Preparing for the 2017 PIT Count: Promising Practices for Counting Youth

November 21, 2016

2:00-3:30pm EST

Webinar Agenda

I. Federal Interagency Perspective

II. Chapin Hall: Voices of Youth Count

III. Community Perspective: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

IV. Question and Answer Session

Webinar Format

- The webinar will last approximately 90 minutes

- Approximately 30-40 minutes have been reserved at the end of the webinar for a Question and Answer session with the panelists

- Audience members who would like to ask a question can do so any time through the "Question and Answer" function found in the Webinar toolbar

- This webinar will be recorded and posted to usich.gov

Grounding Our Work

Housing Inventory Count (HIC):

- Point-in-time inventory of projects within the CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons experiencing homelessness.

- Provides information on capacity at local and national levels.

Point-In-Time (PIT) Count:

- Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness carried out on one night within CoC's geographic area.

- Provides information on number and characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness at given point-in-time.

2017 Point-in-Time Count

William Snow
November 21, 2016

2017 PIT Count: Baseline Year for Homeless Youth

2017 will be the baseline year for PIT count data for tracking progress towards ending youth homelessness

PIT count data will only be one of many important data sources for identifying homeless youth

Identifying homeless youth in the PIT count has been a challenge and we have seen communities make great progress in the past few years

Success is in building partnerships with key actors including schools, youth providers, and child welfare

Several resources for identifying homeless youth will be made available from HUD, NAEH, VoYC, NN4Y, etc.

PIT Count Resources

Primary Site for HUD's PIT and HIC Resources:

- [PIT and HIC Guides, Tools, and Webinars](#)

A few notable resources

- [Notice CPD-16-060: 2017 HIC and PIT Data Collection for CoC and ESG Programs](#)

- [Point-in-Time Count Methodology Guide](#)

- [Resource Page to Count Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#) (includes a Promising Practice document and a Crosswalk of Contact Information)

- [Point-in-Time Count Implementation Tools](#) (this site includes the Extrapolation Tool)

- [Point-in-Time Survey Tools](#)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Grantees

Homeless Youth

Program and Board Directors

Street Outreach Workers

Case Managers

Volunteers, Interns, Other Staff

Program Participants

FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau

Child Welfare Agencies

Homeless Youth

- Private and Public Child Welfare Directors
- Social Workers / Case Managers
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates
- Guardian Ad Litems
- Foster Families and Foster Youth

FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau

Collect Data Beyond Requirements

- Collect Broad Data: Use the broad definition of homeless youth (including youth who are doubled-up/couch-surfing) for local planning purposes.

- Find Unusual Suspects: Involve non-traditional partners such as law enforcement officials, social work schools, and afterschool programs.

FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau

Housing and School Partnership on the January 2017 Point-In-Time Count

Joaquin Tamayo, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

U.S. Department of Education

Schools as PIT Count Partners

- Recommended strategies from the HUD *Point-in-Time Count Methodology Guide*

  - Encourages CoCs to involve a variety of community partners to help plan and execute the count

  - School district local liaisons and youth service providers are named specifically as important partners given their experience in reaching and serving homeless youth

Recommended Practices for Schools: Planning

- Schools can provide valuable insights into and help with

  - Recruiting count volunteers

  - Selecting youth-friendly count sites

  - Creating a welcoming and youth-friendly environment at count sites

  - Selecting youth-friendly incentives for count participation

  - Suggesting other local youth service providers to assist with the count

- Local liaisons and school personnel may volunteer to administer PIT count surveys if conducted off school premises and during non-work hours

Recommended Practices for Schools: Information-Sharing

- Schools can help get the word out about the PIT count by

    - Posting youth-friendly information about the count throughout schools, including

        - Who the target population is (youth experiencing homelessness under the HUD definition)

        - How/where/when to participate in the count

        - Possible incentives are for participation

        - Note that many CoCs provide an option to complete the PIT count survey online.

