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Majority of New Jerseyans Say Teachers Should Keep Transgender Students' Identity Confidential as Matter of Safety

More than half believe transgender children frequently experience verbal harassment, bullying, depression and anxiety

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (March 18, 2024) – After much debate among politicians and parents alike over school privacy policies regarding transgender students in the fall, New Jerseyans believe teachers shouldn't share a student's transgender identity with their parents if the student doesn't feel safe coming out, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Fifty-four percent say a teacher shouldn't be required by law to inform a student's parents about their transgender identity if a student confides such information to them and says they don't feel safe coming out to their parents, according to the poll conducted in December.

Similarly, 55 percent say teachers shouldn't feel a personal need to inform a student's parents. The difference in question wording – a teacher's own choice versus being legally required – does not produce any significant difference in opinion. In either case, about 3 in 10 say the teacher should tell the parents, and roughly 15 percent are unsure what should be done.

"A majority of New Jerseyans side with the [state's transgender student guidance](#) that outlines the need for confidentiality and privacy among school personnel regarding a student's transgender status," said Ashley Koning, an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#) (ECPIP) at [Rutgers University–New Brunswick](#).

"Residents in the state prioritize this health and safety measure to a much greater extent than adults do [nationally](#), where views are divided on similar questions."

Most New Jerseyans believe transgender children either "frequently" (63 percent) or "occasionally" (20 percent) experience depression and anxiety. Similar numbers believe transgender children are either "frequently" or "occasionally" bullied by other children (53 percent and 26 percent, respectively) and verbally harassed (51 percent and 26 percent, respectively).

Transgender Identification in Schools Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

Seven in 10 say transgender children “frequently” (37 percent) or “occasionally” (34 percent) experience disapproval from their parents; slightly more than half (20 percent “frequently” and 31 percent “occasionally”) say the same about experiencing disapproval from teachers. Two-thirds say transgender children “frequently” (30 percent) or “occasionally” (34 percent) experience physical abuse.

“New Jerseyans appear generally aware of the negative experiences transgender youth may encounter, at home or in school,” said [Jessica Roman](#), a research associate at ECPIP. “According to the [2023 National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People](#) conducted by the Trevor Project, nearly three-quarters of transgender and nonbinary young people experience symptoms of anxiety and more than 6 in 10 experience symptoms depression. More than a quarter (27 percent) reported having been physically threatened or harmed in the past year because to their gender identity.”

“Statistics paint a clear picture of the ramifications of potentially outing a student to their family when they may come from an unsafe home,” said Koning. “National data shows us trans and nonbinary youth report feeling affirmed more frequently at school than home. This affirmation – wherever it may come from – plays a role in well-being and lowers suicide attempt risk.”

A plurality of every demographic believes teachers should keep a student’s transgender identity confidential, with the exception of Republicans – 34 percent of this group say teachers shouldn’t tell parents, versus 54 percent who say they should be legally required to do so (48 percent when the question omits legal requirements). New Jerseyans who identify as LGBTQ+¹ are the most likely of any group to say teachers shouldn’t legally be required to divulge this information (74 percent), followed by Democrats (72 percent), those ages 18 to 34 (65 percent), and women (61 percent).

Republicans are consistently – often by double digits – less likely than independents or especially Democrats to say transgender children “frequently” experience bullying, disapproval, mental health issues, verbal harassment and physical abuse. Independents say transgender children have these experiences to a lesser degree than Democrats, with about 20-point gaps when it comes to bullying, mental health issues and harassment.

Women are consistently more likely than men, residents ages 18 to 24 are consistently more likely than those in older age cohorts, and those who know someone who is transgender or transgender themselves are more likely than those who don’t or aren’t to believe transgender children “frequently” experience these issues. Residents who identify as LGBTQ+ are especially

¹ The LGBTQ+ acronym is used here to reflect analysis based solely on self-identified sexual orientation. Respondents in this demographic group identified as either lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, pansexual, or chose to describe themselves in a way other than heterosexual. Crosstab tables of sexual orientation can be found in the tables section of this release.

Transgender Identification in Schools Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

more likely to say transgender children experience these issues “frequently” compared with their heterosexual counterparts.

Nearly half of New Jerseyans (48 percent) say they know someone who is transgender and/or identify as transgender themselves. More than half of residents who identify as LGBTQ+ (77 percent), those ages 18 to 34 years old (56 percent), those living in exurban areas (55 percent), residents in the highest income bracket (54 percent), Hispanic residents (53 percent), those who have done graduate work (53 percent), Democrats (51 percent), and independents (51 percent) know someone who is transgender and/or identify as transgender themselves. Only two demographic groups come in under 40 percent – Republicans (37 percent) and senior citizens (35 percent).

