



Injustice at Every Turn:

A look at Latino/a respondents in the National Transgender Discrimination Survey

In 2008, the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force launched a nationwide study of anti-transgender discrimination in the United States. Over a six-month period, 6,456 transgender and gender non-conforming people answered a seventy-question survey, reporting on their experiences of discrimination and abuse at home, in school, in the public sphere, and in the workplace, as well as with landlords, doctors, and public officials, including judges and police. The survey results revealed that transgender and gender non-conforming people face pervasive discrimination in virtually all aspects of their lives.

One of the most important findings of the study was that the combination of anti-transgender bias with structural and interpersonal racism meant that transgender and gender non-conforming people of color, including those who are Latino/a, experience particularly devastating levels of discrimination. In response, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) has partnered with the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to offer this report on discrimination against Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people.

The information in this report is based on the experiences of the 402 respondents who described themselves on the survey as Latino/a only or Latino/a and multiracial.ⁱ Among these respondents, 332 identified as U.S. citizens and 56 as non-citizens. The numbers of undocumented and documented non-citizens on their own were not large enough to do individual analysis. However, in the full NTDS report, undocumented immigrants reported even higher rates of discrimination and we expect Latino/a respondents would exhibit the same pattern.

When this report uses the phrase “due to bias,” it refers to questions on the survey that asked about respondents’ experiences of anti-transgender bias, but the results also show the complex interactions of that bias with race, socioeconomic status, immigration status, and language ability.

Key Findings

- Discrimination was pervasive for all respondents who took the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, yet the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent structural and interpersonal acts of racism was especially devastating for Latino/a transgender people and other people of color.
- Non-citizen Latino/a respondents were often among those most vulnerable to harassment, abuse and violence in the study; their experiences are noted throughout this report.
- Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people often live in extreme poverty, with 28% reporting a household income of less than \$10,000/year. This is almost twice the rate for transgender people of all races (15%) and over five times the general Latino/a population rate (5%). This is seven times the general U.S. population rate (4%).ⁱⁱ The rate for Latino/a non-citizen respondents was 43%.
- Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people are affected by HIV in devastating numbers. One in twelve Latino/a respondents were HIV positive (8.44%) and an additional 10.23% reported that they did not know their status. This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender respondents of all races, 0.50% for the general Latino/a population, and 0.60% for the general U.S. population.ⁱⁱⁱ The rate for Latino/a non-citizen respondents was 23.08%.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) of Latino/a respondents reported having attempted suicide, compared to 41% of all study respondents and 1.6% of the general U.S. population.^{iv}



Education

Latino/a respondents who attended kindergarten through twelfth grade expressing a transgender identity or gender non-conformity reported alarming rates of **harassment** (77%), **physical assault** (36%), and **sexual assault** (13%) at school; harassment was so severe that it **led 21% to leave school**. Nine percent (9%) were also **expelled due to bias**.

Respondents who were harassed and abused by teachers in kindergarten through twelfth grade settings showed **dramatically worse health** and other outcomes compared to those who do not experience such abuse. **Peer harassment and abuse** also had highly damaging effects.



77% of Latino/a respondents who attended school expressing a transgender identity or gender non-conformity faced harassment.



Employment Discrimination

Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people had a **very high unemployment rate** at 20%. This is higher than the rate of the overall sample (14%) and **almost three times the rate of the general U.S. population** (7%) at the time the survey was fielded.^v

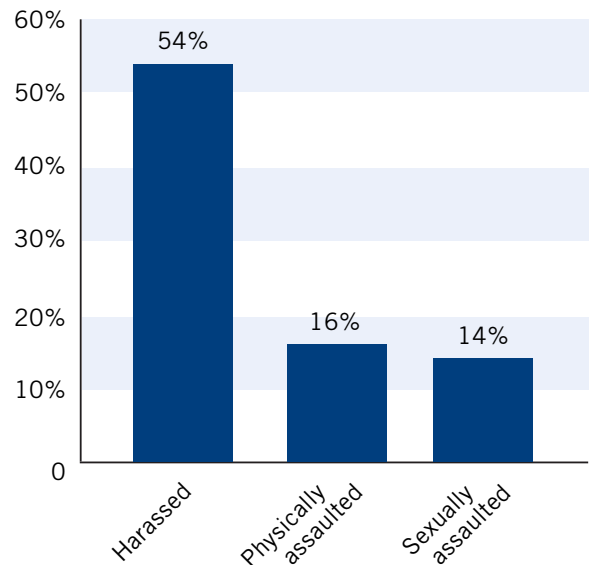
Twenty-six percent (26%) of Latino/a respondents **lost a job due to bias**, and 47% were **denied a job** because of their transgender identity or gender non-conformity. For Latino/a non-citizen respondents, the rate of job loss due to bias was 42%.

