



Office of Children
and Family Services

RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH



Annual Report 2018

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Executive Summary

Each year the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) collects self-reported aggregate data from certified residential Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs and non-residential RHY programs. This report includes information from 132¹ of the 133² OCFS-certified residential programs that were in operation for one or more days in 2018. These programs were located in 23 counties and New York City (NYC).

The 132 programs included in this report operated:

- Thirty-eight (38) RHY crisis services programs that served 4,001 youth, plus 118 dependents. 2,018 youth and three dependents were served in Rest of State (ROS) programs and 1,983 youth with 115 dependents were served in NYC. Youth and dependents were served in the following program types:
 - Thirty-one (31) RHY shelters that served 3,969 youth, plus 118 dependents
 - Twelve (12) of these programs served 1,983 youth, plus 115 dependents in NYC
 - Nineteen (19) of these programs served 1,986 youth, plus three dependents in ROS
 - Seven interim family programs that served 32 youth (ROS only)
- Ninety-four (94) Transitional Independent Living Support Programs (TILP) that served 1,118 youth, plus 108 dependents. 392 youth and 68 dependents were served in ROS programs and 726 youth with 40 dependents were served in NYC. Youth and dependents were served in the following program types:
 - Forty-one (41) TILP group residences that served 949 youth, plus 97 dependents
 - Twenty-five (25) of these programs served 698 youth, plus 35 dependents in NYC
 - Sixteen (16) of these programs served 251 youth, plus 62 dependents in ROS
 - Fifty-three (53) TILP supported residences that served 169 youth, plus 11 dependents
 - Eleven (11) of these programs served 28 youth, plus five dependents in NYC
 - Forty-two (42) of these programs served 141 youth, plus six dependents in ROS

Combined, these programs served 5,119 individual (unduplicated) runaway or homeless youth and 6,330 runaway or homeless youth in total (duplicated). Currently, there is no systematic way to collect client-level, disaggregated data on young people served in RHY programs. Some transient runaway or homeless youth are served by multiple programs, so the unduplicated figure includes some duplication across programs. However, any duplicate counts within a

¹ One Interim Family Program did not report data in 2018.

² This number reflects the number of programs that operated for one or more days in calendar year 2018, which is different than the number of programs that were in operation on December 31, 2018, as detailed in Appendix 1.

single program have been eliminated from the unduplicated figure by the RHY programs in their reporting. The duplicated figure represents the number of times a young person presented for services, even if the youth had already presented and been counted previously within 2018 for that same program. One thousand two hundred thirteen (1,213) runaway or homeless youth presented to the same residential RHY program more than once in 2018.

RHY shelters served nearly the same number of youth in NYC (1,983) as in ROS (1,986), whereas TILPs served nearly double the number of youth in NYC (726) than in ROS (392). This gap is likely due to the difference in bed availability; there are approximately twice the number of TILP beds in NYC than in ROS. For more details please see Appendix 1.

The most pressing service needs identified by runaway and homeless youth included conflict with their parental figure, a need for independent living and life skills, employment, and food.

Youth in RHY crisis services programs most frequently stayed between eight and 30 nights, while youth in TILPs tended to stay between one and six months. During their stay youth were provided a diverse array of services and referrals.

The most commonly provided *services* across all residential RHY programs were

- food,
- independent living support/skill development, and
- clothing.

The most commonly provided *referrals* across all residential RHY programs were

- mental health counseling,
- education services, and
- employment services.

Following discharge from RHY crisis services programs, 33 percent of youth returned home to family or were staying with a relative, and 25 percent of youth left voluntarily without a plan. Twenty-six percent of youth discharged from a TILP returned home to family or were staying with a relative, 19 percent were living independently, and 13 percent were staying with a friend.

In addition to these interventions there were also unmet needs. In 2018, there were 2,732 instances³ of youth seeking services from a residential RHY program and being turned away. Seven hundred twelve (712 or 26 percent) of these instances occurred in NYC and 2,020 (74 percent) in ROS. In 35 percent of cases where youth were turned away, the program from which they sought services was operating at maximum capacity.

In 2018, 28 non-residential programs reported data on youth served to OCFS. These programs served approximately 6,000 youth through drop-in centers or community support services, received approximately 4,750 contacts via hotlines, and made approximately 13,450 youth contacts through street outreach.

³ Due to the inability to identify individual youth and determine whether youth attempted to access more than one program, it is not possible to say how many individual youth were turned away. This number represents the number of instances in which youth were turned away by programs.

Background

Youth and young adults who are living on the streets or who do not have consistent, stable housing are highly vulnerable. Each year, thousands of New York's youth and young adults run away⁴ from home, are asked to leave the home, or become homeless.⁵ Homelessness is not just a problem in large urban centers such as NYC or Buffalo. Young people in suburban and rural communities also face homelessness. Youth are often fleeing neglect, abuse, or conflict in the home.⁶ These youth are still developing physically and emotionally, and when experiencing homelessness, they often do not complete their education, and miss the opportunity to gain independent living skills, including work experience.⁷ Homelessness and running away from home also make youth increasingly vulnerable to violence, crime, and sexual exploitation at the hands of other youth and adults.⁸

In recognition that young adults are continuing to develop through age 24, and that homeless young adults often struggle with the same risks and vulnerabilities as runaway and homeless youth, in 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed into law amendments to section 420 and Article 19-H of the Executive Law. Beginning on January 1, 2018, municipalities may opt to provide RHY services to homeless young adults⁹ provided this is part of a municipality's approved comprehensive plan.¹⁰ Additionally, when authorized under the municipality's approved comprehensive plan, municipalities may opt to extend the length of stay for runaway youth 14 years of age or older in certified RHY crisis services programs for up to 60 days, or for up to 120 days upon the written agreement of the youth and parent, guardian or custodian, and the approval of the RHY service coordinator has been obtained, and required notice is provided to OCFS.

Under Article 19-H of the Executive Law, OCFS has specific powers and duties regarding the administration of the RHY program in New York State¹¹ to include administering funding, training, and technical assistance to municipalities and programs that serve runaway and homeless youth. This annual report is submitted in accordance with section 532-e(d) of the

⁴ A runaway youth is a person under the age of 18 who is absent from his or her legal residence without the consent of his or her parent, legal guardian, or custodian. (Executive Law § 532-a(1).)

⁵ A homeless youth is a person under the age of 18 who is in need of services and is without a place of shelter where supervision and care are available; or a person who is under the age of 21, but is at least 18, and who is in need of services and is without a place of shelter; or a homeless young adult when a municipality's approved comprehensive plan authorizes RHY services be provided to such individuals. (Executive Law § 532-a(2).)

⁶ *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America National Estimates.*

<http://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>.

⁷ *What Works to End Youth Homelessness?* The National Network for Youth.

<https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-What-Works-to-End-Youth-Homelessness.pdf>.

⁸ Pergamit, Michael R, *On the Prevalence of Running Away from Home.* (2010).

<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/412087-On-the-Prevalence-of-Running-Away-from-Home.PDF>.

⁹ A homeless young adult is a person who is age 24 or younger, but is at least age 21, and who is in need of services and is without a place of shelter. (Executive Law § 532-a(9).)

¹⁰ No residential RHY programs were certified to serve homeless young adults in 2018.

¹¹ Section 532-e of the Executive Law sets forth the power and duties of OCFS as they relate to RHY programs.

Executive Law and provides information detailing the numbers and characteristics of runaway and otherwise homeless youth throughout the state and their problems and service needs.

The RHY Service System

In New York State, there are certified RHY residential programs as well as non-residential services and supports available to meet the needs of runaway or homeless youth. Participation in RHY programs and services is voluntary and may be terminated by the youth at any time.¹² Youth and young adults, therefore, cannot be forced or mandated to stay in RHY programs. However, program recipients may be required to leave programs for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, when they age out, pose a threat to themselves or others in the program, or reach the statutory limits for lengths of stay.¹³

Each municipality that is seeking state aid to provide services for runaway and homeless youth must develop a comprehensive RHY services plan in accordance with section 420 of the Executive Law, that provides for a coordinated range of services for runaway and homeless youth and their families and that addresses the needs of runaway and homeless youth. Municipalities may be eligible to receive reimbursement from New York State for up to 60 percent of the costs associated with the establishment and operation of RHY programs and services. Reimbursement is subject to the availability of funding as well as the approval of the municipality's RHY service plan by OCFS.

Residential Programs

OCFS certifies and regulates the following types of RHY residential programs:¹⁴

- RHY crisis services programs
 - RHY Shelter – a residential program for a maximum of 20 youth, all of whom are either under the age of 18 years old or who are between the ages of 16 and 21 years
 - Interim Family Home – a private dwelling providing temporary shelter to a maximum of two runaway or homeless youth under the age of 21 years as part of an interim family program, which is sponsored, inspected, and supervised by an authorized agency
- Transitional Independent Living Support Programs (TILPs)¹⁵
 - Group Residence – a residential program operated for a maximum of 20 youth that encourages the development and practice of independent living skills
 - Supported Residence – a residential program for a maximum of five youth of the same gender which provides an environment that approximates independent living

¹² 9 NYCRR sections 182-1.9 (d) (1) and 182-2.9 (d)(1).

¹³ See 9 NYCRR sections 182-1.9 (b) and 9 NYCRR 182-2.9 (b) for further information.

¹⁴ 9 NYCRR sections 182-1.2 and 182-2.2.

¹⁵ TILP is defined as any residential program established and operated to provide supportive services to enable homeless youth who are at least 16 years old to progress from crisis care and transitional care to independent living. In certain cases, TILPs may provide shelter to a homeless youth under the age of 16.

Non-Residential Programs

Non-residential programs serve RHY and youth who are at risk of homelessness. The programs also serve the families of these youth where appropriate. Services provided by these programs include, but are not limited to the following:

- Basic needs (provision of food, clothing, hygiene, emergency housing financial assistance)
- Behavioral/medical health
- Case management, including family reunification
- Drop-in centers
- Educational/vocational support
- Hotlines
- Services that are affirming of the needs of the LGBTQ+¹⁶ community at risk of homelessness
- Street outreach

Services for RHY are found throughout New York State. Details about service availability by region can be found in appendices 1, 2, and 3.

2018 Residential RHY Program Data

Methodology

OCFS collects self-reported aggregate data from certified residential RHY programs and non-residential RHY programs each year. This report includes information from 132¹⁷ of the 133¹⁸ OCFS-certified residential programs that were in operation for one or more days in 2018. Of these 132 programs, 38 were RHY crisis services programs (31 RHY shelters and 7 interim family programs) and 94 were TILPs (41 group residences and 53 supported residences). Data provided in this report is presented at the state level, and broken out by NYC and the rest of state (ROS) which references all other non-NYC counties.

Currently, there is no systematic way to collect client-level, disaggregated data on young people served in RHY programs. Some transient youth are served by multiple programs, so the “individual youth” counts include some duplication across programs. However, any duplicate counts within a single program have been eliminated by the RHY programs in their reporting.

Data is presented in percentages; these percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number. Youth for whom information was not provided are not included in this data. As such, some figures may not add up to 100 percent. In several charts, only those data reflecting responses of 5 percent or more are included.

¹⁶ LGBTQ+ is inclusive of persons identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning.

¹⁷ One Interim Family Program did not report data in 2018.

