



Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment

SNH CoC Board Presentation

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Background

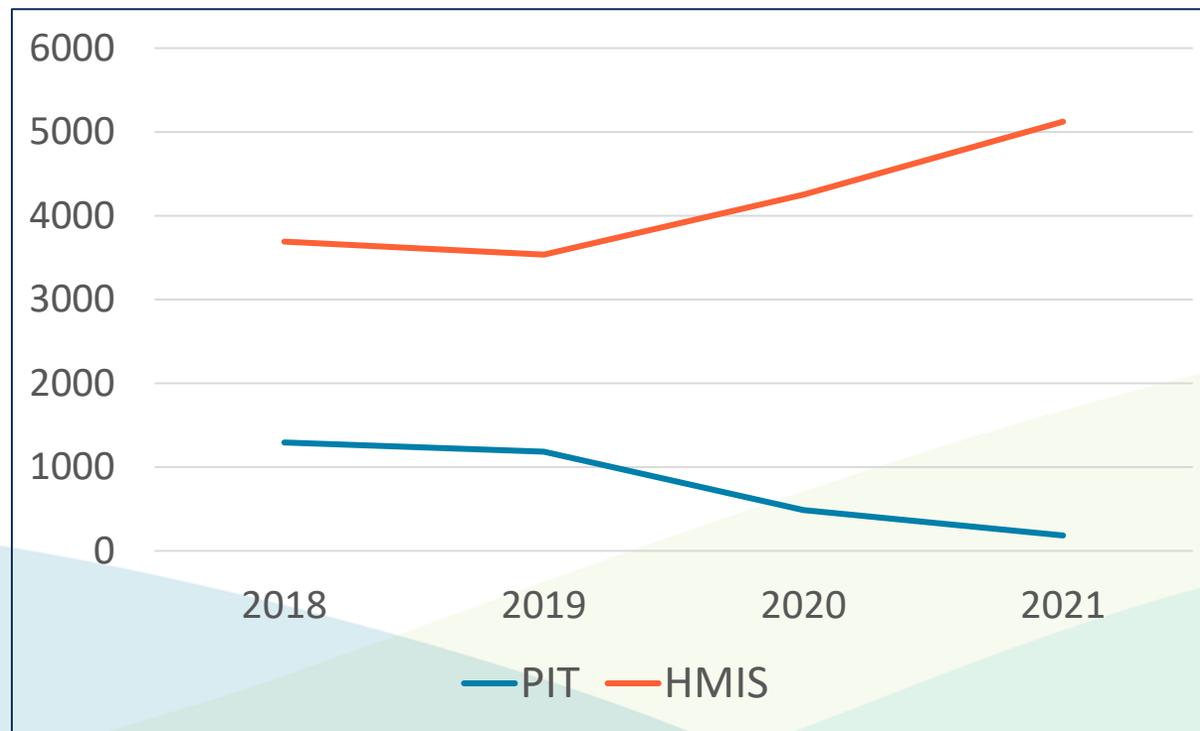
How did we get here?

- TAC hired in spring of 2022 to complete youth needs assessment as update to Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness, began meeting with leadership
- Assembled Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team to meet biweekly
 - ▶ Established data collection plan, gathering data through the summer
 - ▶ Analyzed data during meetings
- TAC conducted 10+ interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders and community partners
- TAC came on-site in early September to meet with CQI in person, conduct focus groups with youth
- Written needs assessment inclusive of all quantitative and qualitative data collected

Who is experiencing youth homelessness in Southern Nevada?

What do the numbers tell us?

- While the Point in Time Count has gone down significantly since 2017, the number of unaccompanied youth enrollments in transitional housing, emergency shelter, and street outreach has increased according to HMIS data



Demographic Characteristics

- 50 % of youth served were Black; highlighting a significant overrepresentation Black people make up only 12.7% of the general population in Clark County.
- 5% of youth served were unaccompanied minors between the ages of 12-17
- 20% of youth served were Hispanic/Latinx
- Less than 1% of youth identified as transgender or a gender other than singularly male or female (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, a culturally specific gender)
- 285 youth identified their sexual orientation as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning/unsure
- 9% of youth served were experiencing chronic homelessness

Youth Served by System Partners

- **Clark County School District** reported an average of 296 unaccompanied homeless youth each school year from SY2018-2019 to present, the overwhelming majority of whom are doubled up/couch surfing
- Between 100-135 youth aged out of **foster care** each year from 2018-2021 and approximately 7-12% of those youth exited as unknown destination/runaway. 78% of youth who exited Step Up's programming in 2021 exited to permanent destinations
- Homelessness and housing instability are not currently collected or tracked in any standardized way – not possible to determine total number of youth with **juvenile justice** involvement who are experiencing homelessness

What are the needs of youth experiencing homelessness in Southern Nevada?

Youth Needs – Safety

- When reporting ‘reasons for lack of stable housing’ during the SN Youth Assessment, between 17-20% of responses reported **violence at home between family members** as a reason each year from 2018-2021
- Similarly, between 28-30% of responses indicated **unhealthy or abusive relationship, either at home or elsewhere** as a reason
- The Embracing Project serves upwards of **300 youth** each year who are involved in sex work or commercial sexual exploitation. Anecdotally, they know that most of these youth are also struggling with housing stability
- Only youth who are enrolled in RHY funded programming are asked about involvement with sexual exploitation or labor trafficking – leading to what is likely a significant undercount

Youth Needs – Housing

- Most youth are not exiting crisis services (SO, ES, TH) to housing that includes rental assistance and/or supportive services
 - ▶ Majority of youth exiting to an apartment with no assistance or to the home of friends/family
- High percentage of youth who exit SO, ES, or TH with no exit interview/unknown destination – why are these youth falling through the cracks?
- Majority of youth currently on the community queue score in the ‘middle’ range with the TAY VI-SPDAT – meaning they are not as likely to meet prioritization criteria for housing resources
 - ▶ Stakeholder interviews and focus groups with both youth and adult partners indicated interest in improving CES policies and procedures

Youth Needs – Health

- In 2021, 60% of enrollments into SO, ES, or TH reported having no health insurance
- From 2018 to 2021, there is a 130% increase in the number of youth who reported a learning disability, developmental disability, or other impairment as the reason they had trouble maintaining housing
- Similarly, there is an 87% increase for youth who reported a past head injury and a 24% increase for youth who reported mental health as factors contributing to their housing instability from 2018 to 2021
- Provider agencies report higher numbers of youth with significant mental health and substance use challenges, but it is not reflected in the HMIS data collected

Overall Key Findings

- Despite the decreasing PIT count, thousands of youth continue to experience various forms homelessness and housing instability and interact with the homeless response system each year
- Black youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness in Clark County
- The majority of youth are not accessing housing assistance through coordinated entry (e.g., the CoC's housing inventory)
- Based on the SNH CoC coordinated entry assessment approach, most youth are scoring in a range that does not qualify them as households with the highest level of need. This often creates a swell of people in the 'middle' range of a coordinated entry system's prioritization list who do not have access to a housing resource because they do not meet prioritization criteria.
- Poverty (including generational poverty) and a difficult housing market significantly impact the issue of youth homelessness in Clark County
- Youth and the systems that serve them will benefit from increased coordination, collaboration, and data sharing between the many systems and partners that interact with youth experiencing and at-risk of homelessness

Thank you!

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