

INCREASE IN NUMBER

Page 30

New study
estimates
1.6 million
in US identify
as transgender

WASHINGTON: A study published on Friday estimates that nearly 1.64 million people over the age of 13 in the United States identify themselves as transgender, based on an analysis of newly expanded federal health surveys.

The study estimates that about 0.5 per cent of all US adults, some 1.3 million people, and about 1.4 per cent, or 300,000, of youth between 13 and 17 identify as transgender — having a different gender identity than the sex they were assigned at birth.

The analysis was done by researchers at the Williams Institute, a think tank at UCLA's Law School focused on gender identity public policy, and concluded that the percentage and number of adults who identify as transgender had "remained steady" since the institute last made estimates in reports in 2016 and 2017.

"This report shows trans people live everywhere and their needs and concerns need to be listened to and be addressed in the public policy landscape," Jody L. Herman, one of the study's authors, said in an interview.

The researchers used data collected between 2017 and 2020 from two different kinds of surveys done by the US Centres for Disease Control.

Jae Sevelius, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, who was not involved in the study, called it the best population estimate yet using "the best available data that we have currently to make these estimates".

"That being said, even the best available data is not great," Sevelius said, adding that the findings of the new study, which was not peer-reviewed, aligned with earlier estimates.

Sevelius and a colleague conducted a peer-reviewed meta-analysis published in 2017 in the *American Journal of Public Health* that found nearly one million US adults were transgender, based on more limited data than in the Williams Institute study.

They called it a conservative estimate and concluded in their paper that future surveys would likely find higher numbers of transgender people. **Reuters**