# Homelessness and Housing Instability

# In Connecticut Colleges and Universities

**Report prepared by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness**
**For the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)**
**In conjunction with the 2018 CT Youth Count**

**July 9, 2018**

**Introduction**

A collaborative effort between the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) resulted in widespread and robust participation in the 2018 Youth Count.  With over 1600 surveys completed at CSCU institutions, and joining 300 other volunteers from across the state, the 2018 Youth Count surpassed the previous counts on all fronts. CSCU's participation improved the quantity of surveys enormously and gave insight into the housing insecurity of the state's college students not previously a distinct part of the youth count data collected.  The following report highlights the need for the count, the planning that took place to prepare for the week-long event, data specific to CSCU, and summary highlights of the demographics and issues reflected in the survey responses.

**Context:**

Connecticut has made great strides in addressing homelessness:

1.  In 2015, the federal government certified Connecticut as the first state to end chronic homelessness (i.e., long-term homelessness of persons with disabilities) among veterans;
2.  In 2016, Connecticut was among only two states in the country to functionally end all homelessness among veterans;
3.  In December 2016, Connecticut was the first state to match a housing resource to every individual documented as chronically homeless.

Connecticut is building on this momentum and is committed to ending the homelessness of families with children and unaccompanied youth (under age 25) by 2020.

The CT Youth Count! is part of a statewide effort to better understand and end youth homelessness by 2020. For the past three years, CCEH has led this data-gathering and awareness-raising census in which teams of youth and volunteers survey young people in cities and towns, rural areas, within youth-serving organizations, in schools, and at local "hotspots" to collect information on their housing status.

Youth are not identified by name, but the count is an opportunity to gauge how many youth face housing insecurity and homelessness and to share information about available services. The Youth Count is an opportunity for communities to work toward a quicker system of identification when a student is struggling with a housing crisis.  Linkages to services to address acute instances of homelessness were established during the count.  The data from the count resides at CCEH to analyze and share with the wider community, state, and federal partners. The full Youth Count report can be found on the CCEH website, [here.](#)

**CSCU/CCEH Partnership**

In the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system, unstable housing - or the lack of housing altogether – is a barrier to academic success and stability for many students.  Faculty, counselors and deans report that students are living in cars and "couch surfing" at friends' or relatives' homes while, at the same time, they are trying to attend college because they know that education is their path to a better future.  During Town

Hall meetings across the state during the 2016-17 academic year, CSCU President Ojakian was approached by many students who said that they were homeless and needed additional support.

CSCU partnered with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) to address this significant barrier to student success. A forum was held at Manchester Community College on September 15, 2017 to address this issue, along with mental health and other needs faced by CSCU students. Several CSCU institutions attended, including Norwalk Community College and Central Connecticut State University. As a follow-up to that forum, Vice Presidents and Deans of Students Affairs, along with the system office, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and others, have been exploring how to get more accurate data concerning homelessness and housing insecurity and how to implement a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) system to provide a more comprehensive, consistent and trackable response to homeless students.

CSCU agreed to have 16 institutions serve as sites for conducting the Youth Count survey from January 24 – 31, 2018 (Charter Oak State College did not participate because it is a fully online institution.). Because the Youth Count focuses on youth age 24 and under, the survey instrument was modified to capture CSCU students over the age of 24. The Youth Count, occurs in conjunction with the HUD-required Point-in-Time (PIT) count, an annual census of sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness on one night in January. For more details on the PIT or Youth Count methodology, visit CCEH's website at www.cceh.org.

## Planning

In preparation for the 2018 Youth Count, CCEH and CSCU held a forum hosted by Manchester Community College on December 4, 2017. The event focused on important steps to take leading to the count and provided an introduction to the Connecticut Coordinated Access Network (CAN) system of services. Each participating college or university identified leads for the effort and formed local steering committees to begin to articulate how the Youth Count would be conducted in each community. Specifically, each CSCU institution was asked to prepare an implementation plan, including how it would recruit volunteers, work with existing groups, schedule the survey times and places and spread the word to the school and region. For samples of plans, see Appendix 1.

## The Survey

The survey used during the Youth Count is a tool developed from input by a statewide group, which includes youth, and is modeled after other national efforts at youth counts most notably those from the University of Chicago Chapin Hall's "Voices of Youth Count." The survey is contained on an application on a smart phone or tablet and was amended to include particular school identifiers in 2018 for the CSCU collaboration. Further, the Youth Count historically has been focused on 14-24-year-olds per guidance from HUD. The surveying done on college campuses was opened to all students regardless of age to begin to get a picture of the scope of the issue of housing instability and homelessness unique to post-secondary learning communities.

## Results for CSCU schools

While additional research needs to be done, this preliminary research indicates some important findings on CSCU students and their housing instability. The total number of CT college and university students surveyed was 1,978, with CSCU schools representing the majority with 1,623 surveys completed by CSCU students. Of those surveyed, an average of 17.5% of CSCU students reported recent housing instability or homelessness. For those schools surveying less than 30 individuals, it is more difficult to have confidence in the percentages experiencing a housing crisis. However, 12 of the 16 CSCU schools surveyed over 30 individuals, with some

participating CSCU institutions completing over 100 surveys; including 320 surveys at Housatonic Community College, 290 surveys at Manchester Community College, 243 at Naugatuck Valley, 164 at Three Rivers and 117 at Eastern Connecticut State University.  Of those schools reporting more than 30 individuals surveyed, the schools with the largest percentages of students experiencing a housing crisis are as follows: 38% at Gateway Community College with 42 students surveyed; 21% at Middlesex with 71 students surveyed; 26% at Eastern CT State University with 117 students surveyed; 19% at Housatonic with 320 students surveyed; 14% at Manchester Community College with 290 students surveyed; 13% at Three Rivers Community College with 164 surveys completed; 10% at Northwestern CCC with 88 completed surveys;11% at Asnuntuck with 81 surveys completed; 9% at Naugatuck Valley Community College with 243 completed surveys; 13% at Norwalk Community College with 72 surveys completed, and 38 surveys completed at Tunxis Community College with a 13% rate of housing instability and homelessness. The University of Connecticut system also completed 289 surveys and showed a rate of 10% of students experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

These percentages highlight the high levels of homelessness and housing instability among students on CT campuses. Although more precise data is needed, this data reinforces the need to create coordinated systems to address homelessness and housing instability on CSCU and other campuses across the state. The establishment of a Single Point-of-Contact (SPOC) system within the CSCU system will provide a visible campus office that can assist in increasing student awareness, enabling earlier identification and intervention, and augmenting the expertise of administration, staff, and faculty to help these students find housing solutions. To find the currently designated SPOCs, please visit CCEH's website here. In addition, CSCU plans to embed a SPOC-type system into the broader "Guided Pathways" initiative and increasing prioritization for homeless students to assure they are able to meet their basic needs and receive the community and campus-based services they require. The following data highlights the demographics, risk factors, types of homelessness, and other information that can help inform the development and implementation of effective solutions through Guided Pathways and/or the SPOC system.

# Homelessness & Housing Instability in CT Colleges

Students at 24 Colleges and Universities in CT participated in the 2018 Youth Count, including the 16 CSCU institutions referred to above.  The efforts reached 1,978 students in the state and found 15% or 296 of those students were experiencing homelessness or housing instability.  It is important to note that the entire population of each school was not surveyed so one should exercise caution before extrapolating these results to the larger student body populations of any college or university.

Additionally, the traditional Youth Count only surveyed people up to age 24, but the expanded survey for colleges and universities ignored this age restriction.

All of the data contained in this report can be found in an interactive data dashboard at http://cceh.org/data/interactive/youth-count-college-data/.

## Location of Homeless & Housing Unstable Students

Homelessness and housing instability affects students across all parts of CT.  While there are larger concentrations of students experiencing this in urban locations, Figure 1 sheds light on the fact that this issue also impacts students in more affluent suburbs as well.  Each Coordinated Access Network (8 regions in CT

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responsible for ending homelessness and assuring access to resources) in CT now has a better idea of where to find students experiencing homelessness and housing instability as a result of this year's counting efforts.

Figure 1: City/Towns/Locations Students Stayed in on January 23, 2018
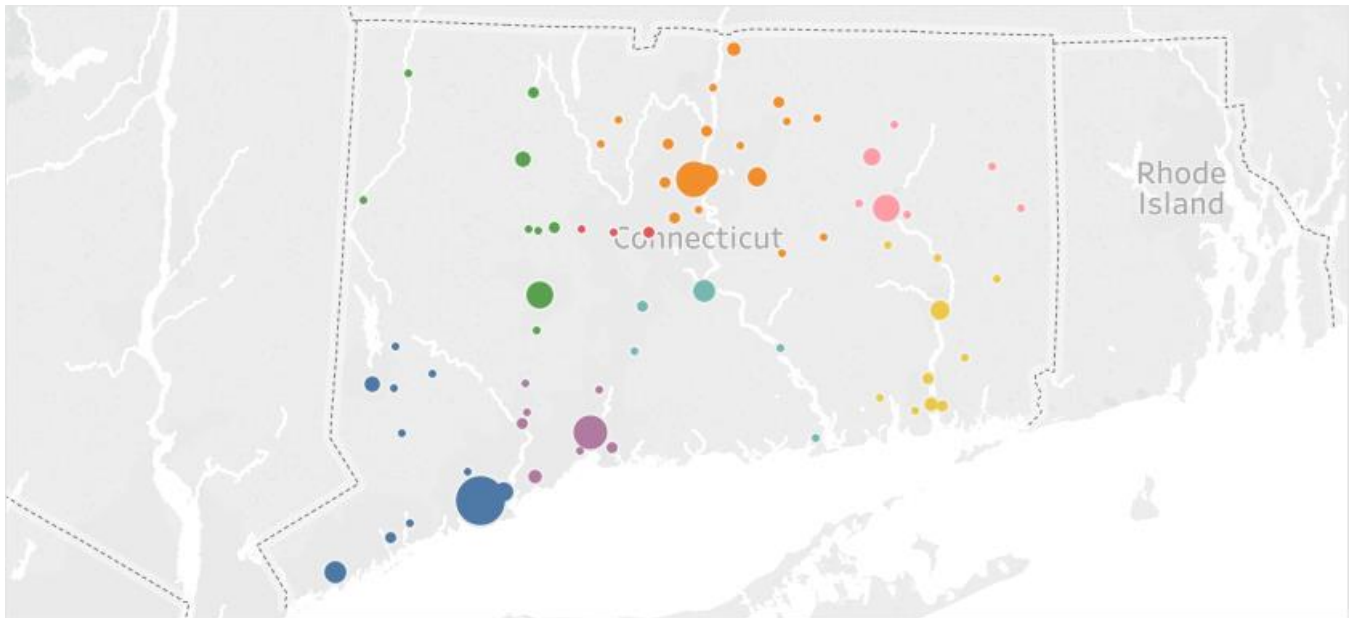


