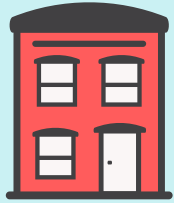


# Creating LGBTQ2S Affirming & Specialized Policies and Solutions to Homelessness



Dr. Alex Abramovich  
Institute for Mental Health Policy Research  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)  
University of Toronto



Many existing services are not LGBTQ2S competent or informed by intersectionality, and do not operate within an intersectional framework.

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## SOLUTIONS

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Integrated approach to homelessness where mental health supports and trauma informed care are central components.



Standardized model of care that promotes an accepting, affirming, & supportive environment.

HAVE  
YOU EVER  
FELT  
INVISIBLE  
BEFORE?

The intake was so shitty in terms of trans stuff. There's just no room for trans or even LGBTQ stuff on their intake. I tried to incorporate it in, 'cause they are like, 'do you need subway tokens to go to your appointments?' and I'm like 'yes! I'm going to this trans program Monday, this trans program Tuesday...' and they just kind of ignored that.

(J, 27 years old)

How do you describe your **sexual identity**?

*Check all that apply:*

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Queer
- Pansexual
- Questioning
- Two-Spirit
- Straight/Heterosexual
- Asexual
- Identity not listed (please specify)

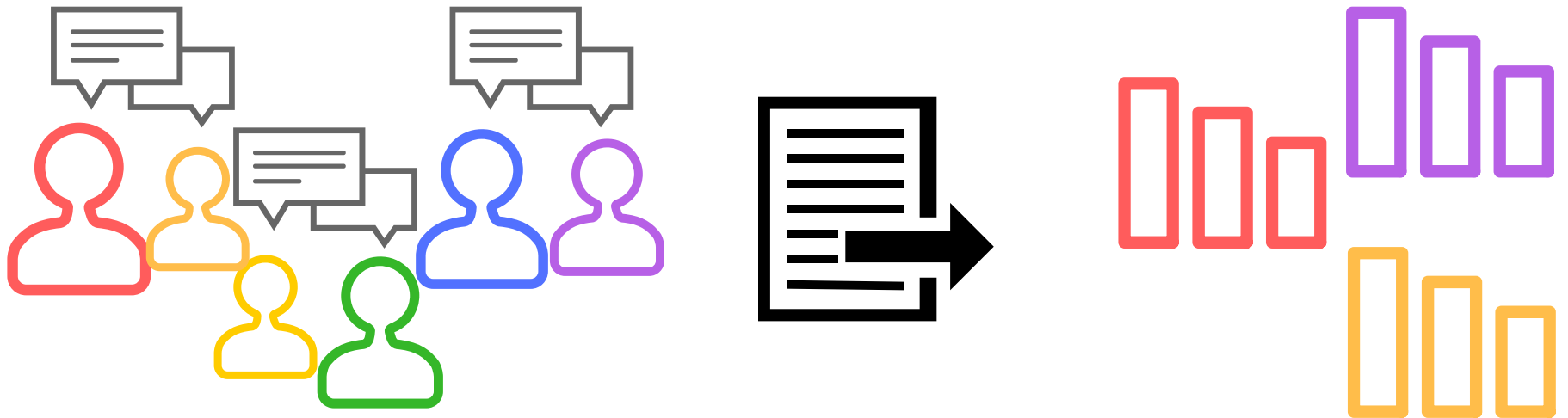
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you describe your **gender identity**?

*Check all that apply:*

- Cisgender woman
- Cisgender man
- Trans woman
- Trans man
- Two-Spirit
- Gender queer
- Gender fluid
- Androgynous
- Non-binary
- Identity not listed (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_



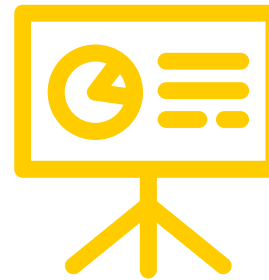
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We Need Better Data to Help Us  
Talk About—and Act to Address—  
Homelessness among the  
LGBTQ2S population.

