

also presented here for comparison to the U.S. population.³⁶ The USTS sample overall reflected higher educational attainment than the U.S. population, which is common among internet-based surveys.³⁷ To account for differences in educational attainment by age, USTS respondents are compared to the U.S. population for two age ranges: (1) ages 18 to 24 (Figure 4.24) and (2) ages 25 and older (Figure 4.25).³⁸

Figure 4.24: Educational attainment (ACS categories), ages 18 to 24

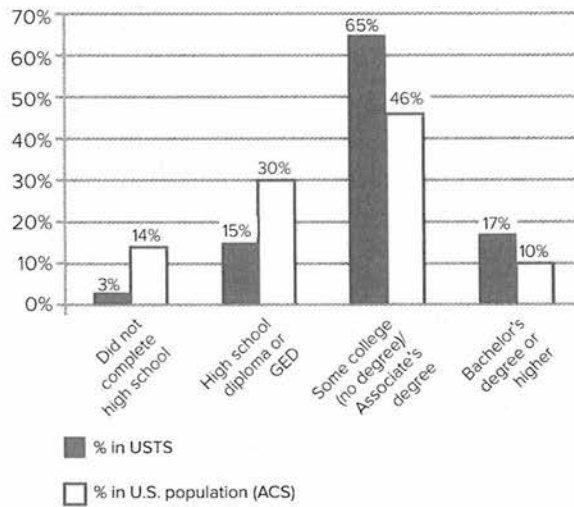
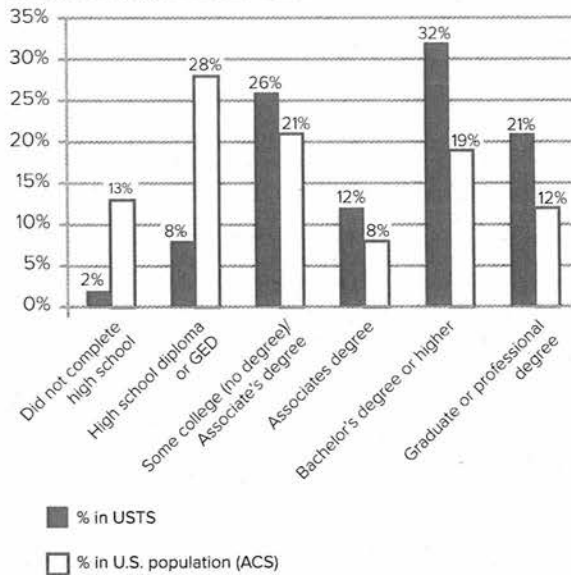


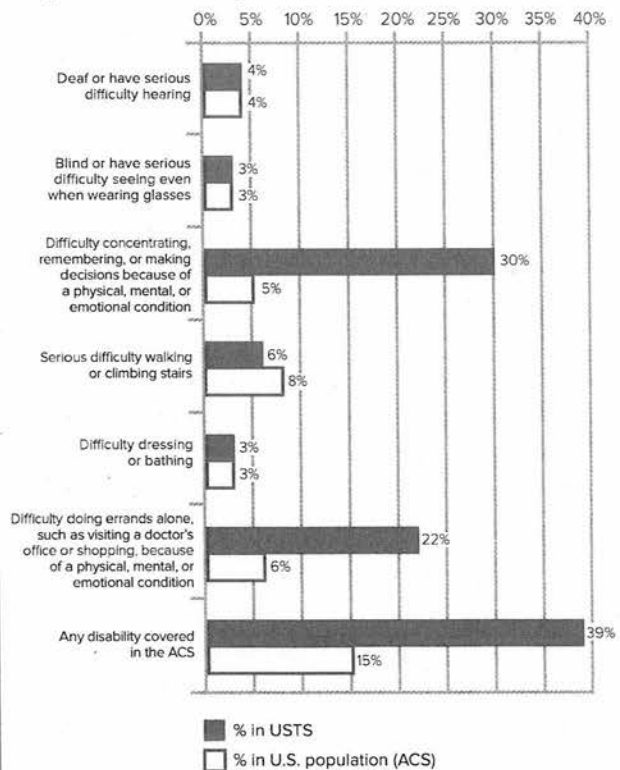
Figure 4.25: Educational attainment (ACS categories), age 25 and older



XII. Disability

Respondents received questions about their disability status based on questions from the American Community Survey (ACS) in order to compare those in the USTS sample to those with disabilities in the U.S. general population. Overall, 39% of respondents indicated that they had one or more disability as described in the ACS, compared to 15% of the general population.³⁹ Four percent (4%) of the sample reported that they were deaf or had serious difficulty hearing, similarly to the U.S. general population (4%).⁴⁰ Three percent (3%) reported that they were blind or had serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses, similarly to those in the U.S. population (3%).⁴¹ USTS respondents were six times as likely to report having serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition (30%), in contrast to those in the U.S. population (5%).⁴² Respondents were also almost four times as likely to report difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition (22%), compared to the U.S. population (6%) (Figure 4.26).⁴³

Figure 4.26: Disability status



Respondents were also asked if they identified as a person with a disability to better capture disabilities that were not outlined in the ACS. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the sample identified as a person with a disability.⁴⁴ Throughout the report, the experiences of “people with disabilities” reflect the experiences of these individuals.

XIII. Citizenship and Immigration Status

Respondents were asked about their citizenship or immigration status. In addition to those who were citizens in the sample (97%), respondents reported a range of immigration statuses, including being permanent residents (1%), visa holders (1%), refugees (<1%), or undocumented residents (<1%) (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5: Citizenship or immigration status

Citizenship or immigration status	% of respondents
U.S. citizen (by birth)	94%
U.S. citizen (naturalized)	3%
Permanent resident	1%
A visa holder (such as F-1, J-1, H1-B, or U)	1%
Undocumented resident	<1%
DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival)	<1%
Refugee status	<1%
Currently under a withholding of removal status	<1%
DAPA (Deferred Action for Parental Accountability)	<1%
Other documented status not listed	<1%

Six percent (6%) of respondents were not citizens by birth, compared to 16% in the U.S. population.⁴⁵ This included approximately 3% who were naturalized citizens, 2% were documented residents (such as permanent residents and visa holders), and <1% were undocumented residents⁴⁶ (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Citizenship or immigration status (collapsed)

Citizenship or immigration status	% in USTS	% in U.S. population (Census)
U.S. citizen (by birth)	94%	84%
U.S. citizen (naturalized)	3%	8%
Documented resident	2%	8%
Undocumented resident	<1%	

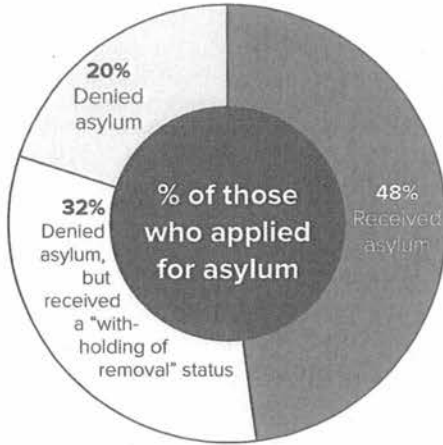
Respondents who were not U.S. citizens by birth were asked if they had ever applied for asylum in the United States. Seven percent (7%) applied for asylum, including 3% who applied on the basis of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Of those who did not apply for asylum, 51% reported that they did not need asylum in order to stay in the United States because they had access to other avenues for becoming citizens, permanent residents, or visa holders.⁴⁷ Others respondents indicated that they did not know how to apply (17%) or did not apply for other reasons (Table 4.7).

Table 4.7: Reasons for not applying for asylum

Reasons for not applying for asylum	% of those who did not apply for asylum
They had access to other legal statuses	51%
They did not know how to apply	17%
They did not want to apply	16%
They did not need to or were not eligible	12%
They were afraid to apply	3%
They believed they were past the one-year deadline	2%
A reason not listed above	30%

Nearly half (48%) of respondents who applied for asylum received it. Another 32% did not receive asylum but instead received a “withholding of removal” status, an alternative form of relief that allows someone to stay in the United States under certain conditions. One in five (20%) of these respondents were denied asylum (Figure 4.27). Of the respondents who were denied asylum (n=11, unweighted),⁴⁸ 31% reported that they were denied asylum because they were past the one-year deadline, 44% indicated that it was because the immigration official decided that they did not face danger in their country of origin, and 25% reported that it was because of a reason not listed.

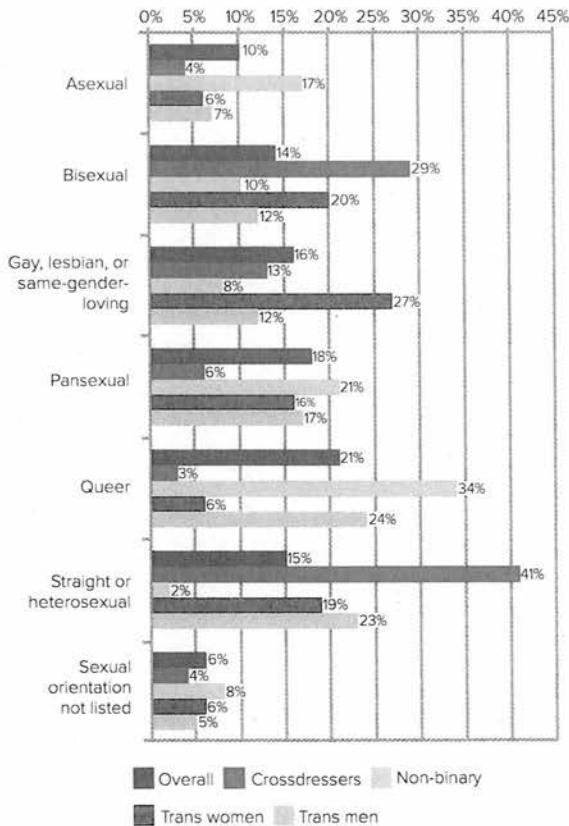
Figure 4.27: Outcome of asylum application



XIV. Sexual Orientation

Respondents were asked which terms best described their sexual orientation. Respondents were most likely to identify as queer (21%), and they also identified as pansexual (18%), gay, lesbian, or same-gender-loving (16%), straight (15%), bisexual (14%), and asexual (10%) (Figure 4.28).

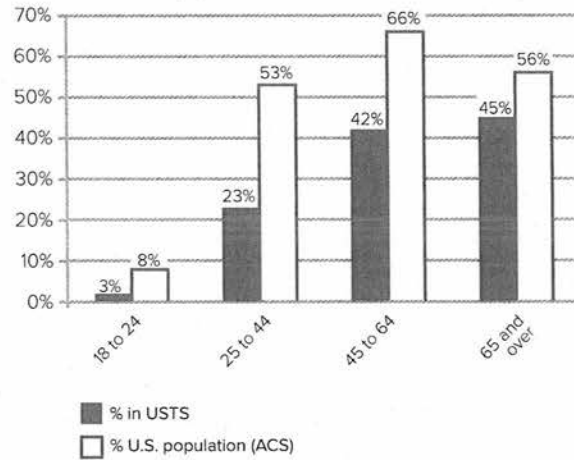
Figure 4.28: Sexual orientation



XV. Relationship Status

Respondents were asked about their relationship status. Thirty-one percent (31%) were partnered and living together, 17% were partnered and not living together, 49% were single, 2% were in a polyamorous relationship, and 1% had a relationship status that was not listed. Respondents were also asked about their current legal marital status for the purpose of comparison to the U.S. adult population through the ACS. Eighteen percent (18%) of USTS respondents were currently married, in contrast to 52% in the U.S. adult population (Figure 4.29).⁴⁹ Almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents have never been married, which is more than twice as many as the U.S. adult population (30%).

Figure 4.29: Currently married CURRENT AGE (%)



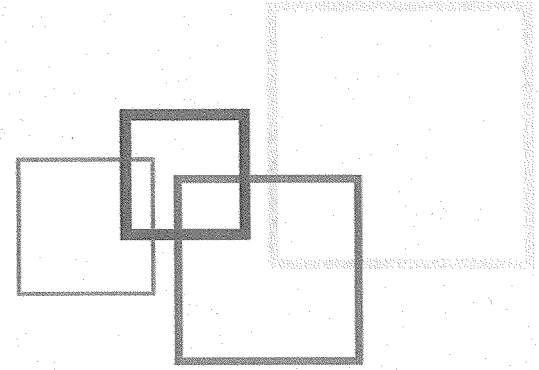
ENDNOTES | CHAPTER 4: PORTRAIT OF USTS RESPONDENTS

- 1 Respondents who were among the 12% who did not “think of [themselves] as transgender” in Q. 1.10 were eligible for the survey based on answers they provided to questions Q. 1.11–1.18. See *Appendix C (Detailed Methodology)* for a discussion of eligibility. Many of those individuals identified other terms that better described their gender and experiences.
- 2 Although only 12% of respondents reported that they did not think of themselves as transgender in response to Q. 1.10, a slightly larger number (14%) expressed discomfort with the word “transgender” being used to describe them in Q. 2.4. This may have been due to respondents’ differentiation between identity and the terminology used to describe their identity. For example, while a respondent may have identified with the word transgender, they may not have been comfortable using the term “transgender” and would have instead preferred another term to describe their identity.
- 3 See Q. 2.3.
- 4 While most respondents were categorized for analysis by gender identity based on their selection of the term that best described them in Q. 2.3 and their selection in Q. 2.1 (sex assigned at birth on their original birth certificate) alone, a small number of respondents (n=439) required further analysis of their survey responses to determine if they met the eligibility criteria for the survey and, if so, what the most appropriate gender identity categories were for analysis. This included, for example, respondents who indicated in Q. 2.1 that the gender on their original birth certificate was female and that they identified as a woman in Q. 2.3, or who indicated that the gender on their original birth certificate was male and that they identified as a man. This recoding process is described in further detail in *Appendix C (Detailed Methodology)*.
- 5 Respondents were also asked in an earlier question (Q. 1.11) if they identified “as more than one gender or as no gender (such as genderqueer or non-binary),” without asking them if that is the *best* term to describe their gender identity. Nearly half (47%) of respondents said that they identify as such. This means that some respondents who said that another term (such as transgender man, transgender woman, or crossdresser) best described their gender identity also identified as having more than one gender or as no gender.
- 6 Although the vast majority of people have either male or female on their original birth certificate, there are rare instances where the sex on a birth certificate is left blank or where a gender marker other than “male” or “female” is listed at the time of birth. It is possible that some respondents had an original birth certificate that did not list them as “male” or “female” at the time of their birth. These respondents may not have been able to accurately answer this question. Respondents were required to select one response to the question about the sex listed on their original birth certificate in Q. 2.1—either “female” or “male”—in order to proceed, since this answer was used to determine subsequent questions that they would receive later in the survey.
- 7 The age of respondents in the sample is discussed in further detail in section VI of this chapter.
- 8 Note that Q. 1.12 asked whether respondents were currently living full time in a gender different from the one assigned to them at birth. Some non-binary respondents may have been living as a non-binary person full time (including people for whom living part time in one gender and part time in another gender is most consistent with their non-binary identity), but did not select “yes” because they assumed the survey was asking only about people who were living exclusively in a binary gender (male or female) that is different than the gender on their original birth certificate.
- 9 Although 6% of crossdressers reported that they had transitioned based on Q. 1.12, the sample size of crossdressers who had transitioned was too low to report on their experiences by age.
- 10 The number of years since transitioning was calculated based on respondents’ current age as reported in Q. 2.13, and the age at which they began to transition, as reported in Q. 1.13.
- 11 Throughout this report, respondents’ experiences with being perceived as transgender by others are reported according to three categories: those who said that people could tell they were transgender “always” or “most of time” (11%), those who said that others could “sometimes” tell (32%), and those who said that others could “rarely” or “never” tell (57%).
- 12 The term “out” is used here to describe a person who openly self-identifies as transgender in their private, public, and/or professional lives.
- 13 See the *Family Life and Faith Communities* chapter for a more detailed discussion of respondents’ experiences with being out to the immediate family they grew up with and their extended family, as well as their experiences with being out to partners or spouses and children.
- 14 Respondents’ experiences with being out in the workplace are further discussed in the *Employment and the Workplace* chapter.

- 15 Respondents who reported that “Alaska Native” most accurately described their racial or ethnic identity were asked to enter their enrolled or principal corporation.
- 16 Respondents who reported that “American Indian” most accurately described their racial or ethnic identity were asked to enter their enrolled or principal tribe.
- 17 Those who reported that “biracial/multiracial” best described their racial or ethnic identity received a follow-up question in which they could select one or more of the racial or ethnic identities listed above that best described them.
- 18 Those who selected “a racial/ethnic identity not listed above” were asked to specify their identity and then received a follow-up question asking them to select the racial/ethnic identity or identities that best described them from the list above, with the exception of the “identity not listed above” category.
- 19 Racial and ethnic categories are combined in a manner similar to that in the U.S. Census, which is important for the purposes of making racial and ethnic comparisons to the U.S. population. The notable exception to U.S. Census categorization is that Middle Eastern and white respondents are reported separately throughout the report. Additionally, this report includes a Latino/a category, and other racial and ethnic categories should be considered to be of “non-Hispanic” origin, based on U.S. Census categories.
- 20 The difference in racial and ethnic population distribution in the USTS sample and the U.S. general population may be due to sampling bias that is common in internet-based surveys and convenience samples. See e.g., Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J. D., & Christian, L. M. (2014). *Internet, Phone, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method (4th ed.)*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. See also the *Methodology* chapter and *Appendix C (Detailed Methodology)* for more information about potential internet-based survey sampling bias. See *Appendix A (Characteristics of the Sample)* for unweighted frequencies and percentages for race and ethnicity in the USTS sample.
- 21 Prior research using representative samples of transgender adults have found that transgender adults differ from the general population in regard to race and ethnicity, with transgender people being more likely to be people of color. See e.g., Flores, A. R., Brown, T. N. T., & Herman, J. L. (2016). *Race and Ethnicity of Adults who Identify as Transgender in the United States*. Los Angeles, CA: Williams Institute; Conron, K. J., Scott, G., Stowell, G. S., & Landers, S. J. (2012). Transgender health in Massachusetts: Results from a household probability sample of adults. *American Journal of Public Health, 102*(1), 118–122. The USTS sample has a higher percentage of white respondents than the U.S. general population. To help correct for this sampling bias, weights for race and ethnicity were applied based on the racial and ethnic makeup of the U.S. population. While this may still over-represent white respondents relative to the makeup of the transgender adult population, this weighting procedure brings the sample closer to what is estimated to be the true population distribution for race and ethnicity for transgender people. See the *Methodology* chapter and *Appendix C (Detailed Methodology)* for more information on weighting procedures applied to the sample. See also *Appendix A (Characteristics of the Sample)* for unweighted frequencies and percentages for race and ethnicity in the USTS sample.
- 22 Although the ACS groups Middle Eastern and white people in one category, the experiences of Middle Eastern respondents are presented separately from white respondents throughout this report. Despite a low number of Middle Eastern respondents in the sample overall (<1%), it is important to report in a manner that best reflects the unique circumstances of transgender people who identify as Middle Eastern.
- 23 The weight for 18-year-old respondents was created with propensity scores developed using a regression discontinuity model. For more information on this process and other weighting procedures, such as the development and application of the “supplemental weight,” see *Appendix C (Detailed Methodology)*. See *Appendix A (Characteristics of the Sample)* for unweighted frequencies and percentages for age in the USTS sample.
- 24 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPANNRES&src=pt.
- 25 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year estimates: Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 years and over*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B16001&prodType=table. The percentages of people who reported on the primary language spoken in their home in the American Community Survey (ACS) were calculated by the research team. ACS findings include those in the U.S. population who are 5 years of age and older, in contrast to the USTS sample, which includes respondents who are 18 and older. Therefore, the comparison to the USTS sample should be interpreted with caution.
- 26 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year estimates: Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 years and over*. See note 25.
- 27 Q. 2.12 asked about religious or spiritual identity only, rather than current involvement in a faith community. More information about respondents’ experiences in faith communities (including religious and spiritual communities) can be found in the *Family and Faith Communities* chapter.

- 28 In addition to the main drop-down list of affiliations, those who identified as Christian, Jewish, or Muslim were able to provide additional specificity for their identity from a drop-down list of more specific religious affiliations in Q. 2.12. Although respondents were provided with numerous categories to specify for Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths, these lists were not exhaustive and likely did not capture all religious or spiritual identities represented in the sample. Furthermore, while those who identified as Christian were given an option to write in a Christian affiliation that was not listed, Jewish and Muslim respondents did not receive that option, which may have limited the manner in which they were able to identify their religious or spiritual identity.
- 29 Respondents who reported that they did not have a religious or spiritual identity included those who selected agnostic, atheist, or no affiliation without selecting another religious or spiritual identity.
- 30 The Current Population Survey is used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to make determinations about the state of employment in the United States.
- 31 The “supplemental weight” includes the standard survey weight for 18-year-olds and race and ethnicity, as well as additional weights for age and educational attainment that were created based on the Census Bureau’s 2014 American Community Survey (ACS). This weight was applied when comparing the USTS sample to the U.S. population for items that were sensitive to age and educational attainment, such as employment status and individual and household income.
- 32 USTS respondents seem to have similar household sizes to the U.S. population. For instance, according to the CPS, 2015 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 28% of U.S. households have a household size of one, whereas 29% of USTS respondents have a household size of one (supplemental weight applied). However, USTS respondents are less likely to be living with family members, rather than with unrelated members of the household. Sixty-four percent (64%, supplemental weight applied) of USTS respondents reported a family size of one compared to 24% in U.S. population as reported in the CPS. Available at: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar15.pdf>. Calculations were completed by the research team.
- 33 “Living in poverty” means living at or near the poverty line. The research team calculated the USTS poverty measure using the official poverty measure, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, which can be found at: <https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html>. The income ranges in the USTS allowed for designation of respondents as living in or near poverty if their total family income fell under 124% of the official poverty line.
- 34 Proctor, B. D., Semega, J. L., & Kollar, M. A. (2016). *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015*. (p. 12). DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.pdf>.
- 35 Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2015). *The Employment Situation—August 2015*. Available at: http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_09042015.pdf; Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2015). *The Employment Situation—September 2015*. Available at: http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_10022015.pdf.
- 36 The educational attainment results reported for USTS respondents likely overestimates the number of transgender people with a level of education beyond high school and/or some college. This may be due to the method by which the survey was administered (online only) and the sampling technique (convenience sampling). Population-based surveys in several states have found lower educational attainment or no difference in educational attainment among transgender people when compared to non-transgender people. Conron, et al. See note 21; Meyer, I. H., Brown, T. N. T., Herman, J. L., Reisner, S. L., & Bockting, W. O. (in press). Demographic characteristics and health outcomes among transgender adults in select U.S. regions in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. *American Journal of Public Health*.
- 37 See the *Methodology* chapter and the detailed methodology explanation in *Appendix C (Detailed Methodology)* for more information about potential internet-based survey sampling bias. See also note 20.
- 38 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year estimates: Educational Attainment*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S1501&prodType=table.
- 39 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Survey 1-Year estimates: Disability characteristics*. Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S1810&prodType=table. Calculations were completed by the research team.
- 40 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). See note 39.
- 41 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). See note 39.
- 42 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). See note 39.
- 43 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). See note 39.
- 44 The difference in the reported rate of those who had one or more listed ACS disabilities (39%) and those who identified as a person with a disability (28%) may be due to some individuals not being comfortable referring to themselves as a person with a disability. However, those who identified as people with a disability likely reflect a much wider range of disabilities.

- 45 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year estimates: Sex by age by nativity and citizenship status*. Available at; https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B05003&prodType=table. Calculations were completed by the research team.
- 46 Documented and undocumented residents are often underrepresented in surveys for many reasons, including concerns about jeopardizing their residency by revealing information about their immigration status on a survey. When asking questions relating to citizenship and immigration status, the survey included statements reminding respondents that their answers were confidential and could not be used against them. However, it is likely that the number of documented and undocumented residents is underrepresented in this sample.
- 47 This percentage includes those who reported that they had access to other legal statuses and those who indicated that they were already citizens or permanent residents in Q. 9.8.
- 48 Due to the small sample size, the unweighted frequency is being presented alongside weighted percentages here to be clear that the percentages reflect the experiences of a small sample of respondents. While it is important to present these experiences in this report, the findings presented in this sentence should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size.
- 49 U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). *2014 American Community Survey 1-Year estimates: Sex by marital status by age for the population 15 years and over*. Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B12002&prodType=table. These findings, as presented in the ACS, include adults who are currently married with both spouses who are present and not present based on the ACS definitions. Calculations were completed by the research team based on 2014 ACS data.