When asked where they slept on the night of January 23rd, the CT Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Night, the biggest percentage of homeless and unstably housed students indicated they had been staying with their parents, 25%; but data around those students' number of moves and safety concerns indicated issues with the stability of staying with their parents.  For example, 51% of the students had one or more moves in the last 60 days.  An additional 41% indicated that their parent's home was not a safe place to stay. Of the students who were staying with their parents, 13% indicated some involvement with sex trafficking. The second most selected response was a friend's home at 19%.  Figure 2 details the total percentages of substantive responses to the living situation question.
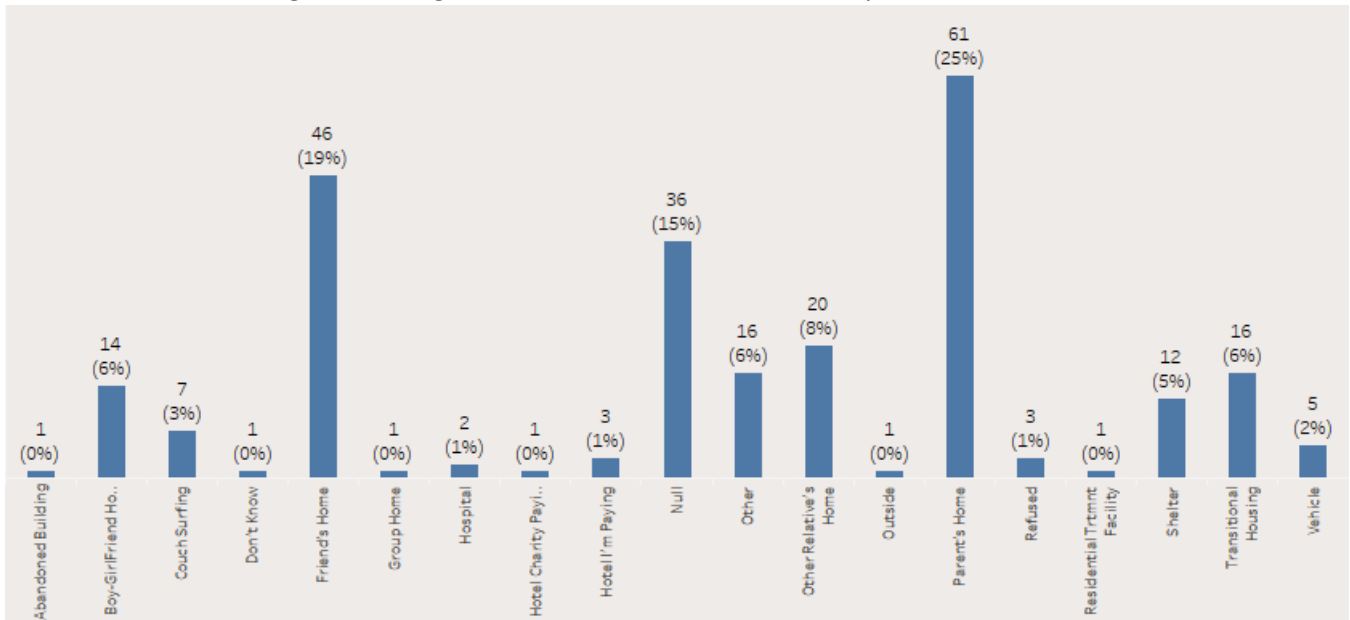
# Demographic Data on Homeless & Housing Unstable Students

Race/Ethnicity

The majority of unstably housed students were Caucasian (36%). Figure 3 provides more detail about the race information of those who provided an answer to the question. Additionally, 31% of respondents identified as being of Hispanic ethnicity. See Figure 4 for the full breakdown of ethnicity data.
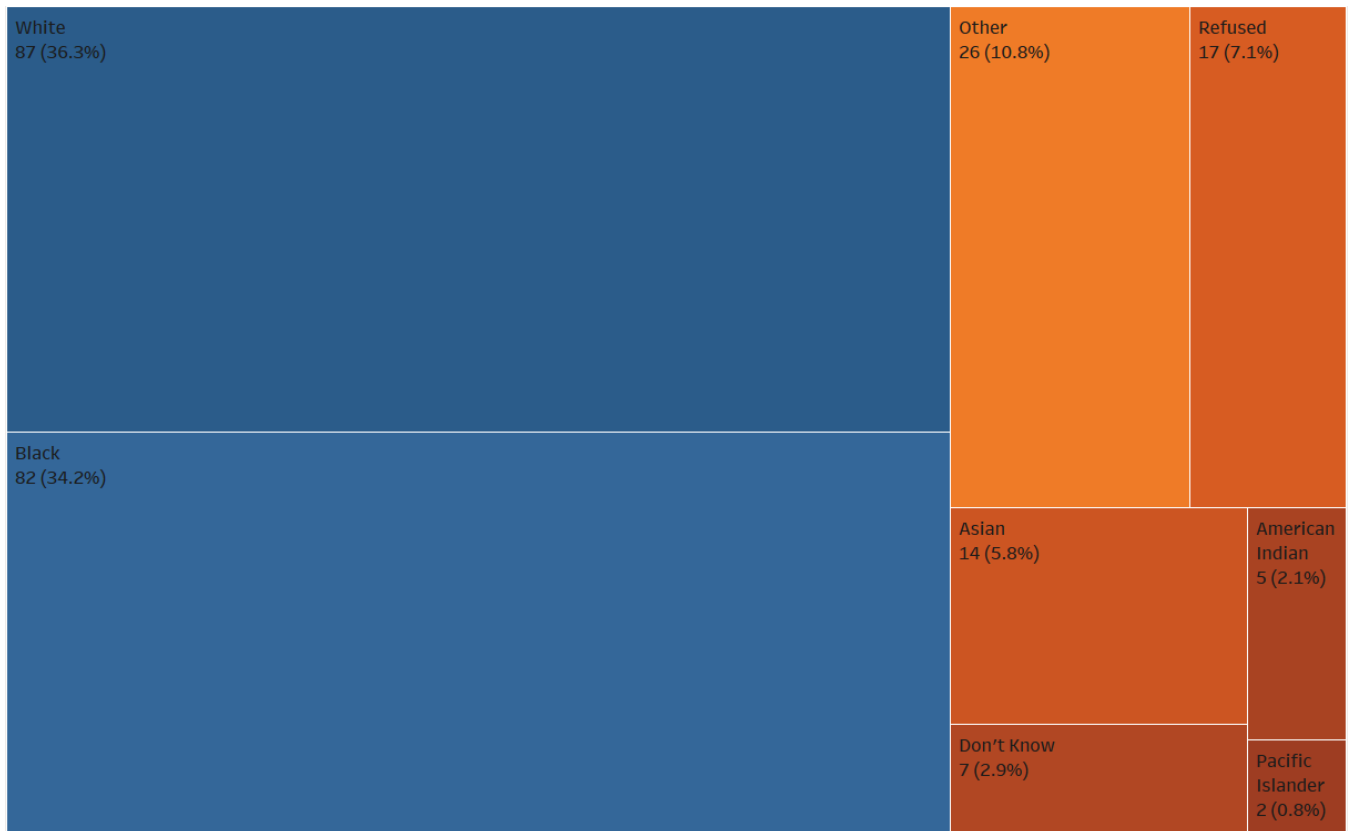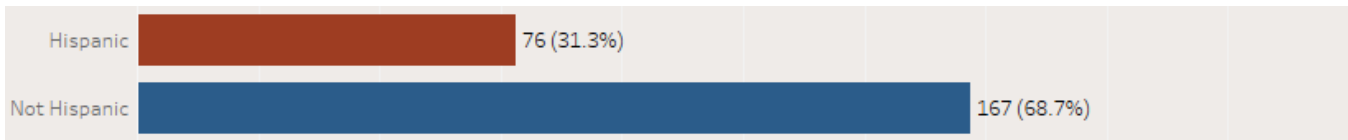
Figure 3: Race of Respondents

| White<br>87 (36.3%) | | | Other<br>26 (10.8%) | Refused<br>17 (7.1%) |
| Black<br>82 (34.2%) | | | Asian<br>14 (5.8%) | American<br>Indian<br>5 (2.1%) |
| | | | Don't Know<br>7 (2.9%) | Pacific<br>Islander<br>2 (0.8%) |

Figure 4: Ethnicity of Respondents



Hispanic    76 (31.3%)

Not Hispanic    167 (68.7%)
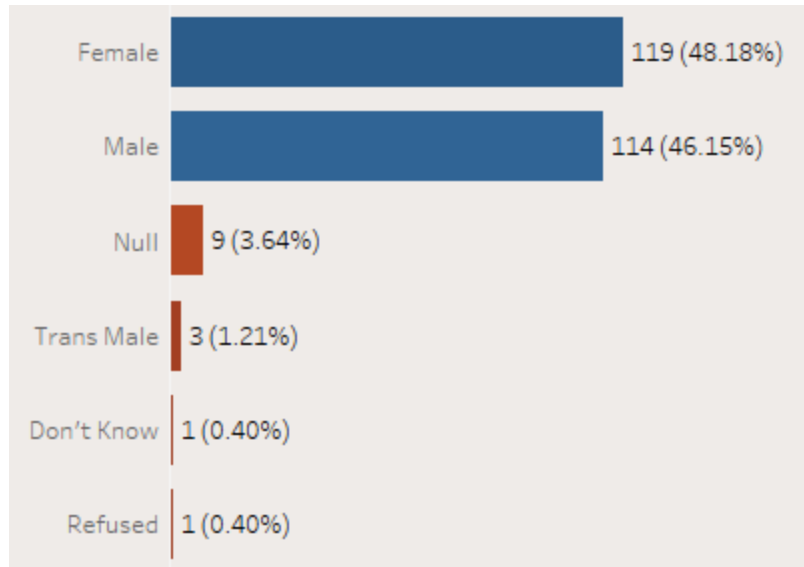
Gender

The gender of homeless and unstably housed students in CT was slightly more female at 48% compared to male at 46%.  Three people identified as transgender, 1 person did not know their gender, 1 person refused to answer and 9 people skipped the question.  Figure 5 details the responses to the gender question.

