**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated**

**Pathways to Justice Project: Methods Note**

July 7, 2020

Version 2

**Authors:**

Alexandra Gomez

Bianca D.M. Wilson

Madin Sadat

Suggested Citation: Gomez, A., Wilson, B.D.M., Sadat, M. (2020). *Pathways to Justice Project: Methods Note.* Los Angeles: Williams Institute.

Contents

Methods Note 4

Recruitment and Eligibility of Participants 4

Participants 6

Data Collection 8

Preliminary Analysis 9

Analysis 9

Appendices 12

Appendix 1. Pre-Interview Survey 12

Appendix 2. Interview Protocol 23

Pathways to Justice Project  23

Appendix 3. Follow-up Questionnaire 27

Appendix 4. Recruitment Flyer 51

# Methods Note

The Pathways to Justice Project is a concurrent nested mixed method study of poverty among LGBTQ and other non-cisgender heterosexual people. Mixed methods research means that both quantitative and qualitative methods are used, and the concurrent nested approach involves prioritizing one of these methods (in this case, qualitative) while nesting the other method to answer slightly different questions (Creswell, 2003). The data collection methods for this research design were a pre-interview questionnaire (quantitative), an in-depth semi-structured interview (qualitative), and a follow-up questionnaire (quantitative). The final sample size of the study was N = 93. The interviews were conducted between January 2019 and May 2020 (only four of these interviews capture the impact of COVID-19).

## Recruitment and Eligibility of Participants

A quota-based convenience sampling approach was used to select participants for the study. Participants were recruited from Los Angeles County and Kern County, California. With the understanding that urban and rural experiences differ, Los Angeles County was selected to represent an urban area, while Kern County was selected to represent a mostly rural area. Though urban and rural experiences vary throughout the United States, these two counties provide a means of comparison between experiences of poverty in each environment.

The quota sampling approach was designed to maximize the diversity of the sample with regard to age, race, gender, and county. Throughout the investigation, we assessed the composition of the sample and made adjustments in recruitment in order to avoid undersampling key subgroups . The following was our guiding chart for purposive sampling, which detailed an aim sample size of 86 people:

Table 1. Enrollment Targets

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Non-Latino African American** | | **Non-Latino Asian** | | **Latino** | | **Non-Latino White** | |
|  | Not Senior  (18-49) | Senior  (50+) | Not Senior  (18-49) | Senior  (50+) | Not Senior  (18-49) | Senior  (50+) | Not Senior  (18-49) | Senior  (50+) |
| LA (n = 43) | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 10 | 2 |
| Kern (n = 43) | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 10 | 2 |
| Total (n = 86) | 18 | | 8 | | 36 | | 24 | |
|  | \*Enrollment target for transgender identified respondents is 10% (n = 8) of the total target sample ( n = 86) regardless of race/ethnicity and county. | | | | | | | |

.

We used this guide to determine hopeful minimum numbers of people in each of these groups, leaving open the possibility that we may need to recruit more than the minimum 86 respondents in order to represent main experiences of interest (e.g., clients of food banks, parents, migrant work). The eligibility criteria for study participants were presented in informational materials, such as palm cards (see Appendix 4), emails, and on social media, and was written in both English and Spanish as follows:

* Are 18 years or older;
* Identify as LGBTQ+
* Are struggling financially or have struggled in the past year

The palm cards also provided the link to an online screening questionnaire and the phone number of the project coordinator should an individual want to be screened for the study over the phone. Palm cards were distributed to various LGBT Centers and community-based organizations, such as the Los Angeles LGBT Center, The Center for Sexuality & Gender Diversity in Bakersfield, The LGBTQ Center Long Beach, Trans Wellness Center, and Bienestar. Palm cards were also left at Bakersfield Homeless Center, the front desks of health centers such as Planned Parenthood and Clinica Sierra Vista in Kern County, and with employees of various fast food restaurants and cafes. We also recruited people at community events including the Transcend Job Fair, Los Angeles LGBT Center Veteran Stand Down, Long Beach Pride, Our Pride South LA, and Bakersfield Pride. Digital versions of the palm cards were emailed to various community-based organizations and were used to advertise the study via Facebook Ads. Palm cards were also emailed to members of the *Pathways to Justice Project* Community Advisory Board (CAB) for distribution to their networks and clients.

Individuals who received palm cards through various outreach activities either completed the screening questionnaire online or called the project coordinator and were screened over the phone. Those who completed the screening questionnaire over the phone and who were eligible were usually scheduled for an interview during the same phone call to prevent loss to follow up. When recruiting at events, paper screening forms were made available to interested individuals and then collected, so that the project coordinator could contact eligible individuals to schedule an interview at a later date. Individuals who were eligible for the study and interested in participating were given a date and time to meet with a project interviewer at a public location that allowed privacy.

