

Glossary & Why Does it Matter?

There are many different terms used to describe individuals experiencing homelessness. This glossary aims to help clarify, as well as, explain why we ask these questions and why they are important to planning services that target O'ahu's homeless population.

ADULT.
persons 18 and older

CHILD.
persons under 18

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS.

Must meet all 3 criteria

1. is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or in a emergency shelter; **AND**
2. has been homeless for a least 1 year continuously or on several occasions over the past 3 years that add up to at least 12 months; **AND**
3. has a disability

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking individuals how long they have been experiencing homelessness & if they have any disabling conditions.

People experiencing chronic homelessness typically have complex and long-term health conditions, such as mental illness, substance use disorders, physical disabilities, or other medical conditions. Permanent supportive housing, which pairs a housing subsidy with case management and supportive services, is a proven solution to chronic homelessness.

DISABILITY.

An individual with one or more of the following conditions:

- A physical, mental or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that:
 - * is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration.
 - * substantially impairs their ability to live independently.
 - * could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.
- A developmental disability.
- Having AIDS or any condition arising from AIDS.

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking individuals about their mental health, alcohol and drug use, HIV/AIDS status, and any physical or developmental disability.

This is important in determining Chronic Homeless status and identifying referrals for specific programs that target these issues.

VETERAN.

Adults who have served active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking individuals if they served in the U.S. Armed Forces and if they were on active duty.

This is required by HUD. It is important as there are services that are available to only Veterans.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.

Persons aged 24 or younger who are not accompanied by a parent, guardian, household member 25 or over, and are not a parent present with or sleeping in the same places as their child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household. **No one in the household is over 24.**

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by the person(s) being under 25 years of age and if in a household, no one being over the age of 24.

This is important as Youth present unique service challenges and those who are between 18-24 are too old for child services and those under 18 are not yet ready or eligible for adult services.

FLEEING/ATTEMPTING TO FLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV).

Adults who are **currently experiencing homelessness because** they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. (Does not include those who have ever experienced DV in their lifetime).

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking about intimate partner violence and controlling behavior, as well as, if they are actively fleeing.

This is important as the population's needs often include access to specialized care and supportive services. Data provided is requested by HUD and helps assess and plan for services within Honolulu.

HIV/AIDS.

Adults who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This is important as housing people living with HIV improves health, extends life expectancy and reduces new HIV infections.

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH.

The label (male, female, intersex) assigned at birth.

*Intersex: a person with a range of natural bodily variations in reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit the typical definitions of female or male.

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking individuals what their sex assigned at birth was. *i.e. male, female, intersex*

This is important as sex is not a determinant for gender identity and does not always align with an individual's gender.

GENDER IDENTITY.

An individual's concept of self as male, female, transgender, a blend of both, neither, or another gender.

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking individuals if they identify as: male, female, transgender, gender non-conforming, or other gender.

Gender refers to the roles and expectations attributed to individuals in a given society, this may change over time and lifespan.

This is required by HUD. It is important as research shows those who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have higher rates of experiencing homelessness as well as chronic and non-chronic health conditions.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

An individual's emotional, romantic or physical attraction to another person or people.

HOW IS THIS DETERMINED & WHY?

This is determined by asking individuals if they identify as: straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual, or other sexuality.

It is important as research shows those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexuality have higher rates of homelessness, alcohol and drug use, poor mental health, partner violence and many other issues.

IN HAWAII

*Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) is often separated from Trans as their experiences differ.

- LGBT youth and adults **frequently drink more alcohol** and are **more inclined to try illegal substances** compared to heterosexual and cisgender youth and adults.
- LGBT youth are more likely to **skip school** due to feeling unsafe and/or bullying.
- LGB youth are 2x's and trans youth are 8x's more likely to be **unstably housed**.
- LGB youth are 4x's and trans youth 7x's more likely to **attempt suicide** compared to heterosexual and cisgender youth.
- 38% of LGB adults have 2 or more **chronic conditions**.
- **Partner violence (sexual and physical)** is greater among LGBT youth and adults.
 - Trans youth— 25% , LGB youth—20%, LGB adults — 21%.
- LGB adults are 2x's more likely to have a **depressive disorder**.

Ching LK, Holmes JR et al. 2018. Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority Report. & Hawai'i Sexual & Gender Minority Report: A Focus on Transgender Youth. Honolulu: Hawai'i State Department of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division.

* this is by no means a complete list of all sexual orientations or gender identities.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Bisexual: a person who is attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity.

Gay: a man who is attracted to other men.

*Also used for a person who is attracted to members of the same gender.

Lesbian: a woman who is attracted to other women.

Straight: a person who is attracted to a person of the opposite gender.

GENDER IDENTITY

Gender non-conforming: a person who does not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations for their gender.

Third Gender: many cultures recognize more than one gender, a person who embodies both the male and female spirit.

Māhū (Hawaiian and Tahitian) **Fa'afafine** (Samoan) **Fakaleiti** (Tongan)

Transgender/Trans: an umbrella term for those individuals who identify as a different gender from that assigned at birth.

Trans Female (MTF): a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies as female.

Trans Male (FTM): a person who was assigned female at birth, but identifies as male.