



2021 Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Census



A note from the organizer:

The purpose of the annual Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Census is to survey the community in the Chippewa Valley in order to gather demographic and anecdotal information from queer individuals with the intention to guide local resources and efforts. This data is made public for transparency and with the desire to more broadly have a positive impact in the Chippewa Valley. Please feel free to use this information as needed.

A few notes before beginning: Our sample size was 125 respondents. Questions were structured with the safety and comfort of the respondents in mind; therefore those taking the survey were allowed to skip questions or mark as many options on a question as they felt applied to them. This will in some cases affect interpretation of the results. Percentages are based on the number of people responding to that particular question, and not out of the full 125 respondents.

The overall breakdown from all respondents will be shown first. This gives a picture of the Chippewa Valley in general. A few notes are provided regarding alternative breakdowns of data where appropriate; most of that teases out discrepancies among trans, nonbinary, and cis-identified (or not specifically trans or nonbinary identified) individuals, discrepancies among age groups, or discrepancies among racial identities.

Special thanks to all respondents for taking the time to be candid with us. Thanks to all who seek to learn from this effort and make the Chippewa Valley a home for us all.

Now, onto the data!

Census designed by Matthias Klein
Report written by Matthias Klein
Graphic design by Charles Payseur

send feedback and suggestions to library@cvlgbt.org

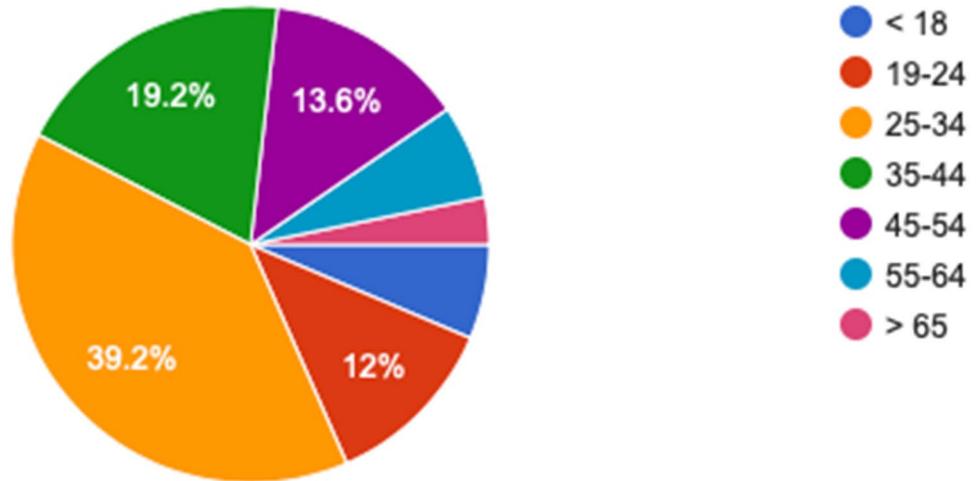
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General Information

What is your age?

125 responses



What is your age? (125 responses)

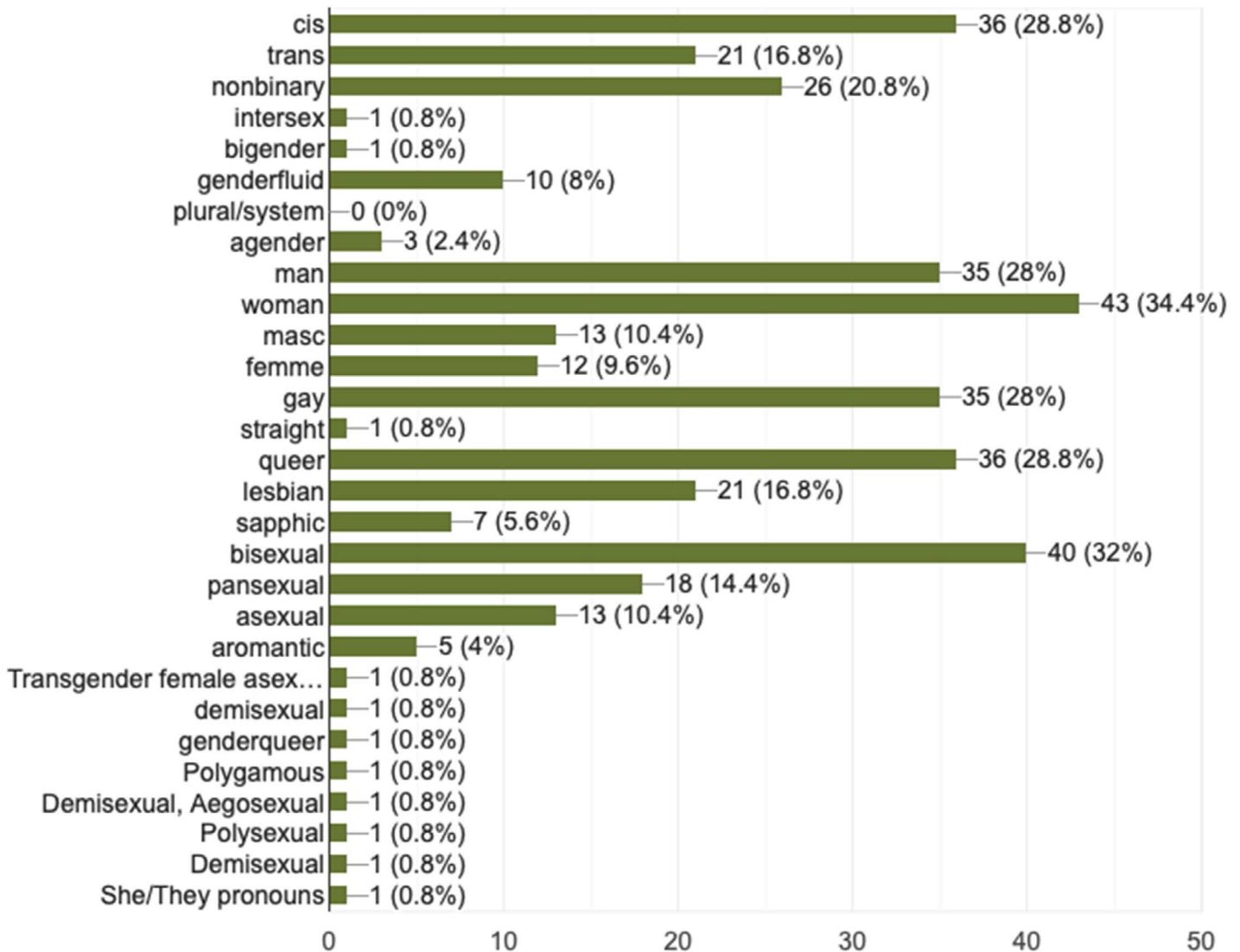
< 18	8 (6.4%)
19-24	15 (12%)
25-34	49 (39.2%)
34-44	24 (19.2%)
45-54	17 (13.6%)
55-64	8 (6.4%)
> 65	4 (3.2%)

What area of the Chippewa Valley are you from/do you live? (123 responses)

Most of our respondents listed Eau Claire as where they were from, with Chippewa Falls, Altoona, and Menomonie being common too, but we had people from as far away as Baldwin, Cameron, and Spooner respond.

Tell us about yourself (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose):

125 responses



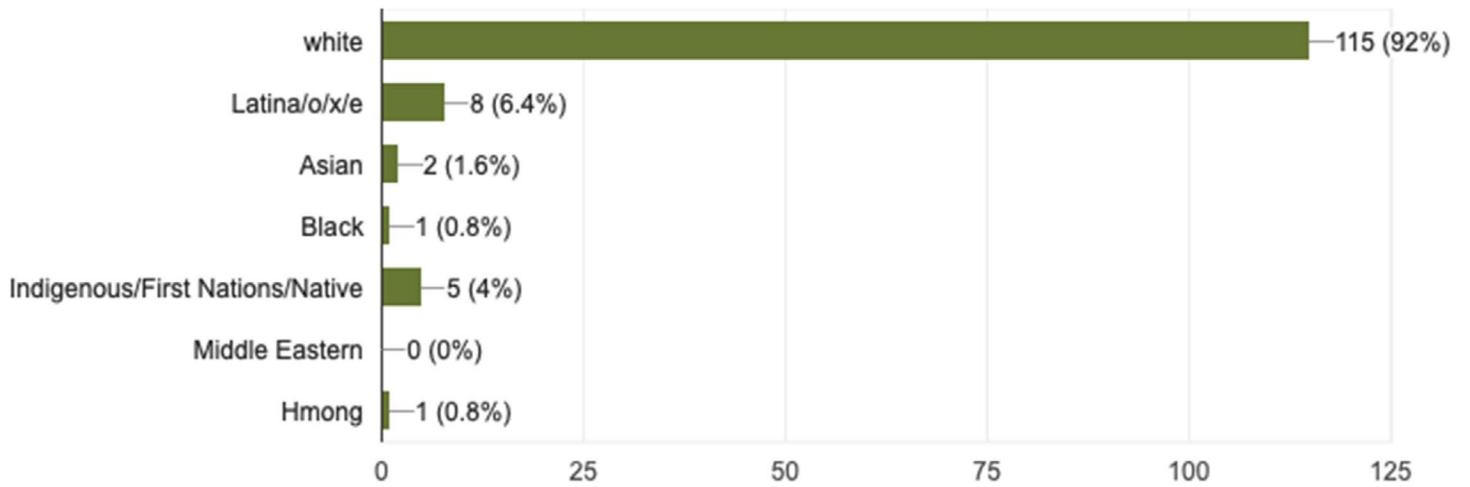
Tell us about yourself (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose) (125 responses)

16.8% of respondents marked trans and 16.8% of respondents marked either nonbinary, genderfluid, agender, or genderqueer as an identity (but did not mark trans), while 66.4% of respondents did not mark any of those.

There will be later comparisons regarding these groups, and for those purposes if someone marked both “trans” and “nonbinary,” they were added to the trans category.

Tell us more about yourself (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose):

125 responses

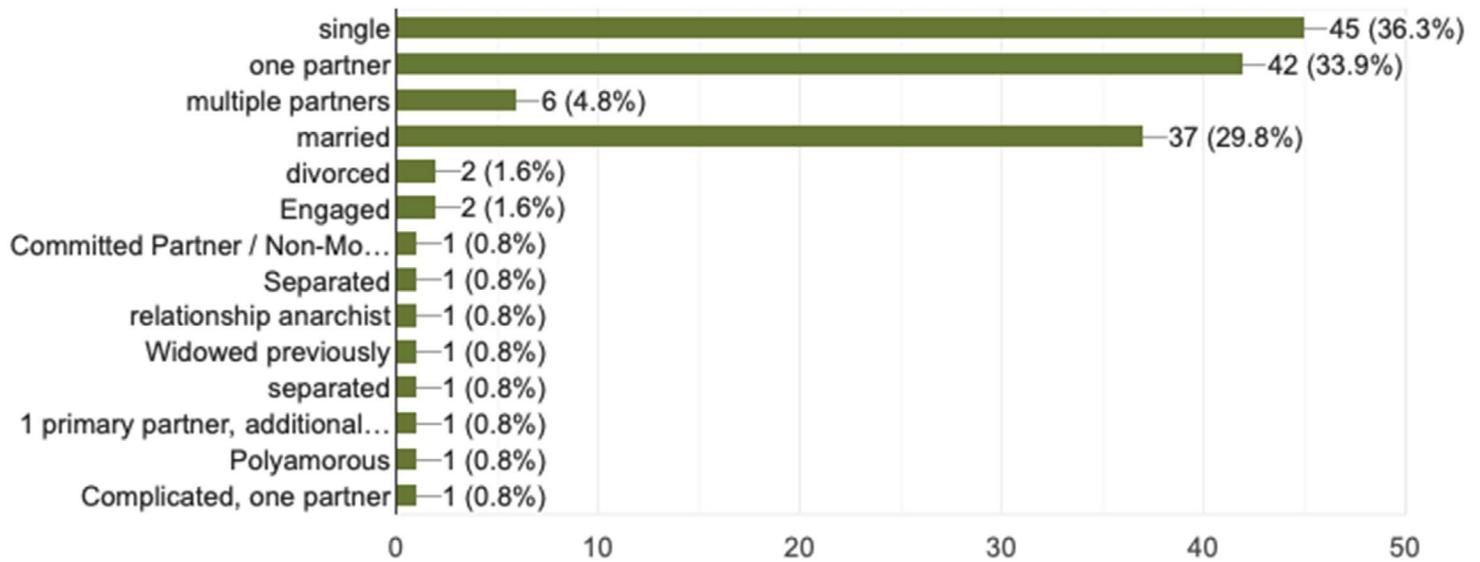


Tell us about yourself (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose) (125 responses)

87.2% of respondents marked only white for their racial identity, while 8% did not mark white at all. 4.8% marked white and at least one more racial identity.