One issue that came up with recruitment was the diversity of sampling in Kern County. The research team held a meeting with the Community Advisory Board team to problem-solve how we could better represent the experiences of Black, trans, and Spanish-speaking people in Kern County. One of the CAB members and two research assistants were hired to work on recruitment. Although we did not meet our sample quota for these populations in Kern County, we did increase the sample size for Black and trans people. During the last CAB meeting, a CAB member from Kern recommended that a person with whom we could talk to because she had experience as a trans fieldworker organizer who had previously lived in Kern County and now resided in a more rural city outside of the county. The purpose of conducting an interview with this key informant near the end of data collection was because there was not enough representation of LGBT rural migrant workers in our sample.

## Participants

Across both counties in California, we interviewed 103 LGBTQ low-income people, representing a range of ethnic and racial, sexual orientation, and gender identities (see Table 2). By design, this study included sexual and gender minority people who had recently experienced one or more forms of economic insecurity in their lifetime, most of whom (90 out of 93) had experienced economic hardship in the last year. We prioritized selecting people who experienced recent major indicators of poverty and economic insecurity such as experiences with homelessness or housing insecurity, receiving public benefits, inability to pay for utilities or rent, food insecurity, low income, and unemployment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 2. Demographics of Study Sample (*N* = 93)** | | |
| **Demographics** | **Estimate** | ***n*** |
| **Age** | Min = 19 yrs | 93 |
|  | Max = 70 yrs  Mean = 38 yrs |  |
| **Race\*** |  |  |
| White or European | 23% | 21 |
| Black or African American | 25% | 23 |
| Latino/a or Hispanic | 39% | 36 |
| Asian or Asian American | 4% | 4 |
| American Indian | 8% | 7 |
| Middle Eastern or North African | 1% | 1 |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 1% | 1 |
| **Sexual orientation** |  |  |
| Straight or heterosexual | 3% | 3 |
| Gay or lesbian | 50% | 46 |
| Bisexual | 27% | 25 |
| Pansexual | 11% | 10 |
| Queer | 9% | 8 |
| Other | 1% | 1 |
| **Gender identity** |  |  |
| Cisgender woman | 26% | 24 |
| Cisgender man | 37% | 34 |
| Trans man (FTM) | 10% | 9 |
| Trans woman (MTF) | 13% | 12 |
| Nonbinary, male at birth | 6% | 6 |
| Nonbinary, female at birth | 9% | 8 |

\*We asked respondents to self-identify their race and ethnicity, which included an option for multi/b-racial identities. For this table, we present data where we have recategorized each multi-racial group by the one or one of the ethnic minority groups they selected as a means of tracking whether we were achieving some representation of people who had certain racialized experiences. However, when we present the data in text via their individual quotes, we present the identities they self-selected in full.

## Data Collection

A total of seven research assistants were hired to conduct interviews with participants: four in Los Angeles County and three in Kern County. The research team compiled a list of suggested community spaces to conduct interviews to share with the participants, and were also open to meeting at locations that were most convenient to the participant. Interviews conducted after COVID-19 were conducted and recorded over the Zoom platform. Prior to the interview, the project interviewers obtained informed consent and compensated $50 their participation. They then administered the pre-interview questionnaire (see Appendix 1) and then proceeded with the in-depth interview (see Appendix 2), and provided participants with a resource list for their area including services for LGBT Centers, housing, food banks, legal, medical, substance use, intimate partner violence, employment, and mental health.

**A pre-interview questionnaire** was administered before beginning each in-depth semi structured interview to learn about the language participants wanted to use to describe their identities and some basic information about their life. The questionnaire included questions about gender identity and sexual orientation, gender expression, sexual activity, children, housing situation, food insecurity, and health insurance.

**The semi structured in-depth interview** explored several issues of economic instability that LGBTQ+ adults experience, both in childhood and adulthood. The interview covered family backgrounds (i.e., ethnic and cultural values and childhood poverty), challenges with economic insecurity (i.e. food, housing, income), experiences with services (i.e. food charities, legal, jobs, bills and LGBT specific), and discrimination (i.e. race, gender identity, sexual orientation). We used a semi-structured interview format in order to ensure we covered core domains of poverty experiences, while allowing room for participants to discuss topics they felt were most important and in the order they felt most comfortable.

**The follow-up questionnaire** was designed after the majority of interviews had been conducted. ThePrincipal investigator and Project coordinator found that the interview protocol was missing useful and essential information that some participants talked about spontaneously, but others didn’t (e.g., experiences with foster care, incarceration, concerns over discrimination and LGBT identity development) to capture the potential pathways to poverty. For this reason, they developed a follow-up questionnaire and sent it to the 88 participants who had participated up until that point (see Appendix 3). Participants that were enrolled subsequently were administered the slightly revised interview protocol that included specific probes in these same topics.

## Preliminary Analysis

In qualitative research, the analysis process starts once data collection begins because researchers start to hear information that indicate needs for additional information or ideas of other ways to address the study questions. Given the focus of the overall study - pathways in and out of poverty- we used our experience with prior research and existing research literature to identify main indicators that we should look for whether we are getting information on those issues, such as housing, food insecurity, income inequality, and discrimination. As we prepared to begin writing final reports, we started with an of 13 interview transcripts for which the Principal Investigator and Project Coordinator co-created a codebook. We used Dedoose software to manage and analyze the interview data and link them to the responses to the pre-interview questionnaire. The research team presented the identified major themes fromt his subset of interviews to the Community Advisory Board (CAB). Their feedback was used to create the final codebook that was used to code the rest of the interviews.

