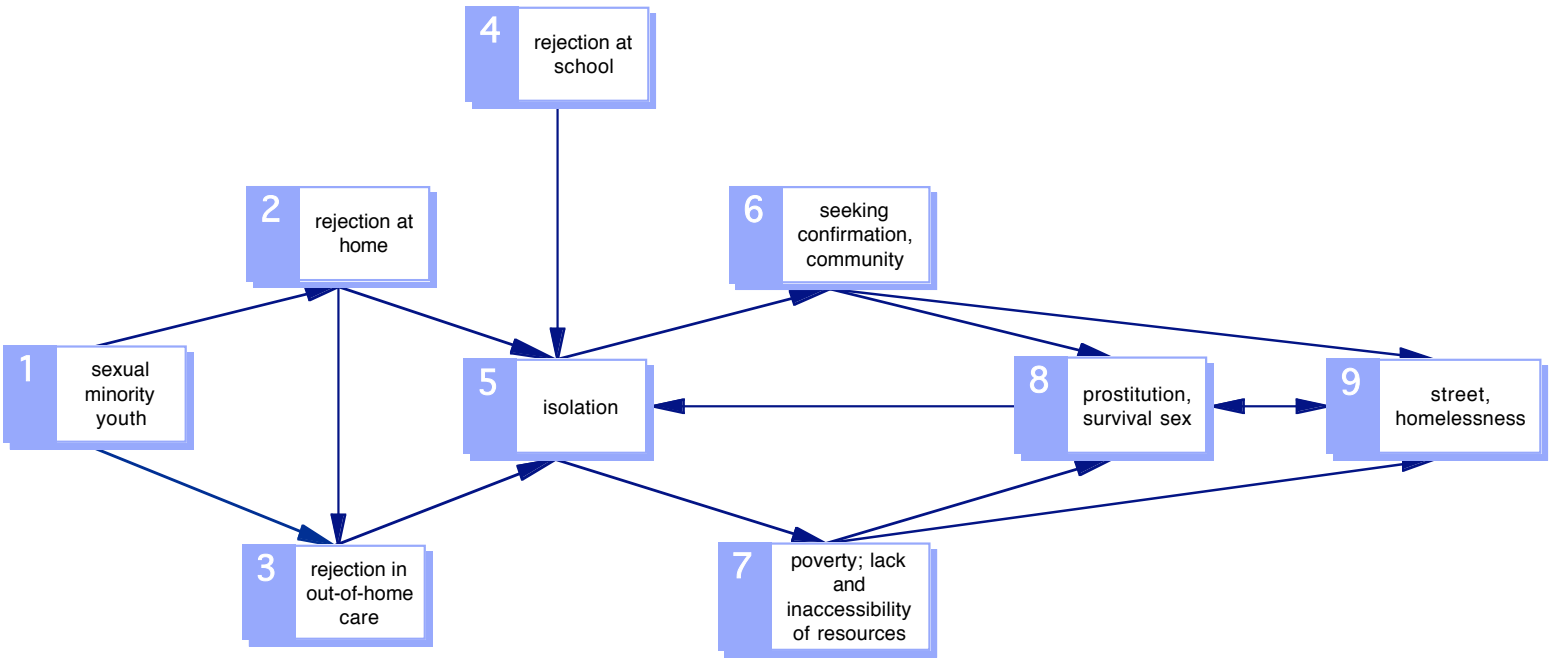
Appendix 1

The Literature Reviews:

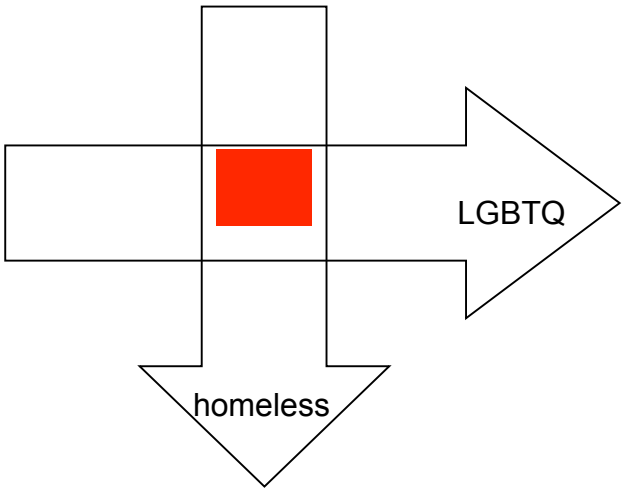
The first literature review was conducted by Claudia Ruitenberg, whose task was to provide the research team with background on the conditions and needs of street-involved 'queer and questioning' youth . To do that, Ruitenberg creates a model (see below) for explaining how it is that sexual minority youth become street-involved. She begins with a glossary of terms whose purpose is to make clear the conceptual complexities involved in researching the present study's most central category ('queer and questioning youth'). She then reports on research which documents early rejection at home, lack of support and safety in 'care', then stigmatization at school, disregard/denial/discrimination on the part of service agencies and providers, contributing to social isolation, damaged self esteem, economic marginalization, vulnerability to sexual exploitation, leading to increased risk of street involvement, and, in that context, to violence, ill-health, drug and alcohol addictions, and homelessness.



Introductory remarks

The text which follows gives you an impression of the preliminary findings of the first stage of a literature review. A "literature review" means tracking down and summarizing what has already been written about the subject of "queer and questioning" (LGBT) homeless and street-oriented youth, either in Vancouver or elsewhere. It also consists of looking at books, research reports and

policy documents on homeless youth, seeing whether LGBT youth are mentioned at all, and if yes, how. Or, from the other perspective, looking at books, research reports and policy documents on LGBT youth, and seeing whether homelessness is mentioned.



About the model

While reading through the material, many different factors were brought up, that I felt I needed to organize a bit, so make sense of it. So I came up with this model. This is NOT a representation of reality, in the sense that I want to suggest that this is how it works. In other words, this model is intended to organize the different points raised by the literature, and not a hypothesis that should now be "tested" to see whether it is "true." The arrows do NOT indicate causes, in the sense that if I push against this marker I am causing it to fall over. We are talking about people here, and the many things that go on in someone's life, in someone's thoughts and emotions, can never be fully grasped by some boxes and arrows. For example, I have not at all taken gender differences, or ethnic differences, or class differences into account – but obviously all these play an important role in the experience of a young LGBT person who ends up on the street.

At either end, you've got those two points of focus: sexual LGBT youth, and homelessness. So the basic question that this model tries to make sense of is, *What are the main factors that explain why a disproportionate number of LGBT youth are ending up on the street?*

Before I go on, let's define some terms here. You've probably noticed that I've used "LGBT youth," and "queer and questioning youth," and now the model says "**sexual minority youth**." These terms, when I use them, all refer to the same group of people: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people between the ages of 12 and 29. Some people prefer "queer," others hate it, some use "sexually marginalized," others may feel that's too technical. It's probably something we need to worry about later, when writing up the report. When talking to youth on the street, you'll go with whatever way of talking about themselves that they're comfortable with. ("Do you think of yourself as having a sexual orientation? How would you characterize that?")

"Sexual minority refers to all persons who do not fit these social requirements of unambiguous sex and gender, sex and gender in accordance with one another, and heterosexuality."

When we're talking about **homeless** (and **street-involved**) youth, we do not only refer to youth who are completely shelterless. Homelessness is more recent reports includes:

- people without any housing or shelter;
- people with unstable/temporary housing or shelter (e.g. squats);
- people with inadequate housing or shelter (the SOR units in Vancouver are notorious).