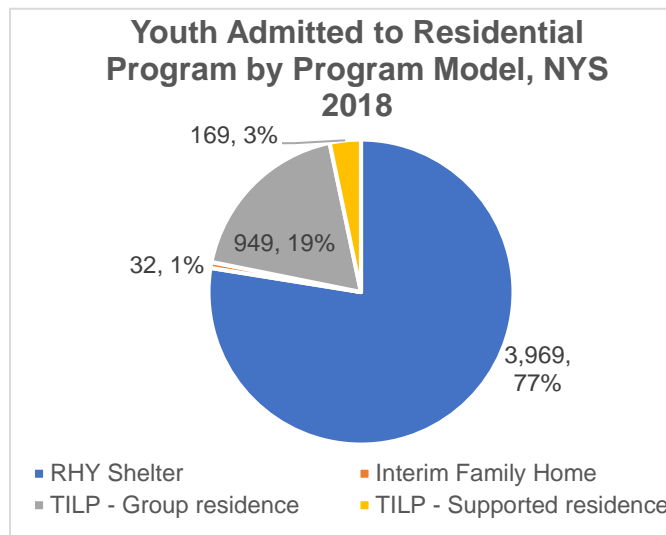
¹⁸ This number reflects the number of programs that operated for one or more days in calendar year 2018, which is different than the number of programs that were in operation on December 31, 2018, as detailed in Appendix 1.

Program Capacity and Admissions

In total, 7,851 youth (unduplicated) presented at a certified residential RHY program seeking services. One thousand one hundred eighty-two (1,182) runaway youth and 3,937 homeless youth were provided housing. Of those 5,119 youth, 319 were parenting a total of 226 dependents that were sheltered alongside their young parent(s).¹⁹ Additionally, there were 2,732 instances where young people sought shelter from RHY programs and were not provided residential services.

In 2018:

- 31 RHY shelters served 3,969 youth, plus 118 dependents
- 7 Interim family programs served 32 youth
- 41 TILP group residences served 949 youth, plus 97 dependents
- 53 TILP supported residences served 169 youth, plus 11 dependents.



ROS programs reported that they were operating at full capacity 64 percent of nights in 2018, and programs in NYC reported operating at full capacity 36 percent of nights in 2018. TILPs were more often operating at full capacity than RHY crisis services programs in both ROS and NYC.

In 2018 there were 965 instances of youth being turned away from a residential RHY program because that specific program was at maximum capacity; 45 percent in NYC, and 55 percent in ROS, however, it is not knowable if youth were served at other programs that same day.

As shown in the chart below, the number of youth served in residential programs has remained consistent over the past five years.

Year	Runaway or Homeless Youth Admitted	Runaway Youth Admitted	Homeless Youth Admitted	Dependent Children of Runaway or Homeless Youth Admitted
2014	4,935	1,192	3,743	310
2015	5,133	1,387	3,746	368
2016	5,292	1,690	3,602	128
2017	5,156	1,243	3,913	308
2018	5,119	1,182	3,937	226

¹⁹ Information about these dependent children is not included in this report.

In some instances, individual youth sought shelter from more than one residential RHY program, or from the same residential RHY program more than once in a year. The chart below reflects duplicated and unduplicated admissions to residential RHY programs in 2018.

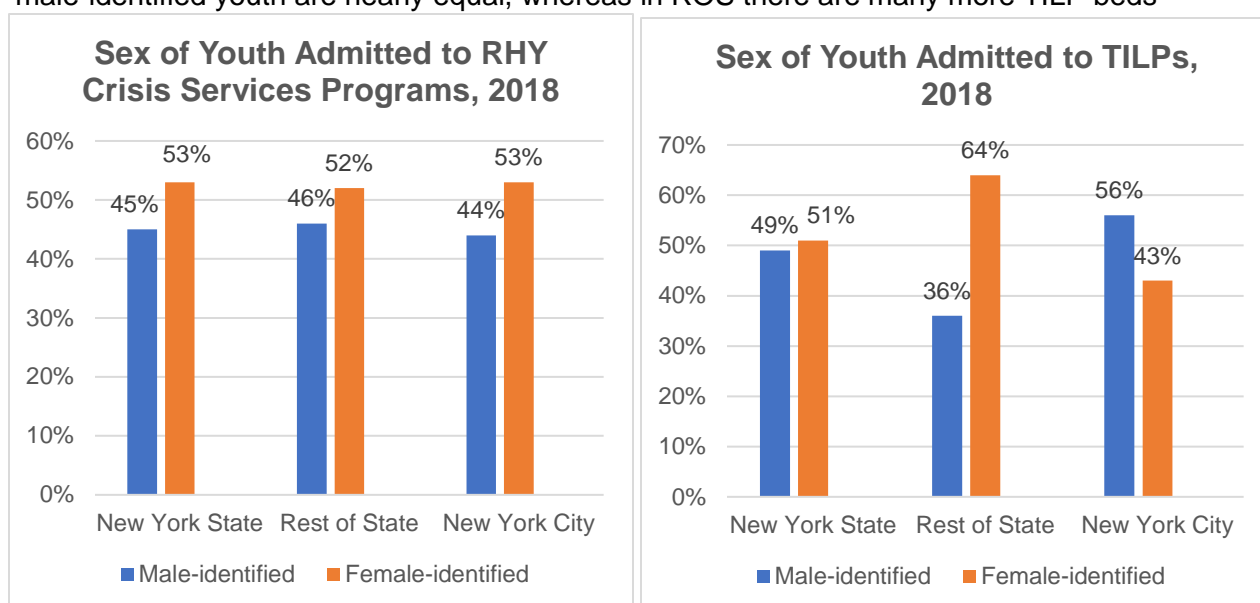
	NYC		ROS		NYS	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Duplicated Admissions	3,984	3,689	2,825	2,651	6,809	6,340
RHY Crisis Services Programs	3,291	2,841	2,393	2,233	5,684	5,074
TILPs	693	848	432	418	1,125	1,266
Unduplicated Admissions	2,734	2,709	2,422	2,410	5,156	5,119
RHY Crisis Services Programs	2,115	1,983	1,999	2,018	4,114	4,001
TILPs	619	726	423	392	1,042	1,118

Characteristics of Youth Admitted to Certified Residential RHY Programs

Sex

In 2018, residential RHY programs admitted nearly an even number of male- and female-identified youth. Just over half (53 percent) of all youth admitted to crisis services programs were female-identified; 45 percent were male-identified. Male- and female-identified youth were also admitted to TILPs at nearly equal rates; 51 percent of admitted youth were female-identified and 49 percent were male-identified.

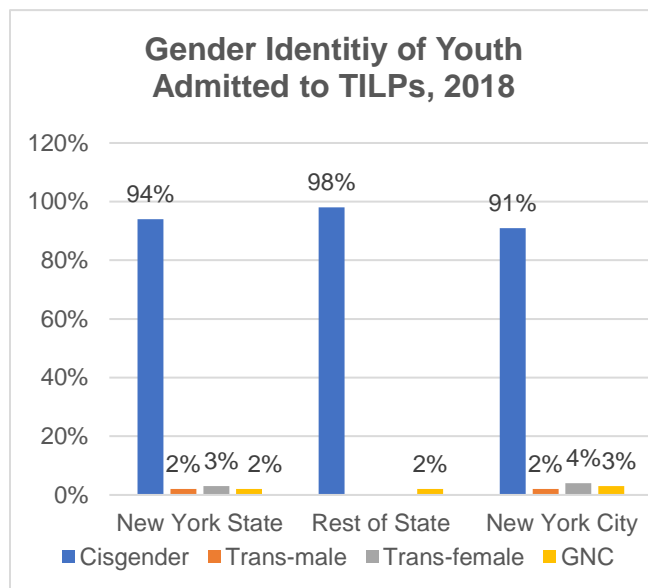
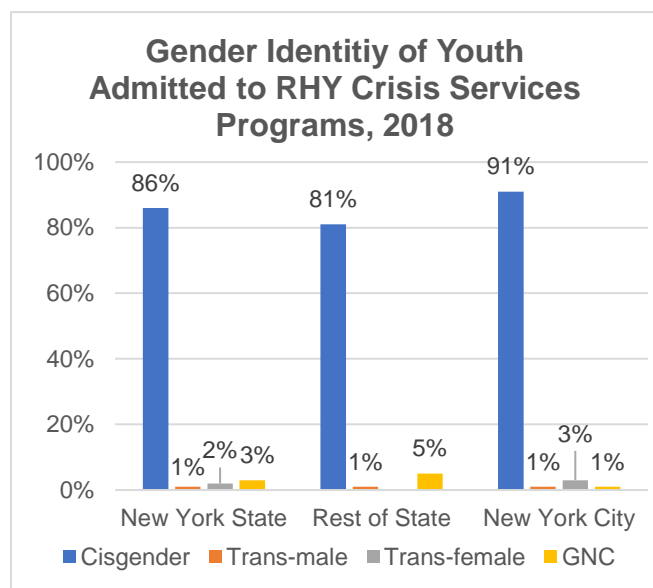
Notably, ROS TILPs admitted many more female-identified youth (64 percent) than male-identified youth (36 percent). In NYC, this pattern was reversed, with male-identified youth representing 56 percent of admissions and female-identified youth comprising 43 percent. This is likely a result of program availability; in NYC, the number of beds designated for female- and male-identified youth are nearly equal, whereas in ROS there are many more TILP beds



designated for females (30 beds) than males (8 beds). Most beds for runaway and homeless youth, it should be noted, are not reserved for youth based on sex or gender identity.

Gender Identity

In 2018, a majority of youth admitted to residential RHY programs identified as cisgender.²⁰ Three hundred and nineteen (319) youth, comprising 6 percent of all youth admitted, identified as either transgender²¹ or gender non-conforming²² (GNC). Trans-identified or GNC youth were admitted by RHY crisis services programs at nearly equal rates in ROS (6 percent) and NYC (5 percent). Nine percent of youth admitted by TILPs in NYC were trans-identified or GNC compared with just 2 percent in ROS.



