

RESEARCH REPORT



Youth Shelter Pilot Survey: Feasibility & Selected Findings Report



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Youth Shelter Pilot Survey: Feasibility & Selected Findings Report

Funded by the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation

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The following information from the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey (YSPS) pertains **strictly** to those shelters that responded to this pilot study and the individuals residing in YSPS facilities on April 19, 2006. Findings **do not apply** to youth shelters as a whole and **cannot be generalized** to any shelters outside the YSPS study. Similarly, findings regarding youth shelter residents **do not apply** to youth shelter residents as a whole and **cannot be generalized** to any residents of shelters outside the YSPS study. Obtaining a representative sample of youth shelters was not the main objective of this pilot. Instead, the aim of this pilot project was to assess the feasibility of collecting information of the type contained in the YSPS questionnaire from several shelters, from a variety of locations throughout Canada.

This project was funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the views expressed are the personal views of the author(s) and CMHC accepts no responsibility for them.

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Executive Summary

In 2006, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funded a pilot survey of youth shelters in Canada conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Statistics Canada.

Purpose

Since 1999, CMHC has provided funding to youth shelters through its Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) that also funds shelters for women and their children. CMHC evaluated its program in 2002, including a total of 15 youth shelters that had been funded up until that time. However, lack of quantitative information about the universe of youth shelters in Canada and youth homelessness generally, makes it difficult to assess the impacts of programs like SEP.

The objectives of the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey (YSPS) were to test methods for collecting facility and client information from youth shelters, and to assess the feasibility of a national youth shelter survey.

Survey Design

In April 2006, CCJS began data collection for the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey.

Modeled after the well-established Transition Home Survey (THS), the YSPS is a pen and paper, mail out/mail back, voluntary survey of shelters for youth aged 16 to 29. The YSPS collects data on residential services for abused and at-risk youth during the previous 12 months of operation. In addition, the survey provides a one-day 'snap-shot' of the clientele being served on a specific date (April 19, 2006).

As there is no national listing of Canadian youth shelters, the survey frame was compiled from lists of youth shelters that had received assistance through CMHC programs and from website listings of youth services in major urban centres across Canada. In the process of verifying information, CCJS also identified additional youth shelters that were included in the YSPS. The resulting survey frame included 64 shelters. These shelters may not be representative of all youth shelters in Canada. Therefore, the survey data cannot be generalized to any youth shelters not included in the YSPS.

Results and Conclusions

Overall, 50 or 78% of the 64 shelters contacted participated in the YSPS and the majority of these survey respondents provided a wide variety of information about their facilities and the clients they serve. More specifically, a vast majority of shelters from a variety of facility-types and a number of provinces were able to provide key information

on the number of residents using their facility, the types of services provided to those residents and the reasons why youth sought refuge. Furthermore, initial analyses of the pilot survey data demonstrate the potential utility and informative nature of such findings.

Based on the results of the YSPS, it was concluded that the survey method and questionnaire are a feasible approach to compile useful data on youth shelters and for conducting a national survey of these shelters. Further, it was recommended that a national survey of youth shelters implement a methodology and approach comparable to that of the YSPS. To implement a national survey will require development of the national survey universe listing and refinement of some of the survey questions to better align them with the facility types and clientele.

Résumé

En 2006, la Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement (SCHL) a financé une enquête pilote sur les centres d'hébergement pour les jeunes au Canada réalisée par le Centre canadien de la statistique juridique de Statistique Canada.

Objet

Depuis 1999, la SCHL fournit des fonds aux centres d'hébergement pour jeunes par l'entremise de son Programme d'amélioration des maisons d'hébergement (PAMH), qui finance aussi les maisons d'hébergement pour les femmes et leurs enfants. En 2002, la SCHL a évalué son programme qui avait servi à financer, jusqu'à ce moment-là, 15 centres d'hébergement pour les jeunes. Cependant, le manque de renseignements quantitatifs sur la population des centres d'hébergement pour jeunes au Canada, et sur les jeunes sans abri en général, faisait en sorte qu'il était difficile d'évaluer les répercussions de programmes tels que le PAMH.

Les objectifs de l'Enquête pilote sur les centres d'hébergement pour les jeunes (EPCHJ) étaient de mettre à l'essai des méthodes pour la collecte de renseignements sur les établissements et les clients auprès des centres d'hébergement pour les jeunes, ainsi que d'évaluer la faisabilité d'un sondage portant sur ces mêmes centres à l'échelle nationale.

Conception de l'enquête

En avril 2006, le Centre canadien de la statistique juridique a commencé à recueillir des données pour l'EPCHJ.

Inspirée de l'Enquête sur les maisons d'hébergement (EMH), déjà bien établi, l'EPCHJ est un sondage volontaire sur les centres d'hébergement que les jeunes de 16 à 29 ans reçoivent, remplissent avec un crayon et retournent par la poste. L'EPCHJ permet de recueillir des données sur les services résidentiels offerts aux jeunes victimes de violence ou à risque de le devenir, et ce, sur les 12 derniers mois d'activités des résidences. De plus, ce sondage offre un aperçu de la clientèle quotidienne qui reçoit des services à une date précise (19 avril 2006).

Parce qu'il n'existe aucune liste nationale des maisons d'hébergement canadiennes pour les jeunes, la base d'échantillonnage du sondage a été compilée à partir de listes de centres qui avaient reçu de l'aide par l'entremise des programmes de la SCHL, ainsi que de listes sur le Web des services offerts aux jeunes dans de grands centres urbains d'un bout à l'autre du Canada. Dans le cadre du processus de vérification des renseignements, le Centre canadien de la statistique juridique a aussi relevé d'autres centres d'hébergement pour les jeunes qui ont été ajoutés à l'EPCHJ. La base d'échantillonnage du sondage comptait donc 64 centres d'hébergement. Il se peut que ces derniers ne soient pas représentatifs de tous les centres d'hébergement pour jeunes du Canada. Par conséquent, on ne peut pas généraliser les données aux établissements qui ne faisaient pas partie de l'EPCHJ.

Résultats et conclusions

Globalement, 50 (soit 78 %) des 64 centres d'hébergement sollicités ont participé à l'EPCHJ, et la majorité des répondants ont fourni une grande variété de renseignements sur leurs installations et leurs clients. Plus précisément, une vaste majorité de centres, disposant d'installations diverses et établis dans plusieurs provinces, ont été en mesure de fournir de l'information importante sur un certain nombre de résidents qui utilisent leurs installations, sur les services offerts à ces personnes et sur les motifs qui ont conduit ces jeunes à chercher refuge. En outre, les premières analyses des données tirées de l'enquête pilote montrent quel usage on pourrait faire de ces constatations et la nature de l'information obtenues.

En se fondant sur les résultats de l'EPCHJ, on a conclu que la méthode et le questionnaire utilisés pour le sondage constituaient une approche réaliste pour compiler des données utiles sur les centres d'hébergement pour jeunes et pour mener une enquête nationale sur ces maisons. En outre, il a été recommandé qu'on fasse appel à une méthode et à une approche semblables à celles de l'EPCHJ pour la réalisation d'une enquête nationale sur les centres d'hébergement pour jeunes. Pour la mise en œuvre d'une enquête nationale, on devra élaborer une liste de la population statistique et peaufiner certaines des questions afin de mieux les adapter aux types d'établissement et aux clients.



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I. INTRODUCTION

The federal inter-departmental Family Violence Initiative (FVI) was launched in 1988 to address family violence issues in Canada with funding to various federal departments and agencies including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Statistics Canada. Since 1988, CMHC has delivered a series of family violence programs providing funding to shelters (including the Project Haven Program, the Next Step Program, and, since 1995, the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP)). Statistics Canada's Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) has received funding under the federal Family Violence Initiative (FVI) to improve the data on and understanding of family violence through the annual statistical profile on family violence in Canada and the biennial Transition Home Survey (THS) of women's shelters.

CMHC and Statistics Canada have a long-standing data sharing agreement providing for collaboration on the THS that has enabled CMHC to make extensive use of national data from this survey to meet the requirements for evaluations of CMHC's programs. Collaborative efforts by Statistics Canada with CMHC in association with the FVI have made a major contribution to improving understanding of family violence issues and programs, especially for women and children experiencing abuse.

By the late 1990s numerous studies had identified the impact of family conflict and family violence on youth and as a contributing factor to youth leaving home. Maser (2003) found that nearly half of street youth experienced physical assault by a family member and 15% had been sexually assaulted by a family member. Studies in Ottawa and Toronto found that about seven in ten homeless youth left home to escape some form of physical or emotional abuse (Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force, 1999; Canadian Children's Rights Council).

The growing network of women's shelters lacked the capacity to accommodate the numbers of youth involved and to provide the specialized services required to address their specific needs (CMHC, 2002). At the same time, general purpose shelters for adults were not well-designed to meet the needs of youth, especially those who had experienced abuse. Such shelters typically serve a broad spectrum of clientele and a young person alone may feel unsafe surrounded by unfamiliar adults, particularly if those adults are experiencing difficulties with mental health or substance abuse (Karabanow, 2005).

To respond to the unmet needs of abused youth, CMHC's SEP was extended in 1999 to fund shelters for youth. In the first two years, according to a CMHC evaluation, SEP provided \$5.82 million in funding for repairs and improvements to existing youth shelters or construction of new facilities (CMHC, 2002). That evaluation study found that 79% of youth staying in these shelters had experienced family violence. Up to 2005, CMHC's SEP had funded over 40

youth shelter projects, and in 2006/07 CMHC plans to undertake an evaluation of the impacts of its program, including the youth shelter component.

Currently, there is no national survey of youth shelters in Canada and little quantitative information on homeless youth generally. Lack of baseline information concerning the shelters and services available to youth across Canada makes it difficult to assess the impacts of government programs and to plan for future initiatives. Therefore, in 2006, CMHC entered into an agreement with Statistics Canada to fund a pilot survey of youth shelters under CMHC's research funding program.

II. PURPOSE OF THE YOUTH SHELTER PILOT SURVEY

The purpose of the Youth Shelter Pilot survey (YSPS) was to assess the feasibility of a national survey of youth shelters along the lines of the well-established Transition Home Survey (THS) for women's shelters.

The Youth Shelter Pilot Survey (YSPS) had two main objectives:

- 1) to assess the extent to which facility and client information (similar to that which Statistics Canada's THS collects) can be collected from youth shelters; and
- 2) to begin to assess the feasibility of conducting a national survey which would gather facility and client information from shelters offering refuge to youth fleeing abusive situations across Canada.

CMHC provided input from its previous evaluation research and worked with the staff of CCJS to develop the survey frame, the classification of youth shelters, and the survey questionnaire. CCJS was responsible for the YSPS methodology, data collection, data analysis and reporting.

III. THE YOUTH SHELTER PILOT SURVEY (YSPS)

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

Survey Method

In April 2006, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) at Statistics Canada began data collection for the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey (YSPS). Modelled after the well-established Transition Home Survey (THS)¹, the YSPS is a pen and paper, mail out/mail back, voluntary survey of shelters for youth. The YSPS collects data on residential services for abused and at-risk youth aged 16 to 29, during the previous 12 months of operation. In addition, the survey provides a one-day "snap-shot" of the clientele being served on a specific date (April 19, 2006).

¹ For more information on the Transition Home Survey please go to www.statcan.ca and click on *Definitions, data sources and methods* or use the search engine to locate *Canada's shelters for abused women 2003-2004*, Vol. 25 no. 3.

Recommendations regarding the survey method: The YSPS readily lends itself to the pen and paper, mail-out/mail-back method of data collection and, therefore, is the method recommended for a national survey of youth shelters. YSPS respondents were often required to refer to records in order to provide some of the information requested on the survey. Using a mail-out/mail-back method to gather data gave respondents the opportunity to easily consult necessary documentation. While pen and paper, mail-out/ mail-back surveys have the advantage of being more cost effective than other methods, they carry the disadvantage of being associated with lower response rates. However in light of the respectable response rate (78%) that was obtained on the pilot survey, a pen and paper, mail-out/mail-back questionnaire remains the preferable method of data collection for a national survey.

Survey Frame

Since there is no comprehensive list of youth shelters in Canada, the survey frame for the YSPS was largely based on a list provided by CMHC that included shelters that had received funding or assistance from CMHC (under various programs) as well as shelters identified through web research. The list did not include youth shelters funded under SEP where the province or territory delivers the program.

For the purposes of the pilot survey a 'youth shelter' is defined as a facility that provides residential services for abused and at-risk youth aged 16 to 29. This general definition for a 'youth shelter' was derived from the known characteristics of the shelters included on the CMHC list, as were the definitions for the various specific facility-types included in the pilot study.

To further refine the list of shelters provided by CMHC, CCJS worked with the Residential Care Facility (RCF) Survey at Statistics Canada to ensure that youth facilities typically included on the RCF survey frame would not be duplicated on the YSPS. Any shelter included on the YSPS that was also found on the RCF frame was excluded from the RCF survey frame for the 2006 cycle of the survey. CCJS also contributed to the development of the YSPS frame by verifying and updating the contact information. In some instances, this verification process led to the discovery of new youth facilities that were affiliated with the shelters initially listed. In such cases, if the new facility was found to provide residential services to abused and at-risk youth it was added to the YSPS survey frame. Ultimately, there were 64 shelters that qualified for the pilot survey.

Recommendations regarding the survey frame: It is recommended that a national survey of youth shelters be a census of all facilities offering residential services to youth across Canada. Currently, there is no comprehensive frame of youth shelters. Therefore, such a frame must be built if a national survey is to be conducted. When building the survey frame, one of the issues to be addressed is the development of clearer criteria for determining which shelters are in or out of scope. Specifically, the definitions for 'youth', 'youth shelter' and the various types of residential facilities must be refined. It is further recommended that the construction of a national frame of youth shelters be undertaken in consultation with Statistics Canada methodologists as well as other various groups such as the Residential Care Facility (RCF) Survey at Statistics Canada, relevant

federal/provincial/municipal government departments, and representatives from the youth sheltering community.

