

1 in 4 homeless youth living on Houston's streets is LGBTQ

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender youth are often marginalized due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. For these young people, growing up can be much harder due to the isolation, ostracism, and negative pressures they frequently face from their communities, peers, and family members. These and other pressures can force LGBTQ youth out into the streets.

To learn more, visit
www.understandinggay.org

About AFCI

The association for Family and Community Integrity Inc. (AFCI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing rejection and homelessness among LGBTQ youth by educating families and advocating for them.

AFCI approaches teenage homelessness from a family systems perspective, recognizing that the best way to help is within the context of the family.

AFCI courses and topics are designed to help families and others wanting to learn about their gay (LGBTQ) loved ones.

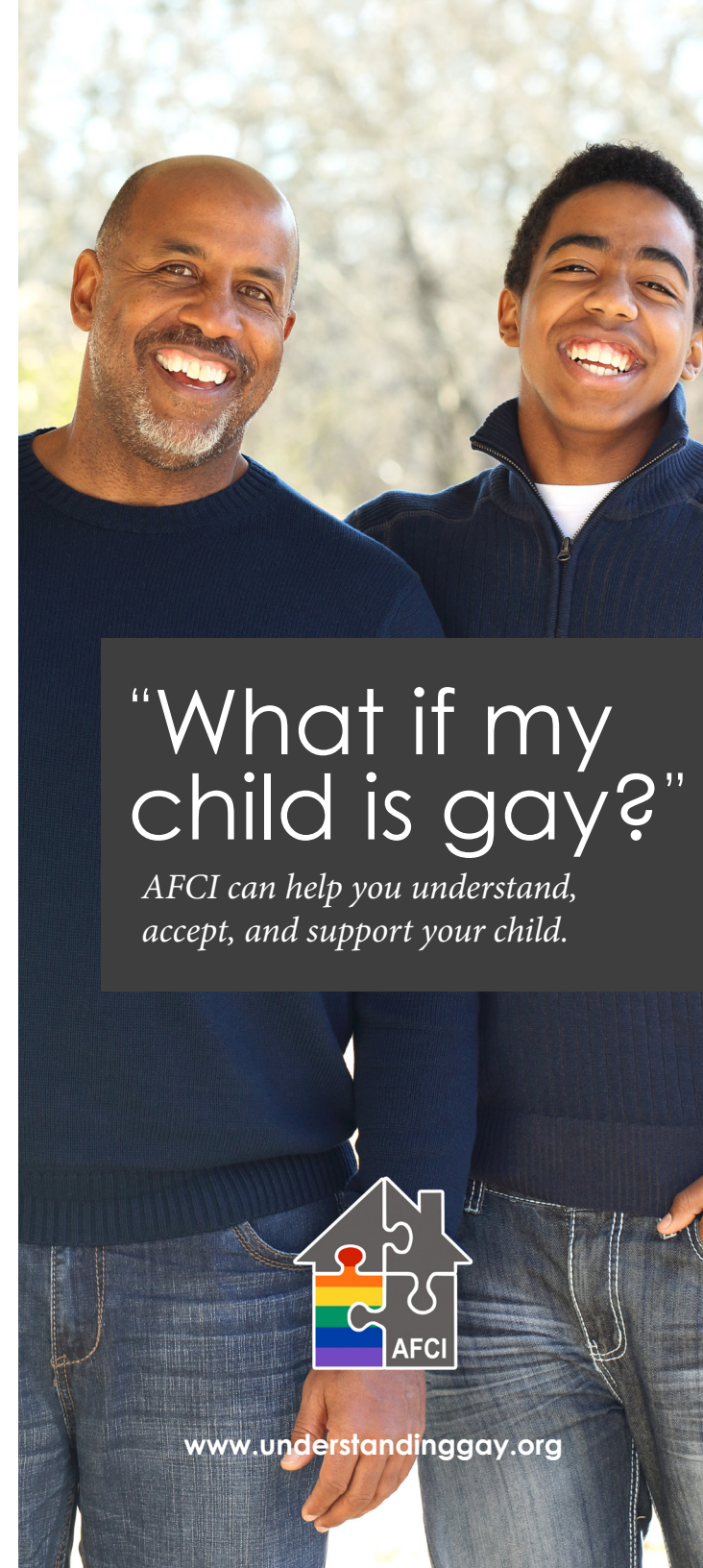
The topics contain interviews with real families and extensive data to inform and educate.



