

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

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# PERCEPTIONS OF TRANSGENDER ADULTS PREPARING FOR A TRUMP PRESIDENCY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the main focal points of Donald Trump's 2024 campaign for president was eliminating legal protections for transgender people. In its first weeks, the Trump administration has already begun a massive attempt to roll back transgender rights. Recognizing the challenging environment that transgender people could face under the current administration, we conducted an anonymous survey using a two-fold recruitment strategy in December 2024 to understand transgender people's fears, concerns, resilience, and coping strategies in light of the 2024 election results and the upcoming Trump presidency. The following findings are based on responses from 302 transgender, nonbinary, and other gender-diverse people we refer to as "transgender" in this report.

Over a third of the people in our sample were people of color, and over 40% had household incomes under \$50,000 a year. When considering the state-level transgender policy environment, as defined by the Movement Advancement Project, 53% of participants lived in more transgender-affirming states, and 47% lived in less transgender-affirming states.

Overall, 93% of respondents were concerned about what a Trump presidency might mean for transgender people. When asked if they felt hopeful about the future, 42% said they were not very hopeful or not at all hopeful. More specifically, they expressed concerns about their safety and well-being, access to gender-affirming care and other forms of health care, legal protections for themselves and their families, and living their lives openly as transgender people. To cope with their fears and concerns, many transgender people reported taking steps to protect their rights, health, and safety; engaging with their friends, family, and community; and participating in self-care through pursuing hobbies, interests, and other strategies. Finally, many transgender people reported responding to the Trump presidency by becoming more active in their LGBTQ communities, including by engaging in activism, advocacy, and mutual aid.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Concerns

#### Safety and Well-Being

Participants were asked whether their level of concern about their safety and well-being had changed as a result of the outcome of the 2024 election.

In terms of their health and well-being, due to the outcome of the 2024 election:

- 83% had increased concerns about their mental health.
- 65% had increased concerns about their physical health.

In terms of their safety, due to the outcome of the 2024 election:

- 83% were more concerned about being discriminated against.
- 80% were more concerned about being the victim of a hate crime.
- 79% were more concerned about being verbally attacked.

- 74% were more concerned about being physically attacked.
- 59% were more concerned about being the victim of any crime, with participants in less trans-affirming states being more concerned than those in more trans-affirming states.

When asked about their comfort level around asking the police for help if they were discriminated against, attacked, or the victim of a crime, almost half (48%) of participants said they would feel less comfortable as a result of the outcome of the 2024 election.

### **Access to Gender-Affirming Care**

- Overall, almost two-thirds (65%) of the sample were very (40%) or somewhat (25%) concerned about future access to gender-affirming care (GAC) as a result of the 2024 election.
- Over one in four (28%) said there were specific aspects of GAC they had previously planned to pursue that they were now delaying or forgoing. Those with household incomes less than \$25,000 per year and those who were living in less transgender-affirming states were more likely to say that they were delaying or forgoing care.
- Approximately one in five (21%) reported that they were fast-tracking (i.e. expediting) elements of their GAC as a result of the election outcome.

We considered three groups of transgender people more specifically in terms of concerns about accessing gender-affirming care (GAC) during the Trump presidency: those who a) had access to and were using GAC, b) those with access to GAC but who were not currently using it, and c) those currently without access to GAC.

- Those currently accessing GAC were the most likely to have concerns about being able to continue their care—85% were very or somewhat concerned.
- Among those who had access to but were not using GAC, four out of 10 said that the 2024 election outcome meant that they would be less likely to pursue GAC, and one-third said that there were specific aspects of GAC that they had previously planned that they now would delay or not pursue.
- Almost half of those without access to GAC said the 2024 election outcome meant they would be less likely to pursue GAC.

### **Access to General Health Care**

- Almost three-fourths of participants (73%) were concerned that the quality of their health care in general would become worse due to the 2024 election outcome.
  - Those with household incomes less than \$25,000 per year were significantly more likely to voice concern (89%) that their health care in general would become worse than those whose household incomes exceeded \$25,000 per year (68%).
- One-fourth (24%) said they were very much (8%) or somewhat (16%) less likely to pursue general health care as a result of the 2024 election. Those in less transgender-affirming states were more likely to say that they would avoid health care compared to those in more transgender-affirming states.

## Legal Recognition and Rights

Participants also expressed concerns about legal recognition and rights related to themselves and their families post-election. Many had already taken steps toward protecting themselves and their families in anticipation of the Trump administration:

- Motivated by the results of the 2024 election, 42% of participants had already taken at least one legally protective action.
  - Those with more education and resources were more likely to do so. About half (49%) of college-educated participants had pursued at least one legally protective action compared to one-third (33%) of non-college-educated participants.
- Of those without updated state IDs prior to the election, 29% reported changing or updating state IDs. Of these, over three-fourths (78%) faced financial challenges in updating their IDs, and 91% encountered delays when trying to do so.
- Of those who were married or partnered and had not pursued additional legal safeguards prior to the election, 29% reported pursuing these to protect their relationship with their partner. Of these, 69% found it financially challenging to do so, and 44% encountered delays.
- Of those with children who had not pursued legal safeguards prior to the election, 33% reported taking action to protect their relationships with their children. Of these, 83% experienced financial challenges, and three-fourths (75%) encountered delays.

## Being Out as Transgender

Participants also expressed concerns about living their lives openly as transgender people as a result of the 2024 election. They indicated these concerns by responding they would be less out in some settings as transgender, downplay their transgender identity, and avoid some public places and activities altogether.

### *Outness*

- In the workplace, 49% of respondents with supervisors were somewhat or much less likely to be out to them. Of those with coworkers, 46% were less likely to be out to them.
- Regarding their living situation, 59% of respondents with landlords were somewhat or much less likely to be out to them. Of those with fellow tenants, 44% were less likely to be out to them.
- Regarding accessing health care other than GAC, 44% were somewhat or much less likely to be out to health care providers.
- At school, 41% of those with teachers/professors were somewhat or much less likely to be out to them, and 44% were less likely to be out to other students.
- In terms of social support, about one-third were somewhat or much less likely to be out to extended family members (38%), non-LGBTQ friends (34%), and members of their religious and/or spiritual communities (32%).

### *Covering Behaviors*

“Covering” behaviors are changes to behavior, appearance, or speech to downplay visibility as a transgender person. Approximately 80% of respondents said that as a result of the 2024 election, they would engage in covering behaviors. Sixty percent said they would make three or more changes, and over one in four (28%) said they would make six or more changes. For example, many participants reported that they planned to change their bathroom use and limit their speech related to their gender identity.

- **Changing bathroom use.** Two-thirds of participants (66%) said that, as a result of the 2024 election, they would change their use of bathrooms in at least one way, such as avoiding multiple-stall restrooms (48%), avoiding using a bathroom in public at all (47%), and using a bathroom that others will perceive as more consistent with their sex assigned at birth (30%).
- **Limiting speech.** Others reported limiting their speech related to their gender identity. Over half (53%) indicated that they would be somewhat or much more likely not to talk about being transgender, and 41% would be somewhat or much more likely not to talk about political or advocacy issues or activities related to the transgender community. Nearly one-third (30%) said they would be somewhat or much more likely to use pronouns that others will perceive as more consistent with their sex assigned at birth.
- **Changing appearance, voice, or mannerisms.** One in four (25%) participants indicated that, as a result of the 2024 election, they would be somewhat or much more likely to dress in a way that others will perceive as more consistent with their sex assigned at birth. Approximately one in five said that they would be somewhat or much more likely to change their hair or makeup (21%), voice (21%), or mannerisms (20%) for the same reason.
- **Changing their name.** Sixteen percent said they would be somewhat or much more likely to revert to their dead name (the name they had been given as a child that does not match their gender identity).

### **Avoiding Public Places and Activities**

Responding to a question about how participants were coping with their fears and concerns after the 2024 election, one-third (33%) said they were socially isolating. Further, when asked whether the outcome of the 2024 election would make them less likely to engage in various activities, many respondents indicated changes in their behavior.

- Among those who traveled/went on vacation, many were somewhat or much less likely to go to less transgender-affirming states (70%) or less affirming parts of their state (65%).
- Among those who used public transportation, approximately one-fourth (27%) were somewhat or much less likely to use it due to the election.
- About one-fourth of those who said the following activities applied to them were somewhat or much less likely to go to LGBTQ events, stores, or venues (27%), or go to the gym, get their hair cut or styled, get their nails done, etc. (26%).
- Over one-fifth of those who went to movies, theaters, or concerts were somewhat or much less likely to engage in these activities (22%). Likewise, of those who went to restaurants, just under one-fifth were somewhat or much less likely to eat out in the future (19%).



Transgender people who lived in less transgender-affirming states were more likely than those in more affirming states to report disengaging from public life in a number of ways. They were significantly more likely to say that they would be less likely to attend LGBTQ events, stores, or venues and go to restaurants, movies, or the theater compared to those who lived in more transgender-affirming states.

## Coping Strategies

While transgender people are concerned about the next four years, they also are proactively taking action to care for themselves, their families, and their communities.

### Protecting Themselves from Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence

Most participants indicated that they were taking steps to protect themselves from mistreatment, including discrimination, harassment, and violence.

- Over 84% of participants were considering learning about their rights related to safety and discrimination, with over 60% already having started doing so before inauguration day.
- 43% of participants were considering pursuing self-defense classes, with almost 9% already having done this.
- Over one-third of participants (37%) were considering buying a gun and/or learning how to use a gun, with 13% already having done so.
- About two-thirds (67%) were considering other safety measures, such as buying pepper spray or a personal alarm, with 37% already having done so before inauguration day.

### Proactively Taking Care of their Health

Many participants also reported taking steps to care for their physical and mental health.

- Over 72% were considering meeting with health care professionals and therapists, with 29% already having done so.
  - More specifically, over half (52%) were starting or continuing therapy.
- Almost half (48%) were considering stockpiling hormones (e.g., estrogen, testosterone) or other medications related to GAC, with nearly one-fourth (22%) already having done so.