## Analysis

Here we present an overview of the initial analysis of the data prior to any specific report. All specific analyses are described within each report.

All questionnaire data are analyzed in aggregate using Stata-15 statistical software, as well as linked to participants’ interview responses and analyzed along with the qualitative data using Dedoose qualitative software. The qualitative analysis procedures followed multiple steps, involving both inductive and deductive coding, as well as checks for coding stability across multiple coders. The process is described below.

Three research assistants, the project coordinator, and the principal investigator coded the transcripts. As a check for coding stability across multiple coders, a subset of six transcripts were double coded between research assistants and principal investigator or projector coordinator to confirm consistency of code application across research assistants. Interview transcripts were divided and assigned to research assistants, project coordinator, and principal investigator. In the first half of coding, the research team held weekly meetings specifically for qualitative coding. In addition to debriefing about any questions about code application and meanings, research assistants brought up themes and patterns that they saw in the codebook, and we would adjust the codebook accordingly.

The first part of the coding process included sectioning off the interviews by topic. The following codes were applied:

|  |
| --- |
| Section 1: Family History and Life History |
| Section 2: General Financial Concerns |
| Section 3: Food Insecurity |
| Section 4: Housing |
| Section 5: Services |
| Section 6: LGBT Targeted Services |
| Section 7: LGBT Specific Experience |

The second part of the coding process was identifying if the following factors and indicators of poverty were present. Research assistants coded for present or not present with the following codes:

|  |
| --- |
| Childhood history of poverty |
| Mental Health Issues |
| Housing insecurity |
| Discrimination |
| Food Charity Experience |

The last part of the qualitative coding included coding for more nuanced experiences through the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Teenage Runaway |
| Barriers |
| HIV |
| Job Rejection |
| Institutional Discrimination |
| Employment |
| Systems (i.e foster and criminal) |
| Substance Abuse/Addiction |
| Family breakdown |
| Serious personal debt |
| Violence |
| LGBT Identity development |
| Education |
| Immigrant / Undocumented Status |
| Children |
| Disabilities |
| Social Support System |

All papers on this study conduct additional analysis that is specific to the topic. We present quotes to illustrate the types of responses that lead to the findings and conclusions. Quotes are included verbatim, except for um’s, repeated words or other indications of a participant trying to think through their response. If an interviewer’s follow up question is key to understanding part of the quote, we include it in italics. When presenting quotes, we use the pseudonyms for each participant to protect their confidentiality. Some participants asked use to use a pseudonym of their choosing, some asked us to choose for them, and others said to use their real names for whom we used only their initials.

Although 102 participants were interviewed originally, this project is reporting information on 93 LGBTQ+ adults. We identified quality issues in 9 interviews based on consensus between the principal investigator and project coordinator. Four people did not meet the criteria of poverty, two were removed for intoxication during the interview, two did not identify as LGBTQ+, and one person participated in the interviews twice. The interviews were conducted between January 2019 and May 2020; thus, only four interviews capture the impact of COVID-19.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1. Pre-Interview Survey

Pathways to Justice Project- Interview Questionnaire

Participant I.D. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Notes to Research Assistant are in brackets.]

[Read to participant:]

Before we start the audio recorded part of the interview, I want to ask you some questions that will help me better understand your identity and some aspects of your life.

1. In terms of your sexual orientation, how do you identify?
2. In terms of your gender identity, what term(s) would you want us to use to describe you? [If participant is confused about the question, give some examples: transgender woman, man, transgender, or multiple terms?]
3. Please indicate how sexually attracted you are to the following types of people:

Women, Non-Transgender

☐ Not at all

☐ Not very

☐ Somewhat

☐ Very

☐ Not sure

Men, Non-Transgender

☐ Not at all

☐ Not very

☐ Somewhat

☐ Very

☐ Not sure

Transgender Women/Male-to-Female (MTF)

☐ Not at all

☐ Not very

☐ Somewhat

☐ Very

☐ Not sure

Transgender Men/Female-to-Male (FTM)

☐ Not at all

☐ Not very

☐ Somewhat

☐ Very

☐ Not sure

Non-binary/Genderqueer

☐ Not at all

☐ Not very

☐ Somewhat

☐ Very

☐ Not sure

1. In the last 5 years, who did you have sex with? By sex we mean any activity you personally define as sexual activity. Please mark all that apply.

☐ Women, Non-Transgender

☐ Men, Non-Transgender

☐ Transgender Women/Male-to-Female (MTF)

☐ Transgender Men/Female-to-Male (FTM)

☐ Non-binary/Genderqueer

☐ I have not had sex with anyone in the last 5 years

1. What do you consider yourself to be in terms of ethnic group?
2. A person’s appearance, style, or dress may affect the way people think of them. On average, how do you think people would describe your appearance, style, or dress?

☐ Very feminine

☐ Mostly feminine

☐ Somewhat feminine

☐ Equally feminine and masculine

☐ Somewhat masculine

☐ Mostly masculine

☐ Very masculine

1. A person’s mannerisms, such as the way they walk or talk, may affect the way people think of them. On average, how do you think people would describe your mannerisms?

