



2020

RYSE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**ECOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS LAB
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
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INTRODUCTION

Residential Youth Services and Empowerment (RYSE) opened its doors in June 2018 as Hawai'i's first comprehensive housing and drop-in center for youth ages 18-24, located in Kailua, Hawai'i. RYSE is a response to a gap in services on O'ahu for homeless, street identified, and unaccompanied youth. Youth served by RYSE are eligible for adult services, however, the RYSE philosophy reflects the specific needs of young adults.

There are three main components to RYSE: housing, drop-in, and outreach. Although drop-in services were suspended in April 2020 due to COVID-19, RYSE continued to look for creative ways to support youth experiencing homelessness through housing, extensive outreach, and new programming and partnerships.

RYSE continues to expand services even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to social distancing guidelines the number of beds available onsite at RYSE decreased, but RYSE partnered with other youth serving organizations across O'ahu to increase housing options for youth. In 2020, they opened Canoe House, a six-bed shelter for unaccompanied minors in Kailua. On the North Shore RYSE partnered with Alea Bridge and Alternative Structures International (ASI) to open The Hale'iwa Project, a housing collective that can serve up to 15 youth and young families. RYSE also opened the VOCA house which has eight transitional beds for youth who have been the victim of a crime and employs a youth-focused Housing First approach and a Trauma Informed Framework.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) is a nationally funded grant that addresses youth homelessness through direct housing resources such as housing vouchers as well as supportive services, outreach, and diversion projects. HUD awarded Honolulu 3.8 million dollars in FY 2018 (Round 3) with the award announcement coming in late 2019. This competitive grant is unique in that youth input is critical in the application process to HUD as well as local award distribution. RYSE was awarded over 2.7 million dollars from the YHDP grant to implement projects in collaboration with other youth serving agencies.

Housing Resources:

- **Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing Vouchers:** These subsidies will go directly toward providing youth housing and rental assistance.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** In partnership with Mental Health Kokua, RYSE will facilitate housing resources (a group home and housing vouchers) for youth with disabilities who need wraparound support services.

Other Programs

- **Diversion:** In partnership with Legal Aid and Kinai 'Eha, RYSE will support youth in the justice system.
- **Guide on the Side:** In partnership with Partners in Development and We Are Oceania, RYSE will provide increased case management and support, especially to Pacific Islander youth.
- **Mobile Crisis Response:** In partnership with HHHRC, Waikiki Health, Hale Kipa, and Alea Bridge, RYSE will increase island-wide support for homeless youth through outreach and crisis response.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report covers the admission and exit data for youth accessing RYSE's Kailua sites, including their emergency shelter for youth ages 18-24 and Canoe House (shelter for unaccompanied minors) from January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020. RYSE implemented an updated intake in collaboration with University of Hawai'i Mānoa to evaluate their program and better understand the youth who access services. **This revised intake survey rolled out on April 1, 2020.** Unless otherwise noted as in the case of new questions, data presented in this report will cover the entire calendar year of 2020. **This report does not capture youth who entered RYSE in 2019 and stayed through 2020, so it does not capture the full scope of youth served in 2020 - only youth who completed an intake in 2020.**

Data represented from 2018-2019 cover youth who entered RYSE between June 1, 2018-December 31, 2019. Note: the previous evaluation report went through November 2019, so data will not match up exactly. This report includes all data received to date.

The revised intake survey added the following measures:

- Psychologically validated measures on stress, social support and health.
- A question on growing up on Hawaiian Homestead Land.
- A question on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Questions on intimate partner violence are split up from a general question around domestic violence to identifying specific types of abuse (physical, emotional, and sexual).
- Questions about being arrested are asked to further understand why youth are detained by the police, i.e., if they are violent offenses or if they are non-violent offenses like trespassing.

SUMMARY

Admissions Data

- RYSE had 144 admissions in 2020 and served 110 youth in 2020.
- Outreach continued to be the largest form of referral to RYSE.

RYSE Youth in 2020

- The average age of RYSE youth was 20.66 years old.
- 51% of RYSE youth identified as Native Hawaiian, either fully or in part.
- More males than females accessed RYSE in 2020.

Living Situations Prior to RYSE

- Almost one-half of youth at RYSE came from Honolulu neighborhoods.
- Almost one-quarter of youth were living outside before admission to RYSE.
- 38% of youth reported being homeless four or more times in the last three years.

Challenges Contributing to Homelessness

- The most common reasons for homelessness were: getting kicked out (42%), family issues (38%), drinking and/or drug use (38%), and employment issues (27%).
- 46% of youth reported experiencing domestic violence.
- Almost one in ten youth said they are at RYSE because they are fleeing an abusive relationship.
- 14% of youth report they were homeless due to COVID-19.

Youth Health

- Most youth (almost 80%) reported not going to see a doctor or going to the ER when they were sick.
- Youth were more up to date on physical health than dental or eye health.

Education and Employment

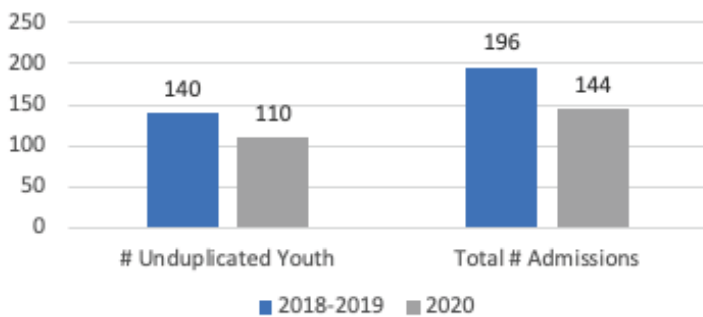
- Over half of RYSE youth have either graduated high school or obtained a GED.
- 81% of youth were unemployed at the time they enter RYSE.

Exit Data

- 57% of youth exited RYSE to housing or other support service.
- Exits to the street are declining yearly: 69% in 2018, 52% in 2019, and 41% in 2020.

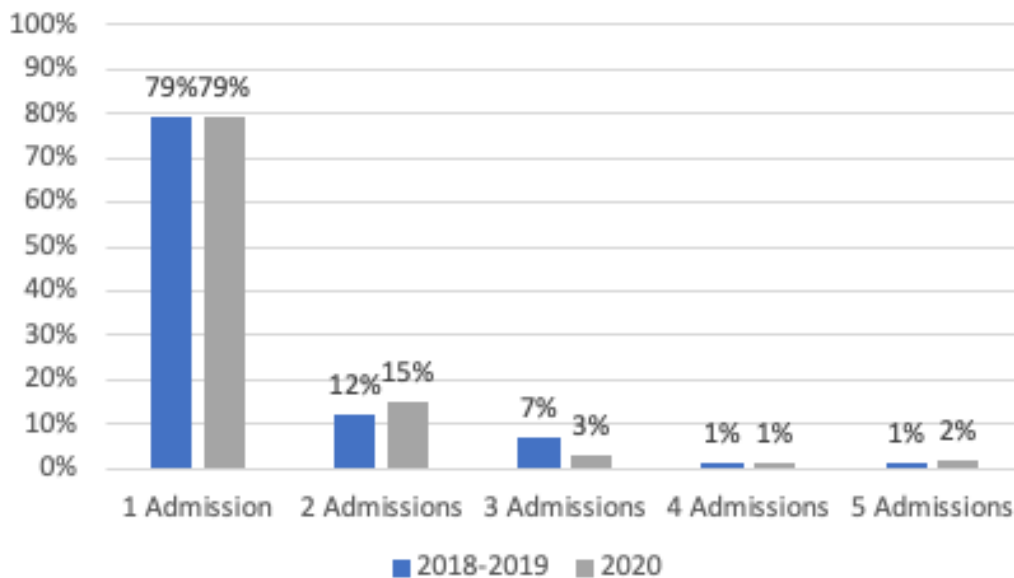
RYSE ADMISSIONS

Unique Youth and Total Admissions Since Opening in 2018



In 2020, RYSE admitted 110 unique individuals 144 times to housing. The large majority of youth came to RYSE one time, but a handful left and reentered RYSE multiple times throughout 2020. Out of the 110 youth who entered RYSE in 2020, 79% came to RYSE once and 15% came to RYSE twice. The remaining youth returned to RYSE three, four, or five times during the year.

