

“We all have a story and circumstances that got us where we are. That doesn’t make one person less important than another. Things are temporary, situations change and people grow if they have the support and resources they need.”

- COC YAB MEMBER



WIBOSCOCC

Wisconsin Balance of State Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

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I am an advocate for all those who have and continue to suffer because I know how it feels to feel completely alone and different.

CoC YAB Member

I. Introduction

A. Geography and History

The Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that serves as the collaborative applicant for the HUD designated CoC. The CoC includes sixty-nine of the seventy-two counties in Wisconsin, all except Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine counties, and extends from the shores of Lake Superior in the northwest to portions of the Chicago metro area in the southeast. The population within the CoC is 3.8 million and covers over 60,000 square miles. The largest county is Waukesha (408,756 people)¹ and the largest city is Green Bay (107,395 people).² The CoC is bordered by the Mississippi River, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan. It takes almost six hours to travel north to south, four hours to travel east to west. Within the CoC area, there are eleven federally recognized tribes and fifteen different consolidated plan jurisdictions.

Under the leadership of the State of Wisconsin, Division of Housing and a member-based Advisory Board, a group of providers began to meet in 1992 to address the issue of homelessness, organize trainings, and complete the HUD CoC annual application. In 2009, the State stepped aside and the Balance of State CoC became an unincorporated association. In 2011, the Balance of State CoC became a 501c3 non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors. In 2019, the Balance of State CoC updated the organization's bylaws and articles of incorporation.

The Balance of State CoC's mission is to end homelessness by supporting local coalitions throughout Wisconsin. Ending homelessness means that every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it cannot be prevented, it is rare, brief and non-recurring. The CoC membership is composed of twenty-one local homeless coalitions, not an agency or person, that each cover a specific geographic area. Modeled after the CoC construct, local homeless coalitions bring together a broad spectrum of local partners, stakeholders, and community members to identify barriers, focus on local issues, and address gaps in housing and services to strengthen the homeless crisis response system. Each local homeless coalition elects a delegate for CoC membership meetings, a person to serve on the CoC Board of Directors, a local point-in-time lead, and a local coordinated entry lead.

While all coalitions were invited to be a part of the YHDP process, Southwest and Lakeshore coalitions declined to participate in the initial Balance of State CoC application to HUD, resulting in nineteen of the twenty-one coalitions being eligible for YHDP resources. During the process of the comprehensive community plan (CCP) development, Fox Cities and Jefferson coalitions stepped out of the process. A total of seventeen local homeless coalitions have actively participated and contributed to the development of this plan.

Because of the vast size of the CoC and the diverse needs among the geographic areas, it was identified early that a single CoC-level CCP would not adequately address the gaps in each coalition. So as part of the planning process, coalitions worked locally to write their own CCPs, which are included in Appendix, Section II of this plan. Several coalitions have chosen to work together with a neighboring coalition or split up counties based on already existing partnerships. The map below shows the twenty-one homeless coalitions along with the three other HUD recognized CoCs in Wisconsin (Dane, Milwaukee, Racine). For the purposes of YHDP CCP submission, following adjustments have been made:

- North Central included East Central

¹ US Census Bureau: QuickFacts <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/waukeshacountywisconsin/>

² US Census Bureau: QuickFacts <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/greenbaycitywisconsin>

B. Timeline of Events

Balance of State CoC Board of Directors decision to apply for YHDP	6/1/2021
HUD's announcement that the CoC was selected	9/15/2021
Received YHDP Planning grant	10/1/2021
Weekly meetings with HUD Technical Assistance (TA), True Colors United, and CoC staff	10/22/2021 - ongoing
Monthly Round 4/5 HUD TA webinars and National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)	9/16/2021 - ongoing
Weekly workgroup meetings, inviting all community participants and facilitators	1/25/2022 - 4/26/2022
Balance of State CoC Board of Directors approved the Youth Compensation Policy	12/7/2021
Development of local/regional youth action groups and CoC YAB	10/1/2021 - ongoing
Balance of State CoC Board of Directors approved Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services (WAHRS) service contract (and amended)	1/13/2022 2/1/2022
Applied to HUD for extension of CCP deadline & approved	2/7/2022
Local coalition CCP drafts deadline	3/18/2022
Review and feedback provided	3/25/2022
Local coalition CCP final deadline	4/22/2022
Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects - phase I released	4/15/2022
Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects - phase II released	4/29/2022
Deadline for RFP phase I and phase II	5/23/2022
Announcement of Selected Projects	6/8/2022
Deadline for ESNAPS Submission	7/1/2022
Released google link to draft CoC CCP for local coalitions, local/regional youth action groups, and the CoC Board of Directors for comment and feedback	5/2/2022
Final Approval of CCP: CoC YAB (Mission & Vision, Governance, Stakeholder sections)	5/9/2022
Final Approval of CCP: CoC YAB (Goals & New Project List sections)	5/16/2022
Final Approval of CCP: CoC YAB (Statement of Need and Values & Principles sections)	5/23/2022
Final Approval of CCP: CoC Board of Directors	5/23/2022

C. YHDP Mission & Vision Statement

The Mission and Vision was developed in collaboration with members of the YHDP stakeholder group, local/regional stakeholders, and members of local/regional youth action boards (YAB). Ultimately, the CoC YAB approved the final version that is included in the Balance of State's CCP.

Below is the timeline outlining the development and approval process:

January 11, 2022	CoC staff facilitated conversations with YHDP stakeholder group members. Reviewed USICH Guiding Principles and participated in a Mission and Vision brainstorming activity
January 12, 2022	HUD TA staff synthesized key words in mission and vision brainstorm activity and emailed findings to a group of stakeholders who volunteered to spend extra time drafting the mission and vision. These volunteers came from the YHDP stakeholder group and 2 YAB members. There was representation from NE/NWISH, Coulee, Brown, Ozaukee/Waukesha/Washington, and Kenosha coalitions.
January 25, 2022	The group met to complete a second brainstorming session where phrases and key elements were organized into full sentences. Following the meeting, HUD TA staff synthesized the material.
February 15, 2022	HUD TA staff presented a draft of the Mission and Vision Statement to the YHDP Stakeholders group and continued to receive feedback from the provider group and local/regional YAB members.
February 18, 2022	HUD TA staff presented the draft Mission and Vision Statement to the YHDP leadership team for feedback and review.
March 1, 2022	CoC Director presented the draft Mission and Vision Statement to the CoC Board of Directors for review and feedback.
March 28, 2022	This was the deadline for any further feedback from the local/regional YAB members.
April 25, 2022	The CoC YAB voted to approve the Mission and Vision Statement.

1. Mission

With shared responsibility and driven by youth leadership and cross-sector collaboration the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's (YHDP) mission is to prevent youth homelessness whenever possible and if it is not, ensure that the experience is rare, brief and non-recurring.

2. Vision

To this end, we envision a future in Wisconsin where all youth and young adults:

- Receive immediate and equitable access to everything they need to thrive in housing, education, employment, well-being and positive community connections.
- Access inclusive and individualized, wrap-around supports to create a mentally and physically healthy environment for growing and learning.
- Take power with leadership opportunities at every level in the youth-serving system.
- Thrive in a variety of housing options that meet the individual needs of youth by providing youth-directed services, connections to community resources and paths to life-long stability through immediate assessment and progressive engagement.
- Partner with culturally affirming and trauma-informed providers that address the specific needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and any other gender or sexual identity letters and words cannot yet fully describe (LGBTQIA+); Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); pregnant and parenting youth; youth fleeing violence, and survivors of human trafficking. Acknowledge the impact of policies that increase systematic disparities of race, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- Advocate for changes in policy that support, rather than penalize youth seeking self-determination and self-sufficiency.
- Support the mental health and overall wellness needs of youth through close collaboration with mental health, substance abuse, and health systems and by uplifting youth to follow their passions through a positive youth development framework.

I just want a place to call home. I never had that growing up, I know what home looks like in my head but I want to be able to know how to find it.

CoC YAB Member

II. Statement of Need

For this plan, the Balance of State CoC considers homelessness to mean youth under 25 years old (and without an adult 25 years or older in their household) who are in one or more of the following situations³:

- Category 1 - Literally homeless in an emergency shelter or other temporary program such as transitional housing or living in places not meant for regular human habitation (i.e., outside, in cars, tents, storage units, or abandoned buildings).
- Category 2 - Imminently homeless in a motel or hotel paid for by self or family, rent a place, or doubled up and must leave within fourteen days with no subsequent place to sleep and no resources to obtain another place.
- Category 3 - Homeless under other federal statutes, have not had their own place in the last 60 days, have moved two or more times in the last 60 days, and can be expected to have continues housing instability because of barriers to employment
- Category 4 - Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions relating to violence

While the Balance of State CoC is not seeking to serve youth who are homeless under other federal statutes, the data included in the statement of need does include some of these youth, especially when looking at education and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) data.

A. Larger Context

The context around homeless data is also important. The seven main ways to look at the larger picture of homelessness and those at risk of homelessness are General Overview – Wisconsin Statistics, Ruralness, Young Adults, Poverty, Housing, Education, and Employment data. In the sections below, each data set is explained, actual data shared, and areas of specific concern or focus identified. At the end of this section, there is a summary.

1. General Overview – Wisconsin Statistics

As of July 1, 2021, the total population of Wisconsin is 5,895,908.⁴ There is over 54,000 square miles of land area and over 11,300 square miles of water area. Wisconsin is the 25th largest state by area.⁵ The Balance of State CoC includes sixty-nine of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties. It does not include the three large urban counties of Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine. The Balance of State CoC population is approximately 4,197,188 and makes up 71% of Wisconsin's population. According to the US Census, the people of Wisconsin are:

- 49.8% identify as male and 50.2% identify as female
- 87% identify as White, 6.7% Black/African American, 3% Asian, 1.2% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 7.1% Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x)
- 21.8% are under 18 years old

Additional information about people and households in Wisconsin includes:

- Approximately 2,377,935 households with an average of 2.38 people per household
- 90.7% of households have a computer and 84.7% have a broadband internet subscription
- 92.6% of people over the age of 25 are a high school graduate or higher education
- 30.8% of people over the age of 25 have bachelor's degree or higher

³ HUD: Determining Homeless Status of Youth <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Determining-Homeless-Status-of-Youth.pdf>

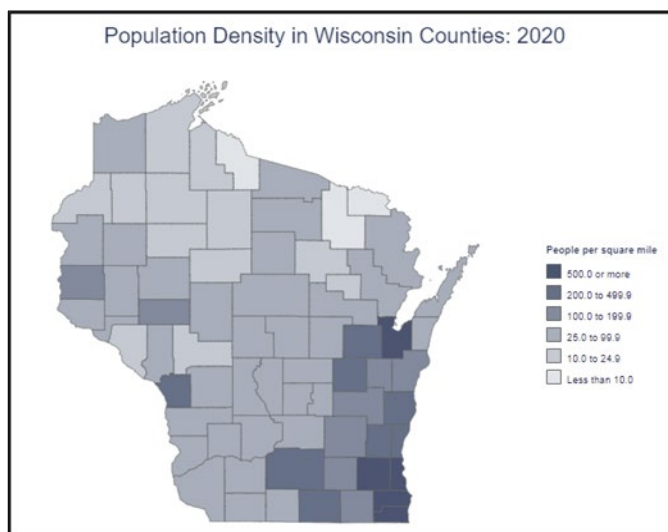
⁴ US Census Bureau: QuickFacts <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WI>

⁵ US Census Bureau: American Community Survey 2020 <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US55>

- 8% of people under the age of 65 have a disability
- 6.8% of people under the age of 65 do not have health insurance
- Approximately 10% are living in poverty; 14.2% of children under 18 are living in poverty
- 10.2% received food stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months
- The total household median income is \$63,293; the median income among households with children is \$82,000⁶
- 14.7% of households are single parent families compared to nationwide at 16%; 10.3% are female head of households and 4.4% male
- Of workers who travel to work: 81% drive alone, 8% carpool, 3% walk, 2% use transit, and 1% ride a bike. Nationally, less people drive alone (76%) and more people use transit (5%).⁷

2. Ruralness

Wisconsin is considered both an urban and a rural state. The US Census Bureau defines rural as non-urbanized land area or any place that is not part of a city or town of at least 2,500 people. The most important marker for determining urban status is population density. According to the Census, the population density for Wisconsin is 108.8 people per square mile.⁸ Based on this definition, 97% of Wisconsin's land area is rural.⁹



The US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines urban counties as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), any county with a city of at least 50,000 people including neighboring counties with established economic or social connections. Based on this definition, 69% of Wisconsin is rural and includes 46 counties. According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS), 26% of Wisconsin's population live in rural areas.¹⁰

According to the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), the following chart illustrates which counties have been designated as urban versus rural using the OMB definition.¹¹ The "stricken" counties are not included in the Balance of State CoC or are not included in the YHDP CCP.

⁶ US Census Bureau: QuickFacts <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WI>

⁷ Casey Family Programs – Community Opportunity Map: <https://community-opportunity-map.casey.org/?state=Wisconsin&tab=family&searchType=state>

⁸ US Census Bureau: 2020 Population and Housing State Data (August 12, 2021)

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-population-and-housing-state-data.html>

⁹ WisCONTEXT: Putting Rural Wisconsin on the Map (May 17, 2017) <https://www.wiscontext.org/putting-rural-wisconsin-map>

¹⁰ USDA Economic Research Service: State Data

<https://data.ers.usda.gov/reports.aspx?StateFIPS=55&StateName=Wisconsin&ID=17854>

¹¹ Wisconsin Department of Health Services WISH: Urban and Rural Counties <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/urban-rural.htm>



Urban Counties

Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green, Iowa, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Marathon, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pierce, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Sauk, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago

Rural Counties

Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Clark, Crawford, Dodge, Door, Dunn, Florence, Forest, Grant, Green Lake, Iron, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowish, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Monroe, Oneida, Pepin, Polk, Portage, Price, Richland, Rusk, Sawyer, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Walworth, Washburn, Waupaca, Waushara, Wood

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS), there are some

differences between people who live in rural areas versus urban areas.¹²

	Rural	Urban
Income: Per-Capita Income	\$49,842	\$57,586
Income: Poverty Rate (%)	10.6	10.4
Education: Completing high school only	37.1%	28.3%
Education: Completing college	21.7%	33.2%
Employment: Unemployment Rate (%)	6.4%	6.3%

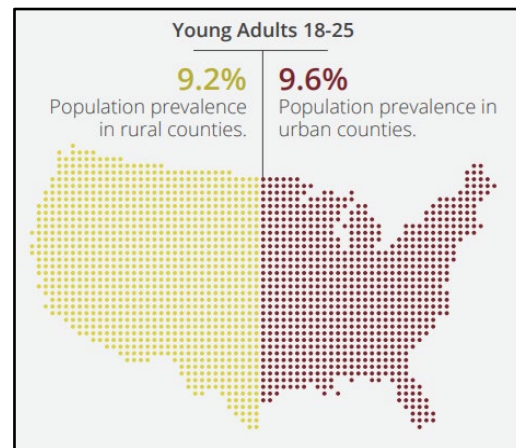
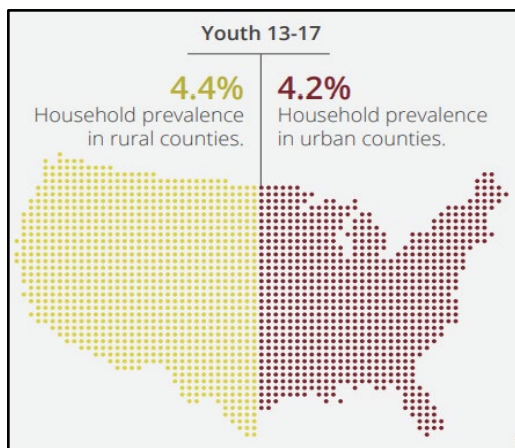
While there are some differences between rural and urban communities, rates of youth experiencing homelessness are similar. As illustrated in the charts on the next page, national research shows that for youth 13-17 years old and 18-25 years old the prevalence is relatively equal across the United States.¹³ What is often different between urban and rural communities is access to support and resources. In the Balance of State CoC, most rural communities do not have a brick-and-mortar emergency shelter. Not all local homeless coalitions receive funding for housing interventions such as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. Ruralness also impacts the cost to programs relative to transportation for case managers to connect with clients across their service territory and the inconsistency of internet access.

¹² USDA Economic Research Service: State Data

<https://data.ers.usda.gov/reports.aspx?StateFIPS=55&StateName=Wisconsin&ID=17854>

¹³ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—Youth Homelessness in America

<https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>

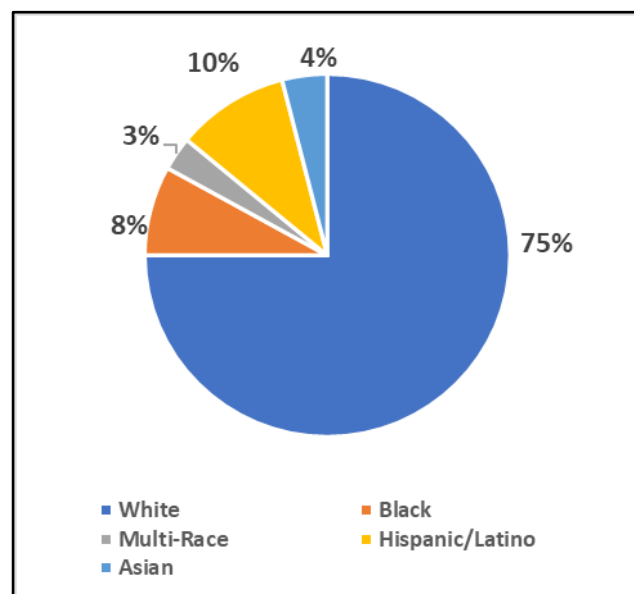


3. Youth 18-24

Approximately 550,536 people in Wisconsin are between 18 and 24 years old. This makes up 12% of the population over the age of 18 and 9.5% of the total population in Wisconsin. Within this population, 280,071 identify as male (50.9%) and 270,465 identify as female (49.1%)¹⁴ The race and ethnicity breakdown for this population is illustrated in chart to the right¹⁵

The number of people 18-24 in the Balance of State CoC is 369,840 (calculated by subtracting the number of youth 18-24 in Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine counties from the Wisconsin total).¹⁶

According to a national survey, approximately one in ten American young adults 18-25 years old experience some form of homelessness over a twelve-month period. Half report literal homelessness and the other half report couch surfing.¹⁷ Using this average with the number of youth 18-24 in Wisconsin, an **estimated number** of young adults experiencing homelessness would be:



	Number of Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness	Type of Homelessness
Wisconsin	55,053	27,526 literal and 27,526 couch surfing
Balance of State	36,984	18,492 literal and 18,492 couch surfing

¹⁴ US Census Bureau: American Community Survey 2020 <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US55>

¹⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

¹⁶ US Census Bureau: American Community Survey Data <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>

¹⁷ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—Youth Homelessness in America <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>

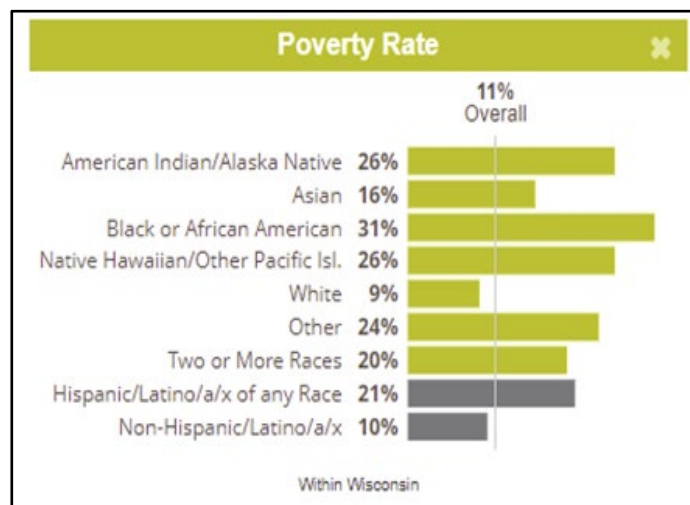
4. Poverty

Poverty thresholds are updated by the US Census Bureau and used mainly for statistical purposes. Poverty guidelines are issued each year by the US Department of Health and Human Services and used for administrative purposes, including determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. In 2021, the federal poverty level (FPL) for one person was \$12,880, two people \$17,420, and a family of four would be \$26,500.¹⁸

Using the FPL, approximately 11% of the population in Wisconsin live in poverty. This includes 14.2% of children under the age of 18, 10.7% between 18-64 years old, and 7.8% of those 65 and older are living in poverty.¹⁹ Looking specifically at the population of youth under 25 years old:

- 21% of 18-24 year olds live in poverty or 103,000 people.²⁰
- Approximately 74,798 children under 18 or 6% are living below 50% FPL.
- 38% of 14-24 year olds are living in low-income families or 302,000 and 15% are living in high poverty areas or 127,000
- Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, 9% of 18–24 year olds reported sometimes or often do not have enough food to eat
- During the COVID 19 pandemic, 30% of 18–24 year olds reported having difficulty paying for usual household expenses in the past week (9/15-10/11/21)²¹

While the Wisconsin statewide poverty rate is 11%, it is not the same for each race or ethnicity. As illustrated in the chart on the right, people identifying as White and Non-Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) are below Wisconsin's average poverty rate of 11%. All other groups experience significantly higher rates of poverty than the Wisconsin average. Most significant differences are with Black/African American (31% at poverty rate), American Indian/Alaska Native (26% poverty rate), and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (26% poverty rate).²²



Being a kid and homeless is hard man. It only gets harder as you get older cause there's a stigma that adults can fend for themselves but if it's all you know, then it's hard to break the cycle. I really think I could have been in a better place a lot sooner if I know about the programs and resources available.

CoC YAB Member

¹⁸ ASPE: 2021 Poverty Guidelines <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2021-poverty-guidelines>

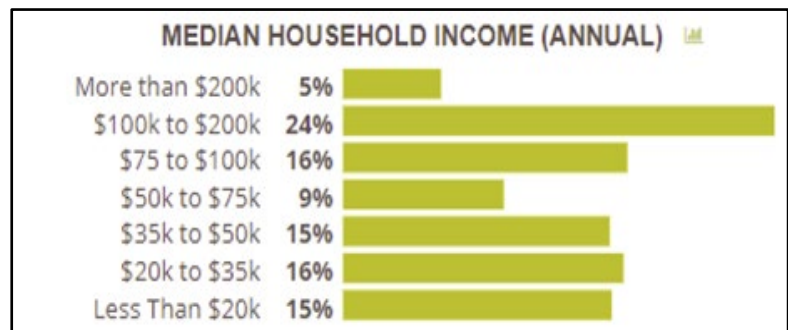
¹⁹ US Census Bureau: American Community Survey 2020 <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US55>

²⁰ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

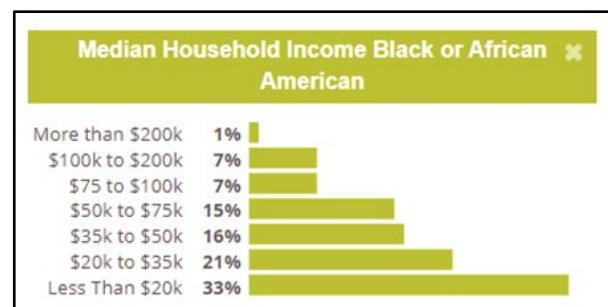
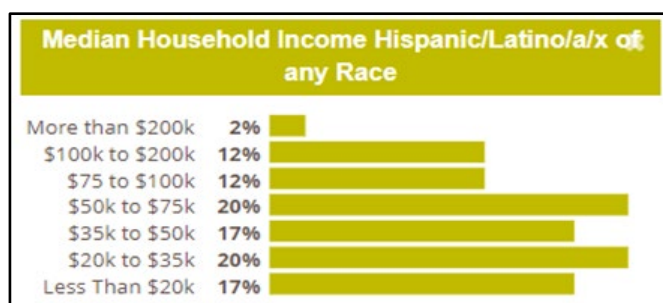
²¹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

²² Casey Family Programs – Community Opportunity Map: <https://community-opportunity-map.casey.org/?state=Wisconsin&tab=family&searchType=state>

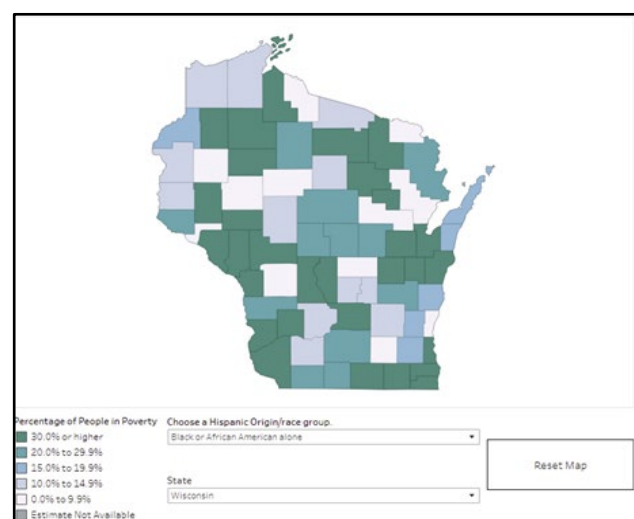
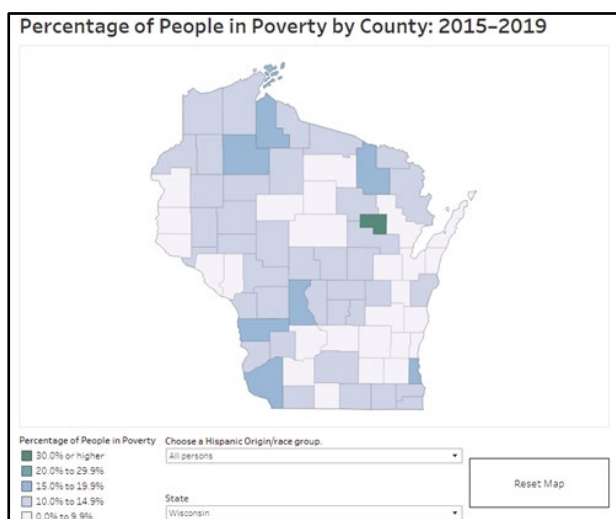
The median annual household income in Wisconsin shows the following breakdown by income group with most households (24%) earning between \$100,000-\$200,000/year and the least households (5%) earn over than \$200,000/year.



Like the poverty rate, median household income data looks different when it is disaggregated by race or ethnicity. For example, approximately 31% of households in Wisconsin make less than \$35,000/year; 37% of households identifying as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x); and 54% of households identifying as Black/African American.²³



Poverty does not occur to the same extent in every county in Wisconsin. Looking at the percentage of people in poverty by county between 2015-2019, the dark green represents 30% or more people in poverty within that county. The chart on the left shows all people in Wisconsin. When you drill down on the same data for just one race or ethnic group, the map looks vastly different as shown on the right.²⁴



²³ Casey Family Programs – Community Opportunity Map: <https://community-opportunity-map.casey.org/?state=Wisconsin&tab=family&searchType=state>

²⁴ US Census Bureau: Percentage of People in Poverty by County: 2015-2019 (December 10, 2020) <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/acs-percentage-poverty-2015-2019.html>

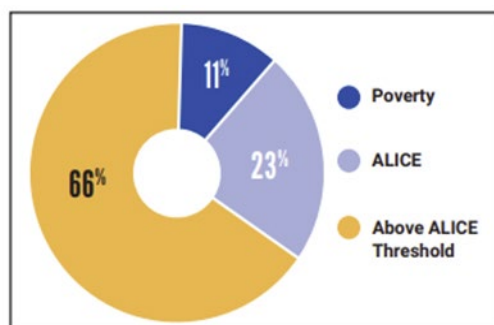
Food insecurity is another way to look at those in poverty. According to USDA, food insecurity is the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. In Wisconsin, the food insecurity rate is 9.1% or 530,500 people. For those that are food insecure, 38% are above the SNAP threshold of 200% FPL and not eligible.²⁵

In April 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reported the following information about people that qualify and receive FoodShare:

- 369,909 assistance groups (households) received the FoodShare benefit with an average household size of 2.0 and average benefit of \$259/month
- Approximately 5,224 received benefits for the first time; 34% have minor children; and 46.9% have a member who is elderly, blind or disabled
- 701,506 individuals received the FoodShare benefit
- 55% identify as female and 45% identify as male; 61% are adults and 39% are minors; and the age group with the most recipients (25% of the total) is children 6-17 years old
- Interesting to note in comparing data throughout the pandemic, there were: 419,311 households receiving FoodShare in April 2021; 350,459 households in April 2020; and 315,916 households in April 2019.²⁶

Finally, Wisconsin is a State partner of the United for ALICE Project and the Balance of State CoC Director is a member of the ALICE Research Advisory Council (RAC) for Wisconsin and the National RAC. An ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) household is a household that earns above the FPL but not enough to afford basic household necessities. ALICE households live in every county in Wisconsin and include people of all genders, ages, races and ethnicities, and across all household types.

According to United for ALICE data, more than twice as many Wisconsin households identify as living above FPL but below the ALICE Threshold (23%) than live below the FPL (11%).



A Household Survival Budget is an estimate of the actual bare-minimum costs of basic necessities (housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan) in Wisconsin.

The average ALICE Household Survival Budget in Wisconsin was \$21,624 for a single adult and \$68,472 for a family of four in 2018. This is significantly more than the FPL of \$12,140 for a single adult and \$25,100 for a family of four.²⁷

According to the FPL, 12% of children under 18 years old in Wisconsin (145,307) lived in poverty in 2019. United for ALICE data shows another 26% (323,146), more than twice as many, were also growing up in hardship, in households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basics in the communities where they lived. In 2019, 18% of children below the ALICE Threshold were infants (0-2), 13% were preschool-age (3-4), and 69% were school-age (5-17 years).²⁸

²⁵ Feeding America <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2019/overall/wisconsin>

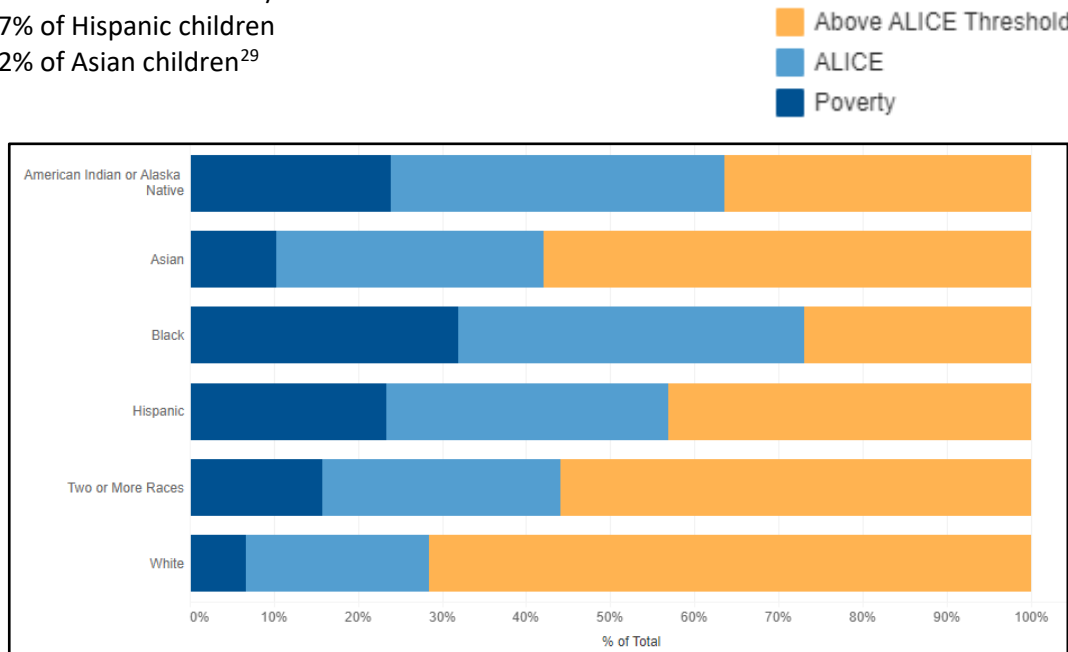
²⁶ WI DHS: FoodShare at a Glance <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/fsatagglance.htm>

²⁷ ALICE in Wisconsin: A Financial Hardship Study (2020) <https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-overview/wisconsin>

²⁸ ALICE in Focus Series: Children in Financial Hardship-Wisconsin <https://www.unitedforalice.org/research-briefs/focus-children>

In 2019, the largest number of children below the ALICE Threshold were found in the largest racial/ethnic populations: White (253,171), Hispanic (86,217), and Black (76,776). Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic children were disproportionately represented among ALICE children. 29% of White children were below the ALICE Threshold whereas the following children lived in households below the threshold:

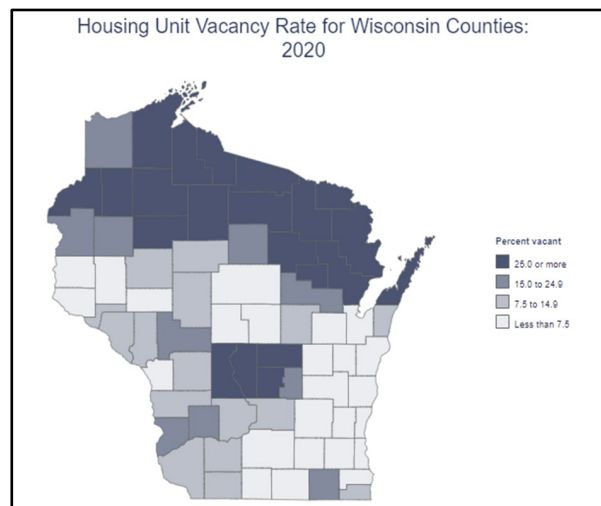
- 73% of Black children
- 64% of American Indian/Alaska Native children
- 57% of Hispanic children
- 42% of Asian children²⁹



5. Housing

In Wisconsin, there are approximately 2,727,726 housing units (owner or renter occupied) with an 11% vacant in thirty-eight counties. In the chart on the right, the dark counties are those with 25% or more housing vacancies in 2020.³⁰ Occupied housing units by size shows 1 bedroom with a 9.2% vacancy rate; 2-3 bedroom with 68.8%; and 4+ bedrooms with 20.4%. In Wisconsin, the median rent is \$872/month.³¹

In Wisconsin, approximately 33% of people are renters (777,217 households) and 67% own homes. For renters, 41% spend more than 30% of their income on housing. This is considered a high housing cost burden. For



²⁹ ALICE in Focus Series: Children in Financial Hardship-Wisconsin <https://www.unitedforalice.org/research-briefs/focus-children>

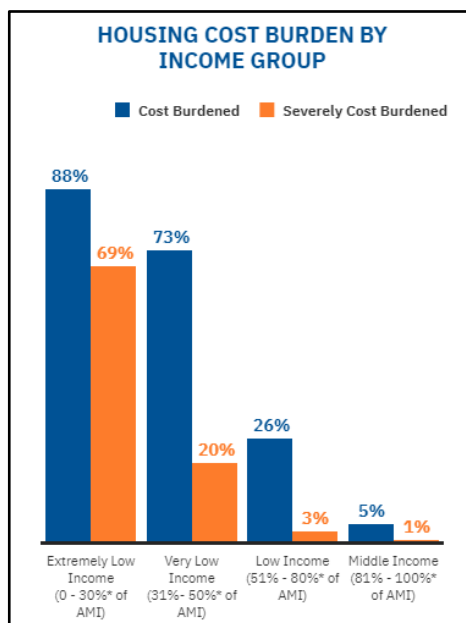
³⁰ US Census Bureau: 2020 Population and Housing State Data (August 12, 2021) <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-population-and-housing-state-data.html>

³¹ US Census Bureau: American Community Survey 2020 <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US55>

homeowners, only 15% spend more than 30% of their income on housing.³²

According to additional Wisconsin data published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation,

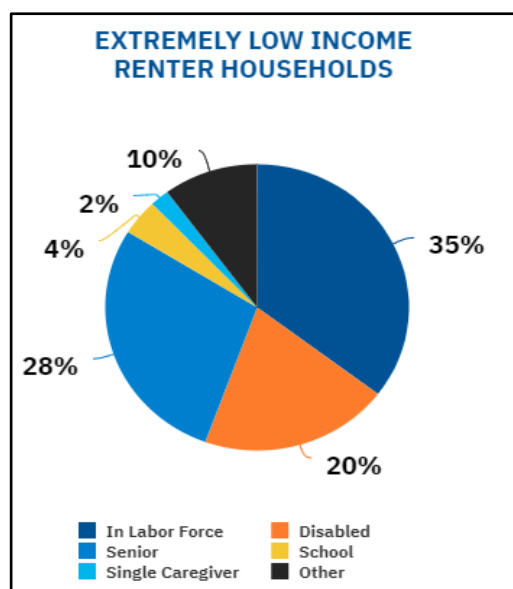
- 24% of 14-24 year olds (or 205,000) live in a household with a high housing cost burden
- 11% of 18-24 year olds reported having little or no confidence in their ability to pay their next housing payment on time (11/10-12/7/20)³³



According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), a person working minimum wage (\$7.25/hour) each week would have to work 99 hours for a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent. Said another way, a person would need to make \$17.89/hour to afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent. The average renter wage is \$14.76/hour. This is the 31st highest housing wage in the United States.³⁴

Across Wisconsin, there is a shortage of affordable rental homes available to extremely low-income households (ELI) or those whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income. As illustrated in the chart on the left, renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.

There are 187,087 renter households (or 24%) that meet the ELI definition. As illustrated in the chart on the right, 35% of ELI households are already in the labor force, 28% are seniors, and another 20% are disabled. To meet the need for affordable and available rental homes for ELI, there would need to be an additional 123,703 units.³⁵



³² Casey Family Programs – Community Opportunity Map: <https://community-opportunity-map.casey.org/?state=Wisconsin&tab=family&searchType=state>

³³ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

³⁴ National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach <https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/wisconsin>

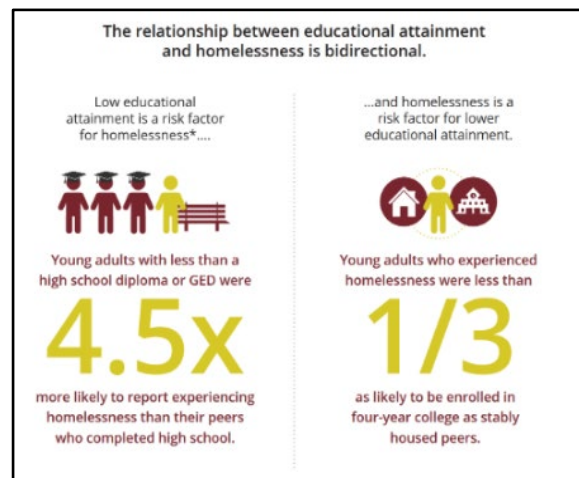
³⁵ National Low Income Housing Coalition <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/wisconsin>

6. Education

Students experience homelessness differently including who they are with, the reasons why, where they stay, and for how long. Some youth are part of families that lost their home because of economic factors, trauma or tragedy; while others have no adult support and are on their own. Some experience homelessness for a day, week, month, or for years. Some move between housing stability, instability, and homelessness throughout the school year. Regardless, the experience damages their ability to stay in school and be successful. Students who have experienced homelessness are “more likely to be held back from grade to grade, to have poor attendance or be chronically absent from school, to fail courses, to have more disciplinary issues, and to drop out of school before getting their high school diploma than their non-homeless peers.”³⁶

National statistics show:

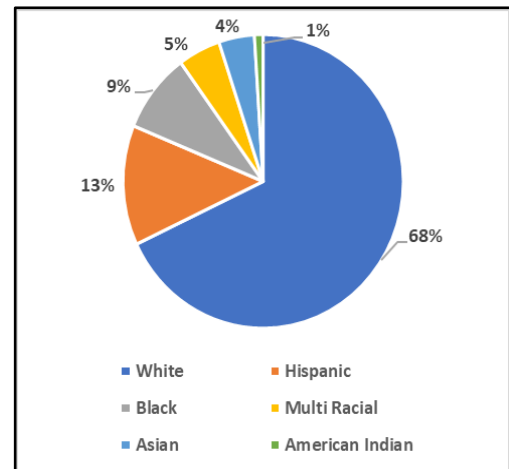
- 34% of 18–25 year olds who reported experiencing homelessness did not have a high school diploma or GED (compared to 14% in the general population)
- 75% of elementary school students experiencing homelessness performed below grade level in reading and math, rising to 85% for high school students
- 48% of 16–24 year olds who reported experiencing homelessness were disconnected from school or work (compared to 13% in the general population)³⁷



There are 475 school districts in Wisconsin of which 389 are located within the Balance of State CoC. During the 2021-2022 school year, 829,143 students were enrolled by September. Race and ethnicity are illustrated in the chart (right).

