

References for Indicators

- ^{1,4,10} "Homeless Families with Children" *NCH Fact Sheet #7* (June 2001). Washington, DC: National Coalition for the Homeless.
- ^{2,6,12,17} *Homeless Children: America's New Outcasts* (1999). Newton, MA: The Better Homes Fund.
- ^{3,9} *A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities* (2003). Washington, DC: U.S. Conference of Mayors.
- ⁵ Rhode Island KIDS COUNT calculations using data from the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, 2002 Annual Rent Survey. Rents greater than 30% of income are considered unaffordable.
- ⁷ Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, December 2002.
- ^{8,13,14,15,16,25} *Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Information Project Annual Report, July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002* (2003). Providence, RI: RI Emergency Food and Shelter Board.
- ¹¹ *Homeless in America: A Children's Story, Part One* (1999). New York, NY: Homes for the Homeless and The Institute for Children and Poverty.
- ^{18,19,20} "McKinney-Vento 2001 Reauthorization - At a Glance", National Coalition for the Homeless www.nationalhomeless.org, February 2003.
- ²¹ *NCH Fact Sheet #11: Homeless Youth* (1999). Washington, DC: National Coalition for the Homeless.
- ²² Son, A. Jia (May 2002). *Information Packet: Runaway and Homeless Youth*. New York, NY: National Resource Center for Foster Care Permanency and Planning at the Hunter College School of Social Work.
- ²³ *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors* (1995). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- ²⁴ "How many young people run away from home each year?", The Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, February 2003.
- ²⁶ Travelers Aid, Providence, RI, Year-End Reports, 2002.
- ²⁷ National Runaway Switchboard, 2002 Region 1 Statistics, www.nrscrisisline.org.
- ²⁸ Covenant House, Year End Nine-line Statistics, FY2002.
- ^{29,30} Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, December 2002.

DEFINITION

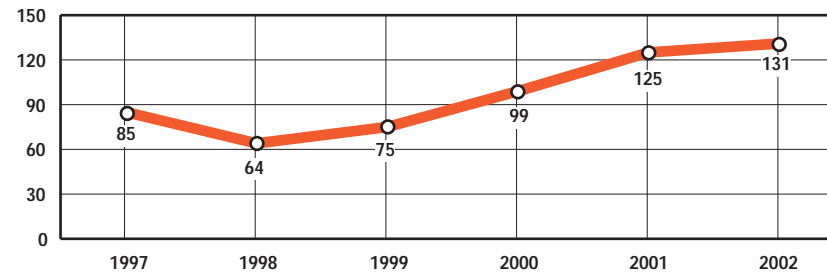
Homeless youth is the number of Rhode Island youth ages 13 to 17 who are homeless or at risk for homelessness, have run away from home, or have been thrown out of their home and not allowed to return.

SIGNIFICANCE

Homelessness among youth has a number of causes, including family problems (such as strained relationships and physical abuse), family homelessness, and residential instability resulting from foster care and institutional placements.²¹ Some runaway youth are considered to be throw-aways who were told or forced to leave a household, or were abandoned or deserted by their parents or guardians.²² Homeless youth are at risk of being physically and/or sexually victimized, abusing drugs and alcohol, attempting suicide, becoming victims or perpetrators of crime, receiving money for sex to meet their basic survival needs, and contracting HIV/AIDS.²³

Although estimates vary, it is projected that there are between 1 million and 1.3 million U.S. youth who run away from home each year.²⁴ Rhode Island does not have an overnight shelter for runaway youth.

Homeless Youth Ages 13 - 17 in Rhode Island's Emergency Shelter System, 1997-2002



Source: Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Information Project Annual Reports FY 1997 – FY 2002. Providence RI: Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

◆ **131 youth entered the Rhode Island emergency shelter system accompanied by a parent or another adult. This is a 54% increase since 1997. This is an underestimate of homeless youth in the state because the emergency shelter system in Rhode Island does not accept unaccompanied children over the age of 12.**²⁵

◆ **During 2002, 458 Rhode Island youth ages 13 to 17 accessed crisis management services offered by Traveler's Aid and 1,178 calls were made to the Traveler's Aid SAFELINE for runaway youth.**²⁶ In 2002 the National Runaway Switchboard received 248 calls, and the Covenant House hotline received 47 crisis calls from youth in Rhode Island.^{27,28}

Department of Children Youth and Families

◆ **Night-to-night placements refer to the temporary nightly placement of youths under the care of DCYF who are awaiting permanent foster care placement, a group home/treatment placement, or who have run away from their current placement. During 2002, 487 children and youth were in night-to-night placement at some point during the year, an average of 18 per week.**²⁹

◆ **As of December 31, 2002, there were 112 individuals under age 19 in DCYF care who were classified as unauthorized absence/runaways.**³⁰