



MAKING THE SHIFT<sup>INC</sup>



canadian  
observatory on  
homelessness



**A WAY HOME**  
**VERS UN CHEZ-SOI**



Toronto Centre of Excellence on  
**Youth Homelessness Prevention**  
at York University

*Prioritising Prevention 1: Anticipating Risky Transitions*

# CANADA'S YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION MOVEMENT

## OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

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# Overview

1

Specific focus on  
youth

2

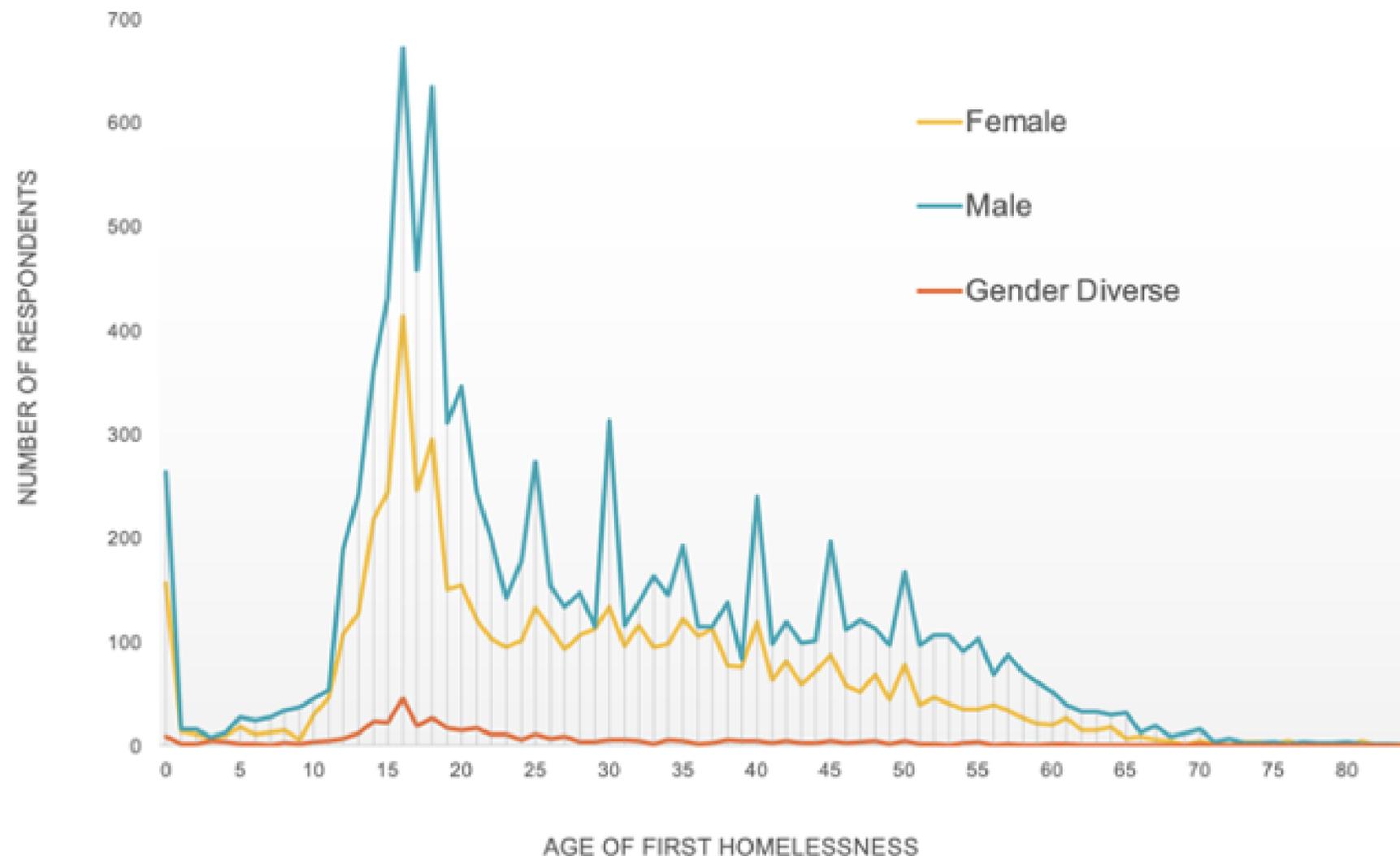
Cross-systems  
approach

3

Enhancing family  
and natural  
supports

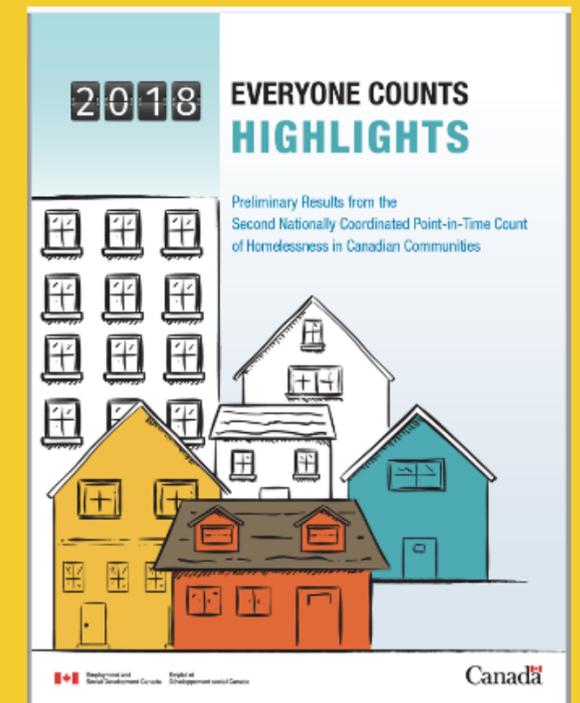
# Why youth homelessness prevention?

## Selected research findings on youth (PiT 2018)



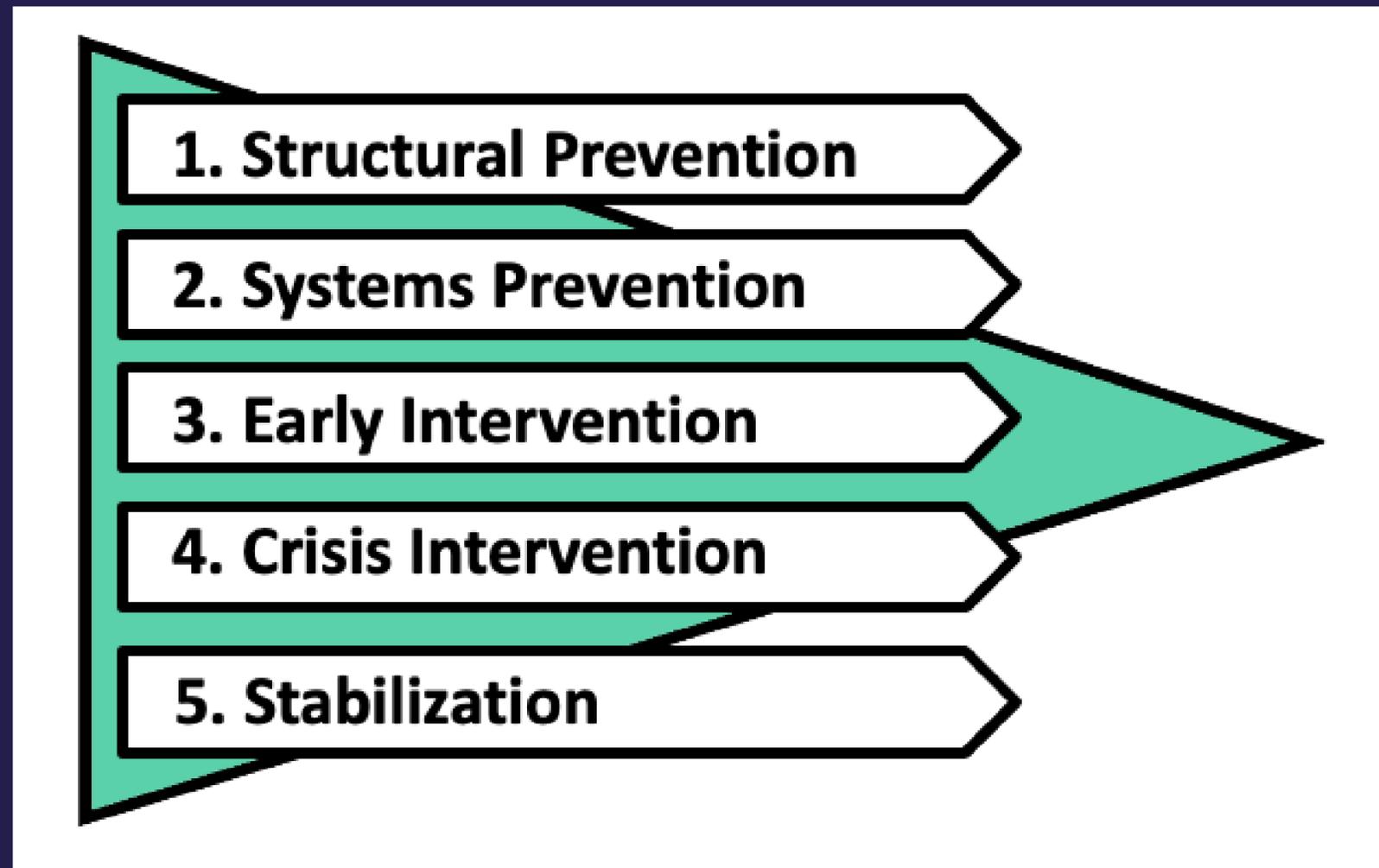
The 2018 PiT Count survey asked respondents at what age they first experienced homelessness.