    - Informing youth identified as unaccompanied and homeless about the count and the possible benefits of participation

Prohibited Practices for Schools

- Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools **may not disclose personally identifiable information** about students without the prior written consent of a parent or eligible student (a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education)

- Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), schools **may not require students to complete a survey that reveals certain types of personal information** without the prior written consent of a parent or eligible student (a student who has reached 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor) as part of a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education

Beyond the PIT Count

- Key sources of data on homeless youth include PIT count data, Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) school data, Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) administrative data, Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) data, and American Community Survey (ACS) data

- Because each data source provides unique insights, the most accurate and complete picture of youth homelessness is developed when considering all of these sources

- CoCs and schools are encouraged to work together to **share and leverage their respective data sets** by referencing each other's numbers in reports and public talking points, as appropriate, and using multiple sources of data to inform local efforts to serve homeless youth

- Example: the [Virginia Housing Alliance](#) encourages CoC collaboration with local liaisons to include EHCY data as part of a supplement to the PIT count

Resources

- *Housing and School Partnership on the January 2017 Point-In-Time Count*, http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/pit-count-2017.pdf.

- *Federal Data Summary School Years 2011-12 to 2013-14: Education for Homeless Children and Youth*, http://nche.ed.gov/pr/data_comp.php (2014-2015 data report forthcoming)

- Local Educational Agency (school district-level) homeless education data, http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/data-files/school-status-data.html#lep (2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years)

Linking evidence
and action to
end youth homelessness

VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT

Toward a Better Youth Count

Empowering and Engaging Youth and Community

Presenter: Sonali Patel, MSW

ChapinHall
at the University of Chicago

Voices of Youth Count

- *Voices of Youth Count* is an innovative, national policy research initiative designed to:
  - Fill the critical gaps in our information about the number and experiences of runaway and unaccompanied homeless youth

  - Put actionable evidence into the hands of policy makers, service providers, funders and advocates who are working to prevent and end youth homelessness

