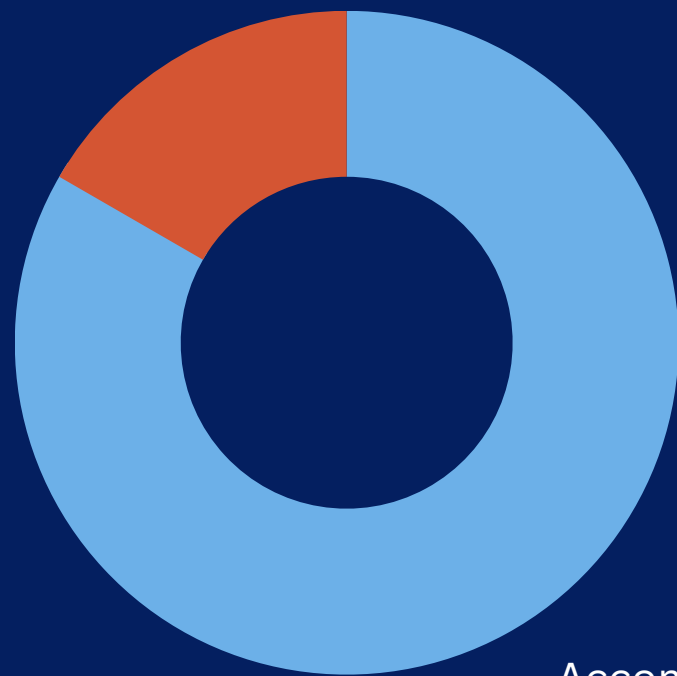


LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

RATES OF HOMELESSNESS

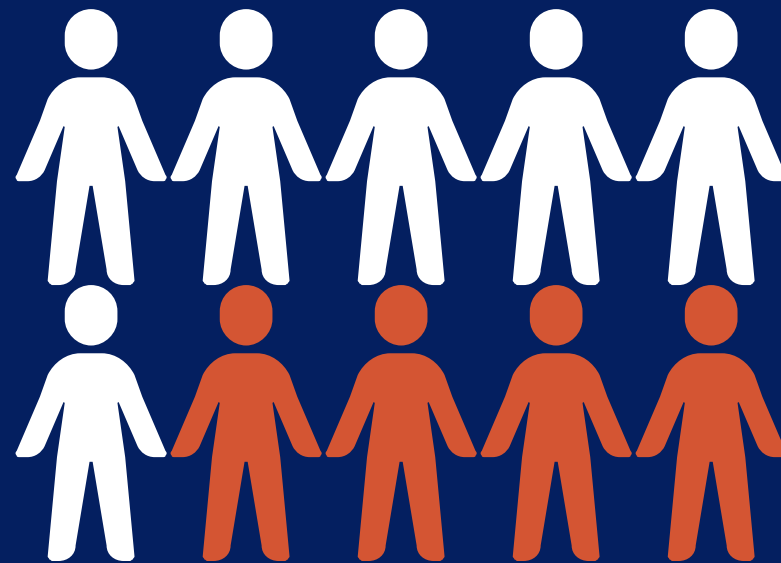
Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness each year (1)

Unaccompanied minors
700,000



Accompanied minors and young adults
3,500,000

Up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+ (2)



