



# Disability and Transgender Survivors:

Empowering providers  
who work with multiply-  
marginalized populations

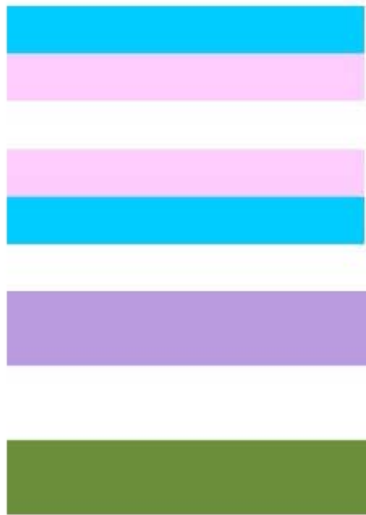
michael munson

# Welcome & Housekeeping

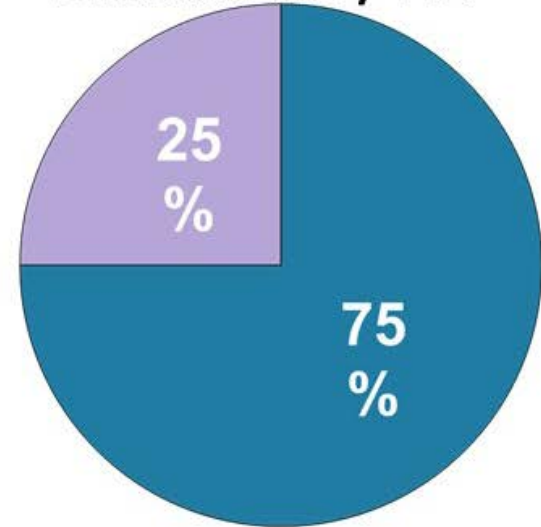


- Take care of yourself
- Power Points
- Archived Recording
- Interacting

# Who is FORGE?



Direct service / TTA





# Two Foundational Principles

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**1.**

**Trauma -  
Informed**

**2.**

**Empowerment  
- based**



# What we can offer you

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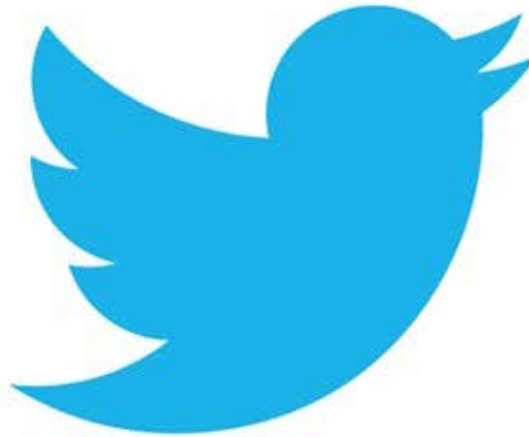
- Training and technical assistance
  - 1-on-1 support
  - Webinars
  - Training
  - Publications
  - Demo project
- Support for transgender survivors
  - Listservs
  - Referrals
  - Espavo Project
  - Publications

# Social Media

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**FORGE.trans**



**@FORGEforward**



**@FORGE\_forward**

Thank you  
OVW

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K121 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication / program / exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

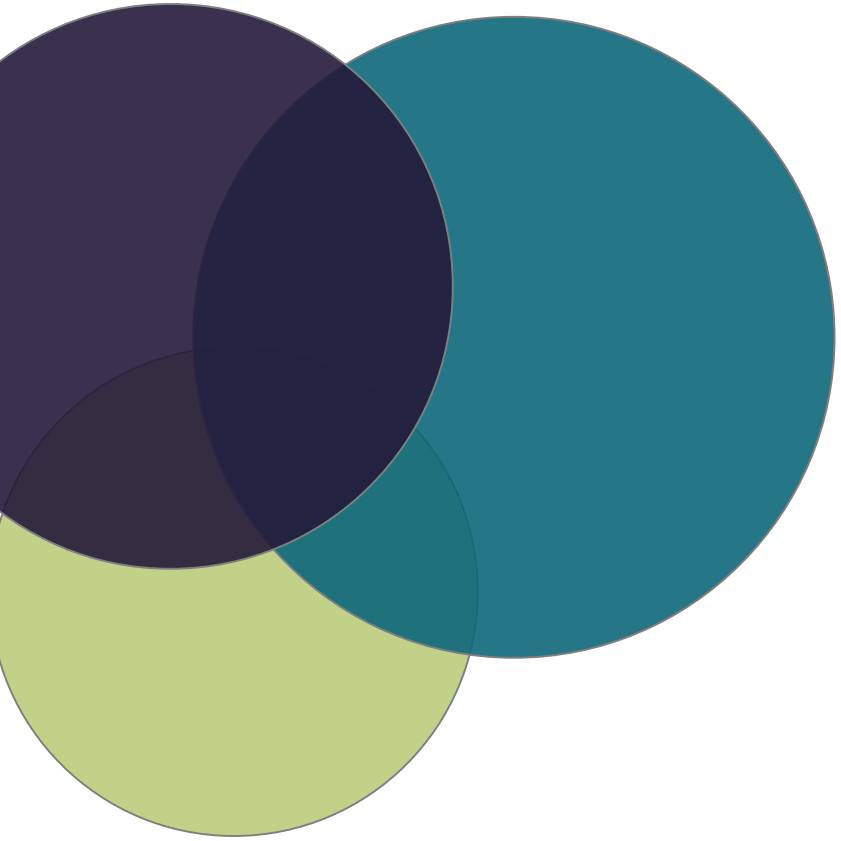


# Agenda

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- Intro / Trans Basics
- Intersections
- Data: Trans Violence & Long-term Health Implications
- Survivor Stories
- Reminders and Resources
- Questions





# Setting the Stage



# Reclaiming and Respecting

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- Person-first language
  - Centrality of identity
  - Reclaiming
  - Respecting

# QUOTE



“No one’s  
identity is a  
disorder.”

~ Dr. Lin Fraser



# Blurred lines: Trans

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- Hierarchy of who is “trans enough”
- Claimed trans identity and perceived transness
- Medicalization vs. identity?



# Blurred lines: Disability

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- Disability and health disparities?
- Perceived disability and claimed disability?
- Shift when adding multiple other variables?



# Language Substitution

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- Feel free to mentally substitute language that is a better fit for you, and of course, use language that fits you, the people you serve, or how you frame the world when you speak.

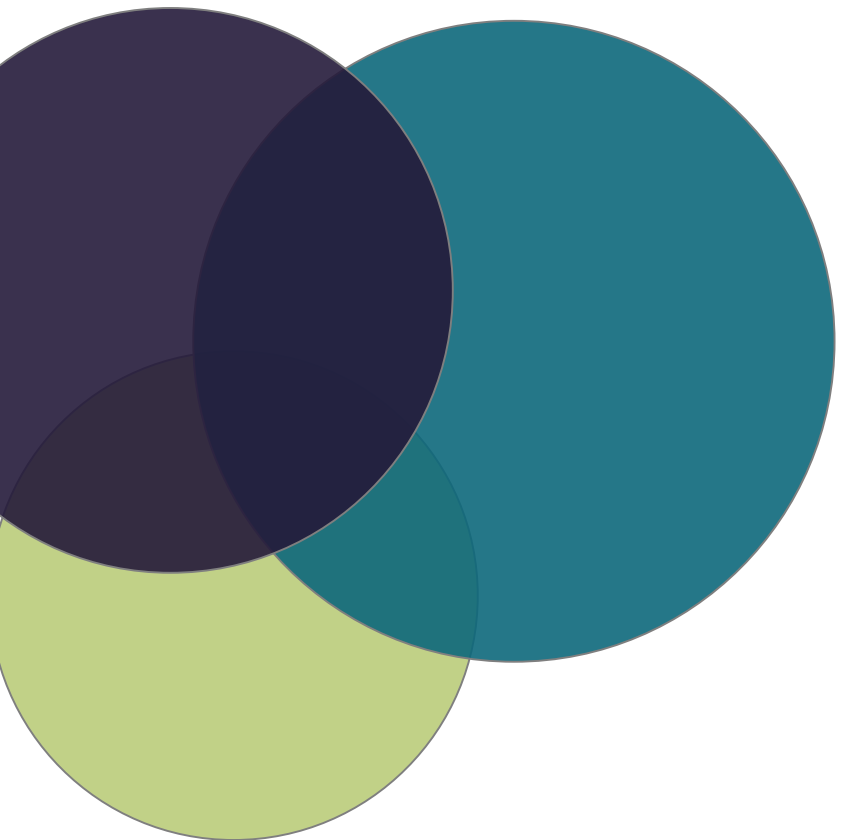
# Presentation

“We heal through  
love and laughter.”

~ *Kathy Flores and  
Ann Kendzierski*

the  
**ESPAVO**  
project





# Who are Trans People?

Core Concepts  
Slippery Definitions  
Getting on the same  
page



# Question

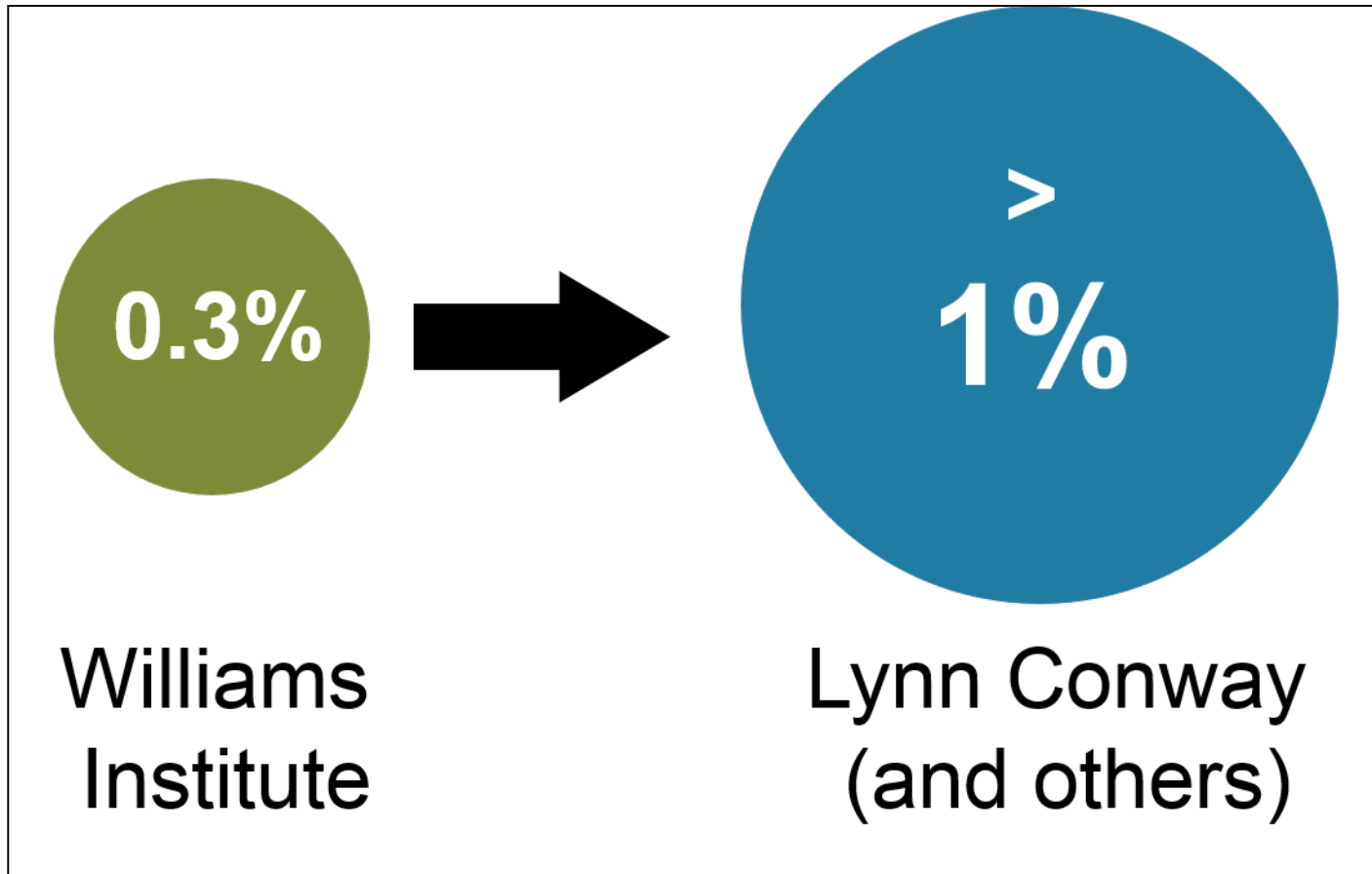


**What % of population is transgender?**

- A. 0.5%
- B. 1.7%
- C. 3.0%

# Answer:

# It Depends!



# How many people are trans?

US population = 318,857,056



# Who are we talking about?





# Goal: More Expansive View

Defining terms just gives us more labels to assign to people, rather than truly understanding





