



## LGBTQ ADVOCATES ARE HOUSING ADVOCATES

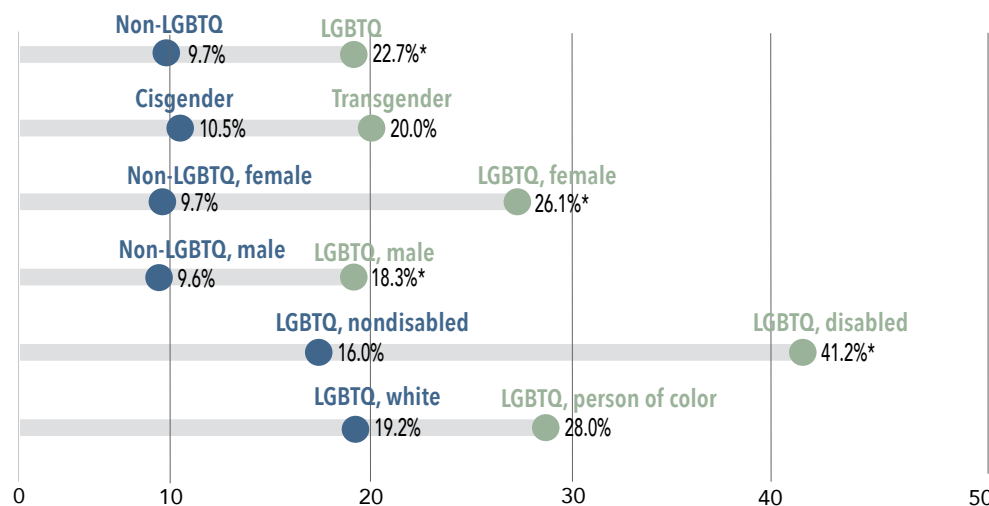
**Research is increasingly clear that stable, affordable housing is a critical driver of positive outcomes in many areas of life, but such housing is much less assured for the LGBTQ community.**

Despite well-documented and consistent reports of discrimination against LGBTQ people in housing rentals and purchases, in the majority of states there are no explicit legal protections from bias on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing transactions. The patchwork of protections that do exist are primarily in cities and states where sexual and gender minorities experience more acceptance from their neighbors, yet even in these relatively more tolerant geographies, discrimination remains common.

“After conducting 2,009 paired tests in Dallas-Forth Worth, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, housing providers told gay men about one fewer available unit on every 4.2 tests than they told heterosexual men about, were slightly less likely to schedule an appointment with gay men, and quoted gay men average yearly rent costs that were \$272 higher. Additionally, providers told transgender testers about fewer rentals than they told cisgender testers, regardless of the protocol used ([Urban Institute, 2017](#)).”

A Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) study found that different sex couples were favored over similarly situated same-sex couples in 15% of tests; a Michigan study found that same-sex couples experienced discrimination in roughly one-quarter of rental, sales, and financing tests.

**FIGURE 1**  
LGBTQ people, especially those with disabilities, are more likely to receive SNAP  
Percent of respondents reporting that they or their family received SNAP, by demographic



\*indicates a statistically significant difference at the p<.05 level.  
Note: Individual respondents to the survey answered on behalf of themselves and their family. In this report, “family” refers to the respondent’s partner and/or the respondent’s child. Demographic breakdowns refer to the respondents only. LGBTQ male respondents include respondents who self-identified as LGBTQ and self-identified as female, including transgender women. LGBTQ male respondents include respondents who self-identified as Hispanic or as non-Hispanic and black, multiracial, or other. White respondents include respondents who self-identified as white and non-Hispanic. Source: See Methodology in Caitlin Rooney, Charlie Whittington, and Laura E. Durso, “Protecting Basic Living Standards for LGBTQ People (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2018), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=454592>.

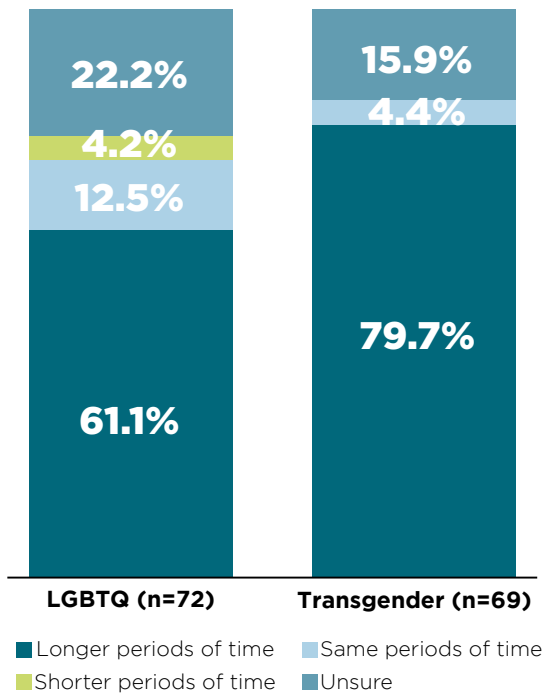
Source: [Center for American Progress, 2018](#)