The Toronto Homeless Action Task Force, for instance, writes in their 1999 Action Plan that they include in their definition of homeless people "those who are 'visible' on the street or staying in hostels, the 'hidden' homeless who live in illegal or temporary accommodation, and those at imminent risk of becoming homeless."

So how large is that red square? Counting the homeless is tricky, and getting people to disclose their sexual orientation is tricky, so we're working with educated guesses here. In 1993/1994 the McCreary Centre Society conducted a survey among 110 street youth in Vancouver. The percentage of (self-identified) sexual minority youth from this sample of 110 street youth seemed to range from 17% to 32% for the male youth, and from 27% to 50% for female youth. Studies in the US (e.g. Seattle, New York) often mention an estimate of 20-45% of homeless youth being "gay and lesbian" or "gay, lesbian and bisexual." Transgender youth are rarely mentioned – and I don't know if that means that they are counted as L/G/B, or whether they are not counted.

What does this tell us? If we go with the very safe wide estimate of 5 to 20% of the overall population being LGBT, then it seems at least likely that LGBT youth are overrepresented in populations of homeless youth, i.e. that the percentage of LGBT youth among homeless youth is higher than that 5-20%.

Theoretical Framework

"*Why do so many sexual minority youth end up on the street?*"

The purpose of the model set out here is to provide a structure for the literature review, allowing the organization of different studies and data that sustain the claim that many sexual minority youth end up on the street, and that provide (partial) explanations for why thus may be the case. Although the connections suggested in the model are not mere conjecture, but are supported by previous studies, the model is not a hypothesis that will be tested, nor do the arrows suggest simple cause and effect relationships. Undoubtedly, there are many more factors that play into the overrepresentation of sexual minority youth among homeless and street-oriented youth. Also, there probably are more interconnections and feed-back loops than indicated in the model.

Sexual minority youth (1) face sexism, heterosexism and monosexism at home (2) at well as in other environments (3, 4). Some sexual minority youth grow up in out-of-home care (3) from a very early age, others live in out-of-home care (e.g. foster families) later on, after they have run away from home, or have been kicked out. Rejection (2, 3, 4) is used as a general descriptor for a wide variety of experiences of sexual minority youth, such as sexual, physical and emotional abuse, physical and emotional neglect, homophobia, and heterosexism. As a result of subtle and

not so subtle ways of being rejected by a variety of environments, many sexual minority youth feel isolated (5) and often have low self-esteem. Some youth are asked to leave home, find themselves on their own and, faced with a lack of financial and other resources (7), end up on the street (9). D'Augelli et al. (1998) observe that "upon disclosure [of non-heterosexual orientation], young people are likely to experience hostility from peers and, at best, varying degrees of ambivalence from parents, siblings, and extended families. Some, finding themselves cut off from both families and friends, may ultimately become homeless" (pp. 367-368). On the street, they may or may not turn to survival sex (8). Others may leave home in search of a more supportive community (6) on the street (9) or in search of emotional confirmation (6) in the form of sexual partners (8).

Sources

D'Augelli, Anthony R., Herschberger, Scott L. & Pilkington, Neil W. (1998). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth and their families: Disclosure of sexual orientation and its consequences. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 68(3), 361-371

1: "Sexual Minority Youth": A Glossary of Terms

Sex refers to biological characteristics at a particular time, both visible (e.g. breasts, penis) and invisible (e.g. chromosomes). The sex categories used in this study are intersexual, female, and male.

Gender refers to a person's sense of self in relation to social constructs of femininity and masculinity. The gender categories used in this study are transgender, woman, and man.

Transgender is an umbrella term that includes all persons who feel their biological sex is not in accordance with their gender identity. People who change their biological sex ('sex reassignment') through hormone treatment and surgery are often referred to as transsexual, with more specific descriptors such as "pre-op FTM" (someone born biologically female, who wants to change her/his biological sex to male, and who is in hormone treatment but has not yet undergone surgery) or "post-op MTF" (someone born biologically male, who has changed her biological sex to female, and has undergone both hormone treatment and surgery). Others live as transgender, without changing their biological sex.

Sexual orientation or **sexuality** refers to a person's sexual and emotional attraction to people of the same gender (homosexual, gay, lesbian), people of another gender (heterosexual), or both genders (bisexual). In this study we define sexuality as attraction to people of the same or another gender – not the same or another sex. This means that, for instance, a transgender male attracted to women can quite reasonably self-identity as 'lesbian.' Sexuality is often ambiguous, with sexual desire different from sexual practice, or emotional attraction different from sexual attraction.

For analytical purposes, sex, gender, and sexuality have been considered separately, but of course this is quite a serious distortion of a social reality in which they interlock. Compliance with the social norms for "woman" and "man" requires heterosexuality and accordance of sex and gender. In other words, one cannot be a "real woman" if one is not female and heterosexual; one cannot be a "real man" if one is not male and heterosexual. In a heterosexist and monosexist social context, unambiguous female biology and unambiguous heterosexuality are necessary but not sufficient requirements for being considered a "real woman." Likewise, unambiguous male biology and unambiguous heterosexuality are necessary but not sufficient requirements for being considered a "real man."

Homophobia: the irrational fear and rejection of gay, lesbian and bisexual people. Cleta Dempsey (1994) defines homophobia as "an irrational fear of being gay, lesbian, or bisexual or of being in contact with someone who is same-sex oriented" (p. 160).
Heterosexism: the belief or assumption that heterosexuality is better or more "natural" than homsexuality or bisexuality. Gerald Mallon (1998) speaks of "heterocentrism" and defines this as "presumed heterosexuality" and "heterosexual privilege" (p. 8).
Monosexism: the belief that a person is either fully heterosexual or fully homosexual; bisexuality is not a legitimate identity but a 'confusion'
Monogenderism: the belief that a person is either a man or a woman but not something in between

Sexual minority refers to all persons who do not fit these social requirements of unambiguous sex and gender, sex and gender in accordance with one another, and heterosexuality.

Youth is defined differently in different studies and policy documents. For the purposes of this study, we will use a broad category of children, teenagers and young adults, ages 12 through 29. (Youth as young as 12 may end up living on the street, while sexual minority youth in their 20s is often still struggling with coming out, and maybe struggling with the transition to adulthood.)

Sources

Amnesty International. (2001). Crimes of hate, conspiracy of silence. Torture and ill-treatment based on sexual identity. New York: Amnesty International Publications

Baird, Vanessa. (2001). The no-nonsense guide to sexual diversity. Oxford, UK / Toronto: New Internationalist

Bornstein, Kate. (1998). My gender workbook. New York / London: Routledge

Dempsey, Cleta L. (1994). Health and social issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, March 1994, 160-167

Mallon, Gerald. (1998). We don't exactly get the welcome wagon. The experiences of gay and lesbian adolescents in child welfare systems. New York: Columbia University Press

2: "Rejection at home"

Advocates for Youth (http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsglbt.htm) write, "Many LGBT youth face rejection from their parents and relatives. After coming out to their family, or being discovered, many young people are thrown out of the home, mistreated, or become the focus of the family's dysfunction.[4]"

[4]Savin-Williams, R.C. (1994). Verbal and physical abuse as stressors in the lives of lesbian, gay male, and bisexual youths: Associations with school problems, running away, substance abuse, prostitution and suicide. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 62(2), 261-269.

