

New York City Youth Count 2021

Estimating and Understanding Characteristics of Homeless and Unstably Housed Youth

Each year, NYC conducts a point-in-time count of homeless adults, families and youth based on the guidelines put forth by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This count comprises 1) The Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) to count unsheltered individuals on Tuesday January 26th, 2021; 2) censuses of transitional housing and emergency shelters to count individuals and families who were sheltered; and 3) a supplemental NYC Youth Count, administered by the Department of Youth and Community Development, to identify unsheltered youth who were not counted during the HOPE Count.

Citywide Youth Point-in-Time Count

Data based on the HOPE Count, NYC Youth Count and the census of all NYC shelters for youth ages 14 to 24

	Unsheltered	Sheltered		Total
		Emergency	Transitional	
Unaccompanied (single) Youth*	132	1,477	404	2,013
Parenting Youth	**	1,731	14	1,745
Children of Parenting Youth	**	1,959	17	1,976
Total	132	5,167	435	5,734

* Based on the HUD definition, unaccompanied youth are young people between the ages of 14 through 24. Totals for unaccompanied youth include results from HOPE Count and NYC Youth Count.

Youth Count Data: Overview of Surveys

The 2021 Youth Count took place from Wednesday, January 27th to Friday, January 29th. Youth were asked where they spent the night on Tuesday, January 26th (the same date as HOPE and the shelter census count). Program staff at the participating programs, which included drop-in centers, outreach teams and community centers, asked every participant ages 14 through 24 and under to participate in a short survey to better understand and estimate homeless and unstably housed youth.

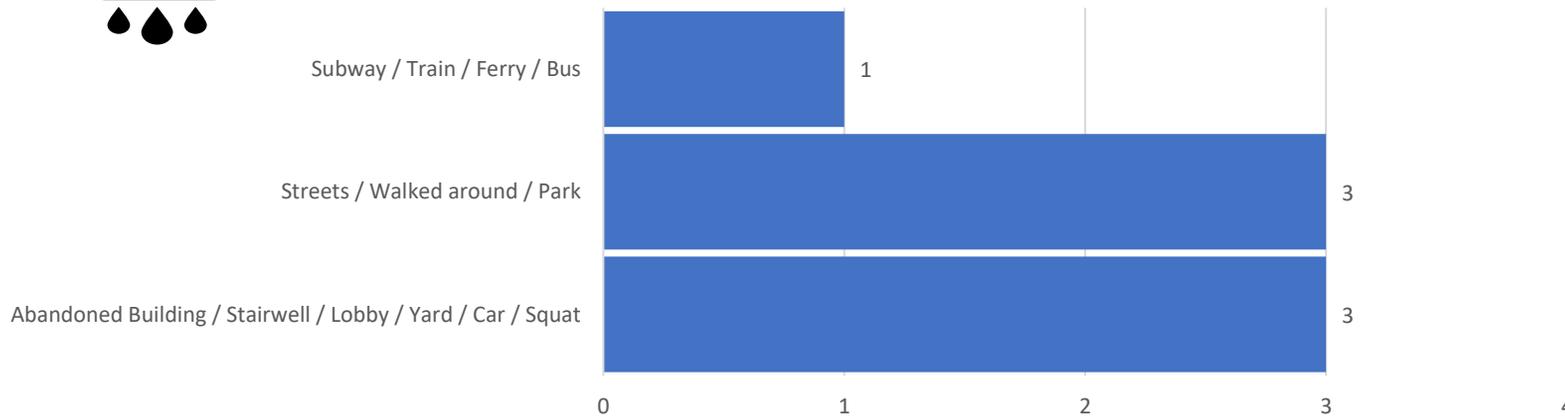
The living situation reported in the surveys (n= 459) was categorized based on where youth spent the night on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. The categories identified youth who were **1) unsheltered**, according to HUD’s definition of residing in a place not meant for human habitation **2) in an unstable living situation**, such as a shelter or couch surfing **3) in a presumed stable living situation**, such as in their parent/relative’s apartment or their own apartment.

