

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A compilation and analysis of data conducted by
the Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup
of the Poverty and Homelessness Board.

*March 2019
Lane County,
Oregon*

Introduction

This report is the culmination of a year's work (February 2018 through March 2019) compiling and analyzing primary data sources and reflecting on youth needs at and between monthly Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup meetings. The goal of this Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment is to help the Continuum of Care, stakeholders, and the community-at-large understand youth needs related to homelessness in Lane County, and plan future interventions based on the this data.

The Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup (YHSWG) is a workgroup of the Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB), the local Continuum of Care (CoC) and Community Action Agency (CAA) advisory board. The Youth Homeless Solutions Workgroup is composed of representatives with lived experience of homelessness as a youth (Formerly Homeless Youth Representation to the PHB), youth service providers, community members, and members of the Youth Action Council.

The 15th Night Youth Action Council (YAC) was formed in October 2015. In March 2018, the YAC became a formal subcommittee of the PHB and is now the official CoC Youth Action Board in addition to being the Youth Action Council for 15th Night.

YAC members were key planning members of this report, identifying additional sources of data to seek out, including data from the local libraries regarding youth served, youth drop in centers, and analysis of data points to identify needs.

One of the challenges to compiling data related to youth homelessness is the varying definitions of homelessness by program or funding source. Readers should be aware that some reporting mechanisms utilize and track data points using different and nuanced definitions of homelessness¹. Efforts have been made to summarize data points so as to clarify distinctions in counting methodology and system definitions. An identified gap in data is primary/preferred language and language accessibility of services for youth.

For questions about this report, please contact Alexandria Dreher,
Alexandria.Dreher@co.lane.or.us

¹ <https://www.nn4youth.org/policy-advocacy/public-policy/fed-definitions-homeless-youth/>

Executive Summary

Data for the Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment was compiled from the Oregon Department of Education, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) ServicePoint, Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice programs, the 15th Night (43 local providers), U.S. Census Data, Eugene Public Library Teen Center records, nationwide research, and other regional data. Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup (YHSWG) members representing the Youth Action Council (YAC), McKinney-Vento liaisons, Looking Glass (Runaway and Homeless Youth provider), Child Welfare, and the 15th Night were integral partners in collecting and analyzing data for the Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment. The YAC and Homeless Youth Representative (HYR) to the Poverty and Homelessness Board drove the design and execution of the Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment through active data collection, analysis and perspective about the data, and consistent attendance at monthly meetings.

This Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment encompasses data from the geographic area of Lane County. Sixty-one percent of the population in Lane County resides in the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, where most service providers are located. Data from the 174 projects in HMIS, including Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Supportive Services Only providers/projects and units contributed to this assessment. Services covered included McKinney-Vento and other educational services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and mainstream benefits enrollment, child welfare involvement and foster care, runaway and homeless youth services, housing and homeless services, workforce development and employment, and juvenile justice.

The Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment identified disparities in access and service provision for youth belonging to vulnerable subpopulations. A lack of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and all other gender and sexual minority identities (LGBTQ+) specific programs or services was identified. This represents a critical disparity given the disproportionate rate of homelessness that LGBTQ+ youth experience nationwide. Racial disparities were identified in the overall homeless service system during an analysis of HMIS data in 2018. These disparities have not been addressed in the adult or youth system.

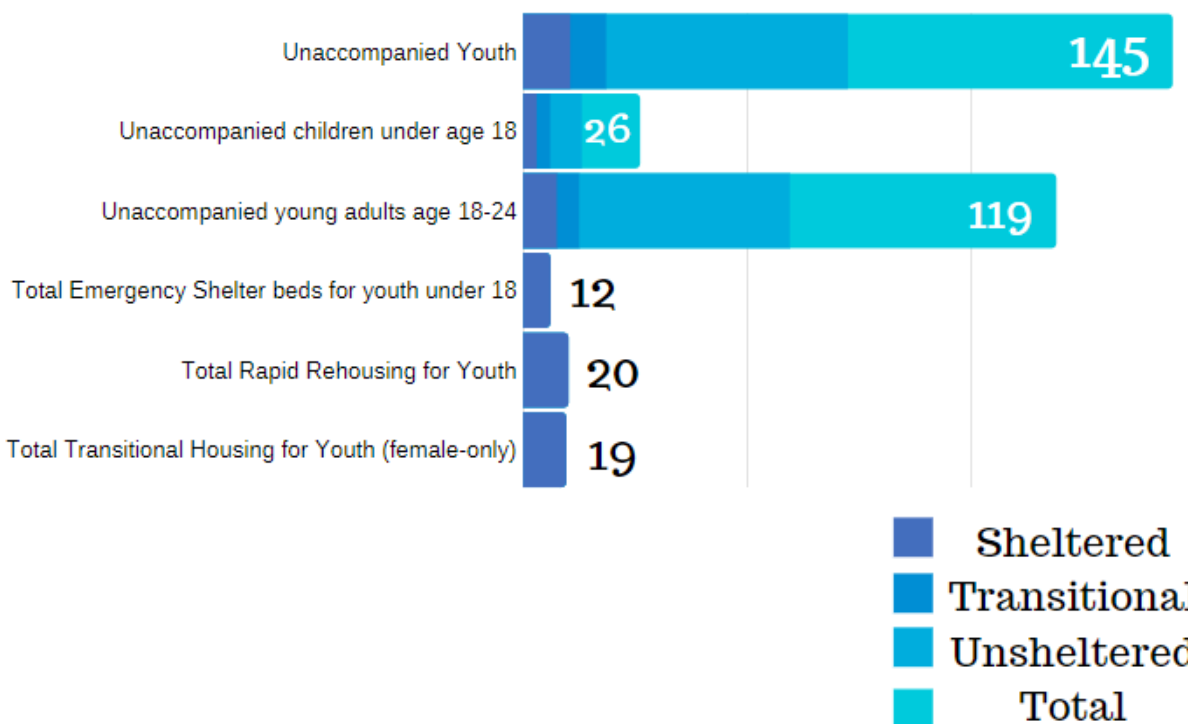
The Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment included 2019 Point in Time Count data.

Unaccompanied Youth Households

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Number of unaccompanied youth households	21	16	108	145
Total number of unaccompanied youth	21	16	108	145
Number of unaccompanied children (under age 18)	6	6	14	26
Number of unaccompanied young adults (age 18 to 24)	15	10	94	119

The 2019 PIT Count identified 145 unaccompanied youth, with 21 in Emergency Shelter (6 youth under age 18), 16 in Transitional Housing (6 youth under age 18), and 108 unsheltered (14 youth under age 18). A total of 26 unaccompanied homeless youth were under age 18, 119 were ages 18-24.

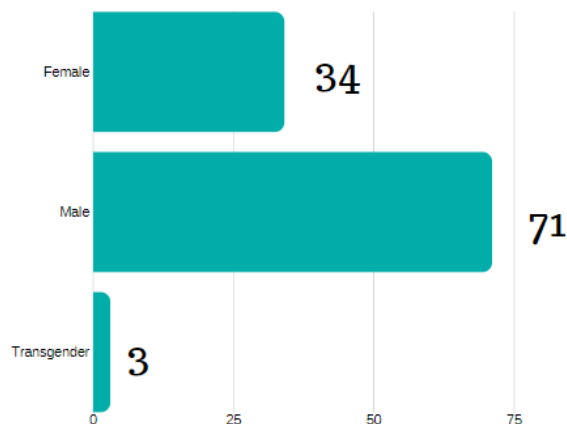
YOUTH PIT COUNT 2019 COMPARED TO EXISTING YOUTH-SPECIFIC RESOURCES



The current youth-specific emergency shelter capacity meets 11% of total youth (under age 24) demand, 85% of the demand for those under 18. There are 20 Rapid Rehousing (RRH) beds for Youth, 19 total Transitional Housing (TH) beds (for female gender identities only), totaling 39 youth-specific units that use Coordinated Entry in Lane County. Total Rapid Rehousing and Transitional Housing units meet 27% of the total housing need for homeless youth.

