

“HOUSING INSECURITY SEEMS TO ALMOST GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH BEING TRANS”

Research Results on Housing in the New Orleans
Trans and Gender Non-Conforming (T/GNC) Community*

We interviewed 17 T/GNC people in New Orleans about their experiences with housing, health, stress, and coping.

- 6 identified with transfeminine, 4 with transmasculine, 5 with gender non-conforming, and 2 with other gender identities
- 7 were Black and African Indigenous; 10 were white (including Latinx)
- About half were lower- or working-class; the rest were middle class



*Read the whole research paper:
Glick, J. L., Lopez, A., Pollock, M., & Theall, K. P. (2019). “Housing Insecurity Seems to Almost Go Hand in Hand with Being Trans”: Housing Stress among Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Individuals in New Orleans. *Journal of Urban Health*, 1-9.

Questions?
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1. HOUSING INSECURITY AND HOMELESSNESS ISSUES SPECIFIC TO THE COMMUNITY

- All but one person had personal experience with homelessness or housing insecurity.
- Respondents reported discrimination from employers and landlords as well as workplace harassment. These issues often result in working low-wage jobs, unstable employment, and limited access to secure housing.

"My **employment** options are limited. Either based on **discrimination** of the person hiring or just my own anxiety about passing at work, it makes it hard for me to stay with a job."

-28-year-old, white, femme woman

2. INTERSECTING OBSTACLES FUEL CYCLES OF HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

"Most trans people I know have been homeless in some way, but, the trans masculine people have had more stable housing. I think it's because of **trans-misogyny**...I guess it's also a **class** thing."

- 26-year-old, Black, agender/bigender individual

INTERCONNECTED OBSTACLES:

- Family rejection from young age
- Employer & workplace discrimination
- Rising cost of rent after Hurricane Katrina
- Lack of affordable housing available due to gentrification and short-term rentals (Airbnb)
- Low minimum wage
- High cost / unavailability of healthy food
- Unreliable public transportation system
- Insufficient housing assistance resources
- High cost of education
- Post-Disaster setting
- Societal racism, classism, transphobia, sexism



REPORTED OUTCOMES:

- Poor hygiene and health
- Hunger / malnutrition
- Chronic housing insecurity and/or homelessness
 - Hard to find housing without proof of residence
- Violence victimization
- HIV exposure / diagnosis
- Chronic financial insecurity
 - Hard to find work without a permanent address
 - Well-paying jobs often require high-level degree

3. COPING, RESILIENCE, & POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS FROM THE T/GNC COMMUNITY

COPING & SURVIVAL STRATEGIES:

- Social support from family of origin & queer family structures
- Crowd-funding for financial support
- Living with others in the T/GNC community
- Substance use
- Sex work and riskier sexual practices

LONGER-TERM SOLUTIONS:

- Funding for T/GNC lead housing collectives
- Public education on T/GNC community issues
- Support for equitable laws
- Elimination of transphobic societal attitudes & actions

"What could help more than anything is giving **funding** and opportunity to not just individual trans people, but **collectives of non-gender-conforming people** who...not only need housing but...**community**. I've seen a lot of those communities try to form and then they're pushed out by rent going up or shi**y landlords being **transphobic**. Getting spaces that are **owned by the community, ...for the community**, and not for profit."

-26-year-old, white, non-binary individual

- In an already vulnerable community, many T/GNC people are struggling for resources while simultaneously supporting others- this perpetuates financial vulnerability. New Orleans, and other cities, need a systematic response to support all residents, coupled with T/GNC focused interventions

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?
CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL NOLA AGENCIES:

LGBT Community Center
BreakOUT!

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
Operation Restoration

Women With A Vision
Jane's Place