

# 2015 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth IN THE UNITED STATES

## POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)

One-Night Estimates of Unaccompanied Homeless

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# 2015 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

IN THE UNITED STATES

## Did You Know?

PIT

On a single night in January 2015  **36,907** unaccompanied youth were experiencing homelessness

**87.4%** were 18-24

**12.6%** were under 18

Unaccompanied youth experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness

**46.2%** **53.8%** 

**9,901** people were experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness as parenting youth

**4.4%** **95.6%** 

### KEY TERMS

**Unaccompanied Youth** are people under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not themselves a parent staying in the same place as his or her child(ren).

**Parenting Youth** are people under age 25 who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children staying in the same place and without someone else present who is 25 or older.

**Parenting Youth Household** is a household with at least one parenting youth and the child or children for whom the parenting youth is the parent or legal guardian.

# 2015 One-Night Estimates OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

## PIT

Since 2013, the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates have included three age categories, 17 and under, 18 to 24, and 25 and older. In 2015 HUD added a new reporting category for parenting youth. This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of unaccompanied youth and parenting youth experiencing homelessness in the U.S.

The PIT estimates are one-night counts of people experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered locations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point-in-time count in shelters (emergency shelter and transitional housing programs) and a street (or “unsheltered”) count at least every other year. In 2015, both the sheltered and unsheltered counts were required.

Collecting point in time information about youth experiencing homelessness remains a work in progress. Over the past several years, many communities have taken steps—such as targeted youth outreach and collaborating with schools and other youth-serving systems—to improve their PIT count data collection processes with the aim of reflecting more accurately the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness. **HUD and its federal partners have agreed to use the 2017 PIT count to establish a baseline year for measuring progress in ending youth homelessness.** To measure national and local progress on ending youth homelessness, HUD will generally use 2017 as the initial comparison year. It is critical that communities ensure that this count is as accurate as possible so that they can demonstrate their progress towards ending homelessness among youth in 2018 and beyond.

HUD is in the process of improving and updating its collection of HMIS data on this important population. This report discusses youth age 18 to 24 experiencing homelessness, with more detailed data available online.<sup>1</sup> By October 2015, HHS’ Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs had fully integrated their data with local HMIS. This integration is an important step towards a more complete picture of youth experiencing homelessness throughout the year. This year’s AHAR report begins to reflect the integration of that data. Future AHAR reports will also use new age categories to describe the use of shelter programs by unaccompanied youth and parenting youth over the course of a year.

### On a Single Night in January 2015

- 36,907 youth were unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness in the United States. This is 6.5 percent of the total homeless population and 10.3 percent of all homeless individuals. Of all people under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness, 20.4 percent were unaccompanied youth.
- Among unaccompanied homeless youth, 87.4 percent (32,240 people) were ages 18 to 24, and 12.6 percent (4,667 people) were under 18.

<sup>1</sup>The 2015 HMIS data used to produce the 2015 figures in the report can be downloaded from: [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).  
Data Source: PIT 2015 , Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

Of the estimated 36,907 youth who were homeless and unaccompanied on a night in January 2015, 12.6% were under age 18, and 87.4% were 18-24.

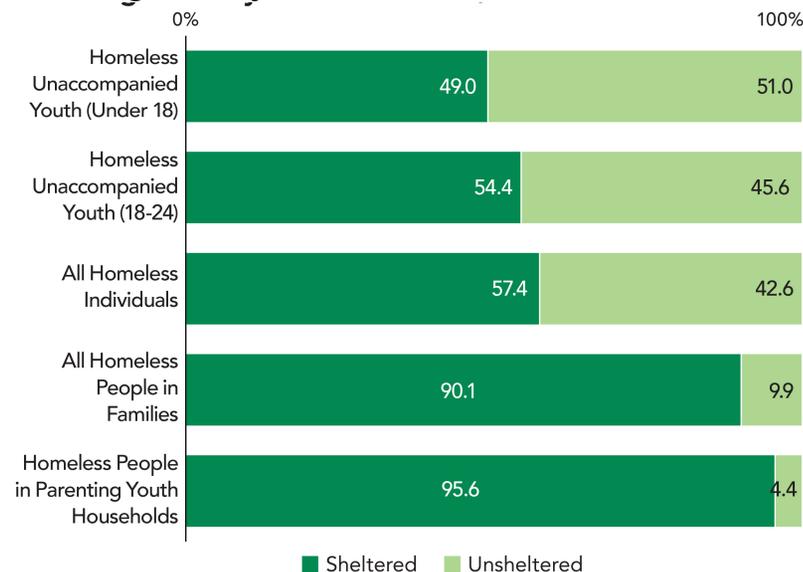
- On a single night in January, 9,901 people were experiencing homelessness as parenting youth, together with their 13,242 children. Most parenting youth (98.7%) were ages 18 to 24.
- Only 4.3 percent of the children of parenting youth, 573 children, were in unsheltered locations.
- Most parenting youth households consisted of one parent and one child.

