

NEWS & NOTES

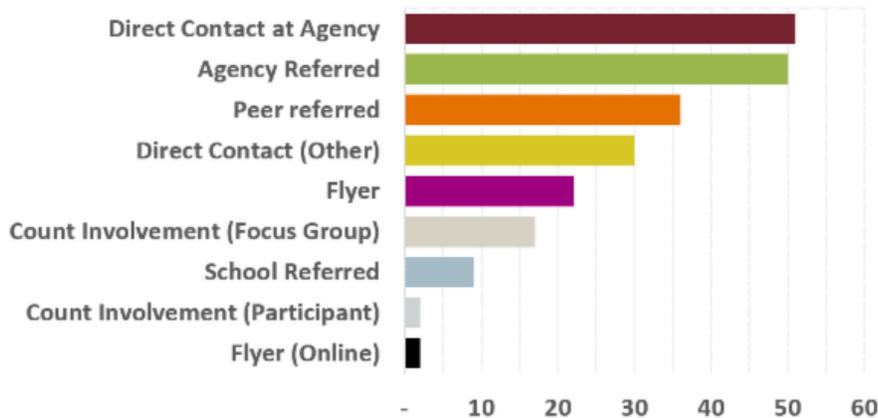
An interactive newsletter to keep you informed.

VoYC Connects with Young People *Designing Improved Ways to Reach Homeless Youth*

How do you connect with a population that is expert at going undetected? How do you reflect a wide variety of youth experiences?

VoYC set out to both hear the voices of runaway and homeless youth through in-depth interviews, as well as create effective, replicable strategies for reaching them.

Recruitment Sources of 219 Youth for Interviews



Relying on active members of local communities proved an effective strategy. Direct contact with interviewers, agencies, and peers was the most successful recruitment method. Online recruitment was the least successful (see chart).

A total of 221 interviews were conducted, surpassing the original target of 200. Recruitment data was collected for 219 interviews, and is represented in the chart above.

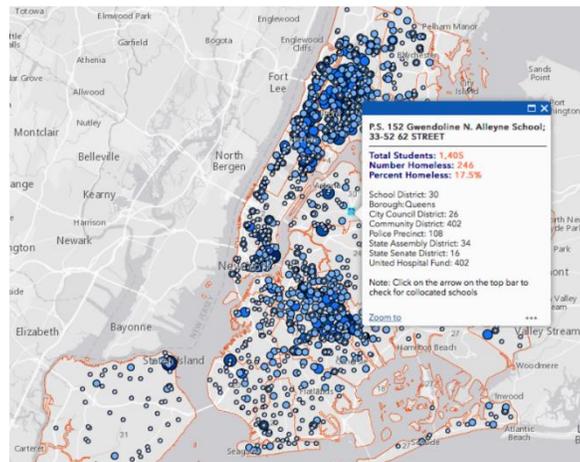
To ensure VoYC recruited a representative sample of young people, VoYC monitored demographics - age, race, gender, and the like. Recruitment efforts were more successful with some communities and subpopulations than others. In future work, we hope to hone strategies for recruiting youth from the hardest-to-reach populations, such as youth under 18.

Mapping Solutions

Youth Homelessness Across NYC Schools

Children and youth need stability to thrive. But across the United States, more children and youth are facing homelessness: the most extreme form of instability.

In New York City, the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness has created an [interactive map](#) that enables users to visualize homelessness among students in the city's public schools. The tool provides information critical to improving the city's programs and policies.



VoYC looks forward to seeing more innovative tools like this aimed at alleviating youth homelessness.

Working Together Towards Change

NN4Y Summit Connects Policy, Practice to End Youth Homelessness

The [National Network for Youth](#) highlighted innovative and effective practices for ending youth homelessness at its recent summit.

VoYC's Matt Morton spoke about the initiative's progress and near-term plans for the integration and dissemination of findings as part of a lightning round panel with the [ABA's Homeless Youth Legal Network](#), [A Way Home America's 100-Day Challenge](#), and [Collaborating for Change: Addressing Youth Homelessness and Juvenile Justice](#).



Casey Trupin, Program Officer for the Raikes Foundation and VoYC partner (far right), moderates NN4Y panel on breaking down legal barriers for homeless youth.

VoYC also met with youth homelessness leaders from across the field on shaping a national research agenda. Participants emphasized the need to provide local policymakers with meaningful data and information, assess screening tools and housing models, examine the role of relationship in preventing repeated homelessness, explore the link between family poverty and youth homelessness, and determine what services (job training, education, mentoring) have the greatest impact in preventing youth homelessness.



Measuring Progress to End Youth Homelessness

USICH Releases Revised Guidance and Assessments

At the National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness in February, two new questionnaires were released by the [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) to help communities assess their progress toward achieving the criteria and benchmarks for ending youth homelessness.



To develop the criteria and benchmarks, USICH and federal partners sought input and guidance from key stakeholders, including local service providers, Continuums of Care, national partner organizations, advocates, and youth with lived experiences of homelessness. You can read more about these benchmarks and assess the efficacy of work to end youth homelessness in your county [here](#).

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