



Health disparities affecting transgendered individuals.

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8/3/2009



Definitions

- ❑ A health disparity is when the quality of health care is unequal for certain groups such as race, sex, and sexual orientation.



- ❑ Transgender means that an individual feels that they are in conflict with their physical sex. This term may also mean that a gender reassignment procedure has taken place.

**+ Disparity:
Transgendered
people's access to
health care as
compared to non-
trans people**



- ❑ Often times transgendered individuals do not get medical care due to fear of transphobia/homophobia.
- ❑ In Massachusetts health care related to transgender health is not covered by medical insurance.



Disparity (cont.)

- Because of their limited access to health care, trans individuals are often more susceptible to many conditions, which will be discussed in the following slides.





Cost

Medical insurance plans always have some sort of cost that the patient has to pay, but this is nowhere near comparable to the expenses faced as a transgendered person.

\$17,000 for male-to-female surgery

+\$1,000 for therapy

+\$1,500 for hormones

+\$500 for doctor visits and lab tests

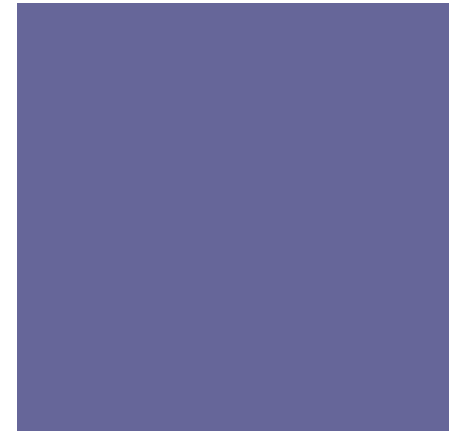
\$20,000



Cancer



- ❑ Transgendered people have a high susceptibility to certain cancers.



- ❑ Transitioning without removal of female reproductive body parts can cause cancer.



Depression and Anxiety

- ❑ Loss of friends
- ❑ Family
- ❑ Unemployment
- ❑ Physical appearance





Hormones

- Trans individuals usually inject hormones to reach a more feminine or masculine appearance.



- Because of use of hormones, trans individuals are at greater risk for hyper/hypotension, heart attack, stroke, etc.



+ Sexually Transmitted Infections

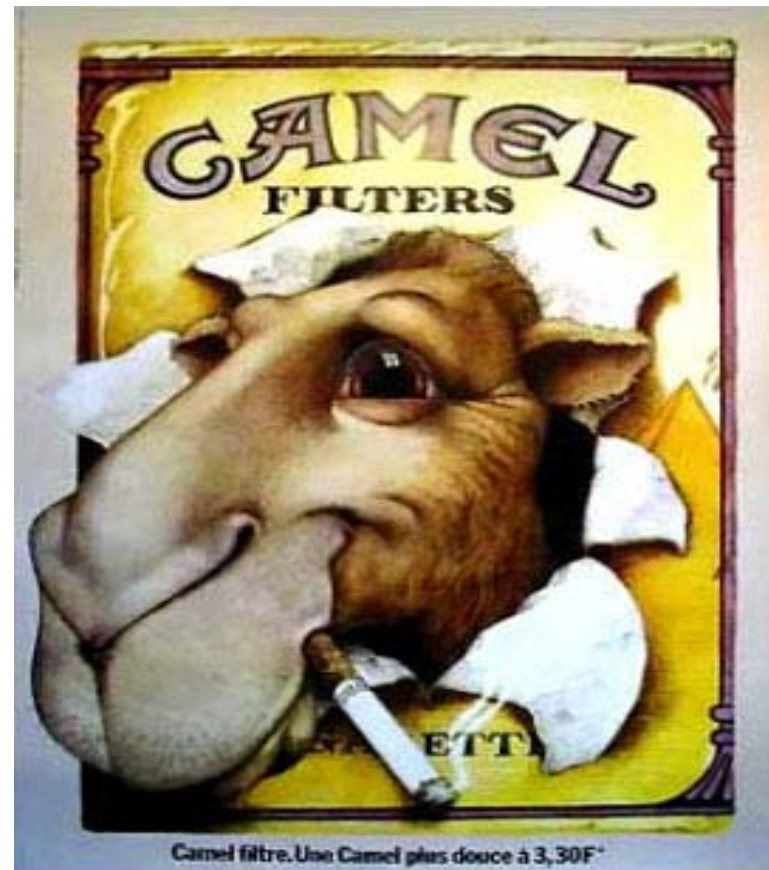
- ❑ Prostitution is a result of increased unemployment.
- ❑ STDs occur as a result of prostitution.