# Who are we talking about?

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- Gender non-conforming
- People who transition
- People who are questioning
- People who do not fit into the binary



# Who else?

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- Gender-conforming people of trans history
- Multiply gendered people
- SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies)
- +++ and many others

# Clarity: Trans-feminine

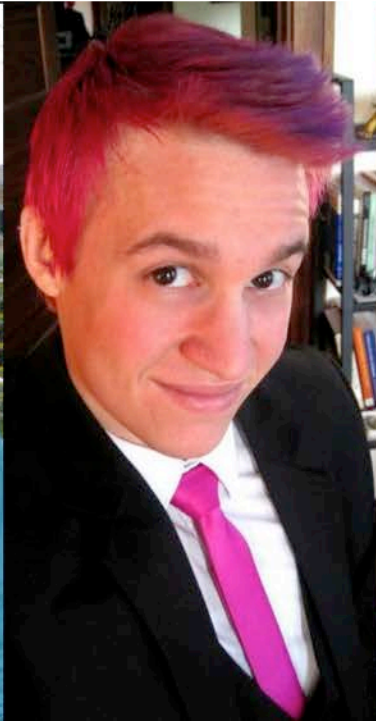


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PHOTOGRAPHER: MIA NAKANO

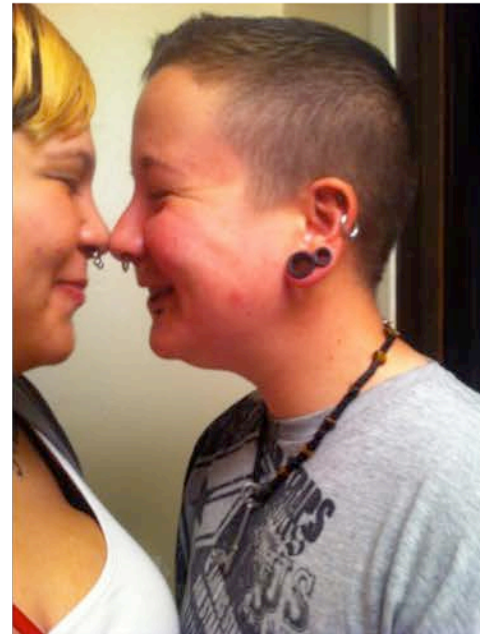
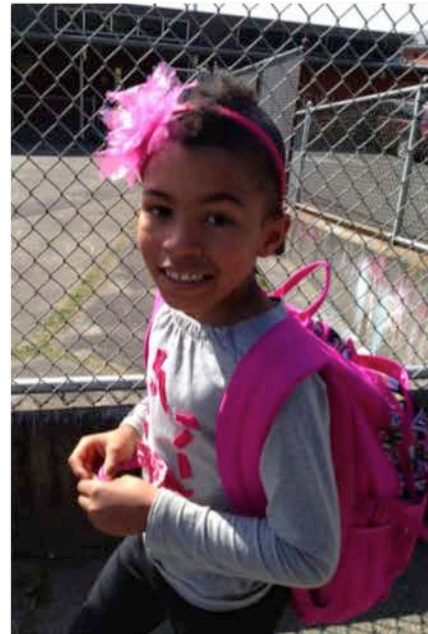
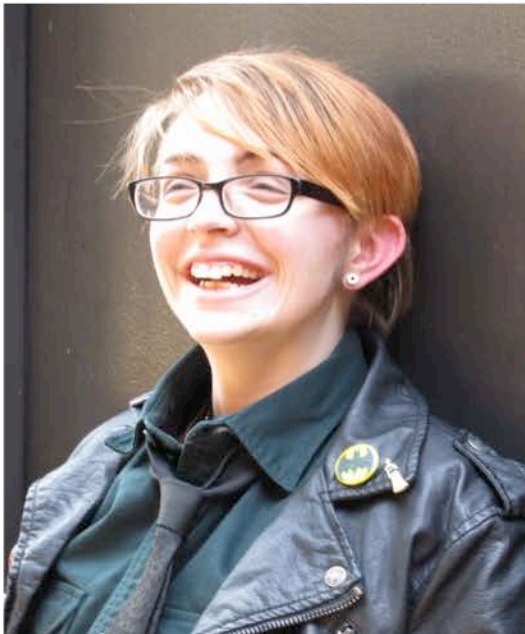




# Clarity: Trans-masculine



# Clarity: Non-binary or agender





# Terms Paradox: Definition

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□ **Terms are CRUCIAL**

**AND...**

□ **Terms are MEANINGLESS**

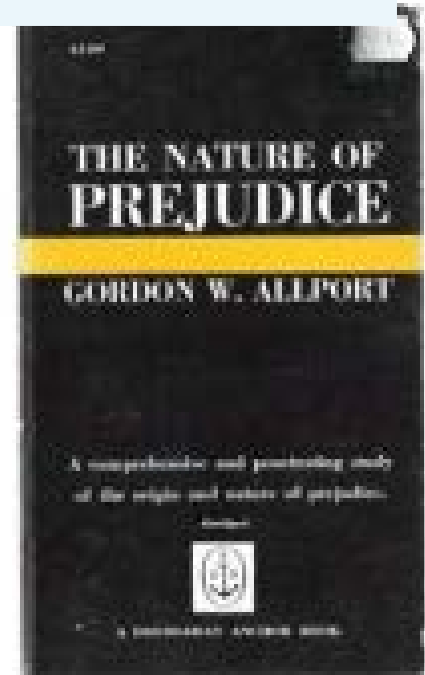
▣ Finding out what terms the person uses and then using their language is a primary way of conveying respect and openness.

▣ Terms tell you none of what you need to know to provide appropriate services.

# Master Status Thinking

When beliefs about gender get in the way...

- Master status and the labels of primary potency refer to the tendency of observers to believe that one label or demographic category is “more significant than any other aspect of [the observed person’s] background, behavior, or performance.”



1954 - G. Allport

1940s - Everett Hughes



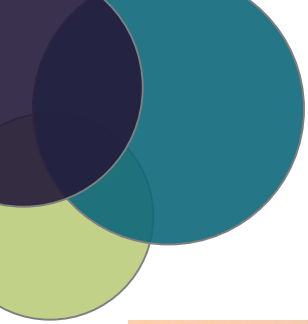
# Master Status in Action

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When providers can't see past the T

- When a provider makes gender the primary issue vs. sexual assault or the issues a client prioritizes
  - ▣ Curiosity (trans history and experiences)
  - ▣ Types of questions (focus on transness)
  - ▣ Invasive questions (inappropriate)
  - ▣ Redirecting conversation (back to transness)
  - ▣ Causality / correlations (possibly false or true)



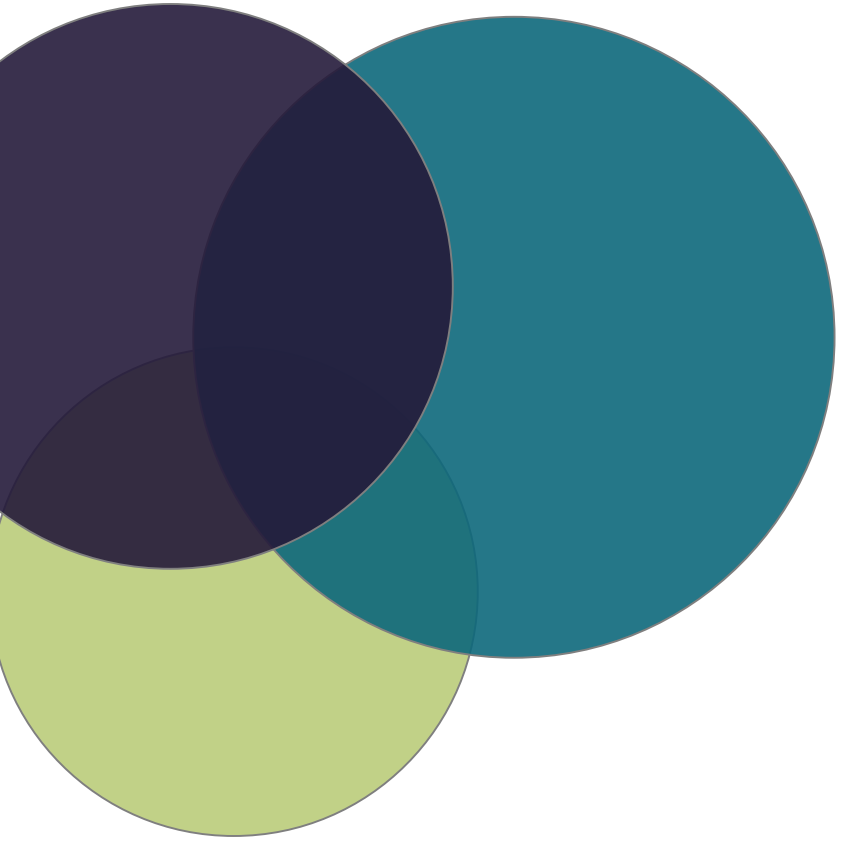


# Nicole's Story

# Have you work with a client who is...

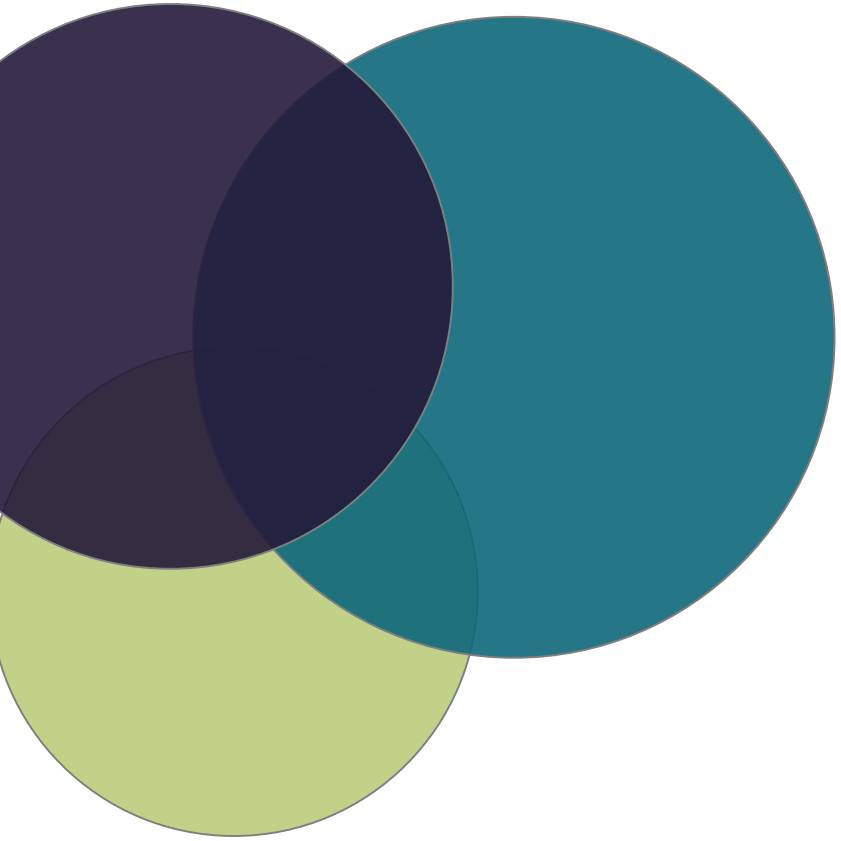
- Trans
- Trans + disabled
- Trans + survivor
- Trans + disabled +  
survivor

