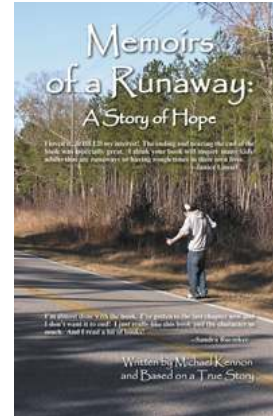


Runaway Statistics and Resources

Compiled by Michael Kennon
Author of "Memoirs of a Runaway"

According to Runawayteens.org and 1800runaway.org, "one in seven kids between the ages of 10 and 18 will run away at some point. There are 1 million to 3 million runaway and homeless kids living on the streets in the United States."



Motivations for running away:

- 47% of runaway/homeless youth indicated that conflict between them and their parent or guardian was a major problem.
- Over 50% of youth in shelters and on the streets reported that their parents either told them to leave or knew they were leaving but did not care.
- 80% of runaway and homeless girls reported having been sexually or physically abused. 34% of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported sexual abuse before leaving home and 43% of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported physical abuse before leaving home.
- Childhood abuse increases youths' risk for later victimization on the street. Physical abuse is associated with elevated risk of assaults for runaway and homeless youth, while sexual abuse is associated with higher risk of rape for runaway and homeless youth.

Risk factors associated with running away:

- Over 70% of runaway and throwaway youth in 2002 were estimated to be endangered, based on 17 indicators of harm or potential risk. The most common endangerment component was physical or sexual abuse at home or fear of abuse upon return. The second most common endangerment component was the youth's substance dependency.
- 12% of runaway and homeless youth spent at least one night outside, in a park, on the street, under a bridge or overhang, or on a rooftop.
- 7% of youth in runaway and homeless youth shelters and 14% of youth on the street had traded sex for money, food, shelter, or drugs in the last twelve months when surveyed in 1995.
- 32% of runaway and homeless youth have attempted suicide at some point in their lives.
- Approximately 48.2% of youth living on the street and 33.2% of youth living in a shelter

reported having been pregnant.

- *50% of homeless youth age 16 or older reported having dropped out of school, having been expelled, or having been suspended.*

Demographics of runaways:

- *Runaway youth are 50% male and 50% female, although females are more likely to seek help through shelters and hotlines.*
- *40% of youth in shelters and on the street have come from families that received public assistance or lived in publicly assisted housing.*

Contact Phone Numbers:

- <http://www.runawayteens.org/> Contact number 786-317-8774
- **TOLL FREE**
<http://www.1800runaway.org> Call 1-800-RUNAWAY
- **INTERNATIONAL**
"Just Say No" International - Drug & Alcohol Help 800-258-2766 (24 hrs)
- **CANADA**

Kid's Help Phone 1-800-668-6868 (24 hrs)

AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Diseases Info 1-800-772-2437

End Abuse - Domestic Assault Line 1-800-END-ABUSE (24 hrs)

Zenith Child Abuse Reporting & Help Dial the Operator and ask for "Zenith 1234" (24 hrs)

- **USA**

Eating Disorders Help Line 1-800-382-2832 (24 hrs)

Domestic Abuse/Assault 1-800-333-SAFE (24 hrs)

Teen AIDS Line 800-234-TEEN (Mon-Fri) 800-440-TEEN (weekends)

National AIDS Line 1- 800-342-AIDS

National Teen Gay & Lesbian Hotline 1-800-347-TEEN (Thurs.-Sun., 7 pm-11:45 pm ET)

Family/Children's Mental Health Hot Line 1-800-654-1247 (24 hrs)

National STD Hotline 800-227-8922 (24 hrs)

Child helps USA - Child Abuse Reporting 1-800/4-A-CHILD (24 hrs)

Family Violence Help Line 1-800/222-2000 (24 hrs)

National Runaway Hot Line 1-800-HIT-HOME (24 hrs)
Runaway Help Line 1-800-621-4000 (24 hrs)
Covenant House Crisis Support 1-800-999-9999 (24 hrs)
Suicide Help Line 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)
Youth Crisis Line 1-800-448-4663
RAINN - Rape Support Line 1-800-656-HOPE
Pregnancy Support and Advice 1-888-4-OPTIONS
General Crisis Counseling 1-800-785-8111

The resources and information given, such as statistics, phone numbers, web sites, and organizations, were the result of a search done on the World Wide Web and may or may not be accessible or accurate today. Other permanent solutions, such as talking to a Bible based church pastor or associate, private organizations, government, municipal or local agencies may be available.

Contact the author and check for additional projects through this site:
<http://www.outskirtspress.com/memoirs>