

Factors Contributing to Outcomes of Stable Housing, Permanent Connections,  
Education, Employment, and Well-Being for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender, and Questioning Youth Experiencing Homelessness:  
A Systematic Review

**Systematic Review of Outcomes**



The individuals depicted in this report are models and the images have been used solely for illustrative purposes.



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## Introduction

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### Background and Significance

National studies estimate there are between 1.6 million and 1.7 million youth ages 12 to 17 who experience homelessness each year (Toro, Dworsky, & Fowler, 2007). Among those youth, it is estimated up to 40% identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning (LGBTQ; Ray, 2006). While family conflict is common across all runaway and homeless youth (RHY), research indicates LGBTQ youth are more likely than youth who are not LGBTQ to report family rejection and being kicked out of their homes due to their sexual orientation or gender identity (Durso & Gates, 2012). In addition to family rejection, abuse may contribute to homelessness for LGBTQ youth. In one study, homeless LGB youth were 1.5 times as likely to have been abused by family members when compared to LGB youth who were not homeless (Walls, Hancock, & Wisneski, 2007). In addition to homelessness, higher levels of family rejection among LGBTQ youth lead to other negative health outcomes such as depression, substance abuse, and risky sexual behavior (Ryan, Huebner, Diaz, & Sanchez, 2009).

Age and developmental stages of LGBTQ youth may also play a role in their risk for homelessness. LGBTQ youth may be at particular risk for homelessness because they come out at a young age (Ray, 2006). Undergoing earlier sexual identity development may also lead to LGBTQ youth becoming homeless because they are cognitively less developed and running away from home is



used as a coping strategy. In one study, LGBTQ homeless youth developed their sexual identity approximately one year before those that did not become homeless (Rosario, Schrimshaw, & Hunter, 2012).

Although all homeless youth face challenges to their well-being, LGBTQ youth face even greater challenges, including victimization, substance abuse, mental health issues, and risky behaviors. Compared to homeless youth who are not LGBTQ, LGBTQ homeless youth have significantly higher levels of depressive symptoms (Cochran, Stewart, Ginzler, & Cauce, 2002) and are at higher risk of suicide attempts. In one survey, 62% of LGBTQ homeless youth had a history of suicide attempt



as compared to only 29% of other homeless youth (Van Leeuwen et al., 2006). LGBTQ homeless youth use substances more often (Cochran et al., 2002; Noell & Ochs, 2001) and are more likely to experience sexual victimization than other homeless youth (Van Leeuwen et al., 2006; Whitbeck, Chen, Hoyt, Tyler, & Johnson, 2004). Furthermore, a greater number of LGB youth report participating in survival sex (e.g., trading sex for food, shelter, or a place to stay) than heterosexual youth (Van Leeuwen, 2006; Whitbeck et al., 2004).

Another factor that distinguishes LGBTQ homeless youth is the discrimination they may face during contact with RHY providers. Due to discrimination after becoming homeless, LGBTQ youth are more likely to live on the streets than utilize housing services (Berger, 2006).

### **Transgender Youth**

Studies estimate up to 1 in 5 transgender individuals either needs housing or is at risk of losing housing (Minter & Daley, 2003). When transgender youth experience homelessness, they may be particularly vulnerable to exclusion or discrimination by systems (Spicer, Schwartz, & Barber, 2010). Issues including bed assignment, bathroom use, and safety require special consideration when providing services to transgender RHY (Yu, 2010), yet the extent to which providers have addressed such issues is unknown.





## Youth of Color

Studies have identified LGBTQ RHY are disproportionately youth of color. For example, a recent survey of youth in New York found among the homeless youth who identified as LGBTQ, 44% were Black and 26% were Hispanic (Freeman & Hamilton, 2008). LGBTQ youth of color may be at increased risk of family rejection due to homophobia in their ethnic communities, or when their gender identity conflicts with accepted gender roles (Reck, 2013). They may also face discrimination upon contact with providers, particularly from those located in predominantly White communities (Reck, 2009).

## The 3/40 Blueprint: Creating the Blueprint to Reduce LGBTQ Youth Homelessness

This systematic review and evidence synthesis was conducted as part of a larger project, *The 3/40 Blueprint: Creating the Blueprint to Reduce LGBTQ Youth Homelessness*. That project was funded as a collaborative agreement with the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families to build the capacity of TLPs that serve LGBTQ youth who are homeless. As a part of this project, a Technical Expert Group (TEG) was assembled to provide ongoing consultation and input on all tasks throughout the project's four years. The TEG consisted of 14 national experts in the RHY and LGBTQ fields, including LGBTQ RHY providers, consumers/youth, advocates, and researchers.

## Objective of the Systematic Review

The objective of this review is to identify and synthesize empirical studies which address factors that contribute to certain outcomes for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. For the purpose of this review, the outcomes of interest are those identified by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH, 2013) Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Intervention Model: stable housing, permanent connections, education or employment, and social-emotional well-being. The desired outcome is to provide information to transitional living programs (TLPs) and other RHY providers, and facilitate positive outcomes for LGBTQ homeless

youth. This review will also identify existing gaps in the literature.

This systematic review is the first of two conducted as part of the larger *3/40 Blueprint*. The second focuses on outcomes of interventions for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

## Research Question

The Funding Opportunity Announcement provided by the Family and Youth Services Bureau requested that a review of the literature be conducted for the following:

- Epidemiological studies that attempt to discover what factors make homeless youth more or less prone to certain outcomes, and
- Intervention studies that test whether certain programs or approaches increase a youth's likelihood of success.

This systematic review addresses the first of those two topics. Through discussions with our federal project officers and TEG, we agreed this review would be limited to studies addressing LGBTQ youth given the volume of literature on outcomes for homeless youth and the objective of the larger project. In addition, per the request of FYSB, we have included articles that address issues of sex and labor trafficking among LGBTQ homeless youth.

Thus, in response to the Funding Opportunity Announcement, and consultation with team members and federal project officers, the following research question was considered in this review:

- What are the factors that make LGBTQ homeless youth more or less likely to experience outcomes of stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and well-being?

## Methodology

The Cochrane Collaboration guidelines (Higgins & Green, 2011) provided a foundation for the planning and execution of this project. Resources on design and analysis that were also helpful included Grimshaw, 2010; Littell, Corcoran, & Pillai, 2008; Popay et al., 2006; and Schünemann et al., 2008. Additional guidance was sought from our TEG and federal project officers. Their input was used throughout the course of this project from the conceptualization of the study design to the completion of this document.

### Focus of the Search

To ensure relevancy to the field, the search focused on studies published after 1990. In order to identify all relevant studies, the search included published literature, as well as published and unpublished grey literature.

### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Two reviewers independently applied the inclusion/exclusion criteria to all potential studies. Any disagreements were resolved by discussion, referring to a third party when necessary.



Reviewers were not blinded to any features of the studies including authorship; however, inclusion/exclusion decisions were made prior to detailed scrutiny of the results.

### INCLUSION CRITERIA: POPULATION

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning youth
- Currently homeless youth
- Youth through age 24

### INCLUSION CRITERIA: TOPIC FOCI

- Studies that addressed one or more of the following outcomes: stable housing, education, employment, permanent connections, and well-being
- Studies that addressed protective or promotive factors among homeless LGBTQ youth
- Studies that addressed trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, among homeless LGBTQ youth

### INCLUSION CRITERIA: TYPES OF STUDIES

- Research studies, broadly defined to include both quantitative and qualitative investigations
- Credible grey literature (e.g., technical reports from government agencies or scientific research groups, working papers from research groups or committees, unpublished dissertations)

### INCLUSION CRITERIA: TIME, PLACE, AND LANGUAGE

- Literature dating from 1990
- Literature from the United States and Canada
- Literature in English

### EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

- Commentary or opinion publications
- Literature that did not include homeless youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning
- Literature that did not include currently homeless youth (i.e., studies that examine risk factors for becoming homeless among stably housed youth)

- Literature focused on homeless adults (i.e., over age 24)
- Literature about homeless youth that were not unaccompanied (i.e., part of a homeless family)

## Search Strategy

### DATABASE SEARCHES

The search strategy was developed in consultation with an information scientist from the University at Illinois at Chicago. The final design was the product of an iterative process, depending to some extent on what was found in initial searches.

A list of key search terms was developed by project team members in consultation with the TEG. Final search models and search terms are included in Appendix 3. The database search was conducted in February 2014 (see Appendix 4 for details of specific database searches). The following databases were searched:

- MEDLINE
- EMBASE
- CINHAI
- EBSCO (including Academic Search Premier)
- PsycINFO
- Social Sciences Citations Index
- Sociological Abstracts

In addition to traditional database searching, reference and cited reference searching (backward and forward) were conducted for each accepted paper. We also hand searched key journals to ensure papers were not overlooked.

### GREY LITERATURE SEARCHES

Grey literature searches were also undertaken to ensure the inclusion of government reports, white papers, and unpublished dissertations. Those searches were limited to sites that disseminated or collected literature related to the topic of interest, and were identified through members of the TEG and project team's familiarity with the literature, and internet searches using select key terms. Searches were conducted using combinations of the following terms:

“runaway and homeless youth,” “runaway youth,” “gay,” “lesbian,” “transgender,” “transsexual,” “LGB,” “LGBT,” “LGBTQ,” “GLB,” “GLBT,” “GLBTQ,” “queer,” “runaway,” “unaccompanied youth,” “runaway and

homeless youth LGBT,” “~gay AND ~homeless,” “~LGBTQ,” “~homelessness,” “unaccompanied youth,” “sexual identity,” “sexual orientation”

Primary sources often linked to other sources, which were also searched. Each identified source (e.g., website, clearinghouse, or database) was searched for research reports or other documents using the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Documents were collected from each site and reviewed for duplication. Sources included in the grey literature search are provided in Appendix 5.

