

# VICTIMOLOGY

Building a future of enhanced supports and rights for victims of crime.

## It's Getting Cold Outside: Youth Homelessness and Victimization

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drugaddiction mentalhealth sexualorientation  
**@youthhomelessness** youthjustice  
childwelfare familyconflict  
noparents toughchoices



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Choice.



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# Homelessness and Victimization

- Victimization leading to homelessness [1]
- Victimization following homelessness [2]
- Criminal justice & criminalized behaviour [3]
- Criminalization [4]

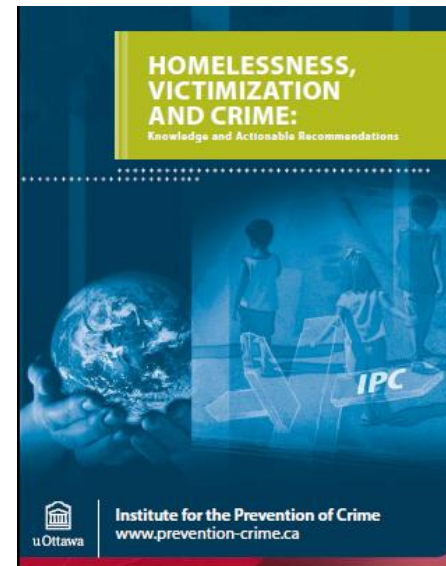
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[1] (Aubry et. al., 2006; Eberle et al., 2001)

[2] (Brassard & Cousineau, 2000; Fischer, 1992; Gaetz et. al., 2013)

[3] (Novac et. al., 2006; Zorzi et al., 2006)

[4] (Bellot et. al., 2005 & 2007; Wachholz, 2005)

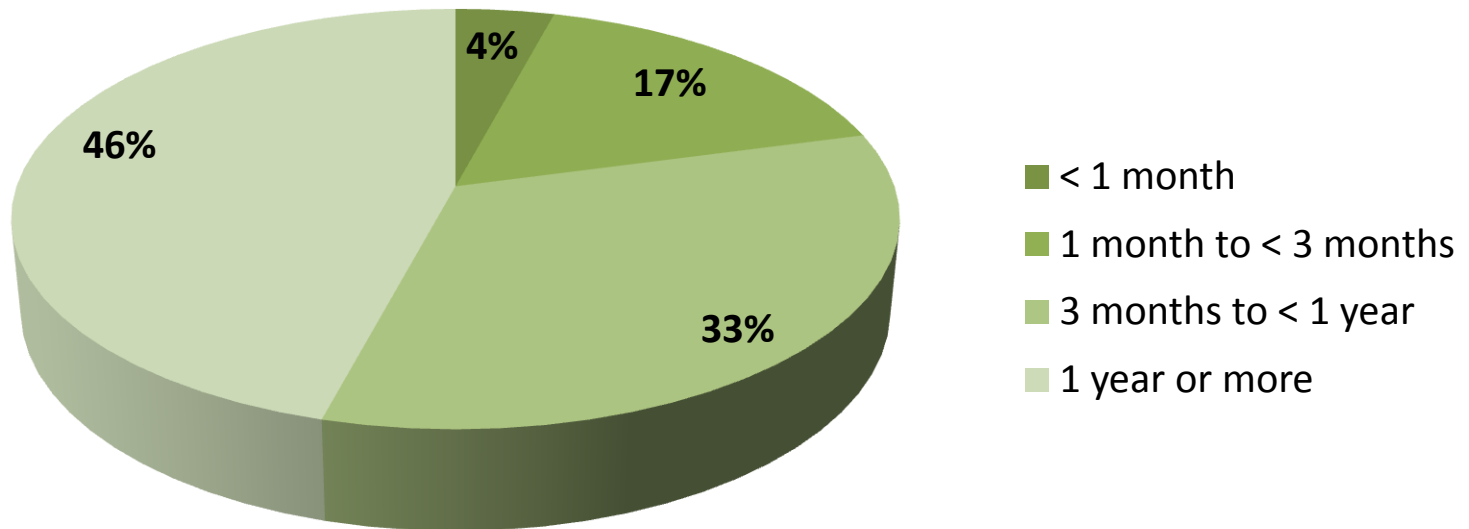


# Overview of Methodology

- Volunteering at youth drop-in centre
- Data Collection:
  - 24 interviews with young people
  - 2 focus groups with young people
  - 3 focus groups with service providers
  - 4 interviews with service providers
- Total Participants: 60 people
  - 35 young people
  - 25 service providers
- Reporting back to young people

