

2015

U.S.

TRANSGENDER

SURVEY

Report on the Experiences
of Asian, Native Hawaiian,
and Pacific Islander
Respondents



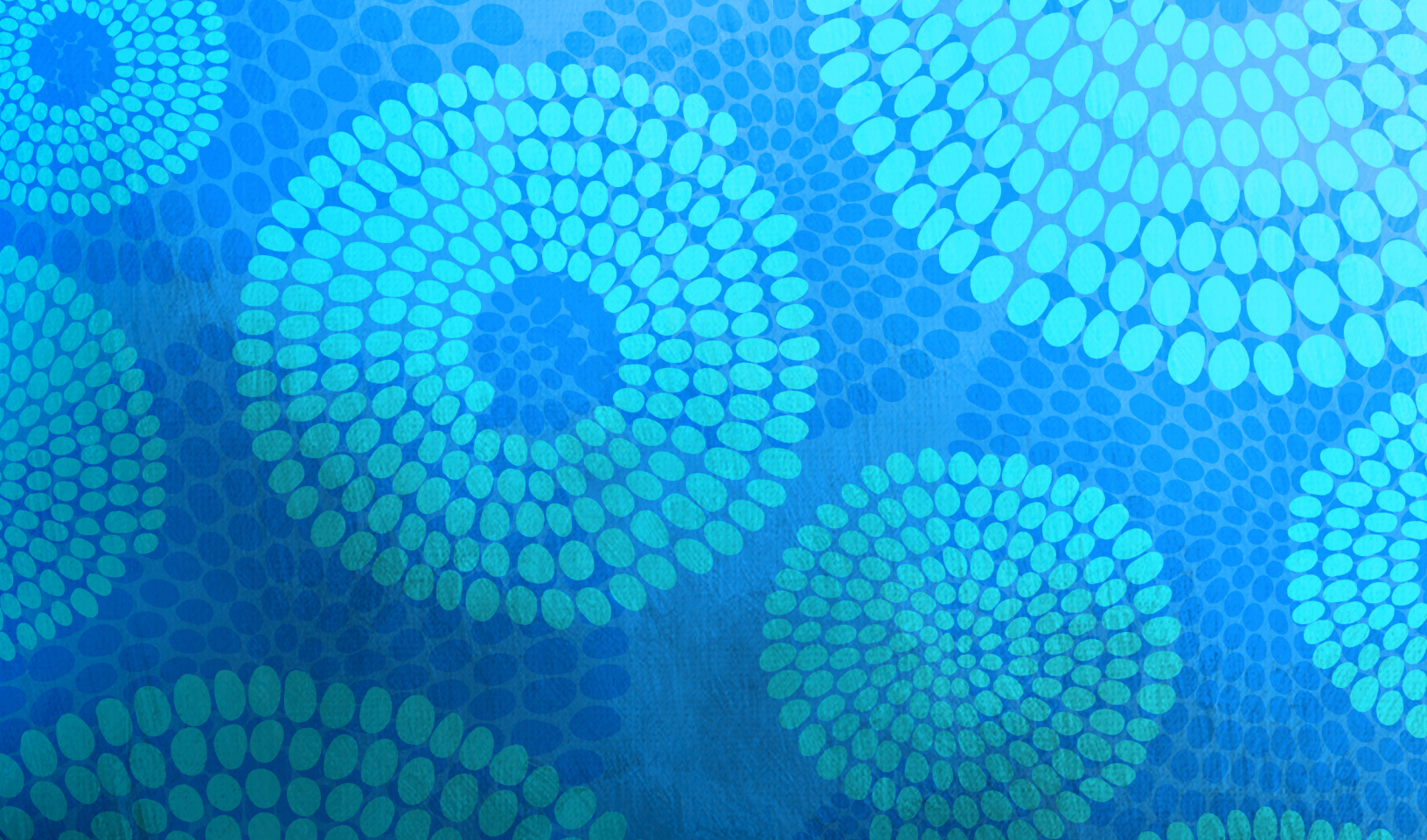
NQAPIA

National Queer Asian
Pacific Islander Alliance



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Introduction

The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS) is the largest survey examining the experiences of transgender people in the United States, with 27,715 respondents nationwide. The USTS was conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality in the summer of 2015. The results provide a detailed look at the experiences of transgender people across a wide range of categories, such as education, employment, family life, health, housing, and interactions with the criminal justice system.

The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey documented the experiences of USTS respondents, including differences based on demographic and other characteristics.¹ Among the most important findings was that many respondents were impacted by the compounding effects of multiple forms of discrimination, and

transgender people of color who completed the survey experienced deeper and broader forms of discrimination than white USTS respondents and people in the U.S. population overall.

This report focuses on the unique experiences of the 783 USTS respondents who identified as Asian (including Asian American, South Asian, and Southeast Asian) or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander,² highlighting disparities between their experiences and those of other USTS respondents and the U.S. population. Findings throughout this report generally represent the experiences of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported as a combined category.³ Additionally, some findings are presented separately for Asian respondents and for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents to highlight notable differences.

Throughout this report, respondents are referred to as “Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander”

(or “ANHPI”).⁴ When findings are presented separately, respondents are referred to as “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander” (or “NHPI”). While the findings in this report reflect a range of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander transgender people in the United States, the survey likely did not fully capture the experiences of those who were most affected by factors that may limit access to online surveys, such as factors related to education, economic and housing stability, and disabilities. All findings in this report are presented as weighted percentages.⁵

Key Findings

- **10% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were unemployed**, twice the rate in the U.S. population (5%).
- **32% were living in poverty**, nearly three times the rate in the U.S. population (12%).
- **21% have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives**, and **11% experienced homelessness in the past year because of being transgender**.
- **41% have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetimes**, and **11% were sexually assaulted in the past year**.
- **58% said they would feel somewhat or very uncomfortable asking the police for help**.
- **26% of those who saw a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender**, such as being refused treatment, being verbally harassed, being physically or sexually assaulted, or having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to get appropriate care.

- **39% experienced serious psychological distress in the month before completing the survey** (based on the Kessler 6 Psychological Distress Scale), nearly eight times the rate in the U.S. population (5%).

Portrait of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Respondents

This section outlines aspects of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents’ identities and demographic characteristics, such as gender, age, geographic location, and educational attainment, to provide important context for their experiences.

Gender Identity

Respondents were asked to select one term that best described their gender identity.⁶ Nearly one-half (44%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were non-binary,⁷ 29% were transgender women, 25% were transgender men, and 3% identified as crossdressers.⁸ Differences emerged among respondents, with Asian respondents being most likely to identify as non-binary (46%) (Figure 1), while Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were most likely to identify as transgender women (46%) (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Gender identity (Asian respondents alone)

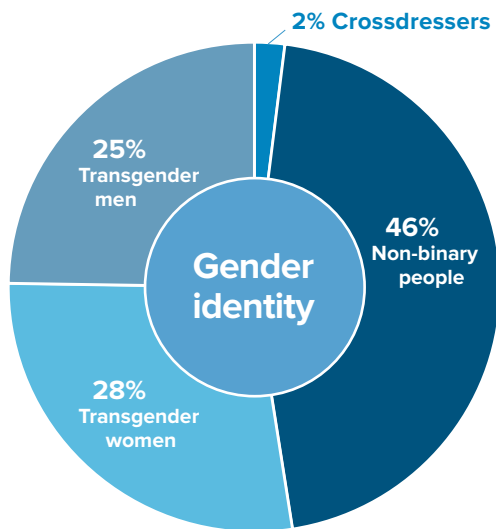
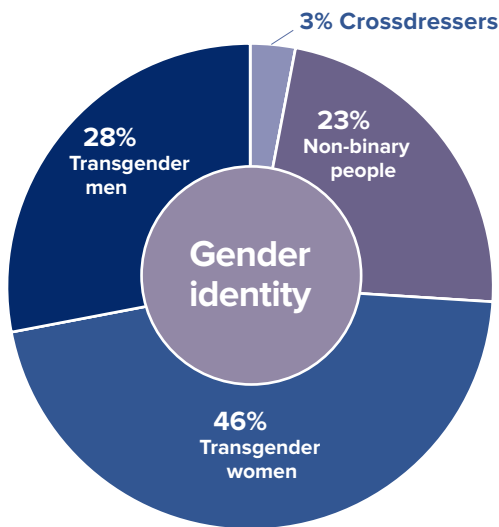


Figure 2: Gender identity (NHPI respondents alone)



Respondents were also given an opportunity to select one or more gender terms with which they identified from a list. One in five (20%) Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents identified as *mahu*⁹ and 8% identified as *fa'afafine*.¹⁰ Additionally, 8% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents identified with the term *third gender*, as did 4% of Asian respondents.

