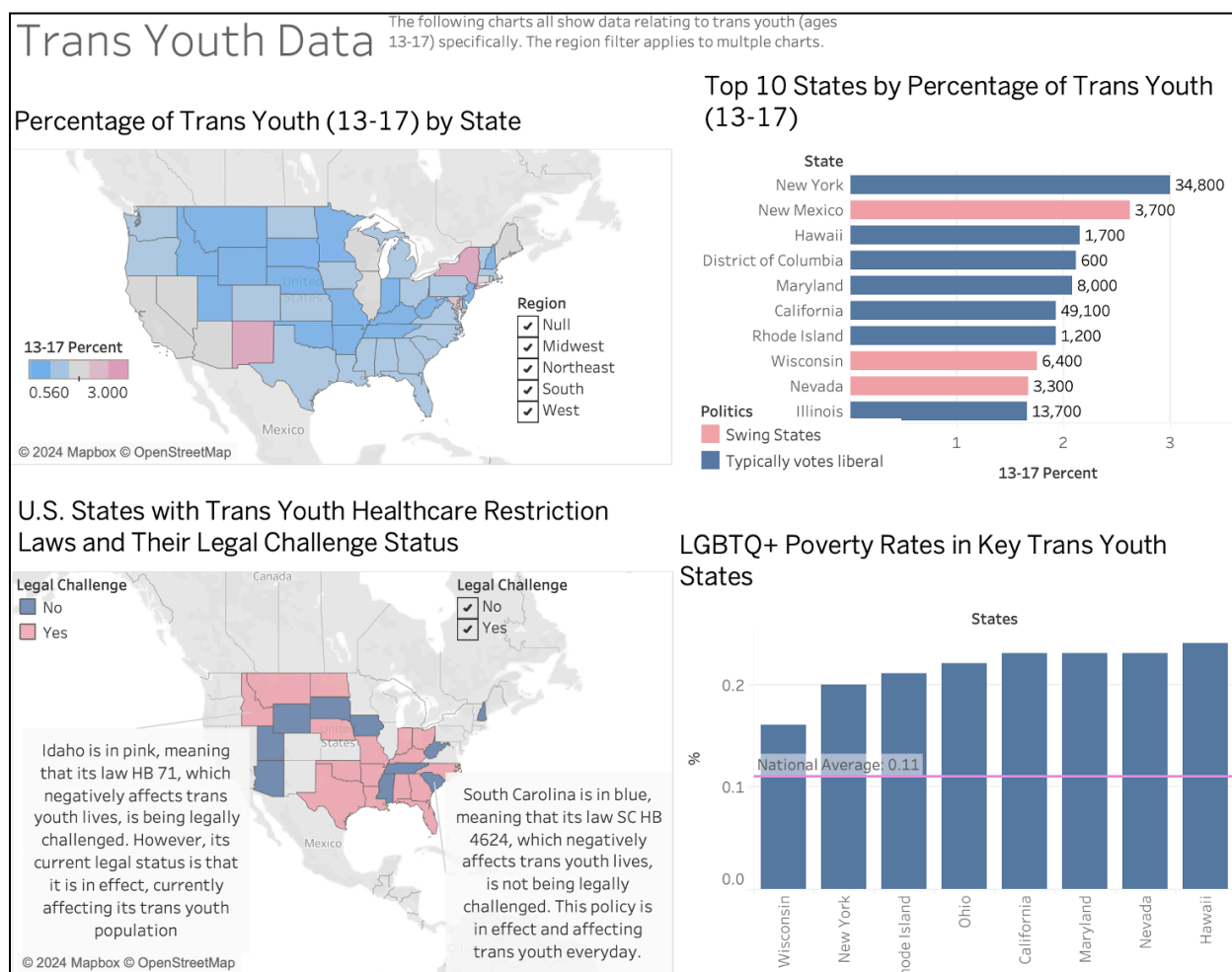


## Understanding Trans Lives in America: A Focus on Trans Youth Healthcare

The stability of transgender rights and healthcare access has always fluctuated in the United States; approximately 300,000 youth ages 13-17 in the U.S. identify as transgender, yet they face significant barriers in accessing appropriate healthcare (Williams Institute, 2024)). As state legislatures enact restrictive policies and insurance barriers persist, understanding the landscape of trans youth healthcare access becomes increasingly critical (MAP, 2024).

