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RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

STATE PROFILES OF LGBT POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

December 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Recent research at the national level shows that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are more vulnerable to economic insecurity compared to cisgender heterosexual people. In particular, LGBT people are more likely to be poor and food insecure.¹ We know little about LGBT poverty in individual states, but variation in public policies and public attitudes related to LGBT people may limit economic opportunities and access to income in some states more than others.² For the first time, this report provides state-level poverty comparisons between LGBT people and cisgender heterosexual people (discussed here as “cis straight people”) in 35 states presented by four regions in alphabetical order. We use the Census Bureau’s designated regions and divisions to organize the state profiles.

We draw on recent state-level data from the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey collected in 2014–2017. The BRFSS includes a module asking about self-identified sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) that 35 states chose to include in their state-level survey in at least one of those years, allowing us to estimate poverty rates at the state level. A companion national report, *LGBT Poverty in the United States*, provides details on the dataset and measures used here.³

In this report, we present comparisons of poverty rates by SOGI status. An individual is considered poor if their self-reported family income falls below the official federal poverty threshold for the size of their household. For example, in 2015, a family of two adults and one child would have been considered living in poverty if their annual income was less than \$19,078. In addition, wherever possible, we make comparisons by SOGI and several key social statuses that are traditionally assessed in general research on economic stability: gender, race, age, and urban–rural residence.

However, we are limited in the types of comparisons that are possible, because the sample sizes of the LGBT population are relatively small for each state. We conducted weighted and design-adjusted statistical tests to see if observed differences in poverty rates are statistically significant (i.e., unlikely to exist because of chance.) When the sample size of a particularly detailed group (such as African American LGBT people or LGBT people in rural areas) is less than 20 people, we do not report comparisons between that group and others. Unless otherwise noted, any comparisons reported in the text are statistically significant at the 10% level or below. At the end, we provide a table of population-based estimates for 35 states (see Appendix A).

¹ Badgett, Choi, and Wilson (2019) and Brown, Romero, and Gates (2016).

² <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/lgbtdivide/#>

³ Badgett, M.V.L., Choi, S.K., & Wilson, B.D.M. (2019, October). *LGBT poverty in the United States: A study of differences between sexual orientation and gender identity groups*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.; <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/National-LGBT-Poverty-Oct-2019.pdf>

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This report is intended as a resource for state-specific research and public policy work related to poverty. We do not make statistical comparisons of one state to any other, but we do see some notable general patterns in each region.

Midwest

When comparing LGBT people to cis straight people in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, the data indicate the following patterns:

- LGBT people have higher poverty rates than cis straight people in all eight states. In Missouri, the difference is statistically significant at the 10% significance cutoff; the difference is not significant at the 5% cutoff used in the national report.
- Transgender people have higher poverty rates than cisgender people (or cis men) in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and Ohio.
- LGBT people of color have higher poverty rates than White LGBT people in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio.
- LGBT people who are 18–44 years old have higher rates of poverty than LGBT people aged 45 or older in all eight states.
- In Minnesota and Ohio, rural LGBT people had higher poverty than urban LGBT people.

Northeast

When comparing LGBT people to cis straight people in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont, the data indicate the following patterns:

- In all six states, LGBT people have higher poverty rates than cis straight people. In Massachusetts, the difference is statistically significant at the 10% significance cutoff but not significant at the 5% cutoff used in the national report.
- Transgender people have higher poverty rates than cisgender people (or cis men) in Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.
- LGBT people of color have higher poverty rates than White LGBT people in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.
- In general, LGBT people aged 18–44 have higher rates of poverty than LGBT people aged 45 or older in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.
- With the exception of New York, the sample sizes of LGBT people in rural areas were too small to detect significant differences compared to LGBT people in urban areas. In New York, LGBT people in urban areas had a higher poverty rate than those in rural areas.

South

When comparing LGBT people to cis straight people in Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, the data indicate the following patterns:

- LGBT people have higher poverty rates than cis straight people in Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. Florida is the only state where cis straight people are more likely to be poor than LGBT people at the 10% significance cutoff; the difference is not significant at the 5% cutoff used in the national report.
- Transgender people have higher poverty rates than cisgender people (or cis men) in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas, and Virginia.
- LGBT people of color have higher poverty rates than White LGBT people in Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.
- LGBT people aged 18–44 have higher rates of poverty than LGBT people age 45 or older in Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- In most of these states, the sample sizes of LGBT people in rural areas was too small to detect significant differences compared to LGBT people in urban areas. In West Virginia, urban LGBT people's poverty rate was higher than for rural LGBT people; in Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia, rural LGBT people had higher poverty than urban LGBT people.

West

When comparing LGBT people to cis straight people in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming, the data indicate the following patterns:

- LGBT people have higher poverty rates than cis straight people in Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming. In Wyoming, the difference is statistically significant at the 10% significance cutoff but not significant at the 5% cutoff used in the national report.
- Transgender people have higher poverty rates than cisgender people (or cis men) in California, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, and Washington.
- LGBT people of color have higher poverty rates than White LGBT people in California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington.
- In general, LGBT people aged 18–44 have higher rates of poverty than LGBT people aged 45 or older in California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, and Washington.
- In most of these states, the sample sizes of LGBT people in rural areas was too small to detect significant differences compared to LGBT people in urban areas. In Montana, urban LGBT people's poverty rate was higher than for rural LGBT people; in Washington, rural LGBT people had higher poverty than urban LGBT people.

STATE PROFILES

MIDWEST

The following section reviews LGBT poverty rates in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Illinois

In the 2015–2017 BRFSS survey for Illinois, 452 people identified as LGBT and 12,309 people identified as cis straight. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 1). We also assessed SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 1. Poverty rates in Illinois by SOGI

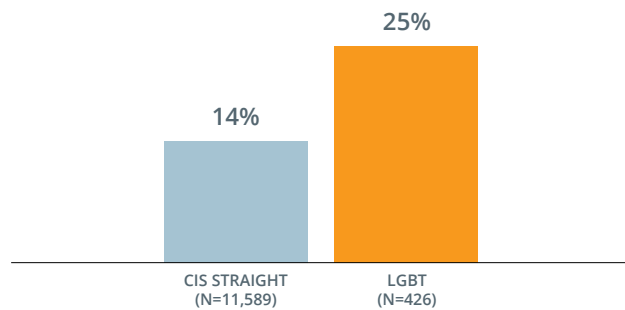
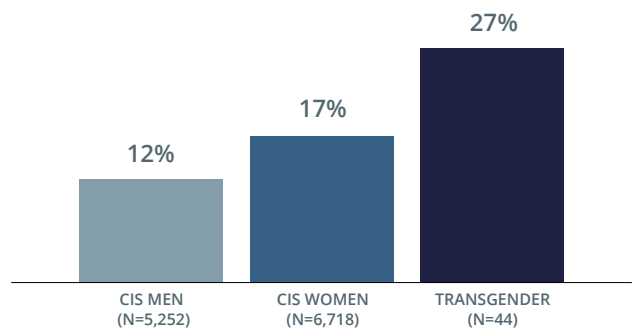


Figure 2. Poverty rates in Illinois by gender identity

- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people and cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Although the poverty rate was higher for transgender people than cis women, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 2).



- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. However, the difference in poverty rates among LGBT and cis straight people of color was not statistically significant (Figure 3).
- People of color had higher poverty rates than White people in both LGBT and cis straight groups.
- Of those aged 18–44, more LGBT people (30%) were in poverty than cis straight people (19%). Similarly, of those aged 45 or older, LGBT people (16%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (10%).
- LGBT younger adults had a higher poverty rate than LGBT older adults.

Figure 3. Poverty rates in Illinois by SOGI and race

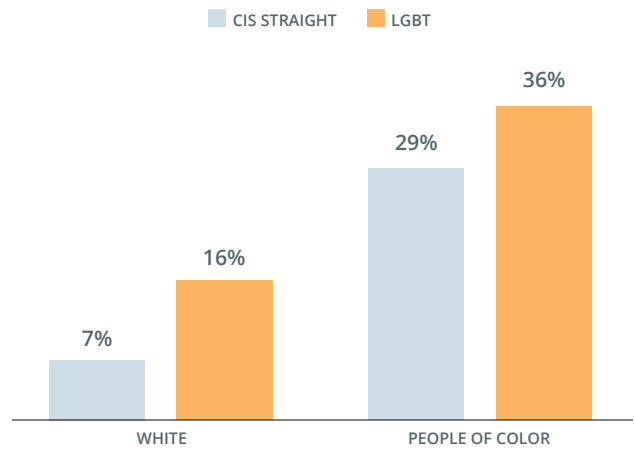
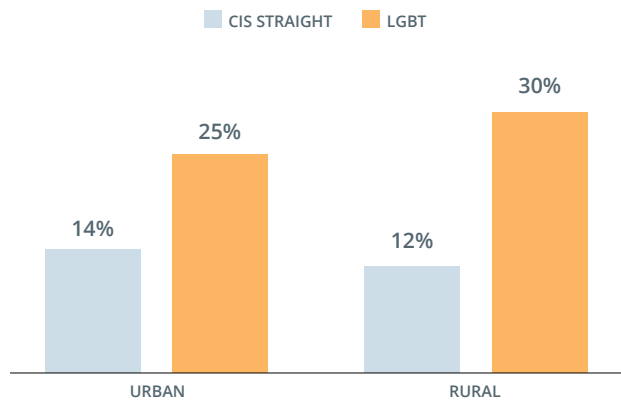


Figure 4. Poverty rates in Illinois by SOGI and urbanicity



- A higher proportion of LGBT people (90%) lived in urban areas of Illinois than cis straight people (87%). Conversely, more cis straight people (13%) lived in rural Illinois than LGBT people (10%).
- LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people in both urban and rural areas. However, the difference in poverty rate between urban and rural LGBT people was not statistically significant (Figure 4).

Indiana

In the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey, 1,131 people identified as LGBT and 35,374 people identified as cis straight in Indiana. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 5). When examining SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity, we see similar patterns.

Figure 5. Poverty rates in Indiana by SOGI

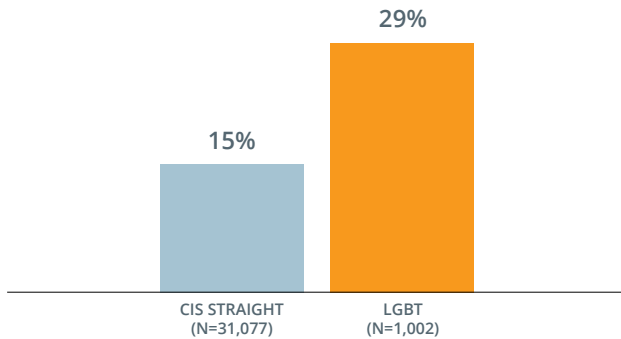
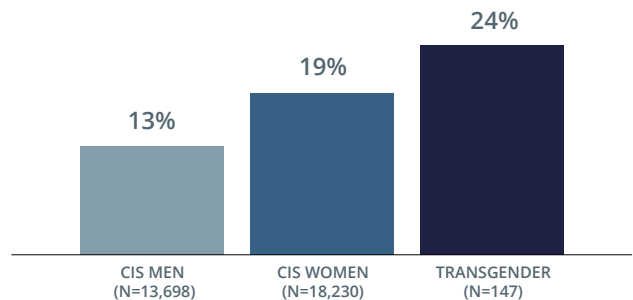


Figure 6. Poverty rates in Indiana by gender identity

- Across all sexual orientations, transgender and cis women had higher poverty rates than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis women, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 6).



- Among White people and people of color, LGBT people had higher poverty rates than their cis straight counterparts (Figure 7).
- LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (34%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (21%). Similarly, LGBT people aged 45 or older (18%) had a higher poverty rate than their cis straight counterparts (11%).
- The poverty rate was higher for younger LGBT people than older LGBT people.

Figure 7. Poverty rates in Indiana by SOGI and race

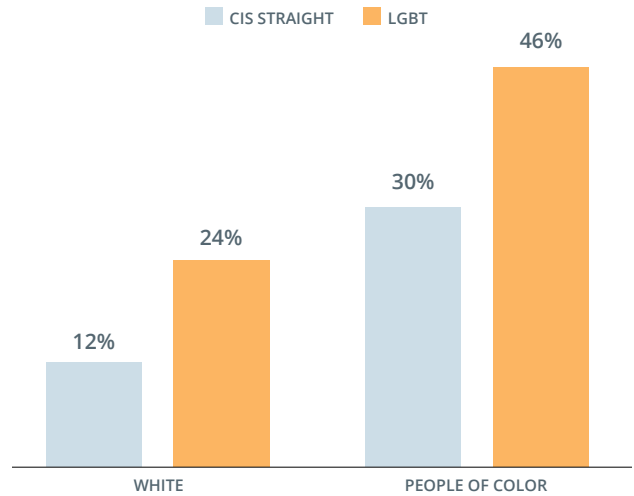
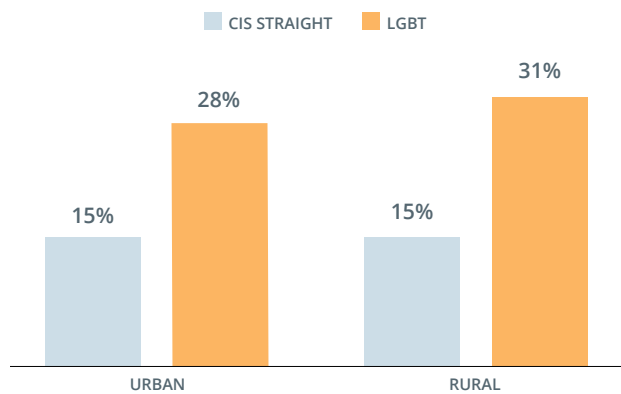


Figure 8. Poverty rates in Indiana by SOGI and urbanicity

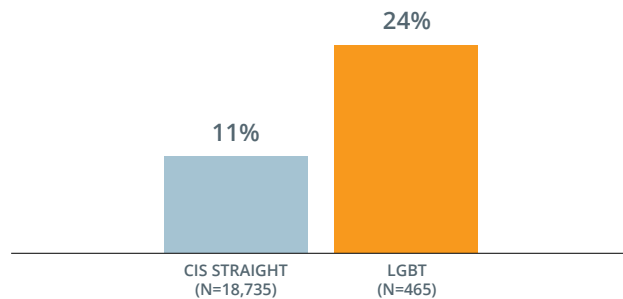


- Most LGBT people (80%) lived in urban areas and 20% lived in rural areas of Indiana. In addition, most cis straight people (77%) also lived in urban areas and 23% lived in rural areas.
- LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people in both urban and rural areas (Figure 8). Although more LGBT people in rural areas were in poverty than those in urban areas, this difference was not statistically significant.

Iowa

In Iowa, 546 people identified as LGBT and 21,623 identified as cis straight in the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 9). We also looked at SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity in relation to SOGI.

Figure 9. Poverty rates in Iowa by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people and cis women had higher poverty rates than cis men. However, the difference between transgender people and cis women was not statistically significant (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Poverty rates in Iowa by gender identity

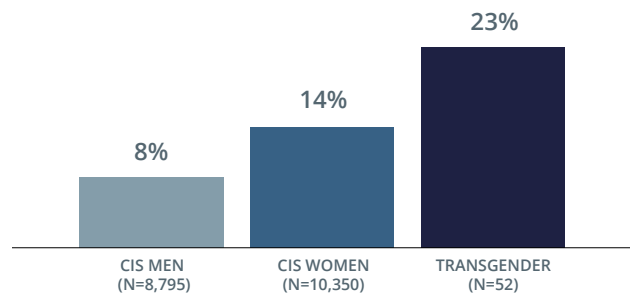
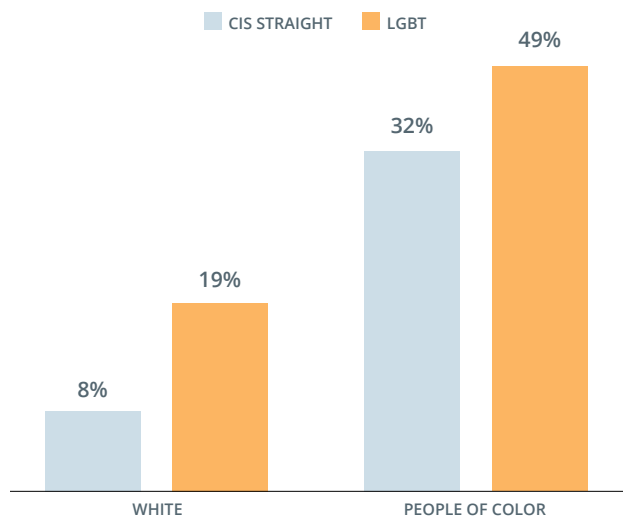


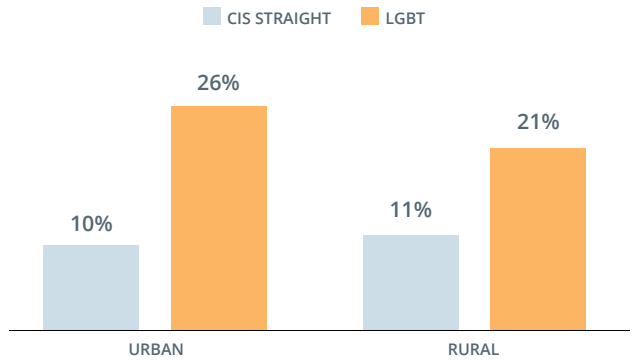
Figure 11. Poverty rates in Iowa by SOGI and race



- White LGBT people and LGBT people of color had higher poverty rates than their cis straight counterparts.
- LGBT people of color also had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people (Figure 11).
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (33%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (15%). However, LGBT and cis straight people in the age group 45 or older had statistically the same poverty rate.
- LGBT younger adults (aged 18–44) also had a higher poverty rate than LGBT adults aged 45 or older (8%).