☐ Very feminine

☐ Mostly feminine

☐ Somewhat feminine

☐ Equally feminine and masculine

☐ Somewhat masculine

☐ Mostly masculine

☐ Very masculine

1. Are you currently in a relationship or feel a special commitment to someone?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**[If no, continue to question 13.]**

1. For how long have you been in your relationship with your current partner?
2. What is your current partner’s gender?

☐ Woman, Non-Transgender

☐ Man, Non-Transgender

☐ Transgender Women/Male-to-Female (MTF)

☐ Transgender Men/Female-to-Male (FTM)

☐ Non-binary/Genderqueer

1. Do you live with your current partner?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1. Which of the following best describes the legal status of your relationship with your current partner?

☐ Legally married

☐ Legally recognized civil union

☐ Registered domestic partners

☐ Not legally recognized

1. Do you have any children?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**[If no, continue to question 15.]**

1. Which of the following best describe the age of your children and their current living arrangement? Please mark all that apply.

☐ Child/Children under age 18 living with you

☐ Child/Children under age 18 not living with you

☐ Child/Children 18 years of age or older living with you

☐ Child/Children 18 years of age or older not living with you

1. Do you own or rent your home? “Home” is defined as the place where you live most of the time/the majority of the year. “Other arrangement” may include living in a group home or staying with friends or family without paying rent.

☐ Own

☐ Rent

☐ Other arrangement

1. Where have you lived in the last 12 months? Please mark all that apply.

☐ In a house/apartment/condo you owned (alone or with others)

☐ In a house/apartment/condo that you rented (alone or with others)

☐ With a partner, spouse or other person who pays for the housing

☐ With parents or family you grew up with

☐ With friends or family temporarily

☐ On the street, in a car, in an abandoned building, in a park, or a place that is NOT a house, apartment, shelter, or other housing

☐ In a shelter

☐ In a group home facility

☐ In a nursing/adult care facility/hospital

☐ In campus/university housing

☐ In military barracks

☐ Other

1. How often have you moved in the past 2 years?

☐ Not at all

☐ Once

☐ Twice

☐ Three times

☐ Four times

☐ Five times

☐ More than five times

1. In general, how do your finances usually work out at the end of the month? Do you find that you usually:

☐ End up with some money left over

☐ Have just enough money to make ends meet

☐ Not have enough money to make ends meet

☐ Don’t know/Not sure

☐ Refused

These next questions are about the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months and whether you were able to afford food. I'm going to read two statements that people have made about their food situation. For each, please tell me whether the statement describes something that was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you and your household in the last 12 months.

The first statement is: "The food that {I/we} bought just didn't last, and {I/we} didn't have money to get more." Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true for you and your household in the last 12 months?

☐ Often true

☐ Sometimes true

☐ Never true

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

The second statement is: "{I/We} couldn't afford to eat balanced meals." Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true for you and your household in the last 12 months?

☐ Often true

☐ Sometimes true

☐ Never true

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. Please tell me yes or no. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

**[If no, continue to Question 21.]**

1. How often did this happen -- almost every month, some months but not every month, or only in 1 or 2 months?

☐ Almost every month

☐ Some months but not every month

☐ Only in 1 or 2 months

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. Are you receiving Food Stamp benefits, also known as CalFresh?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. Are you currently covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? Please mark all that apply.

☐ I currently do not have health insurance

☐ Insurance through my current or former employer or union

☐ Insurance through my spouse/partner

☐ Insurance through my parent

☐ Insurance through someone other than my spouse/partner or parent

☐ Insurance I purchased through Healthcare.Gov

or a Health Insurance Marketplace (sometimes

called “Obamacare”)

☐ Insurance I purchased directly from an insurance company

☐ Medicare (for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities)

☐ Medicaid (government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability)

☐ TRICARE or other military healthcare

☐ VA (including if you ever used or enrolled for VA healthcare)

☐ Indian Health Service

☐ Another type of health insurance or health coverage plan: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**[If no health insurance, continue to Question 26.]**

1. Did you delay or not get other medical care you felt you needed while you had your current insurance plan?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. Is there a place that you usually go to when you are sick or need advice about your health?

☐ There is no place

☐ Yes, there are one or more places

**[If no, continue to Question 28.]**

1. What kind of place is it? Please mark all that apply.

☐ Clinic or health center

☐ Doctor’s office or HMO

☐ Hospital emergency room

☐ Hospital outpatient department

☐ Some other place: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In the past 5 years, how often have you been to an LGBT-specific clinic or provider for your healthcare?

