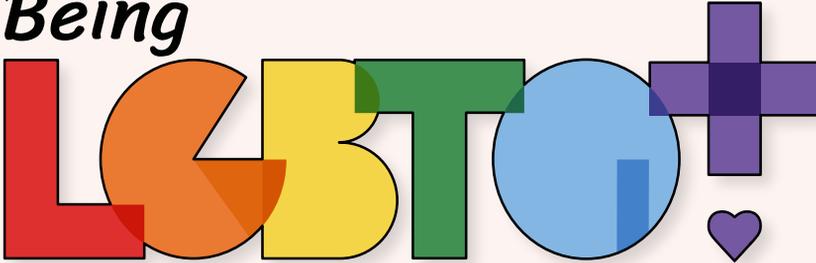


Being
LGBTQ+
in Czechia 2022

The logo features the word 'LGBTQ+' in large, bold, multi-colored letters. The 'L' is red, 'G' is orange, 'B' is yellow, 'T' is green, 'Q' is blue, and the '+' is purple. A small purple heart is positioned below the 'Q'. The word 'Being' is written in a black, italicized font above the letters, and 'in Czechia 2022' is written in a black, italicized font below them.

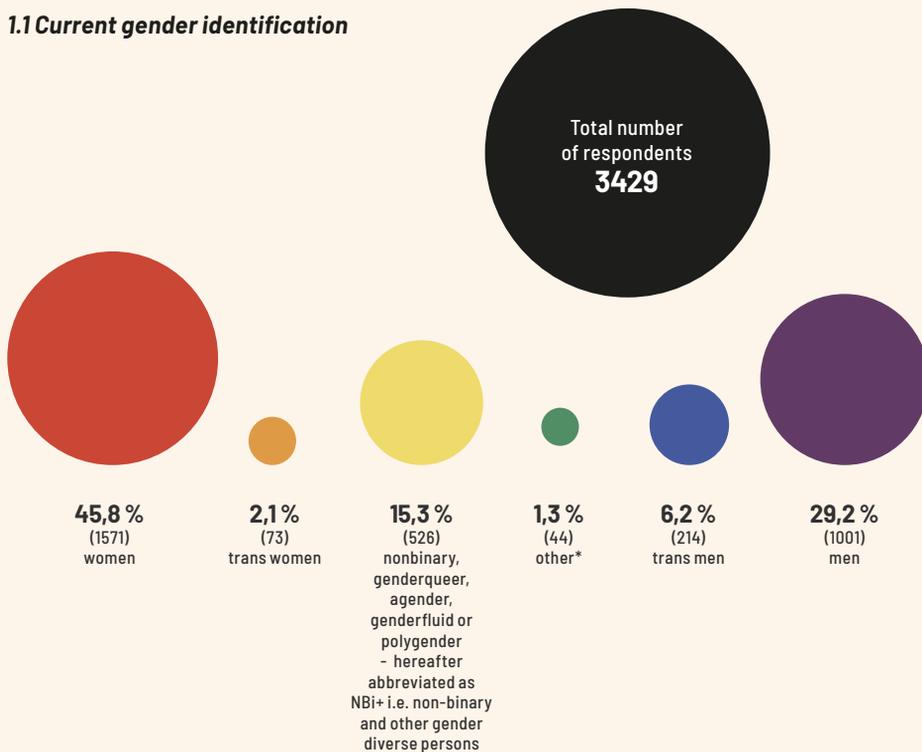
**Summary of research results from the
Being LGBTQ+ in the Czech Republic
2022 study**

**RNDr. Michal Pitoňák, Ph.D.
Mgr. Marcela Macháčková**

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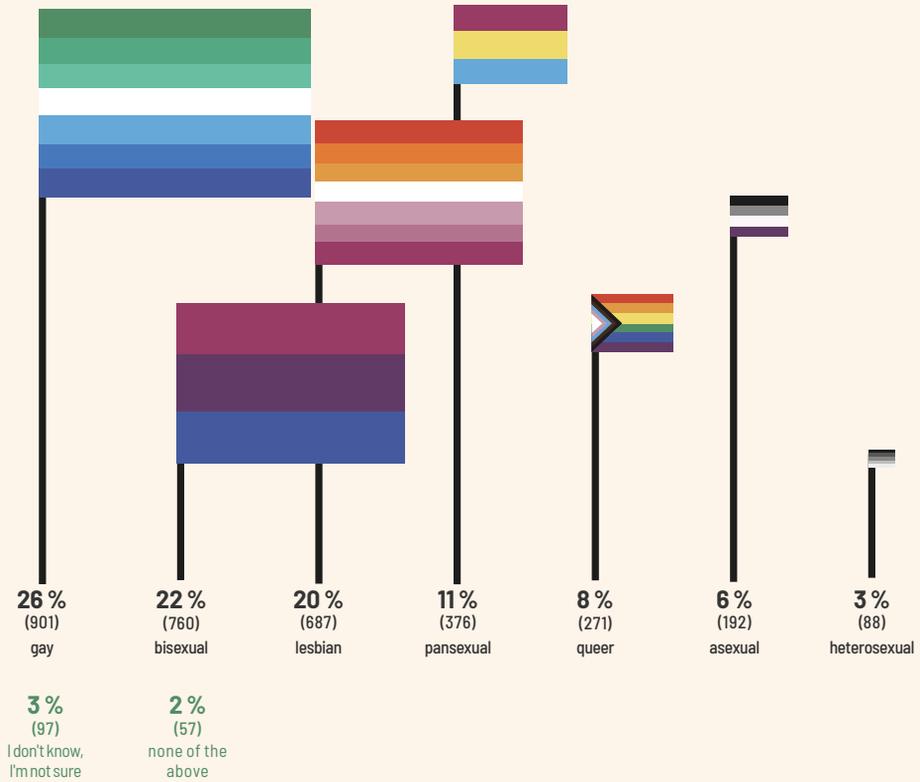
1. This research report, like other similar studies, is based on a community-based online sample. It received a total of 3,429 completed responses, representing a highly diverse set of participants, diverse in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity.

