

Some Facts and Figures about Transgender Issues

- In a 2002 Survey, **23%** of respondents thought that transgender children should not be allowed to attend public school.

In the same survey, **50%** of respondents said that transgender people should not be allowed to teach high school, and **60%** said that transgender people should not be allowed to teach elementary school (<http://www.tgcrossroads.org/news/archive.asp?aid=384>).

- In San Francisco, a 1997 survey found approximately **2/3** of MtF respondents had been incarcerated. The high rate is attributed to the difficulty of finding and keeping legal employment. Activists estimate there are at least 200 transgender and an additional 1000 gender-variant inmates in the CA prison system (http://www.sfbg.com/40/24/cover_life.html).
- Among the general population, about 20% of adults have thought seriously about suicide. (Harris Poll) Among transgender people, at least **35%** have thought seriously about suicide. About 16%-32% have *attempted* suicide. (Xavier, 2000; Clements et. al, 1998)
- In a San Francisco poll, **25%** of transgender respondents had full time work. An additional **16%** had part time work (http://www.sfbg.com/40/24/cover_trans.html).

Of the remaining **60%**, some have no work at all and others work illegally, many in the sex industry.

- About **68% of MtFs** and **55% of FtMs** have been forced to have sex at least once. (Clements et. al., 1998)
- Among transgender youth who are enrolled in school, almost **90% report feeling unsafe in school**, more than half report being physically harassed, and **35% report being physically assaulted** in school because of their gender expression. (Kosciw, 2002).
- As of January 2008, twelve states (CA, CO, IL, IA, ME, MN, NJ, NM, OR, RI, VT, WA) plus the District of Columbia provide protection against discrimination for both sexual orientation and for gender identity (www.hrc.org).

Three other states (IN, OH, PA) provide protection, but only for public employees.

An additional nine states (CT, FL, HI, MA, NY) have interpreted existing laws to include some protection against discrimination against transgender people (www.hrc.org).

That leaves 26 states with absolutely no state-wide legal protection.

- As of January, 2008, eleven states and the District of Columbia specifically include gender identity in hate crimes laws (www.hrc.org). (Hate crimes laws increase penalties for violent crimes and hate speech, but do not prohibit discrimination).