



TRANS POWER & RESILIENCE

The Impact of COVID-19 In Trans, Gender
Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI)
Communities in Los Angeles County



Prepared by The Trans Latin@ Coalition
& Dept of Chicana/o & Latina/o Studies at Cal State LA

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ABOUT THE TRANSLATIN@ COALITION



The TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC) was founded in 2009 by a group of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming and Intersex (TGI) immigrant women in Los Angeles, California, as a grassroots response to address the specific needs of TGI Latin@ immigrants who live in the United States.

Our Mission

The mission of The TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC) is to advocate for the specific needs of the Trans Latin@ community that resides in the U.S.A. and to plan strategies that improve our quality of life.

Read more on our website

<https://www.translatinacoalition.org>

ABOUT CAL STATE LA CHICANA/O & LATINA/O STUDIES



The Department of Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies (CLS) offers an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum that includes courses in education, health sciences, history, literature, political science, psychology, art and culture (e.g., Mesoamerican, Mexican, Latina(o), and Central American). The cross-fertilization of inter-related disciplines in the humanities and social sciences establishes a comprehensive educational background for students who seek excellence in scholarship, and who aim to succeed in careers in education, law, non-profit organizations, and, among other fields and occupations, medicine and government agencies.

Read more on our website

<https://www.calstatela.edu/academic/cls>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This executive summary provides an overview of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Trans, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) people in Los Angeles County. The pandemic has exacerbated existing disparities in healthcare, employment, mental health, and social support systems, disproportionately affecting an already vulnerable population. The summary highlights key areas of impact and suggests potential avenues for addressing these challenges. TGI Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in Los Angeles County have faced unique challenges.

Extensive evidence highlights the resilience of the TGI community (Padron & Salcedo, 2013; Caraves & Salcedo, 2016). Since the arrival of colonizers, across the process of indoctrination, and into the present era, persistent efforts have been made to erase the presence of TGI communities. Nonetheless, TGI people persist through challenges and societal inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic exemplified one of those social circumstances that exacerbated the specific needs and challenges faced by these communities in Los Angeles County. Presently, TGI people find themselves positioned at the lower echelons of the social conditions spectrum they encounter.



MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES:

Isolation, fears of infection, and reduced social support networks took a toll on the mental health of TGI people. The lack of safe spaces and discrimination within families or communities intensified feelings of loneliness and depression. Preexisting mental health disparities were exacerbated, underscoring the need for tailored mental health services.

Furthermore, our recommendations outline a comprehensive approach to improving the well-being and resilience of TGI communities in Los Angeles County. This report emphasizes the importance of explicitly including TGI professionals and experts in emergency response plans, developing guidelines and protocols, and collaborating with TGI community organizations to address their unique needs during crises. We must train emergency responders, healthcare providers, and public servants to serve and interact with TGI people sensitively.

The report highlights the need to acknowledge and address the collective trauma experienced by TGI communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. It recommends investing in mental health services, fostering a sense of connectedness, and allocating resources to promote the overall well-being of TGI Angelenos. Additionally, we call for more data collection and sharing efforts to identify disparities and inform evidence-based policies. Lastly, the report emphasizes the importance of comprehensive TGI research, collaboration with diverse stakeholders, and meaningful funding for TGI-led organizations to create positive change in the lives of TGI people in Los Angeles County, emphasizing the need for intentional investment in services targeting TGI communities.





HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES:

TGI patients faced increased barriers to accessing healthcare services during the pandemic. Many experienced disruptions in hormone therapy and gender-affirming care due to clinic closures and supply chain interruptions. The lack of culturally competent care, combined with the fear of discrimination, deterred TGI patients from seeking essential medical assistance.



ECONOMIC CHALLENGES:

The pandemic's economic fallout disproportionately affected TGI workers, as many worked in industries most impacted by lockdowns, such as hospitality and retail. Job losses and reduced working hours led to financial instability, making it difficult to afford basic necessities and gender-affirming care. Limited access to government relief programs further compounded economic hardships.



LEGAL CHALLENGES:

Many court systems faced delays and backlogs during the pandemic due to closures and restrictions. TGI residents awaiting legal proceedings related to name and gender marker changes on identification documents or discrimination cases experienced extended waiting times and cancellations. TGI immigrants or refugees face delayed legal proceedings, causing financial stress for families and individuals depending on legal status, identification, and work permits.



