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ADDRESSING LGBTI HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE

Findings from research in Italy,
Spain, Germany and Slovenia

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FORWARD

Across Europe, LGBTI people face a stark reality: they are significantly more likely to experience homelessness than the wider population. Although only 5-10% of young people identify as LGBTI, they represent between 20 and 40% of homeless young people, a disparity that requires immediate attention and action.

This briefing presents the findings of research conducted between July 2023 and July 2024 by five LGBTI organisations, supported through ILGA-Europe's 'No One Left Behind' programme. Funded by the European Commission and led by ILGA-Europe, the programme enabled these organisations to advance their research and advocacy efforts to address homelessness within their communities, while strengthening regional knowledge and collaboration.

The research presented here reflects the expertise and dedicated work by these five partner organisations operating across four European contexts: [QUORE](#) in Italy, the [Black Sex Worker Collective](#) in Germany, [Ljubljana Pride](#) in Slovenia, and the joint effort of [Ahora Donde](#) and [ACATHI](#) in Spain. These organisations, rooted in their communities and supporting LGBTI people experiencing homelessness, have gathered valuable new data on LGBTI homelessness specific to their local contexts. Their findings come with evidence-based policy recommendations and targeted advocacy actions. Their work has been supported by consultants at [Analysis Group](#), an economic consulting firm that has partnered with ILGA-Europe as part of its pro bono commitment since August 2023, providing economic analysis and research expertise to strengthen the evidence base for policy change.



Across Europe, LGBTI people face a stark reality: they are significantly more likely to experience homelessness than the wider population.

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This briefing is part of ILGA-Europe's long-term work on addressing homelessness and supporting the efforts of other LGBTI organisations across Europe and Central Asia. Building on our previous joint efforts with FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless), it continues to highlight the persistent invisibility of LGBTI homelessness in mainstream policy discourse. Despite the alarming statistics, with nearly one in five LGBTI individuals in Europe having experienced homelessness during their lifetime, compared to just 4% of the general population, LGBTI homelessness remains largely absent from national homelessness strategies and lacks sufficient institutional support across most European countries.

The research methodology employed across the presented studies combines rigorous quantitative analysis with in-depth qualitative insights, examining not only the prevalence and causes of LGBTI homelessness but also its profound economic, social, and psychological consequences. Through surveys, econometric analysis, and personal interviews, the partner organisations have documented the intersectional factors that drive LGBTI individuals into homelessness: family rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity emerges as the primary cause, affecting 71% of LGBTI youth experiencing homelessness. However, the research reveals that the challenges extend far beyond family dynamics, encompassing systemic discrimination in employment and housing, institutional neglect, cultural barriers, and the devastating impact of minority stress.

The geographical diversity of this research, spanning Southern, Western and Central Europe, provides insights into how different legal frameworks, cultural contexts and service provision models affect LGBTI homelessness outcomes. From the intersectional challenges faced by Black LGBTI sex workers in Germany to the economic consequences of youth homelessness in Slovenia, from the transformative impact of specialised shelters in Italy to the hidden homelessness patterns among couchsurfers in Barcelona, each study illuminates unique aspects of a shared challenge faced by diverse LGBTI communities living in Europe.

The timing of this research is significant. As Europe grapples with multiple housing crises, democratic decline, mounting anti-trans attacks, waves of disinformation, rising far-right rhetoric and policies, growing social polarisation, the vulnerability of LGBTI individuals, particularly young people, migrants and transgender individuals, has intensified.

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What emerges from this research is not just a clearer picture of LGBTI homelessness, but also evidence of what works. The studies demonstrate that targeted, identity-affirming interventions can dramatically improve outcomes for LGBTI homeless individuals. Specialised shelters in Italy show remarkable success in fostering community connections, building life skills, and supporting residents' transition to independent living. Housing-first approaches, trauma-informed care, and peer support programmes consistently emerge as effective strategies. However, these successes remain isolated examples rather than systematic responses, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated policy action at both national and European levels.

The economic analysis presented in this briefing reveals the true cost of inaction. In Slovenia, the lifetime earnings loss for an LGBTI individual experiencing five years of unemployment due to homelessness can reach €102,410, representing 19% of their total lifetime earnings potential. When multiplied across the thousands of LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness across Europe, the economic argument for intervention becomes as compelling as the moral imperative for action.

The research reveals that addressing LGBTI homelessness requires more than simply adding sexual orientation and gender identity considerations to existing homelessness strategies. It demands a fundamental reimagining of how we understand and respond to housing insecurity, one that recognises the unique pathways into homelessness faced by LGBTI individuals, the specific barriers they encounter in accessing support, and the tailored interventions needed to support their long-term stability.

This briefing serves multiple audiences: policymakers seeking evidence-based solutions to address LGBTI homelessness, service providers working to improve their inclusivity and effectiveness, advocates pushing for systemic change, and researchers building the knowledge base for future interventions. The recommendations presented here are grounded in lived experience and rigorous analysis, offering practical pathways toward more inclusive and effective responses to LGBTI homelessness.

ILGA-Europe is proud to present this briefing, the result of a collaboration between five LGBTI partner organisations conducting their research initiatives, brilliant and dedicated researchers at the Analysis Group, providing mentorship and bringing the analysis together in this briefing, and ILGA-Europe through the 'No One Left Behind' programme.

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It has been an honour for ILGA-Europe to lead this effort and bring together the diverse expertise of our partners. Each organisation's original research papers, often more detailed and extensive, are available on their respective websites, linked above, or can be accessed by reaching out to them directly.

As we present these findings, we acknowledge that behind every statistic lies a human story: young people rejected by families for being true to themselves, individuals forced to choose between safety and shelter, communities struggling to access basic services due to fear of discrimination. This briefing honours those experiences while providing the evidence and recommendations needed to create change. The path forward requires sustained political commitment, adequate resources, cross-sector collaboration, and the recognition that LGBTI homelessness is not an inevitable consequence of identity, but a preventable outcome of systemic failures that we have the knowledge and tools to address.

We hope you will take the time to read this briefing and share what you find with others, whether it's local policymakers, community groups, or organisations working on these issues. Every action matters: whether it is speaking up, supporting someone, or making sure these important data, stories and solutions get included in local and national policies and conversations. When we all come together and listen to the voices of LGBTI people facing homelessness, real change becomes possible. Let's move from understanding to action and make sure no one is left behind.



Nadzeya Husakouskaya
Senior Programmes Officer
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I. SUMMARY

This briefing summarises and presents the key findings from research carried out in 2023-2024 in the framework of ILGA-Europe's 'No One Left Behind' programme by five LGBTI partner organisations: [QUORE](#) in Italy; [Black Sex Worker Collective](#) in Germany; [Ljubljana Pride](#) in Slovenia; as well as [Ahora Donde](#) and [ACATHI](#) in Spain. The briefing highlights core insights and policy recommendations.

What follows is a contextual review of the main findings:

Literature Review: The literature demonstrates a marked over-representation of LGBTI individuals within the homeless population. Key contributing factors include family rejection, abuse, and adverse educational experiences, all of which increase the risk and prevalence of homelessness within the LGBTI community. The review also details the significant physical and psychological challenges LGBTI homeless individuals face, including high rates of mental health challenges, substance abuse, and exposure to violence. Effective European interventions, such as tailored counselling and dedicated housing programmes aimed at supporting LGBTI individuals are also discussed for their role in supporting LGBTI community.

Germany: The Intersection of Housing Instability and Sex Work - The first chapter explores how housing instability intersects with discrimination and sex work among Black LGBTI individuals in Germany, as studied by the Black Sex Worker Collective. The research shows that race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and occupation-related stigma collectively heighten the housing insecurity of LGBTI Sex Workers. Survey and interview data reveal high levels of discrimination by landlords and housing providers, highlighting that the stigma attached to sex work is a principal barrier to stable housing.

Slovenia: Homelessness and Its Economic Impact - The second chapter addresses homelessness among LGBTI individuals in Slovenia. A survey conducted by Ljubljana Pride found that more than half of LGBTI respondents conceal their identities at home due to fear of violence. Many, when facing homelessness, avoid shelters because of concerns around discrimination and safety. The absence of LGBTI-inclusive shelters often forces individuals to depend on friends or partners for accommodation, which can come at the expense of their mental health and stability. An analysis of consultants from Analysis Group based on national statistics demonstrates, the economic impact is also significant as homelessness disrupts education and early career paths, ultimately reducing lifetime earnings potential.

Italy: The Role of Minority Stress and Supportive Shelters - The third chapter focuses on LGBTI shelters in Italy and explores how minority stress, including experienced, perceived, and internalised stigma, drives and perpetuates homelessness within the LGBTI community. Findings highlight prevalent discrimination within family and employment environments is, with young, foreign-born, and trans individuals facing compounded risks of homelessness. Italian shelters provide crucial mental health, legal, and employment support while fostering supportive inclusive environments that help residents regain stability, autonomy and well-being. Recommendations emphasise the need for sustainable funding, specialised staff training in trauma-informed care, and community-building initiatives to strengthen support networks and improve long-term outcomes for LGBTI homeless individuals in Italy.

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Spain: Systemic Barriers and Hidden Homelessness in Barcelona - The final chapter discusses findings from two studies examining the impact of homelessness on the LGBTI community in Barcelona. Family rejection, particularly among trans and non-binary youth, emerges as a leading cause of housing instability. The research reveals that minority stress, social isolation, and discrimination, especially for migrants and trans women, increase vulnerability. Many LGBTI people remain invisible in official statistics as they rely on temporary arrangements such as couchsurfing, which often conceals their housing insecurity. Barriers to accessing inclusive services and a lack of clear information further limit support. The studies call for identity-affirming care, improved access to mental health services, and structural reforms to address the systemic exclusion facing LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness in Spain.



Key contributing factors include family rejection, abuse, and adverse educational experiences, all of which increase the risk and prevalence of homelessness within the LGBTI community.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews the existing research on homelessness within the LGBTI community and outlines European initiatives implemented to address the issue. It underscores the disproportionate prevalence of homelessness among LGBTI individuals and specific, effective interventions that have been successfully adopted in Europe. Key factors contributing to homelessness, and the resulting physical and psychological burdens, are discussed. The review also highlights tailored strategies, such as counselling and housing programmes aimed at LGBTI individuals.

A. CHARACTERISATION OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THE LGBTI POPULATION

1. PREVALENCE OF LGBTI HOMELESSNESS

The overrepresentation of LGBTI individuals in the homeless population is deeply concerning. International and European research indicates that while only 5-10% of the general youth population identify as LGBTI, they comprise approximately 20-40% of the homeless youth population.^[1] This suggests that LGBTI youth may be four to eight times more likely to experience housing insecurity than their non-LGBTI peers.

Region-specific studies across the United States, Canada and the UK reflect similar trends, although such findings should be interpreted with caution, as their samples may not be representative of the broader homeless youth population and/or of the situation in Europe. For instance, studies in the US and Canada, find that in their sample 15% to 44% of homeless young people identify as LGBTI, while in the UK, 16% of young people in temporary accommodation identify as LGBTI.^[2] Trans individuals appear to be disproportionately affected, with a quarter of trans respondents reporting prior experience of homelessness.^[3] These rates stand in stark contrast to surveys indicating that only 4%-6% of Americans and Europeans have experienced some form of homelessness in their lifetime.^[4]

[1] Crossley, Shannon, "Come Out Come Out Wherever You Are: A Content Analysis of Homeless Transgender Youth in Social Service Literature," *Portland State University McNair Scholars Online Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2015, pp. 2-14, at p. 2. See also, Josephson, Gordon, and Anne Wright, "Ottawa GLBT Wellness Project: Literature Review and Survey Instruments," *Social Data Research Limited*, 2000, at p. 16, available at https://homelesshub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Literature_Review_and_Survey_Instruments.pdf; Quintana, Nico Sifra, Josh Rosenthal, and Jeff Krehely, "On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth," *Center for American Progress*, 2010, [available here](#).

[2] Leslie, Michelle Burden, Judith Stein and Mary Rotheram-Borus, "Sex-Specific Predictors of Suicidality Among Runaway Youth," *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, Vol. 31, No. 1, 2002, pp. 27-40. See also, Gattis, Maurice, "An Ecological Systems Comparison Between Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Homeless Heterosexual Youths," *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 38-49; McCoy, Sarah, "Danger Zones and Stepping Stones: Phase Two: A Quantitative Exploration of Young People's Experience of Temporary Living," *Depaul UK*, 2018, at p. 19, [available here](#) (calculated as $112 / 587 = 16.3\%$); Tunaker, Carin, "Flying the Flag: Making a Difference to Homeless LGBTQ Youth," *Porchlight*, 2015, [available here](#).

[3] Bachman, Chaka and Becca Gooch, "LGBT in Britain: Trans Report," *Stonewall*, 2018, at p. 6, [available here](#).

[4] Kearney, Lisa, Thomas O'Toole and Jack Tsai, "Homelessness as a Public Mental Health and Social Problem: New Knowledge and Solutions," *Psychological Services*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 2017, pp. 113-117, at p. 113. See also, Fusaro, Vincent, Helen Levy and Luke Shaefer, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Lifetime Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States," *Demography*, Vol. 55, 2018, pp. 2119-2128, at p. 2119; Taylor et al, "Lifetime, 5-year and Past-year Prevalence of Homelessness in Europe: a Cross-national Survey in Eight European Nations," *BMJ Open*, Vol. 9, 2019, pp. 1-13, at p. 1; "Indicator HM1.1. Housing stock and construction," *OECD Affordable Housing Database*, 2024, at p. 14, [available here](#).

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Recent reports by ILGA-Europe and FEANTSA have highlighted the disproportionately high prevalence of homelessness within the LGBTI community across Europe and Central Asia. ILGA-Europe estimates that while only 5–10% of the general youth population identify as LGBTI, they represent 20–40% of the homeless youth population. FEANTSA’s analysis of the 2023 European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) LGBTI II Survey confirms these concerning disparities. The survey shows that nearly one in five LGBTI individuals in Europe has experienced homelessness during their lifetime, compared to just 4% of the general population, a disparity that reaches 34.2% among intersex people and 31% among trans women. FEANTSA highlights that despite these figures, LGBTI homelessness remains largely invisible in mainstream policy discourse. This invisibility, coupled with inadequate institutional support and social rejection, compounds the housing instability faced by LGBTI individuals.^[5]

2. RISK FACTORS RELATED TO LGBTI HOMELESSNESS

When considering the factors contributing to homelessness among LGBTI individuals, it is important to acknowledge that they face many of the same structural issues and personal challenges as non-LGBTI people, including domestic abuse, family breakdown, poor educational experiences and poverty, all of which elevate the risk of homelessness.^[6] However, while these factors affect everyone, LGBTI people often experience homelessness in ways uniquely linked to their gender or sexual identity. Moreover, LGBTI individuals face multiple, intersecting risk factors that contribute to their disproportionate representation among the homeless population in Europe. A literature review by Lindsey McCarthy and Sadie Parr highlights that LGBTI people are disproportionately exposed to certain common risk factors, such as parental rejection, child abuse and poor educational experiences, which likely lead to higher rates of homelessness.^[7]

According to FEANTSA and ILGA-Europe, family rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity is the most prevalent cause, cited by 71% of LGBTI youth experiencing homelessness.^[8] Other studies confirm that family rejection plays a significant role in the higher rates of homelessness among LGBTI individuals. Young LGBTI people often face rejection or conflict at home due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.^[9]

[5] ILGA-Europe, *The True Colors United, The Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender: “Perceptions: Addressing LGBTI Youth Homelessness in Europe and Central Asia: Findings from a Survey of LGBTI Organisations”*, Report, 2021; ILGA-Europe, *The True Colors United, The Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender, FEANTSA: “Comparative findings from a study of homeless service providers and LGBTI-focused organisations about LGBTIQ youth homelessness in Europe”*, Report, 2021; FEANTSA & ILGA-Europe, *“PRIDE: Homelessness in the LGBTIQ Community,”* Homeless in Europe Magazine, Spring 2023; FEANTSA, *“Intersections – Diving Into the FRA LGBTI Survey Data,”* November 2023; FEANTSA, *“Homelessness among LGBTIQ+ people in Europe should be tackled urgently,”* May 2024.

[6] Nilsson, Sandra, Merete Nordenfort and Carsten Hjorthoj, “Individual-Level Predictors for Becoming Homeless and Exiting Homelessness: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis,” *Journal of Urban Health*, Vol. 96, 2019, pp. 741–750, at p. 741. See also, Embleton, Lonnie, Hana Lee and Jayleen Gunn, “Causes of Child and Youth Homelessness in Developed and Developing Countries A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis,” *Jama Pediatrics*, 2016, pp. 435–444; Bramley, Glen and Suzanne Fitzpatrick, “Homelessness in the UK: Who is Most at Risk?,” *Housing Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2017, pp. 96–116, at pp. 96–97.

