

Sexual Violence Against Transgender Communities

Transgender is an encompassing term of many gender identities for 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
- A 2019 Harvard study, analyzing data from the 2017 LGBTQ Teen Study, determined that **36%** of trans or gender-nonbinary students who faced restroom or locker room restrictions due to their identity reported being sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months.⁹

Resources and Services

National:

- Trevor Project: 866-4-U-Trevor
- The Trans Line: 877-565-8860

Local:

- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland: **410-777-8145**, www.glccb.org
- Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI): **301-565-2277**, www.mcasa.org
- The DC Center for the LGBT Community: **202-682-2245**, www.thedccenter.org

¹ “LGBTQ+ definitions.” Trans Student Educational Resources. Retrieved from <http://www.transstudent.org/definitions>

² <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024>

³ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017”

⁴ 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.*

⁵ “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

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/NCS-2021-Full-Report.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/NCS-2021-Full-Report.pdf>

⁹ Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (2019). Transgender teens with restricted bathroom access at higher risk of sexual assault. Retrieved from <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/transgender-teens-restricted-bathroom-access-sexual-assault/>