The State of Youth Homelessness In CT: Impact of COVID-19 & Implications for the Work Ahead

Tuesday, August 18, 2020
State of Youth Homelessness In CT

• As you are joining, please take a moment to write in the chat your:
  – Name, organization, pronouns
Welcome & Introductions

Eliza McNamara, Youth to Lead Change
Convening Purpose

- Goal of the convening is to hear from youth and young adults (YYA) about how the pandemic is impacting YYA experiencing homelessness & housing instability in CT.
Success to Date

- Katie Durand, CT Dept of Housing
Statewide YA Individuals CAN Inflow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The graph shows the number of YA individuals who CAN inflow for each month from January to June 2019 and 2020.
Parenting:
March 1 – July 31:
523 (2019) vs. 343 (2020)
53% attendance rate (1-7 days call to appt) vs. 78% attendance rate (1 day call to appt)

YA individuals:
53% attendance rate (1-2 days call to appt) vs 63% (1-2 days call to appt)
182 young adults active on BNL

Median Days Active: 71 (increasing since COVID)
In 2019, there were over 132,000 unemployment claims filed in CT. (26,646 age 20-29)

In two weeks in March 2020, over 150,000 unemployment claims were filed in CT (39,026 age 20-29)
Survey Results

Carline Charmelus, Partnership for Strong Communities

Marina Marmolejo, Dreamkit & Youth Continuum
Youth Experiences & Navigators Surveys

• Method
  – Web based survey, via Google form
  – Data collection: 211, youth navigators, partners, word of mouth
  – July 22, 2020 to August 12th

• Youth Experience Survey
  – 25 Survey Participants

• Youth Navigators Survey
  – 8 Survey Participants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Assistance for myself</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with physical/learning disabilities</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with Being able to go back home</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene products</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education/Help with School</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birth Certificate</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place to Laundry</td>
<td>37.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.D. Card</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug/Alcohol Treatment</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place to shower</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling/Mental Health Services</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place to live short-term</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment/Career help</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place to live long-term</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Services Change Among Clients Due to COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Increased</th>
<th>Stayed the Same</th>
<th>IDK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQIA</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide Prevention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Use</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographic Data

What is your race?
- Black... 72.0%
- White 28.0%

Are you Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?
- Yes 20.0%
- No 80.0%
Housing Status

Are you currently housed?

Kind of
- Yes: 8.0%
- Kind of: 4.0%
- No: 88.0%
Housing Status

Where have you stayed within the last 30 days?

- Temporarily staying or living with family: 2
- Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for by someone else: 12
- Temporarily staying or living with friends, boyfriend, girlfriend, or other significant partner: 3
- Foster home or group home: 1
- Place not meant for human habitation: 8
Support and Services Need

**How has your situation changed due to COVID?**

- Worsened dramatically: 16.0%
- Worsened slightly: 48.0%
- Worsened a decent amount: 36.0%

**Have you experienced any of the following during the time of quarantine and COVID-19?**

- Being physically abused or beaten: 5
- Eviction or at risk of eviction: 15
- Substance abuse by someone in your home: 2
- Family violence: 9
Support and Services Need

Right now, what do you need to improve your wellbeing?

- Legal Help
- Place to shower
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Help with being able to go back home
- Place to do laundry
- Hygiene Products
- Medical services
- Employment/career help
- Education/help with school
- Place to live long-term
- Place to live short-term
- Financial Assistance
- Food
- Counseling/Mental Health Services
Support and Services Need

Have you tried to access services around these topics?

No
24.0%

Yes
76.0%
Support and Services Need

For those who answered yes, did you come across any of the following barriers in trying to access services?

- Did not want others to know I was unstably housed
- Prior bad experience with the service and/or staff
- Was told I did not need services
- Did not feel safe
- Did not know services were available to me
- Thought I could make it on my own
- Afraid of consequences with services
Youth and Young Adult Response

- **Moderator:** Angel Cotto, Youth Action Hub
- **Panelists:**
  - Kiara Monjarrez, Youth to Lead Change, Fairfield County CAN
  - Alex Keith, Youth Partner, Youth Action Hub - ICR (Hartford)
  - Tania Banks, Youth Action Hub, ICR (Hartford)
  - Veronica Wells, Youth Advisory Board, Greater New Haven CAN
  - Andre Diaz, Youth Advisory Board, Greater New Haven CAN
Panel Conversation

**Moderator:** Stacey Violante Cote, Center for Children’s Advocacy

**Panelists:**
- Sherilyn Adams, Larkin St Youth Services
- Megan Gibbard Kline, A Way Home America
- Angel Cotto, Youth Action Hub
- Kathy Allen, Thames River Services
- Zoey Melendez, Youth Navigator, Triangle Community Center
Work Ahead

Lisa Bahadosingh, Supportive Housing Works
Major Focus Areas of Work

- School Engagement
- Outreach and Identification
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Employment
- Youth Partnership
- Resources
- Racial equity
Group Breakout Session

In light of the pandemic, what do you think are the most pressing resource and policy needs?
Wrap Up & Next Steps

Alicia Woodsby, Partnership for Strong Communities

Stacey Violante Cote, Center for Children’s Advocacy
Thank you!