Tell us about your relationship status (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose):

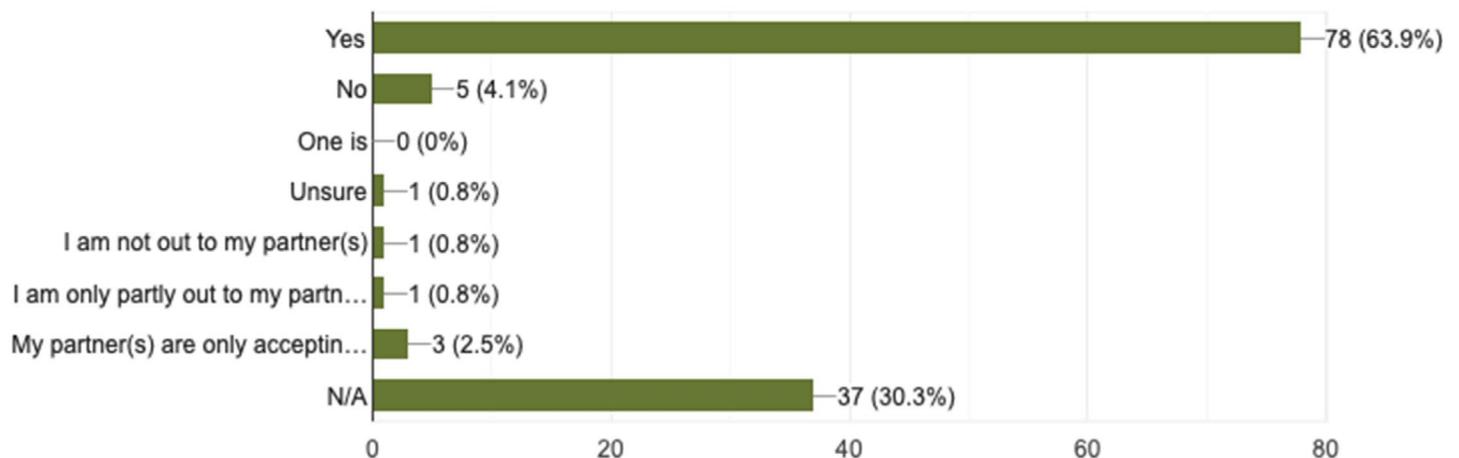
124 responses



If you are in a relationship/relationships, is your partner/partners accepting of you (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?



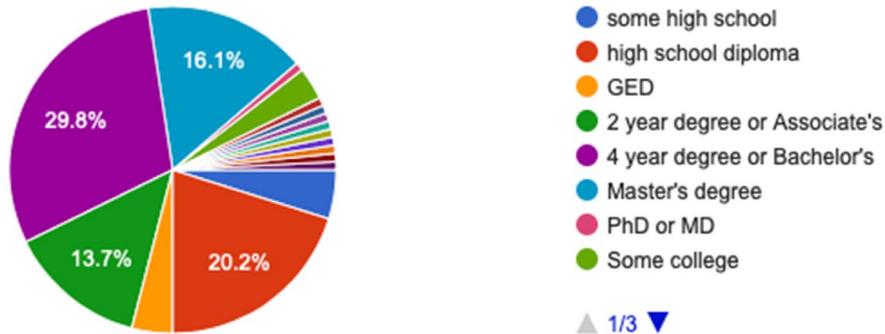
122 responses



Education and Income

What is your highest level of education?

124 responses

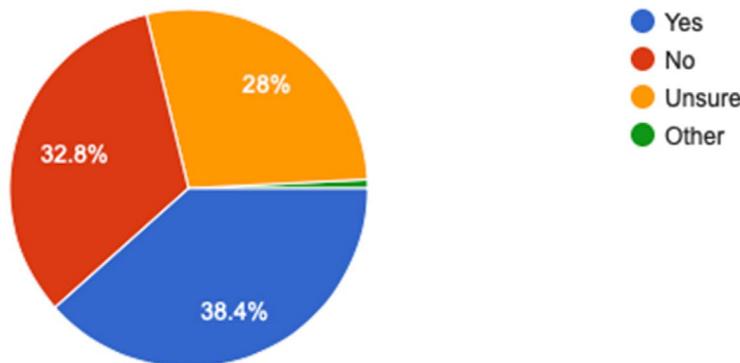


What is your highest level of education? (124 responses)

some high school	6 (4.8%)
high school diploma	25 (20.2%)
GED	5 (4%)
some college	4 (3.2 %)
2 year degree or Associate's	17 (13.7%)
4 year degree or Bachelor's	37 (29.8%)
Master's degree	20 (16.1%)
PhD or MD	1 (0.8%)
all other	9 (7.3%)

Have you attended a LGBTQ+ friendly school?

125 responses



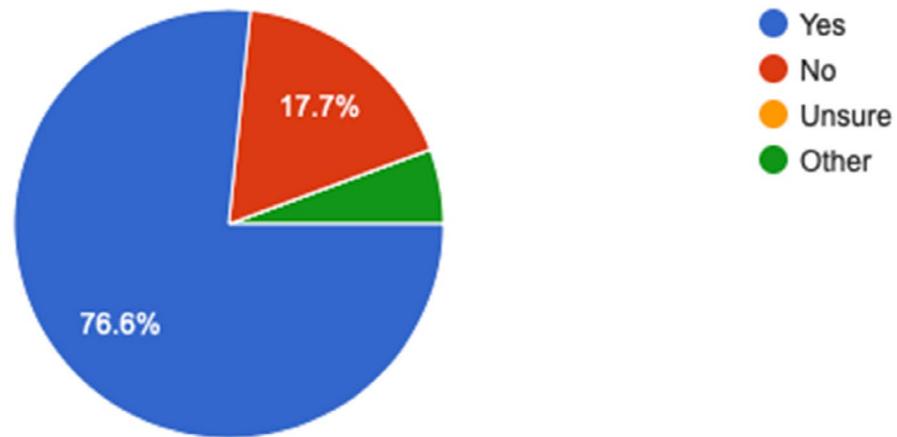
Have you attended a LGBTQ+ friendly school? (125 responses)

Yes	48 (38.4%)
No	41 (32.8%)
Unsure	35 (28%)
Other	1 (0.8%)

47.2% of respondents under 35 years old reported having attended a queer-friendly school, while only 26.4% of respondents 35 and older reported the same.

Are you currently employed?

124 responses

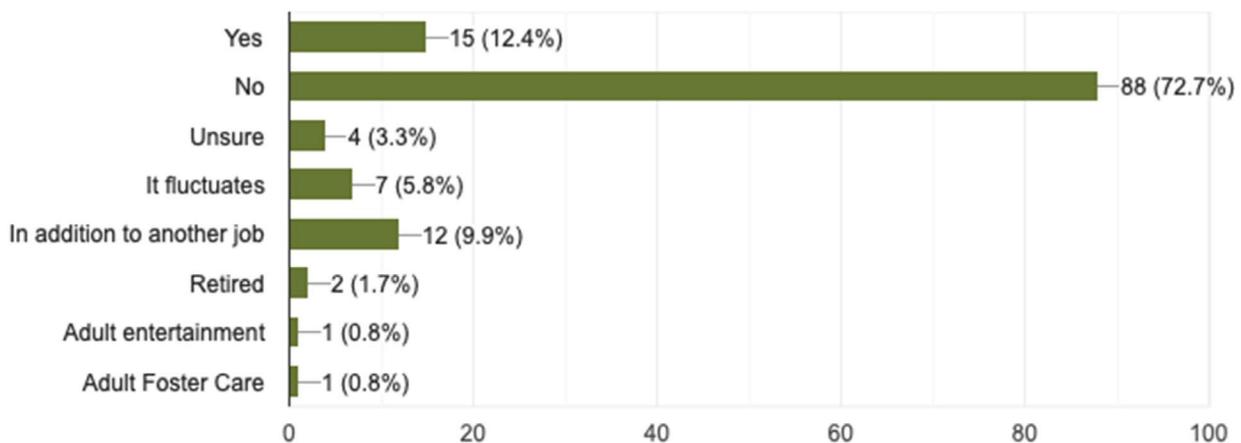


Are you currently employed? (124 responses)

Yes	95 (76.6%)
No	22 (17.7%)
Other	7 (5.6%)

Are you self-employed (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

121 responses



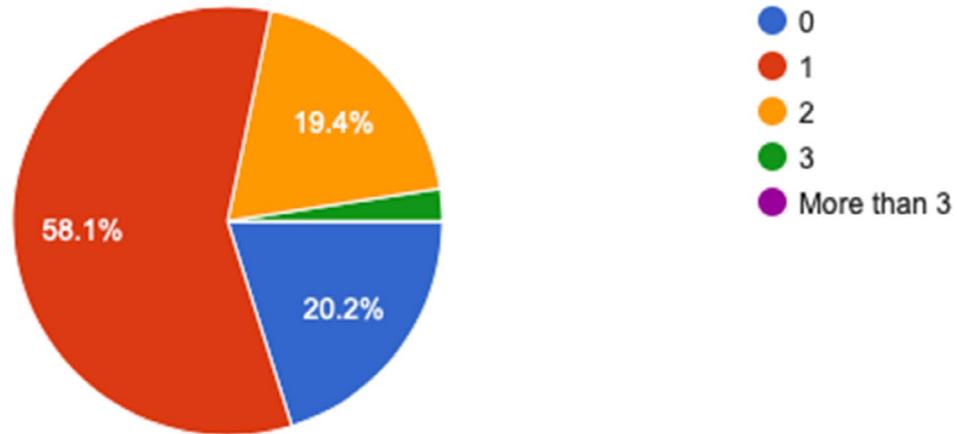
What field (or fields) do you work in (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (109 responses)

The top five fields people have selected working in are:

Education	17.4%
Arts and Entertainment	15.6%
Healthcare/Medicine	15.6%
Business	13.8%
Social Services	10.1%

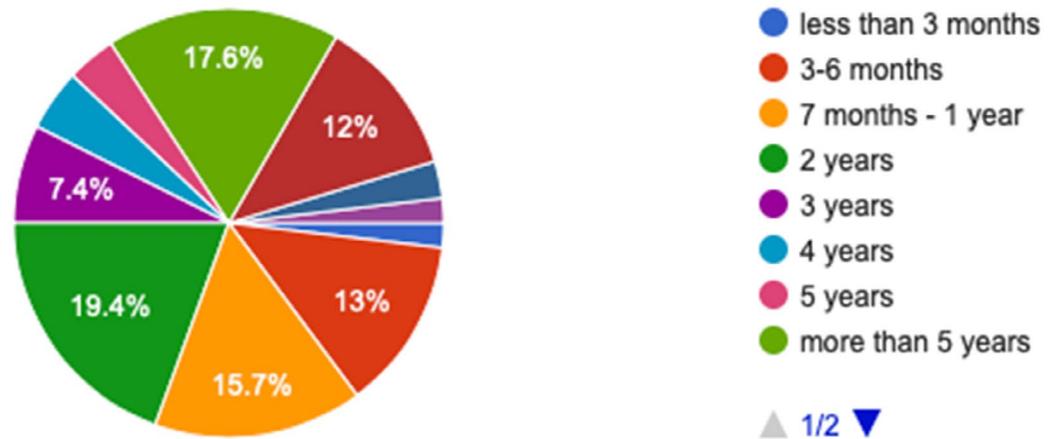
How many jobs are you currently working?

124 responses



How long have you been employed at the same job?

