



TNOYS

TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

Breaking Down Barriers:

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth
(CSEY), Homelessness, & LGBTQ+ Youth



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Today's Agenda

Risk Factors

Discuss factors that put youth at risk of homelessness

Challenges

Discuss basic human needs, the unmet needs of youth experiencing homelessness, and how these vulnerabilities tie into CSEY

Barriers

Understand the barriers that youth might face when trying to exit homelessness, especially as they relate to CSEY

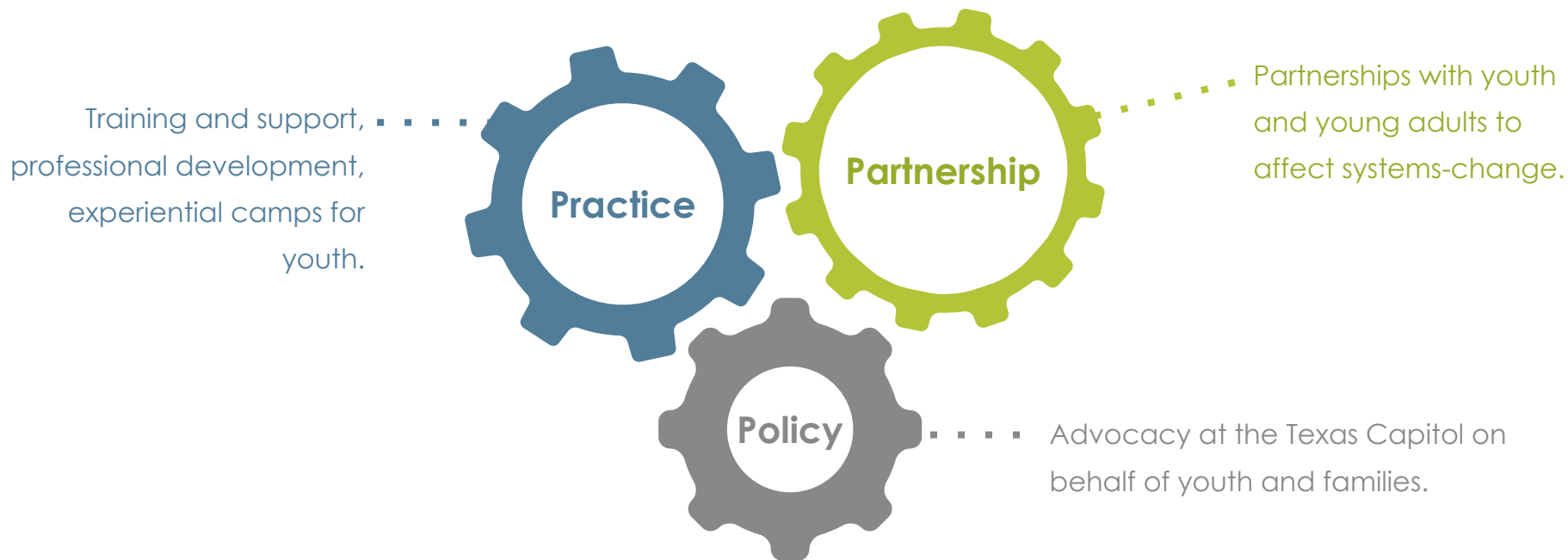
Solutions for Providers

Share solutions and best practices for serving youth experiencing homelessness



The mission of TNOYS is to strengthen services and support for Texas youth and families to help them overcome challenges and achieve healthy development.

Our work is guided by a comprehensive **systems-change** approach



Policy

We work with youth and providers on **research-driven** policy advocacy.

Past Win

First-ever line item in the state budget to serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

Looking Ahead

A 2023 cross-system policy agenda to break down the silo effect and better meet the needs of youth.





Practice

TNOYS equips professionals with **skills and resources** to meet the complex needs of youth and families.

Past Win

Provided professional development to thousands of youth services professionals across Texas.

