

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

EXPERIENCES OF TRANS AND NONBINARY IMMIGRANTS IN LOS ANGELES

With Special Focus on Trans
Latina Immigrants

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

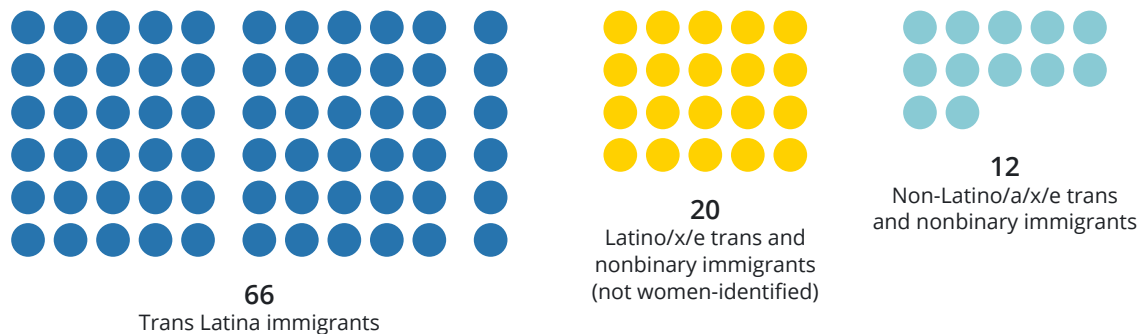
The LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey¹ was conducted in 2023 and 2024 to shed light on the needs and experiences of trans and nonbinary people living in LA County. The survey was conducted by the TransLatin@ Coalition and the Williams Institute, in collaboration with the Royal Collection Corporation and the Connie Norman Transgender Empowerment Center (CoNoTEC).

Nearly one-third (30%) of the respondents to our LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey indicated that they are immigrants. Using data collected from these community members in 2023-2024, we paint a portrait of their experiences, including the demographics, identity documents, happiness, community connectedness, economic well-being, sources of income, employment experiences, housing, transportation needs, health care, and law enforcement interactions of our immigrant respondents.

After the collection of data in the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey, the election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States resulted in a shift in federal policy on both immigration and transgender rights,² likely affecting many of the respondents to this survey.³ In this report, we focus on the experiences and needs of trans and nonbinary respondents prior to the shift in federal policy.

The composition of our sample also enables us to look at some of the experiences of trans and nonbinary immigrants through an intersectional lens. For example, eighty-eight percent (88%) of immigrant respondents to our survey identified as Hispanic, and a full two-thirds of immigrant respondents (67%) identified both as Hispanic and as trans women. Because of the large proportion of trans Latina immigrants in our sample, we chose to highlight, where data permits, findings specific to this population.

Figure 1. Composition of sample in LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey (322) and in this report (n=98)



¹ Herman, J. H., Salcedo, B., Chatham, K., Mahowald, L., Ortega, Q. V., & Redfield, E. (2024). *Para mi punto de vista/From my point of view: Results of the 2023 LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey*. The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/tnb-la-county-survey/>

² Flores, A.R., & Sprague, L., *Impact of Mass Deportations on LGBT People* (2025). The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/impact-mass-deportations-lgbt/>; Romine, T. (2025, February 25). *Trump's policies on gender identity and immigration have trans immigrants worried about their future*. CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/23/us/trans-immigrants-trump-policies>.

³ Abreu, R. L., Gonzalez, K. A., Capielo Rosario, C., Lindley, L., & Lockett, G. M. (2021). "What American dream is this?": The effect of Trump's presidency on immigrant Latinx transgender people. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 68(6), 657–669. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000541>

KEY FINDINGS

Demographics

- Immigrant respondents in our study held a wide variety of immigration statuses. The most common were Lawful Permanent Resident (30%) and Refugee or Asylum Status (29%).
- The vast majority (88%) of immigrant respondents to our survey were Latino/a/x/e.
- Immigrant and trans Latina immigrant respondents appear to be older than the other respondents to the survey.
 - Fifty-seven percent (57%) of immigrant respondents were aged 35 or older.
 - Nearly two-thirds of trans Latina immigrant respondents (64%) were aged 35 or older.
- Immigrant respondents were more than twice as likely to identify as women or trans women than non-immigrant respondents (67% vs. 29%) and less likely than non-immigrant respondents to identify as nonbinary, genderfluid, or genderqueer (16% vs. 42%).
- Immigrant respondents were nearly three times more likely than non-immigrants to report their sexual orientation as straight (44% v. 17%). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of trans Latinas reported their sexual orientation as straight.
- In terms of educational attainment, immigrant respondents tended to have lower overall levels compared to non-immigrant respondents. Immigrant respondents were nearly four times more likely to have less than a high school level of education: Thirty percent (30%) of immigrant respondents overall (and 41% of trans Latina immigrants) had less than a high school or GED level of education, compared with only 8% of non-immigrants.

Happiness, Community, and Priority Issues

- Although many immigrants (34%) reported being very happy with how things are going in their lives, immigrants also appear more likely than non-immigrants to report that they were not too happy with how things are going (28% vs. 18%).
- Economic issues were a priority for many immigrant respondents. Half or more of all immigrant respondents reported that cost of living, housing, and debt were serious problems as a trans or nonbinary person in LA.
- One-quarter of immigrant respondents (25%) and nearly one-third of trans Latina immigrants (29%) reported that they felt more comfortable accessing services from government offices, as opposed to community-based organizations. Immigrant respondents were three times more likely than non-immigrant respondents (8%) to report this.

Economic Well-Being

- Eighty percent (80%) of immigrant households in our study and 84% of trans Latina households had an annual income under \$25,000. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of immigrant households and 44% of trans Latina households reported no income at all.
- Seventy-three percent (73%) of immigrant respondents and 80% of trans Latina immigrant respondents live near or under the Federal Poverty Line.

- Fifty-nine percent (59%) of immigrant respondents and 62% of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported that it had been somewhat or very difficult to pay usual household expenses in the last three months.
- Half (50%) of immigrant respondents and 55% of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported they sometimes or often didn't have enough to eat in the last three months.

Sources of Income and Employment Experiences

- Unemployment rates were higher among immigrant respondents (47%) compared to non-immigrant respondents (22%). Fifty-four percent (54%) of trans Latina respondents reported that they were currently unemployed.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of immigrants reported a negative experience in the workplace because they are trans or nonbinary.

Housing

- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of immigrant respondents and 40% of trans Latina immigrants reported that they were currently experiencing homelessness—twice the rate of non-immigrants (19%).
- Forty percent (40%) of immigrants and 41% of trans Latina immigrants attributed their homelessness to their trans or nonbinary status.
 - Among the overall population of LA County, 0.8% are currently homeless.
- Among immigrant respondents who are currently housed, 91% were cost-burdened.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of immigrant respondents, including 70% of trans Latina immigrant respondents, were denied the rent or purchase of a house, apartment, or condo in LA County in the last five years.
 - Thirty-eight percent (38%) of immigrant respondents and 52% of trans Latina respondents reported that they were denied because of their trans or nonbinary status.

Transportation

- Immigrant respondents were nearly twice as likely as non-immigrant respondents to report that they most often used public transportation to commute to work or school (50% vs. 28%).
- Immigrant respondents were nearly twice as likely as non-immigrant respondents to report that they were unable to get to work at some point in the last three months because of transportation issues (29% vs. 15%). One third (34%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported this issue.

Health

- Immigrant respondents in our sample were about four times more likely to be uninsured, compared with non-immigrant respondents (30% vs. 7%).
- For those who sought medical care, immigrants appeared more likely than non-immigrants to have accessed care in a public medical system (21% vs. 14%) and half as likely to have used private medical systems (20% vs. 40%), compared with non-immigrants.

- Over one-third (36%) of immigrants had delayed or not gotten necessary medical care in the last 12 months.

Access to Gender-Affirming Care

- Immigrants were less likely to have received several types of gender-affirming care that we asked about, compared to non-immigrants.
 - Immigrant respondents were less likely than non-immigrant respondents to have received surgical care (22% vs. 39%).
 - Almost one-third of immigrant respondents (30%) reported not having received any of the types of gender-affirming care we asked about.

Law Enforcement Experiences

At the time of the survey...

- Thirty-one percent (31%) of immigrant respondents reported they would feel somewhat or very uncomfortable asking for help from law enforcement in LA County. Of immigrant respondents who reported that they did not feel comfortable asking for help:
 - Half (53%) reported that they felt law enforcement officers might disrespect or harass them.
 - Forty percent (40%) felt that the police might arrest them or someone close to them because of their immigration status.
 - Forty-nine percent (49%) reported that they might feel more comfortable seeking help if they knew there was an LGBTQ liaison.
 - Fifty-three percent (53%) reported they might feel more comfortable if they knew that law enforcement officers had received training on how to treat trans and nonbinary people.
- Immigrant respondents appear more likely to have been arrested in the last five years in LA County, compared to non-immigrants (18% vs. 9%).

Immigration Experiences

At the time of the survey...

- Sixty-three percent (63%) of immigrant respondents in our sample had applied for political asylum status.
 - Seventy-nine percent (79%) of immigrants who applied for political asylum were approved for a form of lawful status.
 - Eighty-three percent (83%) of all asylum applicants had help from attorneys.
- Half of all immigrant respondents (50%)—13 percent of the total sample—had been held in immigration detention at some point in their lives. This includes 52% of trans Latina immigrant respondents.
 - Nearly one-third (31%) of immigrant respondents who were detained were physically assaulted.

INTRODUCTION

We have previously found that California is home to approximately 41,000 transgender immigrants, and we estimate that 5,200 live in the Los Angeles area.⁴ While previous studies of transgender people living in Los Angeles have shed light on some characteristics and experiences of transgender immigrants and Latino/a/x/e transgender people,⁵ significant gaps remain in our understanding of the experiences, needs, and barriers to services for trans and nonbinary immigrants, and the large number of trans Latina immigrants,⁶ living in Los Angeles County.

This report draws from the findings of the 2023 LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey⁷ to provide new insights for these communities. After the collection of data in this study, which occurred in 2023 and 2024, the election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States resulted in a shift in federal policy on both immigration and transgender rights.⁸ Under President Trump, substantial resources have been directed toward the arrest and deportation of immigrants across the U.S., including the deployment of several law enforcement agencies and the military.⁹ At the same time, the administration has attempted to end recognition of federal rights for transgender people and end federally funded programs and services for these communities.¹⁰ Los Angeles and California have been particular targets for the administration's enforcement efforts.¹¹ These changes may have a

⁴ Redfield, E., Guardado, R., and Conron, K.J. (2024). *Transgender Immigrants in California (Jan. 2024)*. The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Immigrants-CA-Jan-2024.pdf>. In that study, 12.8% of respondents indicated that they reside in the Los Angeles area. We applied this percentage to the estimated 41,000 transgender immigrants in California to estimate that approximately 5,200 transgender immigrants live in the Los Angeles area.

⁵ Minero, L. P., Domínguez, S., Jr., Budge, S. L., & Salcedo, B. (2022). *Latinx trans immigrants' survival of torture in U.S. detention: A qualitative investigation of the psychological impact of abuse and mistreatment*. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 23(1–2), 36–59. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2021.1989114>; Padron, K. M., & Salcedo, B. (2016). *TransVisible: Transgender Latina immigrants in U.S. society*. UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. <https://www.chicano.ucla.edu/files/news/transvisiblereport.pdf>; Galvan, F. H., & Bazargan, M. (2012). *Interactions of Latina transgender women with law enforcement*. *Bienestar*. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Latina-Trans-Women-Law-Enforcement-Apr-2012.pdf>; Reback, C. J., Simon, P. A., Bemis, C. C., & Gatson, B. (2001). *The Los Angeles Transgender Health Study: Community report*. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a1dda626957daf4c4f9a3bb/t/5acfa341562fa7b5ec5db914/1523557236754/Reback_LA+Transgender+Health+Study_2001.pdf; Galvan, F.H., Chen, Y-T., Contreras, R., & O'Connell, B. (2021). *Violence inflicted on Latina transgender women living with HIV: Rates and associated factors by perpetrator type*. *AIDS and Behavior*, 25 (Suppl 1):S116–S126. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-019-02751-x>.

⁶ We categorized respondents as “trans Latina” for the purposes of this report if they identified as women or transgender women and as Hispanic.

⁷ Herman, J. H., Salcedo, B., Chatham, K., Mahowald, L., Ortega, Q. V., & Redfield, E. (2024). *Para mi punto de vista/From my point of view: Results of the 2023 LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey*. The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/tnb-la-county-survey/>

⁸ Flores, A.R., & Sprague, L., *Impact of Mass Deportations on LGBT People* (2025). The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/impact-mass-deportations-lgbt/>; Romine, T. (2025, February 25). *Trump's policies on gender identity and immigration have trans immigrants worried about their future*. *CNN*. <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/23/us/trans-immigrants-trump-policies>.

⁹ Ainsley, J., Reilly, R.J., Smith, A., Dilanian, K., & Fitzpatrick, S. (2025, June 4). *A sweeping new ICE operation shows how Trump's focus on immigration is reshaping federal law enforcement*. *NBC News*. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/ice-operation-trump-focus-immigration-reshape-federal-law-enforcement-rcna193494>.

¹⁰ Redfield, E. & Chokshi, I., *Impact of the Executive Order Redefining Sex on Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex People* (2025). The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/impact-eo-redefine-sex-tbi/>.

¹¹ Duara, N. (2025, August 13). *What it's like to live through LA's long deportation summer*. *CalMatters*. <https://calmatters.org/>

substantial and lasting impact on trans immigrants in Los Angeles.¹²

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey was conducted by the TransLatin@ Coalition and the Williams Institute, in collaboration with the Royal Collection Corporation and the Connie Norman Transgender Empowerment Center (CONOTEC). The survey was designed based on input from trans and nonbinary community members in LA County, including trans and nonbinary immigrants, and organizations that serve this community. Five listening sessions were conducted in May and June 2023 to gather input. Findings from these sessions determined priority topics for inclusion in the survey, including economic well-being, housing, health, transportation, access to services, community connectedness, experiences with law enforcement and incarceration, and immigration experiences. The survey was fielded online from October 24, 2023, through February 5, 2024, in both English and Spanish.

We received responses from 322 trans and nonbinary adult residents of LA County. Just under one-third of respondents (30%, n=98) in our study indicated that they were immigrants; in other words, they were not U.S. citizens by birth.¹³ This report utilizes the survey data for these respondents to describe the experiences, needs, and barriers to services for respondents who are immigrants.

Additionally, twenty percent (20%) of our overall sample were trans Latinas, and trans Latina immigrants made up two-thirds of our total immigrant sample (67%, n=66). In many places throughout this report, we highlight some of the unique characteristics of trans Latina immigrant respondents, in addition to the general immigrant population.

Two types of comparisons are offered to illustrate the experiences of trans & nonbinary immigrants. For many questions, we highlight differences between immigrant and non-immigrant respondents. Where possible, we also highlight differences between trans Latina immigrants and non-immigrants. Statistically significant differences between immigrants and trans Latina immigrants compared to non-immigrants ($p < 0.05$) are noted in tables with an asterisk (*). Due to small sample sizes, our ability to detect statistically significant differences is limited. Even seemingly large differences in percentages between groups may not be statistically significant, yet such findings could point to meaningful trends in the population. Future research with larger, representative samples is needed to confirm trends we observe in this study. Confidence intervals for each table are provided in the Appendix.¹⁴

[justice/2025/08/la-immigration-raids-empty-spaces/](https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-07-20/six-months-into-trumps-second-term-california-is-a-key-battleground/); Rector, K. (2025, July 20). After six months under Trump, California and LA are battlegrounds. Who benefits? *L.A. Times*. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-07-20/six-months-into-trumps-second-term-california-is-a-key-battleground/>; Rector, K. (2025, August 4). Bonta says millions spent, but billions saved, in California's legal war with Trump. *L.A. Times*. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-04/bonta-outlines-legal-spending-against-trump-to-legislature-as-he-and-newsom-tout-wins>.

¹² Abreu, R. L., Gonzalez, K. A., Capielo Rosario, C., Lindley, L., & Lockett, G. M. (2021). "What American dream is this?": The effect of Trump's presidency on immigrant Latinx transgender people. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 68(6), 657–669. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000541>; Morris, R. (2025, July 17). Relentless immigration raids are ruining Californians' way of life. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpqnpwrq1l4o>.