Fifty-four percent (54%) of Latino/a respondents were **harassed**, 16% were **physically assaulted**, and 14% were **sexually assaulted** at work. Of Latino/a non-citizen respondents, 57% were harassed, 47% were physically assaulted, and 38% were sexually assaulted.

Thirty-four percent (34%) of Latino/a respondents

reported being forced to participate in the underground economy for income, including **sex work and drug sales**.

Mistreatment at Work



Housing Discrimination and Homelessness



Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people endured various forms of direct housing discrimination; 29% reported being **refused a home or apartment** due to bias, and 15% reported being **evicted** due to bias. Of Latino/a non-citizen respondents, 46% were refused a home or apartment and 26% were evicted.

Latino/a respondents were **less likely to own homes** than the general population with a rate of 15%. This

compares to 32% of transgender people of all races in the study and 67% of the general U.S. population.^{vi} Also, for comparison, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that “minority home ownership” nationwide is 49.7%.^{vii}

An alarming 27% of Latino/a respondents reported experiencing **homelessness** at some point in their lives, almost four times the rate of the general U.S. population (7.4%).^{viii}

22% of Latino/a respondents had experienced homelessness.



Health Care

Health outcomes for Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people show the appalling effects of social and economic marginalization, including **much higher rates of being HIV positive, smoking, drug and alcohol use and suicide attempts** compared to the general population.

Twenty-three percent (23%) of Latino/a respondents reported being **refused medical care** due to bias.

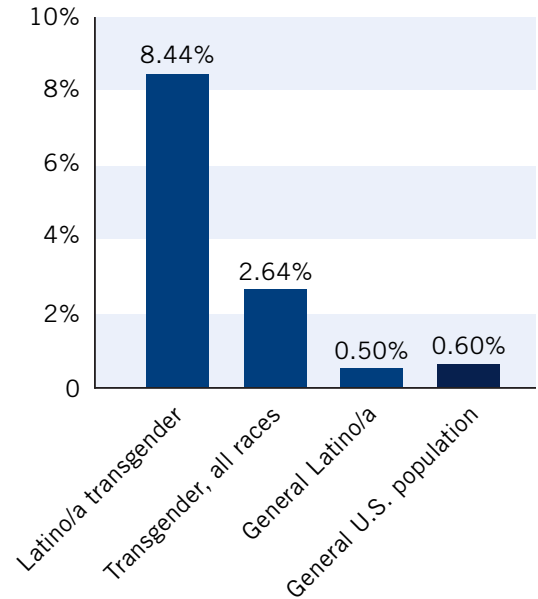
Thirty-six percent (36%) of Latino/a respondents reported **postponing care when they were sick or injured due to fear of discrimination**.

Forty-seven percent (47%) of Latino/a respondents reported having **attempted suicide**, compared to 41% of all study respondents and 1.6% of the general U.S. population.^{ix}

Latino/a respondents were **affected by HIV in devastating numbers**. Nearly one in ten Latino/a respondents were **HIV positive** (8.44%) and an additional 10.23% reported that they **did not know**

their status. This compares to rates of being HIV positive of 2.64% for transgender respondents of all races, 0.50% for the general Latino/a population, and 0.60% for the general U.S. population.^x

HIV Rates

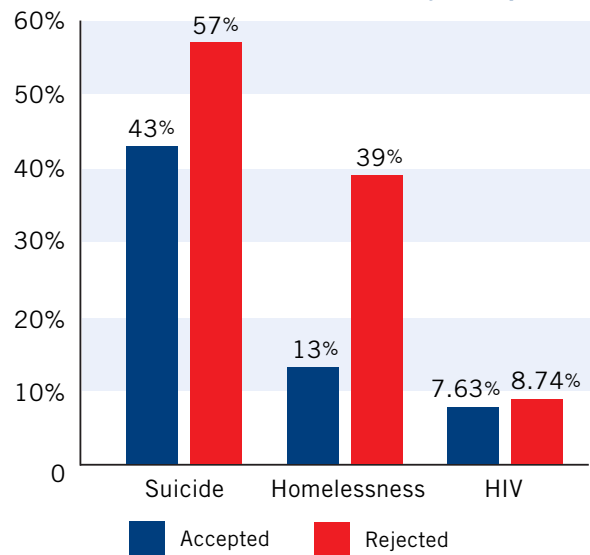


Family Life

Forty-seven percent (47%) of Latino/a transgender and gender non-conforming people reported experiencing **significant family acceptance**, and 65% reported that **their relationships with family slowly improved after coming out as**

transgender. Those respondents who were accepted by their families were much less likely to face discrimination.