Sexual Orientation

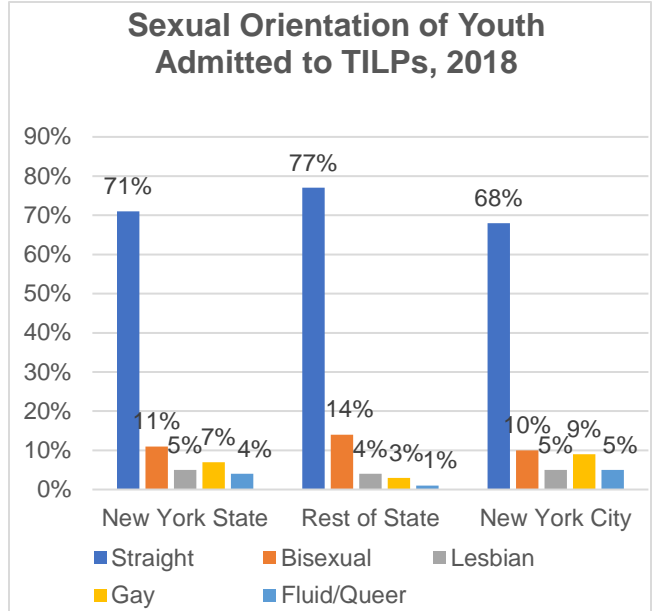
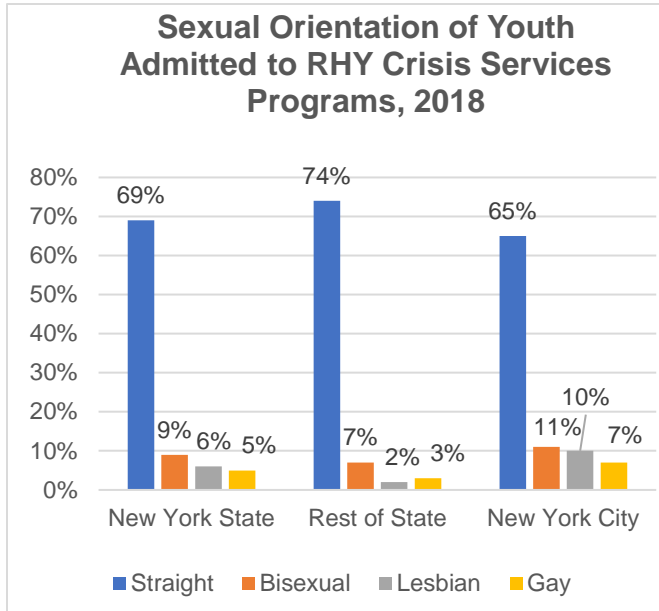
Providers reported that most youth admitted to RHY programs identified as straight. Statewide, providers reported that 9 percent of youth admitted to RHY crisis services programs identified as bisexual, and an additional 11 percent identified as either gay or lesbian. This pattern was similar in TILPs; statewide, providers reported that 11 percent of admitted youth identified as bisexual, and an additional 12 percent identified as gay or lesbian. These rates were similar for both NYC and ROS, with a slightly higher number of youth identifying as a sexual orientation other than straight in NYC. These numbers are surprisingly low given national projections. OCFS is working with RHY providers to improve training on LGBTQ+ affirming practice, as required by legislation passed in 2019.²³

²⁰ Cisgender is a term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth. (16-OCFS-INF-10 Attachment A)

²¹ Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. (16-OCFS-INF-10 Attachment A)

²² Gender non-conforming is a broad term referring to people who do not conform to the traditional expectations of their gender identity, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category. (16-OCFS-INF-10 Attachment A)

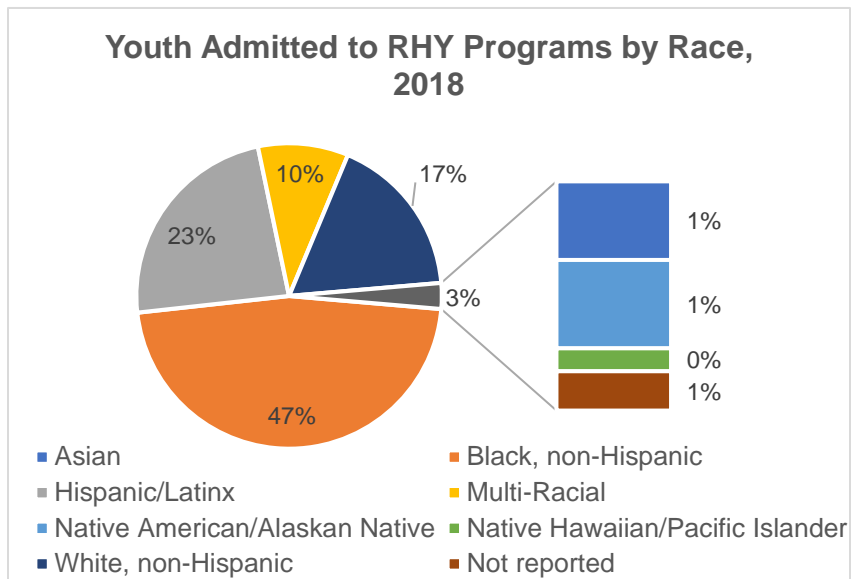
²³ Senate bill S1481A.



Responses that represented less than 5 percent of youth statewide included questioning, fluid/queer, asexual, and other.

Race

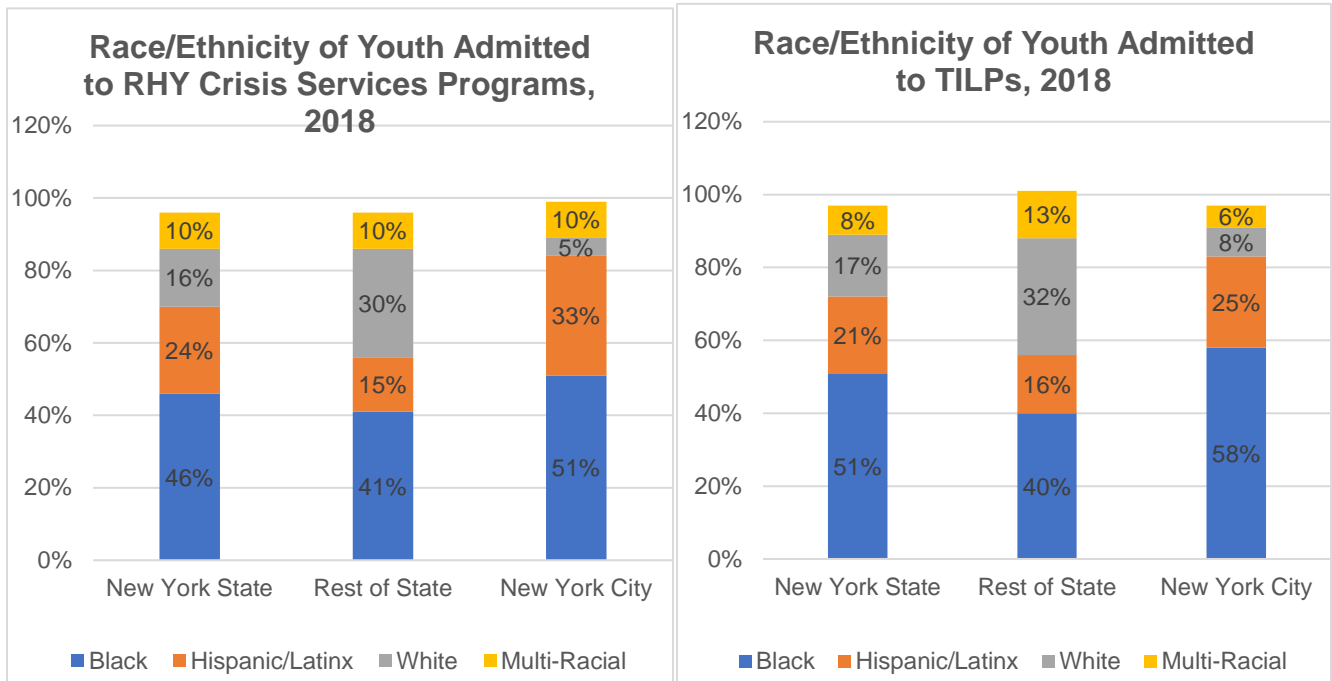
Nearly half of all youth admitted to residential RHY programs were identified by programs as black (47 percent), followed by Hispanic/Latinx (23 percent), and white (17 percent). Ten percent of youth identified as multi-racial, and 2 percent or less as Asian, Native American/Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.



In 2018, the racial and ethnic identities of youth admitted to RHY programs were nearly consistent when comparing admissions to RHY crisis

services programs and TILPs, however differences emerge when comparing admissions to programs in NYC and ROS. Thirty-three percent of youth admitted to a crisis services program in NYC were Hispanic/Latinx, whereas only 15 percent of youth admitted to crisis services programs in ROS were Hispanic/Latinx. Thirty percent of youth admitted to a crisis services program in ROS were white, whereas only five percent of youth admitted to a crisis services program in NYC were white. Black youth comprised 51 percent of admissions to crisis services programs in NYC and only 41 percent of admissions to those programs in ROS.

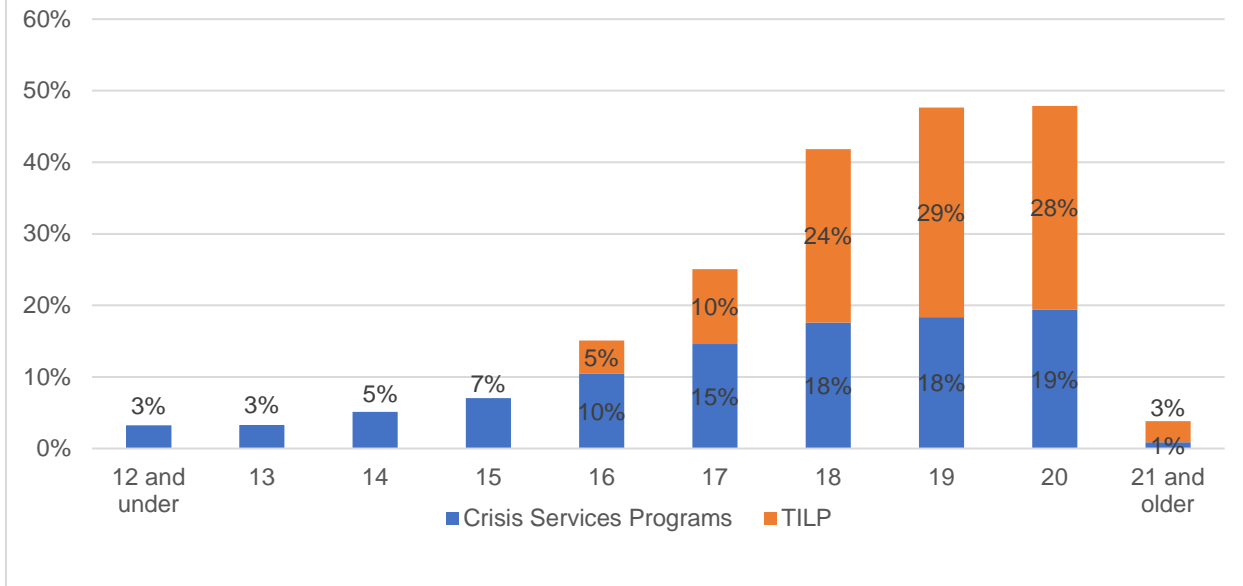
This pattern is similar when comparing admissions to TILPs in NYC and ROS. Twenty-five percent of youth admitted to TILPs in NYC were Hispanic/Latinx, whereas only 16 percent of youth admitted to TILPs in ROS were Hispanic/Latinx. Thirty-two percent of youth admitted to TILPs in ROS were white, whereas only 8 percent of youth admitted to TILPs in NYC were white. Black youth comprised 58 percent of admissions to TILPs in NYC and only 40 percent of admissions to those programs in ROS.



Age at Admission

Four thousand three hundred seventy (4,370) youth – 85 percent of all youth admitted to residential RHY programs in 2018 – were age 16 and older. In 2018, no programs were certified to admit youth over age 20; however, in some instances, youth were able to stay past their 21st birthday per 9 NYCRR 182-2.9(d). Sixty-eight (68) youth over age 20 were housed in an RHY program in 2018.