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *Sex by age by nativity and citizenship status* (Table B05003) [Data set]. American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2022.B05003?q=citizenship%20by%20age&g=050XX00US06037>

¹⁴ Detailed tables for all findings presented in this report are available upon request from the Williams Institute.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

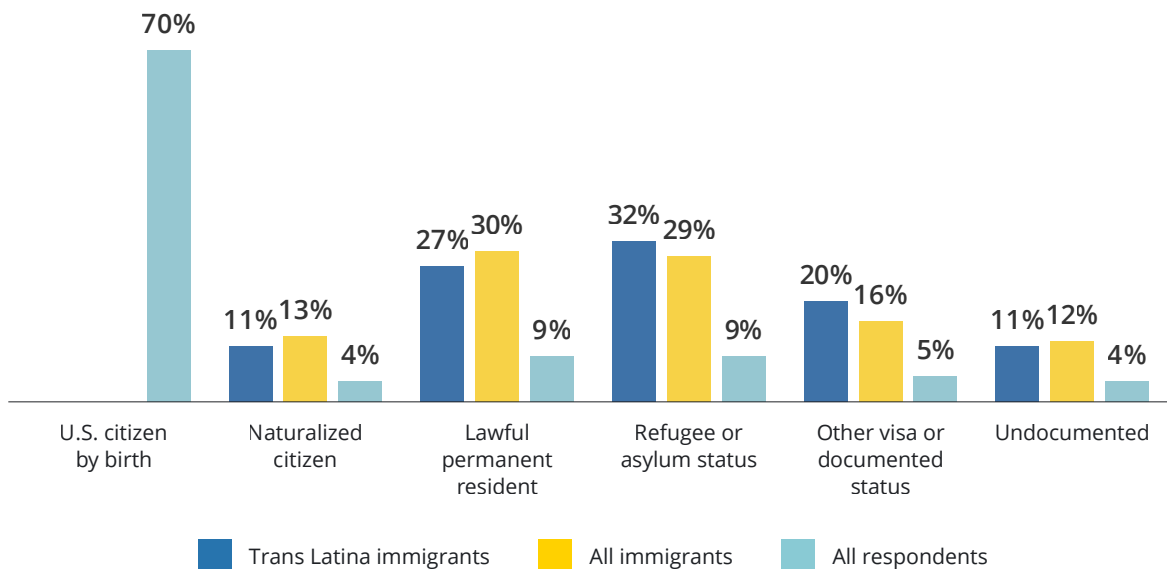
“[A]un no tengo papeles legales debido a mi estado migratorio.”
[I still do not have legal papers due to my immigration status.]

Trans and nonbinary immigrants in our sample differed from trans and nonbinary non-immigrant respondents across several demographic characteristics. In this section, we describe some of the characteristics of our immigrant and trans Latina immigrant respondents.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION STATUS

Any person who was not a U.S. citizen by birth has had some form of immigration status. Immigration status most commonly refers to the type of authorization a person may have from the U.S. government to be present in the U.S. In our study, we asked about immigration status, including whether respondents had “naturalized” and become U.S. citizens, held another type of official status, or were “undocumented,” meaning they did not have any form of official authorization. Thirty percent (30%) of immigrant respondents reported that they had Lawful Permanent Resident status, and an additional 29% reported that they had refugee or asylum status in the U.S. Other statuses reported by survey respondents include other visa status, naturalized U.S. citizen, and undocumented status. Trans Latina immigrants reported similar results to immigrants overall. See Figure 2, Table A1.

Figure 2. US citizenship and immigration status of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



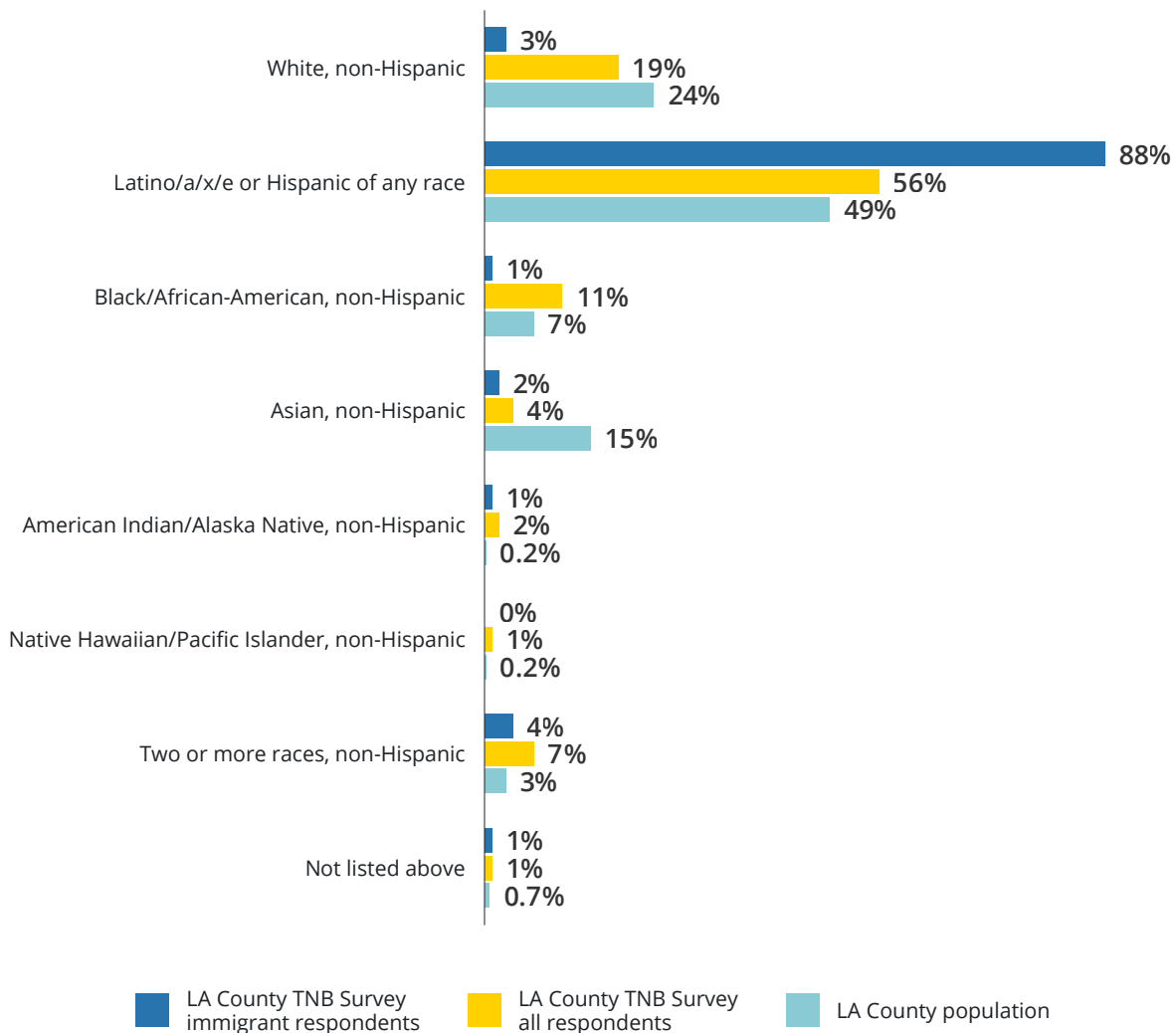
Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS

The majority of survey respondents overall were Latino/a/x/e (56%). Nineteen percent (19%) were White, 11% were Black, 4% were Asian, 2% were Alaska Native or American Indian, 1% were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 7% reported two or more races. Our survey sample appears to differ from the population of LA County in several ways. Notably, our sample appears less likely to be White or Asian and more likely to be Latino/a/x/e or Hispanic compared to all residents of LA County. Our survey sample also appears to be more likely to report two or more races than LA County as a whole.¹⁵ See Figure 3.

Among immigrant respondents, the vast majority were Latino/a/x/e (88%).

Figure 3. Race and ethnicity of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents (n=322), immigrant respondents (n=98), and LA County population



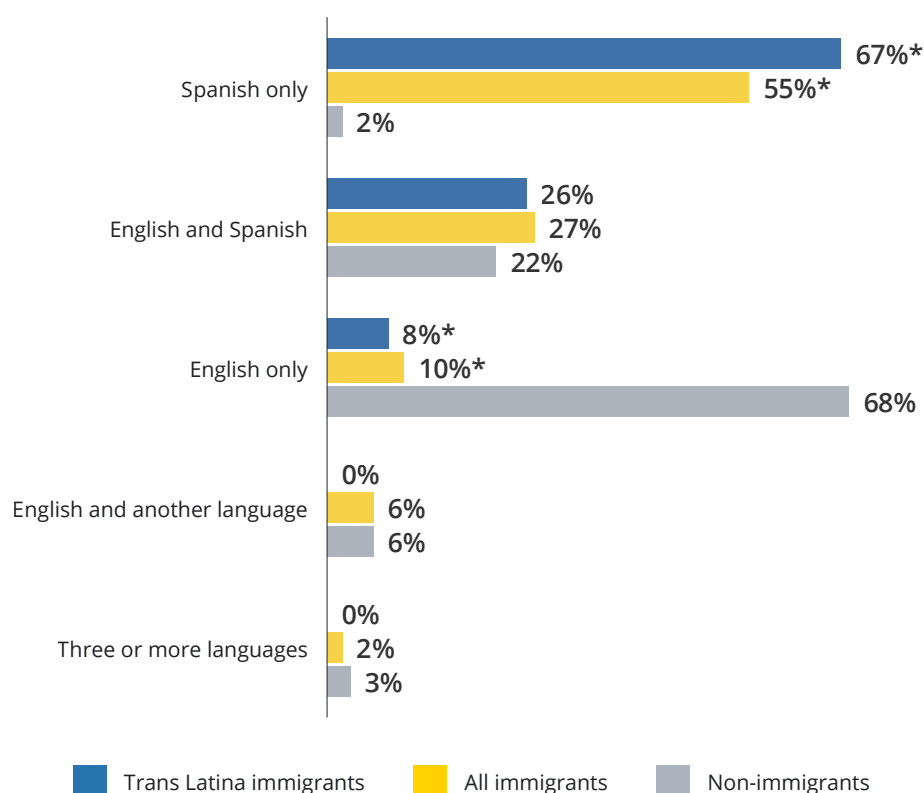
Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05*. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2022.DP05?q=population%20by%20age&g=050XX00US06037>.

Language Spoken at Home

We asked respondents what languages were spoken in their homes. More than half (55%) of immigrant respondents reported that they spoke only Spanish at home. An additional 27% reported speaking both English and Spanish at home, and 6% reported speaking English and a language other than English or Spanish at home. Two-thirds (67%) of trans Latina immigrants spoke only Spanish at home, and 26% reported that they spoke English and Spanish. See Figure 4, Table A2.

Figure 4. Languages spoken by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

AGE

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents to the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey overall were under age 35.¹⁶ Immigrant respondents in our survey tended to be older, with 57% of immigrant respondents aged 35 and older, compared to only 35% of non-immigrant respondents. Among trans Latina immigrants, nearly two-thirds (64%) were aged 35 and older. Notably, only 32% of LA County residents in general are under age 35.¹⁷ This means that immigrant respondents and trans Latina

¹⁶ Herman, J. H., Salcedo, B., Chatham, K., Mahowald, L., Ortega, Q. V., & Redfield, E. (2024). *Para mi punto de vista/From my point of view: Results of the 2023 LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey*. The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/tnb-la-county-survey/>

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *Age and sex* (Table S0101) [Data set]. American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables.

immigrant respondents to the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey on average appear to be older than both the sample overall and the population of LA County.

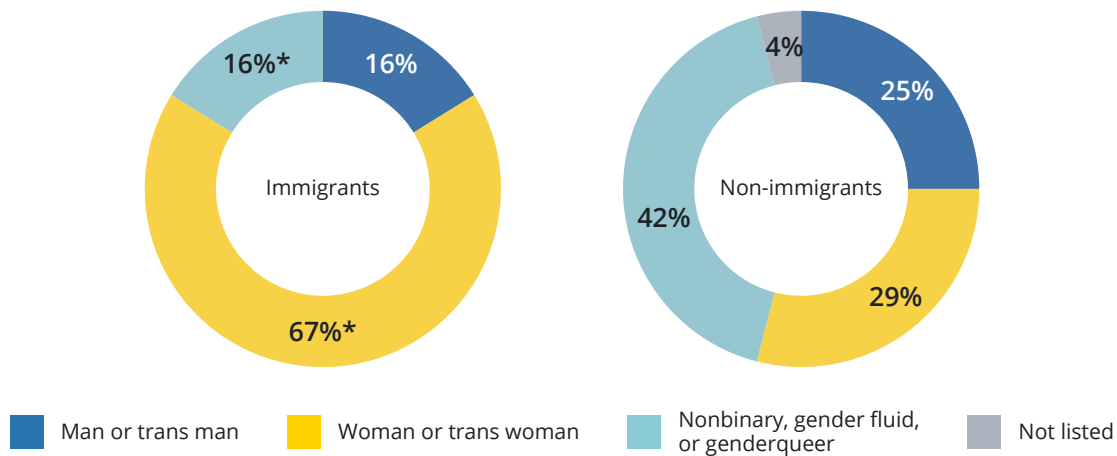
MARITAL AND RELATIONSHIP STATUS

The majority (67%) of immigrant respondents to our survey had never been married. Eighteen percent (18%) had been widowed, divorced, or separated, and 57% reported that they were not in a relationship at the time of the survey. Among trans Latina immigrants, 65% had never been married, 18% had been widowed, divorced, or separated, and 36% were not in a relationship at the time of the survey.

GENDER IDENTITY, SEX CHARACTERISTICS, AND INTERSEX IDENTITY

We asked survey respondents about their gender identity and provided the following options: Man, Woman, Trans Man, Trans Woman, Nonbinary, Genderfluid or Genderqueer, or Not Listed Above. The majority of immigrant respondents (67%) identified as women or trans women. Immigrant respondents were more than twice as likely to identify as women or trans women than non-immigrant respondents (29%). They were less likely than non-immigrant respondents to identify as nonbinary, genderfluid, or genderqueer (16% vs. 42%). Immigrant respondents in our sample also appear less likely than non-immigrant respondents to identify as men or trans men (16% vs. 25%). See Figure 5, Table A3.

Figure 5. Gender identity of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



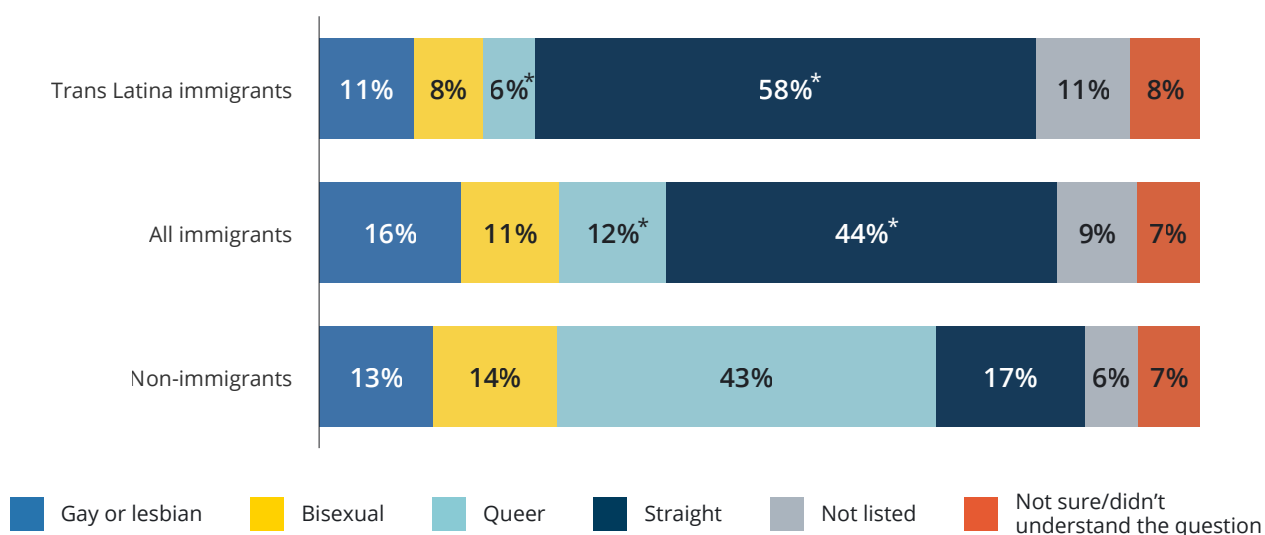
Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

We also asked respondents about intersex identity. Eight percent (8%) of immigrant respondents identified as intersex, but 22% said they did not know whether they were intersex, compared to 9% of non-immigrants.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

We asked respondents about their sexual orientation. Forty-four percent (44%) of immigrant respondents reported their sexual orientation as straight - nearly three times more than non-immigrants (17%). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of trans Latina immigrants reported that their sexual orientation was straight. Immigrants were also nearly three times less likely than non-immigrants to report their sexual orientation as queer (12% vs. 43%). Trans Latina immigrants were seven times less likely to report their sexual orientation as queer, compared to non-immigrants (6% vs. 43%). Immigrants and non-immigrants reported their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian (16% vs. 13%) or bisexual (11% vs. 14%) at similar rates. See Figure 6, Table A4.

Figure 6. Sexual orientation of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

Despite variations in sexual orientation and gender, nearly all (98%) of immigrant respondents reported that they see themselves as a member of the LGBTQ community, including 98% of trans Latina immigrant respondents.

IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Identity documents (IDs), like driver's licenses, birth certificates, or passports, are important documents that one needs for many aspects of life. IDs are often required when driving, traveling, registering to vote, applying for housing, loans, or services, and accessing certain public or private spaces, such as a workplace or a bar. When someone's name or gender on their ID doesn't match their identity or gender presentation, it could cause problems for that person during times when IDs must be presented to others. For example, the 2015 U.S. Trans Survey found that nearly one-third of respondents (32%) had been harassed, denied benefits or services, asked to leave, or even assaulted when showing inaccurate IDs.¹⁸

¹⁸ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*.

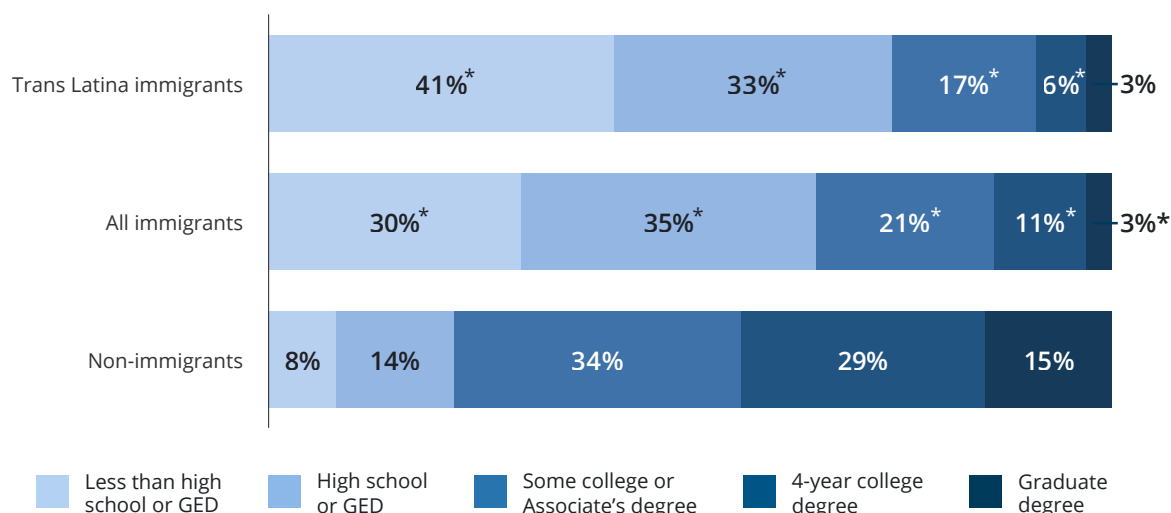
We asked survey respondents whether their IDs list their correct name or gender. Forty-two percent (42%) of immigrant respondents reported that all of their IDs listed their correct name and gender, 36% reported that some of their IDs listed the correct name and gender, and 22% reported that none of their IDs listed the correct name and gender. Among trans Latina immigrants, forty-five percent (45%) reported that all of their IDs listed their correct name and gender, 27% reported that some of their IDs listed the correct name and gender, and 27% reported that none of their IDs listed the correct name and gender. Some immigrant respondents did note in open responses that there were barriers to updating their ID documents, such as immigration status.

EDUCATION

Educational attainment varies by age. Those aged 18 to 24 have not had the same amount of time to achieve their academic goals as those aged 25 and above.¹⁹ However, the vast majority (94%) of our trans and nonbinary immigrant respondents were over age 25. Despite tending to be older, immigrant respondents to our survey had lower overall levels of educational attainment, compared to non-immigrants.

Immigrant respondents to our survey were nearly four times as likely as non-immigrant respondents to have less than a high school or GED level of education (30% vs. 8%) and had lower levels of educational attainment in all categories, compared to non-immigrants. Among trans Latina immigrants, 41% reported less than a high school or GED level of education. Trans Latina immigrants were substantially less likely to have obtained a four-year college degree, compared to non-immigrants (6% vs. 29%). See Figure 7, Table A5.

Figure 7. Educational attainment of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

National Center for Transgender Equality. <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>

¹⁹ American Council on Education. (n.d.). *Educational attainment by age*. In *Race and ethnicity in higher education: A status report*. <https://www.equityinhighered.org/indicators/u-s-population-trends-and-educational-attainment/educational-attainment-by-age/>.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Although thirteen percent (13%) of immigrants in our sample were naturalized U.S. citizens, the remainder of immigrant respondents were in various forms of non-citizen immigration status. Trans and nonbinary immigrants in LA who are not yet naturalized citizens may benefit from legal assistance with a range of needs related to their immigration status.
 - These responses were collected prior to changes in immigration policy after the 2024 election. To the extent these remedies remain available and practicable:
 - Respondents who are not yet naturalized may benefit from assistance with naturalization, which is the process of gaining citizenship,²⁰ and adjustment of status, the process of applying for and obtaining lawful permanent resident status.²¹
 - Sixteen percent (16%) of immigrant respondents and 20% of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported “other” documented status, which could refer to a wide range of authorizations. For many types of authorization, including employment visas, Temporary Protective Status, and visas for survivors of trafficking and violence,²² additional legal support may be needed in the future, including assistance with recertification and adjustment of status.
 - Twelve percent (12%) of immigrants in our sample reported being undocumented. Lack of immigration status subjects a person to immediate immigration enforcement risks, including immigration detention, and leaves them in a precarious position, unable to participate in the benefits or privileges of lawful presence, including lawful employment, health insurance, or protection from deportation. Assistance with obtaining a form of lawful status could reduce precarity and potentially improve a wide range of outcomes.
- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of immigrant respondents in our survey reported speaking only Spanish at home, and an additional 22% spoke both English and Spanish.
 - Organizations working with trans and nonbinary immigrants should consider the need for Spanish-language services, Spanish-speaking staff, and opportunities for those seeking to learn English as a second language.
 - Community members could also be recruited as interpreters and documentation translators and/or provided training to serve in this capacity.
- Trans and nonbinary immigrants in our sample tended to be older and were more likely to identify as straight and as women, compared to non-immigrants.

²⁰ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (n.d.). *N-400, Application for Naturalization*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

²¹ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (n.d.). *Adjustment of status*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/adjustment-of-status>

²² U.S. Department of State. (n.d.). *Directory of visa categories*. Bureau of Consular Affairs. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/all-visa-categories.html>; State Justice Institute. (2013). *Overview of types of immigration status* [Bench card]. <https://www.sji.gov/wp/wp-content/uploads/Immigration-Status-4-1-13.pdf>

- Organizations supporting these communities should consider these factors when determining what services and practices are necessary to support trans and nonbinary immigrants.
- Immigrants in our sample had substantially lower educational attainment than non-immigrants, particularly when factoring in age.
 - Further research could explore what causes this gap and what methods may be most effective for meeting individual and community goals for educational attainment.
 - Educational programs, grants, and scholarships, particularly when made available for a wide range of immigration statuses or for undocumented immigrants, could provide one means for closing this gap.

HAPPINESS, COMMUNITY, AND PRIORITY ISSUES

“I’m Dominican, and there aren’t many community spaces available in LA to connect to my culture.”

It is important to consider happiness, community connectedness, the social environment, and priority issues when seeking to understand the lives and experiences of trans and nonbinary immigrants in LA County. The LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey sought to understand these various aspects of our respondents’ lives. In this section, we explore these topics, presenting our respondents’ perspectives on their personal experiences and their views on LA County as a whole.

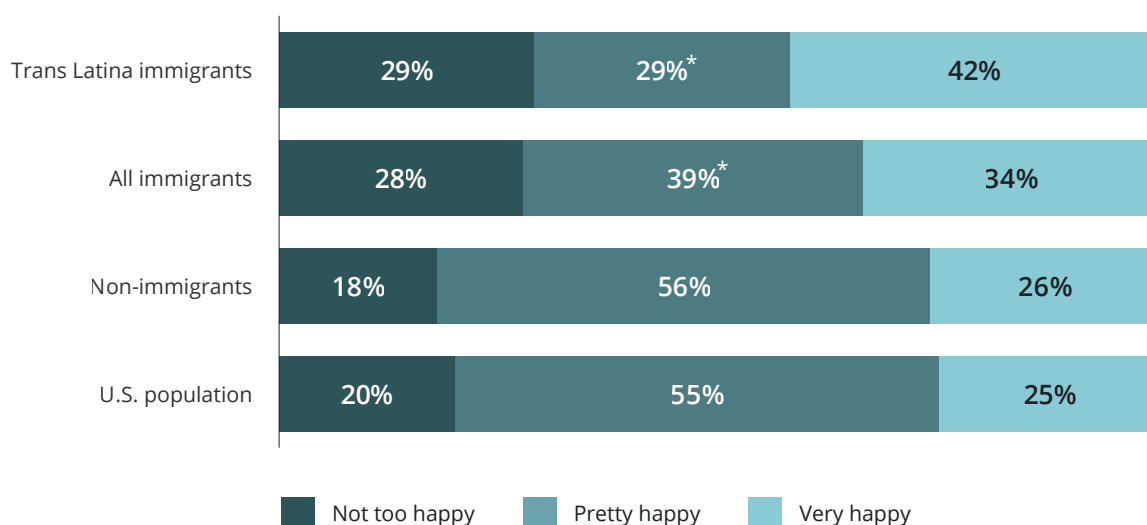
HAPPINESS

Using data from the General Social Survey (GSS), researchers have measured happiness among people in the United States for many years.²³ It serves as a benchmark to understand how the population is faring on a key indicator of the nation’s mood and optimism. We asked our respondents the same question: “Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life? Would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?”

Immigrant respondents in our survey appeared more likely to select options on the extreme ends of this scale. For example, immigrants appeared more likely than non-immigrants to report that they are very happy with how things are going in their lives (34% vs. 26%). Forty-two percent (42%) of trans Latina immigrants reported being very happy with how things are going in their lives. However, immigrants overall also appeared more likely to report that they are not too happy with how things are going in their lives, when compared with non-immigrants (28% vs. 18%). Immigrant respondents overall were less likely than non-immigrant respondents to select the middle option, that they are “pretty happy” with how things are going in their lives (39% vs. 56%). See Figure 8, Table A6.

²³ NORC at the University of Chicago. (n.d.). *Trends: General Social Survey Data Explorer*. <https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org/trends?category=Gender%20%26%20Marriage&measure=happy>

Figure 8. Happiness of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents (n=322), for selected groups and the US Population, 2022 GSS



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

We know that when people influence our political landscape, they can influence the outcomes of lives in their community. We asked survey respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: “Someone like me can’t really influence government decisions.” Fifty-two percent (52%) of immigrant respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with that statement. Just under one-quarter (23%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

We asked respondents whether they had engaged in any political or civic engagement activities in the last 12 months. Fifty-six percent (56%) of immigrant respondents had participated in one or more activities, which is substantially lower than the rate among non-immigrants (78%). However, survey respondents reported participating in a variety of political activities in the 12 months prior to the survey, including signing a petition (33%), commenting on a message board or website (27%), or contacting a government official (26%).

In a surprising finding, several immigrant respondents in our sample reported being politically engaged in a specific way: elected office. Immigrants appear nine times as likely to have run for office in the last 12 months, compared to non-immigrants (9% vs. 1%), and five times as likely to have held an elected office in the same period (12% vs. 2%). Eleven percent (11%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported that they had held an elected office. These findings are anomalous, and further research may shed light on the engagement of trans and nonbinary immigrants in electoral politics.

LA COUNTY ENVIRONMENT AND PRIORITY ISSUES FOR TRANS AND NONBINARY IMMIGRANTS

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of immigrant respondents reported that the area of Los Angeles where they live is a good place for trans and nonbinary people. Trans Latina immigrants reported similar

views on Los Angeles (80%). Non-immigrant respondents in our survey appear less likely to report the same (65%). Seventy percent (70%) of all immigrant respondents, and 70% of trans Latina immigrants, said that the area of Los Angeles where they live is a good place for immigrants.

We asked respondents about the issues that were serious problems as a trans or nonbinary person in Los Angeles. Issues related to economic security—cost of living, housing, debt, financial security, and income/wages—were most commonly rated as a serious problem by immigrant respondents in our survey. Other priority issues reported by immigrants included violence/safety, elderly living assistance, availability of jobs, seeking employment with a criminal record, availability of gender-affirming care, and shelter services. See Table 1, Table A7.

Table 1. Serious problems reported by immigrant and non-immigrant respondents to the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey

	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=96)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Cost of living	56%	61%
Housing	56%	57%
Debt	50%	42%
Financial security	48%	52%
Income/wages	46%	57%
Availability of financial services	41%	36%
Violence/personal safety	40%	37%
Elderly living assistance	40%*	19%
Availability of jobs	39%	38%
Availability of job training opportunities	38%	29%
Seeking employment with a criminal record	38%*	22%
Availability of gender-affirming health care	37%	23%
Shelter services	37%	29%
Obtaining a degree/diploma with a criminal record	35%	21%
Availability of financial counseling	35%	37%
Availability of mental health care	35%	38%
Substance abuse services	34%*	19%
Childcare services	33%	22%
Transportation	33%	25%
Substance abuse treatment	33%	21%
Availability of health care, not trans-related	32%	29%
Domestic violence services	30%	22%
Education	29%	24%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because of rounding, and because respondents could also select “does not apply to me.”

*Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN LA COUNTY

We asked respondents about the places where they currently access services or participate in programs. Substantial percentages of both immigrant respondents (41%) and non-immigrant respondents (47%) reported accessing services at trans-focused community-based organizations. However, immigrants appear more likely than non-immigrants to access services at housing assistance programs (20% vs. 12%) and workforce development centers (15% vs. 7%), and less likely than non-immigrants to access services at LGBT-focused community-based organizations (41% vs. 57%), public libraries (21% vs. 37%), or neighborhood parks (21% vs. 32%). See Table 2, Table A8.

Table 2. Places where LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents access services (n=322)

LOCATION ACCESSING SERVICES	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
LGBT community-based organization	41%	57%
Trans-focused community-based organizations	41%	47%
LA County-run health clinics	21%	17%
Neighborhood parks	21%	32%
Public libraries	21%*	37%
Housing assistance programs	20%	12%
General community-based organization, not LGBT- or trans- focused	15%	12%
Workforce development center	15%	7%
Recreation/community centers	14%	16%
YMCA (non-shelter)	9%	8%
Church facilities	8%	11%
Not listed above	1%	3%
None of the above	17%	13%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

To better understand the types of organizations respondents felt most comfortable using in LA County, we asked respondents who had accessed services at community-based organizations whether they felt more comfortable receiving services from government offices or from community-based organizations. Immigrants (25%) were more than three times as likely as non-immigrants (8%) to report that they feel more comfortable accessing services from government offices than from community-based organizations. Nearly one-third (29%) of trans Latina immigrants said that they feel more comfortable accessing services at government offices than community-based organizations.²⁴

Additionally, respondents were given the option to identify needs that were not met by the organizations where they accessed programs and services. One immigrant respondent replied that they needed “access to someone to help translate paperwork, and interpreters for appointments with specialists.”

²⁴ C.f. Gonzalez, K. A., Abreu, R. L., Rosario, C. C., Koech, J. M., Lockett, G. M., & Lindley, L. (2020). “A center for trans women where they help you”: Resource needs of the immigrant Latinx transgender community. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 23(1–2), 60–78. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2020.1830222> (Study of 18 immigrant Latinx transgender people in Florida; one recommendation is trans-focused community organizations).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Many immigrant respondents reported that economic issues, such as cost of living and housing, were serious problems for trans and nonbinary people in LA County. Data from other areas of our survey support these findings.
 - Economic interventions, such as those described in other sections, could aim to address many of these concerns.
- Forty percent (40%) of immigrant respondents reported that violence/safety was a serious issue for trans and nonbinary people in LA County.
 - Future research could investigate ways to address physical safety concerns in public places, barriers to relying on law enforcement for addressing safety and violence among trans and nonbinary immigrants, causes of interpersonal violence, and structural conditions that predispose trans and nonbinary immigrants to violence, such as isolation from family, economic insecurity, and high rates of homelessness.
- Immigrant respondents in our survey appear more likely than non-immigrants to report having run for or held political office in the last 12 months. This was an unexpected finding. The anomalous results could be due to the way the question was asked or could reflect unique characteristics of participants in our survey, or among trans and nonbinary immigrants in LA County as a whole. It is also possible that LA County may offer distinctive opportunities for trans and nonbinary community members to gain access to the political process—for example, the cities of West Hollywood and Los Angeles have a Transgender Community Advisory Board and Council, respectively.²⁵
 - Further research could shed light on whether and in what manner trans and nonbinary immigrants may be more likely to participate in elected office or other forms of representative democracy and community leadership in Los Angeles County.
- Trans and nonbinary immigrant respondents in our survey appear more likely than non-immigrants to feel more comfortable accessing services at a government office as opposed to a community-based organization.
 - Further research could shed light on the types of government offices where trans and nonbinary immigrants feel most comfortable accessing services, what government offices are doing well, and where they could improve their services for trans and nonbinary immigrants in LA County. It is possible that responses to this question could be different in light of changes to federal and local policies after the 2024 federal election.
 - Research could also help identify why some respondents felt less comfortable accessing services at community-based organizations.