☐ Often

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

1. During the past 12 months, did you delay or not get a medicine that a doctor prescribed for you?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

**[If no, refused, or don’t know, continue to Question 32.]**

1. Was cost or lack of insurance a reason why you delayed or did not get the prescription?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. Did you delay or not get a medicine while you had your current insurance plan?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. During the past 12 months, did you delay or not get any other medical care you felt you needed—such as seeing a doctor, a specialist, or other health professional?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

**[If no, refused, or don’t know, end this questionnaire here.]**

1. Did you get the care eventually?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

1. Was cost or lack of insurance a reason why you delayed or did not get the care you felt you needed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

**[If no, refused, or don’t know, continue to Question 36.]**

1. Was that the main reason?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

**[If yes, end here.]**

1. What was the one main reason why you delayed getting the care you felt you needed?

☐ Couldn’t get appointment

☐ My insurance not accepted

☐ Insurance did not cover

☐ Language problems

☐ Transportation problems

☐ Hours not convenient

☐ No child care for children at home

☐ Forgot or lost referral

☐ I didn’t have time

☐ Couldn’t afford/cost too much

☐ No insurance

☐ Other (specify:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

☐ Refused

☐ Don’t know

### Appendix 2. Interview Protocol

### Pathways to Justice Project

A Qualitative Approach to Understanding the Experiences of LGBTQ Adults Living in Poverty and the Community and Political Actions Needed to Improve Their Lives — Interview Protocol

Thank you for completing that initial background questionnaire.  In terms of the open ended part of the interview, I want to start with questions about your family history. I am going to start the recorder now.

 [START RECORDING NOW]

**SECTION 1: Family History and Life History**

1. First, tell me about your background.
2. Where were you born/Where’d you grow up?
3. Who’d you live with as a child?
4. Were there any cultures, ethnicities or racial identities that were important to your family?
5. [If respondent was raised in current county, ask]  What’s it been like growing up in [LA or Kern County]?
6. [If respondent was raised in county other than where they are now, ask], Tell me about what brought you to [name county they live in- Kern or Los Angeles].
7. How long ago?
8. Why move?
9. How has it been living in [this County]?
10. We want to make sure we get a sense of people's history with different systems. Have you had any involvement in foster care, child welfare and/or prison systems?  If so, can you tell me about that? (when, for how long, etc)
11. Can you also tell me about how you came to identify LGBTQ or [use identities discussed in the questionnaire]?
12. At what age?
13. What were your parents’ or guardian’s responses?
14. Other adults’ responses?
15. How connected do you feel to LGBT communities?
16. Related to the overall topic of the project, do you remember a time when you were a child or teenager when having enough money was an issue or concern?

**Section 2: General Financial Concerns**

1. Let’s talk about now.  Has there been a time in the past year, since last [name the current month] where you felt money was tight?
2. For example, a time where you felt unsure about how to pay bills, rent, or for food or not sure whether you had a place to stay?
3. What lead up to that issue?
4. How have you been dealing with it?
5. What do you see happening next?
6. What are your sources of income?
7. When you need money for things, like bills, food, general living expenses, where do you get it from?
8. If employed, ask about where, for how long, how many hours a week, etc.?
9. (If applicable) partner’s jobs and income; why type of expenses do you share?
10. What do you think is a livable income? That is, what would do you think would be enough for your needs?
11. Do you feel like you have a good or enough income?
12. What are the challenges to getting or maintaining enough money?
13. Barriers to getting good income: health, lack of experience, qualifications, discrimination
14. Tell me about how the financial [name other issues discussed] issues we discussed affect your day-to-day life?
15. Health (Also, how does your health (physical, mental, addiction, etc.) affect your finances?
16. experiences with partners?
17. kids?
18. the goals you have for yourself?

**Section 3: Food Insecurity**

1. In the last year, has there been a time when you were unsure about where you would get enough food for yourself or the people you care for?  If so, tell me about that.
2. In times like those, where did you go for help?
3. What was the experience like getting help or services related to finding food?
4. Positive?
5. Negative?
6. Before this past year, have you ever had any concerns related to finding food for yourself or the people you care for?  If so, tell me about that.
7. In those instances, where did you go for help?
8. What was the experience like getting help or services related to finding food?
9. Positive?
10. Negative?
11. Do you avoid accessing food or meals because an organization’s religious affiliation?
12. Have you ever applied to receive SNAP benefits? If yes,
13. Tell me about the process of doing the application?
14. Who helped you? Which agency?
15. What obstacles did you experience with the program requirements?
16. If you received SNAP, are the SNAP benefits helpful?
17. Tell me how

**Section 4: Housing**

1. Earlier you told me about where you live [review previously stated information] …  I’d like to learn more about the different places you have lived and your experiences with housing.
2. What places have you lived or stayed in over the last 10 years?
3. Tell me about a time when you felt unsure about where you might stay?
4. Have you experienced eviction or the threat of eviction? If so, tell me about that situation?

**Section 5: Services**

1. What types of services do you use that are intended to help you financially?
2. How about services aimed at helping with housing?
3. With getting jobs?
4. With getting food? Have you ever used a food pantry or community food service?
5. With legal matters?
6. With paying bills or handling money?
7. When thinking about [name service mentioned earlier- ask this for each type of service named],
8. Tell me what is the name of this service or the organization where you accessed it?
9. What it is like approaching the service.
10. How’d you find out about it?
11. How did they treat you?
12. What made it easy to get the service? What made it challenging?
13. Thinking across all of those services we discussed, do intake forms allow you to self-identify your sexual orientation?
14. Gender identity?
15. Relationship status?
16. That is, have you experienced forms that limit responses?
17. Has an agency refused service based on your answers to questions?
18. Thinking across all of those services we discussed, have you ever experienced an interaction or issue that felt it was prejudiced or discrimination?
19. If so, what happened?
20. What do you think it was about? [explore whether they felt it was about race, SOGI, combination, etc.]
21. If you could design services that address some of the areas we discussed, what would they look like?

