

Southern Survey Research Brief:

Conditions and Life Experiences of Communities of Color



Introduction to the Research Brief

This research brief provides a general overview of the responses provided by 966 people who identified as Non-Hispanic white: 7.4% Black or African American, 5.5% Multiracial, 2.0% Other, and 1.2% Asian. It also includes 377 respondents who identified as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino/Latina/Latinx. This is a subset of findings from the responses provided by 6,502 individuals who completed the LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey. A key finding from the General Findings Report¹ is the disparities that racial and ethnic LGBTQ minorities face in the South. This brief shines a spotlight on key areas including education, employment, and health.

As you read this report, it is important to keep in mind that this study is based on a convenience sample of individuals who volunteered to complete an online survey. In this regard, the findings may not represent *all* racial and ethnic LGBTQ minorities in the South. Nevertheless, we believe these data provide an important resource for community leaders and policymakers as it represents one of the largest studies of racial and ethnic LGBTQ minorities living in the U.S. South.

About the LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey

The LGBTQ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, in partnership with Georgia State University, conducted the *Southern Survey* to improve public knowledge about the conditions and life experiences of LGBTQ Southerners. The data were collected using an untraceable, online, anonymous survey of self-identified LGBTQ adults living in 14 U.S. states, including *Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia*.

The survey instrument was developed in close collaboration with a wide range of LGBTQ advocates, academics, and organizations with the aim of collecting critical data on educational and employment status, health and access to healthcare, social and political involvement, and experiences of sexuality and/or gender-related discrimination. The survey was distributed online with the help of more than 140 community-based organizations across the South. The General Findings Report is an overview of the responses provided by 6,502 individuals who completed the survey. More detailed information on the overall study design and methodology is available in a separate report and in the full study protocol.²

¹ <https://www.lgbtqsouthernsurvey.org/general-findings-report>

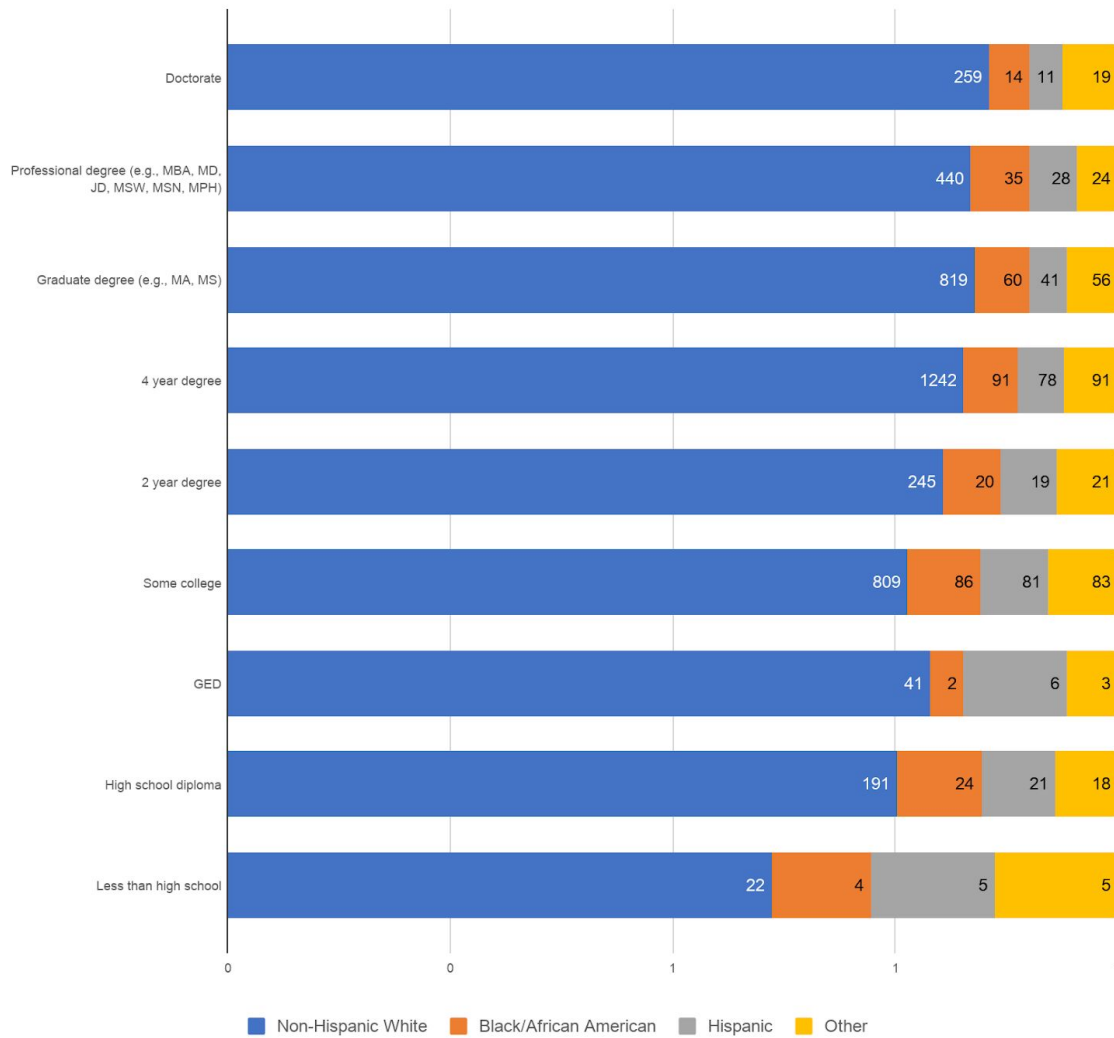
² Roemer, Ryan, and Eric R. Wright. 2018. Southern Survey: Study Design and Methodological Overview. Available at: <https://www.lgbtqsouthernsurvey.org/survey-design-and-methodological-overview>.

