

COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

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Coalition for Juvenile Justice

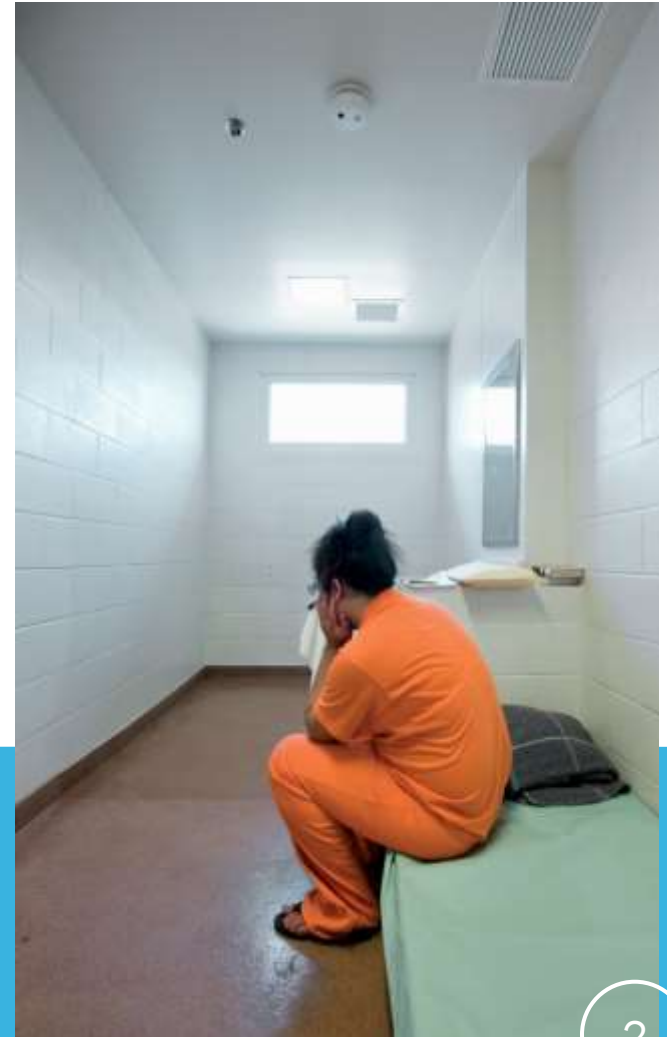
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YOUTH HOMELESSNESS & JUVENILE JUSTICE

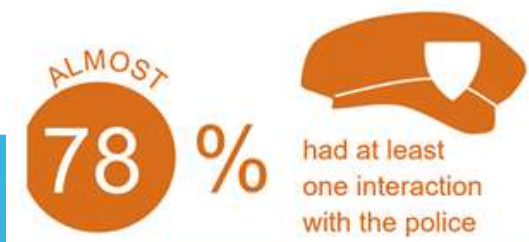
The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that 380,000 people younger than 18 will be homeless and alone for some period of time.

Each year 1 million children will have contact with the juvenile justice system.



JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Not all homeless youth are justice system involved, but there is overlap between the populations.



COMMONALITIES

There are commonalities that exist among justice system involved youth and homeless youth:

- Disproportionately more likely to be youth of color;
- Disproportionately likely to be LGBT youth.

