

# The Relationship Between Marginalization and Community Satisfaction among Queer Albertans

## Background

- Even with the broader trend towards greater societal acceptance of the queer community, varying levels of community satisfaction are experienced by subgroups within this population (Nathaniel, 2015).
- Differences in community satisfaction are linked to one's level of discrimination experienced within the queer community, which has important implications for sexual and mental health outcomes (David & Ilan, 2012).
- Gender-related discrimination is associated with suicide and suicidal ideation among queer and trans individuals (Carson et al., 2019).
- Social support and community connection have been shown to moderate the relationship between discrimination and suicidality by serving as protective factors against stigmatization.
- Taking into consideration the recent discourse on intersectional identities and systems of oppression, it is becoming increasingly important to establish more inclusive queer spaces which contribute to more positive community experiences within the queer community (Goh, 2018).

## Study Aim

- Examine the relationship between marginalization and community connection among queer and trans people in Alberta.
- Examine how the experience of varying forms of marginalization (racialization, being trans, age differences) may impact one's level of satisfaction with the queer community.

## Methods

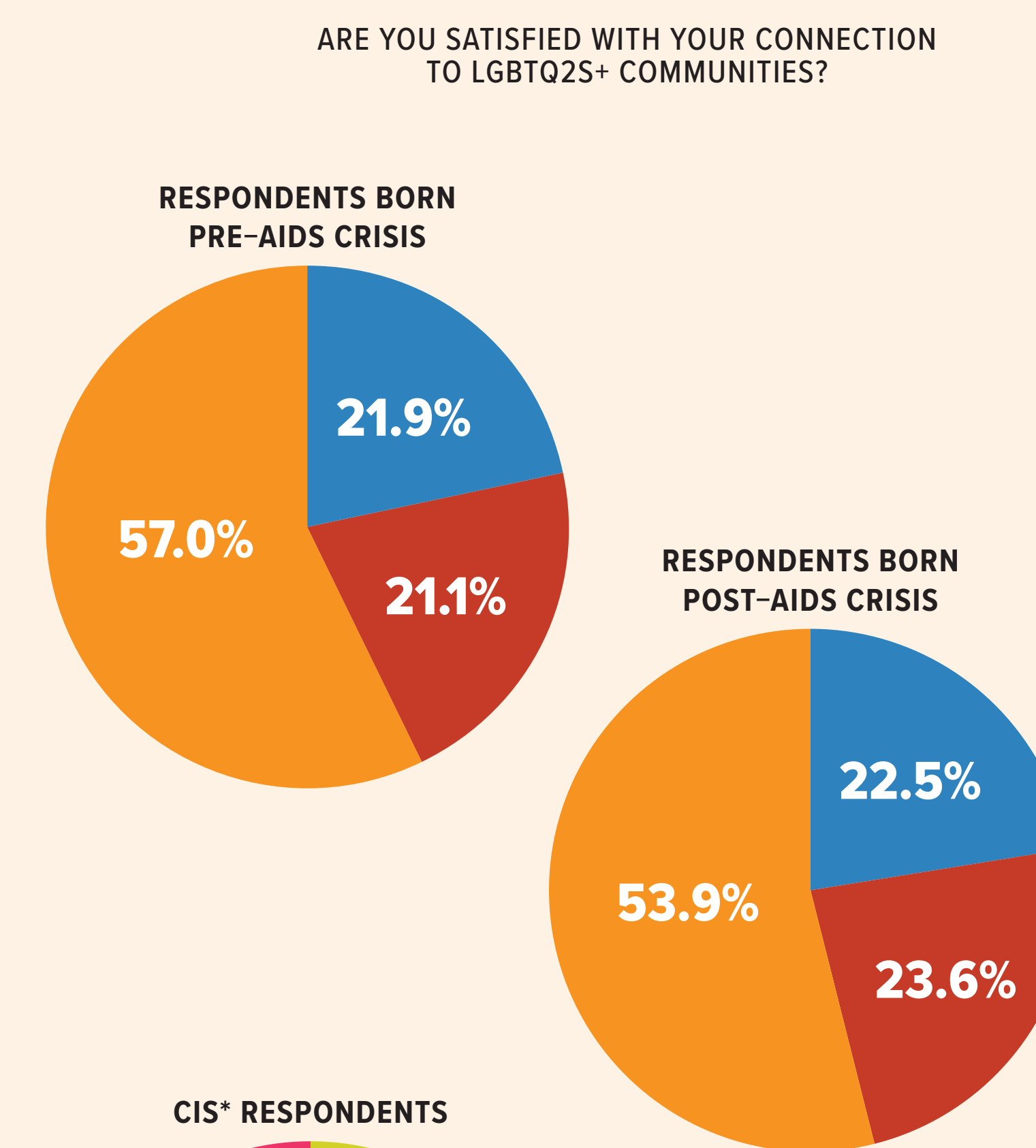
- The data for this study was derived from the 2018 Sex Now Survey (SNS), a national survey of Canadian queer and trans-masculine participants.
- In particular, this study focuses solely on participants who reported living in Alberta (SNS Question #1: What province or territory do you currently live in?).
- In total, 582 respondents stated they live in Alberta. Data was used from these respondents to further analyze racial identity (189 participants responded identifying they were BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Colour], 392 participants responded identifying as white, 1 participant chose not to respond), age (129 participants were born before 1981 [pre-AIDS Epidemic], 453 participants were born after 1981 [post-AIDS Epidemic]), and trans experience (47 participants responded they are trans, 525 participants responded they are not trans [cis\*], 10 participants chose not to respond)
- When we refer to racial identity in this study, this group was established by including participants who selected responses of any ethnicity apart from white, including: African, Caribbean Black, Arab, West Asian [e.g. Iranian, Afghan], East Asian [e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean], Indigenous, Latin American, Hispanic, South Asian [e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan], and Other.
- In this study, age grouping was split into two groupings - "Pre-Aids Epidemic" were all those born prior to 1981 and "Post-Aids Epidemic" were all those born in 1981 or later.
- Satisfaction with the community was measured based on all those who responded "Yes" to the question: Are you satisfied with your connection to LGBTQ2S+ communities?(SNS Q#66).
- In order to find levels of community satisfaction among specific groups, we subset our data into data sets of age, racial identity, and trans experienced.

