



Searching for a Place to Call Home

Young parents in Greater Vancouver face serious challenges securing housing. A UBC study with 51 young parents in Vancouver (ages 15-26) is informing action to overcome these challenges. The study includes interviews, surveys and fieldwork focusing on key issues affecting the lives of young parents. The results demonstrate how housing affects the health, education and social well-being of young parents and their children.

38% of young parents moved multiple times

in the past 12 months

- 12% moved twice
- 18% moved three times
- 8% moved four or more times

My girlfriend and I have moved three times. First it was to move in with our family. We tried and it didn't work.

- Saul, young dad

On average, young parents move every

4 months



I've moved twice this year. Our place was really small, so I can only fit his crib and our clothes in there. My bed was in the living room and the living room and kitchen was one. But nothing was working. The toilet didn't work, the sinks leaked and like, the landlord didn't do anything. And I was paying \$800, so I moved.

- Laura, young mom



25% of young parents move to find better housing

15% of young parents are forced to move due to evictions, renovations, or being kicked out

We got kicked out of our old place. The landlord locked everything in the house, like, he only let me grab baby's clothes and my clothes. Everything else I had to leave. - Keisha, young mom



100%

of young parents report having to

travel long distances

without reliable, child-friendly transportation

I'm going to try getting housing somewhere in the Broadway and Commercial-ish area. It will be close to my school. It'll be close to the doctors. It'll be close to main transit. That's my biggest concern, is transit, like, getting around. I bus everywhere in Vancouver. – **Jbiebs, young mom**



25% of young parents are in search of **"a home of their own"**

I moved out 'cause living with my parents was kind of stressful. Like, when I tell them what to do to take care of my son, they [didn't] really listen to me [and did] the opposite. So it's kinda stressing me out, I'm like, "Don't give him any candy or fries or whatever," but they don't listen.

– **Caroline, young mom**

51 participants from Greater Vancouver have completed at least one interview since the project began in 2013

45 young mothers (16-24 years)
6 young fathers (17-25 years)

39% of young parents are in high school
37% of young parents graduated high school
16% had completed some high school, but dropped out

There's only one place in Greater Vancouver that provides housing to young mothers, but there's so many young moms that it gets filled up so quickly. We're kind of left to go into foster care without our kids. I am so fortunate that my foster parents were willing to take me and my baby. My social worker hasn't seen that in the 16 years she's been working.

– **Adriana, young mom**

I've been waiting for BC Housing since my daughter was born. I haven't heard anything. I lived with my sister for a while and then I lived with my daughter's dad when I was on the Adult Youth Agreement and then we broke up and I moved into a little basement suite. It didn't have an oven, it didn't have a bathtub so as my daughter got older, it just wasn't working out. Now I live with my dad. – **Brooklyn, young mom**