

DISCRIMINATION
IN AMERICA:

EXPERIENCES
AND VIEWS OF
LGBTQ AMERICANS

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HARVARD
T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Survey Background

This report is part of a series titled “Discrimination in America.” The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, whites, men, women, and LGBTQ adults. This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability sample of 489 LGBTQ adults. Other reports analyze each other group, and the final report will discuss major highlights from the series.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

Summary: Personal Experiences of Discrimination

Overall, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Americans report significant personal experiences of discrimination, across many areas of life. Regarding individual forms of discrimination, a majority of all LGBTQ people have experienced slurs (57%) and insensitive or offensive comments (53%) about their sexual orientation or gender identity. A majority of LGBTQ people say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been threatened or non-sexually harassed (57%), been sexually harassed (51%), or experienced violence (51%) because of their sexuality or gender identity. Furthermore, 34% of all LGBTQ people say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been verbally harassed in the bathroom or been told or asked if they were using the wrong bathroom.

LGBTQ people also report numerous experiences of institutional discrimination. At least one in five LGBTQ people report being personally discriminated against because of their sexuality or gender identity when applying for jobs (20%), when being paid equally or considered for promotion (22%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (22%). Additionally, more than a quarter of LGBTQ people say that they or a friend or family member who is also LGBTQ have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police (26%) or unfairly treated by the courts (26%) because they are part of the LGBTQ community.

Roughly one in six LGBTQ people say they have avoided medical care (18%) and calling the police (15%), even when in need, due to concern that they would be discriminated against because of their LGBTQ identity.

LGBTQ people of color are at least twice as likely as white LGBTQ people say they have been personally discriminated against because they are LGBTQ when applying for jobs and when interacting with police, and six times more likely to say they have avoided calling the police (30%) due to concern for anti-LGBTQ discrimination, compared to white LGBTQ people (5%).

Summary: Perceptions of Local Community

When evaluating their local community, LGBTQ people perceive a significant amount of discrimination in their local areas, against both LGB and transgender – though they perceive significantly more discrimination occurring toward transgender people. The top areas where LGBTQ people say discrimination often occurs to LGB people are in the workplace and when interacting with police. The top areas where LGBTQ people say discrimination often occurs to transgender people is in the workplace and when seeking housing.

Additionally, half or more of LGBTQ people believe that where they live, LGBTQ people have fewer employment opportunities (59%) and are paid less than non-LGBTQ people (50%), just because they are part of the LGBTQ community. However, LGBTQ people are less likely to perceive disparities in educational opportunities, and in fact roughly two-thirds of LGBTQ people were encouraged to apply for college while growing up.

Summary: National Beliefs & Political Contact

Overall, 90% of all LGBTQ people believe there is discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in America today, and 91% of all LGBTQ people believe there is discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people. Of these, one-third (33%) say the bigger problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies, while 43% say discrimination based on individual level prejudice. Another 23% say that both forms of discrimination are equally a problem.

Nearly six in ten (57%) LGBTQ people say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause during an election. However, white LGBTQ people are significantly more likely to say they were contacted in the past year (63%) than LGBTQ people of color (47%). Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation.

Summary: Experiences of Transgender Americans

Transgender people report significant experiences of discrimination: 38% say they have experienced slurs, 28% say they have experienced insensitive or offensive comments, and 18% say people have acted afraid of them because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Nearly a quarter say they have avoided doctors or health care out of concern they would be discriminated against (22%), and 31% say they have no regular doctor or form of health care. Roughly a quarter also say they have been told or felt they would be unwelcome in a neighborhood or building because they are transgender (22%), and that they have thought about moving to another area because they have experienced discrimination where they live (27%).

Overall, these findings illustrate the significant experiences of discrimination faced across multiple areas of life by LGBTQ people in America today.

Notes on Report Language

Respondents are included in this sample if they identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming in initial screening questions. This report uses the acronym “LGBTQ” to refer to these respondents, with individuals who identify as genderqueer or gender non-conforming included under the transgender umbrella category. This report uses the term “transgender” to refer broadly to transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming (GNC) people. However, not all genderqueer or gender non-conforming people identify as transgender.

Additionally, transgender people may be of any sexual orientation, and so it may be the case that some transgender respondents are also LGBQ identified. LGBQ-identified transgender people were asked about their experiences of discrimination related to their sexual orientation separately from their experiences of discrimination related to their gender identity.

The word “cisgender” refers to people who do not identify as transgender, but rather identify as the sex they were assigned or believed to be at birth. Any references to gender are based on respondents’ self-identified gender. See GLAAD’s Media Reference Guide for a glossary of gender identity terms and categories: <https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>. See also GLAAD’s “In Focus – Covering the Transgender Community” for guidance on best journalistic practices for discussing transgender people and experiences: <https://www.glaad.org/reference/covering-trans-community>.

This report distinguishes between institutional and individual forms of discrimination, though discrimination comes in many forms.¹ In this report, the term “institutional discrimination” refers to forms of discrimination based on laws, policies, institutions, and the related behavior of individuals who work in or control those laws, policies, or institutions. The term “individual discrimination” refers to forms of discrimination based in individual people’s prejudicial beliefs, words, and behavior. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive; the distinction is used for organizing purposes.

In this survey, people were asked whether they had ever personally experienced discrimination related to racism, sexism, and – for LGBTQ people – homophobia and transphobia. Questions about these experiences were asked in the same way, differing only in the perceived motivation for the discrimination (i.e., racism, sexism, homophobia). For example, respondents were asked, “Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are [respondent’s racial/ethnic identity]?” and “Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are [respondent’s LGBTQ identity]?” If an individual identified both as, for example, bisexual and transgender, they were asked separately about discrimination they experienced because they are bisexual, and discrimination related to their being transgender. Therefore, to mirror the question wording used in the survey, this report uses phrases such as “because of their sexual orientation,” “because of their gender identity,” “because they are LGBTQ,” “because they are part of the LGBTQ community,” or “because of their LGBTQ identity.” These phrases describe respondents’ impressions of the motivating prejudice behind their experiences, and they do not imply blaming respondents for others’ discriminatory actions.

As with other forms of self-reported data, these findings rely on respondent perceptions. While these experiences could be related to other factors, the fact that respondents believe they are due to discrimination is significant.

¹ See for example, Fred Pincus (1996), “Discrimination Comes in Many Forms,” *American Behavioral Scientist* 40(2):186-194, for distinctions between structural, institutional, and individual forms of discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a series titled “Discrimination in America.” The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

This report presents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people’s personal experiences of discrimination, as well as their perceptions of discrimination in their local area and in the nation. Individuals who identify as genderqueer or gender non-conforming (GNC) are also included in the transgender umbrella.

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Respondents are included in this sample if they identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming in initial screening questions. Any references to gender are based on respondents’ self-identified gender. The word “cisgender” refers to people who do not identify as transgender, but rather identify as the sex they were assigned at birth.² All reported differences are statistically significant.

This survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample that included 489 LGBTQ-identified U.S. adults. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for the LGBTQ sample in this report is $\pm 6.6\%$. Further methodological information is included at the end of the report.

² See also GLAAD’s Media Reference Guide for a glossary of terms related to gender identity, gender identity categories, and transgender topics: <https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>.

I. Personal Experiences of Discrimination

In this survey, LGBTQ people were asked about their personal experiences with discrimination, across a range of areas of life. LGBTQ people report significant experiences of individual or interpersonal discrimination: a majority of all LGBTQ people say they have personally experienced slurs or offensive comments related to their sexuality or gender identity, and a majority also say they or LGBTQ friends or family have experienced violence, threats, and sexual harassment because of their LGBTQ identity.

Personal Experiences of Individual Discrimination

People were asked about experiences of individual forms of discrimination, such as slurs, insensitive or offensive comments, sexual harassment, threats or non-sexual harassment, and violence related to being part of the LGBTQ community.

Majority of LGBTQ people have experienced slurs or offensive comments about their sexual orientation or gender identity

All people (not just LGBTQ people) have a gender identity and a sexual orientation. A person's gender identity is distinct from their sexual orientation. Gender identity refers to a person's internal, deeply held sense of their own gender. Sexual orientation refers to a person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions (or lack thereof) to other people.³ The difference between sexual orientation and gender identity may not be clear to all, so in some cases people may discriminate against a person because of their sexual orientation, but using epithets or otherwise expressing beliefs about the person's gender or gender identity, or vice versa.⁴ Therefore, it should be expected that LGBTQ people report experiences of discrimination related to both their sexual orientation and their gender or gender identity.

Figure 1 shows that a majority of LGBTQ people have personally experienced various forms of individual discrimination, about both their sexual orientation and their gender or gender identity.

People could offer multiple reasons why a form of individual discrimination happened, such as their race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or some other reason.⁵ Below, the category "sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity (net)" combines the responses of individuals who said they had experienced discrimination because of their sexual orientation or their gender or gender identity – discrimination related to being LGBTQ – but removes duplicates. In other words, if an LGBTQ person said they had been slurred and it was because of both their sexuality and their gender identity, that report counts only once in the net total.

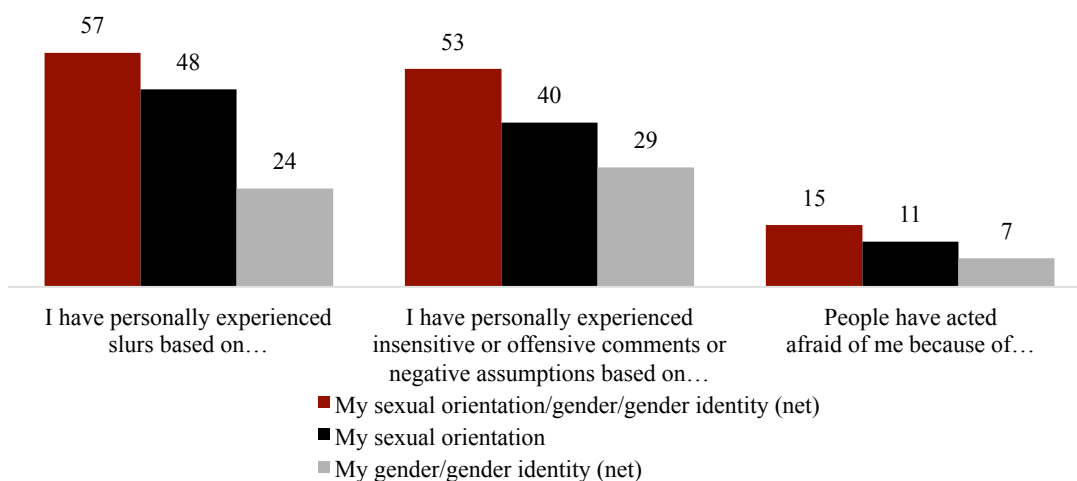
³ See <https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender> or <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender.aspx>.

⁴ For example, many slurs against LGBTQ people are gendered: epithets against gay men often employ feminizing language or imagery, while epithets against gay women often invoke hyper-masculine stereotypes.

⁵ The "gender/gender identity (net)" category combines gender and gender identity but removes duplicates (i.e., individuals who reported slurs about both their gender and gender identity are only counted once). The category of "Some other reason" includes volunteered responses such as religion, personal appearance (e.g., weight), political affiliation, disability, and not knowing the basis of the slur, offensive comment, or expression of fear.

Figure 1 shows that 57% of all LGBTQ people say they have experienced slurs and 53% have experienced insensitive or offensive comments about their sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity. Additionally, 15% of LGBTQ people say people have acted afraid of them because of their sexuality or gender identity.

