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**Studies in the News:
Special Supplement: Homeless Youth**

This special edition of Studies in the News comes to you from the California Homeless Youth Project in recognition of the first California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month in November 2010, coinciding with National Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month. This supplement highlights the issue of youth homelessness through a collection of selected resources including reports, newspaper series, and audio and video presentations. Resources range from those just released to important overview material from 2007. Resources are organized by subject and publication date. Additional useful information for policymakers and advocates is available on the California Homeless Youth Project website at <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov>.

Special Invitation: “Out of the Shadows: Why Youth Run and What State Policy Can Do to Help” Press Conference and Panel Discussion, moderated by Senator Carol Liu. November 4th, 1pm-4pm, Rm. 3191, State Capitol. For more on California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month, see www.ca-rhymonth.org.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.
- *Studies in the News* is also available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>

The following studies are currently on hand:

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Estimating California's Homeless Youth Population. By Lisa K. Foster, California Research Bureau, California State Library. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) November 2010. 21 p.

Full text at:

<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/HomelessYouthPopEstimateReport.pdf>

[This HYP Special Topics Report concludes that a reliable statewide estimate of the number -- and characteristics -- of unaccompanied homeless youth does not exist. It explains why data are difficult to collect and youth are undercounted, in part due to different definitions and because homeless youth are a largely hidden population. Data are primarily reported by the local level to the federal level. This report describes the specific federal -- and state -- data sources that provide information on homeless youth. It also presents Action Steps developed by the California Homeless Youth Project and a diverse group of stakeholders for developing a reliable statewide estimate.]

[Request #S10-20-5331]

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No Way Home: Understanding the Needs and Experiences of Homeless Youth in Hollywood. By Susan Rabinovitz and others, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, (Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership, Los Angeles California) November 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: http://www.hhyp.org/downloads/HHYP_TCE_Report_11-17-10.pdf

[This report presents findings from a comprehensive needs assessment conducted with homeless youth in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles County during 2007 and 2008. It explores the pathways to homelessness for youth; their health status and educational and vocational needs; their service utilization and experiences; and particular risk factors for youth in the dependency and delinquency systems. It offers a set of recommendations for practice improvements and policy changes. The HHYP, a collaboration of eight homeless youth-serving agencies, designed the needs assessment in order to improve services and outcomes, reduce barriers to care, and effect changes in mainstream service systems that interface with homeless youth. Surveys were completed with 389 homeless youth, 19 focus groups were conducted with 137 youth and 53 qualitative interviews were conducted. Findings from the survey show that homeless youth in Hollywood tend to be English speaking, over 18, and male. Seventy-five percent (75%) were ages 18 to 25; 25% were minors 17 and under. Sixty percent (60%) were male, 32% were female, and 5% were transgender. Younger youth were more likely to be female than older

youth (50% vs. 26%). African American youth were overrepresented in the Hollywood homeless youth population (42% of youth) and Latinos were underrepresented (24% were Latino). Approximately 40% of youth reported their sexual orientation as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning. Forty percent of youth had been removed from their home by Child Protective Services, and 70% of youth surveyed reported involvement with either the juvenile or criminal justice systems.] [Request #S10-20-5332]

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Why They Run: An In-Depth Look at America's Runaway Youth. By Michael Pergamit, the Urban Institute, and others. (The National Runaway Switchboard, Chicago, Illinois) May 2010. 20 p.

Full text at:

http://www.nrscrisisline.org/media/documents/Why_They_Run_NRS_approved.pdf

[This report includes expert studies, National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) crisis caller trend data and results from a comprehensive research study compiled for NRS by the National Opinion Research Center that consists of one-on-one interviews with runaway and throwaway youth. This report examines existing data, trends, and interviews with youth in Chicago and Los Angeles. Results from the comprehensive research among runaways and throwaways, reveals that nearly 35 percent resort to panhandling, the single-most popular means of obtaining money. Two-thirds of street youth report having cell phone access some of the time. More than half report that friends know where they are, while 26 percent report that parents and 25 percent report that siblings know their whereabouts. Only 13 percent said that nobody knew where they were. More than 70 percent of the youth interviewed described their leaving home as occurring on the spur of the moment. Youth commonly describe a significant family conflict that has led to their departure.]