CHAPTER 5

Family Life and Faith Communities

Family life and the state of relationships with family members, including immediate and extended family, spouses and partners, and children, have been shown to impact life outcomes in many areas, such as physical and mental health, economic status, and housing stability.¹ Experiences of support and rejection within the family environment can have a profound effect on these outcomes for transgender people. The survey explored aspects of family relationships for transgender people, particularly the impact of family acceptance and rejection.

Since spiritual and religious communities (such as within a church, synagogue, mosque, or other faith community) can play a significant role within families and throughout an individual's life, the survey also examined respondents' experiences with faith communities.

Notable differences in respondents' experiences based on demographic and other characteristics are reported throughout the chapter.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Sixty percent (60%) of respondents who were out to the immediate family they grew up with reported that they had supportive families, and 40% had families that were neutral or not supportive.
 - One in ten (10%) reported that an immediate family member had been violent towards them because they were transgender.
 - Fifteen percent (15%) ran away from home and/or were kicked out of the house because they were transgender.

- ▶ More than one-quarter (27%) of respondents who have been out to any of their past or current spouses or partners reported that a spouse or partner ended their relationship solely or partly because they were transgender, including 10% who had a relationship end solely because they were transgender.

- ▶ Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents were parents.

- ▶ Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents who were out to their children had a child who stopped speaking to them or spending time with them after coming out as transgender.

- ▶ One-half (50%) of respondents who were out to their family experienced at least one form of rejection from the immediate family they grew up with, their spouse or partner, and/or their children because they were transgender.

- ▶ Family support was associated with positive outcomes while family rejection was associated with negative outcomes. Respondents who were rejected were:
 - Nearly twice as likely to have experienced homelessness (40%) as those who were not rejected (22%).
 - Almost twice as likely to have engaged in sex work (16%) as those who were not rejected (9%).
 - More likely to have attempted suicide (49%) than those who were not rejected (33%).

- ▶ Nearly one in five (19%) respondents who had ever been part of a spiritual or religious community left due to rejection. Forty-two percent (42%) of those who left found a welcoming spiritual or religious community.

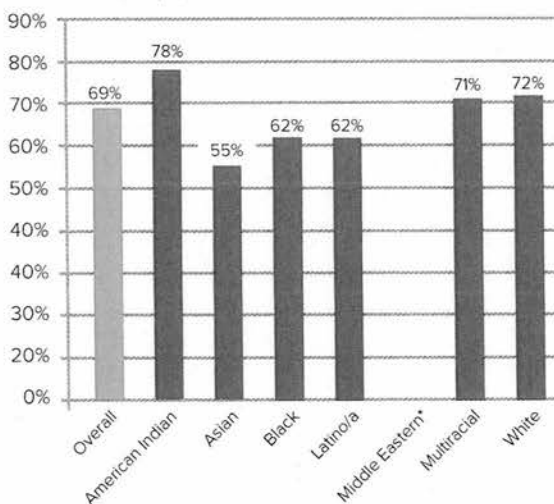
I. Outness to Family and Friends

Respondents received a series of questions to determine whether they were “out”² about their transgender identity to various family members and friends. Specifically, respondents were asked whether people in different groups knew they were transgender, including spouses and partners, children, immediate family they grew up with, extended family, LGBT³ friends, and straight and non-transgender (non-LGBT) friends. Respondents then received questions regarding the impact that anti-transgender bias had on the relationships with most of the people in those groups.

Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents reported having a current or former spouse or partner. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of those were out to their current spouse or partner and 53% had been out to at least one of their former spouses or partners. Overall, 88% of these respondents were or have been out to a current or former spouse or partner.

Of the 18% of respondents who had children, 69% reported being out to at least one child. This varied by race and ethnicity, with American Indian respondents (78%) reporting the highest level of outness, and Black (62%), Latino/a (62%), and Asian (55%) individuals being out to their children less often (Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Out to children
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



*Sample size too low to report

Respondents were asked whether they were currently out to all, most, some, or none of the people in several groups, including the immediate family they grew up with, extended family,⁴ LGBT friends, and straight and non-transgender (non-LGBT) friends. Results for each group reflect only respondents who reported having people from that group in their lives.

More than half (53%) of respondents reported that they were out to all immediate family they grew up with. This number decreased to 49% when considering spouses or partners and children as part of the immediate family. Respondents were less likely to be out to extended family members, with 23% reporting that they were out to all extended family. Overall, less than one-quarter (22%) of respondents were out to all immediate family members—including spouses, partners and children—and extended family members.

Respondents were also asked whether their LGBT and non-LGBT friends knew that they were transgender. LGBT friends were the largest group of people among whom survey respondents were out, with 62% reporting that they were out to all of their LGBT friends. In contrast, less than one-third (32%) of respondents were out to all of their non-LGBT friends (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Outness to family and friend groups

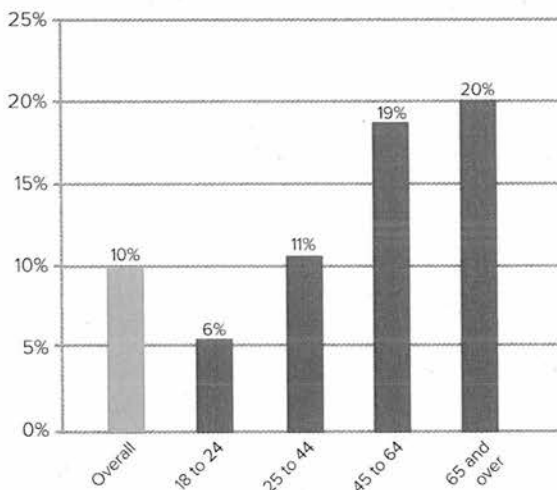
Family and friend groups	% of respondents who were out as transgender to family or friend group		
	All	Most or some	None
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) friends	62%	34%	4%
Immediate family they grew up with (such as parents or siblings)	53%	25%	22%
Immediate family they grew up with, spouses/partners, children	49%	43%	8%
Straight, non-transgender (non-LGBT) friends	32%	56%	12%
Extended family (such as aunts, uncles, and cousins)	23%	38%	39%
Immediate family they grew up with, extended family, spouses/partners, and children	22%	70%	8%

II. Relationships with Spouses or Partners

Those who were out to a spouse or partner were asked whether a spouse or partner had ended their relationship because they were transgender. More than a quarter (27%) reported that a spouse or partner ended their relationship solely or partly because they were transgender, including 10% who had a relationship end solely because they were transgender.

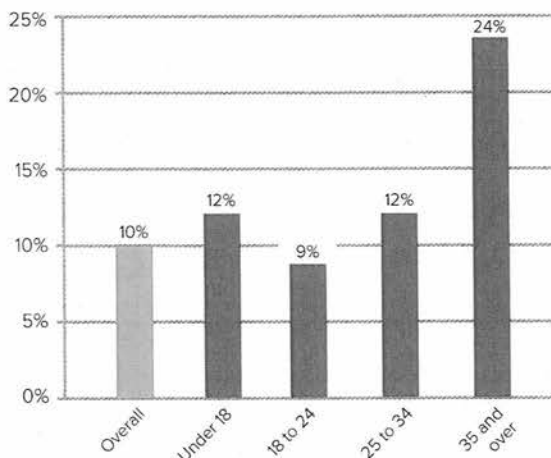
Whether a relationship ended solely due to being transgender differed based on a respondents' current age, with those aged 45 and older being twice as likely to have this experience (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Spouse/partner ended relationship solely because of transgender status
CURRENT AGE (%)



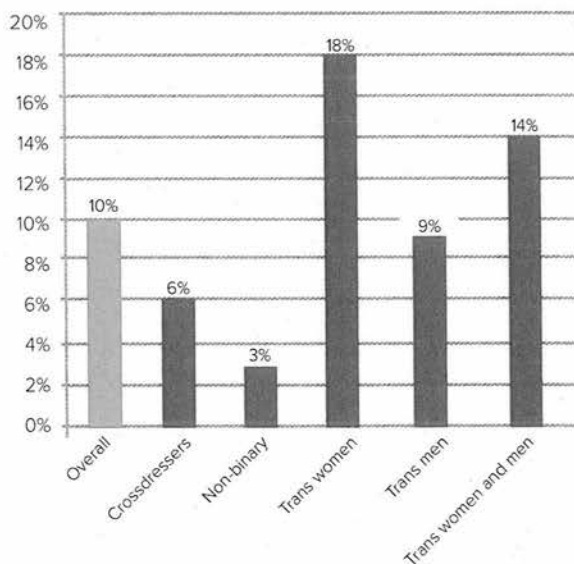
The age at which a respondent transitioned also affected the likelihood of a relationship ending. Respondents who transitioned at age 35 or older were more than twice as likely to have their relationship end solely due to being transgender (24%) (Figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Spouse/partner ended relationship solely because of transgender status
AGE OF TRANSITION (%)



The likelihood of a relationship ending also differed by gender identity, with transgender women (18%) being more likely to have a relationship with a spouse or partner end solely because of being transgender than transgender men (9%), crossdressers (6%), and non-binary people (3%) (Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4: Spouse/partner ended relationship solely because of transgender status
GENDER IDENTITY (%)



More than one-quarter (27%) of respondents who were out to their spouse or partner reported that a spouse or partner ended their relationship solely or partly because they were transgender, including 10% who had a relationship end solely because they were transgender.

Respondents were also asked whether a current or former romantic or sexual partner had ever been violent toward them. More than half (54%) reported that they had experienced some form of intimate partner violence. Experiences with intimate partner violence are discussed further in the *Harassment and Violence* chapter.

III. Parental Status and Related Children in the Household

Eighteen percent (18%) of people in the sample were parents,⁵ and of those individuals, more than two-thirds (69%) reported that they were out as transgender to at least one of their children.

In comparison to the U.S. adult population, USTS respondents were substantially less likely to have related children living in their home. According to the Current Population Survey, 34% of adults in the U.S. population had at least one related child under the age of 18 living in their household in 2015,⁶ which was more than twice as many

In Our Own Voices

“When I finally had the courage to come out, my parents, who I knew would freak out, did the unthinkable. They assured me I had their complete support to be who I am. I was never prouder than in that moment.”

“My father physically assaulted me and kicked me out of the house. He screamed at me, calling me pathetic, a waste, worthless, and so on. I sat in silence.”

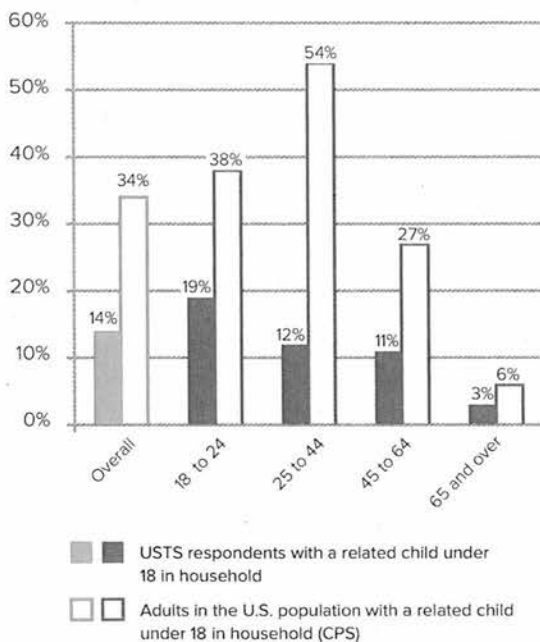
“When I was 20, I slipped up and accidentally outed myself to my parents. It was the worst mistake of my life. They spoke with a pastor who convinced them that I was possessed by demon. A couple of days later, they told me to leave and not come back. I spent the next six months homeless.”

“Within an hour of coming out to my parents, I was kicked out into the cold with very few items and my car taken away. I was soon informed by my college that my parents had withdrawn my tuition for the upcoming spring semester. I was devastated.”

“It took my family a while to come around. At first they didn’t accept me, but they eventually saw how much happier I am and are now my biggest supporters.”

as USTS respondents (14%).⁷ These differences persisted across all age groups, with USTS respondents aged 25 to 44 being more than four times less likely to have a related child under the age of 18 living in their household (12%) than the corresponding age group in the U.S. population (54%) (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.5: Respondents with related children under 18 living in household
AGE (%)



IV. Relationships with Children

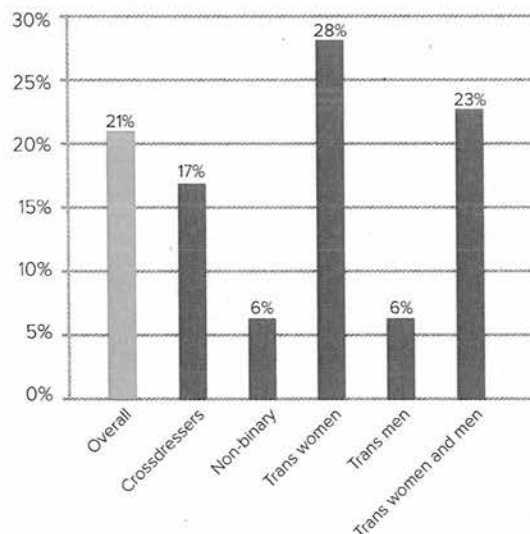
Respondents who reported that they were out to at least one of their children were asked a question to determine whether being transgender had ever negatively impacted a relationship with their child. Specifically, they were asked whether any of their children had ever stopped speaking to or spending time with them because they were transgender. More than one in five (21%) reported that at least one of their children stopped speaking

More than one in five (21%) of those who were out to their children reported that at least one of their children stopped speaking or spending time with them, temporarily or permanently.

or spending time with them, at least for a period of time.

The likelihood of this experience differed by gender identity, with transgender women (28%) being more than four times as likely to report that their child stopped speaking or spending time with them as transgender men (6%) and non-binary respondents (6%) (Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Children stopped speaking or spending time with respondent because of transgender status
GENDER IDENTITY (%)



Overall, of respondents who have had a spouse or partner and/or who have children, 28% have had a relationship with their spouse or partner or child end, at least temporarily.

V. Family Acceptance and Support

Respondents who reported that they were out to all, most, or some of the immediate family they grew up with were asked to assess how supportive their family was of them as a transgender person using a five-point scale from “very supportive” to “very unsupportive.” The categories were collapsed to create a new variable reflecting a supportive, neutral, or unsupportive family.⁸

More than half (60%) reported that their family was supportive, 18% had unsupportive families, and 22% had families that were neither supportive nor unsupportive (“neutral”).

Experiences varied widely between those with family support and those with unsupportive families, with family support being associated with a reduced likelihood of negative experiences.

Respondents with family support were:

- *More likely to be employed (65%) than those with unsupportive families (52%).*
- *Less likely to have ever done sex work (11%) than those with unsupportive families (16%).*
- *Less likely to have experienced homelessness (27%) than those with unsupportive families (45%).*
- *Less likely to report currently experiencing serious psychological distress⁹ (31%) in contrast to those with unsupportive families (50%).*
- *Less likely to have attempted suicide (37%) than those with unsupportive families (54%).*

More than half (60%) of those who were out to their immediate family reported that their family was supportive, while 18% said that their family was unsupportive.

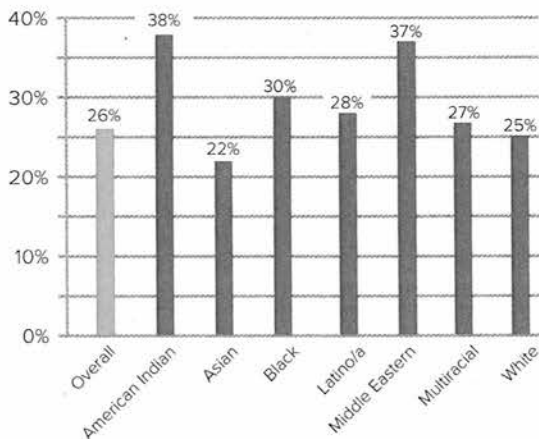
VI. Relationships with Immediate Family/ Family of Origin¹⁰

Nearly half (44%) of respondents who were out to all, most, or some of the immediate family they grew up with (such as parents and siblings) reported that they had experienced at least one form of family rejection outlined in the survey. This rejection included relationships ending, family violence, being kicked out of the house, not being allowed to wear clothes matching their gender identity, and being sent to a professional to stop them from being transgender.

A. Ended Relationships

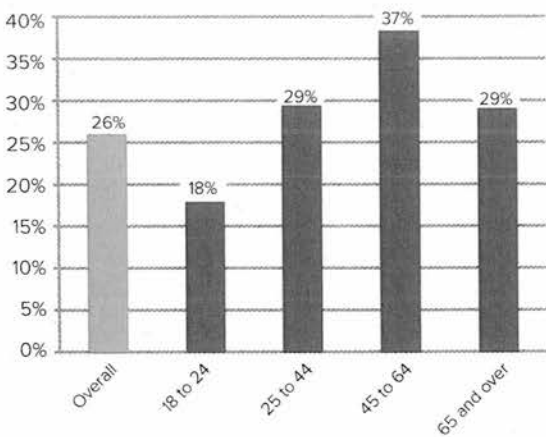
Among those who were out to their immediate family, more than one-quarter (26%) reported that an immediate family member stopped speaking to them for a long time or ended their relationship altogether because they were transgender. This was higher among American Indian (38%), Middle Eastern (37%), and Black (30%) respondents, and lower for Asian (22%) respondents (Figure 5.7). Undocumented residents (39%) were also more likely to face this form of family rejection than documented non-citizens (22%) and citizens (26%).

Figure 5.7: Immediate family member stopped speaking or ended relationship RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Whether a family member stopped speaking to or ended a relationship with a respondent differed by age, with 18 to 24 year olds experiencing the least amount of family rejection of this nature (18%) compared to those in other age groups, such as 45 to 64 year olds (37%) (Figure 5.8).

Figure 5.8: Immediate family member stopped speaking or ended relationship CURRENT AGE (%)

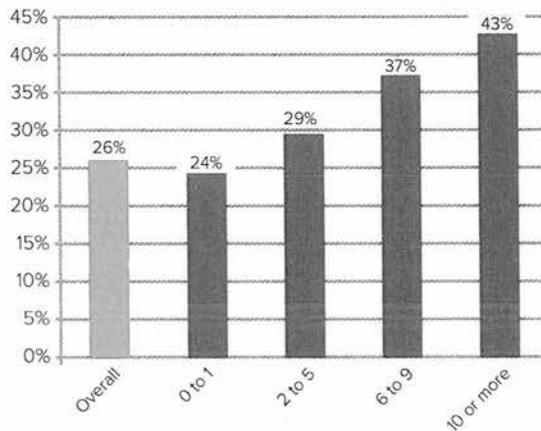


Those who transitioned in the last year (24%) were less likely to have a family member stop speaking to them or end a relationship than those who transitioned 2 to 5 years ago (29%), 6 to 9 years

More than one-quarter (26%) of respondents reported that an immediate family member stopped speaking to them for a long time or ended their relationship altogether because they were transgender.

ago (37%), and 10 or more years ago (43%) (Figure 5.9).

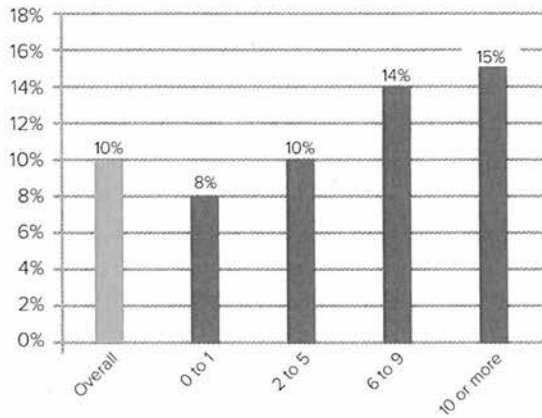
Figure 5.9: Immediate family member stopped speaking or ended relationship YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



B. Family Violence

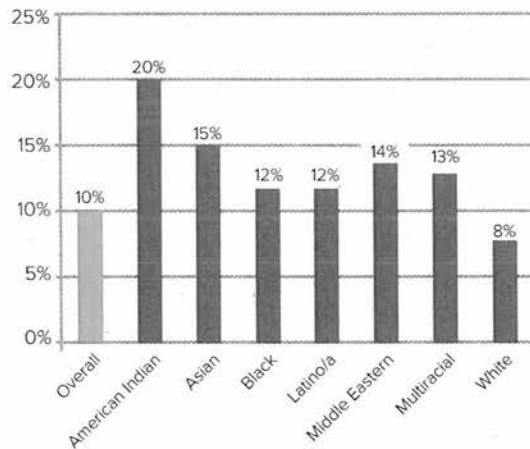
Among those who were out to their immediate family, one out of every ten (10%) respondents reported that a family member was violent towards them because they were transgender. Prevalence of family violence differed greatly depending on the time period during which a respondent transitioned, with those transitioning 10 or more years ago (15%) experiencing almost twice as much violence as those who transitioned in the past year (8%) (Figure 5.10).

Figure 5.10: Experienced violence by family member YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



American Indian respondents (20%) were twice as likely to experience family violence, and other people of color, such as Asian (15%) and Middle Eastern (14%) respondents, also experienced higher rates of violence (Figure 5.11).

Figure 5.11: Experienced violence by family member RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Undocumented residents were more than twice as likely to have experienced family violence (25%) as their documented non-citizen (13%) and citizen (9%) counterparts.

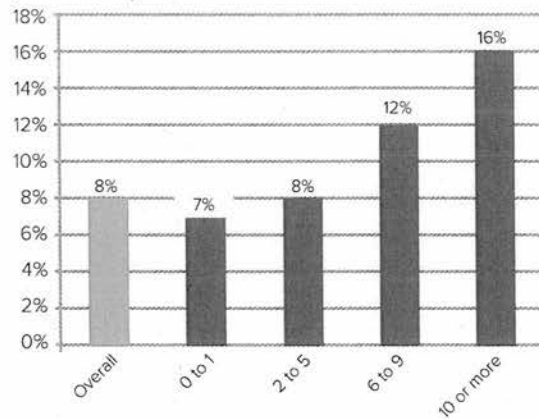
Family violence was associated with increased likelihood of negative experiences. Those who experienced family violence were:

- More than twice as likely to have experienced homelessness (59%) than those who did not experience family violence (29%).
- More likely to be currently experiencing serious psychological distress (53%) than those who did not experience family violence (35%).
- More likely to have attempted suicide in their lifetime (65%) than those who did not experience family violence (39%).

C. Kicked out of the House

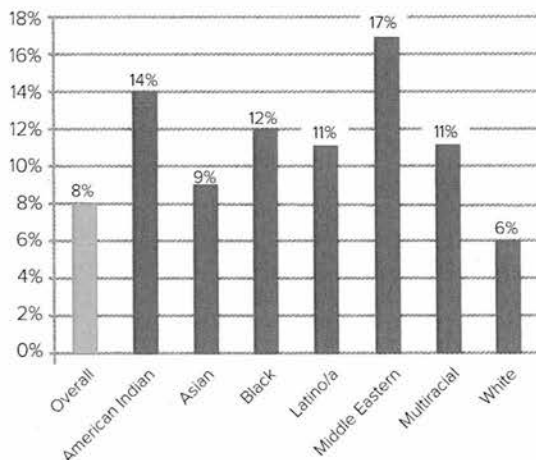
Eight percent (8%) of respondents who were out to the immediate family they grew up with were kicked out of the house, which represents 6% of the whole sample. Those who transitioned 10 or more years ago were twice as likely to have been kicked out of the house (16%) as those who transitioned within the last year (7%) (Figure 5.12).

Figure 5.12: Kicked out of the house by family YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



People of color were kicked out of the house at higher rates, with Middle Eastern respondents (17%) being twice as likely, and American Indian (14%), Black (12%), Latino/a (11%), multiracial (11%), and Asian (9%) respondents experiencing this form of rejection more than white respondents (6%) (Figure 5.13).

Figure 5.13: Kicked out of the house by family RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Being kicked out of the house was associated with an increased likelihood of a range of negative experiences related to economic stability, mental health, and physical health. Respondents who were kicked out of the house were:

- More likely to be living in poverty (43%) than those who were not kicked out of the house (28%), and had lower incomes overall.
- Three times more likely to have ever done sex work (33%) than those who were not kicked out of the house (11%).
- Almost three times as likely to have experienced homelessness (74%) as those who were not kicked out of the house (28%).
- More than twice as likely to be living with HIV (3.5%) than those who were not kicked out of the house (1.5%).
- Substantially more likely to have attempted suicide (66%) than those who were not kicked out of the house (39%).
- More likely to be currently experiencing serious psychological distress (50%) than those who were not kicked out of the house (36%).

Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents who were out to their immediate family reported that their family sent them to a professional—such as a therapist, counselor, or religious advisor—to stop them from being transgender.