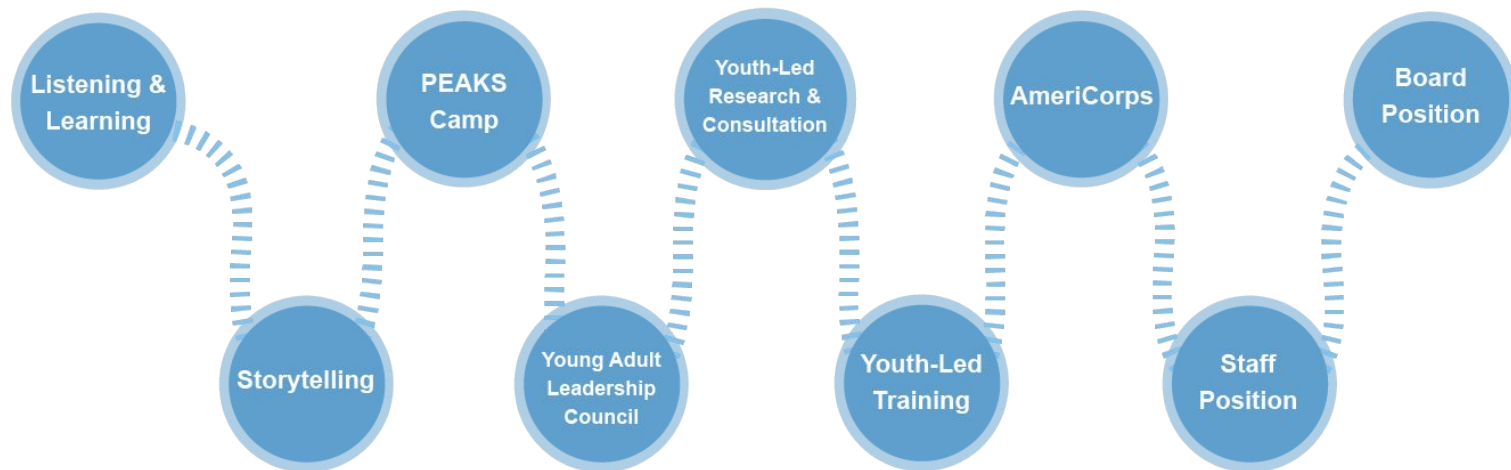
Looking Ahead

TNOYS' three-part equity series in winter 2022.

Partnership

TNOYS **centers youth and provider voice** in everything we do. TNOYS offers many opportunities for youth to engage in our work in both big and small ways.

TNOYS' Youth Engagement Roadmap



Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC)

The YALC empowers youth and young adults by elevating their stories and lived expertise.

The YALC is a leadership development program for youth and young adults from across Texas.



Equity & Inclusion

A commitment to **diversity, equity, and inclusion** underscores our work.

TNOYS elevates the voices and experiences of youth and providers who have been underrepresented in the past, including people of color and those in the LGBTQ+ community.



Content Warning

Terms and Definitions

- **LGBTQIA+** | An acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual.
- **Sexual Orientation** | An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to other people.
- **Gender Identity** | One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both, or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves.
- **Gender Expression** | External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut, or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.
- **Survival Sex** | Exchanging sex in order to secure basic needs for youth this could be-Housing, Shelter, Food, Money, Shower, Drugs to cope, etc.
- **CSEY** | An acronym for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth.

Factors Leading to Youth Homelessness

Risk Factors for Youth Homelessness

How did we get here?

