

# HIV AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER IN NEW YORK CITY, 2015-2019



HIV Epidemiology Program  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



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# HOW IS TRANSGENDER STATUS<sup>1</sup> COLLECTED BY NYC HIV SURVEILLANCE? (PART 1)

- Includes people identified as transgender by diagnosing provider, self-report, or medical chart review
  - Requires accurate collection of both current gender identity and sex assigned at birth
- Since 2005, the HIV surveillance registry has been able to collect both gender identity and sex assigned at birth. Multiple data sources, including linkages with other databases, are used to ascertain gender identity
  - Not all cases have accurate information on gender identity, thus the registry likely undercounts persons identified as transgender
- Data collection regarding current gender identity for PLWH is conducted on an ongoing basis. Surveillance may have collected new information regarding a person's current gender identity between the time of their HIV diagnosis and publication of this slide set; those identified as transgender at any time are included as transgender

# HOW IS TRANSGENDER STATUS<sup>1</sup> COLLECTED BY NYC HIV SURVEILLANCE? (PART 2)

- Gender identity options are women, men, transgender woman and transgender man
  - Surveillance classifies all transgender persons as either:
    - Transgender woman** = assigned male sex at birth and currently identifies as a woman
    - Transgender man** = assigned female sex at birth and currently identifies as a man
- The total population of transgender people living in NYC is unknown, though approximations<sup>2</sup> are available. The Williams Institute estimates a range of 57,000 to 103,000 transgender adults living in New York state, per a 2016 report (0.37% to 0.68% of the adult population of New York state).

<sup>1</sup>“Transgender status” refers to whether data indicate that a person is or is not transgender.

<sup>2</sup>Please see The Williams Institute’s report “[How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States](#)” for more information

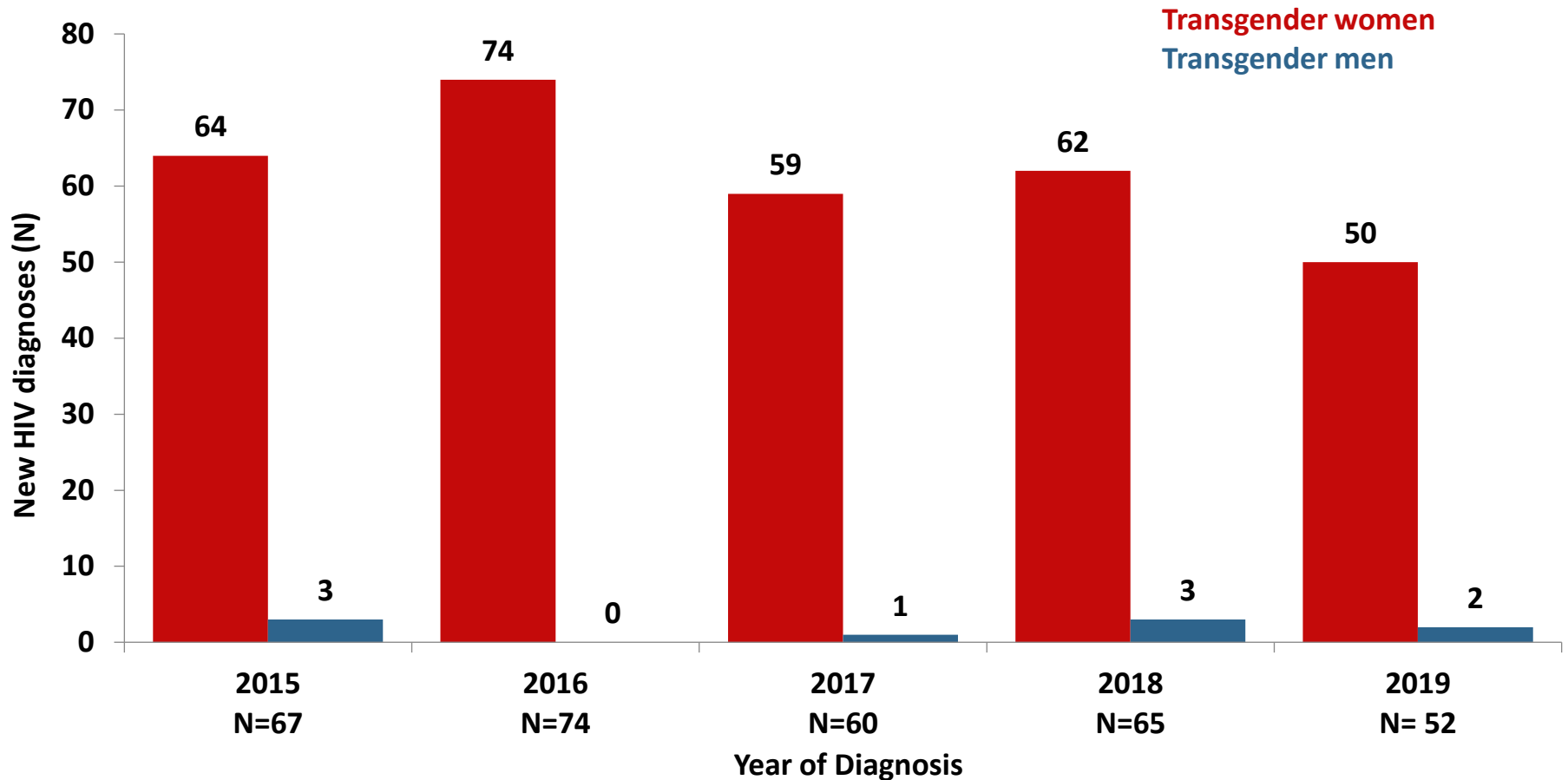
# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER IN NYC, 2015-2019

- **318 new HIV diagnoses in 2015-2019**
  - 309 transgender women (97%)
  - 9 transgender men (3%)
- Includes 24 diagnoses of HIV concurrent with AIDS<sup>1</sup> (8%)
- Transgender people comprised 3.1% of all new HIV diagnoses
  - Transgender women comprised 3% of new HIV diagnoses
  - Transgender men comprised 0.1% of new HIV diagnoses

<sup>1</sup>AIDS diagnosed within 31 days of HIV.

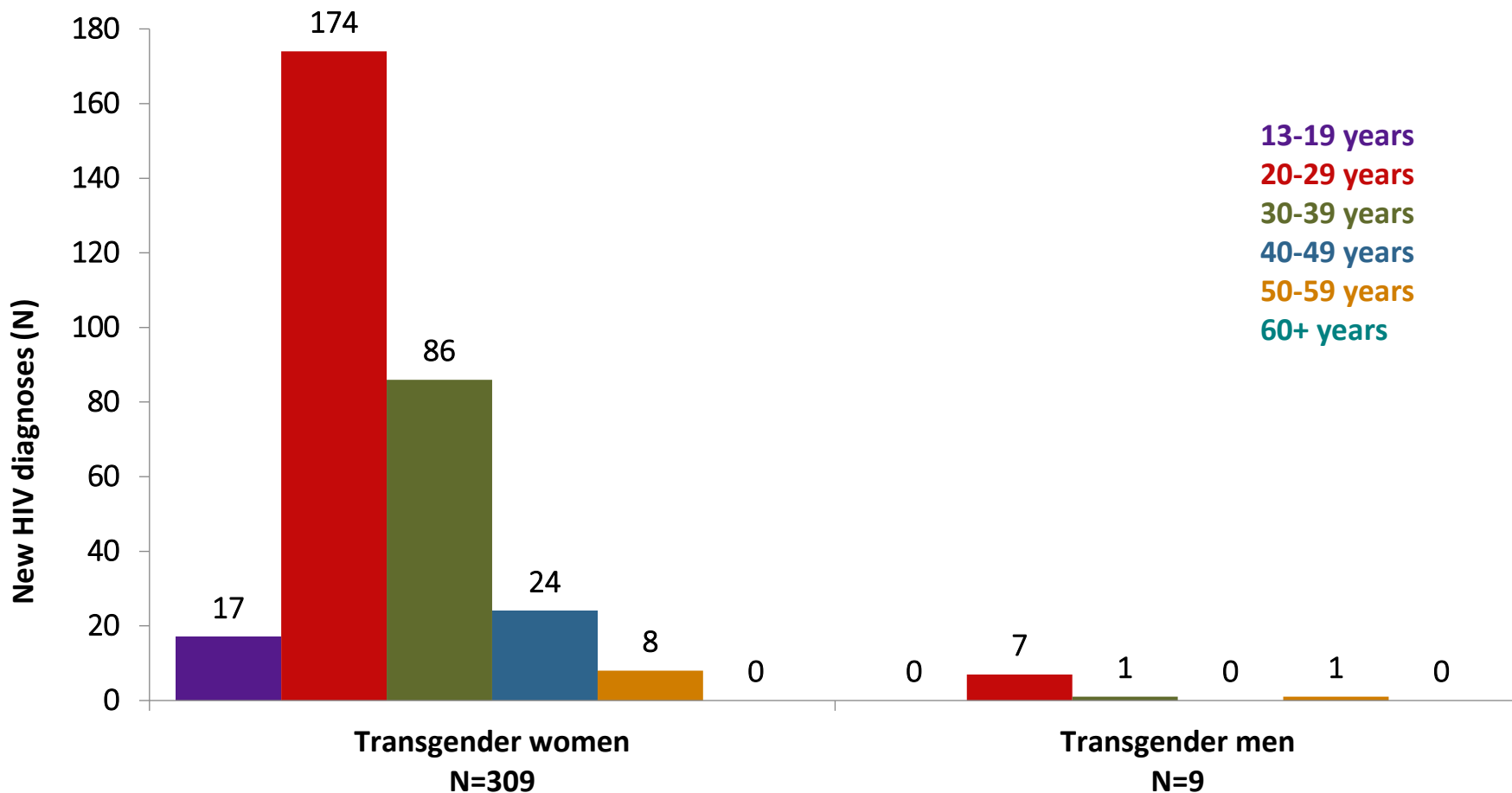
As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by March 31, 2020.