Gender (unaccompanied youth)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Female	5	14	34	53
Male	16	2	71	89
Transgender	0	0	3	3
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0

GENDER IDENTITY IN UNSHELTERED PIT COUNT 2019



The Youth PIT Count identified 71 male, 34 female, and 3 transgender unsheltered youth. Current youth-specific housing unit inventory does not meet the needs of all gender identities as over half of the youth-specific resources are for female identified youth only. The Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment also identified 631 youth-only households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This data suggests that there are a large number of youth-only households experiencing poverty and potentially housing instability.

Lane County has an asset in the level of urgency and care that advocates and youth themselves have regarding addressing and preventing youth homelessness. The 15th Night collaborative movement includes more than 43 community partners² spanning from housing providers, basic needs assistance, domestic violence programs, taxi services, healthcare, school districts, to police departments, crisis workers, and food security programs. The local technology sector has become engaged and helped to develop mobile applications and other tools to connect youth quickly to advocates and services, including developing the 15th Night Rapid Access Network (RAN) technology at a “Hack for a Cause” event. The Oregon Department of Human Services Public Child Welfare agency (DHS) takes a whole family approach to interrupt the multi-generational cycle of poverty and intervene. Thanks to the work of 15th Night and leadership by Looking Glass, youth voice and choice has been at the center of programming and community action around youth homelessness for many years.

Increasing rates of homelessness in Oregon and the West coast can be linked to external systemic factors, including rising housing costs, low rental vacancies, scarcity of living wage jobs, and demographics unique to Lane County, including more people over age 65 and more people in poverty compared to the national average. A recent homeless service system analysis conservatively estimated that 130 people become newly homeless in Lane County every month.

² www.15thnight.org

Needs Assessment Highlights:

- 15% of the total homeless population counted in the 2018 PIT Count are between the ages of 0-24.
- Of the 461 youth who accessed emergency shelter in 2018, 56% entered from a homeless situation.
- 1 in 20 students in Lane County experienced homelessness during the 2017/18 school year.
- Unaccompanied youth households that are homeless more than doubled from 11 counted in 2017 to 25 in 2018 (2018 PIT Count).
- Lane County Runaway and Homeless Youth programs (Looking Glass) served 1,404 youth in calendar year 2018. Of those, 679 were ages 11-17 and 702 were ages 18-21.
- First Place Family Center served 1,580 children under 18 in CY2018, including 58 parenting youth under 25
- Eugene 4J School District is ranked 6th on a list of the top ten school districts in Oregon with the highest total number of K-12 students experiencing homelessness.
- 32 unaccompanied youth who were housing unstable or homeless (ages 0-17) received SNAP benefits as of March 2019.
- 631 youth-only households receiving SNAP benefits as of March 2019.

Identified Needs:

- The PIT Count identified 119 unaccompanied transition-age youth (18-24) and there are no youth-specific resources for this vulnerable population.
- There are currently no homeless, mental health, or substance use service providers that specifically cater to the unique needs and challenges that LGBTQ+ youth face in Lane County. Many statewide and local reporting tools do not ask or undercount the number of gender and sexual minorities in Lane County.
- While some homeless youth programs have gender specific programming, there are no options specific to youth who identify as non-binary, gender non-conforming, or male. Over half the youth-specific housing resources that take referrals from Coordinated Entry are for females-only.
- Additional resources are needed in rural areas of Lane County (outside of Eugene/Springfield).
- Additional resources are needed for youth who are victims or survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or trafficking.
- Increased outreach and affirmative marketing to Latinx and non-white communities in poverty is needed.
- There is a need to increase high-wage and living wage career employment opportunities for youth.

Risk Factors in the Current Homeless Service System

- Oregon Housing Alliance found that 1 in 3 renters in Lane County pay more than 50% of their income in rent; 3 in 4 renters with extremely low-income pay more than 50% of income in rent.³
- For every 100 families with extremely low-income, 16 affordable housing units are available in Lane County.
- One in twenty K-12 students in Lane County experienced homelessness during the 2017/18 school year.
- The United Way ALICE report found that 58% of all jobs in Oregon are low-wage (less than \$20/hour), with contract positions (non-benefited) increasing, a factor in job and housing insecurity.
- Within the last few years, U.S. inflation increased 9%, while household survival budgets increased by 24-34%, and wage growth has increased 20%. Even with this rise in wage growth, the average Oregon wage and per capita income is still lower than the U.S. average.
- A variety of factors contribute to youth homelessness in Lane County, including those that affect the entire community, affect familial stability, and can exacerbate mental health crises or substance use to cope with stress. Oregon DHS Child Welfare Data Book (2017) reported that in 46.7% of cases of founded abuse, substance use was the largest family stressor.⁴ Leading stress factors of abused and neglected children include domestic violence (29.7%), and parental involvement with law enforcement (22.7%). Families have significant financial stress (14.4%), unemployment issues (7.8%), inadequate housing (9.3%), and parents may have mental illness or were abused as children (15.4%).
- Youth Action Council members identify that youth often run away when home is not safe, or they face rejection from family for their sexual or gender identity. In Lane County, 1 in 5 people (19%) live below the Federal Poverty Level, compared to the national average of 15%.⁵

Youth Point in Time Count 2019

Lane County conducted a Youth Point in Time (PIT) Count in conjunction with the 2019 Point in Time Count. To capitalize on the volunteer engagement in the annual January PIT Count, and under Youth Action Council (YAC) direction, the Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup (YHSWG) and Youth Action Council recommended that a Youth PIT Count be conducted in January 2019.

YHSWG and the YAC developed an implementation plan for the Youth Count, including youth-specific questions for those 24 or under such as: sexual orientation; foster care or juvenile justice involvement; and educational attainment. The Youth PIT Count expanded the definition of homelessness to include couch-surfing, doubling up, and housing unstable youth to capture data on a wide range of youth homelessness experiences. The Youth PIT Count utilized magnet events at public libraries (Teen Centers) for survey collection- including incentives such as food,

³ <http://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Lane-County-2018-color.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ABOUTDHS/LegislativeInformation/2017-Child-Welfare-Data-Book.pdf>

⁵ <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/lane-county-or/>

gift cards, and resource linkages. The Continuum of Care and 15th Night Youth Action Council reviewed Youth Point in Time Count survey instruments from other communities, then developed youth-friendly questions for the local survey. Planned Parenthood’s REV(olution) youth group, Youth Action Council, and other partners promoted the Youth Count in schools, social circles, and directed youth to McKinney Vento liaisons and magnet events. YAC members were onsite at magnet events, promoting a youth-friendly space for survey collection. After the Youth Count, YAC members participated in a focus group to share their experience, feedback on the Youth Count, and guide future planning processes.

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Gender

(unaccompanied youth)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
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Female	5	14	34	53
Male	16	2	71	89
Transgender	0	0	3	3
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

(unaccompanied youth)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	20	15	94	129
Hispanic/Latino	1	1	14	16

Race

(unaccompanied youth)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
White	14	12	89	115
Black or African-American	1	2	2	5
Asian	1	0	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	4	4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	3	3
Multiple Races	5	2	10	17

A comprehensive analysis encompassing the entirety of the Youth PIT Count data is not yet available, a separate report is forthcoming. However, the data available at the time of this report identified 145 unaccompanied youth, with 21 in Emergency Shelter (6 youth under age 18), 16 in Transitional Housing (6 youth under age 18), and 108 unsheltered (14 youth under age 18). A total of 26 unaccompanied homeless youth were under age 18, 119 were ages 18-24. The current youth-specific emergency shelter capacity meets 11% of total youth (under age 24) demand, 85% of the demand for those under 18.

Youth-Specific Housing Units in Lane County

Continuum of Care⁶ (OR-500 Lane County/Eugene/Springfield) staff reviewed the current inventory of housing and shelter units dedicated to youth. They identified the following inventory:

- 12 year-round Emergency Shelter beds for youth (ages 11-17) through Looking Glass Station 7.
- 19 Transitional Housing units (female-only) through Looking Glass (6 units) and St. Vincent de Paul's Girls Youth House (13 units).
- 20 Rapid Rehousing units that use coordinated entry, all through Looking Glass; 10 McKenzie Rapid Rehousing (Continuum of Care-funded) and 10 units state-funded (Emergency Housing Account) Rapid Rehousing.

