LGBTQ+ Community & Homelessness

LGBT center OF RALEIGH

SERVING THE TRIANGLE & BEYOND
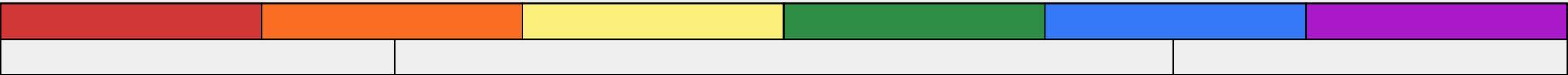
Reminder

7.2%

U.S. adults (18+) are a part of the LGBTQ+ community
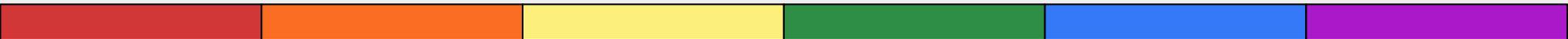
382,000

Estimated number of LGBTQ+ people in North Carolina

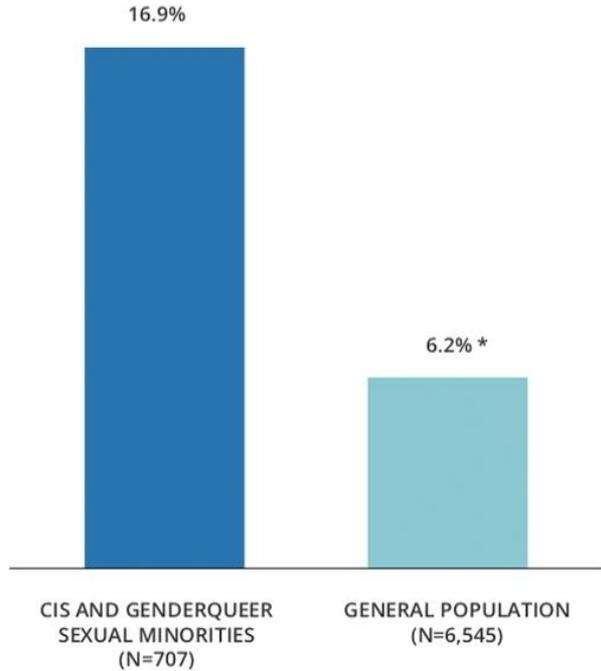**9.5%**

U.S. youth ages 13-17 are a part of the LGBTQ+ community

71,300

Number of transgender adults in North Carolina

Love is love

16.9%

6.2% *

CIS AND GENDERQUEER
SEXUAL MINORITIES
(N=707)

GENERAL POPULATION
(N=6,545)
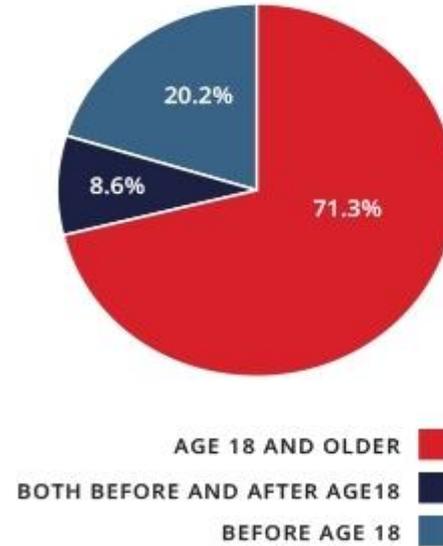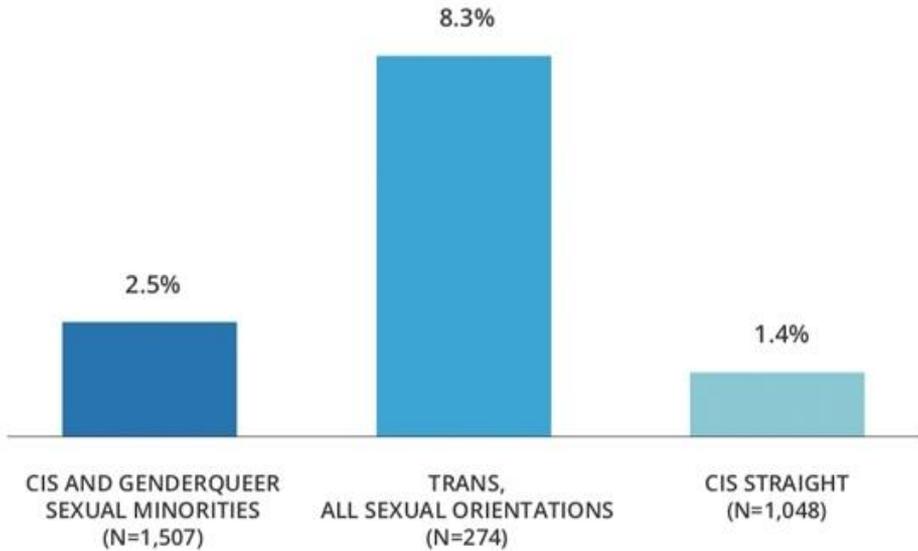
Homelessness among LGBT Adults in the US (May 2020)
THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