Pilot Survey Shelters

Regional Location of Shelters

Of the 64 shelters contacted for the YSPS, 50 participated, resulting in a response rate of 78%. Dividing the country into three general regions, the majority of participating facilities (56%), were located in the Central region of Canada (Ontario and Quebec), about one-third were in the Western region (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) and just over one-tenth (12%) were Atlantic region (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick) shelters (Table 1).²

It is important to note that while the sample used to conduct the YSPS did not include shelters from all provinces and territories, it was not the main objective of this pilot to obtain complete national coverage of youth shelters. Rather, the aim of this pilot project was to assess the feasibility of collecting information of the type contained in the YSPS questionnaire from a number of different shelters, from a variety of locations throughout Canada. A national survey of youth facilities would necessarily strive to be representative of all shelters known to be in operation throughout each province and territory.

Table 1: Shelters contacted by and responding to the YSPS by selected regions, 2005-2006

| | Number of shelters contacted | Number of shelters responding | Response rate |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Canada | 64 | 50 | 78% |
| Atlantic region | 7 | 6 | 86% |
| Central region | 37 | 28 | 76% |
| Western region | 20 | 16 | 80% |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Shelter Types

A variety of youth facilities were included on the YSPS (Table 2). Shelters offering short-term, emergency refuge to youth were the most common facility-type reporting on the YSPS, constituting about one-third (34%) of facilities. Shelters classified as 'emergency shelters' may offer little beyond basic room and board services and serve a broad population, in addition to youth. Following emergency shelters were transition homes, which provide moderate-length stays and specialized services for their clients – this type of shelter represented one-fifth of those surveyed. Supportive housing for 'at-risk youth', facilities which deliver residential and support services to youth in need of assistance or protection, were the third most common type of facility reporting on the YSPS (14%). Among the 8% shelters that classified their facility type as 'other', most (3

² Shelters from Prince Edward Island, Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon were not included in this pilot study.

out of 4) specified that the facilities were apartments for youth (For further information on the types of facilities included on the YSPS, see Appendix B, *Definitions of shelter types used in the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey*).

Table 2. Youth shelters reporting on the YSPS by facility-type, 2005-2006

| Types of youth shelters: | # of shelters | % of total youth shelters |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total youth shelters | 50 | 100 |
| Transition house | 10 | 20 |
| Second stage housing | 3 | 6 |
| Safe home network | 3 | 6 |
| Home for pregnant teens & teen mothers | 2 | 4 |
| Drug & alcohol recovery | 2 | 4 |
| Emergency shelter | 17 | 34 |
| Supportive housing for at-risk youth | 7 | 14 |
| Group home for troubled youth | 2 | 4 |
| Other | 4 | 8 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Recommendations regarding the shelters surveyed: A census of all youth shelters is recommended for a national survey. However, the YSPS studied a limited number of shelters. Hence, some regions of the country, particularly the territories were not represented on the pilot survey. Also, among certain types of facilities the number of shelters included on the YSPS was small. Therefore, consultations with those which might be under-represented on the pilot survey such as certain facility-types (e.g., homes for pregnant teens, group homes for troubled youth and drug and alcohol recovery facilities) as well as shelters located in the territories are strongly recommended.

Survey Content

The Youth Shelter Pilot Survey questionnaire is based on the Transition Home Survey and has seven main components:

1. Facility profile
2. Resident profile
3. Information on resident departures and those turned away
4. Services for non-residents and ex-residents
5. Annual information
6. Revenues and expenditures
7. Future challenges and issues

The first section, the facility profile, collects information such as the type of facility, services provided to clients and accessibility. Section two, the resident profile, collects information on residents including reasons for admission, age of residents, relationships to abuser and involvement of the criminal justice system. The third component captures information on the residents leaving the facility

and those turned away on survey day. Information collected in section four includes the number of requests received by non-residents and former residents for assistance with housing and non-housing related issues, as well as the number of hours per week spent on outreach work. Section five gathers annual information on admissions and the repairs and improvements made to the facility over the past year. Annual sources of revenues and expenditures are collected in the sixth section. The last section of the survey asks about the challenges and issues the facility and its residents will likely face in the coming year. (For more information on the YSPS questionnaire, see Appendix A, *2005-2006 Youth Shelter Pilot Survey*).

Item Response Rates

In addition to overall response rates, examining the extent to which particular questions were answered is also helpful in assessing the effectiveness of the YSPS. Table 3 contains response rates for a number of key questions from the YSPS questionnaire. In general, the vast majority of respondents provided information for each of the key questions. Response rates for these items ranged from 61% to 100%, with over half of the questions receiving responses from more than 90% of participating shelters. Questions which typically received lower response rates were those requiring respondents to report financial information (e.g., the response rate for questions on the cost of annual repairs and improvements was 61%). Questions regarding the facility-type, counts for the number of residents on survey day, annual admissions, and the reasons residents seek refuge are of particular importance – all of the key questions concerning these issues were answered by at least 90% of YSPS shelters.

Table 3: Response rates for selected questions on the 2005-2006 YSPS¹

| Q# | Question Description | % of shelters responding | Q# | Question Description | % of shelters responding |
|------|---|--------------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Types of shelters | 100 | 21C_a to 21C_c | Youth admitted with children/ without children/ no parenting responsibilities | 98 |
| 2 | Number of beds, total | 98 | 21C_d | Parental status or parenting responsibilities of youth resident unknown | 74 |
| 3 | Service delivery model | 94 | 21D | Total number of residents with a disability | 84 |
| 4 | Shelters serving urban, rural or reserve areas | 98 | 22 | Number of youth by relationship to abuser | 98 |
| 10 | Shelters with wheelchair accessible entrances | 100 | 24 | Number of abusive youth by relationship to victims | 98 |
| 11 | Shelters with wheelchair accessible bedrooms ² | 100 | 25 | Total departures on survey snap-shot day | 90 |
| 12 | Shelters with wheelchair accessible bathrooms ² | 100 | 27 | Total individual referred on survey snap-shot day | 88 |
| 13 | Shelters offering TTY/TDD and sign language services to the deaf and hearing impaired | 94-96 | 31 | Total annual admissions | 94 |
| 14 | Shelters offering Braille and large print reading materials to the blind and visually impaired | 96-98 | 32 | Repairs or improvements made in the last 12 months | 96 |
| 15 | Total number of admitted by type of reason (abuse, non-abuse) ² | 98 | 33 | Type of repairs or improvements ² | 100 |
| 16 | Total number of youth in shelter <i>primarily to escape abuse</i> | 92 | 34 | Funding for repairs or improvements ² | 75 |
| 16 | Number of youth and dependent children in shelter <i>primarily to escape abuse</i> | 90 | 35 | Cost of repairs and improvements ² | 61 |
| 16 | Total number of youth in shelter <i>primarily for reasons other than to escape abuse</i> | 92 | 36 | Anticipated type of repairs or improvements | 90 |
| 17 | Number of youth and dependent children in shelter <i>primarily for reasons other than to escape abuse</i> | 90 | 37 | Anticipated funding for repairs or improvements ² | 71 |
| 18 | Total number of youth in shelter <i>for all reasons</i> | 94 | 38_17 | Total annual revenues | 82 |
| 18 | Total number of youth and dependent children in shelter <i>for all reasons</i> | 94 | 39_13 | Total annual expenditures | 80 |
| 20 a | Number of current residents who were previous residents of that shelter | 88 | | | |

1. For more detail on questions contained in the YSPS questionnaire, see Appendix A.

2. Response rate of those facilities that qualified to answer the question; excludes those facilities for which the question was not applicable.

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

For selected questions, the YSPS asked respondents to provide information separately for male youth and female youth, which generally speaking, most facilities were able to do. However in a minimal number of cases separate information for male and female youth was not provided, perhaps because the facility did not offer services to both sexes; did not have residents of both sexes staying in shelters on survey day; or because client information was not collected or available by sex. For example, of the 50 shelters participating in the YSPS, fewer than three (6%) facilities could not provide counts by sex for the number of youth residents in shelters on survey day. Still, it should be noted that seven others (14%) either left blanks or provided counts of '0' for the number of male and female youth, as well as for the total number of youth in shelters on survey day. Thus, while the precise reasons for these responses (or non-responses) could not be determined, the possibility that they reflect an inability to report the information by sex cannot be discounted.

The YSPS also collected information on the dependent children accompanying youth to shelters. However, since dependent children made up such a small percentage of shelter residents (4%), many questions pertaining specifically to them did not garner much useful information.

Recommendations regarding the survey content: It is recommended that the questionnaire for a national survey of youth shelters be modelled after the YSPS. The survey content for the YSPS covers a variety of topics, providing a wealth of information about youth facilities and their clients. Moreover, YSPS participants were able to successfully respond to the questionnaire in general, and to key information-items in particular. It is also recommended that a national survey collect information for youth residents by sex. While this type of information was not always provided on the YSPS, it was offered by a majority of respondents. It is not recommended however, that detailed information about dependent children be included on a national survey of youth shelters, since according to the YSPS very few dependent children use these facilities.

IV. YOUTH SHELTER PILOT SURVEY RESULTS

PROFILE OF YSPS FACILITIES

PLEASE NOTE: The following information on the YSPS facilities pertains strictly to those shelters that responded to this pilot study. Findings do not apply to youth shelters as a whole and cannot be generalized to any shelters outside the YSPS study.

Number of Licensed Beds

The number of licensed beds in a shelter provides an indication of a facility's capacity. It is important to note, however, that the YSPS only counts licensed or funded beds, and does not capture emergency or overflow sleeping accommodations such as sofas, cots or sleeping bags. The 50 shelters participating in the YSPS housed a total of 945 beds for youth and any dependent children that might accompany them (Table 4). Shelters were asked to indicate the number of beds that were expressly for male youth, female youth

and dependent children. The numbers for male youth and female youth beds were nearly equal (36% of beds and 37% of beds, respectively) and 2% of beds were for dependent children. The remaining one-quarter of beds were not designated for use by any particular group.

Recommendations for the question on the number of licensed beds: The question on the number of licensed beds in youth shelters should be included on a national survey. However, bed counts for dependent children should be excluded on a national version of the survey. It is also recommended that a 'generic' reporting category which allows respondents to state the number of beds that are not designated for use by any particular sex or group be included, along with the categories counting the number of beds for male youth and female youth.

Table 4. Number of licensed or funded beds in YSPS shelters, 2005-2006

| | # of beds | % of total beds |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Total beds | 945 | 100 |
| Female youth | 341 | 36 |
| Male youth | 351 | 37 |
| Dependent children | 18 | 2 |
| Not specified | 235 | 25 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Annual Admissions

Admissions provide a clearer indication of the number of youth served by these shelters than bed counts. In the 12 months from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, there were more than 19,600 admissions to the 50 youth shelters reporting on the YSPS. Youth accounted for 99% of admissions, with dependent children representing just 1% of annual admissions during that year. Over two-thirds of admissions (68%) were male youth and 29% were female youth. The sex of the resident was not specified for about 3% of admissions (Table 5).

Table 5. Annual admissions to YSPS shelters for total youth, female youth, male youth and dependent children, 2005-2006

| | # | % of total admissions ¹ |
|--|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Total admissions to youth shelters | 19,636 | 100 |
| | | |
| Total youth admissions | 19,527 | 99 |
| Female youth | 5,761 | 29 |
| Male youth | 13,262 | 68 |
| Sex of resident not recorded | 504 | 3 |
| | | |
| Total dependent children admissions | 109 | 1 |

1. Figures do not add to 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Among the 50 YSPS shelters, about eight out of ten admissions annually were to emergency shelters. This finding is not surprising given that these types of facilities constituted the largest proportion of facility-types reporting to the YSPS and are likely associated with shorter lengths of stay and higher resident turnover. About one-tenth of admissions were to transition homes and 5% to 'other' non-specified facility-types (Table 6).

Table 6. Annual admissions to YSPS shelters by facility-type, 2005-2006

| | # | % of total admissions |
|--|--------|-----------------------|
| Types of youth shelters: | | |
| Total youth shelters | 19,636 | 100 |
| Transition house | 1,842 | 9.4 |
| Second stage housing | 182 | 0.9 |
| Safe home network | 542 | 2.8 |
| Home for pregnant teens & teen mothers | 116 | 0.6 |
| Drug & alcohol recovery | 81 | 0.4 |
| Emergency shelter | 15,709 | 80.0 |
| Supportive housing for at-risk youth | 183 | 0.9 |
| Group home for troubled youth | 39 | 0.2 |
| Other | 942 | 4.8 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Recommendation for questions on annual admissions: For a national survey of youth shelters, data on annual admissions of this nature should be collected and it should also be gathered by sex. Not only were most YSPS respondents able to provide this information, but initial analysis of the data yields interesting differences between male and female youth. Findings from the YSPS also illustrate the previously mentioned need to revisit the definitions and classifications for facility-types. For example, further consultation and consideration may dictate re-classifying or collapsing pre-existing categories. While in general it is being recommended that information on dependent children not be collected on a national survey, annual admission counts for dependent children should be collected. In this way, a sense of the number of dependent children served by youth shelters can be gained with a minimum burden to respondents.

Services

Many of the youth shelters offered a host of services to residents. Seven out of ten YSPS facilities surveyed described their service delivery model as a “continuum of services”, indicating that they provide services spanning from crisis intervention to the promotion of self-sufficiency among youth upon leaving the shelter. One in five YSPS shelters stated that theirs was a crisis intervention model of service delivery, focusing on the provision of basics such as food and shelter. The remaining tenth of shelters, followed some other type of service delivery model or it was unknown what model they used (4%).

With respect to the particular services provided in-house to residents, advocacy services (94%), life skills training (92%), and planning for independent living (90%) were offered by almost all shelters surveyed on the YSPS. In addition, more than eight out of ten shelters provided the following services: transportation or accompaniment to appointments, court, etc. (88%); individual short-term counselling (86%); housing referral (86%); job training or employment search services (84%); and recreational services (82%) (Table 7).

