

Couchsurfer Census



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Who are we looking for?

An individual or family that has not been protected by a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing in the last 60 days and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers

People at-risk of homelessness who tend to fall through gaps in our system, because it implicitly requires couchsurfing before accessing services.



The Data

What do we know about this population?

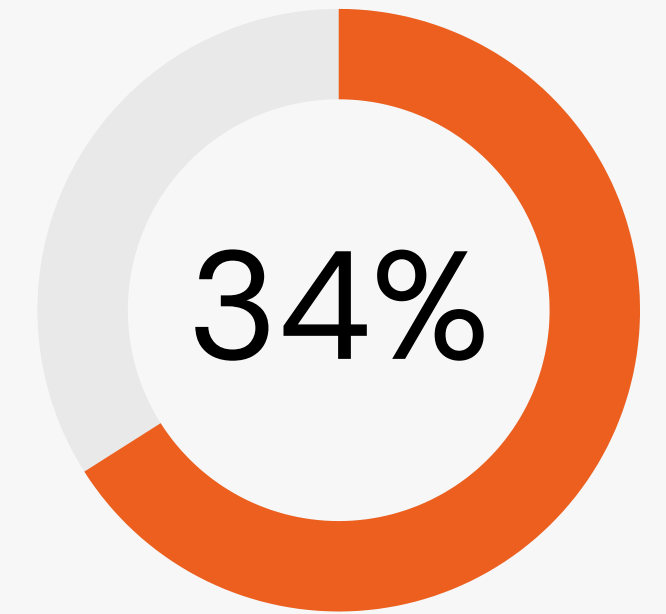
Interviews with stakeholders in our homeless response system reveal that **couch surfers in our area tend to be young people as well as people of color.**

Interviews with couch surfers in our community revealed **concerns for their safety, insecurity about how long they could stay where they currently were, and a lack of knowledge of where to get assistance.**

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) **requires people applying for emergency shelter to prove that housing with friends or relatives is unavailable.**

188

independent youth aged 18–24 are estimated to be couchsurfing



Of the 530 people served by the emergency shelter system in FY2020 reported coming from a couch-surfing situation.

910

people in Tompkins County are living in a non-relative's household

The Questions

01

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions regarding race, age, household size, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, and more

02

BARRIERS FACED BY THIS POPULATION

Questions about risk of losing housing, access to a mailing address, access to employment

03

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Questions about what services people are currently receiving, and what services they have found to be most useful

Our Outreach Plan



Outreach to people with lived experience, youth, and people of color in our community



Connecting with libraries to assist people in completing the survey in rural locations



Service providers distributing QR codes, quarter cards, and flyers



Social media outreach through HSC's media outlets



Outreach to the press to build interest and momentum



Encouraging providers to share the survey link through their personal and professional networks



Thank you!



Questions? Email me at sgatson@hsctc.org
