2021 Youth Count DC

ICH YOUTH COMMITTEE | 3/24/2022

Background

- The End Youth Homelessness Act of 2014 requires that the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) conduct an annual census of youth experiencing homelessness.

- DHS has contracted with The Community Partnership (TCP) to conduct the "Homeless Youth Census" (HYC) or "Youth Count DC" since 2015.

- TCP, DHS, and the District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) use the data collected through HYC to inform strategic planning for the youth system.

- Youth Count data are a powerful advocacy tool for providers and other stakeholder groups.

Methodology

Who are we counting?

Age	Housing Status*	Household Type
• **Transitional Age Youth** (TAY), 18 to 24 • **Minors**, Under 18 and without a parent or guardian	• **Literally Homeless:** Unsheltered or in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. • **Unstably-housed:** Staying in non-permanent housing arrangement ("couch-surfing", etc.) or at imminent risk of homelessness.	• **Unaccompanied** (single) • **Young families** (head of household is 24 years old or younger)

* While the survey captures those who would be considered "unstably-housed" – or "housing insecure – today's results will focus on literally homeless.

Data Sources

Data Sources:

Youth Count Survey
- Took place over the course of nine days (September 17th to 25th, 2021)
- Self-administered and site-based surveys
- Web and mobile app versions
- Non-HMIS providers

HMIS
- Emergency Shelter / Transitional Housing programs
- Permanent Housing programs (for de-duplication)

OSNIUM
- De-identified records from DV providers serving youth in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing programs.
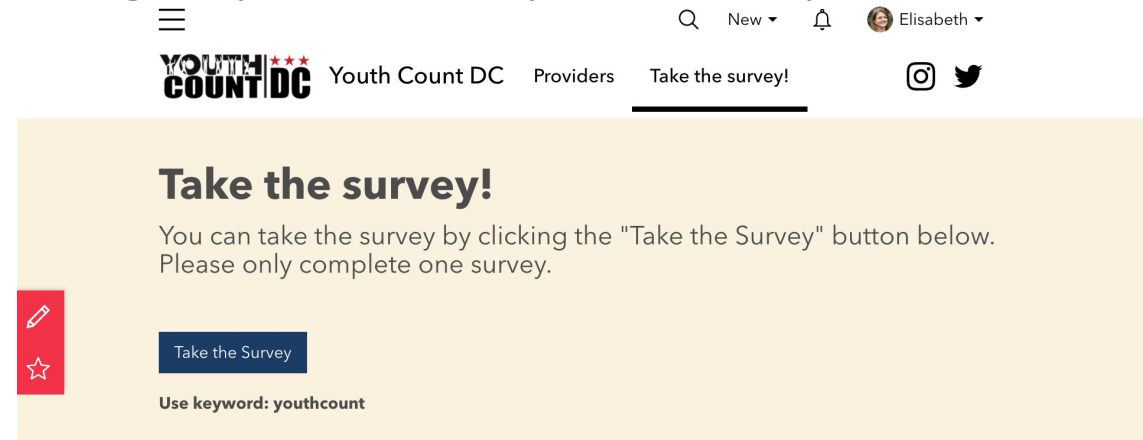
Planning

- TCP developed a plan for completing the 2021 Youth Count with input from DHS, ICH, youth providers, and S.H.Y. Youth Action Board, beginning in May 2021.

- The continuing public health emergency necessitated that most activities remain remote; the survey was again made accessible through an open link online and partnering youth agencies were equipped to survey youth at drop-in centers, through street outreach and case management, and other access points where youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability may frequent.

- While youth-serving providers were equipped to conduct surveys with youth with whom they engaged during the week, we knew in order to reach as many youth as possible, an awareness campaign would be necessary.

- The S.H.Y. Youth Action Board created a promo video to help spread the word about the Youth Count.