Service accessibility

The accessibility of shelter services is, in part, contingent upon the ability of facilities to accommodate clients with a variety of needs. Nine out of ten (92%) shelters reported to the YSPS that they could deliver services in English and about half (52%) of those surveyed reported that clients could receive services in French. Services were accessible in Spanish in about one-fifth (18%) of YSPS facilities and in Portuguese in about one-in-seven (14%) shelters. Small percentages (i.e., ranging from 2% to 8%) of YSPS shelters reported offering services in a variety of other languages.

About one shelter in ten on the YSPS offered services for the deaf and hearing impaired such as TTY/TTD (12%) and sign language interpretation (12%). Less than one-tenth of shelters provided large print reading materials (8%) or Braille (6%) to serve blind and visually impaired clients. Just over half (56%) of shelters had wheelchair accessible entrances, about half (48%) had accessible bathrooms and 40% had wheelchair accessible bedrooms.

Selected service characteristics of YSPS shelters, 2005-2006

| | # | % |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Total youth shelters | 50 | 100 |
| Service area | | |
| Urban/suburban | 48 | 96 |
| Rural/Village | 11 | 22 |
| Reserve | 7 | 14 |
| | | |
| Located on a reserve | 0 | 0 |
| | | |
| Wheelchair accessible: | | |
| Entrances | 28 | 56 |
| Bedrooms | 20 | 40 |
| Bathrooms | 24 | 48 |
| | | |
| Services for deaf or hearing impaired | | |
| TTY/TTD | 6 | 12 |
| Sign language | 6 | 12 |
| Other | 2 | 4 |
| | | |
| Services for blind or visually impaired | | |
| Braille | 3 | 6 |
| Large print | 4 | 8 |
| Other | 2 | 4 |

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Table 7. In-house services offered to residents, non-residents and ex-residents of YSPS shelters, 2005-2006

| | Residents | Non-residents | Ex-residents |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Services for Youth: | % of youth shelters | | |
| Advocacy on behalf of youth | 94 | 52 | 58 |
| Life skills | 92 | 38 | 46 |
| Independent living planning | 90 | 36 | 54 |
| Transportation/ accompaniment | 88 | 30 | 38 |
| Individual short-term counselling | 86 | 46 | 58 |
| Housing referral | 86 | 46 | 58 |
| Job training/ employment search | 84 | 34 | 44 |
| Recreation services | 82 | 20 | 30 |
| Financial assistance/ welfare | 74 | 48 | 42 |
| Medical information | 70 | 34 | 34 |
| Mental health services | 66 | 32 | 34 |
| Education counselling/ support | 66 | 28 | 30 |
| Addiction counselling | 58 | 26 | 36 |
| Legal services | 56 | 22 | 30 |
| Culturally sensitive services for visible minority youth | 50 | 18 | 26 |
| Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal youth | 48 | 18 | 24 |
| Crisis telephone line | 44 | 34 | 30 |
| Individual long-term counselling | 44 | 18 | 24 |
| Parenting skills | 36 | 18 | 24 |
| Group counselling | 36 | 14 | 12 |
| Family counselling programs | 32 | 14 | 24 |
| Services for youth with disabilities | 30 | 12 | 14 |
| On-site health clinic/ care | 22 | 14 | 14 |
| General Services: | % of youth shelters | | |
| Information | 96 | 64 | 62 |
| Advocacy | 90 | 50 | 54 |
| Clothing items | 86 | 46 | 48 |
| Public education or prevention | 76 | 38 | 46 |
| Outreach programs | 52 | 38 | 46 |
| Furniture items | 48 | 28 | 36 |
| Food bank | 42 | 36 | 36 |
| Political or social action | 32 | 14 | 20 |
| Help with pet accommodation | 8 | 0 | 0 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

In addition to the services available to youth staying in shelters, the facilities reporting to the YSPS frequently delivered services to former residents and youth who have never before stayed in the shelter. For example, taken together, the shelters surveyed performed over 1,300 hours of outreach work in total, during a typical week, with each facility spending an average of 32 hours per week engaged in outreach activities.³ Non-residents are also served by shelters when they contact the facility for help with such issues as refuge, information and emotional support. On survey day in 2006, for example, YSPS shelters were contacted 393 times for assistance with such matters. In an average month,

³ This figure is based on responses from 43 shelters.

facilities received over 6,600 requests for help (Table 8). About one-third of these inquiries were for assistance with housing-related issues. However, most often these requests related to non-housing matters (e.g., emotional support, medical assistance or general information).

Table 8. Requests from non-residents received by YSPS shelters

| | Contacts April 19, 2006 | | Contacts for an average month | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|--|------------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Total contacts | 393 | 100 | 6,607 | 100 |
| Housing related contacts | 125 | 32 | 2,249 | 34 |
| Other, non-housing related contacts | 260 | 66 | 3,001 | 45 |
| Type unknown | 8 | 2 | 1,357 | 21 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

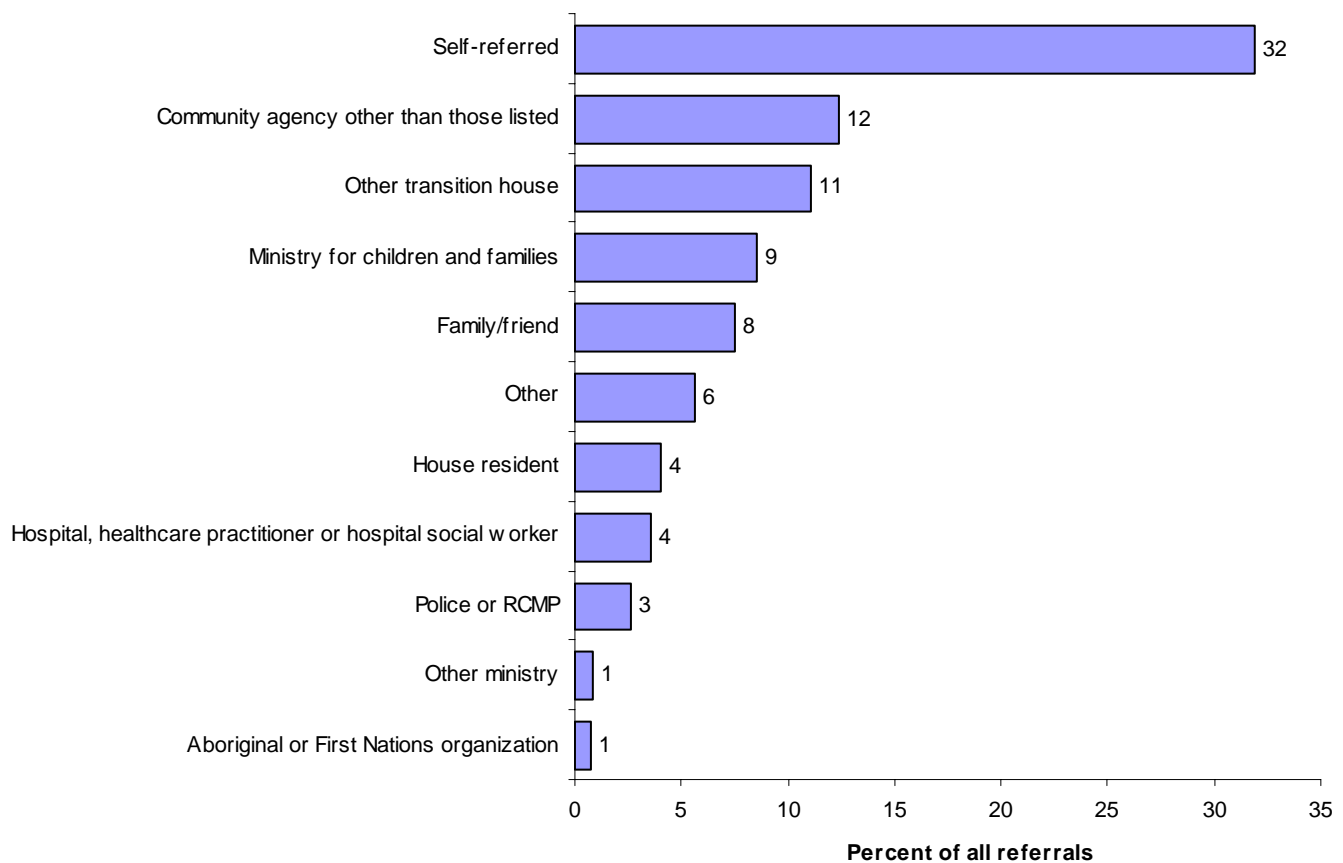
The proportion of YSPS shelters offering in-house services to former residents and non-residents is smaller than the proportion providing such services to their residents. Still, more than half of facilities surveyed delivered the following services to ex-residents: advocacy (58%), housing referral (58%), individual short-term counselling (58%) and independent living planning (54%) (Table 7). Further, the following services were available to non-residents in about half of all shelters: advocacy (52%), financial and welfare assistance (48%), housing referral (46%), and individual short-term counselling (46%) (Table 7).

Many of the YSPS facilities provide a comprehensive set of services to clients. Nevertheless, shelters may be unable to meet all the service needs of their clientele. For example, about one-quarter (24%) shelters on the YSPS reported that currently there is a deficiency in mental health services for youth, as well as a need for increased resources in the areas of counselling (12%), housing referral (10%), and addictions treatment (10%).

Often, when shelters are unable to provide the necessary services themselves, they refer clients to outside agencies for help. Specifically, nearly three-quarters of YSPS shelters (72%) indicated that they referred residents elsewhere for addictions counselling, and about six-in-ten did so for residents requiring mental health services (64%), medical information (62%), legal services (62%) and individual long-term counselling (60%).

Nearly 40% of the referrals received by the shelters surveyed on the YSPS were from other agencies such as a another transition house (11%); government ministry (9%); hospital, doctor, nurse, other healthcare practitioner or hospital social worker (4%); the police or RCMP (3%); an Aboriginal or First Nations organization (1%); or some other community agency (12%) (Figure 1). The opportunity to network with other agencies may also arise in cases where, upon leaving the shelter, youth seek refuge through another agency or in another shelter. On the survey snap-shot day in 2006, for example, about one-fifth of youth departing YSPS shelters intended to go to another emergency shelter; 5% planned to depart for a residential services facility such as a group home or detox centre, and 3% expected to go into second stage housing.

Figure 1. Residents are referred to shelters by various community agencies but self-referrals are most common



Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005/06

Recommendations for questions on services: Respondents to the YSPS readily provided information to the questions pertaining to their facilities' services to current residents, former residents and non-residents. Thus, it is recommended that questions similar to those used on the YSPS be included on a national survey, with some minor alterations. Specifically, for the question on the accessibility of services in different languages, the list of languages could be shortened, since there were several which were not applicable or applicable only to a very small percentage of shelters. Also, since very few shelters on the YSPS offered assistance with pet accommodation, this service could be excluded on the national survey. In addition, none of the shelters responding to the YSPS were located on a reserve and a small percentage served reserve communities. Therefore, it is recommended that representatives from on-reserve youth shelters and youth shelters serving reserves be included in the consultation process for the development of a national survey.

Annual Physical Repairs and Improvements

Beyond regular maintenance, many YSPS shelters reported that recent repairs or improvements had been made to the facility. Fully two-thirds of the youth shelters in the YSPS had repaired or improved their properties in the last year. About half (48%) of these repairs and improvements were minor in nature, but almost three in ten (28%) were classified as major and just under one-quarter (22%) of these upgrades were structural improvements. In the past year, physical repairs and improvements to all YSPS shelters totalled to about \$ 3.35 million. However, this figure is an underestimate, since one-third of those making repairs were unable to provide a cost. Funds for these upgrades came from a variety of sources, with fundraising (24%) and donations (18%) being the most commonly mentioned methods of financing (Table 9).

Table 9. Sources of funding in the past year for annual repairs and improvements to YSPS shelters, 2005-2006

| | # of shelters | % of shelters |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Shelter Enhancement Program (CMHC) | 6 | 12 |
| Other federal funding | 5 | 10 |
| Provincial/Territorial government | 8 | 16 |
| Joint federal/provincial/territorial agreement | 0 | 0 |
| Regional/Municipal government | 4 | 8 |
| Fundraising | 12 | 24 |
| Donations | 9 | 18 |
| Other | 9 | 18 |
| Don't know | 7 | 14 |

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Most shelters on the YSPS predict the need for physical repairs and improvements in the near future. Within the next five years, about three-quarters of shelters expect to make minor repairs, close to half (44%) anticipate making major repairs and about one-third (34%) expect structural improvements will be made. Fundraising (54%) and donations (54%) are likely sources of funding for these future repair projects, according to a majority of YSPS facilities.

Recommendations for questions on annual repairs and improvements: This set of questions on annual repairs and improvements should be included on a national survey of youth shelters. While a fair proportion of YSPS respondents did not provide actual or estimated costs for their facilities' repairs and improvements, about two-thirds did.

Annual Revenues and Expenditures

Among shelters reporting to the YSPS, total annual revenues for the fiscal year April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 amounted to just under \$41.9 million. One-third of revenues came from donations, 21% from municipal governments and 15% from provincial departments of social services (Table 10).

Table 10. Total annual revenues for YSPS shelters, 2005-2006

| | \$ | % of total revenues |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| Federal government | \$ 2,251,366 | 5.4 |
| Provincial/Territorial government - Housing | \$ 1,403,409 | 3.4 |
| Provincial/Territorial government - Social Services | \$ 6,464,560 | 15.4 |
| Other provincial/territorial departments | \$ 517,019 | 1.2 |
| Municipal government | \$ 8,793,588 | 21.0 |
| Regional Authority | \$ 1,038,375 | 2.5 |
| Foundations | \$ 259,093 | 0.6 |
| Loans or grants for major repairs or improvements | \$ 271,713 | 0.7 |
| United Way | \$ 1,843,553 | 4.4 |
| Resident fees | \$ 583,643 | 1.4 |
| Provincial/Territorial lotteries | \$ 425,071 | 1.0 |
| Donations | \$ 13,629,282 | 32.5 |
| Fundraising | \$ 1,268,167 | 3.0 |
| Other | \$ 2,609 | 6.2 |
| Total revenues¹ | \$ 41,915,401 | 100.0 |

1. Figures do not add to total because some shelters, while able to provide a total figure were not able to provide a breakdown for all sources of revenues.

