Understanding and Improving HIV Data about Transgender People

Nearly 1 million adults in the U.S. identify as transgender

Transgender people, particularly transgender women, can be at risk for HIV. Evidence suggests that in relation to their population size, transgender women are among the most heavily affected groups in the U.S.

Estimated HIV PREVALENCE in Transgender Adults • A review of 88 studies published 2006-2017

Overall it is estimated that:

- **14.2%** of transgender women have HIV
- **3.2%** of transgender men have HIV

Transgender women have a higher estimated HIV prevalence compared to other vulnerable populations.

By Race/Ethnicity:

- **44.2%** of Black/African American transgender women have HIV
- **25.8%** of Hispanic/Latina transgender women have HIV
- **6.7%** of White transgender women have HIV

HIV DIAGNOSES • An analysis of available data for 2009-2014

2,351 transgender people have been diagnosed with HIV

- **84%** transgender women
- **15.4%** transgender men
- <1% another gender identity

More than half of these HIV diagnoses were among Blacks/African Americans

Diagnoses by region:

- **19.4%** in the northeast
- **22.3%** in the midwest
- **44.4%** in the south

HIV TESTING AND LINKAGE TO CARE

Among the 3 million HIV testing events reported to CDC in 2017, the percentage of transgender people who received a new HIV diagnosis was more than 3 times the national average.

Among transgender persons with newly diagnosed HIV, **80.2%** were linked to HIV medical care within 90 days.
Improving Transgender HIV DATA

High-quality data are critical for designing, targeting, and evaluating HIV prevention programs. CDC recently has taken steps to significantly improve the quantity and quality of data on HIV among transgender populations.

- **Revised the data fields** used in CDC’s National HIV Surveillance System (NHSS) to better account for sex and gender identity.
- **Issued recommendations and statistical tools for health departments** to collect information on current gender identity and report these data to the NHSS.
- **Informed healthcare providers** about the importance of collecting complete data on sex and gender identity.
- **Analysed data on HIV testing** among transgender people through CDC’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
- **Funded health departments** to study behavioral risk factors for HIV, testing behaviors, and the use of prevention services among transgender women through CDC’s National HIV Behavioral Surveillance system.

CDC Support for Transgender-Specific HIV PREVENTION AND CARE

CDC is collaborating with many partners to intensify HIV prevention efforts for transgender people and build the base of evidence needed to improve programs and track progress.

- **Implementing High-Impact Prevention**
  - Targeting funds to community-based organizations ($11 million per year over 5 years for 30 CBOs) to provide comprehensive HIV prevention programs for young men of color who have sex with men, young transgender persons of color, and their partners.

- **Advancing HIV Prevention Research**
  - Working with partners to develop new prevention programs, adapt existing ones, and rigorously assess their impact on HIV risk behaviors and transmission for transgender people.

- **Promoting Collective Action**
  - Involving partners, including other federal agencies, state and local governments, CBOs, community leaders, healthcare providers, and others to address key gaps in HIV prevention and care for transgender people.

- **Raising Awareness**
  - Developing public education communication campaigns with materials and activities that are specifically tailored to transgender communities.