POLL



# Intersections





# Survivor Story

## 1

# Cecilia Chung (audio)



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PHOTOGRAPHER: MIA NAKANO

# Cecilia

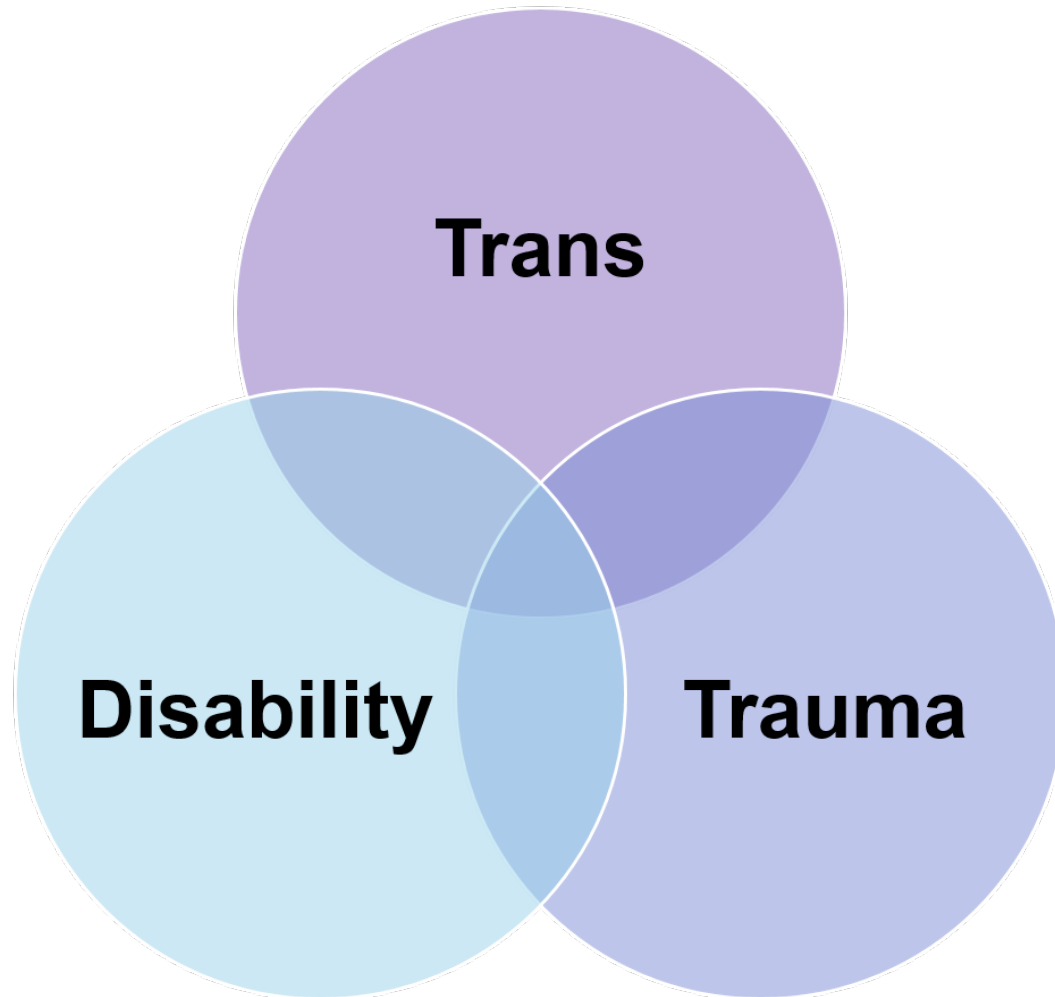
- Healing can take a lifetime.
- How can we witness and validate?





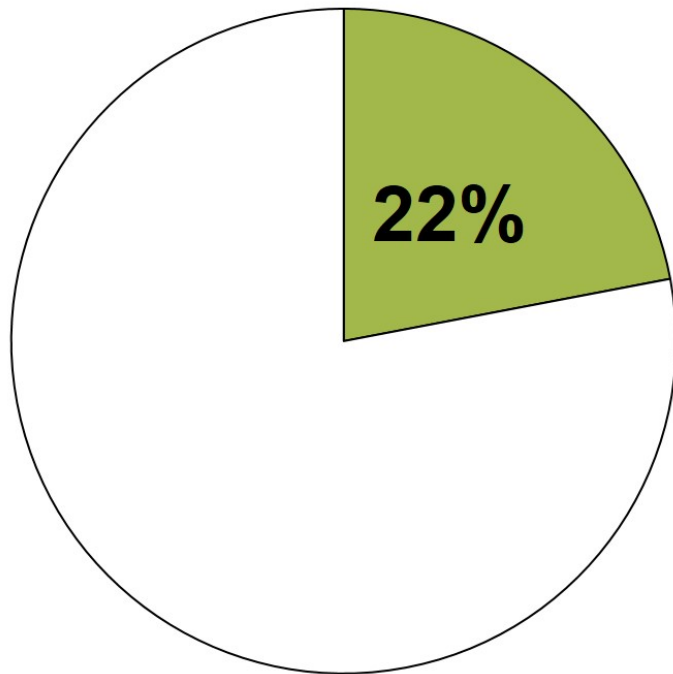
# Intersections

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**What's  
the  
same?**

# Compare: Restrooms

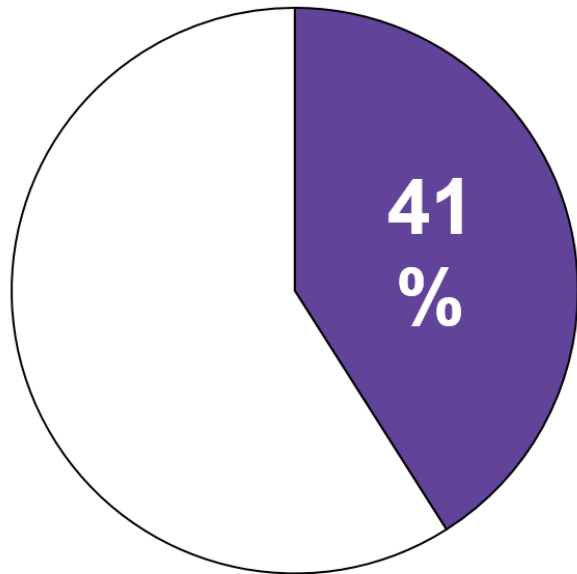


■ Trans people denied restroom

- How many people living with physical (or other) disabilities cannot access restrooms?

*NTDS, 2011 (n=6450)*

# Compare: Inappropriate Questions



■ Trans: Asked Inappropriate Questions

- How many people living with disabilities have been asked inappropriate or invasive questions?

*NTDS, 2011 (n=6450)*



# Compare: “Visibility”

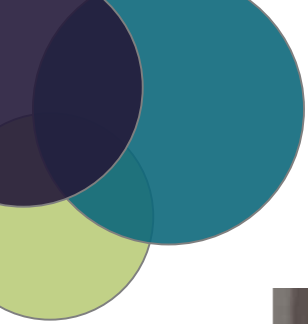
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- When someone is "visibly" trans, their rate of violence is 2-8x higher
- For people living with disabilities that are visible to others, how much higher are rates of violence and vulnerability?

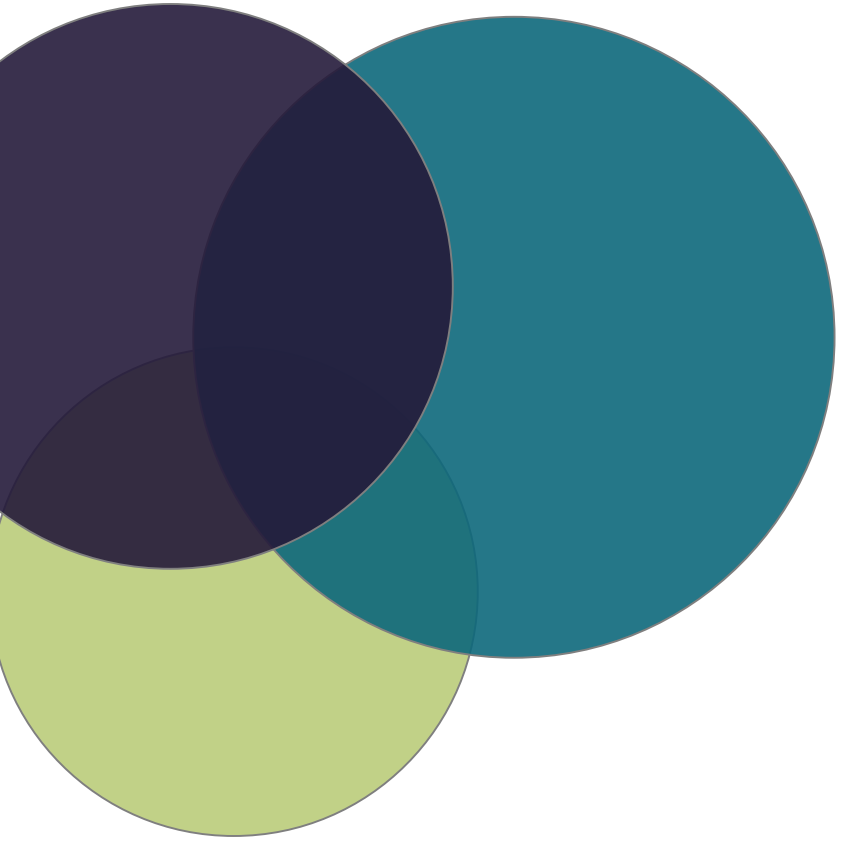


**Question!**  
**What do**  
**you**  
**think?**

- What else do you think is similar between people who are trans and people who are disabled?