**For those with children:**

1. Tell me about your children
2. How many?
3. How old are they?
4. Where and with who do they live?
5. What types of schools are they in?
6. How do they manage with some of the challenges we discussed?
7. Have you ever had any interaction with Child Protective Services? If so, what happened?
8. Do you receive any social services specific to your children? If so, how do you feel about those experiences?

**Section 6: LGBT Targeted Services**

1. Do you access any LGBT- specific services, meaning programs or services that say they are especially for LGBT people?
2. If so, for what services or for what types of issues?
3. What has been good about using these types of services?
4. What are the challenges?
5. Related to this, do you access any services at HIV clinics or centers?

**Section 7: LGBT Specific Experience**

1. In what ways does being [say Participant’s sexual and gender identity] affect your experiences with [name areas of economic insecurity discussed above]?
2. In what ways does who you are as a [name racial identity] play a role in the issues we have discussed?

**We’re almost done. I want to now hear about the kinds of things that help you get through hard times.**

1. What or who helps you?
2. Where do you get support from?

**Closing**

Those are all of the questions that I have. Do you want to mention anything else? Given that you know this project is about understanding the lives of LGBT people experiencing economic hardships, do you feel we missed anything?

[If respondent has no further comments or questions] - When we report the interview findings, I will not use your real name to protect your confidentiality.  Is there a fake or alternative name you’d like me to use?  If not, I can make it up when the time comes.

[STOP RECORDING]

### Appendix 3. Follow-up Questionnaire

Pathways Follow-up Survey

Dr. Bianca D.M. Wilson from the School of Law at UCLA is conducting a research study. You were selected as a possible participant in this follow-up survey because you previously did an interview for the Pathways Project. Your participation is voluntary.

**WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO DO THIS?**

After doing many of the interviews, we realized there were some important questions we didn’t ask everyone.  If you volunteer to participate in the follow-up part of the study, we will ask you questions about your experiences with your LGBT identity development, sense of belonging in the LGBT community, experiences with food charity services and systems of care. We are therefore asking everyone who participated before to complete this brief survey.  Our goal is to understand the experiences of LGBTQ adults who experience issues with money and poverty in the U.S., as well as to understand the community and political actions needed to improve their lives.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?**

Participation will take about 10-15 minutes. Once the full study is complete, we will upload the data to a secure data archive where they will be stored and possibly used by other researchers. Your name will not appear on the written transcripts nor in any of the reports generated from this research.

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS IF I PARTICIPATE?**

We do not expect that answering any of the questions will cause any serious risk to you.

**ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS IF I PARTICIPATE?**

You will not directly benefit from participating in the study, but your input will help us understand what needs exist for LGBT in Los Angeles and Kern County so that we could make recommendations for political action.

**WILL I BE PAID FOR MY PARTICIPATION?**

We have provided a $10 Target e-gift card code as an incentive for participating and as an appreciation for considering taking the follow-up survey.

**HOW WILL INFORMATION ABOUT ME AND MY PARTICIPATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?**  
All information that is provided in the questionnaire will be kept confidential and neither your name nor any identifying information will be stored with the information you provide or included in any reports about this study. The information will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. We will write up reports on the general lessons learned from the study, but no identifying information about any particular individual will be included in published reports. All of the files and transcriptions will be kept in a password protected file on a secure computer at UCLA.

**WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?**  
Taking part in this study is your choice. You can choose whether or not you want to participate. Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you. • You have a right to have all of your questions answered before deciding whether to take part.• If you decide to take part, you can leave the study at any time.   
 • You may refuse to answer any questions you don’t want to answer and still remain in the study.

**WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?**

**The Local Research Team:**

You may contact Dr. Bianca D.M. Wilson at wilsonb@law.ucla.edu or (310) 267-4642 with any questions or concerns about the research or your participation in this study. 

**UCLA Office of the Human Research Protection Program (OHRPP):**  
If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, or you have concerns or suggestions and you want to talk to someone other than the researchers, you may contact the UCLA OHRPP by phone: (310) 206-2040; by email: participants@research.ucla.edu or by mail: Box 951406, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1406.

**Agreement to Participate**  
I have read about and understand the research project being conducted by Dr. Bianca Wilson and her research team. I understand that I have the option to email, call, or text the research coordinator and/or principal investigator with any questions concerning the study procedures.

* Yes, I would like to participate in the follow-up survey
* No, I do not want to do the follow-up survey

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Thank you for your participation in the Pathways Project. You may contact Dr. Bianca D.M. Wilson at wilsonb@law.ucla.edu or (310) 267-4642 with any questions or concerns about the research or your participation in this study. If you would like a copy of the consent form, please text (562) 270- 2399 or email pathways@law.ucla.edu.