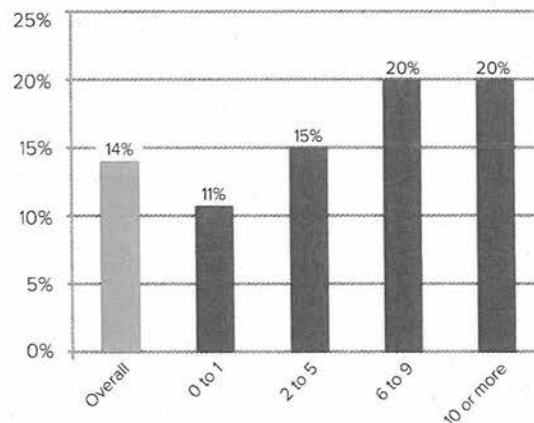
D. Not Allowed To Wear Clothes Matching One’s Gender Identity

More than one-quarter (27%) of respondents who were out to the immediate family they grew up with were not allowed to wear clothes that matched their gender.

E. Sent to a Professional to Stop Them from Being Transgender

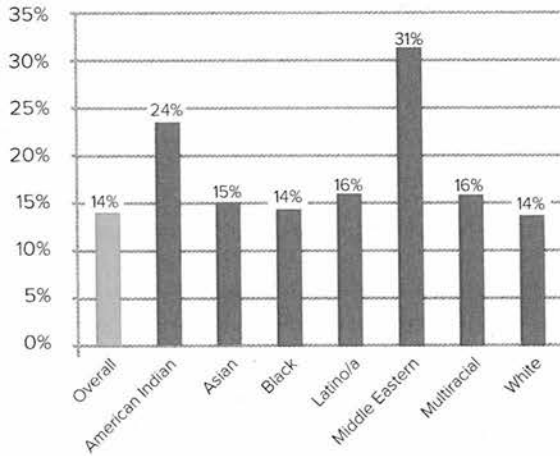
Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents who were out reported that their immediate family had sent them to a professional—such as a therapist, counselor, or religious advisor—to stop them from being transgender. This represents 11% of the whole sample. Those who transitioned 6 or more years ago (20%) were twice as likely to be sent to a professional as those who transitioned within the last year (11%) (Figure 5.14).

Figure 5.14: Sent to a professional to stop them from being transgender YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



Rates differed by race and ethnicity, with nearly one-third of Middle Eastern respondents (31%) and nearly one-quarter of American Indian respondents (24%) being sent to a professional (Figure 5.15).

Figure 5.15: Sent to a professional to stop them from being transgender
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



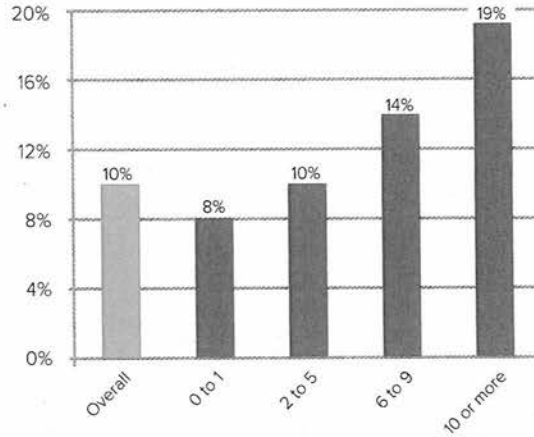
Additional details on respondents' experiences with professionals who attempted to change their gender identity are discussed further in the "Conversion Therapy and Other Pressures to De-Transition" section of the *Health* chapter.

VII. Ran Away From Home

One out of every ten (10%) respondents who were out to their immediate family ran away from home because they were transgender. Almost one-third (32%) of those individuals ran away at age 15 or younger.

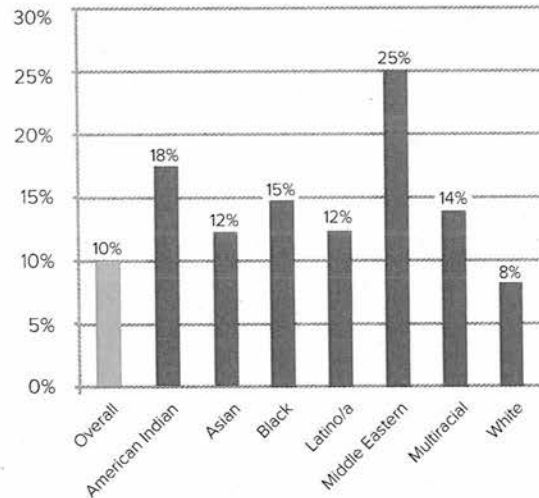
Respondents were more than twice as likely to have run away from home if they transitioned 10 or more years ago (19%) as compared to those who had transitioned within the past year (8%) (Figure 5.16).

Figure 5.16: Ran away from home
YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



People of color were more likely to have run away from home, with Middle Eastern (25%), American Indian (18%), Black (15%), multiracial (14%), Asian (12%), and Latino/a (12%) respondents all reporting that they had run away at higher rates than white respondents (8%) (Figure 5.17).

Figure 5.17: Ran away from home
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Rates also differed according to citizenship status, with undocumented residents (36%) running away from home more than three times as often as citizens (10%) and more than documented non-citizen residents (14%).

Overall, 15% of those who were out to their immediate family, or 11% of the whole sample, ran away from home and/or were kicked out of the house.

VIII. Supportive Family Behaviors

Those who were out to their immediate family were asked whether any of the immediate family they grew up with demonstrated support of them as a transgender person through any specific acts listed in the question, such as using preferred names, using correct pronouns, and providing financial support for their transition. Eighty-two percent (82%) of respondents reported that at least one immediate family member supported them through at least one of these acts, while 18% did not experience any of the supportive acts (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Family support

Supportive family behaviors	% of respondents
Told respondent they respect and/or support them	65%
Used their preferred name	58%
Used the correct pronouns	55%
Stood up for them with family, friends, or others	36%
Did research to learn how to best support them	33%
Gave money to help with gender transition	18%
Supported them in another way	11%
Provided help with changing name and/or gender on an ID document	10%
One or more experiences listed	82%

IX. Family Rejection Overall

A variable was created to combine all forms of family rejection examined in the survey. This included whether the respondent had a spouse, partner, or child end a relationship, reported that their family was unsupportive, or had any of the five specific rejecting experiences outlined in section VI of this chapter. One half (50%) of respondents who were out to family members reported that they experienced some form of family rejection, which represents 46% of the overall sample.¹¹

Experience with family rejection differed by the age at which a respondent transitioned, with 68% of those who transitioned at age 35 or older experiencing rejection, compared to 56% of those who transitioned under the age of 18 (Figure 5.18). Among respondents who transitioned ten or more years ago, 68% reported family rejection compared to 48% of those who transitioned in the past year (Figure 5.19).

Figure 5.18: Any family rejection AGE OF TRANSITION (%)

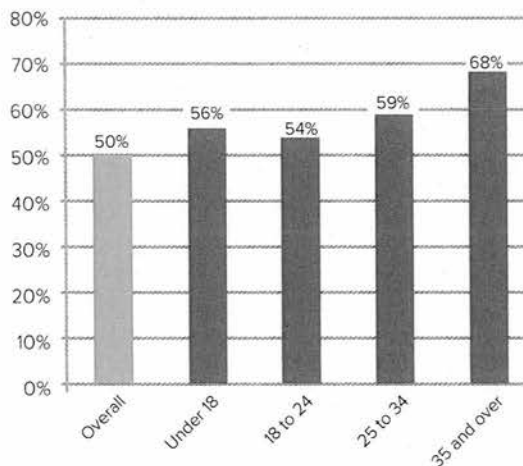
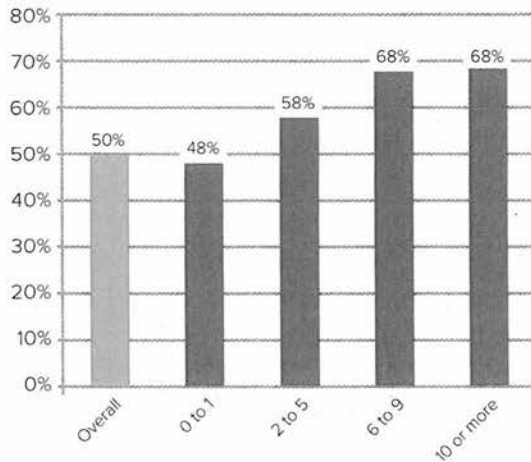
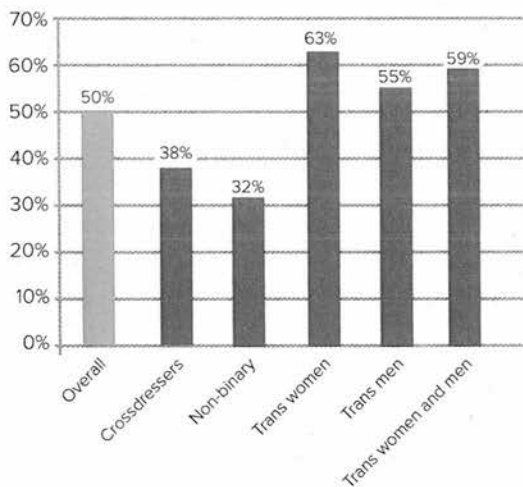


Figure 5.19: Any family rejection YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



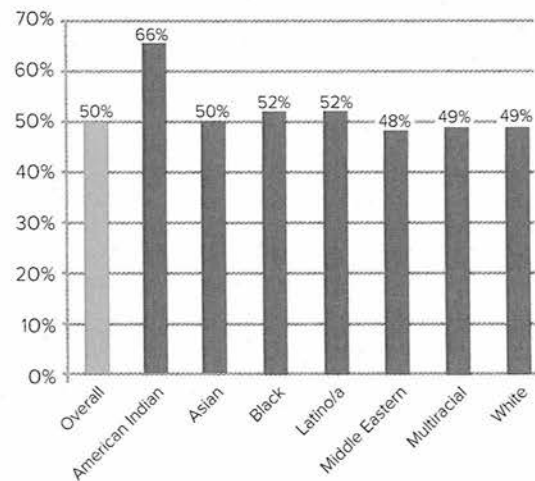
Family rejection also differed by gender identity, with transgender women (63%) experiencing rejection more than transgender men (55%), and transgender men and women (59%) experiencing nearly twice as much rejection as non-binary respondents (32%) (Figure 5.20).

Figure 5.20: Any family rejection GENDER IDENTITY (%)



Family rejection among respondents of different racial or ethnic identities varied little, although American Indian (66%) respondents experienced higher levels of rejection (Figure 5.21).

Figure 5.21: Any family rejection RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



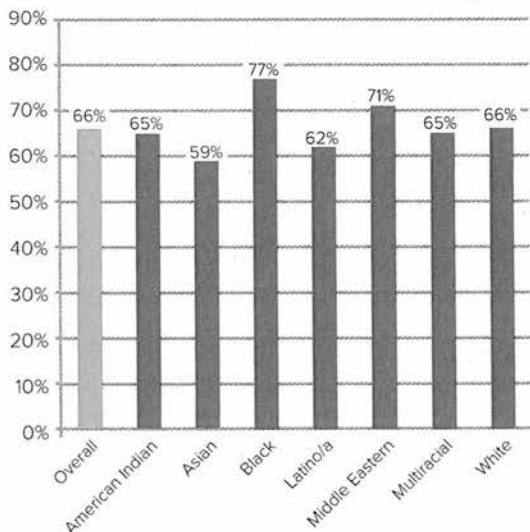
Respondents who experienced family rejection were:

- Almost twice as likely to have experienced homelessness (40%) as those who were not rejected (22%).
- Nearly twice as likely to have done in sex work (16%) as those who were not rejected (9%).
- More likely to have attempted suicide (49%) than those who were not rejected (33%).

X. Experiences with a Faith Community

The survey explored respondents' experiences with a spiritual or religious community ("faith community"), such as a church, synagogue, mosque, or other faith community. Two-thirds (66%) of the survey sample had been part of a faith community at some point in their life. Black (77%) and Middle Eastern (71%) respondents were more likely to have been part of a faith community than respondents of other races and ethnicities (Figure 5.22).

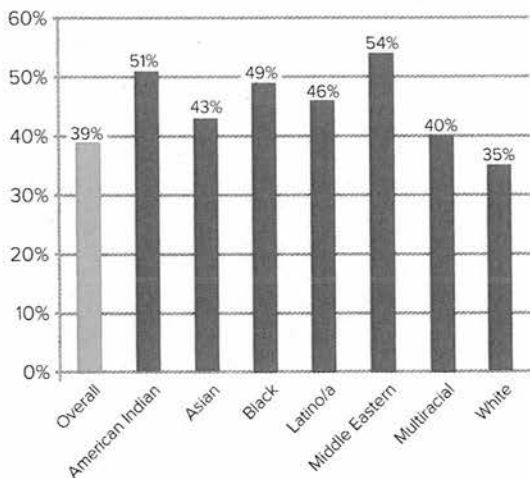
Figure 5.22: Ever been part of a faith community RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



A. Leaving a Faith Community Due to Fear of Rejection

More than one-third (39%) of respondents who have been part of a faith community left due to fear of being rejected because they were transgender. People of color, including Middle Eastern (54%), American Indian (51%), Black (49%), Latino/a (46%), Asian (43%), and multiracial (40%) respondents, were more likely to leave because they were afraid of rejection (Figure 5.23).

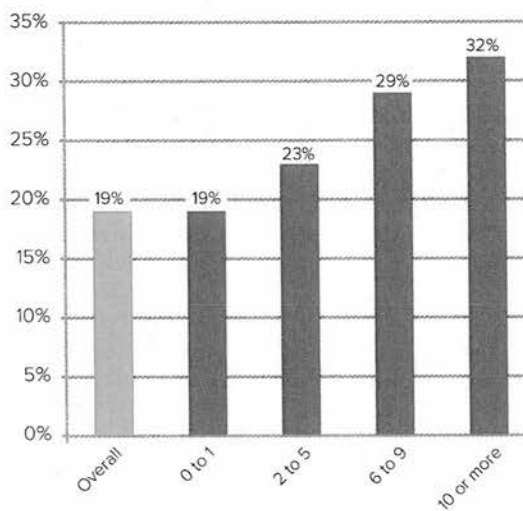
Figure 5.23: Ever left faith community due to fear of rejection RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



B. Leaving a Faith Community Due to Rejection

Nearly one in five (19%) respondents who had been part of a faith community left because they were actually rejected (in contrast to feared rejection as reported in the last subsection), which represents 12% of all respondents. Experiences varied based on the amount of time since transition, with a third (32%) of those who transitioned 10 or more years ago leaving a faith community due to rejection (Figure 5.24).

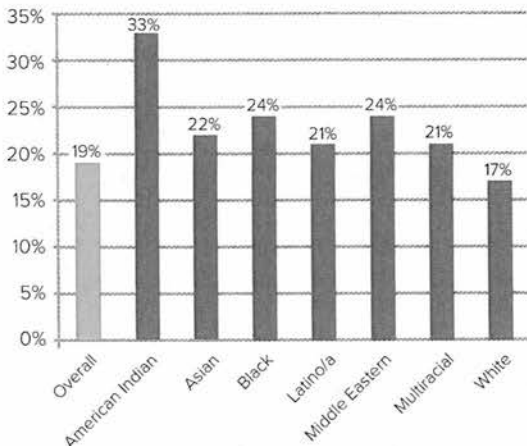
Figure 5.24: Ever left faith community due to rejection YEARS SINCE TRANSITIONING (%)



People of color were rejected by their faith communities at higher rates, with one-third of American Indian respondents (33%) and almost one-quarter of Black (24%) and Middle Eastern (24%) individuals leaving for this reason (Figure 5.25).

More than one-third (39%) of respondents who have been part of a faith community left because they feared rejection as a transgender person.

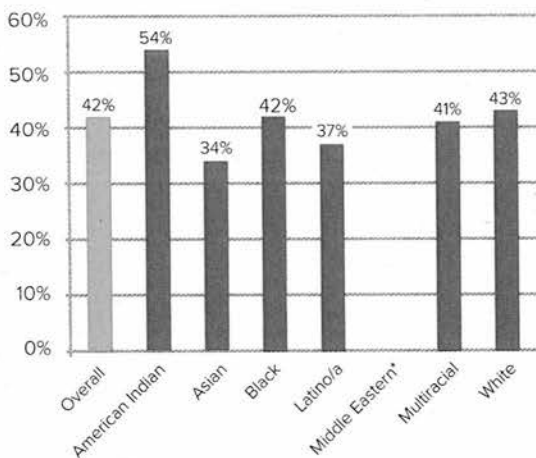
Figure 5.25: Ever left faith community due to rejection RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



C. Welcoming Communities and Experiences Within the Past Year

Of the people who had been rejected by a faith community, 42% found a new community that welcomed them as a transgender person. This differed by respondents' race or ethnicity, with American Indian respondents (54%) being more likely to find a welcoming community, and Latino/a (37%) and Asian (34%) respondents being least likely (Figure 5.26).

Figure 5.26: Found new welcoming faith community after rejection RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



*Sample size too low to report

Nearly one-third (30%) of those who had ever been part of a faith community reported that they had been part of such a community in the past year, which is 19% of the overall sample. Additionally, sixty percent (60%) of them were in a community where leaders or other members thought or knew they were transgender.

D. Acceptance Within Faith Communities in the Past Year

Respondents whose faith community leaders or members thought or knew they were transgender were asked about a series of behaviors that signaled acceptance within the community in the past year. Ninety-four percent (94%) reported that community leaders and/or members accepted them for who they are as a transgender person, and more than three-quarters (80%) were told their religion or faith accepts them. Ninety-six percent (96%) of respondents who were in a faith community in the past year experienced at least one of the accepting behaviors (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Acceptance within a faith community in the past year

Acceptance within faith community in past year	Acceptance within faith community in past year		
	Many times	A few times	Once or twice
Community leaders and members accepted them for who they are as a transgender person	75%	11%	8%
A leader or member of their faith community made them feel welcome as a transgender person	72%	12%	9%
They were told that their religion or faith accepts them as a transgender person	59%	12%	9%
One or more experiences listed¹²	96%		

E. Rejection Within Faith Communities in the Past Year

Those with faith community leaders or members who thought or knew they were transgender were also asked about behaviors that signaled rejection in the past year. Among them, 6% were asked to meet with faith leaders to stop them from being transgender, and 5% were asked to stop coming to services or faith community functions (Table 5.4).

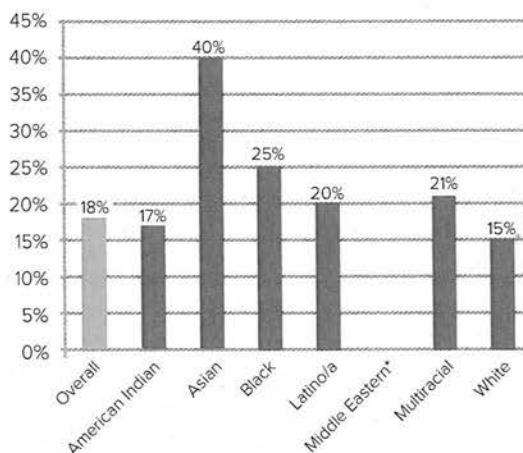
Table 5.4: Rejection within a faith community in the past year

Rejection within faith community in past year			
	Many times	A few times	Once or twice
They were told that being transgender is a sin or that their religion does not approve of them	5%	5%	7%
They were asked to meet with faith leaders to stop them from being transgender	1%	2%	3%
Community leaders or members asked them to seek medical or psychological help to stop them from being transgender	1%	2%	3%
They were asked to stop coming to services or faith community functions	1%	1%	3%
One or more experiences listed¹³		18%	

Nearly one in five (18%) of respondents who were in a faith community in the past year reported that they experienced at least one of the rejecting behaviors. Rejection was more likely among Asian (40%) and Black (25%) respondents (Figure 5.27).

Nearly one in five (19%) respondents who had been part of a faith community left because they were rejected.

Figure 5.27: Any rejecting behavior by faith community in past year
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



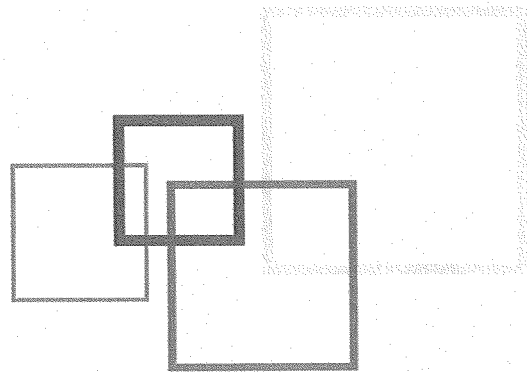
*Sample size too low to report

Conclusion

Results showed significant challenges in many areas of family life, including the retention of relationships with immediate and extended family, spouses and partners, and children. However, results also demonstrate that survey respondents were able to maintain relationships and successfully build family units despite those challenges. They further show the importance of family support in promoting positive experiences in many aspects of life. Results demonstrate that family rejection is strongly correlated with increased negative effects on a wide range of major life experiences, including income, homelessness, HIV infection, serious psychological distress, and suicidal behavior. Additionally, although many respondents experienced negative interactions within their faith communities, many others were able to find welcoming and supportive communities. While respondents' experiences varied overall, these findings reveal the substantial challenges facing many transgender people within their families and faith communities.

ENDNOTES | CHAPTER 5: FAMILY LIFE AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

- 1 Grant, J. M., Mottet, L. A., Tanis, J., Harrison, J., Herman, J. L., & Keisling, M. (2011). *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*. (pp. 88–105). DC: National Center for Transgender Equality & National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Huebner, D., Diaz, R. M., & Sanchez, J. (2010). Family acceptance in adolescence and the health of LGBT young adults. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 23(4), 205–213.
- 2 The term “out” is used here to describe a person who openly self-identifies as transgender in their private, public, and/or professional lives.
- 3 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT).
- 4 See Q. 4.5 for descriptions of groups of family members.
- 5 A respondent’s status as a parent was determined based on Q. 4.3, which asked if a respondent was out to any of their children. Eighty-two percent (82%) reported that they “do not have any children,” and the remaining 18% answered “yes” or “no” to whether they were out to their children. This question established whether a respondent had at least one child, but did not determine the number of children, ages of children, or whether the children lived in the respondent’s household.
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement*.
- 7 The percentage of USTS respondents with related children under the age of 18 in the household is based on Q. 7.6.
- 8 “Very supportive” and “supportive” categories were collapsed into a single “supportive” category. “Very unsupportive” and “unsupportive” categories were collapsed into a single “unsupportive” category. See Q. 4.6.
- 9 The “serious psychological distress” measure was developed from the Kessler 6 scale. See Q. 12.2. See also *Health* chapter.
- 10 Section 4 asked about experiences with “immediate family [respondent] grew up with,” and indicated that the definition included parents and siblings.
- 11 The figure of 50% of respondents experiencing family rejection is based on a variable created to reflect any family rejection among several questions, including: (1) Q. 4.2 (spouse/partner ended relationship), (2) Q. 4.4 (child stopped speaking or spending time with respondent), (3) Q. 4.6 (reported level of supportiveness of immediate family), and (4) acts listed in Q. 4.7.
- 12 The “any accepting behavior” variable was created based on respondents who had experienced an accepting behavior listed in Q. 5.7 once or twice, a few times, or many times.
- 13 The “any rejecting behavior” variable was created based on respondents who had experienced a rejecting behavior listed in Q. 5.7 once or twice, a few times, or many times.



CHAPTER 6

Identity Documents

Most non-transgender people take their identity documents (IDs) for granted, but for transgender people, updating and using IDs may present substantial challenges. Transgender people often need to update their IDs to reflect their gender and name. Changing the name listed on most state or federal IDs and records typically involves obtaining a legal name change from a court.¹ Changing the gender marker listed on most IDs and records generally requires documentation of gender transition from a health provider, though the requirements of this documentation may vary greatly for each type of ID and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.² Previous researchers have documented barriers preventing transgender people from updating the name and gender on their IDs.³

This chapter explores respondents' experiences with their IDs and records, including updating their name and/or gender, and interactions with others related to updating and presenting their IDs and records. Notable differences in respondents' experiences based on demographic and other characteristics are reported throughout the chapter.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Eleven percent (11%) of respondents had their preferred name and gender on all IDs and records.
- ▶ Forty-nine percent (49%) did not have an ID or record with the name they preferred, and 67% did not have an ID or record with the gender they preferred.
- ▶ Thirty percent (30%) of respondents completed a legal name change.
- ▶ Thirty-four percent (34%) of people who were granted a legal name change reported that they had spent over \$250, and 11% spent over \$500.
- ▶ Thirty-five percent (35%) of those who did not try to change their legal name did not try because they could not afford it.
- ▶ Of those who wanted to update their driver's license or state ID, an estimated 44% were able to change their name on the license and an estimated 29% were able to change their gender.
- ▶ Of those who wanted to change the gender on their birth certificate, only an estimated 9% were able to do so.
- ▶ As a result of showing an ID with a name or gender that did not match their gender presentation, 25% of people were verbally harassed, 16% were denied services or benefits, 9% were asked to leave a location or establishment, and 2% were assaulted or attacked.

