

Inclusion of Trans Communities in HIV Prevention Research

Lydia A. Fein MD MPH

Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences,
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

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**SCOPE Community E-meeting: Developments in the HIV and
STIs Biomedical Prevention Pipeline**



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
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of MEDICINE**



MARCH 27, 2017

TIME



BEYOND HE *or* SHE

How a new generation
is redefining the
meaning of gender

By Katy Steinmetz

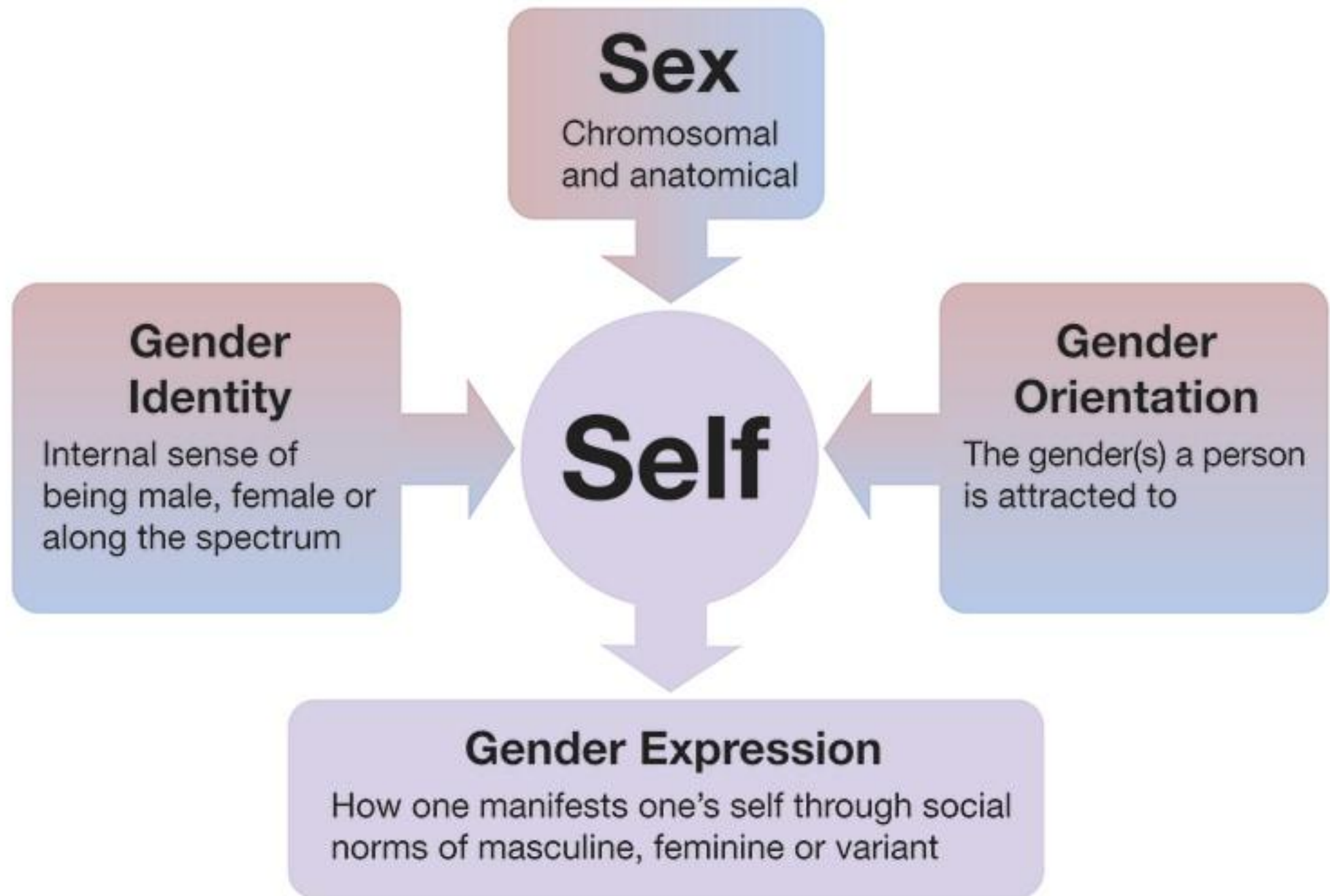
Mario, 25,
identifies as
queer and gender
nonconforming.

