



# FACT SHEET: LGBTQ2+ Homelessness and Economic Inequality

A summary of research from Statistics Canada

## LGBTQ2+ HOMELESSNESS

**Anti-LGBTQ2+ stigma causes LGBTQ2+ people to experience much higher rates of homelessness than non-LGBTQ2+ people:**

- In a 2018 study, LGBTQ2+ Canadians were more than twice as likely to have experienced some type of homelessness or housing insecurity in their lifetime (27% vs. 13%, respectively).
- **Between 25% and 40% of the 40,000 homeless youth in Canada are LGBTQ2+.** Family conflict relating to sexual orientation or gender identity is the main reason LGBTQ2+ youth become homeless.
- LGBTQ2+ Canadians were 2.3 times as likely to report having to temporarily live somewhere other than home because they were leaving an abusive or violent situation (7% versus 3%).
- LGBTQ2+ Canadians were three times more likely than non-LGBTQ2+ Canadians (6% versus 2%) to report having had to live in a shelter, on the street, or in an abandoned building. They were also more than twice as likely (21%), compared to non-LGBTQ2+ Canadians (10%), to report having lived with family or friends because they had no other place to stay



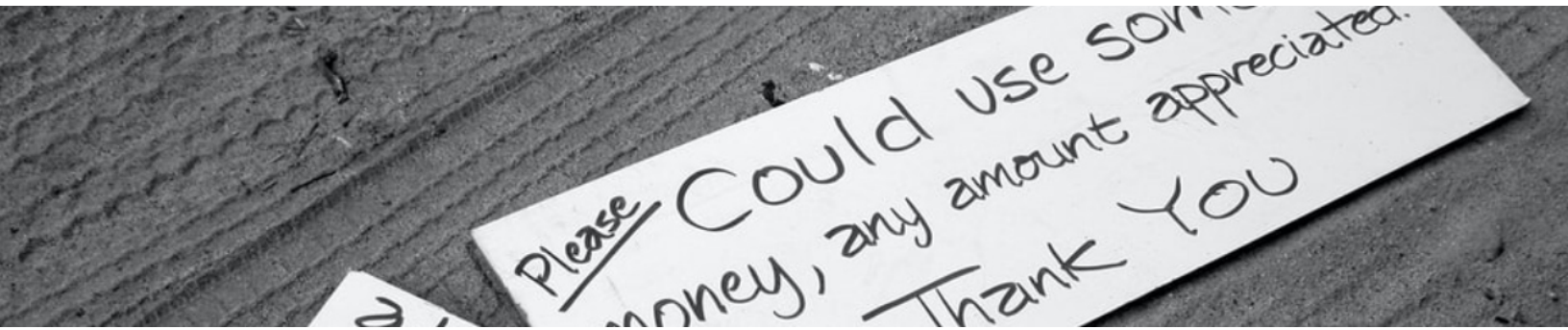
**Higher rates of LGBTQ2+ homelessness are complicated by lack of inclusive shelter spaces. There are only two emergency shelters for LGBTQIA2 youth in all of Canada.** All other existing shelters offer only binary spaces—for men or women—which do not provide an option for trans youth or those who identify as non-binary.

## LOW INCOME

A significantly higher proportion of LGBTQ2+ Canadians (41%) had a total personal income of less than \$20,000 per year compared with their non-LGBTQ2+ counterparts (26%).

A higher proportion of LGBTQ2+ Canadians were also less likely to be able to handle sudden, unforeseen expenditures - 11% of LGBTQ2+ Canadians reported not being able to manage an unexpected expense of \$500, compared to 7% of non-LGBTQ2+ Canadians.

**A 2018 survey found that households where the person responsible for the housing decisions was LGBTQ2+ were more likely to be living in core housing need.** The same survey found that 30% of LGBTQ2+ households reported spending at least 30% of their income on housing and shelter costs, compared to 21% among households of heterosexual respondents.