Figure 5: Gender

| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 119 (48.18%) |
| Male | 114 (46.15%) |
| Null | 9 (3.64%) |
| Trans Male | 3 (1.21%) |
| Don't Know | 1 (0.40%) |
| Refused | 1 (0.40%) |

Sexual Orientation

Just over 20% of students in the 2018 count identified as LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual). This is in parallel with national studies showing LGBTQIA homeless and unstably housed youth account for 20-40% of this population. Figure 6 provides a bubble chart of the breakdown of responses to the sexual orientation question.

Figure 6: Sexual Orientation
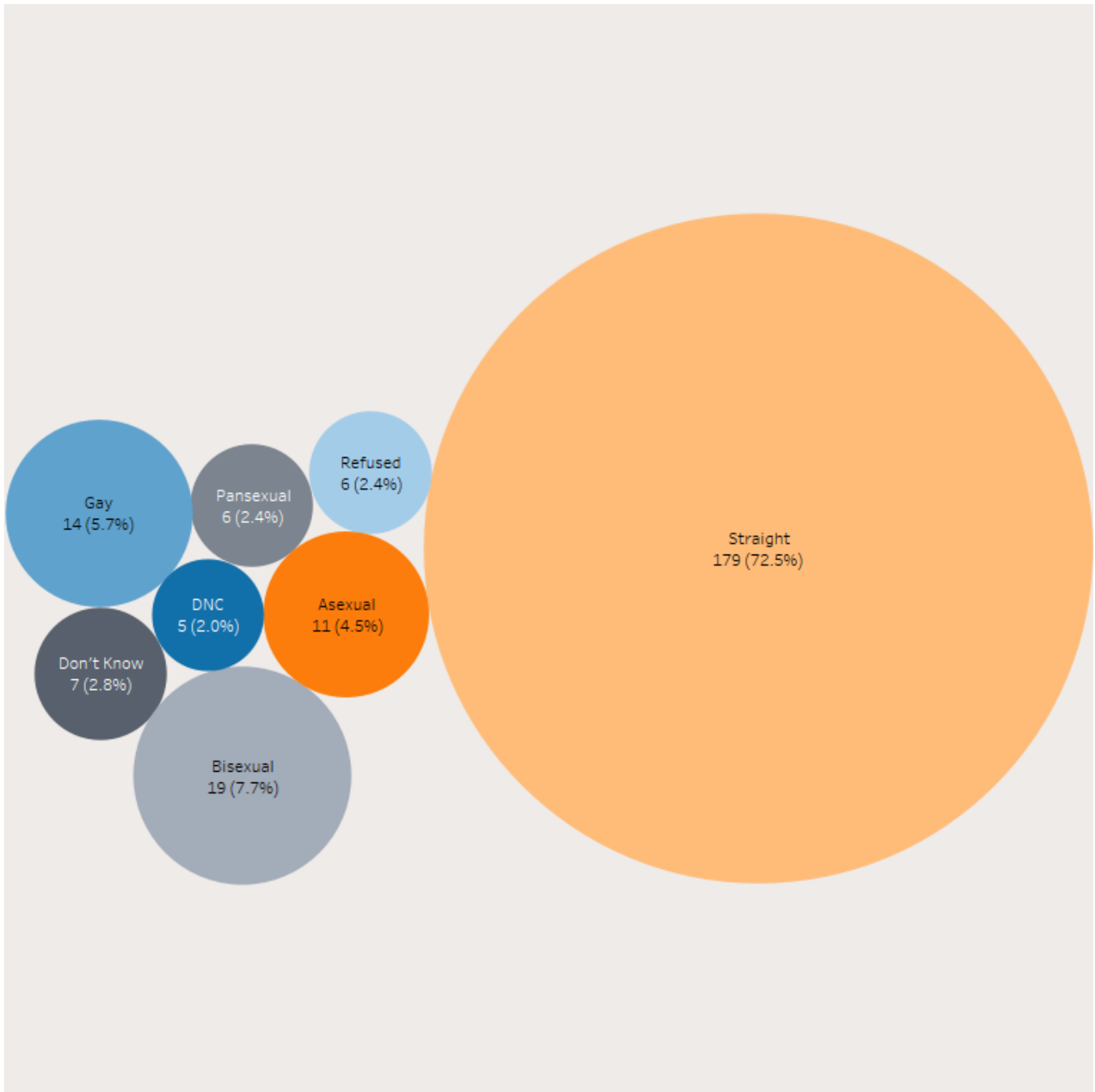


Pregnancy & Parenting

Only 13% of students indicated that they were pregnant or parenting.  Figure 7 outlines the overall total of pregnant and parenting students. Fifty-eight percent of the students who were pregnant or parenting were female.  The overwhelming majority of students who fall into this category are between the ages of 18 and 24. Figure 8 outlines the difference in the ages of the student groups who are pregnant or parenting.

Figure 7: Pregnant or Parenting Students



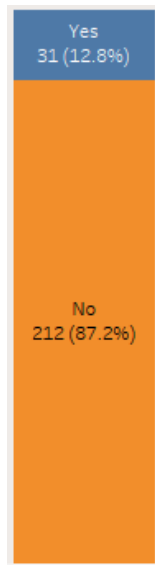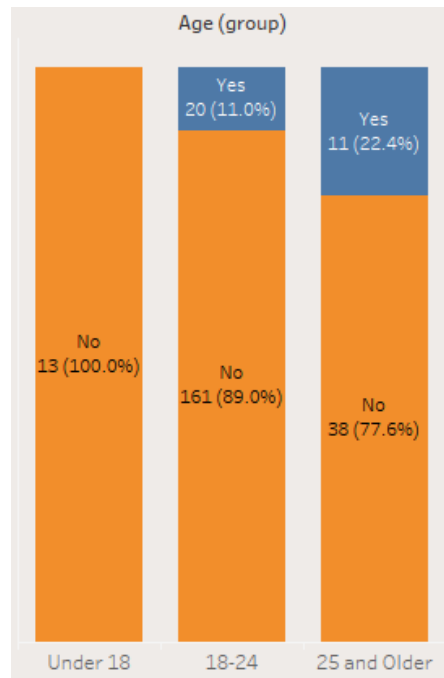Figure 8: Pregnant or Parenting Students by Age Group



For those who indicated that they were pregnant or parenting, a follow up question asked if the respondent had custody of their child or children. Sixty-one percent of those who responded said yes, while 23% said they did not have custody. The remaining respondents did not know or refused to answer the question. Figure 9 provides the overall custody rates.

Figure 9: Overall Custody Rate
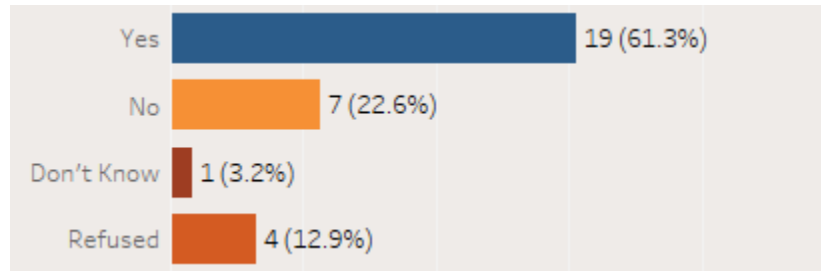


# Education & Employment

Education and employment success are critical to breaking the cycle of homelessness and housing instability for students.  Figure 10 details the rates of high school graduation or GED completion by age group.  As expected for the students of colleges and universities, the overwhelming majority of responses indicated that the respondents had a high school diploma or GED.

Figure 10: High School Diploma or GED Completion
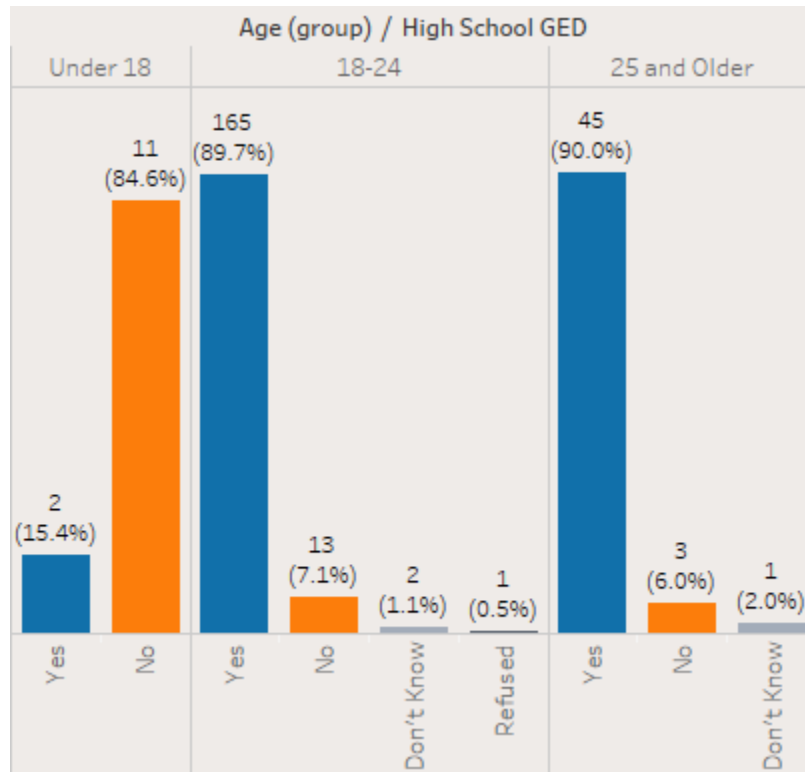


The percentage of students who indicated that they were still in school was naturally high for those attending college.  However, there were some people who responded that they were students of a college, but that they were not currently attending school.  Figure 11 highlights the rates of current school attendance.

