

Health Disparities Experienced by Transgender People of Color

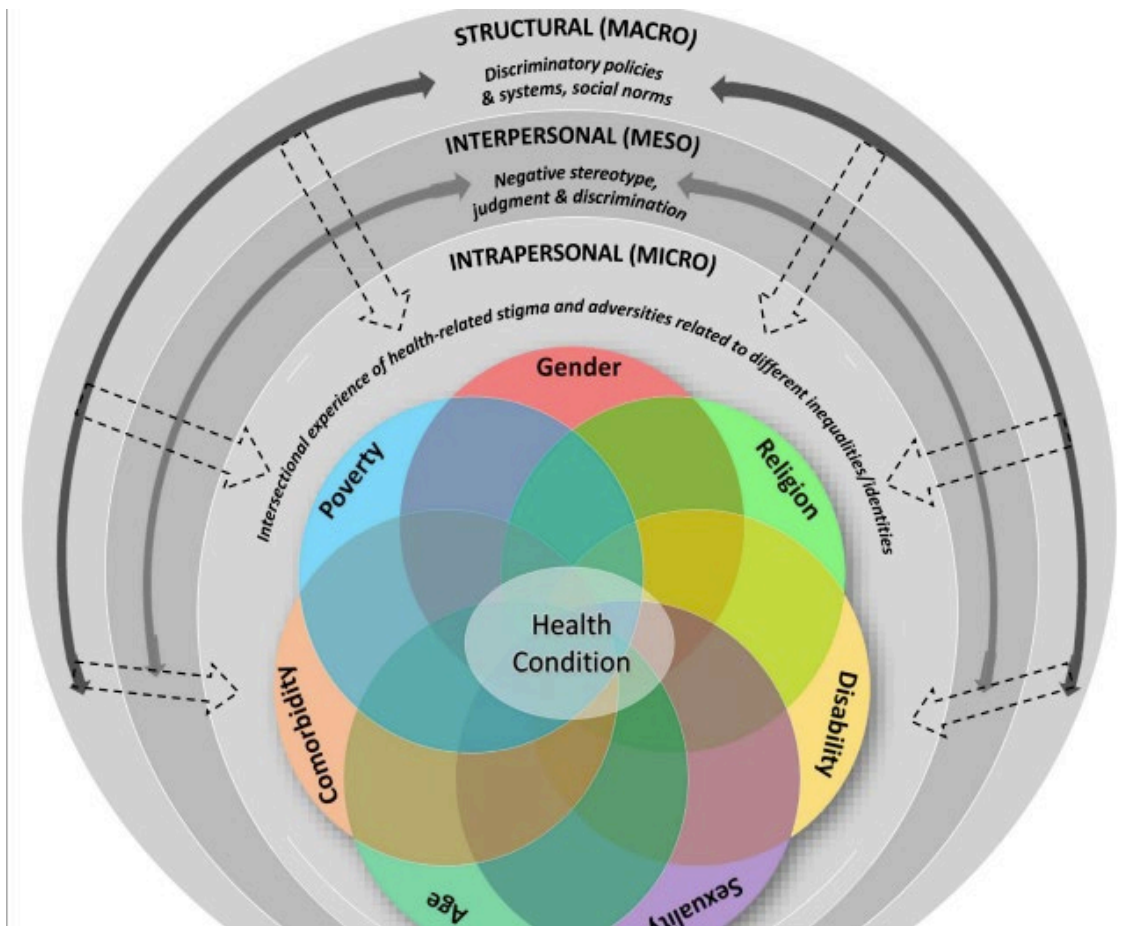
Rodrigo Aguayo-Romero, PhD

NIMHD Health Disparities Among SGM Workshop 2023



Pathways

- Interlocking systems of cisgenderism and racism
- Higher rates of victimization in multiple settings compared with cisgender individuals
 - Highly documented in health care settings
- Disparities connected to greater occurrence of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and violence targeting POC (Grant et al., 2011; James et al., 2016; Krehely, 2009)
- Having a lower income was significantly associated with worse general health as well as multiple indicators of poor physical and mental health (Seelman et al., 2017)



(Rai et al., 2020)

