

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Evidence suggests that transgender people are more likely than cisgender people to:

- Interact with law enforcement and be subject to arrest and incarceration
- Experience sexual victimization in a variety of settings, including while incarcerated

Objectives of this study are to utilize a population-based sample of transgender inmates to:

- Assess whether transgender people are overrepresented among incarcerated individuals
- Describe the characteristics of incarcerated transgender individuals
- Compare the experiences of transgender and cisgender incarcerated individuals in regard to sexual victimization

METHODS

Data Source:

Data come from the National Inmate Survey, 2011-2012 (NIS-3). The NIS-3 interviewed inmates between February 2011 and May 2012 in 233 state and federal prisons, 358 jails, and in fifteen special facilities. A total of 92,915 adult inmates participated in the NIS-3 sexual victimization survey, of which 38,778 were in state or federal prisons and 54,137 were in jails or special facilities.

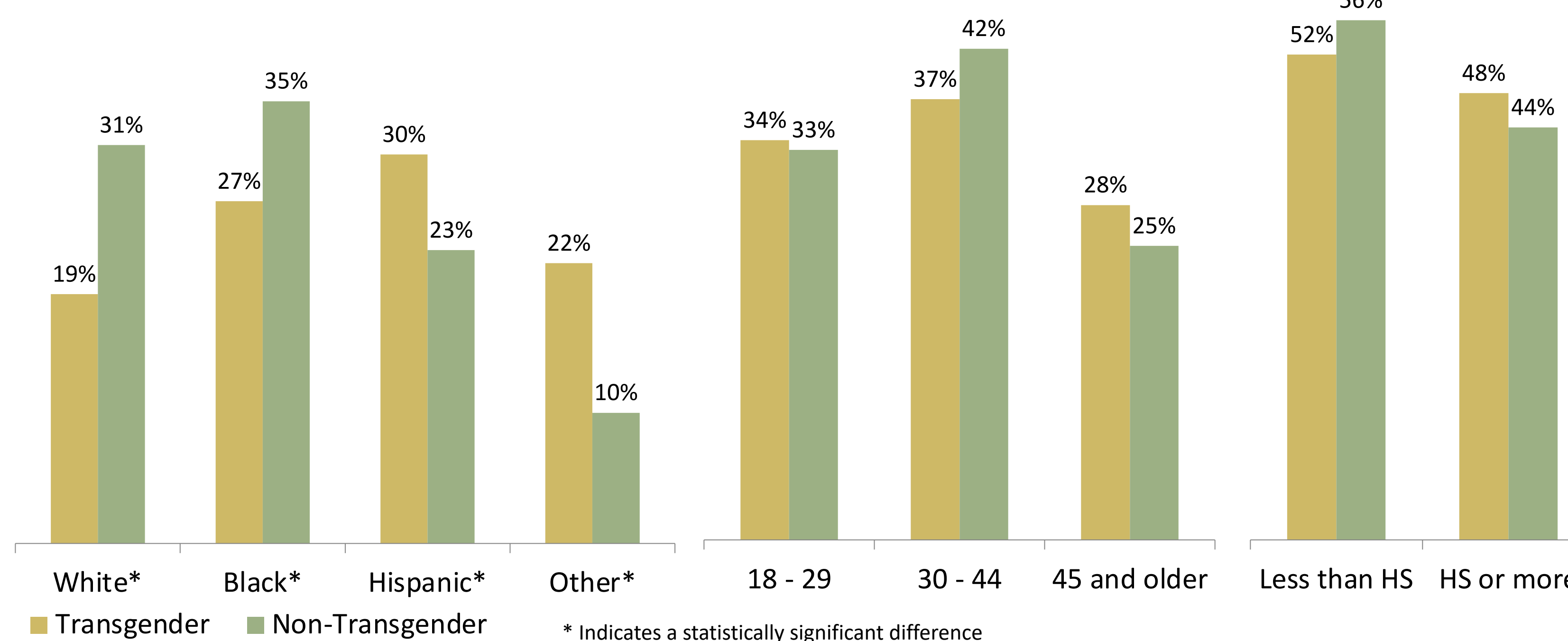
Analysis:

Data analysis was done in its entirety at the ICPSR facility and, per their policy, was limited to a small number of BJS-approved analyses. We report percentages by transgender status, which are weighted and adjusted for the complex sampling procedure of the NIS-3. We also report sexual victimization, serious psychological distress, and solitary segregation, with significance determined using logistic regressions, controlling for age, race/ethnicity, and time in current facility.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INCARCERATED TRANSGENDER ADULTS

Race/Ethnicity

(weighted percentages)



POPULATION PREVALENCE & LIMITATIONS OF NIS-3 GENDER IDENTITY MEASURE

NIS-3 Gender Question:

Are you male, female, or transgender?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender

Responses to Similar Question by Transgender Respondents (Schilt & Bratter, 2015):

