



Women's Advocacy and
Treatment Coalition on HIV

A program of The Well Project



What You Need to Know: HIV Among Transgender Women and Barriers to Care

Thursday, March 9, 2017 in honor of NWGHAAD

Together, we can change the course of the HIV epidemic...one woman at a time.

#onewomanatatime

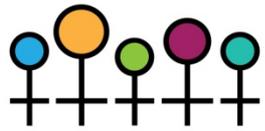
www.thewellproject.org

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National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD)



- NWGHAAD is an annual, nationwide observance that sheds light on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and takes place every March 10
- NWGHAAD is an opportunity to recognize the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and to raise awareness
- Tag #NWGHAAD on social media today! Let's make #NWGHAAD a trending topic!
- For more information, go to: <http://www.womenshealth.gov/NWGHAAD/>



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About The Well Project

- Non-profit organization with a mission to change the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a unique and comprehensive focus on women and girls
- Leverages technology to improve health outcomes and increase quality of life for women and girls living with HIV
- Provides accessible and comprehensive #information, #community support, and #advocacy building
- Access our resources and join our community at www.thewellproject.org



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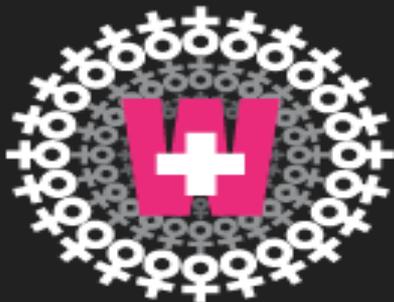
About Positive

Women's Network-USA

- Founded in **2008** by 28 diverse women living with HIV
- Today: 3,000 members nationwide, 11 formally affiliated regional chapters

Positive Women's Network-USA is the only national organization in the U.S. led by and for women living with HIV

Our mission: *To prepare and involve women living with HIV, in all our diversity, including gender identity and sexual expression, in all levels of policy and decision-making.*



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK USA

Sisterhood · Solidarity · Action

www.pwn-usa.org



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About *WATCH!*

- *WATCH!* Women's Advocacy and Treatment Coalition on HIV is an ongoing HIV treatment advocacy and capacity-building webinar series
- The *WATCH!* 2017 series will take place throughout the year, and will include 4-5 webinars
- Certificates will be issued for each webinar for those who either attend the live webinar or view the recording, and take webinar pre- and post-test
 - Webinars will be recorded and can be accessed up to one month after they take place on website



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Webinar Details

- Webinar will last approximately 90 minutes with Q&A
- Use live chat box on left side to enter questions while presenters talk; questions will be put in queue
- If you are listening to webinar via your phone, please enter second audio pin to connect your phone to computer * (3-digit number)#
- Participants' lines will be muted (can unmute during Q&A if requested)
 - To unmute your phone, press *6, or click on microphone icon at the top of your screen (if using computer microphone)



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Speakers



Tonia Poteat, PhD, PA-C, Johns Hopkins University; Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS



Naina Khanna, executive director PWN-USA; Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS



Tiommi Jenae Lockett, communications coordinator, community advisory board, *A Girl Like Me*, The Well Project; national advisory board, Positively Trans



Krista Martel, executive director, The Well Project (*moderator*)



Arianna Lint, community advisory board, *Una Chica Como Yo*, The Well Project; Arianna's Center, Translatin@ FL



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#SayHerName

Within two months in 2017, seven trans women of color were murdered



**Mesha Caldwell, 41,
Canton, MS on January
4, 2017**



**Jaquarrius Holland
(Brown), 18, Monroe,
LA on February 19,
2017**



**Jamie Lee Wounded
Arrow, 28, Sioux Fall, SD
on January 6, 2017**



**KeKe Collier, 24,
Chicago, IL on
February 21, 2017**



**JoJo Striker, 23, Toledo,
OH on February 8, 2017**

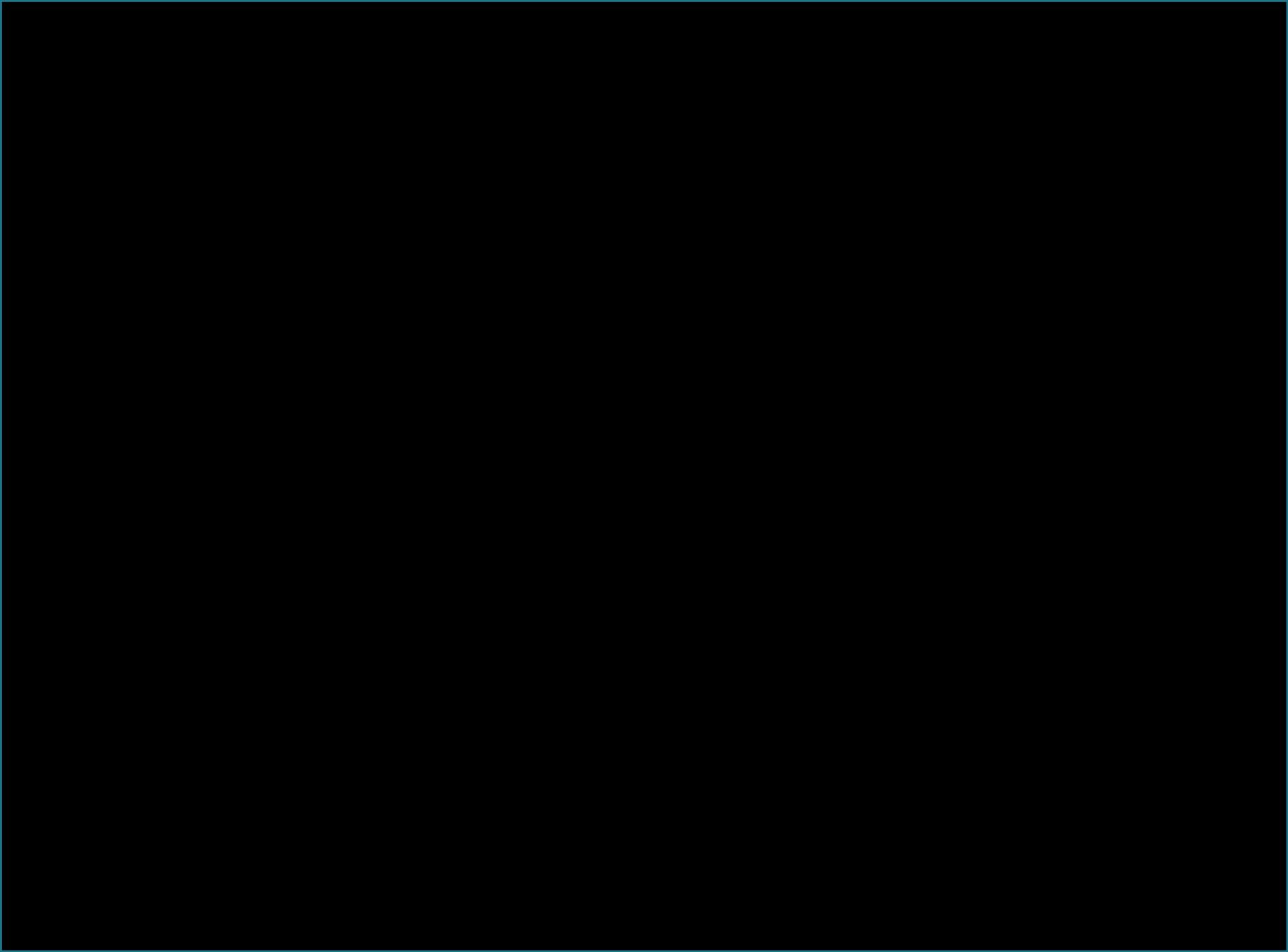


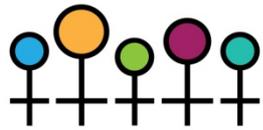
**Chyna Gibson, 33,
New Orleans, LA on
February 25, 2017**



**Ciara McElveen, 21, New
Orleans, LA on February
27, 2017**

#SayHerName





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Agenda

- Overview
- Trans Women Living with HIV
 - Overview
 - Issues Common to Trans Women Living with HIV
- Results of Positively Trans Survey
- Experiences of Translatin@s
- Policy and Law as Structural Violence
- Q&A

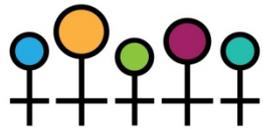


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Trans Women Living with HIV



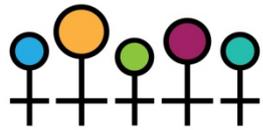
Tonia Poteat, PhD, PA-C
Johns Hopkins University



