

Priority Population: Transgender Women of Color



In **2019**, people that are transgender accounted for the **580** or **1.6%** of the population living with HIV in Illinois.

Within that, **87%** were trans women and **60%** of those were Black.

Black transgender people make up **60%** of the transgender population living with HIV but only **15%** of the total transgender population in the state.¹



Greater Than AIDS

Harms Experienced by Transgender Women of Color



Inconsistent HIV medical care because of stigma, harmful experiences with medical providers, having to choose and prioritize gender-related healthcare, and concerns about side effects receiving both HIV-treatment and hormone therapy.²



Lack of properly trained clinical staff because transgender women of color are often subjected to the biases and misinformed treatment options from medical providers.



Securing gender-affirming care as transgender women of color experience disproportionate uninsured rates (**26%**) compared to the general U.S. population (**12%**).³



Limited public health resources because of the gaps in data collection.⁴ Transgender women are often placed in the category of “men who have sex with men” (MSM) which reduces visibility for proper resources.⁵

Policy and Advocacy at AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC)

Patient and Provider Protection Act:

[Public Act 102-1117](#) safeguards and expands reproductive and gender affirming care in Illinois. This protects patients and providers, from aggressive litigation from states targeting reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care within Illinois. It will also require health insurers to cover necessary reproductive health care, including abortion medication, PEP/PrEP, and gender-affirming services without cost-sharing.



Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) Data Collection Law in IL:

Implementing [Public Act 102-0543](#), which requires data collection on age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and primary or preferred language across ten state agencies of individuals who utilize major services administered by state government. In response to the lack of gender diverse data collection, this policy will aim to provide clear information on service utility and reach for transgender women of color.



Getting to Zero Illinois Initiative (GTZ-IL) State Funding:

Implementation and spending by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) of the GTZ-IL specific funding to increase access to HIV testing, supportive services, treatment, and education for transgender women of color.



¹ Herman, Jody L, Andrew R Flores, and Kathryn K O'Neill. "How Many Adults and Youth Identify as Transgender in the United States?," June 2022, 26.

² Sevelius, Ph.D., Jae. "Transgender Issues in HIV." Resources. Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, December 2013. https://prevention.ucsf.edu/sites/prevention.ucsf.edu/files/inline-files/Sevelius_HIV_Specialist_Dec13.pdf.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "2020 BRFSS Survey Data and Documentation," August 27, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_2020.html.

⁴ Sausa, L.A., J Sevelius, J Keatley, J.R. Iñiguez, and M Reyes. "Recommendations for Inclusive Data Collection of Trans People in HIV Prevention, Care & Services." Center of Excellence for Transgender HIV Prevention. Accessed June 30, 2022. <https://prevention.ucsf.edu/transhealth/education/data-recs-long>.

⁵ Poteat, Tonia, Danielle German, and Colin Flynn. "The Conflation of Gender and Sex: Gaps and Opportunities in HIV Data among Transgender Women and MSM." *Global Public Health* 11, no. 7-8 (September 13, 2016): 835-48. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2015.1134615>.