Key findings

21,812 respondents aged 15-19 years

1 in 6 reported having experienced homelessness

Key differences among young people who had or hadn’t experienced homelessness

Study/employment
Perceived barriers to the achievement of their study/work goals: 70% vs. 47%
Highly value getting a job: 49% vs. 37%

Concerns
Highly concerned about:
- Family conflict: 44% vs. 15%
- Depression: 44% vs. 19%

Mental health & wellbeing
Probable serious mental illness: 48% vs. 19%
Felt negative/very negative about the future: 19% vs. 8%

6 x more likely to rate their family’s ability to get along as poor

Similarities among young people who had and hadn’t experienced homelessness:

Values
Rated friendships and family among their top 3 most valued items

Top 3 sources of help
1. Friend/s
2. Parent/s
3. Relative/family friend

Issues facing Australia

Mental health

Alcohol and drugs

Equity and discrimination

---

If you are a young person and need someone to talk with, you can contact
Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 (24/7) kids helpline.com.au

For more information: researchandpolicy@missionaustralia.com.au
To download the report: missionaustralia.com.au
Key recommendations

Commonwealth, State and Territory governments should:

• Develop a national homelessness strategy
• Invest in prevention, early intervention and outreach
• Increase the focus on educational engagement for young people at risk of homelessness
• Prevent young people exiting state care into homelessness
• Prevent young people becoming homeless with their families
• Rapidly rehouse young people who experience homelessness and support them to maintain that housing
• Put young people at the centre of policy and practice

“My biggest concern has been being able to have a house to stay in that’s safe.” F, 15, VIC

“Need affordable housing for young people with no family, that is not a refuge.” M, 16, WA

“Need more support and financial aid for youth who are homeless.” F, 17, SA