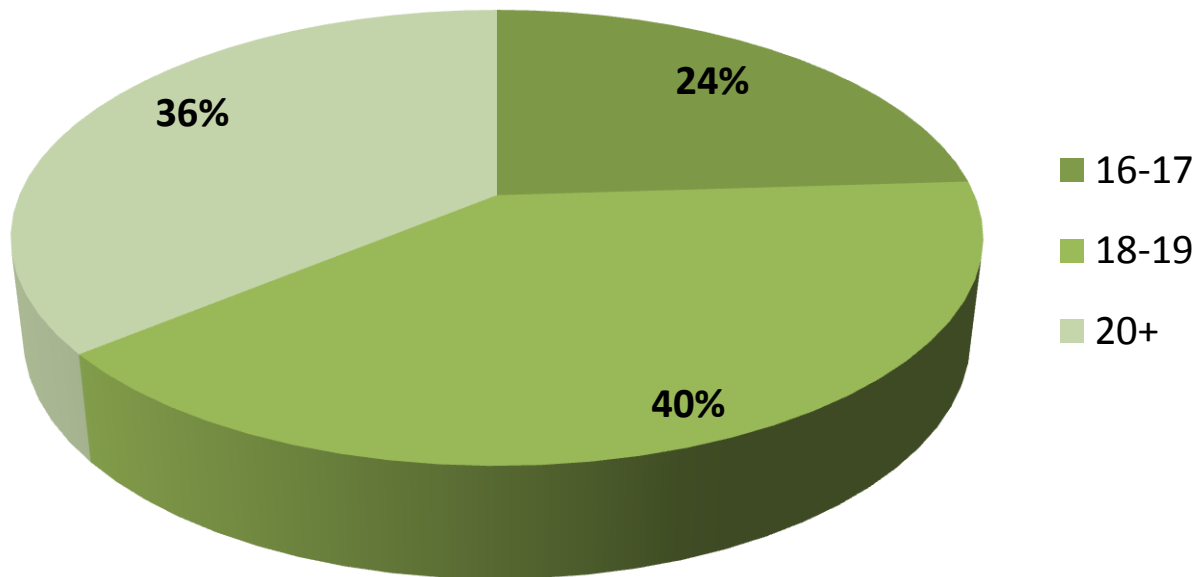
# Sample Characteristics

Length of Homelessness  
Experienced by Sample (n=24)



