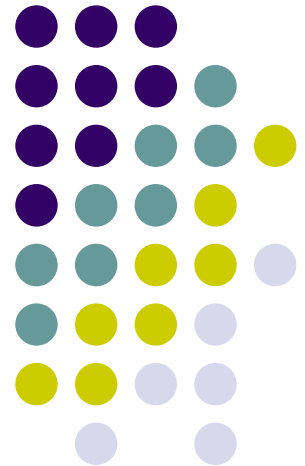




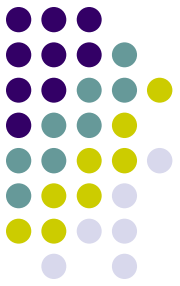
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**Social Issues Transgender  
People Face**

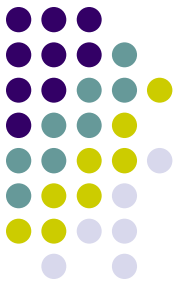


# Discriminations and Risks

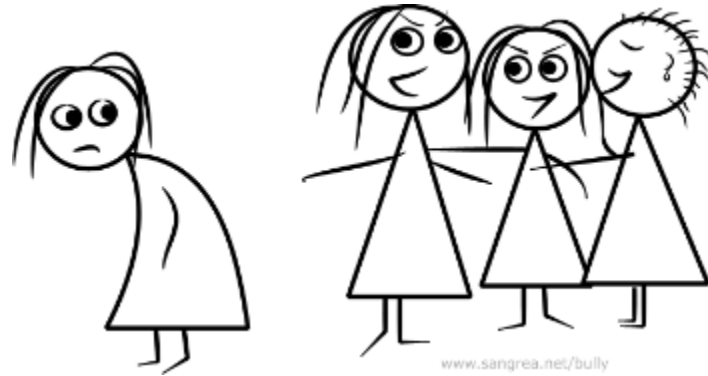


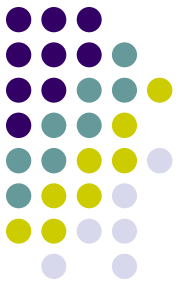
Because of discrimination based on gender identity and expression—often compounded by racism, classism, sexism, and other oppressions—many transgender people struggle with heightened survival issues in their daily lives. Discrimination in employment, housing, health care, public accommodations, and social services is a regular occurrence for most transgender individuals.

# Issues that transgender people face include:



Public humiliation, derision, ridicule, marginalization and exclusion





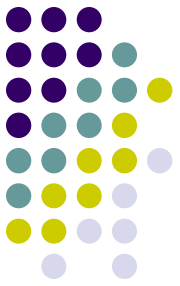
- Being kicked out of their homes and otherwise isolated from family relations because of their transgender status
- Being denied housing because of their transgender status

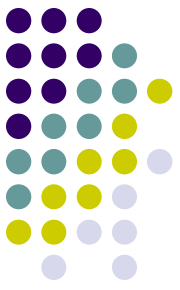


# Limited access to education



Chronic unemployment or underemployment—being denied employment because of their transgender status





- Being denied access to public accommodations such as stores, restaurants, and public transportation
- Being denied access to social services such as homeless shelters, rape crisis centers, and medical clinics
- Difficulty accessing health care and obtaining health insurance

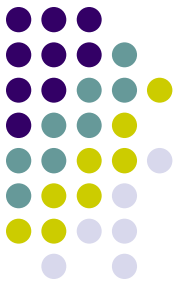




# Abusive treatment by law enforcement personnel



# Activities that put transgender people at risk



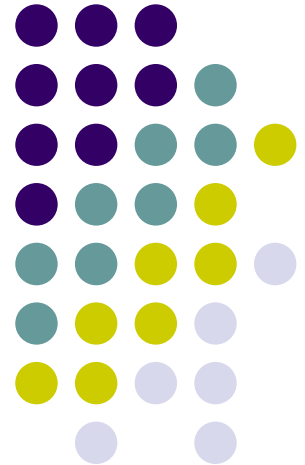
- Reliance on commercial sex work for survival
- Hate violence
- Domestic Violence
- Substance abuse
- Use of underground hormones
- Silicone injection



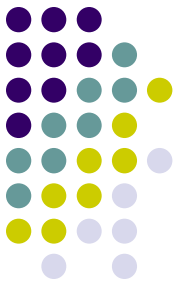
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**Working with  
Transgender Clients**



# Show Respect for Transgender Individuals

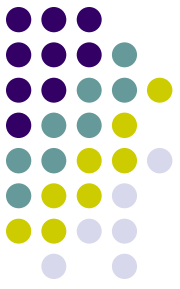


The way in which you interact with someone gives them a sense of how they are going to be treated by your organization. It is essential to demonstrate respect for all clients, regardless of age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status, medical condition, disability and immigration status.

# Client- Centered



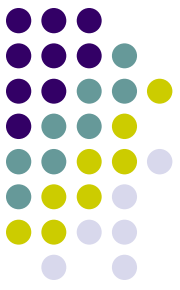
Transgender clients are not fundamentally different than non-transgender clients. They have the same need for support, respect, acceptance, and returned phone calls. Most often, the unique challenges they face originate from discomfort or disinterest on the part of others. For some transgender people, past experience with this discomfort or disinterest may lead them to be wary about opening up to new people. This barrier may be something you will need to overcome in order to provide effective outreach and service.



# Guidelines

- Welcome transgender people by getting the word out about your services and displaying transgender-positive cues in your office.
- Treat transgender individuals as you would want to be treated.
- It isn't always about a person's transgender status.

- Remember to always refer to transgender persons by the name and pronoun that corresponds with their gender identity.
- Be aware of assumptions you are making about a person's gender.
- Establish an effective policy for addressing discriminatory comments and behavior in your office or organization.
- Remember to keep the focus on specific issues rather than indulging in questions out of curiosity.



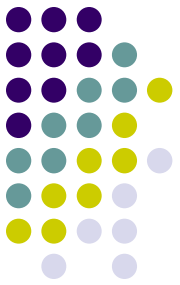
- It is inappropriate to ask transgender patients about their genital status if it is unrelated to their risks.
- Never disclose a client's transgender status to anyone who does not explicitly need the information for care.
- **Be a good listener.**



# Online Resources



- <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu>
- <http://www.nctequality.org>
- <http://www.transgenderlawcenter.org>
- <http://www.srlp.org>



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