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

With about \$41.7 million in spending during fiscal year 2005-2006, annual expenditures for YSPS shelters almost met annual revenues. In fact, for 16% of shelters surveyed, annual expenditures exceeded annual revenues. The single largest expense for shelters was salary costs. About 41% of all annual expenditures for YSPS shelters went to salaries (Table 11). A fair proportion of shelter expenses (43%) were classified as 'other' expenditures, many of which were not specified. Within this 'other' category, about three-quarters of expenditures were unspecified and included expenses for a limited number of facilities that could not provide a breakdown for their annual expenditures. Costs associated with fundraising (23%) interest (1%) and grants (1%) as well as other miscellaneous costs (2%) constituted the remaining expenditures listed under the 'other' category.

Recommendations for questions on annual revenues and expenditures: It is recommended that a national survey of youth shelters comprise questions on annual revenues and expenditures similar to those from the YSPS. However before adding these financial questions to a national survey, the appropriateness of the revenue and expenditure categories for youth shelters should be reviewed, particularly given the notable proportion of expenses classified as 'other'. Additionally, the creation of new categories specifically for expenses associated with fundraising and interest should also be considered. Furthermore, in the event that a national survey of shelters is conducted on a regular basis (i.e., annually, biennially) the inclusion of revenue and expenditure questions on every cycle should be discussed. Greater respondent burden is associated with these types of financial questions.

Table 11. Total annual expenditures for YSPS shelters, 2005-2006

| | \$ | % of total expenditures |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Salary costs | \$ 16,903,659 | 40.6 |
| Rent | \$ 453,207 | 1.1 |
| Mortgage and taxes | \$ 498,314 | 1.2 |
| Regular maintenance | \$ 474,616 | 1.1 |
| Major repairs or improvements | \$ 498,898 | 1.2 |
| Other housing costs | \$ 1,016,473 | 2.4 |
| Administrative costs | \$ 585,325 | 1.4 |
| Staff training | \$ 113,807 | 0.3 |
| Office costs | \$ 463,234 | 1.1 |
| Direct client costs | \$ 2,279,060 | 5.5 |
| Contributions to reserve fund | \$ 67,081 | 0.2 |
| Other ¹ | \$ 17,752,867 | 42.6 |
| Total expenditures² | \$ 41,653,937 | 100.0 |

1. About 73% of 'other' expenditures were unspecified costs and expenses for a limited number of facilities that were unable to provide a breakdown for their annual expenditures. Other expenditures also included costs associated with fundraising (23%), interest (1%) and grants (1%), as well as other miscellaneous expenses (2%).
2. Figures do not add to total because some shelters, while able to provide a total figure were not able to provide a breakdown for all sources of expenditures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

RESIDENT PROFILE FOR YSPS SHELTERS, APRIL 19, 2006

PLEASE NOTE: The following information on individuals residing in YSPS facilities on April 19, 2006 pertains **strictly** to residents of shelters that responded to this pilot study. Findings **do not apply** to youth shelter residents as a whole and **cannot be generalized** to any residents of shelters outside the YSPS study.

Survey Snap-shot Day Admissions

Number of Residents

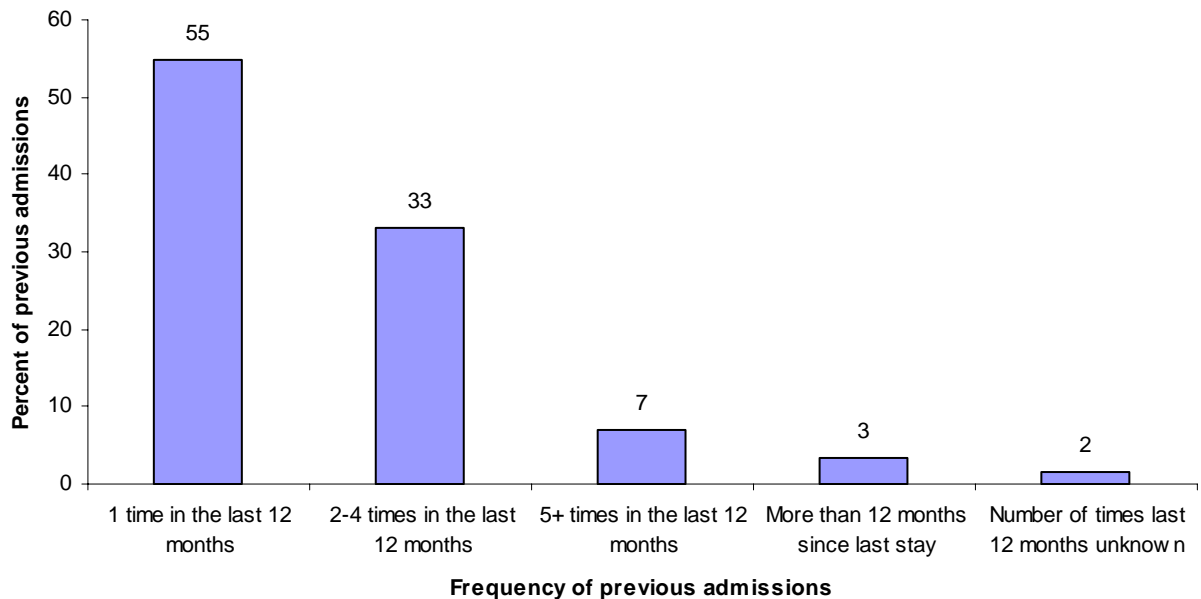
On survey day, April 19, 2006, there were 622 youth residents and 24 dependent children staying in the 50 shelters reporting on the YSPS. Male youth outnumbered female youth by a slight margin (52% and 43%, respectively) and for 1% of residents, a sex was not specified. (Table 12).

Many of the young people residing in YSPS shelters on survey day had been there before. About half (51%) of YSPS shelter residents had stayed in the facilities on a prior occasion. Among repeat admissions to YSPS shelters, the number of male youth also exceeded the number of female youth, making young males more likely than young females to have had a previous stay in the shelters surveyed (60% versus 42%, respectively).

In the 12 months preceding the YSPS, a majority (55%) of repeat clients had been to the facility on only one prior occasion, while a third had been there between two and four times previously (Figure 2). A small percentage (7%) of

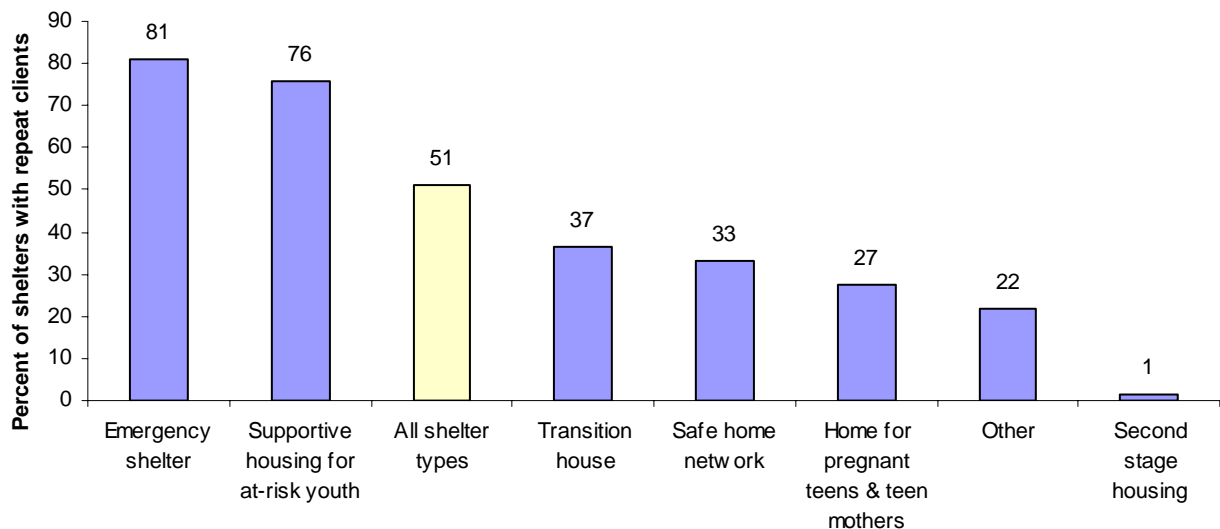
those re-admitted to YSPS shelters had five or more previous stays. Repeat clients were most common in the emergency shelters and supportive housing facilities reporting to the YSPS. About eight out of ten youth residing in each of these types of facilities on survey day had been there before (Figure 3).

Figure 2. One-third of residents with prior stays had 2 to 4 previous admissions in the last 12 months



Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005/06

Figure 3. Emergency shelters and supportive housing most likely to have repeat clients



Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005/06

Primary Reason for Admission

In order to better understand why youth use shelters, YSPS respondents were asked to identify residents' primary reason for coming to the facility (Table 12). The majority of youth (54%) were in shelters on survey day principally for reasons other than to escape abuse and more than one-third (36%) were there fleeing abusive situations. For 6% of residents, the main reason for admission was unknown.

Table 12. Residents staying in YSPS shelters on April 19, 2006 by primary reason

| Primary reason for shelter stay | To escape abuse | | For reasons other than abuse | | Reason unknown | | All reasons | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| | # of residents | % of all residents for all reasons ¹ | # of residents | % of all residents for all reasons ¹ | # of residents | % of all residents for all reasons ¹ | # of residents | % of all residents for all reasons |
| Total youth: | 235 | 36 | 346 | 54 | 41 | 6 | 622 | 96 |
| Female youth | 121 | 19 | 144 | 22 | 12 | 2 | 277 | 43 |
| Male youth | 114 | 18 | 195 | 30 | 29 | 4 | 338 | 52 |
| Sex of resident unknown | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| Dependent children | 8 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 4 |
| Total residents | 243 | 38 | 362 | 56 | 41 | 6 | 646 | 100 |

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Figures may not add total due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

Generally, male youth made up a larger proportion of shelter residents than female youth (52% versus 43%, respectively), according to the YSPS. However, the proportion of female youth seeking refuge primarily to escape abuse was greater than the proportion of male youth coming to YSPS shelters for similar reasons. Specifically, 44% of female youth in YSPS shelters on survey day were there largely to flee an abusive situation compared to 34% of male youth.

All Reasons for Admission

In addition to asking about the primary reason residents stayed in shelters, YSPS respondents were asked to report on the array of reasons for shelter usage among youth. Just over half of the reasons cited (54%) were not abuse-related, and just under half (46%) were related to abuse. The single most common reason for admission was housing emergencies due to family breakdown (16% of all reasons), followed by admissions to escape emotional and psychological abuse (12% of all reasons).

Among the reasons for admission that were not related to escaping abuse, the inability to find affordable housing (18% of non-abuse related

Youth as perpetrators of abuse

The Youth Shelter Pilot Survey asked respondents about youth residing in shelters who may have been the perpetrators of abuse. Of all the youth residing in pilot survey shelters on April 19, 2006, 14% were identified as a perpetrator of abuse.

In the majority of cases (52%), the relationship between the youth and his or her victim was not known. However, the youth's father or mother was identified as the victim in 21% of instances. Step-parents constituted 9% of victims and other relatives 7% of victims.

reasons), followed by admissions related to drug and alcohol addiction (17%) were the second and third most frequently mentioned among YSPS shelters -- next to housing emergencies resulting from family breakdown (30% of non-abuse related reasons). As well, problems with mental health issues constituted 14% of the non-abuse reasons cited (Table 13).

Table 13. Reasons for admission to YSPS shelters, April 19, 2006

| Abuse-related reasons for shelter admission | # of all abuse-related reasons | % of all abuse-related reasons |
|--|--|--|
| Physical abuse | 174 | 18 |
| Sexual abuse | 116 | 12 |
| Financial abuse | 82 | 8 |
| Emotional/Psychological abuse | 259 | 27 |
| Threats | 141 | 15 |
| Harassment | 112 | 12 |
| Other abuse-related reasons | 26 | 3 |
| Total child protection reasons | 56 | 6 |
| Total abuse-related reasons | 966 | 100 |
| Reasons for shelter admission that are <u>not</u> abuse-related | # of all reasons <u>not</u> abuse-related | % of all reasons <u>not</u> abuse-related |
| Housing emergency due to family conflict/breakdown | 344 | 30 |
| Other housing emergency | 63 | 5 |
| Unable to find affordable housing | 203 | 18 |
| Short-term housing problem | 57 | 5 |
| Mental health problems | 157 | 14 |
| Drug and alcohol addiction | 197 | 17 |
| Other non-abuse related reasons | 128 | 11 |
| Total non-abuse related reasons | 1149 | 100 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

According to the YSPS, emotional and psychological abuse were the most common types of abuse residents were fleeing on survey day (27% of all abuse-related reasons), followed by physical abuse (18%), threats (15%), sexual abuse (12%) and harassment (12%). Reports of financial abuse were less common (8%). About 6% of the reasons given involved residents coming to YSPS shelters to protect their dependent children from some type of abuse (Table 13).

On the whole, male and female youth turned to the 50 shelters reporting to the YSPS for fairly similar reasons, with a slightly higher proportion of abuse-related reasons reported by female youth (48% for females versus 41% for males) and reasons that were not abuse-related cited more often by male youth (59% for males versus 52% for females). However, reasons of sexual abuse were twice as common among young women compared to young men (18% of abuse-related reasons versus 8%, respectively). Conversely, admissions based on harassment were notably more common among male youth than among female youth (14% of abuse-related reasons versus 9%, respectively)

Recommendations for questions on survey snap-shot day admissions: The questions on survey day admissions appearing on the YSPS would form a vital part of a national survey of youth shelters and thus, should be included on a national questionnaire. Further, results from the YSPS strongly support the feasibility and utility of collecting this admissions information by sex at the national level. However, YSPS findings call into question the usefulness of attempting to collect such information for dependent children. Therefore to reduce respondent burden on the national survey, the questions on the number of dependent children staying in youth shelters on survey snap-shot day by primary reason should be replaced by a more general question that asks only for the total number of dependent children residing in youth shelters on survey day, regardless of the reason. As well, the response category 'housing emergency due to family conflict/breakdown' as a non-abuse reason for admissions needs to be clarified. As it currently appears, this response category may overlap with the abuse-related reasons for admissions.

