

# MYTH

---

"Being LGBTQ is  
a risk factor to  
homelessness."



# FACT

---

Homophobia,  
transphobia, and  
cis-hetero-sexism  
are risk factors to  
homelessness.

Someone's identity  
is not the problem.

How do we end LGBTQ homelessness?

---

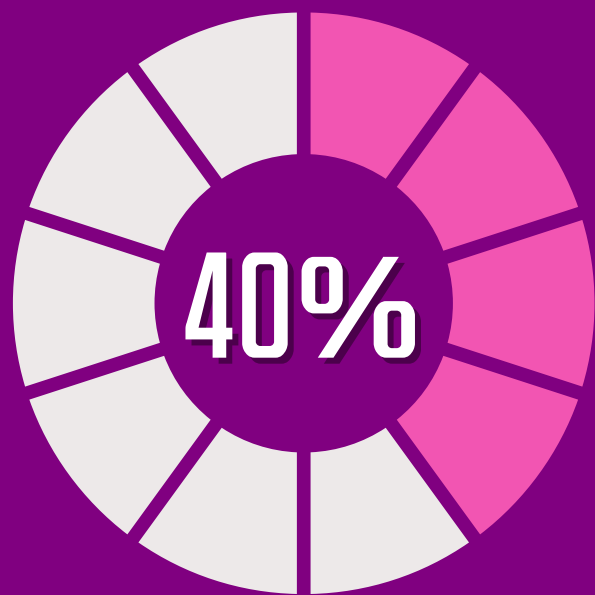


NEOCH

works directly with queer and trans people to **accompany** them through a homeless service system that's often neither welcoming nor affirming.

We **advocate** for inclusion, **train** shelter staff on best practices working with LGBTQ folks, and **educate** the public on how anti-LBGTQ oppression contributes to homelessness in our communities.





**of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ**

**despite LGBTQ youth only representing 7% of the general population.**



**Why does this alarming disparity exist?**

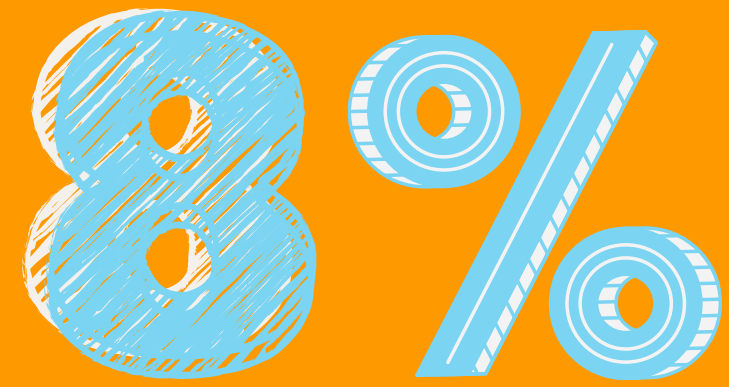
# 6

## WAYS LGBTQ YOUTH EXPERIENCE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND OPPRESSION



- Bullying and harassment from kids AND adults
- "Not under my roof" from parents/guardians
- Being mis-gendered by family, teachers, etc.
- Refusal by caregivers to buy gender affirming clothes
- Denial of gender affirming healthcare
- "Love the sinner, hate the sin," and other forms of rejection from family, church community, etc.

**THESE EXPERIENCES ARE A ONE-WAY TICKET TO  
HOMELESSNESS FOR MANY LGBTQ YOUTH.**

A large, stylized graphic of the number 8 followed by a percentage sign (%). The number 8 is filled with a blue scribbled texture. The percentage sign is also blue with a similar texture. The background is a solid orange color.

**of transgender adults  
experienced homelessness in the  
last year; more than 8x the  
general population.**



**Why does  
this alarming  
disparity exist?**



# **ROOT CAUSES OF TRANS HOMELESSNESS**

**EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION**

---

**LANDLORD DISCRIMINATION**

---

**LOSS OF CONNECTION TO FAMILY & FRIENDS**

---

**DISCRIMINATION IN SOCIAL SERVICES:**

---

**-SOMETIMES EXCUSED UNDER "RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION"**

---

**-OFTEN UNSPOKEN, DIFFICULT TO PROVE**

---

**-PASSED FROM ONE AGENCY TO ANOTHER, UNHELPED**

---

# LIVED EXPERIENCES OF UNHOUSED LGBTQ PEOPLE

## Criminalization

- *Homelessness = increased visibility*
- *Trauma = fight or flight response*
- *Targeted arrest, esp. Black trans women.*
- *Criminal record creates barrier to housing options*

## Violence

- *Assault/hate crime*
- *Sexual assault*
- *Human trafficking*
- *Less likely to be helped by police*

## Reasons

# trans people

have been denied access to shelter

Didn't look  
'feminine  
enough' to stay  
in the women's  
shelter.

Seemed 'hostile'  
in response to  
harassment and  
abuse.

Hadn't  
saved up  
enough for  
surgery  
yet.

Considered a  
threat to cis  
shelter  
residents.







## HOW TO HELP

To support our LGBTQ clients to feel themselves & more easily access shelter, NEOCH is collecting gender affirming clothing and personal care items,

visit [neoch.org/pridedrive](https://neoch.org/pridedrive)  
to contribute.



— “ —

**As we advocate for more  
inclusive spaces for our unhoused  
LGBTQ neighbors, we also  
accompany them through the  
homeless and social service  
system as it currently exists.**

— ” —

— “ —

**We have heard from unhoused trans folks that they have a safer, more comfortable, more dignified experience in those spaces when they present as their whole selves.**

— ” —

— “ —

**We provide clothing and personal items that affirm their identities, and support them to more confidently navigate shelter life.**

— ” —

— “

We've partnered with nVent Allies to create a list of items most requested by our LGBTQ clients, particularly Black trans women, who are most often harassed and excluded.

” —

**WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
BY STANDING STRONG AND  
BEING UNITED WITH PEOPLE  
WHO BELIEVE IN US,  
WHO ADVOCATE FOR US,  
WHO SUPPORT & LOVE US  
FOR WHO WE ARE.**

*Miss Major Griffin-Gracy*

[www.neoch.org/pridedrive](http://www.neoch.org/pridedrive)  
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

