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RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

Physical Attacks Against Transgender Adults in the United States

Findings from the 2022
US Trans Survey

July 2026

Jordan Grasso
Ilan Meyer

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Executive Summary

In this report, we provide descriptive statistics on anti-transgender violent attacks using data from the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey—the largest community-based survey of transgender/nonbinary people in the United States. Our analysis focuses on 83,368 respondents aged 18 and older who identified as transgender men, transgender women, or nonbinary. We describe the prevalence of physical attacks experienced in the year preceding their participation in the survey and patterns of victimization across demographic group, geographic residence, and transgender visibility (the extent to which people are identifiable as transgender).

Key Findings

An estimated 5.4% of USTS adult respondents reported experiencing any sort of physical attack in the year prior to completing the survey.¹ Among those who experienced physical attack, half (50.5%) reported being attacked multiple times within that year.

Geography of Physical Attacks

- Respondents from the Northeast/New England region (3.9%) reported a significantly lower prevalence of physical attacks compared to those in the Northeast/Middle Atlantic (6.0%), West/Pacific (6.6%), and Midwest/West North Central (6.6%).

Demographic Characteristics of Victims of Physical Attacks

- The prevalence of physical attacks was generally similar across gender identities: 5.9% of transgender women, 5.2% of transgender men, 5.0% of nonbinary people who were assigned female at birth (AFAB), and 5.2% of those assigned male at birth (AMAB) reported experiencing a physical attack over the prior year.
- Transgender respondents over age 45 reported a significantly lower prevalence of experiencing a physical attack compared with those in the younger age groups (1.9% vs. 5.0% and more).
- No significant differences were observed in reported physical attacks between Black, non-Hispanic (4.7%) and white, non-Hispanic (4.7%) transgender adults, but Hispanic or Latine (6.4%) transgender adults, as well as those identifying as multiracial or another race (8.6%), were significantly more likely than white, non-Hispanic respondents to report experiencing one or more physical attacks.
- The higher respondents' socioeconomic status, the less likely they were to have experienced physical attacks. About 8.3% of respondents with less than a high school degree reported physical attacks, compared to 3.6% among those with a bachelor's degree. Similarly, transgender respondents with no income reported the highest prevalence of physical attacks (8.9%) among all income groups.

¹ The USTS Early Insights Report states that 3% of respondents were physically attacked in the prior twelve months “because of their gender identity or expression.” In this report, we include physical attacks that respondents may have attributed to reasons other than gender identity or expression, as research has shown that there are discrepancies in whether individuals attribute their victimization to their gender identity versus other factors. James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Durso, L. E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). *Early insights: A report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Advocates for Trans Equality. https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2022%20USTS%20Early%20Insights%20Report_FINAL.pdf

- Respondents who resided in suburban communities (4.3%) were the least likely to have experienced physical attacks in one year, compared with 6.7% in urban communities and 5.6% in rural communities.
- Nearly one in ten (9.0%) noncitizens reported experiencing one or more physical attacks, compared to 5.3% of respondents who were U.S. citizens.

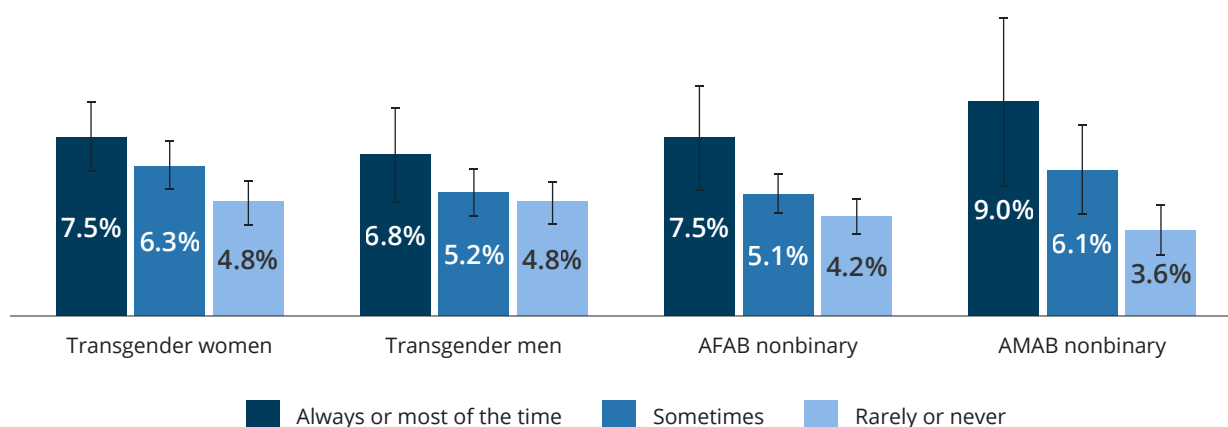
The Context of Violence Against Transgender People

- Almost two-thirds of respondents (64.4%) reported that at least one of the attacks they experienced was related to their transgender identity. About one-third (31.7%) believed they were attacked because of their sexual orientation.
- The vast majority (71.5%) of respondents who reported experiencing a physical attack indicated that the assault involved grabbing, punching, or choking, and 21.8% of respondents reported experiencing a sexual assault.

Transgender Visibility as a Correlate of Physical Attacks

- Being visibly seen as transgender is a consistent correlate of physical attacks for all groups except transgender men. In general, those perceived as transgender most or all of the time have higher odds of experiencing a physical attack.

Adjusted probability of experiencing a physical attack, by gender identity and transgender visibility among 2022 USTS adults



State-Level Legislative Activity

- The introduction of anti-transgender legislation and the broader state-level LGBTQ policy environment do not appear to be associated with the prevalence of physical violence against transgender people. Transgender respondents living in states where anti-transgender bills were introduced in 2021 and 2022, as well as in states with fewer LGBTQ protections and more restrictive policies, experienced similar levels of physical attack over one year as those in states with better conditions.

Introduction

Transgender people² in the United States experience significantly higher rates of violence than their cisgender counterparts.³ However, transgender people are less likely to report their victimization to the police, contributing to higher levels of underreporting.⁴ This is in part due to distrust of police in general and among transgender people in particular.⁵ Even when incidents are reported, transgender people describe having their gender identity disregarded and disrespected, and administrative data often fails to accurately capture people's stated gender identity during interactions with the criminal legal system.⁶ As a result, police-reported data and criminal convictions likely underestimate the true prevalence of violence against transgender people.⁷ For this reason, self-reported data from sources like the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the U.S. Trans Survey (USTS) offer particularly valuable insight into violence against transgender people.

Findings from the NCVS—a nationally representative sample of U.S. residents aged 16 and older—demonstrate disparities in victimization. One study pooling NCVS data from 2017 and 2018 analyzed experiences of violence and threats of violence.⁸ Researchers found that transgender people experienced 86.2 victimizations per 1,000 individuals, a rate four times higher than their cisgender counterparts (21.7 per 1,000). A more recent study of physical violence using NCVS data from 2017 to 2019 reported similar patterns. Among transgender people assigned male at birth (AMAB)—including transgender women and AMAB nonbinary people—10.88 per 1,000 experienced at least one violent assault in the previous six months, compared with approximately 5.31 per 1,000 non-LGBT men.⁹ Among transgender people assigned female at birth (AFAB)—including transgender men and AFAB nonbinary individuals—20.97 per 1,000 reported experiencing violent victimization in the same period, compared with 5.56 among non-LGBT women. Similar patterns were observed across other forms of victimization, like verbal threats.¹⁰

² Throughout this report, we use the term “transgender” as an umbrella term to describe individuals whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth, encompassing those who identify as transgender or nonbinary those who may identify or are transgender or nonbinary. We specify throughout the report when we are discussing particular groups, such as transgender women, transgender men, or nonbinary people.

³ Flores, A. R., Meyer, I. H., Langton, L., & Herman, J. L. (2021). Gender Identity Disparities in Criminal Victimization: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111(4), 726–729; Meyer, I. H., & Flores, A. R. (2025). *Anti-LGBT Victimization in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey (2022–2023)*. The Williams Institute; For a comprehensive review of prior research on transgender victimization, see Arrayales, J., & Mallory, C. (2026). *Hate Crimes and Violence Against Transgender People in California and the US: A Review of Existing Research*. The Williams Institute.

⁴ Flores, A. R., Langton, L., Meyer, I. H., & Romero, A. P. (2020). *Victimization rates and traits of sexual and gender minorities in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017*. *Science Advances*, 6(40).

⁵ Serpe, C. R., & Nadal, K. L. (2017). Perceptions of police: Experiences in the trans⁺ community. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 29(3), 280–299; Shields, D. M. (2021). Stonewalling in the Brick City: Perceptions of and Experiences with Seeking Police Assistance among LGBTQ Citizens. *Social Sciences*, 10(16), 2–37.

⁶ Avalos, Susana, and April Carrillo. 2024. “‘Took My Money, Called Me a Guy, and Made Me Sleep in Jail Overnight’: Police Procedural Failings When Interacting with Trans Folx.” *Policing and Society* 1–16; Shields, Danielle M. 2021. “Stonewalling in the Brick City: Perceptions of and Experiences with Seeking Police Assistance among LGBTQ Citizens.” *Social Sciences* 10(16):2–37.

⁷ Serpe, C. R., & Nadal, K. L. (2017). Perceptions of police: Experiences in the trans⁺ community. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 29(3), 280–299; Shields, D. M. (2021). Stonewalling in the Brick City: Perceptions of and Experiences with Seeking Police Assistance among LGBTQ Citizens. *Social Sciences*, 10(16), 2–37. Flores, A. R., Stotzer, R. L., Meyer, I. H., & Langton, L. L. (2022). Hate crimes against LGBT people: National crime victimization survey, 2017–2019. *PLoS one*, 17(12), e0279363

⁸ Flores, A. R., Meyer, I. H., Langton, L., & Herman, J. L. (2021). Gender Identity Disparities in Criminal Victimization: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111(4), 726–729.

⁹ Burt, C. H., & Dorsch, C. A. (2026). Heterogeneity in criminal violent victimization within the LGBT population: Estimates from the US National Crime Victimization Study. *Criminology*, 1–43.

¹⁰ Burt, C. H., & Dorsch, C. A. (2026). Heterogeneity in criminal violent victimization within the LGBT population: Estimates from the US National Crime Victimization Study. *Criminology*, 1–43.

Evidence from another nationally representative survey of LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ people supports these findings. Transgender people (30.8%) were almost twice as likely as cisgender men (16.4%) and almost three times as likely as cisgender women (12.3%) to report being victims of a crime in the previous 12 months.¹¹ Lifetime victimization showed similar disparities between transgender and cisgender respondents: 69.6% of transgender respondents and 78.7% of nonbinary respondents experienced victimization, compared with 59.1% of cisgender men and 49.7% of cisgender women.¹²

Findings from the 2015 USTS, the largest community survey of transgender people at the time, similarly showed high levels of violence and victimization, with 13% of respondents reporting experiencing a physical attack in the year preceding the survey.¹³ Early insights from the 2022 USTS show that this pattern of victimization persisted: approximately 30% of transgender respondents reported experiencing harassment, and 3% reported experiencing a physical attack related to their gender identity or expression in the year prior to completing the survey.¹⁴ As we show in this report, these figures underestimate the true extent of violence against transgender people because they do not capture violent experiences that respondents did not explicitly attribute to gender identity or expression.

Additional analyses using data from the 2022 USTS highlight contextual factors associated with increased risk for victimization among transgender people. For example, 10.4% of transgender men who reported using women's restrooms experienced harassment in the prior year, compared with 7.3% of transgender men who used men's restrooms.¹⁵ Transgender women also reported more harassment when using men's restrooms (8.9%) than when using women's restrooms (7.2%).

There are an estimated 2.1 million adults who identify as transgender in the United States.¹⁶ In this report, we build on prior research and describe experiences of violence among transgender people using data from the 2022 USTS, the largest currently available community-based sample of transgender people in the United States. We describe patterns of victimization among transgender adults, focusing specifically on physical attacks. We examine how violence varies across demographic factors including gender identity, age, race and ethnicity, education, and income, and assess the role of transgender visibility in victimization.

¹¹ Grasso, J., Vogler, S., Greytak, E., Kindall, C., & Jenness, V. (2024). *Policing Progress: Findings from a National Survey of LGBTQ+ People's Experiences with Law Enforcement* [ACLU]. <https://www.aclu.org/publications/policing-progress-findings-from-a-national-survey-of-lgbtq-peoples-experiences-with-law-enforcement>

¹² Policing the Rainbow. 2024. *Victimization and engagement with police: Ever Been the Victim of a Crime*. <https://policingtherainbow.com/data-dashboard/victimization-and-engagement-with-police>. Comparisons between findings from the 2015 and 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey should not be made because the surveys use non-probability samples and employed different sampling techniques across both years.

¹³ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. National Center for Transgender Equality.

¹⁴ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Durso, L. E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). *Early insights: A report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. National Center for Transgender Equality. https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2022%20USTS%20Early%20Insights%20Report_FINAL.pdf

¹⁵ Herman, J. L., Flores, A. R., & Redfield, E. (2025). *Safety and privacy in public restrooms and other gendered facilities*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Bathroom-Access-Feb-2025.pdf>

¹⁶ Herman, J. L., & Flores, A. R. (2025). *How Many Adults and Youth Identify as Transgender in The United States?* The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Pop-Update-Aug-2025.pdf>

Findings

Sample Characteristics

A total of 83,368 adults (aged 18 years or older) identifying as transgender men, transgender women, or nonbinary responded to the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey.¹⁷

In Table 1, we present the sample characteristics. Respondents' gender identification includes 35.6% who identified as transgender women, 25.8% as transgender men, 30.1% were AFAB nonbinary, and 8.4% were AMAB nonbinary.