time.com

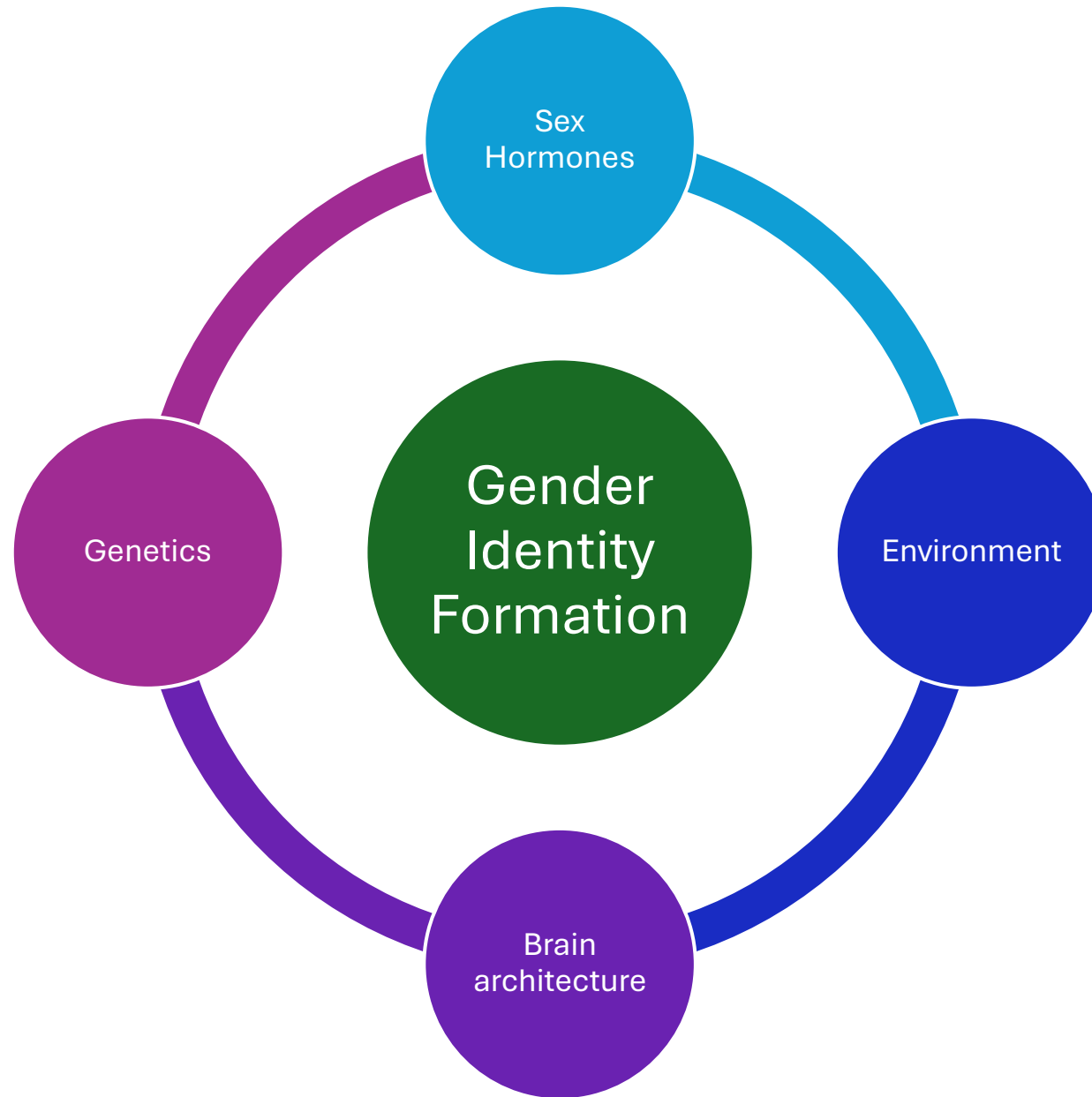
The gender binary

is melting away

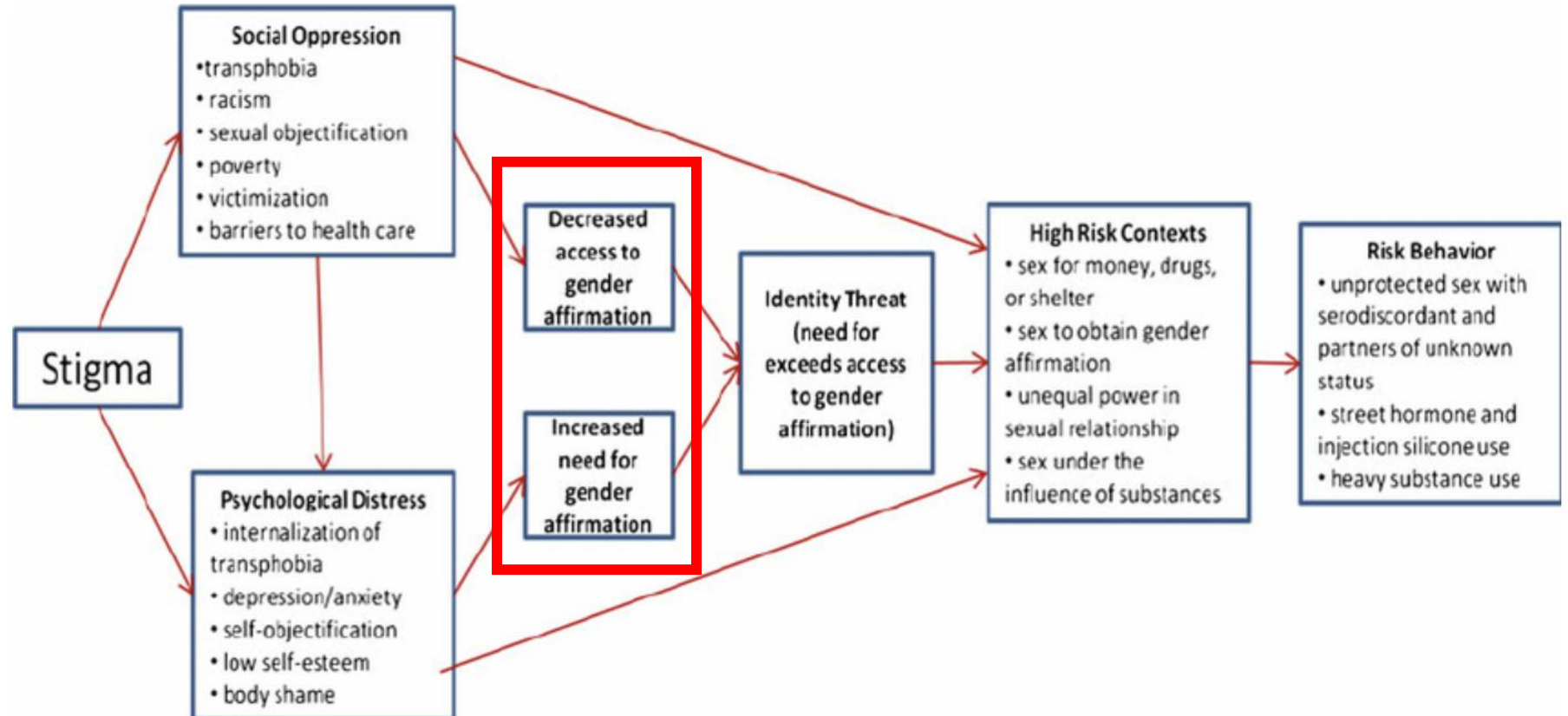




Gender Development

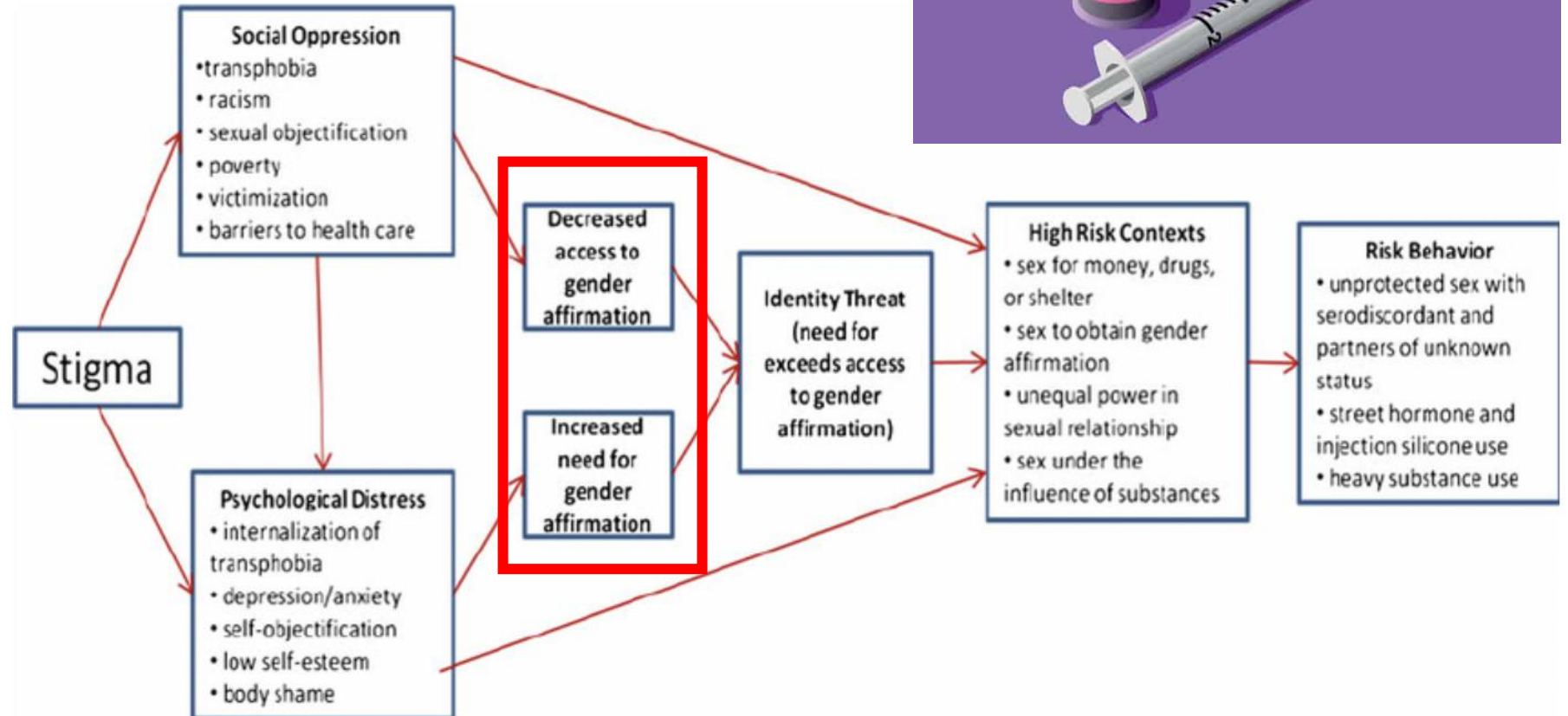


Minority Stress



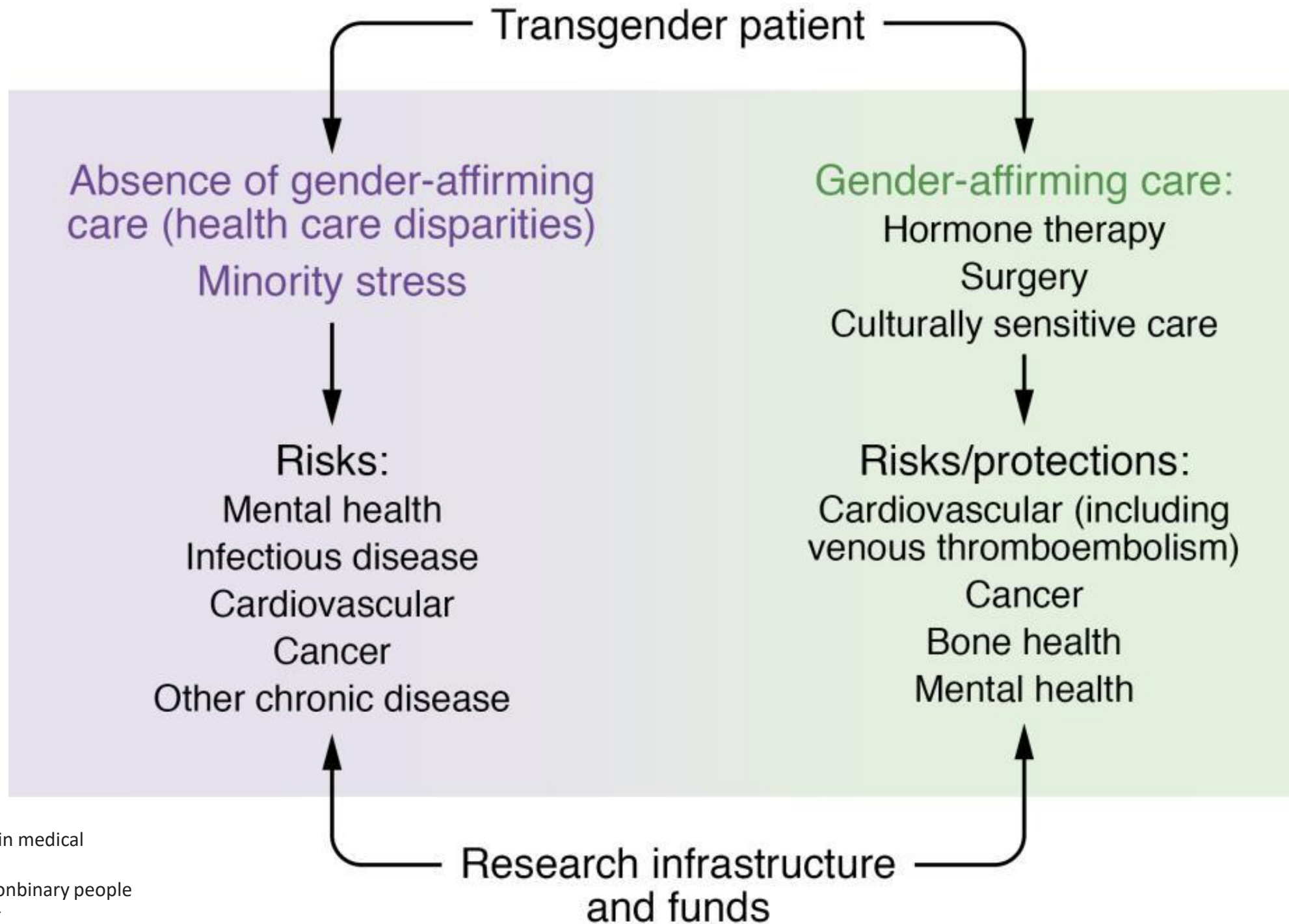
Gender affirmation framework for conceptualizing risk behavior among transwomen of color

Minority Stress



Gender affirmation framework for conceptualizing risk behavior among transwomen of color





Research Foci
for the Study
of Gender
Minorities
(IOM)

Life course

Minority Stress

Intersectionality

Social Ecology

Challenges and Solutions in Gender Minority Research

- Defining and measuring gender identity
 - Sensitivity
 - Limited options may deter participation
 - Demonstrates understanding of SGM population
 - Research rigor
 - Too many choices limit analysis
 - Confusing for participants

RECOMMENDED QUESTION WORDING

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH USE THE FOLLOWING PAIR OF QUESTIONS FOR ASSESSING SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH AND GENDER IDENTITY:

Q1: What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

☐ Female

☐ Male

(Don't know)

