

National Weekend of Prayer for
**TRANSGENDER
JUSTICE**

The data on this fact sheet comes from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. The survey was developed and conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality and represents the largest survey ever devoted to the lives and experiences of transgender people, with almost 28,000 respondents.

EXCERPT FROM THE 2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY REPORT

“Overall, the report provides evidence of hardships and barriers faced by transgender people on a day-to-day basis. It portrays the challenges that transgender people must overcome and the complex systems that they are often forced to navigate in multiple areas of their lives in order to survive and thrive. Given this evidence, governmental and private institutions throughout the United States should address these disparities and ensure that transgender people are able to live fulfilling lives in an inclusive society. This includes eliminating barriers to quality, affordable health care, putting an end to discrimination in schools, the workplace, and other areas of public life, and creating systems of support...that meet the needs of transgender people and reduce the hardships they face. The rates of suicide attempts, poverty, unemployment, and violence must serve as an immediate call to action, and their reduction must be a priority...[I]t is clear that there is still much work ahead to ensure that transgender people can live without fear of discrimination and violence.”

VIOLENCE, ABUSE, AND MISTREATMENT

- In the year prior to completing the survey, nearly half (46%) of respondents were verbally harassed and 9% were physically attacked because of being transgender.
- Among undocumented respondents, nearly one quarter (24%) were physically attacked in the year prior to completing the survey.
- During that same time period, 10% of respondents were sexually assaulted, and nearly half (47%) were sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime.
- Over half (54%) of respondents have experienced some form of intimate partner violence.
- Of the respondents who interacted with the police in the past year, more than half (58%) experienced some form of mistreatment. More than half (57%) of all respondents said they would be uncomfortable asking the police for help if they needed it.
- Nearly one third (31%) of respondents experienced some form of mistreatment in the past year in a place of public accommodation—places that offer services to the public, like retail stores, hotels, or government offices. More than half (59%) of respondents avoided using a public restroom because they were afraid of confrontations or other problems they might experience.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL

- The majority of respondents (77%) who were out or perceived as transgender while in school (K-12) experienced some form of mistreatment, including verbal harassment (54%), physical attack (24%), and sexual assault (13%).
- 17% experienced such severe mistreatment that they withdrew from school.

POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Nearly one-third (29%) of respondents were living in poverty, more than 2x the rate of the general U.S. population (14%).

Read the full report on the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey at www.ustranssurvey.org.

- The poverty rate for transgender people of color, including Latinx (43%), American Indian (41%), multiracial (40%), and Black (38%) respondents was up to 3x that of the general U.S. population (14%).
- Among transgender people with disabilities, 45% were living in poverty.
- Contributing to the high rate of poverty, transgender people experience a 15% unemployment rate, which is 3x higher than the unemployment rate in the U.S. population at the time of the survey (5%). For transgender people of color, the unemployment rate was at 20%.
- Overall, 30% of respondents who had a job in the past year report being fired, denied a promotion, or experiencing some other form of mistreatment related to their gender identity or expression.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents experienced some form of housing discrimination in the past year.
- Nearly one-third (30%) of respondents have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.
- More than one-quarter (26%) of those who experienced homelessness in the past year avoided staying in a shelter because they feared being mistreated as a transgender person; 70% who did stay in a shelter reported some form of mistreatment, including harassment, sexual or physical assault, or being kicked out.

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

- Forty percent of respondents (40%) have attempted suicide in their lifetime, nearly 9x the rate in the U.S. population (4.6%).
- One third (33%) had at least one negative experience with a health care provider in the past year related to being transgender, such as being verbally harassed or refused treatment because of their gender identity.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents reported that they did not seek the health care they needed in the year prior to completing the survey due to fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and 33% did not go to a health care provider when needed because they could not afford it.
- Respondents were living with HIV (1.4%) at nearly 5x the rate of the U.S. population (0.3%); HIV rates were higher among transgender women (3.4%). Nearly one in five (19%) Black transgender women were living with HIV. American Indian (4.6%) and Latina (4.4%) transgender women also reported higher rates.

FAMILY LIFE AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

- 1 in 10 (10%) trans people who disclosed their gender identity to family members reported violence toward them for being transgender.
- 1 in 12 (8%) were kicked out of their houses because of their gender identity.
- Nineteen percent (19%) of 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.