Partner Communities
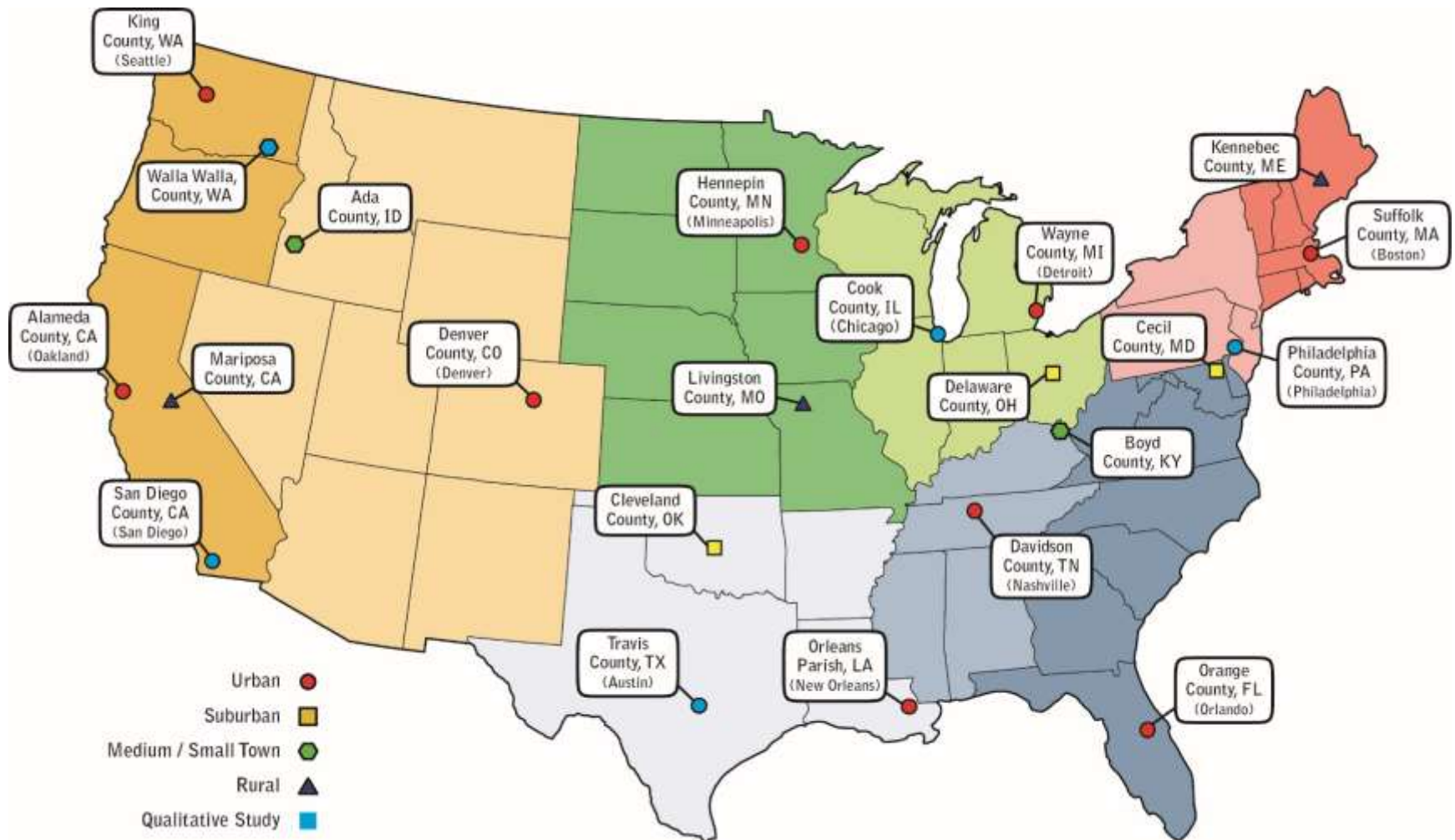
VoYC Youth Counts

- June – August 2016
- 13-25 year olds
- Brief Youth Survey
- Provider Survey
- Homeless or Unstably Housed
  - Doubled up, couch surfing, staying in hotels/motels, involved in the sex trade
  - Sleeping outdoors, in cars, in shelters or other temporary housing programs

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VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT

Conducting a Youth Count: **A Toolkit**

Empowering and Engaging Youth and Communities For a Better Count

October 2016

OUR TOOLKIT IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Our new Youth Count Toolkit provides guidance and tools to communities looking to improve the ways they count youth experiencing homelessness. View or download the toolkit now.

View the Toolkit

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VOICES OF **YOUTH** **COUNT**

Contents

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VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT

PHASE 1: GET STARTED

Phase One includes the foundational steps to conducting a successful youth count. The guidance takes you through the formation of a Leadership Team and creation of a plan from start to finish for your youth count.

Phase 1: Get Started

Voices of Youth Count Survey

Overview of VoYC Youth Count Process

Potential Leadership Team and Stakeholder Members

Youth Count Timeline Planning Tool

Focus Group Planning Worksheet

Initial Leadership Team Meeting Annotated Agenda

PHASE 2: PLAN AND HOLD FOCUS GROUPS

Phase Two is the primary information-gathering phase for the youth count. During the focus groups, you will learn from youth, and the providers who work with them, about the hot spot locations where homeless and unstably housed youth spend time. The primary goal of the focus groups is to identify the hot spots where teams will go during the Street Count, but the focus groups also generate lists of provider and community locations for the Organizational Count and Come and Be Counted Locations.

Phase 2: Plan and Hold Focus Groups

Focus Group Recruitment Plan Template

Hot Spotting Worksheet

Focus Group Recruitment Language

Youth Focus Group Recruitment Flyer

Focus Group Planning Meeting Annotated Agenda

Provider Focus Group Facilitation Protocol

Youth Focus Group Facilitation Protocol

Focus Group Planning Meeting Invitation

Youth Focus Group Recruitment Language

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PHASE 3: PREPARE FOR THE YOUTH COUNT

Phase Three is the final youth count preparation stage. During this phase, you will finalize the strategy and logistics , recruit the youth and volunteers , and conduct the trainings for the youth count.

Phase 3: Prepare for the Youth Count

Guide Recruitment Flyer	Organizational Count Outreach Language
Guide Training Protocol	Guide Recruitment Language
Guide Training Presentation	Count Strategy Meeting Invitation
Come and Be Counted Flyer	Team Leader Training Protocol
Come and Be Counted Flyer	Team Leader Training Presentation
Count Strategy Planning Worksheet	Volunteer Training Protocol

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PHASE 4: CONDUCT THE YOUTH COUNT

Phase Four focuses on the period of time selected to conduct the youth count. It includes guidance for conducting the Street Count, and overseeing the Organizational Count and Come and Be Counted Locations.