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# Data



# Data Sources

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- Some data is supported by multiple sources
- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) -- Injustice at Every Turn – 2011
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study – 2011
- FORGE – 2004, 2007, 2011 surveys

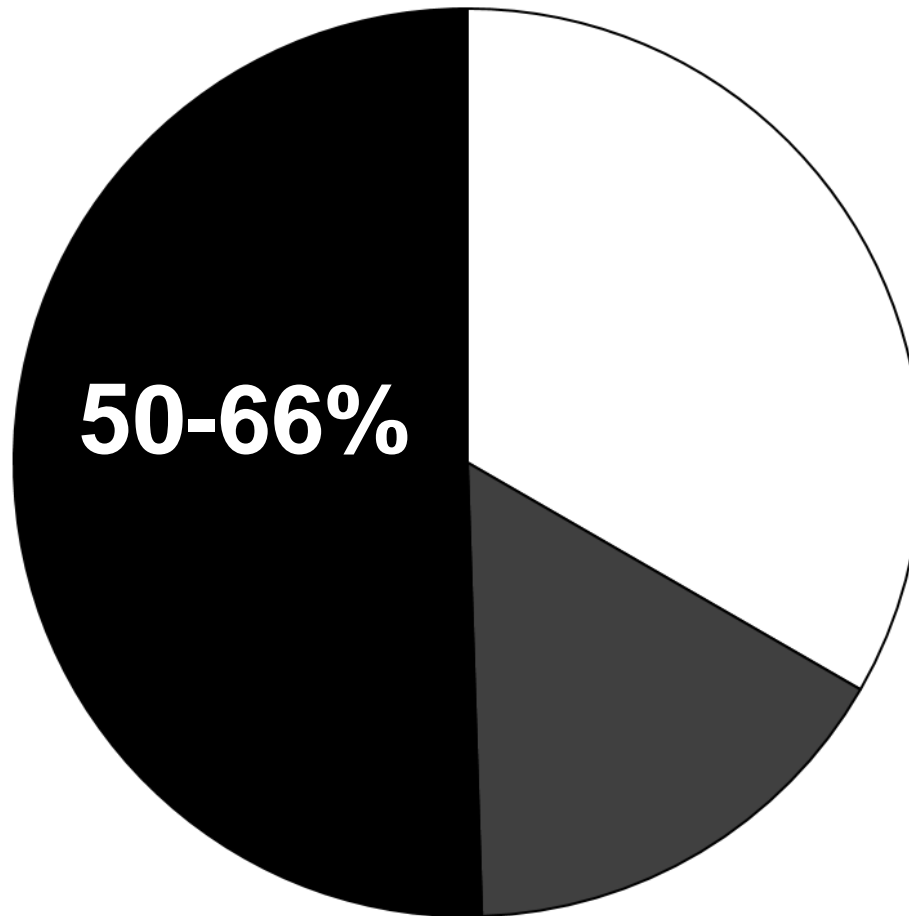
*“Transgender and gender non-conforming people face injustice at every turn: in childhood homes, in school systems that promise to shelter and educate, in harsh and exclusionary workplaces, at the grocery store, the hotel front desk, in doctors’ offices and emergency rooms, before judges and at the hands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

~NTDS

# Trans Rates of Violence

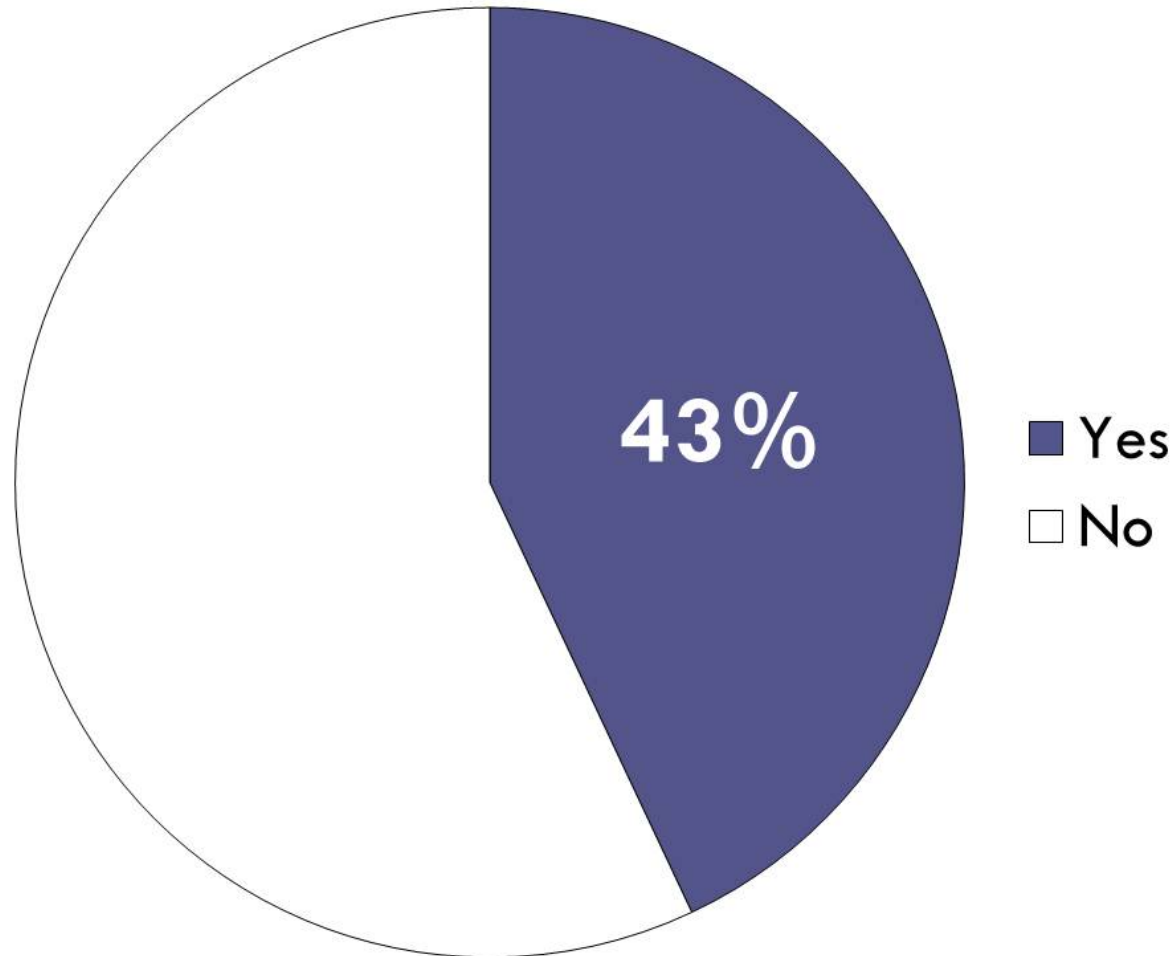
# Sexual Violence

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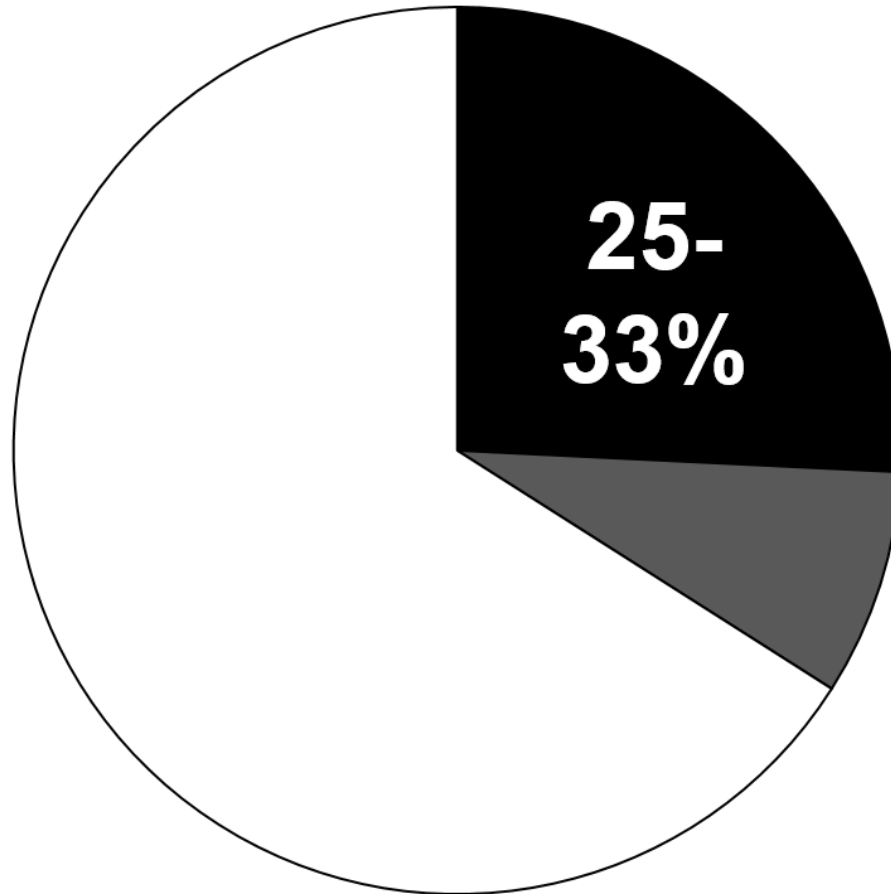


