

# HOMELESS LGBTQ2 YOUTH IN TORONTO

How many are there?



**1 in 5**

homeless youth in the shelter system identifies as LGBTQ2

**2x**

that's more than twice as many identified LGBTQ2 as the general population

Is there a safe place to go?



LGBTQ2 YOUTH ARE AT HIGHER RISK DUE TO HOMO/TRANSPHOBIA IN THE HOME OR AT SCHOOL & THEN GO ON TO FACE DISCRIMINATION IN THE SHELTER SYSTEM.

"A high percentage of people who are homeless happen to be LGBTQ2 because they got kicked out of their house, or maybe they lost their job, or they live in a small town, then they can't pay their rent and where else can they come, but Toronto."

- Anonymous homeless youth

TORONTO IS ADVERTISED AS A SAFE PLACE FOR LGBTQ2, BUT **THERE ARE NO DEDICATED SHELTERS FOR LGBTQ2 YOUTH.**

## Health implications



LGBTQ2 YOUTH ARE AT DRAMATICALLY HIGHER RISK FOR SUICIDE & MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES THAN HETEROSEXUAL AND CISGENDER YOUTH

THEY ARE ALSO AT HIGHER RISK FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR & HOMO/TRANSPHOBIC VIOLENCE



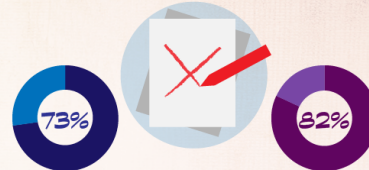
## LGBTQ2 youth in shelters:



Shelter workers need training.

Frontline shelter workers have expressed a need for formal anti-homophobia training, as well as training regarding LGBTQ2 culture and terminology.

## Reporting incidents



73% OF YOUTH INTERVIEWED WERE NOT AWARE THAT ANY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES EXIST.

32% OF YOUTH INTERVIEWED STATED THEY WOULD NOT FILE A COMPLAINT ANYWAYS.

Violence against LGBTQ2 youth is left unrecorded.

Many LGBTQ2 youth choose to sleep on the streets instead of in shelters where their needs are not met & they are likely to be the victim of discrimination and/or violence.

THERE ARE NO SPECIALIZED HOUSING INITIATIVES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF LGBTQ2 YOUTH IN CANADA.

**THE CITY OF TORONTO NEEDS TO IMMEDIATELY DEVELOP & FUND A SPECIALIZED SHELTER FOR LGBTQ2 YOUTH.**

