

“Inhabiting Two Worlds At Once” Experiences of trans forcibly displaced people

NOTE: This report needs to be read in conjunction with the main “Inhabiting Two Worlds At Once” report: <https://fdpn.org.au/survey-lgbtqiqa-displacement/>

Demographic data: Trans forcibly displaced people

SOGIESC data

Total number of trans forcibly displaced people who completed this survey is twenty which is 27% of the total sample of the survey.

As background, participants self-reported gender in the following ways:

- Women (n=8; 36.4% of all trans participants)
- Men (n=5; 22.7% of all trans participants)
- Non-binary people (n=8; 36.4% of all trans participants)
- One response identified another term to describe gender (4.5%)

Two out of three participants who are intersex (people born with variations in sex characteristics) in this survey are also trans.

The most common sexuality for trans participants was queer (36%) followed by being heterosexual (27%). Trans people who are heterosexual comprised 60% of all responses by heterosexual people.

Migration status

The most common visa type for trans forcibly displaced people was BVA (n=5). This is consistent of the total sample.

Trans people made up half of all permanent refugee and migrant visas. However, trans forcibly displaced people comprised only approximately one third of all people holding citizenship.

No trans people reported not having a current visa.

Table 1.1. Migration status of trans participants when completing the survey

	Number (total sample)	Percent (total sample)	Number (trans participants)	Percent out of total sample
BVA	16	19.5%	5	31.3%
BVB	1	1.2%	1	100%
BVC	5	6.1%	2	40%
BVE	4	4.9%	0	0
TPV/SHEV	3	3.7%	0	0
PR	11	13.4%	4	36.4%
International Student	8	9.8%	1	12.5%
Migrant	11	13.4%	3	27.3%
Citizen (previously on protection visa)	11	13.4%	3	27.3%
Citizen (previously on migrant visa)	9	11%	3	33.3%
No Visa	3	3.7%	0	0

Total	82	100.0%	22	N/A
-------	----	--------	----	------------

Three (n=3) trans participants reported having been undocumented while living in Australia. That is 30% of all survey participants who have been undocumented.

One (n=1) trans participant has been in a refugee camp prior arriving to Australia. That is 12.5% of all survey participants.

Similarly, one (n=1) trans participant has been in immigration detention. That is 12.5% of all survey participants.

Age

The most common age of trans forcibly displaced people is 35-44 years old (n=12) which is older than the participants more broadly. This differs to the total sample as reflected below.

Table 1.2. Age of trans participants

	Number (total sample)	Percent (total sample)	Number (trans participants)	Percent out of total sample
18-24	4	4.9%	2	50%
25-34	42	51.2%	8	19%
35-44	27	32.9%	12	44.4%
45-54	8	9.8%	0	0
55-64	1	1.2%	0	0
Total	82	100.0%	22	N/A

Ethnic background

For the total sample, top regions of the origin were:

- Middle East
- Southeast Asia
- South Asia

The regions of origin for trans participants was quite different than the total sample more broadly. The top region of origin for trans participants was Southeast Asia (50% of all participants originating from this region) and the second was South Asia (40% of all participants originating from this region). This was followed by an equal number from East Asia and the Middle East. For the total sample, trans people were 75% of all participants from East Asia region. In regards to the Middle East, trans people were only 18% of participants originating from this region.

Disability and chronic health conditions

When examining disability and chronic health conditions, seven trans people reported they had a disability which is 37% of all participants with disability. Most of the trans respondents that stated they had a disability were also non-binary.

One (n=1) trans person had a positive HIV status, which forms 25% of all respondents living with HIV.

Geographic location in Australia

The state/territory of residency for trans forcibly displaced people followed the same pattern as in the total sample. Notably, trans people made approximately one third of all survey participants residing in the ACT, QLD and NSW.

Table 1.3. State/territory of residency of trans participants

	Number (total sample)	Percent (total sample)	Number (trans participants)	Percent out of total sample
ACT	17	20.7%	5	29.4%
NSW	14	17.1%	5	35.7%
VIC	33	40.2%	6	18.2%
QLD	9	11%	3	33.3%
NT	0	0	0	0
TAS	2	2.4%	1	50%
SA	1	1.2%	1	100%
WA	4	4.9%	0	0
Rural /regional location	2	2.4%	0	0
Total	82	100.0%	22	N/A

Health

Self-reported health

Participants were asked to rank their health from 1 to 100, where 1 was the lowest self-reported status of health.

The data from trans people on the self-reported mental health is especially concerning at 48/100. It is important to note that trans people with permanent visas were more likely to report better than average mental health (59/100 to an average of 56/100) and those with temporary visas were likely to report less than average mental health scores (54/100 to an average of 56/100).

Self-reported physical health for trans people was 73/100 which was the average across the samples. Both temporary and permanent visa holders were similar, but again trans people (67/100) were below the average in the realm of physical health.

Table 2.1. Self-reported mental and physical health

	Mental health	Physical health
Average across sample	56	73
Temporary visa holders	54	73
Permanent visas holders	59	74
Trans people	48	67
Lowest ranking	1	19

Mental health stressors

Mental health stressors differed significantly for trans people in relation to the rest of the sample.

Table 2.2. Top 5 of experiences that impact mental health 'a lot' are:

Total sample	Trans participants
1. Insecure visa status and delays from the immigration to resolve the visa status	1. Previous traumatic experience
2. Minority stress of being a person of colour	2. Insecure visa status and delays from the immigration to resolve the visa status and Forced displacement
3. Previous traumatic experience	3. Minority stress being an LGBTIQ persons
4. Not having a community in Australia, being isolated	4. Minority stress of being a person of colour
5. Worrying about family back in the country of origin	5. Ongoing experiences discrimination

As the comparison table shows trans people had more complex experiences of trauma that contributed to the current negative impacts on mental health. The stressors of being an LGBTIQ+ person, which in this context needs to read as being trans, while also being a person of colour and ongoing experiences of discrimination equally negatively all contributed to mental health stressors. These findings correspond to the reported high prevalence of racism and transphobia against trans people of colour throughout the world.

Employment in Sex Work

Trans people comprised 45% of all respondents reporting past engagement in sex work. This is important in understanding how to further support trans people in sex work.

Homelessness

22% of all trans participants have been homeless in the past. This is similar to the total number of participants. However, trans participants make 25% of all those who were currently homeless in Australia.

Table 3.1. Prevalence of homelessness

	Number (total sample)	Percent (total sample)	Number (trans participants)
Prefer not to answer	14	17.1%	3
Yes, in the past	20	24.4%	5

Yes, currently	2	2.4%	0
No	46	56.1%	14
Total	82	100.0%	22

Experiences of sexual and gender-based violence

Experiences of sexual and gender-based violence for trans forcibly displaced people are significantly higher than those reported by the total participants.

Table 4.1. Comparison: experiences of sexual and gender-based violence for the total sample and trans participants.

	Total sample (n=53)	Total trans participants (n=16)
Prior to Australia	75% (n=40)	94% (n=15)
Since arrival	57% (n=30)	75% (n=12)

The most common manifestations of violence matched those reported by the total sample of participants but also stalking was more prevalent for trans people.

There were three (n=3) instances of female genital mutilation prior coming to Australia in the participants sample. Among the survivors of this violence were two trans men and one non-binary person. One instance of FGM was reported in Australia with a survivor being a trans man as well. This is an important finding as much of the support around FGM is likely targeted to those who identify as women.