

The Economic Divide

Imagine being assaulted at school, kicked out of the house, fired from your job, refused housing, or even denied medical care—just because of your gender identity. Many trans people have experienced multiple such life-disrupting events, amounting to a catastrophic level of discrimination. These factors interact to create high rates of poverty and homelessness among trans people.

Education

Of those who expressed a trans identity while in grades K–12:

- 78% were harassed (86% of Native American students)
- 35% were physically assaulted (51% of Native American students)
- 12% were sexually assaulted (21% of Native American students)
- 15% left a school because of harrasment (19% of Native American students)
- 11% of Native American students were expelled due to bias

Employment

As a whole, trans people face double the rate of unemployment (15%) as the general U.S. population (7%).

16% have been compelled to work in the underground economy (doing sex work or selling drugs) at some point in their lives.

26% of Black trans people were unemployed in 2011, compared to 16% of the general Black population. 50% have been compelled to work in the underground economy at some point.

24% of Native American and 20% of Hispanic trans people were unemployed in 2011, compared to 14.6% and 11.5% of the general Native American and Hispanic populations.

47% of trans people have been fired, not hired, or denied a promotion due to bias.

54% of Hispanic trans people were harassed, 16% were physically assaulted, and 14% were sexually assaulted at work.

26% have lost a job due to bias. This group experienced other ruinous consequences such as four times the rate of homelessness, 70% more drinking or drug abuse, 85% more incarceration, more than double the rate of working in the underground economy, and more than double the HIV infection rate compared to those who did not lose a job due to bias.

Health Care

26% of trans people have been physically assaulted in at least one health care setting.

19% have been refused medical care due to bias.

28% have postponed medical care because of fear of discrimination.

20% of Black trans people reported being HIV positive (compared with 2.4% of the general Black population). An additional 10% did not know their status.

8.5% of Hispanic trans people (23% of non-citizens) reported being HIV positive (compared with .5% of the general Black population). An additional 10.2% did not know their status.

Poverty

Transgender people are four times more likely to live in extreme poverty (earning less than \$10K a year) than the general population.

34% of Black trans people and 28% of Hispanic trans people live in extreme poverty. This is four times the poverty rate of the general Black population and more than five times that of the general Hispanic population.

Housing

19% of trans people have experienced homelessness at some point (9% of those whose families are accepting; 26% of those whose families are not).

41% of Black trans people have been homeless.

39% of Native American trans people were denied housing and 20% were evicted due to bias.

19% have experienced domestic violence because of their transgender identity (22% of trans women and 15% of trans men)

Only 18% of Asian American and 14% of Black trans people own their own homes, compared to 32% of all trans and 67% of the general population.

Source: The statistics presented here were gathered by the National Center for Transgender Equality and The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in their survey of 6,450 transgender and gender non-conforming residents of the United States. The report, "Injustice at Every Turn," was published in 2011.

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Transgender - One Person's Journey