See Us Now - Youth Survey Responses
February 2019
Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) conducts an annual Point in Time count of those experiencing homelessness in Dallas County, in accordance with requirements from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2018, MDHA’s Youth Committee began a co-occurring outreach event for youth experiencing homelessness in which youth are asked to express their own voices through formal surveys administered by volunteers around Dallas and Collin counties.

This report describes the results from the 2019 See Us Now youth surveys. The surveys were collected by MDHA member agencies and volunteers between January 31 and February 10th, 2019. 183 survey responses were collected. The following pages describe responses to each of the survey questions asked of the youth.
Demographics

Survey Location
n=181
- Mesquite: 37.02%
- Dallas: 34.81%
- McKinney: 2.76%
- Plano: 2.76%

Gender
n=179
- Male: 56.98%
- Female: 41.90%
- Non-binary: 1.12%

Age of Respondents
n=181

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th># Respondents</th>
<th>% of All Ages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>23.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics

Race
n=159

- Black or African American: 47.80%
- White: 40.25%
- Two or more races: 10.06%
- Pac Islander: 1.26%
- Am Indian: 26.70%

1 respondent identified as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. None identified as National Guard or Reservist.

Hispanic or Latin(o/a/x)
n=176

- 26.70% Yes
- 73.30% No

Sexual Orientation
n=171

- Straight: 140
- Bisexual: 21
- Gay or Lesbian: 6
- Something else: 3
- Not sure: 1
**Education and Job Status**

**Currently Enrolled in School**
- Yes: 53.33%
- No: 46.67%

**If Not Enrolled, Plan to Return to School in the Future**
- Plans to Return: 70.37%
- Not Returning: 17.28%
- N/A or Already Completed School: 12.35%

**Highest Level of Education**
- Less than 9th grade: 19
- Some high school: 93
- GED: 3
- HS diploma: 35
- Some college: 23
- Technical school/Training program: 4
- College graduate: 2

**Job Status**
- Unemployed (Not working but looking): 57
- Regular part-time job: 29
- Not working and not looking for work: 25
- Regular full-time job: 24
- Unable to work: 13
- Temporary job: 9
- Day labor/odd jobs: 5
Respondent’s Health

Respondent’s Health Conditions
n=63

- Mental illness: 35
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: 17
- Learning difference: 13
- Other substance abuse: 12
- Developmental disability: 8
- Other chronic physical illness: 7
- Alcohol abuse or addiction: 6
- Physical disability: 6
- Traumatic brain injury: 1
- HIV/AIDS: 1

Number of Respondents

Do Health Conditions Keep Respondent From Getting or Keeping a Job?

n=58

22.41% Yes
77.59% No

Inhibiting Health Conditions Include:
- Mental Illness (5)
- Physical Disability (3)
- Substance Abuse (2)
- PTSD (2)
- Learning Disability (1)
**Current Family Status**

### Members of Current Family

*Number of respondents that listed family members: 26*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Member</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siblings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roommate</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Current Family Type

*Number of respondents: 172*

- Parent in a Two-Parent Family: 1
- Part of a Couple With No Children: 2
- Minor Living With Siblings: 6
- Other Family Type: 8
- Single Parent With Children: 11
- Minor Living With One or More Parent/Guardian: 19
- Unaccompanied Minor: 51
- Single Individual Adult: 81

### Current Family Members’ Disabilities

*Number of respondents that listed family members: 26*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Chronic Physical Illness</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Disability</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Illness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Substance Abuse</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Respondent Ever Had a Child

*Number of respondents: 174*

- 16.09% Yes
- 83.91% No

*Six respondents (3%) are currently pregnant or expecting a child.*

### Where Does the Child Live?

*Number of respondents that reported having ever had a child: 28*

- Other: 1
- With Child Protective Services: 1
- With family or friends: 1
- With other adoptive parents: 1
- The child is deceased: 3
- With the other parent: 6
- With me: 15
Where Respondents Slept “Last Night”

n=179

- Transitional housing: 45 respondents
- Friend’s home: 38 respondents
- Emergency shelter: 23 respondents
- Street/ Sidewalk/ Bridge/ Overpass: 16 respondents
- Sharing housing of other person(s): 12 respondents
- Own home or apartment (that is not substandard): 10 respondents
- Substance abuse treatment center: 7 respondents
- Foster home or group home: 6 respondents
- Bus or train station/Airport: 4 respondents
- Vehicle: 4 respondents
- Hospital: 3 respondents
- Hotel or motel paid with own funds: 3 respondents
- Place you’ll be evicted from within 2 weeks: 3 respondents
- Abandoned building: 2 respondents
- Hotel or motel paid for with voucher: 2 respondents
- Domestic violence shelter/Safe haven: 1 respondent