The average age of respondents was 31.96 years (standard deviation = 15.06), with 43.6% ranging between 18 and 24 years old. Over half (56.5%) of respondents identified as White, non-Hispanic; 22.1% as Hispanic or Latine; 8.1% as Black, non-Hispanic; 7.3% as Asian, non-Hispanic; and 6.0% identified as multiracial or another race.

In terms of socioeconomic class status, 18.0% of respondents earned a college degree, 33.4% completed some college without earning a degree, 34.9% earned a high school diploma or GED, and 13.7% held less than a high school diploma. Close to half of respondents reported a per capita income, adjusted for household size, of less than \$20,000 a year.

Nearly all (98.2%) respondents were U.S. citizens. The remaining 1.8% were noncitizens, including documented residents or undocumented.

Respondents were asked to describe how often "People can tell I am trans even if I don't tell them."

Nearly half of the respondents (46.4%) said people can "rarely" or "never" tell they are transgender, 39.1% said people can "sometimes" tell, and 14.5% said people can "always" or "most of the time" tell they are transgender.

Table 1. Characteristics among 2022 USTS adult respondents

Variable	Category	%	95% CI
Gender Identity	Transgender woman	35.6%	[35.0, 36.3]
	Transgender man	25.8%	[25.2, 26.4]
	AFAB nonbinary	30.1%	[29.6, 30.7]
	AMAB nonbinary	8.4%	[8.1, 8.8]
Age	18–24	43.6%	[43.0, 44.3]
	25–34	26.9%	[26.4, 27.5]
	35–44	9.3%	[8.9, 9.6]
	45+	20.2%	[19.5, 20.9]

¹⁷ For the purposes of this report, adults who identified as crossdressers on the survey, those currently residing on U.S. military bases or in a U.S. territory, and youth under 18 years old were not included in the analysis. For more on the sampling approach used for the U.S. Transgender Survey, see James, Sandy E., Jody L. Herman, Logan E. Durso, and Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen. 2024. *Early Insights: A Report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2022%20USTS%20Early%20Insights%20Report_FINAL.pdf

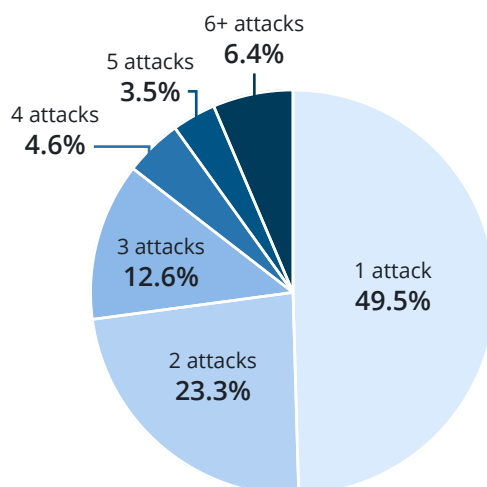
Variable	Category	%	95% CI
Race	White, non-Hispanic	56.5%	[55.8, 57.2]
	Black, non-Hispanic	8.1%	[7.7, 8.5]
	Asian, non-Hispanic	7.3%	[6.9, 7.7]
	Hispanic or Latine	22.1%	[21.6, 22.8]
	Another race or Multiracial	6.0%	[5.7, 6.3]
Education	Less than high school	13.7%	[13.1, 14.3]
	High school or GED	34.9%	[34.2, 35.6]
	Some college	33.4%	[32.8, 33.9]
	Bachelor's degree or higher	18.0%	[17.7, 18.4]
Per Capita Income	No Income	5.8%	[5.4, 6.1]
	\$1 to \$4,999	5.6%	[5.3, 6.0]
	\$5,000 to \$9,999	11.7%	[11.2, 12.1]
	\$10,000 to \$14,999	13.5%	[13.0, 14.0]
	\$15,000 to \$19,999	12.4%	[11.9, 12.9]
	\$20,000 to \$29,999	10.1%	[9.7, 10.5]
	\$30,000 to \$49,999	16.1%	[15.6, 16.6]
	\$50,000-99,999	17.2%	[16.7, 17.7]
	\$100,000+	11.9%	[11.5, 12.3]
Community Type	Urban	33.4%	[32.7, 34.0]
	Suburban	49.7%	[49.1, 50.4]
	Rural	16.9%	[16.4, 17.5]
Immigration Status	Noncitizen	1.8%	[1.6, 2.0]
	U.S. citizen	98.2%	[98.0, 98.4]
Trans Visibility	Always or most of the time	14.5%	[14.0, 15.0]
	Sometimes	39.1%	[38.5, 39.8]
	Rarely or never	46.4%	[45.7, 47.0]

Note: CI = confidence interval; AFAB = assigned female at birth; AMAB = assigned male at birth; Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

Past-Year Experiences of Physical Attacks

Among USTS respondents, 5.4% experienced one or more physical attacks during the prior year. Of those who were physically attacked, 49.5% reported experiencing one attack and 50.5% reported experiencing more than one attack over the year. More than one-quarter (27.2%) of respondents who experienced any physical attack reported experiencing three or more attacks over the year.

Figure 1. Past-year count of physical attacks among 2022 USTS adults



Geography of Physical Attacks

Fewer respondents from the Northeast/New England (3.9%) region reported physical attacks, and more respondents in the Northeast/Middle Atlantic (6.0%), West/Pacific (6.6%), and Midwest/West North Central (6.6%) regions reported physical attacks over the year.

Figure 2. One-year physical attack prevalence by region among 2022 USTS adults

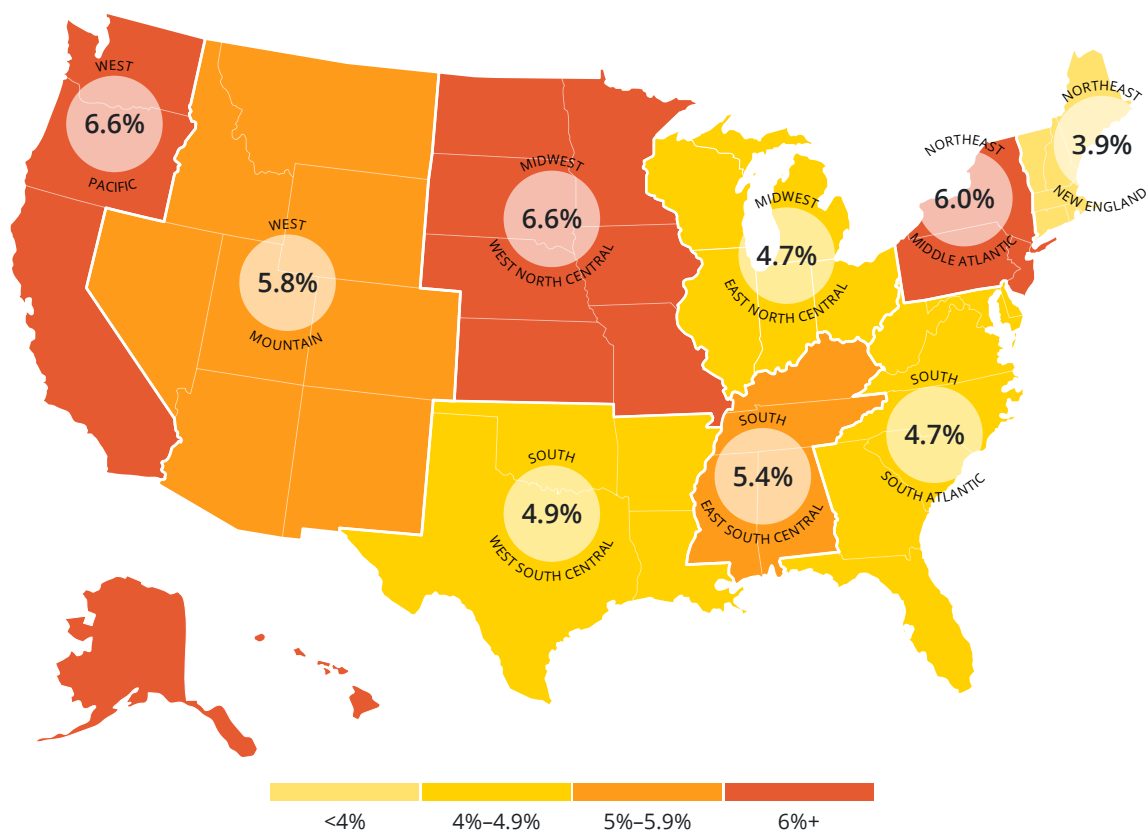
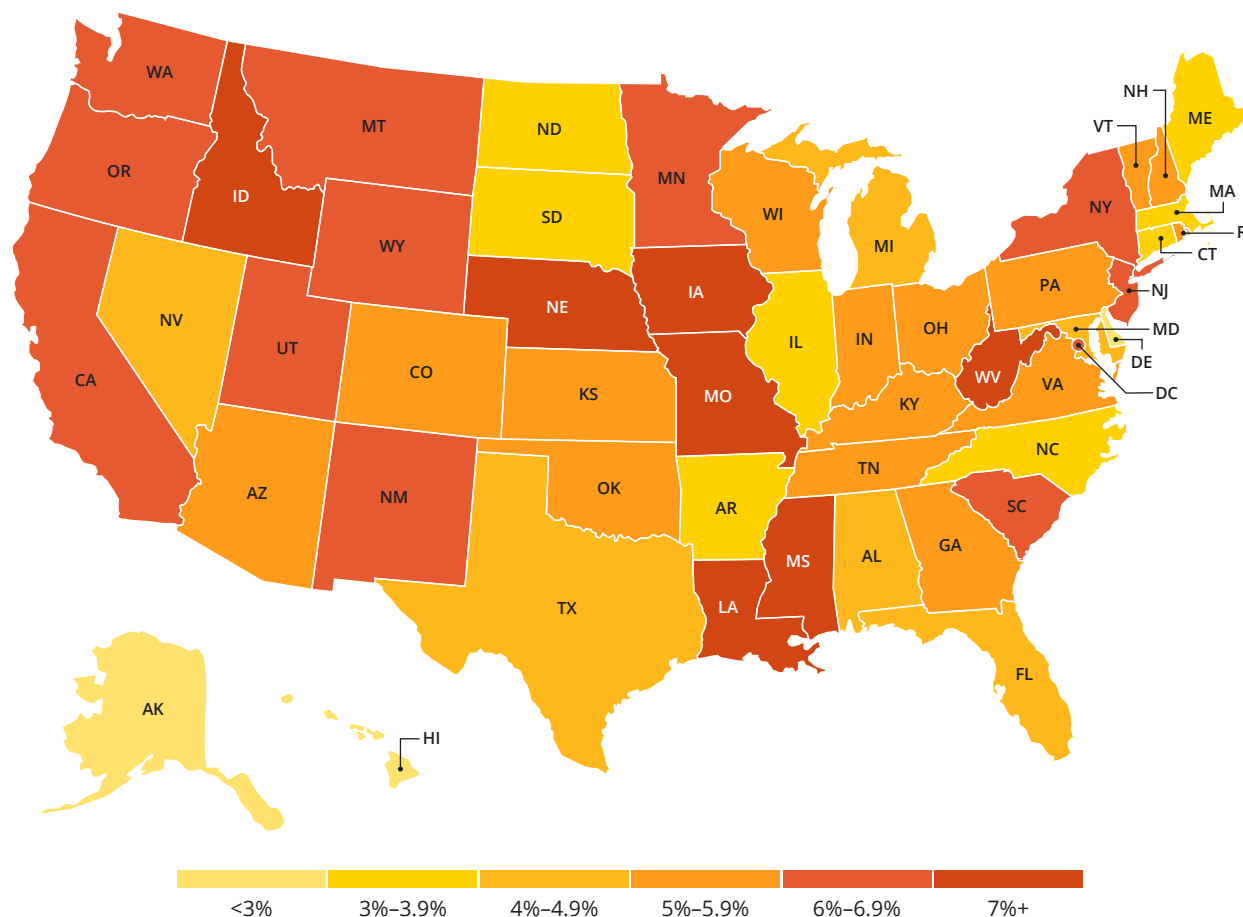


Figure 3 presents the prevalence of physical attacks experienced by USTS transgender adult respondents over a year by state. States with the highest prevalence include Louisiana (8.7%) in the South; Iowa (7.6%), Missouri (7.5%), and Nebraska (7.4%) in the Midwest; Idaho (8.7%) in the Western Mountain region; and West Virginia (7.2%) in the Southern Atlantic region. States with the lowest prevalence of physical attacks include Delaware (0.5%), Alaska (2.1%), and Hawaii (2.5%).¹⁸

Figure 3. One-year physical attack prevalence by state among 2022 USTS adults



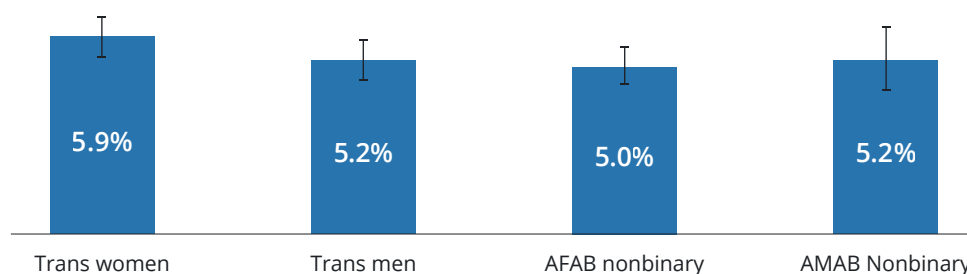
Demographic Characteristics of Transgender Physical Attack Victims

Gender Identity

When asked whether they had experienced any physical attacks in the year prior to completing the 2022 survey, between 5.0% (among AFAB nonbinary adults) and 5.9% (among transgender women) of respondents reported experiencing at least one attack. As shown in Figure 4, experiences did not differ significantly by gender identity.

