DATA BRIEF:
Allegheny County YOUth Count 2015

In June 2015, Allegheny County conducted its first-ever point-in-time (PIT) count focused specifically on unaccompanied youth. Building on the annual homeless PIT count required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the YOUth Count survey focused on unaccompanied, unstably-housed youth who were either homeless according to HUD's definition (living in a shelter, in a transitional housing program or on the street) or at risk for homelessness (living with friends/family or in an unsafe environment where they could not stay as long as they needed) on the night of the count.

The primary goals of the YOUth Count survey were to: (1) gain a more accurate count of youth experiencing housing instability; (2) expand the target population of the count beyond HUD's literal definition of homelessness; and (3) explore the service needs of the population.

BACKGROUND

1 For a more detailed look at DHS's 2015 HUD PIT count, see the data brief "Allegheny County 2015 Point-in-Time Homelessness Data" at http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Research/Basic-Needs.aspx.

Each January, the County participates in an official PIT count for HUD[1]. Volunteers go into the community and count all homeless individuals and families in the county that are either living on the streets ("unsheltered") or in emergency, transitional or safe haven facilities (i.e., temporary shelter) at that point in time. The County's 2015 PIT count for HUD documented 129 unaccompanied youth in shelters and/or transitional housing programs and identified four unsheltered youth.

Unstably-housed: describes those who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, as well as those who do not have a fixed and safe place of their own in which to reside. In comparison, HUD's definition of literal homelessness is narrower and includes only street homeless individuals and those in shelters or transitional housing programs.

Unaccompanied youth: people age 24 years and younger who do not live with a parent or guardian. For the purposes of the YOUth Count, unaccompanied youth included parenting youth (i.e., 18–24-year-olds who had children) though some homelessness services do not include parenting youth in the unaccompanied youth category.

2 Created in 2014, the Unaccompanied Youth Task Force is a group of community stakeholders who work with DHS to strengthen the accessibility and impact of local services for young adults experiencing homelessness.

3 "Youth Count! Process Study," Urban Institute, July 2013.

4 The McKinney-Vento Act, which ensures public education for homeless children, adds to HUD's narrow definition of homelessness those who: share the housing of another person due to loss of housing; live in hotels, motels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or live in substandard housing.

5 Youth Count! is a federal interagency initiative designed to improve counts of unaccompanied homeless youth.

6 Existing surveys from the following regions were reviewed: Hollywood, Ca.; King County, Wash.; Chicago, Ill.; Denver, Colo.; and Massachusetts.

The Unaccompanied Youth Task Force[2] questioned how many youth were not identified by the official January PIT count due to the time of the year and HUD's narrow definition of homelessness, which does not include individuals living in unstable situations such as couch-surfing. Task Force members also believed that the PIT was likely undercounting youth living on the streets and in other locations not meant for human habitation.

National research suggests that the hidden, transient nature of homeless youth contributes to the challenge of identifying them. Homeless youth are often not involved with formal service systems for several reasons, including not knowing about available services, negative experiences with social services in the past, or fear of being returned to the traumatic situations from which they had left. In addition, perceived restrictive rules, such as minimum age limits at some shelters, may keep youth from seeking help. Stigma related to homelessness may also encourage youth to stay hidden.[3] Street outreach teams that help conduct the January PIT confirmed the national findings, reporting that youth are less likely to be found in the regular locations of the chronically homeless such as under bridges and bypasses. Instead, youth are more likely to find a couch to stay on during the bitter cold of January when the PIT is conducted.

The Task Force decided that creating and conducting a separate survey focused on identifying unaccompanied youth in June, when the weather is warmer, might result in a more accurate count of youth experiencing housing instability. The task force's survey, now known as the YOUth Count, expanded on HUD's literal definition of homelessness, instead using the wider definition of homelessness set forth by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.[4] Although not included in HUD's definition of homelessness, youth experiencing housing instability face many of the same challenges and need many of the same services as their homeless peers.