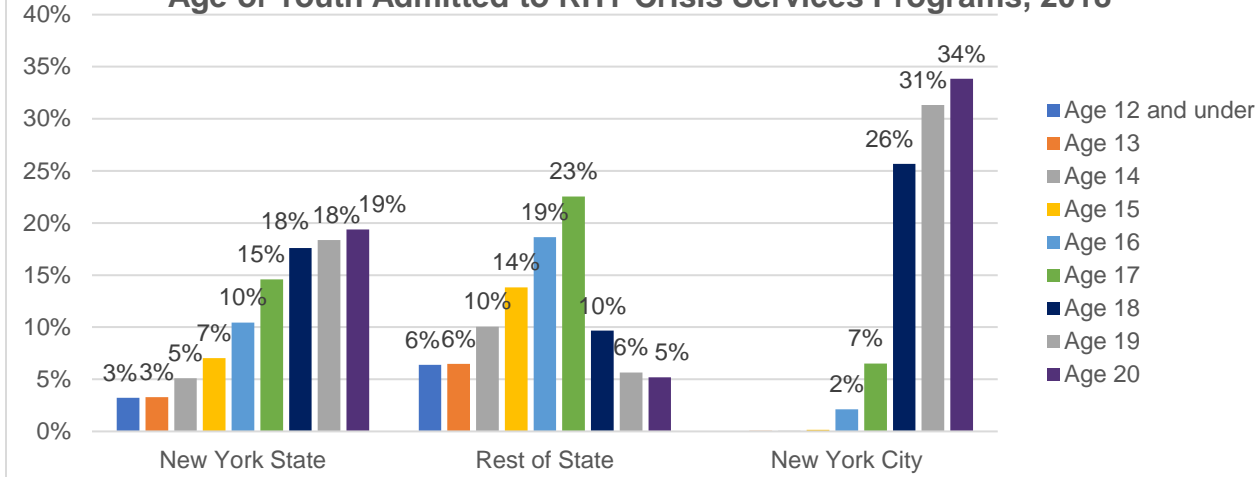
Ages of Youth Admitted to RHY Residential Programs, 2018

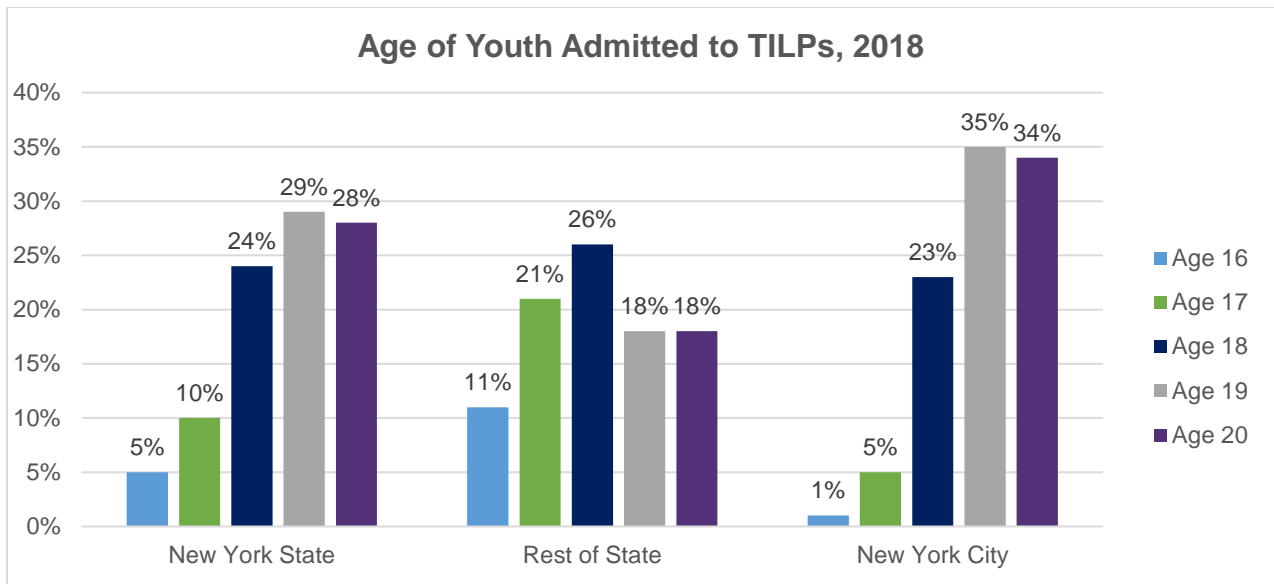


In 2018, nearly all youth admitted to NYC’s RHY programs (92 percent) were aged 18 or older. In NYC’s RHY crisis services programs, only 220 youth under age 18 were admitted. Similarly, only 44 youth were admitted to NYC’s TILP’s when under the age of 18. It is unclear where youth who have run away or are experiencing homelessness under age 18 are being served in NYC.

In contrast to NYC, a majority of youth admitted to ROS’s RHY crisis services programs (78 percent) were under age 18. While less than half (32 percent) of all youth admitted to ROS’s TILPs were under age 18, this proportion is still much larger than in NYC (6 percent).

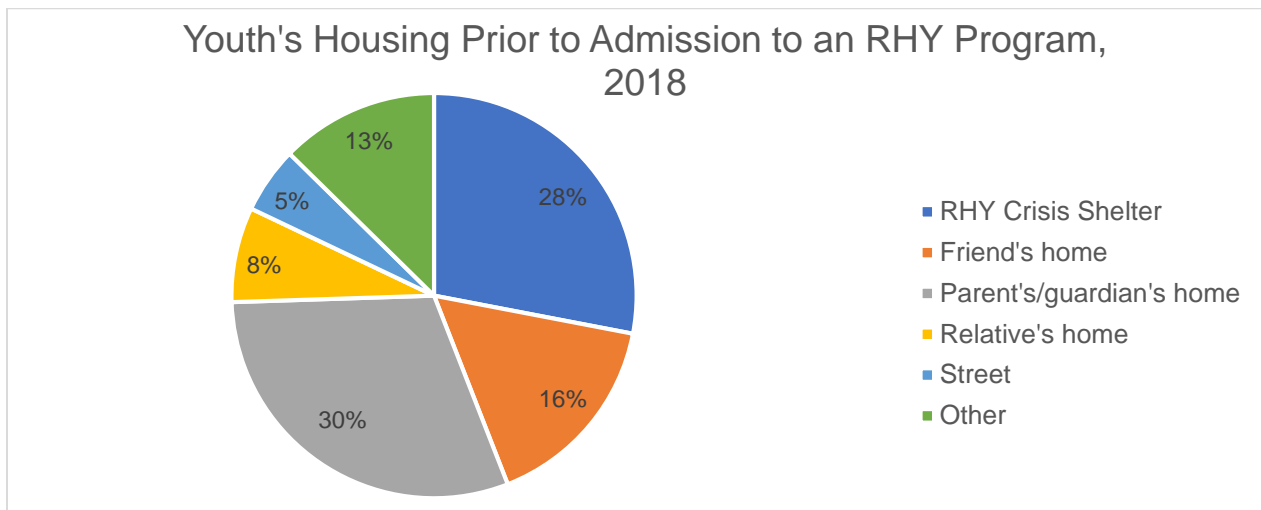
Age of Youth Admitted to RHY Crisis Services Programs, 2018





Housing Prior to Admission

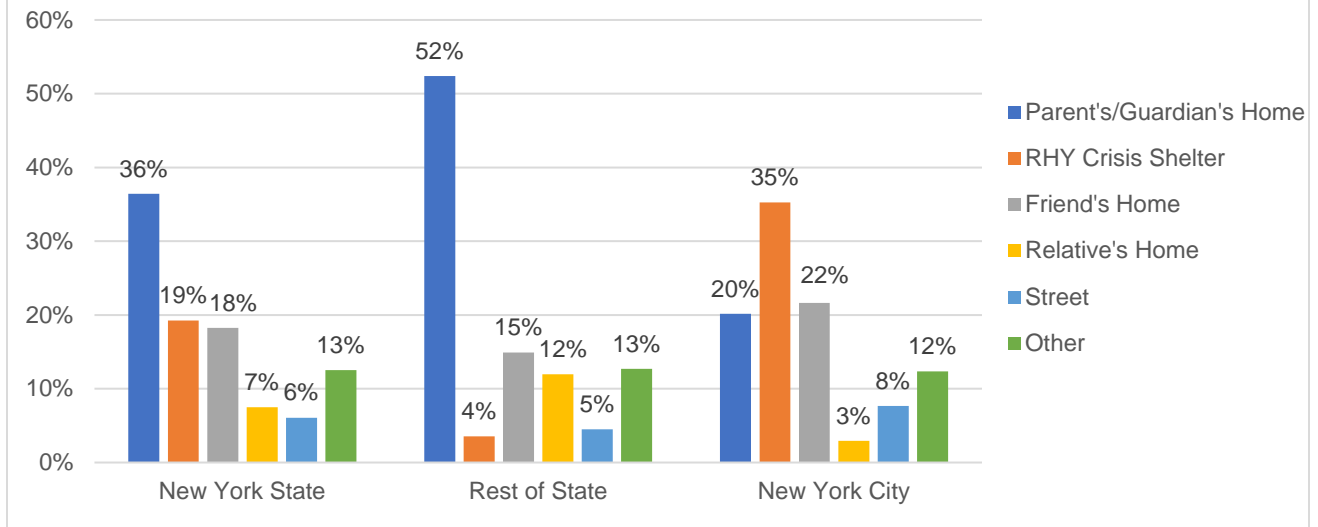
Young people come to RHY programs seeking housing from a variety of places and situations. In 2018, the most common housing situation prior to admission was parent’s/guardian’s home (30 percent), followed by RHY crisis shelter (28 percent), and friend’s home (16 percent).



Some of the responses provided under ‘other’ included: group home, foster home, residential treatment center/campus, correctional facility, and college dorm.

Youth’s pathways into RHY crisis services programs and TILPs varied, as did the experiences of youth in NYC compared to ROS. Statewide, the three most common places of residence prior to admission to a RHY crisis service program were parent’s/guardian’s home (36 percent), RHY crisis shelter (19 percent), and friend’s home (18 percent). While more than half (52 percent) of youth admitted to a RHY crisis services program in ROS came from the home of a parent or guardian, the most common housing situation for youth entering a RHY crisis services program in NYC (35 percent) was another RHY crisis services program.

