



**HOMESPACE**  
WORKING TO CHANGE TWO GENERATIONS AT A TIME



**2019**

**CENSUS**  
overview



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# Our Mission

Homespace supports at-risk young women to achieve independence two generations at a time.



## Our Vision

Homespace Corporation strives to be the premier agency in WNY that provides services for at-risk young women and empowers them to be independent members of the community.

## Our Values

Family  
Self-Sufficiency  
Responsibility  
Security  
Resilience

# Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP)

## Local Statistics on Foster Care

In New York State approximately 25,300 children and youth are in out-of-home placement within any given year. Homespace currently contracts with 8 NYS Counties: Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Onondaga, and Schuyler.

25,300

Erie County represents nearly 5,000 children and youth annually. The majority of these youth and children end up in foster homes and/or kinship care.



## How Homespace Made a Difference



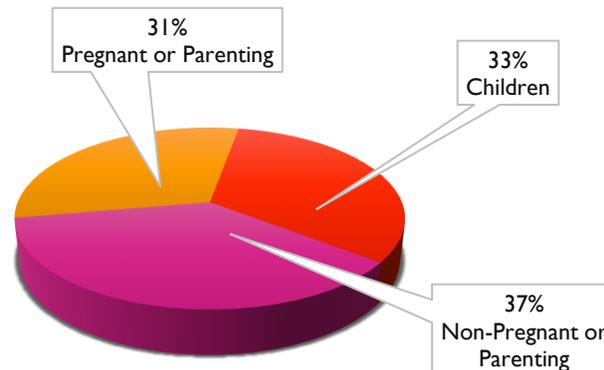
Homespace SILP was created in response to the unmet needs of housing and independent living services for young pregnant and/or parenting women in the Erie County foster care system.

Over the years we have expanded to provide housing and comprehensive services not only to pregnant and parenting youth, but also single young women in foster care throughout the Western New York area.

49 Total Clients

Served in 2019

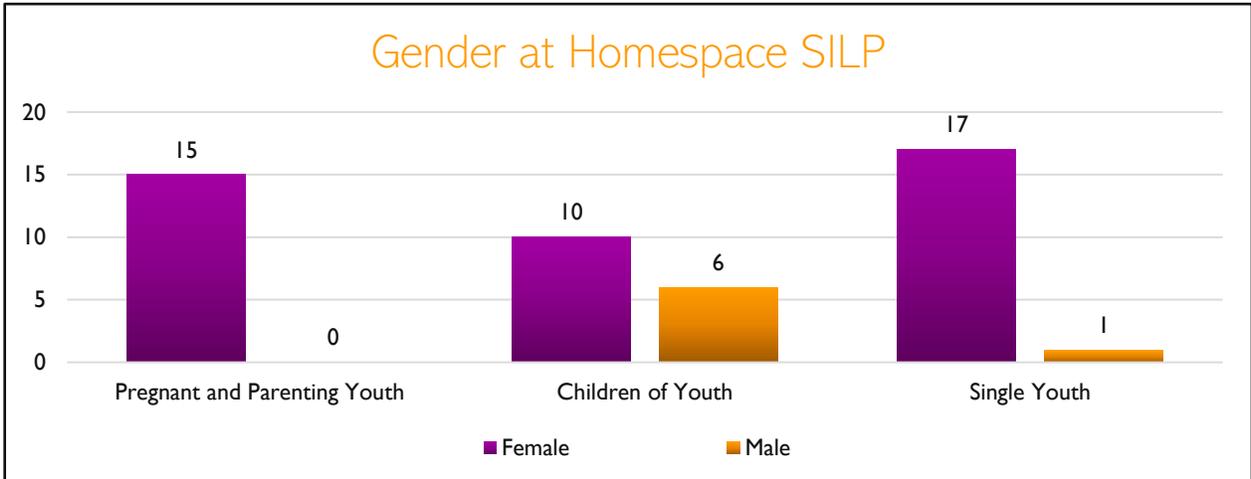
- 15 Pregnant or Parenting Youth
- 16 Children
- 18 Single Youth