LGBTQ+ adults are over twice as likely to have experienced homelessness in their lifetime compared to the general population

Reduce stigma

The majority of LGBTQ+ people experienced homelessness for the first time as an adult

20.2%

8.6%

71.3%

AGE 18 AND OLDER

BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER AGE18

BEFORE AGE 18

Homelessness Among LGBT Adults in the US (May 2020)
THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Reduce stigma

8.3%

2.5%

1.4%

CIS AND GENDERQUEER
SEXUAL MINORITIES
(N=1,507)

TRANS,
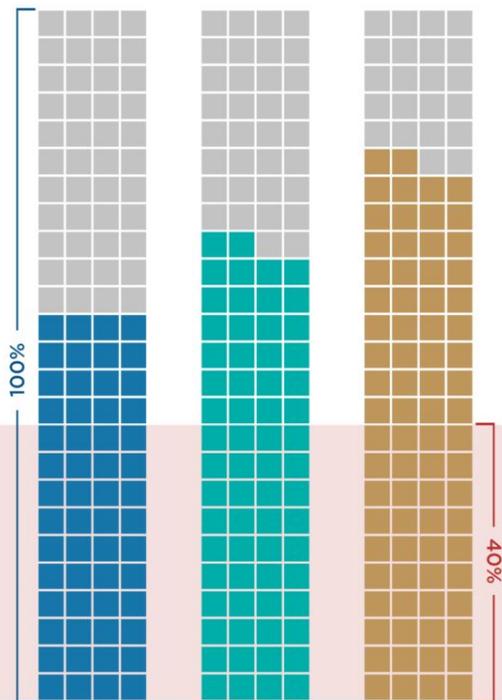ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS
(N=274)

CIS STRAIGHT
(N=1,048)

Homelessness among LGBT Adults in the US (May 2020)

THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

A higher proportion of transgender people report recent homelessness compared to LGB and cisgender heterosexual people

Reduce stigma

Non-Cisgender Homeless Individuals Face Higher Risk of Being Unsheltered

Of the unhoused non-cisgender population....

56% of **transgender individuals**

66% of **non-binary** or **gender non-conforming individuals**

78% of **gender questioning individuals**

are **unsheltered**.

100%

40%

Yet, the unsheltered rate for the overall homeless population is **40%**.
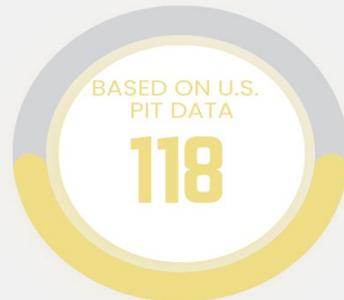
Learn more at **endhomelessness.org/data**