1.1 Current gender identification

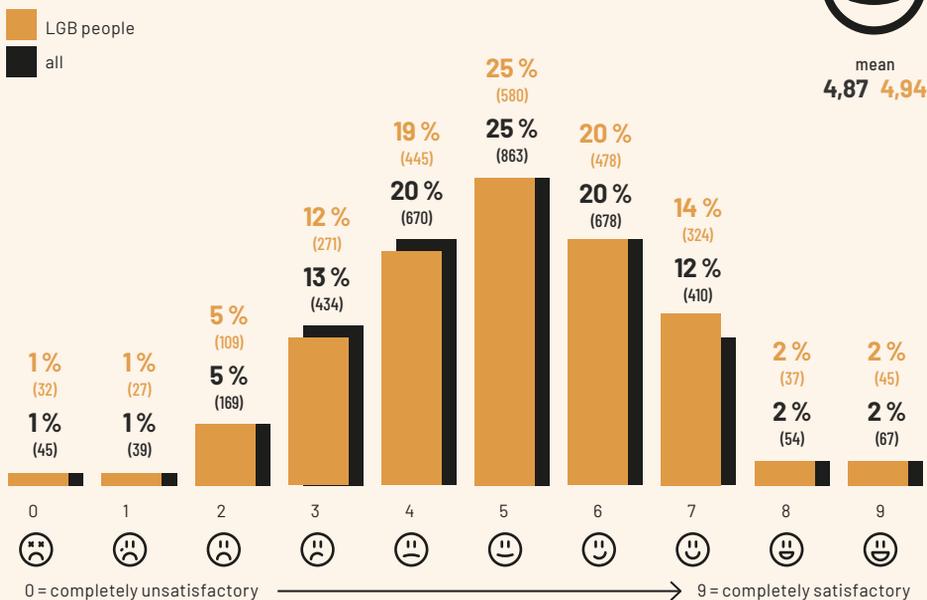


- 2. On average, trans and other gender diverse people become aware of their gender identity before the age of 15. However, on average, trans women confided to someone about their gender identity 7 years later than they become self-aware, while trans men and NBi+ people told someone about their gender identity on average 3 years later.

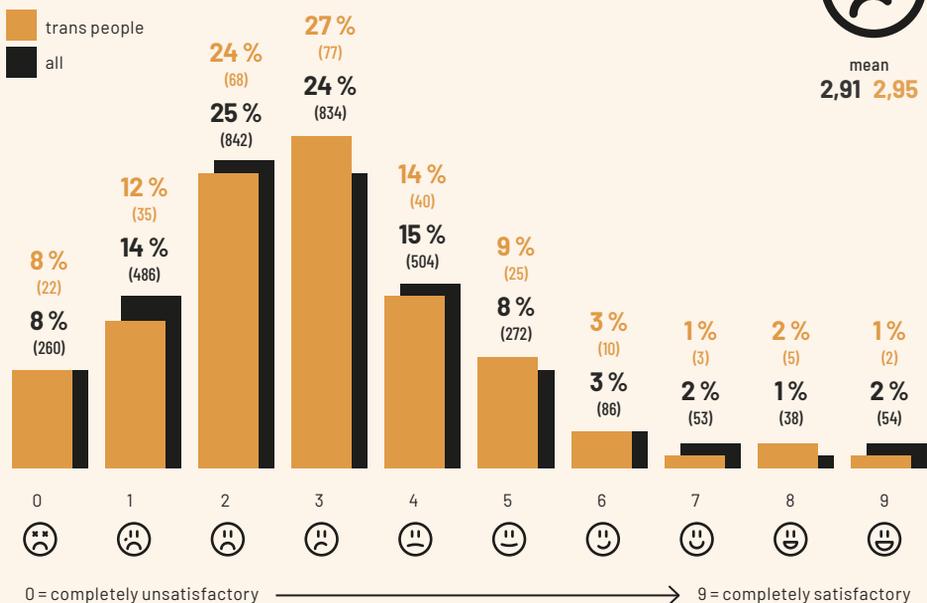
1.2 Sexual orientation (self-identification) of respondents



