

# Transgender Elders: Key Statistics and Implications for Housing Providers

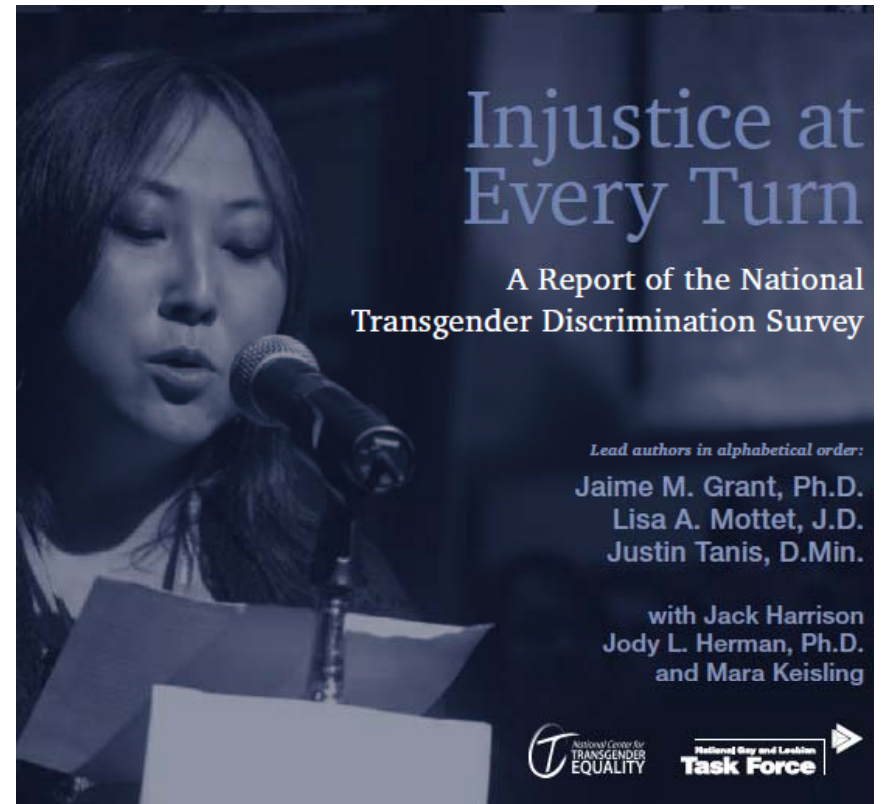
**Loree Cook-Daniels**

FORGE Transgender Aging Network

December 2011

# Statistics sources

- NCTE 2011 *Injustice at Every Turn*; largest transgender survey to date  
(N=6,450)



# Statistics sources

□ 2011 *The Aging and Health Report*; NIH and NIA-funded national study of LGBT people 50+

(CAP for Caring and Aging with Pride, the study's original name) (N = 2,560; Tran N = 174)

## The Aging and Health Report

*Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults*

In Care of Professor/Editor, PhD, Susan Lee, PhD,  
Charles J. Smith, PhD, Area Director, PhD, Elena L. Dombrov, PhD,  
Theresa F. Aguilera, MSW, Aggravation, BA, David Perry, PhD