Additional information about Wisconsin students include:

- Approximately 51.5% identified as male and 48.5% identified as female
- 14.5% have a disability
- 40.1% are considered economically disadvantaged which means the student belongs to a household that meets the income eligible guidelines for free or reduced-price meals
- 6% are English learners which means the student’s first language or parent/guardian’s first language is not English and their level of English proficiency requires specially designed instruction³⁸



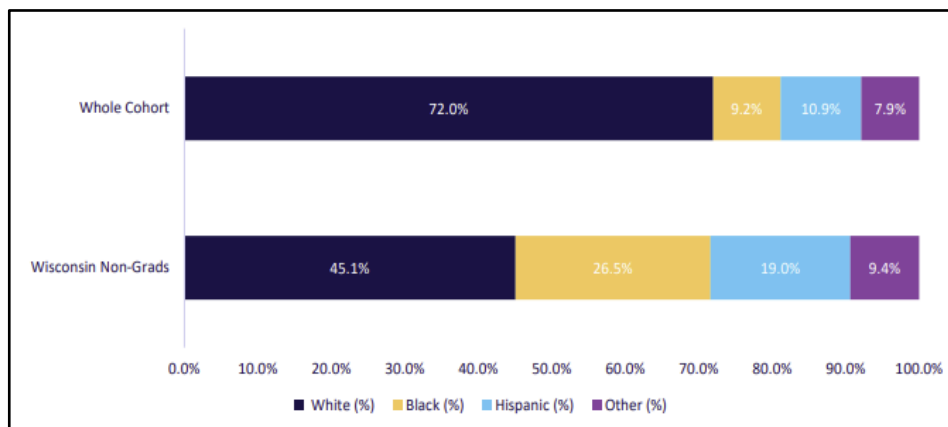
³⁶ America’s Promise Alliance–Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America’s Public Schools (June 2016) https://www.americaspromise.org/sites/default/files/d8/2016-12/HiddeninPlainSightFullReportFINAL_0.pdf

³⁷ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago–Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities–Education Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/missed-opportunities-education-among-youth-experiencing-homelessness-in-america/>

³⁸ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: WISEdash <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/22275>

Key facts about the completion of the 2020-2021 school year in Wisconsin:

- Graduation rate was 89.5% (a slight decrease from 2019-2020 when it was 90.1%)
- Dropout rate was 1.1% (between 7th-12th grade)
- 85.3% of students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and enrolled in special education services graduated while 12.4% drop out and do not graduate³⁹

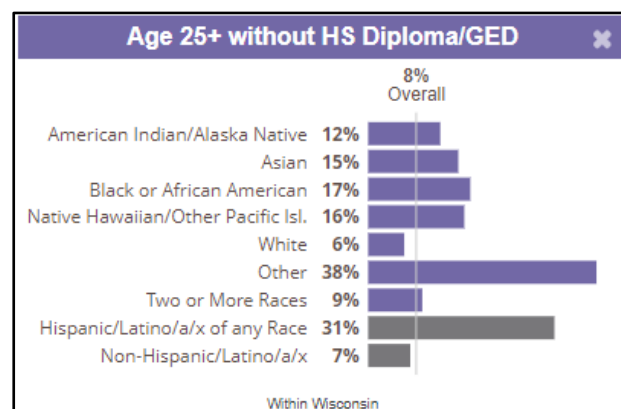


For those students that do not graduate from high school, students identifying as Black and Hispanic are overrepresented as illustrated in the chart on the left.⁴⁰

Looking at what happens after high school in Wisconsin:

- 9% of 18-24 year olds (or 50,000 youth) are not in school, not working, and have not completed any further education beyond high school⁴¹
- 50% of 18-24 year olds (or 271,000 youth) are enrolled in or have completed college
- 49% of 25-34 year olds have an associate degree or higher⁴²
- 30% of adults 25 years or older have a bachelor's degree
- 92% of adults 25 years or older have a high school diploma or GED

On average, 8% of adults over the age of 25 in Wisconsin do not have a high school diploma or GED. However, that varies by race and ethnicity as illustrated in the chart on the right. Those identifying as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) have the largest percent of adults over the age of 25 without a high school diploma or GED at 31% and Other at 38%.⁴³



³⁹ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: WISEdash <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/22275>

⁴⁰ America's Promise Alliance: GradNation - Wisconsin <https://gradnation.americaspromise.org/state-activation#/WI>

⁴¹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

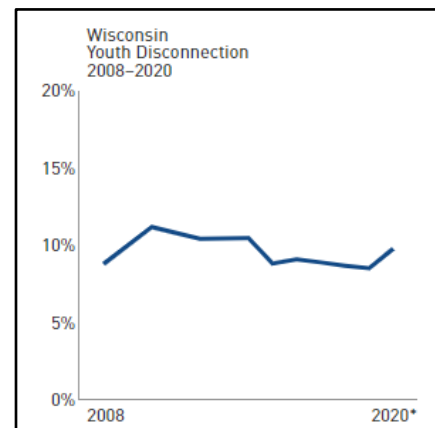
⁴² Center for American Progress-Talk Poverty <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/wisconsin-2020-report/>

⁴³ Casey Family Programs – Community Opportunity Map: <https://community-opportunity-map.casey.org/?state=Wisconsin&tab=family&searchType=state>

There is also a growing population of young people between the ages of 16-24 who are not in school and not working. According to Measure of America, this population of teenagers and young adults are referred to as disconnected or opportunity youth. According to a 2022 report, the national youth disconnection rate is 12.6% or 4,830,700 youth. In Wisconsin, an average of 9.8% of youth are disconnected or 66,700 youth. However, this also varies by race and ethnicity. In the case of disconnected youth,

- 24.8% of Black youth
- 7.2% of Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) youth
- 8.6% of White youth

The trend data for youth disconnection in Wisconsin can be seen in the chart on the right.⁴⁴ All youth who are disconnected are at risk of poverty and homelessness.



Schools and Homelessness

Local school districts collect data on student homelessness; however, many more young people are identified as experiencing homelessness using the Department of Education McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's broader definition of homelessness "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;" which can include living in hotels, trailers, camping grounds or sharing housing with family (doubled up) or crashing at a friend's house one week and another the next week (couch surfing).⁴⁵

As a result of the expanded definition and school data collection methodology, we do not know:

- How many unaccompanied youth need housing and services right at a specific point in time. The data does not reflect a point in time rather it is collected throughout the school year by accumulation. There is no subtracting from the data set even if a youth becomes stably housed during the school year.
- How many youth defined as unaccompanied by the school system are pregnant or parenting.
- How many students who are reported as homeless but not considered unaccompanied are in households headed by adults under the age of 25.
- An unduplicated number of youth experiencing homelessness because is limited cross-referencing a student moves from one school district to another during the school year. The student could be marked homeless in each, then at the statewide level count as two instead of one.
- An unduplicated count of households with youth experiencing homelessness. In Wisconsin, it was only recently that the data was collected at a household level.

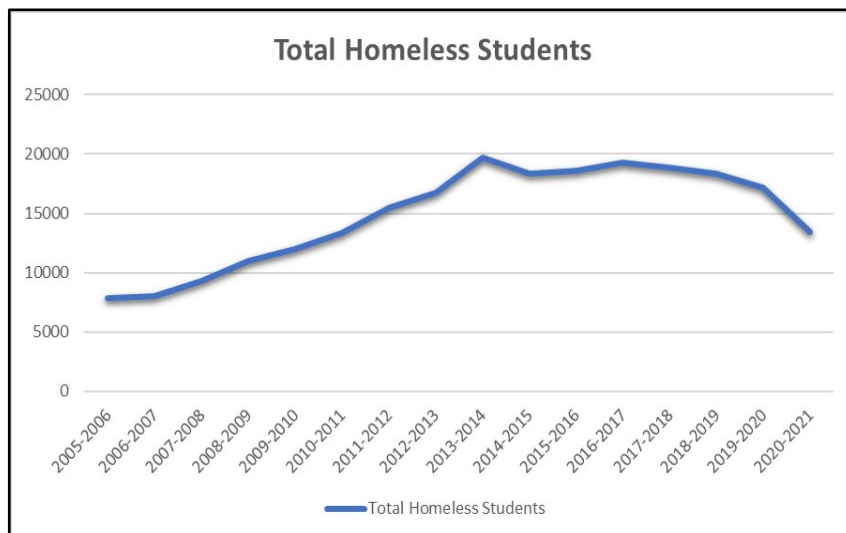
Despite the limitations, data reported by the school system is another important measure when trying to understand youth experiencing homelessness in a community. Schools play a vital role in the homelessness crisis response system including identification, referral, and resources.

⁴⁴ Measure of America: A Disrupted Year (March 2022) <https://measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2022/>

⁴⁵ National Center for Homeless Education: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act <https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/mckinney-vento/>

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 13,431 students (1.6% of total student population) were identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2020-2021 school year.⁴⁶

As illustrated in the chart on the right, the number of students experiencing homelessness has been decreasing in Wisconsin since the 2016-2017 school year.



As illustrated in the table below, the percentage of students experiencing homelessness compared to the total enrolled student population is also decreasing.⁴⁷

School Year	% Of Total Student Population Identified as Homeless	Total Number of Students Enrolled	Total Number of Students Identified as Homeless
2015-2016	2.1%	891,063	18,952
2016-2017	2.2%	885,225	19,264
2017-2018	2.1%	885,799	18,854
2018-2019	2.1%	881,052	18,349
2019-2020	2.0%	875,065	17,179
2020-2021	1.6%	852,145	13,431

Of the 13,431 students identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2020-2021 school year, 11,935 were accompanied minors (89%) and 1,496 were unaccompanied minors (11%). Unaccompanied minors are youth under the age of 18 who are not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.⁴⁸

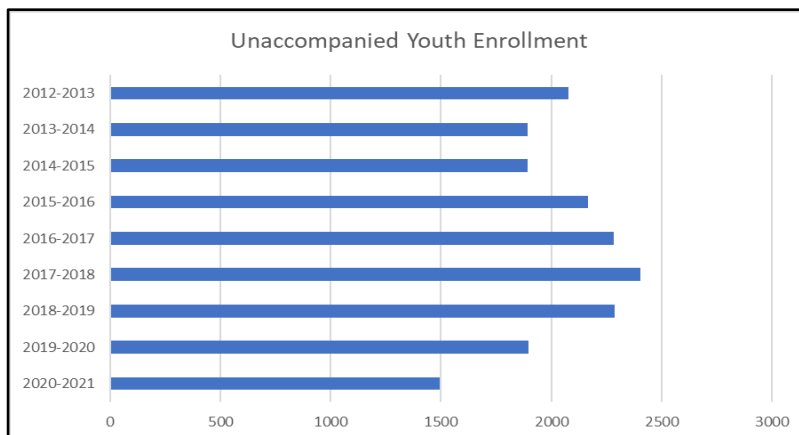
⁴⁶ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: WISEdash <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/22275>

⁴⁷ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: Homeless Data <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/data>

⁴⁸ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: WISEdash <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/22275>

As illustrated in the chart on the right, the number of unaccompanied youth has been decreasing since the 2017-2018 school year.

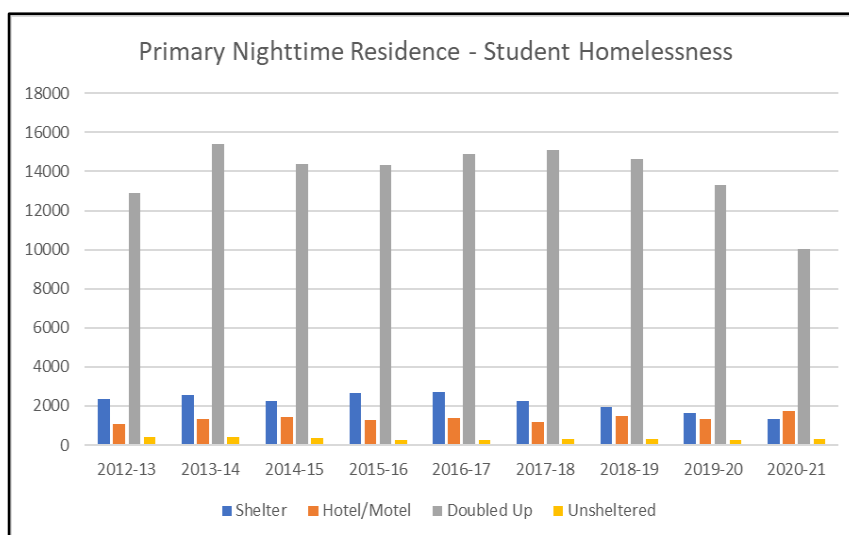
While the number has decreased, the percentage of unaccompanied youth out of the total number of students experiencing homelessness has remained relatively consistent between the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. As indicated in the table below, the largest reduction in the percentage of unaccompanied youth occurred between the 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 school years.⁴⁹



School Year	# Unaccompanied Youth	% Unaccompanied Youth
2015-2016	2,165	11.4%
2016-2017	2,283	11.9%
2017-2018	2,405	12.8%
2018-2019	2,286	12.5%
2019-2020	1,896	11.0%
2020-2021	1,496	11.1%

In 2020-2021 school year, almost 75% of students identifying as homeless at school are in doubled up situations. As illustrated in the chart below, doubled up has been the majority primary nighttime residence since 2012-13. Interesting to note, the number of students doubled up and in shelter have been decreasing since the 2018-2019 school year while the number of students staying in hotels/motels has increased.⁵⁰

It is possible that COVID 19, stay at home orders, the reduction in shelter capacity, and the availability of alternative resources such as vouchers may have played a role in the decrease in the number of youth in doubled up situations in 2020-21.



⁴⁹ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: Homeless Data <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/data>

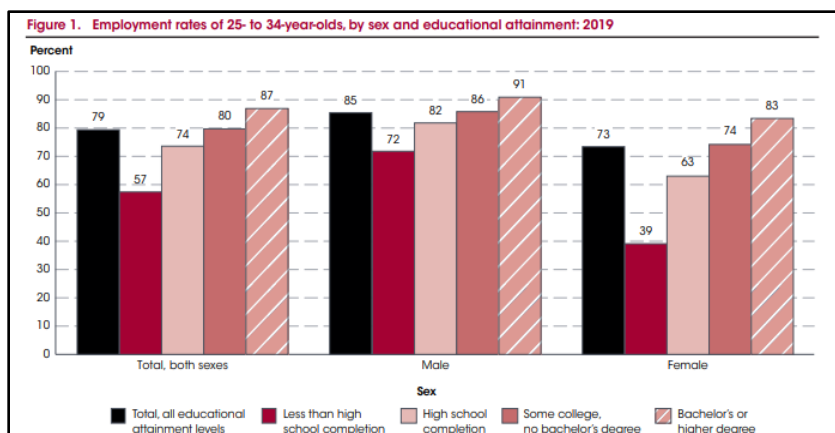
⁵⁰ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: Homeless Data <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/data>

7. Employment

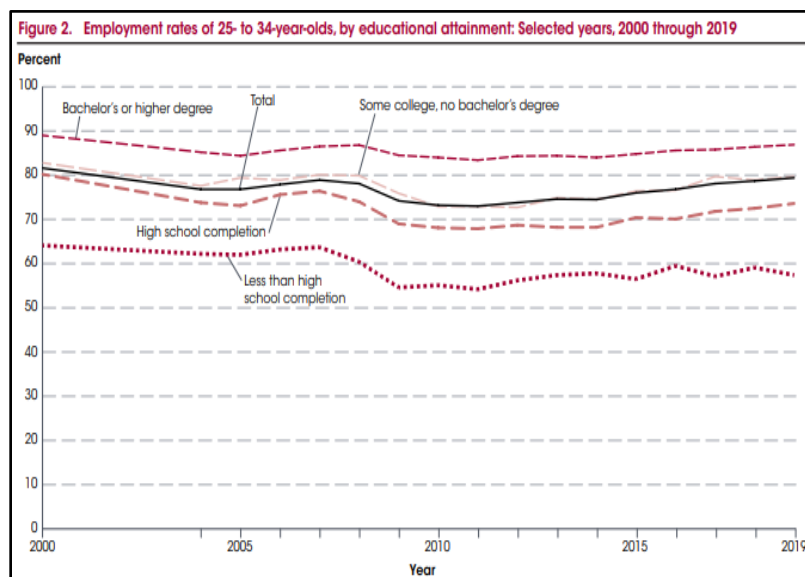
Nationally, data demonstrates that there is a distinct advantage to completing high school and continuing with educational advancement. In illustrated in the chart below, the employment rate for females between 25-34 years old in 2019 with a bachelor's or higher degree was 44% higher than for similar individuals who had not completed high school. For males, it was 19% higher. Only 39% of females with less than a high school diploma or GED are employed, as opposed to 72% of males in the same situation.⁵¹

The disparity among genders is not limited to employment rate. In Wisconsin, the median earnings are \$36,640. However, for females, the median income is \$31,226 and for males it is \$44,554.⁵²

From 2000-2019, adults 25-34 years old are more likely to be employed than those with some college, a high school diploma or less as illustrated in the chart below.⁵³



In Wisconsin, the unemployment rate was impacted by COVID. In 2020, there were 196,878 people unemployed (6.3%). In 2021, there were 118,400 people unemployed (3.8%). As of March 1, 2022, there were nine counties with an unemployment rate over 5%. They were Bayfield, Burnett, Crawford, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Menominee, Sawyer, and Washburn.⁵⁴



⁵¹ National Center for Educational Statistics https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe_cbc.pdf

⁵² Department of Workforce Development (DWD):WisConomy <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/query>

⁵³ National Center for Educational Statistics https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe_cbc.pdf

⁵⁴ Department of Workforce Development (DWD):WisConomy <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/query>

Looking specifically at youth and young adults, research from The Annie E. Casey Foundation indicates:

- In 2019, 53% of 16-19 year olds (or 161,000) were unemployed (161,000)
- In May-June 2021, 16% of 18-24 year olds reported that they or a household member experienced a loss of employment income in the past four weeks.
- During the same time period, 65% of 18-24 year olds reported working for pay or profit in the last seven days.⁵⁵

In Wisconsin, students who graduate from Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) with an Associate Degree have a median salary of \$50,000. Nine out of ten employers said that tech college program graduates met or exceeded expectations. The median salary for apprentices is \$81,072.⁵⁶

To increase engagement and prepare young people for future careers, the WI Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and school districts established a youth apprenticeship program. During the apprenticeship program, youth receive paid on-the-job experience, related classroom instruction, skilled mentors assigned to train, and exposure to multiple aspects of the industry. Upon completion, high school students receive a state-issued skill certificate.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, 6,387 students participated with 4,436 employers in the youth apprenticeship program. This was an increase from 2020-2021 when 5,414 students participated with 3,989 employers.

All illustrated in the chart to the right, most students were working in these four main career clusters: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Health Science; Hospitality, Lodging & Tourism; and Manufacturing.⁵⁷

For each career cluster, DWD publishes data to show the annual median wage, projected growth and availability of jobs in the field, and level of education needed for entry into the position.

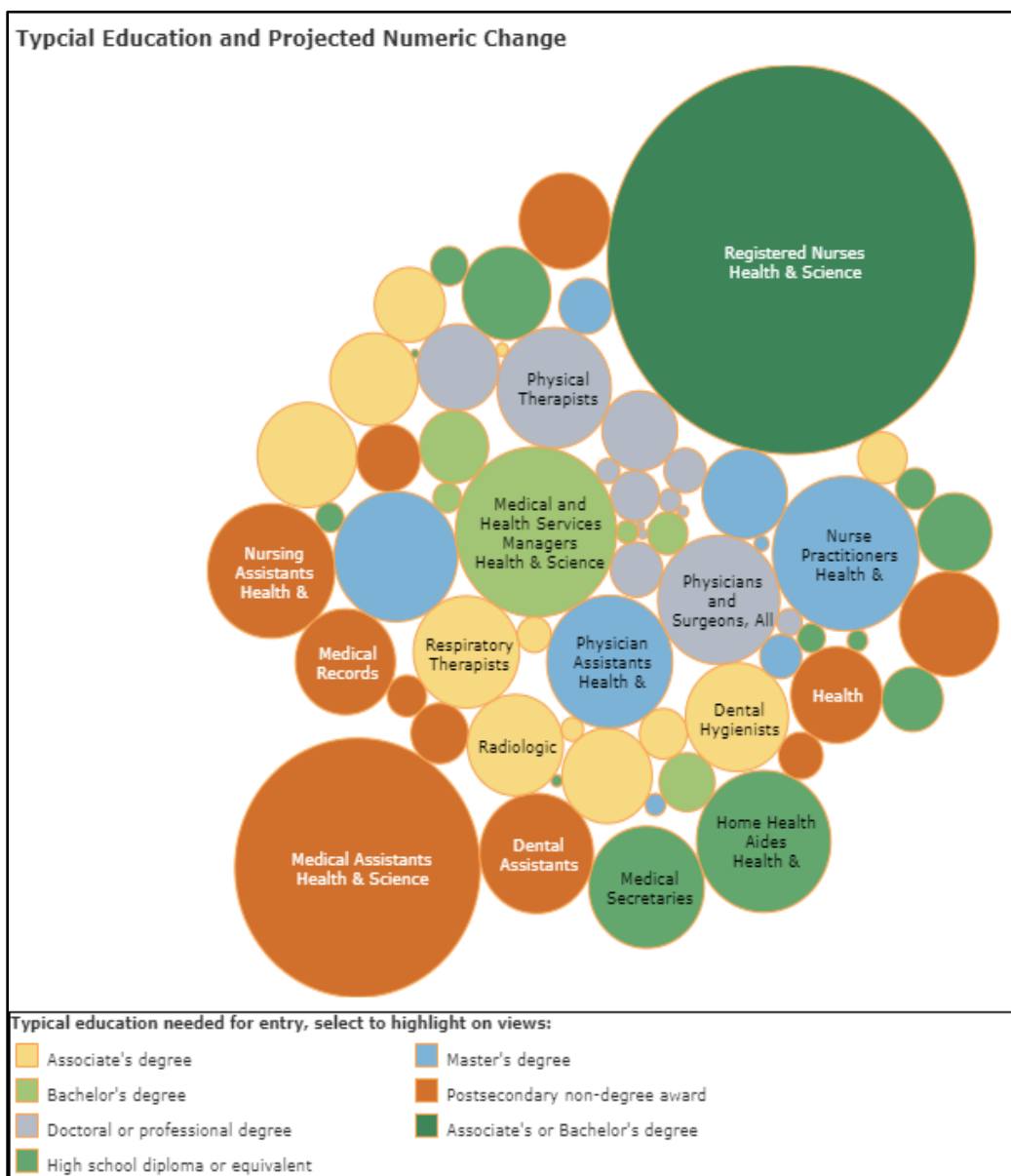
Program Area Name	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	368	448	445	488	566	667	753	784	806	847
Architecture & Construction	5	19	85	173	194	309	428	548	643	716
Arts, AV Tech. & Comm.	15	10	5	14	14	18	19	18	9	13
Finance	169	230	180	233	223	245	305	370	268	318
Health Science	393	493	399	550	639	721	860	1,054	929	1,135
Hospitality, Lodging & Tourism	214	359	396	446	629	756	744	943	772	852
Information Technology	44	70	74	98	111	143	147	152	139	168
Manufacturing	394	547	619	623	685	834	1,004	1,056	831	1,222
Marketing				1	39	150	279	450	423	584
Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)	57	105	92	112	125	142	155	158	105	143
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	170	239	257	304	336	388	425	573	534	568
	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students

⁵⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

⁵⁶ Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/impact/outcomes/>

⁵⁷ Department of Workforce Development (DWD): Youth Apprenticeship <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/ya/yoda.htm>

The chart below is an example of the career cluster: Health Science. Each bubble represents a type of occupation. Some are labeled and when accessed online, all the bubbles are identified. The size of the bubble indicates the amount of growth or need between 2018-2028 for that position. When someone clicks on the bubble, additional information appears with a link for another DWD website called Skill Explorer. This website provides additional information for each job, including a description of what the job duties would be, the typical earnings, and a hyperlink to openings in the field. The bubble color indicates the type of education needed for entry. This tool is used in the schools as well as by DWD to match skills, interest, and education around projected career opportunities and paths.⁵⁸



⁵⁸ Department of Workforce Development (DWD): Career Clusters
<https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/pub/careerclusters.htm>

B. Youth Homelessness

Youth homelessness data in the Balance of State CoC comes from three main sources: Point-in-Time, Coordinated Entry, and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data. Because each data source gathers data from different places during different date ranges, combining these three data sources generates a duplicated count of youth. Therefore, for planning purposes and the development of the CCP, the CoC chose to use the customized HMIS data reports to generate a numeric estimate of youth. In selecting this source, the CoC acknowledges that data will be missing as it does not account for non-HMIS providers serving youth including Victim Services Providers or those unsheltered and not seeking services. The HMIS reports were run for the period of 10/1/20-9/30/21 and do not necessarily reflect the youth engaged during the January 2022 PIT or in the coordinated entry prioritization list in February 2022. Finally, the information in this section reflects CoC-wide data.

	HMIS Data (non-RHY providers)	HMIS Data (RHY providers)	Total
At-risk unaccompanied youth	318	45	363
Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness	670	148	818
At-risk pregnant or parenting youth	186	0	186
Pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homelessness	200	0	200

In the sections below, each data set is explained, actual data shared, and steps for future changes and enhancements are identified. There are also summary sections and noteworthy observations.

1. Point-in-Time

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of unduplicated people experiencing homelessness during a designated one-night period. It is intended to capture a minimum amount of information on people experiencing homelessness, serve as an outreach opportunity to engage people sleeping in unsheltered situations, and create a snapshot of what homelessness looks like in a community. The PIT count is the only data source that brings together information on:

- people in emergency shelter, motel vouchers, transitional housing and safe havens regardless of whether the agency uses HMIS (Homeless Management Information System);
- people sleeping in places not meant for human habitation; and
- people served through victim service providers (VSP).

The CoC is required to conduct a PIT count across 100% of the geographic area covered by the CoC. The Balance of State covers sixty-nine counties within twenty-one local coalitions. Each coalition is required to conduct the count over the coalition's entire geographic footprint. All 4 CoCs in Wisconsin conduct the count on the same night. In the Balance of State, the count begins no earlier than 11:00 pm on the 4th Wednesday of January and ends at 6:00 am on the 4th Thursday of January. Because HUD allows an extended time frame after the designated night of the PIT count to identify additional people who were unsheltered on the night of the PIT but not engaged or surveyed, the Balance of State conducts a service-based count from 6:00 am on the 4th Thursday of January until the following Wednesday at 5:00 pm. This allows coalitions to collaborate with community locations in which people experiencing unsheltered homelessness may frequent but were not accessible during the overnight count including, but not limited to meal sites, food pantries, drop-in centers,

human services, free clinics, and libraries. It also allows coalitions to collaborate directly with additional partners such as law enforcement, faith-based organizations, school district staff, and workforce/job services.

While not required, the Balance of State CoC conducts a July count with the same methodology. By completing the count two times per year, and during different seasons, the CoC and the local coalitions can better understand the numbers and trends of people experiencing homelessness.

For the purposes of the PIT, the following HUD definitions apply:

- **Youth** – Persons under age 25. HUD collects and reports youth data based on persons under 18 and persons between 18 and 24.
- **Parenting Youth** – A youth who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.
- **Unaccompanied Youth** – Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent or guardian presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

The Balance of State has conducted a PIT count in this manner consistently since 2012. Data on parenting youth as sub-populations began in 2015. PIT data can be shared at the CoC and local coalition level. The Balance of State CoC will continue to encourage feedback from the CoC-wide YAB and local youth action groups on process, methodology, training, and engagement to ensure youth are accurately being found and offered services during the January and July counts. The CoC will provide additional training and support around the service-based count to expand identification and engagement with those who experienced homelessness on the night of the PIT, to increase partnership and involvement from youth-serving organizations, and to encourage youth involvement in each step of the process including debriefing activities.

The data on the next page is reflective of PIT data from the January counts, as was reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Youth Homelessness is not prominent or present in the community. If individuals were more aware that this is an issue perhaps they would be more willing to listen.

Local Coalition YAB Member

Balance of State CoC PIT data - January 2022

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total*
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		
Total				
• Households (HH)	1,558	340	151	2,049
• People	2,283	565	195	3,043
Total (HH without children)				
• Households (HH)	1,271	244	138	1,659
• People	1,302	249	141	1,698
Total (HH with children)				
• Households (HH)	287	96	13	396
• People	981	316	54	1,351
Unaccompanied youth				
• HH <18	7	2	0	9
• People < 18	9	3	0	12
• HH 18-24	99	24	8	131
• People 18-24	99	24	8	131
Parenting Youth				
• HH <18	0	0	0	0
• People <18	0	0	0	0
• HH 18-24	31	4	1	36
• People 18-24	36	4	1	41
Children of Parenting Youth	42	9	3	54

*Total does not include 6 HH, 6 people sheltered in safe havens (all over age 24)

Balance of State CoC PIT data - Additional Demographics - January 2022

Number (%)	Parenting Youth	Young Adult	Unaccompanied Youth
Gender			
• Female	34 (83%)	49 (37%)	5 (33%)
• Male	6 (15%)	78 (60%)	6 (50%)
• Transgender	1 (2%)	1 (<1%)	0 (17%)
• Gender Non-Conforming	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	1 (0%)
Race			
• White	19 (46.3%)	86 (66%)	7 (67%)
• Black or African American	12 (29.3%)	35 (27%)	4 (0%)
• Native American	7 (17.1%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
• Multi-Racial	3 (7.3%)	6 (5%)	1 (33%)
• Asian	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Ethnicity			
• Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x)	3 (7%)	11 (8%)	2 (0%)
• Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(o)(a)(x)	38 (93%)	120 (92%)	10 (100%)
Chronic Homeless			
• Household	7	9	0

During the January 2022 PIT, parenting youth households experiencing chronic homelessness comprised 19% of the total number of parenting youth households (7 out of 31). Young adult households experiencing chronic homelessness comprised 7% of the total number of young adult households (9 out of 131).

In addition, parenting youth households comprised 9% of the total number of households with children (36 out of 396). Young adult households comprised 8% of the total number of households without children (9 unaccompanied youth households plus 131 young adult households = 140 out of 1,659).

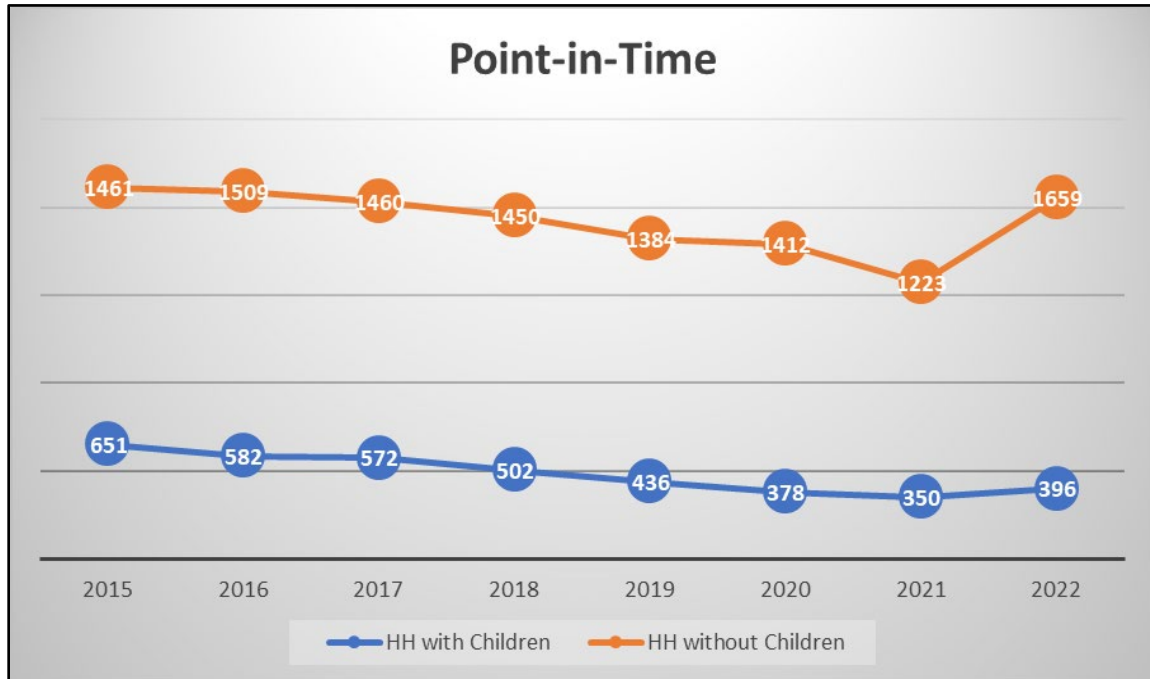
By Coalition

Looking at the local homeless coalition breakdown for parenting youth, young adult, and unaccompanied youth households:

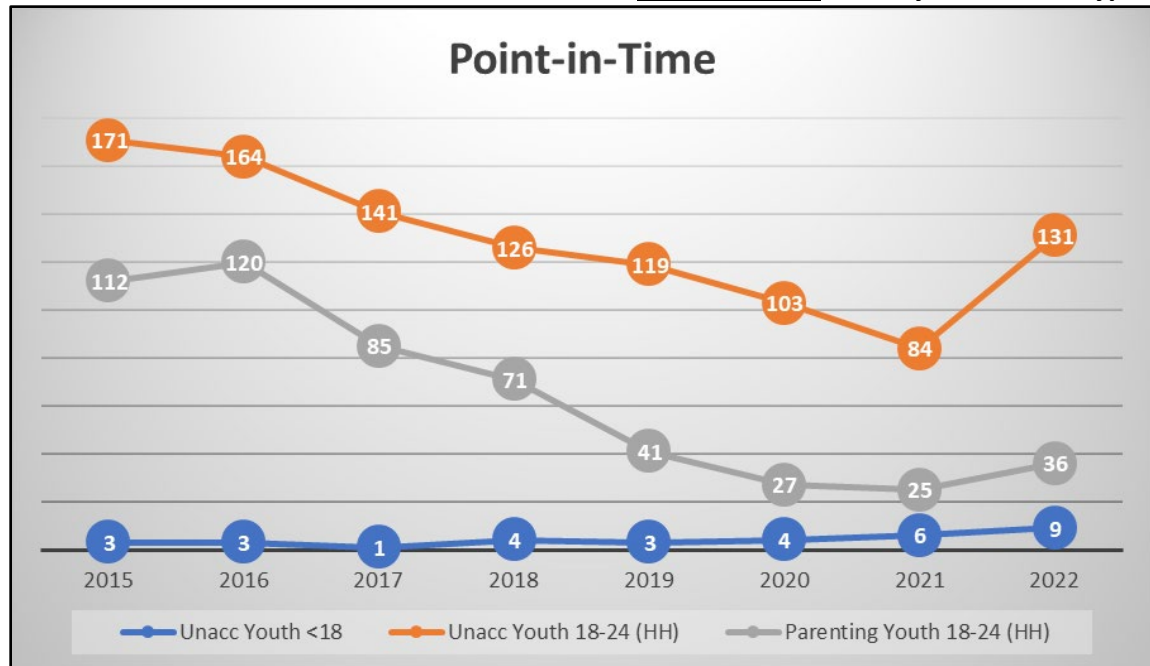
Coalition	Parenting Youth HH	Young Adult HH	Unaccompanied Youth HH
Brown	10	31	3
Central	2	2	0
Coulee	0	1	3
Dairyland	1	10	0
East Central	0	2	0
Fox Cities	4	10	0
Jefferson	0	1	0
Kenosha	1	4	0
Lakeshore	1	2	0
North Central	0	5	0
Northeast	2	1	0
Northwest	3	0	0
NWISH	0	3	0
Ozaukee	0	2	0
Rock Walworth	5	18	2
Rural North	0	4	1
Southwest	0	0	0
Washington	0	3	0
Waukesha	1	5	0
West Central	1	4	0
WinnebagoLand	5	17	0

In the Northwest coalition, there was one unsheltered parenting youth household. There was a total of eight unsheltered youth adult households: Brown (3), Coulee (1), Dairyland (1), and Kenosha (3).

Balance of State CoC PIT data from 2015-2022, household type:



Balance of State CoC PIT data from 2015-2022, youth specific data by household type:



2. Coordinated Entry

The CoC Interim Rule at 24 CFR 578.7(a)(8) requires that CoCs establish a centralized or coordinated assessment system. Coordinated entry is a streamlined process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. Because of the diversity and size of the Balance of State CoC, access to coordinated entry follows a “No Wrong Door” approach, which ensures that everyone can access the system regardless of which door or agency they initially contact for help. Each agency uses the same process for assessment, referrals, and prioritization. Within the Balance of State CoC, there are twenty-one local homeless coalitions and twenty local coordinated entry systems all governed by the same policies and process. In November 2015, the Balance of State CoC membership approved a CoC-wide Coordinated Entry Policy & Procedure Manual. In November 2017, version 2.0 was approved.

In the Balance of State CoC, the coordinated entry process can be divided into two distinct phases: placing persons on the Prioritization List and removing persons from the Prioritization List. Within these phases there are several distinct elements. Pre-Screen, assessment, and referral occur prior to placing people on the Prioritization List. Follow-up occurs while people are on the Prioritization List. Determination of eligibility and program enrollment result in removal of people from the Prioritization List. The CE system is dynamic in that all people are referred to all project types within the prioritization list. People are prioritized differently within the project type through an order of priority. Referrals are made to two different lists, one in HMIS and one outside of the HMIS system. The process and prioritization are the same for either method of referral. CE utilizes three tools for the purpose of prioritizing households experiencing homelessness. These tools are:

- Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) for single adults and households without children under age 18
- Family Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-F-SPDAT) for households with at least one adult and one child under age 18
- Transition-Age Youth Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (TAY-VI-SPDAT) for youth aged 24 years and younger

In the Balance of State CoC, policy changes and recommendations begin at the workgroup and/or committee level. For coordinated entry, there is a committee and eleven workgroups including domestic violence, evaluation, assessment, youth, other systems of care, and outreach. Work is currently being done to review and revise the three assessment tools being used to prioritize households experiencing homelessness. Following recommendations from the assessment workgroup and approval from the Coordinated Entry committee, the proposed changes are sent out to the full CoC membership which includes all twenty-one coalitions for comment. Additionally, members of local/regional youth action groups and the CoC youth action board (YAB) will specifically be asked to provide review, recommendation, and feedback.

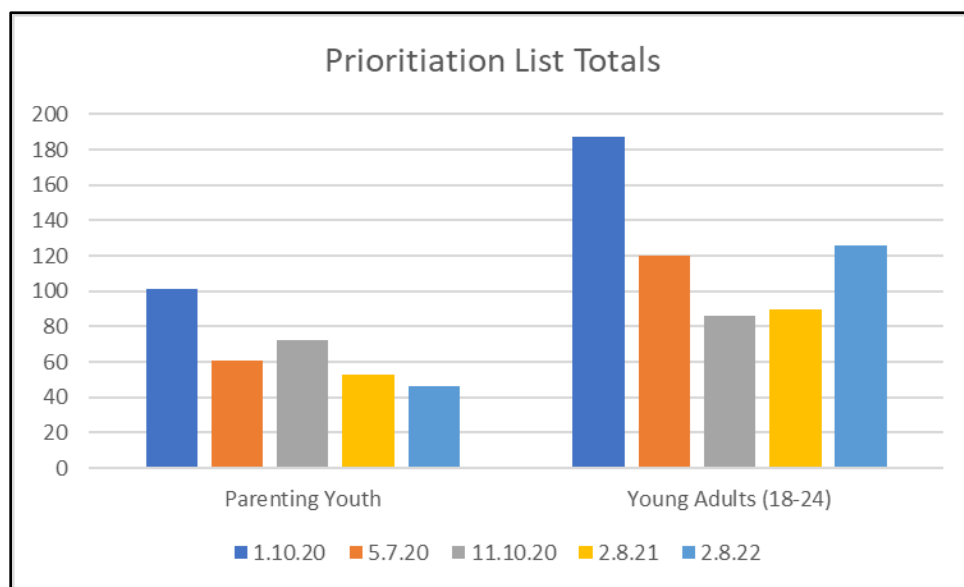
The CoC has one full-time dedicated staff person to oversee the operation of coordinated entry (CE) and subcontracts HUD SSO (Supportive Service Only) funds to a coordinated entry lead agency in each local coalition. The funds support a dedicated staff person tasked with managing the local coordinated entry system, including increased communication and coordination with Victim Services Providers. The CoC was able to make an investment in the development and maintenance of the non-HMIS prioritization list to focus on domestic violence after securing Continuum of Care (CoC) Domestic Violence Bonus funds. The CE system continues to evolve to meet the needs of each population experiencing homelessness and YHDP will call for new efforts targeted to youth. The CoC will continue to seek additional funding to support these positions and to ensure each local coalition has appropriate capacity to carry out additional activities, including through YHDP.

Balance of State CoC Coordinated Entry Data (2020-2022)

Prioritization List Totals (# of Households)

	1/10/20	5/7/20	11/10/20	2/8/21	2/8/22
Households with Children	759	433	528	475	421
Parenting Youth (sub-set)	101	61	72	53	46
Percentage of Parenting Youth out of the Total	13.3%	14.1%	13.6%	11.2%	10.9%

	1/10/20	5/7/20	11/10/20	2/8/21	2/8/22
Households without Children	2,037	1,356	1,344	1,360	1,625
Young Adults 18-24 (sub-set)	187	120	86	90	126
Percentage of Young Adults out of the Total	9.2%	8.8%	6.4%	6.6%	7.8%



Looking at each household type and sub-set, the type of permanent housing solution needed is determined by looking at chronicity, disability status, and length of time homeless. Solutions are organized into three types: permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing with intensive case management, and rapid re-housing. In Wisconsin, the ESG recipient is the State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources (DEHCR). DEHCR requires each local coalition to use some of the ESG allocated funds for rapid re-housing. Those rapid re-housing projects tend to be smaller in scale and offer once a month limited case management services available because of the minimal amount of funding. This style of rapid re-housing can be helpful for those experiencing homelessness because of economic factors (i.e., lost a job or reduction in hours). Households with multiple barriers to housing stability are often more successful when there is increased access to supports. Rapid re-housing with intensive case management is a housing

model that provides opportunities for more intensive case management and supportive services (i.e., CoC funded rapid re-housing).