### Taking Time to Pursue Interests and Hobbies

- Over four in 10 participants (42%) reported engaging in interests and hobbies (i.e., activities they enjoyed, were a form of self-care, and/or served as a means of distraction) as a way to support themselves over the next four years. These interests and hobbies included art, drawing, writing, cooking, dancing, and singing.
- When asked about specific activities, 55% were playing video games, 47% were watching television, 43% were exercising, and 33% were engaging with social media.
- Almost half (47%) indicated that they were connecting with and spending more time in nature.

### Engaging with Friends, Family, and Community

- Participants reported creating the support they would need for the next four years by connecting and spending time with friends (74%), pets (53%), partners and children (41%), and families of origin (30%).
- They also reported that they were seeking out community support online (38%) and in their local communities (20%).

### Engaging in Advocacy and Mutual Aid

Many participants shared that they were engaging in advocacy and mutual aid in order to help their communities and as a form of self-care.

- One-third (34%) indicated they would engage in activism and advocacy to support themselves during the next four years.
- Three-fourths (76%) were considering organizing with mutual aid and community groups, with one-third (34%) already having done so.
- When asked about changes to their level of transgender advocacy and/or activism as a result of the 2024 election outcome, two-thirds (66%) said they were either going to continue (42%) or increase (14%) their level of advocacy.
  - Among the 15% who said they recently decreased their level of advocacy, their main reasons for doing so were exhaustion (76%) and/or concerns about visibility (54%) under the Trump administration.



## BACKGROUND

With the election of President Donald J. Trump to a second term on November 5, 2024, many transgender<sup>1</sup> Americans experienced significant fear, worry, and anger (Crary, 2024). During his election campaign, Trump vowed to end what he referred to as “transgender insanity,” including by cutting Medicaid and Medicare funding to providers of gender-affirming health care (Sosin, 2024). Indeed, Trump’s election campaign spent over \$200 million on anti-transgender political ads, which, despite not matching the attitudes of Americans in general, furthered the backlash against LGBTQ and especially transgender Americans (Alfonsica & Kim, 2024; Kemp, 2024).

At his inauguration on January 20, President Trump stated that “the official policy of the United States government is that there are only two sexes—male and female” (Axios, 2025). One of the first executive orders he issued sought to erase the identities of transgender, nonbinary and gender diverse, and intersex people for the purposes of federal law and policy, with sweeping implications for non-discrimination protections, accurate federal identification documents, housing for incarcerated transgender people, health care access for transgender youth, access to shelters and other services, data collection and research, and students’ access to equal education, including access to bathrooms and participation in sports (Redfield & Chokshi, 2025). Another executive order systematically rescinded a number of Biden administration executive orders and policy guidance that sought to protect and support transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people (The White House, 2025a). Trump also issued further orders targeted at transgender people who serve in the military (The White House, 2025b).

The impact of the Trump administration on transgender people extends beyond explicitly anti-transgender policies. For example, many transgender people have other identities that create additional vulnerabilities under various Trump administration policies, such as having low incomes, being an immigrant, being a person of color, and being disabled (James et al., 2024). Yet, while facing greater challenges, transgender people with multiple vulnerabilities often demonstrate notable resilience, determination, and community connections and support (Puckett et al., 2019).

Recognizing the challenging environment that transgender people could face under the Trump administration, some community advocates have offered guidance to transgender people on how best to protect their rights and safety (e.g., updating gender markers on identification and other documents or considering a move to a more gender-affirming state), often urging the need to act before Trump took office in late January (Diaz, 2024). However, many transgender people are living with low incomes and lack the resources to consult with legal professionals about document changes, much less relocate to another state (James et al., 2024).

The current study was initiated after the election and prior to inauguration day, when there was still uncertainty surrounding many of the specifics of the anti-transgender policies the Trump administration would ultimately pursue (Sosin, 2024). Given the profound implications of the 2024 election for transgender people, the study aimed to better understand transgender people’s fears and concerns related to a Trump presidency and their efforts to prepare and protect themselves.

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<sup>1</sup> In this paper, “transgender” is an umbrella term that refers to people who identify as transgender, trans, nonbinary, or another gender that is different from their sex assigned to them at birth.

Indeed, there is substantial evidence that living amid legislative uncertainty can be highly stressful for transgender people (Tebbe et al., 2022; Veldhuis et al., 2018). Likewise, living in a hostile legislative climate characterized by anti-transgender discourse (e.g., the introduction or passing of anti-transgender policies and laws) is related to higher levels of stress and poorer well-being and health among transgender people (Dhanani & Totton, 2023; Lee et al., 2024). Living in legislatively hostile environments may lead transgender people to fear disclosing their gender identities and/or to engage in concealment or covering behaviors, which, while protective in some ways, may lead to increased stress and compromised life satisfaction (Bränström & Pachankis, 2021; Dhanani & Totton, 2023; Rood et al., 2017).

## FINDINGS

### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Gender Identity

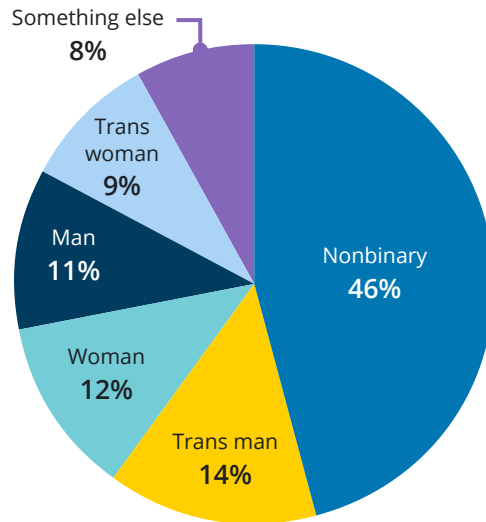
All participants answered an initial screening question indicating that they identified as transgender, non-binary, or with a gender different from the one assigned at birth. Once in the survey, participants were invited to select all gender identity categories that they identified with and the one that, if forced to choose, they would say best reflected their identity. A total of 30% of respondents said transgender man, 13% said man, 18% said transgender woman, 15% said woman, and 57% said nonbinary (of which 80% said their assigned sex at birth was female, 19% said male, and 1% said intersex). In addition, 15% said another gender, most often genderqueer, genderfluid, or some combination of genderqueer, genderfluid, agender, and transmasculine, with smaller numbers identifying as transmasculine only, agender only, gender non-conforming, or something else (e.g., genderless, gender non-conforming, two-spirit).

Most of those who indicated “man” also indicated “trans man” (33 of 39; 85%), while three indicated nonbinary, two indicated another gender identity, and one did not indicate any other gender. Of those who indicated “woman,” over half (27 of 46; 59%) indicated “trans woman,” while 13 (28.3%) indicated nonbinary, and two indicated another gender identity. Four did not indicate another gender identity.

When asked, “If you had to choose ONE option to describe your gender, what would it be?” 11% said man, 12% said woman, 14% said trans man, 9% said trans woman, 46% said nonbinary, and 8% said something else (e.g., genderqueer). See Figure 1.

Participants were asked whether they had made any changes related to their gender. Almost all (98%) had made at least one change. We found that most had started using pronouns different from those previously used (88%). Over three-quarters had changed the type of clothing, jewelry, or hairstyles they wore to better fit their gender identity (78%), and over two-thirds had asked to go by a name or names different from those they were previously called (68%). Approximately half had used hormone therapy (50%), with lower numbers having changed their facial hair (45%), started or stopped wearing makeup (43%), and changed their gender marker (40%) and legal name (37%).

Figure 1. Gender identity of survey respondents



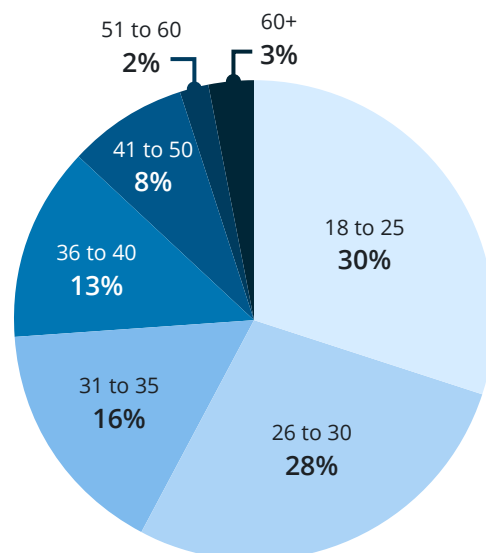
### Sexual Orientation

In terms of sexual orientation, over one-quarter (27%) identified as queer, over one-quarter (27%) identified as bisexual, 11% as asexual, 10% as pansexual, 10% as lesbian, 6% as gay, 5% as straight/heterosexual, 1% as two-spirit, and 3% as something else (e.g., demisexual, greysexual, fluid and queer).

### Age

Over half of the sample was 30 or younger: 30% were 18-25, and 28% were 26-30. Over one-quarter were 31-40: 16% were 31-35, and 13% were 36-40. Eight percent were 41-50, 2% were 51-60, and the remaining 3% were over 60.

Figure 2. Age of survey respondents



## Race

Participants could indicate multiple races/ethnicities that applied to them (“What is your race/ethnicity? Check all that apply.”) Sixty-five percent identified as White only. Over one-third of the sample were people of color, meaning they identified with a race/ethnicity other than White (35%). Participants could indicate multiple races/ethnicities. Seventy-seven percent identified as White, 16% identified as Black/African American, 10% identified as Hispanic or Latino/a/x, 7% identified as Asian, 5% identified as American Indian/Alaska Native, 1% identified Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 2% identified as another race/ethnicity that was not listed (e.g., Middle Eastern).

