

Barriers and Opportunities for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

A survey was distributed to young people aged 16-29 from the City of Toronto and received 120 responses. The only requirement to participate was that youth lived in Toronto. The purpose of the survey was to try and understand the opportunities and barriers to employment for young people amidst the Covid19 pandemic. Using a control group, the survey compares employment experiences of youth currently experiencing homelessness to those who were not in order to establish core differences in each demographic.

OUR DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS INCLUDED:

- Couch-surfing
(eg. staying at a friend/family's place)
- Using shelter services
(emergency shelter, youth shelter, family shelter)
- Sleeping rough *(having to sleep outdoors)*
- Housing instability
(periods of instability where you were forced to leave your home)
- Other experiences not defined



This is what the 61 youth that are currently experiencing homelessness have to say

75%

Youth experiencing homelessness strongly disagree that they are satisfied by their employment situation.

88%

of them disagree or strongly disagree that they have the resources (eg. Laptop, clothing, space, Presto) they need to work

HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE/DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS
(I want my own business one day)

83%

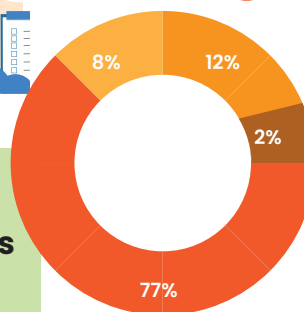
want to have their own business one day



HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE/DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS
(My housing situation impacts my ability to find work)

90%

agree or strongly agree that their housing situation impacts their ability to find work



85%

agree or strongly agree they want a chance to pursue further education

The biggest barriers to employment for those 61 youth experiencing homelessness include: Covid19 restrictions (63%), short-term job placements/contracts not renewed (50%) and moving, unstable housing or no fixed address (93%)