Q1. Please let us know again how you identify:

* Straight or heterosexual
* Gay or lesbian
* Bisexual
* Queer
* Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q2 Do you consider yourself to be transgender?

* Yes. Transgender, male-to-female
* Yes. Transgender, female-to-male
* Yes. Transgender, gender non-conforming
* Yes. I just use the term transgender
* No. I have transgender experiences, but I don't use the term transgender
* No. I am not transgender
* Don't know/ Not sure

The following statements are about your sense of belonging in the LGBT community. Please rate your level of agreement with the following items.

Q3. You feel you're part of the LGBT community.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q4. Participating in the LGBT community is a positive thing for you.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q5. You are proud of the LGBT community.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q6. You feel a bond with the LGBT community

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q7. It is important for you to be politically active in the LGBT community.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q8. If we work together, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people can solve problems in the LGBT community.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q9. You really feel that any problems faced by the LGBT community are also your own problems.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

**ONLY CISGENDER LGB RESPONDENTS**

For each of the following questions, please mark the response that best indicates your**current experience**as a lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) person. We use "LGB" generically to mean a sexual minority identity that you identify with, including queer, same-gender loving, etc.  
  
  
Q10. My sexual orientation is an insignificant part of who I am.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Somewhat agree
* Somewhat disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q11. My sexual orientation is a central part of my identity.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Somewhat agree
* Somewhat disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q12. To understand who I am as a person, you have to know that I'm LGB

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Somewhat agree
* Somewhat disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q13. Being an LGB person is a very important aspect of my life.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Somewhat agree
* Somewhat disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q14. I believe being LGB is an important part of me.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Somewhat agree
* Somewhat disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

**ONLY TRANS-IDENTIFIED RESPONDENTS**  
The following statements are about how you feel about the  community who shares your gender identity. Please rate your level of agreement with the following items.  
  
  
Q15. I feel a part of a community of people who share my **gender identity.**

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q16. I feel connected to other people who share my **gender identity.**

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q17. When interacting with members of the community that shares my **gender identity,** I feel like I belong.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q18. I’m not like other people who share my **gender identity.**

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

Q19. I feel isolated and separate from other people who share my **gender identity.**

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

**ONLY CISGENDER LGB RESPONDENTS**

Q20. At what age were you first sexually attracted to someone of the same sex as you?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE

NEVER

Q21. At what age were you the first time you had sex with someone of the same sex?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q22. At what age did you have your first intimate relationship with someone of the same sex, where you both felt like you were in love or romantically involved?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE

NEVER

Q23. At what age did you first realize you were LGB?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q24. At what age did you first tell a straight friend that you were LGB?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q25. At what age did you first tell a family member that you were LGB?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE

NEVER

Q26. How old were you when it was clear to you that someone in your family had found out that you were LGB before you told them?

\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q27. Now thinking back to when you were in high school, how "out" were you at school about your sexuality?

* Out to everyone at school
* Out to most people at school
* Out to some people at school
* Out to a few people at school
* Out to no one at school

**ONLY TRANSGENDER-IDENTIFIED RESPONDENTS**

Q28. At what age did you first realize you were transgender?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q29. At what age did you first tell a cisgender or non-transgender friend that you were transgender?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q30. At what age did you tell a family member that you were transgender?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q31. How old were you when it was clear to you that someone in your family had found out that you were transgender before you told them?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE

NEVER

Q32. Now thinking back to when you were in high school, how "out" were you about being transgender at high school?

* Out to everyone at school
* Out to most people at school
* Out to some people at school
* Out to a few people at school
* Out to no one at school

**EVERYONE**

The next section is related to your experiences with housing and living arrangements.

Q33. Did you ever live in a foster home or group home?

* No
* Yes
* Don't know

Q34. How many foster or group homes have you lived in for a month or more?

* One
* Two
* Three
* Four or more

Q35. Were any of the **moves to different placements** related to how people treated you because of your **sexual orientation** or **gender identity**?

* No
* Yes
* Don't know

Q36. Did your parent or guardian ever order you to move out of their house?

* No
* Yes
* Don't know

Q37. At what age did this happen for the first time?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AGE

NEVER

Q38. Was this experience related to your sexual orientation or gender identity?

* No
* Yes
* Don't know

The next section is about your experiences with the criminal justice system.  
  
  
Q39. Nowadays, persons are often stopped by the police for many different reasons. Since age 18, have you ever been stopped by the police?

* No
* Yes
* Don't know / Cannot Recall

Q40. Have you ever been under any form of criminal justice supervision, including probation, jail, or prison?

* No
* Yes
* Don't know / Cannot recall

The following question I am going to ask you is about your experience with the sex trade. By sex trade, we include any work where you were involved in sex or some type of sexual activity for money or in exchange for something else like clothing, food, housing, and drugs.

Q41. What type of sex or sexual activity have you ever done in the sex trade? (Mark all that apply)

* Street-based sex work
* Sex work advertised online
* Sex work advertised in magazines or newspapers
* Informal sex work through word of mouth, occasional hook ups with dates in my networks, or things like that
* Escort/call girl/rent boy with an agency
* Pornography/picture or video
* Phone sex
* Webcam work
* Erotic dancer/stripper
* Fetish work (Domme, sub, switch)
* Not listed above (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* None

The following questions are about your experiences using food pantries and programs such as WIC, SNAP, and Cal Fresh.

