



HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

■ TRANSGENDER IN AMERICA

Transgender individuals in the U.S. — particularly transgender women of color — face an extremely high risk of living in poverty, experiencing harassment at school and work, being excluded from appropriate health care, contracting HIV, and becoming victims of violence due to discrimination, legal bias, and social exclusion.

DEFINITIONS

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender non-conforming/non-binary: A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category, including those who identify as no gender, as a gender other than male or female, or as more than one gender.

Gender Identity: An individual's internal sense of being male, female, or something else.

Gender Expression: How a person represents their gender identity to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics.

Sex: The classification of people as male or female, usually assigned at birth primarily based on the appearance of their external anatomy.

Sexual Orientation: A term describing a person's attraction to members of the same sex and/or a different sex.

NUMBERS

Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have long been excluded from census, healthcare, violence and other demographic data collection in the U.S. Gender bias, lack of inclusive terminology and the misgendering of individuals during reporting are some of the reasons accurate and comprehensive data is limited. The findings of the first comprehensive survey of transgender people in the U.S., the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS), weren't published until 2011.

■ **"GOING UNCOUNTED MEANS BEING OVERLOOKED. IF YOU'RE OVERLOOKED, YOU'RE AT GREATER RISK OF BEING UNDERSERVED."**

— Kerith Conron, Fenway Institute

EQUAL UNDER THE LAW?

The majority of states do not explicitly prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, education and public places based on gender identity. In recent years, several states have proposed and passed legislation specifically targeting transgender people for exclusion, including bills that prevent transgender individuals from using the public bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity.

INEQUITY BY THE NUMBERS:

POVERTY //

Transgender people are 4 times more likely to live in extreme poverty (less than \$10,000/year) than the general population.

EMPLOYMENT //

Transgender people have 2 times the national unemployment rate. 90% have been harassed at work and more than 25% have been fired because of their gender identity.

HOMELESSNESS //

20% of transgender individuals have experienced homelessness — those numbers rise to 41% for Black and 27% for Latino/a transgender people.

SHELTERS //

For those who try to access shelters, 29% will be turned away — that number climbs to 40% for Black transgender people.

HIV //

22% of transgender women in the U.S. are living with HIV.

MEDICAL CARE //

20% of transgender people have been turned away by a medical provider and almost 30% have been harassed in a doctor's office.

MENTAL HEALTH //

Over 40% of all transgender people have attempted suicide — almost 9 times the U.S. national rate.

SEXUAL ASSAULT //

64% of transgender people experience sexual assault in their lifetime.

VIOLENCE //

Transgender women are 4.3 x more likely to become homicide victims.

POLICE //

22% of transgender people who had interacted with police reported harassment and almost 50% felt reluctance to approach law enforcement for assistance.

JAIL & PRISON //

16% of transgender people have been sent to jail or prison - this number is 47% for Blacks. Of those who were incarcerated, 16% were physically assaulted while in custody and 15% were sexually assaulted.

ABOUT HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

We believe that everyone in society benefits when people who experience disparities in safety, health, housing, education, economic opportunity, and justice are able to exit poverty, heal from trauma, and achieve stability; secure their rights; and shape policies that respond to their needs.

Heartland Alliance works to address the disparities the transgender community faces in almost all aspects of life and health, and strives to provide inclusive and competent services that encourage healing, hope, and opportunity.

Note: Following the methodology of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, the term transgender is used here with the recognition that no one term is inclusive of every individual's unique identity and some people prefer to use other terms to describe their gender identity. In order to make the information here clear and accessible, a single term is used that best represents the range of identities expressed in the data used for this fact sheet.

SOURCES: GLAAD, National Center for Transgender Equality, Human Rights Campaign
A Matter of Life and Death - Human Rights Campaign (HRC) & Trans People of Color Coalition (TPOCC), The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey — National Center for Transgender Equality

APRIL 2017

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