[7] McCarthy, Lindsey and Sadie Parr, “Is LGBT Homelessness Different? Reviewing the Relationship Between LGBT Identity and Homelessness,” *Housing Studies*, 2022, pp. 1–20, at p. 2.

[8] ILGA-Europe, *The True Colors United, The Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender, FEANTSA: “Comparative findings from a study of homeless service providers and LGBTI-focused organisations about LGBTIQ youth homelessness in Europe”*, Report, 2021

[9] Day, Pascale, “Creating Safe Spaces for the Young and Homeless in the LGBTQ+ Community,” *Centrepoint*, 2020, [available here](#).

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Studies show that 77% of LGBTI youth attribute their homelessness to family rejection, with 70% of respondents aged 18 to 26 reporting that they were asked to leave their homes.^[10] Research examining homeless young people with prior involvement in the child welfare system found that 33% of those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning, were asked to leave home compared to 19.7% of their heterosexual and cisgender peers.^[11] This rejection is often accompanied by abuse, compounding the vulnerability of LGBTI individuals to homelessness.

Extensive research further demonstrates that LGBTI individuals are more likely to endure childhood adversity, including greater involvement with child protection services and higher rates of abuse. One study found that 43% of homeless and runaway youth had histories with child welfare services, among whom 8.8% identified as transgender and nearly 30% as LGBTQ. Additionally, LGBTI youth are disproportionately affected by several types of abuse, as highlighted by multiple studies.^[12] For instance, two-thirds of LGBTI youth reported having experienced some form of child abuse, compared to just over half of their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts.^[13] Moreover, transgender youth face higher levels of instability in care placements, even relative to their LGBTQ peers, further compounding their risk of homelessness.^[14]

Extant research shows that homeless LGBTI youth are at greater risk of poor educational outcomes, which in turn increases their risk of homelessness. High levels of discrimination and bullying in educational settings disrupt education for many LGBTI youth and contribute to early dropout among LGBTI young people. For example, one study found that 67% of homeless youth reported experiencing bullying at school, which was strongly associated with truancy and exclusion.^[15] Another study in Canada indicated that while 46% of homeless youth had frequently been bullied, this figure rose to 63% for LGBTI youth.^[16]

In addition, systemic discrimination in employment and housing further exacerbates vulnerabilities, with trans and intersex people disproportionately affected by poverty and exclusion. The European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) LGBTI II Survey highlights that one-third of LGBTI respondents face difficulties making ends meet, rising to over 50% among intersex and trans individuals.

[10] "LGBT Youth Homelessness: A UK National Scoping of Cause, Prevalence, Response, and Outcome," The Albert Kennedy Trust, at p. 4, [available here](#). See also, Shelton, Jama, et al., "Homelessness and Housing Experiences Among LGBTQ Young Adults in Seven U.S. Cities," *Cityscape*, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2018, pp. 9–33, at p. 18.

[11] Forge, Nicholas, et al., "Out of The System and Onto the Streets: LGBTQ-Identified Youth Experiencing Homelessness with Past Child Welfare System Involvement," *Child Welfare*, Vol. 96, No. 2, 2019, pp. 47–74, at pp. 59–60.

[12] Frederick, Tyler, et al., "Exploring Gender and Sexual Minority Status Among Street-involved Youth," *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2011, pp. 166–183, at p. 167. See also, Gaetz, Stephen, et al., "Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey," Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2016, at p. 8, [available here](#).

[13] Forge, Nicholas, et al., "Out of The System and Onto the Streets: LGBTQ-Identified Youth Experiencing Homelessness with Past Child Welfare System Involvement," *Child Welfare*, Vol. 96, No. 2, 2019, pp. 47–74, at pp. 59–60.

[14] Mountz, Sarah, Moshoula Capous-Desyllas and Elizabeth Pourciau, "Because We're Fighting to Be Ourselves: Voices from Former Foster Youth who are Transgender and Gender Expansive," *Child Welfare*, Vol. 96, No. 1, 2019, pp. 103–126, at p. 105.

[15] Cull, Mark, Hazel Platzer and Sue Balloch, "Out On My Own: Understanding the Experiences and Needs of Homeless Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth," University of Brighton, 2006, at p. 3, [available here](#).

[16] Gaetz, Stephen, et al., "Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey," Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2016, at pp. 53–54, [available here](#).

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Institutional neglect is another critical factor; nearly three-quarters of homelessness services reported lacking specific training on LGBTI needs, and many countries have yet to implement national policies targeting LGBTI homelessness. Social rejection and fear of discrimination also deter LGBTI individuals from accessing mainstream services, pushing many into unsafe or hidden housing situations. These combined factors create highly complex barriers that necessitate tailored policy solutions and inclusive services to address the unique challenges faced by the LGBTI homeless community across Europe.^[17]

3. PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL TOLL OF LGBTI HOMELESSNESS

The psychological, emotional, and physical toll of homelessness on LGBTI individuals is profound and multifaceted. Many LGBTI youth who experience homelessness face initial rejection and discrimination from their families, which is then compounded by the trauma and instability of being homeless. The intersection of their LGBTI identity and homeless status exposes them to heightened vulnerability across multiple dimensions of well-being. Family rejection, a prevalent driver of homelessness among LGBTI youth, inflicts deep emotional wounds. The stigma associated with being LGBTI often instills feelings of guilt, shame, and self-blame, as young people internalise negative societal and familial attitudes.^[18] These internalised feelings are exacerbated when LGBTI youth confront homelessness, as LGBTI youth face heightened stigma compared to their non-LGBTI peers.^[19] LGBTI youth endure dual stigmatisation – both for their homeless status and for their sexual or gender identity. This compounded stigma adds an additional emotional burden, intensifying feelings of isolation and hopelessness.^[20]

One of the most alarming consequences of LGBTI youth homelessness is the significantly increased risk of suicide. Studies show that LGBTI youth who run away from home are at a significantly higher risk of suicidal ideation and attempts. In particular, LGBTI youth who ran away as adolescents have a 51% higher likelihood of experiencing suicidal thoughts in adulthood than peers who remained housed.^[21]

[17] ILGA-Europe, The True Colors United, The Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender: "[Perceptions: Addressing LGBTI Youth Homelessness in Europe and Central Asia: Findings from a Survey of LGBTI Organisations](#)", Report, 2021; ILGA-Europe, The True Colors United, The Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender, FEANTSA: "[Comparative findings from a study of homeless service providers and LGBTI-focused organisations about LGBTIQ youth homelessness in Europe](#)", Report, 2021; FEANTSA & ILGA-Europe, "[PRIDE: Homelessness in the LGBTIQ Community](#)," Homeless in Europe Magazine, Spring 2023; FEANTSA, "[Intersections – Diving Into the FRA LGBTI Survey Data](#)," November 2023; FEANTSA, "[Homelessness among LGBTIQ+ people in Europe should be tackled urgently](#)," May 2024.

[18] Kidd, Sean, "Youth Homelessness and Social Stigma," *Journal of Youth Adolescence*, Vol. 36, 2007, pp. 291–299, at p. 291.

[19] Gattis, Maurice, "An Ecological Systems Comparison Between Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Homeless Heterosexual Youths," *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 38–49, at pp. 38, 45.

[20] Fraser, Brodie, et al., "LGBTI Homelessness: A Review of the Literature," *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Vol. 16, 2019, pp. 1–13, at p. 6.

[21] Benoit-Bryan, Jennifer, "The Runaway Youth Longitudinal Study," National Runaway Switchboard, 2011, at pp. 24–25, [available here](#).

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Alongside psychological harm, LGBTI homeless youth face physical health risks. Due to the lack of safe housing and shelter options, many LGBTI individuals resort to risky survival strategies to meet their basic needs, including exchanging sexual activity for shelter.^[22] Studies indicate that 23% of LGBTI homeless youth engage in such survival sex or sex work elevating their risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV,^[23] underscoring the urgent need for targeted interventions.^[24] These individuals often have multiple clients, limited access to condoms, and little control over their circumstances, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and disease.^[25]

LGBTI individuals who are sleeping rough face a significantly higher risk of physical violence than their heterosexual counterparts. Research indicates that homeless LGBTI youth are disproportionately subjected to physical assaults on the streets.^[26] The intersection of homelessness and their marginalised LGBTI identities makes them targets for violence, further compounding the trauma of their situation.

Moreover, studies have shown that LGBTI homeless individuals are more likely to use drugs.^[27] For example, among the homeless youth who used drugs in Canada, approximately four-fifths of those recently hospitalised identified as LGBTI.^[28] In addition to a higher likelihood of substance use, LGBTI homeless people tend to use a wider variety of drugs, more frequently, and for longer durations than their non-LGBTI peers.^[29] Studies also show that LGBTI youth, particularly LBT young women, and are more likely to use hard drugs compared to the general youth homeless population.^[30]

[22] Whitbeck, Les B., et al., "Mental Disorder, Subsistence Strategies, and Victimization Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Homeless and Runaway Adolescents," *Journal of Sex Research*, Vol. 41, No. 4, 2004, pp. 329–342, at p. 329.

[23] Gangamma, Rashmi, et al., "Comparison of HIV Risks among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Heterosexual Homeless Youth," *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, Vol. 37, 2008, pp. 456–464, at pp. 460–461. See also, Moon, Martha W., et al., "HIV Risk Behaviour of Runaway Youth in San Francisco," *Youth & Society*, Vol. 32, No. 2, 2000, pp. 184–201, at pp. 195–196. Gangamma, Rashmi, et al., "Comparison of HIV Risks among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Heterosexual Homeless Youth," *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, Vol. 37, 2008, pp. 456–464, at pp. 460–461. See also, Moon, Martha W., et al., "HIV Risk Behaviour of Runaway Youth in San Francisco," *Youth & Society*, Vol. 32, No. 2, 2000, pp. 184–201, at pp. 195–196.

[24] McCoy, Sarah, "Danger Zones and Stepping Stones: Phase Two: A Quantitative Exploration of Young People's Experience of Temporary Living," Depaul UK, 2018, at p. 2, [available here](#).

[25] Marshall, Brandon, et al., "Survival Sex Work and Increased HIV Risk among Sexual Minority Street-Involved Youth," *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, Vol. 53, No. 5, 2010, pp. 661–664.

[26] Gattis, Maurice, "An Ecological Systems Comparison Between Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Homeless Heterosexual Youths," *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 38–49, at p. 38.

[27] Gattis, Maurice, "An Ecological Systems Comparison Between Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Homeless Heterosexual Youths," *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 38–49, at p. 38. See also, Kidd, Sean, Stephen Gaetz and Bill O'Grady, "The 2015 National Canadian Homeless Youth Survey: Mental health and Addiction Findings," *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol. 62, No. 7, 2017, pp. 493–500, at p. 497.

[28] Chang, Derek C., et al., "Hospitalization Among Street-involved Youth Who Use Illicit Drugs in Vancouver, Canada: a Longitudinal Analysis," *Harm Reduction Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 14, 2018, pp. 1–6, at p. 3.

[29] Gattis, Maurice, "An Ecological Systems Comparison Between Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Homeless Heterosexual Youths," *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 38–49, at pp. 42–43. See also, Frederick, Tyler, et al., "Exploring Gender and Sexual Minority Status Among Street-involved Youth," *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2011, pp. 166–183, at p. 173; Clatts, Michael C., et al., "Homelessness and Drug Abuse Among Young Men Who Have Sex With Men in New York City: A Preliminary Epidemiological Trajectory," *Journal of Adolescence*, Vol. 28, No. 2, 2005, pp. 201–214, at p. 205.

[30] Frederick, Tyler, et al., "Exploring Gender and Sexual Minority Status Among Street-involved Youth," *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2011, pp. 166–183, at p. 178. See also, Kattari, Shannon, et al., "Social Networks and Sexual Risk Factor Differences Between Cisgender Heterosexual and Cisgender LGBQ Homeless Youths," *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2017, pp. 182–200, at p. 190.

B. PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE

1. GENERAL PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Across Europe, numerous initiatives have been implemented to prevent and address homelessness. A report by the European Union's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs identifies affordable housing, active intervention strategies, and comprehensive supportive services as key components in reducing homelessness.^[31]

A notable example is Finland's proactive, long-term approach focused on sustainable solutions. Finland has increased social housing for young people^[32] and transitioned from reliance on emergency shelters towards providing permanent housing coupled with on-site or visiting support services. This model prioritises stable, permanent housing without preconditions, such as sobriety or treatment compliance, as the foundation for recovery and stability. This approach has proven to be successful in Finland, which repurposed former shelters into permanent housing units.^[33]

In addition to Finland's successful strategies, other European countries have implemented diverse policies to address homelessness, providing a broad spectrum of potential solutions. These policies are typically categorised into prevention measures, which aim to stop homelessness before it occurs, and strategies to minimise the duration of homelessness by ensuring rapid access to stable housing and support services once individuals become homeless.^[34]

Prevention is widely regarded as most effective when supported by a sufficient supply of affordable housing.^[35] For example, data on homelessness in Dublin illustrate that family issues and relationship breakdowns are key drivers of youth homelessness, underscoring the need for family support and mediation services in prevention efforts. As such, to be effective, homelessness prevention strategies must be specifically tailored to young people, recognising that different age cohorts face distinct risks and pathways into homelessness.^[36]

Once a person becomes homeless, there is little evidence that emergency accommodation offers more than temporary, and often inadequate, relief.^[37] Instead, scientific evidence supports the effectiveness of housing-led, support-oriented solutions.^[38] The prevailing consensus is that longer-lasting episodes of homelessness are best addressed by providing immediate access to permanent housing without preconditions, accompanied by tailored support programmes.^[39]

[31] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at pp. 40–47, [available here](#).

[32] In Finland, LGBTI people are still not mentioned as a specific target group in homelessness work.

[33] Kaakinen, Juha and Saija Turunen, "Finnish but not yet Finished – Success and Challenges of Housing First in Finland," *European Journal of Homelessness*, Vol. 15, No. 3, 2021, at pp.81–84. See also, Pleace, Nicholas, et al., "The Strategic Response to Homelessness in Finland: Exploring Innovation and Coordination within a National Plan to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness," *Exploring Effective Systems Responses to Homelessness*, The Homeless Hub Press, 2016, edited by Naomi Nichols and Carey Doberstein, pp. 425–441, at pp. 430–436.

[34] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens Rights' and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at pp. 40–47, [available here](#).

[35] Kaakinen, Juha, and Saija Turunen, "Finnish but not yet Finished – Success and Challenges of Housing First in Finland," *European Journal of Homelessness*, Vol. 15, No. 3, 2021, at pp.81–84.

[36] Bairéad, Clíodhna and Michelle Norris, "Designing Strategies to Prevent Homelessness Among Single Adults in Dublin: What the Data Tells Us," *Public Policy.IE*, 2023, [available here](#).

[37] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens Rights' and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at p. 44, [available here](#).

[38] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens Rights' and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at p. 45, [available here](#).

[39] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens Rights' and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at p. 46, [available here](#).

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Rapid rehousing initiatives, which aim to end transitional homelessness by moving individuals into their own homes through rent subsidies or affordable secure housing tenancies, have demonstrated success in reducing homelessness and significantly improving the recipients' quality of life.^[40] Rent subsidies, in particular, are considered highly effective.^[41] Studies show that increased time housed, strengthened social connections, and access to emotional support account for most of the quality of life improvements linked to rent subsidy receipt.^[42] These housing-first approaches rather than reliance on emergency accommodation are especially relevant for the LGBTI individuals, who are at greater risk of experiencing discrimination and violence within the shelter system.^[43]

While the initiatives described here target the general homeless population, insights from these approaches can be adapted to better address the specific challenges faced by LGBTI homeless people.

2. PRACTICES ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE LGBTI COMMUNITY

Across Europe and internationally, several projects have been developed to address the unique needs of the LGBTI homeless population. These initiatives focus on creating safe, inclusive spaces and providing tailored support.^[44]

- **Housing First (New Zealand):** One prominent model is the Housing First approach, exemplified by initiatives in New Zealand. This model prioritises immediate access to permanent housing without requiring individuals to meet readiness conditions beforehand. Central to this approach are principles of consumer choice, preferences on housing type and the frequency of support worker visits, individualised support, and fostering social integration. LGBTI individuals can benefit from this model as it addresses issues like mental health and substance use after stable housing is secured.^[45]
- **Rock Trust and LGBT Youth Scotland Partnership (Scotland):** In Scotland, the partnership between Rock Trust and LGBT Youth Scotland exemplifies collaborative efforts to support LGBTI youth. This collaboration focuses on enhancing support for LGBTI youth by improving inclusivity in organisational policies and creating safer environments at the Rock Trust (a homeless youth service).