Experiences with Transitioning

Sixty percent (60%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were currently living full time in a gender that was different from the one on their original birth certificates, referred to in this report as having transitioned. This included 75% of transgender men and women and 45% of non-binary respondents. More than one in five (21%) respondents who had transitioned did so before the age of 18, nearly one-half (46%) transitioned between the ages of 18 and 24, 23% transitioned between ages 25 and 34, and 11% transitioned at age 35 or older.

Respondents were asked how much time had passed since they began transitioning. Nearly one-third (32%) began their transition within one year of taking the survey, 43% transitioned 2 to 5 years prior, 10% transitioned 6 to 9 years prior, and 15% transitioned 10 or more years prior.

Outness

Respondents were asked whether different groups of people in their lives knew that they were transgender to determine if they were “out” about their transgender identity to family members, friends, supervisors and coworkers, classmates, and health care providers. Specifically, they were asked whether all, most, some, or none of the people in each of those groups knew they were transgender.

Results for outness to any particular group reflect only those respondents who had people from that group in their lives. Overall, 4% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported that they were out to all of the people in their lives, across all groups of people, 42% were out to most, 52% were out to some, and 1% were out to none of the people in their lives.

More than one-half (52%) of respondents were out to all or most of the immediate family that they grew up with, and 28% were out to all or most of their extended family. Many respondents were out at work: 40% were out to all or most of their supervisors and 32% were out to all or most of their coworkers. However, respondents were less likely to be out at school, with only 21% reporting that all or most of their classmates at their current school knew they were transgender.

Age

Most Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were between the ages of 18 and 24 (54%) or 25 and 44 (39%). Seven percent (7%) of respondents were between the ages of 45 and 64, and less than 1% were over the age of 65. When examining Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents separately, most were between the ages of 25 and 44 (49%) and 18 to 24 (31%), in contrast to Asian respondents, who were most likely to be between the ages of 18 and 24 (56%) (Figures 3 & 4).

Figure 3: Age (Asian respondents alone)

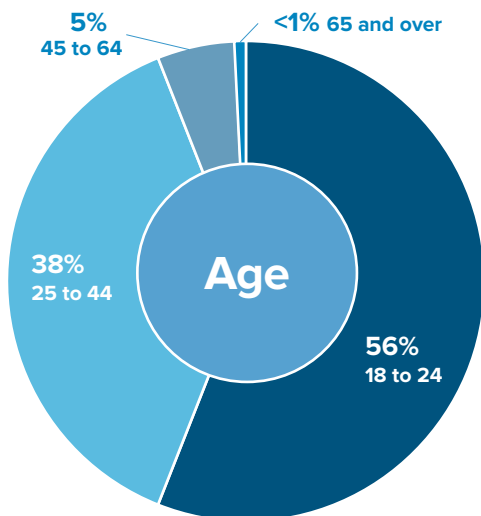
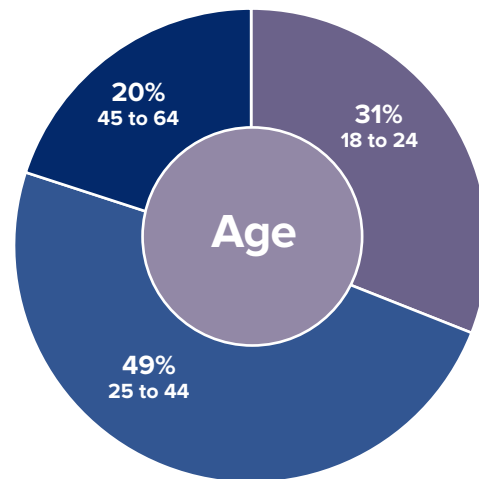


Figure 4: Age (NHPI respondents alone)

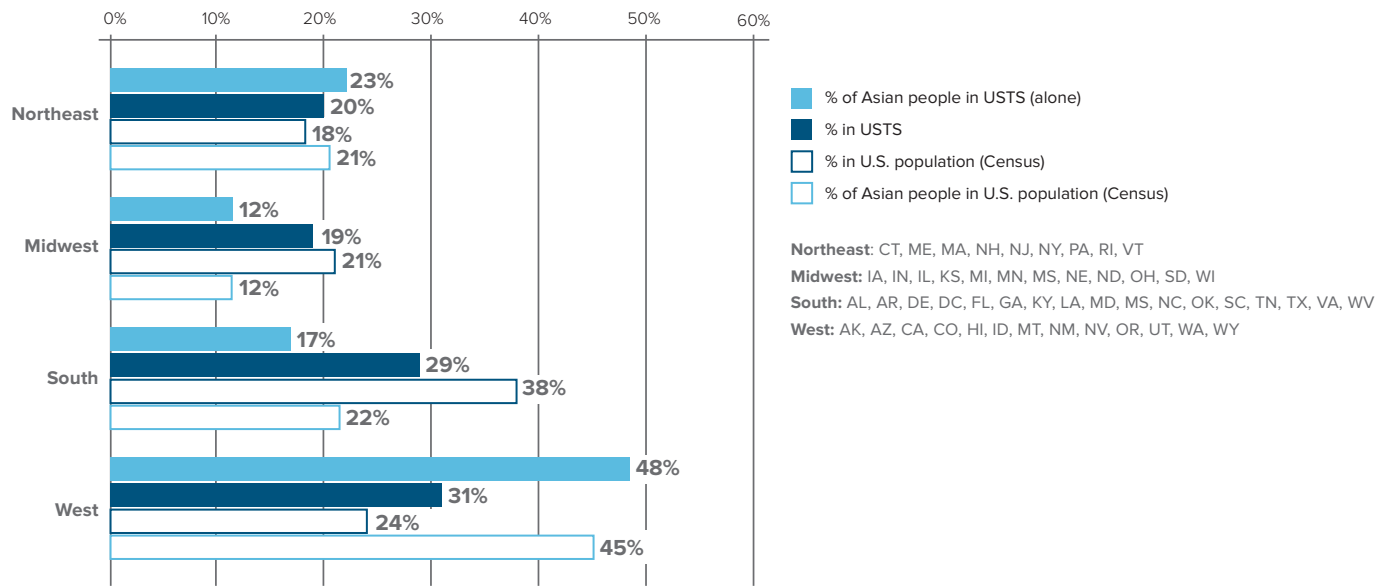


Location

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents lived in 46 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and military bases overseas at the time of the survey. Regionally, 50% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents lived in the West, 22% lived in the Northeast, 17% lived in the South, and 12% lived in the Midwest.

When examining Asian respondents alone, the geographical distribution differed from the distribution in the USTS sample overall but had similarities to the distribution of Asians in the U.S. population. Asian respondents were more likely to live in the West (48%) than respondents in the USTS sample overall (31%), similarly to Asian people in the U.S. population, who lived in the West (45%) at a higher rate than the U.S. population overall (24%)¹¹ (Figure 5).

