

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



PRESENTER: ELIZA WILSON

ABOUT ME



Eliza Wilson
Director of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Eliza has lived in Central Oregon since 2002. She has spent her career working with a variety of homeless services providers in Central Oregon and has been with J Bar J Youth Services since 2015.

Having experienced homelessness as a child, Eliza became a client of J Bar J's Cascade Youth & Family Center LOFT program, when she was a teen. Her experience as an advocate for homeless services started while she was living at The LOFT and has given her the opportunity to speak locally, in state government and nationally about her experience as a homeless youth. Eliza's lived experience gives her a unique perspective in her work as Director of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs at J Bar J Youth Services.

Throughout her career, Eliza has worked with adults, veterans, families and youth who are experiencing homelessness. She is particularly passionate about supporting young people; She believes our young people can and will escape multigenerational poverty if they are given the support and resources to succeed. Eliza serves as Chair of our region's Continuum of Care, as Chair of the region's Coordinated Entry Committee, is a board member of the State of Oregon's Youth Experiencing Homelessness Advisory Group and participates in various other boards and committees.



What does youth homelessness look like?

Youth experience homelessness in many different ways:

- With family, friends or by themselves
- couch surfing, sleeping on the streets or in a car, in a shelter
- Every youth has a different experience and different needs
- Specific subpopulations of youth and young adults face a higher risk for homelessness



Youth at Disproportionate Risk of Youth Homelessness

- Black youth- 83% higher risk of homelessness
- Hispanic youth- 33% higher risk of homelessness
- LGBTQ+ youth- 120% higher risk of homelessness
- Young parents-3x higher risk than non-parenting peers
- Youth with experiences of foster care, juvenile detention, jail, or prison are more at risk





How and Why it Occurs

Family Conflict

For many youth, instability in their homes forces them out onto the streets before they are adults. 90% of youth accessing youth shelters report homelessness due to family experiences like child abuse and/or neglect, domestic violence, parental substance use, or family conflict that lead to homelessness.

- **Parental issues and ensuing conflict related to a youth being LGBTQ**

- Youth are kicked out of their home or leave home because it is too dangerous to stay

*Child Welfare doesn't usually step in

Financial

Many low-income families experience housing instability, often being a precursor to homelessness.

- Lack of sustainable and affordable housing, joblessness, and residential instability experienced by poverty-stricken families, many youth are forced to find shelter outside of the traditional family dwelling
- Lack of financial resources may lead to older youth leaving the household to reduce the family's strain

System Involvement

As many as 40-60% of youth experiencing homelessness has had some sort of system involvement, foster care or Justice department involvement

- 20-36% of foster youth will become homeless the day they age out
- Many young people are forced out of their foster care living situation due to conflict and/or rejection



**Main Take Away:
Youth do not become homeless by choice,
unless it is the only safe choice**



Barriers

- Lack of resources
- Laws/Restrictions
 - City Codes
 - Under 18
- Access
 - Information about resources
- Disconnection
 - Fear of the system/system involvement
 - youth are disconnected from education, the workforce, and social support networks and are off-track to reach a future that includes self-sufficiency, economic stability, and overall well-being
- Regular Barriers related to being unhoused

2023 Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): Referrals to housing programs, Shelters, Outreach, local services

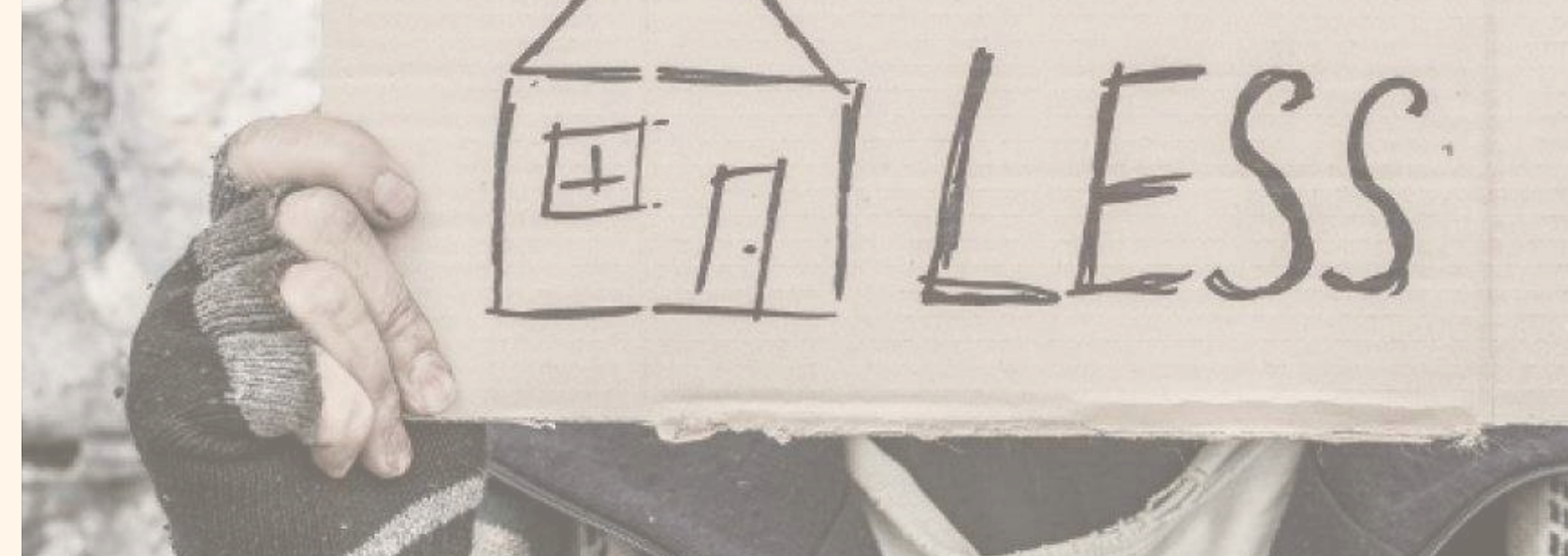
Population	Data Source(s)	Estimates of # Youth
At-risk unaccompanied youth*	HMIS data	60 Youth
Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness*	HMIS data	278 Youth
Unaccompanied youth who received resources from J Bar J (under 18)	HMIS data	169 youth
At-risk pregnant or parenting youth	HMIS data	34 youth
Youth accessing community resources	Provider Data	1,080 Youth

2023 Point In Time Count

Total of unaccompanied youth (UY) 2023 PIT Count	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Shelter	Unsheltered	Total
Number of UY under 18	25	5	133	163
Number of UY 18-24	1	2	20	23
Number of Youth under 18	35	12	149	196

TOTAL: 382 youth experiencing homelessness

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Resources

Prevention

Family Mediation
Crisis Hotline
Mentoring

Outreach

Outreach to camps, local resource HUBS
Survival services
Connection to services

Shelter-40 beds

The LOFT-18 Beds
Grandmas House-9 rooms
Canal House-6 beds
Host Homes-8 beds

Housing-27 (starting Nov 1st)

Direct Cash Transfer Program
YHDP-15 long term housing slots for youth
Wilson Ave Housing Program-9 housing slots for youth
Joint project with NI-Youth Rapid Re-Housing-6 slots for youth



PROGRESS THE PAST YEAR

- Youth Action Board Leadership
- Coordinated Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness
- Investments in Youth Homelessness
 - Secured Housing Funds for Youth
 - Increased Shelter beds-10 beds
- Priority for LGBTQ Youth



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS Q&A

