

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Study among Transgender Women Factsheet

What is NHBS-Trans?:

- The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) study is a long-term project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the proportion of people living with HIV (also known as HIV prevalence), behaviors that place people at risk for HIV, and access to and use of HIV prevention services in 22 project areas in the US.
- The NHBS study among transgender women (NHS-Trans), known in New York City (NYC) as NYC-TRANScends, was a special NHBS study conducted among transgender women in 8 US cities, including NYC.
- In order to guide future HIV prevention efforts locally and nationally, the project measured: 1) the prevalence of HIV and other sexually transmitted infection (STIs), 2) behaviors and social determinants that increase the risk of HIV, 3) exposure to and use of HIV prevention services, and 4) gaps in HIV prevention services.

NYC-TRANScends:

- NYC-TRANScends recruited transgender women through a process called respondent-driven sampling (RDS). In RDS, an initial set of participants is recruited through community outreach. Eligible participants are then incentivized to recruit up to 5 of their peers for the study so that recruitment chains form.
- The eligibility criteria for the study and for recruiting other participants were: 1) aged ≥ 18 years; 2) resident of the NYC Metropolitan Statistical Area; 3) ability to do the survey in English or Spanish; and 4) assigned male sex at birth and identify as a woman or transgender woman.
- Participants provided informed consent and underwent a 45-minute interviewer-administered survey, were offered HIV testing and STI testing (gonorrhea and chlamydia from oral, rectal and urine samples). HIV testing was offered to all participants, regardless of self-reported HIV status. Participants were given an incentive for each component of the study and were also offered free condoms, lubricant, and donated makeup. Participation was anonymous.
- Participants were linked to care and services as needed.
- Study activities took place from August 2019 – January 2020 at two community sites: Destination Tomorrow in the Bronx and the Latino Commission on AIDS OASIS Wellness Center in Manhattan.
- All study staff who interacted directly with participants represented transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary communities.

Selected Demographics (n=268)	
Race/Ethnicity	n (%)
Hispanic/Latinx	150 (56%)
Black	103 (38%)
White	10 (4%)
Other	5 (2%)
Age	
18-29	63 (24%)
30-39	67 (25%)
40-49	68 (25%)
≥ 50	70 (26%)
Currently homeless	52 (19%)
Area of residence	
Bronx	97 (36%)
Brooklyn	76 (28%)
Manhattan	56 (21%)
Queens	33 (12%)
Staten Island	3 (1%)
Outside NYC	3 (1%)
Employed, past 12 months	164 (62%)
High school level education	197 (74%)
Living at or below the Federal Poverty Line*	163 (63%)
Currently has health insurance	239 (90%)

*For 2019, the Federal poverty line for 1 person was \$12,490. An additional \$4,420 is added for each additional person.

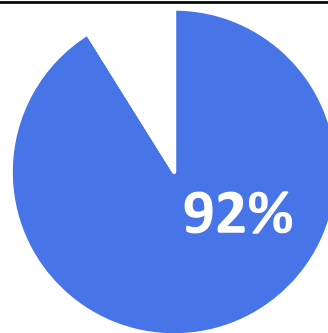
Results:

- A total of 274 participants were eligible and enrolled into the study, of which 268 were transgender women and were included in analyses.
- Some key variables are reported in this Factsheet. Additional domains included in the survey were gender identity, social support, medical gender affirmation, sexual behaviors, substance use, discrimination, abuse, experiences with law enforcement and incarceration, and utilization of HIV prevention services. Data for these additional variables are available upon request. Data shown are preliminary.

88% had a health care provider for routine care.

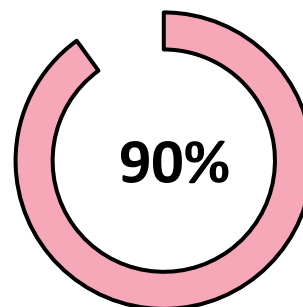
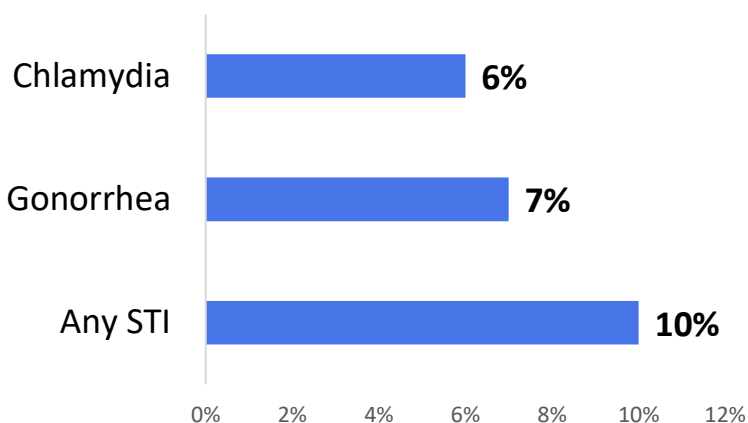
86% had a health care provider for trans-related care.

80% saw the same health care provider for both routine and trans-related care.



of those who do not see their routine health care provider for trans-related care would do so if the provider were trained to provide this care.

1 in 10 women had at least 1 positive STI test result in the study.

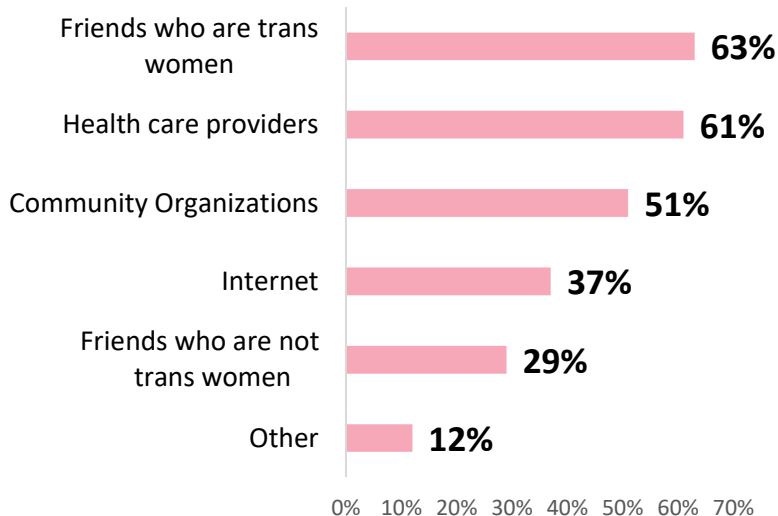


had health insurance.

Including women who knew they had HIV, 53% had a positive HIV test result in the study.

Among women who did not report a previous positive HIV status, 5% had a positive HIV test result in the study.

More than 60% received their health information from other trans women and/or health care providers.



Acknowledgements: We thank all our participants and staff (Aneesha Andrews, Charm Jones, Alisha King, Jaime Santana-Rivera, Sofia Song, Ash Tebar) as well as the members of our Collaborative Board (Carrie Davis, Octavia Lewis, Monique Mackey, and Nala Toussaint). We thank Destination Tomorrow and the OASIS Wellness Center of the Latino Commission on AIDS for providing space to conduct data collection activities. We also thank the MAC AIDS Foundation for a generous donation. Funding was provided by the CDC (CDC 16-1601) and we thank Taylor Robbins and Evelyn Olansky for their guidance.

Contacts: Jasmine Lopez: jlopez22@health.nyc.gov
Alexis Rivera: arivera6@health.nyc.gov