- More LGBT people (68%) lived in the urban areas of Iowa than cis straight people (55%). Conversely, more cis straight people (45%) lived in the rural areas of Iowa than LGBT people (32%).
- A higher proportion of LGBT people were in poverty than cis straight people in both urban and rural areas. Although more LGBT people in urban areas were in poverty than those living in rural areas, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 12).

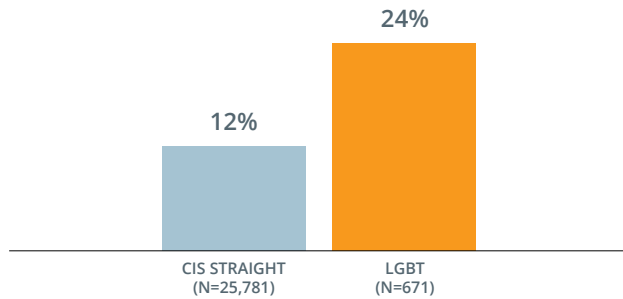
Figure 12. Poverty rates in Iowa by SOGI and urbanicity



Kansas

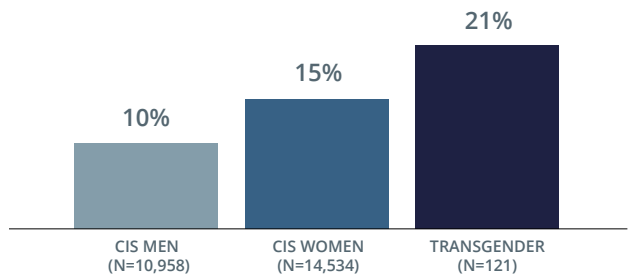
In the 2014–2015 Kansas BRFSS survey, 785 people identified as LGBT and 30,310 identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 13). Looking at how poverty rates vary by SOGI, we also examined the relevance of gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 13. Poverty rates in Kansas by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people and cis women had higher poverty rates than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis women, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Poverty rates in Kansas by gender identity



- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people of color (Figure 15).
- People of color had higher poverty rates than White people in both LGBT and cis straight groups.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (31%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (18%). Of those aged 45 or older, there was no difference in poverty rate between LGBT and cis straight people.
- Younger LGBT people aged 18–44 (31%) also had a higher poverty rate than older LGBT people, i.e., aged 45 or older (10%).

Figure 15. Poverty rates in Kansas by SOGI and race

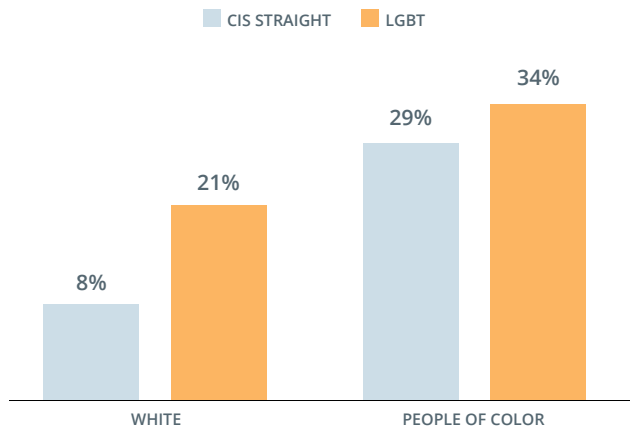
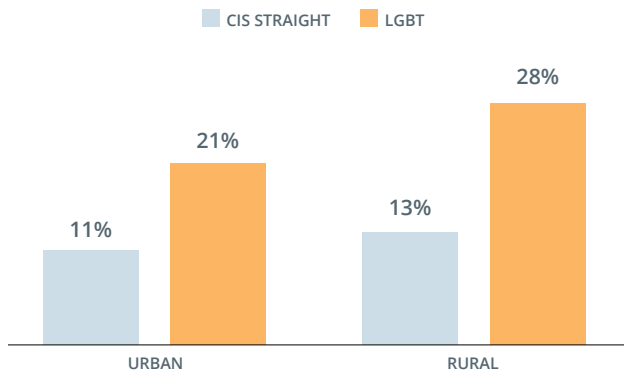


Figure 16. Poverty rates in Kansas by SOGI and urbanicity

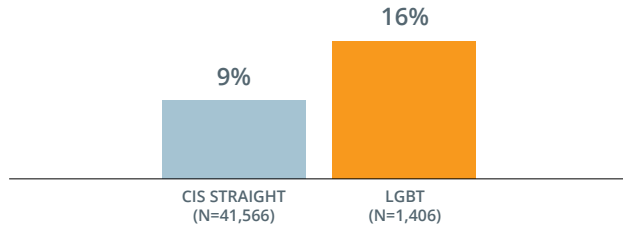


- In Kansas, 69% of LGBT people lived in urban areas whereas 31% lived in rural areas. Similarly, 69% of cis straight people lived in urban areas and 34% lived in rural areas.
- LGBT people in urban and rural areas had higher poverty rates than their cis straight counterparts. Although the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people in rural areas than urban areas, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 16).

Minnesota

In the 2014–2017 Minnesota BRFSS survey, 1,943 people identified as LGBT and 56,118 identified as cis straight. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 17). We identified other patterns of poverty rates by SOGI when assessing differences by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 17. Poverty rates in Minnesota by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people had the highest poverty rate, followed by cis women and cis men (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Poverty rates in Minnesota by gender identity

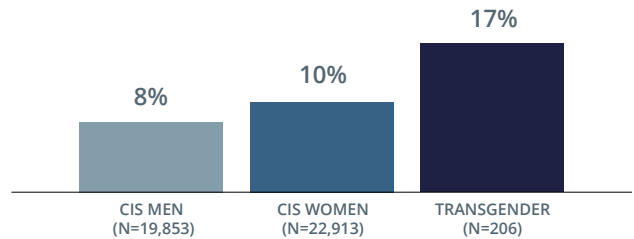
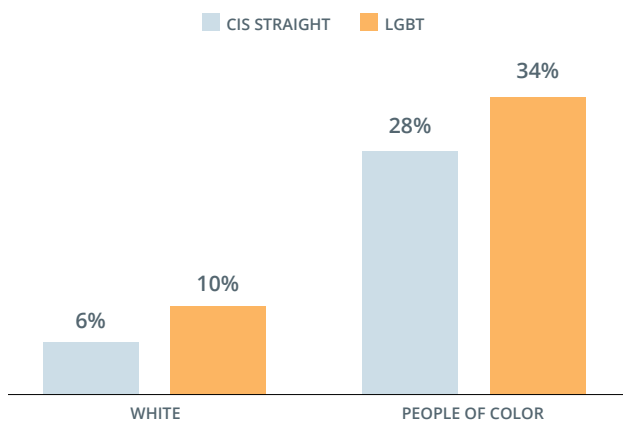
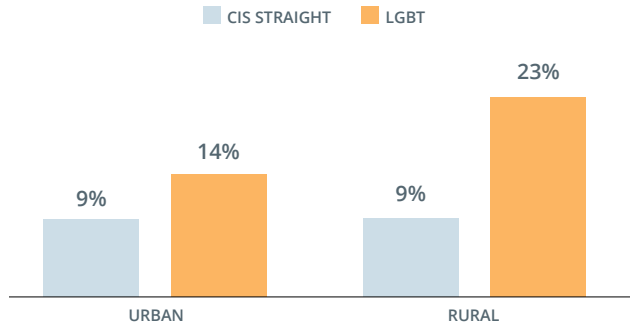


Figure 19. Poverty rates in Minnesota by SOGI and race



- The poverty rate was higher for White LGBT people than White cis straight people. Although LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than their cis straight counterparts, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 19).
- People of color had higher poverty rates than White people in both LGBT and cis straight groups.

Figure 20. Poverty rates in Minnesota by SOGI and urbanicity

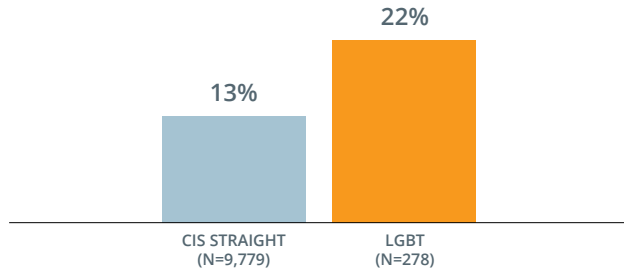


- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (22%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (13%). Of those aged 45 or older, LGBT people (8%) also had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (5%).
- More younger LGBT people were in poverty than older LGBT people.
- Most LGBT (82%) and cis straight people (75%) lived in urban areas of Minnesota. Eighteen percent of LGBT people and 25% of cis straight people lived in rural areas.
- In urban and rural areas, LGBT people had higher poverty rates than their cis straight counterparts. LGBT people in rural areas also had a higher poverty rate than those in urban areas (Figure 20).

Missouri

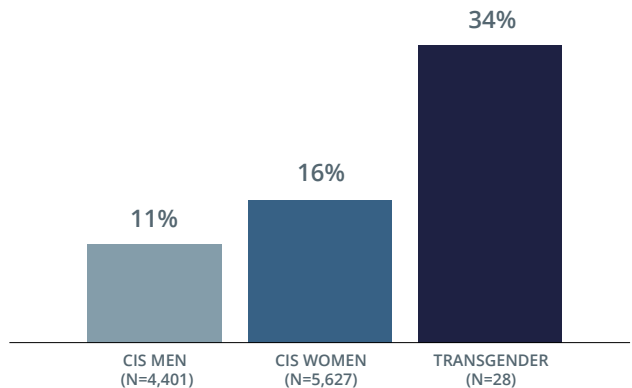
In the 2015–2016 Missouri BRFSS survey, 331 people identified as LGBT and 12,080 identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 21). We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 21. Poverty rates in Missouri by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between transgender people and cis women or between transgender people and cis men (Figure 22).

Figure 22. Poverty rates in Missouri by gender identity



- Poverty rates were higher for LGBT people of color than cis straight people of color. The difference in poverty rates between White cis straight and LGBT people was not statistically significant (Figure 23).
- Among LGBT people, people of color had a higher poverty rate than White people.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (32%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (19%). There was no statistically significant difference between LGBT and cis straight people among those aged 45 or older.
- Younger LGBT people (32%) also had a higher poverty rate than older LGBT people aged 45 or older (17%).

Figure 23. Poverty rates in Missouri by SOGI and race

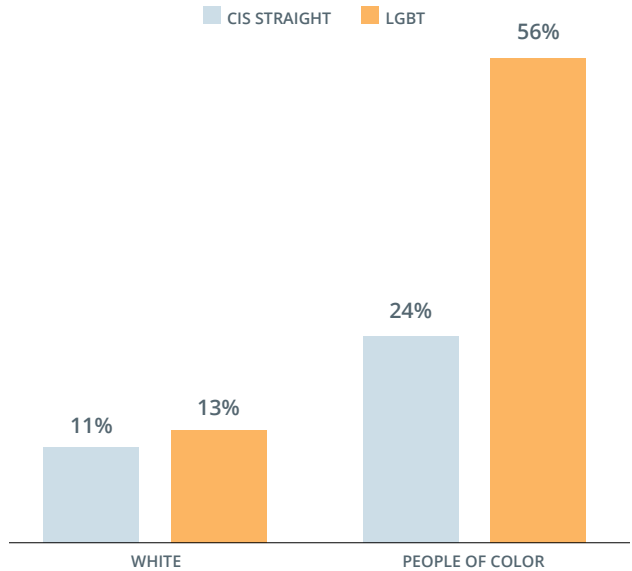
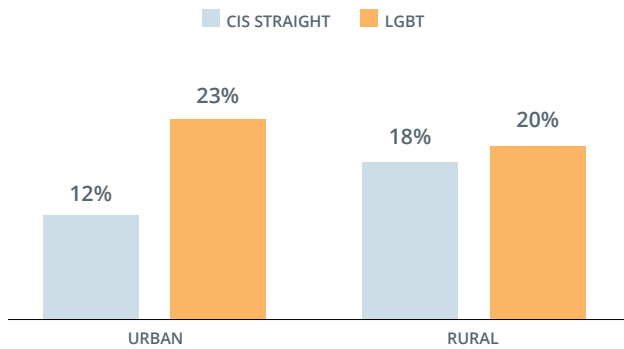


Figure 24. Poverty rates in Missouri by SOGI and urbanicity



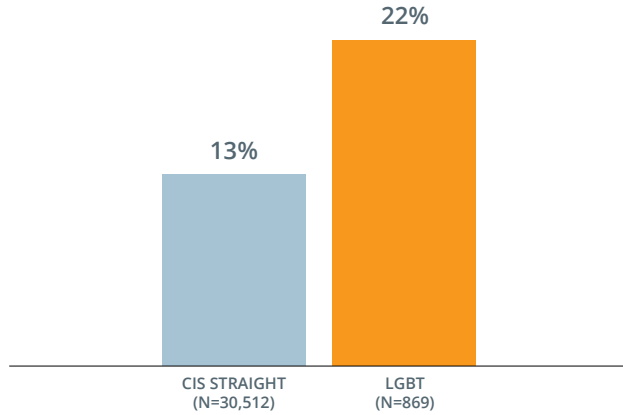
- Among LGBT people, 82% lived in urban areas and 18% lived in rural areas. Among cis straight people, 72% lived in urban areas and 29% lived in rural areas.
- In urban areas, more LGBT people were in poverty than cis straight people (Figure 24). Although LGBT people in rural areas had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people in rural areas, this difference was not statistically significant.

- The poverty rates of LGBT people in urban and rural areas were not statistically different.

Ohio

In the 2014–2017 Ohio BRFSS survey, 1,213 people identified as LGBT and 39,994 identified as cis straight. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 25). We identified similar patterns of poverty rates by SOGI when considering differences by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 25. Poverty rates in Ohio by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people and cis women had higher poverty rates than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis women, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 26).

Figure 26. Poverty rates in Ohio by gender identity

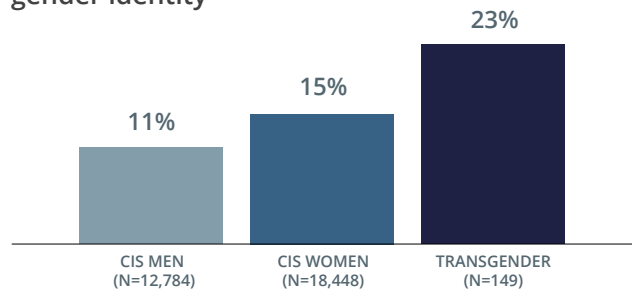
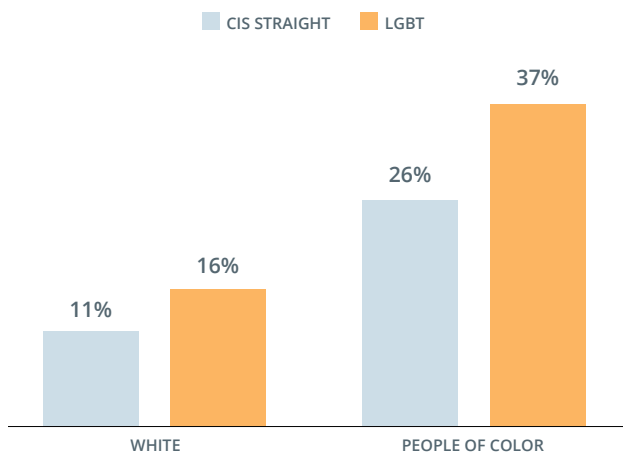


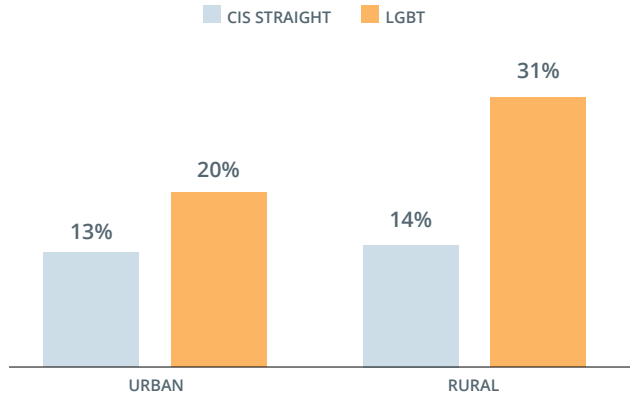
Figure 27. Poverty rates in Ohio by SOGI and race



- LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people among White people and people of color (Figure 27).
- Among LGBT people, more people of color were in poverty than White people.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (66%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (41%). However, among those aged 45 or older, cis straight people (59%) had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people (34%).
- Younger LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than older LGBT people.

