Lauren, she/her/her/hers :)}
Who are you?
What WE hope you will learn
Agenda:
1. Introductions (check)
2. Group agreements
3. Data
4. Activity
5. Reactions & Reflections
6. Next Steps
Group Agreements

TAKE SPACE, MAKE SPACE
If you have been quiet, please share! If you have talked a lot, create space for others.

ONE MIC
Don’t talk over others.

SELF CARE
Be mindful of how the conversation is impacting you. Take a break if you need one.

PRACTICE RESPECTFUL DISAGREEMENT
It is ok not to agree, regardless of experience or expertise.

SPEAK FROM THE “I”
Talk about your own experiences, don’t generalize the experiences of others.

ASSUME BEST INTENTIONS
We all have the same goal, but may see the way there differently. That’s also ok!
Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults (YYA)
What are some of the reasons the young people you work with experience homelessness?
“Some people ask me why I never stay in shelters. The... shelters are a meat market where the strong prey on the weak, the scared, and the lonely. I have seen way too many injustices and quite frankly, I feel safer on my own. In street life you are alone anyway and can trust only yourself. ... listen and get to know the person I am... I will tell you that i’m young, younger than you think, and younger than the life I have come to call my own.”

- TC, 21
National Data

RESULTS SHOW

1 in 10

Young adults ages 18 to 25 endure some form of homelessness in a year. Half of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

1 in 30

Adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endure some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.

Youth 13-17

4.2% Household prevalence in urban counties.

9.6% Population prevalence in urban counties.

Youth 13-17

4.4% Household prevalence in rural counties.

9.2% Population prevalence in rural counties.

About half of the youth who experienced homelessness over a year faced homelessness for the first time.

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness

346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than $24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk

Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org
Why youth and young adults experience homelessness:

Home doesn’t exist
Home isn’t safe
Home isn’t supportive
2019 Massachusetts Youth Count Data

Reasons for not living with guardians/parents

- Released from jail: 3% (2017), 3% (2018), 3% (2019)
- My use of drugs: 5% (2017), 5% (2018), 5% (2019)
- Parent/guardian died: 5% (2017), 5% (2018), 5% (2019)
- Left foster care: 5% (2017), 5% (2018), 5% (2019)
- Family lost housing: 10% (2017), 10% (2018), 10% (2019)
2019 Massachusetts Youth Count Data
Reasons for not living with guardians/parents

- Parent/guardian drug use: 10%
- Felt unsafe: 12%
- House too small: 17%
- Abused/neglected: 17%
- I wanted to leave: 26%
- I was told to leave: 30%
- Fighting with parent/guardian: 33%
What does youth and young adult homelessness look like here?
“When I was homeless, I stayed all over the place. At my job, in a junkyard car, in the woods on a pile of leaves, and if I smelled good enough, I would go to a bar and hope someone would take me home.”

- JR, 22
72% of those who slept on the streets or in shelters also couch surfed.

42% experienced two or more episodes.

52% felt unsafe.

73% experienced an episode lasting more than a month.

-Voices of Youth Count
Directions:

● Each group will get a character
● Read the character description out loud
● Your group will then decide on where the person will sleep, how they will get food, and how they will make money
● Designate a reporter to report back to the group
Reactions & Reflections

1. What did you feel as this person? (give ‘feelings’ words)
2. What were you thinking while this was going on?
3. Did anything surprise you?
4. Did anything make you mad? Who/what were you mad at?
Reactions & Reflections

1. What made it difficult for your young person?
2. If you were really this young person, what would you want from your caseworker?
3. Based on this, why might young adults need specialized programs and supports?
4. Taking what you learned today, what might you do differently in your programs?
Summary

• Young Adult Homelessness
• Understanding youth homelessness activity
• Implications
Questions, Comments, and Evaluation