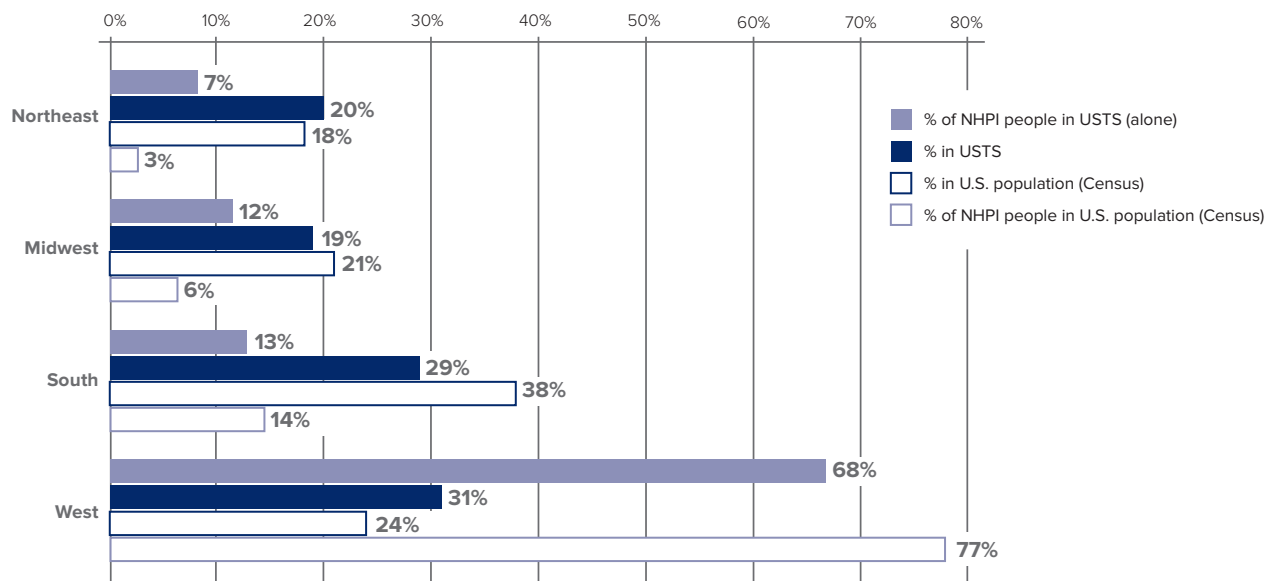
Figure 5: Location by region (Asian respondents)



Additionally, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents differed in geographical distribution from the USTS sample overall, but their distribution followed patterns similar to the distribution of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander people in the U.S. population. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

respondents were substantially more likely to live in the West (68%) than respondents in the USTS sample overall (31%), as was the case with Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population, who were more likely to live in the West (77%) than the U.S. population overall (24%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Location by region (NHPI respondents)



Educational Attainment

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were asked about the highest level of education that they had completed. Eight percent (8%) had a high school diploma or GED or did not complete high school. Forty-four percent (44%) had completed some college but had not obtained a degree, and 41% had received a bachelor's degree or a higher degree. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (17%) were more than twice as likely as Asian respondents (8%) to report that their highest educational attainment was a high school diploma or GED or that they did not complete high school (Figures 7 & 8).

Figure 7: Educational attainment (Asian respondents alone)

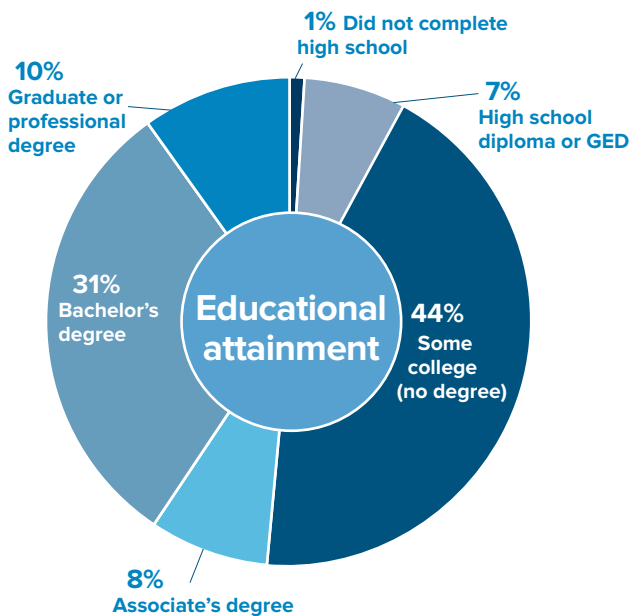
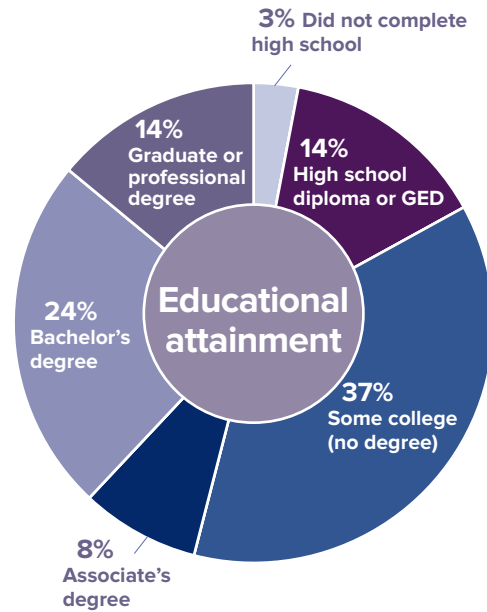


Figure 8: Educational attainment (NHPI respondents alone)



Disability

Respondents received questions about their disability status based on questions from the American Community Survey (ACS) in order to compare the USTS sample to the U.S. population. Disabilities listed in the ACS included (1) being deaf or having serious difficulty hearing, (2) being blind or having serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses, (3) having serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, (4) having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs, (5) having difficulty dressing or bathing, and (6) having difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition. More than one-third (36%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents indicated that they had one or more disabilities listed in the ACS. Among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents alone, 42% reported having

one or more disabilities listed in the ACS. In contrast, only 15% in the U.S. population had a disability listed in the ACS.¹²

Respondents were also asked if they identified as a person with a disability to better capture disabilities that were not included in the ACS. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents identified as people with disabilities, including 23% of Asian respondents alone and 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents alone. The term “people with disabilities” used in this report refers to respondents who identified as people with disabilities.

Relationship Status

Respondents were asked about their relationship status, and differences emerged between Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (37%) were more likely than Asian respondents (22%) to be living with a partner. However, Asian respondents were more likely to be partnered and not living with their partner (19%), compared to Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (10%) (Table 1).

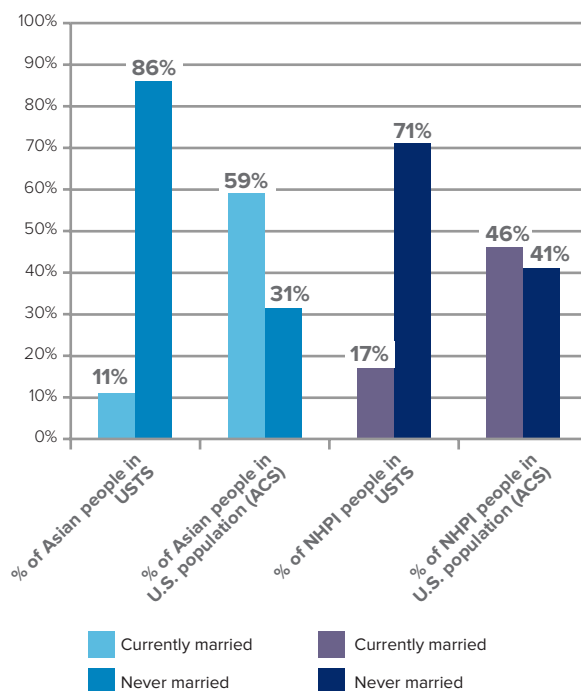
Table 1: Relationship status

Relationship status	% of ANHPI respondents overall	% of Asian respondents alone	% of NHPI respondents alone
Living with a partner	23%	22%	37%
Partnered and living separately	18%	19%	10%
Single	55%	56%	46%
In a polyamorous relationship	2%	2%	2%
Relationship status not listed	1%	1%	5%

Respondents were also asked about their current legal marital status for the purpose of comparison

to the U.S. population. Eleven percent (11%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were currently married, and 85% had never been married. Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were substantially less likely to have ever been married than Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander people in the U.S. population overall (Figure 9).¹³

Figure 9: Legal marital status



Sexual Orientation

Respondents were asked which terms best described their sexual orientation.¹⁴ Examined alone, Asian respondents were most likely to identify as queer (23%) or pansexual (19%). They also identified as gay, lesbian, or same-gender-loving (13%), straight (13%), bisexual (12%), or asexual (11%), or with a sexual orientation that was not listed (8%).

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were most likely to identify as straight (24%) or gay,

lesbian, or same-gender-loving (21%), and they also identified as pansexual (15%), bisexual (15%), queer (14%), or asexual (2%), or with a sexual orientation that was not listed (8%).