[40] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens Rights' and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at pp. 46–48, [available here](#).

[41] O'Flaherty, Brendan, "Homelessness Research: A Guide for Economists (and Friends)," *Journal of Housing Economics*, Vol. 44, 2019, pp. 1–25, at pp. 1, 23. See also, O'Flaherty, Brendan, "Homelessness," *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, Springer, 2022, edited by Klaus F. Zimmerman, pp. 1–12, at pp. 5–7.

[42] O'Connell, Maria, Kyaw Sint and Robert Rosenheck, "How do Housing Subsidies Improve Quality of Life Among Homeless Adults? A Mediation Analysis," *American Journal of Community Psychology*, Vol. 61, No. 3–4, 2018, pp. 433–444.

[43] Spicer, Shane S., "Healthcare Needs of the Transgender Homeless Population," *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, Vol. 14, No. 4, 2010, pp. 320–339, at p. 321.

[44] "Building Bridges: How the LGBTIQ & Homeless Sector can Work Together," FEANTSA Youth, ILGA-Europe, and True Colours United, 2019, [available here](#).

[45] "Housing First," The People's Project, [available here](#).

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Research conducted alongside this partnership revealed that many LGBTI youth are unaware of their housing rights. This initiative aims to bridge this gap by providing education and developing safer alternatives to traditional homeless services.^[46]

- **TO Housing Project (Italy):** Based in Turin, TO Housing is Italy's first social co-housing initiative specifically designed to provide safe accommodation to vulnerable LGBTI individuals. The project offers up to 24 residents housing across five apartments that are not part of general community housing lists. Beyond providing shelter, TO Housing actively supports social reintegration by offering psychological counselling, work and training orientation, and community-building activities. The project serves diverse groups including young LGBTI people who have been forced from their families due to their sexual or gender identity, homeless LGBTI migrants and refugees, elderly LGBTI individuals facing isolation or poverty, and transgender people experiencing housing discrimination.^[47]
- **Peer Support (Netherlands):** In the Netherlands, peer support programmes are employed to address mental health, addiction and homelessness. Although sharing personal experiences can initially be challenging, the emphasis is on mutual aid and helping others. Peer support fosters shared understanding, cultivates hope, and strengthens trust and social bonds.^[48]

C. CONCLUSION

The prevalence of homelessness within the LGBTI population remains disproportionately high compared to the general population, largely due to a range of risk factors such as family rejection and child abuse. This is especially concerning given that homelessness often results in a greater physical and psychological toll on LGBTI individuals than on their heterosexual peers.

Despite the mounting evidence of disproportionately high rates of homelessness among LGBTI individuals, there remains a significant lack of comprehensive, disaggregated data on LGBTI homelessness across Europe.

[40] "Homeless in the European Union," Policy Department for Citizens Rights' and Constitutional Affairs, 2023, at pp. 46–48, [available here](#).

[41] O'Flaherty, Brendan, "Homelessness Research: A Guide for Economists (and Friends)," *Journal of Housing Economics*, Vol. 44, 2019, pp. 1–25, at pp. 1, 23. See also, O'Flaherty, Brendan, "Homelessness," *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, Springer, 2022, edited by Klaus F. Zimmermann, pp. 1–12, at pp. 5–7.

[42] O'Connell, Maria, Kyaw Sint and Robert Rosenheck, "How do Housing Subsidies Improve Quality of Life Among Homeless Adults? A Mediation Analysis," *American Journal of Community Psychology*, Vol. 61, No. 3–4, 2018, pp. 433–444.

[43] Spicer, Shane S., "Healthcare Needs of the Transgender Homeless Population," *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, Vol. 14, No. 4, 2010, pp. 320–339, at p. 321.

[44] "Building Bridges: How the LGBTIQ & Homeless Sector can Work Together," FEANTSA Youth, ILGA-Europe, and True Colours United, 2019, [available here](#).

[45] "Housing First," The People's Project, [available here](#).

[46] "Building Bridges: How the LGBTIQ & Homeless Sector can Work Together," FEANTSA Youth, ILGA-Europe, and True Colours United, 2019, [available here](#). See also, "Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway," A Way Home Scotland, [available here](#); "About Us," Rock Trust, [available here](#).

[47] "TO Housing – LGBTIQ Hospitality," Associazione Quore, [available here](#).

[48] "Building Bridges: How the LGBTIQ & Homeless Sector can Work Together," FEANTSA Youth, ILGA-Europe, and True Colours United, 2019, [available here](#).

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This data gap hampers the ability to develop targeted, effective responses. Moreover, there is an absence of robust, dedicated policies at the European level explicitly addressing LGBTI homelessness, and funding for tailored interventions is often inconsistent and insufficient. While this literature highlights the scope and nature of the issue, meaningful change requires strong political will and coordinated action. This briefing offers a crucial glimpse into the lived realities of LGBTI homelessness in four countries and provides concrete policy recommendations designed to inform both local and European-level strategies aimed at ending LGBTI homelessness.



While this literature highlights the scope and nature of the issue, meaningful change requires strong political will and coordinated action.

III. RESEARCH ON LGBTI HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE (2023-2024)

This section examines four distinct issues affecting LGBTI homeless individuals in Europe.

The first subsection, **Mapping the Intersections Between Discrimination Against LGBTI Communities and Sex Work in Germany**, presents findings from a study by the Black Sex Worker Collective (“BSWC”). This research focuses on Black LGBTI Sex Workers in Germany, exploring how intersecting discrimination related to race, gender, sexual orientation, and occupation increases housing instability. Through analysis of survey and interview data, the study illuminates how stigma and bias in housing and employment deeply impact these individuals' daily lives.

The second subsection, **Homelessness Among LGBTI People in Slovenia**, investigates factors contributing to homelessness among LGBTI people in Slovenia, especially youth. Data from Ljubljana Pride reveal that family rejection, discrimination in shelters, and lack of safe housing options leave many LGBTI individuals without stable homes. This subsection highlights the detrimental effect of unsafe living conditions on mental and physical health while also showing how homelessness disrupts education and job prospects. It further quantifies the lifetime earnings losses associated with early-career unemployment induced by homelessness.

The third subsection, **LGBTI Homelessness and Shelters in Italy**, draws on research from the PRIDE Project, a collaborative effort between QUORE, LGBTI organisations and Italian universities. Using surveys and interviews conducted across five specialised LGBTI shelters, this study examines the intersection of identity-based discrimination, minority stress, and housing instability. The findings highlight the demographic factors linked to homelessness within the LGBTI population and assess how shelter services impact resident well-being. By documenting these insights, the study seeks to inform targeted policy and service improvements addressing the complex vulnerabilities of LGBTI homeless individuals in Italy.

The fourth subsection, **LGBTI Homelessness in Barcelona**, is based on studies by ACATHI and Ahora Donde – Le Refuge. The research underscores family rejection, especially among trans and non-binary youth, as a primary driver of homelessness, often framed as voluntary departure. Minority stress, including discrimination, isolation, and mental health challenges, compounds housing instability. Many participants report barriers to accessing shelters, health services, and psychological support due to limited information or fear of stigma. The studies underscore the need for inclusive, identity-affirming care and reveal how structural discrimination, particularly against trans women and migrants, perpetuates housing and employment exclusion within Barcelona's LGBTI homeless community.

**MAPPING THE
INTERSECTIONS
BETWEEN
DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST LGBTI
COMMUNITIES
AND SEX WORK
IN GERMANY**



1. INTRODUCTION

The Black Sex Worker Collective (BSWC), with support from ILGA-Europe, has conducted a pivotal research exploring the intersections of housing insecurity, discrimination, and occupation among Black Sex Workers and LGBTI individuals in Germany. Finalised in September 2024, this research forms part of BSWC's broader mission to expose the socio-economic inequalities faced by marginalised communities and to advocate for necessary reforms. Amid rising housing insecurity in many urban centres, this study contributes to ongoing discussions on how systemic discrimination impedes access to stable and secure housing.

The purpose of the study was not only to document the lived experiences of Black Sex Workers and LGBTI individuals in Germany but also to produce evidence to support regulatory changes. By analysing the factors driving housing instability, BSWC seeks to dismantle stigmas associated with race, occupation, and sexual identity and advocate for inclusive policies that improve housing outcomes for marginalised communities. The findings emphasise the urgent need for targeted policy interventions addressing the intersectional challenges faced by racialised LGBTI communities, particularly those involved in sex work.

2. METHODOLOGY

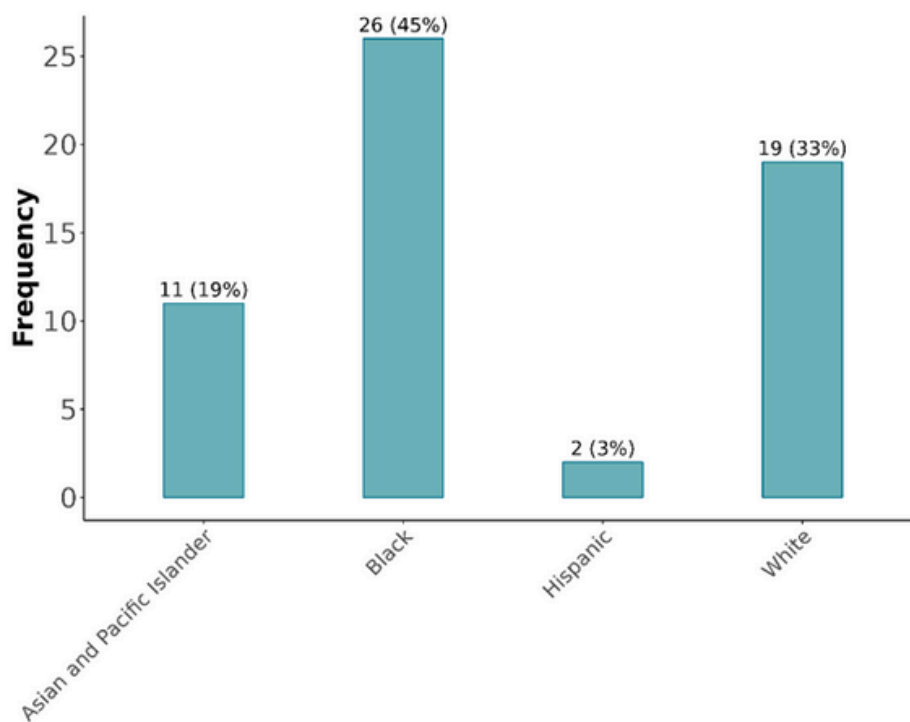
The BSWC research was conducted in two phases. The first phase involved distributing an online survey designed to gather demographic information, housing status, occupation details, and personal experiences with discrimination. This survey aimed to provide a broad overview of participants' socio-economic conditions and housing experiences. Participants who completed the survey were then invited to join the second phase, which consisted of in-depth, face-to-face interviews. These interviews provided richer, more detailed insights into the specific challenges faced by Sex Workers and LGBTI individuals, especially in relation to housing.

As of early September 2024, 84 individuals had completed the online survey, while 34 individuals had taken part in the in-person interviews. The BSWC plans to increase the number of interview participants to 50 to ensure comprehensive and representative dataset.

3. DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

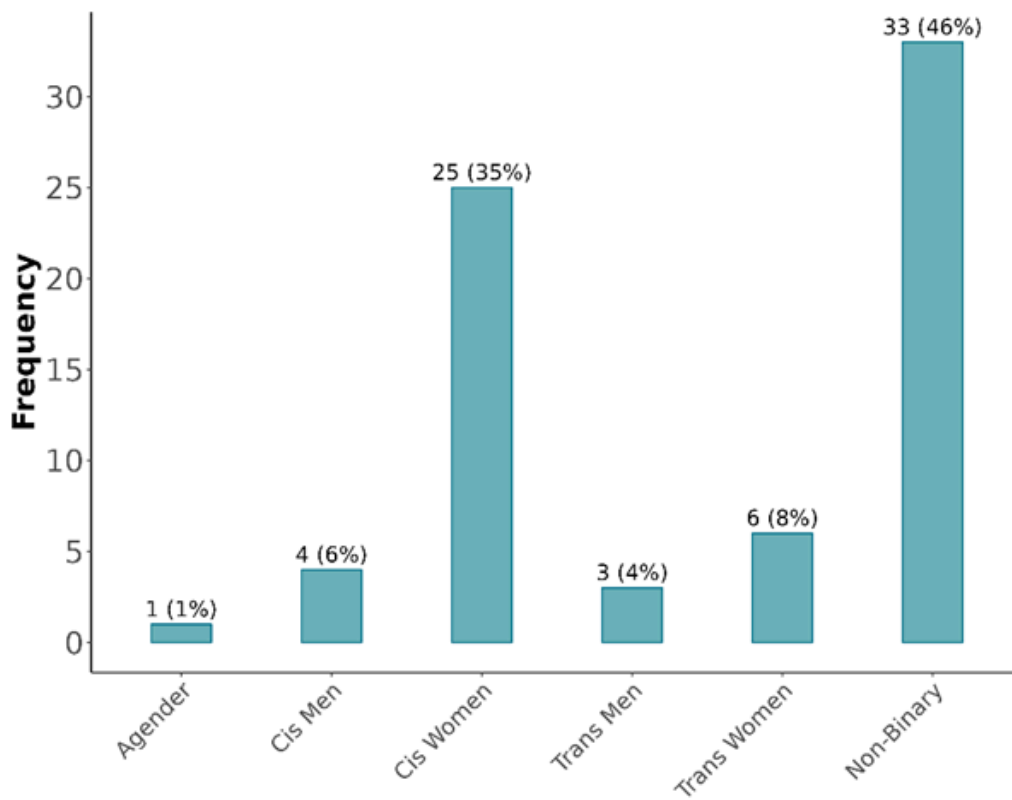
The study's participants represent a diverse range of backgrounds in terms of ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation, reflecting the intersectionality focus of the BSWC. Among the respondents, 45% identified as Black, 33% as White, 19% as Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3% as Hispanic. This ethnic diversity enables a comprehensive exploration of how housing insecurity affects different groups, with particular attention to the experiences of Black Sex Workers who face multiple overlapping forms of discrimination.

Racial Background



Gender identity was also a key factor in the analysis, with 46% of respondents identifying as non-binary, 41% as cisgender (6% cis men and 35% cis women), and 12% as transgender (4% trans men and 8% trans women). Sexual orientation among participants was also diverse: 41% identified as pansexual, while 23% identified as bisexual. Other identities reported included asexual, gay, lesbian, omnisexual or straight. Notably, 70% of respondents were not German citizens, which further complicates their access to stable housing due to the additional immigration-related challenges. In addition, 48% of the sample reported being Sex Workers.

Racial Background

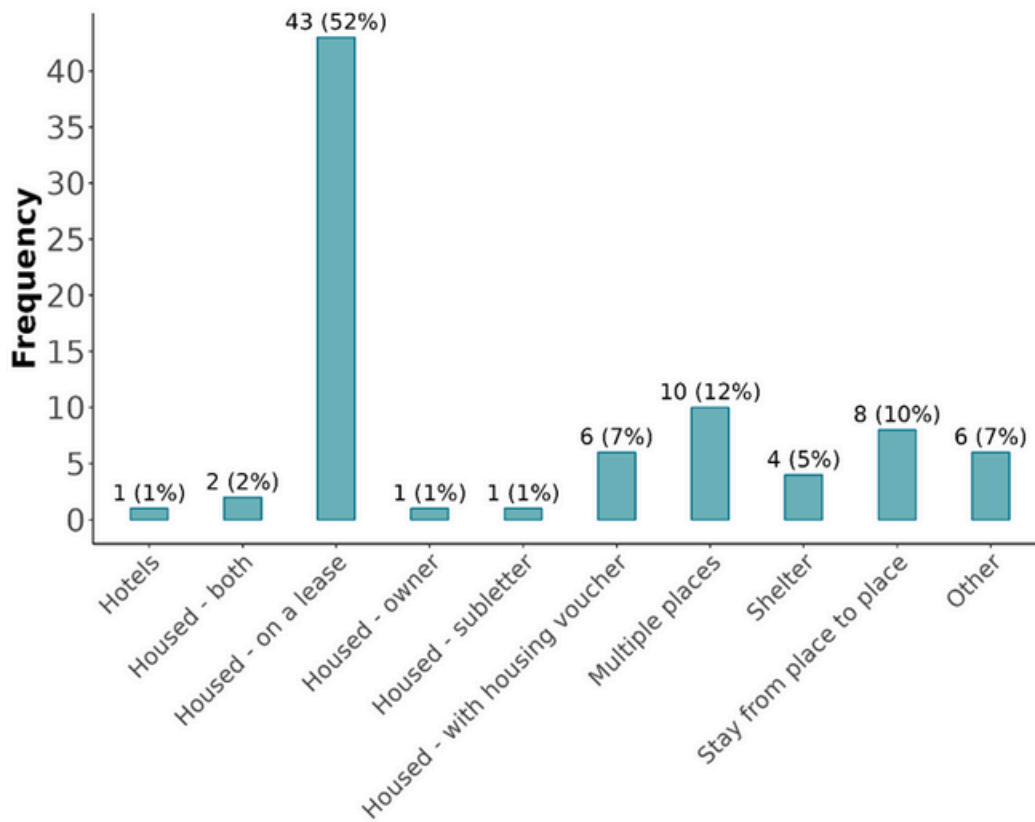


In terms of educational background, 56% of the participants had attained a college degree, challenging a common assumption that higher education guarantees better living conditions. **This disconnect between education and housing stability highlights how structural barriers such as discrimination based on race, occupation, or immigration status play a significant role in shaping housing outcomes.**

4. HOUSING INSECURITY AND SATISFACTION

Housing insecurity emerged as a central issue for many participants, with 46% reporting an unstable housing situation. Only 52% held formal leases, while the remainder lived in precarious conditions, including sub-letting, staying with friends, or couchsurfing. Some respondents relied on housing vouchers, hotels, shelters, or frequently moved between multiple locations. Dissatisfaction with housing conditions was pervasive, with 54% of respondents expressing frustration due to safety concerns, experiences of racism, and financial instability.

