

Southern Survey Key Findings: *Conditions and Life Experiences of LGBTQ Southerners*

Ryan M. Roemerma, Eric R. Wright, Joshua Simpkins, Michael Jo Saint,
Ana LaBoy, Renee Shelby, Courtni Andrews, and Madison Higbee

This fact sheet provides key findings from responses provided by 6,502¹ LGBTQ adults who completed the LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey. The survey collected data from people living in *Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, or West Virginia*. An overview of complete study design and methodology is available a separate report.²

EDUCATION

Disparities in education exist between non-Hispanic white LGBTQ Southerners and communities of color and transgender people

- Overall, 93.2% of LGBTQ Southerners who took the survey report having at least some college experience with only 6.8% reporting high school diploma, GED, or less than high school diploma
- 29.9% of LGBT Southerners reported having at least a four-year degree, with 24.8% reporting having a graduate, professional, or doctoral degree.
- People of color were less likely to have completed a four year degree or advanced degrees than non-Hispanic whites
- Respondents who self-identified as transgender and other gender identities were significantly less likely to have advanced degrees than non-transgender people

Younger respondents are: more self-aware of their sexual orientation, Hispanic and Black/African Americans are more “out” than non-Hispanic whites

- Younger respondents were more likely to be self-aware of their sexual orientation in high school than older respondents
- Hispanics are significantly more likely to have be out to at least some students, teachers, and staff in high school than non-Hispanic white respondents
- Hispanic, Black/African, or other people of color were significantly more likely to be out about their transgender identity than non-Hispanic white respondents

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Young, Black/African American, Hispanic, and transgender Southerners report poorer health, lower rates of insurance and access to care, and more discrimination when trying to access care

- 69.0% of respondents report “Excellent” or “Good” health. Younger respondents, age 18-29, report lower rates of Excellent/Good health (64.1%), as did transgender (56.5%), other gender (55.9%), respondents, and bisexual (62.1%) and other orientation (58.4%) respondents
- Rates of health insurance were on par with the national average³, with 90.6% of respondents reporting some form of health insurance, however, younger respondents and transgender respondents had lower rates
- 90% of respondents report going to a doctor, hospital, or clinic in the past 12 months; however, Black/African American, Hispanic, and transgender individuals were significantly less likely to have accessed care
- 33% of all respondents report some form of discrimination when trying to access healthcare services because of their sexual orientation or transgender status in the past year, with nearly half choosing to avoid treatment
- Transgender and those who identified as another gender report unfair treatment by healthcare providers (26.1% and 26% respectively)-two times the rates reported by cisgender respondents
- Latinx transgender individuals experienced higher rates of healthcare provider discrimination (25.5%) than respondents from other racial/ethnic backgrounds

¹ LGBTQ means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. During the survey period LGBT was used; the fact sheet reflects this.

² Wright, Eric R., Ryan M. Roemerma, and Madison Higbee. 2018. *LGBTQ Institute Southern Survey: Design and Methodological Overview*. Atlanta, GA: The LGBTQ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Available at: www.lgbtqsouthernsurvey.org

³ U.S. Census Bureau. *Health Insurance Coverage in the United States. 2017*. Available online at: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-264.html>

EMPLOYMENT

Transgender people less likely to report working full-time and more likely to report experiencing workplace discrimination

- 54.0% of respondents report working full time and 7.8% report working part-time. An additional 11.3% stated that they work two or more jobs; 9.7% report going to school full-time, and 7.4% are retired
- Transgender and other gender identified individuals are less likely to work full-time than people who identify as cisgender
- Transgender Southerners are significantly more likely to report being treated unfairly by an employer in hiring, pay, or promotion than their LGB peers (14.4% vs. 5.4%)
- Bisexual and another sexual identity respondents were somewhat less likely to report working full-time and more likely to report working part-time or having two or more employment statuses

POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

LGBT Southerners are active in politics...

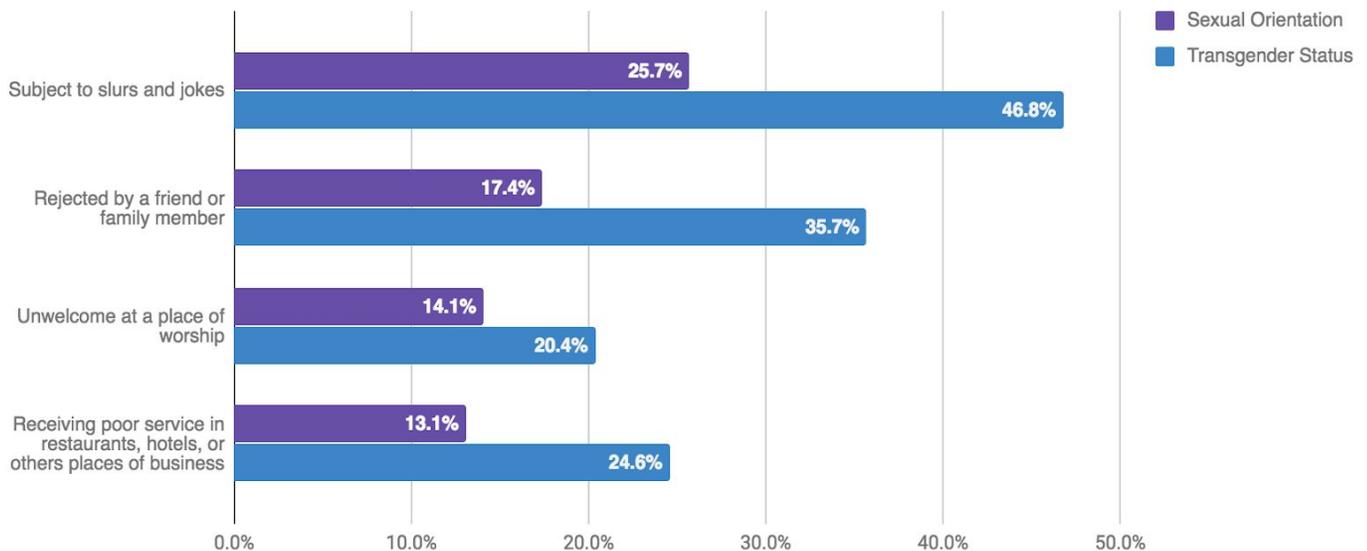
- 93% of respondents were registered to vote
- 90% voted in the 2016 election
- 58.9% identified as Democrat, with 82.2% identifying as liberal or very liberal
- 96.5% reported dissatisfaction with the Trump Administration

...and their communities

- 75.9% of respondents believe that equal employment should be the top priority of community advocates and political leaders
- 56.4% of respondents attended pride
- 49.4% attended LGBT marches
- 34.1% are members of a state or national (30.3%) LGBTQ advocacy organization

EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION

The most common forms of discrimination on the basis of *sexual orientation* or *transgender status* in the past year:



Additional key findings regarding experiences of discrimination:

- Respondents in the 40-49 and 50-59 age groups report the highest lifetime rates of discriminatory experiences
- Black/African American transgender respondents were most likely to report feeling unwelcome in places of worship (37.1%)
- 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
- 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