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BY GENDER IDENTITY AND YEAR OF DIAGNOSIS IN NYC, 2015-2019



Between 2015 and 2019, 318 transgender people were newly diagnosed with HIV in NYC. This included 50-74 transgender women and 0-3 transgender men each year.

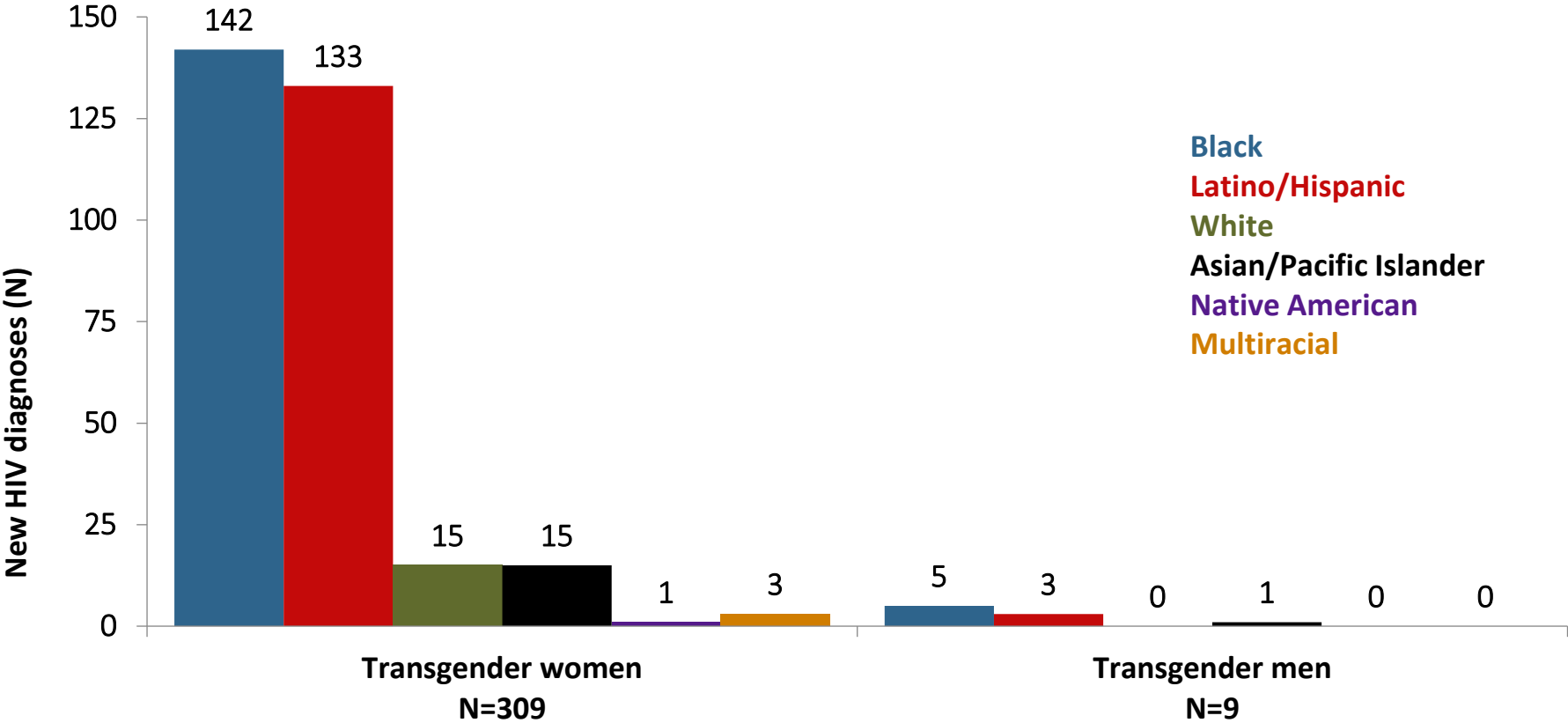
# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BY GENDER IDENTITY AND AGE AT DIAGNOSIS IN NYC, 2015-2019



**The majority of newly diagnosed transgender women and men were in their 20s at diagnosis.**

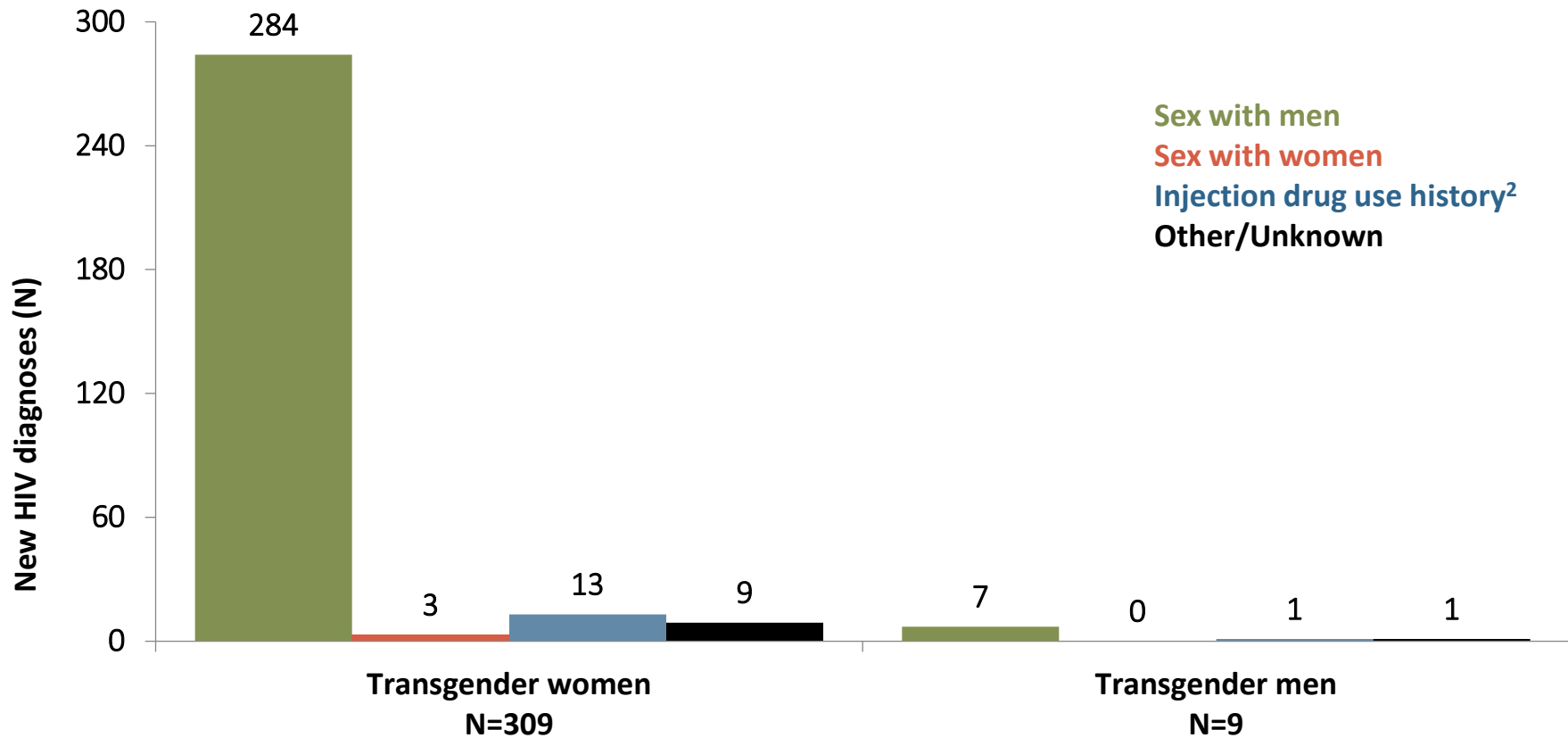


# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BY GENDER IDENTITY AND RACE/ETHNICITY IN NYC, 2015-2019



**Almost ninety percent of transgender women newly diagnosed with HIV between 2015 and 2019 were Black or Latina/Hispanic. Newly diagnosed transgender men were Black, Latino/Hispanic or Asian/Pacific Islander.**

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BY GENDER IDENTITY AND HIV RISK CATEGORY<sup>1</sup> IN NYC, 2015-2019



**Sex with men was the predominant HIV risk category among newly diagnosed transgender women and transgender men.**

<sup>1</sup>“HIV risk category” differs from “transmission risk” presented elsewhere. Here, anyone with a history of injecting drugs was assigned this risk. Non-injectors reporting sex with men were assigned “sex with men,” and non-injectors reporting sex with women only were assigned “sex with women.”