I. Access to Legal Name Changes

Changing a name is a step in the transition process for some, but not all, transgender people. A legal name change order is almost always required to update the name listed on many forms of official IDs and records, such as driver's licenses, passports, and Social Security cards.⁴ Legal name changes typically happen through a court order, and the process for obtaining a court order varies in each state and territory. Respondents were

asked a series of questions about factors in their decision to legally change their name and their access to a legal name change.

Approximately one-third (36%) of respondents have tried to obtain a legal name change, and 30% were able to do so. This rate varied greatly according to gender identity, where transgender men and women (51%) were almost five times as likely to have tried or completed the name change process as non-binary people (11%). A vast majority (96%) of respondents who underwent the process did so through a court order, less than 1%

Thirty percent (30%) of respondents completed the legal name change process.

did so through the immigration or naturalization process, and 4% did so by other methods, including marriage, an informal or assumed name, or a process in another country. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of those who attempted to legally change their name were granted a name change. Those who attempted but did not complete the process reported a variety of reasons, such as being denied, running out of money, or giving up (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Outcome of legal name change attempt

Outcome of legal name change attempt	% of those who attempted a legal name change
Court granted name change	88%
Court denied name change	1%
They are still in process of changing name	6%
They stopped trying because they ran out of money	2%
They gave up	2%
Court initially denied, then later granted name change	<1%
Not listed above	<1%

Forty-one percent (41%) of those who attempted a legal name change through a court did so at age 24 or younger, 45% between the ages of 25 and 44, 13% between the ages of 45 and 64, and less than 1% at age 65 or older.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents have never tried to change their legal name. These participants reported a variety of reasons for not engaging in the process, including 28% who felt that their name did not conflict with their gender identity (Table 6.2). This reason was more common among non-binary people (45%) and crossdressers (36%) than transgender men and women (10%).

Table 6.2: Reasons for not attempting to change legal name

Reasons for not attempting to change legal name	% of those who had not attempted name change
They are not ready	40%
They cannot afford it	35%
Their name does not conflict with gender identity or expression	28%
They do not know how	24%
They were worried that changing their name would out them	24%
They do not believe they are allowed	3%
A reason not listed	20%

a. Assistance with a Legal Name Change

The legal name change process can be complicated to navigate, and while many people undergo the process without help, some seek the assistance of others. Of people who tried or completed the name change process, 60% did so without help and 40% received help, including free help from a clinic or non-profit organization (17%), assistance from a friend (11%), or help from a paid attorney (9%) (Table 6.3).

Table 6.3: Assistance for people who tried or completed the legal name change process

Type of assistance	% of those who attempted name change
None	60%
Free help from a legal clinic or non-profit organization	17%
Help from a friend	11%
Legal help from a paid attorney	9%
Help from another source	7%

b. Interactions with Judges and Court Staff

Those who interacted with judges and court staff during the name change process reported widely varying experiences. Of the 84% who believed

More than one-third (35%) of respondents who did not try to legally change their name said that it was because they could not afford it.

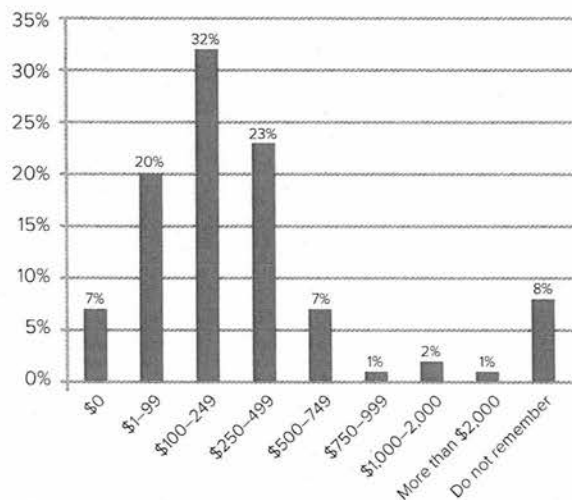
that the judges and/or court staff thought or knew they were transgender during their interaction, three-quarters (75%) felt they were always treated with respect, almost one-quarter (22%) felt they were only sometimes treated with respect, and 2% felt they were never treated with respect. Reports of only sometimes or never being treated with respect were higher for certain groups of people, including people who were currently working in the underground economy, such as sex work, drug sales, or other work that is currently criminalized (41%), and people who had not had any hormonal or surgical treatment (35%).

Respondents who interacted with judges or court staff who thought or knew they were transgender were asked about specific experiences during their interactions. Twenty-three percent (23%) were referred to by the wrong gender pronouns (such as he, she, or they) or title (such as Mr. or Ms.) during their interactions. Almost one in five (19%) people who interacted with judges or court staff were asked questions about their gender transition, such as whether they take hormones or have had any surgery. Nearly one in ten (9%) reported that they received unequal treatment or service, and 3% were verbally harassed. Overall, more than one-third (36%) of those who interacted with judges or court staff during the name change process reported having at least one of these experiences.

c. Cost Associated with a Legal Name Change

The process of obtaining a legal name change may include many different fees, such as the cost of legal help, court fees, and newspaper publication. The survey asked respondents to recall how much they spent on the name change process. Approximately one-quarter (27%) of those who were granted a legal name change reported that the process cost less than \$100, more than half (55%) reported it costing \$100–\$499, and 10% reported the process costing \$500–\$2,000 (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1: Reported cost of a legal name change



The cost of obtaining a legal name change may make the process inaccessible for some people. Thirty-five percent (35%) of people who had not tried to legally change their name reported that they did not try because they could not afford it. Additionally, of people who had attempted the legal name change process, 2% did not complete the process because they ran out of money.

II. Experiences with Updating Name and Gender on IDs

Transgender individuals may seek to update the name on their IDs and records, the gender marker (such as M or F), or both. Only 11% of respondents reported that *all* of their IDs and records listed both the name and gender they preferred, and rates were lower for certain populations, such as undocumented individuals (4%), people aged 18–24 (5%), and people with no income (6%). More than two-thirds (68%) reported that *none* of their IDs or records had both the name and gender they preferred. The following sections will first discuss respondents' experiences with updating the name on their IDs or records, and then their experiences with updating the gender marker.

a. Updating Name on IDs and Records

In order to change the name on IDs and records, one often needs to first obtain a legal name change. Generally, a court order granting a name change must then be presented to update each ID or record separately. Respondents were asked whether all, some, or none of their IDs and records reflected the name they preferred. Thirty percent (30%) of respondents had the name they preferred on all IDs and records, and 22% had the name they preferred on some IDs and records. Nearly half (49%) of respondents did not have any ID or record with the name they preferred. Non-citizens, including undocumented residents (68%), were more likely to say that none of their IDs or records reflected the name they preferred. Respondents with lower incomes were also more likely to say that none of their IDs or records had the name they preferred.

In Our Own Voices

“I was intentionally misgendered and continually verbally harassed by DMV employees. Even after paying for proper identification to be issued, they refused to send the identification because my female photo didn't match my 'M' gender marker.”

“As a non-binary person, not being able to change my gender on any of my identification documents is really disheartening, dysphoria inducing, and kind of dehumanizing. I'm not allowed to be me.”

“My legal name and gender are not yet changed on any documents due to the price. The process for that should be easier or cheaper because that is the main thing that stops me from doing things that require ID.”

“Because my state won't update the gender markers on its birth certificates, the only way to update my driver's license is by changing my information on a federal level with my passport. The problem is that now my documents don't match.”

Respondents were also asked about their experiences with updating the name on specific kinds of IDs or records, like driver's licenses and birth certificates. Among those respondents who had a driver's license or state ID and wanted to update their name on it, less than half (44%) were estimated⁵ to have done so. An estimated 44% have changed their name on a work ID, and 43% have changed their name with the Social Security Administration. In contrast, less than one-third (31%) have changed their name on student records, 28% on their passport, and 18% on their birth certificate.

Respondents who transitioned were more likely to have changed the name on their IDs.⁶ For example, while 44% of the whole sample had updated their name on their driver's license, 56% of those who had transitioned had updated their name on their driver's license. Transgender men and women who had transitioned were more likely to have updated their name on various types of IDs than non-binary respondents who had transitioned. For example, (61%) of transgender men and women who had transitioned changed their name their driver's license, in contrast to non-binary respondents who had transitioned (39%) (Figure 6.2).

More than two-thirds (68%) of respondents did not have any ID or record that reflected both the name and gender they preferred.

Those who indicated that some or all of their IDs listed the name they prefer were asked specific questions about their experiences updating the name on different kinds of IDs and records. For each type of ID or record, those respondents were asked if (1) they had been able to change the name on that ID, (2) they were in process of doing so, (3) they tried to change the name on the ID but were denied, or (4) they had not tried to change the name on that ID but wanted to do it someday.⁷ Respondents were most likely to have successfully changed the name on their driver's license (87%), work ID (88%), and Social Security records (84%), and they were most likely to be denied a name change on their birth certificate (6%) (Figure 6.3).

Figure 6.2: Updated NAME on ID or record, by gender identity and transition status (estimated)

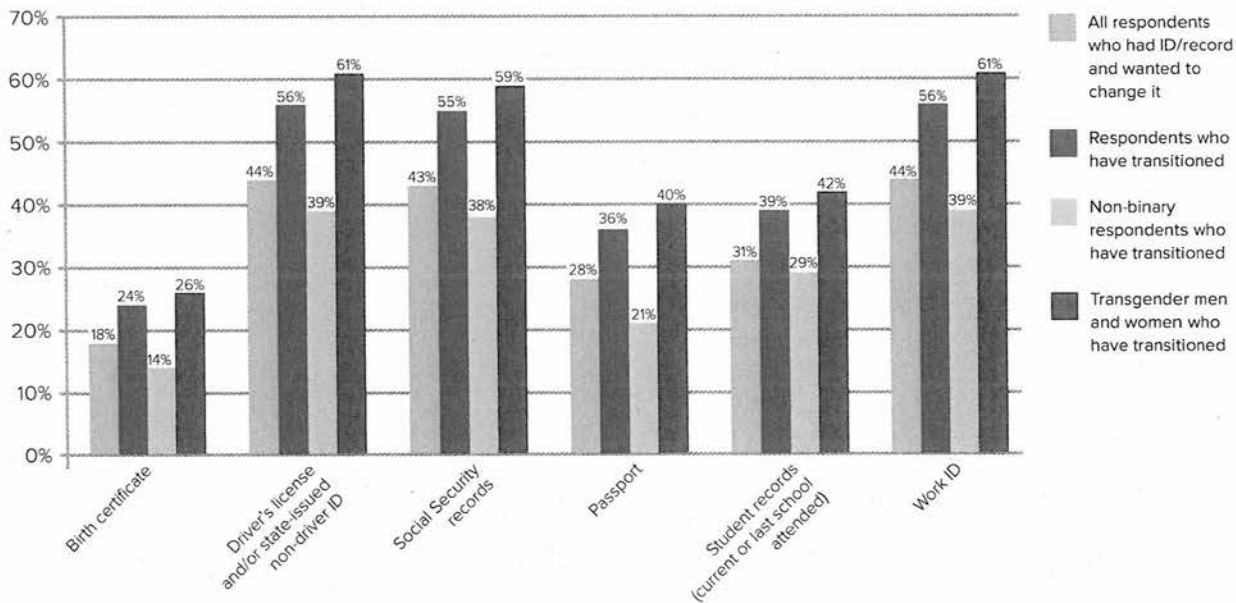
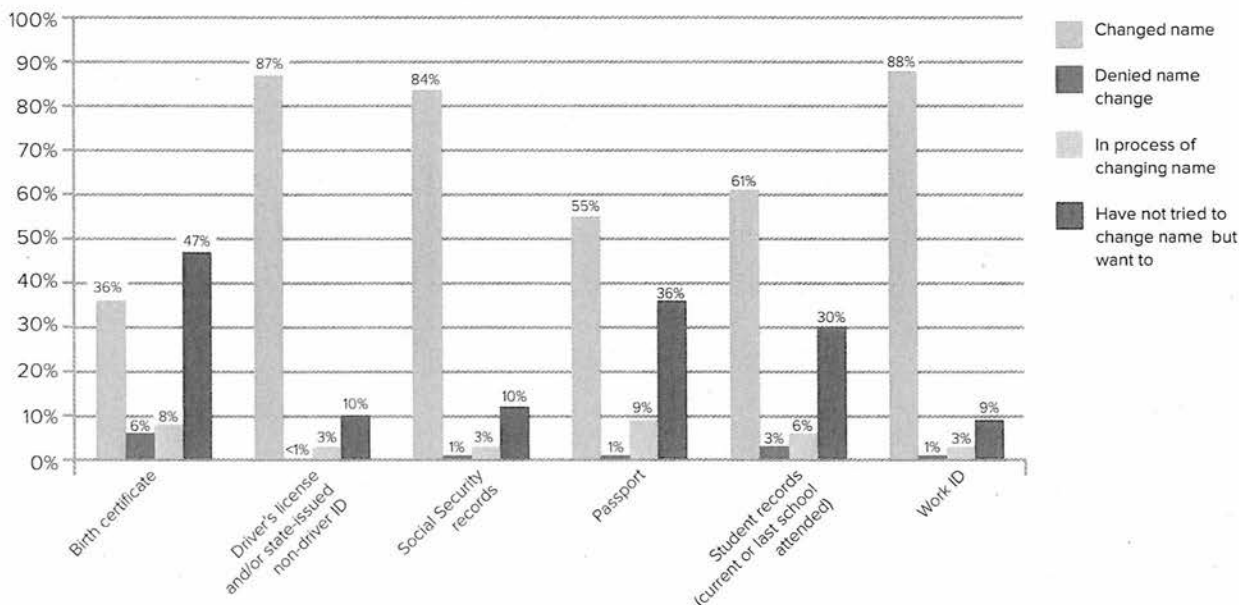


Figure 6.3: Experiences updating NAME on specific IDs (among those who updated some or all of their IDs/records)



The above chart reflects respondents who have been able to update some or all of their IDs only (omitting those who have not been able to update any IDs). It also does not include those who do not have the ID/record or do not want to update it. These numbers should not be reported without clearly stating that they represent only a subset of the respondents. For overall ability to change records, see Figure 6.2.

b. Updating Gender on IDs and Records

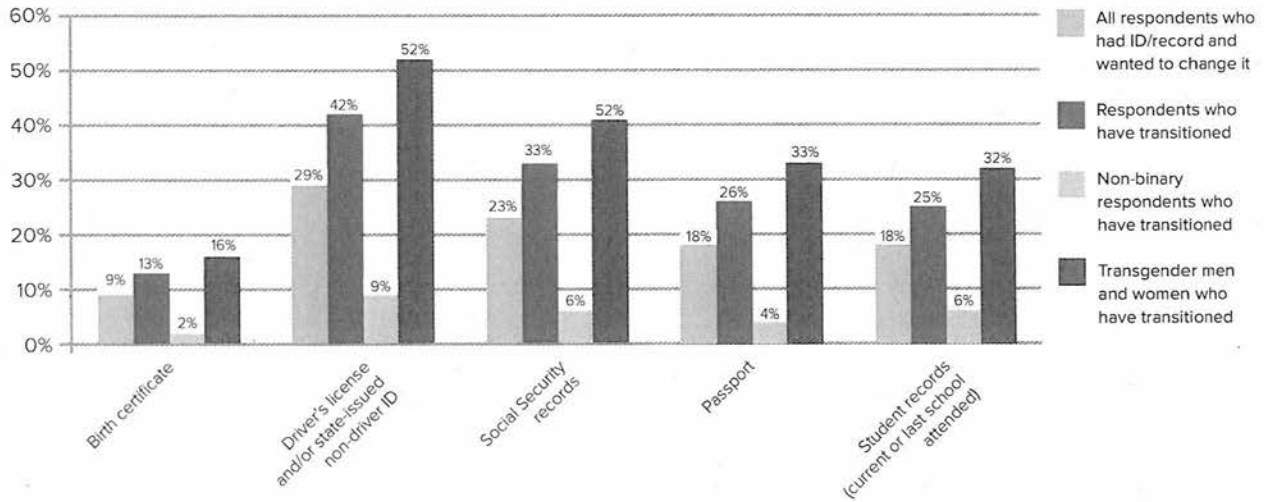
Updating the gender marker on any ID or record is typically a distinct process from updating the name, and may require documentation regarding gender transition from a healthcare provider, a court order of gender change, an updated birth certificate, or other documentation. Respondents were asked whether all, some, or none of their IDs and records listed the gender they preferred. More than two-thirds (67%) of respondents did not have any ID or record that listed the gender they preferred. Twelve percent (12%) of respondents had the gender they preferred on all IDs and records, and 21% of respondents had the gender they preferred on some IDs and records.

Respondents were also asked about their experiences with updating the gender on specific kinds of IDs or records, like driver's licenses and birth certificates. Among those respondents who had a driver's license or state ID and wanted

to update their gender on it, an estimated⁸ less than one-third (29%) had done so, and only 9% were able to change their gender on their birth certificate. Twenty-three percent (23%) of those with a Social Security card who wanted to update their gender on it were estimated to have done so, and only 18% had updated their gender on their passport.

Respondents who had transitioned were more likely to have changed their gender on their IDs. For example, 29% of the overall sample have updated the gender on their driver's license, while 42% of those who have transitioned updated the gender marker on their driver's license. Transgender men and women who had transitioned (52%) were much more likely to have updated the gender on their driver's license, in contrast to non-binary respondents who had transitioned (9%) (Figure 6.4).

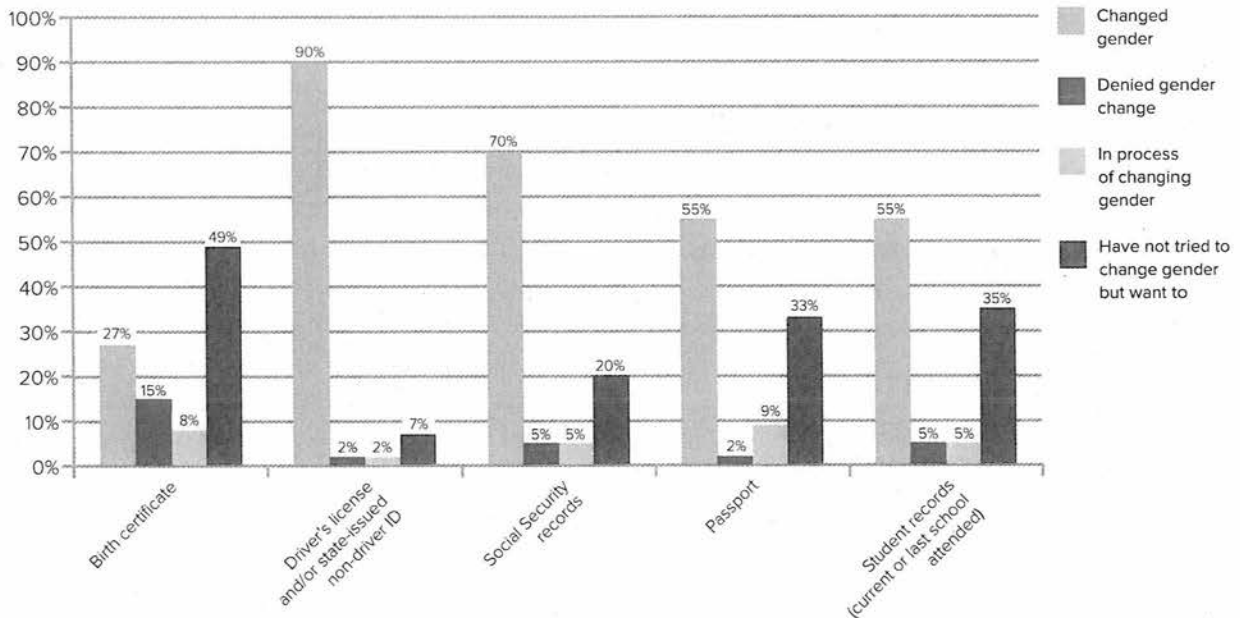
Figure 6.4: Updated GENDER on ID or record, by gender identity and transition status (estimated)



Those who indicated that some or all of their IDs listed the gender they preferred were asked specific questions about their experiences updating the gender on different kinds of IDs and records. For each type of ID or record, those respondents were asked if (1) they had been able to change the gender on that ID, (2) they were in process of doing so, (3) they tried to change

the gender on the ID but were denied, or (4) they had not tried to change the gender on that ID but wanted to do it someday.⁹ Respondents were most likely to change the gender on their driver's license (90%) and Social Security records (70%), and they were most likely to be denied a gender marker change on their birth certificate (15%) (Figure 6.5).

Figure 6.5: Experiences updating GENDER on specific IDs (among those who updated some or all of their IDs/Records)



The above chart reflects respondents who have been able to update some or all of their IDs only (omitting those who have not been able to update any IDs). It also does not include those who do not have the ID/record or do not want to update it. These numbers should not be reported without clearly stating that they represent only a subset of the respondents. For overall ability to change records, see Figure 6.4.

Nearly one-third (32%) of respondents who did not have their preferred gender on any of their IDs or records reported that they could not afford to change them.

Those who said that none of the IDs reflected the preferred gender were asked why that was the case. Twenty-five percent (25%) of these respondents believed they were not allowed to change the gender on their IDs or records, for reasons such as not having undergone medical treatment needed to change their gender on an ID or not having a doctor's letter. Nearly one-third (32%) of respondents indicated that none of their IDs or records had the gender they preferred because they could not afford it. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of non-binary individuals who indicated that none of their IDs or records had the gender they preferred reported that it was because the available gender options (male or female) did not fit their gender identity, in contrast to 4% of transgender men and women (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4: Reasons for not changing gender on IDs or records

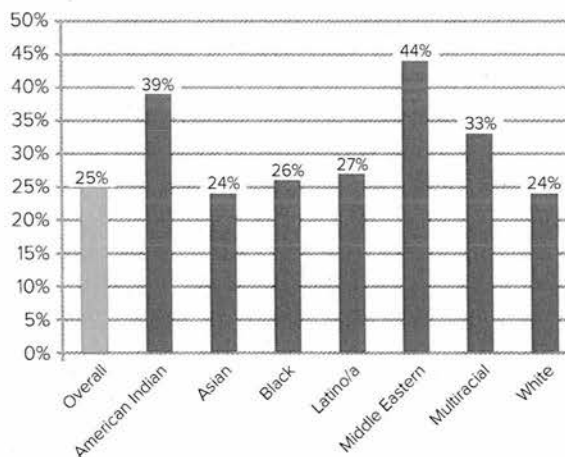
Reasons for not changing gender	% of those who reported having no IDs/records with the gender they preferred
They have not tried yet	44%
The available gender options (male or female) do not fit their gender identity	41%
They could not afford it	32%
They were not ready	30%
They did not know how	26%
They believed they were not allowed	25%
They worried that they might lose benefits or services	25%
They worried that changing gender would out them	25%
Their request was denied	1%
A reason not listed	10%

III. Experiences When Presenting Incongruent Identity Documents

Respondents were asked about their experiences when they have shown an ID with a name or gender that does not match the gender in which they present. Overall, nearly one-third (32%) of individuals who have shown IDs with a name or gender that did not match their presentation reported negative experiences, such as being harassed, denied services, and/or attacked.

One-quarter (25%) of these respondents reported being verbally harassed. Middle Eastern (44%) and American Indian (39%) respondents reported experiencing this more often than other racial or ethnic groups (Figure 6.6).

Figure 6.6: Verbally harassed when using an ID with a name or gender that did not match their presentation RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



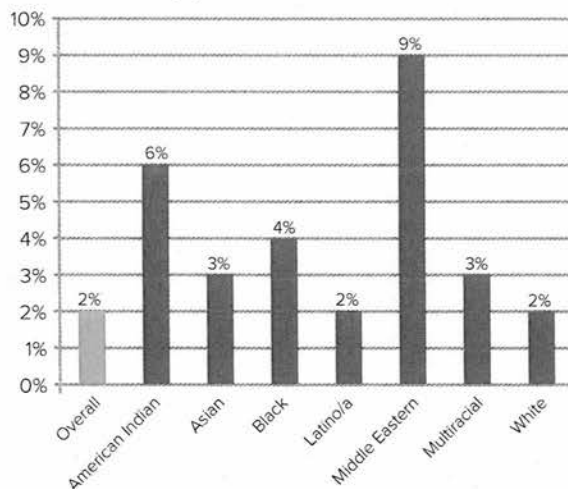
Sixteen percent (16%) of people who showed IDs with a name or gender that did not match the gender they present in were denied services or benefits. Transgender men and women were more likely to have been denied services or benefits (20%) compared to non-binary respondents (10%).