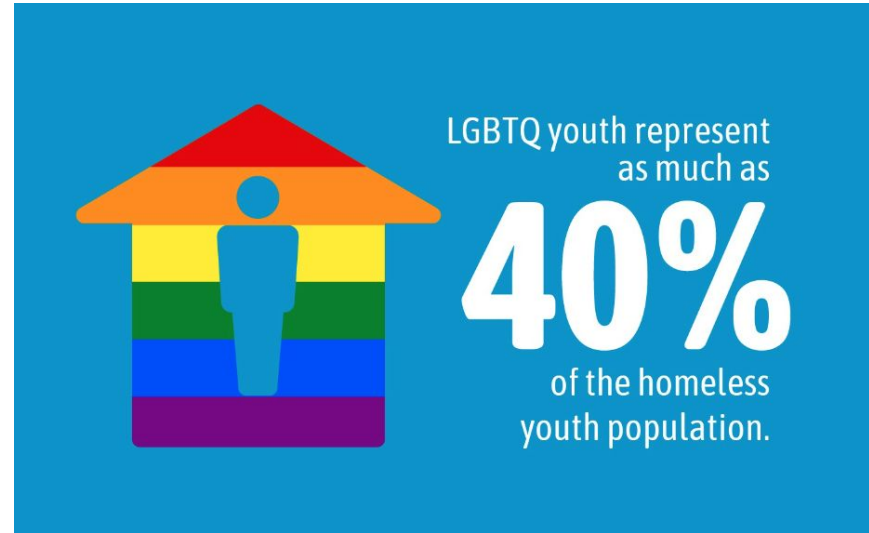
- Aging out of care / history of foster care involvement
- Familial dysfunction
- Abuse or neglect
- Running away
- Exiting the Juvenile Justice system



Risk Factors for LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness

How did we get here?

- LGBTQ+ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness.
- Increased difficulty in accessing services.
- Discrimination while receiving supportive services can keep queer YYA in the homelessness cycle.
- LGBTQ+ YYA are more likely to be impacted by CSE due to their increased vulnerability.



Trauma and Adversity

Adversity and Trauma

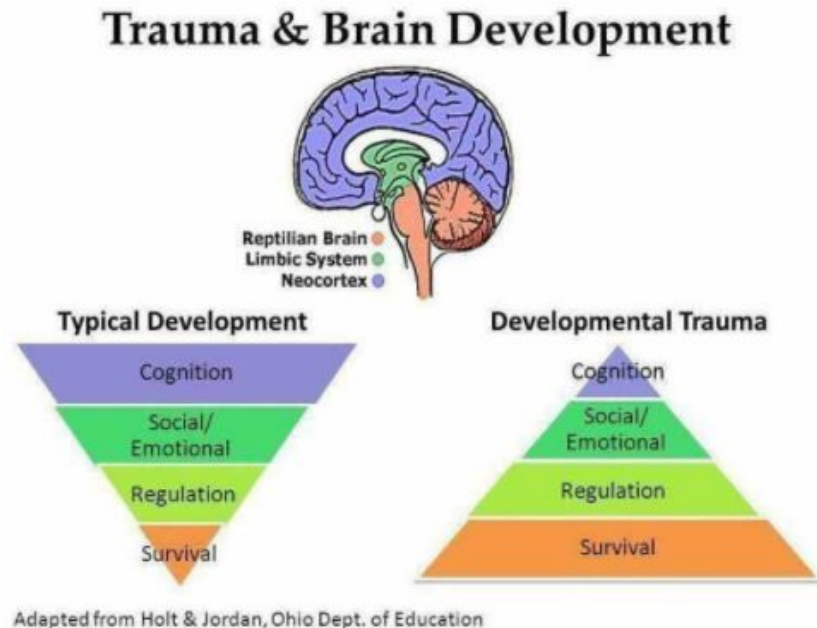


Adapted from Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017). A new framework for addressing adverse childhood and community exp
The building community resilience (BCR) model. *Academic Pediatrics*, 17(7S), S86-S93.

- Adversity refers to the event(s) themselves.
- Trauma is the **overwhelming nature** of an event or repeated events and the accompanying harm that it creates for an individual.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood.

Types of Trauma

- Single incident trauma
- Complex trauma
- Developmental trauma
- Intergenerational trauma
- Historical trauma



Source: [van der Kolk and Courtois \(2005\)](#)

Scenario Activity

Scenario

Let's dissect this challenge as a group

Helen sees her co-worker yell at one of the youth in their housing program for not picking up after themselves. Later, she notices the youth is not eating or engaging in group activities. When asked questions, the youth appears visibly disconnected and disoriented.

