

# HOW DO THEY SURVIVE WHEN THEY ARE ALONE?

"Once these youth are on the streets, there are few legitimate means of survival. Although some try various kinds of delinquent activity such as selling drugs, stealing, and panhandling, one of the most common means of obtaining funds is through "survival" sex. Few young women who are on the streets for any period of time fail to become involved and, although young males have more options available for survival, they too are likely to become involved in hustling or other forms of "survival" sex. Street youth often exchange sexual activity for food, shelter, drugs, or protection, from someone who is older and more streetwise (24)."

"THE PROBLEMS OF HOMELESS AND RUNAWAY YOUTH SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH ROOTS IN POVERTY AND VICTIMIZATION. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OFTEN VICTIMIZED WITHIN THE FAMILY AND THEN EXPLOITED ON THE STREET. EXPLOITATION, VICTIMIZATION, AND EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE FURTHER INFRINGES ON THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS."

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[HTTP://WWW.ADOLESCENTHEALTH.ORG/SAMFIN/AL/ACTIVITIES/POSITION/HOMELESS.HTML](http://www.adolescenthealth.org/samfin/al/activities/position/homeless.html)

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY LOCATED IN: THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE ARCHIVES AT [WWW.AUSCHRON.COM](http://WWW.AUSCHRON.COM)

# HOMELESS YOUTH



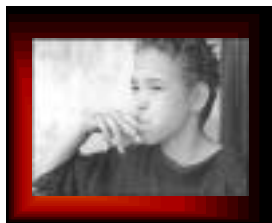
IN

# AMERICA

# WHO ARE OUR CHILDREN?



"Throwaways." These are defined as youth who have left home because their parents have abandoned them, asked them to leave, or subjected them to extreme levels of abuse or neglect. Many in this group may have spent time previously with relatives or had periods of residence in foster care."



"Systems Youth. These children, though similar in most respects to runaways, frequently have had no recent family contact but have been living in private or public institutions or foster homes and have been unable to tolerate their living situations. They are generally not part of the growing number of families using shelter services. They have left to become part of the runaway subculture. Many have spent a large portion of their lives in institutional care and they have frequently run from these institutions or foster care. The younger ones are usually returned, but by the time they are age 11 to 12 years, most are unwilling to return and remain on the streets."



"Runaways. These, youth leave home because of problems with parents, such as neglect, abuse, or serious conflicts. They leave for long periods of time, often progressing from repeat runaway to chronic runaway to street youth. The latter do not return home at all, but live in transitory housing, such as friends' apartments, shelters, cheap hotels, or abandoned buildings ("squats"). These youth are usually totally on their own for their survival and are frequent victims of the violence and numerous dangers of the streets."



# WHERE DO THEY LIVE?