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Overview

- **Transgender:** A term for people whose gender identity is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth
- **Trans woman:** A term for a transgender individual who currently identifies as a woman
- **Gender identity:** An individual's internal sense of being male, female, or something else; because gender identity is *internal*, it is not necessarily visible to others



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The Numbers Tell the Story

- Rate of HIV among trans women is 49x higher than in general adult population
- Worldwide, 19 out of 100 trans women is living with HIV
- In 2010, CDC reported that the largest percentage of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. was among transgender women
 - 90% of newly diagnosed trans women were African-American or Latina



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Not Being Seen or Heard

- Despite these numbers, trans women historically have not been well addressed in HIV efforts
- They are often not even 'seen' (or counted) because they are combined with groups like men who have sex with men
- Trans women may choose not to identify as trans when seeking services due to past negative experiences and/or anticipated stigma and discrimination
- We need to ask the right questions about sex/gender in order to count trans women appropriately



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The Good News

Global changes slowly being made

- 2014: WHO conducted discussions to understand HIV-related experiences of transgender people and incorporated those learnings into the “Consolidated Guidelines for HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations”
- 2015: WHO issued policy brief encouraging countries to establish laws decriminalizing nonconforming gender identities, protecting against discrimination, working toward legal recognition for transgender people
- 2016: U.S. White House Office of National AIDS Policy outlined specific steps to enhance prevention and care efforts for the transgender community



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Issues Common to Trans Women Living with HIV

Many intersecting issues can negatively affect the health outcomes of trans women living with HIV:

“Transgender and gender non-conforming people face injustice at every turn: in childhood homes, in school systems that promise to shelter and educate, in harsh and exclusionary workplaces, at the grocery store, the hotel front desk, in doctors' offices and emergency rooms, before judges and at the hands of landlords, police officers, health care workers and other service providers.”

~ National Center for Transgender Equality



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Stigma and Discrimination

Keep people from:

- Getting tested for HIV
- Getting linked to or having access to care
- Staying in care
- Getting HIV drugs
- Taking their HIV drugs correctly (adherence)
- The National Transgender Discrimination Survey found:
 - 63% **reported** discrimination serious enough to impact their ability to support themselves financially and emotionally
 - Trans women of color bear the heaviest burden of discrimination
 - Most likely due to the combined effect of anti-transgender bias and structural racism



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Stigma and Discrimination

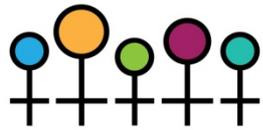
Stigma and discrimination can be traumatic

- Negative feelings from these can lead to low self-esteem, social isolation, depression, and even thoughts or acts of suicide
- An astonishing 40 percent of National Center for Transgender Equality survey participants had attempted suicide



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If you are thinking of hurting yourself or committing suicide, please tell someone immediately. In the US, you can call 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) or 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255). To find a suicide hotline near you, try <http://www.suicide.org/suicide-hotlines.html>; this website lists U.S. hotlines by state as well as hotlines by country (click on the "International Hotlines" link at the top of the main page).



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Health Issues

- Compared to cisgender people, transgender people are less likely to:
 - Be on HIV treatment
 - Be adherent when on treatment
 - Have positive experiences with healthcare providers
- Transgender people face additional health issues (NCTE survey):
 - Almost 1 in 5 may be refused medical care because of gender identity in their lifetime
 - Almost a third had at least one negative experience in a doctor's office related to being transgendered



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Health Issues

"Denial of health care by doctors is the most pressing problem for me. Finding doctors that will treat, will prescribe, and will even look at you like a human being rather than a thing has been problematic. Have been denied care by doctors and major hospitals so much that I now use only urgent care physician assistants, and I never reveal my gender history."

-- respondent to the [National Transgender Discrimination Survey](#)



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Health Issues

- There is a general lack of knowledge among providers about transgender healthcare
 - Many providers are ignorant about hormones for gender transition/gender-affirming surgeries
 - Nearly one-quarter of NCTE's survey respondents reported needing to teach their providers about care
 - According to a Lambda Legal survey, almost 90 percent said there were too few adequately trained professionals to care for transgender people



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Health Issues

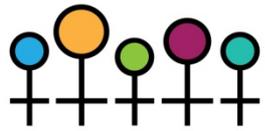
- There are many negative consequences to poor healthcare access
 - Fewer transwomen living with HIV receive and take the HIV drugs they need to stay healthy
 - Transwomen often access feminizing hormones through underground and unregulated channels, which can result in:
 - Buying unsafe hormones and giving themselves incorrect doses
 - Infection and scarring from unsterile technique or contaminated syringes
 - Sudden death from emboli (getting an air bubble or bit of foreign material in the bloodstream)



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Socioeconomic Realities

- Negative employment experiences
 - 1 in 6 transgender people lost their job due to gender identity
 - > 3 out of 4 took steps to avoid mistreatment, such as hiding or delaying their transition or quitting their job
 - They experience 3x-the unemployment rate of general population (NCTE survey 2015)
- Serious negative outcomes of unemployment and poverty
 - Homelessness
 - Work in health-adverse environments – sex and/or drug work
 - Use of alcohol or drugs to cope with stress



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Socioeconomic Realities

"Dealing with the fact that I am Trans, I face ostracism at work... People whom I thought loved me and were truly my friends have repeatedly mis-gendered me at my job, jeopardizing my livelihood. Arkansas is a state with no legal protections for transgender people in employment. People can deny jobs and housing based on religious beliefs, which in essence is targeted to members of the LGBTQ community. Losing my job would put me in a position of possibly losing my apartment and having to do what is necessary in order to survive. I am working hard to make my own path in this world, but I have people who hate me simply because I am Trans."

~ Tiommi Jenae Lockett, [I Could Be Broken, but I'm Not Defeated](#)



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Legal Barriers and Public Accommodations

- 31% of transgender individuals reported experiencing at least one type of mistreatment in the last year in a place of public accommodation (NCTE survey, 2015)
- Almost a third had been harassed or disrespected by police
 - Being harassed by police can make trans women uncomfortable about seeking assistance in threatening or violent circumstances
- May have trouble getting, updating official documents to match new gender identity
 - Lack of proper documents can cause trouble applying for jobs, accessing bank accounts, getting medical care, traveling, immigrating, getting into homeless or domestic violence shelters



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Violence

- Transgender people worldwide face extraordinary levels of physical and sexual violence
 - Last year, the murders of 27 transgender individuals were reported, making it the deadliest year for transpeople on record
- According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, trans women were 6x more likely to experience physical violence when interacting with police than survivors of violence in general
- Violence, like stigma and discrimination, can result in trauma and have lasting negative effects on a person's ability to function and remain healthy



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Violence

"In Peru, before making the transition, I was the victim of much bullying for being a queer person and quite feminine. And the police attacked me. Once I was leaving a nightclub and a policeman stopped me. He took me to a parking lot far away, on the beach, put a gun to my head and sexually abused me. Then he left me on the beach. There were other incidents."

-- Arianna Lint [Real Trans Latina History](#)



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If you are feeling threatened right now, call 911 or the National Domestic Violence hotline in the U.S. at 800-799-SAFE [1-800-799-7233; or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)] or search for a safe space online at Domestic Shelters (<https://www.domesticshelters.org/>). If you live outside the U.S., go to the [Hot Peach Pages](#) to find help near you and search for shelters and services at [SAFE \(Stop Abuse for Everyone\)](#).

It is important to remember that, if someone threatens you, it is NOT your fault. You deserve to be treated with respect and to be safe. Often, women who have been abused have been humiliated to the point that they believe that they deserve whatever abuse comes their way. This is NEVER true.



