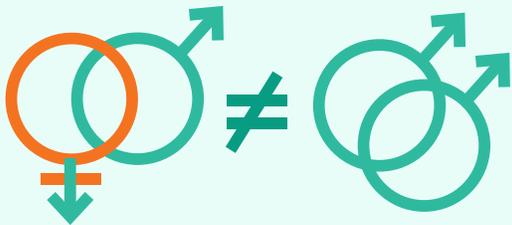


# HIV/AIDS among Latina Transgender Women who have sex with Men

**TO DEFEAT HIV**  
YOU'RE A SUPERHERO.  
USE YOUR SUPERPOWERS.

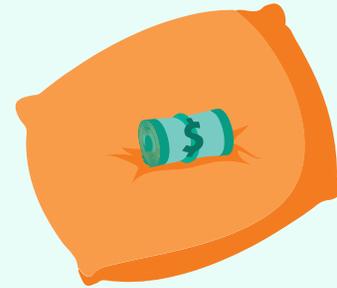
**MALE TO FEMALE (MTF) TRANS WOMEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN ARE HISTORICALLY CATEGORIZED AS MSM IN HIV DATA**



**TRAN WOMEN ARE DENIED HEALTH CARE DUE TO DISCRIMINATION**



**TRANS WOMEN MAY ENGAGE IN SEX WORK DUE TO THE STIGMA THEY FACE FROM LEGAL EMPLOYMENT**



risking exposure to HIV

**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE THE RATE OF HIV TRANSMISSION AMONG TRANS WOMEN**



because gender identity is not accounted for by the US Census Bureau

**HISPANIC/LATINO TRANS WOMEN ARE MORE AT RISK FOR HIV TRANSMISSION THAN NON-HISPANIC WHITE TRANS WOMEN**



**TRANSPHOBIC STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION LEADS TO RISKY BEHAVIOR**



drug usage and unsafe sex contributing to high HIV rates

**DRUG USE INCREASES RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION AMONG TRANS WOMEN**



**ANOTHER RISK FACTOR IS HORMONE INJECTION\* FOR GENDER TRANSITIONING**



# HIV/AIDS AMONG LATINA TRANSGENDER WOMEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN



Male to female (MTF) transgender women who have sex with men are historically categorized as MSM within HIV surveillance data. Demonstrating the disproportionate impact of HIV among MTF transgender women is not possible as calculating the rate of transmission requires a population estimate of gender identity, which is not accounted for by the US Census Bureau. A recent study estimated that about .3% of the population or 700,000 individuals in the US identified as transgender and noted that urban metropolitan cities are more likely to experience larger population sizes.<sup>1</sup> Trans-women of color (Black and Hispanic/Latino) are at an increased risk of HIV compared to Caucasian trans-women.<sup>2</sup>

## THE FACTS

- A lack of research exists that fully explains the multiple HIV risk factors among MTF trans-women of any race or ethnicity. For example, studies found that stigma and discrimination due to transphobia contribute to the risk taking behaviors of trans-women, including their ability to negotiate safer sex.<sup>3-5</sup>
- Drug use is correlated to an HIV diagnosis among trans-women.<sup>6</sup> Studies found drug use associated with lowering their inhibitions, increasing risky sexual practices, and a mal-adaptive coping mechanism associated with the stress of gender transition.<sup>7-8</sup>
- Another potential risk factor is the injection of hormones. Many trans-women lack proper health insurance to assist them with their gender transition

and gender reassignment services. The injection of hormones, silicone, collagen or other substances thought to assist in their gender transition without medical supervision is predictive of testing HIV positive.<sup>9-10</sup>

- Survival sex is another concern that increases the risk of HIV among trans-women. Many trans-women rely on the need to engage in paid sex work because they are unable to gain sustainable legal employment due to stigma and discrimination.<sup>11</sup>
- A lack of engagement in health care due to being stigmatized also compounds the HIV risks of trans-women.<sup>12</sup> More alarming is a study that found many trans-women were denied health care access due to discrimination.<sup>13</sup>
- Likewise, for trans-women who are living with HIV/AIDS, it is essential that they be engaged in health care to achieve virologic suppression by remaining engaged in care and adherent to HIV antiretroviral treatment. Unfortunately, trans-women are more likely to experience discrimination accessing health services, and less likely than non-transgender people to be on treatment.<sup>14</sup> This further compounds early diagnosis of HIV infection and access to treatment, which area linked to better health outcomes and reduced transmission of HIV to sexual partners.<sup>15</sup>

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