

ICPSR 31721

## **Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study (THIS), 2005-2006**

Description

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## **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 31721

Title: Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study (THIS), 2005-2006

Principal Investigator(s): Judith B. Bradford, Fenway Community Health. Fenway Institute

Funding Agency: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Disease Prevention  
United States Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## **Scope of Study**

Summary: The Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study (THIS) was a multi-phase, multi-year project to improve the health of transgender Virginians. THIS included a quantitative survey, conducted from September 2005 to July 2006 with 387 respondents and a final analysis sample of 350, including 229 MTFs (male-to-females) and 121 FTMs (female-to-males). Participants were drawn from 60 of the 136 cities and counties in Virginia. The conceptual model that guided the study posits that transgenderism and its associated social stigma are root causes of poor health status, producing societal factors such as the prioritization of access to transgender-related medical services by transgender people, health care provider ignorance of transgender health, discrimination, and low self-esteem. These societal factors produce mediating factors such as provider hostility/insensitivity, lack of health insurance, insurance failure to cover transgender care, poverty, sex work, substance abuse, and gender identity validation through sex. The final products of these mediators are direct risk factors including self-medication with transgender hormones, injection silicone use, unprotected sex, and injection drug use. The survey measured demographics, access to regular medical services, access to transgender care services, employment discrimination, housing discrimination, sexual and physical

violence, social support and self-esteem, suicidal ideation and attempts, substance abuse and tobacco use, HIV knowledge and perception of risk, HIV risk behaviors, HIV testing and status, and access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services. Demographic variables include sex, gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, age, language, education, birthplace, residency status, income, and occupation.

Subject Term(s): gays and lesbians, gender, gender identity, gender issues, gender roles, hate crimes, health care, health care access, health services utilization, HIV, social status, transgender

Smallest Geographic Unit: county

Geographic Coverage: United States, Virginia

Time Period: • September 2005 - July 2006

Date(s) of Collection: • September 2005 - July 2006

Unit of Observation: individual

Universe: Individuals aged 18 years and older who lived in or attended school in Virginia during the data collection period and who self-identified as transgender.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: The Virginia Transgender Task Force (TTF) included individuals from across the state of Virginia who were community members, service providers, and other allies. Created prior to developing the study design, the TTF provided guidance and assistance throughout development and implementation of the survey, and spoke about the study to community and professional audiences. Support for TTF meetings and travel to central locations was provided by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Division of Disease Prevention. VDH continues to support the TTF, providing staff and resources to improve access to healthcare and related services for transgender communities throughout the state.

## Methodology

Purpose of the Study: The Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study (THIS) was a multi-phase, multi-year project to improve the health of transgender Virginians. The conceptual model that guided the study posits that transgenderism and its associated social stigma are root causes of poor health status, producing societal factors such as the prioritization of

access to transgender-related medical services by transgender people, health care provider ignorance of transgender health, discrimination, and low self-esteem.

Study Design: n/a

Sample: community-based

Data Source: surveys

Mode of Data Collection: mail questionnaire

on-site questionnaire

Description of Variables: The survey instrument includes demographic variables such as gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, preferred language, housing status, education, income, children, and employment status. Additionally, the survey covers a broad range of areas that impact transgender people. These include hormone use, surgeries, access to health care, health care utilization, health-related practices, health screening, HIV status, HIV-related care, alternative health practices, mental health (including physical and sexual abuse, substance), sexual behavior, relationships and supports.

Extent of Processing: Performed consistency checks.

Created variable labels and/or value labels.

Standardized missing values.

Created online analysis version with question text.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

## **Access and Availability**

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Some instruments administered as part of this study may contain contents from copyrighted instruments. Reproductions of the instruments are provided solely as documentation for the analysis of the data associated with this collection. Please contact the data producers for information on permissions to use the instruments for other purposes.

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Restrictions: Public and restricted versions of the data are included in this collection. Due to the sensitive nature of the restricted data, users will need to complete a Restricted Data Use Agreement before they can obtain the restricted version. These forms can be accessed on the download page associated with these data.

Original ICPSR Release: 2015-09-23

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 2015-09-24.

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Public Use Data
- DS2: Restricted Use Data