Citizenship and Immigration Status

Respondents were asked about their citizenship or immigration status. Ninety-two percent (92%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were citizens, including 21% who were naturalized citizens. Among Asian respondents alone, 92% were citizens, including 22% who were naturalized citizens. Asian respondents also reported a range of immigration statuses, including being permanent residents (4%) and visa holders (3%).

Ninety-five percent (95%) of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were citizens, including 10% who were naturalized citizens. Three percent (3%) of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were permanent residents.

Family Life and Faith Communities

Family Life

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were out as transgender to a current or former partner. Of those who were out to a current or former partner, 24% had a partner end their relationship solely or partly because they were transgender, including 8% who had a partner end their relationship solely because they were transgender. More than one-half (55%) of respondents who had children were out to one or more of their children, and 16% of those respondents had a child stop speaking to

them or spending time with them after coming out as transgender.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who were out to at least some of the immediate family they grew up with reported that their family was generally supportive, 20% had unsupportive families, and 23% had families that were neither supportive nor unsupportive. Nearly one-half (46%) experienced at least one form of family rejection outlined in the survey, such as having a family member who stopped speaking to them for a long time or ended the relationship, experiencing violence by a family member, or being kicked out of the house for being transgender (Table 2).

Table 2: Forms of family rejection (of those out to immediate family)

	% of ANHPI people in USTS	% in USTS
Stopped speaking to them or ended relationship	22%	26%
Did not allow them to wear clothes that matched gender	34%	27%
Sent them to a professional to stop them from being transgender	15%	14%
Were violent towards them	15%	10%
Kicked them out of the house	9%	8%
One or more experiences listed	46%	44%

Additionally, 12% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who were out to their immediate family ran away from home because they were transgender, including 12% of Asian respondents and 18% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents.

Although nearly one-half of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who were out to their immediate family reported at least one experience of rejection from a family member, 80% also reported that at least one immediate family

member supported them through one or more specific acts, such as using their preferred name or pronouns, giving them money to support their transition, or helping them to change the name or gender on an identity document (Table 3).

Table 3: Supportive family behaviors (of those out to immediate family)

	% of ANHPI people in USTS	% in USTS
Told respondent they respect or support them	59%	65%
Used their preferred name	51%	58%
Used the correct pronouns	51%	55%
Stood up for them with family, friends, or others	31%	36%
Did research to learn how to best support them	29%	33%
Gave money to help with gender transition	20%	18%
Supported them in another way	11%	11%
Helped them change their name and/or gender on an identity document	10%	10%
One or more experiences listed	80%	82%

Faith Communities

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents had been part of a spiritual or religious community (“faith community”) at some point in their lives. This experience was more common among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (72%) than Asian respondents (57%). Of respondents who had been part of a faith community, nearly one-quarter (22%) left because they were rejected as a transgender person. That included 21% of Asian respondents and 35% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents, in contrast to 19% in the USTS sample overall. More than one-third (34%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who had been rejected by a faith community found a new faith community that welcomed them as a transgender person.

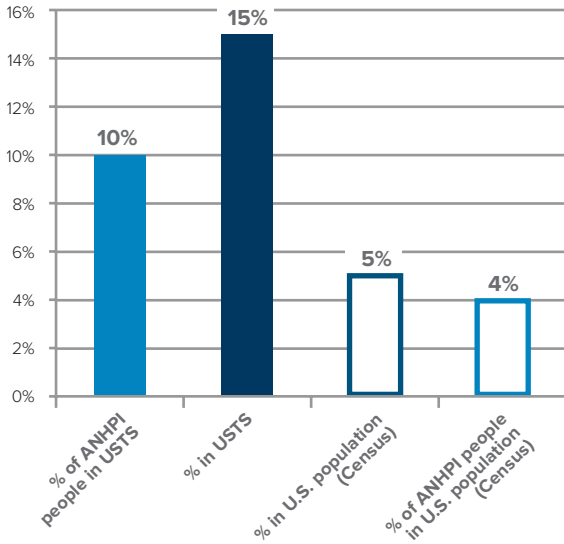
More than one-quarter (26%) of respondents who had ever been part of a faith community were part of one in the year prior to taking the survey, and they reported a range of experiences within their faith communities. Ninety-two percent (92%) experienced one or more accepting behaviors from members of their faith community, such as having a community leader or member who accepted them or made them feel welcome as a transgender person or being told that their religion or faith accepts them as a transgender person. However, 40% had one or more experiences of rejection, such as being asked to stop coming to services or faith community functions or having a community member tell them that being transgender is a sin or that their religion does not approve of them, in contrast to 18% in the USTS sample overall.¹⁵

Income and Employment

Unemployment

One in ten (10%) Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were unemployed, compared to 15% in the USTS sample overall. The unemployment rate among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents was twice as high as the unemployment rate in the U.S. population overall (5%)¹⁶ and more than twice the rate among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population (4%) (Figure 10).¹⁷ The unemployment rate was higher among people with disabilities, with one in five (20%) being unemployed.

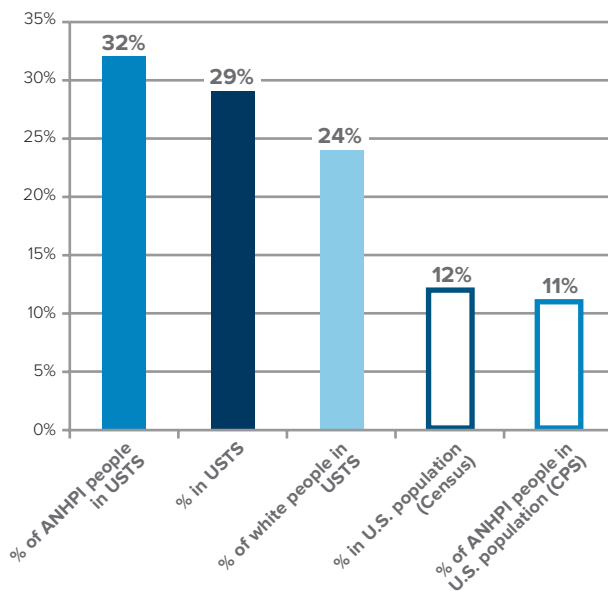
Figure 10: Unemployment



Poverty

Nearly one-third (32%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were living in poverty,¹⁸ compared to 29% in the USTS sample overall. This rate was nearly three times higher than the poverty rate in the U.S. population overall (12%)¹⁹ and among Asians and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population (11%) (Figure 11).²⁰

Figure 11: Living in poverty



Sources of Income

One-half (50%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported that their only source of income was from their own employment or a partner's employment, and 38% reported that they received income from multiple sources (Table 4).

Table 4: Current sources of income

Sources of income	% of ANHPI people in USTS	% in USTS
Employment only (from their own employment, partner's employment, or self-employment)	50%	36%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or disability benefits only	2%	9%
Pension or retirement income only	2%	3%
Unemployment benefits or public cash assistance program only	1%	1%
Pay from sex work, drug sales, or other work that is currently criminalized only	<1%	1%
Other sources only	4%	3%
No income	2%	2%
Multiple sources	38%	45%

Military Service

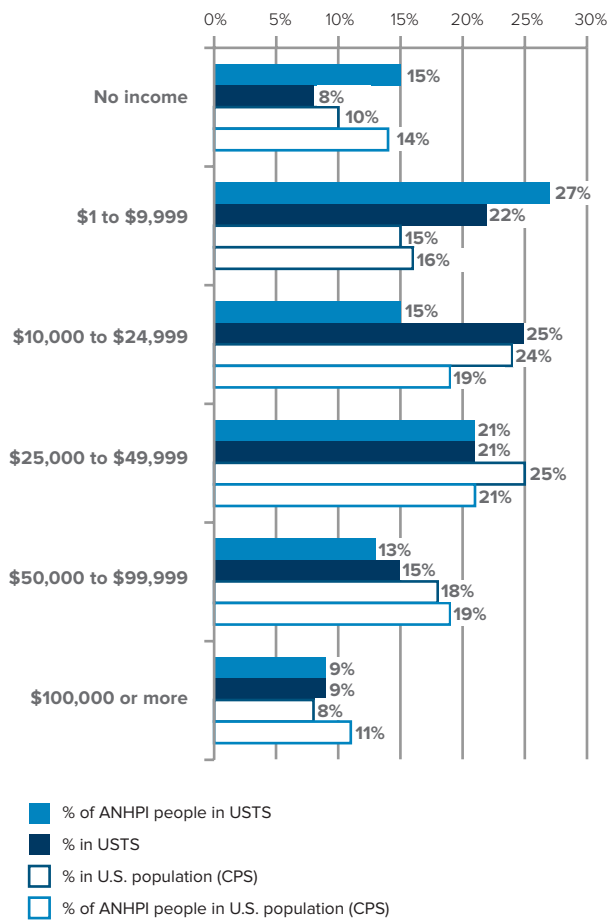
Seven percent (7%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have served in the military, including respondents who were currently serving in the military on active duty (<1%) and those who were currently on active duty for training in the Reserves or National Guard (1%). Six percent (6%) of respondents were veterans, three times the rate among Asians and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population (2%).²¹

