Why Do Transgender Women Have the World's Highest HIV Rates?

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Founder cliniQ.org.uk  
Holistic Wellbeing and Sexual Health for Trans people  
IRGT Board of Director
Vision:
A world of vibrant, healthy, and empowered trans women

Mission:
To advocate for trans issues in the international HIV response while promoting trans women’s health and human rights

https://transglobalactivism.org/our-mission/

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“Solutions lie in peer-led implementation. We see you, we hear you today and we want to be part of the solution with you.”

DEBORAH BIRX UNITED STATES GLOBAL AIDS COORDINATOR AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY
Gay, bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are **19 times more likely** to be living with HIV. Median HIV prevalence is consistently higher among gay, bisexual and other MSM compared to the general population.

Transgender women are **49 times more likely** to be living with HIV.

**19%** of transgender women are estimated to be living with HIV.

In low- and middle-income countries, transgender women are **49 times more likely** to be living with HIV than the general population.

*Source: Joint briefing paper which illustrates two Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages*
“If you’re transgender the consequences are severe, all encompassing, life changing – because of the support networks you have can be pulled out from underneath you.

The things that make people stable: a home, family, friends, work, respect, being treated as a person.
Most of us lose our friends. Sometimes they’ll never tell you why, it just happens.”
Personal
- Stigma
- Low self-esteem
- Body image
- Relationship with self
- Gender identity validation through sex

Societal
- Transphobia
- Lack of safety disclosing gender identity
- Lack of awareness
- Family rejection
- Stigmatization of partners/stigma from partners

Institutional
- Institutional transphobia
- Lack of reliable medical advice
- Educational settings
- Employment
- Housing
- Religion
- Lack of representation in sexual health literature

Barriers to Services & Increased Vulnerability
Intersectionality: Inequalities are connected.

Gender inequality is impacted by racism, class, homophobia, transphobia, discrimination against disabilities (ableism) & other issues.
HARD TO REACH
NOT WHEN YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK

Why Do Transgender Women Have the World’s Highest HIV Rates?

What is the HIV sector doing to reduce the High HIV Rates in Trans women?

When You Don’t Include Trans People You Exclude Trans People

Whose voice needs to be heard?

Nothing About Us Without Us, not just #
JUNO ROCHE LIVING WITH HIV & TRANS HER WORDS VIDEO
GOOD PRACTICE
WORKING WITH TRANS ADULTS
HORMONES / HIV & TRANS FOLK
WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?
UK HAD NO DATA ON TRANS PEOPLE AND HIV
CLINIQ WE WORKED WITH PHE TO CHANGE THIS AND IN 2017

Trans people accessing HIV care

123 trans people were accessing HIV care in England in 2017

Gender identity

- Female: 88%
- Male: 8%
- Gender diverse: 4%

56% live in London

Age group

- Aged 50 and over: 31%
- Aged 35 - 49: 42%
- Aged 15 - 34: 27%

Residency

Ethnicity

- BAME: 38%
- White: 62%

Further breakdowns are published online: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables
Trans is an umbrella term that refers to all people whose gender identity is different to the gender given at birth, this includes trans men, trans women, genderqueer, non-binary, and other gender identities.
Improving the way we ask about gender

In collaboration with CliniQ, the LGBTQ Foundation and a partnership of trans organisations, a new two-stage question was developed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A2</th>
<th>How do you identify your gender?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman (including transwoman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-binary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Man (including transman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In another way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A3</th>
<th>Is this the same gender you were assigned at birth?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions now in use for routine HIV public health monitoring in England, set to be implemented for all GUM clinic attendances in 2019.
ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITIES
7 YEARS OF HOLISTIC WELLBEING & SEXUAL HEALTH
OUR SERVICES FOR TRANS/NON-BINARY PEOPLE & THEIR PARTNERS:

- Full sexual health & HIV services
- Hormone injections / Hormone Monitoring
- Cervical smears for anyone (over 25) w/ cervix
- Counselling / One-to-one and group counseling & Peer mentoring
- Drug & alcohol support
- Acupuncture & yoga
- Housing, benefits & employment support
- Health promotion & community HIV PoCT

Tuesday evening clinic at King’s College Hospital & cliniQ CIC Therapy Centre London
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR TRANS AND NON-BINARY INDIVIDUALS
NOT JUST INCLUSIVE IMAGES OF TRANS FOLK. SEX AND TRANS PEOPLE AND WHO WE HAVE SEX WITH? HIV PREVENTION PREP . . .

HOTTER, SAFER SEX.
USING GRINDR, IN THE CLUB... WHEREVER.
If you're a trans woman/trans femme non-binary person or a trans guy/trans masc non-binary person with (a) (non-train) male partner(s), see our online guide, or pick up a copy from our waiting room.
#TRANSHEALTHMATTERS
SEX. TRANS AND NON-BINARY FOLK

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YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE

Trans people are often under the microscope as if it is our fault we are pathologised, stigmatised.

“You don’t fit the system”
“We don’t have codes for you”
“You don’t fit our data collection”

The cis normative system excludes trans and queer people.

The system is the problem not trans people.

Work with us Not for Us.
Speak with us Not for Us

We are not just receivers of services we implement and deliver them.

#TransHealthMatters