

LGBT HEALTH ADVOCACY – RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES AT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS & UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Screening in Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Patients

Background

Current screening guidelines have varying recommendations about who should be screened for intimate partner violence (IPV). The United States Preventive Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening “all women of childbearing age”, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recommends screening “all women,” and the Institute of Medicine recommends screening “all women and girls”. Although IPV remains a concern for cis-gendered women, there are also high rates of IPV among sexual and gender minorities. One study from a MassEquality survey (2012) found that 35% individuals that identify as trans experience physical forms of IPV, compared to 14% of non-TGNC (transgender) patients. Gender affirmation is the process through which transgender patients affirm their gender identity through social, medical, surgical, and legal transitions. Bockting *et al.* (2016) reviewed data about the overall development and quality of life of trans patients, finding that despite challenges, gender affirmation and resiliency over time play a key role in quality of life and development for TGNC patients.

Future Directions

- Complete manual extraction of IPV data set.
- Focuses: (1) Effect of Gender Affirmation & IPV Rates and (2) Outcome of Positive IPV screen in Trans Patients.

Cervical Cancer Screening for Patients on the Female to Male Spectrum

Background

Many trans men (Female to Male) retain part or all of their cervix, and thus it is recommended that they follow the same cervical screening guidelines as cis-gendered women. Some trans men decide to medically transition through the use of hormones, specifically by taking a weekly or monthly dose of testosterone. It has been established that testosterone causes atrophy of the endocervical cells, and recent analysis has shown that trans men are ten times more likely to have an inadequate pap smear compared to cis-gendered women.

Project

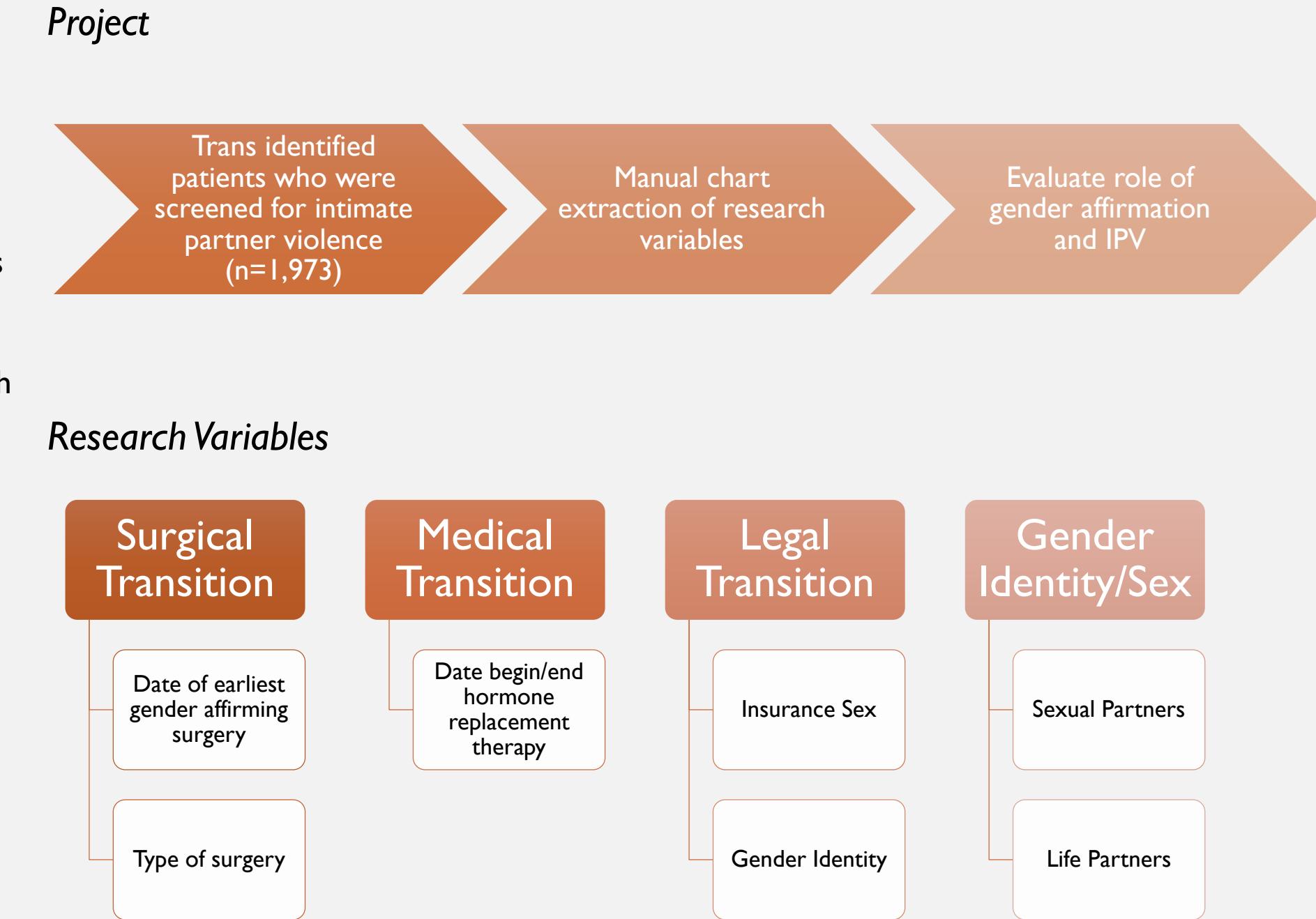
Retrospective Chart Review, n=220.