Share of Subgroup Living Unsheltered, 2022
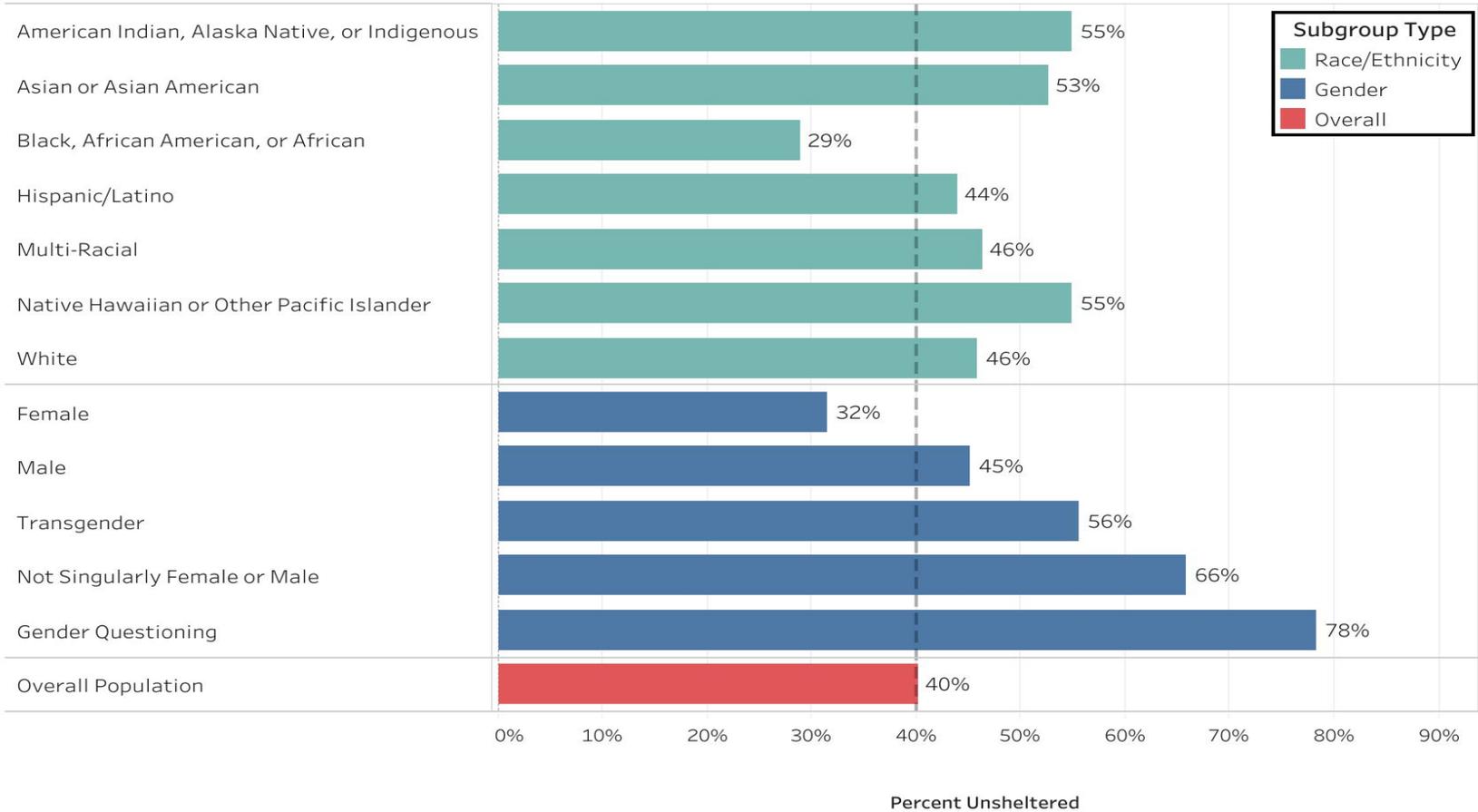
Subgroup Type
- Race/Ethnicity
- Gender
- Overall

Subgroup	Percent Unsheltered
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	55%
Asian or Asian American	53%
Black, African American, or African	29%
Hispanic/Latino	44%
Multi-Racial	46%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	55%
White	46%
Female	32%
Male	45%
Transgender	56%
Not Singularly Female or Male	66%
Gender Questioning	78%
Overall Population	40%

Percent Unsheltered

LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness

- 28% of LGBTQ+ youth reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives
  - Those who did had 2-4 times the odds of reporting depression, anxiety, self-harm, considering suicide, and attempting suicide compared to those with stable housing
- Homelessness and housing instability were reported at higher rates among transgender and nonbinary youth
  - 38% of transgender girls/women
  - 39% of transgender boys/men
  - 35% of nonbinary youth
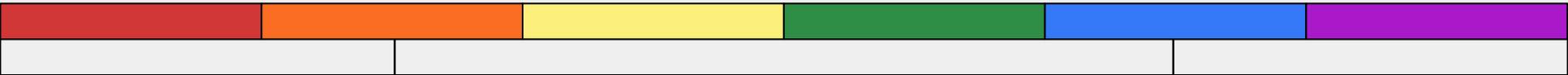   - All compared to 23% of cisgender LGBQ youth

Trevor Project, 2022

Inclusion

Intersectionality

"If you add together separate oppressions, you are left with a grand oppression greater than the sum of its parts."

Patricia Hill-Collins

Intersecting Identities & 'isms'

- Ableism
  - Prejudice against people who are perceived as physically, mentally, or intellectually atypical.
- Ageism & Adultism
  - Prejudice against older people, and prejudice against young people.
- Citizenship
  - Rights and privileges afforded to being a documented citizen or lack thereof if one is undocumented or not a citizen.
- Classism
  - Lack of access to social and economic power based on socioeconomic status.

