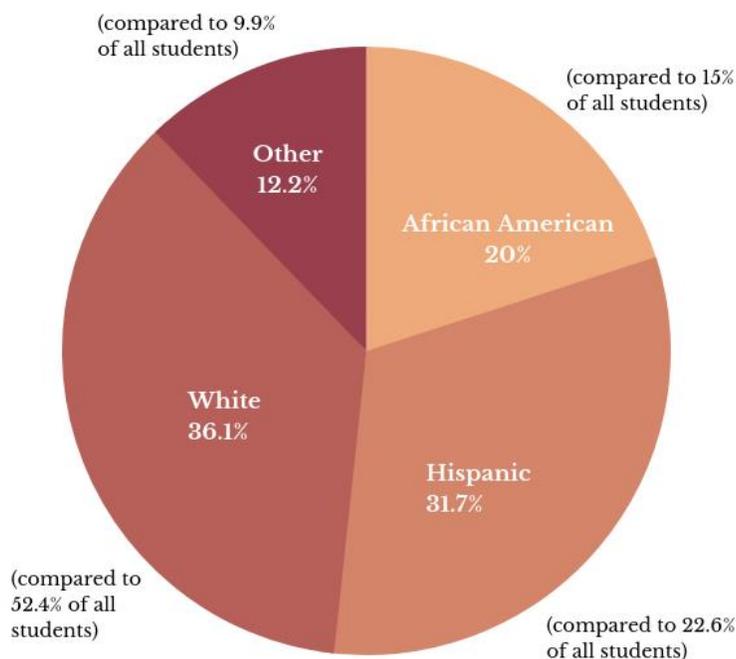


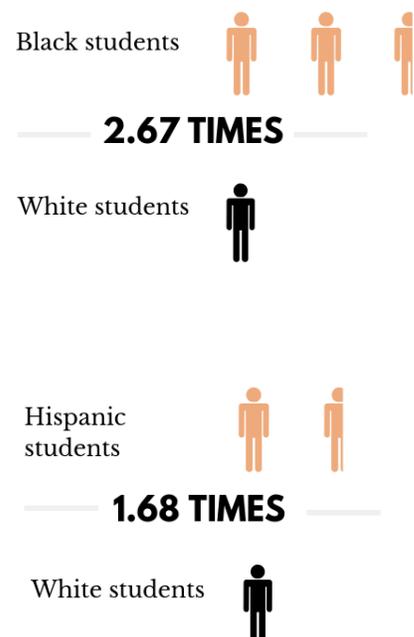
YOUTH OF COLOR ARE OVERREPRESENTED AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Black or African American youth and young adults have an **83% higher risk** of reporting homelessness compared to their white peers.¹
- Non-white Hispanic youth and young adults have a **33% higher risk** of reporting homelessness than white YYA.¹
- The 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found that **black youth and young adults are the least likely to live with a parent or guardian.**
- Analysis of Youth Risk Behaviour Survey data found that Black and Hispanic students are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness. 20% of students experiencing homelessness identify as Black or African-American, compared to 15% of all students. 31.7% of students experiencing homelessness identify as Hispanic or Latino, compared to 22.6% of all students.
- The disproportionate number of Black youth experiencing homelessness mirrors racial disparities in school discipline, foster care, and incarceration.

DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION OF YOUTH OF COLOR AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS²



LIKELIHOOD TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS²



YOUTH OF COLOR ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY HARMED BY HUD HOMELESS POLICY

- The definition of homelessness for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments' Homelessness Assistance Grant program definition of homelessness excludes most children and youth whose families pay for a motel room, or who must stay with other people temporarily, because there is nowhere else to go. These situations are unstable and often unsafe, putting children and youth at high risk of trafficking and violence. Under HUD's definition, children and youth in such living situations are not even assessed for services. Other federal programs recognize that children and youth in such living situations are homeless. **This definition disproportionately harms youth and families of color.**
 - A study of homeless youth in Los Angeles reported that "Staying with a stranger exposes adolescents to greater threats of violence and victimization than shelter stays, and staying with a stranger may put young people at particular risk for sexual exploitation."¹ The same study found that African-American youth and LGBT youth were more likely to stay with strangers, placing them at greater risk than their white and heterosexual peers.
 - Analysis of YRBS data found that Black youth constituted 21.50% of the respondents staying with friends/family/other, even though they constituted only 11.23% of the total respondents. Hispanic/Latino respondents constituted 31.17% of the respondents staying with friends/family/other, even though they constituted 26.79% of the total respondents.
 - According to YRBS, Black and Hispanic/Latinx youth present the **highest risk of having no usual place to sleep.**

50% of young adults ages 18-24 and 25% of youth ages 13-17 have couch-surfed exclusively.¹
+
72% of youth and young adults who slept in shelters or on the streets also couch-surfed.¹
=
Youth homelessness is a fluid experience and all forms of homelessness should be eligible for HUD homelessness assistance resources.

THE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT (H.R. 2001)

- The Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA) H.R. 2001 would align HUD's definition of homelessness with the definition of homelessness used by other federal programs – names those administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services.
- Current federal mandates and incentives force communities to prioritize programs for certain populations and program models, regardless of local needs and program effectiveness, but HCYA will require HUD to score local applications primarily on whether they are cost-effective in meeting the priorities and goals that communities identify in their local plans.
- HUD's data keeps many children, youth, and families invisible, and limits action to help them. HCYA improves HUD homeless data by requiring that communities include children, YYA, and families who meet any part of the newly amended definition of homelessness in local counts.

PASS HCYA TO HELP YOUTH OF COLOR ACCESS CRITICAL HOUSING AND SERVICES

- For more information, contact NN4Y Executive Director, Darla Bardine at darla.bardine@nn4youth.org.
- Contact Mark.Gilbride@mail.house.gov with Congressman Stivers or William.Collier@mail.house.gov with Congressman Loeb sack to cosponsor in the House.

1 Rice, E., et al. "Homelessness Experiences, Sexual Orientation, and Sexual Risk Taking Among High School Students in Los Angeles." *Journal of Adolescent Health* (2013) 1-6.

2 Risk and Resilience: Differences in Risk Factors and Health Outcomes Between Homelessness and Non-Homeless Students in 2017 YRBS Data.