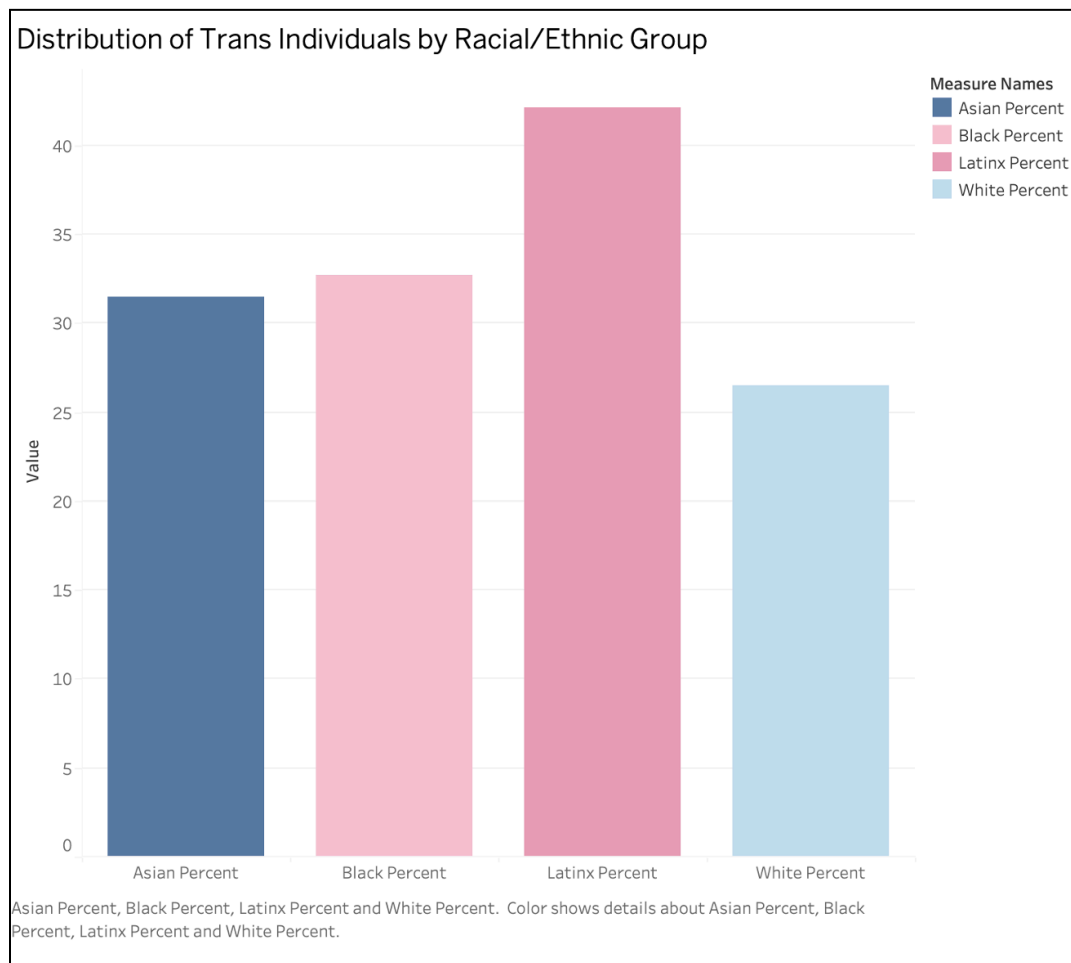
**Figure 1: Building Trans Youth Awareness**



**Figure 1** above shows a comprehensive dashboard of relevant and recent data surrounding trans youth's healthcare access and restrictions in the U.S. As seen in the top left corner, there is no clear pattern when it comes to where our trans youth reside. New York and New Mexico stand out as key states with large trans youth populations, despite their geographic and political differences. The top states with trans youth populations span the entire country and represent various political ideologies, demonstrating the nationwide need for trans youth healthcare. However, the map in the lower left corner reveals numerous states with restrictive policies and

