

How to Provide Equity and Efficacy of Social Services to Homeless LGBTQA+ High School-Grad Youth in a Community?

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Introduction

There is a need for enhanced and targeted services in Grand Forks and other areas for the LGBTQA+ community. It is important for youth to feel safe and supported so they can grow to be successful adults. I want homeless youth to have knowledge of services to them when they are not sure where to turn in their time of need. Not just a safe roof over their heads but also medical, counseling, and other services they may need.

I have been researching this topic for a few semesters and have studied issues for the youth of the LGBTQA+ community like:

- safe places to go/socialize/shop
- safe bathrooms in places like schools and libraries
- Issues in moving to a new state to go to college as an LGBTQA+ individual.

I am working on this research to get a better understanding of what issues there are & what public policies need to be set to address them. I am approaching these issues through Public Policy, Public Health, and Geographical lenses.

Case Study Location

Grand Forks is the major metropolitan center for northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. It is the regional focus of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Methods

I have conducted multiple literature reviews, qualitative data collection, data analysis, photos, and interviews; I am using the pyramid model (global, continental, national, regional).

National Context

Anti-LGBTQ+ laws are rolling in in historic numbers, like Florida's highly publicized 'Don't Say Gay' bill. There are many states that are known to not be LGBTQA+ friendly and are now trying to pass anti-LGBTQA+ laws. These laws are tied to many important issues, like hate crimes, rights at school, work, marriage, adoption, etc.

Discrimination and violence toward the LGBTQA+ community is high. Statistically it is reported that 61% more rape and violence occurs to LGBTQA+ individuals than to heterosexual women. These problems need addressing.

My current research has been focused on LGBTQA+ homeless youth in the greater Grand Forks area, but these problems are a microcosm of the larger issues in America as a whole. Using the Pyramid Model, we can extrapolate the problems of the GF Region to the wider country and world.



LGBT Discrimination Statistics



National statistics about issues the LGBTQA+ community faces.