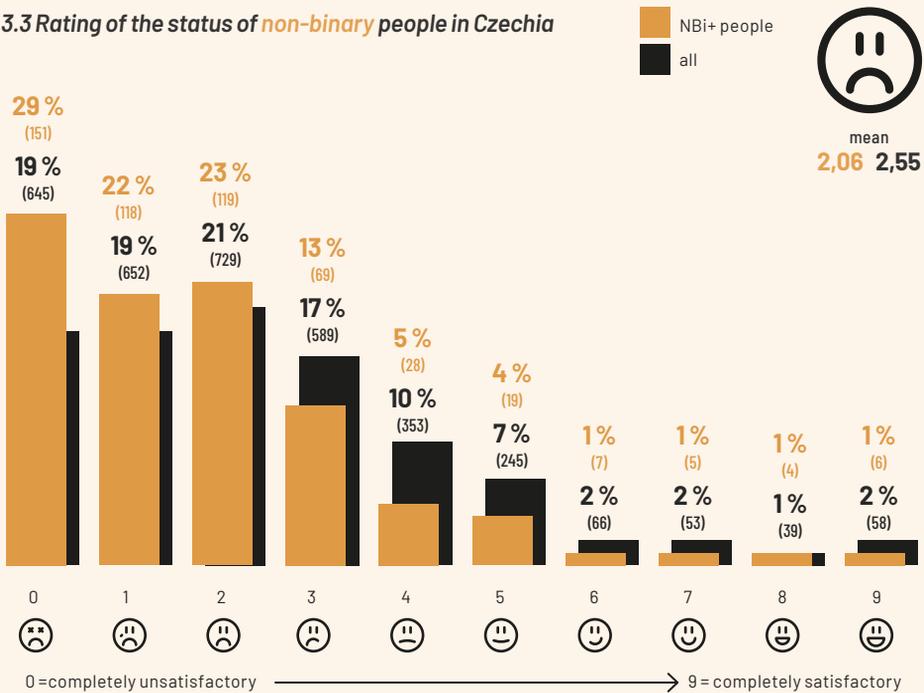
3.1 Rating of the status of *lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB)* people in Czechia



3.2 Rating of the status of *trans* people in Czechia

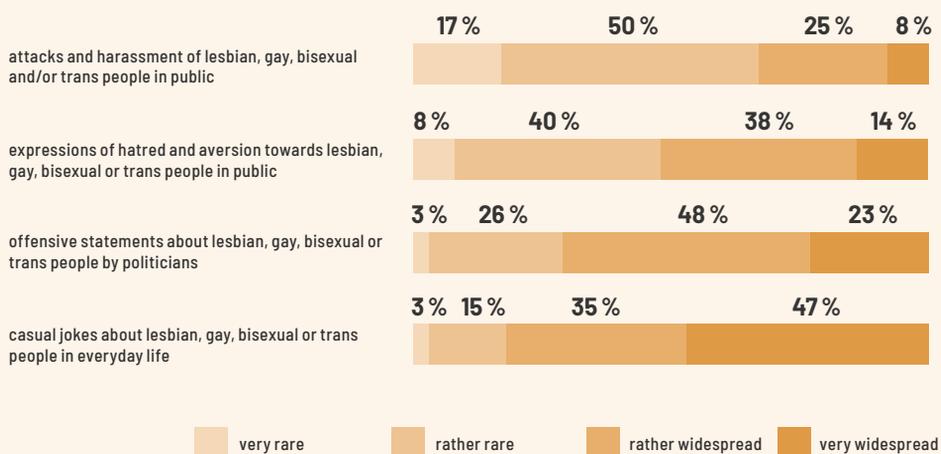


3.3 Rating of the status of *non-binary* people in Czechia



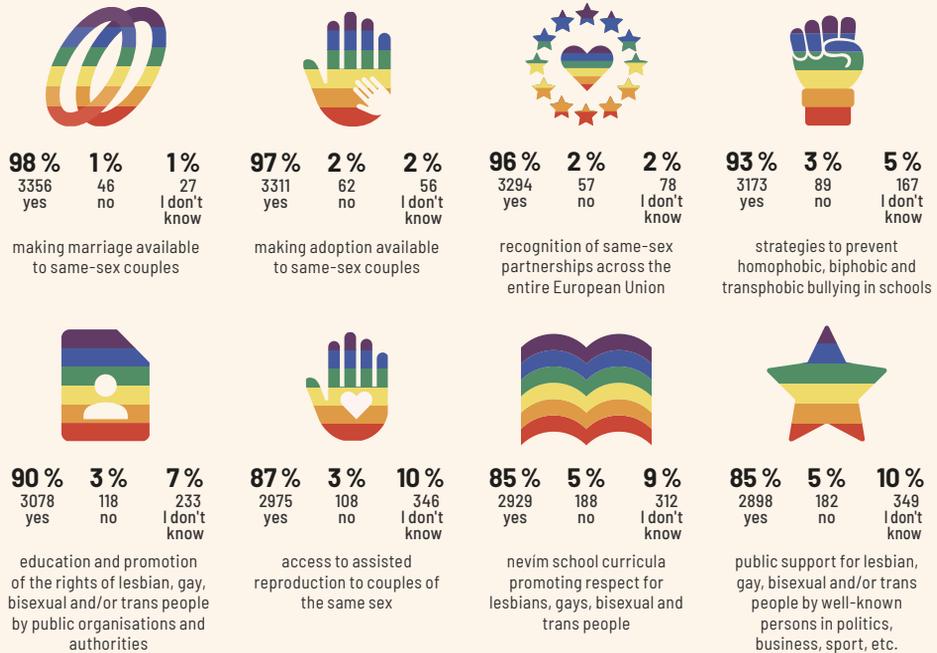
- Rating of the position of LGBTQ+ people in society varied significantly by sub-groups. Across a ten-point rating scale from 0 (completely unsatisfactory) to 9 (completely satisfactory), where the average is equal to 4.5, gay, lesbian, and bisexual people rated their social status neutrally, on average, at 4.9. However, trans people rated their status as significantly less satisfactory, with average only at 2.9 points. Non-binary or other gender diverse people rated their position in society the lowest, at 2.1 points.
- The most common stereotype encountered by LGBTQ+ respondents in Czechia was the trans-negative assumption that "there are only two sexes - XY male and XX female" - "often" encountered by 91% of our respondents. The prejudiced view that "gays and lesbians should not display their sexual orientation in public, but in private they can do whatever they want" was "often" encountered by 78% of respondents. Probably the most widespread binegative stereotype was the statement that bisexual people "say they are bisexual because they don't want to admit they are gay" (52% encountered it "often"). LGBTQ+ people were least likely to encounter the view that "homosexual sex should be criminalised" - it was faced by 5% of all respondents (identical % as in 2018).

