

STATISTICS

Youth aged 12-17 are at higher risk for homelessness than adults.^{3 4}

32% of runaway and homeless youth have attempted suicide at some point in their lives.⁵

Each year, the most commonly reported crisis caller problem is family dynamics.⁶

Youth commonly describe a significant family conflict that led to the youth's departure.⁷

One in five youth run away before reaching age 18, and half run away two or more times.⁸



SERVING AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUTH
AND FAMILIES FOR NEARLY 45 YEARS

The National Runaway Safeline, established in 1971, serves as the federally designated national communication system for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth and their families. With the support of more than 120 volunteers, NRS makes over 250,000 connections to help and hope through hotline, online and offline resources.

OUR MISSION:

To keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

CALL
1-800-RUNAWAY

CLICK
1800RUNAWAY.org

TEXT
66008

773.880.9860 Business line • 773.929.5150 Fax

¹ Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). Runaway / Throwaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics. National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

² Greene, J. (1995). Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors. Research Triangle Institute: HHS, ACF - ACYF.

³ Link, B., Susser, E., Stueve, A., Phelan, J., Moore, R., Struening, E. (1994). Lifetime and Five-year Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States. American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 84, No. 12, pp 1907-112.

⁴ Ringwalt, C., Greene, J., Robertson, M., & McPheeters, M. (1998). The Prevalence of Homelessness Among Adolescents in the United States. American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 88, Iss.

⁵ Westat, Inc. 1997. National Evaluation of Runaway and Homeless Youth. Washington, DC: US Dept. of HHS, Admin on children, Youth and Families.

⁶ National Runaway Safeline Crisis Caller Trends (2001-2012): Report prepared by Jennifer Benoit-Bryan at the University of Illinois-Chicago

⁷ Why They Run, An in-depth look at America's runaway youth presented by the National Runaway Switchboard (2010).

⁸ Pergamit, Michael R. "On the Lifetime Prevalence of Running Away from Home," Urban Institute Research Brief.

1-800-RUNAWAY

National Runaway Safeline

Here to listen. Here to help.

RUNAWAY YOUTH: A SILENT CRISIS



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CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

PROGRAMS, SERVICES, RESOURCES

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year^{1,2}, while countless others contemplate leaving their home. Reasons range from issues at home and problems with peers, to abuse and challenges at school. Regardless of why they run, the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) is here to help. As the go-to resource for runaway, homeless, throwaway and at-risk youth and their families, NRS, through its free and confidential 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and 1800RUNAWAY.org online services, provides support and access to resources 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

CRISIS INTERVENTION: NRS operates a confidential crisis 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and 1800RUNAWAY.org online services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our texting option and online services; live chat, crisis emails, bulletin board, provide more ways for teens in crisis to connect to help. Our frontline team of staff and volunteers receive 40+ hours of training to provide non-judgmental, non-sectarian and non-directive support, empowering callers to develop a plan of action to improve their situation.

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS: A nation-wide database of nearly 10,000 youth and family resources provides countless options for callers to access a myriad of services, such as counseling, shelter services, alcohol/drug treatment and child protective services.

CONFERENCE CALLS: When youth request assistance contacting their family or an agency that can help, NRS facilitates a conference call. The frontline team member remains on the line with the youth, advocating, as needed, on their behalf.

HOME FREE: In partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc., NRS helps reunite runaway youth with their families or extended families through a free bus ticket home. Over 15,000 youth have been reunited with families through the Home Free Program since 1995.

MESSAGE SERVICE: NRS maintains a message service for youth who want to relay a message but are not ready to communicate directly with their parent or guardian. NRS' message service is a less intimidating means for a youth to reestablish contact with their parent/guardian and often serves as the first step toward family reunification. In addition, a parent may access the service to leave a message for his/her child.

LET'S TALK: Runaway Prevention Curriculum: NRS has created a free 14-module, interactive instructional tool, available in English and Spanish. The evidence-based prevention curriculum is intended to build life skills; increase knowledge about runaway resources and prevention; educate about alternatives to running away; and encourage youth to access and seek help from trusted community members.

ONLINE RESOURCES: Our website, 1800RUNAWAY.org, has four main goals: to provide online crisis intervention with one-on-one chats, emails or bulletin board postings; to direct calls to the hotline so that youth and families can receive verbal, individualized attention and support; to engage youth and families so they can access critical information before a runaway episode occurs; and to disseminate information about NRS, youth and runaways to the community.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: NRS provides educational and promotional material free of charge to individuals, schools and organizations to distribute within their community. All prevention and education materials are available to order or download at 1800RUNAWAY.org.

FEE-BASED TRAINING: NRS staff are frequently contracted to provide educational training on a myriad of topics, including; commercial sexual exploitation of children, *Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum*, NRS' crisis intervention model and other topics listed at 1800RUNAWAY.org.