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Resilience

Despite obstacles, trans women living with HIV have shown that they can face harassment/violence with determination and grit





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Resilience

- According to NCTE, although transgender people had major barriers to accessing health care
 - More than three quarters still got the hormone therapy they sought
 - Despite bullying that caused them to drop out of school, many later returned to complete their education
 - Despite having lost previous jobs or homes due to bias, the majority of transpeople reported being currently employed and housed



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Resilience

"I am an African-American Transgender Woman Living with HIV, and sometimes I have to choose which battle to fight... Being Black is no easy feat. I recognize all kinds of systemic privilege at my job, and I do not benefit from any because I am Black. As hard as I work, I feel undervalued and overworked... I face chauvinism and unwanted sexual advances at every turn... So, as I am sitting here thinking about the intersections in my life, it [becomes] apparent how resilient I truly am. I'm well, having the knowledge that I am a conqueror through divine intervention. There are forces working together for my good." ~ Tiommi Jenae Lockett, [I Could Be Broken, but I'm Not Defeated](#)

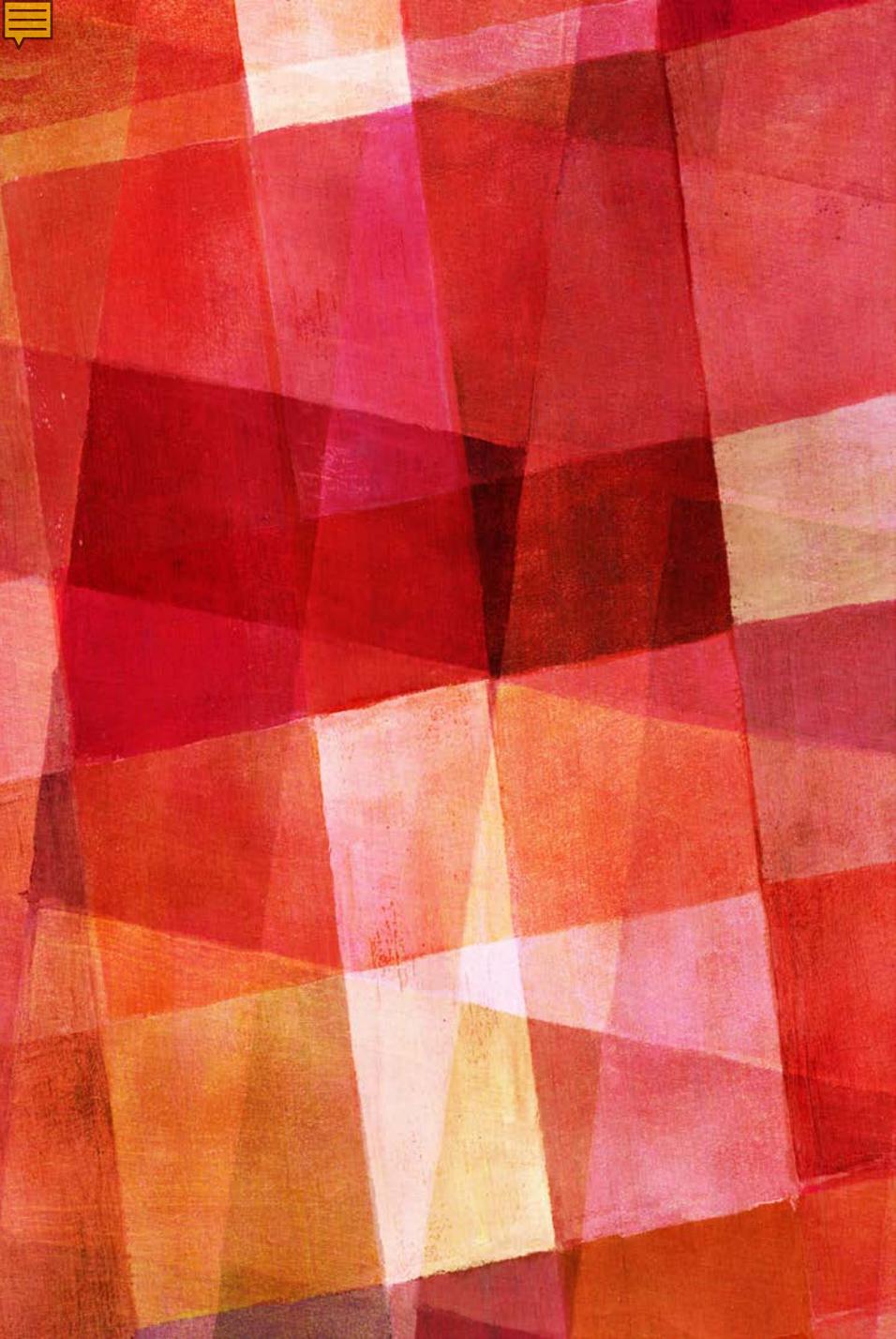


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Results of the Positively Trans Survey

Tiommi Lockett
Positively Trans
The Well Project

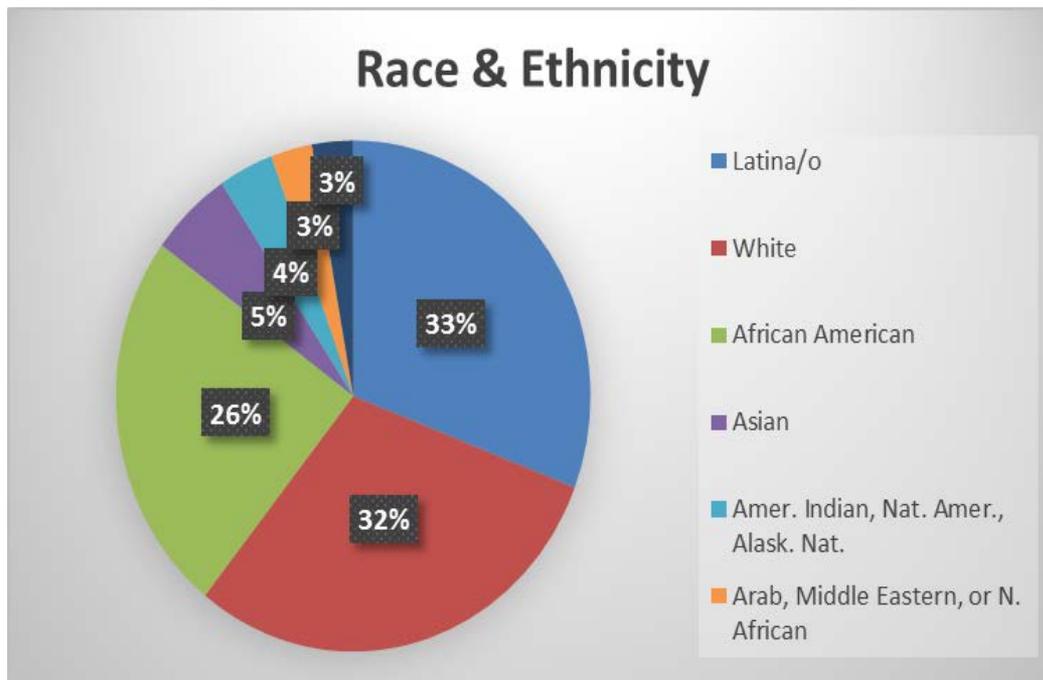
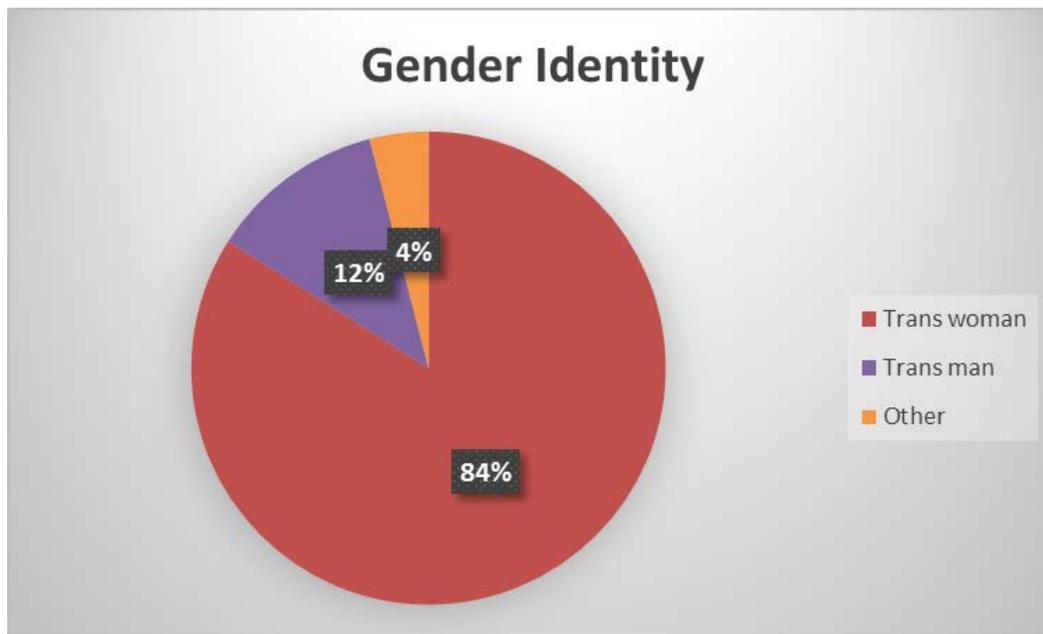
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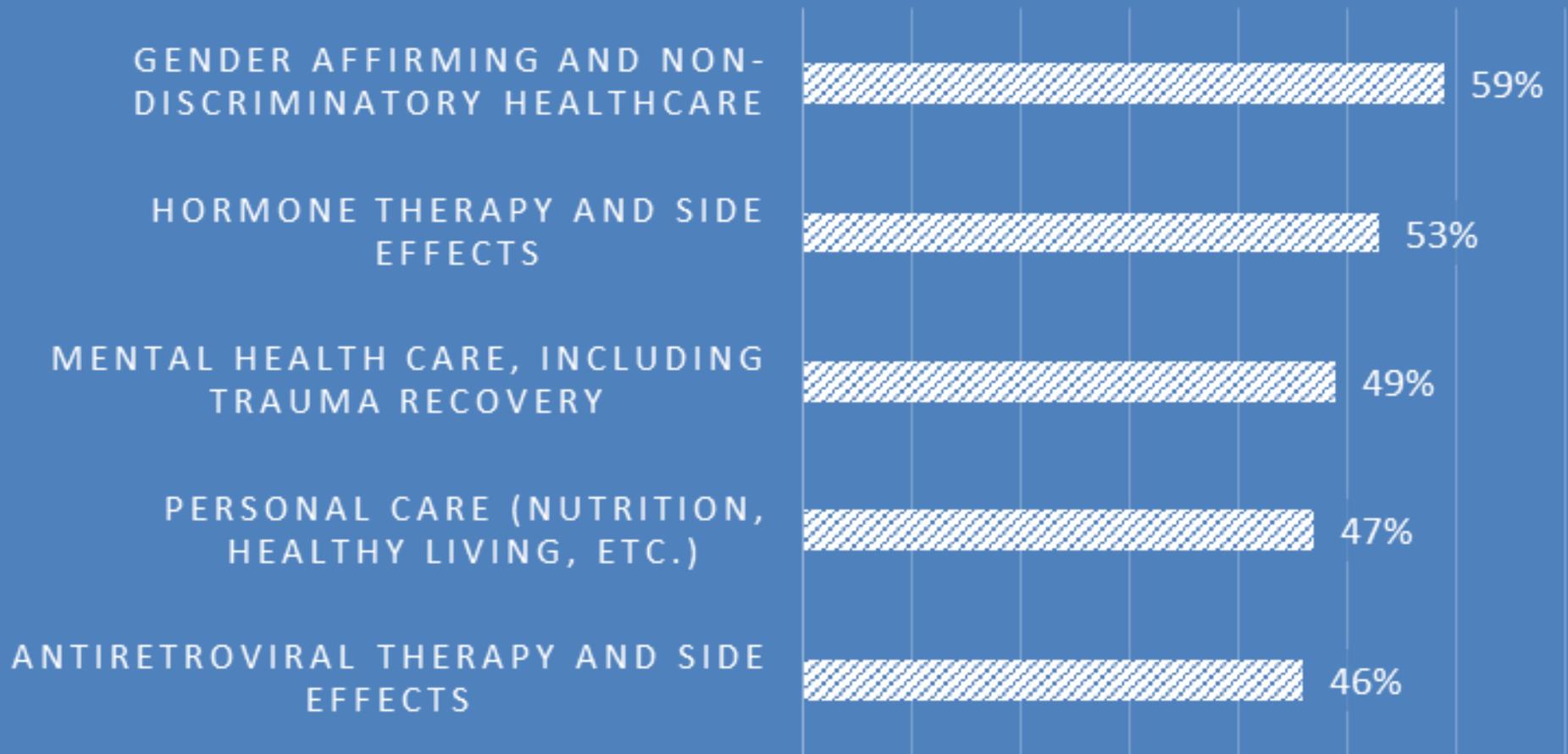
Positively Trans