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,657 adults contacted through multiple modes, including by live interviewer on landline and cell phone, MMS text invitation to web, and the probability-based [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from Dec. 13 to Dec. 23. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points. The registered voter subsample contains 1,451 registered voters and has a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points.

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Broadcast interviews: Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality television and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact Jessica Ronan-Frisch at jronan@eagleton.rutgers.edu.

ABOUT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–NEW BRUNSWICK

Rutgers University–New Brunswick is where Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.

ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING

Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based statewide polling operations in the United States. Now in its 52nd year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP’s mission is to provide scientifically sound, nonpartisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases, published research and data archive, please visit our website: eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Transgender Identification in Schools Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit eagleton.rutgers.edu.

ABOUT THE RUTGERS-EAGLETON/SSRS GARDEN STATE PANEL

[The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults age 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. The ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected. This data is stored securely and used to determine eligibility for specific studies (if needed). The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. Internet households participate via web while all non-internet households (including those who have internet but are unwilling to take surveys online) participate via phone. Panelists also have the option of taking surveys in their preferred language (English or Spanish).

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey adults; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

L4 How often do you think that children who identify as transgender experience the following?

Bullying from other children

Frequently	53%
Occasionally	26%
Rarely	6%
Never	3%
Don't know	12%
Unweighted N=	1408

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Frequently	71%	49%	32%	48%	58%	53%	52%	57%	51%	59%	51%	48%	52%
Occasionally	19%	28%	33%	28%	24%	26%	24%	24%	28%	22%	28%	29%	25%
Rarely	3%	7%	10%	8%	5%	5%	6%	5%	8%	8%	6%	6%	6%
Never	2%	3%	5%	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	2%	6%	2%	2%
DK	5%	14%	20%	13%	11%	14%	14%	10%	8%	9%	10%	15%	15%
Unwt N=	503	572	324	723	674	910	130	191	160	400	310	372	324

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Frequently	51%	59%	52%	52%	62%	57%	43%	50%	48%	51%	50%	54%	59%
Occasionally	28%	22%	26%	28%	19%	23%	34%	28%	29%	29%	25%	24%	24%
Rarely	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	5%	6%	7%	9%	5%	8%	7%	6%
Never	5%	3%	4%	1%	2%	2%	5%	4%	3%	5%	3%	2%	1%
DK	10%	11%	12%	12%	10%	14%	11%	12%	12%	11%	14%	13%	11%
Unwt N=	298	390	247	352	192	523	217	246	230	337	332	334	405

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Frequently	52%	71%	60%	47%
Occasionally	27%	15%	25%	27%
Rarely	6%	5%	7%	6%
Never	3%	2%	3%	3%
DK	12%	7%	6%	17%
Unwt N=	1223	155	665	741

Disapproval from their parents

Frequently	37%
Occasionally	34%
Rarely	9%
Never	3%
Don't know	17%
Unweighted N=	1407

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Frequently	45%	39%	22%	33%	41%	34%	39%	43%	42%	50%	38%	31%	26%
Occasionally	37%	28%	40%	33%	35%	39%	23%	30%	27%	28%	35%	36%	37%
Rarely	6%	11%	9%	11%	7%	7%	12%	12%	7%	8%	8%	8%	11%
Never	2%	2%	6%	3%	3%	2%	5%	4%	4%	2%	5%	2%	4%
DK	10%	19%	24%	20%	14%	18%	20%	11%	20%	11%	14%	22%	21%
Unwt N=	502	571	325	722	674	910	130	190	160	399	311	372	323

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Frequently	44%	33%	38%	37%	46%	38%	31%	38%	33%	40%	32%	38%	40%
Occasionally	27%	39%	35%	36%	24%	34%	38%	33%	39%	30%	38%	34%	34%
Rarely	10%	10%	6%	8%	8%	9%	11%	8%	9%	10%	10%	8%	7%
Never	5%	3%	3%	1%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%
DK	14%	16%	18%	18%	17%	17%	16%	18%	16%	16%	18%	18%	17%
Unwt N=	294	390	248	354	192	524	217	246	228	335	333	334	405

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Frequently	34%	68%	45%	31%
Occasionally	36%	15%	34%	33%
Rarely	9%	4%	8%	9%
Never	3%	4%	3%	3%
DK	17%	9%	9%	23%
Unwt N=	1222	155	663	741

Disapproval from their teachers

Frequently	20%
Occasionally	31%
Rarely	20%
Never	7%
Don't know	21%
Unweighted N=	1407

