

Southern Survey Fact Sheet:

Conditions and Life Experiences of Transgender Southerners

Ryan M. Roemerma, Eric R. Wright, Joshua Simpkins, Michael Jo Saint,
Ana LaBoy, Renee Shelby, Courtni Andrews, and Madison Higbee

This fact sheet provides key findings from the LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey. It summarizes the responses provided by 1,125 people who identified as transgender and 297 people who identified as “other”. This is a subset of findings from the responses provided by 6,502 LGBTQ adults who completed the LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey living in *Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, or West Virginia*. An overview of complete study design and methodology is available in a separate report.¹

EDUCATION

High School Self-Awareness

Younger respondents (18-29 year olds) were two times more likely to be self-aware of their transgender status than older respondents were when they were in high school. One-third of respondents identified as their sex assigned at birth until after high school, regardless of age.

High School “Outness”

Younger transgender individuals are reporting roughly equivalent levels of “outness” at school today, as older respondents reported of their “outness” in high school.

Educational Attainment

Respondents who self-identified as transgender and other gender identities were significantly less likely to have advanced degrees than non-transgender people.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Overall Health

A higher percentage of transgender and other gender respondents reported poorer health compared to non-transgender men and women respondents.

Health Insurance

Transgender respondents had lower rates of insurance compared to other genders.

Discrimination in Healthcare

One third of all respondents reported some form of discrimination when trying to access healthcare services because of their transgender status in the past 12 months, with nearly half choosing to avoid treatment.

EMPLOYMENT (cont.)

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Status

Respondents who self-identified as transgender and other gender identities were two times less likely to work full-time than non-transgender people.

Household Income

Transgender individuals are more likely to report having lower household incomes than non-transgender persons.

Discrimination in the Workplace

Transgender Southerners are:

- three times more likely to have been denied a job and twice as likely to be physically harassed or harassed verbally or in writing.
- twice as likely to either stay in a job they would have preferred to leave or have left a job because of discrimination.
- less likely to seek promotions, talk about personal topics, or participate in social activities with coworkers (see table below)

Workplace Anti-Discrimination Policies

Of respondents who reported their company having a nondiscrimination policy, only 58.6% of transgender employees, compared to 81.5% of non-transgender men and 71.1% of non-transgender women employees, feel their company upholds the policy.

Workplace Allies

Transgender employees are more likely to report having fewer allies at work than their lesbian and gay colleagues.

¹Eric R. Wright and Ryan M. Roemerma. 2018. *LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey: Study Design and Methodological Overview*. Available at: <https://www.lgbtqsouthernsurvey.org/survey-design-and-methodological-overview>

OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination in the Workplace

Transgender Southerners are:

- three times more likely to have been denied a job and twice as likely to be physically harassed or harassed verbally or in writing.
- twice as likely to either stay in a job they would have preferred to leave or have left a job because of discrimination.
- less likely to seek promotions, talk about personal topics, or participate in social activities with coworkers (see table below)

| In the past 12 months have you... | LGB | Transgender |
|--|-------|-------------|
| Denied a job you applied for | 4.8% | 19.80% |
| Denied a promotion | 3.8% | 8.5% |
| Received a negative job evaluation | 3.9% | 10.9% |
| Been harassed verbally or in writing by another co-worker, supervisor or boss | 12.9% | 24.7% |
| Been physically harassed by another co-worker, supervisor or boss | 2.5% | 5.0% |
| Been sexually harassed by another co-worker, supervisor or boss | 6.0% | 6.9% |
| Been physically assaulted by another co-worker, supervisor or boss | 0.60% | 2.10% |
| Been sexually assaulted by another co-worker, supervisor or boss | 0.90% | 1.8% |
| Fired from a job | 3.0% | 7.3% |
| Stayed in a job you would prefer to leave | 15.0% | 35.2% |
| Did not seek a promotion or raise | 9.0% | 22.9% |
| Changed jobs | 9.2% | 20.2% |
| Avoided talking about personal topics with coworkers, supervisors, or bosses | 59.4% | 76.4% |
| Avoided participating in after work social activities with coworkers, supervisors, or bosses | 34.7% | 54.0% |

Discrimination on the Basis of Transgender Status

The most common forms of discrimination on the basis of transgender status experienced by respondents in the past 12 months was being (see table below):

- subject to slurs and jokes (46.8%),
- being rejected by a friend or family member (35.7%),
- receiving poor service in restaurants, hotels, or others places of business (24.6%) and
- being made to feel unwelcome at a place of worship or religious organization (20.4%).

Discrimination on the Basis of Transgender Status vs. Sexual Orientation

In the past 12 months, transgender respondents reported nearly twice as much discrimination across all domains than those who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (see table below). Additionally, transgender people are twice as likely to report having been denied care or having been treated unfairly by a healthcare provider at some point in their lives compared to lesbian, gay, or bisexual respondents.

| Types of Discrimination | Last 12 Months | | Ever | |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | LGB | Transgender | LGB | Transgender |
| Threatened or physically attacked | 4.4% | 16.6% | 38.6% | 38.3% |
| Subject to slurs/ jokes | 25.7% | 46.8% | 77.4% | 74.4% |
| Poor service in restaurants/ hotels, or other business | 13.1% | 24.6% | 42.0% | 44.6% |
| Not welcomed at a place of worship or religious organization | 14.1% | 20.4% | 56.1% | 47.8% |
| Treated unfairly by employer in hiring, pay, or promotion | 5.4% | 14.4% | 26.2% | 30.4% |
| Rejected by a friend or family member | 17.4% | 35.7% | 63.7% | 65.2% |
| Unfairly stopped, searched, questioned, physically threatened or abused by police | 1.6% | 4.6% | 9.8% | 13.4% |
| Landlord/realtor refused to sell or rent | 0.8% | 2.8% | 5.5% | 8.5% |
| Denied healthcare/ treated unfairly | 3.3% | 17.6% | 15.5% | 35.9% |