Permanent supportive housing solutions are targeted to households that:

- meet the chronic homeless definition
 - has a disabling condition;
 - in a current HUD category 1 homeless situation (emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation); and
 - homeless for twelve consecutive months or four times within three years that totals twelve months
- meet the 2nd priority definition
 - has a disabling condition;
 - in a current HUD category 1 homeless situation (emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation); and
 - homeless for twelve non-consecutive months or less than four times within three years

Rapid re-housing with intensive case management solutions is targeted to households that:

- have a disabling condition and less than twelve months homeless; or
- do not have a disabling condition and have more than twelve months homeless

Rapid Re-housing solutions are targeted to households that:

- do not have a disabling condition and have less than twelve months homeless.

There are additional data tables in the Appendix, Section I (data tables), Part A (coordinated entry) that show the number of households, average months homeless, and how many solutions are needed for each household type, by category between 2020 - 2022. The total number of permanent housing solutions by household are described in the chart on the next page.

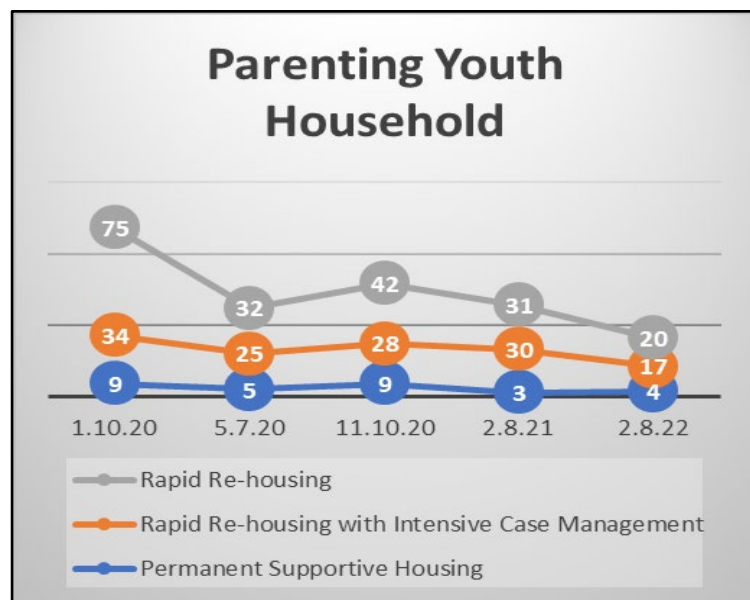
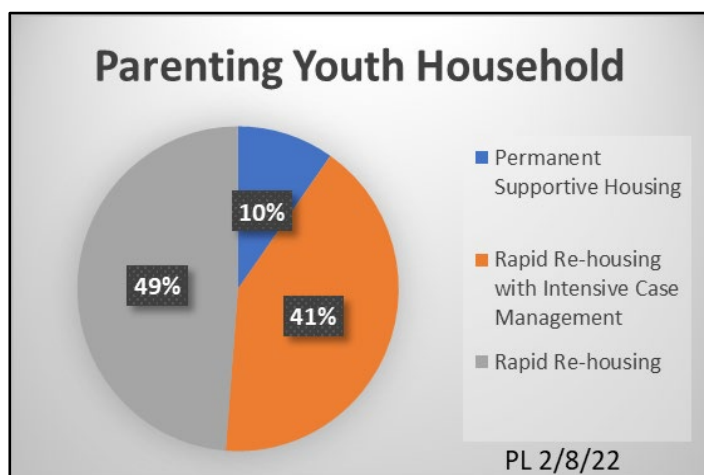


Permanent Housing Solution by Household Type - Parenting Youth Households

	1/10/20	5/7/20	11/10/20	2/8/21	2/8/22
Permanent Supportive Housing	9	5	9	3	4
Rapid Re-housing with intensive case management	34	25	28	30	17
Rapid Re-housing	75	32	42	31	20

Reviewing coordinated entry prioritization list data for parenting youth households from February 8, 2022:

- Permanent Supportive Housing solutions accounted for 10% of the total solutions needed for parenting youth households.
- Rapid Re-housing with intensive case management accounted for 41% of the total solutions needed for parenting youth households.
- Rapid Re-housing accounted for 49% of the total solutions needed for parenting youth households.

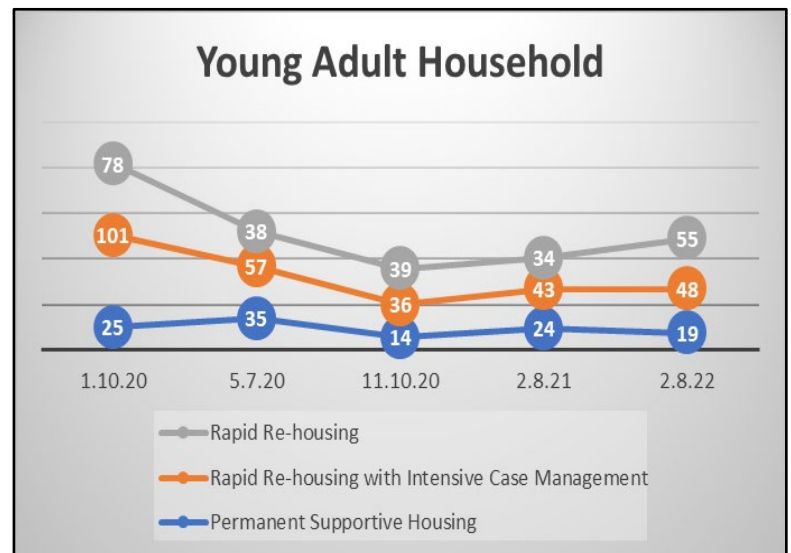
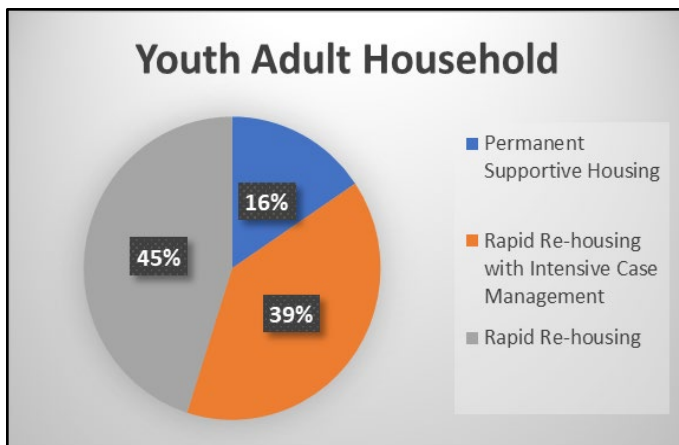


Permanent Housing Solution by Household Type - Young Adult Households

	1/10/20	5/7/20	11/10/20	2/8/21	2/8/22
Permanent Supportive Housing	25	35	14	24	19
Rapid Re-housing with intensive case management	101	57	36	43	48
Rapid Re-housing	78	38	39	34	55

In reviewing the coordinated entry prioritization list data for young adult households from February 8, 2022:

- Permanent Supportive Housing solutions accounted for 16% of the total solutions needed for young adult households.
- Rapid Re-housing with intensive case management accounted for 39% of the total solutions needed for young adult households.
- Rapid Re-housing accounted for 45% of the total solutions needed for young adult households.

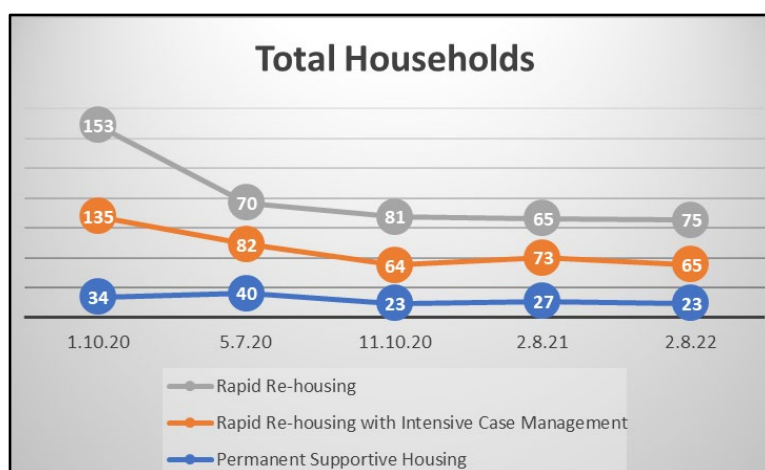
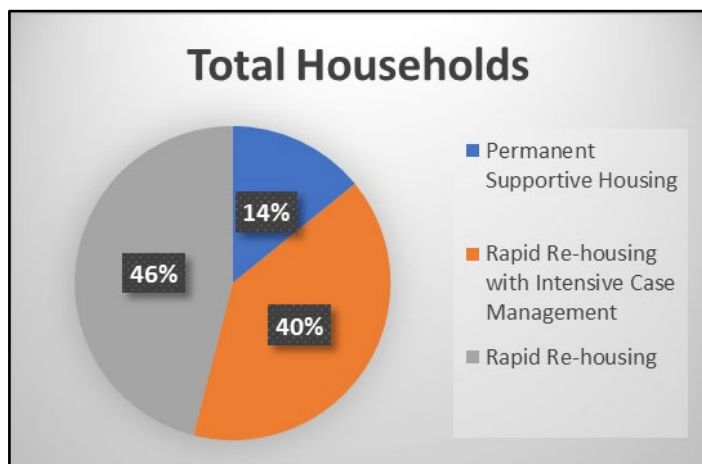


Permanent Housing Solution by Household Type - Parenting Youth and Young Adult Households

Total	1/10/20	5/7/20	11/10/20	2/8/21	2/8/22
Permanent Supportive Housing	34	40	23	27	23
Rapid Re-housing with intensive case management	135	82	64	73	65
Rapid Re-housing	153	70	81	65	75

Combining the solution needs for both parenting youth and young adult households as of February 8, 2022:

- Permanent Supportive Housing solutions accounted for 14% of the total solutions needed.
- Rapid Re-housing with intensive case management accounted for 40% of the total solutions needed.
- Rapid Re-housing accounted for 46% of the total solutions needed.



Summary of PIT and Coordinated Entry data

Looking specifically at PIT data from 2015 to 2021, there appears to be a downward trajectory in the number of young adults and parenting youth identified in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered in the Balance of State CoC. There has been a 48% decrease in the number of unaccompanied minors and 18–24-year-olds and a 78% decrease in the number of parenting youth households. In the same range, there was only a 16% decrease in the total number of households without children and a 46% decrease in the total number of households with children. The reduction of youth-led households was greater than the decrease in the total number of households experiencing homelessness identified during the PIT.

When looking at PIT data from January 2022, there was an unexpected increase in people experiencing homelessness in all household types, including youth-headed households. There was a 56% increase in the number of young adult households ages 18-24, a 50% increase in unaccompanied youth households, and a 44% increase in the number of parenting youth households. There was also a 36% increase in the total number of households without children and a 13% increase in the total number of households with children. The increase of youth-led households was greater than the increase in the total number of households experiencing homelessness identified during the PIT. The CoC will be working on strategies to address and better understand the cause of this increase among the general population. With additional support around YHDP, the CoC will take a closer look at the significant increases in the number of young adults and parenting youth.

In reviewing PIT and coordinated entry data together for 2021:

- (1) The number of young adults counted during the January PIT was the same as identified through coordinated entry in February 2021. However, the number of parenting youth counted in the January PIT was less than half of those identified through coordinated entry in February 2021.
- (2) While the number of unaccompanied youth under 18 and 18-24 comprise 7.4% of the total households without children during the January PIT, that population makes up 6.6% of the population identified through coordinated entry. While parenting youth comprise 7.1% of the total households with children during the January PIT, that population makes up 11.2% of the population identified through coordinated entry.

In reviewing PIT and coordinated entry data together for 2022:

- (1) The number of young adults counted during the January PIT was more than the number identified through coordinated entry in February 2022. The number of parenting youth counted in the January PIT continued to be less than those identified through coordinated entry in February 2022.
- (2) While the number of unaccompanied youth under 18 and 18-24 comprise 8.4% of the total households without children during the January PIT, that population makes up 7.8% of the population identified through coordinated entry. While parenting youth comprise 9.1% of the total households with children during the January PIT, that population makes up 10.9% of the population identified through coordinated entry.

Comparing coordinated entry data from February 2021 and February 2022, the total number of unaccompanied youth under 18 and 18-24 increased from 90 to 126. The total number of parenting youth decreased from 53 to 46. As shown in the chart below, the need for certain permanent housing solutions also changed between February 2021 to February 2022.

	2021		2022	
	% of Intervention	Size of Housing Gap	% of Intervention	Size of Housing Gap
Permanent Supportive Housing	16 %	27 units	14%	23 units
Rapid Re-housing with Intensive Case Management	44%	73 units	40%	65 units
Rapid Re-housing	39%	65 units	46%	75 units

3. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data

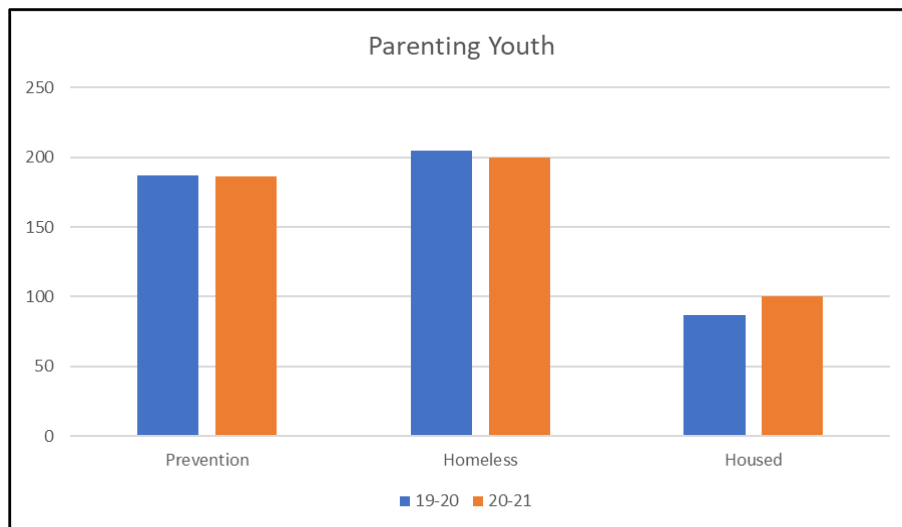
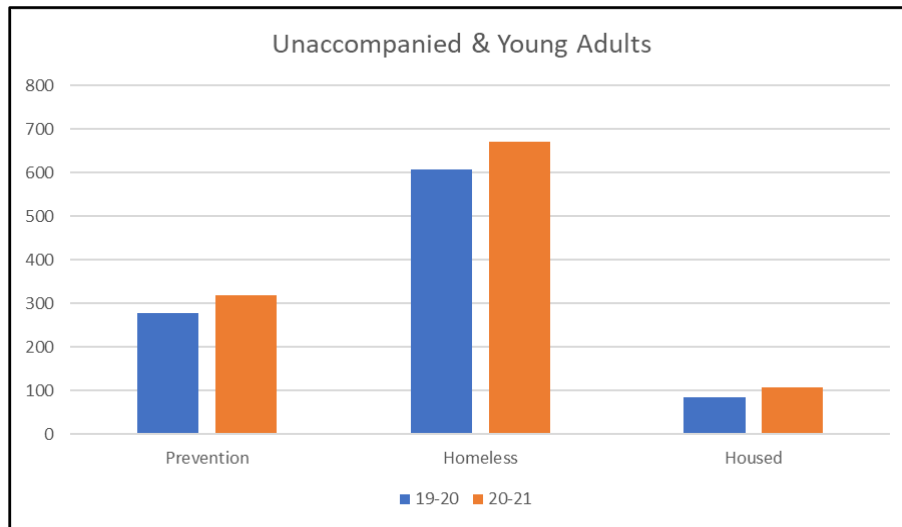
The CoC Interim Rule at 24 CFR 578.7(b) requires that CoCs must designate a single Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the geographic area; designate an eligible application to manage the CoC's HMIS; review, revise and approve a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan for the HMIS; ensure consistent participation of recipients and subrecipients in the HMIS; and ensure the HMIS is administered in compliance with requirements prescribed by HUD. In Wisconsin, the four HUD recognized CoCs (Balance of State, Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine) are responsible for shared governance of the Wisconsin HMIS and selected the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) as the HMIS lead. The CoC's oversight and governance responsibilities are carried out by the HMIS Advisory Board, which reviews and approves all HMIS policies and procedures. The governance charter sets forth the general understandings and specific responsibilities of each part relating to key aspects of the governance and operation of the Wisconsin HMIS. Each CoC and ICA review and approve the governance charter annually. In Wisconsin, there is only one HMIS system. The vendor is Bitfocus, and the system is Clarity.

The Wisconsin HMIS has a high HMIS bed coverage rate that includes both projects required and not required to participate. There has always been an emphasis on using HMIS whenever possible. HMIS is one tool used for the CoC's coordinated entry system as well. According to the 2021 HDX Competition Report used in the CoC Competition for funds, the total HMIS coverage rate was 90.31%. This includes emergency shelter beds (94%), safe haven beds (100%), transitional housing beds (61%), rapid re-housing beds (100%), permanent supportive housing beds (88%), and other permanent housing beds (42%). This data does not include victim service providers as they are precluded from participating in the CoC's HMIS system.

Because there is significant coverage across program types, the use of HMIS data is important when looking at youth and the homeless service system. Upon request, ICA built reports on three main components of the homeless service system - those at risk of homelessness, those experiencing homelessness, and those in permanent housing projects. Examples of projects providing services to those at risk include tenant based rental assistance (TBRA), homeless prevention, and other eviction prevention programs. Examples of projects providing emergency services include emergency shelter, street outreach, motel vouchers, warming centers, safe havens, and transitional housing. Examples of projects providing permanent housing include rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. The HMIS reports provide demographic information (including gender, race, ethnicity) by household type, specifically unaccompanied youth and parenting youth, for all persons enrolled in the program regardless of funding source (except for Runaway Homeless Youth data). The reports also provide information about prior living situations, exit destinations, disability status and information about education, employment, income, non-cash benefit, and health insurance. Run for the federal fiscal year 10/1/19-9/30/20 and 10/1/20-9/30/21, data for unaccompanied youth and parenting youth in each component for projects within the WI Balance of State CoC are listed in data charts found in the Appendix, Section I (Data Tables), Part B (HMIS Data Tables). The Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) data is included in a different set of the same reports. The RHY data charts can be found in the Appendix, Section I (Data Tables), Part C (RHY Data Tables). Each report is available by local homeless coalition as well. Note - RHY providers have different data collection expectations and provider types than other HUD funded projects. In addition, there is a much smaller number of providers.

Summary of HMIS (Non-RHY) Data

Looking at the HMIS data reported in the Appendix (Section I, Part B), there was a total of 1,449 youth and young adults that received prevention, homeless, or housing assistance between 10/1/19-9/30/20 and 1,580 between 10/1/20-9/30/21, a 9% increase. Of the total in each fiscal year, approximately 20% received prevention, 42% received homeless assistance, and 38% received housing support.



- With prevention assistance, 60% of the youth under the age of 25 (unaccompanied and non-parenting) and 40% were parenting youth in FY20 and slightly higher at 63% and 37% in FY21. Looking at demographics, on average 68% are white and 32% are not white; 91% are non-Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) and 9% Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x); and 70% identify as female and 30% identify as male.
- With homeless assistance, 75% of the youth under the age of 25 (unaccompanied and non-parenting) and 25% were parenting youth in FY20 and slightly higher at 77% and 23% in FY21. Looking at demographics, on average 61% are white and 39% are not white; 90% are non-Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) and 10% Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x); and 51% identify as female, 47% identify as male, and 2% identify as transgender.

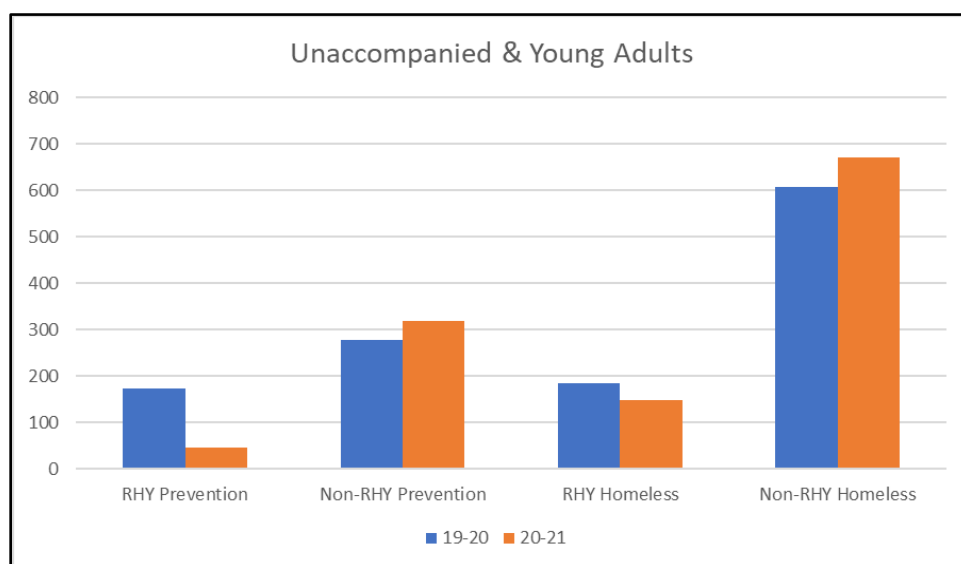
- With housing support, 49% of the youth under the age of 25 (unaccompanied and non-parenting) and 51% were parenting youth in FY20 and slightly more at 51% and 49% in FY21. Looking at demographics, on average 53% are white and 47% are not white; 93% non-Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) and 7% Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x); and 68% identify as female, 30% identify as male, and 2% identify as transgender.

In reviewing prior living situations for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in FY20, 20% stayed in an emergency shelter, 26% stayed in a place not meant for human habitation, and 54% stayed in an institution or other temporary living situation. Similar data breakdown exists for FY21. However, for youth and young adults in permanent housing in FY20, 56% stayed at an emergency shelter; 37% stayed in a place not meant for human habitation; and only 7% stayed in an institution or other temporary living situation. Similar data breakdown exists for FY21.

Finally, looking at exit destinations for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in FY20, 37% exited to a permanent destination and 63% did not. In FY21, 34% exited to a permanent housing destination and 66% did not. For youth and young adults in permanent housing in FY20, 71% exited to a permanent destination and 29% did not. In FY21, 68% exited to a permanent destination and 32% did not.

Summary of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) HMIS Data

Looking at the HMIS data reported in the Appendix (Section I, Part D), there was a total of 358 youth and young adults that received prevention or homeless assistance between 10/1/19-9/30/20 and 193 between 10/1/20-9/30/21, a 46% decrease. It is important to point out that in FY20 there were only four prevention and seven homeless projects with RHY data. In FY21, there was one prevention and six homeless projects with RHY data. This significant reduction in projects entering RHY data may have directly impacted the number of youth served, rather than an actual reduction in youth needing service. Of those served in FY20, 49% received prevention and 51% received homeless assistance. In FY21, 24% received prevention and 77% received homeless assistance.



RHY prevention assistance demographics show 28% of youth identify as a race other than white and 14% identified as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) in FY20. In FY21, 30% identified as not white and 12% identified as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x). Most youth identified as female or male. However, the majority shifted from FY20 (female 67%, male 30%) to FY21 (male 49%, female 42%).

RHY homeless assistance demographics show 32% of youth identify as a race other than white and 7% as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) in FY20. In FY21, 44% of youth identify as a race other than white and 20% as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x). Almost all the youth identified as female or male, approximately 98%.

In reviewing prior living situations for youth experiencing homelessness in FY20, 7% stayed in emergency shelter, 13% stayed in a place not meant for human habitation, and 80% stayed in an institution or other temporary living situation. In FY21, 4% stayed in emergency shelter, 8% stayed in a place not meant for human habitation, and 88% stayed in an institution or other temporary living situation.

Finally, looking at exit destinations for youth experiencing homelessness in FY20, 66% exited to a permanent destination. In FY21, 65% exited to a permanent destination.

Compared to the non-RHY data collected and discussed above and, in the Appendix, (Section I, Part B), there are a few noteworthy observations:

- In non-RHY data, parenting youth comprise approximately 40% of the youth served in prevention programs and 25% of the youth served in homeless assistance programs. In the RHY data, no parenting youth data was reported.
- The number of youth served under the age of 25 (unaccompanied and non-parenting) in RHY programs decreased in both prevention and homeless services where non-RHY numbers increased in both.
- Transgender, gender non-conforming, and questioning were represented among this population in RHY prevention data but not in non-RHY data or RHY homeless data. RHY prevention programs may provide service to youth otherwise unable or unwilling to access shelter services as therefore may include a higher representation of those identifying differently than male or female.
- Youth experiencing homelessness in RHY programs come from institutional or temporary living situations at a higher percentage than non-RHY programs. For example, in FY21 it was 88% in RHY vs. 49% in non-RHY.
- Youth experiencing homelessness in RHY programs exit to permanent housing destinations at a higher percentage than non-RHY programs. For example, in FY21 it was 65% in RHY vs. 30% in non-RHY.

Data on youth and young adults was challenging to gather. HMIS reports did not exist to access the information requested. Moving forward, the CoC intends to work with ICA to create custom reports that will provide data on youth and young adults under 18 and 18-24 as well as parenting youth by project type (prevention, homeless, housing) and include demographics. In collaboration with WAHRS, the CoC plans to add additional assessment questions and expand on currently collected demographic information to better understand the population.

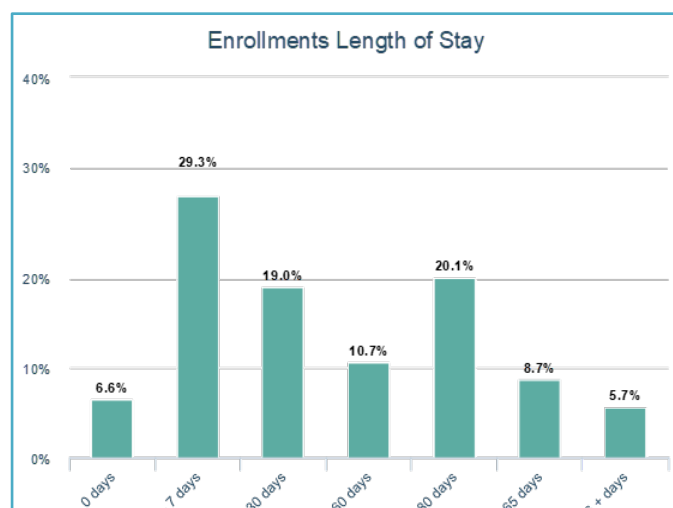
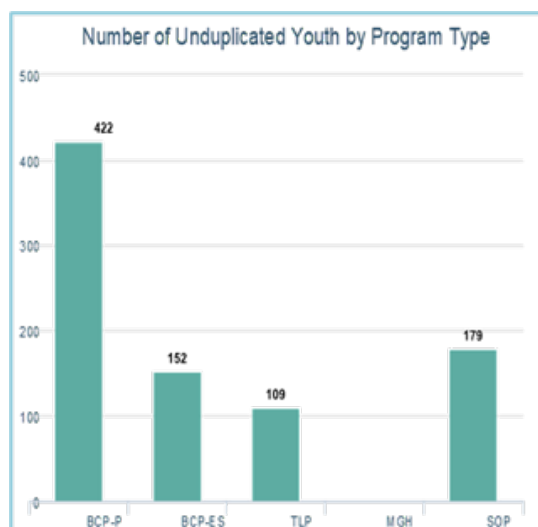
In addition to the HMIS customized reports, WAHRS provided the following data from the RHY-HMIS Dashboard.⁵⁹ RHY providers funded under the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) submit data semi-annually to the RHY-HMIS portal. This data provides a summary of youth served through these programs. The

⁵⁹ US Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Family & Youth Service Bureau: RHY-HMIS <https://dashboard.rhy-hmis.acf.hhs.gov/data/persons/enrollmentandnumberofyouth>

most recent data available on the dashboard is from 2019 and includes the entire state of Wisconsin (i.e., it includes communities not part of the YHDP application and the three other HUD recognized CoC's). Data is not able to be separated by county at this time.

This RHY data illustrates the importance of supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness. For example, Basic Center Prevention (BCP-P) services are utilized at nearly three times the rate of Basic Center Shelter (BCP-ES) services, showing that prevention services help youth avoid shelter. Based on input from local and CoC YAB members and stakeholders, the high utilization rate results from a lack of sufficient shelter options that are geographically accessible throughout the state, as well as the desire of young people to use other support systems to avoid shelter.

The lower rate of service provision under Street Outreach (SOP) and Transitional Living Program (TLP) services is also related to the lack of availability of these services under the Family and Youth Services Bureau. The nationally competitive landscape results in limited funding opportunities. The data provided in the RHY-HMIS national dashboard does not include data reported by RHY providers reflecting other funding sources, including RHY funding from WI Department of Children and Families.



Unaccompanied youth, under the age of 18, and served in a shelter setting are reported on the RHY-HMIS dashboard. The chart below using data from 10/1/19-9/30/20 shows the length of stay for those youth. Most stays are for short periods of time, with 29.3% staying less than one week and an additional 19% staying less than thirty days. These lengths of stay likely reflect restrictions on funding as well as licensure requirements as FYSB funding will provide services for up to 21 days in a Basic Center Program. Similarly, Wisconsin legislation typically allows for the voluntary placement of a young person in a sheltercare licensed facility for 20 days.

4. Stella P. Data

Stella is an analysis and strategy tool to help CoCs understand how their systems are performing. The Stella Performance module (Stella P) provides dynamic visualization of CoCs Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) data to illustrate how households move through the homeless system. Stella looks at system-level performance from three critical performance measures: number of days homeless, exits from the homeless system to permanent destinations, and returns to the homeless system after exits to permanent destinations. Stella P does not show performance measures at the project level or by individuals, rather by households. Data from

emergency shelter, safe haven, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing projects participating in HMIS are included in Stella P.

For the Balance of State CoC CCP, the report period 10/1/20 – 9/30/21 in Stella was used. Some charts and graphics are included below. More data tables can be found in the Appendix, Section I (Data Tables), Part C (Stella P. Data Tables). Key definitions include:

- **Average Days Homeless** = Stella P defines Days Homeless as the average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in emergency shelter, safe haven, or transitional projects; and days in rapid re-housing or permanent supportive housing prior to move-in; plus continuous time in these projects prior to the report period back to 10/1/2012. Periods of less than seven days between project enrollments are not considered a break in the continuity of homelessness and are included within the count of Days Homeless.
- **Exits to Permanent Destinations** = % of exits to permanent destinations
- **Returns to Homelessness** = % of returns to the homeless system within six months of an exit to a permanent destination

Summary Data Table – Stella P. (10/1/20-9/30/21)

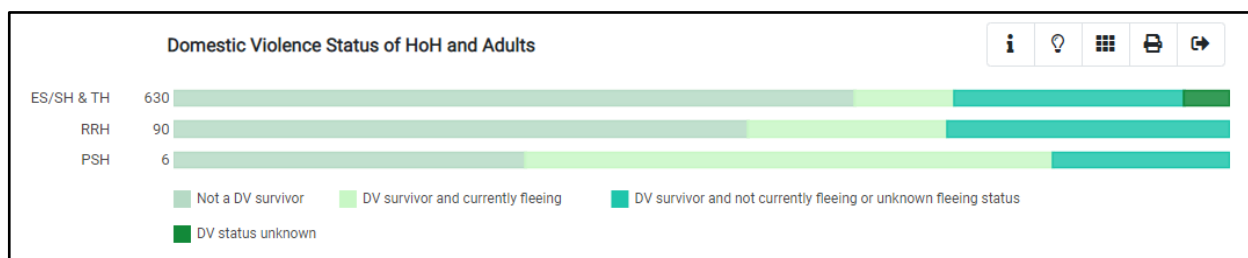
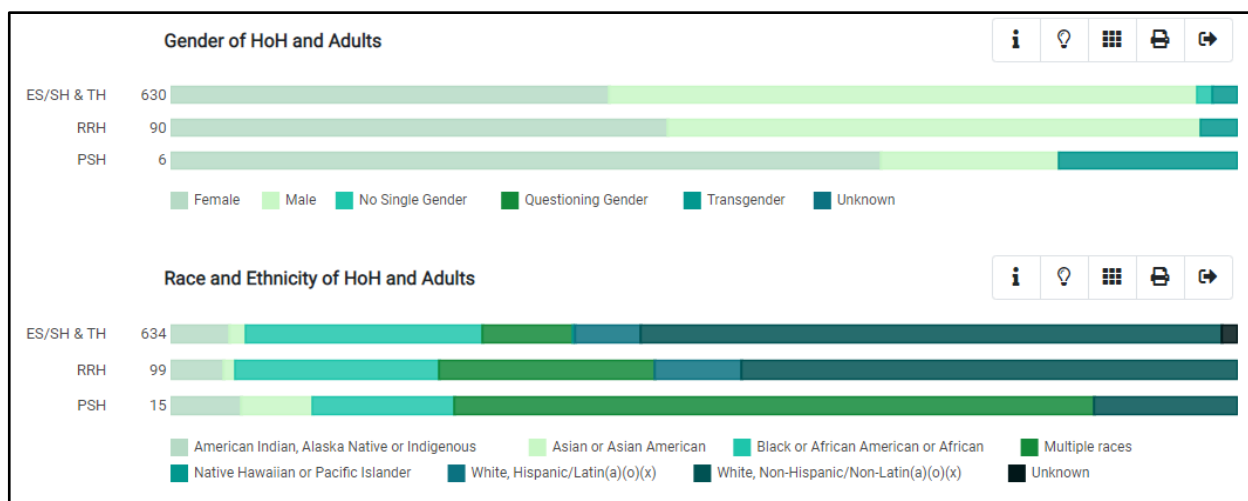
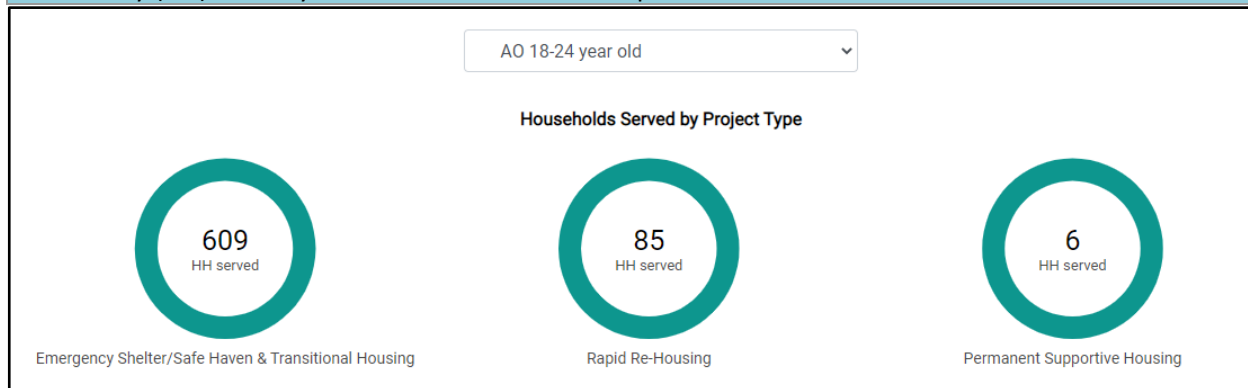
	Households	People	Average Days Homeless	Exits to Permanent Destinations	Returns to Homelessness
All People	8,840	12,932	195	30%	12%
Adult Only (AO)	7,095	7,475	196	26%	14%
Adult & Child (AC)	1,654	5,508	194	46%	5%
Child Only (CO)	60	66	0	49%	9%
AO 18–24-year-old	665	692	105	28%	13%
AC parenting youth	194	537	189	47%	7%

It is interesting to see that in Stella P. exits to permanent destinations differed between young adults and parenting youth (28% vs. 47%). In the previous section, data gathered through a customized HMIS report, some of the trends are different - for youth experiencing homelessness the difference was 62% exits to permanent destinations for young adults vs. 73% for parenting youth; for those in permanent housing the difference was 30% vs. 47%. A similar trend is that parenting youth exit to permanent housing at a higher rate than young adults.

Demographic Characteristics by Project Type

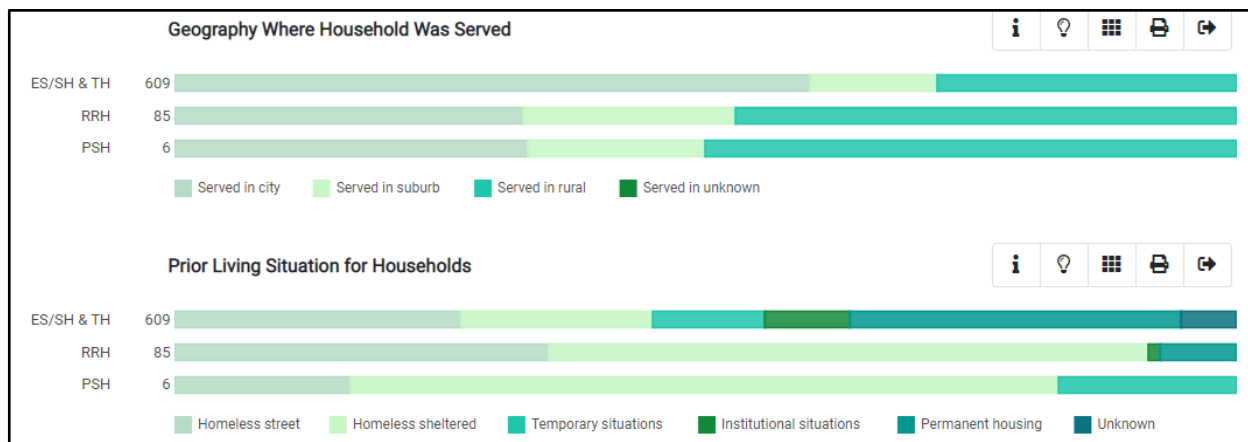
Households may have been served in more than one project type; the data has not been deduplicated across project types. The demographics of these households are compared across project types in the charts below.

Adult Only (AO) 18–24-year-old households made up 9.4% of the total households without children.