²⁵ City of West Hollywood. (n.d.). Transgender Advisory Board. <https://www.weho.org/city-government/boards-commissions/advisory-boards/transgender-advisory-board/>; City of Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department. (n.d.). Transgender Advisory Council. <https://civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov/advisorycouncils/tac>.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Economic stability impacts all other facets of life, such as access to quality housing, the ability to obtain basic goods and services, and a person's mental and physical health. Trans and nonbinary individuals face myriad barriers to achieving economic stability and financial success, and as a result have historically experienced higher levels of food insecurity and poverty.²⁶ In this section, we present findings from a range of survey questions regarding income, financial security, access to food, and other necessities by immigrant and trans Latina immigrant respondents. Overall, immigrant respondents and trans Latina immigrant respondents reported lower incomes and more economic instability along several indicators, compared to non-immigrant respondents.

INCOME AND POVERTY

Respondents were asked both about their individual income and their total household income. While roughly 16% of households in LA County have incomes of less than \$25,000,²⁷ 80% of immigrant households in our study reported income under \$25,000. Forty percent of immigrant respondents reported having no individual income, and 38% reported having no household income. Among trans Latina immigrants, 46% reported no individual income and 44% reported no household income. Furthermore, trans and nonbinary immigrants overall were five times less likely than non-immigrants to have household incomes over \$75,000 per year (4% vs. 22%). See Table 3, Table A9. Therefore, immigrants in our survey, and especially trans Latina immigrants, had substantially lower income than non-immigrant respondents.

Table 3. Individual and household income of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=291)

	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=52)		ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=80)		NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=211)	
INCOME BRACKET	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	INDIVIDUAL INCOME	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	INDIVIDUAL INCOME	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	INDIVIDUAL INCOME
No income	44%*	46%*	38%*	40%*	14%	15%
\$1 to \$24,999	40%	39%	43%	43%	31%	40%
\$25,000 to \$49,499	8%	10%	10%	13%	17%	19%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	6%	6%	6%	5%	17%	15%
\$75,000 or more	2%*	0%	4%*	0%	22%	11%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

²⁶ Conron, K. J., & O'Neill, K. K. (2021). *Food insufficiency among transgender adults during the COVID-19 pandemic*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-food-insufficiency-covid/>; Wilson, B. D. M., Bouton, L. J. A., Badgett, M. V. L., & Macklin, M. L. (2023). *LGBT poverty in the United States: Trends at the onset of COVID-19*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-poverty-us/>.

²⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *Income in the past 12 months (in 2022 inflation-adjusted dollars)* (Table S1901) [Data set]. American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1901> Note: Calculations performed by the author.

We also asked questions about whether children reside in the household and how many adult and child dependents respondents have.²⁸ Immigrants were more than twice as likely as non-immigrants to have one or more adult or minor dependents living in their household with them (38% vs. 14%). Trans Latina immigrants were comparably likely to report living with one or more dependents (38%).

Using respondents' reported household income and their household size, we estimated the number of respondents who are living near or below the federal poverty level, as established by the U.S. Census Bureau.²⁹ Seventy-three percent (73%) of immigrant respondents reported that they lived near or under the Federal Poverty Line, compared to 44% of non-immigrants. Eighty percent (80%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported living at or near the federal poverty level.

FOOD AND FINANCIAL INSECURITY

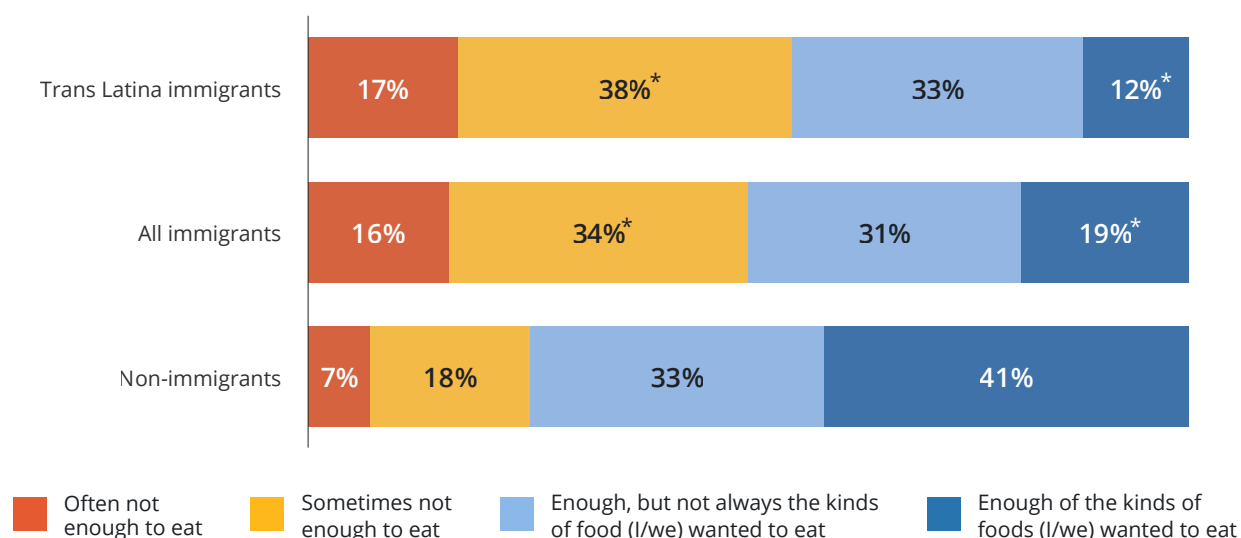
We asked respondents about difficulties paying for food and usual household expenses. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of immigrant respondents and 62% of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported that it had been somewhat or very difficult in the last three months to pay for usual household expenses. Among non-immigrants, 44% found it somewhat or very difficult.

We also asked respondents about food insecurity, including whether they had access to sufficient food and the types of food they wanted to eat in the last three months. Only 19% of immigrant respondents, and 12% of trans Latina immigrants, reported having enough of the kinds of food they wanted to eat, compared with 41% of non-immigrants. Thirty-four percent (34%) of immigrants and 38% of trans Latina immigrants reported that they sometimes did not have enough to eat. The difference is also apparent when looking at the combination of those who "sometimes" and "often" did not have enough to eat. Immigrants appear nearly twice as likely as non-immigrants to report that they sometimes or often didn't have enough to eat (50% vs. 26%). Fifty-five percent (55%) of trans Latina immigrants reported that they sometimes or often didn't have enough to eat. See Figure 9, Table A10.

²⁸ Being a "dependent" means an adult or child that lives with the respondents and relies on the respondent for 50% or more of their financial support, OR an adult or child that does not live with the respondent but are related to them by birth or adoption and rely on them for 50% or more of their financial support.

²⁹ Survey respondents were asked to report their income within specified ranges. Because exact incomes were not known, it was not possible to determine with certainty whether respondents fell below the federal poverty level based on their income. Respondents are therefore reported as "near or below" the federal poverty line if any part their income bracket fell below the federal poverty threshold. The same is true for estimates of those near or below 200% of the federal poverty line. *Poverty Thresholds*. (January 2024). U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

Figure 9. Food sufficiency among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents in the last three months, for selected groups (n=320)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

When asked why they did not have enough to eat, 67% of immigrants reported that they could not afford to buy more food.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immigrant respondents to our survey were disproportionately low-income, with 80% of our respondents having an income under \$25,000 a year. Seventy-three percent (73%) of immigrant respondents were living under the federal poverty level, compared with 44% of non-immigrants.
 - Low income is correlated with various forms of economic insecurity, including food insufficiency and housing insecurity. Safety net assistance programs, including food assistance, rental assistance, and targeted housing, could help address immediate needs.
 - Assistance with immigration status and greater employment opportunities may contribute to long-term financial security.
 - Eighty percent (80%)—the vast majority—of trans Latina immigrant respondents were living under the federal poverty level.
- Immigrant respondents reported high rates of food insecurity compared with non-immigrants.
 - Further research could help identify specific barriers to food security for trans and nonbinary immigrants, including immigration status, ineligibility for, or under-enrollment in federal programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as food stamps) and the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC).³⁰

³⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture. (n.d.). *Food assistance programs*. <https://www.nutrition.gov/topics/food-security-and-access/food-assistance-programs>

- Food assistance programs, including food pantries and free kitchens, may not be perceived as welcoming to trans and nonbinary people.³¹ Investment in making these facilities more welcoming and inclusive, such as cultural competency trainings and more resources, could increase their capacity to address food insufficiency among trans and nonbinary people.

³¹ See e.g. Wilson, B. D. M., Badgett, M. V. L., & Gomez, A.-Z. (2020). *We're still hungry: Lived experiences with food insecurity and food programs among LGBTQ people*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbtq-experiences-food-bank/>."https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbtq-experiences-food-bank/.

SOURCES OF INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES

“Another barrier that I thought of is for undocumented trans folks, and how that is going to be a problem when it comes to finding a job...”

We asked respondents to share their current source of income, including programs and services that might help with meeting basic needs. Ten percent (10%) reported self-employment income from their own business, profession, trade, or farm. Other sources of income reported by trans and nonbinary immigrant respondents included pay from a full or part-time job (44%); sex work, selling drugs, or other work that is currently illegal (10%); and pay from a partner or spouse’s full or part-time job (9%). Another 8% listed income from others who do not live in the house, and 8% said they had sources of income not listed. See Table 4, Table A11.

Table 4. Sources of income for LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents (n=97)

SOURCE OF INCOME	%
Pay from full- or part-time job	44%
Sex work, illegal drugs, or other work that is currently illegal	10%
Self-employment	10%
Spouse or partner’s full- or part-time job	9%
Regular contributions from others not in the household	8%
Cash assistance from CalWORKs or other public assistance/ welfare program	6%
Parents/family pay for expenses	6%
Unemployment benefits	3%
Social Security retirement or railroad retirement	3%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	3%
Social security disability	2%
Interest income	2%
Private pension or government pension	1%
Workers compensation	1%
Interest from dividends, estates or trusts, royalties, or rental income	0%
No income	2%
Source not listed	8%

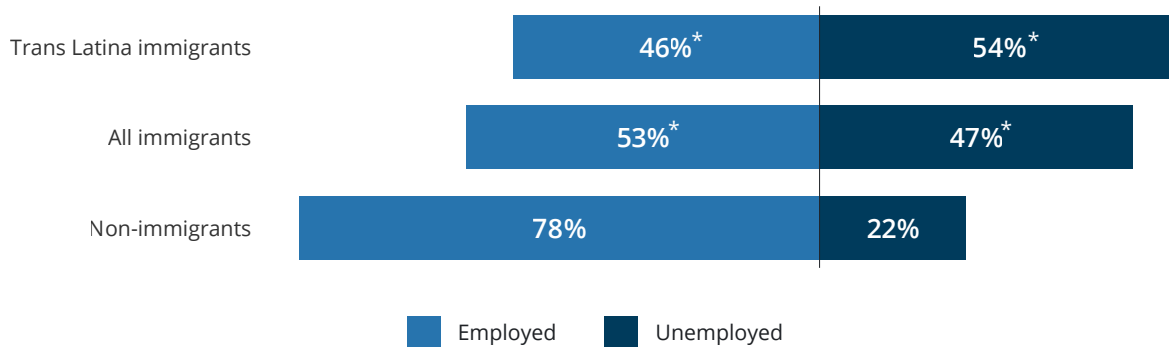
Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

Additionally, immigrant respondents (29%) appear less likely than non-immigrants (43%) to access assistance from CalFresh, EBT, or Food Stamps (SNAP).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

We asked respondents about whether they were in the labor force and their current employment status to determine the unemployment rate in our sample. Unemployment rates were higher among our immigrant respondents (47%) compared to non-immigrant respondents (22%). Fifty-four percent (54%) of trans Latina respondents reported that they were currently unemployed. See Figure 10, Table A12.

Figure 10. Unemployment rate of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents among those in the labor force, for select groups (n=246).



Note: * Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

We also asked respondents who reported being currently employed about the industry in which they work. Nearly a quarter of immigrant respondents (23%) reported working in the food service industry. Immigrant respondents also reported working in a variety of other industries, including community or social service organizations (18%), art, design, media, or sports (15%), personal care and service (13%), and transportation (10%). See Table 5, Table A13.

Table 5. Types of employment for LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents (n=39)

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	%
Food service	23%
Community or social service organization	18%
Art, design, media, or sports	15%
Personal care and service	13%
Office or administrative support	13%
Transportation	10%
Health care practitioner	8%
Health care support personnel	8%
Construction, mining, extraction	5%
Management	5%
Sales	3%
Protective service	3%
Farming, fishing, forestry	3%
Legal	3%
Material moving	0%

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	%
Building or grounds maintenance	0%
Computer or mathematical	0%
Educational instruction or library	0%
Social science	0%
None of the above	15%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

We asked participants if they had ever engaged in sex or sexual activity for money (sex work), or worked in the sex industry, such as erotic dancing, webcam work, or porn films.³² More than half of immigrants in our sample (54%) reported that they had engaged in sex work or worked in the sex industry at some point in their lives, compared to 31% of non-immigrants. Immigrants were also twice as likely to have engaged in sex work in the last twelve months, compared to non-immigrants (35% vs. 17%). Among trans Latina immigrants, nearly two-thirds (65%) had engaged in sex work in their lives, and 42% had done so in the last twelve months. See Table 6, Table A14. We asked all respondents who had engaged in sex work at any point in their lives whether they would continue to do sex work if they could make the same amount of money doing something else. Eighty-five percent (85%) of immigrant respondents and 93% of trans Latina immigrants— a substantial majority—said that they would not.

Table 6. Engaged in sex work either in the last 12 months or ever by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents

	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)		ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)		NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)	
ENGAGED IN SEX WORK	EVER	IN LAST 12 MONTHS	EVER	IN LAST 12 MONTHS	EVER	IN LAST 12 MONTHS
Yes	65%*	42%*	54%*	35%*	31%	17%
No	35%*	58%*	46%*	65%*	69%	83%

Note: *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

We also asked those who reported that their source of income was “sex work, selling drugs, or other work that is currently considered illegal” whether they had looked for legal work. Of those immigrant respondents who responded that they had ($n=5$), respondents reported the following obstacles: immigration status, issues with my resume, other jobs are not trans-affirming, and not sure what other jobs are available.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES

We asked respondents about several types of negative experiences they may have had with their employers because they are trans or nonbinary. More than a third (38%) of trans and nonbinary immigrants reported that they had one or more negative experiences in the workplace. For example, immigrants were five times as likely as non-immigrants to be removed from direct contact with clients due to trans or nonbinary discrimination (21% vs. 4%). Trans and nonbinary immigrants

³² This was a separate question from our source of income question.

reported several other types of negative experiences, including being forced to transfer due to trans or nonbinary discrimination (15%), their employer or boss sharing information about them that they shouldn't have (21%), and being given a negative job review (13%). See Table 7, Table A15.

Table 7. Negative experiences with employer/boss among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=156)

NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=39)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=117)
Removed me from direct contact with clients, customers, or patients	21%*	4%
Shared information about me that they shouldn't have	21%	12%
Forced me to transfer to a different department or position at job	15%	5%
Gave me a negative job review	13%	6%
Forced me to resign	10%	3%
Told me to present in wrong gender to keep job	8%	2%
Could not work out an acceptable bathroom situation	3%	13%
Did not let me use the bathroom I should be using based on my gender identity	3%	9%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

We also asked about steps that respondents took to avoid discrimination. Among immigrant survey respondents with full-time or part-time jobs, 72% reported that in the last 12 months they had done one or more things at work to avoid discrimination based on their trans or nonbinary identities, such as asking for transfers, delaying their gender transition, or quitting altogether. Immigrant respondents (46%) were substantially more likely than non-immigrants (15%) to have quit a job to avoid trans or nonbinary discrimination. However, Immigrants appear less than half as likely as non-immigrants to report that they did not ask their employer to use the pronouns they prefer, to avoid discrimination (15% vs. 37%).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Nearly half (47%) of respondents in our study reported that they were currently unemployed.
 - Trans and nonbinary immigrants in our study reported lower educational attainment and lower income than non-immigrants. Inclusive or targeted educational and workforce programs for transgender immigrants might provide an opportunity for participants to meet academic goals, build careers, and address economic insecurity.
 - Another consideration may be immigration status. Assistance with obtaining work permission and forms of lawful status may improve access to employment opportunities.
- Immigrants were more likely than non-immigrants to report lifetime and recent experiences with sex work, with 42% of trans Latina immigrants and 35% of all immigrant respondents reporting that they had done sex work in the last 12 months. However, 93% of trans Latina immigrant respondents and 85% of immigrant respondents overall reported that they would not continue to do sex work if they could make the same amount of money doing something else.

- Resources for sex workers should be trans-inclusive, and service providers should understand supports, protections, and opportunities for sex workers. This may include safety net assistance to address economic needs, housing, health, and safety interventions, screening for trafficking, and associated immigration protections, as well as culturally competent legal representation.
- Further research could shed light on effective pathways for sex workers who are interested in pursuing alternative sources of income. In the meantime, organizations serving trans and nonbinary immigrants can provide material and legal support for those seeking alternate means of income.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of immigrants in our study reported experiencing at least one form of negative experience with their employer or boss, and nearly three-quarters (72%) reported that they had taken action to avoid discrimination in the last 12 months.
 - Los Angeles and California offer robust legal protections against workplace discrimination. Further research may shed light on whether trans and nonbinary immigrants are able to report incidents of workplace discrimination, whether city, county, and state investigations have taken place, and what outcomes have resulted.