Mental Health Disparities

- Compared with cisgender and binary transgender individuals, genderqueer individuals (Lefevor et al., 2019)
 - experienced more anxiety, depression, psychological distress, and eating concerns
 - were harassed, sexually abused, and subjected to traumatic events at higher rates
 - more frequently reported self-harm and suicidality, with approximately 2/3 of participants' having contemplated and nearly 50% making a suicide attempt
- In a content analysis of LGBT POC, TPOC were included as an identifiable subsample in the analysis in five (4%) of the included studies (Barnett et al., 2019).
 - Multiple content analyses identified there is a lack of research with TPOC (Barnett et al., 2019; Blumer et al., 2012; Moradi et al., 2016)

Physical Health Disparities

- Compared with White transgender people, TPOC had significantly (Seelman et al., 2017)
 - greater odds of having arthritis/ rheumatoid arthritis/gout/lupus/fibromyalgia, or having asthma
 - lower odds of being told by a provider that they had depression. Having a lower income was significantly associated with worse general health as well as multiple indicators of poor physical and mental health, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation
- Overall, underrepresentation of physical health research at the intersection of gender identity and race/ethnicity

2015 U.S. Transgender Survey



[READ THE BREAKOUT REPORTS](#)

%	Black	Latino/a	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	White	U.S. Population
No Insurance	20	17	18	11	12	11
HIV	6.7	1.6	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.3
Psychological Distress	41	45	46	39		5
Suicidal Attempts	47	45	57	40	40	4.6

Interventions: TWOC Initiative

TABLE 1—Intervention Activities Offered by Each Agency: Enhancing Engagement and Retention in Quality HIV Care for Transgender Women of Color Initiative, United States, 2012

Activity	BHS	CH	CHN	FRI	HBH	PHI	SFDPH	SUNY	TCHC
Community outreach	1	1	1, 2	2	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2
Navigation	1	1	1, 2	1	1, 2	1	1, 2	1, 2	2
Small groups	2		1	2	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2	1	1
Other individual sessions ^a	2		1, 2	2		1, 2	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2
Drop-in center	2	1, 2	2	2	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2		
Trans-related health care (non-HIV)	3	3	1, 2, 3	3	1, 2	3	1, 2	1, 2	2
Case management or social work	3	2	1, 2		2	3	1, 2	1, 2	2
HIV testing	2	2	1, 2	2	1, 2	3	2	1, 2	2
Transcompetent HIV medical care	3	3	1, 2, 3	3	2	3	1, 2	1, 2	2
Community advisory board		1, 2	1, 2					1, 2	
Social network engagement	1		1	1		1			
Motivational interviewing	1					1			
Onsite health education with limited medical care		1							
Contingency management				1					
Transcompetency trainings	3	1	2		2, 3	2	2	2	
Social network recruitment				1					

(Rebchook et al., 2017)

HIV testing among TWOC (Aguayo-Romero, 2019)

	Regular Testers		Past Testers		Non-Testers	
	<i>Odds ratio</i>	<i>p value</i>	<i>Odds ratio</i>	<i>p value</i>	<i>Odds ratio</i>	<i>p value</i>
Transgender Verbal Harassment	0.681192732	0.01	0.429200974	0.15	0.41745021	0.01
Transmisogyny	0.800787228		0.572799234		0.236277102	
Ethnoracial Verbal Harassment	0.421169464		0.343317364		0.811833507	
Transmisogyny & Racism	<u>1.662379484</u>		0.215212364		0.247667044	
Transmisogyny, Racism, & Classism	<u>1.386427091</u>		0.265035897		0.265067704	

Discussion

- Need for descriptive intersectionality studies (Bauer & Scheim, 2019)
 - Underrepresentation of research focusing on transgender men and non-binary people
 - Underrepresentation of research on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; American Indians and Alaska Natives; and multiracial individuals
- Need for measures of intersectionality at the structural level
- Need for exploration of classism and ableism
- Analytic intersectionality studies needed (Bauer & Scheim, 2019)
 - Resilience/resistance pathways

Thank you.

Twitter: @RAguayoRomero
raguayo-romero@whitman-walker.org



202.745.7000



whitmanwalkerimpact.org

Whitman-Walker Health
1525 14th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005

Whitman-Walker at LIZ
1377 R Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009

Max Robinson Center
2301 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20020