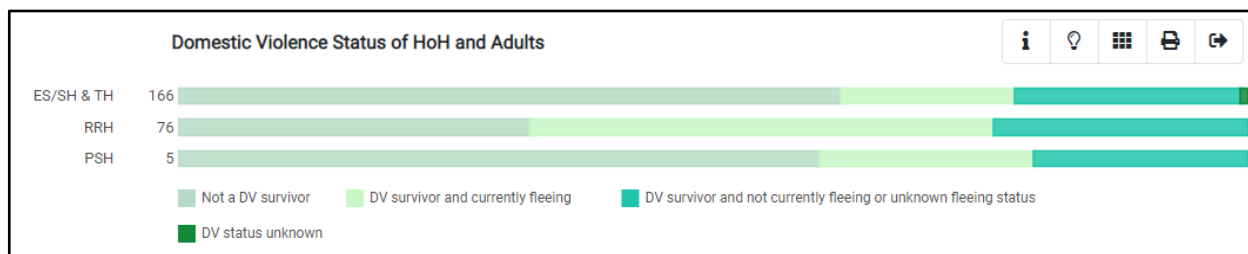
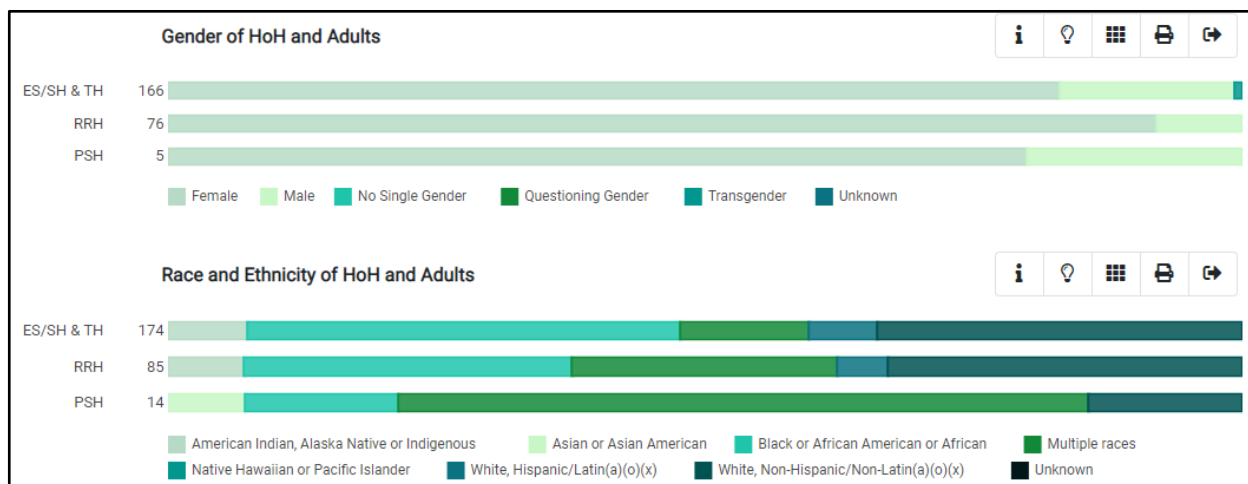
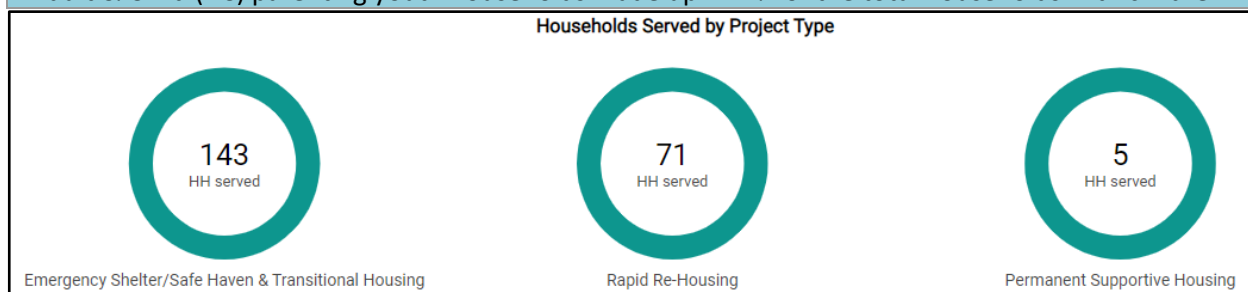


Chronic Homelessness and Disabling Condition of HoH and Adults

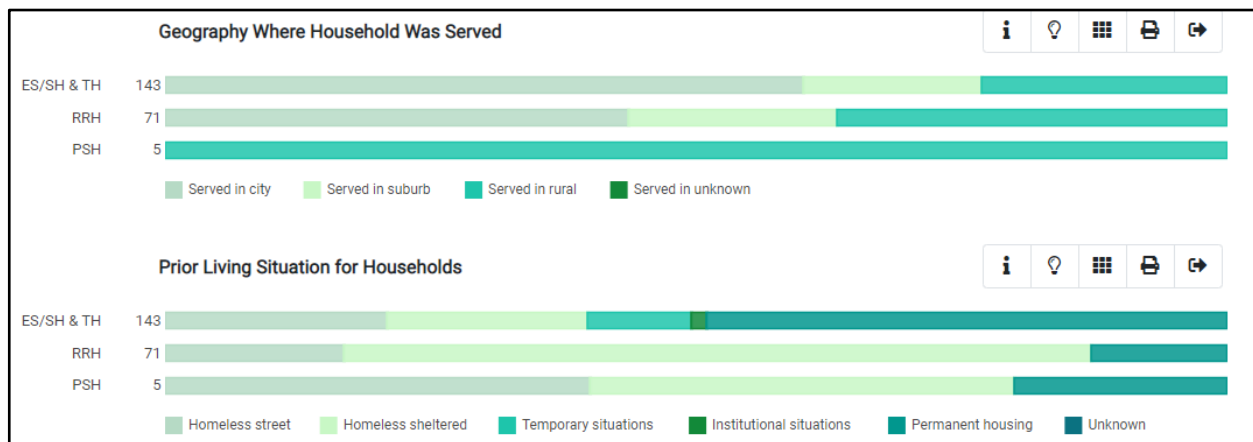
	Chronically homeless	365+ days homeless, 4+ occasions, no disabling condition	365+ days homeless, 2-3 occasions, has disabling condition	365+ days homeless, <4 occasions, no disabling condition	270-364 days homeless, has disabling condition	270-364 days homeless, no disabling condition	<270 days homeless, has disabling condition	<270 days homeless, no disabling condition
ES/SH & TH	82	34	3	1	9	5	216	280
RRH	12	10	7	3	5	2	27	24
PSH	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0



Adult & Child (AC) parenting youth households made up 11.7% of the total households with children.



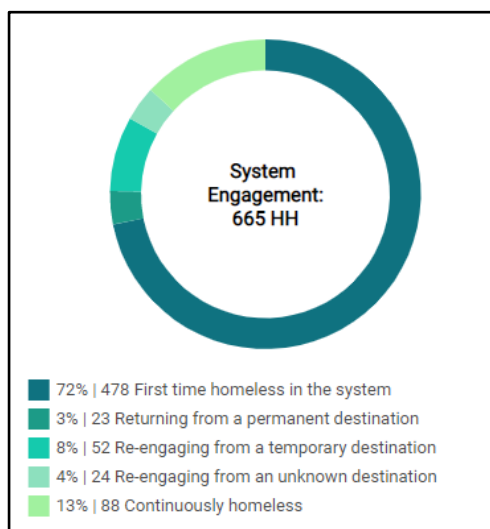
	Chronically homeless	365+ days homeless, 4+ occasions, no disabling condition	365+ days homeless, 2-3 occasions, has disabling condition	365+ days homeless, <4 occasions, no disabling condition	270-364 days homeless, has disabling condition	270-364 days homeless, no disabling condition	<270 days homeless, has disabling condition	<270 days homeless, no disabling condition
ES/SH & TH	10	13	1	2	2	5	37	96
RRH	6	7	0	1	3	3	23	33
PSH	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0



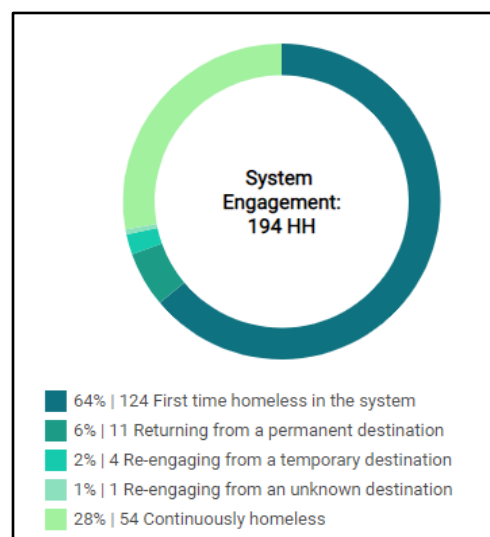
System Engagement

The chart below divides households into five system engagement categories. These categories are based on the household's previous engagement with the homeless system at the time of their first entry to the homeless system during the report period. This chart is based on the household unit.

AO 18-24



AC Parenting Youth



System Performance Map

Households use different combinations of project types during the time they are served in the homeless system. These project type combinations are referred to as “pathways.” Each pathway has different average cumulative days homeless, exits to permanent housing, and returns to the homeless system. The system map shows performance for the main project types in the homeless system. To see the System Performance Maps, go to Appendix, Section I, Part D.

It is interesting to see how young adults and parenting youth navigate their way through the system.

- The majority enter through emergency shelter and exit without entering a program. For young adults, 25% exit to a permanent destination with parenting youth at 37%.
- Those that enter rapid re-housing, 56% of the young adults exit to a permanent destination and 77% of the parenting youth.
- Reoccurrence across the system is an important performance metric. More young adults reoccur compared to parenting youth and in half the average amount of time.

Reviewing the Stella P data, there are a few noteworthy observations:

- There are more young adult and parenting youth domestic violence survivors served in rapid re-housing programs than in emergency shelter/transitional housing programs. This discrepancy is likely because Victim Service Providers (VSP) are not allowed to enter data into HMIS, and Stella P only pulls from HMIS data. It does illustrate that survivors are served in non-VSP programs including rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing.
- There are more HMIS participating shelters in cities than in rural communities. Yet, there are more rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing programs in the rural areas.

5. Key Data-related Action Items

After reviewing the data sections on PIT, CE, HMIS, Stella P, and RHY, there are five items the Balance of State CoC will address. These items are also identified in the objectives and action steps in Section III of this plan.

- (1) Point-in-Time planning and overnight count need more participation by youth-serving organizations and YAB members. The CoC must ensure that accurate data collection is occurring with emergency shelter, transitional housing, and the unsheltered parts of the count. This is especially true when it comes to identifying young adults, parenting youth, and unaccompanied youth.
- (2) The Point-in-Time service based post-count process needs more participation from other systems of care and youth-serving organizations. To support those additional providers, the CoC must provide additional training and resources specifically designed for non-traditional PIT partners.
- (3) The coordinated entry process needs to be reviewed and updated to better meet the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. This includes the assessment, referral process, and prioritization for resources. The local coalition coordinated entry process needs additional partnership from other systems of care to ensure that youth and young adults do not slip through the cracks and are not bounced around to different providers. Expanding the number of referring agencies will also require training to be developed that is tailored to their needs and addresses their concerns.
- (4) The current HMIS system is not sufficient for accessing sub-population specific reports. The CoC needs customized reports at the CoC level and local coalition level that consistently provide accurate data

across the various points of the homeless service system. In addition, there needs to be additional HMIS assessment questions designed, required for data collection, and reported on.

- (5) The HMIS data reporting for RHY projects is challenging. The CoC needs accurate statewide reporting on RHY funding with the ability to also see the same data at a coalition level.
- (6) Throughout the process of enhancing data collection, it will be important to also focus on data quality. This includes training, guidance, and support for new questions or data fields and a better understanding of the current questions and answers as it pertains to youth and young adults.

C. Youth and Young Adult Needs and Subpopulation Data

The Balance of State used a comprehensive approach to identify specific needs of youth & young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness across the full geographic area. The needs identified below include the brainstorming work of eleven local/regional youth action boards⁶⁰ and the stakeholders who participate in the weekly YHDP workgroup sessions.

The needs brainstorm was conducted around the Youth Framework and Four Core outcomes as defined by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH):

1. **Stable housing**, including a safe and reliable place to call home
2. **Permanent connections**, including ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks
3. **Education/employment**, including high performance in and completion of education and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particular for older youth
4. **Social-emotional well-being**, including development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community

Timeline:

Action	Timeframe
Technical Assistance met with Coalition and YAB members to identify the Housing/Shelter, Social/Emotional Well Being, Education and Employment and permanent connection needs for YYA experiencing and at risk of becoming homeless. This same brainstorming session was conducted for subpopulations.	2/15/2022
Technical Assistant synthesized results from brainstorming sessions, emailed each coalition and YAB who participated to gather more feedback; developed final list	2/15/2020 - 3/31/2022

⁶⁰ YAB/Youth review from the following YHDP local coalition/regional groups: Brown, Central, Coulee, Dairyland-Chippewa, Fox Cities, Kenosha, North & East Central, Northwest, Rock Walworth, Rural North & West Central, and Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington.

1. Youth and Young Adults - Needs

While acknowledging the differences between subpopulations of youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness, it was identified that some needs are inclusive of all youth identities. The charts below include a comprehensive list of overarching needs, stable housing needs, permanent connection needs, education & employment needs, and permanent connections needs.

Overarching Needs of All Youth & Young Adults At-risk of and Experiencing Homelessness

- The system needs to be more understandable - break apart acronyms and make things easy to find
- Ensuring information on available resources is accessible - including an online resource page
- Meeting basic needs, including accessible food programs, laundry sites
- Transportation support, including access to driver's licenses, taxi services, and rides
- Legal services for all youth especially minors and youth affected by domestic violence
- Life Skills supports
- Access to vital documents and a place to store/track them
- Individual services – one size does not fit all

Stable Housing Needs of Youth & Young Adults At-risk of and Experiencing Homelessness

- Quick access to housing options
- Low barrier programming - screening youth into projects instead of out of projects
- Affordable housing options & assistance in finding affordable housing
- Shelter capacity with dedicated space for youth families; including locked doors and having own space with privacy
- Landlord Engagement includes educating landlords & property management companies on the projects, so they understand services and supports in place.
- Year-round services that do not close in the summer
- Strategies to minimize evictions
- On site resource navigation services

Permanent Connection Needs of Youth & Young Adults At-risk of and Experiencing Homelessness

- Ability to stay connected to family and natural supports, especially siblings
- Access to mentors
- Access to peer mentors

Education & Employment Needs of Youth & Young Adults At-risk of and Experiencing Homelessness

- Financial Literacy Supports: including budgeting, regular check ins, balancing personal accounts, incentives for saving
- Access to hands on Learning experiences
- Education supports - GED and Higher Ed
- Employment counseling and coaching
- Year-round services that do not close in the summer

Social Emotional & Well-Being Needs of Youth & Young Adults At-risk of and Experiencing Homelessness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessible and trauma informed mental health resources - accessible through an app as well as in person, with drop-in hours ● Peer mentoring ● Healthcare & obtaining medical records ● Treatment for substance use ● Peer mentoring ● Year-round services that do not close in the summer

2. Youth and Young Adults - Subpopulation Needs, Strategies, and Data

Subpopulations within the youth homelessness population are important to understand as well. There are eight groups that have specific needs and disparities: pregnant and parenting youth, LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming youth, unaccompanied minors, youth with disabilities and other health issues, youth survivors of violence and exploitation, youth involved in the child welfare system, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and youth who identify as BIPOC. In the sections below, each data set is explained, actual data shared, and areas of specific concern or focus identified.

a. Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Pregnant & Parenting Youth & Young Adults - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Affordable Childcare offered to accommodate all work schedules (24/7) ● Nutrition counseling ● Donation locations for child/childcare supplies such as clothes, diapers, wipes, toys, formula, breastfeeding supplies ● Confidentiality in resources ● Legal services for pregnant youth who are experiencing domestic violence and/or intimate partner ● Access to Mental Health Services - Inpatient and Outpatient ● A weekly checkup to support new parents and youth families for a short amount of time ● Group Parenting Classes

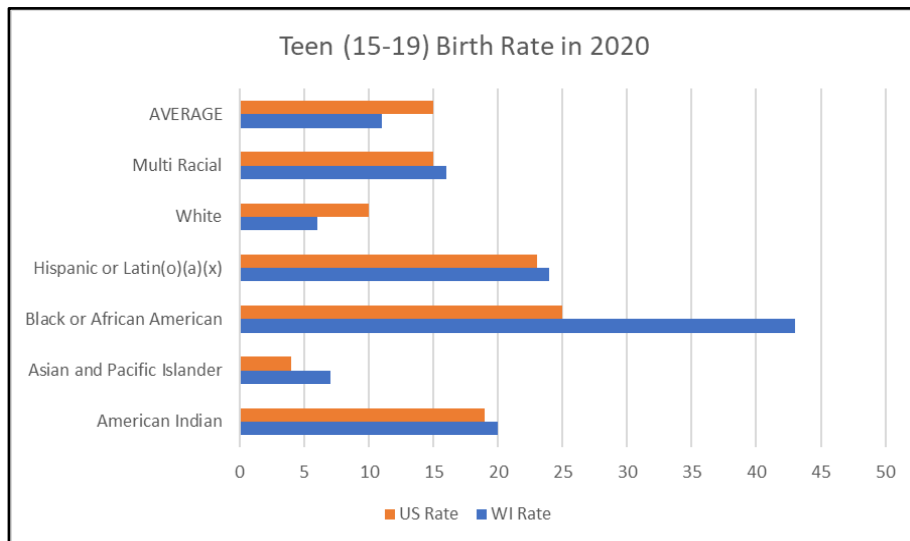
Teens that get kicked out when they are pregnant.
This is a time when they really need support.

Local Coalition YAB Member

Teen Parents (15-19)

In the United States, there were 23,539 births that were at least the second birth to mothers who were under the age of 20 at the time of the birth. In Wisconsin, there were 324 births that fit this category and 2,143 births to 15-19 year old females in 2020. The rate per 1,000 females was 11.6.⁶¹

⁶¹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

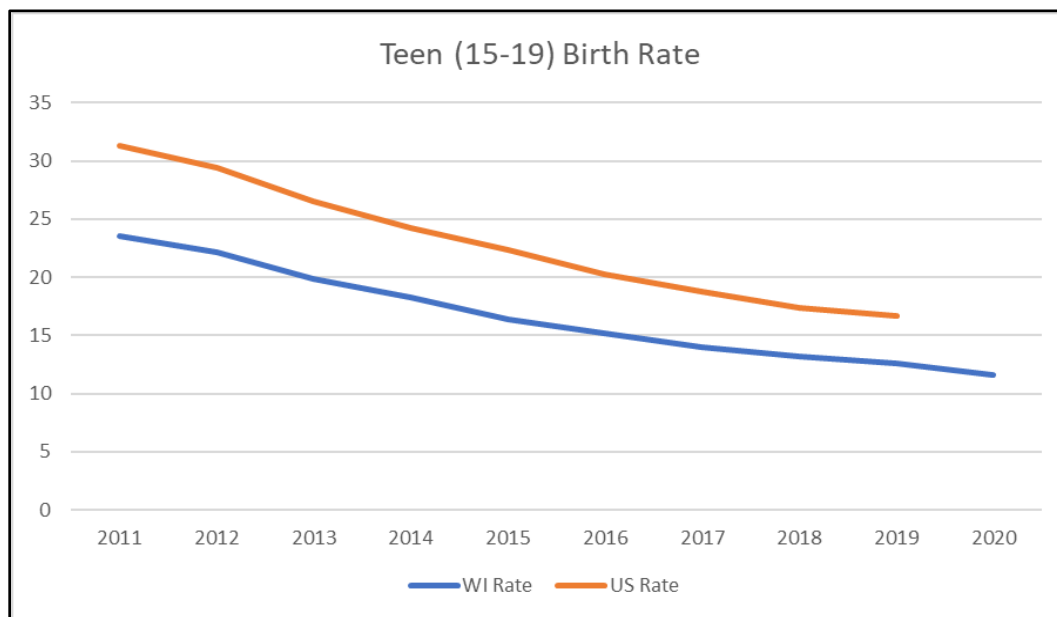


As illustrated in the chart on the left, the teen birth rate is not the same across all races or ethnicities or counties in Wisconsin.

Overall, the teen (15-19 year old) birth rate has been declining both statewide and nationally between 2011 and 2020 as illustrated in the chart on the right.⁶²

In Wisconsin, data can be drilled down to births by 15-17 year old females and 18-19 year old females. Both rates indicate a decrease as well in Wisconsin.

In 2020, there were 488 births to 15-17 year old females at a rate of 4.4. This is a decrease from 504 births and a 4.6 rate in 2019. The fourteen Balance of State CoC counties reporting teen births to females under 18 years old were Brown, Chippewa, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Rock, St. Croix, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Walworth, Waukesha, and Winnebago. In 2020, there were 1,655 births to 18-19 year old females at a rate of 22.1. This is a decrease from 1,836 births and a 24.4 rate in 2019.⁶³



⁶² The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

⁶³ Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): WISH <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/teen-birth/index.htm>

Despite the statewide average decline, there are several Balance of State CoC counties (as listed below) with teen (15–19 year old) birth rates significantly higher than the state average (11.6). If there were more than 10 births to females under 18 years old, the rate is in red.⁶⁴

County (rural)	Rate	County (rural)	Rate	County (metro)	Rate
Adams	19.5	Barron	11.9	Brown	11.9
Ashland	12.2	Clark	13.3	Douglas	12.8
Burnett	19.1	Langlade	25.0	Kenosha	14.5
Forest	30.2	Manitowoc	14.3	Lincoln	14.6
Juneau	12.7	Monroe	13.7	Rock	17.5
Marquette	19.7	Sauk	13.6	Sheboygan	12.7
Menomoniee	40.3	Shawano	12.4		
Richland	14.2	Trempealeau	19.1		
Rusk	13.8	Waushara	16.1		
Sawyer	19.6	Washburn	17.9		

Similar to the Balance of State CoC counties with teen (15-19 year old) birth rates higher than the state average, there are counties with a teen (15–19 year old) birth rate that has increased (rather than decreased like the state and national averages) between 2019 and 2020. If the rate is above the statewide average, the rate is in red.⁶⁵

County	Rate 2019	Rate 2020	County	Rate 2019	Rate 2020	County	Rate 2019	Rate 2020
Adams	14.6	19.5	Green	4.4	9.7	Portage	5.9	7.6
Chippewa	7.4	9.0	Jefferson	5.6	8.2	Sauk	11.4	13.6
Clark	9.2	13.3	La Crosse	4.7	5.7	St. Croix	3.3	3.6
Dunn	4.6	5.6	Langlade	15.4	25.0	Taylor	8.0	9.6
Grant	4.9	6.4						

⁶⁴ Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): WISH <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/teen-birth/index.htm>

⁶⁵ Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): WISH <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/teen-birth/index.htm>

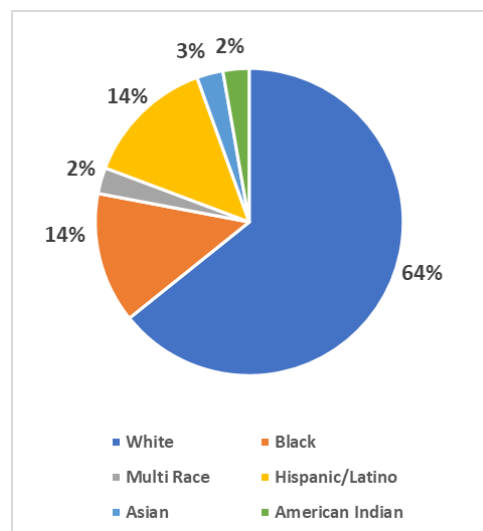
Parenting Youth (18-24)

According to The Annie E. Casey Foundation, there are 3.4 million children in the United States living with 18-24 year old parents.

- 37% live in poverty, which is twice the national child poverty rate
- 69% live in families with income less than 200% of the FPL
- Between 2015-2017, 18% of these parents had less than a high school diploma; 61% were employed full or part-time; and the median family income was \$23,000.⁶⁶

In Wisconsin, there were 33,000 young adults 18-24 years old who were parents. The race and ethnic breakdown is reflected in the chart on the right.⁶⁷

In 2020, there were 9,855 births to 20-24 year old females in Wisconsin. This was a decrease from 10,551 in 2019. In 2020, there were 1,655 births to 18-19 year old females in Wisconsin. This was a decrease from 1,836 in 2019. The chart below shows the number of births by age group, race and ethnicity, and within the counties included in the Balance of State CoC in comparison to 2020 statewide data.⁶⁸



	18–19 year old		20–24 year old	
	Statewide	Balance of State CoC Counties only	Statewide	Balance of State CoC Counties only
Total Births	1,655	934	9,855	6,419
White	672	587	5,438	4,721
Black or African American	456	64	1,790	269
American Indian	27	27	156	143
Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x)	384	196	1,653	827
Laotian or Hmong	19	13	231	155
Other	21	7	139	53
Multi-Racial	74	40	392	219

⁶⁶ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Opening Doors for Young Parents (Sept. 2018) <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-openingdoorsforyoungparents-2018.pdf>

⁶⁷ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

⁶⁸ Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): WISH <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/birth/index.htm>

Young adult (18-24 year old) births in the counties within the Balance of State CoC make up 64% of Wisconsin's statewide total. Balance of State CoC births are the following percent of statewide births by race or ethnicity:⁶⁹

- White 87%
- Black or African American 15%
- American Indian 93%
- Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) 50%
- Laotian or Hmong 62%

Homelessness

According to Chapin Hall research, there is a high rate of pregnancy and parenthood among youth experiencing homelessness and this stands in contrast to the consistent decline in birth rates among this population over the last 20 years. Specifically, 43% of 18-25 year old females and 29% of males in the same age group report experiencing homelessness in the past year were parents with an average of two children⁷⁰

In contrast, the Balance of State CoC data on youth homelessness previously described in this plan, Section B. Youth Homelessness shows:

- In the January 2022 PIT count, only 36 parenting youth (18-24) and 0 (under 18) households were reported. Parenting youth households were only 9% of the households with children reported (36 of 396).
- In coordinated entry data for 2/8/22, only 46 parenting youth (18-24) were identified. Parenting youth households were only 10.9% of the households with children reported (46 of 421).
- In the 2020-21 HMIS customized report on youth experiencing homelessness, 200 parenting youth (18-24) were served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects.
- In the Stella P 2020-21 data, there were 194 parenting youth (18-24) households served.

It is unclear as to the reason why there are not similar statistics in the Balance of State CoC as described nationally. It is possible that with improvements to the homeless crisis response system for youth, including pregnant and parenting youth, there may be an increase in identification and an enhancement of services.

b. LGBTQIA+ ⁷¹

LGBTQIA+ and Gender Non-conforming Youth & Young Adults - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education & accountability for all people working in the system • Culture shift in asking for and using accurate pronouns • Ability for minors to get a legal name change • Housing options that are specific to the population - LGBTQIA+ shelter and Transitional Living Programs • Access to affirming medical care • LGBTQIA+ advocate/liaison that regularly visits shelters, and other designated places to be accessible and help navigate LGBTQIA+ discrimination, safe resources, etc. • Intentional connections with LGBTQIA+ community supports • Inclusive landlords and property managers

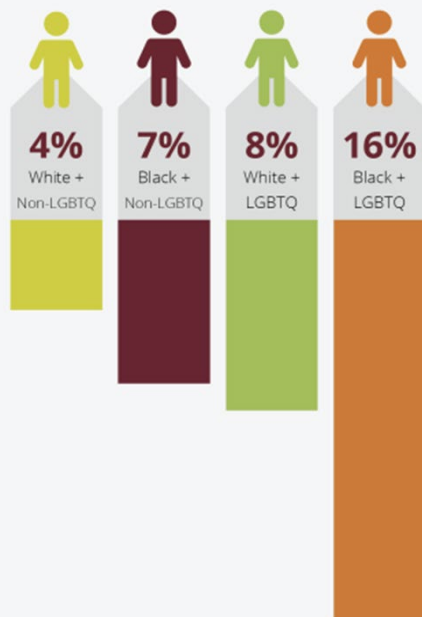
⁶⁹ Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): WISH <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/birth/index.htm>

⁷⁰ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities-Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VoYC-PP-Brief-FINAL.pdf>

⁷¹ Most research focuses on LGBTQ+ data and does not include Intersex and/or Asexual.

Figure 2. Youth who are black *and* LGBTQ reported the highest rates of homelessness

Explicit homelessness over the last 12 months, self-reported by young adults, ages 18-25. These estimates do not include reports of couch surfing only.



National research shows that 18-25 year olds who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ+) experienced homelessness within the last twelve months at over twice the rate of their heterosexual peers.⁷² Approximately 20% of the 4.2 million youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ+, while only 9.5% of the United States population identify as LGBTQ+. ⁷³ Service providers also estimate anywhere from 20-40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ, while only 7-10% of the general population identifies as LGBTQ. ⁷⁴

Another national study indicates that nearly one in four 18-25 year old Black men who identify as LGBTQ reported experiencing homelessness in the last twelve months. As illustrated in the chart on the left, race and identifying as LGBTQ increase the risk of homelessness. ⁷⁵

“We must recognize that LGBTQ young people face stressors simply for being who they are that their peers never have to worry about.”

- Amit Paley (he/him), CEO & Executive Director, The Trevor Project⁷⁶

⁷² Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-FINAL.pdf>

⁷³ UCLA Law School-Williams Institute: LGBT Youth Population in the United States (Sept 2020) <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Youth-US-Pop-Sep-2020.pdf>

⁷⁴ UCLA Law School-Williams Institute: Serving Our Youth (June 2015) <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/serving-our-youth-lgbtq/>

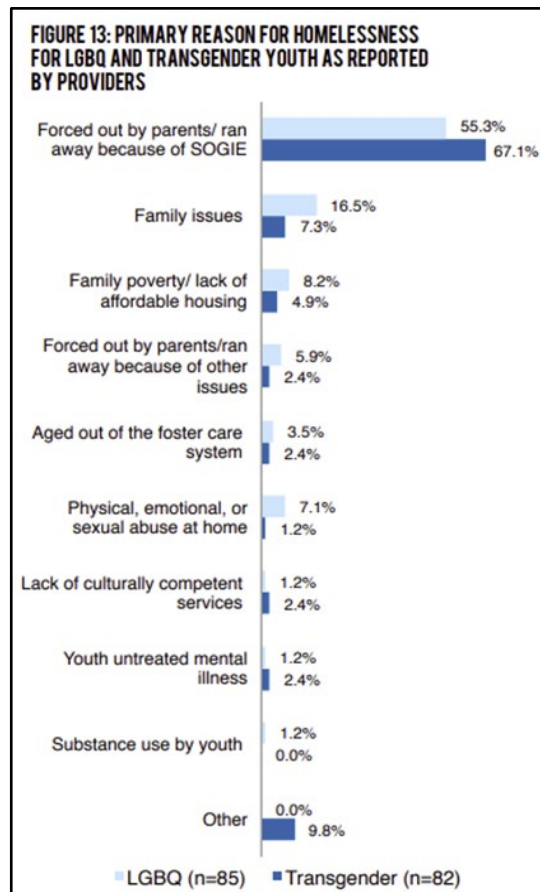
⁷⁵ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-FINAL.pdf>

⁷⁶ The Trevor Project: 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/#intro>

While no youth identifying as LGBTQIA+ has the same story, the cause of their homelessness includes family conflict or rejection, aging out of foster care, poverty, fleeing violence, and limited resources tailored to the needs of this specific population.

According to a national study conducted by interviewing providers, the primary reason for homelessness for LGBTQ and transgender youth is being forced out by parents or running away because of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression (SOGIE). Once homeless, providers also report that the duration of homelessness for LGBTQ youth is longer.⁷⁷

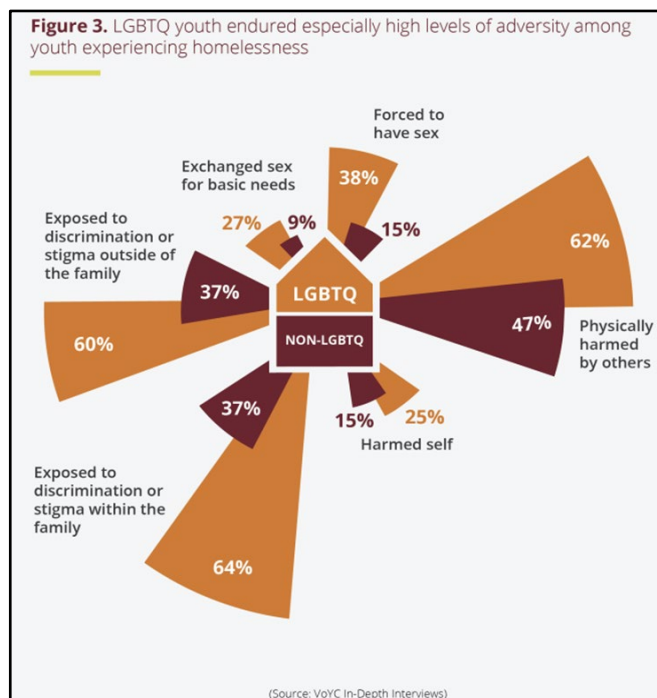
According to the Center for American Progress, “Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth who are homeless must face these challenges [typical to homeless youth] on top of social stigma, discrimination, and frequent rejection by their families. The failure of critical family and social safety nets to support these youth has catastrophic consequences on their economic stability, educational attainment . . . economic future, and life expectancy.”⁷⁸



⁷⁷ UCLA Law School-Williams Institute: Serving Our Youth (June 2015) <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/serving-our-youth-lgbtq/>

⁷⁸ Center for American Progress: On the Streets-The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth (June 2010) <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/on-the-streets/>

LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness are also at higher risk for victimization than their non-LGBTQ peers. Research indicates they experience an average of 7.4 more acts of sexual violence toward them and are more likely to attempt suicide (62%) than their heterosexual peers (29%).⁷⁹ Additional differences between people identifying as LGBTQ and their non-LGBTQ peers are illustrated by the chart below. This information was derived from direct interviews by national researchers.⁸⁰



Among youth identifying as LGBTQ and experiencing homelessness, trauma experiences can be connected to negative responses from family, peers, and others pertaining to the youth's sexual orientation or gender identity.⁸¹ LGBT youth experiencing homelessness are more likely than their heterosexual peers to report being asked by someone on the street to exchange sex for money, food, drugs, shelter, and clothing and are more than three times as likely to have engaged in survival sex.

In Wisconsin, there is currently limited data regarding the number of youth experiencing homelessness who identify as LGBTQIA+. The most referenced data source for state level data is found through UCLA Law School-Williams Institute.⁸² According to this data, there are 35,000 youth between the ages of 13-17 identifying as LGBT in Wisconsin.

Estimated number of LGBT youth 13-17 in US and Wisconsin⁸³

	LGBT (Total)	LGB (Total)	LGB (Cis)	LGB (Trans)	Transgender (Total)	Transgender (Straight/Other)	Transgender (LGB)
US	1,994,000*	1,924,000	1,844,000	80,000	149,750	69,000	80,000
Wisconsin	35,000	34,000	33,000	1,000	1,850	900	1,000

*This estimate represents 9.5% of the population of youth ages 13-17 in the US.

⁷⁹ National Alliance to End Homelessness: LGBTQ Homeless Youth Fact Sheet

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/LGBTQhomelessFactSheetbyNAEH.pdf>

⁸⁰ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America

<https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-FINAL.pdf>

⁸¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation: Identifying and serving LGBTQ youth: Cases of runaway and homeless youth program grantees (Feb 2014) <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/identifying-serving-lgbtq-youth-case-studies-runaway-homeless-youth-program-grantees>

⁸² UCLA Law School-Williams Institute: LGBTQ Youth Population in the United States (Sept 2020)

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Youth-US-Pop-Sep-2020.pdf>

⁸³ Center for American Progress: Seeking shelter: The experiences and unmet needs of LGBT homeless youth (Sept 2013)

<https://americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/LGBTHomelessYouth.pdf>

The data does provide a limited picture of who is identifying in Wisconsin as LGBT and some demographic indicators. These include:

- LGBT comprise 3.8% of the total Wisconsin population (ranking 33rd in the nation)
- The average age is 38.2 versus 49.1 for non-LGBT
- LGBT are 71% white, 12% Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x), and 17% all other races.
- 29% are raising children
- Of those identifying as LGBT, 30% are 18-25 years old (compared to 11% of non-LGBT)
- 25% of LGBT have an income less than \$24,000 (compared to 16% of non-LGBT)
- 9% of LGBT are unemployed (compared to 4% of non-LGBT)⁸⁴

In 2015, the National Center for Transgender Equality conducted the largest transgender national survey in the United States. Of the 27,715 people who responded, 541 were from Wisconsin. The data provides a limited scope on the experiences of someone identifying as transgender, including:

- 22% were unemployed
- 26% were living in poverty
- 17% reported experiencing some form of housing discrimination in the past year
- 26% reported experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives
- 8% reported experiencing homelessness in the past year because of being transgender
- 39% of those who experienced homelessness in the past year avoided staying in shelter because of fear of mistreatment
- 9% reported that all their IDs had the name and gender they prefer whereas 70% reported that none of their IDs had the name and gender they prefer
- 38% indicated that they had not changed their legal name and 34% had not updated their gender because they could not afford it⁸⁵

Responses to the recent national survey of LGBTQ youth further illustrates the societal stress placed on youth identifying as transgender and nonbinary.⁸⁶

93% of transgender and nonbinary youth said that they have worried about transgender people being denied access to gender-affirming medical care due to state or local laws.

91% of transgender and nonbinary youth said that they have worried about transgender people being denied access to the bathroom due to state or local laws.

Most of the data specific to Wisconsin does quantify the number of youth experiencing homelessness that identify as LGBTQIA+. Sexual orientation and gender identity questions will be included in all projects funded through YHDP as well as any future youth counts. The Balance of State CoC will incorporate training for education and service providers on how to assist LGBTQIA+ youth in a culturally competent and sensitive manner.

⁸⁴ UCLA Law School-Williams Institute: LGBT Demographic Data Interactive (Jan 2019)

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=55#about-the-data>

⁸⁵ National Center for Transgender Equality - 2015 US Transgender Survey: Wisconsin State Report

<https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTSWIStateReport.pdf>

⁸⁶ The Trevor Project: 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/#intro>

c. Unaccompanied Minors

Unaccompanied Minors - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative opportunities to finish school • Better access to food programs • Law changes to allow 16-year-olds to access to housing services without a guardian • Free options to support emancipations • Emergency shelter specific to under age 17 • Access to medical and mental health care without parental/guardian consent • Tutors • Job connections after graduation • Buddy system • Textbook cost assistance • Cell phone minutes • School supplies and computer accessibility, internet access, printers • Donation for school specific supplies/tuition/test fees/etc. • More charter schools/alternative schools to complete education • Better understanding & implementation of McKinney Vento Laws • Transportation • Housing options other than dorms or group homes

Minors are defined as youth under the age of 18. They can be accompanied (with a parent or legal guardian) or unaccompanied. In the United States, there are over 72 million minors. In Wisconsin, there are 1,258,524 minors. There are 444,346 minors between 12-17 years old. This breaks down further to:

- 222,010 between 12-14
- 222,336 between 15-17

The number of minors between 12-17 years old in the Balance of State CoC is 318,712 (calculated by subtracting the number of minors 12-17 years old in Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine counties from the Wisconsin total).⁸⁷

I think there needs to be a program set up to help kids who are 17 to get a place if they show they can handle it. I think they should also get access to any program that 18-year-olds do.

Local Coalition YAB Member

⁸⁷ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids County Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

According to a national study, approximately one in thirty American minors 13-17 years old experience some form of homelessness over a twelve-month period. About 75% report homelessness because of running away or being kicked out and 25% report couch surfing.⁸⁸ Using this average with the number of minors 12-17 years old in Wisconsin and the Balance of State CoC, an **estimated number** would be:

	#Unaccompanied Minors Experiencing Homeless	Type of Homelessness
Wisconsin	14,811	11,108 literal 3,703 couch surfing
Balance of State	10,623	7,967 literal 2,656 couch surfing

Another indicator of minors at risk of or experiencing homelessness or housing instability is measured by the National Runaway Safe line (NRS). NRS is the federally supported national communication system for youth ages 12-21 who are contemplating running away or have run away and are experiencing homelessness. Services are free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. NRS operates a 1-800 hotline and online crisis services which includes live chat, email, and forum. In 2020, 27,546 individuals reached out to NRS. Statistics collected include:

- 81% were seeking help for themselves and 5% were reaching out for friends
- 15% were 22 years old+, 15% were 18-21, 48% were 15-17, 19% were 12-14, and 3% were under the age of 12.
- 69% identified as female, 24% as male, and 7% as transgender or non-binary
- 51% identify as White/Caucasian, 20% as Black/African American, 16% as Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x), 7% as Multi-Racial, 5% as Asian, and 1% as American Indian
- 53% contacted through online chat, 29% hotline call, 11% forum post, and 7% by email⁸⁹

The most common issues identified by NRS are⁹⁰:

Family Dynamics	Abuse & Neglect	Mental Health	Peer/Social Issues	Economics
38,893	16,542	9,091	8,488	5,742
Includes conflict with family rules, divorce, blended or extended family issues, custody, moving, death of a family member, teen parenting, etc.	Includes any form of abuse, such as emotional, physical, sexual and neglect.	Includes depression, suicide, eating disorders, self-harm, psychological or behavioral problems, etc.	Includes isolation, bullying, fights with friends, etc.	Includes housing insecurity, lost jobs, poverty, unemployment, etc.

⁸⁸ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago - Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities – Youth Homelessness in America <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>

⁸⁹ National Runaway Safeline 2020 Trend Report <https://cdn.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020-Crisis-Services-and-Prevention-Report-FINAL.pdf>

⁹⁰ National Runaway Safeline 2020 Snapshot USA <https://cdn.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020-Snapshot-USA.pdf>

At the time of the crisis contact with NRS, 71% of youth were still in the home. However,

- 41% of youth described being in crisis
- 37% were contemplating running away
- 12% were on the run
- 7% were homeless
- 3% had been asked to leave the home

Once homeless, youth indicated that they survived in a variety of ways as indicated in the chart on the right. The majority (86%) relied on friends or relatives.⁹¹

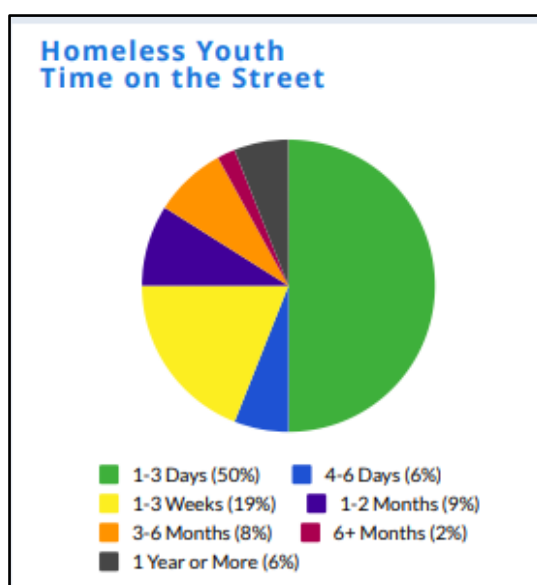
In 2020, NRS reported that half (50%) of youth in crisis reach out for help within a few days of being on the street as illustrated in the chart on the right. An additional 6% reach out by the end of the first week.⁹²

The most conservative estimate of unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness is the HUD required PIT count. During the PIT count in January 2020, there were 34,210 unaccompanied youth reported to be experiencing homelessness in the United States. Nine of every ten unaccompanied homeless youth were between the ages of 18-24 (90%). The remaining 10% (3,389) were minors experiencing homelessness on their own.⁹³ In the Balance of State CoC, there were seven minors in four households experiencing homelessness on the night of the January 2020 PIT. All seven were staying in an emergency shelter.