Figure 1:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans Saying They Have Personally Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination Because of Their Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity
(multiple responses allowed)



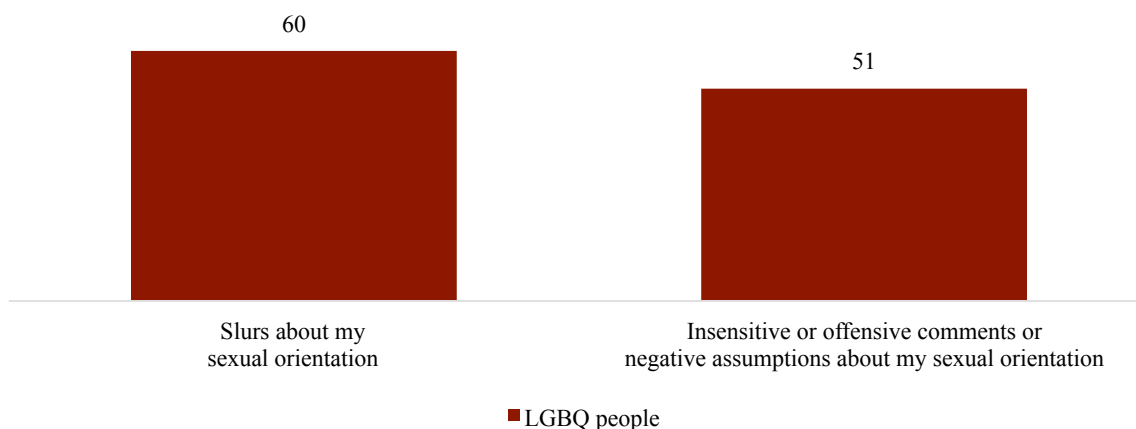
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Figure 1 also shows experiences related to sexual orientation distinct from those related to gender or gender identity, though these are not mutually exclusive (people could say both happened). Regarding slurs, 48% of LGBTQ people say they have experienced slurs about their sexual orientation, while 24% say they have also experienced slurs about their gender or gender identity. Similarly, 40% of LGBTQ people say they have experienced insensitive or offensive comments or negative assumptions about their sexual orientation, while 29% say they have also experienced these comments or assumptions about their gender or gender identity.

Furthermore, Figure 2 shows that a majority of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer people (LGBQ; i.e., anyone not identifying as heterosexual) say they have personally experienced slurs (60%) and insensitive or offensive comments or negative assumptions (51%) specifically about their sexual orientation.⁶

⁶ “LGBQ” also includes transgender people who identify as LGBQ, but not transgender people who identify as heterosexual. (Recall that sexual orientation is distinct from gender identity.)

Figure 2:
Percent of LGBTQ People Saying They Have Personally Experienced Slurs
or Insensitive or Offensive Comments About Their Sexual Orientation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

For transgender and gender non-conforming people, 34% report slurs about their gender or gender identity, and 25% report insensitive or offensive comments about their gender or gender identity. See Section 4, “Experiences of Transgender Americans,” in this report for further discussion of results specific to the transgender community.

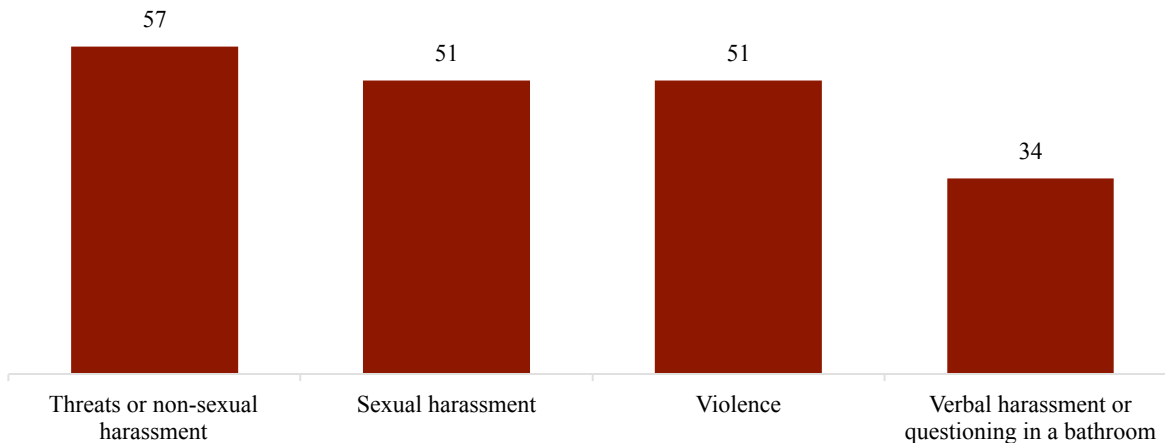
Majority of LGBTQ people say they or an LGBTQ family member have been threatened, sexually harassed, or experienced violence because they are LGBTQ; 34% say they or friend or family member have been verbally harassed in bathrooms

Figure 3 shows that a majority of all LGBTQ Americans say that they or a friend or family member who is also LGBTQ have experienced multiple forms of discrimination.⁷

Among all LGBTQ people, 57% say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been threatened or non-sexually harassed because they are LGBTQ. A majority of LGBTQ people also says they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been sexually harassed (51%) or experienced violence (51%) because of their LGBTQ identity (Figure 3).

⁷ These questions asked whether “you or a friend or family member” had experienced these forms of violence or discrimination. Respondents may be less willing to answer sensitive questions about their personal experiences in these contexts (e.g., sexual harassment), so friends’ and family members’ experiences are included in the question to provide respondents an opportunity to indirectly disclose their own experiences, while also potentially capturing experiences of violence and discrimination in respondents’ immediate social network. See Roger Tourangeau and Ting Yan (2007), “Sensitive Questions in Surveys,” *Psychological Bulletin* 133(5): 859-883.

Figure 3:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans Saying They or an LGBTQ Friend or Family Member Have Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination Because They Are LGBTQ



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q93a/b/e, Q94. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Additionally, 34% of all LGBTQ people say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been verbally harassed in the bathroom when entering or while using a bathroom, or been told or asked if they were using the wrong bathroom (Figure 3). Due to split sampling of this question, there are too few transgender respondents to analyze separately.

Roughly a third of LGBTQ people say they have been told or felt they would be unwelcome in a neighborhood because they are LGBTQ

In a separate question on harassment, 32% of LGBTQ people say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member has been told or felt as though they would not be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development because of their LGBTQ identity.

Personal Experiences of Institutional Discrimination

People were asked whether they believe they have ever personally experienced discrimination because they are LGBTQ, across a variety of situations. In the context of institutional discrimination, these situations were: when applying to jobs; when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions; when interacting with police; when trying to vote or participate in politics; when going to a doctor or health clinic; when applying to college or while at college; or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

People were only asked about situations in which they had personally participated. For example, people were only asked if they had been discriminated against when applying to college if they had ever applied to college.

Among all LGBTQ respondents, 96% have ever applied for a job; 91% have ever been employed for pay; 72% have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time; and 63% have ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home. For the remaining situations, screening questions were not used, but people could volunteer that they had never had these experiences.⁸

One in five LGBTQ Americans have experienced discrimination in housing or the workplace

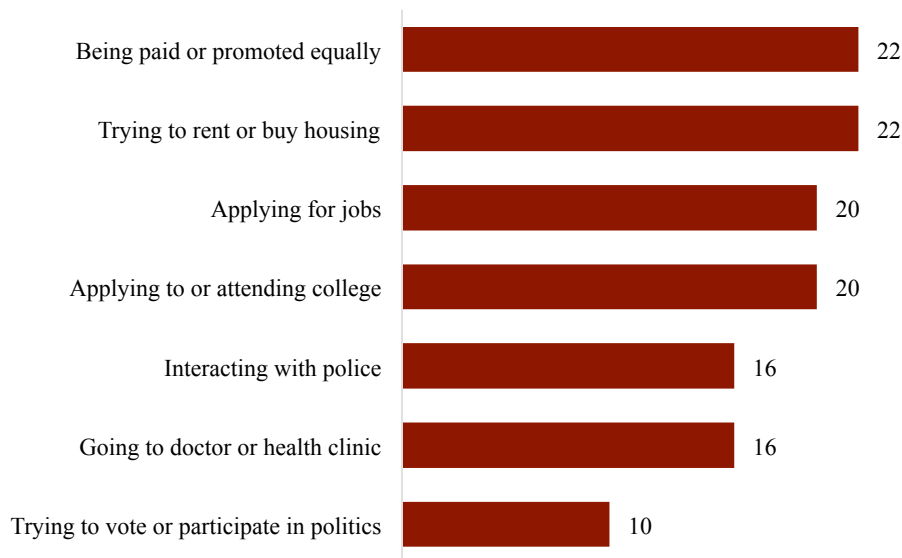
Figure 4 shows the overall reporting of personal experiences of discrimination in each situation among all LGBTQ people.⁹

Among all LGBTQ Americans, at least one in five report having personally experienced discrimination because of their sexuality or gender identity when applying for jobs (20%), when being paid equally or considered for promotion (22%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (22%) (Figure 4).

⁸ Screening questions were not used for interacting with police given the potential sensitivity of the question; for going to the doctor, given that 83% of adults have seen a doctor in the last year alone (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Summary Health Statistics Tables for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2015, Table A-18,” <https://goo.gl/AVfJPq>) and this question covers a lifetime span; or for trying to vote or participate in politics, as the question was worded intentionally broadly to capture a wide range of what might constitute political participation to the individual.

⁹ These questions were split sampled, meaning that a random half of the survey respondents were asked some questions, and the other half asked a different set of questions. This increases the scope of the survey but decreases the overall number of respondents answering each question. As a result, for many of this survey’s questions, there are too few transgender respondents to analyze them separately. See this report’s Section 4, “Experiences of Transgender Americans,” for results for which there were sufficient numbers of transgender respondents.

Figure 4:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans Saying They Have Ever Been Personally
Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are LGBTQ



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. S5/Q42a/b, S6/Q45a/b, Q48a/b, Q51a/b, Q54a/b, S7/Q57a/b, S8/Q60a/b. Each question asked of half-sample and of those who have participated in each situation (e.g., those who have ever applied for a job). Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Among LGBTQ people who have ever applied to or attended college, 20% say they have experienced discrimination while applying or at college because of their sexuality or gender identity (Figure 4).

Roughly one in six LGBTQ people also report being personally discriminated against because they are part of the LGBTQ community when interacting with police (16%) or when going to a doctor or health clinic (16%) (Figure 4).

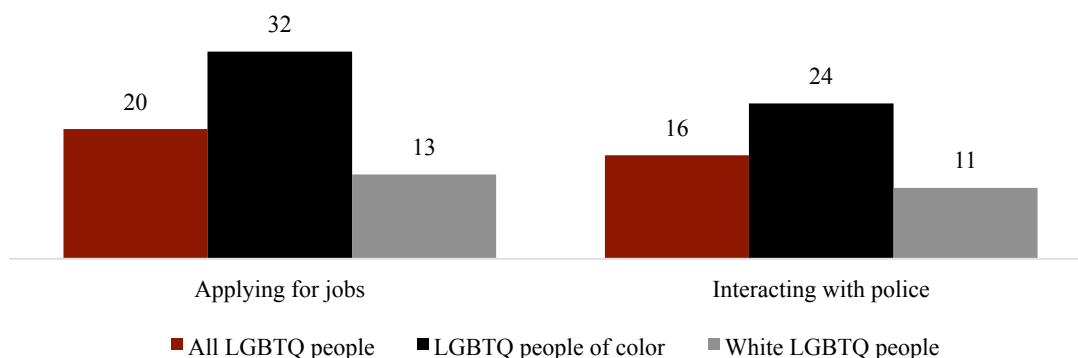
Finally, 10% of LGBTQ people say they have been personally discriminated against because they are LGBTQ when trying to vote or participate in politics (Figure 4).

