

Unstable housing affecting LGBTQ+ populations

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LGBTQ+-Specific Problems

The LGBTQ+ community faces obstacles for housing for reasons other than climate change. The LGBTQ+ community faces the risk of being kicked out of their home due to family disapproval. In general, LGBTQ+ populations have higher risks of homelessness, unemployment, violence, and lack of health care (Goldsmith and Bell, 2022). Natural disasters caused by climate change increases the need for safe and stable housing for the LGBTQ+ community. Due to the increased risk of homelessness, the LGBTQ+ community is exposed to unsafe living conditions

Gender minorities are more likely to experience **unsheltered** homelessness.

unsheltered rate by gender, 2018

Cisgender Adults

48% unsheltered

Transgender Adults

56% unsheltered

Gender Non-Binary Adults

82% unsheltered

The Issue At Hand

The quantity of natural disasters continues to increase secondary to the negative effects of climate change (Sloggy, M. R. et al, 2021). While climate change affects all people on the planet, it is also recognized that due to the vulnerability that marginalized groups already have prior to any natural disaster, these groups are at a higher risk to difficulty to gaining or maintaining stability after a disaster (Dwyer, 2020). The LGBTQ+ community is an example of a marginalized group that is notably affected by the outcomes of the climate crisis. Without including environmental risk factors, social norms impact the physical safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ people through exclusionary policies, employment, and interpersonal interactions.

Safe spaces for gender and sexual minorities (GSM) cover a broad range of aspects within their livelihoods including housing, social environment, health services, etc. The effects of climate change exacerbate these issues by affecting housing security, air quality, and access to emergency services.



(Tama, 2020)



(The Blog, 2019)

An End Goal

Stable and safe housing has been able to be implemented to assist LGBTQ+ populations.

Social action, such as the SAFE Housing project, which assists older LGBTQ+ peoples, has specifically done work to assist this population. It reflected that, by having those that need the help actually implement their thoughts, proper housing can be given to them. It also reflects that, with the proper community and support, something that every minority population needs, a positive end goal is possible (King & Stoneman, 2017).

References

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