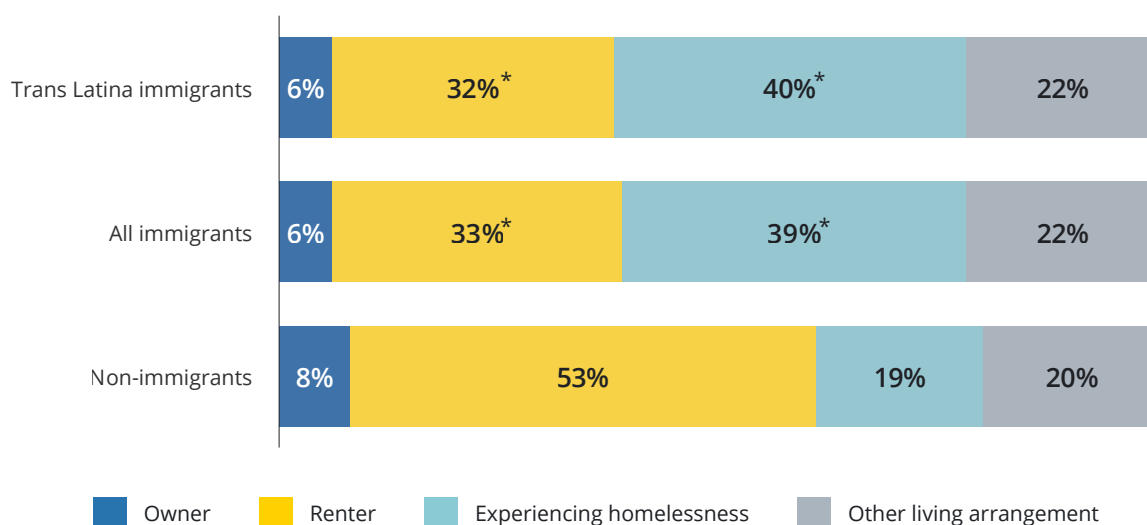
HOUSING

Access to quality and affordable housing is essential to financial stability, health, and happiness.³³ However, trans and nonbinary individuals have historically experienced bias and discrimination in these settings that, when compounded by additional economic stressors, hinder their ability to access housing.³⁴ In this section, we present survey results regarding current living arrangements, housing cost burden, experiences searching for and retaining housing, and experiences with homelessness.

CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

We asked respondents about their current living arrangements and then reclassified these arrangements into broader housing categories. Thirty-three percent (33%) of immigrant respondents rented their homes, and 6% owned their homes. Twenty-two percent (22%) had a different type of living arrangement. Notably, thirty-nine percent (39%) of immigrant respondents were currently experiencing homelessness—this is double the percentage of non-immigrant respondents. Trans Latina immigrants reported similar experiences to other immigrants regarding housing status. See Figure 11, Table A16.

Figure 11. Housing status of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=312)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

³³ See e.g. Guss, C. E., Williams, N. D., Reisner, S. L., Austin, S. B., & Katz-Wise, S. L. (2023). Gender minority youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability: Associations with mental health, suicidality, and substance use. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 72(1), 44–50. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2022.10.002>; Rosenwohl-Mack, A., Smith, D., Greene, M., Skultety, K., Deutsch, M., Dubbin, L., Flatt, J.D. Building H.O.U.S.E (Healthy Outcomes Using a Supportive Environment): Exploring the Role of Affordable and Inclusive Housing for LGBTQIA+ Older Adults. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2022 Feb 1;19(3):1699. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19031699>; Gubits, D., Shinn, M., Wood, M., Bell, S., Dastrup, S., Solari, C.D., Brown, S.R., McInnis, D., McCall, M., & Kattel, U. (2016). *Family Options Study: 3-Year Impacts of Housing & Services for Homeless Families*. Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Family-Options-Study-Full-Report.pdf>

³⁴ Romero, Adam, Goldberg, Shoshana, & Luis Vazquez (2020). *LGBT People and Housing Affordability, Discrimination, and Homelessness*. Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-housing-instability/>.

For renters and owners, we inquired about monthly household costs, including mortgage or rent/ utilities payments, real estate taxes, and insurance. Using this information, we assessed the proportion of renters or homeowners who are “housing cost-burdened,” a term used to describe those who spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs. Using this metric, 91% of immigrant respondents are cost-burdened by their housing expenses. Eighty-six percent (86%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported being cost-burdened.

EXPERIENCES SEARCHING FOR AND RETAINING HOUSING

We asked respondents what would be most helpful in looking for a house, apartment, or condo to rent or purchase. Fifty-three percent (53%) of immigrants selected having more affordable homes/ apartments as most helpful. However, immigrants were substantially less likely than non-immigrants (87%) to select this option. Similarly, immigrants appear less likely than non-immigrants to select finding trans- and nonbinary-affirming landlords and realtors (48% vs. 66%), and housing assistance to afford rent or payments (45% vs. 64%). Immigrants appear more likely than non-immigrants to find help with paperwork to apply for homes/apartments (48% vs. 26%) and support for finding stable employment (34% vs. 25%) most helpful. See Table 8, Table A17.

Table 8. Strategies to support housing searches endorsed by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=161)

STRATEGY	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=40)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=121)
Having more affordable homes/apartments	53%*	87%
Finding trans- and nonbinary-affirming landlords or realtors	48%	66%
Help with paperwork to apply for homes/apartments	48%	26%
Housing assistance to afford rent or payments	45%	64%
Having more homes/apartments to choose from	45%	54%
Help with identifying homes/apartments that meet my needs	38%	42%
Support for finding stable employment	34%	25%
Homes/apartments available near where I work or go to school	33%	46%
Support for mental or physical health	28%	38%
More homes/apartments that are accessible for people with disabilities	20%	21%
Not listed above	5%	6%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of immigrant respondents reported that they were denied the rent or purchase of a house, apartment, or condo in LA County in the last five years. This appears to be substantially higher than that of non-immigrant respondents (34%). Among trans Latina immigrants, this percentage was even higher, at 70%. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of immigrants who were denied the rent or purchase of a house, apartment, or condo in LA County reported that they were denied

because of trans or nonbinary status—twice the percentage of non-immigrants (15%). Fifty-two percent (52%) of trans Latina immigrants reported that their trans or nonbinary status was the reason for the denial.

We also asked whether respondents had ever been evicted from a house, apartment, or condo in LA County. Immigrants were three times more likely to report being evicted than non-immigrant respondents (22% vs. 7%). Twenty-four percent (24%) of trans Latina immigrants reported having been evicted. Thirteen percent (13%) of immigrant respondents overall, and 13% of trans Latina immigrants, attributed their eviction to trans or nonbinary status.

EXPERIENCES WITH HOMELESSNESS AND SHELTERS

As noted above in Table 16, a high percentage of immigrant respondents experienced homelessness compared to other populations. Approximately twice as many immigrant respondents were currently experiencing homelessness as non-immigrant respondents (39% vs. 19%). Forty percent (40%) of trans Latina immigrants reported currently experiencing homelessness. For both immigrants and trans Latina immigrants, this appears substantially higher than the sample overall (25%). Although these populations cannot be directly compared due to differences in methodology, in LA County overall, roughly 0.8% of people—both youth and adults—are estimated to be experiencing homelessness at any given time.³⁵

Immigrant respondents to our survey (40%) were more likely than non-immigrants (21%) to attribute their experience of homelessness to their trans or nonbinary status. Trans Latina immigrants were similarly likely to attribute experiencing homelessness to their trans or nonbinary status (41%).

We also asked respondents where they slept when they experienced homelessness. Fifty-three percent (53%) of immigrant respondents who experienced homelessness reported that they slept on the street, compared with 30% of non-immigrant respondents. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents who experienced homelessness reported that they slept on the street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of trans or nonbinary immigrants, and 40% of trans Latina immigrants, reported that they were currently experiencing homelessness at the time of our study. Immigrant participants in our study appear substantially more likely than non-immigrants and more likely than the population of LA County as a whole to be experiencing homelessness. Forty percent of immigrant respondents in our survey attributed experiencing homelessness to their trans or nonbinary status.

³⁵ The 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count estimates that 75,518 people (of all ages) experience homelessness on any given night in Los Angeles County, the population of Los Angeles County is estimated at 9,721,138; U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *ACS demographic and housing estimates* (Table DP05) [Data set]. American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2022.DP05>; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. (2023, June 29). *LAHSA releases results of 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*. <https://www.lahsa.org/news?article=927-lahsa-releases-results-of-2023-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count>; U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *Los Angeles County, California*. https://data.census.gov/profile/Los_Angeles_County,_California?g=050XX00US06037.

- Creating safer and more affordable housing and homelessness response options, including options open to trans and nonbinary immigrants, should be a top priority for LA County government.
- Services for people experiencing homelessness, including shelters and case managers, should ensure that they are culturally competent, with trainings and resources tailored to the needs of trans and nonbinary immigrants.
- Interventions to address homelessness, including transitional housing programs and efforts to find permanent housing, should take into consideration the unique needs and circumstances of trans and nonbinary immigrants.
- While experiencing homelessness, immigrant respondents were more likely than non-immigrants to report living on the street. Further research could determine whether there are unique barriers to shelter or other alternatives to living on the street for trans and nonbinary immigrants in LA county.
- Immigrants appear more likely than non-immigrants to have been denied the rent of an apartment, condo, or house in LA County in the last five years (58% vs. 34%), and more likely than non-immigrants to attribute this denial to their trans or nonbinary status (38% vs. 15%). Trans Latina immigrants were even more likely to report both experiences.
 - Los Angeles and California offer robust legal protections against housing discrimination. Further research may shed light on whether trans and nonbinary immigrants are able to report incidents of housing discrimination, whether city, county, and state investigations have taken place, and what outcomes have resulted.

TRANSPORTATION

Los Angeles County is one of the largest counties in the United States and spans over four thousand square miles.³⁶ As a result, residents of LA County require various modes of transportation to attend school or go to work, to access services, or participate in activities that interest them. In our listening sessions, community members frequently mentioned the burden of transportation as a barrier to receiving services at community-based organizations or government offices. This section aims to explore the experiences of trans and nonbinary immigrants' access to transportation in LA County.

ACCESS TO A CAR

Immigrant respondents were less likely to have access to a car than non-immigrant respondents (34% vs. 55%). Immigrants also appear to be less likely to have access to a car that is reliable, compared to non-immigrants (30% vs. 53%).

ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING TIME

Half of immigrant respondents reported that they most often used public transportation to commute to work or school (50%). This is nearly twice the rate of non-immigrants (28%). Slightly more than half of trans Latina immigrants (53%) reported that they relied on public transportation. Non-immigrants were nearly twice as likely to drive alone, compared to immigrant respondents (40% vs. 23%).

Immigrants appear more likely to walk to work or school, compared to non-immigrants (12% vs. 6%). See Table 9, Table A18.

Table 9. Mode of transportation used by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents when commuting to work or school, for selected groups (n=322)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Public transportation	53%*	50%*	28%
Drive alone in car, truck, or van	21%*	23%*	40%
Walk	14%	12%	6%
Do not currently work or go to school	5%	9%	8%
Carpool with others in car, truck, or van	6%	4%	6%
Work or attend school from home	0%	0%	6%
Bike or scooter	0%	0%	2%
Not listed	2%	1%	4%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), all immigrants compared to non-immigrants. †Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) trans Latina immigrants compared to all other respondents

We also asked respondents who reported a commute for work or school how long it took them. Three-quarters of immigrant respondents had a commute lasting 30 minutes or more, compared to just over half of non-immigrant respondents (75% vs. 56%). For workers with commutes in LA County in 2022, the average work commute was 30 minutes.³⁷

³⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *Los Angeles County, California*. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from https://data.census.gov/profile/Los_Angeles_County,_California?g=050XX00US06037

³⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *Commuting characteristics by sex* (Table S0801) [Data set] American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year

Eighteen percent (18%) of our survey respondents overall reported that somewhere they need to travel is inaccessible due to a lack of transportation options. When asked about travel over the last three months, immigrant respondents were approximately twice as likely as non-immigrant respondents to report that they were unable to get to work because of transportation issues (29% vs. 15%). Among trans Latina immigrant respondents, over one-third (34%) reported this issue. See Table 10, Table A19.

Table 10. Places LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents could not get to due to lack of transportation access during the last three months, for selected groups (n=318)

	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=65)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=97)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=221)
Medical/dental appointments	26%	30%	23%
Work	34%*	29%*	15%
Social outings	26%	28%	35%
Community-based organizations	18%	20%	19%
Shopping/grocery/bank	11%	13%	20%
Religious services	14%	13%	5%
Government benefits offices	12%	10%	10%
School	8%	8%	5%
Not listed above	17%	18%	10%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immigrants were more likely than non-immigrants to report using public transportation (50% vs. 28%), and that they had been unable to get to work due to a lack of transportation options (29% vs. 15%). Trans Latina respondents reported these problems at similar rates.
 - Government offices and community-based providers should consider the location of their services in relation to public transportation.
 - Opportunities to offset costs related to transportation, such as complimentary transit passes or parking for appointments, would be helpful for community members.
 - Particularly due to changes in policy since the 2024 election, public transportation may expose trans and nonbinary immigrants to risks to their safety, and to the risk of interactions with immigration and law enforcement authorities.³⁸ Public transportation authorities should ensure that public transportation is safe and accessible for trans and nonbinary immigrants, and especially trans Latina immigrants.

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

“Another one that has been challenging has been mental health services, so finding mental health services that are TGI-encompassing, that are also for our immigrant population, that are also Spanish speaking has been a little bit difficult.”

Mental and physical health are key indicators of a person’s overall well-being and are related to other experiences in life. Experiences of stigma and discrimination are stressors that can cause negative impacts on health.³⁹ Additionally, trans and nonbinary people may experience barriers to accessing health care that hinder their ability to receive the care they need. In this section, we present information about immigrant respondents’ self-rated health, health insurance, and access to health care. In the next section, we will describe respondents’ experiences accessing gender-affirming care.

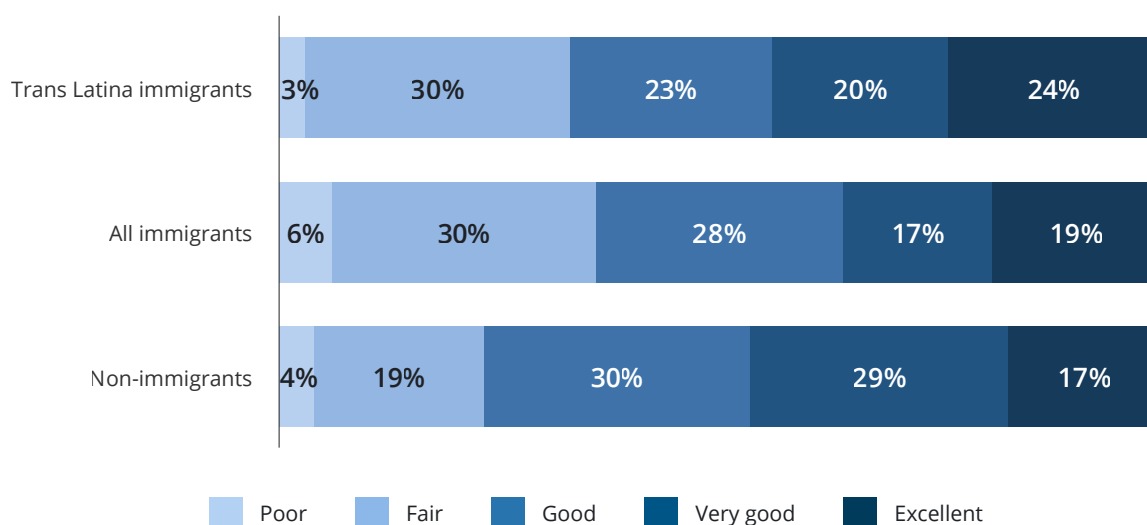
SELF-RATED HEALTH

We asked respondents to rate their health. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of all respondents in the survey rated their health as fair or poor. Immigrant respondents (36%) appear more likely to report their health as fair or poor, compared to non-immigrants (23%). Thirty-three percent (33%) of trans Latina immigrants reported their health as fair or poor. This contrasts with LA County, where roughly 14% of adults report being in fair or poor health.⁴⁰ See Figure 12, Table A20.