Figure 11: Currently in School
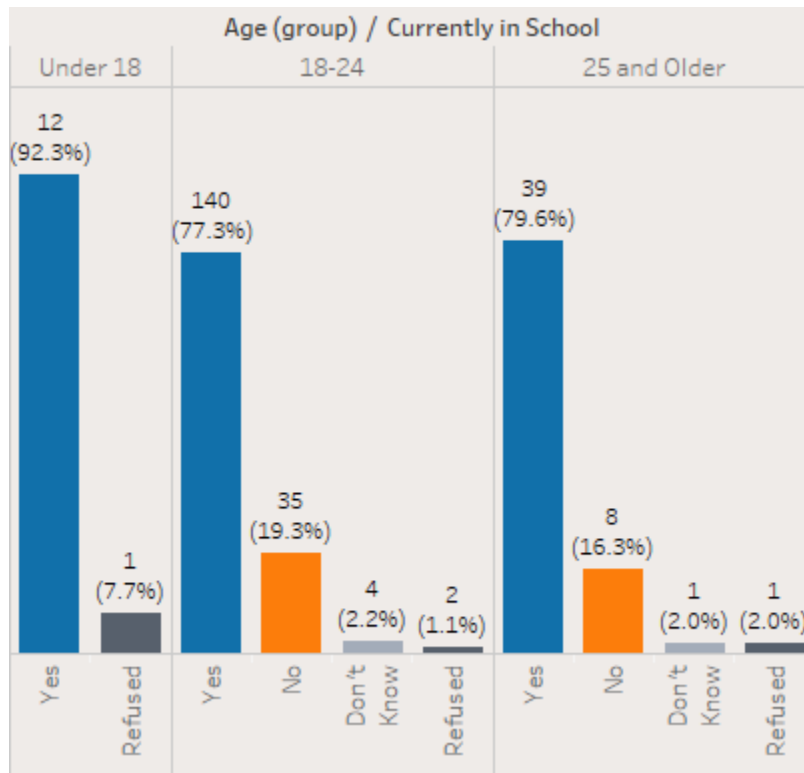


The rate of employment was higher for students between the ages of 18 and 24. Fifty-seven percent of those students reported employment compared to 50% of those over 25 and 23% for those under 18. Figure 12 provides the breakdown of this data.

Figure 12: Employment
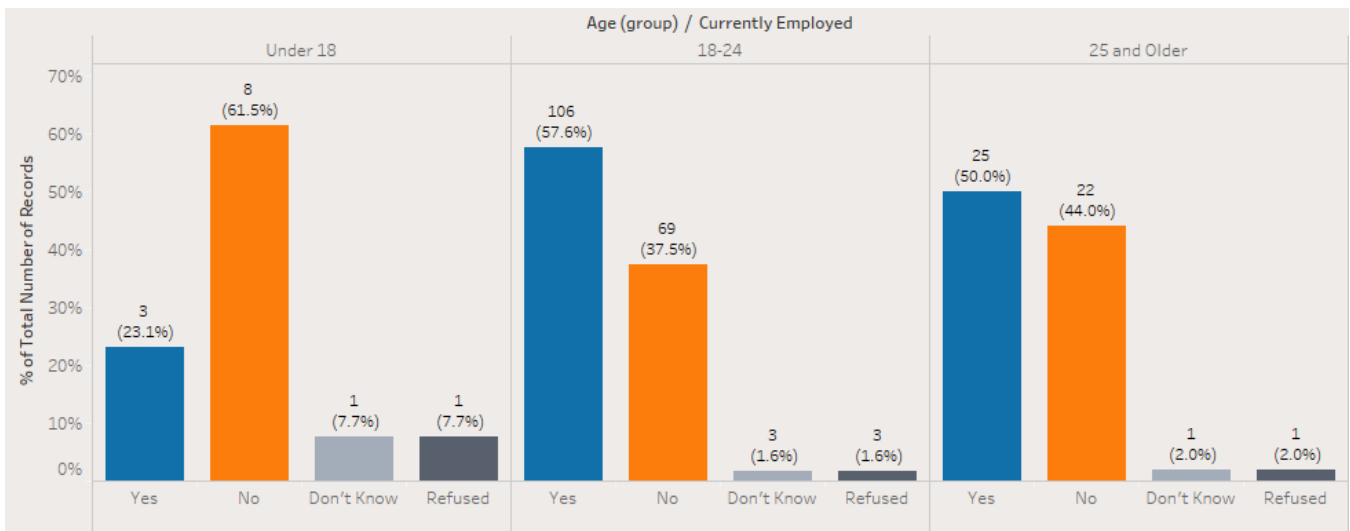
# Safety & Stability

Safety and stability in housing are critical to students meeting their full potential.  This includes being able to stay where they're staying for as long as needed, staying in a safe place, and not having frequent moves.  The following highlights the safety and housing stability concerns of the students who participated in the count.

When asked if the student could stay where they currently were sleeping for as long as needed, only 54% said yes.  Thirty-one percent indicated that they could not, and 11% did not know if they could.  The remainder refused to answer the question.  Figure 13 provides this information.

Figure 13: Can Stay as Long as Needed
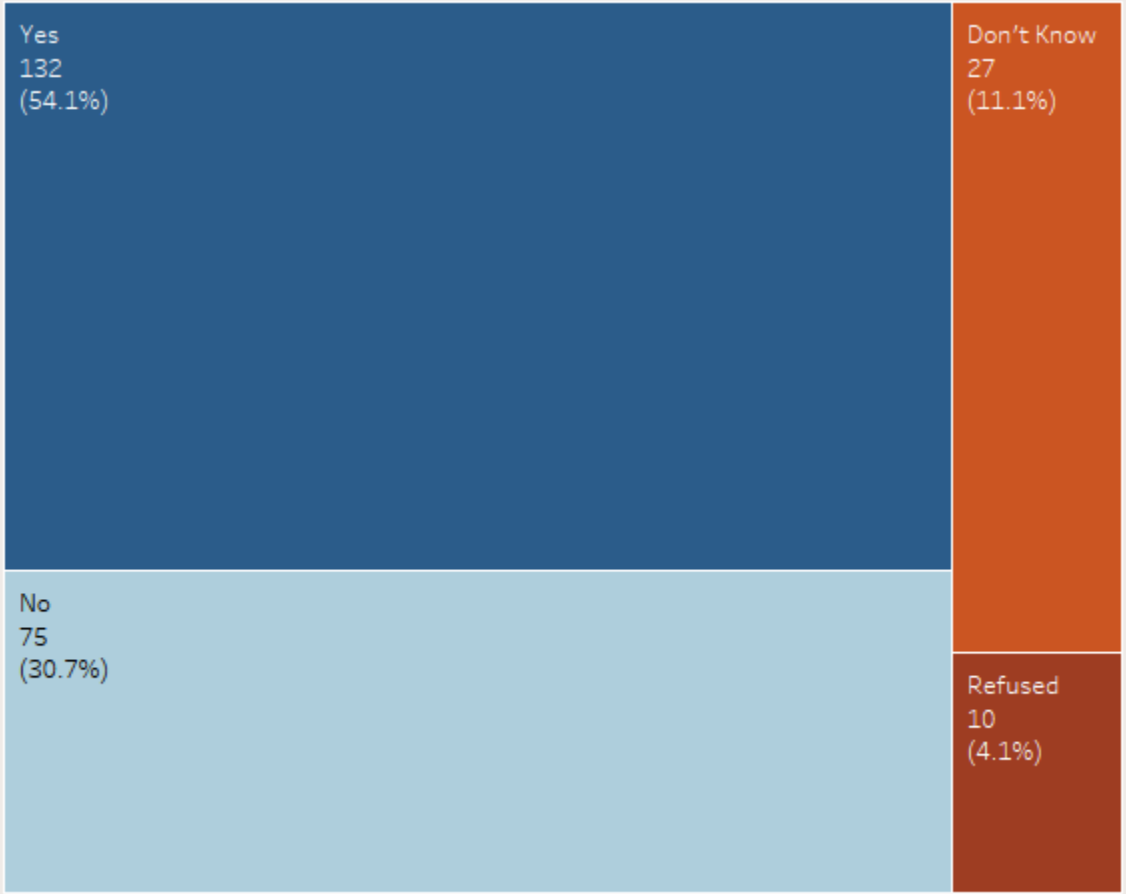


The overwhelming majority of students said that the place they were currently staying was safe.  However, 23% of students disclosed where they were currently staying was not safe and another 6% did not know if it was.  Figure 14 covers this breakdown.

Figure 14: Staying in a Safe Place

| Yes 166 (68.0%) | No 57 (23.4%) | |
| | Don't Know 14 (5.7%) | Refused 7 (2.9%) |
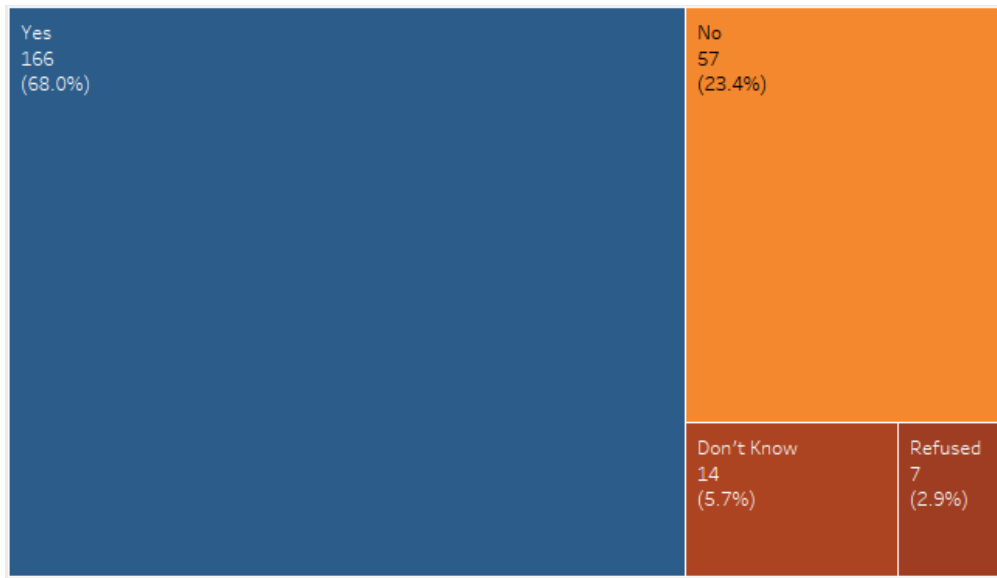
Homeless and unstably housed students often undergo frequent moves from one housing location or option to another. Only 47% of students reported no moves in the last 60 days. Figure 15 details the number of moves students experienced in the 60 days preceding the Count.

Figure 15: Number of Moves in Last 60 Days

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 116 (47.0%) |
| 1 | 54 (21.9%) |
| 2 | 33 (13.4%) |
| 3+ | 21 (8.5%) |
| Don't Know | 11 (4.5%) |
| Refused | 9 (3.6%) |
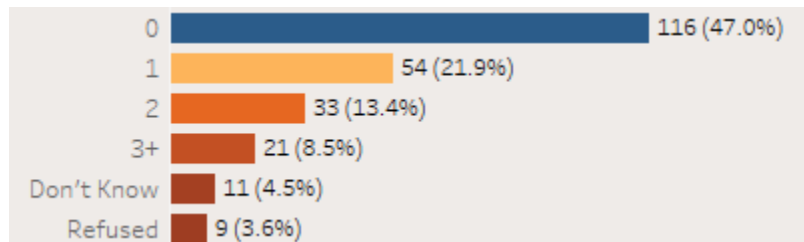
Respondents were also asked if they lived and moved mostly with their parent or guardian. The results were mostly no at 51%. Figure 16 provides more insight into this data point.

