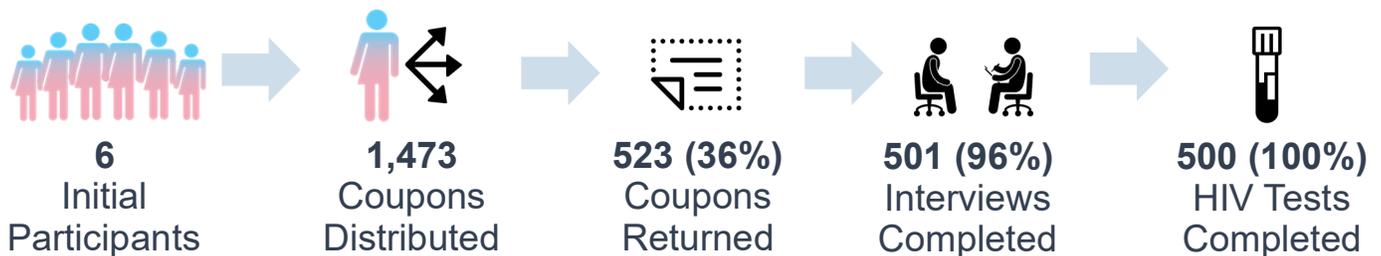


National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Project

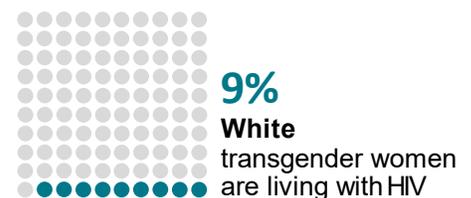
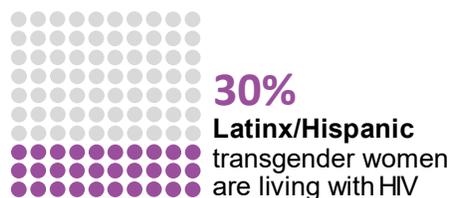
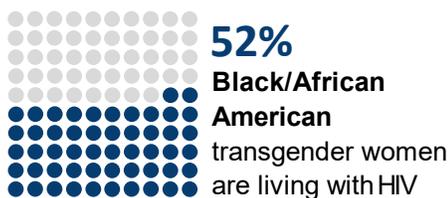
Transgender Women in Los Angeles County, 2019

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (**NHBS**) is a behavioral surveillance project that has been implemented nationwide each year since 2004 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help state and local health departments monitor HIV risk behaviors among groups at high risk for HIV infection. NHBS is designed to generate risk behavior and HIV prevalence estimates that are generalizable to the target population. In 2019, the Los Angeles County (LAC) Division of HIV and STD Programs conducted the first cycle of NHBS among transgender women. Respondent-driven sampling, a peer-referral sampling method, was used to recruit transgender women. Eligible participants had to: 1) be residents of LAC; 2) 18 years of age or older; 3) report a gender identity of woman or transgender woman; 4) have listed male or intersex gender at birth; and 5) be able to complete the interview in English or Spanish. Participants completed an interviewer-administered, anonymous, standardized questionnaire related to HIV-related behaviors. All participants were offered rapid HIV tests. All participants who accepted the rapid test received HIV counseling and referrals for social and medical services as needed.

1 in 3 participants tested positive for HIV

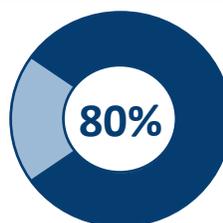


Some transgender women are affected by HIV more than others

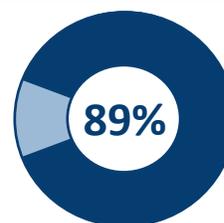


HIV Testing, Linkage to Care/Treatment & Viral Suppression

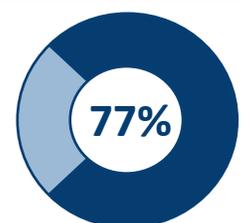
- **98%** reported having been tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime.
- **85%** reported testing for HIV within 12 months prior to interview.*
- Proportionally, **more Latinx transgender women (87%)** had been tested for HIV 12 months before interview compared to **Black transgender women (80%)**.



of HIV positive participants were **aware** they have HIV



of those aware were **on HIV treatment**



of those on treatment were **virally suppressed**

* Excludes participants who were diagnosed with HIV in more than 12 months prior to the interview