Housing Status



5. KEY FINDINGS: DISCRIMINATION, HOUSING, AND OCCUPATION

A primary focus of the study was to explore how different forms of discrimination, including race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and occupation, relate to housing insecurity.

While many participants reported experiences of racial discrimination, statistical analysis showed no significant association between the racial background of respondents and their housing insecurity. Similarly, comparable levels of housing insecurity were reported by respondents who felt discriminated against based on their ethnicity and those who did not perceive such discrimination.

Gender identity and sexual orientation were also examined as potential factors influencing housing insecurity. Non-binary and transgender participants more frequently reported housing instability compared to cisgender participants; however, these correlations were not statistically significant. Likewise, no significant correlation was found between sexual orientation and housing status.

The most significant finding was a strong correlation between occupation and housing insecurity. Sex Workers, in particular, were considerably more likely to experience housing instability and discrimination due to their occupation compared to those in other professions. The stigma associated with sex work likely results in direct discrimination from landlords and housing providers, creating barriers for Sex Workers to secure and maintain stable housing.

These findings challenge prevailing narratives that attribute housing insecurity primarily to financial instability. **While income remains a factor, the BSWC research underscores that discrimination based on occupation constitutes a critical, yet often overlooked, driver of housing insecurity.**

6. EDUCATION, DEBT, AND HOUSING OUTCOMES

Another key aspect of the study examined the relationship between educational attainment, debt, and housing insecurity. Despite most participants holding college degrees, many still experienced housing instability. In fact, the correlation between the level of education and housing insecurity was insignificant, suggesting that education alone does not sufficiently shield marginalised groups from systemic discrimination and challenges. The study also investigated the link between debt and Sex Worker status but found no significant relationship between these two variables. This indicates that housing insecurity among Sex Workers likely stems less from financial instability and more from systemic oppression and structural discrimination.

These findings highlight the need to address the root causes of housing insecurity, which often lie in systemic inequalities rather than individual circumstances. Policymakers must recognise that simply **improving access to education or financial services alone is insufficient to resolve the housing crisis for marginalised communities.** Instead, **targeted interventions tackling the specific barriers faced by Sex Workers are essential to ensure equitable access to housing.**

7. CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The BSWC study offers a rigorous statistical analysis of the intersectional factors contributing to housing insecurity among marginalised communities, particularly Sex Workers. The findings underscore the urgent need for regulatory interventions that address the unique challenges faced by these groups. The strong correlation between sex work and housing insecurity calls for further research to identify targeted policies that protect Sex Workers from occupation-based discrimination and uphold their right to safe, stable housing.

Policymakers should consider developing housing assistance programs specifically tailored to Sex Workers and other marginalised groups, who often face discrimination not only from landlords but also within the shelter system. Such programs could include financial support, legal protection, and access to secure housing, alleviating the disproportionate burden of housing insecurity faced by these communities. An exemplary initiative is the partnership between the Rock Trust and LGBT Youth Scotland (discussed in Section II.B.2), which strives to enhance the inclusivity of Rock Trust's physical environment, its policies with inclusive language, and foster an inclusive culture for staff, youth, peers, and supporters alike.

The broader evidence base from global networks and research further recommends decriminalising all aspects of sex work, enforcing anti-discrimination laws, and creating supportive housing and emergency shelter options tailored to Sex Workers' needs. Efforts to remove barriers related to legal documentation, financial services, and healthcare access are equally critical. Advocacy and awareness campaigns aimed at landlords, financial institutions, and the public can help reduce stigma and discrimination. Meaningful engagement with Sex Worker communities in policy-making processes is essential to ensure that interventions reflect lived experiences and address real needs.

It is important to note that decriminalising sex work cannot be separated from addressing the broader criminalisation and marginalisation experienced by many communities. Efforts to end the criminalisation of sex work will remain incomplete if the underlying discrimination against Black people, women, transgender individuals, migrants, and other marginalised groups is not also dismantled. True decriminalisation must include affirming the rights, dignity, and existence of all people impacted by intersecting forms of oppression. Sex work decriminalisation is only one part of this wider struggle for justice.

In conclusion, the BSWC study provides invaluable data to inform future regulatory efforts to mitigate housing insecurity. By focusing on the structural barriers affecting Sex Workers and LGBTI individuals, this research offers a foundation for targeted policy action to achieve equitable housing access for all.

**HOMELESSNESS
AMONG LGBTI
PEOPLE IN
SLOVENIA:
ADDRESSING
SYSTEMIC
BARRIERS AND
VULNERABILITIES**

B

1. INTRODUCTION

Homelessness among LGBTI individuals is a growing concern globally, and Slovenia is no exception. LGBTI youth in particular face heightened risks of homelessness due to familial rejection, discrimination, and entrenched systemic barriers. As a marginalised group, they experience more complex layers of stigma and vulnerability compared to the general homeless population. This chapter delves into the data gathered by Ljubljana Pride with support from ILGA-Europe, and into the Slovenian national statistics, and explores underlying causes and consequences of homelessness among LGBTI individuals in Slovenia, focusing on the psychological, emotional, and economic tolls that result from unstable housing.

2. CAUSES AND IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG LGBTI PEOPLE IN SLOVENIA

Homelessness among LGBTI individuals in Slovenia is deeply rooted in familial dysfunction.^[49] A survey by Ljubljana Pride found that 53% of LGBTI respondents who lived with parents or carers felt compelled to hide their sexual orientation or gender identity out of fear for their safety. This concealment is a direct response to a hostile environment where LGBTI youth feel the threat of being expelled or facing violence if their identity is revealed. The survey also revealed that 56% of respondents experienced psychological violence, and 13% reported being victims of physical violence at home. These findings highlight the precarious position and harmful conditions faced by LGBTI youth within family settings.

These risks are further exacerbated by systemic barriers. LGBTI individuals, especially transgender and gender-diverse people, face significant challenges securing safe temporary accommodations. Shelters, often the last resort for the homeless, are perceived as unsafe by many LGBTI people due to the high likelihood of encountering discrimination and violence.^[50] According to Ljubljana Pride's survey, LGBTI individuals facing inadequate living conditions often turn to friends (50%) or partners (31%) for help rather than shelters, which they avoid due to the fear of harassment or mistreatment. The lack of shelter staff trained in LGBTI issues, combined with the risk of encountering queerphobic residents, deters many LGBTI individuals from accessing such services.

[49] Abramovich, Alex, "Understanding How Policy and Culture Create Oppressive Conditions for LGBTQ2S Youth in the Shelter System," *Journal of Homosexuality*, Vol. 64, No. 11, 2017, pp. 1484-1501.

[50] Kidd, Sean, "Youth Homelessness and Social Stigma," *Journal of Youth Adolescence*, Vol. 36, 2007, pp. 291-299.

Transgender individuals encounter additional barriers, as many shelters operate on a binary gender framework, either denying them access or assigning them to facilities aligned with their sex assigned at birth rather than their gender identity.^[51] This policy exposes transgender individuals to heightened risks of harassment, physical assault, and sexual violence.^[52] These practices exacerbate the already precarious situation for transgender and gender-diverse individuals, leaving them with very limited safe housing options when homeless.

Finally, Ljubljana Pride data indicates that 66% of LGBTI respondents living in inadequate housing conditions reported that these conditions had negatively impacted their mental health, while 19% experienced adverse effects on their physical health, demonstrating the profound toll that unstable housing conditions exact on the LGBTI community.

3. LONG-TERM ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF LGBTI HOMELESSNESS

The analysis presented in this section was prepared by consultants from Analysis Group based on Slovenian national statistics.

The economic repercussions of homelessness for LGBTI individuals are extensive and often lead to long-term disadvantages. Youth homelessness significantly disrupts educational attainment, which in turn impacts career prospects and lifetime earnings.

Homeless youth are substantially less likely to complete secondary education compared to their housed peers. The instability caused by homelessness interrupts schooling, making it difficult for LGBTI youth to focus on or attend school regularly, forcing many LGBTI young people to drop out. This diminishes their abilities and limits their chances to pursue higher education and secure well-paying employment. In Slovenia, the unemployment rate among individuals with only basic education is more than double that of those with secondary education (see Table 1). Even for LGBTI youth who succeed in completing their education, the experience of homelessness often leads to poorer academic performance, further limiting access to higher education and stable employment.

[54]

[51] Begun, Stephanie and Shanna K. Kattari, "Conforming for Survival: Associations Between Transgender Visual Conformity/Passing and Homelessness Experiences," *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, Vol. 28, No. 1, 2016, pp. 54–66, at pp. 61–62.

[52] Spicer, Shane S., "Healthcare Needs of the Transgender Homeless Population," *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, Vol. 14, No. 4, 2010, pp. 320–339, at p. 321.

[53] Malenfant, Jayne, et al., "Preventing Youth Homelessness in the Canadian Education System: Young People Speak Out," Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2020, at p. 6, [available here](#).

[54] Based on Slovenian data from 2022, the median gross salary of people with secondary education is 16% higher than those with basic education. The discrepancy is even larger when comparing with people with tertiary education, where the salary is 79% higher than people with basic education. As such, poorer academic performance may lead to substantially lower lifetime earnings even when homeless students do not drop out of school prematurely. See, "Average Monthly Earnings (EUR) by Statistical Regions of Employment, Level of Education and Sex, Slovenia, 2015 – 2022," Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office, [available here](#).

Table 1: Housing Status

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Overall	3.7
Basic	8.7
Short- term vocational, vocational upper secondary	3.8
Technical, general upper secondary	3.9
Tertiary	2.1

Source: Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office. [55]

Note: Some of these differences in employment rates can be driven by selection bias. In other words, people completing tertiary education could be less likely to be homeless than those completing secondary education, even if they had attained the same level of education.

The economic costs of homelessness extend beyond disrupted educational attainment. LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness often confront significant barriers to workforce entry, such as the lack of a permanent address, limited access to clean clothing, and the emotional toll of unstable living conditions. [56][57][58] These barriers significantly reduce their employability. A Ljubljana Pride survey found that 10% of respondents living in inadequate housing, defined as less severe than homelessness or rooflessness, reported that their housing situation negatively impacted their ability to find and maintain employment. This highlights how housing instability intersects with employment difficulties, perpetuating economic vulnerability within the LGBTI community.

The long-term economic consequences of LGBTI youth homelessness are particularly severe. The following analysis focuses on the impact of unemployment on lifetime earnings, without considering the additional negative effects such as disrupted education (Table 2).

When an individual experiences unemployment early in their career, it affects their ability to generate income, both immediately and in the long term. In a modeled scenario, if a person experiences five years of unemployment during the early working years (from age 18 to 22), they earn no income during that time.

[[55] "Unemployed by Educational Attainment Level and Sex, Cohesion Regions, Slovenia, Annually," Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office, [available here](#).

[56] "Homelessness Services Provide Solutions to Ensure Homeless People are Financially Included in Increasingly Cashless Societies," FEANTSA, 2022, [available here](#).

[57] Fraser, Brodie, et al., "LGBTIQ+ Homelessness: A review of the Literature," International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Vol. 16, No. 15, 2019.

[58] "Safe Space Housing LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness," QSAPP, [available here](#).

SLOVENIA

The analysis estimates that an individual who remains unemployed for five years during their early career could lose as much as 19% of their total lifetime earnings (last column). The majority of this reduction occurs due to the absence of income during the unemployment period (second column), while the rest is due to delayed career progression (third column).^[59] In addition to the five-year unemployment scenario, the analysis also considered shorter periods of unemployment. For an individual who faces one year of unemployment, the lifetime earnings loss is estimated at 4%, while three years of unemployment result in a 12% loss.^[60]

Finally, as can be seen in Table 2, the estimated cost of lost employment per individual ranges from €21,750 to €102,410. Based on a 2016 report by the European Social Policy Network, which recorded over 6,700 homeless people in Slovenia,^[61] and assuming that 20% to 40% of them identify as LGBTI, the expected financial loss for an LGBTI young adult in Slovenia stemming exclusively from homelessness ranges from €139 to €2,614.^{[62] [63]} This estimate reflects the combined probability of a young LGBTI person experiencing homelessness and the consequent impact on lifetime earnings.

Table 2: Impact of lost employment on net present value of earnings

LOST EMPLOYMENT	SHORT-TERM LOSS FROM BEING INACTIVE	LONG-TERM INCOME LOSS DUE TO LAGGING PRODUCTIVITY	TOTAL LOSS	PERCENTAGE OF LIFETIME EARNINGS LOST
1 Year	18,012 €	3,338 €	21,750 €	4%
3 Years	53,332 €	9,978 €	63,310 €	12%
5 Years	87,699 €	14,712 €	102,410 €	19%

Source: Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office.^[64]
Calculations: consultants from Analysis Group.

[[59] We assume that productivity levels converge around the age of 50, which implies that salary disparities due to early career interruptions, such as unemployment, are likely to diminish or disappear as individuals approach this age. This means that the long-term financial impact of early unemployment may lessen over time as individuals' earning potential stabilizes. See Naveed, Amjad, and Nisar Ahmad, "Labour Productivity Convergence and Structural Changes: Simultaneous analysis at Country, Regional and Industry Levels," *Journal of Economic Structures*, Vol. 5, No. 19, 2016, pp. 1-17.

[60] The net present value of the median lifetime earnings in Slovenia is of 538,847 euros. The percentages are calculated as the proportion of those earnings.

[61] Stropnik, Nada, "National Strategies to Fight Homelessness and Housing Exclusion, Slovenia" European Social Policy Network, 2019, at p. 9.

[62] Between 0.6% (=6,700 * 0.2 / (2,100,000 * 0.1)) and 2.6% (=6,700 * 0.4 / (2,100,000 * 0.05)) of LGBTI individuals are homeless in Slovenia. We estimated the cost of lost employment due to homelessness to be between €21,750 and €102,410. Hence, we estimate €139 (=€21,750 * 0.0064) as the lower bound and €2,614 (=€102,410 * 0.0255) as the upper bound. See, "Population," Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office, [available here](#). See also, "Ipsos Global Advisor LGBT+ Pride 2024 Survey," Ipsos, 2024, [available here](#).

[63] 33% of this loss represents reduced income tax revenue for the Slovenian government rather than disposable income for an individual. See Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office (average gap between median gross and net salaries in 2022), "Average Monthly Earnings (EUR) by Statistical Regions of Employment, Level of Education and Sex, Slovenia, 2015 - 2022," Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office, [available here](#).

[64] "Average Monthly Earnings (EUR) by Statistical Regions of Employment, Level of Education and Sex, Slovenia, 2015 - 2022," Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office, [available here](#).

4. CONCLUSION

Homelessness among LGBTI individuals in Slovenia is a complex, multifaceted issue rooted in familial rejection, systemic discrimination, and a lack of inclusive services. LGBTI youth, in particular, are at a heightened risk of experiencing homelessness, with profound psychological, emotional, physical, and economic consequences. The overrepresentation of LGBTI individuals in the homeless population is a stark reminder of the systemic failures that continue to marginalise the LGBTI community.

