



Study: Thousands of homeless NYC youth are LGBT

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A new report shows that nearly 8,400 LGBT youth may be homeless this winter, according to statistics cited in the study by the National Runaway Switchboard and released by the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**.

42 percent of the 15,000 to 20,000 homeless youth estimated to live in New York City are LGBT. In comparison, approximately 3 to 5 percent of the U.S. population identifies as gay or lesbian, according to the study's press release.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, between 570,000 and 1.6 million youth are homeless each year or run away.

The report cited three key findings. The first was that youth homelessness is primarily caused by family conflict, often over sexual orientation or gender identity. The second was a report of harassment, discrimination and violence by employees at shelters. The final key finding was that homeless LGBT youth are more vulnerable to sexual abuse, substance abuse and mental health struggles.

The report was released at City Hall Thursday with New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. More than \$2 million has been granted to groups serving LGBT homeless youth by the city council, the press release said.

"This study illustrates that the challenges LGBT youth face can become so great that kids are left displaced and homeless," Quinn said.

"It is crucial that we provide the resources for connecting these young people with safe shelter, health care and educational services. The city council is proud to have made the needs of LGBT homeless youth a priority, and we will continue our work to ensure these young people get the services they need."