



## INJUSTICE AT EVERY TURN: A LOOK AT LATINO/A RESPONDENTS IN THE NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION SURVEY

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey [NTDS] examined 6,450 transgender people's experiences of discrimination in the U.S.i The survey results demonstrate that transgender people face unrelenting discrimination in virtually all aspects of their lives.

One of the most important findings of the study was that the combination of anti-transgender bias with structural and interpersonal acts of racism meant that transgender people of color, and specifically Latina and Latino transgender respondents, experience particularly devastating levels of abuse, harassment and violence. In response, the League of United Latin American Citizens has partnered with the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, to offer this report on discrimination against Latino/a transgender people.

The information in this report is based on the experiences of the 402 respondents who described themselves on the survey as Latino/a only or Latino/a and multiracial.ii Among these respondents, 332 identified as U.S. citizens and 56 as non-citizens. The numbers of undocumented and documented non-citizens on their own were not large enough to do individual analysis. However, in the full NTDS report, undocumented immigrants reported even higher rates of discrimination and we expect Latino/as would exhibit the same pattern.

When this report uses the phrase, "due to bias," it refers to questions on the survey that asked specifically about respondents' experiences of anti-transgender discrimination. Due to the robust participation of Latino/a respondents, the study also demonstrates the complex interactions of anti-transgender discrimination with racism, classism, and bias against Latino immigrants.

### KEY FINDINGS

- Discrimination was pervasive for all respondents who took the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, yet **the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent, structural and individual racism was especially devastating** for Latino/a transgender people and other people of color.
- Non-citizen Latino/a respondents were **often among those most vulnerable to harassment, abuse and violence** in the study; their experiences are noted throughout this report.
- **Latino/a transgender people often live in extreme poverty** with 28% reporting a household income of less than \$10,000/year. This is nearly double the rate for transgender people of all races (15%), over five times the general Latino/a population rate (5%), and seven times the general U.S. population rate (4%).iii The rate for Latino/a non-citizen respondents was 43%.
- Latino/a transgender people were affected by HIV in devastating numbers. **One in twelve Latino/a respondents were HIV-positive (8.44%) and an additional 10.23% reported that they did not know their status.** This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender respondents of all races, .50% for the general Latino/a population, and 0.60% of the general U.S. population.iv The rate for Latino/a non-citizen respondents was 23.08%
- **Forty-seven percent (47%)** of Latino/a respondents **reported having attempted suicide.**

## EDUCATION

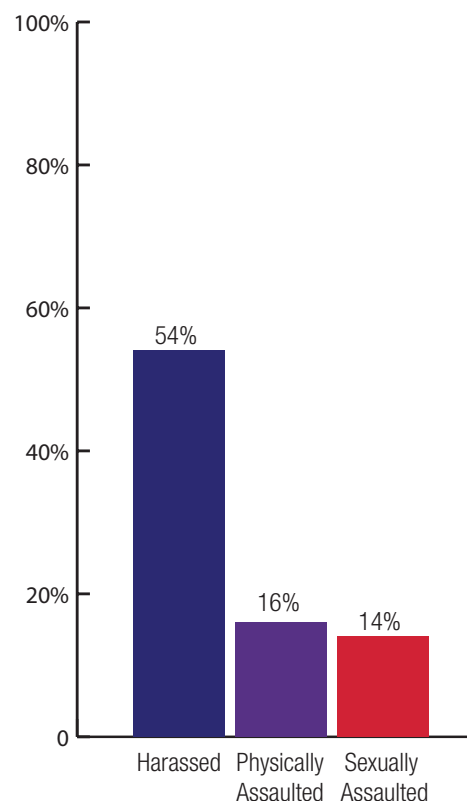
- Latino/a respondents who attended school as transgender people reported alarming rates of harassment (77%), physical assault (36%), and sexual assault (13%) in K-12; harassment was so severe that it led 21% to leave school. Nine percent (9%) were also expelled due to bias.
- Respondents who were harassed and abused by teachers in K-12 settings show dramatically worse health and other outcomes compared to those who do not experience such abuse. Peer harassment and abuse also had highly damaging effects.

**77%** of Latino/a respondents who attended school expressing a transgender identity or gender non-conformity faced harassment

## EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

- Latino/a transgender people had a very high unemployment rate at 20%, higher than the overall transgender sample (14%) and nearly three times the rate of the general population at the time the survey was fielded (7%).<sup>v</sup>
- Twenty-six percent (26%) of Latino/a transgender people lost a job due to bias and 47% were not hired for a job due to bias. For Latino/a non-citizen respondents, the rate of job loss due to bias was 42%.
- Fifty-four percent (54%) of Latino/a transgender people were harassed, 16% were physically assaulted, and 14% were sexually assaulted at work. Of Latino/a non-citizen respondents, 57% were harassed, 47% were physically assaulted, and 38% were sexually assaulted.
- Thirty-four percent (34%) of Latino/a transgender people said they had been compelled to sell drugs or do sex work for income at some point in their lives.

