



the lgbtq+ youth homelessness report

2021



government briefing

This briefing focuses on key findings, and the recommendations made for the Government.

support sought while homeless

Just **13 per cent** of LGBTQ+ young people surveyed felt supported by parents or stepparents while homeless.

abuse from family members and romantic partners

LGBTQ+ young people told us about their experiences with family and romantic partners prior to becoming homeless. The majority of respondents said they felt frightened of or threatened by family members prior to becoming homeless.

One in six (16 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people who were happy to answer, were forced to do sexual acts against their will by family members before they became homeless. The same number had experienced this with a romantic partner.

Half of LGBTQ+ young people (50 per cent) who were happy to answer said they feared that expressing their LGBTQ+ identity to family members would lead to them being evicted. **Almost one in ten (7 per cent)** said the same about romantic partners.

impact of homelessness

Almost one fifth (17 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people felt like they had to have casual sex to find somewhere to stay while they were homeless.

understanding and accessing services

Less than half (44 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people were aware of housing support services the last time they experienced homelessness.

Almost one quarter (24 per cent) weren't aware of any support services available to them.

discrimination faced while accessing services

LGBTQ+ young people told us about the discrimination they faced while accessing services.

Around one-quarter of LGBTQ+ young people have faced discrimination from services for being gay (**27 per cent**), trans (**20 per cent**) while **13 per cent** had for being bisexual.

Over half (59 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people have faced some form of discrimination or harassment while accessing services.

recommendations

Recommendations for Government include:

Implement uniform mandatory monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity in publicly commissioned housing and homelessness services.

Revise gender monitoring information in Homelessness Case Level Collection Data to be inclusive of gender diverse, trans and non-binary identities.

Adopt prevention and early action-focused solutions to LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, working in partnership with service providers. This includes more investment in emergency housing (such as akt's Purple Door) and long-term housing options, by increasing the supply of social housing and ensuring shared accommodation is affordable for LGBTQ+ young people.

Ensure that LGBTQ+ youth homelessness is also explicitly in the LGBT Action Plan's commitments around LGBTQ+ homelessness.

Develop a LGBTQ+ youth homelessness strategy that's inclusive of further marginalised groups including LGBTQ+ young people of colour, trans and disabled LGBTQ+ young people. Incorporate an interdepartmental approach within this strategy by outlining priorities for various government departments, for example ensuring the Home Office includes measures to support LGBTQ+ young people who have no recourse to public funds or are seeking asylum.

As well as these general recommendations, we're also asking stakeholders to address the disproportionate impact of homelessness on marginalised groups including LGBTQ+ young people of colour, disabled LGBTQ+ young people and trans young people.

To read the full report and its recommendations, visit akt.org.uk/report

methodology

The full report surveyed 161 LGBTQ+ young people who had experienced any form of homelessness in the last five years in the UK, while between the ages of 16 and 25. The sample is statistically significant.