Figure 16: Live and Move with Parent or Guardian

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 45.7% (111) |
| No | 50.6% (123) |
| Refused | 2.5% (6) |
| Don't Know | 1.2% (3) |
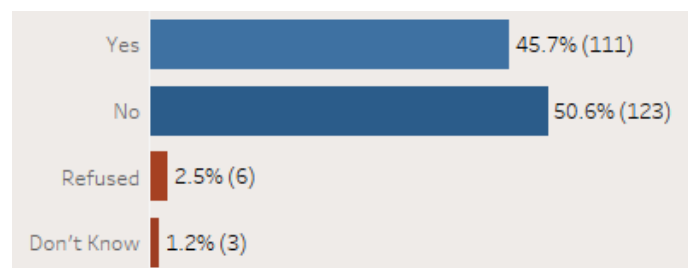
While it is important to know where students were staying on the night of the count (see the section Location of Homeless & Housing Unstable Students for more information), it is also important to know where they normally stay. Just over 37% of students normally stay with their parents, while 15% stay in their own apartment.

Approximately one-in-ten students reported staying with a friend. Figure 17 demonstrates the wide variety of places homeless and unstably housed students typically stay.

Figure 17: Where Homeless & Unstably Housed Students Normally Stay

| | |
|---|---|
| Abandoned Building | 1 (0.4%) |
| Boyfriend/Girlfriend Home | 11 (4.7%) |
| Couch Surfing | 8 (3.4%) |
| Don't Know | 5 (2.1%) |
| Friend's Home | 25 (10.7%) |
| Group Home | 1 (0.4%) |
| Hotel Charity Paying | 1 (0.4%) |
| Hotel I'm Paying | 4 (1.7%) |
| Juvenile Detention | 1 (0.4%) |
| Other Relative Home | 16 (6.8%) |
| Outside | 2 (0.9%) |
| Own Apartment | 36 (15.4%) |
| Parent's Home | 87 (37.2%) |
| Refused | 8 (3.4%) |
| Shelter | 8 (3.4%) |
| Transitional Housing | 17 (7.3%) |
| Treatment Facility | 1 (0.4%) |
| Vehicle | 2 (0.9%) |

# Systems Interactions

Students who responded to the survey received questions about their involvement with various systems. This includes students who served in the military, students who may have spent time in juvenile detention, and students who had involvement with foster care or the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

A very small portion of homeless and unstably housed students indicated that they served in the US Military: 5%. Figure 18 highlights this fact.

Figure 18: Military Service

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 12 (4.9%) |
| No | 227 (93.4%) |
| Don't Know | 2 (0.8%) |
| Refused | 2 (0.8%) |
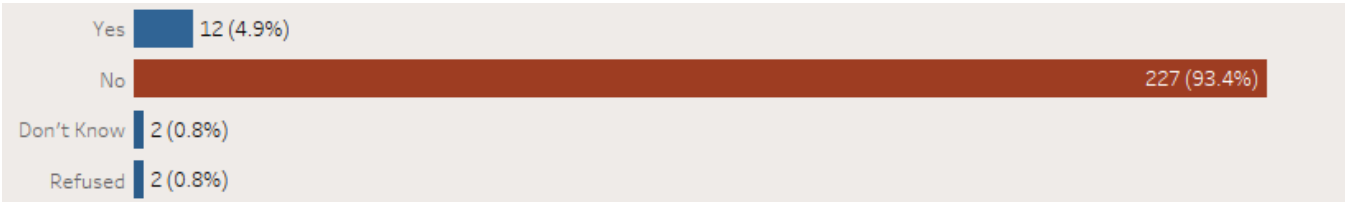
Almost 13% of students who were homeless or unstably housed indicated that they spent time in juvenile detention, prison, or jail. The number is higher for those experiencing homelessness at 20%, while the rate of those who are unstably housed is at 11%. Figure 19 provides an overview of the criminal justice involvement of homeless and unstably housed students.

Figure 19: Time in Juvenile Detention, Prison, or Jail
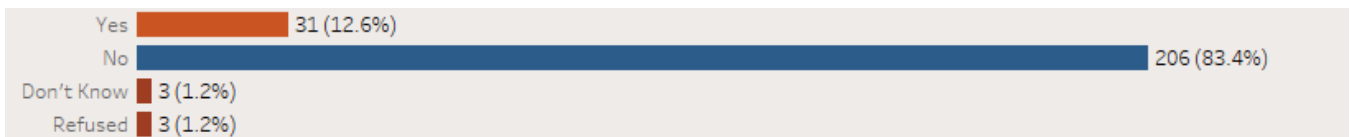


Homeless and unstably housed students have relatively high rates of involvement with DCF or are in foster care. Overall 14% of the students surveyed indicated they've been in foster care. Figure 20 displays this information. Of those who have ever been in foster care or involved with DCF, 53% responded that they were still in foster or DCF care. Figure 21 outlines this data.

Figure 20: In Foster/DCF Care



Figure 21: Still in Foster/DCF Care



For those not in foster or DCF care any longer, the respondent was asked to provide the age they left. The majority of the responses were 18 years of age, however there was a fairly wide distribution among other ages. Figure 22 details this information.

Figure 22: Age Left Foster/DCF Care
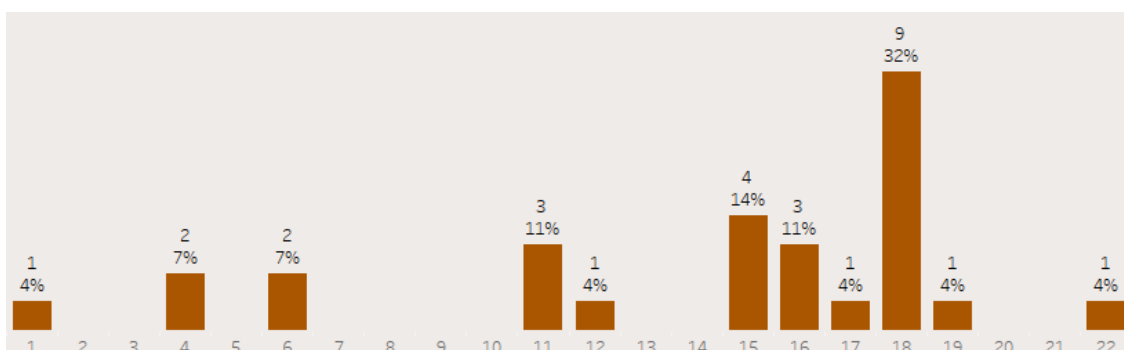
# Unsheltered Students

Students experiencing unsheltered homelessness were asked their intentions about going into shelter and if they had attempted to seek assistance at a shelter. Overwhelmingly unsheltered students said that they did not seek shelter (79%). Figure 23 highlights this information.

Figure 23: Sought Assistance at Shelter
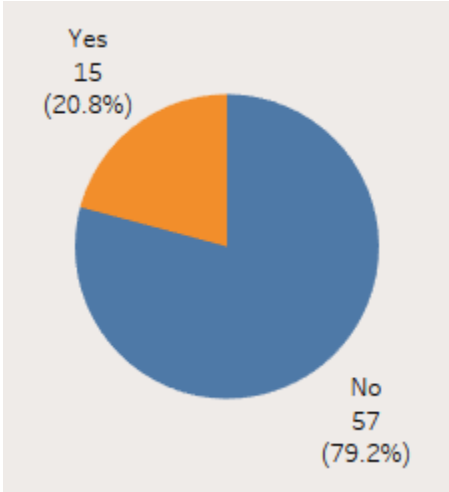


Unsheltered students who answered yes to seeking assistance in a shelter received a follow up question asking why they were not admitted. Only two students chose to answer this question. The only reason given by students was that they didn't know. Figure 24 details this data.

Figure 24: Why Not Admitted to Shelter
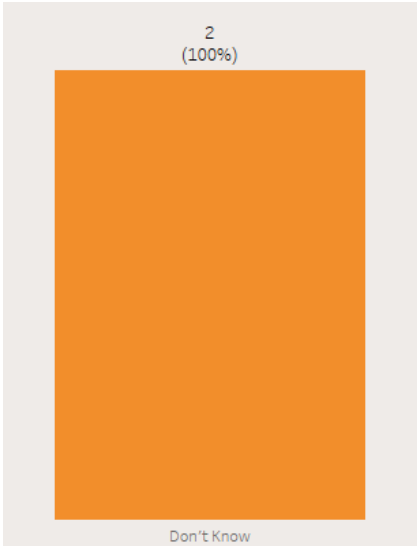
Unsheltered students who did not seek shelter received a follow up question asking why they did not seek shelter. Four students responded to this question and each had a different response. Figure 25 examines the variety of reasons given by unsheltered students.

Figure 25: Why Shelter Not Sought
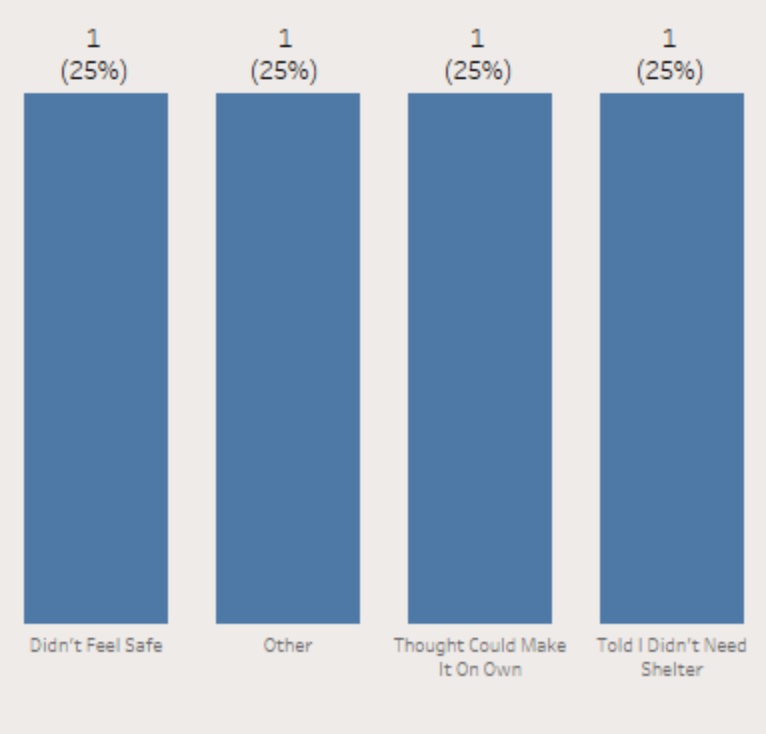


All unsheltered students were asked if they were with a parent or guardian. Figure 26 details the fact that 14% of students were with a parent or guardian.