<<<<<>>>>>

D'Augelli, Anthony R., Herschberger, Scott L. & Pilkington, Neil W. (1998). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth and their families: Disclosure of sexual orientation and its consequences. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 68(3), 361-371

In the early 1990s, D'Augelli et al. surveyed 105 lesbians, gays and bisexuals who were living with their parents (30 female and 75 male respondents, ranging in age from 15 to 21, with an average age of 18), about their families' (anticipated) reactions to the disclosure of non-heterosexual orientation. "Of the males, 59 (79%) had told a parent, of the females, 21 (70%) had disclosed" (p. 364).

- Among those whose families knew of their sexual orientation, 51% of mothers, 27% of fathers, and 57% of siblings were reported to be fully accepting. About one-third of their parents were seen as tolerant, but not accepting. Negative reactions were twice as common among fathers, with one-quarter (26%) expressing rejection compared to 10% of mothers and 15% of siblings. (p. 365)
- Verbal abuse by mothers was reported by one-quarter of [disclosed] males, and over one-third of [disclosed] females. Nearly 20% of fathers, and about the same percentage of brothers, were considered verbally abusive; sisters were the least so. (p. 366)
- Lesbians were more often threatened with physical attacks than were gay males, and were more frequently the victim of actual attacks, most often by mothers. Brothers of gay males were not only the most physically threatening of family members, they were also by far the most common assailants. (p. 366)
- There was virtually no incidence of attack among the non-disclosed; although some mothers and sisters were reported to have made negative comments, not one non-disclosed youth reported having been physically harmed by a family member. (p. 366)
- Those who had disclosed … reported more frequent thoughts of suicide, … and 30%, compared to only 12% of the nondisclosed, acknowledged current thoughts, whether frequent or occasional, of taking their own lives. (p. 367)
- On average, study respondents were aware [of their non-heterosexual orientation] at age 10, labeled themselves at age 14, and told someone for the first time at age 16. … Thus, these youngsters endured six years of uncertainty without telling anyone, and went two years after identifying themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual before being able to trust someone else with this information. … It takes at least another year to tell someone in the family; by age

> 17 or 18, they most commonly tell their mothers. … These youngsters, it should be noted, are not anticipating only one person's reaction, but the responses of a complex, interwoven social network. The risks they will face are so difficult to assess that it may seem simpler and safer to avoid the issue completely. Avoidance is also effective in maintaining family harmony, certainly an important concern for adolescents still dependent on their families. (p. 368)

D'Augelli et al. also mention other studies on parental reactions to the coming-out of their gay, lesbian and bisexual adolescents. In a study by Remafedi (1987) respondents reported mostly negative parental reactions to disclosure. In a study by Savin-Williams (1990), 32% of mothers and 23% of fathers were said to have reacted in an accepting way to disclosure, 10% of mothers and 22% of fathers were said to have reacted in a rejecting way, and the remainder were somewhere in between. Boxer, Cook, and Herdt (1991) found that of the lesbians in their sample who had told their parents, few perceived their family's response to be supportive. Telljohann and Price (1993) found that 42% of female respondents and 30% of male respondents in their study reported that their families had responded in a negative way to their disclosure. (p. 362)

<<<<<>>>>>

Travers, Robb & Schneider, Margaret. (1996). Barriers to accessibility for lesbian and gay youth needing addictions services. Youth & Society, 27(3), 356-378

> Parental rejection is [a] significant factor for some gay and lesbian youth. There are few data on the number of those who run away because of parental rejection of are thrown out of their home by parents, but there is convincing evidence that a significant portion of homeless adolescents are gay or lesbian (Savin-Williams, 1994). (p. 358)

<<<<<>>>>>

Dempsey, Cleta L. (1994). Health and social issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, March 1994, 160-167

> Many parents make disparaging remarks about same-sex oriented individuals, causing gay children to view their parents as nonsupportive and to anticipate the probability that their parents would withdraw their love and economic support if the child's sexual orientation were known. Rather than confront their parents with their sexual identity, homosexual adolescents build a protective wall between themselves and their parents and friends (Clark, 1987). (p. 162)
>
> A 1987 study of adult gay men indicated that approximately half of them lost friends and encountered negative or ambivalent responses from their parents when they disclosed their sexual orientation. Most stated that they experienced some degree of verbal abuse, physical violence, religious condemnation, discrimination, and rejection because of their gay identity (Remafedi, 1987). Many adolescents who disclose experience these same problems. However, rejection by family members and eviction from the home obviously

> has a greater impact on adolescents than on older individuals who are more likely to be economically and emotionally mature. On the other hand, many adolescents have found that their fear of disclosure was worse than the actual reactions of family and friends. (p. 163)

3: "Rejection in out-of-home care"

Mallon, G.P., Aledort, N., & Ferreras, M. (March, 2002). There's no place like home: Safety, permanency, and well-being for lesbian and gay adolescents in out-of-home care. Child Welfare (Special Issue).

Mallon, Gerald P. (1997). Toward a competent child welfare service delivery system for gay and lesbian adolescents and their families. Journal of Multicultural Social Work, 5(3/4), 177-194.

Mallon, Gerald P. (1998). We don't exactly get the welcome wagon. The experiences of gay and lesbian adolescents in child welfare systems. New York: Columbia University Press

<<<<<>>>>>

Tremble, Bob. (1993). Prostitution and survival interviews with gay street youth. The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 2(1), 39-45.

> Most gay street youth spend some time within the child welfare system, a system that feels well but in which they end up feeling processed, rather than cared about, never quite seen as people. The system shunts them through a series of placements, some incapable of helping, some inflicting harm.

4: "Rejection at school"

In the literature review section of the report *Sexual Exploitation of Youth in British Columbia* (2000) (by the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Youth), it is claimed that "youth who become involved in prostitution are likely to have a history of low performance and attendance, are bored by and in conflict with teachers, and drop out or are expelled before completing high school, frequently in association with leaving home" (p. III.9).

<<<<<>>>>>

For the McCreary Centre Society report Lesbian Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Youth in BC: an Adolescent Health Survey (1999), 77 youth were surveyed (52 male and 25 female), with ages ranging from 13 to 19 years, and an average age of 17. The following information is provided on sexual minority youth feeling rejected at school:

- 71% of the respondents attend high-school, 24% have already graduated, and 5% have dropped out.

- 37% of the respondents say they dislike or hate school, as compared to 21% of a 'mainstream' sample of grade-12 youth.
- 37% of the respondents report that they 'almost always' or 'always' feel like an outsider at school.
- 28% of respondents report that their teachers sometimes or often make homophobic remarks, and 82% of respondents report that other students at school sometimes or often make homophobic remarks.
- If teachers and staff found out a student was gay, 44% of respondents think they would react in an accepting way, 36% of respondents think they would react in a neutral way, and 20% think they would react in a rejecting way.
- If other students found out a student was gay, 27% of respondents think they would react in an accepting way, 29% think they would react in a neutral way, and 44% think they would react in a rejecting way.
- 39% of respondents have come out to a teacher; 13% of them found the teacher was rejecting, 17% found the teacher was neutral, and 70% found the teacher was accepting.
- 39% of respondents have come out to a school counsellor; 7% of them found the counsellor was rejecting, 21% found the counsellor was neutral, and 72% found the counsellor was accepting.
- During the previous year at school, 63% of respondents have been verbally abused, 34% have been threatened with violence, and 17% have been physically assaulted.
- 65% of the respondents believe that most of their teachers would protect them if they were being harassed due to their sexual orientation.
- 51% of the respondents reported always feeling safe at school and 57% reported always feeling safe on the way to and from school; 28% of the respondents reported sometimes feeling safe at school, and on the way to and from school; 22% of the respondents reported rarely or never feeling safe at school, and 15% reported rarely or never feeling safe on the way to and from school.