<sup>2</sup>The injection drug use history category is not designed to include injection of hormones.  
As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by March 31, 2020.

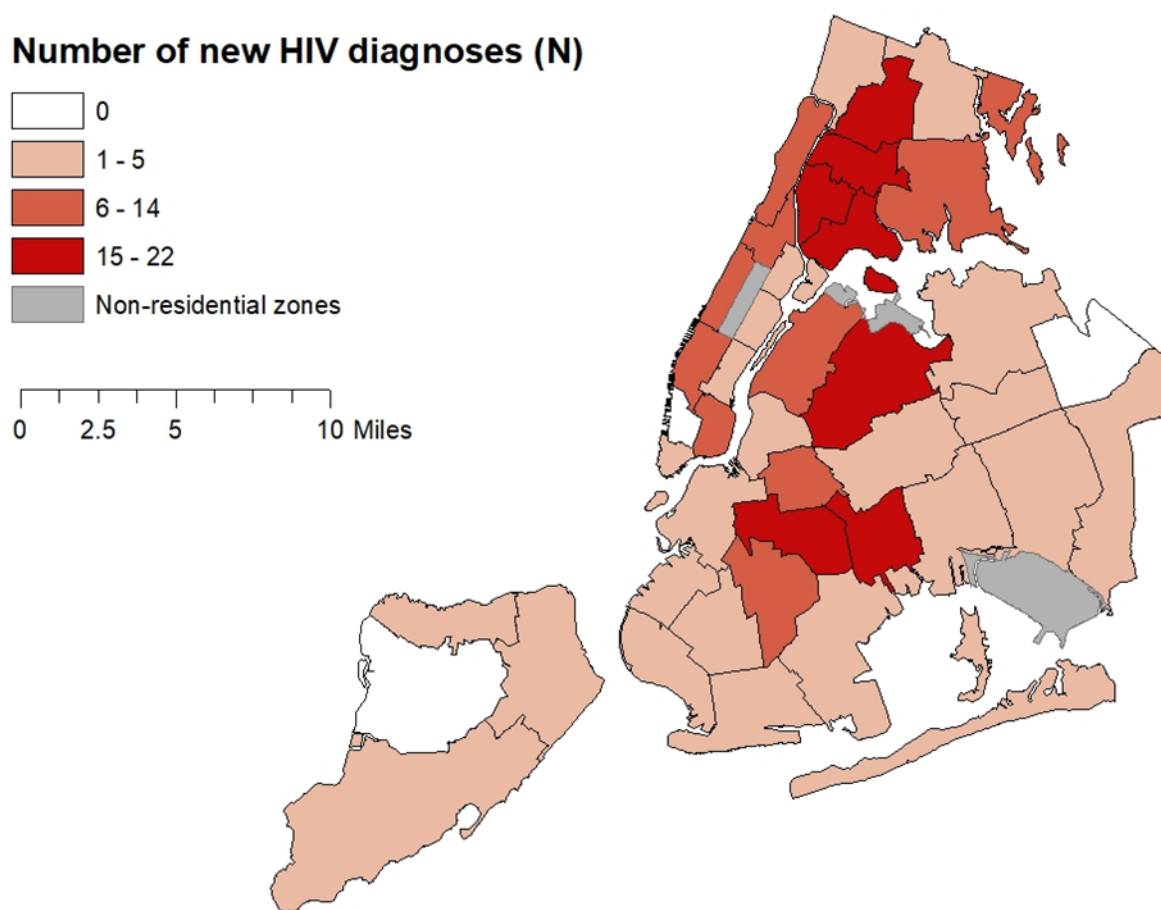
# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BY GENDER IDENTITY AND BOROUGH IN NYC, 2015-2019



**The majority of transgender women newly diagnosed in NYC between 2015 and 2019 lived in the Bronx.**

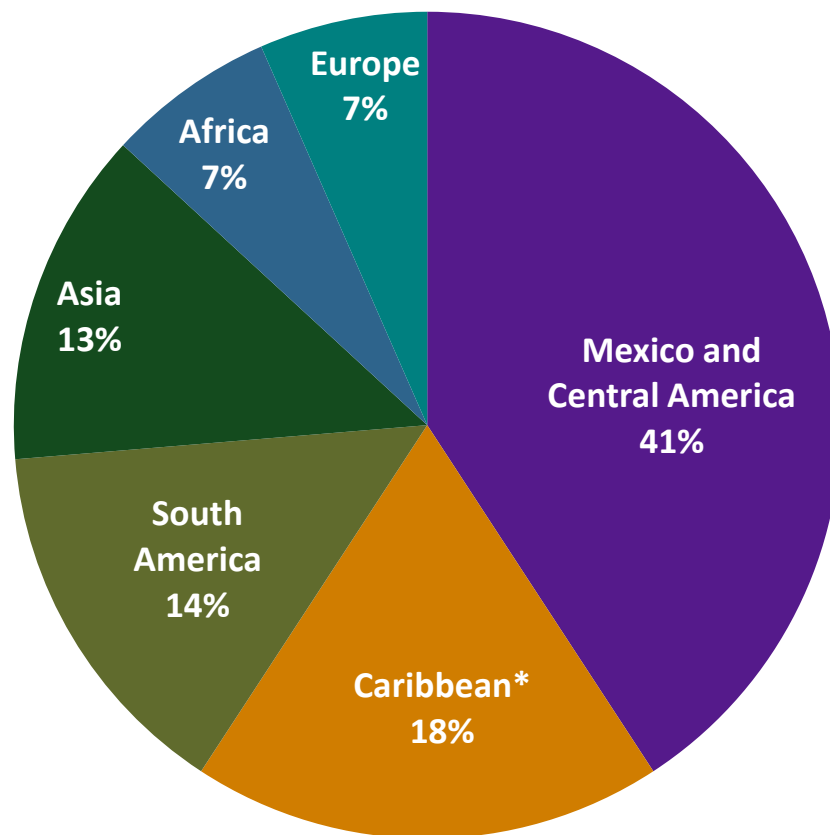
Newly diagnosed people living outside NYC or with unknown residence are not displayed but are included in total Ns.  
 Borough refers to residence at time of HIV diagnosis.  
 As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by March 31, 2020.

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BY UHF NEIGHBORHOOD IN NYC, 2015-2019



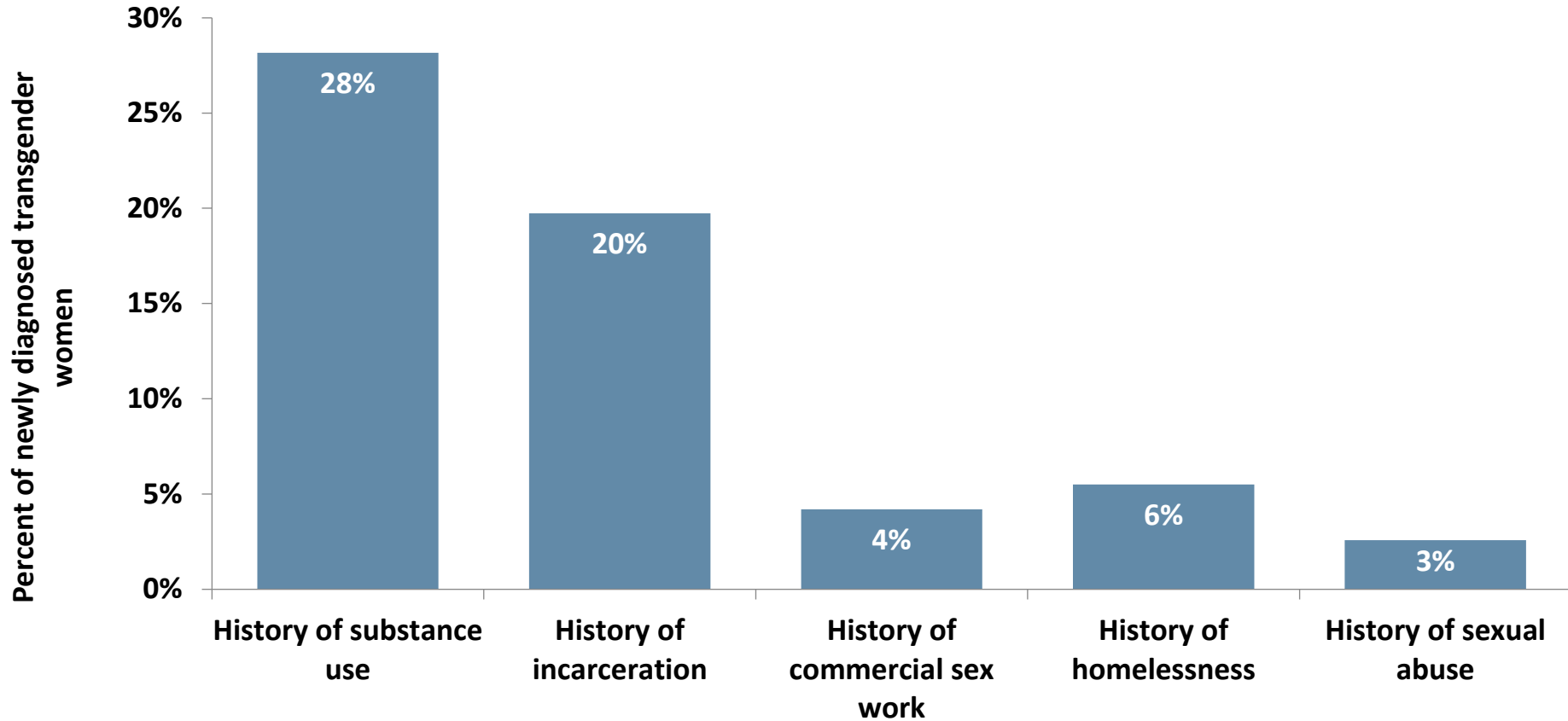
**The UHF neighborhoods of Fordham – Bronx Park, Bedford Stuyvesant – Crown Heights and Crotona – Tremont had the highest numbers of newly diagnosed transgender people.**