# Was gender a contributing factor?

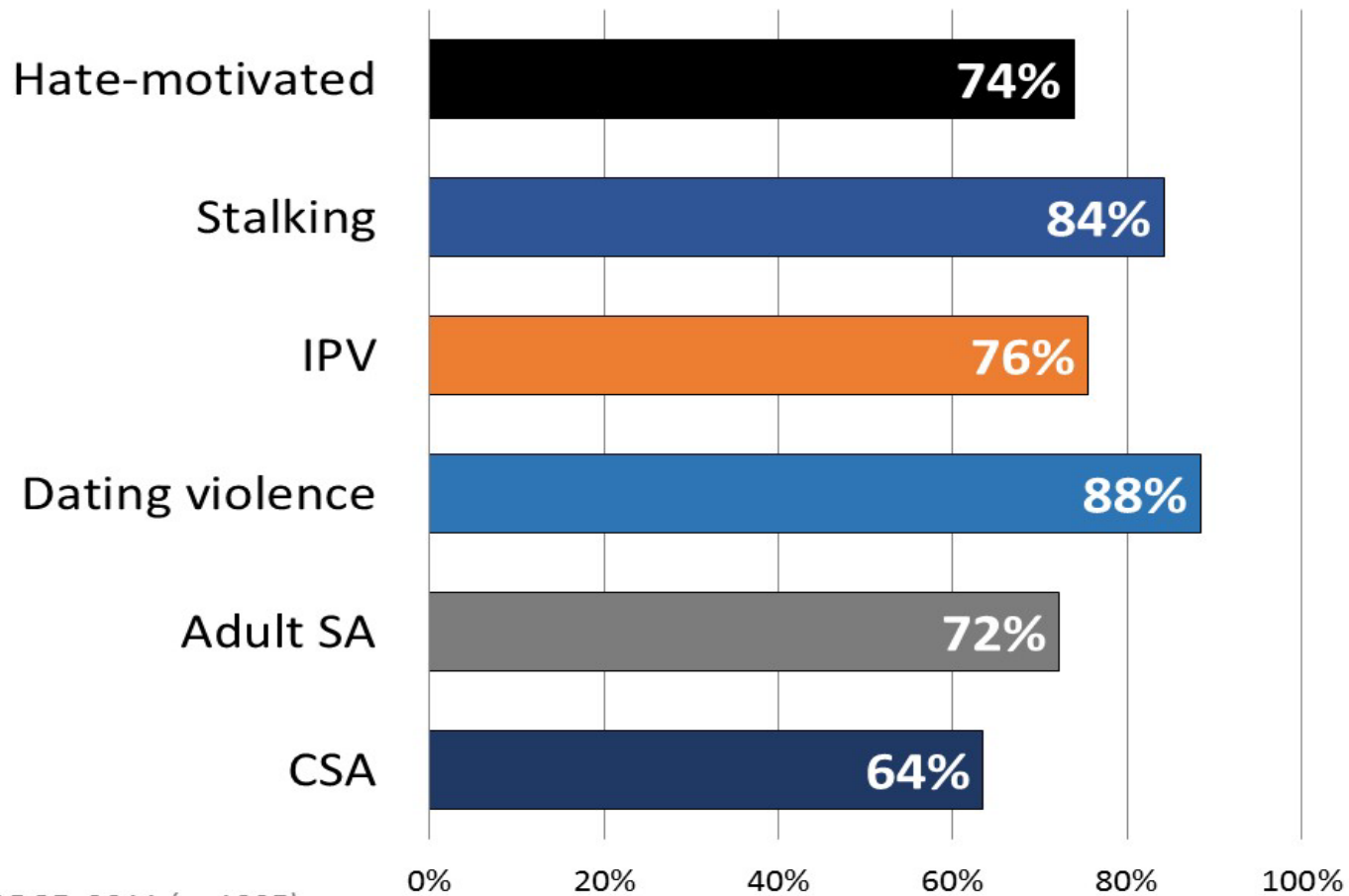


# Domestic Violence

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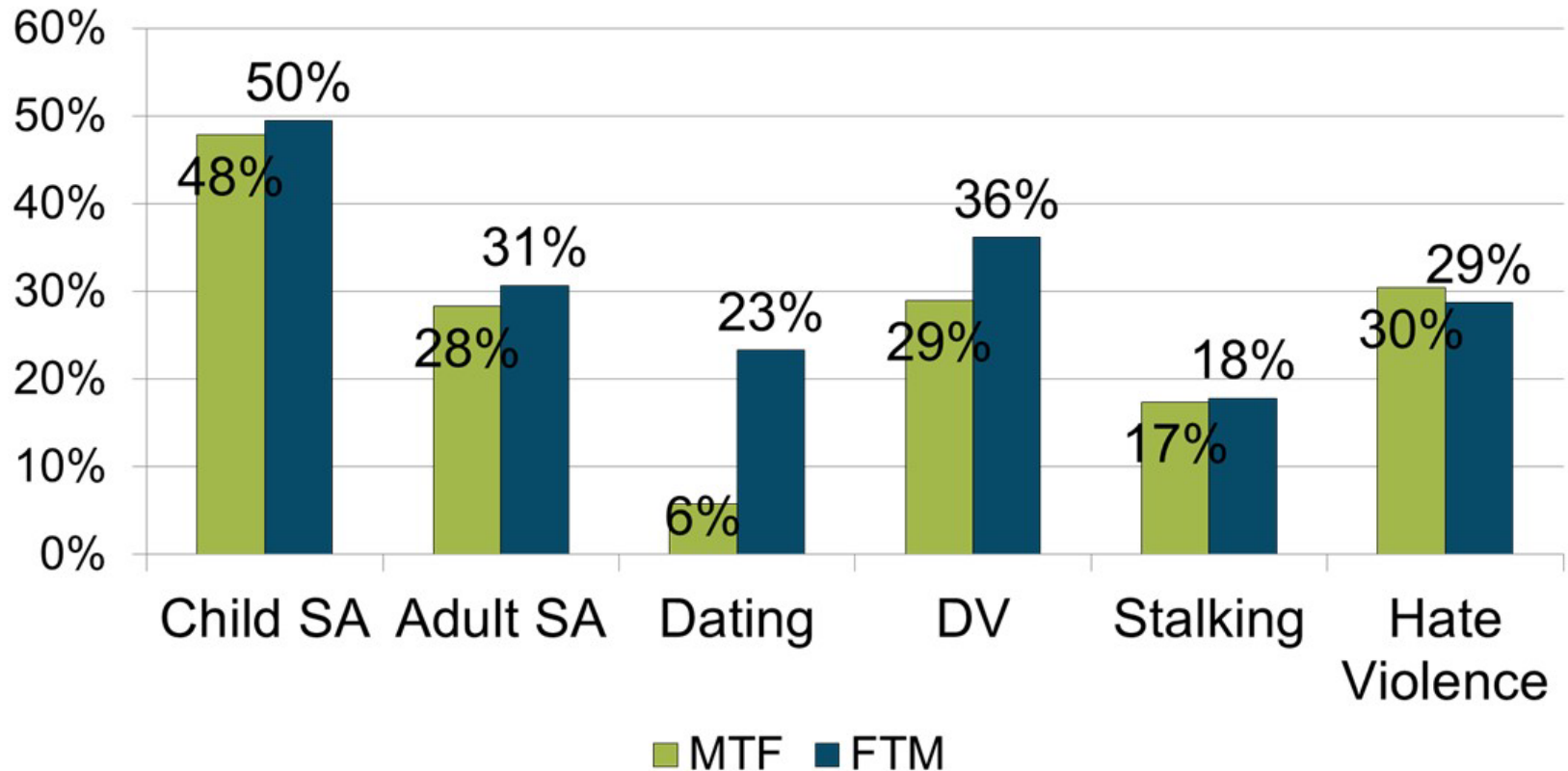


# Polyvictimization



FORGE, 2011 (n=1005)

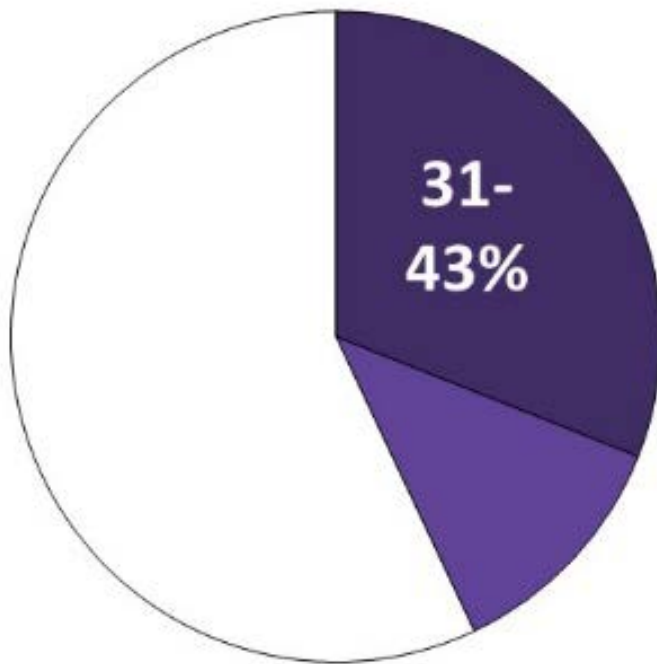
# Rates of Violence by Gender Vector



FORGE, 2011 (n=1005)

# Trans and Disability

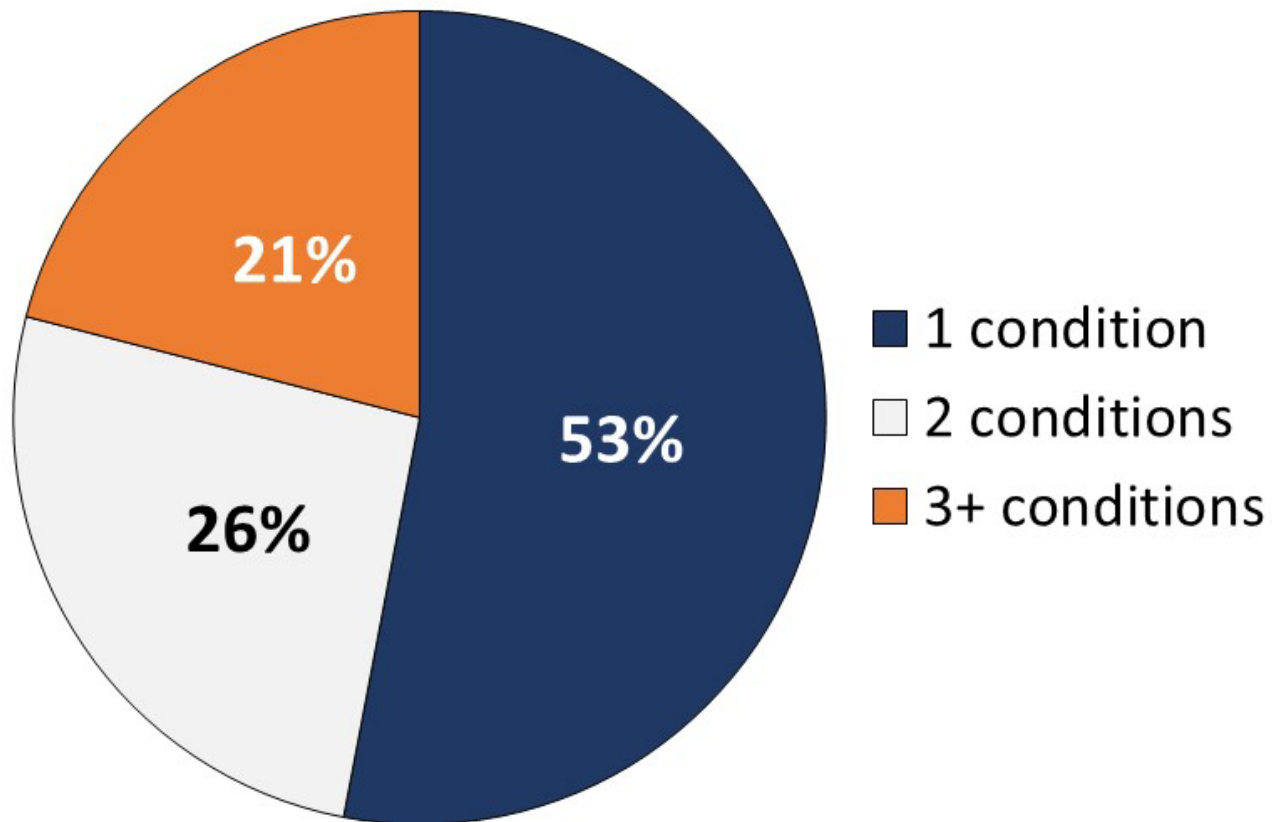
# % trans and disabled?