- More LGBT people (84%) lived in urban areas than cis straight people (78%) in Ohio. Conversely, more cis straight people (22%) lived in rural areas than LGBT people (16%).
- In urban and rural areas, LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people. LGBT people in rural areas had a higher poverty rate than those who lived in urban areas (Figure 28).

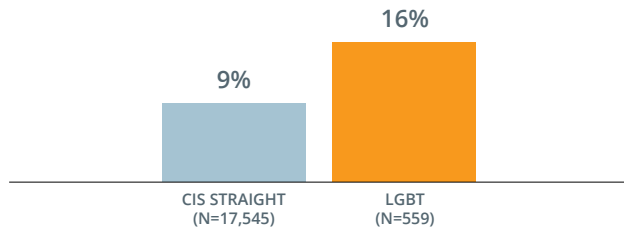
Figure 28. Poverty rates in Ohio by SOGI and urbanicity



Wisconsin

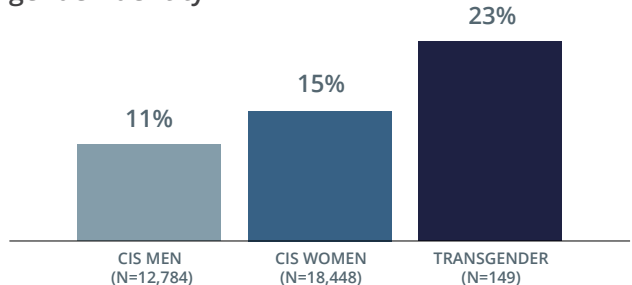
In the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey, 619 people identified as LGBT and 19,364 identified as cis straight in Wisconsin. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 29). To explore how poverty rates vary by SOGI, we also examined the relevance of gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 29. Poverty rates in Wisconsin by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis women and cis men, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 30).

Figure 30. Poverty rates in Wisconsin by gender identity



- More White LGBT people were in poverty than White cis straight people. Among people of color, cis straight people had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people, but this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 31).
- There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between LGBT people of color and White LGBT people.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (21%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (13%). LGBT people in this age group also had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people aged 45 or older (8%).

Figure 31. Poverty rates in Wisconsin by SOGI and race

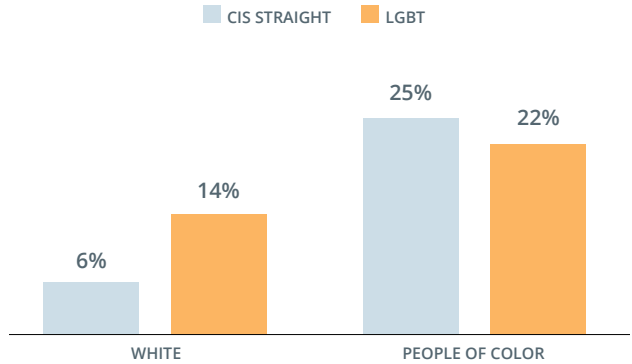
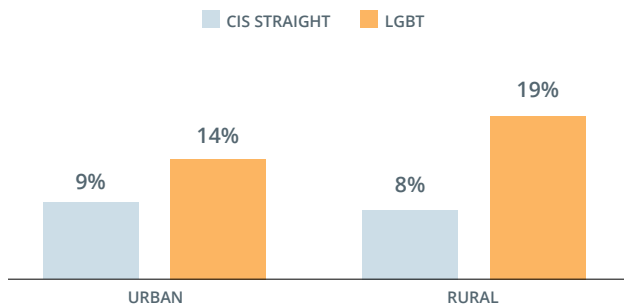


Figure 32. Poverty rates in Wisconsin by SOGI and urbanicity



- More LGBT people (75%) lived in urban areas compared to cis straight people (69%). Conversely, more cis straight people (31%) than LGBT people (25%) lived in rural areas.
- LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people in urban and rural areas (Figure 32). Although more LGBT people in rural areas were in poverty than those in urban areas, this difference was not statistically significant.

NORTHEAST

The following section reviews LGBT poverty rates in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Connecticut

There were 941 people who identified as LGBT and 27,313 people who identified as cis straight in the 2015–2017 Connecticut BRFSS survey. Poverty rates were higher for LGBT people than cis straight people in Connecticut (Figure 33). We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 33. Poverty rates in Connecticut by SOGI

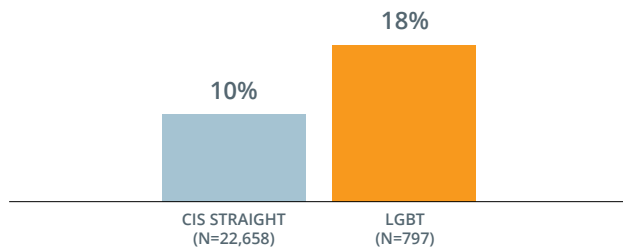
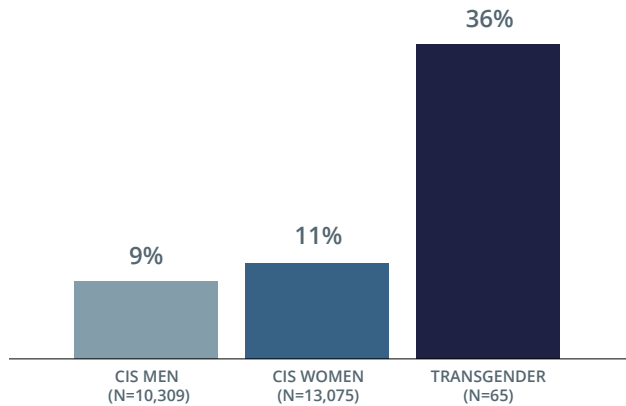


Figure 34. Poverty rates in Connecticut by gender identity

- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people had the highest poverty rate, followed by cis women, then cis men (Figure 34).



- Poverty rates were higher for White LGBT people than White cis straight people. However, there was no statistically significant difference between LGBT and cis straight people of color (Figure 35).
- LGBT and cis straight people of color had higher poverty rates than their White counterparts.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (20%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (15%). We see the same pattern among those aged 45 or older, with a higher poverty rate among LGBT people (13%) compared to cis straight people (7%).
- In both the cis straight and LGBT groups, more younger people were in poverty than older people.

Figure 35. Poverty rates in Connecticut by SOGI and race

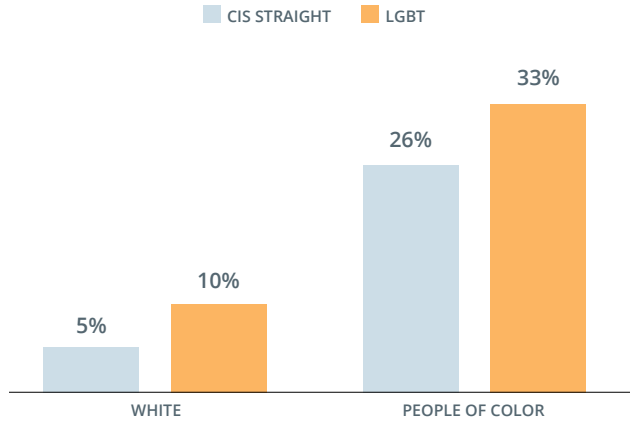
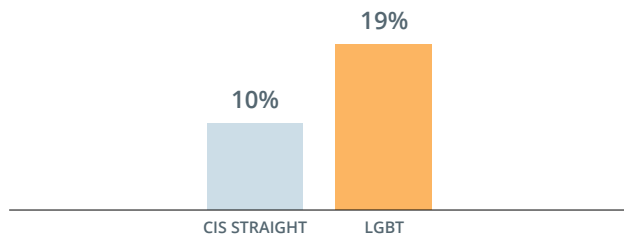


Figure 36. Poverty rates in Connecticut by SOGI in urban areas



- In Connecticut, 96% of LGBT people lived in urban areas and 4% lived in rural areas. Similarly, 95% of cis straight people lived in urban areas compared to 5% in rural areas.
- In urban areas, more LGBT people (19%) than cis straight people (10%) were in poverty. Due to small sample size, we are not able to report on LGBT people living in poverty in rural areas (Figure 36).

Massachusetts

In the 2015–2017 BRFSS survey, 1,067 people identified as LGBT and 18,716 identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people (13%) than cis straight people (9%; Figure 37). Looking at how poverty rates vary by SOGI, we also examined the relevance of gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 37. Poverty rates in Massachusetts by SOGI

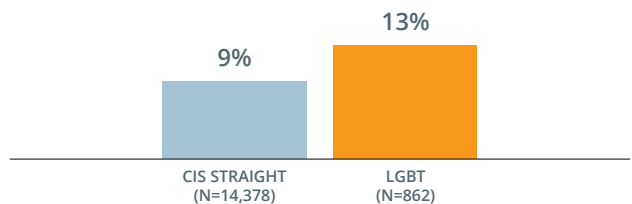
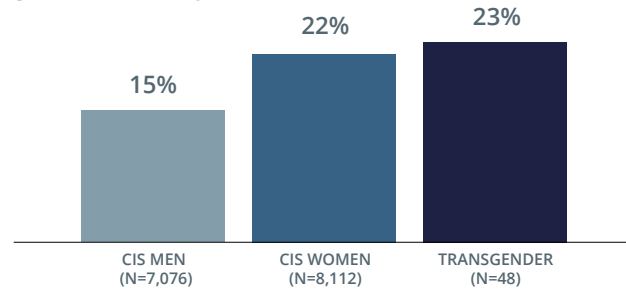


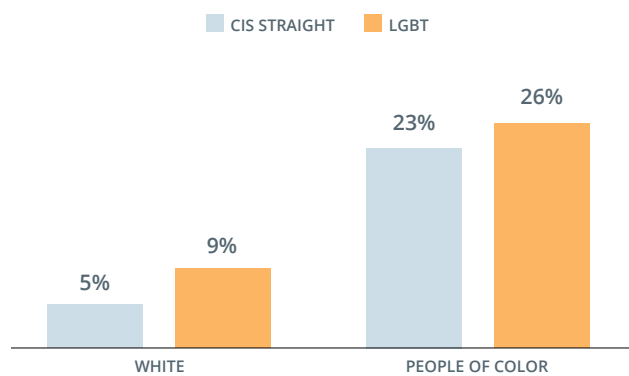
Figure 38. Poverty rates in Massachusetts by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men (Figure 38). Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than other groups, these differences were not statistically significant.

- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. Among people of color, there was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people (Figure 39).
- Poverty rates were higher for people of color than White people for both cis straight and LGBT people.
- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people among those in the age groups 18–44 and 45 or older.
- LGBT people aged 18–44 (16%) had a higher poverty rate than did LGBT people aged 45 or older (8%).
- In Massachusetts, most LGBT (99%) and cis straight (98%) people lived in urban areas.
- There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people who lived in urban areas. Because of small sample sizes, we cannot provide an estimate of the poverty rate of LGBT people in rural areas in Massachusetts.

Figure 39. Poverty rates in Massachusetts by SOGI and race



New York

In the 2014-2017 New York BRFSS survey, 2,371 people identified as LGBT and 51,034 identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 40). Below are SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 40. Poverty rates in New York by SOGI

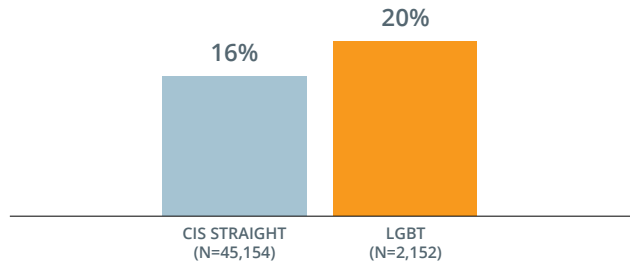
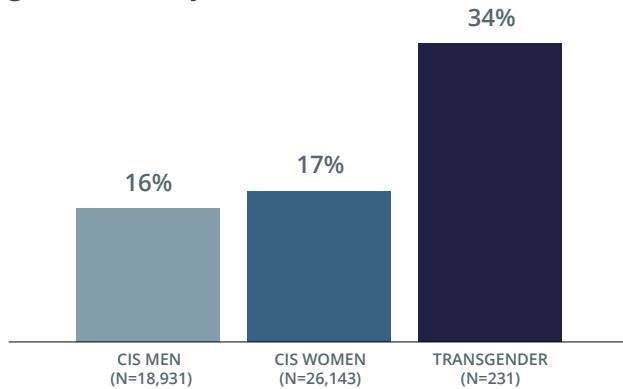


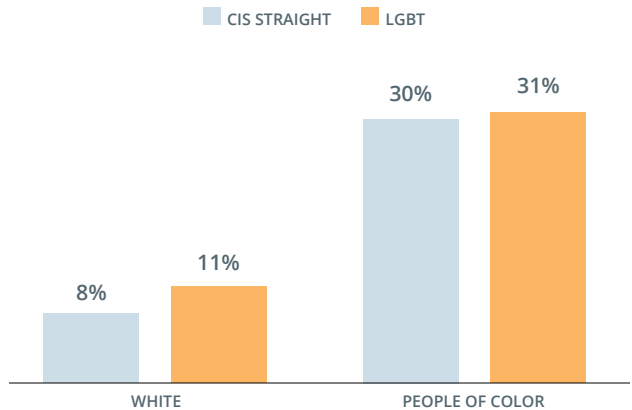
Figure 41. Poverty rates in New York by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, poverty rates were highest for transgender people, followed by cis women, then cis men (Figure 41).

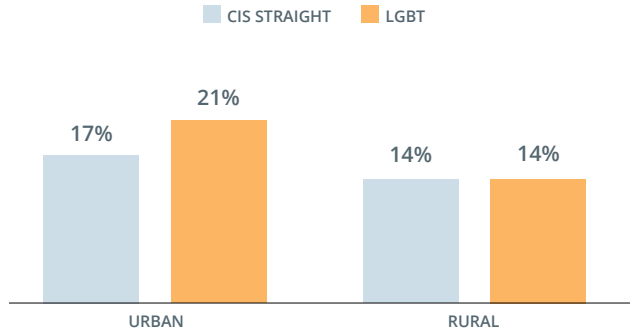
- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between cis straight and LGBT people of color (Figure 42).
- People of color had higher poverty rates than White people for both cis straight and LGBT people.
- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people in either age groups 18-44 or 45 or older.
- LGBT people aged 45 or older (14%) had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people aged 18-44 (11%) in New York.

Figure 42. Poverty rates in New York by SOGI and race



- Most LGBT (92%) and cis straight (91%) people lived in urban areas in New York. A small proportion of LGBT people (8%) and cis straight people (9%) lived in rural areas.
- More LGBT people in urban areas were in poverty than cis straight people. In rural areas, the poverty rate was the same regardless of SOGI (Figure 43).
- LGBT people in urban areas had a higher poverty rate than those in rural areas.

Figure 43. Poverty rates in New York by SOGI and urbanicity



Pennsylvania

According to the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey, 843 people identified as LGBT and 24,504 people identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 44). SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity were also examined.

Figure 44. Poverty rates in Pennsylvania by SOGI

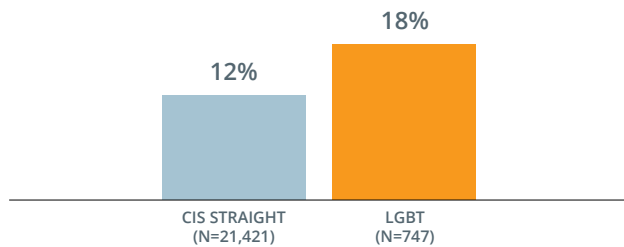


Figure 45. Poverty rates in Pennsylvania by gender identity

- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Cis women also had a higher poverty rate than cis men. The difference in poverty rate between cis women and transgender people was not statistically significant (Figure 45).