METHODOLOGY

Survey Development

The YOUth Count survey was designed utilizing national and local level research, service provider input and youth engagement. In addition to guidelines from HUD's PIT, lessons were also gleaned from an evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute of the Youth Count! initiative.[5] These suggested best practices included: broader engagement of youth service providers, LGBTQ agency partners and youth; use of social media; and measurement of general housing instability instead of homelessness. In addition, existing youth-focused housing surveys,[6] housing stability assessment questions from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and a housing assessment tool from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation were referenced.

Building on the national research, the Unaccompanied Youth Task Force also sought local input. Findings from the DHS-commissioned report "I'll never get used to it: Young People Living on the Street" were used to guide survey topics. Stakeholders from within and outside the Unaccompanied Youth Task Force reviewed the questionnaire and survey design, enabling

feedback from county government, service providers, medical practitioners and university researchers. Most important was that youth engagement was a critical aspect of the YOUth Count design and implementation. Prior to drafting the survey, 10 youth participated in a focus group to share their opinions on format, topics, language and how to approach respondents. After the questionnaire was drafted, the county's Service Improvement Through Youth (SITY) group —which brings together youth who have had experience with DHS's services — was engaged in the pilot of the survey. Their suggestions were used to develop an introductory statement, revise question language and target outreach efforts.

The final YOUth Count questionnaire consisted of 39 questions, organized around demographic information, housing status, service experience and need. Many of the questions were adapted from other surveys in an effort to use validated and reliable questions. The primary question about housing asked where respondents slept on the night of June 11th — allowing the survey to capture a point-in-time status. The full survey, in its paper format, can be found in **Appendix A** on page 8.

Survey Administration

The survey was administered during June 12–19, 2015 in paper format and on web-based platforms. A one-week period was selected based on research indicating that this amount of time positioned localities to capture more of the population without losing accuracy in the responses. The online option was provided as a method for reaching youth who were not already connected to the service system. Rather than organizing a large street outreach effort, DHS sought to test the online option and use social media to both inform youth about the survey and give them instant access to it.

The scope of participating service providers was broader than those involved with the County's annual PIT. All providers who hold contracts with DHS were notified of the survey and asked to engage any Allegheny County unaccompanied youth to complete the survey. The Unaccompanied Youth Task Force also identified additional service providers and community organizations not contracted with DHS but who work with this population to be incorporated into the process. In total, more than 400 agencies were contacted about the YOUth Count survey, including service providers, foundations, community-based organizations, faith-based agencies and libraries. Agencies were given a paper version of the survey, access information for the online version, instructions for administration, and materials for advertising the survey, including flyers and sample social media messages for Facebook and Twitter.

SURVEY RESULTS

Fifty-six unstably-housed, unaccompanied youth responded to the survey, 24 of whom were in transitional housing or shelters and eight of whom were considered to be street homeless. As described above, data from the County's January PIT count documented 133 homeless youth, 129 who were in transitional housing or shelters, and four who were unsheltered. The discrepancy

between the January PIT and the June YOUth Count suggests that the two surveys differed in their success at reaching different populations; the January PIT was able to collect information about a wider population of homeless youth in shelters, while the YOUth Count was able to document more youth living on the street as well as collect information about youth living in "doubled-up" situations.

Doubled-up: a situation in which an individual is unable to maintain his or her own housing and is forced to stay with friends or extended family. People living in doubled-up situations do not fall within HUD's definition of homelessness.

