



# 2016-2017 Impact Report

## Why Drop-In Works:

Study in a resource rich community found drop-in was the most commonly used service at a rate of **78%** of homeless youth.<sup>1</sup>

Drop-in centers are **more successful** than shelters at providing support to the hardest to reach homeless youth.<sup>2</sup>

“Drop-in centers are often a youth’s **initial resource** for services after leaving home, which puts drop-in centers in the unique position to help youth transition to more formal services to meet their needs.<sup>3</sup>”

## Employment Matters

Homeless youth identify the following barriers to employment: no address to give employers, educational limitations, mental health problems, perceived stigmas around homelessness, marginalized identities (race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+), substance abuse problems, and past incarceration.<sup>4</sup>

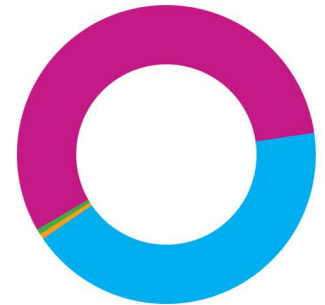
Percentage of HQ members who went from **unemployed to employed** while working with HQ in the last year:



## Who comes to HQ?



**42%** Black  
**29%** White  
**17%** Multiracial  
**11%** Latinx  
**1%** Asian



**55%** Male  
**43%** Female  
**1%** Transgender  
**1%** Other

**11%** of our youth are minors, and **29%** of our youth have engaged with the foster care system.

**28%** of our youth identify as **LGBTQ+**, with **29%** of our youth of color identifying as **LGBTQ+**.

LGBTQ+ youth leave home more frequently and are at greatest risk for violence on the streets.<sup>5</sup>

LGBT youth of color have more structural and social barriers to overcome [...] including: direct forms of discrimination (microaggression, implicit bias) and direct forms of discrimination (racism, unequal treatment).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>De Rosa, C. J., Montgomery, S. B., Kipke, M. D., Iverson, E., Ma, J. L., & Unger, J. B. (1999, June). Service utilization among homeless and runaway youth in Los Angeles, California: rates and reasons. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 24*(6), 190-200.

<sup>2</sup>Slesnick, N., Feng, X., Guo, X., Brakenhoff, B., Carmona, J., Murnan, A., . . . McRee, A.-L. (2016, May). A Test of Outreach and Drop-in Linkage Versus Shelter Linkage for Connecting Homeless Youth to Services. *Prevention Science, 17*(4), 450-460.

<sup>3</sup>Pedersen, E. R., Tucker, J. S., & Kovalchik, S. A. (2016). Facilitators and Barriers of Drop-In Use Among Homeless Youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 59*, 144-153.

<sup>4</sup>Gwadz, M. V., Gostnell, K., Smolenski, C., Willis, B., Nish, D., Nolan, T. C., . . . Ritchie, A. S. (2009). The initiation of homeless youth into the street economy. *Journal of Adolescence, 32*, 357-377.

<sup>5</sup>Cochran, B. N., Stewart, A. J., Ginzler, J. A., & Cauce, A. M. (2002, May). Challenges Faced by Homeless Sexual Minorities: Comparison of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Homeless Adolescents With Their Heterosexual Counterparts. *American Journal of Public Health, 92*(5), 773-777.

<sup>6</sup>Page, M. (2017). Forgotten Youth: Homeless LGBT Youth of Color and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. *Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy, 12*(2), 17-45.