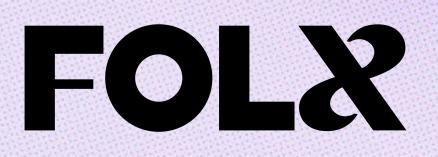
FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

# Transgender Perspectives on the 2024 Election





# We asked transgender and nonbinary adults how they feel in today's political environment.

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

In 2024, LGBTQ<sup>1</sup> individuals are facing a relentless wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation, particularly targeting the trans community<sup>2</sup>. LGBTQ issues, from gender-affirming care to athletics and education, are critical issues for the upcoming election.

So, how do trans<sup>3</sup> individuals feel about the changing political landscape, and how has it already affected their access to healthcare and mental health? We asked them directly.

<sup>1</sup> We use LGBTQ to refer to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, gender diverse, transgender, trans, genderqueer, Two Spirit, gender non-binary, and/or having a gender that is different from their sex assigned at birth, and more identities.

<sup>2</sup> ACLU; https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2024

<sup>3</sup> We use trans to include people who identify as transgender, trans, genderqueer, Two Spirit, gender non-binary, and/or having a gender that is different from their sex assigned at birth, and more identities.



### INTRODUCTION

Since 2021, over 50,000 LGBTQ patients from all 50 states have sought care through FOLX. This extensive reach uniquely positions us to capture the voice of the LGBTQ community today. Through comprehensive surveys and in-depth research, we strive to better understand their experiences and identify what matters most to them.

In this report, we closely examine the impacts of the upcoming election on trans adults. During a historic moment when Biden stepped down as a candidate and Harris took over, we surveyed over 1,500 respondents from across the United States.

Half of the respondents live in states that voted Republican in 2020, while the other half reside in Democratic states. With a focus on what feels most at-risk ahead of the 2024 election cycle, we asked about their motivations, attitudes, and experiences. This survey captures the voice of trans voters during this pivotal time.





### **KEY RESULTS**

# 1 in 5 lost access to healthcare

in the past year as a result of anti-LGBTQ policies and laws

### 9 in 10 believe that the election will have a major impact on access to healthcare for LGBTQ people nationwide.

58%

considered moving to a different state due to anti-LGBTQ policies and laws - and people living in states with more LGBT-discriminatory policies enacted reported higher rates

28%

reported that Kamala Harris addresses the concerns of the LGBTQ community "very much so," while only 7% believe the same about Donald Trump.

LGBTQ issues are the most important factors determining the vote for voters across all ages, followed by threats to democracy.

92%

feel anxious about the presidential election. Enthusiasm and hopefulness about the presidential election remain low, but have increased three to four times since Biden left the race.



### **KEY RESULTS**

# 2 in 3

experienced frequent mental distress this past month, higher than national estimates reported in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

67%

have made or are planning to make changes to their use of gender-affirming care due to concerns about the election.



were unable to access mental health treatment when needed, primarily due to difficulties in finding LGBTQ-affirming providers.

are registered voters and 37% of those not yet registered plan to be before the election.

# 55%

# 90%





A survey by GLAAD in January 2024<sup>4</sup> highlighted that LGBTQ voters are suffering significant negative impacts on their emotional well-being and sense of personal safety due to the current political climate. To draw comparisons, we incorporated similar questions into our survey.

Our findings indicate that the adverse effects experienced by LGBTQ individuals found in the GLAAD survey are even more pronounced among trans respondents in our study. A majority of trans adults reported consistently (always, frequently, or occasionally) experiencing negative impacts on their mental health and emotional well-being (86%), strained relationships with friends or family members (67%), and fear for their own or their family's safety (67%) due to the prevailing political discourse. Additionally, nearly half reported regular occurrences of real-world harassment or bullying (58%) and online harassment or bullying (58%) related to politics.

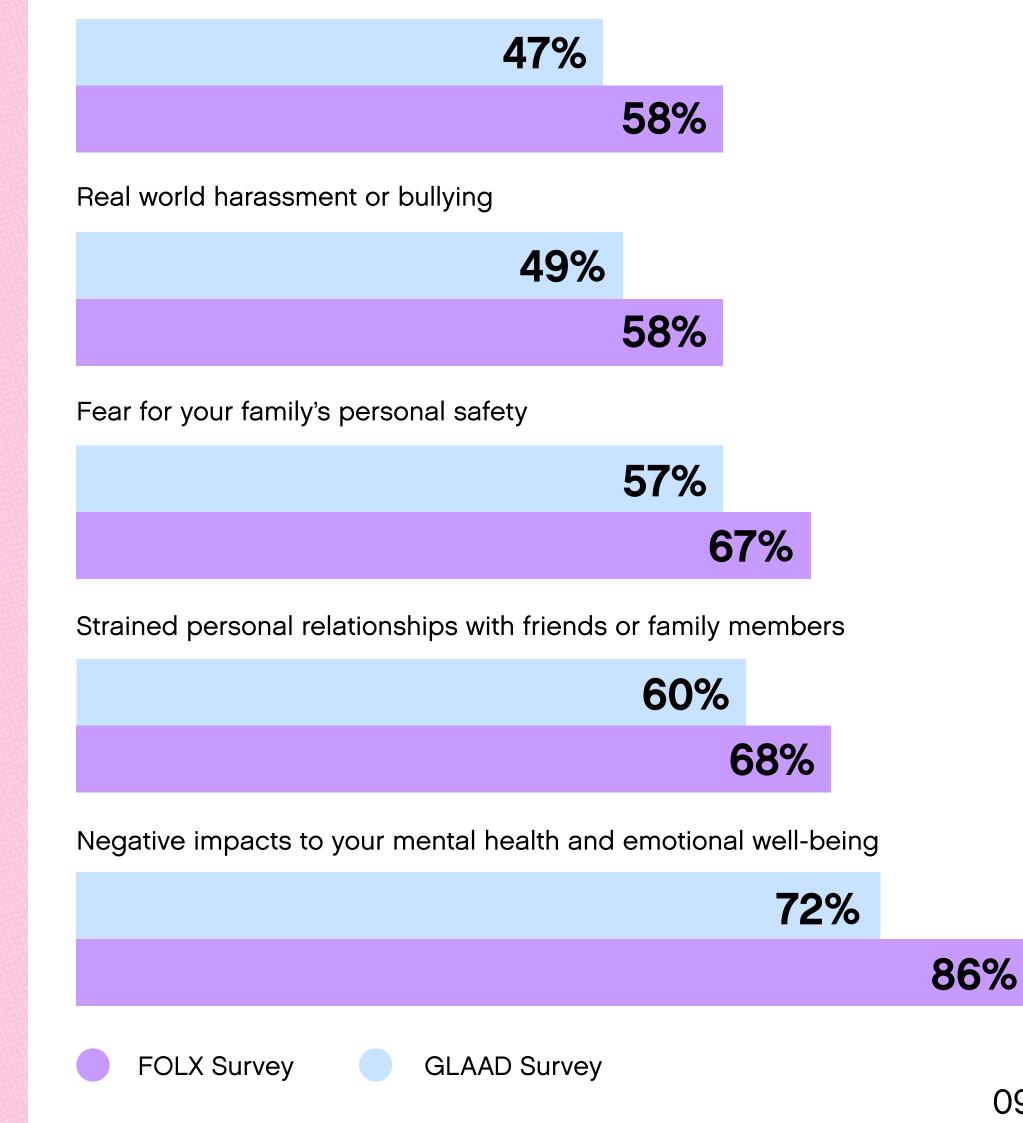
<sup>4</sup> GLAAD Nationwide Survey of LGBTQ Adults, 2024

