UCLA School of Law Williams Institute

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

2024 IMPACT REPORT

The Williams Institute is dedicated to conducting rigorous and independent research on issues affecting the lives of LGBTQ people. But our work doesn't stop there. We ensure that our findings reach policymakers, judges, service providers, and the public so that decisions concerning the lives of LGBTQ people and families are grounded in facts—not stereotypes. Take a look at some of the impact our research has had in the past fiscal year.

1 Public Accommodations

In June 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *303 Creative v. Elenis* that the First Amendment's free speech protections allow a website designer in Colorado to refuse to serve same-sex couples. Justice Sotomayor wrote in her dissent about LGBTQ people's experiences of discrimination, violence, and criminalization, citing Williams Institute research documenting evidence of LGBTQ discrimination in public accommodations. In discussing the stigmatizing injury discrimination can cause for LGBTQ people, Justice Sotomayor underscores the Institute's groundbreaking research on minority stress.



2 HIV Criminalization

In December 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that Tennessee's aggravated prostitution law violates the Americans with Disabilities Act by imposing harsher criminal penalties on people living with HIV. In a letter to the Tennessee Attorney General, the DOJ cited Williams Institute research showing that the aggravated prostitution statute is enforced most often in Shelby County. Over 90% of those arrested under the criminal offense in the county were Black. In May 2024, the DOJ announced that Shelby County would stop prosecuting people living with HIV under the aggravated prostitution law.

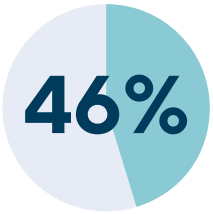


Shelby County accounted for **74%** of Tennessee's aggravated prostitution convictions

3

Employment

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs cited the Williams Institute's research on LGBT employees' experiences of workplace discrimination in its Pride newsletter in June 2023. The letter highlighted that nearly half of LGBT workers have experienced unfair treatment at work, and one-third have left a job due to treatment by their employer. OFCCP also reasserted its commitment to prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating against LGBTQ job applicants.

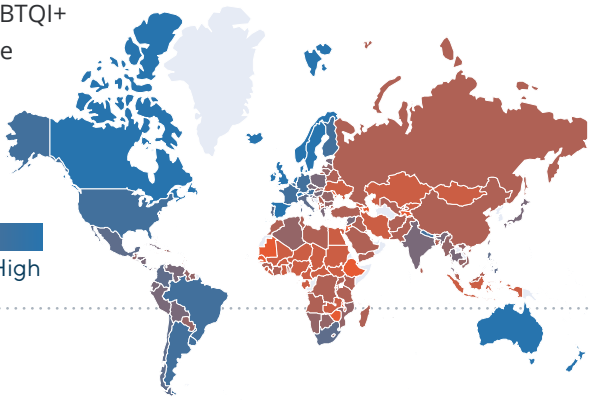


of LGBT workers reported experiencing unfair treatment at work because of their sexual orientation or gender identity

4

International Development

In August 2023, the United States Agency for International Development released a groundbreaking report championing LGBTQI+-inclusive development and LGBTQI+ rights as part of a coordinated governmental effort. The report cited the Williams Institute Global LGBTQI+ Acceptance Index as "an outstanding resource on the global and national realities for LGBTQI+ people." It also cited Institute data on the link between LGBTQI+ inclusion and economic development.



5

Health Care

In April 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a final rule that restores and expands non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people in health care under the Affordable Care Act. The regulation cited Williams Institute estimates of the U.S. transgender population. The rule also relied on findings from another Institute study showing the minimal administrative costs of providing transition-related health care in employee health benefit plans.



1.6 million people

age 13+ in the U.S. identify as transgender