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S. BY REGION OF BIRTH, NYC, 2015-2019



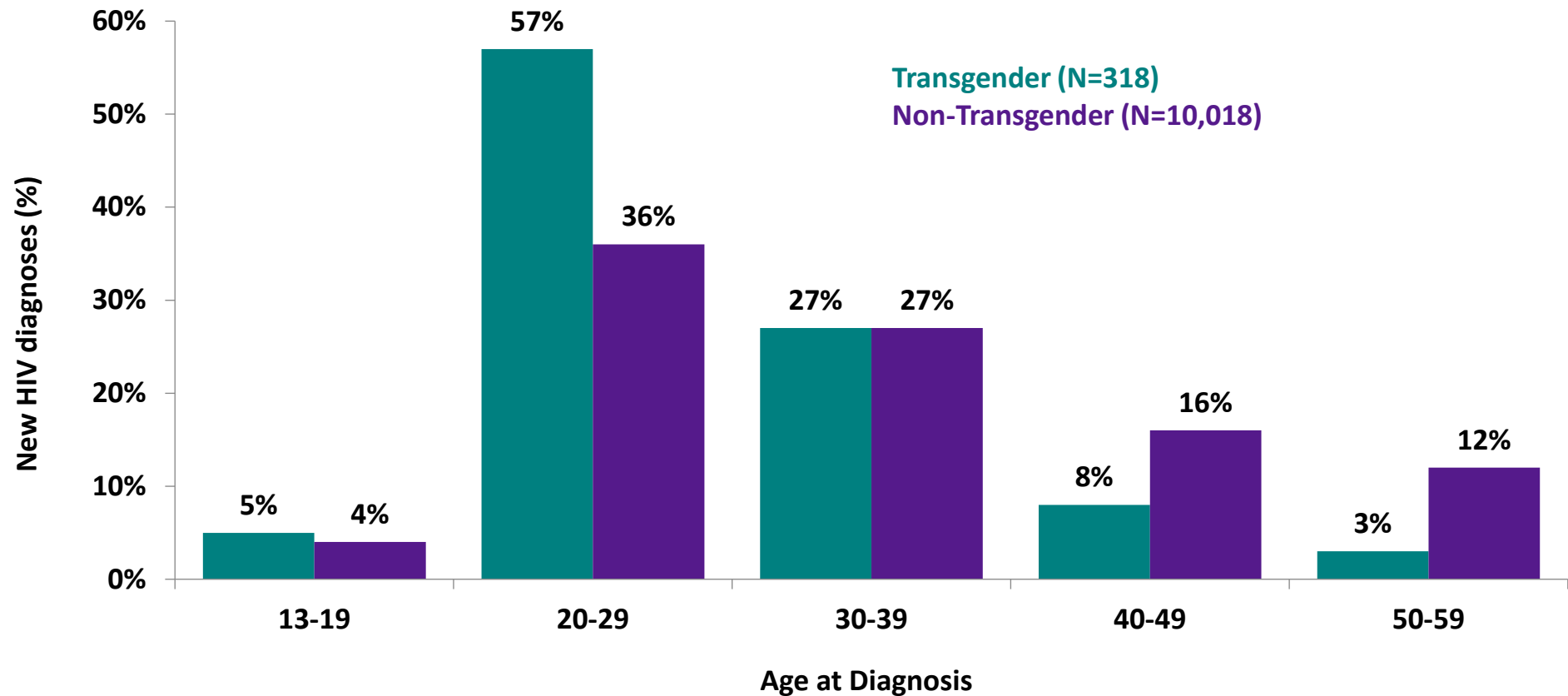
**Among transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV between 2015 and 2019, 76 (25%) were born outside the U.S. Of those, more than 41% were from Mexico and Central America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup>.**

# SELECT VULNERABILITIES OF TRANSGENDER WOMEN NEWLY DIAGNOSED WITH HIV IN NYC, 2015-2019



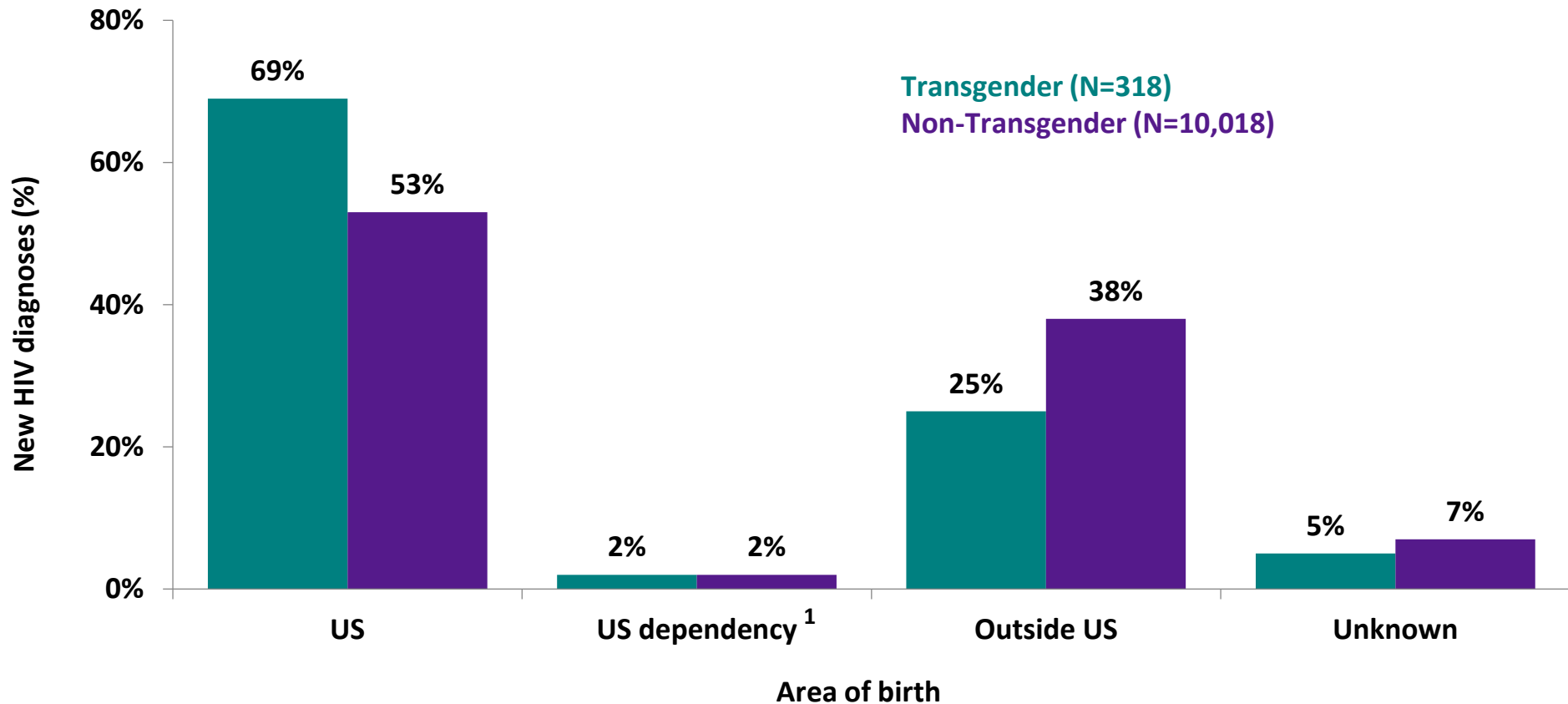
**Among the 309 newly diagnosed transgender women in 2015-2019, 44% had a history of at least one of the vulnerabilities presented above<sup>1</sup>, compared with 28% of non-transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV (not shown).**

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER AND NON-TRANSGENDER BY AGE AT DIAGNOSIS IN NYC, 2015-2019



**A larger proportion of newly diagnosed transgender people were under 30 years of age at the time of diagnosis compared to non-transgender people.**

