

PCS Data Brief

Gender Identity

Background

The Patient Characteristics Survey (PCS) is conducted every two years in programs funded, licensed or operated by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH). The PCS collects demographic, diagnostic, social and insurance characteristics for all persons served during a one week period.¹ The 2013 PCS cycle was the first year data were collected on the **gender identities** and **sexual orientations** of service recipients. Similar efforts have been undertaken in National surveys; for example, the Gallup Survey (2012) and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) (2013).²

Gender identity and sexual orientation have been increasingly identified as important social determinants of health and mental health.² Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals face unique health needs and challenges to accessing services.² The literature mentions personal and structural barriers, such as discrimination against LGBT individuals and lack of culturally competent providers, as the main barriers LGBT individuals face.³ These barriers can have an effect on the healthcare of LGBT individuals.⁴

This report presents demographic characteristics by gender identity for individuals served in the New York State Mental Health System in 2013.

Gender Identity Characteristics of Adults in the PCS

During the 2013 PCS Survey week, 144,464 people were identified as 18 and older (Adults) in the mental health population. Among adults, 401 (0.3%) persons were reported on the survey to be transgender men or transgender women [Table 1].

Key Findings

- The percentages of Transgender clients differed across age group, race, and region served. (Tables 2 & 3)
- There is no difference in the percentages of Transgender clients among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic clients.
- The New York City region served the highest percentage of Transgender clients.
- There was no significant difference in use of service categories for transgender clients.

Table 1: Reported Gender Identity

Gender Identity	Number of Adults Surveyed N	Percentage of Adults Surveyed %
Total Adults	144,464	100.0
Male	69,213	47.9
Female	74,671	51.7
Transgender Man (Female At Birth)	131	0.1
Transgender Woman (Male At Birth)	270	0.2
Unknown	179	0.1

Table 2: Reporting of Transgender Identity by Age and Race

Characteristic	Number of Adults Surveyed	Transgender N (%)
Total Adults	144,464	401 (0.3)
Age Group		
18-29 Years	24,119	90 (0.4)
30-49 Years	54,706	177 (0.3)
50-64 Years	51,400	118 (0.2)
65 Years Or Older	14,060	16 (0.1)
(Chi-Square P-value <.0001, 3 DF)		
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	30,755	100 (0.3)
Non-Hispanic	112,190	299 (0.3)
(Chi-Square P-value 0.078, 1 DF)		
Race		
White	76,968	188 (0.2)
Black	37,600	112 (0.3)
Other	21,835	70 (0.3)
Multi-Racial	5,422	25 (0.5)
(Chi-Square P-value 0.0087, 3 DF)		

Individuals who reported unknown (179) in the characteristic groups or Gender Identity were excluded from the analysis

Table 3: Reporting of Transgender Identity by Program and NYS Regions⁵

Characteristic	Number of Adults Surveyed	Transgender N (%)
Program Category		
Emergency	2,643	7 (0.3)
Inpatient	8,784	21 (0.2)
Outpatient	84,206	237 (0.3)
Residential	26,412	86 (0.3)
Support	22,240	50 (0.2)
(Chi-Square P-value 0.2912, 4 DF)		
Region Served		
Western	23,868	62 (0.3)
Central NY	14,308	21 (0.2)
Hudson River	21,116	44 (0.2)
New York City	72,407	251 (0.4)
Long Island	12,586	23 (0.2)
(Chi-Square P-value <.0001, 4 DF)		
Individuals who reported unknown (179) in Gender Identity were excluded from the analysis		

Discussion:

Rates of reported Transgender Identity on the PCS are comparable with National studies. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation Study, 2.3% of adults 18 and older identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual while 0.3% of the U.S. population was estimated to identify as transgender.² Gallup data found between 3.4% and 3.6% of adults 18 and older identified as LGBT.² Younger adults aged 18 to 29 years old were more likely to identify as LGBT (6.4%) than older people aged 65 and older (1.9%).⁶

Next Steps:

Obtaining data on sexual orientation and gender identity is the first step toward understanding the health needs and disparities for this population. With this objective, the NYS Office of Mental Health introduced a gender-identity question to the survey and, in the [Guidelines for Completing the 2013 Patient Characteristics Survey](#), advised providers to allow clients to self-identify. However, the guidelines directed providers to report *apparent gender* rather than “Unknown” gender when clients did not self-identify. This instruction may have given the unintended message that it is acceptable to guess at gender identity and likely resulted in a low estimate of “Unknown” gender identity. Therefore, for the 2015 PCS:

- Assigned Sex at Birth and Transgender Identity will be asked as separate questions in order to provide a truer representation of unknown Transgender Identity.
- OMH will encourage providers to integrate client self-identification into their data collection and recording processes for the upcoming 2015 Survey.

References

¹ <http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/statistics/index.htm>

² Ranji U., Beamesderfer A., Kates J., & Salganicoff A.: Health and Access to Care and Coverage for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals in the U.S., 2014; <http://kff.org/report-section/health-and-access-to-care-and-coverage-for-lgbt-individuals-in-the-u-s-the-lgbt-community/> .

³ National Healthcare Disparities Report, 2013. May 2014. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/nhdr13/index.html>

⁴ Institute of Medicine. (2011). <http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2011/The-Health-of-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-People/LGBT%20Health%202011%20Report%20Brief.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/aboutomh/FieldOffices.html>

⁶ Gates, G., Newport, F. (2013). Gallup poll Special Report: 3.4% of U.S. Adults Identify as LGBT. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/158066/special-report-adults-identify-lgbt.aspx>