Phase 4: Conduct the Youth Count

Street Count Deployment Log

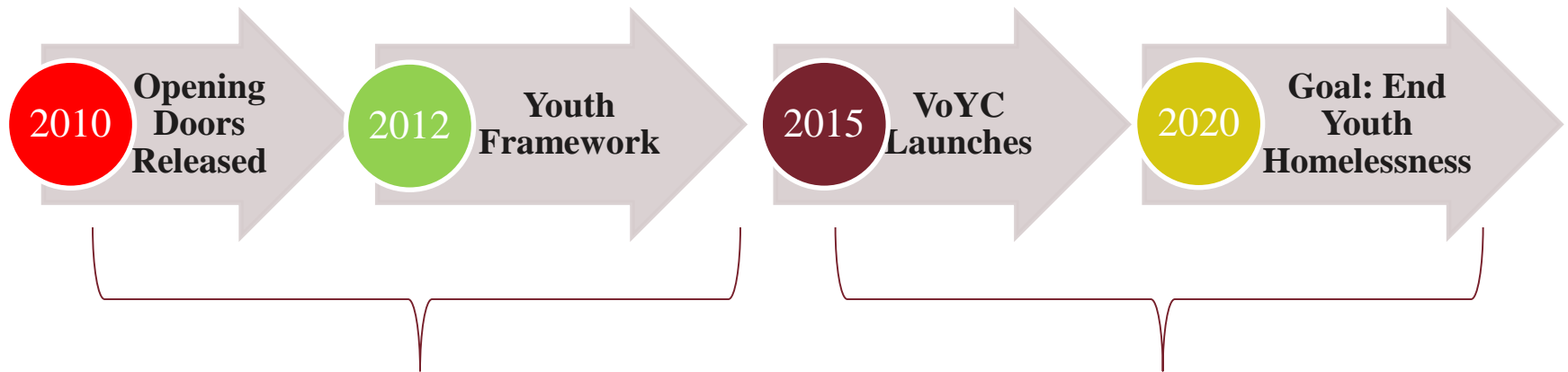Street Count Deployment Guide

Voices of Youth Count Tally Sheet

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VOICES OF **YOUTH COUNT**

PHASE 5: USE THE DATA

Phase Five focuses on using the data you collected during the youth count. This phase includes guidance on the cleaning and analysis of the data as well as ideas about how to use and share the results to drive change in your community.

Phase 5: Use the Data

Putting the Effort into Context

| 2010 | Opening Doors Released | 2012 | Youth Framework | 2015 | VoYC Launches | 2020 | Goal: End Youth Homelessness |