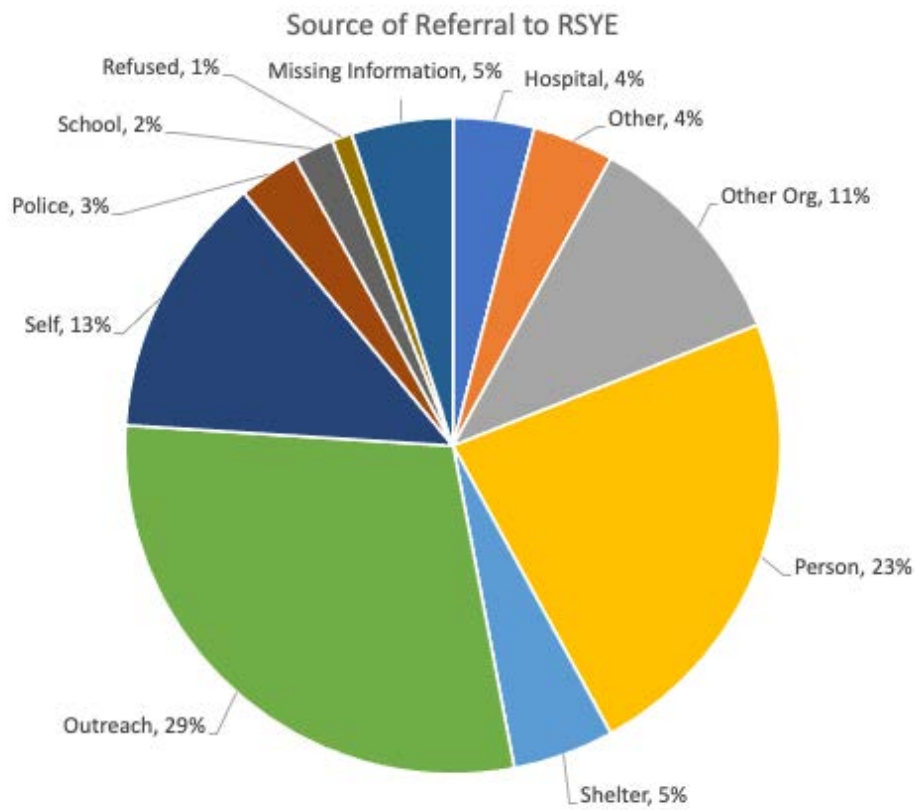
Number of Admissions to RYSE/Year



Note: Data from 2018-2019 represents the period of time since RYSE opened in June, 2018-December, 2019. Numbers of youth and admissions are slightly higher than reported in 2020 due to delays in reporting.



REFERRALS TO RYSE

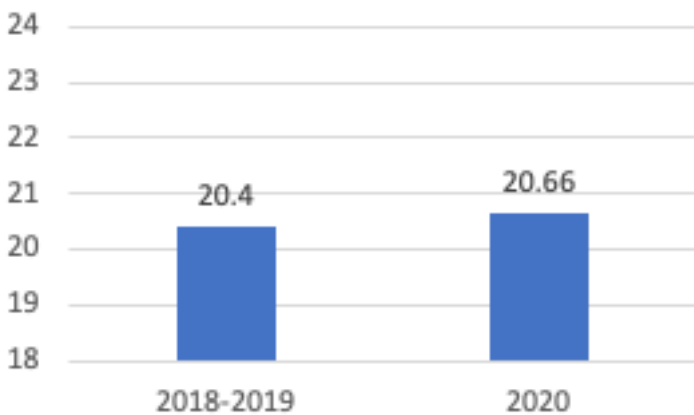


Outreach (going out into the community to connect with youth experiencing homelessness) continued to be the largest source of referrals to RYSE (29%). Outreach was closely followed by referral from another person like a family member or friend (23%). Self-referrals (13%) and other organizations (11%) were also popular methods of referrals. Hospitals, shelters, police, and schools were less frequent forms of referrals to RYSE.



DEMOGRAPHICS - AGE, GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Average Age

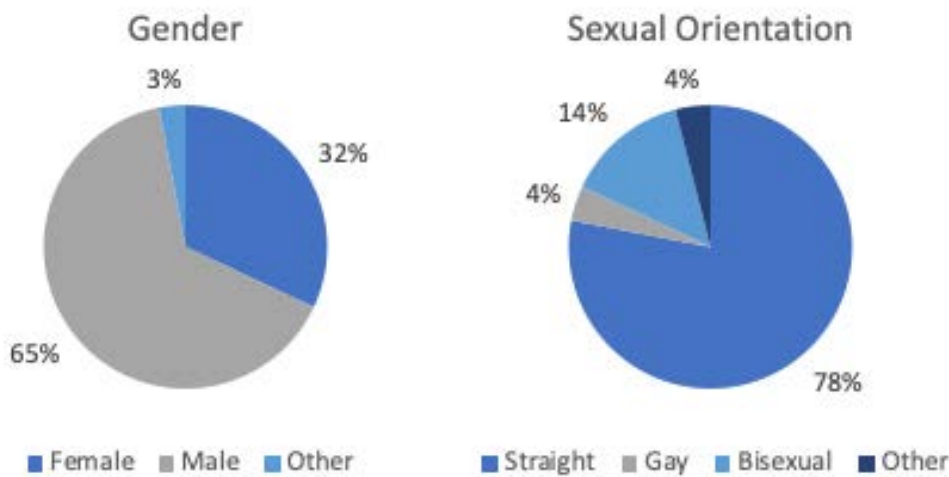


The average age of youth accessing either of its two shelters at RYSE was 20.66 years old, slightly higher than 2018-2019 average of 20.4.

The gender breakdown shifted towards more males accessing RYSE in 2020.

- Four youth identified as transgender, two chose to identify with genders not listed, and one identified as non-binary.

Gender and Sexual Orientation Distribution in 2020



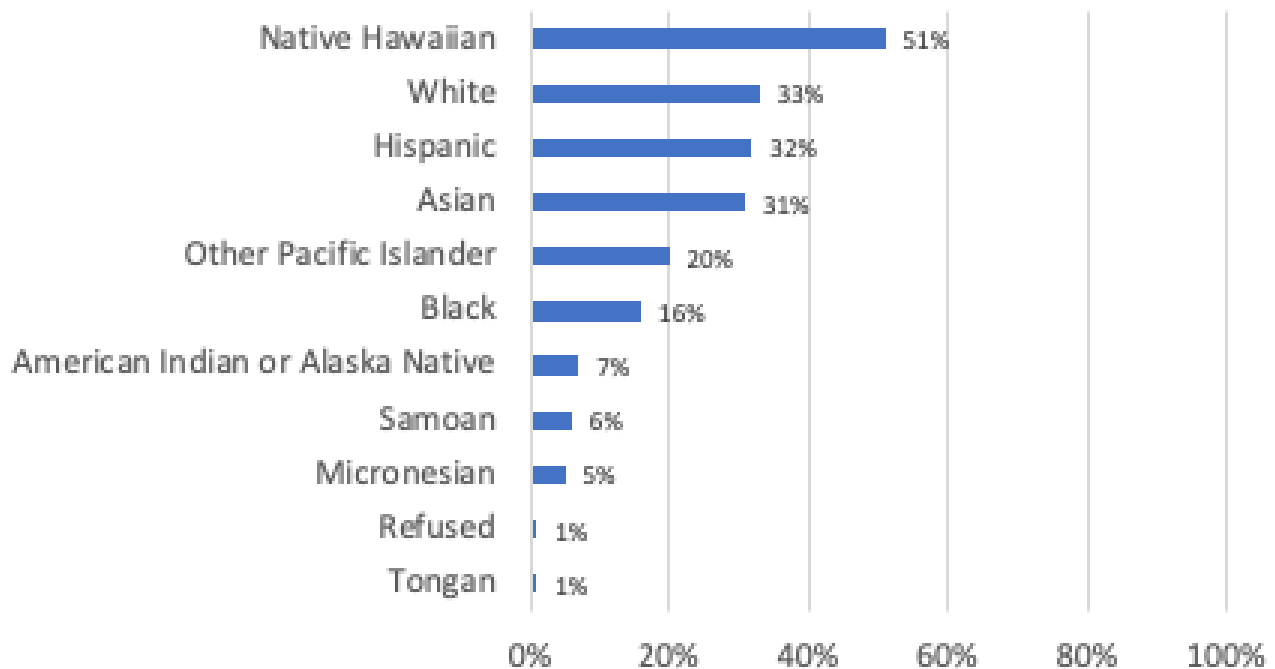
The majority of youth who entered RYSE identified as heterosexual (78%), which is down from 2018-2019 (85%).

- More youth identified as bisexual in 2020 (14%) compared to 2018-2019 (9%). Two youth self-identified with sexual orientations not listed and one identified as queer.

