# **Youth Homelessness**

* About 30% of people who are homeless are younger than 24 years old. Even if it is only for a short period of time, the trauma of homelessness can have a significant impact on the development of a child or teenager. Children who are forced to live on the streets have much greater rates of emotional and behavioral disorders, as well as acute and long-term health issues. They frequently have issues with their self-esteem, which puts them at increased risk for issues such as substance abuse, suicidal ideation, and other adverse outcomes. They struggle academically in many different ways, including reading below their grade level, having a high rate of learning problems, having poor school attendance, and not being able to advance to the next grade or graduate. By the age of 12, four out of every five children who are without a permanent home had been witness to at least one instance of serious physical violence. Children who are without homes have four times the risk of developing asthma, double the number of ear infections, and four times the risk of developing respiratory illnesses.
* According to the information provided by Continuums of Care to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as of January 2020, the state of Tennessee has an estimated 7,256 people who were experiencing homelessness on any given day (HUD). From that total, 353 are young adults ages 18-24. Along with that, an estimated 19,747 kids attending public schools in the United States were homeless at some point during the 2018-2019 academic year, according to data given by schools to the United States Department of Education. There were 585 students without a place to stay, 1,367 in shelters, 1,903 in hotels/motels, and 15,892 who were staying with roommates.
* In 2017, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiated a program called the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) with the goal of funding creative solutions in communities all around the United States. It does this by bringing together people who provide services, the government, schools, organizations that deal with child welfare, and youth in order to develop a system-wide approach to prevent and eradicate homelessness among young adults and youth. Through the 2016 Key Action Plan, the Nashville community has been actively striving to reduce youth homelessness. Our town has more tools at its disposal thanks to this program with which to implement its master plan. Both the Homeless Impact Division of Metro Social Services and the Oasis Center, a local nonprofit that focuses on helping young people, have taken the lead on this initiative.
* The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Continuum of Care Youth and Young Adults Committee, Youth Action Board, and Homelessness Planning Council have collaborated to establish the first Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness in Nashville. As we work toward eradicating homelessness among young people and young adults in Nashville, the Coordinated Community Plan outlines a vision for the city, as well as an analysis of its needs, a strategic framework, goals, and action measures. It intends for the utilization of the funding from our Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program while also defining a more comprehensive strategy for the steps that need to be taken throughout the community as a whole.

**Sources:**

* <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/youth>
* <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/tn/>
* <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/social-services/homeless-impact-division/initiatives-and-programs/youth-homelessness>
* <https://stopchildhomelessness.org/the-facts/>