40%-80%

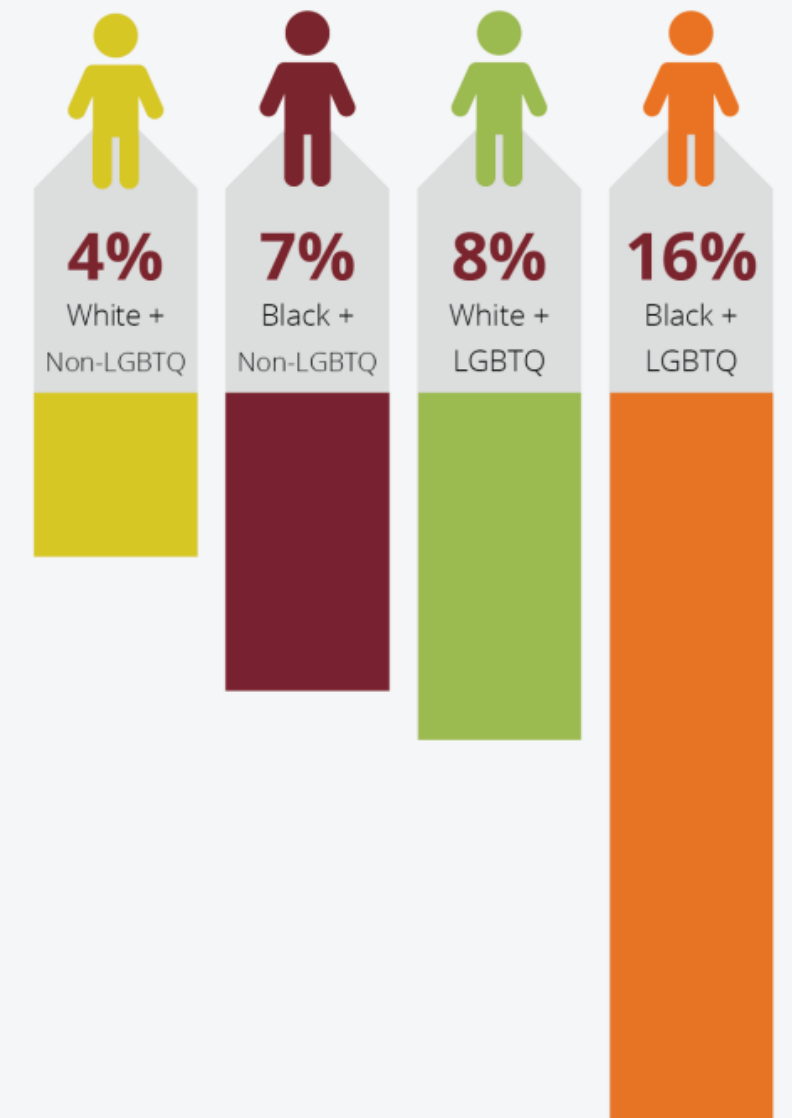
of homeless LGBTQ+ youth had suicidal ideation in the last year (3)

23%-67%

of homeless LGBTQ+ youth have made at least one suicide attempt (3)

Figure 2. Youth who are black *and* LGBTQ reported the highest rates of homelessness

Explicit homelessness over the last 12 months, self-reported by young adults, ages 18-25. These estimates do not include reports of couch surfing only.



(Source: VoYC National Survey)

WHY?

TREVOR PROJECT (4):

8.8%

of LGBTQ+ youth who had experienced homelessness reported leaving home due to mistreatment or fear of mistreatment due to LGBTQ+ identity

14%

of LGBTQ+ youth who had experienced homelessness reported being kicked out

5.6%

of LGBTQ+ youth who had experienced homelessness reported being kicked out due to their LGBTQ+ identity



“

Most LGBTQ youth became homeless not in the immediate aftermath of “coming out” but in large part as the result of family instability and frayed relationships over time.

MORTON, M. H., SAMUELS, G. M., DWORSKY, A., & PATEL, S. (2018). MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: LGBTQ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA. CHICAGO, IL: CHAPIN HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. [HTTPS://WWW.CHAPINHALL.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/VOYC-LGBTQ-BRIEF-FINAL.PDF](https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VOYC-LGBTQ-BRIEF-FINAL.PDF)

WHY? CONT.

- Fraying relationships with family due to rejection can have an impact on an LGBTQ+ person to find help when faced with homelessness
- Youth may be less willing to receive help from a system (shelter, foster care) depending on if they feel the space is safe and affirming for their LGBTQ+ identity (2)
 - Most homeless LGBTQ+ youth were once in the foster care system, youth reported homes rife with theft, drugs, abuse, and violence (5)
- Homophobia and lack of LGBTQ+ cultural competence prevents adults from being able to recognize discrimination and bullying against LGBTQ+ youth (5)

