

Improving PrEP Services for Trans People

**SESSION 2:
UNDERSTANDING PREP AND PEP
IN CONTEXT FOR TRANS
COMMUNITIES**



OVERVIEW

Realities of Trans People & HIV

Interviews

Breakout Discussion

Case scenario

Breakout rooms

Debrief & Reflections



PrEP & PEP for TGNCNB Communities

HIV & TGNBNC Groups

Despite several years of research on HIV/AIDS and the populations it affects, we know very little about transgender people and HIV. In the vast majority of studies, transgender people have only been counted as their sex assigned at birth, which not only discounts their identities, but leaves them relatively invisible to public health officials and advocacy organizations working toward prevention, treatment, and HIV-related health care



HIV & TGNBNC Groups

Transgender people are at extremely high risk for getting HIV:

- Transgender women have 49 times the odds of having HIV compared to the general population
- About 1 in 7 (14%) transgender women have HIV
 - the percentage is much higher among Black (44%) and Hispanic/Latina (26%) transgender women
- An estimated 3% of transgender men have HIV
- Despite HIV incidence rates decreasing among all women by 23% between 2010 and 2019, they have not decreased among transgender women

Implications

Only 3% of transgender people who are at high risk of HIV infection currently take PrEP

Less than half (48%) of sexually active transgender people are familiar with PrEP

WHY?

On PrEP

Presented by Trans Equity Consulting



**Thoughts on
the video?**

Let's
discuss!!!



Critical Issues

Visibility and inclusiveness:

Transgender people need to be included in studies of HIV-affected communities, and HIV/AIDS advocates and the LGBTQ community need to acknowledge the ways in which transgender people may be uniquely affected by HIV. Discussing biomedical interventions such as PrEP and underscore the need for research specifically designed to address the concerns of transgender people

Critical Issues

Prevention Education:

Transgender people need access to competent, affirming, sex-positive, safer-sex information that is specifically geared toward their bodies, relationships, and community concerns

Critical Issues

Barriers to Care:

Transgender people face additional barriers to healthcare that other HIV-affected people may not, specifically the very real fear of being discriminated against by health care professionals or being denied treatment because of their gender identity or expression. These barriers make it more likely for transgender people to avoid getting tested and less likely to remain in HIV-related medical care.

Critical Issues

Violence:

In addition to the high rates of gender-related harassment and violence that transgender people face, they also have much higher rates of sexual violence than the general population and other groups within the LGBTQ community. Because of the heightened risk of being dismissed or revictimized by police, transgender people are also less likely to report their assaults or go to hospitals for post-assault care such as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Critical Issues

Poverty, Unemployment, and Survival Work:

Transgender people who have been discriminated against in employment, or who have been unable to pursue advanced education because of bullying or harassment in school, are more likely to engage in survival sex work, which may put them at greater risk for contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

Critical Issues

Unstable Housing/Homelessness:

Transgender people who are experiencing unstable living environments and/or homelessness may find it difficult to adhere to regular PrEP use, increasing overall risk of contracting the virus

Critical Issues

[Un]Documentation:

Undocumented transgender people may be increasingly hesitant to seek medical services due to valid concerns of being reported to law enforcement or immigration services. While many states offer HIV preventative services and treatment for undocumented patients, several states do not have such services and even have policies requiring medical providers to collect and report on housing/documentation status

Critical Issues

Negotiation Skills:

There can be a lot of socialized shame and stigma for certain people (especially cisgender men) for engaging in sexual activities with transgender people. This can make discussions of safety and boundaries difficult for transgender people, as doing so may lead to acts of neglect and even violence

Transgender people, especially transgender women, report higher rates of domestic and interpersonal violence due to transphobic stigma. Many trans people, especially those involved in survival sex work, may encounter extreme difficulties during discussions of sexual safety (ie. client prefers no condoms, pays extra for no condom use, may threaten to not use a condom)

Critical Issues

Negotiation Skills

Skills centering negotiation and empowerment for trans people in sexual situations is often not discussed, especially by medical providers. Learning these skills and strategies may be very useful in the wellbeing and health of trans people

- How can we empower trans people to better negotiate sex?
- How through this empowerment can we introduce or implement PrEP/PEP education/access?
- Negotiation may not be possible: PrEP can be a safe option/alternative for HIV prevention!

This is Rosa's story

- Considering your role, what could you do to support Rosa?
- Do you have any questions for her?
- What additional information do you need to understand her situation?
- What other support can you provide her? (Benefits, services, employment/vocational trainings, housing, mental health, empowerment, negotiation skills?)
- Who are explicit or implicit stakeholders in this case? Where could Rosa have received support or empowerment in this narrative?

Breakout Discussion

Debrief & Reflections

- What thoughts or feelings did this bring up for you?
- What resources or interventions are you familiar with? What resources or interventions do you need more information on?
- How do you envision the future of PrEP/PEP use for TGNCNB populations?
- What are medical provider and case manager roles in creating equitable and appropriate HIV prevention and treatment strategies for TGNCNB populations?
- What would you like to learn more about?



Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the second session learning about the current status and stakeholders involved in PrEP/PEP use in TGNCNB communities

Feel free to contact us for any additional questions or resources:

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