[Request #S10-20-5311]

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Thursday's Child: Runaway and Homeless Youth: Prevalence, Programs, and Policy. By Patrick Boyle, Youth Today, and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) April 2010. Audio program

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/events/thursdayschild/runaway_and_homeless_youth.cfm

[This is an archived audio recording of a public policy forum featuring five experts on youth homelessness. It addresses such questions as: What is left to be done at the federal, state, and local levels to address the needs of runaways and homeless youth? How are service providers coping with the varied life stories of the 1.5-2

million young people who each year are homeless and unaccompanied by an adult for at least one night? According to a new snapshot of runaways published by the Urban Institute, roughly half of all youth who leave home without parental permission or knowledge do so more than once, with girls more likely to be repeat runaways. Many runaways become homeless because family reunification is not an option. Other young people end up on the street or in a shelter because they are abandoned by their parents, are forced to leave home, age out of foster care, or are released from the juvenile justice system.]

[Request #S10-20-5312]

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Too Big to Ignore: Youth Homelessness in California. By Michele Byrnes and others, The John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes. (California Coalition for Youth, Sacramento, California) November 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.calyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/Too-Big-to-Ignore.pdf>

[This report analyzes the primary barriers at the local, state and federal levels that have prevented the development of a statewide plan to address youth homelessness. Interviews for this report were conducted with 32 individuals over a six-week period in the summer of 2009. This group included 12 representatives of the nonprofit sector, four elected officials and their staff, and 16 youth policy experts. The interview team explored a series of questions focused on identifying policy options to reduce youth homelessness in California. This report includes both short-term strategies that draw on existing resources as well as long-term strategies that would require new public investment. These strategies include building the capacity of homeless youth providers to apply for existing local, state and federal funding; promoting collaboration between child welfare services and homeless youth service providers; and addressing youth homelessness through the State Interagency Team for Children and Youth.]

[Request #S10-20-5313]

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"Recession Drives Surge in Youth Runaways." AND: "For Runaways, Sex Buys Survival" By Ian Urbina. IN: The New York Times, October 26-27, 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at:

http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/features/timestopics/series/running_in_the_shadows/index.html?s=oldest&

[This series of articles focuses on the growing number of young runaways in the United States, exploring how they survive and efforts by the authorities to help them. As more families face economic hardships, experts have seen an increasing number of children leave home for life on the streets, including many under 13. Nearly a third of the children who flee home engage in sex for food, drugs or a place to stay, studies have found. This series has become the centerpiece of the 2010 National Runaway and Homeless Youth Month.]

[Request #S10-20-5314]

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Voices from the Street: Homeless Youth Speak Out on State Policy. By the California Research Bureau and New America Media. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) March 2009. Video.

Full text at: <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/Videos/DVD/voices01.html>

[This 30 minute video presents the major findings of the California Homeless Youth Project survey and the policy recommendations generated at six seminars held in Sacramento in 2007-08. In this video, young people, adult experts, researchers and service providers discuss the issues related to youth homelessness.]

[Request #S10-20-5333]

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Voices from the Street: A Survey of Homeless Youth by Their Peers. By Nell Bernstein and Lisa K. Foster, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-004. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) March 2008. 133 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-004.pdf>

[To shed light on this group of hidden and vulnerable young people, the California Research Bureau conducted a survey in which homeless and formerly homeless youth completed over 200 interviews with their homeless peers across the state. The youth interviewed describe their experiences -- how they became homeless, what life on the street is like, their interactions with police, their education and aspirations, their mental health experiences, how they go about getting help and the services they need, and the changes they would like to see happen in policy or law. These policy recommendations included undoing the criminalization of homelessness, specifically -- decriminalizing outdoor sleeping and squatting, changes to panhandling and loitering laws, and increased police sensitivity, as well as laws mandating that homeless youth have a place to stay, including creating more affordable or supported housing.]