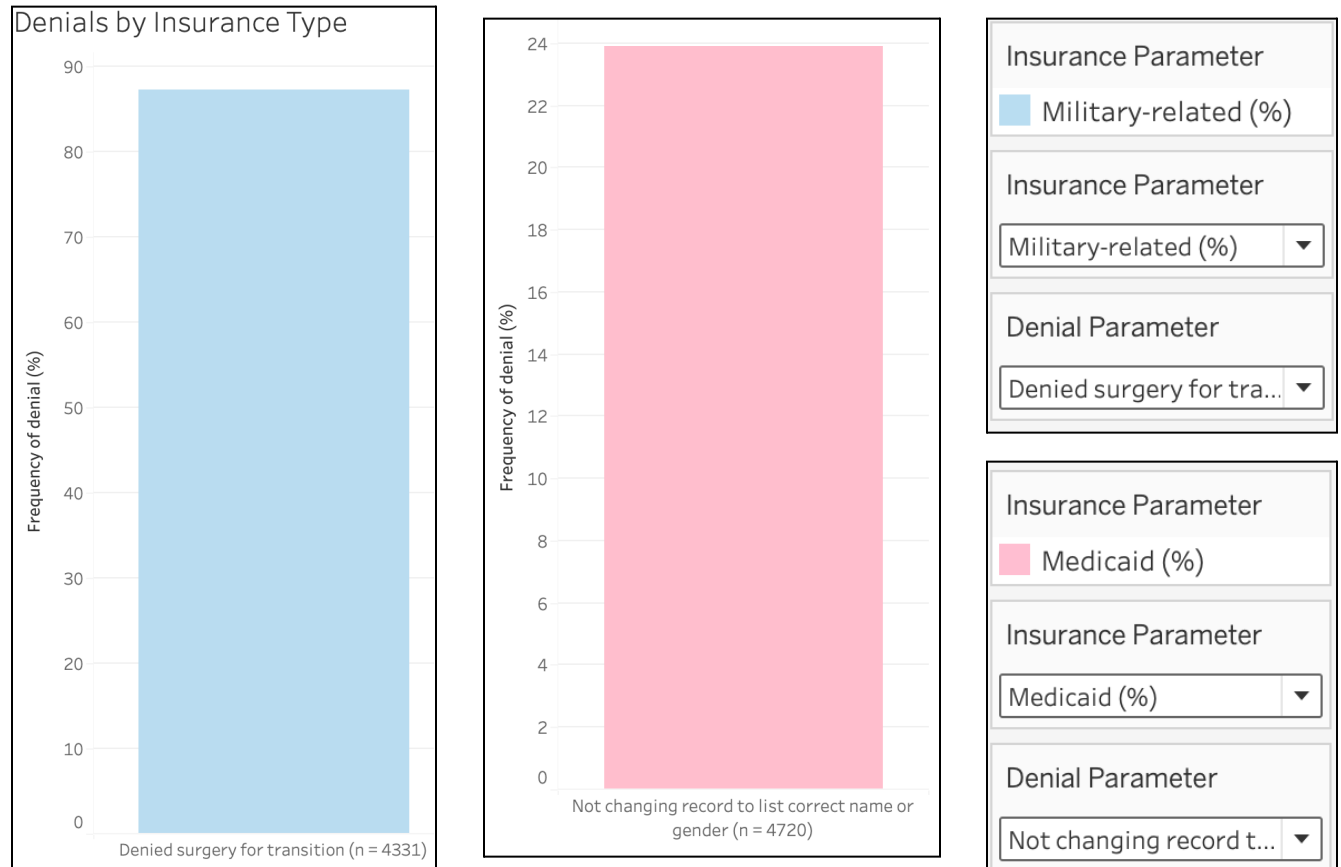
bans, ranging from prohibitions on puberty blockers to bans on hormone therapy. While some bans face legal challenges, many remain in effect, severely impacting trans youth. These policies often force families to seek care across state lines, but the bottom right chart reveals a crucial barrier: states with the highest trans youth populations also have the highest LGBTQ+ poverty rates, making relocation financially impossible for many families. Beyond youth-specific issues, the broader trans population faces significant healthcare barriers. Figure 2 below reveals that the majority of trans individuals in the U.S. are people of color, with Latinx individuals representing the largest demographic.