## Religion

More than two-thirds of participants (70%) did not describe themselves as currently affiliated or identified with any religion. Almost one-quarter identified as atheist (22%), almost one-quarter identified as agnostic (23%), and another 25% identified as “nothing in particular.” Thirty percent did affiliate or identify with a religion: 7% said they were Catholic, 4% were Protestant, 4% were Jewish, 4% were Buddhist, and 11% identified with some other religion or something else (e.g., spiritual).

## Households and Relationships

Most participants (90%) indicated that they lived with one or more other people. Forty percent of participants lived with a partner, 29% with family of origin, 17% with roommates or housemates, 12% with children, and 12% with someone else (e.g., grandparents, siblings, residential facility, in-laws/partner’s parents, and siblings). Forty-four percent of participants said they lived with pets.

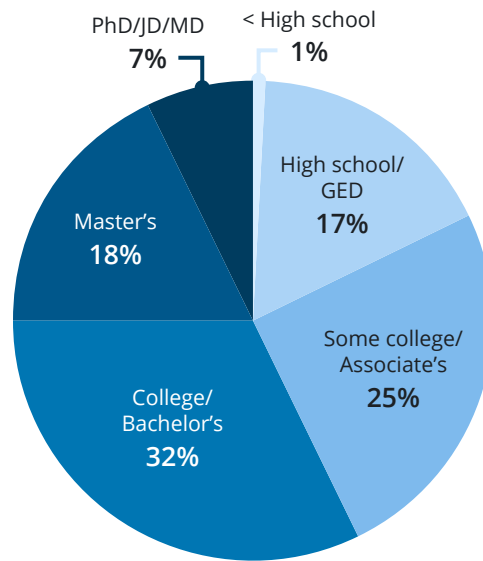
Almost one-third (33%) reported they were partnered but not married, and 16% said they were married. Small numbers were divorced (5%) or separated (2%).

Thirteen percent were parents. Among parents, 53% had one child, 25% had two children, and 22% had three or more children. Most (88%) of those with children were legal parents to all of their children; those who were not typically explained that they were stepparents.

## Education

Over forty percent of the sample (43%) had less than a college education. More specifically, 1% had less than a high school education, 17% had a high school diploma or GED, and 25% had some college or an associate’s degree. A total of 32% had a bachelor’s degree, 18% had a master’s degree, and 7% had a PhD/JD/MD.

Figure 3. Education levels of survey respondents



## Employment

Participants could endorse multiple categories related to employment (e.g., full-time work, self-employment). Most participants were employed full-time (44%) or part-time (18%), with 13% stating they were unemployed. Thirteen percent said they were self-employed, and 14% reported they were students. Ten percent said they were disabled, 2% said they were homemakers, 1% said they were retired, and 1% said they were full-time, stay-at-home parents.

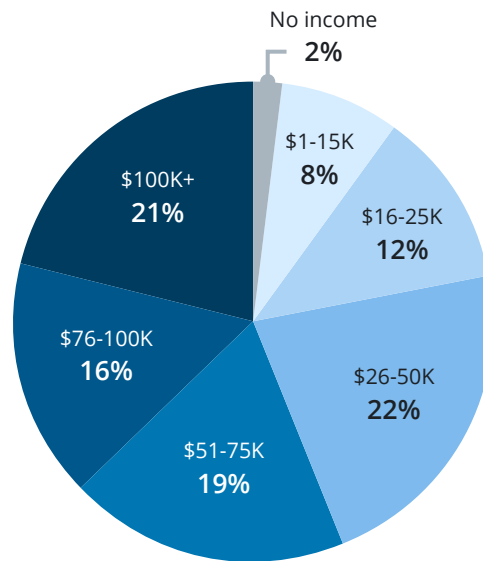
Among those who were employed full-time or part-time, half (50%) were employed by private, for-profit companies or businesses, 30% said they were government employees, 19% were employed by nonprofit organizations, and 1% were employed by private households or individuals.

Of interest was the degree to which participants interacted with members of the public in their jobs, potentially exposing them to unwanted or unpleasant conflicts with strangers, as opposed to interacting solely with their coworkers. When asked if their job required them to interact with clients, customers, students, and/or other members of the community they lived in besides their coworkers, 56% said yes, 18% said no, and 26% said that this did not apply to them (e.g., they were self-employed). Thus, three-quarters of individuals who were employed by others (75%) said they had interactions with individuals other than those they worked with as part of their jobs.

## Income

One-fifth of the sample reported a family or household income of under \$25,000/year (22%). Broken down further, 2% reported no household income, 8% reported \$1 to \$15,000, 12% reported \$16,000-\$25,000, 22% reported \$26,000-\$50,000, 19% reported \$51,000-\$75,000, 16% reported \$76,000-\$100,000, and the remainder (21%) reported over \$100,000 a year in household income.

Figure 4. Income levels of survey respondents



## STATE POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Using the Movement Advancement Project's gender identity policy tally for each state and their categorization of states as "high, medium, fair, low, or negative" in terms of their gender identity protective policies, we categorized states as "high or medium" (i.e., relatively positive/affirming state context) or "fair, low, or negative" (i.e., relatively negative/non-affirming state context). Results showed that 53% of participants lived in a state with a high or medium gender identity policy environment, and 47% lived in a state with a fair, low, or negative gender identity policy environment.<sup>2</sup> Among the most frequently represented affirming states represented in our dataset were California (9% of respondents), New York (8%), Washington (7%), Illinois (6%), and Massachusetts (5%). Among the most frequently represented non-affirming states were Florida (7%), Pennsylvania (6%), Texas (5%), Ohio (4%), North Carolina (3%), and Georgia (3%).

<sup>2</sup> Of note is that only two states represented in the dataset, Pennsylvania and Virginia, had a 'fair' policy rating. Participants in these states represented 6% and 1.3% of the sample, respectively.



**Table 1. State policy environments of survey respondents**

MORE AFFIRMING STATES (N = 161)		LESS AFFIRMING STATES (N = 141)	
STATE	%	STATE	%
California	9%	Florida	7%
New York	8%	Pennsylvania	6%
Washington	7%	Texas	5%
Illinois	6%	Ohio	4%
Massachusetts	5%	North Carolina	3%
Colorado	3%	Georgia	3%
Oregon	3%	Arizona	2%
Connecticut	2%	Indiana	2%
Michigan	2%	Tennessee	2%
Minnesota	2%	Arizona	1.7%
Other states (<2% in each)	6%	Indiana	1.7%
		Missouri	1.3%
		Virginia	1.3%
		Other states (<1.3% in each)	7%

Note: Percentages are out of the total sample (n = 302)

## CONCERNS ABOUT A TRUMP PRESIDENCY

Overall, 93% of respondents were concerned about what a Trump presidency might mean for transgender people. When asked if they felt hopeful about the future, 42% of respondents said they were not very hopeful or not at all hopeful, while only 19% felt very or somewhat hopeful. This section presents findings related to concerns about 1) safety and well-being, 2) accessing gender-affirming care, 3) accessing other types of health care, 4) legal recognition and protections for transgender individuals and their families, and 5) continuing to live fully as an out transgender person.

### Safety and Well-Being

Participants were asked whether their level of concern about their safety and well-being had changed due to the results of the 2024 election. (See Table 2.) Among participants, due to the 2024 election outcome

- 83% were more concerned about being discriminated against.
- 80% were more concerned about being the victim of a hate crime.
- 79% were more concerned about being verbally attacked.
- 74% were more concerned about being physically attacked.
- 59% were more concerned about being the victim of any crime.
- 57% were more concerned about being misgendered.

When questioned about their comfort level around asking the police for help if any of these things occurred, almost half (48%) said they would feel less comfortable as a result of the outcome of the 2024 election, 43% said their comfort level had not changed, 7% said they were not sure, and 2% said they would be more comfortable asking the police for help.

In terms of their health, due to the outcome of the 2024 election

- 83% had increased concerns about their mental health.
- 65% had increased concerns about their physical health.

In order to assess whether those in less transgender-affirming states would report greater concerns about discrimination, victimization, or health, we conducted a series of chi-squares whereby concern was dichotomized (less concerned or no change versus more concerned). This revealed that those in less affirming states reported greater concerns about being the victim of any crime<sup>3</sup> but did not differ from those in more affirming states in any of the other areas.

**Table 2. Changes in levels of concern about victimization and well-being**

TYPE OF CONCERN	I AM LESS CONCERNED	NO CHANGE	I AM MORE CONCERNED
	%	%	%
Being the victim of a hate crime	1.7%	18.8%	79.5%
Being the victim of any crime	1.0%	40.1%	58.9%
Being physically attacked	0.3%	26.2%	73.5%
Being verbally attacked	1.7%	19.8%	78.5%
Being discriminated against	1.3%	15.6%	83.1%
Being misgendered	2.6%	40.1%	57.3%
My mental health	1.0%	16.2%	82.8%
My physical health	0.3%	34.4%	65.3%

## Access to Gender-Affirming Care

Participants were asked if they currently had access to gender-affirming care (GAC), such as hormone therapy. Almost half (45%) said yes, and they used it; 24% said they had access to GAC but did not use it; and 31% said no, they did not have access to GAC.<sup>4</sup>

Overall, about two-thirds (65%) of participants were very (40%) or somewhat (25%) concerned about future access to GAC as a result of the 2024 election. Over one in four (28%) said there were aspects of GAC they had previously planned to pursue that they were now delaying or forgoing. Approximately one in five (21%) reported that they were fast-tracking elements of their GAC as a result of the Trump presidency. Given the potential impact of finances as well as state climates on participants' intentions to delay or fast-track (i.e., expedite) their care, we examined whether those with family incomes less than \$25,000 per year and those in less trans-affirming states were more likely to delay and less likely to fast-track their care. Chi-square analyses revealed that participants with lower incomes<sup>5</sup> and those in less affirming states<sup>6</sup> were more likely to delay their care. There were no differences in these variables for intentions to fast-track their care.