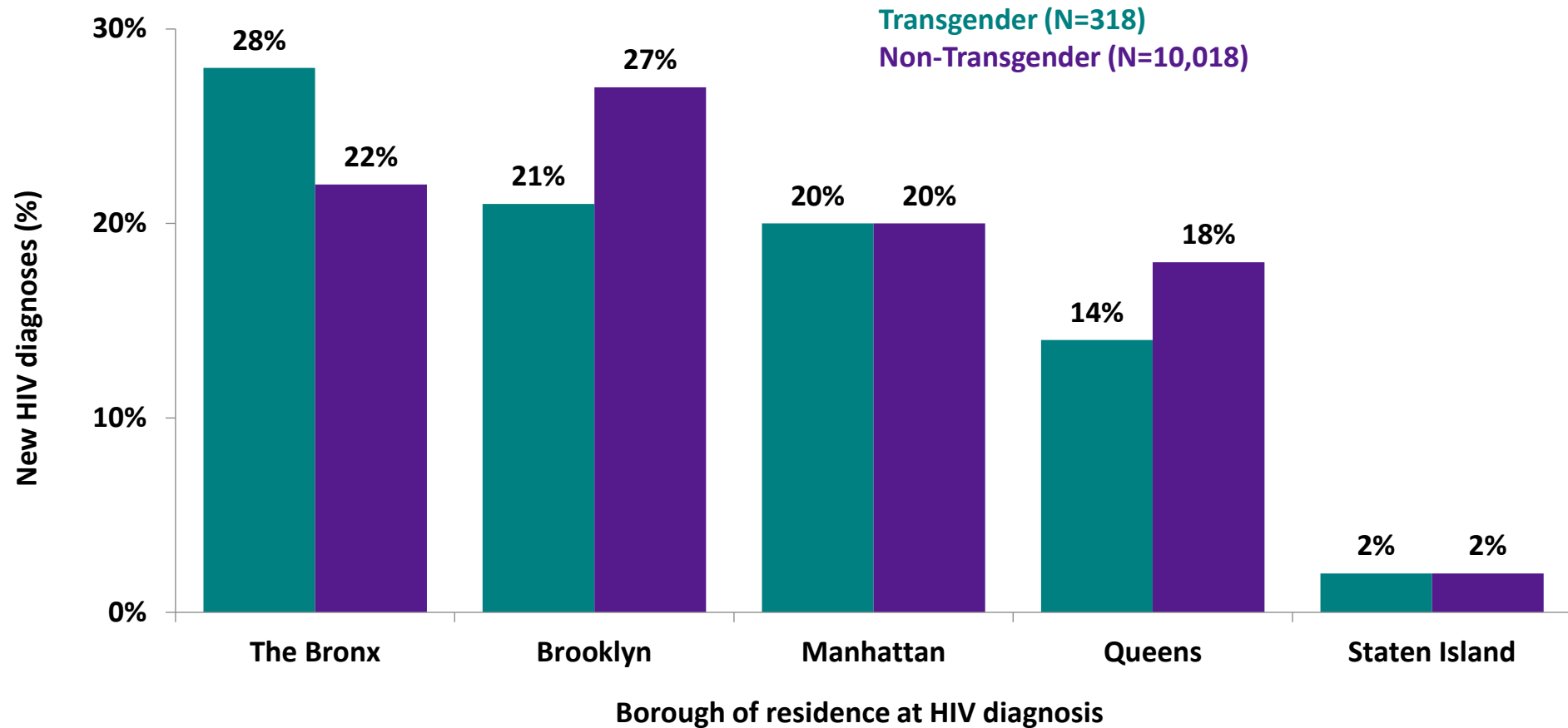
# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER AND NON-TRANSGENDER BY AREA OF BIRTH IN NYC, 2015-2019



**A larger proportion of newly diagnosed transgender people were born in the US compared to non-transgender people.**

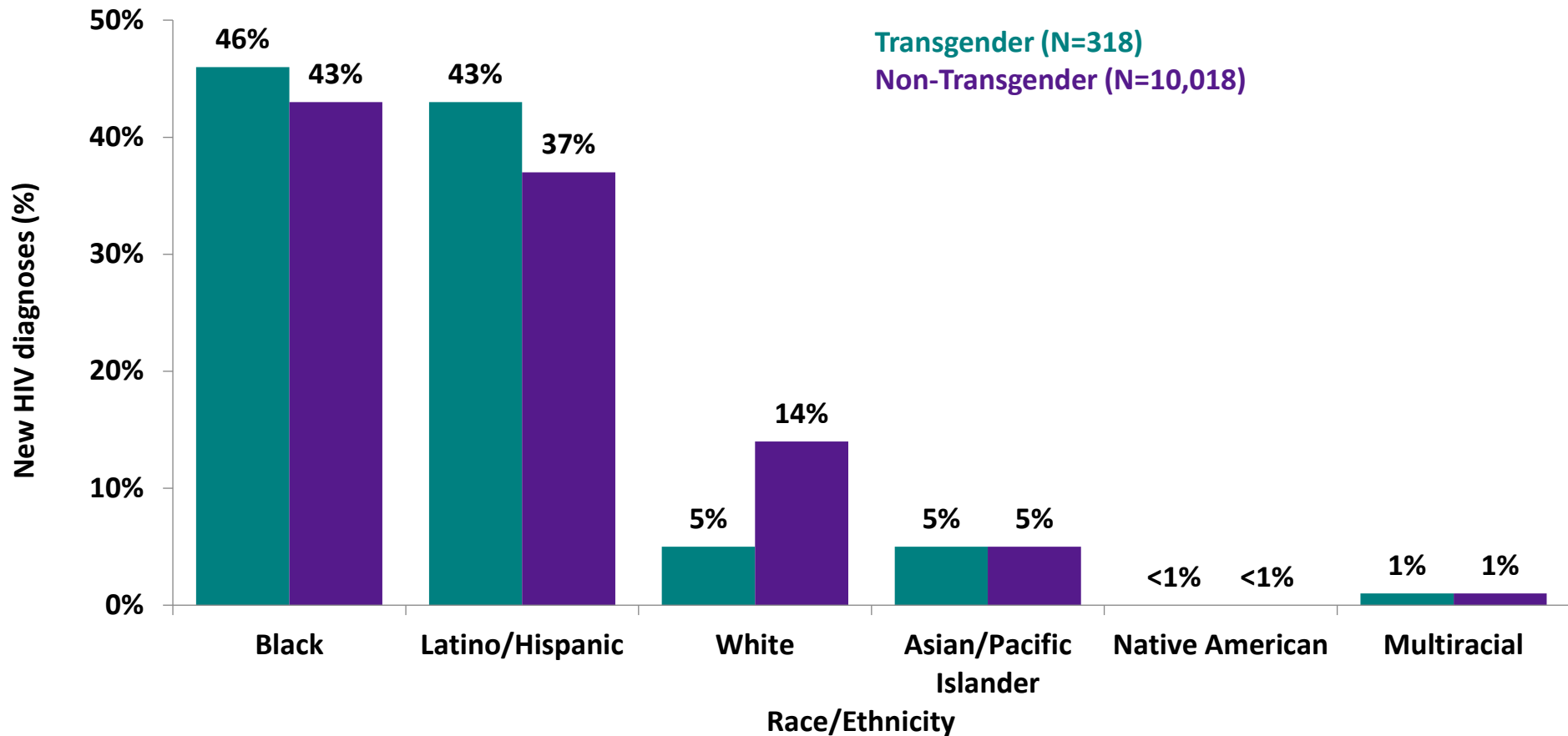


# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER AND NON-TRANSGENDER BY BOROUGH OF RESIDENCE AT DIAGNOSIS IN NYC, 2015-2019



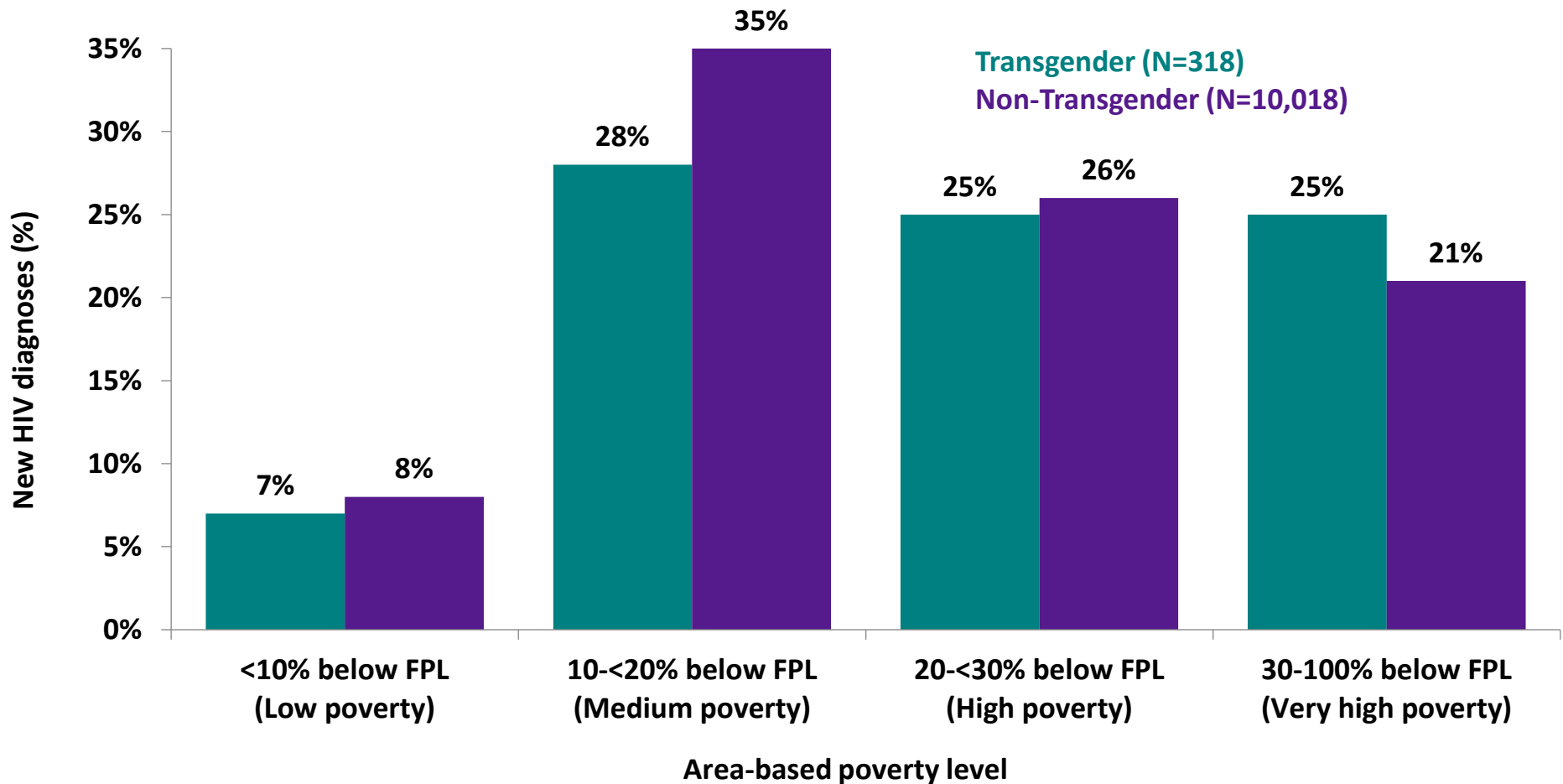
**A larger proportion of transgender people lived in the Bronx at HIV diagnosis compared to non-transgender people.**