DEMOGRAPHICS - RACE AND ETHNICITY

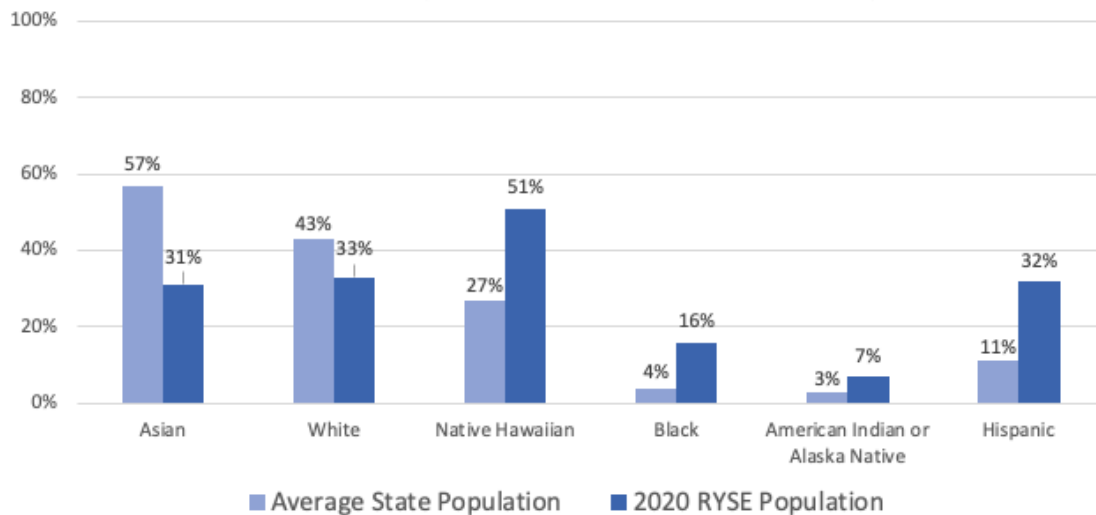
Youth identifying as Native Hawaiian continued to be the largest ethnic group served at RYSE, with 51% of youth identifying completely or in part as Native Hawaiian. About one-third of all youth identified with each of the following groups: Caucasian, Hispanic, and Asian. Pacific Islanders accounted for 20% of RYSE youth and 16% identified as African American. American Indian, Alaska Native, Samoan, Micronesian, and Tongan accounted for under ten percent each.

Race and Ethnicity
(can choose more than one)



DEMOGRAPHICS - RACE AND ETHNICITY

Races Represented at RYSE Compared to the Overall Racial Distribution in Hawaii (can choose more than one answer)



In 2020, youth who identified alone or in part as Native Hawaiian represented 51% of the total youth population at RYSE. This is *nearly double* the proportion of Native Hawaiians in the state of Hawai'i. In 2018, Hawai'i reported that 26.9% of the state's population identified completely or in part as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. Other groups that were disproportionately over represented at RYSE included Black youth, Hispanic youth, and individuals that identified as Alaska Native or American Indian. Black youth were represented at RYSE four times more than in the general population, Hispanic youth almost three times the general population, and Alaska Native/American Indian youth more than double the rate of general population. Caucasian and Asian youth were underrepresented at RYSE compared to the overall state population.

Source: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/census/popestimate/2018_county_char_hi_file/Pop_char_hi_2018_final.pdf

DEMOGRAPHICS - PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

6

RYSE supported six youth who were either pregnant or had partners who were pregnant at the time of entry.

16

RYSE supported 16 youth who reported having at least one child. The majority said their child/children were not currently living with them.

DEMOGRAPHICS - MILITARY SERVICE

2

RYSE served two youth who reported they have been in the military.

Two youth (2%) reported serving in the military. In anecdotal evidence from RYSE staff members, many youth talked about family members serving in the military, and sometimes a youth would talk about being at RYSE because parents were relocated and the youth did not go with them.

11

RYSE served 11 youth who reported they had family members who served in the military

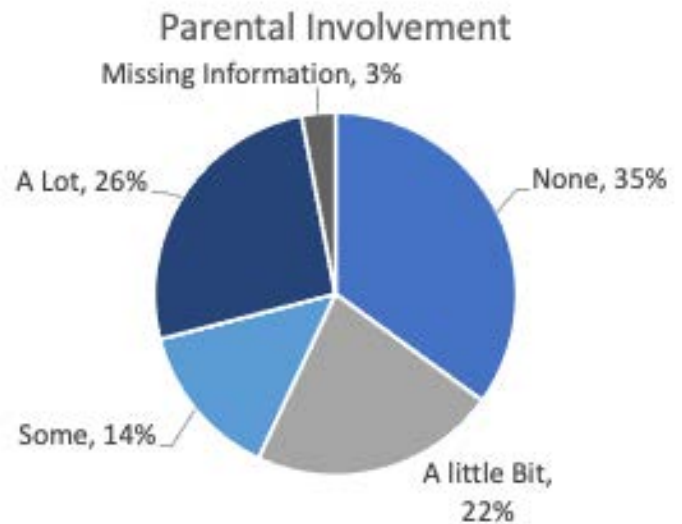
In September 2020, a question was added about family military service and homelessness due to family military service. Of the 37 youth who were asked this question, 11 identified a family member as having served in the military. None of these 11 youth attributed their homelessness to their family member's military service. Because this conflicts with what RYSE staff report hearing, this could be an area of exploration in future research.

HAWAIIAN HOMESTEAD LAND

In June 2020 a question was added to the intake survey that asks if youth grew up on Hawaiian Homestead Land. Of the 36 youth who were asked this question, (those who entered RYSE after 6/10/2020 *and* identified in whole or part as Native Hawaiian), 15 said that they grew up on Hawaiian Homestead Land. This represents 42% of the youth who were asked the question and 25% of all youth who entered RYSE after 6/10/2020. Homesteads reported include Waimānalo, Kapolei, Wai'anae, and neighbor islands.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

A large subsection of youth (35%) entering RYSE reported that they have no parental involvement. On the other hand, over one-quarter of youth (26%) reported to have a lot of parental involvement. What this looks like for each individual youth is not discerned in the intake, but it is notable that 36% of youth report they would like to involve their family in their time at RYSE. It is not always safe to involve someone’s family, but if a youth requests family involvement, it can increase the web of support that surrounds the youth.



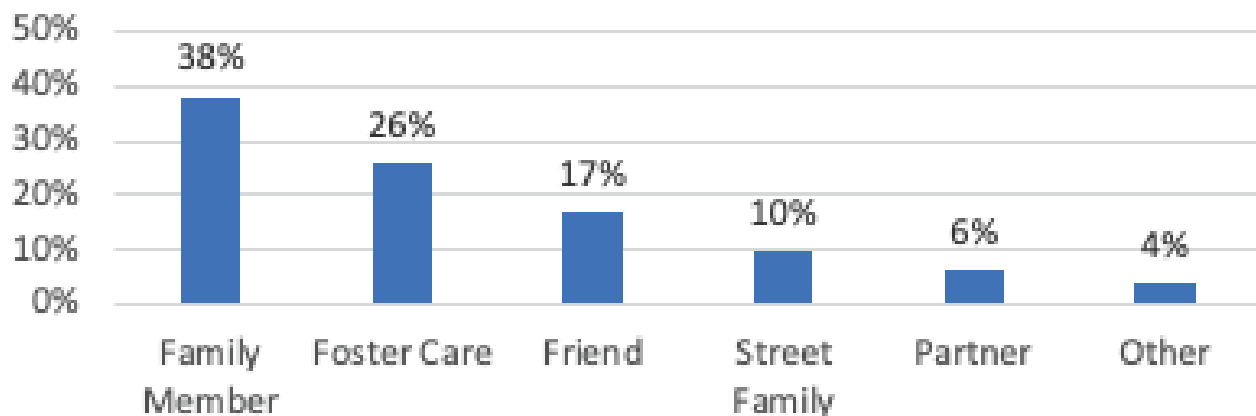
This family involvement data was supported by the Perceived Social Support Family Subscale where the average score was 3.63 on a scale of 1-7. This means that the average youth coming into RYSE reported a level of family support between neutral and mildly disagree. Youth indicated on average that they could count on their family less often than on a special person or their friends. The average scores for the other subscales, 4.48 and 4.22, translate to being between neutral and mildly agree.

Note: This question was only asked to the 90 youth who completed the new version of the intake.