Substance Abuse

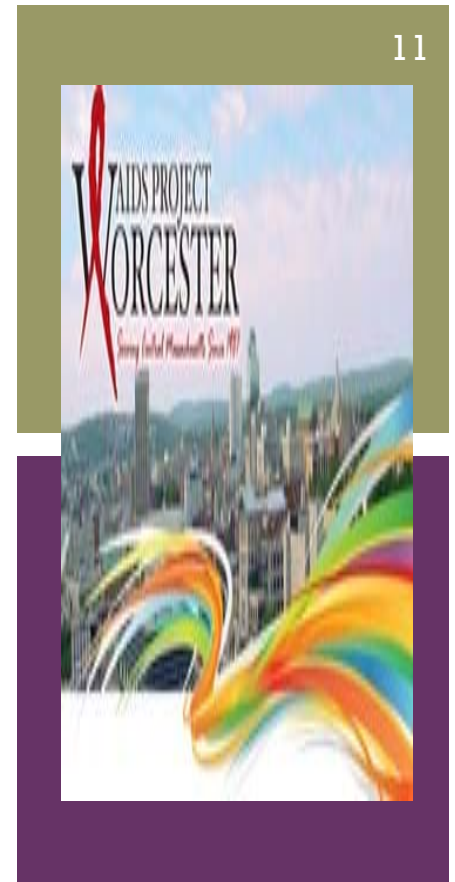
- In Massachusetts, transgendered people are more likely than non-trans people to smoke cigarettes.