³⁹ Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674–697. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674>; Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Issues and Research Gaps and Opportunities. (2011). *The health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people: Building a foundation for better understanding*. National Academies Press. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64806/>; Perez-Brumer, A., Hatzenbuehler, M. L., Oldenburg, C. E., & Bockting, W. (2015). Individual- and structural-level risk factors for suicide attempts among transgender adults. *Behavioral Medicine*, 41(3) 164–171. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08964289.2015.1028322>; Blossnich, J. R., Marsiglio, M. C., Gao, S., Gordon, A. J., Shipherd, J. C., Kauth, M., Brown, G. R., & Fine, M. J. (2016). Mental health of transgender veterans in US states with and without discrimination and hate crime legal protection. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(3), 534–540. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2015.302981>; Lee, W. Y., Hobbs, J. N., Hobaica, S., DeChants, J. P., Prince, M. N., & Nath, R. (2024). State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

⁴⁰ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. (n.d.). 2023 LA County Health Survey – Topics & data. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/LACHSDataTopics2023.htm>

Figure 12. Self-rated health among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Results comparing immigrants to non-immigrants and trans Latina immigrants to all other respondents were not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$)

HEALTH INSURANCE

We observed differences in insurance access among immigrant and trans Latina respondents. Immigrant respondents in our sample were more than four times more likely to be uninsured, compared with non-immigrant respondents (30% vs. 7%). Among those who had health insurance, 62% of immigrant respondents were insured through Medi-Cal, including 60% of trans Latina immigrant respondents.

ACCESSING ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE (NON-EMERGENCY CARE)

We asked respondents about the type of place they go to most often for medical care. For those who did seek health care, immigrants were half as likely to use private medical systems, such as Kaiser or UCLA Health, compared with non-immigrants (20% vs. 40%). Immigrants (21%) appear more likely than non-immigrants (14%) to rely on public health systems, and nearly one quarter (24%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents accessed care from a public health system. Thirteen percent (13%) of immigrant respondents and 18% of trans Latina immigrant respondents reported that they don't go anywhere for health care. See Table 11, Table A21.

Table 11. Health care setting most often used by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)

HEALTH CARE SETTING	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Doctor's office in a public medical system (county services)	24%	21%	14%
Doctor's office in a private medical system (Kaiser, UCLA Health, etc.)	21%*	20%*	40%
Community health clinic or health center (where you pay for services)	8%	13%	11%
Community free health clinic or health center (free services)	11%	12%	11%
Emergency room	11%	11%	9%
Alternative medicine provider	6%	4%	1%
LGBT health center	0%	1%	2%
Urgent care	0%	0%	2%
V.A. (veteran's clinic or hospital)	0%	0%	1%
Not listed above	2%	3%	1%
I do not go anywhere for medical care	18%	13%	8%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p<0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

Notably, among all respondents to the survey, those who were uninsured were over seven times more likely to report that they do not go anywhere for medical care (36%) compared to those who are insured (5%). Our findings were similar for immigrant respondents who were uninsured, compared to those who were insured (38% vs. 3%).⁴¹

We asked respondents whether they had difficulty arranging transportation for receiving medical care. Immigrant respondents appear to be more likely than non-immigrant respondents to report that it was difficult or very difficult to arrange transportation for medical care (35% vs. 16%). Thirty-eight percent (38%) of trans Latina immigrants reported some degree of difficulty arranging transportation for medical care.

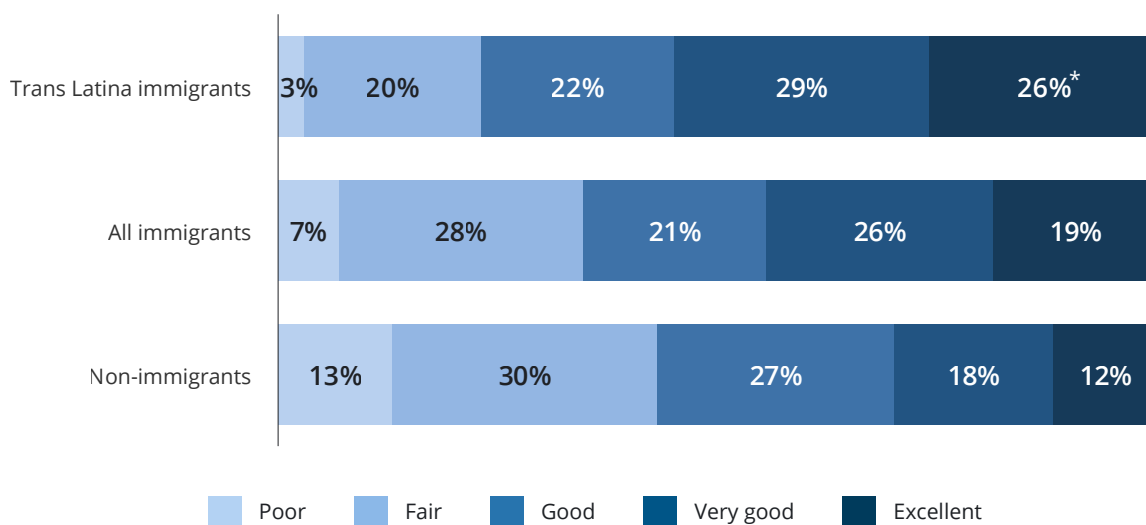
We also asked respondents whether they had delayed or not gotten any medical care over the last 12 months. Over one-third (36%) of immigrant respondents reported that they had delayed or not gotten medical care in the last 12 months. However, immigrant respondents overall appear less likely to report that they had delayed or not gotten necessary medical care in the last 12 months, compared to non-immigrant respondents (50%). Trans Latina immigrants appear similarly less likely to report having delayed or not gotten care (32%), compared with non-immigrants (50%). When those who delayed or did not get care were asked why, 20% of immigrant respondents reported that their insurance did not cover it, and 17% reported that they could not get an appointment. Among trans Latina respondents, 33% reported that they delayed or did not get care because their insurance did not cover it, and 19% reported that it was because they could not get an appointment.

⁴¹ This finding should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size for immigrant respondents (n=29).

SELF-REPORTED MENTAL HEALTH, DEPRESSION, AND ANXIETY

We asked respondents to rate their mental health as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor. Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents to the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey overall rated their mental health as fair or poor. This contrasts with 21% of adults in the U.S. who rate their mental health as fair or poor.⁴² Immigrant respondents to our survey (35%) appear less likely to report poor or fair mental health, compared with non-immigrant respondents (43%). Trans Latina immigrants (23%) appear substantially less likely to report fair or poor mental health, compared to non-immigrants (43%). Trans Latina immigrants were also more likely to report excellent mental health, compared to non-immigrants (26% vs. 12%). See Figure 13, Table A22.

Figure 13. Self-rated mental health among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=322)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immigrant respondents to our survey were more likely to be uninsured, compared to non-immigrant respondents (30% vs. 7%).
 - Service providers could give referrals or information to trans and nonbinary immigrants for free or low-cost health services and program opportunities that may bridge the gap for those who are uninsured.
 - Future research could help pinpoint and resolve specific barriers to insurance enrollment experienced by trans and nonbinary immigrants, such as immigration status, language barriers, or difficulties with applying for insurance.
- Immigrant respondents appear more likely to get health care at public health facilities, compared to non-immigrants (21% vs. 14%), and half as likely to use private medical systems, such as Kaiser or UCLA Health, compared with non-immigrants (20% vs. 40%).

⁴² Lopes, L., Kirzinger, A., Sparks, G., Stokes, M., & Brodie, M. (2022, October 5). *KFF/CNN mental health in America survey*. Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/mental-health/report/kff-cnn-mental-health-in-america-survey/>.

- All providers of health care, but especially public health providers, could assess the unique needs of trans and nonbinary immigrant communities accessing their services and make sure training and resources are provided to ensure cultural competency. Health providers should also ensure that they can accommodate the needs of trans and nonbinary immigrants in medical records, such as name and gender marker changes, and make appropriate referrals for gender-affirming care.
- Public health providers should ensure that immigrants are able to access care without fear of immigration-related consequences.
- Respondents also reported challenges with transportation to medical appointments.
 - Increased transportation options generally might improve the ability of trans and nonbinary immigrants to attend medical appointments. Community organizations may consider targeted services to help transport trans and nonbinary immigrants to and from appointments.
 - Culturally competent telehealth services, which do not require physically attending appointments, could also serve to improve access to health care for trans and nonbinary immigrants who are unable to arrange reliable or safe transportation.
- About one-third (36%) of immigrant respondents reported that their health was fair or poor. Although these populations cannot be directly compared, only 14% of residents of LA County overall report fair or poor health.
 - Further research could help understand why trans and nonbinary immigrants in our survey reported poorer health, identify specific disparities in health, such as higher prevalence of health conditions among trans and/or nonbinary immigrants,⁴³ and shed light on stressors and unique barriers that may result in worse health outcomes for trans and nonbinary immigrants.
- Trans Latina immigrant respondents appeared more likely to report better mental health compared to all other respondents.
 - Further research could shed light on the mental health of trans and nonbinary immigrants compared to non-immigrant respondents, and what factors may contribute to differential outcomes among trans Latina immigrants.

⁴³ Evidence suggests there is a higher prevalence among trans and nonbinary communities of some health conditions, such as HIV. See e.g. Clements-Noelle K., Marx R., Guzman R., & Katz, M. (2001). HIV prevalence, risk behaviors, health care use, and mental health status of transgender persons: Implications for public health intervention. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(6): 856-991. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.91.6.915; Becasen, J.S., Denard, C.L., Mullins, M.M., Higa, D.H., & Sipe, T.A. (2019). Estimating the prevalence of HIV and sexual behaviors among the U.S. transgender population: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *American Journal of Public Health*, 109(1):e1-e8. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2018.304727; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) *HIV and transgender communities* [Issue brief]. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/policies/data/cdc-hiv-policy-issue-brief-transgender.pdf>; Operario, D., Soma, T., & Underhill, K. (2008). HIV infection, risk, prevention, and testing behaviors among transgender women—National Behavioral Surveillance, 7 U.S. Cities, 2019-2020. *HIV Surveillance Special Report 27*. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-special-report-number-27.pdf>

ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE

Gender-affirming care commonly refers to health services that support a person to live in alignment with their gender identity, when their gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth.⁴⁴ This care may include counseling, the use of hormones to promote the development of secondary sex characteristics that are consistent with their gender identity, speech therapy, electrolysis, cryogenic preservation of reproductive material, and a wide array of surgical treatments. We included questions in our survey to learn more about trans and nonbinary immigrants' experiences seeking and accessing such care in LA County.

We asked respondents about the type of gender-affirming care they had received. Immigrant respondents were less likely than non-immigrant respondents to have received gender-affirming surgical care (22% vs. 39%). See Table 12, Table A23. Sixty percent (60%) of immigrant respondents and 69% of trans Latina respondents reported that they had received hormone treatment. Almost one-third of immigrant respondents overall (30%) reported that they had not had any of the kinds of gender-affirming care that we asked about. Trans Latina immigrants, however, reported having had desired treatments at a similar rate (18%) as non-immigrant respondents (18%).

Table 12. Type of gender-affirming health care services received by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups (n=321)

TYPE OF GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=65)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=97)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Hormone therapy	69%	60%	69%
Surgical care	25%	22%*	39%
Electrolysis/permanent hair removal	20%	16%	20%
Other gender-affirming health care services (NS)	17%	13%	14%
Speech therapy	11%	11%	8%
Gynecological care	6%*	8%*	21%
None of the above	18%	30%	18%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option. *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

We also asked respondents where they received gender-affirming health care. Immigrants appear more likely than non-immigrants to receive gender-affirming care at a public medical system (21% vs. 16%), and less likely than non-immigrants to receive care at a private medical system (21% vs. 36%). This parallels our findings related to general health care.

Finally, respondents were asked whether they had delayed or not gotten gender-affirming health care in the last 12 months. Immigrant respondents overall appear less likely to delay getting or not get gender-affirming care, compared to non-immigrant respondents (32% vs. 48%). Trans Latina immigrant respondents reported a similar likelihood to immigrants overall (33%).

⁴⁴ See *generally*, Coleman, E., et al. (2022). Standards of care for the health of transgender and gender diverse people, version 8. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 23(S1), S1–S259. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>.

Note: Also known as the “World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care”).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immigrant respondents in our survey appear less likely to have accessed gender-affirming treatments or services generally than non-immigrants. Nearly one-third (30%) of immigrant respondents overall had not had any of the types of care we asked about. However, trans Latina immigrants appear similar to non-immigrants in their access to these treatments.
 - Future research could assess whether there are barriers to accessing gender-affirming care for immigrants. These could include lack of insurance, lack of transportation, and language accessibility. These barriers could also include a lack of desire for specific treatments, lack of available practitioners, or other factors. Health care providers in LA County could also assess these barriers among their patients. Future research could also assess whether there are measurable differences in access to care for trans Latina immigrants.
- Immigrant respondents in our study were less likely than non-immigrant respondents to report receiving surgical care (22% vs. 39%).
 - Future research could shed light on reasons why trans immigrants may be less likely to have accessed surgical care, such as affordability, lack of opportunity, or reasons why trans immigrants may be less likely to want surgical care.
- The most common form of gender-affirming care accessed by immigrant respondents was hormone therapy.
 - Providers of care should ensure that hormone therapy can be accessed in a culturally competent manner for trans and nonbinary immigrants, including such considerations as language access and location of services.
- Similar to where trans and nonbinary immigrants reported accessing health care generally, immigrant respondents appear more likely to report accessing gender-affirming care at public health facilities.
 - All providers of gender-affirming care, but especially public health providers, could assess the unique needs of trans and nonbinary immigrant communities accessing their services and make sure training and resources are provided to ensure cultural competency.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCES

“...Almost all trans women from Central America are afraid of the police authority, due to problems not caused by us that we have had in our countries of origin.”

Prior research has shown that trans people have a long history of conflict with law enforcement, including policing of survival activities, harassment, and discriminatory arrest.⁴⁵ This includes research conducted with trans Latinas in Los Angeles County.⁴⁶ In this survey, we asked respondents about their comfort in asking police for help, interactions with police or other law enforcement, and experiences with arrest and incarceration. This section reviews the results from immigrant respondents to these questions. It is particularly important to note, in the context of law enforcement interactions, that these findings were reported prior to the 2024 presidential election and the related law enforcement changes. Subsequent research may show different experiences.

COMFORT ASKING POLICE FOR HELP

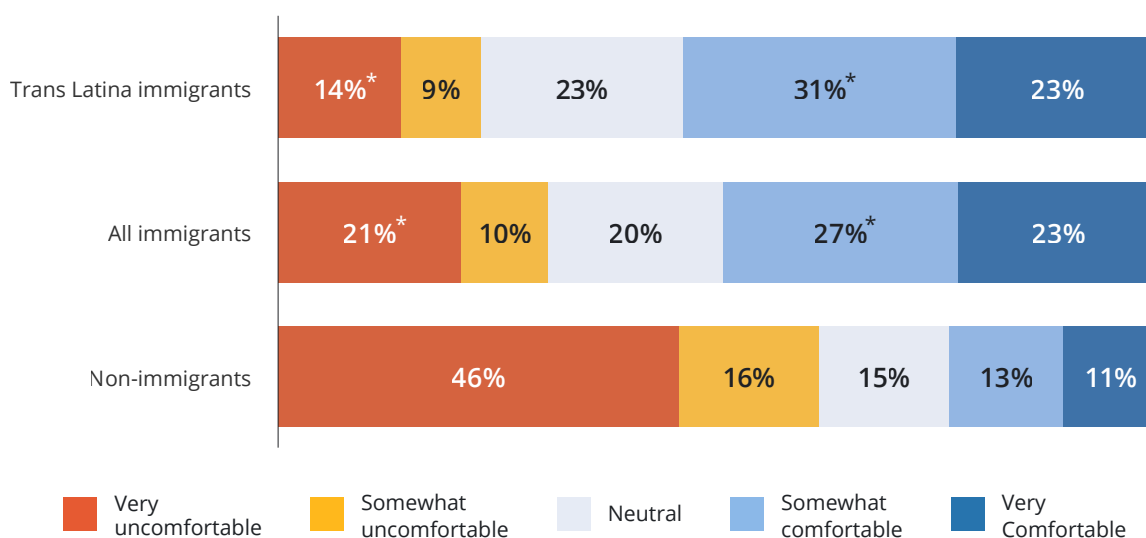
We asked survey respondents how comfortable they would feel asking for help from the police in LA County. Approximately half of our overall sample (52%) reported that they would feel somewhat or very uncomfortable. However, immigrant respondents in our sample appear less likely to feel somewhat or very uncomfortable (31%), compared to non-immigrants (62%). Additionally, immigrant respondents in our sample appear more likely to report feeling somewhat or very comfortable asking for help from law enforcement personnel, compared with non-immigrants (50% vs. 24%). Trans Latina immigrants in our sample appear even more likely to report feeling comfortable or very comfortable asking for help from law enforcement (54%). See Figure 14, Table A24. These findings are surprising, given the well-documented history of negative interactions between trans community members and law enforcement, and in particular, trans Latinas with the LAPD.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ See e.g. Mallory, C., Hasenbush, A., & Sears, B. (2015). *Discrimination and harassment by law enforcement officers in the LGBT community*. The Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-discrim-law-enforcement/>; U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary. (2019). *Policing & the LGBT community*. <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU00/20190919/109952/HHRG-116-JU00-20190919-SD042.pdf>

⁴⁶ Woods, J.B., Galvan, F.H., Bazargan, M., Herman, J.L., and Chen, Y-T. (2013). Latina Transgender Women’s Interactions with Law Enforcement in Los Angeles County. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 7(4): 379–391. <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/pat025>; Galvan, F.H. & Bazargan, M. (2012). *Interactions of Latina Transgender Women with Law Enforcement*. Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/latina-trans-women-law-enforcement/>.