*LGBTQ people of color twice as likely to report anti-LGBTQ discrimination
when applying for jobs and interacting with police*

As Figure 5 shows, more than twice as many LGBTQ people of color say they have been personally discriminated against because of their LGBTQ identity when applying for jobs and when interacting with police, compared to white LGBTQ people.¹⁰

¹⁰ In this survey, 61% (weighted) of the LGBTQ sample is white and 39% (weighted) are people of color. There are too few LGBTQ-identified respondents of color to conduct independent analyses for each racial or ethnic category (Black, Latino, Asian, Native), particularly when questions are split sampled.

Figure 5:
Percent of LGBTQ People, By Race or Ethnicity, Saying They Have
Ever Been Personally Discriminated Against In Each Situation
Because They Are LGBTQ



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. S5/Q42a/b, Q48a/b. Each question asked of half-sample and of those who have participated in each area (e.g., those who have ever applied for a job). Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Nearly a third (32%) of LGBTQ people of color say they have personally experienced discrimination because of their LGBTQ identity when applying for jobs, compared to 13% of white LGBTQ individuals. Similarly, 24% of LGBTQ people of color say they have personally experienced discrimination because they are LGBTQ when interacting with the police, compared to 11% of white LGBTQ people (Figure 5).¹¹

More than a quarter of LGBTQ people say they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been treated unfairly by the courts (26%) or by police (26%) because they are LGBTQ

In a separate question, LGBTQ people were asked if they believe they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been unfairly treated by the courts, or unfairly stopped or treated by the police, because they are part of the LGBTQ community. This question referred to “unfair treatment,” rather than “discrimination,” to capture potential differences in perception of individuals’ experiences (i.e., people who might perceive an experience as unfair but would not call it discriminatory).

Overall, 26% of LGBTQ people say that they or a friend or family member who is also LGBTQ have been unfairly treated by the courts because they are part of the LGBTQ community.

Similarly, 26% say they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because of their LGBTQ identity.

¹¹ For LGBTQ people of color in these questions, $n=101-113$. For white LGBTQ people, $n=144-146$. Sample sizes differ due to split sampling and screening questions.

Avoidance of Discrimination

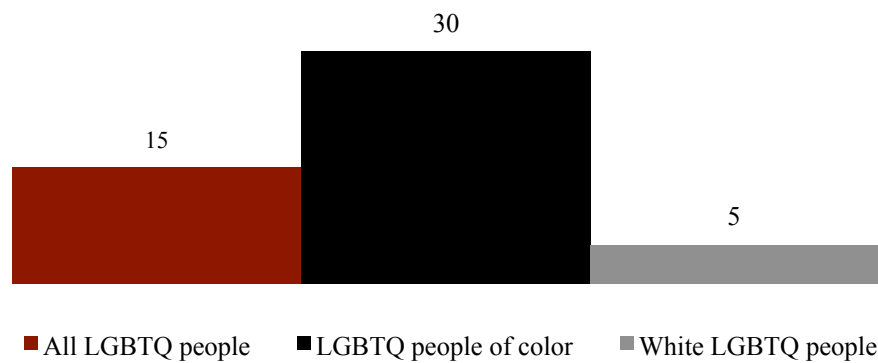
LGBTQ people were asked whether they had ever avoided engaging in certain behaviors, such as seeking medical care or calling the police when in need, to avoid potential discrimination. Similarly, LGBTQ people were asked whether they had ever considered moving to a new neighborhood because of discrimination. They were asked whether they ever avoid normal life tasks such as using a car or public transportation, going to a doctor, or participating in social or political events to avoid potentially interacting with police.

One in six LGBTQ people have avoided medical care or calling the police out of concern for anti-LGBTQ discrimination; LGBTQ people of color six times as likely to have avoided police

Overall, 18% of LGBTQ Americans say they have avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against or treated poorly because of their LGBTQ identity.

Additionally, as Figure 6 shows, 15% of LGBTQ people say they have avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern they would be discriminated against because they are LGBTQ. However, LGBTQ people of color are significantly more likely (30%) to say they have avoided calling the police out of concern for anti-LGBTQ discrimination, compared to white LGBTQ people (5%).

Figure 6:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans Who Have Avoided
Calling the Police When In Need Due to Concern They Would Be
Discriminated Against Because They Are LGBTQ



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q61. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Roughly a third of LGBTQ people say they have considered moving because of discrimination

Thirty-one percent (31%) of LGBTQ people say they have thought about moving or relocating because they have experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where they live.

One in five LGBTQ people avoid normal tasks such as using a car or seeking medical care to avoid possibly interacting with police or government authority figures

People were also asked, “Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?”

Roughly one in five (21%) LGBTQ people they have avoided these normal day-to-day tasks to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures.

Over half of LGBTQ people have avoided going to a doctor due to concern for the cost

In a separate question not related to anti-LGBTQ discrimination, 56% of LGBTQ people say they have avoided going to a doctor out of concern for the cost.

II. Perceptions of Local Community

People were asked to evaluate aspects of life where they live, including how often discrimination happens to other LGBTQ people there, local employment and educational opportunities, and how their neighborhood compares to other places to live. Overall, LGBTQ people perceive significant discrimination happening in their local areas, and particularly discrimination that occurs toward transgender people.

Perceptions of Local Discrimination

In addition to their personal experiences of discrimination, people were also asked about discrimination that occurs where they live, across a variety of situations.¹² All LGBTQ people were asked how often, if ever, they believe such discrimination occurs in the area where they live to lesbian, gay, or bisexual people, using a scale of never, rarely, sometimes, or often. All LGBTQ respondents were also asked the same question regarding discrimination specifically toward transgender people.¹³

As Figure 7 shows, LGBTQ people perceive a significant amount of discrimination in their local areas, against both LGB people and transgender people.¹⁴

Figure 7 further shows that LGBTQ people believe discrimination occurs even more often against transgender people, compared to discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

Regarding discrimination toward lesbian, gay, or bisexual people, LGBTQ people most frequently say that LGB people are often discriminated against when they are applying for jobs, interacting with police, and when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions. Over a third (36%) of LGBTQ people say that where they live, other LGB people “often” experience discrimination when applying for jobs. Roughly one-quarter of LGBTQ people say LGB people where they live often experience discrimination when interacting with the police (25%) when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions (23%) (Figure 7).

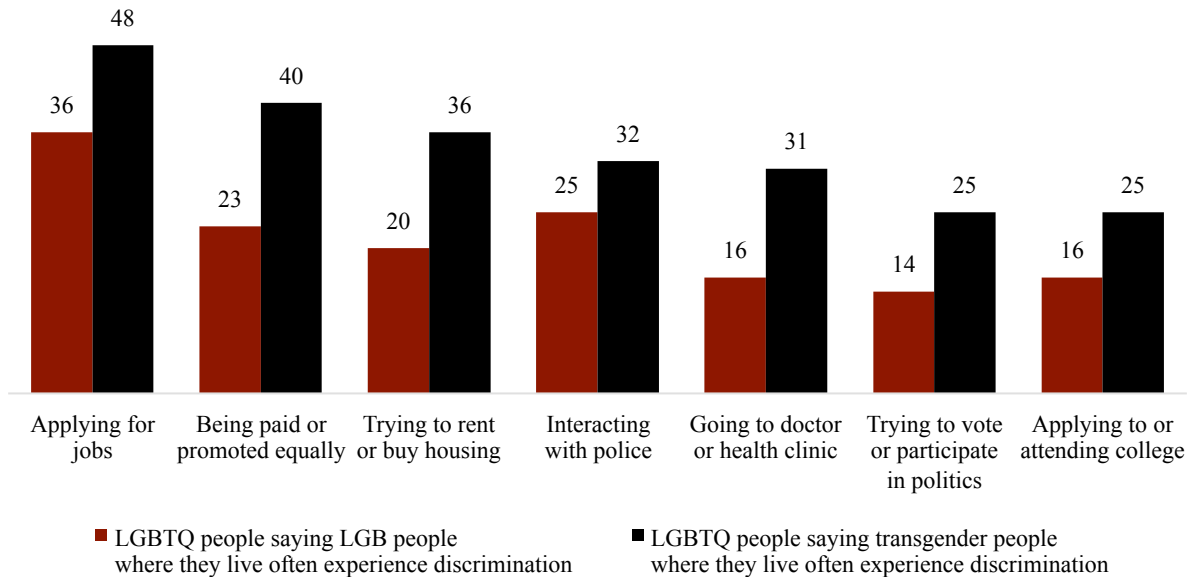
When it comes to discrimination toward transgender people, LGBTQ people most frequently say transgender people are often discriminated against when applying for jobs (48%), being paid equally or considered for promotion (40%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy housing (36%). Roughly a third also say that transgender people in their area often experience discrimination when interacting with the police (32%) or when going to a doctor or health clinic (31%) (Figure 7).

¹² These were the same situations discussed in personal experiences of discrimination: applying to jobs; being paid equally or considered for promotions; interacting with police; trying to vote or participate in politics; going to a doctor or health clinic; applying to college or while at college; trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

¹³ These questions asked about discrimination facing LGB people, and separately about transgender and gender non-conforming people. This section abbreviates the latter to discussion of discrimination toward transgender people, for brevity and given that this report uses the word “transgender” to broadly refer to people who identify as transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming. Full question wording for all questions is included at the end of this report.

¹⁴ Due to split sampling, the total number of transgender respondents in some questions is too small to separate the beliefs of transgender respondents. See Section 4 in this report for discussion of available results.

Figure 7:
Percent of LGBTQ People Saying Where They Live, LGB or Transgender
People "Often" Experience Discrimination In Each Situation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q40, Q41, Q43, Q44, Q46, Q47, Q49, Q50, Q52, Q53, Q55, Q56, Q58, Q59. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Overall, LGBTQ women are significantly more likely to say that both LGB and transgender people often face discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic: 23% of LGBTQ women say that where they live, gay, lesbian, or bisexual people are often discriminated against when going to a doctor or health clinic, compared to only 7% of LGBTQ men. Similarly, 43% of LGBTQ women say that transgender people are often discriminated against at the doctor or health clinic, while only 17% of LGBTQ men share this perception.

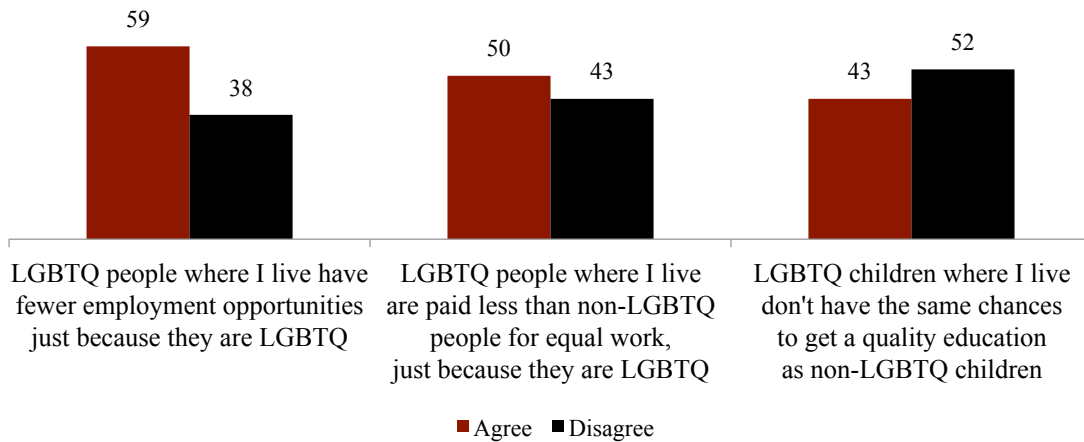
Perceptions of Local Opportunity

People were asked to agree or disagree with statements about local employment, equal pay, and children’s educational opportunities in the area where they live. They were also asked whether they were encouraged while growing up to apply for college.