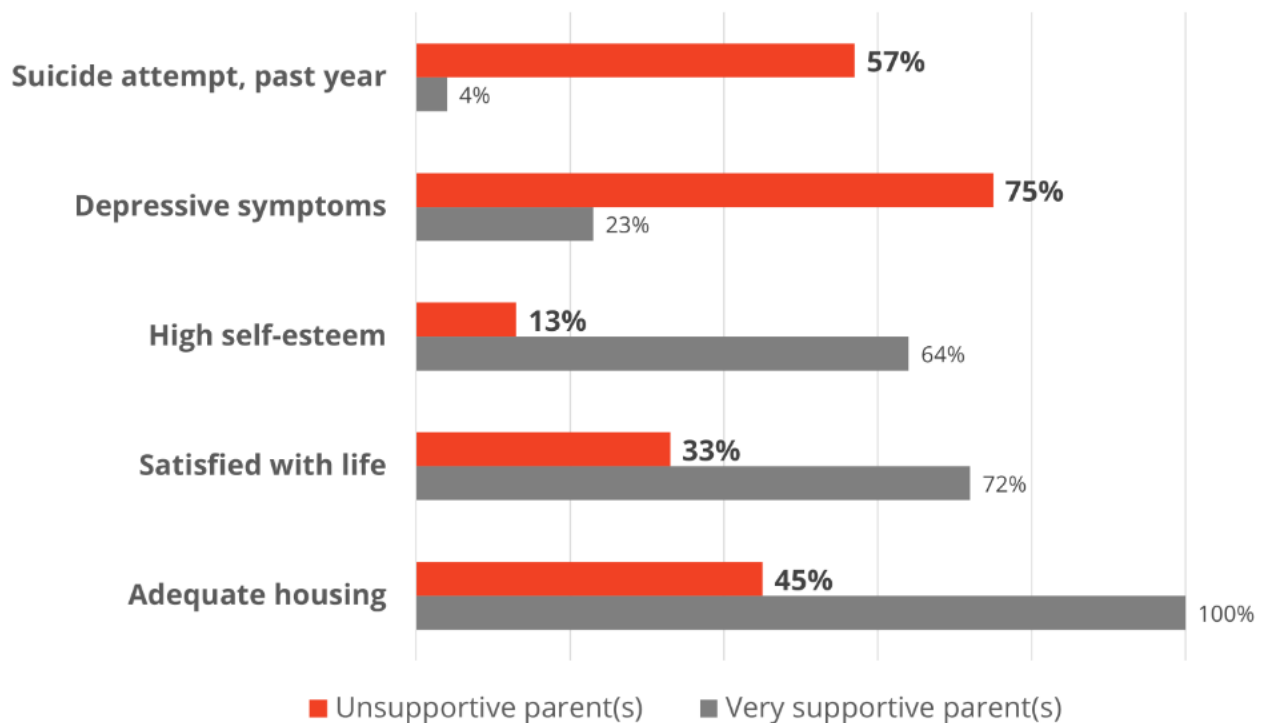
## LACK OF PARENTAL SUPPORT

**Less than half (43%) of trans people in Waterloo Region have come out to people outside of their immediate family.** Nearly a third of those who have (31%) say that people they came out to are unsupportive (Charlie Davis, 2020)

In one survey, **75% of trans people in Waterloo Region felt that being trans hurt or embarrassed their family.**

In one Waterloo Region study, **42% of trans respondents reported having to move away from family or friends** because of their gender identity.

Self-reported conditions of trans youth age 16-24 in Ontario



C Davis, E McLaren, Brie Treviranus, B Warren, S Weare. (2020). *Presentation for the City of Kitchener's Safe and Healthy Community Advisory Committee*. Rainbow Community Council. Retrieved from [https://yourwrrc.ca/rcc/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/OutLook\\_City\\_of\\_Kitchener\\_3AUG2017.pdf](https://yourwrrc.ca/rcc/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/OutLook_City_of_Kitchener_3AUG2017.pdf)

Elena Prokopenko, C. K. (2020, 15 December). *Vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 among LGBTQ2+ Canadians*. Retrieved from Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00075-eng.htm>

House of Commons. (2019). *THE HEALTH OF LGBTQIA2 COMMUNITIES IN CANADA Report of the Standing Committee on Health*. Retrieved from <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/HESA/Reports/RP10574595/hesarp28/hesarp28-e.pdf>