¹⁸ In separate analyses, additional geographic patterns show particularly high rates on U.S. military bases, where approximately 12% of transgender adult respondents reported experiencing a physical attack in the past year. In contrast, no transgender respondents living in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands reported any physical attacks. All reported attacks in U.S. territories occurred in Puerto Rico, where 4% of transgender adult respondents reported experiencing one or more attacks in the prior year.

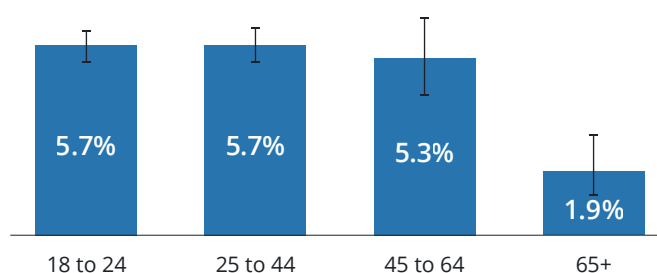
Figure 4. One-year physical attack prevalence by gender identity among 2022 USTS adults



Age

Experiencing a physical attack was significantly less common among older transgender adults. Approximately 1.9% of those age 65 or older reported having experienced an attack in the previous year compared with more than 5% of adults ages 18 to 64, with little variation among the age groups within this range.

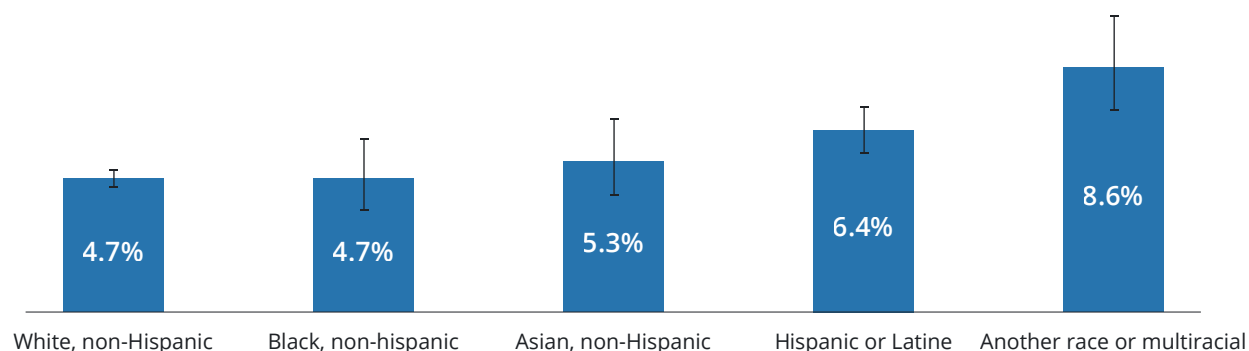
Figure 5. One-year physical attack prevalence by age among 2022 USTS adults



Race and Ethnicity

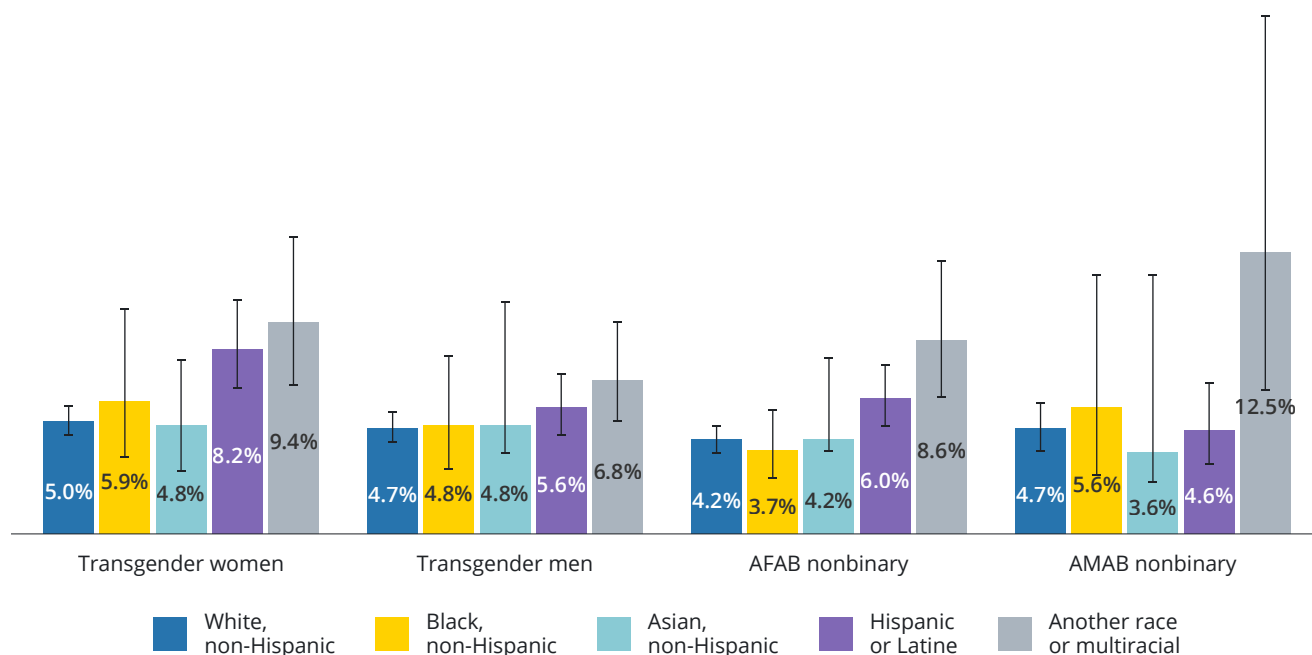
We found no significant differences in the prevalence of physical attacks between non-Hispanic Black (4.7%) transgender adults and non-Hispanic white (4.7%) transgender adults. Hispanic or Latine (6.4%) transgender adults were significantly more likely than white, non-Hispanic adults to have experienced one or more physical attacks over the year, and transgender adults who identify as multiracial or another race (8.6%) reported the highest prevalence of physical attacks over the year.

Figure 6. One-year physical attack prevalence by race and ethnicity among 2022 USTS adults



As shown in Figure 7, patterns in violence by race and ethnicity across different gender identity groups mirror the aggregate results shown in Figure 6. Across all genders, except transgender men, multiracial adults or those identifying as another race reported a higher prevalence of violence than white, non-Hispanic adults, who consistently have the lowest likelihood of having been physically attacked in the prior year.

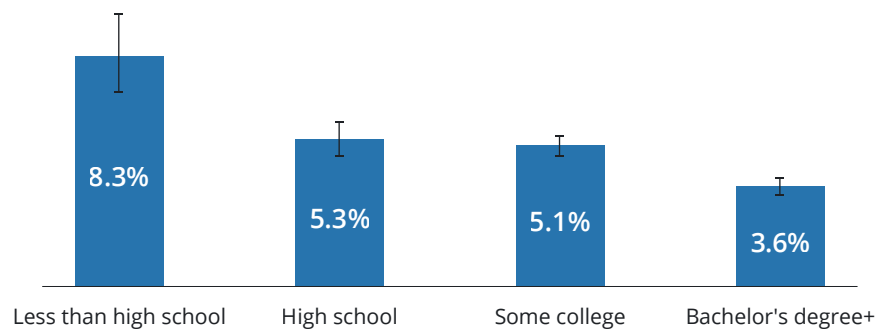
Figure 7. One-year physical attack prevalence by gender identity and race and ethnicity among 2022 USTS adults



Education

More physical attacks were reported by transgender adults with less than a high school degree, with 8.3% reporting that they had experienced one or more attacks over the year. Prevalence was lower among those with a high school diploma (5.3%) or some college education (5.1%), and lowest among those with a bachelor's degree (3.6%).

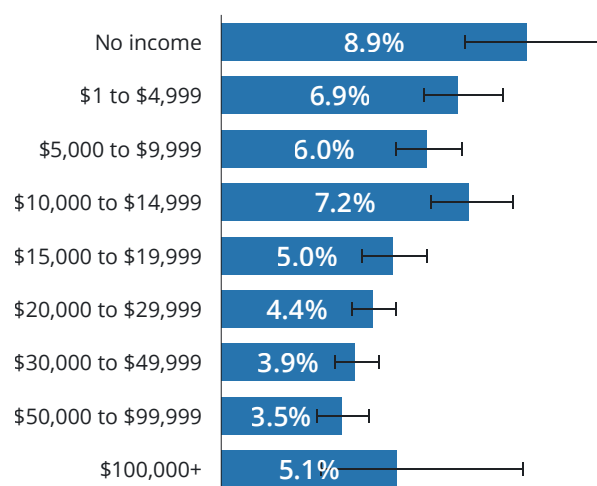
Figure 8. One-year physical attack prevalence by education among 2022 USTS adults



Per Capita Income

USTS respondents with lower per capita income¹⁹ were generally more likely to have experienced one or more physical attacks over the year compared to those with higher incomes. Respondents with no income (8.9%) reported the highest prevalence of physical attacks, particularly compared to those with incomes between \$15,000 and \$99,999 (3.5% to 5.0%).

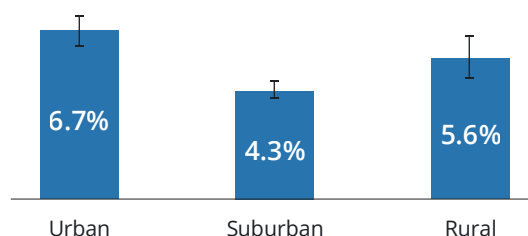
Figure 9. One-year physical attack prevalence by per capita income among 2022 USTS adults



Residential Community Type

Transgender respondents who resided in suburban communities (4.3%) were the least likely to have experienced physical attacks over one year, compared with 6.7% of transgender adults in urban communities and 5.6% of transgender adults in rural communities.

Figure 10. One-year physical attack prevalence by community type among 2022 USTS adults

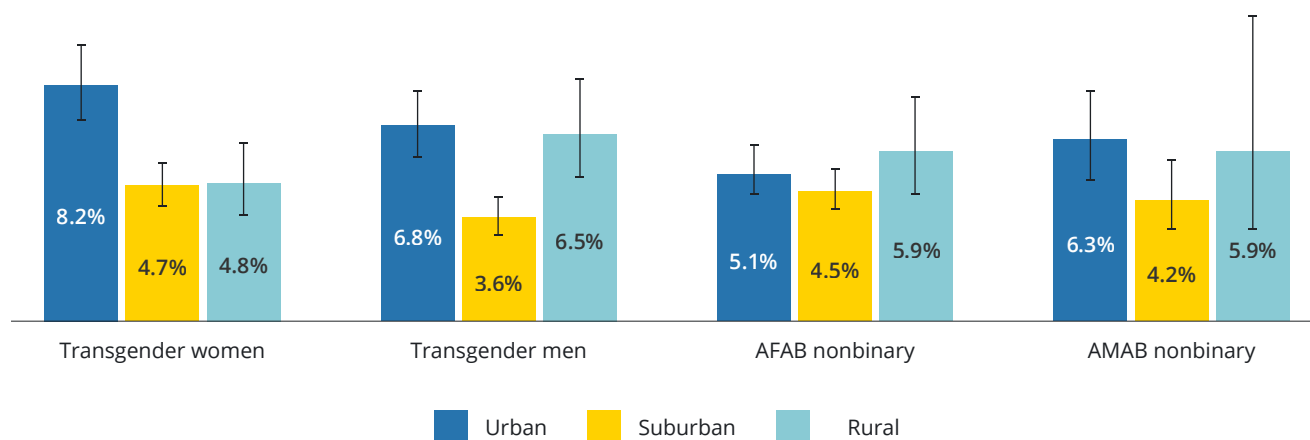


Patterns of geographic context varied across gender identities are shown in Figure 11. Among transgender men, prevalences of experiencing physical attacks were similar for those living in urban

¹⁹ We used household income and household size to create a household-size-adjusted measure of per capita income. Household income was collected as a categorical variable representing income ranges. To estimate per capita income, we divided the midpoint of each income category by the total number of household members, including both adults and children. The resulting per capita income estimates were then grouped into the categories presented in Figure 9.

(6.8%) and rural (6.5%) areas, compared to those in suburban areas (3.6%). In contrast, transgender women residing in urban centers reported significantly higher prevalence of having experienced physical attacks (8.2%) compared to those living in suburban (4.7%) or rural (4.8%) areas. Nonbinary people—both AFAB and AMAB—were more similar in their experiences of past year physical attacks across different community types.

