



# Proposed Final Report: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

*Performance Measures & Population Estimates*

**Legislative Auditor's Conclusion:**

**Homeless youth programs need specific performance measures.**

**Ability to evaluate outcomes hindered by state limits on collecting personal data.**



# Legislative Auditor Recommendations

**Commerce:** Develop program-specific performance measures and incorporate them into grant agreements

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Commerce  
Concurs

**Commerce:** Brief the Legislature about the interpretation of law related to consent for data collection and the impacts on data collection

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Commerce  
Concurs

**Commerce & OSPI:** Issue joint guidance to improve estimates of the homeless youth population

Commerce  
Concurs

OSPI Partially  
Concurs



**2015 Legislature**  
**2SSB 5404**



**3**

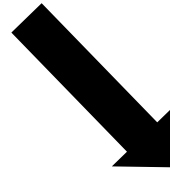
programs



*Washington State*  
**Department of Social  
& Health Services**



**JLARC Review:**  
Performance Measures  
Population Estimates



**Department of Commerce**  
*Office of Homeless Youth*



*unaccompanied homeless youth*  
*other youth in need*  
*under 18*

# Overview: Programs and Services

# Street Youth Services



Engagement and outreach  
No overnight component

Youth receive supplies, meals,  
service referrals

# Crisis Residential Centers

Residential program, may be semi-secure or secure

5 to 15 day stay

Youth receive supplies, meals, service referrals

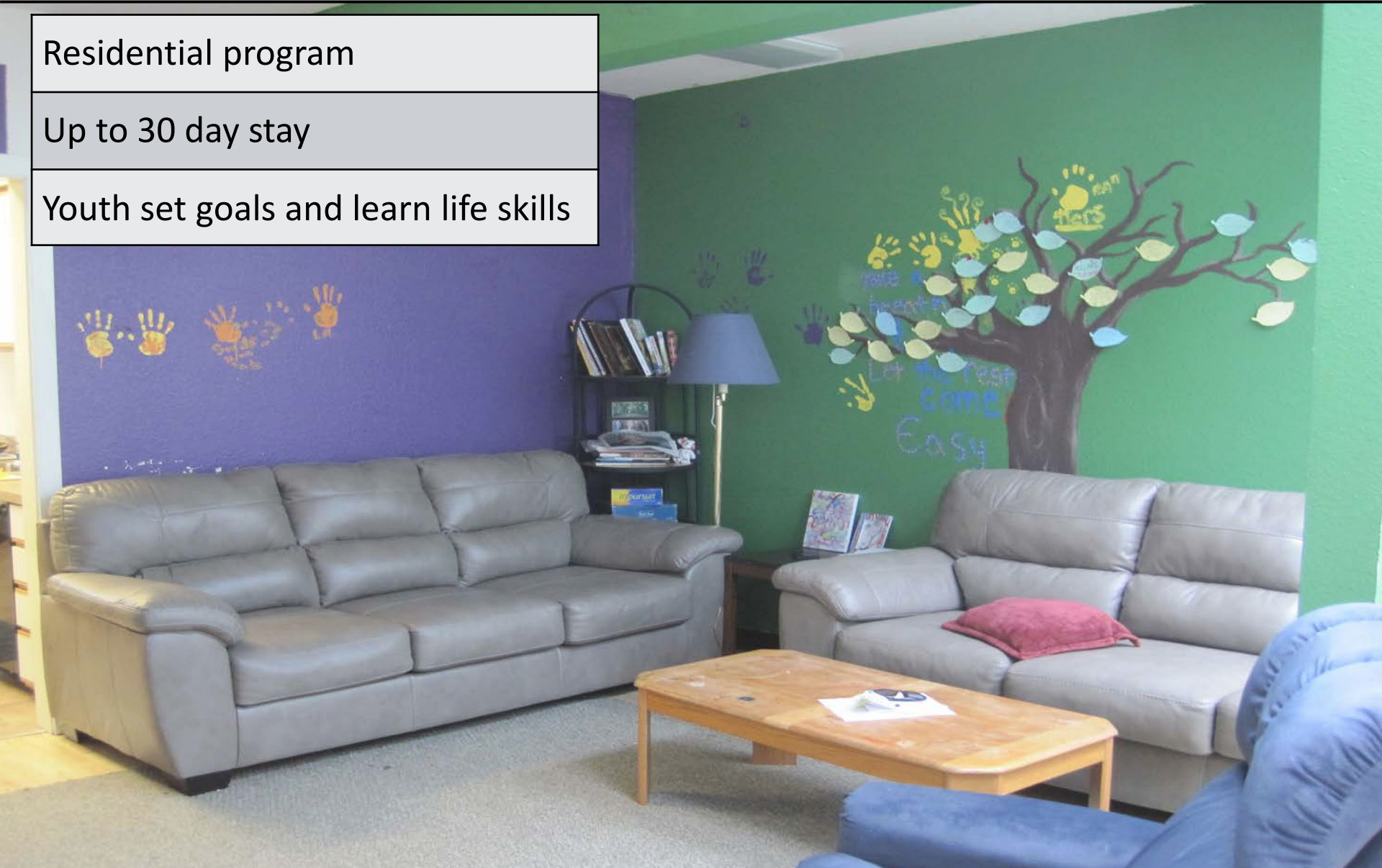