Education

Racial and ethnic minorities were significantly less likely to have completed a four-year degree and advanced degrees than respondents who self-identified as non-Hispanic white.

Figure 2.1d: Educational attainment by race/ethnicity, Southern Survey, 2018 (n=5,014)

Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity (n=5,014)

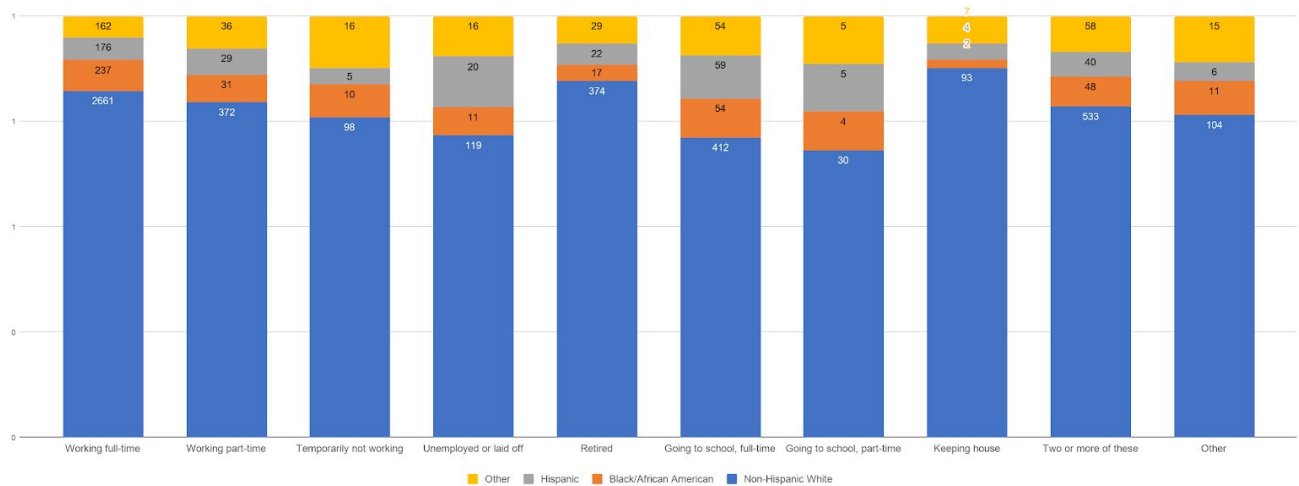


Employment

Racial and ethnic minorities were significantly less likely to be working full-time compared to their non-Hispanic white peers.

