

STATISTICS

- LGBTQ homeless & 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.'
- LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to exhibit the symptoms of major depression than heterosexual youth.'



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1971

SERVING AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS.

The National Runaway Switchboard, established in 1971, serves as the federally designated national communication system for runaway and homeless youth. With the support of more than 150 volunteers, NRS handles an average of 100,000 calls annually through its 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and online services.

OUR MISSION

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

1.800.RUNAWAY
www.1800RUNAWAY.org

3080 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657
773.880.9860 Business line • 773.929.5150 Fax
800.621.0394 TDD

Whitbeck, L., Kartin, C., Tyler, K., & Johnson, A. (2004). Men's Domestic Violence Strategies and Victimization Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Homeless and Runaway Adolescents. The Journal of Sex Research, 41(4), 329-341.

LGBTQ

LGBTQ
YOUTH IN CRISIS
BEING OUT,
BEING SAFE



www.1800RUNAWAY.org
1.800.RUNAWAY

Help is Available

As the 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 Switchboard (NRS) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Whether they are being bullied, thrown-out of the house or just sexually confused, 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.



WE UNDERSTAND

Crisis Intervention: NRS operates an anonymous and confidential 1-800-RUNAWAY crisis hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year while our live chat service offered at www.1800RUNAWAY.org, is another option for kids in crisis to get in touch with us online. 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 database of more than 13,000 youth and family resources 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.

Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum: NRS has created a free 14-module, interactive instructional tool, available in English and Spanish. The 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.

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. 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.

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 www.1800RUNAWAY.org.

Home Free: In partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc., NRS helps reunite runaway youth with their families through a free bus ticket home. Over 14,000 youth have been reunited with families through the Home Free Program since 1995.

Online Resources:

Our website, www.1800RUNAWAY.org, has tips for teens and parents, educational materials and statistics that can be easily downloaded, while our live chat service offers another option for youth and teens to get in touch with us online and a bulletin board where teens can ask questions anonymously and share their thoughts and experiences. We also offer *Switched-On*, a web 'zine and blog written by teens for teens to get youth 'Switched-On' with knowledge about their options in difficult situations.

1800RUNAWAY.ORG

COUNSELING