



There is no high-quality evidence to suggest that the overall attempted suicide rate of transgender youth is 41%.

The frequently repeated claim that 41% of 6,450 transgender respondents said they had attempted suicide at some point in their lives [1] is taken from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey [2].

However, a 2021 paper [3] notes that the participants were recruited through transgender advocacy organizations and subjects were asked to “pledge” to promote the survey among friends and family. This recruiting method yielded a large but highly skewed sample. By targeting transgender advocacy groups, the survey underrepresented the experiences of transgender individuals who are not politically engaged. Also, a very high number of the survey participants (nearly 40%) had not transitioned medically or socially at the time of the survey, and a significant number reported no intention to transition in the future.

A 2016 article [4] analyzes the power of this 41% statistic, investigating how it has affected conversations about the injustices transgender people face and the importance of family and societal acceptance.

REFERENCES

[1] Turban, J. L., Beckwith, N., Reisner, S. L., & Keuroghlian, A. S. (2020). Association between recalled exposure to gender identity conversion efforts and psychological distress and suicide attempts among transgender adults. *JAMA Psychiatry* 77 (1): 68-76. [\[Link\]](#)



[2] Grant, J. M., Mottet, L. A., Tanis, J., Harrison, J., Herman, J. L., & Keisling, M. (2011). *Injustice at every turn: A report of the national transgender discrimination survey*. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; National Center for Transgender Equality. [\[Link\]](#)

[3] D'Angelo, R., Syrulnik, E., Ayad, S., Marchiano, L., Kenny, D.T. & Clarke, P. (2021). *One Size Does Not Fit All: In Support of Psychotherapy for Gender Dysphoria*. *Arch Sex Behav* 50: 7-16. [\[Link\]](#)

[4] Tanis, J. (2016). *The power of 41%: A glimpse into the life of a statistic*. *Am J Orthopsychiatry*, 86 (4): 373-7. [\[Link\]](#)

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