

## Key Information

The homelessness problem in New Zealand becomes very apparent when looking at the data from the 45 top ranked countries in the Human Development Index 2014 rankings (The Human Development Index, 2014). New Zealand presents the 2nd highest percentage of homeless people as a proportion of the total population, with 1 in 120 people being homeless from our latest statistical research (2013).

More than 41,000 Kiwis have no place to call home. In 2011 about 12 new people per month engaged with the Lifewise housing support team (150 people per year). In 2015, around 20 new people per month were engaging (236 last year), an increase of 66 per cent (Lifewise 2016).

### Key statistics pertinent to youth homelessness

#### HALF OF HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE UNDER 25

- Half of New Zealand's homeless are under 25. One quarter are children (Amore et al, 2013).
- It is the most vulnerable young people who become homeless.
- 90% of the homeless youth Lifewise meets are leaving State Care. At only 17 years old, they are left to fend for themselves (3news, 2013).
- 20 to 40 percent of homeless youth (in America) identify as Gay, Lesbian, Transgender or Questioning.
- 46 per cent reported being physically abused (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2013).
- Homelessness could rob these young people of a future. 75% will drop out of school (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2013) and they will be significantly more likely to be homeless as adults.



The Lifewise Youth Transition to Adulthood Service provides safe housing and support for youth who don't have a safe or stable place to live. This service is for 17-24-year-olds who either are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or have a serious housing need. Click here to know more or go to [www.lifewise.org.nz](http://www.lifewise.org.nz) and search "youth".

Follow this journey from a young person's perspective exploring their actions, thoughts and feelings as they grapple with some difficult life choices.

Beaton, S., Cain, T., Robinson, H., Hearn, V., & Thinkplace. (2015). An insight into the experience of rough sleeping in central Auckland.