Table 1 shows the demographics of the respondents. Males and females were relatively equally represented, and eight percent of respondents identified as genderqueer, transgender or self-described. Youth not identifying as white were disproportionately represented, making up 64 percent of respondents. Thirty percent of respondents did not identify as heterosexual.
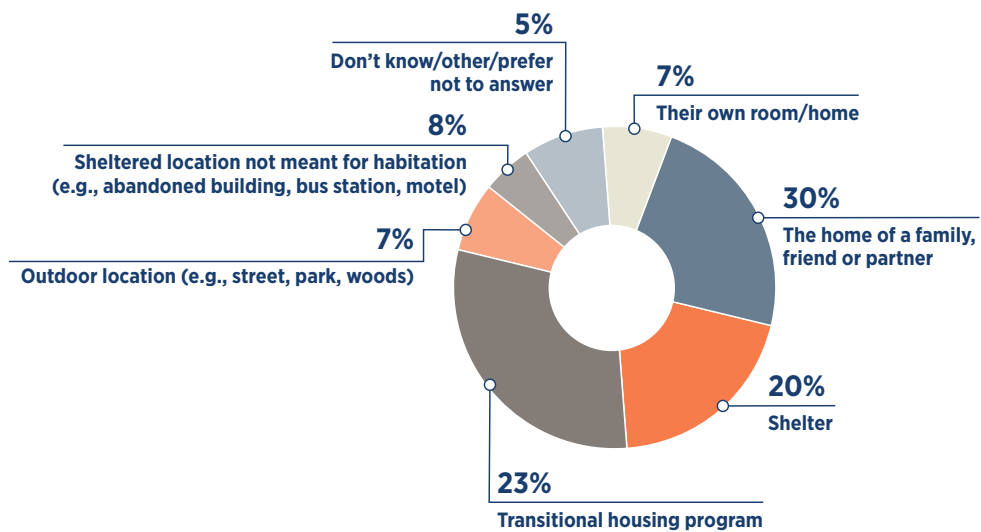
TABLE 1: **Demographics of Respondents**

	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
RACE	
White or of European descent	34%
Black or African descent	49%
Self-described	2%
Asian	2%
Multi-racial	13%
No responses: American Indian or Alaska Native; Hispanic or Latino; Don't know	
GENDER IDENTITY	
Male	43%
Female	48%
Genderqueer	4%
Transgender	2%
Self-described	2%
No responses: Agender, Intersex, Don't know	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	
Heterosexual, Straight	61%
Asexual	9%
Bisexual	9%
Gay	5%
Lesbian	5%
Pansexual, Fluid	2%
Self-described	2%
Prefer not to answer/no response	8%
No responses: Queer, Same Gender Loving (SGL), Don't know	

Further demographic information showed that 27 percent of respondents had children. In response to a survey question about education, 20 percent of respondents reported that they did not have a high school diploma and were not enrolled in school or a training program. Thirty percent were enrolled in school or a GED/training program at the time of the survey.

KEY FINDINGS

The majority of youth were staying in someone else's home or a shelter/transitional housing program on the night in question. As shown in **Figure 1**, the most common location where unaccompanied youth were staying was "doubled-up" at the home of a family member, friend or partner, highlighting the large proportion of unstably-housed youth who do not fit within HUD's literal definition of homelessness. Other common locations were transitional housing programs and shelters. Fifteen percent spent the night in a location that rendered them "street homeless," i.e., in an outdoor location or a building not meant for long-term habitation. Seven percent spent the night in their own room or home; these youth were included in the survey results because they indicated that they could not stay as long as they needed and that it was not a safe location.

FIGURE 1: **Where Respondents Slept on the Night of Thursday, June 11, 2015**

- 5% Don't know/other/prefer not to answer
- 7% Their own room/home
- 8% Sheltered location not meant for habitation (e.g., abandoned building, bus station, motel)
- 30% The home of a family, friend or partner
- 7% Outdoor location (e.g., street, park, woods)
- 20% Shelter
- 23% Transitional housing program

The largest percentage of youth who needed assistance to either stay in their current location or find a stable location consisted of those who were doubled-up. Ninety-four percent of doubled-up youth indicated that they needed help to find stable housing, stressing the importance of outreach to youth who are experiencing housing instability but not yet homeless according to the HUD definition. Youth in shelters and transitional housing programs were less likely to report needing help finding somewhere to stay and were more likely to have slept in only one location during the week prior to the survey.