LGBTQ people perceive fewer employment opportunities, but more divided on equal pay and educational opportunities

As Figure 8 shows, nearly six in ten (59%) LGBTQ people agree with the statement, “LGBTQ people where I live have fewer employment opportunities, just because they are part of the LGBTQ community.” Half (50%) agree that LGBTQ people in their area are paid less than non-LGBTQ people for equal work. Half (50%) agree that LGBTQ people in their area are paid less than non-LGBTQ people for equal work. 52% disagree that LGBTQ children where they live don't have the same chances to get a quality education as non-LGBTQ children.

Figure 8:
LGBTQ Americans' Perceptions of Unequal Employment, Pay, & Educational Opportunities in Their Neighborhood



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q67, Q71, Q75. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

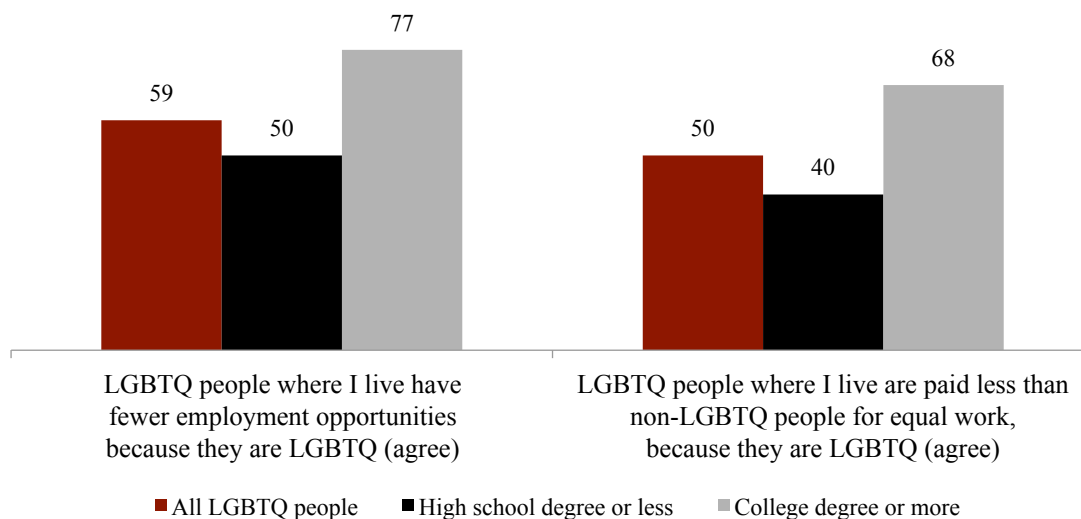
In contrast, a minority (43%) of LGBTQ people agree that LGBTQ children where they live do not have the same chances to get a quality education as non-LGBTQ children (Figure 8).

LGBTQ people with a college degree more likely to believe LGBTQ people have fewer employment opportunities and are paid less because they are LGBTQ

Figure 9 shows that LGBTQ people with a college degree or more are significantly more likely – by at least a twenty-point gap – than LGBTQ people with a high school degree or less to believe that LGBTQ people in their area have fewer employment opportunities and are paid less than non-LGBTQ people for equal work.

For example, 77% of LGBTQ people with a college degree say that LGBTQ people have fewer employment opportunities just because they are LGBTQ. In contrast, this belief is shared by 50% of LGBTQ people with a high school degree or less (Figure 9).

Figure 9:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans, By Education Level, Agreeing That
LGBTQ People Have Fewer Employment Opportunities or Are Paid
Less Because They Are LGBTQ



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q67, Q71. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Additionally, LGBTQ people living in the South are more likely than LGBTQ people in any other region to agree that where they live, LGBTQ people have fewer employment opportunities just because they are part of the LGBTQ community (81% South; 55% Midwest; 52% West; 51% Northeast).¹⁵

¹⁵ “South,” as defined by U.S. Census 4-Region division, includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. “Midwest” includes: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. “West” includes: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming. “Northeast” includes: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Two-thirds of LGBTQ people were encouraged to apply to college, but 20% of low income LGBTQ people were actively discouraged from applying

In a separate question related to educational opportunity, LGBTQ people were asked if, while growing up, they were encouraged to apply for college, discouraged from applying, or whether this was never discussed.

Overall, a majority (64%) of all LGBTQ people say that they were encouraged to apply to college. Another 25% say applying to college was never discussed while growing up, while 10% say they were discouraged from applying.

Low income LGBTQ people (those making less than \$25,000 per year) are dramatically more likely to say that they were discouraged from applying for college while growing up (20%), compared to only 1% of high income LGBTQ people (those making \$75,000 or more).

Perceptions of Local Government

When asked, “How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you,” 63% of LGBTQ people say their local government represents these views somewhat or very well. Forty-three percent (34%) say not too well or not well at all.

Nearly three-quarters of LGBTQ people living in the West (72%) and Northeast (71%) say their local government represents their views very or somewhat well, compared to only 47% of LGBTQ Midwesterners.

Additionally, when asked, “How much can people like you affect what your local government does,” 57% of LGBTQ people say some or a great deal.

Those with a college degree are more likely than other LGBTQ people with less education to believe they can affect what their local government does: 68% of those with a college degree say some or a great deal, compared to 50% of those with a high school education or less.

Perceptions & Evaluations of Community Environment

People were asked to describe and evaluate aspects of the area where they live, including the general economic and health status of the neighborhood.

Overall, 8% of LGBTQ people say they live in an area or neighborhood that is predominantly LGBTQ people. When describing the general economic status of the area in which they live, 9% say they live in a mostly upper income area, while 54% say they live in a mostly middle income area. Another 19% say they live in a mainly lower income area, and 17% say they do not have enough information to say.

Similarly, LGBTQ people were asked to describe the overall health and well-being of the place they live. Nearly half (46%) say their neighborhood is in excellent or good health, 28% say fair or poor health, and 26% say they do not have enough information to say.

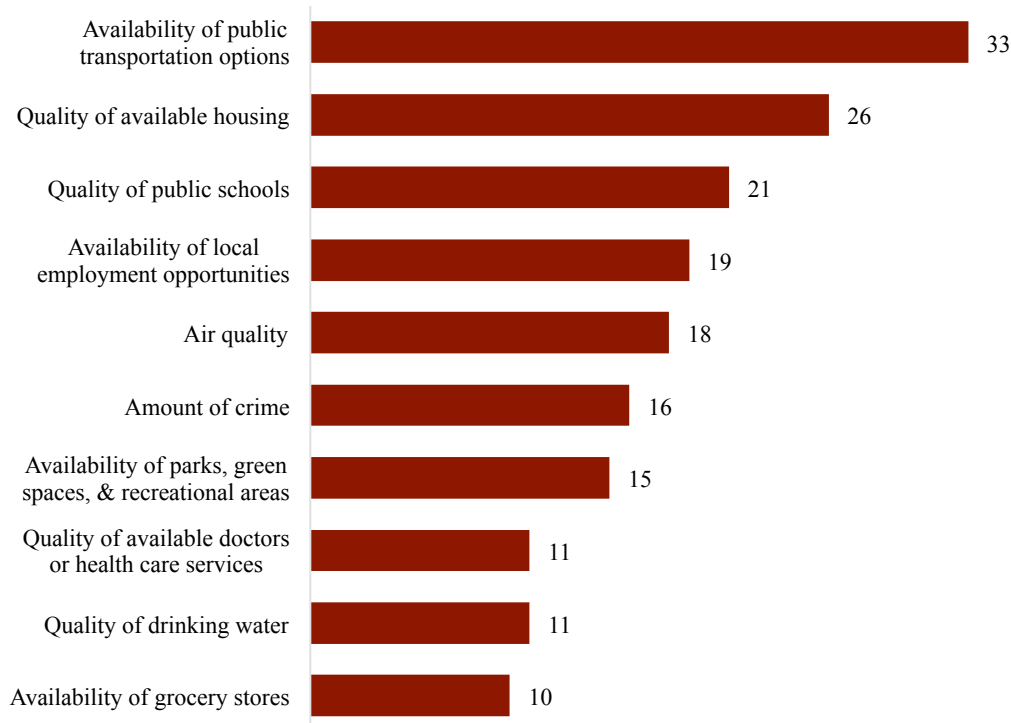
LGBTQ people most likely to rate availability of public transportation and quality of available housing as worse in their neighborhood than in other places to live

People were asked to describe and evaluate environmental aspects of the area in which they live. Specifically, they were asked to consider ten elements that affect quality of life, and to compare these elements to other places to live: “Compared to other places to live, do you think the (element) where you live is better, worse, or about the same as other places to live?”

These elements include: availability of grocery stores; air quality; quality of drinking water; quality of available housing; quality of available doctors or health care services; quality of public schools; availability of local employment opportunities; amount of crime; availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas; and, availability of public transportation options.

In most cases, either the majority or plurality of respondents says that these aspects of their neighborhood are about the same as other places to live. However, as Figure 10 shows, the aspects of community environment that LGBTQ respondents most frequently rate as worse in their neighborhood than in other places to live are: availability of public transportation options (33%) and quality of available housing (26%).

Figure 10:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans Saying Each Element of Their
Community Environment Is **Worse** Than In Other Places to Live



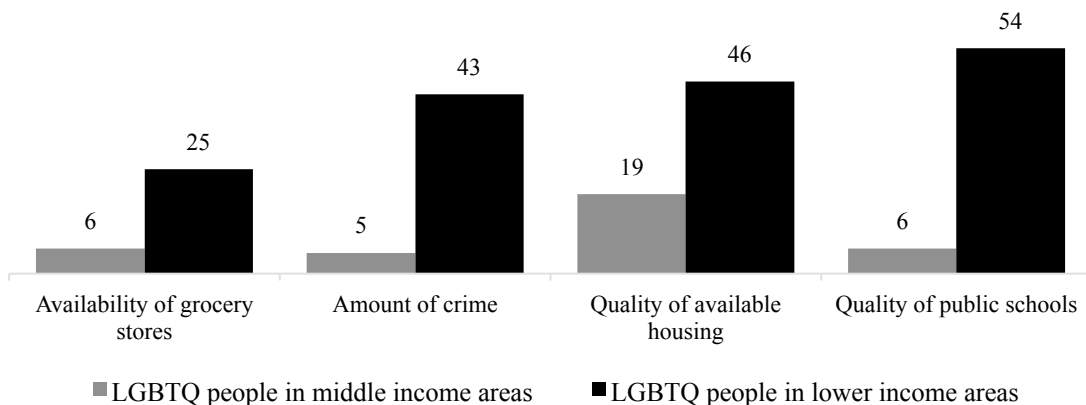
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Roughly one in five LGBTQ people also rank the quality of public schools (21%) and the availability of local employment opportunities (19%) as worse than in other places to live (Figure 10).

LGBTQ people in low income areas rate neighborhood crime, housing, schools, and grocery stores much more negatively than do LGBTQ people in middle income areas

As Figure 11 shows, LGBTQ people living in self-described predominantly lower income areas are noticeably more likely to rate some elements of their neighborhood as worse than in other places to live, compared to LGBTQ people living in predominantly middle income areas.