# Statistics sources

3/3



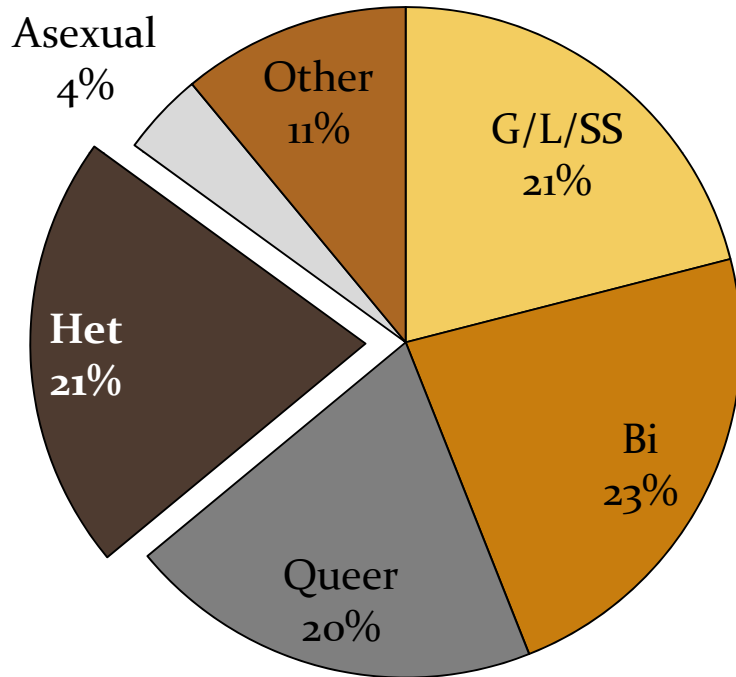
unpublished data



# Sexual orientation

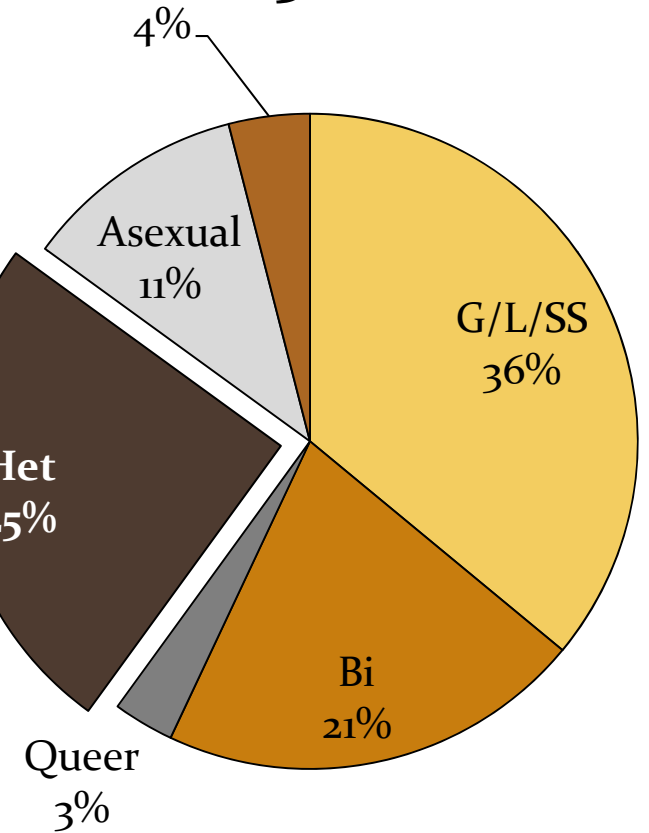
(NCTE)

## Overall



- G/L/SS
- Bi
- Queer
- Het
- Asexual
- Other

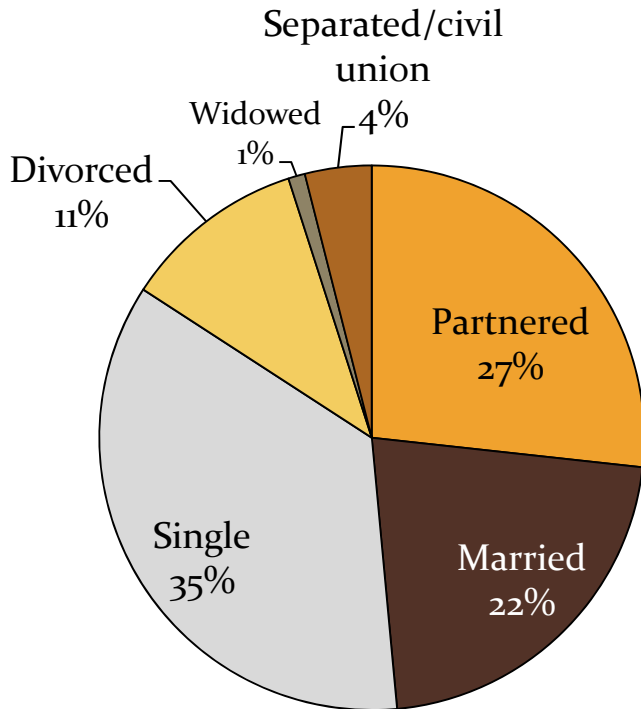
## Other 65+



# Partnership status

(NCTE)

(Overall)



(65+)

Partnered

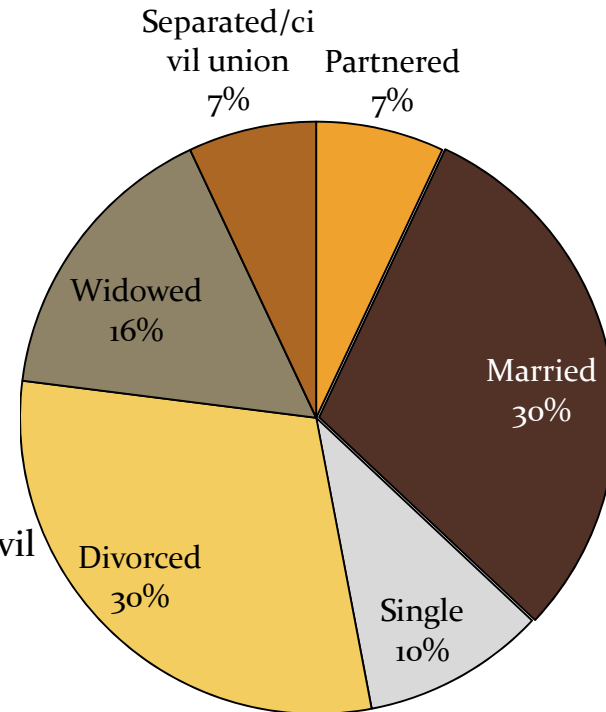
Married

Single

Divorced

Widowed

Separated/civil union



# Implications

- ❑ It's critical to not use language that assumes all LGBT people are "gay" or in "same-sex" couples.
- ❑ Partners may not identify as LGBT, so attention must be paid to language to ensure they feel welcome.
  - ❑ There may be a need to develop policies for addressing *anti-heterosexual* bias among other residents.