- General population:
  - ~20%

*Multiple studies*

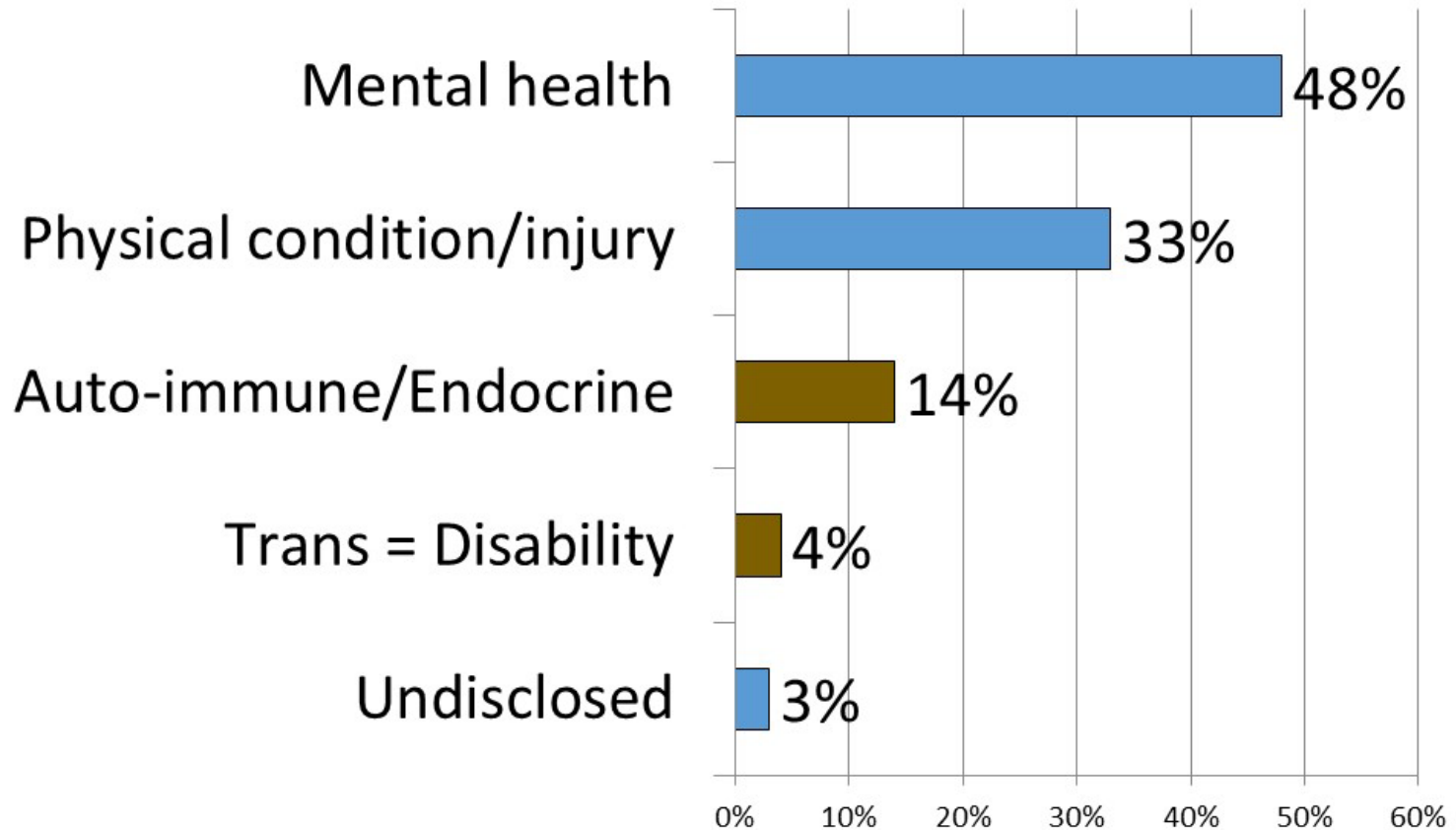
# Multiple disabilities



FORGE, 2004 (n=265)



# Type of Disability



FORGE, 2004 (n=265)

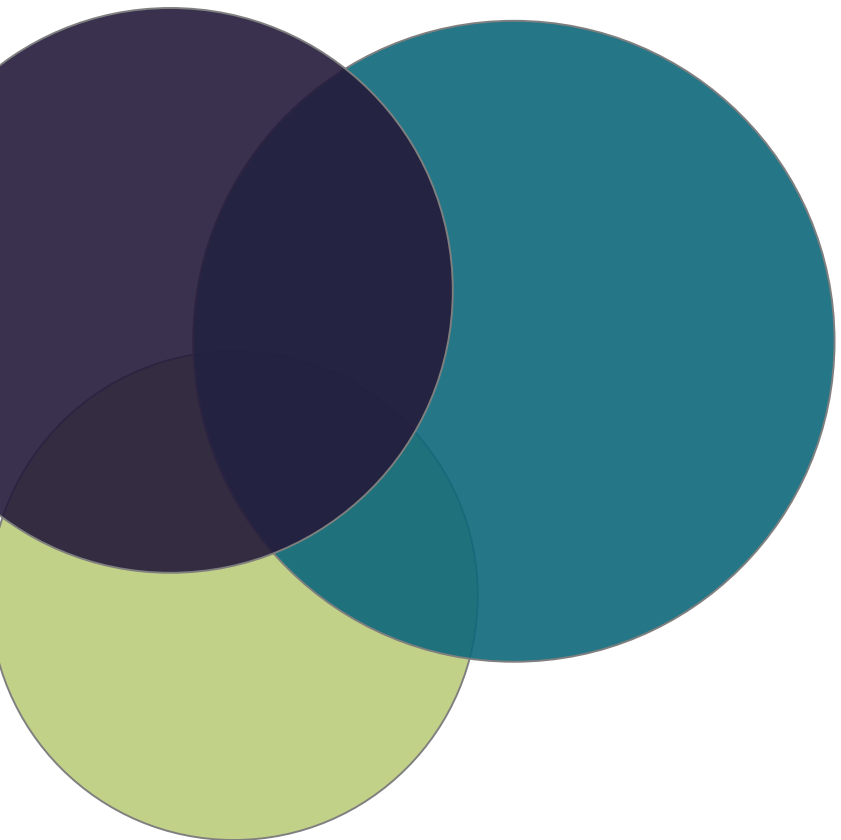


# MH Care Against Will

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9%

*FORGE, 2004 (n=265)*



# Long-Term Physical and Mental Health Implications

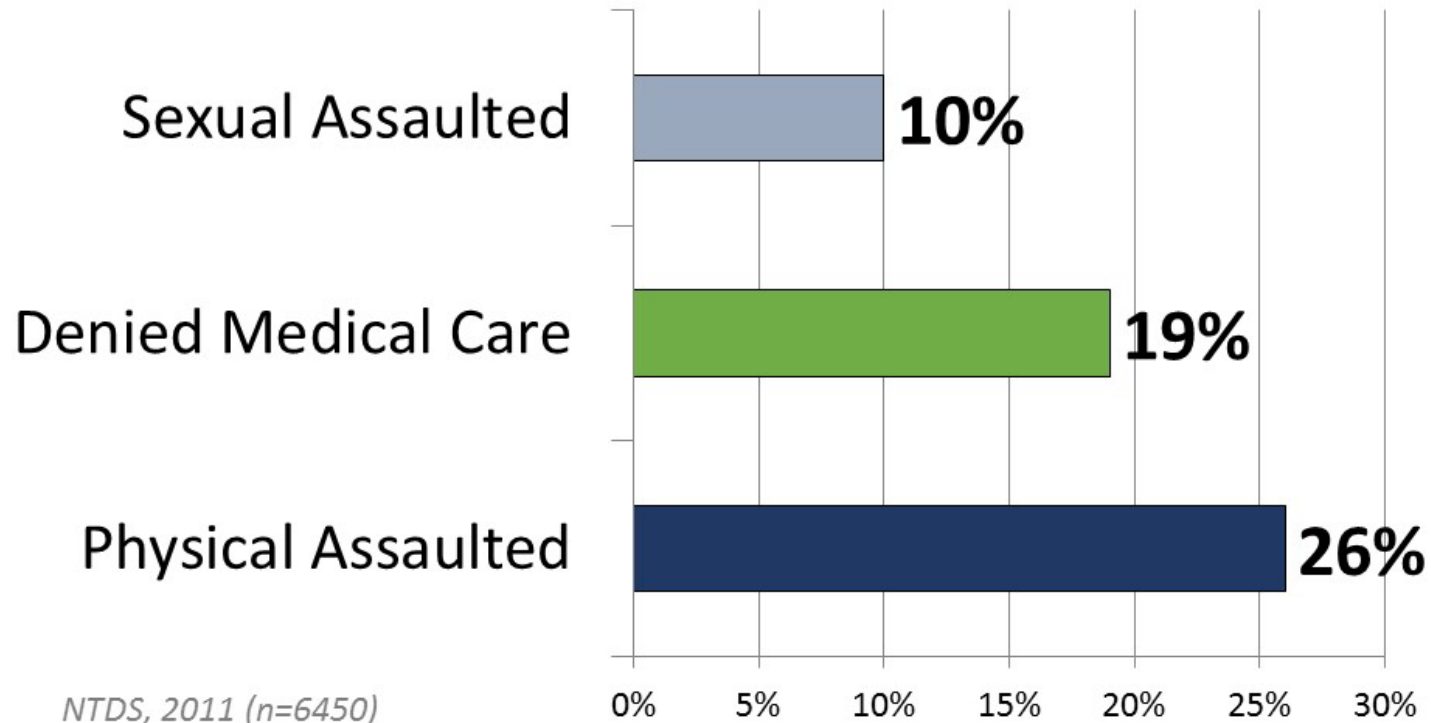
# Lack of health care



- **19 – 64%** do not have insurance

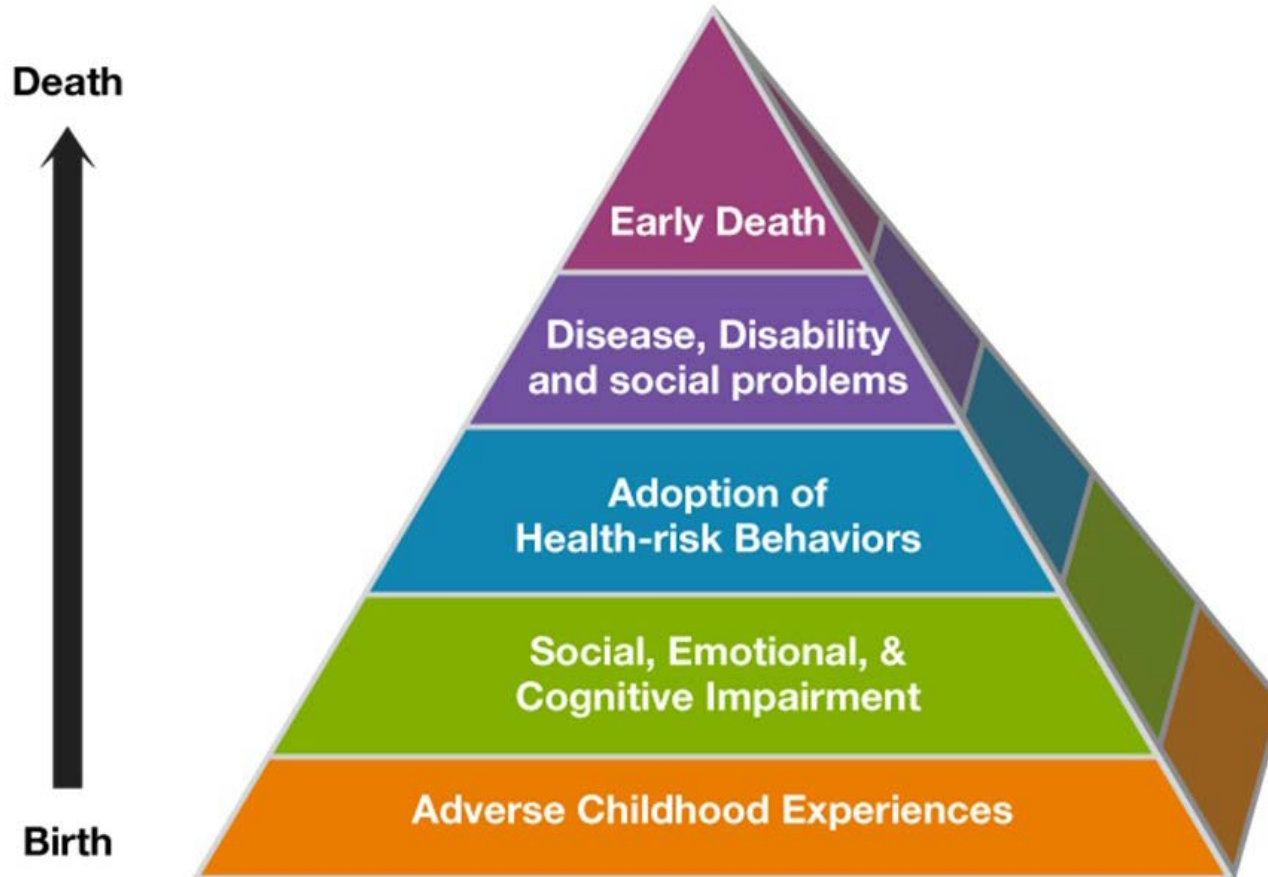
*NTDS, 2011 (n=6450); & Health People 2020*

# Abuse in medical settings



NTDS, 2011 (n=6450)

# ACE Study ([www.cdc.gov/ace](http://www.cdc.gov/ace))



CDC, 2011 (n=17,337)