There are other permanent housing options for youth in Lane County with referral systems outside of Coordinated Entry (referrals from Looking Glass, community members, McKinney-Vento liaisons and other youth providers):

- 12 units prioritized for former foster youth (NEDCO Polk St. Apartments)
- 15 units for youth with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), ages 18-25 at entry through ShelterCare.
- Looking Glass operates an 18 month Transitional Living Program (TLP) for youth ages 16-21 (capacity for 20).
- Youth over 18 can access the Eugene Mission Emergency Shelter (230 male beds, 65 female beds), Annex Family Shelter (parenting-youth- 18 family capacity) but they are not youth-specific resources.

Service providers such as ShelterCare, Catholic Community Services, and St. Vincent de Paul provide additional Rapid Rehousing (83 Units, 190 Beds) and Permanent Supportive Housing (443 Units, 548 Beds) through programs that use Coordinated Entry but are not youth-specific. Over 50% of Lane County's Permanent Supportive Housing units are for veterans-only through the HUD-VASH program.

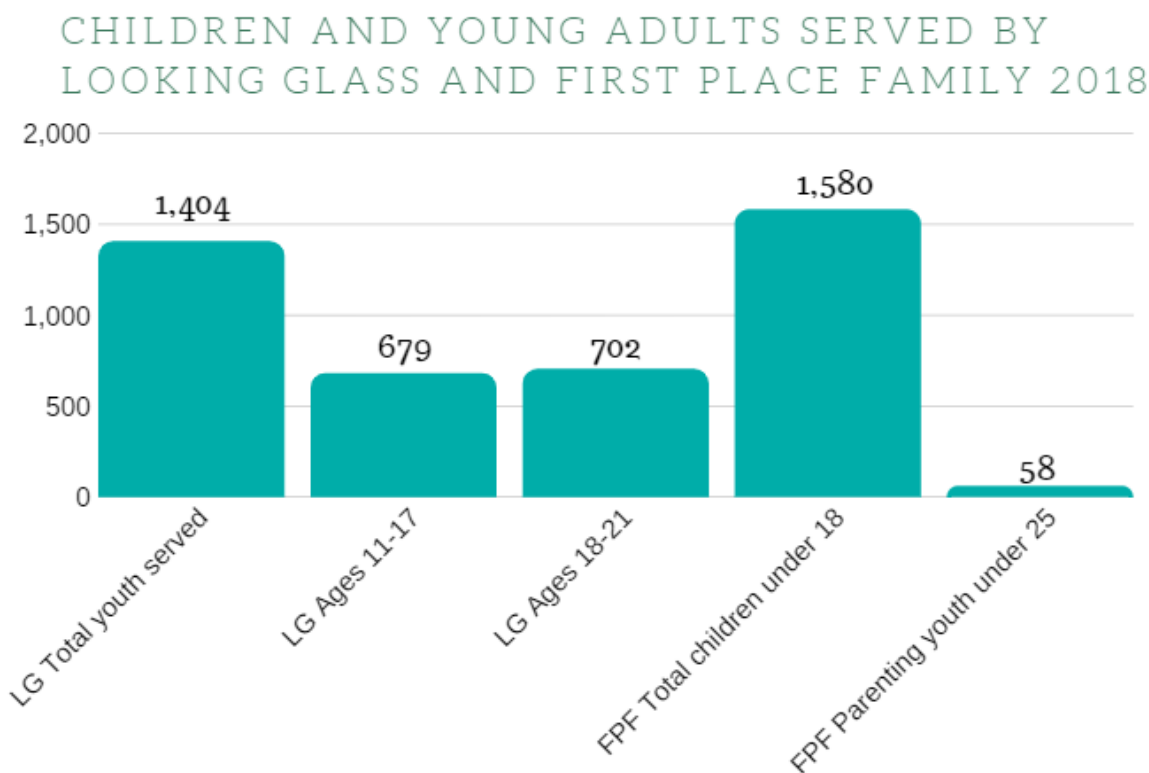
Most CoC-funded programs and all Permanent Supportive Housing programs utilizing Coordinated Entry are not youth-focused, meaning that youth may be matched with agencies they are not comfortable working with or which may not adequately meet their needs. Youth may be referred to a housing resource through a provider that they do not have a relationship with, when they have started to develop a relationship with the youth-serving front door agency (Looking Glass) or other youth-serving providers.

Needs evolve as youth enter adulthood, and youth-specific Permanent Supportive Housing models pose a challenge. The CoC struggles with voucher or tenant-based programs due to extremely low rental vacancy (1.7%), and even lower affordable unit rental vacancy. These challenges are exacerbated for youth with little or no rental history, little or no credit history, and low-wage employment. In response, the CoC has implemented a Landlord Partnership Program,

⁶ Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development.
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

developed a Risk Mitigation Fund, and works diligently to build relationships with landlords, which are vital to the success of these models.

Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness



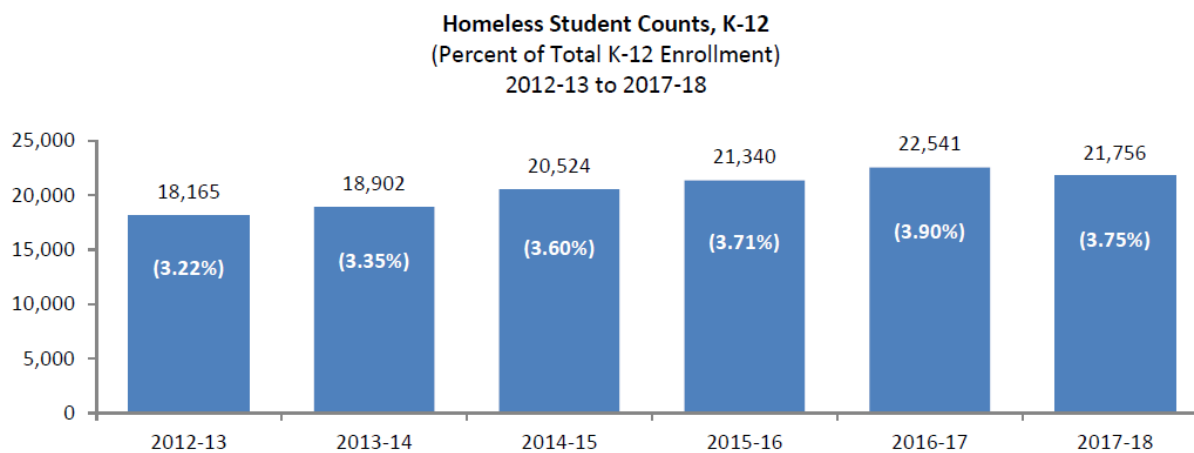
Lane County Runaway and Homeless Youth programs (Looking Glass) served 1,404 youth in calendar year 2018. Of those, 679 were ages 11-17 and 702 were ages 18-21. First Place Family Center served 1,580 children under 18 in CY2018, including 58 parenting youth under 25. Of the total homeless population (2018 PIT) 15% were ages 0-24.

The largest school district in Lane County, Eugene 4J, ranks 6th in the state for total number of homeless students and Lane County ranks 3rd in total homeless students in Oregon. In 2018, 286 youth aged out of foster care. Based on the findings and estimated number of youth experiencing poverty and homelessness, it is evident that the current unit inventory is inadequate to meet the volume of youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Students Experiencing Homelessness

In 1987, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program (HEARTH act) codified and ensured the right of homeless children and youth to have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children. Students qualify for McKinney-Vento Homeless Program assistance

when they reside in living situations that are not fixed, regular, and/or adequate. The Act requires that every district designate a Homeless Liaison (McKinney Vento liaison) to identify and provide services to homeless students and to contribute to the annual data collection on public school-enrolled homeless children and youth.⁷



McKinney Vento liaisons collect data on youth in preschool through 12th grade who experience housing instability or literal homelessness. The State of Oregon Department of Education reported that 21,756 homeless students attended public schools in the 2017/2018 school year.

What are the Living Situations of Homeless Students in Oregon?