<sup>3</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 302) = 3.68, p = .036$

<sup>4</sup> Two participants did not provide a response to this question.

<sup>5</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 302) = 3.16, p = .05$

<sup>6</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 302) = 8.42, p = .003$

We next considered the relationship between current access to or current receipt of care and participants' concerns about future access to care following the 2024 election. See Table 3 for a breakdown of respondents according to whether they a) already had access to and used GAC, b) had access to GAC but were not using it, or c) did not have access to GAC. We also included excerpted responses from participants regarding their concerns and intentions related to accessing GAC.

**Table 3. Concerns about access to gender-affirming care among survey respondents**

	HAVE ACCESS TO AND USE GAC (n = 136)	HAVE ACCESS TO GAC, DON'T USE (n = 73)	NO ACCESS TO GAC (n = 93)	TOTAL (n = 302)
	%	%	%	%
<b>Concern About Access to Care</b>				
Very	48.5%	41.1%	26.9%	40.1%
Somewhat	36.0%	24.7%	9.7%	25.2%
Neutral	6.6%	1.3%	0%	3.3%
Not very	5.9%	5.5%	2.1%	4.6%
Not at all	1.5%	4.1%	1.1%	2.0%
Not applicable	1.5%	23.3%	60.2%	24.8%
<b>Explanations: Very or somewhat concerned</b>				
<b>Have access and are using GAC</b>				
<i>I think it's possible the entirety of the mostly Republican-run government will fight to restrict Medicaid access to HRT [hormone replacement therapy].</i>				
<i>I think the Trump administration is going to do what it can to destroy these kinds of services or at least make it illegal or harder for people to get them. So, of course, I'm scared [and] concerned.</i>				
<b>Have access but not using GAC</b>				
<i>Currently, I am okay without gender-affirming healthcare, but I do worry that it will become inaccessible for other people who need it, and also worried that should I change my mind, it will not be available to me.</i>				
<i>I am generally afraid of a federal ban on gender-affirming care (therapy, hormones, surgeries). I don't access it currently, nor do I think I want to pursue it in the next few months. However, as I become more solidified in my identity, I fear that I will not have access when I want to pursue it.</i>				
<b>Do not have access to GAC</b>				
<i>Although I don't have access to hormone therapy, I had been really thinking of finding a way of working towards it. Now that a Trump administration is imminent, I feel that I will never be able to have HRT.</i>				
<i>I don't use gender-affirming care due to my family and living in a very conservative community. But with Trump coming into office, I will likely never have the option, and neither will most other trans and GNC people.</i>				
<b>Explanations: Not very or not at all concerned</b>				
<b>Have access and are using GAC</b>				
<i>Living in Washington, it's very likely that my care will remain safe. There's still a degree of uncertainty, however, and that is concerning. There's also a decent amount of anxiety/survivor's guilt over watching my peers in other states lose access to their healthcare.</i>				
<i>My state is very left-leaning and has many gender-affirming laws. Regardless of who is president, I know my state will allow me the care I need. Plus, I heard that Trump only wants to put restrictions on gender-affirming care for people under 18 years old.</i>				

	HAVE ACCESS TO AND USE GAC (n = 136)	HAVE ACCESS TO GAC, DON'T USE (n = 73)	NO ACCESS TO GAC (n = 93)	TOTAL (n = 302)
	%	%	%	%
<b>Delaying Elements of GAC due to Election Results</b>				
Yes	22.8%	31.5%	33.3%	28.1%
No	77.2%	68.5%	66.7%	71.9%
<b>Explanations: Yes</b>				
<i>I would rather not do it than risk trying to do it and it getting canceled.</i>				
<i>It just doesn't feel like the right time to go for it and I care more for my safety and partner's safety.</i>				
<b>Fast-Tracking Elements of GAC Due to Election Results</b>				
Yes	33.8%	8.2%	11.8%	20.9%
No	66.2%	91.8%	88.2%	79.1%
<b>Explanations: Yes</b>				
<b>Have access and are using GAC</b>				
<i>As someone in need of multiple gender-affirming surgeries, I am trying to find the most accessible way to access gender-affirming surgery. I have expedited my actions to plan for most of my surgeries. I will be assertive towards accessing the finances in some way, somehow, and I will be leaving the state with as much assistance as possible to access the gender-affirming surgery I need with the teams who can provide such care.</i>				
<i>I am post-transition, but I did rush to get surgeries done under Trump's previous administration due to fears of care being banned. I had planned to delay a urinary procedure to late 2025, which we are now trying to get done in the spring and hoping there are no issues.</i>				
<i>I am considering moving quicker on a vaginoplasty, given the administrative changes, rather than a slower timeline as I originally planned.</i>				

**Participants who accessed care.** Among those already accessing gender affirming care, 85% were very (49%) or somewhat (36%) concerned about continuing their care during the Trump administration.

Those who voiced concerns typically explained that they were aware of Trump's anti-transgender stance and were concerned about a federal ban on gender-affirming care, or at least the pursuit of laws and policies that would make it extremely difficult to access such care. Those who voiced a relative lack of concern articulated their state's progressive policies and/or the fact that they were a transgender adult (and not a minor), expressing relative confidence that GAC for adults would likely be unaffected in their state. Yet, alongside acknowledging their relatively privileged position, these participants also articulated some uncertainty, as well as worry about the transgender community as a whole.

More than one-fifth (23%) said there were aspects of GAC that they had previously planned to pursue that they were now delaying or not doing because of the election results—most commonly therapy/ counseling and hormones. Most (94%) of those who said they were delaying care said they hoped to pursue such care in the future.

When asked if they were pursuing fast-track or expedited care (e.g., speeding up the transition timeline), about one-third (34%) said yes.

**Participants who had access to care but did not use it.** Some of the participants who said they had access to GAC but chose not to use it elaborated on this, saying that they had gone off of GAC because of health consequences or complications (e.g., related to COVID), they found it too costly, and/or they lost health insurance coverage. Others said they chose not to use GAC because it was not necessary for them, with some explaining that they felt comfortable in their gender identity without hormones.

Two-thirds (66%) of these participants were very (41%) or somewhat (25%) concerned about their ability to access GAC during the next four years. Twenty-three percent felt that the question wasn't applicable to them, and 10% responded that they were not very (6%) or not at all (4%) concerned about access to GAC as a result of the election.

Notably, almost one-third (32%) of these individuals who had access to GAC but did not use it said there were aspects of GAC that they had previously planned to pursue that they were now delaying or not doing—most commonly, hormone therapy (23%), therapy/counseling (14%), hair removal (11%), and masculinizing top surgery (11%). All (100%) of those who said they were delaying care said they hoped to pursue it in the future.

When asked if they were pursuing fast-track or expedited care, most said no, explaining a lack of desire, fear that such care would ultimately be “stripped away,” and barriers such as cost. Just 8% said yes, they were pursuing expedited care.

**Participants who did not have access to care.** Among participants who did not have access to care, over one-third (37%) were very (27%) or somewhat (10%) concerned about their ability to access GAC during the Trump administration. Sixty percent felt that the question was not applicable to them.

One-third (33%) noted that there were aspects of GAC that they had previously planned to pursue that they were now delaying or not doing—most commonly therapy/counseling (20%), hormone therapy (15%), support with genital tucking and packing and/or chest binding (10%) and masculinizing top surgery (9%). All (100%) of those delaying care said they hoped to pursue it in the future. When asked if they were pursuing fast-track or expedited care, most said no, typically explaining that there were too many barriers (e.g., lack of access in their state, cost). Just 12% said yes.

## Access To General Health Care

Six in 10 (61%) participants responded that they had ongoing health concerns beyond access to GAC (e.g., care related to physical or mental health conditions or disabilities).

When asked specifically if, as a result of the 2024 election outcome, they were more or less likely to pursue health care unrelated to GAC, almost two-thirds (64%) said there was no change. However, almost one-fourth (24%) said they were very much (8%) or somewhat (16%) less likely to pursue care. In contrast, 12% were somewhat (7%) or much more (5%) likely to pursue care.

Significantly, almost three-quarters of participants were concerned that the quality of their general health care would worsen (73%), with 11% saying they were not concerned and 16% unsure if their health care would worsen. Those with household incomes of less than \$25,000 per year were significantly more likely to voice concern (89%) than those whose household incomes exceeded \$25,000 per year (68%).<sup>7</sup>

When asked if they anticipated avoiding general health care in the next 12 months, just over half (52%) said no, one-fifth (20%) said yes, and over one-quarter (28%) were uncertain. Those in less transgender-affirming states were more likely to say that they would avoid health care compared to those in more transgender-affirming states.<sup>8</sup>

Some worried that seeking health care post-election would be more stressful for transgender people, noting a decrease in their sense of safety. (“I will likely avoid going anywhere ‘new.’ I feel less safe.”) One participant said:

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**“The results of the 2024 election have me worried about getting healthcare in the upcoming year as a transgender person. I worry about confidentiality being jeopardized, losing trust, and prejudice. I’m concerned that medical professionals may decline to treat me or disclose my health information without my permission. I am thinking of foregoing non-essential healthcare treatments in order to protect myself. My physical and emotional health may suffer as a result of my choice, but I believe it is essential to protect my well-being during these difficult times.”**

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## Legal Recognition and Rights

As a result of the 2024 election, participants also expressed concerns about legal recognition and rights related to themselves and their families. By December 2024, many were considering or had already taken legal steps to protect themselves in anticipation of the Trump administration. Table 4 summarizes the findings related to a set of legal actions participants were asked about. When considering legally protective actions, 42% of participants had taken at least one action. Specifically, 26% had taken one action, 8% had taken two, and 8% had taken three or more protective actions. Most of those who pursued various legally protective actions found them financially challenging, and most also reported encountering delays in taking these protective actions.

Chi-square analyses revealed that those who had less than a college degree were significantly less likely to have pursued any legal protective actions,<sup>9</sup> with almost half (49%) of college-educated participants having pursued at least one action, and one-third (33%) of non-college-educated participants having pursued at least one action.