Scenario Activity

15 minutes

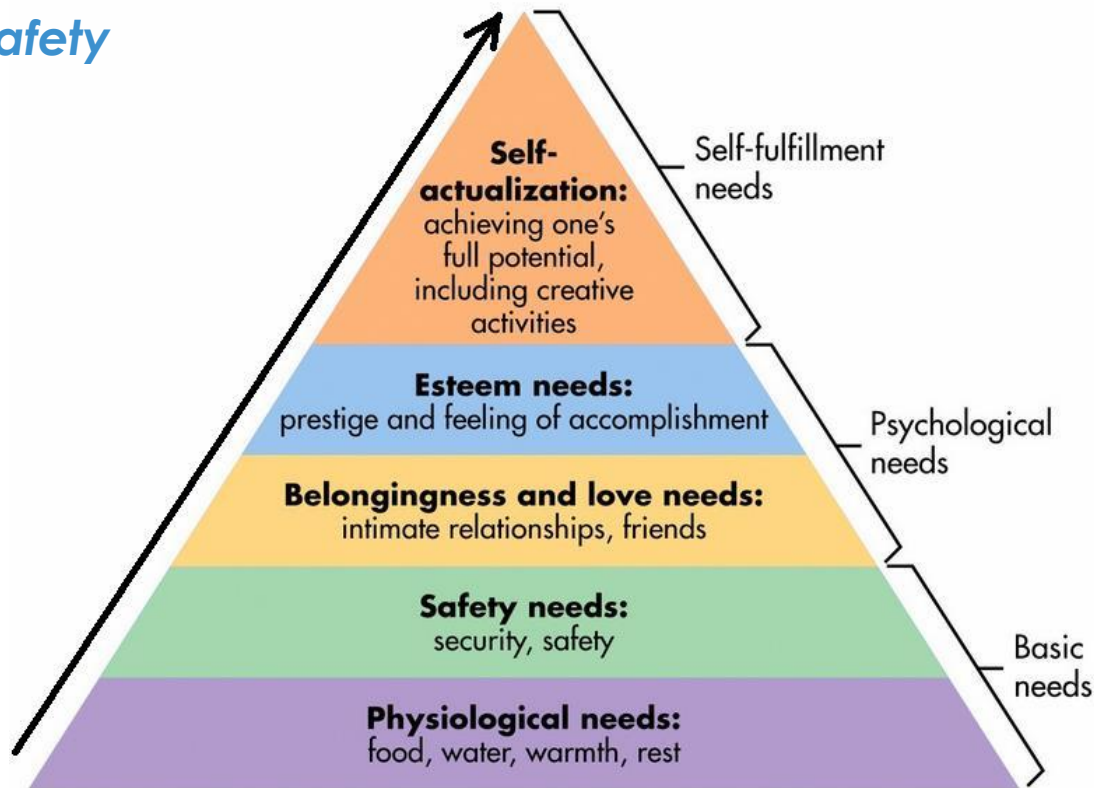
1. **Clarify the problem** - Identify the problem(s) that arise in this scenario.
2. **Identify options** - Brainstorm a number of different options that are available to address the problem at hand.
3. **Weigh outcomes** - Talk through some of the options presented and possible outcomes of going in those directions. Weigh pros and cons.
4. **Do it. Listen. Reassess.** - Decide on a direction and talk through implementation as a group. How do we see this playing out? What are some possible future barriers or complications that might arise?
 - a. **During:** What might happen in the moment?
 - b. **After:** What might happen immediately after the situation?
 - c. **Follow-up:** What might happen 1-2 weeks later?
 - d. **Before:** How can we prevent this situation from happening again?

Challenges While Experiencing Homelessness

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Basic Needs: Physiological & Safety