<<<<<>>>>>

D'Augelli, Anthony R., Herschberger, Scott L. & Pilkington, Neil W. (1998). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth and their families: Disclosure of sexual orientation and its consequences. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 68(3), 361-371

D'Augelli et al. surveyed 105 lesbians, gays and bisexuals who were living with their parents (30 female and 75 male respondents, ranging in age from 15 to 21, with an average age of 18), about friends' and families' reactions to the disclosure of non-heterosexual orientation.

- Some 48% of those who had disclosed said that they had lost friends due to their sexual orientation, compared to only 20% of the nondisclosed group …. (p. 364)
- More than one-quarter (27%) of those who had disclosed said they had been physically hurt by other students, whereas not one nondisclosed youth reported being hurt by a peer in school because of his or her sexual orientation. (p. 365)

<<<<<>>>>>

Travers, Robb & Schneider, Margaret. (1996). Barriers to accessibility for lesbian and gay youth needing addictions services. Youth & Society, 27(3), 356-378

> Peer harassment is particularly problematic for gay and lesbian youth. Given that much of it occurs in school, the consequences include a range of academic difficulties such as truancy, dropping out, poor grades, and having to repeat a year. The se difficulties have been notes both anecdotally and in systematic research (Savin-Williams, 1994). (p. 358)

<<<<<>>>>>

Dempsey, Cleta L. (1994). Health and social issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, March 1994, 160-167

> Traditional social structures, such as schools, do not support these individuals. These youth are denied access to accurate and comprehensive information about human sexuality and alternative life-styles because of unrealistic fears of 'promoting' homsexuality (Uribe & Harbeck, 1992). Teachers, counselors, and school administrators lack information about homosexuality, and their attitudes frequently reflect the general attitudes of a homophobic society (Martin & Hetrick, 1988). They can be just as guilty as students are of emotionally abusing gay adolescents and often they fail to intervene or take a stance when gay youth are physically and emotionally abused by their peers (Sanford, 1989). By tolerating such behavior, the school fails to educate its students about homophobia and homophobic violence, and students learn it is all right to tolerate and participate in such prejudicial behaviors (Whitlock, 1989). (p. 161)

5: "Isolation"

Grossman, Arnold H. (1997). Growing up with a "spoiled identity": Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth at risk. Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 6(3), 45-56

Grossman indicates that gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, both those that have 'come out' and those that have not, are at increased risk of becoming isolated. He refers to Hetrick & Martin (1987) in explaining that isolation can be cognitive, emotional and social.

> Cognitive isolation relates to the lack of access to accurate information about homosexuality, including appropriate role models. Emotional isolation identifies feelings of separateness – affectionally and emotionally – from all one's environments. Social isolation characterizes the feelings of aloneness in every social context, including family, peers, school, and church or synagogue …. (p. 47 n. 1)

<<<<<>>>>>

Travers, Robb & Schneider, Margaret. (1996). Barriers to accessibility for lesbian and gay youth needing addictions services. Youth & Society, 27(3), 356-378

> Gay and lesbian youth face major stressors that are directly related … to the reaction of others to their sexual orientation. … [These] stressors … include aggression, rejection, and alienation. In numerous studies more than half, and often more than three quarters, of lesbian and gay adolescents report that they have been verbally or physically harassed because of their sexual orientation. Significant numbers have been assaulted or sexually abused by peers or family members for the same reason (Savin-Williams, 1994). Consequently, many gay or lesbian adolescents are in physical danger and also feel alienated and isolated. The lack of social support is exacerbated by the difficulty in finding gay or lesbian peers and the conspicuous absence of adult role models (Schneider, 1991). (pp. 357-358)

<<<<<>>>>>

Dempsey, Cleta L. (1994). Health and social issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, March 1994, 160-167

> Isolation is a critical problem for these adolescents. Denied access to accurate information regarding their same-sex orientation, they have little opportunity to learn about what it means to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Negative misconceptions of homosexuality are continually presented to them and their non-gay peers (Martin & Hetrick, 1988). Silence with regard to the subject of homosexuality discredits homosexual adolescents' existence and self-worth and interferes with their achieving a positive gay identity. To their nongay peers, labels and stereotypes become a justification for homophobic beliefs and behaviors. For gay and nongay adolescents, silence and stereotypes distort the varied realities of human lives, relationships, and families and promote the presumption that heterosexual love is the only lasting and significant love (Whitlock, 1989). Social isolation facilitates poor self-esteem, self-hatred, and self-abusive behaviors (Sanford, 1989). (p. 161)
>
> Sexual desire, an issue central to adolescent development, is a threat to gay teenagers. They are denied opportunities to establish nonerotic and nonthreatening interactions with gay peers (e.g., openly gay couples generally are not welcomed at school activities such as proms and homecoming), which in turn causes them to separate sexual behavior from all other aspects of their lives and encourages them to seek sexual gratification in hazardous places. Casual and/or anonymous sex and exploitation are risky sexual behaviors that merely reinforce beliefs that homosexuals are deviant (Martin & Hetrick, 1988). (p. 162) [*This paragraph more than annoys me!]*
>
> Finally, these adolescents feel emotionally isolated. In their aloneness and internalized homophobic thoughts, they feel that no one else is like them, that no one can love them because being gay is wrong and sick, and that it would be better to die. A sense of desperation often prevails (Martin & Hetrick, 1988). (p. 162)

7: "Poverty and Lack of Resources"

Most teenagers who leave their family, whether literally forced or "voluntarily," have little income. Clearly, this puts them at increased risk of becoming homeless, especially given the shortage of affordable housing.

In 1993/1994 the McCreary Centre Society conducted a survey among 110 street youth in Vancouver. On pp. 11-14 of their publication Street Youth in Vancouver (1994), they provide information on income and access to housing.

Weekly spending money from all sources (p. 13):

	< $ 10	11-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	101-200	> $ 200
male	9%	16%	20%	9%	16%	5%	25%
female	6%	19%	20%	17%	15%	9%	15%

No definition of "spending money" is provided, nor are figures provided on "net income" (if different from "spending money"). It is observed that,

> … the amount of spending money appears to be more closely associated with age than gender. For example, just 40% of street youth aged 17 to 18 years have less than $50 per week, but the comparable proportion for street youth aged 12 to 16 years is 57%. Similarly, 33% of 17 to 18 year olds have over $100 each week, compared to just 13% of those aged 12 to 16 years. (p. 12)

Problems with housing (p. 14):

> Seventy-seven percent of street youth surveyed have been able to find suitable housing since they started hanging out on the streets of Vancouver …. Twenty-four percent of the males and 22% of the females surveyed did report problems finding housing. Slightly more than one-half of these youth provided some written details concerning their housing problems. Most of the problems mentioned centred around not having enough money to afford a decent place to live, and so they ended up: "living in welfare hotels with junkies and crazy people," or "in abandoned wet stinky buildings," or "places with cockroaches," or "around too many drugs and addicts," or "just squatting and trying to stay with friends."