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER AND NON-TRANSGENDER BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN NYC, 2015-2019



**A smaller proportion of newly diagnosed transgender people were White and a larger proportion were Black or Latino/Hispanic compared to non-transgender people.**

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER AND NON-TRANSGENDER BY AREA BASED POVERTY AT DIAGNOSIS IN NYC, 2015-2019

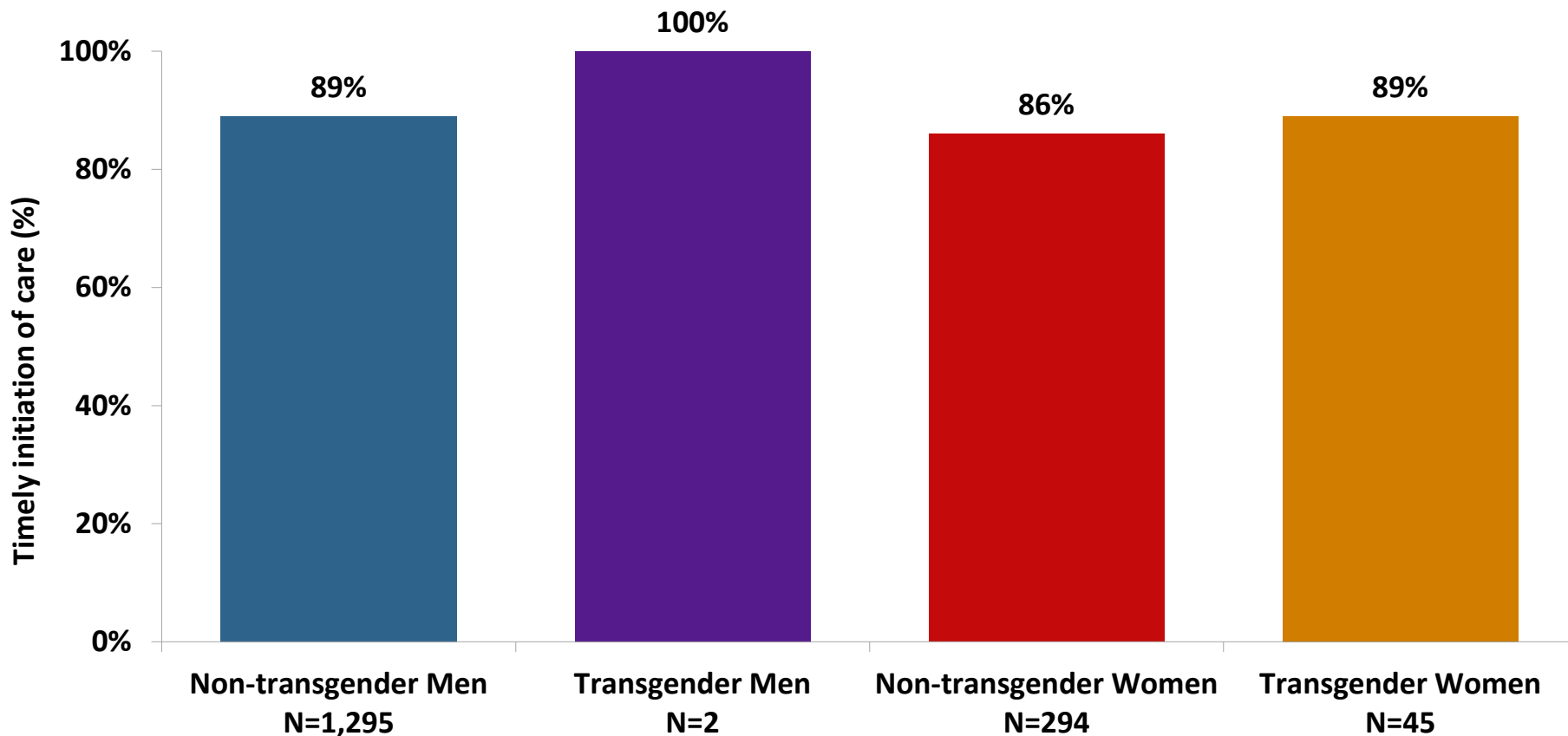


**A larger proportion of transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV live in very high poverty neighborhoods compared to non-transgender people.**

# NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER IN NYC, 2019

- **52 new HIV diagnoses among transgender individuals in 2019**
  - 50 transgender women (96%)
  - Includes 3 diagnoses of HIV concurrent with AIDS<sup>1</sup> (7%)
- Transgender people comprised 3% of all new HIV diagnoses in NYC in 2019
  - Transgender women comprised 2.9% of all new HIV diagnoses
  - Transgender men comprised 0.1% of all new HIV diagnoses

# TIMELY INITIATION OF CARE AMONG PEOPLE NEWLY DIAGNOSED WITH HIV BY GENDER IN NYC, 2019



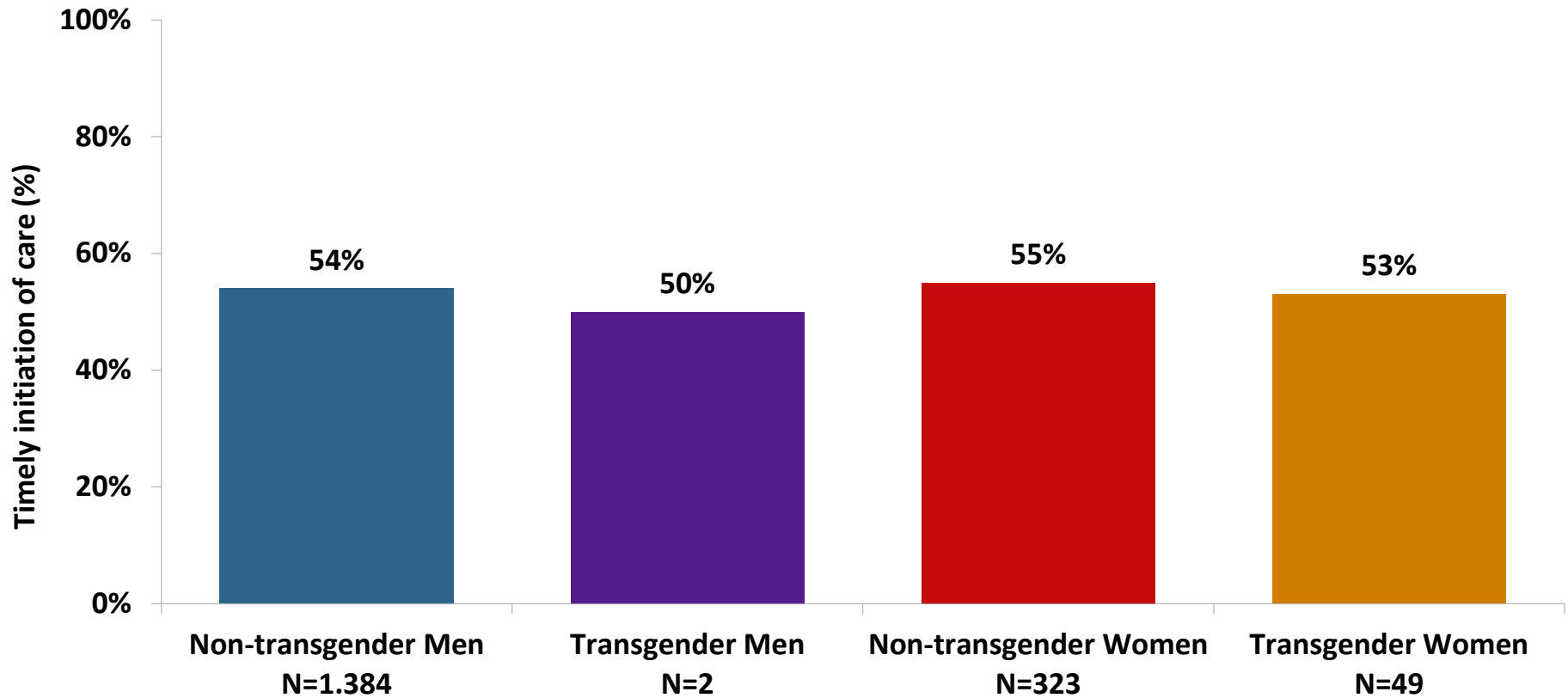
**Among people newly diagnosed with HIV in NYC in 2019, the proportion of transgender women with timely initiation of care was similar to that of non-transgender men, and higher than that of non-transgender women.**

Timely initiation of care is defined as HIV viral load, CD4, or genotype test drawn within 1 month (30 days) of HIV diagnosis.

