Trans* Identity and Texas Public Healthcare Services

Presented by —
Nell Gaither, President
Trans Pride Initiative
What We Will Cover

- Basic trans* terminology
- Trans* folks by the numbers (demographics):
  - with some projections possibly reflecting missing data
- Data collection practices
- How we can do better (best practices)
What is "cisgender"?

- Birth certificate as social contract.
  - The social contract establishes a gender that we are expected to adhere to the rest of our lives.
- About 95 to 99 percent of all people accept that gender in the social contract established at birth.
- In general, those who accept the assigned gender are cisgender.
Some Basic Trans* Terminology

What is "transgender"?

- In general, those who don't accept the social contract assigned at birth are transgender.
- There are exceptions!
  - One example: some masculine-identified women may not accept the social contract defining them as female, but may not identify as transgender either.
Is "transgender" different from "transsexual"?

- Yes and no—usage varies, and some consider these the same.
- "Transgender" is often viewed as an umbrella term covering broad gender diversity.
- "Transsexual" is often more narrow, and may imply adherence to a "norm" of some type.
- Usage sometimes controversial.
Some Basic Trans* Terminology

What about "trans" and "trans*"?

- Shorter, fits into non-binary "male/female/trans."
- Avoids transgender/transsexual conflict.
- A very broad term that often includes gender nonconforming persons or identities.
- "Trans*" emphasizes broad coverage (written only).
Some Basic Trans* Demographics

How many of us are out there??

- We don't know!

- And, it depends on how you define "trans."
Some Basic Trans* Demographics

Williams Institute, 2011, *How Many People are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender?*

- Meta-study analysis: 0.3% "transgender."
- Same study stated that about 3.5% are LGB.
- Both figures could be conservative.

Source:
Some Basic Trans* Demographics

Transgender Law Center, 2011 FAQ:
• states about 2 to 5% are trans.

National Center for Transgender Equality:
• states about 0.25 to 1% are "transsexual"—which they seem to define one who takes any kind of "transition" steps.

Some Basic Trans* Demographics

Why do we need trans* demographics?

- To better understand the trans* community so we can enhance and improve services.
- Because current practice tends to force non-binary persons into binary categories that don't accurately reflect actual lived experience.

Trans* Folks by the Numbers

How many trans* persons live in Texas?
The range shown in this graph is based on percentages of the 2010 census for each Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA).

- The lower bound estimate is 0.3% of the census total.
- The upper bound estimate is 1% of the census total.

Interactive visualization: http://tpride.org/presentations/2014_tNumbers/tableau.php#transPop
Trans* Folks by the Numbers

Can we project how many may be HIV+?

Ranges based on estimates from the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR).

- On the right: NCTE's finding that about 2.64% of trans persons self-reported HIV+.
- On the left: amfAR's estimate that 21.6% of transwomen are HIV+.

Interactive visualization: [http://tpride.org/presentations/2014_tNumbers/tableau.php#estTransPos](http://tpride.org/presentations/2014_tNumbers/tableau.php#estTransPos)
Trans* Folks by the Numbers

Trans persons recorded in ARIES

The number of trans* persons in ARIES. These counts reflect the number of unique clients who received services from 2010 through April 15, 2014, provided courtesy the Texas Department of State Health Services. Out of about 56,000 persons in ARIES, 336 (0.6%) are identified as trans*.

Interactive visualization: http://tpride.org/presentations/2014_tNumbers/tableau.php#transInAries
Trans* Folks by the Numbers

Projections of missing/misidentified trans* identities.

- Left bar: trans* persons in ARIES - (% total census population in ARIES · lowest trans* population estimate).
- Center bar: trans* persons in ARIES - (upper bound of the NTDS HIV+ trans population · % of PLWHA counted in ARIES).
- Right bar: same as the center bar, but uses the amfAR estimate that 21.6% of all transwomen are HIV+.

Interactive visualization: http://tpride.org/presentations/2014_tNumbers/tableau.php#overUnder
Data Collection

As part of this effort, we requested samples of data collection forms from around the state.