School Year	In Shelters	Sharing Housing	Unsheltered	Motels
2015-16	1,926	16,163	2,377	1,210
2016-17	1,999	17,210	2,515	1,124
2017-18	1,817	16,399	2,549	1,236

The majority of homeless students in Oregon were in “shared housing” meaning couch-surfing or staying with friends or family, where the youth or family is not on the lease and cannot stay there for longer than 30 days. There are more unsheltered youth than sheltered youth attending public schools in Oregon. There are almost as many homeless students staying in motels as there are staying in shelters.

⁷ <https://www.oregon.gov/ode>; <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/esea/mckinney-vento/pages/default.aspx>

Homeless Students in Lane County, by district, 2017-18 school year

District	PreKTotal	K12 Total	K12 Shelter	K12 Double	K12 Hot	K12 Unsheltered	K12 Unaccompanied
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0	47	0	47	0	0	0
Eugene SD 4J	59	864	134	570	41	119	293
Springfield SD 19	55	450	28	296	53	73	141
Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	62	*	53	*	*	19
Mapleton SD 32	0	43	*	38	0	*	*
Creswell SD 40	0	70	19	45	0	6	19
South Lane SD 45J3	14	100	1	65	16	18	41
Bethel SD 52	0	464	24	385	14	41	88
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	0	*	0	*	0	0	*
McKenzie SD 68	0	43	*	34	0	7	6
Junction City SD 69	0	53	10	43	0	0	*
Lowell SD 71	2	40	*	31	7	0	*
Oakridge SD 76	0	19	0	14	0	*	*
Marcola SD 79J	0	29	*	23	0	*	*
Blachly SD 90	0	10	0	*	7	*	*
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	76	*	53	6	15	*
		2370	216	1697	144	279	607

In the 2017/18 Homeless Student Count, 16 school districts in Lane County reported a total of 2,370 K-12 youth experiencing homelessness (note some reported numbers may be distinct due to suppressed totals when homeless youth in a school district was from 1-5), 607 unaccompanied homeless youth, 279 unsheltered, 1,697 doubled up. This equates to 1 in 20 students in Lane County experiencing homelessness.

Eugene 4J School District is ranked 6th among the top ten school districts with the highest total number of homeless students. Of the 36 counties in Oregon, Lane County ranks 3rd in total number of students experiencing homelessness, below Multnomah County (Portland) and Washington County (Portland suburb). Of the 36 counties in Oregon, Lane County ranks fourth in total population size.⁸

Districts with the Highest Number of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2017-18	% of enrollment 2017-18
Beaverton SD 48J	1,799	4.40%
Medford SD 549C	1,164	8.16%
Portland SD 1J	1,142	2.35%
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	1,065	2.54%
Reynolds SD 7	866	7.68%
Eugene SD 4J	864	4.98%
Lincoln Co. SD	825	14.93%
Grants Pass SD 7	500	8.17%
Three Rivers/Josephine Co. SD	477	9.84%
Bend-LaPine SD 1	467	2.55%

⁸ https://www.oregon-demographics.com/counties_by_population

Unaccompanied Youth in Lane County Schools 2018/2019 school year to date

School District	Unaccompanied Youth Counted 2018/2019 school year (up to March 2019)
Eugene 4J	225
Springfield School District	140
Bethel School District	87
South Lane	56

Information from McKinney Vento Liaisons for the four largest school districts in Lane County regarding unaccompanied youth (not accompanied by a parent or guardian) counted in the 2018/2019 school year so far (through March 2019 at the time of this report) demonstrates 225 youth in Eugene 4J, 140 in Springfield, 87 in Bethel. Data from the other 12 school districts was unavailable at time of this report.

Percent of Homeless Student District Enrollment in Lane County (2016-2017 school year)

District Name	2016-17 Homeless K-12 Total	Percent of District Enrollment
Bethel SD 52	550	9.76%
Blachly SD 90	13	5.16%
Creswell SD 40	30	2.36%
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	1	0.40%
Eugene SD 4J	835	4.80%
Fern Ridge SD 28J	61	4.30%
Junction City SD 69	107	6.32%
Lowell SD 71	51	8.75%
Mapleton SD 32	30	19.74%
Marcola SD 79J	0	0.00%
McKenzie SD 68	35	18.82%
Oakridge SD 76	19	3.54%
Pleasant Hill SD 1	41	4.04%
Siuslaw SD 97J	72	5.19%
South Lane SD 45J3	142	5.06%
Springfield SD 19	463	4.18%

The chart above demonstrates the percentage of total enrolled students that experienced homelessness for at least one night in each of the 16 school districts in Lane County. The chart demonstrates that Bethel SD has 9.76% of district enrollment, a total of 550 K-12 students (both accompanied and unaccompanied) experienced homelessness during the 2016-2017 school year. Mapleton School District reported 19.74% of students (30 total) experiencing homelessness or housing instability during the school year. Eugene 4J- the largest school district by volume of students enrolled- saw 4.8% of students enrolled experience homelessness, totaling 835.

15th Night Rapid Access Network

The 15th Night Rapid Access Network (RAN) connects over 43 providers to meet the needs of youth attending school in Eugene and Springfield. The RAN (an information phone/text line) connects youth advocates to a coordinated network of over 43 providers who respond to alerts. Sometimes more than one provider responds to an alert, allowing for youth choice of provider. The RAN responds in real time to meet the needs of youth, including shelter, housing, food, clothing, counseling or other services. Most alerts are resolved within 24 hours, many within one hour. RAN provides clear information and facilitates quick access to resources, reducing the shame associated with youth homelessness. From October 2018 to April 2019, 161 alerts were sent by youth advocates for 245 needs/services.

The three most common requests in the RAN were for food, shelter and housing, and basic needs. Food requests include assistance with food stamp (SNAP) applications, gift certificates/vouchers to purchase food, emergency food, and food box locations. Shelter and housing requests include connection with a housing specialist, emergency shelter, and Host Home referrals. At this time, McKinney-Vento Liaisons are the only point of contact that can make Host Home referrals as the existing program is directly related to school involvement and enrollment. Basic needs requests include personal care products, clothing, shoes, small household appliances, laundry, and cell phones (there is a program where youth in some school districts can receive free cell phones).

Youth Accessing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Department of Human Services (Public Child Welfare Agency) District 5 staff compiled Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) data for youth who are age 24 or under. DHS staff determined that they could pull some data to better understand youth homelessness by focusing on any cases with reported addresses that indicate something other than a fixed residence (such as temporary, living in car, homeless, camping, couch-surfing). This data looked at youth listed as their head of household (unaccompanied youth) who were not coded as a child on a parent's case. These represent youth-only households. Some of these youth cases have additional members in the household such as a partner, spouse, or their own child. Those additional people are included in the 'total people' cell. This data reflects a "Point in Time" look at SNAP participants from March 2019.

Limitations of the data include that the gender is only able to be pulled for head of household and the current system only allows for Male and Female options, i.e. a gender binary.

SNAP recipients with no fixed residence listed

	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-24
Male head of household	12	281
Female head of household	20	273
Total number of cases	32	554
Cottage Grove/Creswell	0	23
Eugene	17	320
Florence	2	24
Rural Lane County	1	35
Springfield	12	152
More than 1 person in household	2	55
Total people	34	631

Assuming the methodology of pulling data for youth who do not have a fixed residence associated with their SNAP benefits (indicating housing instability or homelessness), the number of unaccompanied housing unstable/homeless youth age 17 or under receiving SNAP benefits was 32, while youth on their own ages 18-24 receiving SNAP benefits was 554. Consistent with the total population in the urban areas, both cities of Eugene and Springfield had the highest total number of youth who are either housing unstable or homeless receiving SNAP benefits.

LGBTQ+ Risk Factors

Nationwide data demonstrates that LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience homelessness and family conflict due to their gender identity and sexual orientation than non-LGBTQ+ youth.⁹ The Williams Institute report of LGBT Youth who are homeless or at risk of being homeless provides an often cited statistic that 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Nationally, 7% of youth are considered to be a sexual minority.¹⁰

Local data to calculate LGBTQ+ youth numbers and need for this population is minimal, and thus estimates and survey results are key to determining population and need. Additionally, the likelihood of underreporting where surveys and other data collection does take place should be a consideration. Additional challenges arise due to groupings being inconsistent across survey instruments. For example, survey tools may utilize different definitions of sexual orientation, gender identity, or LGBTQ+, or listing included definitions and breaking down subpopulations such as transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming.