- TCP leveraged relationships with outreach, drop-in/meal programs, emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and youth advocacy and community partners to share information on how and where to take the survey throughout their networks and with their peers.
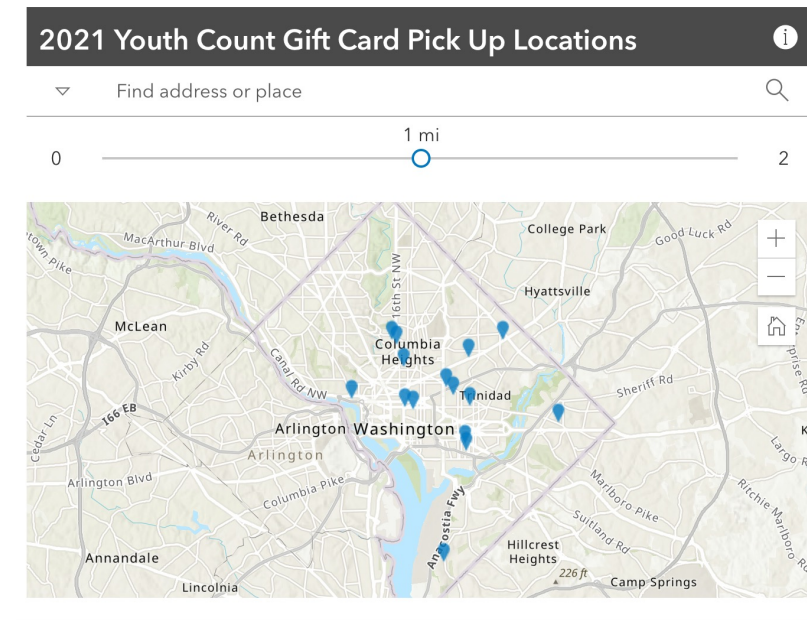
HYC Survey

- TCP built the self-administered, web-based survey tool for respondents to submit their info (as opposed to using paper forms) in response to the public health emergency in 2020, the survey remained the same, with few changes to improve user experience and fix minor bugs.

- To make the tool as accessible as possible, the survey was translated in DC's 5 threshold languages (Spanish, French, Amharic, Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese).

- Since the survey was accessible to anyone, online, at www.YouthCountDC.org, additional checks were put in place to ensure that we could differentiate eligible youth from anyone who may have come across the survey online.

Implementation

From Sept. 17-25:

- The survey was live and accessible remotely through a web-based application.
- Homeless services and community partners provided youth with information on how to complete the survey and/or provided TCP with information on youth served during that week.
- TCP, DHS, ICH, community partners, and youth were encouraged to share information about the count through their social media channels and interactions with youth. TCP provided partners with a social media toolkit so this was as easy as possible.
- Youth who completed the survey were able to receive a $20 Visa gift card for their participation. Several community agencies served as gift card pick up locations so youth could easily and safely receive their gift card.

