



Youth REACH MD

Reach out, Engage, Assist, & Count to end Homelessness

www.youthreachmd.com



What is Youth REACH MD?

Maryland's multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive survey and census of unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness

- To learn how many youth are experiencing homelessness
- To better understand who they are and their experiences
- To learn how to engage with and help youth experiencing homelessness
- To increase awareness of youth homelessness
- To engage local community members, youth and young adults, and federal, state and local constituencies in preventing and ending youth homelessness
- To track progress in understanding and meeting the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults over time
- To meet the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness goal to end youth homelessness by 2020



Defining Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- 24 years of age or younger
- Not in the physical custody or care of a parent/legal guardian
- Lacks a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence

This definition includes youth who are:

- Doubled Up
- Couch-surfing
- Pregnant/parenting
- On runaway
- At imminent risk of losing their housing and have no other alternatives



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"A Hidden Population"

Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- Have diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Differ from other homeless populations
- Are largely understudied
- Face greater risks for
 - Victimization
 - Exploitation
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health challenges
 - Poor physical health
 - Inadequate Education
 - Lack of preparation for the workforce

Quotes from 2017 Survey participants

People like me need jobs and a place to live and to feel safe.

We need help.

Help the youth so we can prevent the next homeless generation.

Pay attention, not many kids will actually express their problems.

Through my last two years I spent homeless, self-confidence and a meal were the hardest part...It's easy to feel like a burden.

There are others out there like me.



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Youth REACH MD History & Progress

- 2013** The Maryland General Assembly established the Unaccompanied Homelessness Youth Task Force to recommend state action to address youth homelessness.
- 2014** Based on the Task Force's recommendations, The General Assembly established a demonstration project to identify the number of unaccompanied homeless youth in six regions of the state.
- 2015** Youth REACH MD held the first pilot Youth Count in 8 counties
- 2017** Youth REACH MD held the second expanded Youth Count in 18 counties
- 2018** Youth REACH MD held its third Youth Count in 20 of 24 counties
- 2019** Youth REACH MD is focused on increasing local and state capacity to act on Youth Count findings by supporting increased youth engagement within local and state system planning efforts
- 2020** Youth REACH MD will conduct its fourth Youth Count



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Guided by Collaboration across Stakeholders