Figure 2.2d: Employment status by race/ethnicity, Southern Survey, 2018 (n=5,985)

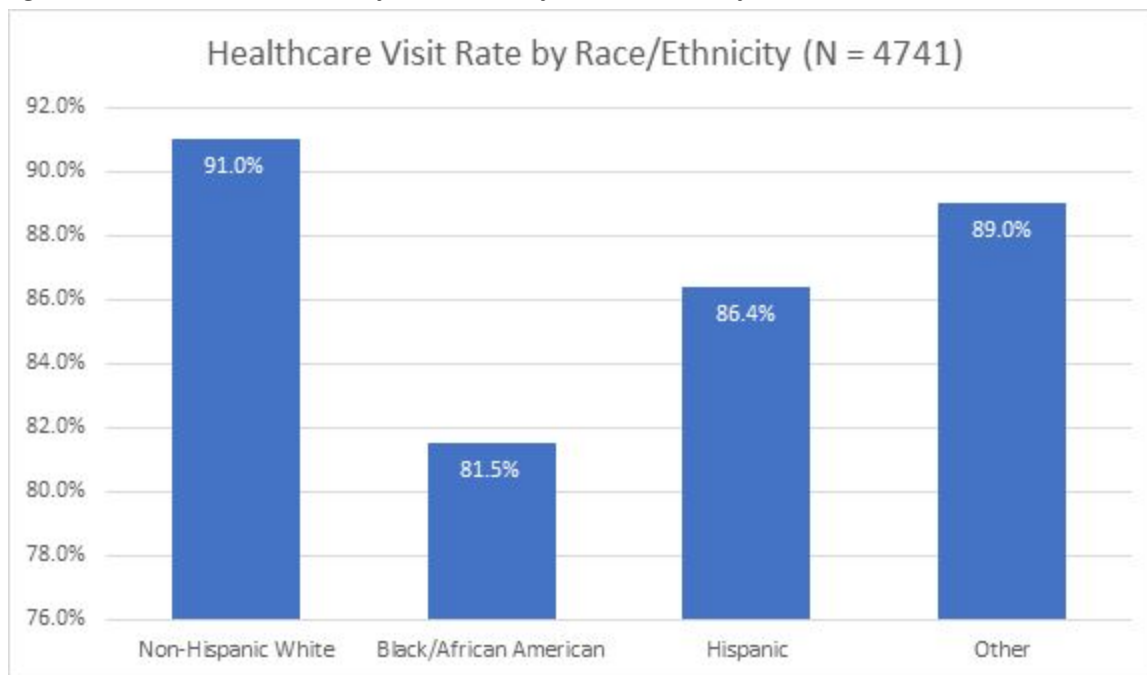
Employment Status by Race/Ethnicity (n=5,985)



Health and Wellness

Black/African American, Hispanic, and transgender individuals were significantly less likely to have accessed care. Non-Hispanic white and other race respondents were found to have a higher rate of having visited a doctor in the past 12 months (91%) when compared to Black/African American (81.5%) and Hispanic (86.4%) respondents.

Figure 3.3: Healthcare Visit Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Southern Survey, 2018 (n=4,741)