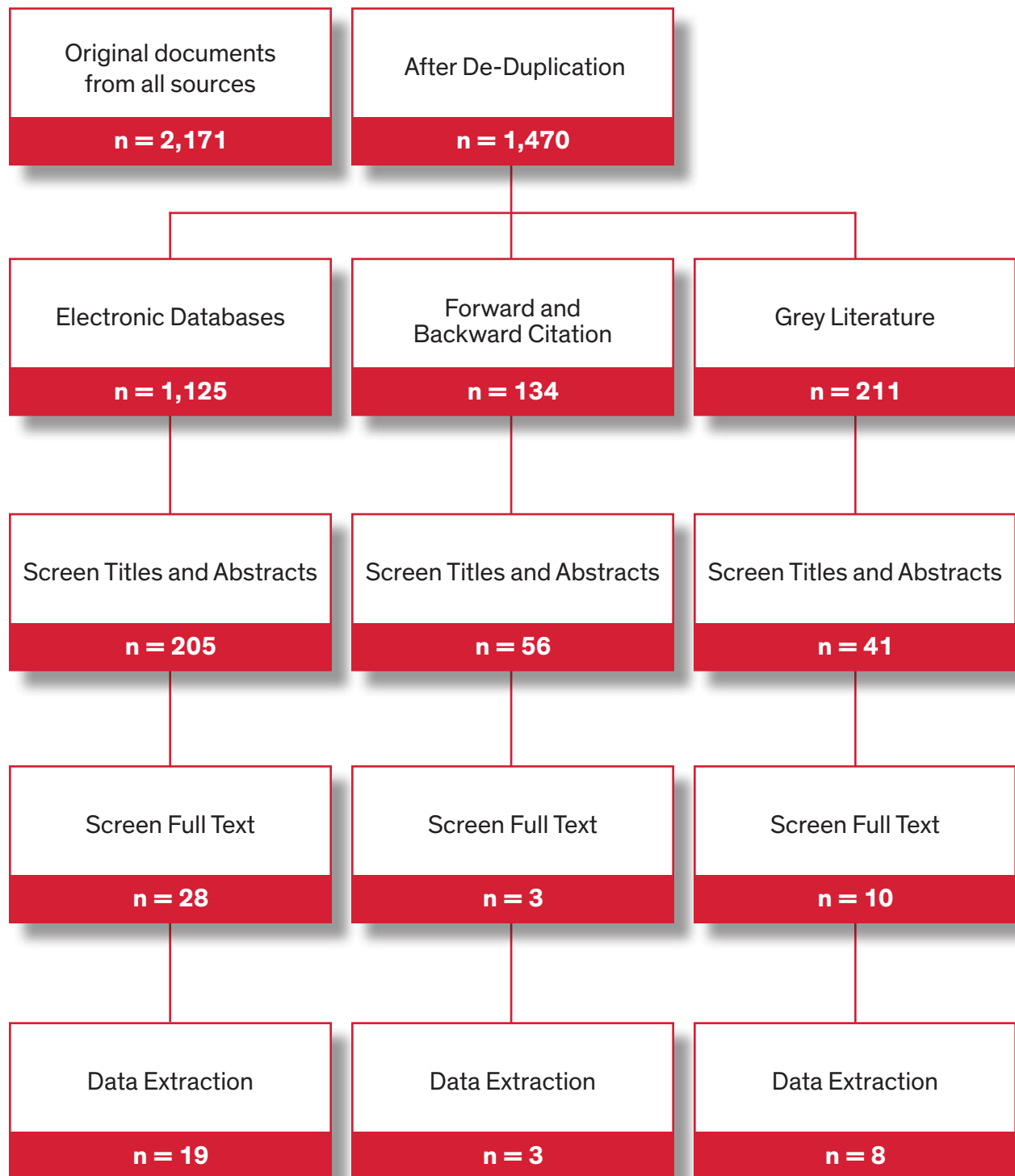
## Appraisal and Extraction Strategy

Screening occurred in three steps. The initial screen used titles and abstracts to eliminate documents that clearly did not meet the project's inclusion criteria. Through that review, the screening criteria were further developed and clarified. The second screen used the full text of each article and applied a more fully clarified screening criteria to identify documents that clearly met the strictest interpretation of the inclusion criteria. The third screen occurred during data extraction wherein a study could be eliminated, if upon more thorough review, it was deemed to not meet the inclusion requirements.

For the first phase, a screening tool was created, uploaded, and tested using Qualtrics software. The final version of the screening tool is provided in Appendix 6. Two reviewers conducted the screening tasks. The reviewers independently applied the criteria to several sets of the same articles (e.g., double rating the same set of 100 articles). They compared notes and resolved disagreements via discussion, which further refined the understanding of the inclusion and exclusion criteria. During this phase, inter-rater reliability was determined using an online Cohen's Kappa calculator (<http://faculty.vassar.edu/lowry/kappa.html>) for reviewers' inclusion/exclusion decision agreement. Once agreement between reviewers remained consistently above 0.9, they began independently screening separate sets of articles.

After the first phase of selection, the articles were read in full, using the more fully clarified screening criteria, and included or excluded accordingly. The more explicit guidelines for inclusion and exclusion in the full text screening

**Figure 1: Mapping of Document Selection Process**



included, for example, the inclusion of data on outcomes experienced by currently homeless youth versus factors that contribute to youth becoming homeless. The most common reasons for screening out at the time of the full text review were the inability to isolate outcomes for youth (i.e., the study included all adults over 18), the inability to isolate outcomes for LGBTQ youth (i.e., LGBTQ youth were a subset of the broader study sample and results were not reported for LGBTQ youth), and the population included youth at risk of homelessness rather than youth currently experiencing homelessness. A flowchart detailing the selection process and stages with numbers of sources at each stage is provided in Figure 1 (adapted from Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & The PRISMA Group, 2009).

### SEARCH RESULTS

In total, 2,171 documents were located in the search. The database search returned the following total documents (n = 1,836). After de-duplication, 1,125 documents remained.

MEDLINE	279 documents
EMBASE	245 documents
CINHAL	140 documents
EBSCO	351 documents
PsycINFO	251 documents
Social Sciences Citations Index	500 documents
Sociological Abstracts	70 documents

An additional 134 documents were identified through backward reference and forward citation searching of the 19 articles that were retained from electronic databases. Backward reference searching is the process of identifying the references provided in the retained documents. Forward citation searching is the process of identifying documents that cited the retained documents. Of the 134 documents identified through this process, 56 additional documents were identified for screening, of which three documents were retained for analyses. The grey literature search identified 211 potential resources for screening, with 41 documents identified for screening, of which eight were



retained. References for each of the 30 included documents are provided in Appendix 1.

### DATA EXTRACTION

During the screening phase, a data extraction tool for conducting full reviews of articles was created and piloted. A full description of all components included in the data extraction tool is provided in Appendix 7. Broad categories included in the data extraction tool included the following:

- Details of the study population and baseline characteristics
- Details of the setting
- Study methodology
- Study outcomes
- Quality assessment

### ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS STRATEGY

Using a standard database, articles identified for inclusion were abstracted and analyzed with respect to their findings, methodological rigor, and generalizability. Specific questions asked as part of this analysis included:

- How did the study measure or ask about sexual orientation or gender identity?
- Did the study distinguish between sexual orientation and gender identity?



- How did the study measure or ask about homelessness?
- How was each variable measured?
- Did the study use standardized instruments?
- Did the study look at gender differences between groups?
- Was the research grounded in theory?
- What are the strengths and limitations of the study?

After analyses, findings were synthesized across studies and organized according to the outcomes of stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and well-being. A narrative summary of these analyses and synthesis is presented in the following section. The desired outcome is to provide information to TLPs and other RHY providers about factors that facilitate positive outcomes for LGBTQ homeless youth in order to guide policy and program improvements. The review also identifies where gaps exist in serving the LGBTQ homeless youth population.



## Findings

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Findings are reported according to the outcomes identified by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH; 2013) Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Intervention Model: stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and well-being. Thirty studies that addressed factors contributing to outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness in stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and well-being have been included. Many of the research studies included examine more than one of those topic areas. Thus, not all components of each study have been detailed in each section if they have already been discussed in a prior section. Appendix 2 can be used to identify which article addresses which particular topic area.

### Stable Housing

The USICH (2013) Framework to End Youth Homelessness defines stable housing as “a safe and reliable place to call home.” Stable housing answers an essential and basic need for homeless youth and is fundamental to facilitating positive outcomes across a range of other life events. Conversely, a lack of stable housing exposes youth to a significant number of risks on the streets that may reduce the likelihood of positive outcomes in those other areas.

Research specific to LGBTQ RHY housing outcomes was limited. Youth housing status was primarily used as a factor to explain other outcomes such as participation in sex work and drug use, among others. However, there were five studies that addressed housing outcomes. Shelton (2013) explored the experiences of unstably housed transgender and/or gender non-conforming (TGNC) youth and their experiences in accessing services from shelters and securing housing. Hein (2010) explored the relationship between homeless youths’ sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI), the amount of disclosure of their SOGI, and where they found temporary housing. Bernstein and Foster (2008) and Boyle (2009) described LGBTQ RHY experiences accessing services from shelters for temporary housing. Milburn, Ayala, Rice, Batterham, and

Rotheram-Borus (2006) examined the association between LGB homeless youth experiences of discrimination and the likelihood of exiting homelessness after 6 months.



### ACCESSING SHELTERS AND/OR SECURING TEMPORARY HOUSING

Boyle (2009) found LGBT youth felt unwelcome at shelters and were fearful of victimization due to their SOGI. In fact, both LGBT and heterosexual participants refused to enter the shelter system due to fears of violence and theft. LGBT youth described hearing stories about what happened to LGBT RHY in shelters, which deterred them from entering. They were hesitant to enter both youth and adult shelters; they reported feeling rejected at youth shelters and fearful of violence at adult shelters. Transgender youth discussed being anxious about the possibility of being forced to move through the shelter system as the sex/gender written on their birth certificates as opposed to their gender identity. For example, one transgender participant, while attempting to gain access to a shelter, was told by providers that





she would be required to stay on the men's floor. She subsequently chose not to stay. Finally, LGBT youth who stayed in religious organization housing described having to "act straight."

In addition to safety concerns, Bernstein and Foster (2008) found prior experiences of poor treatment from shelter staff or other service providers impacted youths' decisions to seek or access services. Specifically, 49% of youth surveyed indicated they had an experience that made them not want to seek additional services from shelter providers. Additionally, youth reported that obstacles and barriers to services, often in the form of program requirements, were interpreted as judgments against them, which impacted their willingness to seek or access services.

Hein (2010) found where youth sought shelter may have been contingent upon their sexual orientation and level of comfort or ability to disclose their sexual orientation. When the housing histories of male heterosexual RHY and male GBT RHY were compared, there were discrepancies in where youth sought shelter. Heterosexual youth primarily (83%) stayed at shelters in greater numbers than GBT youth (26%). Of the six GBT youth who were staying at shelters, four (67%) reported hiding their sexual

orientation or gender identity at least some of the time. None of the youth who were staying with friends or family (i.e., couch-surfing) described being closeted or hiding their sexual orientation or gender identity. Most of the youth who described themselves as being closeted were accessing shelters. This may indicate youth receiving shelter services are less open to sharing information regarding their sexual orientation, or their level of comfort in disclosing their sexual orientation influenced the type of shelter that was more accessible.

Shelton (2013) also found that some TGNC youth avoided shelters completely because of real or perceived safety issues. When youth attempted to access shelter, there were barriers preventing them from gaining access to safe housing. Furthermore, the number of available beds, age requirements, health needs, job requirements, drug use, and length-of-stay restrictions all prevented youth from being able to access shelter.