Figure 11:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans, By Perceived Neighborhood Income, Saying Each Element of Their Community Environment is **Worse Than In Other Places to Live**



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/d/f/h. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

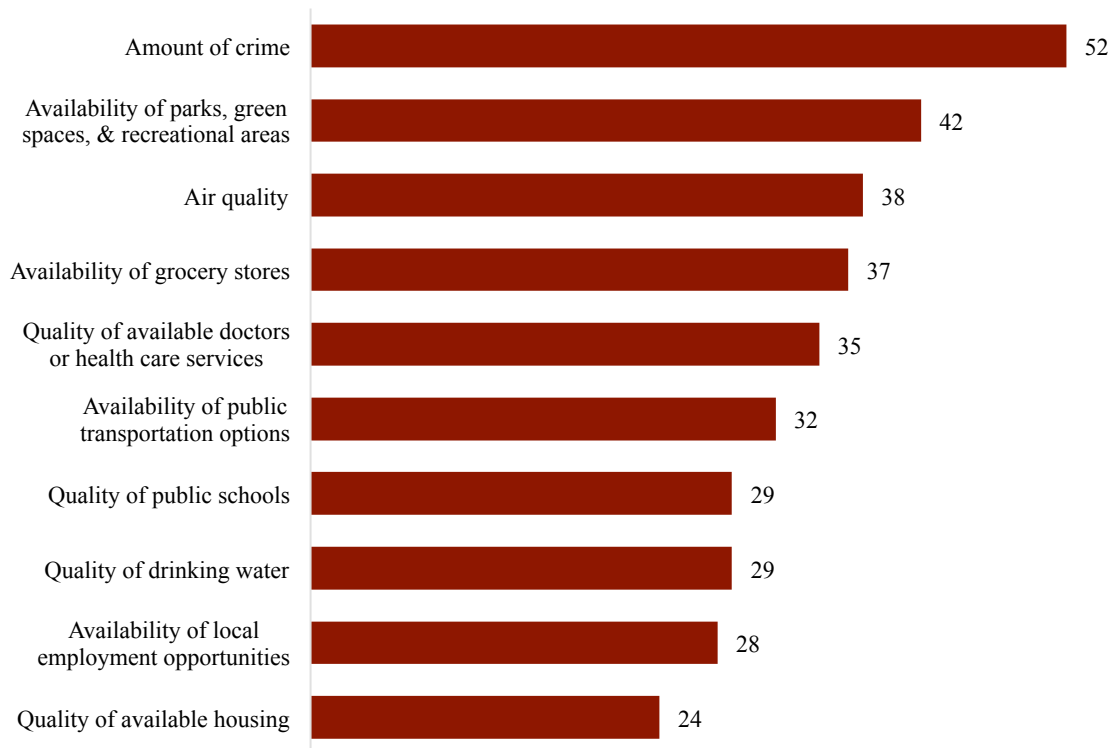
For example, 46% of LGBTQ people living in predominantly low income areas say the quality of available housing in their area is worse than in other places to live, compared to 19% of LGBTQ people living in middle income areas making this same evaluation (Figure 11).

LGBTQ people most likely to rate amount of crime and the availability of parks and green spaces as “better” in their neighborhood than in other places to live

Figure 12 shows the overall ranking of aspects of community environment that LGBTQ people describe as “better” than in other places to live.

The aspect of community environment that LGBTQ Americans most frequently rate as better in their neighborhood than in other places to live is the overall amount of crime (52%), followed by the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas (42%) (Figure 12).

Figure 12:
Percent of LGBTQ Americans Saying Each Element of Their
Community Environment Is **Better** Than In Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Additionally, roughly a third or more of LGBTQ people say that their neighborhood’s air quality (38%), availability of grocery stores (37%), quality of available doctors or health care services (35%), and availability of public transportation options (32%) are better than in other places to live (Figure 12).

III. National Beliefs & Political Engagement

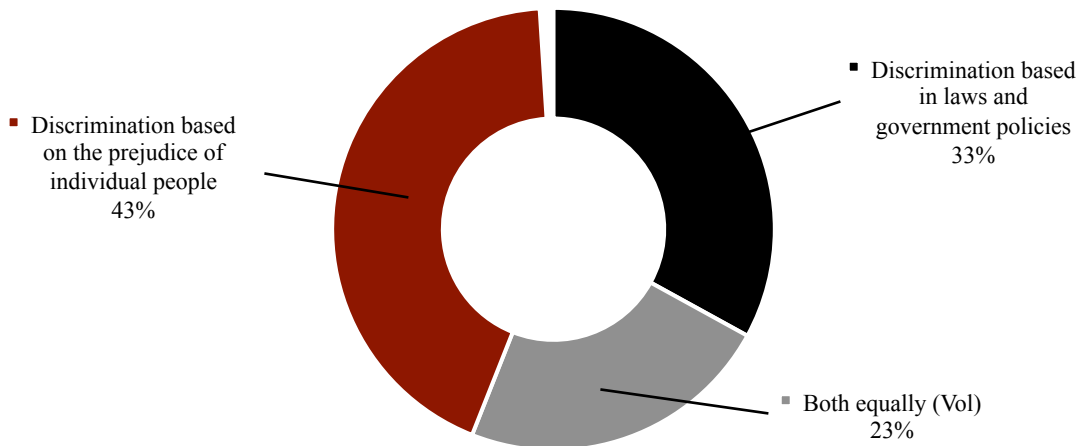
Overall, 90% of all LGBTQ people believe that there is discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in America today. Similarly, 91% of all LGBTQ people believe there is discrimination against transgender people in America today.

Institutional vs. Individual Discrimination

Those who believe discrimination against LGBTQ people exists today were also asked: “When it comes to discrimination against LGBTQ people in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem? Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies, or discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people?”

One-third (33%) of LGBTQ people say the bigger problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies, while 43% say discrimination based on individual level prejudice. Another 23% say that both forms of discrimination are equally a problem (Figure 13).

Figure 13:
LGBTQ Americans' Perceptions of Which is the Larger Problem:
Discrimination Based on Individuals' Prejudice, or
Discrimination Based in Laws and Government Policies

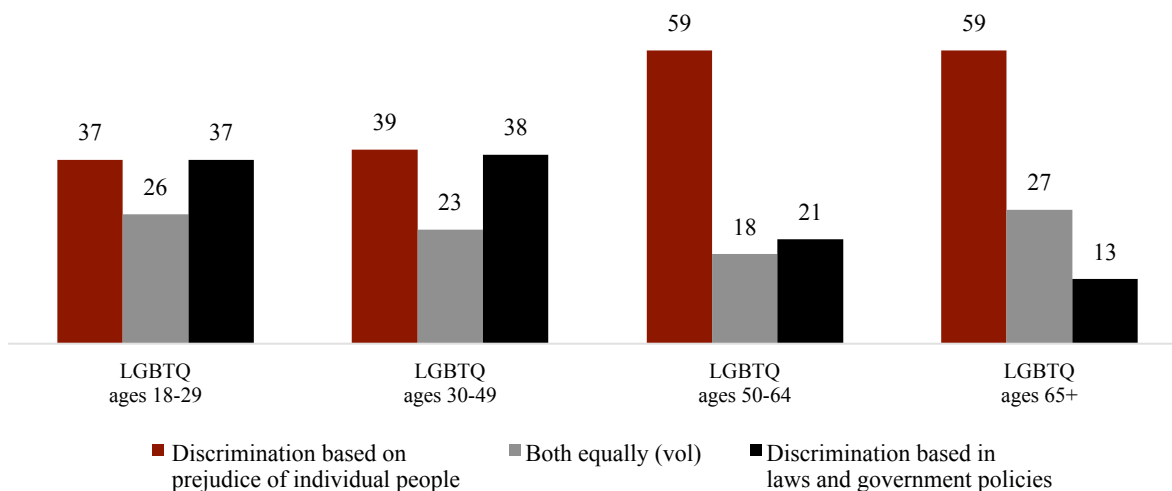


NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q7/8/9. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

As Figure 14 shows, older LGBTQ people (50+) are more likely than younger LGBTQ people (18-49) to identify individual prejudice as the larger problem for anti-LGBTQ discrimination. Younger LGBTQ people are more likely to identify institutional discrimination based in laws and government policies as the larger problem, compared to older LGBTQ people.

The majority (59%) of LGBTQ people ages 50 and over identify individual prejudice as the larger problem. In contrast, LGBTQ people ages 18-49 are roughly equally likely to say institutional discrimination based in laws and government policies as they are individual prejudice. Roughly a quarter of LGBTQ people ages 18-49 say both equally (Figure 14).

Figure 14:
LGBTQ Americans' Perceptions, by Age Group, of Which is the Larger Problem: Discrimination Based on Individuals' Prejudice, or Discrimination Based in Laws and Government Policies



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q7/8/9. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Additionally, LGBTQ people living in the South are more likely than those in the West to say discrimination based in laws and government policies is the bigger problem (43% South; 25% West).

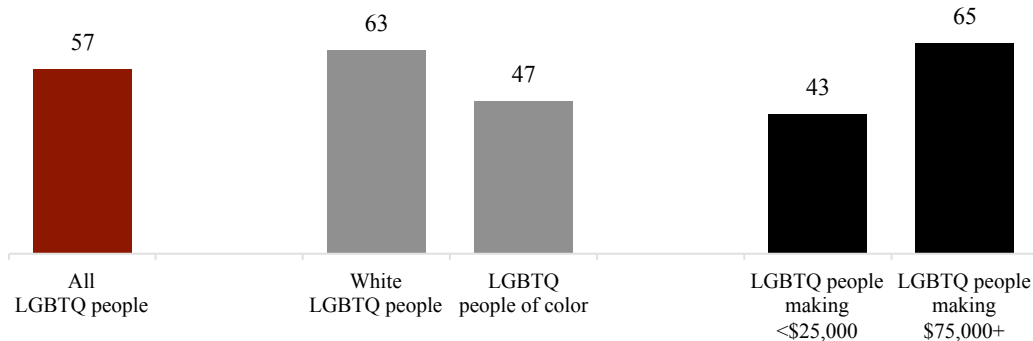
Political Contact

Overall, 57% of LGBTQ Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause during an election. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation, particularly for racial or ethnic minorities.¹⁶

As Figure 15 shows, some LGBTQ people are more likely than others to have been contacted.

¹⁶ See, for example, Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa R. Michelson's *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns* (2012, Yale University Press), and Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber's *Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout* (2008, Brookings Institution Press).

Figure 15:
 Percent of LGBTQ Americans, By Race and Income,
 Who Have Been Contacted by Political Parties, Candidates, or
 Organizations in the Past Year



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q96. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

White LGBTQ people are significantly more likely to say they were contacted in the past year (63%) than LGBTQ people of color (47%). Additionally, LGBTQ people making less than \$25,000 per year are significantly less likely to be contacted than their higher income peers: 43% of those making under \$25,000 they have been contacted in the last year, compared to 65% of those making \$75,000 or more per year (Figure 15).

With regard to party affiliation, 44% of LGBTQ people describe themselves as Democrat, while 37% identify as Independent, 7% as Republican, and 8% as other.

Younger LGBTQ people (18-29) are more likely than older LGBTQ people (50+) to identify as Independents, while older LGBTQ people are more likely to identify as Democrats. Ten percent or fewer LGBTQ people across all age groups identify as Republican.

IV. Experiences of Transgender Americans

The Williams Institute currently estimates that 0.6% of the adult U.S. population identifies as transgender.¹⁷ Estimates of gender queer and gender non-conforming individuals are less established. This survey's entire sample includes approximately 1.4% transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming people.

For most questions in this survey, there are too few transgender people to analyze separately from cisgender people generally or from LGBQ people specifically. However, this survey included some questions that had a sufficient number of transgender people to analyze separately. The results of these questions are presented here to illustrate some experiences of transgender, genderqueer, and/or gender non-conforming Americans.¹⁸

Personal Experiences of Discrimination

All people (not just LGBTQ people) have a gender identity and a sexual orientation. A person's gender identity is distinct from their sexual orientation. Gender identity refers to a person's internal, deeply held sense of their own gender. Sexual orientation refers to a person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions (or lack thereof) to other people.¹⁹

Transgender people are often discriminated against on the basis of their presumed gender or gender identity. Additionally, given that transgender people may be of any sexual orientation, they may also be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. Furthermore, the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity may not be clear to all, so in some cases people may discriminate against a person because of their gender, but using epithets or otherwise expressing beliefs about the person's sexual orientation. Therefore, it should be expected that transgender people report experiences of discrimination related to both their gender identity and their sexual orientation.