# Gender & Ethnicity Data

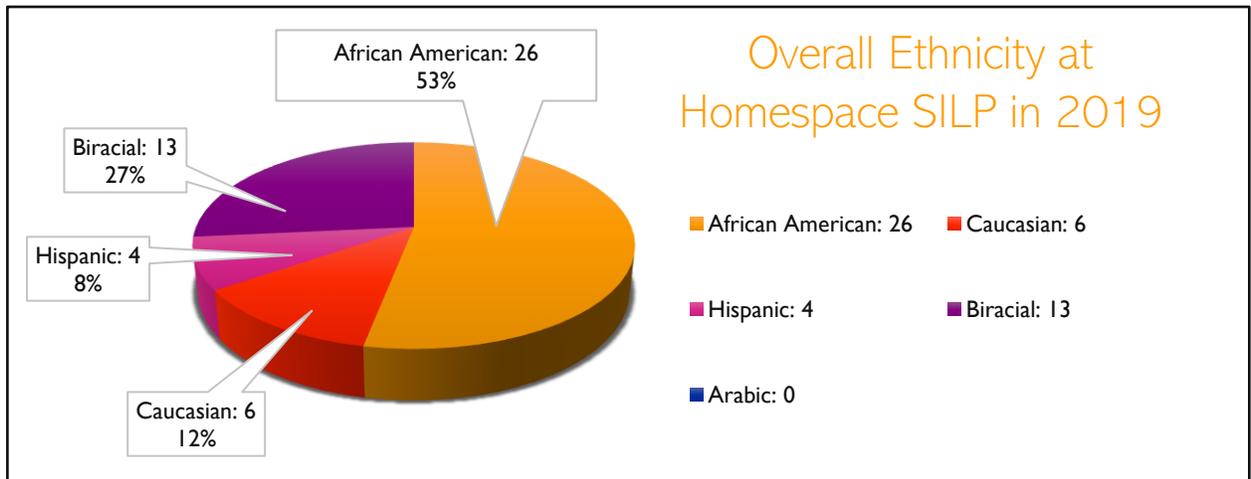
Gender	Female	Male
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	15	0
Children	10	6
Single Youth	17	1

THE FOLLOWING DEMOGRAPHICS PERTAIN TO ALL RESIDENTS RESIDING AT HOMESPACE SILP THROUGHOUT 2019, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ADMISSION DATE.



In future reporting, we may no longer see data broke out into gender categories. Homespace is aligned with New York State’s commitment to SOGIE, which stands for “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression.” Homespace is committed to maintaining a safe space for all youth.

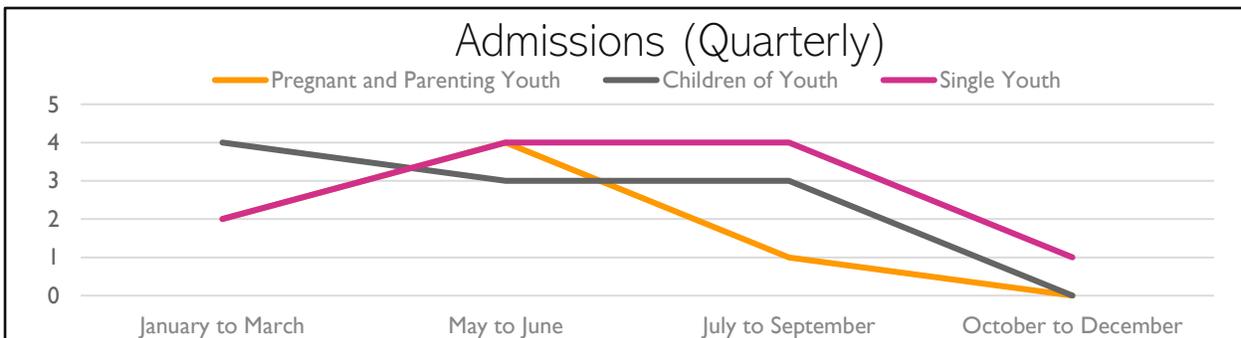
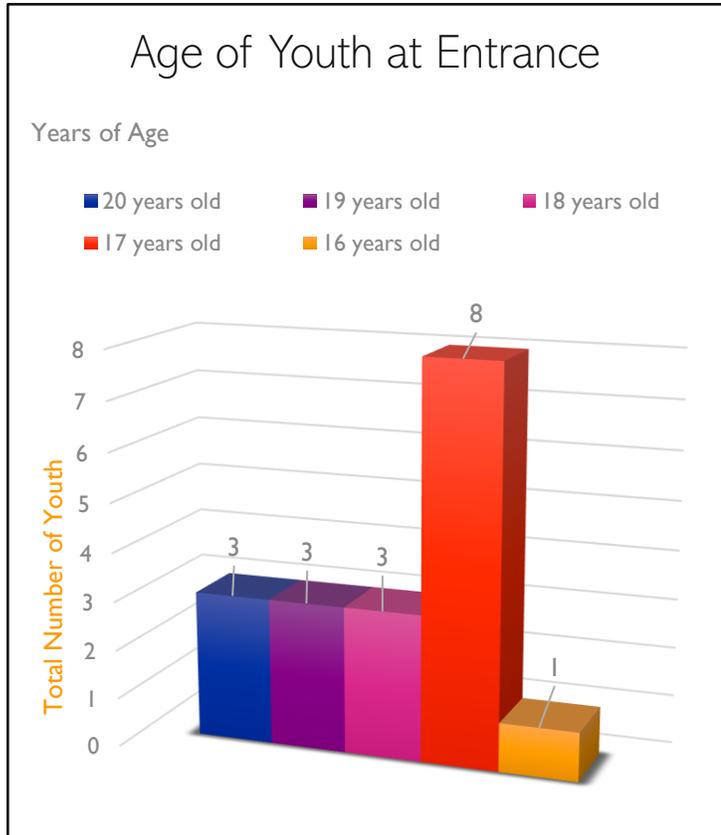
Ethnicity	Pregnant/ Parenting	Children	Single
African-American	9	8	9
Caucasian	1	0	5
Hispanic	1	0	3
Biracial	4	8	1
Arabic	0	0	0