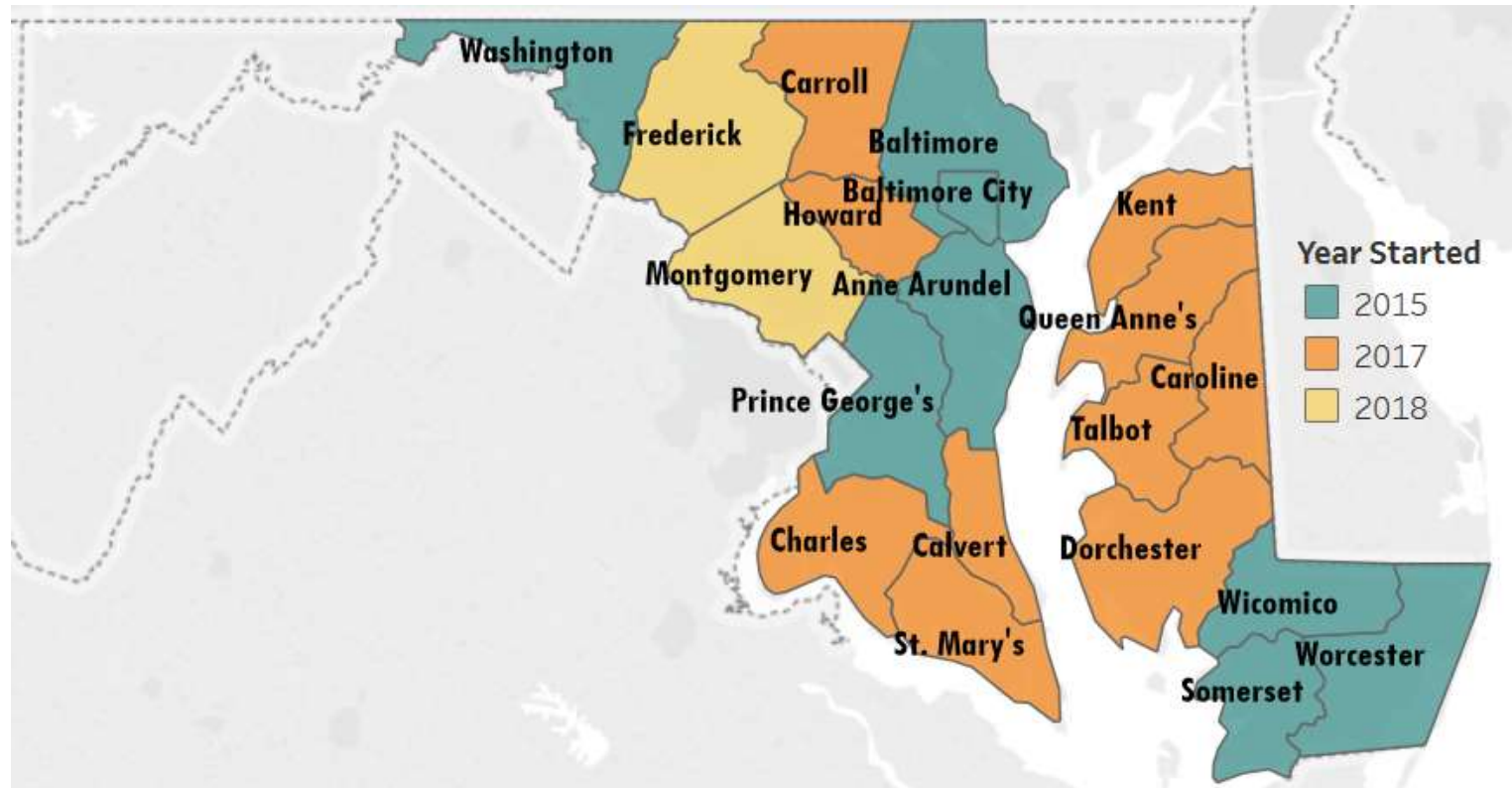


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Participating Continuums of Care

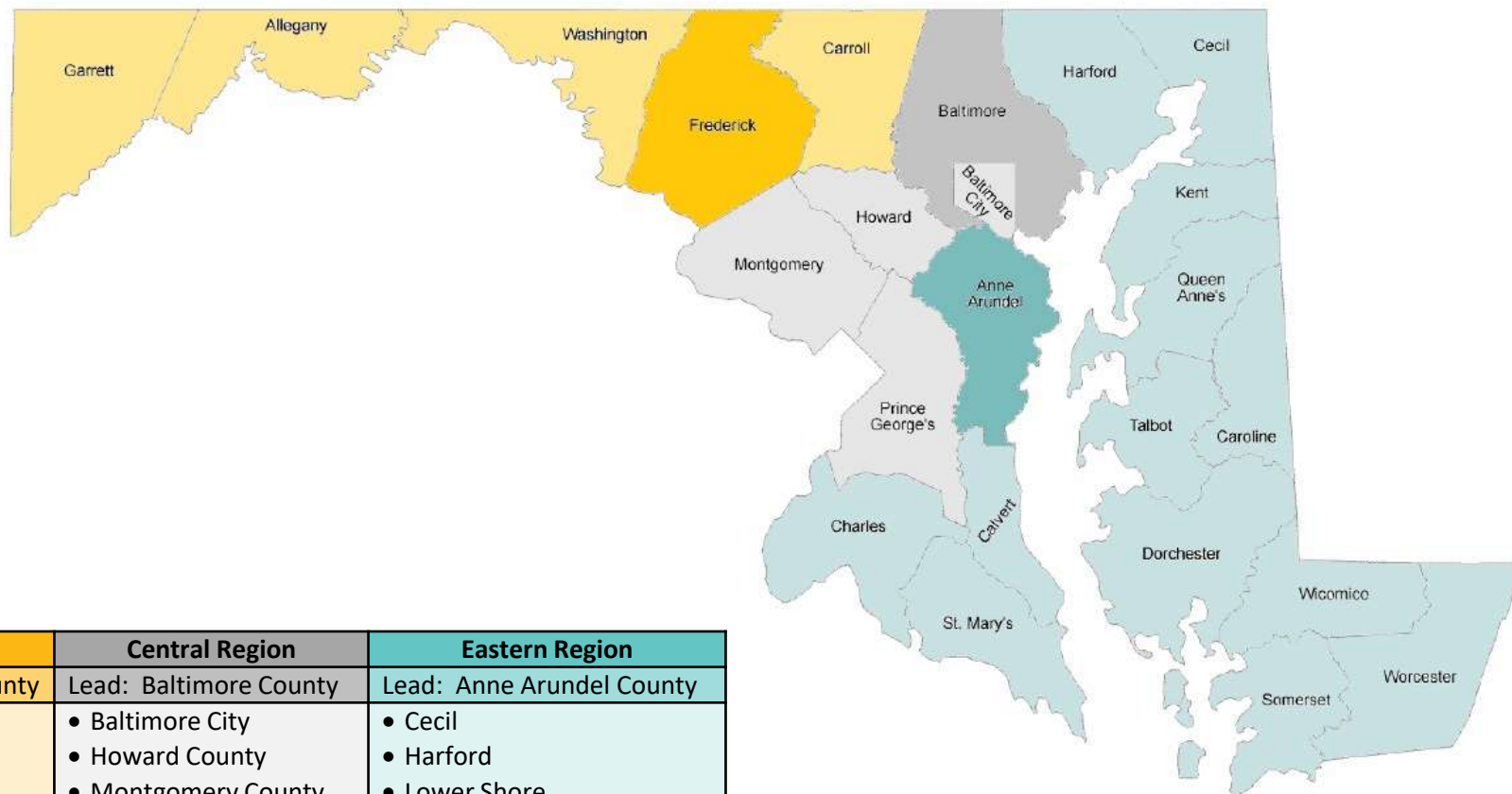
Local CoC planning workgroups are the core of Youth REACH MD