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

### How often does the current state of political discourse in our country cause you to experience the following?

Percent who reported always, frequently, or occasionally

Online harassment or bullying

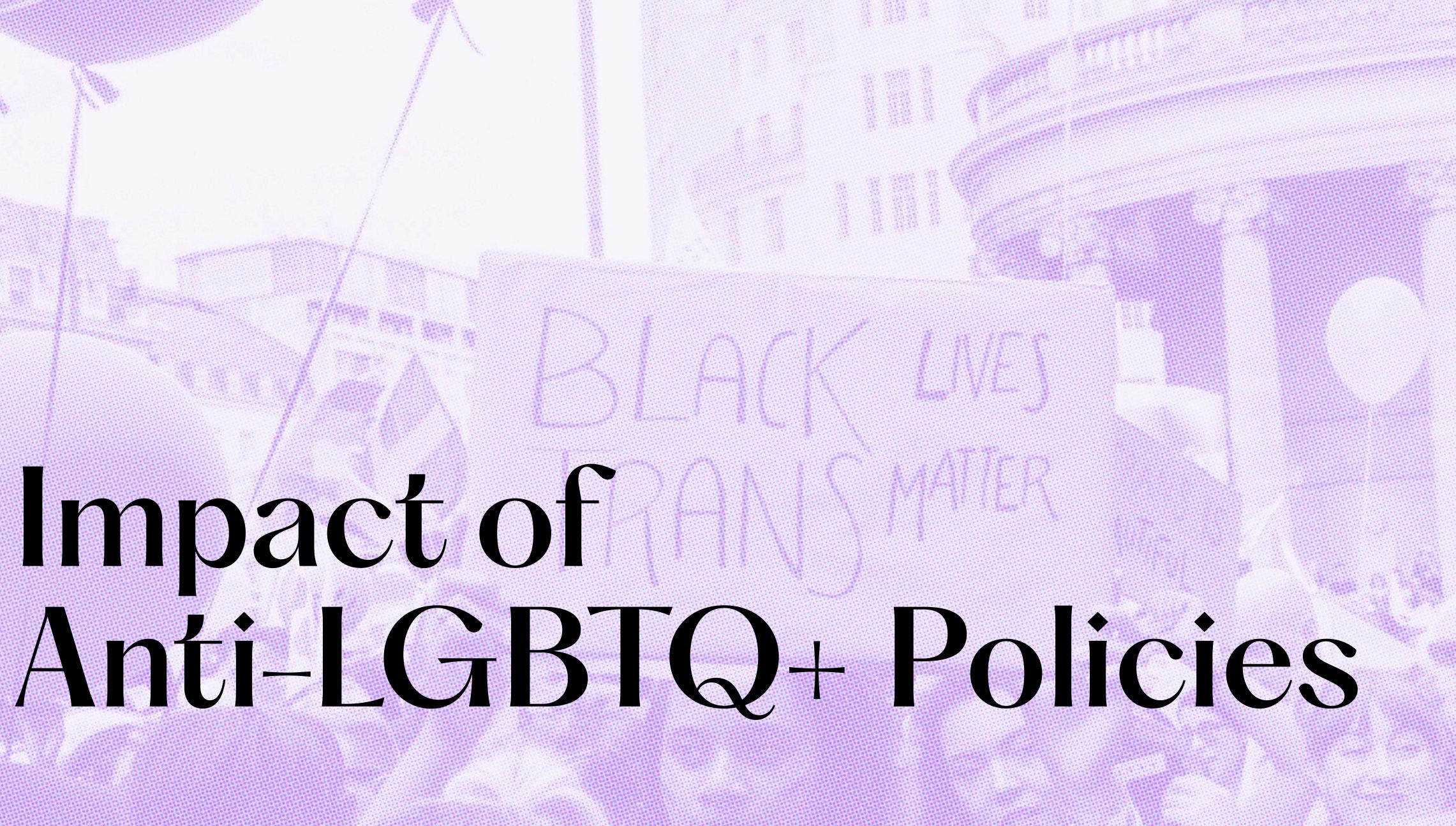








# Impact of





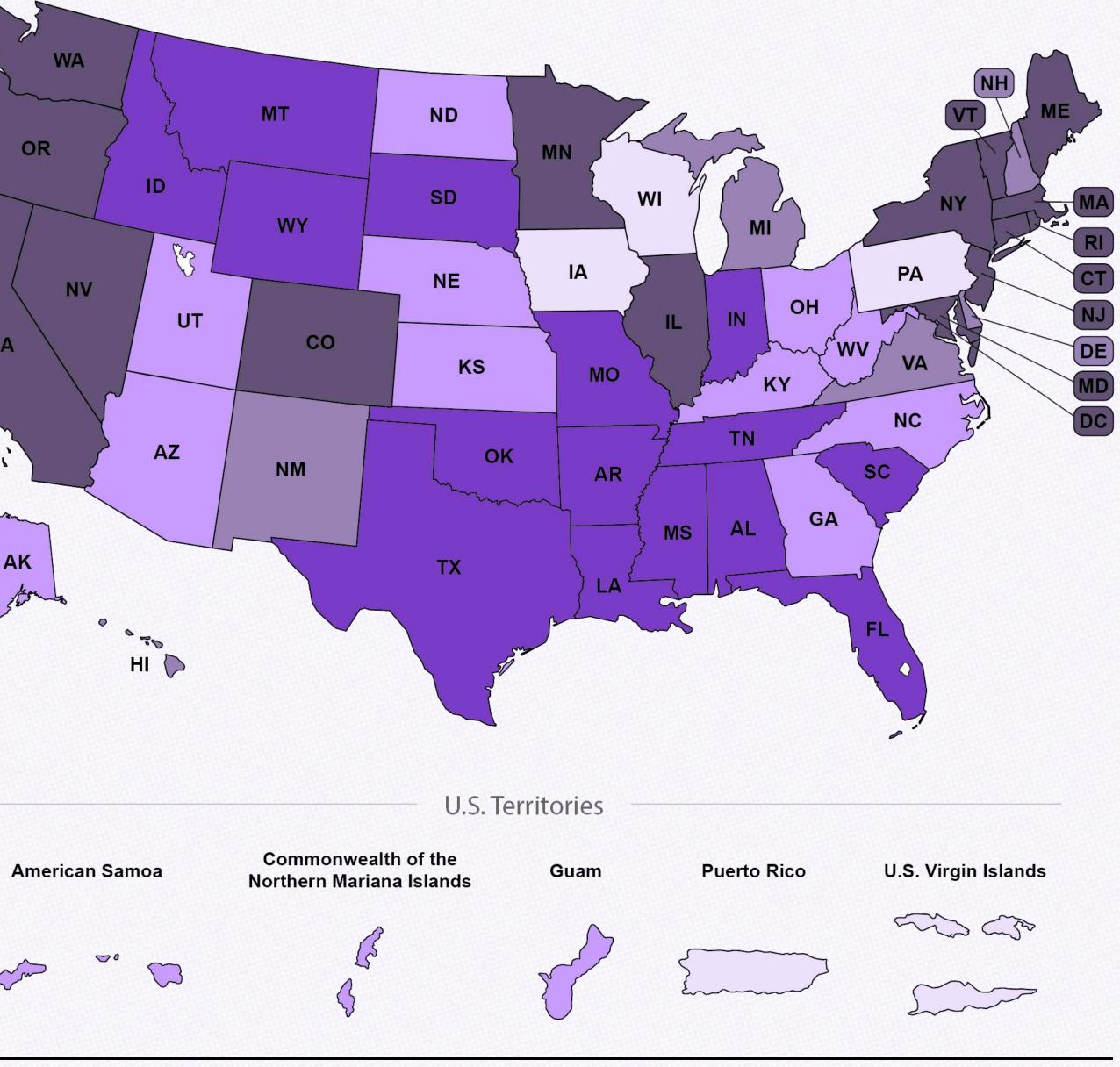
# LGBTQ Equality by State

The Movement Advancement Project (MAP) tracks over 50 different LGBTQrelated laws and policies. This map shows the overall policy tallies (as distinct from sexual orientation or gender identity tallies) for each state, the District of Columbia, and the five populated U.S. territories.

- High overall policy tally (15 states + D.C.)
  - Fair overall policy tally (3 states, 2 territories)
- Negative overall policy tally (15 states)
- Medium overall policy tally (6 states)
- Low overall policy tally (11 states, 3 territories)

CA





### IMPACT OF ANTI-LGBTQ+ POLICIES

More than half of LGBTQ respondents considered moving to a different state<sup>5</sup> due to anti-LGBTQ policies and laws. Applying the Movement Advancement Project (MAP) policy environment score, we analyzed how these rates vary. National estimates indicate that 29% of the LGBTQ population resides in states with negative overall policy tallies<sup>6</sup>. Our study reveals that 78% of trans individuals living in states with negative policy environments are considering relocating to a different state.

20% of trans respondents lost healthcare in the last year<sup>7</sup>, with higher rates observed for those living in states with negative policy environments.

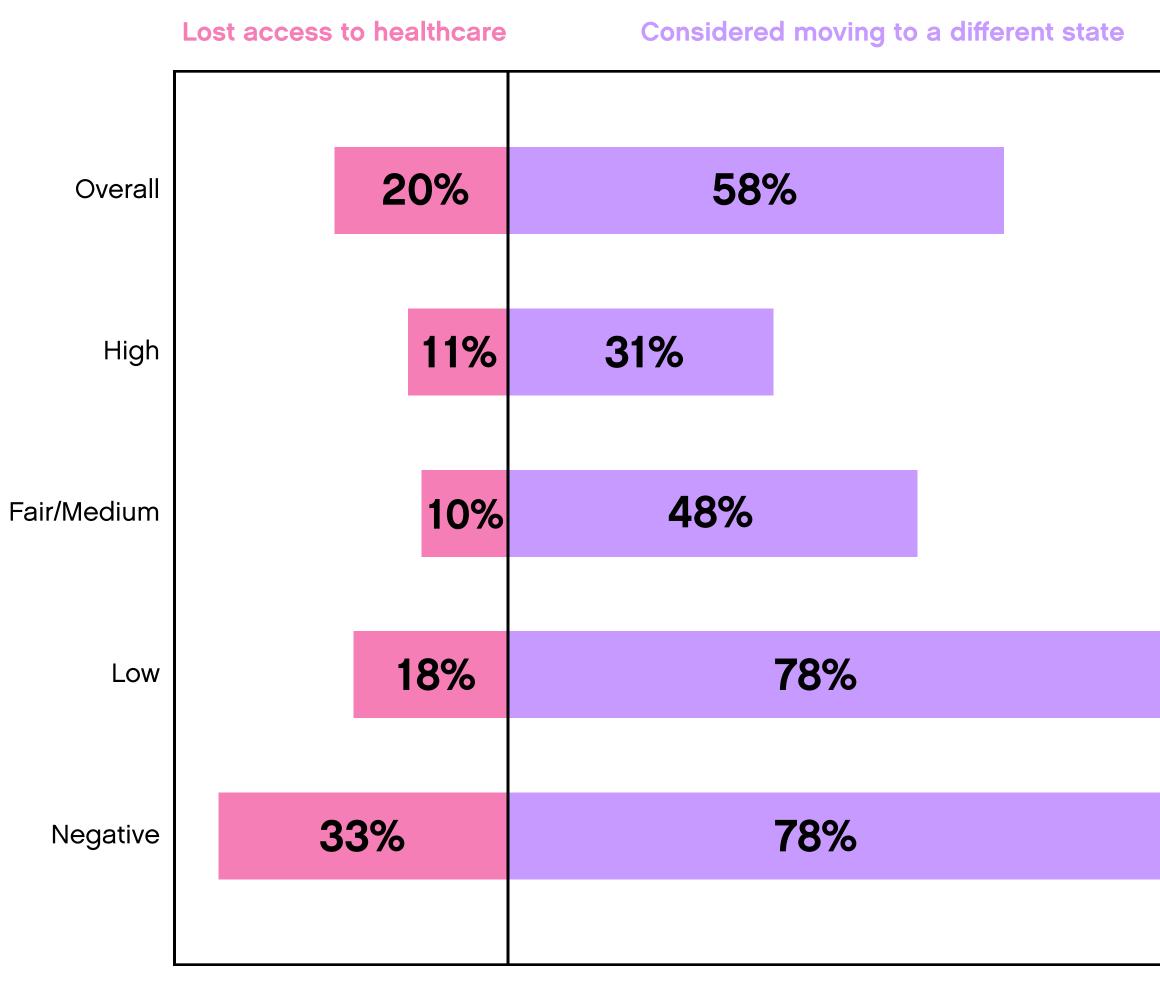
<sup>5</sup> Have you or your family considered moving to a different state due to anti-LGBTQ policies and laws?