People diagnosed at death have been excluded.

As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by March 31, 2020.

# VIRAL SUPPRESSION WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSIS BY GENDER IN NYC, 2019

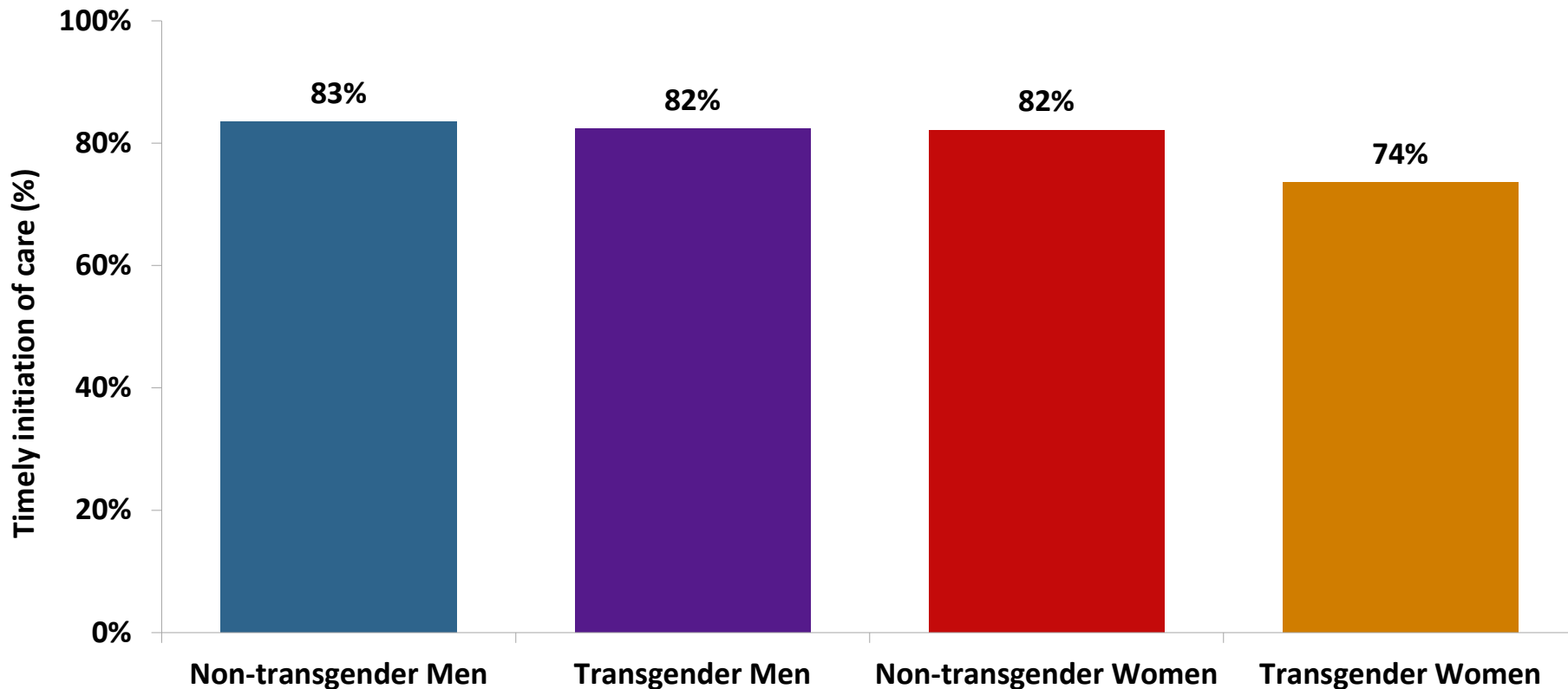


**Among people newly diagnosed with HIV in NYC in 2019, a larger proportion of non-transgender men and women had achieved viral suppression within 3 months of diagnosis than transgender men and women.**

# PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER LIVING WITH HIV IN NYC, 2019

- Approximately 2,109 transgender people were known to be living with HIV in NYC at the end of 2019
  - 98% transgender women and 2% transgender men
  - 50% Black and 40% Latino/Hispanic

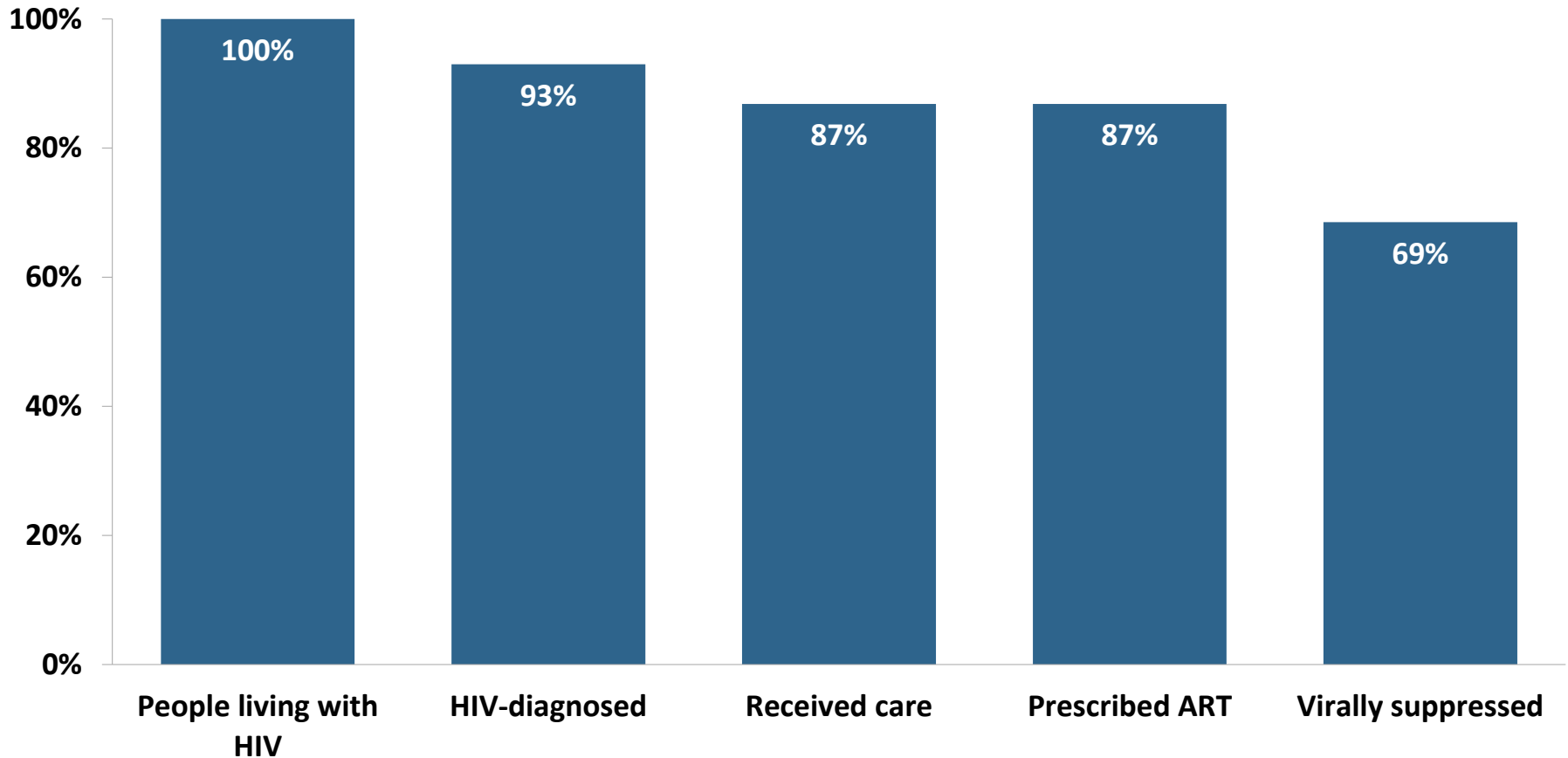
# VIRAL SUPPRESSION<sup>1</sup> AMONG DIAGNOSED PLWH BY GENDER IN NYC, 2019



**Among diagnosed people living with HIV (PLWH) in NYC, a smaller proportion of transgender women were virally suppressed compared to non-transgender men and women, and transgender men.**

