



**CONTACT:**

Madeline Ravich  
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness  
(773) 339-3600  
[mravich@cceh.org](mailto:mravich@cceh.org)

**Count Survey Estimates Nearly 2500 Youth Homeless in 2020**  
Nearly 700 minors estimated to be literally homeless

Hartford, CT (December 28, 2020) — The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) has released the results of the 2021 Youth Outreach and Count Report, which summarizes results of a volunteer census of the homeless population that took place last January. Close to 250 volunteers joined together to canvass in schools and areas where youth congregate.

Surveys combined with extrapolated data indicated that an estimated 2,462 youth would experience literal homelessness in 2020, a figure which included 696 minors. An additional 5,361 including 1,748 minors were estimated to be unstably housed during the same timeframe.

“These results are stark,” said CCEH CEO Dr. Richard Cho. “We know how to connect youth with services when we find them, but identifying young people struggling with homelessness is an all-hands-on-deck endeavor.”

“The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is committed to all efforts that will create better pathways and outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, particularly at this vulnerable stage in their development,” said Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon.

The report is based on data collected prior to COVID-19, noted Dr. Cho, acknowledging that COVID-19 presents additional challenges to identifying youth in need of housing assistance. Understanding the scope of the problem is an ongoing process which CCEH and its members will confront as part of a municipal campaign it is launching in collaboration with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT. CCEH will be enlisting municipal employees in helping connect youth in their towns with services.

This year’s Youth Outreach and Count was made possible with generous support from the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, Farmington Bank Community Foundation, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Melville Charitable Trust.

To download the full report and visit interactive Youth Count dashboards, visit <https://cceh.org/youth-count/>.

**About the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness**

CCEH represents more than 100 members – emergency shelter providers, transitional housing providers, community and business leaders, and strategic partners – who share the goal of ending homelessness. In partnership with communities throughout the state, CCEH advances this goal through leadership, community organizing, advocacy, research, and education.

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