Overall, as Figure 16 shows, transgender people report numerous experiences of slurs, insensitive or offensive comments or negative assumptions, and people acting afraid of them because of their gender, gender identity, or their sexual orientation. For example, 38% of transgender people report personally experiencing slurs about their sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

¹⁷ "How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States," by Andrew R. Flores, Jody L. Herman, Gary J. Gates, and Taylor N. T. Brown. June 2016. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/how-many-adults-identify-as-transgender-in-the-united-states/>

¹⁸ See also the National Center for Transgender Equality's 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, which reports the experiences of a large, non-probability-based sample of transgender adults: <http://www.ustranssurvey.org/reports>.

¹⁹ See <https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender> or <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender.aspx>.

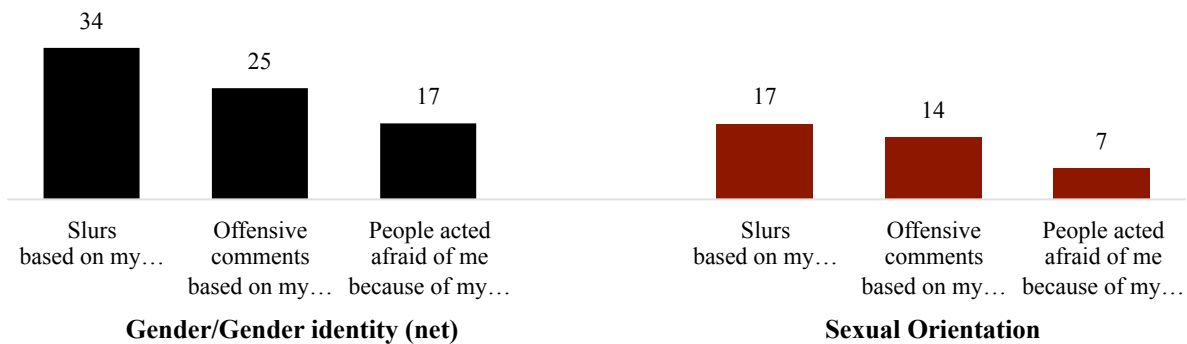
Figure 16:
Percent of Transgender People Saying They Have Personally Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination Because of Their Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation
(multiple responses allowed)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ U.S. adults.

Figure 17 shows transgender people’s experiences of individual discrimination, separating experiences based on gender or gender identity from those based on sexual orientation.

Figure 17:
Percent of Transgender People Saying They Have Personally Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination Because of Their Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation
(multiple responses allowed)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ (86 transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming) U.S. adults.

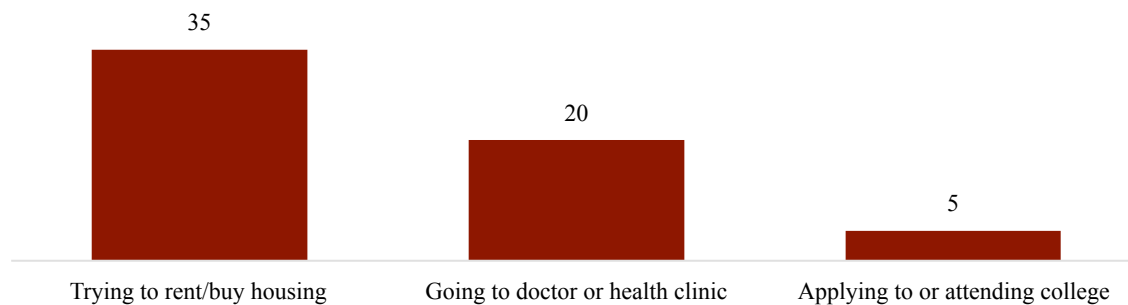
In the context of health care, 10% of transgender people report being personally discriminated against because they are transgender when going to doctor or health clinic. Another 22% of transgender people say they have avoided doctor or health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against because they are transgender.

Furthermore, 22% of transgender people say they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been told or felt that they would be unwelcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development because they are transgender. Finally, over a quarter (27%) of transgender people say they have thought about moving to another area because they have experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where they live.

Perceptions of Local Community

Transgender people perceive significant amounts of discrimination against other transgender people in their own neighborhood. As Figure 18 shows, 35% of transgender people say that, where they live, other transgender people are often discriminated against when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house. One in five (20%) say that transgender people often face discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic.²⁰

Figure 18:
Percent of Transgender People Saying Where They Live, Other Transgender People "Often" Experience Discrimination In Each Situation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q53, Q56, Q59. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=489 LGBTQ (including 86 transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming) U.S. adults.

Additionally, 36% of transgender people agree that, where they live, LGBTQ children do not have the same chances to get a quality education as non-LGBTQ children.

Over half (54%) of transgender people say that while growing up, they were encouraged to apply to college; 12% say they were discouraged from applying, and 34% say applying for college was never discussed.

²⁰ There are too few transgender people answering these questions regarding discrimination in the workplace, when interacting with police, or participating in politics to report their responses.

When describing their neighborhood, 4% of transgender people say they live in an area that is predominantly LGBTQ people. Over half of transgender people describe their neighborhood as in mainly excellent or good health (53%), and as predominantly a middle income area (61%).²¹

National Beliefs and Political Contact

Overall, 83% of transgender people believe discrimination against LGB people exists today, and 84% of transgender people believe discrimination against transgender people exists today.

Additionally, 61% of transgender people say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause during an election.²² Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation, particularly for racial or ethnic minorities.

Demographics

Regarding health care, 31% of all transgender people say have no regular doctor or health care professional that provides most of their health care when sick or having a health concern, and 22% say they are currently uninsured.

Table 1 shows that transgender people are much more likely than the general population to identify as bisexual or queer, or to decline to answer a question about their sexual orientation.

Table 1:
Differences in Sexual Orientation Between Cisgender and Transgender Americans

	Cisgender people	Transgender people
Heterosexual	92%	56%
LGBQ (net)	5%	29%
Gay/lesbian	2%	2%
Bisexual	2%	19%
Queer/other	1%	8%
Refused to answer	4%	15%

NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Total N=3453 (including 86 transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming) U.S. adults.

Among all transgender and gender non-conforming people in this survey, 24% identify as transgender men, 52% identify as transgender women, and 25% identify as genderqueer or gender non-conforming.

²¹ Among all transgender people, 6% say they live in a mainly upper income area, 61% middle income, 17% lower income area, and 17% say they do not have enough information to answer. Additionally, 53% of transgender people describe their area as in mainly excellent or good health, while 34% describe it as mainly in fair or poor health.

²² Though this point estimate for transgender people is higher than for LGBTQ people as a whole (Figure 15), the difference is not statistically significant.

Conclusion

LGBTQ Americans report significant personal experiences of discrimination related to their sexual orientation or gender identity. In the context of individual or interpersonal discrimination, a majority of all LGBTQ people have personally experienced slurs (57%) or offensive comments (53%) about their sexual orientation or gender identity. Furthermore, a majority of all LGBTQ people say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have personally experienced threats or non-sexual harassment (57%), sexual harassment (51%), or violence (51%) because of their sexuality or gender identity, and 34% say they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been harassed or questioned about their presence in a bathroom.

In the context of institutional discrimination, at least one in five LGBTQ people report being personally discriminated against because of their sexuality or gender identity when applying for jobs (20%), when being paid equally or considered for promotions (22%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (22%). More than a quarter of LGBTQ people say that they or an LGBTQ friend or family member have been unfairly treated by the courts (26%) or by the police (26%) because of their LGBTQ identity.

LGBTQ people perceive a significant amount of discrimination in their local areas, against both LGB and transgender people – though they perceive significantly more discrimination against transgender people. The top areas where LGBTQ people say discrimination often occurs to LGB people are in the workplace and when interacting with police. The top areas where LGBTQ people say discrimination often occurs to transgender people is in the workplace and when seeking housing. Roughly a third also say that transgender people often face discrimination when interacting with police or when seeking health care.

Half or more of LGBTQ people believe that where they live, LGBTQ people have fewer employment opportunities (59%) and are paid less than non-LGBTQ people (50%), just because they are part of the LGBTQ community. However, LGBTQ people are less likely to perceive disparities in educational opportunities, and in fact roughly two-thirds of LGBTQ people were encouraged to apply for college while growing up.

In the context of beliefs about the national environment, 90% of all LGBTQ people believe that discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people exists in America today, and 91% of all LGBTQ people believe there is discrimination against transgender people. Among those who believe anti-LGBTQ discrimination exists, 33% say the bigger problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies, while 43% say discrimination based on individual level prejudice. Another 23% say that both forms of discrimination are equally a problem.

LGBTQ people of color are at least twice as likely as white LGBTQ people to say they have been personally discriminated against because they are LGBTQ when applying for jobs and when interacting with police. They are also more likely to avoid calling the police, even when in need, for fear of anti-LGBTQ discrimination. LGBTQ people of color are less likely to have been contacted by political representatives or organizations in the last year (47%) than white LGBTQ people (63%).

Transgender people report significant experiences of discrimination: 38% say they have experienced slurs and 28% report insensitive or offensive comments about their gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Roughly a quarter (27%) of transgender people say they have thought about moving to another area because they have experienced discrimination where they live. Additionally, 35% of transgender people say that, where they live, other transgender people are often discriminated against when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house, and 20% say that transgender people often face discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic.

In the context of health care, 10% of transgender people report being personally discriminated against because they are transgender when going to doctor or health clinic. Another 22% of transgender people say they have avoided doctor or health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against because they are transgender. Demographically, 31% of all transgender people say have no regular doctor or health care professional that provides most of their health care when sick or having a health concern, and 22% say they are currently uninsured.

Overall, the survey illustrates the significant experiences of discrimination faced by LGBTQ people in America today.

Methodology

The poll in this study is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and National Public Radio. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health: Robert J. Blendon, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; Logan S. Casey, Research Associate in Public Opinion; John M. Benson, Senior Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Justin M. Sayde, Administrative and Research Manager; and Tiffany Chan, Research Fellow.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research and Evaluation; Jordan Reese, Director of Media Relations; and Dwayne Proctor, Director, Achieving Health Equity Portfolio.

NPR: Anne Gudenkauf, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Keith Woods, Vice President, Diversity in News and Operations; Sara Goo, Acting Managing Editor, Digital News; Vickie Walton-James, Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Luis Clemens, Supervising Editor, National Desk; Alison Macadam, Senior Editorial Specialist; Alison Kodjak, Correspondent, Science Desk; and Rae Ellen Bichell, Reporter, Science Desk.

Interviews were conducted by SSRS of Glen Mills (PA) via telephone (including both landline and cell phone) using random-digit dialing, January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans;²³ men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of **489 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) U.S. adults**. This includes people who are genderqueer and gender non-conforming. The margin of error for total LGBTQ respondents is ± 6.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, education, and Census region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

²³ African American, Asian American, and white American respondents who also identified as Hispanic or Latino were included only in the Latino sample.

Methodology (continued)

Group	Number of Interviews (unweighted n)	Weighted %
Total LGBTQ	489	100
LGBQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer)*	428	84
Transgender (including genderqueer, gender non-conforming)*	86	23
Half-sample		
A	259	--
B	230	--
Gender (self-reported)		
Men (cisgender and transgender men)	236	38
Women (cisgender and transgender men)	221	56
Genderqueer or gender non-conforming	28	6
Age		
18-29	164	41
30-49	136	31
50-64	128	20
65+	61	8
Education		
High school grad or less	117	42
Some college	130	26
College grad or more	242	32
Household income		
<\$25,000 per year	141	36
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	98	19
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	81	15
\$75,000 or more	131	21
Region		
Northeast	100	23
Midwest	90	20
South	140	30
West	140	20
Metro status		
Urban	135	30
Suburban	267	53
Rural	66	11
Race		
White (non-Hispanic)	282	61
People of color**	207	39
Income of area where you live		
Upper	61	9
Middle	253	54
Lower	92	19

*LGBQ and transgender are not mutually exclusive. A person can identify as one or both.

