

STREET YOUTH

A Snapshot of their Experiences in 11 U.S. Cities



In 2013, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln interviewed 656 youth who were experiencing homelessness to learn about their perspectives, experiences, and needs.

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

22.6% were having problems in the home due to a caretaker's drug or alcohol abuse

23.8% were being physically abused or beaten

24.7% were unable to find a job

51.2% of participants were asked to leave by a parent or caregiver.



HOMELESS VICTIMIZATION

14.5% of participants had been sexually assaulted or raped

18.3% had been assaulted with a weapon

32.3% had been beaten up

40.5% had been robbed

40.8% had been threatened with a weapon

60.8% had experienced at least one of these types of victimization.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



27.5% had to or were forced to agree to be sexual with someone

in exchange for a place to spend the night.

MENTAL HEALTH

61.8% reported symptoms associated with depression and were at risk for experiencing clinical depression.



CURRENT SERVICE NEEDS

The types of service needs youth identified focused on meeting basic needs:

Employment

71.3% 

Education

 **54.6%**

Access and challenges related to safe shelter

 **55.3%**

Other basic supports included:

Transportation

66% 

Clothing

66.4% 

Laundry facilities

54% 



52.6%

of the youth in the study said they were unable to access a shelter because it was full.

Disclaimer:

Percentages are based on interviews conducted in 2013 with 656 youth ages 14-21 who were experiencing homelessness. For the full Street Outreach Program Data Collection Study Final Report, as well as details about data collection methodology, visit acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/street-outreach-program-data-collection-study.

For more resources, go to: YouthHomelessness.acf.hhs.gov