

# Trans Youth Sexual Assault Survivors: Skills for Advocates

A webinar for WCSAP

munson, Cook-Daniels, Taylor

# Welcome & Housekeeping



□ Take care of yourself

□ Power Points



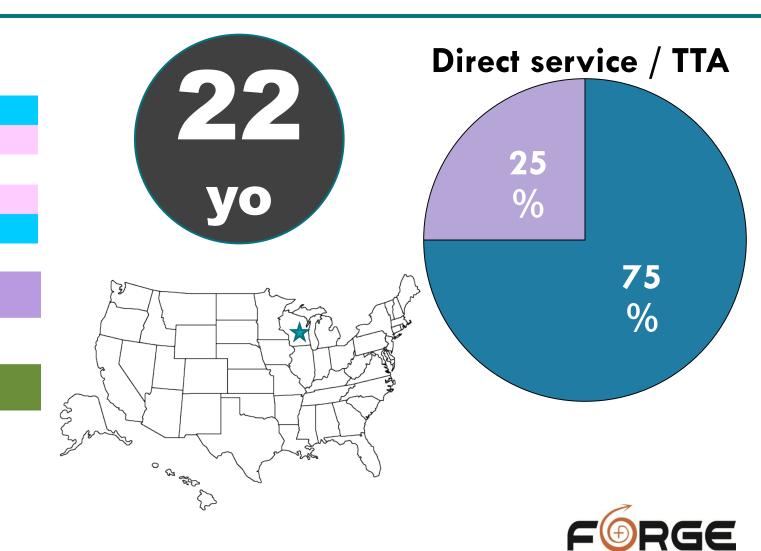
### Agenda

- □ Quick: Who is FORGE / Trans 101
- □ Data trans youth
- Developmental trauma & ACE study
- □ ACE + trans-specific variables
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Autonomy and agency
- □ Resources and what you can do



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# Who is FORGE?



www.forge-forward.org

# Two Foundational Principles

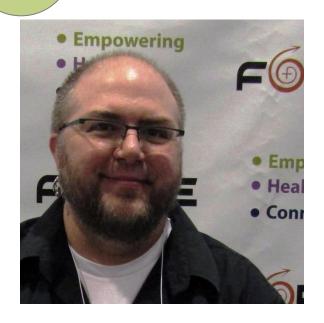
1.

Trauma -Informed 2. Empowerment

- based



# Small staff, large vision



michael munson Executive Director



Loree Cook-Daniels Policy & Programming



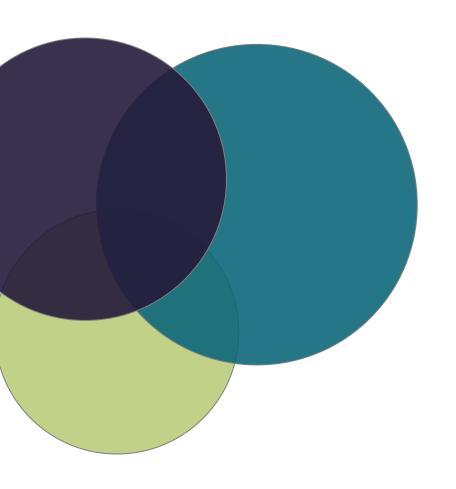
Katie Taylor
Community
Engagement



#### **Social Media**







# Quick! Trans 101



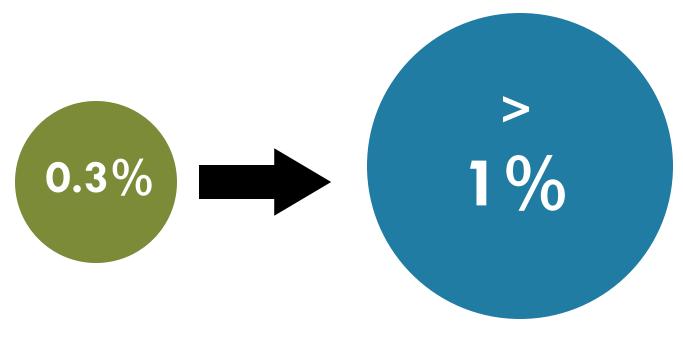


# Serving Trans Survivors: A 101 for Advocates





# How many people are trans?



Williams
Institute

Lynn Conway (and others)

# Conceptualization of gender

□ Generation Z (Age 1-21)

More Fluid

□ Generation Y (Age 21–41)

Less Binary

□ **Gen X** (Age 35–55)

More Binary



# Youth: Evolving language



# **Duality: Access to transition**

#### Increased access

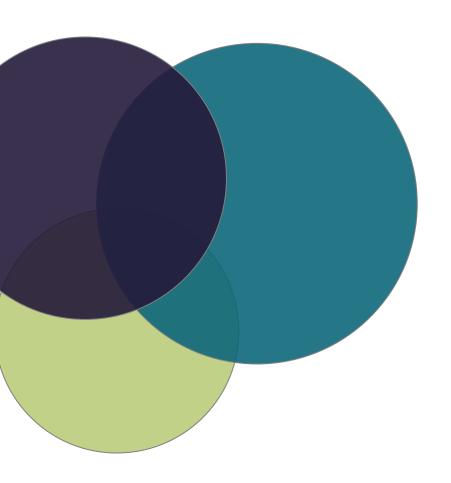
- Parental support
- Puberty blockers
- Health insurance policy changes
- School support
  - Title IX backing
  - School awareness & acceptance

#### **Limited access**

- Lack of parental support
- Homeless
- No independent financial resources
- Transportation or autonomy
- Non-binary identity







# Data: Trans youth specific

(mostly!)