⁴⁷ Galvan & Bazargan (2012).

Figure 14. Comfort asking for help from the police in LA County among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents



Note: *Statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) compared to non-immigrants

We asked respondents who reported being somewhat or very uncomfortable asking for help from law enforcement about the reasons they would be uncomfortable. Of immigrant respondents who reported that they did not feel comfortable, half (53%) reported that they felt law enforcement officers might disrespect or harass them, and 40% felt that the police might arrest them or someone close to them because of their immigration status. However, immigrants were half as likely as non-immigrants to report that they were uncomfortable asking for help from law enforcement because of their gender identity or expression (24% vs. 54%). Only 15% of trans Latina immigrants reported this concern.

We also asked respondents who reported being somewhat or very uncomfortable asking for help from law enforcement about interventions that might make them feel more comfortable. Immigrant respondents in this category were twice as likely as non-immigrants to report feeling more comfortable seeking help if they knew there was an LGBTQ liaison (49% vs. 27%). Immigrants were also twice as likely as non-immigrants to report that they would feel more comfortable seeking help if they knew that law enforcement officers had received training on how to treat trans and nonbinary people (53% vs. 21%).

INTERACTIONS WITH POLICE OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT

We asked respondents whether they had interacted with law enforcement in the last 12 months. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of all respondents had interacted with law enforcement during that period. Immigrant respondents had interacted with law enforcement in the last 12 months at a similar level (34%). Among immigrant respondents who reported interacting with law enforcement, 30% reported that police initiated the interaction, while 61% reported that they approached police, and 9% reported both. Immigrant respondents appear more likely than non-immigrants to have been arrested in the last five years in LA County (18% vs. 9%).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Thirty-one percent (31%) of immigrant respondents reported feeling somewhat or very uncomfortable asking for help from police in LA County. These findings were made prior to the escalation of law enforcement and immigration enforcement activities since the 2024 election. However, many immigrant respondents who reported feeling uncomfortable seeking help from police expressed some optimism about two interventions: LGBTQ liaisons (49%) and training on working with trans and nonbinary individuals (53%).
 - Law enforcement agencies could continue and grow programming, in partnership with community organizations, to ensure that LGBTQ liaisons are available to trans and nonbinary immigrants who may seek law enforcement assistance.
 - Continued training on how to work with trans and nonbinary people may also result in improved comfort accessing services from law enforcement among trans and nonbinary immigrants.
- In an anomalous finding, immigrant respondents did report higher levels of comfort with law enforcement than expected. Immigrants appear substantially more likely than non-immigrants to feel comfortable asking for help from law enforcement (50% vs. 24%).
 - This finding is at odds with other research and findings about interactions between trans and nonbinary community members and law enforcement. For example, prior research has found that trans women are frequent victims of law enforcement harassment and assault from police in LA County.⁴⁸ Therefore, further research is necessary to understand whether and why trans and nonbinary immigrant respondents to our survey may be more likely to feel comfortable seeking help from police in LA.
 - The finding, if confirmed, suggests that under some circumstances trans and nonbinary immigrants in our sample might avail themselves of or benefit from police programs serving trans and nonbinary community members and immigrants, such as specialized units or liaisons.
 - Among those who felt uncomfortable, fear of disrespect or harassment (53%) and fear of arrest due to immigration status (40%) were some of the most common concerns. Training on working with trans and nonbinary individuals and separating law enforcement from immigration enforcement could improve trust with trans and nonbinary immigrants..
- Immigrants appear more likely to report having been arrested in the last five years, compared with non-immigrants (18% vs. 9%).
 - Further research could shed light on the nature of these law enforcement interactions, reasons for arrest, and associated factors. For example, experiences of police harassment as described above could contribute to increased arrest rates. We also find in this survey that trans and nonbinary immigrants may be more likely than non-immigrants to engage in sex work for pay, which could contribute to higher rates of law enforcement interactions and arrest.

⁴⁸ Galvan & Bazargan (2012).

- However, our survey respondents also indicated that a majority (61%) of their interactions with the police in LA County were initiated by them. Further research could explore whether self-initiated contact by trans and nonbinary immigrants may affect the risk of arrest.
- Further research is needed to understand how federal law enforcement actions conducted after this study have impacted trans and nonbinary immigrants, including trans Latina immigrants, in LA County.

IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCES

**“I think when we take into account culture and race, ethnicity,
we don’t often take into account migration.”**

We asked immigrant respondents to the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey a series of questions about their experiences with the immigration process itself and about experiences unique to immigrants in the U.S. Above, we shared information about the types of immigration status that respondents currently hold. In this section, we present information about political asylum and refugee status, and experiences with immigration detention. It is particularly important to remember in the context of immigration experiences that these findings were reported prior to the 2024 presidential election and related immigration policy changes. Subsequent research may show different experiences.

POLITICAL ASYLUM AND REFUGEE STATUS

Political asylum is a distinct form of status and protection for immigrants and refugees fleeing persecution in their home country.⁴⁹ Sixty-three percent (63%) of immigrant respondents in our sample had applied for political asylum status. Of those who applied for asylum, 87% reported that they had applied for asylum solely because they were trans, nonbinary, intersex, or LGB. Among trans Latina immigrant respondents, 93% had applied solely on this basis. Nine percent (9%) of respondents reported that they had applied for asylum for another reason only, and an additional 4% applied both because they were trans, nonbinary, intersex, or LGB, and for another reason.

Of respondents who had applied for asylum for any reason, approximately half (49%) were approved. Other respondents were not approved for asylum but received protection under the Convention Against Torture (11%) or Withholding of Removal (19%), which are other forms of status sometimes available to those seeking asylum.⁵⁰ In total, 79% of respondents who applied for asylum received some form of status, and 21% were denied any form of status.

We also asked respondents who did not apply for asylum why they did not apply. The most common reason was that they did not know how (42%). Nineteen percent (19%) reported that they had access to other statuses, 16% reported that they were afraid to apply, and 13% did not think that asylum was an option for them. See Table 13, Table A25.

⁴⁹ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2024, February 12). *Asylum*. <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum>

⁵⁰ Immigration Equality. (n.d.). *Asylum manual*. Retrieved May 15, 2024, <https://immigrationequality.org/asylum/immigration-basics/>

Table 13. Reasons for not applying for asylum or refugee status among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents (n=31)

REASON	%
I did not know how to apply	42%
I did not need asylum	19%
I had/have access to other legal statuses	19%
I was afraid to apply	16%
I did not think asylum was an option for me	13%
I did not want to apply	10%
I believed I was past the 1-year deadline	3%
A reason not listed above	3%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of all asylum applicants had help from attorneys.

EXPERIENCES WITH IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Half of all immigrant respondents (50%)—13% of the total sample—were held in immigration detention at some point in their lives. Fifty-two percent (52%) of trans Latina immigrant respondents were held in immigration detention. Of the respondents who had been in immigration detention, 31% reported being physically assaulted, and 19% were denied access to gender-appropriate clothing. In terms of access to health care, 12% were denied access to hormone treatments, 12% were denied access to HIV treatments, and 14% reported not getting the health care that they needed overall. Twelve percent (12%) of immigrants who were held in detention believed that they received worse health care than other detainees because they are trans or nonbinary. See Table 14, Table A26.

Table 14. Experiences in immigration detention among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents (n=42)

EXPERIENCE	%
Physically assaulted	31%
Denied access to gender-appropriate clothing	19%
Denied access to health care overall	14%
Denied access to hormones	12%
Denied access to HIV care	12%
Got worse health care because I am trans or nonbinary	12%
Sexually assaulted	5%
Threatened with sexual assault	2%
None of these things	52%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

We asked respondents who had been detained whether they had assistance with clothing, food, and housing upon release. Forty-three percent (43%) reported that they had support for only some of those things, and nearly half (45%) reported that they had support for none of those things. Many respondents did some form of work to support themselves: 38% of respondents got a job from an

employer after leaving detention, and approximately one-quarter (24%) reported that they supported themselves by doing sex work. Others found support from social networks. For example, 19% received support from friends or family, 19% reported receiving cash assistance from a charity or program, and 14% received support from a community organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A majority of our immigrant respondents at the time of the survey (63%) had applied for asylum in the U.S. at some point in their lives. These findings were made prior to the escalation of law enforcement and immigration enforcement activities since the 2024 election. Eighty-three percent (83%) had the assistance of an attorney. However, among those who did not apply, the most common reason was that they did not know how (42%).
 - Ensuring access to attorneys, explainer materials, or other immigration advocacy services could help increase the likelihood that all immigration options, especially those that are idiosyncratic to U.S. law, such as withholding of removal, are thoroughly explored. In fact, 30% of immigrant respondents in our sample who applied for asylum were denied asylum but granted another form of relief.
 - Eighty-seven percent (87%) reported that they had applied for asylum solely because they were trans, nonbinary, intersex, or LGB. Further research could help understand the drivers of migration and the conditions that make LA County a desirable place for trans and nonbinary immigrants to live when seeking asylum.⁵¹
 - Further research could also shed light on how recent changes to immigration policy may affect trans immigrants and trans Latina immigrants.
- Half of all immigrant respondents had been held in immigrant detention, and many reported mistreatment while detained.
 - Although some research has helped shape our understanding of the experiences of trans and nonbinary people in immigration detention, more research in this area is necessary. For example, one respondent to our survey specifically recommended more research focused on detained trans and nonbinary immigrants: “I think there are ways that you can...survey...migration experiences or experiences with incarceration or detention centers. The detention centers and asylees are often populations that also don’t get surveyed very much.”
 - Although immigration detention is overseen by federal agencies, service providers and community organizations in LA County could coordinate to ensure that support is provided to detained trans and nonbinary immigrants in the area. This could include legal services, access to clothing and health care, in-facility events or programming, and transitional services for when people leave detention.

⁵¹ See also Cerezo, A., Morales, A., Quintero, D., & Rothman, S. (2014). Trans migrations: Exploring life at the intersection of transgender identity and immigration. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 1(2), 170-180. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000031>; Padron, K.M. & Salcedo, B. (2016). *TransVisible: Transgender Latina immigrants in U.S. Society*. UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. <https://www.chicano.ucla.edu/files/news/transvisiblereport.pdf>; Mora-Lett, O. (2018). *Factors influencing transgender Latina Immigrants’ decision to migrate to the U.S.: A qualitative study*. [Dissertation, Smith College]. <https://scholarworks.smith.edu/theses/2190>

- Forty-five percent (45%) of immigrant respondents who were detained had no support for food, clothing, or housing upon release, and 43% reported they had support for only some of these things.
 - A needs assessment for trans and nonbinary immigrants leaving immigration detention could shed light on the best ways that service providers in LA County can support these community members when they transition out of detention.
- Further research is needed to understand the ways in which federal law enforcement actions conducted after this study have impacted trans and nonbinary immigrants, including trans Latina immigrants, in Los Angeles County.

CONCLUSION

This study provides unique insight into the experiences of LA County's trans and nonbinary immigrant and trans Latina immigrant populations in the years prior to the present federal administration's immigration enforcement policies. Although not representative of all trans people in LA County, and many of these findings may be affected by changes in federal policy, these findings nonetheless provide information that may be useful for policymakers and support investment in program interventions and future research among these vulnerable communities. Our respondents reported substantial disparities in educational attainment, economic security, employment experiences, homelessness, and health care access. Among trans Latina immigrants in particular, we found high rates of unemployment, poverty, difficulty paying household expenses, homelessness, and other indicators of economic insecurity. There were also some positive findings, including some data suggesting that trans Latina immigrants in LA County may have better overall mental health compared to the rest of our respondents, and the surprising finding that trans Latina immigrants in LA County may be more likely to be engaged in representational politics than other groups.

Above all, this report shows the critical need for research to understand and address the unique disparities experienced by transgender immigrants and trans Latina immigrants in LA. Given the substantial changes to federal immigration policy and transgender rights since these data were collected, new research could also shed light on how these needs and experiences may have changed in response. As noted in our prior report from the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey,⁵² the findings from our studies also show that trans and nonbinary people themselves, including immigrants and trans Latina immigrants, have the vision, capacity, and desire to serve as leaders in the work to address current disparities and future challenges. We encourage policymakers to use this report as a starting point, but above all, to engage directly with trans and nonbinary immigrants in their communities and continue dialogue to meet these urgent needs.

⁵² Herman, J.L., Salcedo, B., Chatham, K., Mahowald, L., Ortega, Q.V., and Redfield, E. (2024). *Para mi Punto de Vista/From My Point of View: Results of the 2023 LA County Trans and Nonbinary Survey*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/tnb-la-county-survey/>.

METHODS

The LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey was conducted in partnership between the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law and the TransLatin@ Coalition, along with collaborators from the Royal Collection Corporation and the Connie Norman Transgender Empowerment Center (CoNoTEC). Study design and all study materials were submitted to and approved by the UCLA North General Institutional Review Board (UCLA IRB) (IRB #23-000588). Bamby Salcedo, Jody Herman, and Kerith Conron served as Co-Principal Investigators. Grant funding for this study was largely provided by LA County Supervisors Solis, Mitchell, Horvath, and Hahn, with additional support from the California Endowment and Jack Corwin. Additional funding for producing this report was provided by the Latina Futures 2050 Lab at UCLA.

For further information about the methods used to collect and analyze the data in this report, please see the Methods section of our report “[Para Mi Punto de Vista/From My Point of View: Report of the 2023 LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey](#),” available on the Williams Institute’s website.⁵³

⁵³ Herman, J.L., Salcedo, B., Chatham, K., Mahowald, L., Ortega, Q.V., and Redfield, E. (2024). *Para mi Punto de Vista/From My Point of View: Results of the 2023 LA County Trans and Nonbinary Survey*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/tnb-la-county-survey/>.

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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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RESEARCH THAT MATTERS



APPENDIX

Table A1. US citizenship and immigration status of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

IMMIGRATION STATUS	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N = 66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N = 98)	ALL RESPONDENTS (N = 322)
U.S. citizen by birth	*	*	[64.291, 74.371]
Naturalized citizen	[5.118, 20.694]	[7.838, 21.570]	[2.352, 6.846]
Lawful permanent resident	[17.862, 39.272]	[21.368, 39.395]	[6.318, 12.683]
Refugee or asylum status	[21.701, 44.002]	[20.475, 38.327]	[6.059, 12.329]
Other visa or documented status	[11.758, 31.107]	[10.223, 25.057]	[3.058, 7.976]
Undocumented	[5.118, 20.694]	[7.066, 20.388]	[2.122, 6.465]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A2. Languages spoken by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

LANGUAGES	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Spanish	[54.446, 76.994]	[45.131, 64.679]	[0.668, 4.683]
English and Spanish	[16.609, 37.669]	[18.703, 36.176]	[16.918, 27.798]
English only	[3.172, 17.019]	[5.560, 17.988]	[61.427, 73.674]
English and another language	*	[2.764, 13.013]	[3.390, 9.763]
Three or more languages	*	[0.507, 7.846]	[1.203, 5.856]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A3. Gender identity of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

GENDER IDENTITY	IMMIGRANTS	NON-IMMIGRANTS
Man or trans man	[10.223, 25.057]	[20.146, 31.590]
Woman or trans woman	[57.431, 75.921]	[23.835, 35.798]
Nonbinary, genderfluid or genderqueer	[10.223, 25.057]	[35.211, 48.116]
Not listed above	*	[1.789, 7.002]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A4. Sexual orientation of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n = 322)

SEXUAL ORIENTATION	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANT (N=224)
Gay or lesbian	[5.118, 20.694]	[10.223, 25.057]	[9.507, 18.541]
Bisexual	[3.172, 17.019]	[6.306, 19.194]	[9.886, 19.040]
Queer	[2.280, 15.139]	[7.066, 20.388]	[36.931, 49.906]
Straight	[45.372, 68.921]	[34.361, 53.867]	[12.188, 22.000]
Not listed above	[5.118, 20.694]	[4.831, 16.768]	[3.726, 10.302]
Not sure/didn't understand the question	[3.172, 17.019]	[3.430, 14.282]	[4.066, 10.836]

Table A5. Educational attainment of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANT (N=224)
Less than high school or GED	[29.706, 53.143]	[21.368, 39.395]	[4.758, 11.895]
High school or GED	[23.006, 45.554]	[25.909, 44.661]	[9.886, 19.040]
Some college or Associate's degree	[9.444, 27.723]	[14.376, 30.700]	[27.998, 40.410]
4-year college degree	[2.280, 15.139]	[6.306, 19.194]	[23.835, 35.798]
Graduate degree	[0.753, 11.405]	[0.985, 9.114]	[11.031, 20.526]

Table A6. Happiness of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents (n=322), for selected groups and the US population, 2022 GSS, 95% confidence intervals

HAPPINESS	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)	U.S. POPULATION (2022 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY)
Very happy	[31.079, 54.628]	[24.992, 43.617]	[20.961, 32.530]	N/A
Pretty happy	[19.128, 40.861]	[29.624, 48.794]	[49.202, 62.206]	N/A
Not too happy	[19.128, 40.861]	[19.586, 37.254]	[13.356, 23.464]	N/A

