

by Homeless Hub a day ago

#HHChat August 12th, 2014

We were joined by Dr. Alex Abramovich to talk about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and queer (LGBTQ) youth homelessness. Alex completed his PhD at the University of Toronto investigating homophobia and transphobia in Toronto's shelter system.



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Welcome everyone to today's tweet chat! Introduce yourself as you join us and make sure to use [#HHChat](#) for today's conversation.

A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

For today [#HHChat](#) we're using Q/A format – we'll re-post questions coming in using Q1, Q2, etc. Responses will follow with A1, A2 ... Thanks!

A MONTH AGO

A few introductions before we get started:



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

Hi everyone! Looking forward to a great discussion on LGBTQ youth homelessness. Thanks for having me! [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

We are joined by Dr. [@IAlexAbramovich](#), a nationally recognized leader in the area of LGBTQ youth homelessness. [#HHChat](#)

@TanyaMGulliver · A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Dr. [@IAlexAbramovich](#) is currently the Research Coordinator
[@CRICH_StMikes](#) of St. Michael's Hospital. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

Thank you! I am a soon-to-be Postdoc Fellow at [@LGBTQ_Research](#) My work focuses on LGBTQ youth homelessness in Canada [#HHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO

We start with our first question:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q1. Can you share with us why this topic is so important and of interest to you
[@IAlexAbramovich](#)? [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A1 I was once a young queer person who dealt w/ family rejection & little support, so I understand how easy it is to become homeless [#HHChHHChat](#)

@TanyaMGulliver · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A1 There's minimal research & knowledge re: LGBTQ youth homelessness in Canada and I'd like to help change that [#HHChHHChat](#)

@NCCAH_CCNSA · A MONTH AGO

Question 2:



Homeless Hub

@homelesshub

Q2. Can you tell us a little bit about your PhD study? What findings can you share with us? @IAlexAbramovich #HHChat



@NCCAHCNSA · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich

@IAlexAbramovich

A2 Different groups of people came together to discuss how homophobia & transphobia occur & are managed in Toronto's shelter system
#HHChatHHChat



@sophiaphotos · A MONTH AGO



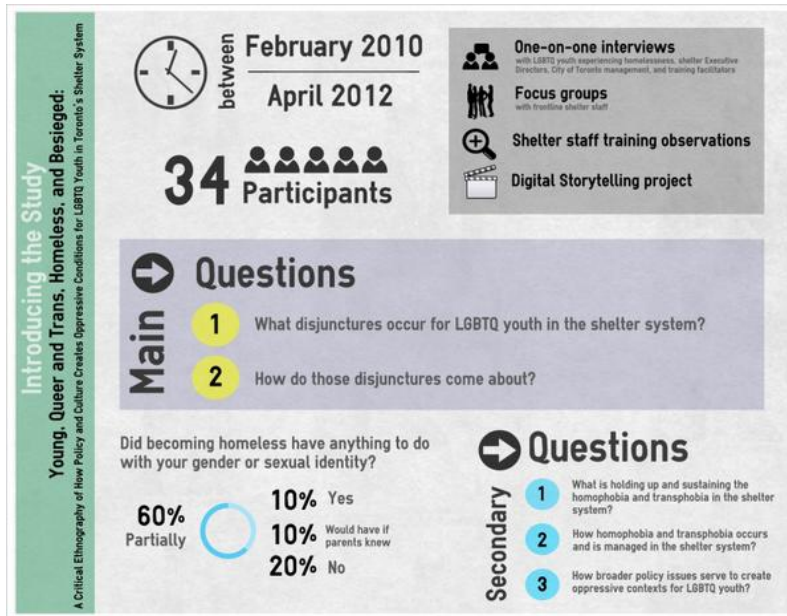
I. Alex Abramovich

@IAlexAbramovich

A2 I found that the shelter system is a dangerous place for LGBTQ youth due to widespread homophobia & transphobia #HHChHHChat