## Results

- Overall, when asked if they were satisfied with their connection to LGBTQ2S+ communities, 55% of all respondents were satisfied, 23% were unsure, and 22% were not satisfied.

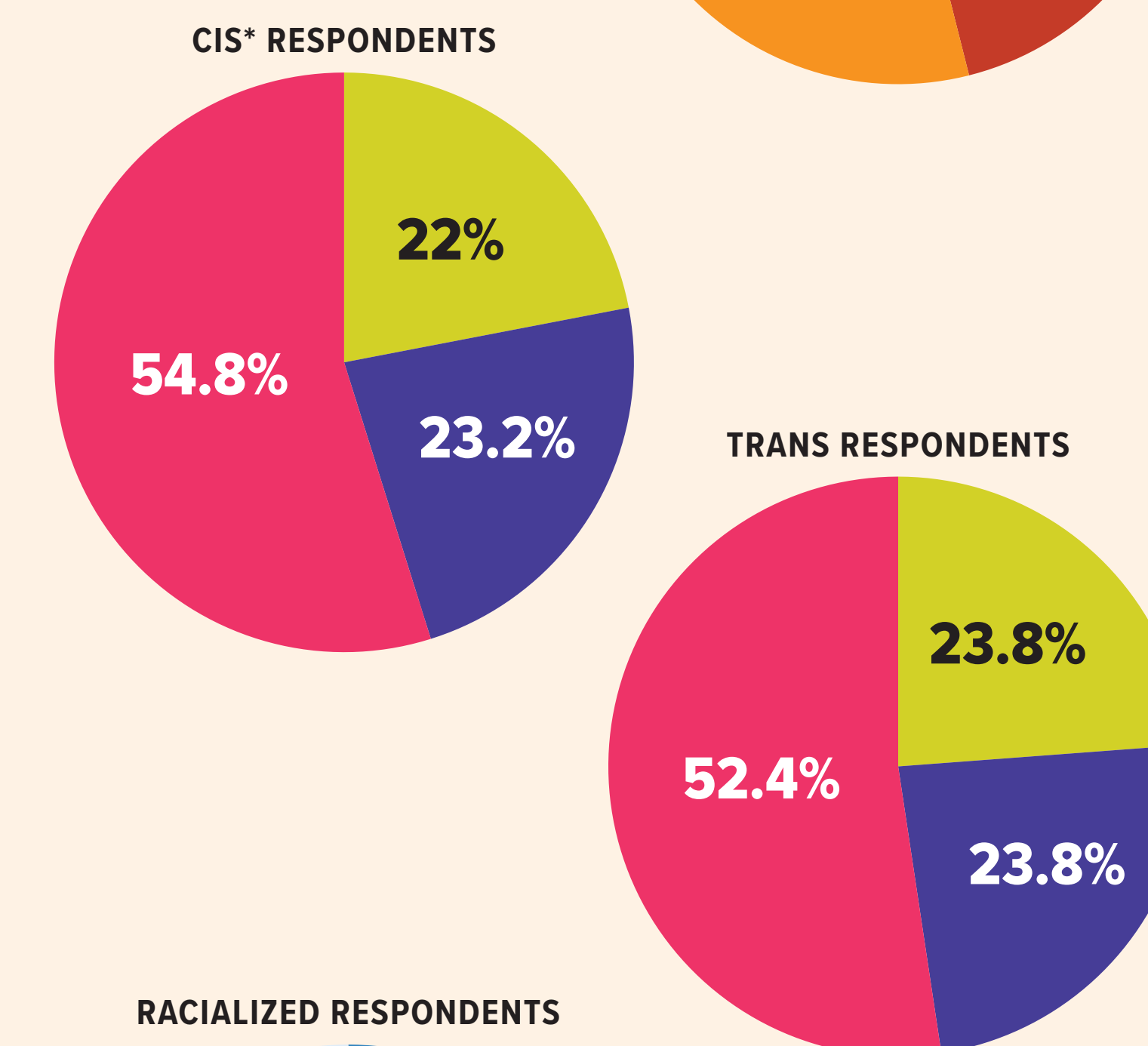
- When looking specifically at response based on age, there were some slight variations with 57% of pre-AIDS epidemic respondents noting higher satisfaction with community compared to 54% of post-AIDS epidemic respondents, however, age was found to not be significantly associated with community satisfaction ( $p = 0.8288$ ).