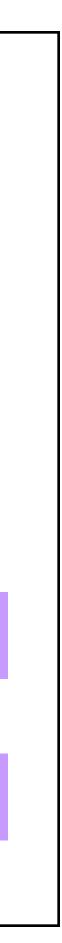
<sup>6</sup> Based on LGBTQ Equality Map, downloaded July 29th, 2024.

<sup>7</sup> Have you or your family lost access to healthcare due to anti-LGBTQ+ politics and laws?

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

### Impact of Anti-LGBTQ+ Policies and Laws by Policy Environment







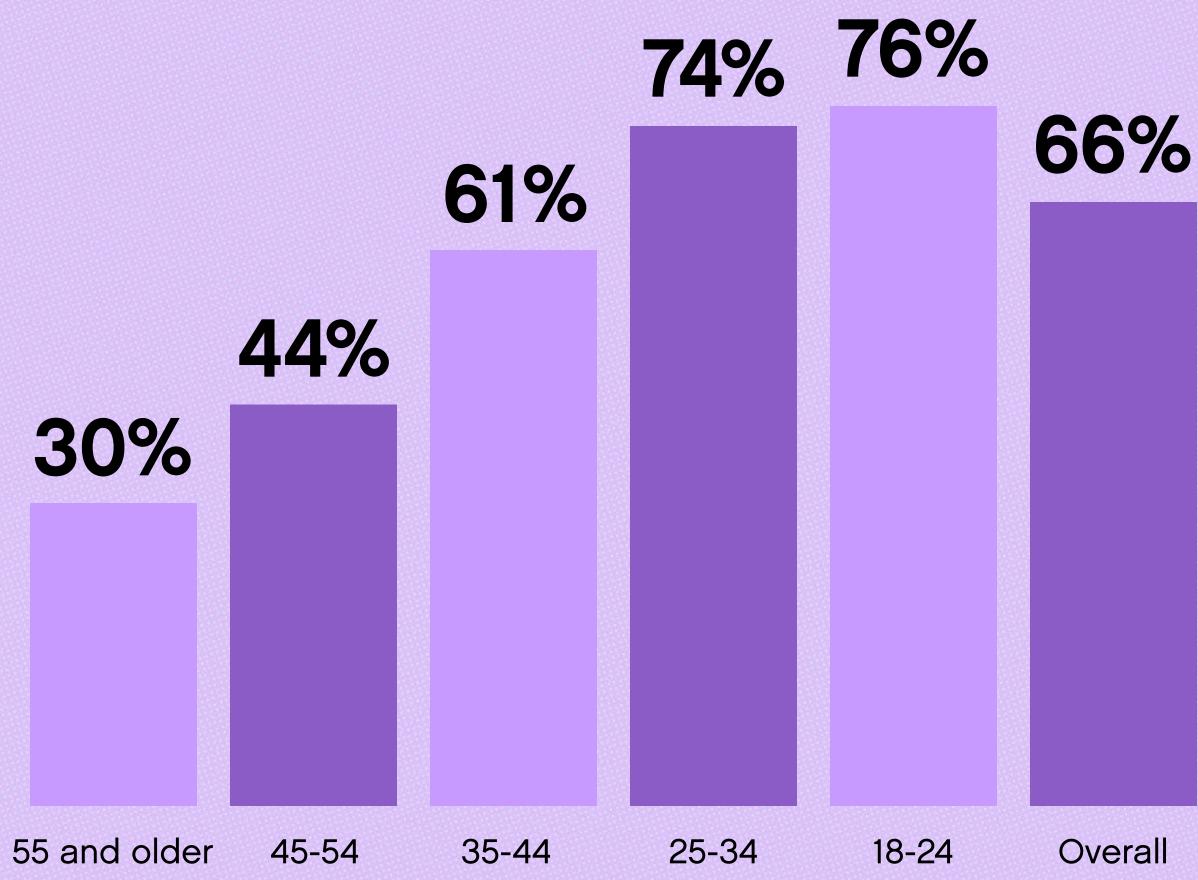


More than 2 in 3 trans respondents reported having frequent mental distress (14 or more poor mental health days) in the last month<sup>.8</sup> This rate is alarming considering the national estimates reported in 2021, where 33% of transgender adults and 15% of cisgender adults reported frequent mental distress<sup>9</sup>. Rates in our study varied by age, with respondents aged 35 and older experiencing better mental health compared to those aged 18 to 34.

<sup>8</sup> Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and challenges with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health a struggle? (The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC measure)

<sup>9</sup> Feir, Donn, and Samuel Mann. "Temporal trends in mental health in the United States by gender identity, 2014–2021." American Journal of Public Health 114.5 (2024): 523-526.

### **Percentage of Respondents with Frequent Mental Distress**





Fifty-five percent of trans respondents reported being unable to access mental health treatment when needed<sup>10</sup>, consistent with previous studies that cite long wait times and lack of insurance coverage as primary barriers<sup>11</sup>. Our study found that 46% of respondents did not receive mental health treatment because they were unable to find LGBTQ inclusive providers. Notably in our study, younger respondents experienced higher rates of lack of access to mental health treatment compared to older respondents.

In light of these access issues, telehealth has emerged as an important resource.

<sup>10</sup> Survey on Racism, Discrimination, and Health, Kaiser Family Foundation. June 6 – August 14, 2023.

<sup>11</sup> KFF Women's Survey, 2022.

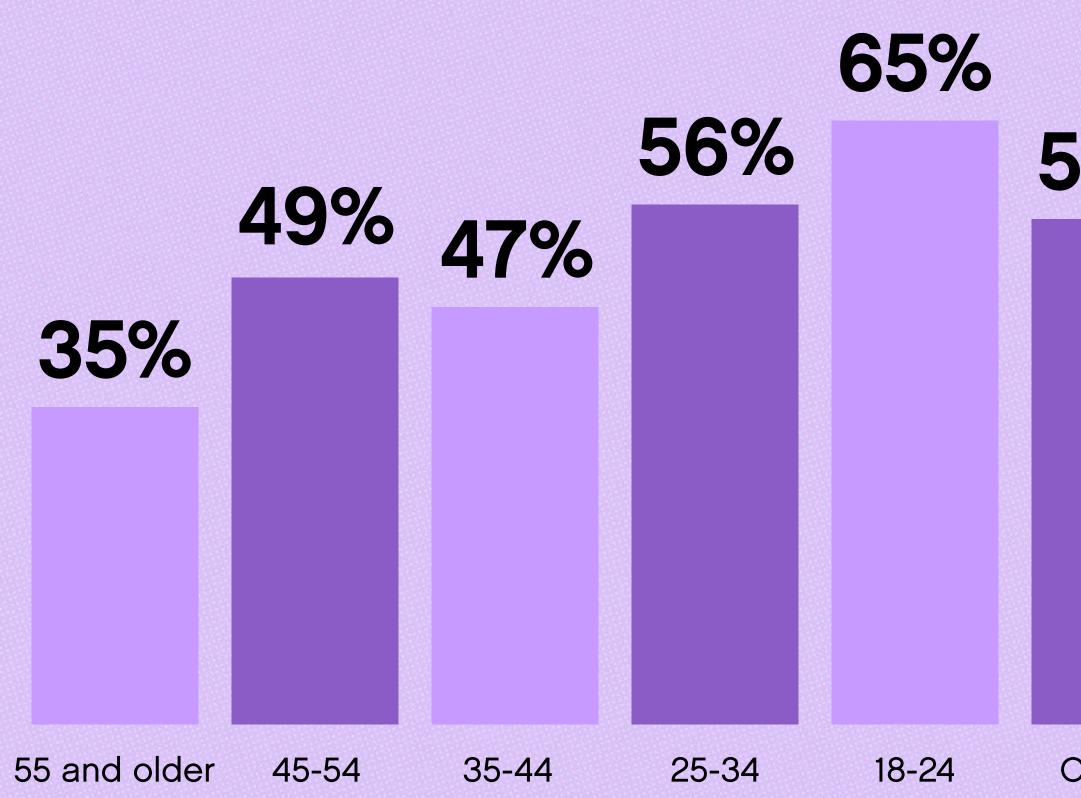
The KFF 2023 study found that two-thirds (63%) of LGBTQ respondents had a telehealth visit in the past year, with mental health services being the most common reason. Specifically, 28% received mental health care via telehealth, highlighting its growing role in meeting the community's mental health needs and potentially alleviating some of the barriers to access faced by the LGBTQ population.

"Despite the likelihood of things getting worse in Texas, I don't have the money to flee it...and the mental health of LGBTQ+ people (especially minors) is most compromised in places like this." - SURVEY RESPONDENT, TEXAS



### MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

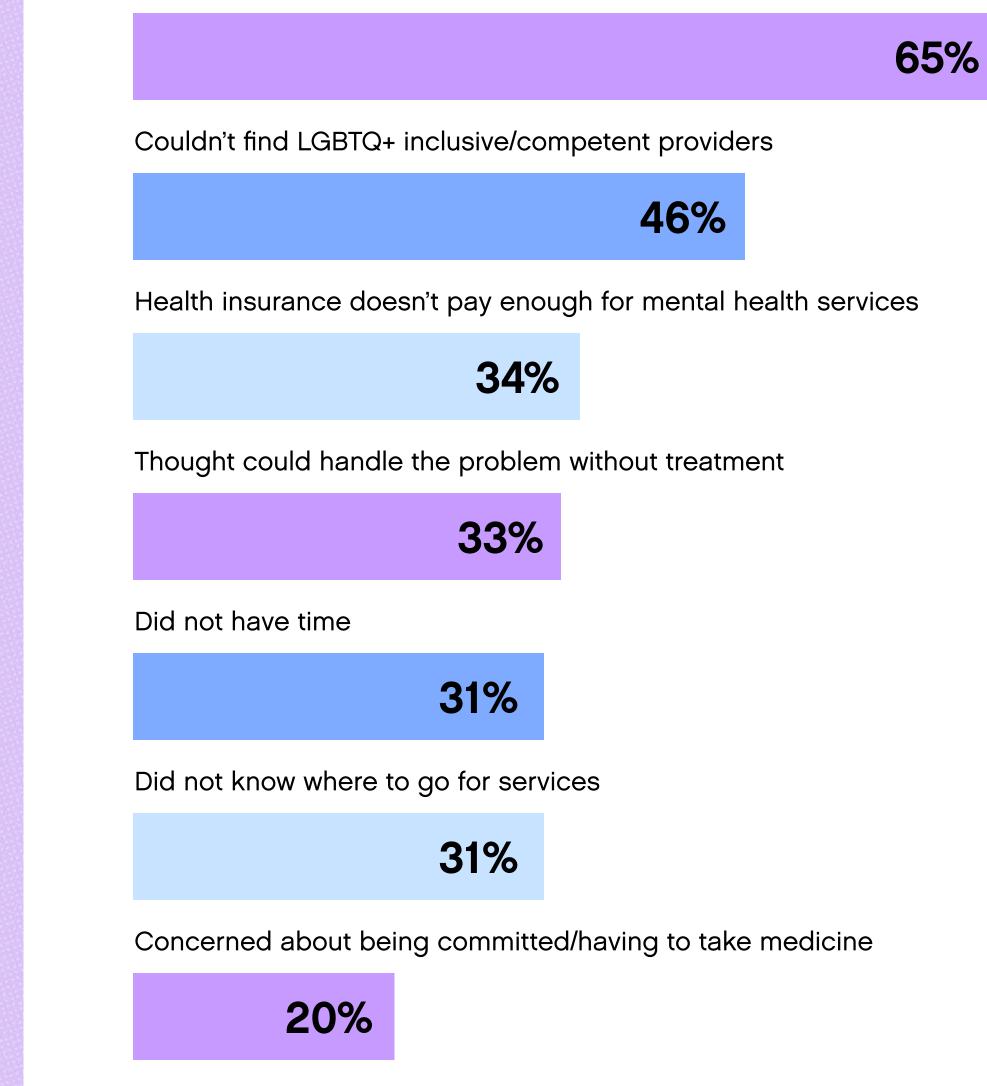
No Access to Mental Health Treatment



FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

### Reasons for not accessing mental health treatment

Could not afford/cost



No transportation/inconvenient

18%

### 55%

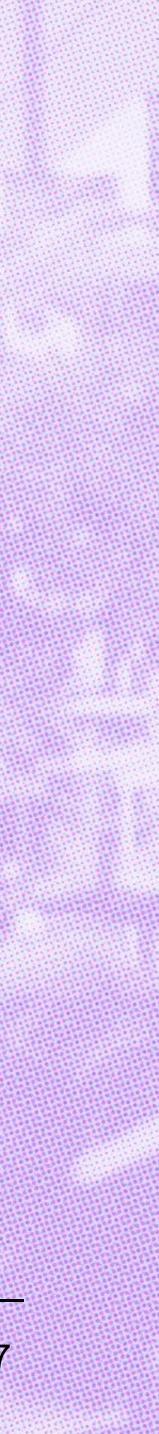
Overall





# Perceived Election Impact on LGBTQ+ Healthcare Access

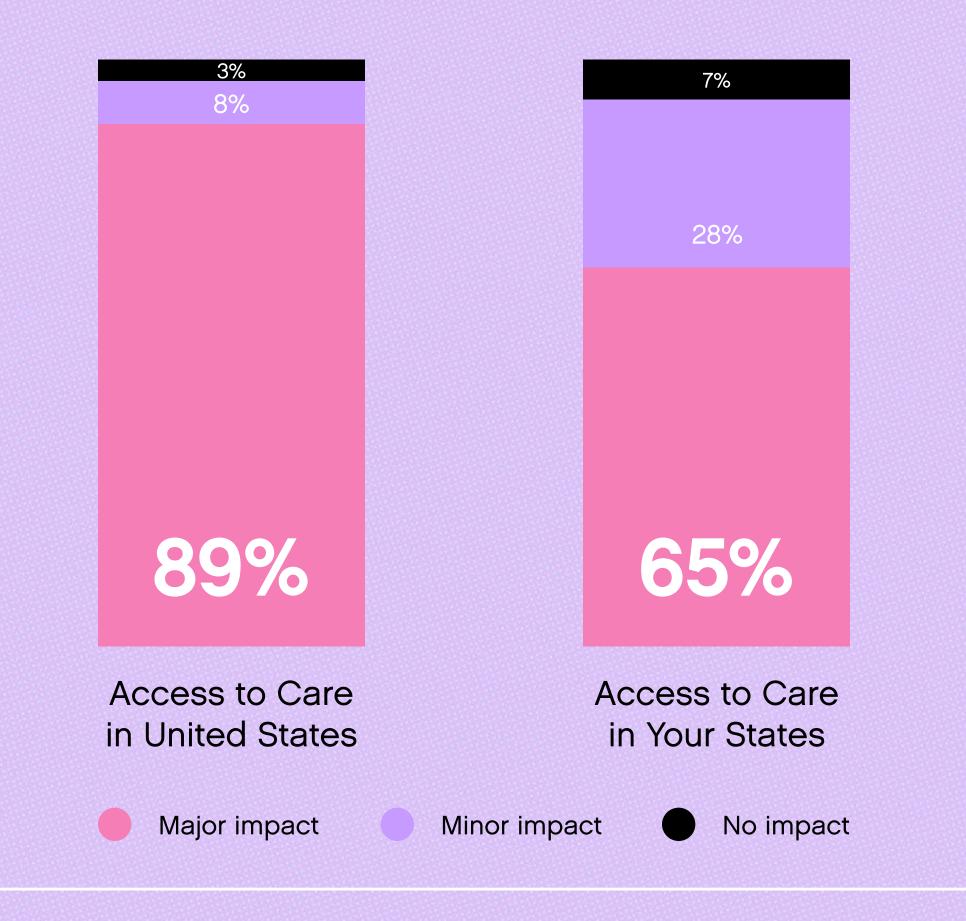




Trans respondents overwhelmingly believe that the election will have a major impact on access to care for LGBTQ people in the United States (89%) and in their state (65%).<sup>12</sup> However, perceptions varied widely, with 84% of those living in negative or low policy environments indicating it will have a major impact on healthcare access in their state.

<sup>12</sup> How do you think this year's election for president will impact access to health care for LGBTQ people in the United States? How do you think this year's election for president will impact access to health care for LGBTQ people in your state?