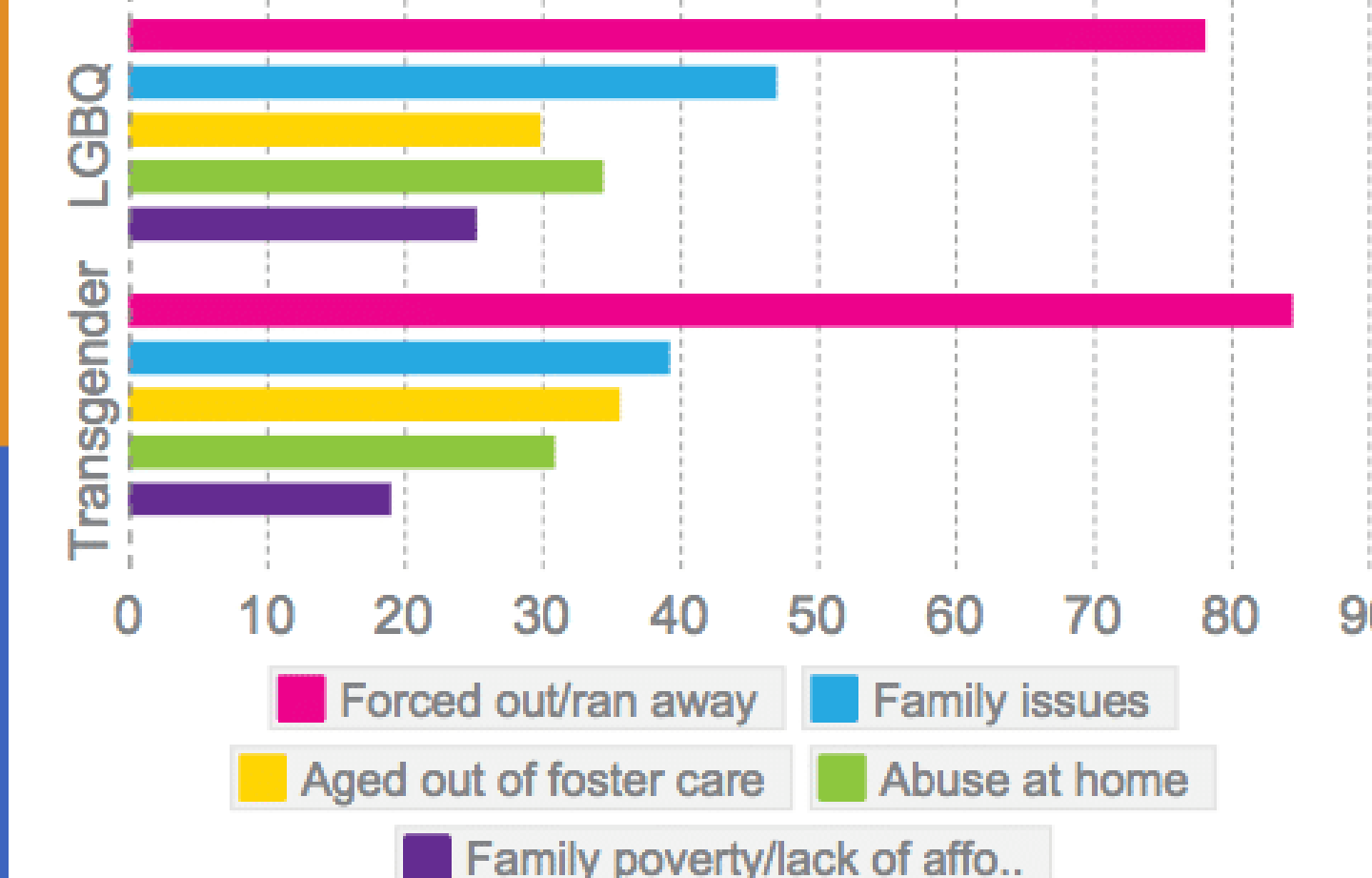
LGBTQ YOUTH ARE

120% MORE LIKELY

TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS THAN THAT OF THEIR HETEROSEXUAL PEERS

Strikingly, LGBTQA+ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than their heterosexual peers.

In the graph below, reasons that LGBTQA+ youth are more likely to experience homelessness are explained. Trans youth are more at risk of being forced out of their homes than other LGBTQA+ youths.