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Regional Implementation Support Structure



Western Region	Central Region	Eastern Region
Lead: Frederick County	Lead: Baltimore County	Lead: Anne Arundel County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegany County • Carroll County • Garrett County • Washington County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltimore City • Howard County • Montgomery County • Prince George's County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cecil • Harford • Lower Shore • Mid-Shore • Southern MD



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The Youth Count Survey

Survey Questions Assess:

- General Location
- Demographics
- Living Situation
- Housing History
- Education
- System Involvement
- Pregnancy and Parenting Status
- Services and Supports Sought/Needed
- Barriers to Accessing Services/Supports
- Income Sources



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Count Components

Service-Based Count

- Youth who utilize the services offered by participating providers during the survey period (e.g. shelters, food banks, libraries, etc.)

Magnet Events

- Youth attending special events designed to draw youth experiencing homelessness during the survey period (e.g. resource fairs) are surveyed

Street Count

- Youth found through canvassing by outreach teams at key locations where youth are likely to be (e.g. parks, laundry mats, etc.) are surveyed

School-based Count

- Youth who may be experiencing homelessness are identified and surveyed by pupil personnel workers or other school staff at school



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Youth Ambassadors

Youth and Young Adults are key to a successful Youth Count. They help by:

- Participating in identification of places youth are likely to be
- Mapping routes for survey administration
- Developing scripts to use when approaching youth
- Administering surveys
- Developing marketing materials and strategies
- Assisting in magnet event planning
- Selecting survey participation incentives
- Acting as ambassadors for the project
- Promoting the count in their communities



Supporting Youth through the Youth Count

It is important to develop strategies to provide assistance for youth identified in the Youth Count.

Some Options include:

- 'Need Help' cards to collect information for follow-up assistance
- List local resources for youth on the Youth REACH website
- Have a designated contact to connect youth with during the count
- Make your local hotlines aware of the Youth Count



NEED HELP?

If you would like someone to follow up with you, fill out the form below and someone will contact you.

This information will be kept separate from your survey to make sure your survey answers stay confidential.