#### **SECURING STABLE HOUSING AND/OR EXITING HOMELESSNESS**

Once youth accessed shelter, Shelton (2013) found that TGNC youth described having to move frequently because of rule violations, perceived

levels of safety, and length-of-stay restrictions, which impacted their sense of housing security and permanency. Although being able to maintain stable housing was associated with an individual's ability to follow program rules, youth reported inconsistencies in rules and how they were enforced. The lack of transparency surrounding rules and when they needed to be followed created an atmosphere in which youth felt insecure about the permanency of their housing (Shelton, 2013).

Milburn et al. (2006) explored the experiences of newly homeless youth and studied the relationship between discrimination (e.g. being harassed or abused because of one's social status) and exiting or remaining homeless after 6 months. They cited discrimination as an important factor to study among RHY, since experiencing discrimination while homeless might serve as a motivating factor to exit homelessness in order to avoid further discrimination. Among youth who remained homeless after 6 months, the study found LGB youth were more likely than youth who were not LGB to report being discriminated against by family and peers. Among those who exited homelessness after 6 months, LGB youth were more likely than youth who were not LGB to report discrimination from police. This suggested discrimination, and specifically, the source of that discrimination, may differentially impact the likelihood of exiting homelessness for LGB youth, when compared to youth who were not LGB.

After controlling for sexual orientation, age, gender, race, and ethnicity, Milburn et al. (2006) found that only discrimination from family members had a significant effect on the likelihood of RHY exiting homelessness. Discrimination from peers and the police were found not to have a significant effect. Specifically, RHY who reported experiences of discrimination from their family, regardless of the target of discrimination (e.g., being LGB or being homeless), were more likely to exit homelessness than youth who reported no discrimination. Family contact was also a significant predictor for exiting homelessness. Every additional day RHY had contact with a parental figure was associated with an increase in the likelihood of exiting homelessness. Newly homeless youth who exited homelessness within

Youth who did access shelters were more likely to be closeted than youth who sought housing with family and friends.

6 months appeared to respond to any form of family attention, whether positive or negative, as a motivating factor for exiting homelessness.

#### SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

Although research was limited, the small number of studies that addressed housing as an outcome for LGBTQ RHY identified real, or perceived safety issues, as a possible barrier to accessing temporary housing through shelters. Furthermore, for LGBTQ RHY youth who decided to access services, additional barriers that may have prevented them from obtaining safe housing included: the number of beds available, age requirements, health needs, job requirements, drug use, and length-of-stay restrictions. Youth who did access shelters were more likely to be closeted than youth who sought housing with family and friends. Youth who had come out avoided accessing services from shelters due to real or perceived safety threats, and often sought shelter from friends and family, when possible. Although this may have provided a means of temporary housing, youth may not have been able to access the other services that a RHY provider would be able to provide. LGBTQ youth who access homeless shelters might feel the need to hide their sexual orientation or gender identity due to safety concerns. When that occurs, those youth might not receive appropriate services for addressing needs related to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Although only one study specifically addressed exits from homelessness as an outcome, the results suggested LGBT adolescents were more likely than adolescents who are not LGBT to experience discrimination from family members

while homeless. Given those findings, both discrimination from family members and increased contact with family are factors associated with exits from homelessness among all RHY; thus, strategies that engage family members and address issues of SOGIE may be helpful in facilitating exits from homelessness.

#### **GAPS IN EXISTING LITERATURE**

Research has demonstrated the importance of safe and stable housing for youth; however, very few studies have looked at the factors that contribute to LGBTQ youth exiting homelessness and/or securing stable housing. Even among the small number of studies identified in this review that specifically addressed housing outcomes for LGBTQ youth, the primary focus was on LGBTQ youths' experiences accessing services from homeless programs or shelters as a means of temporary housing, rather than the factors associated with LGBT youth securing stable housing or exiting homelessness. Thus, further research is needed about the factors that contribute to exits from homelessness for LGBTQ youth who access housing services.

Furthermore, given the relationship between LGBT youths' fears regarding safety and their willingness to access housing services, future research should explore the factors that contribute to LGBTQ youth feeling safe and affirmed when they access housing programs. This may facilitate their access of such services. Research is also needed to examine the factors that contribute to LGBTQ youths' access to alternative forms of housing (e.g., couch-surfing and ball houses – homes provided within a specific LGBT subculture), and the security and affirmation tied to these alternative housing options.

#### **Permanent Connections**

USICH (2013) identifies permanent connections as “ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks” (p. 15). These connections provide access to opportunities for youth that are useful for facilitating positive outcomes in other critical areas. They also provide a safety net for youth in an effort to reduce the likelihood of re-entering homelessness.

None of the studies in this review specifically examined factors that contributed to the social relationships between youth and others as the primary outcome of interest. When those relationships were addressed, they were not the study's focal point, but rather a variable that was identified as having some other association with the outcome of interest. Similarly, other studies in this section provided some information about factors that contributed to the connections available to LGBTQ homeless youth, although those connections were not the primary focus.

#### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILY**

Lankenau, Clatts, Welle, Goldsamt, and Gwadz (2005) explored how participation in the street economy is influenced by prior life experiences during childhood and adolescence for young men having sex with men (YMSM). They identified the influence that stigma resulting from a youth's homelessness and participation in sex work<sup>1</sup> can have on their family relationships. They also found stigma associated with homelessness, positive HIV status, sexual orientation, and participation in sex work impacted the family support available to them, suggesting youth participation in sex work can affect their family connections.

Tremble (1993) studied the experiences of young, unstably housed gay men who participate in sex work, and found their participation in sex work resulted in extreme condemnation from their families. Specifically, this study found youth convicted of prostitution were unlikely to turn to their families for support because of their fear of the stigma surrounding sex work.

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1. Throughout this document, we use the term “sex work” to describe the exchange of sexual services for material compensation. However, it is important to note that in many cases, sex work involves sexual exploitation, particularly when minors are involved.





#### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF OF RHY AGENCIES**

Only one study examined relationships between youth and the staff of RHY agencies. Shelton (2013) found unstably housed TGNC youths' ability to trust was impacted by previous experiences with rejection. That inability posed a challenge in the development of positive relationships with staff as well as peers.

#### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND OTHER ADULTS**

Tremble (1993) found gay street youth did not see themselves as part of the larger gay community and thus turned to their street families as a source of connection and acceptance. He suggested older gay men feared being accused of sexual abuse or assault if they associated with gay youth. Those concerns contributed to the lack of mentorship available for gay street youth, ultimately reinforcing feelings of alienation for gay street youth.

When youth established connections with other homeless peers, they felt a sense of exhilaration and safety. In Shelton's (2013) study, TGNC youth described the importance of street families as a way to cope with isolation. They described feeling most comfortable accessing support from individuals who understand gender transitioning.

Boyle (2009) described how LGBT RHY received comfort and guidance from other LGBT RHY. Those youth had often been on the street longer, became "mentors," and taught newcomers what to do, where to go, and what was safe and unsafe. LGBT RHY described such networks as pseudo-families. As with traditional biological families, pseudo-families were subject to internal conflict and stressors; thus, LGBT youth felt conflicted within those families and arguing, stealing, and violence were common. Unfortunately, youth also described their peers as being highly motivated by drugs. Ultimately, they liked feeling accepted, but disliked not being able to establish trust.

Two studies identified protective factors related to social connections. Rice, Stein, and Milburn (2008) reported youth who received services from RHY agencies were more likely to have pro-social peers than RHY living on the streets. Peers were considered to be pro-social if they attended school regularly and got along with their family.

Taylor-Seehafer et al. (2007) found the amount of time youth spent as homeless was positively correlated with feelings of social connectedness. The authors suggested the finding could be the result of a youth's adaptability; youth who had been on the street longer may have had more time to develop connections, gotten used to being alone, and no longer felt disconnected.



#### SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

Although research was limited, the few studies that addressed social connections indicated perceived stigma related to a youth's homelessness, as well as other factors including sex work, sexual orientation, and HIV status might impact a youth's familial relationships. RHY providers might be able to address this area with youth, strengthen their ability to discuss those issues with family members, and facilitate relationship development.

Findings also indicated prior negative experiences with RHY staff might impact a youth's response to current staff members. Those findings suggest the importance of creating an environment that is accepting and affirming of LGBTQ youth as an initial step in facilitating trust.

RHY providers should also be aware a youth may have had prior negative experiences and understand how they might impact relationship building. Initial resistance to engaging in services should be understood within this context, and efforts should be made to build trust and establish positive and non-judgmental relationships with LGBTQ youth.

RHY providers also need to identify strategies for promoting positive relationships with peers and adult mentors. Although youth identified positive factors associated with a street peer group, there were also negative factors associated with those groups. One study found youth felt disconnected from the larger LGBT community and relied more on their street peers for support. Thus, efforts should be made to facilitate integration into the larger LGBT community where possible in order to facilitate positive relationship development.

#### GAPS IN EXISTING LITERATURE

As indicated previously, no studies explicitly examined factors associated with permanent connections for LGBTQ RHY as the primary outcome of interest. Given the importance of that outcome, additional research is needed. Such a focus can lead to an understanding of how to develop strategies to promote permanent connections for LGBTQ youth.

#### Education

Positive outcomes in education included high performance in school and the completion of educational activities. Those outcomes strengthened youths' abilities to support themselves during attempts to prevent re-entering homelessness. Two articles explored factors that contributed to educational outcomes for LGBT RHY.

Shelton (2013) found the lack of stable housing experienced by TGNC youth was associated with leaving school. Among RHY who remained in school, de Castell and Jenson (2010) found LGBT RHY saw school as unsafe and unaccepting of non-LGBTQ identities. Those perceptions resulted in LGBTQ youth hiding their identities or feeling invisible. The various ways in which the study's participants described school life included:



harassing, homophobic, hard, depressing, classist, stressful, lonely, and life-threatening. The study also found educational purposes, objectives, policies, and practices that focused on accessibility were moot because RHY were most concerned with everyday realities such as trying to find food and shelter, which the classroom did not address.

### SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

Research addressing educational outcomes was very limited. However, what was available indicated among TGNC youth, a lack of stable housing was associated with youth leaving school. For LGBTQ RHY who remained in school, they experienced challenges associated with a lack of recognition of their identities, safety concerns, and an inability of the educational system to meet their immediate needs so they could focus on the learning activities that might impact their learning outcomes.

For youth who were accessing services through RHY providers, immediate needs such as food and shelter might be met. However, these findings suggest RHY providers should work closely with school systems to ensure that the school environment provides a safe space for youth so they can focus on learning activities. In addition to providing a safe space, RHY providers can work with school systems to ensure LGBTQ identities are recognized and acknowledged within the school system and youth feel included and accepted in the learning environment.