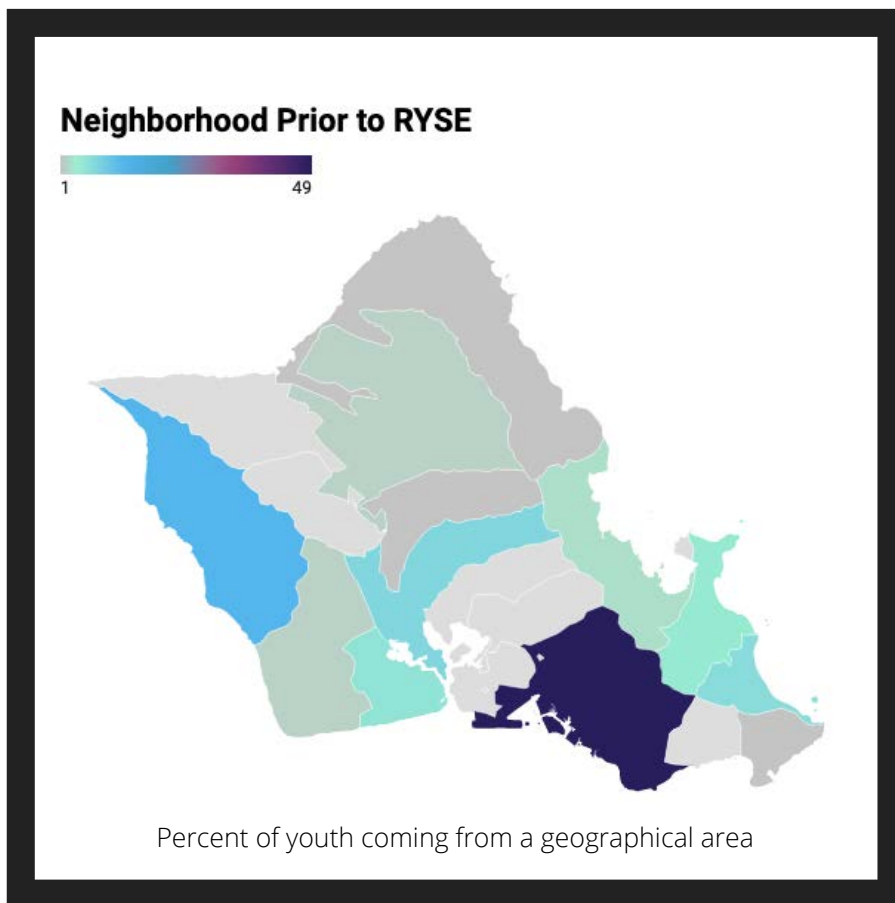
OTHER CARETAKERS WHEN UNDER AGE 18

Other Caretakers When Youth was Under Age 18
(could choose more than one)



In an effort to understand who else might have taken care of a youth when they were under age 18, a separate question was added to the new intake. For example, perhaps someone was not in the foster care system legally but was raised by a grandma or auntie. Foster care was one of the options available to choose among a list of other possibilities. Youth were able to choose more than one answer to this question because it is possible they lived with a family member through the foster care system. As the year progressed, it became apparent that this question was most likely not capturing the full extent of youth who went through the foster care system. A new question was added back into the intake in July that specifically asks about foster care. At the end of the year only 26% of youth reported going through foster care as opposed to 59% in 2018-2019. Level of involvement in the foster care system is likely underreported this year.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF YOUTH PRIOR TO RYSE



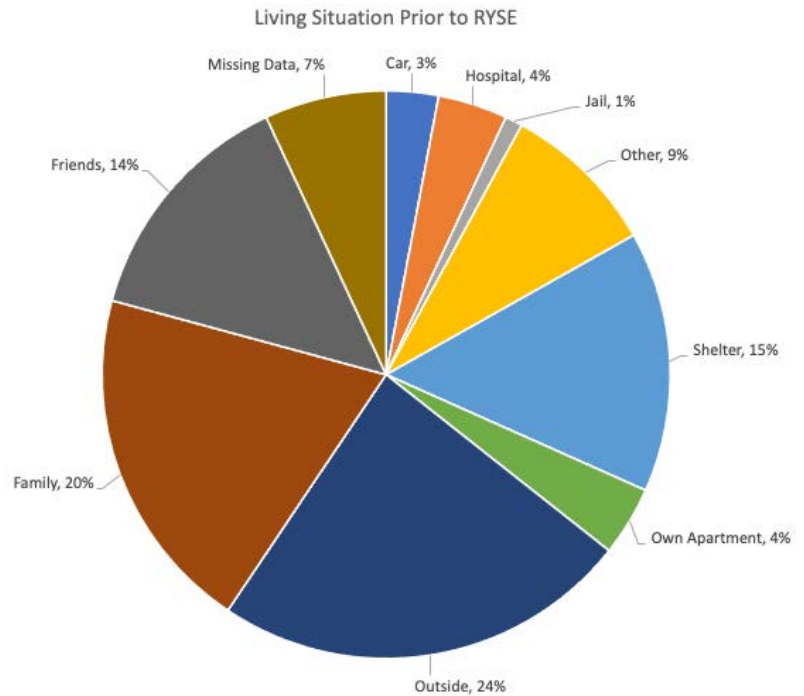
Youth came to RYSE from all parts of Oahu, with the majority coming from the Honolulu area (45%). The Wai'anae coast accounted for 12% of all youth entering RYSE in 2020. RYSE's immediate surrounding neighborhoods on the Windward side accounted for 14% of youth accessing services: Waimānalo (6%), Kailua (5%) and Kaneohe (3%). The remaining Oahu youth were scattered across the island. Additionally, two youth came to RYSE from Maui and three youth came to RYSE from the U.S. continent.



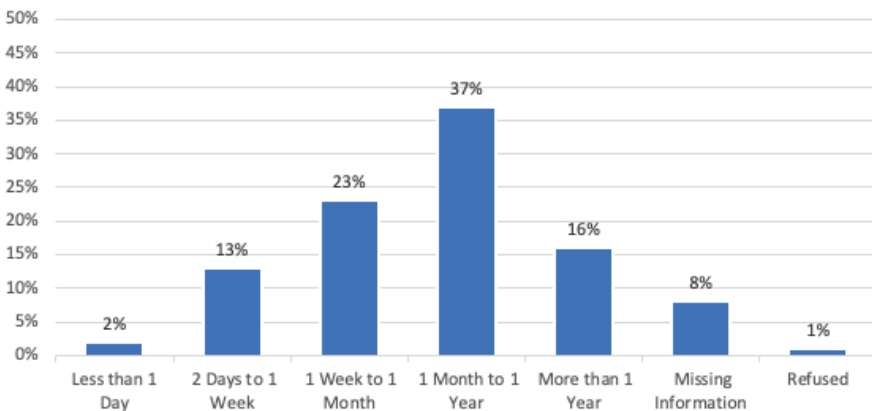
LIVING SITUATION PRIOR TO RYSE

Almost one-quarter of youth (24%) came from living outside at a place like a beach or a park. The next largest subsections of youth came from living with friends or family and other shelters like IHS. Youth also reported coming to RYSE from jail, hospitals, own apartments, and their cars. Only 1% of youth reported coming from jail, although being let out of jail and having no place to go is a reason many youth cite for being homeless (see *“Reasons for Homelessness”* section).

This could be an area of further research, to see where youth go directly after being released from prison and if they stay with friends or family for a bit and then find themselves with no other place to go.



Amount of Time in Living Situation Prior to RYSE



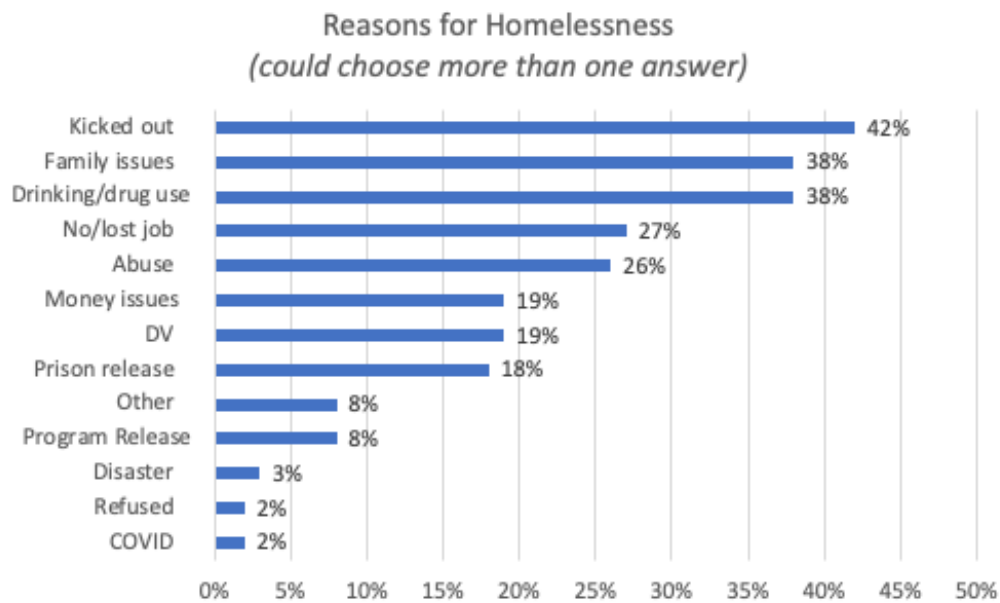
The majority of youth spent less than one year in their immediate prior living situation, with only 16% of youth saying they were there for more than one year. This speaks to the unstable housing that many youth experience, especially with almost four in ten youth saying they had been at their prior place for less than one month (38%).