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Frequently	29%	18%	11%	14%	26%	18%	26%	25%	22%	30%	20%	14%	14%
Occasionally	38%	31%	23%	29%	34%	35%	27%	28%	29%	29%	29%	35%	34%
Rarely	14%	21%	25%	24%	15%	20%	17%	18%	18%	21%	18%	22%	18%
Never	3%	9%	13%	9%	6%	6%	7%	12%	5%	5%	12%	6%	7%
DK	16%	22%	28%	24%	18%	21%	24%	17%	26%	15%	22%	23%	27%
Unwt N=	501	573	325	723	673	909	130	191	160	400	309	373	323

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Frequently	24%	24%	18%	16%	29%	20%	13%	24%	15%	25%	15%	20%	20%
Occasionally	28%	31%	37%	33%	27%	33%	33%	29%	34%	27%	32%	33%	36%
Rarely	18%	23%	17%	19%	14%	19%	26%	19%	22%	22%	19%	16%	20%
Never	9%	4%	8%	8%	11%	5%	9%	4%	10%	7%	9%	6%	7%
DK	21%	19%	20%	23%	19%	23%	19%	24%	19%	19%	24%	24%	18%
Unwt N=	297	388	248	353	192	522	217	246	230	337	331	334	404

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Frequently	17%	48%	24%	17%
Occasionally	33%	21%	35%	29%
Rarely	20%	16%	21%	19%
Never	8%	5%	8%	7%
DK	22%	11%	13%	28%
Unwt N=	1223	155	663	741

Depression and anxiety

Frequently	63%
Occasionally	20%
Rarely	3%
Never	2%
Don't know	12%
Unweighted N=	1362

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Frequently	76%	59%	47%	60%	66%	64%	63%	66%	58%	70%	63%	60%	56%
Occasionally	16%	22%	24%	20%	21%	20%	22%	20%	20%	18%	20%	19%	25%
Rarely	1%	3%	5%	4%	2%	2%	1%	3%	6%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Never	1%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	6%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%
DK	6%	13%	20%	15%	10%	14%	9%	9%	12%	8%	12%	15%	15%
Unwt N=	511	528	317	687	665	867	124	185	169	386	304	354	316

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Frequently	62%	64%	67%	61%	65%	65%	60%	59%	62%	64%	56%	62%	70%
Occasionally	20%	22%	19%	18%	20%	19%	19%	21%	22%	20%	25%	22%	14%
Rarely	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	1%	6%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Never	5%	1%	3%	0%	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	1%	0%
DK	11%	10%	9%	16%	9%	14%	11%	14%	12%	11%	12%	14%	13%
Unwt N=	291	377	253	333	189	507	209	247	210	333	311	327	390

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Frequently	61%	80%	72%	55%
Occasionally	21%	10%	18%	22%
Rarely	3%	3%	2%	3%
Never	2%	2%	2%	2%
DK	12%	6%	6%	17%
Unwt N=	1188	149	628	730

Verbal harassment

Frequently	51%
Occasionally	26%
Rarely	7%
Never	3%
Don't know	13%
Unweighted N=	1363

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Frequently	69%	45%	33%	47%	55%	51%	58%	50%	51%	58%	50%	49%	46%
Occasionally	21%	30%	30%	26%	26%	27%	21%	29%	27%	23%	28%	27%	29%
Rarely	4%	7%	12%	9%	5%	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	6%	6%
Never	1%	3%	5%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	1%	3%
DK	6%	15%	21%	15%	11%	15%	10%	10%	11%	9%	11%	16%	16%
Unwt N=	510	532	315	689	664	867	125	186	168	388	303	355	315

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Frequently	52%	54%	52%	49%	58%	53%	43%	51%	48%	52%	44%	52%	57%
Occasionally	26%	27%	25%	27%	22%	26%	33%	27%	26%	25%	31%	27%	23%
Rarely	5%	5%	8%	9%	7%	6%	7%	4%	11%	7%	8%	6%	6%
Never	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%
DK	13%	11%	12%	14%	10%	14%	14%	14%	11%	12%	14%	14%	13%
Unwt N=	293	379	250	333	192	507	209	247	208	334	313	328	387

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Frequently	49%	71%	60%	44%
Occasionally	28%	13%	25%	28%
Rarely	7%	5%	7%	7%
Never	3%	2%	3%	3%
DK	13%	9%	6%	19%
Unwt N=	1190	149	629	730

Physical abuse

Frequently	30%
Occasionally	34%
Rarely	14%
Never	4%
Don't know	19%
Unweighted N=	1369

