

RESOURCING THE INTERSEX MOVEMENT:

Preliminary Findings from the 2016 Intersex Organizing and Funding Survey

Strength in Numbers Consulting Group, Inc. • American Jewish World Service
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice • Global Action for Trans* Equality

INTRODUCTION

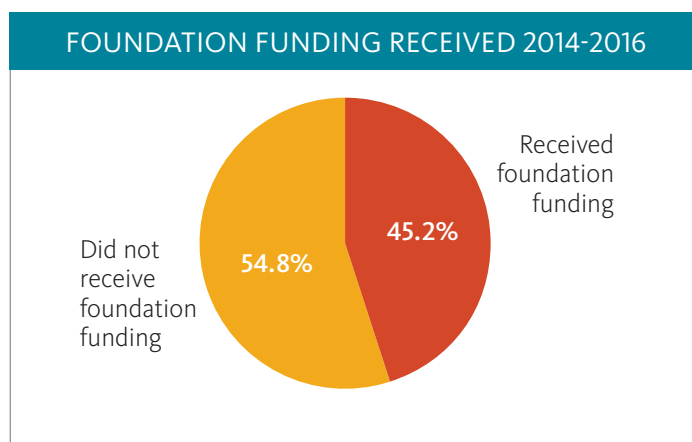
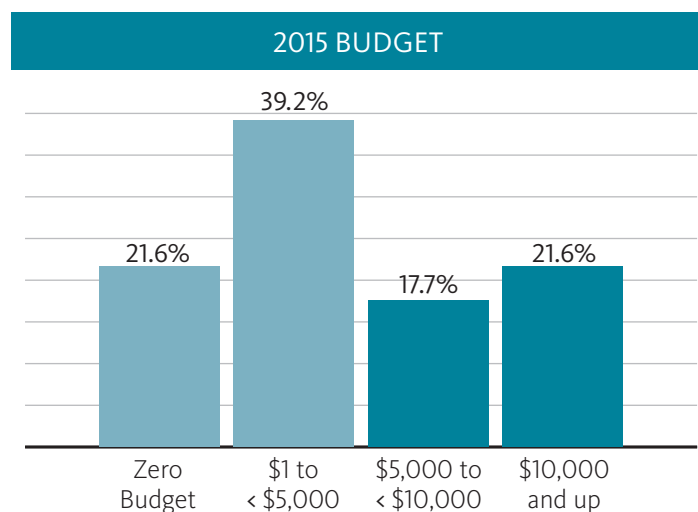
In 2013, Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE) and American Jewish World Service (AJWS) surveyed 10 intersex groups and reported data about their organizations and funding. In 2016, Strength in Numbers, AJWS, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (Astraea) and GATE set out to learn more.

This report describes the preliminary findings of a new survey of 54 groups that exist specifically and primarily to work with intersexⁱ people or on intersex issues. Groups were asked about their organizational structures, the focus of their work, the presence of intersex leadership in their group, the amount and sources of their funding, annual budgets, barriers to funding, and their needs for capacity building.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

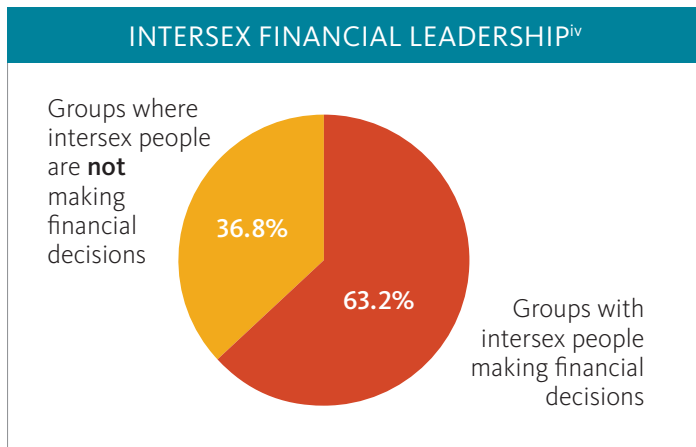
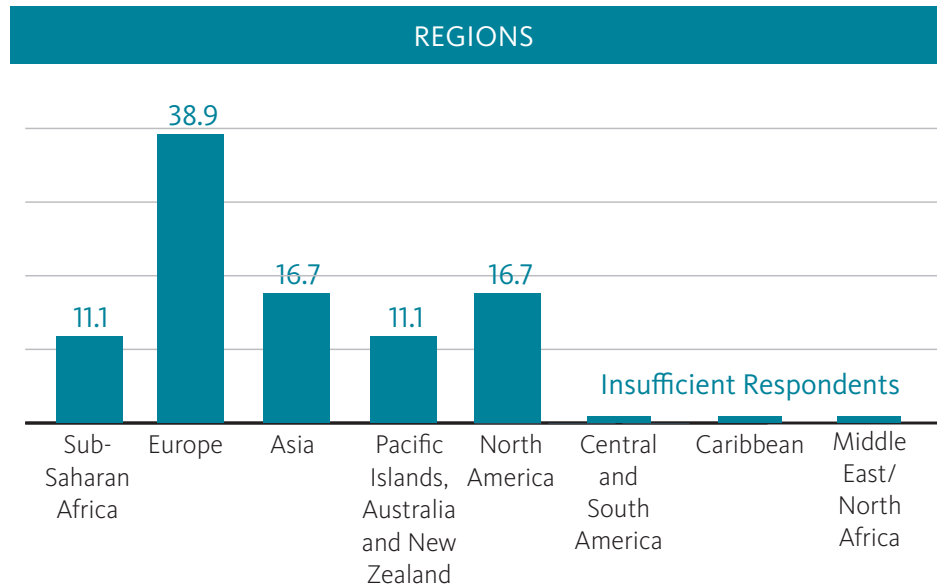
Intersex organizing is happening with limited resources.