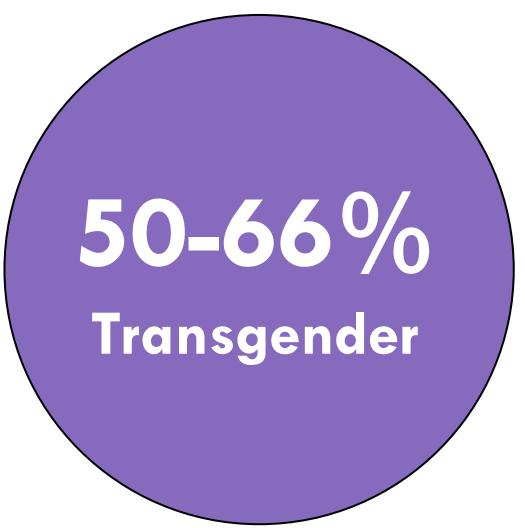




Brene Brown, Ph.D.

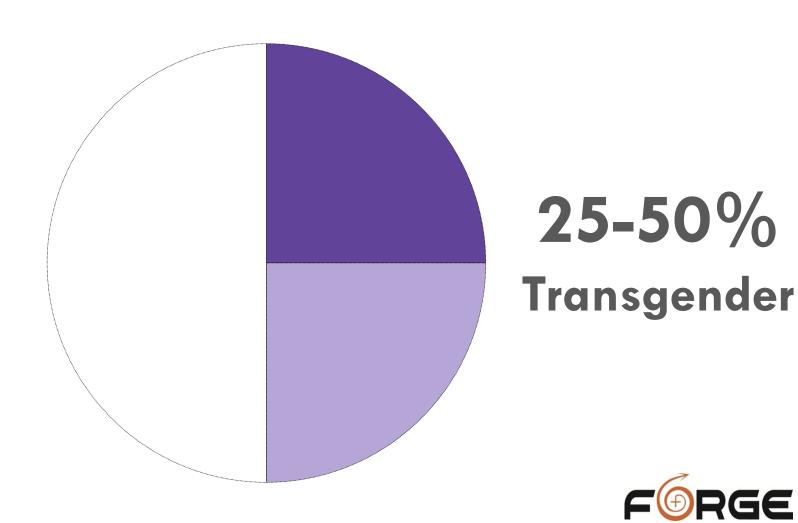


#### Trans sexual assault rates



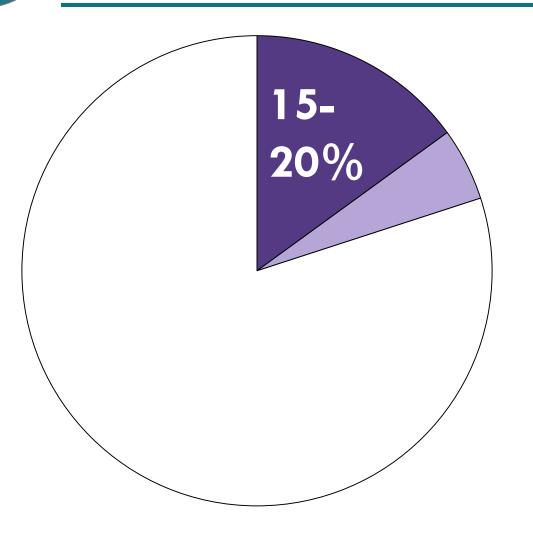






www.forge-forward.org

# Stalking rates

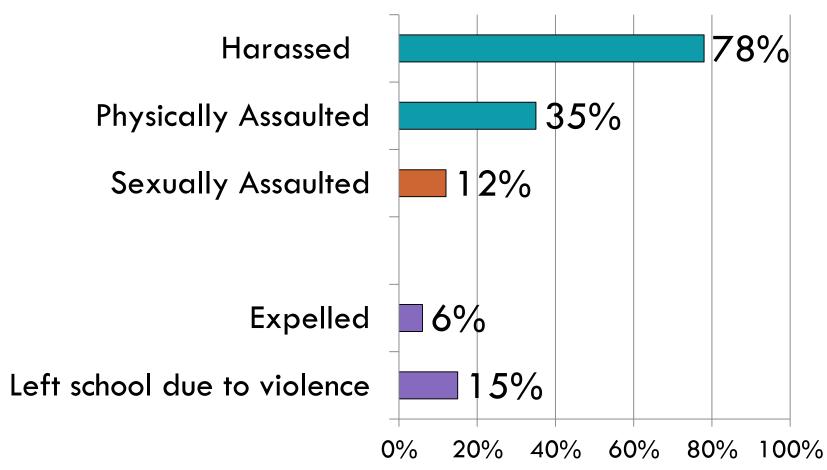


□ General US= 5-17%

Stalking Resource Center



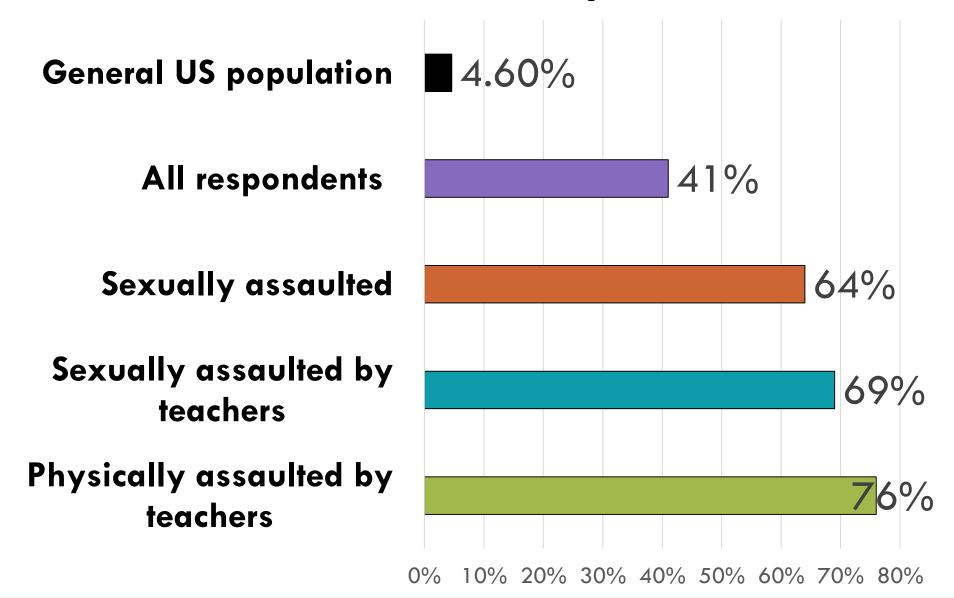
#### **School-based stats**



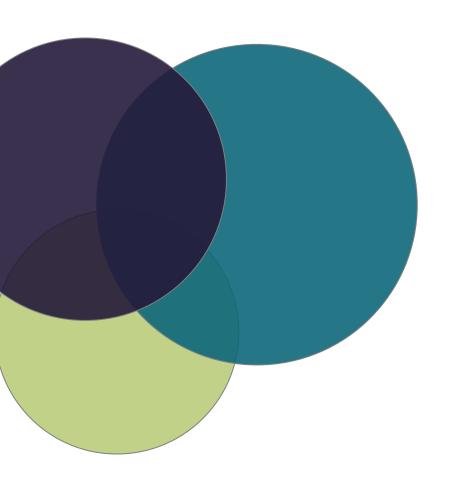


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#### **Suicide Attempts**



Source: Williams Institute 2014, NTDS 2011



# Seeking help: Rape Crisis Line



Clarifying name and pronoun

- □ Grandma Violet
- □ GranddaughterLa'Rae
  - ■7 years old





Clarifying name and pronoun

#### Advocate:

"Would it be OK if I asked you a couple of questions?"





Clarifying name and pronoun

#### **Grandma**

"I'm so so sorry! I am so upset right now, I just can't think straight."





Clarifying name and pronoun

#### Grandma

"I'm really concerned that he may have touched her. I don't know what to do."



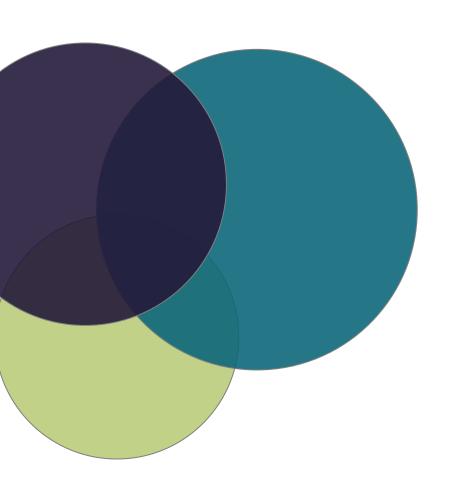