Stressors, Trauma and Other Characteristics

Hormone use for gender affirmation

Currently taking hormones

68%

Current insurance covers hormone therapy

71%

Non-prescribed hormone use*

14%

Types of hormones: pills (54%), shots/injection (51%), skin patch or cream (7%)

Contextual factors and stressors experienced by transgender women in LAC*

Living in poverty: 70%

Anal sex without a condom: 57%

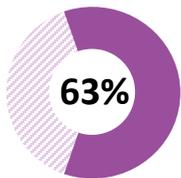
Experiencing homelessness: 47%

Unemployment: 42%

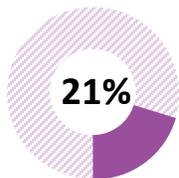
Engaged in exchange sex: 35%

Recent incarceration: 23%

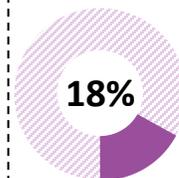
Methamphetamine use: 22%



Transgender women in LAC reported having **experienced verbal harassment** because of their gender identity or presentation.*



Transgender women in LAC reported having **seriously thought about dying by suicide**.*



Transgender women in LAC reported having **experienced sexual abuse**.*

Ongoing commitment and continuous improvement of medical care and support services that are trauma-informed and culturally competent are needed to effectively engage and address the specific needs of transgender populations.

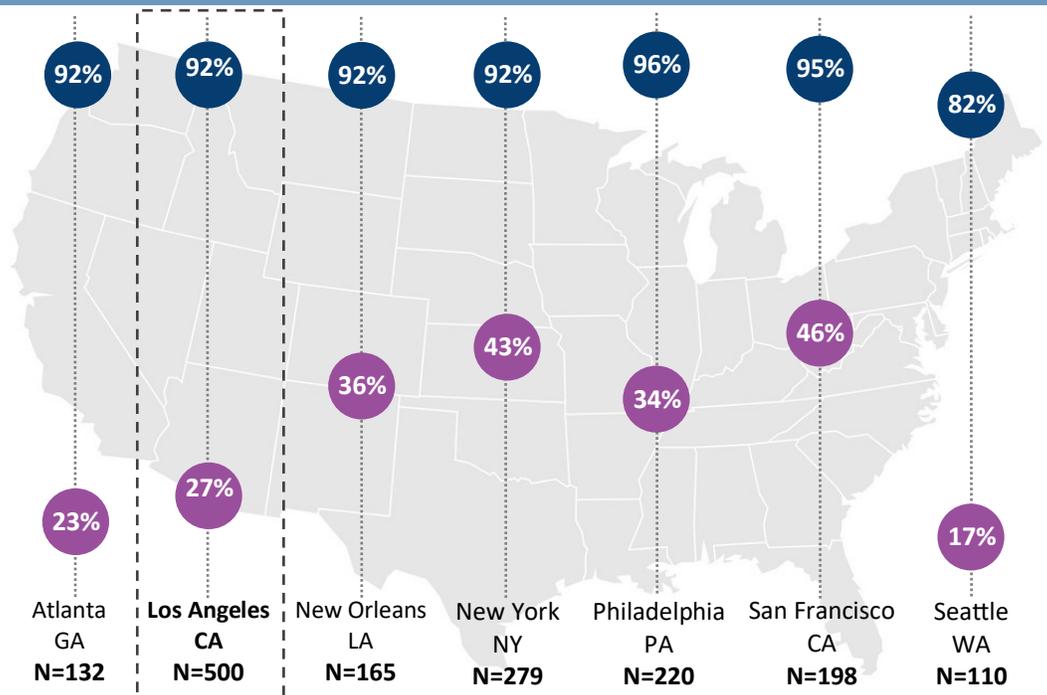
PrEP use varied by jurisdiction

● % heard of PrEP

● % used PrEP

Awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was high among HIV-negative transgender women in LAC, but compared with other jurisdictions, PrEP use in LAC was low:

92% had heard of PrEP but only **27%** had used PrEP*



Authors: Gia Olaes, Angela Cristobal, Yingbo Ma, Ekow Kwa Sey.
Please direct questions to golaes@ph.lacounty.gov or esey@ph.lacounty.gov



*In the 12 months before the NHBS interview