HOMELESSNESS EXPERIENCES, GENDER IDENTITY, AND SEXUAL RISK TAKING
A COMPARISON OF TRANSGENDER/GENDER DIVERSE (TGD) YOUTH WITH THEIR CISGENDER PEERS

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BACKGROUND

- **Transgender/gender diverse:** those whose experience of gender doesn’t match their birth assigned sex

- **Cisgender:** those whose experience of gender does match their birth assigned sex
BACKGROUND

- Homelessness is positively linked with health threats for young people including sexual risk behaviors
- Health disparities for transgender youth
- Lack of representative studies on homelessness/gender identity in general, but especially ones measuring both
- Homelessness with family vs. alone
What is the prevalence of homelessness (both with family and without) among transgender youth compared to their cisgender peers?

Does sexual risk-taking behavior differ among transgender youth who experience homelessness without any adult family members compared to cisgender youth with the same experience?
DATA

- 2016 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)
- Administered every 3 years in public schools
- Asks questions about a wide variety of youth behaviors
- Responses from 9th and 11th grades (n= 81,885)
MINNESOTA STUDENTS IN SAMPLE

- Grade: 9th (55%) and 11th (45%)
- Race/ethnicity
  - White, non-Hispanic: 70%
  - African-American: 6%
  - Hispanic: 9%
  - Asian: 6%
- Free/reduced price lunch: 27%
- LGBQ: 10%
- Ever had sex: 22%
MEASURES

**Gender Identity Measure**
- Do you consider yourself transgender…
  - Y/N

**Homelessness Measure**
- During the last 12 months have you experienced homelessness…
  - No
  - Yes with family
  - Yes without family
MEASURES

 Sexual Health Outcomes

- Number of sexual partners (1 vs. ≥ 2)
- Intoxicated, last sex (yes/no)
- Partner communication about STI/HIV/AIDS protection
  - At least once with every partner
  - Never or not with every partner
Analyses conducted in SAS 9.4
HOMELESSNESS EXPERIENCES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (P<.0001)

Cisgender Youth (n=78,761)

- Without Family
- With Family
- None

Transgender Youth (n=2,168)

- Without Family
- With Family
- None
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model A</th>
<th>Model B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multiple Sexual Partners</strong></td>
<td><strong>Multiple Sexual Partners</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Alone</td>
<td>2.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>2.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intoxicated at Last Sex</strong></td>
<td><strong>Intoxicated at Last Sex</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Alone</td>
<td>1.9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communicate STI/HIV Protection</strong></td>
<td><strong>Communicate STI/HIV Protection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Alone</td>
<td>0.8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>0.8*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Model A – Controlled for: grade, SES, race/ethnicity, urbanicity, & assigned sex at birth

Model B – Also controlled: sexual orientation

* = stat. sig.
IMPLICATIONS/NEXT STEPS

- Finalizing the models
- Stratifying by birth assigned sex
- Recommendation: those serving homeless youth be aware of gender identity
- Considerations for MCH professionals
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?
THANK YOU!
- **Limitations**
  - Cross-sectional
  - Lack of data on duration and context of homeless experience
  - Limited sample size
  - Use of term “sexual intercourse” may exclude non-heterosexual behavior

- **Strengths**
  - Population-based survey measuring both homelessness and gender identity
Do you consider yourself transgender, genderqueer, genderfluid, or unsure about your gender identity?
- Yes
- No

During the last 12 months, have you stayed in a shelter, somewhere not intended as a place to live, or someone else’s home because you had no other place to stay? (Mark ALL that apply)
- No
- Yes – I was with my parents or an adult family member
- Yes – I was on my own without any adult family members
During the last twelve months, with how many different male (female) partners have you had sexual intercourse?
- None
- 1 person
- 2 persons
- 3 persons
- 4 persons
- 5 persons
- 6 or more persons

Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the LAST time?
- Yes/No

Have you talked to your partner(s) about protecting yourselves from getting sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS?
- Never
- Not with every partner
- At least once with every partner