Figure 26: Unsheltered with Parent or Guardian
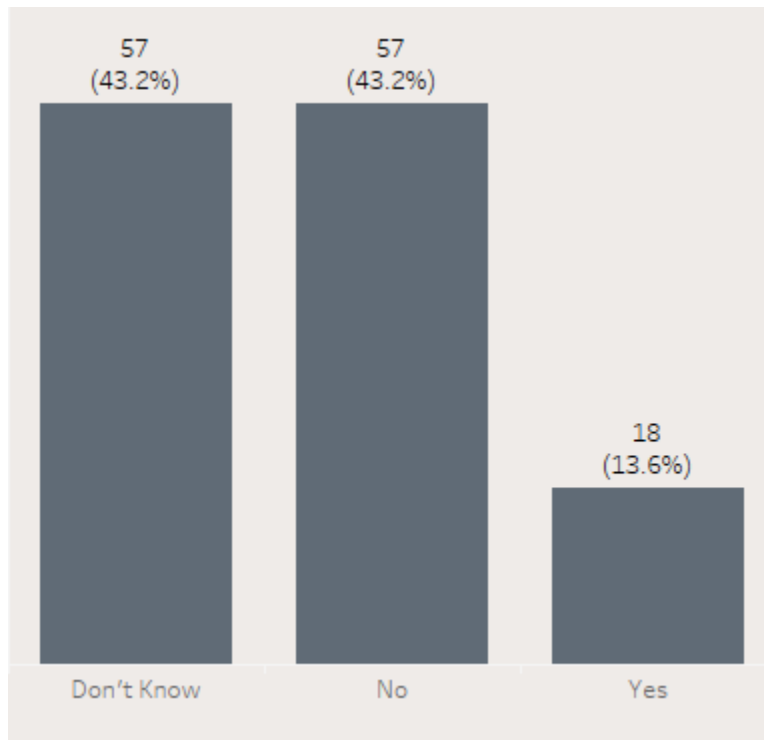


# Sex Trafficking

Homeless and unstably housed youth are at a potentially increased risk of being victims of sex trafficking.  The rates of students who admitted to ever being in a situation where they were encouraged, pressured, or forced to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, food, clothing or protection were slightly highest for students between 18 and 24 at 10%.  See figure 27.

Figure 27: Coerced into Sex in Exchange for Necessities
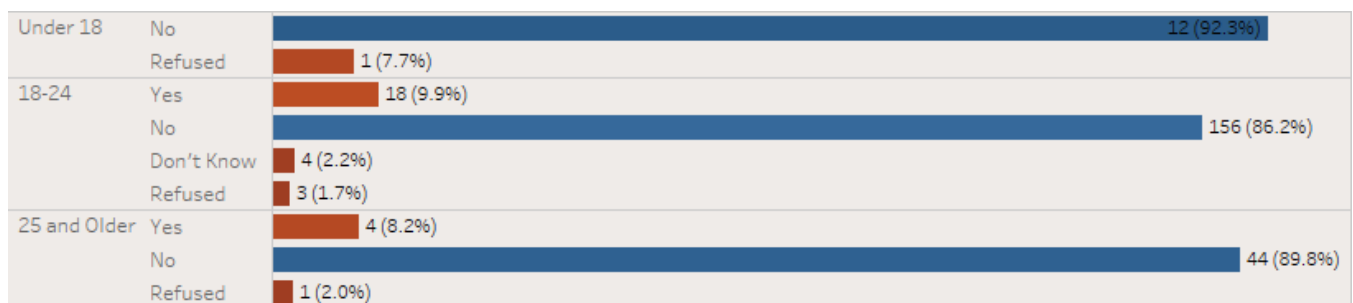


Students who answered yes to the coercion question received a follow up question asking if they were currently experiencing the situation.  Only students in the 18-24 year age range indicated that they were in that situation and of those students who had ever experienced sexual coercion, 44% indicated they were currently experiencing this.  Figure 28 demonstrates this data.

Figure 28: Currently in Sexually Coercive Situation

| 18-24 | Yes | 8 (44.4%) |
| | No | 10 (55.6%) |
| 25 and Older | No | 4 (100.0%) |

Further analysis of the data indicated that the most prevalent age of those involved in sex trafficking was 22. See figure 29 for a further breakdown of the ages of students who indicated they were currently in a sexually coercive situation.

Figure 29: Ages of Student in Sexually Coercive Situation

| 19 | 21 | 22 | 24 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 (25.0%) | 1 (12.5%) | 4 (50.0%) | 1 (12.5%) |
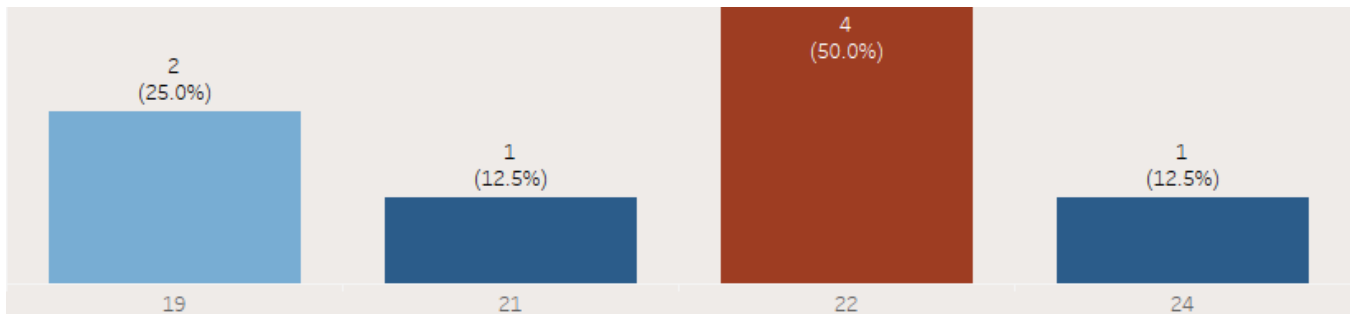
# Reasons for Student Homelessness

There are a variety of reasons students become homeless. While not all students are comfortable providing that information, the ones that did reported family conflicts as the most common reason for being homeless. Figure 30 details the reasons selected by students.

Figure 30: Reasons Leading to Homelessness/Housing Instability

| Family Conflict | 6 (15.0%) |
| Refused Reason | 5 (12.5%) |
| Couldn't Find/Lost Job | 3 (7.5%) |
| Couldn't Pay Rent | 3 (7.5%) |
| Gender Identity | 1 (2.5%) |
| Released From Mental Health Facility | 1 (2.5%) |
| Eviction | 1 (2.5%) |
| Asked to Leave | 1 (2.5%) |
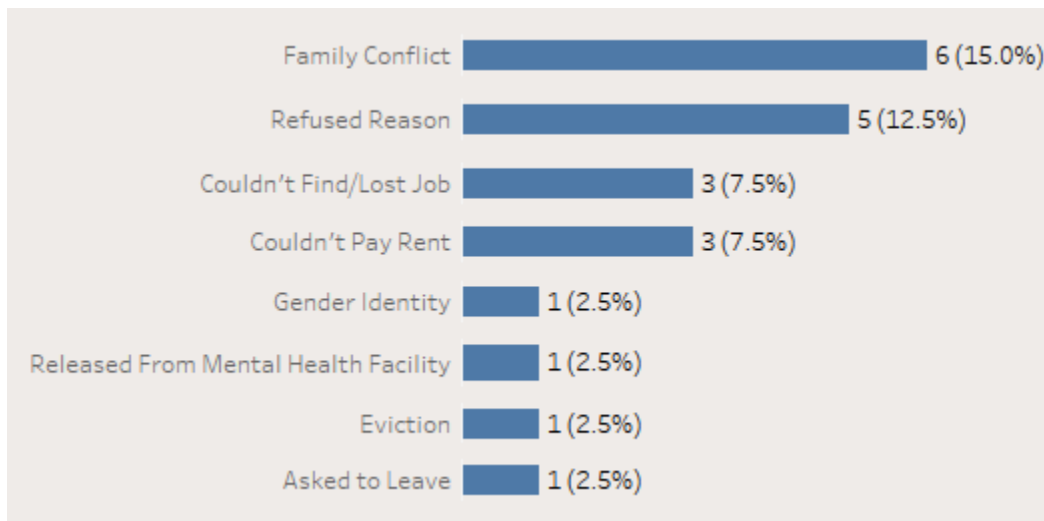
# Improvement to Well-Being

Surprisingly, the majority of homeless and unstably housed students who were asked what they needed to improve their well-being indicated that it was transportation.  The next highest response was financial assistance, followed by a place to live long term.  Figure 31 breaks down the various items and services students said they needed to improve their well-being.

Figure 31: What's Needed to Improve Well-Being



| | |
|---|---|
| Transportation | 34 (13.77%) |
| Financial Assistance | 21 (8.50%) |
| Place to Live Long Term | 20 (8.10%) |
| Food | 18 (7.29%) |
| Employment Help | 16 (6.48%) |
| Education/Help with School | 14 (5.67%) |
| Counseling | 9 (3.64%) |
| Birth Control | 6 (2.43%) |
| Medical Services | 6 (2.43%) |
| ID Card | 5 (2.02%) |
| Hygiene Products | 3 (1.21%) |
| Drug Treatment | 3 (1.21%) |
| Language Classes | 3 (1.21%) |
| Place to Live Short Term | 3 (1.21%) |
| Help to Go Back Home | 2 (0.81%) |
| Immigration Assistance for Myself | 2 (0.81%) |
| Help with a Disability | 2 (0.81%) |
| Immigration Assistance for Parent | 2 (0.81%) |
| Place to Do Laundry | 1 (0.40%) |

# HUD Required Disability & Length of Time Homeless Questions

In order to provide the Department of Housing and Urban Development with required data, students had to answer questions pertaining to their number of moves, length of time homeless, and any disabling conditions for which they received a diagnosis.