3.5 In your opinion, how common or widespread are the following expressions or events in Czech society?



5. Offensive statements by politicians were considered "widespread" by 71% of respondents, whereas only 43% of respondents rated the same item as frequent in the 2018 VOP study and only 27% in the 2012 FRA study. Hence we see a continuous increase in tens of percentage points. We also see an increase in expressions of hate and aversion towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in public, with 52% of all respondents in our study describing them as 'widespread', representing a 12% increase compared to 2018.
6. Despite the aforementioned, in terms of subjective ratings, there has been a slight decrease in perceived levels of prejudice and intolerance over the last 5 years. According to 57% of respondents, it has decreased, 22% believed it had remained the same and 20% believed it had increased. Respondents attributed the decrease to greater visibility and involvement of LGBTQ+ people in public life (47% of them), more support from public figures and leaders (22%), and another 14% of respondents mentioned the role of civil society support. Of those who perceived that prejudice and intolerance had increased, most respondents (63%) listed the negative attitudes and discourse of politicians and political parties towards LGBTQ+ people as the main cause.

3. 10 What measures do you think would help you to live better in Czechia?



- In terms of the prevalence of violence against LGBTQ+ people, 55% of respondents felt that the level of violence had remained the same over the last 5 years. Those who stated there was a decrease in violence against LGBTQ+ people most commonly attributed this to the lowering of prejudice and intolerance, and to the greater visibility and involvement of LGBTQ+ people in everyday life (33%), as well as to support from civil society (21%) and to support from public figures (18%). Those who thought that the level of violence had increased then again concluded (49%) that this was due to negative attitudes and discourse from political parties and individual politicians.
- The most important measures that LGBTQ+ people surveyed felt would increase their life quality in Czechia were related to family life. The highest level of demand expressed by 98% (previous study 96%) was for introducing same-sex marriage, followed by 97% interest in making same-sex couples eligible for adoption (an increase of 4% on the previous survey), 96% would appreciate recognition of same-sex marriage across the European Union (previous study 95%). Introduction of a strategy to prevent homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools would help according to 93% of respondents. Removing the requirement to undergo operative procedures incompatible with maintaining fertility in order to get legal recognition of sex change would help according to 90% of trans and NBi+ respondents.

- 9.** 25% of respondents were open towards all their family members about their sexual orientation. In contrast, 55% of respondents were open toward all their friends, with the highest proportion of openness in this regard was among gay and lesbian respondents. Openness about gender identity was slightly higher in relation to family than sexual orientation, with 30% of trans women and 27% of trans men having been open to everyone in their family. However, among non-binary people, only 5% were open towards all family members. 58% of trans men and 49% of trans women were open towards all friends, but only 21% of NBI+ people.
- 10.** Due to fear of harassment, assault and threats, individuals were most likely to hide their sexual orientation in public spaces - specifically, 44% hid their sexual orientation on public transport, 42% in public places such as streets, parks or squares, 33% in public buildings and 29% in health facilities. This level of concealment has a profound impact on the psychological experience of LGBTQ+ people when they are outdoors. However, our results show that 28% of all respondents hid their sexual orientation due to fear of harassment, assault or threats, even within the family environment. In terms of gender identity, it was 55% of NBI+ people, 43% of trans men and 29% of trans women. This shows that the idea of family as a safe and supportive environment is very far from reality for one third of LGBTQ+ people.
- 11.** Gender identity at school was "always" or "often" concealed by 41% of respondents, compared to 43% in the 2018 ombudsman survey, so we are seeing only a marginal shift towards greater openness. Nevertheless, it is still almost 1/2 of people who felt unable to express themselves authentically in line with their identity, which may impact their capacity to learn and build relationships within the collective. 37% of respondents 'always' or 'often' concealed their sexual orientation. Here we observe a slight increase from 2018, when only 34% of respondents gave a similar answer.
- 12.** In addition, our results also show that a significant proportion of respondents (most notably 42% of gay men) "always" refrained from holding hands in public. The most frequent responses we noted were concerns about safety, attempt to avoid conflicts or other negative reactions, or being disadvantaged.
- 13.** Over the past five years (since the beginning of 2017), 43% of LGBTQ+ people in the Czech Republic have felt discriminated against or harassed. This is an increase of 5% from the 2018 VOP findings. In the last 5 years, groups who felt most frequently discriminated against were trans men (58%) and NBI+ people (57%), followed by pansexual, queer and asexual (PQA) people (49%). The youngest age groups felt discriminated against more often than older age groups.