**Figure 2: Racial Breakdown of Trans Individuals in the U.S.**



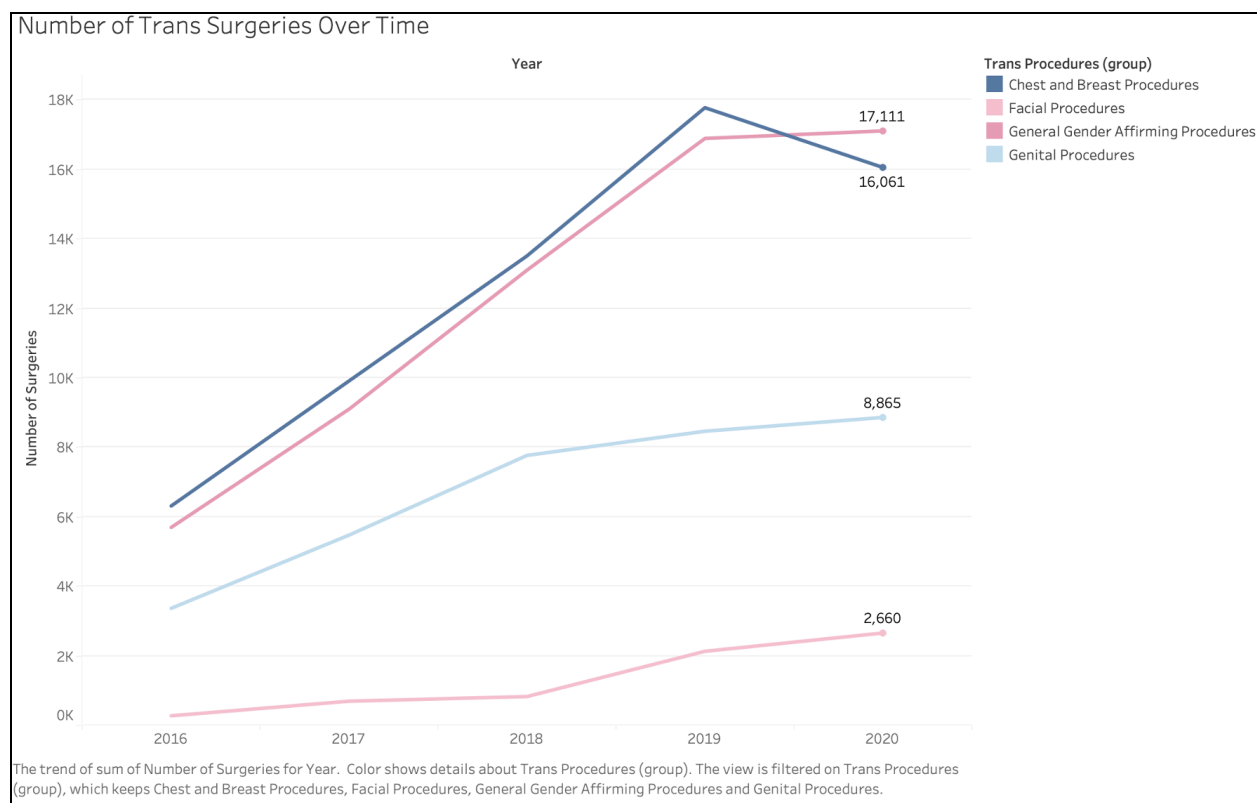
This large makeup of trans people of color is a crucial finding as research shows that transgender people of color face compounded barriers to healthcare access, including higher rates of discrimination, poverty, and insurance denials compared to their white counterparts, leading us to **Figure 3**. (Glick et al., 2018).

**Figure 3: Different types of Denials by Different Types of Insurance for Trans Individuals in the U.S.**



**Figure 3** reveals two different statistics when looking at denials from different types of insurance for trans individuals. As we can see on the left, 87% of trans individuals who have military-related insurance have faced denials for surgery for transition, which is the highest percentage of denials I have seen in my research. On the right, with something as simple as changing the record to list correct names or genders, 24% of people who have Medicaid faced denial. These statistics show us that in addition to racial roadblocks, trans individuals face financial ones as well, similarly to trans youth.

**Figure 4: Types of Trans Surgeries Performed From 2016-2020 in the U.S.**



**Figure 4** drives home the point that people are continuing to need surgeries more and more. While it doesn't show more recent data, all 4 categories of surgeries show a general upward trend, making it clear that trans people will continue to need gender affirming surgeries.

Overall, transgender youth and transgender individuals all need support in getting access to healthcare in the U.S. There are clearly far too many boundaries that these individuals need to face, especially trans youth, who only make up, at most, 3.00% of any state in this country. Just like any other population, our trans population deserves to be taken care of within our healthcare system.

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