# Income issues

(NCTE)

- ❑ BEFORE the recession, trans unemployment rate was *twice as high* as the general public's; the rate for trans people of color was up to *four times as high*
- ❑ 16% of trans people have worked in the underground economy; the rate of African-American transwomen who have engaged in commercial sex work is 44%.

# Income issues

(NCTE)

- “[Transgender people are]...nearly four times more likely to have a household income of less than \$10,000 year [15%] compared to general population [4%].”



- 32% report owning their own home, compared to 67% of the general population

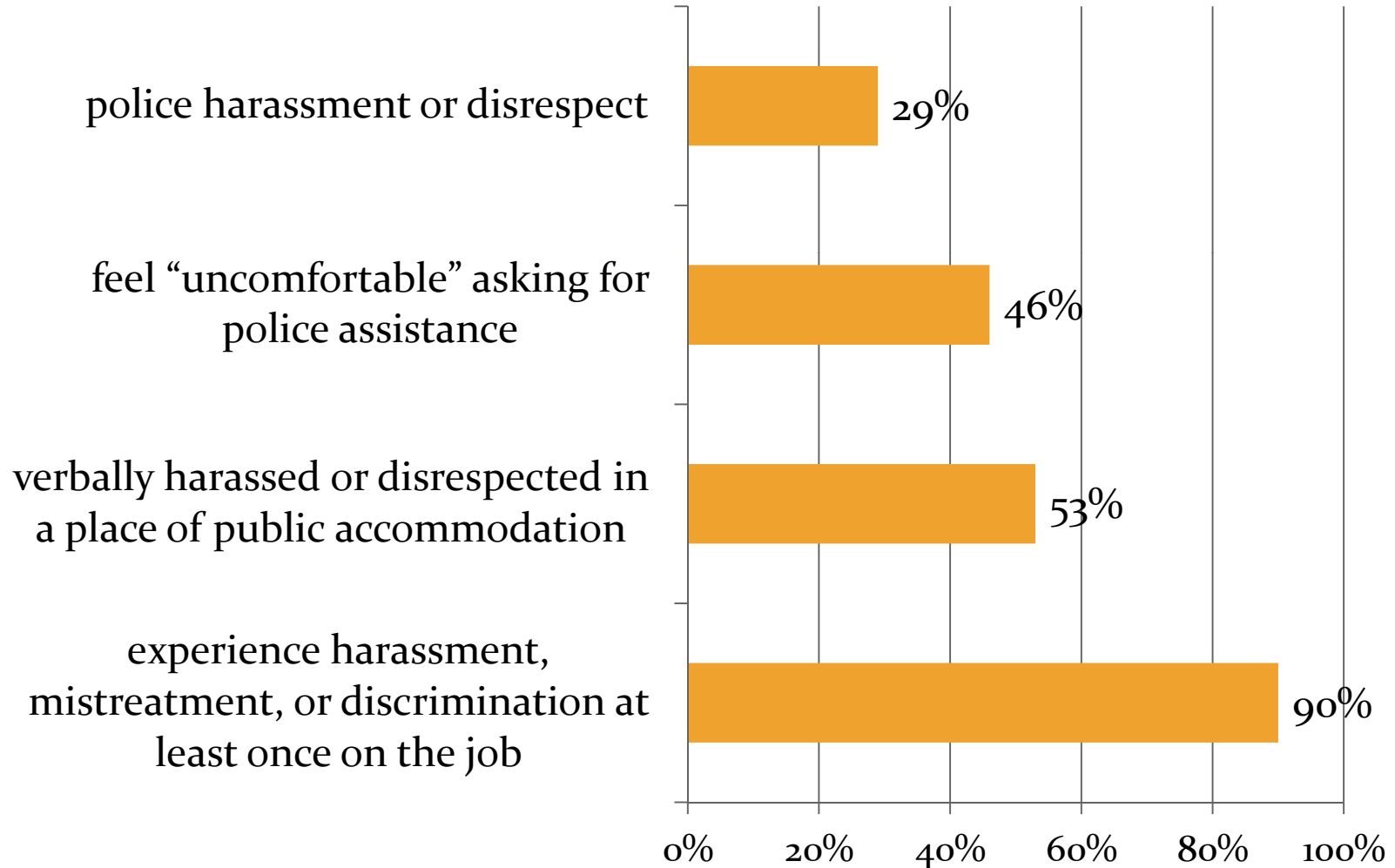
(sample all ages)

# Implications

- ❑ Transgender people will have lower retirement incomes.
- ❑ Many more will be unable to afford market rate housing.
- ❑ Transgender people will have less home equity that can be used for long-term housing.

