



Fact sheet: Homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in Chicago, Ill.

1) How many homeless youth in the city/state?

- a) **Chicago:** There are between 12,000 and 15,000 homeless youth in Chicago according to The Night Ministry, a nondenominational organization serving runaway and homeless youth.
- b) **Illinois:** There are an estimated 25,000 youth in Illinois who experience homelessness in the course of a year, according to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

2) How many are LGBT?

- a) **Chicago:** Between 1,448 and 3,000 homeless youth in Chicago are LGBT based on estimations by the Night Ministry, CCH and the Survey Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- b) **Illinois:** Between 5,000 and 10,000 homeless youth may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) statewide
- c) These calculations are based on research that demonstrates that 20 to 40 percent of all homeless youth identify LGBT.

3) Public agencies that deal with LGBT homeless youth in Chicago are:

- a) City of Chicago Department of Human Services
- b) The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)
 - i) *Alone After Dark*, a CCH survey of 200 homeless youth (including LGBT and straight youth) in Chicago, found that:
 - (1) 33 percent of the youth had been physically attacked.
 - (2) 20 percent had been raped or sexually assaulted after leaving home.
 - (3) 12 percent had engaged in prostitution.
- c) Illinois Department of Human Services

4) What has the city/state done to address needs of homeless LGBT youth?

- a) In 2000, the Illinois Department of Human Services established what is now known as the Illinois Homeless Prevention Program. This program provides rental assistance, utility assistance and supportive services directly related to the prevention of homelessness and assistance for those who are currently homeless.
- b) **The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 42 percent of youth seeking shelter from state-funded programs for homeless youth were turned away in 2000 because of a lack of resources.**
- c) There are only 212 state shelter beds designated for homeless youth according to Lakeview Action, a nonprofit multi-issue community organization.
- d) There are a total of 119 beds (temporary, transitional and permanent) in the entire city of Chicago.
- e) 24 interim beds exist for minors in Chicago.

5) Contact information for a Chicago service provider working with LGBT youth:

a) The Night Ministry

Melissa Maguire, Director, Youth Shelter Network Administrative Office
4711 N. Ravenswood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640-4407
Tel: 773.784.9000
Fax: 773.784.5865

In early 2007, The Night Ministry is scheduled to begin two new youth housing programs with supportive services. A new transitional living program and a new program for pregnant and parenting teen moms.

b) Open Door Youth Shelter West Town

Tel: 773.506.4100 Fax: 773.292.5043
Toll-free number for youth: 1.877.286.2523
Media contact: Kari McLean, Coordinator for Public & Media Relations
Tel: 773.506.6009
After-hours and weekend pager: 773.215.9671
E-mail: media@thenightministry.org

6) Contact information for public agencies or key person's office:

a) Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)

Main Offices:

DHS Springfield

100 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62762
Tel: 217.557.1601

DHS Chicago

401 South Clinton Street,
Chicago, IL 60607
Tele: 1.800.843.6154

For the Homeless Youth Programs office call the Futures for Kids Help Me Grow Hotline at 1.800.323.GROW

b) City of Chicago Department of Human Services

1615 West Chicago Avenue
3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60622
Tel: 312.746.8545

c) Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Ed Shurna, Executive Director

1325 S Wabash Ave # 205
Chicago, IL 60605
Tel: 312.435.4548