LACK OF FUNDING TO TGI-LED ORGANIZATIONS:

The lack of funding for TGI-led organizations exacerbates the inequities faced by TGI communities. These organizations play a crucial role in advocating for the rights, well-being, and visibility of TGI people, who encountered disproportionate rates of discrimination and hardship during the pandemic. It is important that we address funding disparities and invest in organizations that are best equipped to serve these communities.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted TGI people, exacerbating existing disparities and vulnerabilities. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that encompasses healthcare, economic empowerment, mental health support, digital inclusion, advocacy, and social support networks. By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can work toward a more equitable and inclusive recovery for this marginalized community.

INTRODUCTION

In this study, The TransLatin@ Coalition engaged Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) People Of Color (POC) across Los Angeles County to better understand how COVID-19 impacted them. Los Angeles County is home to over 10 million people, with an estimated 28,890 adults identifying as TGI (Williams Institute and the US Census). Given the racial/ethnic make-up of the county, we estimate that over 21,000 identify as TGI people of color (Latinx, Black/African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and/or Arab/Middle Eastern). TGI people of color share many of the same needs and characteristics as their cisgender women counterparts – they face challenges related to sexism, racism, xenophobia, and homophobia that limit their opportunities to thrive economically. TGI people also face family rejection, which can lead to developmental trauma disorder or complex post-traumatic stress disorder. TGI people aside from family rejection also experience transphobia, which impedes their advancement and makes day-to-day survival much more tenuous. Indeed, among the 3,453 California respondents of a national study on Transgender discrimination (U.S. Transgender Survey):



15%

of respondents were unemployed (compared to 5% of the general public)

33%

were living in poverty (compared to 12% of the general public).

15%

of respondents who had ever been employed reported losing a job in their lifetime because of their gender identity or expression

26%

of those who held or applied for a job during the past year reported being fired, being denied a promotion, or not being hired for a job they applied for because of their gender identity or expression.

Respondents who had a job in the past year reported being verbally harassed (13%), physically attacked (1%), and sexually assaulted (2%) at work because of their gender identity or expression.

The full report also found that the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent, structural racism was especially devastating, with people of color faring worse in almost all categories of discrimination compared to white participants. Undocumented individuals were disproportionately living in poverty (69%), unemployed (49%), and more likely to participate in the underground economy (38%), including sex work and exchanging drugs for money. Because of transphobia in the workplace, many Transgender people are forced to work in the underground economy, with one in five (20%) overall respondents having participated in the underground economy for income at some point in their lives. This was especially true for Transwomen of color, including Black (44%), American Indian (41%), multiracial (38%), and Latina (30%) respondents. Most alarming is that this study was conducted pre-pandemic. COVID-19 and the resulting economic shutdown have further exacerbated the economic struggles of many sub-populations of women, including those who identify as POC, immigrants, and Trans or GNC.

Although great strides have been made recently related to TGI awareness, typically, Transwomen are still excluded from “women’s services,” either intentionally or unintentionally. Even when organizations implement policies and practices to be more inclusive, Transwomen are often reluctant to access cisgender-focused services, given their history of experiencing overt and covert transphobia. Moreover, Transgender-specific services, while a great benefit to many, often do not do enough to address the multiple needs of the community in a



culturally competent manner. For example, many such services are focused exclusively on HIV prevention and/or on “downstream” problems rather than “upstream” solutions. For many of the same reasons that it is difficult to recruit Transwomen/GNC people of color into services, it is also difficult to ensure that their voices and perspectives are adequately captured in community assessment projects.

Funding from the California Commission on Women and Girls was utilized to specifically support the engagement of TGIPOC in identifying and documenting the economic impact of COVID-19 on them and their communities. With this research, we present community-based solutions related to COVID-19 recovery and resilience for TGI communities in Los Angeles County.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

RECRUITMENT

We conducted targeted outreach through various channels, including social media platforms, community organizations, and healthcare institutions to reach potential participants. These outreach efforts used culturally sensitive and inclusive language to engage a diverse range of TGI participants, ensuring that representation of a broad spectrum of backgrounds and experiences be present within the community..