More specifically

- Of those without updated state IDs before the election, 29% reported changing or updating state IDs. Of these, over three-fourths (78%) faced financial challenges in updating their IDs, and 91% encountered delays when trying to do so.

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<sup>7</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 302) = 11.24, p = .003$

<sup>8</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 302) = 5.69, p = .013$

<sup>9</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 302) = 8.09, p = .003$

- Of those who were married or partnered and had not pursued additional legal safeguards prior to the election, 29% reported pursuing these to protect their relationship with their partner. Of these, 69% found it financially challenging to do so, and 44% encountered delays.
- Of those with children who had not pursued legal safeguards prior to the election, 33% reported pursuing these to protect their relationships with their children. Of these, 83% experienced financial challenges, and three-fourths (75%) encountered delays.
- Of all participants, 10% reported making changes to their health insurance. Of these, 100% reported financial challenges, and 86% encountered delays.
- Twelve percent of participants reported taking other actions, such as getting or updating their passport or visa, marrying a partner, or getting a divorce.

**Table 4. Legal protective actions taken by survey respondents in response to the 2024 presidential election**

ACTION	YES	NO	N/A ALREADY DID THIS	N/A OTHER REASONS	FINANCIALLY CHALLENGING*	ENCOUNTERED DELAYS*
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Changing or updating state IDs	17.9%	43.7%	31.1%	7.3%	77.7%	90.7%
Pursuing legal safeguards for my relationship with my partner <i>(146 partnered or married)</i>	12.9%	31.5%	4.0%	51.7%	69.2%	43.6%
Pursuing legal safeguards for my relationship with my children <i>(40 parents)</i>	4.0%	7.9%	1.3%	86.8%	83.3%	75.0%
Meeting with or consulting with legal professionals	12.3%	74.2%	1.7%	21.9%	91.9%	45.9%
Changing health insurance	9.6%	65.9%	5.0%	19.5%	100%	86.2%
Other protective/legal actions (open-ended question):						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting or updating passport</li> <li>• Getting or updating visa</li> <li>• Marrying partner</li> <li>• Getting a divorce</li> </ul>	11.9%	51.4%	2.6%	34.1%	36.1%	27.8%

Note: \*These numbers are out of the total number of participants who indicated yes, they engaged in this action.



## Being Out as Transgender

Participants were asked three sets of questions about whether the results of the 2024 election would change how openly they lived as a transgender person: a) whether they were more or less likely to be out to different groups of people, b) whether they were more or less likely to engage in “covering” behaviors to downplay their transgender identity or gender non-conformity, and c) whether they would be more or less likely to go to a set of public spaces.

### Outness

Participants were asked whether they were more or less likely to be out as a transgender person as a result of the 2024 election to a variety of different types of people/groups. They were told to choose “not applicable/does not apply” if they did not have anyone in their life who fell into that category. (See Table 5.)

#### *Family, friends, and community*

- Of those with extended family, 38% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.
- Of those with non-LGBTQ friends, 34% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.
- Of those with a religious or spiritual community or practice, 32% were somewhat or much less likely to be out to others in the community or practice.

#### *The workplace*

- Of those with supervisors, 49% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.
- Of those with coworkers, 46% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.

#### *Living situation*

- Of those with landlords, 59% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.
- Of those with fellow tenants, 44% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.

#### *School*

- Of those with teachers/professors, 41% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.
- Of those with fellow students, 44% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.

#### *General health care providers (other than gender-affirming care)*

- 44% were somewhat or much less likely to be out.

There were only two groups of people for whom at least one-quarter of participants reported being somewhat or more likely to be out as a result of the 2024 election: their LGBTQ friends (38%) and health care providers who provide gender-affirming care (27%).

**Table 5. Outness to various social groups among survey respondents in response to the 2024 presidential election**

GROUP*	MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE OUT	SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY	NO CHANGE	SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY	MUCH LESS LIKELY TO BE OUT	NOT APPLICABLE TO ME
	%	%	%	%	%	N (%)
Family of origin (e.g., parents, siblings) (n = 267)	10.1%	4.5%	67.4%	7.5%	10.5%	35 (11.6%)
Extended family of origin (e.g., aunts, uncles) (n = 265)	6.8%	6.0%	49.0%	17.4%	20.8%	37 (12.3%)
Non-LGBTQ friends (n = 288)	8.0%	8.3%	49.3%	25.0%	9.4%	14 (4.6%)
LGBTQ friends (n = 289)	28.4%	10.0%	58.8%	1.4%	1.4%	13 (4.3%)
Coworkers (n = 250)	5.6%	8.8%	39.6%	22.0%	24.0%	52 (17.2%)
Supervisor/s (n = 243)	6.6%	4.9%	39.1%	16.5%	32.9%	59 (19.5%)
Landlord/s (n = 218)	2.8%	1.8%	36.7%	18.3%	40.4%	84 (27.8%)
Other tenants/roommates/ people in the building I live in (n = 216)	4.6%	6.1%	44.9%	14.4%	30.0%	86 (28.8%)
Teachers/professors (n = 180)	6.1%	6.6%	46.7%	20.0%	20.6%	122 (40.4%)
Other students (n = 177)	3.9%	6.8%	45.2%	20.9%	23.2%	125 (41.4%)
People in my religious or spiritual community or practice (n = 157)	8.9%	8.9%	49.7%	8.3%	24.2%	145 (48.0%)
Health care providers related to gender-affirming care (n = 274)	13.1%	14.2%	59.5%	6.6%	6.6%	28 (9.3%)
Health care providers not related to gender-affirming care (n = 288)	6.3%	6.6%	43.1%	20.8%	23.2%	14 (4.6%)

Note: \*The n in this column represents the number of participants who indicated that the question applied to them. All percentages are out of the total number of participants who said the group in question (e.g., family of origin, extended family, landlords) was applicable to them.

### Covering

Participants were also asked whether they would, as a result of the election, engage in various behaviors to downplay or hide their transgender status (“covering” behaviors). (See Table 6.) A total of 80% of participants indicated that they would be more likely to engage in at least one covering behavior. Specifically, 7% said they were somewhat or much more likely to engage in one covering behavior, 13% in two, 16% in three, 9% in four, 7% in five, and 28% in six or more. Only 20% reported that they would not be more likely to engage in any covering behaviors.

More specifically, approximately two-thirds (66%) said that the results of the 2024 election would change their use of bathrooms in at least one way, such as avoiding multiple-stall restrooms (48%), avoiding using a bathroom in public at all (47%), and using a bathroom that others will perceive as more consistent with their sex assigned at birth (30%).

Others reported that they would limit their speech related to their gender identity, including 53% who indicated that they would be somewhat or much more likely to not talk about being transgender, 41% who would be somewhat or much more likely to not talk about political or advocacy issues or activities related to the transgender community, and 30% who would be somewhat or much more likely to use pronouns that others will perceive as more consistent with their sex assigned at birth. Sixteen percent said they would be somewhat or much more likely to revert to their deadname (i.e., the name they had been given as a child that did not match their gender identity).

One in four (25%) participants indicated that as a result of the 2024 election, they would be somewhat or much more likely to dress in a way that others will perceive as more consistent with their sex assigned at birth. Approximately one in five said that as a result of the 2024 election, they would be somewhat or much more likely to change their hair or makeup (21%), voice (21%), or mannerisms (20%).

**Table 6. Covering behaviors among survey respondents in response to the 2024 presidential election**

BEHAVIOR	MUCH MORE LIKELY	SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY	NO CHANGE	SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY	MUCH LESS LIKELY
	%	%	%	%	%
Dress in a way that others will perceive as more consistent with my sex assigned at birth	6.6%	18.2%	54.0%	7.0%	14.2%
Wear makeup or my hair in ways that others will perceive as more consistent with my sex assigned at birth	6.0%	15.2%	56.6%	6.3%	15.9%
Speak in a way that others will perceive as more consistent with my sex assigned at birth	5.0%	15.9%	57.9%	7.3%	13.9%
Use mannerisms that others will perceive as more consistent with my sex assigned at birth	5.0%	14.8%	59.3%	6.3%	14.6%

BEHAVIOR	MUCH MORE LIKELY	SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY	NO CHANGE	SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY	MUCH LESS LIKELY
	%	%	%	%	%
Use pronouns that others will perceive as more consistent with my sex assigned at birth	9.3%	20.5%	48.0%	7.0%	15.2%
Use a bathroom that others will perceive as more consistent with my sex assigned at birth	13.9%	15.9%	52.7%	3.6%	13.9%
Avoid multiple-stall restrooms and use gender-neutral/single-stall restrooms when available	25.2%	23.2%	45.3%	3.3%	3.0%
Avoid using a bathroom in public at all	19.9%	27.2%	45.7%	4.6%	2.6%
Use the name that I was given at birth/went by as a young child	5.6%	10.6%	62.3%	3.3%	18.2%
Not talk about being transgender	23.2%	29.5%	31.1%	9.3%	7.0%
Not talk about political or advocacy issues or activities related to the trans community	13.9%	17.5%	41.1%	12.9%	14.6%
Avoid being seen with other trans people in public	3.3%	6.0%	61.6%	11.6%	17.5%

### Avoiding Public Places and Activities

In response to a question about how participants were coping with their fears and concerns during this time, one-third (33%) said they were socially isolating. In the words of one participant: “I am basically staying home. Avoiding people as much as I can. Avoiding stuff in general that seems unnecessarily dangerous.” Other participants shared, in response to open-ended questions:

*Essentially, I’ve become a hermit to try and ensure my safety. I’ve started deleting all references to my identity in social media and general internet presence. I only go out when I absolutely have to, opting to have groceries delivered to my doorstep where possible and sending my cis male partner out when it’s not. I’ve stopped talking to a lot of people because I feel like I can’t trust anyone, and I feel very alone. I talk a little bit to colleagues I know to be safe, but nothing about my gender or concerns anymore. My home has become both my fortress and my prison.*

*A lot of my personal life at home hasn’t changed, but now that people feel emboldened to act against LGBT+ people because of Trump’s upcoming presidency, I definitely feel a lot more hesitant to go out and be open about my identity because I’m worried I might get attacked verbally or physically.*

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**“I’ve shut down my “presence” in the world for fear of generating dissonance. I’ve withdrawn nearly all participation in society, except as absolutely necessary. I’ve ghosted myself. Interaction itself has become futile. And it is likely to become dangerous.”**

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Participants were also asked whether they might change a set of specific activities to be less visible publicly as a result of the 2024 election. (See Table 7.) Of those who found each sub-question applicable to them

- Most felt that the results of the 2024 election would make them somewhat or much less likely to travel or go on vacation to less transgender-affirming states (70%) or less affirming parts of their state (65%).
- Almost half (48%) felt that the results of the 2024 election would make them less likely to contact the police if faced with discrimination, violence, or threats.
- At least one-fourth felt that the results of the 2024 election would make them somewhat or much less likely to use public transportation (27%), go to LGBTQ events, stores, or venues (27%), or go to the gym, get their hair cut or styled, get their nails done, etc. (26%).
- Approximately one-fifth felt that the results of the 2024 election would make them somewhat or much less likely to go to the movies, theaters, concerts (22%), or restaurants (19%).