### Perceived Election Impact on LGBTQ+ Healthcare Access

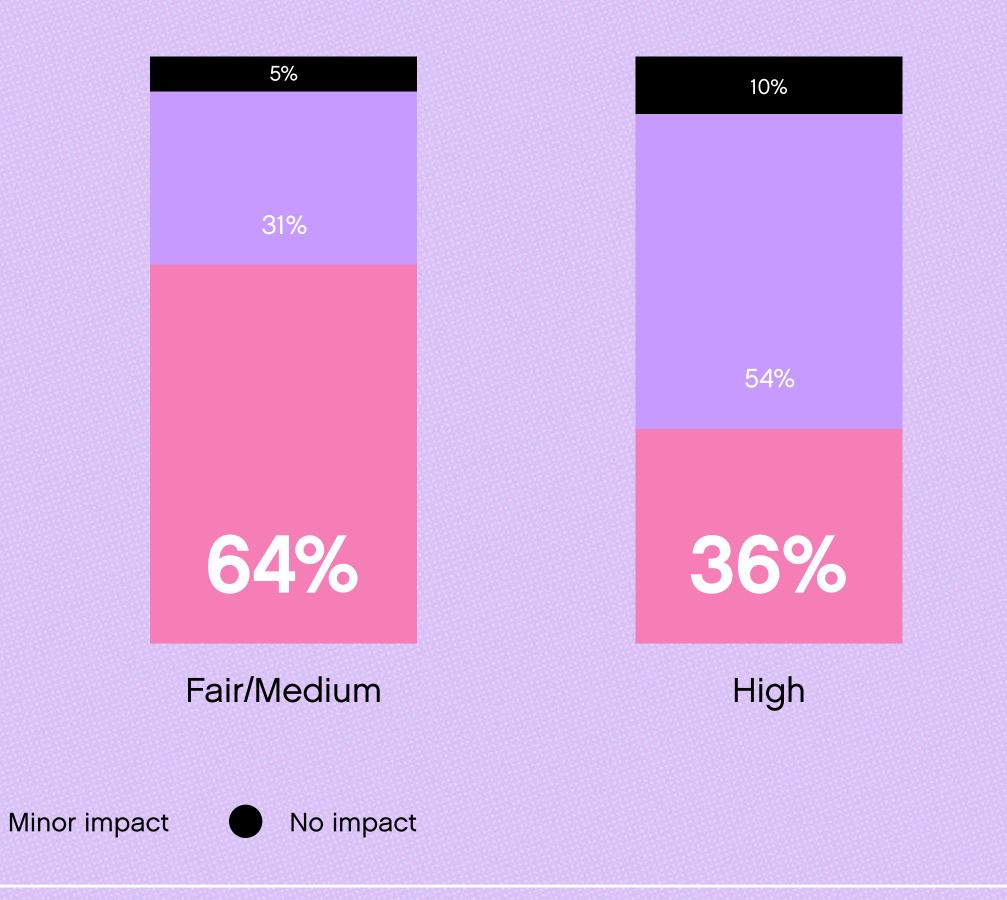




### PERCEIVED ELECTION IMPACT ON LGBTQ+ HEALTHCARE ACCESS



### Access to Health Care for LGBTQ People in Your State, by Policy Environment



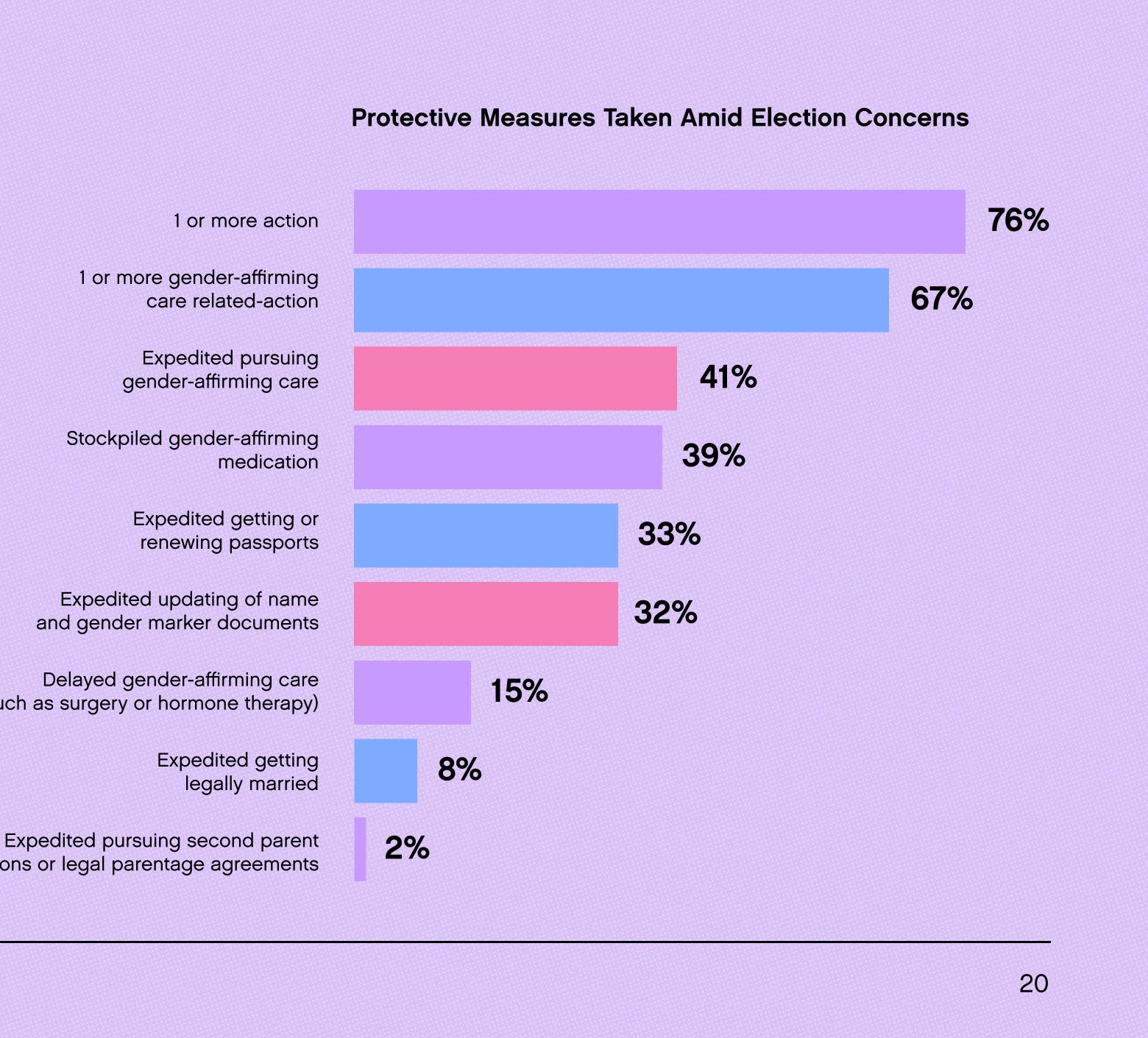


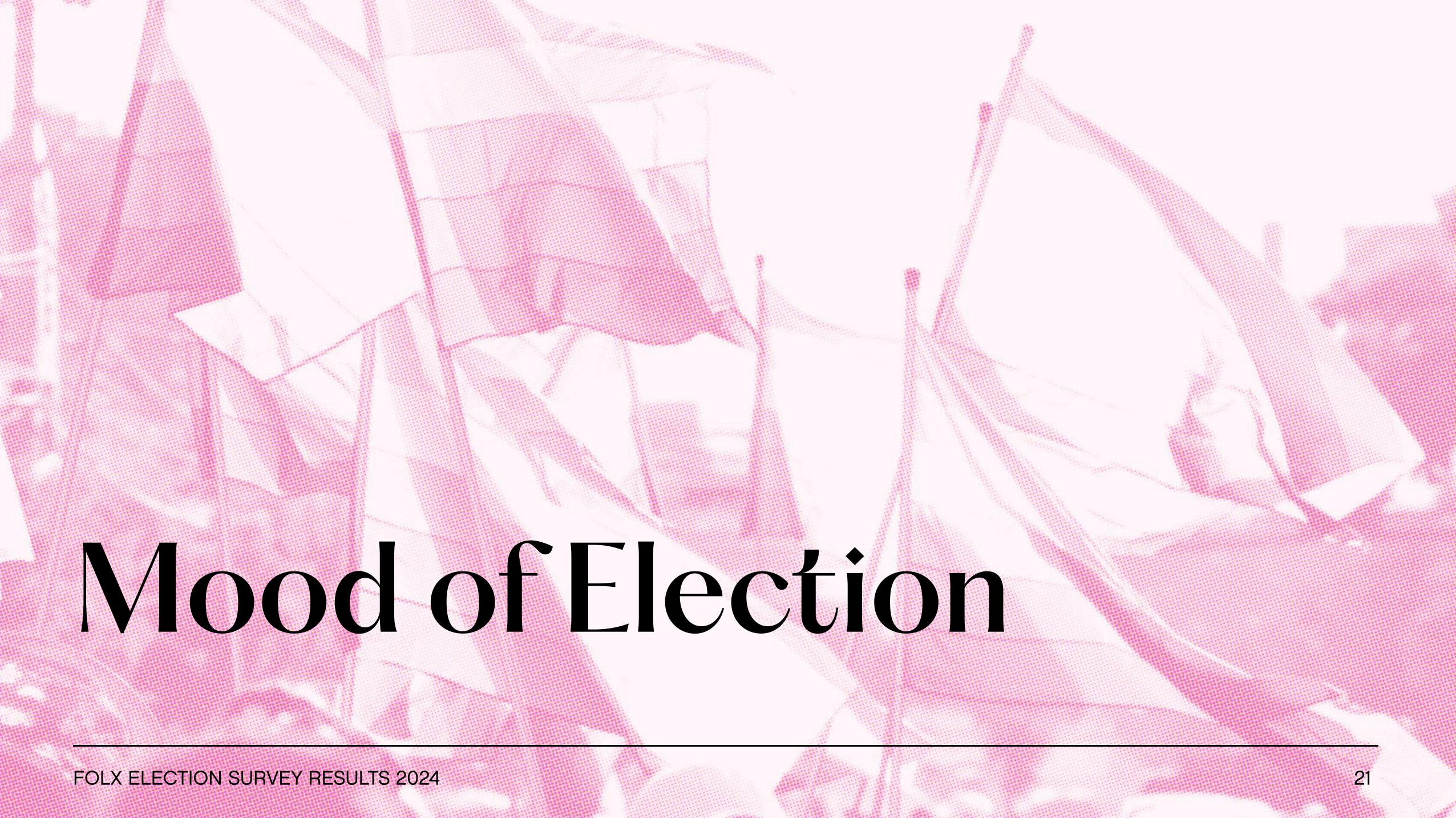
### **Protective Measures Taken Amid Election** Concerns

76% of respondents took (or are planning to take) at least one action due to concerns about the election and/or future policy changes. 67% reported an action related to gender-affirming care, including expediting or delaying pursuing gender-affirming care and stockpiling medications.

(such as surgery or hormone therapy)

adoptions or legal parentage agreements





### MOOD OF ELECTION

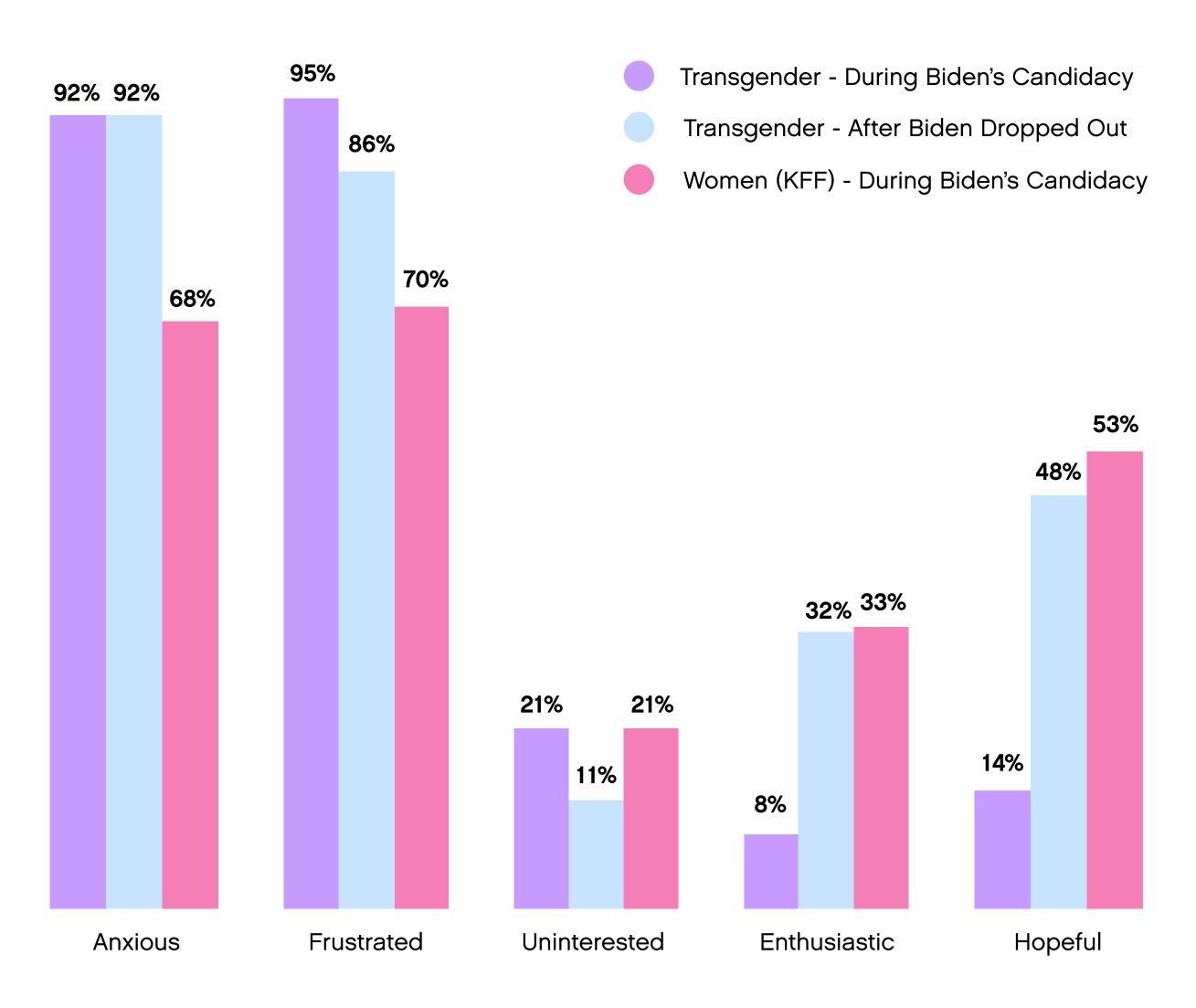
A majority of trans respondents report they are anxious (92%) about the upcoming election, significantly higher than the 68% of women voters<sup>13</sup>. Since Biden dropped out of the presidential race<sup>14</sup>, trans respondents are somewhat less frustrated (86% vs. 95%) previously). They are also less uninterested in the election (11% vs. 21%). Additionally, rates of enthusiasm (32%) and hopefulness (48%) have risen dramatically since Biden's departure from the race.