[Request #S10-20-5315]

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Understanding Homeless Youth: Numbers, Characteristics, Multisystem Involvement, and Intervention Options. Testimony Before the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means. By Martha R. Burt, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 19, 2007. 14 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901087_Burt_Homeless.pdf

[This testimony was given before the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support. It addresses the number of homeless youth nationally, their characteristics, the factors that predispose youth to become homeless, and the most promising points and types of intervention. For youth age 12-17, it is estimated that 1.6 to 1.7 million are homeless over the course of a year, with about 300,000 to 400,000 homeless on any given day. Street youth tend to be male, while sheltered youth have equal proportions of males and females. There is a large over-representation of sexual minority youth -- 11 to 35 percent in street samples. Homeless youth are three times as likely as national samples of youth to be pregnant, to have impregnated someone, or to already be a parent. Burt suggests that interventions should be targeted at "multi-problem youth," youth who are involved with two or more public systems, because they are the least likely to make progress without an outside intervention. She also suggests that the most promising intervention points are when youth are leaving these public systems, such as foster care, juvenile justice, substance abuse treatment, and psychiatric hospitalization.]

[Request #S10-20-5316]

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Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and Intervention Approaches. By Paul A. Toro, Wayne State University, and others. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC) September 2007. 33 p.

Full text at: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/homeless/p6.html>

[This paper summarizes the existing literature and reviews findings on the homeless youth population and interventions developed to address their housing and service needs. These include interventions directed at youth themselves (education, employment, social skills training) as well as family-focused strategies. The authors conclude with future directions for both research and practice. Research strategies include exploring the pathways that lead to homelessness and how they operate, evaluating various interventions among different homeless populations (such as street youth, runaway youth, systems youth, rural youth, etc.) to see which are most effective, evaluate both universal and targeted approaches aimed toward preventing and/or ending youth homelessness, and research the individual and environmental circumstances that argue for and against familial reunification.][Request #S10-20-5317]

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Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics, Programs, and Emerging Issues.
By Adrienne L. Fernandes, Congressional Research Service, Library of
Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) December 2007. 39 p.

Full text at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/1451>

["This Congressional Research Service report describes homeless and runaway youth, including related factors and risks. It describes the evolution of federal policy, programs and funding support for this population, and also discusses emerging issues such as runaway and homeless youth as "disconnected youth" and youth outcomes. Essentially, from the early 20th century through the 1960s, the problem of youth homelessness was handled locally through child welfare or juvenile justice systems. In the 1970s there was a shift toward federal oversight of programs that help youth. In 1974, Congress passed the Runaway Youth Act to assist runaways outside of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The scope of the act was expanded in 1977 to include homeless youth through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. The law currently authorizes federal funding for three programs -- the Basic Center Program, Transitional Living Program, and Street Outreach Program.]

[Request #S10-20-5318]

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FOSTER YOUTH AND OTHER SYSTEM YOUTH

"Vulnerable Populations and the Transition to Adulthood." By D. Wayne Osgood and others. IN: The Future of Children, vol. 20, no. 1 (Spring 2010) pp. 209-229

Full text at:

http://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/docs/20_01_10.pdf

["This report examines the transition to adulthood for youth involved in social service and justice systems during childhood and adolescence. The authors reviewed current public policies directed toward vulnerable youth in transition and find problems in four areas: eligibility criteria that exclude youth from services that might benefit them, inadequate funding for transition services, a lack of coordination across service systems, and inadequate training about young-adult developmental issues for service professionals. The authors then discuss policy options that can help create a developmentally appropriate and socially inclusive system of support for vulnerable youth. Among the options are strengthening all programs for youth in transition, improving the existing systems of care for children and adolescents, addressing the loss of access to services at the age of majority, and

coordinating today's multiple systems into a single coherent system. The authors see heightened governmental interest in better supports for vulnerable young adults, both through expanding the federal role in their lives and through improving coordination of the systems that serve them.][Request #S10-20-5319]

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My So-Called Emancipation: From Foster Care to Homelessness for California Youth. By Elizabeth Calvin, Human Rights Watch. (Human Rights Watch, New York, New York) May 2010. 76 p.

