

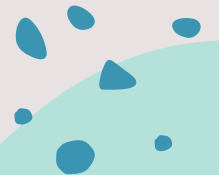
# *Pathways to Black Youth Homelessness in Ontario*

---

A Research Finding

By

Nathan Okonta



# *Conversations instead of Interviews*

---

Recognize the fact that topics of discussions are both emotional and fresh

Recognize that our topics could be triggering

Allow youth agendas to be part of the work

Going beyond understanding the plights of youth or a show of empathy

Forge an ongoing relationships

Helping them to meet a need or achieve an aim

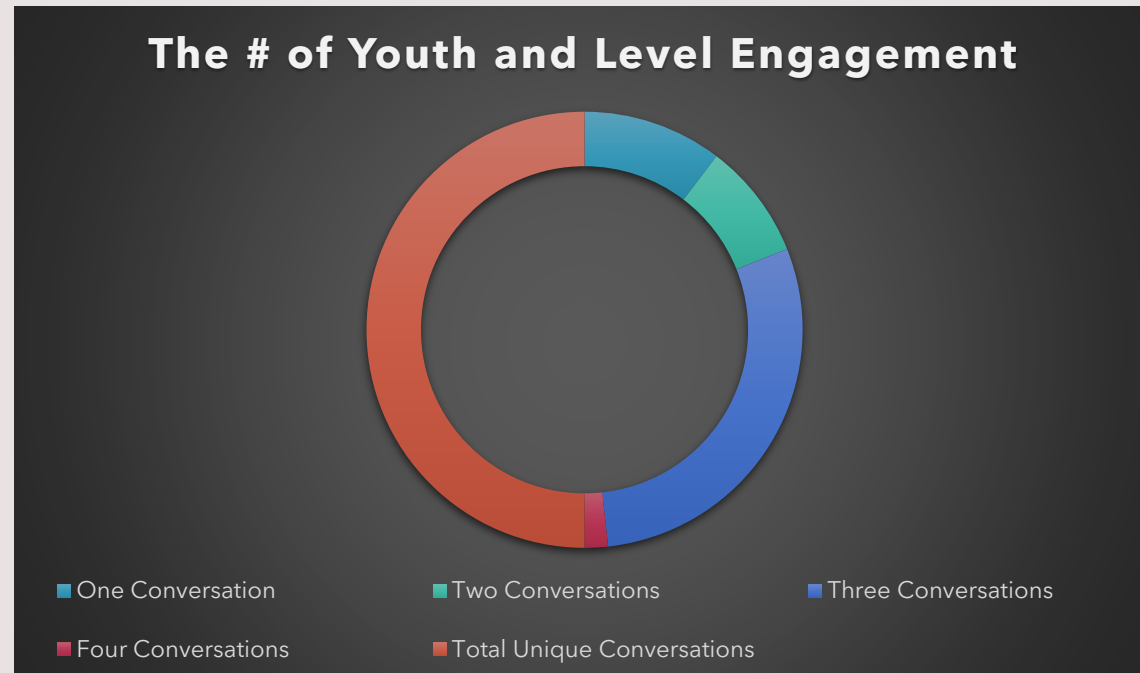
*The possibility of triggering is best demonstrated by*

---

“Like if you have any questions for me, I'm definitely open to answering them but I don't have something that I'm just like, willing to say, I guess. It's not something that I enjoy speaking about, like to be honest. It's a part of my life that I've kind of moved passed on now, you know what I mean?” YI3

# *Number of Conversations*

- 71 total Conversations
- 29 unique individuals
- 17 youth 3 times
- 6 youth 1 time
- 5 youth 2 times
- 1 youth 4 times



# *Profile of the youth*

---

- 14 identify as Female
- 14 identify as male
- 1 identify as transgender
- 3 current university Student
- 1 student athlete
- 17 born in Canada
- 12 born outside of Canada

# *Putting our findings into context*

---

The stories we  
share are case-  
centered

Their meaning  
might be restricted  
to the lives of the  
youth in our cohort,

And  
their Unique  
circumstances

*But we tell them because as one of the youth told us,*

---

**“People already know that youth become homeless or are in housing insecurity and stuff every day. Maybe they don't know the reasons why” PK3**

*For the Youth in our cohorts  
Their paths to homelessness were made or cleared*

---

**"Complicated family relations"**

---

**Family that couldn't cope with the demands of neuro-divergent youth**

---

**Youth needing to adapt in a new environment or one they were returning to**

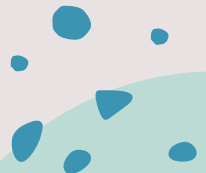
---

**Youth forced out of their homes or countries by homophobia and/or transphobia**

---

**Minors crossing international boundaries unaccompanied**

---





## “Narcissistic Parenting”

- Children are always children
- Parents own their children
- Everything earned, achieved or attained is due to the parents
- Only successes are claimed

*Complicated  
family  
relationships*

---

*Other elements of  
not helpful  
parenting*

Children are to be seen and not heard

Spare the rod, spoil the child

My home, my rules

If you talk back, you are grown

# *Living in Conflict*

---

**All this make it difficult to have disagreement and still live under the same roof**



# *When home is not home*

---



Youth staying at home by not living at home



Other strategies to remain housed as much as they could

# *The Earliest any one of the youth was completely alone*

---

13 years

Was either on his own and squatting with friends between ages 13 and 18

Learned how to cook and wash by hand, lessons he believed he might otherwise not have learned

Older brother also left home early

By 18 he had lost "10 plus friends," one of whom he described as having been shot in the head in front of him

Rode all-night TTC buses when it was too cold or could not sleep at an ATM place.

## *For youth in the shelter system*

---

Worried about  
aging out

Being kicked  
(or discharged)  
out of a shelter

*Thank You*

---

