



Trend Report Reveals Rise in Youth Connections for Those on the Verge of Running Away, Younger Youth and Those Experiencing Abuse

National Runaway Safeline 2016 report highlights past decade trends on youth in crisis

CHICAGO (May 18, 2016)—The National Runaway Safeline (NRS), the communication system for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth, today announced the release of its 2016 Crisis Connection Trend Report, which highlights emerging trends on youth in crisis through analysis of NRS’ data collected over the past decade. The report summarizes the types of individuals in crisis and the key characteristics associated with why they contact NRS for help through its hotline (1-800-RUNAWAY), online (1800RUNAWAY.org), texting (66008) and offline resources.

“A number of important trends emerged through the report, but the most compelling and reassuring revelations is that ‘prevention’ is working and continues to be key in combatting the silent runaway crisis,” said Maureen Blaha, NRS executive director. “All of the report’s insights help guide and direct effective responses that keep youth safe and off the streets.”

Highlights from the 2016 Crisis Connection Trend Report include:

- **There is a shift toward runaway prevention by helping more youth before they leave home.** This is indicated by a jump of 46 percent in connections from youth contemplating running away from home and a 15 percent increase from youth in crisis. Because NRS is serving a much greater proportion of youth who have not yet run away from home, the trends for time on the street are down across all categories of time.
- **NRS is handling more connections from younger youth than in the past.** Over the past year, NRS experienced an increase in crisis connections from youth up to age 17 and a decrease in crisis connections from 18-21-year-olds. The largest one-year jump was 44 percent for 13-year-olds. The most common crisis connection is from or about a 17-year-old, as they make up a third of the connections.



- **The upward trend in crisis connections about reported abuse and neglect is increasing at an alarming rate.** There has been a 21 percent increase over the past year and 40 percent over the last decade. The largest increase was specifically with emotional or verbal abuse, which rose 32 percent over the past year and 59 percent over the last decade.

To download the full report, visit www.1800RUNAWAY.org.

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