

HIV & American Indian and Alaska Native Transgender and Gender Non-Confirming Community Members



Transgender women, men and gender-nonconforming community members are at higher risk of HIV infection, and the those factors that contribute to increased HIV risk

HIV STATUS

Transgender women have 49 times the odds of having HIV compared to the general population

Transgender men have higher rates of HIV infection than that of the general population

In the United States, almost 22% of transgender women are living with HIV.

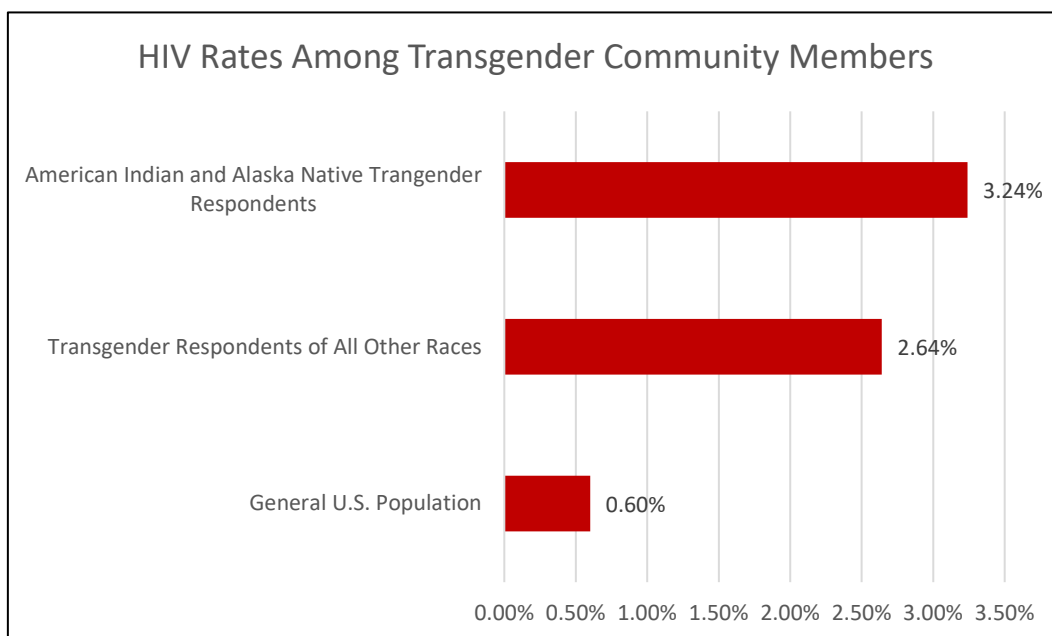
HIV-positive transgender women are less likely to regularly use HIV antiretroviral medication than are their non-transgender peers.

Over half (56.8%) of transgender men that had recently been diagnosed with HIV didn't know how they had acquired the virus.

AI/AN transgender and gender non-conforming people were affected by HIV in devastating numbers.

- 3.24% reported being HIV positive.
- This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender respondents of all races, and 0.6% of the general U.S. population.

8.5% of AI/AN transgender individuals reported that they did not know their HIV status.



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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & HIV RISK

Transgender people were 4x more likely than the general population to live in extreme poverty, and more than twice as likely as the general population to be homeless.

In a nationwide study, 90% of transgender people reported being the target of harassment, mistreatment, or discrimination at work.

AI/AN transgender and gender non-conforming people had an unemployment rate at 18%, well over twice the rate of the general population (7%).

AI/AN transgender and gender non-conforming individuals reported alarming rates of harassment (86 percent), physical assault (51 percent) and sexual assault (21 percent) in K-12.

19% of AI/AN trans and gender non-conforming people left school because of harassment.

In a study, 19% of transgender people were refused medical care because of their gender identity; 28% had been harassed in a doctor's office.

Transgender people were also much more likely to be HIV-positive if they had been sexually assaulted because of their gender identity, did not have a high school diploma, had incomes below \$10,000/year, or if they were unemployed or had lost a job due to bias.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Are transgender men and women, and gender non-binary individuals receiving respectful and competent care?
- What outreach and educational efforts and materials are available for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals?
- What efforts are available to address the social determinants of health that are impacting HIV risk?
- How easy is it for AI/AN transgender and gender non-binary individuals to access treatment and medicines?
- What is community stigma like, and how is a supportive community environment being promoted?
- How is the confidentiality of people seeking services being protected?
- What efforts are underway to collect accurate data on HIV and HIV risk among AI/AN transgender and gender non-binary community members?
- What does the continuum of HIV care look like for AI/AN transgender and gender non-conforming community members?

SOURCES

- <https://www.hivplusmag.com/case-studies/2013/04/08/invisible-women-why-transgender-women-are-hit-so-hard-hiv>
- *New Analysis Shows Startling Levels of Discrimination Against American Indian and Alaskan Native Transgender People* (<https://www.thetaskforce.org/new-analysis-shows-startling-levels-of-discrimination-against-american-indian-and-alaskan-native-transgender-people/>)
- *Transgender People and HIV: What We Know* (<https://www.hrc.org/resources/transgender-people-and-hiv-what-we-know>)
- *Diagnosed HIV Infection in Transgender Adults and Adolescents: Results from the National HIV Surveillance System, 2009–2014* (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5491368/>)