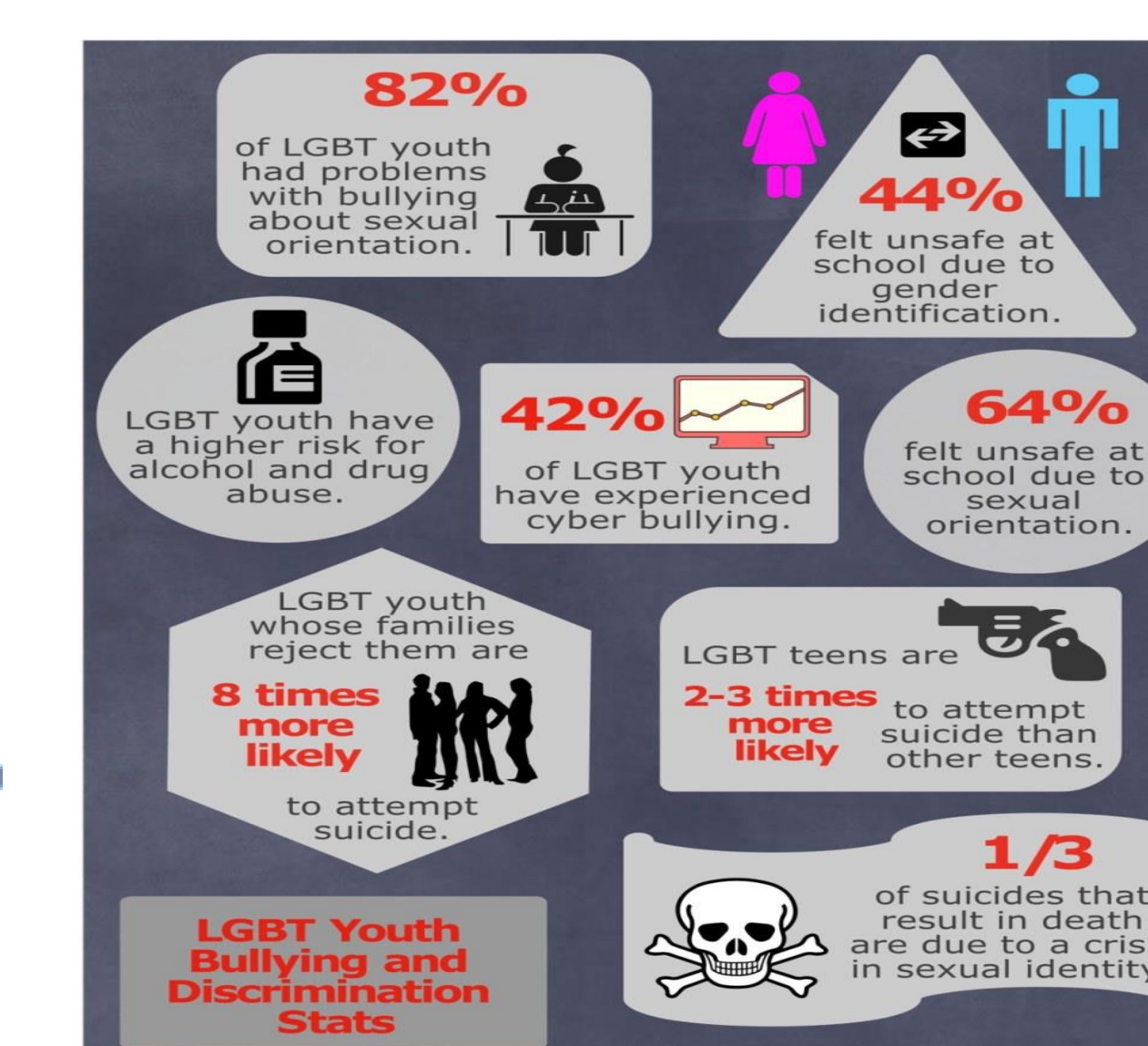
COLLEGE RANKINGS BY LGBT FRIENDLINESS

Do students, faculty, and administrators at your college treat all persons equally regardless of their sexual orientations and gender identity/expression?

MOST FRIENDLY		LEAST FRIENDLY	
1 NY New York University	1 IL Wheaton College	1 PA Grove City College	1 UT Brigham Young University
2 CA Stanford University	2 MA Wellesley College	4 VA Hampden-Sydney College	5 MO College of the Ozarks
3 MA Emerson College	3 VT Bennington College	6 IN University of Notre Dame	7 CA Thomas Aquinas College
4 MA Wellesley College	6 IN University of Notre Dame	8 MA Boston College	9 TX University of Dallas
5 VT Bennington College	7 CA Thomas Aquinas College	9 TX University of Dallas	10 TX Texas A&M University
6 WI University of Wisconsin	8 MA Boston College		
7 MN Macalester College	9 TX University of Dallas		
8 FL New College of Florida	10 TX Texas A&M University		
9 AZ Prescott College			
10 NY Sarah Lawrence College			

Source: Princeton Review
LIFELONG LEARNING
Alumni by DegreeRanking.org

Lists of colleges voted most/least friendly to LGBTQA+ students based on perceptions of students, faculty, and staff on equitable treatment.



Statistics on issues facing LGBTQA+ youth specifically.

Conclusions

When a youth has no place to go it a struggle for them to go through but when discrimination and fear of violence is added to this crisis it can be overwhelming. What is available for the LGBTQA+ homeless youth community? Where do they go to find help (safe places, medical, counseling, support, and other services?)

How can I and others help/get involved? These are the questions I will continue to research in order to determine what are the issues to be addressed then in the end of my research I plan to gather all the information and put it in a pamphlet to hopefully be of use that I will give to school and agencies. After all, The LGBTQA+ homeless youths are our future.

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