### GAPS IN EXISTING LITERATURE

There is a large gap in the research exploring educational outcomes for LGBTQ RHY. The studies in this review provided some information. However, research is needed that identifies the factors that contribute to positive educational outcomes among LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

### Employment

USICH (2013) categorizes employment as including “high performance in and completion of... training activities especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth” (p. 15).

For LGBTQ RHY who remained in school, they experienced challenges associated with a lack of recognition of their identities, safety concerns, and an inability of the educational system to meet their immediate needs so they could focus on the learning activities that might impact their learning outcomes.

Achieving those accomplishments will strengthen youths’ ability to support themselves and prevent re-entering homelessness.

None of the studies identified for this review addressed employment in the formal economy for LGBTQ RHY. Rather, the studies examined employment outcomes from participation in the informal economy (e.g., selling drugs, panhandling, exchanging sex, stealing, etc.). Those studies indicated youth engage in the informal economy as a means of survival, often referred to as “subsistence strategies.” The majority of studies specifically focused on outcomes associated with sex work. However, a small number of studies either addressed other areas of the informal economy or broadly focused on factors associated with all potential forms of informal employment.

### NON-SEXUAL SUBSISTENCE STRATEGIES

Lankenau et al. (2005) examined how prior experiences of YMSM during childhood and adolescence influenced knowledge and skills that could later be used in the informal street economy. For instance, early awareness of sex (either through abuse or early experimentation) “introduce[s] the practice of keeping secrets and hiding information from adults and authorities” (Lankenau et al., 2005, p. 13). Other factors found to be associated with participation in the informal economy included low socioeconomic status, caregiver instability, and frequent moves during



childhood and adolescence. Meeting certain people or engaging with certain public institutions (e.g., school, foster care) also accelerated the process of assimilating into the street economy. Highlighting the importance of networking, they suggested older males, gang members, drug dealers, and sex work clients offered emotional and economic support and were often responsible for introducing youth into the street economy.

In addition to prior experiences, once LGBT RHY entered into the informal economy, the type of subsistence strategy they utilized was influenced by multiple factors including their social network, drug use, PTSD, and anxiety. Whitbeck, Hoyt, Yoder, Cauce, and Paradise (2001) found RHY who used substances and/or affiliated with “deviant peers” (i.e., peers who ran away, sold or used drugs, expelled or dropped out of school, shoplifted, traded sex, threatened violence with a weapon, and/or assaulted someone with a weapon) were more likely to participate in non-sexual subsistence strategies such as taking money, selling drugs, or theft.

Tyler, Melander, and Almazan (2010) identified other factors. These included a history of neglect, the number of times youth were left at home,

and PTSD. These were all associated with youth participation in illegal subsistence strategies.

Finally, Hein (2006) examined the relationship between anxiety and youth participation in specific subsistence strategies. They found engaging in the informal street economy was predicted by high trait anxiety and youth feeling like they were better off at home than on the street. Lower state and high trait anxiety were predictive of youth participation in robbing and stealing as survival strategies.

#### **SURVIVAL SEX AND SEX WORK**

The majority of studies focused on LGBTQ RHY involvement in survival sex and sex work. For this review, factors associated with these forms of subsistence strategies have been divided into individual, interactional, and macro-level factors. Individual-level factors included depression and prior histories of abuse. Interactional-level factors described the relationships and social exchanges with others. Macro-level factors addressed ideology, unequal access to resources, discrimination, and other institutional-level factors.



### *Individual-Level Factors*

Tucker et al. (2012) found participation of YMSM in the sex trade was more likely to occur among men who reported greater depressive symptoms and men who slept outside. It was less likely to occur among men who reported frequent heavy drinking. They also concluded severity of homelessness was a risk factor for sex trade participation.

Prior victimization, more specifically childhood sexual abuse, was identified as a risk factor for later involvement in sex work (Bigelsen, 2013). Tyler (2009) found RHY who reported no history of sexual victimization or coercion were less likely to disclose trading sex. Other protective factors included having peers who did not trade sex, never having been propositioned, and being employed full time. There were no identified significant differences between LGB and heterosexual RHY in their likelihood of trading sex, when controlled for other factors.

### *Interactional-Level Factors*

Lankenau (2005) asked homeless YMSM to recall how they became involved in the street economy, more specifically sex work. They reported that they became exposed through “lesser-known” individuals they met on the street. Those individuals were described as being aware and taking advantage of their transitional state as well as their economic, social, and other needs.

Bigelsen (2013) examined the LGBTQ-specific interactional-level factors that put LGBTQ RHY at risk for participating in survival sex, when compared to their heterosexual peers. The risk factors LGBT and heterosexual RHY faced were similar, with one exception: bullying LGBT youth because of their SOGI. Finally, another risk factor for involvement in survival sex was the lack of caring, supportive adults in a youth’s social network.

### *Macro-Level Factors*

Tremble (1993) found one way youth justified their participation in sex work was by referring to the perceived status of the crime. For example, youth stated police and courts were more lenient with charging for prostitution than for theft and drugs.

Boyle (2009) also found economics to be a primary motivator for LGBT youth to engage in



sex work. Explaining why she participates in sex work, one transgender female identified the lack of resources available to LGB youth; even fewer resources are available for transgender youth due to the transphobia of LGBT centers.

Furthermore, Bigelsen (2013) found transgender youth perceived there to be a lack of constructive employment opportunities for them, leading to the belief commercial sex activity was the only available means of making money. Many youth believed no respectable profession would hire a homeless youth. Once youth engaged in commercial sex activities, it was difficult for them to transition into formal/legal forms of employment, and youth began to see sex work as their only talent. According to Curtis et al. (2008), transgender youth were less likely than LGB or heterosexual RHY to have another form of income outside of their participation in sex work.

Lankenau (2005) argued the ambiguity regarding sexuality, plus material/physical stressors (e.g., the need for stable housing), opened youth up to the idea of participating in survival sex. Stressors were conceptualized as homelessness, decomposing family and romantic relationships, being released from institutions without job placement, and escalating drug habits. Thus, Lankenau (2005) concluded the crisis for these youth presupposed their participation in the sex trade.



#### SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

Because the studies reviewed focused solely on participation in the informal economy, we are unable to draw implications about how to facilitate participation in the formal economy. However, the studies reviewed appear to suggest several strategies that could reduce participation in the informal economy. Those include facilitating connections to pro-social peer groups, reducing youth anxiety, addressing symptoms of PTSD, and reframing youth perceptions about employment options. Youth often reported the perception that participation in sex work was their only means of employment. They also reported entering the sex trade because they lacked formal employment. Thus, interventions focused on improving job skills and access to formal employment might reduce participation in the informal economy. However, it might also be beneficial to address issues of harm reduction to reduce the likelihood of poor outcomes for youth who participate in informal subsistence strategies.

#### GAPS IN EXISTING LITERATURE

Research identifying factors associated with participation in the formal economy is needed. Some implications can be drawn from what we know leads to participation in the informal economy. However, research into the factors associated with participation in the formal economy would provide better information that could be used in the development of interventions to facilitate formal employment. A concern about this body of work is the lack of attention to the coercion, intimidation, and exploitation often associated with youth involvement in sex work. Participation in this subsistence strategy is largely discussed as a decision youth make due to economic or other material concerns. However, there was no consideration about other external forces that contribute to youth participation in sex work or their inability to cease participation.

## Well-Being

The USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness (2013) refers to well-being as “the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth.” This includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that enable youth to avoid risk and achieve success in other outcome areas, including well-being. This review identified articles that address well-being in the following domains: a) substance use, b) sexual risk behaviors, c) physical and sexual victimization, and d) mental health.

### SUBSTANCE AND DRUG USE

Research has consistently shown that LGBT RHY report higher rates of current and lifetime substance use than their heterosexual peers. While substance use and abuse were frequently discussed in the literature about LGBT RHY, only four studies were identified that examined factors which contributed to disproportionate substance use by LGBT RHY. These studies primarily indicated previous life experiences and current living situations contributed to the development and prevalence of these rates.

#### *Risk Factors for Substance Use*

Two studies documented emotional distress (feelings of isolation and experiences of hardship) as a contributing factor to LGBTQ and TGNC substance use. Moskowitz, Stein, and Lightfoot (2013) found emotional distress led to youth using substances as a coping mechanism. Shelton (2013) linked feelings of isolation, experiences of hardship, and depression to TGNC youth substance use as a means of coping. Notably, Reck (2009) found transgender and gay RHY who engaged in sex work often followed those behaviors with drug use as a means to cope.

Research also identified parental and peer behaviors as a potential contributing factor for youth substance use. Moskowitz et al (2013) found youth were more likely to report problem patterns of drug use when their parents had a history of drug use. However, Gattis (2010) identified a positive association for LGBTQ RHY between higher levels of substance use and having more peers who engage in substance use and other negative behaviors. He also found

stigma and discrimination were associated with substance use for both LGBTQ RHY and RHY who were not LGBTQ.

### SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS

Research suggests that LGBTQ RHY participation in risk behaviors places them at a significantly greater risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or HIV than their peers who are not LGBTQ. However, this research has neglected to clearly define what is included in the category of sexual risk behaviors. Thus, while a majority of the articles discussed sexual risk behaviors, there was no consistency in how sexual risk was defined or the variables used for its conceptualization.

#### *Factors Contributing to LGBTQ RHY Participation in Sexual Risk Behaviors*

##### CONDOM USE AND UNPROTECTED SEX

Research found several factors influenced sexual minority RHY condom use including psychosocial and attachment-related characteristics, previous experiences of abuse, and network





characteristics. Taylor-Seehafer et al. (2007) explored how RHY psychosocial and attachment-related characteristics influenced their intention and self-efficacy to use condoms. They found social connectedness had a negative effect on their self-efficacy to use condoms, which suggested the more socially connected a youth felt, the less competent they felt in their ability to use condoms. Alternatively, youth level of social support had a positive effect on youth intention and self-efficacy to use condoms. Together, those findings suggested social connectedness and social support were correlated but distinct concepts, and had different relational patterns with self-efficacy to use condoms.

Taylor-Seehafer et al. (2007) discovered that sexual self-concept (youth level of sexual awareness, motivation to avoid risky sexual activities, sexual assertiveness, and sexual self-esteem) had a negative effect on youth intentions to use condoms. However, assertive communication skills had a positive effect on youth intention and self-efficacy to use condoms. Furthermore, the longer youth remained unstably housed, the more intention they had to use condoms. This suggested a cultural discourse surrounding condom use could differ between newly unstably housed youth and youth who have been unstably housed for longer periods.