108 responses

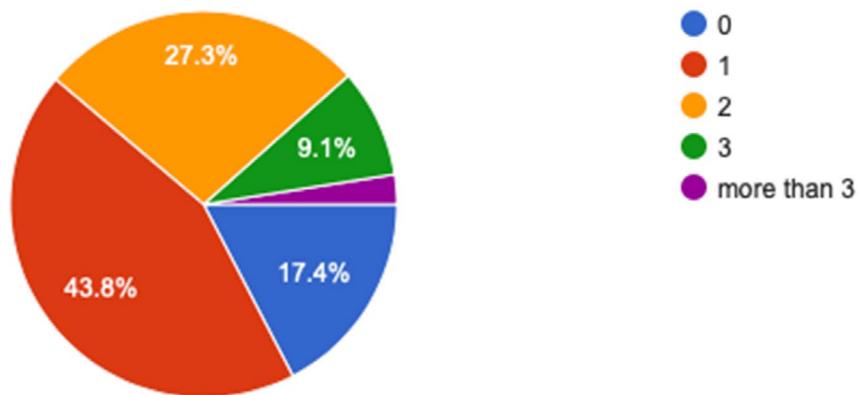


How long have you been employed at the same job? (108 responses)

less than 3 months	2 (1.9%)
3-6 months	14 (13%)
7 months – 1 year	17 (15.7%)
2 years	21 (19.4 %)
3 years	8 (7.4%)
4 years	5 (4.6%)
5 years	4 (3.7%)
more than 5 years	19 (17.6%)
more than 10 years	13 (12%)
more than 20 years	3 (2.8%)
more than 30 years	2 (1.9%)

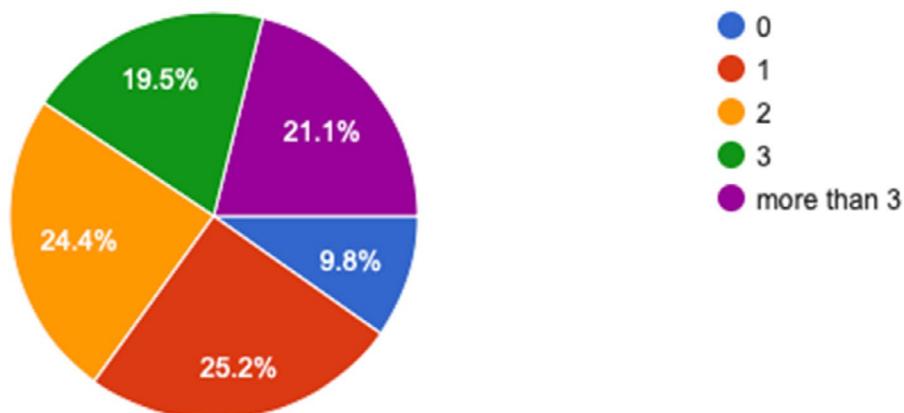
How many jobs have you had in the past year?

121 responses



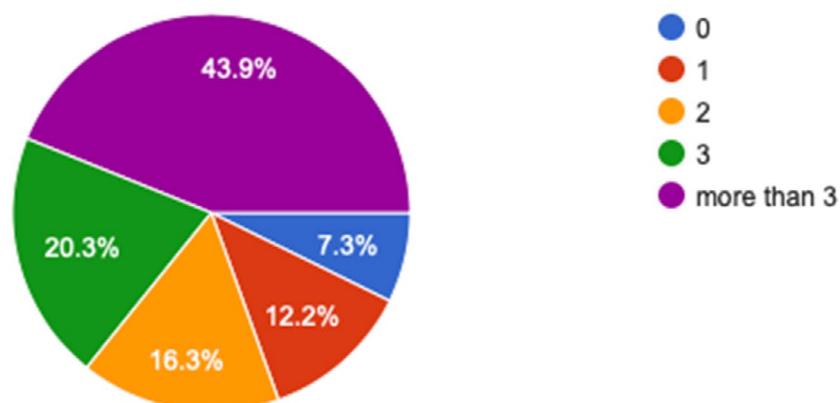
How many jobs have you had in the past five years?

123 responses



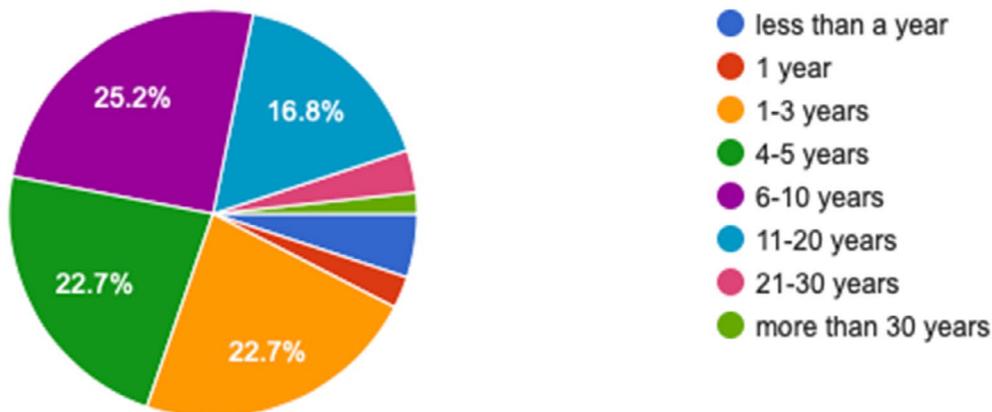
How many jobs have you had in the past 10 years?

123 responses



How long have you held your longest job?

119 responses

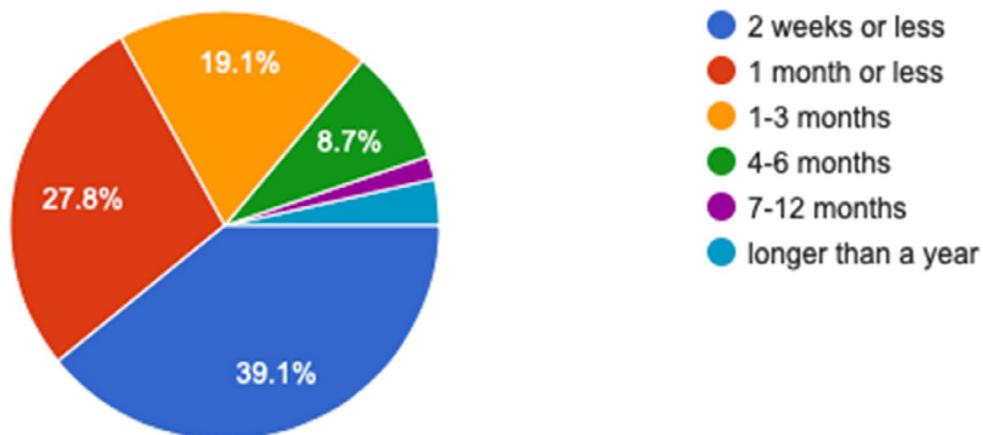


How long have you held your longest job? (119 responses)

less than a year	6 (5%)
1 year	3 (2.5%)
1-3 years	27 (22.7%)
4-5 years	27 (22.7%)
6-10 years	30 (25.2%)
11-20 years	20 (16.8%)
21-30 years	4 (3.4%)
more than 30 years	2 (1.7%)

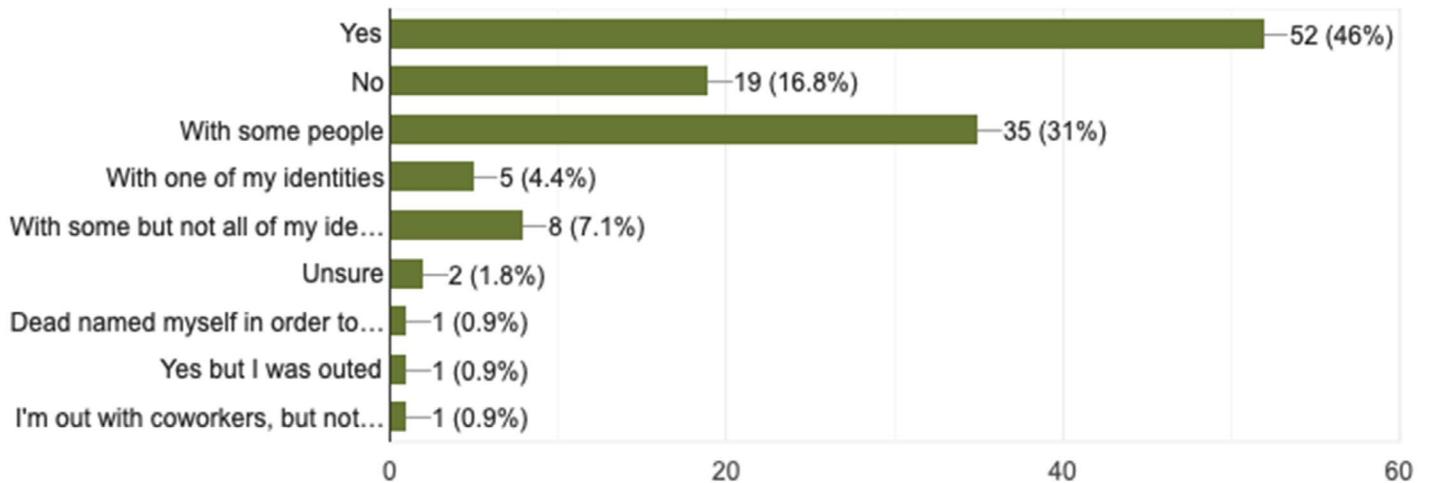
How long did it take you to get your job?

115 responses



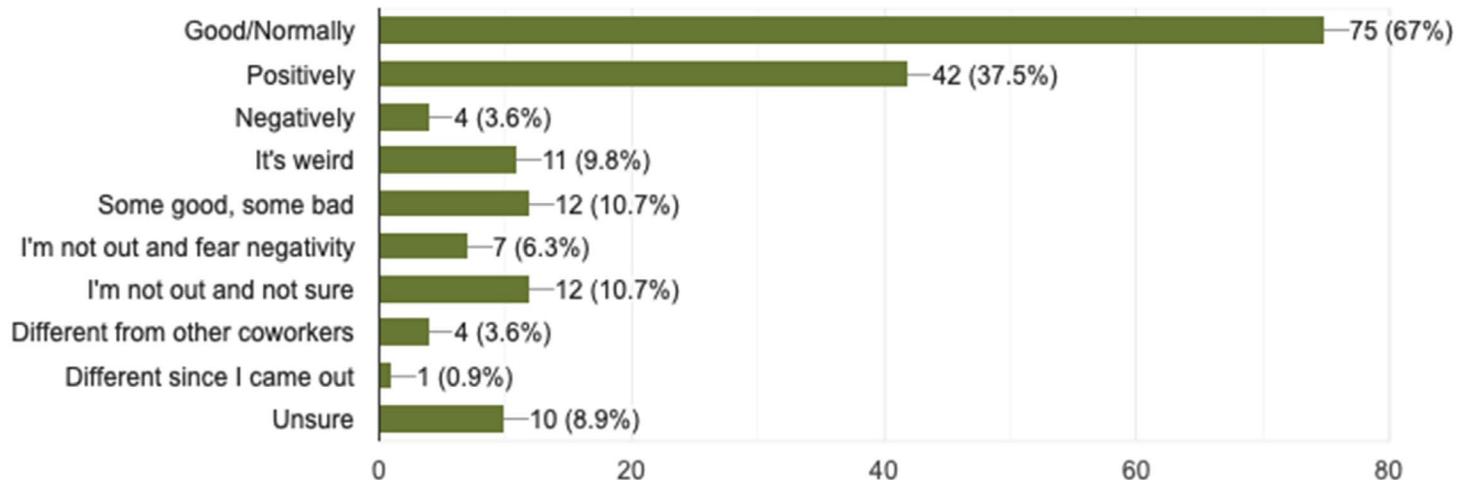
Are you out at work (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

113 responses



How do your coworkers treat you (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

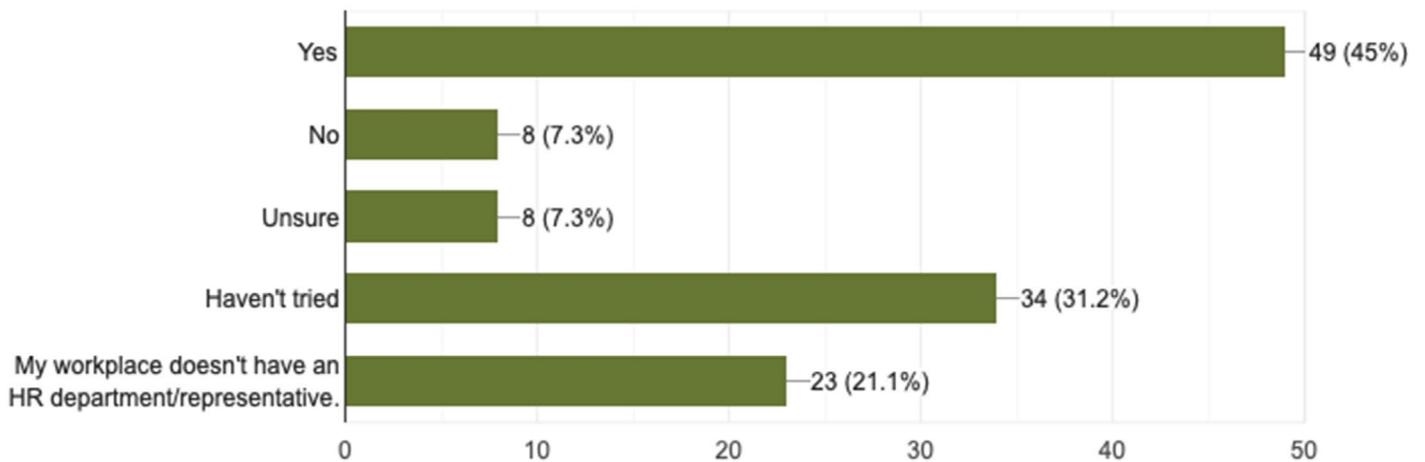
112 responses



Can you go safely to HR (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?