More than 60 percent of intersex groups reported a budgetⁱⁱ of less than US\$5,000 in 2015. About one in five (21.6 %) had no budget. Only 11 groups had a budget of US\$10,000 or greater. Just under half (45.2%) had received foundation funding during the period 2014-2016.



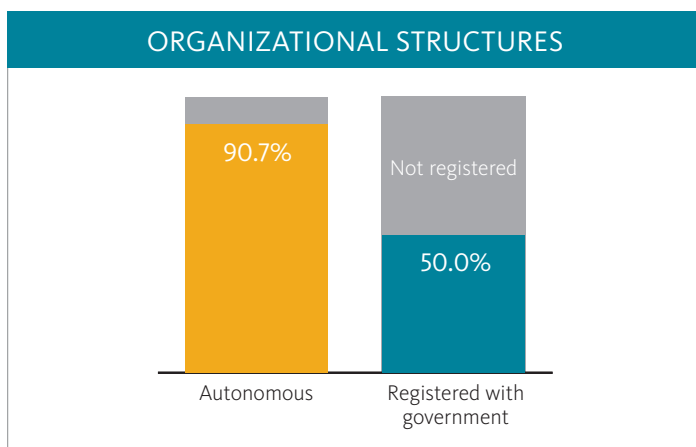
Intersex organizing is happening around the world.

Intersex organizing is happening around the world: Of those who answered the survey, about two in five (38.9%) were from Europe. Just over one sixth were from North America (16.7%), and the same number were from Asia (16.7%). Just over one in ten were from Sub-Saharan Africa (11.1%) or the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand (11.1%). And while intersex organizing is also happening in Latin America, the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle Eastⁱⁱⁱ, there were insufficient respondents to report region-specific statistics from these areas.



Two-thirds of groups working on intersex issues had intersex people making financial decisions.

Nearly two-thirds (63.2%) of the groups that responded to the survey said that more than 50% of the people who made financial decisions for their group were intersex.



Most intersex organizing is happening through autonomous organizations.

Of those groups that took the survey, about nine in ten (90.7%) were autonomous (in other words, not projects or programs of another group). Half (50.0%) were registered with their government.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This preliminary report provides a snapshot of intersex organizing and funding. The data demonstrate that the intersex movement is growing across the world, the majority of groups have intersex people in key leadership and decisionmaking roles, and most groups are autonomous organizations operating independently. Despite this progress, most groups operate with limited budgets, and financial support for intersex groups continues to be bleak. There is a significant gap between the funding available and the funding that's needed, and groups continue to face barriers to accessing the resources required to grow and meet the needs of their communities.

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on both the data from this survey and our collective experience as grantmakers in this field, we make the following recommendations in order to narrow the funding gap and advance movements to promote the rights of intersex people worldwide:

1. Donors should increase and strengthen their support of intersex organizations by providing flexible funding to groups led by and for intersex people.
2. Foundations new to intersex grantmaking could consider adding intersex groups to their regional or thematic portfolios, as well as contributing to pooled funding such as the Intersex Human Rights Fund at the Astraea Foundation.
3. Donors and allies should support the growing intersex movement by providing more networking spaces for coordination between activists and resources for leadership development.

A full report on all variables collected through the intersex organization and funding survey will be available in 2017. For more information about the survey or the report, contact info@strengthinnumbersconsulting.com. For further recommendations from intersex activists and to learn more about intersex organizing globally, please see: <http://astraeafoundation.org/wearereal/>.

METHODS

Groups were invited to take the survey if they were (1) an autonomous group or (2) a project or program of another group. Groups did not need to be formally constituted or registered to take the survey. UN world regions were used to assign countries to regions. The survey was offered online using Qualtrics software in five languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese. The survey was in the field from August 24th to October 16th, 2016. The survey was anonymous and data are confidential; in order to protect respondents, no statistics were displayed that contain fewer than five respondents in the numerator or 20 respondents in the denominator.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ENDNOTES

ⁱThe survey defined **“intersex”** based upon the UN Free & Equal definition: “Intersex people are born with sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and/or chromosome patterns) that vary from typical binary notions of male or female bodies. Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations.”

ⁱⁱ**“Budget”** was defined as “the cost to run your group for a year.”

ⁱⁱⁱ See for example, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. (2016). We are Real: The Growing Movement Advancing the Human Rights of Intersex People. New York: Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.

^{iv} **“Intersex financial leadership”** was defined in the following way: For groups that have one financial decisionmaker, that person is intersex. For groups that have two financial decisionmakers, both are intersex. For groups that have three or more financial decisionmakers, greater than 50% of that group are intersex. Thirty-two groups completed the questions about financial leadership; 17 provided information indicating that there was a group of people who made financial decisions for the group, but did not indicate the percent of people who are intersex among those decisionmakers. For those respondents, financial leadership was imputed using the mean percent intersex of the group structures for which percent intersex was available. In the full report from this survey, a more detailed analysis of additional components of leadership, such as the composition of staff and leadership structures, strategic decisionmaking and representation to the media, funders and in political spaces, will be provided.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
CONSULTING GROUP



Global Action
for Trans Equality