Transgender Survivors: Statistics, Stories and Strategies

Welcome & Housekeeping

- Take care of yourself
- Today's workshop is interactive
- Participation is TOTALLY optional

Overview of FORGE

- Founded in 1994
- Shift from general trans support to 2 main areas of focus:
  - Anti-violence (100%)
  - Aging (+%)
- Primarily work with providers
- Small staff, large vision

What we can offer you

- Training and technical assistance
  - 1-on-1 support
  - Webinars
  - Training
  - Publications
- Support for transgender survivors
  - Listservs
  - Referrals
  - Writing to Heal

Agenda

- Intro / Trans Basics
- Intersections
- Data: Trans Violence
- Barriers & solutions: Interactive
- Take home
- Questions

Thank you - OVW

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Questions – I hope you’ve come in with many
Answers – I hope you will leave with many
Questions (more) – I hope you will leave with more questions than answers

8  Q + A = >Q

9  Trans Basics
Core concepts (and 4 terms)
Slippery definitions
Getting on the same page

10 Question
What % of population is transgender?

A. 0.5%
B. 1.7%
C. 3.0%

Answer:  It Depends!
- 0.2-1.0% (Conway – transition-focused)
- <3% (Conway et al, broader)
- Dr. Oz! (3 million Americans = 1%)
- Compare: 1.2% = Jewish
- Compare: 0.9% = Autistic

Master Status
- 1940s - Everett Hughes defined it as “master status.”
Master Status/ Primary Potency

- Both terms refer to the tendency of observers to believe that one label or demographic category is "more significant than any other aspect of [the observed person's] background, behavior, or performance."

Terms Paradox: Definition

- Terms are CRUCIAL
  - Finding out what terms the person uses and then using their language is a primary way of conveying respect and openness.

- Terms are MEANINGLESS
  - Terms tell you none of what you need to know to provide appropriate services.

Terms Paradox: Example

- "Expert"

- Terms are CRUCIAL
- Terms are MEANINGLESS

Terms Paradox: Applies to who?

- The terms paradox can be applied to
  - Identity labels
  - Experiences
  - Personal history
  - Body part names
  - Pronouns
  - Nearly any component of who a person is.
Transgender

- An umbrella term that encompasses a wide range of people whose gender identity or expression may not match the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender Non-Conforming

- Gender non-conforming can include anyone who does not adhere to traditional binary gender roles or gender expression.
- Language has changed over the years from Stonewall girls, bulldaggers, faeries to genderqueer, androgynous, third gender, T-girl, aggressive, crossdresser, stud, boi....

Questioning

- A term that can refer to an identity or a process of introspection whereby one learns about their own gender identity.
- Can happen at any age and/or multiple times throughout one’s life.

SOFFA

- Significant
- Others
- Friends
- Family
- Allies
### Intersections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trans</th>
<th>GNC</th>
<th>?’ing</th>
<th>SOFFA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Religion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gender-vector
- When come out
- Living in gender
- Gender presentation
- Gender perception
- Employed
- Insured
- Out or not
- Social network
- Partnership status
- Family support
- Children
- Coping skills
- Substance use
- Veteran

### Income

- Family income
- Current income
- Source of income (job, street economy, inheritance, partner)
- Working 1 or more jobs
- Street economy (issues/risk)
- Earning by disability
- Retired
- Pension
- Subsidy or State aid
- Impair access to health care?
- Impact health (nutrition, stress)?
- Risks based on where can afford to live (neighborhood safety)
- Does income change with transition?

### Intersections ...

- Imprint 5%
Add Violence as another intersection

Violence intersections (1)
- What kind of violence? Childhood sexual abuse, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, dating violence, stalking, hate-motivated violence?
- When did the violence happen? Before or after awareness of being trans? When someone was living in poverty or in middle class?

Violence intersections (2)
- Was the violence perpetrated by someone they know or a stranger?
- Was the violence “random” or does the violence impact day-to-day safety?
- Was the violence hate-motivated or biased? If so, because of transness? Because of disability? Because of race or income or some other demographic characteristic?

Data
Transgender rates of violence

“Stories are just data with a soul.”

Dr. Brené Brown
“Researcher Storyteller”
University of Houston
Data Sources

- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) -- Injustice at Every Turn
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) -- Annual Hate Crime Report
- Kaiser Permanente – ACE Study

What do these things have in common?

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- Ischemic heart disease (IHD)
- Suicide attempts
- Liver disease
- Fetal death
- Depression
- Smoking

Impact of Trauma: ACE research

- The health conditions on the previous screen are commonly seen in people who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences =
  - Childhood abuse
  - Neglect
  - Exposure to traumatic stressors

Mechanisms by Which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

Trans Rates of Violence
Incarceration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually assaulted in jail / prison</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suicide Attempts

- General US: 1.60%
- All trans: 41%
- Black: 49%

Long Term Implications of Violence

<table>
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<th>Implication</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Scarring</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT Medical Conditions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT Disabilities</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hate-motivated murders

- Women: 43%
- Men: 50%
- Trans Women: 7%

Many hate-motivated trans murders also include sexual violence – frequently including genital mutilation.

- 87% = POC
- (NCAVP 2011)

Barriers, challenges, solutions

Working with Trans Survivors
Birdcage: Preface

- How many have participated in a birdcage exercise before?

- Caveats:
  - Quotes = what trans people FREQUENTLY hear
  - Your agency might be doing a great job

Birdcage discussion: Instructions

- Worksheet
- Small groups
- Go through example first
- ~10-15 minutes
Ex: Rape Crisis call. Why?
- Reason? Violence against women paradigm (presumption that all victims = female, all perpetrators = male)
- Barrier? Refusal of services
- Challenge? Where to find help
- General lack of respect
- Lack of training

Ex: Rape Crisis call. Alternative?
- Alternative verbal response to victim: "I'm sorry to hear what you've been through. If it's ok, let me tell you a little about what services we offer. Then, if you feel comfortable, I'd like to ask you a few more questions so we can get you the help you need."

Ex: Rape Crisis call. Action (1)
- 1-on-1 discussion with supervisor.
- Call log review during a staff meeting.
  - This may prompt discussion of other ways to handle this call, creating a peer-based learning environment.
- Training of all staff
  - reminder that ANY gendered person can be assaulted and deserves respect and equal treatment.

Ex: Rape Crisis call. Action (2)
- Reposting a reminder
  - In internal newsletter about how OVW requires that services be provided to all clients.
- Update referral handbook
  - to include contacts of other agencies that are better able to serve a wider range of victims.
- Potential disciplinary action of crisis line worker.

Step into the role
- Un-caging the bird

po box 1272 | milwaukee, wi 53201
V. Stay informed

W. Terms Paradox

20 Barriers Handout

Bringing it Home
X. Master Status

YES to....

Label of Primary Potency

and both

Y. Intersections

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<th>Education</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Urban/Rural</th>
<th>Policy / Law</th>
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Z. Client-Centered Care

- Remember: All survivors need to be heard and believed
  - Patience
  - Persistence
  - Compassion

FORGE website

www.forge-forward.org

Questions ? ? – Thank you!

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