⁹ <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Durso-Gates-LGBT-Homeless-Youth-Survey-July-2012.pdf>

¹⁰ http://www.oregonyouthdevelopmentcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Questioning-Youth-Position-Paper_YDC.pdf

In 2017, the Oregon Healthy Teen survey expanded demographic questions to include transgender, gender fluid, and other non-binary answers. About 6% of 11th graders reported non-binary or multiple gender answers.¹¹

There are minimal resources to reliably identify the number of LGBTQ+ youth in Lane County. Youth Action Council (YAC) members identified that local data underreports the number of youth who identify as a gender or sexual minority. The reasons for this underreporting are myriad, including fears of identifying on a government form (i.e. reporting in HMIS or other data systems); fear of repercussion or denial of service; social stigma; confusion about gender identity in general and the implications it may have on their overall identity; and fear that family or people they do not want to know their gender identity may find out if it is disclosed in any written way.

The LGBTQ+ population benefits from the State of Oregon and Lane County's enhanced legal protections for LGBT accessibility, including a ban on insurance exclusions for transgender healthcare and state statutes prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodation. Crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity are classified as hate or bias crimes. The City of Eugene Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement releases an annual report, has a Hate & Bias Incident Response Plan and prevention/response toolkit for the community. Eugene Police Department officers have been trained on classifying/identifying hate crimes.

Lane County has taken action through programmatic oversight and training to ensure equal access to services for the LGBT population. Lane County conducts Continuum of Care (CoC) and other programmatic monitoring visits wherein subcontractors must describe and substantiate how their agencies ensure equal access for LGBTQ+ populations. CoC provider staff have access to training on cultural awareness and specialized services for LGBTQ+ individuals through community resources, including the local nonprofit Trans*Ponder.

For the 2018 Point in Time Count, volunteers were trained how to ask gender identity questions in a non-judgmental culturally appropriate way. In the 2019 Youth Specific Point in Time Count, youth were asked their sexual orientation. This was the first time that an HMIS survey has asked about sexual orientation. PIT Count clipboards used by volunteers have rainbow stickers on them to identify that volunteers had been trained and create a safe space for dialogue. The CoC scheduled a discussion for a future all-member Continuum of Care meeting to discuss how Lane County's homeless service system addresses the unique needs of LGBTQ+ populations experiencing homelessness.

There are currently no homeless, mental health, or substance use service providers that specifically cater to the unique needs and challenges that LGBTQ+ youth face in Lane County. Some providers have "Safe Space" diversity training and have welcoming staff, but no services are specifically designed to serve LGBTQ+ youth. This represents a significant gap and need in the youth homeless service system.

¹¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Documents/sha/state-health-assessment-full-report.pdf>

In addition, while there are two Transitional Housing projects for youth who identify as female, there are no projects that make space for gender non-conforming or non-binary youth. Almost all service models force youth to default to the gender binary, even if the intake forms ask about a spectrum of gender identity. There is much room for improvement to enhance the availability of culturally responsive services to support LGBTQ+ youth, especially given the high incidence of discrimination and bias directed towards gender and sexual minorities.

It is important to consider access for the entire LGBTQ+ population as gender expectations for gender segregated services can impact youth (and adults) who challenge social norms around gender whether it be due to sexuality, gender, gender expression or presentation, gender identity, etc. It is also important to consider transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming individuals needs specifically as exclusion of these individuals and other forms of discrimination continue. Examples of this include “girls” and “boys” housing being developed without an option for those who do not identify amongst those groups, or intentional work to make services accessible and safe for those whose presentation isn’t perceived the way they identify.

Population health data are not available on the percentage of adults who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming in Oregon.¹² However, a 2016 report from the Williams Institute used BRFSS data from other states to generate national and state estimates for the transgender adult population. The report estimates that 0.6% of U.S. adults (about 1.4 million individuals) and 0.65% Oregon adults (about 20,000) identify as transgender.

Oregon 2016 BRFSS data included LGB identities (but had only Male/Female for gender identities) which showed that amongst 18-24-year-olds 86.6% identify as straight, 3.2% identify as gay or lesbian, 7.5% as bisexual, and 2.7% as something else.¹³

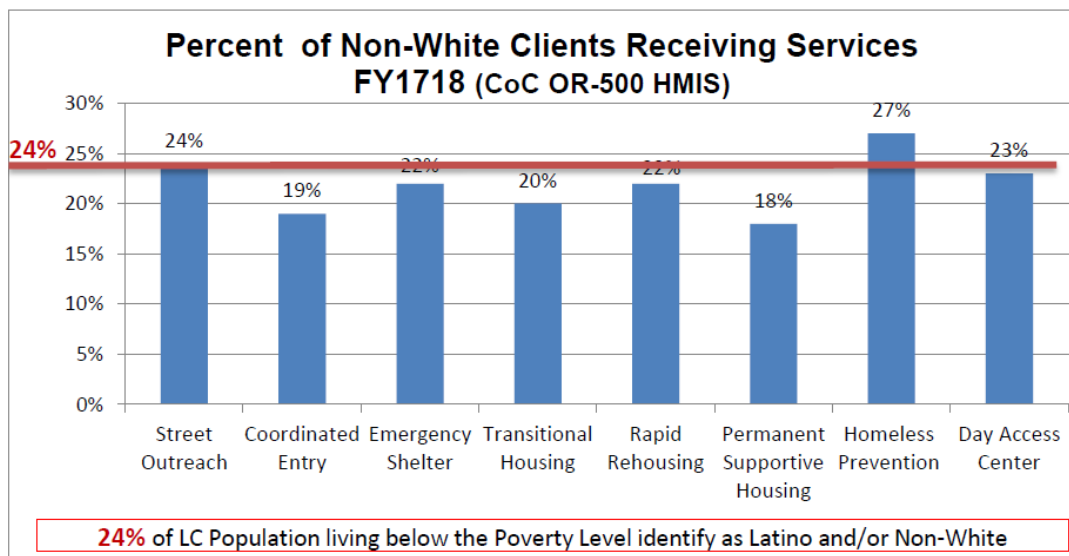
Racial Disparities in Lane County

Lane County Continuum of Care conducted a Racial Disparity Review which examined data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and looked at the 49,270 clients who received services tracked in HMIS between July 2017 and June 2018.

Countywide, people who identify as Latinx and/or Non-White account for 18% of the total population, while people who are non-white or Latinx represented 24% of the population living in poverty. One in five (19.6%) people in Lane County, Oregon are living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For a household of four, the annual income is at or below \$25,100 (\$2,091.67 per month). Of people who identify as Latinx and/or Non-White, the percentage is 33% higher than the County average, at 24% living below the FPL, while 76% of those in poverty identify as White/Non-Latinx.

¹² <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Pages/state-health-assessment.aspx>

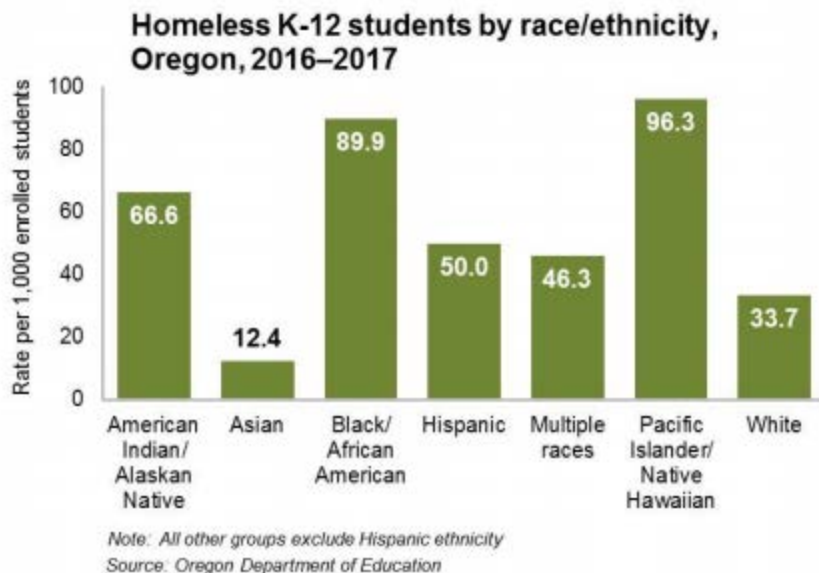
¹³ <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/ADULTBEHAVIORRISK/BRFSSRESULTS/Documents/2016/Demographics16.pdf>



The review found that 26% of the clients seeking services tracked in HMIS identified as Latino and/or Non-White. However, of the clients who had a Coordinated Entry assessment (Front Door assessment) for housing placement, only 19% identified as Latino and/or Non-White and only 18% were housed with Permanent Supportive Housing. This demonstrates which projects are not serving Latinx and/or Non-White populations as would be expected based on the poverty rate—including Coordinated Entry, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.