# Admissions Data

<b>Total admissions in 2019</b>	<b>28</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	7
Children	10
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)	11

<b>January to March</b>	<b>8</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	2
Children	4
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)	2
<b>April to June</b>	<b>11</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	4
Children	3
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)	4
<b>July to September</b>	<b>8</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	1
Children	3
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)	4
<b>October to December</b>	<b>1</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	0
Children	0
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)	1



<b>District of Origin (youth only)</b>	
Erie County	15
Niagara County	3

<b>Original Reason for Admissions (youth only)</b>	
Person in Need of Supervision (PINS)	4
Juvenile Delinquent	2
Abuse/Neglect	8
Voluntary/Re-Enter	4

<b>Placement Prior to Intake (youth only)</b>	
Second Chance Group Home	2
Next Step Group Home	3
Other Group Home	3
Foster Home	2
Residential Placement	2
Home	3
Homeless	3

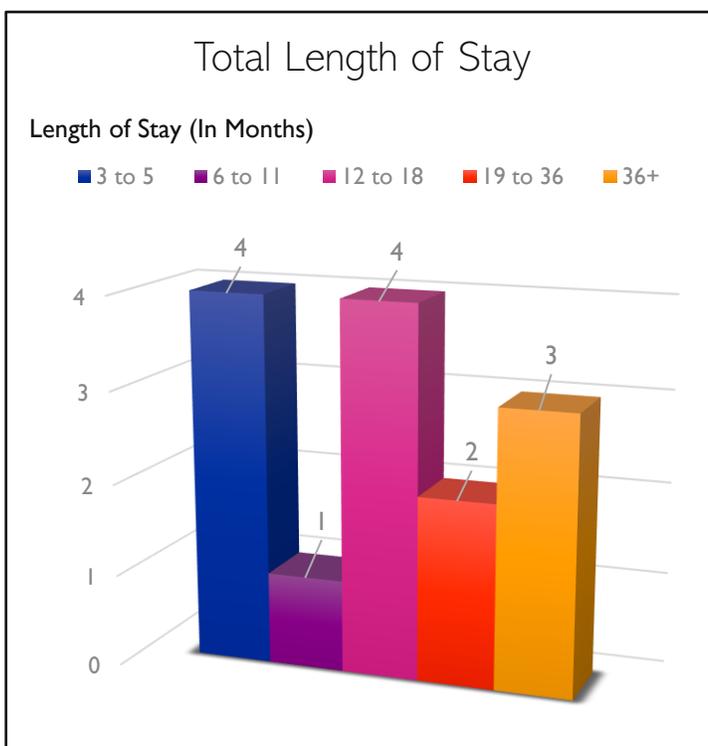
# Discharge Data

<b>Total discharges in 2019</b>	<b>22</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	6
Children	8
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)	8

<b>Number of Children in Family at Exit</b>	
Pregnant	0
Pregnant and have 1 Child	1
1 Child	4
2 Children	1

<b>Location of Youth After Discharge (regardless of reason)</b>	
Group Home (not SCH/NS)	1
Next Step (HS Group Home)	2
Homeless	0
Another SILP Program	0
Own Apartment	8
Relative's Home	1
Foster Home	2

<b>Youth Initiated (Voluntary Discharges)</b>	<b>11</b>
Aged Out (Turned 21 years old)	6
Signed themselves out of program prior to turning 21	5
<b>Staff Initiated Involuntary Discharges</b>	<b>3</b>
Needed a higher level of care than a SILP	3



In 2019, the vast majority of discharges from Homespace Supervised Independent Living Program were initiated by youth. These voluntary discharges are considered “successful” because it signals that the youth chose to leave the program on their own. There were 11 total successful discharges. Out of the 11, 6 youth aged out of foster care when they turned 21 years old and 5 youth over the age of 18 years old voluntarily signed themselves out of care.

Discharges are sometimes initiated by staff due to program non-compliance, which is considered involuntary or “unsuccessful.” In 2019, only 3 out of 14 total discharges were staff-initiated. These youth were discharged to place them in a higher level of care. Typically, involuntary discharges are due to lack of compliance with a behavior support plan. Some behaviors that could lead to involuntary discharge include drug use, continued missed curfew, and serious conflicts with other youth within the program.

# Education & Employment



In 2019, 22 youth who were residents of Homespace SILP had completed a highschool education. Out of the 33 total youth that Homespace SILP served in 2019, 11 (33%) have yet to earn their high school diploma and/or high school equivalency.

Out of those 11 youth who were still working towards their highschool education, 5 youth (45%) were enrolled and actively attending classes while at Homespace. Barriers that were reported as to why youth were not enrolled and/or actively attending school included frustration with lack of support in GED programming, a need for employment and issues obtaining reliable quality childcare for their children.

The majority of youth at Homespace SILP were employed in 2019. Out of the 33 total youth, 25 (76%) were employed at some point during the year. This includes part time employment, full time employment, and paid internships.