Note: This question was only asked to the 90 youth who completed the new intake., as the answer choices were adjusted and not compatible with the initial intake.

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness does not have one root cause. People experience homelessness for a variety of reasons that often intersect with institutional and systemic factors. Racial disparities are seen across America as they relate to homelessness. Living in poverty, incarceration rates, housing discrimination, and access to quality healthcare are all risk factors for homelessness. There are racial disparities in all of these categories in Hawai'i for Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and African Americans. Individual reasons for becoming homeless are important to help that youth move toward stability. Breaking down factors that lead people into poverty, addressing systemic and historical racism, and moving toward system level change are critical to truly breaking the cycle of youth homelessness and giving young people a chance to move forward and become leaders for the next generation. *(Sources on next page)*

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS



RYSE youth cited a number of different reasons as to why they became homeless. Two of the main reasons that came up as "other" in the 2018-2019 report were family issues and getting kicked out. Because of this, both options were added to the list of potential choices for youth to select in the revised intake. Almost half of all youth (42%) said their family kicked them out and 38% said that family issues contributed to their homelessness. Drinking and/or drug use was also cited by 38% of youth as a reason for their homelessness. Other frequent reasons included employment (27%) and money issues (19%), abuse (26%) and domestic violence (19%). Notably, 18% of youth said that release from jail or prison was a factor in their homelessness. This, along with 8% of youth who cite being released from another program with no where to go, provide support for a continuum of care that ensure youth have a place to go when they exit other institutions.

Sources:

<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/inequality/>

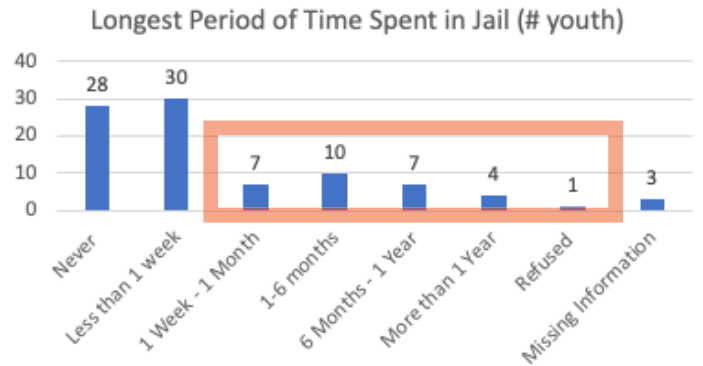
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/HI.html#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Public%20Safety,correctional%20facilit>

[s%20report%20higher%20numbers.](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/HI.html#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Public%20Safety,correctional%20facilit)

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?vl=3&vlid=65>

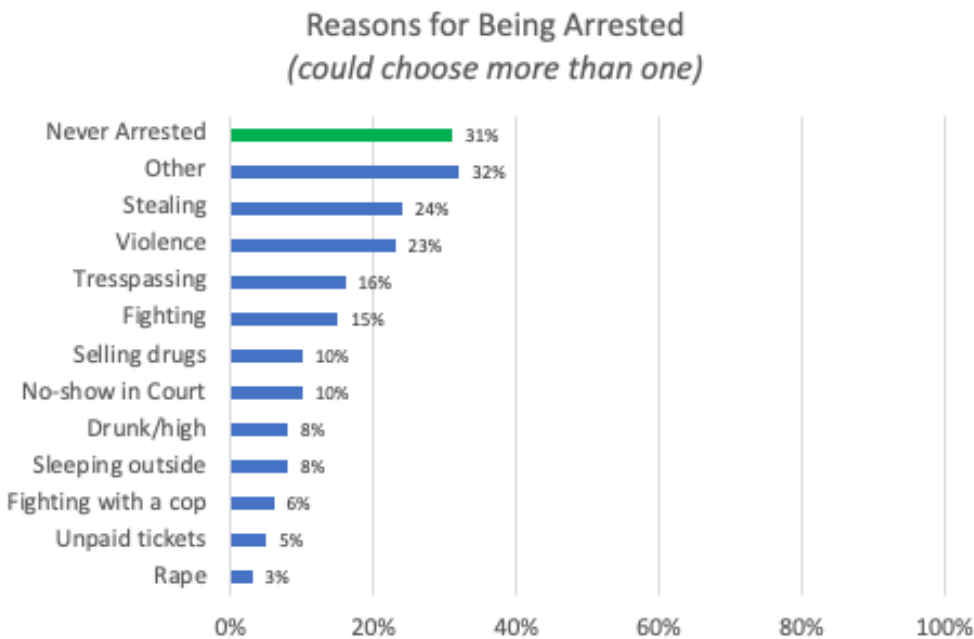
INCARCERATION

On the new intake a question was added to learn more about youth experience in jail. Out of the 90 new intakes completed in 2020, 62 youth (69%) reported being arrested. However, only 29 youth (32%) say they ever spent more than a week in jail. Only one person out of those 29 youth refused to disclose the length of their longest jail time. Only four youth reported they spent longer than one year in jail.



The box indicates the youth who indicated their longest period of time in jail was over one week.

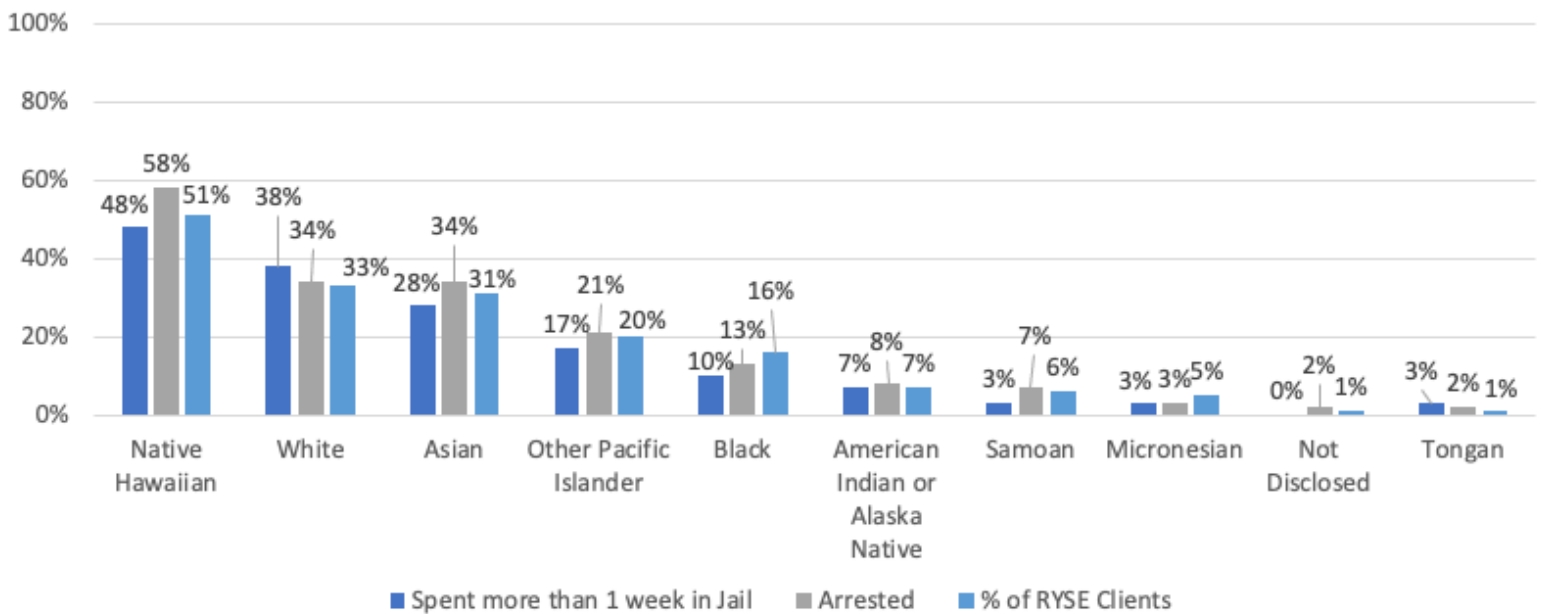
This means the majority of youth entering RYSE have either never been arrested or they spent less than seven days in jail.