Budget Requests made each year to fund the homeless youth incidence and prevalence estimate required in statute
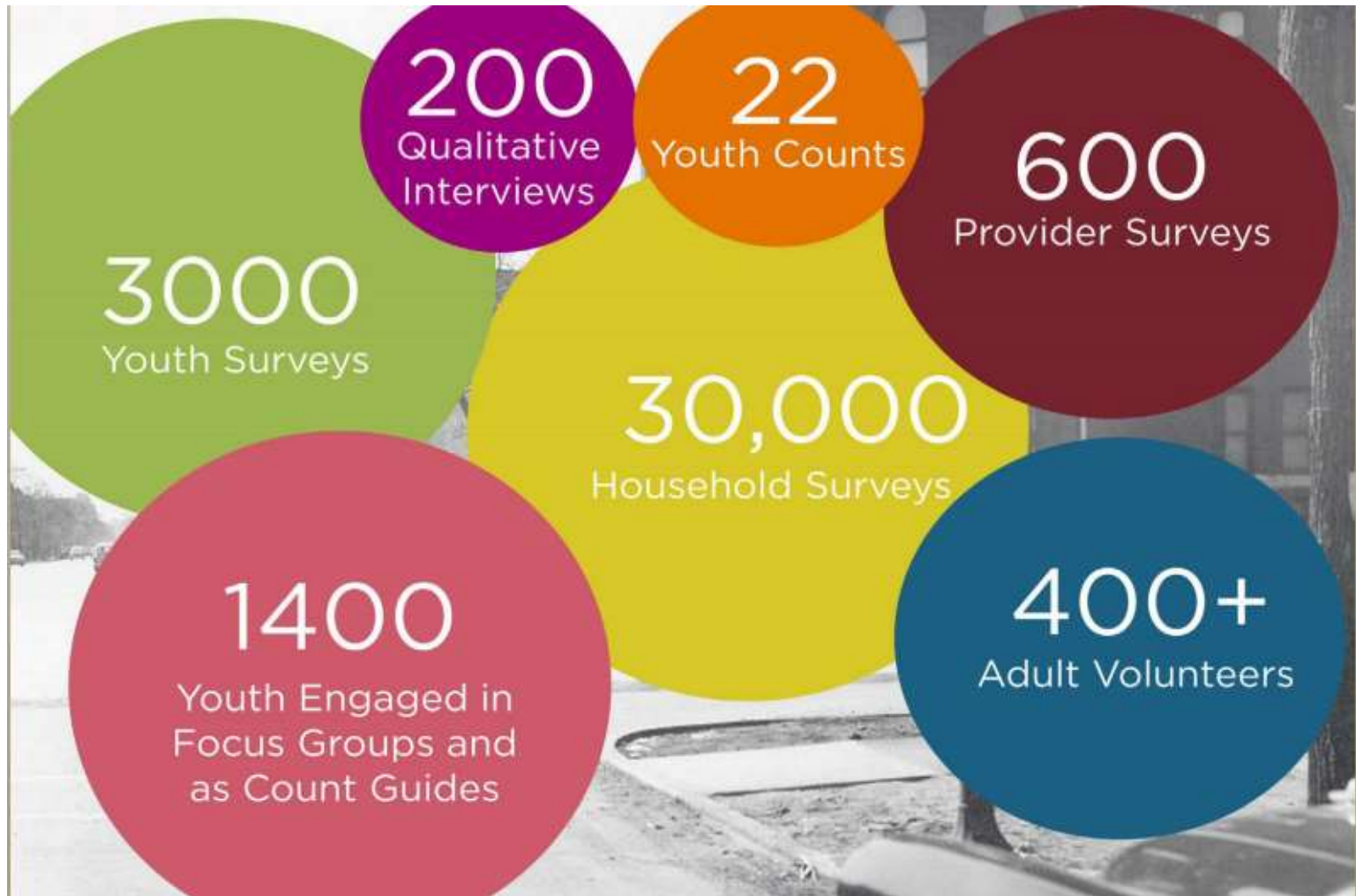
Strategic Use of the Data to improve the information available to and the capacity of the field to reach the 2020 goal!
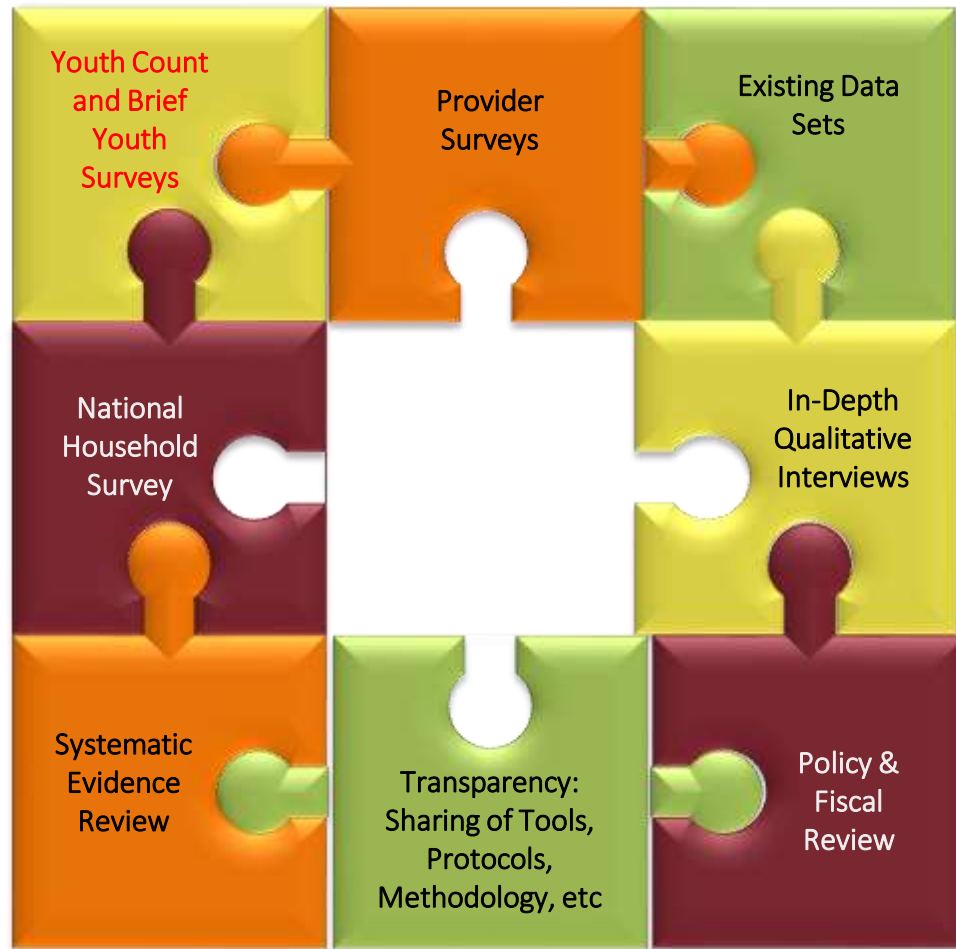