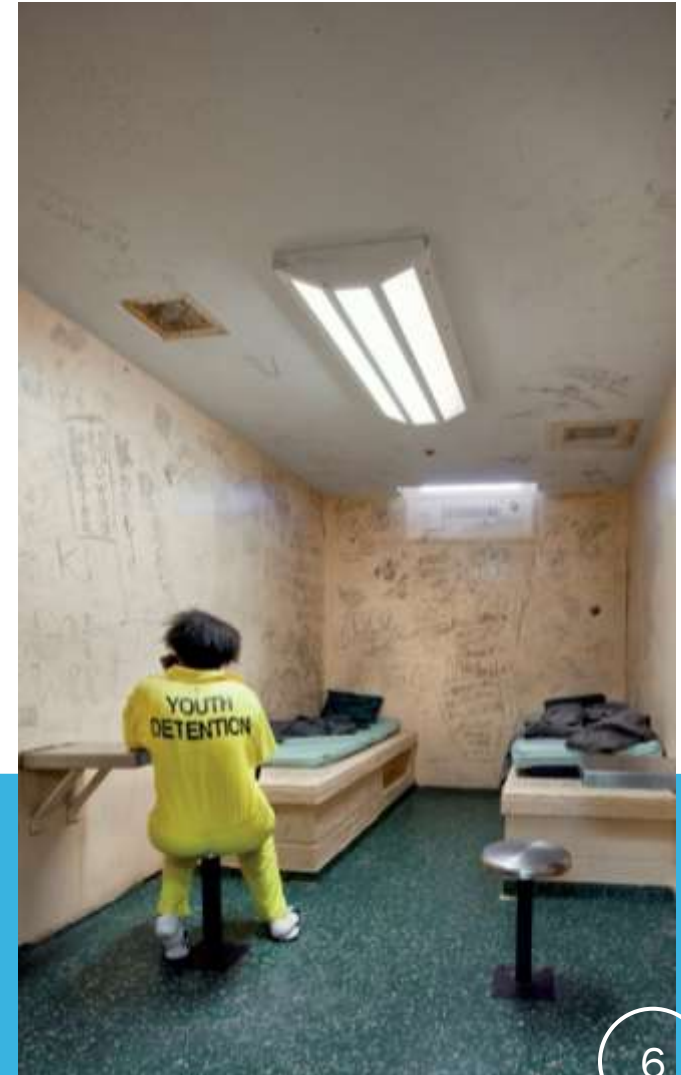
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND HOMELESSNESS

- Some young people are homeless before they enter the system. This can include children who ran away from home or were forced out by their parents.
- Some youth are forced out by parents as a result of system involvement.
- Some are not picked up when they are released from incarceration.
- Thorough and well-developed transition plans and family-based services are essential to helping make sure youth exit the justice system with a safe, secure, and accessible place to live.

OTHER LINKS WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE AND HOMELESSNESS

There are other ways that juvenile justice and homelessness intersect:

- “Quality of Life” Ordinances: prohibition on being in public parks, etc. after dark.
- Survival Crimes: Shoplifting, trespassing, human trafficking
- Family Violence
- Behavioral Health
- Collateral Consequences: limitation of housing options



STATUS OFFENSES

Status offenses are behaviors that violate the law, but **would not be an offense if committed by an adult.**

Common examples include **truancy, running away, curfew** and liquor law violations and **being beyond their parents' control.**

Can be called PINS, FINS, CHINS, etc., but implications are still the same.

Mostly state law issue; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act serves as primary federal law in this area.



CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES

- An estimated **109,000 child in need of services cases** were petitioned in juvenile courts in 2013.
- Of these, **7,300 involved detention.**
- The National Census of Youth in Residential Placement found that in 2011 alone, more than 2,000 children were estimated to be incarcerated each day for behaviors such as running away from home, skipping school, or coming home after curfew.



How can we address these challenges?



STATE LEVEL – CONNECTICUT

- Connections between juvenile justice and youth homelessness
- What we know and what we need to know
- Coordinating to understand and address intersection of juvenile justice and homelessness



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND HOUSING STABILITY

“Targeting release from the juvenile justice system as a point to combat youth homelessness can both benefit youth who are at risk of displacement and reduce rates of youth recidivism.”

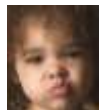
Alone Without a Home, September 2012, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and National Network for Youth



YOUTH WHO ARE HOMELESS

- At risk for **sexual abuse, prostitution, physical abuse, criminal justice involvement, illness and suicide**
- Costly trajectory

National Network for Youth Issue Brief,
Consequences of Youth Homelessness



PEER REVIEWED DATA

Sample of 10 quality studies from 2006-2014

- Overall ~ 50 to 75% of homeless youth had been arrested; 50 to 60% had been incarcerated
- Drug abuse, mental health issues, and lack of access to services are associated with increased criminal activity for homeless youth



PEER REVIEWED DATA

- Length of time **homeless/disconnected equals greater frequency/likelihood of criminal justice involvement**
- Most effective services include housing, employment, and behavioral health supports

Summary of research
available upon request



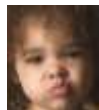
HOUSING STABILITY, DIVERSION, RECIDIVISM

Addressing housing stability reduces recidivism and use of crisis/emergency systems.