● No ● Unsure ● Yes



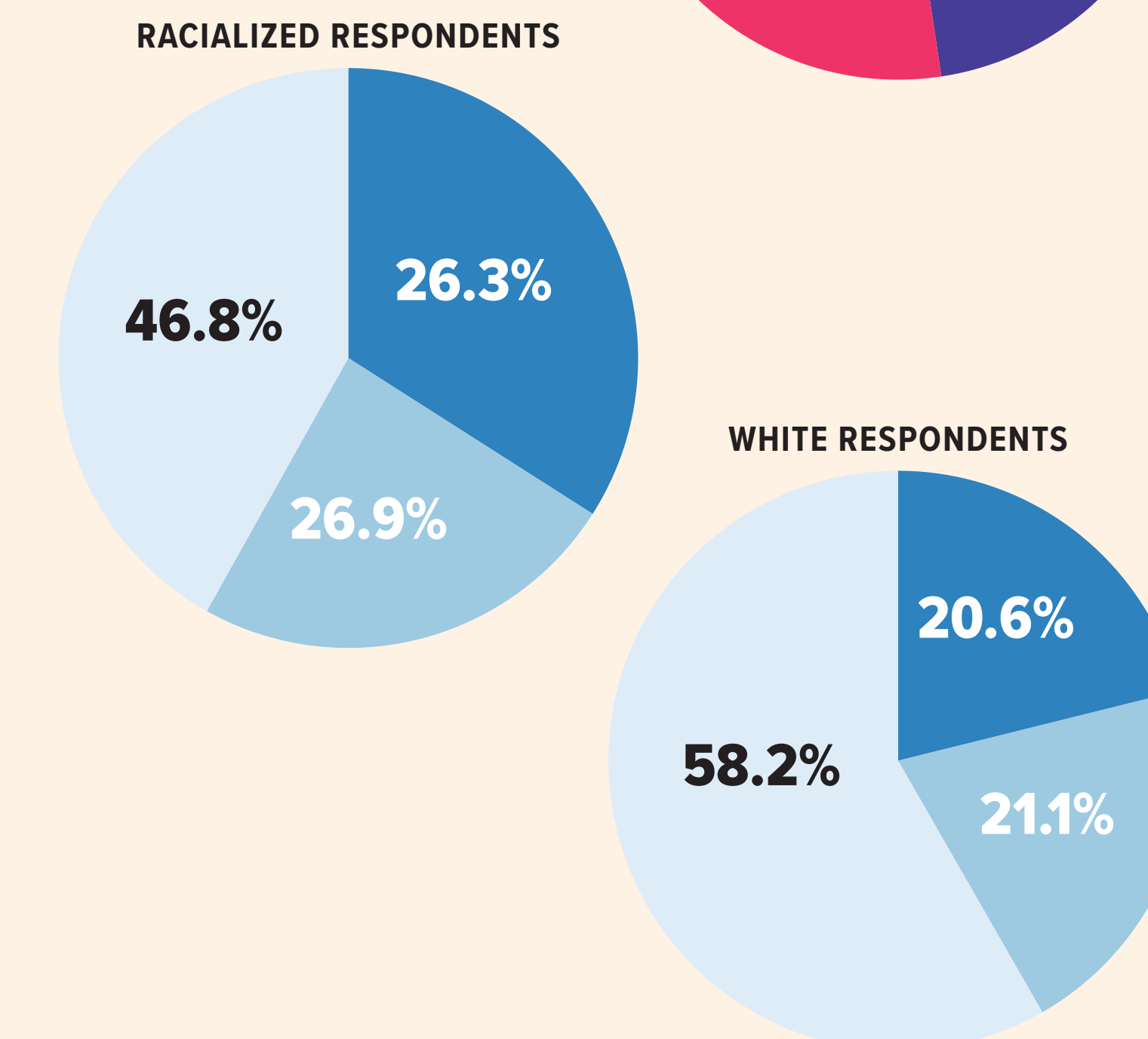
- When looking specifically at responses based on identifying as trans, trans experience is not a significantly associated factor of community satisfaction ( $p = .9474$ ).

