



Housing Insecurity and College Success in New York

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YOUNG 
INVINCIBLES

Agenda:

- Introduction to Young Invincibles
- Young adults and housing insecurity
- Our research
- Early recommendations
- How to get involved

Who is YI?



YOUNG INVINCIBLES

A national, nonprofit organization committed to elevating the voices of young adults in the political process, and expanding *economic opportunity* for 18-34 year-olds.



Our Core Issue Areas:

- Higher Education
- Health Care
- Workforce
- Civic Engagement



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Young adults and housing insecurity

Someone who has experienced **housing insecurity** has, at some point:

- Had trouble paying for rent
- Lived in crowded conditions in order to afford rent
- Had substandard housing conditions
- Were forced to move frequently

Someone who has experienced **homelessness** has, at some point, lacked a permanent place to sleep at night.

One in ten young adults,
aged 18-25, will experience
homelessness within a given
year.

Source: Voices of Youth Count,
Chapin Hall 2017

**LGBTQ+ young adults had a
120% greater risk for
homelessness compared
with cis/heterosexual young
adults.**

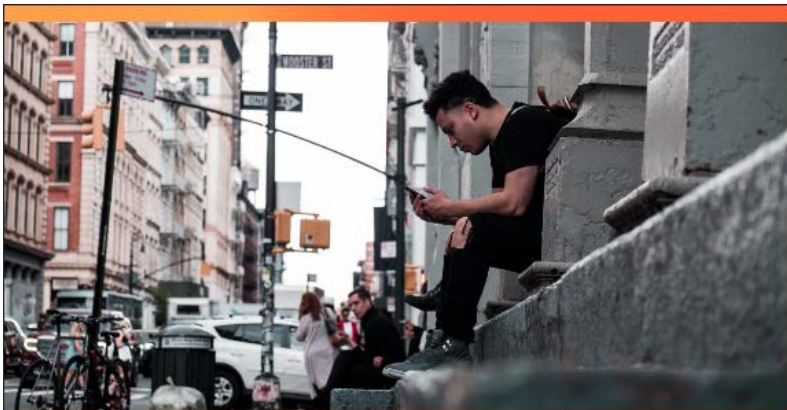
Source: Voices of Youth Count,
Chapin Hall 2017

**Black and African American
young adults had a 83%
greater risk for
homelessness compared
with youth of other races.**

Source: Voices of Youth Count,
Chapin Hall 2017

Unmarried pregnant youth
had a **200% greater risk** for
homelessness compared
with non-parenting youth.

Source: Voices of Youth Count,
Chapin Hall 2017



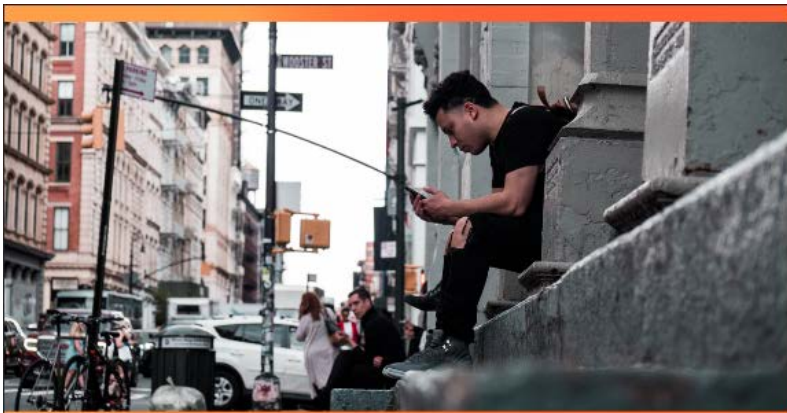
MARCH 2019

City University of New York #RealCollege Survey

AUTHORS:

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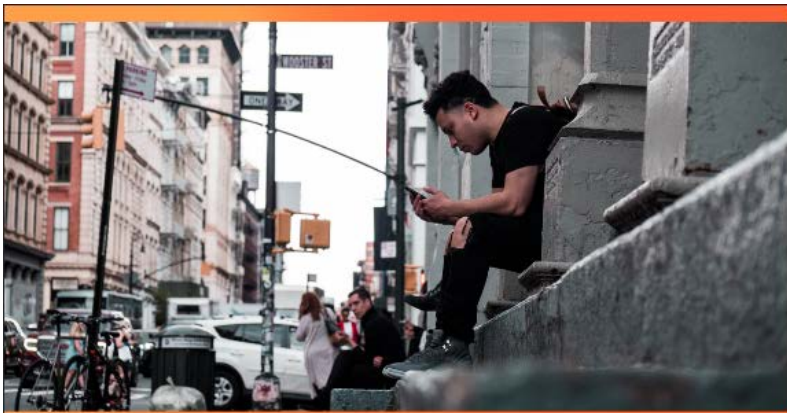
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- **55%** of CUNY students surveyed experienced housing insecurity.