It is unclear as to the reason why there are not similar statistics in the Balance of State CoC as described nationally. It is possible that with improvements to the homeless crisis response system for youth, including minors, there may be an increase in identification and an enhancement of services.

How Youth Survived While Homeless	N	%
Friends/relatives	3,681	86%
Personal funds	920	21%
Shelter/soup kitchen	318	7%
Employment	168	4%
Panhandling	81	2%
Survival sex	48	1%
Detention/police	45	1%
Sex industry	25	1%
Stealing	24	1%
Selling drugs	14	<1%

Note: Because these categories were not mutually exclusive and contacts could report multiple means of survival, a total N is not included in this table.



⁹¹ National Runaway Safeline 2020 Trend Report <https://cdn.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020-Crisis-Services-and-Prevention-Report-FINAL.pdf>

⁹² National Runaway Safeline 2020 Trend Report <https://cdn.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020-Crisis-Services-and-Prevention-Report-FINAL.pdf>

⁹³ HUD 2020 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

d. Youth with Disabilities and Overall Health Issues

Youth & Young Adults with Disabilities - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 24/7 hotline for in-home support ● Emotional support ● Donations for specific supplies needed- wheelchairs, crutches, ramps ● Assistance accessing medications ● Safety planning and life skills

The topic of health is extremely broad. Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people's health, income, education, ability to access resources, food security, housing stability, relationships, alcohol and other drug consumption, and more. As such, data around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people seemed relevant and timely. In addition, this section will include a discussion about the Youth Risk Behavior Survey; mental health; alcohol and other drug use; and living with HIV/AIDS. Disabilities are woven among the sub-sections. Overall, data on youth experiencing homelessness and issues around health is extremely limited.

General Health

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is the largest public health surveillance system in the United States. It monitors health behaviors, conditions, and experiences among high school students in the United States. The system includes a national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a separate state and local school district based YRBS.⁹⁴ In Wisconsin, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has administered the YRBS every two years beginning in 1993. It is a self-administered, anonymous questionnaire that students take in a proctored environment during the school day. In 2019, a total of 1,829 students in forty-five public, charter, and alternative high schools completed the YRBS. Those that contributed had the follow demographics:

- 51.7% were male and 48.3% were female
- 71.2% were White, 11.4% Hispanic, 9.2% Black/African American, 4% Multi-Race, 3.5% Asian, and 0.8% American Indian
- 9.7% identified as LGBT
- 11.8% were diagnosed with a health condition
- 8.8% received special education services
- 24.7% were food insecure

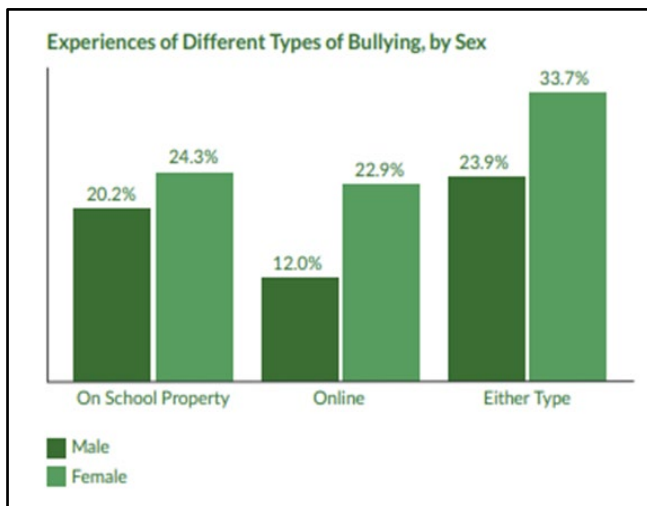
In comparison to previous years, most of the YRBS indicators remained statistically unchanged.⁹⁵ Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the YRBS was postponed from Spring 2021 until Fall 2021. The data will be available in Fall 2022.

While the YRBS does not ask youth to identify housing status or experience with homelessness, the results do paint a picture of what high school students in Wisconsin experience and feel about the world around them. As a result, several key finds are included in this section. While there is a subsection on mental health and alcohol and other drugs, all relevant YRBS results were included in this subsection.

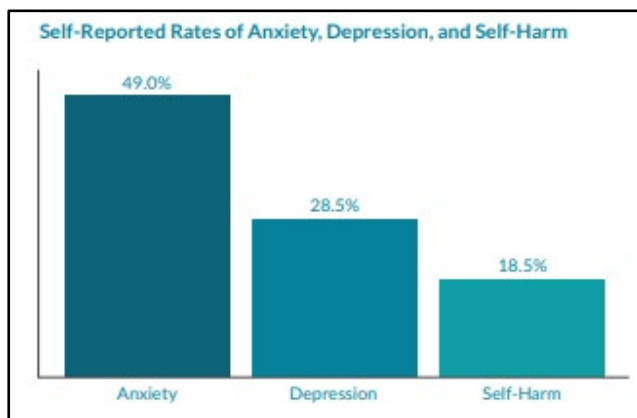
⁹⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

⁹⁵ Department of Public Instruction: Summary Report 2019 WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey
https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/YRBS_2019_Summary_Report_DPI_Web_Version.pdf

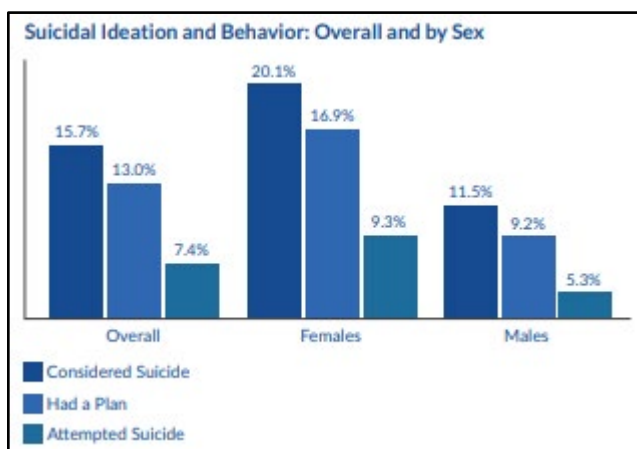
Topic 1: Bullying. Students were asked several questions about bullying including whether they have been electronically bullied (texting or social media) and whether they were bullied on school property among those attending in-person school ever during the twelve months before the survey was administered. The Wisconsin results are illustrated in the chart below.



Topic 2: Mental Health. Another set of questions were related to depression, anxiety, and non-suicidal self-harm. Nearly half of all students reported anxiety (49%). This was an increase from 39.9% of students in 2017. Most Wisconsin high school students (59.4%) have experienced depression, anxiety, self-harm or suicidal ideation in the twelve months prior to the survey as indicated in the chart on the left. Looking across different subpopulations, self-reported anxiety was reported more by students who identify as LGBT (78.3%), females (63.3%), those experiencing food insecurity (62.7%), Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) (59%).

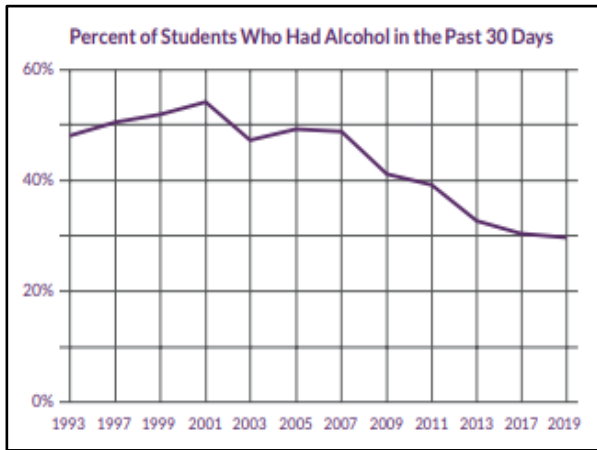


Topic 3: Suicide. The YRBS asks students a series of questions about suicidal thoughts and behaviors during the past twelve months. As illustrated in the chart on the left, more females consider suicide, have a plan, and attempt suicide than male peers. Looking at trend data, there is an increase in suicidal ideation and suicidality remained unchanged from 2017. Some student groups are more likely to consider suicide than they are to receive the help they need. For example, 42% of students identifying as LGBT have seriously considered suicide but only 19% say they receive the help they need when in distress.



Topic 4: Safety and Victimization. The YRBS includes safety and victimization questions that go beyond the school environment. Questions include whether the student has experienced rape, physical dating violence, sexual dating violence, or unwanted sexual contact. Almost 20% report that at least once in their lives, someone has forced them “to do sexual things you did not want to do.” Experiences of sexual assault or coercion were more common with students identifying as LGBT (43.4%), females (31.8%), and those experiencing food insecurity (28.8%). In addition, 31.1% of students with chronic health conditions reported experiences of sexual assault or coercion.⁹⁶

⁹⁶ Department of Public Instruction: Summary Report 2019 WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey
https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/YRBS_2019_Summary_Report_DPI_Web_Version.pdf



Topic 5: Alcohol and Other Drug Use. In Wisconsin, 58.4% of students reported ever having a drink. This is a reduction from 64.5% reported in 2017. Alcohol use among high school students continued its downward trend and other drug use in Wisconsin remained unchanged from 2017 rates. The downward trend in the percentage of students who reported having alcohol in the past 30 days is illustrated in the chart to the left.

Students were also asked questions about misuse of legal drugs. Over-the-counter abuse is reported by only 5.5% of students. However, prescription painkiller abuse has remained steady at 11.4% (compared to 11.2% in 2017). Males (11.7%) and females (11%) report very similar rates of misuse.

Finally, when asking questions about illegal drugs, the results also remain unchanged from 2017.

- 19.9% of students report currently using marijuana
- Less than 2% report having ever used methamphetamines (1.9%) or heroin (1.4%)
- 4.6% of students reported having used any illegal drug besides marijuana within the past twelve months⁹⁷

Kids nowadays turn to stuff that makes them feel good because they never got that love & support that they needed when they were a kid.

Local Coalition YAB Member

Using a similar methodology, the CDC developed the Adolescent Behaviors and Experience Survey (ABES) to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on high school students. The ABES was administered between January-June 2021 to 7,998 students in 128 schools. Key national responses include:

- 22.3% of students lost their paying job during COVID 19
- 28.5% reported that their parent or other adult in their home lost their job
- 23.8% reported going hungry because there was not enough food in their home during COVID
 - When filtering by race and LGBTQ status, the percentages shifted significantly:
 - White (18.5%), Multi-Race (29.5), American Indian (31.2%), Asian (28.3%), Black (32%), and Hispanic (28.2%)
 - Heterosexual (20.8%), LGB (34%), Other/Questioning (32.5%)
- 37.1% reported that their mental health was most of the time or always not good during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - When filtered by gender and LGBTQ status, the percentages shifted significantly:
 - Female (48.9%), Male (24.4%)
 - Heterosexual (30.3%), LGB (63.8%), Other/Questioning (61.5%)

⁹⁷ Department of Public Instruction: Summary Report 2019 WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey
https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/YRBS_2019_Summary_Report_DPI_Web_Version.pdf

- 14.7% strongly agree or agree that they drank more alcohol during the COVID-19 pandemic than before it started; 12.1% used more drugs⁹⁸

As part of the Balance of State CoC coordinated entry process, youth under the age of 25 who are experiencing homelessness are assessed using the TAY-VI-SPDAT. Upon request, the HMIS lead agency customized several reports to see how many youth answered certain questions within the TAY. During the calendar year 2021, there were 225 TAY administered. During the calendar year 2020, there were 86 TAY administered. The results are listed below with the number of “yes” answers and the percentage of the total.

TAY Question	Calendar Year 2021	Calendar Year 2020
Have you threatened to or tried to harm yourself or anyone else in the last year?	65 (29%)	21 (24%)
Were you ever incarcerated when younger than age 18?	68 (30%)	27 (31%)
Do you ever do things that may be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to stay, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don't know, share a needle, or anything like that?	41 (18%)	17 (20%)
Do you have planned activities, other than just surviving, that make you feel happy and fulfilled?	133 (59%)	46 (53%)
Are you currently able to take care of basic needs like bathing, changing clothes, using a restroom, getting food and clean water and other things like that?	182 (81%)	73 (85%)
If there was space available in a program that specifically assists people that live with HIV or AIDS, would that be of interest to you?	22 (10%)	9 (10.5%)
Are you currently pregnant, have you ever been pregnant, or have you ever gotten someone pregnant?	55 (24%)	27 (31%)

Mental Health

According to the Department of Health Services (DHS), 68,324 people accessed county mental health services in Wisconsin in 2020. For those that accessed county mental health services, 20% of those were minors 0-17 years old (13,705) and 13% are youth 18-24 years old (8,861). For both age groups, most of the youth and young adults accessed crisis services that were short term or situational.⁹⁹

According to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Behavioral Health Systems Gap Report, there is a concern about access and awareness of appropriate services for youth under 25 years old. 9.5% of those interviewed for the report indicated that young adults/transition age youth (18-25 years old) have the largest gap in services for behavioral health. 9% identified 12–17 years olds next and 8.1% indicated people experiencing homelessness were at risk for falling through the cracks. In the report, interviews identified some priorities specific to youth to address these concerns. They include:

- schools face administrative barriers to housing outpatient mental health services

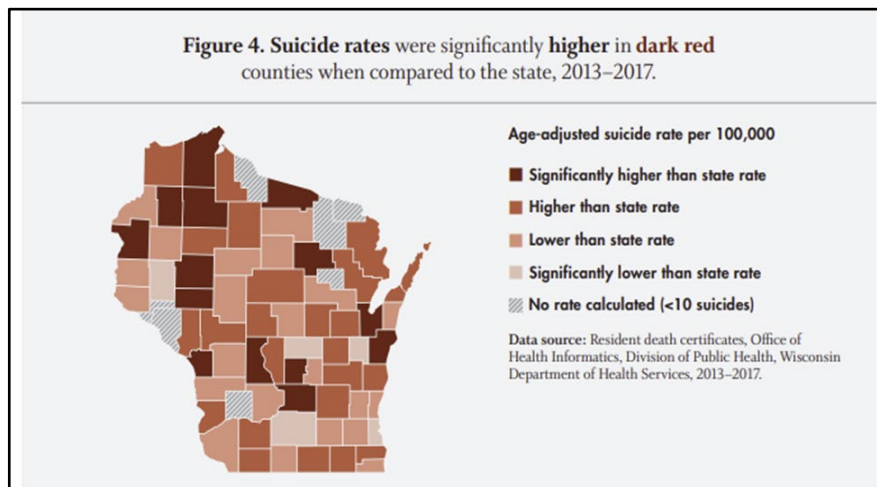
⁹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey (ABES)
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/abes.htm>

⁹⁹ Department of Health Services: Mental Health – County Services Dashboard <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mh/county-services-dashboard.htm>

- child and adolescent psychiatrists and psychologists are in a critical workforce shortage in Wisconsin
- need for more access to youth crisis diversion and intervention
- need for more residential options to prevent youth entry into the juvenile justice system, child welfare, or out-of-state treatment¹⁰⁰

The Trevor Project surveyed 34,000 LGBTQ youth 13-24 years old across the United States on a variety of topics including access to mental health care. Fear is a primary reason LGBTQ youth who wanted mental health care were not able to access it. Specifically, fear of discussing mental health concerns (48%); fear of not being taken seriously (43%); fear that the care would not work (34%); fear of being outed (29%); and fear their identity would be misunderstood (26%).¹⁰¹

Another indicator of health in a community is the rate of attempted and completed suicides. Since 2000, suicide rates have increased among males by 36% and females by 49%. Wisconsin ranks 2nd highest among neighboring Midwestern states in rate of suicide. As illustrated in the chart below, rates of suicide also vary across the counties in Wisconsin.



According to Prevent Suicide Wisconsin, the suicide rate was 14.4 per 100,000 (or close to 4,300 deaths) between 2013-2017. Between 2016-2017, the rate of hospitalization with self-harm injuries was 85.3 per 100,000 (or 9,400 admissions). Between 2016-2017, the rate of emergency department visits with self-harm injuries was 69.6 per 100,000 (or close to 7,500 visits).¹⁰²

The suicide rate was highest among ages 45-54 between 2013-

2017. For youth 18-24 years old, the suicide rate was 26.5 for males and 6.6 for females. For youth 15-17 years old, the suicide rate was 13.9 for males and 7.5 for females. Although these rates are lowest among all the age groups, suicide remains a significant concern as it is the second leading cause of death among teens (10-19 years old) in Wisconsin. Between 2013-2017, 271 teens completed suicide in Wisconsin. The rate of hospitalization with self-harm injuries for females 15-17 years old (348.4 per 100,000) was more than three times higher compared to males (105.5) between 2016-2017. Females 18-24 years old also had a higher rate (204.9) than their male peers (125).¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ University of Wisconsin-Madison: Wisconsin Behavioral Health Systems Gap Report (2019)

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/gbdrmm4kkt2ljwm80kac9rrk3zksyi02>

¹⁰¹ The Trevor Project: 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/#intro>

¹⁰² Prevent Suicide Wisconsin: Impact and Response (2020) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02657.pdf>

¹⁰³ Prevent Suicide Wisconsin: Impact and Response (2020) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02657.pdf>

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

According to the Department of Health Services (DHS), 22,861 people accessed county substance use services in Wisconsin in 2020. There were 523 minors 0-17 years old (2% of total) and 3,128 youth 18-24 years old (14%) that accessed these services. For both age groups, most of the youth and young adults accessed intake and assessment and outpatient counseling services.

Minors seeking county substance use services used the following substances: marijuana (271), alcohol (139); amphetamines (16); opioids (13); and cocaine (12). For 18-24 year olds seeking these services used the following substances: alcohol (1,395), marijuana (1,031), opioids (484), amphetamines (303), and cocaine (290).

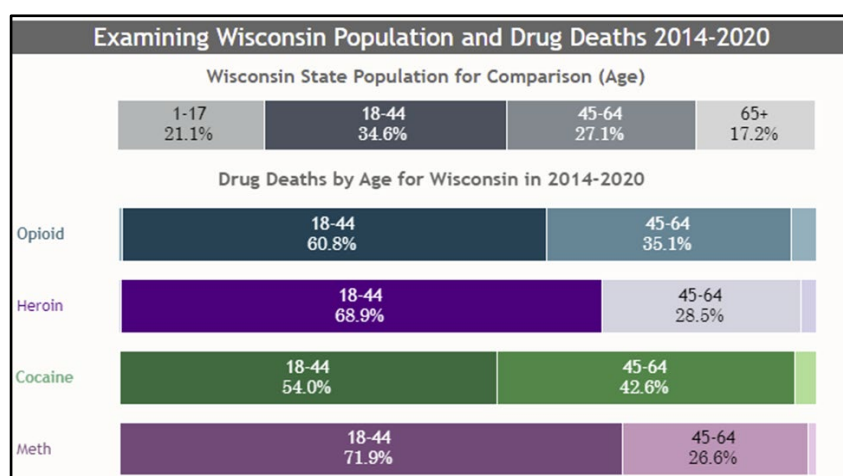
The information provided in the charts above are available on drug overdose deaths in Wisconsin between 2014-2020. While broken down by age group and drug type, the data does not drill down further than 18-44 year olds.¹⁰⁴

Looking specifically at youth opioid use, DHS provides a dashboard that displays estimates from two national health surveys, the YRBS and the National Survey on Drug

Use and Health. As illustrated in the chart above, 3.2% of Wisconsin youth have misused pain meds and 3.5% misused opioids. This is a higher rate than the national average. Approximately one in ten Wisconsin female and male youth have ever misused any type of prescription pain medication. Wisconsin female youth were less likely to have ever misused a prescription pain medication than United States females.¹⁰⁵

Wisconsin Drug Overdose Death 2014-2020					
All Drugs	Multi-Drug	All Opioids	Heroin	Cocaine	Meth*
9,061	4,705	6,005	2,221	1,593	822

*Meth includes stimulants other than cocaine.



Opioid and Prescription Pain Medication Use Youth Population			
	Pain Med Misuse in the Past Year	Opioid Misuse in the Past Year	Heroin Use in the Past Year
Wisconsin	3.2%	3.5%	0.1%
U.S.	2.9%	3.0%	0.1%

¹⁰⁴ Department of Health Services: Drug Overdose Deaths Dashboard <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aoda/drug-overdose-deaths.htm>

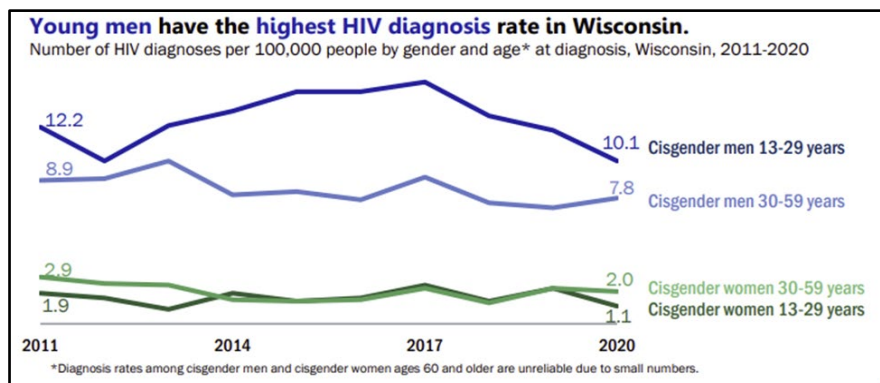
¹⁰⁵ Department of Health Services: Dose of Reality-Youth Opioid Use Dashboard <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/youth-use.htm>

HIV/AIDS

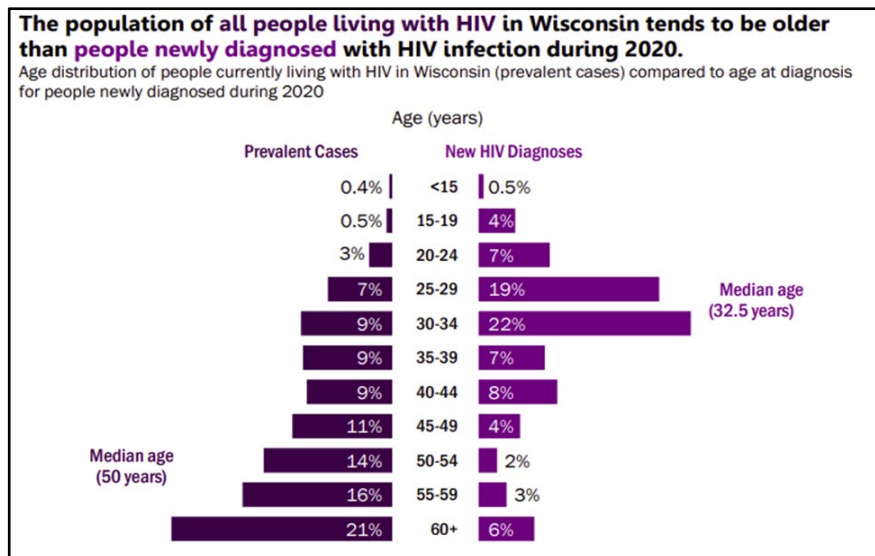
Between 2011-2020, the number and rate of new HIV diagnoses have declined. Wisconsin has a relatively low diagnosis rate compared to neighboring states. There is data on both newly diagnosed and those living with HIV.

In 2020, 208 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. There were 160 men, 40 women, and 8 transgender individuals. The average age at time of diagnosis was 32.5. Most of those cases were in Milwaukee County (105 or 50%), Dane County (19 or 19%), and Brown County (12 or 6%). A disproportionate number of new HIV diagnoses were young men of color. Male-to-Male sexual contact was the most reported risk factor. 86% of these cases were linked to care services within three months of diagnosis.

As illustrated in the chart below, young men (cisgender 13-29) have the highest diagnosis rate at 10.1 and young women (cisgender 13-29) have the lowest diagnosis rate at 1.1.



By the end of 2020, a total of 6,926 people are known to be living with HIV. The majority live in the southern and southeastern part of Wisconsin, including Milwaukee County (47%), Dane county (12%), Racine County (4%), and Brown County (4%). As illustrated in the chart below, the population of all people living with HIV tends to be older than those newly diagnosed.



An estimate of 1,109 additional people may be living with HIV but are not currently aware of their diagnosis.

Seventy-nine people living with HIV died during 2019, primarily from causes other than HIV.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ Department of Health Services: HIV in Wisconsin (2020) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00484-20.pdf>

e. Youth Survivors of Violence and Exploitation

Youth & Young Adults who are Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation - Specific Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wrap around and continued support ● Mental health services on a quicker, more efficient basis ● Well educated and equipped after hours staff with a properly developed after hours plan that provides safety planning and intervention strategies ● Police training ● Youth Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurses
Youth & Young Adults who are Survivors of Domestic Violence - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to legal supports for restraining orders and protection for the victim/survivor ● Child abuse specific or under 18 specific orders ● More shelter capacity with longer stays ● Transitional support when leaving a domestic violence shelter ● Counseling services ● Self-defense classes ● 24/7 Safety Planning Access ● Basic medical training for staff who are supporting YYA

Violence

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, youth violence is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others by young people between 10-24 years old. This can include fighting, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. A young person can be involved with violence as a victim, offender, or witness. Unfortunately, violence is prevalent in the lives of young people. Research shows:

- Homicide is the third leading cause of death for youth and young adults 14-18 years old and the leading cause of death for Black or African American youth.
- Every day approximately 360 youth are treated in emergency departments for nonfatal assault-related injuries.
- Youth identifying as LGBT are more likely to experience multiple forms of violence compared to their heterosexual peers.
- Female teens are more likely than males to experience three or more types of violence.¹⁰⁷

There are multiple factors that contribute to the risk of youth violence including individual, relationship, community and societal. Many of these factors are linked to toxic stress or stress that is prolonged and repeated. According to the CDC, toxic stress can negatively change the brain development of children and youth. Toxic stress can result from experiencing food insecurity and racism; living in impoverished neighborhoods or homes with violence, mental health, substance abuse, or other instabilities; and limited access to support.¹⁰⁸ While not explicitly stated, one could argue that housing instability and homelessness can also result in toxic stress.

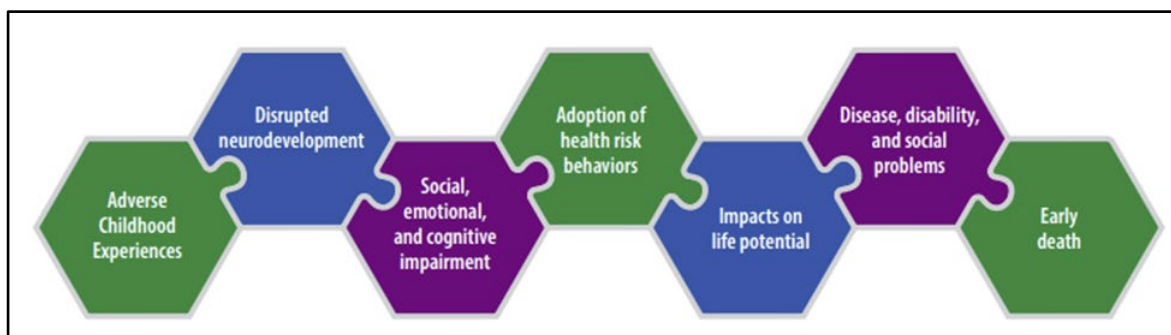
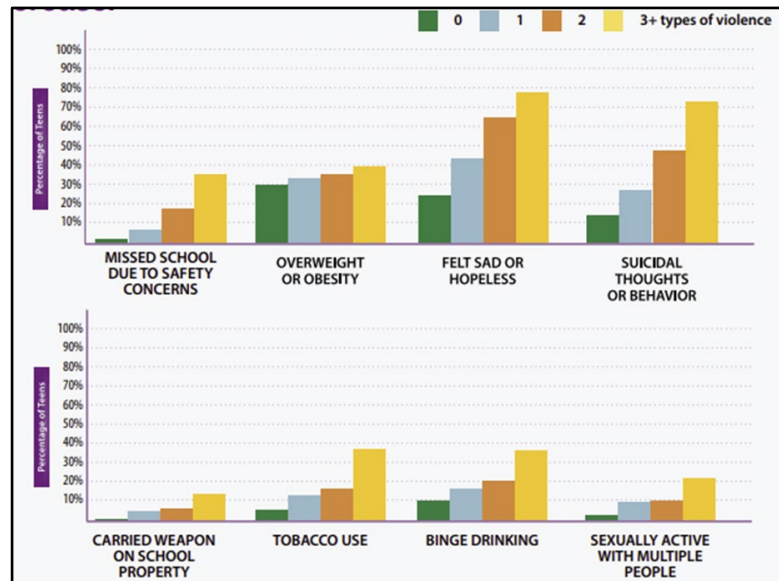
¹⁰⁷ CDC Vital Signs: Prevalence of Multiple Forms of Violence and Increased Health Risk Behaviors and Conditions Among Youth (2021)
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005a4.htm?s_cid=mm7005a4_w#T2_down

¹⁰⁸ CDC: Vital Signs-Violence Impacts Teens' Lives (Feb 2021)
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv/vsViolenceImpactsTeensLivesFactSheet.pdf>

As mentioned in the previous section (Youth with Disabilities and Other Health Issues), the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) survey conducted in 2019 shows that as teens experience more violence, their health risks increase as illustrated in the chart below. About half (44%) of teens experienced at least one type of violence and one in seven experienced two or more types of violence within the twelve months prior to the survey.¹⁰⁹

A growing body of research indicates that toxic stress during childhood can harm the most basic operation of the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems. This kind of exposure can even alter the physical structure of DNA. Adverse childhood experiences (ACE), including experiences of violence, can change brain chemistry. Without prevention or reduction of toxic stress, children can experience a variety of challenges such as:

- the ability to sustain attention, moderate impulsive behavior
- struggles with learning and making decisions,
- the ability to regulate emotions and respond to stress
- increased risk of becoming involved in crime and violence, use of alcohol or drugs, and engaging in other health-risk behaviors
- being more susceptible to disease, illness, and mental health challenges
- difficulties forming healthy and stable relationships¹¹⁰



¹⁰⁹ CDC Vital Signs: Violence Impacts Teens' Lives (2021)

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv/vsViolenceImpactsTeensLivesFactSheet.pdf>

¹¹⁰ CDC: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf>

According to the CDC and explained in the table to the right, evidence indicates that ACEs can be prevented using the strategies listed in the left column and implemented through the evidence-based approaches in the right column.¹¹¹

Exploitation

The National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment in 2010 was the first national assessment by the federal government of the risk posed by child exploitation. The 2016 assessment surveyed more than 1,000 investigations, law enforcement managers, prosecutors, analysts, victim

service providers, and Department of Justice (DOJ) grant recipients. The survey focused on changes to the child sexual exploitation threat since 2010 and potential threats over the next five years in five primary areas. Those areas include child pornography, sextortion and live streaming of child sexual abuse, child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and sex offender registry violations. Future goals and objectives to fight against child exploitation include investigations and prosecutions, outreach and awareness, victim services, and policy and legislative initiatives. One specific strategy highlighted in the report focuses on “developing a specialized comprehensive housing stability program to better address the needs of victims of child sexual exploitation.” According to the report, housing stability models have been successful in providing an immediate response to groups such as homeless veterans and victims of domestic violence. These models address the foundational need of housing first, using rapid and direct housing to meet this basic need for people. Once in stable housing, these models then provide the comprehensive services needed to address a range of issues and needs.¹¹²

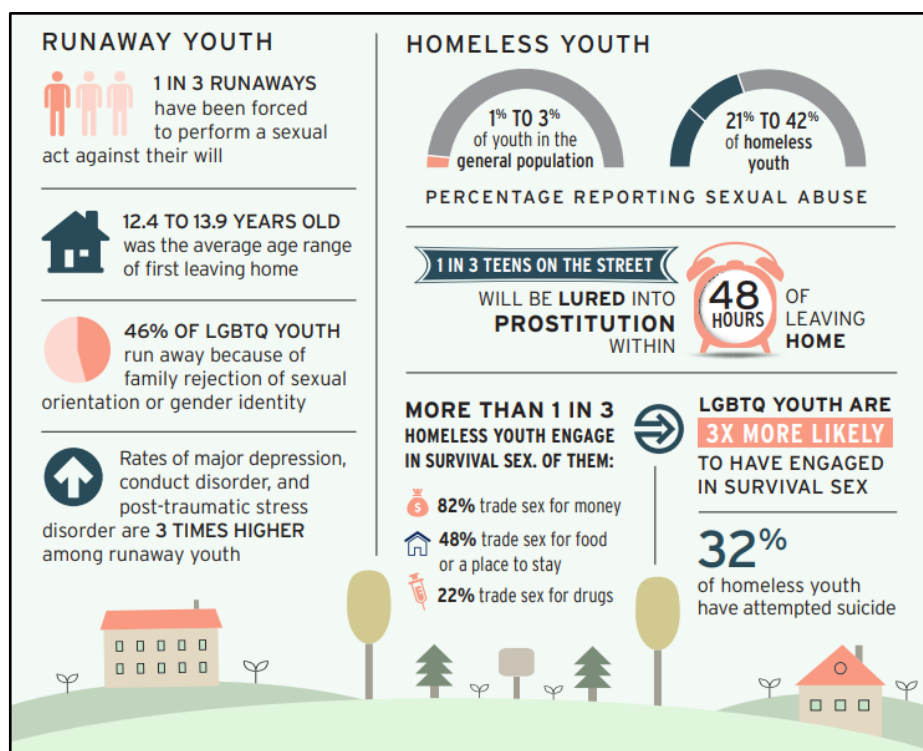
Sexual violence is often one of the reasons youth leave home and it is also one of the potential consequences of living on the street and experiencing homelessness. Twenty years ago, a report on sexual abuse among youth who had run away from home found that 21-40% had been sexually abused, compared to 1-3% in the general population. Without the basic safety and protection housing provides, homelessness can make youth vulnerable to sexual victimization and sexual exploitations. According to a national prevalence study, 71.5% of females and 58.2% of males experienced physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking by an intimate partner for the first time before the age of 25 and 23.2% of females and 14.1% of males before the age of 18. Research also indicates that youth identifying as LGBTQ and experiencing homelessness are victims of 7.4 more acts of sexual violence during their lifetime than their heterosexual peers.¹¹³

Preventing ACEs	
Strategy	Approach
Strengthen economic supports to families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening household financial security Family-friendly work policies
Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public education campaigns Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment Bystander approaches Men and boys as allies in prevention
Ensure a strong start for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood home visitation High-quality child care Preschool enrichment with family engagement
Teach skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social-emotional learning Safe dating and healthy relationship skill programs Parenting skills and family relationship approaches
Connect youth to caring adults and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentoring programs After-school programs
Intervene to lessen immediate and long-term harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced primary care Victim-centered services Treatment to lessen the harms of ACEs Treatment to prevent problem behavior and future involvement in violence Family-centered treatment for substance use disorders

¹¹¹ CDC: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf>

¹¹² US Department of Justice: The National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction-A Report to Congress (April 2016) <https://www.justice.gov/psa/national-strategy-child-exploitation-prevention-and-interdiction>

¹¹³ National Sexual Violence Resource Center: Linking the Roads-Working with youth who experience homelessness & sexual violence (2014) https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/Linking_Guide2019_FINAL508.pdf



To survive without stable housing, youth often develop survival skills and coping mechanisms to help them stay alive and feel safer. These can include denial, minimization, dissociation, compliance and over-pleasing, self-blame, lying, believing the abuse is consensual, confusion, or avoiding talks about the past. Survival sex is another skill often used by youth experiencing homelessness to obtain food, clothing, drugs or alcohol, and/or shelter. As indicated in the infographic on the left, more than one in three youth experiencing homelessness engage in survival sex. LGBTQ youth are three times more likely.¹¹⁴

According to the Wisconsin Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data dashboard center, there were a total of 5,261 sex offenses reported by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies to the Wisconsin Department of Justice in 2021. The dashboard does not provide any additional information on the victim, such as age. It does show a change over time. In 2020, there were substantially less sex offenses reported (4,653) and a few more reported (5,355) in 2019.¹¹⁵

Wisconsin has more data available on incidents of domestic abuse, although it has not yet been updated since 2018. In 2018, there were 30,999 incidents of domestic abuse reported by law enforcement of which there were 33,344 suspects and 33,785 victims. Most suspects were male (75%) and white (56%). The majority were 17-25 years old (21%) and an additional 1% were under the age of 17. Most victims were female (71%) and white (57%). The majority were 18-25 years old (19%).¹¹⁶

Trafficking

Human sex trafficking is the most common form of modern-day slavery. It is estimated that millions of people across the world are victimized by trafficking each year, many of which are females and children being trafficked for sex. Sex trafficking can take many forms and there are data-related challenges to determining the extent in the United States. There are an estimated 100,000 children are traded for sex in the United States each year. According to Congressional testimony by Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing

¹¹⁴ National Sexual Violence Resource Center: Linking the Roads-Working with youth who experience homelessness & sexual violence (2014) https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/Linking_Guide2019_FINAL508.pdf

¹¹⁵ WI Department of Justice: UCR Offense Data <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/ucr-offense-data>

¹¹⁶ WI Department of Justice: Domestic Abuse Data <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/domestic-abuse-data#Domestic%20Abuse%20Incident>

and Exploited Children in 2010, the number of 10–17-year-olds involved in commercial sexual exploitation in the United States each year likely exceeds 250,000 with 60% being runaway, thrown-away, or homeless youth. As many as 33% of teen runaway or throwaway youth become involved in prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.¹¹⁷

Risk for victimization seems to correlate with a history of physical or sexual abuse; witnessing violence in the home; having mental health issues, including a history of suicidality; poor family or community connections; history of running away; a history of being arrested; or having a disabling condition. Additionally, many researchers agree that poverty, economic hardship, unstable living environments, and substance abuse are also risk factors for trafficking. Youth who have interacted with child welfare and/or juvenile justice also seem to be at a particularly high risk.¹¹⁸

Although there is limited agreement about prevalence, research shows that runaway and homeless youth are at a particularly high risk of becoming trafficking victims. From February 2014–March 2017, Covenant House invited researchers to thirteen cities in the United States and Canada to study the prevalence and nature of human trafficking among young people experiencing homelessness. There were two teams, Loyola University Modern Slavery Research Project (MSRP) and The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research at the University of Pennsylvania. Here are some of the key findings based on the 641 youth MSRP interviewed.

- 19% identified as victims of some form of human trafficking
- 14% were victims of sex trafficking and 8% had been trafficked for forced labor
- 91% reported being approached by someone who was offering an opportunity for income that was too good to be true
- 20% of cisgender women reported experiences consistent with sex trafficking and 11% of cisgender men
- 29% of LGBTQ youth were identified as human trafficking survivors compared to 17% of non-LGBTQ youth; 50% of LGBTQ youth had engaged in any form of commercial sex compared to 25% of non-LGBTQ youth
- 19% of the youth turned to survival sex at some difficult point in their lives
- The median age of entry into trading sex was 18 and 16 for those trafficked
- 68% of the youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex or commercial sex had done so while homeless
- Youth with a history of involvement in the child welfare system accounted for 27% of all youth engaged in the sex trade and 26% were labor trafficked
- Trafficking among drop-in youth (i.e., street youth) was 24% for sex and 13% for labor

Key findings from the 270 total young people interviewed by The Field Center include:

- 17% of youth had been trafficked for sex, 6% for labor, and 20% for sex or labor
- 33% of the youth trafficked for sex and 10% for labor identify as LGBTQ
- 24% of the youth trafficked for sex and 4% for labor identify as female
- 9% of the youth trafficked for sex and 7% for labor identify as male¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ National Center for Homeless Education: Sex Trafficking of Minors (2014) <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/trafficking.pdf>

¹¹⁸ Family & Youth Services Bureau: Human Trafficking for Runaway and Homeless Youth Serving Programs <https://www.rhyttac.net/assets/docs/Resources/HumanTraffickingResourceGuide-508.pdf>

¹¹⁹ Loyola University New Orleans-Modern Slavery Research Project: Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth <https://www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-issues/human-trafficking-study>

The National Human Trafficking Hotline maintains extensive data on human trafficking in the United States. Statistics are based on aggregated information learned through “signals” or phone calls, texts, online chats, emails, and online tip reports received by the Trafficking Hotline. From 12/7/07-12/31/20, there have been a total of 328,255 contacts and 73,946 cases. Cases represent distinct situations of trafficking reported. Cases can involve one or more potential victims and can be reported through multiple formats. Case does not indicate law enforcement involvement. Cases are given an indicator - *high* means there is a high level of indicators of human trafficking; *moderate* means there are several indicators or resemble common trafficking scenarios but lack core details of force, fraud, or coercion.¹²⁰ The Hotline also maintains data by state. In Wisconsin from 2007-2020, there were a total of 2,726 contacts and 701 cases. In the table below, national statistics are compared to Wisconsin for 2020.¹²¹

	National	Wisconsin
Human trafficking cases reported	10,583	97
High/Moderate	4,691 / 12,325	35 / 105
Sex trafficking	72%	78%
Trafficking not specified	15%	10%
Labor trafficking	10%	6%
Sex and Labor trafficking	3%	5%
Adults/Minors	77% / 15%	91% / 8%
Female/Male/Gender Minority (not cisgender)	58% / 43% / <1%	61% / 24%

In January 2020 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Lisa McCormick of Tomah shared her first-hand account of those affected by human trafficking with an audience of approximately 100 people.