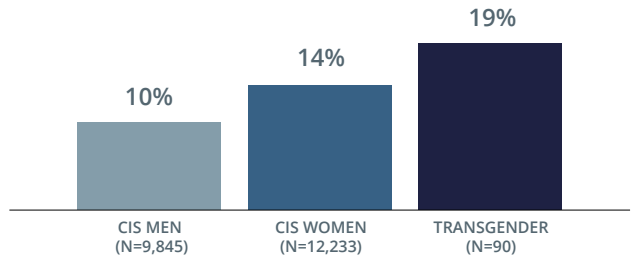
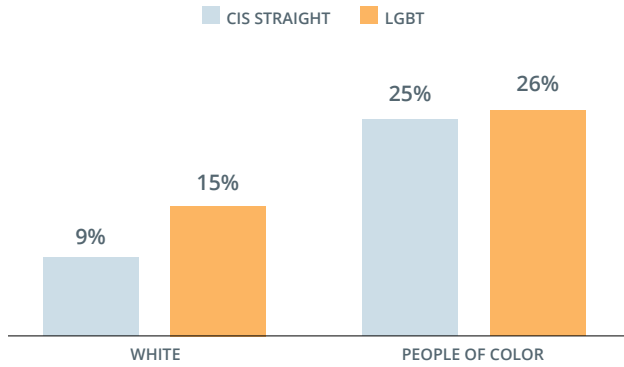


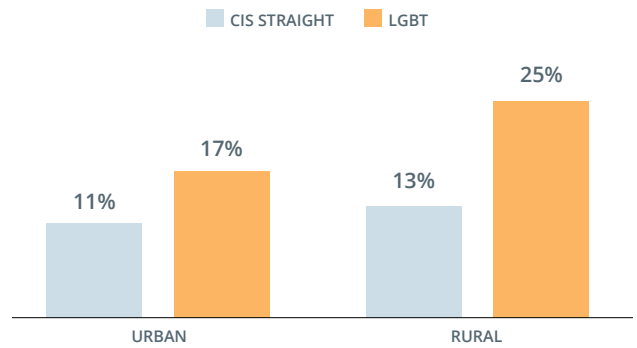
Figure 46. Poverty rates in Pennsylvania by SOGI and race



- More White LGBT people were in poverty than White cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference between poverty rates of LGBT and cis straight people of color (Figure 46).
- However, people of color had higher poverty rates than White people in both LGBT and cis straight groups.

- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people among those aged 18–44 and 45 or older.
- LGBT people aged 18–44 (21%) had a higher poverty rate than those aged 45 or older (13%).

Figure 47. Poverty rates in Pennsylvania by SOGI and urbanicity



- A higher proportion of LGBT people (91%) lived in urban areas of Pennsylvania compared to cis straight people (86%). Conversely, more cis straight people (14%) lived in rural areas than LGBT people (9%).
- More LGBT people than cis straight people were in poverty in urban areas. We see the same pattern in rural areas, with more LGBT people in poverty than cis straight people. However, the poverty rates between LGBT people in urban and rural areas did not differ statistically (Figure 47).

Rhode Island

In the 2016–2017 Rhode Island BRFSS survey, 425 people identified as LGBT and 9,103 people identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 48). We also examined SOGI poverty relative to gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 48. Poverty rates in Rhode Island by SOGI

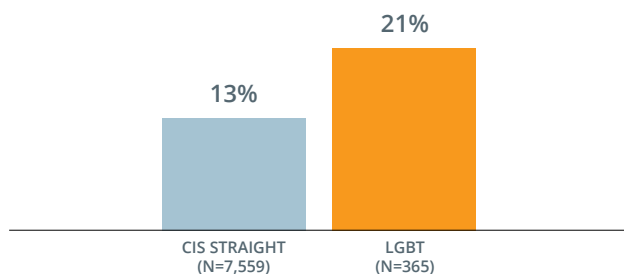
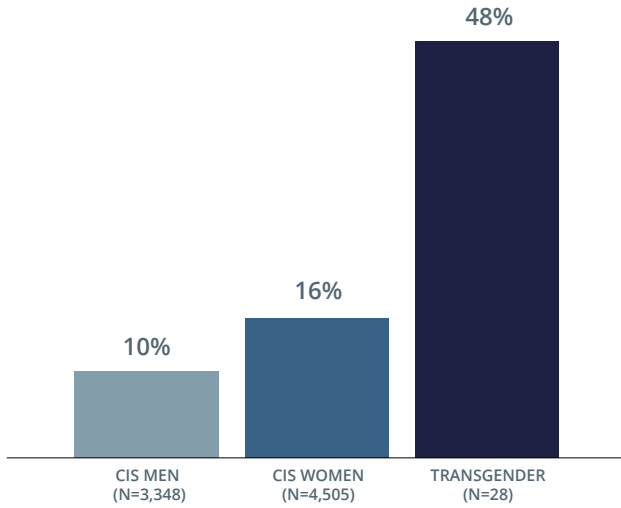


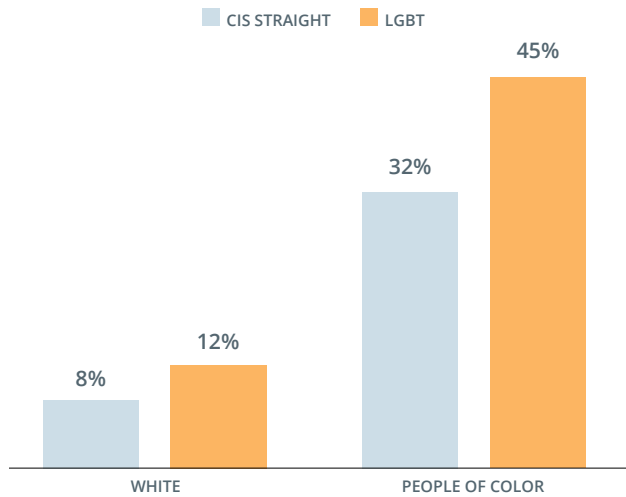
Figure 49. Poverty rates in Rhode Island by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, poverty rates were highest for transgender people, followed by cis women and cis men (Figure 49).

- Although LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people by race, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 50).
- LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people. We see the same pattern among cis straight people.
- Of those aged 45 or older, LGBT people (16%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (9%). Of those aged 18–44, there was no difference in poverty rate between LGBT and cis straight people.
- In Rhode Island, too few LGBT people in rural areas were included in the survey to conduct any analyses. Therefore, we can only report on those living in urban areas, of whom most identified as cis straight (95%); 5% identified as LGBT. Additionally, the poverty rate for those living in urban areas does not differ from the overall poverty rate by SOGI (Figure 48).

Figure 50. Poverty rates in Rhode Island by SOGI and race



Vermont

In the 2014, 2016, and 2017 BRFSS survey, 800 people identified as LGBT and 16,521 identified as cis straight. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 51). We identified other patterns of poverty rates by SOGI when exploring differences by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 51. Poverty rates in Vermont by SOGI

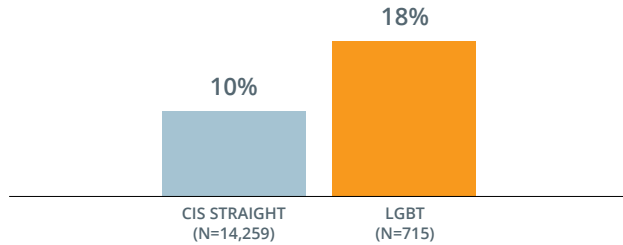
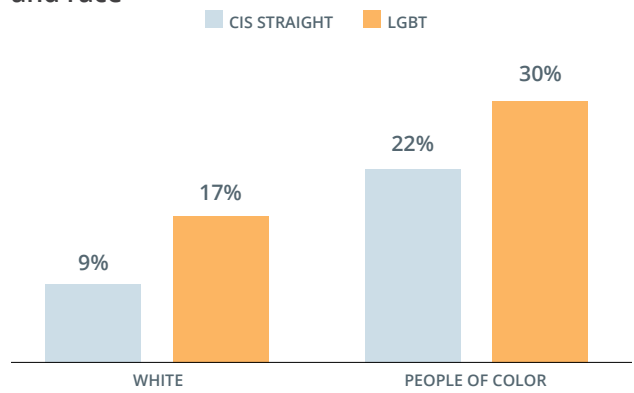
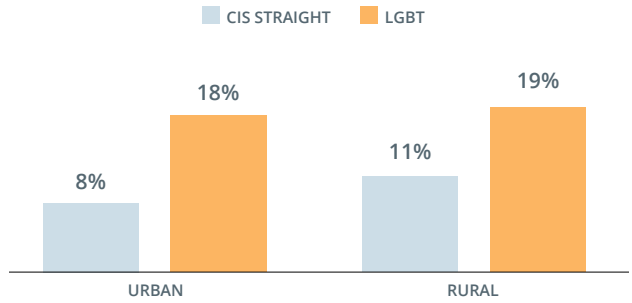


Figure 52. Poverty rates in Vermont by SOGI and race



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women (11%) had a higher poverty rate than cis men (10%). Transgender people and cis women had the same poverty rate (11%), but the poverty rate between transgender people and cis men was not statistically significant.
- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. Although the poverty rate is higher for LGBT people of color than cis straight people of color, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 52).
- There was also no statistically significant difference between the poverty rates of White LGBT people and LGBT people of color.

Figure 53. Poverty rates in Vermont by SOGI and urbanicity



- Of those aged 18–44, the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people (24%) than cis straight people (14%). Of those aged 45 or older, there was no difference in poverty rates by SOGI.
- Younger LGBT people (24%) also had a higher poverty rate than older LGBT people, i.e., aged 45 or older (9%).
- More LGBT people (42%) than cis straight people (34%) lived in urban areas in Vermont. Conversely, more cis straight people (66%) than LGBT people (59%) lived in rural Vermont.
- In both urban and rural areas, LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 53). However, the poverty rates between LGBT people in urban areas and rural areas were similar.

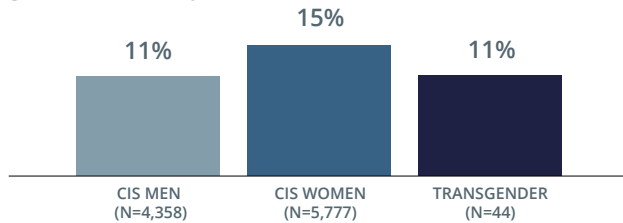
SOUTH

The following section reviews LGBT poverty rates in Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Delaware

In the 2014-2017 BRFSS, 592 people identified as LGBT and 13,764 identified as cis straight in Delaware. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people (15%) than cis straight people (13%), but this difference was not statistically significant. Poverty rates by gender, race, age, and urbanicity in relation to SOGI are also presented below.

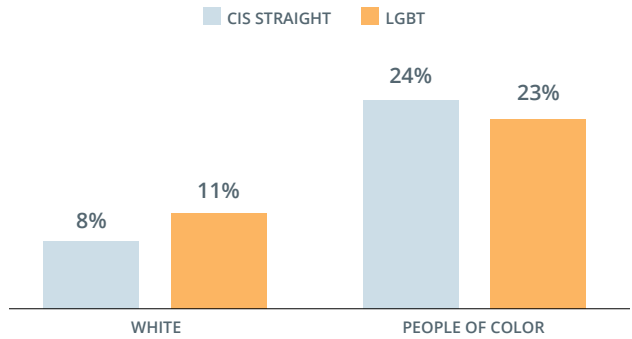
Figure 54. Poverty rates in Delaware by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Transgender people had the same poverty rate as cis men but did not differ statistically compared to cis women (Figure 54).

- There were no differences in poverty rates between cis straight and LGBT people among White people and people of color. People of color had a higher poverty rate than White people across both cis straight and LGBT groups (Figure 55).
- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people within the age groups of 18–44 and 45 or older.
- LGBT people aged 18–44 (23%) had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people aged 45 or older (6%).
- In Delaware, there were no results for people living in rural areas. We can only report on those living in urban areas, of whom most identified as cis straight (95%); 5% identified as LGBT. Additionally, the poverty rate for those living in urban areas does not differ from the overall poverty rate comparing LGBT and cis straight people as previously reported.

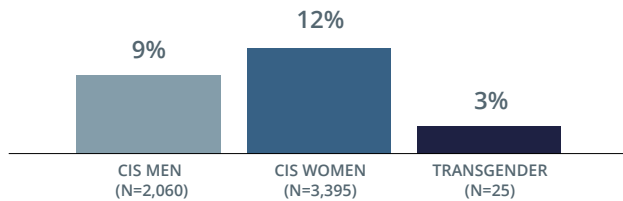
Figure 55. Poverty rates in Delaware by SOGI and race



Florida

In the 2017 Florida BRFSS survey, 605 people identified as LGBT and 16,865 people identified as cis straight. Cis straight people (11%) had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people (7%), but this difference was not statistically significant. We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 56. Poverty rates in Florida by gender identity

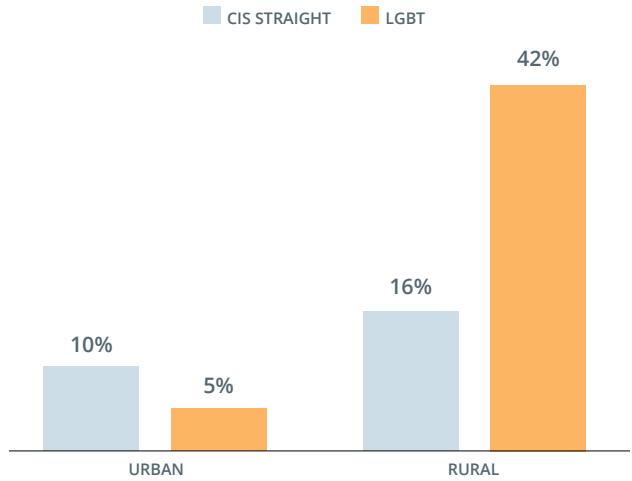


- Across all sexual orientations, cis women and cis men had higher poverty rates than transgender people in Florida. Although cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 56).

- We found no differences by racial groups between LGBT and cis straight people. People of color had higher poverty rates than White people among cis straight people, but not among LGBT people.
- Of those aged 45 or older, cis straight people (10%) had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people (1%). There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates by SOGI among those aged 18–44.
- More LGBT people aged 18–44 (33%) were in poverty than those aged 45 or older (1%).

- Most LGBT people (96%) in Florida lived in urban areas; 4% lived in rural areas. Among cis straight people, 95% lived in urban areas and 5% lived in rural areas.
- Cis straight people had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people in urban areas. In rural areas, although LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 57).
- The poverty rate was significantly higher for LGBT people in rural areas than for those in urban areas.

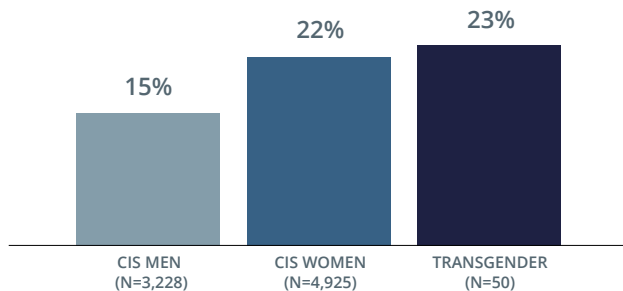
Figure 57. Poverty rates in Florida by SOGI and urbanicity



Georgia

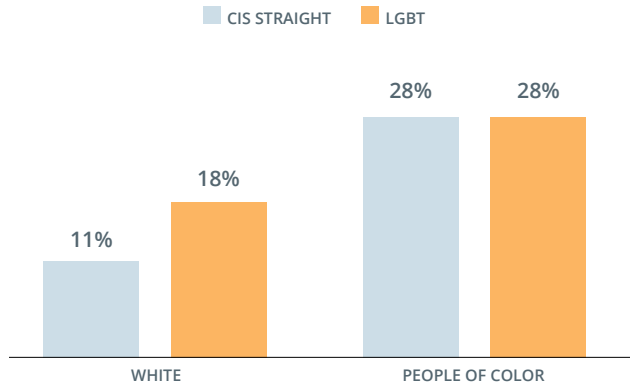
In the 2015–2017 BRFSS survey, 418 people identified as LGBT and 11,744 identified as cis straight in Georgia. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people (22%) than cis straight people (18%); however, this difference was not statistically significant. We identified other patterns of poverty rates by SOGI when looking at differences by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 58. Poverty rates in Georgia by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis men and cis women, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 58).

