

Key findings


21,812 
respondents
aged 15-19 years

1 in 6 
reported having experienced homelessness

Key differences among young people who had or hadn't experienced homelessness


Study/employment

Perceived barriers to the achievement of their study/work goals: 70% vs. 47%
Highly value getting a job: 49% vs. 37%




Concerns

Highly concerned about:
Family conflict: 44% vs. 15%
Depression: 44% vs. 19%



Mental health & wellbeing

Probable serious mental illness: 48% vs. 19%
Felt negative/very negative about the future: 19% vs. 8%



6 x more likely to rate their family's ability to get along as poor

Similarities among young people who had and hadn't experienced homelessness:

Values

Rated friendships and family among their top 3 most valued items



Top 3 sources of help

- 1 Friend/s
- 2 Parent/s
- 3 Relative/family friend

Issues facing Australia

-  Mental health
-  Alcohol and drugs
-  Equity and discrimination

If you are a young person and need someone to talk with, you can contact Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 (24/7) kidshelpline.com.au

For more information:  researchandpolicy@missionaustralia.com.au

To download the report:  missionaustralia.com.au

Young people's experiences of homelessness: Findings from the Youth Survey 2017

Key recommendations

Commonwealth, State and Territory governments should:

- Develop a national homelessness strategy
- Invest in prevention, early intervention and outreach
- Increase the focus on educational engagement for young people at risk of homelessness
- Prevent young people exiting state care into homelessness
- Prevent young people becoming homeless with their families
- Rapidly rehouse young people who experience homelessness and support them to maintain that housing
- Put young people at the centre of policy and practice

"My biggest concern has been being able to have a house to stay in that's safe." F, 15, VIC

"Need affordable housing for young people with no family, that is not a refuge." M, 16, WA

"Need more support and financial aid for youth who are homeless." F, 17, SA

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