Individual and Household Income

Respondents reported their annual individual and household income levels from 2014, the last full year prior to completing the survey. More than one-quarter (27%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/

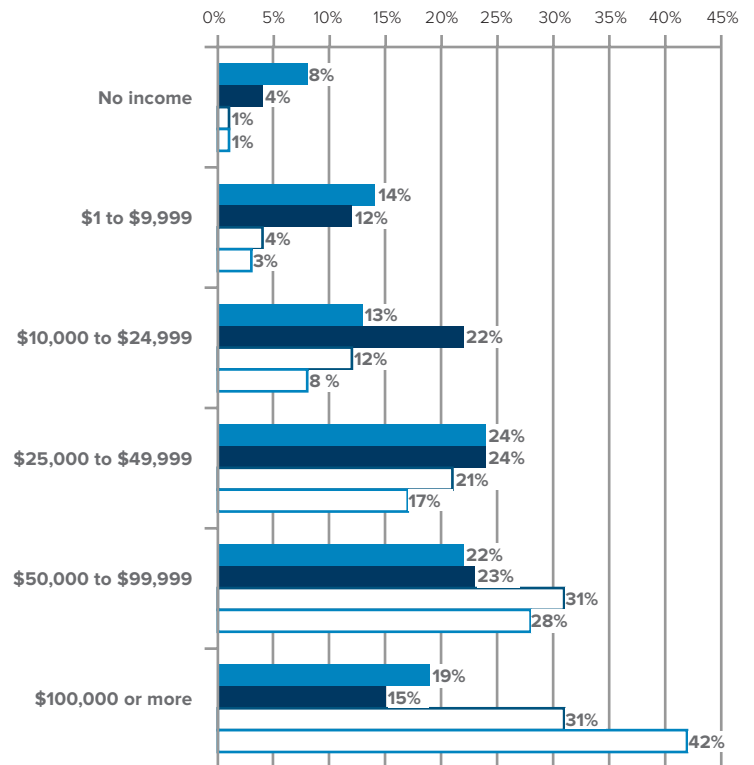
Pacific Islander respondents reported an *individual income* of \$1 to \$9,999, compared to 22% in the USTS sample overall and 16% among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population (Figure 12).²²

Figure 12: Annual individual income (2014)



Fourteen percent (14%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported a *household income* of \$1 to \$9,999, more than four times the rate among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population (3%) (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Annual household income (2014)



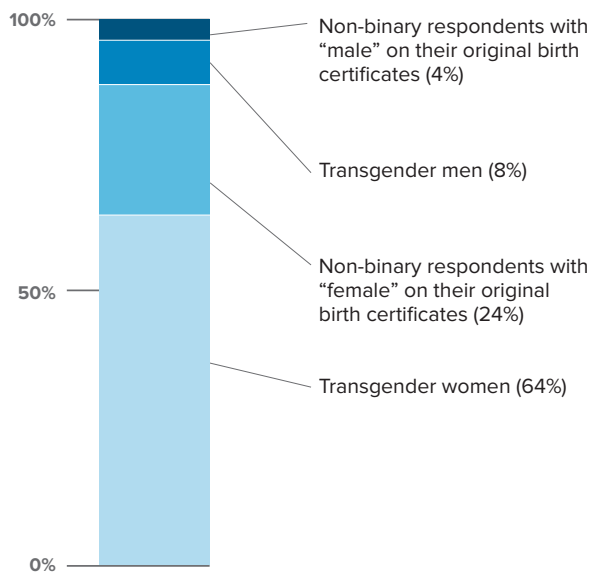
Sex Work and Other Underground Economy Work

Sixteen percent (16%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have participated in the underground economy for income at some point in their lives, including in sex work, drug sales, and other currently criminalized work. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were substantially more likely than Asian respondents and the USTS sample overall to have participated in the underground economy: 41% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have participated in the underground economy, in contrast to 13% of Asian respondents and 20% of USTS respondents overall. Eight percent (8%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents participated in the underground economy for income in the past year. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were

more likely to have had that experience (15%) than Asian respondents (7%).

Ten percent (10%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have participated in sex work for income at some point in their lives. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were more likely to have participated in sex work for income, with 29% having done so in their lifetime, in contrast to 8% of Asian respondents and 12% in the USTS sample overall. Examining the composition of those who have done sex work, transgender women represent nearly two-thirds (64%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who have done sex work for money in their lifetimes. Although transgender women represent a disproportionately high percentage of those who have done sex work, it is also important to recognize that non-binary people with “female” on their original birth certificates account for a large proportion of those who have done sex work for money in their lifetimes (24%) (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Gender identity of those who have done sex work for income in their lifetimes



Five percent (5%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents participated in sex work for income in the past year.

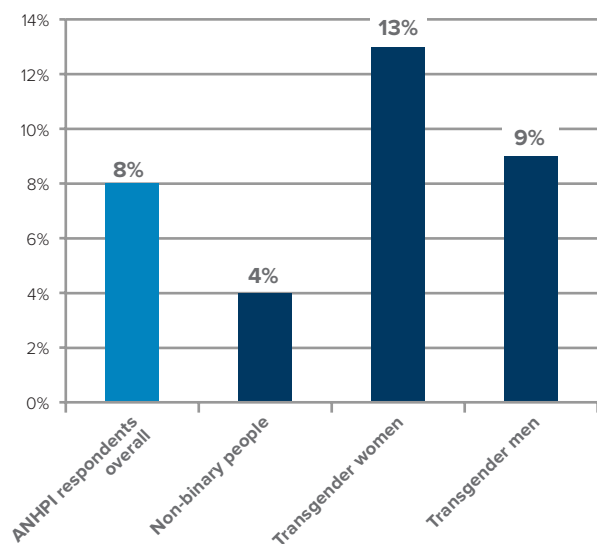
Overall, 17% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents participated in sex work for income, food, a place to sleep, or other goods or services.

Experiences in the Workplace

Nine percent (9%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who have ever been employed reported losing a job at some point in their lives because of being transgender. This represents 8% of all Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents, including 12% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents and 7% of Asian respondents.

Experiences varied by gender, with transgender women (13%) being more likely to report having lost a job because of being transgender, compared to transgender men (9%) and non-binary people (4%) (Figure 15).

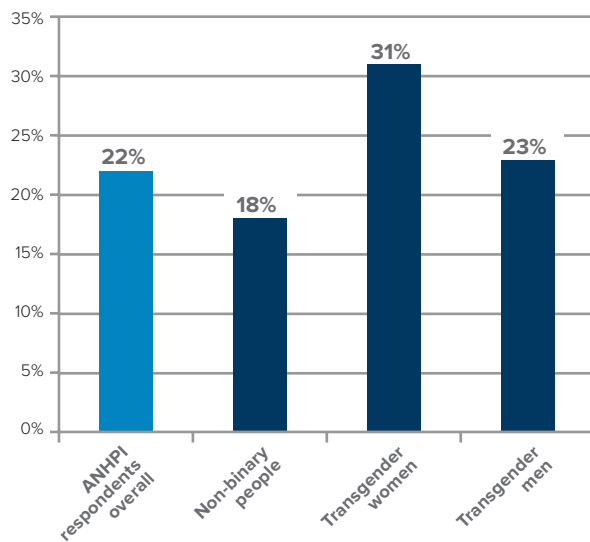
Figure 15: Ever lost job because of being transgender (by gender)



In the past year, 22% of respondents who held or applied for a job during that year reported being fired, being denied a promotion, or not being hired for a job they applied for because of being transgender. This experience was more common among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (33%), compared to Asian respondents (22%) and the USTS sample overall (27%).