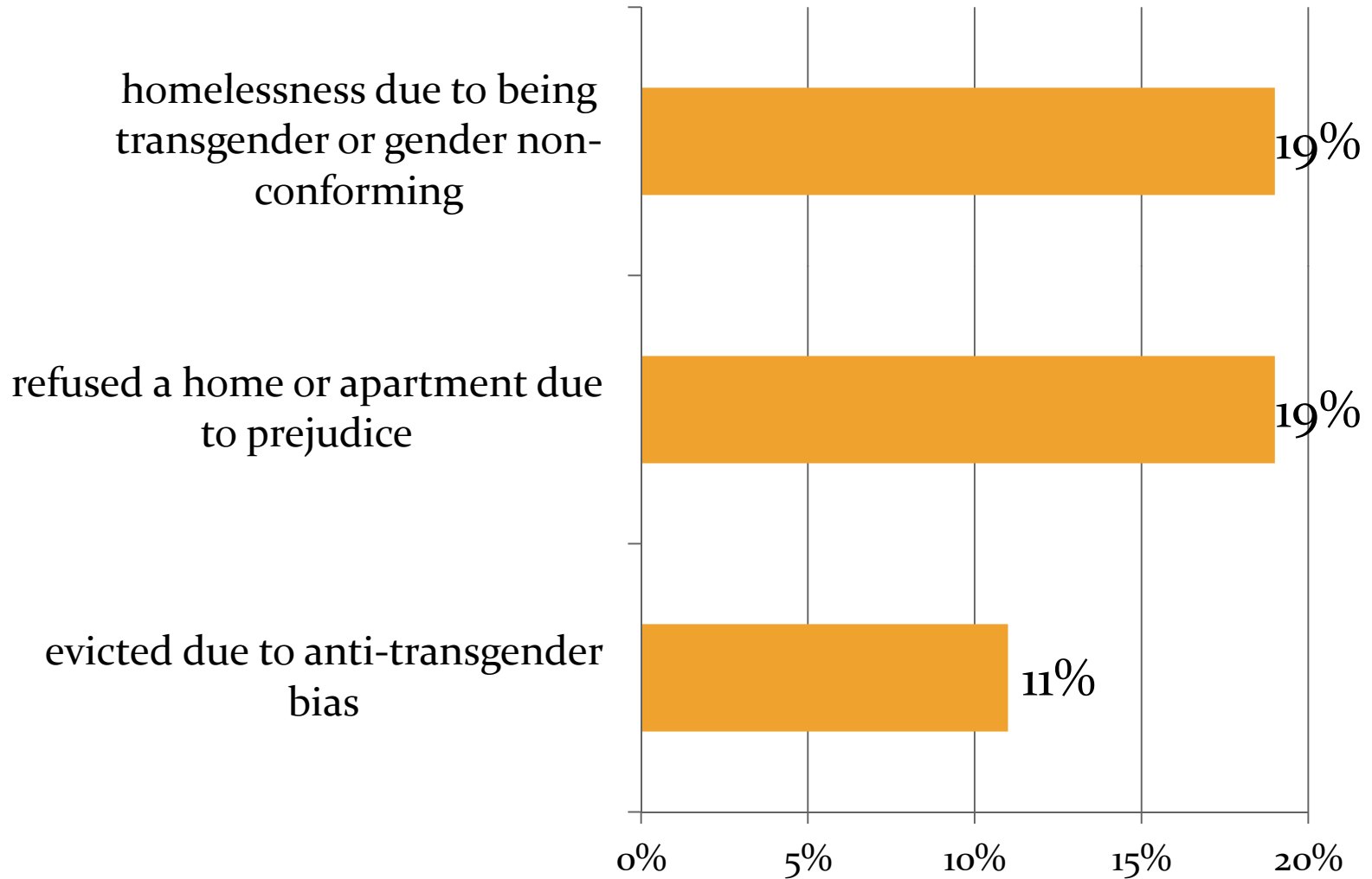
# General discrimination issues

(NCTE)



# General discrimination issues

(NCTE)



# Implications



- Because transgender people experience a tremendous amount of discrimination and prejudice, they may be skeptical of both services providers and congregate settings

# Violence, discrimination and mental health

(various)

- ❑ Violence rates are very high (ex: 50% of transgender people are sexual assault survivors)
- ❑ 41% of transgender people have attempted suicide at some point (NCTE)
- ❑ 48% of CAP transgender respondents depressed, compared to 31% overall LGBT

# Implications

- It will be critical to establish relationships with transgender-savvy mental health professionals.



# Health care discrimination (NCTE)

- ❑ 19% of transgender people report they have at some point been *denied health care* because of their gender identity or expression.
- ❑ 28% have *postponed getting medical care* due to fear of discrimination; 48% have postponed medical care due to cost.
- ❑ Many health insurance companies will not pay for hormones or surgery, and some manage to get out of covering non-trans-related care for transgender enrollees.

# Implications



- ❑ Transgender elders may have more untreated chronic conditions
  - ❑ Some surveys are showing higher disability rates (ex: 31% NCTE, <20% US Census); more physical accessibility requirements?