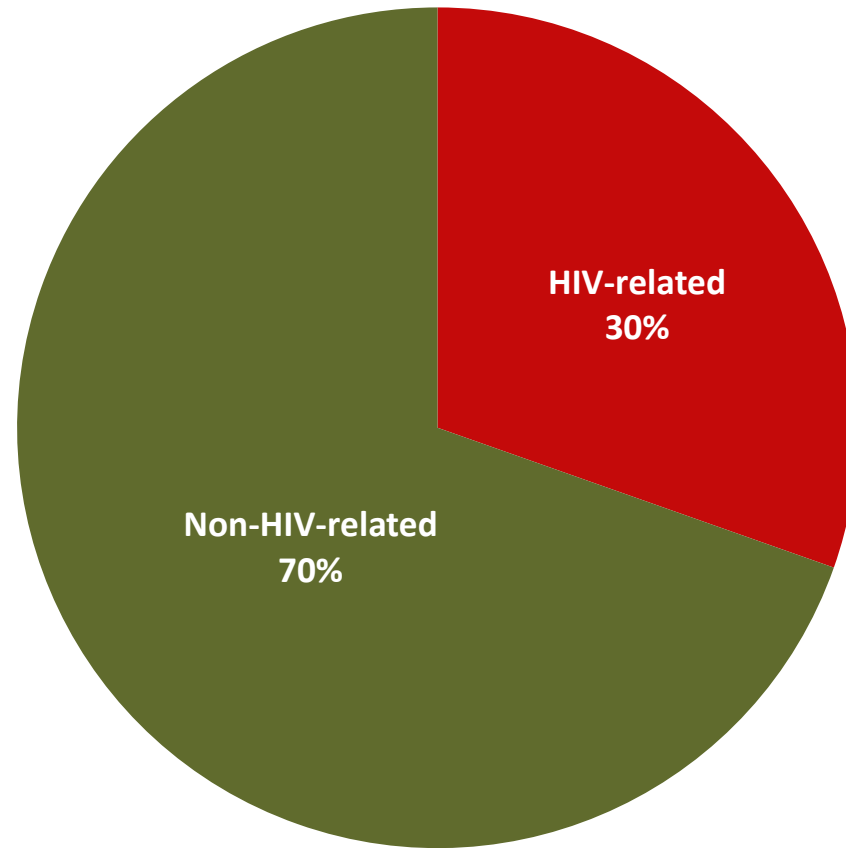


# PROPORTION OF PLWH IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER ENGAGED IN SELECTED STAGES OF THE HIV CARE CONTINUUM IN NYC, 2019



**Of the approximately 1,940 transgender people living with HIV (PLWH) living in NYC in 2019, 69% had a suppressed viral load, compared to 77% virally suppressed among all PLWH.**

# CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG TRANSGENDER PERSONS WITH HIV IN NYC, 2018<sup>1</sup>



**In 2018, 70% of deaths among transgender people with HIV were due to non-HIV-related causes. Among these, the top causes were accidents (19%), non-HIV-related cancers (19%), and assaults (homicides) (19%).**

<sup>1</sup>Cause of death data are not yet available for 2019.

<sup>2</sup>ICD10 codes B20-B24 were used to denote HIV-related deaths. For technical notes on cause of death by the NYC DOHMH's Office of Vital Statistics see:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/vs/2014sum.pdf>.

As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by March 31, 2020.

# HIV AMONG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER IN NYC

## SUMMARY

- Among 318 transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV between 2015 and 2019:
  - 57% were ages 20 to 29 years
  - 46% were Black and 43% were Latino/Hispanic
  - 97% were transgender women
- Compared with non-transgender people, a larger proportion of transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV between 2015 and 2019 were:
  - Under 30 years old
  - Latino/Hispanic
  - Lived in very high-poverty neighborhoods
- Compared with non-transgender people, a smaller proportion of transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV between 2015 and 2019 were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS.
- Compared with non-transgender people, a similar proportion of transgender people newly diagnosed with HIV in 2019 initiated HIV care within one month of diagnosis.
- Among all people living with HIV in NYC, a smaller proportion of transgender women were virally suppressed compared with all other groups.

# HOW TO FIND OUR DATA

- **Our program publishes annual surveillance reports, slide sets, and statistics tables:**
  - Annual reports: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/hiv-aids-surveillance-and-epidemiology-reports.page>
  - Slide sets: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/epi-surveillance-slide-sets.page>
  - Statistics tables: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/hiv-aids-annual-surveillance-statistics.page>
- **Other resources:**
  - HIV Care Status Reports (CSR) system: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/aids-hiv-care-status-reports-system.page>
  - HIV Care Continuum Dashboards (CCDs): <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/care-continuum-dashboard.page>
- **For surveillance data requests, email:** [HIVReport@health.nyc.gov](mailto:HIVReport@health.nyc.gov)
  - Two weeks minimum needed for requests to be completed

# APPENDIX 1:

## METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

### Surveillance for HIV among transgender people:

- Collected routinely since 2005 for newly reported cases.
- NYC HIV Surveillance considers people whose current gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth to be transgender. “Sex assigned at birth” refers to male or female sex that was assigned to a person at birth based on their anatomy. Sex and gender information are collected from people’s self-report, their diagnosing provider, or medical chart review. This information may or may not reflect the individual’s self-identity.
- Transgender status in surveillance refers to whether data indicate that a person is or is not transgender. Ascertainment of transgender status requires accurate collection of both sex assigned at birth and current gender identity.
- Surveillance classifies all transgender people as one of the following:
  - Transgender woman = assigned male sex at birth and currently identifies as a woman
  - Transgender man = assigned female sex at birth and currently identifies as a man
- People identified as transgender may or may not have received hormone therapy or gender affirming surgeries.
- People identified as transgender can be of any sexual orientation.

### General HIV surveillance:

- “HIV diagnoses” include diagnoses of HIV (non-AIDS) and HIV concurrent with AIDS (AIDS diagnosed within 31 days of HIV), unless otherwise specified.
- “PLWH” refers to people living with HIV during the reporting period and alive at the end of the reporting period.
- Area-based poverty is based on NYC ZIP code of residence and is defined as the percent of the population in a ZIP code with a household income that is below the Federal Poverty Level. This measure is not available for people missing a ZIP code or living outside NYC. Income data used in this report are from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) for events (e.g., diagnoses, deaths, care indicators) occurring between 2006 and 2009, ACS 2008-2012 for events occurring in 2010, ACS 2009-2013 for events occurring in 2011, ACS 2010-2014 for events occurring in 2012, ACS 2011-2015 for events occurring in 2013, ACS 2012-2016 for events occurring in 2014, ACS 2013-2017 for events occurring in 2015, and ACS 2014-2018 for events occurring between 2016 and 2019. Cut-points for categories of area-based poverty in NYC were defined by a NYC DOHMH workgroup.

# APPENDIX 2:

## TECHNICAL NOTES: NYC HIV CARE CONTINUUM

- “People living with HIV”: calculated as “HIV-diagnosed” divided by the estimated proportion of people living with HIV (PLWH) who had been diagnosed, based on a CD4 depletion mode.
  - Source: NYC HIV Surveillance Registry. Method: Song R, et al. Using CD4 Data to Estimate HIV Incidence, Prevalence, and Percent of Undiagnosed Infections in the United States. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2018 Jan 1;74(1):3-9.
- “HIV-diagnosed”: calculated as PLWH “Received Care” plus the estimated number of PLWH who were out of care, based on a statistical weighting method. This estimated number aims to account for out-migration from NYC, and therefore is different from the total number of people diagnosed and reported with HIV in NYC.
  - Source: NYC HIV Surveillance Registry. Method: Xia Q, et al. Proportions of Patients With HIV Received Care and Virally Suppressed in New York City and the United States. *JAIDS* 2016;68(3):351-358.
- “Received Care”: PLWH with  $\geq 1$  VL or CD4 count or CD4 percent drawn in 2019, and reported to NYC HIV surveillance.
  - Source: NYC HIV Surveillance Registry.
- “Prescribed ART”: calculated as PLWH “Received Care” multiplied by the estimated proportion of PLWH prescribed ART in the previous 12 months, based on the proportion of NYC Medical Monitoring Project participants whose medical record included documentation of ART prescription.
  - Source: NYC HIV Surveillance Registry and NYC Medical Monitoring Project, 2018.
- “Virally suppressed”: calculated as PLWH in care with a most recent viral load measurement in 2019 of  $< 200$  copies/mL, plus the estimated number of out-of-care 2019 PLWH with a viral load  $< 200$  copies/mL, based on a statistical weighting method.
  - Source: NYC HIV Surveillance Registry. Method: Xia Q, et al. Proportions of Patients With HIV Received Care and Virally Suppressed in New York City and the United States. *JAIDS* 2016;68(3):351-358.

# APPENDIX 3:

## TECHNICAL NOTES: GENDER IDENTITY

- Surveillance collects information about individuals' current gender identity, when available. People whose current gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth are considered transgender. Classifying transgender people in surveillance requires accurate collection of both sex assigned at birth and current gender identity. Sex and gender information are collected from people's self-report, their diagnosing provider, or medical chart review. This information may or may not reflect the individual's self-identification. Transgender status has been collected routinely since 2005 for newly reported cases. Reported numbers of new transgender HIV diagnoses and transgender PLWH are likely to be underestimates. Surveillance collects information on other gender identity categories, including "Non-binary/Gender non-conforming." In these slides, data for these individuals (N=8 at time of publication) are displayed by sex at birth.