Additional research has explored the influence of social networks on youth safe sex behaviors. Tucker et al. (2012) examined the social network characteristics that influence a YMSM's likelihood of engaging in unprotected anal sex. They found being older, Hispanic, having relatives in their social network, and having a previous history of abuse were associated with an increased likelihood. Additionally, they found a RHY YMSM's level of education and whether they held positive views of condoms, had peers who attended school regularly, and had friendships with three or more friends who attended school regularly were negatively associated with engagement in unprotected anal sex.

Oliver and Cheff (2012), conducted qualitative research about female and transgender RHY experiences seeking sexual health information and care. They found women listed oral contraceptives and the inability to get pregnant

as two reasons they chose not to use condoms. Condoms and birth control were not always easily accessible. When they were obtained, they were difficult to keep due to constant relocation.

Ream, Barnhart, and Lotz (2012) also conducted a qualitative study and found most youth calculated their perceived level of risk based on trust and duration of the partnership when deciding whether to use a condom. Additionally, they found youth who got tested for STIs with their partners did not use condoms. Youth also suggested condom use resulted in a decrease in sexual pleasure, either as a result of having to stop and negotiate condom use or because there was a decrease in physical pleasure. Furthermore, youth described being less likely to use condoms with their primary partners and more likely to use condoms with non-primary partners.

#### NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS

Only one study specifically examined factors that contributed to the number of sexual partners for YMSM RHY. Tucker et al. (2012) reported that being African American, recruited from a shelter, having a longer history of homelessness, reporting a history of using hard drugs, having friends who were heavy drinkers, engaging in sexual risk behaviors, having tangible support providers, and having sexual partners that drink frequently were associated with an increased likelihood of reporting a higher number of sexual partners. Having peers who attended school regularly appeared to be a protective factor which decreased the likelihood of youth reporting a higher number of sexual partners.

#### *Risk Factors that Contribute to the Risk of Contracting HIV*

Research suggests LGB RHY are at an increased risk for contracting HIV, and multiple factors that contribute to this risk have been identified. Moon et al. (2000) found LGB RHY who tested positive for HIV were more likely to report: engaging in unprotected anal sex, having higher numbers of sexual partners, having sex with an HIV-positive individual or individuals, having sex while using drugs, participating in exchange sex, having prior sexual relations with IV drug users, and prior use of IV drugs. Not only were LGB RHY more likely

to engage in specific sexual risk behaviors, they also began participating in those behaviors at an earlier age and had a higher frequency of sexual risk behaviors across all ages.

In a prior study focused on unstably housed gay men, bisexual men, and transgender women in San Francisco, Moon (1995) found youth who reported having a history of asthma or depression were at higher odds of testing positive for HIV than youth without those diagnoses. GBQ youth who used cocaine within the past 2 months had higher odds of testing HIV positive than youth who reported not using cocaine. Additionally, youth who described significant life changes were at greater odds of testing HIV positive than youth who reported no life changes (e.g. moving to the city, leaving home, having a friend die, or being kicked out of home). GBQ youth involved in “gay-related” organizations also had significantly higher odds of testing HIV positive; the causality was unknown, and it was postulated this finding was possibly the result of youths’ interest in educating their peers about their HIV status. It was also possible youth who were HIV positive sought out resources from the gay community, rather than gay organizations, because of their own risk factors. Finally, youth participating in voluntary sexual activity for 6 or more years had greater odds of testing positive for HIV than youth who did not participate in voluntary sexual activity for 6 or more years.

Participation in sex work was also strongly predictive of unstably housed youths’ risk of contracting HIV. In a comparison study of GLB and heterosexual unstably housed youth, Gangamma, Slesnick, Toviss, and Serovich (2008) found participation in sex work was the strongest predictor of HIV risk at both 3 months and lifetime. Additionally, Tyler (2013) suggested LGBT youth engagement in more HIV risk behaviors could be partly explained by higher rates of survival sex and STIs. Overall, research suggests many factors might contribute to LGBTQ RHY risk of contracting HIV.

#### PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION

Research about victimization was limited to studies of sexual violence and physical violence, excluding other forms such as verbal,



psychological, or economic abuse. Many studies also included questions about early childhood abuse. Those studies are not described here since this review’s focus is on outcomes following youths’ experience with homelessness.

#### *Sexual Violence*

Tyler, Whitbeck, Hoyt, and Cauce (2004) explored the risk factors associated with sexual victimization and the likelihood of an assailant being known versus unknown. For women, age was a predictor of sexual victimization by a stranger. For each additional year of age, a woman’s odds of experiencing sexual assault by a stranger increased. In addition, the younger the age at which a woman left home, the more likely she was to be sexually assaulted by a stranger. Women who reported higher rates of drug use were also more likely to experience sexual violence by a stranger. The predictors of experiencing sexual violence by an acquaintance or friend were slightly different. While the age at which women first left home mattered, informal subsistence strategies and participation in survival sex were significantly associated with sexual victimization by a friend or acquaintance. Young women who traded sex were more likely to know the assailant

than young women who did not participate in exchange sex. In a different study by Tyler (2008) which explored factors that contributed to sexual victimization, youth participation in sex work or exchange sex was associated with higher rates of victimization for LGB RHY. Finally, Tyler et al. (2010) found previous experiences of sexual abuse and neglect were positively associated with sexual victimization for unstably housed youth, regardless of sexual orientation.

### *Physical Violence*

Only one study explored factors that contributed to RHY experiences of physical victimization. Whitbeck et al. (2001) found youth who participated in “nonsexual deviant subsistence strategies” (e.g., taking money, selling drugs, or shoplifting) were more likely to report experiencing physical victimization, regardless of the youth’s sexual orientation.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Research showed LGBT RHY reported higher rates of depression, suicidality, and self-harm than their heterosexual peers. While much research on LGBT RHY has focused on these disparate mental health outcomes, minimal research has addressed contributing factors. Additionally, even less work has focused on protective factors or the positive mental health outcomes of LGBTQ RHY.

### SELF-HARMING BEHAVIORS

Moskowitz et al. (2013) examined the role of stress and maladaptive behaviors as potential mediating variables between demographic variables (including SOGI) and self-harming behaviors by RHY. They reported a strong association between LGBT identities and self-harming behaviors mediated by a youth’s recent level of stress. Additionally, for all RHY youth, their own drug use and current level of stress mediated the association between parental drug use and self-harming behaviors. Those findings suggested a youth’s own drug use and current level of stress contributed to higher rates of self-harm.

LGBT youth have higher rates of self-harm than heterosexual youth. Tyler et al. (2010) found 80% of sexual minority RHY reported self-harming behaviors, as compared to 60% of their

heterosexual peers. Abuse and victimization were positively associated with self-harming behaviors (Tyler et al., 2003, 2010). Tyler et al. (2010) found sexual victimization partially mediated the association between identifying as LGB and self-harming behavior. Thus, higher incidents of sexual victimization for LGB RHY could partially explain their disparate self-harming behavior. Tyler et al. (2003, 2010) found neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse, and higher levels of physical and sexual victimization were positively associated with youths’ self-mutilation behaviors regardless of their sexual orientation. Other factors that were positively associated with self-harm, regardless of sexual orientation, included: participating in delinquent behaviors (e.g., bullying, starting a physical fight, weapon use, being mean to someone, stealing, fire setting, destroying property, and breaking into someone’s home; Moskowitz et al., 2013), participating in “deviant subsistence strategies” to survive (e.g., stealing and/or selling drugs; Tyler, Whitbeck, Hoyt, & Johnson, 2003; Tyler, 2010), age at which the youth first left home (Tyler et al., 2003), number of times youth left home (Tyler et al., 2010), and a history of sleeping on the streets (Tyler et al., 2003).

### SUICIDALITY

Moskowitz et al. (2013) found recent level of stress mediated the relationship between LGBT identities and self-harming behaviors, suggesting higher rates of suicidality among LGBT RHY might be partially explained by higher levels of recently experienced stress. Only one study found a protective factor across all RHY. Gattis (2010) found RHY who experienced higher levels of stigma and discrimination reported higher levels of suicide, regardless of their sexual orientation. He also found, regardless of sexual orientation, higher levels of family communication and school engagement were associated with lower levels of suicidality.

### DEPRESSION

A majority of the research about mental health outcomes focused on self-harm and suicide. However, one study examined factors that contributed to higher levels of depression

experienced by LGBTQ RHY. Gattis (2010) found, regardless of sexual orientation, RHY youth who experienced higher levels of stigma and discrimination also reported higher levels of depression.

#### STRESS AND DISTRESS

Moskowitz et al. (2013) reported a parental history of drug use and youth level of emotional distress were predictive of youth current stress levels. Additionally Hein (2006) found, regardless of sexual orientation, experiences with homelessness engendered stress for young people.

Bidell (2014) explored the experiences of LGBT youth who were homeless while in high school and when they were at home. He found LGBT RHY who reported experiencing harassment at home had significantly higher levels of psychological distress than LGBT RHY who reported no harassment at home. Home-based harassment did influence the average levels of distress. However, there were no significant differences in those found for LGBT RHY who experienced school-based harassment versus youth who did not. Furthermore, LGBTQ RHY who dropped out of school had lower levels than LGBTQ RHY who did not, suggesting lower rates of distress. This also suggested dropping out of high school might be an adaptation strategy LGBT RHY use to cope with negative environments.

#### SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

Using drugs as a coping strategy was a common theme across the literature on RHY. Thus, it was not surprising that groups who are more likely to experience additional stress or traumatic experiences were more likely to use substances. The studies identified in this review indicated reducing feelings of isolation and hardship might reduce the risk of substance use among LGBTQ RHY. Additionally, interventions that promoted pro-social connections among LGBTQ RHY might reduce the risk of substance use.

Stigmatization and discrimination prevented LGBTQ youth from gaining access to the opportunities and resources needed to survive. As a result, participation in sex work or exchange sex became a primary means for obtaining money,

food, shelter, and other basic needs. It was possible that sexual minority RHY engagement in risky sexual behaviors was the result of their increased participation in survival sex and sex work. While many articles emphasized the need to directly address the risk factors that contributed to the disparate sexual health outcomes of LGBTQ RHY, future research and interventions must also tackle the underlying causes of the disparate outcomes experienced by LGBTQ RHY.

Research consistently indicated LGBTQ youth reported a higher frequency of physical and sexual victimization than their peers who were not LGBTQ. Interventions should address the factors associated with physical and sexual victimization, including prior trauma and adverse experiences associated with the risk of victimization. Harm reduction strategies could also be employed to prevent youth from participating in sex work.

Finally, many key factors were identified as potentially contributing to disparate mental health outcomes for LGBTQ RHY. While research primarily focused on factors that contribute to negative outcomes for LGBTQ RHY, a small number of studies suggested LGBTQ RHY have positive factors that contribute to positive mental health outcomes. Interventions that address LGBTQ RHY mental health needs should focus on strength-based approaches that build on a youth's existing skills, as well as address the interactional and macro-level factors that contribute.