Name: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Email: _____

What is the best way to reach you? ☐ Phone Call ☐ Email ☐ Text

What is the best time to reach you? ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon ☐ Evening

If you were previously in foster care, there may be additional services available to you. Would you be interested in this? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Anything else we should know? _____



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Highlights from the 2018 Youth Count Findings



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2018 Youth Count Results

Continuum of Care	UHY meeting HUD		Total Youth Identified via Survey or HMIS
	Under 25, Unaccompanied & Unstably Housed	Definition (Category I)	
Anne Arundel Co	84	20	161
Baltimore City	281	103	1,504
Baltimore Co	87	30	265
Carroll Co	18	9	42
Frederick Co	48	23	145
Howard Co	28	5	85
Lower Shore	9	4	92
Mid-Shore	14	2	66
Montgomery Co	126	17	317
Prince George's Co	43	16	181
Southern MD	36	10	45
Washington Co	42	12	54
Total	816	251	2,957



YOU COUNT 2018



A Few Key Statistics

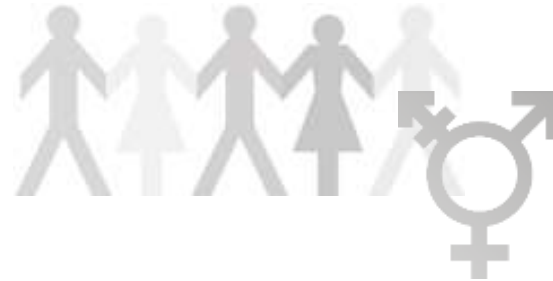
Highlight needs for parenting youth, education services, & decreasing disproportionality

14% were under the age of 18

78% identified as a person of color

59% identified as male

17% identified as LGBTQ



30% were a parent of a child

51% of these parents had custody of at least one child

9% were currently pregnant *(of those able to become pregnant)*

51% reported not having a high school diploma or GED

38% are currently enrolled in school

21% of these youth are in high school



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Some Top 3s...

Places Stayed in the Last 2 Months:

- House/apt of a friend (44%)
- Shelter/Motel (27%)
- House/apt of another family member (20%)

Reasons Not with Parent/Guardian:

- Family conflict (32%)
- Wanted to leave (29%)
- Youth drug/alcohol use (14%)

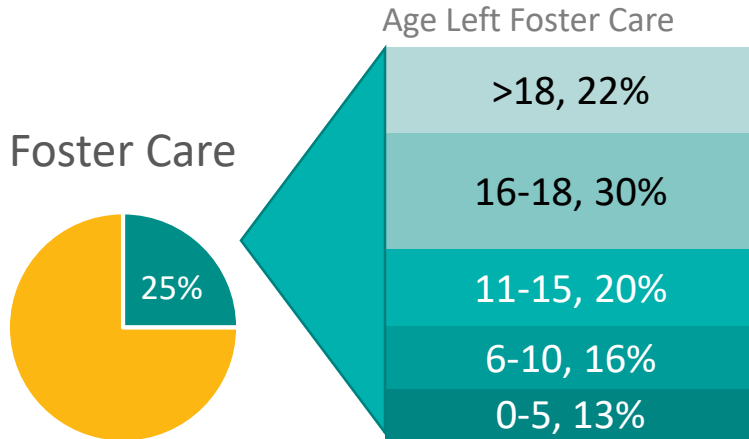
Sources of Income:

- Family/friends (28%)
- Part-time Job (27%)
- None (17%)
- SNAP Benefits (17%)

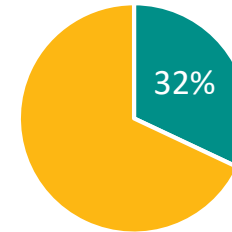


Institutional History

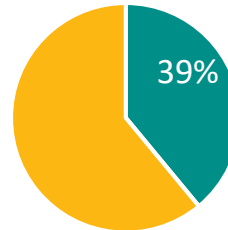
Frequent contact with public service systems suggests places to identify and support youth