Percent who say each of the following describes their feelings about the upcoming presidential election:

<sup>13</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Women Voters; https://www.kff.org/2024-survey-of-women-voters-dashboard <sup>14</sup> There were no statistically significant demographic differences among our respondents before and after Biden stepped down as the Democratic nominee, enabling reliable before and after comparisons (see Appendix.)

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

### **Emotional State**



# Most Important Issues for Transgender Voters



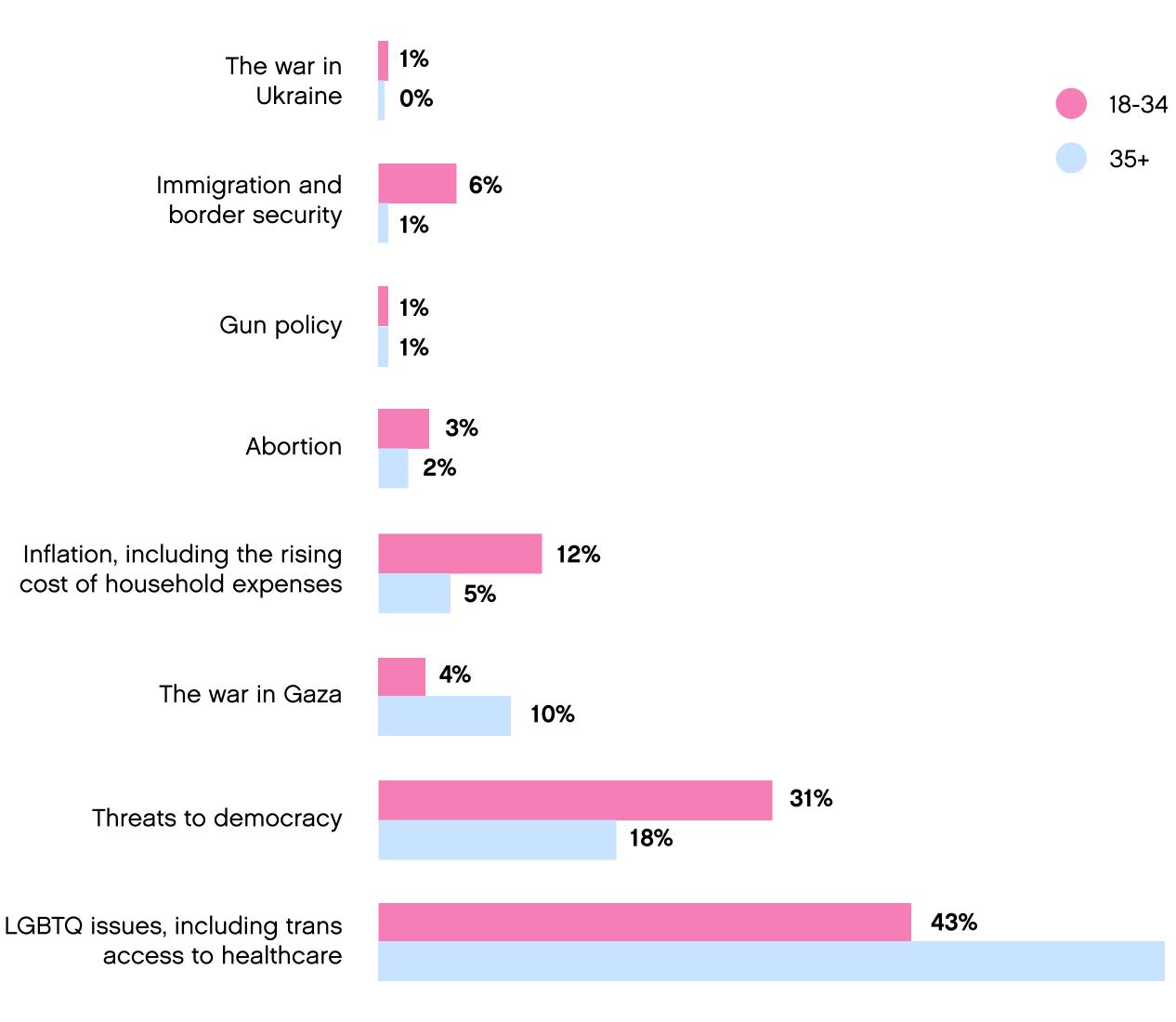
LGBTQ issues, including access to healthcare, are the most important factors determining the vote across all age groups. However, threats to democracy and inflation are also significant concerns, especially for those aged 35 and older.

As a non-binary parent and spouse, I am deeply concerned about how the upcoming election will affect my access to healthcare, my marriage, and my family's safety. For over a decade, I have dedicated my research to elevating the voices of my community and focusing on policy-relevant questions. I am committed to dismantling pseudoscience and replacing it with rigorous research that cannot be ignored.

- JAE CORMAN, PHD (THEY/THEM) SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL ANALYTICS

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

### Most Important Issues Determining Vote in 2024 Presidential Race by Age Group









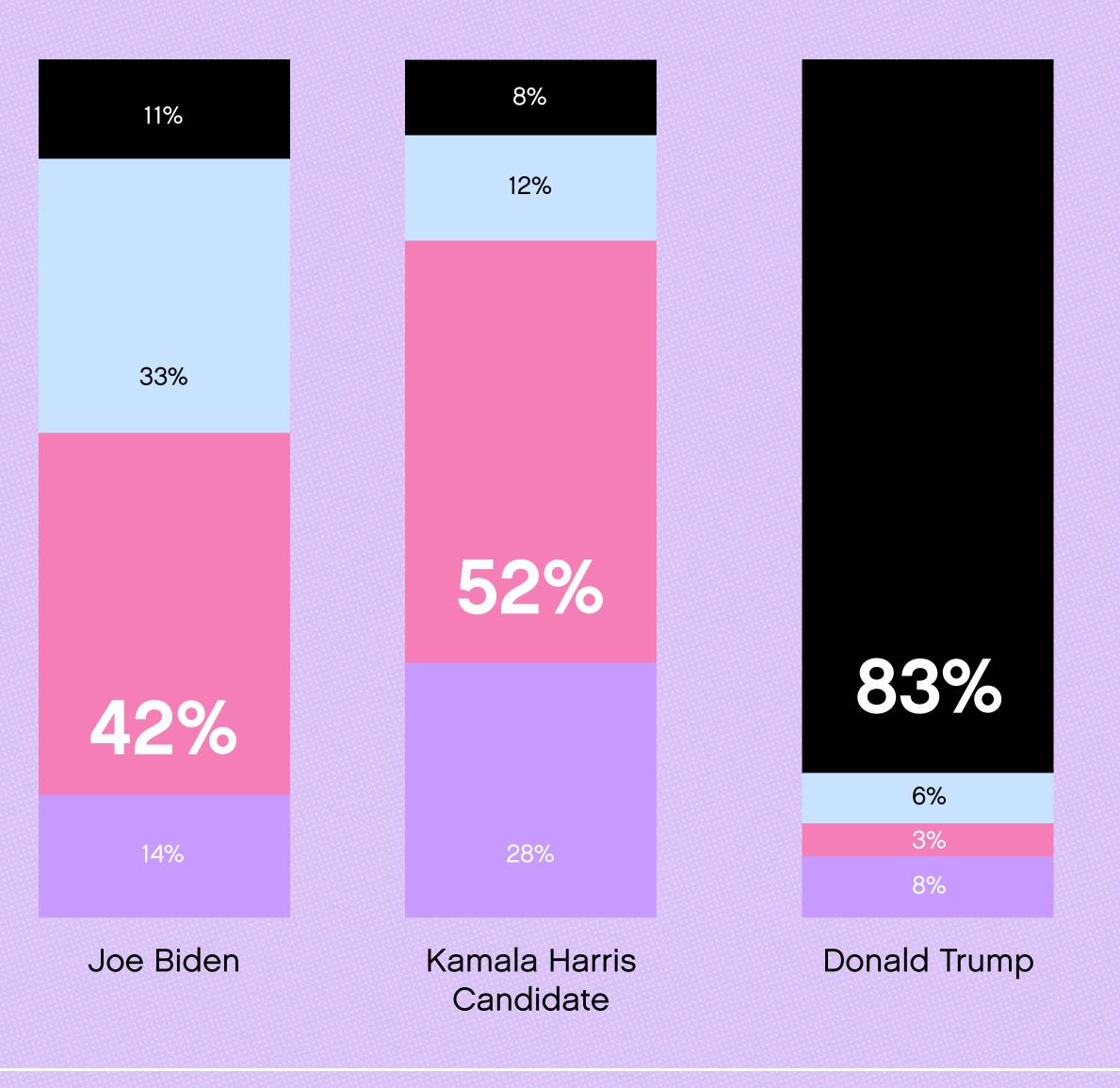
Kamala Harris addresses the concerns of the LGBTQ community 'very much so' (28%) and 'somewhat' (52%), significantly more than Joe Biden, who is perceived as addressing these concerns 'very much so' by 14% and 'somewhat' by 42%. In stark contrast, only 8% believe that Donald Trump addresses LGBTQ concerns 'very much so', with an additional 3% saying he does so 'somewhat'.