“Three years ago, my son Jeffrey died of an overdose and was sex trafficked for a total amount of about four months. The trafficker approached him and said, ‘I know you’re a minor, I can get you a job working for us, and I’ll get you a place to live, food, clothes, a new phone, jewelry, all the drugs you want if you come live with us and work with us.’”

After several months of trying to help her son, Lisa got a call from the police. Her son had died from a drug overdose - heroin laced with fentanyl.¹²²

¹²⁰ National Human Trafficking Hotline <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

¹²¹ National Human Trafficking Hotline: Wisconsin <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/wisconsin>

¹²² WEAU News: Mother looks to educate public about human trafficking after losing son (Jan 2020) <https://www.weau.com/content/news/Mother-looks-to-educate-public-about-human-trafficking-after-losing-son-566913951.html>

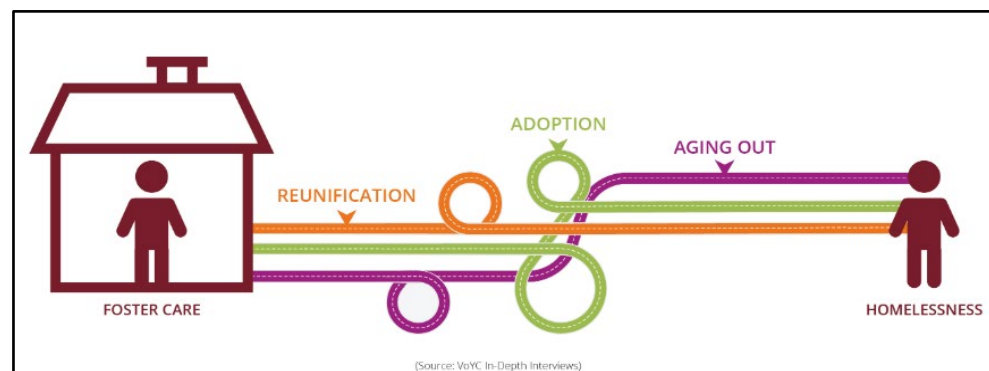
f. Youth Involved in the Child Welfare System

Youth & Young Adults Involved in the Child Welfare System - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for foster parents to support transitions into stable housing • Youth advocates • Better training for interviewing youth, ask them separately from parents • More oversight of youth within "the system" • More funding and resources for kinship care • Services and housing available to those aging out of care • Increased services & foster placements for unaccompanied teens

There are multiple ways that youth with previous involvement in the child welfare system end up experiencing homelessness. It is noteworthy that not all the youth experiencing homelessness with foster care histories aged out of care. Those youth who were reunified, adopted, or paced with a legal guardian are also at risk of homelessness.

According to one review of research published between 1990-2011, between 11-36% of the youth who age out of foster care become homeless during the transition to adulthood. A study published in 2013 by the American Journal of Public Health used data from a longitudinal study of youth aging out of foster care in three Midwestern states (Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois) to estimate the cumulative percentage of youth who become homeless. The study followed 624 respondents for 10 years. Between 31-46% of the study participants became homeless at least once by the age of 26. Running away while in foster care, greater placement instability, being male, having a history of physical abuse, engaging in more delinquent behaviors, and having mental health symptoms were associated with an increased risk of homelessness.¹²³

According to Chapin Hall research, there are multiple pathways to homelessness from foster care as illustrated in the diagram. 29% of the 13-25 year olds



experiencing homelessness who completed a survey reported that they had spent time in foster care. By comparison, approximately 6% of children in the United States enter foster care at least once between birth and age 18. 44% of the young people interviewed indicated that they spent time in foster care. Some entered foster care for the first time as a young child, others as teenagers. About 50% of the young people interviewed exited foster care through reunification or adoption and yet still found themselves on pathways into homelessness.¹²⁴

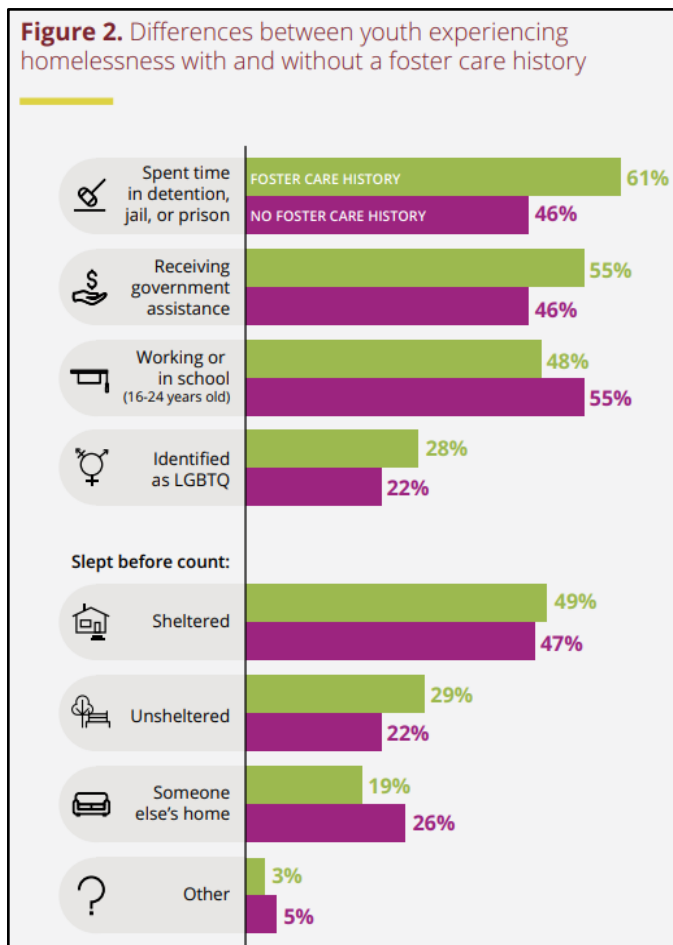
¹²³ National Library of Medicine: Homelessness During the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood (December 2013) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3969135/>

¹²⁴ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—Pathways from Foster Care to Youth Homelessness in America https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Child-Welfare-Brief_2019-FINAL.pdf

Chapin Hill's Voices of Youth Count Brief Youth Survey revealed differences between youth experiencing homelessness who had a foster care history and their peers who did not. As indicated in the chart to the left, those who had been in foster care were more likely to have spent time in juvenile detention, jail or prison; more likely to identify as LGBTQ; less likely to be in school or employed; and more likely to be receiving government assistance such as food stamps.

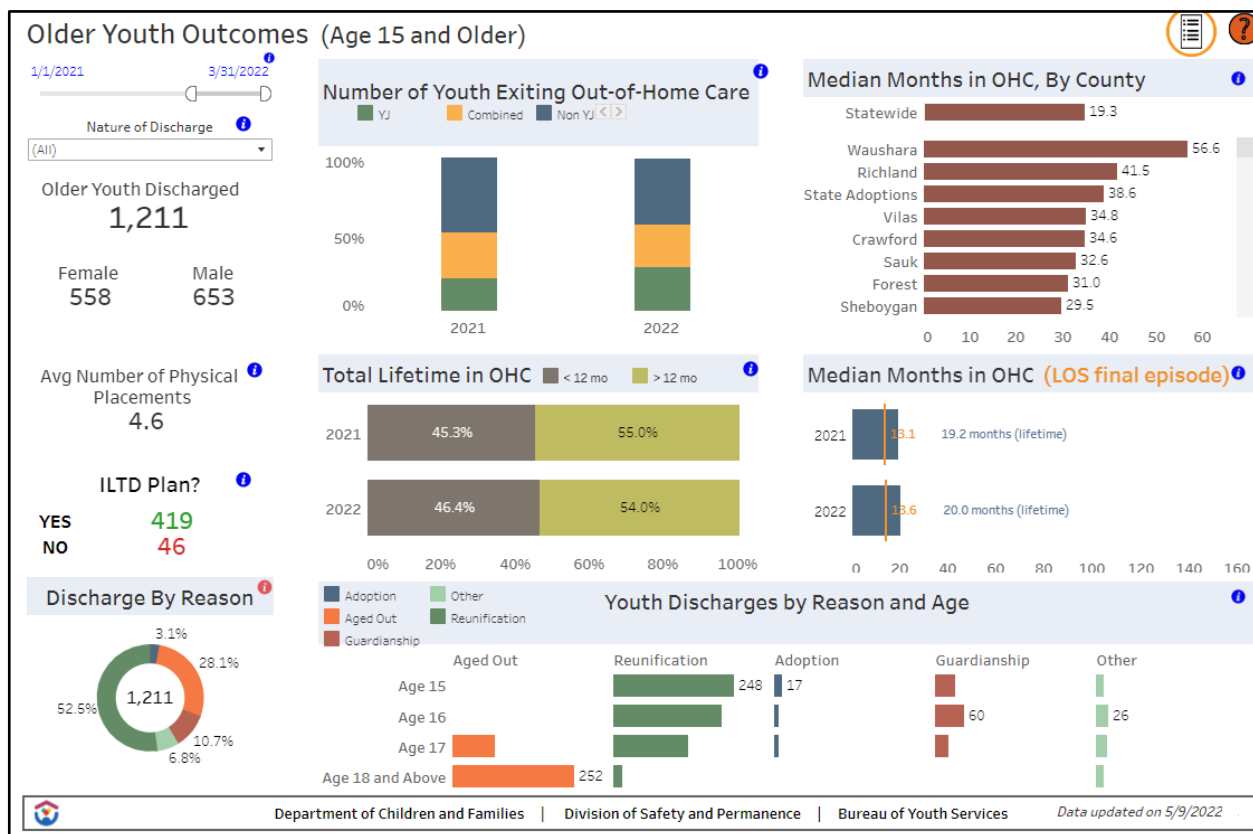
During the interview process, young people who had been in foster care experienced significantly more adverse events, on average, than their peers who had no foster care history.

Another commonality among those with foster care experiences was the perception among young people that entry into foster care was the beginning of their own experience with homelessness and their foster care placement was part of a larger pattern of instability. 47% of the young people who had been in foster care had first experienced homelessness with their birth family compared to just 6% of their peers without foster care history.¹²⁵



¹²⁵ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago-Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities—Pathways from Foster Care to Youth Homelessness in America https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Child-Welfare-Brief_2019-FINAL.pdf

In Wisconsin, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) aggregates data and publishes the dashboard on the agency's website. The Older Youth Outcomes dashboard provides statewide and county-specific information on 15-21 year olds who are discharged from out-of-home care (OHC) because they reached the maximum age (i.e., aging out) or through adoption, guardianship, or reunification. The report can be modified for a particular date range or type of discharge. Looking at data from 1/1/21-3/31/22, there were 1,211 older youth discharged. 46% identified as female and 54% as male. For discharge reason, 52.5% were reunified; 28.1% aged out; 10.7% were appointed guardians; 3.1% were adopted. The average amount of time in OHC in Wisconsin is 19.3 months. However, there are many counties with much higher median months as illustrated on the chart.¹²⁶

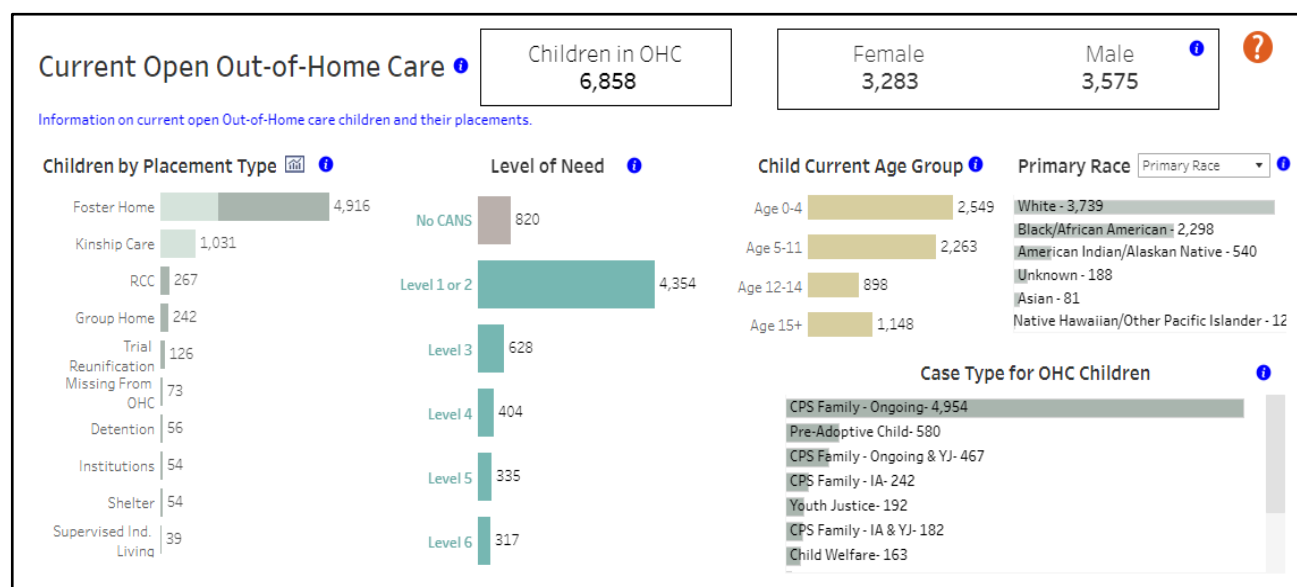


I think there are a lot of reasons youth are homeless and the biggest factor is unfit or unstable parents. So when a kid gets out of foster care they have nowhere to go and no way to build a stable life. As well as there are kids that run away or leave home because of their parents and they have nowhere to go.

Local Coalition YAB Member

¹²⁶ Wisconsin Department of Children and Families: Older Youth Outcomes Dashboard <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/dashboard/ageout>

DCF also maintains an Out-Of-Home Care (OHC) Dashboard on the website. This dashboard provides information on current OHC placements, a map of the physical placements of children in OHC, children removed to OHC in the reporting period, and the children who were discharged from OHC in the reporting period. Noteworthy is the number of current placements (not just discharges or new cases). As of May 25, 2022, there are 6,858 children in OHC in Wisconsin. 49% are female and 51% are male. 1,148 are over the age of 15 (17% of the total). The majority identify as white 55% or Black 34%. Finally, the majority are placed in foster care (72%) or kinship care (15%).¹²⁷



While tracking data related to OHC and aging out of foster care is informative, it does not indicate whether the youth involved with the child welfare system experience homelessness during or after their foster care experience(s). In 2013, the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) and DCF conducted a statewide Foster Care Outcome data match between the HMIS system and the foster care database. Out of 14,534 former foster youth who were placed in a foster care setting between 2005 and 2011, 626 (4.3%) experienced homelessness. The population of aged out youth had a 6.5% rate of homelessness (207 out of 3,155 experienced homelessness). These rates are much smaller than the 24% rate of homelessness identified in national data surveys. Data showed that being Black and identifying as a female increased the risk of homelessness. While no youth were involved in the design or execution of the project, this style of data sharing with state departments is identified in the objectives and actions steps within this plan and supported by the Balance of State CoC YAB.

Upon request, DCF provided the Balance of State CoC FY2020 and FY2021 data from the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) in April 2022. NYTD surveys youth at 17 while in care, at 19, and again at 21 to look at long-term outcomes, housing insecurity and homelessness. While only a snapshot, surveying youth in care at a given time and only a sample of young people who have ever had foster care experience, it provides some interesting information. Note, not all youth who complete the NYTD aged out of foster care, though many of them did. The data provided to the CoC was edited to remove Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine County data.

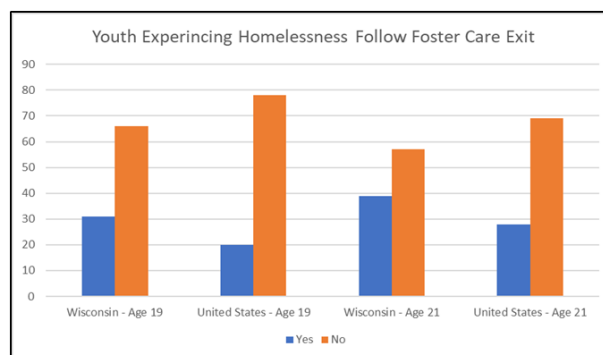
¹²⁷ Wisconsin Department of Children and Families: Out-of-Home Care (OHC) Dashboard <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/dashboard/ohc>

Looking only at the Balance of State CoC counties provides a deeper understanding of the impact child welfare history has on youth.

	19 Years FY2021	21 Years FY2021
Cohort size	125	121
Gender: Male/Female	42% / 58%	42% / 58%
Sexual Orientation: Straight/Gay or Lesbian/Bisexual Transgender/Questioning	73% / 1% / 17% 2% / 2%	68% / 5% / 23% 1% / 5%
Race & Ethnicity: White/Black/American Indian	74% / 10% / 14%	77% / 8% / 10%
Employment Status: Full time/Part time not working/not working & not in school	37% / 23% 39% / 19%	38% / 20% 42% / 36%
Current Living Situation: Parents/Family/Friends Group care/College/Own place Bouncing/Homeless	15% / 15% / 20% 5% / 4% / 19% 6% / 2%	8% / 11% / 10% 7% / 1% / 44% 4% / 5%
Currently have enough financial resources for own living expenses? Yes/No/Sometimes	23% / 14% / 25%	29% / 12% / 26%
Have you experienced homelessness in the past 2 years? Y/N	31% / 66%	37% / 63%
Do you have reliable transportation? Y/N	75% / 22%	77% / 23%
Incarcerated in the last two years? Y/N	24% / 74%	24% / 76%
Had a child(ren) in the last two years? Y/N	4% / 94%	30% / 70%

Older NYTD data can be found on The Annie E. Casey Foundation website. The chart below shows the difference between youth who transitioned out of foster care and experienced homelessness in the previous two years in Wisconsin compared to the United States at the age of 19 and 21. The data was collected in “waves.” Young people who were in foster care within 45 days following their 17th birthday were eligible to complete the survey. Then subsequently were asked to complete the follow up surveys at 19 and 21 years old. The chart above reflects responses for FY2011. Almost 40% of those who exited foster care reported experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin by age 21 and 30% by age 19. When compared to the data for FY2014, the number of “yes” answers in Wisconsin for 19 year olds declined (24%) and 21 year olds remained approximately the same (38%).¹²⁸

Interesting to note that the data recently provided by DCF for FY2020 and FY2021 includes additional questions and information and when you look at the percentages answering “yes” to the homeless question it is similar to the data reported in FY2011 and FY2014. In 10 years, there has not been much of a change in the percentage of youth exiting foster care experiencing homelessness by the time they are 19 or 21.



¹²⁸ The Annie E. Casey Foundation <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

g. Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System

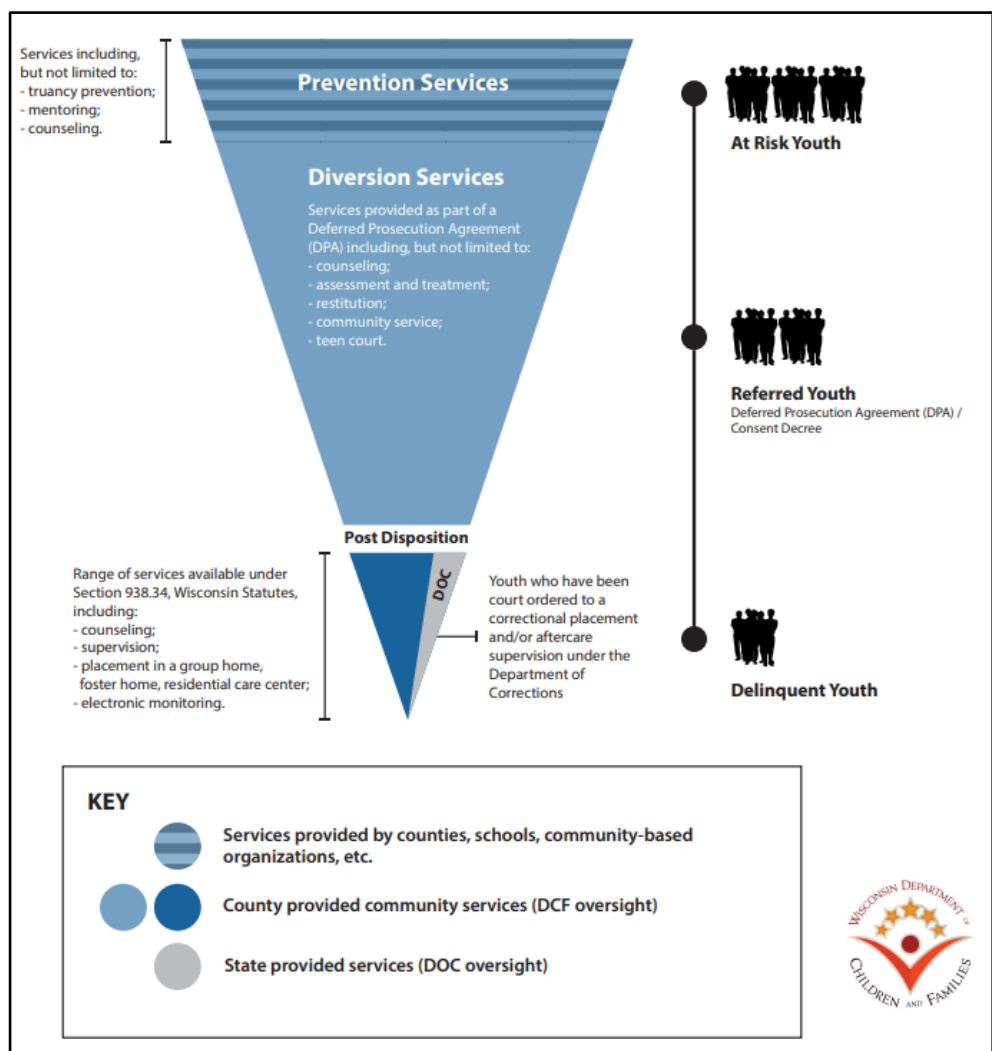
Youth & Young Adults Involved in the Juvenile Justice System - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap around services • Transitional services after exiting programming • Restorative Justice programs • Someone who is supporting the youth • Pro bono legal support to educate on the system, what to expect from lawyers, and tips for court • Strategies to reduce recidivism • Mentors, positive influences

In Wisconsin, DCF is the state agency responsible for fiscal and programmatic oversight for the Youth Aids allocation and the community-based youth justice system.¹²⁹

The illustration on the right visually describes the model for juvenile justice in Wisconsin.¹³⁰ DCF's vision for Wisconsin's Youth Justice System includes a focus on prevention and diversion and the provision of accountability and services to youth and families in the system that prepare them to thrive.

Youth Justice (YJ) is community based and designed to serve the greatest number of youth through local prevention and diversion services to reduce the number of youth who enter the formal YJ system. In 2016, DCF assumed this responsibility and the Department of Corrections retained oversight of youth in correctional facilities.¹³¹

Since 2017, DCF has invested in Youth Justice Innovation Grants to find better ways to improve and enhance the youth justice system in Wisconsin. There have



¹²⁹ Department of Children and Families: Youth Justice <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ys/yj>

¹³⁰ Department of Children and Families: Youth Justice in Wisconsin <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/yj/pdf/cb-yj-if.pdf>

¹³¹ Department of Children and Families: WI Youth Justice Referrals and Intake (CY2021) <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/yj/pdf/yj-referrals-intake-rpt.pdf>

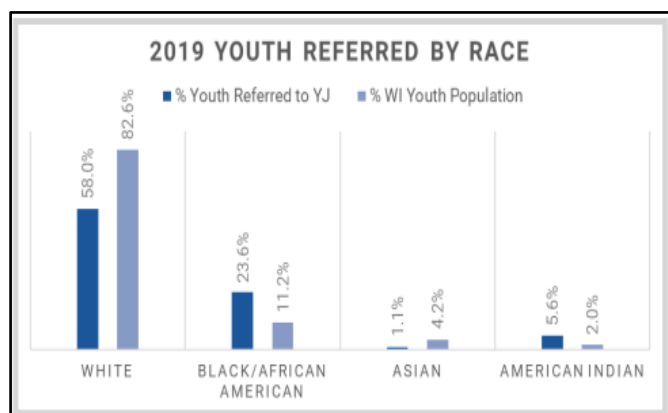
been five rounds of funding supporting innovation in sixty-two counties. Areas of practice include racial and ethnic disparities reduction, school-justice partnership, alternatives to detention, community partnerships, and service matching.¹³²

During the calendar year 2019, there were 10,357 youth referred to the YJ system in Wisconsin. Referrals are made in four categories: Delinquent, JIPS non-truancy, JIPS Truancy, and Ord Violation. Intake is the entry point to the YJ system for all Wisconsin youth under the age of 17. Intake is not a court hearing and youth are not taken into physical custody.

Juvenile Courts in Wisconsin have jurisdiction in the following circumstances:		
<p>Juveniles Alleged to be Delinquent</p> <p>Includes any person over the age of 10 who is alleged to have violated any state or federal criminal law. Under 1995 Wisconsin Act 77, general jurisdiction of the juvenile court was lowered from age 17 to age 16. 17-year-olds do not fall under the original jurisdiction of juvenile courts in Wisconsin.</p> <p>More information can be found in Wis. Stats. sec. 938.12.</p>	<p>Juveniles in Need of Protection or Services (JIPS)</p> <p>Youth may be alleged to be in need of protection or services if certain conditions apply:</p> <p>JIPS Non-Truancy conditions include a parent or guardian unable or needing assistance to control a young person; a youth who runs away from home; or a youth who commits a delinquent act before age 10.</p> <p>JIPS Truancy conditions include habitual truancy from school.</p> <p>Youth adjudicated JIPS may be referred for a variety of services, but they cannot be sent to a correctional facility, juvenile detention facility, or a secured residential care center.</p> <p>More information on JIPS jurisdiction can be found in Wis. Stats. sec. 938.13.</p>	<p>Juveniles Alleged to have Violated Civil Laws or Ordinances</p> <p>Municipal or county jurisdiction over young people alleged to have violated a civil law or ordinance is determined by the referring agency. Violation of municipal ordinance often results in a ticket—which is not synonymous with referrals to the YJ system.</p> <p>More information can be found in Wis. Stats. sec. 938.125.</p>

Demographics for those referred in 2019 include:

- Male (66%), Female (32%), Other (2%)
- Most youth were referred at age 16 (22%), age 15 (19.5%) or age 14 (17%)
- The most frequent race represented is White (58%). When race is compared to the racial breakdown of the overall youth population, Black/African American and American Indian youth are over-represented as illustrated in the chart to the right.¹³³

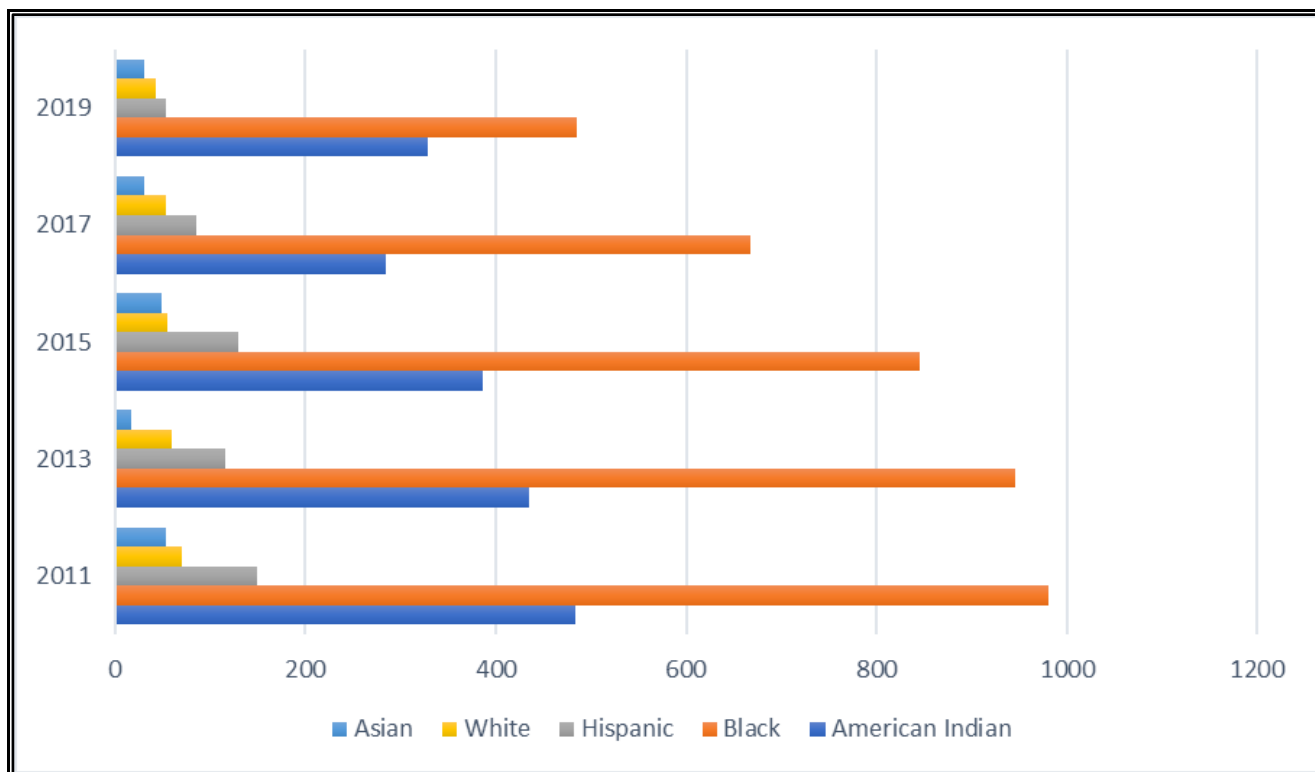
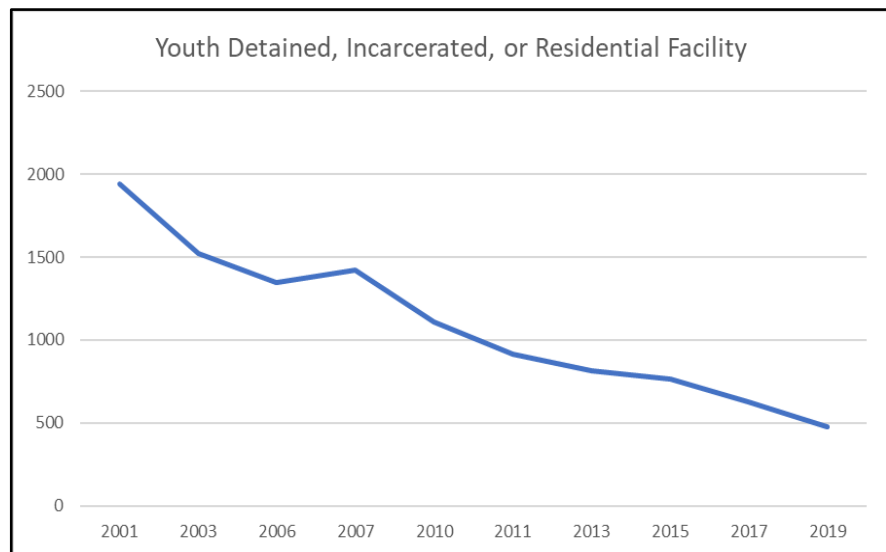


¹³² Department of Children and Families: Youth Justice <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ys/yj>

¹³³ Department of Children and Families: WI Youth Justice Referrals and Intake (CY2021) <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/yj/pdf/yj-referrals-intake-rpt.pdf>

In 2019, there were 477 youth under the age of 21 who were detained, incarcerated or placed in residential facilities in Wisconsin. As illustrated in the first chart below, this has been on a decline since 2007.

The second chart below includes the same data as the first chart displayed as the number of juvenile offenders in residential placement per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through 18 disaggregated by race and ethnicity. Between 2011-2019, most of the race and ethnicities experienced a decrease. Juveniles identifying as Black/African American continue to have the highest rate but also saw a large decrease between 2017-2019 whereas juveniles identifying as American Indian saw an increase. The rate for White juveniles remained mostly unchanged.¹³⁴

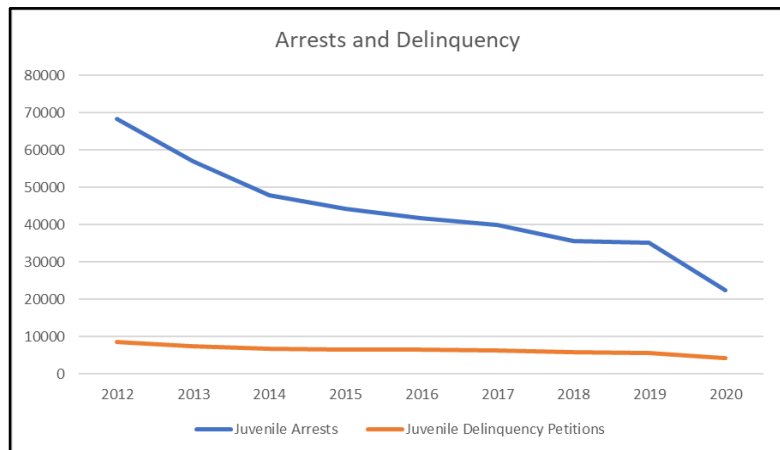


¹³⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

The chart on the right shows the difference between juvenile arrests and delinquency petitions filed.

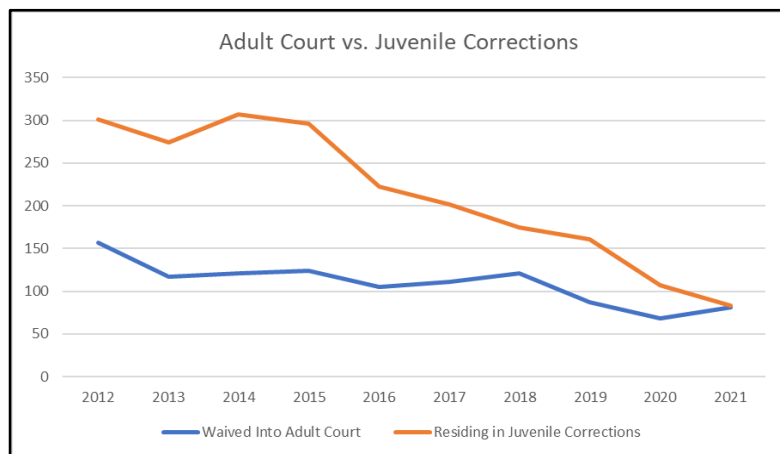
Juvenile arrest data includes the arrests of 17-year-olds, who in Wisconsin are considered adults for the purpose of prosecution. Since 2012, with the exception of 2019, the number of juvenile arrests have been trending down.

Juvenile delinquency petitions are formally filed cases opened in a Circuit Court alleging that the youth between the ages of 10-16 has committed an offense that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult. The number of juvenile delinquency petitions have also gone down, especially between 2019 and 2020.



The chart below illustrates the difference between youth who have been waived into adult court and those in juvenile corrections. Since 2015, the number of youth residing in juvenile corrections has been going down. Youth waived into adult court is a count of the number of youth under the age of 17 who were transferred to adult court through the waiver process. It does not include 17-year-olds, who are all treated as adults in the Wisconsin justice system. It also does not include those youth who commit certain crimes (i.e., first degree intentional homicide) which can be filed directly in adult court. The juvenile corrections data comes from the annual average daily population of youth residing at state-run juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin.¹³⁵

While there is a lot of great data available through DCF, DOC, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation, there is not much available on the direct impact of juvenile justice experience and homelessness. Similar to the interaction with child welfare, there is much more to learn about systems of care and youth homelessness.



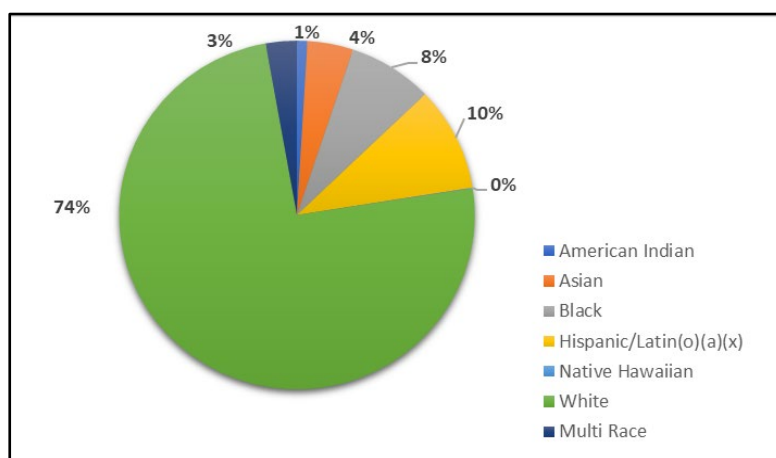
¹³⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

h. Youth who Identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)

Youth & Young Adults who Identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual therapy options • Funding for housing programs and financial assistance specifically targeting BIPOC with case management/advocates to reduce discrimination • Equitable housing markets & rental opportunities • Food assistance • Diversity in staffing - hire people of color • Community supports that listen to needs of youth • Access to support groups • Intersectionality training for staff and access to peer support

Youth & Young Adults who Identify as Immigrants and/or Undocumented - Specific Needs & Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services and legal advice • Access to affordable healthcare • Supports for youth & assistance in staying in contact with parents/family who have been deported • Translators/bilingual staffing • Economic support for youth whose parents may be deported or unable to work if not documented • Safehouses • Legal services, that care about the youth • Safe refuge locations

According to The Annie E. Casey Foundation, there were 544,485 youth 18-24 years old in Wisconsin in 2020. The breakdown by race and ethnicity is illustrated in the chart below.¹³⁶



Throughout the Balance of State CoC CCP, data on those identifying as BIPOC have been embedded to the degree that the information was relevant and available. In each section, areas of disparity were identified.

¹³⁶ The Annie E. Casey Foundation <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#WI/2/0/char/0>

i. Key Subpopulation Related Action Items

The data related to each of these subpopulations tells its own story, supported by the input of YAB members and the communities as identified above. In review of these needs, common themes emerge. Among them we recognize a need for:

- (1) Services that are culturally, racially, ethnically, and positive youth development informed and responsive and that build on existing resources of young people and communities beyond traditional infrastructure and approach
- (2) Improved transitions and coordination of services
- (3) Improved rights of minors to ensure access to essential services, including:
 - legal documents
 - housing
 - health care
 - mental health care
- (4) A need for improved data collection and sharing based on:
 - improved point in time count procedures and participation
 - data sharing among HMIS participating agencies, including RHY Providers
 - potential for increased participation in HMIS among non-Federal funded agencies and increased data collection to capture sub-population data when appropriate



Living on campus, it's 90% white & no one brings it up [race] because it doesn't affect them. They are blind to it.

Local Coalition YAB Member

III. Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

[Defining success as] We need people to be more open minded. To give us a chance, to listen to us. Not being judged on paper or on file. That would be great.

Local Coalition YAB Member

The Balance of State CoC adopted the core outcomes outlined in the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness. Given the nature of the CoC structure and role in statewide initiatives, the CoC chose to add a fifth goal related to system change and navigation. These core outcomes align with our vision, goals, objectives, and action steps and provide the basis for the CCP. Each YHDP participating coalition was required to use the CoC's first four goals and identify objectives and action steps informed by local data and YAB feedback. While the Balance of State's goals are macro-level and big picture goals, the coalition goals focus on specific changes to the local system. YHDP participating coalition CCPs are in the Appendix.

As stated by USICH, the Balance of State CoC CCP goals are **(1) Stable Housing** – Youth and young adults are immediately provided with safe, supported, and flexible housing options that reflect their individual needs and pave the way for long term, sustainable housing; **(2) Permanent Connections** – Youth and young adults are supported in cultivating consistent, self-identified people who can respectfully guide, support and advocate with them to get their needs met; **(3) Education and Employment** – Youth and young adults have access to educational resources to achieve their career goals, helping to prevent homelessness for at-risk youth and young adults and create sustainable pathways to income and housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness; **(4) Social and Emotional Wellbeing** – The health and well-being of youth and young adults are prioritized by meeting youth where they are and providing them with the resources and supports they need to achieve happiness, health, self-sufficiency, and self-actualization. The fifth goal is **(5) Systems Change** – Increase cross-system coordination and collaboration with a commitment to authentic youth voice.