We implemented a screening process to assess participants' eligibility based on predefined criteria. This screening process included initial phone conversations or online surveys to gather demographic information and ascertain the potential of participants. Additionally, participant referrals and word-of-mouth promotion were encouraged to maximize recruitment efforts. Incentives and compensation were offered to participants to acknowledge their valuable contribution to the research study, enhancing the likelihood of their participation and commitment. Overall, this comprehensive recruitment methodology created a diverse and engaged participant pool.

Recruitment for this study took place in Southern California via flyers - these flyers were distributed in cities with an established relationship with TransLatin@ Coalition and via social media (See Appendix A). In these chosen cities, focus groups took place in May 2023. The research team administered surveys to each participant, which consisted of 14 questions and were available in English and Spanish (See Appendix B). The intended purpose of the survey was to collect general background information on the participants. Once the survey was collected, the interview followed.

There were 10 focus groups which were composed of 10 to 12 participants each, with a total of 55

RESEARCH PROCESS

The TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC) and the Department of Chicana(o)/Latina(o) Studies (CLS) at Cal State Los Angeles collaborated on addressing the impact of COVID-19 in the TGI community in Los Angeles County. The questions created were designed to highlight the experiences of TGI people during the pandemic. This study specifically targeted individuals over the age of 18 who identify as Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, or Intersex (TGI). The research team distributed surveys and conducted interviews with the TGI community in Southern California.



participants. The focus groups took place in El Monte, Long Beach, San Fernando Valley, and the Central West Side. As mentioned, in these cities, there are organizations with a history of collaborating with The TransLatin@ Coalition, including Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach, Somos Familia Valle in the San Fernando Valley, and Connie Norman Trans Empowerment Center (CONOTEC) in Los Angeles. The TransLatin@ Coalition solidified locations for the focus group interviews to take place. Consent was given orally by research participants.

Audio recordings were collected for each focus group interview. They were transcribed, coded, and analyzed by the research team. This study holds the findings of all 10 focus group interviews.

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

To truly understand the impact of COVID-19, we must hear the testimonies of our community members. The interviews we conducted were extremely fruitful and, at times, painful but very necessary.

MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES:

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic extend beyond the immediate health concerns. It also brought to light various social and mental health issues, highlighting the importance of resilience, adaptability, and preparedness in communities and healthcare systems. It's important to recognize that

addressing substance abuse and its underlying causes requires a holistic approach. This includes providing access to mental health services, and addiction treatment programs, and creating a supportive community environment. It also emphasizes the need for systemic support to ensure that individuals don't fall through the cracks during times of crisis.

“Many of our community fell into drugs to cope with our feelings. COVID put me in situations that drove me back to drugs, and I ended up at the hospital. I could not get access to my community as my family was not there.”



As one of the participants shared, “I was definitely seeking out a community and time and, just like, wanted to integrate myself into the social scene of the community. And so the pandemic sort of took those opportunities off the table. Just to sort of be able to socialize and meet people and then also to not be on campus... I can remember that feeling of isolation and not being able to, like, get out and interact with folks.” The lockdowns, social distancing measures, travel restrictions, and the fear of contracting the virus led to people feeling extremely isolated. While some people had their families or partners to share the lockdown with, many others did not. Some TGI people faced family exclusion and the lack of opportunities for employment, which led to further isolation, depression, and anxiety.

HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

TGI patients faced multiple forms of healthcare discrimination during the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the intersection of at least two to three marginalized identities: being HIV+, Trans, and POC, they faced multiple hurdles. All of these identities can lead to discrimination and stigmatization, and dealing with them simultaneously compounds these challenges. Accessing medical care was a major issue. Many TGI patients face discrimination and a lack of understanding from healthcare providers, which hinders their access to necessary care. Additionally, people living with HIV require ongoing medical attention, and disruptions in healthcare systems during the pandemic made it harder for them to access regular check-ups and treatments. People living with HIV rely on antiretroviral medications. Interruptions or difficulties in obtaining these medications lead to serious health consequences. For many, the pandemic disrupted the supply

“It was a really hard time being HIV+ and Trans. Trying to get medical care and medications was a big challenge during COVID.”

chain and led to restrictions on healthcare services, making it harder for them to obtain their necessary medications.