### Exhibit 4.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless Youth

PIT Estimates 2015

| Age Range | Unaccompanied Homeless Youth |       | Parenting Youth |       | Children of Parenting Youth |       | Total  |       |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|           | #                            | %     | #               | %     | #                           | %     | #      | %     |
| Under 18  | 4,667                        | 12.6  | 126             | 1.3   | 13,242                      | 100.0 | 4,793  | 10.2  |
| 18-24     | 32,240                       | 87.4  | 9,775           | 98.7  | 0                           | 0.0   | 42,015 | 89.8  |
| Total     | 36,907                       | 100.0 | 9,901           | 100.0 | 13,242                      | 100.0 | 46,808 | 100.0 |

### Exhibit 4.2: PIT Estimates of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth, Homeless Individuals, All Homeless People, and Parenting Youth by Sheltered Status, 2015



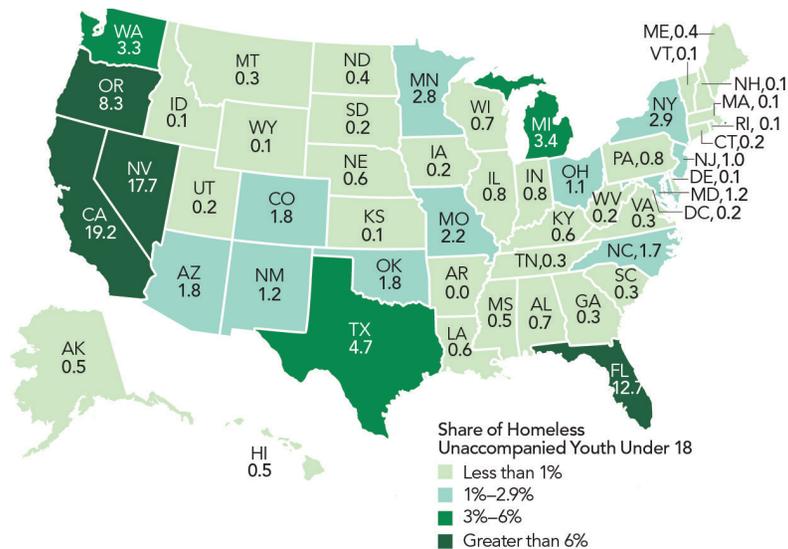
**PIT** 2015 TOTAL ESTIMATES  
UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

## By State

### On a Single Night in January 2015

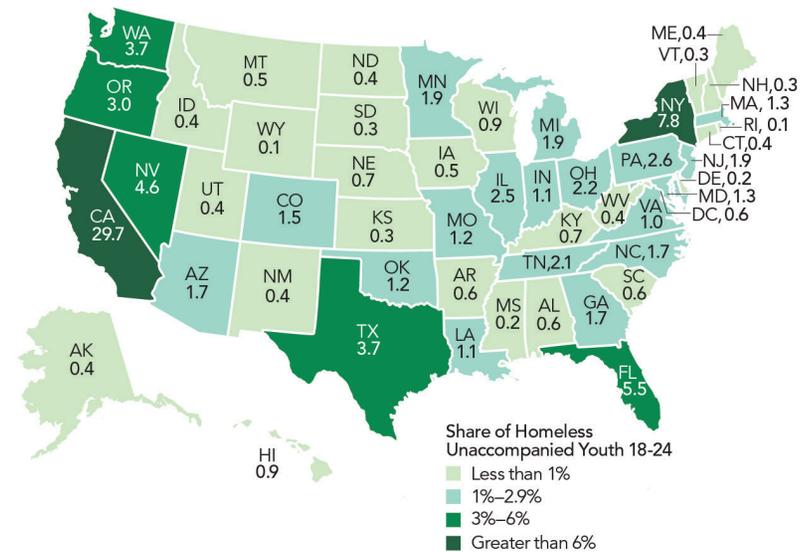
- The three states with the largest counts of unaccompanied homeless youth under 18 years of age were California (892), Nevada (825), and Florida (593). Together, these states accounted for nearly half of the nation's population of unaccompanied homeless youth under 18.
- The three states with the largest numbers of unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18 to 24 were California (9,524), New York (2,493), and Florida (1,778). These states accounted for 43 percent of the total population of unaccompanied youth over the age of 17.
- In four states, more than a quarter of unaccompanied homeless youths were under the age of 18: NV (35.7%), OR (28.7%), NM (28%), and MS (26.9%).
- New York accounts for 23.8 percent of all people in parenting youth households, the largest proportion of any state.
- The state-by-state distribution of parenting youth is very similar to the distribution of all people in families.