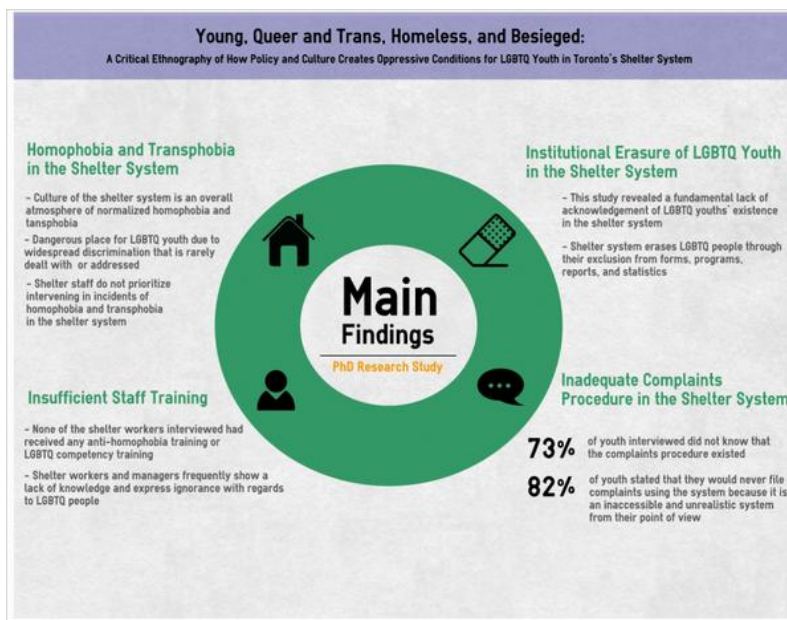


@sandraelleni · A MONTH AGO



A2 I've never summed up my PhD in 3 tweets! Here's an infographic that provides some of the main findings [#HHChat pic.twitter.com/DSdiFv3zg](https://pic.twitter.com/DSdiFv3zg)

I. ALEX ABRAMOVICH @IALEXABRAMOVICH @homelesshub · · A MONTH AGO



A2 Main Findings summed up in this infographic [#HHChat pic.twitter.com/la7RdvnEvc](https://pic.twitter.com/la7RdvnEvc)

I. ALEX ABRAMOVICH @IALEXABRAMOVICH @JacjieJaguar · · A MONTH AGO

Question 3:



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

Alex - why should the mainstream, mostly straight, cisgendered and housed world care about LGBTQ2S homeless youth? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

Tanya - Approx 25-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. This is an emergency situation across Canada. This issues affects us all #HHChat

@DaveKFrench · A MONTH AGO



Kevin Cooper
@KevCooper27

@IAlexAbramovich If we could be able to promote acceptance and tolence to people, LGBT youth would be force to leave their homes #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A3 Regardless of how you identify, LGBTQ youth homelessness is an emergency situation & we all need to pay attention to this #HHChHHChat

@hpsnl_ · A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

Thanks @IAlexAbramovich -- I think the gen pub needs to remember that we're talking about 25-40% of the #homeless youth pop. Big #s #HHChat

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO

Question 4:



Five/Fourteen
@FiveFourteen_

#HHChat Q: Will designating a % of beds in existing youth shelters will be effective? It seems like they are already known to be unsafe

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A4 It will not solve the problem, but it will provide some safe beds while we work towards more sustainable solutions #HHChat

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A4 There are currently few safe beds available. The streets are often safer than shelters. Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep #HHChat

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO

Question 5:



Steph Vasko
@stephvasko

Q: What supports + services should shelters and agencies provide LGBTQ youth? #HHChat

@KimWirth · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A5 1. Every shelter should have gender neutral washrooms. This is a basic human right. Everyone has a right to use a safe washroom #HHChat

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



Leigh Andrews
@LeighSkylark

[@IAlexAbramovich](#) [@homelesshub](#) Ooh wow, I've never seen this in LDN. Could you explain the thought behind it Alex? [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A8 Washrooms in shelters are often gendered m/f, which creates dangerous situations for trans and genderqueer ppl [#HHChat](#)

@BizOMadness · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A8 Gender neutral washrooms provide privacy & do not force ppl to choose either Male or Female [#HHChHHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A5 Youth should not be forced to identify as male/female at intake. Staff need to ask youth what their prefrd pronouns & names are [#HHChHHChat](#)

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Using an all gender inclusive sign for a single occupancy washroom is one simple step towards change. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



Check out this infographic for more background info on LGBTQ youth homelessness [#HHChat pic.twitter.com/aj08luOYWu](https://pic.twitter.com/aj08luOYWu)

I. ALEX ABRAMOVICH @IALEXABRAMOVICH @MHWomensShelter · · A MONTH AGO

Question 6:

 **Homeless Hub**
@homelesshub

Q6. What do you find is sustaining homophobia and transphobia in the shelter system? @IAlexAbramovich #HHChat

A MONTH AGO

 **I. Alex Abramovich**
@IAlexAbramovich

A6 Inadequate, invasive & otherwise problematic rules, lack of knowledge, inconsistent conformity to formal rules #HHChHHChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A6 Staff need to stop homophobic & transphobic slurs and behaviours each & every time. #HHChatHHChat

A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

@IAlexAbramovich Thanks @IAlexAbramovich! We wholeheartedly agree. It's such an important issue. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO

Question 7:



Lucas Medina
@LucaMedina

#HHChat Q: Re the July 30 City staff report. Without additional funding for shelters, is the creation of a LGBTQ2 youth shelter in jeopardy?

