



# STANDUP FOR KIDS DC



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## FACTS SHEET: LGBTQ

There are 8 beds available for homeless LGBTQ youth in D.C. provided by the Wanda Alston House, but there is a long waiting list of youth in need.

LGBTQ youth make up about 20% of young people who are homeless in the U.S., compared to only 10% of the general youth population.

Of the estimated 1.6 million homeless American youth, up to 42% identify as lesbian or gay, and a disproportionate number identify as bisexual or transgender.

In one study, 50% of gay teens experienced a negative reaction from their parents when they came out. 26% of gay teens who came out to their parents/guardians were told they must leave home.

Demographically, LGBTQ homeless youth are disproportionately African American or American Indian, and often from low-income communities, and from poor or working class families.

While homeless youth typically experience severe family conflict as the primary reason for their homelessness, LGBTQ youth are twice as likely to experience sexual abuse before the age of 12.

58.7% of LGBT homeless youth have been sexually victimized compared to 33.4% of heterosexual homeless youth.

LGBTQ youth are about 7 times more likely than heterosexual youth to be victims of sexual violence.

LGBT homeless youth commit suicide at a rate of 62%, much higher than heterosexual homeless youth, at a rate of 29%

A study of homeless youth in Canada found that those who identify as LGBT were 3x more likely to participate in survival sex than their heterosexual peers.

The D.C. Council's Committee of the Whole on Dec. 17, 2013 voted unanimously to give preliminary approval for the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Act of 2013. The legislation, among other things, allocates funds for expanding existing homeless facilities to include additional beds for "youth who identify themselves as lesbian gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning." The Council is expected to vote on a first reading of the bill at its next session on Jan. 7. Mayor Vincent Gray has said he would sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

### Causal Factors Leading LGBTQ Youth to Exit their Home of Origin

Family Conflict	53%
Lack of tolerance for sexual orientation or gender identity	22%

### LGBTQ Youth Experiences When Last in School

	Youth who identify as LGBTQ	Youth who do not identify as LGBTQ
Did not feel safe at school	8.7%	13.5%
Did not feel supported at school	17.39%	28%

#### Sources:

<http://www.washingtonblade.com/2013/12/23/d-c-council-advances-lgbtq-homeless-youth-bill/>  
<http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/HomelessYouth.pdf>  
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/LGBTQhomelessFactSheetbyNAEH.pdf>  
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/lgbtq.html>