109 responses

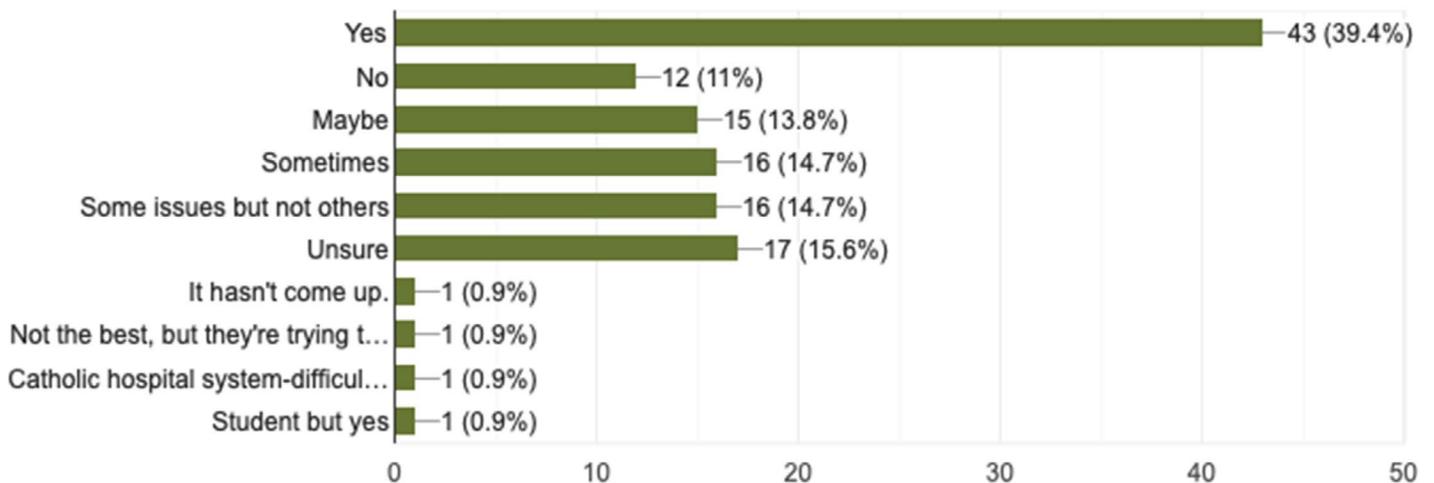


Can you go safely to HR (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (109 responses)

At 21.1% indicating no HR to turn to, this means one-fifth of LGBTQ+ people in the Chippewa Valley likely have no way to handle any abuse, harassment, or discrimination at work, should it occur. The number of individuals indicating they would not or cannot go to HR increases to 66.9%, or two-thirds of respondents, when adding in all groups other than those responding yes.

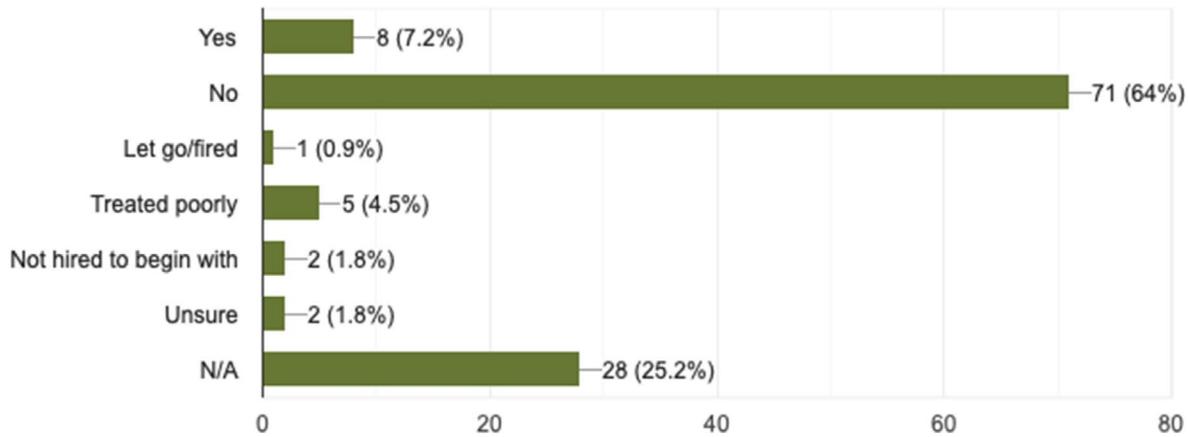
Do you consider your employer to be good with LGBTQ+ issues and needs (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

109 responses



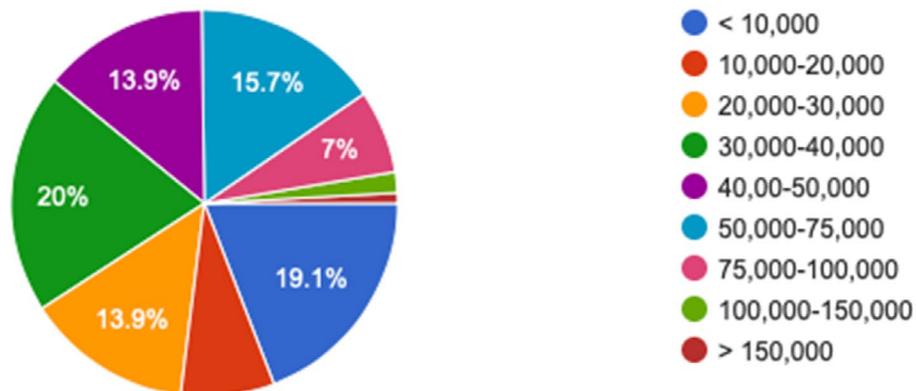
Have you been let go or treated poorly at work after coming out (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

111 responses



What's your yearly income?

115 responses



What's your yearly income? (115 responses)

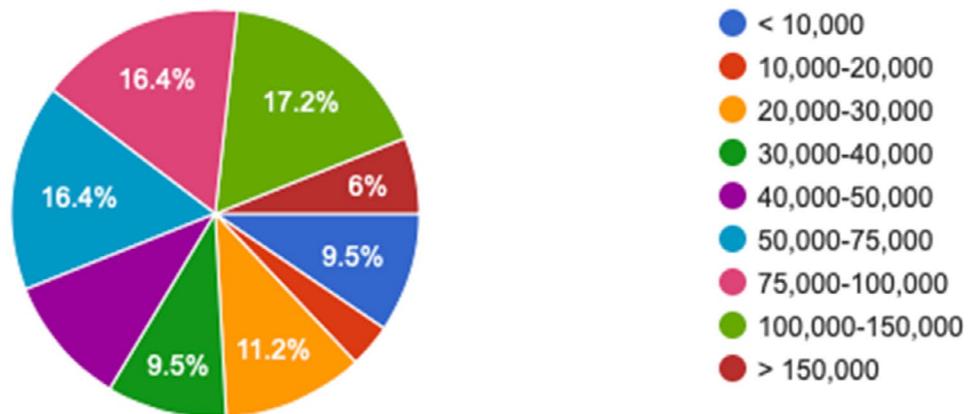
< \$10,000	22 (19.1%)
\$10,000–20,000	9 (7.8%)
\$20,000–30,000	16 (13.9%)
\$30,000–40,000	23 (20%)
\$40,000–50,000	16 (13.9%)
\$50,000–75,000	18 (15.7%)
\$75,000–100,000	8 (7%)
\$100,000–150,000	2 (1.7%)
> \$150,000	1 (0.9%)

14.3% of trans respondents say they make \$50,000+. 9.5% of the nonbinary group say they make \$50,000+. 28.9% of the last group say they make \$50,000+.

However, 61.9% of trans respondents say they make less than \$20,000. 33.3% of the nonbinary group say they make less than \$20,000. 12% of the last group say they make less than \$20,000.

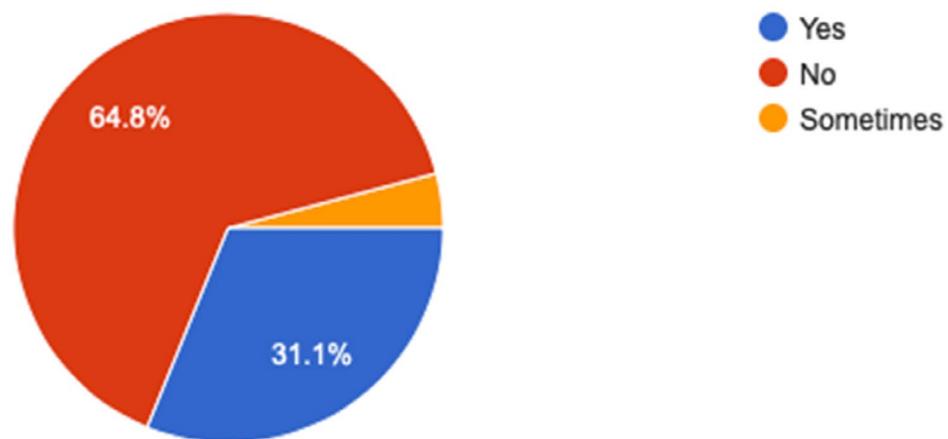
What's your household's yearly income?

116 responses



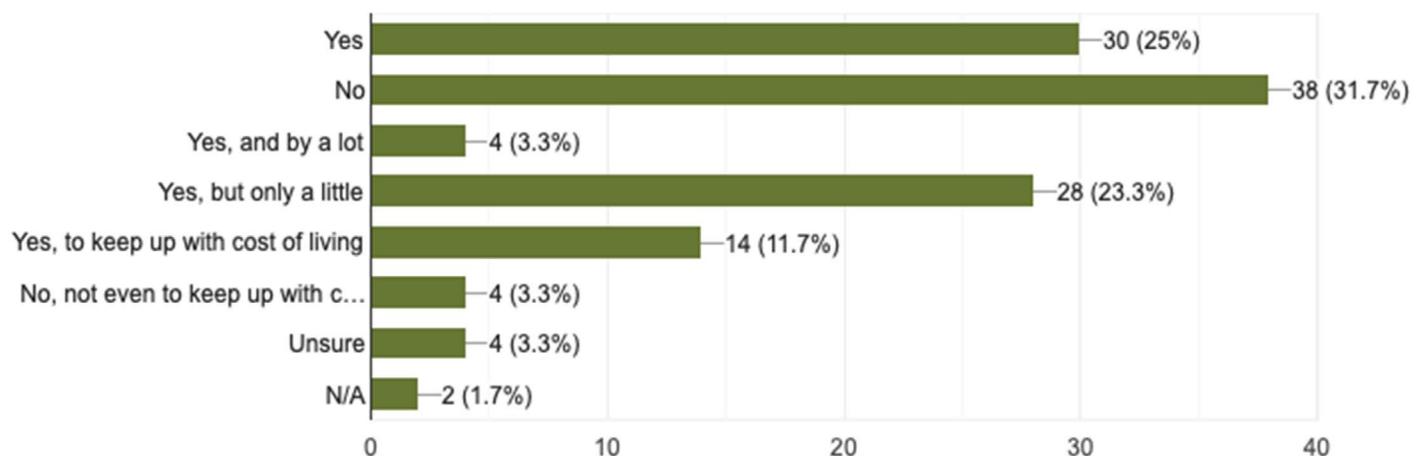
Are you the sole provider of income?

122 responses



Does your income fluctuate yearly?