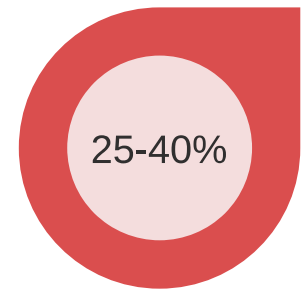
# MEASUREMENT



1



2



## Data Collection

Collecting accurate data involves inclusive questions re: LGBTQ2S identity

## Inclusive Questions

Key forms often do not include trans people & only provide option for F/M

## Data Synthesis

Updating data management system to include options for LGBTQ identities

## Undercounted

Due to these issues, LGBTQ2S youth & adults end up undercounted

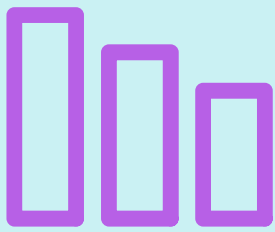
# Programs are NOT enough

- Programs often lack a LGBTQ2S inclusive and targeted response
- Absence of non-discrimination policies
- Knowledge & comfort level of program staff
- Often reactive, rather than pro-active

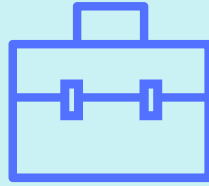


A collection of various tools and resources arranged on a dark wooden surface. The tools include a large axe with a curved blade, a smaller axe with a flat head, a hammer with a wooden handle, a pair of pliers, a pair of work gloves, a utility knife, a small metal cup, and a larger metal mug. A circular object with the text "CRAFTSMAN NICKEL PLATED" is also visible. The text "People need tools and resources in order to respond appropriately." is overlaid in the center of the image.

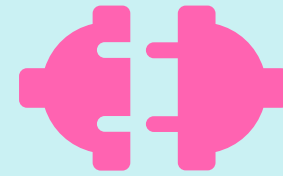
People need tools and resources in order to respond appropriately.



Grounded in  
research



Partnerships  
across the  
province



Interagency  
collaboration

---

# LGBTQ2S FOCUS

## GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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Rural & urban  
in focus



Meeting the needs of  
LGBTQ2S population



New &  
improved  
services

# A FOCUSED RESPONSE TO PREVENT AND END LGBTQ2S YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

## Key Recommendations to Government of Alberta



1. Delivery of LGBTQ2S specific housing options



2. Population-based programs for LGBTQ2S youth that foster an intersectional approach



3. Provincial housing/shelter standards that focus on meeting the needs of LGBTQ2S youth



4. Provincial staff training solutions for all aspects of LGBTQ2S cultural competency



5. Develop a prevention plan that emphasizes strategies on early intervention, awareness raising, and programs for children, youth, and families



6. Research that frames new approaches and solutions to LGBTQ2S youth homelessness

# Towards a Standardized Model

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- ▶ LGBTQ2S inclusive shelter standards or guidelines
- ▶ Inclusive intake forms
- ▶ Close consideration of physical environment of services
- ▶ Mandatory & ongoing LGBTQ2S cultural competency training for all staff



*Wow,*

I've never been in a space where there were so many people like me.

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- ANONYMOUS YOUTH



*Learn more at:* [www.homelesshub.ca/WhereAmIGoingToGo](http://www.homelesshub.ca/WhereAmIGoingToGo)

# **LGBTQ2S Individuals Must be Included in Crafting Solutions to LGBTQ2S Youth & Adult Homelessness**

# **The Way We Talk About LGBTQ2S Youth & Adult Homelessness Matters**



# WHERE AM I GOING TO GO?

INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO ENDING  
LGBTQ2S YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
IN CANADA & THE U.S.

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**#WhereAmIGoingToGo**

**NEW  
BOOK!**

Download the book for free at: [www.homelesshub.ca/WhereAmIGoingToGo](http://www.homelesshub.ca/WhereAmIGoingToGo)



Canadian  
Observatory on  
Homelessness

[homelesshub.ca](http://homelesshub.ca)



Thank you!

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**camh**

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health