Employment fields that continue to be the most popular among our residents include health care (CNA and PCA), call centers, retail, and fast food. Residents continue to report barriers to finding and maintaining employment as, first and foremost, a need to focus on their education. Youth have also struggled with a lack of transportation and lack consistent daycare, especially outside of normal business hours.



Youth Employment and Education (Status in 2019, at the time of discharge)	
Employed	8
Unemployed	6
Enrolled in High School/GED	9
Enrolled in College	2
Enrolled in Vocational School	1
High School/GED Graduates *all enrolled in post-secondary education	6
Not Enrolled in School, No Degree	2



# Second Chance Mother / Baby Group Home



## How Second Chance Home Made a Difference



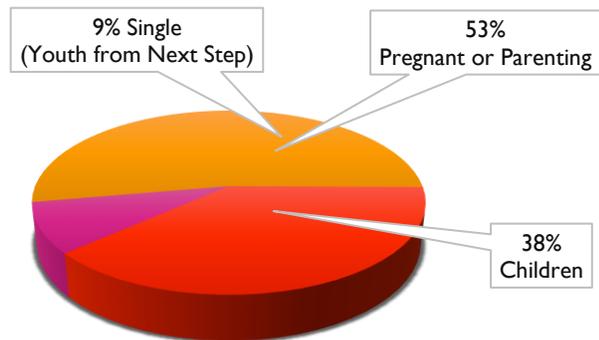
Second Chance Home is a mother/baby group home designed to meet the needs of homeless and at-risk teenage mothers. These young women range in age from 14-21 years old. Our program focuses on using the Trauma Informed Care Model to embrace the needs of our youth and deliver services that are based on trust, safety, choice, empowerment, and collaboration.



This congregate-style mother/baby group home is a place for young new mothers to learn the skills they need to become productive and independent members of our community. By providing services and stability for these parents, we have the unique opportunity to change two generations at a time.

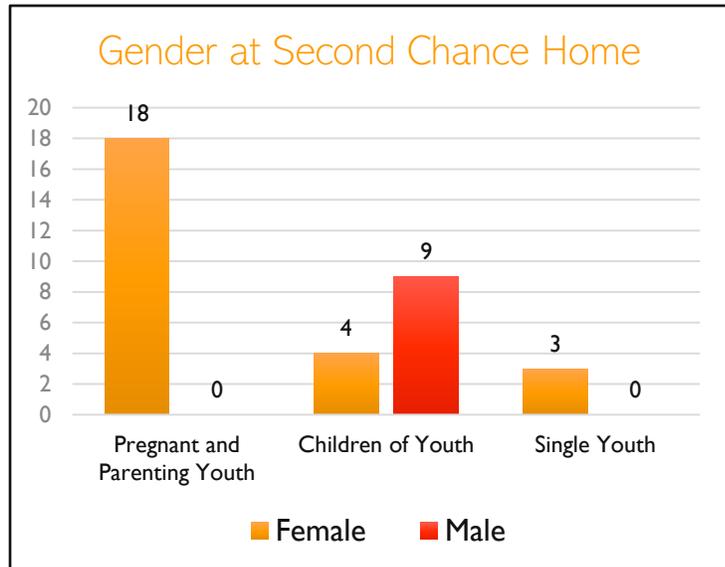
## Total Clients Served in 2019

- 18 Pregnant or Parenting Youth
- 13 Children
- 3 Single (Youth from Next Step)

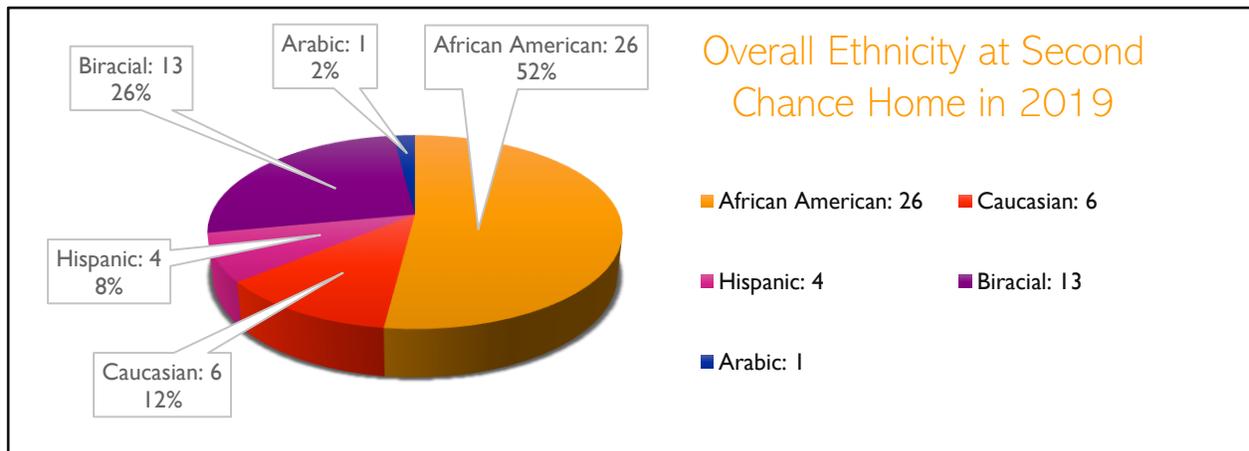


# Gender & Ethnicity Data

Gender	Female	Male
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	18	0
Children	4	9
Single Youth	3	0