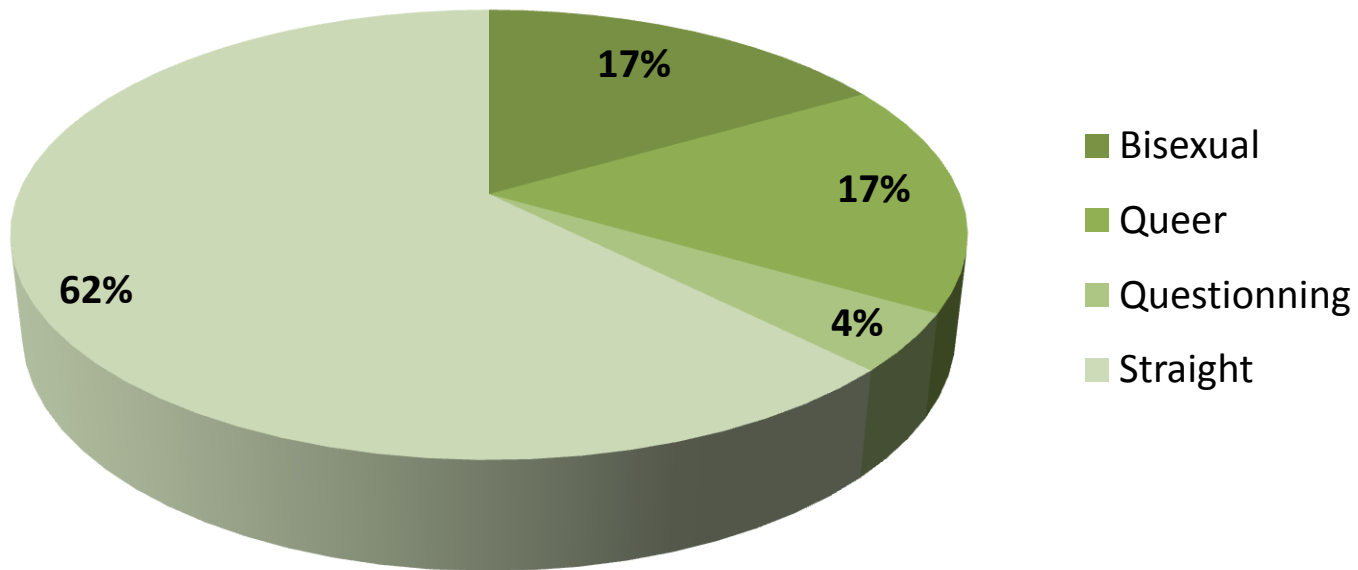
# Sample Characteristics

Ages of Sample (n=24)



# Sample Characteristics

**Sexual Orientation  
Reported by Sample (n=24)**









# Imagine

You are 15 and  
homeless.

What stereotypes do  
people have about  
you?

# Positive Victimology

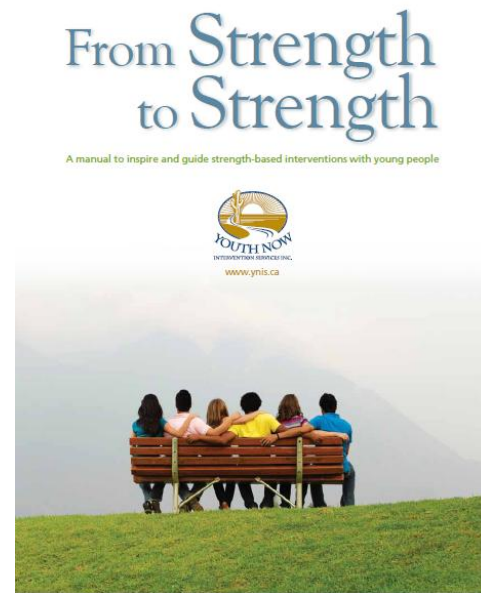
- Focus on strengths and resilience [1]
- Strengths are ‘developed competencies and characteristics’ [2]
- Alternative to deficit-based approaches [3]

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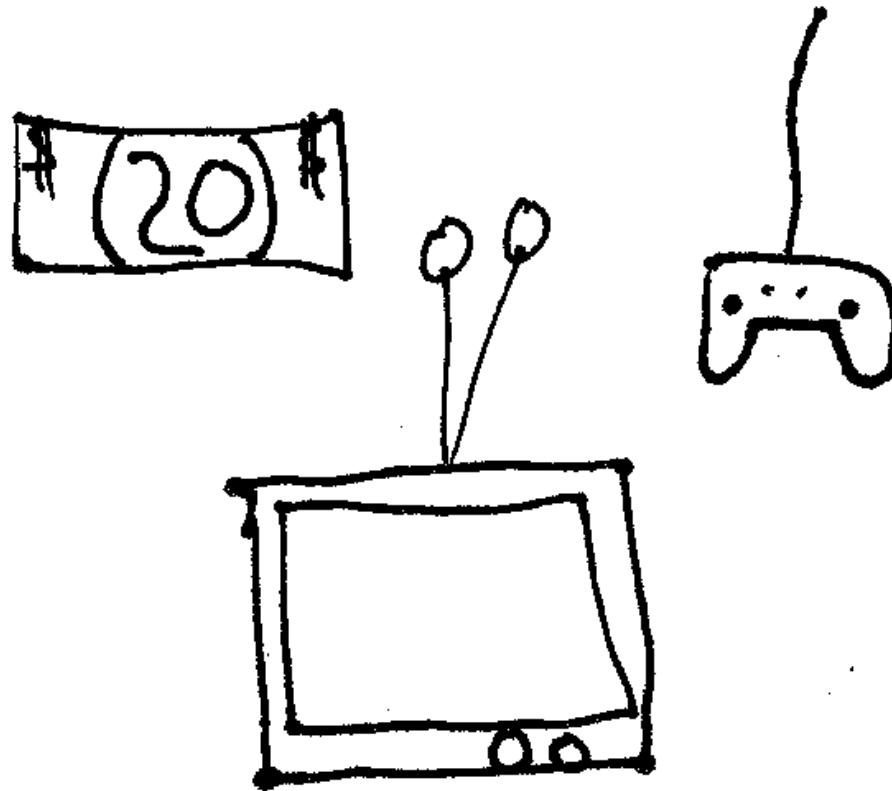
[1] (Ronel & Elisha, 2010; Ronel & Ya’ara Toren, 2012)

