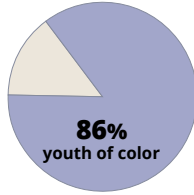


Youth experiencing homelessness benefit in many ways from drop-in centers with case management services

Each year, more than 7,500 youth ages 16-24 who live apart from family or guardians experience homelessness in Minnesota. Many visit drop-in centers staffed by case managers, but little is known about the long-term impact of these centers.

We followed a cohort of 1,229 youth who visited **YouthLink**, Minneapolis' largest drop-in center, over six years before the pandemic. We used data from government agencies, social services providers, and YouthLink to assess how they fared.

Characteristics of the 1,229 youth, ages 16-24, who visited YouthLink in 2011



- 61%** female
- 38%** history of special education services
- 16%** prior child mental health case management
- 50%** prior child protective services
- 32%** prior out-of-home placement

of years homeless **1** 35% **2** 28% **3** 17% **4** 19%

Youth Visiting Drop-In Centers Experience Better Outcomes

Compared with similar youth with no prior involvement with YouthLink, young people who visited the drop-in center were:

Case Managers Help Improve Youth Outcomes at Youth Link

Youth with more substantial relationships with case managers were:

Youth whose case managers encouraged normative social behaviors were:

Youth whose case managers worked with them on specific outcomes were:



Housing

2.9x more likely to use emergency shelter and stay longer

1.9x more likely to use permanent housing and stay longer

4.2x more likely to use permanent housing and stay longer

2.5x more likely to use emergency shelter and stay longer

4.0x more likely to use permanent housing and stay longer

2.0x more likely to use emergency shelter and stay longer with greater focus on housing

2.5x more likely to use permanent housing and stay longer with greater focus on housing



Education

1.9x more likely to earn a GED

1.7x more likely to graduate from high school

2.6x more likely to earn a GED with greater focus on education



Court

1.5x more likely to appear in court addressing juvenile delinquency or adult criminal charges

66% less likely to be convicted of a felony



Financial

Both YouthLink participants and similar youth who did not receive YouthLink services saw substantially reduced costs for financial programs over time. Compared to similar youth, analysis of costs estimated that YouthLink participants received \$532 more per person in benefits for all financial programs for which they were eligible.

Youth with **more substantial relationships** with their case managers received an estimated **\$51** less per person in MFIP benefits

Youth whose case manager encouraged **normative social behaviors** received an estimated **\$106** more per person in SNAP benefits

Youth whose case manager worked with them on **employment issues** received an estimated **\$102** more per person in SNAP benefits