The psychological trauma of family rejection, combined with the stigma of homelessness, leads to high rates of mental health challenges and suicidal ideation among LGBTI homeless youth. Compounding these risks, the lack of safe shelter options often forces LGBTI individuals to engage in risky survival strategies, further jeopardising their health and safety. The long-term economic consequences of homelessness are equally severe, as disrupted education and limited employment opportunities leave LGBTI individuals economically disadvantaged throughout their lives. The estimated cost of lost employment ranges from €21,750 to €102,410 per individual. Based on these figures, the expected financial loss for each LGBTI young adult in Slovenia, considering only the increased risk of homelessness, ranges from €139 to €2,614.

Policymakers must recognise, acknowledge, and address the unique vulnerabilities faced by LGBTI individuals by tackling the root causes of homelessness in this community. Targeted interventions in housing, mental health, education, and employment are crucial to building a more inclusive society where LGBTI individuals have the opportunity to thrive. This requires not only immediate assistance for those experiencing homelessness but also systemic reforms aimed at preventing homelessness and dismantling the structural barriers that perpetuate LGBTI marginalisation.



Policymakers must recognise, acknowledge, and address the unique vulnerabilities faced by LGBTI individuals by tackling the root causes of homelessness in this community.

LGBTI HOMELESSNESS AND SHELTERS IN ITALY



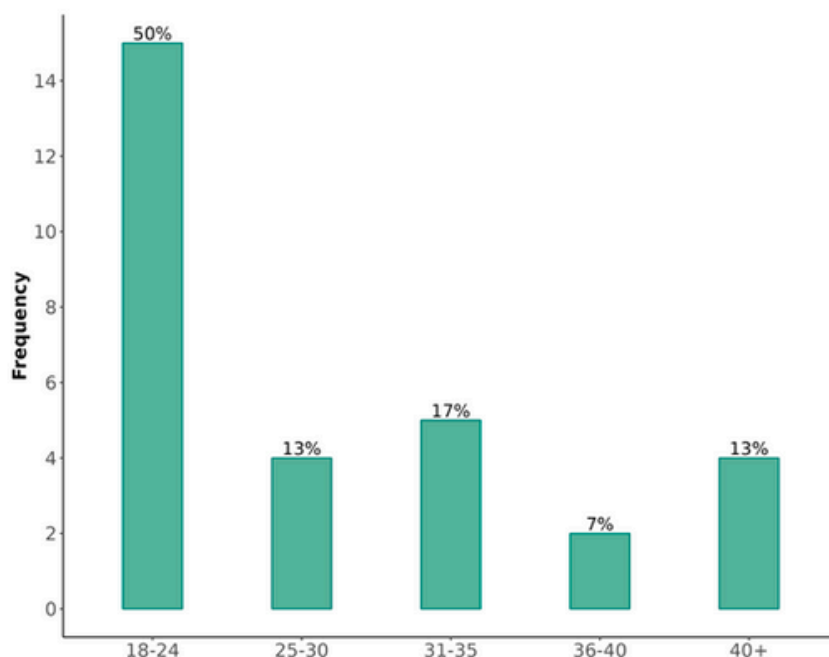
1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an in-depth examination of LGBTI homelessness in Italy, based on recent research conducted as part of the PRIDE Project, a collaborative initiative between QUORE, Italian universities and LGBTI organisations with support from ILGA-Europe. Integrating quantitative survey data and qualitative interviews across five specialised LGBTI shelters, the study explores how identity-based discrimination and minority stress contribute to homelessness for LGBTI individuals. It also evaluates the role of shelter services in supporting residents' well-being. By documenting demographics, lived experiences, and support needs of LGBTI homeless individuals, this chapter aims to guide targeted policies and service improvements that better address the unique vulnerabilities faced by LGBTI communities.

2. RESEARCH OVERVIEW AND DEMOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS

Data from 50 participants – 30 residents and 20 staff members – across five LGBTI shelters reveals demographic and identity-specific trends in LGBTI homelessness in Italy. Most shelter residents are young, with over 60% under 30 years old and 50% between the ages of 18 and 25. This reflects the early onset of homelessness for many LGBTI individuals, often triggered by family rejection and economic instability during formative years. For many LGBTI individuals, such early instability disrupts education and career trajectories, limiting their employment and housing options, as discussed in previous chapters.

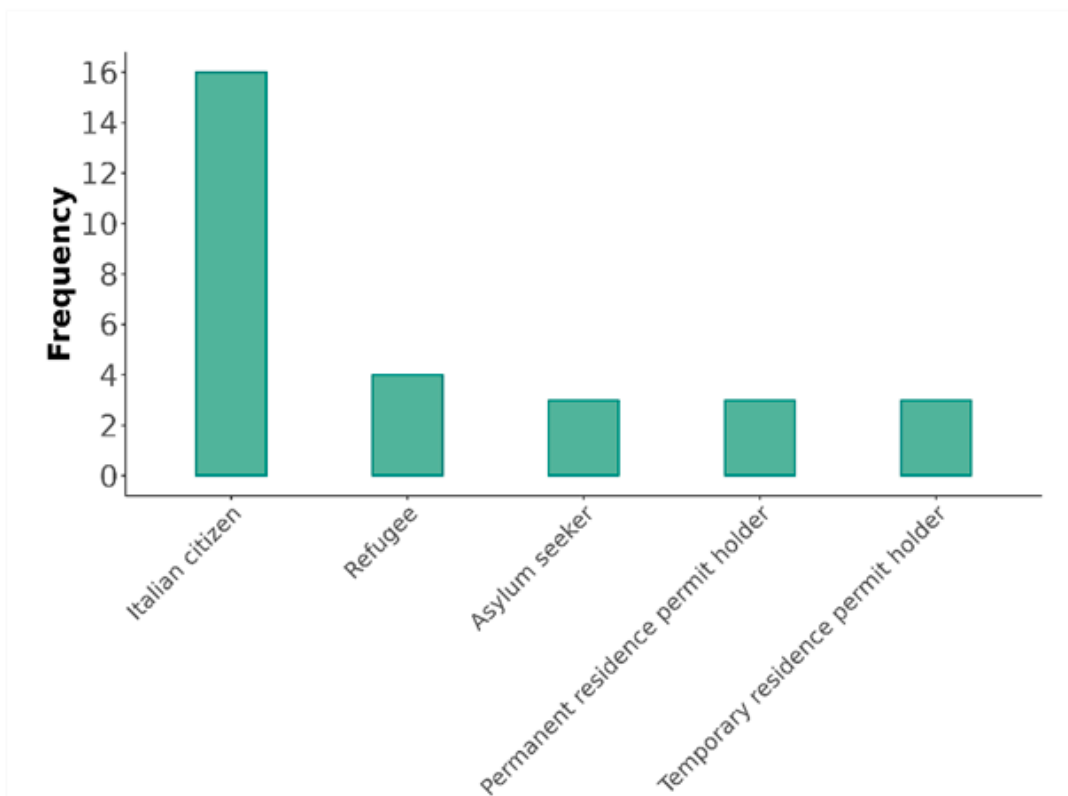
Age of shelter residents



ITALY

A significant proportion of shelter residents — approximately 45% — are foreign-born, with 24% being asylum-seekers or immigrants. The latter group faces compounded challenges tied to their immigration status, such as limited legal protections, economic instability, and a lack of family support networks. Additionally, over half of the residents identify as trans or non-binary, underscoring the heightened risk of homelessness faced by gender-diverse individuals. These demographic trends suggest that LGBTI homelessness in Italy is shaped not only by identity-based stigma but also by intersecting socioeconomic and legal barriers, particularly for young and/or immigrant LGBTI individuals.

Legal Status of Respondents



These demographic trends suggest that LGBTI homelessness in Italy is shaped not only by identity-based stigma.

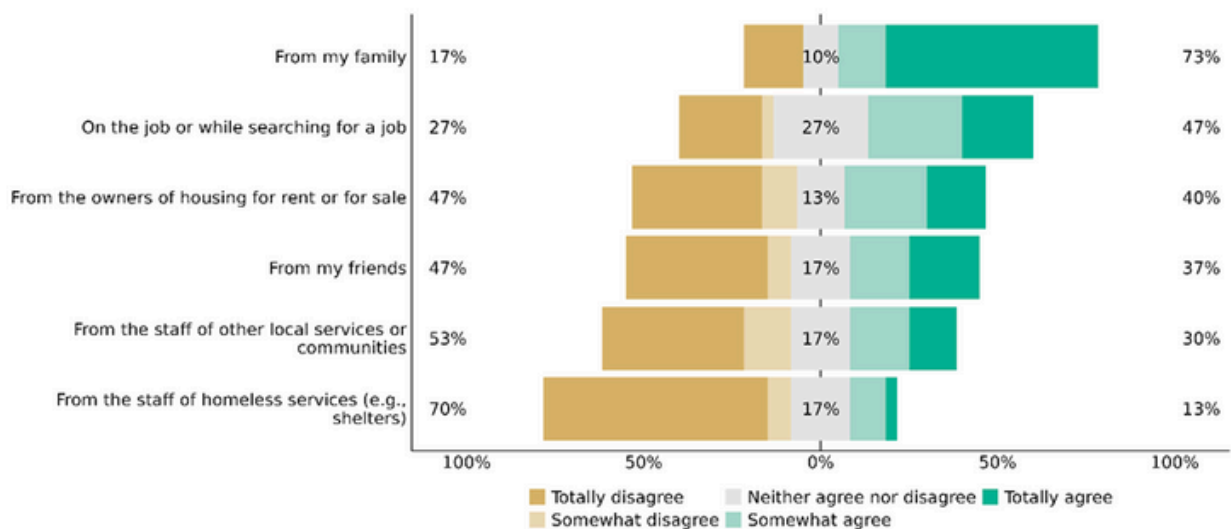
3. MINORITY STRESS: THREE DIMENSIONS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH HOMELESSNESS

Minority stress, as experienced by LGBTI individuals, emerges as a primary factor contributing to and perpetuating homelessness. This form of chronic stress arises from discrimination, identity-based stigma, and societal rejection. The present study identifies three core dimensions of minority stress that significantly affect LGBTI homeless individuals.^[65]

A. EXPERIENCED STIGMA

Family rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity was reported by more than 70% of residents, with many describing forced displacement from family homes. Discrimination was also pervasive in other critical areas: almost 50% of residents experienced discrimination when seeking employment or while on the job, and 40% faced rejection when trying to secure housing. This pattern of repeated rejection severely undermines LGBTI individuals’ ability to secure income and stable housing, making family rejection one of the strongest predictors of homelessness for LGBTI youth.

Context of Experienced Stigma

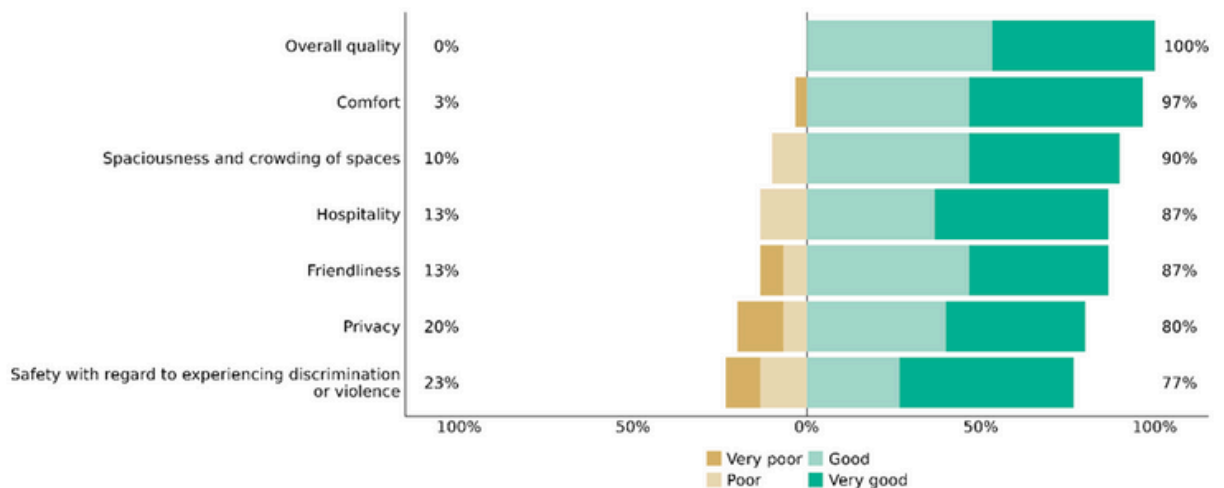


[65] Meyer, Ilan H., "Prejudice, Social Stress, and Mental Health in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations: Conceptual Issues and Research Evidence," *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol. 129, No. 5, 2003, pp. 674–697, at pp. 675–677.

B. PERCEIVED STIGMA

Heightened vigilance about potential discrimination was prevalent among residents, with 60% reporting a strong expectation of bias or exclusion, particularly in healthcare and employment settings. This pervasive anticipation of rejection often leads LGBTI individuals to conceal their identities, which further exacerbates feelings of isolation and anxiety. Interviews reveal that many residents refrain from discussing their identity, even in supportive environments, due to the accumulated stress of anticipated stigma. Moreover, awareness of this stigma can negatively impact a person’s expectations for future success and, in some cases, foster feelings of resignation. Thus, the perceived stigma presents significant barriers to obtaining and maintaining stable employment, increasing the risk of housing insecurity.

Context of Perceived Stigma



C. INTERNALISED STIGMA

Internalised stigma, where LGBTI individuals absorb and reflect societal prejudices against themselves, was notably high among transgender residents, with rates approximately 14% above those reported in prior studies of 203 transgender and gender nonconforming individuals in Italy aged 18 to 66.^[66] This internalised stigma contributes to serious mental health challenges, including low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety, and impedes efforts to build trust and engage in the community. These factors may increase the risk of homelessness by, for instance, contributing to unemployment.

Together, these findings emphasise that minority stress not only drives LGBTI individuals into homelessness but also sustains barriers to recovery. This highlights the critical need for shelters to provide identity-affirming, trauma-informed care and support.

[66] Scandurra, Cristiano, et al., “The Italian Validation of the Gender Minority Stress and Resilience Measure,” *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 2020, pp. 208–221.

4. SHELTER SERVICES AND SPECIFIC SUPPORT MECHANISMS

The shelters examined in this study provide critical services that promote mental health, foster autonomy, and provide a vital sense of stability for LGBTI residents. Empowerment and mastery are outcomes of the shelter services.

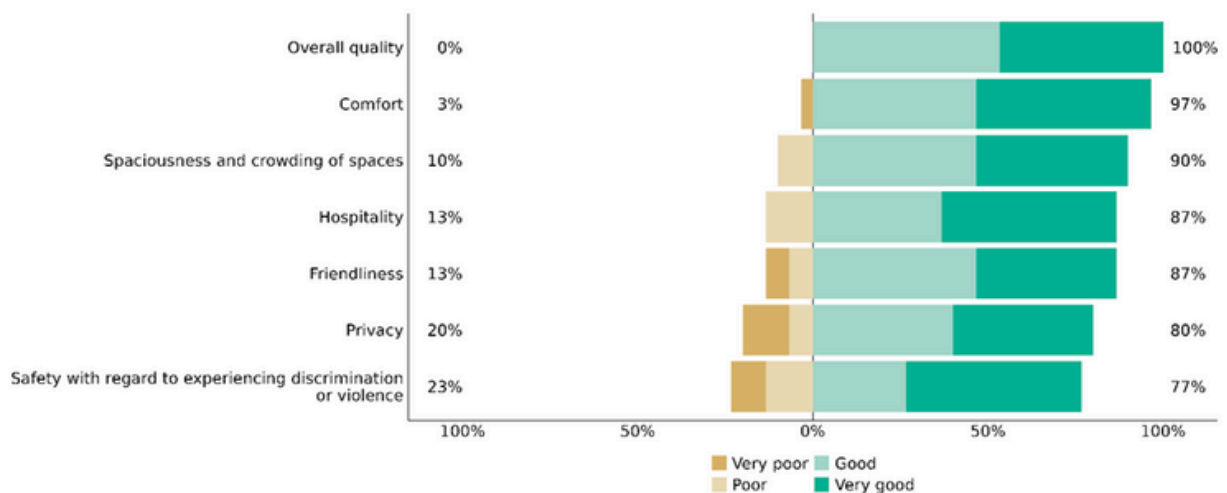
A. EXPERIENCED STIGMA

There are four core aspects of shelter services that contribute to resident well-being:

- Housing stability and safety;
- Affirming and inclusive environment;
- Community building;
- Capability support.