Association for Family
& Community Integrity

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“What if my child is gay?”

*AFCI can help you understand,
accept, and support your child.*



www.understandinggay.org



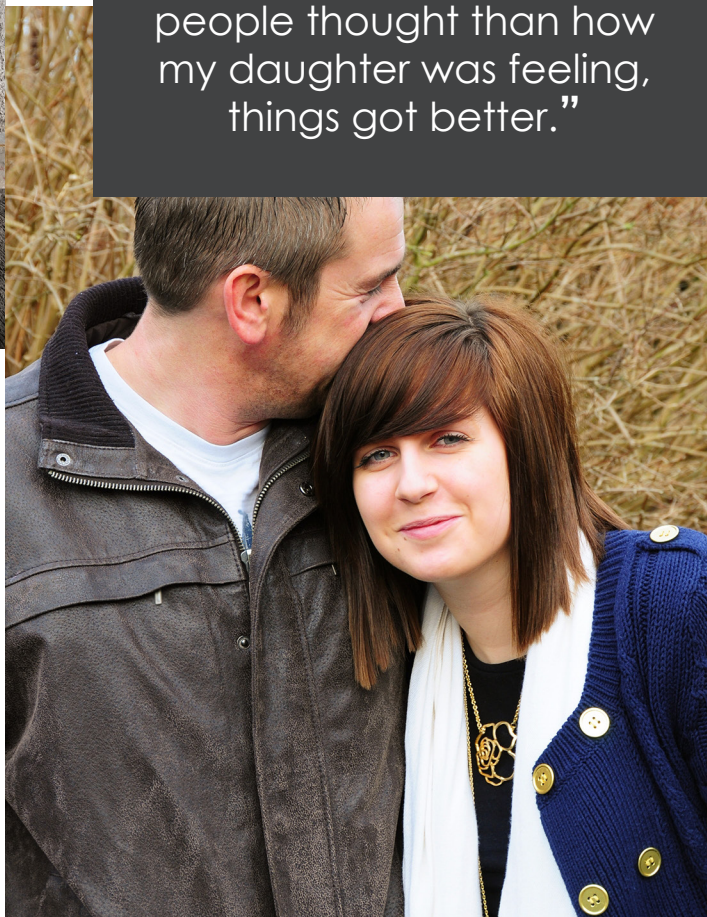
The consequences can be devastating.

The teen years are a difficult time for most kids, and the support of family and friends is essential to their healthy development and safety. For the LGBTQ child, understanding and acceptance can be the difference between life and death.

LGBTQ youth who are disowned by their families and asked to leave home become vulnerable to a wide range of dangers. When forced to live on the streets, many resort to drugs, survival sex, and theft, often resulting in police detention, injury, disease, exploitation, and death. In addition, suicide rates among LGBTQ youth are much higher than those of straight teens.

In Houston, the number of homeless LGBTQ teens in the area is estimated to be between 170-240 of the approximately 600 on the streets each night that are less than 18 years old. The number of homeless LGBTQ teens is disproportionate to the number of homeless teens on the street each night.

“Once I realized I was more concerned with what other people thought than how my daughter was feeling, things got better.”



Has your child revealed they're LGBTQ?

Families of LGBTQ youth often feel confused, ashamed, and/or angry. This is normal; you are not alone. The online courses/topics we offer will help you understand why you have these feelings and give you knowledge to move beyond them.

AFCI is working to change minds and save lives.

Through education, AFCI is informing families and communities about the science, psychology, and sociology of LGBTQ people. By increasing understanding, families who were once torn apart can find the hope and strength needed to support one another and provide a safe and loving environment for their LGBTQ child.

AFCI courses are designed to:

- Assure families that they are not alone.
- Reveal the thoughts and emotions of parents and families who have LGBTQ family members.
- Share stories of other parents/families of LGBTQ youth and show how they learned to accept and support their children.
- Educate families about the definitions of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and gender identity.
- Inform families of the science surrounding LGBTQ individuals.

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