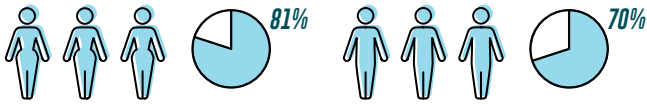


# Young Adults EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Many survivors of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment have complex housing needs. Experiencing violence can jeopardize a person's housing, and experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity can increase the risk someone will experience violence.

## Sexual assault is a common experience of many young people.



Over 81% of female survivors and 70% of male survivors first experienced completed or attempted rape before age 25.<sup>1</sup>



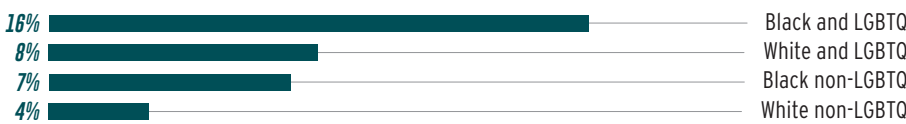
Over 38% of women and almost 40% of men reported their first completed or attempted rape was between 18 and 24 years old.<sup>1</sup>

## Many young people experience homelessness.

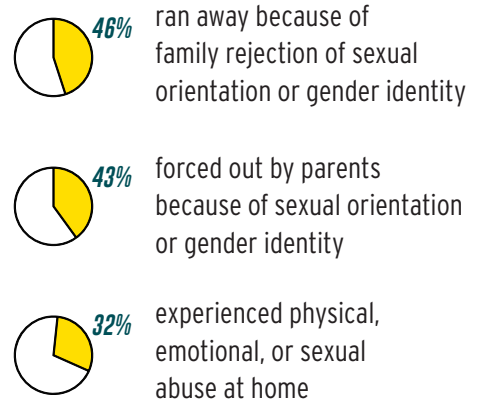


One in 10 young adults, or 3.5 million, experienced homelessness in a year.<sup>2</sup>

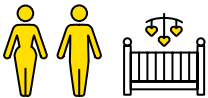
Limited research has looked at the connections between sexual violence, housing, and race. However current statistics note that **Black young people, especially Black men who identified as LGBTQ, experience the highest rate of homelessness.**<sup>3</sup> We also know that experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity can increase the risk someone will experience sexual violence.



### Top three reasons why LGBTQ youth experience homelessness:<sup>4</sup>



Young adults aged 18-25 who identified as **LGBTQ experienced homelessness within the last 12 months** at more than twice the rate of their cisgender heterosexual peers.<sup>3</sup>



Risk for homelessness is high among young adults who are pregnant or parenting.<sup>5</sup>



Forty-four percent of young women aged 18-25 experiencing homelessness are pregnant or parenting, and 18% of males have a pregnant partner or are a parent.<sup>5</sup>

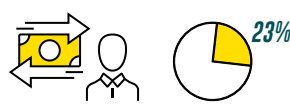


The risk of experiencing homelessness during the past year was **significantly higher for parents aged 18-25** (both male and female) than their non-parent peers.<sup>5</sup>

**Many young adults do not have a home to return to.** Many young people leave home due to violence, abuse, or being told to leave after their family rejects their sexual identity.<sup>6</sup> These risk factors increase the likelihood of experiencing victimization while on the street. **Sexual abuse is directly linked with experiencing sexual victimization while homeless.**<sup>7</sup> Young adults experiencing homelessness typically have a history of being raped or sexually assaulted prior to leaving home and being victimized when on the street.

