



# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN CANADA

## The Study

In fall 2019, Trans PULSE Canada conducted a national survey of 2,873 trans and non-binary people aged 14+, of whom 1,184 consented to be re-contacted for future research. 820 participated in a COVID-specific online survey in English or French in Sept/Oct 2020. Data were weighted to represent the full 2019 sample, with 95% confidence intervals used to show a range of plausible values, since we were not able to survey every trans and non-binary person in Canada. Full-sample results are presented here; our team is developing an online [data dashboard](#) (coming winter, 2021) where results can be customized for sub-groups or intersections, as different groups can experience different pandemic impacts.

## The Findings

Over half (52.9%) of trans and non-binary respondents said that COVID-19 had a negative impact on their ability to meet financial obligations or pay for essential needs. Some participants had to change their living arrangements due to the pandemic, and for 6.9% this meant having to live with someone who is unsupportive of their gender. A majority of respondents (58.8%) said that their access to trans and non-binary social spaces had decreased; relatedly, 56.6% were extremely or very concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to maintain social ties. Other common concerns included one's health (45.5% extremely or very concerned), increased presence of police or security (41.8%), and family stress due to confinement (38.0%).

## The Implications

The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions are contributing to economic and social challenges for all Canadians. Trans and non-binary people, who experienced greater levels of economic insecurity and social marginalization pre-pandemic, may be particularly affected. Results indicate that a majority of trans and non-binary people in Canada are experiencing both negative financial and negative social impacts of COVID-19.

"I haven't been able to be around my community, which [usually] provides me comfort."

These challenges are likely to have health consequences. For example, Statistics Canada found that negative [financial impacts of COVID-19](#) and concerns about [family stress from confinement](#) were associated with poorer mental health. Future Trans PULSE Canada COVID Survey analyses will examine how stressors described in this report may have impacted the health of trans and non-binary people in Canada.

"I like that a lot of things have moved online. Prior to the pandemic I was very isolated and spent a lot of time at home alone, and now that everyone is in that situation, there are more opportunities to participate in community, social events, activism, etc. online."

	%	95% CI <sup>a</sup>
<b>Impact of COVID-19 on ability to meet financial or essential needs</b>		
Moderate/major negative	28.8	(25.4, 32.2)
Minor negative	24.1	(20.9, 27.3)
No impact, or too soon to know	31.8	(28.3, 35.2)
Minor positive	7.4	(5.4, 9.4)
Moderate/major positive	7.9	(5.9, 10.0)
<b>Lived with people unsupportive of gender<sup>b</sup></b>		
	6.9	(5.0, 8.8)
<b>Change in access to trans or non-binary peer interactions (online or in person)</b>		
Increased	8.5	(6.4, 10.7)
Stayed same	32.7	(29.2, 36.2)
Decreased	58.8	(55.1, 62.5)
<b>Very/extremely concerned about impacts of COVID-19</b>		
Personal health	45.5	(41.7, 49.2)
Maintaining social ties	56.6	(52.9, 60.3)
Family stress from confinement	38.0	(34.4, 41.6)
Violence in the home	3.7	(2.2, 5.2)
Increased presence of police/security	41.8	(38.1, 45.5)

a 95% confidence interval.

b Specifically due to COVID-19.