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
- 14.3% 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%
- Transportation: 66%
- Clothing: 64.4%
- 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 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/youthoutreach/outreach-program-data-collection-study.

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