Characteristics of YSPS Residents

The YSPS also gathered information on a number of resident characteristics. Selected characteristics for youth residing in YSPS shelters on survey day in order to escape abuse are presented in Table 14, which follows.

Table 14. Selected characteristics of abused youth residing in YSPS shelters, April 19, 2006

| | # | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Total youth in shelters to escape abuse | 235 | 100 |
| Age groups | | |
| Under 16 yrs. | 26 | 11 |
| 16-17 yrs. | 56 | 24 |
| 18-19 yrs. | 44 | 19 |
| 20-21 yrs. | 29 | 12 |
| 22-24 yrs. | 26 | 11 |
| 25-29 yrs. | 12 | 5 |
| 30 yrs.+ | 0 | 0 |
| Age unknown | 42 | 18 |
| Parental status¹ | | |
| Youth admitted with dependent children | 6 | 3 |
| Youth admitted without dependent children | 8 | 3 |
| Youth with no dependent children or parenting responsibilities | 150 | 64 |
| Parental status unknown | 71 | 30 |
| Disabilities | | |
| Total youth with a disability | 27 | 11 |
| Mobility disability | x | x |
| Visual disability | 0 | 0 |
| Hearing disability | x | x |
| Other | 19 | 8 |
| Relationship to abuser | | |
| Father or mother | 101 | 43 |
| Step-mother or step-father | 19 | 8 |
| Other relative | 8 | 3 |
| Boyfriend or girlfriend | 5 | 2 |
| Spouse | x | x |
| Common-law partner | 11 | 5 |
| Ex-spouse or ex-common-law partner | 4 | 2 |
| Dating relationship | 8 | 3 |
| Ex-dating relationship | 6 | 3 |
| Friend or acquaintance | 5 | 2 |
| Caregiver | x | x |
| Authority figure | 7 | 3 |
| Other | 6 | 3 |
| Don't know | 52 | 22 |
| Involvement of the criminal justice system² | | |
| Last abusive incident reported to police | 49 | 21 |
| Charges laid in last abusive incident reported to police | 22 | 9 |
| Order obtained in last abusive incident reported to police | 16 | 7 |

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. The children accompanying abused youth to shelters were quite young. All of the eight dependent children in shelters on April 19, 2006 were under the age of 5 and two-thirds were less than a year old.

2. In most cases, it was not known whether or not the criminal justice system became involved in the last incident of abuse experienced by youth staying in shelters on survey day. For example it was not known if the police had been notified of the last instance of abuse for about two-thirds (62%) of abused youth.

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005-2006

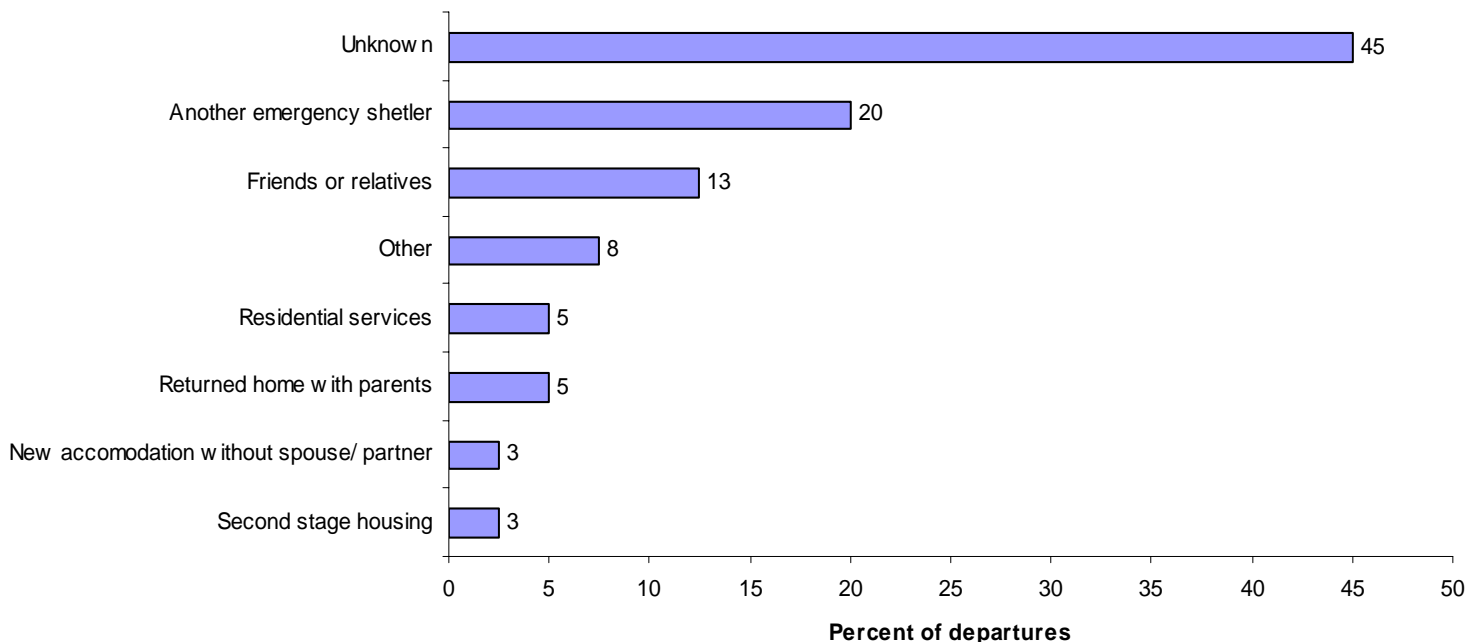
Recommendations for questions on characteristics of YSPS residents:

Results from the resident characteristics posed on the YSPS support the inclusion of comparable questions on a national survey of youth shelters. However, alternate response categories for the types of disabilities should be developed for use on a national survey, as the disabilities listed on the YSPS applied to very few YSPS shelter residents with a disability. It is recommended that categories such as learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and mental health disabilities be substituted for mobility, visual and hearing disabilities. In addition, it is suggested that questions on the characteristics of dependent children (i.e., age and disability) be dropped for the national survey.

Departures and Individuals Referred Elsewhere, April 19, 2006

On April 19, 2006, 15 of the 50 pilot survey shelters reported departures. As Figure 4 illustrates, for a fairly large share of cases (45%), the planned destination of many youth leaving shelters on survey day was unknown. However, one in five youth intended to go to another emergency shelter upon departing and about one-tenth (13%) expected to stay with friends or relatives.

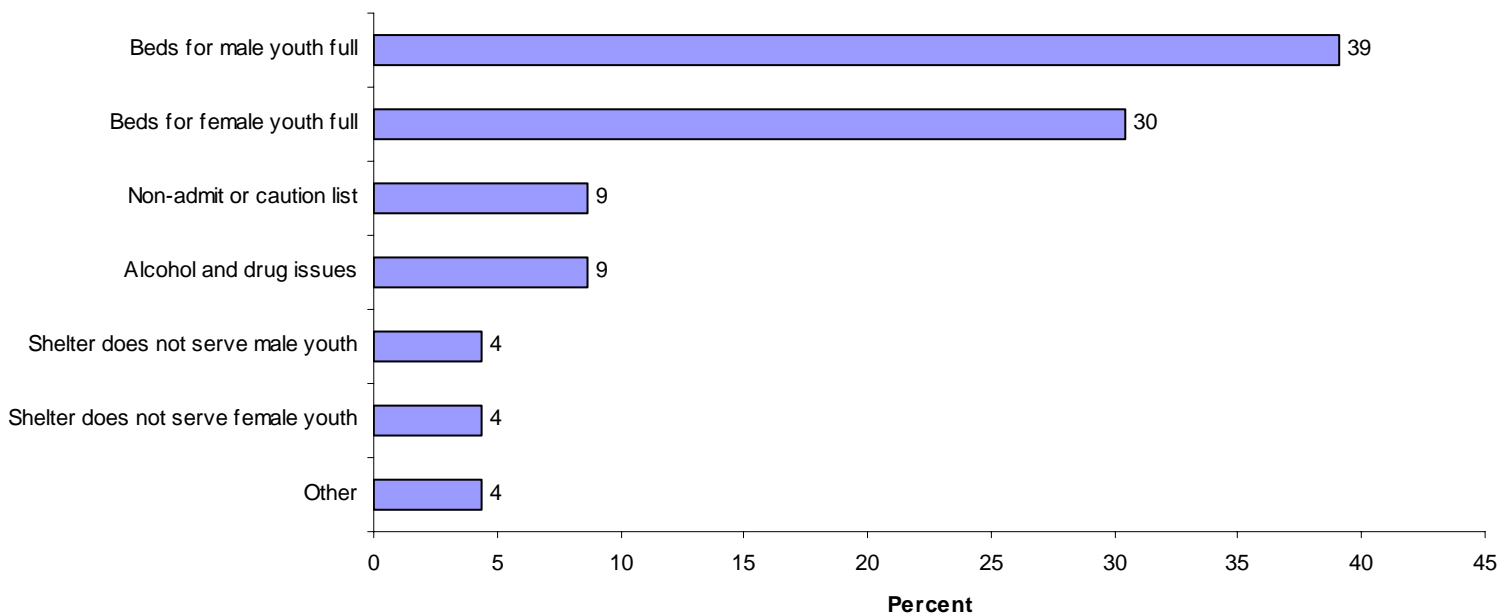
Figure 4. It is unknown where almost half of youth departing on April 19, 2006 planned to go upon leaving shelters



Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005/06

About one-fifth (11 out of 50) of youth shelters surveyed on the YSPS reported referring individuals elsewhere on April 19, 2006. By far, the most frequent reason given for turning people away was lack of bed space (Figure 5).

Figure 5. 'Full shelters' most common reason for referring youth elsewhere on April 19, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Shelter Pilot Survey, 2005/06

Recommendations for questions on departures and individuals turned away from YSPS shelters: Drawing on the results from the YSPS, it is recommended that a national survey include these questions on resident departures and individuals turned away from shelters on survey snap-shot day. The proportion of shelters responding to these questions was relatively low – just under one-third of facilities reported departures on survey day and one-fifth indicated that they had referred people elsewhere. However, it is important to note that for many facilities, these questions may not have been applicable. If no one left or was turned away from a shelter on survey snap-shot day, then respondents could have elected to leave the questions pertaining to departures and 'turn-aways' blank. Therefore, it is also recommended that the questionnaire be designed so that those for whom these questions are not applicable can be clearly distinguished from others not responding to these items.

FUTURE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

When YSPS shelters were asked to identify the most pressing challenges their facilities would face in the upcoming year, financial concerns topped the list. About half (48%) of facilities pointed to a general need for financial resources, 40% specified a need for increased funding for new programs and services in particular, and almost as many (38%) stated that the lack of funds for staff and salaries would promise to be a challenge over the next year. Issues concerning the physical facility were mentioned by one-fifth of shelters. Specifically, the need for more space or a new facility, and the need for more funding to maintain the shelter were each mentioned by 20% of shelters on the YSPS.

When asked to comment on the future needs of shelter residents, more than half of shelters (54%) responding to the YSPS indicated that securing housing or appropriate accommodations would be among the main challenges residents of their shelters would face in the upcoming year. Respondents also predicted that the need for programs and services to treat mental health problems (28%) and addictions (26%) would also pose significant challenges to youth shelter residents. Employment and education issues (20%) as well, the need for long-term or transitional programming (18%) for youth were also identified as important resident issues, on the horizon for next year.

Recommendations for questions on future issues and challenges: The YSPS questions on the issues and challenges that shelters and their residents will likely face in the upcoming year should be included on the national version of a youth shelter survey. However, a change in question formatting should be considered for the full survey. On the YSPS, these questions were open-ended. For a national survey of youth shelters, however, a combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions is recommended. According to the YSPS, the issues and challenges cited by many facilities were relatively similar. Therefore, the most common responses given on the YSPS could be used to develop a set of objective response categories. Then, an 'other' option with a space to write-in a specific response could be added to the list of pre-established categories to capture any additional issues or challenges.

V. Conclusions

YSPS Objective 1: to assess the extent to which facility and client information can be collected from youth shelters

Overall, the youth shelters reporting to the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey were able to provide a wide variety of information about their facilities and the clients they serve. More specifically, a vast majority of shelters were able to provide key information on the number of residents using their facility, the types of services provided to those residents and the reasons why youth sought refuge. Therefore, if used in a national survey of youth shelters, a questionnaire modelled after the YSPS instrument would generate an abundance of facility and client information.

Despite being generally well-answered, there were, nevertheless, some items on the questionnaire that posed difficulties for a few respondents. In particular, in a small number of instances facilities were unable to breakdown information by sex. Even so, results from the YSPS highlight the analytical importance of this information. For example, usage rates and the reasons why youth come to shelters differed notably by sex. Therefore, given that most shelters were able to provide separate information for male and female youth when asked to do so, coupled with the analytical utility of such information, a full survey of youth shelters should continue to collect information by sex for selected questions.

In addition, since dependent children constituted just 4% of shelter residents, the questions that pertained specifically to them were not applicable in many instances and thus, produced little valuable information. Consequently, on a national survey it would be sufficient simply to gather information on the counts of

dependent children who may accompany youth to shelters. More detailed information would be limited in its utility.

YSPS Objective 2: to begin to assess the feasibility of conducting a national survey which would gather facility and client information from shelters offering refuge to youth fleeing abusive situations across Canada

Findings from the YSPS support the feasibility of conducting a national survey of youth shelters. A solid majority of shelters contacted – 78%, participated in the pilot survey. Moreover, very few of the non-respondents were out-and-out refusals (3% of shelters contacted expressly declined to participate). Youth shelters participating in the pilot survey were generally able to provide responses to the questions posed and, perhaps more importantly, an overwhelming majority of respondents were able to answer key items on the questionnaire. Furthermore, initial analyses of the pilot survey data demonstrate the potential utility and informative nature of such findings.