In contrast, there was only one set of locations that more than one-fifth of participants reported that they were more likely to go due to the results of the 2024 election—almost four in 10 (38%) reported that they would be somewhat or much more likely to go LGBTQ events, stores, or venues.

Table 7. Engagement in public life among survey respondents in response to the 2024 presidential election

TYPE OF ACTIVITY*	MUCH MORE LIKELY	SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY	NO CHANGE	SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY	MUCH LESS LIKELY	N/A TO ME
	%	%	%	%	%	N (%)
Use public transportation (n = 278)	2.2%	2.2%	68.3%	15.8%	11.5%	24 (7.9%)
Go to work (n = 266)	6.4%	3.0%	82.7%	6.0%	1.9%	36 (11.9%)
Go to school (n = 213)	3.8%	5.6%	80.3%	6.0%	4.3%	89 (29.5%)
Go to LGBTQ events, stores, or venues (n = 291)	15.1%	22.7%	35.1%	18.2%	8.9%	11 (3.6%)
Attend practices related to my religion or spirituality (n = 178)	6.2%	9.6%	67.9%	10.1%	6.2%	124 (41.1%)
Participate in sports (n = 212)	2.8%	6.1%	74.1%	9.0%	8.0%	90 (29.8%)
Go to stores, grocery shopping, etc. (n = 301)	3.6%	4.7%	76.0%	13.7%	2.0%	1 (.3%)
Go to restaurants (n = 299)	3.3%	4.0%	73.6%	13.7%	5.4%	3 (1.0%)
Go to the movies, theaters, concerts, etc. (n = 295)	2.7%	5.1%	70.5%	15.3%	6.4%	7 (2.3%)
Go to the gym, get my hair cut or styled, get my nails done, etc. (n = 287)	4.2%	4.9%	65.2%	18.1%	7.6%	15 (5.0%)
Go to public parks, hiking trails, the beach, etc. (n = 299)	5.3%	10.7%	67.9%	13.1%	3.0%	3 (1.0%)
Go on vacation to or travel to less trans-affirming states (n = 293)	3.8%	3.1%	23.5%	21.5%	48.1%	9 (3.0%)
Go on vacation to or travel to less trans-affirming parts of my state (n = 293)	3.1%	2.7%	29.0%	26.3%	38.9%	9 (3.0%)
Call the police (n = 301)	1.7%	3.9%	46.2%	26.9%	21.3%	1 (.3%)
Other activities you are less likely to engage in (open-ended question):						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for assistance with maintenance, repairs</li> <li>• Interact with strangers</li> <li>• Pursue professional development</li> <li>• Walk alone in public</li> <li>• Use public services like the library</li> <li>• Participate in community activities, game nights, etc.</li> </ul>						

Note: \*The n in this column represents the number of participants who indicated that the question applied to them. All percentages are out of the total number of participants who said the activity was applicable to them.

## State Policy Environment

In order to assess whether those in less transgender-affirming states would feel greater apprehension about engaging in various public activities due to the results of the 2024 election, we conducted a series of chi-squares whereby the likelihood of engaging in each activity was dichotomized (more likely or no change versus less likely). This revealed that participants in less affirming states were significantly less likely to attend LGBTQ events, stores, or venues<sup>10</sup> or go to movies, the theater,<sup>11</sup> and restaurants<sup>12</sup> compared to those in more affirming states. By contrast, and unsurprisingly, those in more affirming states were significantly more likely to say that they were less likely to vacation or travel to less transgender-affirming states<sup>13</sup> or less transgender-affirming places in their own state<sup>14</sup> compared to those who lived in less transgender-affirming states. Some write-in responses provided nuance and context for these findings, such that those who lived in more transgender-affirming locations often reported they would not be making major changes to their engagement in public life:

*I live in a blue state and feel mostly protected but still cautious.*

*I live in a fairly diverse and accepting town in an otherwise conservative state.*

*I live in a fairly queer-friendly major city, so I don't feel more at risk in terms of my immediate safety. However, I am certainly less likely to travel to other states that are hostile to transgender people.*

## Open-Ended Responses

Participants were asked to elaborate on their responses related to changes in their engagement in public life as a result of the election. Many participants who indicated that they would be less likely to engage in various activities explained that they felt that people in general, including those in particular positions of power (e.g., police officers), might feel emboldened by Trump's win and might treat them poorly, which impacted their desire or willingness to occupy public spaces. For example:

*I am homebound, so I cannot leave my house. But I would feel much less inclined to reach out to the police [because] having Trump in office would encourage those that already have that predilection [to be violent, discriminatory, and untrustworthy] to become even worse about it.*

*Horrible people, cops included, feel more empowered now that Trump has been elected. They aren't afraid to be terrible people now.*

*I already didn't trust cops, but now I feel that they represent the potential end of my life if I interact with one on a bad day.*

<sup>10</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 291) = 6.85, p = .010$

<sup>11</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 295) = 6.10, p = .010$

<sup>12</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 299) = 4.90, p = .019$

<sup>13</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 293) = 8.76, p = .003$

<sup>14</sup>  $\chi^2(1, 293) = 3.88, p = .032$



*It's highly unlikely now that I will go to any of the local hiking trails or parks, as I feel an unbearable increase of distrust and wariness of people in general after the election. I'm also very reluctant to try to engage the services of repairmen (we have no women who do repair work in this area, at least none that I'm aware of), as the thought of having to have a strange man in our house that I don't know is trustworthy is absolutely terrifying now.*

Many of those who indicated that they would not be making major changes to their engagement in public life clarified that others consistently perceived them in line with their gender identity (i.e., they said they “passed”)—although some also said that fear “lingered.” Notably, most of those who indicated that they were perceived in line with their gender identity in public spaces said they were trans men or that they were assigned female at birth and presented as female despite identifying as gender expansive/nonbinary. Sample quotes from participants included:

*I already stay in my house more often than I don't. But I also pass as stealth pretty much 100% of the time, so as long as I am not in a situation where my ID or information needs to be given out, I'm more or less as confident in my safety as I was before.*

*I pass as my gender at this point. I am mostly immune from social bigotry and can move through the world as a man. My daily activities aren't as affected by bigotry because strangers can't tell I am trans. So, I feel just as safe completing my daily activities as I did before the election.*

*I am well into my transition and pass as my chosen gender easily. Doctors' appointments and public bathrooms can be challenging, as is anything that requires me to use my ID because I have not changed my name, but I am blessed to pass these days. I am more concerned about people who do not and more concerned about access to hormone therapy.*

*I do not feel safe traveling to certain parts of the country/world even though I pass as a cisman. I would like to travel, but I am afraid of potential harm. I have rented private rooms for myself when I have traveled in the past and I will continue to do this in the future.*

*Unfortunately (and this is a massive privilege), I pass well as a female, and I'm not unbearably uncomfortable doing so. What saddens me is my partner, who's more visible as trans. I would feel less comfortable taking them around and participating in LGBTQ events (other than protests, I guess). It saddens me, also, but I don't trust the police to treat us fairly at all.*

Some of these participants also clarified that they did not go out much anyway (e.g., they were homebound/disabled, had social anxiety, had concerns related to COVID and health, or had limited funds for social activities/recreation), and therefore would continue to spend limited time outside their home. Said one participant:

*I already order groceries online, I don't actually go to the store. I cut my own hair. I can't hike, can't afford vacations, sure can't do sports. I'm pretty much already housebound and don't see that changing anytime soon.*

Some also emphasized that “life must continue” and intended to continue to live as they had, even amid fear.

*I don't want to let the administration control me.*

*I can't change my life and myself to adhere to people who want to discriminate against me and others like me. The only thing I can do is live my life and be my true self and try to enjoy my life. It sucks that we'll have to deal with more hate, but I'm not giving up anything for anyone.*

Many of those who said they were more likely to engage in certain activities outside the home emphasized that visibility and community engagement were forms of resistance.