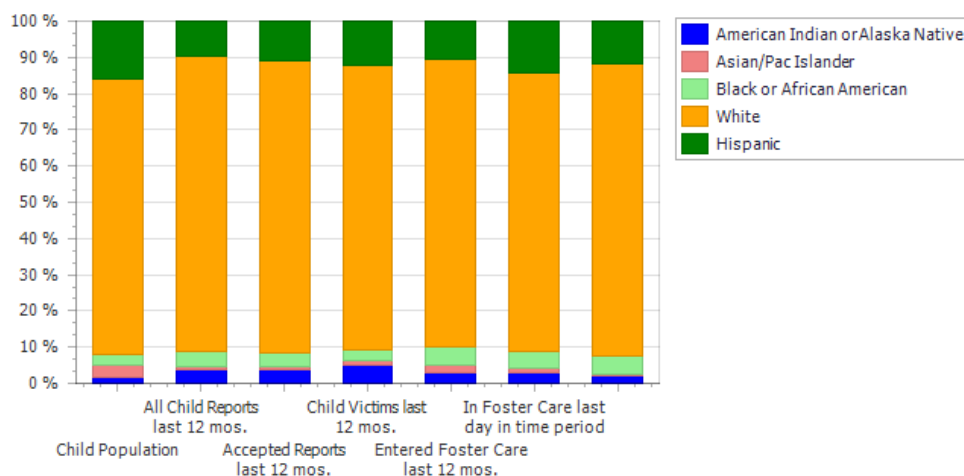
In almost every project type (Street Outreach, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelter), clients who identified as White were overrepresented while clients who identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Asian or Latinx/Hispanic were underrepresented. Only in Supportive Services Only Projects (Food Pantries, Community Access Centers for basic Needs) and Homeless Prevention projects were White clients underrepresented.

The University of Oregon’s international student population may explain the higher percentage of low income (<FPL) people identifying as Asian in the community and explain why this population did not seek or receive services as tracked in the HMIS. Almost two-thirds (73%) of all the Asian persons in the census report who were below the Federal Poverty level were between 18 and 24 years old. By comparison, 27% of the low income White population were between 18 and 24 years old.



Information from the Oregon Department of Education shows that the highest rates of student homelessness in Oregon are among Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiians, African Americans, and American Indian/Alaska Natives.¹⁴ Based on K-12 homeless student data from the 2016-2017 school year, for every 1,000 enrolled students, 12.7 were Asian, 33.7 were White, 50 were Hispanic, 46.3 were multiple races, 96.3 were Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, 89.9 were African American, 66.6 were American Indian/Alaskan Native. This demonstrates a significant racial disparity in the number of K-12 students experiencing homelessness (per the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness) in Oregon schools.

Representation by Race at Child Welfare Decision Points in Lane County CY2018¹⁵



Child welfare data specific to Lane County demonstrates child welfare involvement in calendar year 2018. The child population in Lane County is 76% white, and 79% of child victims in the

¹⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/ABOUT/Documents/indicators/homeless.pdf>

¹⁵ https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon_Public/AllViews.aspx?R=230

reporting period of 12 months were white, 80% entered foster care, 81% exited foster care in the 12 month period. Black or African-American children are approximately 3% of the child population in Lane County, represent 4% of all child abuse reports in the 12 month reporting period, and 3% child victims in the 12 month reporting period, 5% of the black child population entered foster care, 5% exited foster care in the 12 month reporting period. The number of Black or African-American children entering the foster care system is slightly higher (5%) than the percentage of Black or African-American children in Lane County (3%). The number of American Indian or Alaska Native children entering foster care in CY2018 was 3%, whereas AIAN children constitute just 2% of the child population in Lane County.

Youth Warming Shelter

The Egan Warming Center (EWC) is a low-barrier emergency overflow shelter activated in the winter months when temperatures are forecast below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. The EWC is a coalition of community partners who came together in 2008 after the death of Major Thomas Egan, a homeless veteran who froze to death during a cold spell that year. Actively led and supported by the Continuum of Care and the Poverty and Homelessness Board, the EWC collaborative of social service providers, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, social welfare advocates, and local governments work together to ensure that people experiencing homelessness have food and shelter in the winter. CoC Co-Applicant and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipient St. Vincent de Paul is responsible for the operation and sustainability of the EWC, including recruiting and training hundreds of community volunteers.

In 2012, homeless youth identified the need for a youth-specific EWC site and a Youth Egan site was established. In 2018, Youth Action Council members asked that low utilization of the Youth Egan site be addressed by the Continuum of Care. St. Vincent de Paul and the Youth Action Council met to address low utilization. EWC activated 22 nights winter 2018/19: the first activation had 8 youth staying at the Youth Site; by the end of winter, the Youth Site had a one-night census high of 30 youth. Youth engagement from the YAC, combined with Youth Homeless Solutions Workgroup planning and outreach was instrumental to the utilization increase. High utilization demonstrates the need for low-barrier emergency shelter options. Over the 2018/19 winter season, 77 unduplicated youth accessed the Youth Egan Site. The typical age range of those served at the Youth Egan Site ranged from 11 to 25.

Language Accessibility

HMIS began collecting “preferred language” as a data point for homeless clients in 2018. There is insufficient data to determine if diverse language accessibility needs are being met in Lane County’s youth-serving programs. One of the management qualifications for contractors of Lane County’s Continuum of Care included the requirement to have a functioning language accessibility plan.

Adolescent Suicides in Lane County

Lane County saw a rise in adolescent suicides in the past two years (2017-2018). Lane County Public Health averages seven adolescent suicides a year, however Lane County had 5 suicides of people ages 11 to 24 in the first quarter of 2018 alone. The suicides in early 2018 prompted Lane County Public Health to implement an incident command structure, which is an emergency

preparedness tool that directs County staff to address a specific public health concern above all others. The ICS goal was to connect the community with more resources to prevent suicide. Lane County Public Health communicated with clinical providers, school staff, teachers, and students about suicide prevention, bereavement, and other resources.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Oregon residents ages 15 to 34.¹⁶ Lane County's suicide rate is 50% greater than the national average.¹⁷ The intersectionality of LGBTQ+ identity and suicide was not analyzed within the "Suicide in Lane County: Trends, Risk Factors and Recommendations 2000-2016" report, the most recent report available regarding suicide in Lane County. The report noted that neither vital records nor the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System captures information on gender or sexual minorities, so it is not possible to identify disparities with certainty. The erasure of LGBTQ+ identities in these vital reporting mechanisms in itself demonstrates a disparity of forced invisibility.

Most high-prevalence mental illnesses associated with suicide (e.g. depression and anxiety) emerge during adolescence and early adulthood, often before the age of fourteen. LGBTQ+ identity or orientation, as well as running away and experiencing homelessness can be a symptom of or exacerbate mental illness.