#### What did we hear?



- 1. Active listening
- 2. Sensitive questions
- 3. Discovery
- 4. Loved ones calling





# Developmental Trauma



#### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

 Began with weight losers dropping out of weight loss program





#### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

#### Child abuse:

- 1. Emotional
- 2. Physical
- 3. Sexual

#### **Child neglect:**

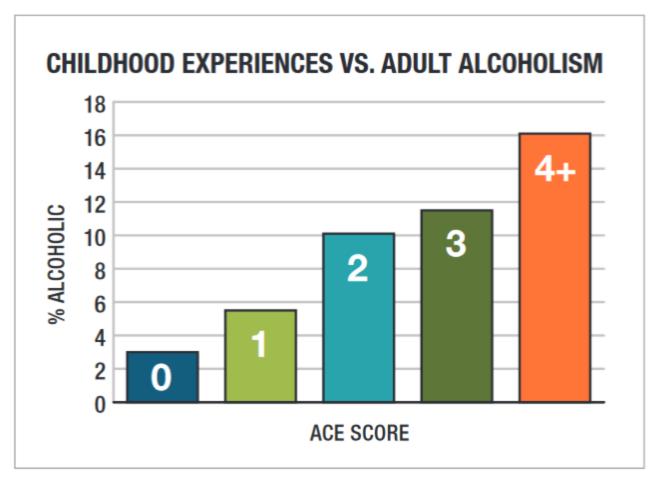
- Physical
- 2. Emotional

#### Household:

- 1. Substance abuse
- 2. Mental illness
- 3. Mother abuse
- 4. Separation/divorce
- 5. Parent in jail



# One example: ACE score & risk





# **ACE Study**



#### Childhood Trauma- 2 consequences



- Long-term
   neurological changes
  - Brain sensitized
  - Fear more easily tapped into



#### Childhood Trauma- 2 consequences

- 2. Fewer skills developed that help with
  - Coping
  - Social Development



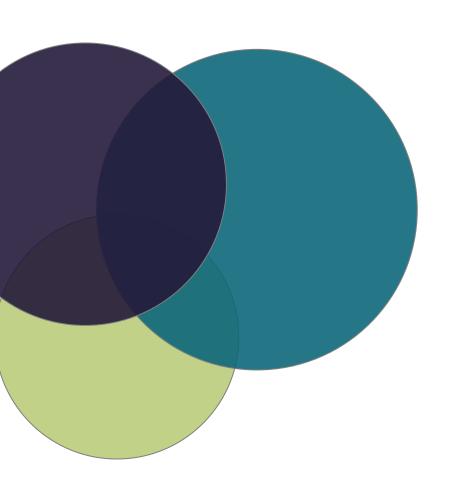


#### Conclusion:

"Adverse childhood experiences are the main determinant of the health and social well-being of the nation."

