


WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT LGBTQ+ PEOPLE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL?

	Noticeably missing from both arrest and booking data provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to Million Dollar Hoods is non-binary gender identity and/or sexual orientation information. The Sheriff's Department does not currently collect, or make publicly available, arrest information specific to transgender or gender-non-conforming people.
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There is a unit called "K-6 G" for people who identify as LGBT and request placement there.

This is clearly a non-exhaustive list of people who identify as LGBTQ+ in LASD custody.

LASD Custody Division Quarterly Report for July – September 2018
Quarterly average of LGBT (K-6 G) people at Men's Central Jail: 358
Quarterly average of LGBT (K-6 G) people at Twin Towers: 81
In May 2017, S.T.A.R.T. substance use disorder treatment services began at MCJ for up to 90 gay and transgender people. ¹

Transgender women appear to be held in the K-6 G units alongside people who identify as males.²

An LASD "classification officer" screens people for placement in the K-6 G units.³

Deputy Sheriff Javier Machado is tasked with interviewing incoming inmates to determine whether they're gay.

"The questions on there are just open dialogue to see what kind of life you're living. Who are you hanging around with. We do ask about gay bars or clubs or magazines," he explained.

In August 2014, the "classification officer" of the LGBT unit said about those held there:⁴

Drug charges	~31%
Burglary, robbery, theft – "offenses often linked to drug abuse"	~32%
Probation or parole violations	8%

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT INCARCERATED LGBTQ+ PEOPLE NATIONALLY?

LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately pulled into the criminal system.⁵

% of INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS LESBIAN, GAY OR BISEXUAL		
In general public (acc. to Gallup)	In state & federal prisons	In city & county jails
3.8%	7.9%	7.1%

GENDER DISPARITY: Around 5% of American adults will spend time in jail or prison during their lifetimes but T/GNC people have much higher incarceration rates.⁶


% of ADULTS WHO HAVE SPENT TIME IN JAIL OR PRISON		
Transgender / GNC survey respondents	Transgender women	Transgender men
16%	21%	10%

Many LGBTQ+ people of color are pulled into the criminal system at a young age.


Black and Pink surveyed 1,000+ incarcerated LGBTQ+ people⁷ and found:

