

# TRANSGENDER HEALTH CARE

## Definitions

Sex: categorization of male or female based on appearance of genitalia at birth

Use gender neutral language, such as "partner," when inquiring about relationship/sexual history.

- If providing preventative care, consider what body parts they currently have and treat them as needed.

- If patient is on hormones, it is important to inquire



## Transgender Health Disparities and Concerns

1. Physical and sexual violence - Transgender persons are high risk individuals for hate crimes, violence, and murder.
2. HIV - Transwomen are at high risk for contracting HIV. HIV transmission in transmen has been understudied. <sup>5</sup>
3. Substance Abuse - Significant substance noted, but lack of culturally sensitive substance programs hinder treatment.
4. Suicide - Studies report higher rates of suicide in pre-transition transgender populations. Transwomen may be slightly more likely to attempt suicide than transmen. Transgender persons that have completed their transition are less likely to attempt suicide. <sup>5</sup>
5. Primary Care - High rates of unemployment/poverty pollute the transgender population leading to lack of health insurance and poor routine health screens.
6. Transition Complications - Transwomen may see complications throughout transition including DVT and surgical complications. Transmen may experience male-pattern balding, liver damage, acne, heart disease, and mood changes. Surgical complications can include fistulas, urinary strictures, DVT, implant rejection, and more.