



# Transgender and Gender Non-Binary Healthcare and Inequities

**Becky Reitzes, MA**

Public Health – Seattle & King County

[Becky.Reitzes@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Becky.Reitzes@kingcounty.gov)

# Objectives

Differentiate  
between gender  
identity and  
sexual orientation

Be familiar with  
gender and  
transition related  
terms

Understand  
inequities in  
health

Understand  
barriers in  
accessing  
healthcare

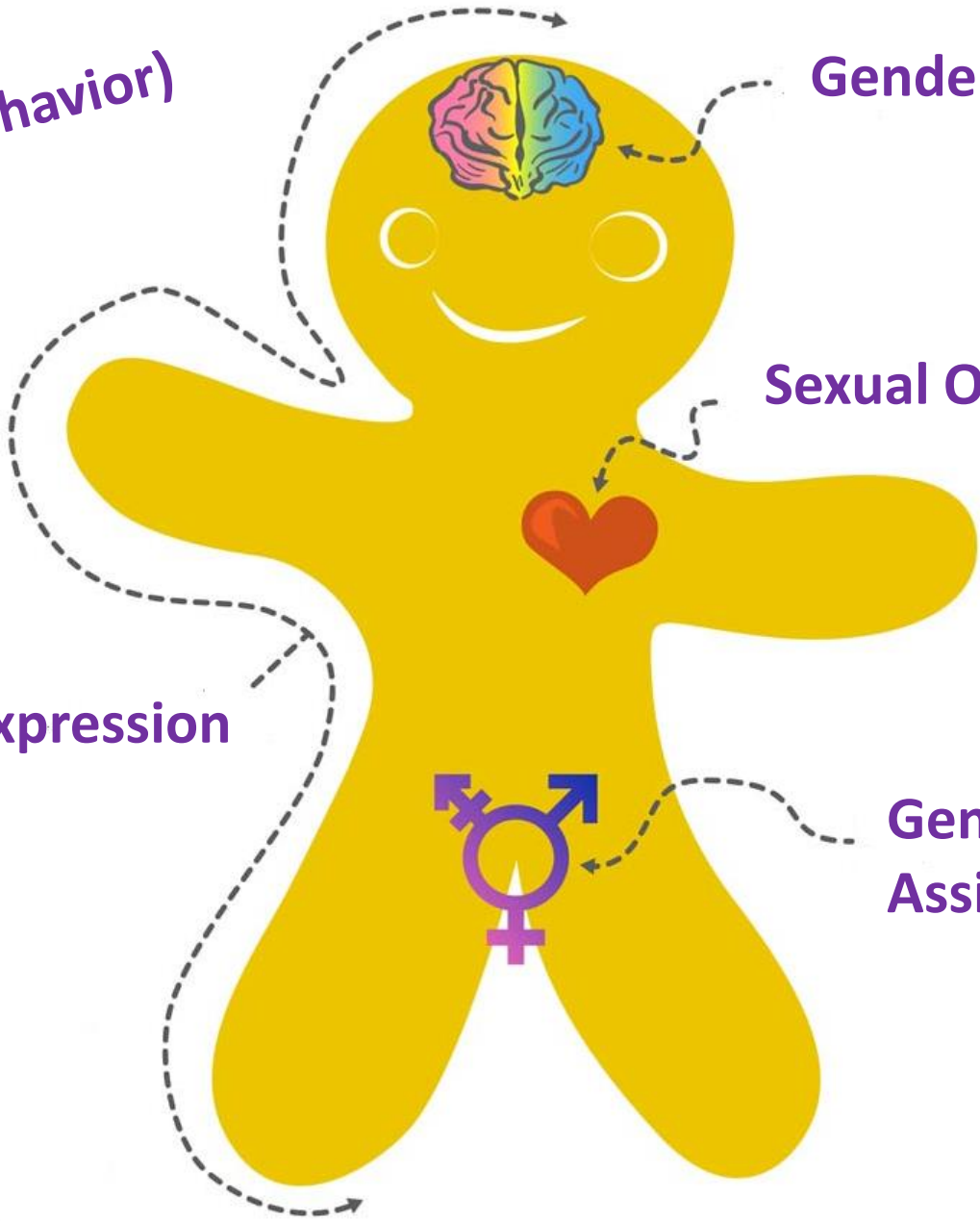
**(Sexual Behavior)**

**Gender Identity**

**Sexual Orientation**

**Gender Expression**

**Gender / Sex  
Assigned at Birth**



**1. Gender Confirmation Procedures and Care (also called Gender Affirming procedures)**

**A. 6 Umbrella term that refers to people who do not identify (exclusively or at all) as boys or girls / men or women.**