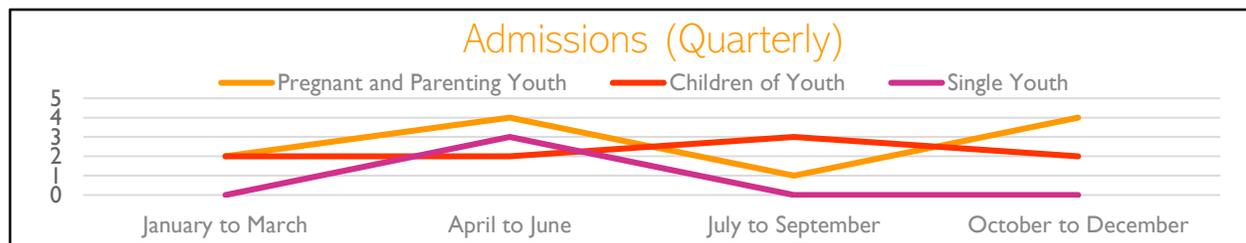
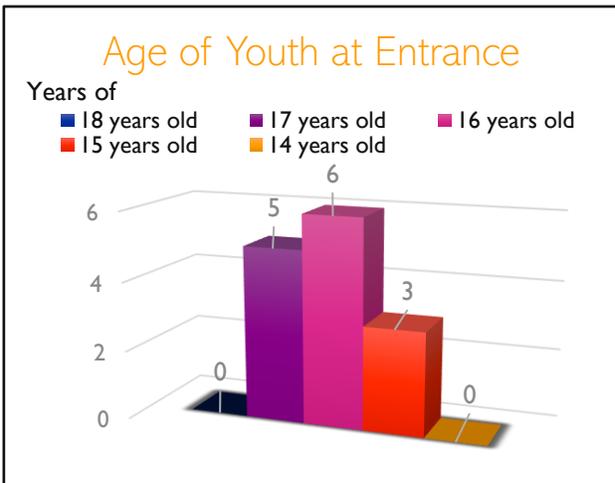
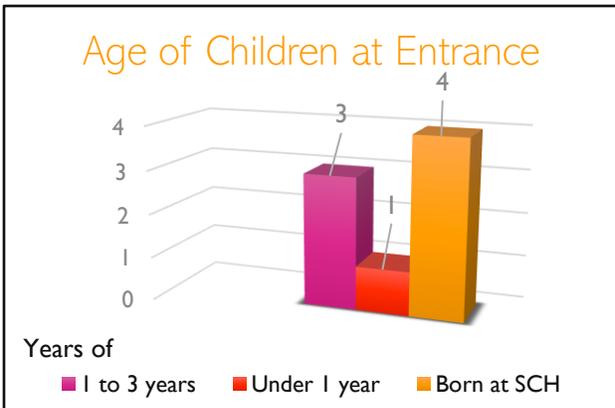
Ethnicity	Pregnant/ Parenting	Children	Single
African-American	9	8	9
Caucasian	1	0	5
Hispanic	1	0	3
Biracial	4	8	1
Arabic	1	0	0



# Admissions Data

Total admissions in 2019		23
Pregnant and Parenting Youth		11
Children born to residents while living at SCH		4
Children admitted with their mother		4
Children reunited with their mother		1
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)		3

<b>January to March</b>		<b>4</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth		2
Children		2
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)		0
<b>April to June</b>		<b>9</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth		4
Children		2
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)		3
<b>July to September</b>		<b>4</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth		1
Children		3
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)		0
<b>October to December</b>		<b>6</b>
Pregnant and Parenting Youth		4
Children		2
Single (Non-Pregnant/Parenting)		0



Original Reason for Admissions (youth only)	
Person in Need of Supervision (PINS)	4
Juvenile Delinquent	2
Abuse/Neglect	8
Voluntary/Re-Enter	4
District of Origin (youth only)	
Erie County	15
Niagara County	3