Felitti, Vincent J., & Anda, Robert F. (2010). "The Relationship of Adverse Childhood Experiences to Adult Medical Disease, Psychiatric Disorders and Sexual Behavior: Implications for Healthcare," in Ruth A. Lanius, Eric Vermetten, and Clare Pain, eds., The Impact of Early Life Trauma on Health and Disease: The Hidden Epidemic.





# ACE + Trans



## **ACE: trans youth additions**

- Bullying and harassment
- Parental denial of identity
- 3. Parental expulsion from home
- 4. Police misconduct or harassment

- 5. Microaggressions
- 6. Minority stress
- 7. Legislated discrimination or policies
- 8. Culture-wide transphobia



## ACE + Bullying

- □ School
- □ Home
- Neighborhood
- □ Streets
- Extracurricular activities





## ACE + Denial of identity

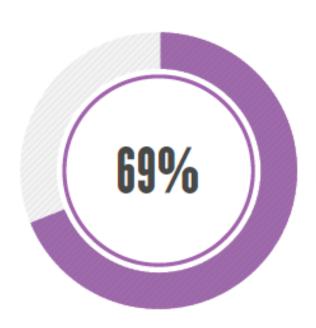




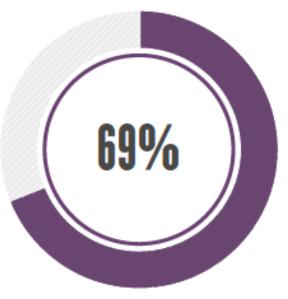
## ACE + Expulsion from home

#### TOP THREE REASONS FOR LGBT HOMELESSNESS:

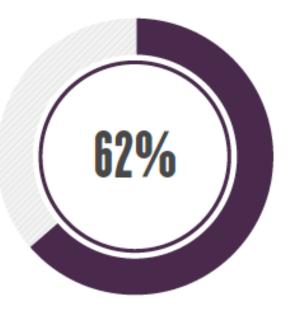
- REPORTED BY LGBT YOUNG PEOPLE (AKT 2014)



Parental rejection



Abuse within the family (physical, emotional, sexual)



Aggression / violence in the family

### ACE + Police misconduct



## **ACE** + Microaggressions

Microaggressions are brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities – whether intentional or unintentional – that communicate derogatory or negative slights and insults (or even some hostility) toward a group of people. These words and actions establish, reflect, and reinforce the dominant paradigm, erasing the experiences and realities of a minority.



## **ACE + Minority Stress**

■ Minority stress is the result of observable incidents, vigilance for future incidents and a person's decision that the incident is related to that person's minority status. As a result, they internalize this process as stress.



## ACE + legislated discrimination



- No safebathroom
- Interrupting the learning experience
- Afraid to be themselves anywhere

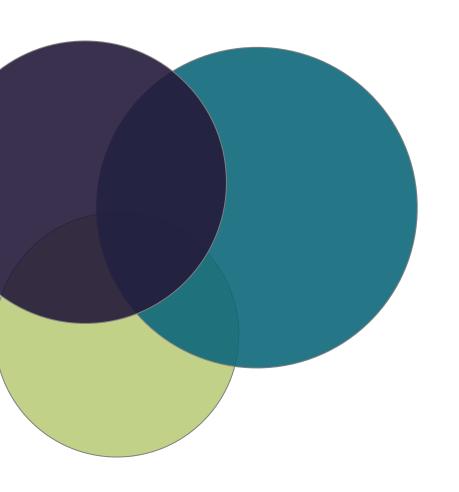




### **ACE+ Culture-wide discrimination**







# Confidentiality and privacy



- □ 13 year old
- School guidance counselor
- □ SA Advocate





#### **Student**

"I'm trans. You know, transgender. Are you down with that?"





#### **Student**

"My parents probably have a clue — like, duh, it's kind of obvious — but I don't know what they'd do if I told them."





#### Advocate

"I'm open to listening if you want to share more, but I know you asked me to come here today because someone touched you without your consent."



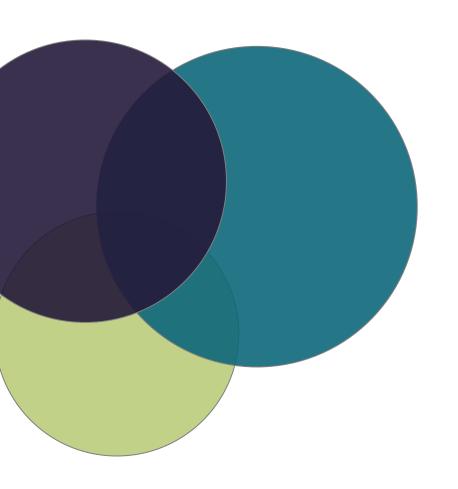


#### What are the main points?



- Self-disclosure
- □ Fear about who knows
- Trusts people more with info about assault than trans identity
- Non-disclosure is NOT deception