- 14.** In the past year, 35% of all respondents had felt discriminated against or harassed. Within subgroups it was 52% of NBI+ people, 51% of trans men, 48% of trans women, 44% of PQA+ people and 36% of lesbian women. Gay men were the least likely to experience discrimination (28%). Again, the results confirmed a very worrying age distribution of experiences of discrimination, with the highest proportion of people (57%) with experience of discrimination aged 12-15. The most frequent experience reported by respondents was verbal harassment, insults and other hurtful comments about them in the last year (84%).

"While walking on the street stranger told me I should kill myself and that all the "faggots" should be gased. I didn't provoke him in any way."

(gay men, 23 yo, Jihomoravský region)

"I think the worst case was when my high school psychology teacher compared homosexuality to pedophilia during the class in front of everyone. She said: "Why is one of these supported and other one treated? Shouldn't we either support or treat both?" And absolutely worst was that lot of my classmates actually agreed with her words."

(lesbian woman, 17 yo, Prague)

My work contract wasn't prolonged because of me going through transition. I was literally told that my employer "does not wish to see my new ID". When going to a job interview after, I was told that if they'd give me the job, the employees would not feel safe at work."

(trans men, queer, 29 yo, Středočeský region)

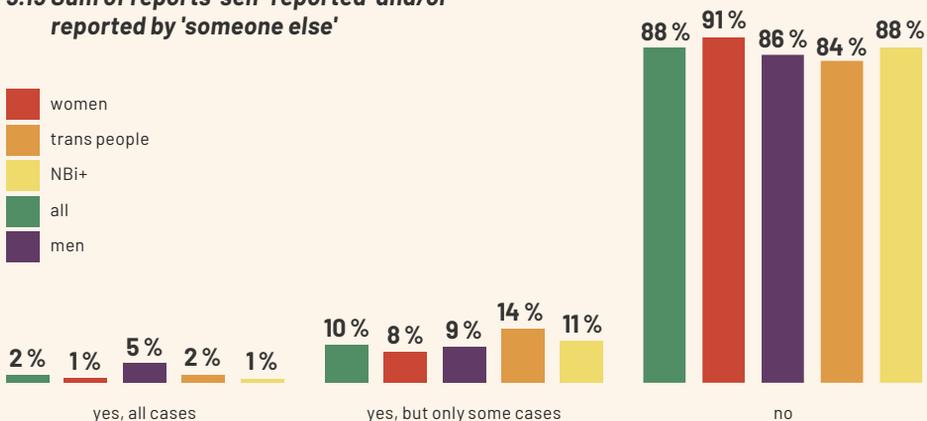
"My mom is crying and forcing me to go out with boys. She's not dealing well with the fact I like women, and is often angry at me. She asks me to not tell it to dad, so he wouldn't kick us out of the house,. She's strictly against anything that is not "heterosexual".

(lesbian woman, 19 yo, Pardubice region)

- 15.** Some 26% of all respondents who had experienced discrimination in the last year had experienced discrimination in a school or university setting - but most often this was experienced by trans men (58%) and NBI+ people (36%). Furthermore, 46% of trans men and 47% of trans women reported being discriminated against in health or social services, and around 54% of trans men and 50% of trans women in situations where they had to show their ID.