Full text at: <http://www.hrw.org/node/90219>

[This report documents the struggles of foster care youth who become homeless after turning 18, or "aging out" of the state's care, without sufficient preparation or support for adulthood. This report analyzes the California Foster Care System, youth transitioning from foster care to homelessness, the process of leaving homelessness behind, and offers detailed recommendations for this population. Key recommendations from this report include extending support for youth in foster care beyond age 18, guaranteeing that youth have useful emancipation plans, creating real opportunities for youth to develop skills for independence, and helping youth establish relationships that extend beyond emancipation.]

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER YOUTH

On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth. By Nico Sifra Quintana, Congressional Hunger Center, and others. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) June 2010. 41 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/06/pdf/lgbtyouthhomelessness.pdf>

[This report examines gay and transgender youth homelessness and provides a blueprint for action. It addresses the consequences of stigma and discrimination for gay and transgender homeless youth, family rejection, lower educational attainment, physical and sexual assault, and mental health risks. This report also offers several key federal policy recommendations. These include strengthening and supporting families with gay and transgender children so youth do not become homeless, establishing schools as a safe refuge for all children and youth, expanding housing options for gay and transgender homeless youth, and initiating research on gay and transgender youth homelessness.][Request #S10-20-5321]

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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness.
By Nicholas Ray, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) 2006. 199 p.

Full text at: <http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/HomelessYouth.pdf>

[This is an in-depth report on Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgendered youth within the homeless population. It examines the number of LBGT youth, how they become homeless, critical issues they face, and what policies and programs have been enacted specifically for this population. This report highlights several alarming statistics found in a review of the literature, among them, 26 percent of gay teens who came out to their parents/guardians were told they must leave home; LGBT youth also leave home due to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Homeless LGBT youth are more likely to: use drugs, participate in sex work, and attempt suicide. Also, LGBT youth report they are threatened, belittled and abused at shelters by staff as well as other residents.]

[Request #S10-20-5322]

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EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

A Critical Moment: Child and Youth Homelessness in Our Nation's Schools.
By the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
(The Association, Washington, DC) July 2010. 5 p.

Full text at: http://www.naehcy.org/dl/crit_mom.pdf

[The NAEHCY prepared an issue brief that summarizes recent federal data, as well as findings from a national survey of school districts and state departments of education. These findings show a 41% increase in the number of homeless students identified and enrolled in public schools over a two-year period. School district liaisons' perceptions of the causes of this increase, as well as barriers to education, are also discussed along with the use of federal homeless education stimulus dollars to provide assistance to homeless children, youth, and families. This brief also addresses the role the economic downturn has played in children suffering from and at-risk for homelessness.]

[Request #S10-20-5323]

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Transitions to Adulthood for Homeless Adolescents: Education and Public Policy. By William G. Tierney and others, Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) April 2008. 44 p.

Full text at: http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/pdf/Homeless_Youth_final.pdf

[The purpose of this research was to understand the experiences of homeless youth and the educational barriers they face. CHEPA researchers spent 18 months interviewing homeless youth ages 14-19 and shelter staff in Los Angeles, and documenting the experiences and challenges of the youth. This study defines the typologies of homeless youth and explores existing legislation and policy concerning this population; it suggests strategies beyond those required by the McKinney-Vento Act for states and districts to adopt.]

[Request #S10-20-5324]

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The Educational Success of Homeless Youth in California: Challenges and Solutions. By Patricia F. Julianelle, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. CRB-07-012. (California Research Bureau, Sacramento, California) October 2007. 70 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/07-012.pdf>

[Most homeless youth who are on their own are not in school. Yet the majority of homeless and formerly homeless youth recently surveyed by the California Research Bureau expressed the desire to return to school and have life goals that require extensive education to achieve. This report discusses key issues related to the challenges homeless youth face in achieving their educational goals. It describes federal and state programs and funding, identifies successful practices and model programs, and presents policy options that address these challenges.]

