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Anna (antoine) Baleige, Mathilde Guernut, Frédéric Denis

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Risk reduction strategies for transgender people regarding sexually transmitted diseases and health promotion

A systematic review of activist literature

BALEIGE A.1,*, GUERNUT M.2, DENIS F.1,3

1. EA 75-05 Éducation Éthique Santé, Faculté de Médecine, Université François Rabelais Tours, Tours, France.
 2. UMR 8163 avoir Texte Langage, Université de Lille & CNRS, Lille, France.
 3. Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Tours, Université de Nantes, Nantes, France.

* Contact : baleige.a@gmail.com



INTRODUCTION

- Transgender population
 - Heterogeneous
 - Growing in visibility
 - Growing in numbers
 - up to 4.5% of adults
 - up to 8.4% of children and adolescents
- Facing
 - Violence and social marginalization
 - Discriminations in health care
- Largely excluded from Health care organization
 - Policy-making
 - Research
- Placing them at risk of risk
 - High prevalence of HIV and STDs
 - Low access to appropriate care

TRANSGENDER

HEALTH BURDEN & NEEDS

- Interactions with healthcare
 - Medical transition
 - At risk of risk status
 - Basic health needs
- Risks mostly focus on
 - Reproductive health
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health
 - Sexual health
- Sexual health
 - 2nd most studied area
 - Mostly focuses on STDs
 - Mostly focuses on AMABs
- Missing data
 - Ecological data
 - Health issues of AFABs
 - Non-heterosexuality

METHODS

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Population: reports from French local and European organizations
 Europe: ILGA-Europe (and specific documents from the APA); Transgender Europe
 France: Acceptest-T; Association Nationale Transgenre; Chrysalide; Clar-T; C'est Pas Mon Genre; Divergence; En-Trans; Espace Santé Trans; Ouest Trans; OUTrans; Réseau de Santé Trans; RITA; T-Time; Trans 3.0; TRANS INTER action; Trans Posé.e.s

Inclusion criteria
 Written in French or English
 Latest versions of documents
 In Western context
 Focusing on health care systems
 Available for quality evaluation

Quality evaluation
 UN's Quality Checklist for Evaluation Reports

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Extraction of data-points
 Multi-coding by 2 researchers, including a transgender expert by experience
 Synthesis of codes into THEMES
 Publication of the thematic synthesis

3,047 DATA POINTS **62 CODES** **16 THEMES**

QUALITATIVE CODE EXTRACTION

Extractions of codes related to STD PREVENTION and SEXUAL HEALTH
 Network analysis of codes' co-occurrences
 Qualitative analysis of codes to produce new and more detailed THEMES

106 DATA POINTS **28 CODES** **4 THEMES**

NETWORK ANALYSIS

2 main network hubs:
 SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION
 RISK REDUCTION AGAINST HIV

Marginalization of research in sexual health promotion and informal community care for HIV

3 group of nodes:
 Role of support in sexual health promotion
 Changes at the organizational level for both Risk reduction and health promotions strategies for fighting HIV

RESULTS

DISCRIMINATIONS (28)
 Acceptability (6), Recognition in the Law (2), Informed Consent (1), Ethnicity (4), Transmen Issues (4), Self-medication (3), Prisons (2), Sex Work (2), Substance (2), Illegal migrants (1), Non-binary people (1), Rape & sexual violence (1)

SPECIFIC CARE (22)
 Community Involvement (18), Knowledge of Trans health (7), Participation (2), Work with non-Trans Institutions (2), Mental health (4), Social Isolation (2), Degree of education (1), Risk factors (1)

INFORMATION (12)
 Internet (5)

FINANCES (5)
 Access to free testing (3), Lack of fundings (2)

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CONCLUSIONS

- Transgender population is systemically placed at risk of sexually infectious risk
- Health promotion strategies should support and be based on major epistemic and social changes
- Health promotion strategies should include transgender individuals and organizations at every level
- Documentation from transgender organizations is a source of ecologically valid data
- Emphasis should be put on fundings and research
- More actions should be developed, especially regarding transmen and gender diverse populations
- Transgender health should be conceived in an intersectional framework and focus on the impact of other health determinants, such as education and ethnicity