Figure 59. Poverty rates in Georgia by SOGI and race

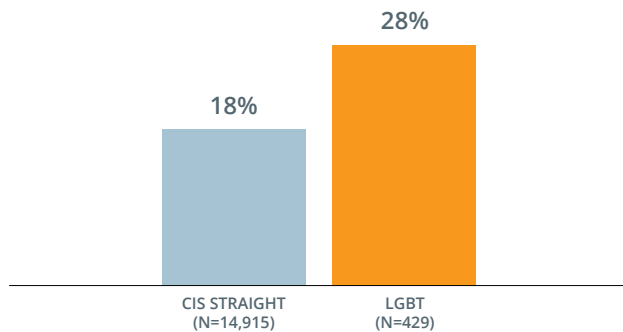


- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. Although LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 59).
- There were no statistically significant differences comparing poverty rates of LGBT and cis straight groups by age (18–44 versus 45 or older).
- More LGBT people (83%) lived in urban areas than cis straight people (78%). Conversely, more cis straight people (22%) than LGBT people (17%) lived in rural areas.
- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people in urban and rural areas.

Kentucky

In the 2014 and 2016 BRFSS survey, 499 people identified as LGBT and 17,881 people identified as cis straight in Kentucky. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 60). We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 60. Poverty rates in Kentucky by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people had the highest poverty rate, followed by cis women and cis men (Figure 61).

Figure 61. Poverty rates in Kentucky by gender identity

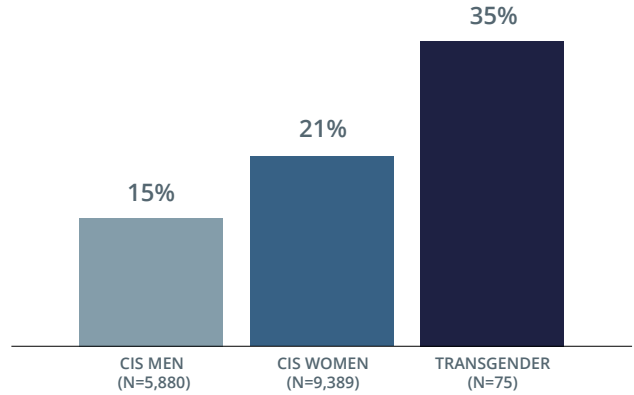
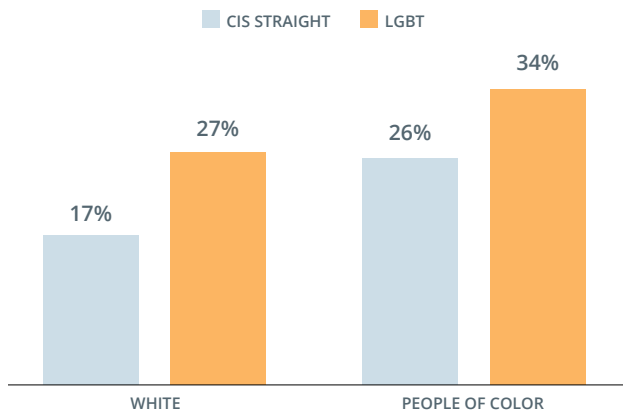
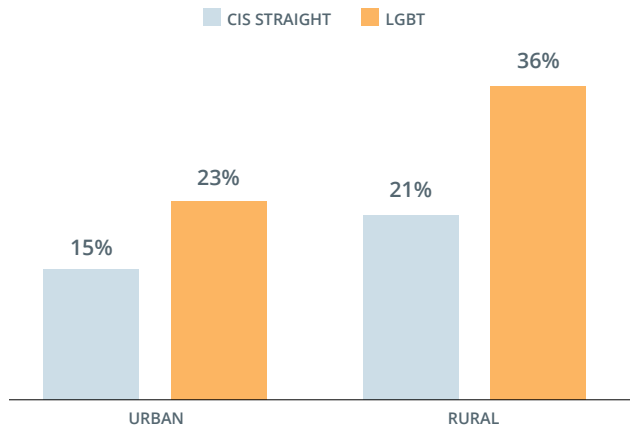


Figure 62. Poverty rates in Kentucky by SOGI and race



- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference between LGBT and cis straight people of color.
- Although poverty rates were higher for LGBT people of color than LGBT White people, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 62).

Figure 63. Poverty rates in Kentucky by SOGI and urbanicity



- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (34%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (22%). There was no statistically significant difference in SOGI poverty rates among those aged 45 or older.
- More LGBT people aged 18–44 (34%) were in poverty than LGBT people aged 45 or older (16%)
- A higher proportion of LGBT people (67%) than cis straight people (56%) lived in urban areas of Kentucky. Conversely, more cis straight people (44%) than LGBT people (33%) lived in rural areas.
- LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people in urban and rural areas. Additionally, more LGBT people in rural areas were in poverty than were people in urban areas (Figure 63).

Louisiana

In the 2014, 2016, and 2017 BRFSS survey, 439 people identified as LGBT and 14,154 identified as cis straight in Louisiana. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 64). Poverty rates by gender, race, age, and urbanicity in relation to SOGI are also presented.

Figure 64. Poverty rates in Louisiana by SOGI

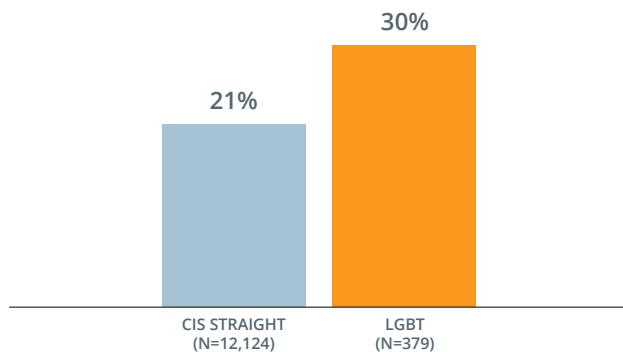
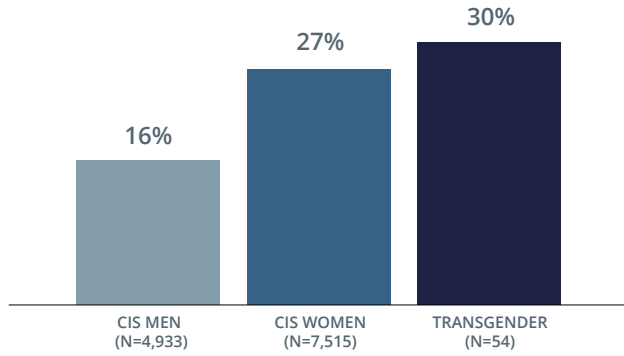


Figure 65. Poverty rates in Louisiana by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, the poverty rate was higher for cis women than cis men. Although transgender people had the highest poverty rate, this rate did not differ statistically from that of cis women and cis men (Figure 65).

- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference between cis straight and LGBT people of color (Figure 66).
- People of color had significantly higher poverty rates than White people in both cis straight and LGBT groups.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (37%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (26%). There was no difference in poverty rates by SOGI among those aged 45 or older.
- More LGBT people aged 18–44 (37%) were in poverty than LGBT people aged 45 or older (17%).

Figure 66. Poverty rates in Louisiana by SOGI and race

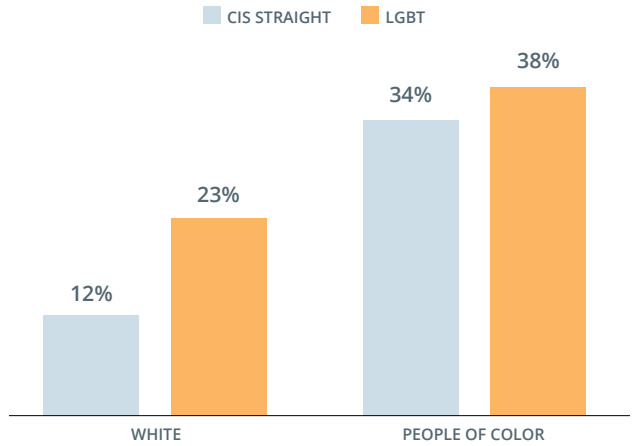
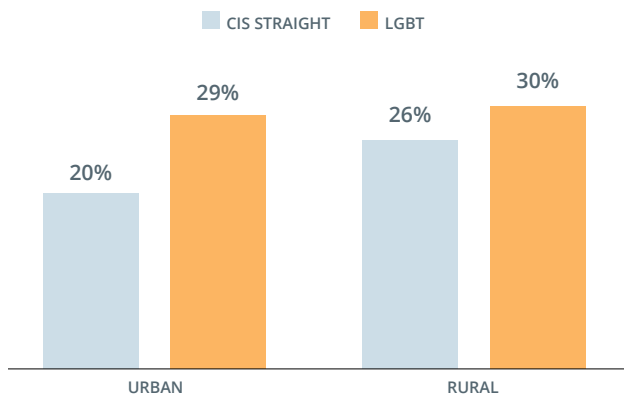


Figure 67. Poverty rates in Louisiana by SOGI and urbanicity

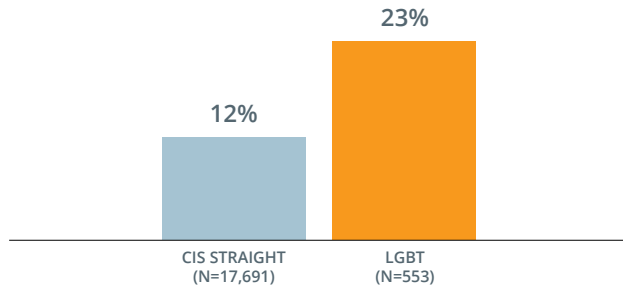


- A higher proportion of LGBT people (89%) lived in urban areas than cis straight people (83%) in Louisiana. Conversely, more cis straight people (17%) lived in rural areas than LGBT people (11%).
- In urban areas, LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference between LGBT and cis straight people in rural areas nor between LGBT people in rural and urban areas (Figure 67).

Maryland

In the 2014–2015 BRFSS survey, 620 people identified as LGBT and 21,396 identified as cis straight in Maryland. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 68). We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 68. Poverty rates in Maryland by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people and cis women had significantly higher poverty rates than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis women, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 69).

Figure 69. Poverty rates in Maryland by gender identity

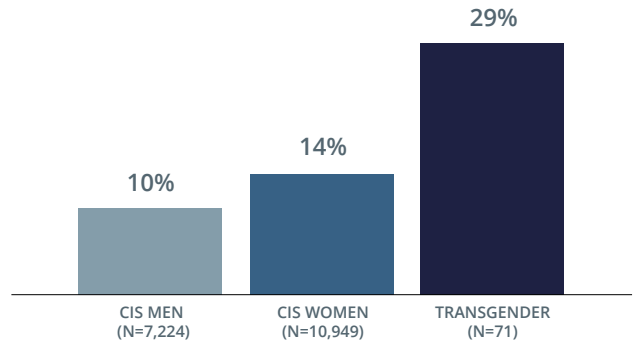
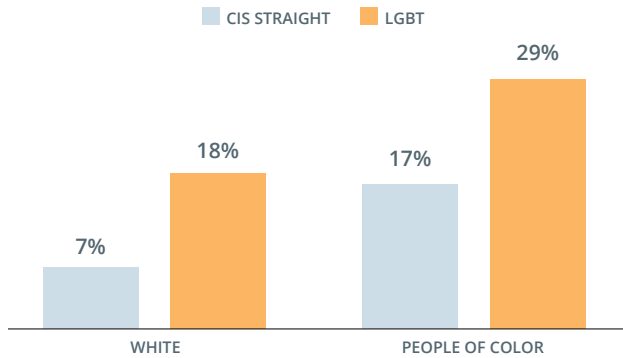


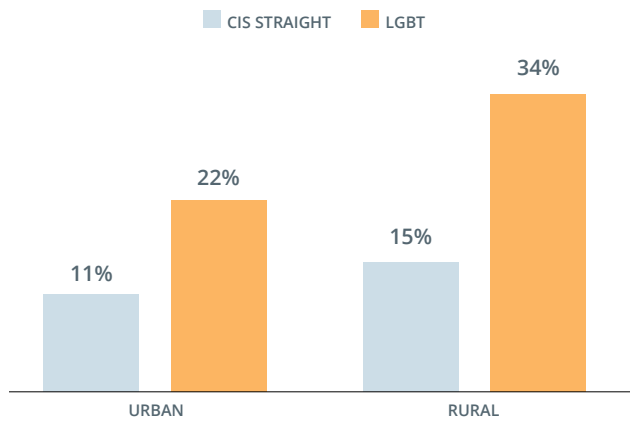
Figure 70. Poverty rates in Maryland by SOGI and race



- White LGBT people and LGBT people of color had higher poverty rates than their respective cis straight counterparts (Figure 70). Although LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people, this difference was not statistically significant.
- Of those aged 45 or older, more LGBT people (19%) were in poverty than cis straight people (7%). There was no statistically significant difference in SOGI poverty rates among those aged 18–44.

- In Maryland, 97% of LGBT and cis straight people lived in urban areas and the remaining 3% lived in rural areas.
- In both urban and rural areas, LGBT people had higher poverty rates than their cis straight counterparts. Although the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people in rural areas than urban areas, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 71).

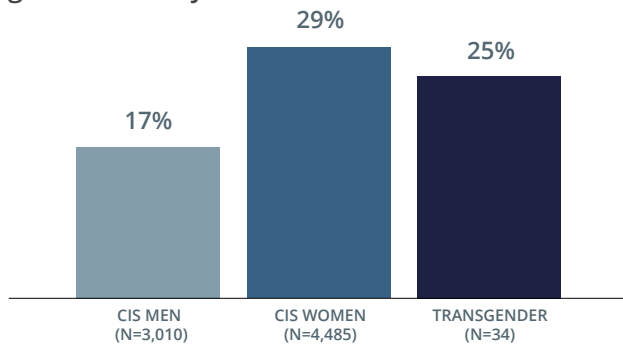
Figure 71. Poverty rates in Maryland by SOGI and urbanicity



Mississippi

In the 2016–2017 BRFSS survey, 161 people identified as LGBT and 8,668 identified as cis straight. Although LGBT people (29%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (23%), this difference was not statistically significant. We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

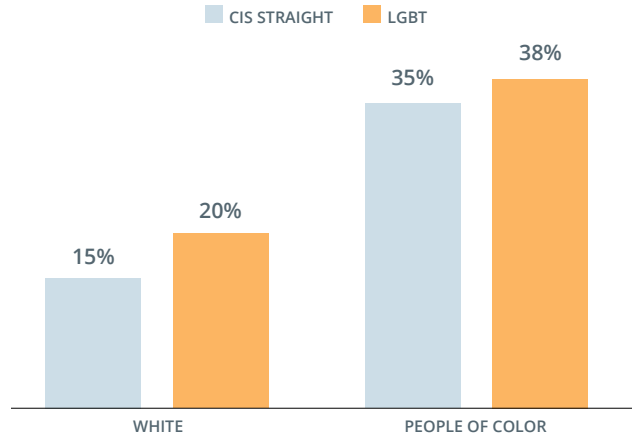
Figure 72. Poverty rates in Mississippi by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. All other group differences in poverty rates were not statistically significant (Figure 72).

- The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people of color than White LGBT people. We see this same pattern for cis straight people (Figure 73).
- Within race categories, although LGBT people had a slightly higher poverty rate than their cis straight counterparts, these differences were not statistically significant.
- There were no differences in poverty rates comparing LGBT and cis straight people in the age groups of 18–44 and 45 or older.
- Among LGBT people in Mississippi, 52% lived in urban areas and 48% lived in rural areas. Among cis straight people, 57% lived in urban areas and 43% lived in rural areas.
- There were no differences in poverty rates comparing LGBT and cis straight people in urban or rural places.

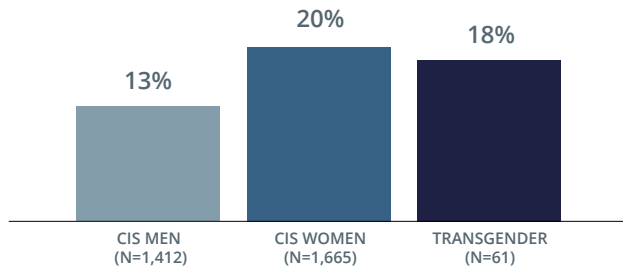
Figure 73. Poverty rates in Mississippi by SOGI and race



North Carolina

In the 2017 BRFSS survey, 175 people identified as LGBT and 3,647 people identified as cis straight in North Carolina. The poverty rate was 18% for LGBT people and 17% for cis straight people, but this difference was not statistically significant. Looking at how poverty rates differed by SOGI, we also examined the relevance of gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 74. Poverty rates in North Carolina by gender identity



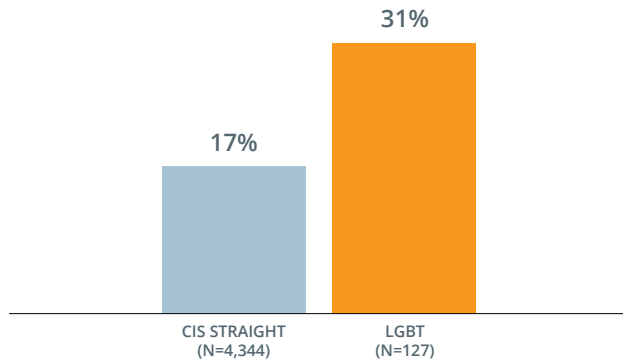
- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Although cis women also had a higher poverty rate than transgender people, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 74).