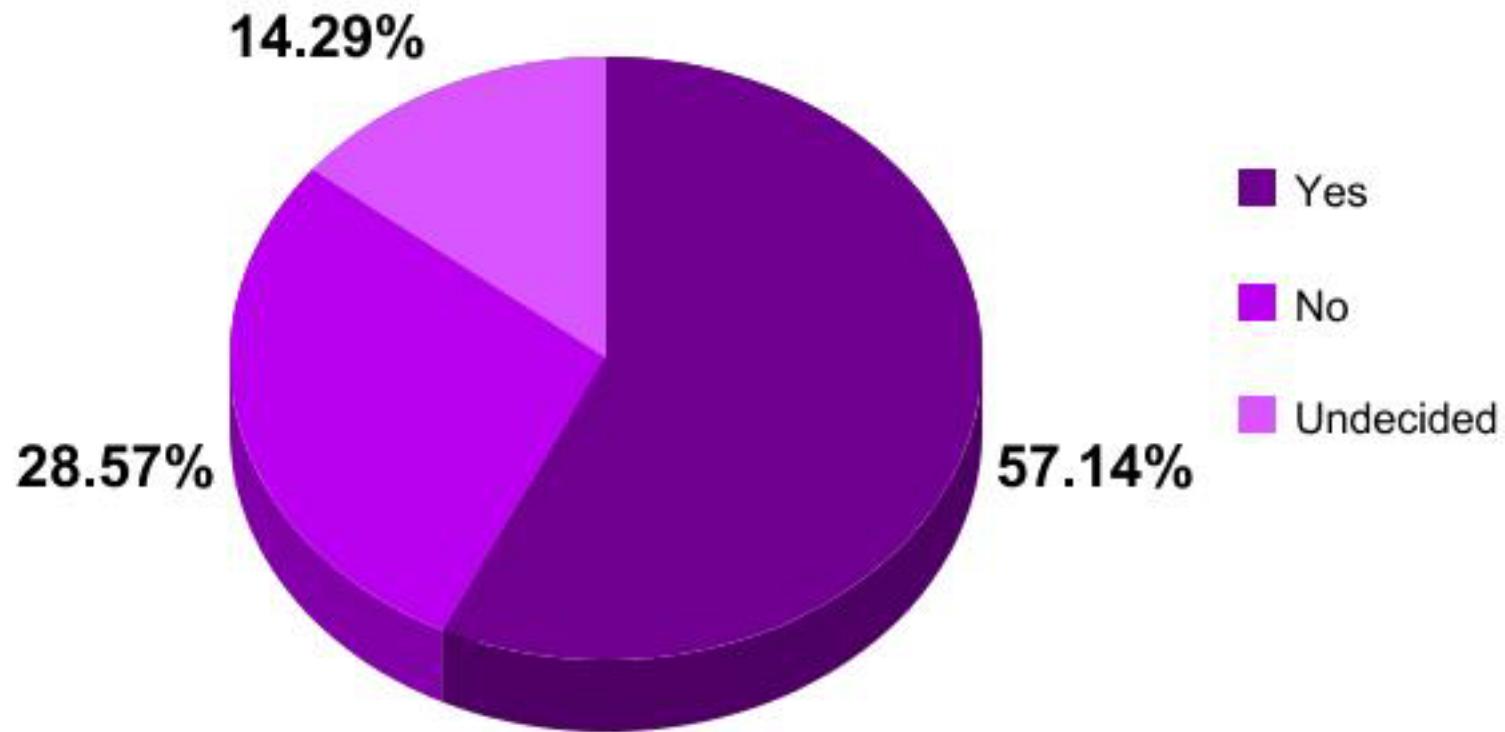
How We Can Change This...

- *AIDS Project Worcester* helps with trans medical costs.

- Better educating medical insurance companies and health care providers in Massachusetts can help end this overwhelming disparity.