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VOICES OF **YOUTH COUNT**

Putting the Effort into Context

VoYC: Appreciating & Respecting the Complexity of Youth Homelessness

To Download the Toolkit, visit our website at:

voicesofyouthcount.org/resources

Questions? Feedback? Suggestions? Ideas?

voyc@chapinhall.org

Youth Count

Los Angeles Continuum of Care

Ramon Flores, Data & Research Analyst
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
**November 21, 2016**

2016 LA CoC Youth Count Review

- **Demographic survey** enumeration **of street homeless youth population,** produces rich demographic data

- **Census tract sampling and extrapolation method** to create estimate of number and characteristics

- **Site-based** surveys at youth drop-in centers and **field-based** surveys on sampled census tracts

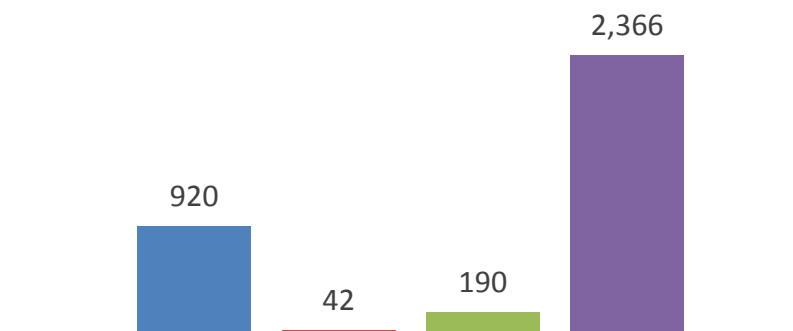- **Youth-focused** and **youth- and provider-driven** effort

2016 Youth Data

Totals* from all components of the Greater LA Homeless Count

Unsheltered Youth Data
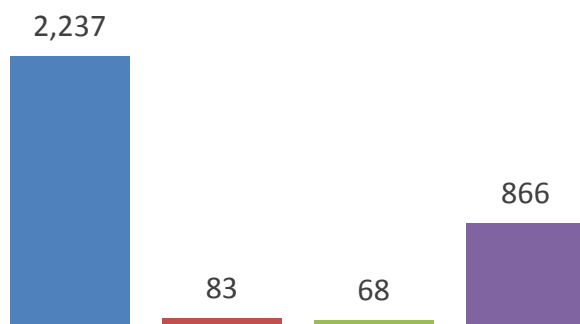
2,237 83 68 866

- Transition Age Youth (TAY), 18 - 24**
- Unaccompanied Minors, under 18**
- Children in Young Families, under 18**
- Children in Adult Families, under 18 †