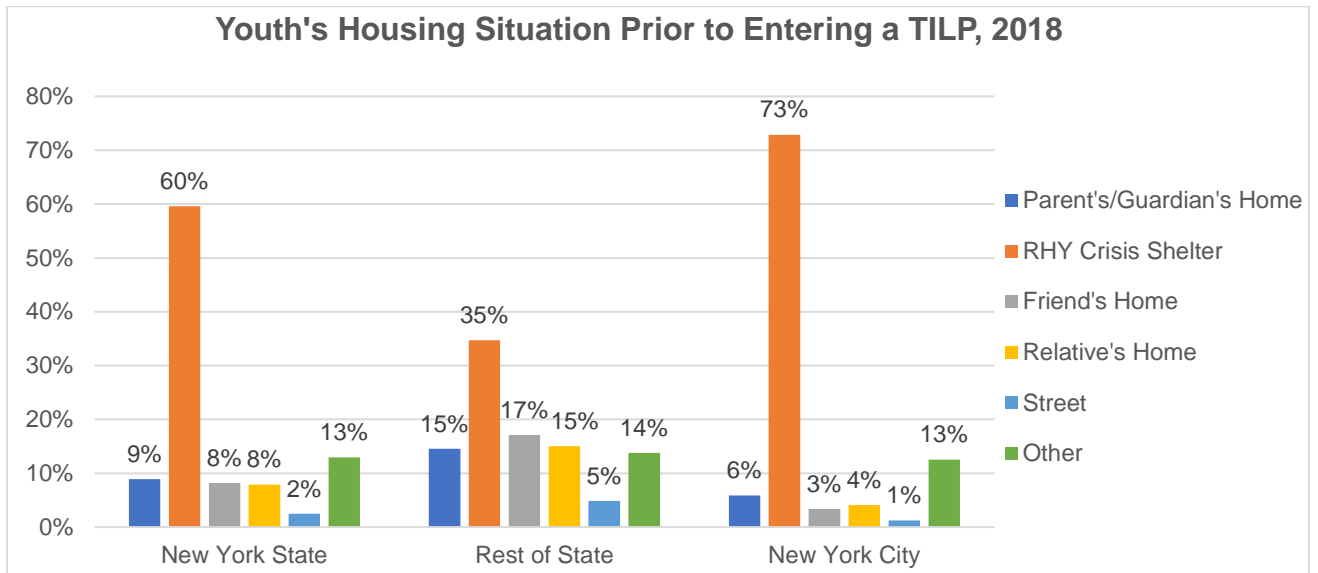
Youth's Housing Situation Prior to Entering a Crisis Services Program, 2018



Some of the responses provided under 'other' included: group home, foster home, residential treatment center/campus, correctional facility, and college dorm.

Statewide, the three most common places of residence prior to admission to a TILP were RHY crisis shelters (60 percent), other²⁴ (13 percent), and parent's/guardian's home (9 percent), although there were differences when comparing NYC to ROS. In NYC, 73 percent of youth entered a TILP from a RHY crisis services program compared to 35 percent in ROS. In ROS, a number of youth also reported entering a TILP after staying with a friend (17 percent), or from the home of a parent or other relative (15 percent each).

Youth's Housing Situation Prior to Entering a TILP, 2018



²⁴ The most common housing situations identified as "other" included: living independently and a different TILP. Other responses included: group home, foster home, residential treatment center/campus, correctional facility, and college dorm.

Service Needs

Programs reported the needs of youth admitted, in addition to safe and stable housing. More than one service need could be reported for each youth, thus the total number of needs reported exceeds the number of youth admitted to residential RHY programs. In total, 28,242 unique needs were reported, averaging six service needs per admitted youth.

Among all youth admitted, the top needs included conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family (68 percent), independent living or life skills (62 percent), employment, and food (45 percent each). These needs were the most prevalent regardless of program type. They were also consistent with the most commonly identified service needs in 2017.

Although service needs were similar across program types, the rate at which these needs presented varied. Youth admitted to TILPs generally reported greater service needs when compared with youth admitted to RHY crisis services programs. On average, youth admitted to TILPs experienced seven unique service needs, while youth admitted to crisis service programs experienced five unique service needs. The rates of needs were similar when comparing NYC to ROS, although there was some variation when ranking the prevalence of each need.

The top five needs of youth admitted to RHY crisis services programs are listed in the chart below, ranked by the rate at which these needs presented:

NYS	ROS	NYC
1) Conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family	1) Conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family	1) Conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family
2) Independent living or life skills	2) Independent living or life skills	2) Employment
3) Food	3) Food	3) Independent living or life skills
4) Employment	4) Clothing	4) Education
5) Mental health services	5) Mental health services	5) Sexual health, including STD/HIV

The top five needs of youth admitted to TILPs are listed in the chart below, ranked by the rate at which these needs presented:

NYS	ROS	NYC
1) Independent living or life skills	1) Independent living or life skills	1) Independent living or life skills
2) Employment	2) Food	2) Employment
3) Conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family	3) Employment	3) Conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family
4) Food	4) Conflict with parent(s)/parental figure/guardian/family	4) Education
5) Education	5) Education	5) Food

Services Provided

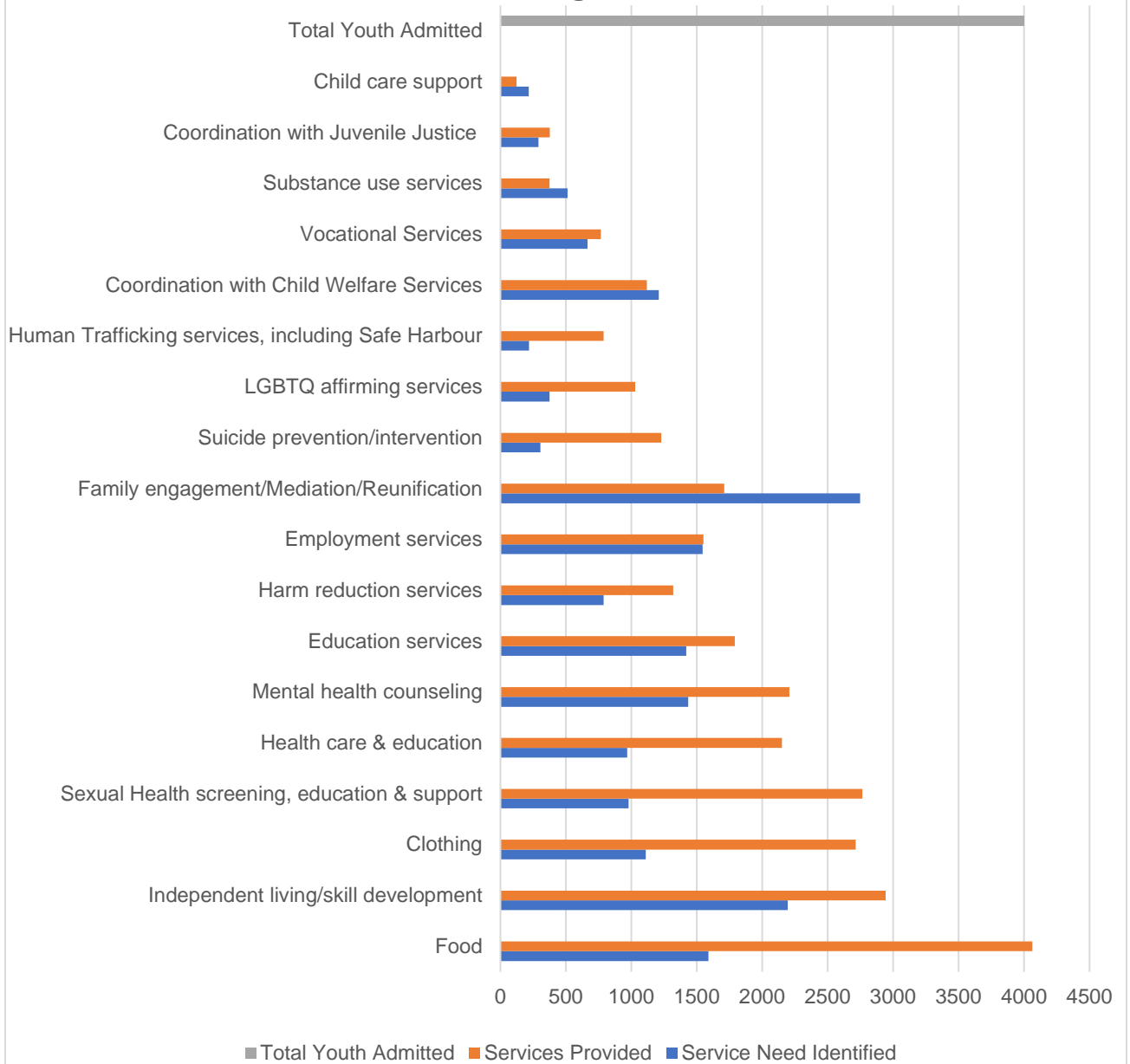
In addition to housing, residential RHY programs provide and coordinate a wide variety of services to help meet the needs of youth. In 2018, programs reported on services provided directly by the programs themselves and those for which referrals were made. Statewide, 33,026 unique services were directly provided to youth and 13,215 referrals for services were made. In total, 46,241 service interventions were made available to youth in residential RHY programs.

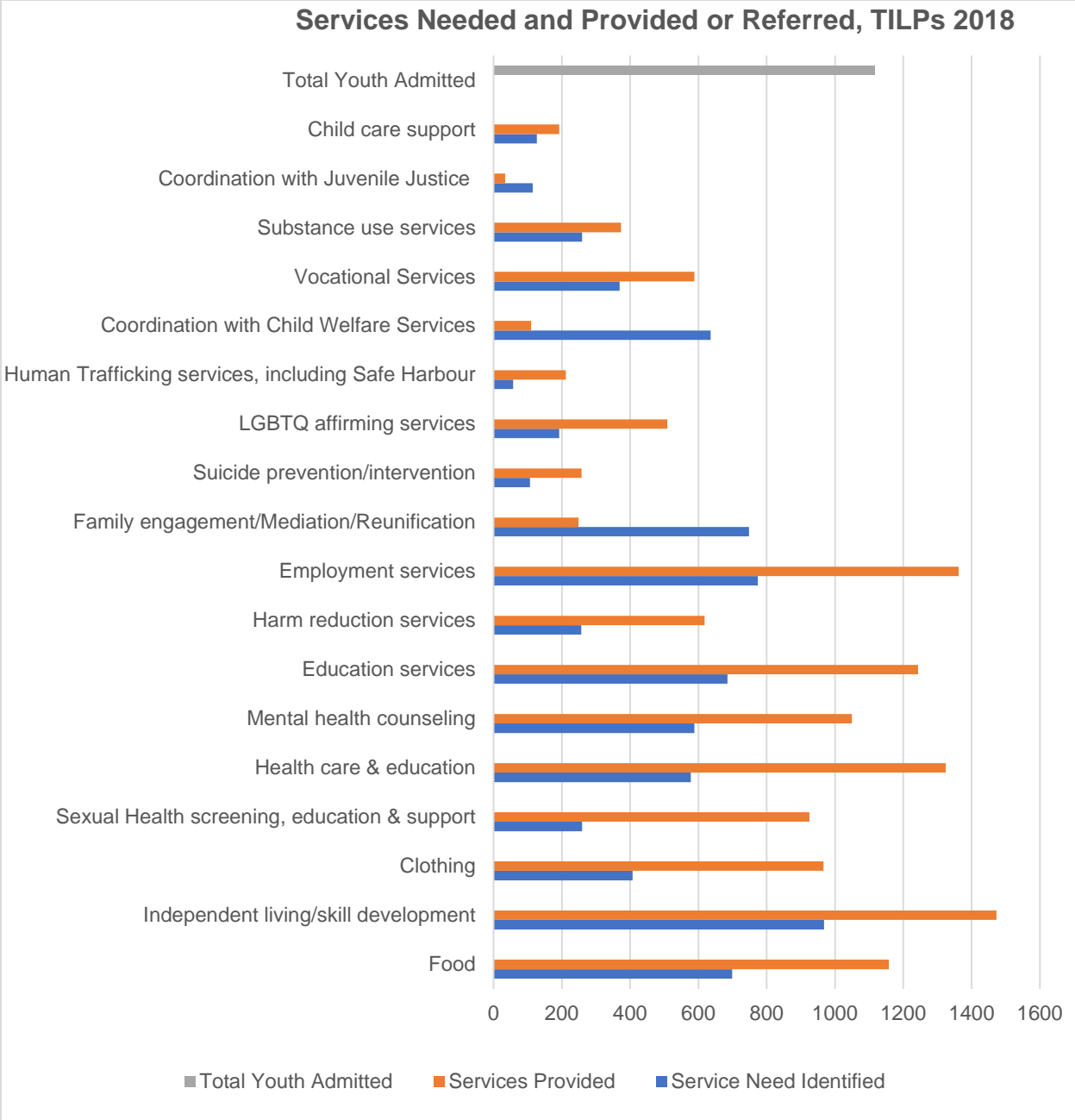
The most commonly provided services across all residential RHY programs were food, independent living/skill development, and clothing. The most commonly provided referrals across all residential RHY programs were mental health counseling, education services, and employment services.

