Voices of Youth Count Study

- Most comprehensive research on youth homelessness to date; conducted by Chapin Hall at University of Chicago

- National prevalence study - released November 15th
  - Findings show 1 in 10 young adults ages 18-25 and at least 1 in 30 adolescents ages 13-17 experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year.

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Voices of Youth Count Study - Philadelphia

- **One of 22 counties** that partnered on Voices of Youth Count, a first-of-its-kind national effort aimed at ending youth homelessness.
  - This included a point in time Youth Count, Brief Youth Surveys, and some data from providers.

- **One of 5 counties** where young people also participated in **In-Depth Interviews** about their experiences with homelessness.
  - Report includes findings from 215 interviews.

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Philadelphia Youth Count Findings

- In a 24-hour “point in time” count in August 2016, **569 unaccompanied youth ages 13 to 25** were identified as homeless or unstably housed. **263** participated in surveys.

- **Location of surveyed youth on the night of the count:**
  - **41% sheltered** - in shelter, transitional housing, or hotels/motels
  - **19% unsheltered** - outside, in abandoned building, in cars
  - **23% unstably housed** - couch surfing, in intermittent housing
  - **16% in other unstable housing situations** - the majority were staying with someone they were sexually involved with

- Up to this point, this was the **highest number of youth who had been counted** during a point in time count due to **new methodology**.

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New Methodology

- Voices of Youth Count introduced a new methodology to count youth and young adults experiencing homelessness (which we have continued after the study).

- Young adults with experience with homelessness survey other young people about their experiences with homelessness, on teams with provider agency volunteers.

- Youth also guided the “hot spot mapping” prior to the point in time Youth Count.
More Than A Count

In-Depth Interviews asked young people:

- Where are they/who are they?
- How do they get by, how are they doing?
- What factors are associated with how long and how often they are homeless?
- What services do they use, and which lead to better life outcomes?
- How are their experiences influenced by policies?
- Why do they become homeless or run away?

Findings give new insight directly from youth into solutions around youth homelessness.

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Homelessness is not an event

- Many youth reported that they had never experienced stability.

- Complex issue requires holistic and cross-system solutions.
Panelists

- Joseph Hill-Coles
- Libby Mathewson
- Jessica Sones
- Jenny Pokempner
- Liam Spady

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