During the last three years, 39% of students reported 3 or fewer moves.  However, 20% reported having four or more moves in that same time period.  Figure 32 provides more information about the number of moves students have experienced in the last three years.

Figure 32: Number of Moves in Last 3 Years

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| 3 or Fewer | 52 (39.4%) |
| 4 or More | 26 (19.7%) |
| Don't Know | 17 (12.9%) |
| Refused | 37 (28.0%) |
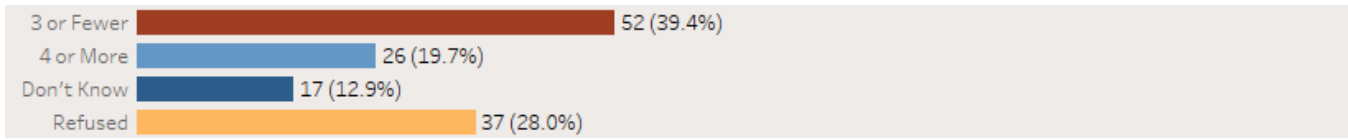
Additionally, students were asked how many total months they did not have a place to stay during the last three years. Sixty-three percent reported not having a place to stay for more than 12 months total in the last three years. See figure 33 for more information.

Figure 33: Total Months without a Place to Stay in Last 3 Years

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| 12 or Less Months | 7 (36.8%) |
| More than 12 | 12 (63.2%) |
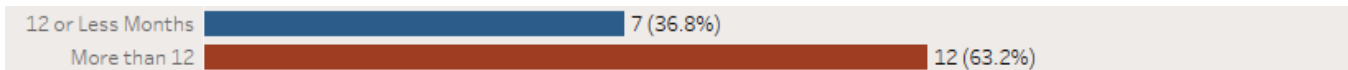
The next HUD required question asked students if they had a chronic health condition, physical disability, severe mental illness, learning disability, or chronic substance abuse issue. Twenty-six percent of students answered in the affirmative to this question. Figure 34 provides a further breakdown of the answers to this question.

Figure 34: Has a Disabling Condition

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| Yes | 64 (26.3%) |
| No | 163 (67.1%) |
| Don't Know | 9 (3.7%) |
| Refused | 7 (2.9%) |

The final required question from HUD asked if the student had ever been told they were HIV positive or had AIDS. One person answered yes to this question. Figure 35 highlights the responses to this question.

Figure 35: HIV/AIDS

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| Yes | 1 (0.4%) |
| No | 238 (97.9%) |
| Don't Know | 2 (0.8%) |
| Refused | 2 (0.8%) |

# Colleges Surveyed

Table 1 below outlines the number of surveys conducted for each school, as well as the number of homeless or unstably housed students identified through the Youth Count.

Table 1: Colleges & Counts of Homeless & Unstably Housed Youth

| Updated School Name | Total | Homeless Or Unstably Housed | Percent Homeless/ Unstably Housed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albertus Magnus College | 4 | 0 | 0% |
| American International College | 8 | 6 | 75% |
| Asnuntuck Community College | 81 | 9 | 11% |
| Capitol Community College | 85 | 15 | 18% |
| Central Connecticut State University | 2 | 0 | 0% |
| Eastern Connecticut State University | 117 | 30 | 26% |
| Fairfield University | 11 | 2 | 18% |
| Gateway Community College | 42 | 16 | 38% |
| Goodwin College | 37 | 3 | 8% |
| Housatonic Community College | 320 | 60 | 19% |
| Manchester Community College | 290 | 42 | 14% |
| Middlesex Community College | 71 | 15 | 21% |
| Naugatuck Valley Community College | 243 | 22 | 9% |
| Northwestern Connecticut Community College | 88 | 9 | 10% |
| Norwalk Community College | 72 | 9 | 13% |
| Quinebaug Valley Community College | 6 | 1 | 17% |
| Southern Connecticut State University | 3 | 1 | 33% |
| Three Rivers Community College | 164 | 21 | 13% |
| Tunxis Community College | 38 | 5 | 13% |
| University of Bridgeport | 1 | 0 | 0% |
| University of Connecticut | 289 | 29 | 10% |
| University of Saint Joseph | 1 | 0 | 0% |
| Western Connecticut State University | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Yale University | 4 | 0 | 0% |
| TOTALS | 1978 | 296 | 15% |

**Appendix I: Sample Youth Count Plans**

**Manchester Community College Youth Count Plan**

1. Identify an institution lead responsible for oversight and monitoring of the plan and addressing any issues that may arise that week;
. T.J. Barber

2. Identify a steering committee for the institution to assist the lead, as needed and providing day-to-day oversight for the initiatives (the steering committee should consist of at least 5-6 members; at least 2-3 members of the steering committee should also plan to attend Train the Trainer sessions for administering the survey and plan to administer the survey themselves);
a. T.J. Barber, Dean Harris, Lucy Hurston, Gordon Plouffe, Deborah Herman

3. Recruit and identify volunteers who are willing to administer the survey (they must be willing to be trained by CCEH or the on-campus trainers who attend the Train the Trainer sessions sponsored by CCEH);
a. T.J. will be attending the train the trainers in January

4. Identify existing groups and recruit them to participate and assist (Student Government Associations, clubs, faculty groups, etc.);
a. Sociology students, work-study students, student leaders, faculty, staff

5. Identify where, when, how long, and by whom the survey will be administered during the week of January 24, 2018 – January 31, 2018 (the plan should include at least 4-5 sessions that are at least 2 hours long; such sessions should take place at different times of the day to reach the most students, should reflect "high traffic' times for students on campus, leverage already scheduled activities, such as orientations, "campus conversations" and other activities that tend to draw students; each session should be staffed with a sufficient number of volunteers to handle expected turnout);
a. Monday, January 29, 2018 from 10am-2pm in three locations

6. Incentives to be provided to students who participate (food, raffles, gift cards); a. Candy, MCC shirts, pens, etc.

7. How your institution will get the word out about Youth Count! to your campus community;
a. All-points emails, *Cougar Press*, MyCommnet Announcement

8. Obtain IRB approval.
a. Dean Harris already on board

The following questions may be helpful to you in developing together your plan:
1. Which faculty or staff member is going to be the lead for the Youth Count?
a. T.J. Barber

2. How will this lead person recruit volunteers to conduct the Youth Count?
a. Student Government Association, Work-study students, volunteers from classes and student clubs, faculty and staff

3. What other faculty or staff could assist in this project or other efforts related to ending student homelessness? What will their roles be? How will you enlist their help and keep them engaged?

a. Sociology faculty already engaged in awareness and volunteering

4. Which active student groups will be most likely to volunteer and help with this Youth Count? How can you engage the larger campus community in this effort (student government association, clubs, faculty groups, etc.)?
a. SGA, PTK, ABC

5. What locations on campus are students experiencing homelessness or housing instability most likely to frequent? (Helpful to make a list of "hot spots" such as the library, student center, cafeteria, food pantry, parking lot, etc.)
a. Bookstore Rotunda, AST Rotunda, Library

6. What time of the day are these students most likely to be in these locations?
a. 6am-5pm

7. How do you plan to have your survey volunteers staffing these locations during the Youth Count?
a. We plan on using iPads from the Library to administer the survey

8. What incentives can offer students to encourage them to take the survey?
a. Candy, pizza, MCC shirts, pens, etc.

9. If a student identifies him/herself as homeless, what existing protocols are in place linking this student to available services?
a. We tell them first off to call 211 to get on the list; we also identify community partners (CRT, CHR, CCEH, etc.) that may be able to assist students in crisis.

10. Who will be responsible for training your volunteers? (The CT Coalition to End Homelessness will provide a train-the-trainer training on how to use the app, conduct survey, engage students)
 a. T.J. Barber

11. What will your schedule look like for the week of the Youth Count January 24-31? Are there already events or activities planned that you can leverage?
a. One event on Monday, the 29th from 10am-2pm

12. How will you market the Youth Count effort and raise awareness about the issue of homelessness?
a. *Cougar Press*, MyCommnet announcement, All-points and all-student emails, Cardboard City, tabling efforts

**Middlesex Community College Youth Count Plan** / CSCU Homeless Initiative

1. Identify an institution lead responsible for oversight and monitoring of the plan and addressing any issues that may arise that week;

   Adrienne Maslin, Dean of Students, and Irene Martin, Director of Financial Aid will provide oversight and monitoring of the plan and address issues that occur during the week of the CT Youth Count sponsored by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

2. Identify a steering committee for the institution to assist the lead, as needed and providing day-to-day oversight for the initiatives (the steering committee should consist of at least 5-6 members; at least 2-3 members of the steering committee should also plan to attend Train the Trainer sessions for administering the survey and plan to administer the survey themselves):

   There will not be a full steering committee. Adrienne Maslin and Irene Martin will constitute the steering committee.

3. Recruit and identify volunteers who are willing to administer the survey (they must be willing to be trained by CCEH or the on-campus trainers who attend the Train the Trainer sessions sponsored by CCEH):

   Adrienne Maslin and Irene Martin will provide oversight of the survey administration and they may also engage in direct administration of the survey. There may be several student volunteers who will participate. Dean Maslin and Ms. Martin will attend the December 4 CCEH training and will provide training to any students who volunteer to participate.

4. Identify existing groups and recruit them to participate and assist (Student Government Associations, clubs, faculty groups, etc.):

   Students will be recruited from among Student Senate and the Honors Program.

5. Identify where, when, how long, and by whom the survey will be administered during the week of January 24, 2018 – January 31, 2018 (the plan should include at least 4-5 sessions that are at least 2 hours long; such sessions should take place at different times of the day to reach the most students, should reflect "high traffic' times for students on campus, leverage already scheduled activities, such as orientations, "campus conversations" and other activities that tend to draw students; each session should be staffed with a sufficient number of volunteers to handle expected turnout:

   We will be able to administer the survey a minimum of three times: January 24 (11 AM-1 PM, Pavilion), January 29 (10 AM-12 PM, Library), January 30 (12-2 PM, Cafeteria)

6. Incentives to be provided to students who participate (food, raffles, gift cards):

   Students who participate in the survey will be entered into a raffle for free tickets to Sky Zone Trampoline Park.  We have six tickets available to give out.

7. How your institution will get the word out about Youth Count! to your campus community:

   We will publicize the survey in The Installation (bathroom publication), email, announcements in class, flyers.

8. Obtain IRB approval.

   Dean Maslin will prepare a proposal for the MxCC IRB in order to proceed with the survey.

