







A LOOK AT ASIAN AMERICAN, SOUTH ASIAN, SOUTHEAST ASIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER RESPONDENTS IN THE NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION SURVEY

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey [NTDS] examined 6,456 transgender and gender non-conforming people's experiences of discrimination in the U.S. The survey results demonstrate that transgender and gender non-conforming people face unrelenting discrimination in virtually all aspects of their lives.

One of the most important findings 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 Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander [API], experience particularly devastating levels of discrimination. In response, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance [NQAPIA] 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 API transgender and gender non-conforming people.

The information in this report is based on the experiences of the 212 respondents who described themselves as "Asian or Pacific Islander" or "Asian or Pacific Islander and multiracial." Of the API respondents, 84% were U.S. citizens and 16% were non-citizens. This compares to the API general population in the U.S., which is made up of 71% citizens and 29% non-citizens. Unfortunately that number of API immigrant respondents is not large enough for meaningful analysis. However, in the full NTDS report, non-citizens reported higher rates of discrimination and we expect API non-citizens would exhibit the same pattern.

When this report uses the phrase, "due to bias," it refers to the 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, immigration status, language ability, and socio-economic status.

KEY FINDINGS

- API transgender and gender non-conforming people often live in extreme poverty with 18% reporting a household income of less than \$10,000/year. This is higher than the rate for transgender and gender non-conforming people of all races (15%). It is six times the general API population rate (3%), and over four times the general U.S. population rate (4%).
- API transgender and gender non-conforming people are affected by HIV in devastating numbers. Nearly 5% report being HIB positive. This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender and gender non-conforming people of all races, .01% for the general API population, and .60% for the general US population. An additional 10.48% of API transgender and gender non-conforming people do not know their HIV status.
- Forty-four percent (44%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have experienced significant family acceptance. Those respondents who were accepted by their families were much less likely to face discrimination.
- Fifty-six percent (56%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have attempted suicide due to discrimination.



DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

- API respondents who attended school expressing a transgender identity or gender non-conformity reported alarming rates of harassment (65%), physical assault (39%), and sexual assault (19%) in K-12; harassment was so severe that it led 11% to leave school. Six percent (6%) were also expelled due to bias.
- Respondents who were harassed and abused by teachers in K-12 settings show dramatically worse health and other outcomes compared to those who did not experience such abuse. Peer harassment and abuse also had highly damaging effects.

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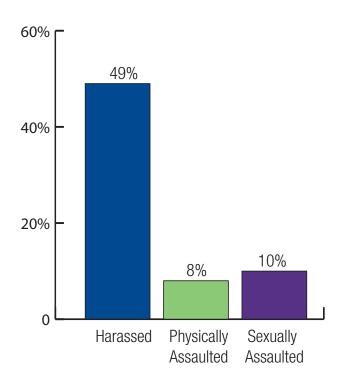
transgender identity or gender non-conformity

faced harassment

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

- API transgender and gender non-conforming people had a very high unemployment rate at 12%, nearly twice the rate of the general population at the time the survey was fielded (7%).iv
- Twenty-one percent (21%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have lost a job due to bias and 41% were not hired for a job due to bias.
- Forty-nine percent (49%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have been harassed, 8% have been physically assaulted, and 10% have been sexually assaulted at work.
- Twenty-three percent (23%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have been compelled to sell drugs or do sex work for income at some point in their lives.

Mistreatment at Work



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- API transgender and gender non-conforming people reported various forms of direct housing discrimination 21% have been refused a home or apartment due to bias and 7% have been evicted due to bias.
- Fourteen percent (14%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, nearly twice the rate of the general U.S. population (7.4%).
- API transgender and gender non-conforming people are less likely than respondents of other races to own homes with a rate of 18%. This compares to 32% of transgender and gender non-conforming people of any race and 67% of the general U.S. population. Also for comparison, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that "minority home ownership" nationwide is 49.7%.

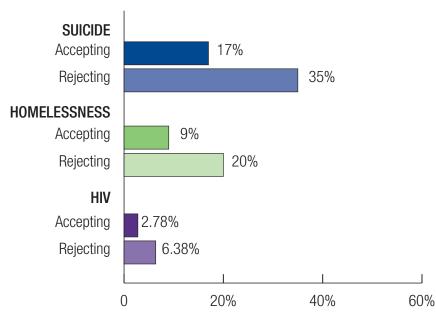
21% of API transgender and gender non-conforming people reported having been

refused a home or apartment due to bias

FAMILY ACCEPTANCE

- Forty-four percent (44%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people said they had experienced significant family acceptance. Those respondents who were accepted by their families were much less likely to face discrimination.
- API transgender and gender non-conforming people who were accepted by their families had attempted suicide at a rate of 17% compared to 35% for those who weren't.
- API transgender and gender non-conforming people who were accepted by their families had experienced homelessness at a rate of 9% compared to 20% for those who weren't.
- Those who were accepted by their families are HIV positive at a rate of 2.78% compared to 6.38% for those who weren't.







HEALTH CARE

- Health outcomes for API respondents show the appalling effects of social and economic marginalization, including higher rates of HIV infection, smoking, drug and alcohol use and suicide attempts compared to the general population.
- Eighteen percent (18%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people have been refused medical care due to bias.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming people postpone care when they are sick or injured due to fear of discrimination.
- Forty-three percent (43%) of API transgender and gender non-conforming respondents reported having attempted suicide, compared to a rate of 41% for transgender and gender non-conforming people of all races and 1.6% for the general U.S. population.
- API transgender and gender non-conforming people are affected by HIV in devastating numbers. 4.76% reported being HIV positive and an additional 10.48% reported that they did not know their status. This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender and gender non-conforming respondents of all races, .01% for the general API population, and 0.60% of the general U.S. population.
- API transgender and gender non-conforming people are less likely to have accessed counseling and mental health services. Anecdotally, we know this is often due to language and cultural barriers, which have consequences for people wishing to seek certain forms of transition-related medical care that are dependent on prior counseling.

METHODOLOGY NOTE

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 800 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, 212 of which were API or API and multiracial.

The NTDS was administered in two languages – English and Spanish. However, nearly 80% of API Americans speak a language other than English at home and 36% describe themselves as speaking English less than "very well." Unfortunately as a result, the NTDS was inaccessible to large portions of the API population. This not only skews the findings presented here but also underscores the need for better, more accessible survey instruments in future research. Furthermore, although we are proud to have enough API respondents to do meaningful data analysis, more could be learned about the specificities of individual communities' experiences if our dataset were larger and we were able to disaggregate by ethnicity, revealing the nuances of discrimination against groups in the many and varied Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.

- 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 API from those who were API multiracial. API multiracial respondents were included in the general multiracial category. In this report, however, API-only and API multiracial respondents were counted together.
- ii U.S. Census Bureau, "Current Population Survey," Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008).
- iii The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Latinos and HIV/AIDS" (2006): http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6007-03.pdf; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "2010: A Global View of HIB Infection" (2010): http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_2010_HIV_Prevalence_Map_em.pdf
- iv 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/empsit_10032008.htm.
- v United States Conference of Mayors, "Hunger and Homelessness Survey" (2006): 48, http://usmayors.org/hungersurvey/2006/report06.pdf.
- 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 The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Latinos and HIV/AIDS" (2006): http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6007-03.pdf; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "2010: A Global View of HIB Infection" (2010): http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_2010_HIV_Prevalence_Map_em.pdf
- ix U.S. Census Bureau, "Selected Population Profile in the United States 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estim^{ates"} (2011): http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jst/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk

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)