**2. Transition**

**B. 5 A young person whose assigned birth gender was male but who understands herself be female and desires to live her life as a girl, and later as a woman.**

**3. Cisgender Person**

**C. 2 This term is often used to describe the social and/or medical process of publicly living into one's true gender.**

**4. Transgender Boy / Man**

**D. 3 An individual whose gender identity aligns with their birth-assigned sex.**

**5. Transgender Girl / Woman**

**E. 1 Medically-necessary procedures and surgeries that are performed in order to help people feel at home in their bodies.**

**6. Gender Non-Binary Person**

**F. 4 A young person whose assigned birth gender was female but who understands himself to be male and desires to live his life as a boy, and later as a man.**



# Oppression and Discrimination

**63% of Trans folks experienced serious act of discrimination, including:**

- Physical assault due to bias
- Sexual assault due to bias
- Homelessness because of gender identity/expression
- Lost relationship with partner or children due to gender identity/expression
- Denial of medical service due to bias

# Oppression and Discrimination

**63% of Trans folks experienced serious act of discrimination, including:**

- Lost job due to bias
- Incarceration due to gender identity/expression
- Eviction due to bias
- School bullying/harassment so severe the respondent had to drop out
- Teacher bullying

# Oppression and Discrimination

**23% of Trans folks  
experienced at least three of  
these major life-disrupting  
events due to bias.**



# Oppression and Discrimination

19%

OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE REPORT LACKING ANY FORM OF HEALTH INSURANCE, INCLUDING MEDICAID

1 in 6  
currently  
unemployed

1 in 3  
living in  
poverty\*

19%  
have experienced  
homelessness



# Barriers to Accessing Care

## TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING

PEOPLE EXPERIENCE  
DIFFICULTY ACCESSING  
SAFE AND INFORMED  
HEALTHCARE, ACCORDING  
TO THE NATIONAL  
TRANSGENDER  
DISCRIMINATION SURVEY

FIGURES VIA 2011 NATIONAL TRANSGENDER  
DISCRIMINATION SURVEY



19  
PERCENT

- Reported they were refused care because of their gender identity



28  
PERCENT

- Reported they were subjected to harassment in medical settings



50  
PERCENT

- Reported having to teach a medical professional about transgender healthcare

# Barriers to Accessing Care

Because of fear of discrimination, **one-in-five** transgender people postponed or did not try to get health care in the past year.<sup>2</sup>

29%



of transgender people reported having to teach their health care provider about transgender health issues.<sup>2</sup>

42%

*delayed seeking health care because they could not afford it*

*reported health conditions worsened because they postponed care*

26%

# Inequities in Health



**HIV Infection**



**Substance Use Disorders**



**Mental Health Problems**



**Violence and Victimization**



# Inequities in Health

OVER  
**10%**

OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE REPORT  
RECENTLY ATTEMPTING SUICIDE  
(WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR)  
(BAUER ET AL., 2015a).

TRANS PEOPLE ARE

**2x**

MORE LIKELY TO THINK ABOUT  
AND ATTEMPT SUICIDE THAN  
LESBIAN, GAY OR BISEXUAL  
PEOPLE (IRWIN ET AL., 2014).

**22% to 43%**

OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE HAVE  
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN THEIR  
LIFETIME (BAUER ET AL., 2015b).