Sheltered Youth Data

920 42 190 2,366

- Transition Age Youth (TAY), 18-24 ‡
- Unaccompanied Minors, under 18 ‡
- Children in Young Families, under 18 ‡
- Children in Adult Families, under 18 ‡

Totals for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) only and does not include the cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, or Glendale.
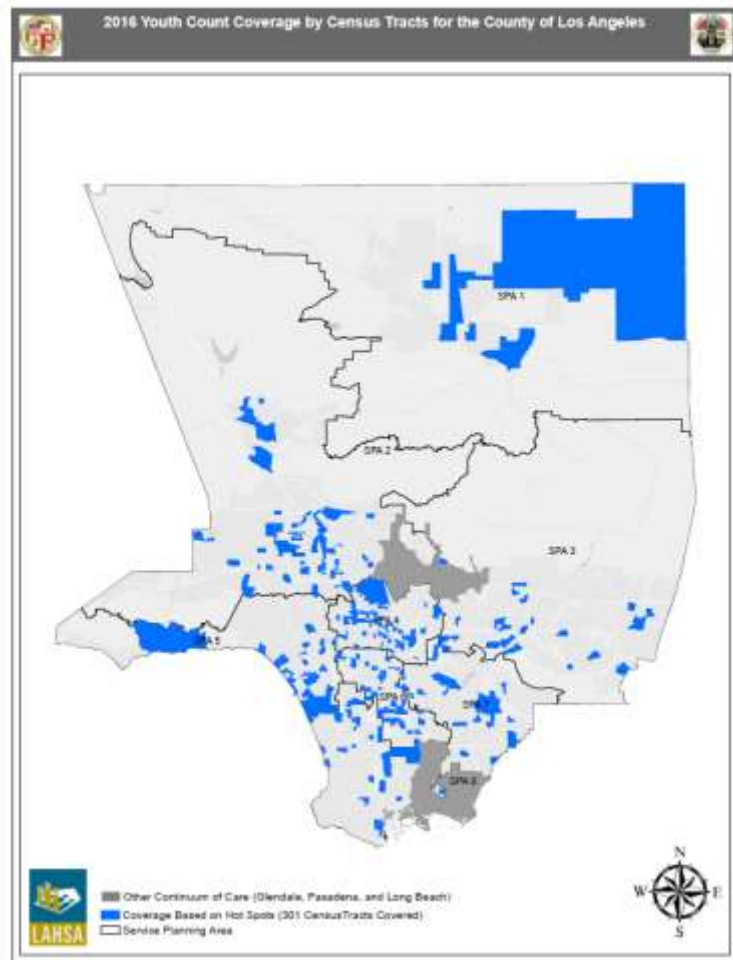
*** Data collected through Youth Count*
† Data collected through General Population Street Count & Demographic Survey
‡ Data collected through Shelter Count

2017 Youth Count
Ongoing Community Relationship Building

- We are establishing partnerships with **educational institutions**, **libraries**, and **parks** to conduct surveys with unsheltered youth at their sites.

  - Educational institutions include **K-12 public and charter schools**, **community colleges**, and **four-year universities**.

- We are also **increasing our network of providers that serve homeless youth** to conduct surveys at their sites and to conduct field-based surveys; especially in areas with few youth specific providers.

2017 Youth Count
Methodological Developments

- It is expected that increased relationship building in the community will lead to **more known locations of homeless youth.**

    o All census tracts with known locations will be canvassed, which will lead to a more accurate estimate of unsheltered youth.

- **Trainings for site- and field-based surveying will be more stringent.** Surveyors will have to provide confirmation of web training completion. Highly trained surveyors can improve quality of data collection.

Ramon Flores

Data & Research Analyst

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For data on youth homelessness in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care

visit: **www.lahsa.org/homeless-count/youth-service-planning-area**

Question and Answer Session

Please submit your questions via the "Question and Answer" function found in your Webinar toolbar.

We will get to as many questions as we can in the time remaining.

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