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Frequently	42%	26%	18%	25%	35%	27%	44%	32%	29%	35%	29%	30%	24%
Occasionally	37%	35%	27%	33%	35%	36%	30%	36%	30%	32%	32%	33%	39%
Rarely	9%	14%	20%	16%	12%	14%	7%	13%	20%	15%	14%	15%	11%
Never	1%	5%	7%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	7%	2%	3%
DK	11%	21%	28%	22%	16%	21%	15%	15%	18%	14%	19%	20%	23%
Unwt N=	513	531	319	692	667	872	126	186	168	388	303	358	318

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Frequently	40%	32%	26%	23%	43%	28%	22%	32%	27%	33%	29%	26%	30%
Occasionally	30%	36%	37%	34%	30%	36%	35%	32%	34%	29%	36%	37%	37%
Rarely	8%	15%	17%	17%	7%	15%	17%	11%	17%	17%	13%	13%	10%
Never	5%	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%
DK	17%	15%	16%	22%	14%	18%	22%	21%	18%	16%	18%	22%	20%
Unwt N=	294	379	253	335	192	509	210	248	210	337	313	328	390

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Frequently	27%	55%	37%	24%
Occasionally	35%	25%	35%	33%
Rarely	15%	8%	12%	15%
Never	4%	3%	3%	4%
DK	19%	9%	12%	24%
Unwt N=	1195	149	631	734

L5A A student confides in their teacher that they are transgender. The student tells the teacher that they don't feel safe coming out to their parents and asks the teacher to refrain from sharing this information with them. Do you think the teacher should be required by law to ...?

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received L5A and half received L5B.

Tell the student's parents they are transgender	31%
Not tell the student's parents they are transgender	54%
Don't know	15%
Unweighted N=	826

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, non-Hispanic	Non-white	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Tell	15%	33%	54%	36%	26%	32%	29%	24%	30%	36%	36%
Not tell	72%	48%	34%	48%	61%	54%	54%	65%	51%	47%	51%
DK	13%	19%	12%	17%	14%	14%	17%	11%	19%	17%	13%
Unwt N=	317	313	189	442	378	539	274	210	175	234	206

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Tell	33%	32%	33%	29%	27%	32%	37%	23%	39%	32%	37%	30%	25%
Not tell	51%	53%	53%	55%	59%	55%	46%	58%	45%	54%	52%	58%	52%
DK	15%	15%	14%	16%	14%	12%	17%	19%	16%	15%	12%	12%	23%
Unwt N=	170	218	148	228	106	295	122	169	134	205	185	201	233

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Tell	32%	19%	28%	34%
Not tell	52%	74%	59%	49%
DK	16%	8%	13%	16%
Unwt N=	725	84	369	453

L5B A student confides in their teacher that they are transgender. The student tells the teacher that they don't feel safe coming out to their parents and asks the teacher to refrain from sharing this information with them. Do you think the teacher should ...?

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received L5A and half received L5B.

Tell the student's parents they are transgender	29%
Not tell the student's parents they are transgender	55%
Don't know	16%
Unweighted N=	817

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, non-Hispanic	Non-white	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Tell	16%	29%	48%	35%	24%	30%	27%	25%	30%	34%	26%
Not tell	70%	54%	34%	47%	62%	54%	58%	59%	58%	50%	51%
DK	15%	17%	19%	18%	15%	16%	16%	16%	13%	15%	23%
Unwt N=	283	341	189	407	405	527	276	225	184	216	191

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Tell	26%	30%	29%	32%	26%	31%	28%	27%	28%	24%	37%	32%	21%
Not tell	54%	58%	50%	55%	54%	54%	55%	58%	54%	57%	47%	54%	62%
DK	20%	12%	21%	13%	20%	15%	17%	14%	17%	19%	16%	13%	16%
Unwt N=	160	237	147	195	118	317	130	115	137	176	205	205	231

	Sexual Orientation		Identifies as Transgender or Knows Someone who Does	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+	Yes	No/DK
Tell	30%	12%	25%	32%
Not tell	54%	71%	63%	46%
DK	17%	17%	11%	22%
Unwt N=	718	80	417	399

L6 To the best of your knowledge, do you personally know someone who identifies as transgender? Please check all that apply.

Note: This item was recoded due to the “check all” nature, to provide accurate counts for each individual respondent and for statistical analysis purposes. The original check count was: 17 “me,” 137 “family member,” 168 “close friend,” 545 “acquaintance,” 825 “no,” and 38 “don’t know.”

