



## Task Force Homeless Youth Stats Confirmed

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A study recently completed by the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services has found that nearly one-third of New York's homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, **confirming the results of a report released one year ago by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** and the National Coalition for the Homeless. The earlier findings estimated that between 20 and 40 percent of homeless youth across the nation are LGBT.

The Empire State Coalition report, released in mid-December, found that only any given day there are 3,800 homeless youths living on the streets of New York.

"Our youth constitute an overwhelming and disproportionate percentage of those navigating the dangers of life on the street," said Matt Foreman, the Task Force's executive director, in a written statement. "How are we as a community taking responsibility for their safety and well-being?"

"It is unimaginable that in the year 2007, the wealthiest city in the nation could allow thousands of its youth to sleep on the streets," said Lewis A. Fidler, a Brooklyn City Councilman who chairs the Youth Services Committee. "I'm ashamed as an elected official, I'm ashamed as a father, and I'm ashamed as a human being."

As Youth Services chairman, Fidler has won praise from advocates for homeless youth, including those working to provide safe alternatives for LGBT kids, with focusing attention on the problem and increasing funding for innovative housing solutions.