The charts below align the service needs of youth with the most relevant services provided or referred to demonstrate the rate at which needed services were made available. In nearly all instances the services and referrals provided exceed the needs identified. This may reflect preventive efforts and/or instances where more than one service was provided or referred for an identified need. The discrepancy between needs and services and referrals provided is more profound in TILPs when compared with RHY crisis services programs, which is likely related to the longer lengths of stay available to youth residing in TILPs.

It should be noted that the needs and service categories are not perfectly analogous, and that the needs of youth are compounding, overlapping, and complex. Despite these considerations, the data reflects that there are many services and opportunities made available to youth in residential RHY programs.

Services Needed and Provided or Referred, RHY Crisis Services Programs 2018





Lengths of Stay (LOS)

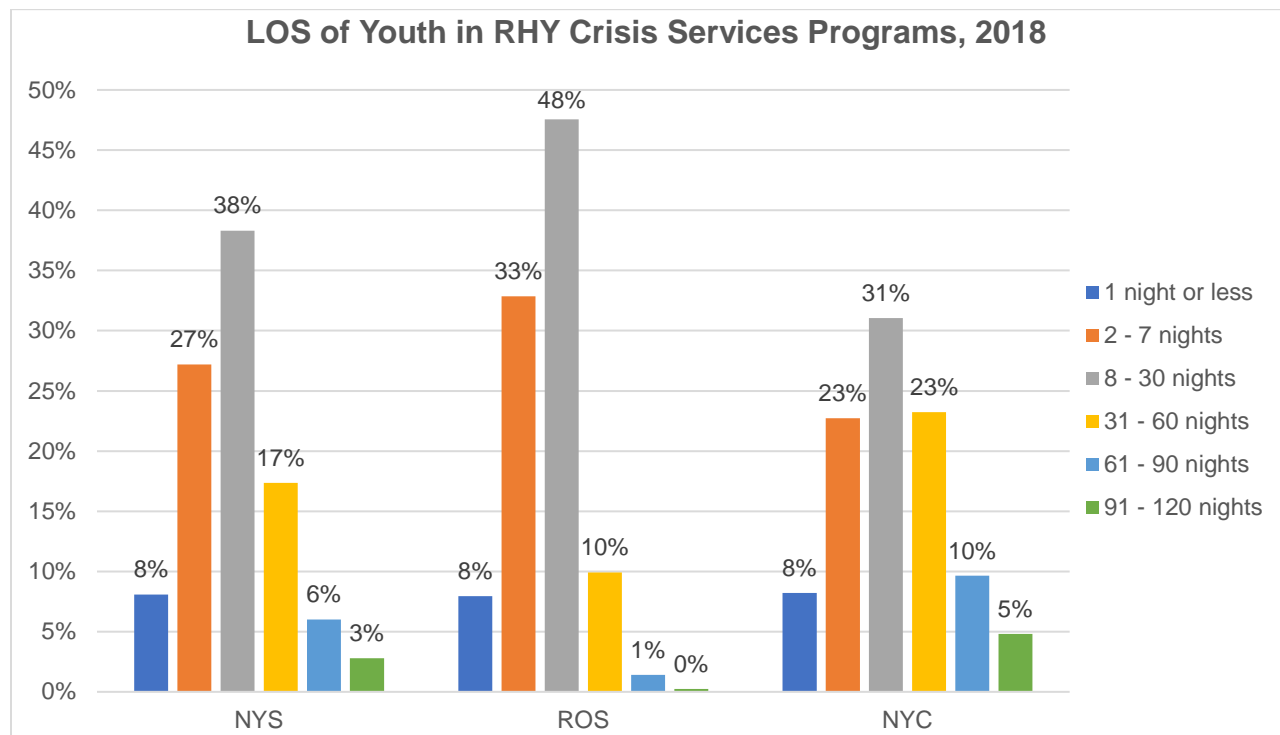
Runaway Youth in RHY Crisis Services Programs

In 2018, RHY crisis services programs, in partnership with the municipality in which they operate, selected the maximum LOS available to youth. Options included a maximum length of stay of up to 30 days for all youth, or up to 60 days with written agreement of the youth and their parent, guardian, or custodian and the approval of the RHY service coordinator. For youth 14 years of age and older, and if authorized in a municipality’s approved comprehensive plan, a maximum length of stay of up to 60 days or up to 120 days with written consent from the youth and their parent, guardian, or custodian, and approval of the RHY service coordinator. A

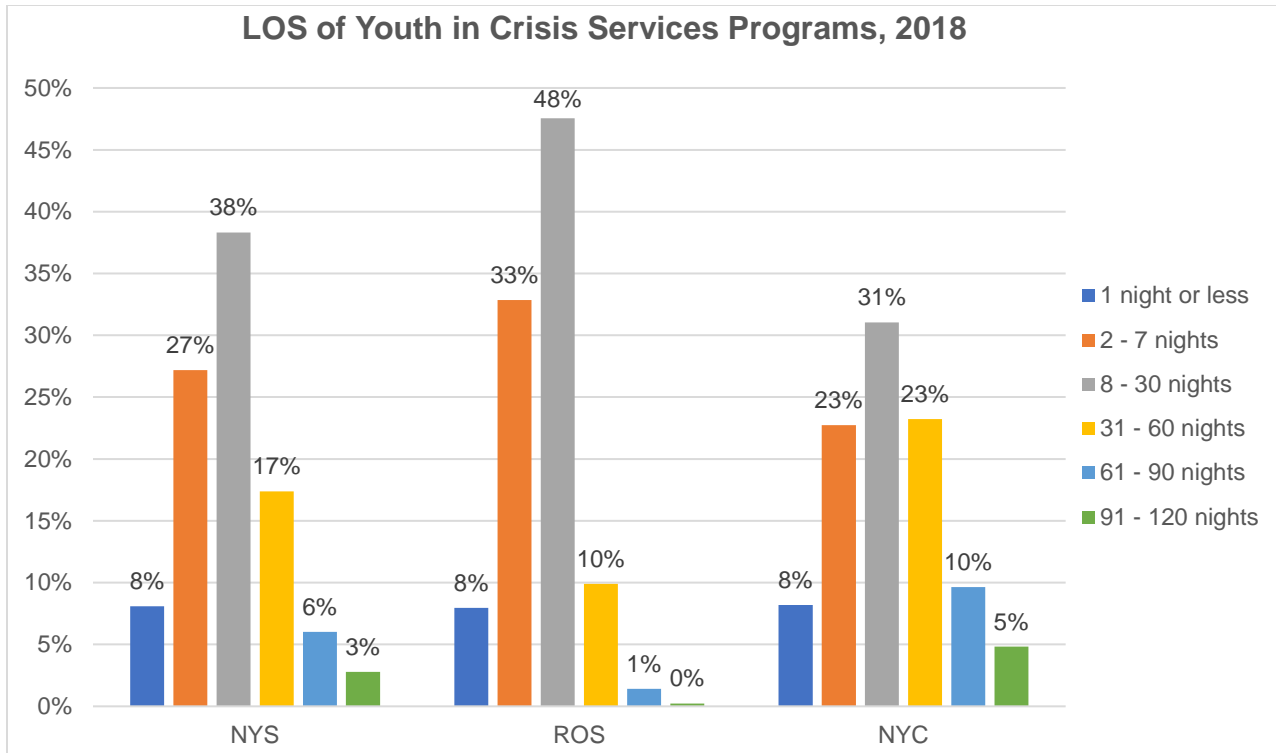
program’s maximum allowable LOS must align with the municipality’s comprehensive services plan in order for the program to remain eligible for municipal RHY funding. The LOS’s selected by counties in 2018 are included in Appendix 5.

Maximum LOS	Maximum LOS With Written Agreement From Youth and Parent, Guardian, or Custodian and approval of RHY Service Coordinator	Extended stay
30 days	60 days	Youth may remain in a RHY crisis services program beyond the maximum LOS described under certain circumstances and provided the municipality provides proper notice to OCFS ²⁵
60 days (youth age 14 or older if authorized in the municipality’s approved comprehensive plan)	120 days (youth age 14 or older when authorized in a municipality’s approved comprehensive plan)	

In 2018, the most frequent (38 percent) lengths of stay for youth discharged from RHY crisis services programs were between 8 and 30 nights. In comparison to ROS, NYC youth tended to stay longer. Thirty-eight (38) percent of NYC youth stayed in RHY crisis services programs for 31 nights or longer, compared to only 11 percent of youth in ROS.



²⁵ 9 NYCRR §§ 165-1.3 and 182-1.9(d) and 19-OCFS-ADM-06.



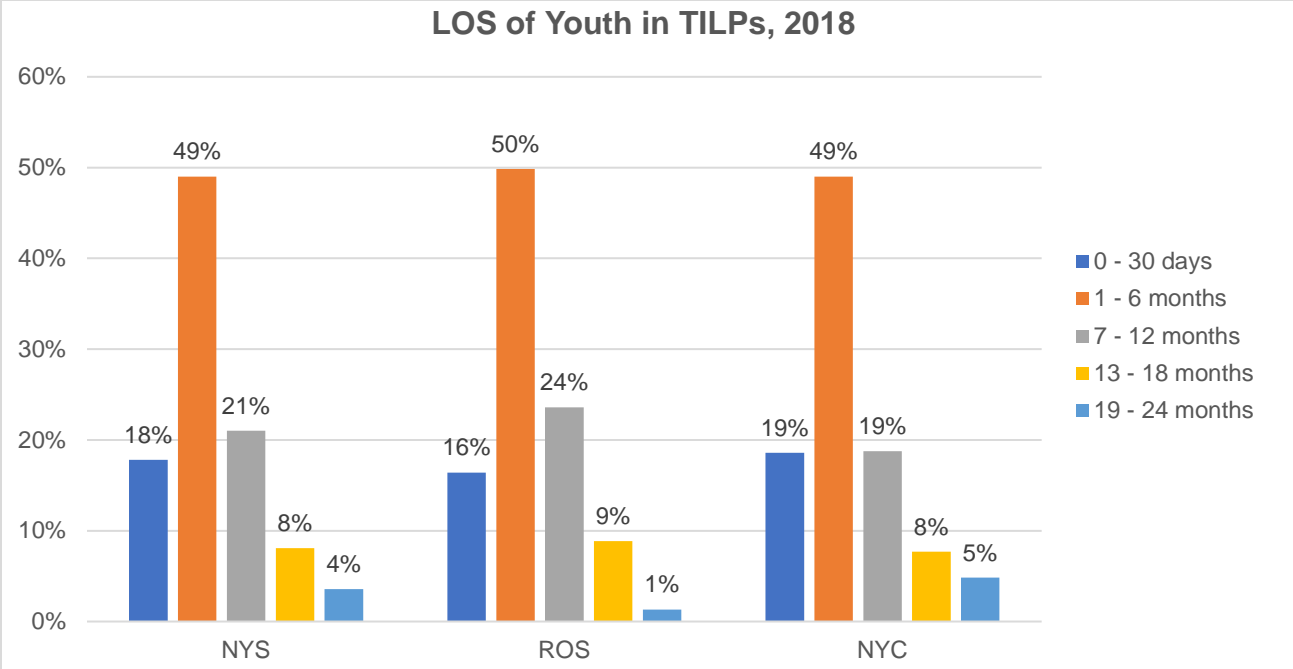
Homeless Youth and Transitional Independent Living Support Programs (TILPs)

In 2018, TILPs, in partnership with the municipality in which they operate, selected the maximum LOS available to youth. Options included a maximum LOS of either 18 months or 24 months when authorized in a municipality’s approved comprehensive plan. A program’s maximum allowable LOS must align with the municipality’s approved comprehensive plan in order for the program to remain eligible for municipal RHY funding. The LOS’s selected by counties in 2018 are included in Appendix 5.