A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

Q7 refers to a #toronto report addressing the lack of safe space for LGBTQ youth in the city's shelter system. hopefully a model #hhChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A7 My understanding is that there is funding available for the creation of a LGBTQ shelter & that in the meantime... #HHChHHChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A7 25% of beds in an existing shelter will be LGBTQ specific #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A7 There are successful models that have been used in the US that Toronto can borrow from @AliForneyCenter #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

A7 - shelter funding is also supported by provinces and territories. We need direction to municipalities to support this initiative #HHChat

A MONTH AGO

Question 8:



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

Q8. What are some of the health implications for LGBTQ2S youth without shelter? @IAlexAbramovich #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A8 LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness are at higher risk for suicide, mental health difficulties, substance use #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

A8 Further -- public figure suicides like Robin Williams encourage copycats. If you work with LGBTQ youth or vul pops, engage them. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

@TanyaMGulliver Yes, this is an important time to education on mental health & connect with those struggling with mental illness. #HHChHHChat

A MONTH AGO



Kevin Cooper
@KevCooper27

Education is power. If we could teach people about acceptance & tolerance towards LGBTQ youth we would NOT see kids on the streets #HHChHHChat

@abbylong19 · A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

@KevCooper27 - absolutely - it's one of the foci for #FortyToNone in the US
@PagingDrJama @TrueColorsFund #HHChat #preventionisbetter

@KimWirth · A MONTH AGO

Question 9:



Five/Fourteen
@FiveFourteen_

#HHChat Q: This is a national issue. Is Toronto the most prepared city to launch one of these shelters? Where are other cities at on this?

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A9 Youth who have been kicked out will often migrate to TO in search of safe services b/c of its LGBTQ pos reputation #HHChat

@LucaMedina · A MONTH AGO



Five/Fourteen
@FiveFourteen_

@IAlexAbramovich Very true. That's why I hope other levels of government ensure funding is in place to support a Toronto shelter #HHChat

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



Kevin Cooper
@KevCooper27

@FiveFourteen_ @IAlexAbramovich We must start electing officials on the city level that are susceptible to this problem so they take action

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A9 Over the last yr, TO has been making efforts to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness #HHChat

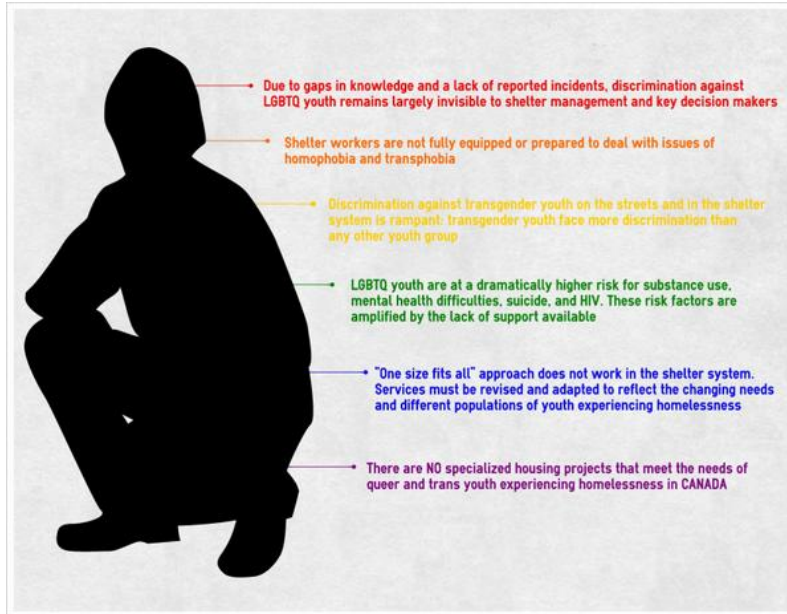
@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A9 We need specialized services for LGBTQ homeless youth across Canada, not just Toronto. This is not a Toronto specific problem #HHChat

@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



Here is some more background information re: LGBTQ youth homelessness #HHChat pic.twitter.com/G4WEAwb9dB

I. ALEX ABRAMOVICH @IALEXABRAMOVICH @sexgeekAZ · A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

We did a blog post on homeless LGBTQ youth in Toronto 4 #WorldPride. It also has another great #infographic: bit.ly/1jiCF41 #HHChat

@HowardK4Ward5 · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

Can anyone outside of Toronto, speak about what they are doing to help meet the needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness? #HHChat

@BbyServices · A MONTH AGO



Sara Mayo
@sara_mayo

@IAlexAbramovich In #HamOnt @SYPCHamOnt and @LorettaGSC are working to make shelters safe and positive spaces for LBGTQ homeless youth

A MONTH AGO



Bonnie Burstow
@BizOMadness

[@IAlexAbramovich](#) A very good question, Alex. Critical that decent services for LGBTQ homeless youth not be limited to Toronto.