Inclusion Criteria: Trans Men with partial/complete cervix w/ a pap smear from 2007 to 2012.

Collect the following data: (1) gender identity, (2) duration and type of hormone therapy, (3) surgical transition history, (4) result and date of pap smear.

Future Directions

- Complete manual extraction of Transprev data set.
- Paper focus: distinguishing serum testosterone and dose of testosterone during the time of inadequate pap.



Curriculum Development at UMass Medical School

Background

The Population Health Clerkship (PHC) is a two-week course that immerses second-year medical students and first-year graduate nursing students in local community organizations and exposes students to public health concerns and vulnerable populations. Once placed within a clerkship topic, students collaborate on a community engagement project that vary from conducting a community needs assessment to creating an educational health pamphlet. At the end of the two weeks, students create a poster highlighting their community project to the larger UMass community. One clerkship available to students focuses on LGBT Health.

Project & Future Directions

PHC Logistical Planning

- Coordinate with local Worcester LGBT organizations
- Facilitate tour to Fenway Health with clinical provider
- Finalize two-week schedule

Meaningful Community Engagement Project

- Fundraise for LGBT Asylum Task Force
- Sexual Health Education/Wound Clinic at Aids Project Worcester

LGBT Health Education at Family Health Center of Worcester

Background

Discrimination and stigma impact whether an individual seeks healthcare.

- According to a 2010 Lambda Legal study, over 56% of lesbian, gay, & bisexual (LGB) respondents and 70% of transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) experienced at least one instance of discrimination in a healthcare setting.
- A survey conducted at UMASS Memorial found that over half of LGBT respondents indicated that they travelled outside of the Worcester area to seek healthcare.*
- Front line healthcare staff play a “critical role” in creating a welcoming health care environment for LGBT patients (National LGBT Health Education Center).

Project

Family Health Center Worcester (FHCW) is currently expanding the care that they provide to the LGBT community, and part of that initiative includes educating their staff about LGBT health. For this project, I put together a presentation for new staff during their new employee orientation.

Future Directions

- Present the LGBT health presentation to new hires at FHCW’s new hire orientation.
- Create additional presentations specifically for medical assistants and health care staff currently employed at FHCW.

Case From LGBT Health Education Presentation at Employee Orientation

Removing Assumptions: John L's story

- John L is looking to register his daughter with a new pediatrician. While providing his daughter’s information, someone asked “What is your wife’s name?”
- No one considered that John L’s daughter could have two fathers (or two mothers, only have one parent, etc.).



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References upon request