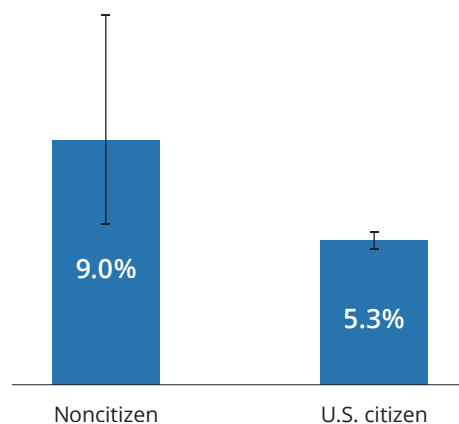
Figure 11. One-year physical attack prevalence by gender identity and community type among 2022 USTS adults



Citizenship

Citizenship status was associated with significant differences in prevalence of one-year physical attacks. Approximately 9.0% of noncitizens reported experiencing one or more physical attacks, nearly double the prevalence among transgender respondents who were U.S. citizens (5.3%).

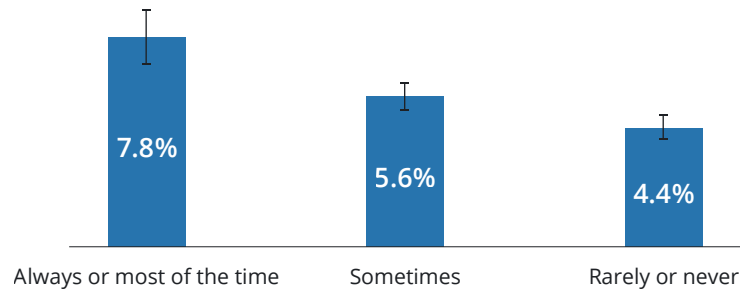
Figure 12. One-year physical attack prevalence by citizenship status among 2022 USTS adults



Transgender Visibility and Physical Attacks

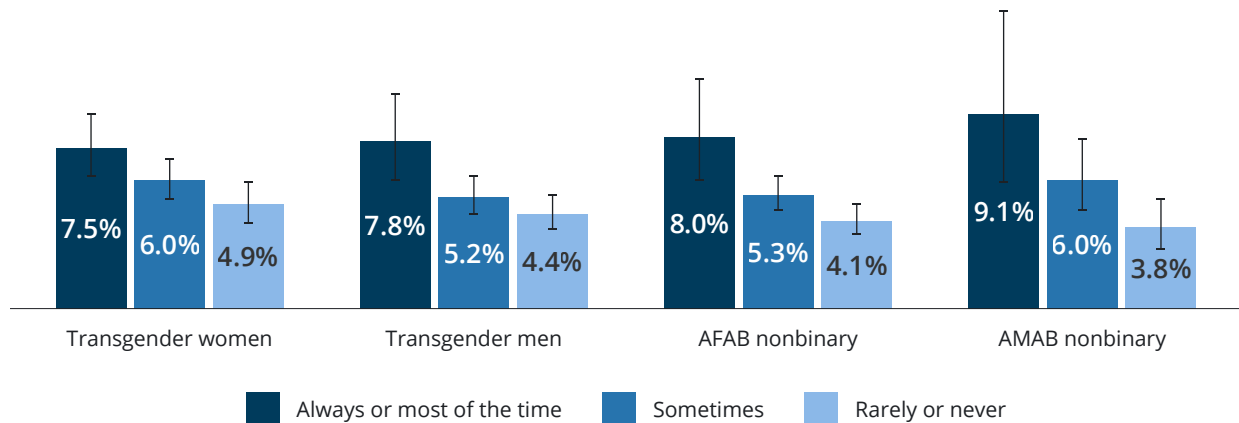
USTS respondents' perception of how frequently others viewed them as transgender was significantly associated with their experiences of physical attacks over one year. Among respondents who believed they were perceived as transgender always or most of the time, 7.8% reported experiencing physical attacks; this compares with 5.6% of those who were sometimes perceived as transgender and 4.4% of those who were rarely or never perceived as transgender.

Figure 13. One-year physical attack transgender visibility by state among 2022 USTS adults



As shown in Figure 14, respondents across all gender identities who believed they were perceived as transgender almost all or most of the time were significantly more likely to have experienced a physical attack in the prior year than those who believed others rarely or never perceived them as transgender. Between 7.5% and 9.1% of transgender adults who believed they were perceived as transgender most or all of the time experienced an attack, compared to 3.8% to 4.9% among those rarely or never perceived as transgender.

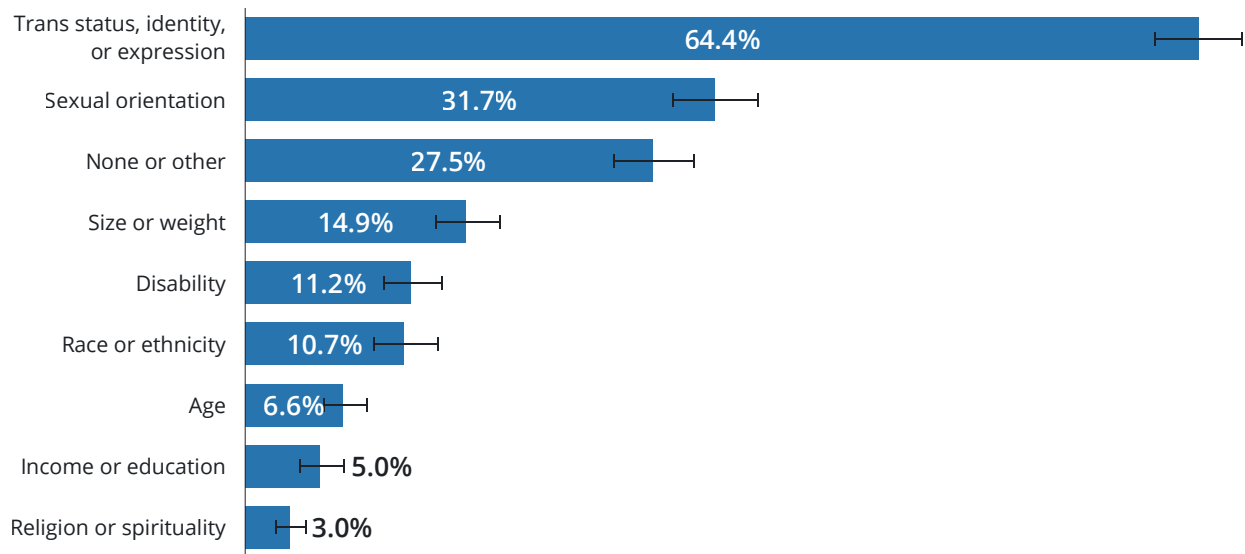
Figure 14. One-year physical attack prevalence by gender identity and transgender visibility among 2022 USTS adults



Attributions of Motivation for Violence Against Transgender People

Respondents overwhelmingly attributed their experiences of physical attacks to their transgender status, gender identity, or gender expression. Almost two-thirds (64.4%) reported that at least one of the attacks they experienced was related to these factors. About one-third (31.7%) believed they were attacked because of their sexual orientation.

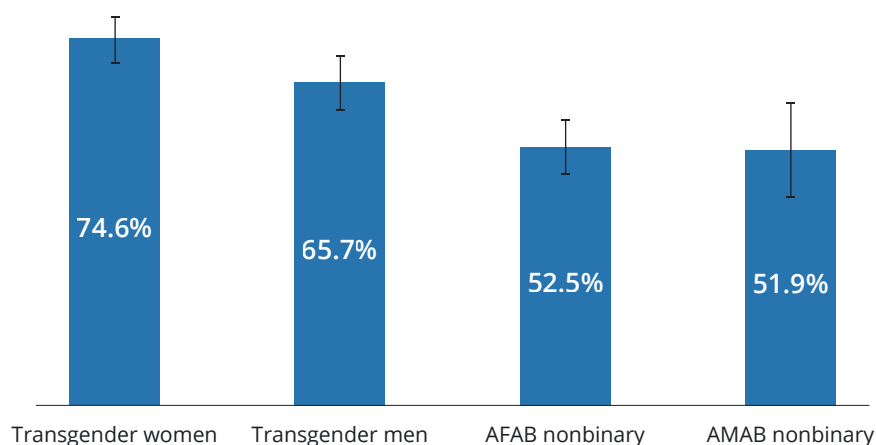
Figure 15. Attributed reasons for past-year physical attacks among 2022 USTS adults reporting an attack



Note: Respondents could report multiple attributions for physical attacks and may have experienced multiple incidents with different attributions.

Figure 16 shows that attributions to transgender identity vary across gender groups. Approximately seven in 10 transgender women (74.6%) and transgender men (65.7%) attributed one or more of their past-year physical attacks to their transgender status or gender identity or expression compared with about half of AFAB nonbinary individuals (52.5%) and AMAB nonbinary individuals (51.9%).

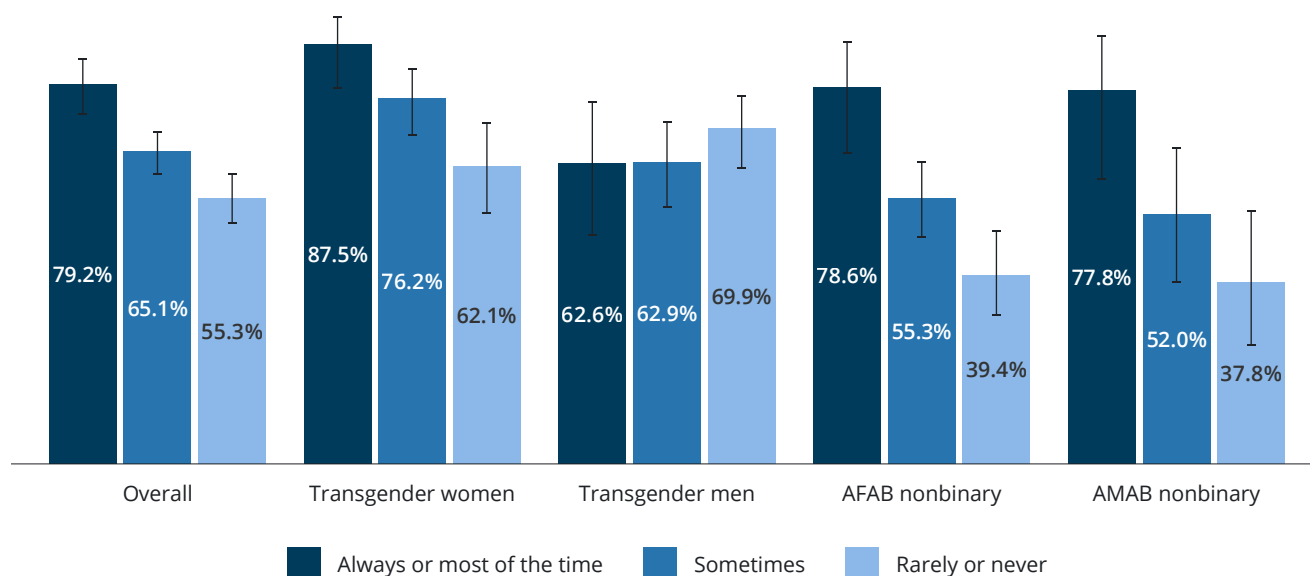
Figure 16. Past-year physical attacks attributed to transgender status, identity, or expression by gender identity among 2022 USTS adults reporting an attack



Perceived transgender visibility further shaped whether respondents attributed physical attacks to their transgender status or gender identity or expression. Among those who experienced a physical attack and reported being perceived as transgender always or most of the time, 79.2% attributed the attack to their transgender status or gender identity or expression. In contrast, among those who experienced an attack but reported being rarely or never perceived as transgender, 55.3% believed the attack was motivated by their transgender status or gender identity or expression.

This pattern was consistent across all gender groups except transgender men. Among transgender men, the likelihood of attributing past-year physical violence to their transgender status or gender identity or expression did not significantly differ whether they reported being perceived as transgender always or most of the time (62.6%), sometimes (62.9%), or rarely or never (69.9%).

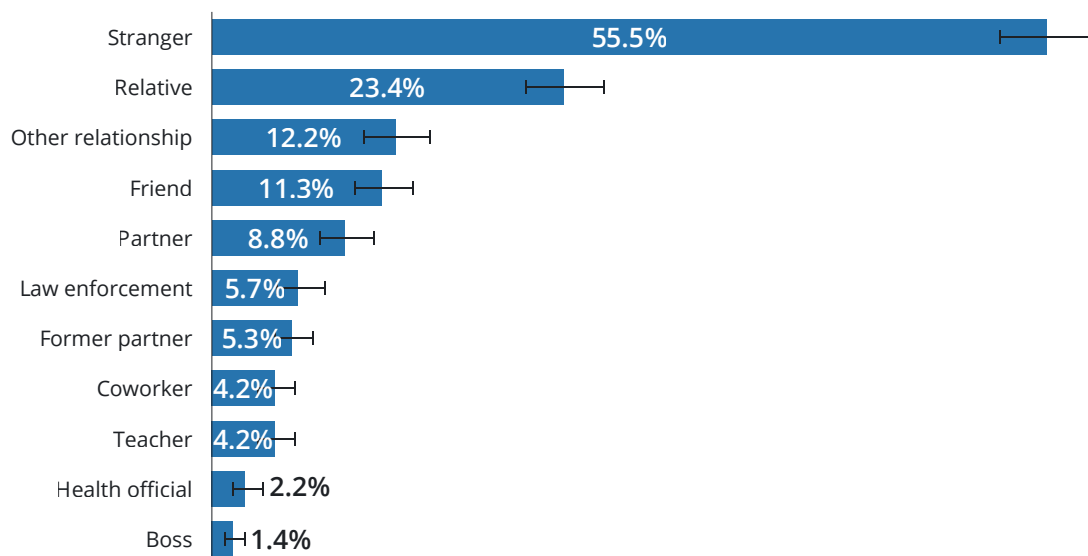
Figure 17. Past-year physical attacks attributed to transgender status, identity, or expression by gender identity and trans visibility among 2022 USTS adults reporting an attack



Relationship to the Attacker

Figure 18 shows that 55.5% of transgender adults who experienced a physical attack over the prior year reported that the perpetrator was a stranger. Among those attacked by a stranger, 62.0% indicated that the incident occurred in a public space. Overall, 2.0% of all USTS respondents reported experiencing a physical attack by a stranger in a public place. The second most common relationship with the perpetrator was a relative, with 23.4% of respondents who were attacked reporting that the perpetrator was a family member. Friends were the third most frequent category (11.3%), followed by current partners (8.8%), and former partners (5.3%). Among USTS respondents who reported at least one physical attack in the previous year, 5.7% indicated that the assailant was a law enforcement officer.

