

# Summary of a Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey: Injustice at Every Turn (2011)

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This summary is based on the report, *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*. The report was written by Jaime Grant and colleagues and was published in 2011 by the National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The report describes findings related to discrimination in several areas of life including housing, employment, health, healthcare, education, public accommodation, family life, criminal justice, and government identity documents. The report also highlights strengths and resilience demonstrated by the respondents. In this summary, we highlighted findings on sexual assault and anti-transgender bias. The full report is available online at: [http://www.thetaskforce.org/static\\_html/downloads/reports/reports/ntds\\_full.pdf](http://www.thetaskforce.org/static_html/downloads/reports/reports/ntds_full.pdf)

## Survey Description

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey is one of the most comprehensive surveys that have been conducted in the United States. A group of community advocates, transgender leaders, researchers, lawyers, and LGBT policy experts created a 70-question survey. The survey was administered online with assistance from more than 800 transgender-led or transgender-serving organizations. Participants were also recruited using 150 online community list serves. In addition, the team sent 2,000 printed surveys to organizations who serve hard-to-reach populations, such as those who are rural homeless and low-income. Organizations were provided stipends to host “survey parties” to obtain responses from those populations. The final sample consisted of 6,456 respondents from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Definitions

The report used the following definitions. *Transgender* was defined broadly and included those who transitioned from one gender to another (transsexuals) and individuals who did not. The latter group included genderqueer people, cross-dressers, androgynous individuals, and people whose gender non-conformity was a part of their identity. In the report, *gender non-conforming* individuals included those who reported being lesbian, gay or bisexual. The report presented results separately for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

## Highlighted Findings

### *Schools*

- Among individuals who expressed a transgender identity or gender non-conformity while in grades K-12, high percentages reported experiencing sexual violence (12%), physical assault (35%), and harassment (78%).
- More than half of the survey respondents (51%) who experienced harassment, physical or sexual assault, or were expelled because of their gender identity/expression reported attempting suicide.
- American Indian respondents (24%) reported the highest rates of sexual assault in K-12 schools, followed by multiracial (18%), Asian (17%), and Black (15%) respondents. Male-to-female (MTF) transgender participants reported higher rates of sexual assault compared to female-to-male (FTM) transgender individuals (15% versus 10%).

### *Work*

- Among all the respondents, 6% reported experiencing sexual assault by someone at work because of being transgender or gender non-conforming.
- MTF respondents reported higher rates of sexual assault at work compared to FTM individuals (8% versus 3%).

### *Health*

- Among all respondents, 10% reported experiencing sexual assault in at least one context because they were transgender or gender non-conforming. The contexts included educational settings, at work, interactions with police and family members, at homeless shelters, accessing public accommodations, and in jails and prisons.

### *Housing and Homelessness*

- Among individuals who attempted to access homeless shelters, high percentages experienced sexual assault (22%), physical assault (25%), and harassment (55%) by another resident or staff member.

### *Police and Incarceration*

- Among all respondents, 6% reported physical assault and 2% reported sexual assault by police officers because they were transgender or gender non-conforming.
- Among respondents who had been to jail or prison, high percentages reported experiencing sexual assault (15%) and physical assault (16%) by inmates or staff people.
- Rates of violence were higher among transgender inmates compared to gender non-conforming individuals. Among transgender inmates, 16% reported experiencing sexual assault and 19% reported physical assault by other inmates or staff. Among gender non-conforming inmates, 8% reported sexual assault and 4% reported physical assault by other inmates or staff.