



# BEYOND THE BOX

TRANSCENDING THE GENDER BINARY IN SEXUAL HEALTH

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Bridging the Gaps: Eliminating Disparities in Teen Pregnancy Prevention  
and Sexual Health

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# Objectives:

1. By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to summarize terminology and policies related to gender identity and gender expression.
1. By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to identify the ways cissexism plays out in their work.
2. By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to strategize and plan for \*trans\* inclusivity in their work.

# Introductions

- Name
- What pronouns honor you?
- Where are you from?
- What do you do there?

# Trans\* is not a sexual orientation



Sexual  
Orientation



Gender  
Identity



# GenderWHAT?!



Photo by torbakhopper



What percentage of Americans live in an area which bans discrimination based on gender identity or expression?

A. 50%

B. 45%

C. 83%

D. 15%

National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. (2012, June). Jurisdictions with Explicitly Trans-Inclusive Discrimination Laws



What percentage of transgender or gender non-conforming students (K-12) experience some form of harassment

A. 93%

B. 57%

C. 78%

D. 34%

National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.





What percentage of transgender people report having to teach their medical provider about how to care for them?

A. 50%

B. 19%

C. 28%

D. 74%

National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.



What percentage of transgender people report experiencing significant family rejection?

A. 89%

B. 13%

C. 32%

D. 57%

National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.

# Intersectionality

- Trans people also have other identities.
- Discrimination and the Social Determinants of Health



# Cissexism



Photo by MyDoorSign.com



Photo by tompagenet



Image credit: Indiana University Bloomington



Image credit: RuPaul's Drag Race

# Trans\* Microaggressions

- Just use the women's room, it's not a big deal.
- Nothing against those people but I just don't understand...
- My transgender friend says ...
- You're so beautiful, you look like a real woman.
- You're so brave...
- I didn't know what to call it.
- You can't expect everyone to understand.
- Don't expect me to remember your new pronouns right away.



# Common Forms of Cissexism in Sexual Health

- Gendered Spaces
  - Dividing boys and girls for sex education
- Forms & Surveys
  - Sex: Male/Female
- Language
  - Assigning body parts to a specific sex
- Policy/Laws
  - What would your organization do if you or a co-worker came out as transgender?
- Inclusion/representation
  - How many trans\* youth are in your program?

# 5 Things You Can Do Right Now

- Stop Making Assumptions
- Watch For Microaggressions
- Speak Up
- Continue to Learn
- Acknowledge your Cis-Gender Privilege



Image credit: One Colorado

# Talking to Youth About Gender

- Keep it simple and to the point.
- Be honest.
- Be open.

## Examples:

- There are lots of ways to be a man or a woman.
- Everyone should be treated with respect.
- Everyone's body is different and unique.



# Let's Practice!

- Find a person in the room who you don't know.
- Introduce yourself stating your name and the pronouns that honor you. And ask them what pronouns honor them.
- Switch.
- Sit back down.

# Let's Practice

Scenario:

A youth you work with asks you, “ what do transgender people have to do with pregnancy prevention?”

How do you respond?

# Let's Practice!

## Scenario:

Your organization is hosting an event and designates the restrooms as gender neutral with a sign. An attendee approaches you and asks, “what’s the point of doing something like this?”

How do you respond?



# Closing Activity



# References

- National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. (2012, June). Jurisdictions with Explicitly Trans-Inclusive Discrimination Laws [Factsheet]. Retrieved from [http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports\\_and\\_research/all\\_jurisdictions](http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/all_jurisdictions)
- Grant, Jaime M., Lisa A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.

# Questions?

Thank you!

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