

Below is an exploration of the results of the Youth Task Force’s one night count of youth homelessness. Data in these numbers represents young people, under the age of 24, who were doubled up with friends/family, living on the streets, staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing, or AWOL from foster care. These youth are also unaccompanied by an adult in their homelessness. Lastly, this data does not include wards of the state.

The data is an initial effort on behalf of the youth task force, and there is much work to be done to gather together a more complete picture. Therefore, it is imperative that we refer to this data as “the least number counted.”

Totals

267 youth counted on the night of January 27, 2010.

15 agencies/systems, representing **25** programs contributed information

- Youth Emergency Services
- Nebraska Health and Human Services
- Elevate
- Goodwill
- Omaha Public Schools
- Salvation Army
- Siena Francis House
- Open Door Mission
- Stephen Center
- Williams Prepared Place
- Heartland Family Service
- MICAH House
- New Visions
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Council Bluffs Public Schools

Age

- Average age: 19 years old (mean of 18.78)
- 44% (n=118) under 18 years of age
- 56% (n=149) between 18 and 24 years of age

Gender

- 57% Male (n=151)
- 43% Female (n=114)

Housing Situation

		Number	Percent
Valid	On the streets	13	4.9
	Unstably Housed (Doubled Up)	97	36.3
	Emergency Shelter	57	21.3
	Transitional Housing	39	14.6
	Total	206	77.2
Missing Answers		61	22.8
Total		267	100.0



Other

- **How many had dependent children?**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	35	13.1
	No	18	6.7
	Total	53	19.9
Missing Answers		214	80.1
Total		267	100.0

- 91% of youth that had dependent children were 19 years of age and older.
- Out 267 youth, only four had more than one agency they were involved with in the sample.
- Of the foster youth that were identified as AWOL by NHHS, only one showed up in other data sets.
- Most Emergency Shelters whose mission is centered on youth were serving 100% wards of the state on the night of January 27th, the night of the count.

MACCH Youth Task Force Recommendations

The data in this count represent a beginning for the metro area. Influenced by Omaha-Council Bluffs' Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, these recommendations seek to incite community and systems change to prevent and end homelessness for youth.

1. Create more transitional and permanent housing options for youth with flexible residential requirements to include rental subsidies.
2. Support current community coordination efforts like Building Bright Futures (education), Juvenile Justice Provider Forum (youth at risk), the Omaha Independent Living Plan (options for youth aging out of foster care) and Council Bluffs' Human Services Advisory Council and advocate for housing stability within each initiative.
3. Investigate opportunities for greater systems coordination on behalf of youth to ensure their needs are met.
4. Acquire a more accurate picture of what unstably housed youth are experiencing across our community.

For more information about the MACCH Youth Task Force or Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless contact:

Erin Porterfield
 Executive Director
 402-561-7597
 eporterfield@unomaha.edu

Erin Bock
 Program Coordinator
 402-561-7584
 ebock@unomaha.edu