- There were no differences in poverty rates comparing LGBT and cis straight people by racial category, i.e., White and people of color.
- Similarly, there were no differences in poverty rates comparing LGBT and cis straight people in the age groups of 18–44 and 45 or older.
- Most LGBT people (84%) and cis straight people (75%) in North Carolina lived in urban areas. Fewer LGBT people (16%) lived in rural areas than did cis straight people (25%).
- There were no differences in poverty rates by SOGI in relation to urban and rural residence.

Oklahoma

In the 2017 BRFSS survey, 151 people identified as LGBT and 5,459 identified as cis straight in Oklahoma. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 75). We also assessed SOGI poverty rates by gender, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 75. Poverty rates in Oklahoma by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Although transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis women and cis men, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 76).

Figure 76. Poverty in Oklahoma by gender identity

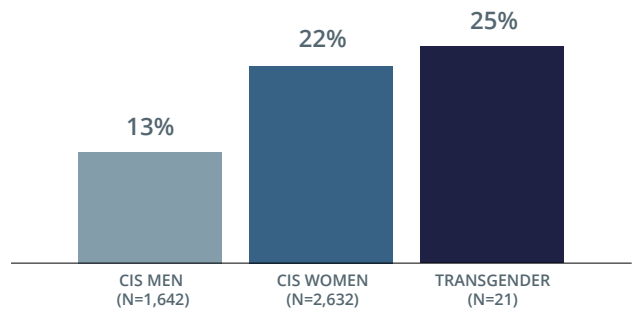
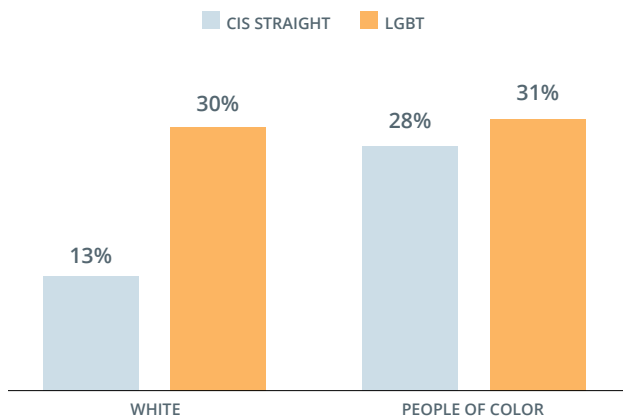


Figure 77. Poverty rates in Oklahoma by SOGI and race

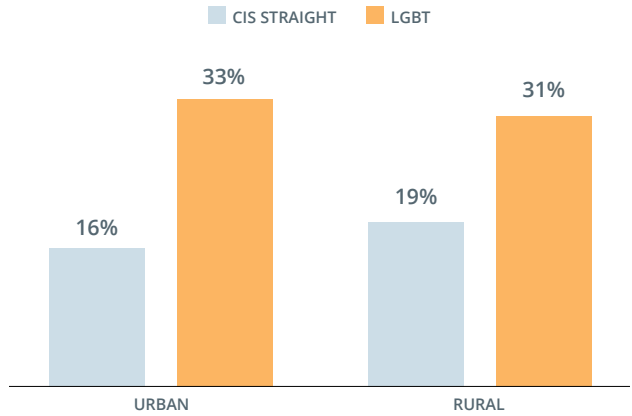


- The poverty rate was higher for White LGBT people than White cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between cis straight and LGBT people of color (Figure 77).
- Among LGBT people, there was no difference in poverty rates between people of color and White people. However, among cis straight people, people of color had a higher poverty rate than White people.

- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (34%) had a higher poverty rate than did cis straight people (21%). There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates by SOGI among those aged 45 or older.

- More LGBT people lived in urban areas (72%) than in rural areas (28%) in Oklahoma. Similarly, more cis straight people lived in urban areas (66%) than in rural areas (34%).
- The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people in urban areas. Although a higher proportion of LGBT people than cis straight people in rural areas were in poverty, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 78).

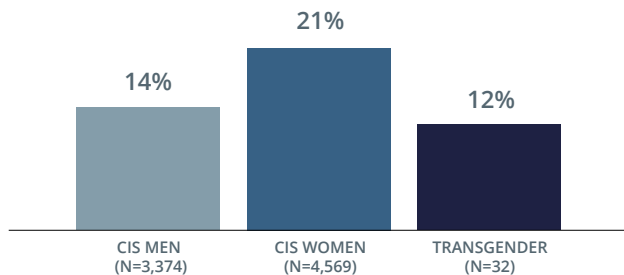
Figure 78. Poverty rates in Oklahoma by SOGI and urbanicity



South Carolina

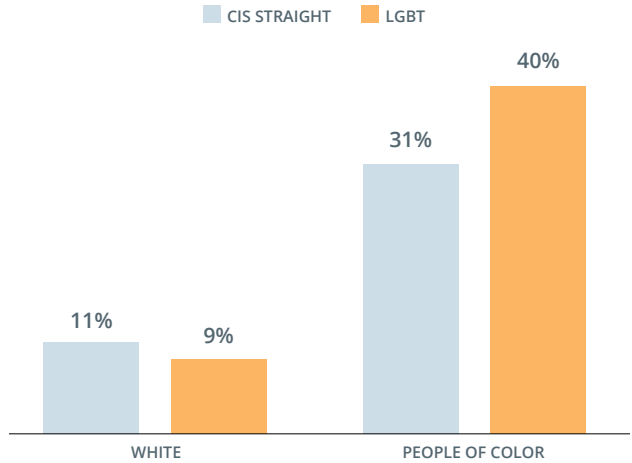
In the 2017 BRFSS survey, 236 people identified as LGBT and 9,360 identified as cis straight in South Carolina. Although the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people (20%) than cis straight people (18%), this difference was not statistically significant. We also examined whether SOGI poverty rates differed by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 79. Poverty rates in South Carolina by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Cis women also had a higher poverty rate than transgender people, but this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 79).

Figure 80. Poverty rates in South Carolina by SOGI and race



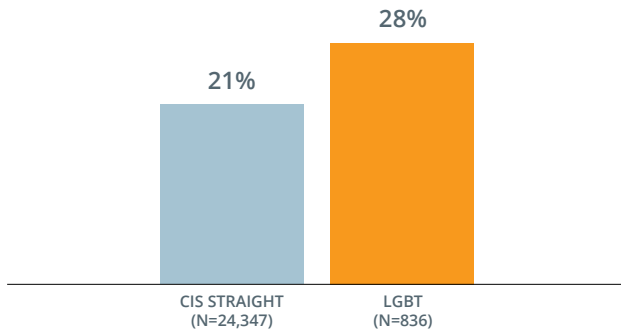
- LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people. We see the same pattern among cis straight people, with more people of color in poverty than cis straight people (Figure 80).
- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates comparing LGBT and cis straight people within these racial categories.

- There were no statistically significant differences in poverty rates by LGBT and cis straight people in the age groups of 18–44 and 45 or older.
- Among LGBT people in South Carolina, 87% lived in urban areas and 13% lived in rural areas. Among cis straight people, 84% lived in urban areas and 16% lived in rural areas.
- However, there were no differences in poverty rates by SOGI and urbanicity.

Texas

In the 2015–2017 BRFSS survey, 932 people identified as LGBT and 28,144 identified as cis straight in Texas. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 81). Looking at differences by SOGI, we also examined poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 81. Poverty rates in Texas by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people had the highest poverty rate, followed by cis women, then cis men (Figure 82).

Figure 82. Poverty rates in Texas by gender identity

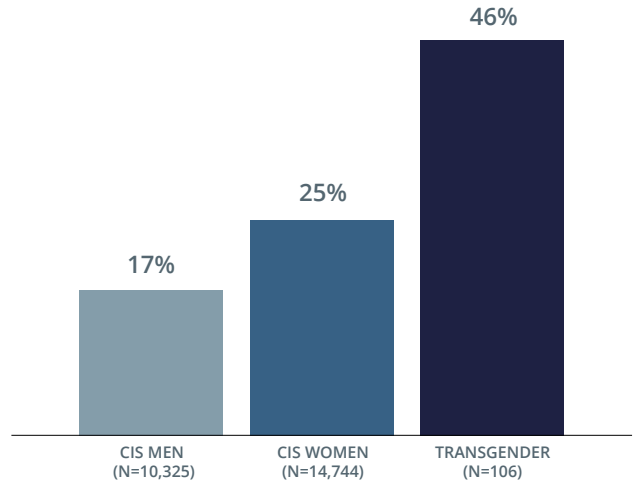
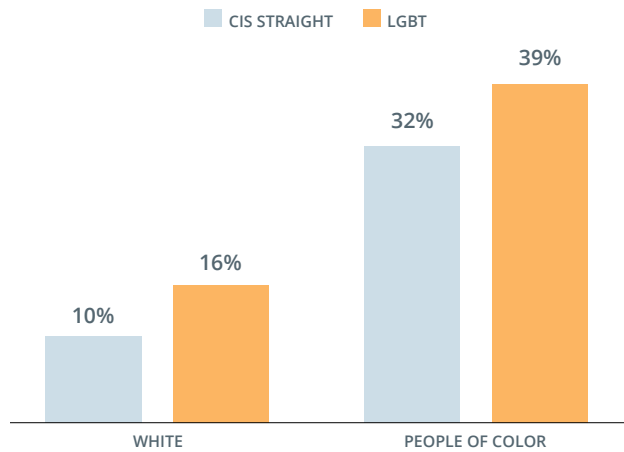


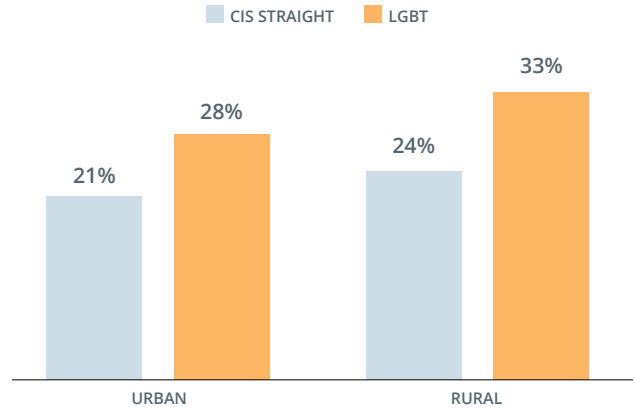
Figure 83. Poverty rates in Texas by SOGI and race



- Although LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people among White people and people of color, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 83).
- People of color had higher poverty rates than White people, regardless of SOGI.

- There were no statistically significant differences comparing poverty rates of LGBT and cis straight groups by age (18–44 and 45 or older).
- LGBT people aged 18–44 (35%) had a higher poverty rate than those aged 45 or older (29%).
- Most LGBT people (90%) lived in urban areas; the remaining 10% lived in rural areas of Texas. Similarly, most cis straight people (87%) lived in urban areas, and 13% lived in rural areas.
- In urban areas, more LGBT people were in poverty than cis straight people. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between LGBT and cis straight people who lived in rural areas (Figure 84).

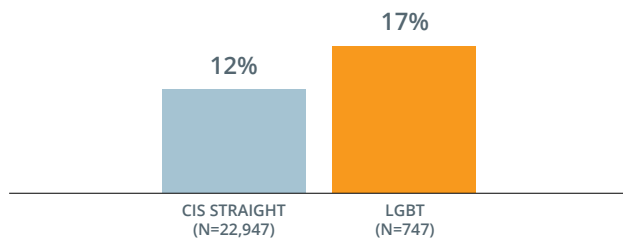
Figure 84. Poverty rates in Texas by SOGI and urbanicity



Virginia

In the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey, 1,031 people identified as LGBT and 30,370 identified as cis straight in Virginia. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 85). Below are SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 85. Poverty rates in Virginia by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, poverty rates were highest for transgender people, followed by cis women, then cis men (Figure 86).

Figure 86. Poverty rates in Virginia by gender identity

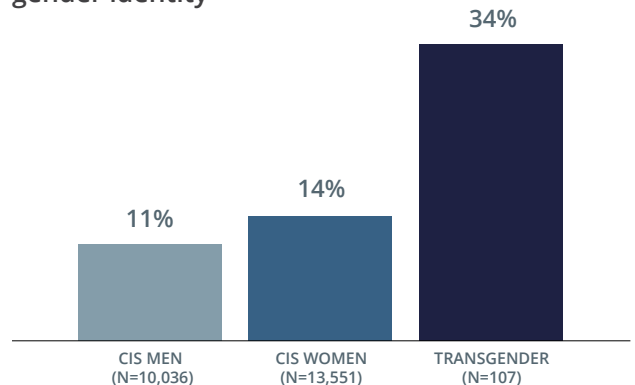
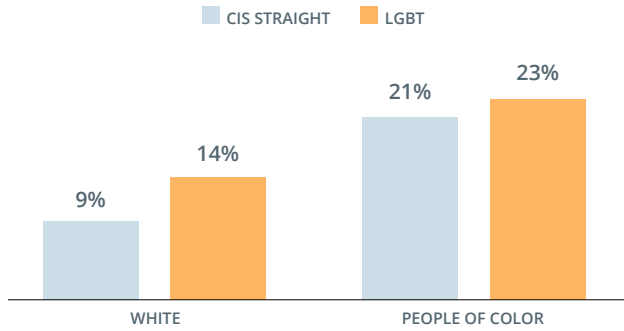


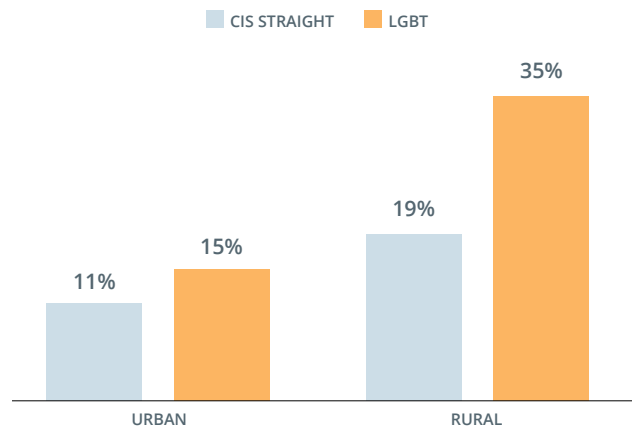
Figure 87. Poverty rates in Virginia by SOGI and race



- More White LGBT people were in poverty than White cis straight people. Although the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people of color than cis straight people of color, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 87).
- LGBT people of color had a higher poverty rate than White LGBT people.

- There were no statistically significant differences comparing poverty rates of LGBT and cis straight groups by age (18–44 and 45 or older).
- LGBT people aged 18–44 (20%) had a higher poverty rate than those aged 45 or older (13%).

Figure 88. Poverty rates in Virginia by SOGI and urbanicity

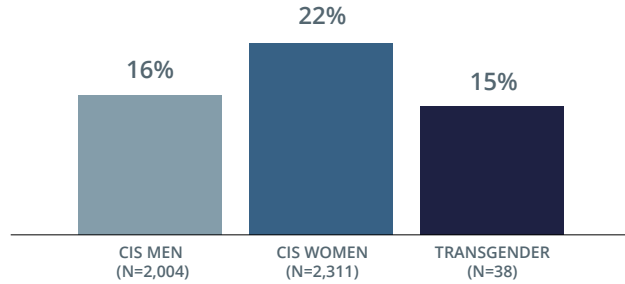


- More LGBT people (87%) lived in urban areas than cis straight people (84%) in Virginia. Conversely, more cis straight people (16%) lived in rural areas than LGBT people (13%).
- LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people in urban and rural areas. Additionally, the poverty rate was higher for those in rural areas than urban areas (Figure 88).

West Virginia

In the 2015 BRFSS survey, 147 people identified as LGBT and 5,340 identified as cis straight in West Virginia. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates for LGBT (22%) and cis straight (19%) people. We also looked at whether SOGI poverty rates differed by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

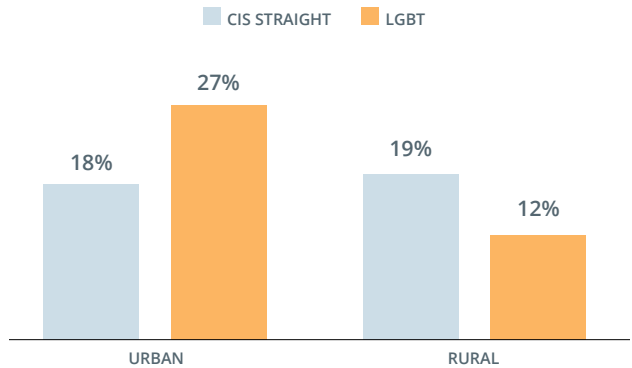
Figure 89. Poverty rates in West Virginia by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, cis women had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Although cis women and cis men had higher poverty rates than transgender people, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 89).
- There was no statistically significant difference of poverty rates between White LGBT and cis straight people. Because of small sample sizes, we could not test whether poverty rates differed for LGBT and cis straight people of color.