[2] (Rawana & Brownlee, 2009)

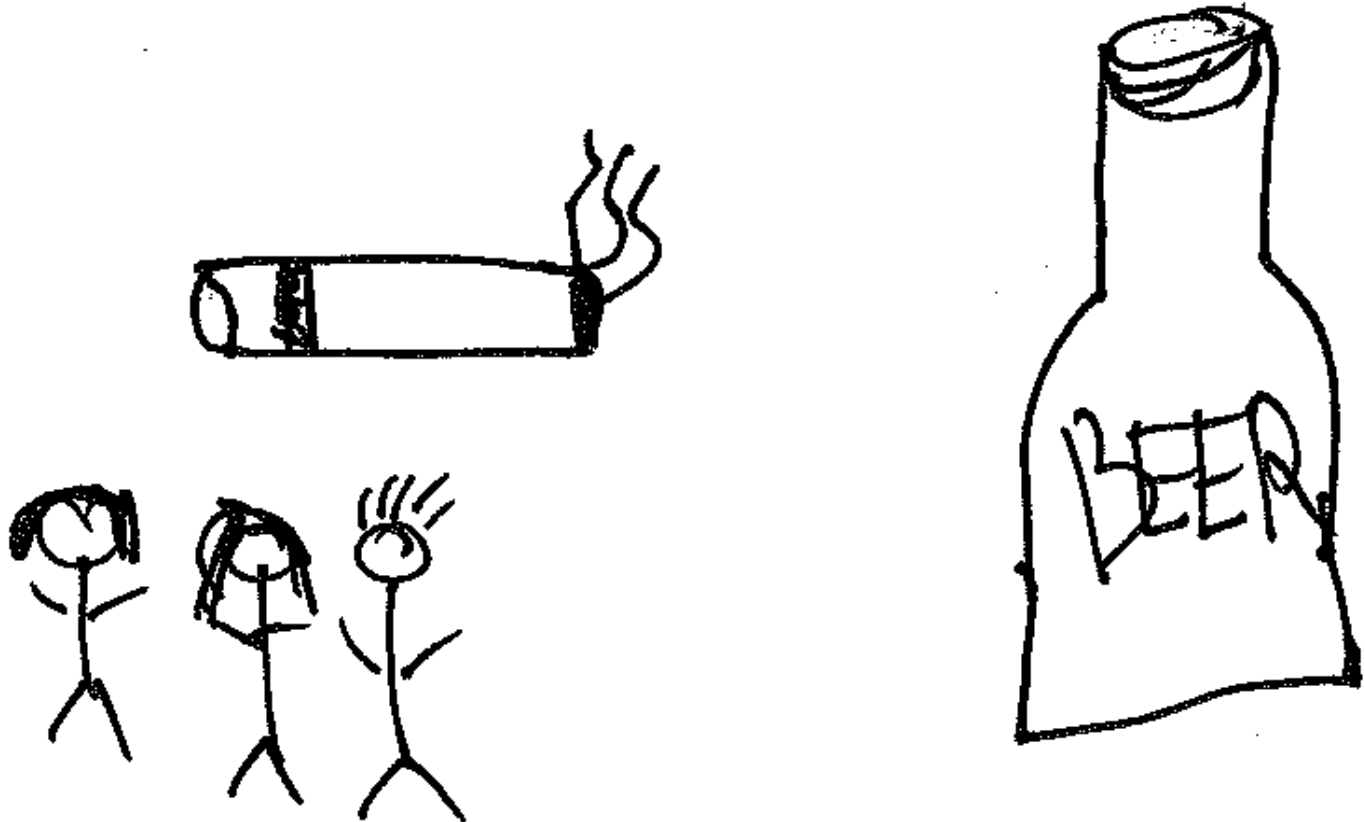
[3] (Nissen, 2006; Roebuck, Roebuck, & Roebuck, 2011)