Goal 1. Stable Housing

Values and Principles



Goal 1: Stable Housing - Youth & Young Adults are immediately provided with safe, supported, and flexible housing options that reflect their individualized needs and pave the way for long-term, sustainable housing.		
Actions	Responsible Party	Start Date
Objective 1.1: Increase youth-dedicated housing options across the regions of the Balance of State CoC including crisis and permanent housing.		
1.1.1. Apply for YHDP housing projects to support local needs	CoC staff and local coalition agencies	June 2022
1.1.2. Project application review process includes YAB to ensure that most effective projects are chosen.	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	May-June 2022
1.1.3. Work with youth to review written standards and develop written program standards that are inclusive, culturally specific and equitable	CoC YAB, CoC Staff and CoC Board of Directors	Summer 2022
Objective 1.2: Ongoing Support for YHDP Projects from the Balance of State CoC		
1.2.1. Training on housing best practices (i.e., program compliance, housing first, and landlord engagement)	CoC staff and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
1.2.2. Encourage and train on shared housing and other creative housing options as a viable option for youth and young adults	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Ongoing
1.2.3. Targeted technical assistance for agencies new to housing and/or HUD CoC funding	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
1.2.4. Establish and facilitate collaborative group for YHDP funded agencies	CoC Staff	Summer 2022
1.2.5. Continued Quality Improvement (CQI) process determined and enacted by CoC	CoC YAB and CoC Staff	Summer-Fall 2022
Objective 1.3: Addressing challenges associated with utilization of other youth housing opportunities		

1.3.1. Better understand the barriers to accessing youth specific housing vouchers, public housing and Section 8.	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
1.3.2. Develop a process for information sharing between the CoC and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)/Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher agencies and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers.	CoC Staff and WAHRS	Fall 2022
1.3.3. Develop recommendations around access to and barriers to improve utilization of housing opportunities.	CoC Staff	Ongoing
1.3.4. Recruit youth and young adults in these housing programs for participation with CoC YAB and local/regional YAB	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Ongoing
Objective 1.4 Divert young people from entering the homeless service system whenever safe and possible		
1.4.1. Engage with the discharge planning committee to work on drivers of youth homelessness such as aging out of foster care and exits from health services, mental health, and prison system	CoC staff, Discharge Planning committee members	Winter 2022
1.4.2. Engage with emergency shelter and diversion committee to implement youth diversion standards	CoC staff, Emergency Shelter & Diversion committee members	Winter 2022
Objective 1.5: Ensure Coordinated Entry (CE) is designed to meet the needs of youth and young adults		
1.5.1. Review policy & procedure manual, including assessment and prioritization, to ensure it meets youth and young adult needs	CoC Staff, CE committee and workgroups, and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
1.5.2. Develop partnerships through training and outreach with child welfare, juvenile justice, educational systems and other systems of care to ensure that youth can access CE through all of these systems, whether directly or through an MOU	CoC Staff, SSO CE Staff, CE committee and workgroups	Fall 2022
1.5.3. Develop and facilitate targeted CE training with other systems of care	CoC Staff and CE committee and workgroups	Summer-Fall 2022

Youth depend on parents for so long and then when parents turn their backs, it makes it very difficult. You don't know how to do so many things such as pay bills, rent an apartment, etc. Many places don't take you seriously because of your age and that can make it more difficult to step out on your own.

Local Coalition YAB Member

Goal 2. Permanent Connections

Values and Principles

- ☐ Special Populations
- ☐ Equity
- ☒ Positive Youth Development
- ☒ Trauma Informed Care
- ☒ Family Engagement
- ☐ Housing First

- ☐ Unsheltered Homelessness
- ☒ Youth Choice
- ☒ Individualized & Client Driven Supports
- ☒ Social & Community Integration
- ☐ Coordinated Entry

Goal 2: Permanent Connections: Youth & young adults are supported in cultivating consistent, self-identified people who can respectfully guide, support, and advocate with them to get their needs met.

Actions	Responsible Party	Start Date
Objective 2.1: The CoC will provide and coordinate training on mentorship models, Positive Youth Development (PYD), and developing community connections outside of the homeless service system		
2.1.1. Expand resources available to partners on best practices (examples: resource sharing, training opportunities, peer-to-peer sharing)	CoC Staff	Summer 2022
2.1.2. YAB provide training with assistance of CoC staff and partners	CoC YAB	Fall 2022
2.1.3. Provide and coordinate strategies to ensure all projects are providing training to youth around topics such as fiscal management, education, employment, relationships, parenting, and support in independent living skills	CoC Staff and YHDP funded projects	Fall 2022
2.1.4. Develop written guidance (aligned with RHY work) and training for case managers around supporting youth and young adults establish their permanent connections	CoC staff, CoC YAB, and WAHRS	Summer-Fall 2022
Objective 2.2: Permanent connections are accurately collected in HMIS		
Objective 2.2.1: Develop a process to ensure accurate data collection in HMIS on permanent connections	CoC Staff, CoC Executive Committee, and ICA	Summer 2022

Not having familial support or social supports is the biggest risk of homelessness among youth.

Local Coalition YAB Member

Goal 3. Education and Employment

Values and Principles



Goal 3: Education and Employment: All youth and young adults have access to educational resources to achieve their career goals, helping to prevent homelessness for at-risk youth and young adults and create sustainable pathways to income and housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness

Actions	Responsible Party	Start Date
Objective 3.1: Improve partnership between educational system, stakeholders and CoC		
3.1.1. Leverage relationship with Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to ensure all homeless liaisons in the Balance of State CoC have access to Coordinated Entry, contact information for System Navigators and resources available for youth in their school districts	CoC Staff, SSO CE Staff, DPI, and Homeless Liaisons	Fall 2022
3.1.2 Provide DPI and Homeless Liaison with education around homeless service system, resources, YHDP, and best practices	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
Objective 3.2: Support the development of education partnerships		
3.2.1. Identify education resources that prioritize youth & young adults experiencing homelessness (i.e., WI Technical College System and higher education partners); solidify partnerships with an MOU	CoC Staff and Local Coalitions	Summer 2022
Objective 3.3 Identify opportunities with and develop partnerships with early care providers.		
3.3.1. Identify early head start and head start programs in the Balance of State CoC	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
3.3.2. Provide YHDP training to early head start and head start organizations and establish MOUs to ensure quality coordination of service	CoC Staff	Winter 2022
3.3.3. Leverage relationship with Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DPI to ensure all early head start and head start programs have access to CE, contact for YHDP System Navigator and resources available for the youth in their area	CoC Staff	Winter 2022

Objective 3.4. Improve CoC policy around education		
3.4.1. Revisit the existing Balance of State CoC Education of Homeless and Youth policy. The purpose of the policy is to ensure CoC-funded agencies in the Balance of State CoC inform program participants of their eligibility for education services and ensure their access to those services under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
3.4.2. Provide education and training to SSO CE staff and CoC funded housing program staff around categories of homelessness. Expanding education and training to other referral partners i.e., RHY providers, school district staff, Boys and Girls Club staff	CoC Staff and WAHRS	Fall 2022
Objective 3.5. Support the development of employment partnerships		
3.5.1. Provide YHDP training to workforce development board organizations, expand opportunities and education around the needs of YYA and revisit existing MOUs to ensure quality coordination of service	CoC Staff	Winter 2022
3.5.2 Educate CoC providers about programs and resources within the Department of Workforce Development (DWD)	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
3.5.3. Establish a partnership with DWD to address opportunities for collaboration as it relates to the intersection of homelessness of youth and young adults, training and employment opportunities	CoC Staff	Winter 2022

One thing I love about living in Wausa, WI is that even when I had no place to go and was homeless, I still felt like I had family in the community I found there. That helped me pave the way out of homelessness and want to help others who suffer because it could happen to anybody.

CoC YAB Member

Goal 4. Social and Emotional Well-being

Values and Principles



Goal 4: Social Emotional Wellbeing - The health and well-being of youth and young adults are prioritized by meeting youth where they are and providing them with the resources and supports they need to achieve happiness, health, self-sufficiency, and self-actualization.		
Actions	Responsible Party	Start Date
Objective 4.1: Leverage relationship with Dept. of Health Services (DHS)		
4.1.1. Bridge DHS Area Administrator and Human Services Area Coordinator with local coalitions and develop strong partnerships with shared understanding of systems.	CoC Staff and Local Coalitions	Spring 2022
4.1.2 Engage in listening sessions with local YABs to identify barriers to access and availability to mental health and substance abuse treatment.	CoC Staff, CoC and Local YABs	Summer 2022
4.1.3. Establish a partnership with the Office of Health Equity (OHE) to address health disparities and inclusion as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.1.4. Establish a partnership with the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) to address crisis services, Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), Coordinated Services Team (CST) peer services, and youth day treatment as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults.	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.1.5. Establish a partnership with the Office of Policy Initiative and Budgets (OPIB) to work around strategic initiatives and policy research and analysis as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.1.6. Establish a partnership with the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) to address access and barriers to Medicaid and Foodshare as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults.	CoC Staff	Fall 2022

4.1.7. Establish a partnership with the Division of Public Health (DPH) to promote and protect health as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
Objective 4.2: Coordinate CoC-wide training that aligns with YAB developed written standards (defined in 1.1.3.) focusing on LGBTQIA+, race equity, positive youth development, trauma informed care, and other YHDP values and principles		
4.2.1. Organize local, state and national presenters on identified topics	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.2.2. Develop written standards around training and new staff onboarding requirements	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
4.2.3. Share national training resources to ensure that all YHDP providers are knowledgeable in LGBTQIA+ and race equity in their policies and practices	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.2.4. Require that all YHDP housing and services have in inclusive, nondiscrimination policy in place that addresses race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity	CoC Staff	Summer 2022
Objective 4.3: Create partnerships with other health focused agencies		
4.3.1. Establish a partnership with Diverse and Resilient to eliminate health disparities among LGBTQIA+ people as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.3.2. Establish a partnership with Vivent Health to eliminate housing disparities among youth and young adults living with HIV/AIDS, provide HIV prevention services, and provide education as it relates to the intersection of homelessness, HIV/AIDS services, and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
4.3.3. Establish a partnership with UW-Madison Extension to address opportunities for collaboration and education as it relates to the intersection of homelessness of youth and young adults (i.e., PYD, Community Health and Restorative Justice)	CoC Staff	Spring 2023
Objective 4.4: Leverage partnership with Dept. of Children and Families (DCF)		
4.4.1. Bridge DCF anti-human trafficking coordinator and regional hubs with local coalitions and develop strong partnerships with shared understanding of systems	CoC Staff and Local Coalitions	Fall 2022
4.4.2 Engage in listening sessions with local YABs to better understand the perspective of youth who are or have been engaged with DCF	CoC Staff and CoC YABs	Winter 2022
4.4.3. Develop relationship with DCF Independent Living - Transition Resource Agency and identify strategies to incorporate services in local coalitions	CoC Staff and Local Coalitions	Fall 2022

4.4.4. Engage with the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council and determine if there is a potential partnership with CoC YAB	CoC Staff, CoC and local YABs	Fall 2022
4.4.5. Engage with Youth Leadership Team (YLT) and determine if there's a potential partnership with CoC YAB	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Fall 2022
4.4.6. Develop a relationship with the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to share information and seek opportunities for collaboration as it relates to the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Fall 2022

I'd be nowhere in my life without music or art, it is who I am and what gave me hope to move forward in the dark times of my life, especially being homeless. It was the only safety I knew, the one thing that was always there for me, a comfort in the dark and it will always be a part of me.

CoC YAB Member

Goal 5. Systems Change

Values and Principles

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Populations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Youth Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trauma Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/> Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Housing First	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsheltered Homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Choice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individualized & Client Driven Supports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social & Community Integration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coordinated Entry
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Goal 5: System Change: Increase cross-system coordination and collaboration with a commitment to authentic youth voice.

Actions	Responsible Party	Start Date
Objective 5.1: Commit to authentic youth engagement and collaboration at all levels-project, local coalition and CoC		
5.1.1. Provide financial support to local YABs through 2023 and support coalition leadership through 2022	CoC staff and CoC YAB	Fall 2021
5.1.2. Continue with CoC YAB meetings, engage more youth and educate about different committees in the Balance of State CoC, so youth voice can be heard in every point of the system	CoC YAB	Spring 2022
5.1.3. Update CoC procedures to develop a decision-making process that ensures the CoC YAB reviews, provides feedback, and approves important items including (i.e., CoC CE policies and procedures, CoC project scoring tool, etc.)	CoC staff and CoC YAB	Summer-Fall 2022
5.1.4. Advocate for leadership positions to be made available for youth and young adults and YAB members in the CoC structure and within the local coalitions	CoC Staff, CoC YAB, and Local Coalitions	Fall 2022
Objective 5.2: Establish and nurture relationships with other Statewide partners and Tribal Nations.		
5.2.1. Leverage the WI Interagency Council support of the CCP to operationalize system transformation for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and advocate for a state plan amendment regarding youth	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
5.2.2. Improve and create relationships with the 11 Federally recognized Tribal Nations and the CoC, leverage established relationship within the local coalitions	CoC Staff	Spring 2022

5.2.3. Continued engagement with WAHRS and ICA to implement the CCP	CoC Staff, WAHRS, and ICA	Summer 2022
5.2.4. Leverage the current partnership with End Domestic Abuse WI (EDA) to work on initiatives that intersect with homelessness and youth and young adults, including Engaging Youth, Human Trafficking Awareness and Outreach to Underserved Communities	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
5.2.5. Establish a partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide education and awareness around the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults, such as Human Trafficking Initiative and Safe at Home Program	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
5.2.6. Establish a partnership with the Department of Correction (DOC) to provide education and awareness around the intersection of homelessness and youth and young adults	CoC Staff	Winter 2022
Objective 5.3: Increase data quality and improve access to additional data to better understand the issues of youth homelessness.		
5.3.1. Develop data sharing agreement between ICA (HMIS) and all relevant statewide partners	ICA and CoC Staff	Fall 2022
5.3.2. Create Balance of State CoC requested reports for use in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) including at a minimum HMIS, RHY, and data obtained through data sharing agreements	ICA and CoC Staff	Summer 2022
5.3.3. Create assessment questions in addition to HUD and federal partner requirements for YHDP, only asking what is really needed for CQI and evaluation	ICA, CoC Staff, and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
5.3.4. Enhance ability for system level review of RHY HMIS Data	ICA, WAHRS, and CoC Staff	Summer 2022
Objective 5.4: Improve the youth Point-In-Time count		
5.4.1. Revise PIT methodology that will better encourage youth participation and identify youth who are experiencing homelessness on the streets on the nights of the PIT	CoC YAB and CoC staff	Fall 2022
5.4.2. Expand education around and commitment in participating in the post-PIT service-based process	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
Objective 5.5: Increase advocacy efforts around youth homelessness		
5.5.1. Identify opportunities to advocate for issues that will improve opportunities for youth and young adults at risk of	CoC Staff and other subject matter experts or	Winter 2022

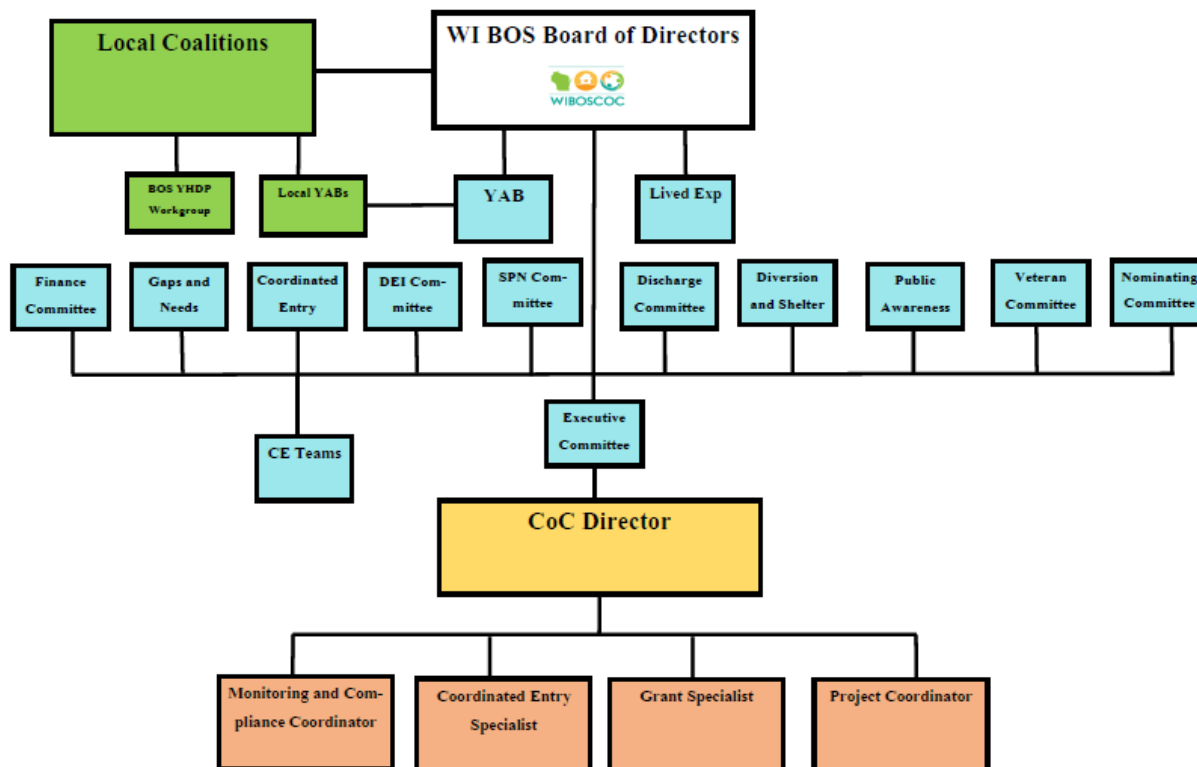
and experiencing homelessness at the State and Federal level	partner agency staff	
Objective 5.6: Community engagement		
5.6.1. Lead in developing community awareness about youth homelessness and the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
Objective 5.7: Balance of State funded System Navigator Project		
5.7.1. Identify sub-recipients within local coalitions to administer system navigators in their region	CoC Staff, CoC and Local YAB	Summer 2022
5.7.2. Integrate the voice of CoC YAB into System Navigator project development and implementation	CoC Staff, CoC and Local YAB	Fall 2022
5.7.3. Advocate for and explore flexible funding source determined by CoC YAB and System Navigator	CoC Staff, CoC and Local YAB	Spring 2023

We need support and connections for the youth now more than ever as it seems history has chosen to repeat itself in the worst ways.

CoC YAB Member

IV. Governance Structure

A. Governance Chart



B. Roles

The WI Balance of State CoC is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a volunteer board of directors. The membership consists of twenty-one local homeless coalitions. The CoC has thirteen committees, several of which have additional workgroups focusing on specific items. For the purposes of YHDP, several existing groups and a few newly created groups met to create the structure necessary to implement local/regional YAB, a CoC-wide YAB, local/regional planning groups to create a CCP, the CoC CCP, and an RFP process including instructions, application, and a rubric. The groups, committees, or teams directly related to Balance of State CoC's YHDP decision making or process are identified below. This includes the development of the CCP and the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for YHDP projects.

1. Board of Directors

The CoC Board of Directors includes twenty-seven volunteer positions serving staggered three-year terms. Twenty-one directors are selected by local homeless coalitions. Six directors are statewide positions and approved by the full membership. Those directors include someone from organizations serving Veterans, serving youth, serving people who experience chronic homelessness, a representative from the HMIS lead agency (ICA), and someone who is formerly or currently experiencing homelessness. Director responsibilities

include advancing the mission of the Balance of State CoC by developing and overseeing the execution of a substantive strategic vision; the solicitation, development, and investment of funds to assist the CoC achieve its goals; and attendance at Board meetings and Board committees and task forces. The Board is specifically responsible for working with the CoC Director to oversee the efficient performance of the Balance of State's mission; maintaining the organization's fiscal health; developing and implementing the organization's long-range plans, strategies, and organizational priorities; determining the policies and the organizational structure of the Board and its committees and task forces; and annually assessing the effectiveness of the Board and CoC Director.

In terms of YHDP, the Board of Directors voted to apply for YHDP on June 1, 2021 and delegated the authority to submit the application to the CoC Director. Once the CoC was selected as a YHDP community in September 2021, the Board delegated the authority to complete the CCP and meet the expectations required of a YHDP selected community to the CoC Director. The Board of Directors received a copy of the application, were updated monthly during Board meetings on the status of the CCP and YAB and approved applying for a YHDP planning grant. The Board supported the investment of those planning funds in local coalition planning, reimbursement of youth for their expertise, and hiring a CoC Project Coordinator to oversee the YHDP process. The Board approved the youth reimbursement policy, the SSO application for system navigators, and a second planning grant to extend the funds available to compensate local coalition YAB engagement and work.

2. CoC Staff

The CoC has four full-time remote staff: CoC Director, Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator, Coordinated Entry System Specialist, and Project Coordinator. The CoC will be hiring a Grant Specialist in June 2022.

- The CoC Director is the chief executive officer of the organization, is responsible for the supervision and management of staff, the overall management of grants, and the day-to-day operation of the organization. The CoC Director is the person with delegated authority to sign documents on behalf of the organization, submit grant applications, and represent the organization.
- The Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator (MCC) is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with all HUD funded CoC projects, including YHDP. The MCC provides training and technical assistance on CoC-specific policies and HUD requirements, including housing first, rent calculations, and client file organization. The MCC currently hosts two work groups for direct service staff in rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing projects. The MCC will assist the Project Coordinator with onboarding the projects that are selected during the YHDP RFP process.
- The Grant Specialist (GS) is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with all Balance of State CoC sub-recipients. This includes contracts, source documentation and client file review, performance reports, and the reimbursement request process. The GS position was previously held by the staff person who is now the Project Coordinator. As such, the CoC will be hiring a new GS in the next few months. The GS will support the SSO Navigation project proposed by the CoC and work with the CoC Director to identify and oversee sub-recipient organizations.
- The Project Coordinator (PC) is the project manager for the YHDP process, which includes writing the CCP, supporting the CoC-wide YAB, working with the local/regional stakeholder groups, facilitating the weekly stakeholder meetings, participating on the YHDP leadership team, and will be part of the review team for YHDP project selection. The PC will support the onboarding of YHDP projects and work directly with the SSO System Navigation staff hired in the local coalitions.
- The Coordinated Entry System Specialist (CESS) is responsible for the overall operation and management of the coordinated entry system in the Balance of State CoC. This includes acting as a resource, providing training and technical assistance, ensuring compliance and adherence to the CE Policy and Procedures approved by the CoC. The CESS works directly with the SSO CE staff hired in the

local coalitions, serves as the project manager for the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program for the CoC, and supports the CE committee and workgroups.

3. CoC Committees

In the CoC's Bylaws, there are four standing committees: executive, nominating, finance & audit, and system performance. All other committees were approved by the Board of Directors and established by resolution. A Board member chairs committees, and anyone can participate in a committee. Each committee is responsible for developing and annually reviewing a written charter. The charter includes a specific description of the duties, responsibilities, and procedures pertaining to the committee's operation. The charter is submitted to the Board for review and approval.

a. CoC Youth Action Board (YAB)

The CoC YAB is facilitated by the Board member who works for a youth-serving organization and the CoC Project Coordinator. Membership consists of at least one representative from each of the twelve local/regional YAB. The group began meeting in April 2022 and has chosen to continue meeting every Monday evening via Zoom from 6-8 pm. All participating youth are compensated bi-weekly in accordance with the CoC compensation policy.

During the CCP development process, the CoC YAB:

- Reviewed and approved the Balance of State CoC's CCP submission.
- Approved the Balance of State CoC's proposed SSO Navigation project to fund coalition-level system navigators.
- Approved the Balance of State CoC's writing a second YHDP planning grant to continue providing compensation to youth participating in the local/regional YAB as well as the CoC YAB.
- Reviewed Phase 1 and created Phase 2 of the YHDP project RFP, including a Phase 2 rubric.
- Committed to Scoring Phase 2 responses from prospective YHDP project applicants and make funding recommendations.
- Attended CCP planning meetings with CoC staff, TA Providers and WAHRS

Inexperience managing just day-to-day life can become overwhelming; therefore, adding a board position may prove to be more difficult. Also, individuals might not find the board to be credible. To keep the board maintained, the board should have some authority to make decisions & enact change.

Local Coalition YAB Member

Following the submission of the CCP, the CoC YAB will continue to meet as often as the group wishes. There are many different opportunities for engagement, including but not limited to:

- Review existing CoC policies such as coordinated entry and point-in-time.
- Identify and partner on the different objectives and action steps laid out in the CoC's CCP Goals section.
- Increase visibility and membership in the local/regional YAB.
- Review and score grant applications, including the CoC Competition process.
- Involvement in CoC committees in addition to the CoC YAB.
- Training opportunities for the Balance of State CoC membership and beyond.
- Research other communities' best practices and YAB involvement.

b. Coordinated Entry Committee

The main Coordinated Entry (CE) committee has over fifty members and includes eleven smaller task or population specific teams. The committee is chaired by two Board members and supported by the CoC's Coordinated Entry System Specialist. The committee is responsible for evaluating the coordinated entry

process, making policy recommendations and changes to the procedures. Key projects and tasks are done at the workgroup level, including:

- Implementation - address questions, issues & concerns, serve as a resource for CoC staff and helps with technical assistance and training needs.
- Marketing - ensure materials are accessible and available, identify gaps and enhance outreach strategies.
- Domestic Violence - guide the support and training needs for DV SSO staff, evaluate CE for survivors, and evaluate and provide feedback on non-HMIS CE system.
- Outreach - focus on the CE needs of those who are unsheltered and/or not actively seeking services.
- Veteran - focus on how CE works for veterans experiencing homelessness, work in collaboration with Veterans Advisory Board to identify the role CE should play in case conferencing and ending Veteran homelessness.
- Data Management - guide the CE system to ensure data privacy and security.
- Prevention/Diversion - focus on how CE works for homeless prevention programs, creating and reviewing program standards for prevention and diversion, and developing a best practices tool kit for operating diversion within the CE system.
- Evaluation - responsible for evaluating the CE system annually.
- Other Systems of Care - focus on CE needs outside of the traditional homeless service provider, including but not limited to schools, housing authorities, law enforcement, and human services. This includes developing policies and training and intentional outreach to non-traditional partners; and identifying and addressing concerns and barriers.
- Assessment and Prioritization - responsible for developing a new CE assessment tool and evaluating the role that assessment tool will have in the prioritization process.
- Youth - responsible for identifying issues and concerns specific to youth within the CE system.

c. Discharge Planning Committee

The Discharge Planning committee has approximately twenty members, is chaired by two Board members, and supported by the CoC's Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator. The role of the committee is to research and develop guidance for local coalitions on institutional discharges into homelessness. The four main institutions include: foster care, mental health, hospitals, and corrections. Each of these systems of care have their own policies, procedures, and expectations for discharge planning. The committee is responsible for better understanding these systems of care, discharge planning processes, issues and concerns faced by those existing to homelessness, and create better awareness of local coalition structure and resources. Committee members work with the Other Systems of Care CE workgroup on expanding access to coordinated entry.

For YHDP, the discharge planning committee will work with YAB members to address specific concerns and barriers for youth existing from institutions. Preventing foster care exits into homelessness is a high priority youth-relevant task and involves working with youth who have current or past involvement with the child welfare system and juvenile justice system. One goal of this committee is to work in partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the state agency responsible for child welfare and juvenile justice. In addition, DCF also oversees the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Created in 2005, the YAC consists of former and current youth in the foster care system who provide a voice for all foster care youth in Wisconsin. Youth start on regional councils but can become members of the Statewide Advisory Council. The mission is to work with governmental systems to inspire change through education, advocacy, training, and awareness. DCF also oversees the Youth Leadership Teams (YLT), which consists of young people aged 14 to 21 who have personal experience with the youth justice system. As a team, the goal is to work with DCF on improving the youth justice system. By creating connections between the CoC YAB and these statewide advisory groups, the CoC seeks to identify leadership opportunities for YAB members, to become more

informed and engaged with what is already happening around these issues, and to identify opportunities for change.

d. Diversion and Shelter Committee

The Diversion and Shelter committee has representation from ESG and non-ESG funded emergency shelter staff, motel voucher programs, and Victim Service Providers. The committee is chaired by two Board members and supported by the CoC's Coordinated Entry System Specialist. The committee has two major tasks. First, the committee is charged with creating CoC-wide emergency shelter standards in compliance with ESG. Second, the committee is tasked with creating a systematic diversion process emphasizing problem solving and client choice to reduce the number of people entering the homeless crisis response system. For YHDP, diversion has been identified by youth and stakeholders as a need across the CoC. As such, it will be important that this committee work with the YAB to conduct research, gather data, and develop training around best practices and processes.

e. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, established in 2021, has seven members. A Board member and local coalition leader chair the committee. The CoC's Project Coordinator supports the work of this committee. The purpose of the committee is to evaluate DEI across the CoC in the operation of the homeless crisis response system, including coordinated entry; reviewing disparities across program types; and addressing issues of equitable representation. For YHDP, the committee will work with the YAB to elicit feedback on various initiatives, policies, and procedures.

f. Executive Committee

The Executive committee has five members identified in the Bylaws, including: the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and CoC Director. The committee meets monthly with a commitment to enhance the effectiveness of the Board work and perform additional functions as identified by the Board. In an emergency, the Executive Committee is authorized to exercise all powers of the Board of Directors in the management of the affairs of the organization except for the election of officers and Directors. For YHDP, the committee provided an opportunity for the CoC Director to discuss, and problem solve various issues and concerns throughout the development of the CCP. The committee provides ongoing leadership, and the officers take on additional responsibilities as it relates to reviewing materials, providing feedback, and supporting the CoC Director's work.

g. Gaps and Needs Committee

The Gaps and Needs committee has fifteen members, is chaired by two Board members, and supported by the CoC's Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator. The committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and executing the CoC-wide annual gaps survey to both current and former clients, providers, and community partners. The committee analyzes the results and reports to the CoC Board and membership annually. The committee works collaboratively with other committees, including the CoC YAB, to find ways to increase survey responses and improve the survey questions. The committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board, identifying opportunities to fill gaps, assessing trends and commonalities among local coalitions, and highlighting any unique regional needs.

4. YHDP Leadership Team

Following selection, a YHDP leadership team began to meet via Teams weekly from November through May 2022. The team included staff from HUD TA, True Colors United, the CoC, ICA, and Wisconsin Association Homeless and Runaway Services (WAHRS). Meetings focused on problem-solving, supporting the development of local/regional YAB, planning the CCP, setting the agenda for the weekly workgroup meetings, developing the project RFP and rubric, and creating the CoC YAB.

5. YHDP Stakeholder Group

Following selection by HUD, the Balance of State CoC developed a YHDP workgroup composed of local stakeholders. The group met weekly via Zoom from January until the end of April 2022. HUD Technical Assistance (TA) providers, including True Colors United, assisted the CoC Project Coordinator in facilitating the group. Content was often provided in a “train the trainer” model so that local coalition representatives could take information back to their local/regional coalition stakeholder groups and complete planning activities.

6. Local/Regional Coalition Stakeholder Groups

Locally, each coalition or regional group was asked to bring together interested parties to discuss what it would take to end youth homelessness in their community. Throughout the planning process, stakeholder groups met to identify gaps, work with HUD TA staff on system modeling, recruited for the local/regional YAB, drafted the local/regional CCP, and identified project needs and applicants. More information on each local/regional coalition stakeholder group can be found in the community’s CCP in the Appendix.

7. Local/Regional Youth Action Board (YAB)

Locally, each coalition or regional group was required to recruit and assist with the development of a local/regional YAB. Once established, the local/regional YAB members determined their structure, governance, and process. They also selected at least one representative for the CoC YAB. The local/regional YABs were required to approve their community’s CCP before final submission and must approve any project application submitted as part of YHDP. More information on each local/regional YAB can be found in the community’s CCP in the Appendix.

8. Local Homeless Coalition

The Balance of State CoC membership is made up of twenty-one local homeless coalitions. Each local homeless coalition must represent a defined geography, hold regular meetings, adopt a charter or other governance documents that outline rights and responsibilities of membership within the coalition, pay membership dues to the CoC, select a delegate to attend CoC membership meetings on behalf of the coalition, elect a Board member to serve on the Board of Directors, and support the mission of the CoC. Representation within the local homeless coalition should include staff from nonprofit homeless service providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, local government, for profit business community, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities and technical colleges, affordable housing developers, law enforcement agencies, service clubs, jail and juvenile detention, probation and parole officers, workforce resource and job centers, food pantries and meal sites, Head Start and 4K, community park and recreation department, landlords and management companies, Community Foundations and United Way, people with lived experience, Veteran-specific organizations, and anyone else with a passion for ending homelessness.

Within the local CCP, each local/regional YHDP stakeholder group was asked to describe the local governance and connection between the YHDP work and the already existing local homeless coalition. Each community was asked to support the ongoing work of the local/regional YAB by building in the structure needed for voice and vote within the local homeless coalition structure. More information on each local homeless coalition can be found in the community’s CCP in the Appendix.

V. Stakeholders

Participation in the planning and development of the CCP was done at two different levels. At the CoC level, the focus has been on bringing together statewide partners and state agencies. At the local homeless coalition level, the focus has been on bringing together organizations and stakeholders with a commitment and passion for ending youth homelessness. In this section, the Balance of State CoC has identified current stakeholders and their involvement along with a plan for future stakeholder engagement at the CoC-wide level. More information on local/regional stakeholders can be found in the community's CCP in the Appendix.

A. Current Partners

Partner Organization	Identification	Description
Youth Action Board (YAB)	<p>There are twelve local YAB actively meeting within the CoC.</p> <p>There is a CoC YAB composed of representatives from the local YABs.</p>	<p>During the CCP planning process, the Board member from a youth serving organization resigned. The CoC Board actively recruited a replacement, and this person serves as the CoC YAB chair.</p> <p>In addition, each local coalition YAB was asked to identify a member interested in representing their group at the CoC-wide YAB. The local YAB was responsible for approving each local CCP and any projects submitted within the coalition.</p> <p>The CoC YAB was responsible for approving the CoC's CCP, planning grant submission, Balance of State proposed SSO Navigation project to fund coalition-level system navigators, and HMIS grant. The CoC YAB developed questions and a rubric (referred to as phase 2) for the RFP process.</p>
Local and State Government	<p>WI Interagency Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Basford (Director) 	<p>On 3/23/22, the WI Interagency Council to End Homelessness unanimously approved support of the Balance of State CoC's CCP and approved Mr. Basford's signature on the plan.</p>
Public Child Welfare Agencies	<p>WI Department of Children & Families - Bureau of Youth Services, Division of Safety & Permanence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Margaret Munns (Program and Policy Coordinator) Kelsey Hill (Independent Living Coordinator) 	<p>Throughout the planning process, CoC staff have been in contact with DCF staff (Ms. Munns and Ms. Hill) on progress and invited staff to participate in weekly stakeholder calls. Through connection with Ms. Munns, the CoC staff have been working with Ms. Lozano and Ms. Cornelius to build a connection with the tribal nations in Wisconsin.</p> <p>Within Independent Living, there are two</p>

	<p>WI Department of Children & Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Lozano (Tribal Liaison) Tania Cornelius (Tribal Affairs Specialist) <p>WI Department of Children & Families - Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca Murray (Executive Director) 	<p>key connections that the CoC intends to continue to build:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Welfare Independent Living Coordinators - county human services and tribal communities Transition Resources Agencies (TRA) - six agencies identified within the CoC <p>The CoC will continue to build relationships with other departments and initiatives within DCF. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WI Youth Advisory Council (YAC) - began in 2005 and consists of former and current youth in the foster care system who provide a voice for all foster care youth in WI. Youth start on regional councils (including tribes) and can become members of the Statewide Advisory Council. There are six regional youth advisory council points of contact within the CoC. Youth Leadership Teams (YLT) - consists of young people ages 14-21 who have personal experience with the youth justice system. <p>The CoC will continue to share information and seek opportunities for collaboration with the Department, including the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. Ms. Murray has presented during the CoC quarterly meeting time dedicated for partner updates. The Board, created by WI legislature in 1983, promotes and supports community-based, family-centered strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening family protective factors. Annually, the Board creates a community investment plan reflecting its policy, program, professional development and public awareness priorities. Currently, the priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abusive head trauma prevention child sexual abuse prevention family resource center
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent education • public awareness • research and evaluation • training and technical assistance <p>On 3/14/22, the DCF Secretary Emilie Amundson signed a letter in support of the CoC's CCP.</p>
CoC Program Recipients	<p>WI Balance of State CoC Staff</p> <p>Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) - HMIS lead organization</p> <p>Many CoC funded agencies participated in the workgroup meetings and planning process. These agencies are identified stakeholders in their local CCP in the Appendix.</p>	<p>The WI Balance of State CoC is a non-profit organization and currently receives 4 CoC grants separate from YHDP: DV RRH, SSO CE, SSO CE DV, and the CoC Planning grant.</p> <p>The CoC Director and Grant Specialist have been primary participants in the development of the CoC's CCP.</p> <p>ICA staff have been involved in weekly YHDP planning meetings and stakeholder meetings. ICA receives CoC funds for HMIS.</p>
ESG Program Recipients	<p>Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) - HMIS lead organization</p> <p>Many ESG funded agencies participated in the workgroup meetings and planning process. These agencies are identified stakeholders in their local CCP in the Appendix.</p>	<p>ICA staff have been involved in weekly YHDP planning meetings and stakeholder meetings. ICA receives ESG funds for HMIS.</p>
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	<p>Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services (WAHRS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joli Guenther (Executive Director) • Shana Dumbleton (Assistant Director) 	<p>WAHRS as an organization was invited to participate in the YHDP planning process from the beginning.</p> <p>A contract for service was signed in January 2022 to provide intentional support in the development of the CCP. Ms. Guenther has been involved in weekly YHDP planning meetings, weekly stakeholder meetings, local CCP review, data collection, outreach and engagement, and support to both CoC staff and local coalitions. Ms. Dumbleton assisted with data gathering and research for the CoC CCP.</p>
Local and State	WI Department of Public	Throughout the planning process, CoC staff

Educational Agencies	<p>Instruction (DPI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristine Nadolski (EH CY Coordinator) 	<p>have been in contact with DPI staff on progress. Ms. Nadolski has shared information with her network and invited CoC staff to present during their monthly homeless liaison forums.</p> <p>On 5/4/22, the DPI Superintendent signed a letter of support for the CoC's CCP.</p>
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B. Future Partners

Once the CCP is approved, there is more work to be done at the CoC level to maintain and enhance the partnerships listed above. In addition, the CoC Director is committed to identifying and establishing additional large-scale relationships with several more partners.