Another factor that made it difficult to access healthcare was that often government names on identification did not match the identity of the TGI person. As one community member said, “The deadname I had on my COVID card was different from the one I had on my new name documents, so getting back into society was hard.”

Still, another situation highlighted the halt that occurred to services in progress. For example, one participant had their gender-affirming surgery put on hold because of the pandemic. They said, “So it was scheduled and everything. But they said because of the outbreak, there kept being more outbreaks. It just kept being put off for another month and another month. And eventually, I just never followed up with it. But it was approved and everything.” Another individual agreed, saying, “The pandemic kind of felt like apocalyptic long-term care, like just like the amount of isolation [was unbearable.]” During the COVID-19 pandemic, some medical facilities postponed or canceled non-essential procedures, which included gender-affirming surgeries. This delay in care had significant physical and psychological effects on TGI patients.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES:

We must consider the importance of proactive and compassionate measures for addressing access and economic sustainability within our society, especially for the most vulnerable populations. We need comprehensive support systems that can address immediate needs while also addressing the underlying factors contributing to homelessness. We need policies and regulations to address the maltreatment of marginalized groups.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, there was a lack of empathy, effective communication, and



systematic planning to ensure that individuals facing adversity received the assistance and dignity they deserved. Our collective responsibility is to create a more inclusive and supportive society.

Some community members faced exclusion and discrimination when attempting to access food at a food bank. They were turned away because they were not part of a family. This policy is discriminatory, as it denies food to individuals who are in desperate need. Food banks exist to address food insecurity, and they typically aim to serve individuals and families in need. This lack of empathy can deter people from seeking help when they most need it and perpetuates the stigma associated with seeking assistance from food banks and other sources of support. One can only assume that not only

was the food bank discriminating against individuals who did not have a heteronormative family unit but also may have likely been discriminating against this person because they were trans. As another participant shared, “The TGI community did not have the familial support that many cisgender people had during COVID because we were already pushed away from our families.”

“When trying to access food at food banks, I was told that I couldn’t get food. It was for families only, so I was told no and turned away. I never went back.”

LEGAL CHALLENGES:

One research participant reported, “COVID legally impacted me with my immigration status because of my permit expiring. I saw someone faint in front of me at my job and die of COVID-19. I lost 5 people that I know directly from COVID.” The quote encapsulates the profound and multifaceted impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the individual's life. The expiration of their permit due to the pandemic

“COVID legally impacted me with my immigration status because of my permit expiring. I saw someone faint in front of me at my job and die of COVID-19. I lost 5 people that I know directly from COVID.”

underscores the intricate ways in which the crisis has intersected with immigration status, creating additional challenges in an already trying time. The personal experience of witnessing a tragic incident at work, where someone fainted and succumbed to COVID-19, highlights the devastating toll the virus has taken on both physical health and emotional well-being. The mention of losing five individuals within their direct circle to the virus speaks to the heart-wrenching scale of loss that many have had to grapple with during the pandemic. This quote powerfully underscores the far-reaching consequences of the pandemic, touching on legal, emotional, and human dimensions that have left a mark on the individual's life.

LACK OF FUNDING TO TGI-LED ORGANIZATIONS:

TGI-led organizations have proved themselves to best meet the needs of their own communities, especially given that many of the obstacles that TGI communities face, TGI leaders have experienced and overcome. There is resonance, cultural intuition, and trust when leadership resembles the community being served. However, TGI-led organizations face a lack of funding and support. Therefore, they are often faced with the difficult situation of not being able to meet the needs of the communities they serve. It is fundamental that TGI-led organizations that already exist receive priority for funding opportunities that lead to TGI-community services. It is also necessary that more TGI experts be given the opportunity to speak and lead in spaces that do not usually include TGI people. As was noted by TGI leaders, “It is imperative that Trans-led organizations be funded adequately in times of crisis. These are sanctuaries and, in many cases, the sole place of refuge for such a vulnerable population. It is just the right thing to do.

“Through this process, we have learned from the community that there needs to be an intentional investment in TGI people. Participants presented several issues that are important to be addressed by our elected officials. Public servants have a responsibility to support all people, and TGI people are part of our society. We urge our local governments to take the issues presented seriously and intentionally allocate the resources needed to uplift the livelihood of TGI people who reside in Los Angeles County.”

