



Preventing, Reducing & Ending LGBTQ2S Youth Homelessness

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A photograph of a weathered wooden bench in an outdoor setting, likely a park or garden. The bench is made of dark wood with vertical slats on the backrest. Several dry, brown autumn leaves are scattered on the seat and backrest. The background is softly blurred, showing more trees and foliage. The overall lighting is warm and slightly dim, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text "Everyone deserves a safe bed." is overlaid in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the lower middle of the image.

Everyone deserves a safe bed.

Toronto

2K homeless youth on any given night

65-150K homeless youth
in Canada

9 Emergency shelters = 350 beds

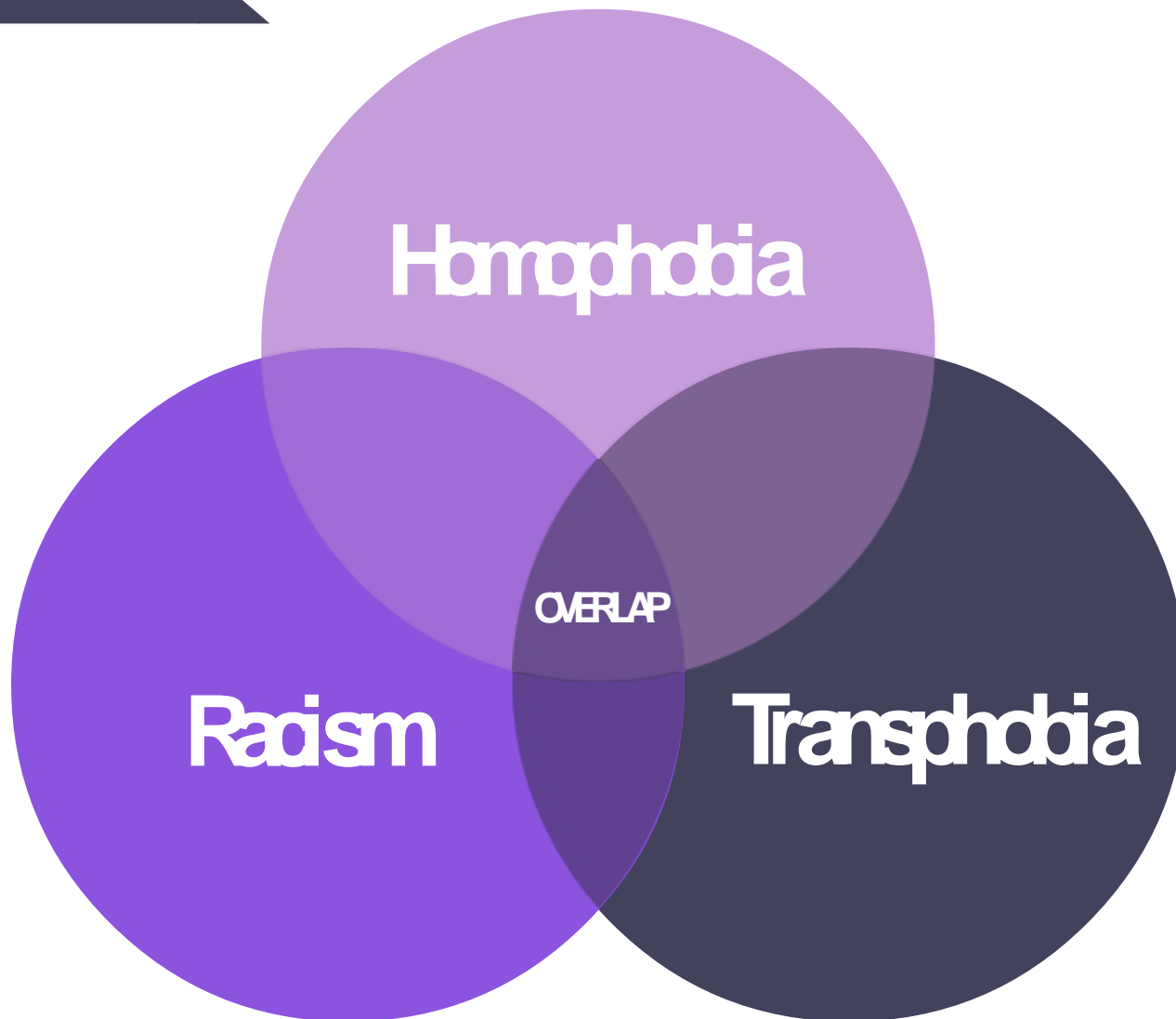
4 Transitional housing programs = 110 beds

25-40% of homeless youth
identify as LGBTQ2S

- ✦ LGBTQ2S youth face increased risk of physical & sexual exploitation, mental health difficulties, & suicide
- ✦ Transgender youth are most discriminated against in shelters, housing programs, & mental health services
- ✦ Shelters often unsafe for LGBTQ2S youth due to widespread homophobic & transphobic violence

There are NO emergency shelters
for LGBTQ2S youth in Canada

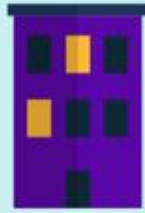
Intersectionality of Oppression



I was in the shelter system for a long time. I was displaying clear signs of mental health issues and never did the staff ask me if I was okay, never did they bring me to a doctor or a support group, never did anyone do anything like that.

Maybe it's because I didn't stay in one place for long enough, but when you see someone who is exhibiting serious symptoms of an illness like the flu or a simple illness, you get them help, but when you see someone who is experiencing mental health issues, you throw them out. That's what they did to me.

(R, 25 years old)



Offer mental health support in services that LGBTQ2S youth frequent



Integrated approach: Mental health services in shelters

NEXT STEPS



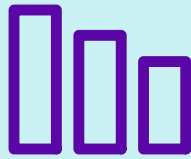
Mandatory training for staff and health care professionals



Involve young people in key discussions and planning

Institutional/Structural Response

HAVE
YOU EVER
FELT
I NVISIBLE
BEFORE?



Grounded in
research



Community-led
approach

LGBTQ FOCUS - GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA



Rural & urban
focus



Integrated
throughout
Youth Plan

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

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