- Organize and mobilize transgender people living with HIV
- Form network of trans people living with HIV
- Fill the leadership gap in the trans community
- Develop a cadre of trans people living with HIV who will address community's experience of the HIV epidemic through lenses of intersectionality
- Constituents led
- Evidence based advocacy

Survey Demographics



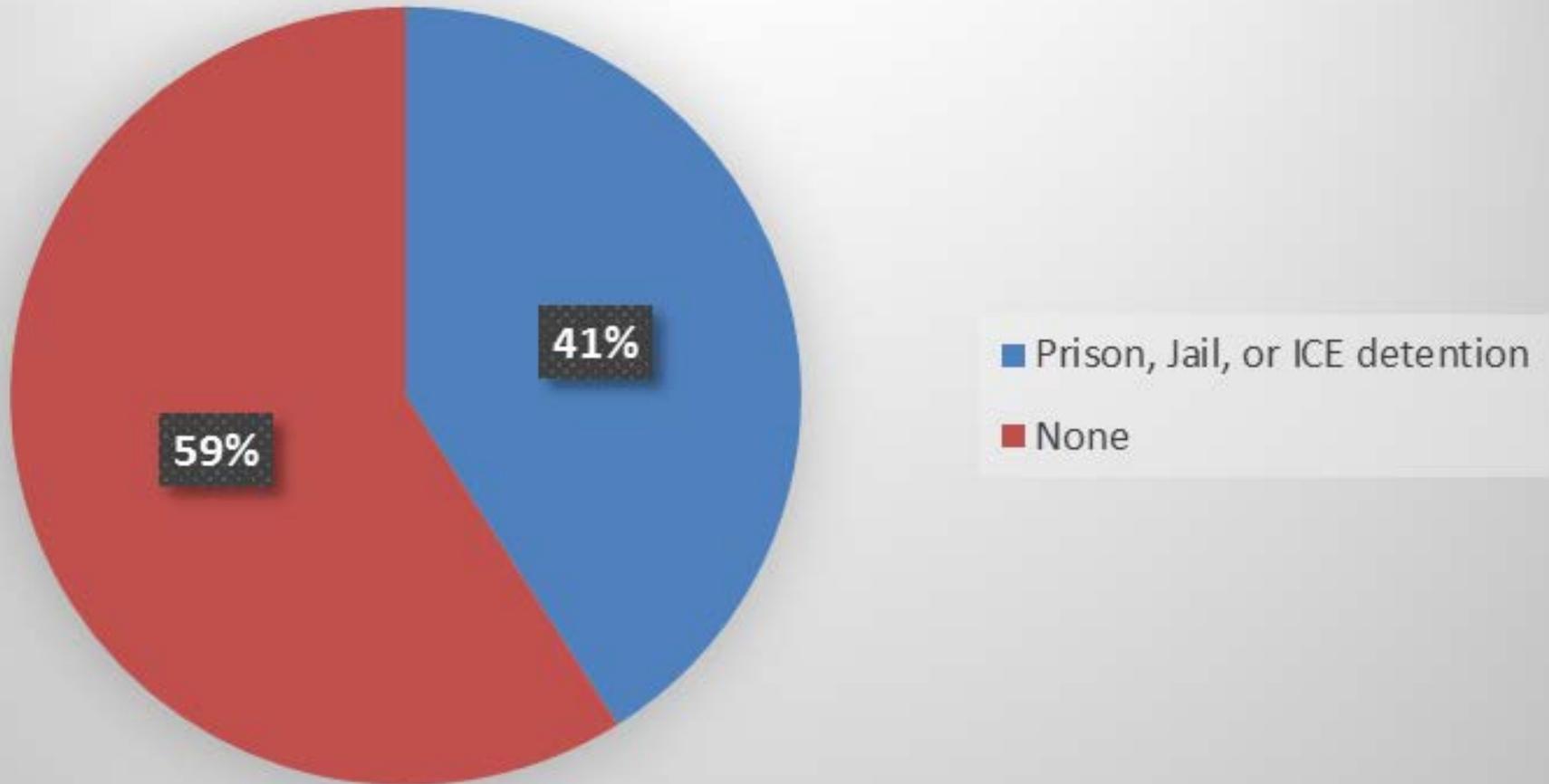
TOP 5 HEALTH CONCERNS



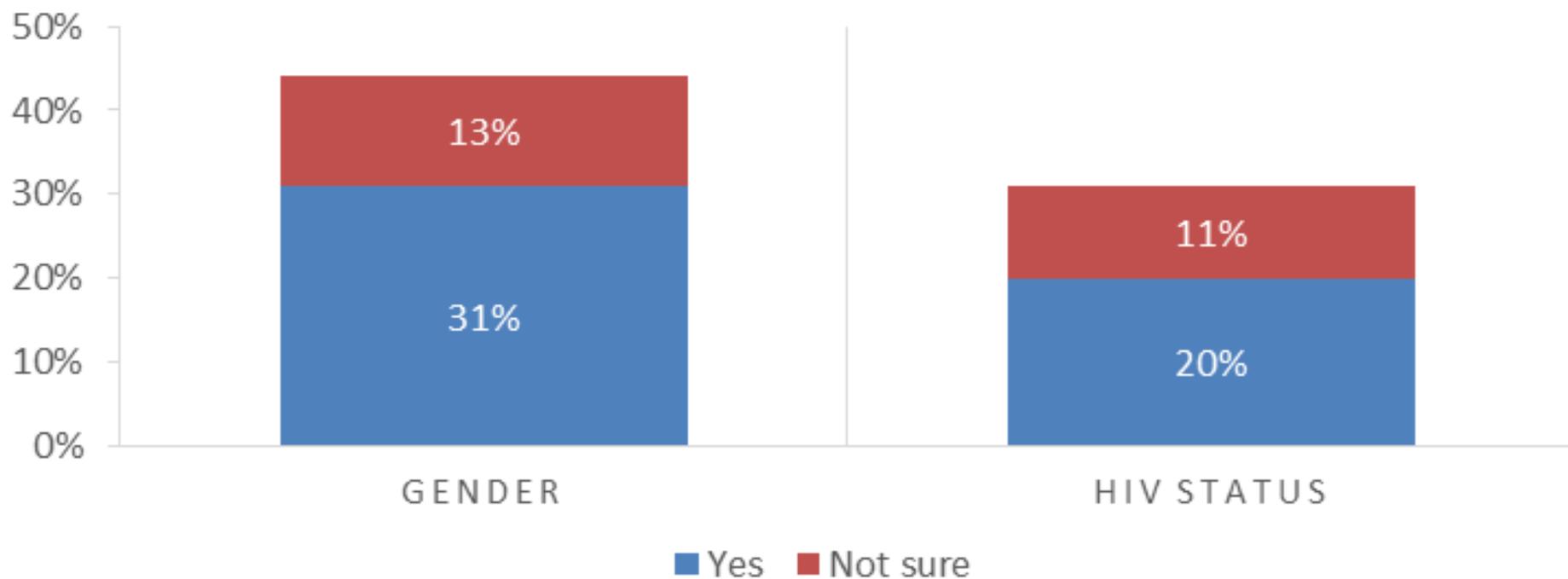
TOP 5 LEGAL PRIORITIES



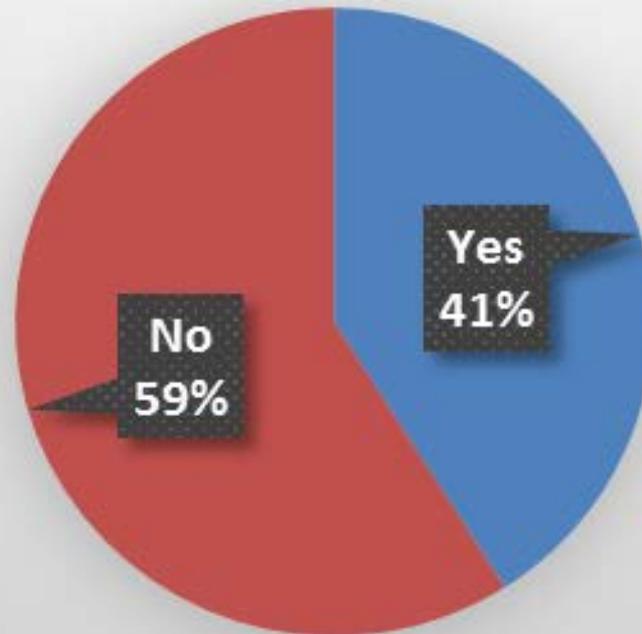
History of Incarceration



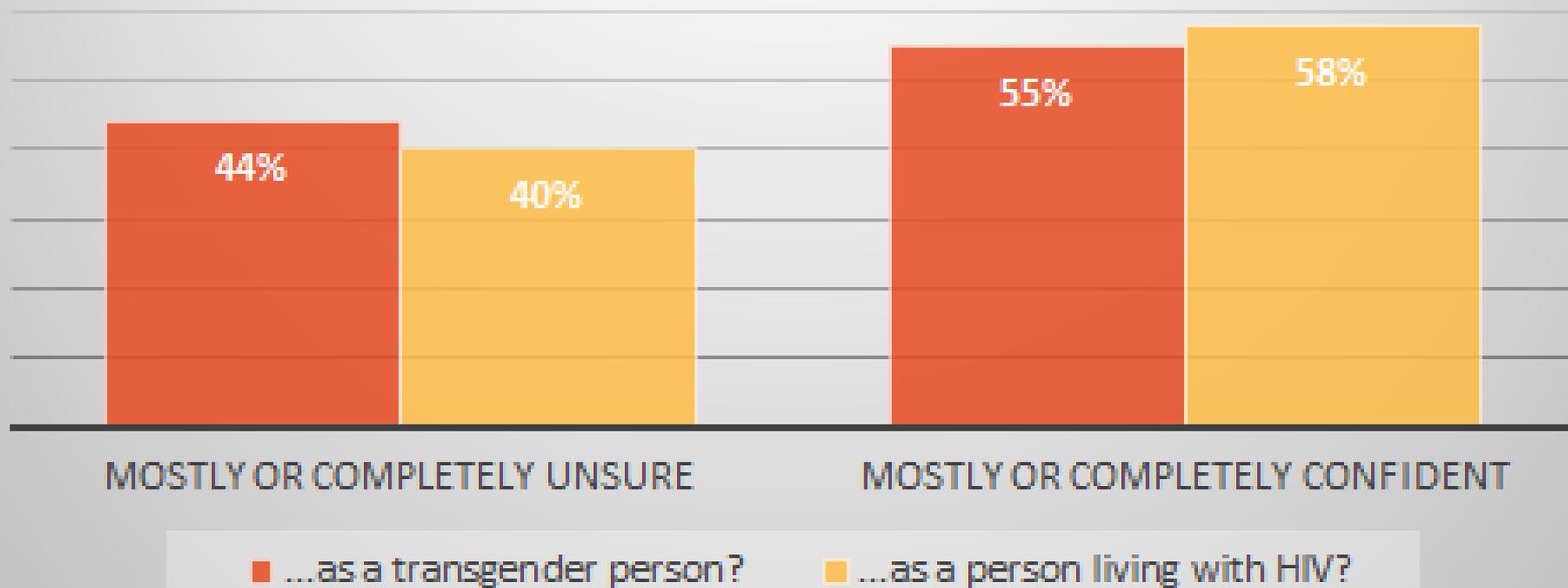
HAS A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EVER REFUSED YOU CARE BECAUSE OF YOUR...



Have you ever gone more than six months without medical care since your HIV diagnosis?