Nearly one-third (32%) of individuals who have shown IDs that did not match their presentation reported negative experiences, such as being harassed, denied services, and/or attacked.

Nine percent (9%) of people who showed an incongruent ID were asked to leave. Transgender women were more likely to have been asked to leave after presenting incongruent IDs (13%), compared to transgender men (9%) and non-binary people (6%).

Two percent (2%) of people who showed IDs with a name and gender that did not match the gender they present in were assaulted or attacked. These experiences differed by race and ethnicity. Middle Eastern respondents were almost five times as likely (9%) to report experiencing this, American Indians were three times as likely (6%), and Black respondents were twice as likely (4%) (Figure 6.7). Undocumented residents were also substantially more likely to report being assaulted or attacked (15%), in contrast to documented residents (3%) and citizens (2%).

Figure 6.7: Assaulted or attacked when using an ID with a name or gender that did not match their presentation
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)

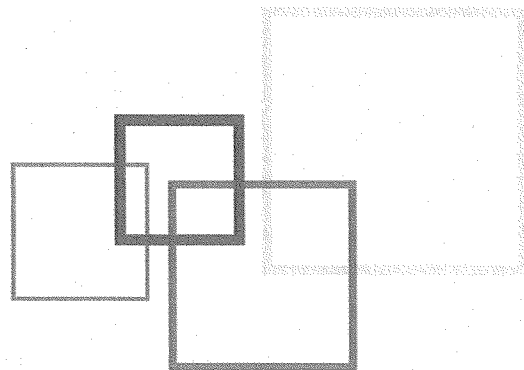


Conclusion

Findings indicate that respondents encountered substantial issues related to obtaining IDs and records that reflect their gender identity, including financial, procedural, and eligibility barriers. The data suggests that the cost of a legal name change presents a considerable challenge to getting a preferred name on identity documents. Results also indicate that the cost of updating gender markers and procedural requirements (such as providing documentation of certain medical procedures) are among the main barriers preventing respondents from updating the gender on their IDs and records. Further, results suggest that respondents who presented IDs that did not correspond with the gender they presented in were put at risk of harassment, assault, and other forms of negative treatment. Overall, these findings illustrate a variety of difficulties that arise during the name and gender change process and emphasize the importance of access to accurate identity documentation for the safety and well-being of transgender people.

ENDNOTES | CHAPTER 6: IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

- 1 Forty-nine states and all five U.S. territories have a court order process for changing a legal name. Hawai'i is currently the only state with an administrative name change process. Additionally, a legal name change may be obtained through other processes, such as through naturalization or a common law name change. See NCTE's Identity Document Center for more information, available at: www.transequality.org/documents.
- 2 For more information on gender marker change requirements for state and federal IDs, see NCTE's Identity Document Center, available at www.transequality.org/documents.
- 3 Brown, T. N. T. & Herman, J. L. (2016). *Voter ID Laws and Their Added Costs for Transgender Voters*. Los Angeles, CA: Williams Institute. Available at: <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Voter-ID-Laws-and-Their-Added-Costs-for-Transgender-Voters-March-2016.pdf>; Hussey, H. (2015). *Expanding ID Card Access for LGBT Homeless Youth*. DC: Center for American Progress. Available at: <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/01071118/IDhomelessLGBT.pdf>; Grant, J. M., Mottet, L. A., Tanis, J., Harrison, J., Herman, J. L., & Keisling, M. (2011). *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*. (pp. 138–156). DC: National Center for Transgender Equality & National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.
- 4 See NCTE's Identity Document Center, available at: www.transequality.org/documents.
- 5 Due to an error in skip logic in this section of the survey, a portion of the respondents who should have seen questions about updating identity documents—specifically, respondents who said that none of their documents had the name or gender they preferred—did not receive them. To create a denominator that included those individuals, the research team used question answers from the respondents who *did* see the questions to estimate the number of respondents from the full sample who did have the ID in question and wanted to update it. This estimated denominator was used to calculate the percentages of those who updated these IDs out of respondents in the full sample who had the ID and wanted to update it.
- 6 For the purposes of this report, “transitioned” is defined as living full-time in a gender different than the one on a person's original birth certificate, as indicated by the answer to Q. 1.12.
- 7 Respondents could also select from the following additional answer choices about changing their name: (1) “I do not have this ID/record” and (2) “I do not want to change this ID/record.” If a respondent selected one of those answers, they were removed from the calculation. Therefore, results only reflect the answers of those who had a particular ID/record and wanted to change the record. See Q. 10.14.
- 8 See note 5 regarding the estimated calculations in this section.
- 9 Respondents could also select from the following additional answer choices about changing their gender: (1) “I do not have this ID/record” and (2) “I do not want to change this ID/record.” If a respondent selected one of those answers, they were removed from the calculation. Therefore, results only reflect the answers of those who had a particular ID/record and wanted to change the record. See Q. 10.16.



CHAPTER 7

Health

Disparities in health and health care among transgender people have been documented in prior research.¹ The survey explored several areas related to health care, including respondents' overall physical and mental health, and their experiences accessing health care services, both related to gender transition and routine health care.

Results related to health and health care are presented in six sections:

- A. Routine and Transition-Related Health Care and Coverage
- B. Overall Health and Psychological Distress
- C. Conversion Therapy and Other Pressures to De-Transition
- D. Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors
- E. Substance Use
- F. HIV Testing and Care

Notable differences in respondents' experiences based on demographic and other characteristics are reported throughout the chapter.

A. ROUTINE AND TRANSITION-RELATED HEALTH CARE AND COVERAGE

Previous studies indicate that transgender people face barriers to accessing quality, affordable health care. These barriers include lack of adequate insurance coverage, mistreatment by health providers, and health providers' discomfort or inexperience with treating transgender people.² Such barriers make it harder for transgender people to seek both routine health care that is unrelated to their transgender status, and health care related to gender transition ("transition-related care"). Transition-related care can include a variety of treatments, such as counseling, hormone therapy, and surgical procedures. While not every transgender person may need or want medical care related to gender transition, many do, and the specific treatments that they may undergo vary based on their individualized needs.

Respondents were asked about their experiences with health insurance coverage, including coverage for transition-related care. They were also asked about their experiences receiving general health care from doctors and other health providers, including how providers treated them as transgender people. Finally, respondents were asked about transition-related care they have had or wanted to have.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ One in four (25%) respondents experienced a problem with their insurance in the past year related to being transgender, such as being denied coverage for care related to gender transition.
 - One-quarter (25%) of those who sought coverage for hormones in the past year were denied, and 55% of those who sought coverage for transition-related surgery in the past year were denied.

- ▶ One-third (33%) of respondents reported having at least one negative experience with a health care provider in the past year related to being transgender, such as verbal harassment, refusal of treatment, or having to teach the health care provider about transgender people to receive appropriate care.

- ▶ In the past year, 23% of respondents did not see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and 33% did not see a doctor because of cost.

- ▶ While more than three-quarters (78%) of respondents wanted hormone therapy related to gender transition, only 49% had ever received it.

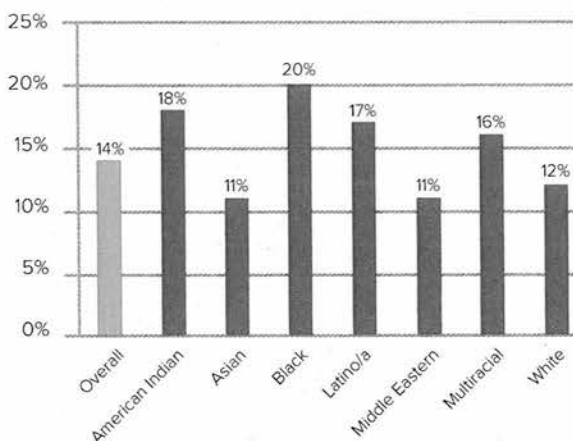
- ▶ One-quarter (25%) of respondents have undergone some form of transition-related surgery.

I. Health Insurance

a. Insurance Coverage and Source of Coverage

Respondents were asked a series of questions about health insurance coverage. Eighty-six percent (86%) reported that they were covered by a health insurance or health coverage plan, and 14% reported that they were uninsured. This compares to 89% of adults in the U.S. general population who were covered by a health insurance or health coverage plan in 2015, as reported in the American Community Survey (ACS).³ Insurance coverage differed by region, with those in the South (20%) being more likely to be uninsured than those in the overall sample, compared to those in the Midwest (13%), West (11%), and Northeast (9%). Among people of color, Black (20%), American Indian (18%), and Latino/a (17%) respondents were more likely to be uninsured (Figure 71). Respondents who were not U.S. citizens were more likely to be uninsured, including nearly one-quarter (24%) of documented non-citizens and a majority (58%) of undocumented residents.

Figure 71: Uninsured RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents were uninsured, compared to 11% of adults in the U.S. population.

The most common source of health insurance reported by respondents was an employer-sponsored insurance plan (either through the respondent's employer or someone else's employer) (53%). Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents had individual insurance plans that they or someone else purchased directly from an insurance company, through healthcare.gov, or from a health insurance marketplace, and 13% were insured through Medicaid (Table 71).

Table 71: Type of health insurance or health coverage plan

Health insurance source	% in USTS	% in U.S. general population (ACS) ⁴
Insurance through current or former employer or union (belonging to respondent or a family member)	53%	56%
Insurance they or someone else purchased directly from an insurance company or through a health insurance marketplace (such as healthcare.gov)	14%	16%
Medicaid	13%	15%
Medicare	5%	22%
TRICARE or other military health care	2%	3%
VA	2%	3%
Indian Health Service	<1%	1% ⁵
Another type of insurance	6%	N/A

More than one-quarter (26%) of respondents sought options for health insurance from a state or federal health insurance marketplace, such as through healthcare.gov, in the past year.⁶ Of those who sought insurance through a marketplace, 42% purchased a plan. When acquiring health insurance through healthcare.gov or state marketplaces, most enrolled in a Medicaid plan (58%), 27% received a subsidy to buy a private plan, and 12% purchased a private plan without a subsidy.

b. Negative Experiences with Insurance Coverage

One in four (25%) respondents reported having problems with their insurance in the past year related to being transgender, such as being denied coverage for care related to gender transition. Among those who were insured and made the relevant requests of their insurer,⁷ several problems were reported. Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents had an insurer refuse to change their name and/or gender in their insurance record when requested. Thirteen percent (13%) reported that they were denied coverage for services often considered to be gender-specific, including routine sexual or reproductive health screenings (such as Pap smears, prostate exams, and mammograms). Seven percent (7%) reported that they were denied coverage for other routine health care. More than half (55%) of respondents who sought transition-related surgery coverage were denied, and one-quarter (25%) of those who sought coverage for hormones were denied (Table 7.2).

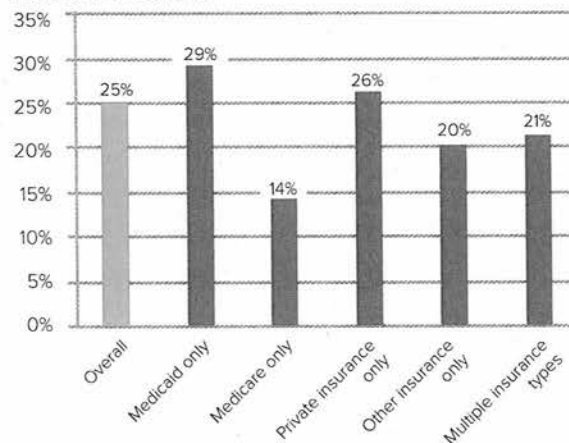
Table 7.2: Negative action or policy by health insurer

Negative action or policy	% of respondents who made such a request of their insurer
Denied coverage for transition-related surgery	55%
Covered only some of the surgical care needed for transition (respondent could not get coverage for treatment they needed)	42%
Denied coverage for transition-related hormone therapy	25%
Covered surgery for transition, but had no surgery providers in their network	21%
Refused to change records to list current name or gender	17%
Denied coverage for care often considered gender-specific because of transgender status	13%
Denied other routine health care because of transgender status	7%

Denials for hormone coverage differed by gender, with transgender men (32%) and non-binary people who had female on their original birth certificate (36%) more likely to report being denied hormone

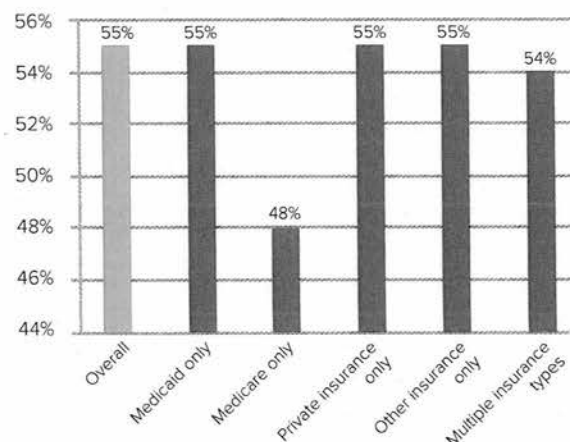
coverage than transgender women (18%) and non-binary people who had male on their original birth certificate (16%). Respondents who were insured solely through Medicare were least likely to be denied coverage for hormones (14%) (Figure 7.2).⁸

Figure 7.2: Denied coverage for hormone therapy in the past year
INSURANCE TYPE (%)



Transgender men (57%) were more likely to be denied surgery coverage than transgender women (54%) and non-binary people, including non-binary people with female on their original birth certificate (49%) and non-binary people with male on their original birth certificate (35%). With the exception of those who were solely covered by Medicare (48%), the rate of denials for surgery was similar among the different types of insurance providers (Figure 7.3).

Figure 7.3: Denied coverage for surgery in the past year
INSURANCE TYPE (%)



II. Experiences with Health Care Providers

a. Outness to Health Care Providers

Respondents were asked whether their current health care providers knew they were transgender. Of respondents who currently had health care providers, 40% reported that all of their current health care providers knew they were transgender, 13% reported that most knew, and 17% reported that some knew that they were transgender. Nearly one-third (31%) of respondents reported that none of their health care providers knew they were transgender.

b. Treatment by Health Care Providers as a Transgender Person

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondents had seen a health care provider in the year prior to taking the survey. Those respondents received questions about how their health care provider interacted with them as a transgender person. Of those who had seen a provider in the past year, 62% said that at least one provider they saw knew they were transgender and treated them with respect. However, one-third (33%) reported having at least one negative experience with a doctor or other health care provider related to being transgender, including having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to receive appropriate care (24%), being asked invasive or unnecessary questions about being transgender not related to the reason for the visit (15%), or being refused transition-related health care (8%) (Table 7.3).

In Our Own Voices

“My state Medicaid does not cover hormones or surgeries. With my very limited income, it is difficult to afford the treatment I need and I will most likely never be able to have surgeries.”

“I was consistently misnamed and misgendered throughout my hospital stay. I passed a kidney stone during that visit. On the standard 1–10 pain scale, that’s somewhere around a 9. But not having my identity respected, that hurt far more.”

“Multiple medical professionals have misgendered me, denied to me that I was transgender or tried to persuade me that my trans identity was just a misdiagnosis of something else, have made jokes at my expense in front of me and behind my back, and have made me feel physically unsafe. I often do not seek medical attention when it is needed, because I’m afraid of what harassment or discrimination I may experience in a hospital or clinic.”

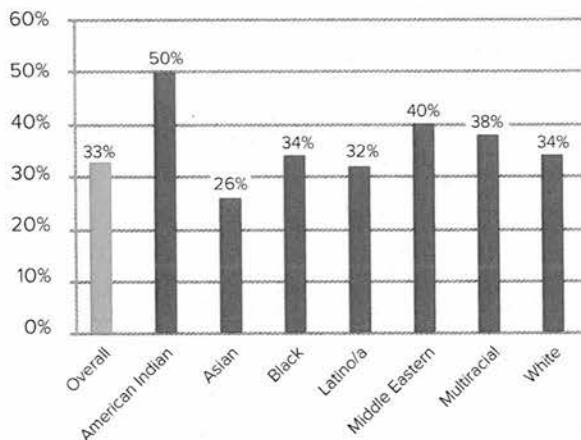
“When I was in college, I had my health insurance list me as male, and then they denied coverage for my routine pap smear and a gynecological prescription due to my gender.”

Table 7.3: Negative experiences when seeing a health care provider in the past year

Negative experience	% of those who had seen a provider in the past year
They had to teach their health care provider about transgender people to get appropriate care	24%
A health care provider asked them unnecessary or invasive questions about their transgender status that were not related to the reason for their visit	15%
A health care provider refused to give them transition-related care	8%
They were verbally harassed in a health care setting (such as a hospital, office, or clinic)	6%
A health care provider used harsh or abusive language when treating them	5%
A health care provider refused to give them care not related to gender transition (such as physicals or care for the flu or diabetes)	3%
A health care provider was physically rough or abusive when treating them	2%
They were physically attacked by someone during their visit in a health care setting (such as a hospital, office, or clinic)	1%
They were sexually assaulted ⁹ in a health care setting (such as a hospital, office, or clinic)	1%
One or more experiences listed	33%

Negative experiences with doctors and other health care providers varied by race and ethnicity. American Indian respondents (50%) reported the highest level of negative experiences, and rates among Middle Eastern (40%) and multiracial (38%) respondents were also higher (Figure 7.4).

Figure 7.4: One or more negative experiences with health provider in the past year RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Negative experiences with health care providers also varied by gender identity. Transgender men (42%) were more likely to report negative experiences than transgender women (36%) and non-binary respondents (24%). People with disabilities¹⁰ (42%) were also more likely to have at least one negative experience in the past year, compared with respondents who did not identify as having a disability (30%).

c. Providers' Knowledge About Transgender People

Respondents were asked about the health providers they saw for transgender-related care and for routine health care needs and the providers' level of knowledge about transgender health care. More than half (56%) of respondents currently had a provider specifically for transition-related care, such as hormone therapy. Of those, 65% reported that this provider knew "almost everything" or "most things" about providing health care for transgender people. Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents reported that their provider for transition-related care knew only "some" things about the subject, 8% said this provider knew "almost nothing," and 10% said they were not sure.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of respondents reported that they saw the same provider for transition-related care and other routine health care. One-third (33%) indicated that they have a separate provider for routine care who is different from the provider they see for transition-related care. Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents reported that they have no transition-related or routine health care provider.

Respondents with a separate provider for routine care were asked about that provider's level of knowledge about caring for transgender people. More than of half (54%) of these respondents were unsure how much their provider knew about health care for transgender people, while others

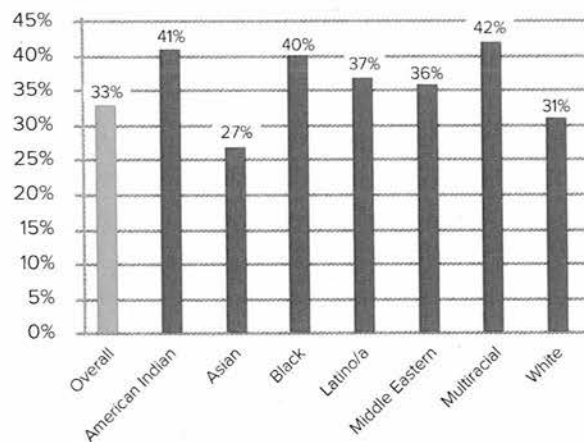
indicated that their routine health care provider knew “some things” (16%) or “almost nothing” (24%). Only 6% of respondents reported that their routine care provider knew “almost everything” or “most things” about caring for transgender people.

d. Barriers to Accessing Care

Respondents were asked about barriers to accessing health care, including cost of care, fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and distance required to travel to see health providers for transition-related care.

Cost was a major factor in accessing health care, with one-third (33%) of respondents reporting that there was at least one time in the past year when they needed to see a doctor or other health care provider but did not because of cost. People of color, including multiracial (42%), American Indian (41%), Black (40%), and Latino/a (37%) respondents, were more likely to not have seen a doctor or other health care provider due to cost in the past year (Figure 7.5). People with disabilities (42%) were also more likely to not have seen a health provider when they needed to because of cost.

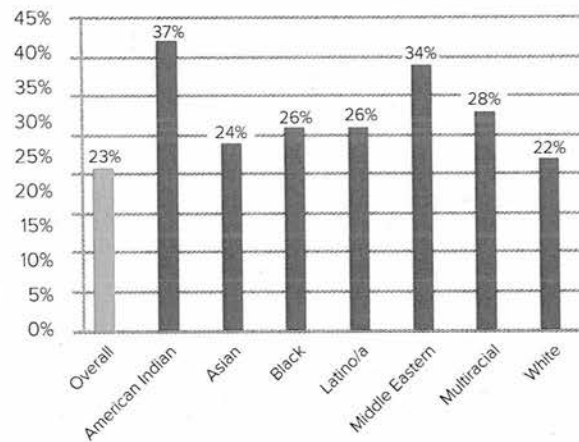
Figure 7.5: Did not see health provider due to cost in the past year
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents reported that they avoided seeking health care they needed in the past year due to fear of being mistreated as a transgender person.

Additionally, nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents reported that at some point in the past year they needed health care but did not seek it due to fear of being disrespected or mistreated as a transgender person. American Indian (37%) and Middle Eastern (34%) respondents were more likely to not have gone to a doctor or other health care provider due to fear of being disrespected or mistreated as a transgender person (Figure 7.6).

Figure 7.6: Did not see health provider due to fear of mistreatment in the past year
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)

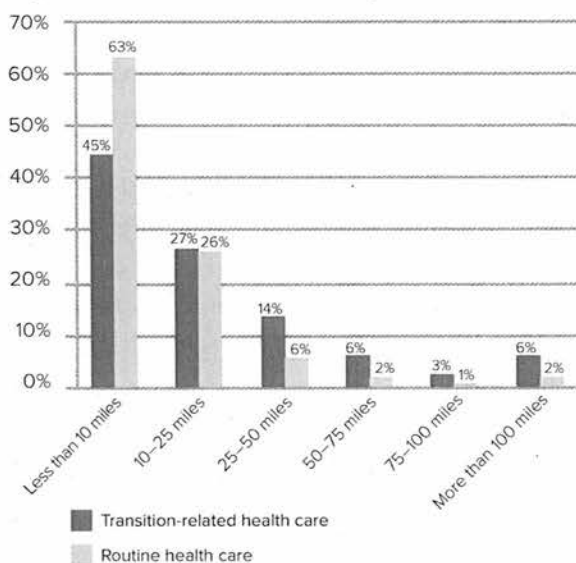


Fear of being disrespected or mistreated by a health care provider also differed by gender identity, with transgender men (31%) being more likely to avoid care out of fear of discrimination than transgender women (22%) and non-binary respondents (20%).

To examine the accessibility of respondents' health care providers, respondents were asked how far they had to travel to receive routine care and care

related to gender transition (transition-related care). Respondents reported having to travel further for transition-related care than routine care. While 63% indicated that they received routine care from providers within 10 miles of their home, less than half (45%) reported that they received transition-related health care within 10 miles of their home. Respondents were three times more likely to have to travel more than 50 miles for transgender-related care than for routine care (Figure 7.7).

Figure 7.7: Distance to health care provider



III. Transition-Related Health Care

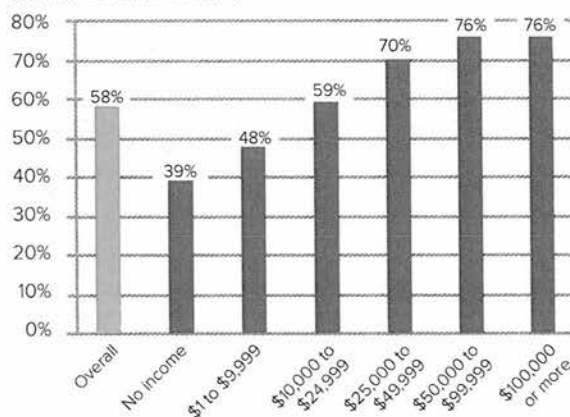
Respondents received questions about whether they had ever had, or wanted to have, a range of potential health care services related to gender transition.

a. Counseling

More than three-quarters (77%) of respondents said they wanted counseling or therapy for their gender identity or gender transition at some point in their life, but only 58% of respondents have ever received counseling or therapy. While

transgender men and women (81%) were only slightly more likely to have ever wanted gender-related counseling than non-binary respondents (70%), transgender men and women were more than twice as likely to have actually had counseling (73%) as compared to non-binary respondents (31%). Access to counseling varied greatly by income, with those who reported having no individual income (39%) and those who earned an income of \$1 to \$9,999 (48%) being much less likely to have received counseling than those who earned \$50,000 or more (76%) (Figure 7.8).