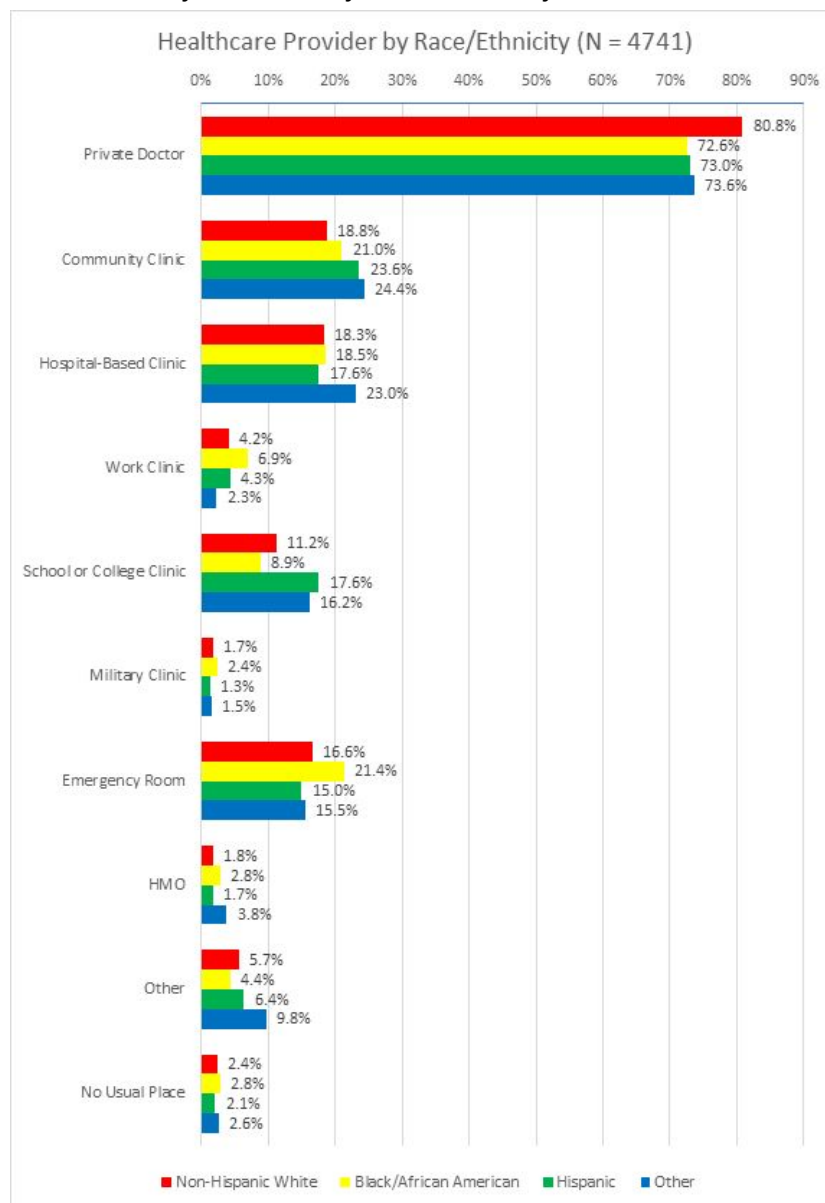


Healthcare Provider

Private doctors' offices were the most commonplace for non-Hispanic white (80.8%), Black/African American (72.6%), Hispanic (73.0%), and other race/ethnicity (73.6%) respondents to have usually received care in the past 12 months.

However, Black/African American respondents utilized hospital emergency rooms as their usual provider of healthcare at higher rates (21.4%) than non-Hispanic whites (16.6%), Hispanic (15.0%), or other race/ethnicity (15.5%) respondents. Hispanic and other race/ethnicity respondents reported higher rates of utilizing school/college clinics for their usual healthcare provider (17.6% and 16.2%) compared to non-Hispanic whites (11.2%) and Black/African American (8.9%) respondents.

