569 young people ages 13-25 in Philadelphia were homeless on a single night in August 2016. 269 youth were residing in shelter or transitional housing on the night of the count, and 300 youth were counted via a street count. 263 of these young people were surveyed. Some of the results from those surveys are below:

- 29% had been in foster care
- 36% had been in juvenile detention, prison, or jail
- 14% had been in both systems (foster care & justice system)

Results above based on 263 youth who were surveyed during point in time count.

* “Other” includes youth who identified as transgender, genderqueer/nonconforming, intersex, or other.

**Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or asexual

Check out the full reports here: www.philadelphiaofficeofhomelessservices.org/services/youth-initiative/
CALL TO ACTION

The Philly Homes 4 Youth Coalition and Young Adult Leadership Committee want YOU as partners in ending youth homelessness in Philadelphia. Ideas for getting involved:

Actions for Young People

- Raise your voice and advocate around the issue of youth homelessness and other issues you see in your community. Talk to leaders in your school or community about the changes you want to see. Join groups that are advocating for change.

Actions for Policy Makers & Government Leaders

- Establish planning policies that ensure that youth develop the capacity to maintain stable housing when they are discharged from systems.
- Invest in services to help youth strengthen their ties to family and help families support young adults.
- Ensure that services and support are available to youth without barriers to eligibility and access.

Actions for Service Providers

- Develop expertise to work with older youth and deliver services that respond to their identity as emerging adults learning to exercise their independence, but still deserving of care and support.
- Show youth that they are valued, respected, and heard.
- Establish processes to identify youth in your programs who are experiencing homelessness and connect them to services.

Actions for Community Members

- Become a foster parent or mentor for teens and young adults.
- Donate to agencies that serve older youth and young adults.
- Commit to fighting for services for system involved youth that mirror what you want for your own kids.

Actions for Philanthropists

- Provide flexible funding to organizations that provide housing for youth experiencing homelessness. This funding allows organizations to serve youth who are couch surfing.
- Create funding for organizations to pilot innovative housing models to fill gaps in the continuum of services for youth experiencing homelessness.

Actions for ALL:

- Get involved in the Philly Homes 4 Youth Coalition, a coalition of people dedicated to ending youth homelessness in Philadelphia. Contact Jessica Sones at jessica.sones@phila.gov to learn more or check out http://www.philadelphiaofficeofhomelessservices.org/services/youth-initiative/

Voices of Youth Count is a policy initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. It is designed to link evidence and action to end youth homelessness. Voices of Youth Count is made possible with generous financial support from Arcus Foundation, Ballmer Group Philanthropy, Campion Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Chapin Hall, Dr. Inger Davis, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Melville Charitable Trust, Raikes Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Chapin Hall is solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations in Voices of Youth Count publications. Such statements and interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the government or any of Chapin Hall’s other partners.

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