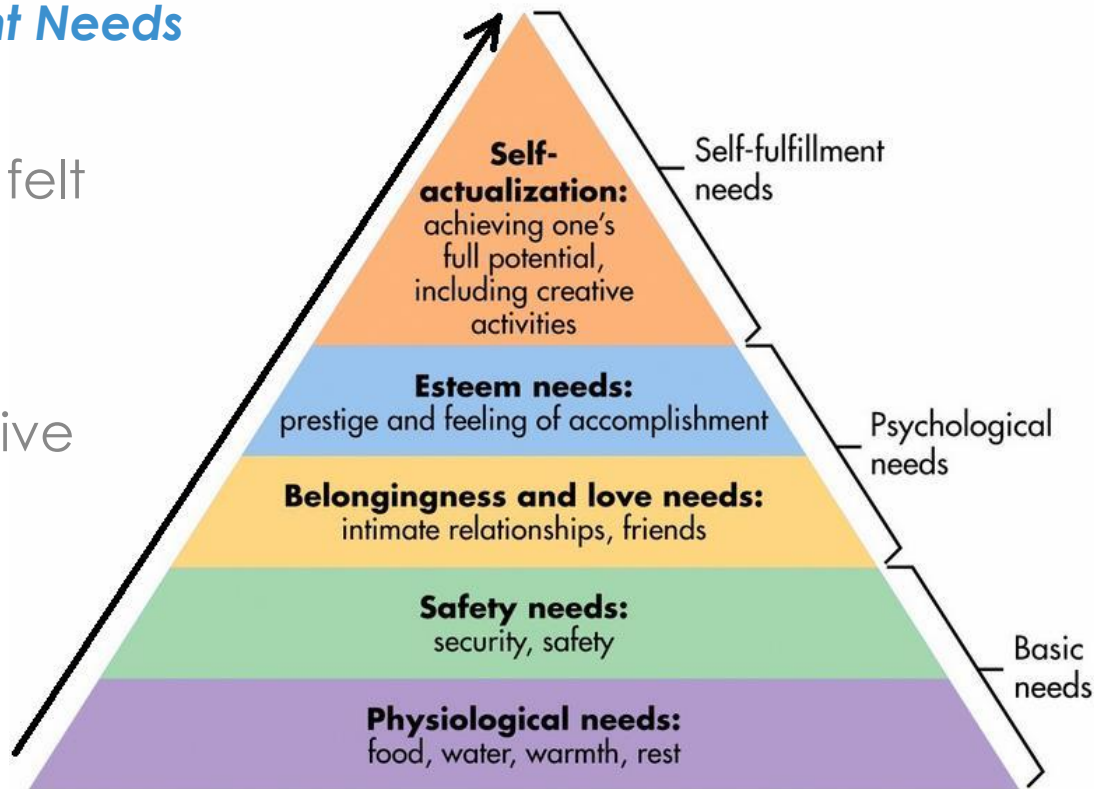
- Housing
- Food/ Water
- Warmth/Shade
- Physical Safety



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Psychological & Self-Fulfillment Needs

- Sense of community, felt safety
- Supportive and safe access to cost-effective therapy
- Self autonomy



Vulnerability Risks

Bad policies leave big impacts



- Camping bans in cities lead to the suburbanization of homelessness.
 - Disconnected from identified resources and networks
 - Increased vulnerability
- Evictions make it difficult to find a new place to live.
- Services located in unsafe parts of town create additional barriers to exiting the cycle of homelessness.