#### GAPS IN EXISTING LITERATURE

We were unable to identify any research exploring factors that contribute to physical health outcomes beyond the scope of substance use and sexual health risks for LGBTQ RHY. Furthermore, the majority of research about mental health outcomes for LGBTQ RHY focused on deficiencies rather than strengths. In studies that included positive mental health outcomes or explored protective factors, those outcomes were not the focal point of the study. While the studies included in this review addressed risk factors for substance use, no studies were identified that addressed factors that contributed to positive outcomes such as not engaging in substance use or reducing the use of substances.



Additional information is needed about factors that contribute to positive outcomes so as to inform interventions created to address this area. Future research should also include additional forms of victimization (e.g., harassment, verbal abuse, economic abuse, and psychological abuse) when examining various settings where violence occurs (e.g., school, street, businesses, doctors' offices, etc.). Furthermore, research should explore factors that contribute to the disparate rates of violence experienced by LGBTQ youth. Future research needs to move beyond using LGBTQ identities as explanatory variables. Research that is interested in the disparate outcomes experienced by LGBTQ RHY should examine variables that moderate or mediate the relationship between sexual orientation and mental health outcomes, rather than solely identifying associations between sexual orientation and mental health outcomes. There is a need to specifically focus on factors that

contribute to well-being outcomes for transgender and gender non-conforming RHY. Only five articles included transgender-identified youth in their studies, and of those only one focused specifically on TGNC RHY. When studies did include transgender participants, they comprised only a small portion of the sample.

Finally, several studies in this section conflated SOGI in one of two ways. First, researchers provided participants with two options for gender, male and female, and participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation, with transgender included as an option (see Hein 2006, Moskowitz et al. 2013, and Bidell 2014). Second, researchers treated LGBTQ individuals as a homogenous group versus looking for variation between groups. For example, the stigma and discrimination transgender individuals experience might be quite different from the stigma and discrimination LGB youth experience. Such differences could lead to variations in mental health outcomes and should be explored versus assumed to be the same.

## Review Summary

Thirty studies that addressed outcomes of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness were included in this review. The search was limited to studies of currently homeless LGBTQ youth that addressed outcomes of stable housing, permanent connections, employment, education, and well-being. Because the focus was on factors that make currently homeless youth more or less likely to experience these outcomes, we excluded studies that addressed risk factors for becoming homeless, as well as those that did not provide specific outcomes for LGBTQ youth, and studies that did not isolate outcomes for youth from adults.

Overall, we found the majority of studies addressing outcomes for homeless LGBTQ youth focused on factors that contributed to negative outcomes (e.g., victimization, sexual risk behaviors, depression, suicidality) rather than factors that contributed to youth experiencing positive outcomes (e.g. exiting homelessness). While research focuses on the factors that contribute to negative outcomes is necessary, in order to develop prevention strategies, additional research is needed to understand the factors that contribute to positive outcomes. This approach can lead to developing strengths-based interventions that facilitate positive outcomes including exiting from homelessness.

We were also concerned with the lack of studies that addressed factors that contribute to educational outcomes of LGBTQ homeless youth; there were only two and neither addressed factors that contributed to positive educational outcomes. Rather, both identified factors that contributed to youth leaving school or being unsuccessful in school.

We were particularly concerned with the lack of studies that addressed factors that contribute to employment in the formal economy for LGBTQ homeless youth. Every study addressed employment outcomes focused on youths' participation in the informal economy (e.g., selling drugs, stealing, sex work), with the majority addressing youths' participation in sex work. Very few of the identified studies addressed the potential for sexual exploitation among

LGBTQ homeless youth. While it is important to understand the factors that contribute to youths' participation in sex work to develop prevention and harm reduction strategies, research is needed to understand the factors that contribute to a youth's participation in the formal economy so as to inform interventions to facilitate this participation.

Overall, we found the large majority of literature on LGBTQ homeless youth addressed risk factors for becoming homeless, rather than the experiences and outcomes of youth once they become homeless. Studies that address risk factors for becoming homeless are necessary in developing prevention strategies. We recommend additional research be conducted about the current population of homeless LGBTQ youth so as to inform interventions that can facilitate positive outcomes for this vulnerable population.



## Appendices

### Appendix 1: References

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## Appendix 1: References

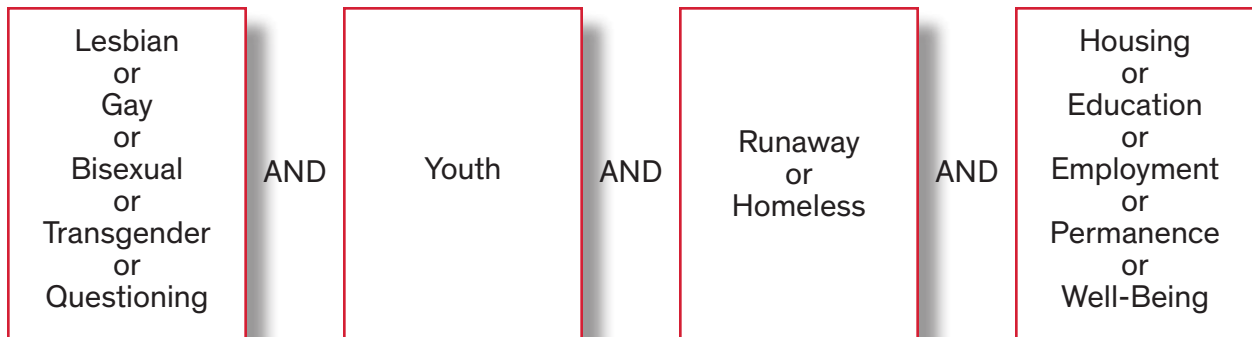
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## Appendix 2: In Text Citation Guide

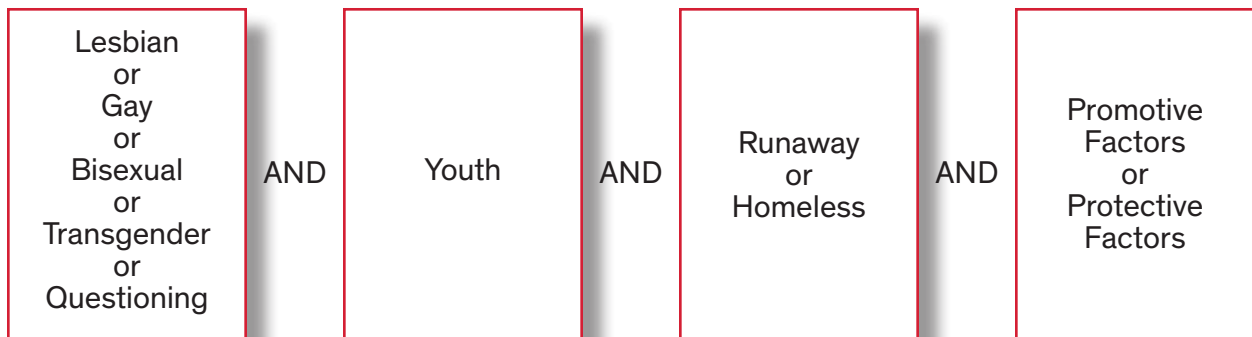
	Stable Housing	Permanent Connections	Education	Employment	Substance Use	Sexual Risk Behaviors	HIV Risk Behaviors	Physical and Sexual Victimization	Mental Health
Bernstein & Foster (2008)	■								
Bidell (2014)									■
Bigelsen (2013)				■					
Boyle (2009)	■	■		■					
Curtis, Terry, Dank, Dombrowski, & Khan (2008)				■					
De Castell & Jenson (2010)			■						
Gangamma, Slesnick, Toviss, & Serovich (2008)							■		
Gattis (2010)					■				
Hein (2006)				■					
Hein (2010)	■								
Lankenau, Clatts, Welle, Goldsamt, & Gwadz (2005)		■		■					
Milburn, Ayala, Rice, Batterham, & Rotheram-Borus (2006)	■								
Moon (1995)							■		
Moon, McFarland, Kellogg, Baxter, Katz, MacKellar, & Valleroy (2000)							■		
Moskowitz, Stein, & Lightfoot (2013)					■				
Oliver & Cheff (2012)						■			
Ream, Barnhart, & Lotz (2012)						■			
Reck (2009)					■				
Rice, Stein, & Milburn (2008)		■							
Shelton (2013)	■	■	■		■				
Taylor-Seehafer, Johnson, Rew, Fouladi, Land, & Abel (2007)		■				■			
Tremble (1993)		■		■					
Tucker, Hu, Golinelli, Kennedy, Green, & Wenzel (2012)				■		■			
Tyler (2008)								■	
Tyler (2009)				■					
Tyler (2013)							■		
Tyler, Melander, & Almazan (2010)				■				■	■
Tyler, Whitbeck, Hoyt, & Cauce (2004)								■	
Tyler, Whitbeck, Hoyt, & Johnson (2003)									■
Whitbeck, Hoyt, Yoder, & Paradise (2001)				■					

### Appendix 3: Search Models and Search Terms

#### SEARCH 1



#### SEARCH 2



#### SEARCH 3



## Appendix 3: Search Models and Search Terms

### Search Terms<sup>1</sup>

#### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, OR QUESTIONING

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Transsexual
- Questioning
- Queer
- Homosexual
- LGBT
- Two-spirit
- Pansexual
- Asexual
- Sexual minority
- Sexual orientation
- Intersex
- Hermaphrodite
- Gender identity
- Gender non-conforming
- Genderqueer
- Gender diverse
- Gender complex
- Gender variant
- Gender dysphoria
- Gender identity disorder
- Gender expression
- Agender
- Pangender

#### YOUTH

- Youth
- Underserved youth
- Young adult
- Children
- Adolescents
- Adolescence
- Teens
- Teenagers

#### RUNAWAY OR HOMELESS

- Runaway
- Homeless
- Homelessness
- Street youth
- Street children
- Unaccompanied
- Throwaway
- Displaced
- Unstably housed

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1. Note: Although some terms are no longer used in the professional literature, they are included here to ensure that all relevant articles dating from 1990 were identified.