2021 Youth Count Gift Card Pick Up Locations

Impact of Covid-19 on HYC Implementation

- *The End Youth Homelessness Act* requires that the HYC go beyond the *Homeless Services Reform Act*-defined homelessness (people who are unsheltered or residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing) to include youth who are unstably housed. TCP has typically provided these as two separate numbers ("literally homeless" and "housing insecure").
- Without a formal definition or primary data repository on housing insecurity (esp. one that captures the unique drivers for youth), our methodology has historically involved counting someone as housing insecure when their survey responses indicate that they are neither literally homeless nor *stably* housed.
- Because we know youth are generally undercounted and there are challenges reaching youth through traditional means, we have tried to pair survey responses with other data on the number of youth who are *economically* insecure, while recognizing that was a "best available" information source and not a primary one (as HMIS is for data on literal homelessness).
- Though the intent of the Youth Count survey is to capture an estimate of both, housing insecure and literally homeless youth, **the results presented today will be just the literally homeless portion, just like we released in the first year of the public health emergency.**
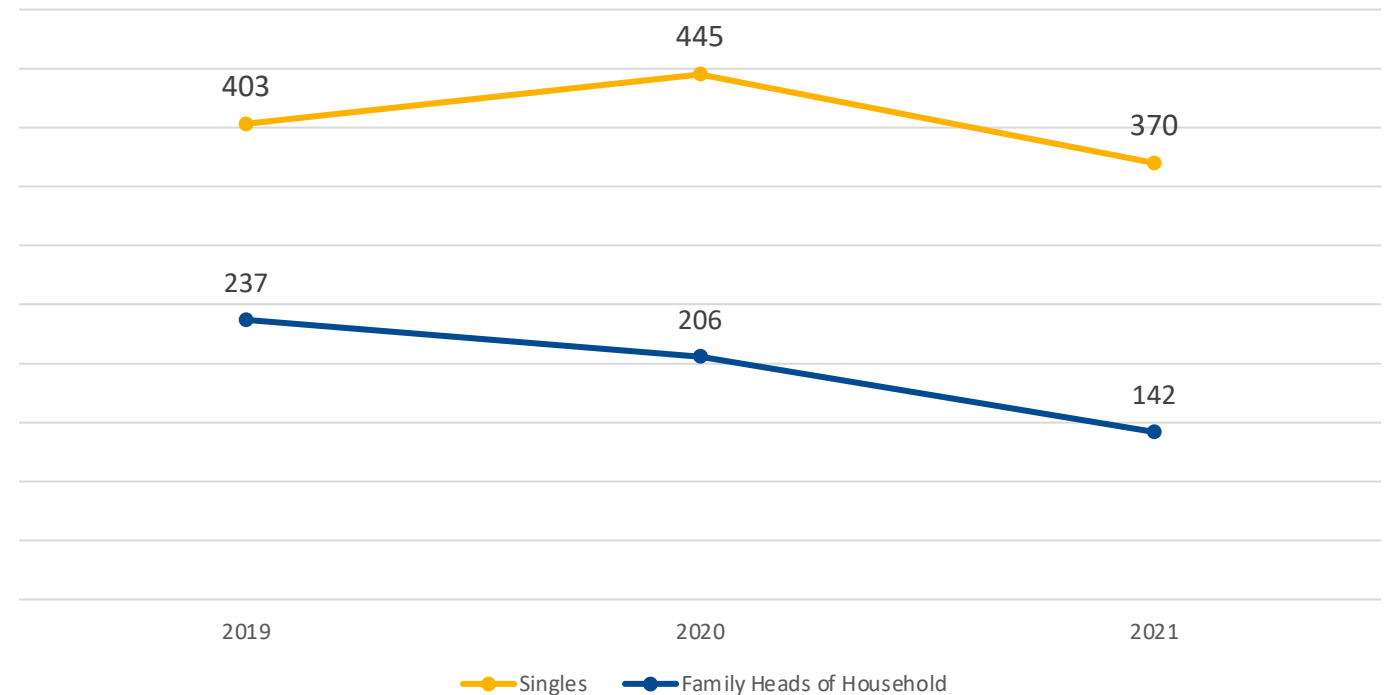
Results: Totals by Household Type

- 512 youth (unaccompanied and heads of household) were counted as **literally homeless** during the 2021 Youth Count.

- In general, the population is comprised of single transitional age youth.

- Single youth make up 72% of the youth counted, with youth heads of households at 28%.

- 3% of youth counted are unaccompanied minors and minors with children, as opposed to TAYs.

2021 Homeless Youth Census *Count Totals for Literally Homeless (2021 - 2020)*		
Population	**2021 Totals**	**Prevalence of Population**
All Persons		
All Persons	**512**	**100%**
Household Composition		
Singles	**370**	**72%**
Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)	361	71%
Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)	9	2%
Family Heads of Household (HoH)*	**142**	**28%**
Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)	139	27%
Minors (Under 18)	3	1%
* Other household members in 2021 included 9 other adults in youth-headed households, and 163 children in youth-headed households		

Results: Totals by Year

- Overall, there was a -21% decrease in the total number counted in 2021 as compared to 2020.

- Fewer surveys were completed between 2021 and 2020, this would have an impact on the number of those counted who said they were mostly unsheltered or in a shelter program (i.e. "literally homeless").