● No ● Unsure ● Yes



- Racial identity is significantly associated with to community satisfaction for respondents ( $p = .04354$ ).

● No ● Unsure ● Yes



- Among racialized respondents, age is significantly associated with community satisfaction ( $p = .2918$ ). While our tests deemed racialized trans identity as not being associated with community satisfaction ( $p = .8133$ ), the 7.5% difference in "yes" responses among trans and cis participants is notable.

Community Satisfaction Racialized Age			Community Satisfaction Racialized Trans Experience		
	Post AIDS Epidemic	Pre AIDS Epidemic		Cis	Trans
No	27.7%	22.2%	No	26.8%	20.0%
Unsure	29.0%	14.8%	Unsure	27.4%	26.7%
Yes	43.3%	63.0%	Yes	45.8%	53.3%

## Conclusions

- Results of the 2018 Sex Now Survey show that different marginalized parts of the LGBTQ2S+ community have different levels of satisfaction with the community when compared to the general survey results.
- Members of the community who identified as BIPOC expressed a significantly lower level of satisfaction with the overall LGBTQ2S+ community.
- While 58% of respondents who self-identified as white said they were satisfied with the community, only 47% of respondents who self-identified as BIPOC felt the same. That is a difference of 11% between these two results.
- When considering how LGBTQ2S+ spaces currently exist, this tells us that our spaces need to focus on more inclusion of BIPOC members of the community.
- BIPOC members of the community born before the beginning of the AIDS epidemic (1981) expressed a significantly higher level of satisfaction than BIPOC members born after that year.
- 63% of respondents who self-identified as BIPOC and born before 1981 answered yes to the question of overall community satisfaction while 46% of respondents born in or after 1981 answered yes to the question.
- The generational divide for BIPOC members of the LGBTQ2S+ community in regards to their overall satisfaction with the community may indicate different interaction with/within the community.
- While the data shows that respondents who self-identified as trans expressed similar levels of satisfaction as the general community, there are two factors that may have affected this result.
- It is possible that the wording of the question, "Are you satisfied with your connection to LGBTQ2S+ communities?" may lead respondents to infer this refers to the communities within our broader community that they are directly involved in. It is possible the results reflect their satisfaction with trans communities rather than the broader LGBTQ2S+ community.
- As this survey was directed toward masculine of center individuals, trans-masculine respondents may experience higher levels of community satisfaction because of the male privilege of expressing as masculine.
- Overall, the results of the survey data studied here give credence to the argument that LGBTQ2S+ spaces can benefit from more diverse planning, as well as the creation of new diverse spaces to enable better and more meaningful participation within the community.

## References

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