## Appendix 3: Search Models and Search Terms

### OUTCOMES

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Training
- Occupation
- Permanence
- Attachments
- Connections
- Reunification
- Acceptance
- Rejection
- School
- Work
- Relationships
- Well-being
- Health
- Mental health
- Social
- Emotional
- Physical
- Safety
- Social networks
- Independence
- Self-sufficient
- Service utilization
- Access to resources
- Competence
- Functioning
- Substance use
- Rapid HIV
- Protective factors
- Promotive factors
- Human trafficking
- Trafficked
- Prostitution
- Hustling
- Sex industry
- Sex work
- Survival sex
- CSEC
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Exploitation
- Victimization
- Forced labor
- Exploitation
- Slave trade
- Child labor

## Appendix 4: Database Searches

**02/25/14**

MEDLINE (n=204)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR two spirit\* OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR sexual minorit\* OR sexual orientation\* OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR gender identit\* OR gender non-conform\* OR genderqueer OR gender queer OR gender diverse OR gender complex OR gender variant OR gender dysphoria OR gender expression OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR underserved youth\* OR young adult\* OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR street youth\* OR street child\* OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR unstably hous\* OR unstable hous\*
- hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\* OR connection\* OR reunification OR acceptance OR rejection OR school OR work\* OR relationship\* OR well-being OR well being OR health OR mental health OR social OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR social network\* OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR service utilization OR access to resource\* OR competen\* OR functioning OR substance OR HIV

EMBASE (n=174)

- (lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR 'two spirit' OR 'two spirited' OR twospirit\* OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR 'sexual minority' OR 'sexual minorities' OR 'sexual orientation' OR 'sexual orientations' OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR 'gender identity' OR 'gender identities' OR 'gender nonconforming' OR 'gender non+conforming' OR 'gender queer' OR 'gender diverse' OR 'gender complex' OR 'gender variant' OR 'gender dysphoria' OR 'gender expression' OR genderqueer OR agender OR pangender):ab,ti,de AND

(youth\* OR 'young adult' OR 'young adults' OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*):ab,ti,de AND (runaway\* OR homeless\* OR 'street youth' OR 'street youths' OR 'street child' OR 'street children' OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR 'unstably housed' OR 'unstable housing'):ab,ti,de AND (hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\* OR connection\* OR reunif\* OR accept\* OR reject\* OR school OR work\* OR relationship\* OR wellbeing OR 'well being' OR health OR 'mental health' OR social OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR 'social network' OR 'social networks' OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR 'service utilization' OR 'access to resources'):ab,ti,de

CINAHL (n=104)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR "two spirit\*" OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR "sexual minorit\*" OR "sexual orientation\*" OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR "gender identit\*" OR "gender non-conform\*" OR genderqueer OR "gender queer" OR "gender diverse" OR "gender complex" OR "gender variant" OR "gender dysphoria" OR "gender expression" OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR "underserved youth\*" OR "young adult\*" OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR "street youth\*" OR "street child\*" OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR "unstably hous\*" OR "unstable hous\*"
- hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\* OR connection\* OR reunification OR acceptance OR rejection OR school OR work\* OR relationship\* OR well-being OR "well being" OR health OR "mental health" OR social OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR "social network\*" OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR "service utilization" OR "access to resource\*" OR competen\* OR functioning OR "substance

## Appendix 4: Database Searches

use” OR “substance abuse” OR “rapid HIV” OR HIV

### EBSCO (INCLUDING ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER; n=271)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\* OR connection\* OR reunification OR acceptance OR rejection OR school OR work\* OR relationship\* OR well-being OR “well being” OR health OR “mental health” OR social OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR “social network\*” OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR “service utilization” OR “access to resource\*” OR competen\* OR functioning OR “substance use” OR “substance abuse” OR “rapid HIV” OR HIV

### PSYCINFO (n=174)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender

- expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\* OR connection\* OR reunification OR acceptance OR rejection OR school OR work\* OR relationship\* OR well-being OR “well being” OR health OR “mental health” OR social OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR “social network\*” OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR “service utilization” OR “access to resource\*” OR competen\* OR functioning OR “substance use” OR “substance abuse” OR “rapid HIV” OR HIV

### SOCIAL SCIENCE CITATION INDEX (n=354)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\* OR connection\* OR reunification OR acceptance OR rejection OR school OR work\* OR relationship\* OR well-being OR “well being” OR health OR “mental health” OR social OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR “social network\*” OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR

## Appendix 4: Database Searches

“service utilization” OR “access to resource\*”  
OR competen\* OR functioning OR “substance  
use” OR “substance abuse” OR “rapid HIV” OR  
HIV

### SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (n=54)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\*  
OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR  
homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\*  
OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\*  
OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*”  
OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender  
identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR  
genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender  
diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender  
variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender  
expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young  
adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*”  
OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR  
throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably  
hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- hous\* OR educat\* OR employ\* OR train\* OR  
occupation\* OR permanen\* OR attachment\*  
OR connection\* OR reunification OR  
acceptance OR rejection OR school OR work\*  
OR relationship\* OR well-being OR “well  
being” OR health OR “mental health” OR social  
OR emotional OR physical OR safe\* OR “social  
network\*” OR independen\* OR sufficien\* OR  
“service utilization” OR “access to resource\*”  
OR competen\* OR functioning OR “substance  
use” OR “substance abuse” OR “rapid HIV” OR  
HIV



## Appendix 4: Database Searches

02/25/14

### Search 2: Protective and Promotive Factors

MEDLINE (n=8)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR two spirit\* OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR sexual minorit\* OR sexual orientation\* OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR gender identit\* OR gender non-conform\* OR genderqueer OR gender queer OR gender diverse OR gender complex OR gender variant OR gender dysphoria OR gender expression OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR underserved youth\* OR young adult\* OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR street youth\* OR street child\* OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR unstably hous\* OR unstable hous\*
- protective factor\* OR promotive factor\* OR protective OR promotive

EMBASE (n=10)

- (lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR 'two spirit' OR 'two spirited' OR twospirit\* OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR 'sexual minority' OR 'sexual minorities' OR 'sexual orientation' OR 'sexual orientations' OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR 'gender identity' OR 'gender identities' OR 'gender nonconforming' OR 'gender non+conforming' OR 'gender queer' OR 'gender diverse' OR 'gender complex' OR 'gender variant' OR 'gender dysphoria' OR 'gender expression' OR genderqueer OR agender OR pangender):ab,ti,de AND (youth\* OR 'young adult' OR 'young adults' OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*):ab,ti,de AND (runaway\* OR homeless\* OR 'street youth' OR 'street youths' OR 'street child' OR 'street children' OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR 'unstably housed' OR 'unstable housing'):ab,ti,de AND ('protective

factor' OR 'promotive factor' OR 'protective factors' OR 'promotive factors' OR protective OR promotive):ab,ti,de

CINAHL (n=10)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR "two spirit\*" OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR "sexual minorit\*" OR "sexual orientation\*" OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR "gender identit\*" OR "gender non-conform\*" OR genderqueer OR "gender queer" OR "gender diverse" OR "gender complex" OR "gender variant" OR "gender dysphoria" OR "gender expression" OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR "underserved youth\*" OR "young adult\*" OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR "street youth\*" OR "street child\*" OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR "unstably hous\*" OR "unstable hous\*"
- "protective factor\*" OR "promotive factor\*" OR protective OR promotive

EBSCO (INCLUDING ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER; n=17)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR "two spirit\*" OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR "sexual minorit\*" OR "sexual orientation\*" OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR "gender identit\*" OR "gender non-conform\*" OR genderqueer OR "gender queer" OR "gender diverse" OR "gender complex" OR "gender variant" OR "gender dysphoria" OR "gender expression" OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR "underserved youth\*" OR "young adult\*" OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR "street youth\*" OR "street child\*" OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR "unstably hous\*" OR "unstable hous\*"
- "protective factor\*" OR "promotive factor\*" OR protective OR promotive

## Appendix 4: Database Searches

### PSYCIDINFO (n=13)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “protective factor\*” OR “promotive factor\*” OR protective OR promotive

### SOCIAL SCIENCE CITATION INDEX (n=26)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “protective factor\*” OR “promotive factor\*” OR protective OR promotive

### SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (n=2)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “protective factor\*” OR “promotive factor\*” OR protective OR promotive

## Appendix 4: Database Searches

02/25/14

### Search 3: Trafficking

MEDLINE (n=67)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR two spirit\* OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR sexual minorit\* OR sexual orientation\* OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR gender identit\* OR gender non-conform\* OR genderqueer OR gender queer OR gender diverse OR gender complex OR gender variant OR gender dysphoria OR gender expression OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR underserved youth\* OR young adult\* OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR street youth\* OR street child\* OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR unstably hous\* OR unstable hous\*
- human traffick\* OR traffick\* OR prostitut\* OR hustling OR slavery OR sex industry OR sex work OR survival sex OR CSEC OR commercial sexual exploitation OR exploit\* OR victimiz\* OR forced labor OR slave trade OR child labor

EMBASE (n=61)

- (lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR 'two spirit' OR 'two spirited' OR twospirit\* OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR 'sexual minority' OR 'sexual minorities' OR 'sexual orientation' OR 'sexual orientations' OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR 'gender identity' OR 'gender identities' OR 'gender nonconforming' OR 'gender non+conforming' OR 'gender queer' OR 'gender diverse' OR 'gender complex' OR 'gender variant' OR 'gender dysphoria' OR 'gender expression' OR genderqueer OR agender OR pangender):ab,ti,de AND (youth\* OR 'young adult' OR 'young adults' OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*):ab,ti,de AND (runaway\* OR homeless\* OR 'street youth' OR 'street youths' OR 'street child' OR 'street children' OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\*

OR displaced OR 'unstably housed' OR 'unstable housing'):ab,ti,de AND ('human trafficking' OR trafficking OR trafficked OR prostitute OR prostitution OR hustling OR slavery OR 'sex industry' OR 'sex work' OR 'survival sex' OR CSEC OR 'commercial sexual exploitation' OR exploited OR exploitation OR victimized OR victimization OR 'forced labor' OR 'slave trade' OR 'child labor'):ab,ti,de

CINAHL (n=26)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR "two spirit\*" OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR "sexual minorit\*" OR "sexual orientation\*" OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR "gender identit\*" OR "gender non-conform\*" OR genderqueer OR "gender queer" OR "gender diverse" OR "gender complex" OR "gender variant" OR "gender dysphoria" OR "gender expression" OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR "underserved youth\*" OR "young adult\*" OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR "street youth\*" OR "street child\*" OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR "unstably hous\*" OR "unstable hous\*"
- "human traffick\*" OR traffick\* OR prostitut\* OR hustling OR slavery OR "sex industry" OR "sex work" OR "survival sex" OR CSEC OR "commercial sexual exploitation" OR exploit\* OR victimiz\* OR "forced labor" OR "slave trade" OR "child labor"

EBSCO (INCLUDING ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER; n=63)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR "two spirit\*" OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR "sexual minorit\*" OR "sexual orientation\*" OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR "gender identit\*" OR "gender non-conform\*" OR genderqueer OR "gender queer" OR "gender diverse" OR "gender complex" OR "gender