**Mistreatment at Work**



# HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AND HOMELESSNESS

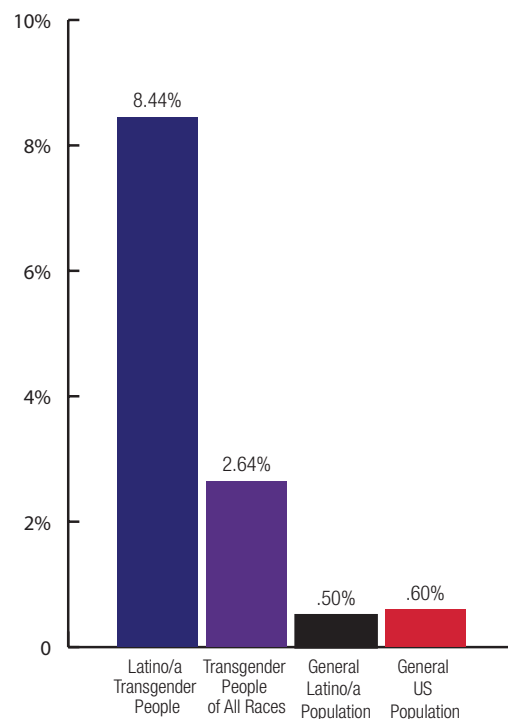
- Latino/a transgender people reported various forms of direct housing discrimination – 29% reported having been refused a home or apartment due to bias and 15% reported being evicted due to bias. Of Latino/a non-citizen respondents, 46% were refused a home or apartment due to bias and 26% were evicted.
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of Latino/a respondents said they had experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, nearly four times the rate of the general U.S. population (7.4%).<sup>vi</sup>
- Latino/a transgender people are less likely than respondents of other races to own homes with a rate of 15%. This compares to 32% of transgender people of any race and 67% of the general U.S. population.<sup>vii</sup> Also for comparison, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that “minority home ownership” nationwide is 49.7%.<sup>viii</sup>

**27%** of Latino/a respondents said they had experienced homelessness

## DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH CARE

- Health outcomes for Latino/a respondents show the appalling effects of social and economic marginalization, including much higher rates of HIV infection, smoking, drug and alcohol use and suicide attempts compared to the general population.
- Twenty-three percent (23%) of Latino/a transgender people reported being refused medical care due to bias.
- Thirty-six percent (36%) of Latino/a transgender people reported having postponed care when they were sick or injured due to fear of discrimination.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) of Latino/a transgender respondents reported having attempted suicide, compared to a rate of 41% for transgender people of all races and 1.6% for the general U.S. population.
- Latino/a transgender people have devastating rates of being HIV positive. Nearly one in ten Latino/a respondents were HIV-positive (8.44%) and an additional 10.23% reported that they did not know their status. This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender respondents of all races, .50% for the general Latino/a population, and 0.60% of the general U.S. population.<sup>ix</sup>

HIV Rates



# METHODOLOGY NOTE

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. Paper surveys were available in English and Spanish. A total of 6,456 completed questionnaires were included in the final data set, 402 of which were Latina and Latino.

For the full report and detailed recommendations, please visit our websites at [www.TheTaskForce.org](http://www.TheTaskForce.org) or [www.TransEquality.org](http://www.TransEquality.org) (see: [http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports\\_and\\_research/ntds](http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/ntds) or <http://transequality.org/Resources/index.html>)

- <sup>i</sup> Throughout this report, we use transgender to mean all respondents.
- <sup>ii</sup> 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 Latino/a from those who were Latino/a multiracial. Latino/a multiracial respondents were included in the general multiracial category. In this report, however, Latino/a-only and Latino/a multiracial respondents were counted together.
- <sup>iii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Current Population Survey," Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Washington, DC: GPO, 2008). This number is based on all those who indicated they were Hispanic.
- <sup>iv</sup> Though the figure reported here for the Latino/a general population HIV rate is less than the general U.S. population rate, Latino/ as are disproportionately affected by HIV according to many metrics of analysis including representation among new cases. For more, see: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Latinos and HIV/AIDS" (2006): <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/upload/6007-03.pdf>; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "2010: A Global View of HIV Infection" (2010): [http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123\\_2010\\_HIV\\_Prevalence\\_Map\\_em.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_2010_HIV_Prevalence_Map_em.pdf); Glynn, M.K., & Rhodes, P., "Estimated HIV Prevalence in the United States at the End of 2003," (2005 National HIV Prevention Conference, June 2005); U.S. Census Bureau, "Population by Sex, Age, Hispanic Origin, and Race: 2004" (2005): [http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hispanic/ASEC2004/2004CPS\\_tab1.1a.html](http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hispanic/ASEC2004/2004CPS_tab1.1a.html).
- <sup>v</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_10032008.htm).
- <sup>vi</sup> United States Conference of Mayors, "Hunger and Homelessness Survey" (2006): 48, <http://usmayors.org/hungersurvey/2006/report06.pdf>.
- <sup>vii</sup> 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](http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/ushmc/summer09/nat_data.pdf).
- <sup>viii</sup> 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](http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/ushmc/summer09/nat_data.pdf). HUD did not define "minority" in this report.
- <sup>ix</sup> Though the figure reported here for the Latino/a general population HIV rate is less than the general U.S. population rate, Latino/ as are disproportionately affected by HIV according to many metrics of analysis including representation among new cases. For more, see: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Latinos and HIV/AIDS" (2006): <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/upload/6007-03.pdf>; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "2010: A Global View of HIV Infection" (2010): [http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123\\_2010\\_HIV\\_Prevalence\\_Map\\_em.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_2010_HIV_Prevalence_Map_em.pdf); Glynn, M.K., & Rhodes, P., "Estimated HIV Prevalence in the United States at the End of 2003," (2005 National HIV Prevention Conference, June 2005); U.S. Census Bureau, "Population by Sex, Age, Hispanic Origin, and Race: 2004" (2005): [http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hispanic/ASEC2004/2004CPS\\_tab1.1a.html](http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hispanic/ASEC2004/2004CPS_tab1.1a.html).