A variety of reasons for being incarcerated were cited by youth including minor offenses such as sleeping outside or unpaid tickets and major offenses such as physical violence and rape. "Other" reasons included being a runaway, possession of drugs (different than the choice of "being drunk or high in public"), being a passenger in a stolen vehicle, driving under the influence, and kidnapping.

INCARCERATION - RACE/ETHNICITY

RYSE Youth Arrest and Jail Percentages by Race/Ethnicity



In a breakdown of arrest and jail percentages by race and ethnicity, rates mirror the representation race/ethnicity distribution at RYSE. Native Hawaiians are the dominant ethnic group at RYSE, and subsequently represent the highest arrest and jail rate (by race/ethnicity) at RYSE. This provides support for culturally appropriate conflict resolution programs such as Ho’oponopono. Even though the incarceration rates are relatively consistent with the ethnic distribution, there are more Native Hawaiians at RYSE involved in the justice system who could potentially benefit from culturally relevant programs around justice and resolution.



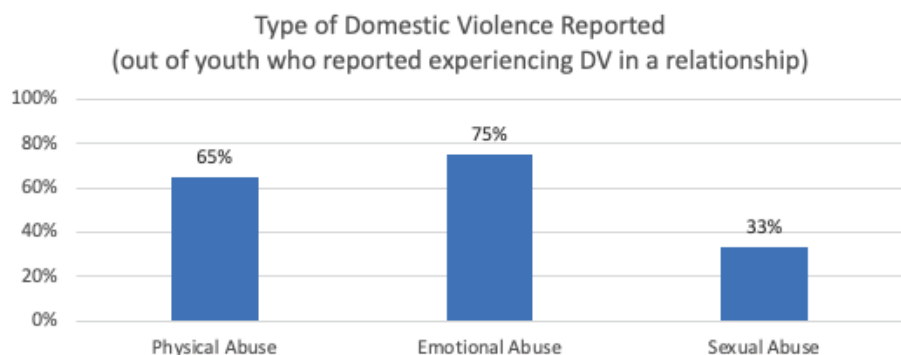
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Almost half of all youth (46%) reported that they had experienced domestic violence in the past. On the new intake, youth were asked specific questions about different types of domestic violence they might have experienced. This revision was meant to capture different aspects of relationships that one might not specifically identify as domestic violence but are signs of unhealthy and potentially abusive relationships.

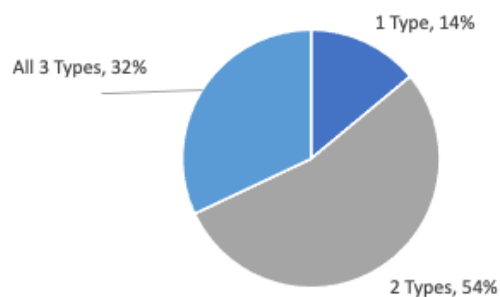
TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Almost one-half of youth (46%) disclosed experiencing domestic violence at some point. **Of people who answered that they had experienced domestic violence**, emotional abuse was the most common type of abuse reported with 75% of youth saying they had experienced this at some point in a relationship. Physical violence was also common, with 65% of youth reporting some kind of physical abuse. Sexual violence was the least common, although still too prevalent in their lives, with one-third of youth reporting sexual violence. The overwhelming majority of youth reporting violence in a relationship indicated they had experienced more than one type of violence (86%).

These data provide support for specific programming and training around healthy relationships and safety planning.



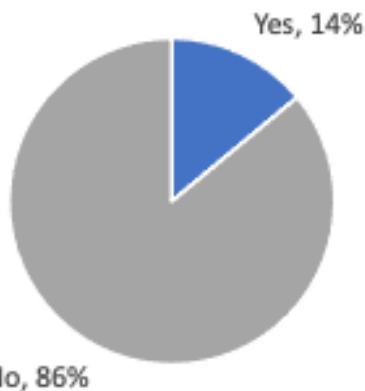
Percent of Youth Reporting Different Types of Domestic Violence
(of those who reported DV)



1 in 10 youth reported they are at RYSE because they are leaving an abusive relationship

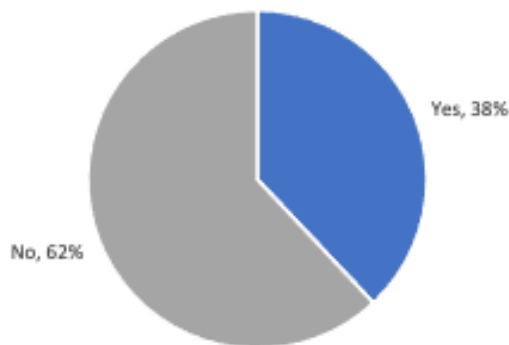
SURVIVAL SEX, CRIME VICTIMIZATION, AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Percent of Youth Who Report Exchanging Sex for Money or Basic Needs



14% of youth reported having exchanged sex for money or other basic needs such as food or shelter.

Crime Victimization

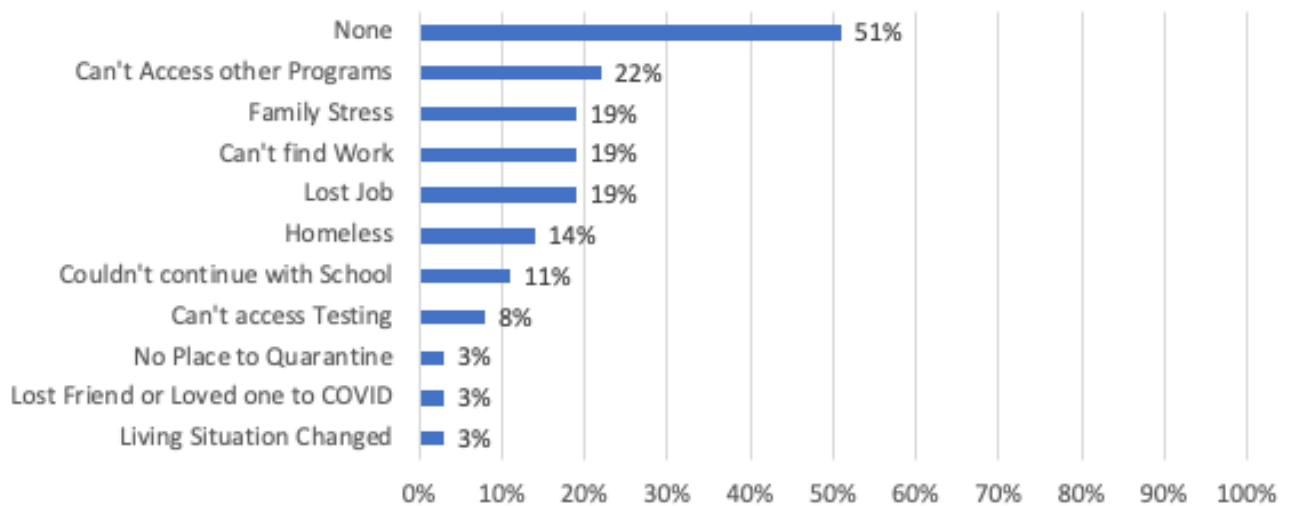


38% of youth reported that they were the victim of a crime.