Youth Count Results

The living situations where young people stayed are listed below. Please note that it was left to young people to characterize their living situation as stable or unstable. As a result, the ‘stable’ and ‘unstable’ labels cross over among the living situations. For example, “friend’s place” can be stable or unstable, depending on how a youth decided to characterize their situation (or experienced their situation). Please note that 1 young person identified as being outside of New York City on January 26, 2021.

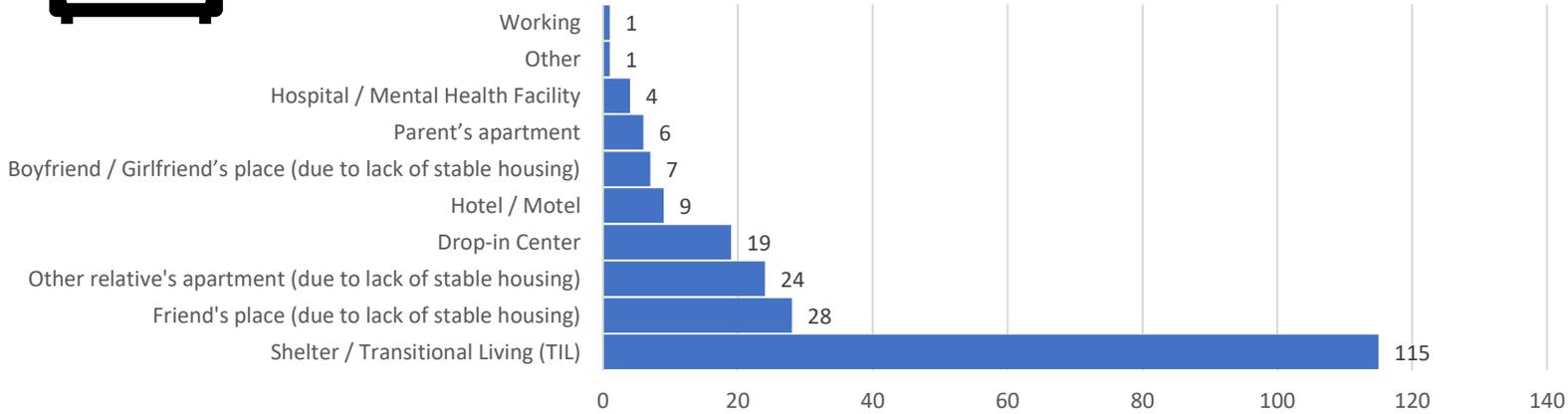


HUD UNSHELTERED ESTIMATE 7

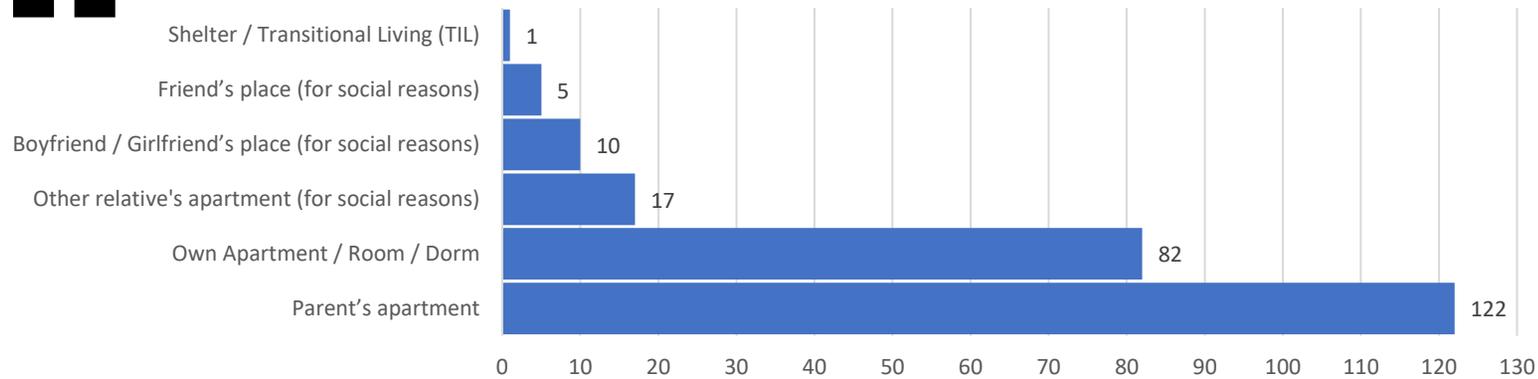




HUD UNSTABLE ESTIMATE 214



HUD STABLE ESTIMATE 237



Demographics by Living Situation

Youth were asked questions about their demographics and characteristics. Because the questions were not mandatory, the number of responses vary. These percentages may not be representative of the entire population.



