COVID-19

THE IMPACT ON LGBTQ+ VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION

Sarah Kent- Maricopa Association of Governments
LGBTQ people are at both heightened health and economic risk of COVID-19
LGBTQ+ people are more likely to work jobs in highly affected industries, often with more exposure and/or higher economic sensitivity to the COVID-19 crisis.

LGBTQ+ people are less likely to have health coverage.

LGBTQ+ people are more likely to smoke and have chronic illnesses like asthma that can significantly increase complications during infection.

LGBTQ+ people are at an increase of experiencing homeless and in-tum, increased risk of COVID-19.

LGBTQ+ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ+ youth.

### Figure 5. Youth at Greater Risk of Experiencing Homelessness

Statistics describe the relative risk of certain groups of young adults, 18-25, having reported “explicit homelessness” in the last 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>346%</td>
<td>Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk than their peers who completed high school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162%</td>
<td>Youth reporting annual household income of less than $24,000 had a 162% higher risk of reporting homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk of reporting homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120%</td>
<td>LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk of reporting homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk of reporting homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200%</td>
<td>Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk of reporting homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the CDC: The effects of COVID-19 on the health of racial and ethnic minority groups is still emerging; however, current data suggest a disproportionate burden of illness and death among racial and ethnic minority groups.

Online predators are putting youth at increased risk during COVID-19
Trafficickers often target LGBTQ+ youth for recruitment into sex trafficking by appealing to their experiences of rejection by family and society, sometimes via readily available social media.

COVID-19 has serious implications for the mental health of LGBTQ+ people.

“For a lot of LGBTQ young people, the main sources of support that they get are at their schools, at clubs, at community centers, at physical spaces that they no longer have access to.”

- AMIT PALEY, TREVOR PROJECT CEO
The Trevor Project operates a 24/7 crisis hotline and has had a steep increase in the number of LGBTQ+ youth who have been reaching out.

Increased Need/Decreased Services
Hotlines/Resources

- LGBT National Help Center 888-843-4564
- LGBTQ Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-(TALK) (available 24/7)
- Crisis Text Line; Text START to 741-741
- Trans Lifeline 877-565-8860
- U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree to 233733
- LGBT National Help Center 888-843-4564
- LGBTQ Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-(TALK) (available 24/7)
- Crisis Text Line; Text START to 741-741
- Trans Lifeline 877-565-8860
- U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree to 233733
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800)273-8255
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233
- Stronghearts Native Helpline: 1-844-762-8483
- For older LGBTQ adults, SAGE runs a National LGBTQ Elder Hotline 877-360-LGBTQ
- Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-659-2955
- 211 Arizona https://211arizona.org/
- Trans Queer Pueblo https://www.tqpueblo.org/
Resources for Youth

- Trevor Project Hotline 1-866-488-7386 or text 678678 (available 24/7)  
  https://www.thetrevorproject.org/

- National Runaway Safe line 800-RUNAWAY 800-786-2929  
  https://www.1800runaway.org/

- The True Colors United 212-461-4401 https://truecolorsunited.org/

- Onenten 602-400-2601 https://onenten.org/
Sources Cited


Photo credit: https://back2the80s.com/any-questions/
Thank you so much!

Sarah Kent
Maricopa Association of Governments
Human Services Planner
skent@azmag.gov