Youth Exiting Foster Care

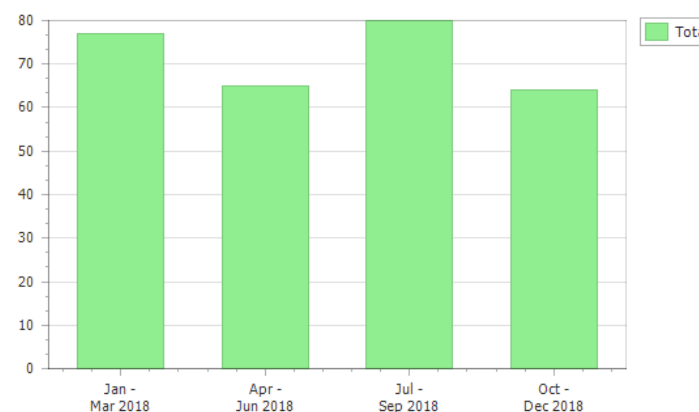
The data from the Oregon Child Welfare data set depicts that every quarter between 64 and 80 youth are aging out of foster care (turning 18).¹⁸ A total of 286 youth aged out of foster care in calendar year 2018.

Oregon DHS Child Welfare District 5 plays a significant role in serving homeless children under 18 in Lane County when homelessness is a result of abuse or neglect and children are in the legal custody of the department. For youth under the age of 18 in the care and custody of DHS, child welfare takes responsibility to provide safe housing, work towards permanency, provide educational opportunities, and provide access to the Independent Living Program (ILP).

Oregon Youth Exiting Foster Care on/after turning 18

Count of youth on/over 18 discharged, over time

Report Time Period: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018



¹⁶

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/INJURYFATALITYDATA/Documents/NVDRS/Suicide%20in%20Oregon%202015%20report.pdf>

¹⁷ Lane County Health and Human Services. (2018). Suicide in Lane County: Trends, Risk Factors and Recommendations 2000-2016. Lane County, OR

https://lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/health_and_human_services/public_health/public_health_news/lane_county_public_health_releases_suicide_report

¹⁸ https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon_Public/AllViews.aspx?R=6107

ILP is a core service made available to youth at age 16, and provides training and classes to prepare youth to live independently. The ILP Housing Subsidy Program can provide a decreasing subsidy for housing payments for up to 30 months. For youth in care up until age 18 there is the option to open a voluntary case and eligibility for placement services resources which may include the ILP Housing Subsidy Program and Chafee Housing Programs until age 21.

No additional child welfare/DHS services are available to youth age 22-24, with the exception of educational training vouchers. DHS does not have any programs for youth over 18 with general past child welfare or foster care involvement, unless they are connected to child welfare in the ways described above. This represents a gap in services, as child welfare involvement impacts life course development and research demonstrates that children, youth, and families who experience homelessness or housing instability are more likely to be involved with the Child Welfare system than families with stable housing. Multiple studies have found that youth aging out of foster care and transitioning are at high risk for homelessness during the transition, with one study finding that between 31% and 46% of study participants experienced homelessness at least once between aging out of foster care and turning 26.¹⁹

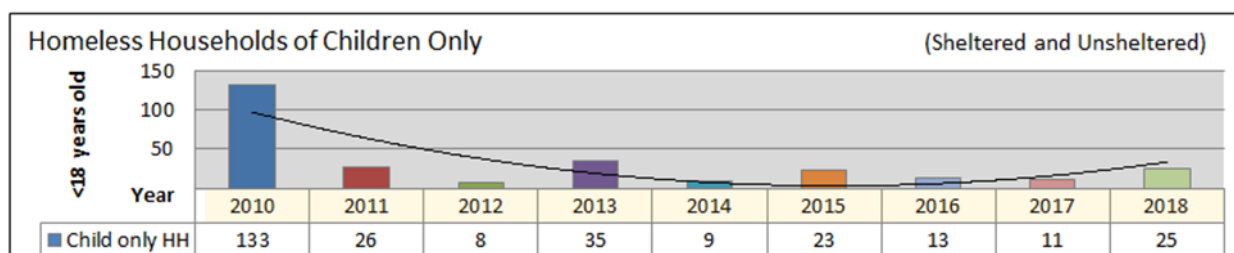
Provider Data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Age Breakdown in 2018 Point in Time Count

Fifteen percent of the total homeless population counted in the 2018 PIT Count were between the ages of 0-24 (this includes individuals in families where household members are older than 24).

	ALL	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Age 0-5	4%	7%	2%
Age 6-12	4%	6%	3%
Age 13-17	3%	5%	2%
Age 18-24	7%	5%	8%
Age 25-44	35%	29%	38%
Age 45-54	21%	19%	22%
Age 55-64	21%	22%	21%
Age 65-88	5%	6%	5%

Point in Time Count Homeless Households of Children Only comparison 2010 to 2018



Unsheltered count locations included the streets, under bridges, parks and other places not meant for human habitation, as well as food pantries, day access centers, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs. Children-only households are households where all

¹⁹ Dworsky A, Napolitano L, Courtney ME. Homelessness during the transition from foster care to adulthood. American Journal of Public Health. 2013;103:318–323

members are less than 18 years old, also known as unaccompanied youth. Unaccompanied youth households that are homeless jumped from 11 to 25 between 2017 and 2018.

Parenting Youth in HMIS During CY2018

Parenting Youth				
	Total Parenting Youth	Total Children of Parenting Youth	Total Persons	Total Households
Parenting youth < 18	0	0	0	0
Parenting youth 18 to 24	49	49	98	39
TOTAL	49	49	98	39

ServicePoint data indicated that no parenting youth under age 18 were served in calendar year 2018 by homeless service providers. Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup members considered this and identified that youth parenting under age 18 could be accessing different systems and identified prior to entering the homeless service system. Although it is unknown, ideally parenting youth under 18 are served by other safety net systems and that could be why they are not appearing in the Homeless Management Information System.

Youth in Transitional Housing Projects (CY2018)

Youth in TH Projects - Age of Youth				
	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Total
12-17 years	0		15	15
18 - 24 years	12	4	0	16
TOTAL	12	4	15	31

Youth in TH Projects-Parenting Youth				
	Total Parenting Youth	Total Children of Parenting Youth	Total Persons	Total Households
Parenting youth < 18	0	0	0	0
Parenting youth 18 to 24	4	7	3	6
TOTAL	4	7	3	6

Gender - Youth in TH Projects				
	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Total
Male	4	1	0	5
Female	8	3	13	24
Trans Female (MTF or Male to Female)				0
Trans Male (FTM or Female to Male)				0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not Male or Female)	0	0	2	2
Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused				0
Data not collected				0
TOTAL	12	4	15	31

The demographics of youth in Transitional Housing projects are skewed towards females between the ages of 16-18 due to the two largest Transitional Housing projects (Looking Glass TH and SVdP Youth House) having female-gender-identity as an eligibility criteria. The CoC does not have any projects specifically dedicated to serving gender non-binary, gender non-conforming, or males.

Living Situation - Youth (Residence/Living Situation Prior to Entry)				
	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Total
Homeless Situations				
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher	2	4	4	10
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	0	0	0	0
Place not meant for habitation	32	17	2	51
Safe Haven	0	0	0	0
Interim Housing	0	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>61</i>
Institutional Settings				
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	0	0	0	0
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	0	0	0	0
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	0	0	0	0
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	0	0	0	0
Foster care home or foster care group home	0	0	1	1
Long-term care facility or nursing home	0	0	0	0
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	1	0	0	1
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Other Locations				
Permanent Housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons	0	0	0	0
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	28	24	0	50
Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Rental by client, with other housing subsidy (including RRH)	1	0	0	1
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	0	0	0	0
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house	8	1	1	10
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	6	7	1	14
Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused	1	0	0	1
Data not collected	0	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>76</i>
Total	77	53	9	139

Of the 139 youth ages 12-24 served by projects in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) location prior to project entry varies, with 51 living in a place not meant for human habitation (literally homeless), 10 in Emergency Shelter, and 1 in foster care. Fifty of the youth who entered HMIS projects came from a rental by client, with no housing subsidy, 24

were couch-surfing, which indicates a total of 76 coming from unstable housing situations, 61 from homeless situations, and 2 from institutional settings.