- Not a very high response, but not a lot of time to follow up.
- Probably a lot of variation in how gender is recorded.
- One Ryan White Administrative Agency (Houston) noted specific training around accurate recording of gender identity.
### Data Collection

**Defining gender in ARIES (AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System).**

#### 3.4.7 GenderID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>Client’s current gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This is the variable that is used for the encrypted unique client identifier (eUCI).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed Values</td>
<td>GenderID: 1 = Male, 2 = Female, 3 = Transgender, 4 = Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.4.8 TransgenderID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>Client’s current transgender status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed Values</td>
<td>1 = Male to Female, 2 = Female to Male, 3 = Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Collection

*Last Name: ______________________  *First Name: ______________________

*Middle Initial: ____  *Mother’s Maiden Name: ______________________

*Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ______

  MM  DD  YYYY

*Gender:  □ M  □ F  □ TMF  □ TFM  □ Other  □ Unknown
Data Collection

Gender: □ Male □ Female □ Transgender

Martial Status: □ Single □ Married □ Domestic Partner

Hispanic: □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PREFERRED NAME (IF APPLICABLE)</th>
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<tr>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>TRANSGENDER</th>
<th>SOCIAL SECURITY</th>
<th>BIRTH STATE/COUNTRY</th>
<th>DRIVER’S LICENSE #</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ Male</td>
<td>□ Female</td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
<td>□ No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intake Date</td>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>First Name</td>
<td>M.I.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother’s Maiden Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Social Security Number</th>
<th>At Current Residence Since</th>
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Current Address

# Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Data Collection

Last Name: ___________________________ First Name: _______________________ Middle Int: ________

Mother’s Maiden Name: ____________________________________________________________

AKA: ________________________________________ Gender: ___M ___F ___ /F to M Trans ___M to F Trans ___
Data Collection

Client First Name: __________________________________________

Client Last Name: __________________________________________

Client Mother’s Maiden Name: ________________________________

Client Date of Birth: _________________________________________

Client Sex: ______ Male  ______ Female
               ______ M – F Transsexual  ______ F – M Transsexual
               ______ Other  ______ Unknown
Data Collection

Changes are likely on the way!

- HHS is developing gender identity questions.
- For ARIES, the Ryan White Service Report (RSR) is looking toward aligning with HHS requirements.
- Soon ARIES will require recording:
  - current gender identity (currently required),
  - transgender status (currently required), and
  - gender assigned at birth (to be added).
How Can We Do Better?

Best Practices for Working with Trans Clients

- Asking about gender!
- Preferred name
- Pronouns
- Naming parts and activities
How Can We Do Better?

How to ask about gender as current identity:

• "What is your [current] gender identity?"
  • male, female, trans, agender, two spirit, genderqueer, ____________

• Would this cause confusion for any clients?
  • Specifically, what about non-trans clients?
  • What about for different cultures?
How Can We Do Better?

How to ask about trans* identity:

• "What gender were you assigned at birth?"
  • For most trans* persons, this is a non-threatening way to ask about trans* identity.

• Would this cause confusion for any clients?
  • Specifically, what about non-trans clients?
  • What about for different cultures?
How Can We Do Better?

A good explanation of these two questions

- Center of Excellence in Transgender Health's "Recommendations for Inclusive Data Collection of Trans People in HIV Prevention, Care & Services"
How Can We Do Better?

Added recommendation:

• Have you ever been diagnosed with an intersex condition?
  • Or, do you have an intersex condition?
• Would this cause confusion for any clients?
• Explain as a medical condition that they would know if they had been diagnosed.
Best Practices for Working with Trans Clients

- Asking about gender!
- Preferred name
- Pronouns
- Naming parts and activities

These efforts help show you are working to provide a safe space!
How Can We Do Better?

Discussion and suggestions?

• What have you found works with your trans clients?

• What would be difficult to implement and why?

Questions, comments, and other experience related to this topic?
Thank you for all you do!

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