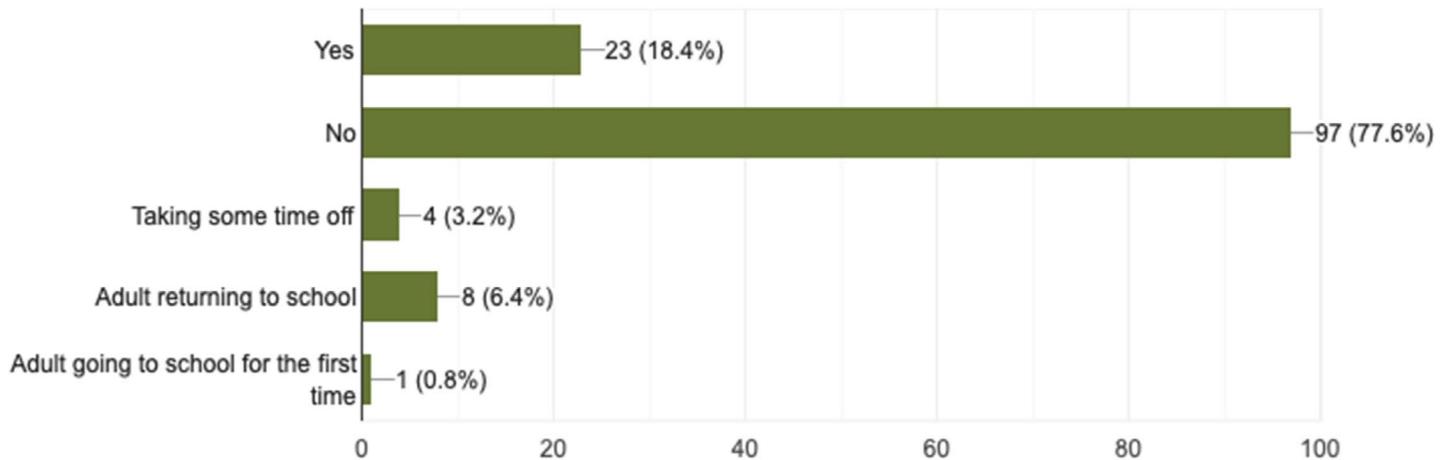
120 responses



Are you currently in school (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

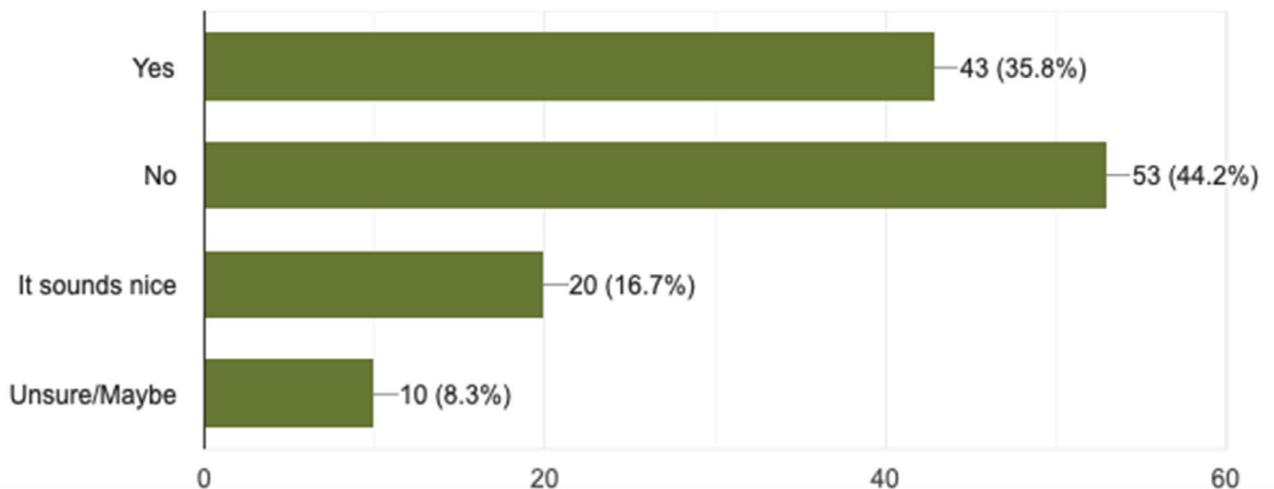


125 responses



Have you considered switching careers or returning to school (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

120 responses



Are there barriers to you making that change? (67 responses)

The most commonly listed reasons for not returning to school were:

Money (including student loan debt): 31.3%

Health (including mental as well as physical): 20.9%

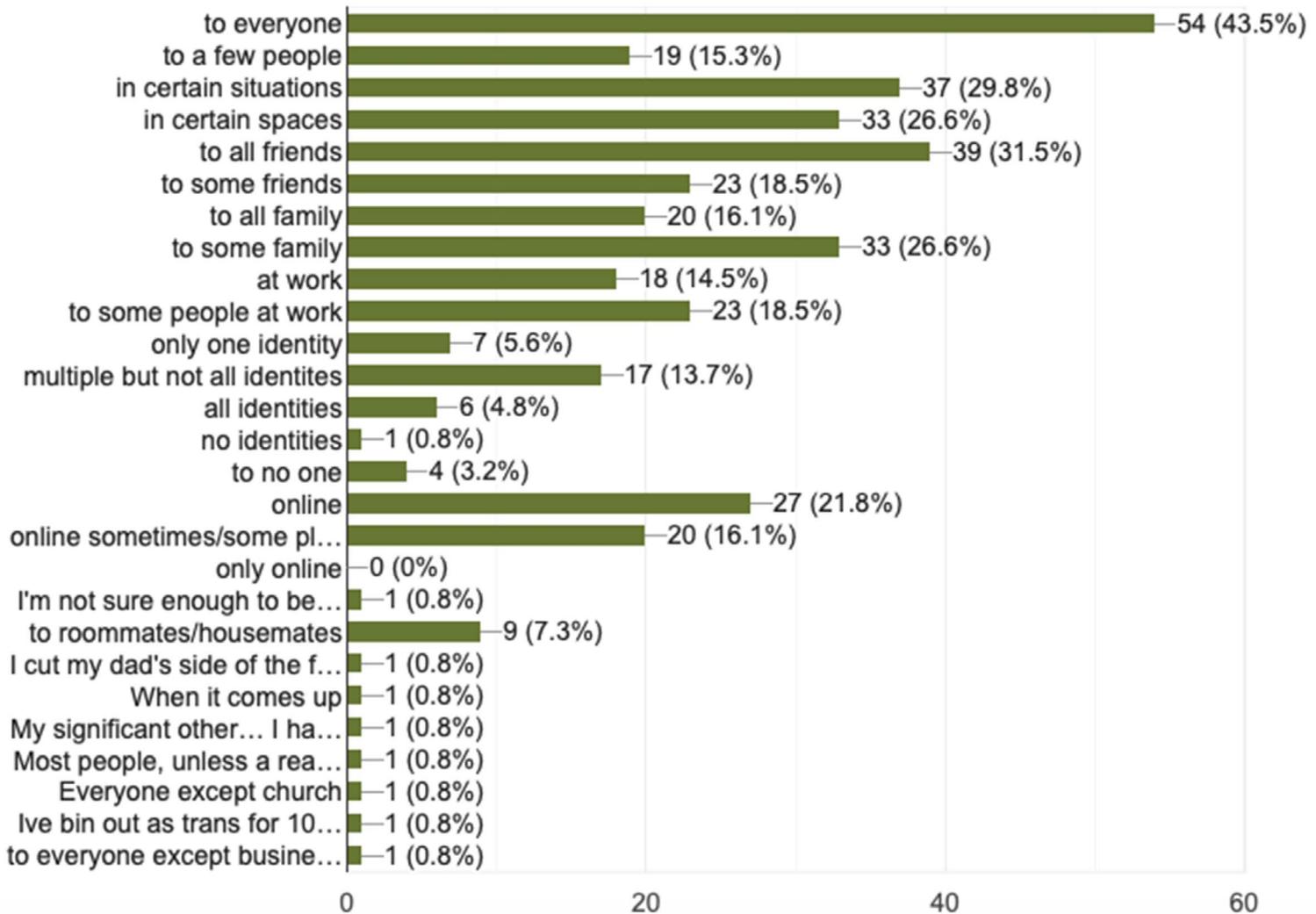
Other cited reasons included fear, needing to work, needing to take care of children, and not feeling there was a good career path available.

Only 10.4% said there were no barriers.

Social and Home Life

How "out" would you say you are (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

124 responses

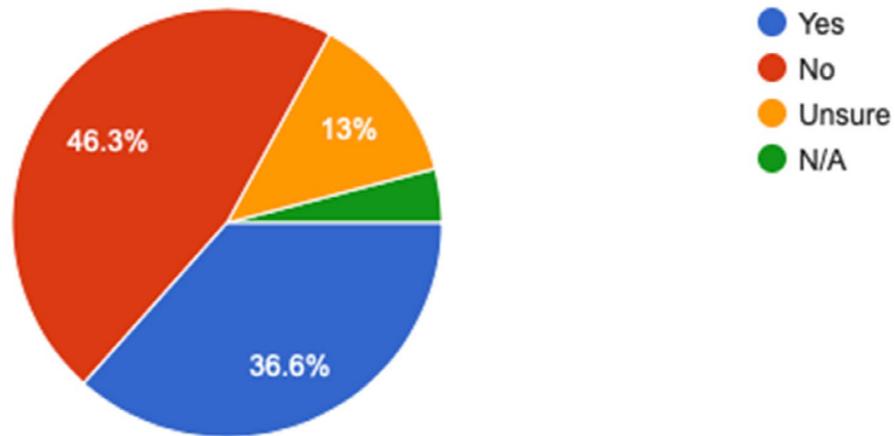


How "out" would you say you are (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (124 responses)

While 43.5% of people said they were out to everyone, the numbers otherwise are all over the place, with people indicating they're not out at all, only out to certain people, in certain spaces, with only one identity, etc. This indicates being out is complex for many people.

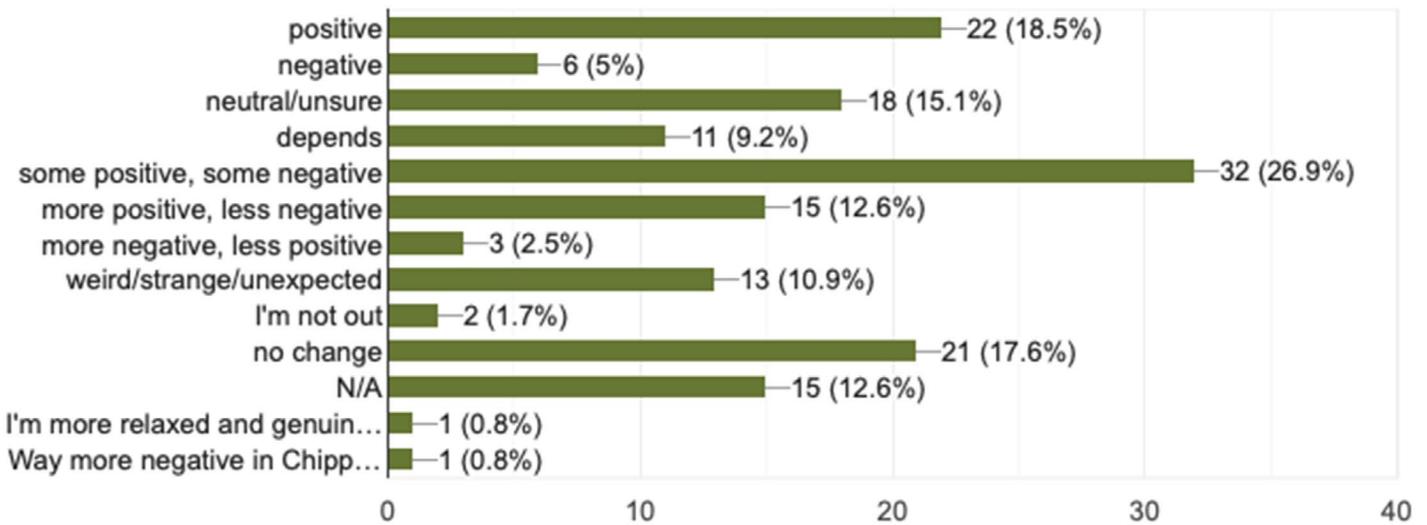
Have your relationships changed with people you're out to?

123 responses



How has this change been (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

119 responses

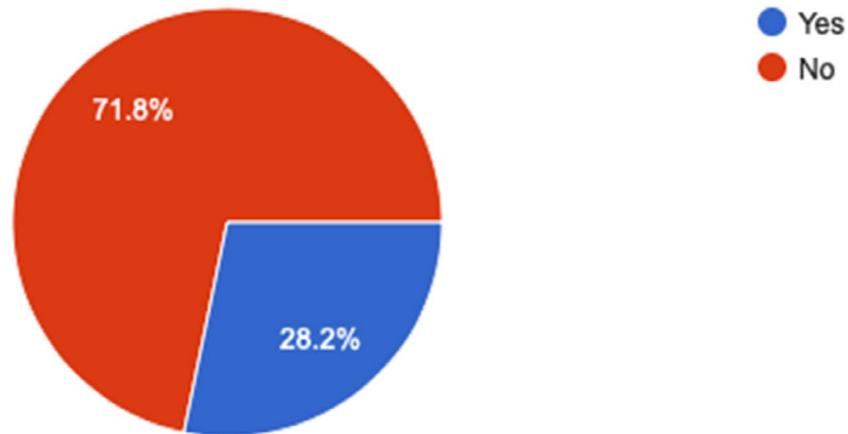


How has this change been (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (119 responses)

23.8% of trans respondents say they were treated negatively after coming out, while 0% of the nonbinary group indicated this, and 3.6% of the remaining respondents said this.