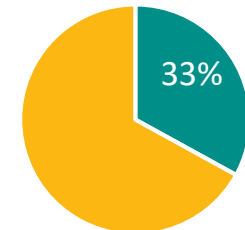
Residential Treatment



Jail

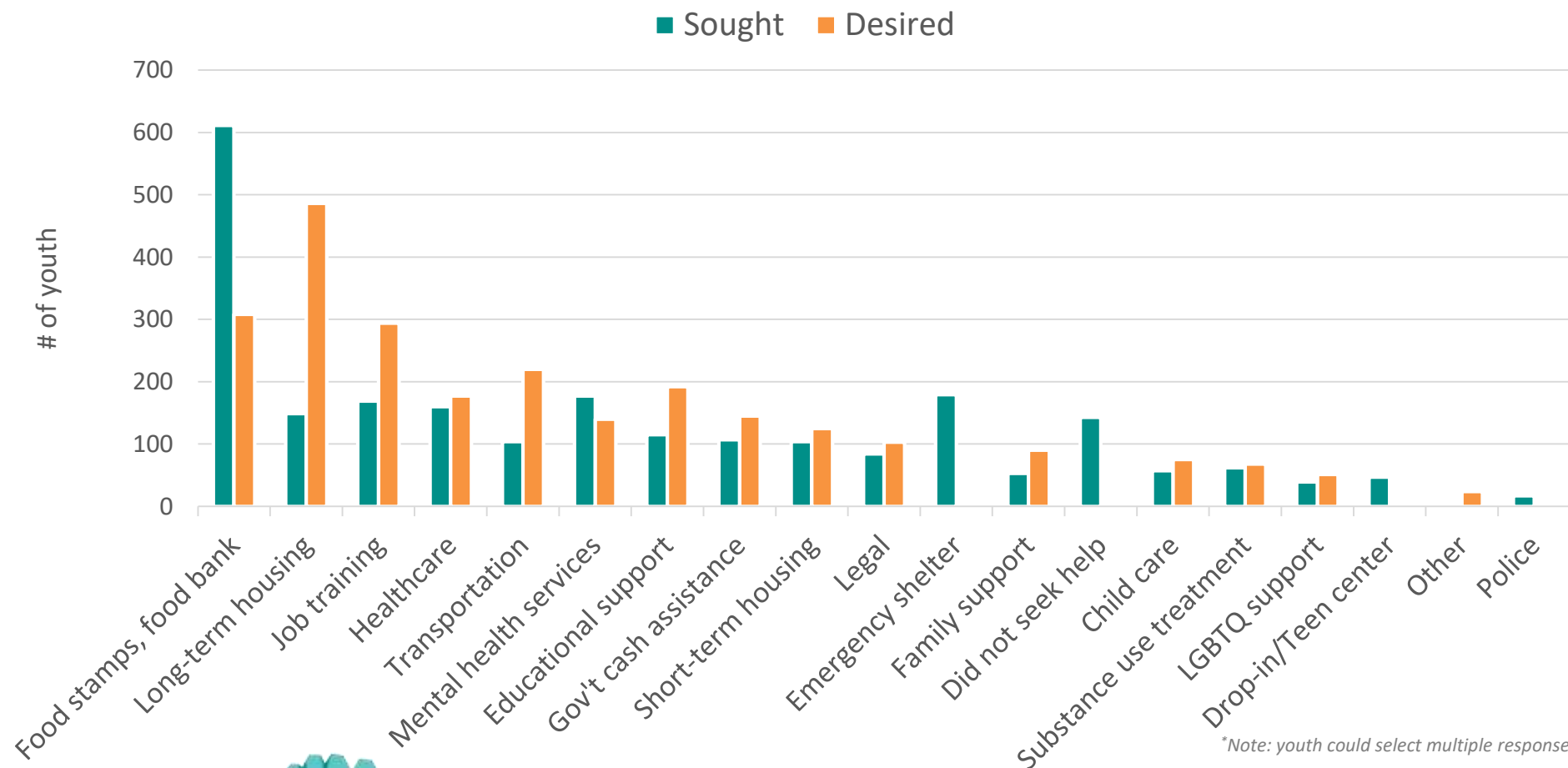


Juvenile Detention



Needed Services*

Youth report needing an array of services beyond housing, especially food and job training



