Transgender survivors: A roadmap through rural and urban communities to improve services and advocacy

June 27 2021

Agenda Overview
1. Brief - Who is FORGE
2. Quick Trans 101 reminders
3. Trans victimization stats
4. Triple+ pandemic
5. Barriers to accessing care
6. What you can do!
   (and a few resources)

Take care of yourself!
- Take care of yourself
- Interactive Q&A
- Participation is TOTALLY optional (of course!)

Who is FORGE? What can we offer you?

Who is FORGE?
- National work with professionals
- 27 yo
- 75%
- Training and Technical Assistance
  - 1-on-1
  - Publications
  - Trainings
  - Conferences
  - Webinars
  - Site visits

National work with professionals
- Policy
- Collaborations
- Information and Referrals
- 75%
National work with survivors

- Online support venues
- Publications
- Conferences
- Empowerment
- Information and Referral
- Working with direct services providers

Guiding principles

- Trauma-Informed
- Empowerment-based

Social Media

- FORGE.trans
- @FORGEforward
- @FORGE_forward
- FORGEForwardTrans

Small staff, large vision

Shelley Gregory, Michael Munson, Loree Cook-Daniels, Caleb Weinhardt

Chat practice: Share your pronoun!

Type message here...

HELLO
THEY/ THEM
How we'll interact today #2: Google Drawings

BRIEF reminders:
Trans 101!

“No one’s identity is a disorder.”

Dr. Lin Fraser
- Past president of WPATH
- San Francisco-based therapist

Handout

The Gender Unicorn  [ HANDOUT ]

What % of population is transgender?
% Population Trans? \( \rightarrow \) It Depends!

0.6% \( \rightarrow \) > 1%

Williams Institute \( \rightarrow \) Lynn Conway+

Breaking it down

- Trans men, 29%
- Non-Binary, 35%
- Trans women, 33%
- Crossdressers, 3%

1% trans

Source: USTIS, 2016 (n=27,715)

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Increasing population size (youth+)

1.8 to 9.2% identify as transgender or gender-diverse

Sources: 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey | Pediatrics June 2021

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Trans people in Texas?

1% = 290,000

Total TX population = 29,000,000

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Trans people live in rural communities too!

There are millions of ways to be trans!
Language matters! (and changes...)

Language is....
- ALWAYS evolving!
- Complicated (and simple).
- Often messy.

I will hug him and pet him and squeeze him and call him George!

Pronouns Matter

We respect each other’s pronoun because we respect each other. Can you do the same?

.... And saves lives

Using a transgender youth’s chosen name at work, at school, with friends, and at home:

- reduces depression symptoms by 71%
- reduces thoughts of suicide by 34%
- reduces suicide attempts by 65%

www.forge-forward.org
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**National Trans-specific Victimization Data**

- **K – 12 trans / NB students**
  - Expelled: 6%
  - Left school due to violence: 17%
  
  *Source: USTS, 2016 (n=27,715)*

- **Denied access to restroom**
  - 22%
  
  *Source: NTD5, 2011 (n=6450)*

- **Sexual and intimate partner violence**
  - Intimate Partner Violence: 50%
  - Sexual Violence: 66%
  
  *Source: Multiple studies*

- **Texas Trans SA / IPV**
  - 50% IPV: 159,000
  - 66% SA: 191,400
  
  *Source: Multiple sources, USTS, 2016 (n=27,715)*

- **Assault by health care provider**
  - Sexual Assault: 10%
  - Physical Assault: 26%
  
  *Source: Multiple sources, USTS, 2016 (n=27,715)*
Denied medical care

19%


Negative interactions with police

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interactions</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asked invasive questions</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrong pronoun</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually assaulted</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physically attacked</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

57% felt they were not treated with respect by law enforcement

Source: US Trans Survey (NCTE, 2015)

Law enforcement

- Fewer law enforcement officers
- Possibly less cultural diversity training
- Likely less contact with trans individuals due to community population size

Homelessness

30% Homeless at some point

26% avoided shelter: fear of mistreatment

7 out of 10 who did seek shelter were mistreated

Drug and alcohol use

General US Population

- 7.30%

Trans community

- 26%

Source: NTD, 2011 (n=6400)

Street economy work

20% Participated in underground economy

12% Sex in exchange for money

86% (SW) Were harassed, attacked, sexually assaulted or mistreated by LE
Trans Suicide Attempts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen US population</td>
<td>4.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans respondents</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Rates of violence by gender vector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Trans-fem</th>
<th>Trans-masc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child SA</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult SA</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPV</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalking</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FORGE, 2011 (n = 1005)

Polyvictimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hate-motivated</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalking</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPV</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating violence</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult SA</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FORGE, 2011 (n = 1005)

The “Triple” Pandemic

Traditional triple pandemic model

1. COVID-19
2. Economics
3. Racism
#4 LEGISLATED HATE

#1 COVID-19

#3 Racism

#5 SANCTIONED HATE

Reality?