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander transgender women (31%) were more likely to report this experience than transgender men (23%) and non-binary people (18%) (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Fired, denied promotion, and/or not hired in the past year because of being transgender (by gender)



In the past year, 12% of respondents who had a job during that year reported that they had been verbally harassed at work because of being transgender, 1% were physically attacked, and 3% were sexually assaulted at work during that year because of being transgender.

Additionally, nearly one in five (19%) Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who were employed reported other forms of mistreatment based on their gender identity or expression during the past year, such as being forced to use a restroom that did not match their gender identity, being told to present in the wrong gender in order to keep their job, or having a boss or coworker share information about their transgender status with others without their permission.

Education

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced high rates of mistreatment at school. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who were out or perceived as transgender at some point between Kindergarten and Grade 12 (K–12) experienced mistreatment, such as being verbally harassed, prohibited from dressing according to their gender identity, disciplined more harshly, or physically or sexually assaulted because people thought they were transgender. Fifty-three percent (53%) of those who were out or perceived as transgender in K–12 were verbally harassed, 17% were physically attacked, and 13% were sexually assaulted in K–12 because of being transgender. Additionally, more than one in ten (11%) respondents faced such severe mistreatment as a transgender person that they left a K–12 school (Table 5).

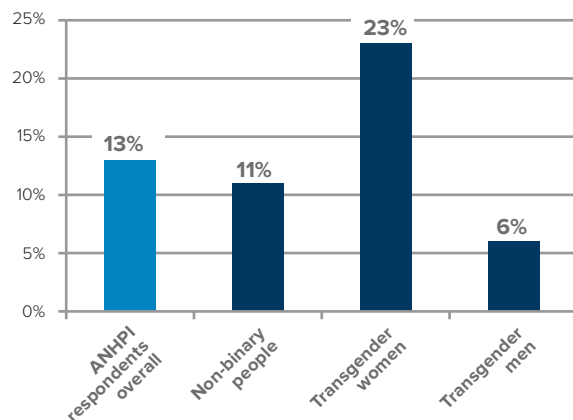
Table 5: Experiences of people who were out as transgender in K–12 or believed classmates, teachers, or school staff thought they were transgender

Negative experiences in school (out of those who were out or perceived as transgender)	% of ANHPI people in USTS
Verbally harassed because people thought they were transgender	53%
Not allowed to dress in a way that fit their gender identity or expression	50%
Disciplined for fighting back against bullies	27%
Believe they were disciplined more harshly because teachers or staff thought they were transgender	18%
Physically attacked because people thought they were transgender	17%
Sexually assaulted because people thought they were transgender	13%
Left a school because the mistreatment was so bad	11%
Expelled from school	5%
One or more experiences listed	73%

Respondents with disabilities were more likely to report mistreatment in school than other Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents. Eighty percent (80%) of respondents with disabilities who were out or perceived as transgender in K–12 faced mistreatment at school. They reported higher levels of verbal harassment (62%), physical attack (28%), and sexual assault (23%) at school because people thought they were transgender than Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents overall. They were also more likely to leave a school because the mistreatment was so bad (21%).

Experiences also varied by gender, with transgender women being more likely to have been sexually assaulted in K–12 because people thought they were transgender (23%) (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Sexual assault among people who were out as transgender in K–12 or believed classmates, teachers, or school staff thought they were transgender (by gender)



Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents also reported mistreatment in post-secondary schools. Nearly one-quarter (22%) of those who were out or perceived as transgender in college or vocational school were verbally, physically, or sexually harassed because of being transgender.

Housing, Homelessness, and Shelter Access

More than one in five (21%) Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (32%) were more likely to have experienced homelessness, compared with Asian respondents (20%).

In the past year, nearly one-third (30%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents

experienced some form of housing discrimination or instability, such as being evicted from their home or denied a home or apartment because of being transgender.²³ More than one in ten (11%) experienced homelessness in the past year because of being transgender, 7% were denied a home or apartment, and 6% were evicted because of being transgender. Among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents, 47% experienced some form of housing discrimination or instability, compared to Asian respondents (28%) (Table 6).

Table 6: Housing situations that occurred in the past year because of being transgender

Housing situation (out of those to whom situation applied)	% of Asian people (alone) in USTS	% of NHPI people (alone) in USTS	% in USTS
Had to move back in with family or friends	18%	16%	20%
Slept in different places for short periods of time	16%	14%	15%
Had to move into a less expensive home or apartment	12%	18%	13%
Experienced homelessness	10%	16%	12%
Denied a home or apartment	7%	8%	6%
Evicted from a home or apartment	5%	11%	5%
One or more experiences listed	28%	47%	30%

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who experienced homelessness in the past year were substantially more likely than USTS respondents overall to have avoided staying in a shelter during that year because they feared being mistreated as a transgender person. Nearly one-half (43%) reported that they avoided staying in a shelter for fear of mistreatment, compared to 26% in the USTS sample overall.

Public Accommodations

Respondents reported being denied equal treatment or service, verbally harassed, or physically attacked at many places of public accommodation—places that provide services to the public, like retail stores, hotels, and government offices. In the past year, out of respondents who visited a place of public accommodation where staff or employees thought or knew they were transgender, more than one-third (34%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced at least one type of mistreatment. This included 14% who were denied equal treatment or service, 27% who were verbally harassed, and 3% who were physically attacked because of being transgender (Table 7).

Table 7: Experiences in places of public accommodation in the past year due to being transgender

Experience at a place of public accommodation (out of those who believe staff knew or thought they were transgender)	% of ANHPI people in USTS
Denied equal treatment or service	14%
Verbally harassed	27%
Physically attacked	3%
One or more experiences listed	34%

People with disabilities faced higher levels of mistreatment in a place of public accommodation (49%), including 19% who were denied equal treatment, 48% who were verbally harassed, and 4% who were physically attacked.

Harassment and Violence

Overall Experiences of Unequal Treatment, Harassment, and Physical Attack

More than one-half (51%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported being denied equal treatment, verbally harassed, and/or physically attacked in the past year because of being transgender. Sixteen percent (16%) were denied equal treatment or service in a public place and 48% were verbally harassed in the past year because of being transgender. More than one in ten (11%) were physically attacked in the past year because of being transgender.

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were more likely to have been denied equal treatment, verbally harassed, and/or physically attacked in the past year because of being transgender, with 61% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reporting one or more of these experiences, compared to 50% of Asian respondents (Table 8).

Table 8: Denial of equal treatment or service, verbal harassment, and physical attack in the past year because of being transgender

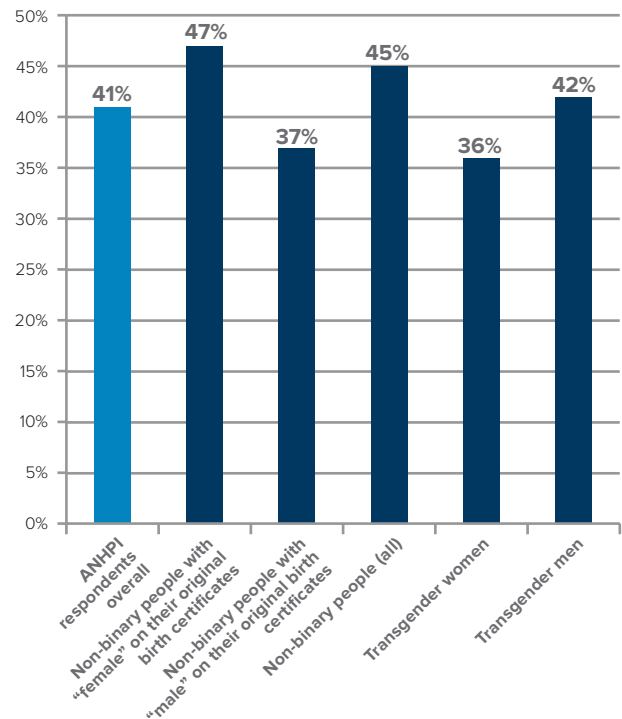
Experience in the past year due to being transgender	% of Asian people (alone) in USTS	% of NHPI people (alone) in USTS	% in USTS
Denied equal treatment or service	15%	19%	14%
Verbally harassed	47%	62%	46%
Physically attacked	11%	16%	9%
One or more experiences listed	50%	61%	48%

Sexual Assault

Forty-one percent (41%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetimes. More than one-half (56%) of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents had experienced sexual assault in their lifetimes, compared to 40% of Asian respondents.