Needs go beyond housing assistance. Respondents indicated service needs in domains beyond housing such as employment; medical, mental health and substance use disorder treatment; legal aid; and child care. Additionally, mental health issues, trauma, a criminal record, alcohol and drug use, and sexual orientation/gender identity were all identified as housing barriers. The wide range of indicated needs and barriers to housing points out the importance of service coordination that offers assistance beyond just a physical location in which to sleep.[7]

Many unaccompanied youth have been involved with other human services systems. Two-thirds of respondents had touched at least one of the following systems: foster care (51%), juvenile detention (29%) and jail/prison (33%). The cross-system involvement of unstably-housed youth suggests that DHS may be able to connect with this population through systems other than the homelessness services continuum and at times other than when youth are requesting housing assistance.

The majority of respondents had a history of physical, emotional or sexual trauma. Fifty-three percent reported that they had been hurt or harassed by someone in their life, with the largest percentage (32%) having been hurt by a parent or guardian. These findings reinforce the importance of trauma-informed care in the outreach and service of this population.

The most frequent reasons youth gave for why they left home were related to family conflict or violence. As shown in the following table, responses associated with an unsafe family environment were the most frequent answers to the question, "What cause(s) led you to leaving home?" In addition to the causes listed in **Table 2**, youth's alcohol or drug use, release from the foster system, the death of a parent/guardian, sexual orientation, their family losing housing, a relationship ending, running away, being released from the juvenile justice system, and differences in religious beliefs were cited as reasons for leaving home. Forty-three percent of respondents indicated more than one reason for leaving home.

TABLE 2: Most Frequent Reasons for Leaving Home

	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
There was violence at home	29%
Alcohol or substance use by my parent/guardian	23%
Thrown out	23%
Conflict with siblings	16%

Peer support systems are important. Sixty-eight percent identified at least one person they trust, with nearly 50 percent indicating a friend as the trusted person. Peer networks are undeniably important for unaccompanied youth and represent a possible method of connecting with larger numbers of youth in the future.

Connecting with unstably-housed youth who are not in the formal homelessness system continues to be a challenge. DHS undertook this survey in order to learn more about unaccompanied youth, especially those who are not typically captured by the annual PIT count. Despite strong efforts

7 The soon-to-be-opened "412 Youth Zone" — a drop-in center that will include education, career training, health services and links to other available services for young adults who are homeless or transitioning out of foster care — is one way Allegheny County is addressing the complex needs of unstably-housed youth.

to reach the target population, there are likely still youth not counted by either the annual January PIT or the newly created YOUth Count. There is still more work to be done to determine both how best to contact and count this population and how to address its unique needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to frame the issue as "housing instability" rather than using HUD's narrower definition of homelessness. By broadening the framework beyond HUD's definition of homelessness, the survey was able to collect information about a wider unstably housed youth population to help DHS and its partners better understand their experiences and service needs.

Consider the implications of gathering an accurate count versus collecting deeper knowledge. A more concise survey may have received a higher response rate. While the inclusion of a range of demographic questions can be useful when tracking the population over time, some of the survey questions may be better suited for in-depth qualitative studies.

Improve the response rate. Twenty-seven percent of responses were captured through the online version of the survey, indicating that the web-based platform is a viable way to reach youth. However, a more extensive social media campaign, along with clearer guidance for participating agencies, could garner more responses. At the same time, DHS acknowledges the challenge of verifying the housing status of respondents when using this type of anonymous online data collection.

Increase agency participation. Coordination with the annual HUD point-in-time count might lead to more agency participation and engagement resulting in more youth survey responses. In addition to the agencies who already participate in the January PIT, there are a number of partners that could be useful in connecting with youth. Future counts might be more effective if conducted during the school year to include school district homelessness liaisons in the process. More buy-in from partner agencies could be attained by gathering agencies together to discuss survey design, implementation and purpose, and to help identify other community partners.