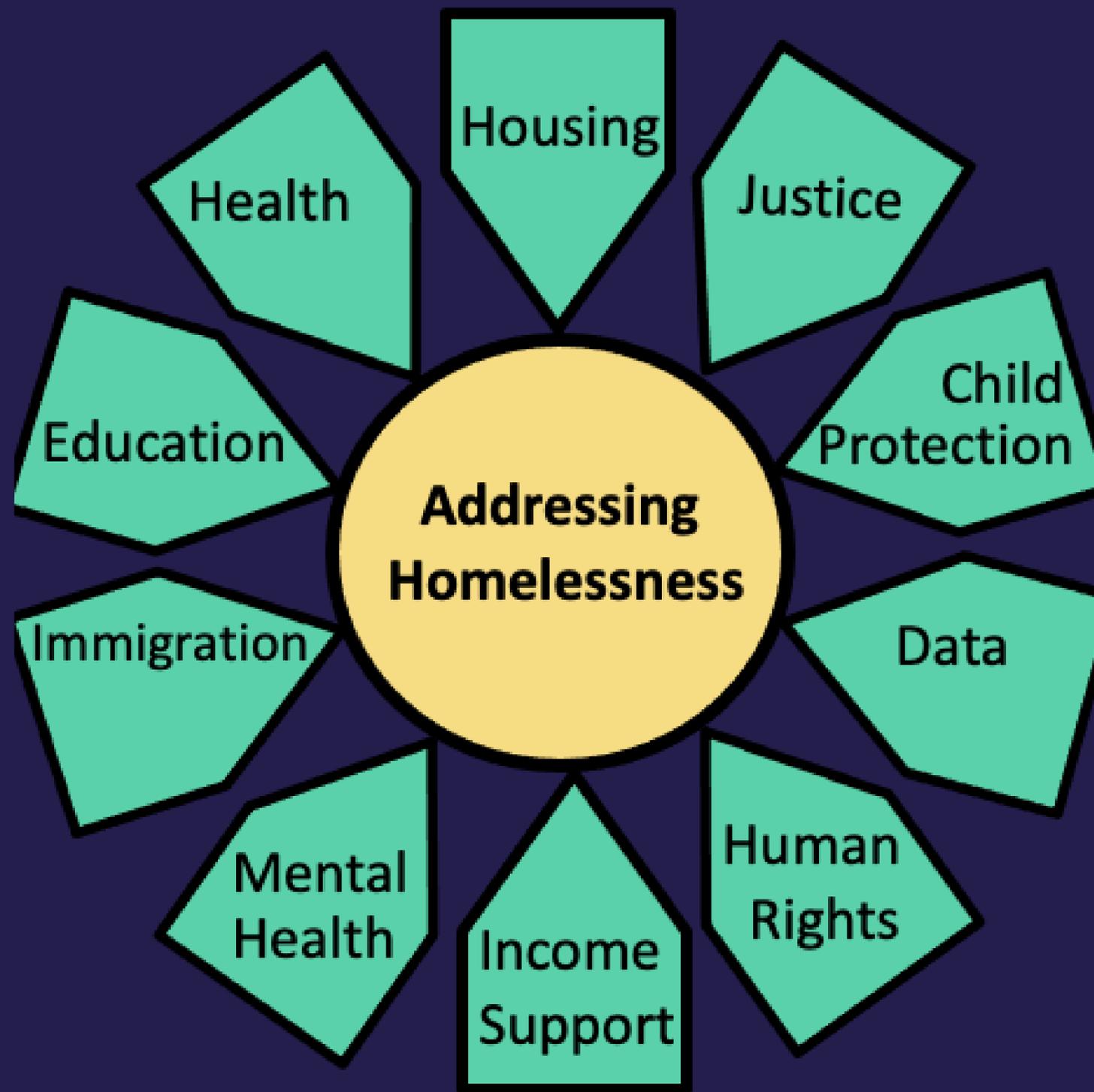
Half of all respondents first experienced homelessness under the age of 25. This percentage was still high among older adults (aged 50-64) and seniors (aged 65+), with 25% first experiencing homelessness before 25.