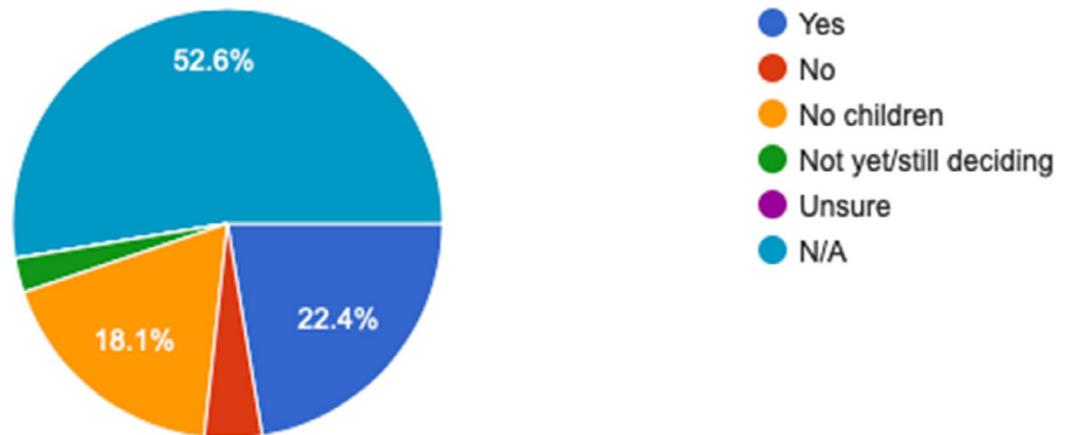
Do you have children?

124 responses



If you have children, are you out to them?

116 responses



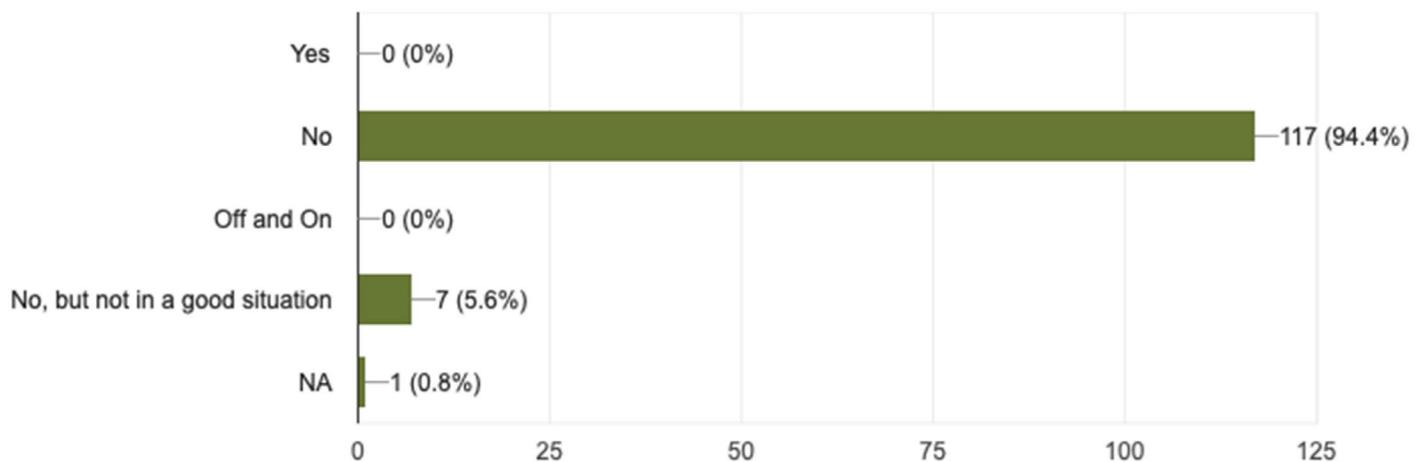
If you have children, are you out to them? (116 responses)

Yes	26 (22.4%)
No	5 (4.3%)
Not yet/still deciding	3 (2.6%)
No children	21 (18.1%)
N/A	61 (52.6%)

Are you currently homeless/houseless (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?



124 responses



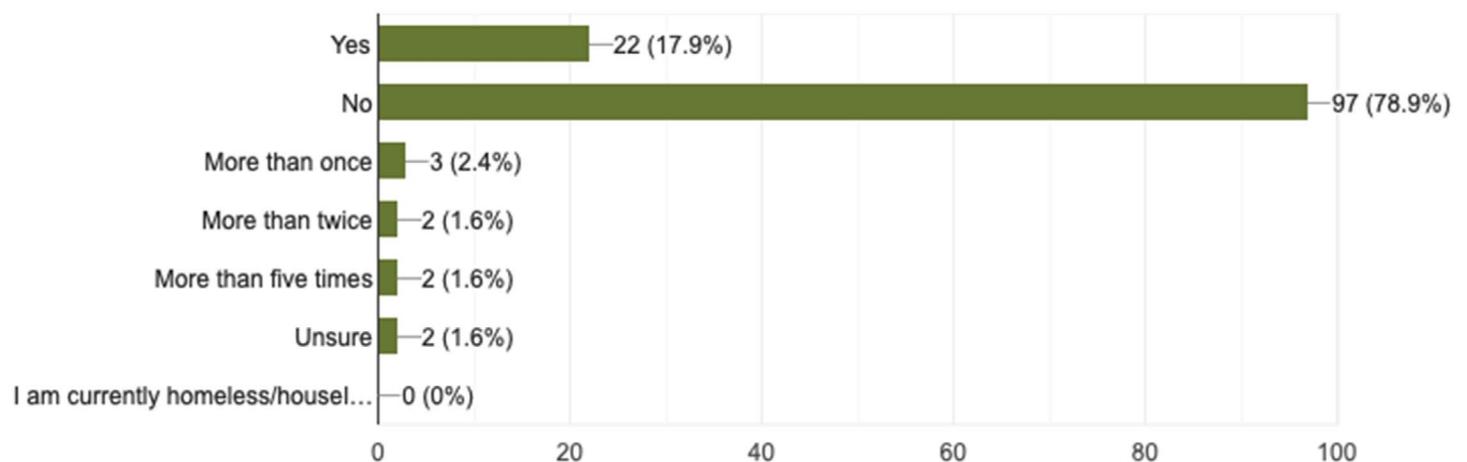
Are you currently homeless/houseless (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (124 responses)

19% of trans respondents say they are not in a good housing situation. This number falls to 9.5% of the nonbinary group, with 1.2% of the remaining respondents indicating a poor housing situation.

Have you ever been homeless/houseless (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?



123 responses



Have you ever been homeless/houseless (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (123 responses)

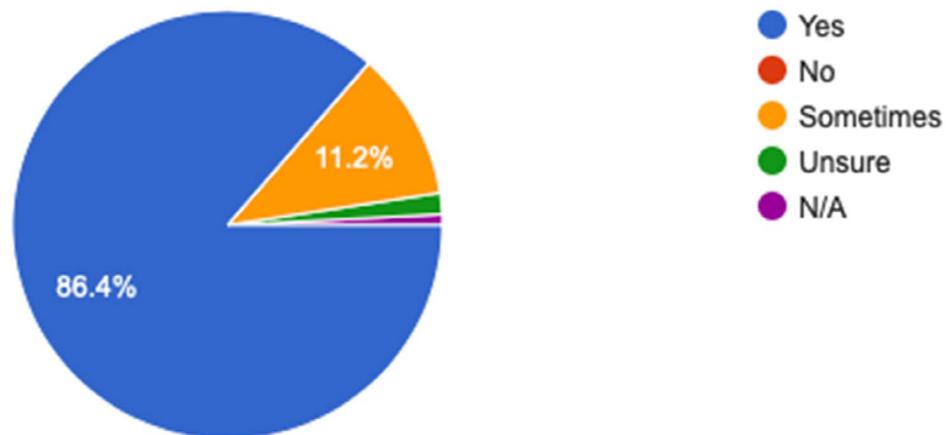
37.5% of respondents who marked at least one non-white racial identity reported having been ever homeless, compared to 16.5% of respondents who only marked white.

11.1% of respondents under age 35 reported having ever been homeless, while 30.2% of respondents age 35 or over reported the same.

33.3% of trans respondents say they've ever been homeless. 14.3% of the nonbinary group say they've ever been homeless. 16.9% of the remaining respondents say they've ever been homeless.

Do you feel safe at home?

125 responses



Do you feel safe at home? (125 responses)

Yes	108 (86.4%)
No	0 (0%)
Sometimes	14 (11.2%)
Unsure	2 (1.6%)
N/A	1 (0.8%)

38.1% of trans respondents say they don't always feel safe at home, with 9.5% of the nonbinary group reporting this, and 7.2% of the last group stating this.

Places you feel safe in the community (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose): (119 responses)

The top 5 places people marked feeling safe at:

Public buildings 65.5%

Work 63%

Parks 63%

Store/Businesses 62.2%

Hospitals/Medical facilities 56.3%

Places you don't feel safe in the community (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose): (113 responses)

The top 5 places people marked feeling unsafe at:

Churches 52.2%

Bars/Restaurants 28.3%

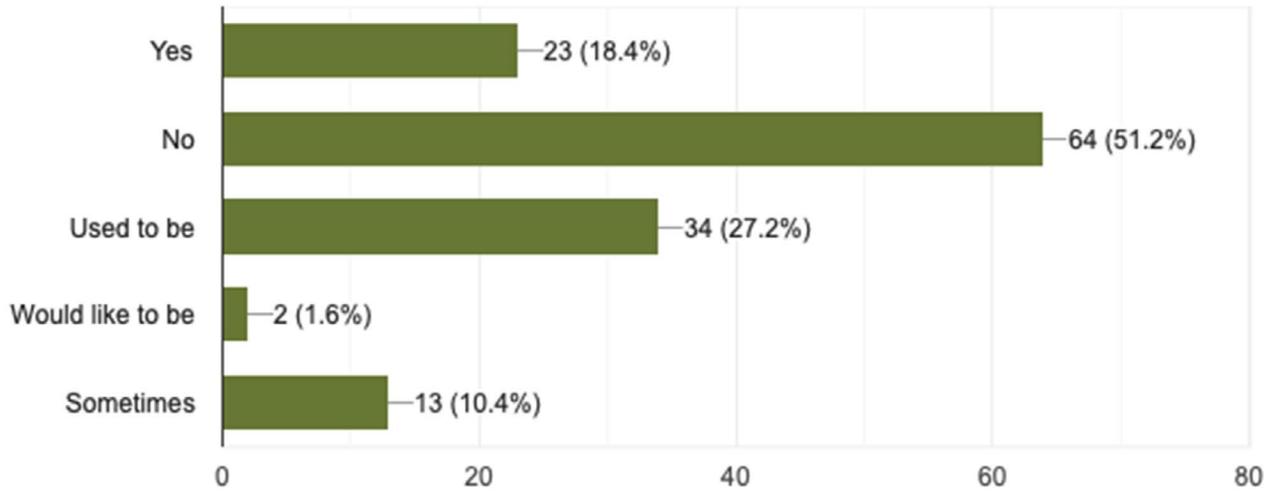
Large gatherings 27.4%

Bathrooms 25.7%

Stores/Businesses tied with Hospitals/Medical Facilities 18.6%

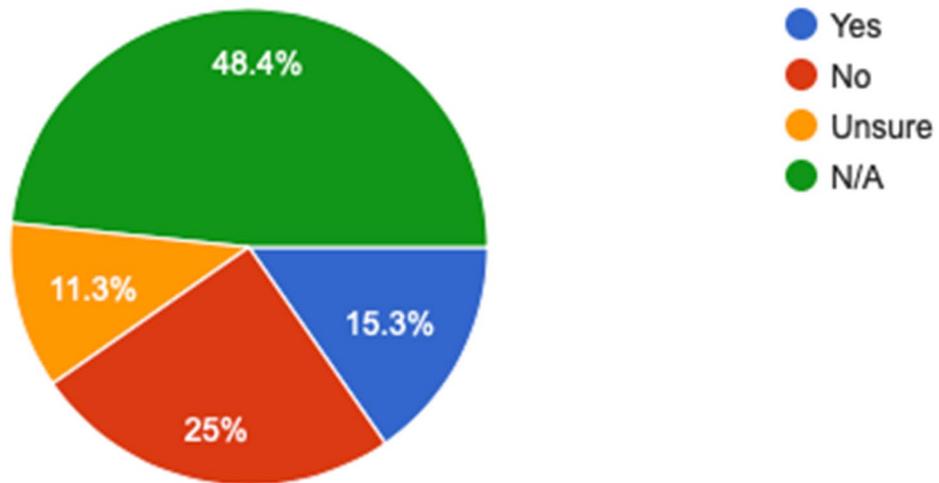
Are you religious (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

125 responses



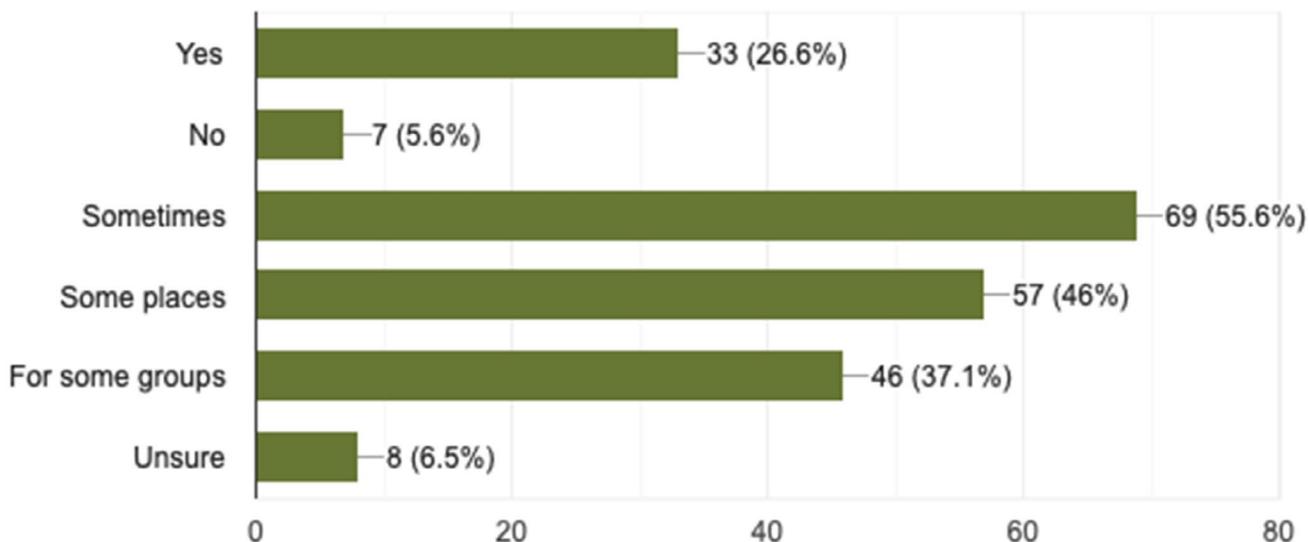
Do you feel your religion is accepting?

