

# Minority Stress Analysis of LGBTQ+ Homelessness in the Netherlands

**RQ: How does being part of the LGBTQ+ community play a role in the experiences of becoming and being homeless in the Netherlands?**

**Theory:** Intersectionality; Minority Stress Model; Stigma

**Of N (454) homeless individuals interviewed over span of 5 years, n (14) discussed sexuality and gender identity.**

Age	# Inter-views	Sexuality/ Gender Identity	Gen-der	Ethn-icity	Employ-ment status	Hou-sing status*	Duration of Homeless-ness	Mental health issues	Sub-stance abuse issues
Under 35	1(2)	Trans(1) In transition (1)	F(2)	White (2)	None(1) Volunteer (1)	Shelter (2)	Unknown (2)	Yes(2)	Unknown (1) Yes(1)
35-65	1(5) 3(2) 5(2) 2(1)	Bisexual(4) Unsure about sexuality(3) Gay(2) Lesbian(1)	M(6) F(4)	White (8) Arab(1) Latino (1)	Volunteer (6)* None(2) Workshop (1) Paid work (1)	Shelter (6) Long term care facility (4)	<1y.(1) 2y.(3) >1y.(1) 4y.(2) 3y.(1) Unknown (2)	Yes(10)	Yes(7) No(3)
Over 65	2 (1) 3 (1)	Unsure about their sexuality(1) ... gender identity(1)	M(2)	White (2)	Volunteer (7)	Long term facility (2)	5y.(1) 38y.(1)	yes (2)	Unknown (1) Yes (1)

## Results

Specific social stressors to the LGBTQ+ community lead to long term mental health issues that can be factors that lead to homelessness. These social stressors include: Stigma in the form of: -Homophobia, -transphobia, -Internalized homophobia  
-Shame, -Isolation and -Violence: both by family, peers and professionals (e.g. teachers, social workers, shelter-staff)

**Respondent:** "Let's be clear: of all the things I've experienced in youth care in terms of physical abuse, they were the worst. I was a victim of attempted murder there."

**Respondent:** "Difficult. The stay in social shelter: you have no idea what I went through. That was a nightmare for me. I am openly gay. I tell everyone. There was discrimination, harassment by the staff as well. They have a gay flag. It is written at the entrance that you are not allowed to discriminate. You have no idea what discrimination I experienced with the staff there. When he was on duty, several times a week, he stood next to me and sang "when you call me Senorita". And seniorita is the Spanish word for miss. I said that he should leave me alone. I think he was fired. I don't know if that has anything to do with me."

**Respondent:** "My ex-guardian had from day one when she had my case, in 2018 - and I was out as transgender for a few months - until I turned eighteen...so over two years, that is written off as a phase. She even talked about transgender in the third person in the custody plans."

**Interviewer:** "Geez!"

**Respondent:** "Yes, I was evicted. Because my family situation has actually been quite difficult. For me, and my brother, and my sister. Because our father had loose hands, there were a lot of tensions in the house. A lot, in fact a lot has left. But look, I also like men. That was a problem when I finally said that. It wasn't just with regard to the family situation. Then other family life also got involved, and it became a very big bomb. To the point where my dad says, 'Yeah, he needs to get out of the house, away from me now.' (...)  
"because of the homosexuality".

**Conclusion** This paper has shown that sexual/gender minorities are especially vulnerable to experiencing multiple social stressors that compound over time, often leading to shame, isolation, long-term mental health issues and substance abuse that ultimately inform their trajectories into homelessness. **Further Research** (Case studies; Larger numbers and Focus on specific groups within LGBTQ + community) and Policy Change are needed. Additional info available from: [thalia.correll@gmail.com](mailto:thalia.correll@gmail.com) and [n.f.boesveldt@uva.nl](mailto:n.f.boesveldt@uva.nl)