**EXHIBIT 4.3: Share of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Under 18**  
In the U.S. by State, 2015 (in %)

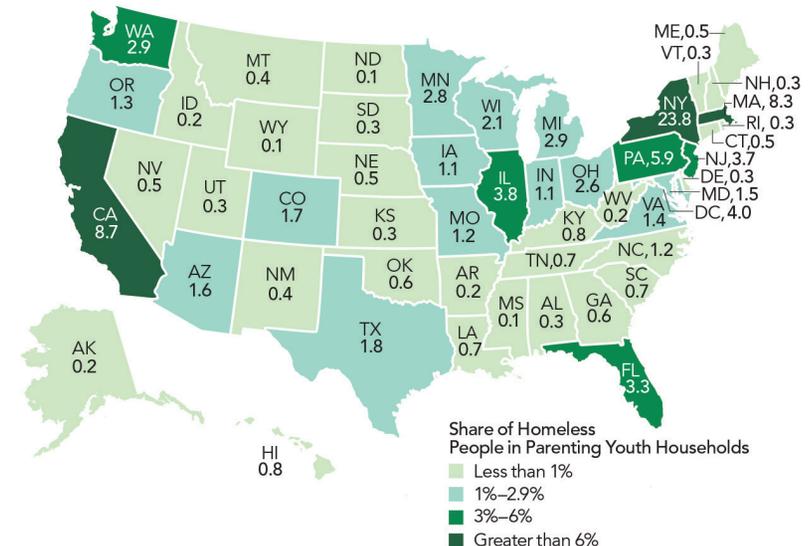


Data Source: PIT 2015  
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories  
See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state  
([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

**EXHIBIT 4.4: Share of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth 18-24**  
In the U.S. by State, 2015 (in %)



**EXHIBIT 4.5: Share of Homeless People in Parenting Youth Households**  
In the U.S. by State, 2015 (in %)



## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a Single Night in January 2015

- Four states accounted for 86 percent of all unsheltered unaccompanied youth under the age of 18: Nevada (816, 34.3%), California (632, 26.6%), Oregon (326, 13.7%), and Florida (272, 11.4%). Seventeen states and the District of Columbia reported no unsheltered unaccompanied youth under 18, and 20 states reported fewer than 10.
- In four states, more than 70 percent of homeless, unaccompanied youth under 18 were unsheltered: Nevada (98.9%), Oregon (84.0%), Tennessee (78.6%), and California (70.9%).
- While overall 45.6 percent of unaccompanied homeless youth between the ages of 18 and 24 were unsheltered, more than 90 percent were sheltered in 7 states and the District of Columbia — ME, (99.2%), IA (98.3%), DE (98.1%), MA (92.7%), NE (91.4%), DC (91.2%), NJ (90.6%), and NH (90.6%).
- For unaccompanied homeless youth between 18 and 24, the unsheltered rate was greater than 70 percent in 4 states: Nevada (81.2%), Montana (77.8%), California (76.9%), and Hawaii (75.6%).
- More than 90 percent of all people in parenting youth households were experiencing sheltered homelessness in 37 states and the District of Columbia. More than 30 percent of parenting youth households were found in unsheltered locations in only four states: Tennessee (46.5%), Montana (40.6%), Oregon (34.8%), and Mississippi (33.3%).

**EXHIBIT 4.6: States with Highest and Lowest Rates of Unsheltered Unaccompanied Homeless Youth by Shelter Status, 2015**

| State         | # Sheltered Youth | # Unsheltered Youth | % Unsheltered |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Highest Rates |                   |                     |               |
| Nevada        | 288               | 2,022               | 87.5          |
| California    | 2,464             | 7,952               | 76.3          |
| Montana       | 41                | 130                 | 76.0          |
| Hawaii        | 76                | 227                 | 74.9          |
| Oregon        | 448               | 902                 | 66.8          |
| Lowest Rates  |                   |                     |               |
| Maine         | 145               | 1                   | 0.7           |
| Iowa          | 176               | 3                   | 1.7           |
| Delaware      | 56                | 1                   | 1.8           |
| Massachusetts | 384               | 31                  | 7.5           |
| Nebraska      | 220               | 18                  | 7.6           |



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