Explore other youth populations. Youth who were in jail/prison or in a care facility on the night of the count were considered to be stably housed, but they may have been in unstable situations prior to entering or after leaving. Future research efforts could focus on the circumstances and experiences of this population.

APPENDIX A: YOUTH COUNT SURVEY QUESTIONS

Allegheny County
YOUth Count

Allegheny County works with many partners to serve the needs of young people, including those who experience housing instability. We are interested in learning about the experiences you face when trying to access safe housing and services, and what you tell us can help inform policy makers and funders to provide the kind of help that people really need.

The survey is completely voluntary, and your decision to participate or not to participate will not cause you any penalty. Some of the questions may be personal, so if you feel uncomfortable answering a question, you may choose "prefer not to answer" or you may skip it and move on to the next question.

We are interested in looking at the big picture and will not share any individual survey responses. The information that you tell us during the survey will be compiled along with other responses to give an overall picture of housing and other services that are needed in the county.

We will not ask for your full name and all of your answers will remain confidential. Multiple surveys from the same person are not necessary and duplicates will not be used.

Thank you for your time.

You should take this survey if…

You are 24 years old or younger

You are currently living in Allegheny County

You do not live with a parent or guardian

You are currently experiencing housing instability
(For example, you are: couch-surfing; doubling up with friends or relatives; living in motels, campgrounds, shelters, or other temporary places; living outside; or are otherwise lacking a fixed address)

You have not taken the survey yet
(If you already took this survey, you do not need to take it again—thanks so much for your time!)

Appendix

(continued)

The first few questions are to capture your demographic information

1. Initials: ___ ___ ___

2. Date of birth: ___/___/___ *(mm/dd/yy)*

3. What is your racial/ethnic background *(check all that apply)*
☐ Black or of African descent
☐ White or of European descent
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
☐ Asian
☐ Hispanic or Latino
☐ Multi-racial
☐ Don't know
☐ Self-describe _____

4. What is your gender identity?
☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Transgender female
☐ Transgender male
☐ Genderqueer

☐ Agender
☐ Intersex
☐ Don't know
☐ Self-describe _____

The next section of questions is about your experiences with housing and services

5. Where did you sleep on Thursday, June 11th (last Thursday)?
☐ My own apartment/house→**Skip to Question 8**
☐ In my parent/guardians apartment/house →**Skip to Question 8**
☐ At the apartment/house of another family member, friend, partner/girlfriend/boyfriend →**Skip to Question 8**
☐ In a care facility (hospital, substance use treatment, psychiatric hospital, etc.) →**Skip to Question 8**
☐ In jail or prison→**Skip to Question 8**
☐ In a shelter→**Skip to Question 8**
☐ In a transitional housing program→**Skip to Question 8**
☐ In a motel/hotel
☐ In a bus/train station
☐ In an abandoned building
☐ On the street, in a park, in an encampment, in the woods, or other outdoor location
☐ In a car
☐ Riding the bus/train
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

Appendix

(continued)

6. If you stayed in a motel/hotel, abandoned building, bus/train station, vehicle, or outside, why didn't you stay in a shelter? *(check all that apply)*
    ☐ Transportation
    ☐ Language barrier
    ☐ Put on waiting list
    ☐ Paperwork
    ☐ I.D./documents
    ☐ Didn't know where to go
    ☐ Didn't qualify
    ☐ Didn't feel comfortable/safe
    ☐ Didn't follow shelter rules
    ☐ Feared discrimination
    ☐ Didn't want to be separated from partner
    ☐ Didn't want or need to
    ☐ Other (please describe)_____
    ☐ Don't know
    ☐ Prefer not to answer

7. What could be done to make you choose to stay in a shelter over staying at a motel/hotel, abandoned building, bus/train station, vehicle, or outside?

