Youth Homelessness in Berkeley

The term “homeless children and youth” includes students and families sharing a home due to economic hardship, or living in a rented room, garage, car, or transitional shelter.

480 Berkeley students have been identified as homeless in the 2014-15 school year.

Many youth find it safer to live on the streets than in their homes.

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty documents:

- 43% of homeless youth were beaten by a foster parent or caretaker
- 25% were sexually propositioned by a caretaker
- 20% left home over conflict with their parents about LGBTQ status

Homeless Public School Students

Year(s): 2011 to 2013

- Youth awaiting placement in foster care quality as homeless as well. The law AB 12 California’s Fostering Connections to Success Act, 2012, offers the possibility of safety for homeless youth by extending care from 18 to 21. However, nearly 90% of the youth served by the AB12 Homeless Youth Demonstration Project reported some problematic dynamics during 2013: 37% report domestic violence; 95% report unemployment as a source of economic strain; 50% report neglect and abandonment in their home.

Homeless youth cannot make it in Berkeley without our help!

The median Fair Market rent in Alameda County is $1,035, and the minimum wage is $10/hr. Even a youth working a 40hr job cannot avoid cost burden (paying 30% or less of income to rent monthly).

Berkeley’s homeless youth need our support for year-round shelters, housing subsidies, and more jobs training.