# Intersectionality

(NCTE)

- ❑ Race, age, HIV+ status, and numerous other cross-cutting identities raise risk factors

Implication: Be aware of cross-cutting issues and ensure your (potential) clients know you are aware.

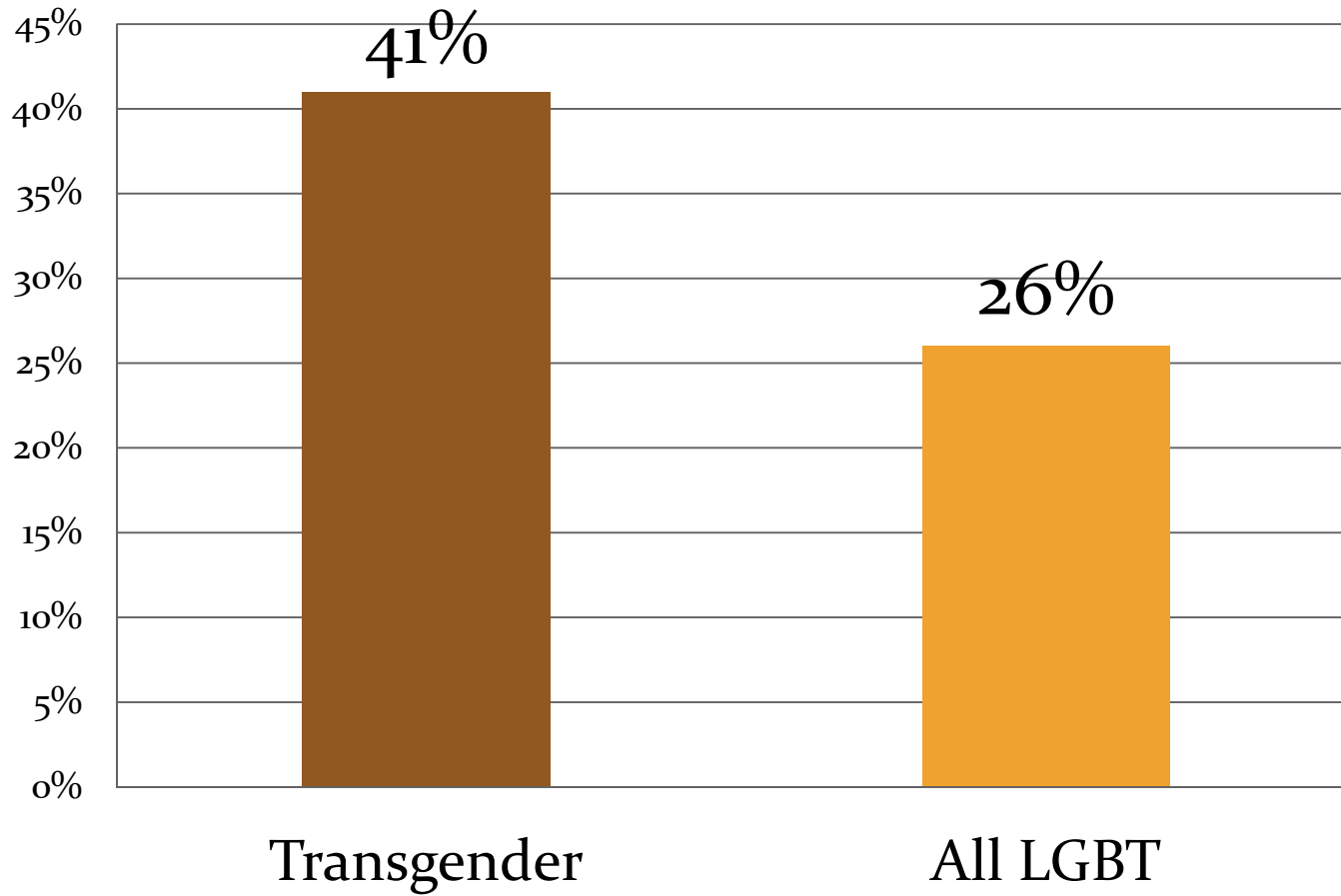


# Other useful things to know



# Military service

(CAP)



# Implications



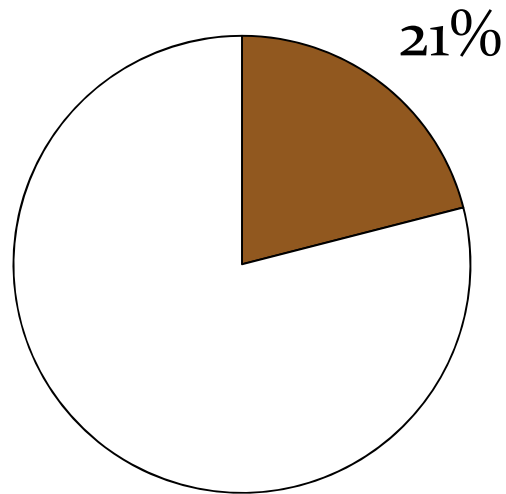
- Providers may want to develop relationships and/or advertise with local VA providers.