# HOPE Centers

Residential program

Up to 30 day stay

Youth set goals and learn life skills



# Under state law, youth who are not homeless or unaccompanied can be eligible for these programs



## Unaccompanied homeless youth, street youth

Runaways and youth in conflict with their families

Court-ordered youth (e.g., truant)

State-dependent youth



# **Legislative Auditor Recommendation:**

## **Program-Specific Performance Measures**

## System-wide measures?

In development, reflecting all responsibilities for Commerce Office of Homeless Youth

## Program-specific measures?

Street Youth Services

Crisis Residential Centers

HOPE Centers

**Not developed**  
**Not in grant agreements**

## Legislative goals



Stable housing



Permanent connections



Education and employment



Social and emotional well-being



Family reconciliation

# Program-specific measures used by similar organizations

Street Youth Services

Youth referred to shelter or housing program (# or %)

Crisis Residential Centers

Youth who exit to a safe and stable location (# or %)

HOPE Centers

Youth who re-enter program after exit (# or %)

Legislative goals



Stable housing

Commerce system-wide outcome

Every youth has a safe and healthy place to stay until a permanent living situation is found  
*(draft)*

# The Legislative Auditor recommends that Commerce:

- **Develop program-specific performance measures** for Street Youth Services, Crisis Residential Centers, and HOPE Centers
- **Incorporate performance measurement into grant agreements** beginning in fiscal year 2018

