

# YOUTH CARE

Homeless youth → Off the streets → Preparing for life

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Homeless Youth Statistics

- LGBTQ youth represent up to 40 percent of the homeless youth population, though they only represent 3-5% of the US population.<sup>1</sup> Our local King County estimates are that 33% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+.<sup>2</sup>
- The likelihood of being a victim of crime increases sevenfold just by identifying as LGBTQ.<sup>3</sup> Homeless LGBTQ youth are twice as likely to experience sexual assault.
- 26 percent of youth who come out to their parents as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender are kicked out of their homes.<sup>4</sup>
- 25-33 percent of all homeless youth have engaged in survival sex.<sup>5</sup>
- 62 percent of LGBTQ homeless youth have attempted suicide, compared with 29% of their heterosexual homeless peers.<sup>5</sup>

YouthCare is nationally recognized organization with over 40 years of experience serving homeless youth and young adults. From dry socks and meals for youth on the street, to residential housing, to education and employment programs, YouthCare is unique in its ability to provide the services necessary for self-sufficiency and independence. YouthCare knows how to support every homeless youth with a best-practices continuum of care.

YouthCare's Isis at Ravenna House, a transitional living program for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies, is a stellar example of our continuum of care model—from housing and life skills coaching to mental health services and education, Isis at Ravenna House offers these young people the services they need to achieve healthy independence and reach their potential.

- Isis at Ravenna House opened in 1998 as the first transitional living program for homeless LGBTQ youth and straight allies in the Pacific Northwest and remains the only such resource in the region.
- Isis at Ravenna House provides ten beds of transitional housing and support services to young adults ages 18-21.
- The major program goal at Isis at Ravenna House is healthy independence, which clients advance by achieving a GED or high school diploma, maintaining employment, or consistently attending school/vocational training.
- Residents can stay for up to 2 years. This extended stay helps youth establish a secure income and effectively address barriers to permanent housing.
- Isis at Ravenna House is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Every effort is made to ensure that staff is reflective of the population they serve.

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<sup>1</sup> Forty to None Project

<sup>2</sup> All Home Count Us In, 2018

<sup>3</sup> National Runaway Switchboard

<sup>4</sup> The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in collaboration with the National Coalition for the Homeless

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> James M. Van Leeuwen and others, "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Homeless Youth: An Eight City Public Health Perspective," *Child Welfare* 85 (2) (2005): 151-170.