

# Sexual Violence and the Transgender Community



Transgender is an encompassing term of many gender identities of those who do not identify or exclusively identify with their sex assigned at birth. The term transgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal makeup, physical anatomy, or how one is perceived in daily life.<sup>1</sup>

## Sexual Violence Statistics and the Transgender Community

- An estimated 50% of transgender people experience sexual violence at some point in their lifetimes.<sup>2</sup>
- In a 2011 report, researchers asked transgender individuals about treatment received by response services. 22% of respondents who have interacted with police reported harassment by police, with much higher rates reported by people of color. 46% of respondents reported being uncomfortable seeking police assistance. Additionally, 10% of respondents reported being sexually assaulted by medical professionals.<sup>3</sup>
- 13% of African-American transgender people surveyed were sexually assaulted in the workplace.<sup>4</sup>
- 22% of transgender individuals experiencing homelessness were assaulted while staying in shelters.<sup>5</sup>
- Only 9% of transgender survivors of sexual assault report their assault to the police.<sup>6</sup>

## Sexual Assault and Transgender Youth

- 80% of transgender students report feeling unsafe at their schools because of their gender identity.<sup>7</sup>
- 12% of transgender youth report being sexually assaulted in K-12 settings by peers or educational staff.<sup>8</sup>
- 24% of American Indian transgender students, 18% of multiracial transgender students, 17% of Asian transgender students, and 15% of Black transgender students experienced sexual assault.<sup>9</sup>
- 15% of transgender individuals who identified as male to female (MTF) experienced sexual assault, while 10% of their female to male (FTM) peers experienced sexual assault.<sup>10</sup>

## Resources and Services

### National:

The Network/La Red: 617-742-4911, TTY 617-227-4911, [www.tlnr.org](http://www.tlnr.org)

The Northwest Network: 206-568-7777, [www.nwnetwork.org](http://www.nwnetwork.org)

### Local:

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland: 410-777-8145, [www.glccb.org](http://www.glccb.org)

Sexual Assault Legal Institute: 301-565-2277, [www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org)

The DC Center for the LGBT Community: 202-682-2245, [www.thedccenter.org](http://www.thedccenter.org)

<sup>1</sup> "LGBTQ+ definitions." *Trans Student Educational Resources*. Retrieved from <http://www.transstudent.org/definitions>

<sup>2</sup> Stotzer, R. L. (2009). Violence against transgender people: A review of United States data. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 14*, 170-179.

<sup>3</sup> Grant, J. M., Mottet, L. A., Tanis, J., et al. (2011). Injustice at every turn: A report of the National Transgender Discrimination Study. *The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality*.

<sup>4</sup> "Responding to transgender victims of sexual assault." (2014) *Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime*. Retrieved from [https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual\\_numbers.html#victims](https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual_numbers.html#victims)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Testa et al., (2012).

<sup>7</sup> Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Bartkiewicz, M. J., Boesen, M. J., and Palmer, N. A. (2012). The 2011 national climate survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools. *Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network*.

<sup>8</sup> "Responding to transgender victims of sexual assault." (2014) *Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime*. Retrieved from [https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual\\_numbers.html#victims](https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual_numbers.html#victims)

<sup>9</sup> Grant et al. (2011).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.