



Recommendations for Inclusive Data Collection of Trans People in HIV Prevention, Care & Services *Two-page Short Version*

What is the Problem?

- Accurate data collection is essential for dissemination of reliable and factual public information and development of meaningful education and prevention programs, and care services. Currently many federal, state, and local agencies inaccurately collect data about individuals' sex and gender.
- A transgender (trans) person is someone who has a different sex, gender identity, and/or gender expression than the one assigned to them at birth, regardless of their sexual orientation (Cabral, 2007; Sausa, Keatley, & Operario, 2007). Due to assumptions and/or discomfort among health professionals to ask questions about gender identity, trans people are either completely missed and not accurately counted in surveillance methods, or miscounted as MSM (often trans women are incorrectly counted as MSM). In addition, many funders, health departments and government agencies do not even allow for the reporting of trans people as clients and patients, as if they don't even exist.

What Do We Recommend?

The Center of Excellence for Transgender HIV Prevention recommends asking 2 questions instead of one to both validate a person's present gender identity and also understand their history. Many trans people do not currently identify as trans for a variety of reasons. Some believe it is part of their past and not a present identification, others may not identify with that word trans or transgender due to cultural beliefs, social networks, and linguistic norms in geographic locations (see full document at www.transhealth.ucsf.edu for discussion).

Example of the 2 questions and answer choices:

1. What is your sex or gender? (Check ALL that apply)

- (1) Male
- (2) Female
- (3) Transgender Male/Transman
- (4) Transgender Female/Transwoman
- (5) Genderqueer
- (6) Additional Sex or Gender: Please specify: _____
- (7) Unknown or Question Not Asked
- (8) Decline to State

2. What sex were you assigned at birth? (Check one)

- (1) Male
- (2) Female
- (3) Unknown or Question Not Asked
- (4) Decline to State

How to Implement These Changes Effectively?

- **STEP 1: Update Your Data Collection Methods**
The first is to update your organization's data collection forms and databases to include the two question system. If you need consultation or technical assistance on how to do this please contact us (see below for contact information).
- **STEP 2: Train Your Staff**
The next step is training your staff and health professionals to ask questions about gender identity correctly and consistently. If you need assistance, we provide interactive and educational training to help your staff understand the update and learn how to effectively and accurately ask and record information about gender identity (see below for contact information).
- **STEP 3: Educate Your Funders and Disseminate the Data**
The third step is educating your funders, health departments and government agencies to update their own systems and record the improved data you are gathering so that together you can better analyze and disseminate information to funders, stakeholders, and consumers to effectively impact the HIV epidemic by improving services and care to all people.
- **STEP 4: Enhance Your Programs and Services**
The final step is to improve services and programs by utilizing the new information you are gathering to assess HIV incidence and prevalence, identify emerging trends, properly allocate resources, improve health care services, and any address service gaps among trans people.

Do You Need Any Assistance (consultation and training)?

Throughout the state of California, the Center of Excellence for Transgender HIV Prevention offers:

- **Professional intermediate and advanced level trainings** that we create, implement and evaluate tailored to your specific organizational and health provider needs. These trainings may range in length from 2 hours to 2 days and are offered in English and Spanish.
- **Consultations or technical assistance (TA)** to enhance programming, capacity building, and conduct effective research and interventions for health professionals serving trans people throughout California. Our consultations may be conducted in person, by phone or e-mail, and are offered in English and in Spanish.

To request a FREE training or consultation please contact: JoAnne Keatley, MSW, Director

Phone: 415-597-4960; E-mail: JoAnne.Keatley@ucsf.edu

www.transhealth.ucsf.edu

Reference Citation for this Document

Sausa, L. A., Sevelius, J., Keatley, J., Rouse Iñiguez, J., & Reyes, EM. (2009). *Policy Recommendations for Inclusive Data Collection of Trans People in HIV Prevention, Care & Services*. Center of Excellence for Transgender HIV Prevention: University of California, San Francisco. Available online at: www.transhealth.ucsf.edu

References

Cabral, M. (2007). Transgender people and violence against women. In P. Currah, G. G Guevara, & R. M. Juang (Eds.), *Transgender Justice*. New York, NY: The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies.

Sausa, L. A., Keatley, J. & Operario, D. (2007). Perceived risks and benefits of sex work among transgender women of color in San Francisco. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 36(6):768-777.