<<<<<>>>>>

Layton, Jack. (2000). Homelessness. The making and unmaking of a crisis. Toronto, Ont.: Penguin

> For years, Statistics Canada regarded any household that spent more than 30 percent of its income on housing as poor. This was the official definition of poverty. Now, over a million Canadians belong to households paying more than 50 percent of their income in rents. … Tenants paying more than 50 percent of their income in rent are locked into a revenue/expense structure that can lead to the risk of losing their housing. Falling a few days behind in rent becomes more likely and more frequent as competing demands challenge even the most careful home-budget manager. (pp. 53-54)

> Within the Greater Vancouver Regional District alone, there are an estimated 13,000 on the waiting list for B.C. Housing and non-profit housing providers. City staff estimate that 300 to 600 people are sleeping on the street each night. B.C. Housing reports that the number of people living on the streets of Vancouver is estimated at between 600 and 1,000, with many in the surrounding municipalities, such as Surrey and New Westminster. The city's Tenant Assistance Program reported observing an increase in absolute homelessness when they went out after midnight searching for homeless. All the shelters, which altogether have room for 300 to 400 people each night, are full and "had to turn away 4,000 people during 1998-1999. Both the number of people served and the turn-aways increased by 10 to 20 percent last year." (p. 120)
>
> Vancouver's downtown core experienced a net loss of affordable units in the 1990s, although not as fast as other communities, because new homes were being built at the same time. Single rental units declined by 1,168 due to neglect, fires, closings, conversion to tourist accommodation, redevelopment and demolition. During the same 1991-1998 period, 700 new social housing units were added to the stock, still leaving a significant net loss. (p. 121)

Jack Layton provides a few figures on homeless youth, although none specifically for B.C., and he does not mention sexual minority youth in any way anywhere in the book.

<<<<<>>>>>

http://www.youthquest.bc.ca/main.html
Youthquest! Lesbian and Gay Youth Society of British Columbia is Canada's largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth. Youthquest! runs 12 drop-in sites across the province (Abbotsford, Burnaby (Metrotown), Chilliwack, Grrrlquest!, Kelowna, Langley, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Port Moody, Prince George, Surrey, Victoria) and works with educators, service providers, and others to make British Columbia a safer place for queer youth. On March 1, 2002, Youthquest! received notice from the provincial government that all funding to Youthquest! will be eliminated effective March 31.

<<<<<>>>>>

Besides the physical lack of affordable housing and other services, sexual minority youth often experience other services for homeless and street-oriented youth as heterosexist or even homophobic, hence insufficiently accessible. Although many of the studies listed below report on specific services, such as services for youth addicted to alcohol and drugs, services for youth involved in prostitution, or medical services to lesbians and bisexual women, the similarities in the reported homophobia and heterosexism are striking.

Tremble, Bob. (1993). Prostitution and survival interviews with gay street youth. The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 2(1), 39-45.

> Gay youth face an additional challenge in being seen as gay. Workers in most of the traditional services don't seem to anticipate that kids might not be heterosexual. Initially, sexual orientation might not be relevant to workers in services which provide financial assistance, clothing and food, but it is relevant when a youth is seeking shelter,

> counselling and medical care. It is often difficult for kids to disclose their sexual orientation, even when asked at an intake interview. Not many kids are that up-front. But something or someone that says loud and clear that all sexual orientations are respected would go a long way toward telling gay youth that they are welcome.

<<<<<>>>>>

Travers, Robb & Schneider, Margaret. (1996). Barriers to accessibility for lesbian and gay youth needing addictions services. Youth & Society, 27(3), 356-378

Travers and Schneider interviewed 3 lesbians and 14 gay males (ages 17 to 24) who had experience with addictions services. They focused on the responses of these former clients because, "ultimately, it is their experiences and perceptions, and how they construe these experiences, that influence whether or not gay and lesbian youth can access services and benefit from them" (p. 357). The following negative experiences with addictions services were mentioned by at least three quarters of the respondents:

- *Marginalization, silencing and ignoring of non-heterosexual orientation*. "Staff frequently told youth that their sexual-orientation issues were unrelated to their addictions, even though the youth clearly stated that their substance used was precipitated by stressors associated with being gay or lesbian" (p. 364). Travers and Schneider further observe that "the absence of visible lesbian or gay staff was a compounding factor making it difficult for some clients to express themselves," and that "the 12-step programs that had religious overtones were not productive for those youth who viewed religion as one of the sources of their stigma as gay males or lesbians" (p. 365).
- *Inappropriate attention for non-heterosexual orientation*. Respondents reported instances of being 'outed' by a counselor, being harassed by other clients, and being harassed by staff. Staff's discomfort with gay or lesbian clients sometimes resulted in clients receiver fewer services, or early discharge of clients. "Some participants reported discharging themselves before they were ready to escape harassment or in anticipation of the inevitable" (p. 369).
- *Lack of accurate information about homosexuality and bisexuality*. Several respondents reported being confronted with uninformed, prejudiced and mistaken beliefs about homosexuality, bisexuality, causes and 'cures.'

Travers and Schneider conclude that,

> the addictions treatment settings and service providers tended to both mirror and reinforce the conditions that contributed to substance abuse in the first instance. Furthermore, the potential for effective treatment was sabotaged by either a disregard for gay and lesbian issues or an inappropriate fixation on sexual orientation to the exclusion of other issues. In short, the participants of this study were denied, to a greater or lesser extent, the same quality of service afforded to their heterosexual counterparts specifically because of their sexual orientation. (p. 372)

Although Travers and Schneider only interviewed a small number of people, they report that professionals working in addictions services substantiate the accounts of homophobia and heterosexism. Not all homeless and street-oriented sexual minority youth have problems with alcohol or drugs but unfortunately, addictions services are not the only service area in which they are likely to be confronted with homophobia and heterosexism. "Other studies of social service

professionals also identify systemwide heterosexism and homophobia in a variety of servive delivery areas (O'Brien, Travers, & Bell, 1993; Schneider, 1988; Schneider & Tremble, 1986). as do studies of the training provided in schools of social work (O'Neill, 1994)" (p. 372).

Travers and Schneider observe that the accessibility of services needs to be improved for "any oppressed minority, such as women or people of color in North America" (p. 375). They emphasize, however, that that the improvement of services for sexual minority youth is even more challenging because sexual minority youth are often an invisible minority, and because sexual minority youth tend to be more isolated and have fewer opportunities to turn to relatives and friends "who share their oppression in order to cope with minority stress" (p. 375).

<<<<<>>>>>

Report: *Sexual Exploitation of Youth in British Columbia* (2000)
Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Youth
Also available online, from http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/sex_exploit.pdf

Among recommendations for prevention, intervention, and exiting, the report includes the following specific recommendation for services to lesbian and gay youth:

> In developing programs and services for sexually exploited youth, particular consideration should be given to youth who are additionally marginalized by factors such as race and sexual orientation. … Lesbian and gay youth need the same range of services as other secually exploited youth, but the services need to incorporate or be complemented by programs that address homophobia and its impact on youth involved in prostitution. These should include peer support programs for gay and lesbian youth that provide positive and healthy images of homosexuality, and support and healing programs to address the individual effects of homophobic abuse. A long-term objective would be to increase understanding and acceptance of lesbian and gay youth through support for programs such as PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay Youth), and education programs to address homophobia in the schools and in service agencies. (p. III.21)

<<<<<>>>>>

8: "Survival Sex"

Age of Consent

http://www.ageofconsent.com/canada.htm
In Canada, the legal age of consent for sexual activity, excluding anal intercourse, is 14. The age of consent for anal intercourse is 18.

According to section 151 of the Criminal Code, the legal age for consenting to a sexual activity is fourteen (14) years:

> Every person who, for a sexual purpose, touches, directly or indirectly, with a part of the body or with an object, any part of the body a person under the age of fourteen (14) years is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

With regard to 'anal intercourse', subsections 159 (1) and (2) state that,
"(1) Every person who engages in an act of anal intercourse is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.
(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to any act engaged in, in private, between :
a) husband and wife, or
b) any two persons, each of whom is eighteen (18) years of age or more, both of whom consent to the act."

