

Understanding Transgender Lives

A book in development by Brett Genny Beemyn & Sue Rankin

complete data will be posted later this year, when we have finished with the analysis and have an article ready for publication. If you took part in an email or phone interview, you will receive an email letting you know when the rest of the data is posted. Thank you for your patience!

Demographic Data from the Survey

(questions on the survey data should be directed to Sue: sxr2@psu.edu)

3,509 individuals accessed the survey and 3,474 respondents completed the survey.

Gender Assigned at Birth

The majority of respondents (76%, n = 2648) reported that their assigned gender at birth was male. Twenty-three percent (n = 807) reported their assigned gender at birth as female.

Gender Identity

Respondents were given the option of identifying their gender identity as male, female, transgender, or other. Thirty-eight percent (n = 1313) of respondents described their gender identity as female, 35% (n = 1211) as transgender, and less than 20% (n = 673) as male. Among the people who identified as transgender, the most common descriptions were “male to female,” “crossdresser,” “female to male,” “genderqueer,” and “transvestite.” Those respondents who marked “other” most often identified as “genderqueer,” “crossdresser,” “androgynous,” or “unsure.”

Gender Expression

Respondents were asked how they express their gender. Forty percent (n = 1380) express themselves as female, 26% (n = 888) express themselves as male, and 25% (n = 848) express themselves as transgender. Nine percent selected “other,” and most often expressed as “ambiguous,” “androgynous,” “bigender,” “both female and male,” “butch,” “crossdresser,” “fluid,” “genderqueer,” and “varies.”

Sexual Orientation

One third of respondents (32%, n = 1120) reported that their sexual orientation is bisexual, and 30% (n = 1029) identified as heterosexual. Sixteen percent (n = 567) identified “Other”, which include but are not limited to “a mix of asexual, gay, and heterosexual”, “ambivalent”, “attracted to genderqueer people”, “autobisexual”, “bisexual when dressed in female clothes otherwise heterosexual”, “pansexual”, “queer”, and “transgender lesbian.” Twelve percent identified as lesbian, four percent identified as gay, and five percent identified as asexual. One percent of respondents (n=26) did not respond to the question.

Age

There was a wide range in age for the respondents:

- 18 and under: 10% (n=330)
- 19-22: 17% (n=575)
- 23-32: 20% (n=686)
- 33-42: 27% (n=951)
- 43-52: 21% (n=742)
- 53 and over: 5% (n=173)

Disability Status

Eleven percent (n = 370) of participants reported having a physical attribute that substantially affects a major life activity, and 22% (n = 771) reported having a cognitive or emotional attribute that substantially affects a major life activity.

Citizenship Status

The majority of the respondents (90%, n = 3134) were U.S. citizens, while 8% (n = 288) identified as non-permanent residents. Two percent declined to report their citizenship status.

Race/Ethnicity

Participants were asked to indicate with what racial/ethnic group they identify and could chose more than one identity. The majority of respondents indicated that they were white or European American (90%, n = 3130), but 10% of the sample (n = 615) chose a racial identity that was other than white.

- African/African American/Black: 2% (n=73)
- American Indian: 4% (n=143)
- Alaskan Native: <1% (n=4)
- Asian/Asian American: 2% (n=81)
- Latino(a)/Hispanic/Chicano(a): 3% (n=116)
- Middle Eastern: <1% (n=27)
- Pacific Islander: <1% (n=9)
- Hawaiian Native: <1% (n=7)
- White/Caucasian: 90% (n=3130)
- Other: 4% (n=155)

Demographic Data from the Follow-Up Interviews

(questions on the survey data should be directed to Brett Genny: brettgenny@stuaf.umass.edu)

301 people submitted a follow-up email interview and 118 people did a follow-up phone interview.

Phone Interview Demographics

--The 118 phone interviewees identified their gender as follows: 51% described themselves as women with trans or non-female parts, trans women, or MTFs; 23% were men with trans or non-male parts, trans men, or FTMs; 16% called themselves crossdressers, part-time girls, or t-girls; and

10% identified using non-binary gender terms, such as transgender, genderqueer, bigendered, or androgyne.

--The interviews ranged in age from 20-73 years old, with an average of 45 years. The respondents who chose to identify in non-binary terms were significantly younger; on average, they were 34 years old.

--Almost 87% of the trans women/MTFs/women with trans pasts are on or are planning to start hormones, but only 23% have had GRS to this point. About 43% percent stated that they are not considering surgery, many because they cannot afford it. Among the trans men/FTMs/men with trans pasts, the difference between those who take hormones and have bottom surgery is even greater. All but one (96%) are on or planning to start hormones, but only two have had bottom surgery (7%). A better marker of gender transition is top surgery, which 24 of the trans men/FTMs/men with trans pasts have had or look to have (89%).

Email Interview Demographics

--The 301 email interviewees identified their gender as follows: 55% described themselves as women with trans or non-female pasts, trans women, or MTFs; 13% were men with trans or non-male pasts, trans men, or FTMs; 22% called themselves crossdressers, part-time girls, or t-girls; 8% identified using non-binary gender terms, such as transgender, genderqueer, bigendered, or androgyne; and 1% were intersex.

--In terms of age, 5% were between 18-22; 8% were 22-32; 18% were 33-42; 33% were 43-52; and 36% were 53 years old or older.