Figure 7.8: Counseling/therapy for gender identity or transition
INDIVIDUAL INCOME (%)



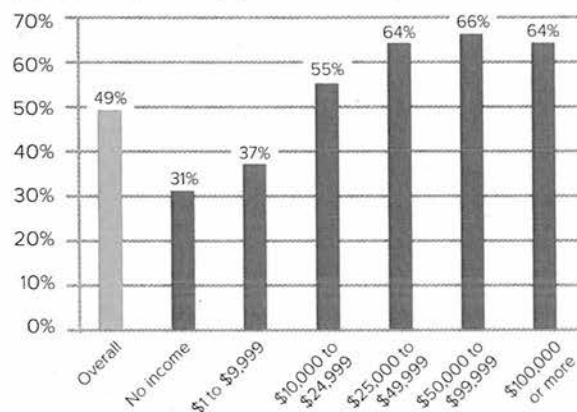
b. Hormone Therapy

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents wanted to receive hormone therapy at some point in their life, but only 49% of respondents have ever received it. Ninety-two percent (92%) of those who have ever received hormone therapy were currently still receiving it, representing 44% of all respondents. A large majority of transgender men and women (95%) have wanted hormone therapy, compared to 49% of non-binary respondents. Transgender men and women were about five times more likely to have ever had hormone therapy (71%) than non-binary respondents (13%).

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents wanted to receive hormone therapy at some point in their life, but only 49% of respondents have ever received it.

There were also substantial differences in access to hormone therapy by income. Respondents who reported having no individual income (31%) or earning an income of \$1 to \$9,999 (37%) were about half as likely to have received hormone therapy as those who earned \$25,000 or more (Figure 7.9).

Figure 7.9: Hormone therapy for gender transition INDIVIDUAL INCOME (%)



Of respondents who have ever had hormone therapy, 4% started hormone therapy before the age of 18, 41% began between the ages of 18 and 24, 43% began between the ages of 25 and 44, and 13% began after age 45.

While the majority (91%) of respondents received their hormone medications only from licensed professionals, 6% received them from both licensed professionals and friends, and 2% reported receiving them only from friends, online

sources, or other non-licensed sources.¹¹ Those who were uninsured were five times more likely to receive their hormones only from unlicensed sources (10%). Respondents who were currently working in the underground economy (such as sex work, drug sales, or other work that is currently criminalized) (8%), who have ever done sex work in their lifetime (5%), or who were living in poverty (4%), were more likely to receive their hormones only from unlicensed sources, as were transgender women (4%).

c. Puberty-Blocking Hormones

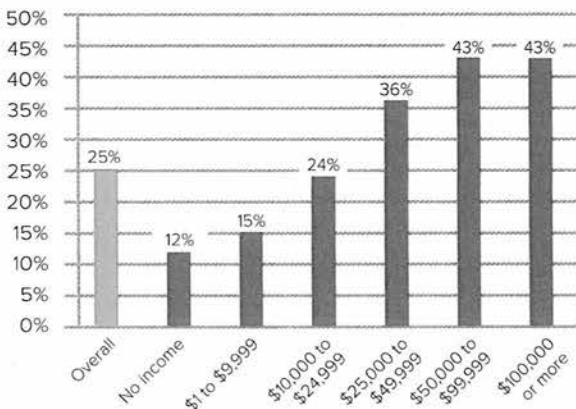
Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents reported that at some point in their lives, they wanted puberty-blocking medications, which are hormone suppressors that are used to delay physical changes associated with puberty and were described as those usually being used by youth between the ages of 9 and 16. However, less than 1% of respondents reported ever having them.¹²

d. Surgeries and Other Procedures

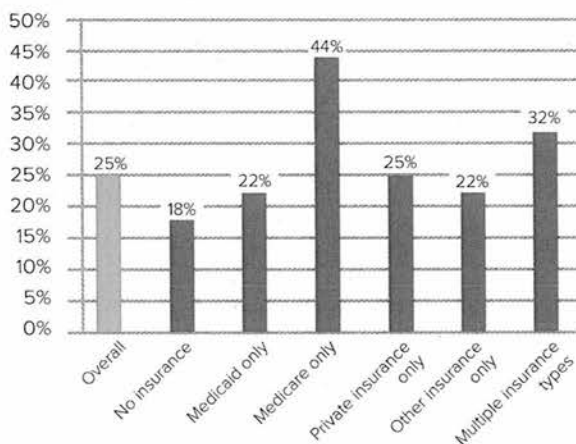
One in four (25%) reported having had some form of transition-related surgery.¹³ Transgender men (42%) were more likely to have had any kind of surgery than transgender women (28%) or non-binary respondents (9%). Respondents who were living in poverty¹⁴ (17%) were less likely to have had any surgery, as were those who had low incomes (Figure 7.10). Respondents who were uninsured (18%) were also less likely to have any surgery, while those who were insured through Medicare only were most likely (44%) (Figure 7.11).¹⁵

One in four (25%) respondents reported having had some form of transition-related surgery.

**Figure 7.10: Any surgery for gender transition
INDIVIDUAL INCOME (%)**



**Figure 7.11: Any surgery for gender transition
INSURANCE TYPE (%)**



Respondents were asked a series of questions about whether they had received or wanted to have specific surgical and other procedures. Respondents received different questions based on the sex that they reported was listed on their original birth certificate.¹⁶

i. Experiences of Respondents With Female on Their Original Birth Certificate

Of respondents who had female on their original birth certificates, 21% had a chest reduction or reconstruction¹⁷ and 8% had a hysterectomy.¹⁸ Only 2% reported having any genital surgery, such as metoidioplasty¹⁹ (1%) or phalloplasty²⁰ (1%) (Table 7.4). These experiences differed greatly by gender identity, with transgender men (Figure 7.12) being

more likely to have had any of the procedures than non-binary respondents who had female on their original birth certificate (Figure 7.13).

Table 7.4: Procedures among respondents with female on their original birth certificate

Type of procedure	Have had it	Want it some day	Not sure if they want this	Do not want this
Chest surgery reduction or reconstruction	21%	52%	17%	10%
Hysterectomy	8%	44%	28%	19%
Metoidioplasty	1%	15%	37%	47%
Phalloplasty	1%	11%	31%	56%
Other procedure not listed	3%	7%	13%	77%

Figure 7.12: Procedures among transgender men

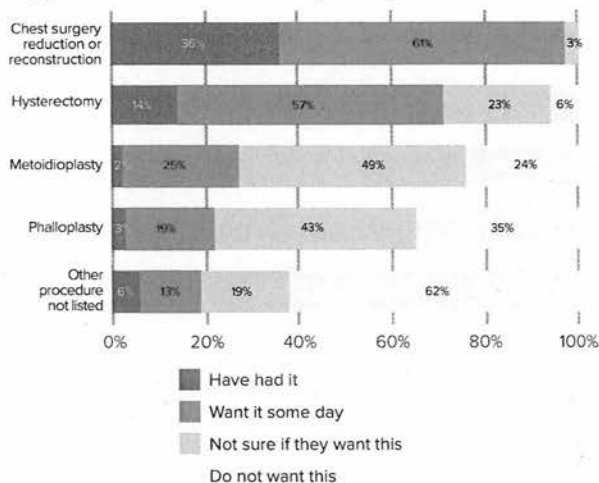
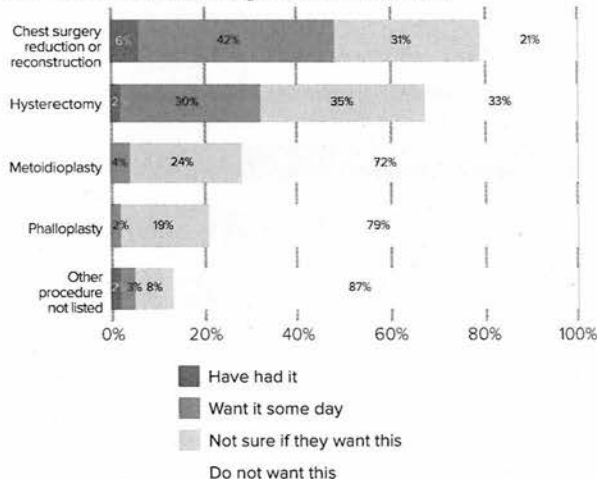


Figure 7.13: Procedures among non-binary respondents with female on their original birth certificate



Among those who had female on their original birth certificate respondents and who had undergone any of these surgical procedures, 3% had their first procedure before the age of 18. More than one-third (35%) had their first procedure between the ages of 18 and 24, 40% between the ages of 25 and 34, and 22% after the age of 34.

In addition to transition-related care, respondents who had female on their original birth certificate were also asked whether they had received a Pap smear in the past year. Only 27% reported that they had a Pap smear in the past year, compared to 43% in the U.S. adult population.^{21,22}

ii. Experiences of Respondents With Male on Their Original Birth Certificate

Among respondents who had male on their original birth certificate, hair removal or electrolysis was both the most commonly reported and the most commonly desired procedure. Forty-one percent (41%) have had hair removal or electrolysis, and 11% had received voice therapy, the second most commonly reported procedure. Regarding surgical procedures, 10% of respondents had undergone vaginoplasty and/or labiaplasty,²³ 9% had an orchiectomy,²⁴ 6% had undergone facial feminization surgery,²⁵ 8% had augmentation mammoplasty (top surgery),²⁶ 4% had a tracheal shave,²⁷ and 1% had undergone voice surgery (Table 7.5). These experiences varied by gender identity, with transgender women (Figure 7.14) being more likely to have had the procedures than non-binary respondents who had male on their original birth certificate (Figure 7.15).

Table 7.5: Procedures among respondents with male on their original birth certificate

Type of procedure	Have had it	Want it some day	Not sure if they want this	Do not want this
Hair removal or electrolysis	41%	49%	5%	5%
Voice therapy (non-surgical)	11%	46%	19%	24%
Vaginoplasty or labiaplasty	10%	45%	23%	22%
Augmentation mammoplasty	8%	36%	31%	24%
Orchiectomy	9%	40%	24%	27%
Facial feminization surgery	6%	39%	30%	25%
Tracheal shave	4%	29%	29%	38%
Silicone injections ²⁸	2%	9%	27%	61%
Voice surgery	1%	16%	32%	51%
Other procedure not listed	5%	13%	15%	67%

Figure 7.14: Procedures among transgender women

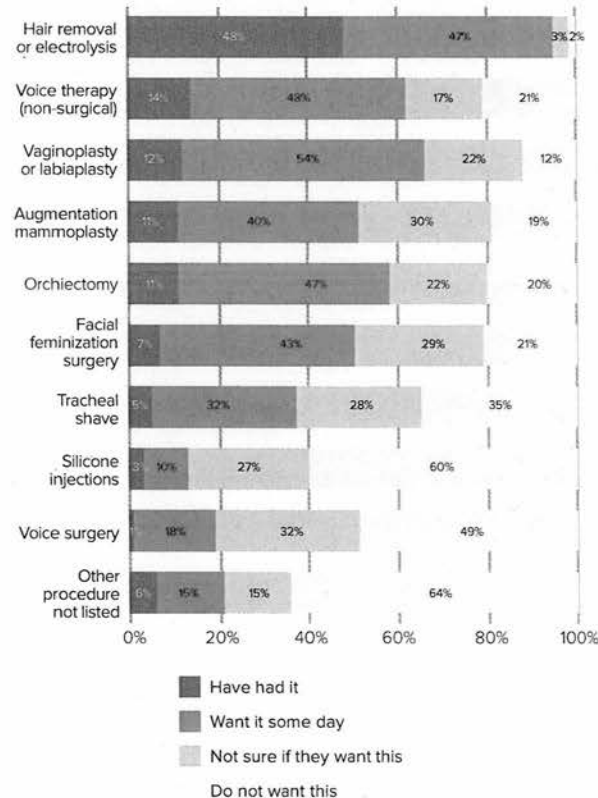
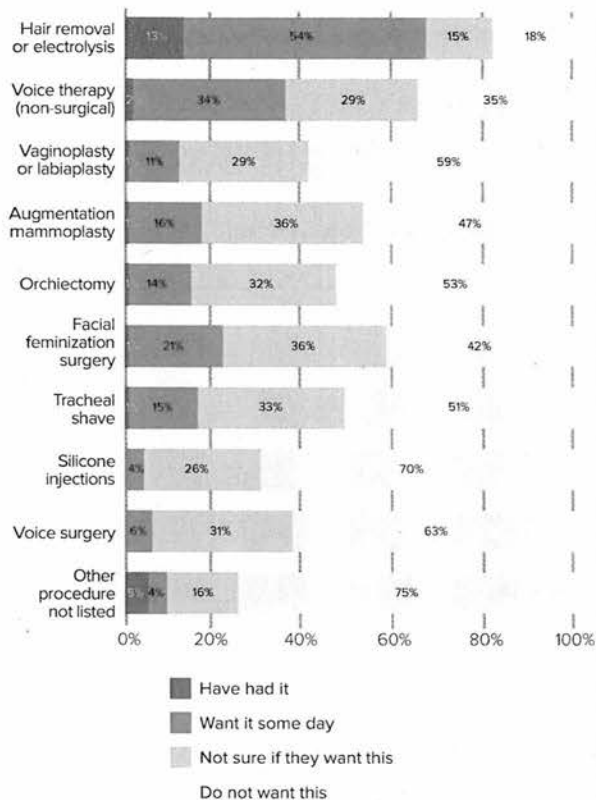


Figure 7.15: Procedures among non-binary respondents with male on their original birth certificate



Two percent (2%) of respondents with male on their original birth certificate had their first transition-related procedure (not including hormone therapy) before the age of 18. Nearly one-quarter (23%) had their first procedure between the ages of 18 and 24, 32% had their first procedure between the ages 25 and 34, and 43% after the age of 34.

e. Summary of Transition-Related Health Care

When examining the responses of all respondents, 91% reported that they had wanted counseling, hormones, and/or puberty blockers for their gender identity or gender transition at some point, but only 65% reported ever having any of them. Overall, 58% of respondents had received counseling. Approximately half (54%) had received hormone therapy and/or some form of surgery, including 49% who had hormone therapy and 25% who had undergone some form of transition-related surgery.

B. OVERALL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

There is a well-documented link between experiences of discrimination and marginalization and poor physical and mental health outcomes. Populations that face widespread stigma and discrimination are more likely to report poor overall health and are more vulnerable to a variety of physical and mental health conditions.²⁹ Previous research has described substantial health disparities affecting transgender people and the impact that experiences of discrimination, rejection, and violence have on these disparities.³⁰

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents rated their health as “fair” or “poor,” compared with 18% of the U.S. population.
- ▶ Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were currently experiencing serious psychological distress, nearly eight times the rate in the U.S. population (5%).

I. Current Health

Respondents were asked to rate their current overall health on a scale from “excellent” to “poor.” Nearly half (45%) of respondents said their health was “excellent” or “very good” and one-third (33%) said it was “good.” Twenty-two percent (22%) said it was “fair” or “poor” (Figure 7.16), compared with 18% of the U.S. general population (Figure 7.17).³¹

Figure 7.16: General health rating

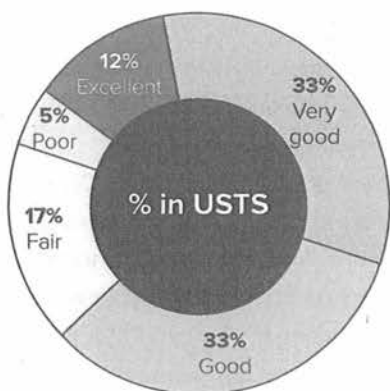
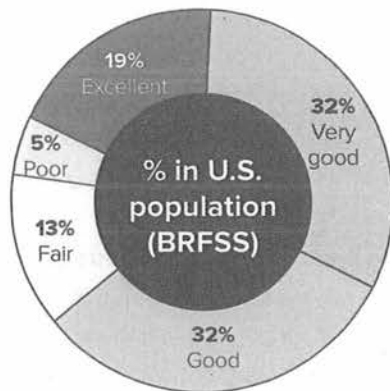


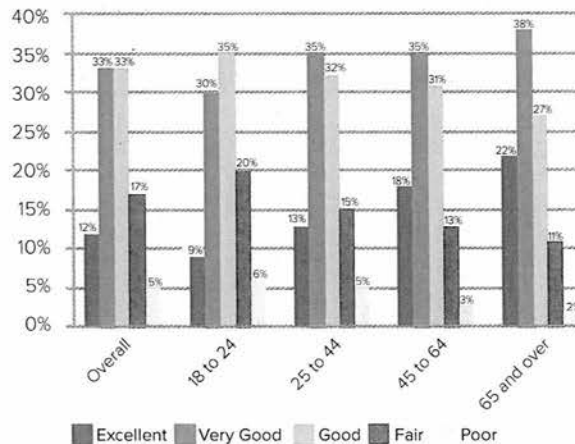
Figure 7.17: General health rating



Respondents' self-reported health varied by gender identity, with non-binary respondents with female on their original birth certificate (35%) being less likely to report excellent or very good health compared to transgender men (47%), non-binary people with male on their original birth certificate (48%), transgender women (50%),

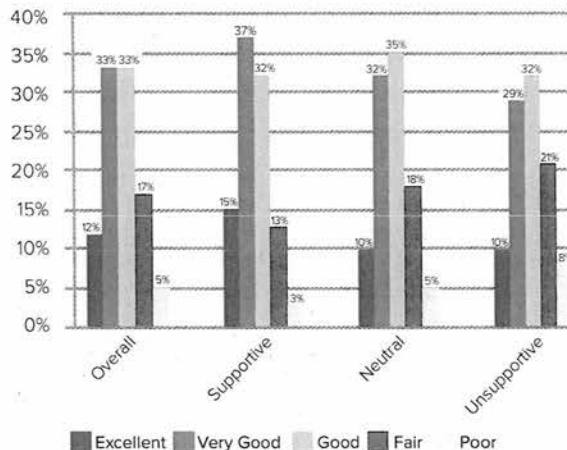
and crossdressers (57%). Reporting also differed by age, with older respondents more likely to report excellent or very good health than younger respondents, such as those aged 65 and older (60%) and 45–64 (53%), compared with those aged 25–44 (48%) and 18–24 (39%) (Figure 7.18).

Figure 7.18: Reported overall health CURRENT AGE (%)



Family support was associated with an increased likelihood of reporting excellent or very good health. Respondents who were out to their immediate family and described their family as supportive were more likely to report excellent or very good health (52%) than those whose families were neutral (42%) or unsupportive (38%) (Figure 7.19).

Figure 7.19: Reported overall health LEVEL OF FAMILY SUPPORT (%)



Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents reported currently experiencing serious psychological distress, a rate nearly eight times higher than in the U.S. population (5%).

II. Serious Psychological Distress

Respondents were asked questions to assess their level of psychological distress in the past 30 days, based on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6), a scale that is widely used when assessing mental health outcomes and is included in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).³² The K6 includes mental health screening questions and is designed to identify people who are experiencing serious psychological distress. The K6 questions asked respondents to rate how often they experienced several feelings related to psychological distress—such as hopelessness or worthlessness—during the past month on a scale that included “none of the time,” “a little of the time,” “some of the time,” “most of the time,” and “all of the time.”³³

Respondents who reported experiencing feelings related to psychological distress at least “a little of the time” for one or more of the K6 questions were asked how much the feelings interfered with their life or activities. Among them, 27% reported that the psychological distress interfered with their life or activities a lot during the past 30 days, and 58% said it interfered some or a little. Only 10% of respondents reported that it did not interfere with their life or activities during the past 30 days (Figure 7.20), in contrast to the 35% in the U.S. general population who reported no interference with their lives (Figure 7.21).³⁴

Figure 7.20: Interference of psychological distress with life or activities among those who reported feelings of distress in the past 30 days

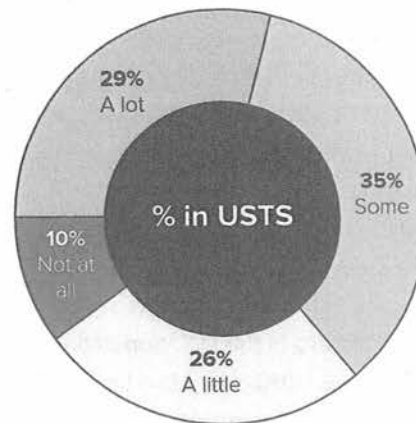
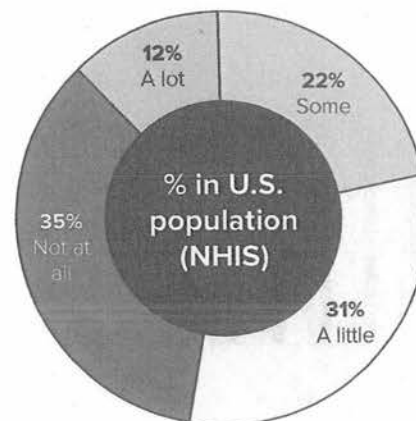


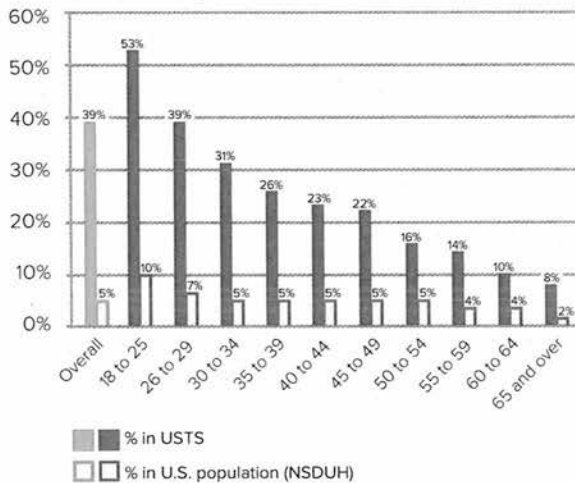
Figure 7.21: Interference of psychological distress with life or activities among those who reported feelings of distress in the past 30 days



A variable was developed from the K6 questions to reflect respondents’ current serious psychological distress (serious psychological distress experienced in the 30 days prior to participating in the survey).³⁵ Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents reported currently experiencing serious psychological distress, which is nearly eight times the rate reported in the U.S. population (5%).³⁶ Current serious psychological distress varied by gender identity. Non-binary respondents (49%) were more likely to report serious psychological distress than transgender men and women (35%) and crossdressers (18%).

While all age groups of USTS respondents reported substantially more distress than their counterparts in the U.S. population, younger survey respondents were more likely to report current serious psychological distress. Fifty-three percent (53%) of USTS respondents aged 18 to 25 reported experiencing current serious psychological distress, which was more than six times as high as the rate among respondents who were 65 and older (8%) (Figure 7.22).³⁷ A similar pattern emerged in reporting of current serious psychological distress in the U.S. population, with those aged 18 to 25 (10%) being five times as likely to report experiencing serious psychological distress as those aged 65 and older (2%).³⁸

Figure 7:22: Currently experiencing serious psychological distress
CURRENT AGE (%)



Experiences with current psychological distress differed according to educational attainment. Respondents who had not completed high school (58%), those who had completed high school or a GED only (54%), and those with some college education (48%) were more likely to report currently experiencing serious psychological distress than respondents who had completed an associate's degree (32%) or higher (Figure 7.23).

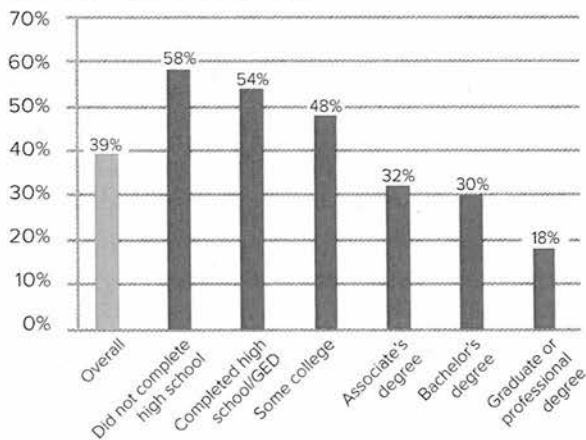
In Our Own Voices

"I spent decades torturing myself into depression because I was certain that coming out would destroy my life. I did everything I could to get my transness to go away but it left me physically and psychologically weak, and on the verge of suicide."

"I had suffered from anxiety and depression as a direct result of gender dysphoria. This caused me to become more and more unable to function in society as time went on. Only when my state expanded Medicaid was I finally able to start dealing with all of these issues so I could become a productive member of society."