Table A7. Serious problems reported by immigrant and non-immigrant respondents to the LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey, 95% confidence intervals

PROBLEM	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=96)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Cost of living	[45.637, 65.261]	[54.134, 66.927]
Housing	[45.637, 65.261]	[50.124, 63.155]
Debt	[39.869, 60.131]	[35.375, 48.318]
Financial security	[38.646, 58.382]	[45.655, 58.733]
Income/wages	[36.515, 56.410]	[50.541, 63.500]
Availability of financial services	[31.239, 50.750]	[29.680, 42.238]
Violence/personal safety	[30.897, 50.279]	[30.948, 43.603]

PROBLEM	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=96)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Elderly living assistance	[30.278, 49.710]	[14.534, 24.918]
Availability of jobs	[29.321, 48.665]	[31.372, 44.056]
Availability of job training opportunities	[28.369, 47.617]	[23.010, 34.868]
Seeking employment with a criminal record	[28.356, 47.919]	[16.918, 27.799]
Availability of gender-affirming health care	[28.060, 47.172]	[18.122, 29.226]
Shelter services	[28.037, 47.458]	[23.422, 35.334]
Obtaining a degree/diploma with a criminal record	[26.111, 45.300]	[15.722, 26.363]
Availability of financial counseling	[26.478, 45.506]	[30.525, 43.148]
Availability of mental health care	[26.111, 45.300]	[32.221, 44.963]
Substance abuse services	[25.440, 44.645]	[14.534, 24.918]
Child care services	[24.339, 42.969]	[16.594, 27.438]
Transportation	[24.205, 43.123]	[20.145, 31.591]
Substance abuse treatment	[24.205, 43.123]	[16.518, 27.321]
Availability of health care, not trans-related	[23.421, 41.906]	[23.835, 35.798]
Domestic violence services	[21.385, 39.819]	[17.318, 28.276]
Education	[21.150, 39.435]	[18.929, 30.175]

Table A8. Places where LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents access services, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

LOCATION ACCESSING SERVICES	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
LGBT community-based organization	[31.507, 50.835]	[50.094, 63.069]
Trans-focused community-based organizations	[31.507, 50.835]	[40.831, 53.903]
LA County-run health clinics	[14.376, 30.700]	[12.576, 22.489]
Neighborhood parks	[14.376, 30.700]	[26.326, 38.573]
Public libraries	[14.376, 30.700]	[30.949, 43.602]
Housing assistance programs	[13.530, 29.586]	[8.381, 17.037]
General community-based organization, not LGBT- or trans-focused	[9.418, 23.904]	[8.008, 16.532]
Workforce development center	[9.418, 23.904]	[4.410, 11.367]
Recreation/community centers	[8.623, 22.742]	[11.801, 21.510]
YMCA (non-shelter)	[4.831, 16.768]	[4.758, 11.895]
Church facilities	[4.120, 15.533]	[7.638, 16.026]
Not listed above	[0.142, 6.952]	[1.203, 5.856]
None of the above	[11.038, 26.201]	[9.507, 18.541]

Table A9. Individual and household income of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=291)

	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=52)		ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=80)		NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=211)	
INCOME BRACKET	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	INDIVIDUAL INCOME	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	INDIVIDUAL INCOME	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	INDIVIDUAL INCOME
No income	[31.375, 57.909]	[33.116, 59.740]	[27.565, 48.613]	[29.830, 51.112]	[9.701, 19.116]	[10.502, 20.176]
\$1 to \$24,999	[27.948, 54.193]	[26.263, 52.307]	[32.122, 53.584]	[32.122, 53.584]	[24.914, 37.397]	[33.385, 46.607]
\$25,000 to \$49,499	[2.898, 18.874]	[4.036, 21.204]	[5.059, 18.809]	[6.834, 21.765]	[12.132, 22.266]	[14.611, 25.370]
\$50,000 to \$74,999	[1.859, 16.523]	[1.859, 16.523]	[2.612, 14.217]	[1.878, 12.641]	[12.542, 22.786]	[10.502, 20.176]
\$75,000 or more	[0.267, 12.567]	*	[1.206, 11.057]	*	[16.714, 27.917]	[7.721, 16.448]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A10. Food sufficiency among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents in the last three months, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=320)

FOOD SUFFICIENCY	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=222)
Enough of the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat	[6.154, 22.489]	[12.692, 28.465]	[35.106, 48.073]
Enough, but not always the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat	[23.006, 45.554]	[22.266, 40.458]	[26.989, 39.370]
Sometimes not enough to eat	[26.992, 50.141]	[24.991, 43.618]	[13.872, 24.160]
Often not enough to eat	[9.443, 27.724]	[10.223, 25.057]	[4.449, 11.470]

Table A11. Sources of income for LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents, 95% confidence intervals (n=97)

SOURCE OF INCOME	95% CI
Pay from full- or part-time job	[34.739, 54.363]
Sex work, illegal drugs, or other work that is currently illegal	[5.619, 18.163]
Self-employment	[5.619, 18.163]
Spouse or partner's full- or part- time job	[4.881, 16.931]
Regular contributions from others not in the household	[4.163, 15.685]
Cash assistance from CalWORKs or other public assistance/welfare program	[2.793, 13.141]
Parents/family pay for expenses	[2.793, 13.141]
Unemployment benefits	[0.995, 9.204]
Social Security retirement or railroad retirement	[0.995, 9.204]
Supplemental Security Income	[0.995, 9.204]
Social Security disability	[0.512, 7.923]

SOURCE OF INCOME	95% CI
Interest income	[0.512, 7.923]
Private pension or government pension	[0.144, 7.020]
Workers compensation	[0.144, 7.020]
Interest from dividends, estates or trusts, royalties, or rental income	*
No income	[0.512, 7.923]
Source not listed	[4.163, 15.685]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A12. Unemployment rate of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents, for select groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=246)

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=41)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=59)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=205)
Employed	[31.754, 61.583]	[39.824, 64.939]	[70.955, 82.990]
Unemployed	[38.417, 68.246]	[35.061, 60.176]	[17.010, 29.045]

Table A13. Types of employment for LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents, 95% confidence intervals (n=39)

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	95% CI
Food service	[12.378, 38.917]
Community or social service organization	[8.733, 33.338]
Art, design, media or sports	[7.016, 30.466]
Personal care and service	[5.385, 27.533]
Office or administrative support	[5.385, 27.533]
Transportation	[3.860, 24.544]
Health care practitioner	[2.470, 21.517]
Health care support personnel	[2.470, 21.517]
Construction, mining, extraction	[1.266, 18.557]
Management	[1.266, 18.557]
Sales	[0.352, 16.384]
Protective service	[0.352, 16.384]
Farming, fishing, forestry	[0.352, 16.384]
Legal	[0.352, 16.384]
Material moving	*
Building or grounds maintenance	*
Computer or mathematical	*
Educational instruction or library	*
Social science	*
None of the above	[7.016, 30.466]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A14. Engaged in sex work either in the last 12 months or ever by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents, 95% confidence intervals

ENGAGED IN SEX WORK...	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)		ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)		NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)	
	EVER	IN LAST 12 MONTHS	EVER	IN LAST 12 MONTHS	EVER	IN LAST 12 MONTHS
Yes	[52.906, 75.677]	[31.079, 54.628]	[44.132, 63.716]	[25.909, 44.661]	[25.490, 37.654]	[12.966, 22.977]
No	[24.323, 47.094]	[45.372, 68.921]	[36.284, 55.868]	[55.339, 74.091]	[62.346, 74.510]	[77.023, 87.034]

Table 15. Negative experiences with employer/boss among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n = 156)

NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=39)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=117)
Removed me from direct contact with clients, customers, or patients	[10.523, 36.154]	[1.771, 9.954]
Shared information about me that they shouldn't have	[10.523, 36.154]	[7.171, 19.300]
Forced me to transfer to a different department or position at job	[7.016, 30.466]	[2.299, 11.044]
Gave me a negative job review	[5.385, 27.533]	[2.853, 12.118]
Forced me to resign	[3.860, 24.544]	[1.274, 8.852]
Told me to present in wrong gender to keep job	[2.470, 21.517]	[0.421, 6.680]
Could not work out an acceptable bathroom situation	[0.352, 16.384]	[7.831, 20.289]
Did not let me use the bathroom I should be using based on my gender identity	[0.352, 16.384]	[5.245, 16.285]

Table A16. Housing status of LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=312)

HOUSING STATUS	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=63)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=93)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=219)
Owner	[2.389, 15.810]	[2.914, 13.678]	[5.226, 12.697]
Renter	[21.430, 44.232]	[24.478, 43.545]	[45.856, 59.079]
Experiencing homelessness	[28.363, 52.226]	[29.337, 49.001]	[14.471, 24.970]
Other living arrangement	[13.583, 34.182]	[14.281, 31.060]	[15.278, 25.956]

Table A17. Strategies to support housing searches endorsed by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=161)

STRATEGY	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=40)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=121)
Having more affordable homes/apartments	[37.118, 67.422]	[79.408, 91.782]
Finding trans- and nonbinary-affirming landlords or realtors	[32.578, 62.882]	[57.150, 74.057]
Help with paperwork to apply for homes/apartments	[32.578, 62.882]	[19.291, 35.102]

STRATEGY	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=40)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=121)
Housing assistance to afford rent or payments	[30.358, 60.562]	[54.618, 71.789]
Having more homes/apartments to choose from	[30.358, 60.562]	[44.716, 62.486]
Help with identifying homes/apartments that meet my needs	[23.906, 53.399]	[33.595, 51.201]
Supports for finding stable employment	[13.919, 40.728]	[25.943, 42.850]
Homes/apartments available near where I work or go to school	[19.787, 48.447]	[37.514, 55.284]
Supports for mental or physical health	[15.830, 43.342]	[29.737, 47.057]
More homes/apartments that are accessible for people with disabilities	[10.253, 35.361]	[15.004, 29.790]
Not listed above	[1.235, 18.135]	[2.761, 11.724]

Table A18. Mode of transportation used by for LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents when commuting to work or school, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Public transportation	[40.977, 64.740]	[40.177, 59.823]	[22.599, 34.402]
Drive alone in car, truck, or van	[12.945, 32.771]	[16.089, 32.908]	[33.499, 46.317]
Walk	[7.222, 24.257]	[7.066, 20.388]	[3.390, 9.763]
Do not currently work or go to school	[1.463, 13.245]	[4.831, 16.768]	[5.462, 12.943]
Carpool with others in car, truck, or van	[2.280, 15.139]	[1.532, 10.423]	[3.390, 9.763]
Work or attend school from home	*	*	[3.390, 9.763]
Bike or dcooter	*	*	[0.928, 5.273]
Not listed	[0.211, 10.086]	[0.142, 6.952]	[2.096, 7.565]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A19. Places LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents could not get to due to lack of transportation access during the last three months, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=318)

PLACES RESPONDENTS COULDN'T GET TO	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=65)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=97)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=221)
Medical/dental appointments	[16.875, 38.190]	[21.598, 39.767]	[17.967, 29.124]
Work	[23.379, 46.175]	[20.694, 38.690]	[10.795, 20.294]
Social outings	[16.875, 38.190]	[19.796, 37.608]	[29.245, 41.854]
Community-based organizations	[10.758, 29.838]	[12.826, 28.738]	[13.939, 24.262]
Shopping/grocery/bank	[5.198, 20.989]	[7.921, 21.780]	[15.137, 25.731]
Religious services	[7.336, 24.601]	[7.921, 21.780]	[2.769, 8.789]
Government benefits offices	[6.250, 22.808]	[5.618, 18.163]	[6.999, 15.204]
School	[3.221, 17.263]	[4.163, 15.685]	[3.100, 9.343]
Not listed above	[9.592, 28.114]	[11.154, 26.453]	[6.630, 14.685]

Table A20. Self-rated health among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

SELF-RATED HEALTH	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Excellent	[15.372, 36.051]	[12.692, 28.465]	[12.966, 22.977]
Very good	[11.758, 31.107]	[11.038, 26.201]	[23.835, 35.798]
Good	[14.150, 34.419]	[19.586, 37.254]	[24.249, 36.262]
Fair	[20.408, 42.438]	[21.368, 39.395]	[14.141, 24.434]
Poor	[0.753, 11.405]	[2.764, 13.013]	[2.411, 8.122]

Table A21. Health care setting most often used by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

HEALTH CARE SETTING	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Doctor's office in a public medical system (County services)	[15.372, 36.051]	[14.376, 30.700]	[9.884, 19.043]
Doctor's office in a private medical system (Kaiser, UCLA Health, etc.)	[12.945, 32.771]	[13.530, 29.586]	[33.923, 46.771]
Community health clinic or health center (where you pay for services)	[3.172, 17.019]	[7.838, 21.570]	[7.637, 16.029]
Community free health clinic or health center (free services)	[5.118, 20.694]	[7.066, 20.388]	[7.268, 15.520]
Emergency room	[5.118, 20.694]	[6.306, 19.194]	[5.818, 13.465]
Alternative medicine provider	[2.280, 15.139]	[1.532, 10.423]	[0.222, 3.526]
LGBT health center	*	[0.142, 6.952]	[0.927, 5.276]
Urgent care	*	*	[0.668, 4.686]
V.A. (veteran's clinic or hospital)	*	*	[0.430, 4.095]
Not listed above	[0.211, 10.086]	[0.985, 9.114]	[0.222, 3.526]
I do not go anywhere for medical care	[10.590, 29.425]	[7.838, 21.570]	[5.107, 12.424]

Note: *No respondents selected this option.

Table A22. Self-rated mental health among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=322)

SELF-RATED MENTAL HEALTH	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=66)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=98)	NON-IMMIGRANT S(N=224)
Excellent	[16.876, 38.189]	[11.986, 27.599]	[8.008, 16.532]
Very good	[19.437, 41.423]	[18.017, 35.426]	[13.748, 23.950]
Good	[13.151, 33.228]	[13.674, 29.869]	[21.369, 32.999]
Fair	[11.945, 31.542]	[19.797, 37.607]	[24.663, 36.726]
Poor	[0.764, 11.569]	[3.465, 14.422]	[9.130, 18.042]

Table A23. Type of gender-affirming health care services received by LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey respondents, for selected groups, 95% confidence intervals (n=321)

TYPE OF GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=65)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=97)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Hormone therapy	[56.981, 79.262]	[49.721, 69.103]	[62.350, 74.507]
Surgical care	[15.618, 36.551]	[14.529, 30.993]	[32.647, 45.414]
Electrolysis/permanent hair removal	[11.945, 31.542]	[10.331, 25.298]	[15.325, 25.882]
Other gender-affirming health care services (NS)	[9.593, 28.113]	[7.921, 21.779]	[9.886, 19.040]
Speech therapy	[5.198, 20.988]	[6.372, 19.380]	[4.758, 11.896]
Gynecological care	[2.315, 15.356]	[4.163, 15.685]	[16.518, 27.321]
None of the above	[10.758, 29.837]	[21.598, 39.767]	[13.748, 23.950]

Table A24. Comfort asking for help from the police in LA County, 95% confidence intervals

COMFORT ASKING FOR HELP	TRANS LATINA IMMIGRANTS (N=65)	ALL IMMIGRANTS (N=97)	NON-IMMIGRANTS (N=224)
Very comfortable	[14.376, 34.898]	[15.392, 32.111]	[7.638, 16.026]
Somewhat comfortable	[20.738, 43.019]	[18.904, 36.519]	[8.754, 17.540]
Neutral	[14.376, 34.898]	[12.826, 28.738]	[10.648, 20.032]
Somewhat uncomfortable	[4.186, 19.140]	[5.619, 18.163]	[11.415, 21.019]
Very uncomfortable	[7.336, 24.600]	[13.674, 29.869]	[39.527, 52.575]

Table A25. Reasons for not applying for asylum or refugee status among LA County Trans & Nonbinary Survey immigrant respondents, 95% confidence intervals (n=31)

REASON	95% CI
I did not know how to apply	[25.331, 60.592]
I did not need asylum	[8.542, 38.146]
I had/have access to other legal statuses	[8.542, 38.146]
I was afraid to apply	[6.523, 34.640]
I did not think asylum was an option for me	[4.645, 31.061]
I did not want to apply	[2.946, 27.440]
I believed I was past the 1-year deadline	[0.402, 21.571]
A reason not listed above	[0.402, 21.571]

Table A26. Experiences of trans and nonbinary immigrants in immigration detention, 95% confidence intervals (n=42)

EXPERIENCE	95% CI
Physically assaulted	[18.474, 47.001]
Denied access to gender-appropriate clothing	[9.534, 34.441]
Denied access to health care overall	[6.338, 29.102]
Denied access to hormones	[4.855, 26.356]
Denied access to HIV care	[4.855, 26.356]
Got worse health care because I am trans or nonbinary	[4.855, 26.356]
Sexually sssaulted	[1.124, 18.024]
Threatened with sexual assault	[0.307, 16.182]
None of these things	[36.907, 67.411]