- There were no statistically significant differences comparing poverty rates of LGBT and cis straight groups by age (18–44 and 45 or older).
- LGBT people aged 18–44 (31%) had a higher poverty rate than those aged 45 or older (10%).
- In West Virginia, 61% of LGBT people lived in urban areas and 39% lived in rural areas. Similarly, 60% of cis straight people lived in urban areas and 40% lived in rural areas.
- The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people in urban areas than in rural areas. All other group differences were not statistically significant (Figure 90).

Figure 90. Poverty rates in West Virginia by SOGI and urbanicity



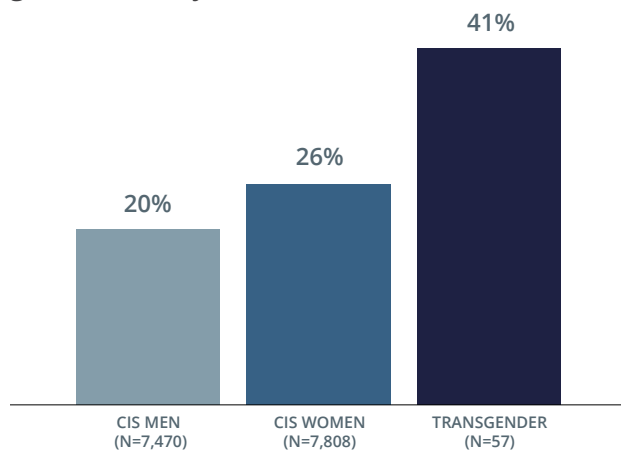
WEST

The following section reviews LGBT poverty rates in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming.

California

In the 2016–2017 BRFSS survey, 814 people identified as LGBT and 17,110 people identified as cis straight. LGBT and cis straight people experienced the same rate of poverty (23%). However, comparisons of gender identity, race, age, and location and SOGI by poverty rates show different patterns.

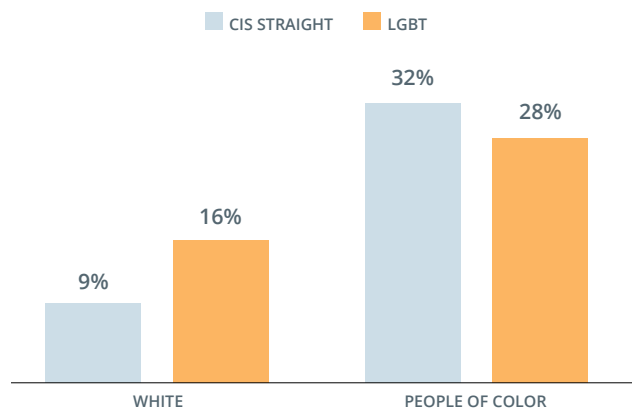
Figure 91. Poverty rates in California by gender identity



- Across sexual orientation groups, transgender people had the highest poverty rate compared to cis women and cis men. Cis women also had a higher poverty rate than cis men (Figure 91).

- Poverty rates were higher for White LGBT people than White cis straight people. Among people of color, more cis straight than LGBT people were in poverty, but the difference was not statistically significant (Figure 92).
- LGBT and cis straight people of color had higher rates of poverty than their respective White counterparts.
- For adults aged 45 or older, poverty rates were higher for cis straight adults (17%) than LGBT adults (12%). There was no statistically significant difference between poverty rates for LGBT and cis straight people in the 18–44 age group.

Figure 92. Poverty rates in California by SOGI and race

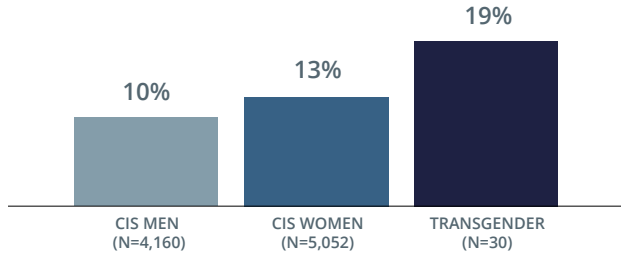


- Among LGBT adults, 29% of younger adults aged 18–44 were in poverty compared to 12% of older adults aged 45 or older.
- In California, most LGBT (98%) and cis straight (97%) people lived in urban areas.
- Among people living in urban areas, LGBT (23%) and cis straight (23%) people had the same rates of poverty. Poverty rates for people living in rural areas are not reported because of small sample size.

Colorado

The 2015 BRFSS survey in Colorado included 348 LGBT people and 10,525 cis straight people. Although 18% of LGBT people and 11% of cis straight people were in poverty, statistically there was no difference in the poverty rates between the groups. We also assessed whether gender identity, race, age, and location are relevant to poverty rates by SOGI.

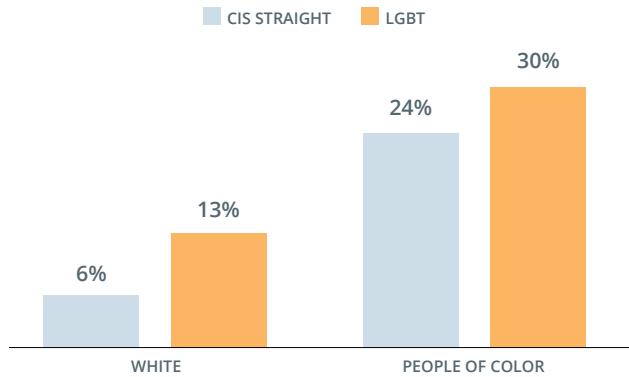
Figure 93. Poverty rates in Colorado by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, although poverty rates by gender identity show more transgender people were in poverty than cis women and cis men, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 93). However, more cis women were in poverty compared to cis men.

- Although LGBT people had higher poverty rates than cis straight people among White people and people of color, these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 94).
- In the cis straight group, people of color had a higher rate of poverty than White people, but in the LGBT group, people of color and White people had statistically the same poverty rate.
- Of those aged 45 or older, poverty rates were higher for LGBT people (22%) compared to cis straight people (8%). There was no difference in poverty rates by SOGI among those aged 18–44.
- In Colorado, more LGBT people (14%) lived in rural areas compared to cis straight people (7%), and conversely, more cis straight people (93%) lived in urban areas compared to LGBT people (86%). Poverty rates for LGBT people in urban and rural areas are not reported because of small sample size.

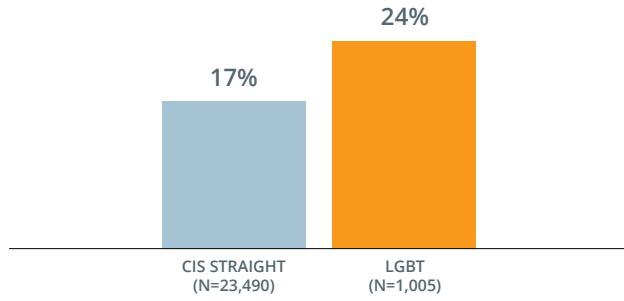
Figure 94. Poverty rates in Colorado by SOGI and race



Hawaii

In the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey for Hawaii, 1,100 people identified as LGBT and 25,782 identified as cis straight. The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people than cis straight people (Figure 95). We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 95. Poverty rates in Hawaii by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, both transgender people and cis women were significantly more likely to be in poverty compared to cis men. However, the poverty rates of cis women and transgender people were not statistically different (Figure 96).

Figure 96. Poverty rates in Hawaii by gender identity

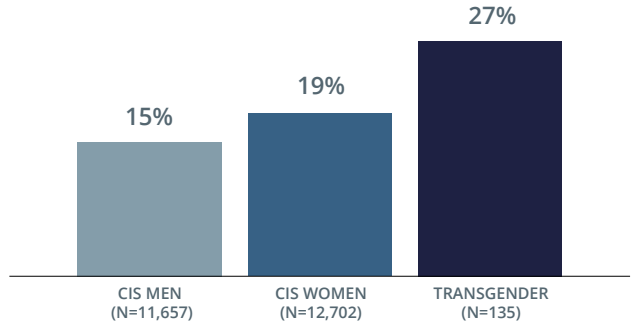
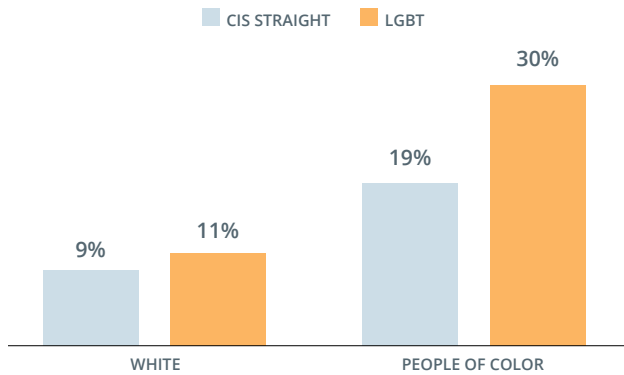


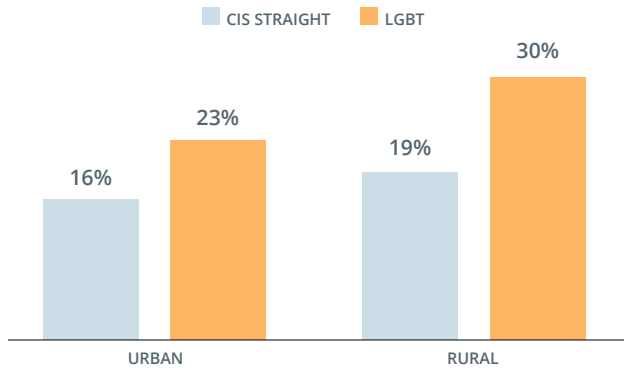
Figure 97. Poverty rates in Hawaii by SOGI and race



- The poverty rates for cis straight and LGBT White people were not statistically different. However, the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people of color compared to cis straight people of color (Figure 97).
- People of color had higher poverty rates than White people, both among cis straight and LGBT people.

- Among those aged 18–44, more LGBT people (30%) were in poverty than cis straight people (23%). Of those aged 45 or older, LGBT and cis straight people had no statistical difference in poverty rate.
- Younger LGBT people (30%) had a higher poverty rate than did older LGBT people (14%).

Figure 98. Poverty rates in Hawaii by SOGI and urbanicity



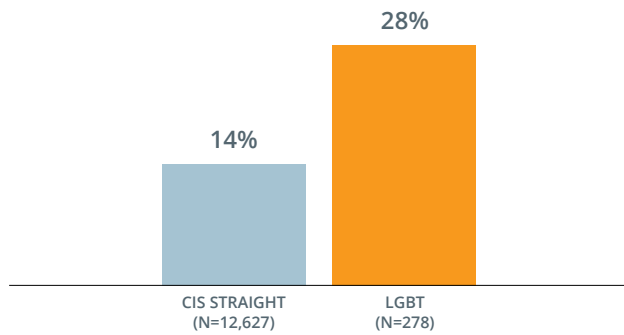
- Most LGBT (80%) people lived in urban areas compared to rural areas (20%). Similarly, most cis straight people lived in urban areas (81%) than rural areas (19%).
- In urban areas, poverty rates were higher for LGBT people than cis straight people. We see the same pattern in rural areas, with more LGBT people in poverty than cis straight people (Figure 98).

- Although the difference in poverty rates between cis straight people living in urban and rural areas was statistically significant, the difference between LGBT people was not.

Idaho

In the 2014–2016 Idaho BRFSS survey, 312 people identified as LGBT and 14,041 people identified as cis straight. A significantly higher proportion of LGBT people than cis straight people were in poverty (Figure 99). We also looked at poverty rates by SOGI with gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 99. Poverty rates in Idaho by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, more cis women than cis men were in poverty in Idaho. There is no statistically significant difference comparing the poverty rates of cis men and cis women with transgender people (Figure 100).

Figure 100. Poverty rates in Idaho by gender identity

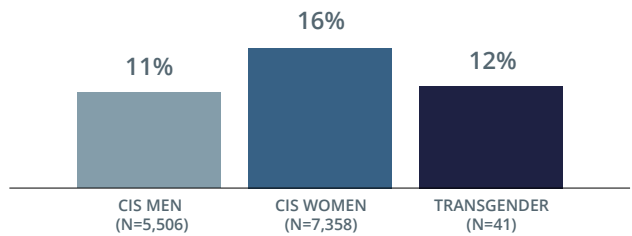
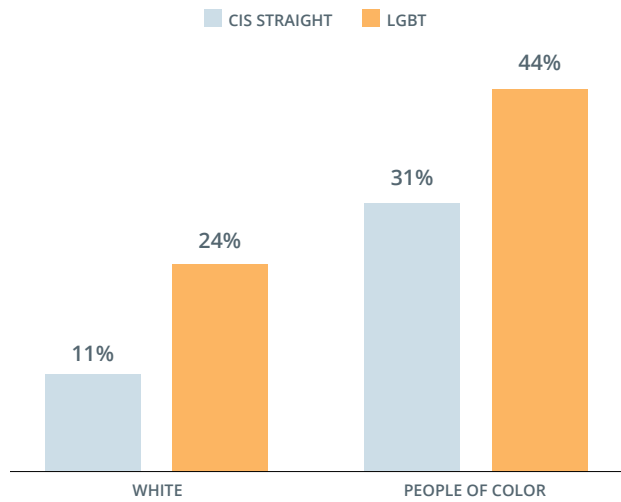


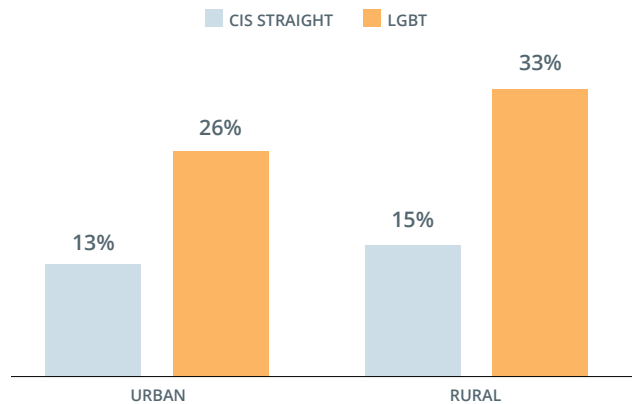
Figure 101. Poverty rates in Idaho by SOGI and race



- Poverty rates were higher for White LGBT people than White cis straight people. Poverty rates were also higher for LGBT people of color than cis straight people of color, but this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 101).
- Among cis straight and LGBT people, people of color had higher rates of poverty than White people.

- More LGBT people (36%) than cis straight people (20%) in the 18–44 age group were in poverty. However, LGBT and cis straight people aged 45 or older had statistically the same poverty rate.
- Compared to older people (aged 45 or older), younger people (aged 18–44) had higher rates of poverty: 36% of LGBT people aged 18–44 were in poverty, whereas 7% of LGBT adults aged 45 or older were in poverty.
- In Idaho, 71% of LGBT people lived in urban areas compared to 29% in rural areas. Among cis straight people, 65% lived in urban areas compared to 34% in rural areas.
- In urban areas, more LGBT people were in poverty than cis straight people. We see the same pattern in rural areas (Figure 102).
- Although the poverty rate was higher for LGBT people living in rural areas than urban areas, this difference was not statistically significant.

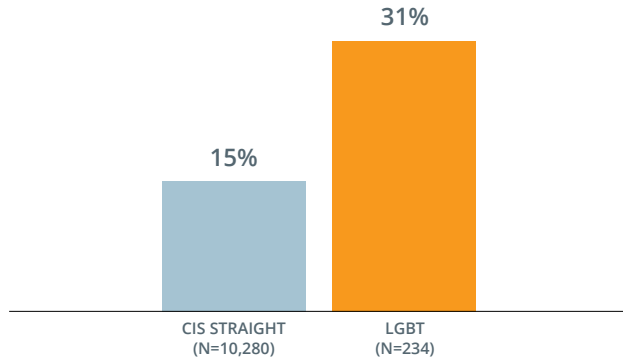
Figure 102. Poverty rates in Idaho by SOGI and urbanicity



Montana

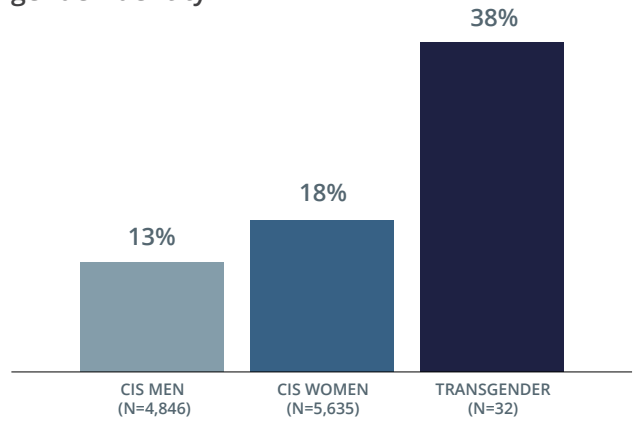
In the 2014 and 2017 Montana BRFSS survey, 217 people identified as LGBT and 11,948 identified as cis straight. Poverty rates were higher for LGBT people than cis straight people in Montana (Figure 103). Given that poverty rates can vary by SOGI, we also examined the relevance of gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 103. Poverty rates in Montana by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, poverty rates were highest for transgender people, followed by cis women and then cis men (Figure 104).