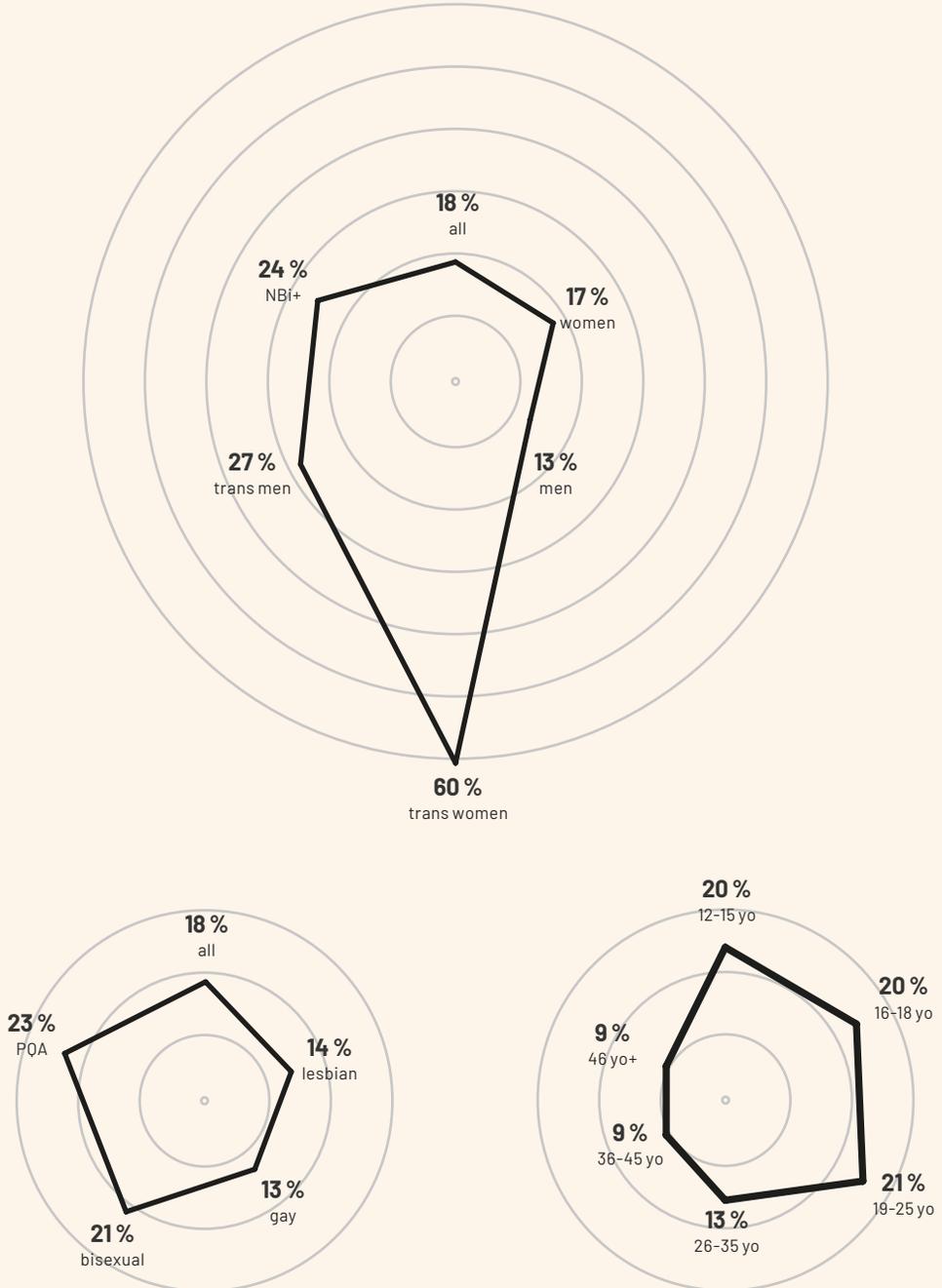
16. Sexual orientation was identified by 95% of men and 85% of women as a perceived motivation for their discrimination. Gender identity was identified by 96% of trans people and 72% of NBi+ people as a perceived motivation for their discrimination.
17. Incidents of discrimination remain overwhelmingly unreported. A full 92% of respondents have not personally addressed a discriminatory incident. Only 2% of respondents went to self-report every single incident that happened to them. If we add up the total number of reported discriminatory acts, either by the person who was targeted or by a third party, there are still 88% of cases that went completely unreported. In terms of where respondents reported incidents of discrimination, the most frequent reporting was at the location where the incident took place (39% of reports). The police were only the third most frequent place (after other places in second place) for reporting discriminatory acts (24%), with a total of 35 respondents reporting to them, and their experiences varied widely. The majority of respondents (46%) rated the attitudes of the police as unsatisfactory. The most common reasons for not reporting incidents were the feeling that the incidents were too trivial or not worth reporting (46%), while the same number did not report the incident because they felt that reporting discrimination would not make any difference.
18. A total of 110 respondents also described their experiences in terms of (not) resolving a reported incident of discrimination. The largest proportion of them (61%) stated that the incident had not been resolved.
19. Within our sample, 59% of the respondents were students at the time of data collection. Due to their sexual orientation, 36% of them had at some time been the target of teasing, ridicule, insults or threats from classmates and peers during their schooling. Gay men were the most likely to have had such an experience (49%), while bisexual people were the least likely (28%). Because of their gender identity, trans men (47%) and trans women (45%) were the most likely to have been taunted, ridiculed, insulted or threatened by classmates and peers.

