



Challenges Faced by LGBTQIAP+ Youth

Sydney Inger

B.S. Independent Scholars
Minors in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies,
Family Studies, and Art, Pre-law

The Challenge

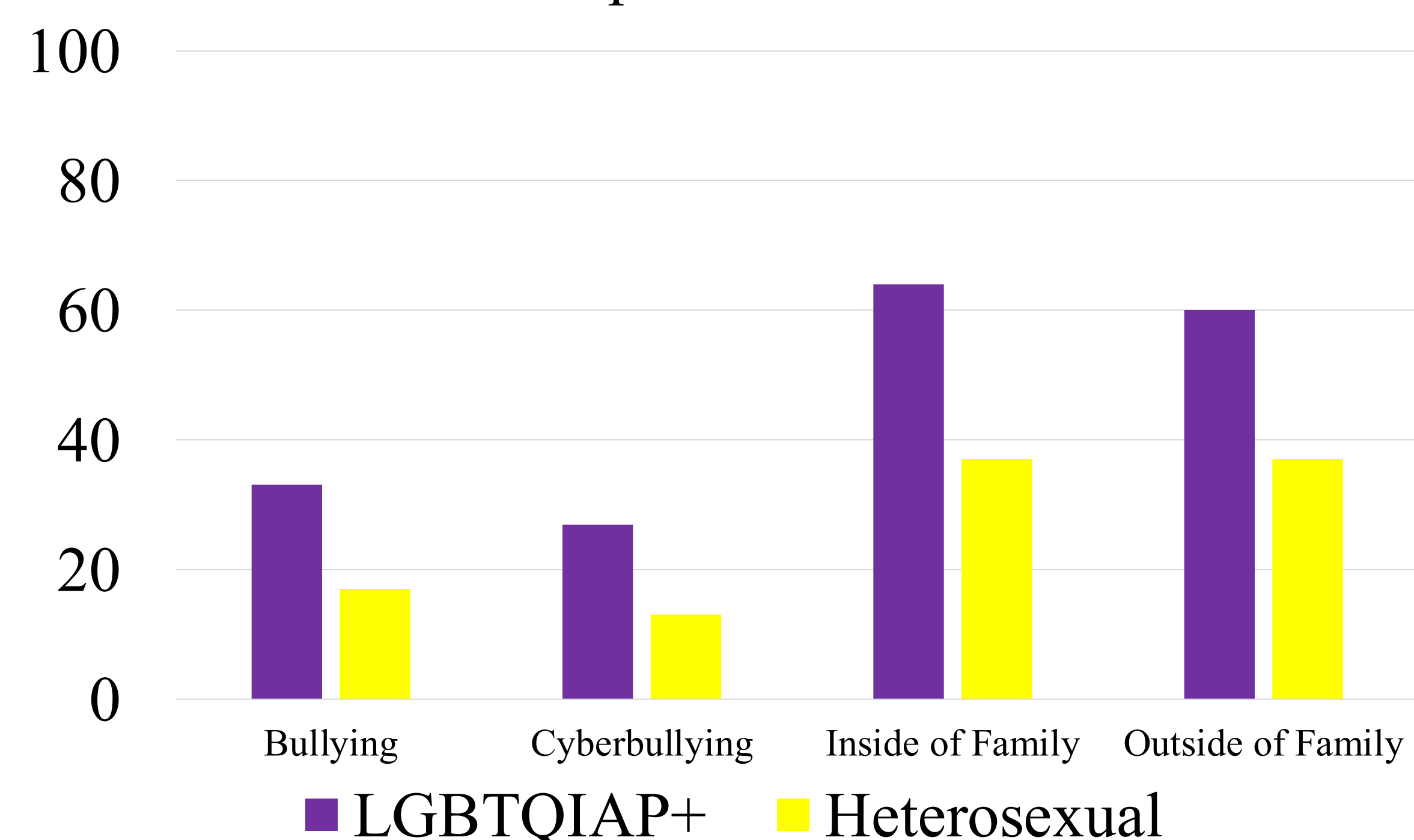
LGBTQIAP+ youth face intolerance, rejection, and bullying at home and in schools that can result in homelessness, thrusting them into a dangerous pipeline of foster care, prison, and street survival.

Research Question

How are youth affected by intolerance of family, friends, and the community?

LGBTQIAP+ Youth in Schools & at Home

Experiences of Discrimination by Youth in School and at Home
Fenway Health, Stopbullying.gov, & VoyC
In-depth Interviews



The above graph illustrates a strong pattern with a much greater frequency of discrimination towards LGBTQIAP+ youth than heterosexual youth—especially in the discrepancy found among the family. As youth are driven from their homes, they often enter the foster care system.

