Sexual Violence Against Transgender Communities

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.1

Sexual Violence Statistics and the Transgender Community

- An estimated 47% of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime.2
- According to a report by the NCAVP, transgender women who experienced intimate partner violence were nearly 2.5x more likely to experience sexual violence and nearly 4x more likely to experience financial abuse than survivors who did not identify as transgender women.3
- Respondents to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey who were held in jail, prison, or juvenile detention in the past year reported they were over 5x more likely to be sexually assaulted by facility staff than the U.S. population in jails and prisons, and over 9x more likely to be sexually assaulted by other inmates.2 Respondents who have done sex work (72%), those who have experienced homelessness (65%), and people with disabilities (61%) were more likely to have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime.2
- 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.4
- 13% of African-American transgender people surveyed were sexually assaulted in the workplace.5
- 22% of transgender individuals experiencing homelessness were assaulted while staying in shelters.6
- 57% of transgender people reported feeling uncomfortable asking the police for help if they needed it.2

Sexual Assault and Transgender Youth

- 42.5% of students report feeling unsafe at school because of their gender expression.7
- 58.3% of LGBTQ students had been sexually harassed at school in the past year.8
- 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.4
- 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.8

Resources and Services

National:

Local:
- The DC Center for the LGBT Community: 202-682-2245, www.thedccenter.org

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3 National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017”
6 Ibid.
7 Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, “The 2019 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth in our Nation’s schools.”
8 Ibid.