

## In a Youth's Own Words



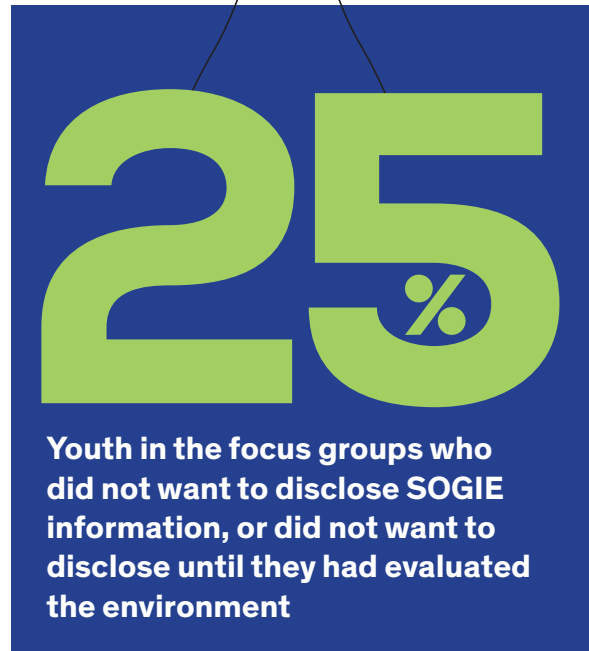
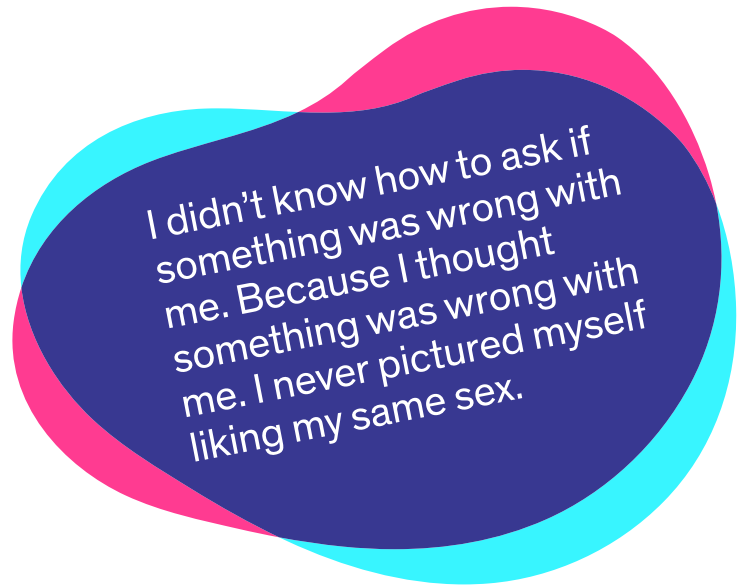
I am a shy person when it comes to my orientation. I have to make sure I wait for awhile and actually get to know the person.



At first it feels awkward. "Why do you want to know my business?" But then, if you're going to ask, actually give people help and tools.



If they made it clear why they want it, it would help people to be like, "Okay, well, here you go."



From 3/40 Blueprint: Creating the Blueprint to Reduce LGBTQ Youth Homelessness | [www.340blueprintproject.com](http://www.340blueprintproject.com)



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## Provider Perspectives

We try to make sure the youth know there's questions they **don't have to answer** if they don't want to, and that we're asking not to be nosy but because we want to figure out what their needs are

There is a question, and it's sort of prefaced with, "You have the right to refuse to answer this question if you choose; this question is **asked because of a specific grant.**"

If someone checks a "female" box, I'm putting in "female." Because ultimately, I'm **not questioning your gender** because I want you to know no one else should be questioning it.

### Provider Concerns

Intrusion into youths' privacy

Forcing youth to "fit in boxes" that reflect government databases and funding mandates, but not their complex identities

Over- and under-representation of identities as the result of having to select from predetermined categories

Multiple disconnected and inconsistent systems requiring data entry

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## 4 Points to Remember Before Asking for SOGIE Information:

01

Youths' mixed feelings about disclosing SOGIE is no surprise, given the high incidence of trauma experienced by homeless youth and the fact that for many, SOGIE disclosure may have been a factor in their becoming homeless.

02

As youth are still going through many developmental changes, they may not have a strong sense of their sexual orientation or gender identities, or they may lack the vocabulary to accurately define or describe them.

03

LGBTQ youth, just like heterosexual or cisgender youth, may need education around SOGIE spectrums and the pitfalls of assuming another's SOGIE based on speech, mannerisms, dress, or other components of gender expression.

04

LGBTQ youth may be at particular risk for homelessness because they often come out at a young age. These youth may be cognitively less developed and may be using running away from home as a coping strategy.

1.5  
TIMES

Likelihood that a homeless LGB youth has been abused by family members, compared to LGB youth who are not homeless.<sup>1</sup>

1  
Year

How much earlier LGBTQ homeless youth develop their sexual identity, compared to those who do not become homeless.<sup>2</sup>

### References

1. Walls, N. E., Hancock, P. & Wisneski, H. (2007). Differentiating the social service needs of homeless sexual minority youths from those of non-homeless sexual minority youths. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 13(2), 177-205, doi: 10.1080/10796120701520309.
2. Rosario, M., Schrimshaw, E. W., & Hunter, J. (2012). Homelessness among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth: Implications for subsequent internalizing and externalizing symptoms. *Journal of Youth Adolescence*, 41, 544-560.

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