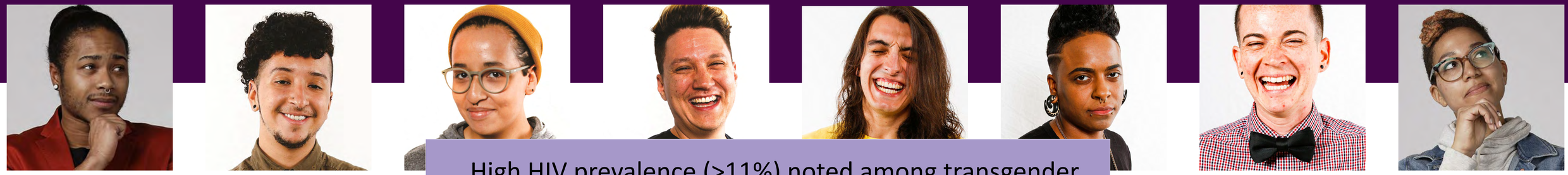
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HIV PREVALENCE AMONG TRANSGENDER MEN AT A NYC COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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High HIV prevalence (>11%) noted among transgender men who have sex with cisgender men

BACKGROUND

There have been multiple studies demonstrating elevated incidence and prevalence of HIV among transgender women (TW) especially African-American TW, however few studies have been conducted among transgender men (TM). HIV prevalence among TM in the US is estimated to be between 0-4%. There have not been any studies examining prevalence that stratify by HIV risk factor, e.g., TM who have sex with MSM or use injection drugs. Callen-Lorde Community Health Center is a NYC-based clinic that predominately serves the LGBT communities and people living with HIV. It has the largest transgender patient population in the USA, serving nearly 5000 transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) patients. The aim of this study was to examine HIV prevalence and risk factors among TM.

METHODS

The Transgender Data Project was an IRB-approved retrospective chart review of all TGNB patients at the clinic, ages 18+. Charts were reviewed manually. All charts that included data on sexual and other HIV risk were included. Data included birth sex, gender, race/ethnicity, education, employment, housing, insurance status, STIs, HIV and receipt of gender-affirming care (hormones, surgery). Multivariable logistic regression models were used to assess the associations between HIV status and other variables.

ANALYSIS

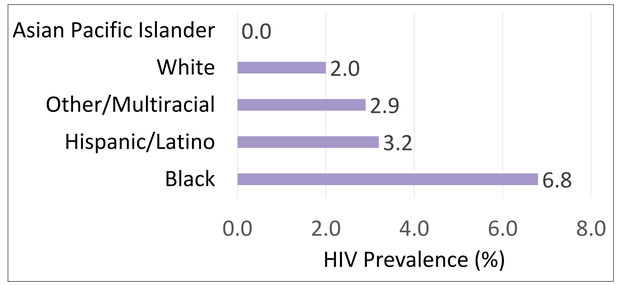
Bivariate analysis of sociodemographic variables and health outcome measures for TGNB clients Pearson chi-square tests (and Fisher's exact tests) and independent sample T-test. Multivariable logistic regression models were used to assess the associations among gender identity, HIV/STI screening and HIV prevalence. All p-values are two-tailed at a significance level of 5%. Analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26.0.

TABLE 1: Demographics of Transmasculine Individuals within CLCHC, n= 577

Mean age in years (SD)	32.15	
Range	(18.3-70.5)	
	%	n
Race/Ethnicity		**496**
Hispanic	11.7	58
White	55	273
Black	13.9	69
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.8	29
Other	13.5	67
Education (highest level)		**493**
Less than High School	4.9	24
High School Diploma	11.8	58
Some College	31.6	156
Bachelors' Degree	33.1	163
Graduate degree	18.7	92
Unemployment		**540**
	28.7	155
Housing (stable)		**526**
	96.6	508
Sex work		**577**
Insurance		**599**
Uninsured	12.2	61
Private	60.5	302
Public	27.3	136
Substance use disorder		**577**
	3.1	18

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FIGURE 1: HIV Prevalence by Race and Ethnicity



RESULTS

- Less than half of individuals underwent HIV screening ever
- 6.8% of African-American transmasculine people living with HIV compared to 2.8% overall
- Transmasculine individuals had diverse sexual partnerships. HIV prevalence of 11.1% among transmasculine people having sex with cisgender men only

CONCLUSIONS

- Significant heterogeneity of HIV risk among transgender men
- Studies investigating HIV prevalence in transgender populations should investigate behavioral risk as well as gender identity
- Transgender men need to be included in HIV prevention efforts
- Underscores need for collection of gender identity and sexual orientation in EMRs and national health studies

TABLE 2: HIV Prevalence: Bivariate and multivariable logistic regression models and transmasculine individuals

	Bivariate	Multivariate
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
Age in years	1.00 (0.92, 1.09)	1.04 (0.93, 1.15)
Non-white	1	1
White (non-Hispanic)	0.48 (0.09, 2.52)	
Employed	1	-
Unemployed	2.19 (0.48, 10.06)	-
No high school diploma	1	1
High school diploma	0.07 (0.01, 0.49)	**0.08 (0.01, 0.72)**
Stable home	-	-
Unstable home	-	-
Insurance	-	
No cisgender male sex partner	1	-
Cisgender male sex partner only	5.68 (1.02, 31.58)	**10.58 (1.33, 84.17)**
No sex work	-	-
Sex work	-	-
No chlamydia	-	-
Chlamydia	-	-
No hormones	1	-
Hormones	1.08 (0.13, 9.21)	-
No Gender affirming care	1	-
Gender affirming care	0.78 (0.09, 6.73)	-
No gender affirming surgery	1	-
Gender affirming surgery	0.18 (0.02, 1.49)	-
No substance use	1	-
Substance use	2.73 (0.31, 24.23)	-
No syphilis	-	-
Syphilis	-	-
No Gonorrhea	-	-
Gonorrhea	-	-
No genital warts	1	-
Genital warts	3.21 (0.36, 28.81)	-