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LGBTQ Homeless

14 According to [www. American progress.org](http://www.Americanprogress.org),
28 “20 to 40 percent: The portion of the homeless youth population who are gay
41 or transgender, compared to only 5 to 10 percent of the overall youth
42 population.”

49 Other websites quote similar statistics for this societal concern.

61 While the majority of people living in Southern California are rather open-
76 minded about the rights of members of the LGBTQ community, there
92 remains a significant percentage of those who do not accept the LGBTQ
104 lifestyle choice for others. This is an especially serious problem for those
118 LGBTQ young people who have concerns about acceptance from their
129 parents, real or otherwise. This problem becomes even more acute when
141 familial cultural factors of ethnic heritage or religious background are part of
143 the mix.

155 Young people, as they begin to realize their gender identity and sexual
168 preferences that present themselves in puberty, as scary as that may be for

181 them, face the additional daunting task of having to explain their situation to
195 their parents. Some of those who let their parents know of their situation find
207 themselves ostracized and possibly forced out of the home. Others are so
220 antagonized by family members that they choose to leave the home, and still
234 others may choose to keep their status a secret from their parents and just
239 leave for fear of humiliation.

250 A large percentage of the general population in Southern California, while
262 aware of, and empathetic to the general homeless crisis, are likely unaware
279 of how LGBTQ youth often find themselves homeless, and their share of the
289 homeless population, which is quite large, and likely growing larger.