A variety of facility-types from a number of different provinces responded to the YSPS, further suggesting that a survey of all youth shelters on a national level would be feasible. More than eight different types of shelters were surveyed and while no shelters in the territories were surveyed, the YSPS did include youth shelters from nine out of ten provinces. So, even though the YSPS did not obtain representation from all provinces and territories, nor was its intent to do so, results from this pilot are encouraging that such representation could be achieved.

Overall, based on the findings from the YSPS, it is recommended that a national survey of youth shelters implement a methodology and approach comparable to that of the YSPS.

VI. Next Steps

In order to undertake a national survey of youth shelters the following steps should be considered:

- **Development of costing options:** the financial and human resources needed to conduct a national survey of youth shelters must be determined.
- **Funding partners sought:** the means for funding a national survey of youth shelters have yet to be established.
- **Undertake broader consultations:** broader discussions with key stakeholders (i.e., youth shelter associations, youth shelter directors, front-line workers, research/advocacy groups, and government departments responsible for homelessness and family services) regarding key issues such as information needs; refining the questionnaire and developing a frame are needed.
- **Confirm survey definitions, methodology and approach:** based on results from the YSPS study and stakeholder consultations, final modifications to the

survey instrument and the methodological approach to be used in the national survey will need to be implemented.

- **Develop sampling frame:** this would involve co-ordinating with the Residential Care Facility (RCF) Survey at Statistics Canada to eliminate redundancy and would also require discussions with government departments responsible for homelessness and family services and representatives from the youth sheltering community.

VII. References

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APPENDIX A



2005-2006 Youth Shelter Pilot Survey

Confidential when completed
Collected under the authority of the
Statistics Act, Revised Statutes of
Canada, 1985, Chapter S19.
Version française disponible

Please complete and return by May 19, 2006

Please make any corrections to the address label here:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Name of contact | |
| Name of organization | |
| Postal Address | |
| City | |
| Province/Territory | Postal Code |

Statistics Canada is prohibited by law from publishing any statistics which would divulge information obtained from this survey that relates to any identifiable business, institution or individual without the previous written consent of that business, institution or individual. The data reported on this questionnaire will be treated in confidence, used for statistical purposes and published in aggregate form only. The confidentiality provisions of the *Statistics Act* are not affected by either the *Access to Information Act* or any other Legislation.

PURPOSE OF THE YOUTH SHELTER PILOT SURVEY

The purpose of the Youth Shelter Pilot Survey is to collect data on residential services for **abused and at-risk youth (aged 16 to 29)** during the previous 12 months of operation, as well as to provide a one-day “snapshot” of the clientele being served on a specific date. While participation in this survey is voluntary, your co-operation is important to ensure that the information collected in this survey is as accurate and as comprehensive as possible. The information collected by this pilot survey of youth shelters will help determine the feasibility of conducting a national survey of youth shelters. Information collected through a national survey will be used by service providers, non-profit organizations and governments to develop programs, policies and services for youth.

PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED GUIDEBOOK FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS BEFORE COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

SECTION 1 - FACILITY PROFILE AS OF NOON APRIL 19, 2006

FACILITY

1. Please indicate which best describes your facility.

(Check only one. If there is more than one facility, please complete a separate questionnaire for each facility type. For example, if there is an emergency shelter and a transition house, please complete 2 questionnaires.)

REFER TO THE ATTACHED GUIDEBOOK FOR DEFINITIONS

- ☐ Transition house
- ☐ Second stage housing
- ☐ Safe home network
- ☐ Home for pregnant teens & teen mothers
- ☐ Drug & alcohol recovery
- ☐ Emergency shelter
- ☐ Supportive housing for at-risk youth
- ☐ Group home for troubled youth
- ☐ Other (please specify):

a) _____

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|--------|----|-------|------|-----|----|------|--|
| For Office Use only | | | | | | | | | |
| Date Received | | Edited | | Keyed | | FSC | | | |
| DD | MM | YYYY | DD | MM | YYYY | DD | MM | YYYY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

2. What is the total number of beds within your facility for:
(Count each bed, child's bed and crib. Do not count emergency beds [e.g. cots, sofas, sleeping bags, etc.] unless funded or licensed.)

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| | Number |
| Female youth? | 1 |
| Male youth? | 2 |
| Dependent children of youth? | 3 |
| Total | 4 |

3. With respect to youth residents, which best describes the service delivery model of your facility:

- a) Basic crisis intervention services (e.g., shelter, food) 1 ☐
- b) A continuum of services (e.g., crisis intervention to self-sufficiency) 2 ☐
- c) Other (please specify): 3 ☐

AREA

4. Please indicate the area(s) your facility serves. (Check all that apply)

- Urban/suburban (1,000 or more people) 1 ☐
- Rural/Village (less than 1,000 people) 2 ☐
- Reserve 3 ☐

5. Is your facility owned or operated by a band council?
(Band council refers to a group of representatives elected by the on-reserve residents of the community.)

- a) Owned by a band council? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No
- b) Operated by a band council? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

6. Is your facility located on a reserve? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

SERVICES

7. Please indicate all services **your facility** provides on a regular basis to residents (column 1), to non-residents (column 2) and to ex-residents (column 3). If your facility does not distinguish between non-residents and ex-residents please use the non-resident column (column 2). In column 4, please indicate all services provided **by other agencies** to residents of your facility. (Check all that apply).

| | Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 | Column 4 | Column 5 |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Residents of your facility | Non-residents of your facility | Ex-residents of your facility | Services provided by other agencies to your residents | Not applicable |
| A) Services for Youth | | | | | |
| 1) Individual short-term counselling | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 2) Individual long-term counselling | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 3) Group counselling | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 4) Family counselling programs (includes youth & family members) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 5) Addiction counselling (e.g. information or support) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 6) Crisis telephone line (staffed 24 hour line) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 7) On-site health clinic or health care | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 8) Medical information (e.g., literature, videos) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 9) Mental health services (e.g. information or support) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |

| | Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 | Column 4 | Column 5 |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Services provided by your facility to: | | | Services provided by other agencies to your residents | Not applicable |
| | Residents of your facility | Non-residents of your facility | Ex-residents of your facility | | |
| Services for Youth (continued) | | | | | |
| 10) Legal services (e.g. information or support, paralegal services) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 11) Financial assistance or welfare (e.g. information or support) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 12) Independent living planning | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 13) Life skills (e.g. banking, groceries, day-to-day management) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 14) Education counselling or support (e.g. literacy, stay in school programs) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 15) Job training or employment search | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 16) Parenting skills | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 17) Housing referral | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 18) Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal youth | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 19) Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority youth | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 20) Services for youth with disabilities | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 21) Recreation services | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 22) Advocacy on behalf of youth | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 23) Transportation/accompaniment (e.g. transportation to shelter, appointments, court) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 24) Other services for youth (please specify): | | | | | |
| a) _____ | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| b) _____ | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| c) _____ | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| B) General Services | | | | | |
| 25) Information | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 26) Public education or prevention | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 27) Outreach programs | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 28) Advocacy | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 29) Political or social action (e.g. writing letters to politicians, marches, protesting) | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 30) Help with pet accommodation | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 31) Food bank | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 32) Clothing items | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 33) Furniture items | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 34) Other (please specify): | | | | | |
| a) _____ | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| b) _____ | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| c) _____ | 1 <input type="radio"/> | 2 <input type="radio"/> | 3 <input type="radio"/> | 4 <input type="radio"/> | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Are there any services that are currently needed but not offered or not offered at the level required to meet the needs of the residents, former residents or non-residents your facility serves? If so, please indicate the most important of these services (up to 3). | | | | | |
| 1) _____ | | | | | |
| 2) _____ | | | | | |
| 3) _____ | | | | | |

ACCESSIBILITY

9. In what languages can your facility provide services? Include staff, volunteers or others who can verbally communicate in the languages listed or that you specify.
(Check all that apply)

- 1

☐ English
- 2

☐ French
- 3

☐ Arabic
- 4

☐ Chinese
(Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka)
- 5

☐ Cree
- 6

☐ Dutch
- 7

☐ German
- 8

☐ Greek
- 9

☐ Inuktitut
- 10

☐ Italian
- 11

☐ Ojibway
- 12

☐ Polish
- 13

☐ Portuguese
- 14

☐ Punjabi
- 15

☐ Spanish
- 16

☐ Tagalog (Pilipino)
- 17

☐ Ukrainian
- 18

☐ Vietnamese
- 19

☐ Other languages(s) (please specify):
a) _____
b) _____

10. Is at least one of your building entrances wheelchair accessible? (e.g. access ramps, street-level entrances, automatic or easy-to-open doors, etc.)

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No → Go to Question 13

11. Are any bedrooms within your facility wheelchair accessible? (e.g. widened doorways, automatic or easy-to-open doors, etc.)

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

12. Are any bathrooms within your facility wheelchair accessible? (e.g. widened doorways, grab bars, automatic or easy-to-open doors, etc.)

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

13. Does your facility have services for people who are deaf or hearing impaired, such as:

a) TTY/TDD?
(Teletypewriter, Telephone Device for Deaf)

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

b) Sign language communication
or interpretation?

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

c) Other services?

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

(please specify): 1) _____
2) _____

14. Does your facility have services for people who are blind or visually impaired, such as:

a) Braille reading materials?

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

b) Large print reading materials?

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

c) Other services?

1

☐ Yes

2

☐ No

(please specify): 1) _____
2) _____

SECTION 2 - RESIDENT PROFILE AS OF NOON ON APRIL 19, 2006

The purpose of Section 2 is to obtain a **one-day snapshot** of the clientele being served on a particular day in the year (i.e., April 19, 2006). Appreciating that a number of residents to whom space has been assigned may be temporarily absent on April 19, 2006, please include all **admitted** residents when completing the following questions including those who are temporarily absent.

15. For each male and female youth residing in your facility **as of noon on April 19, 2006**, please indicate the reason(s) he/she came to your facility.
- Count all the reasons that apply.** For example, a male youth or female youth suffering physical abuse, emotional abuse and threats who is also experiencing mental health problems would be counted once in each of the 4 corresponding categories.
- Please ensure that only the male and female youth are counted.**
- Do not count the dependent children of youth in this question. **Dependent children are individuals under the age of 18 years for whom the youth has primary parental responsibilities or legal guardianship.**

| | Number Male Youth | Number Female Youth | Number Total Youth |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Physical abuse | 1a | 1b | 1c |
| 2) Sexual abuse | 2a | 2b | 2c |
| 3) Financial abuse | 3a | 3b | 3c |
| 4) Emotional/Psychological abuse | 4a | 4b | 4c |
| 5) Threats | 5a | 5b | 5c |
| 6) Harassment | 6a | 6b | 6c |
| 7) Protection of his/her dependent child(ren): | 7a_a | 7b_a | 7c_a |
| a) Physical abuse | 7a_b | 7b_b | 7c_b |
| b) Sexual abuse | 7a_c | 7b_c | 7c_c |
| c) Threats | 7a_d | 7b_d | 7c_d |
| d) Psychological abuse | 7a_e | 7b_e | 7c_e |
| e) Neglect | 7a_f | 7b_f | 7c_f |
| f) Witnessing abuse | 8a_a | 8b_a | 8c_a |
| 8) Other abuse (please specify): | 8a_b | 8b_b | 8c_b |
| a) | 8a_c | 8b_c | 8c_c |
| b) | 9a_a | 9b_a | 9c_a |
| 9) Housing problems | | | |
| a) Housing emergency due to family breakdown or conflict | 9a_b | 9b_b | 9c_b |
| b) Other housing emergency (e.g. had to leave last home because of eviction or damage caused by fire, flood or natural disaster) | 9a_c | 9b_c | 9c_c |
| c) Unable to find affordable housing | 9a_d | 9b_d | 9c_d |
| d) Short-term housing problem (e.g., on list for subsidized housing or waiting to move but unable to secure housing in the meantime) | 10a | 10b | 10c |
| 10) Mental health problems | 11a | 11b | 11c |
| 11) Drug and alcohol addiction | 12a_a | 12b_a | 12c_a |
| 12) Other (please specify): | 12a_b | 12b_b | 12c_b |
| a) | 12a_c | 12b_c | 12c_c |
| b) | | | |
| c) | 13a | 13b | 13c |
| 13) Reason unknown/Don't know | | | |

Number of residents (male youth and female youth, and their dependent children) as of noon on April 19, 2006

Dependent children are individuals under the age of 18 years for whom the youth has primary parental responsibilities or legal guardianship.

| | Male Youth | Female Youth | Total Youth | Dependent Children | Total Youth & Children |
|---|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 16. Of the total number of residents in your facility as of noon on April 19, 2006, how many youth and dependent children were there primarily because they were the victims of ABUSE? (Enter "0" if there were none.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17. Of the total number of residents in your facility as of noon on April 19, 2006, how many youth and dependent children were there primarily for reasons OTHER THAN TO ESCAPE ABUSE (e.g. housing problem, those who are there because they are the perpetrators of abuse)? (Enter "0" if there were none.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. Please indicate the TOTAL number of youth and children who were residing in your facility as of noon April 19, 2006. (Enter "0" if there were none.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

19. What were the referral sources for each youth? Count as many referral sources as apply for each youth.

| | Number | | Number |
|--|--------|--|--------|
| a) Self-referred only | 1 | h) Clergy, minister of religion | 8 |
| b) Family/friend | 2 | i) Police or RCMP | 9 |
| c) Ministry for Children and Families | 3 | j) Other Transition House | 10 |
| d) Ministry of Human Resources | 4 | k) Aboriginal or First Nations organization or reserve | 11 |
| e) Other Ministry | 5 | l) Other community agency | 12 |
| f) House resident (current or former) | 6 | m) Other | 13 |
| g) Hospital, doctor, nurse, other health care practitioner or hospital social worker | 7 | n) Don't know/no data | 14 |
| | | | 15 |
| | | TOTAL | |

20. a) Of the youth residents in the facility as of noon on April 19, 2006, how many had been there before? **Do not count the dependent children accompanying youth in this question.**

| Number |
|--------|
| 1 |

*If number of repeat residents equals ZERO
Go to Question 21.*

b) How many youth had been there:
1 time in the last 12 months?

| Male Youth |
|------------|
| 1 |

| Female Youth |
|--------------|
| 7 |

| Total |
|-------|
| 13 |

2-4 times in the last 12 months?

| |
|---|
| 2 |
|---|

| |
|---|
| 8 |
|---|

| |
|----|
| 14 |
|----|

5+ times in the last 12 months?

| |
|---|
| 3 |
|---|

| |
|---|
| 9 |
|---|

| |
|----|
| 15 |
|----|

How many youth have stayed in the facility in the last 12 months, for an unknown number of times?

| |
|---|
| 4 |
|---|

| |
|----|
| 10 |
|----|

| |
|----|
| 16 |
|----|

How many youth have stayed in the facility before, but it has been more than 12 months since their last stay?

| |
|---|
| 5 |
|---|

| |
|----|
| 11 |
|----|

| |
|----|
| 17 |
|----|

Total (Total for all youth should equal number of youth in Question 20 a)

| |
|---|
| 6 |
|---|

| |
|----|
| 12 |
|----|

| |
|----|
| 18 |
|----|

QUESTIONS 21 to 23 APPLY ONLY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE RESIDING IN YOUR FACILITY AS OF NOON APRIL 19, 2006 AND CAME PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY WERE THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE (See Question 16).

