transgender adj. : a person whose internal gender identity or outward gender expression differs from their sex assigned at birth. A broad term that includes transsexual, cross-dressing, androgynous, genderqueer, and gender nonconforming persons.

transsexual adj. : a person whose gender identity is different from their sex assigned at birth, many of whom alter or wish to alter their bodies through hormones or surgery so that their body matches their gender identity.

trans or trans* adj. : terms sometimes used to encompass transgender and transsexual.

gender identity n. : one's internal sense of being a woman, man, neither, both, or a combination.

gender expression n. : actions and behaviors through which one conveys association with social roles and practices generally perceived as masculine or feminine. May be predominantly masculine or feminine, neither, or a combination.

cisgender/cissexual adj. : a person whose gender identity and physical sex do not differ or do not substantially differ; a non-trans person.

transman n. : FAAB person who identifies as a man.

transwoman n. : MAAB person who identifies as a woman.

intersex adj. : a person with male and female physical characteristics.

FTM/F2M and MTF/M2F n., adj. : female-to-male and male-to-female.

gender nonconforming adj. : a person whose gender expression falls outside social norms.

gender binary n. : The idea that every person is either a man or a woman exclusively.

MAAB/FAAB adj. : male-assigned-at-birth and female-assigned-at-birth; identification by others as a male or female, usually based on physical appearance.

cross-dresser n. : a person who wears clothing not typically associated with their sex assigned at birth.

genderqueer n., adj. : a person who does not identify as man or women, mixes masculine and feminine characteristics, alters their gender expression, and does not identify as part of the gender binary.

stealth adj. : a trans person who does not reveal their sex assigned at birth.
**Trans* Stigma Basics**

**Stigma is . . .**

1) a mark of disgrace or infamy; a stain or reproach, as on one’s reputation.
2) a mental or physical mark that is characteristic of a defect or disease: the stigmata of leprosy.

—Random House Dictionary

**Enacted stigma** — behaviors explicitly intended to express stigma; includes shunning, insults, purposeful discrimination, and violence.

**Felt stigma** — can exist simply because stigmatized groups exist; refers to one’s recognition that they may be the target of stigma if they are assumed to belong to a stigmatized group; can cause one to modify, adapt, hide, or misdirect behavior to avoid enacted stigma.

**Internalized stigma** — occurs when an individual accepts society’s negative regard for a stigmatized group; can be expressed as prejudice, and can be self-directed, leading one to believe that they do not deserve respect or fair treatment.

**Structural stigma** — is established in social institutions; language, laws, and media all can express, reinforce, and propagate stigma.

**Stigma harms . . .**

**Education** — 78% report harassment in K-12 setting (31% by teachers or staff), 35% physical assault, 12% sexual assault, and a 15% dropout rate.

**Employment** — 90% report harassment, unemployed at double the national rate (African American trans persons at 28% jobless rate); 15% earn under $10k per year; those unemployed due to bias six times as likely to live below poverty level and report much higher levels of street employment, incarceration, homelessness, and negative health outcomes.

**Housing** — 19% report homelessness due to gender identity or expression; less than half the national rate of home ownership (32% compared to 67%); of those attempting to access shelters 29% turned away, 25% physically assaulted, and 22% sexually assaulted.

**Public accommodations** — 53% report harassment ranging from government agencies to public restrooms; 8% physically attacked or assaulted (22% for African American trans persons).

**Healthcare** — 19% refused medical care, 28% harassed in medical setting; 2% victims of violence in doctor’s office; 50% teach their doctors about trans* health needs; 41% attempted suicide.

**Contact Us**

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**For More Information**