Youth Count Totals, by year

Singles: 403 (2019), 445 (2020), 370 (2021)
Family Heads of Household: 237 (2019), 206 (2020), 142 (2021)

— Singles — Family Heads of Household

Results: Totals by Year in HMIS

2021 Homeless Youth Census *HMIS Record Totals (2021 - 2020)*			
Population	2021 Totals	2020 Totals	*% Change*
All Persons			
All Persons	**399**	**393**	**2%**
Household Composition			
Singles	**291**	**289**	**1%**
Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)	285	277	3%
Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)	6	12	-50%
Family Heads of Household (HoH)	**108**	**104**	**4%**
Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)	107	103	4%
Minors (Under 18)	1	1	0%
Total number of records of TAYs and unaccompanied minors counted in HMIS ES/TH/LBS/STFH/SH programs. Note: Total number of persons previous tables include youth who indicated they mostly stayed in shelter or were mostly unsheltered over the past 30 days in the Youth Count survey			

Demographics: Race and Ethnicity

- Non-white youth experience homelessness at far greater rates than their white counterparts, making up 89% of all youth counted, either in families or as singles. This is consistent with the system overall.

- 10% of youth identified as Hispanic.

Race & Ethnicity – Total Youth	2021 Total	2021%
	512	100%
Race		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.2%
Asian	0	-
Black or African American	417	84%
Middle Eastern or Northern African	0	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0.2%
White	53	11%
Multiple Races	27	5%
Data Not Collected	13	
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latinx	52	10%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	452	90%
Data Not Collected	8	

Demographics: Gender

- 40% of single youth identify as female, 46% as male, and 14% as non-cis gender, including trans and other gender expressions.

- Most youth-headed family households are headed by female-identifying persons, at 92% of all families counted in the 2021 Youth Count.

Gender – Singles	2021 Total	2021%
	370	100%
Female	147	40%
Male	170	46%
Transgender	35	9%
Other Gender Expression*	17	5%
Data Not Collected	1	

Gender – Family HoH	2021 Total	2021%
	142	100%
Female	131	92%
Male	8	6%
Transgender	0	-
Other Gender Expression*	3	2%
Data Not Collected	0	

Includes Gender Queer, Non-Binary, Gender Non-Conforming options from survey tool.

LGBTQ+

- Nearly 40% of single youth counted in the Youth Count are LGBTQ+ youth.

- 19% of youth-headed families are LGBTQ+, this figure is significantly higher than what we typically see in the general family system.
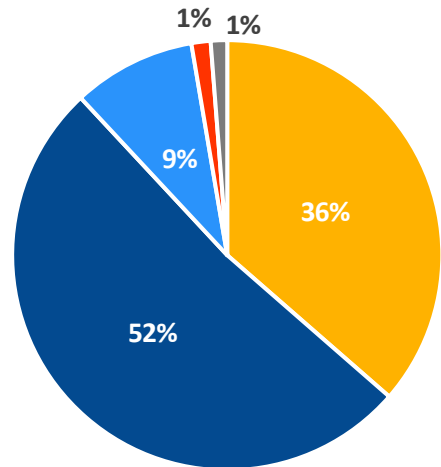
LGBTQ+ – Singles	2021 Total	2021%
	370	**100%**
Yes	138	39%
No	215	61%
Data Not Collected	17	

LGBTQ+ – Family HoH	2021 Total	2021%
	142	**100%**
Yes	24	19%
No	101	81%
Data Not Collected	17	

Includes Gender Queer, Non-Binary, Gender Non-Conforming options from survey tool.

