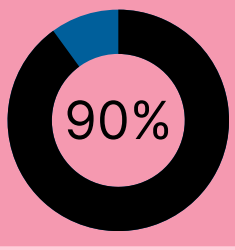
Youth Economic Justice Coalition
POWERED BY DC ACTION

KEY FACTS ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN DC

Roughly 21,000 District children lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty line (FPL) in 2023 (equivalent to household income of $24,860 for a family of three), and 90% of those children were Black.[1]



The Urban Institute estimates that one in five District youth

struggled with housing insecurity or homelessness in 2023.

40% of District unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ+.[2]

70% of District youth experiencing homelessness are Black alone; 18% identify as Latino or Hispanic (and not also Black); 1% identify as Afro-Latino.[3]

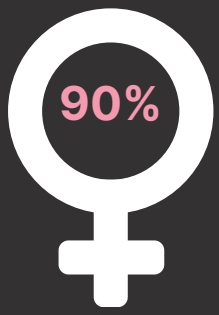
In FY24, DHS served 2,086 18 to 24-year-olds across all systems, and 2,678 when we also account for the 102 youth under 18 (who were not accompanied by an adult) and the 490 25-year-olds who were served by programs through the youth system.

1 icon = 100 youth served

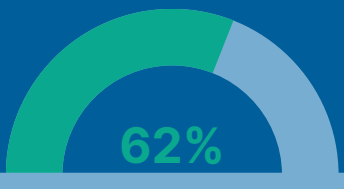
1. Based on 2023 single-year estimates from American Community Survey tables B17001 and B17001B
2. Slide 18 of the 2024 Youth Count results shared at the March 18, 2025 ICH meeting
3. Pg. 72 of FY24 DHS Oversight responses available at https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/707

To learn more, see the State of Youth Homelessness Report at bit.ly/SoYHReport

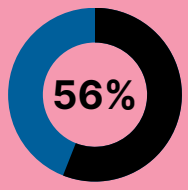
90% of parenting District youth experiencing homelessness are young women.[4]



62% of non-parenting District youth experiencing homelessness in 2023 were women (though this percentage varies significantly from year to year).



56% of pregnant and parenting District youth experiencing homelessness do not see themselves or their families as thriving.



-16%

In the youth homelessness system, DHS funded 592 beds total in FY24, 97 for all shelters, 64 for rapid rehousing, 49 joint transitional housing to rapid rehousing, 264 transitional housing, 92 for extended transitional housing, and 26 for permanent supportive housing (non-parenting youth). This is a nearly 16% decline in the total number of beds from a high of 704 they funded about half a decade ago, despite the fact that the number of young people experiencing homelessness has increased.

DHS budgeted $22 million in FY25 for 13[5] community-based nonprofit organizations to provide housing, case management, and other supportive services to District youth experiencing homelessness. This is roughly one-tenth of one percent of the total budget of the District. While current funding may appear to have increased over the last half-decade, it actually represents a decrease in real dollars when adjusted for inflation.

4. Pg. 72-73 of FY24 DHS Oversight responses available at https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/707
5. A fourteenth program still has beds operating in FY25 despite no longer receiving DHS funds in that fiscal year. In future years they will no longer offer these beds.