Figure 18. Relationship to the person committing past-year physical attacks among 2022 USTS adults reporting an attack

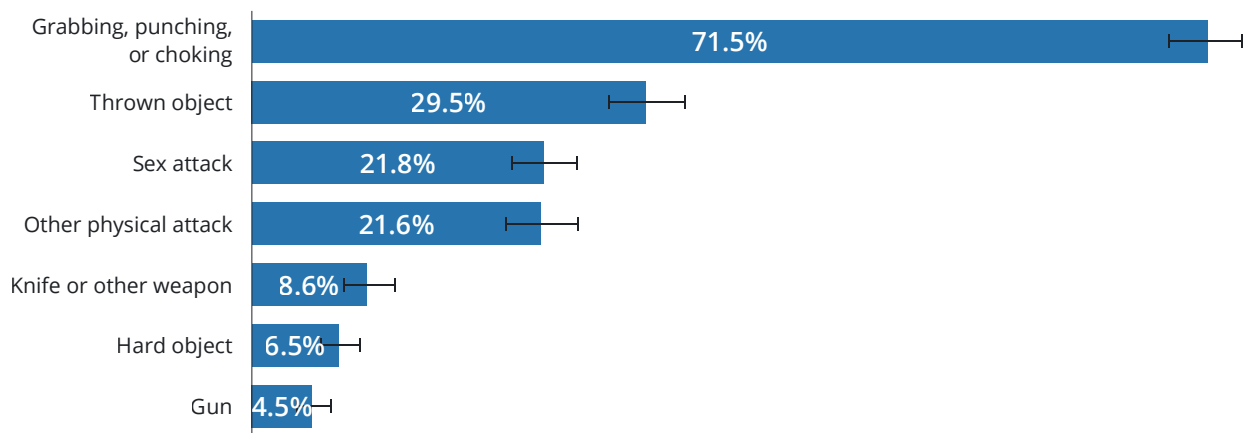


Note: Respondents could report multiple attackers and may have experienced multiple incidents involving perpetrators with different relationships to them.

Weapons Used During Physical Attacks

The vast majority (71.5%) of respondents who reported experiencing a physical attack indicated that the assault involved grabbing, punching, or choking (Figure 19). Nearly one-third (29.5%) reported that an object was thrown at them. Smaller proportions reported being assaulted with a knife or other weapon (8.6%), a gun (4.5%), or another hard object (6.5%). More than one-in-five (21.8%) of respondents reported experiencing a sexual assault in the prior year.

Figure 19. Type of violence associated with past-year physical attacks among 2022 USTS adults reporting an attack



Note: Respondents could report multiple types of violence and may have experienced multiple incidents involving different types of violence.

Correlates of Physical Attacks

We used logistic regression to examine how multiple factors, considered simultaneously, were associated with the likelihood of experiencing a physical attack in the year prior to the survey.

Correlates of Physical Attacks Among All Transgender Respondents

Model 1 in Table 2 assesses correlates of physical attacks among all USTS respondents.

Race and ethnicity are related to experiences of physical attacks. There were no differences between Black and white non-Hispanic people, but Hispanic or Latine respondents had 35% higher odds, and transgender adults who identified as another race or multiracial had 86% higher odds, of experiencing a physical attack compared to non-Hispanic white respondents.

Lower educational attainment and lower income significantly increased the odds of experiencing a physical attack. Respondents without a high school diploma or GED or with no income had substantially higher odds of experiencing a physical attack relative to their more educated and higher-income counterparts.

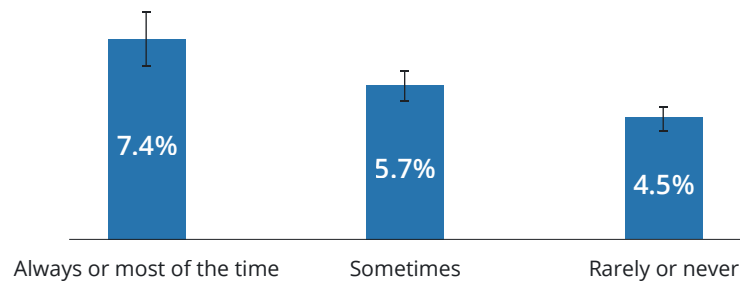
Respondents residing in suburban areas had the lowest odds of experiencing violence. In comparison, those living in urban areas had 56% higher odds, and those in rural areas had 27% higher odds of experiencing a physical attack.

In terms of gender identity, transgender women faced the highest risk, while transgender men and AFAB nonbinary respondents had 22% and 25% lower odds, respectively, of experiencing a physical attack than transgender women. The odds were slightly lower among AMAB nonbinary individuals than among transgender women; however, the difference was not statistically significant. Visibility played a pronounced role: respondents who believed they were always or most of the time perceived as transgender had 72% higher odds of experiencing a physical attack than those who were never perceived

as transgender. Those who believed they were sometimes perceived as transgender had 29% higher odds than those never perceived as transgender.

Figure 20 presents the adjusted probability of having experienced a physical attack by gender identity and perceived transgender visibility, controlling for demographic characteristics. Across all gender identities, respondents who reported higher levels of perceived visibility had a greater probability of experiencing a physical attack (7.4%) compared to those who reported being rarely or never perceived as transgender (4.5%).

Figure 20. Predicted probability of experiencing a physical attack by transgender visibility adjusted for race/ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, community type, and citizenship, 2022 USTS adults



Correlates of Physical Attacks by Gender Identity

Table 2 also presents correlates of physical attacks separately by gender identity. Model 2 estimates correlates for transgender women, Model 3 for transgender men, Model 4 for AFAB nonbinary people, and Model 5 for AMAB nonbinary people.

The patterns in correlates of violence vary across groups. For example, higher levels of education are associated with lower odds of experiencing a physical attack among transgender women and AFAB nonbinary respondents but were not significantly related to physical attacks among AMAB nonbinary respondents. Among transgender men, only those with a bachelor's degree or higher have significantly lower odds of experiencing a physical attack compared to those with less than a high school degree.

Residential community type is also an inconsistent correlate across gender categories. Transgender women residing in urban centers have significantly higher odds of experiencing a physical attack compared to those living in suburban areas. Among transgender men, those living in both urban and rural communities have significantly higher odds of physical attacks relative to suburban transgender men. There are no significant differences in physical attacks by community type among nonbinary people.

Transgender visibility also varies in its association with victimization across gender identity groups. Among transgender women, as well as AFAB and AMAB nonbinary individuals, those who reported being perceived as transgender always or most of the time had significantly higher odds of experiencing a physical attack compared to those who were rarely or never perceived as transgender. This pattern was not observed among transgender men.

Figure 21 displays the probabilities of experiencing a physical attack by levels of transgender visibility across gender groups.

Figure 21. Predicted probability of experiencing a physical attack, by gender identity and transgender visibility adjusted for race/ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, community type, and citizenship, among 2022 USTS adults

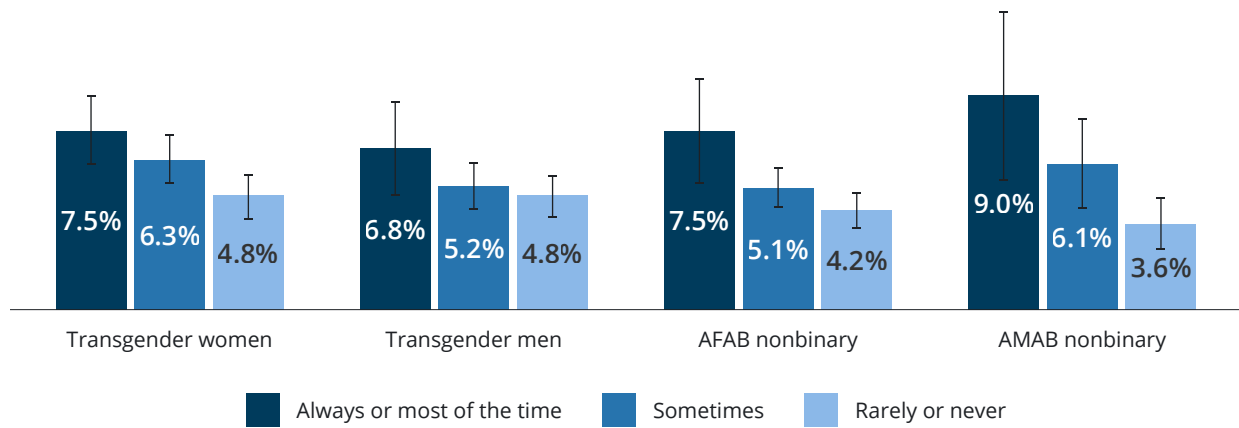


Table 2. Logistic regression models measuring characteristics associated with vulnerability to physical attacks among 2022 USTS adults

Variable	Reference Category	Category	Model 1: Full Sample N = 73,767		Model 2: Transgender Women N = 21,650		Model 3: Transgender Men N = 18,505		Model 4: AFAB Nonbinary N = 26,903		Model 5: AMAB Nonbinary N = 6,709	
			OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Age	18-24	25-34	1.09	[0.94, 1.27]	1.00	[0.77, 1.30]	1.01	[0.75, 1.35]	1.24	[0.94, 1.64]	1.15	[0.77, 1.72]
		35-44	1.14	[0.92, 1.42]	1.24	[0.89, 1.72]	1.17	[0.73, 1.86]	0.88	[0.56, 1.37]	0.96	[0.51, 1.79]
		45+	0.82	[0.64, 1.06]	0.84	[0.59, 1.19]	0.67	[0.35, 1.28]	0.97	[0.52, 1.81]	0.74	[0.34, 1.58]
Race/ethnicity	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	1.04	[0.77, 1.41]	1.13	[0.62, 2.05]	1.03	[0.58, 1.84]	1.03	[0.65, 1.63]	0.84	[0.34, 2.13]
		Asian, non-Hispanic	1.27	[0.93, 1.72]	0.98	[0.53, 1.80]	1.38	[0.74, 2.57]	1.57	[0.99, 2.49]	1.27	[0.49, 3.28]
		Hispanic or Latine	1.35	[1.14, 1.59]	1.43	[1.07, 1.91]	1.26	[0.93, 1.70]	1.40	[1.04, 1.87]	1.05	[0.65, 1.68]
		Another race or multiracial	1.86	[1.47, 2.36]	1.87	[1.23, 2.84]	1.28	[0.89, 1.85]	2.30	[1.53, 3.45]	3.01	[1.49, 6.09]
Gender	Trans women	Trans Men	0.78	[0.65, 0.93]	—		—		—		—	
		AFAB Nonbinary	0.75	[0.63, 0.89]	—		—		—		—	
		AMAB Nonbinary	0.88	[0.70, 1.11]	—		—		—		—	
Education	Less than high school	High school or GED	0.62	[0.49, 0.78]	0.60	[0.41, 0.90]	0.72	[0.48, 1.08]	0.51	[0.33, 0.79]	1.02	[0.44, 2.36]
		Some college	0.62	[0.50, 0.78]	0.55	[0.38, 0.80]	0.69	[0.47, 1.03]	0.59	[0.39, 0.88]	1.32	[0.59, 2.99]
		Bachelor's degree or higher	0.48	[0.37, 0.62]	0.46	[0.30, 0.70]	0.50	[0.31, 0.83]	0.42	[0.26, 0.69]	0.94	[0.40, 2.24]
Per capita income	No income	\$1-4,999	0.79	[0.58, 1.09]	1.54	[0.88, 2.69]	0.57	[0.34, 0.95]	0.55	[0.31, 0.97]	0.78	[0.28, 2.18]
		\$5,000-9,999	0.70	[0.52, 0.95]	0.97	[0.55, 1.71]	0.56	[0.34, 0.92]	0.53	[0.30, 0.91]	1.32	[0.47, 3.77]
		\$10,000-14,999	0.87	[0.64, 1.18]	1.47	[0.87, 2.51]	0.53	[0.31, 0.92]	0.64	[0.36, 1.13]	1.33	[0.45, 3.90]
		\$15,000-19,999	0.60	[0.44, 0.83]	0.90	[0.51, 1.57]	0.36	[0.21, 0.62]	0.59	[0.33, 1.06]	0.81	[0.28, 2.40]
		\$20,000-29,999	0.56	[0.41, 0.75]	0.80	[0.47, 1.35]	0.38	[0.23, 0.64]	0.55	[0.32, 0.95]	0.64	[0.23, 1.81]
		\$30,000-49,999	0.51	[0.38, 0.70]	0.68	[0.40, 1.16]	0.38	[0.21, 0.69]	0.48	[0.27, 0.85]	0.82	[0.29, 2.35]
		\$50,000-99,999	0.49	[0.34, 0.69]	0.64	[0.35, 1.16]	0.42	[0.21, 0.81]	0.48	[0.23, 0.99]	0.58	[0.21, 1.61]
		\$100,000 or more	0.69	[0.35, 1.33]	1.04	[0.40, 2.69]	0.17	[0.04, 0.81]	0.78	[0.24, 2.49]	1.03	[0.29, 3.69]
Community type	Suburban	Urban	1.56	[1.35, 1.79]	1.71	[1.34, 2.19]	1.90	[1.46, 2.47]	1.13	[0.88, 1.45]	1.48	[0.98, 2.24]
		Rural	1.27	[1.05, 1.55]	0.97	[0.69, 1.35]	1.85	[1.32, 2.59]	1.27	[0.89, 1.82]	1.46	[0.76, 2.80]
Immigration status	U.S. citizen	Noncitizen	1.33	[0.83, 2.13]	1.40	[0.70, 2.80]	1.33	[0.60, 2.98]	1.26	[0.51, 3.14]	0.58	[0.17, 1.95]
Trans visibility	Never or rarely	Always or most of the time	1.72	[1.43, 2.07]	1.66	[1.23, 2.23]	1.46	[0.99, 2.17]	1.88	[1.29, 2.73]	2.67	[1.55, 4.61]
		Sometimes	1.29	[1.11, 1.50]	1.37	[1.04, 1.79]	1.10	[0.82, 1.47]	1.25	[0.97, 1.61]	1.76	[1.12, 2.77]
Constant			0.09	[0.06, 0.13]	0.06	[0.04, 0.11]	0.09	[0.05, 0.15]	0.09	[0.05, 0.17]	0.03	[0.01, 0.09]

Note: Each model is adjusted for all demographic and socioeconomic covariates included in the table. The reported odds ratios represent associations between each correlate and the outcome, holding all other variables constant; OR = Odds Ratio; CI = Confidence Interval; Gray cells indicate a significant difference relative to the reference category.