First, secure housing is paramount; in these shelters, the average resident stay is about 10 months. This stability allows residents the time to address trauma, develop life skills, focus on self-improvement, and feel safe enough to express their identities openly. As residents settle into a more stable environment, their ability to pursue education and job opportunities increases notably. Importantly, 87% of residents described the shelters as providing a “home-like” environment, highlighting a newfound sense of security and belonging. Furthermore, findings show a positive association between the quality of housing and residents’ general well-being. This suggests that investing in high-quality, affirming shelter facilities can enhance users’ well-being.

Shelter Service Quality



Second, all shelters implemented gender-neutral policies, assigning rooms based on residents' gender identity and ensuring staff used inclusive language. As a result, 87% of respondents reported satisfaction with shelters' friendliness and inclusivity, while 80% expressed satisfaction with the shelter's approach to privacy, such as, gender-neutral spaces. These affirming environments were particularly crucial for trans residents, who reported feeling safer and more respected. The availability of mental health support tailored to the needs of the LGBTI population, outlined below, also contributed to the residents' perception of an affirming and inclusive environment.

Third, residents' sense of connection to the LGBTI community, the sense of belonging to it and the belief that one can rely on it, increased during their stay in the shelters. In particular, participants reported higher levels across all three dimensions of Psychological Sense of Community — influence, belonging, and need satisfaction — compared to the averages reported in the literature based on a sample of 356 LGBTI individuals from the United States, aged between 15 and 77.^[67] Influence reflects feeling valued in and able to affect one's community; belonging captures the sense of being part of and accepted by the community; and need satisfaction refers to the belief that one's personal needs can be met through group membership. The improvement in these areas is likely due to the shelter's efforts at promoting, building and rebuilding the users' social networks, encouraging communication among users, providing shared recreational and leisure opportunities among users, operators and/or volunteers and fostering connections to the local LGBTI community.

The community-based nature of these services, run by LGBTI associations, with a significant proportion of staff themselves belonging to the LGBTI community enhances their ability to recognise and respond to residents' specific experiences and needs. These interactions reduced isolation, with many residents noting that connecting with others facing similar challenges not only helped them regain confidence but also provided a crucial source of social support network.

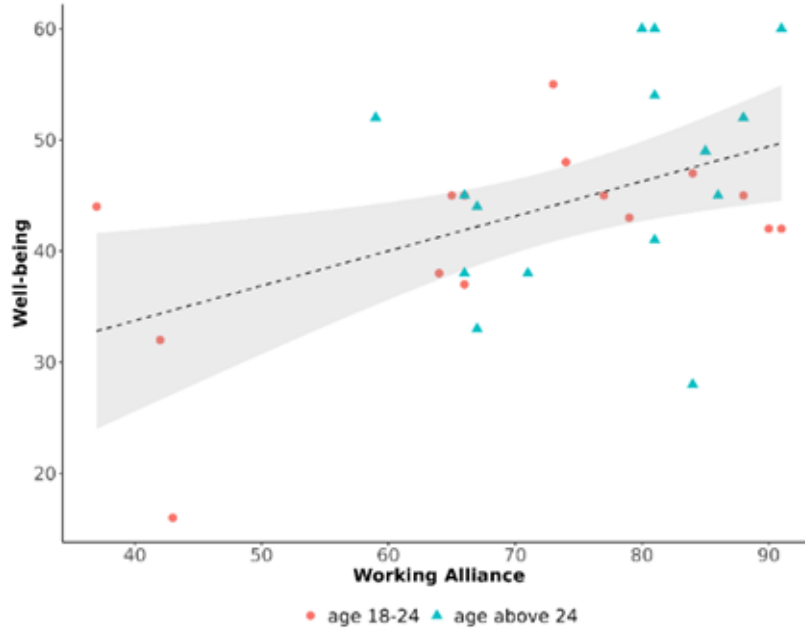
The data indicates a strong correlation between resident well-being and the quality of relationships with shelter staff, captured by the concept of 'working alliance'. Notably, the analysis reveals that 90% of interviewees reported working alliance scores of above the average found in the literature, based on a sample of 59 individuals from the general homeless population in Italy (aged between 28 and 74).^[68] Furthermore, those residents who reported positive, trust-based relationships with shelter staff also exhibited higher levels of mastery and resilience, meaning greater perceived control over life circumstances. A high level of mastery is positively associated with improved well-being and the ability to recover from trauma or mental health challenges, thus emphasising the importance of skilled, supportive staff in enabling residents to regain agency and independence.^[69]

[67] Lin, Yen-jui and Tania Israel, "Development and Validation of a Psychological Sense of LGBT Community Scale," *Journal of Community Psychology*, Vol. 40, No. 5, 2012, pp. 573–587.

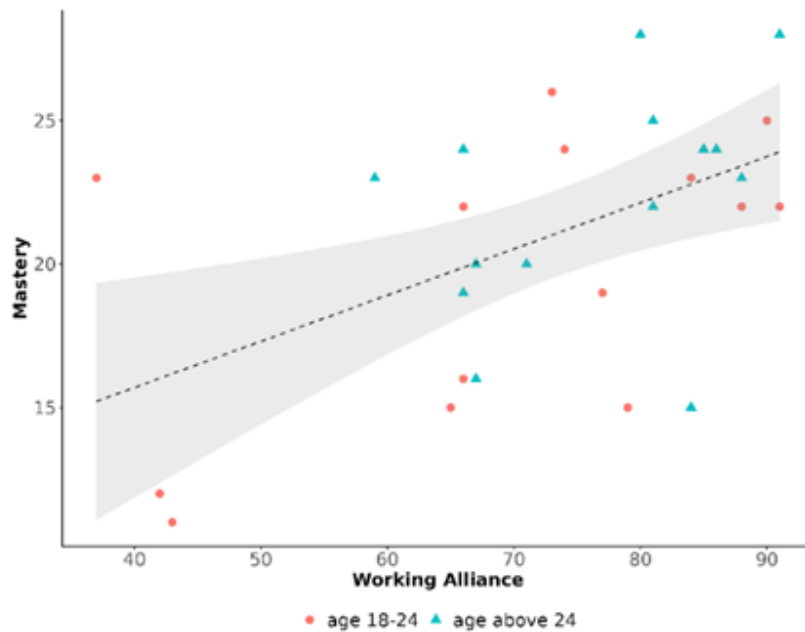
[68] Curiale, Chiara, et al., "Homeless People's Recovery in Housing First and Traditional Services: The Role of Working Alliance in Italian Housing Services," *Journal of Community Psychology*, Vol. 51, No. 7, 2023, pp. 2758–2773. See also, Tracey, Terence J. and Anna M. Kokotovic, "Factor Structure of the Working Alliance Inventory," *Psychological Assessment: A Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, Vol 1, No. 3, 1989, pp. 207–210.

[69] In our sample, 62% reported high mastery, only 7% reporting a low level of this variable.

The Relationship between Working Alliance and Well-being

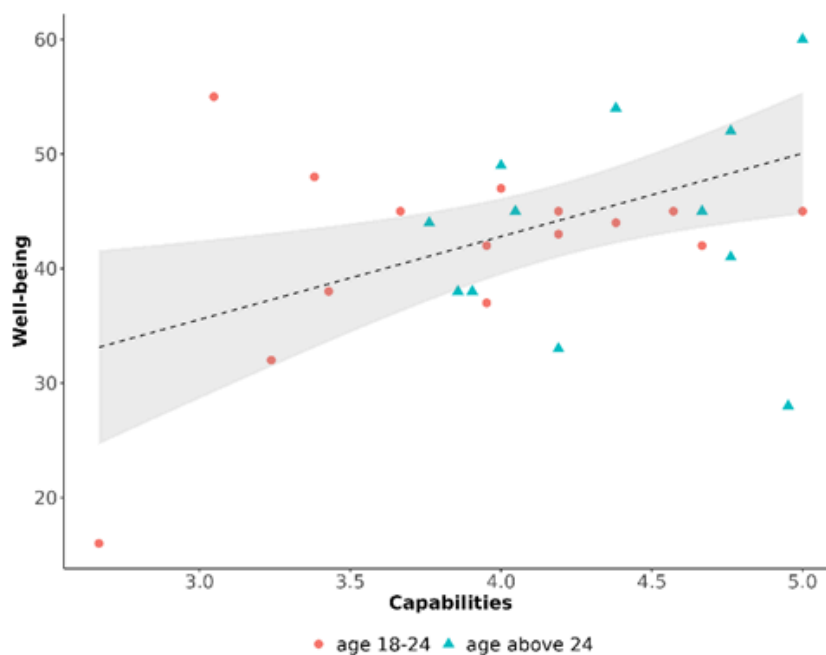


The Relationship between Working Alliance and Mastery



Finally, the findings reveal that residents demonstrate a 14% higher level of capabilities than the average reported in the literature from the European general homeless population (based on a sample of 565 individuals, aged between 19 and 84).^[70] Capabilities refer to a person’s freedom to live according to their values, engage in meaningful activities, form positive relationships, and realise their full potential — objectives the shelters internationally aim to foster. This outcome shows the importance of providing services that empower individuals to express their preferences, live according to their values, exercise self-determination, thereby promoting safety, agency, and empowerment. Moreover, there is a positive correlation between the capabilities score and overall well-being, though it is challenging to pin down the cause and effect in this relationship.

The Relationship between Capabilities and Well-being



[70] Greenwood, Ronni Michelle, et al., "Psychometric Properties of the Measure of Achieved Capabilities in Homeless Services," BMC Public Health, Vol. 23, No. 93, 2023.

B. ADDITIONAL SHELTER SERVICES AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS

LGBTI shelters in Italy provide a range of additional services that likely play a role in fostering resident autonomy, well-being, and successful transition out of homelessness. While it is methodologically challenging to isolate the individual effects of these services (this would entail designing appropriate experiments across shelters, such as randomised control trials), it is reasonable to hypothesise that this comprehensive support is collectively linked to many of the positive outcomes observed among residents.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. Four out of five shelters deliver LGBTI affirmative mental health care, supporting a positive exploration and acceptance of sexual and gender identity. Two shelters go further, offering trauma-informed therapy to address PTSD, anxiety, and identity-related stress.

Legal and Medical Assistance. Legal support, provided by all shelters, is a vital service for immigrants and asylum-seeking residents, who often require assistance navigating complex bureaucratic obstacles related to legal status, documentation, and residency rights. On a medical front, all five shelters offer essential medical services, including hormone therapy and access to HIV prevention programs. However, there is a notable gap in substance abuse support, with only two shelters providing services for substance abuse. This limited access may hinder residents' recovery and stability for residents struggling with addiction, suggesting an area for improvement in care.

Life Skills and Employment Support. Employment readiness programs are a key focus across all shelters, including CV-building assistance, financial management education, and job market reintegration, all crucial for restoring economic independence. The impact of these programs is evident: while more than half of surveyed residents were unemployed or seeking work prior to becoming homeless, that figure dropped to just one-fifth during their residence at shelters. This positive trend is plausibly linked to the shelters' skill-building programs and ongoing support from experienced staff.

5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING LGBTI HOMELESSNESS IN ITALY

A. SECURING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR LGBTI SHELTERS

Current limited funding constrains shelters' ability to expand services and meet the diverse needs of LGBTI residents. For instance, only one of the five studied shelters receives funding from the local municipal administration, highlighting a widespread funding gap. Securing stable, long-term funding is essential to increase capacity, extend the duration of stay for residents with complex needs, and introduce services such as addiction recovery and substance abuse support. Establishing dedicated public funding and partnerships with private donors would create a more secure financial base for LGBTI shelters, enabling greater, more consistent service provision and sustainability.

B. PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS

As family rejection remains the leading cause of LGBTI youth homelessness, preventive programs targeting families could significantly reduce homelessness rates. Prevention is the most effective and resource-efficient strategy, addressing the problem of discrimination, targeting the root causes, and averting severe consequences in the long run. Ultimately, well-designed prevention programs can reduce social and economic burdens on the healthcare and welfare systems, and even generate resources by bolstering the potential of individuals who would have become homeless without active prevention. Initiatives focused on family acceptance, conflict mediation, and education on LGBTI issues should be integrated into social services and school curricula. Early intervention can help address family rejection before it leads to homelessness, providing LGBTI youth with the opportunity to remain in supportive, stable home environments during their formative years. Additionally, raising awareness of discrimination against LGBTI individuals in the labour and housing markets is important, as many respondents reported experiencing discrimination in the course of their job or accommodation search.

C. ENHANCED TRAINING FOR SHELTER STAFF IN TRAUMA-INFORMED AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT CARE

Shelter staff play a crucial role in the recovery and well-being of residents, with positive, trust-based resident-staff relationships strongly linked to better outcomes. Therefore, it is essential to provide ongoing training for staff focusing on LGBTI-specific issues, trauma-informed care approaches, harm reduction practices for substance abuse, and cultural competence. Special attention should be given to training staff on how to support transgender and non-binary residents, ensuring that care is inclusive, comprehensive, and responsive to diverse needs.

D. STRENGTHENING LGBTI COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Current limited funding constrains shelters' ability to expand services and meet the diverse needs of LGBTI residents. For instance, only one of the five studied shelters receives funding from the local municipal administration, highlighting a widespread funding gap. Securing stable, long-term funding is essential to increase capacity, extend the duration of stay for residents with complex needs, and introduce services such as addiction recovery and substance abuse support. Establishing dedicated public funding and partnerships with private donors would create a more secure financial base for LGBTI shelters, enabling greater, more consistent service provision and sustainability.

E. IMPLEMENTING THE RESEARCH STUDY FOR MORE CONSISTENT DATA

To achieve a more reliable and comprehensive data set, it is recommended to implement the research study by expanding the sample size, incorporating additional relevant variables, and developing more precise analytical models. These steps will enhance the consistency, validity, and overall quality of the research findings.

6. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates the transformative impact that LGBTI shelters have on homeless LGBTI individuals in Italy, offering critical support, safety, and community that foster well-being and autonomy. By providing mental health support, assistance in (re-)building key life skills, and affirming and inclusive environments, these shelters address both immediate and long-term needs of LGBTI residents. However, gaps remain, particularly in stable funding, addiction recovery services, and tailored support for transgender and immigrant residents, which limit the shelters' capacity to fully meet growing demand. A coordinated policy response is needed, encompassing sustainable funding, family-focused preventive programs, enhanced community-based activities, and specialised staff training. Implementing these measures will enable LGBTI shelters in Italy to continue providing life-changing support and help LGBTI individuals move toward stable, fulfilling futures.

Given the importance of the findings, Quore will expand the research at a European level, working with other LGBTI organisations in Belgium, Finland, and Spain to enhance the study and amplify the voices of more experts by experience.

LGBTI HOMELESSNESS IN BARCELONA



1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, we present findings from two studies that aim to understand the reality of LGBTI communities experiencing homelessness in Barcelona and the wider factors driving this precarious situation. The first study, titled “Sociological Study of LGBT+ Homeless People in Barcelona”, was conducted by the Observatory for the Analysis and Visibility of Social Exclusion (OEX) team at Rey Juan Carlos University. Commissioned by the Ahora Donde – Le Refuge association and funded by multiple partners, including ILGA-Europe and the Barcelona City Council, this report follows the only prior comprehensive sociological study of LGBTI homelessness in a major city in Spain, conducted in the region of Madrid by the same OEX team.

The purpose of this study is multi-faceted. First, it aims to build on the primary finding from the sociological study of homeless LGBTI people in the region of Madrid, which identified “family rejection due to gender identity and non-binary sexual orientation” as the primary reason LGBTI persons were forced to leave their homes. Second, it aims to address the significant gap in data on the LGBTI homeless population in Spain. For example, the European Federation of Homeless People’s Association (FEANTSA) explicitly highlighted Spain’s lack of concrete data on this issue in its Autumn 2017 magazine on LGBTI homelessness in Europe. Additionally, surveys conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in Spain do not include gender diversity and sexual orientation as valid variables, further obscuring the true scale of the problem. Third, the study aims to shed light on the hidden profile of LGBTI people who lack stable housing and rely on temporary accommodation arrangements, commonly referred to as couch-surfing. Finally, it addresses the issue of minority stress, the significant mental health challenges arising from sexual and gender minority-specific stressors, by applying a measurement framework and assessing key factors.

The second study, titled, “Understanding and Addressing LGBTI Homelessness in Barcelona”, is a project implemented by ACATHI, with the support of ILGA-Europe. Complementing the first study, this report explores the connection between non-heteronormative identities and homelessness and aims to understand the experiences and access to services of homeless LGBTI individuals in Barcelona, and to provide a comprehensive overview of the prevalence and causes of homelessness within the LGBTI population.

2. METHODOLOGY

The two reports used a mixed-methods approach to gain a comprehensive understanding of the factors driving social exclusion and homelessness among the LGBTI population in Barcelona.

