

TRANS & NON-BINARY YOUTH ACCESSING SHELTERS

TRANS & NON-BINARY YOUTH

face more discrimination than any other youth group and frequently report great difficulty accessing shelters.

They often avoid shelters altogether.



Shelters are often segregated by “male” and “female” floors.

TRANSPHOBIA

HAPPENS WHEN YOUTH ARE SEGREGATED BASED ON HOW SHELTER STAFF PERCEIVE THEIR GENDER, INSTEAD OF HOW YOUTH ACTUALLY IDENTIFY.

Forcing a trans individual to classify themselves as a gender with which they do not identify is transphobic. This is emotionally, psychologically, mentally and physically harmful, and can lead to suicide.



REJECTED BY SHELTERS

Shelters are supposed to be accessible to trans, non-binary and two-spirit residents, in their self-defined gender. However youth are often rejected by shelters and are regularly not permitted to access the shelter that matches their gender identity because shelters do not feel equipped to support trans, non-binary, or two-spirit youth.



67%

TRANS YOUTH REPORTED SELF-HARM

25%

TRANS YOUTH REPORTED RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME

55%

OF TRANS PEOPLE HAVE DIFFICULTY MEETING HOUSING-RELATED COSTS

DIFFERENT NEEDS



Help getting ID and legal name changes



Access to hormones or surgery



The complexity of these needs intensifies when youth are **homeless**, have **no money** and **no health card**. This can result in the use of **unmonitored street suppliers** to meet these needs, and can lead to severe health complications.

WHEN TRANS & NON-BINARY YOUTH DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES REFLECTED IN SERVICES, THEY FEEL LIKE THEY DO NOT BELONG. WHEN PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY DO NOT BELONG, THEY AVOID SERVICES.

Written by Dr. Alex Abramovich (2016) SOURCES: Abramovich, A. (2013). No Fixed Address: Young, Queer, and Restless. In: Gaetz, S., O'Grady, B., Buccieri, K., Karabanow, J., & Marsolais, A. (Eds.), Youth Homelessness in Canada: Implications for Policy and Practice. Toronto: Canadian Homelessness Research Network Press.; Bauer GR, Scheim AI, for the Trans PULSE Project Team. Transgender People in Ontario, Canada: Statistics to Inform Human Rights Policy. London, ON.; Mottet, L., & Ohle, J. (2003). Transitioning Our Shelters: A Guide to Making Homeless Shelters Safe for Transgender People. New York: The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.; Veale J, Saewyc E, Frohard-Dourlent H, Dobson S, Clark B & the Canadian Trans Youth Health Survey Research Group (2015). Canadian Trans Youth Health Survey. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia.

#ENDYOUTHHOMELESSNESS

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