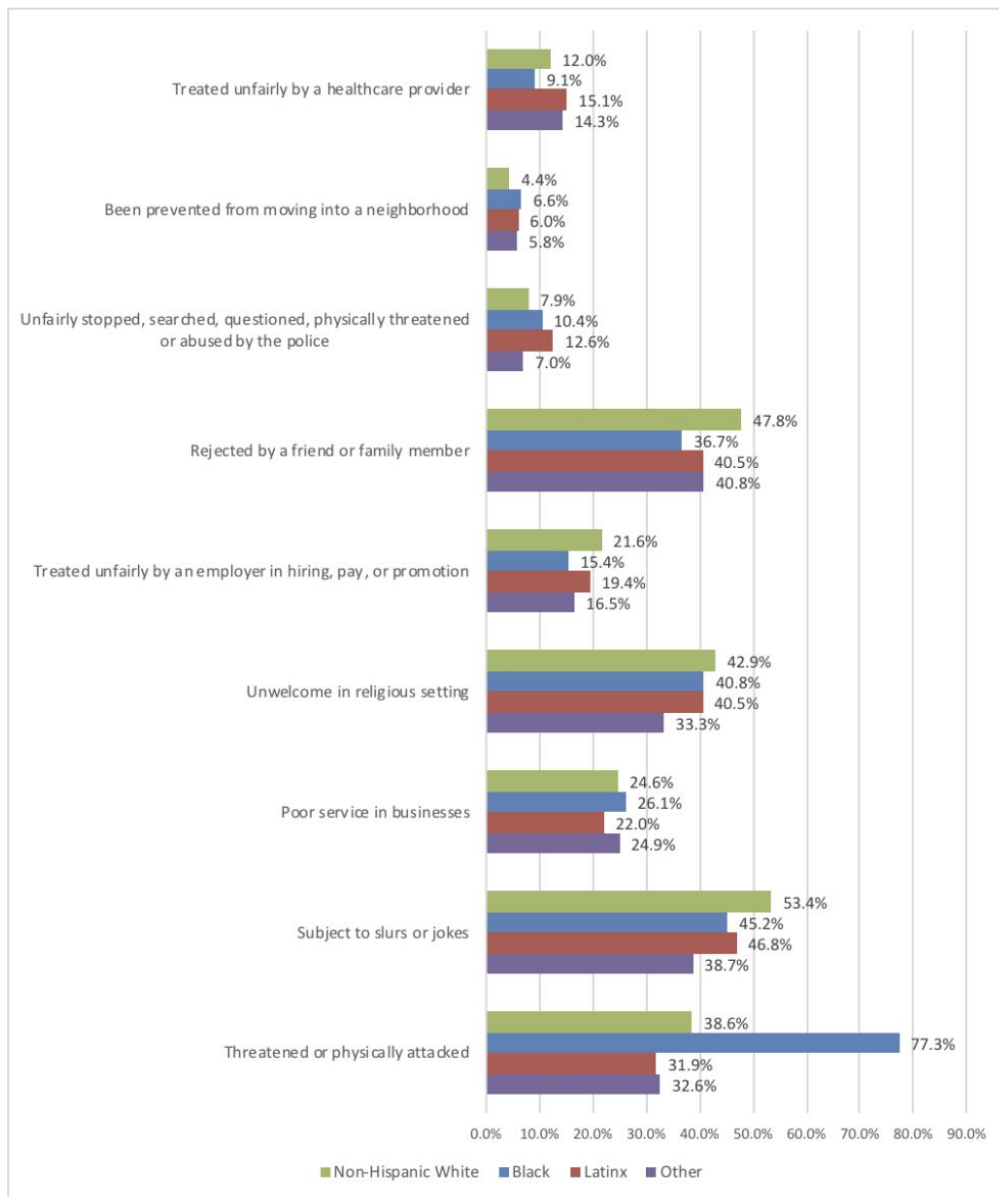
Figure 3.4b: Healthcare Provider by Race/Ethnicity, Southern Survey, 2018 (n=4,741)



Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation

Significantly greater rates of Black/African American LGB respondents (77.3%) report having been threatened or physically attacked in their lifetime because of their sexual orientation when compared with LGB respondents in other racial/ethnic groups.