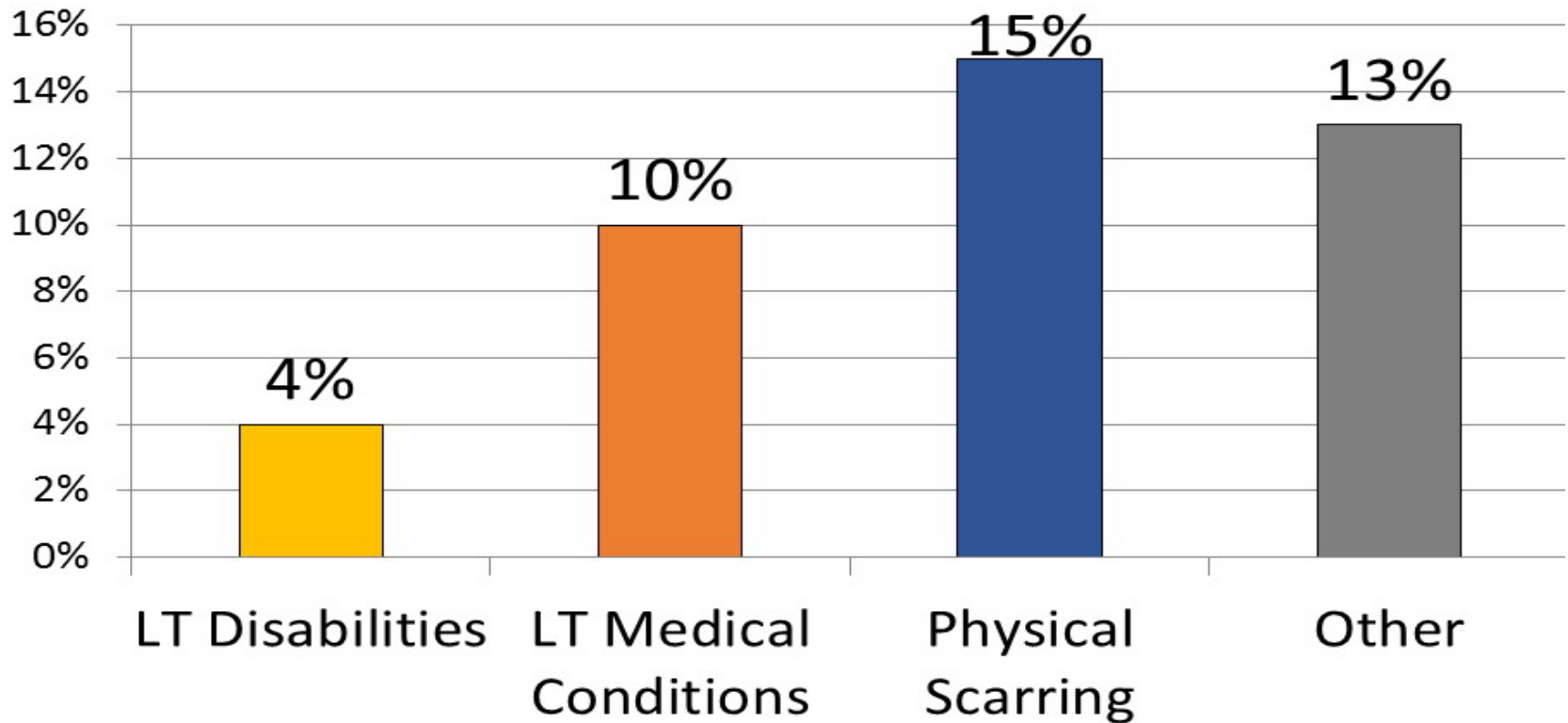
# Childhood trauma = ↑ Health Risks

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- ▣ Alcohol and drug abuse
  - ▣ Smoking
  - ▣ Depression
  - ▣ Suicide attempts
  
  - ▣ Heart disease
  - ▣ COPD
  - ▣ Liver disease
  - ▣ Health-related quality of life
- ▣ Risk for intimate partner violence
  - ▣ Multiple sexual partners
  - ▣ Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
  - ▣ Early initiation of sexual activity
  - ▣ Early or unintended pregnancies
  - ▣ Fetal death

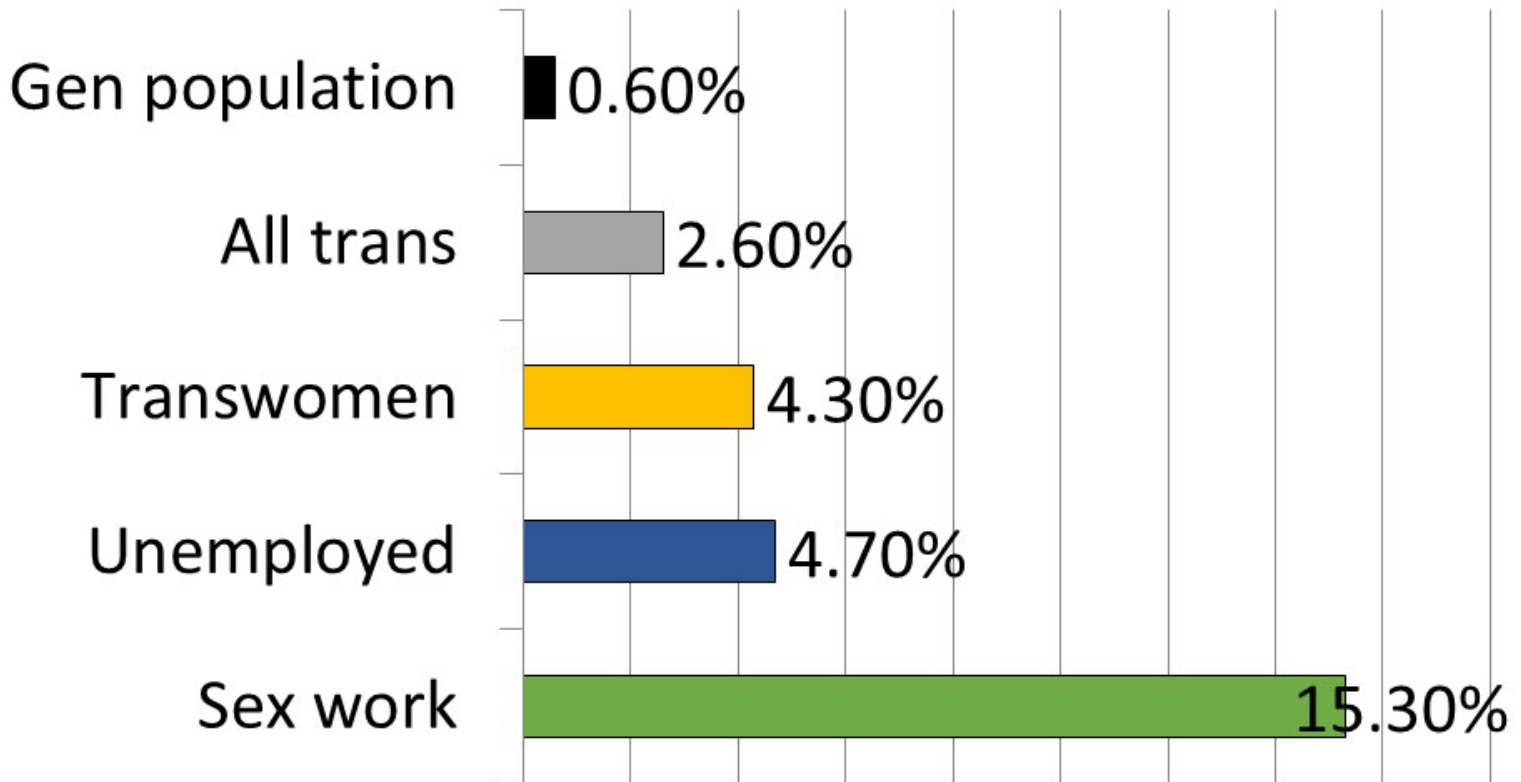


# Long Term Implications of Violence



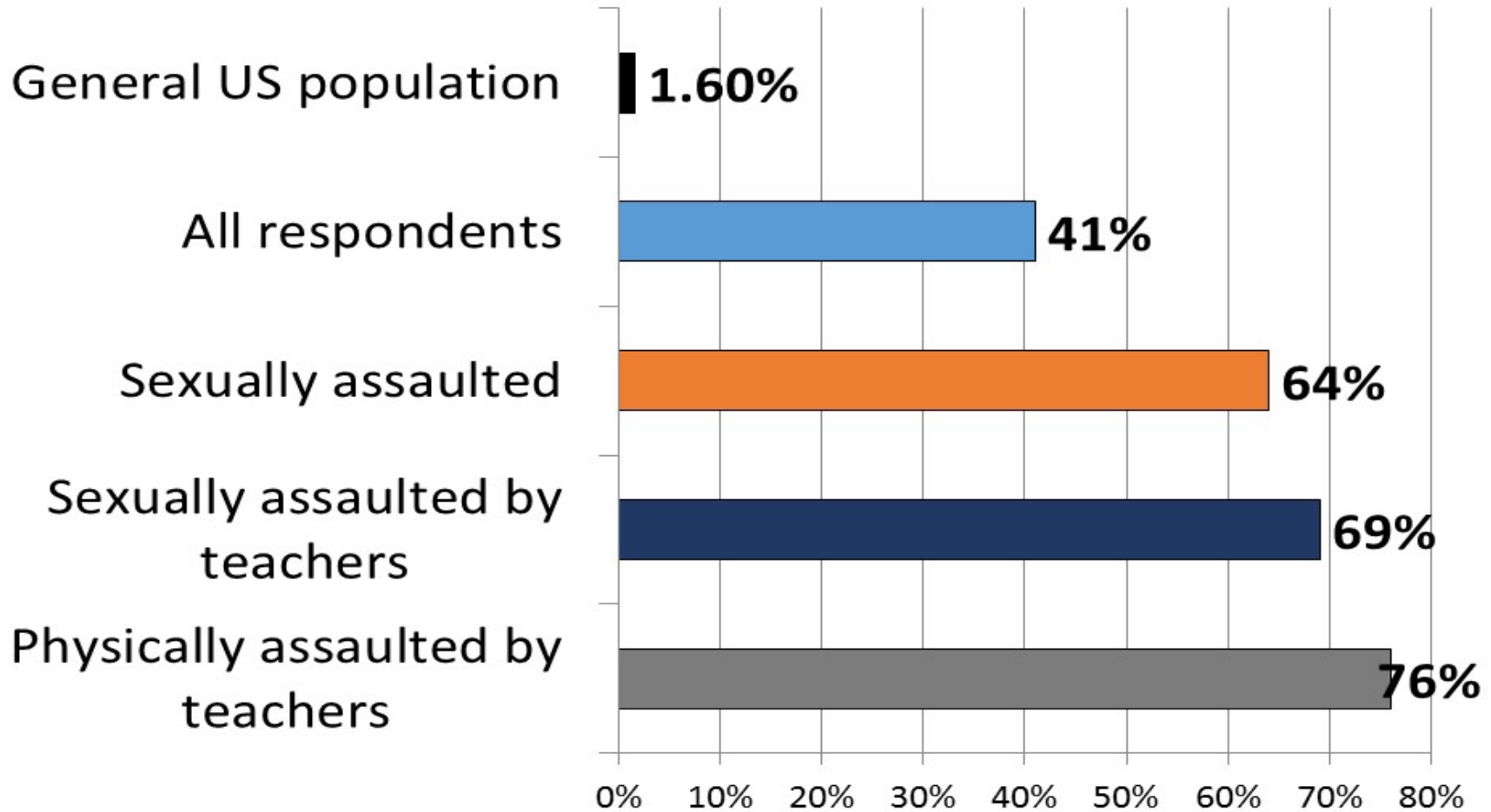
FORGE, 2004 (n=265)