Characteristics

21. As of noon on April 19, 2006, indicate the number of residents from abusive situations in each of the following age groups (**Count each youth and child only once**):

A. Age categories of youth:

| | Number |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Under 16 years | 1 |
| 16-17 years | 2 |
| 18-19 years | 3 |
| 20-21 years | 4 |
| 22-24 years | 5 |
| 25-29 years | 6 |
| 30 years & over | 7 |
| Age unknown | 8 |
| Total Male Youth | 9 |

| | Number |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Under 16 years | 10 |
| 16-17 years | 11 |
| 18-19 years | 12 |
| 20-21 years | 13 |
| 22-24 years | 14 |
| 25-29 years | 15 |
| 30 years & over | 16 |
| Age unknown | 17 |
| Total Female Youth | 18 |

| | Number |
|--------------------|--------|
| Under 16 years | 19 |
| 16-17 years | 20 |
| 18-19 years | 21 |
| 20-21 years | 22 |
| 22-24 years | 23 |
| 25-29 years | 24 |
| 30 years & over | 25 |
| Age unknown | 26 |
| Total Youth | 27 |

(Total Male Youth, Female Youth and Total Youth should equal totals in Question 16).

B. Age categories of accompanying dependent children:

| Male Dependent Children | | Female Dependent Children | | Total Dependent Children | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Number | | Number | | Total |
| Under 1 year | 1 | Under 1 year | 7 | Under 1 year | 13 |
| 1-4 years | 2 | 1-4 years | 8 | 1-4 years | 14 |
| 5-9 years | 3 | 5-9 years | 9 | 5-9 years | 15 |
| 10 years & over | 4 | 10 years & over | 10 | 10 years & over | 16 |
| Age unknown | 5 | Age unknown | 11 | Age unknown | 17 |
| Total Male Children | 6 | Total Female Children | 12 | Total Children | 18 |

(Total Dependent Children should equal total number of dependent children in Question 16).

C. Number of youth
(Count each youth only once):

| | Number |
|--|--------|
| a) Who were admitted with their dependent children | 1 |
| b) Who were admitted without their dependent children | 2 |
| c) Who have no children or parenting responsibilities | 3 |
| d) Facility doesn't know if they have children or parenting responsibilities | 4 |
| e) Total (Should equal total number of youth in Question 16) | 5 |

D. As of noon on April 19, 2006, indicate the number of residents with a disability.

| | Number |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Youth | 1 |
| Dependent Children | 2 |
| Total residents with a disability | 3 |

(If total residents with a disability equals ZERO, go to Question 22)

Don't know ⁴ ☐ ➔ Go to Question 22

E. Number of residents with:
(Count each youth and dependent child as often as applies.
Include residents with permanent and temporary physical disabilities
[e.g. someone on crutches due to a broken leg])

| | Youth | Dependent Children |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| a) Mobility disabilities | 1 | 8 |
| b) Visual disabilities | 2 | 9 |
| c) Hearing disabilities | 3 | 10 |
| Other disabilities (please specify): | 4 | 11 |
| d) _____ | 5 | 12 |
| e) _____ | 6 | 13 |
| f) _____ | 7 | 14 |
| g) Don't know | | |

Relationship to abuser

22. As of noon April 19, 2006, please indicate the number of youth residents by the relationship with their abuser. (Count each youth only once. Do not include dependent children):

| | | | |
|---|--------|--|--------|
| | Number | | Number |
| a) Father or mother (biological or adoptive) | 1 | i) Ex-dating relationship | 9 |
| b) Step-mother or step-father | 2 | j) Friend or acquaintance | 10 |
| c) Other relative (grandparent, sibling) | 3 | k) Caregiver (a non-relative responsible for taking care of the victim full or part-time) | 11 |
| d) Boyfriend or girlfriend of parent | 4 | l) Authority figure (teacher, professor, employer, coach or other person in a position of trust) | 12 |
| e) Spouse (legally married) | 5 | m) Other (please specify): | 13 |
| f) Common-law partner | 6 | | 14 |
| g) Ex-spouse or ex-common-law partner | 7 | n) Don't know | |
| h) Dating relationship (couples who do not live together) | 8 | | |
| | | o) Total (Should equal total number of youth in Question 16) | 15 |

Involvement of the criminal justice system in the most recent abusive situation

This question refers to the most recent abusive situation for which the youth was admitted to your facility. It DOES NOT refer to previous incidents of abuse for which the police may have been involved.

23. As of noon on April 19, 2006, please answer the following questions in relation to the involvement of the criminal justice system for the most recent abusive situation of each youth (Enter "0" if there were none.)

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| | Yes (number) | No (number) | Don't know (number) | Total (Should equal total number of youth in Question 16) (number) |
| In how many cases: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| a) was the incident reported to police? | | | | |
| b) were charges laid against the abuser (e.g. by the youth, police or Crown)? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c) was an order obtained for the abuser to stay away (peace bond, restraining order, undertaking to keep the peace and have good conduct, conditions of probation, emergency intervention order, emergency protection order, victim's assistance order, order to abstain from persistently following a person about from place to place, etc.)? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

QUESTION 24 APPLIES ONLY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE RESIDING IN YOUR FACILITY AS OF NOON APRIL 19, 2006 AND CAME PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY WERE PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE.

Relationship to abuse victim

24. As of noon April 19, 2006, please indicate the relationship between each youth resident and the person he/she is accused of abusing. (If the youth has multiple victims, identify the relationship between him/her and the person he/she is primarily accused of abusing. Count each youth only once.)

| | | | |
|---|--------|--|--------|
| | Number | | Number |
| a) Father or mother (biological or adoptive) | 1 | i) Ex-dating relationship | 9 |
| b) Step-mother or step-father | 2 | j) Friend or acquaintance | 10 |
| c) Other relative (grandparent, sibling) | 3 | k) Caregiver (a non-relative responsible for taking care of the victim full or part-time) | 11 |
| d) Boyfriend or girlfriend of parent | 4 | l) Authority figure (teacher, professor, employer, coach or other person in a position of trust) | 12 |
| e) Spouse (legally married) | 5 | m) Other (please specify): | 13 |
| f) Common-law partner | 6 | | 14 |
| g) Ex-spouse or ex-common-law partner | 7 | n) Don't know | |
| h) Dating relationship (couples who do not live together) | 8 | | |
| | | o) Total | 15 |

SECTION 3 - DEPARTURES AND TURN-AWAYS: MIDNIGHT TO NOON ON APRIL 19, 2006

Questions 25 to 28 apply to departures and turn-aways that occurred between midnight and noon on April 19, 2006.

Departures

25. How many youth and dependent children departed from your facility between midnight and noon on April 19, 2006?

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| | Number |
| 1 | |
| Youth | |
| 2 | |
| Dependent Children | |
| 3 | |
| Total Departures | |

If total departures equals ZERO,
Go to Question 27.

26. Upon departure where did the youth go? This question refers to departures between midnight and noon on April 19, 2006. (Count each youth only once. Do not count dependent children in this question.)

| | |
|---|--------|
| | Number |
| 1 | |
| a) Returned home with parents | |
| 2 | |
| b) Returned home with spouse/ common/law partner | |
| 3 | |
| c) Returned home without spouse/ common-law partner | |
| 4 | |
| d) Second stage housing | |
| 5 | |
| e) Another emergency shelter | |
| 6 | |
| f) Out of province/territory shelter | |
| 7 | |
| g) New accommodation without family or spouse/ common-law partner | |
| 8 | |
| h) Living with friends or relatives | |

| | |
|--|--------|
| | Number |
| 9 | |
| i) Hospital | |
| 10 | |
| j) Residential services (e.g. group home, hostel, detox centre, addictions rehabilitation centre or other care facility) | |
| 11 | |
| Other (specify): | |
| 12 | |
| k) _____ | |
| 13 | |
| l) _____ | |
| 14 | |
| m) _____ | |
| n) Unknown | |
| 15 | |
| o) Total (Should equal number of youth in Question 25) | |

Turn-aways

27. How many youth and children were turned away from your facility between midnight and noon on April 19, 2006?

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| | Number |
| 1 | |
| Male youth | |
| 2 | |
| Female youth | |
| 3 | |
| Total youth turn-aways | |
| 4 | |
| Total dependent children | |
| 5 | |
| Total turn-aways | |

If total turn-aways equals ZERO,
Go to Question 29.

28. Please list the reason(s) youth and dependent children were turned away.
(Check all that apply)

- 1

☐

Shelter does not serve male youth
- 2

☐

Shelter does not serve female youth
- 3

☐

Beds for male youth full
- 4

☐

Beds for female youth full
- 5

☐

Transportation issue
(e.g., no transportation to get to facility)
- 6

☐

Accessibility issues
(e.g., not wheelchair accessible)
- 7

☐

Language barrier
- 8

☐

Alcohol and drug issues
- 9

☐

Mental health issues
- 10

☐

Under age without parent consent
- 11

☐

Non-admit or caution list
- 12

☐

Other (please specify):
a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

SECTION 4 - SERVICES FOR NON-RESIDENTS AND EX-RESIDENTS

The purpose of Section 4 is to obtain information on contacts for assistance from non-residents and ex-residents. Question 29 deals with contacts on the day of April 19, 2006 and contacts for an average month.

29. Please report the number of phone, letter, e-mail, fax, walk-in or other contacts received from non-residents and ex-residents for housing and non-housing needs.
This includes outreach services.
(Enter “0” if there were none. Count each contact for assistance)
(REFER TO THE GUIDEBOOK FOR DEFINITIONS)

| | A. | | B. |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Contacts on April 19, 2006 | | Contacts for an average month |
| Housing related (e.g. crisis, needs housing because of abuse; housing problem, non-abuse, etc.) | 1 | | 1 |
| Other (non-housing related) (e.g. crisis, needs medical help; general information; emotional support; etc.) | 2 | | 2 |
| | 3 | | 3 |
| TOTAL | | | |

Outreach work (REFER TO GUIDEBOOK FOR DEFINITIONS)

30. How many hours per week are dedicated to doing outreach?
(Please note, if there are 3 staff each doing 20 hours of outreach work per week this would equal 60 hours. Include paid staff, volunteers and others.)

| Hours per week |
|----------------|
| 1 |

SECTION 5 - ANNUAL INFORMATION

The purpose of Section 5 is to obtain annual information on admissions and physical repairs and improvements for your residential facility. This information is to be provided for a 12-month fiscal period, for example, April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

A. Reference period: Please specify the 12-month period used in providing information for Section 5.

DDMMYYYY

From: ¹

DDMMYYYY

To: ²

31. Please indicate the total number of admissions during the reference period.
(Enter “0” if there were none)

| | Number | |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Male youth | <div><div>1</div></div> | |
| Female youth | <div><div>2</div></div> | |
| Total youth admissions | <div><div>3</div></div> | |
| Total dependent children admissions | <div><div>4</div></div> | |
| Total admissions of youth and dependent children | <div><div>5</div></div> | (Should equal total youth + total dependent children admissions) |

B. Physical repairs or improvements

The purpose of Questions 32 to 35 is to collect information on physical repairs or improvements that have been made to your facility during the reference period. In this section, **do not include** funds received from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the **construction or addition of new units**.

DO NOT INCLUDE REGULAR MAINTENANCE WHEN RESPONDING TO THESE QUESTIONS. Regular maintenance refers to painting, repairing leaky faucets, furnace cleaning, etc.

32. Have any physical repairs or improvements (e.g., new roof, flooring, windows, floor tiles, plumbing fixtures) been made to your facility during the reference period?

1

☐

Yes

2

☐

No → Go to Question 36

33. What types of physical repairs or improvements have been made to your facility during the reference period?
(Check all that apply)

1 ☐ Major

2 ☐ Minor

3 ☐ Structural Improvements

Major physical repairs or improvements refers to defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc. In other words, there is a legal necessity to make these repairs so that your facility is in accordance with municipal building codes. These repairs are deemed essential for safety reasons and for meeting municipal standards.

Minor physical repairs or improvements refers to missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.

Stuctural improvements refers to improvements not required for safety reasons or meeting municipal standards, such as making rooms wheelchair accessible, adding a new security system, adding ramps, adding an outside play area for children, creating a ventilated inside smoking area.

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34. How were the physical repairs or improvements made during the reference period funded?
(Check all that apply)

1

☐

Shelter enhancement program (CMHC)

2

☐

Other federal department funding

3

☐

Provincial or Territorial government funding

4

☐

Joint Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement funding

5

☐

Regional/Municipal government funding

6

☐

Fundraising

7

☐

Donations

8

☐

Other (please specify):
a) _____
b) _____

9

☐

Don't know

35. How much did the physical repairs or improvements made during the reference period cost?
(If the exact cost is not available please provide an accurate estimate.)

a) Exact

1

☐

Don't know

b) Estimate

2

☐

Don't know

c) Don't know

3

☐

Don't know

| | Cost |
|-------------|--|
| a) Exact | <div><div>1</div><div><input type="radio"/></div><div>\$</div></div> |
| b) Estimate | <div><div>2</div><div><input type="radio"/></div><div>\$</div></div> |

36. Within the next 5 years, do you anticipate necessary physical repairs or improvements to your facility?
(Check all that apply)

Major physical repairs or improvements refers to defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc. In other words, there is a legal necessity to make these repairs so that your facility is in accordance with municipal building codes. These repairs are deemed essential for safety reasons and for meeting municipal standards.

