

STATISTICS

LGBTQ homeless and runaway adolescents were more likely to report sexual abuse by an adult caretaker (44.3% vs. 22.3%) and were more likely to report sexual victimization on the streets (58.7% vs. 33.4%) than were heterosexual and runaway adolescents.¹

LGBTQ youth are more likely to run away from home than heterosexual youth.²

Among youth who experience homelessness, LGBTQ youth are more likely to stay with a stranger and less likely to stay in a shelter than heterosexual youth.²

LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to exhibit the symptoms of major depression than heterosexual youth.¹



SERVING AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUTH
AND FAMILIES FOR NEARLY 45 YEARS

The National Runaway Safeline, established in 1971, serves as the federally designated national communication system for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth and their families. With the support of more than 120 volunteers, NRS makes over 250,000 connections to help and hope through hotline, online and offline resources.

OUR MISSION:

To keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

CALL **1-800-RUNAWAY** CLICK **1800RUNAWAY.org** TEXT **66008**

773.880.9860 Business line • 773.929.5150 Fax

¹ Whitbeck, L., Xiaojin, C., Tyler, K., & Johnson, K. (2004). Mental Disorder, Subsistence Strategies, and Victimization Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Homeless and Runaway Adolescents. *The Journal of Sex Research*, Vol. 41, No. 4, pp. 329-342.

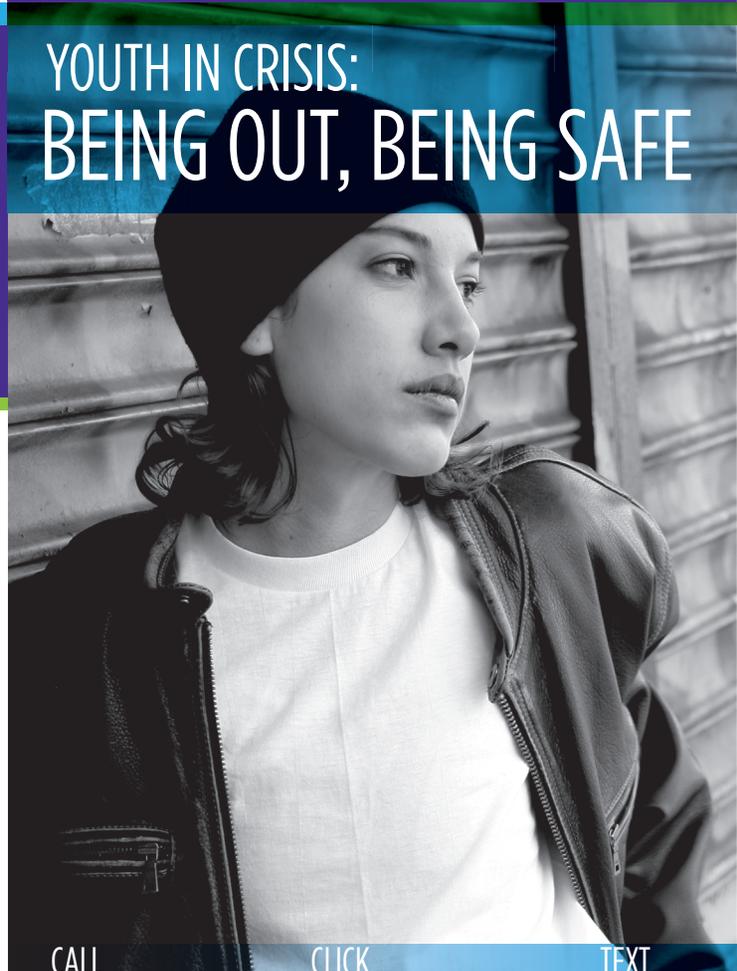
² Rice, E., Barman-Adhikari, A., Rhoades, H., Winetrobe, H., Fulginitti, A., Astor, R., ... Kordic, T. (in press, available online) Homelessness Experiences, Sexual Orientation and Sexual Risk Taking Among High School Students in Los Angeles. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

LGBTQ

National Runaway Safeline

Here to listen. Here to help.

YOUTH IN CRISIS: BEING OUT, BEING SAFE



CALL **1-800-RUNAWAY** CLICK **1800RUNAWAY.org** TEXT **66008**

HELP IS AVAILABLE

As the go-to resource for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth can find the help they need from the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Whether they are being bullied, thrown-out of the house or just want to discuss sexual identity, LGBTQ youth can access non-judgmental support at NRS. Friends, parents, educators and others who may be uncertain of how to help a young person who has come out or is questioning their sexuality can also receive help and support and get answers to difficult questions.

CRISIS INTERVENTION: NRS operates a confidential crisis 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and 1800RUNAWAY.org online services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our texting option and online services; live chat, crisis emails, bulletin board, provide more ways for teens in crisis to connect to help. Our frontline team of staff and volunteers receive 40+ hours of training to provide non-judgmental, non-sectarian and non-directive support, empowering callers to develop a plan of action to improve their situation.

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS: A nationwide database of nearly 10,000 youth and family agencies provides countless options for callers to access a myriad of services, such as counseling, shelter services, alcohol/drug treatment and child protective services.

CONFERENCE CALLS: When youth request assistance contacting their family or an agency that can help, NRS facilitates a conference call. The frontline team member remains on the line with the youth, advocating, as needed, on their behalf.

HOME FREE: In partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc., NRS helps reunite runaway youth with their families, or extended families, through a free bus ticket home. Over 15,000 youth have been reunited with families through the Home Free Program since 1995.

MESSAGE SERVICE: NRS maintains a message service for youth who want to relay a message but are not ready to communicate directly with their parent or guardian. NRS' message service is a less intimidating means for a youth to reestablish contact with his/her parent/guardian and often serves as the first step toward family reunification. In addition, a parent may access the service to leave a message for his/her child.

LET'S TALK: Runaway Prevention Curriculum: NRS created a free 14-module, interactive instructional tool, available in English and Spanish. In addition, Module #12, "Sexuality and Sexual Orientation" focuses on youth's sexual identity. The evidence-based prevention curriculum is intended to build life skills; increase knowledge about runaway resources and prevention; educate about alternatives to running away; and encourage youth to access and seek help from trusted community members.

ONLINE RESOURCES: Our website, 1800RUNAWAY.org, has four main goals: to provide online crisis intervention with one-on-one chats, emails or bulletin board postings; to direct calls to the hotline so that youth and families can receive verbal, individualized attention and support; to engage youth and families so they can access critical information before a runaway episode occurs; and to disseminate information about NRS, youth and runaways to the community.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: NRS provides educational and promotional material free of charge to individuals, schools and organizations to distribute within their community. All prevention and education materials are available to order or download at 1800RUNAWAY.org.

