

## Transgender patients face increasing obstacles to care

During Pride Month we feel it's especially important to shine a light on the significant health disparities faced by transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals.

Transgender healthcare has been under growing attack in recent months; while the Biden administration formally reinstated [Affordable Care Act protections](#) for transgender Americans against discrimination in healthcare, 20 states have [introduced](#) anti-trans bills since the start of the year, most featuring provisions that bar physicians from providing trans children with gender-affirming care. The graphic below shows that **transgender individuals are twice as likely as the broader LGBTQ+ population to delay care for fear of discrimination**. Trans individuals deal with myriad types of medical discrimination, from being misgendered in routine interactions to being denied treatment. And trans people of color report experiencing this mistreatment even more frequently. Transgender people are also more likely to be uninsured or to delay care for financial reasons, in part because their unemployment and uninsured rates are higher than the national average. Even when they do find supportive providers, **nearly 40 percent report that their insurance will not cover essential elements of transitional care, such as hormone therapy**.

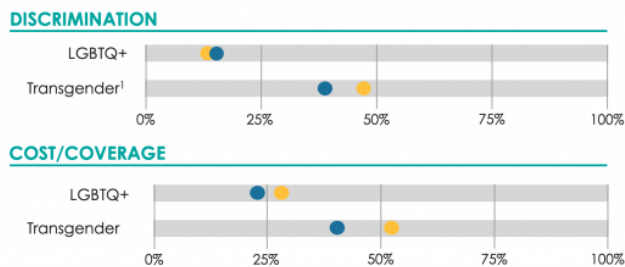
**It's incumbent on doctors and health systems to strengthen their policies for treating trans individuals.** Trans-specific training for clinicians and staff is a great place to start. Even simple shifts in operations—like including preferred name and pronouns on patient records and providing equal access to public restrooms—are small but important steps to providing a safer, more inclusive healthcare experience and reducing transgender health disparities.

### Recognizing Health Disparities in the Transgender Community

*Trans Americans Face Discriminatory and Economic Barriers Accessing Care*

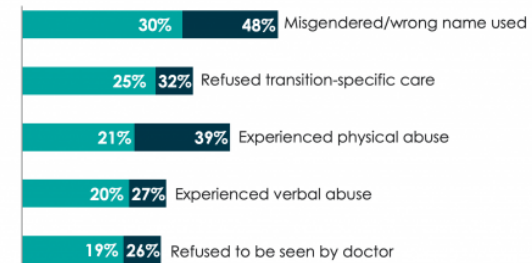
#### Percentage of LGBTQ+ Population that Postponed or Avoided Care, by Primary Factor

n = 1,528, June 2020



#### Percentage of Respondents Experiencing Types of Medical Discrimination

n = 1,528, June 2020



**38%** Percentage of transgender respondents that were **denied hormone therapy** for transition



1. Includes nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, genderqueer, and agender respondents.  
2. 2015 federal poverty level = \$11,770 for an individual.  
3. Defined as Black, Hispanic, Asian, multiracial, and those identifying as "other, non-Hispanic."

Source: Center for American Progress and NORC at the University of Chicago online survey, June 2020; 2015 U.S. National Transgender Survey, Dec. 2016; Gist Healthcare analysis.