A MONTH AGO

Question 10:



Raising the Roof
@RaisingTheRoof

[#HHChat](#) Q: Earlier it was mentioned that we could learn from successful programs in the US. Can you provide an example of one in particular?

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

[@RaisingTheRoof](#) [@AliForneyCenter](#) is a great model and example of successful housing for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



Brandon Shire
@TheBrandonShire

[@RaisingTheRoof](#) Yes [@LostNFoundYouth](#) [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



Brandon Shire
@TheBrandonShire

[#HHChat](#) International list of [#LGBT](#) Youth Orgs combating homelessness
brandonshire.com/lgbt-youth-org...

@Thealthnonprof · A MONTH AGO

Question 11:



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

What can the everyday citizen do to help make the issue better? [#HHChat](#)

@KimWirth · A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

Even if a municipality hasn't supported this direction what can individual shelters do? [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A11 Help raise awareness to the overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in the homeless youth population - educate others [#HHChat](#)

@DaveKFrench · A MONTH AGO



I. Alex Abramovich
@IAlexAbramovich

A11 Write to your local City Councillor. Get involved! [#HHChat](#)

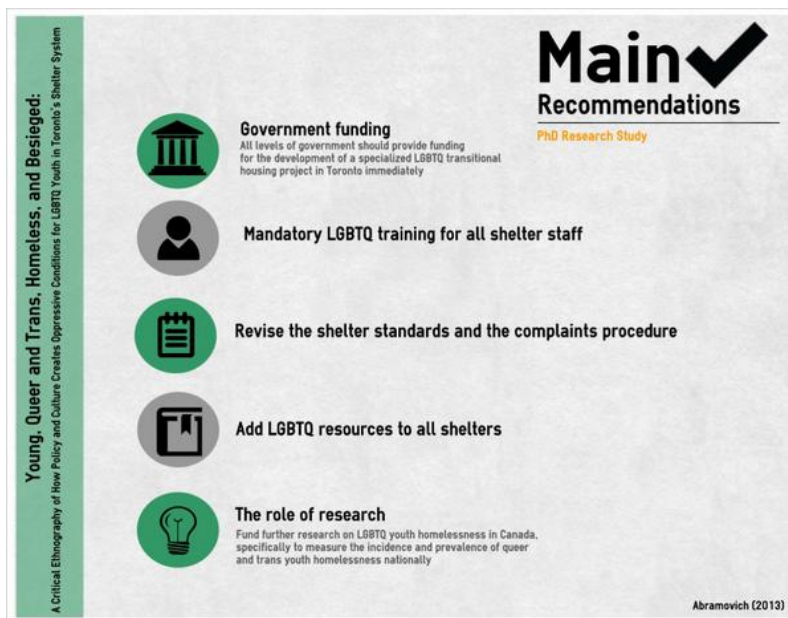
@homelesshub · A MONTH AGO



Kevin Cooper
@KevCooper27

We as citizens have to take actions by electing officials that will work to create better services for the LGBTQ homeless youth. [#HHChat](#)

@sandraelleni · A MONTH AGO



Here are some recommendations that came out of @IAlexAbramovich's research. #HHChat pic.twitter.com/o25vcOF0bh

HOMELESS HUB @HOMELESSHUB · A MONTH AGO

 **Homeless Hub**
@homelesshub

We are coming to the end of our tweet chat. Thanks @IAlexAbramovich for joining us and everyone else for participating! #HHChat

A MONTH AGO

 **I. Alex Abramovich**
@IAlexAbramovich

This was a great discussion! Thank you for having me today. For more info pls check out my website: ilona6.com #HHChat

@TanyaMGulliver · A MONTH AGO

 **Homeless Hub**
@homelesshub

Thank you everyone for the great Qs! We'll be holding our next tweet chat in September. Details to be posted: bit.ly/1qEiJin #HHChat

@TanyaMGulliver · A MONTH AGO



Homeless Hub

@homelesshub

You can also sign-up for our newsletter & get a reminder about our next tweet chat: <http://bit.ly/1qRV2ERChHHChat>

A MONTH AGO