Pause for Breathing

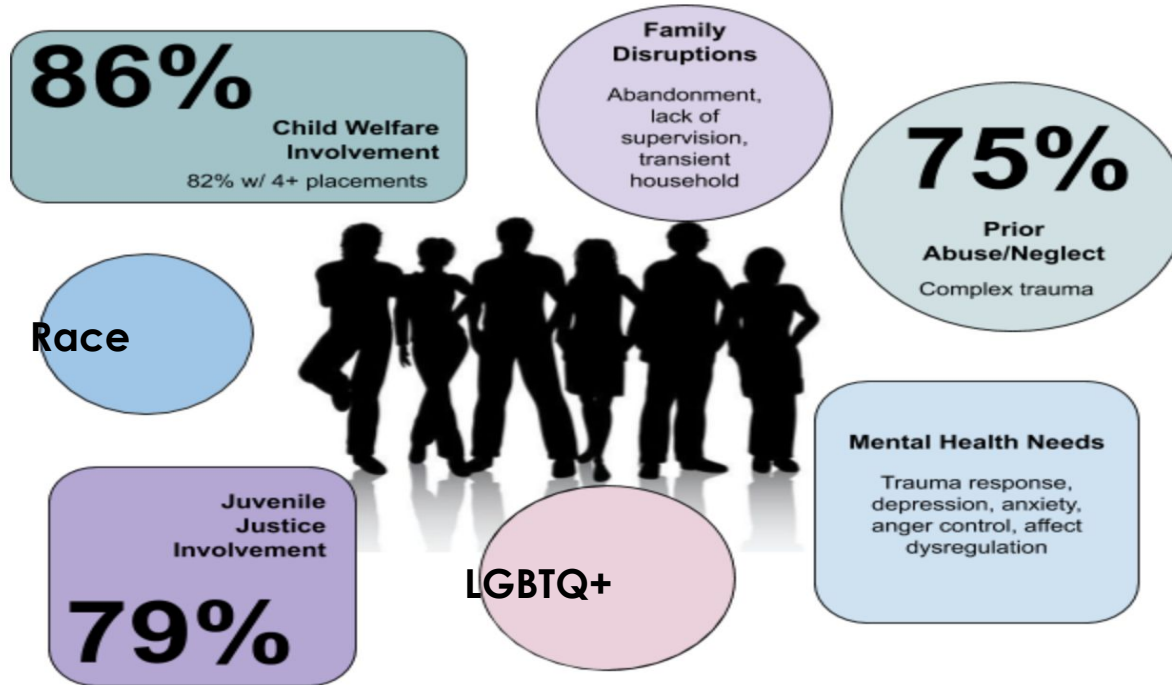
Practice this Exercise



Youth Homelessness, CSEY, and Intersectionality

Vulnerabilities for CSEY

Disproportionate impacts



(Source: *Psychotherapy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children: A Guide for Community-Based Behavioral Health Practitioners and Agencies*, WCC 2018)

Survival Strategies

Coping mechanisms and survival tactics

- Coping Mechanisms
 - Drugs and/or alcohol
 - Self isolation
 - Running away
- Avoidance
- Closeting One's Identity
- Couch Hopping
- Survival Sex
 - For housing, food, money, drugs, etc.

Pathways to Commercial Sexual Exploitation

A slippery slope

- Some pathways that lead to CSE while experiencing homelessness include:
 - Romeo Exploitation (seduction by romantic or sexual partner)
 - Guerilla Exploitation (violence, threats, force)
 - Peer-to-Peer Recruitment
 - Gang-based Recruitment
 - Internet Enticement (social media, chat rooms)
 - Survival Sex
 - Illicit Sexually Oriented Businesses (SOBs)

Youth Homelessness and CSEY

Intersections

- 114,000 youth were identified as homeless in 2019.
- Lack of financial, familial, community, housing, food, or medical stability/support increase risk of exploitation.
- Family and Youth Services Bureau partnered with Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) to release **“Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk.”**

FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau | Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

**Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs:
A Blueprint for Organizations Working with
Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk**



Youth Homelessness, LGBTQ+, and CSEY

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth

- The challenges LGBTQ+ youth face push them onto the streets with limited options for survival.
 - Sexual exploitation of LGBTQ+ youth is vastly under-researched, underreported, and overlooked.
 - Screening youth for CSEY is uncommon.
- Up to **40%** of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBT.
 - **58.7% of LGBT homeless youth** are at risk of CSEY compared to the **33.4% of straight homeless youth**.
- Daily impacts of social inequalities are exacerbated by homelessness, which can then increase the risk of CSE.

Scenario Activity

Scenario

Let's dissect this challenge as a group

A 17 year old girl who is living in a shelter with her mom and brother finds an advertisement online for a modeling gig. After the first photo shoot, the photographer says she knows how the girl can make more money. She agrees to pose for explicit photos, and then is pressured into explicit videos, which soon leads to having sex with men for money. After several “sessions” she is able to afford a motel for her family. She has no idea that she is being exploited.