** There are too few LGBTQ-identified respondents of color to conduct independent analyses for each racial category (African American, Latino, Asian American, Native American), particularly when questions are split sampled.

NPR
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION
HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of LGBTQ Americans

The results presented here are from a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, via telephone (landline and cell phone) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted using random-digit dialing, **January 26 – April 9, 2017**, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans; men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This document presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based sample of **489 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) adults**. This includes people who are genderqueer and gender non-conforming. The margin of error for total LGBTQ respondents is ± 6.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

	Number of Interviews (unweighted)	Margin of Error at the 95% confidence level (percentage points)
Total LGBTQ	489	± 6.6
LGBQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer)*	428	± 7.0
Transgender (including genderqueer, gender non-conforming)*	86	± 15.6

*LGBQ and transgender are not mutually exclusive. A person can identify as one or both.

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Responses shown in the tables that follow are percentages.

For most questions, the responses of total LGBTQ adults are shown. For questions specifically about LGBQ or transgender adults, responses of these groups are shown when the sample sizes are large enough for analysis.

I. Introduction

(Asked of half-sample A; n= 259)

S5. Have you ever applied for a job?

	LGBTQ
Yes, has applied for a job	96
No, has not applied for a job	4
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n= 259)

S6. Have you ever been employed for pay?

	LGBTQ
Yes, has been employed for pay	91
No, has not been employed for pay	8
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n= 230)

S7. Have you ever applied for college or attended college for any amount of time?

	LGBTQ
Yes, has applied for or attended college	72
No, has not applied for or attended college	28
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n= 230)

S8. Have you ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home?

	LGBTQ
Yes, has tried	63
No, has not tried	37
DK/Ref	-

II. Discrimination

(Asked of those who identify as LGBTQ; total LGBTQ n=489; LGBQ n=428)

Q7. Generally speaking, do you believe there is or is not discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in America today?

	LGBTQ	LGBQ
Yes	90	85
No	8	7
DK/Ref	2	8

(Asked of those who identify as LGBTQ; total LGBTQ n=489; Transgender n=86)

Q8. Generally speaking, do you believe there is or is not discrimination against transgender people in America today?

	LGBTQ	Transgender
Yes	91	84
No	7	12
DK/Ref	1	4

(Asked of those who identify as LGBTQ and believe discrimination exists against LGBTQ people in America today, i.e., if “yes” to either Q7 or Q8; n=457)

Q9. When it comes to discrimination against LGBTQ people in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem?

	LGBTQ
Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies	33
Discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people	43
Both equally (vol)	23
DK/Ref	1

Now we'd like to ask you some questions more specifically about what goes on in the general area where you live, as well as your personal experiences. When we say "the area where you live," we just mean the general neighborhood, town, or part of town where you live.

Q10. How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you?

	LGBTQ
Very well	19
Somewhat well	44
Not too well	21
Not well at all	13
DK/Ref	3

Q11. How much can people like you affect what your local government does? Would you say...?

	LGBTQ
A great deal	24
Some	33
Only a little	31
Not at all	10
DK/Ref	2

I'd like to ask you some questions about things you or people where you live have experienced, thinking about people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or part of the LGBTQ community. I'll ask about gay, lesbian and bisexual people separately from transgender and gender nonconforming people. We'll use the scale: OFTEN, SOMETIMES, RARELY, or NEVER for people where you live, and just yes or no for if it has happened to you. Then we'll move on to different questions.

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259; LGBQ n=239)

Q40. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination **when applying for jobs?**

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	36	34
Sometimes	34	35
Rarely	16	17
Never	11	11
DK/Ref	3	3

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259)

Q41. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ Total	Transgender
Often	48	Not enough cases for analysis
Sometimes	23	
Rarely	13	
Never	8	
DK/Ref	8	

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming and have ever applied for a job; n=29)

Q42a. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when applying for jobs?**

Not enough cases for analysis of this question on its own

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBQ and have ever applied for a job; n=226)

Q42b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when applying for jobs?**

	LGBQ
Yes	22
No	76
DK/Ref	2

Q42a/Q42b Combo Table

Based on half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ and have ever applied for a job; total n=245. Total LGBTQ respondents who have ever applied for a job and believe they were ever discriminated against when applying for a job either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total*
Yes	20
No	78
DK/Ref	2

*Because some respondents are both transgender and LGBQ, the percentage of LGBTQ people who experience discrimination for being one or the other may be lower than for either of them separately.

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259; LGBQ n=239)

Q43. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	23	23
Sometimes	35	34
Rarely	14	16
Never	24	23
DK/Ref	4	4

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259)

Q44. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ Total	Transgender*
Often	40	Not enough cases for analysis
Sometimes	27	
Rarely	13	
Never	14	
DK/Ref	6	

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming and have ever been employed; n=30)

Q45a. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?**

Not enough cases for analysis of this question on its own

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBQ and have ever been employed; n=225)

Q45b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?**

	LGBQ
Yes	24
No	75
DK/Ref	1

Q45a/Q45b Combo Table

Based on half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ and have ever been employed; total n=245.

Total LGBTQ respondents who have ever been employed and believe they were ever discriminated against when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total*
Yes	22
No	75
DK/Ref	3

*Because some respondents are both transgender and LGBQ, the percentage of LGBTQ people who experience discrimination for being one or the other may be lower than for either of them separately.

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259; LGBQ n=239)

Q46. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination **when interacting with police?**

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	25	22
Sometimes	36	36
Rarely	25	26
Never	11	12
DK/Ref	3	4

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259; Transgender n=31)

Q47. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ	Transgender
Often	32	Not enough cases for analysis
Sometimes	35	
Rarely	14	
Never	10	
DK/Ref	9	

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming; n=31)

Q48a. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when interacting with police?**

Not enough cases for analysis of this question on its own

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBQ; n=239)

Q48b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when interacting with police?**

	LGBQ
Yes	15
No	83
Have never interacted with the police (vol)	*
DK/Ref	2

Q48a/Q48b Combo Table

Based on half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; total n=259.

Total LGBTQ respondents who believe they were ever discriminated against when interacting with the police either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total
Yes	16
No	81
Have never interacted with the police (vol)	*
DK/Ref	3

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259; LGBQ n=239)

Q49. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination when trying to vote or participate in politics?

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	14	13
Sometimes	28	28
Rarely	22	23
Never	32	34
DK/Ref	4	2

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=259; Transgender n=31)

Q50. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ Total	Transgender
Often	25	Not enough cases for analysis
Sometimes	25	
Rarely	15	
Never	27	
DK/Ref	8	

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming; n=31)

Q51a. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

Not enough cases for analysis of this question on its own

(Asked of half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBQ; n=239)

Q51b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	LGBQ
Yes	8
No	85
Have never tried to vote or participate in politics (vol)	5
DK/Ref	2

Q51a/Q51b Combo Table

Based on half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; total n=259.

Total LGBTQ respondents who believe they were ever discriminated against when trying to vote or participate in politics either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total
Yes	10
No	82
Have never tried to vote or participate in politics (vol)	4
Don't know/Refused	3

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=230; LGBQ n=189)

Q52. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	16	13
Sometimes	45	46
Rarely	19	22
Never	14	13
DK/Ref	6	6

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=230; Transgender n=55)

Q53. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ Total	Transgender
Often	31	20
Sometimes	34	45
Rarely	13	11
Never	12	14
DK/Ref	10	10

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming; n=55)

Q54a. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	Transgender
Yes	10
No	85
DK/Ref	5

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBQ; n=189)

Q54b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	LGBQ
Yes	17
No	79
DK/Ref	4

Q54a/Q54b Combo Table

Based on half-sample A respondents who identify as LGBTQ; total n=230.

Total LGBTQ respondents who believe they were ever discriminated against when going to a doctor or health clinic either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total
Yes	16
No	82
DK/Ref	2

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=230; LGBQ n=189)

Q55. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination when applying to college or while at college?

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	16	13
Sometimes	42	43
Rarely	18	20
Never	20	20
DK/Ref	4	4

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=230; Transgender n=55)

Q56. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ Total	Transgender
Often	25	5
Sometimes	39	41
Rarely	13	14
Never	17	29
DK/Ref	6	11

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming and have ever applied to college; n=41)

Q57a. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when applying to college or while at college?**

Not enough cases for analysis of this question on its own

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBQ and have ever applied to college; n=164)

Q57b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when applying to college or while at college?**

	LGBQ
Yes	15
No	83
DK/Ref	2

Q57a/Q57b Combo Table

Based on half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ and have ever applied to college; total n=192.

Total LGBTQ respondents who believe they were ever discriminated against when applying to college or while at college either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total
Yes	20
No	79
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=230; LGBQ=189)

Q58. How often, if ever, do you believe **gay, lesbian, or bisexual people** where you live experience discrimination when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?

	LGBTQ Total	LGBQ
Often	20	18
Sometimes	48	51
Rarely	12	14
Never	17	13
DK/Ref	3	4

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ; Total LGBTQ n=230; Transgender n=55)

Q59. What about **transgender or gender non-conforming people** where you live?

	LGBTQ Total	Transgender
Often	36	35
Sometimes	40	31
Rarely	6	6
Never	16	28
DK/Ref	2	*

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming and have ever tried to rent or buy a place to live; n=41)

Q60a Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming identity) **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

Not enough cases for analysis of this question on its own

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBQ and have tried to rent or buy a place to live; n=144)

Q60b. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are (Respondent's own LGBQ identity) **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	LGBQ
Yes	20
No	79
DK/Ref	1

Q60a/Q60b Combo Table

Based on half-sample B respondents who identify as LGBTQ and have ever tried to rent or buy a place to live; total n=177.

Total LGBTQ respondents who believe they were ever discriminated against when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house either because of their LGBQ identity or because they were transgender, genderqueer, or gender non-conforming.

	LGBTQ Total
Yes	22
No	77
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q61. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern for the cost?

	LGBTQ
Yes	56
No	44
DK/Ref	*

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q62c Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern that you would be discriminated against or treated poorly because you or they are a part of the LGBTQ community?

	LGBTQ
Yes	18
No	82
DK/Ref	*

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q63. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

- a. Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

	LGBTQ
Yes, has happened	69
No, has not happened	31
DK/Ref	-

- b. Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

	LGBTQ
Yes, has happened	72
No, has not happened	28
DK/Ref	-

- c. People acted as if they were afraid of you

	LGBTQ
Yes, has happened	31
No, has not happened	69
DK/Ref	*

Q63a. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

If Yes, ask:

Q64a. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, your sexual orientation or gender identity, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63a/Q64a Combo Table
Based on total half-sample B; n=230)**

	LGBTQ
Someone has referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word (total)	69
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	19
Gender, gender, identity, or sexual orientation (NET)	57
Gender or gender identity (subnet)	24
Gender	20
Gender identity	9
Sexual orientation	48
Religion/Religious views (vol)	2
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	*
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	*
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	*
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	-
Handicap/disability (vol)	-
Personality (vol)	-
Social Reasons (vol)	-
Some other reason	4
DK/Ref	1
No, has not happened	31
DK/Ref	-

Q63b. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

If Yes, ask:

Q64b. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, your sexual orientation or gender identity, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63b/Q64b Combo Table
Based on total half-sample B; n=230)**

	LGBTQ
Someone has made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you (total)	72
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	18
Gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation (NET)	53
Gender or gender identity (subnet)	29
Gender	24
Gender identity	11
Sexual orientation	40
Religion/Religious views (vol)	1
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	2
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	*
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	2
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	1
Handicap/disability (vol)	1
Personality (vol)	1
Social reasons (vol)	-
Some other reason	3
DK/Ref	3
No, has not happened	28
DK/Ref	-

Q63c. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

People acted as if they were afraid of you

If Yes, ask:

Q64c. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, your sexual orientation or gender identity, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63c/Q64c Combo Table
Based on total half-sample B; n=230)**

	LGBTQ
People have acted as if they were afraid to you (total)	31
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	12
Gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation (NET)	15
Gender or gender identity (subnet)	7
Gender	4
Gender identity	5
Sexual orientation	11
Religion/Religious views (vol)	2
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	1
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	2
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	*
Envy/Jealousy	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	*
Handicap/disability (vol)	1
Personality (vol)	2
Social reasons (vol)	-
Some other reason	1
DK/Ref	2
No, has not happened	69
DK/Ref	*

III. Employment & Education

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace. For each of the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

(Asked of half-sample A; n=259)

Q67. **LGBTQ people** where I live have fewer employment opportunities just because they are part of the **LGBTQ community**. Do you...?