[recoded]

Knows someone who is transgender and/or is transgender themselves	48%
Does not know someone who is transgender or is not transgender themselves (includes “no” and “don’t know” responses)	52%
Unweighted N=	1649

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	51%	51%	37%	46%	49%	48%	43%	53%	40%	56%	47%	50%	35%
No/DK	49%	49%	63%	54%	51%	52%	57%	47%	60%	44%	53%	50%	65%
Unwt N=	604	653	382	852	785	1072	159	212	179	438	358	452	399

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Yes	46%	45%	46%	54%	46%	44%	55%	48%	50%	45%	48%	46%	53%
No/DK	54%	55%	54%	46%	54%	56%	45%	52%	50%	55%	52%	54%	47%
Unwt N=	332	457	297	423	225	613	254	285	272	381	392	409	465

	Sexual Orientation	
	Straight/ heterosexual	LGBQ+
Yes	44%	77%
No/DK	56%	23%
Unwt N=	1449	164

Methodology

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from December 13 to 23, 2023 with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,657 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Three samples were used for this study – a dual-frame RDD landline and cell samples, a separate cell RDD sample, and sample from the [Rutgers-Eagleton/Garden State Panel](#).

The Rutgers-Eagleton/Garden State Panel is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults age 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected. The Rutgers/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. For this poll, only Internet households were invited to participate via web; non-internet households were not included.

This study employed three recruitment methods: calling with live interviewers (n=521), one-to-one push-to-web texting (n=532), and web recruitment (n=604). Distribution of recruitment method in this sample is:

Call	31%
Text-to-Web	22%
Web	37%

Each of the three samples was base weighted and calibrated separately. The three samples were also combined and calibrated together, overall and by form.

The data were weighted to be representative of the residential adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balances sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced, by form and overall, to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and phone use. The sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, and region parameters were derived from 2022 American Community Survey PUMS data. The phone use parameter was derived from estimates provided by the National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program.²

The base weight for the dual-frame RDD sample corrects for different probabilities of selection across the telephone samples associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns. This adjustment also accounts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample.³

Base weights for the Garden State Panel were the base weights associated with the initial recruitment sampling and the sampling from the panel for this particular data collection. The base weights for the RDD cell sample were set to 1.0.

The final stage of weighting calibrates sample demographics, overall and by form, to match target population benchmark distributions. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS

² NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2018–2020; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2019.

³ Buskirk, T. D., & Best, J. (2012). Venn Diagrams, Probability 101 and Sampling Weights Computed for Dual Frame Telephone RDD Designs. *Journal of Statistics and Mathematics*, 15, 3696-3710.

extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey estimates. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for this survey is 1.39.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,657 New Jersey adults is +/-2.4 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The design effect⁴ is 1.39, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 2.8 percentage points. Thus, if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 47.2 and 52.8 percent (50 +/- 2.8) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error is only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Sampling error does not consider other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as selection bias, non-response bias, question wording, context effects, or reporting accuracy, which may contribute additional error.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by SSRS through the Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel, Braun Research, Inc., using live interviewers, and Response Now using one-to-one push-to-web texting. Sample was provided by Dynata. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPiP). Jessica Roman assisted with analysis and preparation of this report. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request and can also be accessed through our archives at eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. For more information, please contact poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu.

⁴ Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.

Weighted Demographics
1,657 New Jersey Adults 18+
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 2.8 percentage points

Please note: Totals may equal slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding.

		deff	MOE			deff	MOE
Man	49%	1.38	+/- 3.9%	White	55%	1.34	+/- 3.5%
Woman	51%	1.39	+/- 4.1%	Black	12%	1.32	+/- 8.9%
				Hispanic	20%	1.28	+/- 7.6%
18-34	27%	1.45	+/- 5.6%	Other	14%	1.28	+/- 8.3%
35-49	24%	1.32	+/- 5.9%				
50-64	27%	1.39	+/- 5.4%	<50K	25%	1.38	+/- 6.3%
65+	22%	1.36	+/- 5.7%	50K-<100K	31%	1.42	+/- 5.5%
				100K-<150K	19%	1.37	+/- 6.7%
Democrat	36%	1.41	+/- 4.7%	150K+	25%	1.35	+/- 5.5%
Independent	42%	1.37	+/- 4.5%				
Republican	22%	1.38	+/- 5.9%	Urban	16%	1.36	+/- 7.6%
				Suburb	35%	1.38	+/- 4.6%
HS or Less	32%	1.27	+/- 5.7%	Exurban	14%	1.39	+/- 7.2%
Some College	26%	1.36	+/- 5.8%	Phil/South	18%	1.38	+/- 6.8%
College Grad	20%	1.35	+/- 5.6%	Shore	17%	1.39	+/- 7.0%
Grad Work	22%	1.32	+/- 5.2%				