



**Transgender
Latina survivors of
gender-based violence**

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Research suggests that while rates of GBV such as intimate partner violence (IPV) are 1 in 3 among cisgender women¹³, more than half of transgender Latinas may experience some form of GBV in their lifetime.⁸ Transgender Latina survivors are an understudied and underserved group in gender-based violence (GBV) advocacy. This factsheet reviews GBV rates and risk factors, barriers transgender Latinas face accessing services, and protective factors.

Terminology

Transgender: individuals who identify different from their sex assigned at birth.

Cisgender: refers to a person who identifies as the sex category assigned at birth.¹¹

Gender identity: refers to one's internal and individual experience of gender including the personal sense of the body and other expressions of gender such as dress, speech, and behaviors. Gender identity may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth.⁶

Trans Latina: is an adopted and embraced term by members of the Latina Transgender community. Trans may be used as an abbreviated version of the term "Transgender"¹¹, but still should be used with permission.

Rates of IPV, sexual violence, and stalking

While more research is needed on the prevalence of IPV among transgender Latin@ populations, a recent report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs suggest increased GBV risks among transgender individuals of color:

- Transgender IPV survivors are three times more likely to report being stalked compared to cisgender survivors.¹⁰
- Compared to cisgender survivors, transgender women were three times more likely to experience sexual violence and financial violence.¹⁰
- Survivors of color were twice as likely to report violence by a former or ex-partner.¹⁰

Risk factors for IPV and sexual violence

Individual level

- In a national survey, 45% of transgender Latin@ respondents experienced serious psychological distress, nine times the rate of the general population (5%).⁸
- In the same national survey, nearly 1 in 10 transgender Latin@ individuals attempted suicide in the past year. In the general Latin@ population, the rate is less than 1%.⁸

Family and community level

- Results of a national survey showed transgender Latina women (37%) were more likely to be shunned by a family member, kicked out of the house (15%), or experience violence by a family member (16%) due to their gender identity compared to transgender Latino men and non-binary Latin@ individuals.⁸



- In a national sample of transgender Latin@ respondents, transgender Latin@ women also experienced the highest rates of workplace discrimination (38%) such as being fired, denied a promotion, or not being hired because of their gender identity.⁸
- In a 2008 survey of transgender Latin@ respondents, 54% reported harassment, 16% reported being physical assaulted, and 14% reported experiencing sexual assault at their workplace.²

Structural level

- In a national survey of transgender individuals, 43% of Latin@ respondents were living in poverty.⁸ In the same survey, 31% of Latin@ respondents had experienced homelessness.
- Documentation status is a risk factor of IPV. In a national survey of transgender individuals' experiences, 24% of undocumented immigrant respondents were physically attacked, 50% had experienced homelessness in their lifetime, and 68% had experienced IPV.⁷
- Immigrant transgender Latina survivors may avoid seeking proper healthcare due to a fear of deportation, putting them at higher risk for IPV, illness, and other physical health complications such as nonprescribed hormone use.⁴
- In a report of transgender Latina immigrants¹¹:
 - 33% experienced harassment or termination as a result of their race, gender identity, and migration status
 - 56% experienced discrimination in their local health and service clinics
 - 61% experienced sexual abuse
 - 69% reported knowing at least one Transgender Latina that died by gender-based homicide.

Barriers to accessing services

- Transgender Latina survivors are less likely to be identified or accepted as a GBV victim and may miss opportunities to encounter compassionate care or advocacy.^{3,4}
- Transgender Latina women are often denied hormones and the ability to present as the correct gender in shelters and medical centers.^{1,10}
- In 2015, roughly 27% of transgender survivors attempted to access emergency shelter, and 44% were denied¹⁰. The most frequently reported barrier was gender identity (71%).¹⁰
- Compared to the 53% of non-Hispanic White transgender respondents, 59% of Transgender Latin@s reported feeling discomfort going to the police for help.⁸ Transgender Latina



individuals reported negative experiences with police including verbal and physical harassment, sexual harassment, and deportation.¹

- In a sample of transgender Latin@ respondents, 32% reported having negative experiences such as being denied treatment, verbal harassment, physical or sexual assault, or having to educate their provider about transgender health to get appropriate care.⁸

Protective factors and resources

Healthy relationships¹² and social networks involving other transgender individuals can promote resilience and community among transgender Latinas.⁵ Gender-affirming, culturally relevant services, and peer groups that can provide legal, medical, language, and employment resources can be vital to supporting transgender Latinas.^{5,9,12} Below is a list of culturally sensitive and bilingual resources for Transgender Latina survivors.

Trans Latinx Network
New York, NY

<https://translatinxnetwork.org/services/>

TransLatin@ Coalition
Los Angeles, CA

<https://www.translatinacoalition.org/>

National Center for
Transgender Equality
Washington D.C.

<https://transequality.org/>

The Network/La Red
Boston, MA

<https://www.tnlnr.org/en/>

24-HR Survivor Hotline:
617-742-4911

Trans Lifeline
195 41st St #11253,
Oakland, CA 94611

<https://translifeline.org/>

TransLifeline Hotline
(US)

(877) 565-8860

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