

Findings of the

# NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION SURVEY

by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

## Tennessee Results

*There were 73 respondents from Tennessee*

### **Workplace Discrimination**

Rates of discrimination were alarming in Tennessee, indicating widespread discrimination based on gender identity/expression:

- 87% reported experiencing harassment or mistreatment on the job
- 34% lost a job
- 38% were denied a promotion
- 51% were not hired

### **Harassment and Discrimination at School**

Those who expressed a transgender identity or gender non-conformity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of harassment (91%), physical assault (48%) and sexual violence (5%)

Harassment was so severe that it led 17% to leave a school in K-12 settings or leave higher education

### **Economic Insecurity**

Likely due to employment discrimination and discrimination in school, survey respondents experienced poverty and unemployment at higher rates than the general population:

- 17% of respondents had a household income of \$10,000 or less, compared to 4% of the general population,<sup>1</sup> which is more than 4 times the rate of poverty
- 14% were unemployed compared to 7% in the nation at the time of the survey<sup>2</sup>

### **Housing Discrimination and Instability**

Survey respondents experienced blatant housing discrimination, as well as housing instability, much of which appears to stem from the challenges they face in employment.

- 25% were evicted
- 17% were denied a home/apartment
- 24% had become homeless because of their gender identity/expression
- 37% had to find temporary space to stay/sleep
- 40% had to move back in with family or friends
- 43% reported owning their home compared to 67% of the general U.S. population<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Current Population Survey," Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Seven percent (7%) is 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. For monthly rates, see National Conference of State Legislatures. See U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "National Unemployment Summary: Unemployment Increases to 9.8% for November," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2010): <http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=13307>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "U.S. Housing Market Conditions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2009" (Washington, DC: GPO, 2009): [http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/ushmc/summer09/nat\\_data.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/ushmc/summer09/nat_data.pdf).

## Harassment and Discrimination in Accommodations and Services

59% were verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation or service, including hotels, restaurants, buses, airports and government agencies.

24% were denied equal treatment by a government agency or official

22% were denied equal treatment or harassed by judges or court officials.

27% of those who have interacted with police reported harassment by officers

52% reported being uncomfortable seeking police assistance

## Health Care Discrimination and Health Outcomes

28% were refused medical care due to their gender identity/expression

24% postponed needed medical care, when they were sick or injured, due to discrimination

Only 40% of the respondents had employer-based health insurance, compared to 59% of the general U.S. population at the time of the survey.<sup>4</sup>

47% reported attempting suicide at some point in their life, 29 times the rate of the general population of 1.6%<sup>5</sup>

*Note: In the full report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, we found that discrimination was pervasive throughout the entire sample, yet the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent, structural racism was especially devastating. One of our most important findings was that people of color in general fared worse than white participants across the board, with African American transgender respondents faring far worse than all others in nearly every area examined. Due to the sample size of respondents from this state, we were unable to break these state results down by race/ethnicity without creating small sample size problems. However, we expect that people of color in this state would exhibit the same national pattern.*

***“Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey,” which provides the national results, is available at [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org), [www.transequality.org](http://www.transequality.org), and [www.endtransdiscrimination.org](http://www.endtransdiscrimination.org).***



<sup>4</sup> DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-236, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC (2009): <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p60-236.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> “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/2002datapg1.pdf](http://www.sprc.org/library/event_kit/2002datapg1.pdf)