29% of youth expressed interest in programs that prevent violence.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

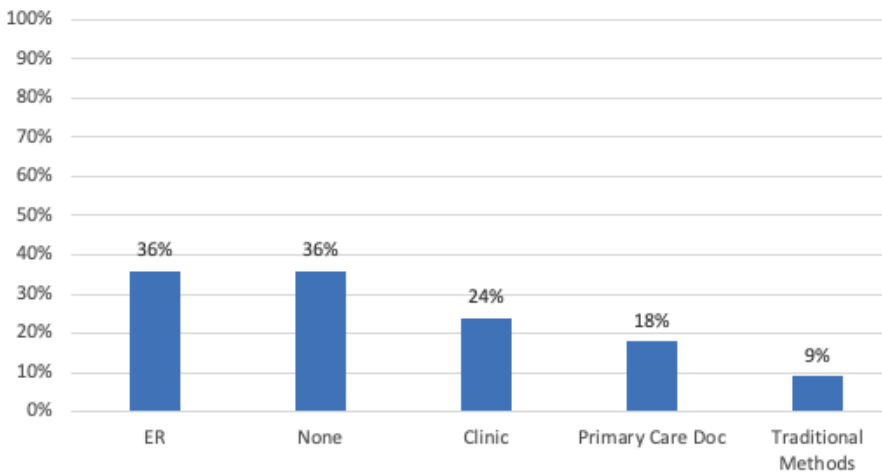
How COVID-19 Affected RYSE Youth



As COVID-19 swept through Hawai'i, a question was added to the intake in September 2020 to see how COVID affected RYSE youth. Of the 37 youth who answered this question, the majority (51%) reported that COVID did not have any specific impact on them but others reported COVID had affected them in a variety of ways. With the severe economic impacts of the pandemic, many youth reported that they either lost their job (19%) or could not find work (19%) due to COVID. Access to programs was another important resource that COVID continued to affect. More than one in five youth (22%) reported they had difficulty accessing essential programs. This includes getting documents (like birth certificates or Social Security cards) as well as accessing social service agencies for food and other basic needs. Additionally, the movement towards virtual platforms isolates people who do not have regular reliable access to the internet or electricity. Notably, out of the 36 youth who were asked this question, 5 youth (14%) indicated that COVID contributed to their homelessness.

HEALTHCARE AND INSURANCE

Where Youth Go When They Are Sick
(can choose more than one answer)



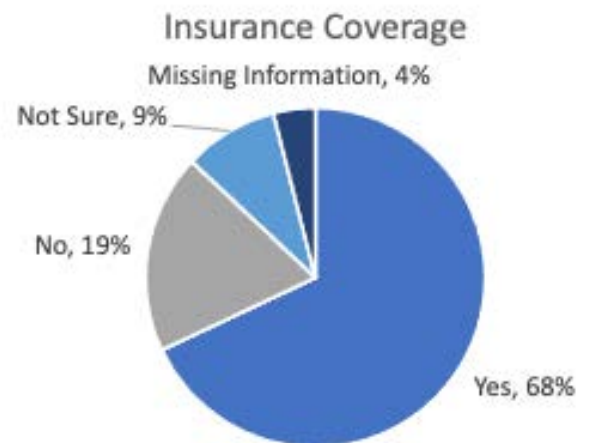
Note: This question was only asked to the 90 youth who completed the new version of the intake.

The new intake asks a question about where youth go when they get sick. The vast majority of youth indicated that they either go to the emergency room (36%) or they do not go see anyone (36%) when they are sick. Nearly one-quarter of youth (24%) indicated that they go to a clinic when they are sick, and 18% of youth reported having their own primary care doctor. Almost one in ten youth reported that they use traditional healing methods (9%) when they are sick.

This disproportionate number of youth who lack a medical home provides support for healthcare navigation and on-site clinics.

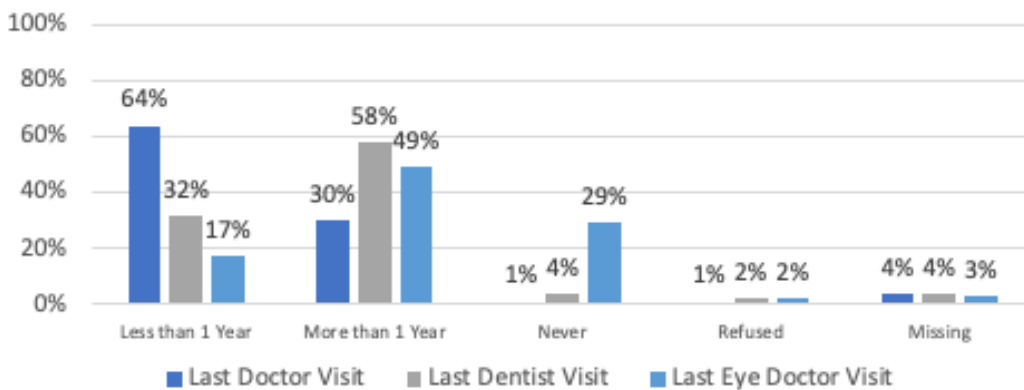
Only 68% of youth came into RYSE knowing they had health insurance. This is down from 80% in 2018-2019. However, 9% of youth reported that they were unsure if they did have health insurance. Having health insurance is important, especially when considering the great number of health concerns (especially dental, mental and emotional health) reported by RYSE youth.

These data provide support for onsite insurance navigation services so that youth can have help going through what can be a daunting application process.



LAST MEDICAL VISITS

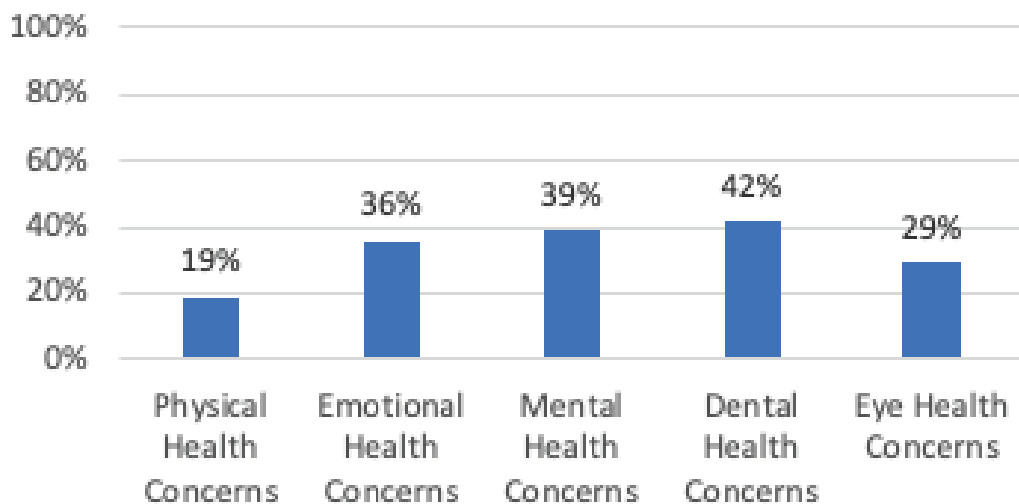
Last Medical Visits



Note: This question was only asked to the 90 youth who completed the new version of the intake.

Youth were more likely to be up to date with their physical healthcare as opposed to their dental health or eye health. This translated to more concerns about their dental and eye health because they were not connected to regular care. Almost two-thirds (64%) of youth had been to see a medical provider in the past year for physical health concerns, whereas only one-third (32%) had seen a dentist in the past year and even fewer (17%) had seen an eye doctor in the past year. Notably, 29% of youth had never seen an eye doctor.

Youth Reporting Different Health Concerns



Note: This question was only asked to the 90 youth who completed the new version of the intake.



6.6

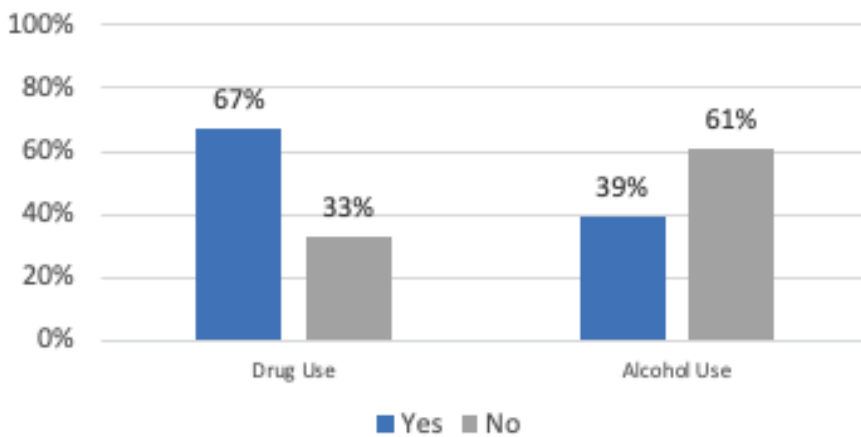
RYSE youth reported an average of 6.6 physically unhealthy days per month. The average Hawai'i youth age 18-24 reported 2.3 physically unhealthy days per month

