

KEY FINDINGS

For the full report, visit our websites at www.TheTaskForce.org and www.TransEquality.org. More information about the survey is available at www.EndTransDiscrimination.org.

Hundreds of dramatic findings on the impact of anti-transgender bias are presented in this report. In many cases, a series of bias-related events lead to insurmountable challenges and devastating outcomes for study participants. Several meta-findings are worth noting from the outset:

- Discrimination was pervasive throughout the entire sample, yet **the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent, structural racism was especially devastating**. People of color in general fare worse than white participants across the board, with African American transgender respondents faring far worse than all others in most areas examined.
- Respondents **lived in extreme poverty**. Our sample was nearly four times more likely to have a household income of less than \$10,000/year compared to the general population
- A staggering **41% of respondents reported attempting suicide** compared to 1.6% of the general population, with rates rising for those who lost a job due to bias (55%), were harassed/bullied in school (51%), had low household income, or were the victim of physical assault (61%) or sexual assault (64%).

HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

- Those who expressed a transgender identity or gender non-conformity while in grades K-12 reported **alarming rates of harassment (78%), physical assault (35%) and sexual violence (12%)**; harassment was so severe that it led **almost one-sixth (15%) to leave a school** in K-12 settings or in higher education.
- Respondents who have been **harassed and abused by teachers** in K-12 settings showed dramatically worse health and other outcomes than those who did not experience such abuse. Peer harassment and abuse also had highly damaging effects.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AND ECONOMIC INSECURITY

- **Double the rate of unemployment**: Survey respondents experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population at the time of the survey with rates for people of color up to four times the national unemployment rate.
- Widespread mistreatment at work: **Ninety percent (90%) of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination** on the job or took actions like hiding who they are to avoid it.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) said they had experienced an adverse job outcome, such as **being fired, not hired or denied a promotion** because of being transgender or gender non-conforming.
- **Over one-quarter (26%) reported that they had lost a job** due to being transgender or gender non-conforming and 50% were harassed.

- Large majorities attempted to avoid discrimination by hiding their gender or gender transition (71%) or delaying their gender transition (57%).
- The vast majority (78%) of those who transitioned from one gender to the other reported that they felt more comfortable at work and their job performance improved, despite high levels of mistreatment.
- Overall, 16% said they had been compelled to work in the underground economy for income (such as doing sex work or selling drugs).
- Respondents who were currently unemployed experienced debilitating negative outcomes, including nearly double the rate of working in the underground economy (such as doing sex work or selling drugs), twice the homelessness, 85% more incarceration, and more negative health outcomes, such as more than double the HIV infection rate and nearly double the rate of current drinking or drug misuse to cope with mistreatment, compared to those who were employed.
- Respondents who had lost a job due to bias also experienced ruinous consequences such as four times the rate of homelessness, 70% more current drinking or misuse of drugs to cope with mistreatment, 85% more incarceration, more than double the rate working in the underground economy, and more than double the HIV infection rate, compared to those who did not lose a job due to bias.
 - 26%
 - 36% 36
 - 24%

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AND HOMELESSNESS

- Respondents reported various forms of direct housing discrimination — 19% reported having been refused a home or apartment and 11% reported being evicted because of their gender identity/expression.
- One-fifth (19%) reported experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives because they were transgender or gender nonconforming; the majority of those trying to access a homeless shelter were harassed by shelter staff or residents (55%), 29% were turned away altogether, and 22% were sexually assaulted by residents or staff.
- Almost 2% of respondents were currently homeless, which is almost twice the rate of the general population (1%).^{vi}
- Respondents reported less than half the national rate of home ownership: 32% reported owning their home compared to 67% of the general population.^{vii}
- Respondents who have experienced homelessness were highly vulnerable to mistreatment in public settings, police abuse and negative health outcomes.

DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

- Fifty-three percent (53%) of respondents reported being verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation, including hotels, restaurants, buses, airports and government agencies.
- Respondents experienced widespread abuse in the public sector, and were often abused at the hands of “helping” professionals and government officials. One fifth (22%) were denied equal treatment by a government agency or official; 29% reported police harassment or disrespect; and 12% had been denied equal treatment or harassed by judges or court officials.

BARRIERS TO RECEIVING UPDATED ID DOCUMENTS

- Of those who have transitioned gender, **only one-fifth (21%) have been able to update all of their IDs and records with their new gender.** One-third (33%) of those who had transitioned had updated *none* of their IDs/records.
- Only 59% reported updating the gender on their driver's license/state ID, meaning **41% live without ID that matches their gender identity.**
- **Forty percent (40%) of those who presented ID** (when it was required in the ordinary course of life) that did not match their gender identity/expression **reported being harassed, 3% reported being attacked or assaulted,** and 15% reported being asked to leave.

ABUSE BY POLICE AND IN PRISON

- **One-fifth (22%) of respondents** who have interacted with police **reported harassment by police,** with much higher rates reported by people of color.
- Almost half of the **respondents (46%) reported being uncomfortable seeking police assistance.**
- **Physical and sexual assault in jail/prison is a serious problem:** 16% of respondents who had been to jail or prison reported being physically assaulted and 15% reported being sexually assaulted.

DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH CARE AND POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES

- **Health outcomes for all categories of respondents show the appalling effects of social and economic marginalization,** including much higher rates of HIV infection, smoking, drug and alcohol use and suicide attempts than the general population.
- Refusal of care: **19% of our sample reported being refused medical care** due to their transgender or gender non-conforming status, with even higher numbers among people of color in the survey.
- Uninformed doctors: **50% of the sample reported having to teach their medical providers** about transgender care.
- High HIV rates: Respondents reported **over four times the national average of HIV infection, with rates higher among transgender people of color.**
- **Postponed care:** Survey participants reported that when they were sick or injured, **many postponed medical care due to discrimination (28%)** or inability to afford it (48%).

FAMILY ACCEPTANCE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

- **Forty-three percent (43%) maintained most of their family bonds,** while 57% experienced significant family rejection.
- In the face of extensive institutional discrimination, **family acceptance had a protective affect against many threats to well-being** including health risks such as HIV infection and suicide. Families were more likely to remain together and provide support for transgender and gender non-conforming family members than stereotypes suggest.

RESILIENCE

Despite all of the harassment, mistreatment, discrimination and violence faced by respondents, study participants also demonstrated determination, resourcefulness and perseverance:

- Although the survey identified major structural barriers to obtaining health care, 76% of transgender respondents have been able to receive hormone therapy, indicating a determination to endure the abuse or search out sensitive medical providers.
- Despite high levels of harassment, bullying and violence in school, many respondents were able to obtain an education by returning to school. Although fewer 18 to 24-year-olds were currently in school compared to the general population, respondents returned to school in large numbers at later ages, with 22% of those aged 25-44 currently in school (compared to 7% of the general population).x
- Over three-fourths (78%) reported feeling more comfortable at work and their performance improving after transitioning, despite reporting nearly the same rates of harassment at work as the overall sample.
- Of the 26% who reported losing a job due to bias, 58% reported being currently employed and of the 19% who reported facing housing discrimination in the form of a denial of a home/apartment, 94% reported being currently housed.