A Ph.D. candidate at McMaster University, writing to www.ageofconsent.com, notes, "You listed the age of consent for male-male sex in Canada as being 18. While that is factually correct, in terms of the Criminal Code (the federal criminal statute that is in effect across Canada), it is not entirely accurate. In Ontario, a 1995 court ruling struck down that section of the law, declaring it "void" and thus unenforceable for the jurisdiction of Ontario. As a result, Ontario police do not prosecute unless one of the partners is under 14 years old, which is the same age for opposite-sex consent."

I have been unable to find any court ruling or other information suggesting that the same applies to British Columbia.

This page also provides information on the laws on sexual exploitation of children and youth.

http://www.law.uvic.ca/archives/9601news/page4050.html
On October 18, 1995, Professor Don Casswell delivered the second lecture in the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation Social Justice Fall 1995 Lecture Series, entitled "Gays, Lesbians and Canadian Law." Professor Casswell pointed out that as recently as 1967, a man was sentenced as a dangerous sexual offender to indefinite preventive detention because he had engaged in consensual homosexual sexual activity with other consenting adult males and because there was psychiatric evidence that, "given his drive toward homosexual relations, he [would] likely continue to seek homosexual outlets for those drives". In 1969 consensual homosexual sexual activity was decriminalized. However, the Criminal Code still provides that the age of consent to anal intercourse is 18 years of age, whereas the age of consent to all other forms of sexual expression is 14 years of age. In May of this year, the Ontario Court of Appeal unanimously held that the Code's different treatment of anal intercourse infringed the Charter and was of no force or effect. The Crown did not seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Thus, the age of consent to anal intercourse, at least in Ontario, is now 14 years of age.

<<<<<>>>>>

The department of Youth Services of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/index.html) defines a "sexually exploited youth" as "someone who is under the age of 19, who has been manipulated or forced into prostitution through perceived affection and belonging, and in return receives drugs, narcotics, money, food and/or shelter." On another page of the same site

(http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/other_services.htm#links), a sexually exploited youth is defined as "someone who is under the age of 18, who has been manipulated or forced into prostitution through perceived affection and belonging, and in return receives drugs, narcotics, money, food and/or shelter." (So is it 18 or 19??)

The latter page further states:
Many people in government and outside of government have said that we need better services for sexually exploited youth. These people include the Children's Commissioner, the Child, Youth and Family Advocate, the Ombudsman, people who provide services to youth, the media, international symposiums, Ministry for Children and Families staff, youth and their families. Since 1994, the Ministry for Attorney General and the Ministry for Children and Families have been working together to try to stop sexual exploitation of youth.

The Ministry for Children and Families provides a range of new services including:
- 4 new safehouses for sexually exploited youth in Victoria, Prince George, New Westminster/Burnaby and Kelowna.
- 24 new outreach/support workers distributed throughout B.C.
- the use of Youth Agreements which can provide housing, education, money or other support services to youth, between the ages of 16 to 19 years old, who are sexually exploited, have alcohol and drug and/or mental health issues and are currently not living at home (high-risk youth).

<<<<<>>>>>

Report: *Sexual Exploitation of Youth in British Columbia* (2000)
Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Youth
Also available online, from http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/sex_exploit.pdf

For the report, three studies were conducted: a literature review, a "jurisdictional scan," and a series of consultations with Aboriginal Agencies. "The purpose of the three-part project was to provide a summary of current academic literature on youth sexual exploitation in the areas of prevention, intervention and exiting; and an assessment of the scope of the problem in British Columbia in terms of youth involvement, exiting supports and programs, and service gaps and needs" (p. I.1).

The jurisdictional scan involved one-hour interviews with a total of 37 key informants from Burnaby, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Kelowna, Port Hardy, Prince George, Vancouver, Victoria and Whistler. In the reported results from the scan, there is a glaring absence of sexual minority youth, even in those sections that seem to describe a configuration of factors especially common among sexual minority youth. Consider the following excerpt from the section titled "Who are the youth? How widespread is the problem?":

> Where there is awareness of sexual exploitation of youth within a community, the majority were identified as female, 15-18 years old. … With regard to young men, most respondents said that there are a few young men involved. "There are a few young men, maybe two out of 40." "We might have three to four boys working at any one time that we know of, sometimes none." "We hardly find boys." In another community, a police

officer reported that "[We] do have some young men who seem to be sexually exploited by older pedophiles."

"With regards to young men, it is happening but it's a different scene. They don't disclose very easily and the whole dynamic of what is happening for them is very different. There is a lot of embarrassment for them. I am sure that it is higher with males, but they don't come forward in the same way, don't talk about it the same. It tends to be more of their choice as to what they do."

In the literature review section, there is a separate section on gay and lesbian youth:

Research suggests that homosexuality is associated with research into prostitution for males. Canadian researchers Earls and David compared youth and adult males involved in prostitution with a group of males of similar age who were not involved, and found a significant difference in bot the sex of the first sexual partner and the stated sexual orientation. Most males involved in prostitution considered themselves to be either homosexual or bisexual and their first sexual partner (outside the family) was male.

Findings conflict on the association between homosexuality and entry into prostitution. Earls and David (1990) compared data on females involved in prostitution with data on females who weren't involved, and found no significant difference in either sexual preference or first sexual partner between the two groups. On the other hand, Yates et al. (1991) compared homeless youth involved in prostitution with homeless youth who were not involved, the majority of both groups being female. They reported that youth involved in prostitution were more than five times as likely to report a homosexual or bisexual identity.

The association between male homosexuality and prostitution has been attributed not to their homosexuality per se, but to the social disapproval of homosexuality. The resulting sense of isolation and rejection can, in turn, lead to the same cycle of running away and prostitution that is related to early sexual abuse. Bagley (1997) cites a review of homosexual youth studies suggesting that the verbal and physical abuse experienced by lesbian and gay youth at home and at school is associated with a number if problems in adolescence, including alienation, running away and prostitution.

The consequences of society's homophobia are not the only explanation for gay male youth involvement in prostitution. Some studies have concluded that male prostitution is related to the development of a homosexual identity, an association also suggested in Earls and David's findings. A study by Boyer concluded that street life and prostitution are part of the stereotypic image of gay homosexuality. They propose that involvement in prostitution is one of the few links to the gay community for young gay males, providing them with a means of self-recognition and of practicing being gay. (p. III.10)

<<<<<>>>>>

Tremble, Bob. (1993). Prostitution and survival interviews with gay street youth. The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 2(1), 39-45.

> For gay adolescent hustlers, prostitution serves a number of purposes. It's a way to have lots of sex. It's a source of money during a financial slump. It's a gateway to the excitement, fast living and camaraderie of street life. For a very few, it's a profession. … On a deeper level, it's a way for a closeted gay youngster to deal with a homosexual identity. Unable to face coming out, neither can he ignore his feelings and needs. Prostitution is a way to have the game without the name.

Tremble asserts that gay males in prostitution do not feel welcomed or supported by gay men.

> They feel alientated. They see no place for themselves among gay men except during the brief minutes someone clings to them to use their bodies. For their part, I think many gay men fear that they will be wrongly accused of child molesting if they even associate with adolescents. The lack of association and mentorship reinforces the alienation of gay street youth.