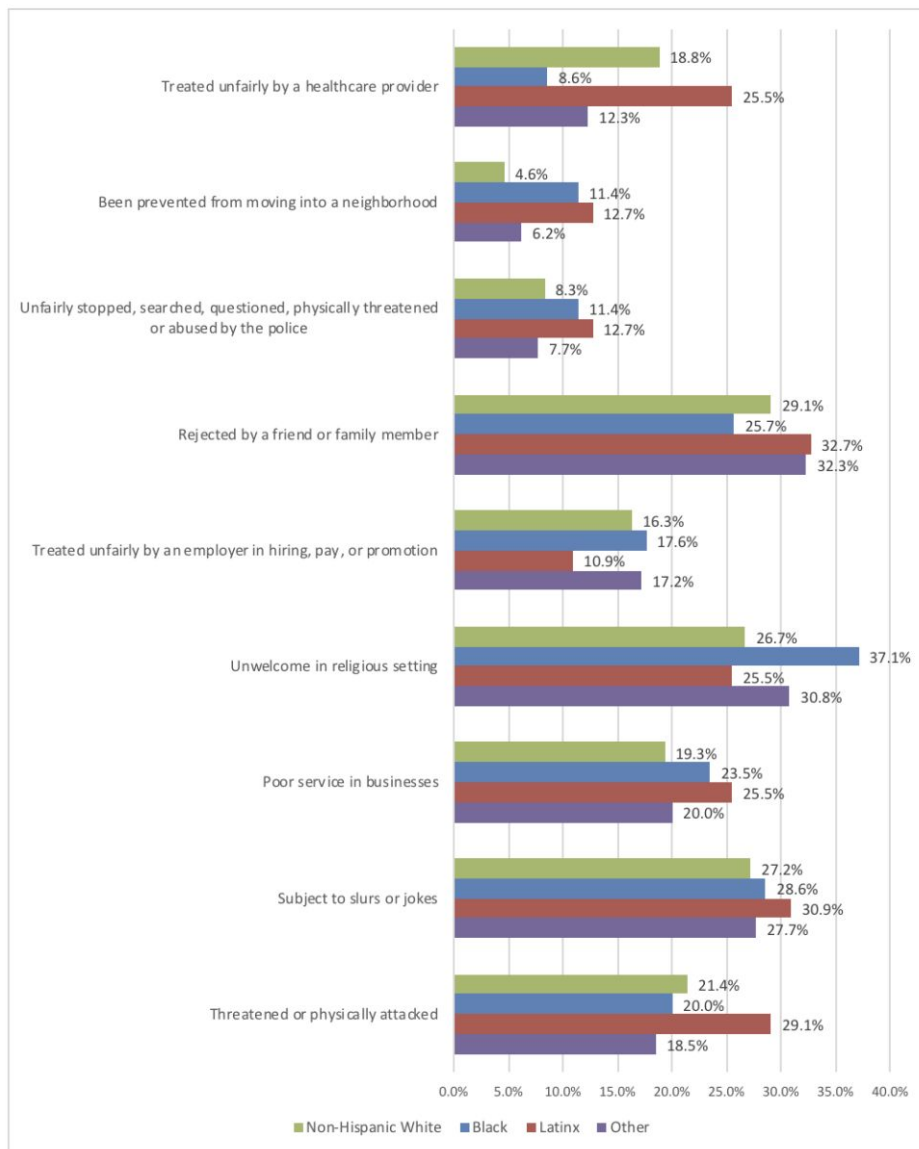
Figure 4.4a: Lifetime experiences of sexual orientation discrimination by race/ethnicity, LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey, (n=4,113)



Discrimination based on Gender Identity

Black/African American transgender respondents were most likely to report feeling unwelcome in places of worship (37.1%). Latinx transgender individuals experienced being threatened or physically attacked the most at 29.1% because of their transgender identity when compared with transgender respondents in other racial/ethnic groups.

Figure 4.4b: Lifetime experiences of transgender-related discrimination by race/ethnicity, LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey, (n=739)



Acknowledgments

The LGBTQ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights would like to acknowledge the LGBTQ individuals who took the survey. Your willingness to be part of one of the largest studies of LGBTQ people in the South will help the public and many local, state, and national organizations better understand what it is like to be LGBTQ in the Southeastern United States. We hope that these data can be used to help direct efforts that will make the South a welcoming and safe place for LGBTQ people. ***We are grateful to you. Thank you.***

We also want to thank all survey partners³ who helped us conduct this survey across the South. The LGBTQ Institute could not have done this without the support of local, state, and regional grassroots organizations. We are grateful to you all and look forward to future collaborations.

When referencing this document, we suggest the following citation:

Roemer, Ryan, and Eric R. Wright. 2018. *LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey Research Brief: Conditions and Life Experiences of Communities of Color*

The LGBTQ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights *is a trusted convener for thoughtful dialogue and our education programs serve as a catalyst for action. We explore critical issues through research with a specific focus on the U.S. South while connecting academics to advocates to advance LGBT equity.*

Georgia State University *is an enterprising urban public research institution in Atlanta. A national leader in graduating students from diverse backgrounds, Georgia State provides a rich experience with award-winning housing, hundreds of student clubs and organizations, and one of the most diverse student bodies in the country.*

³ A full listing of all survey partners can be found within the LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey General Findings Report which can be accessed at <https://www.lgbtqsouthernsurvey.org/survey-partners>