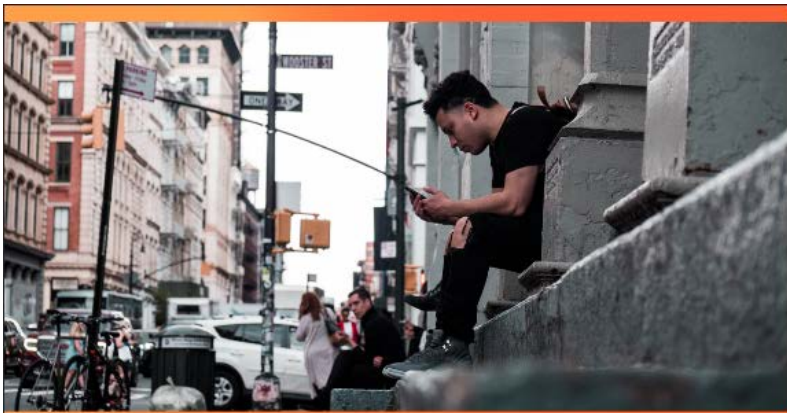
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- **55%** of CUNY students surveyed experienced housing insecurity.
- **15%** experienced homelessness in the previous year.



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- **55%** of CUNY students surveyed experienced housing insecurity.
- **15%** experienced homelessness in the previous year.
- Higher prevalence at community colleges.

**Talking with New York's
young adults about
housing insecurity and
college**



New York Homeless Student College Access Network

- Launched in fall 2018
- Convened 7 focus groups, with 51 young adults
 - 2 in Manhattan
 - 2 in the Bronx
 - 2 in Brooklyn
 - 1 on Staten Island
- Interviews with young adults, researchers, and providers



Emerging themes:

- Many participants saw connection between higher education and future financial stability. They see the value, but the cost feels enormous.
- Insecure housing distracts students from their education, and HS/college/financial aid policies are not flexible to that reality.
- Knowledge of financing higher education varies. Information-sharing on affording college in NY is not consistent.



Emerging themes:

- Intersections with other identities/lived experience: LGBTQ+ and campus culture, parenting status
- Visibility and understanding of housing insecurity on campus is low. Programs centering on homeless youth would raise visibility while supporting their educational and career goals.



Smooth the transition to postsecondary institutions for housing-insecure young adults

- Flag NYC DOE students in temporary housing (STH) for postsecondary supports (i.e., FAFSA completion, CUNY ASAP)
- Allow students to access transcripts even though they owe money at university.
- Institutionalize culturally competent training for staff working with housing-insecure students.
- Create strengths-based culture of high expectations in shelters, schools, and other institutions serving housing-insecure students.



Expand our understanding of postsecondary affordability —beyond just tuition

- Increase NYS financial aid, and expand access by revisiting financial aid requirements
- Examine independent status: increase TAP for independent students, loosen requirements on confirming independent status
- Establish an emergency fund with a simple application for college students experiencing housing insecurity.



Support the persistence of New York's housing -insecure students

- Create a designated higher education liaison on campuses
- Establish priority enrollment/distribution of financial aid
- Allow college to count as work in supportive housing units.
- Fully fund food-pantry mandate.
- Improve counseling and advising to student ratios.
- Create a centralized resource center on campuses



Increase understanding of young adult housing insecurity in New York

- Connect young people with supportive services through technology most relevant to them.
- Increase peer mentorship opportunities for housing-insecure students by hiring students with lived experience.
- Improve communication about the timeline for accessing housing services in NYC, and overlap with college calendar.
- Review policies and practices that require parental information —and revise as appropriate.
- Increase culturally-competent training for college staff, faculty, and CBOs

How to get involved



Stay connected!

- Schedule a focus groups
- Participate in an interview
- Follow Young Invincibles: @YoungInvincible
- Get involved with #DegreesNYC: @DegreesNYC



Thank you!

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