	LGBTQ
Strongly agree	25
Somewhat agree	34
Somewhat disagree	28
Strongly disagree	10
DK/Ref	3

(Asked of half-sample A; n=259)

Q71. **LGBTQ people** where I live are paid less than non-LGBTQ people for equal work, because of their sexuality or gender identity. Do you...?

	LGBTQ
Strongly agree	20
Somewhat agree	30
Somewhat disagree	21
Strongly disagree	22
DK/Ref	7

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about education and schooling. For each of the following statements about education and schooling, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q75. Because of the way the schools operate where I live, **LGBTQ children** here don't have the same chances to get a quality education as children who are **not LGBTQ**. Do you...?

	LGBTQ
Strongly agree	12
Somewhat agree	31
Somewhat disagree	30
Strongly disagree	22
DK/Ref	5

Now I have a different type of question, but still about education.

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q76. When you were growing up, were you encouraged to apply to college, discouraged from applying for college, or was this never discussed?

	LGBTQ
Encouraged to apply to college	64
Discouraged from applying for college	10
Never discussed	25
DK/Ref	1

IV. Community Environment

Q79. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly LGBTQ people, or not?

	LGBTQ
Predominantly LGBTQ	8
Not predominantly LGBTQ	85
DK/Ref	7

Q80. If you were describing the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly upper income, mostly middle income, or mostly lower income, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	LGBTQ
Upper income	9
Middle income	54
Lower income	19
Don't have enough information	18

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q81. If you were describing the health and well-being of the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly excellent health, good health, only fair health, or poor health, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	LGBTQ
Excellent health	13
Good health	33
Only fair health	21
Poor health	7
Don't have enough information	26

Q83. Have you or a friend or family member who is also part of the **LGBTQ community** been told or felt as though you wouldn't be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development you were interested in because you are part of the **LGBTQ community**?

	LGBTQ
Yes	32
No	65
DK/Ref	3

Q84. Have you ever thought about moving or relocating to another area because you experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where you were living?

If Yes, ask:

Have you thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved or have you actually moved or relocated because of discrimination?

	LGBTQ
No, I've never thought about it	69
Yes, have thought about moving because of discrimination where I live (NET)	31
I've thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved	21
I've actually moved/relocated because of discrimination	10
DK/Ref	*

(Asked of half-sample B; n=230)

Q85. Compared to other places to live, do you think the (INSERT ITEM) where you live is BETTER, WORSE, or ABOUT THE SAME as other places to live?

- a. Availability of grocery stores

	LGBTQ
Better	37
Worse	10
About the same	52
DK/Ref	1

- b. Air quality

	LGBTQ
Better	38
Worse	18
About the same	40
DK/Ref	4

- c. Quality of drinking water

	LGBTQ
Better	29
Worse	11
About the same	56
DK/Ref	4

- d. Quality of available housing

	LGBTQ
Better	24
Worse	26
About the same	48
DK/Ref	2

- e. Quality of available doctors or health care services

	LGBTQ
Better	35
Worse	11
About the same	50
DK/Ref	4

f. Quality of public schools

	LGBTQ
Better	29
Worse	21
About the same	45
DK/Ref	5

g. Availability of local employment opportunities

	LGBTQ
Better	28
Worse	19
About the same	48
DK/Ref	5

h. Amount of crime

	LGBTQ
Better	52
Worse	16
About the same	32
DK/Ref	*

i. Availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas

	LGBTQ
Better	42
Worse	15
About the same	42
DK/Ref	1

j. Availability of public transportation options

	LGBTQ
Better	32
Worse	33
About the same	34
DK/Ref	1

V. Public Safety

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.

(Asked of half-sample A; n=259)

Q88. Have you ever avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern that you or others in your family would be discriminated against because you or they are part of the LGBTQ community?

	LGBTQ
Yes	15
No	83
DK/Ref	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q89. Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?

If Yes, ask:

Q90. How often would you say you avoided doing things you might normally do, to avoid the police or government authority figures?

Q89/Q90 Combo Table

Based on total half-sample A; n=259

	LGBTQ
Have ever avoided doing things they might normally do because they wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures	21
Frequently	3
Sometimes	9
Not often	9
No, have not	79
DK/Ref	-

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions about things that may have ever happened to you. Some of these may be difficult to think or talk about, but please do your best. Your honest answers can really help.

(Asked of half-sample A; n=259)

Q93. Do you believe that you or a friend or family member who is also part of the **LGBTQ community** has (INSERT ITEM) because you or they are part of the **LGBTQ community**?

Q93 Summary Table: % saying "Yes"

	LGBTQ
Experienced sexual harassment	51
Been threatened or non-sexually harassed	57
Been unfairly stopped or treated by the police	26
Been unfairly treated by the courts	26
Experienced violence	51

(Asked of half-sample A; n=259)

Q94. Have you or a friend or family member who is also part of the **LGBTQ community** ever been verbally harassed when entering or while using a bathroom, or been told or asked if you or they were using the wrong bathroom?

	LGBTQ
Yes	34
No	66
DK/Ref	*

Q96. In the past year, have you been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization, or ballot issue encouraging you to vote or support their cause during an election? For example, someone knocking on your door or calling you on the phone?

	LGBTQ
Yes	57
No	42
DK/Ref	1

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

	LGBTQ
Registered to vote	79
Registered at current address	67
Registered somewhere else	12
Not registered to vote	21
DK/Ref	-

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

If registered to vote, ask:

Q98. Did you vote in the 2016 presidential election when Hillary Clinton ran against Donald Trump, did something prevent you from voting, or did you choose not to vote?

Q97/Q98 Combo Table
Based on total respondents

	LGBTQ
Registered to vote	79
Yes, voted	67
No, did not vote	12
Not registered to vote	21
DK/Ref	-

VI. Health Demographics

Q99. In general, how would you describe your own physical health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	LGBTQ
Excellent	23
Very good	30
Good	24
Fair	20
Poor	3
DK/Ref	-

Q100. In general, how would you describe your own mental health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	LGBTQ
Excellent	23
Very good	27
Good	22
Fair	21
Poor	6
DK/Ref	1

Q101. Does any disability keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	LGBTQ
Yes	23
No	77
DK/Ref	-

Q102. Has a doctor or other health care professional ever told you that you have a chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or a mental health condition, or haven't they?

	LGBTQ
Yes	46
No	54
DK/Ref	-

Q103. Do you receive regular care from the Veterans Administration?

	LGBTQ
Yes	3
No	97
DK/Ref	*

Q105. Do you have a regular doctor or health care professional that provides most of your health care when you are sick or have a health concern, or do you not?

	LGBTQ
Yes	74
No	26
DK/Ref	-

Q106. Where do you usually go when you are sick or when you need advice about your health? Is it a hospital emergency room, a clinic at a hospital, a neighborhood clinic or health center, a private doctor's office, or do you have no usual place of care?

	LGBTQ
Hospital emergency room	7
Clinic at a hospital	13
Neighborhood clinic or health center	22
Private doctor's office	44
No usual place of care	13
Urgent Care (vol)	*
Veterans Administration/Military care (vol)	*
Other	1
DK/Ref	*

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

	LGBTQ
Yes	84
No	15
DK/Ref	1

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

If covered by health insurance, ask:

Q108. Which of the following is your **main** source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, a plan through your parents, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

**Q107/Q108 Combo Table
Based on total respondents**

	LGBTQ
Yes, covered by health insurance	84
Plan through your employer	28
Plan through your spouse's employer	6
Plan you purchased yourself either through an insurance company or state or federal marketplace	5
Medicare	12
Medicaid	14
Plan through your parents	14
Veterans administrative/Military (vol)	1
Somewhere else	2
DK/Ref	2
No, not covered by health insurance	15
DK/Ref	1

VII. Demographics

S3. Do you consider yourself to be...?

LGBQ Identity Table

	LGBTQ
Heterosexual/Straight*	13
LGBQ Identity (NET)	84
Gay/Lesbian	37
Bisexual	36
Queer/Other	11
Refused	4

*Because the total LGBTQ sample consists of both LGBQ and transgender respondents, a person may identify as either straight or LGBQ.

TG-01. Some people describe themselves as transgender when they experience a different gender identity from their sex at birth. For example, a person who was raised male, but who identifies as female. Some people who do not identify as either male or female might also call themselves transgender. Do you consider yourself to be transgender?

Gender Identity Table

	LGBTQ
No, cisgender	76
Yes, transgender	17
Yes, genderqueer or gender non-conforming	6
Refused	*

(Ask if cisgender)

S4a. What is your gender? Male, female, or a different identity I haven't mentioned (specify)?

(Ask if transgender or genderqueer or not male or female in S4a)

S4b. How would you describe your gender? Select all of the following that apply.

Gender Identity Expanded Table

	LGBTQ
Male (cisgender)	33
Female (cisgender)	44
Transgender male	5
Transgender female	12
Genderqueer or gender non-conforming	6
Refused	*

Self-Reported Gender Table

	LGBTQ
Male (cisgender and transgender men)	38
Female (cisgender and transgender women)	56
Genderqueer or gender non-conforming	6

Age Table

	LGBTQ
18 to 29	41
30 to 49	31
50 to 64	20
65 or older	8
Refused	-

D3. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	LGBTQ
High school or less (NET)	42
Less than high school (grades 1-11, grade 12, but no diploma)	12
High school graduate or equivalent (e.g. GED)	30
Some college but no degree (incl. 2 year occupational or vocational programs)	26
College or post graduate (NET)	32
College graduate (e.g. BA, AB, BS)	21
Postgraduate (e.g. MA, MS,, Med, MSW, MBA, MD, DDs, PhD, JD, LLB, DVM)	11
DK/Ref	-

D4. Are you currently employed full-time, part-time, or not currently employed?

	LGBTQ
Employed full-time	43
Employed part-time	18
Not currently employed	39
DK/Ref	-

Race Table

	LGBTQ
White (non-Hispanic)	61
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	12
Hispanic or Latino	18
Asian (non-Hispanic)	6
Native American (American Indian/Alaska Native)	1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	*
Other/No answer	2

D11. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed or have you never been married?

	LGBTQ
Married	24
Living with a partner	14
Divorced	7
Separated	6
Widowed	2
Never been married	48
Refused	*

D12/D12a/D12b Income Summary Table

	LGBTQ
<\$25,000 per year	36
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	19
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 or more	21
Unspecified under \$100,000	4
Don't know	3
Refused	2

D15. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, an Independent, or what?

	LGBTQ
Republican	7
Democrat	44
Independent	37
Other	8
DK/Ref	4