**Appendix II: Survey**

Instructions to Surveyor
- Please use the mobile app to conduct the survey
- All surveys must be entered into the We Count mobile app by noon the following day
- All surveys must be administered by someone who has received training
- Register to Volunteer Here:  http://bit.ly/2k8iu3O
- Visit cceh.org/app to download the mobile app

**2018 Youth Count Survey**
**January 24-30, 2018**

Yellow = HUD required

Green=conditional

Turquoise=Turnaround

Interviewer's (Your) Name:_____          Street Address of Survey:_____

Hello. My name is [*name of the surveyor*] and I'm working with the [*name of organization*]. We are talking to youth between the ages of 13 to 24 so that we can better understand their housing experiences. (Are you in that category?) I would like to ask you a few questions about that. You will receive an incentive [*insert incentive or type/or "of your choice"*] for taking the survey. The survey is anonymous, your participation is voluntary and the survey will take 5 minutes.   Some of the questions are personal and you will be able to answer a few of them privately by pressing a button without me seeing your answers. You can also skip any questions that you don't want to answer or stop the survey at any time. Do you have any questions?

**Alternative for Students on College Campuses**:

Hello.  My name is [*name of the surveyor*] and I'm working with the [*name of organization*].  We are talking to students so we can better understand their housing experiences.  I would like to ask you a few questions about that.  You will receive an incentive [*insert incentive or type/or "of your choice"*] for taking the survey.  The survey is anonymous, your participation is voluntary and the survey will take 5 minutes.  Some of the questions are personal and you will be able to answer a few of them privately by pressing a button without me seeing your answers.  You can also skip any questions that you don't want to answer or stop the survey at any time.  Do you have any questions?

**Would you like to participate?**          ○Yes               ○ No  [THANK RESPONDENT AND END SURVEY]

(For College Campuses, include the name of school they are attending) _____.

[GO TO Q1]
**1. Have you already been surveyed about your housing/living situation this week? This may have happened here, at a shelter, drop in center, or school or other organization.     ○ Yes    ○ No?**
            Yes [THANK RESPONDENT AND END SURVEY]
            No   [GO TO Q2]
**2. What are your initials?** First_____ Middle ___Last _____        ○ Don't know        ○ Refuse to answer
**3. What is your date of birth?** MM___DD_____YYYY _____        ○ Don't know        ○ Refuse to answer
**4. What city do you currently live/stay in?** _____  ○ Don't know        ○ Refuse to answer

**5. Where did you sleep on Tuesday, January 23rd?**   [DO NOT READ OPTIONS. CHECK ONE RESPONSE THAT BEST MATCHES THE ANSWER GIVEN BY RESPONDENT; FOR "OTHER" WRITE IN RESPONSE]

○ Shelter (emergency, temporary) (Specify:_____)
○ Transitional housing (Specify:_____)
○ Hotel or motel I'm paying for
○ Hotel or motel a charity is paying for
○ Friend's home
○ Couch surfing (moving from one temporary housing arrangement to another)
*homeless*
○ Hospital or emergency room
○ Residential treatment facility
○ Juvenile detention center or jail
○ Parents home
○ Other relatives home

○ 24-hour restaurant/laundromat or other business/retail establishment
○ Anywhere outside (street, park)
○ Car or other vehicle
○ Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat
○ On a train/bus or in train/bus station
*Unsheltered*
○ Foster Family Home
○ Group Home
○ Home of boyfriend/girlfriend
○ Own apartment
○ Don't Know
○ Refuse to Answer
○ Other (Specify:(_____)

30

**5a. If Unsheltered option selected, ask: Did you try to get assistance through at an emergency shelter?**  ○ Yes ○ No

**5a1: If Yes ask, Why were you not admitted to shelter?**
- ○ Shelter was full.
- ○ I was waitlisted for shelter.
- ○ I don't know.
- ○ I was ineligible.
- ○ Other: specify _____.

**5a2: If No ask, Why didn't you seek assistance at a shelter?**

- ○ Shelter was full
- ○ Did not know shelters were available to me
- ○ Did not feel safe
- ○ Did not have a local shelter for my age
- ○ Afraid of DCF involvement
- ○ Had no transportation to the shelter

- ○ Did not want others to know they were homeless
- ○ Was told I did not need shelter
- ○ Thought they could make it on their own
- ○ Prior Bad Experience
- ○ Other: Specify (_____)

**5b.If unsheltered or homeless category above, were you staying at (place designated in question 5) with a parent or guardian?**

**5c. (Ask) if response to 5 is a homeless qualifying answer) How many times have you not had a place to stay in the last 3 years and you needed to stay at a shelter, in your car, at a bus station, in an alleyway or anything like that?**

○ Three or fewer ○ Four or More ○ Don't Know ○ Refuse to Answer

**5c1. If 4 or More Times, ask: How many total months were you in that situation?**

12 or less months (Specify # of Months: _____) ○ More than 12 Months ○ Don't Know ○ Refuse to Answer

**5d. (Only Ask if the Answer to question 5 was a homeless qualifying response) You told me that on the night of Tuesday, January 23rd you slept at (See response to question 5). What do you feel led to you being unstably housed? Check all that apply.**

- ○ Couldn't Find/Lost Job
- ○ Conflict or problem with family/people you live with
- ○ Being physically abused or beaten
- ○ Couldn't pay rent
- ○ Sex work, human trafficking or something like that
- ○ Aged out of Foster Care/DCF
- ○ Loss or reduction of benefits (food stamps, welfare, etc.)
- ○ Eviction or at risk of eviction
- ○ Family violence
- ○ Violence from a boyfriend, girlfriend, friend or someone like that
- ○ Someone I live with asked me to leave
- ○ Because I'm pregnant or had a child

- ○ Had to leave because of my gender identity or sexual orientation
- ○ Released from prison/jail
- ○ Released from hospital
- ○ Household breakup/death in household
- ○ Injury/Illness
- ○ Release from mental health treatment facility
- ○ Foreclosure of rented or owned property
- ○ Drug/Alcohol Abuse
- ○ Other (specify):

  _____
- ○ Don't know
- ○ Refuse to answer

**6. How long have you been staying where you currently are?**: ____Days ___Weeks ____Months ____Years

○ Don't know  ○ Refuse to answer

**7. Do you feel like you can stay where you are for as long as you need without being asked to leave?**

○ Yes ○ No ○ Don't know ○ Refuse to answer

**8. Is the place you're currently staying safe? That is, are you free from physical abuse, drug use exposure, or anything like that?**

○ Yes ○ No ○ Don't know ○ Refuse to answer

**9. How many times have you had to move in just the last 60 Days?**

○ I didn't move ○ 1 Time ○ 2 Times ○ 3 or more times

○ Don't Know ○ Refuse to Answer

**10. Where do you normally stay?**

○ Shelter (emergency, temporary) (Specify:_____)
○ Transitional housing (Specify:_____)
○ Hotel or motel I'm paying for
○ Hotel or motel a charity is paying for
○ Friend's home
○ Couch surfing (moving from one temporary housing arrangement to another)
○ Hospital or emergency room
○ Residential treatment facility
○ Juvenile detention center or jail
○ Parents home
○ Other relatives home

○ 24-hour restaurant/laundromat or other business/retail establishment
○ Anywhere outside (street, park, viaduct)
○ Car or other vehicle
○ Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat
○ On a train/bus or in train/bus station
○ Foster Family Home
○ Group Home
○ Home of boyfriend/girlfriend
○ Own apartment
○ Don't Know
○ Refuse to Answer
○ Other (Specify:(_____)

**11. Do you mostly live and/or move around with a parent or guardian?** ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer

**12. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer
**13. Are you currently attending school or another education program?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer
**14. Are you currently employed at a job for which you receive a paycheck?** ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer
**15. Have you ever been in foster care/DCF?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer
    **15a.  If yes:  Are you still in care?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer
    **15b  If no:  What age did you leave?**  Age: _____

**16. Have you ever been in juvenile detention, prison or jail?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer

**17. Have you ever served in the United States Armed Forces? (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves)**
○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer

**18. Are you pregnant or a parent?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer
    **14a. If Yes: Do you have custody of your child(ren)? In other words,  are you responsible for caring for your child(ren) on a day-to-day basis (including joint custody)?**    ○ Yes    ○ No    ○ Don't know    ○ Refuse to answer

**19. Are you Hispanic or Latino?**    ○ Yes    ○ No

**20. What is your race? (Choose all that apply)**
○ White/Caucasian
○ Black/African American
○ Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
○ American Indian/Alaskan Native

○ Asian
○ Other(Specify:_____)
○ Don't Know
○ Refuse to answer

**\*\*\*21. What gender do you identify as?**
○ Female
○ Male
○ Trans female (MTF or male to female)
○ Trans male (FTM female to male)

○ Gender-Nonconforming
○ Other (Specify:_____)
○ Client doesn't know
○ Refuse to answer

**\*\*\*22. Which of the following best fits how you think about your sexual orientation?**
[READ LIST AND SELECT ONE THAT APPLIES; FOR "OTHER" WRITE IN RESPONSE]
○ Heterosexual (Straight)
○ Bisexual-that is, attracted to men and women
○ Gay or Lesbian
○ Other _____

○ Pansexual
○ Asexual
○ Don't know my orientation
○ Refuse to answer

**\*\*\*23. Have you ever been told you have any of the following conditions and as a result will likely need some form of assistance in your day-to-day life? Chronic Health Condition, Physical Disability, Severe Mental Illness, Learning Disability, or Chronic Substance Abuse Issue** ○ Yes ○ No ○ Don't know ○ Refuse to answer

**\*\*\*23a. Have you ever been told you are HIV positive or have AIDS**? ○ Yes ○ No ○ Don't know ○ Refuse to answer

**\*\*\*24. Has anyone ever encouraged/pressured/forced you to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?** Yes ○ No ○ Don't know ○ Refuse to answer
   20a. If Yes to #21: Are you currently in a situation like that? ○ Yes ○ No ○ Don't know ○ Refuse to answer

**25. Right now, what do you need to improve your well-being? (check all that apply)**
○ Birth Certificate
○ Birth Control/Condoms
○ Counseling /Mental Health Services
○ Drug/Alcohol Treatment
○ Education/help with school
○ Employment/career help
○ Financial Assistance
○ Food
○ Help with being able to go back home
○ Help with a physical or learning disability
○ Hygiene Products
○ I.D. Card
○ Immigration Assistance for myself
○ Immigration Assistance for a parent
○ Language Classes
○ Legal Help
○ Medical services
○ Place to live short-term
○ Place to shower
○ Place to do laundry
○ Place to live long-term
○ Transportation
○ Other:
_____