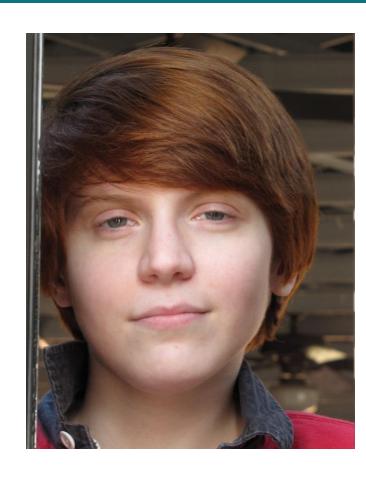




# Autonomy and Agency



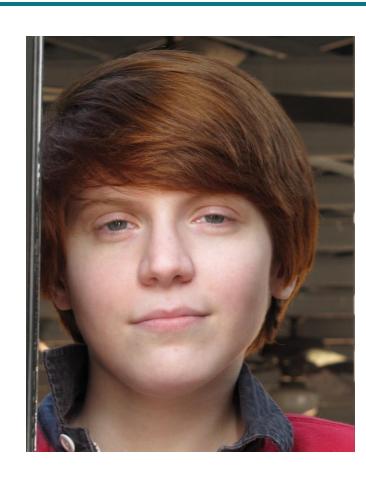
- □ 16 year old
- □ Female-to-male
- Parents notestatutory rape





**Youth** 

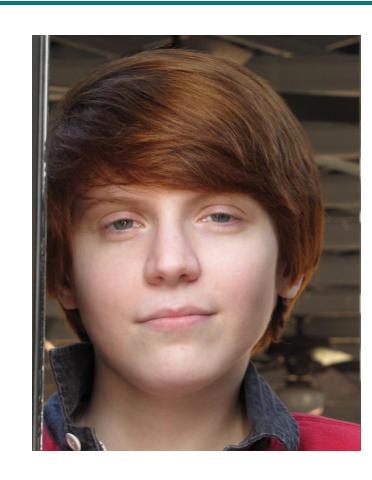
"I WASN'T assaulted."





#### Advocate

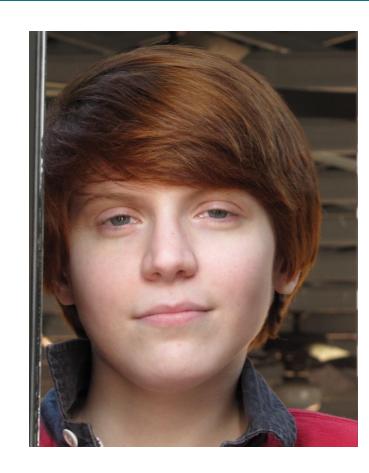
"No one will force you to do anything against your will, anything you don't want to do."





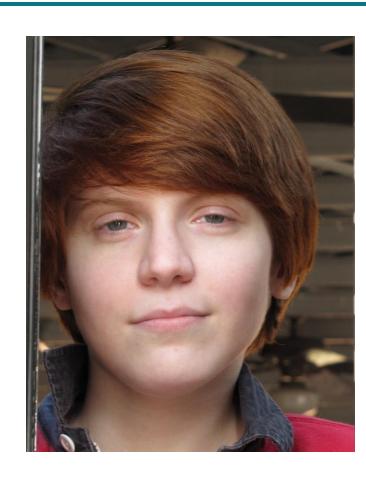
#### **Advocate**

"Part of what happens is that your story of what happened to you is recorded, so that gives you an opportunity to tell your side of what happened."





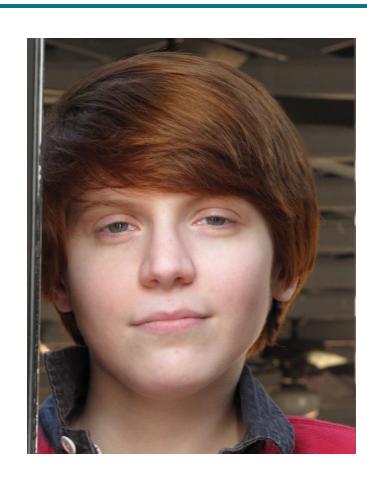
Youth
"Well, I'm taking
testosterone, so I can't
get pregnant."





**Youth** 

"That sounds good.
I'd like you to be there with me."





What are the main points?



- □ 1-on-1 conversation
- Body autonomy and agency
- Compromise
- Education
- Medical care





## Resources



## Trans-specific IPV/SV webinars

forge-forward.org/trainings-events/recordedwebinars/





## Upcoming webinars of interest

- Sheltering Trans Men
- **Sheltering Trans Women**
- **Sheltering Non-Binary** Individuals
- Respected and Whole: Confronting Bias with a Trauma-Informed Lens

#### **Training for Providers**

- Transgender-specific
- Anti-violence-focused
- Trauma-informed





#### **Archived Webinars**

- Serving trans survivors: A 101 for advocates
- Forensic exams
- Safety planning
- Anti-trans violence in prison
- Transgender, disability & trauma
- Transgender sexuality and trauma
- Working with rural trans survivors
- Transgender Day of Remembrance
- VAWA non-discrimination conditions
- Trauma and transgender older adults
- Policies improving trans peoples' lives
- Stalking basics and trans communities
- Creating a trans-welcoming environment
- The intersections of sex work and violence
- Transgender people, IPV and the legal system
- Strategies for improving trans-police relations
- Trans-specific barriers to accessing health care
- Power and control tactics specific to trans people
- Community Cares: mobilizing after a high profile crime
- Trans youth sexual assault survivors: skills for advocates

#### Upcoming Webinars

- Sheltering Trans Men
- Sheltering Trans Women
- Sheltering Non-Binary Individuals
- "What do I tell other residents?"
- Respected and Whole: Confronting Bias with a Trauma Informed Lens

### **Online Toolkit**

#### ovc.gov/pubs/forge/

## TRANSGENDER VICTIMS of Sexual Assault

Transgender victims of sexual assault, like all crime victims, want and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, heard, believed, served, and supported.

This user-friendly guide offers practical tools to promote understanding and support of transgender victims, whether you are a sexual assault advocate, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officer, medical or mental health care provider, or support group facilitator.