58% | First arrest under age 18


Many LGBTQ+ people – especially T/GNC people – are economically marginalized because of discrimination and participate in survival economies that increase the chances of arrest.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only 21% of T/GNC people have ID that matches gender identity. - 90% of T/GNC people have experienced harassment or discrimination on the job or taking actions to hide their identity in order to avoid it. - T/GNC people have 2x unemployment rate as national average. - T/GNC people are 4x more likely to have an annual income <\$10K than the general population.⁸ - Black and Pink survey: 39% of respondents reported that they have traded sex for survival. Selling drugs is also a frequent means of survival: over half of respondents have sold drugs for money.⁹
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Many LGBTQ+ people experience housing instability or homelessness that undermines the ability to thrive and increases risk of arrest.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Black and Pink survey: ~20% reported being homeless or transient prior to their incarceration, while 29% lived with family or a friend. Only 52% were living in a home of their own.- One in five (20%) of transgender people in men’s prisons in California had been homeless just prior to their incarceration.¹⁰- 55% of T/GNC people attempting to access homeless shelters experience harassment, and 29% are turned away altogether.¹¹- TransLatin@ survey of trans people in Southern California: 68% of participants who do not have stable housing reported that they do not know of a shelter they can go to for help and feel safe as a trans person. 18.8% are either homeless or in temporary housing.¹²
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System-involved LGBTQ+ people often experience barriers to much-needed medical and mental health care.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transgender people have >4x the national average rate of HIV infection, and 28% report they have postponed necessary medical care because of discrimination.¹³- Black and Pink survey:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o 67% have been diagnosed with a mental illness. 7% are HIV+; black respondents 2x more likely to be HIV+ than white respondents.o One third in romantic relationships experienced intimate partner abuse.
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Many LGBTQ+ people have experienced violence or harassment in the criminal system.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A national survey found 22% of transgender people who interacted with police reported harassment.- Nearly half of LGBT survivors of violence who sought help from police report misconduct. In the 2000s, law enforcement agents have consistently been among the top 3 perpetrators of homophobic or transphobic violence against LGBT people reported to anti-violence organizations.¹⁴- A 2007 study of people incarcerated in California showed 5 percent of straight men were victims of sexual assault including rape, while “an astonishing” 67 percent of gay, bisexual and transgender incarcerated people were.¹⁵- A 2009 survey found that transgender people in prison experience sexual victimization at a rate 13 times higher than non-transgender people in prison.¹⁶
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- ¹ LASD Custody Division Quarterly Report, July – September 2018, http://www.la-sheriff.org/s2/static_content/info/documents/Custody_Third_Quarter_Report_2018.pdf
- ² <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/11/25/gay-wing-of-mens-central-jail-embraces-individuality-inmate-says/>;
<https://www.laweekly.com/in-the-gay-wing-of-l-a-mens-central-jail-its-not-shanks-and-muggings-but-hand-sewn-gowns-and-tears/>
- ³ <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/11/25/gay-wing-of-mens-central-jail-embraces-individuality-inmate-says/>
- ⁴ <https://www.laweekly.com/in-the-gay-wing-of-l-a-mens-central-jail-its-not-shanks-and-muggings-but-hand-sewn-gowns-and-tears/>
- ⁵ 2011 – 2012 National Inmate Survey, cited at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/file/lgbt-criminal-justice.pdf>
- ⁶ National Transgender Discrimination Survey, February 2016, cited at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/file/lgbt-criminal-justice.pdf>
- ⁷ Jason Lydon, Kamaria Carrington, Hana Low, Reed Miller, and Mahsa Yazdy. *Coming Out of Concrete Closets: A Report on Black and Pink's National LGBTQ Prisoner Survey*. Omaha, NE: Black and Pink, 2015.
- ⁸ Catherine Hanssens, Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, Andrea J. Ritchie, Dean Spade, and Urvashi Vaid. *A Roadmap for Change: Federal Policy Recommendations for Addressing the Criminalization of LGBT People and People Living with HIV*. New York: Center for Gender & Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School, 2014.
- ⁹ Jason Lydon, Kamaria Carrington, Hana Low, Reed Miller, and Mahsa Yazdy. *Coming Out of Concrete Closets: A Report on Black and Pink's National LGBTQ Prisoner Survey*. Omaha, NE: Black and Pink, 2015.
- ¹⁰ Lori Sexton, Valerie Jenness, and Jennifer Sumner, “Where the Margins Meet: A Demographic Assessment of Transgender Inmates in Men’s Prisons,” University of California, Irvine, June 10, 2009, <http://ucicorrections.seweb.uci.edu/files/2013/06/A-Demographic-Assessment-ofTransgender-Inmates-in-Mens-Prisons.pdf>.
- ¹¹ Jaime M. Grant, Lisa A. Mottet, and Justin Tanis, “Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.” Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.
- ¹² TransLatin@ Coalition, The State of Trans Health [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55b6e526e4b02f9283ae1969/t/583dee0a579fb3beb5822169/1480453645378/TLC-The State of Trans Health-WEB.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55b6e526e4b02f9283ae1969/t/583dee0a579fb3beb5822169/1480453645378/TLC-The+State+of+Trans+Health-WEB.pdf)
- ¹³ Catherine Hanssens, Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, Andrea J. Ritchie, Dean Spade, and Urvashi Vaid. *A Roadmap for Change: Federal Policy Recommendations for Addressing the Criminalization of LGBT People and People Living with HIV*. New York: Center for Gender & Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School, 2014.
- ¹⁴ Catherine Hanssens, Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, Andrea J. Ritchie, Dean Spade, and Urvashi Vaid. *A Roadmap for Change: Federal Policy Recommendations for Addressing the Criminalization of LGBT People and People Living with HIV*. New York: Center for Gender & Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School, 2014.
- ¹⁵ <https://www.laweekly.com/in-the-gay-wing-of-l-a-mens-central-jail-its-not-shanks-and-muggings-but-hand-sewn-gowns-and-tears/>
- ¹⁶ Lori Sexton, Val Jenness, and Jennifer Sumner, “Where the Margins Meet: A Demographic Assessment of Transgender Inmates in Men’s Prisons,” *Justice Quarterly* 27 (6) (2010): 835-866, available at <http://ucicorrections.seweb.uci.edu/files/2013/06/A-Demographic-Assessment-of-TransgenderInmates-in-Mens-Prisons.pdf>; Mogul, Ritchie, and Whitlock, *Queer (In)Justice*.