

# HIV Prevention Education for Justice-Involved Transwomen

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# Disclosure

- Consultant: NYC Health + Hospitals

# Presentation Objectives

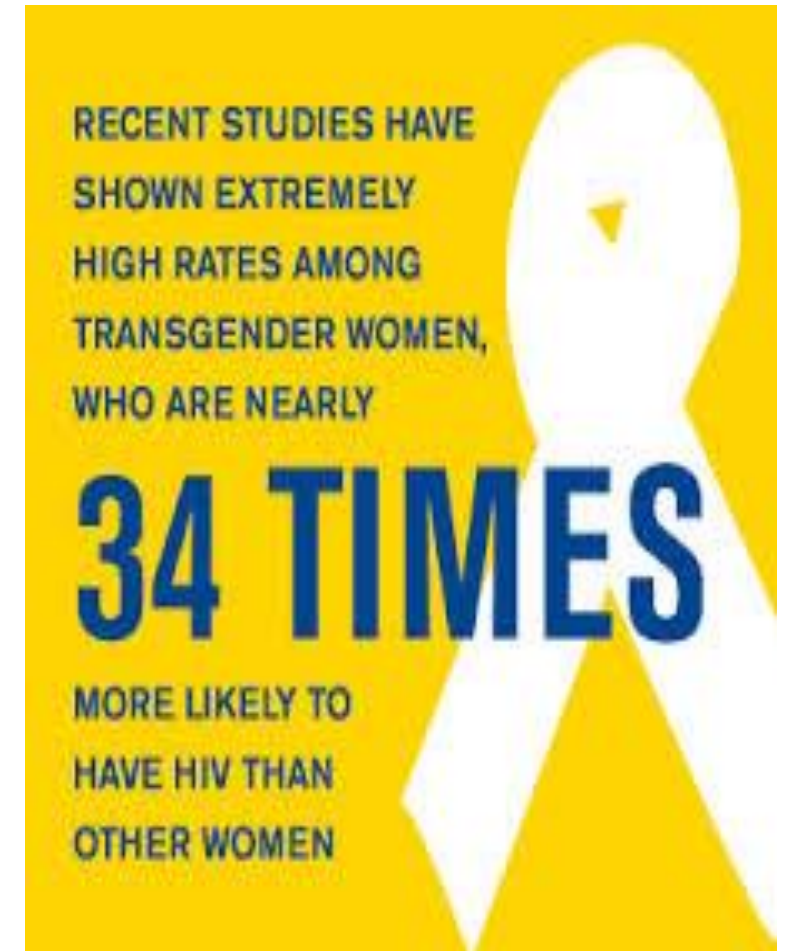
- By the end of this session, participants will:
  - Know measurement issues concerning justice-involved transgender population
  - Know which prevention program adaption considerations are necessary when working with transwomen in the correctional setting
  - Have an opportunity to discuss program design and implementation issues when working with transwomen in the correctional setting

# New York City Jail System



# Trans\* and HIV

- In NYC, from 2007-2011, there were 191 new diagnoses of HIV infection among trans\* people, 99% of which were among transwomen.
- The racial/ethnic disparities were large:
  - Approximately 90% of transwomen newly diagnosed with HIV infection were African Americans or Latinas
  - Over half of newly diagnosed transgender women were in their 20s
  - Among newly diagnosed people, 51% of transwomen had documentation in their medical records of substance use, commercial sex work, homelessness, incarceration, and/or sexual abuse as compared with 31% of other people who were not transgender.



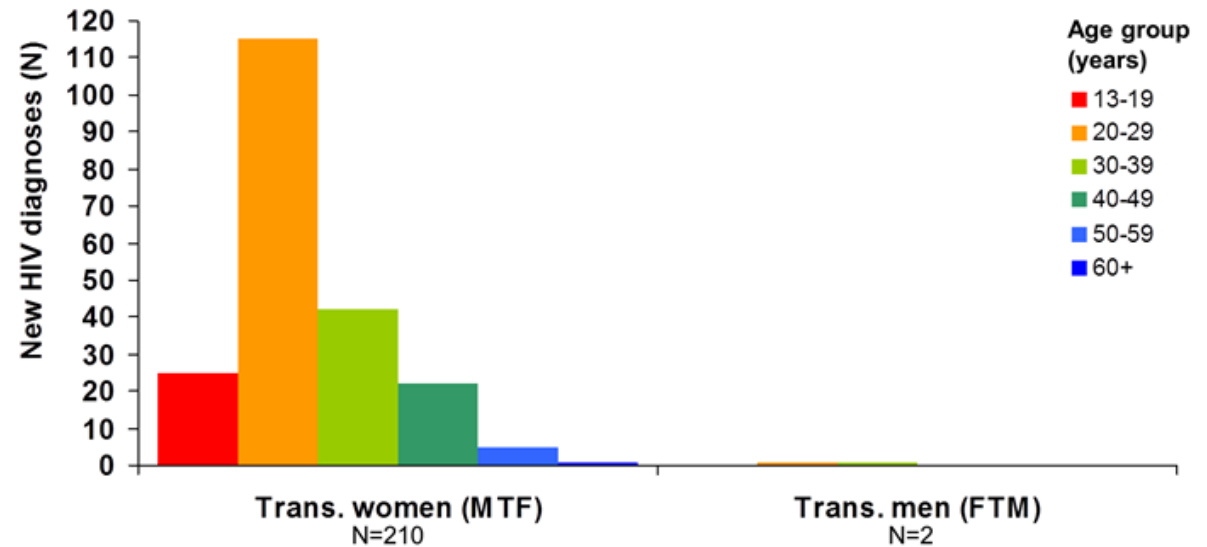
# Trans\* and Jail

- Nearly 1 in 6 trans\* people (16%) (including 21% of transwomen) have been incarcerated at some point in their lives
- Among Black trans\* people, nearly half (47%) have been incarcerated at some point
- High rates of incarceration are driven by disproportionate:
  - Poverty
  - Homelessness
  - Discrimination
  - Participation in street economies
  - Law enforcement bias