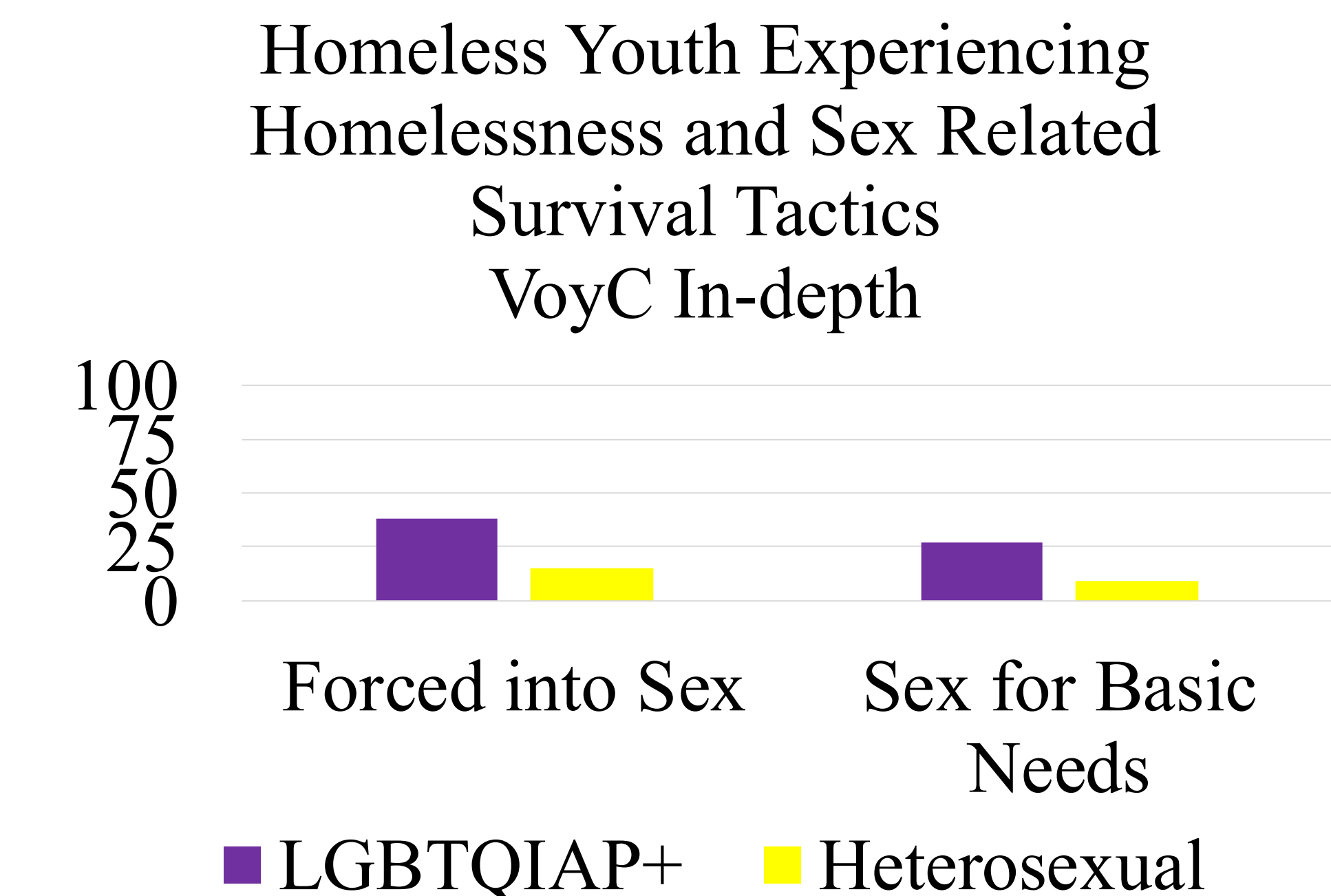
LGBTQIAP+ Youth in the Foster Care System

LGBTQIAP+ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system. Annually, about 78% of LGBTQIAP+ youth are removed or run away from their foster care placements as a result of hostility toward their sexual orientation or gender identity. Only 21 states have laws protecting youth in foster care from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity while only 3 states have protections for sexual orientation. Constant discrimination may cause many youth to commit status offenses entering the juvenile justice system.

LGBTQIAP+ Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

LGBTQIAP+ youth forced from their homes or placements are more likely to be charged with crimes such as running away, truancy, and loitering which target them unfairly for the potential outcome of rejection by families or foster families. Once youth have entered the juvenile justice system, many families refuse to take them back. These now homeless youth experience considerable adversity on the streets.

Adversity on the Streets



LGBTQIAP+ youth forced to live on the streets often lack access to food and shelter, and exchange sex for those basic needs.

Health and Social Impacts

LGBTQIAP+ youth may have difficulties getting a job, finding a home, getting an education (high school or college), or have poor mental health.

Understanding the Pipeline

Multiple variables intersect in determining how LGBTQIAP+ youth experience intolerance, criminal persecution, and homelessness, including social identities, gender, and race. My ongoing research examines this intersectionality and develops strategies for interrupting the “pipeline of intolerance” described in this poster. In the meantime, immediate remedies include food banks, shelters, and advocacy that can help LGBTQIAP+ youth.