People who are transgender or gender non-conforming often have to describe what it means to identify as transgender to receive sensitive care and services. Read "Transgender 101" first for a basic understanding of what it means to be transgender.

Visit **www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/index.html** to learn how you can be a source of support and care for individuals in this high-risk population.





#### **Publications**

forge-forward.org/publications-resources/antiviolence-publications/

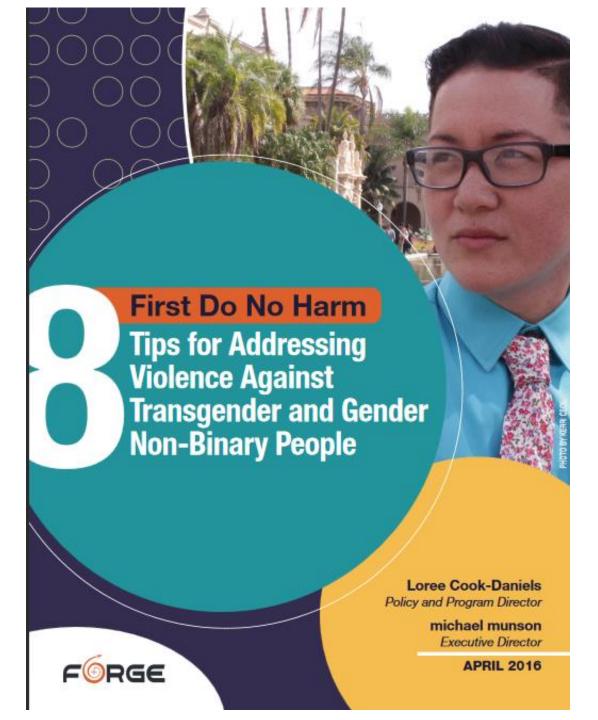
Safety Planning: A Guide for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals Who Are Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

Click on the link below to download and/or print the standalone PDF version of this safety planning tool:

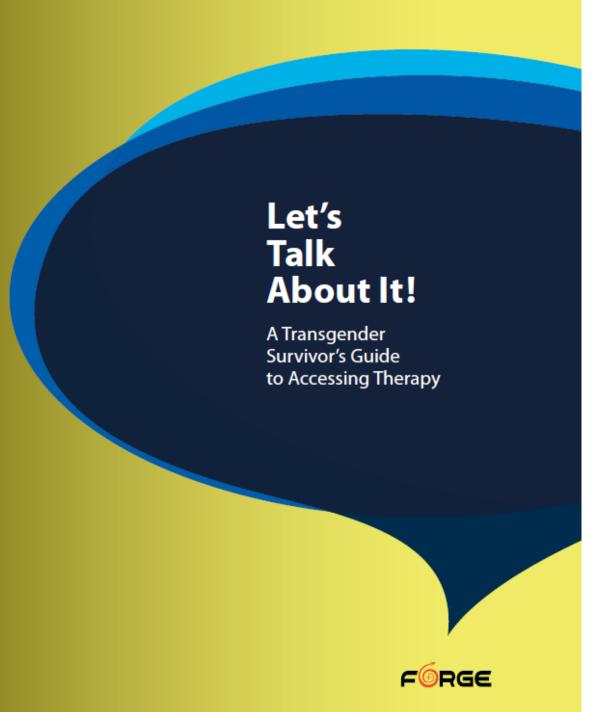
http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/safety-planning-tool.pdf

#### About This Document

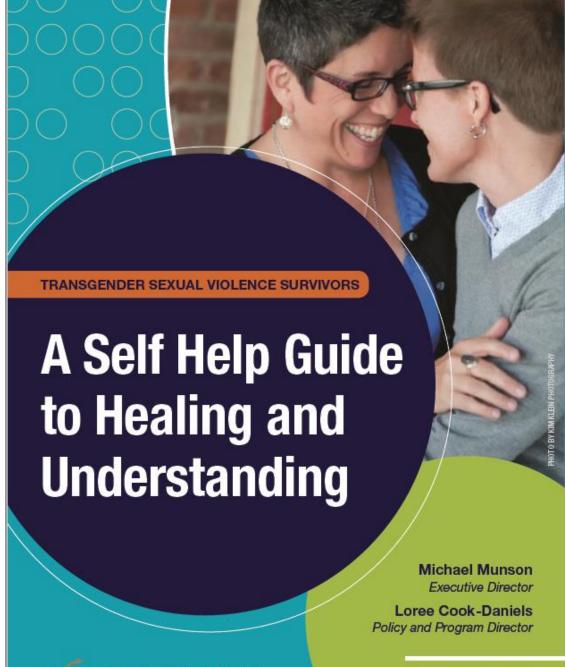
There are many sections to this safety planning document in order to provide a more comprehensive tool. It may feel long and overwhelming. Consider reading only a few sections at a time. Remember also that any step you take to improve your safety is important; you do not need to take them all.