10.74

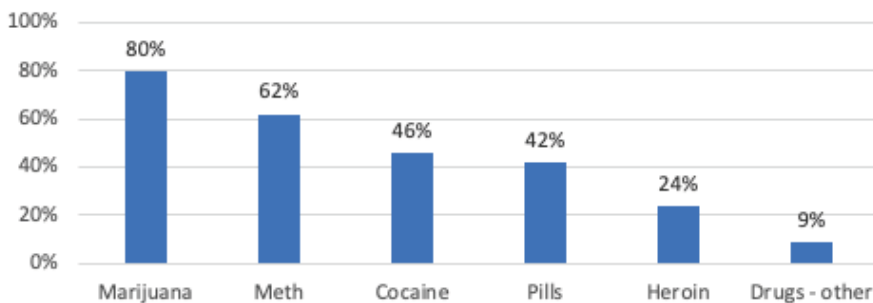
RYSE youth reported an average of 10.74 mentally unhealthy days per month. The average Hawai'i youth age 18-24 reported 5.08 mentally unhealthy days per month

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Drug and Alcohol Use



Types of Drug Use Among Youth Who Indicated Drug Use
(ever tried, could choose more than one)

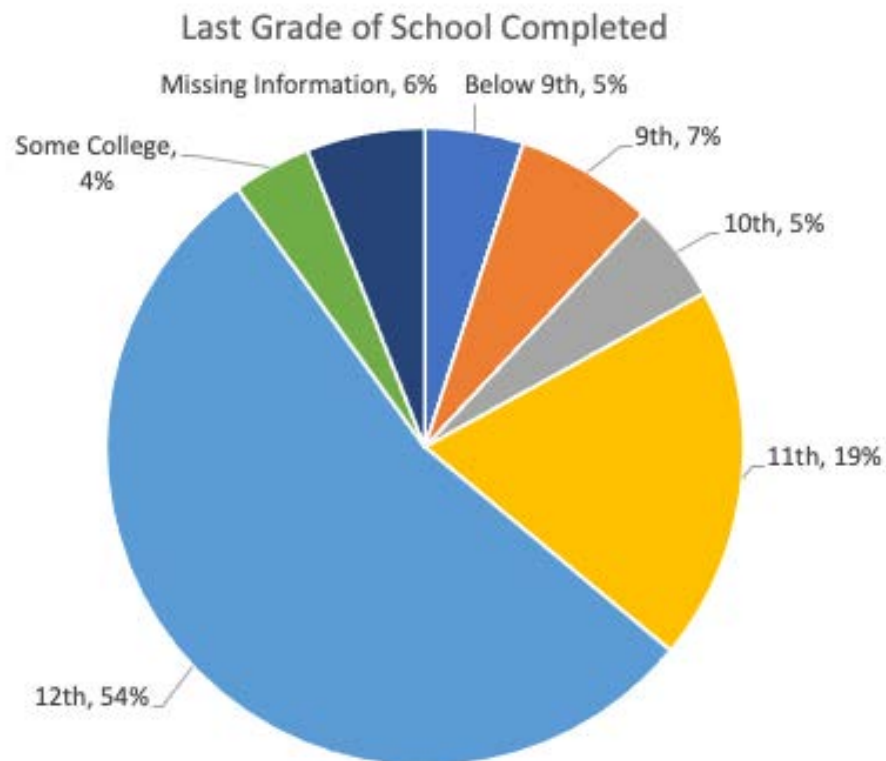


More youth entering RYSE indicated drug use (67%) opposed to alcohol use (39%). Among youth who indicated drug use, the most popular drugs of choice were marijuana and methamphetamine. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of youth who indicated drug use said they use needles to administer their drugs.

This provides support for harm reduction strategies like having access to clean needles and needle exchange programs.

39% of youth who reported using drugs or alcohol indicated that they would like help quitting.

EDUCATION



Over half of youth entering RYSE indicated that they either graduated high school or earned a high school equivalency such as the GED or CBASE certificates. This highlights a need for trade school and college application assistance for those who are interested in furthering their education. There were still over one-third (36%) of the youth who have yet to complete high school which highlights the continued need for educational programs.

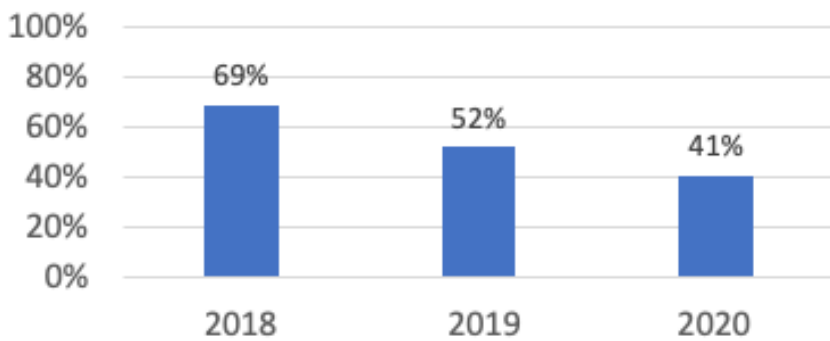
EMPLOYMENT

The overwhelming majority of youth (81%) were not employed at the time they enter RYSE. This was consistent with a large number of youth who cite unemployment as a reason for homelessness, especially as it relates to COVID. On a promising note, of the youth who are seeking employment, 80% of them indicated that they would like help with their job search.

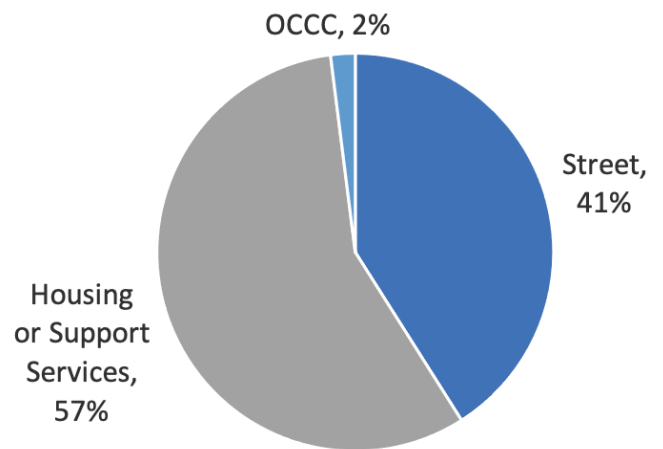
This openness to assistance in the job searching process allows for an opportunity to help youth explore career options that might be outside what they might normally consider (like service industry). Youth are able to indicate what types of jobs they held in the past and what jobs they would like to have, which helps RYSE staff prepare to support them in their employment search.

EXITING RYSE

Percent of Unique Youth Exiting RYSE to the Street



Where Youth Go When They Leave RYSE



Data based on exits in 2020

In 2020, the majority of youth exited to housing. This includes housing vouchers for individual housing units, family reunification, substance use treatment programs, and other programs with on-site housing such as Job Corps. However, it is not expected that every youth who enters RYSE will exit into permanent housing. RYSE has multiple tiers of housing because some youth are not ready to move out of homelessness but need a safe place to sleep for a few days. This represented the 41% of youth who left RYSE and returned to the streets in 2020. A small percentage of youth (2%) exited RYSE in 2020 to O’ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC).

The most hopeful trend is the decreasing percentage of youth exiting RYSE to the streets over the past three years.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

With nine months of data from the revised intake, focus will be shifted to understanding where youth go when they exit RYSE. The revised exit survey will be rolled out in January 2021 and include questions on the following items:

- Information about where they are going and housing
- Education and employment
- Health, stress and social support
- RYSE satisfaction and program improvement

Surveys will be linked from intake to exit to better understand the youth experience of homelessness to stability.

Other areas for future research could include:

- Qualitative interviews to better understand some of the topics in the intake
- Broader system level impacts on youth homelessness on O'ahu



CONCLUSIONS

The statistics described in this report tell a sobering story about youth experiencing homelessness on O'ahu. However, there is also a story of strength and resilience in these youth that is often overlooked by society. *We cannot forget this important story.*

It takes resiliency to survive on the streets and overcome adversity. It takes creative problem solving to figure out how to get from Wai'anae to Kailua with no bus fare. It takes strength of character to say "I need help," and trust to accept help when offered. It takes humility to come back and ask for help again when one slides backwards. It takes fortitude to exist in a world that has told you your entire life that "you are not good enough".

Youth who came to RYSE were over-represented by racial and ethnic minorities compared to the general population, experienced frequent domestic violence, and the majority reported being arrested at least once. Despite facing numerous challenges, RYSE youth often moved into housing upon exit (57%). This often included reuniting with their family or utilizing a housing voucher. While 41% of youth did exit to the street upon discharge, many of these youth returned to RYSE with hopes of stability. The progress that RYSE youth have made despite these numerous challenges shows that positive outcomes are possible with the right combination of self-motivation, support, and trust.

As a society, we must nurture our most vulnerable youth. Organizations like RYSE lead this call to action with values of empathy, compassion, and kindness. If we work in partnership and listen to what youth tell us they need, together we will build a stronger O'ahu.

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