



# Runaway Problem

**45% of the children reported missing have either runaway or been thrown out of their homes. That is 360,000 kids per year or almost 1000 per day!**

**These statistics reflect children that have been *reported* missing. Many of the children that run away are never reported missing. They do not become part of this statistic.**



**As long as you live in our house, you will follow our rules.**



**Being rebellious as a teenager is a normal part of life. The teen years are filled with the exploration of independence, learning what it means to grow up, and still having to balance taking orders from parents, teachers, and others in authority.**

**Sometimes that just doesn't work for kids and so the temptation to run away becomes overwhelming. Rebellion, however, is only one cause of runaways.**



**Do you even hear me? You came in late last night. Your curfew is 11:00.**



**Family problems: Many youth run away, and in turn become homeless, due to problems in the home, including physical and sexual abuse, mental health disorders of a family member, substance abuse and addiction of a family member, and parental neglect.**

**In some cases, kids are asked to leave the home because the family is unable to provide for their specific mental health or disability needs.**



**Many kids run away from physical and sexual abuse in their homes.**

<http://brandongaille.com/44-teenage-runaway-statistics/>

[www.911SafeChild.com](http://www.911SafeChild.com)



**Transitions from foster care and other public systems: Youth who have been involved in the foster care system are more likely to become homeless at an earlier age and remain homeless for a longer period of time. Youth aging out of the foster care system often have little or no income support and limited housing options and are at higher risk to end up on the streets.**

**Youth that live in residential or institutional facilities often become homeless upon discharge. In addition, very few homeless youth are able to seek housing in emergency shelters due to the lack of shelter beds for young people and shelter admission policies.**



**Many teens from the foster care system do not have the skills to survive on their own.**

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**Economic problems: Some youth become homeless when their families fall into difficult financial situations resulting from lack of affordable housing, difficulty obtaining or maintaining a job, or lack of medical insurance or other benefits.**

**These youth become homeless with their families, but later can find themselves separated from them and/or living on the streets alone, often due to shelter or child welfare policies.**



**I am totally alone. My family cannot afford me. What am I going to do?**

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**One out of every 2 teenage runaways in shelters or on the streets reports that their parents told them to leave or knew they were leaving and just didn't care.**

**Here Are 3 Fast Facts About Teenage Runaways**

- 1. 47% of teens that run away or were homeless indicated that a conflict with their primary parent or guardian was the major reason why they left.**
- 2. 80% of girls that ran away from home report having been physically and/or sexually abused.**
- 3. 43% of all runaways report that physical abuse was experienced before leaving their home.**



**After years of being beat on, I had no choice but to run away. I think my parents were glad that I did.**



## Problems faced by runaways

### Homelessness

Homelessness among young people is a serious issue. Homeless youth, sometimes referred to as unaccompanied youth, are individuals who lack parental, foster or institutional care.\* The National Runaway Switchboard estimates that on any given night there are approximately 1.3 million homeless youth living unsupervised on the streets, in abandoned buildings, with friends or with strangers.



**Approximately 1.3 million youth live and sleep on the streets every day.**

\*National Conference of State Legislatures

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## Problems faced by runaways

### Survival sex

Less than 4% of all adolescents exchange sex for money, however 28% of youth living on the street and 10% of those in shelters engage in 'survival sex' in exchange for food, shelter or money. If a youth has already been a victim of abuse, it increases the odds that he or she will exchange sex for shelter, food or other basic needs (often called “survival sex”).\*



**I don't want to do it but what choice do I have? Survival sex is my reality.**

\*National Network for Youth

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## Problems faced by runaways

### Depression, suicide, mental illness, drug addiction

Homeless youth are at a higher risk for physical abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health disabilities, substance abuse, and death. It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year as a result of assault, illness, or suicide.\*

Homeless gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) youth are more likely to exchange sex for housing or shelter, are abused more often at homeless shelters (especially adult shelters), and experience more violence on the streets than homeless heterosexual youth.



**Hopelessness leads to mental illness, depression and suicide.**

\* National Conference of State Legislatures

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## Problems faced by runaways

### Failure to graduate from high school

Difficulty attending school due to lack of required enrollment records (such as immunization and medical records and proof of residence) as well as lack of access to transportation to and from school. As a result, homeless youth often have a hard time getting an education and supporting themselves financially.



**Most homeless youth cannot attend high school much less graduate.**



**The issue with parents and teens is that the relationship needs to evolve, but sometimes it just doesn't. Instead of actively listening and finding proactive interventions to keep a relationship healthy, some parents try to beat their kids into submission.**

**In other instances, parents discipline their children so severely because of a dispute that they feel like there is no other option but to runaway. That doesn't mean parents are 100% at fault in these circumstances, but there is one fact that must not be overlooked: in a parent-child dispute, it is the parent who must be the adult.\***



**The key is communication even when your teenager does not want to talk.**

\*<http://brandongaille.com/44-teenage-runaway-statistics/>

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**With 911 SafeChild™, parents take an active interest in their child's life. Parents show their concern by keeping track of important information in their child's life:**

- 1. Names and phone numbers of their friends**
- 2. Regularly scheduled activities**
- 3. Social media networks**
- 4. School information and activities**
- 5. Medical problems, medications and allergies**



**Become proactive about the safety of your children with 911 SafeChild.**



**Because the purpose of 911SafeChild™ is to keep your child safe, we take Internet security seriously. Not only will you be entering data on a secure website, the data itself is 256-bit encrypted – twice the HIPAA standard for online medical records.**

**In addition, no one can access your child's data unless they have the username and password. The safety of your child's data is a top concern of 911 SafeChild™.**



**911 SafeChild encrypts data with 256-bit encryption behind a secure website. We take cyber security seriously!**



**If your child runs away or disappears for any reason, 911 SafeChild™ can help law enforcement agencies with an immediate missing child report. 911 SafeChild™ saves hours when every second counts.**



**Immediate access to a missing child report saves hours when every minute counts.**



**Purchase 911 SafeChild™ now!**

**Only \$24.95 per year per child.**

**That's only two dollars per month – less than a designer cup of coffee!**

**Phone: (928) 208-4820**

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**[www.911SafeChild.com](http://www.911SafeChild.com)**



**\$24.95 per year - less than a cup of designer joe every month!**

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