Ethnicity by Living Situation

	 Unsheltered n=7	 Unstable n=186	 Stable n=207
Latinx	71%	36%	33%
Not Latinx	29%	51%	54%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Gender by Living Situation

	 Unsheltered n=7	 Unstable n=205	 Stable n=237
Male	43%	45%	66%
Female	29%	38%	29%
Transgender Male	0%	3%	1%
Transgender Female	7%	4%	1%
Transgender GNC	0%	0%	1%
Gender Non Binary	0%	5%	2%
Other	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Sexual Orientation by Living Situation

	 Unsheltered n=7	 Unstable n=196	 Stable n=224
Bisexual	0%	16%	8%
Gay	0%	9%	1%
Lesbian	0%	7%	2%
Other	0%	2%	0%
Pansexual	29%	9%	3%
Queer	0%	3%	0%
Questioning	0%	1%	0%
Straight	43%	53%	79%
Asexual	0%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Age by Living Situation

	 Unsheltered n=7	 Unstable n=213	 Stable n=239
<18	14%	3%	8%
18-20	29%	48%	22%
21-24	57%	48%	69%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Race by Living Situation

	 Unsheltered n=7	 Unstable n=199	 Stable n=203
American Indian / Alaskan Nat	0%	2%	1%
Asian	0%	2%	3%
Black / African American	14%	59%	62%
Multiple Race	29%	13%	5%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islan	0%	1%	1%
Other	14%	10%	7%
White	29%	7%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Living Situation Categories

The Youth Count survey asked questions about where youth had spent the night over the past month to understand the transience of their episodes of homelessness. Youth were asked how many places they had spent the night over the past month, what types of places they had stayed, and how long they had been without a permanent place to stay.

Number of Places in the Past Month

		1	2	3	4	5+
	n=7	0%	29%	29%	0%	43%
	n=206	49%	25%	12%	6%	9%
	n=227	82%	12%	4%	1%	0%

Length of Time Without a Permanent Place to Stay

		N/A	Less than 1 week	1 week to 6 months	6 months to 1 year	1 year to 2 years	More than 2 years
	n=7	0%	14%	14%	0%	0%	71%
	n=187	4%	3%	29%	14%	16%	34%
	n=225	88%	1%	3%	3%	1%	4%

Places Stayed Over Tuesday, January 26th vs Past Month

To understand the transient nature of youths' living situations, youth were asked to identify the types of places they had stayed over the past month. These were categorized as unsheltered, unstable and stable based on the living situation (not based on a direct question as above). Along the top of the chart are the categories of living situations where youth stayed on January 26th. Along the side are the categories of living situations where youth stayed over the past month. Because youth may have stayed in multiple categories of living situations, percentages total over 100%.

Living Situation on Tuesday, January 26th compared to Past Month

	Unsheltered n=7	Unstable n=193	Stable n=215
	100%	71%	14%
	6%	100%	15%
	1%	7%	100%

Survey Methods

In the past, the survey methods for NYC Youth Count include in-person surveys using a paper survey, a survey application online, or on the phone.

Due to COVID 19, gatherings were restricted, especially in congregate settings like drop-in centers. The usual way of conducting youth count had to be reconsidered to reach as many youth as possible. Virtual Tabling sessions were established to reach young people who will not be going to the drop-in center programs during NYC Youth Count. Zoom links were posted on the DYCD website inviting young people to participate in the tabling session each day of Youth Count. As part of the survey, interviewers were asked to note whether each survey was done via phone, web, or in-person. The results are below.

Survey Methods of Youth Count Participants

