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# Homelessness of LGBTQ Youth

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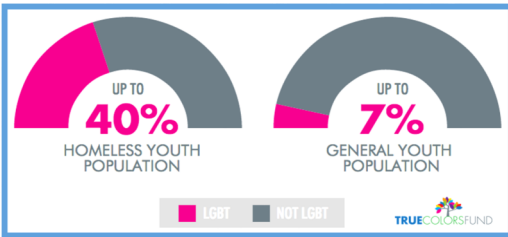
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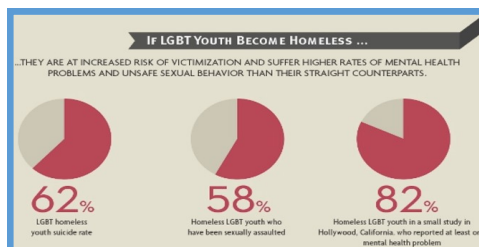
# Homelessness of LGBTQ Youth

Alexandra Chalker, Seton Hall University



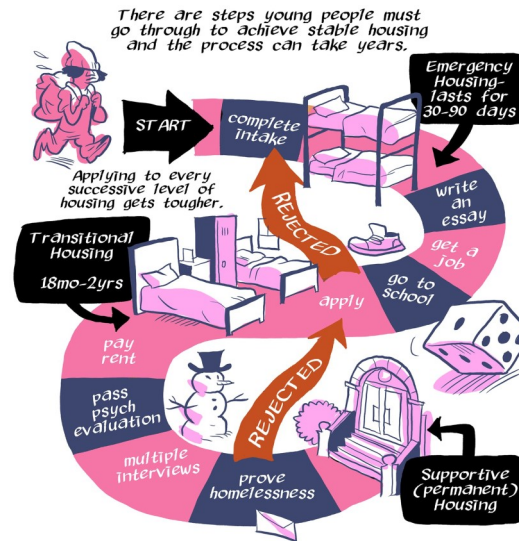
## The Facts:

- An estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults up to age 24 experience homelessness each year in the United States.
- LGBTQ youth have a 120% higher risk for homelessness.
- It's estimated that about 7% of youth in the United States are LGBTQ, while 40% of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ.
- One-fifth of 28,000 respondents to a survey on the LGBTQ community reported engaging in currently criminalized activity, such as sex work or drug sales, for income.
- In the Foster-Care-To-Prison-Pipeline, traditionally marginalized groups (people of color, LGBTQ people, women, and low-income people) had both higher rates of disability and higher rates of incarceration.



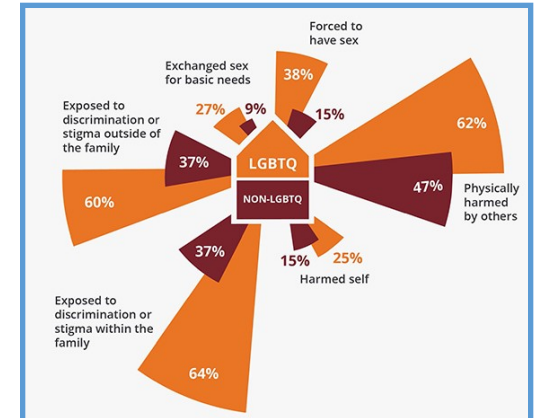
## Overview:

LGBTQ youth who are unable to obtain stable housing are a very vulnerable group and their numbers are growing. Having a better system of programs for LGBTQ youth would greatly decrease the number of homeless youth from this community.



## Causes:

- Forced out of their homes
- Runaways
- Family issues
- Aged out of foster care
- Abuse at home
- Family poverty
- Lack of affordable housing



## Recommendations:

- LGBTQ-specific training should be required of all service providers in facilities and programs receiving federal funds.
- Eligibility requirements for shelters should be adjusted to disqualify any crime committed by a member of the LGBTQ community that can be reasonably related to ability to pay rent.
- Programs and outreach should be implemented and targeted toward the LGBTQ population. Programs can provide therapy and job readiness training to this specialized group.
- The enforcement of existing policies that protect youth who are LGBTQ or living in poverty should be increased. Also, methods of identifying children and youth who do not have stable housing need to be improved.