Experiences differed among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents by gender, with non-binary people with “female” on their original birth certificates (47%) being more likely to have been sexually assaulted in their lifetimes (Figure 18). People with disabilities also reported a higher rate of sexual assault in their lifetimes, with one-half (50%) having been sexually assaulted.

Figure 18: Sexual assault in lifetime (by gender)



Eleven percent (11%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were sexually assaulted in the past year. More than one-third (34%) of respondents who worked in the underground economy (such as in sex work, drug sales, and other currently criminalized activities) in the past year were sexually assaulted during that year.

Intimate Partner Violence

Forty-three percent (43%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including acts of coercive control²⁴ and physical violence. One-half (50%) of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents and 43% of Asian respondents experienced intimate partner violence. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of all Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who have worked in the underground economy and 54% of people with disabilities experienced intimate partner violence.

More than one in five (21%) respondents reported acts of coercive control by an intimate partner related to their transgender status, including being told that they were not a “real” woman or man, threatened with being “outed” by having their transgender status revealed to others, or prevented from taking their hormones. The rate of this experience differed among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (28%) and Asian respondents (20%).

Additionally, nearly one-third (30%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. Nearly one-half (44%) of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced this form of intimate partner violence, compared to 29% of Asian respondents.

Police Interactions and Prisons

In the past year, out of respondents who interacted with police or other law enforcement officers who thought or knew they were transgender, 60% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced some form of mistreatment. This included being verbally harassed, repeatedly referred to as the wrong gender, or physically or sexually assaulted (Table 9).

Table 9: Mistreatment by police or other law enforcement officers in the past year

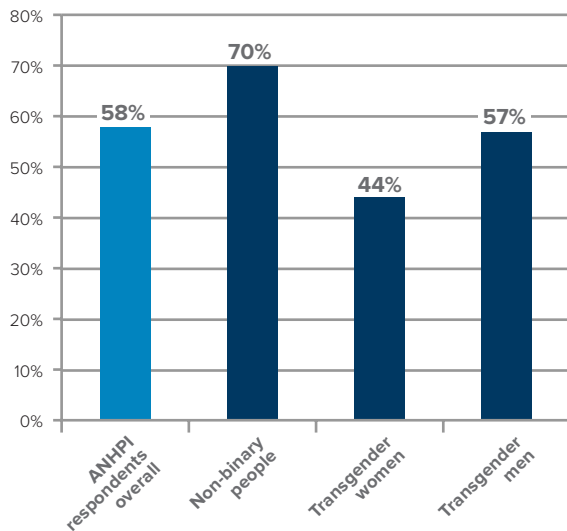
Experience of mistreatment in the past year	% of ANHPI people in USTS	% in USTS
Officers kept using the wrong gender pronouns (such as he/him or she/her) or wrong title (such as Mr. or Ms.)	54%	49%
Verbally harassed by officers	17%	20%
Officers asked questions about gender transition (such as about hormones or surgical status)	15%	19%
Officers assumed they were sex workers	10%	11%
Physically attacked by officers	4%	4%
Sexually assaulted by officers	7%	3%
Forced by officers to engage in sexual activity to avoid arrest	1%	1%
One or more experiences listed	60%	58%

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents said they would feel somewhat or very uncomfortable asking the police for help if they needed it (Figure 19).²⁵ Non-binary people (70%) were more likely to be uncomfortable asking the police for help, in contrast to transgender men (57%) and transgender women (44%) (Figure 20). People with disabilities (75%) were also more likely to be uncomfortable asking the police for help.

Figure 19: Comfort asking the police for help



Figure 20: Somewhat or very uncomfortable asking the police for help (by gender)



Health

Insurance

Eleven percent (11%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents did not have health insurance. Among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents, 14% were not insured, and 11% of Asian respondents were not insured. The most common form of insurance reported by Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents included coverage they or a family member received through an employer (60%) (Table 10).

Table 10: Type of health insurance or health coverage plan

Health insurance source	% of ANHPI people in USTS
Insurance through current or former employer or union (belonging to respondent or a family member)	60%
Insurance they or someone else purchased directly from an insurance company or through a health insurance marketplace (such as healthcare.gov)	14%
Medicaid	10%
Medicare	2%
TRICARE or other military health care	2%
VA	<1%
Another type of insurance	8%

Eighteen percent (18%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced a problem in the past year with their insurance related to being transgender, such as being denied coverage for care related to gender transition or being denied coverage for other kinds of health care because they were transgender. These experiences were more common among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (29%), compared to 17% among Asian respondents.

Experiences with Providers

More than one-quarter (26%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who saw a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender. This included being refused treatment, being verbally harassed, being physically or sexually assaulted, or having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to get appropriate care. Transgender men (35%) and transgender women (31%) were more likely to report mistreatment by health care professionals, compared to non-binary people (18%). People with disabilities (36%) were also more likely to report mistreatment in health care settings.

In the past year, 24% of respondents did not see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and 27% did not see a doctor in the past year when needed because they could not afford it.

HIV Status

Forty-nine percent (49%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents had been tested for HIV, higher than the rate in the U.S. population (34%).²⁶ Among those who had not been tested, 84% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents said that it was primarily because they were unlikely to have been exposed to HIV. This rate was similar to respondents who had not been tested in the USTS overall (86%) and those in the general U.S. population (86%).²⁷

Among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents, 0.5% reported that they were living with HIV, higher than the rate in the U.S. population (0.3%)²⁸ and among Asians and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population (0.1%).²⁹ Additionally, 48% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were HIV negative, and 51% had not been tested or did not know the results of their HIV test.

Psychological Distress

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents experienced serious psychological distress in the month before completing the survey (based on the Kessler 6 Psychological Distress Scale).³⁰ This rate was nearly eight times higher than the rate in the U.S. population overall (5%), and substantially higher than the rates for Asian people (3%) and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (5%) in the U.S. population.³¹

Conversion Therapy

Nearly one in ten (9%) Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported that a professional, such as a psychologist, counselor, or religious advisor, tried to stop them from being transgender.

Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors

Forty percent (40%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have attempted suicide at some point in their lives, nearly nine times higher than the rate in the U.S. population (4.6%).³² More than one-half (52%) of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have attempted suicide in their lifetime, compared to 39% among Asian respondents.

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents with disabilities (59%) were substantially more likely to have attempted suicide in their lifetimes. Transgender men (48%) and transgender women (43%) were more likely than non-binary people (35%) to have attempted suicide in their lifetimes.

Eight percent (8%) of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents attempted suicide in the past year, a rate more than thirteen times higher than the rate in the U.S. population (0.6%).³³

Identity Documents

Only 10% of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents reported that *all* of their identity documents (IDs) had the name and gender they preferred, while 73% reported that *none* of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred. The cost of changing IDs was one of the main barriers respondents faced, with 31% of those who have not changed their legal name and 29% of

those who have not updated the gender on their IDs reporting that it was because they could not afford it.

Nearly one-third (30%) of respondents who have shown an ID with a name or gender that did not match their gender presentation were verbally harassed, denied benefits or service, asked to leave, or assaulted.

Experiences of Multiracial Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Respondents

In addition to respondents who identified as Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander alone in the USTS, 402 respondents identified as multiracial and Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander or “a racial/ethnic identity not listed” and Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. This section provides a brief overview of the experiences of these respondents, referred to here as multiracial Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents. Additional research is needed to further examine the experiences of multiracial respondents.