Due: June 2017



Commerce  
Concurrs

# **Legislative Auditor Recommendation: Impact of Consent Laws on Data Collection**

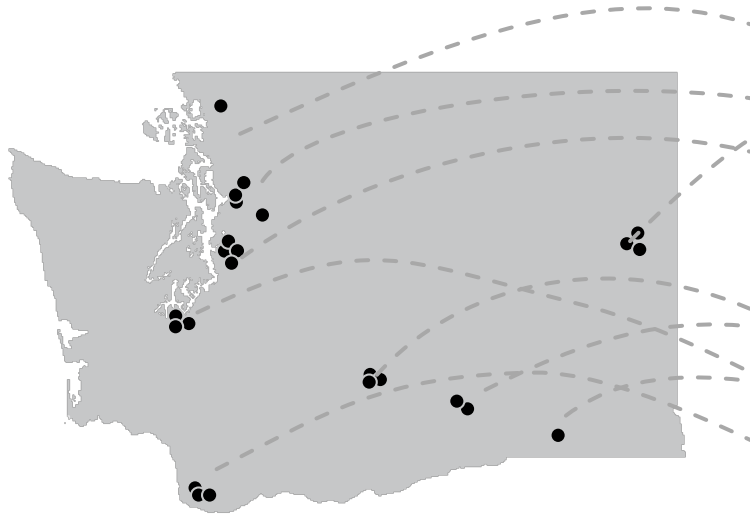


# Under Commerce, organizations report data through HMIS

Homeless Management  
Information System



Department of Commerce

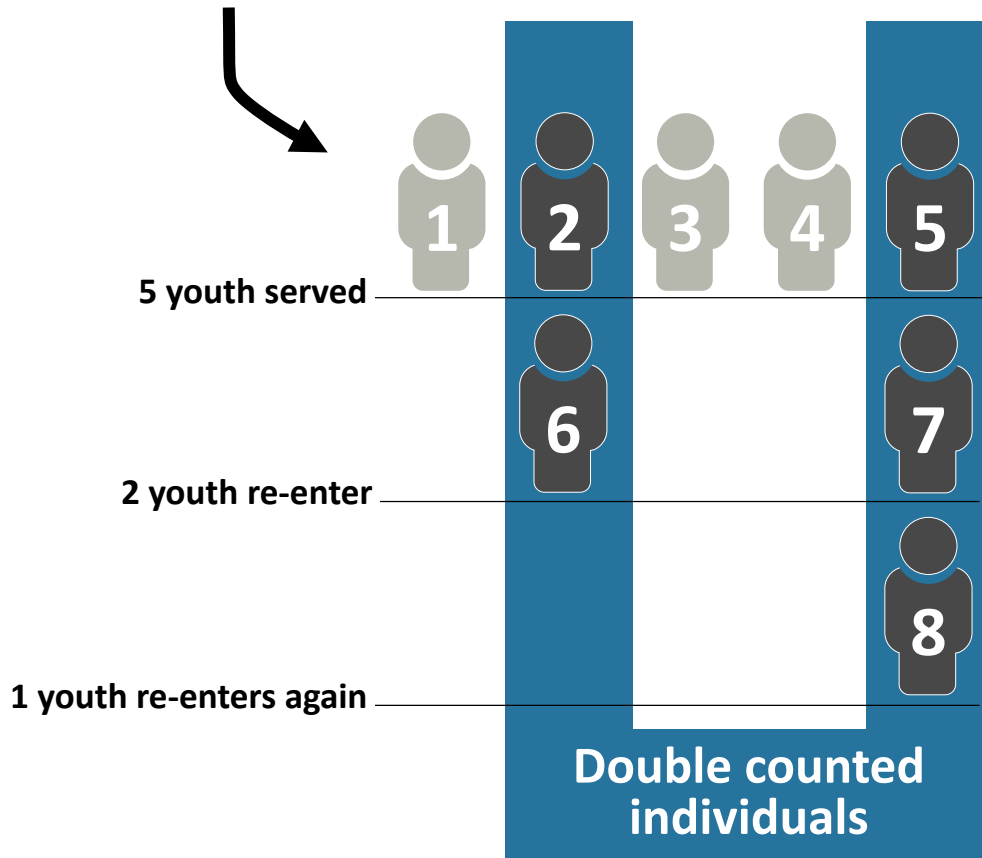


# A minor cannot consent to provide personal data in HMIS



Department of Commerce

**Without personal data, HMIS assigns an ID number to each entry, not individual youth.**



**Youth who re-enter programs could be double counted.**

**Program entries: 8**  
**Youth served: ?**  
**Youth who re-enter: ?**



# The Legislative Auditor recommends that Commerce:

- **Brief relevant legislative committees about how current consent law is interpreted**, its effect on collecting data from homeless youth, and the potential impacts and trade-offs of collecting this data to evaluate program outcomes