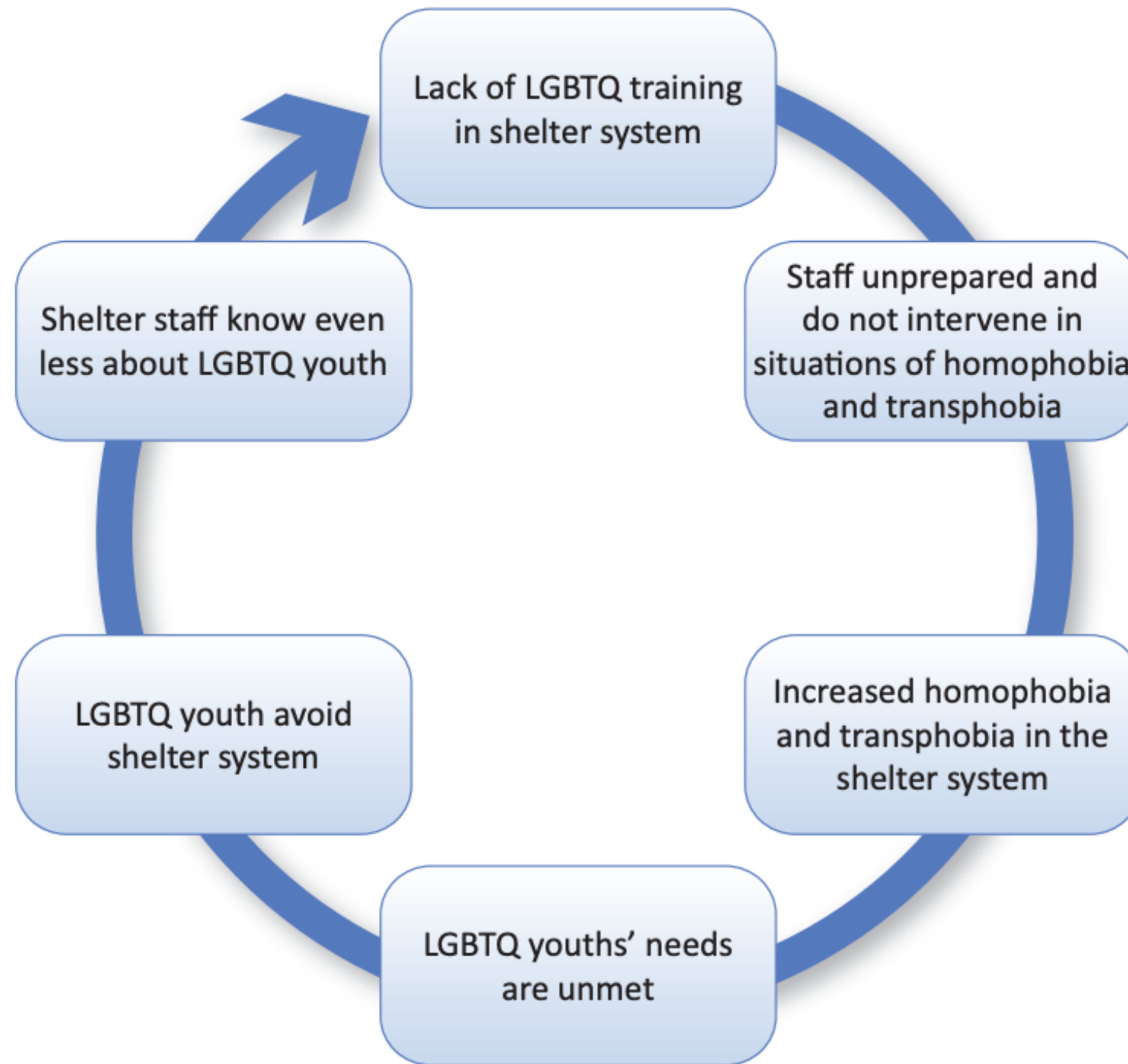


Figure 1. Cyclical nature of the relations.

Experiences on the streets (5)

"CODE OF THE STREET"

Developing a reputation of violence to keep one's body and property safe. Happens in environments where people cannot count on authorities for protection. These same behaviors get them expelled from programs where they could count on authorities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Having traumatic, unpredictable, and oppressive experiences with police. Socially labeled as criminals. Trans individuals, in particular, can be profiled as sex workers.

MEDICALIZATION

Youth may be overdiagnosed with bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses due to their unmanageable behavior from their traumatic experiences. When medication is necessary, there is inconsistent access to medication and youth are illegally discharged from psychiatric hospitals to the street.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMS

Programs aimed at helping homeless youth have a limited capacity. Youth are turned onto the streets after their time runs out.

ACTION

- Improve LGBTQ+ cultural competency at shelters and in the foster care system (5)
 - Recognize and defend LGBTQ+ youth from discrimination
 - More gender inclusivity (unisex bathrooms, updated data gathering to reflect more than M or F) including less gender segregation (should be studied more)
 - Know and recommend local LGBTQ+ resources
- Design research-informed programs addressing youth homelessness
 - Create partnerships with local colleges
- Create more programs for children aging out of foster systems

ACTION

- Facilitate strong anti-discrimination and anti-bullying programs in schools and work to help youth stay connected, making it easier to maintain stable housing (4)
- Increase funds for low-barrier housing programs
 - Reduce bureaucratic challenges to access services
- More in-house mental health services
- Institute a living wage

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