Cities:
- None Listed
- Dallas
- McKinney
- Mesquite
- Plano

Number of Respondents
# Current Sleeping Arrangement

## Where Respondents Slept “Last Night”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Sleeping Arrangement</th>
<th>Dallas</th>
<th>Plano</th>
<th>Mesquite</th>
<th>McKinney</th>
<th>None Listed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transitional housing</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35.48%</td>
<td>44.44%</td>
<td>1.54%</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25.81%</td>
<td>13.33%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own home or apartment (that is not substandard)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.90%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street/Sidewalk/Bridge/Overpass</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.68%</td>
<td>15.56%</td>
<td>3.08%</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus or train station/Airport</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.45%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster home or group home</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.84%</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place you’ll be evicted from within 2 weeks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.08%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.61%</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
<td>50.77%</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse treatment center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing housing of other person(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel paid with own funds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.44%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel paid for with voucher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence shelter/Safe haven</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned building</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.22%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**n=179**
Stability of Sleeping Arrangement

Respondents Plan to Sleep in the Same Place Tonight

n=171

% of those who slept in the location last night

- Transitional housing: 95%
- Friend's home: 63%
- Emergency shelter: 100%
- Street/Sidewalk/Bridge/Overpass: 43%
- Sharing housing of other person(s): 73%
- Own home or apartment (that is not substandard): 100%
- Substance abuse treatment center: 50%
- Foster home or group home: 100%
- Bus or train station/Airport: 50%
- Vehicle: 25%
- Hotel or motel paid with own funds: 33%
- Hotel or motel paid for with voucher: 50%
- Place you’ll be evicted from within 2 weeks: 33%
- Abandoned building: 50%
- Hospital: 100%
- Hotel or motel paid for with voucher: 50%
- Domestic violence shelter/Safe haven: 100%

0%
## Stability of Sleeping Arrangement

### Respondents Plan to Sleep in the Same Place Tonight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sleeping Arrangement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transitional housing</td>
<td>41.00</td>
<td>95.35%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s home</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter</td>
<td>23.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street/ Sidewalk/ Bridge/ Overpass</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>57.14%</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>42.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing housing of other person(s)</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>72.73%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>27.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own home or apartment (that is not substandard)</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse treatment center</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster home or group home</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus or train station/Airport</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel paid with own funds</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place you’ll be evicted from within 2 weeks</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned building</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel paid for with voucher</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence shelter/Safe haven</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of Times Without a Permanent Home in the Past 3 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Times</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Twice</th>
<th>3 times</th>
<th>4 or more times</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondents</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Months Spent Homeless

Over Past 3 Years

| n=127 | 9.697 |
Factors Contributing to Homelessness

n=163

- Kicked out of the house by family: 63 respondents
- General financial reasons: 46 respondents
- Unable to pay rent or mortgage: 44 respondents
- Abandonment by parent/guardian: 32 respondents
- Unemployment: 28 respondents
- Other: 25 respondents
- To protect yourself or family members: 21 respondents
- Evicted: 16 respondents
- Domestic violence: 16 respondents
- Ran away from home: 12 respondents
- Substance abuse: 9 respondents
- Mental illness: 9 respondents
- Left jail, prison, or detention: 9 respondents
- Kicked out of the house by friends: 9 respondents
- Moved to seek work: 8 respondents
- Family illness: 8 respondents
- Lifestyle choice: 7 respondents
- Pregnant/parenting: 6 respondents
- Physical disability, injury, or physical health: 6 respondents
- Loss of public aid: 5 respondents
- Too crowded: 5 respondents
- Rh Hospital Discharge: 2 respondents
- Criminal record: 2 respondents
- Natural disaster: 1 respondent
- Aged out of or ran from foster care: 1 respondent
- Sexual orientation or gender identity: 0 respondents
- Divorce/separation: 0 respondents
Shelter Experiences

