



DC Alliance of Youth Advocates 2011 Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth Study

Between March 7th and March 21st, at over 70 sites across the District, the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates surveyed 490 unaccompanied homeless or unstably housed youth and young adults between the ages of 12-24.

Factors Leading to Homelessness:

Youth typically left home at **16.77** years of age. **36%** of respondents indicated running away from home multiple times (median was **4.25** times) before they left permanently.

For non-parents, the most commonly cited reasons youth left home were **family conflict, abuse and neglect.**

Young parents reported the **loss of housing** (eviction or house was too small for everyone) as the most significant factor leading to homelessness.

Education, Employment, Health and Wellness

48% are in an educational or vocational training program. Of those respondents under 19, who are not in school; **53%** had not graduated from high school or obtained a GED.

81% of respondents were are unemployed. Of those respondents without employment:
45% cannot find a job,
22% reported lacking the necessary job skills, and
11% report lacking the proper identification.

A small minority of respondents report a physical disability (**7.6%**) or chronic health condition (**9.7%**)

76% of respondents had been tested for HIV. Of those, **81%** had been tested in the prior six months.

For More Information:

DCAYA will be publishing a full report and findings in the Summer of 2011. Any questions related to the Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth Survey, should be directed to Maggie Riden, Senior Policy Analyst at the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates at Maggie@dc-aya.org or 202-587-0616.

Demographic Information

Gender:

Young women were slightly more represented than young men. However, young men typically left home a year earlier than female peers.

Age:

6.6% Between 12-14
14% Between 15-17
40.2% Between 18-20
38.1% Between 20-24

Race/Ethnicity:

90% Black or African American
5.5% Hispanic
2.7% Multiple Ethnicities
1.0% White/Non-Hispanic

Other Information:

39% of respondents were young parents.

39% of respondents reported current or past placement with either the Department of Child and Family Services or the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services.

75% have been DC residents for 10-20 years.