*Note: youth could select multiple responses

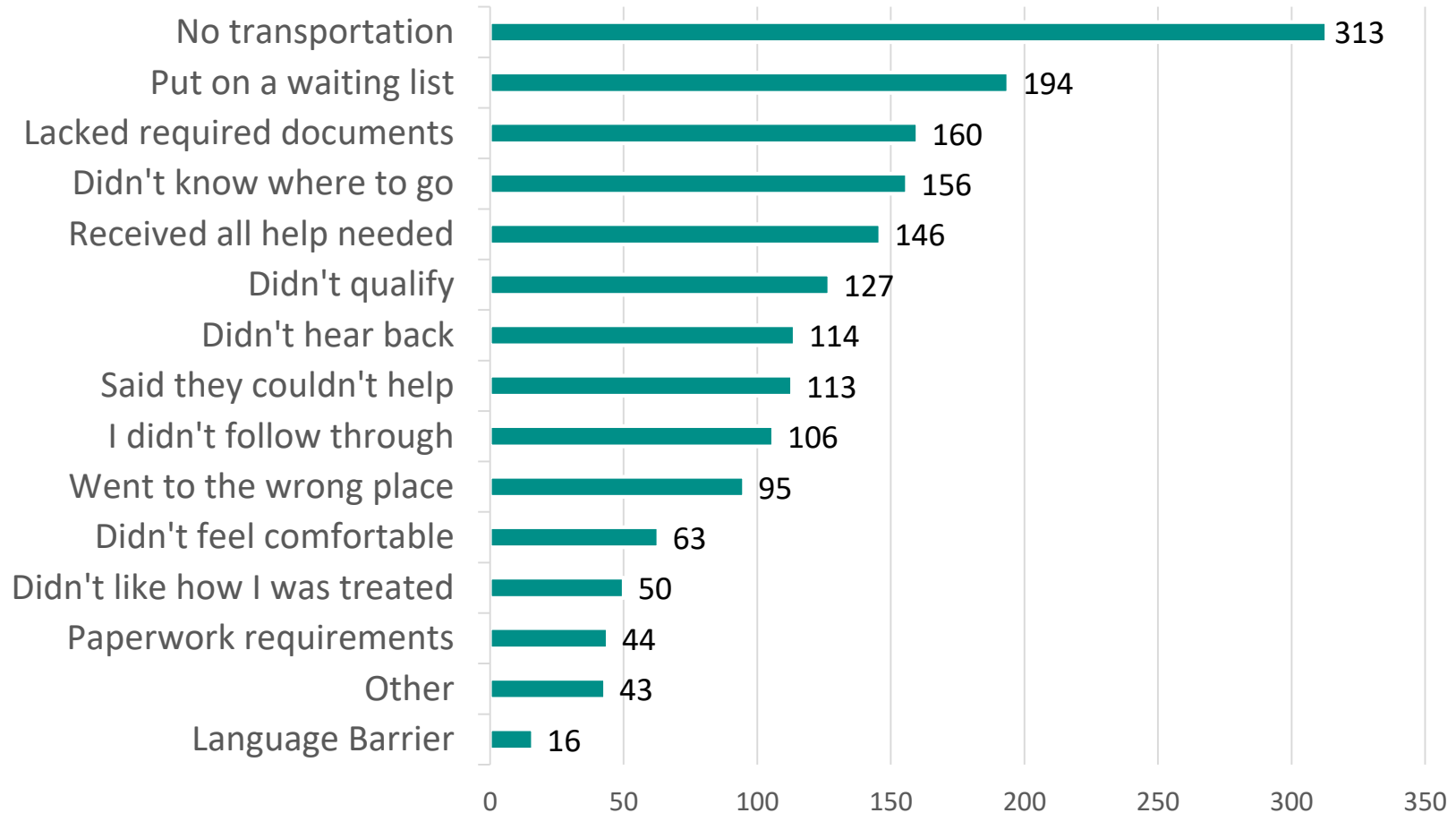


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Reported Barriers to Help*

Transportation and waiting lists remain most common; highlights areas for improvement



*Note: youth could select multiple responses



YOU COUNT. 2023



Lessons Learned



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Keys to a Successful Youth Count

- A broad array of community partners engaged in the planning
- Youth involved as much as possible
- Local knowledge driving the planning process
- Creative, targeted outreach methods
- Youth-centered methodology

These keys help reach youth not connected to traditional services



Some Local Impacts of Youth REACH MD

- Assistance to local youth identified through the Youth Count
- New CoC committees and/or youth advisory boards to address youth homelessness
- CoC applications to HUD and SAMHSA grants to establish new services for youth experiencing homelessness
- Additional grant funds awarded to CoCs and service providers to address youth homelessness
- Development and expansion of permanent supportive housing programs, youth drop-in centers
- Adult service providers focusing on recognizing and better serving youth
- Development of local strategic plans to address youth homelessness
- Participation in national initiatives to end youth homelessness
- Development of local outreach teams geared towards reaching youth



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When is the Next Youth Count?

Between **March 1 - April 12**



Each CoC picks 2 weeks for service and school counts
and up to 10 days designated street outreach



Questions?

For more information and resources, go to

YouthReachMD.com

or contact

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