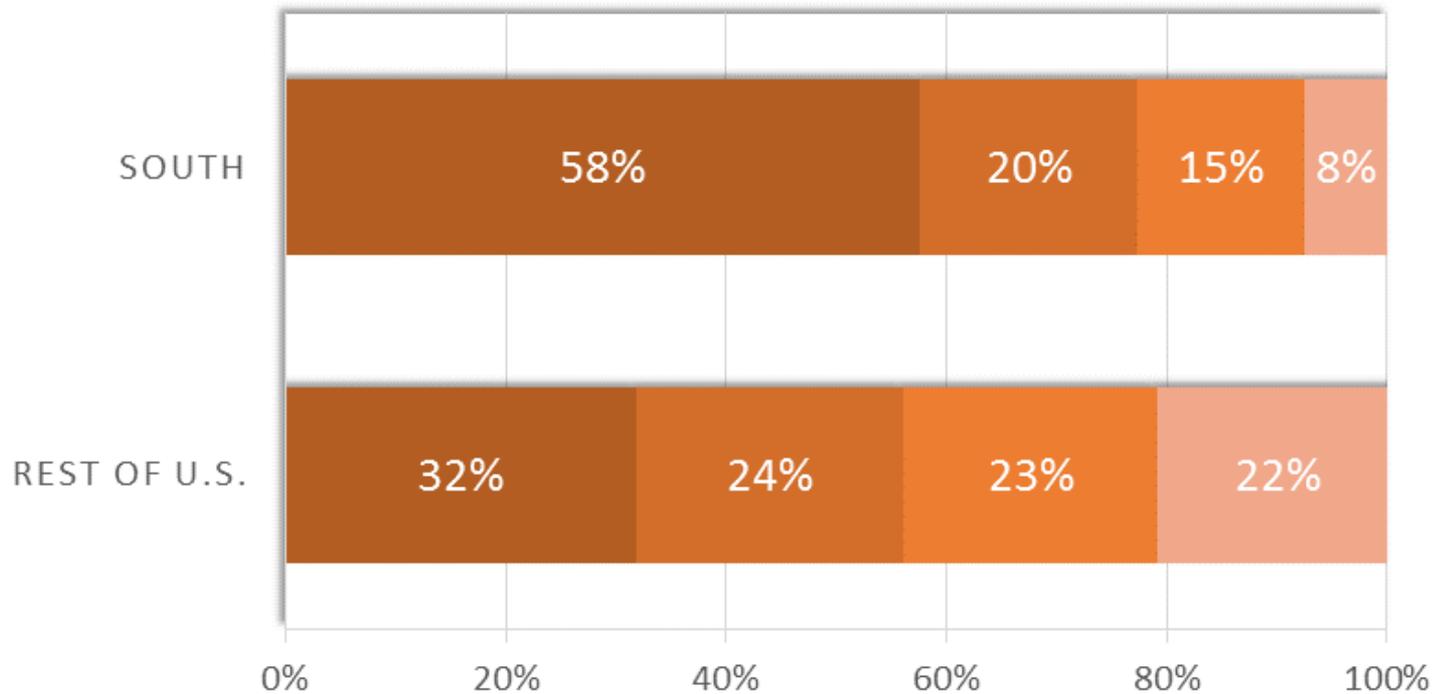


How confident are you that you know your rights...



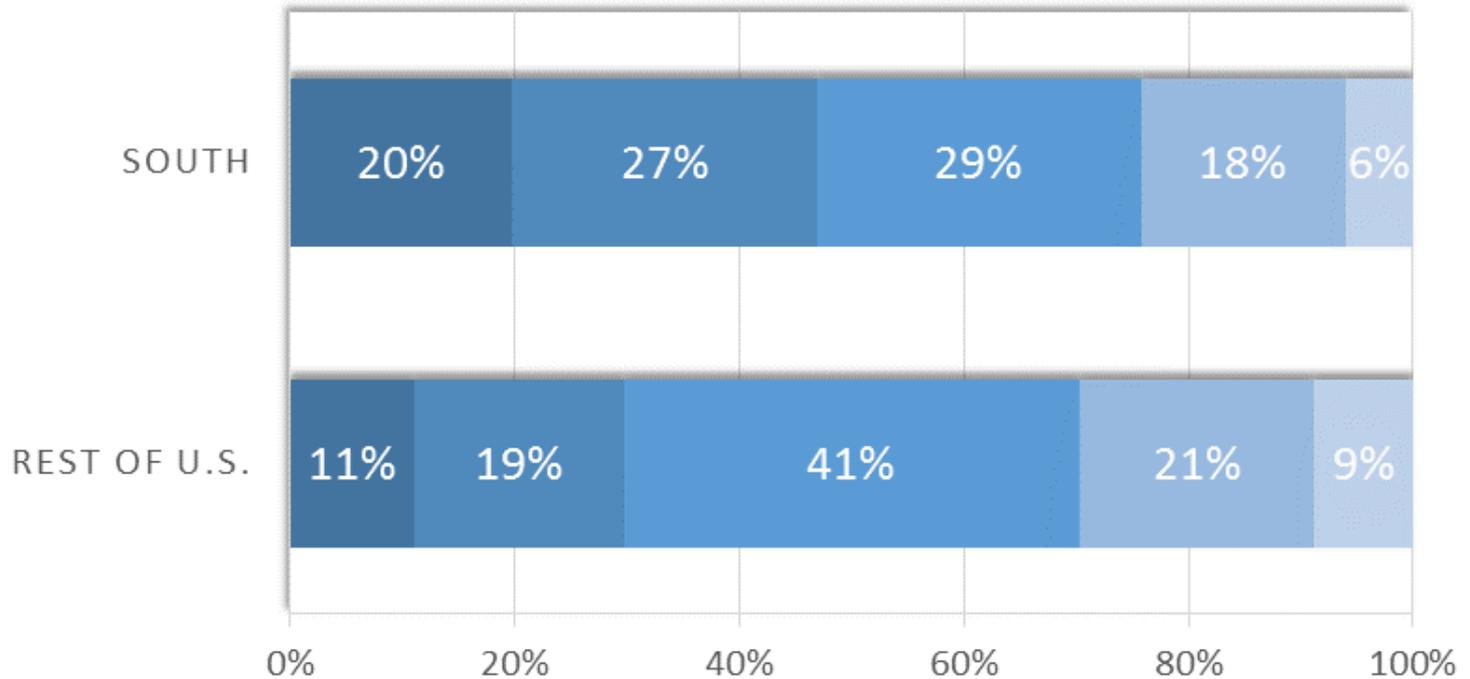
ANNUAL INCOME

■ less than \$12,000 ■ \$12,000 to \$23,000 ■ \$23,000 to \$47,000 ■ more than \$47,000