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, the interviews we conducted provided an invaluable perspective on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Trans, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) community members of Los Angeles County. These testimonies reveal the intersectional challenges faced by TGI people during this crisis. From healthcare disparities and economic challenges to legal hurdles and mental health struggles, the pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities and inequities that persist in our society.

The stories shared by community members illustrate the obstacles encountered in accessing healthcare, exacerbated by discrimination, legal bureaucracies, and disruptions in medical care. Gender-affirming surgeries, a vital aspect of many TGI peoples' lives, were postponed, resulting in both physical and psychological consequences. These narratives highlight the urgent need for inclusive and empathetic healthcare systems that prioritize the well-being of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or HIV status.

Mental health struggles emerged as a pervasive issue, with isolation, substance abuse, and the inability to access supportive communities taking a toll on the well-

being of TGI individuals. The pandemic's restrictions left many feeling isolated and anxious, emphasizing the importance of social connections and mental health support.

Economic challenges were magnified as homelessness and food insecurity intersected with systemic barriers, stigma, and individual discrimination. The lack of support systems and policies tailored to the needs of TGI people left many without the assistance and dignity they deserved. Discriminatory practices deepened the struggles faced by TGI individuals, perpetuating stigma and exclusion.

Legal challenges further compounded the difficulties, with immigration status and work permit expirations adding layers of complexity to an already challenging time. Name changes, acquiring legal identification, and bringing to light any legal wrongings were halted by the pandemic.

While TGI-led organizations stepped to the front to address the needs of TGI people during the pandemic, their resources were depleted and must be renewed and increased. They provided support groups, mental health resources, community outreach, and vaccine advocacy. Some TGI people benefited, but many others did not receive any services. Thus, there is a need for more funding and more TGI leaders across the board.

In these testimonies, we find a call to action. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the downfalls of our society, revealing where we must do better. It is our collective responsibility to create a more inclusive and supportive society, one that addresses the unique needs of the TGI community. This includes dismantling discriminatory practices, enhancing access to healthcare, providing economic stability, and prioritizing mental health support.

The resilience demonstrated by the TGI community in the face of these challenges is a testament to the strength of the human spirit. As we move forward, let us remember these voices from the community. Their stories must inspire us to build a more compassionate, equitable, and resilient world for all.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon completing the study, the research team identified recommendations that would ensure a more inclusive and supportive environment for TGI people.

1. Inclusion in Emergency Response Plans:

Include Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) communities explicitly in updated governmental emergency response plans. Develop guidelines and protocols to ensure the unique needs and vulnerabilities of the TGI population are addressed during crises. Collaborate with TGI community organizations to gather insights and best practices for effective inclusion in these efforts.

2. Assess Readiness and Capacity Building:

Evaluate county systems' readiness to engage with TGI communities effectively to better their quality of life, especially as we continue with the COVID-19 pandemic. Develop and implement capacity-building programs and curricula to train emergency responders, healthcare providers, and public servants on culturally sensitive and inclusive approaches when interacting with TGI people.

3. Collective Trauma Assessment:

It is important to understand that historically, the TGI community has experienced trauma in many different ways by institutions that we have in our society as well as people in general. COVID-19 is not the exception. We recommend that there is an intentional investment in the lives of TGI people and that our elected officials acknowledge and address the collective trauma experienced by TGI communities during the COVID-19 lockdown and service closures and develop trauma-informed supportive programs that offer mental and behavioral health services, counseling, and TGI community spaces to foster healing and resilience.

4. Enhance Cultural Competence:

Allocate funding to enhance cultural competence within hospitals and clinical settings funded by the county. Offer training to healthcare professionals to ensure respectful, sensitive, and affirming care for TGI patients; thus reducing health disparities and improving overall well-being.

5. Gender Identity Data Collection and Sharing:

Data collection is one of the things that most impact TGI people as there is very little data that speaks about the specific needs of TGI people, especially as we are going through the COVID-19 pandemic. We recommend that there is a county-wide effort to collect and share gender identity data on an annual basis and generate a report on the findings. This data and reporting will help identify disparities, guide resource allocation, and inform evidence-based policies that positively impact TGI communities.