Maximum LOS	Additional LOS Available ²⁶
18 months	Youth may stay in a TILP beyond the maximum LOS in certain circumstances including but not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless youth who are not yet 18 years old but have reached the maximum allowable LOS may remain in a TILP until the youth turns 18, or for an additional six months if the youth is still under 18 years old. Youth who entered a TILP under the age of 21 may stay in the TILP beyond the maximum LOS when the municipality believes the circumstances warrant the additional services be provided to best meet the needs of the youth.
24 months when authorized in a municipality’s approved comprehensive plan	

Statewide, nearly half (49 percent) of all youth discharged from a TILP remained in the program between 1 and 6 months. There was almost no variation in lengths of stay when comparing NYC to ROS.

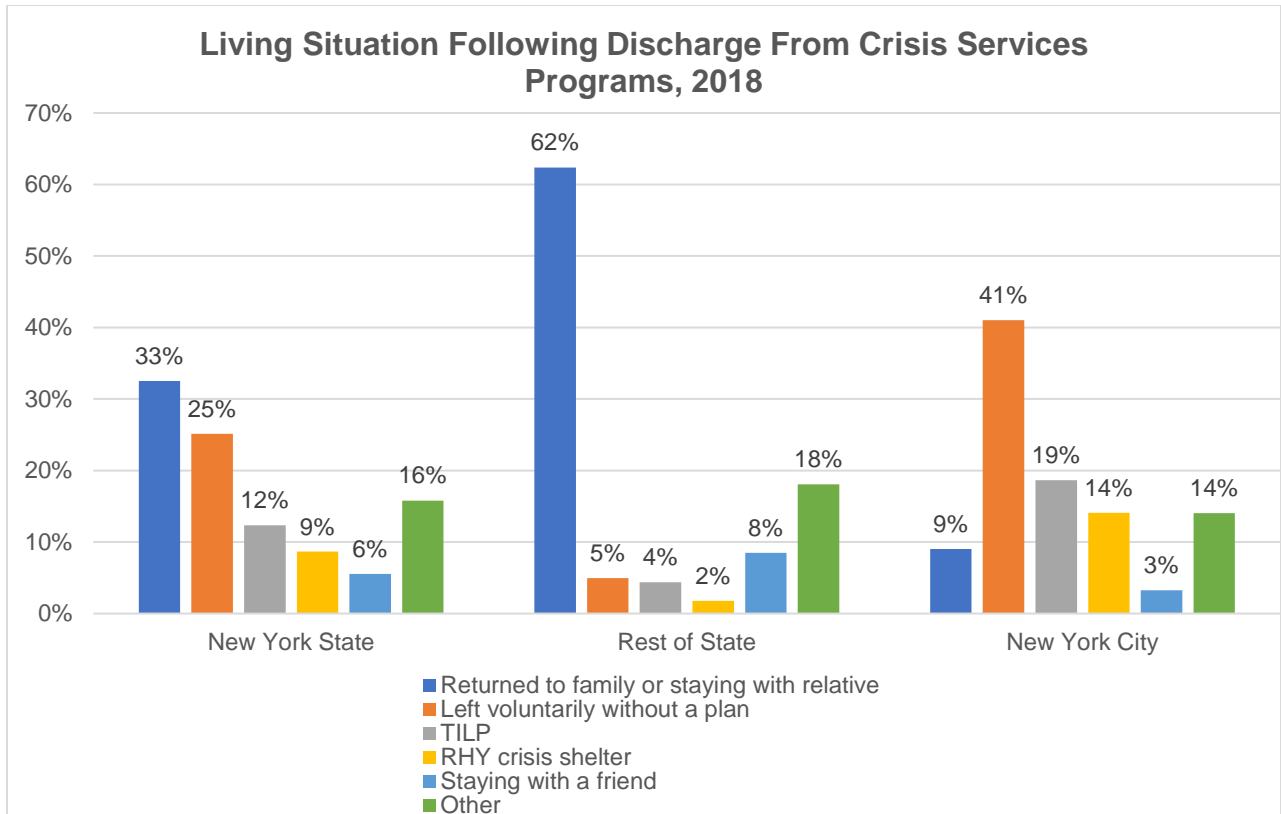
²⁶ For additional information please refer to 19-OCFS-ADM-05



Living Situation at Discharge

Upon discharge, youth resided in a variety of settings. Combined, the two most common living situations at discharge accounted for more than half (58 percent) of youth discharged from RHY crisis services programs in 2018: 33 percent returned home to family or were staying with a relative and 25 percent left voluntarily without a plan.

There were significant distinctions between NYC and ROS for living situation at discharge. In NYC, 41 percent of youth left a RHY crisis services program voluntarily without a plan, while in ROS, 62 percent returned home to their family or were staying with a relative.

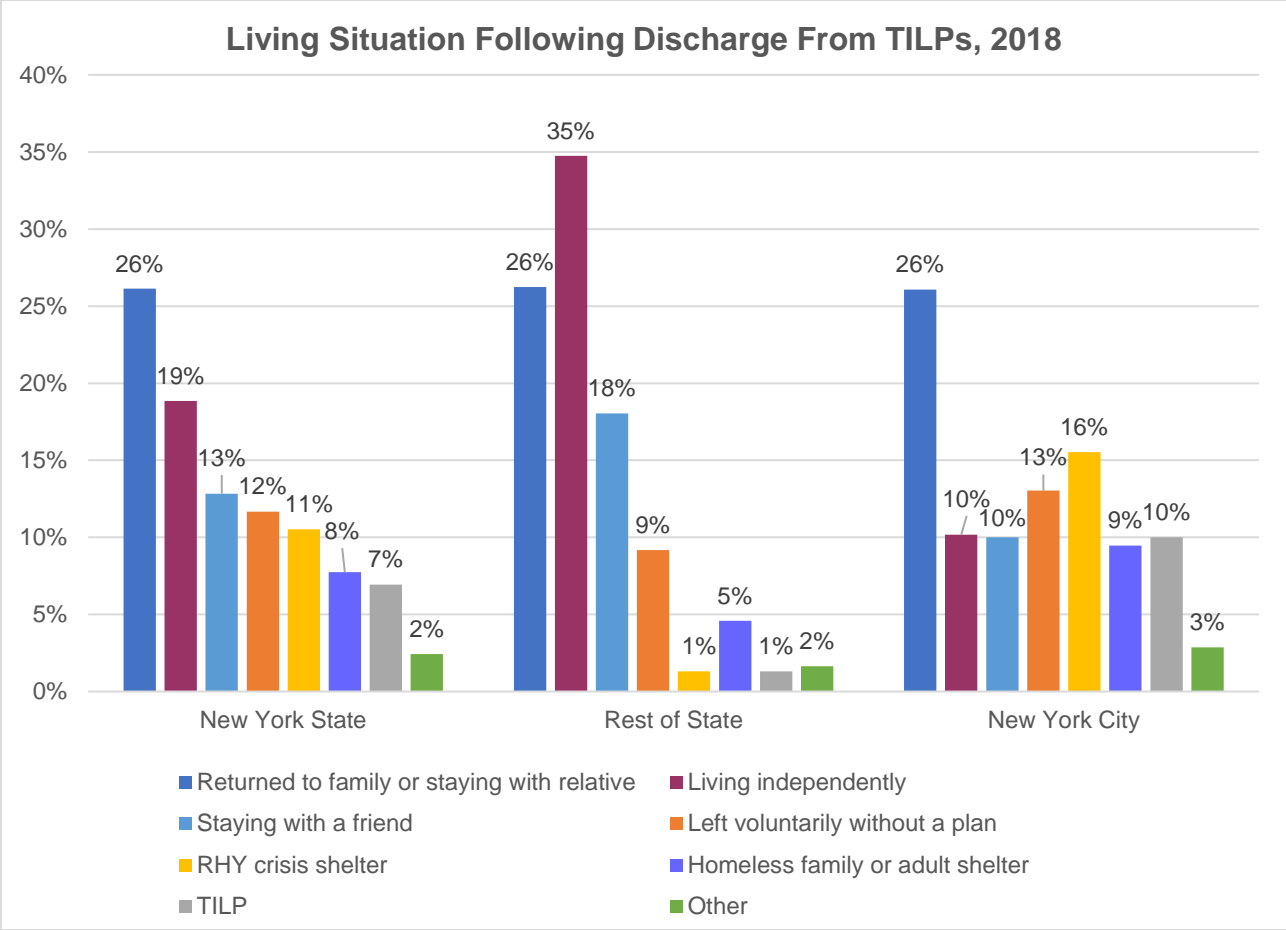


Other responses that represented less than 5 percent of youth statewide included: drug treatment facility, foster care or group home, family or adult homeless shelter, jail or detention, known to be on the street, living independently, mental health facility, residential education program/job corps, and other.

The most common living situation at discharge differed when comparing TILPs to RHY crisis services programs. Following discharge from a TILP

- 26 percent of youth returned to family or were staying with a relative;
- 19 percent of youth were living independently; and
- 13 percent of youth were staying with a friend.

Again, there were significant distinctions between NYC and ROS for living situation at discharge. In NYC, 26 percent of youth returned to family or were staying with a relative and another 16 percent went to an RHY crisis shelter. In ROS, 35 percent were living independently.



Responses that represented less than 5 percent of youth statewide included: residential education program, mental health or drug treatment facility, jail, non-secure or secure detention, foster care, and other.

2018 Non-Residential RHY Program Data

In 2018, 28 non-residential programs reported data on youth served to OCFS. These programs served approximately 6,000 youth through drop-in centers or community support services, received approximately 4,750 contacts via hotlines, and made approximately 13,450 youth contacts through street outreach.

Non-residential services for runaway and homeless youth take many forms, including, but not limited to: street outreach, drop-in services, case management, provisions to help meet basic needs (housing, food, clothing, hygiene products), medical and mental health supports, vocational, educational, and employment support, and hotlines. Some programs also reported providing services targeted to the LGBTQ+ youth population. It should be noted that the data collected from non-residential RHY programs represents duplicate contacts made with youth, rather than the number of individual youth served.