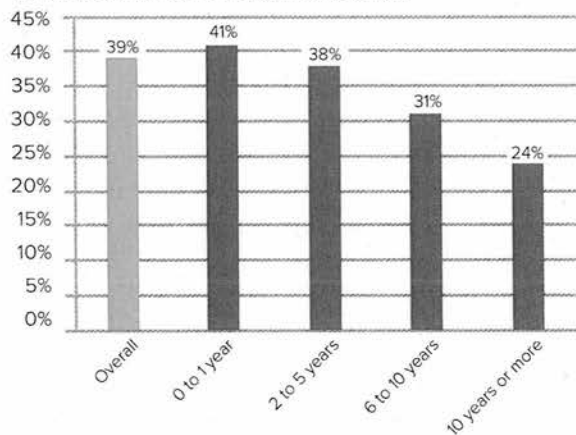
"I have struggled with depression and anxiety ever since puberty. I've failed classes, isolated myself, and considered suicide because of this. A year ago, I felt hopeless and had daily suicidal thoughts, and today I've got a plan for the future and haven't had a serious suicidal thought in months. I firmly believe this is because of my transition. I feel so much more comfortable and happy than I've ever been."

Figure 7.23: Currently experiencing serious psychological distress
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (%)



Respondents who had transitioned ten or more years prior to participating in the survey (24%) were substantially less likely to be currently experiencing serious psychological distress, in contrast to those who had transitioned within the past year (41%) (Figure 7.24). While psychological distress was higher among those early in their transition, it was higher yet among those who have not transitioned but wanted to. Nearly half (49%) of those who have not transitioned but wanted to were currently experiencing serious psychological distress, compared with 36% of those who had transitioned at any time prior to taking the survey.

Figure 7.24: Currently experiencing serious psychological distress
YEARS SINCE BEGAN TRANSITIONING (%)



Respondents who were living in poverty were more likely to currently be experiencing serious psychological distress (52%). People with disabilities (59%) were nearly twice as likely to currently experience psychological distress compared to those who did not identify as having a disability (31%).

Psychological distress was associated with a variety of experiences of rejection, discrimination, and violence:

- Respondents who were out to their immediate families and described them as supportive (31%) were less likely to report serious psychological distress than those whose families were neutral (42%) or unsupportive (50%).
- Respondents who were fired or forced to resign, denied a promotion, or not hired in the past year because they were transgender (51%) were more likely to report current serious psychological distress than those who did not have those experiences in the past year (36%).
- Respondents who were physically attacked in the past year (59%) were more likely to be currently experiencing serious psychological distress than those who were not physically attacked in the past year (36%).
- Respondents who were sexually assaulted in the past year³⁹ (60%) were more likely to be currently experiencing serious psychological distress than those who were not sexually assaulted in the past year (37%).

C. CONVERSION THERAPY AND OTHER PRESSURES TO DE-TRANSITION

Many transgender people discuss their gender identity with professionals, such as health care providers or religious advisors. However, despite the medical consensus that efforts to change someone's gender identity or stop them from being transgender ("conversion therapy") are ineffective, harmful, and even abusive,⁴⁰ some professionals still attempt to do so. Additionally, some transgender people feel pressure to hide their gender identity or to go back to living according to the gender they were thought to be at birth ("de-transition") for a variety of other reasons. For example, some transgender people are pressured to avoid or put off their transition, or to de-transition after they have started their transition, by family members or employers, as well as religious advisors or health professionals. Others face significant discrimination when they begin transitioning, like losing their jobs or home or being rejected by their family or friends, and may decide to temporarily delay or even reverse their transition as a result.

The survey explored respondents' experiences discussing their gender identity with professionals, such as psychologists, counselors, and religious advisors, including pressure from those professionals to de-transition or stop being transgender. Experiences with de-transitioning were also examined. Respondents overall demonstrated high levels of resistance to such pressure and other forms of discrimination. Few respondents de-transitioned, and many of those who did de-transition did so only temporarily and were living according to their gender identity at the time of the survey.

KEY FINDINGS

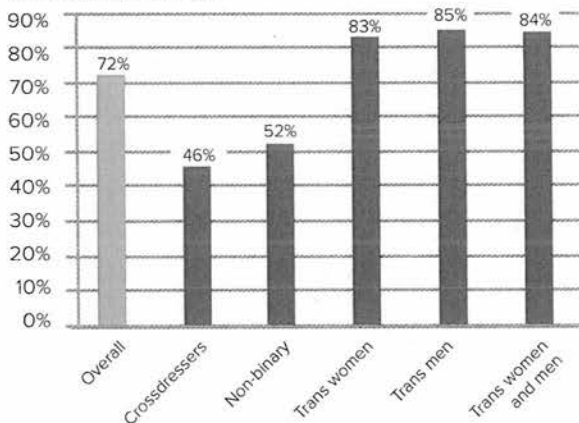
- ▶ Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents reported that one or more professionals, such as a psychologist, counselor, or religious advisor, tried to stop them from being transgender.
.....
- ▶ Eight percent (8%) of respondents had de-transitioned temporarily or permanently at some point, meaning that they went back to living as the gender they were thought to be at birth for a period of time.
.....
- ▶ The majority of respondents who de-transitioned did so only temporarily, and 62% were currently living full time in a gender different than the one they were thought to be at birth.
.....
- ▶ Respondents who de-transitioned cited a number of reasons for doing so, including facing too much harassment or discrimination after they began transitioning (31%), having trouble getting a job (29%), or pressure from a parent (36%), spouse (18%), or other family members (26%).

I. Discussing Gender Identity with Professionals and Conversion Therapy

The survey examined a variety of experiences with professionals—such as psychologists, counselors, and religious advisors—with whom respondents had discussed their gender identity. Almost three-quarters of respondents (72%) reported that they had discussed their gender identity with such a professional.

Whether an individual discussed their gender identity with a professional differed by gender, with transgender men and women (84%) being more likely to do so than non-binary respondents (52%) and crossdressers (46%) (Figure 7.25).

Figure 7.25: Ever discussed gender identity with a professional
GENDER IDENTITY (%)



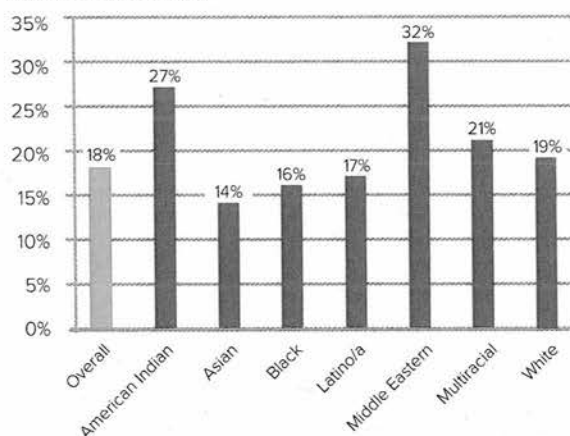
Of all respondents who discussed their gender identity with a professional, nearly one in five (18%) reported that the professional tried to stop them from being transgender, representing 13% of all respondents in the sample.⁴¹ Four percent (4%) of all respondents saw a religious/spiritual counselor or advisor who tried to stop them

Nearly one in five (18%) of those who discussed their gender identity with a professional—or 13% of all respondents—reported that the professional tried to stop them from being transgender.

from being transgender, and nearly one in ten (9%) respondents saw a non-religious/spiritual professional (such as a therapist or a counselor) who tried to stop them from being transgender.

The likelihood that a professional tried to stop a respondent from being transgender differed by race and ethnicity. While Middle Eastern (32%) and American Indian (27%) respondents were most likely to have this experience, rates were lower for Black (16%) and Asian (14%) respondents (Figure 7.26).

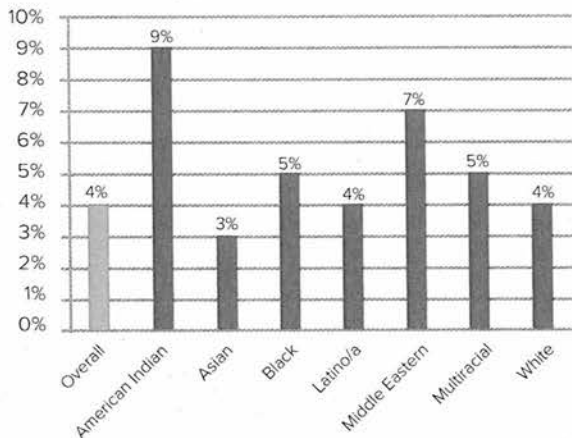
Figure 7.26: Professional tried to stop them from being transgender
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



More than three-quarters (78%) of respondents were under the age of 25 when they had this experience, 51% were 18 or younger, and 28% were 15 or younger.

Of the 4% who reported that a religious or spiritual counselor or advisor tried to stop them from being transgender, American Indian (9%) and Middle Eastern (7%) respondents were more likely to have such an experience with a religious or spiritual counselor or advisor (Figure 7.27).

Figure 7.27: Religious counselor tried to stop them from being transgender
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Participants who had a professional try to stop them from being transgender were:

- Far more likely to currently be experiencing serious psychological distress (47%) than those who did not have the experience (34%).
- More likely to have attempted suicide (58%) than those who did not have the experience (39%).
- Nearly three times as likely to have run away from home (22%) than those who did not have the experience (8%).
- More likely to have ever experienced homelessness (46%) than those who did not have the experience (29%).
- More likely to have ever done sex work (18%) than those who did not have the experience (11%).

In Our Own Voices

“The doctor figured out I was trans and practiced conversion therapy without telling anyone, including my parents. I tried to tell my family that the doctor was not working, but nobody listened. I was sent there for over three years. I became so badly suicidal that I didn’t go a minute without thinking of death.”

“When I was 18, I had to leave where I grew up after threats of physical violence and conversion therapy from my family. My parents were abusive before they knew I was trans, but when they found out, they used that to hurt and control me more.”

“[An] OB/GYN forced me onto birth control pills to ‘fix’ me into thinking I was a woman again. I ended up in the psychiatric ward of my local hospital on suicide watch after three days on birth control.”

“I was kicked out of my parents’ home. I ran out of what little money I had, and I had nowhere to go. My family offered to let me return to their home on the condition that I de-transition and live as a man. I accepted because I had no choice.”

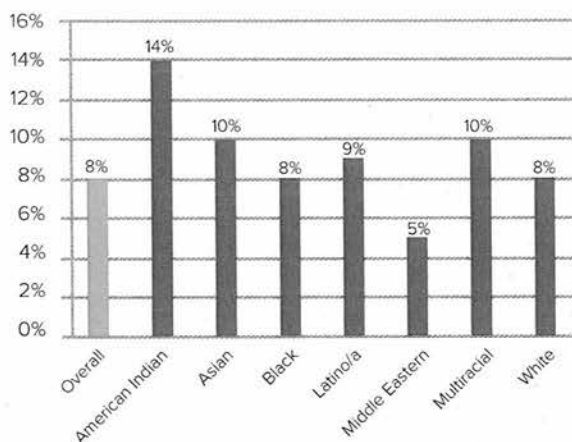
Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents discussed their sexual orientation with a professional. Of those, 14% reported that a professional tried to change their sexual orientation, representing 10% of the overall sample.

II. De-Transitioning

Respondents were asked whether they had ever “de-transitioned,” which was defined as having “gone back to living as [their] sex assigned at birth, at least for a while.” Eight percent (8%) of respondents reported having de-transitioned at some point. Most of those who de-transitioned did so only temporarily: 62% of those who had de-transitioned reported that they were currently living full time in a gender different than the gender they were thought to be at birth.

Transgender women were more likely to report having de-transitioned (11%), in contrast to transgender men (4%). Rates of de-transitioning also differed by race and ethnicity, with American Indian (14%), Asian (10%), and multiracial (10%) respondents reporting the highest levels of de-transitioning (Figure 7.28).

Figure 7.28: Ever de-transitioned RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Respondents who had de-transitioned cited a range of reasons, though only 5% of those who had de-transitioned reported that they had done so because they realized that gender transition was not for them, representing 0.4% of the overall sample.⁴² The most common reason cited for de-transitioning was pressure from a parent (36%). Twenty-six percent (26%) reported that they de-transitioned due to pressure from other family members, and 18% reported that they de-transitioned because of pressure from their spouse or partner. Other common reasons included facing too much harassment or discrimination after they began transitioning (31%), and having trouble getting a job (29%) (Table 7.6).

Table 7.6: Reasons why respondents de-transitioned, at least for a little while

Reasons for de-transitioning	% of those who had ever de-transitioned
Pressure from a parent	36%
Transitioning was too hard for them	33%
They faced too much harassment or discrimination as a transgender person	31%
They had trouble getting a job	29%
Pressure from other family members	26%
Pressure from a spouse or partner	18%
Pressure from an employer	17%
Pressure from friends	13%
Pressure from a mental health professional	5%
Pressure from a religious counselor	5%
They realized that gender transition was not for them	5%
Initial transition did not reflect the complexity of their gender identity (write-in response)	4%
Financial reasons (write-in response)	3%
Medical reasons (write-in response)	2%
A reason not listed above	35%

D. SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS

The prevalence of suicide attempts among transgender people is reported in the literature as being substantially higher than that in the U.S. general population. Previous studies identify a variety of risk and protective factors that affect the rates of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among transgender people, including family support, experiences of anti-transgender discrimination and violence, and access to health care, employment, and housing.⁴³

The survey explored suicidal thoughts and behaviors among respondents both over the course of their lifetime and in the year prior to completing the survey. Respondents were asked whether they had seriously thought about, made a plan, or tried to kill themselves at any time in their lives or in the past twelve months to assess a range of suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Questions were patterned on the National Survey on Drug Use and Health⁴⁴ and National Comorbidity Survey Replication⁴⁵ to allow for comparison to the U.S. population.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Forty percent (40%) of respondents have attempted suicide at some point in their life, compared to 4.6% in the U.S. population.

- ▶ Forty-eight percent (48%) of respondents have seriously thought about killing themselves in the past year, compared to 4% of the U.S. population, and 82% have had serious thoughts about killing themselves at some point in their life.

- ▶ Nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents made plans to kill themselves in the past year, compared to 1.1% of the U.S. population.

- ▶ Seven percent (7%) of respondents attempted suicide in the past year, compared to 0.6% in the U.S. population.

- ▶ More than two-thirds (71%) of respondents who have attempted suicide have done so more than once in their lifetime, with 46% of those who have attempted suicide reporting three or more attempts.

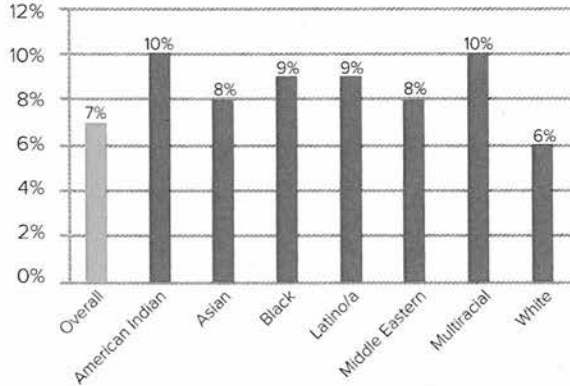
I. Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in the Past Year

Nearly half (48%) of all respondents reported that they had seriously thought about killing themselves in the past twelve months, compared to 4% of the U.S. general population.⁴⁶ Nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents reported making plans to kill themselves in the past year, compared

to 1.1% in the U.S. population.⁴⁷

Seven percent (7%) of all respondents attempted suicide in the past year, nearly twelve times the rate of attempted suicide in the U.S. population in the past year (0.6%).⁴⁸ The rate of attempted suicide in the past year was higher among people of color, including American Indian (10%), multiracial (10%), Black (9%), and Latino/a (9%) respondents (Figure 7.29). The rate of attempted suicide in the past year was also higher among people with disabilities (12%).

Figure 7.29: Attempted suicide in the past year RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Respondents who did not complete high school (17%) were more than twice as likely as the overall sample to have attempted suicide in the past year, and those who completed high school or a GED only (13%) were almost twice as likely to have attempted suicide in that time period (Figure 7.30).

Figure 7.30: Attempted suicide in the past year EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (%)

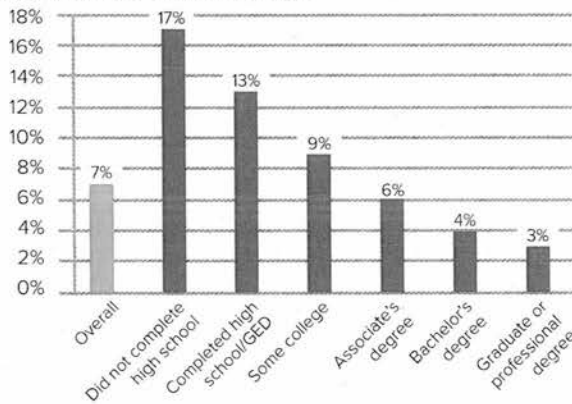
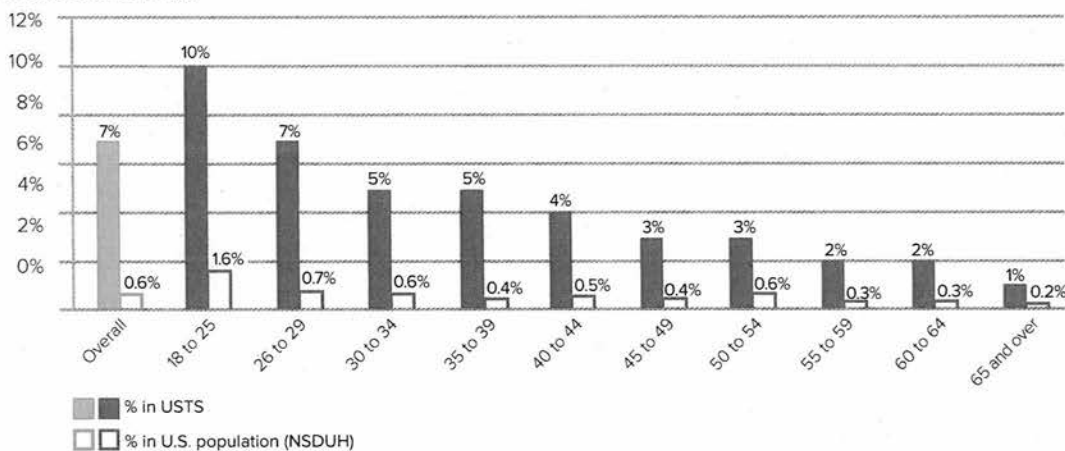


Figure 7.31: Attempted suicide in the past year CURRENT AGE (%)



Seven percent (7%) of all respondents attempted suicide in the past year, nearly twelve times the rate of attempted suicide in the U.S. population (0.6%).

Respondents whose current income came only from work in the underground economy, such as sex work, drug sales, or other criminalized work, had a higher rate of suicide attempts in the past year (27%). Additionally, respondents who described their families as unsupportive (13%) were more than twice as likely to have attempted suicide in the past year as those who described their families as supportive (6%).

The rate of suicide attempt in the past year varied by age, with younger respondents more likely to have attempted suicide in the past year, a similar pattern to that found in the general U.S. population.⁴⁹ One in ten (10%) USTS respondents aged 18–25 have attempted suicide in the past year, ten times the rate among those aged 65 and older (1%) (Figure 7.31). Similarly, those aged 18–25 in the U.S. population (1.6%) were eight times more likely to report having attempted suicide in the past year than those aged 65 and older (0.2%).⁵⁰

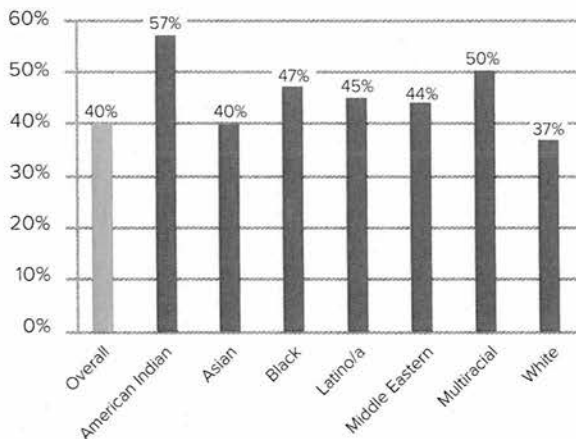
Of those who attempted suicide in the past year, 45% received medical attention⁵¹ as a result, compared to 60% who attempted suicide and received medical attention in the U.S. population.⁵² Thirty percent (30%) of respondents who attempted suicide stayed in a hospital for at least one night, compared to 41% of those who attempted suicide in the U.S. population.⁵³

II. Lifetime Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors

Eighty-two percent (82%) of all respondents had seriously thought about killing themselves at some point in their lives, and 40% of respondents in the sample reported having attempted suicide at some point in their life. This lifetime suicide attempt rate is nearly nine times as high as the prevalence in the U.S. population (4.6%).⁵⁴

Lifetime suicide attempt rates were higher for transgender men (45%) than for transgender women (40%) and non-binary respondents (39%), and crossdressers had a substantially lower rate of attempted suicide in their lifetime (15%). Lifetime suicide attempts were also higher among people of color, with American Indian (57%) respondents reporting the highest rates, followed by multiracial (50%), Black (47%), Latino/a (45%), and Middle Eastern (44%) respondents, in contrast to white (37%) respondents (Figure 7.32).

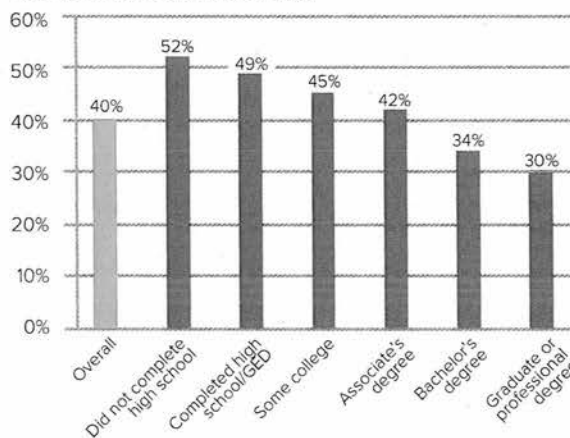
Figure 7.32: Ever attempted suicide RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Forty percent (40%) of respondents have attempted suicide in their lifetime, nearly nine times the rate reported in the U.S. population (4.6%).

People with disabilities (54%) in the sample were more likely to report attempting suicide. Lifetime suicide attempts also varied by level of education, with the highest rates among those who did not complete high school (52%), and the lowest rates among those with a bachelor's degree (34%) or higher (30%) (Figure 7.33).

Figure 7.33: Ever attempted suicide EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (%)



Among respondents who were out to the immediate family they grew up with, lifetime suicide attempts varied significantly by family support. A majority (54%) of those who described their families as unsupportive had attempted suicide in their lifetime, in contrast to 37% of those with supportive families.⁵⁵

Lifetime suicide attempts were also higher for respondents who were physically attacked in the past year (65%), or have ever experienced homelessness (59%), done sex work (57%), lost their job for being transgender (55%), or been sexually assaulted⁵⁶ (54%).

More than two-thirds (71%) of all respondents who had ever attempted suicide did so more than once, including 46% who reported three or more attempts, and 21% who reported five or more attempts.

younger. Thirty-nine percent (39%) reported that their first attempt occurred between the ages of 14 and 17, 20% reported that it occurred between age 18 and 24, and 8% reported that their first attempt was at age 25 or older.

III. Age of Suicide Attempts

a. Age of First Attempt

Respondents who have attempted suicide (once or multiple times) were asked about the age of their first suicide attempt. More than one-third (34%) reported that their first attempt was at age 13 or

b. Age of Most Recent Attempt

Among respondents who reported a suicide attempt,⁵⁷ 6% reported that their most recent attempt happened at age 13 or younger. More than one-quarter (26%) reported the most recent attempt occurred between the ages of 14 and 17, 41% reported that it happened between the ages of 18 and 24, and 27% reported that their most recent attempt was at age 25 or older.

E. SUBSTANCE USE

Substance use is an important indicator of mental health as well as physical wellbeing, and it may reflect an individual's level of exposure to a variety of risk and protective factors, such as family acceptance, homelessness, violence, and economic opportunity.⁵⁸ The survey explored patterns in respondents' substance use with questions informed by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health⁵⁹ to allow for comparison to substance use trends in the U.S. population. Respondents were asked whether they had ever consumed certain substances, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Respondents who reported using such substances received a series of follow-up questions about the frequency and quantity of their substance use.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ One-quarter (25%) of respondents used marijuana within the past month, compared to 8% of the U.S. population.

