


# Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youth


An Integrated Program Design




# Homeless LGBTQ Youth

- ▶ Unaccompanied Homeless
  - ▶ LGBTQ: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning
  - ▶ Youth: 13 to 19 years of age
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# My Framework

- ▶ Family Systems Theory
  - ▶ Lifespan Development
  - ▶ Strengths-based Practice
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# Best Practice

- ▶ Research-based
  - ▶ Multi-system approach
  - ▶ Consider strengths, resources, challenges, and risks
  - ▶ Sensitive to the target population
  - ▶ Socio-politically sensitive
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# Why is it important to serve this group?

- ▶ 20% to 40% of unaccompanied homeless youth self-identify as LGBTQ
  - ▶ 7% of this population cite sexual orientation as the reason they left
  - ▶ LGBTQ youth are far more likely to engage in survival sex than their straight counterparts
  - ▶ LGBTQ adolescents are about twice as likely to attempt suicide
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# Program Design

- ▶ Emergency shelter vs. long-term housing
  - ▶ Safe environment
  - ▶ Advocacy
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# Resources

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# Resources

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Questions?