Figure 104. Poverty rates in Montana by gender identity



- Compared to cis straight White people, LGBT White people had a higher poverty rate. Although we see this same pattern between LGBT and cis straight people of color, the difference was not statistically significant (Figure 105).
- There was no difference in poverty rates between LGBT White people and LGBT people of color.
- The poverty rate was higher for LGBT people (41%) than cis straight people (21%) aged 18–44.
- Younger LGBT people (41%) had a higher poverty rate than did older LGBT people (14%).

Figure 105. Poverty rates in Montana by SOGI and race

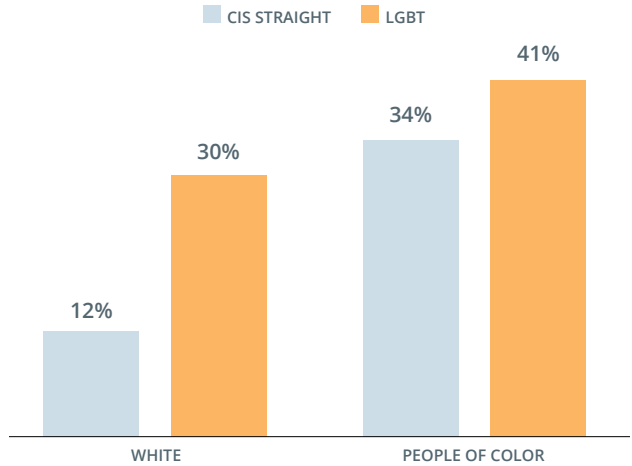
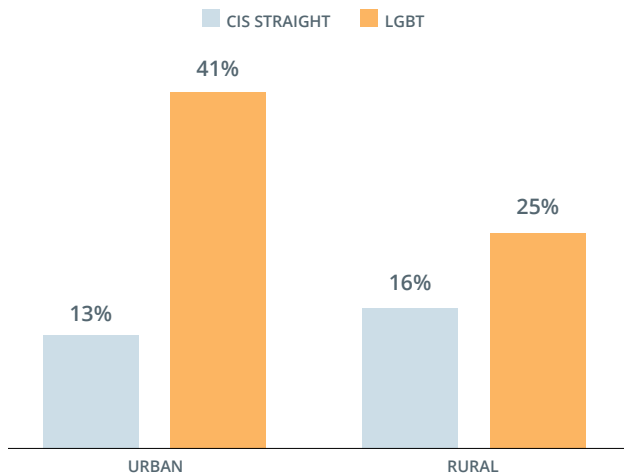


Figure 106. Poverty rates in Montana by SOGI and urbanicity

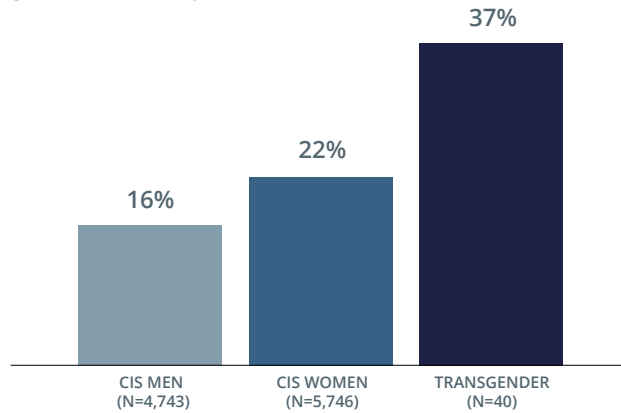


- More LGBT people (45%) lived in urban areas than cis straight people (33%) in Montana. Conversely, more cis straight people (67%) lived in rural areas compared to LGBT people (55%).
- In both urban and rural areas, LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 106).
- More LGBT people in urban areas than rural areas were in poverty, although we see the opposite pattern among cis straight people.

Nevada

In the 2014–2017 BRFSS survey, 515 people identified as LGBT and 12,039 people identified as cis straight. Although 23% of LGBT people and 19% of cis straight people were in poverty, this difference was not statistically significant. We also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender, race, age, and urbanicity.

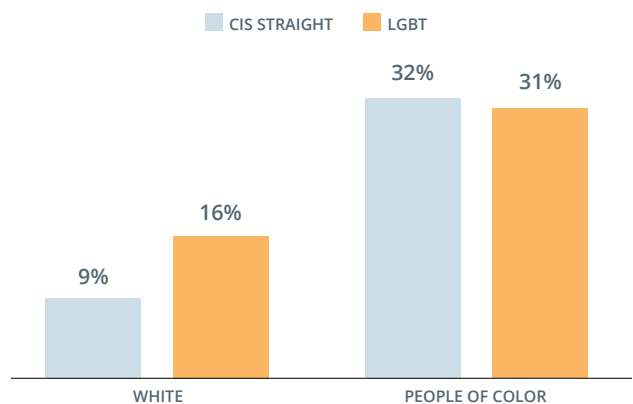
Figure 107. Poverty rates in Nevada by gender identity



- Across all sexual orientations, the poverty rate was higher for transgender people than for cis men. Cis women also had a higher poverty rate than cis men (Figure 107).

- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. Although cis straight people of color had a slightly higher poverty rate than LGBT people of color, this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 108).
- Among LGBT people, more people of color (31%) than White people (16%) were in poverty. We see the same pattern among the cis straight population in Nevada.

Figure 108. Poverty rates in Nevada by SOGI and race



- Of those aged 45 or older, LGBT people (21%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (13%). There was no difference in poverty rate between LGBT and cis straight people among those aged 18–44.
- Most LGBT (91%) and cis straight (89%) people lived in urban areas of Nevada.
- There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rate between LGBT and cis straight people in urban and in rural areas in Nevada.

Washington

In the 2016–2017 BRFSS survey in Washington, 1,009 people identified as LGBT and 22,630 identified as cis straight. LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (Figure 109). Given the relevance of SOGI to poverty, we also examined SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity.

Figure 109. Poverty rates in Washington by SOGI

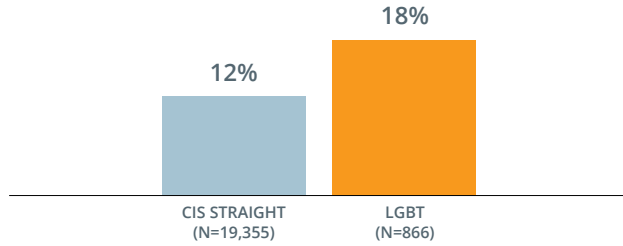
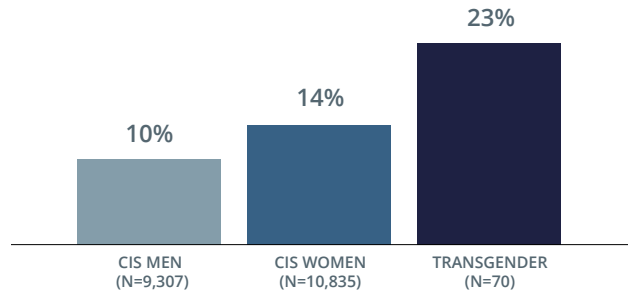


Figure 110. Poverty rates in Washington by gender identity

- Across all sexual orientations, transgender people had a higher poverty rate than cis men. Cis women also had a higher poverty rate than cis men (Figure 110). However, the difference in poverty rates by transgender people and cis women was not statistically significant.



- White LGBT people had a higher poverty rate than White cis straight people. On the other hand, the poverty rate of LGBT people of color did not differ statistically from that of cis straight people of color (Figure 111).
- LGBT and cis straight people of color had a higher poverty rate than their White counterparts.
- Of those aged 18–44, LGBT people (22%) had a higher poverty rate than cis straight people (16%). However, LGBT and cis straight people in the 45 or older age group had statistically the same poverty rate.
- A higher proportion of younger LGBT people (22%) than older LGBT people (10%) were in poverty. We see the same pattern among cis straight people.

Figure 111. Poverty rates in Washington by SOGI and race

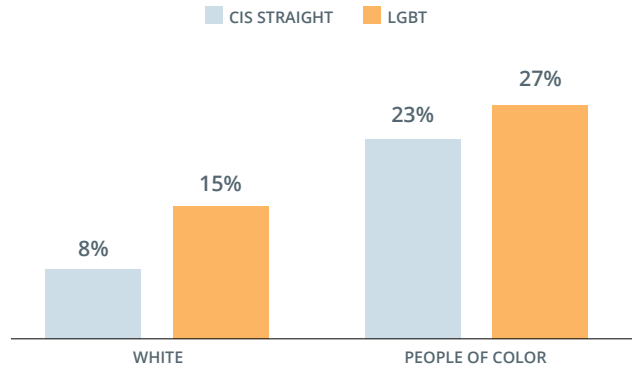
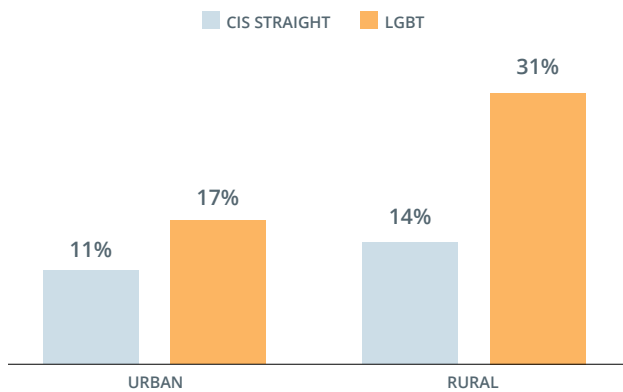


Figure 112. Poverty rates in Washington by SOGI and urbanicity

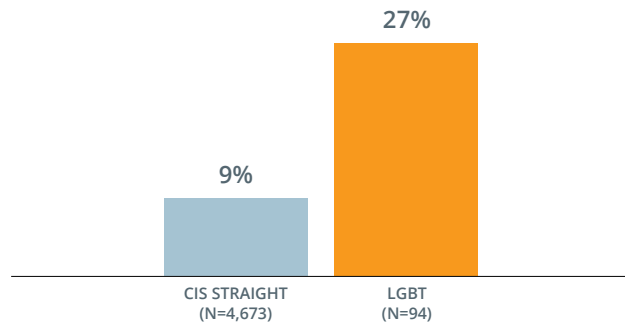


- Most LGBT people (90%) lived in urban areas of Washington state compared to rural areas (10%). Similarly, most cis straight people (89%) also lived in urban areas than rural areas (11%).
- In both urban and rural areas, LGBT people had a higher rate of poverty compared to their cis straight counterparts (Figure 112).
- Additionally, LGBT people in rural areas had a higher poverty rate than LGBT people in urban areas.

Wyoming

The 2014 BRFSS survey showed that 111 LGBT people and 5,522 cis straight people lived in Wyoming. More LGBT people were in poverty than cis straight people (Figure 113). Because of the small sample size of LGBT people in Wyoming, we cannot report on SOGI poverty rates by gender identity, race, age, and urbanicity. However, we provide some descriptive information about LGBT people living in Wyoming.

Figure 113. Poverty rates in Wyoming by SOGI



- Across all sexual orientations, the 2014 Wyoming BRFSS survey included 2,239 cis men, 3,377 cis women, and 17 transgender people.
- More LGBT people (39%) in Wyoming were people of color, compared to cis straight people (13%).
- Most LGBT people (77%) were between the ages of 18–44, compared to 44% of cis straight people in the same age range. Of those aged 45 or older, 23% identified as LGBT and 56% identified as cis straight.
- In Wyoming, 60% of LGBT people lived in rural areas and 40% lived in urban areas. Among cis straight people, 70% lived in rural areas compared to 30% in urban areas.

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PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE PROJECT

The *Pathways to Justice Project* is a multiple method long term project examining poverty rates, exploring the life narratives, and documenting experiences with economic development and food insecurity services among LGBTQ people. We rely on government survey data and in-person interviews to study economic



insecurity among LGBTQ people to answer the following questions: 1) How do LGBTQ poverty rates and other measures of economic insecurity vary across states and between urban and rural areas within states?; 2) Do adequate services exist to serve LGBTQ adults living in poverty?; 3) What are the social, psychological, and contextual factors, or “root causes,” associated with high rates of LGBTQ poverty?; and 4) How do other social statuses (race, immigration status, etc.) complicate narratives of LGBT poverty. Paired together, quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews for learning the stories of LGBTQ people living in poverty will better equip the community to advocate for policy change by distilling down complex survey data that is not easily accessible to the public. Combining these methods of understanding LGBTQ poverty also allows for us document experiences of poverty among subgroups who may not have higher rates of poverty (e.g., gay cisgender men), and yet are nonetheless represented among those experiencing economic insecurities. Also, it allows us to fill in the gaps that survey data cannot fill through answering questions about “how” and “why” disparities exist, and “what do we do now?”. For more information about the overall project, please visit: www.pathways-study.org.

ABOUT THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

The Williams Institute is dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy. A think tank at UCLA Law, the Williams Institute produces high-quality research with real-world relevance and disseminates it to judges, legislators, policymakers, media and the public. These studies can be accessed at the Williams Institute website.

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APPENDIX A

POPULATION ESTIMATES OF LGBT PEOPLE IN POVERTY IN 35 STATES USING THE 2014–2017 BEHAVIOR RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (BRFSS) SURVEY

REGION	STATES	POPULATION ESTIMATE OF LGBT PEOPLE IN POVERTY	%	95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL
Midwest	Illinois	73,800	25%	(20%, 31%)
	Indiana	44,200	29%	(24%, 33%)
	Iowa	12,900	24%	(19%, 31%)
	Kansas	10,900	24%	(20%, 29%)
	Minnesota	15,300	16%	(13%, 19%)
	Missouri	25,600	22%	(14%, 33%)
	Ohio	46,600	22%	(17%, 27%)
	Wisconsin	18,900	16%	(11%, 22%)
	Total		248,100	23%
Northeast	Connecticut	14,500	18%	(14%, 22%)
	Massachusetts	23,300	13%	(10%, 17%)
	New York	105,600	20%	(18%, 23%)
	Pennsylvania	46,200	18%	(14%, 22%)
	Rhode Island	6,100	21%	(15%, 28%)
	Vermont	3,800	18%	(14%, 24%)
	Total		199,500	18%
South	Delaware	3,200	15%	(11%, 21%)
	Florida	7,800	7%	(2%, 19%)
	Georgia	34,300	22%	(16%, 30%)
	Kentucky	26,500	28%	(22%, 35%)
	Louisiana	28,200	30%	(24%, 38%)
	Maryland	30,900	23%	(16%, 32%)
	Mississippi	10,600	29%	(20%, 40%)
	North Carolina	45,800	18%	(12%, 27%)
	Oklahoma	26,800	31%	(21%, 42%)
	South Carolina	17,100	20%	(13%, 29%)
	Texas	133,300	28%	(22%, 35%)
	Virginia	25,400	17%	(14%, 21%)
	West Virginia	5,800	22%	(14%, 32%)
Total		395,800	24%	(21%, 27%)
West	California	223,700	23%	(19%, 27%)
	Colorado	21,500	18%	(11%, 27%)
	Hawaii	8,600	24%	(21%, 29%)
	Idaho	7,900	28%	(21%, 36%)
	Montana	5,600	31%	(24%, 40%)
	Nevada	16,100	23%	(17%, 29%)
	Washington	39,600	18%	(15%, 22%)
	Wyoming	2,600	27%	(13%, 48%)
	Total		325,600	22%
35 states		1,169,000	22%	(21%, 23%)

*Note: Population estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred. Due to rounding, estimates for subgroups (i.e., Illinois, Indiana) will not always add up to the total (i.e., Midwest total). State estimates are from the 2014–2017 BRFSS data and weighted according to the number of year(s) SOGI data were available by state. For more detail on the methodology and weighting of BRFSS data, see the Appendix: Methods section in the *LGBT Poverty in the United States* report:

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/National-LGBT-Poverty-Oct-2019.pdf>