

Get to Know the National Runaway Safeline

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:00 – 3:00 pm EST

Susan Frankel, Chief Executive Officer Jeff Stern, Chief Engagement Officer

National Runaway Safeline (NRS)

- The National Runaway Safeline is the federally-designated national communication system for youth in crisis, runaway, and homeless youth.
- Our mission is to keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.
- Each year, NRS makes over 125,000 connections to offer help through hotline, online and offline resources.



NRS Services

1-800-RUNAWAY:

- Trauma-informed, solution-focused crisis intervention
- Information and referrals
- Message Service
- Conference calls
- Home Free family reunification and transportation program

1800RUNAWAY.org:

- Interactive live chat
- Crisis forum and email
- Text "HELP" to 66008
- Free educational and promotional materials



Resources & Referrals

NRS maintains a national database of over 6,500 agencies and services, including:

- Shelters
- Child protection
- Partnerships with other crisis hotlines
- Legal information & counseling

- Law enforcement
- Medical assistance
- Residential treatment
- Substance abuse treatment

In 2020:

- 15,923 crisis contacts resulted in at least one referral provided.
- 20,694 total referrals were provided by NRS staff and volunteers.



Message Service

• Confidential, indirect method of communication, with the goal of moving toward a conference call or other direct conversation.

Youth and parent/legal guardians leave messages for one another.



Conference Calls

 Goal is for an NRS representative to mediate a conversation between youth and parent/legal guardian.

NRS representative advocates for youth, helps to articulate messages.

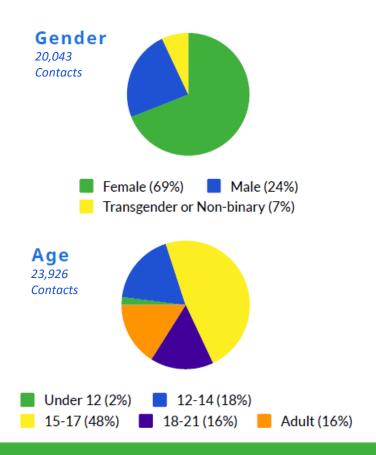


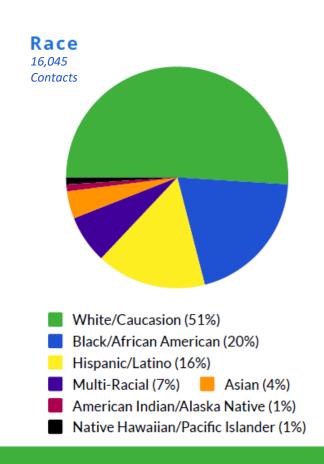
Home Free Program

- Program established in 1995 in partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc.
- Reunites youth with their family or legal guardian or helps them get to an alternative living arrangement through a free bus ticket.
- Available for youth between the ages of 12 and 21.
- Guardian youth escort tickets available for youth 12-17.
- In 2020, 305 youth traveled through the Home Free program.
- Since the program's inception, nearly 17,000 youth have used the program.