5.15 Sum of reports 'self-reported' and/or reported by 'someone else'



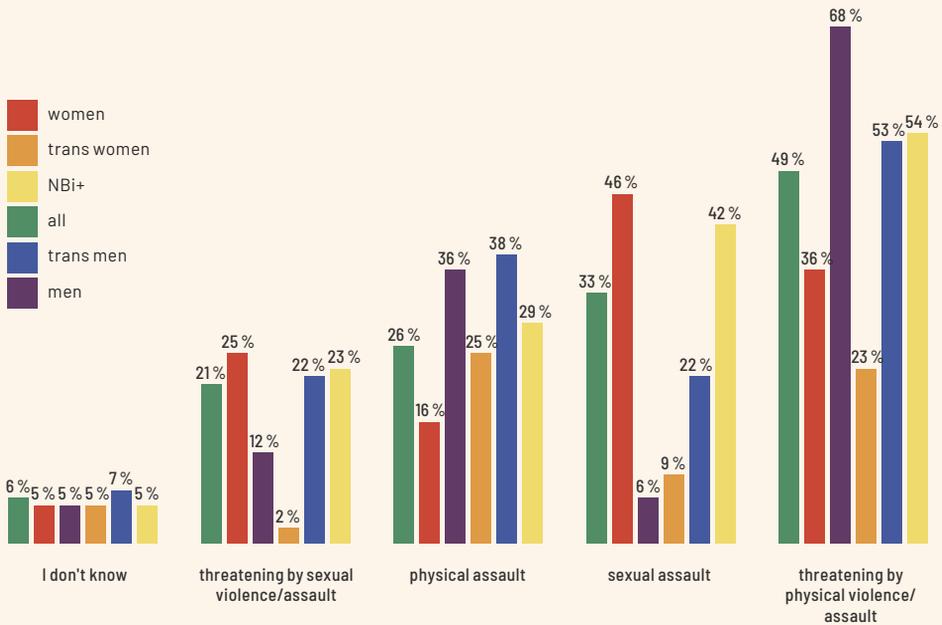
- 20.** Discrimination in a healthcare setting, in the past 5 years, was reported 'often' or to have occurred 'always' by a full 15% of trans women and just under 10% of trans men - several times more than for other groups, where the average was 2%.
- 21.** Although we had only a small number of respondents living with HIV, a full half (50%) had "always" or "often" experienced self-stigma as the most common form of stigma in the past 12 months. There were however also reports of being refused treatment at the dentist because of their HIV status, and only 77% of people living with HIV had a regular dentist.
- 22.** The majority of respondents (83%) believe that it is rather difficult or very difficult for victims of discrimination, harassment or violence to claim their rights in the Czech Republic. Among the recommendations for improvement, the most frequently mentioned would be the need for (1) more respect, professionalism, sensitivity or specialisation of police officers, officials, judges or assistants; (2) changes in the laws on protection against discrimination and in criminal laws; and (3) education and wider awareness of the general public (including media awareness).
- 23.** Although only 35 respondents contacted the police when reporting discriminatory incidents, 62% of all respondents cited the police as the place they would turn to in the future to address an incident of discrimination, harassment or violence. In addition, 38% said they would contact NGOs in the future, and 18% would most likely seek the services of lawyers or advocates.
- 24.** Over the last 5 years, 51% of respondents had been harassed. Most such experiences had been experienced by NBi+ people (65% of them), trans men and PQA people (both groups equally at 61%). In terms of age, the group aged 16-18 had the most such experiences (59%). A total of 38% of respondents had experienced harassment, insults or agitation in the last year. The most frequently were reported experiences of harassment by NBi+ people (52%), trans men (49%), trans women (47%) and PQA people (47%). Within the last year, the most frequent experiences of harassment were reported by LGBTQ+ people in the Vysočina region (49%) and the Karlovy Vary region (46%). The most common forms of harassment were insulting and threatening gestures or inappropriate staring, experienced by 56% of all respondents (most often by NBi+ people at 68% and trans men at 63%). Threats of violence were most common among trans women, with 52% reporting this experience in our survey.
- 25.** The perpetrator of the most recent case of harassment was, in 55% of cases, an unknown person, while 23% of cases involved a group of teenagers. The place where the most recent incident of harassment took place was according to 42% of respondents a public space such as a street, square, parking lot, etc.

7.1 In the last 5 years, have you personally been physically/sexually assaulted or threatened with violence at home or in public for any reason in Czechia?

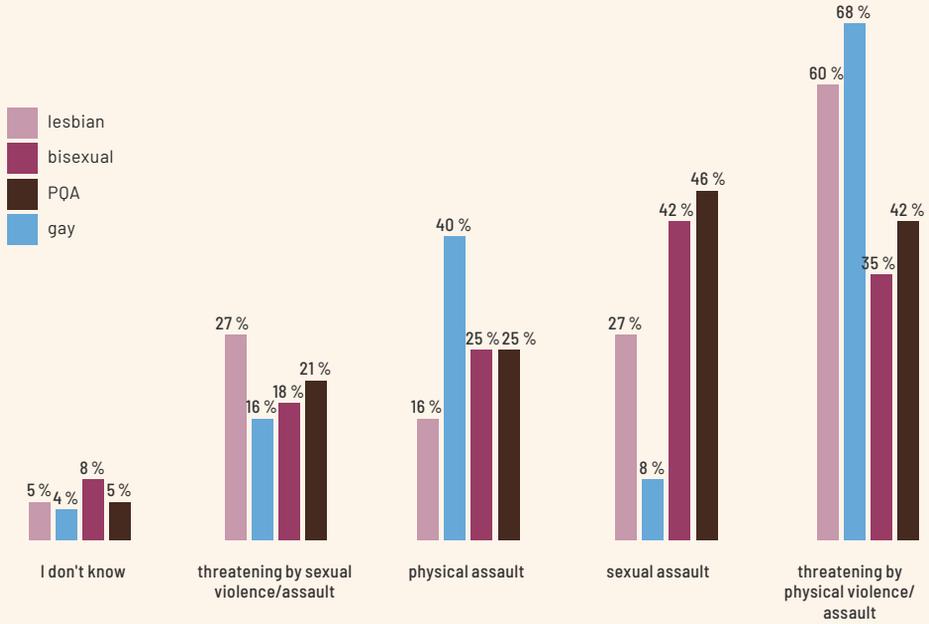


- 26. The last incident of harassment was reported in only 6% of cases. Harassment against a trans woman was reported most often in 17% of cases. Respondents reported it most often to the police (24% of reports).
- 27. In the last 5 years, 18% of all respondents had experienced physical or sexual assault or threats of violence. Trans women were disproportionately affected by such acts (60% experienced acts mentioned above) - a figure that is three times the average. Of all LGBTQ+ people who have experienced violence in the last 5 years, threats of physical violence was the most commonly reported experience, with 49% of respondents having experienced it. Such assaults were then most commonly experienced by men (68%), followed by NBi+ people (54%) and trans men (53%). In terms of sexual assault, the results showed that this type of incident was more likely to have actually occurred than was the case with threats of sexual assault, affecting mostly women (46%) and NBi+ people (42%). In terms of sexual orientation or identity breakdown, sexual assault was most commonly reported by PQA persons (46%), but also by bisexual persons (42%).
- 28. The most recent incident of physical or sexual violence or threat of violence was reported only in 13% of cases. The most reported incidents happened to men (22% of cases) and trans women (also 22% of cases). In contrast, trans men were the least likely to report incidents (8%).

