

Challenges and Opportunities of Using Photovoice with Homeless and Marginally Housed Gender-Variant Youth

Purpose:

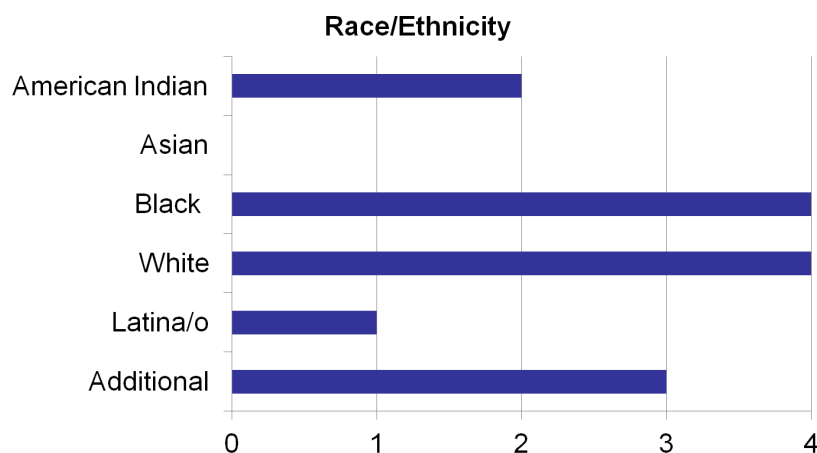
To conduct an assessment for the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, with the goal of helping to create a space where homeless and marginally housed, gender-variant youth (18-24 years old) feel they belong.

Research Question:

Where do homeless and marginally housed, gender-variant youth, 18-24 years old, feel a sense of belonging?

Sample Characteristics (N=13):

Average Age = 22, missing data=3



Challenges:

1. Photovoice requires repeated, scheduled interactions with the same population, which may impact recruitment and retention.
2. Accelerated time frame for data collection
3. Cost: cameras, photo developing, etc.

Opportunities:

1. Building trust with youth participants.
2. Ownership over research, photographs and dissemination.
3. Gained understanding of gender identity, discrimination and homelessness.

Community Assessment Team:

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Assessment completed in 2011 through the MPH program at San Francisco State University

Acknowledgements:

We owe an enormous thanks to the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center. We are especially grateful to our Community Adjunct Faculty, Roberto Ordeñana and David Gonzalez, Program Staff Erik Martinez and Beck, and Youth Intern, Dean Bonilla.

Findings:

Marginally housed, gender-variant youth, 18-24 years old:

1. Are prevented from accessing services, including those to meet their immediate needs, due to a lack of safety from physical violence, harassment, and discrimination.
2. Lack access to individual, private space.
3. Feel discriminated against and unwelcome in the Castro (a gay neighborhood) because of their age, gender expression and homeless status.
4. Expressed a desire for age appropriate activities and programs to meet their immediate need and future needs.
5. Feel unwelcome when they are treated like children in agencies where they access services and participate in programs.
6. Desire culturally relevant program staff, especially staff who are also young, gender variant, and who have been marginally housed.
7. Do not feel a sense of belonging when trans cultural competency (including correct pronoun usage, respect for preferred gender identities, and trans-inclusive restrooms) is absent.

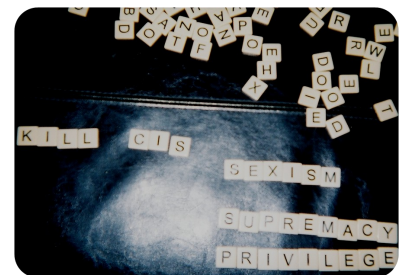


"If I were ever to stay outside that would probably be a place I would go to because you can make a fire and it overlooks the city. I was just thinking that here's a city and all this crazy things going on but you can find a space to go to and spend time with yourself and get away from all the craziness."



"There were a lot of things that confer a sense of belonging that you can't take pictures of, like a pronoun check-in."

"Kill cis-sexism Supremacy Privilege"



"To me this picture symbolizes belonging because you're hanging with people like you and in the same situation as you."