# New York City: HIV Among Trans\*











- 212 new HIV diagnoses 2009-2013
  - 210 transgender women (MTF; 99%)
  - 2 transgender men (FTM; 1%)
- 22 concurrent AIDS diagnoses (10%)

**New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons by Gender Identity and Age at Diagnosis in NYC, 2009-2013**



As reported to NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2014

# Measurement Issues

	ASSIGNED SEX AT BIRTH	
	<b>MALE</b> (infant designated a male sex on original birth certificate) 	<b>FEMALE</b> (infant designated a female sex on original birth certificate) 
<b>Current Gender Identity</b>		
<b>Male</b>	<b>NON-TRANSGENDER MALE</b> (male birth sex, male gender identity) 	<b>CROSS-SEX IDENTIFIED TRANSGENDER MALE</b> (female birth sex, male gender identity) 
<b>Female</b>	<b>CROSS-SEX IDENTIFIED TRANSGENDER FEMALE</b> (male birth sex, female gender identity) 	<b>NON-TRANSGENDER FEMALE</b> (female birth sex, female gender identity) 
<b>Male-to-Female (MTF)</b>	<b>MALE-TO-FEMALE (MTF)</b> (male birth sex, MTF gender identity) 	<b>POTENTIAL MEASUREMENT ERROR</b> (female birth sex, MTF gender identity)
<b>Female-to-Male (FTM)</b>	<b>POTENTIAL MEASUREMENT ERROR</b> (male birth sex, FTM gender identity)	<b>FEMALE-TO-MALE (FTM)</b> (female birth sex, FTM gender identity) 
<b>Other Gender (Specify)</b>	<b>OTHER TRANSGENDER IDENTITY</b> (male birth sex, other gender identity) 	<b>OTHER TRANSGENDER IDENTITY</b> (female birth sex, other gender identity) 



# Best Practices in Intervention Adaption

- CDC guidance states that agencies that are planning to adapt interventions must first conduct **formative evaluation** to define the target population, culture, behaviors, and risk factors that put the target population at risk for HIV
- Agencies are encouraged to
  - develop an **intervention implementation plan**
  - provide ongoing **leadership** to the intervention from within the agency
  - **solicit staff feedback** and suggestions for addressing delivery problems encountered
  - provide **additional training** to staff to be able to deliver the intervention
  - **ensure fidelity** to core elements
  - **monitor client responsiveness** to the interventions as part of quality assurance.

# Program Adaption Considerations for Transwomen

- Nonjudgmental attitudes regarding risk behaviors of transwomen, including sex work, substance use, and injection silicone use
- High levels of trans cultural competency, including all staff using preferred names and pronouns
- High levels of knowledge of trans-specific HIV risk behaviors and risk factors as well as the social determinants of HIV/AIDS for transwomen
- Approaching the intervention with sex-positive attitudes

# An Intervention Adaption Example: Personalized Cognitive Counseling

- PCC is a one time, questionnaire-based counseling intervention
- Original PCC questionnaire: 41 questions
- Adapted PCC questionnaire for transwomen: 37 questions
  - Word substitutions = men for girls or women
  - Added = ...that I'm transgender
  - New questions = sex work and gender identity
    - Example: I can't talk to him about condoms because I haven't talked to him about my gender identity/dont' want to talk to him about my gender identity/don't feel safe talking to him about my gender identity.
    - I've been trying to find a trick for over an hour and someone finally came up to me. I didn't want to risk losing money by insisting he use a condom.
    - He's offering me more money to have sex without a condom. It's more important for me to cover my living expenses now than worry about HIV in the future.

# Choosing Life! Empowerment, Action, and Results (CLEAR)

- The following are core elements of CLEAR:
  - Development of emotional awareness through use of a Feeling Thermometer and identification of the link between feelings, thoughts, and actions
  - Identification of Ideal Self to help motivate and personalize behavior change
  - Teaching, modeling, and practicing Short-and Long-Term Goal Setting
  - Teaching, modeling, and practicing SMART Problem-Solving
  - Teaching, modeling, and practicing Assertive Behavior and Communication

So.....what do YOU think we should do to adapt CLEAR intervention to incarcerated transwomen?

# References

- CDC, HIV Among Transgender People, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/gender/transgender/>
- The GenIUSS Group. (2014). Best Practices for Asking Questions to Identify Transgender and Other Gender Minority Respondents on Population-Based Surveys. J.L. Herman (Ed.). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.
- Personalized Cognitive Counseling: <https://effectiveinterventions.cdc.gov/en/HighImpactPrevention/Interventions/PCC.aspx>
- Choosing Life! Empowerment, Action, and Results: <https://effectiveinterventions.cdc.gov/en/HighImpactPrevention/Interventions/CLEAR.aspx>

## Contact Us!

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**TRANSGENDERS and HIV**

**UNIQUE**  
people face  
**UNIQUE**  
challenges.