Family Acceptance



Methodology

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey was developed and fielded by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality. Links to the on-line NTDS survey instrument were distributed through a network of more than 900 trans-serving and trans-led advocacy and service organizations, support groups, list-serves and online social

networks. Nearly 2,000 paper surveys were distributed to hard-to-reach transgender and gender non-conforming populations. A total of 6,456 completed questionnaires were included in the final data set, 402 of which were Latina or Latino including multiracial people.

For the full report and detailed recommendations, please visit our websites at www.TheTaskForce.org or www.TransEquality.org (see: http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/ntds or <http://transequality.org/Resources/index.html>). More information about the survey is available at www.EndTransDiscrimination.org.

Notes

- i. Some numbers in this report differ slightly from numbers in other reports based on the NTDS data because generally those reports break out respondents who were only Latino/a from those who were Latino/a multiracial. Latino/a multiracial respondents were included in the general multiracial category. In this report, however, Latino/a-only and Latino/a multiracial respondents were counted together.
- ii. U.S. Census Bureau, "Current Population Survey," Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008). This number is based on all those who indicated they were Hispanic.
- iii. Though the figure reported here for the Latino/a general population HIV rate is less than the general U.S. population rate, Latino/as are disproportionately affected by HIV according to many metrics of analysis including representation among new cases. For more, see: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Latinos and HIV/AIDS" (2006): <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/upload/6007-03.pdf>; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "2010: A Global View of HIV Infection" (2010): http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_2010_HIV_Prevalence_Map_em.pdf; Glynn, M.K., & Rhodes, P., "Estimated HIV Prevalence in the United States at the End of 2003," (2005 National HIV Prevention Conference, June 2005); U.S. Census Bureau, "Population by Sex, Age, Hispanic Origin, and Race: 2004" (2005): http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hispanic/ASEC2004/2004CPS_tab1.1a.html.
- iv. "U.S.A. Suicide: 2002 Official Final Data," prepared for the American Association of Suicidology by John L. McIntosh, Ph.D. Official data source: Kochanek, K.D., Murphy, S.L., Anderson, R.N., & Scott, C. (2004). Deaths: Final data for 2002. National Vital Statistics Reports, 53 (5). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2005-1120. Population figures source: table I, p.108. of the National Center for Health Statistics (Kochanek et al., 2004), see http://www.sprc.org/library/event_kit/2002datapgv1.pdf.
- v. Seven percent (7%) was the rounded weighted average unemployment rate for the general population during the six months the survey was in the field, based on which month questionnaires were completed. See seasonally unadjusted monthly unemployment rates for September 2008 through February 2009. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Employment Situation: September 2008," (2008): http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst_10032008.htm.
- vi. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "U.S. Housing Market Conditions, 2nd Quarter, 2009" (Washington, DC: GPO, 2009): http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/ushmc/summer09/nat_data.pdf.
- vii. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "U.S. Housing Market Conditions, 2nd Quarter, 2009" (Washington, DC: GPO, 2009): http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/ushmc/summer09/nat_data.pdf. HUD did not define "minority" in this report.
- viii. United States Conference of Mayors, "Hunger and Homelessness Survey" (2006): 48, <http://usmayors.org/hungersurvey/2006/report06.pdf>.
- ix. "U.S.A. Suicide: 2002 Official Final Data," prepared for the American Association of Suicidology by John L. McIntosh, Ph.D. Official data source: Kochanek, K.D., Murphy, S.L., Anderson, R.N., & Scott, C. (2004). Deaths: Final data for 2002. National Vital Statistics Reports, 53 (5). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2005-1120. Population figures source: table I, p.108. of the National Center for Health Statistics (Kochanek et al., 2004), see http://www.sprc.org/library/event_kit/2002datapgv1.pdf.
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