- 22% of multiracial Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were unemployed.
- 43% were living in poverty.
- 16% of multiracial Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents who have been employed reported losing a job at some point in their lives because of being transgender.
- In the past year, 26% of those who held or applied for a job during that year reported being fired, being denied a promotion, or not being hired for a job they applied for because of being transgender.
- In the past year, 18% were denied equal treatment or service in a public place and 54% were verbally harassed because of being transgender.
- In the past year, 13% were physically attacked because of being transgender and 14% were sexually assaulted. More than one-half (52%) have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

- In the past year, out of respondents who interacted with police or other law enforcement officers who thought or knew they were transgender, 59% experienced some form of mistreatment. This included being verbally harassed, repeatedly referred to as the wrong gender, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted.
- 79% of those who were out or perceived as transgender at some point between Kindergarten and Grade 12 (K–12) experienced some form of mistreatment, such as being verbally harassed (60%), physically attacked (30%), or sexually assaulted (19%) in K–12 because of being transgender. Additionally, 17% left a K–12 school because the mistreatment was so bad.
- 34% of multiracial Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.
- 17% experienced homelessness in the past year because of being transgender.
- In the past year, 24% did not see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and 35% did not see a doctor when needed because they could not afford it.
- 34% of those who saw a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender, such as being refused treatment, being verbally harassed, being physically or sexually assaulted, or having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to get appropriate care.

Endnotes

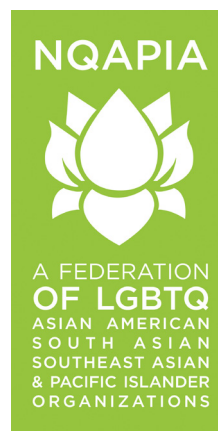
1. James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. Available at: www.USTransSurvey.org.
2. Respondents were asked which category most accurately described their racial or ethnic identity. Respondents included in this report selected the “Asian/Asian American” category or the “Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander” category alone. A majority of respondents identified as Asian (n=721), and a small number identified as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (n=62). The findings for Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents in this report reflect the experiences of respondents who identified as Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander alone and do not include the experiences of those who identified as multiracial and Asian or multiracial and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Some findings for respondents who identified as multiracial and Asian or multiracial and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander are included on page 21 of this report.
3. The USTS Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander racial categories are generally reported as a combined analytical category due to a small sample size for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents. This differs from the U.S. Census and other federal surveys, which separate Asians and Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders into two racial categories. Where data is provided for Asians and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population as a combined category, calculations were completed by the research team.
4. This terminology differs from the full USTS report, which refers to these respondents as “Asian.” For additional information about terminology and conventions used throughout the report, see the *Guide to Report and Terminology* chapter in the full USTS report.
5. The number of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents (n=783) is an unweighted value. All reported percentages are weighted to allow for comparison to the U.S. population when appropriate. Findings related to income, unemployment, and poverty are weighted differently than other reported percentages. For more information on the weighting procedures used to report 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey data, see the full survey report. Findings from statistical tests are not included in this report.
6. Respondents were given six terms from which to choose the term that best described their current gender identity: woman, man, trans woman (MTF), trans man (FTM), non-binary/genderqueer, and crossdresser. Respondents were grouped into four gender identity categories for analysis and reporting based on their responses: *transgender women*, *transgender men*, *non-binary people*, and *crossdressers*. These gender identity categories are used throughout this report and the full survey report. See the full survey report for more information.
7. “Non-binary” is a term often used to describe people whose gender is not exclusively male or female, including those who identify with a gender other than male or female, as more than one gender, or as no gender.
8. Due to a low sample size, it was not possible to include the experiences of crossdressers in gender-based comparisons in this report.
9. *Mahu* is a term sometimes used to describe Native Hawaiian people who identify with a gender other than male or female, and it is sometimes used to more broadly describe transgender people or others whose gender identity or role differs from the gender they were thought to be at birth.
10. *Fa’afafine* is a term used by many Samoans to describe a third gender or to describe or a feminine gender role or gender identity of people who were thought to be male at birth.
11. U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Sex by Age (Asian Alone)*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B01001D&prodType=table; U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Sex by Age (Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Alone)*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B01001E&prodType=table.
12. U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Disability Characteristics*. Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S1810&prodType=table. Calculations were completed by the research team.

13. U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Sex by Marital Status for the Population 15 Years and Over (Asian Alone)*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B12002D&prodType=table; U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Sex by Marital Status for the Population 15 Years and Over (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone)*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_B12002E&prodType=table. These findings include adults who are currently married and living with a spouse and those who are married but separated, based on the ACS definitions. See the full report for more information. The percentage of Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander people in the U.S. who are currently married and who have never been married include those who are 15 years of age and older, in contrast to the USTS sample, which includes respondents who are 18 and older. Therefore, the comparison to USTS respondents should be interpreted with caution.
14. Among Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents overall, 23% were queer, 19% were pansexual, 14% were straight, 14% were gay, lesbian, or same-gender-loving, 12% were bisexual, 11% were asexual, and 8% identified with a sexual orientation that was not listed.
15. Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents' experiences of rejection also included being asked to meet with faith leaders or seek medical help to stop them from being transgender.
16. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2015). *The Employment Situation—August 2015*. Available at: http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst_09042015.pdf; Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2015). *The Employment Situation—September 2015*. Available at: http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst_10022015.pdf.
17. The unemployment rate by race and ethnicity among adults in the U.S. population was calculated by the research team using CPS data available via the CPS Table Creator (<http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>). CPS Table Creator data utilizes data from the March 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, in which the overall U.S. unemployment rate was 5.5%. See the full USTS report for more information about unemployment rate calculations and interpretation.
18. "Living in poverty" means living at or near the poverty line. The research team calculated the USTS poverty measure using the official poverty measure, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. USTS respondents were designated as living in poverty if their total family income fell under 125% of the official U.S. poverty line. See the full report for more information about this calculation.
19. Proctor, B. D., Semega, J. L., & Kollar, M. A. (2016). *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015*. (p. 13). Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.pdf>.
20. The 2015 poverty rate for Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander adults in the U.S. population was calculated by the research team using CPS data available via the CPS Table Creator (<http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>).
21. U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Veteran Status*. Available at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S2101&prodType=table.
22. U.S. Census Bureau (2014). *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement*. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pinc/pinc-01.2014.html>.
23. For each form of housing discrimination or instability listed, respondents could select "does not apply to me" if the housing situation could not have happened to them in the past year. For example, those who did not attempt to rent or buy a home in the past year could not have been denied a home or apartment, and were instructed to select "does not apply to me" for that question. The results for each form of discrimination or instability do not include those who answered "does not apply to me."
24. Intimate partner violence involving coercive control included acts of intimidation, emotional and financial harm, and physical harm to others who were important to respondents.
25. Due to rounding, the total percentage of respondents who were somewhat or very uncomfortable asking the police for help in Figure 19 differs from the percentage reported in the text.
26. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence>.
27. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control. (2016). *2015 National Health Interview Survey: Sample Adult File*. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis_2015_data_release.htm.

28. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Diagnoses of HIV infections in the United States and dependent areas, 2015: Table 20b. *HIV Surveillance Report* (vol. 27). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2015-vol-27.pdf>. The HIV Surveillance Report provides data for those who were living with diagnosed HIV infection in the U.S. population in 2014. The U.S. population data includes those who are 15 years of age and older and does not include the rate for adults aged 18 and older alone, so it was not possible to exactly match the USTS sample with the U.S. population data. See the full report for more information on use of the U.S. population figure.
29. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Diagnoses of HIV infections in the United States and dependent areas, 2015: Table 20b. *HIV Surveillance Report* (vol. 27). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2015-vol-27.pdf>. See also note 28.
30. The Kessler Psychological Distress Scale, or K6, uses a series of questions to assess psychological distress based on how often in the past 30 days respondents felt so sad that nothing could cheer them up, nervous, restless or fidgety, hopeless, that everything was an effort, or worthless. See the National Health Interview Survey for additional information about the K6 mental health screening instrument and measure of serious psychological distress in adults (available at: http://www.healthindicators.gov/Indicators/Serious-psychological-distress-adults-percent_50055/Profile).
31. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2016). *Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*. Table 8.87B. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Available at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015.htm>.
32. Kessler, R. C., Borges, G., & Walters, E. E. (1999). Prevalence of and risk factors for lifetime suicide attempts in the National Comorbidity Survey. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 56(7), 617–626.
33. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2016). *Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*. Table 8.73B. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Available at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015.htm>. The rate of suicide attempts in the past year among Asian people in the U.S. was 0.3%. A rate for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander people in the U.S. was not available.

2015 U.S. Transgender Survey: Report on the Experiences of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Respondents

by: Sandy E. James and Glenn Magpantay
December 2017



The full report and Executive Summary of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey are available at www.USTransSurvey.org.

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