

Real-time Research Report: TIDE impacts resultant from media coverage of possible HHS decision to change definition of gender

Oct 24, 2018

The New York Times

*'Transgender' Could Be
Defined Out of Existence
Under Trump Administration*



What the data means:

At the heart of Transgender Identity Defense-related Emotions (TIDE) is one core concept: that transgender people must not only fight for their equality, we must also fight for our existence. Having to respond to and push back against often-daily denials of our identity, research sponsored by the Caitlyn Jenner Foundation shows these denials of existence uniquely affect transgender people. More, whether it comes from the people or media around us, regardless of where the incident originates, they have an equally negative and damaging effect.

It is hard to imagine, however, an incident more damaging or aptly stated than the headline that ran in the New York Times on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018; our existence is now literally under siege by the Trump Administration. Preliminary survey data – as delineated to the right – shows the negative effect this government and media bombshell is having right now on transgender people.

What is perhaps the most frightening finding from the data, however, is this: of those transgender people reporting the greatest increase in TIDE as a result of reading the story, are those who were already suffering the greatest effects of TIDE. In other words, those who were already at the greatest risk for societal disengagement, emotional pain, and even suicidal ideation are the ones who are now even more at risk.

- Bethany Grace Howe
Researcher
Caitlyn Jenner Foundation

In the 72 hours following publication of the New York Times story

*“'Transgender' Could Be Defined Out of
Existence Under the Trump Administration”*

92.5% of TG respondents had read the New York Times story.
(or a similar story based on the New York Times's reporting)

In the 72 hours following publication*,
among those who had read the story:

- 6.8%: had a mild to less than moderate increase in TIDE
- 16.1% had a moderate to slightly more than moderate increase in TIDE
- 77.1% had a high or nearly-high increase in TIDE

Of those who reported having their disposition impacted by a moderate to high increase in TIDE, approximately 47.8% reported feeling worn down, while 52.2% reported feeling pained.

The average level of consciousness in regards to needing to defend their identity within larger society changed as a result of reading the story:

- 39.1% reported a mild to moderate increase in TIDE
 - 61.8% of these people were already moderate to extremely conscious of needing to defend their identity
- 60.1% reported a greater than moderate increase in TIDE
 - 98.1% were already moderate to extremely conscious of needing to defend their identity

Although the majority reported the story by itself did not affect their personal interactions, 27.6% said they were now less willing to engage with others.

When considering the impact of the headline alone,

- 27.6% had a moderate to slightly more than moderate increase in TIDE
- 40.2% had a high or nearly-high increase in TIDE

NOTE: Of those few people who had not read the story prior to taking the survey, 71.4% reported at least a moderate level of increase of TIDE upon reading only the headline.

* Survey results taken from Qualtrics survey conducted Oct. 23 & 24, 2018 by Caitlyn Jenner Foundation researcher Bethany Grace Howe via participants recruited from the TIRO database and Facebook snowball sampling.