# Working across the prevention typology

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Youth  
homelessness  
is a fusion  
policy issue

Working within, between  
and across systems is  
essential for prevention.

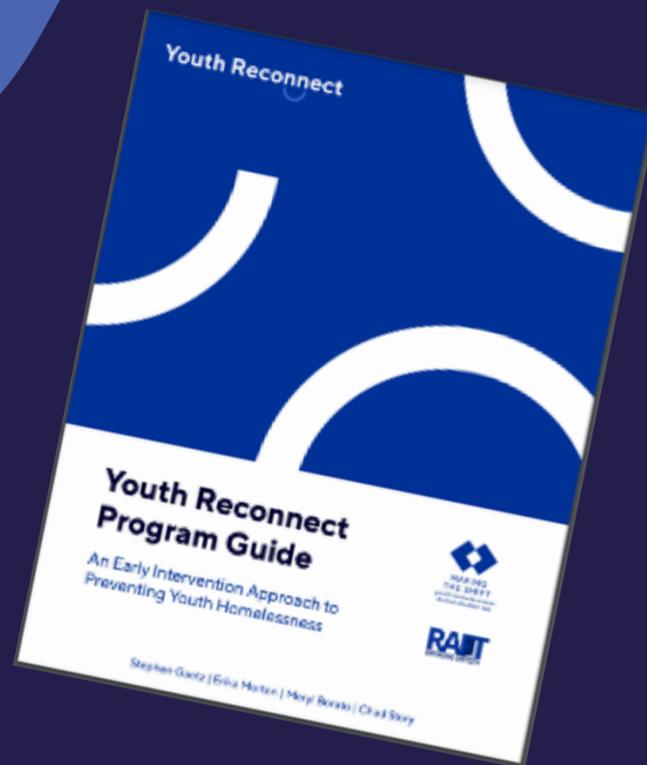
# 77%

of young people want to improve contact and relationships with family  
(Gaetz et al., 2016)



# Enhancing Family and Natural Supports

The support of caring adults is important to almost everyone and can be an asset that enhances young people's quality of life, and gives youth a sense of belonging, identity, security, self-esteem, and someone to rely on when problems emerge.





# Key Takeaway

Preventing youth homelessness is essential for preventing and ending chronic adult homelessness, and our efforts must reflect the ways in which young people are embedded in networks of systems and relationships.



## **The Global Survey on Legal Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

Help us map existing legal services for youth experiencing homelessness around the globe by completing the survey at:

**[ambar.org/hyln](https://ambar.org/hyln)**

For more information or questions, email [Kelly.Russo@americanbar.org](mailto:Kelly.Russo@americanbar.org)



# thank you!

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