124 responses



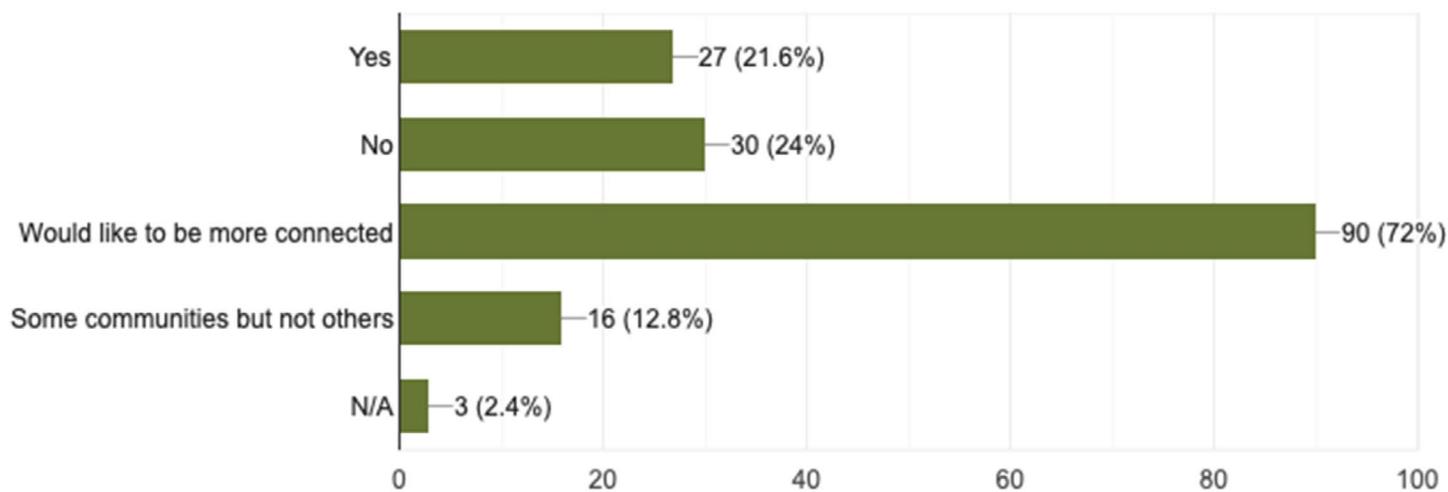
Do you consider the Chippewa Valley to be accepting (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

124 responses



Do you feel connected with others in LGBTQ+ communities (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

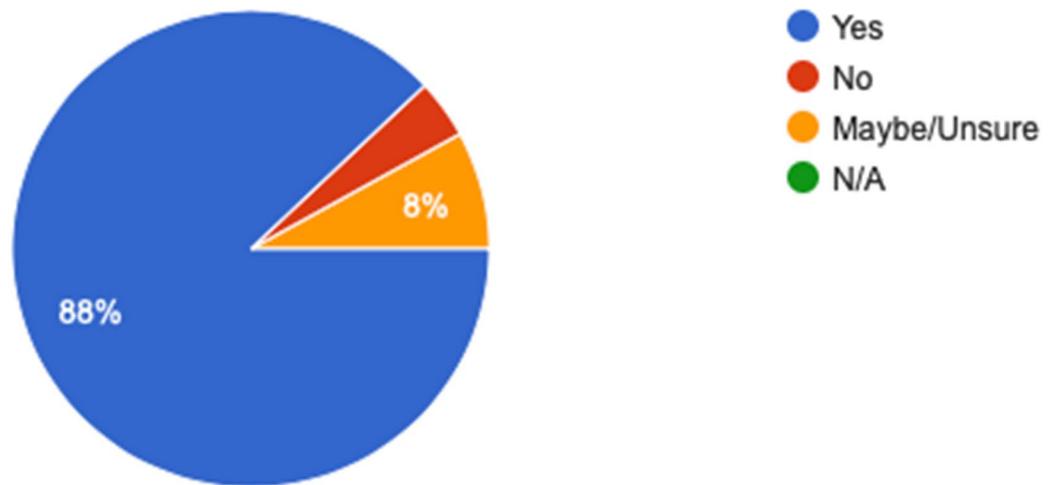
125 responses



Health and Healthcare

Do you currently have a way to access needed healthcare?

125 responses

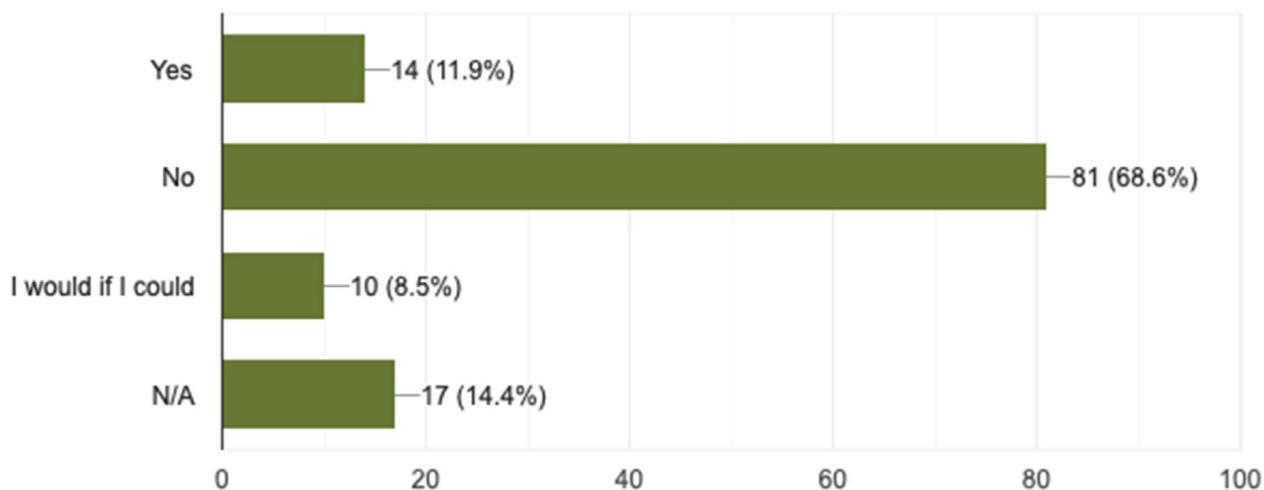


Do you currently have a way to access needed healthcare? (125 responses)

Yes	110 (88%)
No	5 (4%)
Maybe/Unsure	10 (8%)

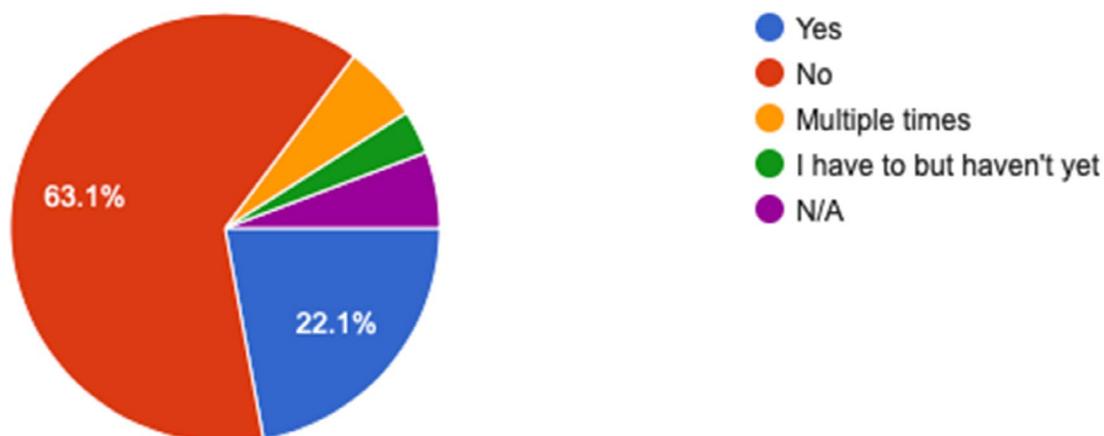
Are you still looking for healthcare (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

118 responses



Have you had to switch providers to access healthcare?

122 responses

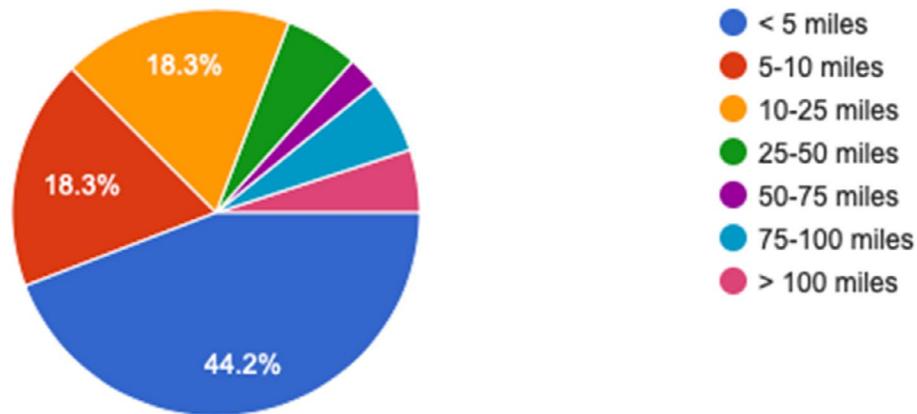


Have you had to switch providers to access healthcare? (122 responses)

Yes	27 (22.1%)
No	77 (63.1%)
Multiple times	7 (5.7%)
I have to but haven't yet	4 (3.3%)
N/A	7 (5.7%)

How far have you had to travel to access appropriate healthcare?

120 responses



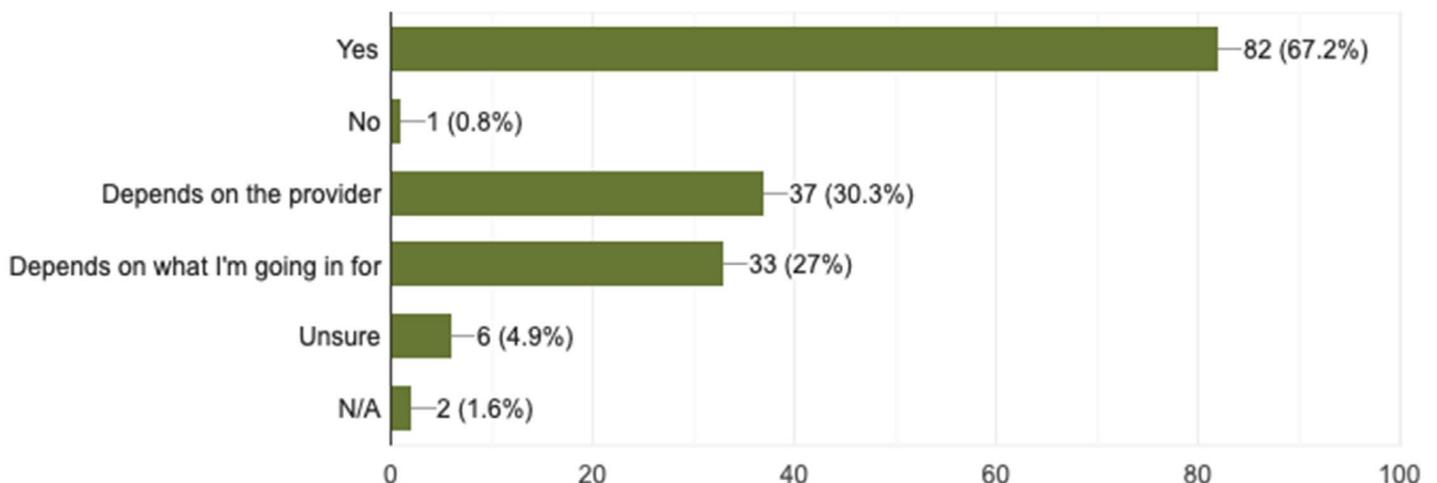
How far have you had to travel to access appropriate healthcare? (120 responses)

< 5 miles	53 (44.2%)
5–10 miles	22 (18.3%)
10–25 miles	22 (18.3%)
25–50 miles	7 (5.8%)
50–75 miles	3 (2.5%)
75–100 miles	7 (5.8%)
> 100 miles	6 (5%)

47.6% of trans respondents say they've had to travel 50+ miles to receive medical treatment. Of the other groups, 4.8% of the nonbinary group say they've had to travel 50+ miles to receive medical treatment, with 6% of the last group indicating this.