Minor physical repairs or improvements refers to missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.

Structural improvements refers to improvements not required for safety reasons or meeting municipal standards, such as making rooms wheelchair accessible, adding a new security system, adding ramps, adding an outside play area for children, creating a ventilated inside smoking area.

1

☐

Major

2

☐

Minor

3

☐

Structural Improvements

37. Within the next 5 years, from which of the following do you anticipate funding for these necessary physical repairs or improvements?
(Check all that apply)

1

☐

Shelter enhancement program (CMHC)

2

☐

Other federal department funding

3

☐

Provincial or Territorial government funding

4

☐

Joint Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement funding

5

☐

Regional/Municipal government funding

6

☐

Fundraising

7

☐

Donations

8

☐

Other (please specify):
a) _____
b) _____

9

☐

Don't know

SECTION 6 - REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

The purpose of Section 6 is to collect information on the revenues and expenditures of your facility for the reference period.

REVENUES

38. Please report the amounts received from each of the following sources of funding and the total revenue for your facility. (You can provide either estimated or audited year end figures. Please round figures to the nearest dollar [e.g. \$457 rather than \$457.25].)

| | Dollar Amount |
|---|---------------|
| | 1 |
| 1) Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | \$ |
| | 2 |
| 2) Other federal departments | \$ |
| | 3 |
| 3) Provincial/Territorial government – Housing | \$ |
| | 4 |
| 4) Provincial/Territorial government – Social Services | \$ |
| | 5 |
| 5) Other provincial/territorial departments | \$ |
| | 6 |
| 6) Municipal government | \$ |
| | 7 |
| 7) Regional Authority | \$ |
| | 8 |
| 8) Foundations | \$ |
| | 9 |
| 9) Loans or grants for major repairs or improvements | \$ |
| | 10 |
| 10) United Way | \$ |
| | 11 |
| 11) Indian Bands | \$ |
| | 12 |
| 12) Resident fees | \$ |
| | 13 |
| 13) Provincial/Territorial lotteries (includes the Associated Entities Fund in Saskatchewan, Bingos, Nevada tickets) | \$ |
| | 14 |
| 14) Donations (money only) | \$ |
| | 15 |
| 15) Fundraising | \$ |
| | 16a |
| 16) Other (please specify): | \$ |
| a) _____ | 16b |
| | \$ |
| b) _____ | |
| | 17 |
| 17) Total annual facility revenues | \$ |

EXPENDITURES

39. Please report the total annual expenditures for your facility and the dollar amount of your total annual expenditures spent on the following: (You can provide either estimated or audited year end figures. Please round figures to the nearest dollar [e.g. \$457 rather than \$457.25].)

| | Dollar Amount |
|--|---------------|
| | 1 |
| 1) Salary costs (all salary and benefits, includes casuals and fee for service costs) | \$ |
| | 2 |
| 2) Rent (e.g. outreach offices) | \$ |
| | 3 |
| 3) Mortgage and taxes | \$ |
| | 4 |
| 4) Regular maintenance | \$ |
| | 5 |
| 5) Major repairs or improvements | \$ |
| | 6 |
| 6) Other housing costs (house insurance, utilities, furniture, etc.) | \$ |
| | 7 |
| 7) Administrative costs (e.g. staff and board insurance) | \$ |
| | 8 |
| 8) Staff training (includes conferences) | \$ |
| | 9 |
| 9) Office costs (office supplies, postage, etc.) | \$ |
| | 10 |
| 10) Direct client costs (food, supplies, transportation, and disbursements to residents) | \$ |
| | 11 |
| 11) Contributions to reserve fund (as required by CMHC) | \$ |
| | 12a |
| 12) Other (please specify): | \$ |
| a) _____ | |
| | 12b |
| b) _____ | \$ |
| | 13 |
| 13) Total annual facility expenditures | \$ |

40. Are the revenue and expenditure figures that were provided in questions 38 and 39 based on (Check only one):

- ¹☐ Estimated data
- ²☐ Audited financial data
- ³☐ Don't know

SECTION 7 - ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

41. A) What would you identify as the top three issues or challenges facing **your facility** in the upcoming year?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

B) What would you identify as the top three issues or challenges for the youth using your facility in the upcoming year?

Questionnaire completed by

Questionnaire completed by (block letters):

Date _____

Telephone
Area code

For office use only

Comments

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please keep a copy of the completed pilot survey questionnaire in the event that Statistics Canada contacts you for clarification of information given. The information will assist us in the development of a national youth survey that will be used to better understand the services available within our community to address the needs of youth who are victims of abuse or who are at risk. Should you have any comments or questions regarding the questionnaire or the pilot survey itself, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-888-659-8229. The following space is provided for those of you who would prefer to write down your comments. *Please print carefully.*

[illegible]

Comments (continued)

[illegible]

APPENDIX B

Definitions of facility types used on the 2005-2006 Youth Shelter Pilot Survey

Considering provincial differences in definitions, the following generic categories were created for the purpose of comparison.

Transition Home/Shelter: Short or moderate term (1 day to 11 weeks) secure housing for youth.

Second Stage Housing: Long-term (3-12 months) secure housing for youth.

Safe Home Network: Subsidiary very short term (1-3 days) housing for youth in private homes.

Home for Pregnant Teens & Teen Mothers: Short or longer term housing for pregnant teens and/or for teenage mothers with their babies with or without support services.

Drug & Alcohol Recovery/Rehabilitation Centres: Supportive living with specialized services to address drug and/or alcohol recovery and rehabilitation.

Emergency Shelter: Short-term (1-3 days) respite (temporary relief) for a wide population range, not exclusively youth. This type of facility may accommodate residents who are without a home due to an emergency situation (e.g., eviction, family breakdown, or other crisis). Other than residential (room and board) services, these shelters offer few additional client services.

Supportive Housing for 'at-risk' Youth: Residential facilities with support services for youth in need of support or protection. May include facilities for clients of Children Aid Societies.

Group Home for Troubled Youth: Supervised group living that may include homes for youth offenders, youth on probation, or with legal problems.

Other: Includes all other residential facilities offering services to youth. These services may not be exclusive to youth. Includes mental health shelters.

APPENDIX C

Summary of Recommendations and Next Steps from the 2005-2006 Youth Shelter Pilot Survey

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

Methodology and Approach

- **Survey method:** The YSPS readily lends itself to the pen and paper, mail-out/mail-back method of data collection and, therefore, is the method recommended for a national survey of youth shelters. YSPS respondents were often required to refer to records in order to provide some of the information requested on the survey. Using a mail-out/mail-back method to gather data gave respondents the opportunity to easily consult necessary documentation. While pen and paper, mail-out/mail-back surveys have the advantage of being more cost effective than other methods, they carry the disadvantage of being associated with lower response rates. However in light of the respectable response rate (78%) that was obtained on the pilot survey, a pen and paper, mail-out/mail-back questionnaire remains the preferable method of data collection for a national survey.
- **Survey frame:** It is recommended that a national survey of youth shelters be a census of all facilities offering residential services to youth across Canada. Currently, there is no comprehensive frame of youth shelters. Therefore, such a frame must be built if a national survey is to be conducted. When building the survey frame, one of the issues to be addressed is the development of clearer criteria for determining which shelters are in or out of scope. Specifically, the definitions for 'youth', 'youth shelter' and the various types of residential facilities must be refined. It is further recommended that the construction of a national frame of youth shelters be undertaken in consultation with Statistics Canada methodologists as well as other various groups such as the Residential Care Facility (RCF) Survey at Statistics Canada, relevant federal/provincial/municipal government departments, and representatives from the youth sheltering community.
- **Shelters surveyed:** A census of all youth shelters is recommended for a national survey. However, the YSPS studied a limited number of shelters. Hence, some regions of the country, particularly the territories were not represented on the pilot survey. Also, among certain types of facilities the number of shelters included on the YSPS was small. Therefore, consultations with those under-represented on the pilot survey such as certain facility-types (e.g., homes for pregnant teens, group homes for troubled youth and drug and alcohol recovery facilities) as well as shelters located in the territories are strongly recommended.
- **Survey content:** It is recommended that the questionnaire for a national survey of youth shelters be modelled after the YSPS. The survey content for the YSPS covers a variety of topics, providing wealth of information about youth facilities and their clients. Moreover, YSPS participants were able to successfully respond

to the questionnaire in general, and to key information-items in particular. It is also recommended that a national survey collect information for youth residents by sex. While this type of information was not always provided on the YSPS, it was offered by a majority of respondents. It is not recommended however, that detailed information about dependent children be included on a national survey of youth shelters, since according to the YSPS very few dependent children use these facilities.

Profile of YSPS Facilities

- **Question on the number of licensed beds:** The question on the number of licensed beds in youth shelters should be included on a national survey. However, bed counts for dependent children should be excluded on a national version of the survey. It is also recommended that a 'generic' reporting category which allows respondents to state the number of beds that are not designated for use by any particular sex or group be included, along with the categories counting the number of beds for male youth and female youth.
- **Questions on annual admissions:** For a national survey of youth shelters, data on annual admissions of this nature should be collected and it should also be gathered by sex. Not only were most YSPS respondents able to provide this information, but initial analysis of the data yields interesting differences between male and female youth. Findings from the YSPS also illustrate the previously mentioned need to revisit the definitions and classifications for facility-types. For example, further consultation and consideration may dictate re-classifying or collapsing pre-existing categories. While in general it is being recommended that information on dependent children not be collected on a national survey, annual admission counts for dependent children should be collected. In this way, a sense of the number of dependent children served by youth shelters can be gained with a minimum burden to respondents.
- **Questions on services:** Respondents to the YSPS readily provided information to the questions pertaining to their facilities' services to current residents, former residents and non-residents. Thus, it is recommended that questions similar to those used on the YSPS be included on a national survey, with some minor alterations. Specifically, for the question on the accessibility of services in different languages, the list of languages could be shortened, since there were several which were not applicable or applicable only to a very small percentage of shelters. Also, since very few shelters on the YSPS offered assistance with pet accommodation, this service could be excluded on the national survey. In addition, none of the YSPS shelters were located on a reserve and a small percentage served reserve communities. Therefore, it is recommended that representatives from on-reserve youth shelters and youth shelters serving reserves be included in the consultation process for the development of a national survey.
- **Questions on annual repairs and improvements:** This set of questions on annual repairs and improvements should be included on a national survey of youth shelters. While a fair proportion of YSPS respondents did not provide

actual or estimated costs for their facilities' repairs and improvements, about two-thirds did.

- **Questions on annual revenues and expenditures:** It is recommended that a national survey of youth shelters comprise questions on annual revenues and expenditures similar to those from the YSPS. However before adding these financial questions to a national survey, the appropriateness of the revenue and expenditure categories for youth shelters should be reviewed. Additionally, the creation of new categories specifically for expenses associated with fundraising and interest should also be considered. Furthermore, in the event that a national survey of shelters is conducted on regular basis (i.e., annually, biennially) the inclusion of revenue and expenditure questions on every cycle should be discussed. Greater respondent burden is associated with these types of financial questions.

Profile of YSPS Residents

- **Questions on survey snap-shot day admissions:** The questions on survey day admissions appearing on the YSPS would form a vital part of a national survey of youth shelters and thus, should be included on a national questionnaire. Further, results from the YSPS strongly support the feasibility and utility of collecting this admissions information by sex at the national level. However, YSPS findings call into question the usefulness of attempting to collect such information for dependent children. Therefore to reduce respondent burden on the national survey, the questions on the number of dependent children staying in youth shelters on survey snap-shot day by primary reason should be replaced by a more general question that asks only for the total number of dependent children residing in youth shelters on survey day, regardless of the reason.
- **Questions on characteristics of YSPS residents:** Results from the resident characteristics posed on the YSPS support the inclusion of comparable questions on a national survey of youth shelters. However, alternate response categories for the types of disabilities should be developed for use on a national survey, as the disabilities listed on the YSPS applied to very few YSPS shelter residents with a disability. It is recommended that categories such as learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and mental health disabilities be substituted for mobility, visual and hearing disabilities. In addition, it is suggested that questions on the characteristics of dependent children (i.e., age and disability) be dropped for the national survey.
- **Questions on departures and individuals turned away from YSPS shelters:** Drawing on the results from the YSPS, it is recommended that a national survey include these questions on resident departures and individuals turned away from shelters on survey snap-shot day. The proportion of shelters responding to these questions was relatively low – just under one-third of facilities reported departures on survey day and one-fifth indicated that they had referred people elsewhere. However, it is important to note that for many facilities, these questions may not have been applicable. If no one left or was turned away from a shelter on survey snap-shot day, then respondents could have elected to leave

the questions pertaining to departures and 'turn-aways' blank. Therefore, it is also recommended that the questionnaire be designed so that those for whom these questions are not applicable can be clearly distinguished from others not responding to these items.

Future Issues and Challenges

- **Questions on future issues and challenges:** The YSPS questions on the issues and challenges that shelters and their residents will likely face in the upcoming year should be included on the national version of a youth shelter survey. However, a change in question formatting should be considered for the full survey. On the YSPS, these questions were open-ended. For a national survey of youth shelters, however, a combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions is recommended. According to the YSPS, the issues and challenges cited by many facilities were relatively similar. Therefore, the most common responses given on the YSPS could be used to develop a set of objective response categories. Then, an 'other' option with a space to write-in a specific response could be added to the list of pre-established categories to capture any additional issues or challenges.

II. NEXT STEPS

- Development of costing options
- Funding partners sought
- Undertake broader consultations
- Confirm survey definitions, methodology and approach
- Develop sampling frame

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