## Appendix 4: Database Searches

- variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “human traffick\*” OR traffick\* OR prostitut\* OR hustling OR slavery OR “sex industry” OR “sex work” OR “survival sex” OR CSEC OR “commercial sexual exploitation” OR exploit\* OR victimiz\* OR “forced labor” OR “slave trade” OR “child labor”

### PSYCINFO (n=64)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “human traffick\*” OR traffick\* OR prostitut\* OR hustling OR slavery OR “sex industry” OR “sex work” OR “survival sex” OR CSEC OR “commercial sexual exploitation” OR exploit\* OR victimiz\* OR “forced labor” OR “slave trade” OR “child labor”

### SOCIAL SCIENCE CITATION INDEX (n=120)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*”

- OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “human traffick\*” OR traffick\* OR prostitut\* OR hustling OR slavery OR “sex industry” OR “sex work” OR “survival sex” OR CSEC OR “commercial sexual exploitation” OR exploit\* OR victimiz\* OR “forced labor” OR “slave trade” OR “child labor”

### SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (n=14)

- lesbian\* OR gay OR bisexual\* OR transgen\* OR transsex\* OR questioning OR queer OR homosex\* OR GLB\* OR LGB\* OR two-spirit\* OR “two spirit\*” OR pansexual\* OR asexual\* OR “sexual minorit\*” OR “sexual orientation\*” OR intersex OR hermaphrodite OR “gender identit\*” OR “gender non-conform\*” OR genderqueer OR “gender queer” OR “gender diverse” OR “gender complex” OR “gender variant” OR “gender dysphoria” OR “gender expression” OR agender OR pangender
- youth\* OR “underserved youth\*” OR “young adult\*” OR child\* OR adolescen\* OR teen\*
- runaway\* OR homeless\* OR “street youth\*” OR “street child\*” OR unaccompanied OR throwaway\* OR displaced OR “unstably hous\*” OR “unstable hous\*”
- “human traffick\*” OR traffick\* OR prostitut\* OR hustling OR slavery OR “sex industry” OR “sex work” OR “survival sex” OR CSEC OR “commercial sexual exploitation” OR exploit\* OR victimiz\* OR “forced labor” OR “slave trade” OR “child labor”

TOTAL DUPLICATED – 1,836

TOTAL DE-DUPLICATED – 1,125

## Appendix 5: Sources Used in Grey Literature Search

- Administration for Children & Family (ACF)  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
<http://www.aecf.org>
- Anti-Violence Project  
<http://www.avp.org/>
- Applied Survey Research  
<http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/>
- Arcus Foundation  
[http://www.arcusfoundation.org/socialjustice/research\\_and\\_reports/](http://www.arcusfoundation.org/socialjustice/research_and_reports/)
- Building Changes  
<http://www.buildingchanges.org/>
- California Homeless Youth Project  
<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/>
- Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare  
<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/cascw/>
- Center for American Progress  
<http://www.americanprogress.org>
- Center for Assessment and Policy Development  
<http://www.capd.org/publications.htm>
- Center for HIV Law and Policy  
<http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/>
- Centre for Housing Policy  
<https://www.york.ac.uk/chp/expertise/homelessness/>
- CentreLink Australian Homelessness Clearinghouse  
<https://homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au/about-homelessness/agreements-and-initiatives/commonwealth-initiatives/centrelink-services-for-homeless-people-and-those-at-risk-of-homelessness/>
- The Child Welfare Information Gateway  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov>
- Child Welfare League of America  
<http://www.cwla.org/>
- Common Knowledge  
<http://commons.pacificu.edu/>
- Covenant House  
<http://www.covenanthouse.org/>
- CSH: The Source for Housing Solutions  
<http://www.csh.org/>
- Cream City Foundation  
<http://creamcityfoundation.org/>
- Empire State Coalition  
<http://www.empirestatecoalition.org/>
- Equity Project  
<http://www.equityproject.org/>
- Family Acceptance Project  
<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/home>
- Forty to None Project  
<http://fortytonone.org/>
- Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network  
[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)
- Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA)-  
<http://www.glma.org/>
- Hollywood Homeless and Youth Partnership  
<http://hhyp.org/>
- The Homeless Hub  
<http://www.homelesshub.ca/>
- Homeless Link  
<http://homeless.org.uk/>
- Homeless Resource Center  
<http://homeless.samhsa.gov>
- Human Rights Watch  
[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
- IMPACT: The LGBT Health and Development Program  
<http://www.impactprogram.org/>
- Lambda Legal  
<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>
- Larkins Street Youth Services  
<http://www.larkinstreetyouth.org/>
- Mathematica Policy Research  
<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/>
- Movement Advancement Project  
<http://www.lgbtmap.org/>
- National Alliance to End Homelessness  
<http://www.endhomelessness.org>
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
<http://www.naehcy.org/>
- National Center for Charitable Statistics  
<http://nccsweb.urban.org/nccs.php>
- National Center for Children in Poverty  
<http://www.nccp.org/>
- National Center on Family Homelessness  
<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/>
- National Center for Homeless Education  
[www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)



## Appendix 5: Sources Used in Grey Literature Search

- National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth  
<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/library>
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs  
<http://www.avp.org/about-avp/coalitions-a-collaborations/82-national-coalition-of-anti-violence-programs>
- National Coalition for the Homeless  
<http://nationalhomeless.org/>
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
<http://www.thetaskforce.org/>
- National Network for Youth  
<http://www.nn4youth.org/>
- National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connection  
<http://www.nrcpfc.org>
- National Resource Center for Youth Services  
[www.nrcys.edu](http://www.nrcys.edu)
- National Runaway Safeline  
[http://www.1800runaway.org/learn/research/why\\_they\\_run/](http://www.1800runaway.org/learn/research/why_they_run/)
- National Runaway Switchboard  
<http://www.nrcrisisline.org/>
- National Youth Advocacy Coalition  
[www.nyacyouth.org](http://www.nyacyouth.org)
- National Youth Development Information Center  
[www.nydic.org](http://www.nydic.org)
- Office of Minority Health  
<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/content.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=209&id=9004>
- Pathways 2 Positive Futures  
<http://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/>
- Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health Department of Child and Family Studies Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute  
<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/>
- Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League  
<http://www.smyal.org/>
- Tides Foundation Out-of-Home Youth Fund  
<http://www.tides.org/>
- Trevor Project  
[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)
- United Way of King County  
<http://www.uwkc.org/our-focus/homelessness/ending-youth-homelessness.html>
- Urban Institute  
<http://www.urban.org/>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policiesregulations/policies/pal200110.html>
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
<http://www.huduser.org/publications/homeless/p6.html>
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness  
<https://www.usich.gov/goals/youth>
- Youth Catalytics  
<http://www.youthcatalytics.org/>

## Appendix 6: Phase One Screening Tool

1. Reviewer Name  
 Dettlaff    Holzman
2. REF ID of item screened
3. LAST NAME of first author
4. Does the document include LGBTQ YOUTH (through age 24) as part of the population studied?  
 YES    NO    UNCLEAR
5. Does the document include youth who are CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?  
 YES    NO    UNCLEAR
6. Does the document describe RESEARCH with this population?  
 YES    NO    UNCLEAR
7. Were the answers to questions 4, 5, and 6 YES or UNCLEAR?  
 If YES, continue  
 If NO, stop here
8. Does the document address one or more of the following outcomes: STABLE HOUSING, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, PERMANENT CONNECTIONS, WELL-BEING?  
 YES    NO    UNCLEAR
9. Does the document address TRAFFICKING, including SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING, SEX WORK, or SURVIVAL SEX?  
 YES    NO    UNCLEAR
10. Is this document a LITERATURE REVIEW or META-ANALYSIS?  
 YES    NO    UNCLEAR

## Appendix 7: Data Extraction Components

### ARTICLE IDENTIFIERS:

- Title
- Author
- Year

### PURPOSE:

- Identify in article and write here.

### SAMPLE METHOD:

- Type
  - Probability
    - Randomized
      - Simple/systematic (individuals/families)
      - Stratified/blocked (identified stratifying variables)
      - Yoked pairs (created by timing of enrollment into the study)
      - Matched pairs (identified matching variables)
      - Cluster (group) randomized
    - Non-probability
      - Convenience sample
      - Purposive sample
        - Expert choice
        - Quota
      - Referral sample (can be probability and non-probability)
        - Snowball
        - Network
  - Location
    - Multiple locations?
    - TLP
    - Name cities and multiple locations
  - Time frame
    - When was the data collected?

### SAMPLE SIZE:

- Referred to study
- Consented
- Randomly assigned
- Started treatment
- Completed treatment

### SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHIC:

- Race
- Age
- Sex and/or gender (% male, female, transgender)
- Sexuality (% breakdown)

### HOW DID THE STUDY MEASURE OR ASK ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY?

- Uni-dimensionally
- Multi-dimensionally
- Describe

### HOW DID THE STUDY MEASURE OR ASK ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

- How did they define homelessness?
- What questions did they ask?
- Uni-dimensionally
- Multi-dimensionally
- Did they require a specific amount of time individuals have to be homeless?
- Were individuals currently homeless?

### RESEARCH METHOD/DESIGN

- Interview
  - Semi-structured
  - Structured
- Focus groups
- Survey
- Quasi-Experiment
- Experiment
- Descriptive (understand relationships between things/correlation studies)
- Cross-sectional
- Exploratory
- Longitudinal

### AFFILIATED STUDY

- Was this research connected with a larger project?
- If so, which one?

## Appendix 7: Data Extraction Components

### MEASUREMENT TOOLS

- List variable
- Independent/dependent/control
- How was each variable measured?
  - Was there a standardized tool or assessment?
    - If so, what was the name of the instrument
    - Describe instrument
    - Did they describe how the instrument was constructed?
      - Describe
    - Were statistics or alpha coefficients included?
      - Were coefficients listed for this study or past studies?
  - Name of instrument
  - Description
  - Measurement questions
  - Type of instrument
  - Background information on instrument
    - Populations used for
    - Previously reported coefficients
  - Who completed/used the instrument
    - Self-reported
    - Therapist
    - Staff
  - When was the instrument used
    - Upon arrival

### COMPARISON GROUPS:

- What were the key comparison groups?
- Did they look at gender differences between groups?

### WAS THE RESEARCH GROUNDED IN THEORY?

- Identify in article and write here.

### DATA ANALYSES

- What statistical techniques were used?

### FINDINGS RELEVANT TO THE LGBTQ

#### COMMUNITY:

- Identify in article and write here.

#### LIMITATIONS:

- Identify in article and write here.

#### STRENGTHS:

- Identify in article and write here.

#### CONCLUSION:

- Identify in article and write here.

**JANE ADDAMS  
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**HOUSTON**

GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