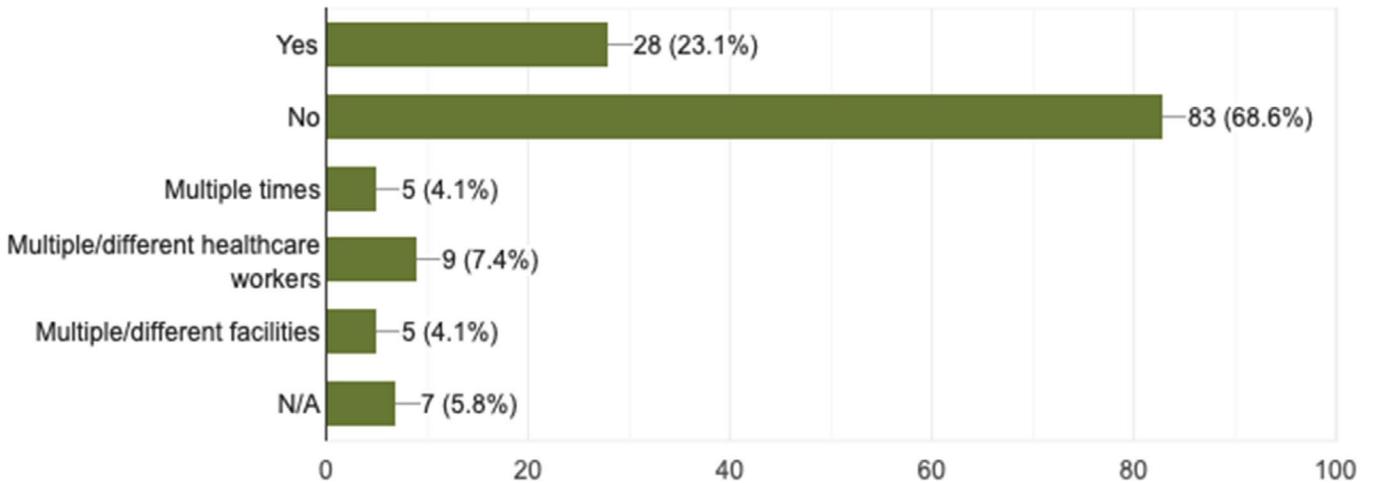
Do you feel safe seeking/going to healthcare (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

122 responses



Have you ever been discriminated against by a healthcare worker (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

121 responses



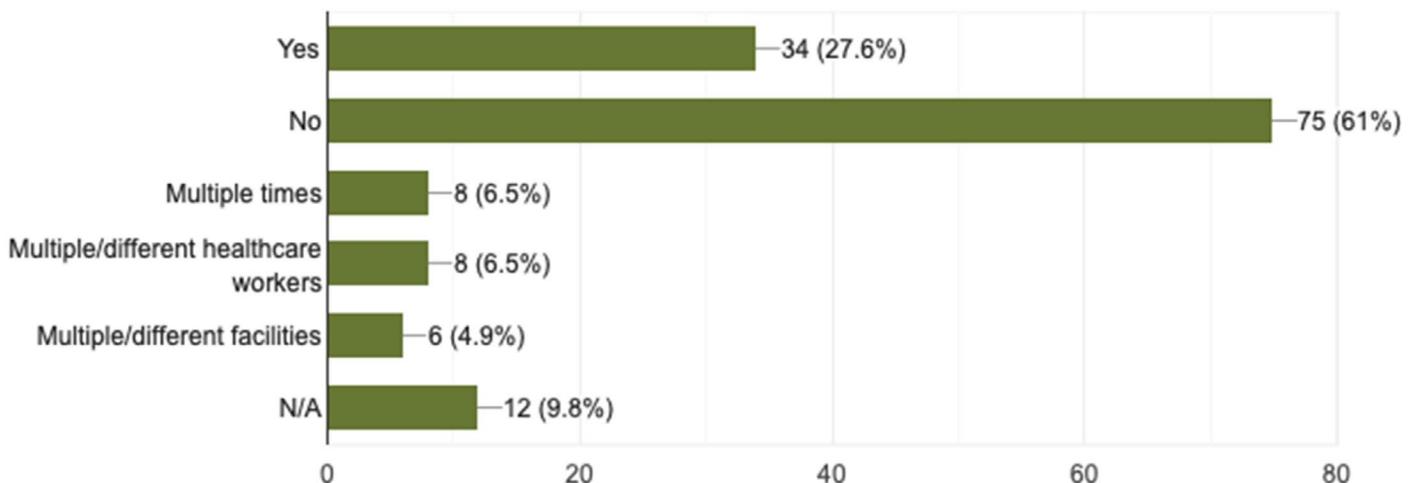
Have you ever been discriminated against by a healthcare worker (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)? (121 responses)

37.5% of respondents who marked at least one non-white racial identity reported having been discriminated against in healthcare, compared to 22.9% of respondents who only marked white.

61.9% of trans respondents say they've been discriminated against in healthcare. 19% of the nonbinary group say they've been discriminated against in healthcare. 16.9% of the remaining respondents say they've been discriminated against in healthcare.

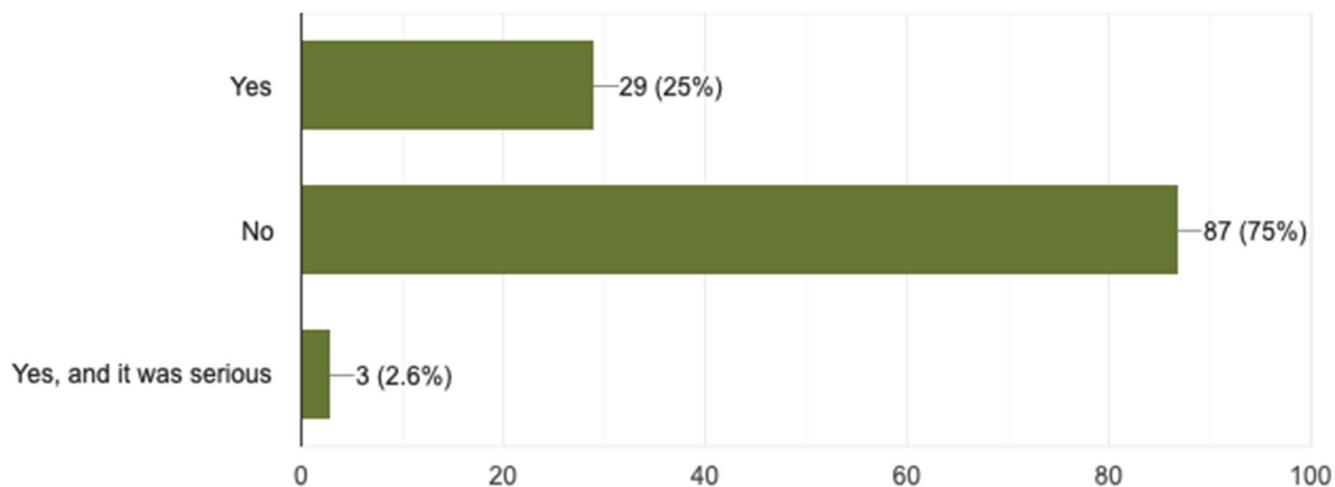
Have you ever experienced microaggressions from a healthcare worker (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

123 responses



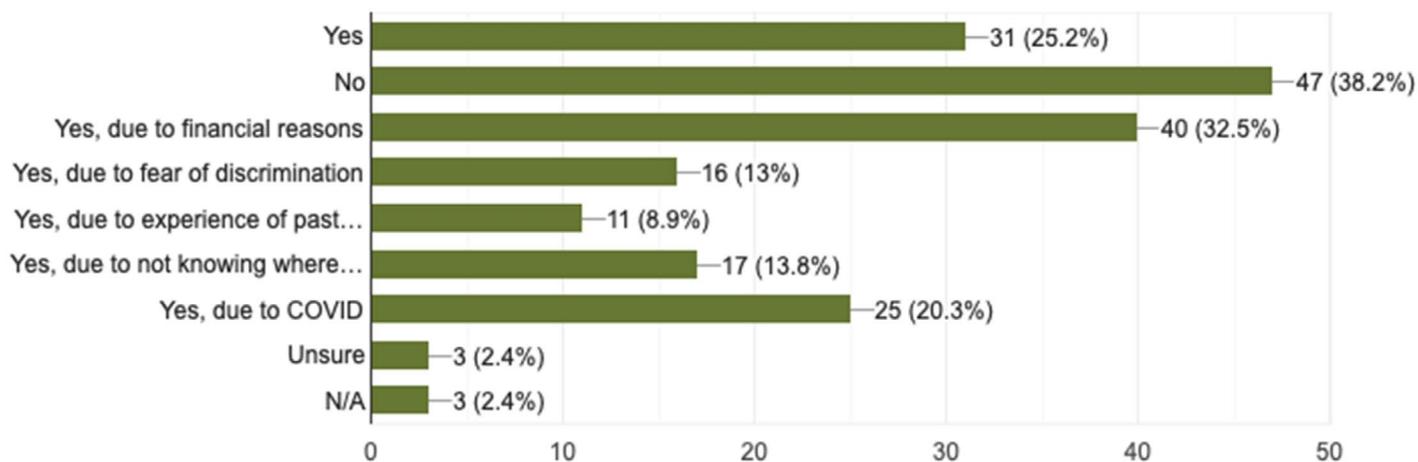
Has neglect/discriminations/microaggression from a healthcare worker(s) negatively influenced your treatment or health?

116 responses



Do you have health needs you're putting off (select any/all that apply and you wish to disclose)?

123 responses



Open-Ended

The last section of the survey allowed for free-text responses. The most often stated and most relevant responses to the questions are summarized below.

What people said they liked about the Chippewa Valley:

The area is gorgeous, rural, pretty, nature-filled, relaxing, with good outdoor experiences and parks.

The area is more accepting than the respondent's hometown, or more accepting of LGBTQ individuals.

The area is community focused.

The Chippewa Valley is home.

What people said they didn't like about the Chippewa Valley:

A lack of public transportation (especially on Sundays).

A lack of diversity.

Fears and experiences of discrimination, racism, and other negative interactions/structures.

An inability to find/access community, whether it be queer or racially diverse.

Being uncertain or uncomfortable about being out in public (holding hands, being visible, etc), for fear of reactions/discrimination/abuse.

Feeling a lack of community support.

Frustration with lack of cooperation from businesses/organizations when it comes to trans issues, basic paperwork changes, etc (further, frustrations with lack of laws/ordinances/regulations/policies to address these issues).

Frustration with how schools operate in regards to LGTBQ issues.

What people said would make their life better in the Chippewa Valley:

More community connections, more activities with LGBTQ people (about one-third of respondents specifically mentioned this, with many others alluding to it).

More nondiscrimination laws, including updated school policies to support LGBTQ students.

More job/career prospects, higher wages, and cheaper/affordable housing.

More safe spaces, spaces to be out in, and ways to locate LGBTQ friendly spaces.

Better access to healthcare.

Thank You!

The Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Census is an ongoing project of the Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center to assess the needs of the communities we serve.

To find the electronic version of this document, and to access the full anonymized data from the survey, please go to <https://www.cvlgbt.org/resources>

If you'd like to help us continue our work and grow into new programs to help fill the gaps in needs revealed by the census, please consider donating to our organization at <https://www.cvlgbt.org/donate>

If you need a more accessible document or any of the graphics, charts, etc read to you or rendered in a more accessible way, please reach out to media@cvlgbt.org and we'll do what we can.