Very much so Somewhat Not really

Not at all

### FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

### Extent to Which Candidates Address LGBTQ Community Concerns





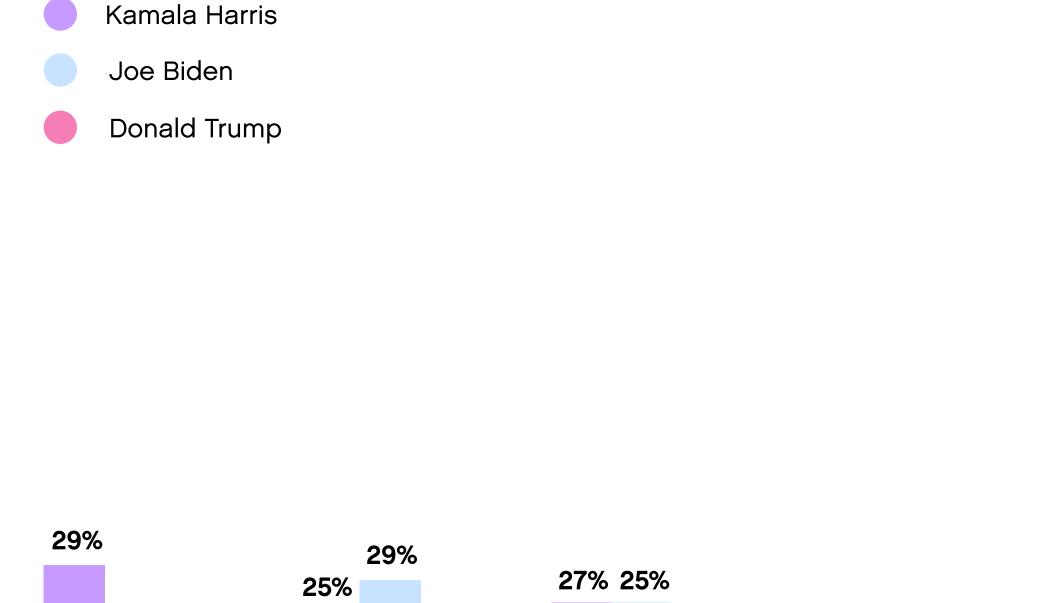
Trans respondents view Kamala Harris slightly more favorably than Joe Biden concerning their impact on LGBTQ people. While 29% of respondents reported no concern for Kamala Harris, only 20% felt the same about Biden. In stark contrast, 89% of trans respondents expressed extreme concern about Donald Trump's impact on the LGBTQ community.

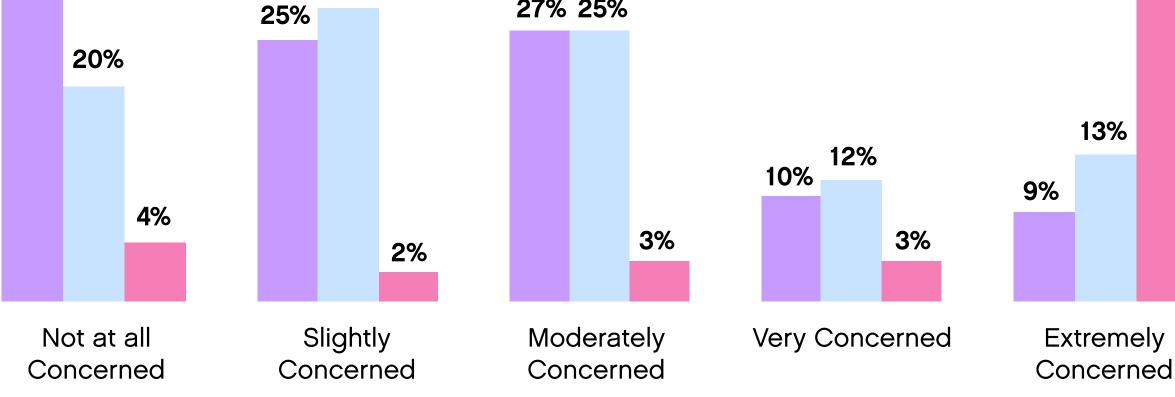
"I am fearful of another Trump presidency. I feel my life and the lives of others are at stake. I wonder daily if I need to prepare to flee or hide. Many people are seeking more community networks for safety reasons in case things become horrific in the wake of another Trump presidency or retaliation from MAGA at a Trump loss."

- SURVEY RESPONDENT, CALIFORNIA

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

Concerns About the Impact of a Presidency on the LGBTQ Community





27







### CONCLUSION

The current political climate is having a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQ community. The results of the 2024 election will significantly influence access to healthcare for LGBTQ individuals for years to come. In the face of anxiety and fear fueled by anti-LGBTQ laws and rhetoric, our community is taking action. As always, LGBTQ people are finding ways to support each other both within and outside of existing systems.

Our study revealed that 9 in 10 of trans respondents believe the election will substantially affect their healthcare access, highlighting the urgency of advocacy for inclusive healthcare policies. As 67% have already altered their use of gender-affirming care due to election concerns, the need for organizations like FOLX is more critical than ever. FOLX was founded because LGBTQ individuals have been underserved by mainstream healthcare, and in times like these, our mission is vital. We are committed to providing holistic care and ensuring continued access to the healthcare that LGBTQ individuals deserve.



### CONCLUSION

As we approach the 2024 election, it is essential to mobilize and ensure the LGBTQ community makes our voices heard at the polls. By fostering awareness and engagement, we can drive meaningful change and address the needs and concerns of the LGBTQ community. With 90% of our respondents registered to vote, the opportunity for impact is significant. Together, we can work toward a future where healthcare access and LGBTQ rights are secured and strengthened for generations to come.

## How can we all take *action* at this critical time?

We encourage all community members to establish care with clinicians they can trust. Connect with your local and national LGBTQ communities. And, importantly, make a plan to vote in this election. Your participation will change the future.



As a result of this survey, FOLX remains committed to taking the following actions:



Providing Expert and Affirming Care for the LGBTQ Community. Our mission is to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where LGBTQ+ people can receive the highest quality of care without fear of discrimination.



### Serving as a Community Resource.

Our holistic care includes accessible education and resources on the issues that impact our lives, from evidence-based medicine to the changing legal landscape, supporting our community with the knowledge we need to make informed decisions.



Increasing Access to Care. Addressing healthcare disparities means dismantling barriers for our community. Through strategic partnerships, our FOLX Fund, insurance coverage, expanded services, and more, we work to ensure all LGBTQ individuals can access the care they deserve.



**OUR COMMITMENT** 



### Addressing Mental Health Needs.

By providing treatment for anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns, and expanding therapy services to all fifty states, we ensure our community has access to expert and LGBTQ-specialized care for both their physical and mental wellbeing.



Advocating for LGBTQ Healthcare Rights. Through lobbying, meeting with elected officials, education and public advocacy campaigns, we are steadfast in our commitment to protect and advance LGBTQ healthcare rights.

### \*

### Leading Patient-Centered Research.

We advance healthcare innovation through groundbreaking research created in partnership with leading experts and community members. Our commitment to centering the LGBTQ experience ensures that our studies are shaped by and for the community, reflecting our diversity and enhancing health outcomes for all.

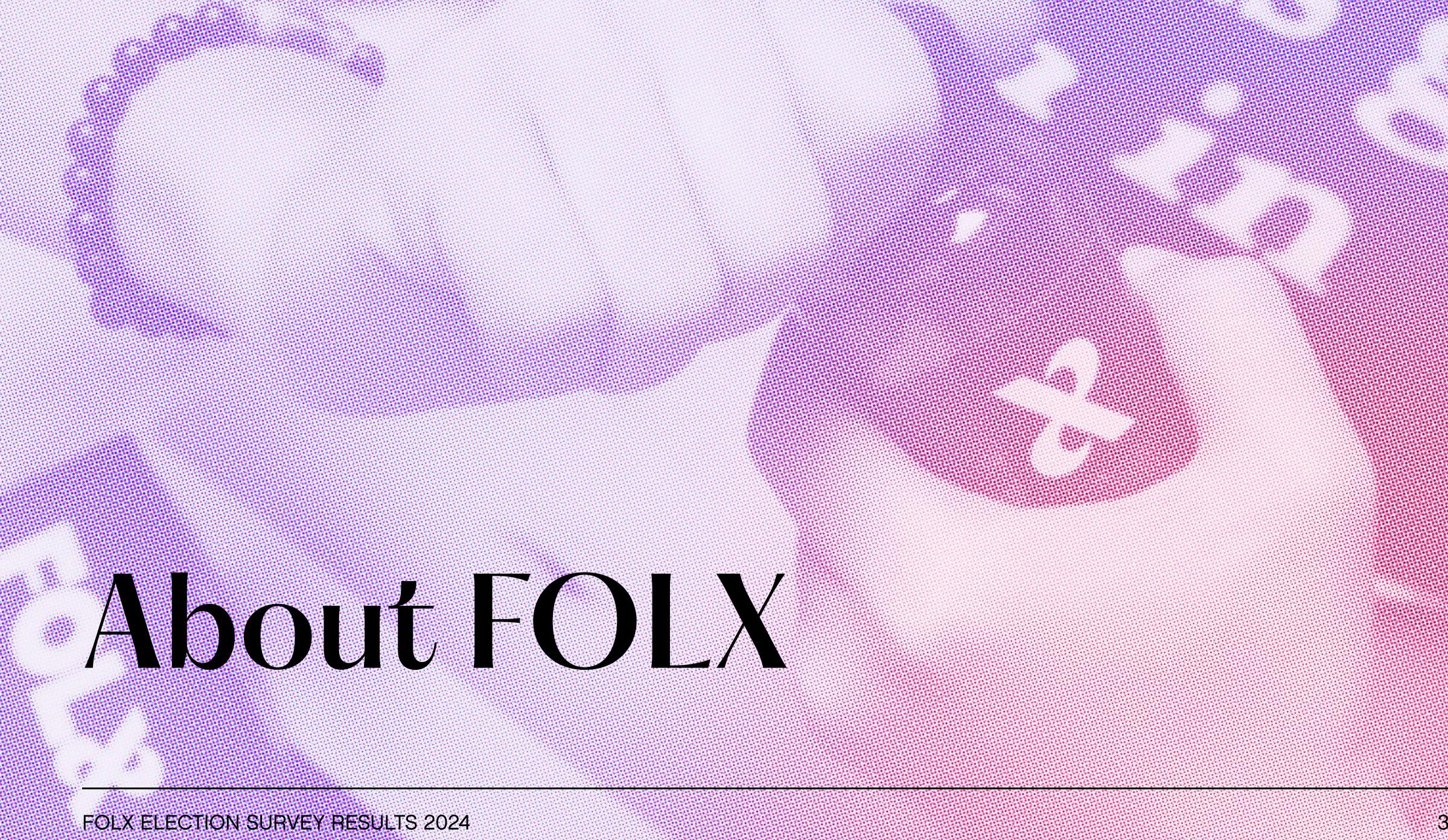


**OUR COMMITMENT** 

FOLX ELECTION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

We are listening to our community and hear the need to respond with ever greater action in this moment. We're just getting started.