6. Invest in Well-being and Resilience:

Invest in mental health services, including the arts, and create TGI community-led programs, and allocate needed resources that promote the overall well-being of TGI people. Fast-track programs that foster a sense of connectedness, provide coping strategies, and build resilience; thus empowering TGI community members to navigate and address interpersonal and family challenges that may cause trauma in TGI communities.

7. Comprehensive TGI Research:

Support ongoing, comprehensive research that focuses on the TGI community, including transmasculine individuals and nonbinary persons. Ensure that research efforts are led by TGI-serving organizations who can partner with academic institutions and ensure that there is community participatory research that involves the community from beginning to end and that TGI people are involved throughout the process. Research should be inclusive of the diversity of the TGI community, including disabled people and multiple ethnic groups.

8. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement:

Engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including community leaders, organizations, and individuals from the TGI community. Adopt a co-development approach to create policies and programs that are responsive to the community's needs and priorities. Ensuring a collaborative effort will ensure that there is a collective effort in addressing the needs, issues, and hopes of TGI people in LA County.

9. Funding Trans-Led Organizations:

In order to address the multiplicity of needs of the local TGI community, there must be a meaningful and intentional investment in TGI people in Los Angeles. We recommend that our local government allocate meaningful and intentional funding to TGI organizations to create and implement programming. This is the only way that we are going to move TGI people from a deficit way of life into creating TGI lives that are fruitful. TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, and we must understand that when we invest in people and we provide opportunity, people's lives change. The lives of TGI people are not going to change if our local government does not invest in the lives of TGI people.

10. Developing an effective and accessible strategy for continued education for TGI communities of color:

During the course of this study, participants expressed the need to address accessibility needs, the digital divide, language access, and in-person measures to provide preventive materials that will address the needs of TGI people especially those experiencing or impacted by poverty, lack of technological devices, and/or lack of education. The creation of an online and in-person learning hub dedicated to the evolution and care of COVID-19 is essential to keeping communities informed, healthy, and empowered. These centralized online and in-person platforms should be dedicated to providing up-to-date information on the evolution and care of COVID-19. These hubs should offer a range of educational resources, including articles, videos, infographics, webinars, and interactive modules comprising the many languages that make up the racial and ethnic background of Los Angeles County. The platform can be designed to cater to various learning preferences and accessibility needs. They must be designed in multiple languages for true accessibility, especially Spanish, as this is a dominant language spoken in Los Angeles, with 34% of the population speaking it.

We are confident that by implementing these recommendations, Los Angeles County elected officials can take significant steps toward fostering inclusivity, resilience, and equity for TGI Angelenos. These actions will contribute to a more just and supportive environment for TGI people, especially during natural disasters or other emergencies that may arise, which would not impact TGI communities as they have been impacted in times of crisis currently and in the past.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX-A RECRUITMENT FLYERS

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY



We're recruiting for focus groups on the
Impact of COVID on TGNC BIPOC
communities

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF YOU ARE:

- TGI IDENTIFIED
- PERSON OF COLOR
- 18 YEARS OR OLDER
- LIVE IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Compensation will be provided

FOR MORE INFO :

QUEENVICTORIAORTEGA@GMAIL.COM



OPORTUNIDAD PARA SER PARTE DE UNA INVESTIGACION



Estamos reclutando para grupos de
enfoco sobre el impacto de COVID en las
comunidades Transgénero, No-binaria y de
color

PUEDER SER ELEGIBLE SI:

- TE IDENTIFICAS COMO TRANSGÉNERO O
NO- BINARIE
- PERSONA DE COLOR
- 18 AÑOS O MÁS
- VIVE EN EL CONDADO DE LOS ÁNGELES

** Se proporcionará compensación

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN:

QUEENVICTORIAORTEGA@GMAIL.COM



APPENDIX-B

SURVEY

TGI IMPACTS OF COVID PRE-SURVEY

Please fill out this survey to the best of your ability. It will help us know if you are eligible for this study. This is a survey for people who are Trans, Gender Nonconforming, and/or Intersex. It doesn't matter if you have transitioned gender or if you plan to. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

1. Do you think of yourself as a Trans person?
☐ Yes
☐ No
2. Do you identify as more than one gender or as no gender (such as Non-Binary)?
☐ Yes
☐ No
3. Do you identify as Intersex?
☐ Yes
☐ No
4. Are you 18 years old or older?
☐ Yes
☐ No
5. What is your age range?
☐ 18-24 (YOUTH)
☐ 24-44 (ADULT)
☐ 45-64 (MAADULT)
☐ 65-Up (SENIOR)
6. Are you currently living/working/obtaining services in the County of Los Angeles?
☐ Yes
☐ No
7. What is your zip code?