**2/3**

OF TRANS YOUTH REPORT  
RECENT SELF-HARM (WITHIN  
THE PREVIOUS YEAR) (VEALE  
ET AL., 2015)

# Importance in Accessing Care

WHEN TRANS PEOPLE GET THE CARE THEY NEED



OVERALL MENTAL  
HEALTH IMPROVES

+



SUICIDE RATES  
DROP DRASTICALLY

+



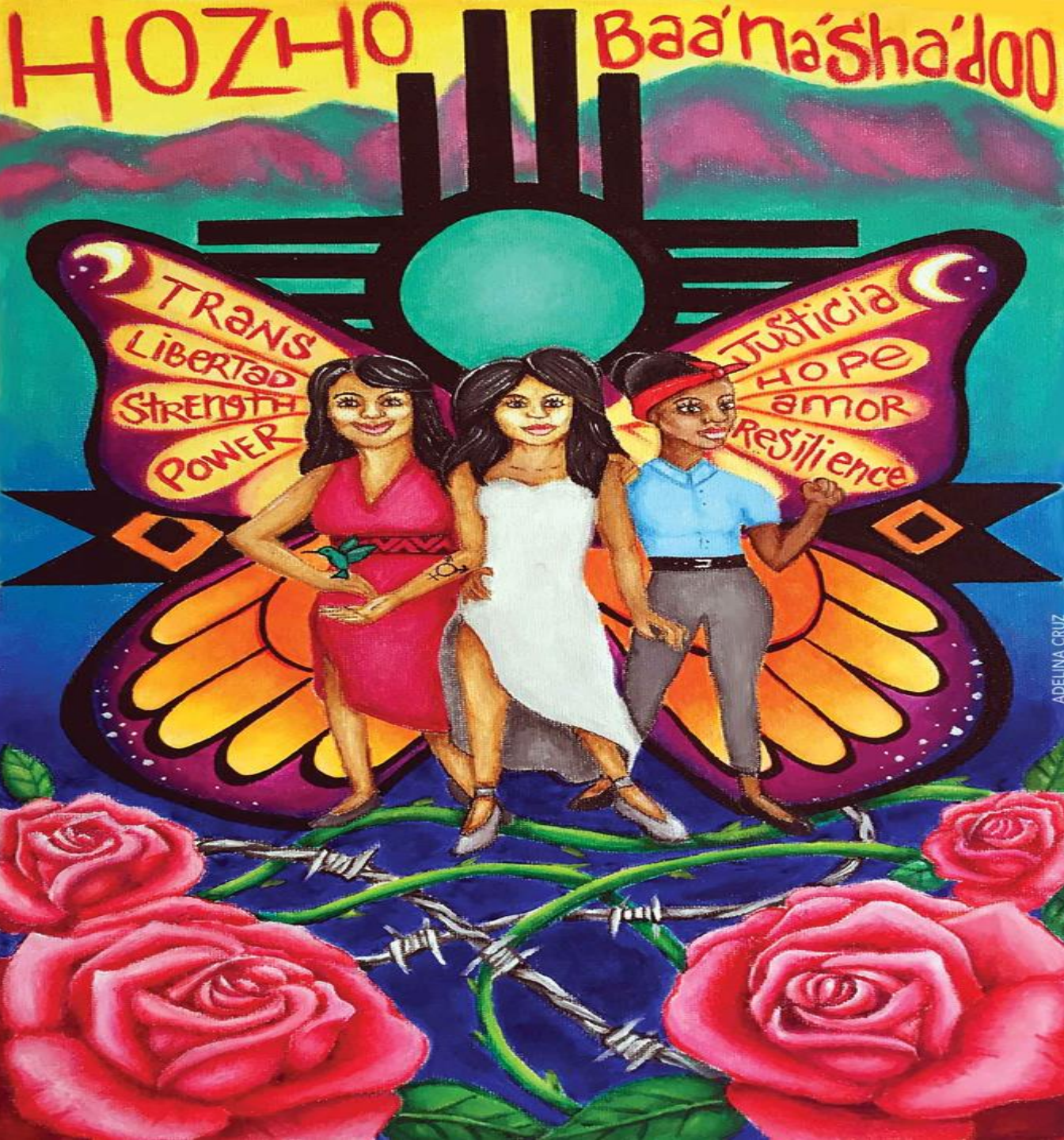
MEDICAID MONEY  
IS SAVED

# Importance in Accessing Care



**Art: Rae Senarighi**





**Art:**  
**Adelina Cruz**