QUANTITATIVE APPROACH

This involved analyzing 272 completed questionnaires, of which 38 respondents self-identified as LGBTI and experiencing homelessness, while the remaining 234 respondents were homeless but non-LGBTI. The primary goal of this part of the analysis was to characterise the LGBTI homeless sample in relation to other at-risk groups. Respondents were drawn from individuals occupying vacancies in public and private residential centers across Barcelona. Additionally, minority stress was measured using a self-reported 32-item questionnaire adapted from the Daily Heterosexist Experiences Questionnaire (DHEQ) by Balsam et al. (2013).^[71]

QUALITATIVE APPROACH

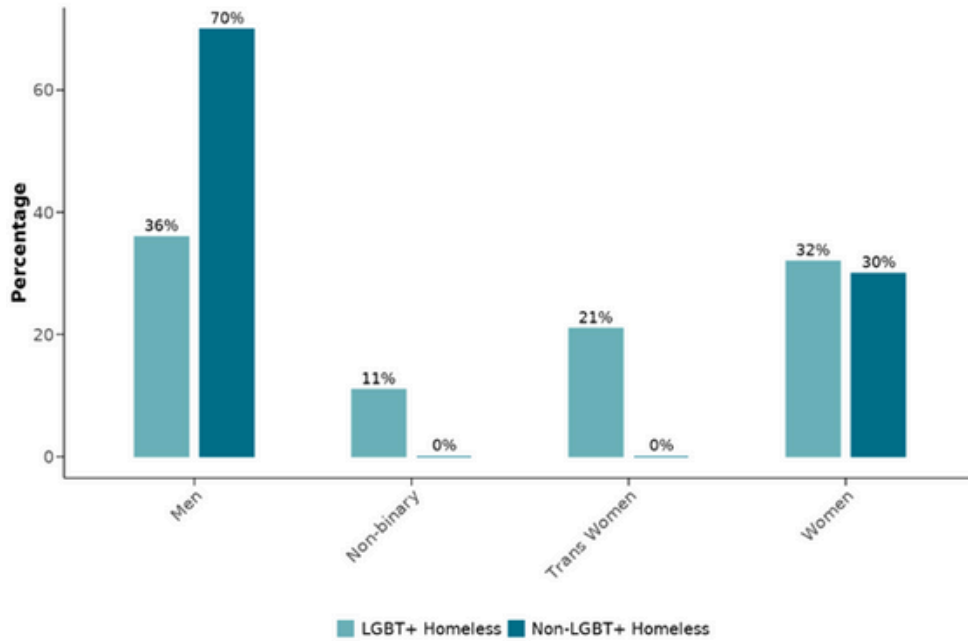
The study incorporated qualitative analysis of fourteen interviews: five from the first study and nine from the second. These interviews along with life stories of homeless LGBTI individuals explored key themes including gender identity and sexual orientation narratives, experiences of discrimination and violence, religious and cultural background, experiences of homelessness, labour market participation, life expectancy, current levels of happiness, stressful life events, coping mechanisms, relationships with services, and expectations and suggestions for improvement. Furthermore, the sample selection across both studies ensured inclusion of individuals with hidden homelessness profiles, such as couchsurfers, and those with otherwise invisible experiences of homelessness.

3. SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants in the quantitative analysis of the “Sociological Study of LGBTI Homeless People in Barcelona” represent a diverse range of identities in terms of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and place of birth. Focusing first on gender identity, among the 38 LGBTI homeless individuals in the sample, 36% identified as men, 32% as women, 21% as trans women, and 11% as non-binary. In comparison, among the 234 non-LGBTI homeless respondents, 70% identified as men and 30% as women.

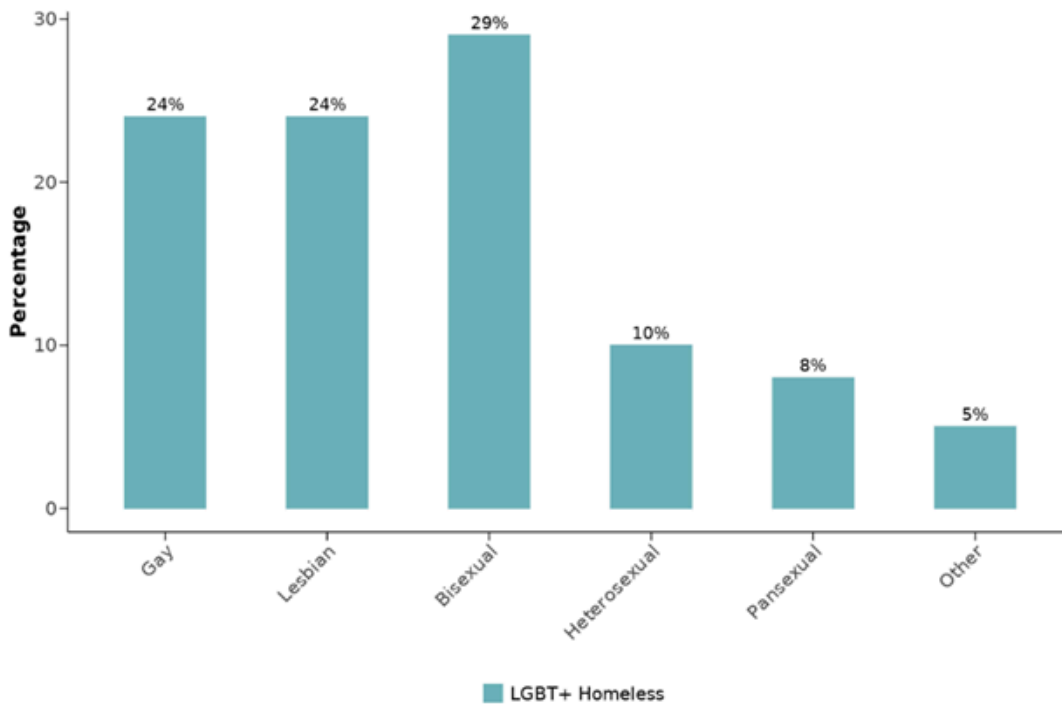
[71] Balsam, K. F., Beadnell, B. Molina, Y., “The Daily Heterosexist Experiences Questionnaire: Measuring minority stress among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adults. *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*,” Vol. 46, No. 1, 2013, pp. 3-25.

Gender Identity



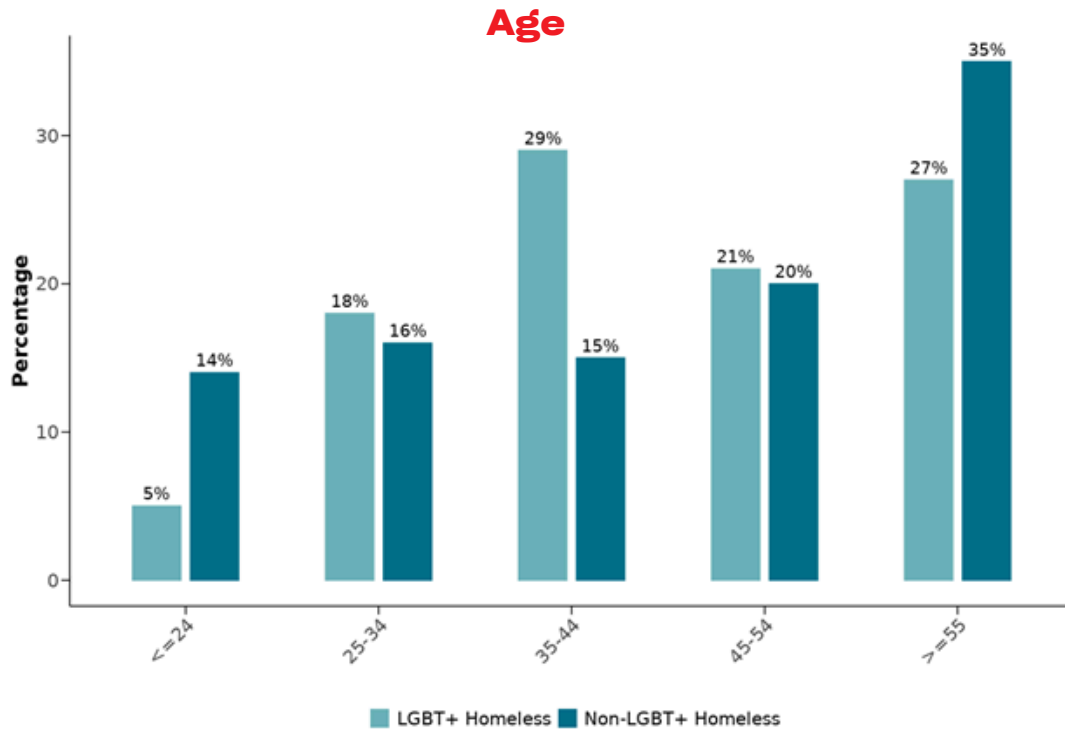
In terms of sexual orientation among LGBTI respondents, 24% identified as gay, 24% as lesbian, 29% as bisexual, 10% as heterosexual, 8% as pansexual, and 5% selected “other”.

Sexual Orientation

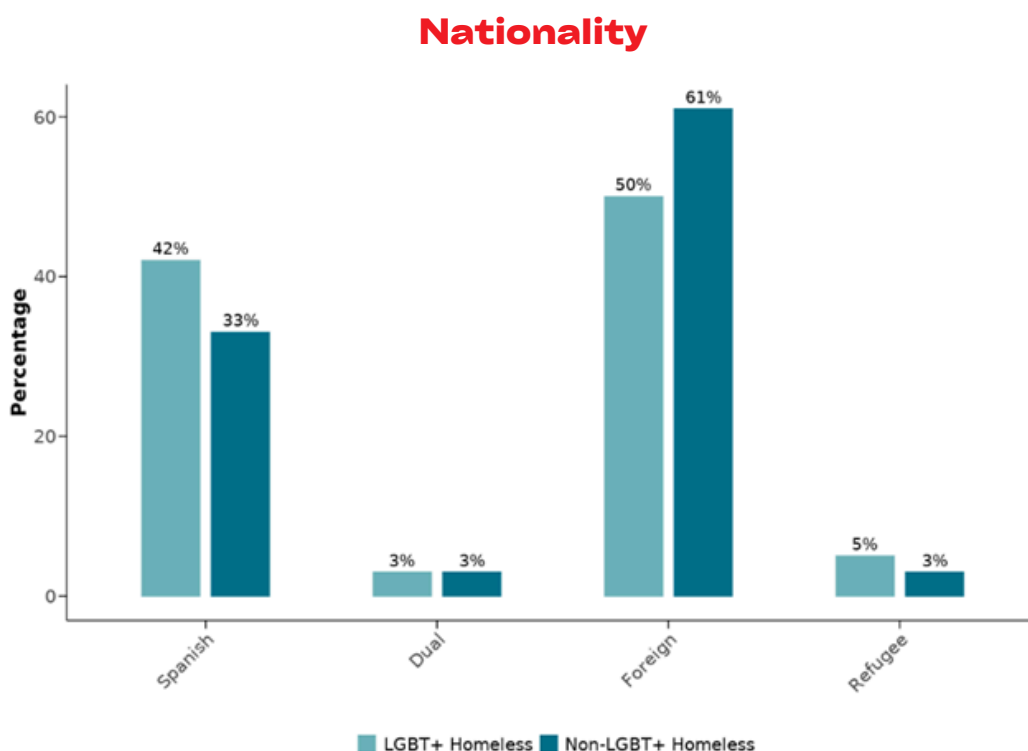


BARCELONA

Regarding age distribution, the LGBTI homeless population showed a higher concentration in the middle-aged bracket, with 29% aged between 35 and 44, followed by 26% aged 55 and over. This pattern mirrors that of the non-LGBTI homeless population, where just over 35% were over the age of 55. The average age of LGBTI respondents was 43.8 years, compared to 45.4 years among non-LGBTI individuals.



Finally, regarding nationality, 50% of LGBTI and 61% of non-LGBTI homeless individuals were of foreign origin. Meanwhile, 42% of LGBTI and 33% of non-LGBTI participants were Spanish nationals, with the remaining individuals identifying as refugees or holding dual citizenship.



4. IMPACT OF AGE AND FAMILY REJECTION

The first study uses an econometric analysis to explore whether the reasons for homelessness vary by age among LGBTI and non-LGBTI individuals. The findings reveal that while reasons remain generally consistent across age groups within the LGBTI population, they differ significantly among non-LGBTI individuals.

For young LGBTI individuals, the most statistically significant reason in the regression study, for leaving home is cited as “leaving of their own free will.” However, both international literature and qualitative data indicate that this is often a response to family rejection and pressure related to their gender identity or sexual orientation, particularly among transgender and gender-fluid youth. In such cases, leaving home may serve as a protective measure. For instance, Shelton (2016)[72] found that many youths believed they would have died by suicide had they stayed with their families. Thus, what is labeled as “voluntary” departure may actually constitute forced homelessness, as documented in similar studies including the research conducted in Madrid. Economic difficulties also emerge as a significant third factor among young LGBTI people.

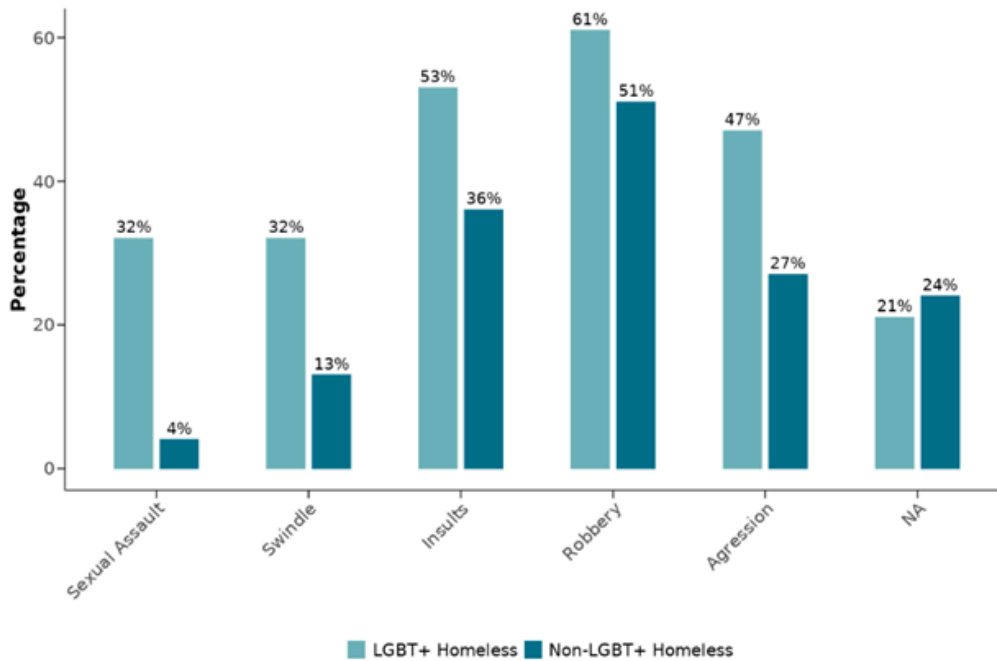
In contrast, the same regression study reveals that for non-LGBTI individuals, reasons for homelessness vary distinctly by age. Younger individuals most often report leaving an institution, a change of residence, and gambling as primary triggers. Older individuals, however, cite psychosocial health problems, family breakdown, physical health issues, and evictions as predominant factors. These findings suggest that while LGBTI individuals across age groups face similar structural and familial barriers, age-specific vulnerabilities play a more pronounced role in homelessness patterns among the non-LGBTI population.

5. EXPOSURE TO SITUATIONS OF VULNERABILITY

LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness face heightened risks of violence, discrimination, and marginalisation. They report significantly higher exposure to hate crimes such as verbal abuse, physical violence, and sexual assault.