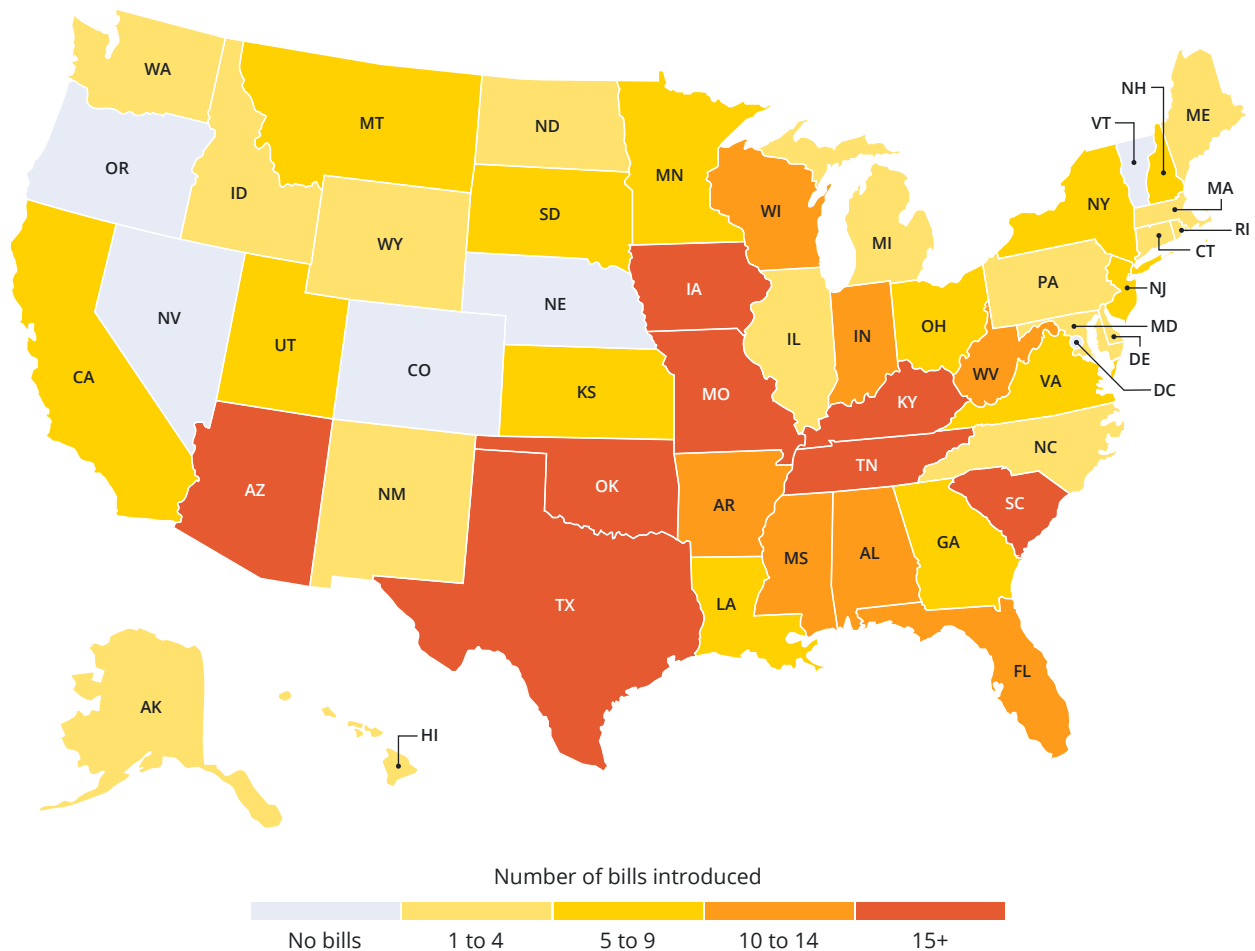
Correlates of State Legislative Activity and Legal Landscape

We next assessed how state-level policy proposals and broader LGBTQ legal landscapes relate to experiences of violence among transgender adults.

Legislative Activity

Using data from the American Civil Liberties Union²⁰ and Trans Legislation Tracker,²¹ we measured state-level legislative activity as the number of anti-transgender bills introduced in each state during 2021 and 2022, corresponding to the period in which respondents participated in the U.S. Trans Survey (range = 0–28, $M = 7.25$, $SD = 6.80$).

Figure 22. Anti-transgender bills introduced in 2021 and 2022 by state

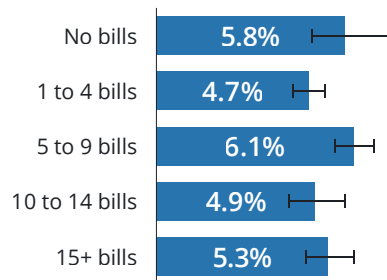


²⁰ American Civil Liberties Union. (2021). *Legislation affecting LGBTQ rights across the country 2021*. <https://www.aclu.org/documents/legislation-affecting-lgbtq-rights-across-country-2021>

²¹ Trans Legislation Tracker. (2022). *2022 anti-trans legislation*. <https://translegislation.com/bills/2022>

As shown in Figure 23, there was little variation in the prevalence of physical attacks by the total number of bills introduced in 2021 and 2022. Transgender respondents residing in states that introduced one to four bills across these two years were some of the least likely to report experiencing a physical attack.

Figure 23. One-year physical attack prevalence by number of anti-transgender bills introduced at the state-level in 2021 and 2022 among 2022 USTS adults



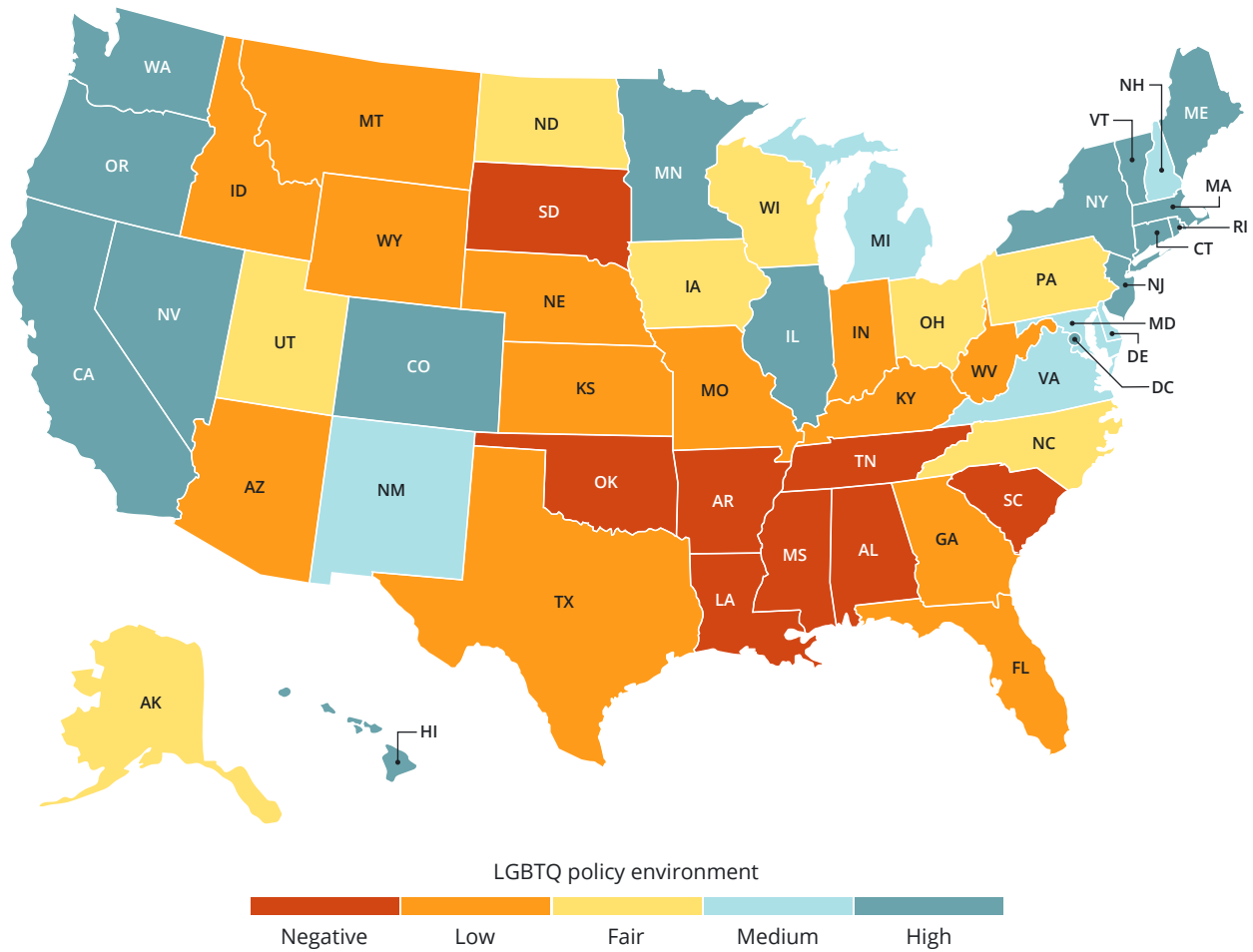
We also assessed whether proposed policies were associated with the number of physical attacks experienced among transgender respondents who reported at least one attack in the past year. The mean number of attacks was slightly higher among respondents living in states that introduced one or more anti-transgender bills and those residing in states with no proposed bills (2.3 vs. 1.9 attacks, respectively).

Legal Landscape

To measure state policy climate, we used the Movement Advancement Project’s (MAP) LGBTQ Policy Tally Categories, which reflect enacted laws in place at the time respondents participated in the U.S. Trans Survey.²² The LGBTQ Policy Score places states along a continuum ranging from negative policy environments—characterized by laws and policies that restrict rights and target individuals based on their LGBTQ status—to high-equality policy environments, which are characterized by legal protections and rights-based policies for LGBTQ people.

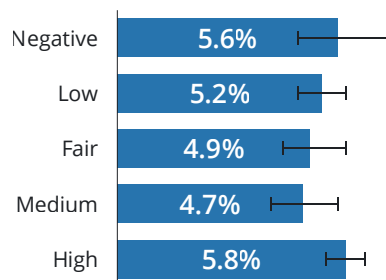
²² MAP also reports “Gender Identity Policy Tallies.” Findings were consistent across measures of the legal landscape, whether operationalized using broader LGBTQ policy tallies or gender identity–specific policy tallies. This pattern likely reflects, in part, the timing of the USTS data collection. At that time, relatively few state laws specifically targeted transgender people or gender identity. In contrast, anti-transgender legislation increased dramatically beginning in 2023 and has continued to expand in subsequent years. Future research using more recent data may be better positioned to assess whether the recent proliferation of anti-transgender laws is associated with experiences of violence among transgender people; Trans Legislation Tracker. (2026). *Tracking the rise of anti-trans bills in the US*. <https://translegislation.com/learn>

Figure 24. LGBTQ policy scores in 2022 by state



LGBTQ policy environments likewise do not appear to be significantly associated with the prevalence of physical attacks among transgender respondents. As Figure 25 shows, the prevalence of violence varied little across states with differing policy scores, and these differences were not statistically significant.