[Request #S10-20-5325]

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MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Relationships Beget Relationships: Why Understanding Attachment Theory is Crucial to Program Design for Homeless Youth. By Toni Vaughn Heineman, A Home Within. (California Homeless Youth Project, Sacramento, California) June 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/HYP-Report.pdf>

[This report explores how attachment theory can provide useful insights about the reasons homeless youth may not easily accept the help and support adults offer, and provides answers to help develop policies and programs to successfully address the youth's needs. The major implication of this report is that service providers need an understanding of attachment patterns resulting from early trauma if they are to be effective in working with homeless youth. Expecting these youth to respond to adults and programs through a secure attachment lens is not only inappropriate but may also re-traumatize them. As a result, unconditional support must often come before any expectations or requirements are placed on youth service providers are working to assist. This nonjudgmental, consistent caring can be an important first step in counteracting the insecure attachment patterns some of these youth formed in early childhood.]
[Request #S10-20-5326]

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Mental Health and Emerging Adulthood among Homeless Young People. By Les B. Whitbeck. (Psychology Press, East Sussex, United Kingdom) April 2009. 319 p.

Full text at: <http://www.psypress.com/mental-health-and-emerging-adulthood-among-homeless-young-people-9781841697529>

[This book provides information gathered during a 3-year longitudinal study of homeless youth in several Midwestern cities. The purpose of this study was to collect data on young people approximately 16–19 through 19–22 years of age to assess the effects of homelessness on their mental health over time during this critical period of development. The book includes in-depth interviews that shed light on what happens to youth who run away from homes and live on the streets. The authors report high levels of psychological problems associated with victimization prior to and after running away. These victimization experiences shape the behaviors of these young people, affecting their relationships with others and their chances of appropriate development and adjustment to adulthood. Over time, the more successful their adaptation to street life and the street economy, the more barriers to conventional adult life emerge.]
[Request #S10-20-5334]

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Trauma Among Homeless Youth. By Arlene Schneir, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and others. (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Rockville, Maryland) 2007. 7 p.

Full text at:
http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/culture_and_trauma_brief_v2n1_HomelessYouth.pdf

[This brief discusses why youth leave home and explores the types of trauma (trauma at home and on the streets), as well as the consequences experienced by runaway and homeless youth, such as substance abuse, survival sex, parenthood, dependence on other street youth, lower educational attainment, and mental health issues. It also identifies treatment considerations based on focus groups of homeless youth conducted by Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Youth reported that they wanted their mental health providers to be nonjudgmental, have a good sense of humor, empower rather than enable, offer choices instead of advice, and build trust to establish confidentiality, among other things.]

[Request #S10-20-5327]

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Working with Homeless and Runaway Youth. By Arlene Schneir, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Daniel Ballin, Covenant House California. (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Rockville, Maryland) 2007. Video

Full text at:

<http://mediasite.nctsn.org/NCTSN/Viewer/Viewers/Viewer240TL.aspx?mode=Default&pid=45106c30-0c80-4ea3-baa4-a8c69061f0ad&playerType=WM7&mode=Default&shouldResize=true&pid=d439e8d1-dcc6-4ec3-90bc-23255ae70ff8&playerType=WM7>

[The speakers in this teleconference identify the number and characteristics of homeless youth in the U.S., review the unique aspects of trauma for runaway and homeless youth, and identify the key treatment implications for this population. They discuss whether homeless youth are a cultural group and why it is important to understand the cultural context for the behaviors exhibited by runaway and homeless youth. The speakers identify the culture of youth homelessness around their shared history of trauma, oppression, and discrimination. This network of service providers and researchers have found that adolescents are at greater risk of homelessness than adults, eight percent of youth have had an episode of homelessness, up to 30% of homeless youth have been sexually abused and up to 60% have been physically abused. Much of this trauma is perpetrated by caregivers, and their unique trauma histories need to be integrated into treatment.]