Examples (Connecticut adults)
CT Collaborative on Re-entry (CCR)

- 99% decrease in shelter days
- 73% decrease in jail episodes

Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2013



ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CONNECTICUT

- Launched Reaching Home Campaign in 2012 (version of federal Opening Doors)
- Met goal to end Veteran Homelessness
- On track to end chronic homelessness in 2016
- Goal: end youth homelessness by 2020



Reaching Home Campaign

Campaign to end homelessness in Connecticut

Opening Doors – Connecticut

Framework implemented by Reaching Home Campaign

Reaching Home Steering Committee

Broad coalition crossing boundaries and systems; sets direction, advances policy change, oversees work groups, makes connections; 40-50 people; meets 4x year

Reaching Home Coordinating Committee

Helps coordinate, provide guidance to work groups and supports Steering Committee; 10-20 people, meets monthly

Opening Doors – CT Work Groups

Recommend, advance Opening Doors-CT strategies; 12-20 people

Affordable &
Supportive
Housing

Economic
Security

Health &
Housing
Stability

Homeless
Youth

Retooling
Crisis
Response

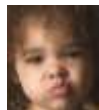
Veterans

ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CONNECTICUT

- 2013 “Invisible No More”
- 2014 State Opening Doors for Youth plan



- 2015 First statewide count of homeless youth
- 2016 Implementing first phase of five strategies



CT DATA: INVISIBLE NO MORE

- 27% received special education services
- 32% dropped out of school
- 53% had contact with DCF
- 37% removed from home by DCF

Derrick Gordon, PhD and Bronwyn Hunter, PhD
Consultation Center, Yale School of Medicine, 2013



CT DATA: INVISIBLE NO MORE

- 49% moved more than 6 times in their lifetime
- 50% arrested at least once
- 39% reported incarceration in jail, prison, juvenile detention or residential facility

Derrick Gordon, PhD and Bronwyn Hunter, PhD
Consultation Center, Yale School of Medicine, 2013



CT DATA: INVISIBLE NO MORE

- 89% sexually active
- Average 5.6 sexual partners
- 23.5% intercourse by age 12 or under
- 19.4% reported trading sex for money, place to stay, drugs/alcohol

Derrick Gordon, PhD and Bronwyn Hunter, PhD,
Consultation Center, Yale School of Medicine, 2013



CT DATA: STATEWIDE YOUTH COUNT

- Estimated **3,000 homeless/housing unstable**
- Self report
- **One third have history of involvement** with Dept. of Children & Families
- Youth involved with DCF or foster care **6 times more likely involved with criminal justice system**

Statewide Youth Count, 2015



CT DATA: STATEWIDE YOUTH COUNT

Youth involved with criminal justice system

- 5 times more likely to have moved two or more times in last 6 months
- 3 times more likely to be living outside or in a place not meant for human habitation

Statewide Youth Count, 2015



CT DATA: STATEWIDE YOUTH COUNT

585 homeless/housing unstable youth surveyed

Age	Surveyed	JJ Involved
22 - 24	190	46
≤ 21	395	81
18 - 21	209	46
≤ 18	248	51



NEXT STEPS IN CONNECTICUT



1. Collect and utilize **better data** from state agencies



2. **Address gaps** in housing continuum for youth/young adults



3. **Integrate housing solutions** into discharge planning. **Create joint child welfare /JJ plan** for youth leaving the system.



COLLECT BETTER DATA



- Accurately and regularly count, and assess progress(as with other populations through Point In Time Count and annual HMIS data)
- Identify homelessness/housing instability upon entry into state systems
- Address homelessness/housing instability prior to exit
- Share data across systems to better understand and target interventions



FILL GAPS IN HOUSING CONTINUUM



Access to safety is paramount:

outreach, crisis response services, housing options

- Crisis options for under 18
- Crisis options for 18 and older
- Short-longer term models specialized for 18 and older



PLANNING WITH JJ PARTNERS



Develop comprehensive, statewide, multi-system recommendations

- Assure youth not released into unsafe or unstable living situations that could lead to homelessness
- Identify and begin to plan for housing needs immediately upon entry



CHALLENGES OF STATEWIDE COORDINATION

- Funding
- Learn while doing
 - when to wait, when to move forward
- Cross-system education and engagement
 - everyone on same path as we move forward
 - right level of agency staff at table



LEARN MORE ABOUT CONNECTICUT

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Full Action Plan for Youth:
pschousing.org/files/YouthPlan_06-12-15.pdf

CT specific resources for youth: youth-help.org

Contact Information

If you have a question about webinar content, please contact:

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