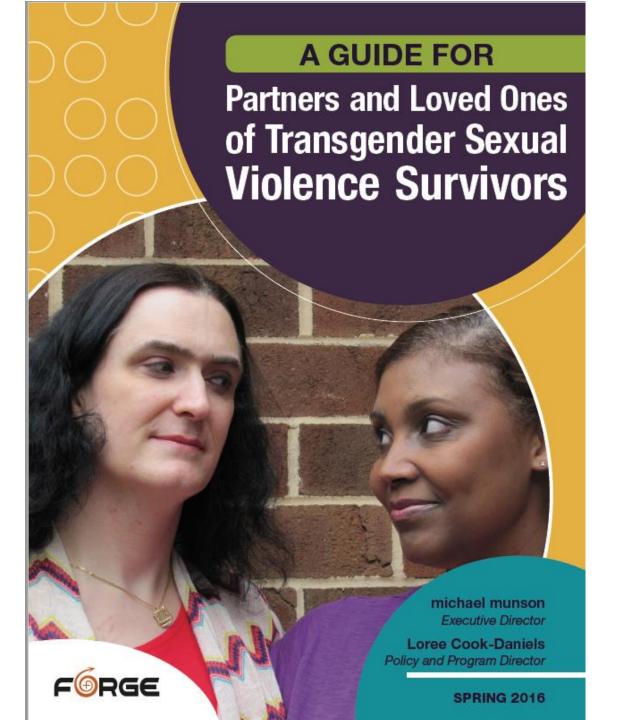














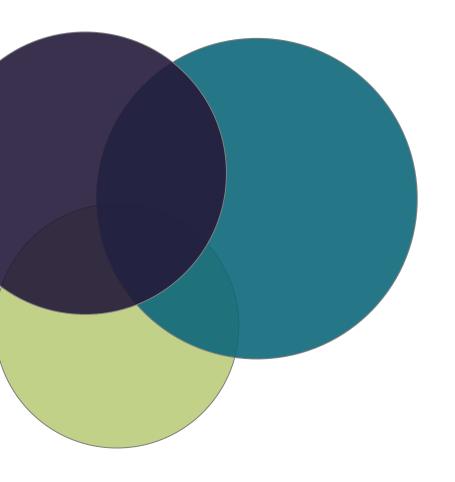
#### A GUIDE FOR

Facilitators of Transgender Community Groups:

**Supporting Sexual Violence Survivors** 







## What you can do

(organization / professionally)



## **Training**

Helping therapists and victim service providers better serve transgender and gender non-conforming survivors



#### **FREE WEBINARS**

- ONLINE ARCHIVE •
   available @ www.forge-forward.org
- . Transgender sexual violence
- . Safety planning
- . Power and control tactics specific to trans people
- . Policies improving trans peoples' lives
- . Forensic exams
- Stalking
- . Strategies for improving trans-police relations
- . The intersections of sex work and violence
- . Anti-trans violence in prison
- . VAWA non-discrimination conditions
- . Sex segregated services
- . Transgender Day of Remembrance
- . Community Cares: mobilizing after a high profile crime
- . Creating a trans-welcoming environment
- . Transgender, disability & trauma
- . Working with rural trans survivors
- . Trans-specific barriers to accessing health care
- . Transgender sexuality and trauma
- . Trauma and transgender older adults
- . Therapists working with transgender survivors

Sign up or view archive@

www.forge-forward.org/webinars | AskFORGE@forge-forward.org

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU and your transgender clients
- . One-on-one technical assistance
- . Training webinars live and archived on-demand
- . Conference workshops
- . Customized trainings
- . Transgender cultural competency materials and tools
- . Fact sheets and other printable resources
- . Survivor education publications
- . Therapist and support group referrals for survivors
- . Direct support services for survivors
- . Transgender policy updates

#### STAY CONNECTED!



FORGE.trans



@FORGEforward



@FORGE\_forward

OVER 50 HOURS OF FREE VIDEO TRAINING



## Taking a stand

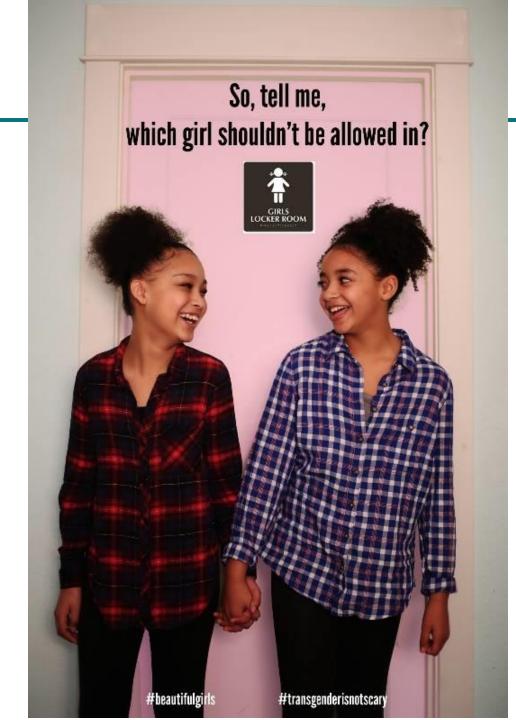
Those who are pushing anti-transgender proposals have claimed that these proposals are necessary for public safety and to prevent sexual violence against women and children. As rape crisis centers, shelters, and other service providers who work each and every day to meet the needs of all survivors and reduce sexual assault and domestic violence throughout society, we speak from experience and expertise when we state that these claims are false.

250+

SEXUAL ASSAULT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GROUPS condemn legislation targeting transgender people #ProtectEveryone





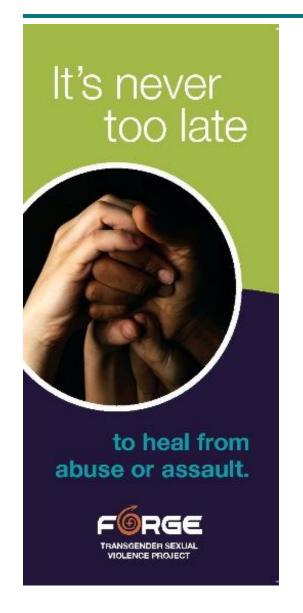


## Connect with LGBT Orgs

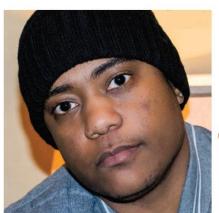




#### Inclusive literature







the ESPAVO project





forge.zenfolio.com





## Know Your Rights!

# Trans Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence

**SUMMER 2015** 

If you have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, you are entitled to many free services from an extensive set of federally-funded programs (emergency shelters, rape crisis centers, support groups, legal advocacy, etc.) under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA now explicitly protects transgender and lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) survivors and provides ways to get help if you are discriminated against.

#### YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO VAWA-FUNDED SERVICES.

Any agency (police, prosecutors, rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, legal aid, hotlines, support groups, etc.) that receives VAWA money has to treat transgender people respectfully and provide equal or similar services by law.

#### What does that mean?

Trans, gender non-conforming, and gender non-binary people CANNOT be turned away from or be discriminated against by these agencies because of their sex, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation.

■ Here are a few examples of how this new law helps transgender survivors of violence:

O The agency cannot say it only serves women: it must

#### YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO COMPARABLE SERVICES.

Under VAWA's nondiscrimination conditions, agencies can have sex-segregated or sex-specific services only if that segregation is "necessary to the essential operation of a program." If an agency that only provides sex-segregated services cannot serve you in the same way it serves others (for example, you are a trans man and they only have a female-only support group), the agency MUST provide you "comparable services." Simply referring you to another agency that serves people of your sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation is NOT enough if they accept VAWA funds.

Here is an example of comparable services for trans survivors:

#### Harm reduction

- Recognize behaviors are likely coping strategies
- Help clients reduce harm
- Intersectionality & priorities
- □ Focus on mutual goals





# Support







# Micro-INCLUSIONS: What you can do

(individually)



#### Micro-INCLUSIONS

Micro-inclusions are a small step to include someone.

On a bigger scale, microinclusions are symbolic actions that force us to recall the humanity of others.



## She made us cry

"The Department of Justice and indeed the entire Obama administration want you to know that we see you, we stand with you, and we will do everything we can to protect you going forward."

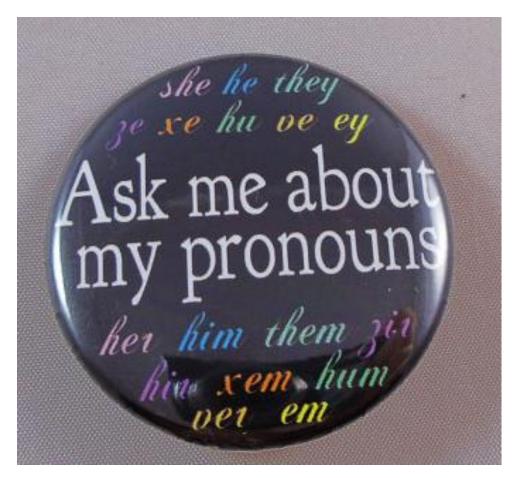


#### **Buttons**





#### Introduce yourself







# **Body language**

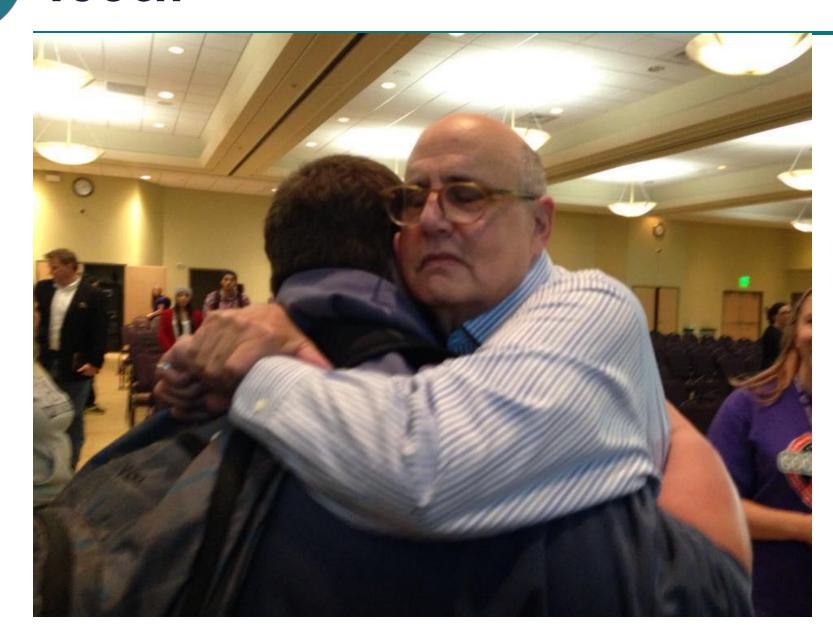




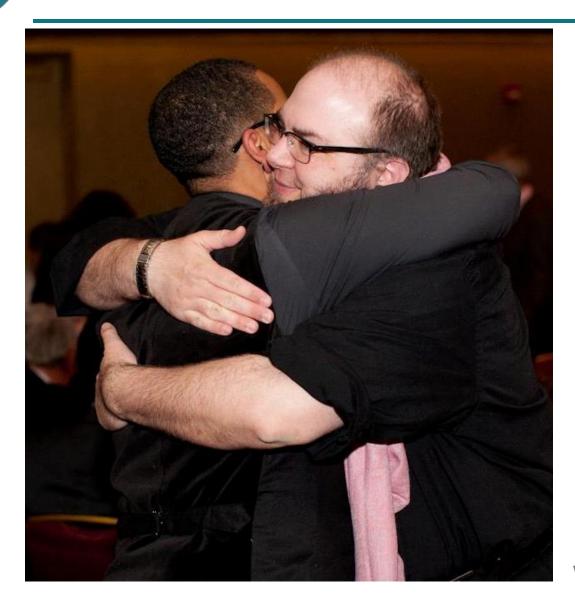
# Eye contact



# **Touch**



# **Be KIND**











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