

# LGBTQ2S YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA



**35,000 - 40,000**  
YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
**HOMELESSNESS**  
ACROSS CANADA



**25-40%**

**8,750- 16,000** IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ2S

**LGBTQ2S YOUTH EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS AT YOUNGER AGES (UNDER 16 YEARS OLD)**

**WHY?**



**IDENTITY-BASED FAMILY CONFLICT RESULTING FROM A YOUNG PERSON COMING OUT**

**AS LGBTQ2S IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY CITED REASON THAT LGBTQ2S YOUTH EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS**

## ADDITIONAL FACTORS:

- Exiting public systems
- Racism
- Unstable employment
- Poverty

**Indigenous LGBTQ youth and LGBTQ youth of colour experience homelessness at disproportionate rates**

**THIS IS NOT A “BIG CITY PROBLEM”**

LGBTQ2S youth and young adults exist everywhere.



## A STANDARDIZED MODEL OF CARE IS NECESSARY:



Creating safe, affirming, and consistently supportive environments for LGBTQ2S youth across the country will allow youth to know what to expect when they access services and ensures that they see themselves reflected in all aspects of a program.

## LGBTQ2S YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE OFTEN UNSAFE.

### CHALLENGES & BARRIERS:



**Forced to choose between unsafe situations, due to homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia.**



**Transgender women of colour face the highest rates of discrimination and violence.**



**Increased risk of depression, anxiety, suicidality, PTSD, and substance misuse.**

**“Almost all LGBTQ people going into shelters have a fear of them because it isn’t a matter of if it’s dangerous, but just how dangerous it will be. It is horrible to live in that fear every day.”**  
— M, 21 years old



**DATA COLLECTION TOOLS, SURVEYS & INTAKE FORMS OFTEN DO NOT INCLUDE LGBTQ2S IDENTITIES.**

## HOW DO WE SOLVE THESE ISSUES?

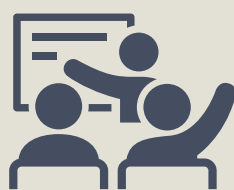
### MULTIPLE LAYER RESPONSE:

#### ENGAGEMENT



Engaging with LGBTQ2S youth and communities to create solutions.

#### TRAINING



Mandatory LGBTQ2S inclusion training for youth serving organizations.

#### INCLUSION



Developing services that foster an intersectional approach:

- Inclusive forms
- Gender inclusive washrooms

#### PREVENTION



All levels of government prioritize LGBTQ2S youth homelessness through targeted strategies.