*I am more likely to show support for the LGBTQ community now because we need it more, and I will not self-censor.*

*I am much more likely to go out generally since I both want to improve my life and I want to exist as part of the local community. I am open about being a trans woman, and my bag has a trans pride flag pin on it. I believe it's important for me to exist as myself in public, so it's just slightly harder for those who have interacted with me to dehumanize trans people. Plus, I want to be a source of inspiration and resilience for those who do feel that they need to go back to being closeted. I live in a not super accepting part of a pretty accepting state, so I'm right at my risk/comfort level there (though I do want to join a queer group in a more accepting town so I feel less alone).*

## PROACTIVE COPING

### Engaging Support, Activities, and Resources

While transgender people are concerned about the years ahead, they also are proactively taking steps to protect and care for themselves, their families, and their communities. Table 8 summarizes findings related to a set of protective actions, in addition to the legal actions described earlier, that participants were asked if they were taking or considering after the 2024 election. Table 9 summarizes responses to a set of questions asking whether participants were drawing on various supports, activities, or resources to sustain them or help them cope during the next four years. These responses are organized around five main themes:

- Protecting themselves from discrimination, harassment, and violence
- Proactively taking care of their health
- Taking time to pursue interests and hobbies
- Engaging with friends, family, and community
- Engaging in advocacy and mutual aid

**Table 8. Self-protective actions or behaviors among survey respondents in response to the 2024 presidential election**

ACTION	YES	CONSIDERING IT	NO
	%	%	%
Pursuing self-defense classes, martial arts	8.6%	43.1%	48.3%
Buying a gun/learning how to use a gun	12.6%	34.5%	52.9%
Other safety measures such as buying pepper spray or personal alarm	30.8%	36.8%	32.4%
Learning about my rights related to safety and discrimination	60.6%	23.8%	15.6%
Organizing with community groups and mutual aid groups	42.0%	33.8%	24.2%
Meeting/consulting with therapists or other health care professionals	44.0%	28.5%	27.5%
Stockpiling hormones (e.g., estrogen, testosterone) or other medications related to gender-affirming care	22.2%	48.3%	29.5%
Other actions (open-ended question):			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trying to move</li> <li>• Making an emergency plan (e.g., if I need to leave quickly)</li> <li>• Joining a union at work</li> <li>• Preparing graduate school applications for blue states only</li> <li>• Donating to mutual aid funds</li> <li>• Enhancing fitness/strength</li> <li>• Strengthening social support network</li> <li>• Adopting a harm reduction mindset</li> </ul>	11.3%	7.9%	80.8%

**Table 9. Support, activities, and resources among survey respondents in response to the 2024 presidential election**

RESOURCE/COPING MECHANISM	YES
	%
Connecting with and spending time with friends	74.2%
<i>I'm trying to stay connected to my family and friends so that at least I will be less alone during this time.</i>	
<i>I'm prioritizing creating a supportive place with affirming friends.</i>	
<i>I'm making sure I spend time talking to friends several times a week, so I still have fun.</i>	
<i>I am ... trying to strengthen my relationships with LGBTQ and affirming friends, so I feel more part of a community.</i>	
Connecting with and spending time with partner/s and children	41.1%
<i>I am spending time with my girlfriend. She makes me feel like, okay. Yes, the world is shit, but at least we have each other.</i>	

RESOURCE/COPING MECHANISM	YES
	%
Connecting with and spending time with family of origin	29.5%
<i>[I am] staying close to my family.</i>	
<i>I have gotten closer to my supportive family members.</i>	
Getting involved in community groups (Examples: mutual aid groups; LGBTQ groups; church; theater, music, and dance; recovery; volunteer work)	16.6%
Starting therapy	12.3%
<i>I'm in therapy right now to help myself process current events.</i>	
<i>I started going to online therapy to address my anxiety, which includes the future of how things will be with Trump for people like me.</i>	
Continuing therapy	39.4%
<i>[I am] going to therapy and learning how to cope with my mental health if things go downhill from here.</i>	
Avoiding news media	56.3%
<i>I don't scroll the news often because it makes me sick to my stomach.</i>	
<i>I've set limits on my news and social media consumption, allowing myself to stay updated without becoming overwhelmed by constant political content.</i>	
Engaging in activism/advocacy	34.4%
<i>Advocating and supporting policies that protect trans rights is another way [I am trying] to build a sense of empowerment and community.</i>	
<i>I am organizing with other trans and LGBTQ friends and allies.</i>	
<i>I'm trying to get more involved with advocacy organizations to help prepare to defend people and issues that are important to me.</i>	
<i>I'm contacting my reps and signing petitions for actions I support.</i>	
Engaging in hobbies (Examples: art, drawing, crafting, reading, writing, cooking, dancing, singing)	42.7%
<i>Collecting dolls, looking into starting sewing projects</i>	
<i>Dance and cross-stitch</i>	
<i>Guitar, singing, writing, dancing</i>	
<i>Reading, writing, list-making, and writing affirmations</i>	
Connecting and spending time with pets	53.0%
<i>Being with my...dog keeps me grounded.</i>	
Connecting and spending time in nature	47.0%
<i>I am trying to go outside more.</i>	
Exercise	42.7%
<i>I am starting to exercise and get strong for self-defense.</i>	
<i>I started to exercise and lift weights more. I have a mantra of 'If I can protect myself, I can protect who I am,' and it's been helping.</i>	

RESOURCE/COPING MECHANISM	YES
	%
Engaging in substance use	26.5%
Playing video games	55.0%
Watching TV	47.0%
Engaging with social media	33.1%
<i>[I have been] following activists on social media.</i>	
Connecting with people in similar circumstances online	37.7%
<i>I have ... joined online groups that are supportive to hopefully make some friends and get through this difficult period with them.</i>	
<i>I am working on building community online.</i>	
Connecting with people in similar circumstances in my local community	19.5%
<i>I am preparing to organize for my neighbors and queer community when needed.</i>	
<i>One thing that I'm doing is providing a beacon of support for other members of my community struggling right now.</i>	
Creating formal or informal networks for social support	5.6%
<i>I am building a network of friends throughout the country for mutual aid and community.</i>	
Engaging with a faith community	7.3%
<i>My partner and I have started attending a local Unitarian Universalist church, which is very queer and trans-friendly.</i>	

### Protecting Themselves from Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence

Most participants indicated that they were taking steps to protect themselves from discrimination, harassment, and violence (see Table 8).

- Over 84% of participants were considering actively learning about their rights related to safety and discrimination, with over 60% already having started doing so before inauguration day.
- 43% of participants were considering pursuing self-defense classes, with almost 9% already having done this.
- Over one-third of participants (37%) were considering buying a gun and/or learning how to use a gun, with 13% already having done so.
- Over two-thirds (67%) were considering other safety measures, such as buying pepper spray or personal alarm, with 37% already having done so before inauguration day.

Other actions participants reported considering or taking to protect their safety included “making an emergency plan” and developing a list of “lawyers who can help with employment discrimination.” To protect themselves, some were actively making plans to move out of their less transgender-affirming areas. For example, one participant shared:

*I'm planning on moving out of my state. My partner and I have researched other states that we'll feel safer in, we've started making plans, etc. It's hard to say for certain what will happen, though, because we are both reluctant to move away from family, and we live within half an hour of both our families right now.*

Some, too, spoke to how safety concerns had altered their life plans:

*The states I was considering moving to for graduate school but am no longer considering moving to SOLELY DUE TO THE ELECTION are Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. These states do not have many protections for trans people nor anti-trans laws, which means they would be safe enough for me if nothing changed, but after the election, I cannot risk what federal laws could change and have no protections at the state level.*

## Proactively Taking Care of Their Health

Many participants also reported taking steps to take care of their physical and mental health (Tables 8 and 9). Nearly three-fourths (72%) were considering meeting with health care professionals and therapists, with 29% already having done so. More specifically, over half (51%) were either starting (12%) or continuing therapy (39%). Almost half (48%) were considering stockpiling hormones (e.g., estrogen, testosterone) or other medications related to gender-affirming care, with almost one-fourth (22%) already having done so.

## Taking Time to Pursue Interests and Hobbies

Over four in 10 participants (42%) reported engaging in hobbies and interests as a way to support themselves over the next four years, including art, drawing, crafting, reading, writing, gaming, cooking, dancing, playing instruments, and singing (see Table 8). When asked about specific activities, 55% were playing video games, 47% were watching television, 43% were exercising, and 33% were engaging with social media. Further, almost half (47%) indicated that they were connecting with and spending more time in nature.

Participants elaborated on how their hobbies and interests were providing fulfillment:

*[I am] reading poetry and reading high fantasy books.*

*Collaborating on art projects together with my friends has been very fulfilling.*

*I get hope and purpose from my chosen family, pets, community, and hobbies. My hobbies include embroidery, video games, reading, gardening, and cosplay. I find inspiration to do these things in the idea that no matter how you spend your time, the time still passes and you cannot get it back.*

*I am engaging with fandom and social media and building a larger community outside of my immediate area.*

## Engaging with Friends, Family, and Community

Most participants indicated that engaging with friends, family, and community was an important way they planned to care for themselves during the Trump presidency (Table 9). Participants reported creating the support they need for the next four years by connecting and spending time with friends (74%), their pets (53%), their partners and children (41%), and their families of origin (30%). They also reported that they were seeking out community support online (38%), in their local communities (20%), with community groups such as LGBTQ groups, recovery groups, and theater, music, and dance groups (17%), and by engaging with their faith communities (7%). One participant shared:

*I feel a little more likely to get back to being more involved in the LGBTQ+ community locally, just to be in supportive spaces and help build solidarity, and likewise, I feel a little more likely to focus on my spiritual practices and put a little bit more effort into finally finding a spiritual community to join and participate in.*

## Engaging in Advocacy and Mutual Aid

Many participants shared that they were engaging in advocacy and mutual aid in order to help their communities and as a form of self-care.

- One-third (34%) indicated they would engage in activism and advocacy to support themselves during the next four years.
- Three-fourths (76%) were considering organizing with mutual aid and community groups, with one-third (34%) already having done so.

### Types of Advocacy/Activism

Participants' advocacy actions took a variety of forms. Some participated in groups and events aimed to support and educate transgender people. Others took the lead in organizing groups, events, and other connections aimed to support and educate transgender people. Still others fundraised for or donated to causes and organizations that supported transgender people.