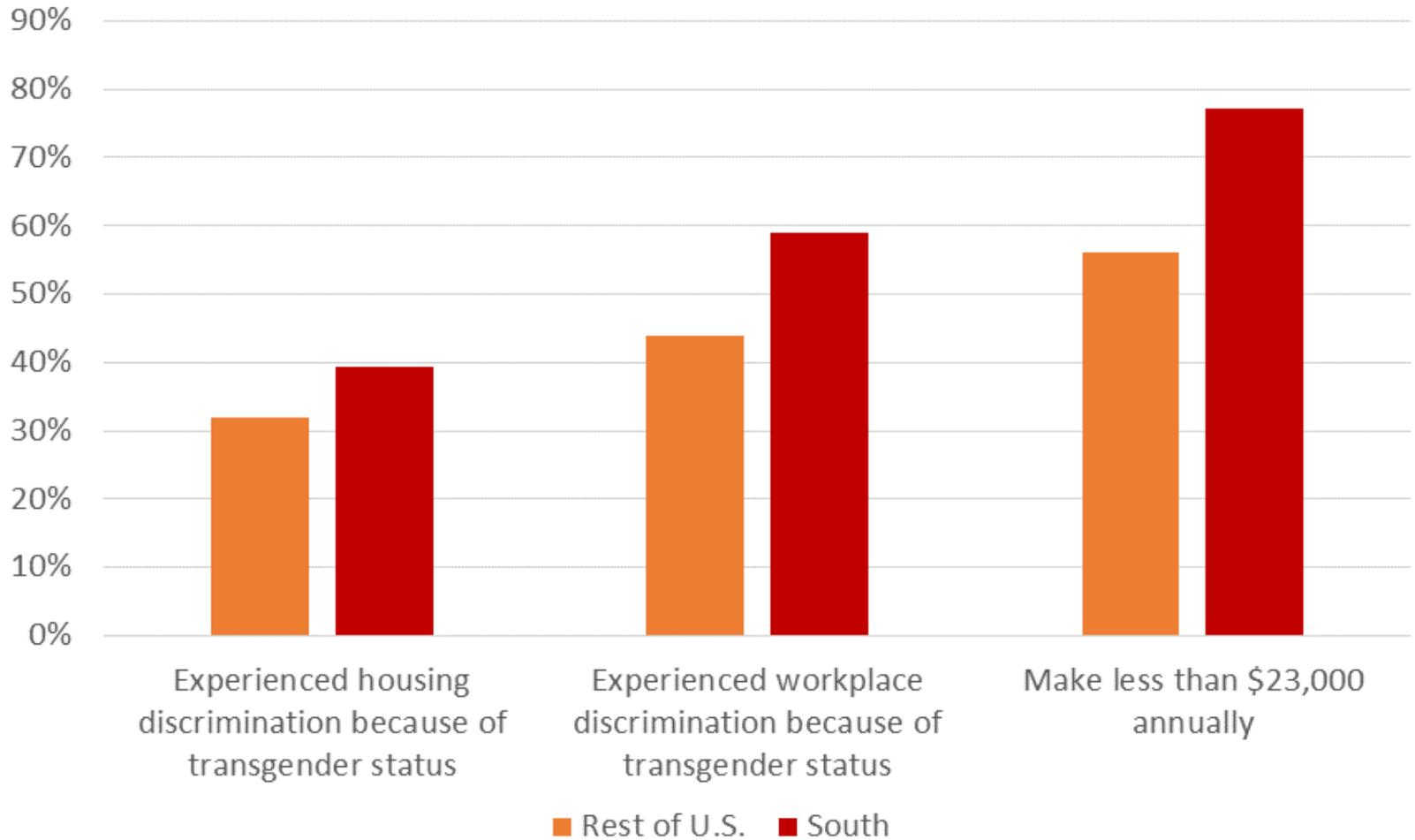


EDUCATION LEVEL

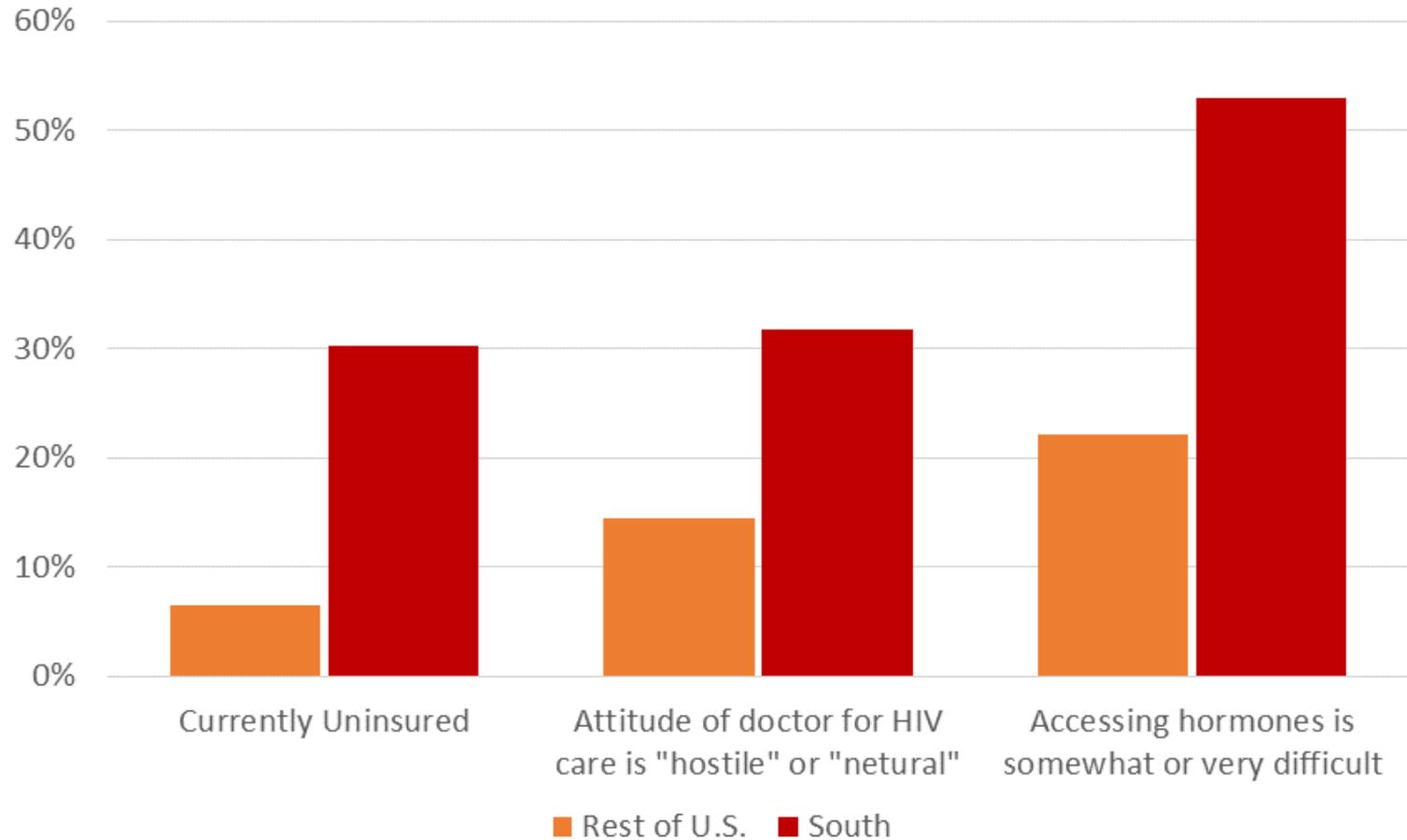
- Less than HS diploma
- HS diploma or GED
- Some College
- College Graduate
- Graduate school



Economic Vulnerability

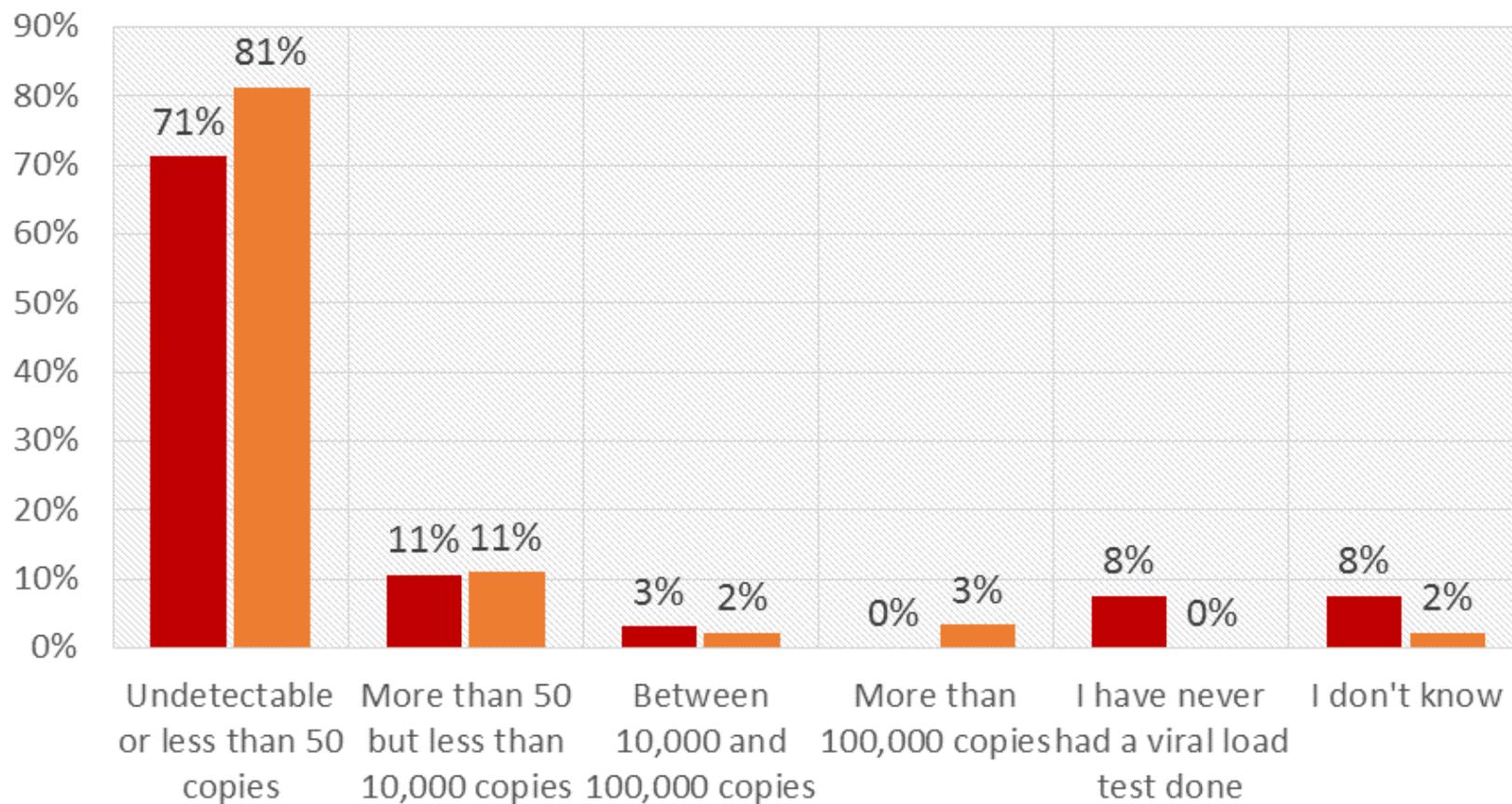


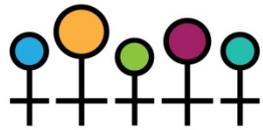
Health care barriers



What was the result of your most recent viral load test?

■ South ■ Rest of U.S.