Scenario Activity

15 minutes

1. **Clarify the problem** - Identify the problem(s) that arise in this scenario.
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Barriers for Youth Exiting Homelessness

Barriers While Exiting Homelessness

The path to stability is not linear

- Legal barrier- accessing ID documents
- Challenges exiting “the life”
- Lack of wraparound services
 - Ex: Case management, crisis care and outreach, survivor services
- Lack of extended care services
 - Ex: Supportive housing, mental health care, legal aid
- Limited access to health care
- Finding supportive workplaces
- Finding healthy support systems or safe spaces

Solutions and Best Practices For Providers

Partner With Youth

Youth engagement = higher self-efficacy & positive self-esteem

- **Partnering** with young people is vital when addressing services that impact their lives directly.
- Prioritize **shared decision-making**.
 - Incorporate **honest** and **open discussions**.
 - Provide updates on youth and young adults' input.
 - Help them understand the decisions on the table through **training** and **guidance**.
- **Build trust** through interpersonal relationships.



Practice What You Preach

Create a system of inclusivity

- Create **intake processes and assessments** that are inclusive of LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized identities.
- Provide youth with up-to-date information on resources and services available in their community.
- **Screen** ALL youth ages 10+ for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) using the CSE-IT.
- Regularly **train** frontline staff on working marginalized populations, and youth who have experienced trauma (including CSEY).
- Display **visual indicators** of inclusivity and safety supports.

Collaborate Across Systems

Strengths-based partnerships

- Develop **cross-systems relationships** in your community to better identify available resources and provide wraparound care. Promote cross-systems communication and training for provider organizations.
- Know where to find resources for youth who require **unique assistance** such as survivor services, legal aid, health care, or parenting support.
- Screen new potential resources to **ensure the safety and security** of youth beforehand.

Impact and Improvement

Using policy to make systems more inclusive

- In 2019, TNOYS successfully got the first line item in the State's budget specific to supporting YYA homelessness

Looking forward, we want to:

- Create housing options without barriers.
 - Ex: mental health, criminal records, ID, voucher acceptance, affordable housing allows records with nonviolent offenses
- Expand funding to support housing services for YYA

QUESTIONS?

Membership Benefits

As an organizational member:



Access to TNOYS' members- only portal



Member discounts for all staff on TNOYS events, including trainings & conferences



Subscription to member newsletters, featuring funding opportunities & policy news, and members-only events



Recognition on the TNOYS website and in various newsletters



Invitation to all staff to annual member meetings



Ability to directly shape TNOYS' legislative agenda



Eligibility to participate in TNOYS Member Committees



Eligibility to participate in TNOYS Board of Directors



Discounts on partner products and services

Membership Benefits

As an individual member:



Access to TNOYS' members- only portal



Member discounts on TNOYS events, including trainings & conferences



Free CEU certificates for recordings of training webinars in TNOYS online archive



Invitation to all annual member meetings



Opportunities to connect with youth services professionals and agencies across systems

Learn more and sign up at tnoys.org/become-a-member



Get Involved

Join our mailing list at
<http://tnoys.org/subscribe/> or with
the QR code below!



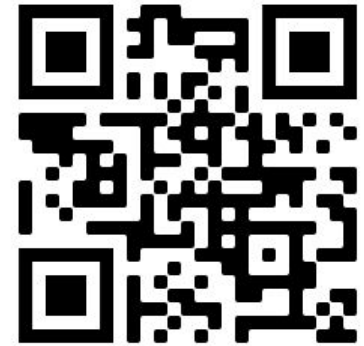
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Citations & Resources

- <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/lgbtq-youth/homelessness>
- <https://truecolorsunited.org/our-issue/>
- <https://www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/article/youth-homeless>
- <https://www.hrc.org/resources/2018-lgbtq-youth-report>
- https://ovc.ojp.gov/news/featured-resources/november-2021-featured-resources?utm_campaign=ojp_digests&utm_content=december&utm_medium=email#transgender-day-of-remembrance
- <https://thesafezoneproject.com/activities/>
- <https://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Youth-Homelessness-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit/trauma-concept#:~:text=Historical%20trauma%20is%20intergenerational%20trauma,on%20psychological%20and%20physical%20health>
- https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/Meaningful%20Work-Full%20Report_FINAL_3.pdf