- ▶ Seven percent (7%) of respondents used prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them or used them not as prescribed ("nonmedical prescription drug use") in the past month, compared to 2% of the U.S. population.

- ▶ Four percent (4%) of respondents used illicit drugs (not including marijuana and nonmedical use of prescription drugs) in the past month, and 29% have used them in their lifetime.

- ▶ Overall, 29% of respondents reported illicit drug use, marijuana consumption, and/or nonmedical prescription drug use in the past month, nearly three times the rate in the U.S. population (10%).

I. Alcohol Consumption

Ninety percent (90%) of respondents reported having a drink of alcohol, such as beer, wine, or hard liquor, at any point in their lives, compared to 86% in the U.S. adult population.⁶⁰ Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents were currently using alcohol, meaning that they had consumed at least one alcoholic beverage within the 30 days prior to taking the survey, compared with 56% of the U.S. adult population.⁶¹

a. Frequency of Current Alcohol Use

Respondents who were currently using alcohol were asked how many days they had used alcohol in the past month. Twenty-nine percent (29%) used alcohol on 1 or 2 days, and 28% had used alcohol on 3–5 days during the prior month. Nineteen percent (19%) used alcohol on 6–10 of the past 30 days, and 23% consumed alcohol on 11 or more days.

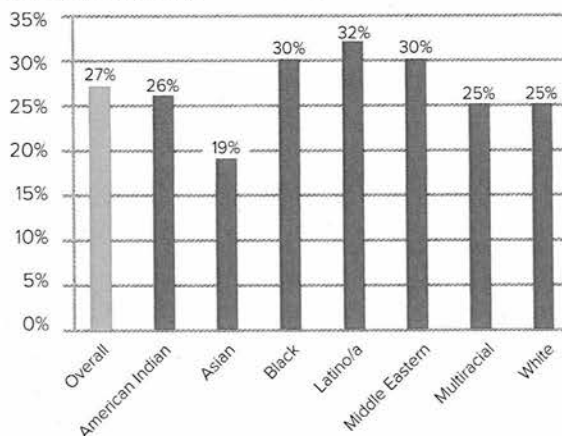
b. Binge and Heavy Drinking

Current alcohol users were also asked for the number of days in the month when they consumed 5 or more drinks on the same occasion, meaning at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other (“binge drinking”).⁶² Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the sample reported binge drinking in the past month, slightly higher than the rate in the U.S. adult population in 2014 (25%).⁶³

Respondents who were currently working in the underground economy, such as sex work, drug sales, or other criminalized work, were nearly twice as likely to engage in binge drinking as those in the overall sample, with nearly half (49%) reporting binge drinking at least one time in the past month.

Latino/a (32%), Middle Eastern (30%), and Black (30%) respondents were more likely to report binge drinking, while white (25%) and Asian (19%) respondents reported lower levels (Figure 7.34).

Figure 7.34: Reported binge drinking in the past month RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



Nine percent (9%) of respondents reported binge drinking on one day during the month and 10% on 2–4 days. Seven percent (7%) of respondents reported binge drinking on 5 more days that month (“heavy drinking”), the same rate as the U.S. population (7%).⁶⁴ Respondents who were currently working in the underground economy (19%) were more than twice as likely to report heavy drinking in the past month as those in the overall sample.

II. Tobacco Use

a. Lifetime and Current Tobacco Use

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents reported that they had smoked all or part of a cigarette at any point in their lives, lower than the rate in the U.S. population (63%).⁶⁵ Twenty-two percent (22%) were current smokers, meaning that they smoked at least one cigarette or part of a cigarette within thirty days of taking the survey, which compares to 21% of the U.S. population.⁶⁶

Respondents who were currently working in the underground economy were more than twice as likely as the overall sample to have smoked tobacco within the past month, with 51% reporting current tobacco use.

b. Frequency of Tobacco Use Among Current Users

Current smokers were also asked the number of days on which they had smoked tobacco in the past month. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of current users smoked tobacco on 4 days or fewer in the past month, and one-quarter (24%) smoked tobacco on 5–20 days. More than one-third (38%) of current smokers smoked tobacco daily during the past month, compared to 59% of current smokers in the U.S. population.⁶⁷

Among daily smokers, nearly one-third (32%) smoked one or more packs each day. Smoking more than one pack a day was more likely to be reported by daily smokers aged 45–64 (54%) and 65 and over (50%) (Figure 7.35), as well as American Indian (44%) and white (40%) respondents (Figure 7.36).

Figure 7.35: Daily smokers consuming one or more packs a day in the past month
CURRENT AGE (%)

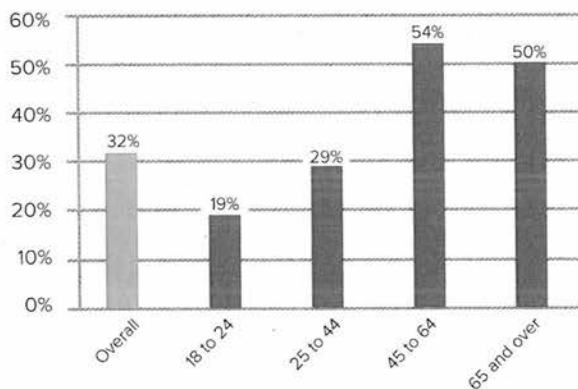
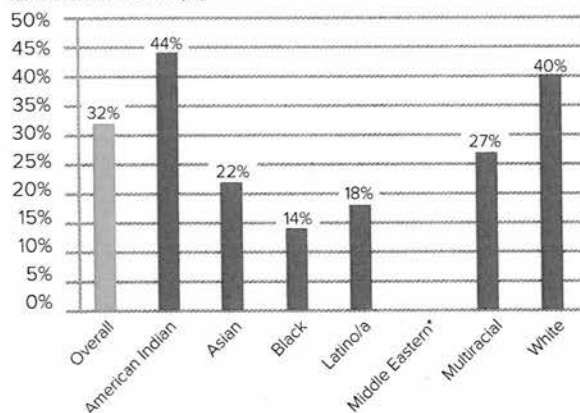


Figure 7.36: Daily smokers consuming one or more pack a day in the past month
RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



*Sample size too low to report

III. E-Cigarettes or Vaping Products

More than one-third (36%) of respondents had used e-cigarettes or vaping products at some point in their lives. Lifetime use of these products was elevated among respondents who have worked in the underground economy, with 57% reporting past use. Thirty percent (30%) of respondents who had ever used e-cigarettes or vaping products used them within 30 days of taking the survey. An additional 40% used them more than 30 days prior but less than a year before taking the survey, and 29% had used them more than 12 months before taking the survey.

IV. Marijuana Use

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents reported having ever used marijuana,⁶⁸ compared with 47% of the general population.⁶⁹

a. Current Marijuana Use

One-quarter (25%) of the sample reported current use, meaning that they used marijuana within 30 days of taking the survey, compared to 8% of the U.S. general population.⁷⁰ Current marijuana use was elevated among those who were currently working in the underground economy (60%) and those who were living with HIV (48%).

b. Frequency of Marijuana Use

Respondents who had used marijuana in the month before taking the survey were asked for the number of days in which they smoked marijuana during that period. More than one in five (22%) smoked marijuana on 1–2 days that month. Thirty percent (30%) smoked marijuana on 3–12 days, 26% on 13–28 days, and nearly one-quarter (23%) smoked marijuana on 29 or on all 30 of the past 30 days.

Among those who were currently working in the underground economy, approximately one-third (34%) reported using marijuana on 29–30 days in

the past month. Respondents who were living with HIV (34%) were also more likely to use marijuana on 29–30 days within that month.

V. Illicit Drugs

Nearly one-third (29%) of respondents reported ever using illegal or illicit drugs, such as cocaine, crack, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, or inhalants like poppers or whippits (but not including marijuana).⁷¹ Prior use of illicit drugs was particularly high among respondents who have done sex work (56%) and those who have done underground economy work other than sex work (such as drug sales) (75%). Past illicit drug use was also higher among those who have lost a job because of being transgender (43%) or who have ever experienced homelessness (42%).

a. Current Illicit Drug Use

Four percent (4%) of respondents in the sample reported current use of illicit drugs (not including marijuana), meaning they had consumed them within 30 days of taking the survey.

Respondents who were currently working in the underground economy (26%) were nearly nine times as likely as those who were not currently working in the underground economy (3%) to have used illicit drugs within the past month.

VI. Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use

Approximately one-third (34%) of respondents have taken prescription drugs, such as Oxycontin, Xanax, Adderall, or Ambien, for “nonmedical use,” meaning that the drugs were not prescribed to them or that they were not being taken as prescribed.

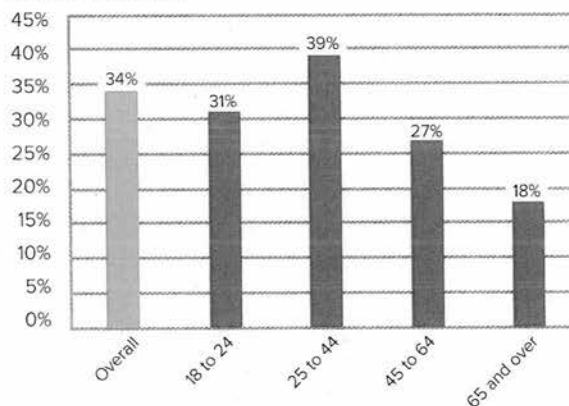
Among respondents who have worked in the underground economy, almost two-thirds (63%) reported nonmedical prescription drug use, compared with 26% of those who had no experience in the underground economy. Rates of nonmedical

Almost one-third (29%) of respondents reported illicit drug use, marijuana consumption, and/or nonmedical prescription drug use in the past month, compared with 10% of the U.S. population.

prescription drug use were particularly high among those who had done underground economy work other than sex work, such as drug sales, with 75% reporting nonmedical prescription drug use.

Younger respondents were more likely to report nonmedical prescription drug use, with those aged 25–44 (39%) being most likely, and those aged 65 and older (18%) being the least likely to report such prescription drug use (Figure 7.37).

Figure 7.37: Nonmedical use of prescription drugs
CURRENT AGE (%)



a. Current Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use

Of respondents who reported nonmedical use of prescription drugs, over half (51%) had last engaged in such use more than a year before taking the survey, and 28% had done so within that year but more than a month earlier. More than one in five (21%) reported nonmedical prescription drug use within 30 days of taking the survey. This represents 7% of the overall sample, compared to 2% of the U.S. population.⁷²

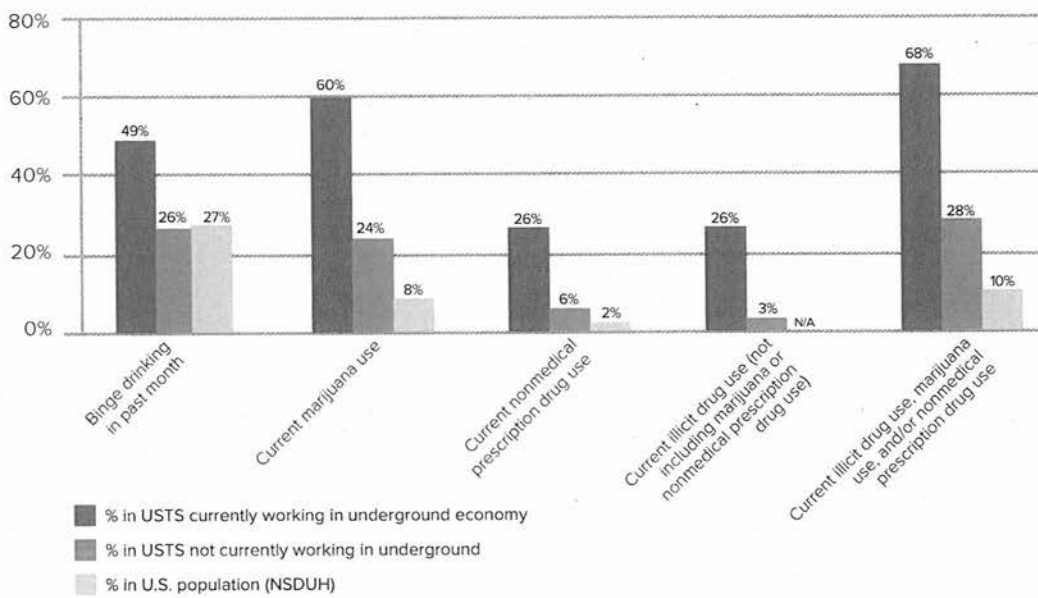
VI. Overall Current Drug Use

Almost one-third (29%) of respondents in the overall sample were currently using illicit drugs, marijuana, and/or prescription drugs not prescribed to them or not as prescribed, meaning

they consumed them within 30 days of taking the survey. This was nearly three times higher than usage in the U.S. general population (10%).⁷³

More than two-thirds (68%) of those currently working in the underground economy reported illicit drug use (including marijuana and prescription drug use) in the past month (Figure 7.38).

Figure 7.38: Substance use in the past month among respondents currently working in the underground economy



F. HIV TESTING AND CARE

The prevalence of HIV and AIDS has been found in prior research to be higher among transgender people than in the U.S. general population.⁷⁴ The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control found that a number of factors increase transgender people’s vulnerability to HIV, including social rejection and stigma, inadequate access to transgender-competent care, barriers to accessing education, employment, and housing, and high rates of intimate partner violence.⁷⁵ Respondents received a series of questions to examine experiences related to HIV testing, HIV care, and living with HIV. Several of the questions in this section of the survey were patterned on national surveys, including the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)⁷⁶ and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS),⁷⁷ so that answers could be compared to the U.S. population.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ More than half (55%) of the sample has been tested for HIV, compared to 34% of the U.S. adult population.

- ▶ Respondents reported that they were diagnosed with HIV at a rate of 1.4%, a substantially higher rate than in the U.S. population (0.3%).

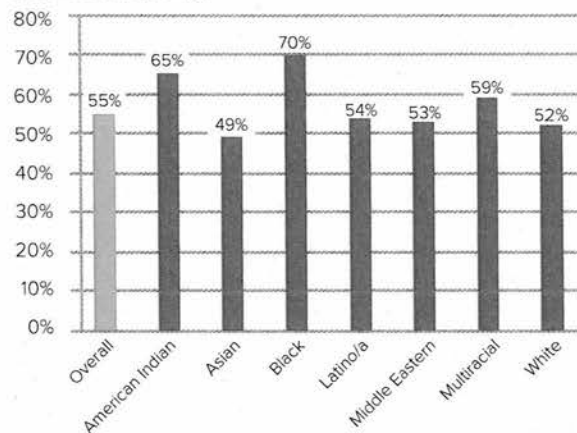
- ▶ Transgender women were more than twice as likely to be living with HIV (3.4%) as the overall sample.

- ▶ Nearly one in five (19.0%) Black transgender women were living with HIV, and American Indian (4.6%) and Latina (4.4%) transgender women were more than three times as likely to be living with HIV as the overall sample.

I. HIV Testing

Respondents were asked whether they had ever been tested for HIV, aside from testing obtained through the blood donation process. More than half (55%) of respondents had been tested for HIV, in comparison to 34% of the U.S. adult population.⁷⁸ This varied by gender identity, with transgender women (62%) and transgender men (58%) being more likely to be tested, compared to non-binary people (45%). Black respondents (70%) and American Indian (65%) respondents were more likely to have been tested than other people of color and white respondents (Figure 7.39).

Figure 7.39: Ever been tested for HIV RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



People who were currently working in the underground economy, including sex work and drug sales, were also more likely to have been tested (78%).

a. Test Location

Those who were tested for HIV received tests in a wide range of locations, with nearly one-half (45%) being tested at their private doctor's or HMO office, more than one-quarter (26%) at a clinic, and 11% in a counseling or testing site. Testing locations followed a similar pattern in the U.S. general population, with a few exceptions. USTS respondents were almost three times as likely to have been tested at a counseling or testing site (11%) than those in the U.S. general population (4%),⁷⁹ and three times less likely to be tested as a hospital inpatient (Table 7.7).

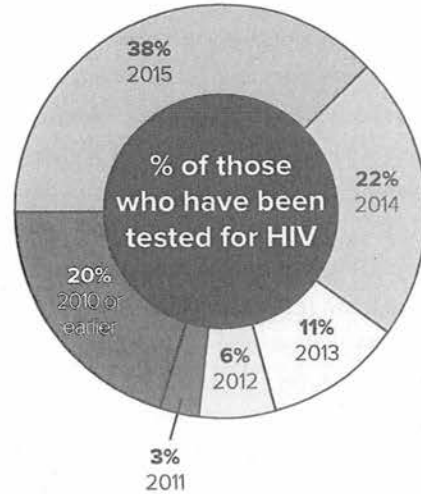
Table 7.7: Locations where last tested for HIV

Location	% in USTS	% in U.S. population (BRFSS)
Private doctor or HMO office	45%	47%
Clinic	26%	23%
Counseling or testing site	11%	4%
Hospital inpatient	3%	9%
Emergency room	1%	2%
Home	1%	2%
Jail, prison, or other correctional facility	<1%	1%
Drug treatment facility	<1%	<1%
Somewhere else	9%	11%
Military (write-in response)	2%	---
Mobile clinic or testing site (write-in response)	2%	---
Do not know or not sure	---	1%

b. Year of Last Test

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents who have ever been tested for HIV had most recently been tested in 2015 (the year the survey was conducted), and more than two-thirds (71%) had last been tested in 2013 or later (Figure 7.40).

Figure 7.40: Year of last HIV test



c. Reason For Not Being Tested

Forty-five (45%) percent of respondents reported that they had not been tested for HIV. Of those who had not been tested, 86% reported that the main reason for not being tested was that exposure to HIV was unlikely, similarly to the rate in the U.S. general population (86%).⁸⁰ Respondents also reported a variety of additional reasons for not being tested (Table 7.8).

Table 7.8: Main reason for not being tested for HIV

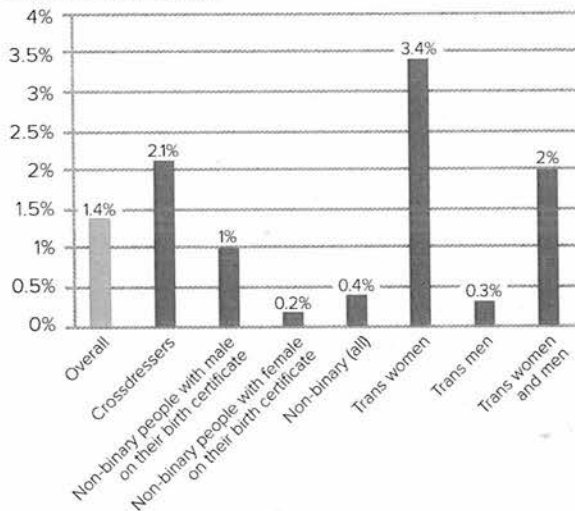
Reason	% of those who have not been tested in USTS	% of those who have not been tested in U.S. population (NHIS)
Unlikely they have been exposed to HIV	86%	86%
Their doctor/health care provider never mentioned getting an HIV test	3%	---
They did not know where to get tested	1%	0%
They did not want to think about HIV or being HIV-positive	1%	0%
They did not like needles	1%	0%
They were afraid to find out if they were HIV-positive	1%	0%
They were worried their name would be sent to the government if they tested positive	<1%	<1%
They were afraid of losing their job, insurance, home, friends, or family if people knew they were tested	<1%	<1%
Some other reason	2%	1%
No particular reason	6%	12%

II. HIV Status

The rate of respondents who were living with HIV (1.4%)^{81,82} was more than four times as high as that in the U.S. general population (0.3%).⁸³ More than half (53%) were HIV negative,⁸⁴ and 46% had not been tested or did not know the results of their HIV test. This included 1% of those who were tested who did not know their status because they never received the results and less than 1% who received results that were unclear, which meant the test did not determine if they had HIV.

HIV status varied by gender identity, with transgender women being most likely to report they were living with HIV (3.4%), in contrast to transgender men (0.3%) and non-binary people (0.4%) (Figure 7.41).

Figure 7.41: Living with HIV
GENDER IDENTITY (%)



The rate of HIV differed by race and ethnicity, with Black respondents being almost five times as likely to be HIV positive or reactive (6.7%). American Indian (2.0%) and Latino/a (1.6%) participants also had higher rates of HIV compared to the sample and in contrast to Asian (0.5%) and white (0.4%) respondents (Figure 7.42).

In Our Own Voices

“I have consulted with surgeons [for gender transition] only to be told they would charge me 50–100% more for the surgery because I am HIV positive. Every day is a double coming out process as transgender and being undetectably HIV positive.”

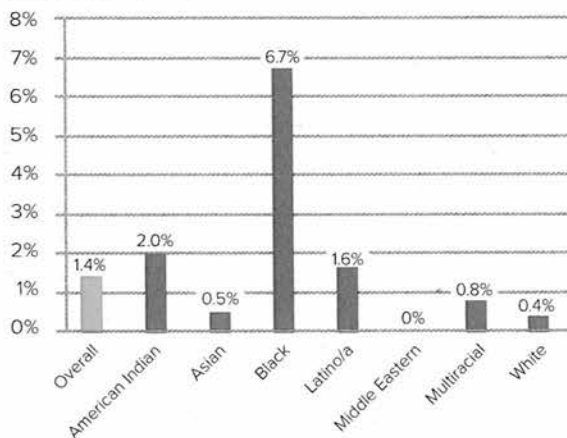
“The nurse refused to give me HIV testing because she said those funds were reserved for men who have sex with men and I’m ‘not a real man.’ She told me I was born female and just needed to accept reality.”

“I am a trans man who has been living with HIV for 25 years. I have good health insurance and get excellent trans-related and HIV-related health care. I have access to a great therapist who is an expert in gender issues and transitioning. All these factors contribute to my survival and my success.”

“My first time in jail, and possibly the time I became infected with HIV, was the scariest of all. There were so many times I was in jail and participated in unprotected sex out of fear and necessity. This is just one of the harsh realities for young vulnerable trans women like myself. It is truly bewildering that this reality was so commonly accepted among trans women of color.”

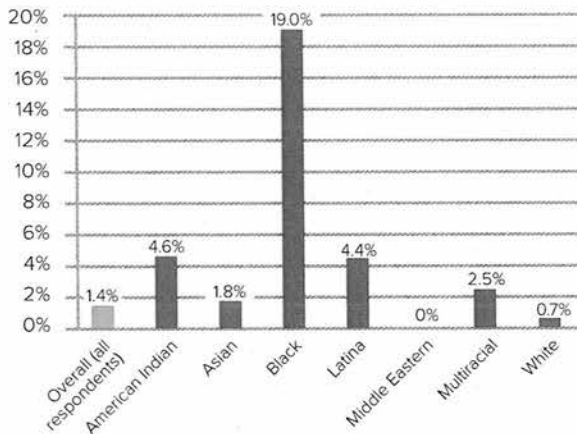
The rate of respondents living with HIV (1.4%) was nearly five times higher than in the U.S. population (0.3%).

Figure 7.42: Living with HIV RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



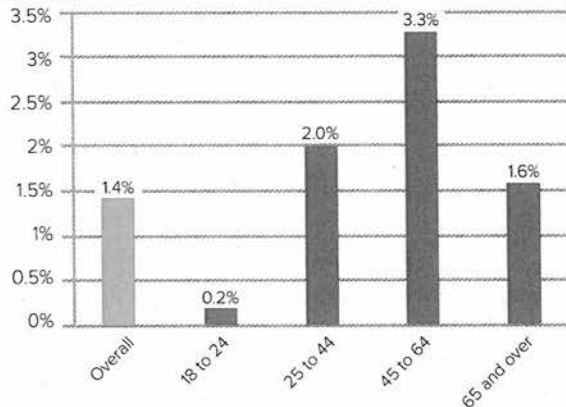
Nearly one in five (19.0%) Black transgender women reported living with HIV, a rate that is more than thirteen times higher than that in the overall sample. American Indian (4.6%) and Latina (4.4%) transgender women also reported substantially higher rates of HIV (Figure 7.43).

Figure 7.43: Living with HIV among transgender women RACE/ETHNICITY (%)



The rate of HIV also differed by current age, with it being highest among those aged 45–64 (3.3%) and also higher for the 25–44 age group (2.0%) (Figure 7.44).

Figure 7.44: Living with HIV AGE (%)



Undocumented residents (15.0%) were more than ten times as likely to report that they were living with HIV as the overall sample, and documented non-citizens (3.6%) were also more likely. There were also substantial differences when examining rates of HIV by educational attainment. Those who did not complete high school (7.2%) were more than five times as likely to be living with HIV as those in the overall sample, in contrast to the lower rates for those with a bachelor's degree (0.7%) or a graduate or professional degree (0.8%) (Figure 7.45).

Figure 7.45: Living with HIV EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (%)