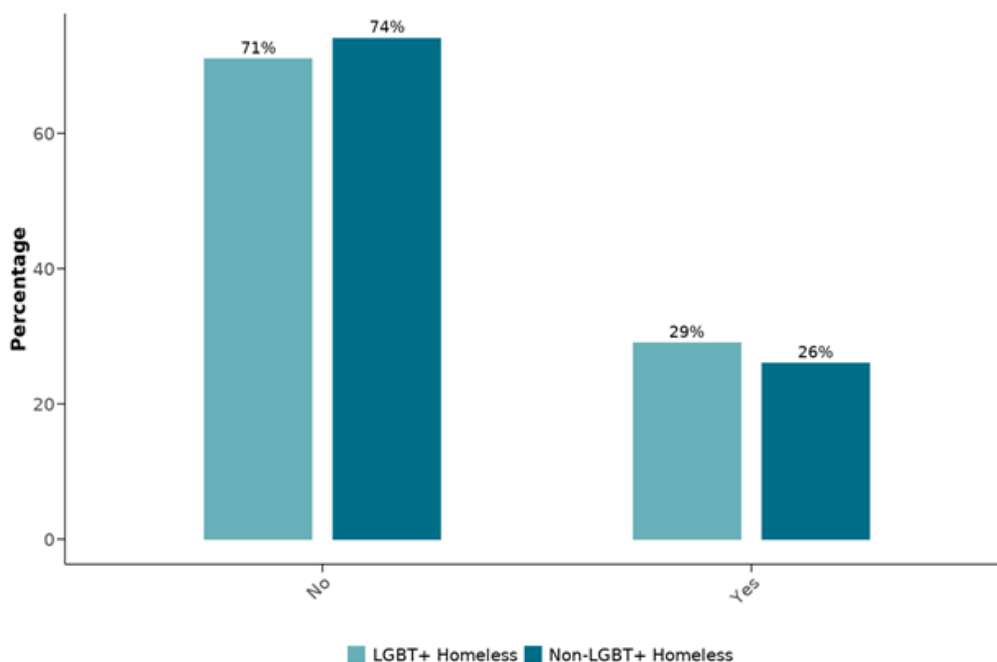
[72] Shelton, J., “Reframing risk for transgender and gender-expansive young people experiencing homelessness,” *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, Vol. 28, No. 4, 2016, pp. 277–291.

Crimes Suffered in Streets



However, most do not report these incidents, driven by fear of the police, precarious legal status, or the belief that seeking help will prove futile. This lack of trust in institutional support further exacerbates their vulnerability. Additionally, 7.8% of the LGBTI homeless respondents in the Barcelona sample, particularly trans women, identified sex work as an ongoing survival strategy in contexts where access to formal employment remains limited.

Crimes Reported



Mental health is another critical area of concern. Many LGBTI individuals express the need for psychological support, yet only a minority access such services, and satisfaction levels with services are mixed. While access is slightly better than among non-LGBTI individuals, it falls short of the actual need level. These challenges are compounded by widespread physical and mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and trauma-related conditions, though official recognition of disability status is rare across both populations.

Social isolation is prevalent among the homeless population overall, with many individuals, particularly LGBTI people, spending most of their day alone. Although a slightly higher proportion of LGBTI individuals report having someone they trust, support networks prove fragile across both groups. Family ties are often severed or absent, particularly among LGBTI individuals who may have experienced rejection based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. These intersecting challenges underscore the compounded nature of vulnerability within the LGBTI homeless population.

6. FACTORS IMPACTING MINORITY STRESS

LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness often face a unique and persistent form of stress rooted in societal stigma, discrimination, and identity-based rejection. This chronic stress, termed minority stress, stems not only from external factors like victimisation and exclusion, but also from internalised shame, fear of rejection, and the pressure to conceal one's identity. These stressors emerge early in life, often within the family or school environment, and are intensified through ongoing experiences of marginalisation in wider society. The impact of these experiences spans the entire life course, contributing significantly to mental health challenges and the risk of homelessness, particularly among young LGBTI individuals.

The studies identified key stress experiences with clear links to housing instability among LGBTI homeless people. Experiences such as sexual assault, family rejection, exclusion by peers or institutions, and bullying have created a profound emotional impact, with many respondents continuing to experience lasting effects. These events were frequently cited as contributing factors to their current homelessness. The emotional toll of facing unfair treatment unfairly or rejection due to one's identity continues to affect many participants, illustrating how past trauma and social exclusion remain deeply embedded in the lives of LGBTI individuals without stable housing.

Despite the severity of these experiences, few respondents had access to psychological support tailored to their needs. Among those who did receive therapy or accompaniment, 88% found it helpful, demonstrating the value of accessible, identity-affirming mental health services. The findings underscore the importance of recognising minority stress not only as a contributor to homelessness, but also as a barrier to recovery, requiring targeted social, emotional, and mental health interventions to support the resilience and well-being of LGBTI homeless populations.

7. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

The qualitative assessments reveal that many LGBTI homeless people encounter serious challenges accessing support due to a lack of clear, accessible information. While most eventually access public or private services for basic needs such as food, healthcare, or housing, this typically occurs late in their journey, through informal networks (word of mouth), or after experiencing significant hardship. Unfamiliarity with local systems, language barriers, and complex bureaucratic procedures leave individuals uncertain about where to seek help or what support they can claim. For migrants, even when information exists, it may be fragmented or difficult to understand. Some individuals arrive in Barcelona unaware of services such as dining rooms, clothing banks, or emergency aid. In other cases, they have some knowledge but struggle to navigate the system without proper guidance.

LGBTI individuals face additional barriers due to the lack of inclusive perspectives within services. Trans people, in particular, report experiences of discrimination or feeling unsafe in general shelters and public services. Organisations like ACATHI and the Transit Service fill some of these gaps, but access often depends on personal networks and prior knowledge rather than systematic, structured referrals. Registration is another critical obstacle. Many services require proof of local registration, yet the process can be lengthy and is restricted to specific municipalities. This means individuals registered in one area cannot access support in another, even if it's more accessible.

Further complicating these issues are rigid service requirements and low supply, particularly regarding housing. Shelters often require months-long proof of homelessness, while access to food aid may involve extensive waiting periods, travel across the city, or adherence to strict time restrictions. Aid systems can also be incompatible, receiving one type of support may block access to another, leaving people worse off despite being "assisted." Altogether, the lack of structured, inclusive, and accessible information about support services significantly constrains LGBTI people's ability to meet basic needs and live with dignity.

8. DISCRIMINATION, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

Insights from interviews with couchsurfers reveal that while legislative progress, such as Spain's 2023 "Trans Law," has expanded legal protections, structural discrimination against LGBTI individuals, particularly trans women, and attempts to revoke protections persist. Difficulties in accessing stable employment and safe, inclusive housing continue to prevail. Existing support structures often fail to accommodate gender diversity, making it essential for public and social services to evaluate whether current programs truly provide safe and inclusive environments for all.

Cultural factors, particularly within migrant communities, amplify these challenges. Many respondents reported that rejection of their gender identity or sexual orientation, often shaped by religious and cultural norms, led to housing instability or forced relocation. These forms of rejection reflect entrenched heteronormative beliefs that remain widespread across various cultural groups. Rather than speaking broadly of "religious factors," the study emphasises the influence of religious culture, which frames gender and sexual diversity as morally deviant.

At the social level, LGBTI individuals face higher rates of discrimination compared to their non-LGBTI homeless peers. Such discrimination occurred most frequently while sleeping rough or attempting to access public restrooms. Primary triggers included gender expression, physical appearance, ethnic origin, and lack of financial resources. Family rejection, particularly around issues of gender identity and sexual orientation, was also identified as a major factor in exclusion from home environments.

Economically, barriers to employment constituted a leading cause of homelessness among LGBTI Spanish nationals. For migrants, these challenges are compounded by precarious legal and administrative statuses, creating layered vulnerabilities. Trans women are particularly affected, facing the greatest difficulties in finding and securing employment under fair and dignified conditions: they show the lowest likelihood of accessing mainstream homelessness services. These findings demonstrate that social, cultural, and structural discrimination intersect to produce a complex web of exclusion, one that disproportionately affects the most marginalised members of the LGBTI community.

9. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING LGBTI HOMELESSNESS IN BARCELONA

A. PROMOTE INCLUSIVE HOUSING POLICIES

To address the specific needs of the LGBTI homeless population in Barcelona, it is essential to develop inclusive housing policies that ensure both safety and dignity. This includes establishing dedicated public residential centers tailored to LGBTI individuals, where support is delivered through an affirming, identity-aware approach. Such spaces prove critical for addressing the intersecting vulnerabilities faced by this population, including minority stress, discrimination, and mental health challenges. Public support must also extend to organisations that work with less visible forms of homelessness, particularly among young people engaged in couchsurfing. These organisations should receive resources to manage shelter apartments and provide containment, emotional accompaniment, and foster care options aligned with adolescents' and young adults' needs. Securing stable, supportive housing is a necessary step toward guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI individuals and reducing their exposure to exclusion, violence, and precarious living conditions.

B. INCREASE AWARENESS AROUND SUPPORT STRUCTURES

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C. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMS

There is an urgent need to implement comprehensive training programs for professionals and volunteers working with homeless populations, focusing on the specific needs of LGBTI individuals. Many service providers are not equipped to identify or support this hidden population, resulting in exclusion and unmet needs.

Staff must receive ongoing, intersectional training in gender and sexual diversity to understand issues such as minority stress, discrimination, and identity-based violence. Programs should also increase awareness of less visible forms of homelessness and draw on successful European practices. Enhancing frontline knowledge will improve the inclusivity, safety, and effectiveness of services provided to LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness.

D. INCREASE VISIBILITY VIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS & PUBLIC POLICIES

Raising awareness about the barriers faced by LGBTI individuals, particularly trans people, is key to combating stigma and advancing social inclusion. Public campaigns that center family acceptance, such as the Pride of Parents initiative by the Observatory for the Analysis and Visibility of Social Exclusion, demonstrate the importance of supportive environments for the psycho-emotional development of LGBTI youth. These efforts should be expanded and coupled with long-term visibility strategies. In parallel, it is essential to integrate the LGBTI perspective into local and regional homelessness plans, gender diversity policies, and public care frameworks. Involving organisations like ACATHI and Ahora Donde in policy discussions can strengthen institutional recognition of LGBTI homelessness while ensuring that public responses are inclusive, intersectional, and grounded in lived realities.

10. CONCLUSION

This chapter highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to address the specific vulnerabilities of LGBTI individuals experiencing homelessness in Barcelona. From family rejection and minority stress to systemic barriers in accessing inclusive services, the realities faced by this population are complex and deeply rooted in social, cultural, and structural exclusion. The findings from both studies emphasise the critical importance of developing identity-affirming housing solutions, improving access to psychosocial and mental health support, and ensuring visibility of hidden forms of homelessness, such as couchsurfing. Moreover, implementing inclusive training programs, awareness campaigns, and integrating LGBTI perspectives into public policy are fundamental to fostering environments of safety, dignity, and long-term stability. With sustained political will and commitment, cross-sector collaboration, and dedicated resources, Barcelona has the potential to become a model city in supporting LGBTI homeless individuals and advancing inclusive social policy.

IV. SUMMARY: KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

● DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE HOUSING POLICIES

Homelessness strategies must explicitly recognise the specific needs of LGBTI individuals. For example, the dedicated LGBTI shelters in Italy provide not only safe housing but also affirm residents' identities, with 87% describing these shelters as "home-like." Public authorities should establish more such identity-affirming accommodation.

● PRIORITISE PREVENTION THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Since family rejection causes homelessness for around 71% of LGBTI youth, early interventions that involve educating families, schools, and communities about LGBTI issues are essential. Programmes focused on family acceptance and conflict mediation can prevent homelessness before it starts.

● EXPAND TRAUMA-INFORMED, IDENTITY-AFFIRMING SERVICES

Shelters and support programmes need to embrace trauma-informed care that acknowledges minority stress and the complex intersectional challenges faced by LGBTI people. Italian shelters offering specialised mental health support and employment assistance significantly reduce unemployment among residents, highlighting the power of such tailored services.

● ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING FOR ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Service providers across housing, health, and social sectors often lack training specific to LGBTI needs, creating barriers to effective support. Ongoing intersectional training improves providers' ability to deliver respectful, competent care, increasing the likelihood that LGBTI individuals will seek and benefit from support.

● IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND INTEGRATE LGBTI PERSPECTIVES INTO POLICY

Comprehensive and disaggregated data on LGBTI homelessness is currently lacking, hindering targeted policy and funding decisions. Systematic inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in homelessness monitoring and planning is critical to ensure tailored resources reach those in need.

● STRENGTHEN LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND ENFORCE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

Legal frameworks must protect LGBTI individuals from discrimination in housing and access to services and employment. For example, the ongoing challenges faced by transgender people in shelters that operate on binary gender models expose gaps in current legal protections, underscoring the need for reform and enforcement.

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

● INCREASE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT

Stable, long-term funding and institutional recognition are crucial to expanding successful programmes like ACATHI's residential programme and Slovenia's supportive employment initiatives. The economic analysis shows that unemployment caused by homelessness can reduce lifetime earnings by up to 19%, making investment in specialised services not only a social but an economic imperative.

● PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND LGBTI ORGANISATIONS

Local governments should collaborate closely with LGBTI organisations who possess deep knowledge of community needs. Such partnerships enable co-designed, culturally competent services, as exemplified by initiatives like the Black Sex Worker Collective in Germany and the cooperation of Ahora Donde and ACATHI in Barcelona.

● ADDRESS INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITIES WITH TAILORED APPROACHES

Transgender people, migrants, Sex Workers, and other marginalised groups face intersectional compounded housing challenges. Policies and services should respond to their specific realities, such as providing legal support for asylum seekers in Italy or combating occupational discrimination faced by Sex Workers in Germany.

FINAL NOTE

It is crucial to recognise that LGBTI homelessness is not an isolated or marginal problem. It reflects broader challenges within our democratic societies related to equality, inclusion, and respect for human dignity. Addressing LGBTI homelessness means confronting systemic discrimination, structural oppression, social exclusion, and violations of fundamental rights that affect not only housing security but also access to fair treatment, safety, and community belonging. Effective interventions must be integrated within a wider commitment to uphold democratic values, ensuring that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have the right to safe, stable housing as a cornerstone of personal dignity and human rights.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

THE BLACK SEX WORKER COLLECTIVE, GERMANY

The Black Sex Worker Collective (BSWC) is a grassroots movement founded in 2018 and rooted in Berlin, the US and Ghana, fighting for the liberation of Black sex workers and trans persons through crisis intervention, advocacy and community-led organising. BSWC combats state violence, health inequalities and economic oppression by providing direct community care, centring the leadership of those most marginalised. Our work dismantles oppressive systems while amplifying voices through art, political action, research, advocacy and the demand for full decriminalisation. For original report, please contact the organisation.



Contact: blacksexworkercollective@gmail.com
For original report, please contact the organisation.

LJUBLJANA PRIDE ASSOCIATION, SLOVENIA

Ljubljana Pride is a non-governmental, youth-led, volunteer organisation that works to empower LGBTIQ+ people through activities based on non-formal education, peer learning, activism and in-depth mentoring support. Its primary target groups are LGBTIQ+ youth in Slovenia and all those working with LGBTIQ+ youth. In the SQVOT Programme for Minority Stress Relief, Ljubljana Pride offers short-term crisis accommodation for LGBTIQ+ youth in situations of housing exclusion and/or homelessness, has developed a support programme for LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers and volunteers, and also provides personal support and advocacy to targets of hate crimes and hate incidents.



Contact: sqvot@ljubljanapride.org

[Original Report \(in Slovenian\)](#)

QUORE, ITALY

Quore was founded in Turin, Italy, in 2007 and, as a non-profit organisation, it fights against all forms of discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation through awareness raising campaigns, projects, advocacy and training activities. Over the past seven years, Quore has been strongly committed to the TOHOUSING project, the largest housing service targeting the LGBTI community in Italy. TOHOUSING provides five apartments with a combined capacity for 26 people. It addresses the fundamental need for a safe house while also working to improve the independence and wellbeing of LGBTI people. TOHOUSING welcomes and works closely with LGBTI youth aged 18 to 25, as well as LGBTI refugees, migrants and asylum seekers of all ages, and transgender and gender non-conforming people of all ages.



Contact: segreteria@quore.org

[Original Report, 2023 \(in English\)](#)

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

AHORA DÓNDE, SPAIN

AHORA DÓNDE is a Spanish non-profit organisation, inspired by Le Refuge France, and dedicated to supporting LGBTIQ youth who have been rejected by their families. AHORA DÓNDE offers a comprehensive range of support services, including social, medical, psychological, legal and financial assistance, as well as family mediation, temporary accommodation with host families and job reintegration programmes. The organisation's primary focus is on LGBTIQ young people who are experiencing or anticipating family rejection.

Contact: gemma@ahoradonde.org

[Original Report, 2024](#) (in English)



ACATHI, SPAIN

ACATHI is a non-profit organisation based in Barcelona, founded by migrants and refugees, advocating for the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in contexts of human mobility. It promotes autonomy, inclusion, and access to rights through individual support, policy advocacy, and community-based action with an intersectional approach. ACATHI supports people in vulnerable situations, including those in reception centres, immigration detention centres (CIEs), prisons, and other institutions. It also manages residential spaces for LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees, providing safety, dignity, and stability, along with legal, psychosocial, healthcare, and employment support.

Contact: president@acathi.org

[Original Report, 2023](#) (in Spanish)