Arc of LGBT protections


4 years of Anti-Trans & -LGBT Actions

transexuality.org/the-discrimination-administration

71+ listed anti-LGBT legislative actions

Source: National Center for Transgender Equality

“To all the transgender Americans watching at home, especially the young people who are so brave, I want you to know that your president has your back.”

New administration: New inclusion & protections

2021. Presidential Address to Congress.

BUT.... Anti-trans leg. shifts to state/local

State laws

- Overtly anti-trans governor

- Statewide laws will impact rural communities that aren’t large enough to create counter-protections for their local communities.
  - e.g. Smaller communities won’t have multiple sports options and trans youth may be denied playing
Learn more about anti-trans legislation in Texas

www.equalityfederation.org/equality-tracker/

Currently 76 bills introduced in TX.
12 are aggressively anti-trans focused.

Current events: Cultural ramifications

Currently 76 bills introduced in TX.
12 are aggressively anti-trans focused.

6 (of many) ways that current events have changed trans, non-binary peoples’ lives

1. Current events: FEAR

- safety on the streets
- employment security
- housing security
- bathroom access
- relationship stability
- family tensions
- hate motivated crimes

2a. Current events: Mirroring

- All of us are hearing national leaders say horrific things
- IPV offenders are mirroring anti-trans language
- Re-experiencing of words in the public discourse.
  [...]and emboldening or sanctioning]


- Visibility of police misconduct and violence
- Protests, rallies, and mobilization
- Increased safety+ concerns for people of multiple identities
4. COVID-19 Isolation / increased abuse
- More time at home with partners or abusers
  - Children and adults
- Increased financial dependence? Other strings?
  - Additional ways to exert power

5. Current events: Instability
- Can’t keep stable footing
- Scrambling to take actions
- Increased depression and suicidality
- Holding on to anything (even if unhealthy)

6. Current events: COPING
- Alcohol and drugs
- Isolation
- Increased risk taking
- Hierarchies of who is most oppressed
- Horizontal hostility
- De/re-transitioning
- Weapons

Isolation / Vaccination
- Isolation
  - Harder to get away from perpetrator in smaller communities
- 44% Fully Vaccinated in TX
  - Likely FEWER people in rural communities
  - More difficult to access
  - Attitudes about vaccines can be more conservative

Changing laws
- Rapidly changing laws
  - Concerns about being able to access basic healthcare
  - Sports and extra-curricular activities
  - Educational content in schools

Support services / Confidentiality
- Fewer places to seek support/services.
- Broad ranges of services offered in single agency.
- Survivor confidentiality
  - Dual roles/relationships
  - Everyone knows everyone’s business
Guns

- Permit-free gun legislation
- Easy access to weapons anywhere / any time

How does this relate to trans SA/IPV?

- Micro-aggressions
- Minority Stress
- Increased Health Disparities
- Lower Self-Esteem
- Higher Risk Taking Behaviors
- Less likely to seek help

= increased likelihood of encountering abuse (home, streets, work, +)

Compounded / intersectional

Barriers to accessing victim services: Trans peoples’ top concerns

Barriers Brainstorm

Chat
1. Will I be turned away?

2. Will I be safe? (not just from abuser, but other residents, staff, victim service providers, neighborhood+)

3. Will staff know about and be sensitive to me as a trans person?

4. My identity documents don’t align with the gender I live in. Will I be denied services, discriminated against, or harassed?

5. Will I be misgendered?

6. Will someone out me? Can I have agency over my own story and life?
7. Will I have ample privacy? (body, history)

8. Will I have to report my abuse to law enforcement?

9. Aren’t these services just for women? (If I don’t identify as a woman, what does that mean about what happened to me?)

10. I am ashamed and embarrassed about what happened to me. Will staff make me feel ashamed about being trans on top of what happened to me?

Micro-INCLUSIONS

Micro-inclusions are a small step to include someone.

On a bigger scale, micro-inclusions are symbolic actions that force us to recall the humanity of others.
Let's map together! → What you can do!

https://forge.tips/3xnD0Pw

Google Drawings

A few things that may not have been mentioned.....

→ 10 free and easy things you can do

1. Believe Survivors

2. Stay person (or issue) centered

3. Name and pronouns

Pronouns matter because people matter.

For social services you can put signs and posters to let individuals know this is a safe space and LGBTQ+ safe environment.
4. Accessible bathrooms
- All-gender
- Signage
- Organizational culture
  - Bias-free
- Accompaniment

5. Social media

6. Alternatives to police

7. Be an upstander!
- Speak up
- Step up
- Call in
- It’s about all of us

8. Get involved! Show up!

9. See and affirm resilience
10. Be kind!

Micro-inclusions move us to a place of greater connection, acceptance, and healing.

What small thing will you do today to improve trans / nonbinary survivors lives?

Thank you!

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