

Strategy Session 2: Ending Homelessness for Young Adults

April 20, 2019



How many youth are experiencing homelessness in Tulsa?

- In March 2019, 223 youth were experiencing homelessness (as recorded on the by-name list)
- Approximately 2,912 students in schools in Tulsa County were experiencing homelessness during the 2016-2017 school year
 - 3.9% of public school students were homeless in Oklahoma during 2015-2016 school year
- 133 young adults were counted in the January 2018 point in time homeless census

More about Tulsa's youth experiencing homelessness

- 52% are youth of color (per the by name list)
- As documented in 2018 point in time homeless census,
 - 1/3 were in foster care, of which 40% exited between ages 16-18
 - 46% have a mental illness
 - 23% are domestic violence survivors, 61% attribute their homelessness to domestic violence
 - 10% have a physical disability

Impact of Homelessness on Education



Half of children who are homeless are held back for one grade.



Nearly a quarter (22%) who are homeless are held back for multiple grades.

Source: Grothaus, Lorelle, Anderson, & Knight, 2011

2X

Likelihood of children who are homeless to have learning disabilities.

3X

Likelihood of children who are homeless to suffer from emotional trauma.

Source: Better Homes Fund, 1999

Where do Tulsa's homeless youth stay?

According to by-name list data:

- 14% are sleeping outdoors in places not meant for habitation
- 28% are sleeping in shelters
- 6% in transitional living
- 14% are couch surfing.
- 38% are in other locations or location in unknown

Top Needs of Youth and Young Adults (as reported by youth)

- Housing
- Transportation
- Food
- Employment/Job Training
- Health Care, including mental health and dental