8. What city or neighborhood did you stay in?
    _____

9. Did you stay with a parent/guardian?
    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No
    ☐ Prefer not to answer

10. Can you stay at the place you stayed on Thursday, June 11th every night for as long as you want?
    ☐ Yes → **Skip to Question 13**
    ☐ No

11. [If you answered "No" to Question 10] Why do you need or want to leave?
    ☐ Received an eviction notice
    ☐ Non-payment of rent or past due rent
    ☐ Unable to pay future rent because loss of housing subsidy, job, or other income source
    ☐ Non-payment of utilities or utilities shut-off
    ☐ Housekeeping concerns
    ☐ Housing is or will be condemned
    ☐ Threat of abuse

Appendix

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☐ Being discharged or service is being terminated
☐ Personal conflict with others
☐ Health or safety concerns
☐ Relationship ended
☐ Time of stay ended (e.g., a friend said you could stay for a week and that week is over)
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

12. [If you answered "No" to Question 10] When do you need to leave?
☐ Today
☐ Next two to three days
☐ Within a week
☐ Within a month
☐ Within the next few months
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

13. How long have you stayed/lived in the place you stayed on Thursday, June 11th?
☐ One week or less
☐ More than one week, but less than one month
☐ One to three months
☐ More than three months, but less than one year
☐ One year or longer
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

14. How many different places have you slept in the past week?
☐ 1 place
☐ 2 to 3 places
☐ 4 or more places
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not answer

15. When was the last time you had a safe place to stay?
☐ Last night
☐ Within the past week
☐ Within the past month
☐ 1 to 2 months ago
☐ 3 to 6 months ago
☐ 7 month to a year ago
☐ 13 months to 2 years ago
☐ Over 2 years ago
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

Appendix

(continued)

16. How many separate times have you stayed in shelters or on the streets in the past three years?
☐ Never
☐ Less than 4 times
☐ More than 4 times
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

17. If you are unstably housed, what cause(s) led you to leaving home? *(check all that apply)*
☐ There was violence at home
☐ Alcohol or substance use by my parent/guardian
☐ My alcohol or substance use
☐ Conflict with siblings
☐ Death of my parent/guardian/caregiver
☐ Pregnancy
☐ My whole family lost their housing
☐ My sexual orientation
☐ Relationship ended
☐ Ran away
☐ Thrown out
☐ Release from juvenile system
☐ Release from foster system
☐ Differences in religious or moral beliefs with my parent/guardian
☐ I am stably housed
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

18. Do you need assistance to be able to stay in your current housing **OR** to find and maintain other, safer or more stable housing?
☐ Yes
☐ No→**Skip to Question 20**

19. [If you answered "Yes" to Question 18] What type of assistance do you need? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Financial help for first month's rent, utilities, or other one-time costs
☐ Ongoing rent subsidy to afford housing
☐ Rental housing information
☐ Finding housing that meets my needs
☐ Weatherization assistance
☐ Housing repairs
☐ Legal assistance
☐ Landlord mediation
☐ Budget assistance
☐ Job placement/employment assistance
☐ Child care
☐ Medical care
☐ Mental health treatment
☐ Substance abuse treatment
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

Appendix

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20. In the last year, have you tried to get help from any of the follow services/programs? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Shelter or short-term housing (such as transitional living program)
☐ Long-term housing (such as permanent housing or Section 8)
☐ Drop-in centers
☐ Educational support (such as enrolling in school or a GED program)
☐ Job training, life skills training, and/or career placement
☐ Health care services, including emergency room services and care to help with health conditions and/or disabilities
☐ Family support (such as conflict mediation or parenting support)
☐ Child care
☐ Nutritional assistance (such as Food Stamps/SNAP or free meals)
☐ Cash assistance (such as welfare benefits or Social Security Disability benefits)
☐ Counseling or other mental health care services
☐ Substance abuse/alcohol treatment program
☐ No, I haven't tried to access help → **Skip to Question 23**
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