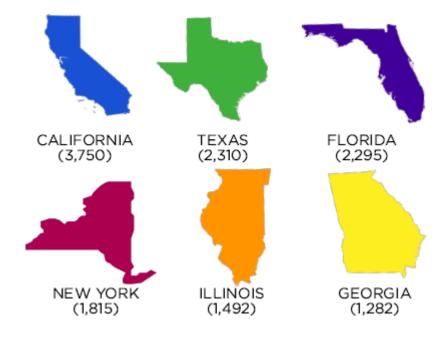


2020 Crisis Contacts





States with Highest Crisis Contact Volume

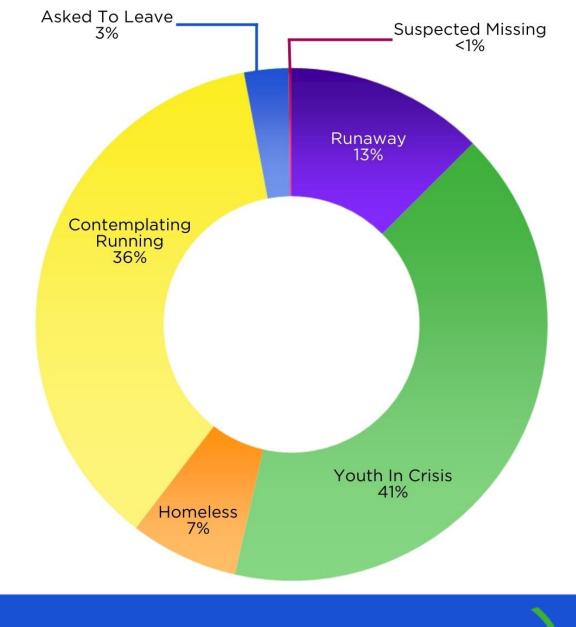




2020 Crisis Contacts Data

Status of Youth in Crisis

Based on 25,800 Crisis Contacts





2020 Crisis Contacts Data

Top Issues Raised

Based on 36,129 Crisis Contacts



Family Dynamics 43%



Abuse & Neglect 18%



Peer & Social 9%



Mental Health 10%



2020 Crisis Contacts Data

Location of Youth in Crisis

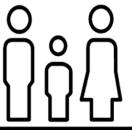
Based on 19,368 Crisis Contacts



6% of the youth who connected were on the street



11% of the youth who connected were at a friend's house



5% of the youth who connected were at a relative's house



71% of the youth who connected with NRS were still at home



38,893

youth cited family dynamics as a reason for contact 9,090

youth cited mental health as a reason for contact 16%

increase in contacts citing financial challenges as a reason for contact

559

contacts specifically about COVID-19 2020 Crisis Contacts: The Impact of COVID-19 318

Home Free tickets issued (▲ 8% from 2019)

71%

of youth reached out from home 8%

▲ in contacts citing emotional or verbal abuse as a reason for contact 4%

▲ in contacts citing physical abuse as a reason for contact

Why did we see these figures?

- Limited to no availability of shelter resources;
- Limited to no access to transportation for safe housing and shelter;
- Heightened anxiety and limited access to support systems at schools, drop-in centers, case management, and other resources; and
- Confined to home or in current living arrangement with abusers or other potentially unsafe living situations.



NRS' Response

- Integrated & updated technology, allowing NRS to go completely remote while maintaining fully operational 24/7 crisis services.
- Expanded & updated resource referral database for youth and families in need.
- New wellness initiatives to support the physical & mental health of NRS crisis services team members.
- Increased direct outreach to youth through website and social media.



Runaway Prevention Efforts

71% of youth who connect with NRS are still at home when reaching out.

NRS implements the following activities and prevention strategies:

- Community Education & Engagement: Offering educational blogs, tip sheets and other resources highlighting issues impacting youth in crisis, runaway youth, and youth experiencing homelessness
- Awareness: Leading an annual national awareness campaign, National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM)
- Building Life Skills: Providing the Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum for free along with technical assistance and other support
- Family Reunification: Coordinating the Home Free Program a national transportation program
 in partnership with Greyhound, offering transportation to a parent, guardian or alternative living
 arrangement



Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum



Curriculum Goals:

- Build life skills
- Educate about alternatives to running away
- Encourage youth to seek help from trusted adults
 - Increase knowledge about runaway resources and prevention

Audience:

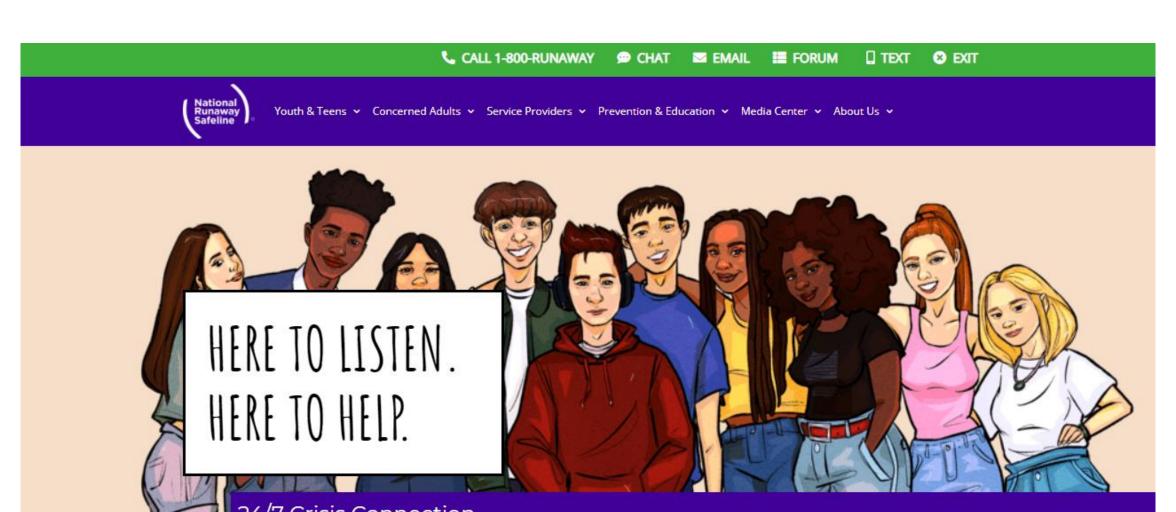
- Youth ages 10-20
- Available in English and Spanish
- Used in schools, after school programs, RHY programs, youth groups, etc.