Figure 25. One-year physical attack prevalence by enacted state-level LGBTQ policy among 2022 USTS adults



Discussion

Our analysis of the 2022 USTS found high prevalence of physical attacks among adult transgender respondents. Overall, 5.4% of transgender and nonbinary individuals reported experiencing one or more physical attacks during the year prior to the survey (2021-2022), and about half of those individuals were attacked more than once over the year. Although the measures are not perfectly comparable, this is almost four times the rate reported for cisgender people in the United States in the Department of Justice's NCVS, where in 2022, 1.5% of the general population of people over age 12 experienced one or more victimizations.²³

Correlates of violence included socioeconomic status (lower educational attainment and lower income), Hispanic/Latine ethnicity, residing in urban communities, and not being a citizen of the United States. While all transgender and nonbinary respondents had high prevalence of experiencing physical attacks (above 5%), transgender women had the highest prevalence of attacks among the gender identity groups. Respondents who reported higher levels of perceived trans visibility—those who reported they are often visible as transgender—had a higher probability of experiencing a physical attack (7.4%) compared to those who reported being rarely or never perceived as transgender (4.5%).

Contrary to some prior research, Black, non-Hispanic transgender respondents did not differ significantly from white, non-Hispanic transgender respondents in the odds of physical attack. Hispanic/Latine respondents had significantly higher prevalence of physical attacks compared with both white and Black respondents. Here, again, it is important to note that all transgender/nonbinary respondents, regardless of intergroup differences, experienced high prevalence of violence over the year.

Our analysis showed that state-level policy environments—measured by the number of introduced anti-transgender bills and LGBTQ-related laws—were not associated with experiences of violence among transgender respondents in 2022 when the survey was conducted. Although some recent studies have reported a relationship between laws and violence,²⁴ our results did not support this association. Our analysis focused exclusively on state-level policies, ignoring intrastate variation, which may not fully capture the policy contexts that shape individuals' lives. Local policies enacted at the city or county level may have more immediate and direct effects on experiences of violence.

It is also important to note that our analysis provides a one-time picture of the experiences of transgender USTS respondents in 2022. Since then, many changes in the social and political climate in the United States, including increased legislative and policy actions, have affected transgender people. By June 2026, nearly 800 anti-trans bills were introduced in 43 state legislatures and more than 130 bills nationally in the 119th U.S. Congress,²⁵ targeting areas such as bathroom access, participation in sports, and identification documents. Courts have also limited transgender rights, including by banning gender

²³ Tapp, S. N., & Coen, E. J. (2024). *Criminal victimization, 2023* (NCJ 309349). Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv23.pdf>

²⁴ Brightman, S., Lenning, E., Lurie, K. J., & DeJong, C. (2024). Anti-Transgender Ideology, Laws, and Homicide: An Analysis of the Trifecta of Violence. *Homicide Studies*, 28(3), 251–269. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10887679231201803>; Lenning, E., Brightman, S., & Buist, C. L. (2021). The Trifecta of Violence: A Socio-Historical Comparison of Lynching and Violence Against Transgender Women. *Critical Criminology*, 29(1), 151–172. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-020-09539-9>

²⁵ 2026 Anti-Trans Bills Tracker. Accessed 6/21/2026: <https://translegislation.com>

affirming care for transgender youth²⁶ and allowing conversion therapies for LGBT youth.²⁷ Although we do not yet have data to assess whether these socio-political changes have increased anti-transgender violence, such a relationship is plausible.²⁸ For example, a recent study of hate crimes reported by California police and sheriff departments shows that gender identity hate crimes more than tripled between 2013 and 2024, increasing from 25 reported hate crimes in 2013 to 84 in 2024.²⁹

Recent changes in federal data collection will further constrain research on violence and victimization against transgender people. Following a January 2025 executive order instructing federal agencies to recognize the existence of only “two sexes, male and female,”³⁰ some national surveys and datasets have removed gender identity measures, limiting the availability of comprehensive information on transgender populations.³¹ The National Crime Victimization Survey,³² which has historically been used to assess disparities in violence between transgender and cisgender populations, is one of the surveys in which gender identity measures have been cut.³³ The data across these surveys and datasets have been critical for assessing disparities in violence and victimization between transgender and cisgender individuals.³⁴ The findings presented in this report and the broader national context demonstrate the necessity for that data collection to continue and also constantly improve, ensuring more representative samples and greater nuance in capturing transgender people’s experiences. To address these data gaps, community-based and state-level surveys should be expanded and strengthened to capture localized patterns, reflect the diversity of transgender people’s experiences, and better understand the contexts in which violence occurs.³⁵

²⁶ *United States v. Skrametti*, 605 U.S. 495.

²⁷ *Chiles v. Salazar*, 607 U.S. ____ (2026) (No. 24-539).

²⁸ Recent scholarship points to a mutually reinforcing relationship among ideology and rhetoric, law and policy, and violence. Research indicates that as exclusionary or harmful laws and policies are introduced and enacted, incidents of violence tend to increase. See, Brightman, S., & Lenning, E. (2025). Advancing the Trifecta: An Integrated Theoretical Framework for Understanding Violence. *Victims & Offenders: An International Journal of Evidence-Based Research, Policy, and Practice*, 20(5–6), 814–840; Brightman, S., Lenning, E., Lurie, K. J., & DeJong, C. (2024). Anti-Transgender Ideology, Laws, and Homicide: An Analysis of the Trifecta of Violence. *Homicide Studies*, 28(3), 251–269.

²⁹ Grasso, J. Cisneros, N., & Meyer, I.H. (2025). Gender identity hate crimes in California. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/CA-GI-Hate-Crimes-Dec-2025.pdf>

³⁰ Exec. Order No. 14168, 90 FR 8615 (2025). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02090/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal>

³¹ Meyer, I. H., & Bouton, L. J. (2025). *Impact of executive orders on access to federal data*. Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/SOGI-Data-Removal-EO-Feb-2025.pdf>

³² Bouton, L. J. A., & Redfield, E. (2026). *Removal of sexual orientation and gender identity from federal data collections: January 2025 to January 2026*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Federal-SOGI-Data-Collection-Feb-2026.pdf>; Meyer, I. H., Redfield, E., Bouton, L., & Flores, A. R. (2026). Erasure of anti-trans violence data in the United States. *LGBT Health*, 13(2), 69–72. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23258292251414166>

³³ Burt, C. H., & Dorsch, C. A. (2026). Heterogeneity in criminal violent victimization within the LGBT population: Estimates from the U.S. National Crime Victimization Survey. *Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.70034>; Flores, A. R., Meyer, I. H., Langton, L., & Herman, J. L. (2021). Gender identity disparities in criminal victimization: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111(4), 726–729. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.306099>; Flores, A. R., Wilson, B. D. M., Langton, L. L., & Meyer, I. H. (2023). Violent victimization at the intersections of sexual orientation, gender identity, and race: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–2019. *PLOS ONE*, 18(2), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0281641>; Meyer, I. H., & Flores, A. R. (2025). *Anti-LGBT victimization in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey (2022–2023)*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Anti-LGBT-Violence-Feb-2025.pdf>

³⁴ Flores, A. R., Langton, L., Meyer, I. H., & Romero, A. P. (2020). Victimization rates and traits of sexual and gender minorities in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017. *Science Advances*, 6(40), 1–10; Flores, A. R., Meyer, I. H., Langton, L., & Herman, J. L. (2021). Gender Identity Disparities in Criminal Victimization: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111(4), 726–729; Flores, A. R., Wilson, B. D. M., Langton, L. L., & Meyer, I. H. (2023). Meyer, I. H., & Flores, A. R. (2025). *Anti-LGBT Victimization in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey (2022–2023)*. The Williams Institute.

³⁵ For guidance on conducting community-centered survey data collection on LGBTQ community experiences, see: Sprague, L., Scheim, A. I., Sears, B., Redfield, E., Taylor, K. P., Castleberry, N. M., & Herman, J. L. (2026). *Guide for state and local survey research with LGBTQ communities*. The Williams

Conclusion

Our analysis of data from the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey found that 5.4% of transgender and nonbinary respondents reported experiencing at least one physical attack in the year prior to the survey, and about half of them experienced multiple attacks. Factors associated with a higher likelihood of physical attack included lower income and educational attainment, Hispanic/Latine ethnicity, urban residence, and greater perceived transgender visibility. Transgender women experienced the highest prevalence of attacks among gender identity groups. While Hispanic/Latine respondents reported significantly higher rates of physical attack than both White and Black respondents, Black non-Hispanic respondents did not differ significantly from White non-Hispanic respondents. Transgender visibility emerged as one of the strongest correlates of violence: respondents who reported being more visibly transgender experienced higher rates of physical attack, a pattern that was consistent across gender identity groups. The analysis also found no significant association between state-level policy environments and experiences of physical attack, although this finding may reflect limitations of state-level measures that do not capture potentially important variation in local policy contexts.

Methods

Data Source

The 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey was a self-administered online survey of transgender individuals conducted from October to December 2022. Eligible for participation were individuals aged 16 and older residing in the United States, a U.S. territory, or on a U.S. military base, and who hold a variety of gender-expansive identities, including transgender, trans, nonbinary, and other gender identities indicating the person is not cisgender. In this report, we present data on transgender adults only (aged 18 years and older).

Available in English and Spanish, the survey explored a wide range of topics, including demographics, workplace and school experiences, interactions with law enforcement, identity documents, political and civic participation, violence, family relationships, gender-affirming health care, mental health, substance use, and suicidal thoughts and attempts.

Outreach for participation began a year before the survey was conducted. The USTS Outreach Team contacted nearly 1,900 organizations and individuals across the U.S. to encourage participation and promote the survey within their networks. Participation was voluntary, and respondents had the option to enter a random drawing for one of three cash prizes: one \$500 prize and two \$250 prizes.

The final sample of 92,329 respondents represented all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. military bases overseas.³⁶ For this report, we focus on the 83,368 adults aged 18 years or older identified as transgender men, transgender women, or nonbinary; these participants are described in further detail in the Sample Characteristics section above (Table 1).

Data Analysis

Post-stratification survey weights were developed by the USTS team to minimize sampling bias and better reflect the U.S. transgender population in terms of age, race/ethnicity, education, and geographic region. These weights were based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), one of the few sources of representative information on the U.S. transgender population. All findings in this report are weighted to enhance accuracy and improve representativeness of the U.S. transgender population.

Confidence intervals (95% CIs) are included throughout the report and in the Appendix to convey the degree of uncertainty around the estimates presented in figures and tables. In general, narrower confidence intervals indicate more precise estimates, while wider intervals indicate greater uncertainty.

This report primarily presents descriptive analyses, using bivariate statistical techniques to examine relationships between respondents' characteristics, state-level policy climates, and experiences of violence.

³⁶ For more on the methodology of the USTS, see James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Durso, L. E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). *Early insights: A report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. National Center for Transgender Equality.

To assess the likelihood of experiencing a physical attack (yes/no) across demographic groups, we estimated logistic regression models. These models examine the association between multiple characteristics and experiences of violence simultaneously, allowing us to identify factors that are independently associated with a higher or lower likelihood of experiencing a physical attack, controlling for other personal characteristics. Results are presented as odds ratios with corresponding confidence intervals in Table 2. To aid interpretation, we also report probabilities for transgender visibility, given its consistent association with experiences of violence across all models.

Limitations

Although the findings presented here provide important insights in the experiences of violence faced by transgender adults, the USTS data have some limitations. Most notably, the survey relies on a nonprobability sample, which may not fully represent the broader population of transgender people. The USTS outreach team made a concerted effort to reach underrepresented communities and partnered with transgender and LGBTQ organizations, community groups, centers, and online networks to recruit participants.³⁷ Nevertheless, reliance on established organizations and community spaces may have excluded transgender people who are not connected to such resources. As a result, the USTS sample may overrepresent individuals who are more engaged with LGBTQ communities and organizations or who have stronger community identification.³⁸

Additionally, the analyses presented here are observational and cross-sectional in nature. As such, they identify associations between respondent characteristics, policy environments, and experiences of violence but cannot establish causal relationships. Future research using longitudinal data would help clarify how changes in social, political, and policy contexts shape transgender people's experiences of violence over time.