Living Situation - Youth (Residence/Living Situation Prior to Entry in Emergency Shelter Project)				
	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Total
Homeless Situations				
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher	21	3	17	41
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	1	0	1	2
Place not meant for habitation	160	8	38	206
Safe Haven	0	1	1	2
Interim Housing	4	0	5	9
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>260</i>
Institutional Settings				
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	6	0	0	6
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	1	0	0	1
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	3	0	3	6
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	8	0	1	9
Foster care home or foster care group home	1	0	5	6
Long-term care facility or nursing home	0	0	0	0
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	1	0	1	2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>30</i>
Other Locations				
Permanent Housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons	0	0	0	0
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	1	0	0	1
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	0	1	2	3
Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy	0	0	0	0
Rental by client, with other housing subsidy (including RRH)	1	0	1	2
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	2	0	0	2
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house	23	3	27	53
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	16	4	86	106
Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused	1	0	1	2
Data not collected	2	0	0	2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>171</i>
Total	252	20	189	461

Of the 461 youth in emergency shelter, 260 (56%) entered from a homeless situation.

Living situation prior to project entry is often determined by program eligibility by funder or project type. Most projects in HMIS that serve youth have eligibility criteria requiring literal homelessness prior to entry into the project. For example, 22 of the 31 youth served in Transitional Housing projects were literally homeless at program entry – and that is a program requirement.

Length of Participation - Youth			
	Leavers	Stayers	Total
30 days or less	26	6	32
31 to 60 days	20	4	24
61 to 90 days	12	5	17
91 to 180 days	13	18	31
181 to 365 days	11	6	17
366 to 730 Days (1-2 Yrs)	7	6	13
731 to 1,095 Days (2-3 Yrs)	3	1	4
1,096 to 1,460 Days (3-4 Yrs)	0	1	1
1,461 to 1,825 Days (4-5 Yrs)	0	0	0
More than 1,825 Days (>5 Yrs)	0	0	0
Data not collected	0	0	0
Total	92	47	139

Length of participation indicates the length of time a youth is listed as “active” in a project. The majority of youth served by HMIS projects stay in a program 30 days or less. “Leavers” are individuals who left a program during the date range (calendar year 2018), and “Stayers” are individuals who were still in a project on December 31, 2018 (the last day of the reporting period).

For transitional housing and street outreach projects, the majority of youth stay 91-180 days. The vast majority of youth stay in emergency shelter for 30 days or less.

When examining exit destinations for all projects, the CoC and community goal is for youth to exit programs into permanent housing destinations. Of all youth served in HMIS in calendar year 2018, 72% exited to permanent housing.

Positive exits to permanent housing broken down by project type are as follows: Transitional Housing 33% exit to positive destinations; eighteen percent of youth exit Emergency Shelter to permanent housing destinations; this is likely underreported as much of the exit data was not collected. For Street Outreach projects, 2% of youth exit to permanent housing destinations. This is likely due to the nature of street outreach projects, where a worker may see an individual only once on the street and may not know where individuals exit. However, this does represent a gap in our system- that street outreach projects supply individuals with basic needs but do not provide adequate linkages to housing. External factors such as staffing ratios, coordination of street outreach, and lack of affordable housing in the community affect this outcome as well. These have been explored in the Public Shelter Feasibility and Homeless Service System analysis conducted by Technical Assistance Collaborative in 2018.²⁰

²⁰ www.LaneCounty.org/ShelterStudy

Youth in Emergency Shelter Projects (CY2018)

Age of Youth in Emergency Shelter Projects				
	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Total
12-17 years	0	6	189	195
18 - 24 years	252	14	0	266
TOTAL	252	20	189	461

Parenting Youth in Emergency Shelter Projects				
	Total Parenting Youth	Total Children of Parenting Youth	Total Persons	Total Households
Parenting youth < 18	0	0	0	0
Parenting youth 18 to 24	13	15	28	11
TOTAL	13	15	28	11

Gender - Youth in Emergency Shelter Projects				
	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Total
Male	183	4	102	289
Female	65	16	77	158
Trans Female (MTF or Male to Female)	2	0	1	3
Trans Male (FTM or Female to Male)	1	0	3	4
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not Male or Female)	1	0	6	7
Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused	0	0	0	0
Data not collected	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	252	20	189	461

A total of 189 unaccompanied youth ages 12-17 stayed in Emergency Shelter in CY2018, while 252 youth 18-24 stayed in Emergency Shelter. No parenting youth under 18 were reported as staying in Emergency Shelter in CY2018. Of the youth population without children, 183 men and 65 women stayed in emergency shelter. Of the youth with households of children and adults, 16 were female and 4 were male. Of the youth accessing emergency shelter, 102 were male and 77 were female.

While there are resources (Transitional Housing) dedicated specifically to females, the percentage of unaccompanied youth is 56% male, and percentage of total youth in Emergency Shelter is 64% male. It is possible that Emergency Shelter numbers are higher for male youth as there are no projects specifically dedicated for male youth, leaving them with less options to exit Emergency Shelter. In addition, the main Emergency Shelter option for those 18-24 is a dormitory style shelter that both males and females may avoid due to safety concerns, a potential reason for less females accessing Emergency Shelter.

Anecdotally, the Lived Experience Advisory Group for Unhoused Engagement (LEAGUE), a subcommittee of the Continuum of Care Board (the Poverty and Homelessness Board), identified that women are more likely to find a partner or friend to stay with, even if that relationship is abusive, than stay in a congregate dormitory-style environment. The capacity of the women's shelter at Eugene Mission is much more limited than the capacity of the men's side- with recent census at 66 in the female side (entirely full) and 265 men staying in the men's side.

Utilization of Lane County Emergency Shelter FY2017-18

Emergency Shelter Utilization	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
1st PLACE - Emerg. Shltr [EHA]			60%	70%	80%	60%	50%	60%	70%	50%	60%
EM - Family Prog	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%
EM - Mens Life Change	64%	72%	72%	78%	78%	67%	100%	100%	78%	100%	100%
EM - Men's Prog	91%	87%	95%	93%	95%	99%	91%	87%	95%	91%	87%
EM - Womens Life Change	47%	60%	53%	86%	86%	86%	71%	71%	71%	71%	71%
EM - Women's Prog	85%	86%	82%	85%	78%	89%	92%	85%	95%	77%	71%
LG - Station 7 ES [SHAP] [RHY-BCP]	33%	33%	58%	33%	75%	67%	25%	42%	50%	25%	33%
SC - CAHOOTS Crisis Unit (ES)	50%	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	100%	100%	100%	50%
SC - Family Housing ES [SHAP]	67%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	100%	75%	100%	100%
SC - ShelterCare Medical Recuperation (ES)	68%	68%	63%	53%	58%	21%	42%	63%	42%	26%	58%
SVDP - VET LIFT (ES) [VA]	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Utilization data from FY2017-18 examining Looking Glass' Station 7- the Runaway and Homeless Youth program shelter in Eugene, demonstrates that the highest utilization was in the winter months of November (75% utilization rate) and December (67% utilization rate).

Youth in Street Outreach projects were about evenly split between the age groups of 12-17 years old (398 total), and ages 18-24 (361 total). No parenting youth were identified in Street Outreach projects. A total of 405 male, 333 female, 7 transgender, and 11 gender nonconforming youth were identified in Street Outreach projects.

Conclusion

The biggest areas of risk in the current homeless service system include gender-specific programming, to the exclusion of gender (and sexual) minorities, LGBTQ+ youth-specific programming, and factors that affect the entire community including unmet affordable housing needs, family instability, and scarcity of living wage employment. Existing youth-specific housing options do not meet the expressed demand for youth-housing as demonstrated by the Point in Time Count. A particular gap in both housing and shelter services exists for transition-age youth, ages 18-24.

The Continuum of Care has identified methods to address the racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ+ disparities identified in this report. This includes widespread provider and community discussion of the data findings, affirmative marketing technical assistance, and ongoing support to providers to develop programming that meets the unique needs of youth populations.

This report is in no way exhaustive of the data that exists to assess youth homelessness needs in Lane County. More data is needed through focus groups and surveys of youth served by providers in the community, youth who have experienced homelessness, and youth who identify with the populations at risk (i.e. former foster youth, LGBTQ+, racial minorities).