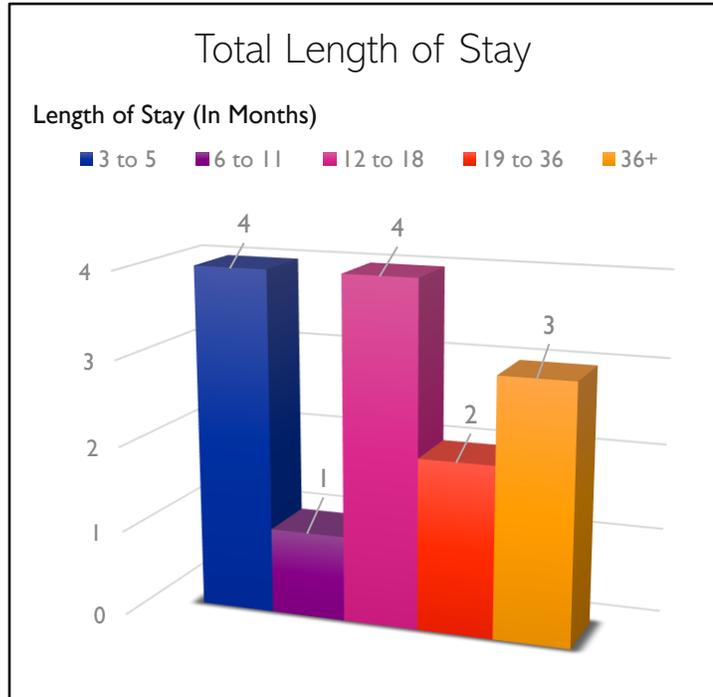
Placement Prior to Intake (youth only)	
Second Chance Group Home	2
Next Step Group Home	3
Other Group Home	3
Foster Home	2
Residential Placement	2
Home	3
Homeless	3

# Discharge Data

<b>Total discharged in 2019:</b>	<b>24</b>
Pregnant and parenting youth	13
Children	8
Single	3

<b>Number of Children in Family at Exit</b>	
Pregnant	5
1 Child	7
2 Children	1
3+ Children	0

<b>Location of Youth After Discharge (regardless of reason)</b>	
Group Home (not SCH/NS)	1
Next Step (HS Group Home)	2
Homeless	3
Homespace SILP Program	3
Own Apartment	1
Relative's Home	5
Foster Home	1



In 2019, most discharges from Second Chance Home were initiated by youth. These voluntary discharges are considered “successful” because it signals that the youth chose to leave the program on their own. There were 9 total successful discharges. Out of the 9, 6 youth achieved permanency with family members and 3 youth successfully transitioned to the Homespace Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP).

Discharges are sometimes initiated by staff due to program non-compliance, which is considered involuntary or “unsuccessful.” In 2019, only 2 out of 16 total discharges were staff-initiated. These youth were discharged to place them in a higher level of care. Unfortunately, involuntary discharges also can include youth who AWOL.

Finally, there were two discharges from Second Chance Home which were due to youth originally placed at Next Step Agency Operated Boarding Home (AOBH) returning to their program when it re-opened after it was paused for restructuring.

<b>Youth Initiated (Voluntary Discharges)</b>	<b>9</b>
Permanency Acheived	6
Transitioned to Homespace SILP	3
<b>Staff Initiated (Involuntary Discharges)</b>	<b>5</b>
Needed a higher level of care	2
AWOL	3
Returned to Next Step	2



# Education & Employment



Although only one out of the 16 youth living at Second Chance Home earned their highschool diploma or equivalency in 2019, 14 were enrolled and actively attending classes during the school year. The one youth who was not attending school in 2019 was awaiting a school placement.

During 2019, one resident was employed at some point during the year. This includes part time employment, full time employment, and paid internships. Barriers that residents reported to becoming and/or staying employed included: a need to focus on their education, lack of consistent daycare especially outside of normal business hours, and spending time parenting their children.

Youth Employment and Education  
(Status in 2019, at the time of discharge)

Employed	1
Unemployed	5
Enrolled in High School/GED	4
Not Enrolled in School, No Degree	2



# Youth-Parent Resource & Empowerment Program (Y-PREP)

## How Y-PREP Made a Difference



The Youth Parent Resource & Empowerment Program (Y-PREP) was designed to serve youth who are pregnant or parenting, male or female, within or after leaving the foster care system. These services are provided to youth under the age of 22 who meet certain criteria.

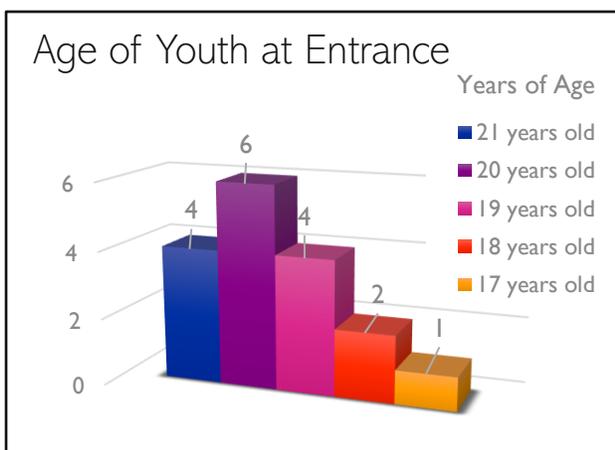
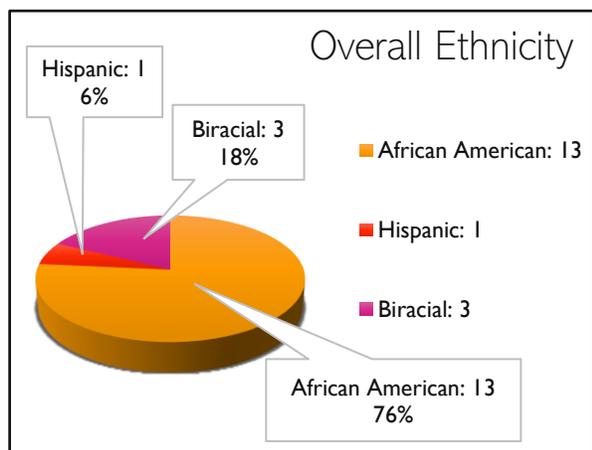
Criteria for eligibility includes: being at risk for dropping out of school, having poor school attendance, disruptive behaviors, involvement in the juvenile justice system, and/or child protective services.