Partner Organization	Identification	Connection with Youth
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	<p>WI Department of Health Services (DHS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Health Equity (OHE) Office of Policy Initiatives and Budget - Policy and Research Section (OPIB) Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) Division of Public Health (DPH) <p>Vivent Health</p>	<p>There are several offices within DHS that intersect with youth homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHE - work to address health disparities and promote a culture of inclusion OPIB - work around strategic initiatives and policy research & analysis DCTS - Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery, committed to reducing the impact of mental illness and substance use disorders. This includes crisis services, community recovery programs, comprehensive community services (CCS), coordinated services team initiatives (CST), peer services, and youth day treatment. DCTS - Bureau of Community Forensic Services, promoting health living and protection of public safety through the management and support of programs for people with histories of criminal offending, mental health, and substance use concerns. DMS - supports Wisconsin's Medicaid programs and FoodShare program DPH - promotes and protects health

		<p>including LGBT, HIV/AIDS, tobacco prevention, and opioid response</p> <p>Vivent Health operates the only HIV Medical Home in the U.S. recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The HIV Medical Home model of care offers integrated health and social services including medical, dental, mental health and pharmacies, along with case management and social support. Vivent Health is also a leading provider of innovative and aggressive prevention services that help at-risk individuals remain HIV negative. Vivent Health is a national leader in successful treatment and prevention of HIV because they recognize that in addition to health care needs, people living with HIV often face discrimination, homelessness, hunger, and poverty. They address each of these barriers to patient health through a comprehensive, integrated, patient-centered system of support services. Offices are in Appleton, Beloit, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Superior, Wausau.</p>
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	<p>WI Department of Corrections (DOC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) • Division of Community Corrections (DCC) <p>WI Department of Justice (DOJ)</p>	<p>There are several offices within DOC that intersect with youth homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DJC - works to reduce delinquent behavior and promote safety; operates type 1 secured juvenile correctional facilities (JCF); provides correctional supervision after a youth leaves a JCF • DCC - charged with supervision of offenders placed by the courts on probation, parole or extended supervision in the community <p>There are several projects within the DOJ that intersect with youth homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Trafficking Initiative • Safe at Home: Address Confidentiality Program
Public Housing Authorities	Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development	WHEDA works with local agents to serve residents in forty-eight counties where

	<p>Authority (WHEDA)</p> <p>Public Housing Authorities within CoC</p>	<p>there are no community Section 8 programs available.</p> <p>Public Housing Authorities willing to administer Family Unification Program (FUP) and Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers</p>
Institutions of Higher Education	<p>Wisconsin Technical College System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blackhawk ● Chippewa Valley ● Fox Valley ● Gateway ● Lakeshore ● Madison Area ● Mid-State ● Moraine Park ● Nicolet ● Northcentral ● Northeast WI ● Northwood ● Southwest WI ● Waukesha County ● Western <p>University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension has offices in each county in Wisconsin</p>	<p>There are 15 technical colleges with campuses and centers located within the CoC. The CoC will continue to leverage local partnerships and work to establish statewide support for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness including a priority status for enrollment, outreach, consistent access to resources and services, and a point of contact to address barriers and concerns.</p> <p>The University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension has several programs that intersect with youth homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Extension Institute of Positive Youth Development - 4H, community health, pathways to access college and employment, restorative justice, and youth in governance
WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	<p>Department of Workforce Development (DWD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Division of Employment & Training (DET) ● Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) <p>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Services for Youth and Young Adults</p> <p>Workforce Development Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bay Area ● Fox Valley ● North Central 	<p>There are several divisions within DWD that intersect with youth homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DET - there are many services and programs dedicated to engaging Wisconsin's youth including internships, youth training programs, youth apprenticeship, career & technical education, and work permits ● DVR - works with high school students who are transitioning from high school to postsecondary education and employment, partnering with DPI and DHS <p>WIOA services for youth and young adults are provided at a local county level in Wisconsin. The CoC will take an active role</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest • South Central • Southeastern • Southwest • Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington • West Central • Western 	<p>in leveraging existing local partnerships and seek statewide engagement and support for prioritized services.</p> <p>To address the needs of youth and prioritize access to services, the CoC signed an MOU with each of the 10 workforce development boards in the Fall of 2019. The CoC will continue to leverage this partnership, expanding opportunities and education around the needs of youth and young adults.</p>
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ) communities	<p>Tribal Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad River of Lake Superior Chippewa • Forest County Potawatomi • Ho-Chunk Nation • Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin • Oneida Nation • Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Mole Lake (Sokaogon Chippewa Community) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Saint Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin • Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians <p>Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan Bainbridge (CEO) • Therese Safford (Deputy Administrator/Compli 	<p>The CoC will continue to reach out and work to establish connections or leverage community-level relationships with the eleven federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin. This includes both social services and housing departments.</p> <p>The CoC will also work to build a partnership with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC). Beginning as an association of ten Wisconsin tribes, GLITC was incorporated in 1965 and is a consortium of federally recognized Indian tribes in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. GLITC is recognized as a tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act with a mission to support member tribes in expanding self-determination efforts by providing services and assistance. CoC staff have reached out to schedule an introductory meeting with Mr. Bainbridge for mid-May.</p> <p>The CoC will continue to reach out and work to establish a partnership with Diverse & Resilient, a non-profit organization seeking to eliminate health disparities between LGBTQ people and the general population. Their work focuses on anti-violence, cultivating leadership, sexual health, and substance use. Specific initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbow Alliance for Youth of Wisconsin (RAY) - working to build capacity, nurture leadership, and strengthen collaboration to develop

	ance Officer) Diverse & Resilient	programs addressing needs of LGBTQ youth in Wisconsin. Local groups operate in Central, Dairyland, Coulee, and Fox Cities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Youth - evidenced based program that encourages LGBTQ and allied youth to make healthy life choice about sexual health, relationships, and leadership.
Domestic Violence Organizations Anti-Trafficking	End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin WI Department of Children & Families, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator - Asia Jackson	End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin works on several initiatives that intersect with youth homelessness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging Youth - including a statewide teen council that focuses on the development of teen leaders • Human Trafficking Awareness - including education, resources, and training • Outreach to Underserved Communities - including communities of color, LGBTQ, children and youth, tribal communities, and other under-represented communities WI DCF - Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative includes prevention, coordinated response, and regional hubs

You come across people who have always had a bed to sleep in every night. It's hard to relate to them & you don't feel respected.

CoC YAB Member

VI. YHDP Values & Principles

The YHDP Values and Principles are a core part of planning for a transformed youth homeless system. Through conversations and brainstorms at the YHDP weekly workgroup, stakeholders identified strengths and gaps regarding each of the YHDP values and principles. These will be applied to all youth-dedicated projects. The Balance of State CoC will provide system-level resources and expectations, as outlined in the goals, objectives, and action steps section of this plan. Each local homeless coalition will be responsible for carrying out the values and principles in their local projects and systems, strategies may look different between coalitions.

Outlined below is the process that was used to define strategies in implementing each of the values and principles.

Date	Action
2/22/22	Technical Assistance led a Values and Principles Training and Brainstorming Session with local coalitions and YAB
2/22 - 3/1/22	Technical Assistance synthesized information from the brainstorming session. TA sent material out to all local coalition and YAB members present at the meeting to continue gathering feedback.
3/1/22	TA presented finalized synthesized Values and Principles Strategies to the Workgroup. Further feedback was given and synthesized.

I like to capture the good moments in photos, the beautiful moments that make it easier to look back and remember things will not always be heard and there is beauty in the world.

CoC YAB Member

In the next section, we define each of the YHDP values and principles, as explained by HUD in the YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity¹³⁷ (NOFO) with a brainstormed list of strategies for implementation.

¹³⁷ YHDP FY19/20 NOFO Appendix B - II. Principles to be Addressed in the Coordinated Community Plan:
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Appendix-A.pdf>

A. Special Populations

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), in partnership with its member agencies, has identified several special populations of youth experiencing homelessness that are particularly vulnerable in how they experience homelessness, as well as their pathways in and out of homelessness, in ways that are distinct from the general population of youth. For these particularly vulnerable and often overrepresented young people, there is a need for identification and engagement strategies, infrastructure considerations, and housing and service-delivery approaches that are responsive to their specific needs.

What actions do we need to take to center the needs of special populations in the youth system?

- Identify gaps of special populations through deliberate data collection.
- Build a sense of critical consciousness in the larger community about special pops and their unique needs.
- Build connections with systems (juvenile justice, ICW/CPS, etc) to connect with system-involved YYA to practice diversion in discharge planning.
- Develop programming to teach youth about being allies to others and education on diverse populations. Representation matters, visibility.
- Centering the needs of those who are most affected- POC, LGBTQ+ folx, YYA living with disabilities. Understanding that YYA with multiple intersectionality are at greater risk of harm and violence.
- Gaps between DCF and schools to capture youth who are couch surfing but not in out of home care systems.
- Consistency in experience: Shelter, Mental Health Care, Legal Guardian who is there to help and support, education.
- Be a space where diverse staff WANT to work and feel validated, affirmed, and valued. Youth will notice.
- Bring partners to the table who are working with these populations to ensure the services are there.
- Design our programs to be safe spaces for them and welcoming.
- Ensure language on forms is inclusive and pictorial depictions are diverse and representative of the broad community.

What's your level of confidence identifying the needs of special populations?

Brand New to this! RockStar!

B. Equity

Research has found significant racial and ethnic disparities in rates of homelessness. Specifically, Black, Indigenous, Hispanic (non-white), and LGBTQ youth experience homelessness at disproportionately higher rates. Community efforts to prevent and end homelessness should consider and address racial inequities to successfully achieve positive outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness.

How will the community measure and consider inequities and other disparities in the risks for, and experiences of homelessness?

- Examine data from a variety of sources through to look at disparities between outcomes and special populations.
- Pre - and post- assessments of beliefs, attitudes and assumptions about these issues, if there are programs instituted to address these issues.
- Identify disparities in school detention, expulsion and admission into school of choice.
- Compare community census data to HMIS data.
- Training and best practices out to the BOS.
- Leadership representation consistent with overall population.
- Survey population to determine population at risk.
- Identify inequities in the Juvenile Justice system.
- Make Equity part of program outcomes generally.

What's your level of confidence in identifying & addressing racial and other disparities?

Brand New to this! RockStar!

C. Trauma Informed Care (TIC) & Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Both TIC and PYD are accepted best practices in housing and service delivery for youth and include principles and service frameworks.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, TIC is an overarching structure and treatment attitude that emphasizes understanding, compassion, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. TIC also looks at physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both clients and providers, and provides tools to empower youth on the pathway to stability. Becoming “trauma-informed” means recognizing that people have many different traumatic experiences which often intersect in their lives.¹³⁸

Positive youth development is a comprehensive framework outlining the supports all young people need to be successful. The Family and Youth Services Bureau defined the program environment as caring and supportive, having high expectations and offering youth the chance to develop positive relationships and connections with adults, peers and the larger community. This is achieved through addressing the 5 C’s: competence, confidence, connection, character, caring/compassion.¹³⁹

What actions do we need to take to center Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development in our Project Models and Service Delivery?

What's your level of confidence in your understanding of Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development

Brand New to this!
RockStar!

- Trauma and crisis trained staff at the intake and assessment levels.
- Professional development of staff involved in these programs must happen -- UW Extension does some excellent training for youth as well in PYD and leadership
- Teen Foster Family training on trauma.
- Ensure staff, community partners and population receive training. This has been done on an agency and community level.
- BOS to offer and require trainings on PYD and TIC for all staff working with YYA directly.
- Trauma-informed intakes--don't make them re-tell their story to every person they have to see; make a singular point of contact when possible and warm handoffs with consent to share their story when it's not possible.
- Do ACEs assessments of youth and then incorporate Trauma-screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (T-SBIRT) for youth with high ACEs scores.
- Ask "what happened to you" style questions and never "what's wrong with you?" or "what did you do?"
- To work toward sustainable housing and long-term goals we need to address immediate needs and then build trust so we can work on trauma. If we do not help or make appropriate referrals we are not doing our best for the youth.

¹³⁸ National Coalition for the Homeless <https://nationalhomeless.org/issues/trauma-informed-care/>


¹³⁹ What is Positive Youth Development: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/whatispyd20120829.pdf>

D. Unsheltered Homelessness

HUD estimates that 50% of youth experiencing homelessness are unsheltered. It is a priority to address and decrease unsheltered youth homelessness in the Balance of State CoC.

- Life skills training.
- Outreach by peer specialists.
- Better strategies to identify YYA.
- Create designed Youth designed, created "safe places" and transportation.
- Open communication to identify what their needs and wants are.
- Community education on the prevalence of the issue, and then invite their participation in solving the problem.
- Recognize that YYA *may* choose to be unsheltered; don't pose shelter as the only option.
- Incorporate a Communities that Care Model with community coalitions, which is research-based and has successfully addressed issues such as this.
- Community resources working together to meet their needs.
- Co housing options.
- Youth-led programming, request meaningful feedback and USE it .
- Recruit youth to become advocates for youth. Help build connection and skills. Educate through building skills and help them advocate for themselves and other youth.
- Systems navigators.
- Separate shelters to support youth as long as needed.

What strategies need to be incorporated to better address the needs of youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness?



E. Family Engagement

HUD believes that the best diversion and intervention strategy is to engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and other community human services and homeless services providers. An ideal system operationalizes engagement strategies and services designed to strengthen, stabilize, and reunify families. Potential services include family counseling, conflict resolution, parenting support, relative or kinship caregiver resources, targeted substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.

How will we address family engagement strategies and services designed to strengthen, stabilize and reunify families (including chosen families)?

How confident do you feel with Family Engagement Strategies

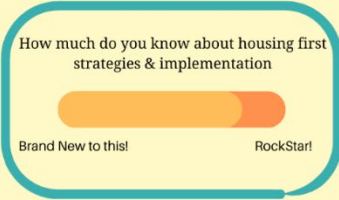
Brand New to this!
RockStar!

- Allow YYA to lead this process, at their pace and in their own timing.
- Recognize when reunification with family of origin is unlikely, unsafe, or otherwise not an option, and engage the YYA's chosen family or other supports.
- Listen to youth and recognize the power of the chosen family. Revise laws to become more inclusive.
- Counseling and mediation options both as the person and with other family members. A neutral person to facilitate as a neutral location.
- Easy access to family counseling/mediation.
- Focus on the family and youth's strengths rather than always focusing on what's "broken."
- Identify more stable Teen Foster Families.
- Take advantage of community resources, such as, the UW Extension offers a lot of parenting classes.

F. Housing First

Housing is a cornerstone for meeting many basic needs necessary for success. Youth and young adults should be provided with rapid access to safe, secure, and stable housing that meets their needs as quickly as possible, without the condition that they are 'ready' for housing.

How will all youth be offered immediate access to safe, secure and stable housing with no pre-conditions?



How much do you know about housing first strategies & implementation


Brand New to this! RockStar!

- Youth Choice in where to live.
- Have a variety of available housing options to meet the YYA's needs where they are at today.
- Choice of roommates and shared housing options.
- Navigators to help them walk through housing process.
- Recognize that common barriers to housing are not character flaws, moral failings, or intentionally counterproductive, and then focus on the most basic of needs first (shelter, food, safety).
- You first need to have alternative housing options available to youth -- these are currently non-existent in most rural counties.
- Unstable people should have a place they can go (not enough beds), so that they do not end up in Youth Shelters, creating instability of shelter and trauma for others.
- Established working relationships with Landlords, Host Home providers, etc. to make ease of transition smoother for youth.
- Accessibility (wheel chair accessible, services for YYA who are deaf or hard of hearing ASL interpretations).
- Offer low barrier services so that YYA with higher barriers are not funneled into the juvenile justice, CPS, inpatient/involuntary mental health, and other systems.
- Stipends for host or chosen families to assist with housing costs.
- Find funding for short-term transitional housing when the shelter is not the best option or is full.

G. Youth Choice

The capacity for self-determination may be a critical factor in obtaining many positive outcomes for Transition Age Youth and is closely related to the principles of PYD. Consistent with federal youth policy, allowing youth to exercise self-determination is a youth centered approach that values youths' expressed needs, self-awareness, and community knowledge. This youth centered approach emphasizes youth choice in terms of the kind of housing youth need and the extent and nature of supports and services they access and presents alternative options for youth who avoid programs with barriers like sobriety or abstinence.

How will youth choice be integrated into all aspects of the youth crisis response system?



How familiar are you with Youth Choice?

Brand New to this! RockStar!


- Create a welcoming point of entry; allowing youth to create their own goals.
- Develop a coaching model that centers needs and preferences of the youth.
- Educate adults first on what authentic youth voice is.
- Motivational Interviewing and educating youth to the risks and benefits of choices.
- The youth have the final say they have a voice and we need to listen to their needs in order for any plan to be successful.
- Brainstorming options together with no right or wrong answers.
- Practice harm reduction to minimize the possible negative impacts when they make risky choices.
- Life skills training in self-advocacy and problem solving.

H. Individualized and Client-driven Supports

The needs of youth and young adults are unique. Housing and support packages that help prevent and end homelessness among youth must recognize and respond to differences across individuals to serve them appropriately and efficiently. Communities must design the system that is flexible enough to accommodate individuals with both high and low service needs, as well as the need for short-term or long-term support.

How will the youth crisis response system provide individualized and client-driven supports?

How familiar are you with operationalizing individualized & client driven supports



Brand New to this! RockStar!

- Coordinated entry must be specific to youth.
- Offer a wide variety of options and let them be the expert on their own needs (and know that their needs and choices will likely change-don't 'lock them in' to what they initially choose).
- Service providers must collectively coordinate care plans.
- We need a variety of funding sources to be able to move away from HUD guidance when necessary.
- Develop more inclusive assessment for youth CE.
- Housing options need to be flexible, to be creative. Educate the youth on what supports are available to them.
- Provide a safe space so that youth feel able to share what they have in place and what they need in place.
- Identify a trusted adult who helps to navigate their needs.
- Educate the larger community -- including law enforcement about the underlying issues -- such as the need for safe harbor with trafficked youth (and not blaming the youth).

I. Social and Community Integration¹⁴⁰

The goal of youth homelessness services should be a successful transition to adulthood, including the successful integration into a community as a positive contributing community member. To accomplish this requires the community to provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community activities.

How will the system offer meaningful opportunities for participation in community activities?

- Staff are knowledgeable about local communities and can provide youth with connections/referrals to community resources.
- Support youth interests outside of just their housing needs.
- Ask YABs and other youth to help case managers understand how to support youth in this way.
- Trust youth.
- Case managers help in planning for life after the program ends instead of just thinking about that moment.
- Help youth find housing in the areas and neighborhoods they want to live - even if that means moving sometimes .
- Provide opportunities for youth to connect with other youth
- Peer mentors and peer supports.

¹⁴⁰ This information was collected outside of the previously outlined process and gathered from a collection of community workgroups and discussions.

J. Coordinated Entry¹⁴¹

Coordinated entry processes are necessary components of a high functioning crisis response system and must be developed intentionally to incorporate youth.

How will the CoC ensure that the coordinated entry process is youth appropriate?

- Coordinated entry must be specific to youth.
- Dedicated planning for youth-centered CE changes.
- Strong coordination and collaboration with other system partners.
- Develop more inclusive and equitable assessment for youth CE - take strengths and individual needs into consideration.
- Variety of housing and service options that are low barrier and easy to access.
- More service referrals especially when housing is not an immediate option.
- Diversion and housing problem solving strategies to help YYA identify safe and appropriate options outside of the homeless system
- Ask and listen to youth.

We tell people what we've done or been through & nothing changes or there's nothing that anyone can do about it. Everyone says there's nothing they can do & it makes a person extremely discouraged.

Local Coalition YAB Member



¹⁴¹ This information was collected outside of the previously outlined process and gathered from a collection of community workgroups and discussions.

VII. New Project List

The Wisconsin Balance of State CoC applied for the YHDP opportunity to create a youth-specific homeless crisis response system that includes:

- prevention to help youth remain in current housing.
- outreach to ensure all youth at risk or experiencing homelessness are aware of the resources & how to access them.
- diversion to help youth avoid emergency shelter when possible, finding safe alternatives.
- intake & assessment to connect with youth in a trauma informed way to identify needs.
- emergency services with youth only shelters & drop-in centers.
- supportive services, including case management, transportation support, skill building, mentorship, addressing mental & physical health needs, literacy, employment, education, & training.
- permanent housing solutions, including housing assistance programs, family or friends, & shared housing; and
- follow up services to ensure youth remain housed & connected to support systems.

The CoC was awarded \$7,728,978 in YHDP funding to support initial 2-year contracts. With CoC YAB and CoC Board of Director support, the Balance of State CoC applied for \$350,000 in initial planning funds. As a result, the annual renewable amount of funds will be approximately \$3,689,489. This is a significant investment of funding into the youth system and seventeen local homeless coalitions within the CoC are eligible for funding, created a local CCP, organized a local YAB, identified local gaps, and unique new projects to meet those needs.

A. Project Decision Process

Taking into consideration both the opportunities and challenges presented to large Balance of State CoCs, project development and selection required the need to balance local coalition needs with big picture system change. The CoC required local YAB voice and insight through the local project development process and support.

Project Design and Selection Timeline (2022)	
YHDP Workgroup - focus on gaps analysis & system modeling	March 1, April 5
Gaps Analysis & Project Design Tool provided to Local Homeless coalitions	March 30
Technical Assistance (TA) support provided to Local Homeless coalitions on gaps analysis and system modeling	March 30 - May 20
CoC and WAHRS staff host a project design meeting	March 30
YHDP Workgroup Project Design Office Hours	April 5, 12, 19
RFP Phase 1 Release	April 15
CoC YAB developed Phase 2 RFP questions	April 18 & 25
RFP Phase 2 Release	April 29
RFP Responses Due	May 23
RFP Review Process	May 24-June 6
Notification of Funding Decision	June 8
Work on HUD applications in eSNAPS	June 8-June 30
With CoC YAB and CoC staff approval, funded projects will submit HUD Applications in eSNAPS	July 1

As noted in the chart above, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process was released in two phases. This was necessary to provide interested respondents with the necessary amount of time to respond to the RFP and to ensure that the CoC YAB had sufficient time to develop YAB questions. Each RFP phase was released with instructions and scoring rubrics.

- **Phase 1** - Aligns with the CoC process for identifying project recipients. These questions included HUD project application questions necessary to complete an application in eSNAPS, as well as Balance of State CoC questions specific to respondent capacity to carry out the project.
- **Phase 2** - Questions defined by the CoC YAB to gather information specific to their concerns and needs about the YHDP projects and how youth will be included and served within the projects.

YAB Defined RFP Questions

- Describe how well you are connected with homeless youth and how you are getting feedback from youth? If you are not already doing this, describe the process you will adopt.
- How will this project contribute to the goal of ending youth homelessness and fit into your agency's mission?
- How will you support the local YAB? Describe what this support will look like and what your agency has to offer the YAB?
- How will you prioritize the hiring of youth and young adults with lived experiences of homelessness within your project design?
- What are you learning from YYAs that your agency needs to grow on? Please include specific examples.
- How can YYA be served differently through YHDP as a response to instances of homelessness and to prevent future occurrences?

The Balance of State CoC CCP submission deadline is May 31, 2022, and at the time of completion of the plan, final projects have not been determined. The review process includes review and scoring from a team of CoC staff, CoC Board members, a WAHRS representative, and CoC YAB members.

B. Desired Outcomes for Supportive Service Only and Housing Projects

In alignment with the overall Goals, Objectives and Actions outlined for the Balance of State CoC, projects will focus on meeting the USICH outcomes of stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment and social and emotional well-being.

The Balance of State CoC will evaluate success using CoC system-level performance measures established by HUD. Specifically, our plan will measure:

- Number of homeless youth
- Number of youth who come homeless for the first time
- Length of time youth remain homeless
- Percent of youth who exit to or retain permanent housing

- Percent of youth who return to homelessness
- Employment and income growth for homeless youth

In addition to these system-wide performance measures, CoC staff will work with HUD technical assistance, the HMIS lead, the CoC YAB, and the CoC Board of Directors to establish additional youth-specific measurements. While effectively tracking the measures listed above, a main priority prior to project implementation is to better define how to track outcomes for permanent connections and social and emotional well-being.

C. YHDP Flexibilities

YHDP outlines the ability for new projects to operate with flexibilities¹⁴² to many of the Continuum of Care interim regulations at 24 CFR Part 578¹⁴³. These flexibilities provide opportunities for identified project recipients to meet the board needs of youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

The RFP enabled respondents to identify which flexibilities each project would utilize. It is anticipated that all projects will be able to operate even if some/all flexibilities are not approved by HUD.

D. CoC System-Level Projects

Because of the large and diverse geographic regions covered by the Balance of State CoC, there are some infrastructure projects that are necessary at the system-level to ensure consistent implementation. The CoC staff, with support from the CoC YAB and the CoC Board of Directors, will prioritize the following projects:

Project Type	Approval Dates
YHDP Planning Grant #1	CoC YAB Approval - N/A CoC Board Approval - Sept. 24
YHDP Planning Grant #2	CoC YAB Approval - April 25 CoC Board Approval - April 22
Homeless Management Information System	CoC YAB Approval - May 23 CoC Board Approval - April 22
Coordinated Entry	CoC YAB Approval - May 23 CoC Board Approval - May 27
System Navigation	CoC YAB Approval - April 25 CoC Board Approval - April 22

¹⁴² YHDP FY19/20 NOFO Appendix A - I.C.Highlights: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Appendix-A.pdf>

¹⁴³ 24 CFR Part 578 - Continuum of Care program - eCFR <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-V/subchapter-C/part-578?toc=1>

1. YHDP Planning Grant

Project Description	Project Recipient, Coalitions	YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>YHDP Planning Grant funds support YHDP planning costs for both the Balance of State CoC and the local homeless coalitions. Planning funds ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> every coalition has adequate funding to equitably compensate youth action board members. every coalition can identify a lead agency to spend dedicated time working on local CCPs and system changes. CoC has dedicated staff capacity to start and maintain a CoC Youth Action Board, develop the CoC CCP, and implement system-level changes. 	<p>Project Recipient: Wisconsin Balance of State CoC</p> <p>Coalitions: All 19 that were part of the original YHDP application.</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Planning</p> <p>Projected Cost: Planning Grant #1 - \$350,000 Planning Grant #2 - Estimated \$50,000</p>
<p>Planning Specific Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local coalitions will develop Youth Action Boards Local coalitions will develop localized CCPs, that outline their unique challenges and strategies The CoC will develop a CoC Youth Action Board The CoC will develop a HUD-approved CCP Youth Voice is integrated in decision making processes 		

Helping in any way, whether it be with providing food, shelter, transportation, attire for interviews, warm clothes for the winter, etc. I would consider a success. Any type of help and support is greatly appreciated and goes so far. It also brings encouragement and motivation."

Local Coalition YAB Member

2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Project Description	Project Recipient, Coalitions	YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>Participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a requirement of all YHDP funded projects. Additionally, HMIS data is expected to be utilized to report on project outcomes and performance and as part of the YHDP evaluation.</p> <p>The HMIS lead will facilitate the use and implementation of HMIS for the YHDP grant, necessary for grant compliance and for project performance evaluation. Use of HMIS will assist YHDP funded projects in identifying youth to be served and managing their case file information, as needed.</p> <p>The use of HMIS and the data generated by the system will allow for the CoC, the YAB, and all partner organizations to achieve the data related goals outlined in the coordinated community plan.</p>	<p>Project Recipient: Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) - HMIS Lead</p> <p>Coalitions: Statewide, HMIS covers all the local homeless coalitions in the Balance of State CoC</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)</p> <p>Projected Cost: \$50,000</p>
<p>HMIS Specific Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All YHDP funded projects are set up to utilize HMIS within the first 30 days of contract start. ● All YHDP funded agencies have system users licensed to utilize HMIS within the first 30 days of contract start. ● All YHDP related questions are set up to be collected in HMIS at the start of the contract period. ● All YHDP projects will successfully produce an annual performance report at the end of the first contract period. ● CoC-wide YHDP reports will be available within 30 days of the report request. ● CoC-wide YHDP data analysis will be possible using HMIS data on an ongoing basis. The CoC will successfully meet the goals outlined in the coordinated community plan, specifically, Objectives 1.5 (assisting CoC staff), 2.2, 5.3, 5.4 (assisting CoC staff) 		

3. Coordinated Entry

Project Description	Project Recipient, Target Population, Coalitions	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>The Balance of State CoC currently subcontracts funds to local coalitions to support the implementation of each local coordinated entry (CE) system. Currently, there are two funding streams - one is general CoC Competition funding, and the other is CoC Competition Domestic Violence (DV) bonus funds. YHDP offers an opportunity to support each coalition in growing and adapting to the changes in CE necessary to meet the needs of youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The YHDP Coordinated Entry project will expand access to diversion, shelter, and housing services using an assessment that will connect youth to the appropriate services and prioritize youth with the highest need. The YHDP coordinated entry will increase coordination between the homeless system and other systems of care to assure that youth who are involved in those systems are provided with the appropriate level of care and are provided flexible options for diversion, shelter, and housing assistance. The YHDP Coordinated Entry project will create a “one-stop” service for youth experiencing category 1, 2 and 4 definitions of homelessness. While discussing coordinated entry during a planning session, members of the community and YAB stated that coordinated entry should adhere to the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Options for diversion, shelter and housing should be youth-centered and directed. - Options should be accessible and low barrier - Assessments should take into consideration youth’s strengths and individual needs 	<p>Project Recipient: Wisconsin Balance of State CoC</p> <p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Coalitions: Available to all 17 YHDP participating coalitions</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Supportive Services Only - Coordinated Entry</p> <p>Projected Cost: Estimated \$6,000-\$8,000 per coalition</p> <p>Total est. \$102,000-\$136,000</p>
<p>Coordinated Entry Specific Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase coordination between the homeless service system and other systems that engage with youth (education, justice, child welfare, etc.) ● Increase the number of youth and young adults enrolled in Coordinated Entry system 		

4. System Navigation

Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Numbers Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>System navigators will allow the Balance of State CoC to provide a single point of contact within each local coalition for youth to help with navigating complex systems in addition to their housing needs. Schools, law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, foster care services, and social service providers (e.g., health care, SNAPs, workforce programs), will collaborate with a system navigator to connect youth to the coordinated prevention and diversion resources. System navigators will be integral for supporting community partners to meet the needs of youth and serve as a safe and supportive resource for youth who may not be present in the existing homeless service system.</p> <p>Navigators will also support and facilitate the local youth action group to ensure that authentic youth voice continues to inform project design and become integrated into decision-making within the local coalition. System Navigators do not have to be under the age of 25, although preference should be given to those with lived youth homelessness experience. Services will include case management and referrals to resources in the community.</p>	<p>Project Recipient: Wisconsin Balance of State CoC</p> <p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Coalitions & Numbers Served: Available to all 17 YHDP participating coalitions</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Supportive Services Only</p> <p>Projected Cost: Estimated \$40,000 per coalition</p> <p>Total est. \$680,000</p>

Not too much experience with being homeless, I've only been homeless for about a week however I think it would be hard to share your experience to others because of judgement or shame. (I'm) not feeling comfortable about telling people I am going through homelessness.

Local Coalition YAB Member

E. Supportive Services Only Projects

The following Supportive Service Only (SSO) Project Types were applied for by agencies within the Balance of State CoC and represent several innovative and community-specific approaches. Implementation of funded SSO projects will look different for each community. Some of the innovative approaches are listed below, followed by a project description of each project type. Additionally, each project description includes the potential coalitions that applied for funds and an estimated number of youth and young adults that will be served. This information comes directly from the applications submitted for funding through the Balance of State CoC RFP. At the time of plan submission, YHDP funding determinations have not been finalized. A funding announcement for SSO awards is anticipated on June 8, 2022.

SSO Innovations:

- SSO-Diversion Project specifically targeting youth under the age of 18 utilizing comprehensive case management with a focus on family reconnection and leveraging existing crisis host homes.
- SSO-Outreach Project covering rural areas in western Wisconsin to meet the needs of critically underserved communities
- SSO-Drop in Centers emphasizing diversion and system navigation with youth-designed and led programming as well as basic services. One community plans to focus on BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ youth in their programming and system navigation.
- SSO-Housing Navigation Project assisting youth to quickly transitioning youth into permanent housing and addressing any barriers that might lead to clients not being able to access housing or remaining stably housed.
- SSO-Navigation Project focusing on mobile system navigators that provide crisis services to youth in schools, shelters and other community spaces placed in various counties in a coalition.
- SSO-Diversion Project and Drop-In Center incorporating a strong kinship program to assist with family reunification.

1. Housing Navigation

Project Description	Target Population, Potential Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>Housing navigation includes a broad array of supports offered to assist young people who are at risk of or experiencing literal homelessness, navigate complex systems, and provide direct support to youth in crisis as they engage with the coordinated entry system.</p> <p>Navigators can assist youth in addressing barriers that may prevent youth from accessing or maintaining stable housing or can assist youth access and navigate other systems of care including education, employment, mental health, mainstream benefits, medical and substance abuse services.</p>	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Potential Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington - 100 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Supportive Services Only</p> <p>Projected Cost: Total est. \$171,875</p>

2. Diversion

Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>Diversion will be used to connect Youth and Young Adults who can identify safe and supportive housing as an alternative to experiencing literal homelessness. Diversion will also support permanent connections through youth-defined family reunification. The model will build on a creative problem-solving model that will help youth identify existing support networks and promote social and emotional well-being and peer support. This model will also utilize coordinated entry and case management and for minimizing entry into the homeless response system.</p> <p>Services will include Limited emergency financial assistance, family mediation and connection to counseling, food and basic needs assistance, kinship care to families, case management, and referrals to community resources and peer supports</p>	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Potential Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington - 20 YYA Coulee - 80 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Supportive Services Only</p> <p>Projected Cost: Estimated \$108,570 - \$329,969 per coalition Total est. \$438,539</p>

3. Outreach

Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>Outreach will ensure quick identification of homeless (category 1 or 4) or at-risk youth (Category 2) that would not generally present through the traditional homeless service entry points. Outreach Staff will provide an assessment of immediate needs, connection to coordinated entry, connection to other community partners for non-immediate needs and will provide services to meet the immediate needs of youth experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Through intensive community marketing, engagement and mobilized outreach, the outreach staff will be well versed in non-traditional locations where youth may present, while also ensuring the community has access to outreach workers.</p>	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Brown - 283 YYA NE/NWISH - 187 YYA Coulee - 80 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Supportive Services Only</p> <p>Projected Cost: Estimated \$463,557 - \$766,131 per coalition Total est. \$1,041,013</p>

4. Drop In Center

Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
Drop-In Centers will provide a physical space designed to offer basic needs assistance, connection to coordinated entry and connection to other systems of care through system navigators. These spaces will be welcoming, safe spaces for youth to find community and build relationships with providers in the community. Services can include the following: showers, laundry, case management and system navigation, food, clothing, educational and employment resources, and access to technology	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Potential Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Dairyland - 54 YYA Coulee - 100 YYA Brown - 56 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Supportive Services Only</p> <p>Projected Cost: Estimated \$300,000 - \$440,880 per coalition</p> <p>Total est. \$1,146,481</p>

It really sucks when you can't really shower. It feels like you don't mean anything and like you have no existence.

Local Coalition YAB Member

F. Housing Projects

The following housing project types were applied for by agencies within the Balance of State CoC and represent several innovative and community-specific approaches. Overall, there is a lot of excitement around Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing Joint component projects. If funded, these will be new project types to the homeless crisis response system in the CoC.

Some of the innovative approaches are listed below, followed by a project description of each project type. Additionally, each project description includes the potential coalitions that applied for funds and an estimated number of youth and young adults that will be served. This information is directly from the applications submitted for funding through the Balance of State CoC RFP. At the time of plan submission, YHDP funding determinations have not been finalized. A funding announcement for SSO awards is anticipated on June 8, 2022.

Housing Innovations:

- All housing projects commit to operate under the housing first philosophy with a commitment to Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development.
- Rapid Re-housing project hiring people with lived experience of homelessness.
- Permanent Supportive Housing project including a housing stability coach and a case manager to focus on coordinating services with a wide variety of local partners ensuring youth and young adult connections to the broader community.
- Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing project providing immediate safe & supported housing options in place of emergency shelter.
- Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing project providing a transition-in-place model, using scattered-site transitional housing, so that youth and young adults have less housing transitions in their journeys to housing stability.
- Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing project using shared housing approaches, mentorship opportunities to increase permanent connections, and landlord mediation services.

1. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
Rapid Re-Housing connects youth and young adults to safe, permanent, inclusive housing. This intervention will provide low-barrier housing with intensive case management and supportive services. This model will include short or medium-term rental assistance. Shared Housing can be provided under the Rapid Re-Housing model Rapid Re-Housing can provide the following services: housing identification, rental and move-in assistance, case management and life skills training and connection to mainstream benefits.	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults between the ages of 18-24, meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Potential Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Rock Walworth - 16 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing</p> <p>Projected Cost: Total est. \$187,444</p>

2. Joint Transitional Housing/Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing (Joint TH/PH-RRH)

Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>The Joint TH/PH-RRH project type combines Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing into one project type that provides youth the choice to enter TH before transitioning into RRH or to enter RRH immediately.</p> <p>Joint TH/PH-RRH provides short-term crisis housing for youth who enter the TH portion of the program. It also provides medium/long-term permanent housing for youth who transition directly from TH into RRH or from homelessness into RRH. A youth has a choice of which program they wish to access and both TH and RRH portions must be available. Many youth who have no rental history and/or multiple barriers find the support provided with TH an easier launching pad into permanent housing while some youth may wish to enter RRH immediately. Both options come with case management and supportive services as well as connection to mainstream benefits.</p>	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Potential Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Kenosha - 16 YYA NE/NWISH - 60 YYA Rural North-West Central - 55 YYA Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington - 27 YYA Central - 34 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Joint Transitional Housing/ Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing</p> <p>Projected Cost: Estimated between \$259,901-\$732,371 per coalition</p> <p>Total est. \$2,198,562</p>

3. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

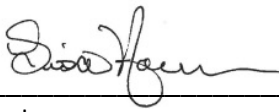
Project Description	Target Population, Coalitions, Number Served	Anticipated YHDP Project Type, Projected Cost
<p>Permanent Supportive Housing will offer a non-time limited, low-barrier supportive housing for youth who have serious and long-term disabilities - such as mental illness, substance use disorder, chronic health conditions, and developmental and physical disabilities. This intervention will provide individually tailored, intensive case management, and community-based supportive services. Services will include Housing resource and benefit navigation, intensive case management for housing planning and independent living skills, leasing assistance, connection and referral to mainstream resources including mental health, substance use treatment, education, and employment support services.</p>	<p>Target Population: Youth and Young Adults under 25 who meet categories 1, 2, or 4 of the homeless definition - including all subpopulations</p> <p>Potential Coalitions & Estimated Numbers Served: Brown - 24 YYA</p>	<p>YHDP Project Type: Permanent Housing Services</p> <p>Projected Cost: Total est. \$369,073</p>

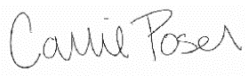
VIII. Support and Approval

A. Signatures

1. Continuum of Care (CoC)

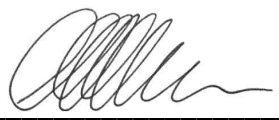
The signatures below attest to our participation, approval, and support for the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

<u>Lisa Haen</u>	<u>CoC Board Chair</u>		<u>5/23/2022</u>
Name (Print)	Title	Signature	Date

<u>Carrie Poser</u>	<u>CoC Director</u>		<u>5/23/2022</u>
Name (Print)	Title	Signature	Date

2. Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

The signature below attests to our approval and support for the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

<u>Michael Basford</u>	<u>Director</u>		<u>5/16/2022</u>
Name (Print)	Title	Signature	Date

3. Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services: Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Provider

The signature below attests to our participation, approval, and support for the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

<u>Joli Guenther</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>		<u>5/9/2022</u>
Name (Print)	Title	Signature	Date

4. Institute for Community Alliances (ICA)

The signature below attests to our participation, approval, and support for the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Adam Smith HMIS Director
Name (Print) Title

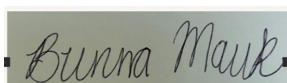

Signature

5/16/2022
Date

5. CoC-wide Youth Action Board (YAB)


The signatures below attest to our participation, approval, and support for the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Brinna Mauk
Name (Print)


Signature


5/23/2022
Date

Brooke Frion
Name (Print)


Signature


5/23/2022
Date

Emily West
Name (Print)


Signature

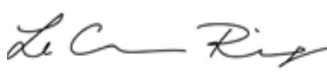
5/23/2022
Date

Kennedy Kingston
Name (Print)


Signature

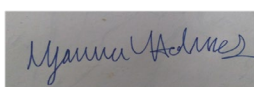
5/23/2022
Date

LeAnn Ring
Name (Print)


Signature

5/23/2022
Date

Myanna Holmes
Name (Print)


Signature

5/23/2022
Date

B. Letter of Support - Department of Children & Families

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Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Emilie Amundson
dcf.wisconsin.gov

March 14, 2022

Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care
PO Box 272
Eau Claire, WI 54702

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), I am writing in support of the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) submitted by the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOS CoC) for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program. DCF is the Wisconsin state child welfare agency, and in that role supervises county child welfare and youth justice agencies, as well as oversees programs for runaway and homeless youth (RHY) and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

The CCP has been developed alongside RHY stakeholders familiar to the DCF including Wisconsin Association of Homeless and Runaway Services (WAHRS), current and former state funded RHY providers, and most importantly, young people. We endorse the CCP as a comprehensive planning document and embrace the data and insights the plan offers to inform ongoing policy and systems change work. Bureau of Youth Services (BYS) staff have been involved in regular conversations with the BoS CoC throughout development of the CCP and have witnessed their commitment to building a more youth-driven system of care.

As noted in the initial letter of support for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), DCF and BYS continues to remain committed to:

- Share relevant updates during BoS CoC meetings
- Support and attend, as directed by the BoS CoC stakeholder meetings related to implementation and planning
- Require state funded RHY programs data entry into HMIS, Wisconsin's Coordinated Entry System

The BoS CoC has demonstrated commitment to ensuring the allocated funds are targeted towards those without access to other formalized supports offered by DCF. Because it is a strategic priority for DCF, BoS CoC's CCP will advance the efforts of improving access, coordination and collaboration across youth-serving agencies and

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Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Emilie Amundson
dcf.wisconsin.gov

programs. DCF remains confident in BoS CoC's ability to expand and improve services for RHY in the communities it serves.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact the program area staff, Margaret Munns at Margaret.Munns@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


848DEA1423D3467
Emilie Amundson
Secretary

C. Letter of Support - Department of Public Instruction



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction

Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

May 4, 2022

Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care
PO Box 272
Eau Claire, WI 54702

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), I am writing in support of the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care's (BoS CoC) Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and the goal of ending youth homelessness.

The CCP has been the work of the YHDP planning team, which includes an integrated array of stakeholders, including youth with lived experience, who are committed to preventing and alleviating youth homelessness in Wisconsin. The CCP is a comprehensive planning document containing essential data and insights on the issue of homelessness that will inform ongoing system design and performance.

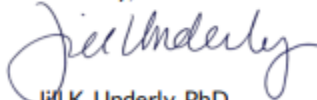
As Wisconsin's state education agency, the DPI administers the federal McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. Educating children and youth in Wisconsin who are experiencing homelessness presents many unique challenges due to the nature of our state. Most of our school districts are small and rural, with dedicated staff members filling multiple roles. Our rural communities have few resources designed to meet the needs of families and youth experiencing homelessness, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and youth shelters. Despite these challenges, our educators work tirelessly to meet the needs of our most vulnerable students.

The DPI agrees to the following:

- Share relevant updates during the BoS CoC meetings
- Support and attend, as directed by the BoS CoC, meetings related to implementation and planning
- Support leadership opportunities for the YHDP Youth Action Board under the BoS CoC
- Refer, as appropriate, youth experiencing homelessness to BoS CoC housing resources

The DPI recognizes that these efforts are vital to building healthy and safe communities. BoS CoC's CCP will advance the efforts of improving access and coordination and collaboration across youth-serving agencies and programs. The DPI is supportive of the CCP supporting all youth experiencing homelessness and ensuring that all youth have safe and stable housing.

Sincerely,



Jill K. Underly, PhD
State Superintendent

JKU: jz