<<<<<>>>>>

Travers, Robb & Schneider, Margaret. (1996). Barriers to accessibility for lesbian and gay youth needing addictions services. Youth & Society, 27(3), 356-378

Travers and Schneider note, with reference to Savin-Williams (1994), that "there is convincing evidence that a significant portion of homeless adolescents are gay or lesbian" and that "to survive, many become involved in prostitution (Coleman, 1989)" (p. 358).

9: "Homelessness"

What is the evidence that sexual minority youth are overrepresented in populations of homeless and street-oriented youth?

In 1993/1994 the McCreary Centre Society conducted a survey among 110 street youth in Vancouver. On p. 70 of their publication Street Youth in Vancouver (1994), they provide the following information on sexual orientation:

> When street youth were asked about their sexual orientation, 67% of the males and 40% of the females described themselves as completely heterosexual. These percentages are in contrast with those provided by youth attending school in B.C., where 93% of the males and 92% of the females described themselves as 100% …. Additionally, 11% of male and 23% of female street youth described themselves as bisexual. And 6% of the male street youth and 4% of the female street youth described themselves as homosexual ….

When the data are transferred to a table, they produce the following picture:

	heterosexual	bisexual	homosexual	unknown	total
male (n= 56)	67%	11%	6%	16%	100%
female (n=54)	40%	23%	4%	33%	100%

With 16% of male respondents and 33% of female respondents of unknown sexual orientation, the percentage of (self-identified) sexual minority youth in this sample of 110 street youth can range from 17% to 32% of the males, and from 27% to 50% of the females.

Even if all respondents for whom no data on sexual orientation are available would describe themselves as completely heterosexual, the percentage of self-identified sexual minority youth in this sample would be considerable higher than the percentage of self-identified sexual minority youth in the quoted high school sample. Of course the possibility it must be taken into account that the percentage of self-identified sexual minority youth in the high-school sample is so low partly because the pressures on social conformity are notoriously high in high school environments.

No data is available from this survey on transgender street youth.

<<<<<>>>>>

Advocates for Youth (http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsglbt.htm) write, "Estimates of LGBT homeless youth vary, but youth service providers agree that rates are very high, ranging from 20-40 percent in various studies.[5] This rate may be underestimated, since few youth are likely to reveal their sexual orientation/identity to authorities and social service staff."

[5]. Ryan C, Futterman D. (1997). Lesbian and Gay Youth: Care and Counseling. [Adolescent Medicine State of the Art Reviews; v. 8, no.2.] Philadelphia: Hanley and Belfus

http://www.aclu.org/issues/gay/Statistics.html
"Donna Futterman and Caitlin Ryan analyze studies on homeless and runaway youth conducted in Seattle and Los Angeles in their book, *Lesbian and Gay Youth: Care and Counseling*. According to these city-funded studies, gay and lesbian youth accounted for 20 to 40% of all homeless youth."

Ryan, Caitlin & Futterman, Donna. (1998). Lesbian and gay youth: Care and counseling. New York: Columbia University Press

> Rejection by family and friends and the cumulative effect of harassment, ridicule, and physical abuse cause some lesbian and gay youth to run away, whereas others might be forced out of their homes after parents discover their sexual orientation. Although the actual number of lesbian/gay runaways and "throw-aways" is not known, some estimates suggest that 1 in 4 street youth may be lesbian or gay. Local estimates are even higher. Agencies serving street youth in Los Angeles estimate that 25-35% of homeless youth are lesbian or gay, and in Seattle, 40% of homeless youth are estimated to be lesbian or gay. The stressors that lead lesbian and gay youth to leave home and school also increase the potential for exploitation. Without employable skills, some turn to prostitution, drug dealing, or other illicit activities for survival. Others enter foster care, youth homes, and social service systems where they are at risk for further discrimination, neglect, harassment, and violence. (p. 25)

Caitlin and Futterman conclude from various studies in the late 80s and early 90s that of the youth that run away from home,

> approximately 1 in 4 becomes a street youth, who is dependent on the street for economic survival, recreation, and social support needs. Estimates of lesbian and gay homeless youth vary, but youth service providers agree that rates are very high, ranging from 20-40% in various studies. Because both males and females are often unlikely to disclose their sexual orientation, rates are probably under-reported. Many are forced out of their homes because of sexual orientation. (p. 52)

http://www.now.org/issues/lgbi/stats.html
42% of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. --Orion Center, Survey of Street Youth, Seattle, WA: Orion Center, 1986.

PFLAG (http://www.pflag.org/education/schools.html) writes, "Service providers estimate that gay, lesbian and bisexual youth make up 20-40% of homeless youth in urban areas. Source: The National Network of Runaway and Youth Services. To Whom Do They Belong?: Runaway, Homeless and Other Youth in High-Risk Situations in the 1990's. Washington, D.C. The National Network, 1991."

On the site "Schoolnurse" (http://www.schoolnurse.com/med_info/Gay_teens.html), it is claimed that "Gay youths account for 30-35% of the homeless youth in the U.S., with a four times greater incidence of being "kicked out" or "forced out" of their homes. Once out on the streets, many turn to survival-sex as a means of support and identity." The article referred to is Nelson, J. (1997). Gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents: Providing esteem-enhancing care to a battered population. Nurse Practitioner 22(2), 98-109.

http://www.dreamworld.org/oystergsa/gsa_statistics.html
"42% of homeless youth self-identify as gay/lesbian"
From: Victims Services/Traveler's Aid, "Streetwork Project Study," 1991.

<<<<<>>>>>

The Long Island Crisis Center (http://www.licrisiscenter.org/comm.html) refers to Dempsey (1994) in claiming that "30-50% of homeless youth are G/L/B youth."

Dempsey, Cleta L. (1994). Health and social issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, March 1994, 160-167

> Forty-eight percent of teens in a nonclinical sample reported running away from home. It is estimated that one-third to one-half of homeless youth are gay (Sanford, 1989). Running away is a self-protective, self-defeating behavior in response to disapproval and/or rejection from the family or from the fear of rejection (Remafedi, 1990). Many homosexual adolescents experience physical and emotional abuse at school and lack support and protection from school administrators and staff. As a result, they drop out of school. The educational system often fails to provide a safe learning environment and dropping out becomes the only rational coping strategy for survival (Martin & Hetrick, 1988). Homeless and without adequate education, some teens turn to prostitution and drug trafficking for survival. They become easy targets for sexual abuse, assault, or

> sexual exploitation by adult males, most of whom are heterosexual (Whitlock, 1989). (p. 165)

<<<<<>>>>>

Novac, Sylvia, Serge, Luba, Eberle, Margaret & Brown, Joyce. (2002). On her own: Young women and homelessness in Canada. Available online on April 3, 2002 from Status of Women Canada: http://www.swc-sfc.gc.ca/publish/research/020327-0662318986-e.html#abs

Novac et al. explore the causes, demographics and patterns of homelessness among women aged 12-24 in Canada. In a review of previous studies, they found evidence that young women in public care, Aboriginal women and lesbian women are all overrepresented. Novac et al. focussed their research efforts on the three Canadian cities where youth are visibly homeless in the greatest number: Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal. Their informants from these and five other cities confirmed that certain subgroups appear to be overrepresented in populations of homeless youth: those in and from care, lesbian and gay youth, Aboriginal youth, and in Toronto, recent refugees or immigrants. In the executive summary, Novac et al. further write,

> Homeless minors generally avoid involvement with the child welfare system, yet are ineligible to use shelters or receive income support and other services. This is a pervasive problem. There is little known about this group, but their desperate circumstances make them highly vulnerable to exploitation. Another glaring service and program gap between child and adult welfare services affects 16 and 17 year olds (and 18 year olds in British Columbia) and leaves them without adequate financial and other support.