https://www.1800runaway.org/prevention-education/lets-talk-runaway-prevention-curriculum

The NEW 1800RUNAWAY.org

- Easy, instinctual navigation for all users:
 - Youth, concerned adults, service providers/RHY organizations/educators
- Modern and visually appealing, especially for youth
- Updated & streamlined content, clearly delineated for each group
- Easy access to current resources and information
- Mobile-friendly





24/7 Crisis Connection



Tap To Call Us





Tap To Send Email



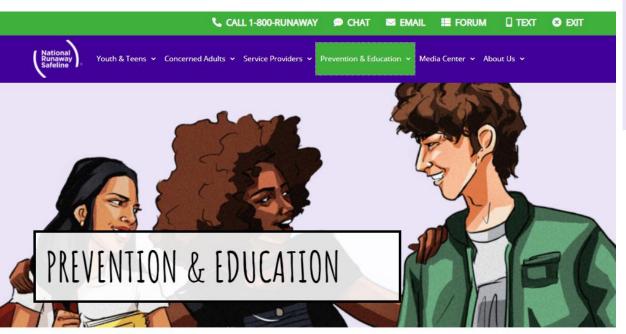
Tap To View Forum



Learn More

Learn More

Learn More



The National Runaway Safeline's prevention and education initiatives empower service providers, educators, law enforcement and other concerned individuals to support youth in crisis. We offer resources to raise awareness about the issues facing runaway and homeless youth and also provide tools to help youth cope with crises and avoid unsafe behaviors.



Let's Step Forward Together Social Media Campaign

Where you're headed matters. That's why we're with you every step of the way, and available to listen 24/7.

National Runaway Prevention Month

Raise awareness and educate the public about issues affecting runaway and homeless youth by supporting the November initiative.

Event Calendar

Educational And Outreach Materials

Free posters, brochures, flyers, bookmarks and wallet cards are available to order.

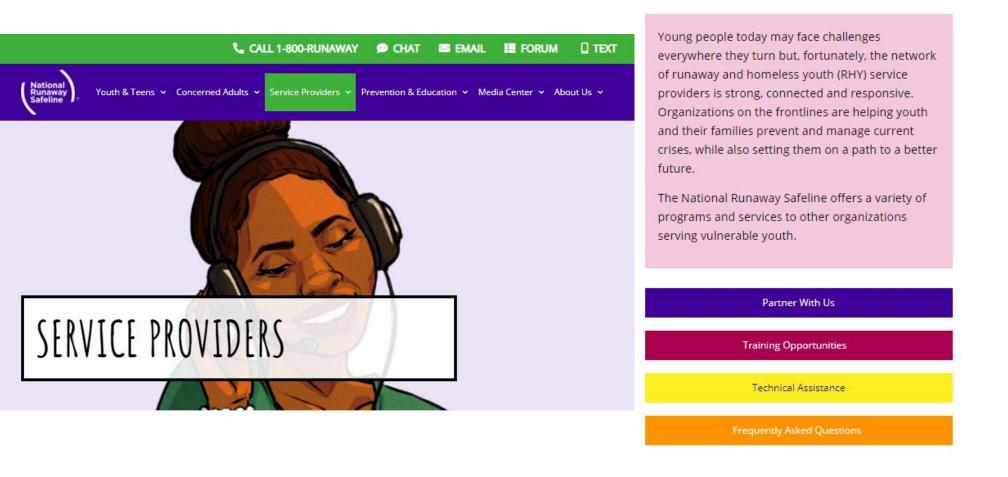
Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum

Help youth learn critical life skills using this free, evidence-based, interactive 14-module curriculum.