# HIV Rates

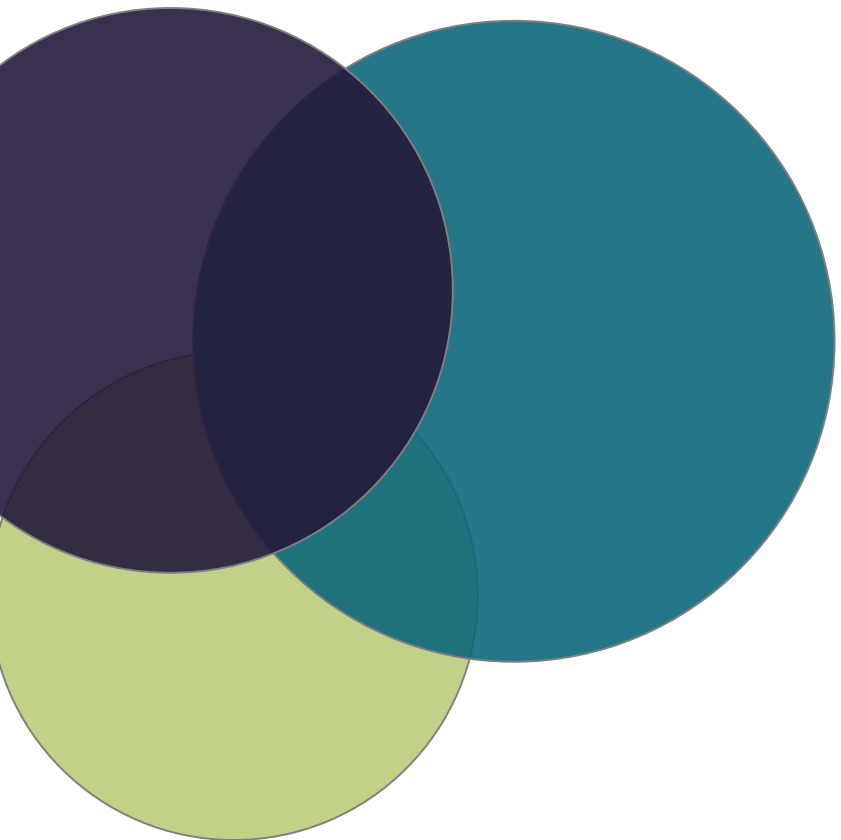


*NTDS, 2011 (n=6450)*

# Suicide Attempts



*NTDS, 2011 (n=6450)*



# Survivor Story 2

<http://forge-forward.org/event/disability-trans-survivors/>



**Joe**

Photo by Rick Motzkus



**michael**



# Joe's take home messages

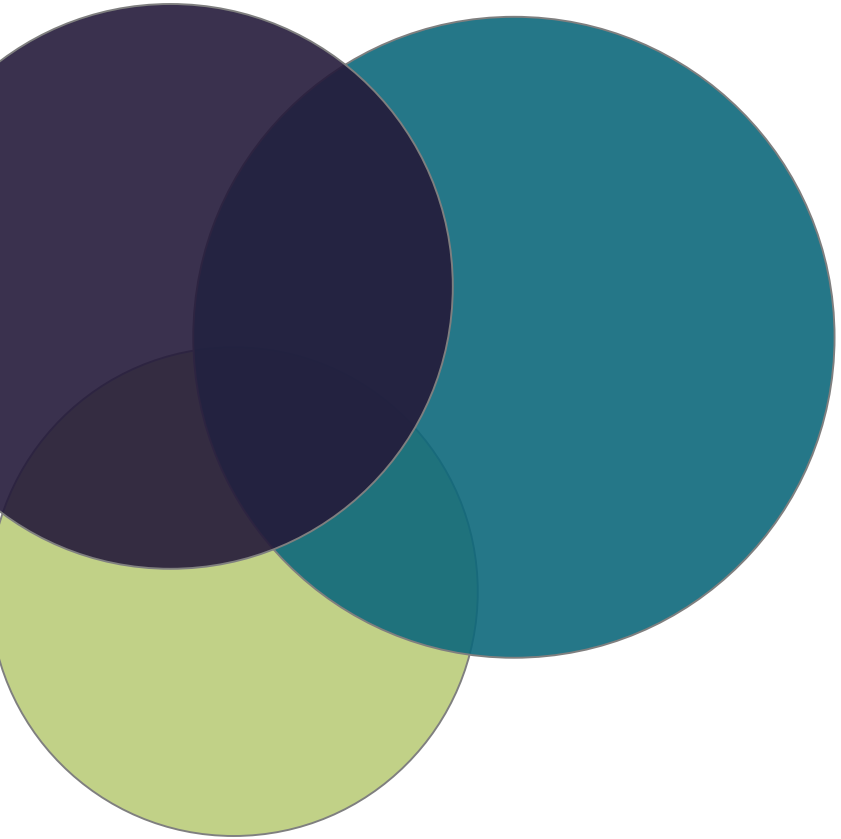
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1. Focus on **Strengths** to help them find their empowerment
2. Help clients release **shame**
3. Help clients **connect** in the world (move away from victim model)







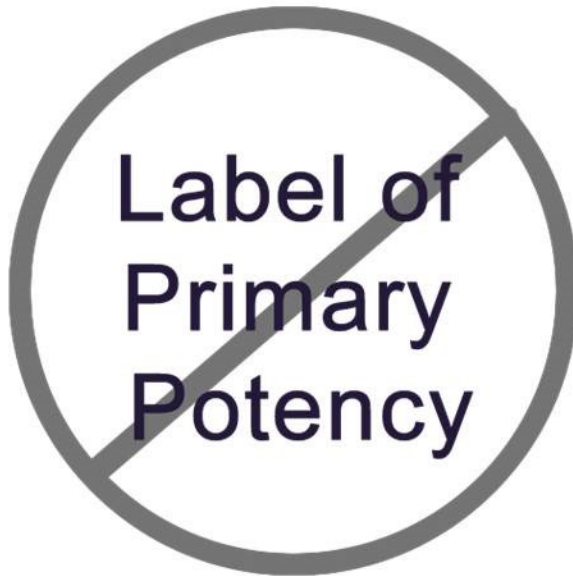


# Reminders and Resources



# Master Status

Yes to...





# Terms Paradox

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Terms are  
CRUCIAL

AND...

Terms are  
MEANINGLESS

# Name and pronouns

- Ask
- Listen
- Use



# Bathrooms



# Curiosity (vs. client-centered)

- Curious mind = good
- Curious mouth = not so good
  
- Ask appropriate and relevant questions only







# Staying focused

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## Yes

- Listen**
- Believe**
- Be present**

## No

- Excuses**
- Explanations**
- Making it more complicated**

# T/LGBT materials

It's never  
too late



to heal from  
abuse or assault.

**FORGE**  
TRANSGENDER SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE PROJECT



the  
ESPAVO  
project

A photographic and narrative project for trans survivors

**FORGE**

# Know the resources available

TRANSGENER SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

## A Self Help Guide to Healing and Understanding

Michael Munson  
Executive Director  
Loree Cook-Daniels  
Policy and Program Director

2015


[forge-forward.org/sv-selfhelp-guide](http://forge-forward.org/sv-selfhelp-guide)

Trans? Non-binary? Loved one?

## Survivor?

New trans-specific resources to help...

**Empower. Heal. Connect.**



## Let's Talk About It!

A Transgender Survivor's Guide to Accessing Therapy

[forge-forward.org/therapy-guide](http://forge-forward.org/therapy-guide)

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-KS-AX-0006 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*



# Keep learning

Helping therapists and victim service providers better serve transgender and gender non-conforming survivors



## FREE WEBINARS

• **ONLINE ARCHIVE** •  
available @ [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org)

- . Transgender sexual violence
- . Safety planning
- . Power and control tactics specific to trans people
- . Policies improving trans peoples' lives
- . Forensic exams
- . Stalking
- . Strategies for improving trans-police relations
- . The intersections of sex work and violence
- . Anti-trans violence in prison
- . VAWA non-discrimination conditions
- . Sex segregated services
- . Transgender Day of Remembrance
- . Community Cares: mobilizing after a high profile crime
- . Creating a trans-welcoming environment
- . Transgender, disability & trauma
- . Working with rural trans survivors
- . Trans-specific barriers to accessing health care
- . Transgender sexuality and trauma
- . Trauma and transgender older adults
- . Therapists working with transgender survivors

Sign up or view archive@  
[www.forge-forward.org/webinars](http://www.forge-forward.org/webinars) | [AskFORGE@forge-forward.org](mailto:AskFORGE@forge-forward.org)

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

• **HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU** •  
and your transgender clients

- . One-on-one technical assistance
- . Training webinars – live and archived on-demand
- . Conference workshops
- . Customized trainings
- . Transgender cultural competency materials and tools
- . Fact sheets and other printable resources
- . Survivor education publications
- . Therapist and support group referrals for survivors
- . Direct support services for survivors
- . Transgender policy updates

## STAY CONNECTED!



FORGE.trans



@FORGEforward



@FORGE\_forward

OVER 50  
HOURS OF  
FREE VIDEO  
TRAINING



[www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org)



# Strength, Shame, Connection

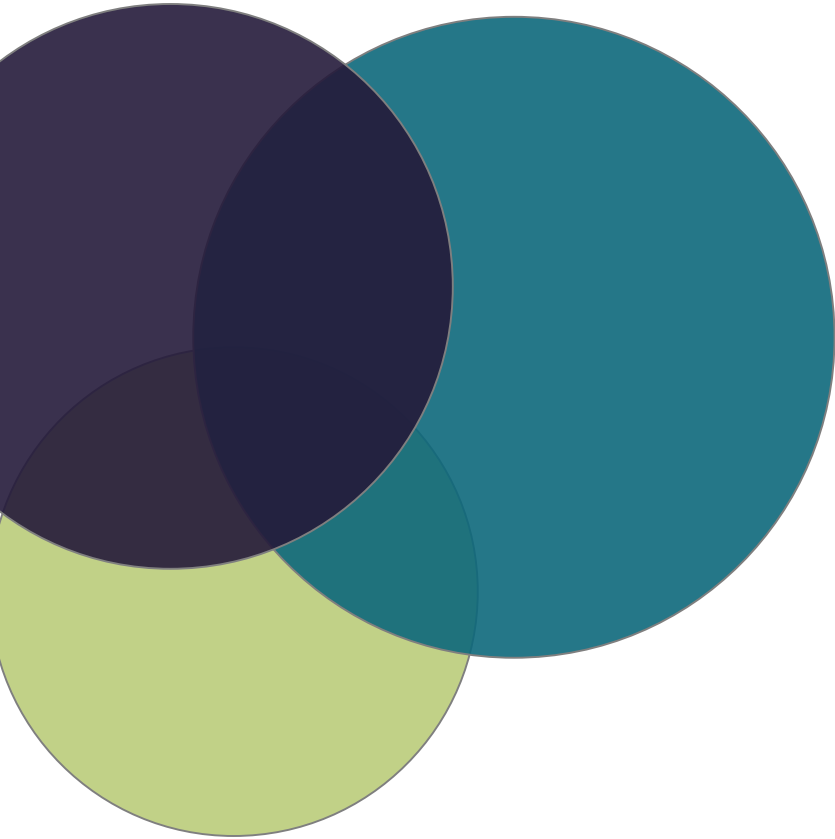
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1. Focus on **Strengths & Empowerment**
2. Help clients release **Shame**
3. Help clients **connect** in the world – and make meaning in their life

“Together we help each other heal.”

Carmen, Cori and Jenn





# Thank you! and Questions

*Michael Munson*

*mmunson@forge-  
forward.org*



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PHOTOGRAPHER: MIA NAKANO