Due: April 2017



Commerce  
Concurs

# **Legislative Auditor Recommendation:**

# **Guidance for**

# **Population Estimates**

# Counts vary in purpose, definitions, and methods

## Commerce

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Single day in January

Counties

Narrow definition

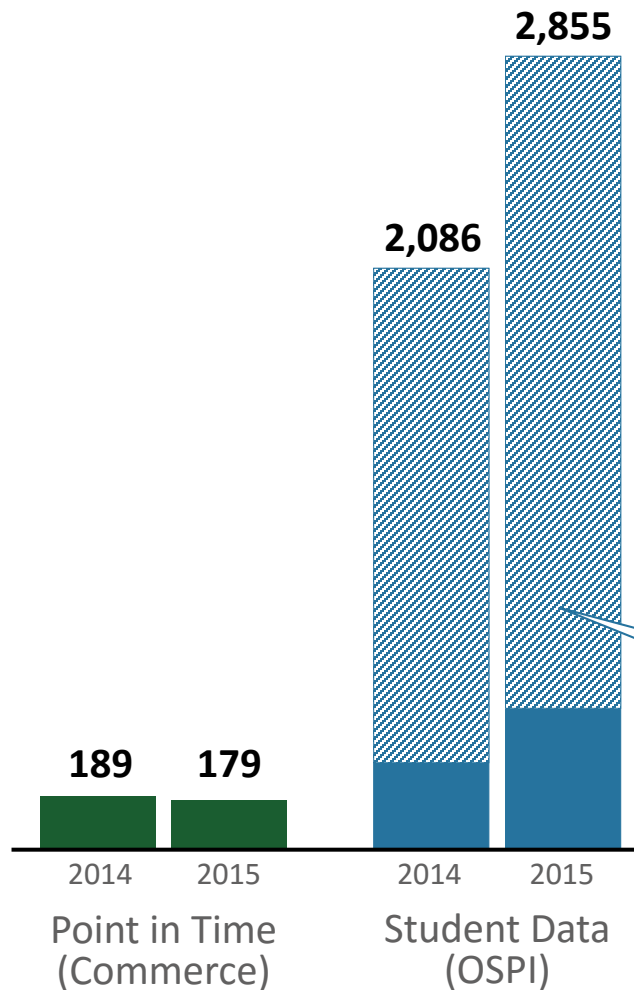
## OSPI

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Throughout school year

School districts

Broader definition



Youth staying with friends or family

**Counts may still exclude some youth.**

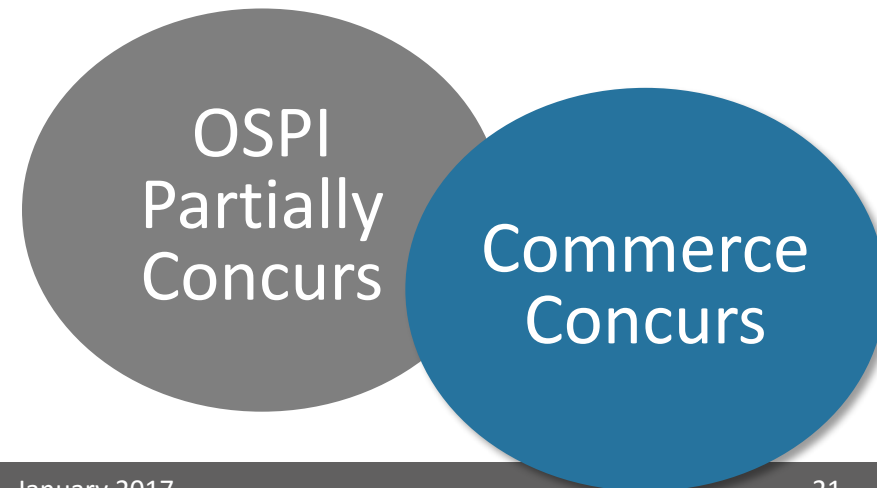
**This is not unique to Washington.**

- **HUD & ED support collaboration for point-in-time counts**
- **ED has issued guidance**
- **We learned there is still confusion about the collaboration allowed**

# The Legislative Auditor recommends that Commerce and OSPI:

- **Issue joint guidance to counties and school districts**, clarifying how they can work together to improve estimates of the unaccompanied homeless youth population

Due: December 2017



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# Proposed Final Report: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

**Full Report, Printable Overview, and Video available at:**

[leg.wa.gov/jlarc/AuditAndStudyReports/Pages/UnaccompaniedHomelessYouth.aspx](http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/AuditAndStudyReports/Pages/UnaccompaniedHomelessYouth.aspx)

## Contacts:

**Rebecca Connolly**  
**Research Analyst**

rebecca.connolly@leg.wa.gov  
360-786-5175

**Suzanna Pratt**  
**Research Analyst**

suzanna.pratt@leg.wa.gov  
360-786-5106

**Valerie Whitener**  
**Project Supervisor**

valerie.whitener@leg.wa.gov  
360-786-5191