

# Runaway and Homeless Youth Program: Basic Center Program



The **Basic Center Program** supports minors who need help navigating their way back to a safe and secure home.

Around **35,000** young people each year receive shelter, counseling, and other services from basic center programs funded by the Family & Youth Services Bureau. Another **82,000** youth, adults, and professionals contact basic centers for advice and brief support.

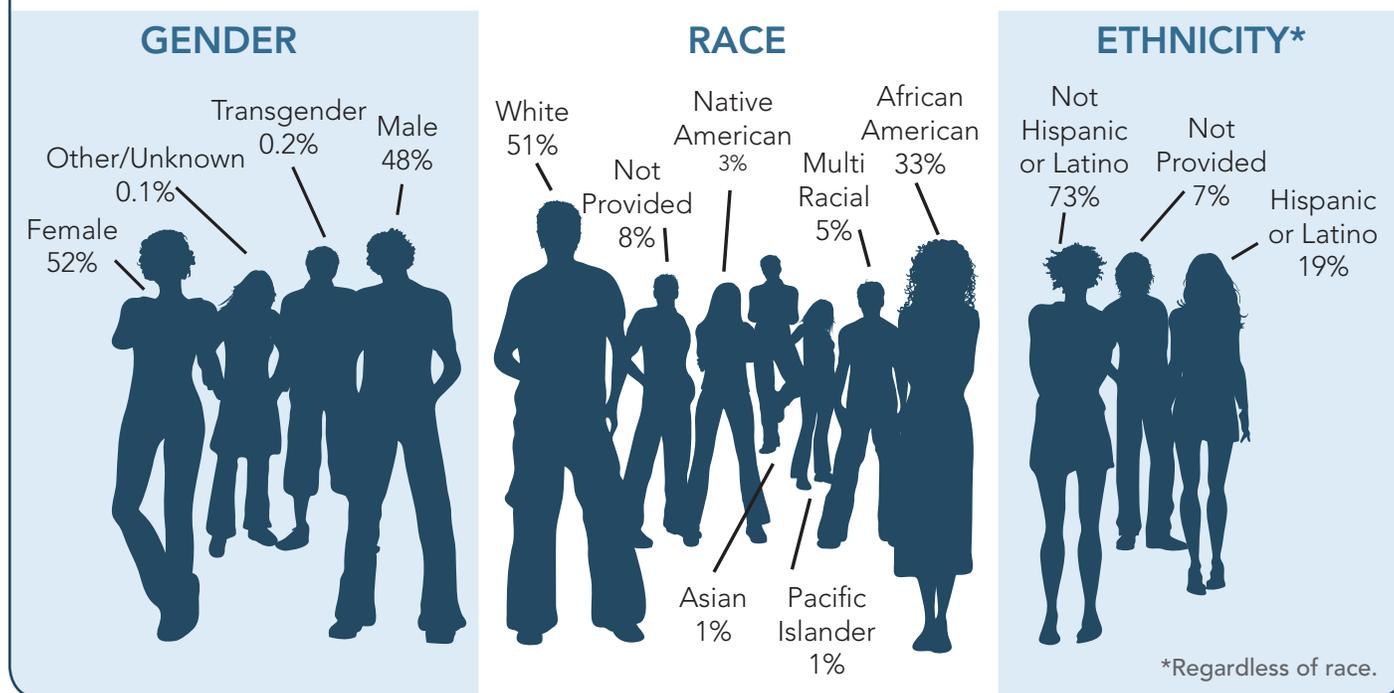
More than **2,000** minors were turned away because no beds were available.

In general, basic centers assist youth before they reach long-term homelessness. Most youth in these programs have only recently run away or become homeless.

**4 out of 5** youth come from the home of a parent, guardian, relative, or friend.

Fewer than **1 in 10** have been living on the street.

## A Portrait of Basic Center Youth



**6.7% OF BASIC CENTER YOUTH SAY THEY ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, OR QUESTIONING**

**YOUTH IN BASIC CENTERS ARE 15.2 YEARS OLD, ON AVERAGE**

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## Top Ten Challenges Youth Face When They Enter a Program

		Number of Youth Reporting			Number of Youth Reporting
1.	Family dynamics	30,584	6.	Housing	7,880
2.	Education	17,028	7.	Health	2,470
3.	Mental health	13,427	8.	Unemployment	2,151
4.	Abuse and/or neglect	8,983	9.	Sexual orientation	1,873
5.	Substance abuse	7,935	10.	Mental disability	1,019

## What Youth Get From Basic Center Programs

**Prevention:** Family and individual counseling and/or mediation services provided to 15–17 percent of youth served prevent many from going into basic center programs' shelters.

**Basic needs:** Basic centers "stabilize" young people by addressing their immediate need for shelter, food, and clothing.

**Counseling:** Finding a safe and stable place for young people to live involves intense work to resolve family conflicts, if possible, so that young people can go home.

**Behavioral health:** Youth get care for mental health and substance abuse issues on site or by referral.

**Health and dental care:** Programs collaborate with community health centers and assist youth and families in applying for Medicaid when eligible.

**Educational support:** Basic centers must develop strong working relationships with the school district liaisons responsible for advocating on behalf of homeless youth according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

**Discharge planning, follow-up and aftercare:** From the start, case managers involve youth and their families in planning to keep youth safe and secure after they leave the basic center.

Of the young people who reached out to basic centers last year:

**94%** received basic support or counseling

**40%** with a school attendance issue got reconnected to school

**71%** reconciled with their family and another 23% transitioned to another safe environment



ONLINE

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb>