



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Youth

COMMISSION

2026 End Year Report
Youth Engagement Committee
January 1, 2026 - July 31, 2026



Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary	33–36	Fourth District
2	Meet the Youth Engagement Committee	37–40	Fifth District
3	About the Survey	41	Recommendations
4	Survey Questions: Why They Matter	42	Next Steps
5	Community Engagement Approach	42	Looking Ahead (2027)
6–7	Spotlight on Youth Engagement	43–48	2025–2026 Participation and
8–20	2026 Survey Analysis		Demographic Trends
21–24	First District	49–50	Sample Youth Survey
25–28	Second District	51	Youth Commission Partners
29–32	Third District		



Executive Summary

The 2026 LA County Youth Survey collected **1,174 responses**, primarily from young people under 18 (63.9%). Respondents were predominantly Hispanic (59.9%) and Black (25.1%), and 62.6% identified as female. Most were enrolled in school (87.1%), while nearly one in five respondents reported no connection to a community group, suggesting an opportunity to strengthen youth outreach and belonging.

Youth prioritized mental health (66.0%), education (45.4%), employment (31.3%), entertainment, with music, art, and sports leading personal interests (30.1%) and youth advocacy (24.1%). The findings also point to strong needs for housing stability, responsive system services, safe creative spaces, and trusted community support.

Representation by District

Youth from all five Supervisorial Districts participated, with a balance of system-involved and non-system youth. In total, **1,174 youth responded, 609 system-involved youth (64%) and 342 non-system (36%) and 223 did not respond (skipped).**

Systems Encountered by Supervisorial District

Counts include both system-involved and non-system-involved youth by Supervisorial District. "Unknown" represents respondents who did not provide a ZIP code and are excluded from district totals.

First District	236	105
Second District	206	98
Third District	52	36
Fourth District	44	29
Fifth District	26	31
Unknown	45	43
Total Systems / Non-Systems	609 system youth	342 non-system youth

Interests and Engagement

Youth showed the strongest interest in music, art, sports, and active recreation, including boxing, martial arts, and dance. Wellness-focused activities such as journaling, yoga, Pilates, nutrition classes, poetry, and healing circles also emerged as meaningful ways to support connection, self-expression, and overall well-being.

System Experiences and Mental Health Supports

Youth reported the greatest system contact with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Homelessness and Department of Youth Development (DYD). Across the survey, young people emphasized the need for accessible mental health support and safe, welcoming environments that offer creative outlets, trusted people to talk to, peer support, freedom of expression, and protection from bullying and judgment. These findings reinforce the importance of trauma-informed, youth-centered services that are responsive to young people lived experiences and needs.

Meet the Youth Engagement Committee

MEMBERS



Amanda Hernandez
YEC Chair



Mercedes Jackson
YEC Member



Clarissa Peña
YEC Member



Joseph Roa
YEC Member

Youth Engagement Committee

The Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) is responsible for ensuring that the voices and experiences of youth under the age of eighteen inform the work of the Youth Commission. The Committee ensures that young people—particularly those with lived experience in County systems—have meaningful opportunities to inform the Commission’s priorities and recommendations. Its mission is to elevate youth voices through outreach, surveys, listening sessions, community events, and partnerships with youth-serving organizations.

Led by YEC Chair Amanda Hernandez, the Committee includes Commissioners Mercedes Jackson, Clarissa Peña, and Joseph Roa. Together, they gather youth feedback, strengthen community partnerships, and create inclusive spaces where young people can help shape the policies and programs that affect their lives.

About the Survey

The annual Youth Survey is a voluntary tool designed to elevate the voices, experiences, and priorities of young people across Los Angeles County. This year, 1,174 youth shared input on advocacy priorities, personal interests, system involvement, housing concerns, and what they need to feel safe and supported.

The Commission hopes these findings will strengthen youth-driven decision-making and ensure that policies, programs, and investments reflect young person's lived experiences. By examining responses by age, ethnicity, gender, ZIP code, and Supervisorial District, the data can help identify disparities, guide targeted outreach, strengthen partnerships, and inform future interventions in mental health, education, employment, housing, creative programming, and system reform. Ultimately, the survey provides a foundation for more responsive, equitable, and effective youth advocacy throughout Los Angeles County.



LA COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION YOUTH SURVEY

*Please note this is a VOLUNTARY and OPTIONAL survey



Age _____ <i>(What is your age?)</i>	Zip Code _____	Do you feel like you belong to one or more of these communities? ☐ Faith-Based (Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Etc.) ☐ LGBTQIA+ ☐ Cultural Group (LatinX, Black Student Assoc, Etc.) ☐ Community Group (Sports Team, After-school programs, arts/creative groups, Etc.) ☐ Other: _____ ☐ N/A	What is your sexual orientation? <i>(This question is optional)</i> ☐ Asexual ☐ Bisexual ☐ Gay ☐ Heterosexual (Straight) ☐ Lesbian ☐ Pansexual ☐ Queer ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other: _____
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1. What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)

☐ Music
☐ Poetry
☐ Art
☐ Sports

☐ Healing Circles
☐ Pilates
☐ Journaling
☐ Nutrition Classes

☐ Yoga
☐ Boxing / Martial Arts
☐ Dancing
☐ Other: _____

2. What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3)

☐ Mental Health
☐ Education
☐ Juvenile Justice (Probation)
☐ Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)
☐ Extracurricular Activities
☐ Parent Support/Education
☐ Leadership Empowerment
☐ Employment

☐ LGBTQ+ Support Services
☐ Youth Advocacy
☐ Foster Care Services
☐ Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, Etc.)
☐ Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)
☐ Housing
☐ Other: _____

3. What is your current involvement? (Select all that apply)

☐ I am in school
☐ I am working
☐ I am connected to a community organization

☐ None of the above
☐ Other: _____

4. What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)

☐ Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc)
☐ Probation Department
☐ Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
☐ Department of Mental Health (DMH)
☐ Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care
☐ Department of Youth Development (DYD)
☐ Department of Public Health (DPH)
☐ Other: _____
☐ No system involvement

5. What area of entertainment are you interested in? (Select all that apply)

☐ Cinema & Film Production
☐ Music (Singer, Rapper, Producer, Etc.)
☐ Theatre
☐ Video Games

☐ Dance
☐ Visual Arts (Painting, Drawing, Mixed Media, Etc.)
☐ Other: _____
☐ I'm not interested in Entertainment

6. What parts of housing are you concerned about? (Select all that apply)

☐ Age barriers
☐ Stable housing
☐ Lack of money
☐ Accessibility & knowledge

☐ Independence (Making my own choices)
☐ Affordable housing
☐ Resource and Housing Rights Awareness
☐ Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, Etc.)

☐ Other: _____
☐ No housing concerns

7. What does a safe space mean to you? (Select all that apply)

☐ Creative spaces
☐ Cultural and racial safety
☐ LGBTQ+ safe spaces
☐ Trauma-informed/supportive settings
☐ Someone to talk to
☐ Peer support
☐ Non-judgmental spaces

☐ More break time to rest
☐ Community connections
☐ Freedom to express myself
☐ Positive staff support
☐ Gender inclusive language and practices
☐ Accessible for people of all abilities
☐ No bullying
☐ Other: _____

***Only respond if you have justice system involvement (Probation):**

8. If you are a probation youth in the community/reentering, what are some concerns?

☐ Mental Health
☐ Education Rights/Needs
☐ Housing
☐ Substance Abuse
☐ Community Resources
☐ Legal Support/Aid
☐ Community/Peer Pressure

☐ Home Life
☐ Neighborhood Safety
☐ Lack of Support from Providers/Caregivers
☐ Financial Support
☐ Other: _____
☐ No Concerns

Survey Questions: Why They Matter

- **What is your age?**
These insights guide how we target future outreach and ensure our programs and recommendations reflect the needs of young people at different stages of life.
- **What is your zip code?**
This helps us track engagement across LA County, spot areas where youth voices may be missing, and focus outreach in neighborhoods with the greatest needs.
- **What is your ethnicity?**
This helps us see which communities are represented in our outreach and identify groups whose voices may be missing.
- **What is your gender?**
This ensures all genders are heard and helps shape inclusive, respectful, and responsive programs for youth.
- **Do you feel like you belong to one or more of these communities?**
This question helps the Commission understand where youth feel connected, supported, and represented—and where gaps in belonging may exist.
- **What is your sexual orientation? (Optional)**
This ensures LGBTQ+ youth are included, their voices valued, and programs shaped to create safe, affirming spaces for all.
- **What would you be most interested in?**
By centering youth interests and priorities, we can design activities and policies that ensure their voices drive real change.
- **What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?**
We'll use the data to set a minimum of three priority focus areas, guiding advocacy and ensuring our 2027 Strategic Planning reflects youth needs and aspirations.
- **What is your current involvement?**
This shows where youth are engaged, where gaps exist, and guides the Commission to expand access through stronger programs, partnerships, and outreach.
- **What systems have you encountered?**
These insights show which systems impact youth most, guiding advocacy to focus on reforms that improve their experiences and outcomes.
- **What areas of entertainment are you interested in?**
This question helps the Commission understand which creative and recreational opportunities are most relevant to youth.
- **What parts of housing are you concerned about?**
Housing concerns help the Commission identify the housing challenges affecting youth, including affordability, stability, financial barriers, independence, and access to resources.
- **What does a safe space mean to you?**
This question helps the Commission understand the conditions youth need to feel safe, respected, and supported.
- **If you are a probation youth in the community/reentering, what are some concerns?**
This question helps the Commission understand the challenges probation-involved youth face while living in the community or returning home.

Community Engagement Approach

In 2026, we continued using a mix of outreach strategies to connect with youth and gather meaningful feedback:

- **Grassroots Outreach:** Meeting youth in parks, County facilities, neighborhood markets, schools, colleges, and community centers remained our most effective approach. Face-to-face conversations and word-of-mouth generated approximately 80% of our connections.
- **Social Media:** Regular posts strengthened our online presence and kept youth informed about programs, events, and opportunities.
- **E-Newsletter (“Youthful Insider”):** Distributed quarterly to more than 14,000 subscribers, providing updates, resources, and opportunities for youth engagement.
- **Youth Commission Website:** Served as an accessible hub for event information, meeting details, resources, and youth spotlights.
- **Text Messaging:** SMS outreach provided probation-involved youth with an additional way to share feedback without attending an event in person.



Spotlight on Youth Engagement

In 2026, Commissioners continued to play an active role in expanding the Youth Survey's reach across Los Angeles County. Through Commission led hosted events, in-person outreach at schools, community events, youth-serving organizations, and public spaces, Commissioners connected directly with young people and encouraged their participation. The photos and summaries in this section highlight these engagement efforts, key community partnerships, and the diverse settings where Commissioners met youth, strengthened relationships, and gathered meaningful feedback to inform the Commission's priorities.

The Youth Commission hosted five district listening sessions, engaging more than 140 youth across Los Angeles County. Sessions were held at Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) in Los Angeles, EntreNous Community Empowerment (Compton YouthBuild) in Compton, Los Angeles Valley College, the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, and the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena. Each event offered a variety of interactive activities including connection circles, vision boarding, road mapping, community discussions, speed-friendly exercises, and survival-kit building – which encouraged meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Youth voice was centered throughout all sessions, creating opportunities for young people to share their experiences and perspectives on key Commission focus areas such as mental health and safe spaces, education, employment, entertainment, and housing. Additionally, resource sharing was a major highlight, with each session featuring 15–25 tabling partners offering valuable supports and information.



District 1 Listening Session
Friday
03/20/26
East Los Angeles, CA

District 2 Listening Session
Saturday
07/25/26
Compton, CA

District 3 Listening Session
Saturday
04/25/26
Valley Glen, CA

District 4 Listening Session
Saturday
05/09/26
Long Beach, CA

District 5 Listening Session
Saturday
07/11/26
Pasadena, CA

Spotlight on Youth Engagement cont.

On March 21, the Youth Commission participated in the **LA City Youth Summit**, joining young leaders from across the city for a day of learning, dialogue, and collaboration. The summit provided a meaningful platform for youth to share their perspectives, exchange ideas, build connections, and contribute to conversations affecting their communities.

The Youth Commission was proud to participate in the **4th Annual LAUSD Youth Mental Health Awareness Symposium**, which welcomed approximately 1,400 young people for a day dedicated to wellness, connection, and empowerment. As mental health remains one of the Commission's top focus areas, the event provided an incredible opportunity to meet youth where they are, elevate youth voice, and connect students with valuable resources and support. Congratulations to the entire LAUSD team for hosting another outstanding symposium. Their leadership and partnership continue to create meaningful spaces where young people can prioritize their mental health, build community, and thrive.



The Youth Commission attended the **LA City Youth Expo** to connect with young people, share information about the Commission, and engage youth in opportunities to have their voices heard. The event brought together community organizations and resources supporting youth across Los Angeles County.



The Youth Commission attended the **DCFS Independent Living Program (ILP) Foster Youth High School Graduation Orientation** to connect with graduating foster youth, share information about the Commission, and encourage civic engagement. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 as they begin their next chapter!

The Youth Commission participated in the **DMH "Take Action" for Mental Health event** at Compton College to connect with youth where they are and encourage civic engagement. As mental health remains one of the Commission's top focus areas, the event provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with young people, share resources, and hear their perspectives on the issues that matter most to them.

The Youth Commission was honored to partner with the **DCFS Independent Living Program (ILP) for its Graduation Celebration** at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. The event recognized foster youth graduates for their academic achievements, perseverance, and successful transition into adulthood while highlighting pathways to higher education, vocational training, employment, and continued support.

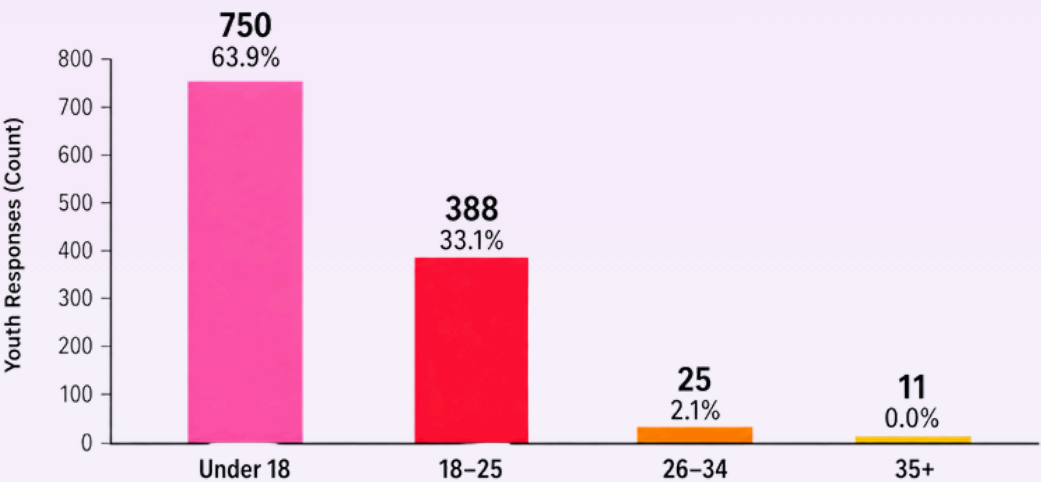
The survey has two parts: demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, and location) to show who participated, and questions on experiences, priorities, and recommendations to shape this report. Both system-involved and non-system youth responded, for some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely. Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

What is your Age?

Youth Respondents by Age

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,174

Youth responses by age group · Count and share of respondents



97.0% of Responses Came from Youth Ages 25 and under.

Nearly two-thirds of participants were under 18, while one-third were ages 18–25. Participation among respondents ages 26 and older was limited, showing the survey primarily reflects the voices of younger youth and young adults.

Answered: 1174 Skipped: 0

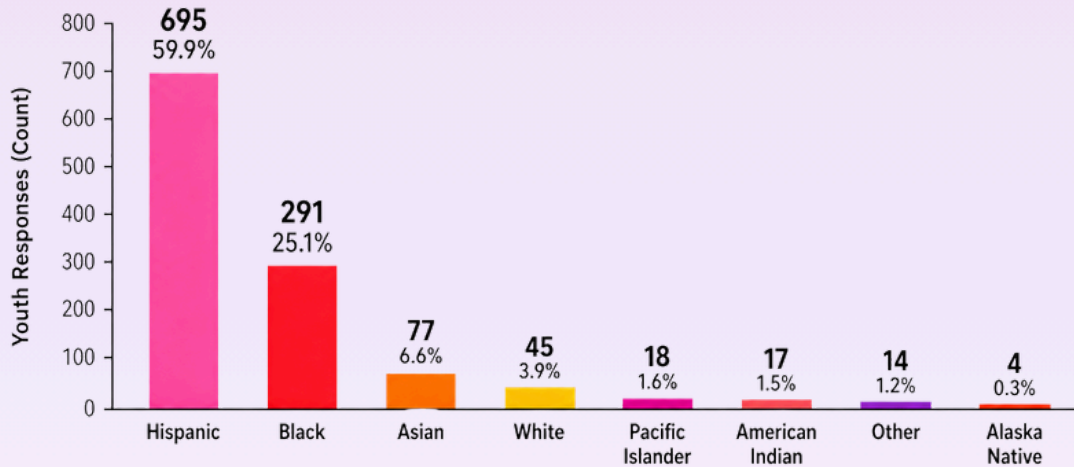
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Under 18	750	63.9%
18-25	388	33.1%
26-34	25	2.1%
35+	11	0.0%
TOTAL	1174	

What is your Ethnicity?

Youth Respondents by Ethnicity

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,161

Youth responses by ethnicity · Count and share of respondents



85.0% of Responses Came from Hispanic and Black Youth.

Hispanic youth represented the largest share of participants, followed by Black youth. Smaller but meaningful participation from Asian, White, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaska Native, and other youth contributed additional perspectives to the survey.

Answered: **1161** Skipped: **13**

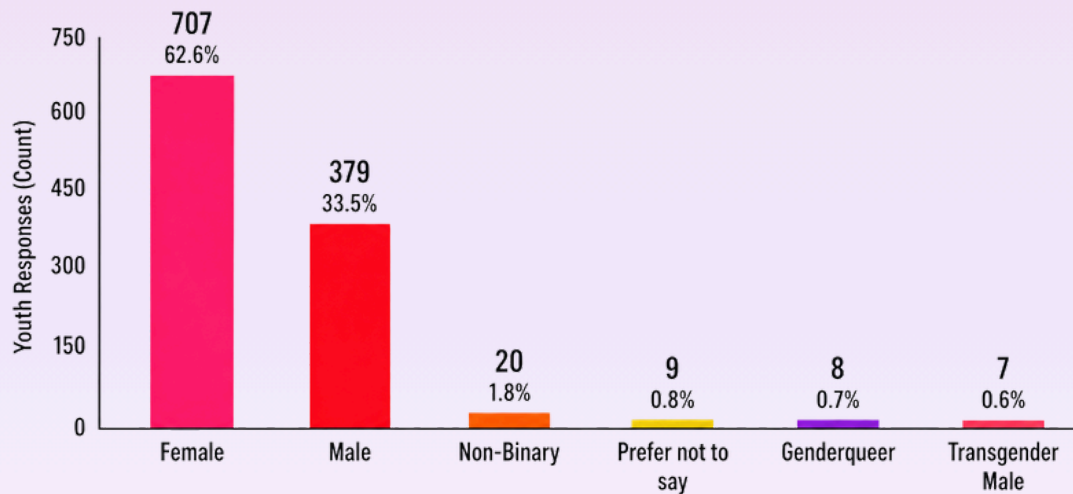
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Hispanic	695	59.9%
Black	291	25.1%
Asian	77	6.6%
White	45	3.9%
Pacific Islander	18	1.6%
American Indian	17	1.5%
Other	14	1.2%
Alaska Native	4	0.3%
TOTAL	1161	

What is your gender?

Youth Respondents by Gender

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,130

Youth responses by gender · Count and share of respondents



96.1% of Respondents Identified as Female or Male.

Female youth represented nearly two-thirds of participants, while about one-third identified as male. Smaller shares identified as non-binary, genderqueer, transgender male, or preferred not to disclose their gender.

Answered: **1130** Skipped: **44**

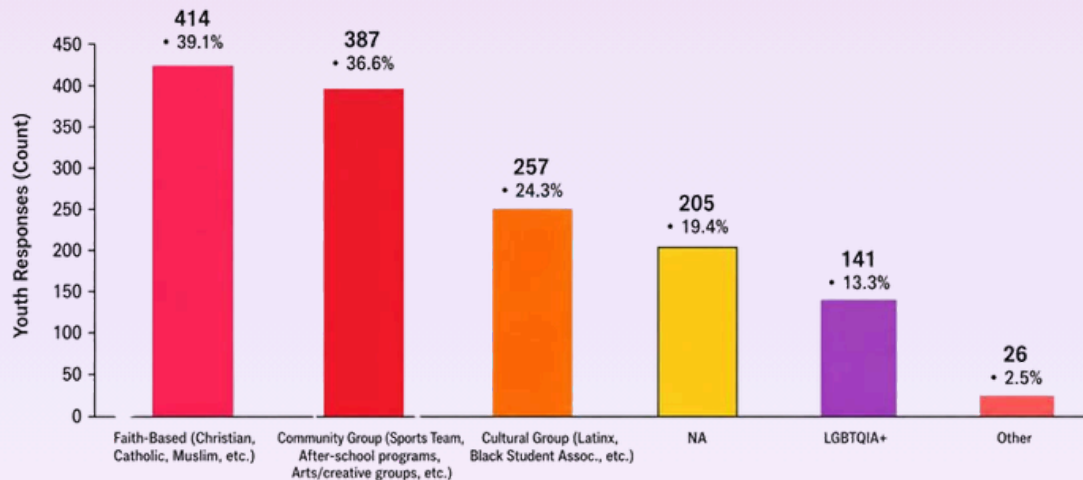
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Female	707	62.6%
Male	379	33.5%
Non-Binary	20	1.8%
Prefer not to say	9	0.8%
Genderqueer	8	0.7%
Transgender Male	7	0.6%
TOTAL	1130	

Do you feel like you belong to one or more of these communities?

Youth Group Affiliations

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,430

Youth responses by group affiliation · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



Faith-Based and Community Groups Were the Leading Sources of Belonging.

Youth most often identified with faith-based, community, and cultural groups. Nearly one in five reported no community affiliation, highlighting an opportunity to strengthen connection, inclusion, and youth engagement.

- Nearly one in five respondents (19.4%; n=205) indicated they were not affiliated with any community group, highlighting a potential gap in youth engagement.

Answered: **1058** Skipped: **116**

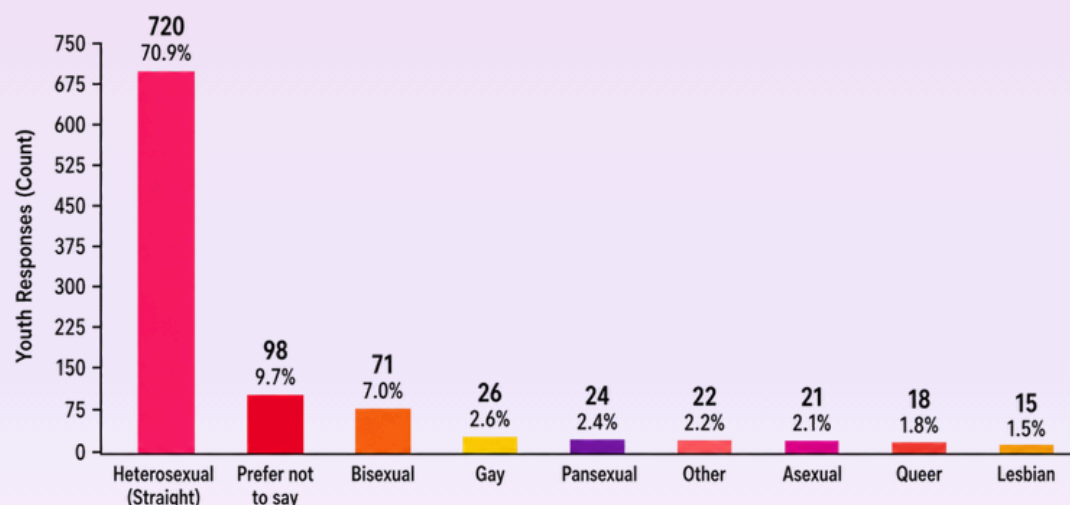
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Faith-Based (Christian, Catholic, Muslim etc.)	414	39.1%
Community Group (Sports Team, After-school programs, Arts/creative groups, etc.)	387	36.6%
Cultural Group (Latinx, Black Student Assoc., etc.)	257	24.3%
NA	205	19.4%
LGBTQIA+	141	13.3%
Other	26	2.5%
TOTAL	1430	

What is your sexual orientation?

Youth Respondents by Sexual Orientation

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,015

Youth responses by sexual orientation - Count and share of respondents



Nearly One in Five Respondents Identified Across LGBTQ+ Sexual Orientations.

Most youth identified as heterosexual, while 17.4% identified as bisexual, gay, pansexual, asexual, queer, or lesbian. Nearly one in ten preferred not to disclose their sexual orientation.

Answered: **1015** Skipped: **159**

Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Heterosexual (Straight)	720	70.9%
Prefer not to say	98	9.7%
Bisexual	71	7.0%
Gay	26	2.6%
Pansexual	24	2.4%
Other	22	2.2%
Asexual	21	2.1%
Queer	18	1.8%
Lesbian	15	1.5%
TOTAL	1015	

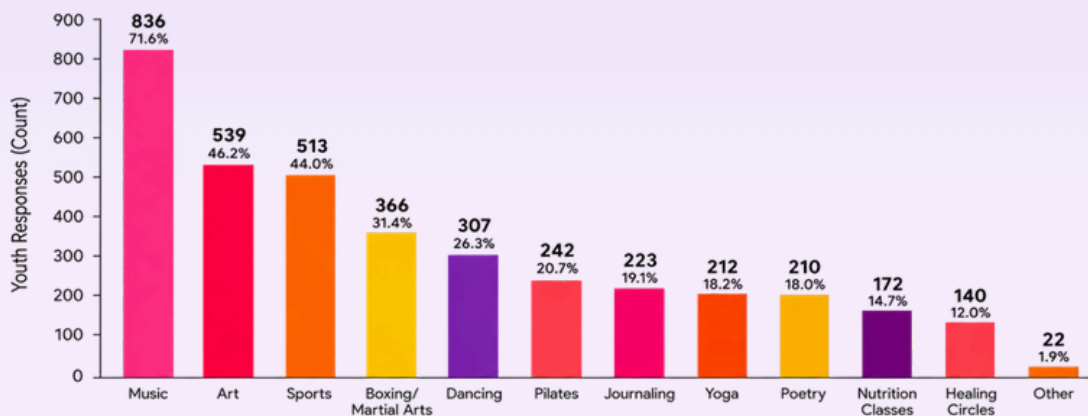
Note: For Questions 1–8, youth could select multiple priorities. For some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely. Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect responses, not strict totals.

Q1: What would you be most interested in?

Youth Activity Interests

TOTAL RESPONSES 3,782

Youth responses by activity • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



Music Was the Top Interest, Followed by Art and Sports.

Youth also showed strong interest in boxing and martial arts, dancing, and wellness activities such as Pilates, journaling, yoga, poetry, nutrition classes, and healing circles.

Answered: 1167 Skipped: 7

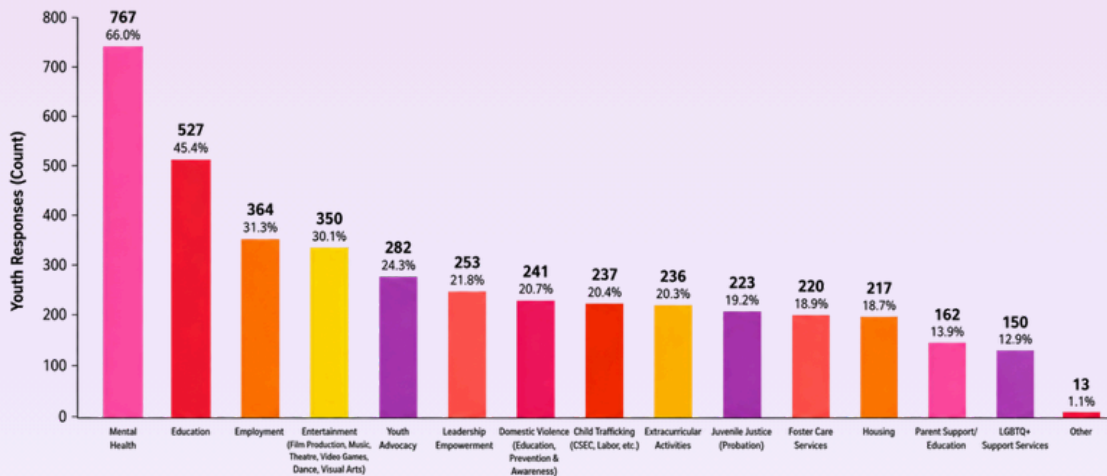
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Music	836	71.6%
Art	539	46.2%
Sports	513	44.0%
Boxing/Martial Arts	366	31.4%
Dancing	307	26.3%
Pilates	242	20.7%
Journaling	223	19.1%
Yoga	212	18.2%
Poetry	210	18.0%
Nutrition Classes	172	14.7%
Healing Circles	140	12.0%
Other	22	1.9%
TOTAL	3782	

Q2: What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

Youth Priority Areas

TOTAL RESPONSES 4,242

Youth responses by priority area · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



Mental Health Was the Leading Advocacy Priority, Followed by Education.

Youth also emphasized employment and entertainment opportunities, while identifying youth advocacy, leadership, safety, foster care, juvenile justice, housing, and family support as important areas for action.

Answered: 1162 Skipped: 12

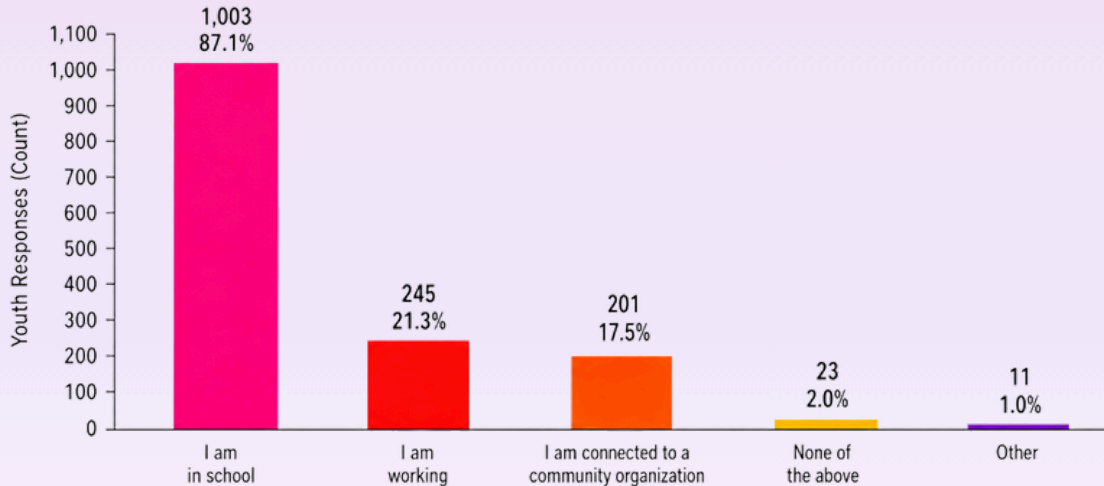
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental Health	767	66.0%
Education	527	45.4%
Employment	364	31.3%
Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)	350	30.1%
Youth Advocacy	282	24.3%
Leadership Empowerment	253	21.8%
Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)	241	20.7%
Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, etc.)	237	20.4%
Extracurricular Activities	236	20.3%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	223	19.2%
Foster Care Services	220	18.9%
Housing	217	18.7%
Parent Support/Education	162	13.9%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	150	12.9%
Other	13	1.1%
TOTAL	4242	

Q3: What is your current involvement?

Youth Education, Employment & Community Connection

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,483

Youth responses by current status · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



Most Respondents Were Enrolled in School.

More than eight in ten youth reported being in school, while smaller shares were working or connected to a community organization. 2.0% reported none of these forms of involvement.

Answered: **1151** Skipped: **23**

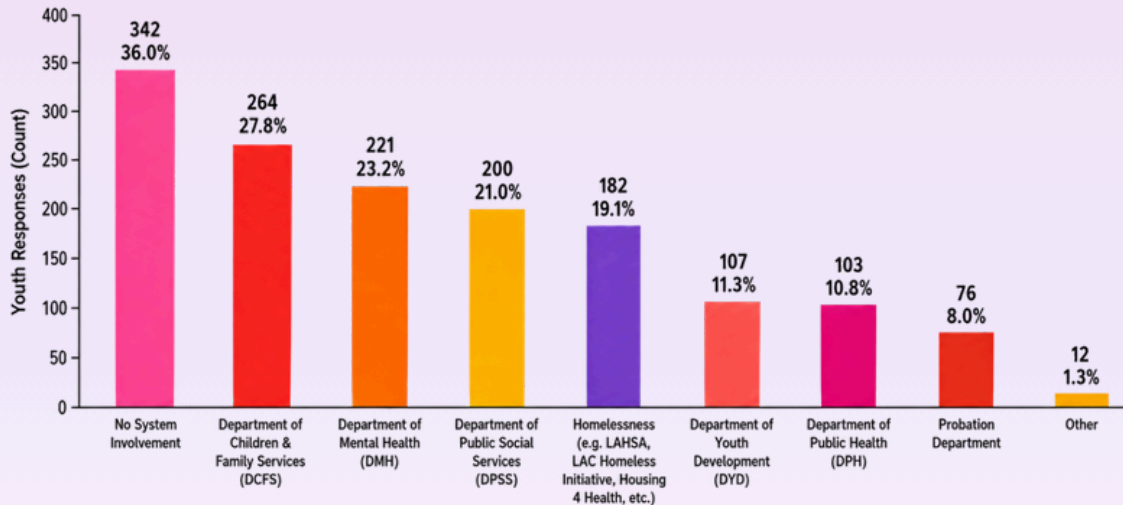
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
I am in school	1003	87.1%
I am working	245	21.3%
I am connected to a community organization	201	17.5%
None of the above	23	2.0%
Other	11	1.0%
TOTAL	1483	

Q4: What systems have you encountered?

Youth System Involvement

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,507

Youth responses by system or service - Count and share of respondents - Multiple selections allowed



DCFS Was the Most Common System Encounter, Followed by DMH and DPSS.

More than one-third reported no system involvement. Among youth with system experience, the most common connections were DCFS, mental health, public social services, and homelessness programs.

Answered: **951** Skipped: **223**

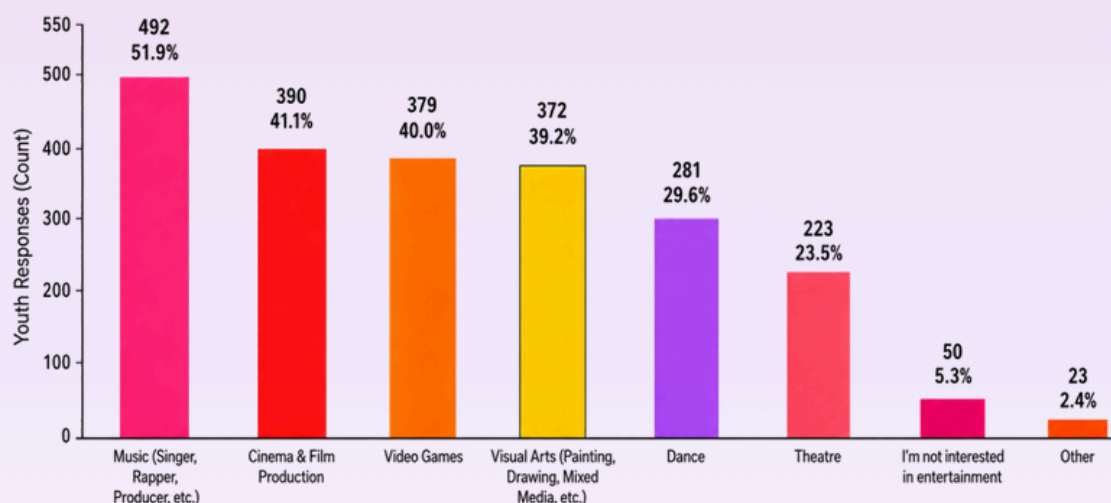
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
No System Involvement	342	36.0%
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	264	27.8%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	221	23.2%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	200	21.0%
Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc.)	182	19.1%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	107	11.3%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	103	10.8%
Probation Department	76	8.0%
Other	12	1.3%
TOTAL	1507	

Q5: What areas of entertainment are you interested in?

Youth Entertainment Interests

TOTAL RESPONSES 2,210

Youth responses by entertainment interest · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections Allowed



Music Led Entertainment Interests, Followed by Film, Video Games, and Visual Arts.

More than half of youth selected music, while roughly four in ten expressed interest in film production, video games, and visual arts. Dance and theatre also drew meaningful interest, and 5.3% reported no interest in entertainment.

Answered: **948** Skipped: **226**

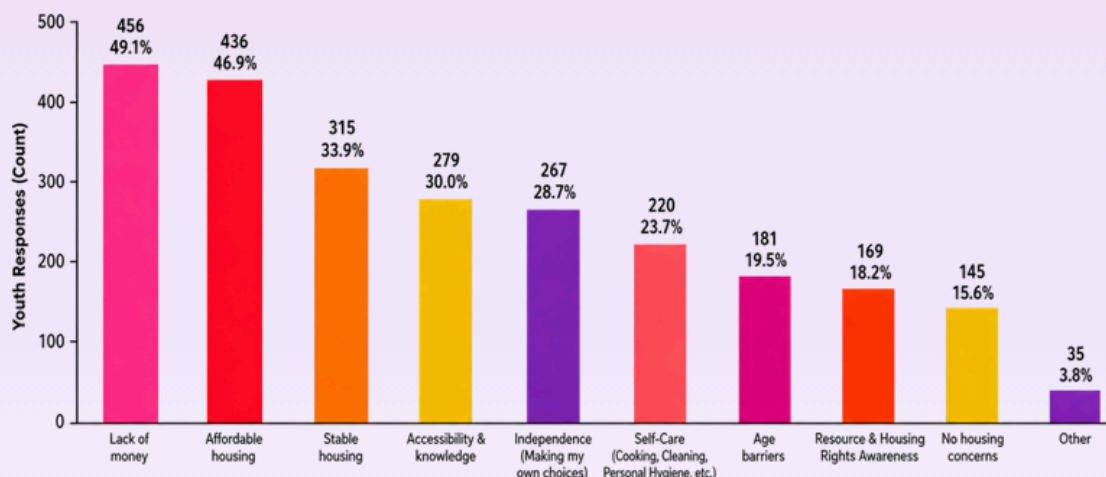
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Music (Singer, Rapper, Producer, etc.)	492	51.9%
Cinema & Film Production	390	41.1%
Video Games	379	40.0%
Visual Arts (Painting, Drawing, Mixed Media, etc.)	372	39.2%
Dance	281	29.6%
Theatre	223	23.5%
I'm not interested in entertainment	50	5.3%
Other	23	2.4%
TOTAL	2210	

Q6: What parts of housing are you concerned about?

Youth Housing Concerns

TOTAL RESPONSES 2,503

Youth responses by housing concern • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



Financial Barriers and Housing Affordability Were the Leading Concerns.

Nearly half of youth identified lack of money and affordable housing as major concerns, followed by stable housing and access to information and resources. Youth also emphasized independence, self-care skills, age barriers, and housing-rights awareness.

Answered: **929** Skipped: **245**

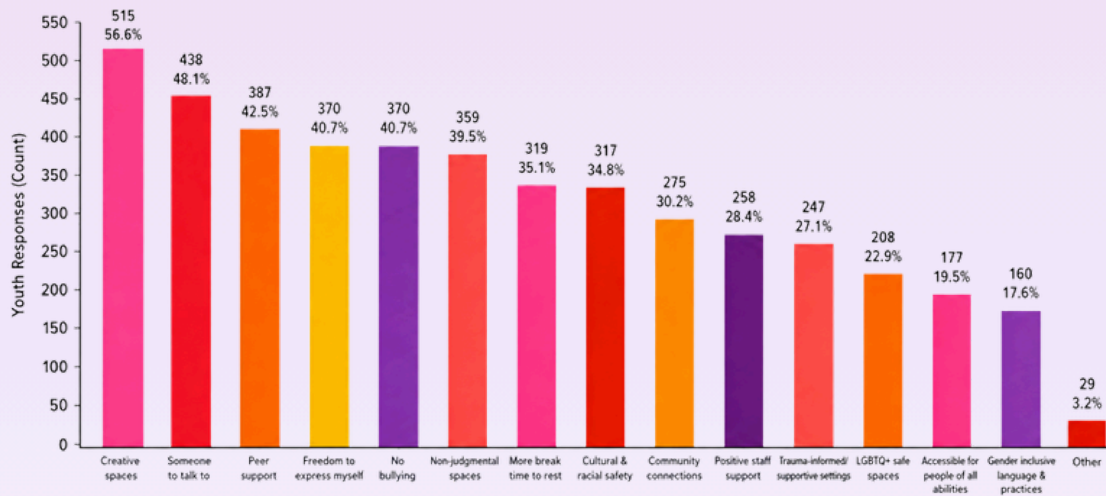
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Lack of money	456	49.1%
Affordable housing	436	46.9%
Stable housing	315	33.9%
Accessibility & knowledge	279	30.0%
Independence (Making my own choices)	267	28.7%
Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, etc.)	220	23.7%
Age barriers	181	19.5%
Resource & Housing Rights Awareness	169	18.2%
No housing concerns	145	15.6%
Other	35	3.8%
TOTAL	2503	

Q7: What does a safe space mean to you?

What Youth Need in Supportive Spaces

TOTAL RESPONSES 4,429

Youth responses by supportive-space feature · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



Creative Spaces and Trusted Support Defined What Youth Consider Safe.

Youth most often identified creative spaces, someone to talk to, peer support, freedom of expression, and protection from bullying as essential. They also emphasized nonjudgmental environments, cultural safety, community connection, and supportive staff.

Answered: **910** Skipped: **264**

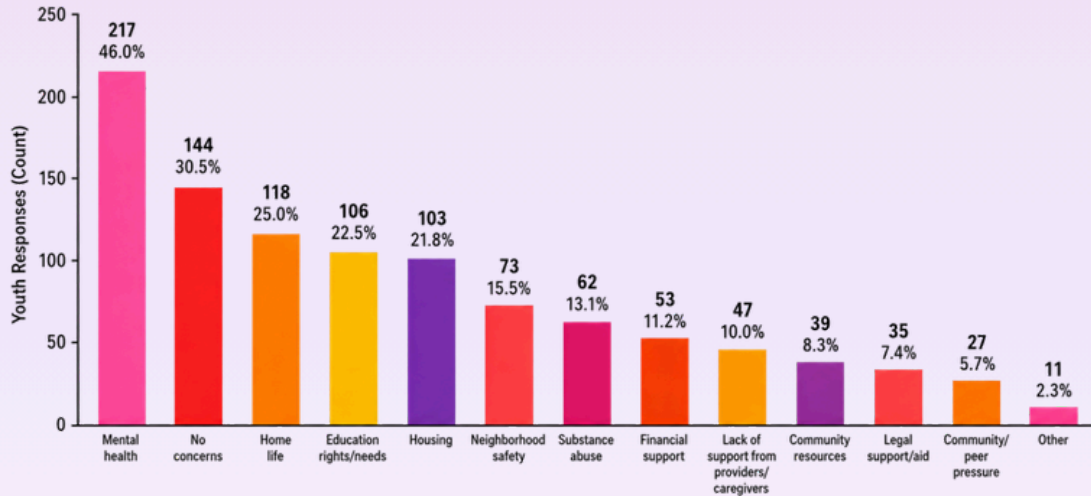
Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Creative spaces	515	56.6%
Someone to talk to	438	48.1%
Peer support	387	42.5%
Freedom to express myself	370	40.7%
No bullying	370	40.7%
Non-judgmental spaces	359	39.5%
More break time to rest	319	35.1%
Cultural & racial safety	317	34.8%
Community connections	275	30.2%
Positive staff support	258	28.4%
Trauma-informed/supportive settings	247	27.1%
LGBTQ+ safe spaces	208	22.9%
Accessible for people of all abilities	177	19.5%
Gender inclusive language & practices	160	17.6%
Other	29	3.2%
TOTAL	4429	

Q8: If you are a probation youth in the community/reentering, what are some concerns?

Youth Concerns & Support Needs

TOTAL RESPONSES 1,035

Youth responses by concern · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



Mental Health Was the Leading Concern for Probation-Involved Youth.

Nearly half identified mental health as a reentry concern, followed by home life, education needs, housing, neighborhood safety, and substance use. About 30% reported no concerns.

Answered: **472** Skipped: **702**

Answer choices	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental health	217	46.0%
No concerns	144	30.5%
Home life	118	25.0%
Education rights/needs	106	22.5%
Housing	103	21.8%
Neighborhood safety	73	15.5%
Substance abuse	62	13.1%
Financial support	53	11.2%
Lack of support from providers/caregivers	47	10.0%
Community resources	39	8.3%
Legal support/aid	35	7.4%
Community/peer pressure	27	5.7%
Other	11	2.3%
TOTAL	1035	

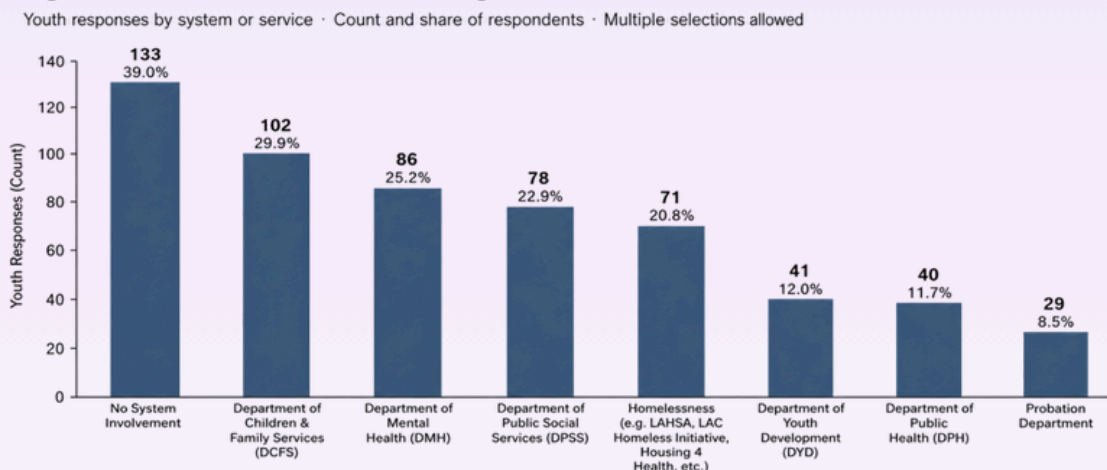
First District

What systems have you encountered?

The figures represent system-involved youth. The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 2.78

System youth: **236** Non-system youth: **105**

Systems Encountered by Youth



In the First District, 39% reported no system involvement. Among those involved, DCFS was most common (29.9%), followed by DMH (25.2%), DPSS (22.9%), and homelessness services (20.8%).

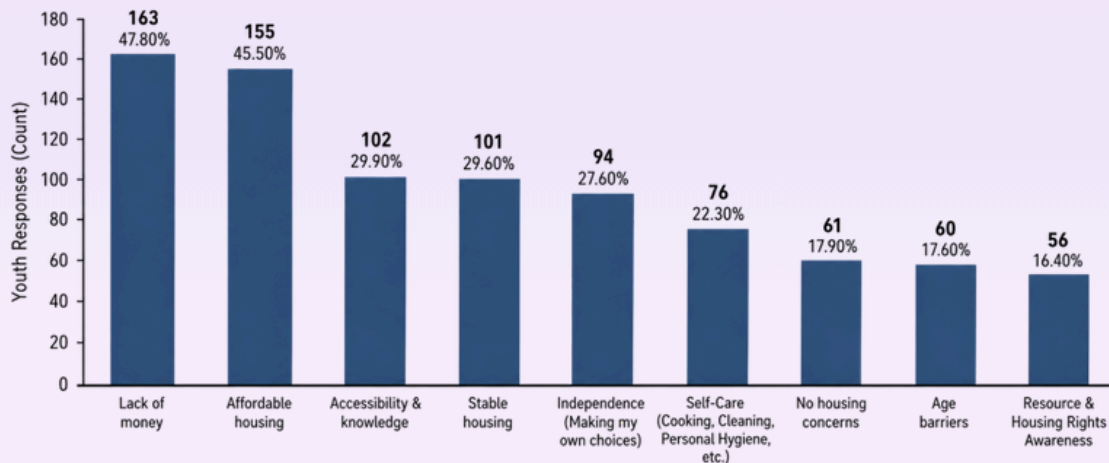
System Encountered	Youth Responses	Response %
No System Involvement	133	39.0%
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	102	29.9%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	86	25.2%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	78	22.9%
Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc.)	71	20.8%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	41	12.0%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	40	11.7%
Probation Department	29	8.5%

What parts of housing are you concerned about?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 2.54

Youth Housing Concerns

Youth responses by housing concern • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



In the First District, lack of money (47.8%) and affordable housing (45.5%) were the leading concerns, followed by housing accessibility and knowledge (29.9%) and housing stability (29.6%).

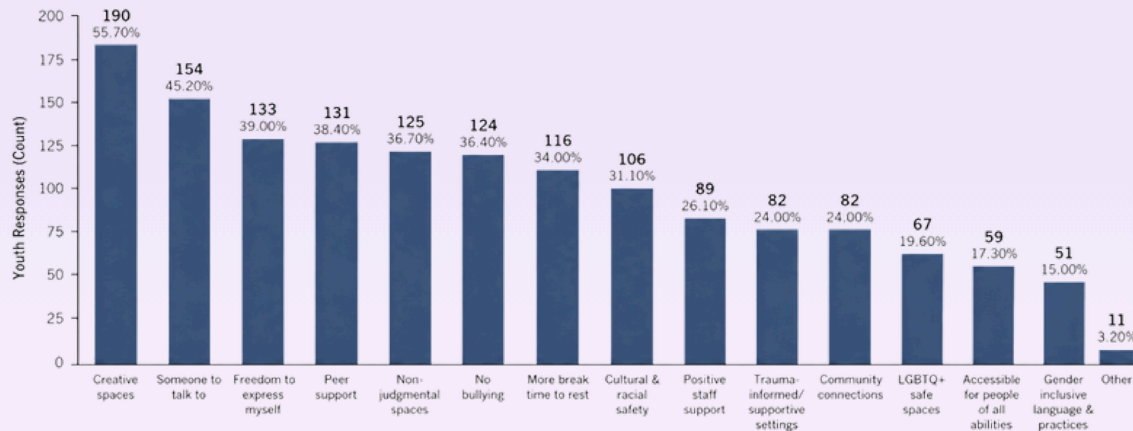
Housing Concern	Youth Responses	Response %
Lack of money	163	47.80%
Affordable housing	155	45.50%
Accessibility & knowledge	102	29.90%
Stable housing	101	29.60%
Independence (Making my own choices)	94	27.60%
Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, etc.)	76	22.30%
No housing concerns	61	17.90%
Age barriers	60	17.60%
Resource & Housing Rights Awareness	56	16.40%

What does safe space mean to you?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 4.45

Youth Safe-Space Needs

Youth responses by safe-space feature • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



In the First District, creative spaces (55.7%) were the top need, followed by someone to talk to (45.2%), freedom of expression (39%), and peer support (38.4%).

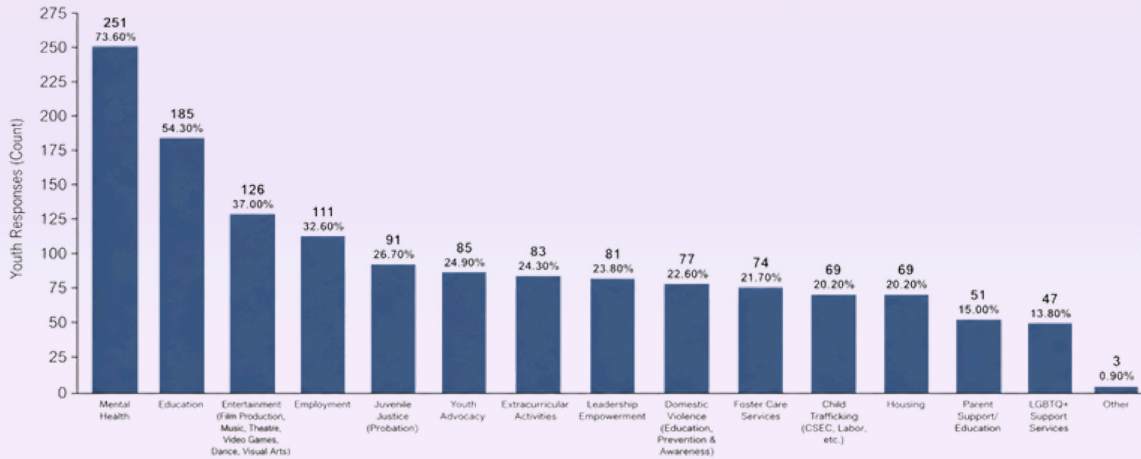
Safe-Space Response	Youth Responses	Response %
Creative spaces	190	55.70%
Someone to talk to	154	45.20%
Freedom to express myself	133	39.00%
Peer support	131	38.40%
Non-judgmental spaces	125	36.70%
No bullying	124	36.40%
More break time to rest	116	34.00%
Cultural & racial safety	106	31.10%
Positive staff support	89	26.10%
Trauma-informed/supportive settings	82	24.00%
Community connections	82	24.00%
LGBTQ+ safe spaces	67	19.60%
Accessible for people of all abilities	59	17.30%
Gender inclusive language & practices	51	15.00%
Other	11	3.20%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 4.12

Youth Advocacy Needs

Youth responses by advocacy need • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



In the First District, mental health (73.6%) was the top advocacy need, followed by education (54.3%), entertainment and creative industries (37%), and employment (32.6%).

Advocacy Needs	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental Health	251	73.60%
Education	185	54.30%
Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)	126	37.00%
Employment	111	32.60%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	91	26.70%
Youth Advocacy	85	24.90%
Extracurricular Activities	83	24.30%
Leadership Empowerment	81	23.80%
Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)	77	22.60%
Foster Care Services	74	21.70%
Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, etc.)	69	20.20%
Housing	69	20.20%
Parent Support/Education	51	15.00%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	47	13.80%
Other	3	0.90%

Second District

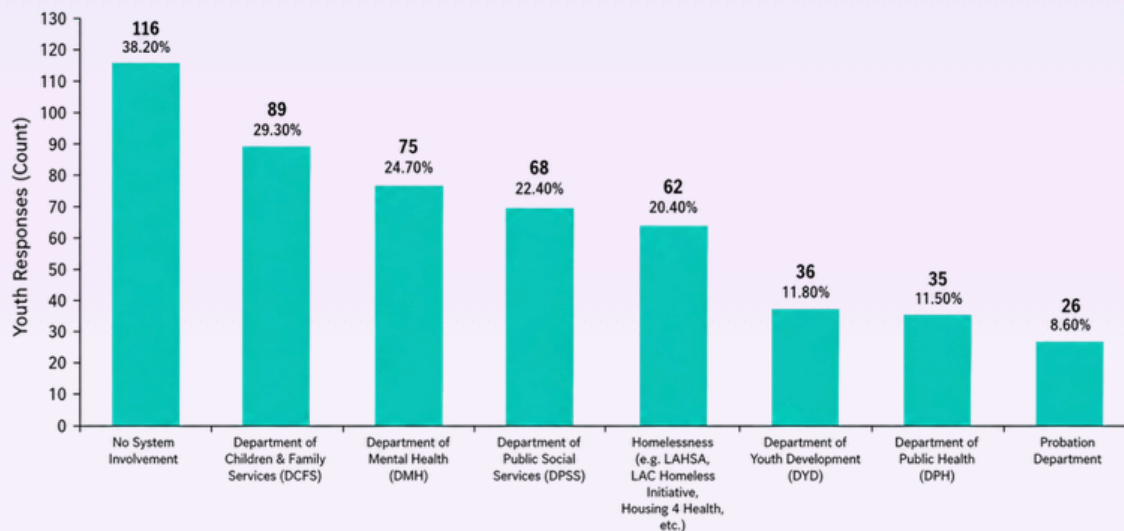
What systems have you encountered?

The figures represent system-involved youth. The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 2.17

System youth: **206** Non-system youth: **98**

Systems Encountered by Youth

Youth responses by system or service · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Second District, 38.2% reported no system involvement. Among those involved, DCFS was most common (29.3%), followed by DMH (24.7%), DPSS (22.4%), and homelessness services (20.4%).

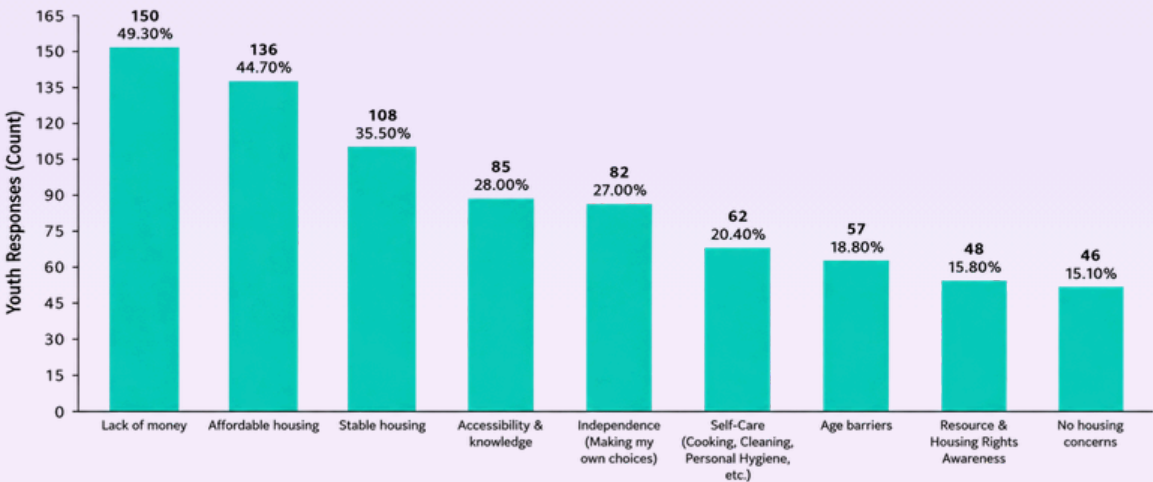
System Encountered	Youth Responses	Response %
No System Involvement	116	38.20%
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	89	29.30%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	75	24.70%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	68	22.40%
Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc.)	62	20.40%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	36	11.80%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	35	11.50%
Probation Department	26	8.60%

What parts of housing are you concerned about?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 2.54

Youth Housing Concerns

Youth responses by housing concern · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Second District, lack of money (49.3%) and affordable housing (44.7%) were the leading concerns, followed by housing stability (35.5%) and accessibility and knowledge (28%).

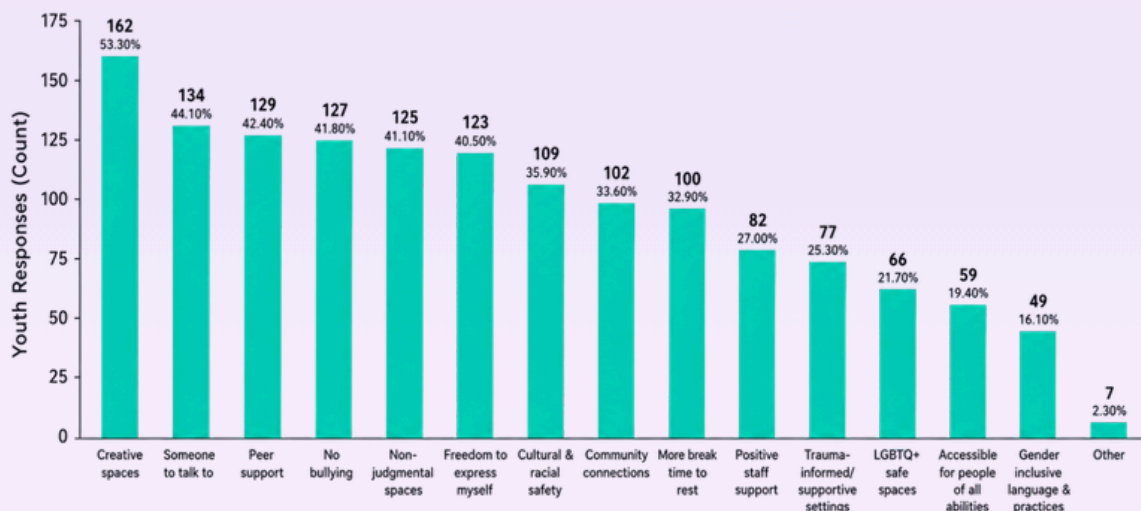
Housing Concern	Youth Responses	Response %
Lack of money	150	49.30%
Affordable housing	136	44.70%
Stable housing	108	35.50%
Accessibility & knowledge	85	28.00%
Independence (Making my own choices)	82	27.00%
Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, etc.)	62	20.40%
Age barriers	57	18.80%
Resource & Housing Rights Awareness	48	15.80%
No housing concerns	46	15.10%

What does safe space mean to you?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 8

Safe-Space Responses

Youth responses by safe-space feature · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Second District, creative spaces (53.3%) were the top need, followed by someone to talk to (44.1%), peer support (42.4%), and no-bullying environments (41.8%).

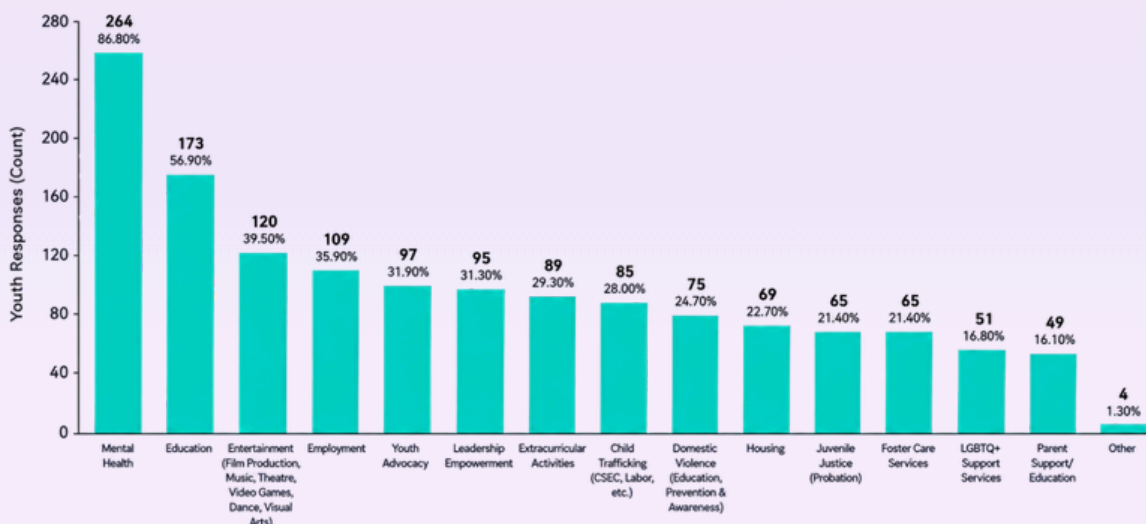
Safe-Space Response	Youth Responses	Response %
Creative spaces	162	53.30%
Someone to talk to	134	44.10%
Peer support	129	42.40%
No bullying	127	41.80%
Non-judgmental spaces	125	41.10%
Freedom to express myself	123	40.50%
Cultural & racial safety	109	35.90%
Community connections	102	33.60%
More break time to rest	100	32.90%
Positive staff support	82	27.00%
Trauma-informed/supportive settings	77	25.30%
LGBTQ+ safe spaces	66	21.70%
Accessible for people of all abilities	59	19.40%
Gender inclusive language & practices	49	16.10%
Other	7	2.30%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 4.09

Advocacy Needs

Youth responses by advocacy need · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Second District, mental health (86.8%) was the top advocacy need, followed by education (56.9%), entertainment and creative industries (39.5%), and employment (35.9%).

Advocacy Needs	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental Health	264	86.80%
Education	173	56.90%
Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)	120	39.50%
Employment	109	35.90%
Youth Advocacy	97	31.90%
Leadership Empowerment	95	31.30%
Extracurricular Activities	89	29.30%
Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, etc.)	85	28.00%
Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)	75	24.70%
Housing	69	22.70%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	65	21.40%
Foster Care Services	65	21.40%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	51	16.80%
Parent Support/Education	49	16.10%
Other	4	1.30%

Third District

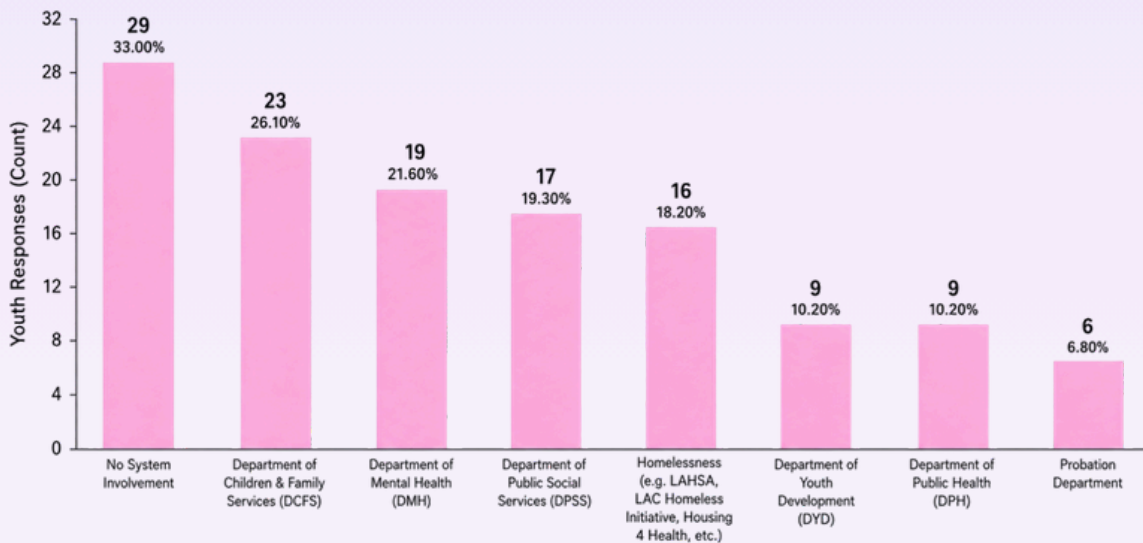
What systems have you encountered?

The figures represent system-involved youth. The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 2.45

System youth: **52** Non-system youth: **36**

Systems Encountered

Youth responses by system encountered · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Third District, 33% reported no system involvement. Among those involved, DCFS was most common (26.1%), followed by DMH (21.6%), DPSS (19.3%), and homelessness services (18.2%).

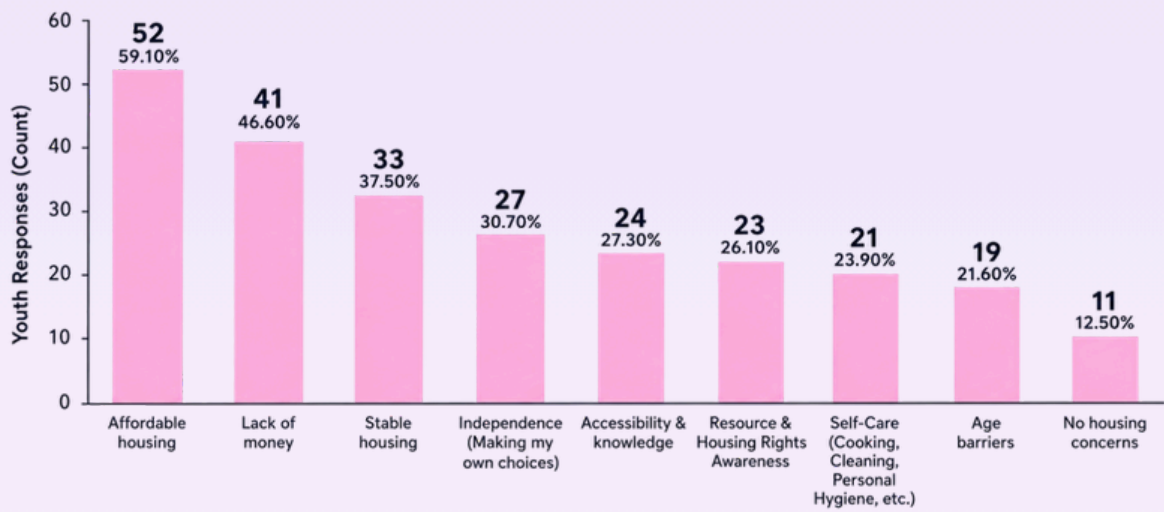
System Encountered	Youth Responses	Response %
No System Involvement	29	33.00%
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	23	26.10%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	19	21.60%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	17	19.30%
Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc.)	16	18.20%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	9	10.20%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	9	10.20%
Probation Department	6	6.80%

What parts of housing are you concerned about?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 2.85

Housing Concerns

Youth responses by housing concern · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Third District, affordable housing (59.1%) was the leading concern, followed by lack of money (46.6%), housing stability (37.5%), and independence (30.7%).

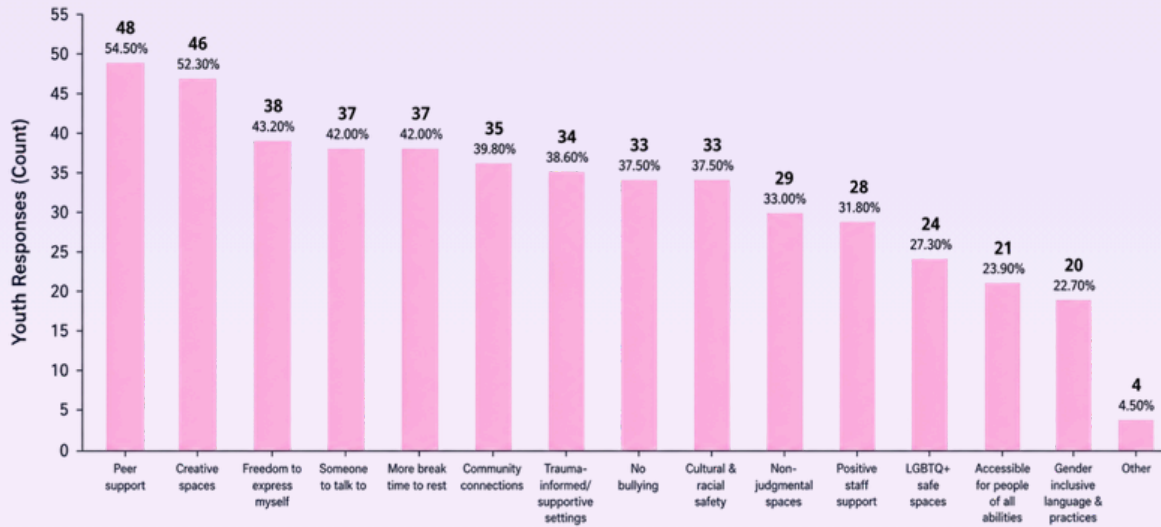
Housing Concern	Youth Responses	Response %
Affordable housing	52	59.10%
Lack of money	41	46.60%
Stable housing	33	37.50%
Independence (Making my own choices)	27	30.70%
Accessibility & knowledge	24	27.30%
Resource & Housing Rights Awareness	23	26.10%
Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, etc.)	21	23.90%
Age barriers	19	21.60%
No housing concerns	11	12.50%

What does safe space mean to you?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 5.3

Safe-Space Responses

Youth responses by safe-space feature · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Third District, peer support (54.5%) was the top need, followed by creative spaces (52.3%), freedom of expression (43.2%), and more breaktime or someone to talk to (42% each).

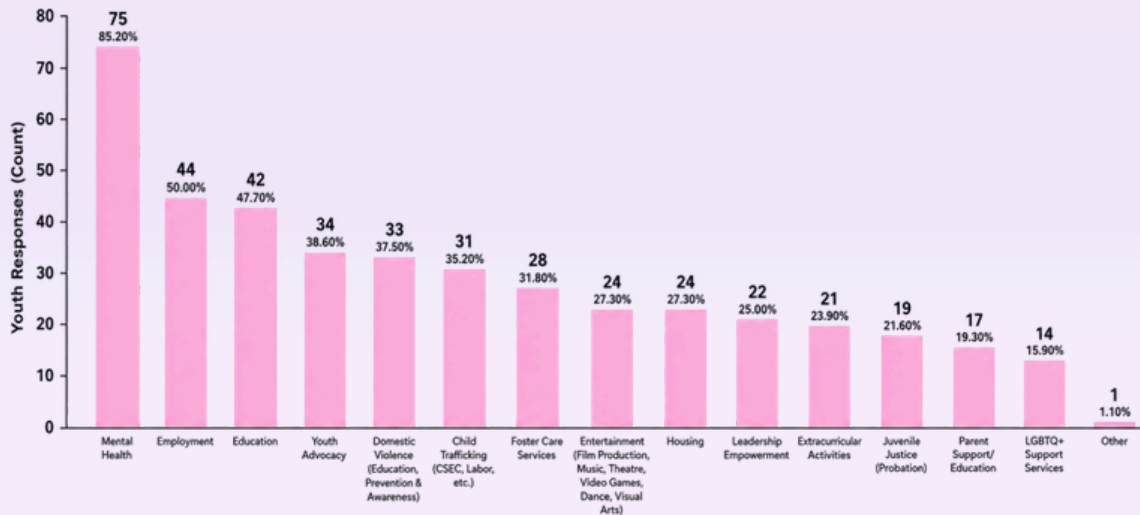
Safe-Space Response	Youth Responses	Response %
Peer support	48	54.50%
Creative spaces	46	52.30%
Freedom to express myself	38	43.20%
Someone to talk to	37	42.00%
More break time to rest	37	42.00%
Community connections	35	39.80%
Trauma-informed/supportive settings	34	38.60%
No bullying	33	37.50%
Cultural & racial safety	33	37.50%
Non-judgmental spaces	29	33.00%
Positive staff support	28	31.80%
LGBTQ+ safe spaces	24	27.30%
Accessible for people of all abilities	21	23.90%
Gender inclusive language & practices	20	22.70%
Other	4	4.50%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 4.8

Advocacy Needs

Youth responses by advocacy need · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Third District, mental health (85.2%) was the top advocacy need, followed by employment (50%), education (47.7%), and youth advocacy (38.6%)

Advocacy Needs	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental Health	75	85.20%
Employment	44	50.00%
Education	42	47.70%
Youth Advocacy	34	38.60%
Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)	33	37.50%
Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, etc.)	31	35.20%
Foster Care Services	28	31.80%
Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)	24	27.30%
Housing	24	27.30%
Leadership Empowerment	22	25.00%
Extracurricular Activities	21	23.90%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	19	21.60%
Parent Support/Education	17	19.30%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	14	15.90%
Other	1	1.10%

Fourth District

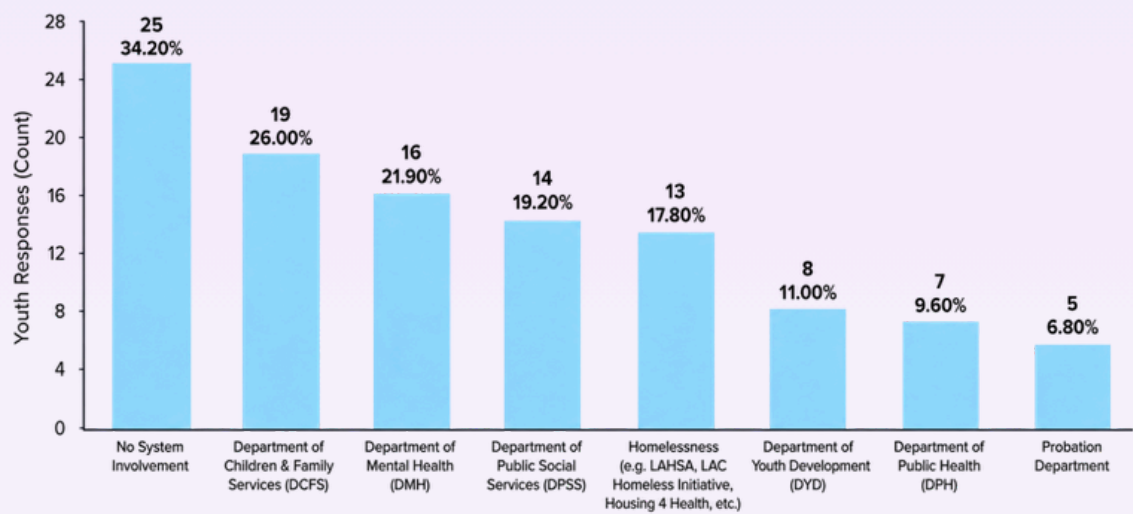
What systems have you encountered?

The figures represent system-involved youth. The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 2.47

System youth: 44 Non-system youth: 29

Systems Encountered

Youth responses by system encountered · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Fourth District, 34.2% reported no system involvement. Among those involved, DCFS was most common (26%), followed by DMH (21.9%), DPSS (19.2%), and homelessness services (17.8%).

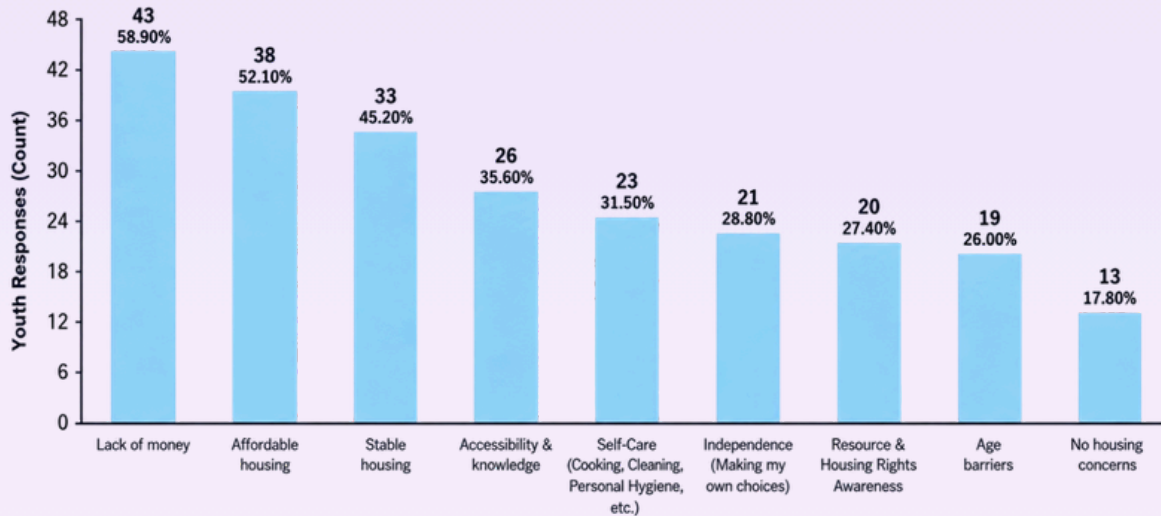
System Encountered	Youth Responses	Response %
No System Involvement	25	34.20%
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	19	26.00%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	16	21.90%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	14	19.20%
Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc.)	13	17.80%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	8	11.00%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	7	9.60%
Probation Department	5	6.80%

What parts of housing are you concerned about?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 3.28

Housing Concerns

• Youth responses by housing concern • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



In the Fourth District, lack of money (58.9%) was the leading concern, followed by affordable housing (52.1%), housing stability (45.2%), and accessibility and knowledge (35.6%).

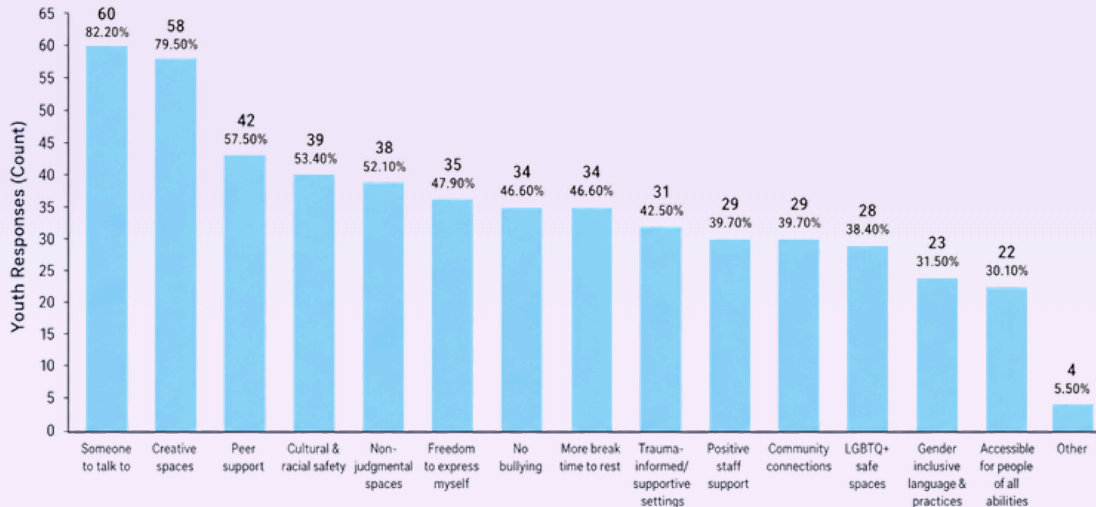
Housing Concern	Youth Responses	Response %
Lack of money	43	58.90%
Affordable housing	38	52.10%
Stable housing	33	45.20%
Accessibility & knowledge	26	35.60%
Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, etc.)	23	31.50%
Independence (Making my own choices)	21	28.80%
Resource & Housing Rights Awareness	20	27.40%
Age barriers	19	26.00%
No housing concerns	13	17.80%

What does safe space mean to you?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 6.91

Safe-Space Responses

Youth responses by safe-space feature • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



In the Fourth District, someone to talk to (82.2%) and creative spaces (79.5%) were the top needs, followed by peer support (57.5%) and cultural and racial safety (53.4%).

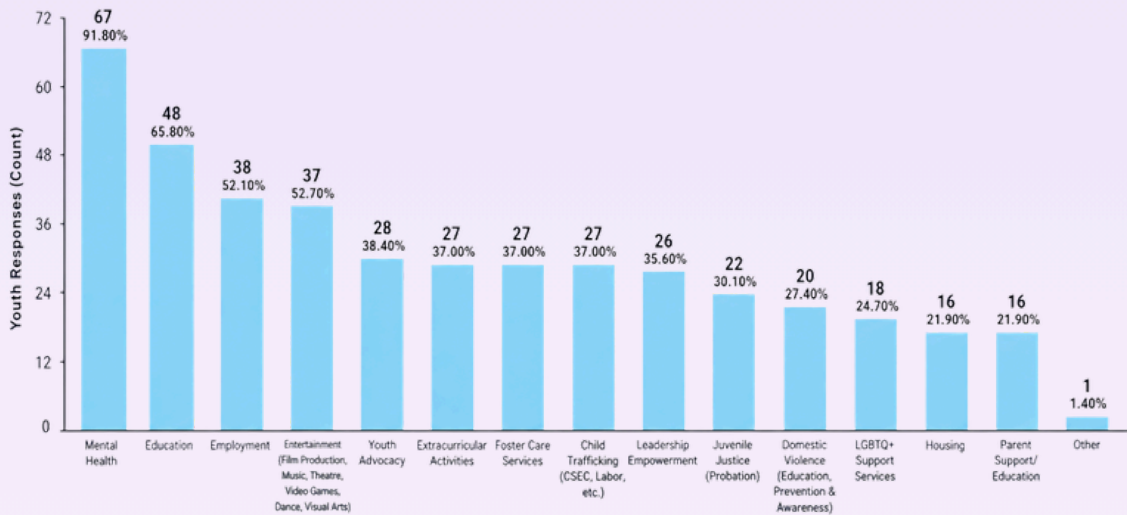
Safe-Space Response	Youth Responses	Response %
Someone to talk to	60	82.20%
Creative spaces	58	79.50%
Peer support	42	57.50%
Cultural & racial safety	39	53.40%
Non-judgmental spaces	38	52.10%
Freedom to express myself	35	47.90%
No bullying	34	46.60%
More break time to rest	34	46.60%
Trauma-informed/supportive settings	31	42.50%
Positive staff support	29	39.70%
Community connections	29	39.70%
LGBTQ+ safe spaces	28	38.40%
Gender inclusive language & practices	23	31.50%
Accessible for people of all abilities	22	30.10%
Other	4	5.50%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 5.71

Advocacy Needs

Youth responses by advocacy need • Count and share of respondents • Multiple selections allowed



In the Fourth District, mental health (91.8%) and education (65.8%) were the top advocacy needs, followed by employment (52.1%) and entertainment and creative opportunities (50.7%).

Advocacy Needs	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental Health	67	91.80%
Education	48	65.80%
Employment	38	52.10%
Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)	37	50.70%
Youth Advocacy	28	38.40%
Extracurricular Activities	27	37.00%
Foster Care Services	27	37.00%
Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, etc.)	27	37.00%
Leadership Empowerment	26	35.60%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	22	30.10%
Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)	20	27.40%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	18	24.70%
Housing	16	21.90%
Parent Support/Education	16	21.90%
Other	1	1.40%

Fifth District

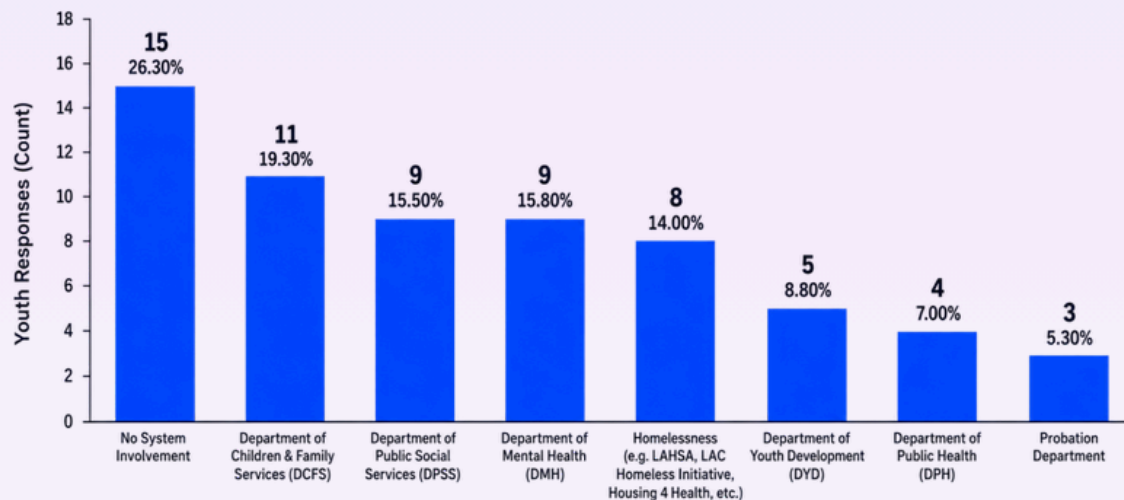
What systems have you encountered?

The figures represent system-involved youth. The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 2.15

System youth: 26 Non-system youth: 31

Systems Encountered

Youth responses by system encountered · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Fifth District, 26.3% reported no system involvement. Among those involved, DCFS was most common (19.3%), followed by DMH (15.8%), DPSS (15.5%), and homelessness services (14%).

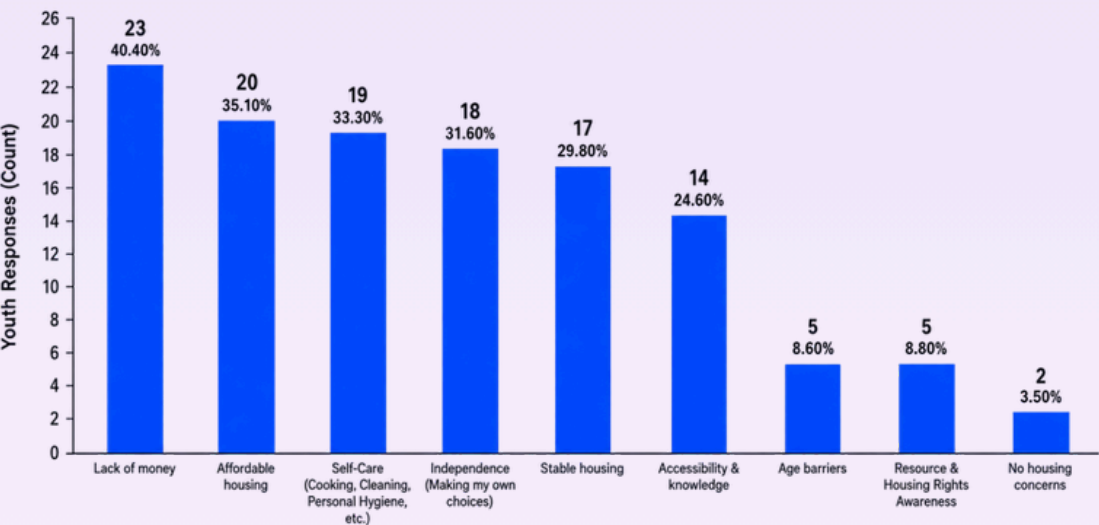
System Encountered	Youth Responses	Response %
No System Involvement	15	26.30%
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	11	19.30%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	9	15.50%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	9	15.80%
Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc.)	8	14.00%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	5	8.80%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	4	7.00%
Probation Department	3	5.30%

What parts of housing are you concerned about?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 2.15

Housing Concerns

Youth responses by housing concern · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed



In the Fifth District, lack of money (40.4%) was the leading concern, followed by affordable housing (35.1%), self-care (33.3%), and independence (31.6%).

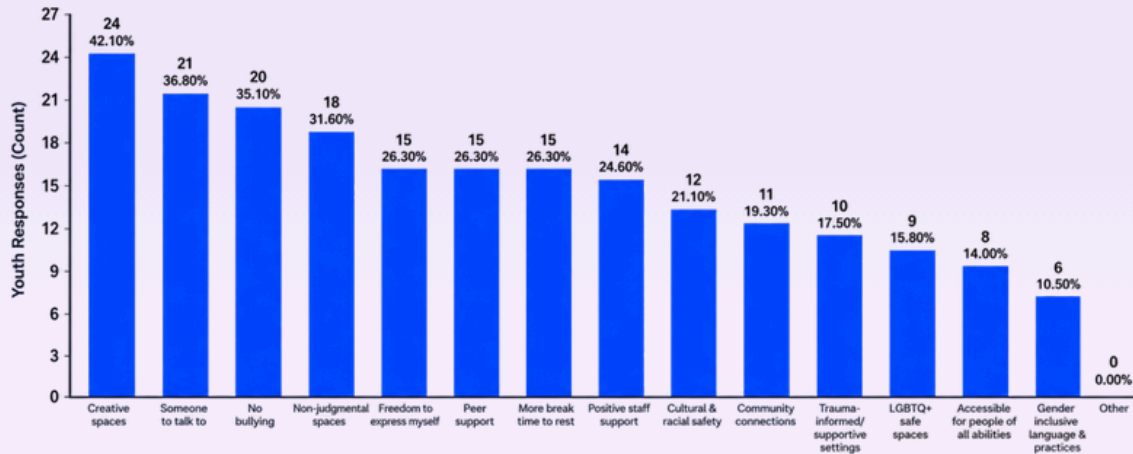
Housing Concern	Youth Responses	Response %
Lack of money	23	40.40%
Affordable housing	20	35.10%
Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, etc.)	19	33.30%
Independence (Making my own choices)	18	31.60%
Stable housing	17	29.80%
Accessibility & knowledge	14	24.60%
Age barriers	5	8.60%
Resource & Housing Rights Awareness	5	8.80%
No housing concerns	2	3.50%

What does safe space mean to you?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices. Average responses for this question: 3.47

Safe-Space Responses

Youth responses by safe-space feature · Count and share of respondents · Multiple selections allowed

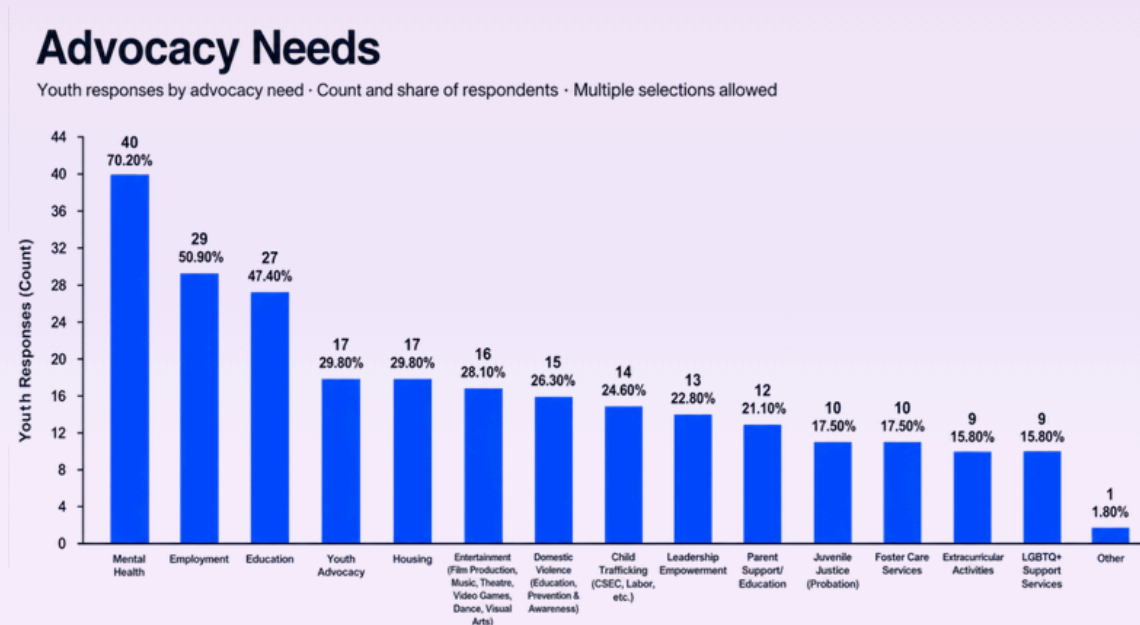


In the Fifth District, creative spaces (42.1%) were the top need, followed by someone to talk to (36.8%), non-bullying environments (35.1%), and non-judgmental spaces (31.6%).

Safe-Space Response	Youth Responses	Response %
Creative spaces	24	42.10%
Someone to talk to	21	36.80%
No bullying	20	35.10%
Non-judgmental spaces	18	31.60%
Freedom to express myself	15	26.30%
Peer support	15	26.30%
More break time to rest	15	26.30%
Positive staff support	14	24.60%
Cultural & racial safety	12	21.10%
Community connections	11	19.30%
Trauma-informed/supportive settings	10	17.50%
LGBTQ+ safe spaces	9	15.80%
Accessible for people of all abilities	8	14.00%
Gender inclusive language & practices	6	10.50%
Other	0	0.00%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

The percentage may exceed 100% because respondents could make multiple choices.
Average responses for this question: 4.19



In the Fifth District, mental health (70.2%) was the top advocacy need, followed by employment (50.9%), education (47.4%), and housing and youth advocacy (29.8% each).

Advocacy Needs	Youth Responses	Response %
Mental Health	40	70.20%
Employment	29	50.90%
Education	27	47.40%
Youth Advocacy	17	29.80%
Housing	17	29.80%
Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts)	16	28.10%
Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness)	15	26.30%
Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, etc.)	14	24.60%
Leadership Empowerment	13	22.80%
Parent Support/Education	12	21.10%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	10	17.50%
Foster Care Services	10	17.50%
Extracurricular Activities	9	15.80%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	9	15.80%
Other	1	1.80%

Recommendations

Expand Youth–Centered Mental Health Supports: Increase access to timely, trauma-informed, culturally responsive services, particularly for youth involved in child welfare, probation, homelessness, and other County systems.

Opportunities to Strengthen Engagement: We recognize an opportunity to strengthen youth engagement in Districts 3, 4, and 5. We will work with local community-based organizations and community youth leaders to expand outreach and create more ways for youth in these areas to share their ideas and experiences – strategic leveraging of partnerships is key to our outreach goals.

Strengthen Safe and Creative Spaces: Invest in environments where youth can express themselves, connect with peers, speak with trusted adults, decompress and unwind and feel protected from bullying, judgment, and discrimination.

Address Housing Stability and Affordability: Coordinate financial assistance, housing navigation, rights education, and transition-age youth supports to address concerns about cost, stability, independence, and access to resources.

Increase Education and Employment Opportunities: Expand tutoring, career exploration, mentoring, workforce preparation, paid internships, and employment pathways that help youth build long-term stability and independence.

Invest in Arts, Recreation, and Entertainment Pathways: Provide fair access and build programming around youth interests such as music, film, visual arts, video games, sports, dance, and theatre to support creativity, skill development, and career exposure.

Next Steps

Equal Representation Across Districts: To increase participation in Districts 3, 4, and 5, we will partner with local schools and youth-serving organizations, attend district events, deploy youth ambassadors, and conduct periodic check-ins to track engagement progress and adjust outreach as needed.

Convene Stakeholders: Host year-end discussions with youth, County departments, community-based organizations, and system partners to review the 2026 findings and identify shared priorities for action.

Engage Youth and Thought Partners: Bring together County and non-County partners with young people to co-design practical, culturally responsive strategies grounded in lived experience.

Translate Data Into Action: Use survey findings, district-level trends, and listening-session feedback to guide outreach, partnerships, resource allocation, and recommendations aligned with Board priorities.

Prepare for 2027 Strategic Planning: Develop an implementation roadmap that connects the 2026 recommendations to measurable goals, responsible partners, and the Commission's next strategic planning cycle.

Looking Ahead (2027)

The findings show that youth want both immediate support (mental health, housing, safe spaces) and long-term opportunities (education, jobs, leadership).

The Commission has a clear mandate to advocate for:

- Expanding youth-centered mental health services
- Strengthening education and employment pathways
- Advocating for reforms in foster care and juvenile justice
- Ensuring equitable access to safe, creative, and wellness-focused opportunities

2025–2026 Participation and Demographic Trends

Survey participation increased by 33.3%, from 881 respondents in 2025 to 1,174 in 2026. System-involved youth increased slightly from 62.5% to 64%, while non-system youth decreased from 37.5% to 36%. In 2026, 19% skipped the systems question, and paper surveys remained consistent at 80% in both years.

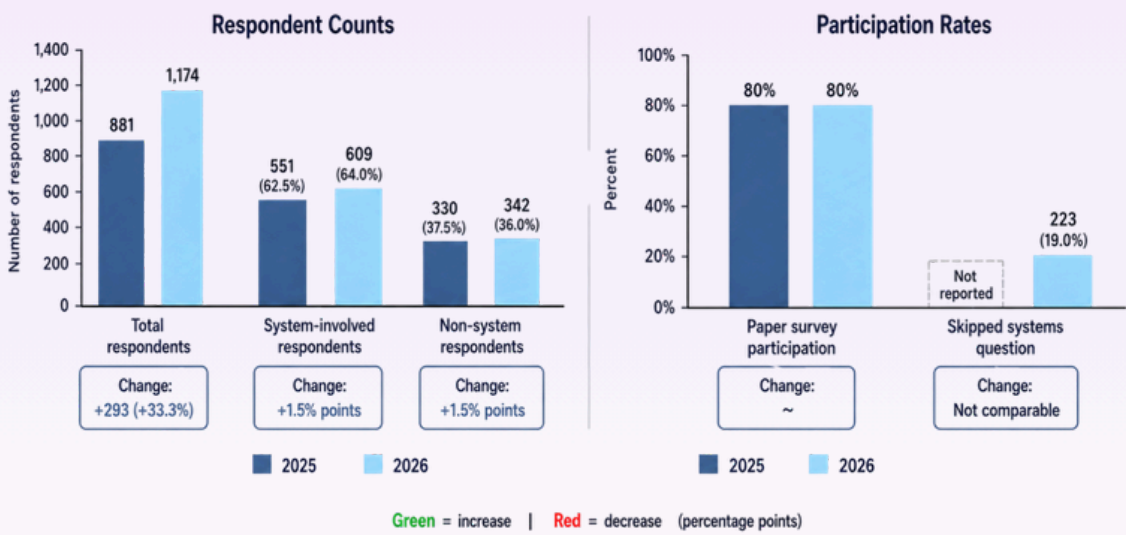
Total Survey Respondents

The 2026 district figures reflect respondents who answered the systems question and could be assigned geographically. An additional 223 respondents skipped that question. Participation increased in the First and Second Districts but decreased in the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Districts.

2025 vs.
2026

Respondent Profile: 2025 vs. 2026

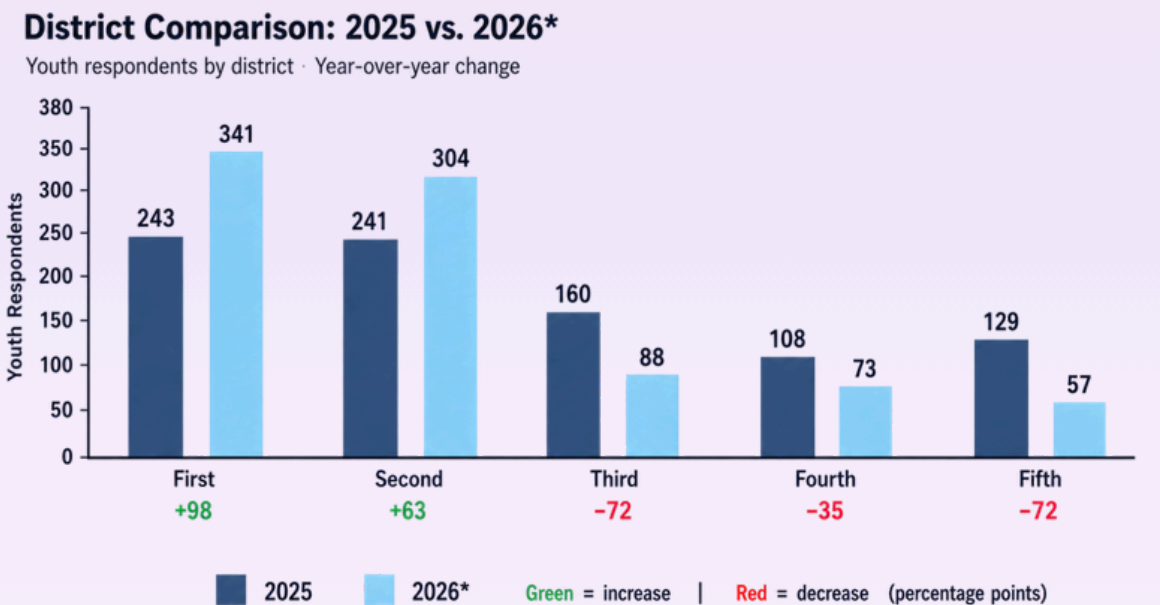
Participation and system-involvement measures



Measure	2025	2026	Change
Total respondents	881	1,174	+293 (+33.3%)
System-involved respondents	551 (62.5%)	609 (64.0%)	+1.5% points
Non-system respondents	330 (37.5%)	342 (36.0%)	+1.5% points
Skipped systems question	Not reported	223 (19.0%)	Not comparable
Paper survey participation	80%	80%	~

Total Survey Respondents by District

The 2026 survey respondents were younger than the 2025 data capture. Youth under 18 increased by 35% (267), and youth ages 18–25 increased by 6% (25).

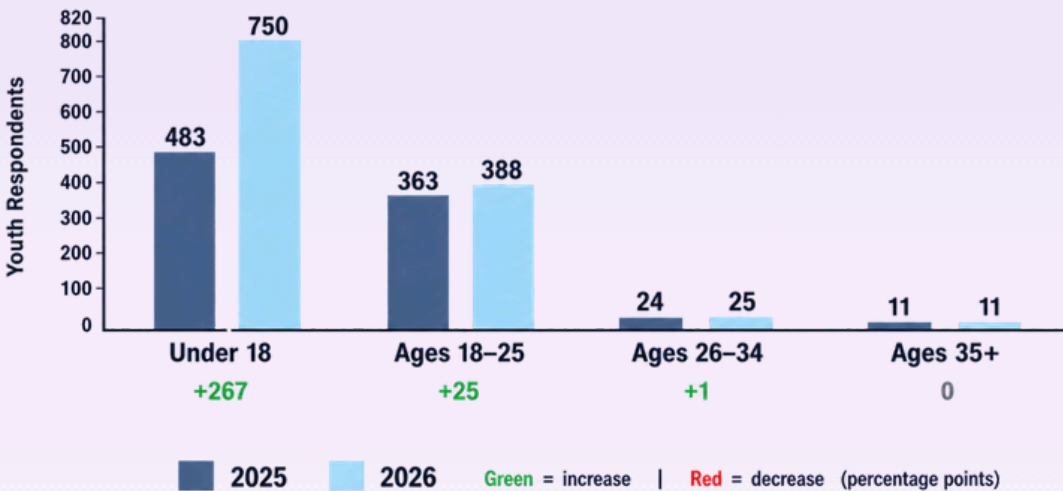


District	2025	2026*	Plus/Minus
First	243	341	98
Second	241	304	63
Third	160	88	-72
Fourth	108	73	-35
Fifth	129	57	-72

Participation increased across nearly all age groups, driven primarily by youth under 18, whose responses rose by 267 – from 483 in 2025 to 750 in 2026. Responses from ages 18–25 increased by 25, ages 26–34 increased by one, and ages 35 and older remained unchanged.

Age Group Comparison: 2025 vs. 2026

Youth respondents by age group · Year-over-year change

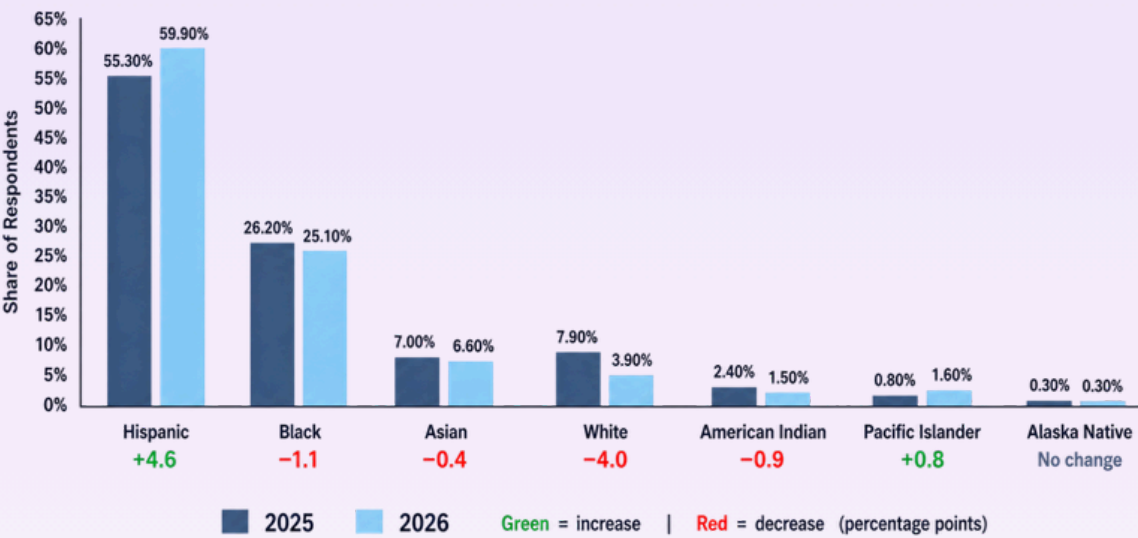


Age group	2025	2026	Plus/Minus
Under 18	483	750	267
Ages 18–25	363	388	25
Ages 26–34	24	25	1
Ages 35+	11	11	0

Hispanic representation increased by 4.6 percentage points and remained the largest group. Black representation remained relatively stable, while White representation declined by four points.

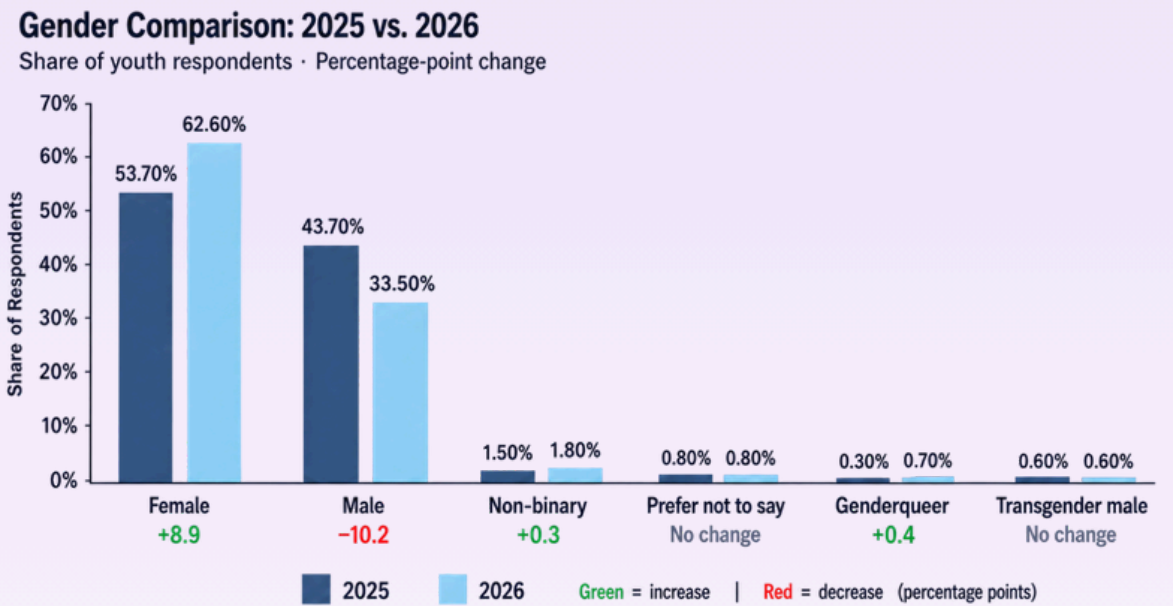
Group Comparison: 2025 vs. 2026

Share of youth respondents · Percentage-point change



Group	2025	2026	Plus/Minus
Hispanic	55.30%	59.90%	4.6
Black	26.20%	25.10%	-1.1
Asian	7.00%	6.60%	-0.4
White	7.90%	3.90%	-4.0
American Indian	2.40%	1.50%	-0.9
Pacific Islander	0.80%	1.60%	0.8
Alaska Native	0.30%	0.30%	No change

Female representation increased by 8.9 percentage points, while male representation declined by 10.2 points. Other gender categories remained comparatively small and generally stable.

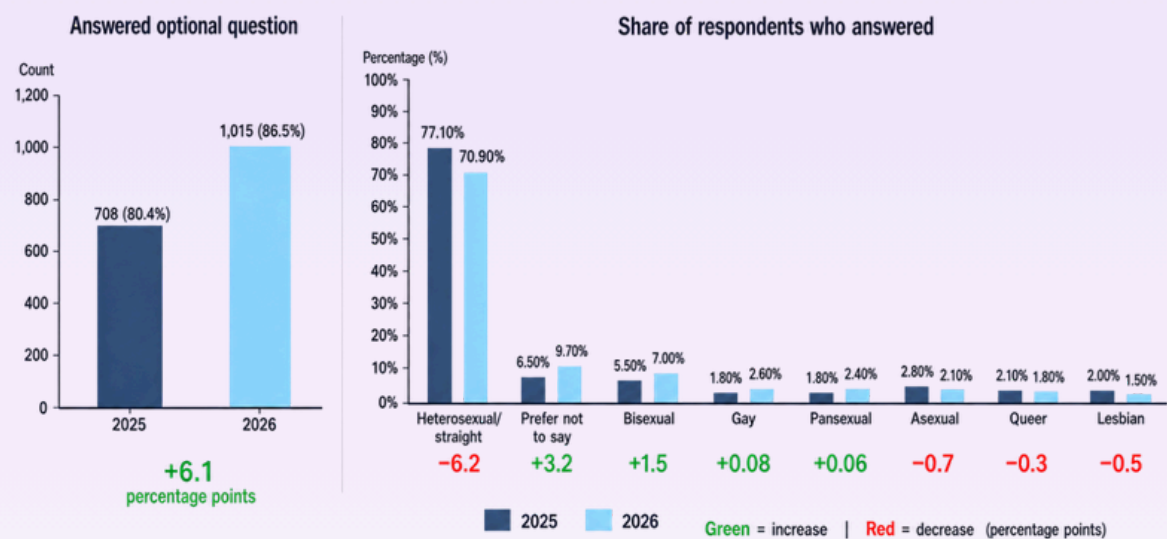


Gender	2025	2026	Plus/Minus
Female	53.70%	62.60%	8.9
Male	43.70%	33.50%	-10.2
Non-binary	1.50%	1.80%	0.3
Prefer not to say	0.80%	0.80%	No change
Genderqueer	0.30%	0.70%	0.4
Transgender male	0.60%	0.60%	No change

Sexual Orientation

More respondents answered the optional sexual-orientation question in 2026. The heterosexual share declined by 6.2 percentage points, while bisexual, gay, and pansexual representation increased modestly.

Optional Question & Response Comparison
2025 vs. 2026 • Response rate and reported orientation



Measure	2025	2026	Change
Answered optional question	708 (80.4%)	1,015 (86.5%)	6.1
Heterosexual/straight	77.10%	70.90%	-6.2
Prefer not to say	6.50%	9.70%	3.2
Bisexual	5.50%	7.00%	1.5
Gay	1.80%	2.60%	0.08
Pansexual	1.80%	2.40%	0.06
Asexual	2.80%	2.10%	-0.7
Queer	2.10%	1.80%	-0.3
Lesbian	2.00%	1.50%	-0.5

Sample Youth Survey – Page 1



LA COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION SURVEY

*Please note this is a VOLUNTARY and OPTIONAL survey



Age _____ <i>(What is your age?)</i>	Zip Code _____	Do you feel like you belong to one or more of these communities? ☐ Faith-Based (Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Etc.) ☐ LGBTQIA+ ☐ Cultural Group (LatinX, Black Student Assoc, Etc.) ☐ Community Group (Sports Team, After-school programs, arts/creative groups, Etc.) ☐ Other: _____ ☐ N/A	What is your sexual orientation? <i>(This question is optional)</i> ☐ Asexual ☐ Bisexual ☐ Gay ☐ Heterosexual (Straight) ☐ Lesbian ☐ Pansexual ☐ Queer ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other: _____
Ethnicity <i>(Select all that apply)</i> ☐ American Indian ☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black ☐ Hispanic ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Other: _____	Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Transgender Male ☐ Transgender Female ☐ Genderqueer ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other: _____		

1. What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Music | ☐ Healing Circles | ☐ Yoga |
| ☐ Poetry | ☐ Pilates | ☐ Boxing / Martial Arts |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Journaling | ☐ Dancing |
| ☐ Sports | ☐ Nutrition Classes | ☐ Other _____ |

2. What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Mental Health | ☐ LGBTQ+ Support Services |
| ☐ Education | ☐ Youth Advocacy |
| ☐ Juvenile Justice (Probation) | ☐ Foster Care Services |
| ☐ Entertainment (Film Production, Music, Theatre, Video Games, Dance, Visual Arts) | ☐ Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, Etc.) |
| ☐ Extracurricular Activities | ☐ Domestic Violence (Education, Prevention & Awareness) |
| ☐ Parent Support/Education | ☐ Housing |
| ☐ Leadership Empowerment | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Employment | |

3. What is your current involvement? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ I am in school | ☐ None of the above |
| ☐ I am working | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ I am connected to a community organization | |

4. What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc)
- ☐ Probation Department
- ☐ Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
- ☐ Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- ☐ Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care
- ☐ Department of Youth Development (DYD)
- ☐ Department of Public Health (DPH)
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ No system involvement

5. What area of entertainment are you interested in? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Cinema & Film Production
- ☐ Music (Singer, Rapper, Producer, Etc.)
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Video Games
- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Visual Arts (Painting, Drawing, Mixed Media, Etc.)
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ I'm not interested in Entertainment

6. What parts of housing are you concerned about? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Age barriers
- ☐ Stable housing
- ☐ Lack of money
- ☐ Accessibility & knowledge
- ☐ Independence (Making my own choices)
- ☐ Affordable housing
- ☐ Resource and Housing Rights Awareness
- ☐ Self-Care (Cooking, Cleaning, Personal Hygiene, Etc.)
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ No housing concerns

7. What does a safe space mean to you? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Creative spaces
- ☐ Cultural and racial safety
- ☐ LGBTQ+ safe spaces
- ☐ Trauma-informed/supportive settings
- ☐ Someone to talk to
- ☐ Peer support
- ☐ Non-judgmental spaces
- ☐ More break time to rest
- ☐ Community connections
- ☐ Freedom to express myself
- ☐ Positive staff support
- ☐ Gender inclusive language and practices
- ☐ Accessible for people of all abilities
- ☐ No bullying
- ☐ Other

***Only respond if you have justice system involvement (Probation):**

8. If you are a probation youth in the community/reentering, what are some concerns?

- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Education Rights/Needs
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Substance Abuse
- ☐ Community Resources
- ☐ Legal Support/Aid
- ☐ Community/Peer Pressure
- ☐ Home Life
- ☐ Neighborhood Safety
- ☐ Lack of Support from Providers/Caregivers
- ☐ Financial Support
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ No Concerns

Youth Commission Partners

The YEC Committee gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and the Executive Office of the Board.

The LA County Youth Commission works closely with a broad network of partners to ensure youth voices are heard and acted upon. Key partners include: 826LA; A Place Called Home; All Saints Church; Alliance for Children's Rights; America's Job Center of California (AJCC); Asian Youth Center; Barrio Action Youth and Family Center; Beloved Village; Better Youth; Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory; Boyle Heights Tech YouthSource Center; Boys Republic; Brotherhood Crusade; Cal State Dominguez Hills; Calibrate; California Institute of Health & Social Services, Inc.; California State University (CSU) networks; California Youth Connection (CYC); CASA of Los Angeles; Children's Hospital Los Angeles; Children's Institute; City of Long Beach Office of Youth Development (OYD); City of Los Angeles Youth Council (YDD); Coalition for Engaged Education; Communities In Schools of Los Angeles, Inc.; Community College networks; Covenant House; Danza Azteca; Department of Arts and Culture (DAC); Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS); Department of Consumer and Business Affairs; Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO); Department of Mental Health (DMH); Department of Public Health (DPH); Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC); Department of Public Social Services (DPSS); Department of Youth Development (DYD); Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services; DYD Youth Expo; East Los Angeles College; EntreNous Community Empowerment (Compton YouthBuild); ExpandLA; First Place for Youth; First Star; Foster Care Project; FosterMore; Friends of the Children; Fusion of Life; Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined; Heidi Duckler Dance; Hillside; Homeboy Industries; I Am Treasure; Jail Guitar Doors; Jenni's Flowers; Journey House; Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD); Kaimore; Khmer Girls; Kids in the Spotlight; Kollab Youth; Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC); LA City Youth Expo; LaLa Land Foundation; Lancaster Unified School District; Long Beach Forward; Long Beach Unified School District; Long Beach Youth Week; Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors; Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families (CCF); Los Angeles County Commission on HIV; Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (HRC); Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources; Los Angeles County Fire Department; Los Angeles County Homeless Services and Housing; Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission; Los Angeles County Library; Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE); Los Angeles County Office of Child, Youth and Family Well-Being (OCYFW); Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation; Los Angeles County Probation Department; Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC); Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC); Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA); Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); Los Angeles Valley College; Magnolia Public Schools; Make Good, Inc.; Mt. San Antonio College; Myrtis Heart, Inc.; NAMI Pasadena; Next Shift Learning; Olive Crest; Ombuds Office; Ombudsperson for Youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs); Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC); Our Lady Queen of Angels Housing Alliance; Partners for Children South LA; Pasadena City College; Pasadena City Youth Commission; Peace Over Violence; Penny Lane Centers; Pritzker Foundation; Proyecto Pastoral; Rainbow Labs; RightWay Foundation; RIZE Credit Union; Samueli Academy; Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District; She Ready Foundation; Simon Rodia Continuation High School; Soledad Enrichment Action; Soluna; The Village Nation; UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy (BGSA); UNICEF USA; United Friends of the Children; Valley Oasis; Women's Leadership LA; You Are Enough Foundation; Young Women's Freedom Center; Youth Justice Coalition; ZEAL; **and many others.**