NRS Runaway Quiz

Learn more about NRS and runaway and homeless by taking this interactive quiz.

https://www.1800runaway.org/prevention-education

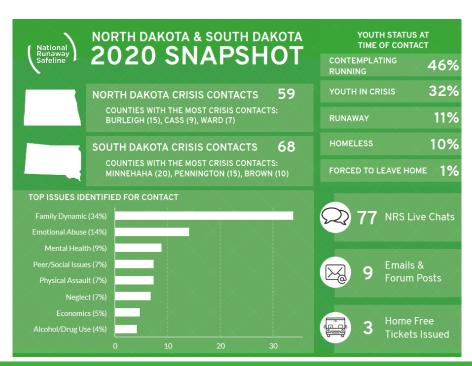


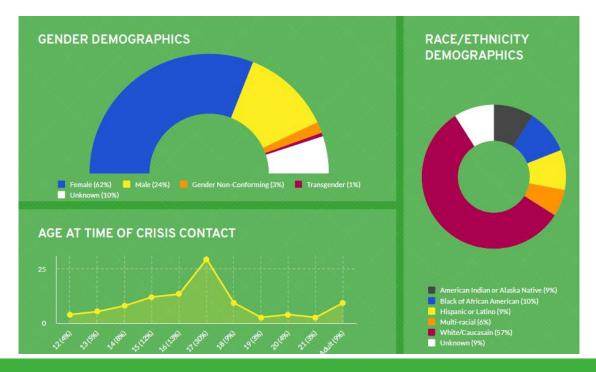
https://www.1800runaway.org/service-providers



Provide national/state/county data on crisis services, referral resources:

Number of contacts, method of contact, reasons for reaching out







- Download and order NRS educational & outreach materials for distribution
 - https://www.1800runaway.org/prevention-education/educational-and-outreach-materials

Download our free materials below or complete the order form at the bottom of this page, and we will send the requested materials to you by mail. Please allow 4-5 weeks for delivery.





| MATERIALS ORDER FORM | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| NAME • | |
| FIRST | LAST |
| | |
| EMAIL • | |
| ENTER EMAIL | CONFIRM EMAIL |
| | |
| ORGANIZATION NAME | |
| | |
| ORGANIZATION LOCATION | |
| СІТУ | STATE |
| | \$ |



- Partner with us submit a request to be included in our referral database
 - https://www.1800runaway.org/service-providers/partner-with-us

The National Runaway Safeline maintains a comprehensive database of agencies and services that serve and support youth ages 12-21 across the United States and its territories. We refer youth and families in crisis to appropriate partners listed in this database and collaborate with many of the organizations on prevention and educational programming.

The types of organizations and programs included in our database include (but are not limited to):

- Youth Shelters
- Legal Aid Assistance
- Afterschool Program
- Support Groups
- · Community Mental Health Services
- School Supportive Services
- Drug and Addiction Services
- Wraparound Services
- Street Outreach Programs
- Transitional Living programs/ Independent Living Programs
- Drop-in Centers
- Depression and Suicide Prevention an Intervention Programs
- Crisis Stabilization





If you are unsure if your program should be included in the database, **reach out to us**, and we will be happy to let you know.

If your organization or program is not currently listed in NRS' resource database or you would like to update your information, please complete the form below and we'll be in touch shortly.

In preparation for inclusion into the database, please complete our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and return to resources@1800runaway.org or complete the form online here.

NRS DATABASE INCLUSION REQUEST

| NAME • | |
|--------|------|
| FIRST | LAST |
| | |



- Teach the Let's Talk curriculum in your community
- Access valuable training opportunities
- Partner with NRS for National Runaway Prevention Month





- Join us as a partner in prevention this November as we "Shine a Light" on the issues facing runaway and homeless youth.
 - First Partner Call: Thursday, August, 19 @ 1pm CST (NRPM 101)
- Goal: educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in runaway prevention and youth homelessness.
- Visit https://www.1800runaway.org/prevention-education/national-runaway-prevention-education-educ
 - Download toolkits, commitment cards, social media graphics, and to view schedule of national events.
 - Activities and events to include: Facebook Profile Picture Day, Twitter Chat, Wear Green Day, Lunch & Learn Series, Light the Night community events.





(NRS)

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