In the executive summary, no mention is made of bisexual or transgender youth and no figures are provided.

9: "Homelessness"

What is the evidence that sexual minority youth are overrepresented in populations of homeless and street-oriented youth?

In 1993/1994 the McCreary Centre Society conducted a survey among 110 street youth in Vancouver. On p. 70 of their publication Street Youth in Vancouver (1994), they provide the following information on sexual orientation:

> When street youth were asked about their sexual orientation, 67% of the males and 40% of the females described themselves as completely heterosexual. These percentages are in contrast with those provided by youth attending school in B.C., where 93% of the males and 92% of the females described themselves as 100% …. Additionally, 11% of male and 23% of female street youth described themselves as bisexual. And 6% of the male street youth and 4% of the female street youth described themselves as homosexual ….

When the data are transferred to a table, they produce the following picture:

	heterosexual	bisexual	homosexual	unknown	total
male (n= 56)	67%	11%	6%	16%	100%

female (n=54)	40%	23%	4%	33%	100%

With 16% of male respondents and 33% of female respondents of unknown sexual orientation, the percentage of (self-identified) sexual minority youth in this sample of 110 street youth can range from 17% to 32% of the males, and from 27% to 50% of the females.

Even if all respondents for whom no data on sexual orientation are available would describe themselves as completely heterosexual, the percentage of self-identified sexual minority youth in this sample would be considerable higher than the percentage of self-identified sexual minority youth in the quoted high school sample. Of course the possibility it must be taken into account that the percentage of self-identified sexual minority youth in the high-school sample is so low partly because the pressures on social conformity are notoriously high in high school environments.

No data is available from this survey on transgender street youth.

<<<<<>>>>>

Advocates for Youth (http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsglbt.htm) write, "Estimates of LGBT homeless youth vary, but youth service providers agree that rates are very high, ranging from 20-40 percent in various studies.[5] This rate may be underestimated, since few youth are likely to reveal their sexual orientation/identity to authorities and social service staff."

[5]. Ryan C, Futterman D. (1997). Lesbian and Gay Youth: Care and Counseling. [Adolescent Medicine State of the Art Reviews; v. 8, no.2.] Philadelphia: Hanley and Belfus

http://www.aclu.org/issues/gay/Statistics.html
"Donna Futterman and Caitlin Ryan analyze studies on homeless and runaway youth conducted in Seattle and Los Angeles in their book, *Lesbian and Gay Youth: Care and Counseling*. According to these city-funded studies, gay and lesbian youth accounted for 20 to 40% of all homeless youth."

Ryan, Caitlin & Futterman, Donna. (1998). Lesbian and gay youth: Care and counseling. New York: Columbia University Press

> Rejection by family and friends and the cumulative effect of harassment, ridicule, and physical abuse cause some lesbian and gay youth to run away, whereas others might be forced out of their homes after parents discover their sexual orientation. Although the actual number of lesbian/gay runaways and "throw-aways" is not known, some estimates suggest that 1 in 4 street youth may be lesbian or gay. Local estimates are even higher. Agencies serving street youth in Los Angeles estimate that 25-35% of homeless youth are lesbian or gay, and in Seattle, 40% of homeless youth are estimated to be lesbian or gay. The stressors that lead lesbian and gay youth to leave home and school also increase the potential for exploitation. Without employable skills, some turn to prostitution, drug dealing, or other illicit activities for survival. Others enter foster care, youth homes, and social service systems where they are at risk for further discrimination, neglect, harassment, and violence. (p. 25)

Caitlin and Futterman conclude from various studies in the late 80s and early 90s that of the youth that run away from home,

> approximately 1 in 4 becomes a street youth, who is dependent on the street for economic survival, recreation, and social support needs. Estimates of lesbian and gay homeless youth vary, but youth service providers agree that rates are very high, ranging from 20-40% in various studies. Because both males and females are often unlikely to disclose their sexual orientation, rates are probably under-reported. Many are forced out of their homes because of sexual orientation. (p. 52)

http://www.now.org/issues/lgbi/stats.html
42% of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. --Orion Center, Survey of Street Youth, Seattle, WA: Orion Center, 1986.

PFLAG (http://www.pflag.org/education/schools.html) writes, "Service providers estimate that gay, lesbian and bisexual youth make up 20-40% of homeless youth in urban areas. Source: The National Network of Runaway and Youth Services. To Whom Do They Belong?: Runaway, Homeless and Other Youth in High-Risk Situations in the 1990's. Washington, D.C. The National Network, 1991."

On the site "Schoolnurse" (http://www.schoolnurse.com/med_info/Gay_teens.html), it is claimed that "Gay youths account for 30-35% of the homeless youth in the U.S., with a four times greater incidence of being "kicked out" or "forced out" of their homes. Once out on the streets, many turn to survival-sex as a means of support and identity." The article referred to is Nelson, J. (1997). Gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents: Providing esteem-enhancing care to a battered population. Nurse Practitioner 22(2), 98-109.

http://www.dreamworld.org/oystergsa/gsa_statistics.html
"42% of homeless youth self-identify as gay/lesbian"
From: Victims Services/Traveler's Aid, "Streetwork Project Study," 1991.

<<<<<>>>>>

The Long Island Crisis Center (http://www.licrisiscenter.org/comm.html) refers to Dempsey (1994) in claiming that "30-50% of homeless youth are G/L/B youth."

Dempsey, Cleta L. (1994). Health and social issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, March 1994, 160-167

> Forty-eight percent of teens in a nonclinical sample reported running away from home. It is estimated that one-third to one-half of homeless youth are gay (Sanford, 1989). Running away is a self-protective, self-defeating behavior in response to disapproval and/or rejection from the family or from the fear of rejection (Remafedi, 1990). Many homosexual adolescents experience physical and emotional abuse at school and lack support and protection from school administrators and staff. As a result, they drop out of school. The educational system often fails to provide a safe learning environment and dropping out becomes the only rational coping strategy for survival (Martin & Hetrick,

> 1988). Homeless and without adequate education, some teens turn to prostitution and drug trafficking for survival. They become easy targets for sexual abuse, assault, or sexual exploitation by adult males, most of whom are heterosexual (Whitlock, 1989). (p. 165)

<<<<<>>>>>

Novac, Sylvia, Serge, Luba, Eberle, Margaret & Brown, Joyce. (2002). On her own: Young women and homelessness in Canada. Available online on April 3, 2002 from Status of Women Canada: http://www.swc-sfc.gc.ca/publish/research/020327-0662318986-e.html#abs

Novac et al. explore the causes, demographics and patterns of homelessness among women aged 12-24 in Canada. In a review of previous studies, they found evidence that young women in public care, Aboriginal women and lesbian women are all overrepresented. Novac et al. focussed their research efforts on the three Canadian cities where youth are visibly homeless in the greatest number: Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal. Their informants from these and five other cities confirmed that certain subgroups appear to be overrepresented in populations of homeless youth: those in and from care, lesbian and gay youth, Aboriginal youth, and in Toronto, recent refugees or immigrants. In the executive summary, Novac et al. further write,

> Homeless minors generally avoid involvement with the child welfare system, yet are ineligible to use shelters or receive income support and other services. This is a pervasive problem. There is little known about this group, but their desperate circumstances make them highly vulnerable to exploitation. Another glaring service and program gap between child and adult welfare services affects 16 and 17 year olds (and 18 year olds in British Columbia) and leaves them without adequate financial and other support.

In the executive summary, no mention is made of bisexual or transgender youth and no figures are provided.