being **unemployed** or working "under the table"
-  being **unsheltered** or moving cities
-  having been **pregnant** or gotten someone pregnant
-  having **run away** from a family home, group home, or foster care

Youth who experience prolonged homelessness are at **greater risk for substance use**, including use of intravenous drugs, methamphetamine, and other hard drugs.³



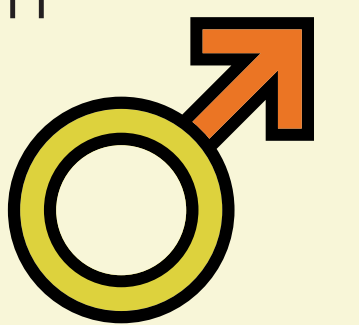
Disparities Among Youth



Social support and positive connections improve wellbeing among youth experiencing homelessness.⁴ For African American youth, these especially include **positive social connectedness to one's ethnic community**.⁵

Generally, males make up more than

66% of **unsheltered** unaccompanied youth



& **55%** of **sheltered** unaccompanied youth⁶

African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, and LGBTQ+ youth, particularly young men, report the **highest rates of homelessness**.^{3, 6}



The disproportionality in African American, American Indian, and Alaska Native youth homelessness mirrors racial disparities documented elsewhere.

For example,

in school suspensions, incarceration, and foster care placement.⁷