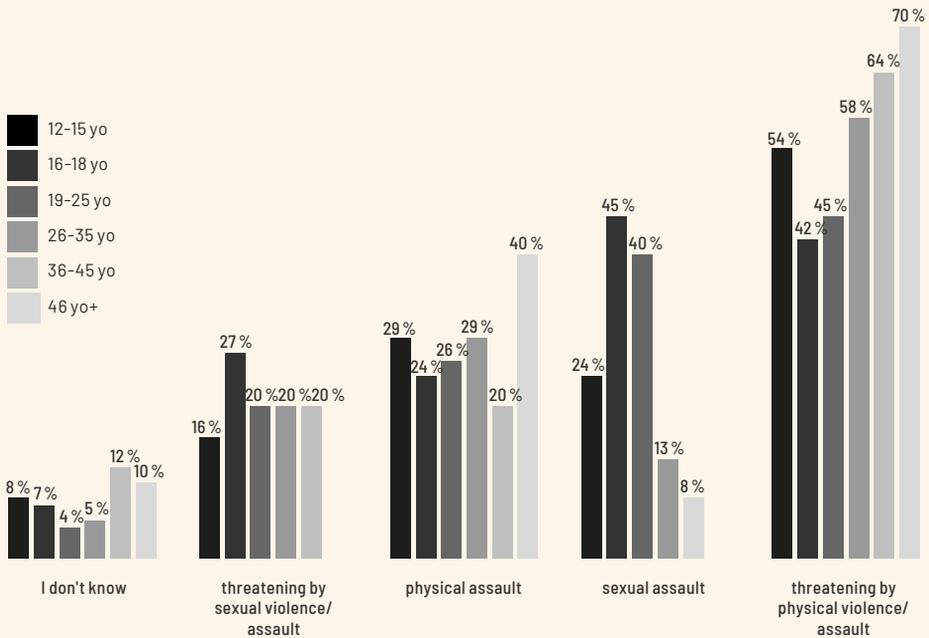
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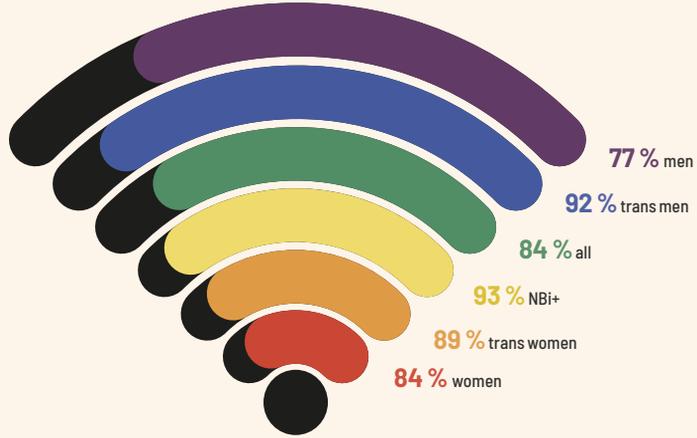
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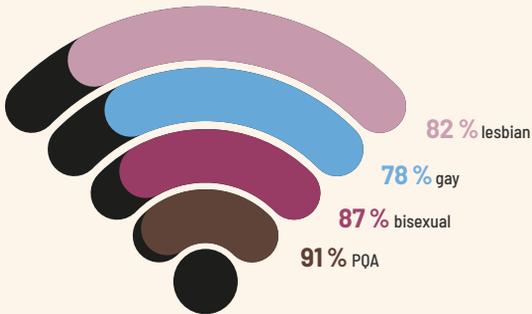
- 29.** In terms of the location of the most recent incident of physical and/or sexual violence, respondents reported that it most frequently took place in a public space (stated by 36%). The second most commonly reported location was home, with 21% of respondents having experienced physical or sexual violence there. This figure is by far the highest for trans men, who reported their home as the crime scene in 34% of cases.
- 30.** A total of 84% of respondents had experienced violence against LGBTQ+ people online. The largest proportion of respondents (90%) reported that these were online insults to themselves or other LGBTQ+ people. An alarming 69% of respondents had experienced online threats of physical assault - most commonly trans women (78%) and PQA people (75%). More than half (54%) of respondents had experienced death threats either against themselves or other LGBTQ+ people - most commonly (70%) trans men and 61% PQA people. Threats of sexual violence were identified by 42% of trans women (+12% compared to the "average") and the same proportion of NBI+ people.
- 31.** Worsened mental health, described in terms of depressive and anxious experiences as a result of the most recent incident of physical or sexual assault and threats of violence, was reported by 66% of respondents.
- 32.** In the last 12 months, 34% of respondents had sought mental health care and another 8% had attempted to do so but unsuccessfully. Trans men (14%) and non-binary people (12%) experienced the highest number of troubles when trying to seek care. Men and trans women were the groups with highest satisfaction with mental health care, with 38% of men and 36% of trans women rating it as overwhelmingly positive. In contrast, 15% of non-binary people and 11% of trans men rated the care as mostly negative.

7.11 In the last 5 years, have you encountered hate speech and acts against LGBTQ+ people online?

by gender self-identification



by sexual orientation



by age