- Ethnicity & Cultural Heritage
  - One's ethnic and cultural backgrounds and experiences
- Heterosexism
  - Assumption that all people are, or should be, heterosexual and that heterosexual people must be gender conforming (based on sex assigned at birth).
- Racism
  - One's racial background or perceived racial background.
- Religion
  - One's faith, agnosticism or atheism.
- Sexism
  - The ways in which people are treated differently based on whether they are perceived as men or women.

Awareness

LGBTQ+

Microaggressions

What is a microaggression?

Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, nonverbal and environmental slights, snubs or
insults, whether intentional or unintentional which communicate hostile, derogatory or negative
messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.
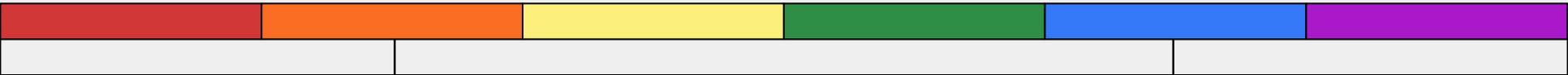
Inclusion

Who does it affect?

While microaggressions are generally discussed from the perspective of race and racism, any marginalized group in our society may become targets:

- People of color
- Women
- LGBTQ+ people
- Persons with disabilities
- Religious minorities
- Immigrants
- Houseless people
- Many others

Inclusion

Ally
To
Accomplice

All accomplices are allies, but not all allies are accomplices. While an ally is willing to stand in support of a marginalized voice, risk is rarely involved. An accomplice uses the power and privilege they have to challenge the status quo, often risking their physical and social well being in the process.

Inclusion

Systemic Change

- Increase access to affordable, high-quality, non-discriminatory health care services and insurance benefits for LGBTQ+ people.

- Promote the economic security and financial stability of LGBTQ+ people by fostering inclusive labor practices and workplace policies.

- Foster inclusive, safe, welcoming, and affirming schools and educational environments for LGBTQ+ students.

- Protect and strengthen the civil rights of LGBTQ+ people engaged with the criminal legal system and law enforcement.

- Ensure greater access to safe and stable housing for LGBTQ+ people, as well as support services for those experiencing homelessness.

- Support fair and humane treatment of LGBTQ+ immigrants, including by promoting the rights of LGBTQ+ people abroad.

Awareness

LGBTQ+

Welcoming & Affirming Clients

Inclusive

Phone Calls

Challenge

1. Being afraid of misgendering the client because of their voice

2. Being worried about saying the word "transgender" to the client

Tip for Addressing

1. Don't use pronouns or gendered language until you ask

2. It's really important to say the word "transgender" because it could change the kind of service or resource the client is needing

Awareness

LGBTQ+

Check-In/In-Take

Challenge

1. Not knowing what form(s) to give the client

2. Not knowing what name to use or what pronouns to use

3. Being afraid of making a mistake and using the wrong name or pronouns

Tip for Addressing

1. Consider having ONE form with different options or give them all of the forms and ask that they fill out the pertinent information

2. Have a procedure in place to ask the client these questions when they call/come in to request your services

3. Quickly recognize your mistake, apologize and correct yourself. Do not make excuses or make a big deal out of it!

Awareness

LGBTQ+

What NOT to Do

- Use different pronouns for someone after they tell you their pronouns (even they/them)

- Use the name on their ID if it's different from what they're telling you

- Deny shelter/service to a trans person because other residents may "not be comfortable"

- Ask clients about their body (i.e. surgery, hormones, genitals, etc.)

- Assume what types of resources a client may need just because of their identity

- Misgender a client behind their back when speaking with a colleague or another client

Awareness

LGBTQ+

6 Strategies for Affirming LGBTQ+ Youth & Adults

Believe Them

It is imperative that you and the client are opening up to believe what they're saying.

Validate & Empathize

Show that their feelings are valid and demonstrate empathy even if you do not understand.

Use Affirming Name & Pronouns

One of the most effective ways to demonstrate affirmation.

Help Connect to Support & Resources

Helping to identify and connect to supportive resources can reduce their sense of isolation.

Advocate

Advocacy is essential to ensuring that clients are safe, respected and affirmed while in your care

Be Proactive

Being proactively prepared to support a LGBTQ+ client will help you provide quality services and support when needed.

Knowledge

Confidentiality

Reflections & Discussion

Inclusive

Group Activity Questions

- What are some physical things at your agency that could be changed to make the space more inviting for LGBTQ+ people?

- What policies or procedures does your agency have that may affect LGBTQ+ clients differently than non-LGBTQ+ clients?

- What policies or procedures does your agency have that may affect LGBTQ+ staff/employees differently than non-LGBTQ+ staff/employees?

LGBTQ+

Awareness