## Admissions Data

<b>Total Clients Served in 2019</b>	<b>17</b>
Female Parents	16
Male Parents	1
<b>Total Admissions in 2019</b>	<b>13</b>
Referred by Homespace	7
Referred by a Parent or Self	4
Referred Directly by Erie County DSS	4
Referred by Legal Aid	1
Referred by Another Service Provider	1

Out of the 13 total youth admitted, 7 were referred to Y-PREP from another program within Homespace. This is a good indicator that Y-PREP is providing continuity of care and continued support to youth and families who need assistance while transitioning into independent living.

Youth engaged in the Y-PREP Program have a Case Manager and Independent Living Trainer who develop a partnership with the youth and any community or family members available. This partnership is built on trust and safety and is designed to provide support, guidance, and individualized training. The Independent Living Trainer's role is to teach important life skills which are associated with all facets of education, vocation, financial success, and parenting skills development.



# Discharge Data

Total Discharges		12
Aged Out (Turned 22 years old)		5
Chose to discontinue services		3
Program non-compliance/ not meeting with workers		1
Moved to SILP/Re-Entered Care		3
Length of Stay (LOS)		
3 to 8 months		6
9 to 18 months		3
18+		3



# Education & Employment



Youth Employment and Education	
Employed	7
Unemployed	5
Enrolled in Educational Programs	6
High School Graduate	4
Did Not Complete School/ Not Enrolled	2

The youth enrolled in our Y-PREP program focused on many goals this year including securing housing, enrolling in mental health treatment, finding employment, obtaining health care for themselves and their children and building healthy connections to their community.

The Y-PREP Program provides each youth with an individualized plan to meet their specific needs. Specific needs associated with being a young parent include factors such as birthing options, pre- and post-natal care, healthy parenting styles, coping skills, stress management, healthy relationships, educational and vocational goals, and financial planning.

Services provide critical support through one on one meetings, group sessions/training groups, and experiential learning to improve on their skill sets. Ongoing crisis management is provided through an on-call system as well as any appropriate clinical services to meet the youth's needs. Homespace strives to foster an environment in which young families can learn to grow, communicate, and care for each other with the ultimate goal of producing a stable, healthy, and functional family unit.



# Next Step

## How Next Step Made a Difference



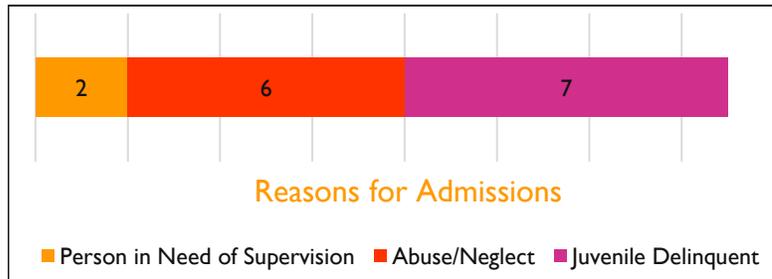
Next Step is our Agency Operated Boarding Home (AOBH) designed to provide housing and services to young woman without children ages 14-21. This program was opened in September 2018 to meet the need of young woman being referred from residential treatment programs to our Homespace SILP.

Data indicated that these youth were statistically more likely to be unsuccessfully discharged from our SILP due to not having adequate independent living skills. Next Step assists these young women to transition first to the group home where they are offered intensive Independent Living Training. Additionally, they are linked with community resources that will support a transition to our SILP within 2-6 months.

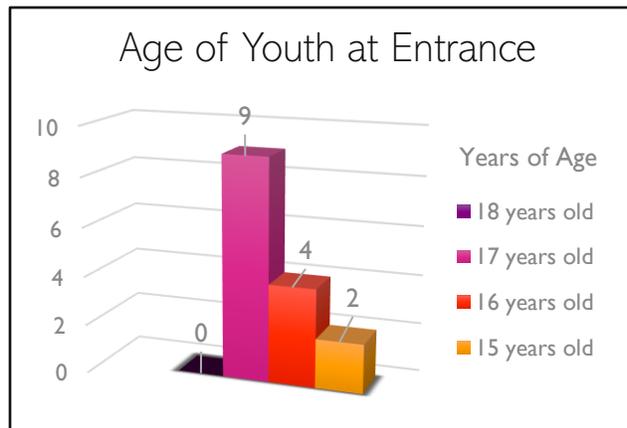
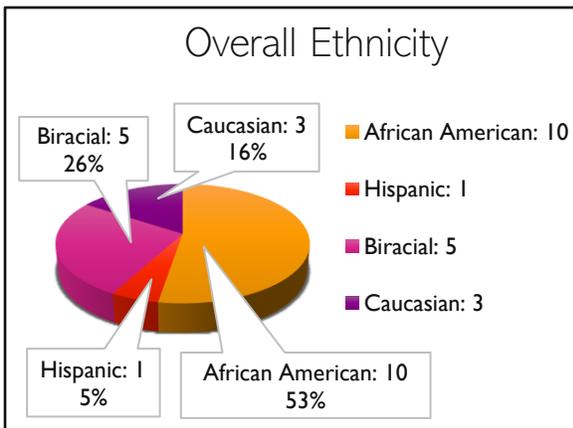
## Admissions Data