Rates of discrimination are even more pronounced for LGBTQ people who also have other marginalized identities. Older LGBTQ couples, especially older lesbian couples, experience higher rates of poverty (9.1%) than older heterosexual couples (4.6%) ([Center for American Progress, 2009](#)). In addition, LGBTQ older adults face discrimination in the sale and rental of housing, and in mortgage lending, which adversely impacts access to housing. One study found that 48% of older same sex couples applying for senior housing were subjected to discrimination ([The Equal Rights Center, 2014](#)).

A recent study showed that 17.6% of LGBTQ people with disabilities and 12.5% of LGBTQ people of color need and receive public housing assistance, compared to 2.5% of non-LGBTQ people ([Center for American Progress, 2018](#)).

**Figure 14:**

Duration of homelessness of LGBTQ youth compared to non-LGBTQ youth as reported by providers

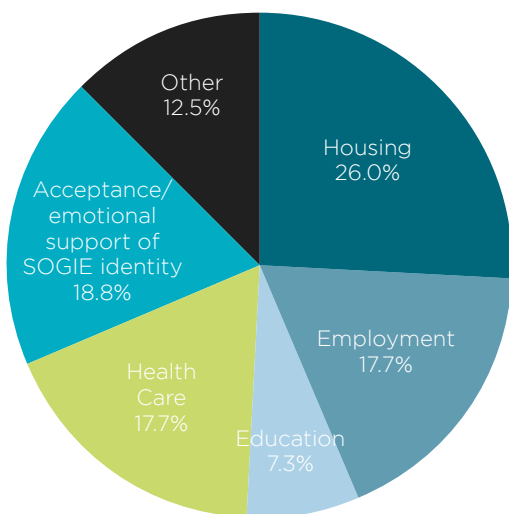


Source: [Choi, Wilson, Shelton, Gates, 2015](#)

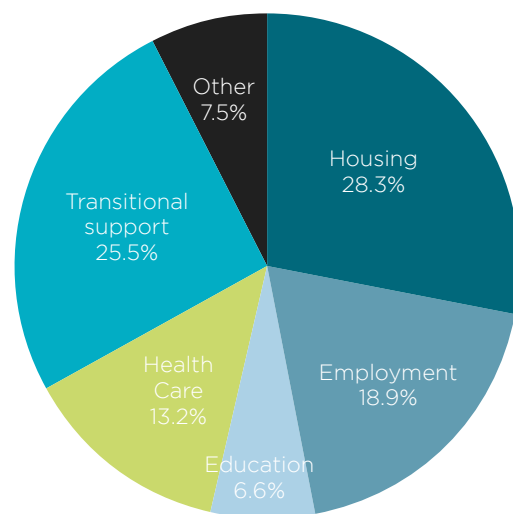
Given these consistently high rates of discrimination in housing access, it is no surprise that LGBTQ people are more likely to experience homelessness and housing instability than non-LGBTQ people. While data on the adult LGBTQ population is scarce, we know that LGBTQ youth and young adults are 120% more likely than their heterosexual and cisgender peers to experience homelessness, which can significantly impede their economic mobility, educational achievement, and physical and mental health. In fact, 40% of all homeless youth identify as LGBTQ ([True Colors United and the National LGBTQ Task Force, 2019](#)). Nearly one-third of transgender and gender non-binary (TNB) people have experienced homelessness in their lifetime; rates of homelessness are even higher among TNB people who are also living with a disability or identify as people of color.

According to the 2014 LGBTQ Homeless Youth Provider Survey, LGBTQ youth experienced longer durations of homelessness than heterosexual and cisgender counterparts. Providers also reported longer periods of homelessness for transgender young adults. Additionally, housing was the most cited need by LGBTQ youth and transgender youth experiencing homelessness ([Choi, Wilson, Shelton, Gates, 2015](#)).

Percent of needs cited by LGBTQ youth by total number of responses



Percent of needs cited by transgender youth by total number of responses



Source: [Choi, Wilson, Shelton, Gates, 2015](#)

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