# Involuntary outing

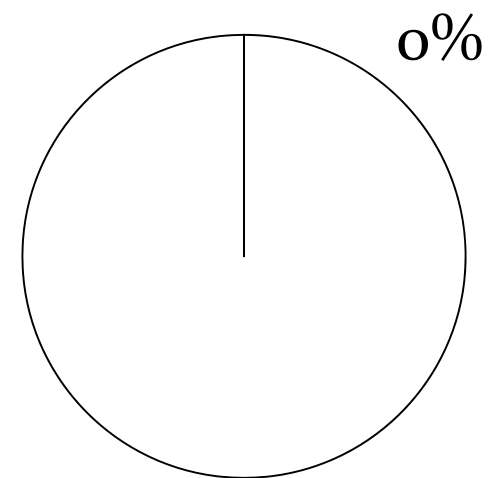
(NCTE)

☐ Risk #1: Unclothed bodies

MTFs 65+ - Genital Surgery



FTMs 65+ - Genital Surgery

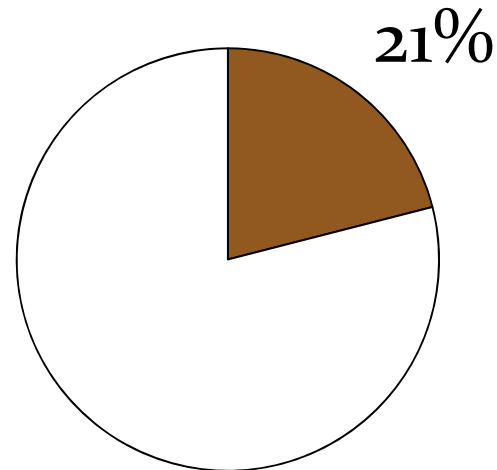


# Involuntary outing

(NCTE)

☐ Risk #2: Mismatched documentation

(Of transitioned people)  
All documentation changed



33% had changed *none* of those records.

# Involuntary outing

- Risk #3: Gossip



# Implications

- ❑ Privacy and confidentiality policies – both what’s written and what’s actually *practiced* – are critical.
- ❑ Staff needs to have clear policies and training on how to handle document discrepancies and body privacy issues.



# Intragroup prejudice

- ❑ There is transphobia and heterosexism within the LGB community.
- ❑ There is homophobia within the T community.
- ❑ There is sexism in every community.
- ❑ There is racism in every community.
- ❑ Bias is everywhere, and often so accepted that it's invisible. (Example: men are dangerous)



# Implications

- ❑ “Bias free zone” policies must be established from the beginning, put in writing and on displayed posters, and be mandated reading for both staff and residents/clients.
- ❑ Both staff and residents/clients should receive training in sensitively addressing bias.