### ABOUT FOLX

FOLX Health exists to be the leading health and wellness platform for LGBTQIA+ care, providing end to end services, both virtually and in person, across the spectrum of community needs. We are the north star for innovation in the broader ecosystem by creating joyful, affirming healthcare on one's own terms and building community and access around those needs.

### **FOLX Values:**

# Reliability

Be an expert, dependable source for LGBTQIA+ care & services.

# Transparency

Build trust by openly sharing our practices, our costs and our offerings.

# Access

Invest in programs and initiatives that allow for broad access to our services.

# Agency

Support the self-determination of our members by treating them as partners in their care.





# 50K+

patients served since 2021

# 35M+

individuals with in-network care at FOLX

# 100%

of FOLX members see their clinician as a partner in their care



days wait time for appointments





# Methodology

A quantitative cross-sectional design was used to collect data through an online survey platform between July 17th and July 28th 2024. A sample of individuals ages 18+ who resided in the United States, including its territories, was recruited via FOLX email and social media. Respondents were defined as being trans if they answered yes to the question, "do you identify as gender diverse, transgender, trans, genderqueer, Two Spirit, gender non-binary, and/or having a gender that is different than your sex assigned at birth?"

Respondents were then asked 'how do you identify your gender?' and were asked to select one of the following: 'Man / Transgender Man', 'Woman / Transgender Woman', or 'Non-binary / Gender Diverse / Two-Spirit'. . Qualified respondents completed a secure online questionnaire. The questionnaire was offered in English only. Several questions about the election were taken from Kaiser Family Foundation's Survey of Women Voters and Human Rights Campaign to facilitate comparison.



### APPENDIX

A total of 1502 individuals began the survey. Of those, 63 did not pass duplicate checks. We additionally excluded those under 18, residing outside of the United States, and those who did not identify as trans. This resulted in a final analytic sample of 1239 trans adults ages 18+ residing in the U.S.

Chi-square tests were used to examine differences between groups. Unless otherwise noted, all reported comparisons are statistically significant at least at p<0.05. This means there is less than a 5% likelihood these results occurred by chance. This report uses "trans" as an umbrella term to encompass non-cisgender people, which includes people who are gender diverse, transgender, trans, genderqueer, Two Spirit, gender non-binary, and/or having a gender that is different from their sex assigned at birth.



### DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Almost half of respondents identified as a woman or transgender woman, 27% identified as a man or transgender man, and 25% identified as non-binary, gender diverse, or Two-spirit. Bisexual and queer were the most common sexual orientations of respondents. The vast majority of respondents were under 35, with 29% aged 18-24 and 36% aged 25-34. Additionally, 9% were parents. 43% resided in the South, and about half of the respondents lived in states that voted Republican in the 2020 presidential election. There were no statistically significant differences in the demographic composition of our respondents before and after Biden stepped down as the Democratic nominee, facilitating comparisons of our survey results.



	Missing	Overall	Biden as Nominee	Biden Steps Down as Nominee	P-Value
n		1239	735	504	
Gender Identity <sup>15</sup> , n (%)	0				
Woman / Transgender Woman		587 (47.4)	338 (46.0)	249 (49.4)	0.33
Man / Transgender Man		339 (27.4)	212 (28.8)	127 (25.2)	
Non-binary / Gender Diverse / Two-Spirit		313 (25.3)	185 (25.2)	128 (25.4)	
Sexual Orientation	6				
Asexual		90 (7.3)	58 (7.9)	32 (6.4	0.93
Bisexual		373 (30.3)	221 (30.2)	152 (30.3)	
Gay		81 (6.6)	47 (6.4)	34 (6.8)	
Heterosexual		69 (5.6)	39 (5.3)	30 (6.0)	
Lesbian		208 (16.9)	118 (16.1)	90 (18.0)	
Other		87 (7.1)	54 (7.4)	33 (6.6)	
Queer		294 (23.8)	177 (24.2)	117 (23.4)	
Prefer not to say		31 (2.5)	18 (2.5)	13 (2.6)	
Age Group, n(%)	23				
18-24		350 (28.8)	216 (30.0)	134 (27.0)	0.10
25-34		434 (35.7)	257 (35.7)	177 (35.6)	
35-44		206 (16.9)	131 (18.2)	75 (15.1)	
45-54		104 (8.6)	54 (7.5)	50 (10.1)	
55-64		66 (5.4)	34 (4.7)	32 (6.4)	
65 and older		56 (4.6)	27 (3.8)	29 (5.8)	

<sup>15</sup> We excluded 49 respondents who selected 'Prefer Not to Say'



Parent, n (%)	2			45 (8.9)	
Yes		70 (9.5)	45 (8.9)	458 (91.1)	0.80
No		664 (90.5)	458 (91.1)		
Census Region, n (%)				71 (14.1)	
Μ	0	101 (13.7)	71 (14.1)	89 (17.7)	0.57
Ν		120 (16.3)	89 (17.7)	222 (44.0)	
S		310 (42.2)	222 (44.0)	122 (24.2)	
W		204 (27.8)	122 (24.2)		
Party of State of Residence (2020 Election), n (%)				262 (52.0)	
Democratic	0	378 (51.4)	262 (52.0)	242 (48.0)	0.89
Republican		357 (48.6)	242 (48.0)		



## Is this survey nationally representative of trans adults?

The question of how to accurately measure trans people in national surveys is still not well understood due to the diverse methods employed to capture this demographic. Different surveys use different approaches to measure and represent transgender individuals. For example, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) asks respondents: "Do you consider yourself to be transgender?" Those who answer "yes" are then prompted to specify if they are male-to-female, female-to-male, or gendernonconforming. While these categories have been criticized for various reasons, they are still used in the weighting of nationally representative surveys, including those conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF).

Our survey, however, employs a two-step gender identity approach. This method allows respondents to describe their gender identity more accurately, without forcing them to choose between categories such as "woman" or "trans woman." Instead, these identities are included within a single category. Research and our experience with our members have shown that many trans individuals are uncomfortable with questions about sex assigned at birth and may not identify as a "trans woman," but simply as a "woman."

To enhance our understanding and representation of trans adults, we also compare our findings with the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), which surveyed over 90,000 trans respondents across the United States.



In our analysis, we find that our sample skews slightly younger compared to the KFF survey but is older than the population represented in the USTS. Additionally, our survey shows a higher proportion of women/trans women compared to both the KFF survey and the USTS, yet it aligns more closely with the gender distribution found in BRFSS, which has higher rates of trans women/ women<sup>16,17</sup> Furthermore, the regional distribution in our survey is similar to that of the USTS.

Taken together, these findings suggest that our survey is fairly representative of the trans adult population today.

<sup>16</sup> Downing, J. M., & Przedworski, J. M. (2018). Health of transgender adults in the US, 2014–2016. American journal of preventive medicine, 55(3), 336-344.

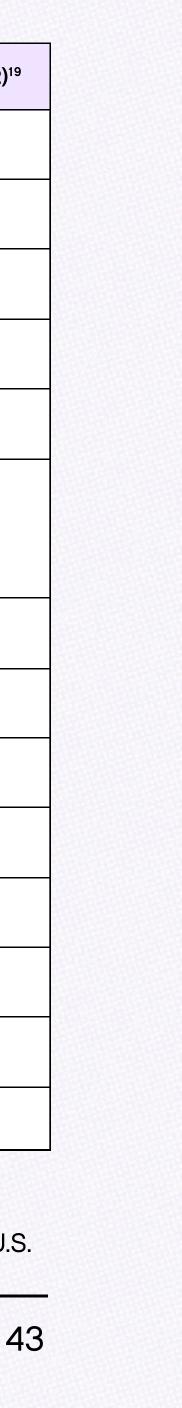
<sup>17</sup> James, S.E., Herman, J.L., Durso, L.E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). Early Insights: A Report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey. National Center for Transgender Equality, Washington, DC.



		FOLX	KFF (2023) <sup>18</sup>	USTS (2022) <sup>19</sup>
er Identity, n (%)	Man / Transgender Man	27	12	25
	Woman / Transgender Woman	47	22	35
	Non-binary / Gender Diverse / Two-Spirit	25	62	38
l Orientation, n (%)	LGBQ	83	70	-
roup, n (%)	18-24	29		43
	25-34	36	53	
	35-44	17		36
	45-54	9	23	9
	55-64	6		6
	65 and older	4	23	7
, n (%)	Yes	9	27	_
n, n (%)	Μ	14	_	17
	Ν	17	-	19
	S	43	-	41
	W	26	_	23

<sup>18</sup> Kirzinger, A., Kearney, A., Montero, A., Sparks, G., Dawson, L., & Brodie, M. (2023). KFF/The Washington Post Trans Survey. San Francisco, CA: KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation).

<sup>19</sup> James, S.E., Herman, J.L., Durso, L.E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). Early Insights: A Report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey. National Center for Transgender Equality, Washington, DC.







### FOLXHEALTH.COM