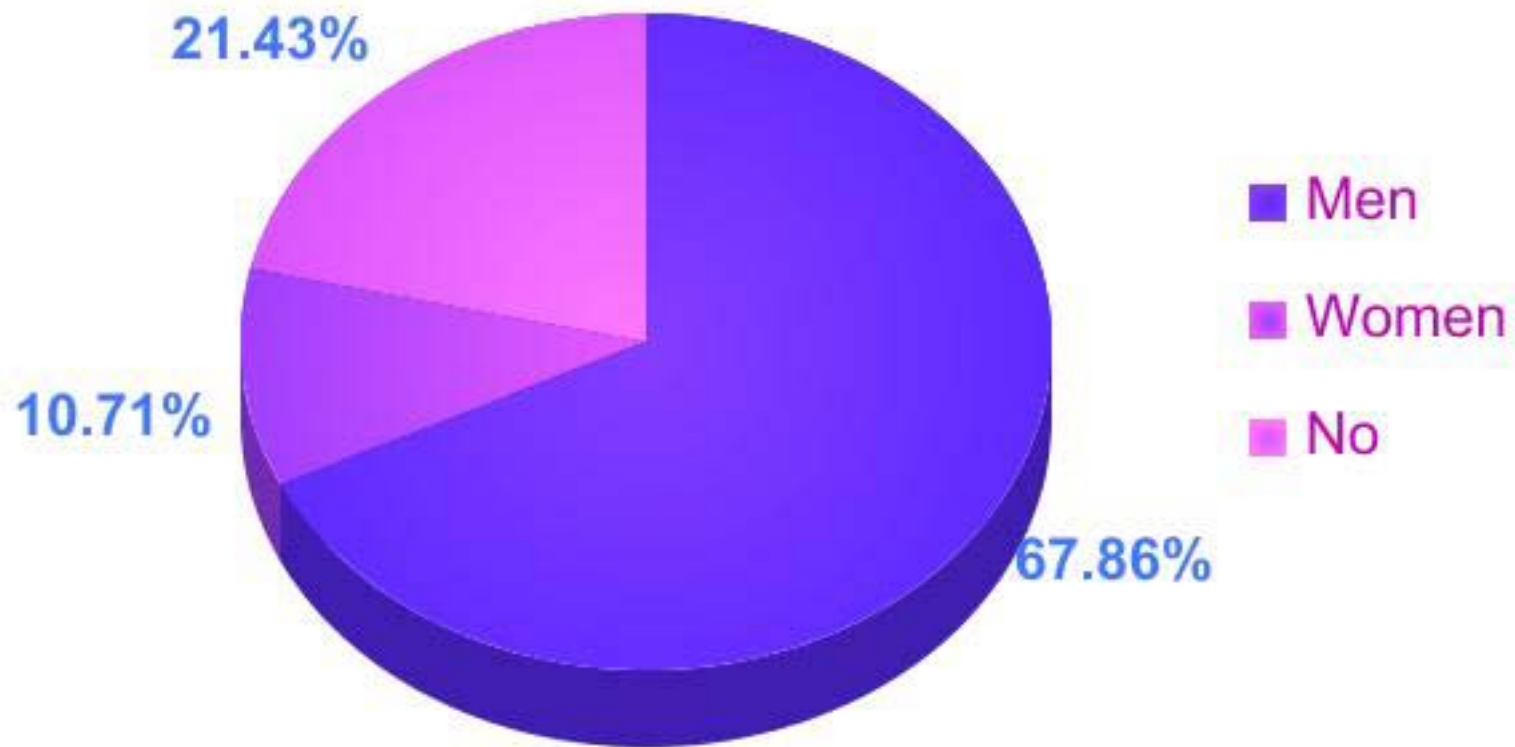


Do you think that transgendered health issues should be covered by medical insurance in Massachusetts?



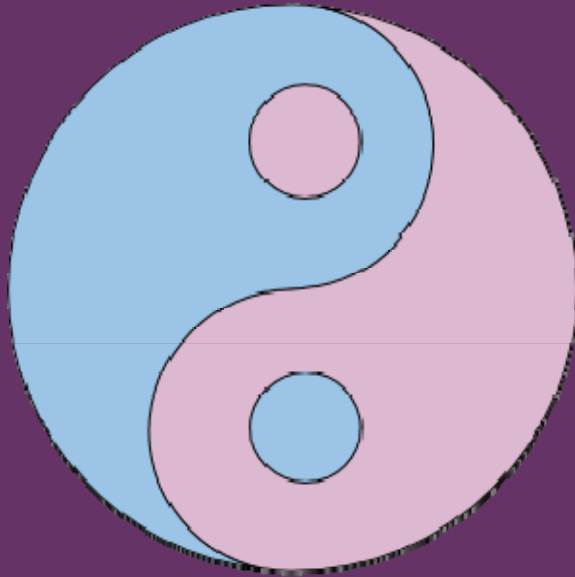
HSHCP

Do you believe that, in Massachusetts, one sex undergoes gender reassignment surgery more so than the other?



HSHCP

**In Massachusetts,
about 63% of gender
reassignment
candidates are male.**



Conclusion...

By further educating health care providers in Massachusetts about transgendered issues and gender identity disorder, and making more community outreach programs for trans people available, the health care for these individuals should improve dramatically.



Citations

Wikipedia the free encyclopedia. January 2009. LGBT issues in medicine. July 13 2009.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_issues_in_medicine.

“Transgender Health Benefits.” Transgender Health Benefits. 2005. July 24,2009. <http://www.tgender.net/taw/tsins.html>.