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**“I’m doing my best to show up for my communities; solidarity is what will get us through this.”**

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*I am engaged more with the community and organizing small events for people who feel isolated or scared.*

*I created a mutual aid pool of funds to give to trans people needing passports and ID changes.*

*I've increased my advocacy by joining local organizations and participating in online campaigns. I'm engaging in discussions, volunteering, and supporting causes that promote equality and social justice. Additionally, I'm connecting with like-minded individuals through social media and community events.*

*I have raised money for trans people to start stockpiling their hormones in non-trans-affirming states and cities.*

Other participants described their advocacy in terms of speaking out for transgender people and being visible as a transgender person.

*[I] became more blunt about my support and separating truths from lies.*

*[I am] being more vocal about being trans and queer, as well as standing up to the people around me when they say anything rude/incorrect/etc.*

*I have begun visually identifying myself as trans/nonbinary (e.g., Pride accessories) and reaching out to LGBTQ+ groups to explore additional advocacy possibilities.*

Some participants were aware of the burnout and strain that can accompany advocacy and sought to balance their advocacy efforts with the need to protect their mental health. One participant, for example, leaned heavily on their “core group of friends, allies, and support groups,” noting further that they were “paying attention to the latest developments in legislation, while at the same time paying attention to my mental health,” recognizing the importance of “balancing activism with therapy, mindfulness, or other affirming spaces.”

### **Changes in Advocacy/Activism**

Some participants specified that they had recently changed their level of transgender advocacy and/or activism. Specifically,

- Two-thirds (66%) said they were either going to continue (42%) or increase (14%) their level of advocacy. Of those who were going to increase their level of advocacy, their main reasons for doing so were a desire to stand up for and protect members of their community (98%), a sense of obligation (76%), and/or a sense of purpose, (68%). Those who increased their activism and advocacy sometimes emphasized new roles and activities (e.g., organizing or supporting mutual aid and/or support networks), as well as donating money and being visible as transgender people.
- Among the 15% who said they recently decreased their level of advocacy, their main reasons for doing so were exhaustion (76%) and/or concerns about visibility (54%) under the Trump administration.
- 29% said they were never very involved in advocacy.



## CONCLUSION

Our findings highlight the reality that transgender people are experiencing a high level of stress and worry as they prepare for a second Trump presidency, recognizing the significant threats that this administration has for their lives and well-being. In turn, we documented a variety of ways that transgender people are seeking to protect themselves and/or minimize the harms that may come as a result of increased legislative attacks on the transgender community. Such protective efforts, however, are not always available to transgender people. Lack of resources, for example, may limit who is able to seek certain legal protections. Additionally, many of the actions and behaviors that our participants engaged in or planned to engage in to keep themselves safe (e.g., avoiding bathrooms, avoiding health care in general, delaying GAC, isolating themselves, and engaging in covering behaviors) come with costs to their health and well-being. In turn, the fear that they are experiencing, the actions that they seek out of necessity, and the costs of those actions speak to the very real harm being put upon transgender people and communities.

But our findings also clearly communicate the immense strength and resilience of transgender people and communities. Participants are creating community, making art, advocating on behalf of transgender and queer communities, and attending to the needs and experiences of the most vulnerable among them. Further, they are demonstrating notable agency in their proactive efforts to care for themselves and others, such as making doctors' appointments, building relationships, donating to mutual aid organizations, and intentionally making time for activities that are pleasurable, healing, or simply distracting, such as art, video games, and spending time in nature or with pets. They are making choices and decisions that enable their survival. Even completing this survey can be seen as a meaningful act of solidarity, commitment, and resilience. Indeed, some participants shared this sentiment with us in our final question ("Is there anything else you would like to share?...):

*I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts. It's crucial for surveys like this to highlight the diverse experiences of trans people and ensure that policies reflect our needs for safety, equality, and acceptance. Keeping the conversation open and inclusive helps create better understanding and support.*

*[I] expressed opinions I don't normally get to express.*

*This has really been weighing on me, and I am heartened and a little more reassured to know that at least someone is studying this.*

Another theme that was clear in our findings was the element of uncertainty as they faced the future ahead. Many participants depended on GAC and were fearful or uncertain about their ability to continue to receive GAC, with those who did not access such care often expressing disappointment and/or loss that they might never have the opportunity to receive such care. Those in "safe states" often expressed feeling at least somewhat protected with regards to accessing GAC but still voiced unease about a) the care being terminated or interfered with and/or b) the possibility that many other transgender people, including youth and those in less safe states, would be unable to access GAC.

Some groups of participants emerged as more privileged than others, relatively speaking. Those who described themselves as passing as cisgender and being less visibly transgender appeared to experience less fear as a result, particularly related to engaging in public life. Those who lived in

less safe and affirming states reported changing their behavior with regard to public life in several areas, including travel and entertainment. They were also more likely to say that they would avoid health care in the future. Those with lower incomes also presented with unique health care risks as they were more worried about the future quality of their health care in general, as well as being more likely to forgo aspects of GAC. Not only do such data paint an alarming portrait of potentially rising unmet health needs among some of the most vulnerable transgender people, but they also portend a possible increase in overall health care costs in the long run due to delayed treatments and interventions—costs that may extend beyond the individual (e.g., in the form of reduced workforce productivity and increased strain on social services; USDHHS, 2021).

More research that centers on the experiences and perspectives of transgender people is clearly needed as the next four years of the Trump administration unfold. We recommend that such research be undertaken with the goal of documenting not only the impact of the Trump administration's intended and implemented policies and laws but also the associated impacts of the sociopolitical rhetoric surrounding such policies and laws. Further, it is essential that researchers document the strength, diversity, and contributions of the transgender community. Additionally, there is a need for research that addresses the actions taken by individuals, agencies, and organizations to support and empower transgender people and their families, as well as the transgender community's actions to uplift and empower themselves.

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## METHODS

### SAMPLE

A two-fold strategy was enlisted to recruit participants for our anonymous survey. First, we used Prolific, a web-based research platform that includes multiple safeguards for preserving data quality, minimizes bots and bad actors, and has been shown to be a reliable and efficient means of collecting data (Bradley, 2018; Lettmann & Lumsden, 2018; Palan & Schitter, 2018). Prolific's participant pool has significant economic and racial diversity, ensuring that individuals who are often less likely to be included in research on the LGBTQ community (e.g., less educated, lower income, of color) are adequately represented (Goldberg & Frost, 2024). Second, we recruited additional participants using convenience sampling, relying on listservs, professional and personal contacts, and private channels to spread the word—strategies that often result in including people who are more strongly connected to the LGBTQ community, as well as more well-educated and affluent LGBTQ people (Potter & Potter, 2020). By deploying both recruitment strategies, the goal was to obtain a richer and more diverse sample with respect to gender identities, educational level, income, and other social locations that vary within the transgender community. Ultimately, in our final sample, 215 (71%) participants were recruited via Prolific, and 87 (29%) were recruited via convenience sampling, for a total of 302 participants. Prolific participants were compensated for their participation, while community participants were not.

The survey was available from December 9 to December 31. Participants were eligible for the study if they identified as transgender (“Do you consider yourself to be transgender, trans, nonbinary, or another gender that is different from the sex assigned to you at birth?”), were over 18 and lived in the United States. Our final sample of individuals who a) completed at least 75% of the questions and b) were deemed legitimate participants based on validity checks and careful inspection of the data was 302 participants.

A small group of participants indicated that they were transgender but ultimately identified a sex assigned at birth that was consistent with their gender identity (e.g., male and man). These participants' data (closed- and open-ended responses) were subjected to close inspection and discussion with the research team. Those participants who clearly either (a) rejected the sex assigned at birth question as irrelevant, inappropriate, or offensive, and therefore chose to mark a sex consistent with their gender identity, and/or (b) also selected other gender identities (e.g., nonbinary, genderqueer) were retained in the sample. This process resulted in the deletion of 23 cases (e.g., who may have misunderstood the transgender screening question or may have ultimately been motivated to complete the survey for Prolific for financial compensation).

### SURVEY METHOD

Potential participants were invited to complete a 25-30 minute anonymous mixed-methods survey hosted by the platform Qualtrics (desktop or mobile version). Survey items were developed by the investigators in consultation with members of the Williams Institute staff (see Acknowledgements). At the beginning of the survey, an information sheet was provided to respondents that included information on the research entities conducting the survey, their contact information, funding sources, aims, risks, benefits, duration of the survey, and the anonymous and voluntary nature of

the survey. Potential participants were told that the survey was open to anyone who (a) identifies as transgender and/or nonbinary, and/or whose gender differs from the gender they were assigned at birth, and (b) is currently living in the United States. They were further told that the survey “asks questions about how you are preparing for a Trump presidency, as well as questions about concerns, experiences, and plans you are making amid anti-transgender legislation and/or climate in the United States. It also asks questions about coping, support networks, and hopes for the future.” Respondents were also asked a number of demographic questions. They were also told they could drop out of the survey at any time. The study was approved by Clark University’s Human Subjects Board.

## PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

The data collected for this report are anonymous. We, the researchers, have no access to information about participants’ identities. We did not ask for identifying information (e.g., birth dates), nor did participants report it. Prolific, which is based in the United Kingdom, takes seriously the privacy of participants and the maintenance of their anonymity. Participants are assigned a unique, 24-character participant ID. Participants are fully anonymized. Further, Prolific uses encrypted HTTPS connections, secured by Transport Layer Security (TLS). User data are stored in a secure cloud container environment, and passwords are hashed using industry-approved technologies, stored securely, and cannot be viewed by Prolific. All participants are free to opt-out at any time, and Prolific is fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union.

## ANALYSIS

We used descriptive statistics and qualitative content analysis in this report. We also conducted a limited number of chi-square tests to examine whether certain outcomes differed according to state policy context and/or participant income or education level, based on our expectation that participants’ experiences of and perspectives on the consequences of the election might vary on these particular variables.

In presenting quotes, we have edited minor spelling and grammar errors to increase readability.