Have Ever Gone to a Shelter and Did Not Feel Safe
n=154
- 19.48% Yes
- 80.52% No

Why Respondents Did Not Feel Safe
n=27
- Sexual Orientation: 1
- Gender: 4
- Age: 7
- Other: 21

Other concerns include:
- Other people in the shelter
- Lack of security
- Shelter staff
- Violence
- Drugs
- Rape

Have Ever Gone to a Shelter But Did Not Stay the Night
n=145
- 13.79% Yes
- 86.21% No

Why Respondents Did Not Stay
n=18
- Partner couldn’t stay at the shelter too: 1
- The shelter was full: 2
- Didn’t like the shelter rules: 5
- Felt uncomfortable or unsafe at the shelter: 8
- Other: 5

Other factors include:
- Went only for other resources
- Didn’t like the shelter
- Placement
Prior Experiences
n=107

- Family violence: 61
- Child abuse or neglect: 47
- Foster care system involvement: 40
- Legal problems or prior conviction: 38
- Sexual assault: 35
- Gang involvement: 9

Number of Respondents

Foster Care Experiences
range from 1 month to 16 years
average 47 months in foster care (nearly 4 years)
average 4 different placements (up to 30 placements reported)

Involvement With Adult Criminal Justice System n=38
- 52.63% Yes
- 47.37% No

Involvement With Juvenile Justice System n=38
- 81.58% Yes
- 18.42% No

Legal System Experiences
Age of first involvement ranges from 12 to 21
Average age of first involvement was 15
Have Been Afraid to Leave Work Situation Due to Fear of Violence or Harm

- 94.30% No
- 5.70% Yes

Felt Forced, Pressured, or Tricked into Continuing the Violent or Harmful Job

Has it happened in the past three months?

- More than 3 months ago
- Within past 3 months

Have Been Promised Work Where Work or Payment Was Different Than Expected

- 15.82% Yes
- 84.18% No

Felt Forced, Pressured, or Tricked into Continuing the Misleading Job

Has it happened in the past three months?

- More than 3 months ago
- Within past 3 months

Have Received Anything (Food, Drugs, Shelter) in Exchange for Sexual Relations

- 7.55% Yes
- 92.45% No

Felt Forced, Pressured, or Tricked into Continuing the Sexual Exchange

Has it happened in the past three months?

- More than 3 months ago
- Within past 3 months

Note: The question “how many times have you received something in return for having sexual relations” is excluded from this report due to low sample size.
Respondent Needs

Things Respondents Need Help Getting

n=92

- State ID: 38
- Clothing: 37
- Social security card: 35
- Birth certificate: 33
- Bus pass: 31
- Hygiene supplies: 29
- Emergency food: 28
- Laundry facilities: 22
- Phone #/voicemail: 22
- Shower/Restroom: 18
- Other needs: 13
- Storage: 10
- Contraception: 6

Rules or Practices That Make Life Harder

n=34

- Rules about loitering or sitting in public spaces: 11
- Rules against sleeping in vehicles: 11
- Rules against sleeping in public: 10
- Issues with the police: 9
- Lack of access to public restrooms: 9
- Lack of pay phones: 7
- Rules against panhandling or asking for money: 6
- Other rules: 3

The most helpful support or service received in the past year:
- Resources (bus passes, food, vouchers, etc.) (4)
- McKinney Vento (3)
- Housing assistance (3)
- City House (3)
- Case management (2)
- Personal factors (family, faith) (2)
- POWS, CPS, Nexus, TRAC, TLP programs (1 each)
Services That Respondents Need But Are Not Getting

n=90

Number of Respondents

37 Dental care
35 Transportation
25 Routine medical care
24 Employment services
23 Other
23 Peer support or other emotional support
22 Permanent housing
20 Permanent supportive housing (for disabled)
19 Enrolment in school or GED program
19 Transitional housing
18 Mental health care
15 Life skills training
14 Case management
14 Enrollment in government benefits
10 Child support
10 Permanent supportive housing
9 Emergency shelter
8 Emergency medical care
8 School-based homeless services
6 School-based homeless services
6 Substance abuse treatment
4 Tutoring
4 Child care
3 Legal aid
3 Child support
2 Help locating family
1 Emancipation assistance
1 Help locating family