8. What is your ethnic or racial background?

9. Are you currently employed?
☐ Yes
☐ No
10. What is your annual income?
☐ \$0 - \$2,652 (GR)
☐ \$2,653 - \$10,092 (SSI)
☐ \$10,093 - \$12,950 (TAX)
☐ \$12,951 - \$20,121 (MCAL)
☐ \$20,122 - \$27,192 (SNAP)
☐ \$27,193 - \$49,679 (CCSUB)
☐ \$49,680 - \$66,240 (LACDA 60% - 80% AMI)
☐ \$66,241 - UP (MIDDLE CLASS)
11. Are you living with an Autoimmune Disease?
☐ Yes
☐ No
12. If so please list the Autoimmune Disease you are living with?

13. Have you navigated homelessness in the last 3 years?
☐ Yes
☐ No
14. What is your current housing status?

Please provide your contact information

Please enter your initials:_____

E-mail address:_____

Phone number:_____

APPENDIX-C

FOCUS GROUP SESSION

GUIDE AND QUESTIONS

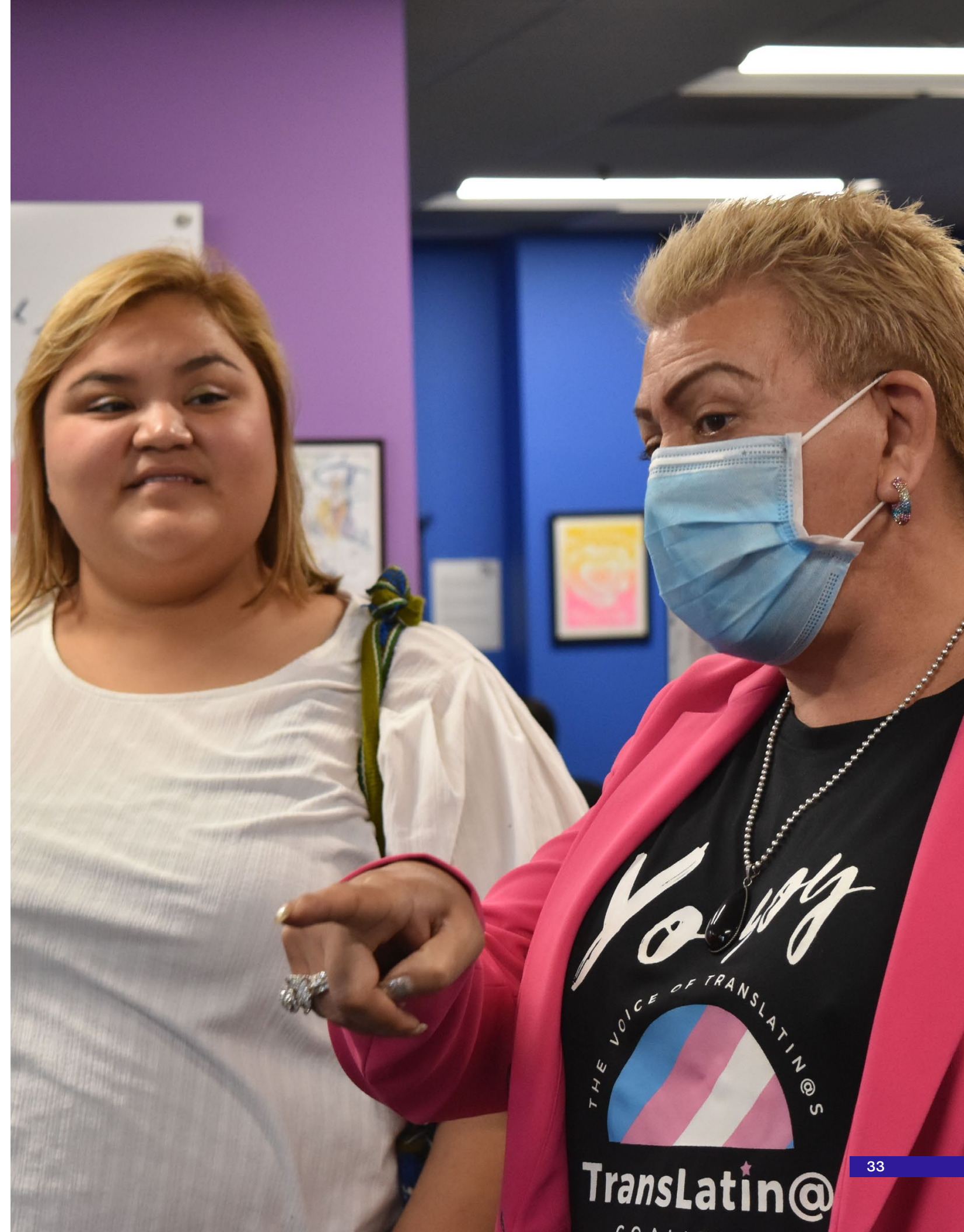
INTRODUCTION

Thank you for coming. The purpose of our focus group is to learn about the impact that COVID-19 has had in Transgender, Gender Nonconforming and Intersex Communities. We will be asking questions about any challenges you have faced, and what types of support systems you have access to or barriers to accessing.

FOCUS GROUP SESSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the largest challenges you have faced during the COVID-19 lockdown?
 - a. Prompts: These may be financial, physical, or emotional. Has being trans made any of these challenges more difficult?
2. Do you feel that COVID-19 impacted your Mental health
 - a. Prompts: Feelings of isolation, loneliness, worry about work, etc.
3. What are some of the services in your area that you were able to go to for support if you needed it during COVID-19?
 - a. Prompts: These could be formal services, such as food banks, or informal community networks. What services might have been missing in your area?
4. Did you try to access services or information about COVID-19 or vaccines? Why or why not?
 - a. Prompts: Did you go to a service organization or the Department of Health?
5. What was the experience like when you accessed any services or during COVID-19?
 - a. Prompts: Trans-related services, HIV, surgery referrals, or COVID-19 services
6. What would make accessing services or information about COVID-19 and support networks easier for you in the future?
 - a. Prompts: multilingual translation, later hours, digital access
7. Conclusion and Wrap We've reached the end of our questions. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Do you have any questions for us?