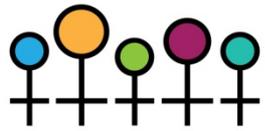
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Translatin@ Experiences

Arianna Lint

Arianna's Center/TransLatin@ Coalition FL

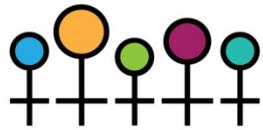
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Terms and Definitions

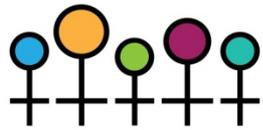
- Translatin@: Inclusive term for Trans Latinas
- Latinx: Inclusive of women and men (vs. Latina/Latino)
- Trans Latinx: Inclusive of transgender women and men (vs. Latina/Latino)



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Additional Issues Facing Latinx Community

- Higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Higher prevalence of HIV in Latino/Latina communities
- Cultural factors
 - May not seek testing, counseling, treatment because of stigma and discrimination
 - Traditional gender roles, cultural norms, and the stigma around homosexuality may add to prevention challenges
- Social and structural factors
 - Poverty
 - Migration patterns
 - Lower educational level
 - Limited access to health care
 - Language barriers
- Immigration status



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HIV among Latinx

- In 2014, Latinx accounted for 24% of new HIV diagnoses in the United States
 - 86% men
 - 14% women
- 86% of new HIV diagnoses among Latinas were attributed to heterosexual contact
- Diagnoses among Latinas have declined steadily
- In 2014, approximately 4,689 Latinx were diagnosed with AIDS



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Poverty Among Trans Latinx

- Latinx transgender people often live in extreme poverty
 - 28% report household income of less than \$10,000/year
 - Nearly double the rate for trans people of all races
 - More than 5x general Latinx community rate
 - 7x general U.S. community rate



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The U.S. – Nation of Immigrants

**The
American
Dream**



**Social
Inequality**



Invisibility



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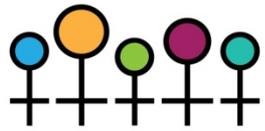
Survival and Immigration Testimonies

***“The life span of a
Trans woman living in
Latin America is 35
years of age.”***

**(Marcella Romero-- Regional
Coordinator for the Latin American and
Caribbean Network)**

***“I came because my
uncle said he would kill
me for being Trans”***

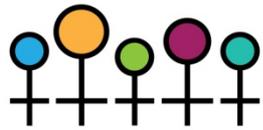
(Anonymous survey respondent)



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Translatin@s in ICE



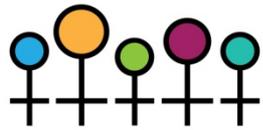


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Arianna's Center

- Arianna's Center engages, empowers and lifts up the trans community of South Florida
- We place a special emphasis on the most marginalized, including:
 - Translatin@ community
 - Undocumented immigrants
 - People living with HIV
 - Those who have experienced incarceration

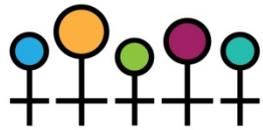




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TransLatin@ Coalition

- Mission: to advocate for the specific needs of the TransLatin@ community that resides in the U.S. and to plan strategies that improve our quality of life
- Values
 - Altruism, respect, and dignity for everyone
 - Transparency, integrity, and honesty
 - Pluralism and diversity
 - Collaboration, inclusivity, and social justice
 - Good resource administration
- Vision: to amplify education and resources to promote the empowerment of Trans leaders



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Policy and Law as Structural Violence

Naina Khanna
Positive Women's Network-USA





POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK
USA

Sisterhood * Solidarity * ACTION!

www.pwn-usa.org



[/pwnusa](https://www.facebook.com/pwnusa)



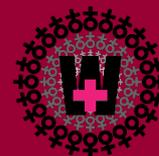
[@uspwn](https://twitter.com/uspwn)



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Structural and Institutionalized Violence

- Policies, practices and norms that target people of trans experience and who are gender non-conforming (TGNC) are **violent**
- **When new laws are created** that target people for their gender presentation or gender identity, this is a way of criminalizing TGNC communities and places TGNC folks at risk
- Similarly, when protections against discrimination and violence **do not explicitly include** TGNC folks, this is also an act of violence.



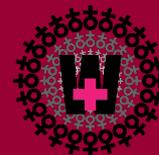
POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK
USA



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Anti-trans Legislation is Not New

- Ongoing erasure or sidelining in “LGBTQ” rights movement
- Prioritization of issues impacting TGNC communities
- Silence around the epidemic of violence impacting transgender women of color
- Visibility of and leadership by people of trans experience in mainstream LGBTQ orgs
- ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) history



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK
USA



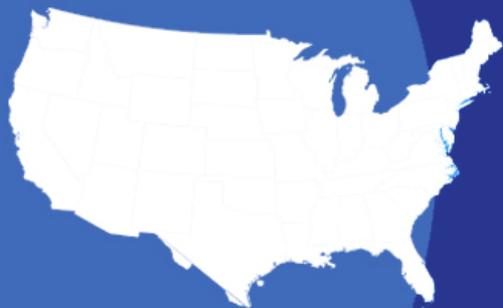
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Today



About Transgender People Issues ▼ Know Your Rights ▼ ID Documents ▼ Take Action ▼ Blog

Take Action Against Anti-Trans Legislation Now!



STATE ACTION CENTER



A wave of anti-trans state bills is sweeping across the country.

Here's what you can do to help us stop these bills in their tracks. Check back for updates or [click here](#) to get an email when there is an urgent action needed in your state.

So far this year, state legislators have filed 37 bills explicitly targeting transgender people.



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State and Local Anti-Trans Legislation

- **“Bathroom bills:”** currently pending in AL, IL, KS, KY, MN, MS, NY, SC, TN, TX, WA, and WY
- **Healthcare bills:** e.g. exclusions on transition-related care in insurance coverage
- **ID bills:** e.g. HB 1894 in AR: Prohibits transgender people from changing the sex listed on their birth certificates
- **Discrimination carve-outs:** e.g. “religious freedom” as excuse to deny access to services or facilities
- **School bills:** locker rooms, restrooms
- **HERO ordinance:** in Houston in 2016
- North Carolina passed **HB2** in 2016



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USA

Trump administration withdraws federal protections for transgender students

By [Ariane de Vogue](#), [Mary Kay Mallonee](#) and [Emanuella Grinberg](#), CNN

🕒 Updated 10:16 AM ET, Thu February 23, 2017



Source: CNN

Top stories



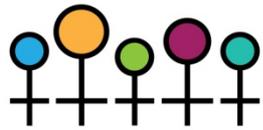
Beau Biden's brother, widow in romantic relationship



Emma Watson's revealing Vanity Fair photo: Feminism or hypocrisy?



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK
USA



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Additional Resources on

www.thewellproject.org

- To learn more:
 - [Trans Women Living with HIV](#)
 - [Transgender Women: HIV Prevention as a Priority](#)
- For a full list of topic-specific resources:
 - [Resources for Trans Women](#)
- For more fact sheets and to connect to our community of women living with HIV:
 - www.thewellproject.org
 - www.facebook.com/thewellproject
 - www.twitter.com/thewellproject



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Additional Resources

- [Positively Trans \(T+\) \(Transgender Law Center\)](#)
- [The Center of Excellence for Transgender Health](#)
- [National Center for Transgender Equality \(NCTE\)](#)
- [TransLatin@ Coalition](#)
- [Arianna's Center](#)
- [Trans Women of Color](#)
- [Transgender Europe](#)
- [National LGBTQ Task Force](#)
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Positive Women's Network - USA](#)

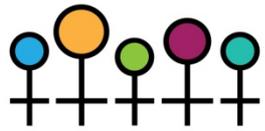


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The Well Project 2016 User Survey Report

Ever wonder how technology can be used in the fight against HIV? On Friday, March 10th, in honor of NWGHAAD, The Well Project is launching its 2016 User Survey Report, which analyzes the impact of its online resources on the health outcomes and quality of life of women living with HIV (WLHIV). The survey also addresses factors influencing the experiences of WLHIV along the HIV care continuum and describes the need to look beyond viral suppression as a measure of treatment success.

Make sure to visit www.thewellproject.org tomorrow, March 10, to read the survey report!



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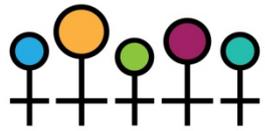
Post-Assessment Test

Please go to

**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WATCH2017_Posttest1 to
take today's webinar Post-Assessment Test**

An email message will be sent out on in the coming days, with the link to the webpage for today's webinar that has links to pre- and post-assessment tests, the webinar recording, and additional resources on this topic.

Thank you for your participation!



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Thank You!



Questions & Answers

The Q & A will come from the questions submitted to the presenters through the chat box during the webinar session.