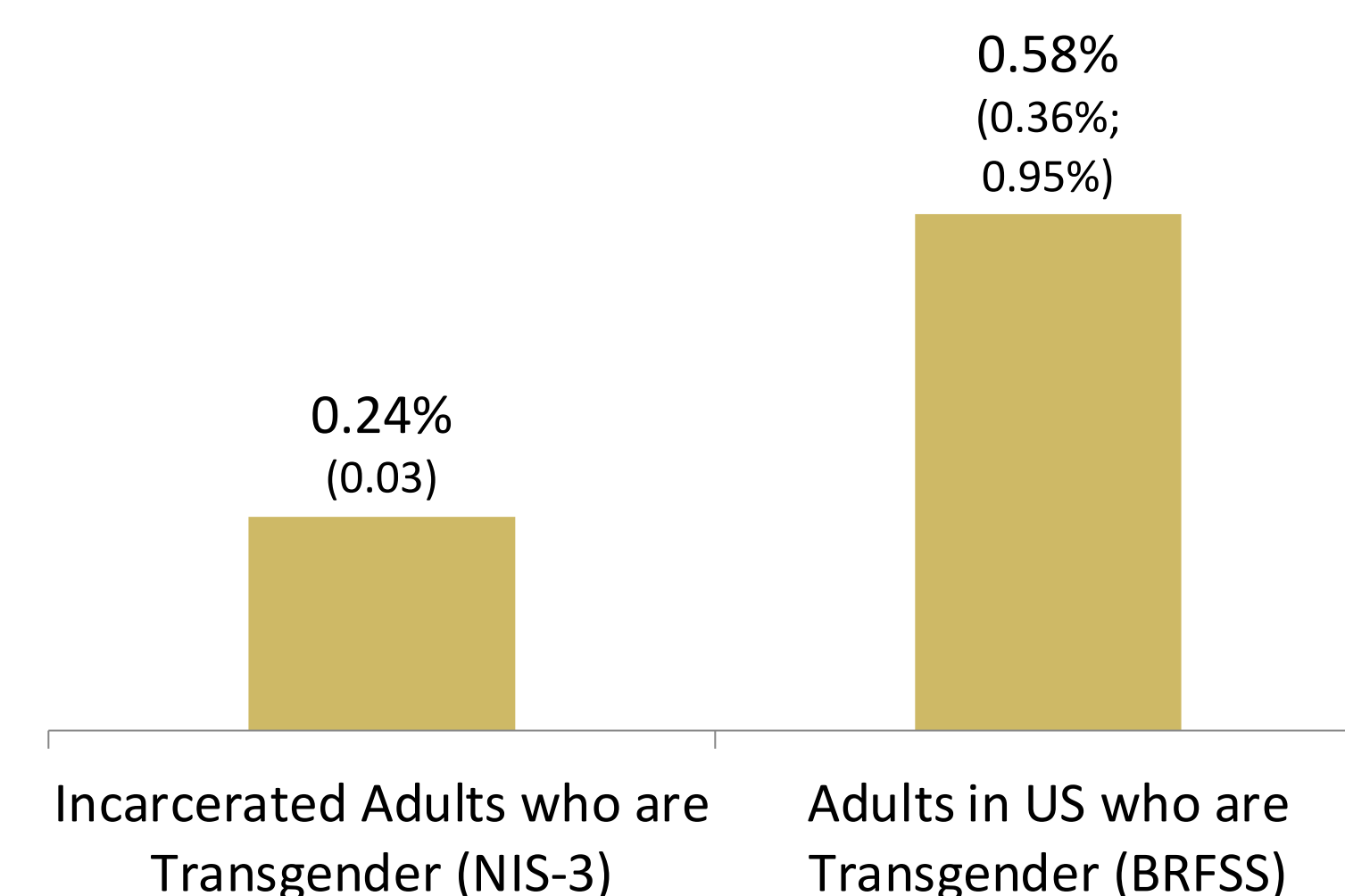
Male or Female: 71%

Transgender: 29%

Schilt, K. & Bratter, J. (2015). From Multiracial to Transgender? Assessing Attitudes toward Expanding Gender Options on the U.S. Census. *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, 2(1), 58-76.

Population Prevalence:

Transgender Population in Jails/Prisons (NIS-3) vs. Transgender-Identified Adults in the US (2014 BRFSS)



BRFSS Source: Flores, A.R., Herman, J.L., Gates, G.J., & Brown, T.N.T. (June 2016). *How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States?* Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

FINDINGS

Sexual Victimization, Serious Psychological Distress, and Solitary Segregation by Transgender Status (NIS-3, weighted percentages)

Experience	Trans	Non-Trans
Any assault*	37.0	3.4
Assault by staff*	18.4	2.0
Injury from staff assault	12.5	12.2
Assault by inmate*	27.7	1.8
Consensual sex with inmate*	24.2	2.8
Assault before age 18*	41.1	9.9
Serious mental health (K6)*	45.5	18.6
Solitary segregation*	28.2	18.2

* Indicates a statistically significant difference

IMPLICATIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

- Need to improve gender identity data collection on the National Inmate Survey and include gender identity measures on national federal surveys
- Transgender people are at increased risk of sexual victimization while incarcerated and additional steps need to be taken to ensure their health and safety while incarcerated, with continual evaluation for effectiveness of interventions
- Future research needs are vast, with one area of focus being the unique pathways to incarceration for transgender people, including how discrimination and stigma may contribute to arrest and incarceration

Contact

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