³⁷ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Durso, L. E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). *Early insights: A report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Advocates for Trans Equality. https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2022%20USTS%20Early%20Insights%20Report_FINAL.pdf

³⁸ Studies comparing community-based and probability-based samples of sexual minority populations have identified some differences in sample composition and highlighted populations that may be underrepresented in community-based surveys. However, the magnitude of these differences is generally small; Krueger, E. A., Fish, J. N., Hammack, P. L., Lightfoot, M., Bishop, M. D., & Russell, S. T. (2020). Comparing national probability and community-based samples of sexual minority adults: Implications and recommendations for sampling and measurement. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 49(5), 1463–1475. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01724-9>

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Appendix

Table A1. Reported number of physical attacks in the past year among adult 2022 USTS respondents who experienced one or more attacks

Number of Attacks	%	95% CI
1 Attack	49.51%	[46.44, 52.58]
2 Attacks	23.35%	[20.81, 26.09]
3 Attacks	12.65%	[10.58, 15.05]
4 Attacks	4.61%	[3.43, 6.16]
5 Attacks	3.49%	[2.48, 4.89]
6+ Attacks	6.40%	[5.07, 8.05]

Table A2. Regional prevalence of physical attacks in the past year among adult 2022 USTS respondents

Region	%	95% CI
Northeast/New England	3.95%	[3.14, 4.96]
Northeast/Middle Atlantic	5.99%	[5.07, 7.06]
South/South Atlantic	4.73%	[4.11, 5.44]
South/East South Central	5.43%	[4.06, 7.23]
South/West South Central	4.93%	[4.14, 5.87]
Midwest/East North Central	4.68%	[3.97, 5.51]
Midwest/West North Central	6.64%	[5.33, 8.25]
West/Mountain	5.82%	[4.79, 7.04]
West/Pacific	6.56%	[5.73, 7.49]

Note: Design-based F test from survey-adjusted χ^2 : $F(7.79, 6.4 \times 10^5) = 3.38, p < 0.05$

Table A3. State prevalence of physical attacks in the past year among adult 2022 USTS respondents

State	%	95% CI
Alabama	4.38%	[2.64, 7.19]
Alaska	2.11%	[0.92, 4.79]
Arizona	5.22%	[3.43, 7.87]
Arkansas	3.33%	[1.86, 5.91]
California	6.74%	[5.61, 8.08]
Colorado	5.55%	[3.84, 7.97]
Connecticut	3.61%	[2.10, 6.16]
Delaware	0.49%	[0.15, 1.59]
District of Columbia	5.99%	[2.87, 12.08]
Florida	4.55%	[3.44, 5.98]
Georgia	5.19%	[3.60, 7.42]

State	%	95% CI
Hawaii	2.48%	[0.91, 6.56]
Idaho	8.69%	[3.89, 18.28]
Illinois	3.85%	[2.91, 5.08]
Indiana	5.66%	[3.47, 9.09]
Iowa	7.60%	[3.70, 14.95]
Kansas	5.78%	[3.48, 9.44]
Kentucky	5.32%	[2.85, 9.70]
Louisiana	8.72%	[5.16, 14.36]
Maine	3.51%	[2.12, 5.78]
Maryland	4.68%	[3.18, 6.83]
Massachusetts	3.38%	[2.52, 4.52]
Michigan	4.25%	[3.15, 5.72]
Minnesota	6.41%	[4.35, 9.37]
Mississippi	6.99%	[3.14, 14.85]
Missouri	7.52%	[5.09, 10.97]
Montana	6.07%	[2.27, 15.22]
Nebraska	7.40%	[3.14, 16.43]
Nevada	4.53%	[2.73, 7.43]
New Hampshire	5.07%	[2.03, 12.12]
New Jersey	6.16%	[3.92, 9.55]
New Mexico	6.74%	[4.19, 10.67]
New York	6.35%	[5.09, 7.89]
North Carolina	3.62%	[2.38, 5.48]
North Dakota	3.09%	[1.28, 7.26]
Ohio	5.14%	[3.70, 7.12]
Oklahoma	5.03%	[3.25, 7.71]
Oregon	6.17%	[4.48, 8.44]
Pennsylvania	5.37%	[3.97, 7.24]
Rhode Island	5.73%	[2.99, 10.73]
South Carolina	6.45%	[3.61, 11.26]
South Dakota	3.71%	[1.67, 8.03]
Tennessee	5.64%	[3.59, 8.76]
Texas	4.72%	[3.81, 5.83]
Utah	6.28%	[3.76, 10.30]
Vermont	5.76%	[2.08, 14.93]
Virginia	5.00%	[3.73, 6.68]
Washington	6.84%	[5.27, 8.82]
West Virginia	7.23%	[3.73, 13.53]
Wisconsin	5.08%	[3.13, 8.15]
Wyoming	6.90%	[2.28, 19.00]

Note: Design-based F test from survey-adjusted χ^2 : $F(41.95, 3.4 \times 10^6) = 1.27, p > 0.05$

Table A4. Prevalence of physical violence in the past year by personal characteristics among adult 2022 USTS respondents

Demographic	Category	%	95% CI
Age	18–24	5.66%	[5.21, 6.14]
	25–44	5.66%	[5.19, 6.18]
	45–64	5.25%	[4.24, 6.49]
	65+	1.90%	[1.17, 3.05]
Race	White, non-Hispanic	4.69%	[4.35, 5.05]
	Black, non-Hispanic	4.72%	[3.64, 6.10]
	Asian, non-Hispanic	5.31%	[4.12, 6.82]
	Hispanic or Latine	6.38%	[5.61, 7.24]
	Another race or multiracial	8.64%	[7.11, 10.45]
Gender	Transgender women	5.86%	[5.29, 6.49]
	Transgender men	5.16%	[4.61, 5.78]
	AFAB nonbinary	5.00%	[4.50, 5.57]
	AMAB nonbinary	5.16%	[4.28, 6.19]
Education	Less than high school	8.30%	[7.00, 9.83]
	High school	5.26%	[4.70, 5.87]
	Some college	5.06%	[4.70, 5.45]
	Bachelor's degree+	3.61%	[3.30, 3.94]
Per capita income	No income	8.88%	[7.05, 11.12]
	1-4,999	6.93%	[5.87, 8.17]
	5,000-9,999	5.97%	[5.09, 6.99]
	10,000-14,999	7.17%	[6.07, 8.45]
	15,000-19,999	5.00%	[4.14, 6.03]
	20,000-29,999	4.41%	[3.81, 5.10]
	30,000-49,999	3.90%	[3.32, 4.57]
	50,000-99,999	3.48%	[2.81, 4.31]
	100,000+	5.12%	[2.91, 8.85]
Community type	Urban	6.67%	[6.09, 7.31]
	Suburban	4.33%	[3.96, 4.74]
	Rural	5.58%	[4.80, 6.48]
U.S. citizen	Noncitizen	9.00%	[5.85, 13.59]
	U.S. citizen	5.28%	[4.97, 5.60]

Note: Design-based F test from survey-adjusted χ^2 : Age, $F(2.82, 2.3 \times 10^5) = 8.22, p < 0.05$; Race, $F(3.94, 3.2 \times 10^5) = 9.42, p < 0.05$; Gender, $F(2.96, 2.4 \times 10^5) = 1.93, p > 0.05$; Education, $F(2.25, 1.8 \times 10^5) = 24.53, p < 0.05$; Per Capita Income, $F(7.74, 5.7 \times 10^5) = 10.12, p < 0.05$; Community Type, $F(1.99, 1.6 \times 10^5) = 20.64, p < 0.05$; U.S. Citizenship, $F(1, 81,676) = 5.93, p < 0.05$

Table A5. Prevalence of physical attacks in the past year by gender identity and race and ethnicity among adult 2022 USTS respondents

Demographic	Race/Ethnicity	%	95% CI
Transgender women	White, non-Hispanic	5.03%	[4.44, 5.69]
	Black, non-Hispanic	5.89%	[3.43, 9.95]
	Asian, non-Hispanic	4.66%	[2.78, 7.70]
	Hispanic or Latine	8.24%	[6.53, 10.36]
	Another race or multiracial	9.40%	[6.59, 13.24]
Transgender men	White, non-Hispanic	4.68%	[4.08, 5.36]
	Black, non-Hispanic	4.84%	[2.94, 7.87]
	Asian, non-Hispanic	6.17%	[3.62, 10.33]
	Hispanic or Latine	5.60%	[4.40, 7.09]
	Another race or multiracial	6.85%	[4.97, 9.36]
AFAB nonbinary	White, non-Hispanic	4.17%	[3.63, 4.78]
	Black, non-Hispanic	3.72%	[2.51, 5.50]
	Asian, non-Hispanic	5.35%	[3.65, 7.76]
	Hispanic or Latine	6.03%	[4.84, 7.49]
	Another race or Multiracial	8.62%	[6.08, 12.09]
AMAB nonbinary	White, non-Hispanic	4.68%	[3.75, 5.83]
	Black, non-Hispanic	5.58%	[2.62, 11.50]
	Asian, non-Hispanic	5.28%	[2.33, 11.52]
	Hispanic or Latine	4.60%	[3.12, 6.72]
	Another race or multiracial	12.53%	[6.42, 23.04]

Note: Design-based F test from survey-adjusted χ^2 : Transgender women, $F(3.94, 93,040.42 \times 10^5) = 4.90, p < 0.05$; Transgender men, $F(3.64, 74,477.16) = 0.98, p > 0.05$; AFAB nonbinary, $F(3.95, 1.2 \times 10^5) = 5.02, p < 0.05$; AMAB nonbinary, $F(3.78, 28,055.07) = 2.25, p > 0.05$

Table A6. Prevalence of physical attacks in the past year by gender identity and transgender visibility among adult 2022 USTS respondents

Demographic	Transgender Visibility	%	95% CI
Full sample	Always or most of the time	7.77%	[6.82, 8.85]
	Sometimes	5.59%	[5.11, 6.11]
	Rarely or never	4.40%	[4.00, 4.90]
Transgender women	Always or most of the time	7.51%	[6.18, 9.11]
	Sometimes	5.97%	[5.11, 6.97]
	Rarely or never	4.88%	[4.00, 5.90]
Transgender men	Always or most of the time	7.75%	[6.01, 9.95]
	Sometimes	5.22%	[4.36, 6.25]
	Rarely or never	4.45%	[3.72, 5.31]

Demographic	Transgender Visibility	%	95% CI
AFAB nonbinary	Always or most of the time	8.02%	[6.00, 10.65]
	Sometimes	5.35%	[4.59, 6.21]
	Rarely or never	4.12%	[3.50, 4.90]
AMAB nonbinary	Always or most of the time	9.13%	[5.87, 13.92]
	Sometimes	6.01%	[4.57, 7.87]
	Rarely or never	3.79%	[2.81, 5.10]

Note: Design-based F test from survey-adjusted χ^2 : Full sample, $F(2.00, 1.6 \times 10^5) = 24.35, p < 0.05$; Transgender women, $F(2.00, 47,163.81) = 5.03, p < 0.05$; Transgender men, $F(2.00, 40,948.70) = 6.28, p < 0.05$; AFAB nonbinary, $F(1.99, 59,806.62) = 78.44, p < 0.05$; AMAB nonbinary, $F(1.98, 14,724.75) = 6.31, p < 0.05$

Table A7. Attributions for physical attacks among adult 2022 USTS respondents who experienced one or more attacks

Attribution	%	95% CI
Transgender status, identity, or expression, sexual orientation	64.43%	[61.44, 67.3]
Sexual orientation	31.66%	[28.86, 34.61]
Age	6.57%	[5.27, 8.17]
Disability	11.2%	[9.42, 13.27]
Income or education	5.01%	[3.73, 6.7]
Race or ethnicity	10.67%	[8.72, 13]
Religion or spirituality	2.98%	[2.13, 4.14]
Size or weight	14.91%	[12.87, 17.21]
None or other	27.49%	[24.88, 30.27]

Table A8. Relationship to the person committing an attack among adult 2022 USTS respondents who experienced one or more attacks

Relationship	%	95% CI
Stranger	55.5%	[52.43, 58.53]
Relative	23.37%	[20.86, 26.1]
Partner	8.82%	[7.16, 10.82]
Former partner	5.34%	[4.23, 6.71]
Friend	11.29%	[9.45, 13.43]
Coworker	4.15%	[3.13, 5.5]
Teacher	4.15%	[3.13, 5.5]
Law enforcement	5.68%	[4.28, 7.51]
Health official	2.15%	[1.36, 3.38]
Boss	1.39%	[0.88, 2.19]
Other relationship	12.16%	[10.14, 14.53]

Table A9. Type of violence experienced among 2022 USTS adult respondents who experienced one or more attacks

Weapon	%	95% CI
Grabbing, punching, or choking	71.47%	[68.64, 74.14]
Thrown object	29.47%	[26.7, 32.4]
Sex attack	21.78%	[19.47, 24.3]
Gun	4.51%	[3.42, 5.93]
Knife or other weapon	8.61%	[6.93, 10.65]
Hard object	6.50%	[5.19, 8.09]
Other physical attack	21.56%	[19, 24.35]

Table A10. Adjusted predicted probabilities of experiencing a physical attack among transgender adults over one year, by gender identity and trans visibility, 2022 USTS

Demographic	Category	%	95% CI
Full sample	Always or most of the time	7.40%	[6.42, 8.39]
	Sometimes	5.67%	[5.14, 6.21]
	Rarely or never	4.46%	[4.00, 4.92]
Transgender women	Always or most of the time	7.54%	[6.11, 8.98]
	Sometimes	6.34%	[5.33, 7.36]
	Rarely or never	4.75%	[3.83, 5.68]
Transgender men	Always or most of the time	6.77%	[4.81, 8.74]
	Sometimes	5.20%	[4.22, 6.18]
	Rarely or never	4.75%	[3.88, 5.63]
AFAB nonbinary	Always or most of the time	7.50%	[5.31, 9.68]
	Sometimes	5.14%	[4.31, 5.96]
	Rarely or never	4.17%	[3.43, 4.91]
AMAB nonbinary	Always or most of the time	8.98%	[5.45, 12.52]
	Sometimes	6.15%	[4.29, 8.01]
	Rarely or never	3.62%	[2.57, 4.68]

Table A11. Prevalence of physical attacks in the past year by states' policy environments among adult 2022 USTS respondents

Policy Environment	Category	%	95% CI
Anti-transgender policies introduced	None	5.85%	[4.76, 7.16]
	One or more	5.33%	[5.01, 5.67]
Count of anti-transgender policies introduced	None	5.85%	[4.76, 7.16]
	1-4 bills	4.68%	[4.19, 5.24]
	5-9 bills	6.07%	[5.50, 6.70]
	10-14 bills	4.86%	[4.05, 5.82]
	15-19 bills	6.15%	[4.27, 8.80]
	20+ bills	5.15%	[4.42, 5.99]
MAP LGBTQ Policy Score	Negative	5.63%	[4.57, 6.92]
	Low	5.18%	[4.60, 5.84]
	Fair	4.95%	[4.19, 5.83]
	Medium	4.69%	[3.93, 5.58]
	High	5.78%	[5.28, 6.32]