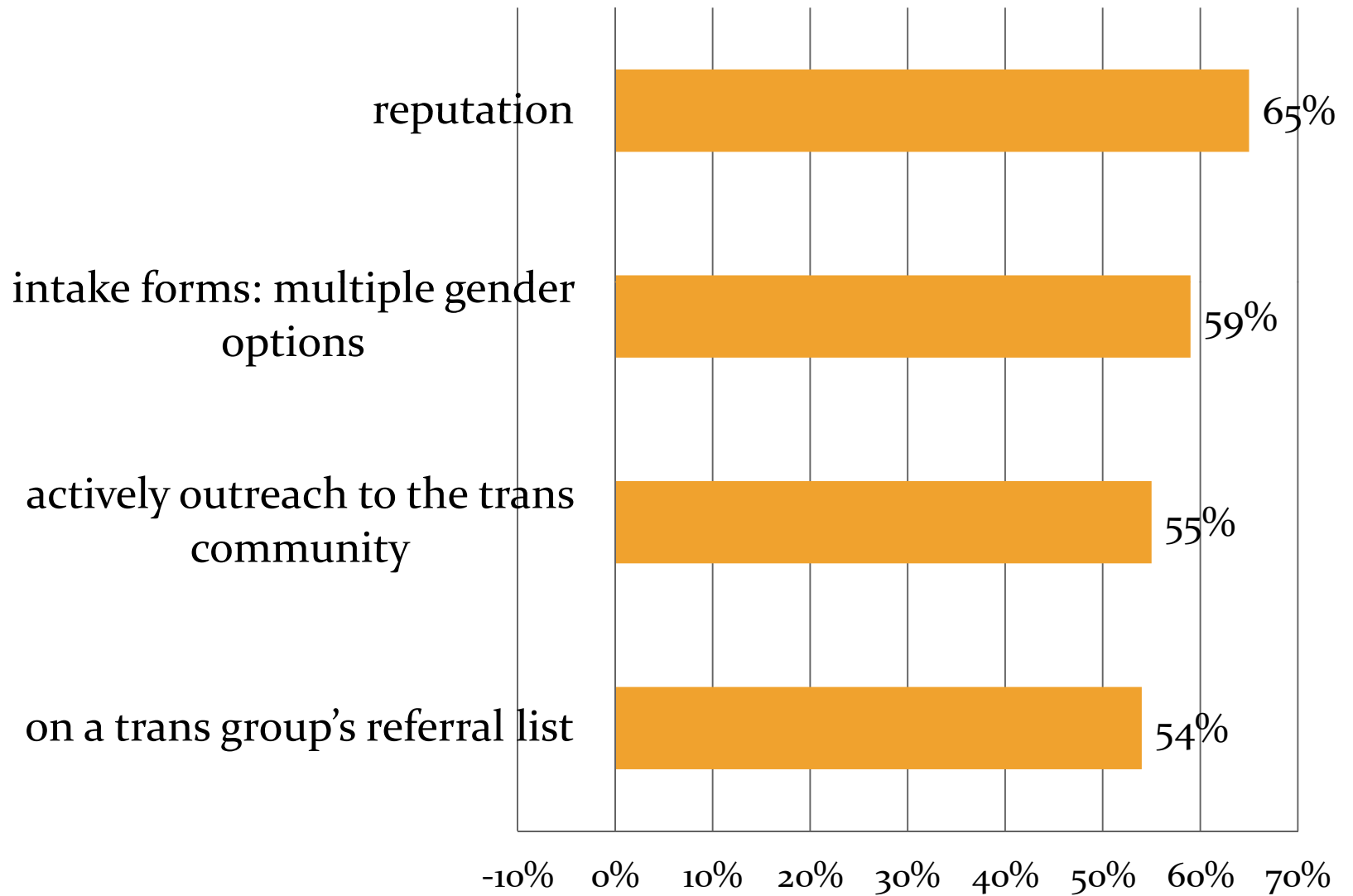


# Implications

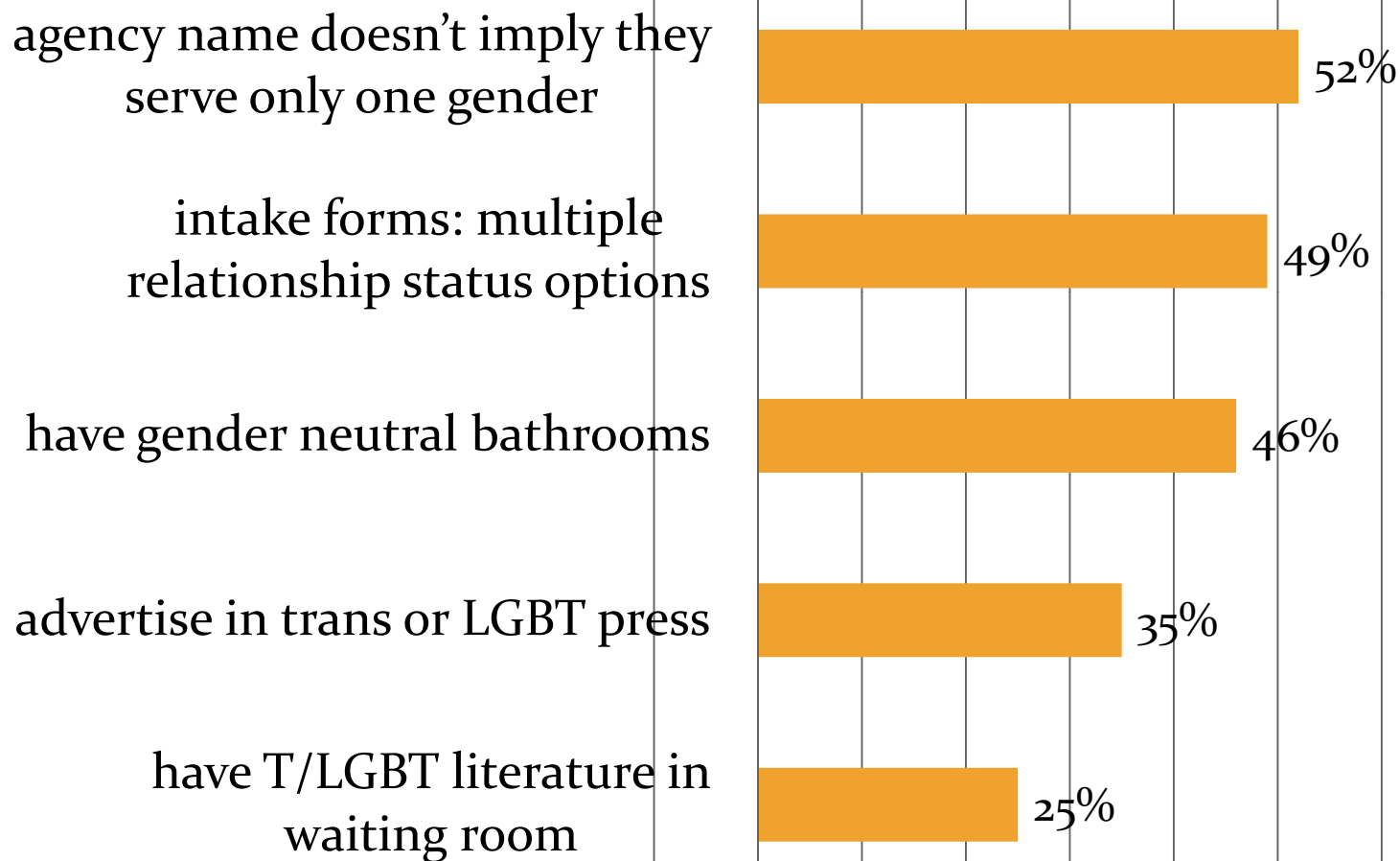
- ❑ Both staff and residents/clients should feel empowered to seek supervisory help with bias incidents.
- ❑ Organizational culture should encourage identification of new/ “invisible” biases.