[Request #S10-20-5328]

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HOUSING AND SERVICES

Counting Homeless Youth. By the National Alliance to End Homelessness. (The Alliance, Washington, DC) October, 2010. 5 p.

Full text at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/3475>

[In this brief, “the Alliance encourages communities to fully include homeless youth in local Point in Time (PIT) counts that will be conducted in January 2011. Too often, PIT counts fail to account for unaccompanied youth age 24 or under who are homeless. As a result, the extent of homelessness within communities is inaccurately portrayed and local plans to end homelessness neglect the needs of unaccompanied youth. Local communities can act now to ensure that unaccompanied youth age 24 and under are included in the 2011 PIT count by using the recommended steps outlined in this brief. Step 1: Ensure that the community’s plan to conduct a PIT count incorporates strategies to identify and survey youth age 24 and under who are experiencing homelessness. Step 2: Map out locations and sources of data collection. Step 3: Facilitate collection of data. Step 4: Promote the quality of data gathered. Step 5: Analyze data on youth homelessness.”][Request #S10-20-5335]

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New Homes, Brighter Futures: Profiles of Housing Programs for Young Adults. By the Corporation for Supportive Housing. (The Corporation, New York, New York) September 2007. 32 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.csh.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=4017&nodeID>

[This report presents information on promising supportive housing models for youth who are homeless or are at-risk of homelessness. It discusses the role of supportive housing in ending homelessness among young adults and recommends practices for housing providers. In particular, it encourages housing providers to design flexible intake and admission processes, provide comprehensive supportive services, infuse an understanding of adolescent development into program design, and create space for ongoing input. This report also profiles nine permanent and transitional housing models, including five in California.]
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LAW ENFORCEMENT: CRIMINALIZATION & VICTIMIZATION

Surviving Crime and Violence: Street Youth and Victimization in Toronto. By Stephen Gaetz. York University, and others. (Justice for Children and Youth, Toronto, Ontario) September 2010. 97 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.homelesshub.ca/ResourceFiles/Surviving%20the%20Streets.JFCY.September16.2010.pdf>

[Two hundred and forty-four homeless youth in Toronto were interviewed in 2009 about life on the streets, including their experiences of criminal victimization. While street youth are often portrayed in public discussions as dangerous, threatening and delinquent, this new research highlights the degree to which it is street youth themselves who are clearly vulnerable to crime and violence. The findings of this research reveal that street youth are victimized frequently, in large part due to the vulnerabilities that young people face when they are homeless. Particularly concerning are the findings which indicate that interventions to this victimization are not being effectively addressed by the criminal justice and shelter systems or by other professionals involved in the lives of street youth. This study suggests that street youth deserve a higher level of attention in responding to and preventing crime and violence than they currently receive, and that such attention is needed so that street youth have an opportunity to move forward in life.]

[Request #S10-20-5330]

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California's Response to Homeless Youth: An Overview of Ordinances, Law Enforcement, and Services in Key California Jurisdictions. By Tom Anderson and others, Public Law Research Institute, UC Hastings College of the Law. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) Spring 2007. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/Laws-Legislation-PublicLawResearchReport.pdf>

[This report surveys recent developments in the policies and procedures of ten key California cities and counties directed at the problem of juvenile homelessness. It addresses ordinances, law enforcement practices, and city and county policies and programs that affect juveniles, even if they are targeted at the general homeless population. These laws are often referred to as "Quality of Life" offenses and seek to prevent behaviors like panhandling, illegal camping, public defecation, and sitting or lying on the sidewalk. Certain trends were found when analyzing the constitutional limits of laws that primarily affect homeless people: 1) local governments struggle to develop and enforce laws which focus on addressing the

problems associated with homelessness; 2) homeless advocates file lawsuits challenging laws that may violate the constitutional rights of this population; and then, 3) the courts strike down these laws as unconstitutional or limit the ways in which local governments may enforce these laws.]

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