Thank you so much for sharing your experiences with us. What you've shared will help us learn how to improve services for LA's Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex communities.



RELATED STUDIES

Several studies have sought to shed light on the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TGI people. These investigations have explored a wide range of critical aspects, as we have done in this study. The research has delved into the unique challenges faced by this marginalized and resilient population. Additionally, studies have examined the coping mechanisms employed by TGI individuals, shedding light on their extraordinary strength in the face of adversity. As the pandemic continues to evolve, these studies are crucial in informing policies and interventions that can better support and protect our vulnerable community.

For more information, see the studies below.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-COVID19-Apr-2020.pdf>

<https://escholarship.org/content/qt18d3g3w2/qt18d3g3w2.pdf>

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Pop-Update-Jun-2022.pdf>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37519919/>

<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/epdf/10.1089/trgh.2016.0024>

<https://gender.stanford.edu/news/impact-covid-19-pandemic-transgender-community-and-what-you-can-do-about-it>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1475-6773.13229>

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Parole-Apr-2023.pdf>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37115277/>

https://escholarship.org/content/qt37b617z8/qt37b617z8noSplash_4b0b58d8b1dc638982abf3279abda10e.pdf

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0141076817696054>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64795/>

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Caraves, J. & Salcedo, B. (2016). The State of Trans Health: Trans Latin@s and Their Healthcare Needs. <https://www.translatinacoalition.org/blog/2016/11/29/the-state-of-trans-health>.



This report is a collaboration between The TransLatin@ Coalition and the Department of the Chicana/o & Latina/o Studies at Cal State LA and funded in part by the State of California Commission on The Status of Women.

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