In 2018, the primary reasons youth sought services were:

- basic needs (housing, food, clothing, hygiene products),
- family conflict,

- service coordination support (DSS, social security, etc.),
- employment services,
- independent living skills, and
- educational needs.

Other reasons that brought youth to non-residential programs included:

- referral services (mental health and substance abuse counseling, transitional housing),
- advocacy,
- human trafficking, and
- socialization with peers.

Summary

In 2018, New York State saw an increase in certified bed capacity for runaway and homeless youth and a decrease in bed capacity for their dependent children; the increase in bed capacity is mostly attributed to the addition of 43 TILP beds in NYC. Statewide, the number of youth admitted to RHY crisis services programs decreased slightly from 2017 to 2018, while the number of youth admitted to TILPs increased slightly. Most youth admitted to a residential RHY program had previously been staying with their parent or guardian, with a friend, or at another RHY crisis services program. Upon program arrival, youth reported a variety of service needs, including conflict with a parental figure, a need for independent living and life skills, employment, and food. Youth in programs were provided 46,241 service interventions; the interventions provided with the most frequency included food, clothing, and independent living/skill development. After completing their stay, which typically lasted between 8 to 30 nights for a RHY crisis services program and 1 to 6 months for a TILP, youth were most often returning home or staying with a relative.

In 2018, 28 non-residential programs reported data on youth served to OCFS. These programs served approximately 6,000 youth through drop-in centers or community support services, received approximately 4,750 contacts via hotlines, and made approximately 13,450 youth contacts through street outreach.

Appendix 1: Programs by Region at Year End 2018

Counties by Region	Program Type	# of programs	# of beds	# of dependent beds	# of maximum beds
Albany Region Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington	RHY Crisis Shelters	4	36	4	37
	Interim Family Programs	0	0	0	0
	TILP- Group Residence	2	15	8	23
	TILP- Supported Residence	5	8	1	8
	Non-residential services: drop-in center, case management, support for runaway and homeless youth's basic living needs				
Albany Region Subtotals		11	59	13	68
Buffalo Region Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming	RHY Crisis Shelters	3	37	0	37
	Interim Family Programs	0	0	0	0
	TILP- Group Residence	4	36	9	36
	TILP- Supported Residence	2	4	0	4
	Non-residential services: drop-in center, case management, support for runaway and homeless youth's behavioral health, educational, vocational, and basic living needs				
Buffalo Region Subtotals		9	77	9	77
New York City Region Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond	RHY Crisis Shelters	12	438	15	453
	Interim Family Programs	0	0	0	0
	TILP- Group Residence	26	312	23	332
	TILP- Supported Residence	11	19	2	21
	Non-residential services: case management, drop-in centers, support for runaway and homeless youth's behavioral health, educational, vocational needs, health care services				
New York City Subtotals		49	769	40	806
Rochester Region Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario,	RHY Crisis Shelters	2	27	0	27
	Interim Family Programs	3	3	0	3

Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates	TILP- Group Residence	1	8	8	16
	TILP- Supported Residence	12	15	0	15
	Non-residential services: case management, support for runaway and homeless youth's educational, vocational, and basic living needs				
Rochester Region Subtotals		18	53	8	61
Spring Valley Region Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester	RHY Crisis Shelters	7	80	2	81
	Interim Family Programs	1	4	0	4
	TILP- Group Residence	5	36	14	50
	TILP- Supported Residence	1	4	0	4
	Non-residential services: drop-in center, hotline, case management, behavioral health support				
Spring Valley Subtotals		14	124	16	139
Syracuse Region Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tioga, Tompkins	RHY Crisis Shelters	3	33	1	34
	Interim Family Programs	4	8	0	8
	TILP- Group Residence	1	7	12	19
	TILP- Supported Residence	19	40	19	54
	Non-residential services: case management, educational support, street outreach				
Syracuse Region Subtotals		27	88	32	115
Statewide	RHY Crisis Shelters	31	651	22	669
	Interim Family Programs	8	15	0	15
	TILP- Group Residence	39	414	74	476
	TILP- Supported Residence	50	90	22	106
Statewide Total		128	1170²⁷	118	1266

²⁷ These figures represent certified bed capacity as opposed to operating capacity. In parent and child programs, the program is certified to serve a certain number of youth, dependents, and a combination of youth and dependents. For example, such a program could serve one youth with nine dependents on one night and seven youth with three dependents on another night.

Appendix 2: Agencies with Certified Residential RHY Programs in 2018

Albany Region

- CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany
- Equinox, Inc.
- Saint Anne Institute
- SAFE Inc., of Schenectady
- Warren/Washington Counties Homeless Youth Coalition, Inc.

Buffalo Region

- Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
- Compass House
- Family and Children's Service of Niagara, Inc.
- United Church Home
- Teaching and Restoring Youth, Inc.

New York City Region

- Ali Forney Center
- Children's Village, Inc.
- CORE Services Group, Inc.
- Covenant House New York Under 21, Inc.
- Diaspora Community Services, Inc.
- Girls Educational and Mentoring Services
- Good Shepherd Services, Inc.
- Imeinu, Inc.
- Project Hospitality, Inc.
- Rising Ground, Inc.
- Safe Horizon, Inc.
- Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services, Inc.
- SCO Family of Services

Rochester Region

- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester
- Salvation Army
- Seneca County Youth Bureau
- The Center for Youth Services, Inc.

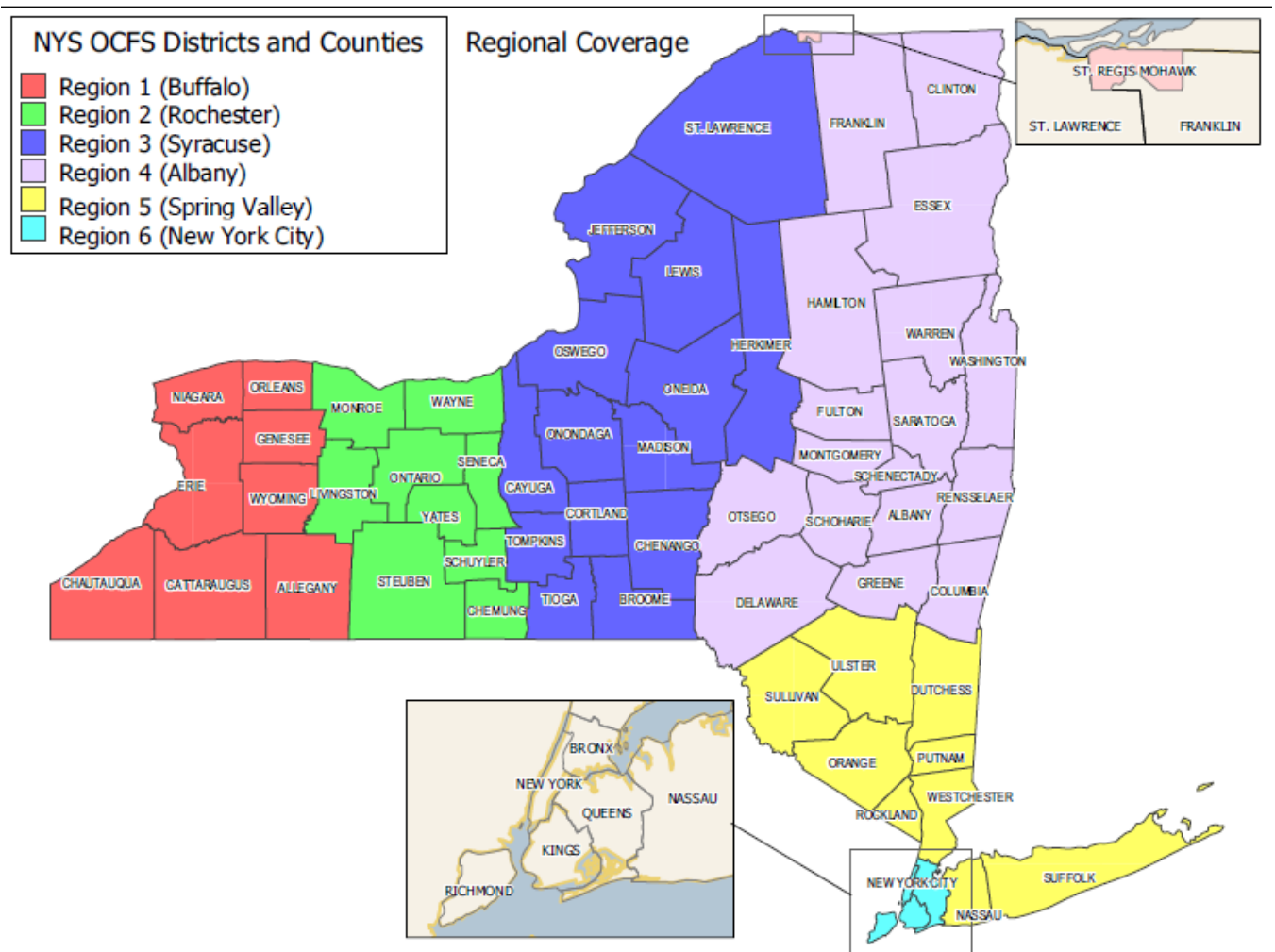
Spring Valley Region

- Children's Village, Inc.
- Family and Children's Association
- Family of Woodstock, Inc.
- Green Chimneys Children's Services
- HONOR EHG, Inc.
- Hope for Youth
- Hudson River Housing, Inc.
- Mercy Center Ministries
- SCO Family of Services
- Town of Huntington Youth Bureau

Syracuse Region

- Catholic Charities of Broome County
- Catholic Charities of Herkimer County
- Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties
- Family and Children's Service of Ithaca
- Kids Oneida, Inc.
- Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.
- The Learning Web, Inc.
- The Salvation Army, Syracuse Area Services

Appendix 3: New York State Regional Map



Appendix 4: Counties with Residential and Non-residential RHY Services, 2018

Appendix 5: Length of Stay (LOS) for Residential RHY Programs as Allowed by Municipalities in 2018

County	Did the county decide to allow crisis service programs the option to extend the maximum LOS?	Did the county decide to allow TILPs the option to extend the maximum LOS?	Did the county decide to allow RHY programs to serve homeless young adults?*
Albany	Yes	Yes	Yes
Broome	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes
Chautauqua	No	No	Yes
Dutchess	No	Not Applicable	No
Erie	No	No	Yes
Herkimer	Yes	Not Applicable	No
Madison	Yes	Not Applicable	Yes
Monroe	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nassau	No	Yes	Yes
Niagara	No	Yes	Yes
Oneida	Yes	Yes	Yes
Onondaga	Yes	No	No
Orange	Yes	Not Applicable	Yes
Oswego	Yes	Yes	Yes
Putnam	Yes	No	No
Saratoga	Yes	Not Applicable	Yes
Schenectady	Yes	Not Applicable	Yes
Schuyler	No	Not Applicable	Yes
Suffolk	No	No	Yes
Tompkins	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ulster	No	No	No
Warren/Washington	No	Yes	Yes
Westchester	No	Not Applicable	Yes
NYC	Yes	Yes	No

* Non-residential programs are able to serve homeless young adults based on this decision; residential RHY programs are additionally required to be certified to serve young adults before serving this population. No RHY programs were certified to serve homeless young adults in 2018.