Q42. Do you or any member of your household members receive Food Stamps / SNAP / Cal Fresh?

* Yes
* No

Q43. Approximately how long do your food stamps cover what you need to eat?

* Less than a week
* One week
* Two weeks
* Three weeks
* All month

Q44. Why not? Check all that apply

* I have never applied to food stamps
* I do not qualify because my income is too high
* My ID documents (driver's license, social security card, etc.) do not match the name and pronouns I use
* Because of my legal status
* I don't know how to apply for food stamps
* The requirements of the program are not worth the benefits
* Other. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* I do not need food stamps

Q45 Do you visit food pantries?

* Yes
* No

Q46 How often do you go to a food pantry?

* Once a week
* Twice a week
* Twice per month
* Once per month
* Once every few months
* Once in the last 12 months
* Twice in the last 12 months

Q47. Approximately how long does the food you receive at food pantries last you?

* Three days or less
* Four days
* Five days
* Six days
* One week
* Two weeks
* Three weeks
* All month

Q48. Are the food pantries providing you with the foods you need to prepare nutritious meals?

* Yes
* No

Q49. What are the kinds of foods you need?

* Grains
* Fruits
* Vegetables
* Meats
* Protein
* Dairy
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q50. On average, how far do you travel to the food pantries?

* Half a mile or less
* One mile
* Two to five miles
* 6 miles to 10 miles
* 10 miles or more

Q51. How do you get to the pantry? (select all that apply)

* Walk
* Bike
* Drive
* Public transportation
* Family drives me
* Friends drive me
* Rideshare (i.e. Lyft, Uber, etc)
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q52. Please rank the factors you consider when choosing what pantry to pick-up food. (**Drag and drop** your selection in order of preference with #1 highest preference, 10th the least preference)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Quality/freshness of produce

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Location of pantry

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hours of operation

\_\_\_\_\_\_ LGBTQ Friendly

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cleanliness

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Friendly/ courteous staff

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Quantity of food distributed

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Culturally appropriate foods

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Safety

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do not consider factors because I just need food

Q53 Are the food pantries you attend affiliated with a religious organization or church?

* Yes
* No
* Sometimes

Q54 Have you ever avoided going to a food pantry because you thought they were biased against LGBT people?

* Yes
* No

Q55 Have you ever experienced a service provider that required prayer in exchange for services? (for example, food, shelter, help with benefits, etc.)

* Yes
* No

Q56 Do your children receive free or reduced-price school breakfast and lunch?

* Yes
* No
* I don't have children

Q57 During school breaks (e.g. winter break, holidays, summer) do you need more free food in order to feed your children?

* Yes
* No

Q58 Have you or your child(ren) ever been enrolled in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program?

* Yes. Both me and my child(ren) have been enrolled in WIC
* Yes. I have been enrolled in WIC
* Yes. My child(ren) have been enrolled in WIC
* No. I have never been enrolled in WIC

Q59 Why not? (check all that apply)

* I have never applied for WIC
* I do not qualify because my income is too high
* My ID documents (e.g. driver's license, social security card, etc) do not match the name and pronouns I use
* I lack childcare
* Because of my legal status
* The requirements of the program are not worth the benefits
* Other. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* I do not need WIC

Q60 Typically, how do you feel you are treated when you visit a WIC office?

* Very well
* Somewhat well
* Somewhat poorly
* Poorly

Q61 If you have been treated poorly at WIC office, please describe that experience, including when it happened, where and why you think you were treated that way.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q62 Have you ever avoided going to a WIC office because you thought they were biased against LGBT people?

* Yes
* No

The following questions are about your experiences with the health care system.

Q63. I worry about being negatively judged because of my sexual orientation or gender identity.

* Strongly Agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly Disagree

Q64 I worry that evaluations of me may be negatively affected by my sexual orientation or gender identity.

* Strongly Agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly Disagree

Q65 I worry that diagnoses of me/my health may be negatively affected by my sexual orientation or gender identity.

* Strongly Agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly Disagree

Q66 I worry that I might confirm negative stereotypes about LGBT people.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly Disagree

This final section asks for your opinion about issues important to the LGBT community.  
  
  
Q67 Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for racial and ethnic minorities?

* Good place
* Not a good place

Q68 Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people?

* Good Place
* Not a good place

Q69 Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for transgender people?

* Good Place
* Not a good place

Q70 Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for immigrants from other countries?

* Good Place
* Not a good place

Q71 What's the most important issue that the LGBT movement is working toward?

* Marriage and Family Law
* Health and healthcare access
* Policing, Law enforcement & incarceration
* Other suggested issue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q72 The lives of most LGBT people improved since marriage equality.

* Agree
* Disagree

### Appendix 4. Recruitment Flyer

A picture containing object, clock

Description automatically generated

A screenshot of a cell phone screen with text

Description automatically generated

A picture containing object, clock

Description automatically generated

A screenshot of a cell phone screen with text

Description automatically generated