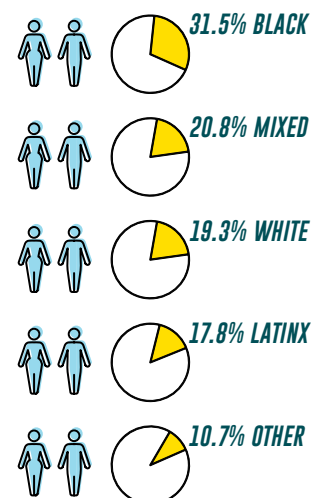


Almost 42% of homeless youth (ages 14-24) have experienced child sexual abuse prior to running away.<sup>8</sup>

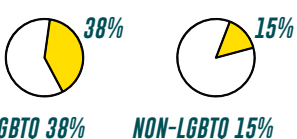


Twenty-three percent of homeless young adults (ages 18-26) had engaged in the sex trade.<sup>9</sup>

Homeless young adults (ages 18-26) who experienced forced sex while homeless:<sup>9</sup>



Out of a sample of 389 youth (ages 13-25) who had been homeless or precariously housed in the past year, **33.2% reported experiencing child sexual abuse** prior to being homeless, and 13% reported experiencing sexual assault since becoming homeless.<sup>10</sup>



Thirty-eight percent of LGBTQ homeless youth (ages 13-25) were **forced to have sex** as compared to 15% of non-LGBTQ youth.<sup>3</sup>



Twenty percent of youth experiencing homelessness were **victims of human trafficking**, and 17% were **victims of sex trafficking.**<sup>11</sup>

For more information on the connections between sexual violence and housing, visit [safehousingpartnerships.org](http://safehousingpartnerships.org). To view the other infographics in this series, visit [nsvrc.org/SexualViolenceandHousingInfographics](http://nsvrc.org/SexualViolenceandHousingInfographics).



### About the Consortium

The Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium is funded by a partnership between the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Consortium supports a technical assistance team of five national organizations: Collaborative Solutions, Inc., National Alliance for Safe Housing, National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The Consortium provides training, technical assistance, and resource development at the critical intersection of homelessness and domestic violence and sexual assault.



## Resources



- <sup>1</sup>Smith, S. G., Zhang, X., Basile, K. C., Merrick, M. T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., & Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 data brief - updated release*. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>
- <sup>2</sup>Morton, M. H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G. M. (2017). *Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in America. National estimates*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup>Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018). *Missed opportunities: LGBTQ youth homelessness in America*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2018.pdf>
- <sup>4</sup>Durso, L. E., & Gates, G. J. (2012). *Serving our youth: Findings from a national survey of services providers working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless*. University of California, <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/80x75033>
- <sup>5</sup>Dworsky, A., Morton, M. H., & Samuels, G. M. (2018). *Missed opportunities: Pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness in America*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/VoYC-Pregnant-and-Parenting-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2018.pdf>
- <sup>6</sup>Baur, E. E., Bein, K., & Fribley, C. (2017). *College-aged but on the streets: Young adults who experience homelessness and sexual violence*. Resource Sharing Project. <http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/college-aged-streets-young-adults-who-experience-homelessness-and-sexual-violence-en-edad>
- <sup>7</sup>Melander, L. A., & Tyler, K. A. (2010). The effect of early maltreatment, victimization, and partner violence on HIV risk behavior among homeless young adults. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 47*(6), 575-581. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2010.04.010>
- <sup>8</sup>Slesnick, N., Zhang, J., & Yilmazer, T. (2018). Employment and other income sources among homeless youth. *Journal of Primary Prevention, 39*, 247-262. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-018-0511-1>
- <sup>9</sup>Santa Maria, D. M., Breeden, K., Drake, S. A., Narendorf, S. C., Barman-Adhikari, A., Petering, R., Hsu, H., Shelton, J., Ferguson-Colvin, K., & Bender, K. (2020). Gaps in sexual assault health care among homeless young adults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 58*(2), 191-198. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2019.09.023>
- <sup>10</sup>Wong, C. F., Clark, L. F., & Marlotte, L. (2016). The impact of specific and complex trauma on the mental health of homeless youth. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 31*(5), 831-854. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514556770>
- <sup>11</sup>Wolfe, D. S., Greeson, J. K. P., Wasch, S., & Treglia, D. (2018). *Human trafficking prevalence and child welfare risk factors among homeless youth: A multi-city study*. Covenant House International. <https://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Field%20Center%20Full%20Report%20on%20Human%20Trafficking%20Prevalence.pdf>



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