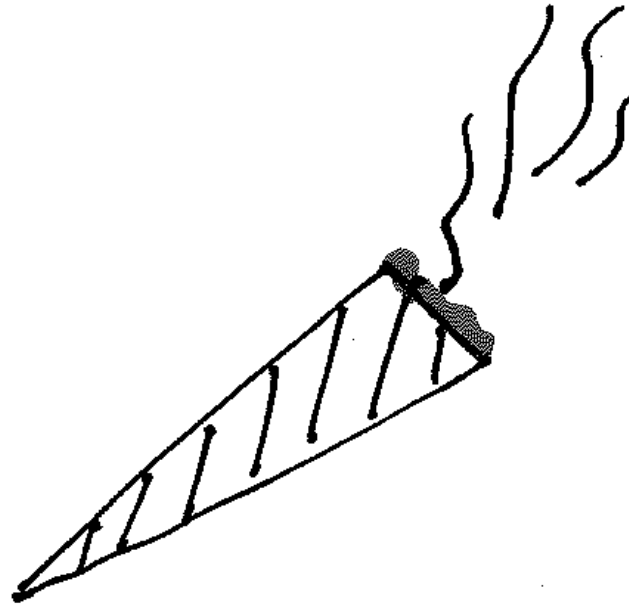
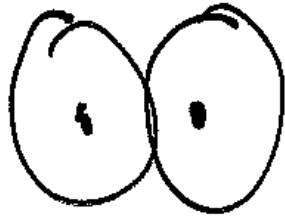
# Focus Groups with Young Men



# Focus Group with Young Men



# Focus Group with Young Men

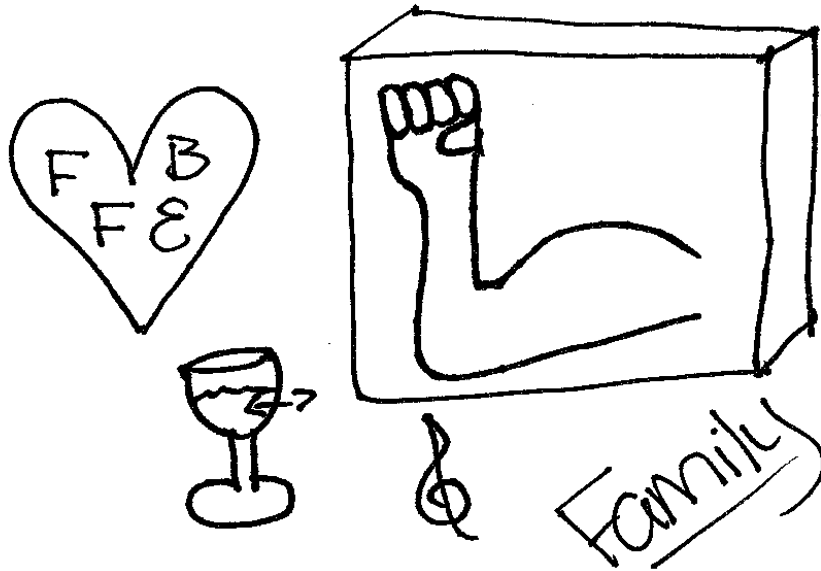


# Marshall's Story



“It was better to be homeless...”

# Kristin's Story



“I believe that I’m capable...”



# Responses to Adversity

“What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger...”

- Self-reliance
- Gratitude
- Resourcefulness

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# Criminal Offending as a Response to Victimization

**Drugs (Kristin)**

**Prostitution (Jake)**

**Theft (Ryan)**

**Robbery (Dustin)**

# Community Services

“I could cry with the staff at the shelter” (Chad)

“My counselor at Rideauwood was an angel” (Christine)

“A worker from the city came to A Different Street and signed me up for welfare...so I don't need to [steal].”

(Dustin)



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# Deficits vs. Strengths



(Roebuck, Roebuck, & Roebuck, 2011)

# END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



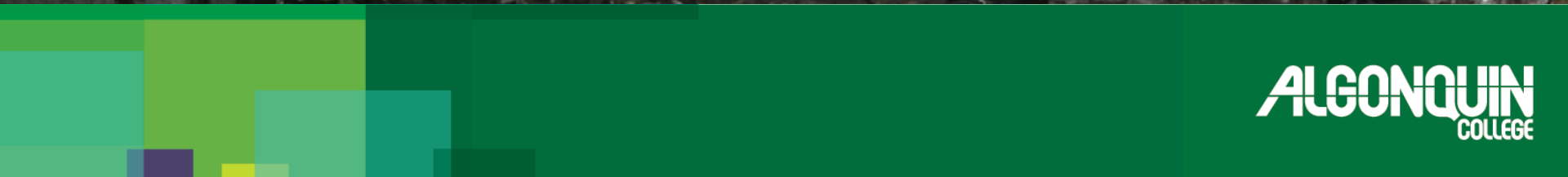
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# END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

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# Thank you

**Together we can end homelessness.**

Dr. Benjamin Roebuck

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