# What trans people look for <sup>(FORGE)</sup>



# What trans people look for



-10% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%

# Implications

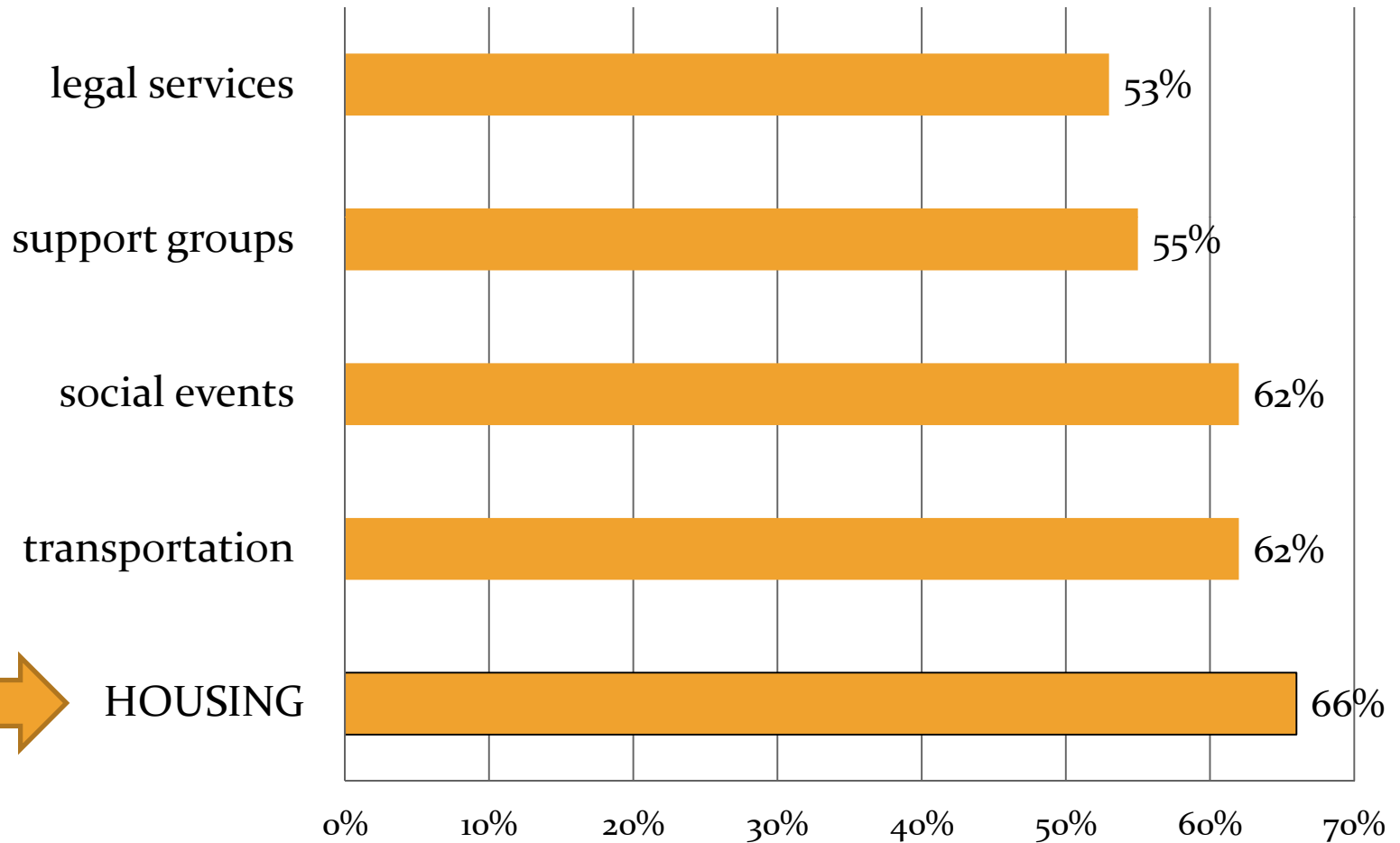
- Get your forms right, then engage very directly with transgender community



# Last word

(CAP)

2560 LGBT Older Adults' Ranking of Needs



# Questions?

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