21. Did you get the help you needed?
☐ Yes, all of the help I needed→**Skip to Question 23**
☐ Some of the help I needed
☐ No, none of the help I needed

22. If you did not receive all of the help you needed, why was that? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Transportation
☐ Sent somewhere else
☐ Person I asked didn't know how to help
☐ Language barrier
☐ Put on waiting list
☐ Paperwork
☐ I.D./documents
☐ Didn't hear back
☐ Didn't know where to go
☐ Didn't qualify
☐ Didn't feel comfortable/safe
☐ Didn't follow up or return for services
☐ Didn't ask for help
☐ Didn't follow program rules
☐ Didn't have money
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

Appendix

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23. Do any of the following get in the way of you receiving services or finding housing? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Alcohol use
☐ Drug use
☐ Trauma
☐ HIV/AIDS and related diseases
☐ Mental health condition
☐ Physical disability
☐ Criminal record
☐ Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity
☐ No, none of these have gotten in the way
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

The last few questions are for us to learn a little more about you and your life experiences

24. What is your sexual orientation?
☐ Asexual
☐ Bisexual
☐ Gay
☐ Heterosexual, Straight
☐ Lesbian
☐ Pansexual, Fluid
☐ Queer
☐ Same Gender Loving (SGL)
☐ Self-describe _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

25. Are you currently in school?
☐ No
☐ Yes, Middle school
☐ Yes, High school
☐ Yes, GED program
☐ Yes, Vocational training program
☐ Yes, College
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Prefer not to answer

26. What is the highest grade or year of school that you have completed?
☐ No formal education
☐ 8th grade or less
☐ 9th-11th grade
☐ 12th grade but no high school diploma
☐ High school diploma
☐ High school equivalent (such as GED)
☐ Some college credits
☐ College degree
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

Appendix

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27. Do you have any children?
☐ Yes
☐ No→**Skip to Question 29**
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

28. [If you answered "Yes" to Question 27] Who do your children live with? *(check all that apply)*
☐ With me
☐ With their other parent
☐ With a family member
☐ With their adoptive family
☐ Foster care
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

29. Have you ever served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

30. Have you ever been in foster care?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

31. Have you ever stayed overnight or longer in juvenile detention?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

32. Have you ever stayed overnight or longer in an adult jail or prison?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

33. Do you presently have any sources of income? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Full-time job
☐ Part-time job and/or temporary job
☐ Money from "under the table" work
☐ Cash assistance
☐ Short-term loan (i.e., payday loan)

Appendix

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☐ Social Security/disability payments
☐ Unemployment benefits
☐ Hustling/selling drugs
☐ Sex work/turning tricks
☐ Panhandling
☐ Child support
☐ Money from family members or friends
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ I do not have a source of income
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

34. Have you ever traded sex for food, money, or a place to stay?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

35. Have you ever been physically, emotionally, or sexually hurt/harassed by any of the following? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Someone you dated
☐ Parent/guardian
☐ Other family member
☐ Friend
☐ Police officer
☐ Social service worker
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ No, I have not been hurt or harassed
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

36. Are there people in your community you trust? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Parent/guardian/caregiver
☐ Other family member
☐ Friend
☐ Someone you are dating
☐ Social service worker
☐ Police Officer
☐ There is not someone I trust
☐ Other (please describe) _____
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

37. Where do you find information about housing and/or services? *(check all that apply)*
☐ Speaking with family
☐ Speaking with friends
☐ Speaking with service workers

Appendix

(continued)

- ☐ Websites
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ YouTube
- ☐ Another social media site
- ☐ Other (please describe)_____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

38. What are 3 takeaways, or 3 things you are proud of, that you would want to share from your life experiences?

39. Imagine you were in charge of helping youth with housing issues; what is one thing you would do or change?

End of Survey. Thank you for your time. Please return this completed form.