<b>Total Clients Served</b>	<b>19</b>
Total Admissions in 2019	15

<b>Admission Dates</b>	<b>15</b>
January to March	6
April to June	4
July to September	3
October to December	2



<b>Referral Sources in 2019</b>	
Referred by Erie County DSS	12
Referred by Niagara County DSS	1
Referred by Onondaga/Chautauqua OCFS	1
Referred by Monroe County DSS	1



## Discharge Data

<b>Total Discharges</b>	<b>14</b>
Permanency Achieved	3
Youth Needed a Higher Level of Care	5
Youth Needed a Lower Level of Care	4
AWOL	2

<b>Length of Stay</b>	
0 to 3 months	9
4 to 6 months	5



## Education & Employment



Out of the total 19 youth that Next Step served in 2019, only one completed their highschool diploma/equivalency. However, 14 of the other 18 youth were enrolled in school and actively attending classes while living at Next Step. The remaining 4 youth who were not enrolled in school was due to them awaiting a school placement while at Next Step. Next Step continues to provide the structure and support necessary to complete this level of education. During 2019, 3 youth were employed at some point.



# Behavioral Health Services

Understanding and treating trauma and complex trauma has been a major focus of Homespace Corporation for many years.

However, in 2019 we began, with the help of The Office of Mental Health (OMH) and The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), to assist the youth in our programs to address and heal from their traumas in a more strategic way than ever before. Homespace has been able to provide its residents with on-site comprehensive mental health counseling and support through the implementation of **Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)**.

As we have no doubt shared many times, 100% of the youth served at Homespace have experienced some type of trauma in their lives. Trauma commonly associated with youth in foster care can include a variety of experiences including (but not limited to): removal and separation from their family of origin, sexual abuse, sexual assault, unexpected death of a loved one through traumatic events such as drug overdose, homicide, or suicide, severe and persistent neglect throughout childhood and adolescence, witnessing or experiencing domestic violence and physical violence both within the home and the community.



Although the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-V) from the American Psychiatric Association does not currently acknowledge Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD) as a separate condition, several mental health diagnoses are statistically common among individuals who have experienced complex trauma. Some conditions and diagnoses associated with complex trauma include but are not limited to: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Mood Disorders such as Depression and Anxiety severe enough to meet clinical criteria. In addition, it is also common for individuals with exposure to trauma to seek out illicit drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism, further complicating their mental and behavioral health treatment with substance abuse disorders.



Historically, residents of Homespace Corporation have been highly unlikely to independently seek out or actively engage with mental health services in the community. This lack of participation in Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment can be explained with a variety of reasons, for example: previous negative interactions with providers, lack of transportation, cultural negative stigmas of mental health services, etc. With the implementation of CFTSS services at Homespace, and their availability to all youth in our care, we hope to increase active treatment, program compliance, and thus the ultimate success of our youth.

Now, every youth who enters care at Homespace receives an initial evaluation by a licensed social worker or mental health professional. From this initial evaluation, our on-site clinicians can recommend and provide a variety of unique services. Unlike traditional services, Homespace provides specialized services which can include counseling sessions in the youth's residence, hands-on assistance with independent daily living skills development, recreational opportunities that incorporate healthy habits, and emotional well-being. These types of services are crucial for the foster care population because they are less stigmatizing and more accessible over all.

Since Homespace has begun offering CFTSS services in 2019, 26 youth throughout our programs have been linked with, and actively participating in these services. This number is anticipated to grow exponentially in 2020 as CFTSS becomes more familiar to Homespace Staff at all levels and our Behavioral Health Department continues to grow and refine itself.

Whenever necessary and appropriate, Homespace clinicians have been able to link youth to outside providers who can offer additional specialized services and treatment plans such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Treatment, Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and Psychiatric Treatment involving the prescription and monitoring of psychotropic medications.

At Homespace, we believe that access to on-site clinicians who can support these additional services will prove to encourage and reinforce more consistent engagement with mental health services within the community. In 2019, 23 out of 26 youth engaged in CFTSS services supplemented their on-site services with outside providers. This includes 6 youth who received crucial additional supports in the area of substance abuse treatment and prevention through clinics and/or peer supports such as Narcotics Anonymous.



It is our goal at Homespace that 100% of youth served in 2020 will receive some method of formal support and treatment to increase their mental and emotional well-being.



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