Education

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Pie chart:
- 36% — 12th Grade or Lower (No HS Diploma)
- 52% — High School Diploma/GED
- 9% — Some College
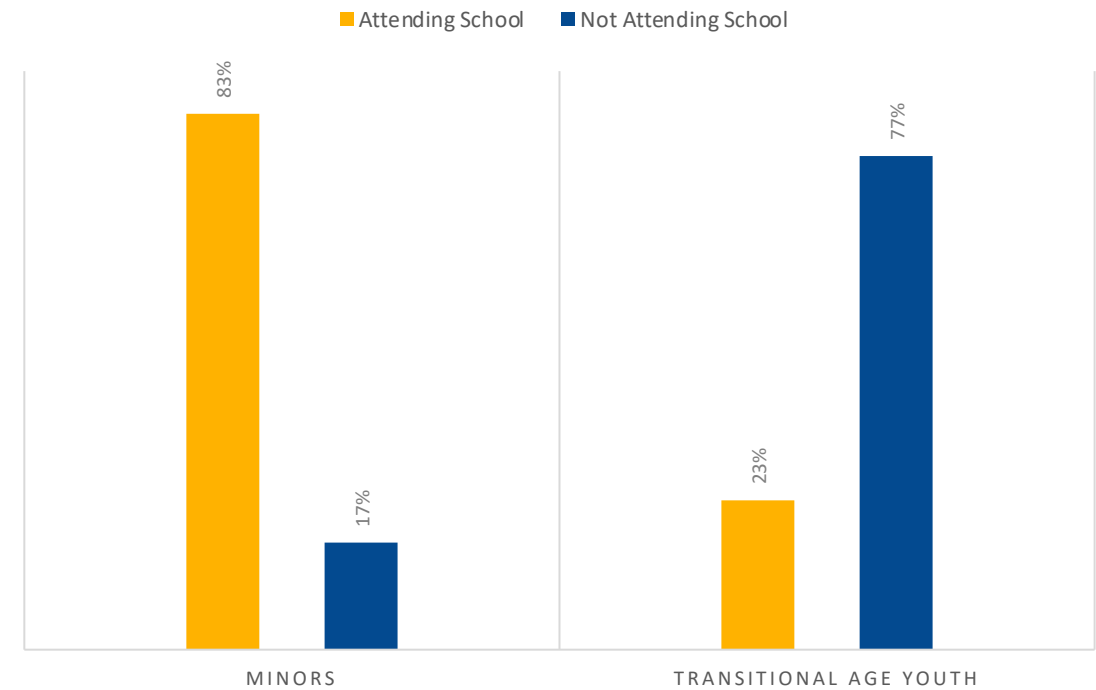- 1% — College Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)
- 1% — Other Education (Including Vocational)

- 12th Grade or Lower (No HS Diploma)
- High School Diploma/GED
- Some College
- College Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)
- Other Education (Including Vocational)

CURRENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Attending School ■ Not Attending School ■

MINORS: Attending School 83%, Not Attending School 17%
TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH: Attending School 23%, Not Attending School 77%

Disabilities

- Around 1/3 (31%) of all youth counted indicated a mental health diagnosis, 13% have been diagnosed with a long-term health, physical, or developmental issue.

- Only 3% said they had issues with substance use. This seems very low, and may be a result of fear of disclosure in program entry, or through the Youth Count survey.

Conditions & Disabilities	2021 Total	2021%
	512	**100%**
Mental Health	145	31%
No Mental Health	319	69%
Data Not Collected	48	
Physical/Developmental/Chronic	60	13%
No Physical/Developmental/Chronic	409	87%
Data Not Collected	43	

Substance Use	2021 Total	2021%
	512	**100%**
Yes	10	3%
No	371	97%
Data Not Collected	131	

Systems Involvement

Child Welfare	2021 Total	2021%
	512	**100%**
Yes	111	23%
No	365	77%
Data Not Collected	36	

Juvenile Detention/Prison	2021 Total	2021%
	512	**100%**
Yes	50	27%
No	133	73%
Data Not Collected	329	

Domestic Violence

- 2 out of 5 youth indicated a past experience of domestic violence.

- Of those who have experienced domestic violence, over half (55%) said that they were homeless, or currently fleeing, due to that violence.

Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence	2021 Total	2021%
	512	**100%**
Lifetime Experience		
Yes	210	43%
No	284	57%
Data Not Collected	18	
Currently Fleeing*		
Yes	111	55%
No	91	45%
Data Not Collected	8	
* Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience		

Preparing for HYC 2022

- TCP will continue to use HMIS and leverage partnerships in homeless services to complete the literally homeless portion of the count.

- TCP is working on ways to expand the reach of the survey for better information on housing insecurity
  - We are currently working with the Urban Institute to survey households on a larger scale to determine a more reliable District-wide number of housing insecure youth, in addition to all households; and/or
  - Work with us to develop a more precise definition of "housing insecurity" and to identify new sources of information and/or survey sites that would expand the survey's reach as well.

- TCP will begin planning with the community in the next ICH Youth Committee meeting in June and use that time as an opportunity to review outcomes of the work to estimate the unstably-housed portion of youth in the District, as well begin planning for the next Youth Count.

HTTP://WWW.COMMUNITY-PARTNERSHIP.ORG/