

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY and the TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

Transgender people, particularly transgender women, are especially vulnerable to HIV. That's why they are a key population of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The Strategy guides efforts across the United States to improve the lives of transgender people who are living with or at risk of HIV.

PRIORITIZING | The Strategy prioritizes prevention and care for transgender women and other groups most affected by HIV

HIV does not affect all Americans equally. Recent estimates suggest that transgender women have among the highest rates of HIV in the country. The Strategy calls upon agencies, organizations, and communities to direct resources to transgender women and other key populations most heavily affected by HIV, and to prioritize the delivery of high-impact, scalable interventions for them. The Strategy notes that structural factors such as violence, poverty, and stigma must also be addressed for HIV prevention and care services to have the greatest impact.

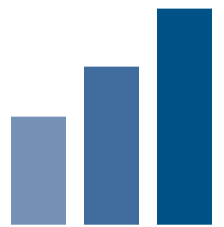


PROTECTING HEALTH | Federal agencies are taking action to improve the health of transgender men and women

In response to the Strategy and to ongoing engagement with transgender advocates – including a White House consultation – federal agencies are undertaking a number of efforts that will benefit the transgender community, including: conducting implementation research to identify best practices for serving transgender people; supporting scientifically accurate, culturally competent, and inclusive HIV education for transgender adolescents; implementing and evaluating trauma and violence programs for transgender women; providing leadership development programs for transgender women of color; and developing federal funding opportunities that have resources targeted specifically for transgender people.

IMPROVING DATA | The Strategy aims to improve data collection in order to better measure progress in the transgender community

In 2016, the Strategy includes a brand-new indicator on viral suppression among transgender women, using data from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. The CDC is expanding the collection of behavioral surveillance data to better capture the impact and burden of HIV in the transgender community. The Department of Veterans Affairs has committed to collecting data on gender identity to improve its ability to monitor healthcare access and quality of care for transgender veterans. The Department of Health and Human Services continues to encourage the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity questions to national surveys, administrative data systems, and electronic health records.



COLLABORATING | The Federal Government is committed to increasing collaboration to achieve a coordinated national response

The experiences and ongoing needs of the transgender community should inform programs and policies at the federal, state, and local levels – and effective engagement will be critical to achieve the goals of the Strategy. Governments and other planning and policy groups should continue to expand their efforts to collaborate with the transgender community in order to better serve their needs. Federal actions are also intended to motivate health departments, health care systems, community-based organizations, faith communities, and others to strengthen their own efforts to improve health and wellness among transgender men and women.