(Prefer not to answer)

Q2: What is your current gender? [Mark only one]

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Transgender

☐ [If respondent is American Indian or Alaska Native]

Two-Spirit

☐ I use a different term: [free text]

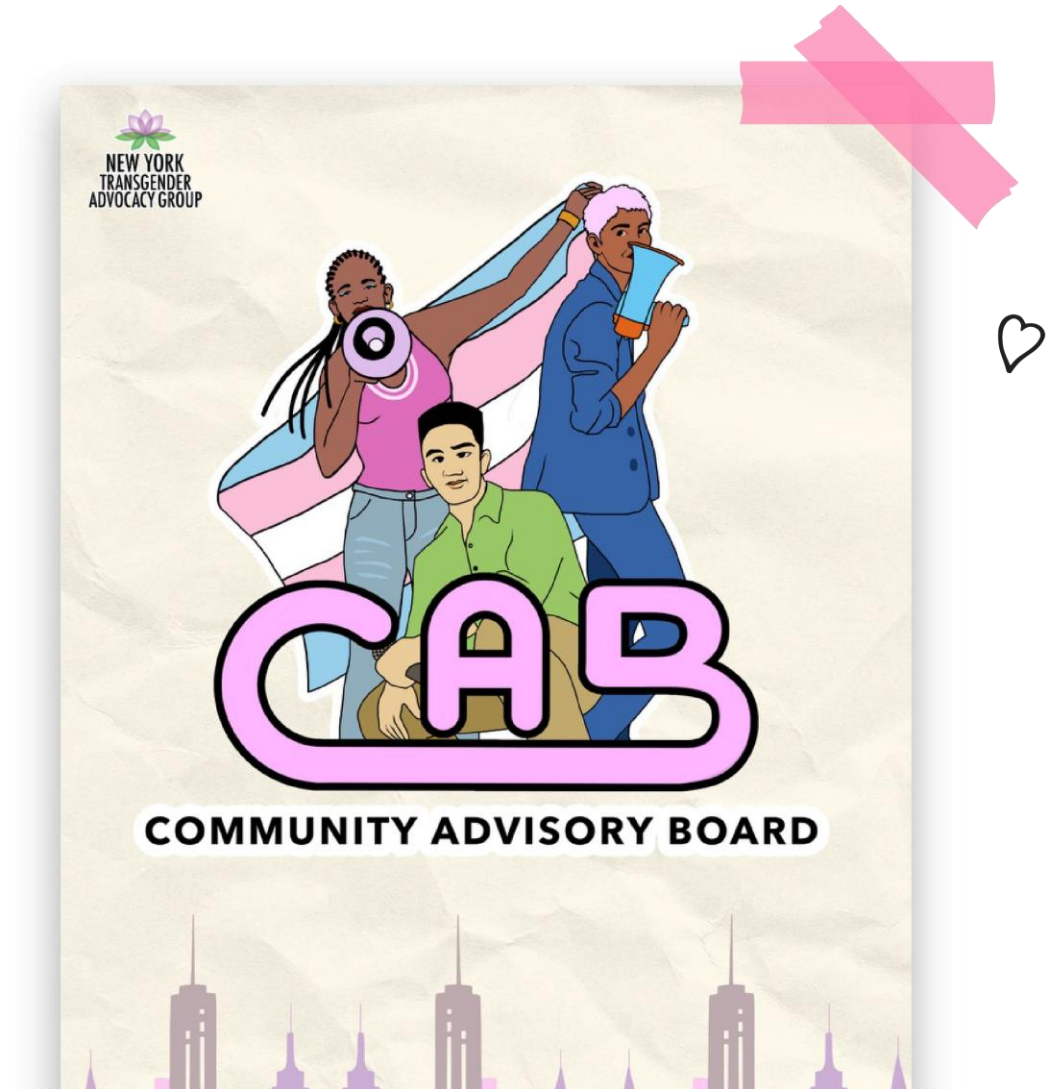
(Don't know)

(Prefer not to answer)

- Inclusive of all identities
 - Free text option
- Avoids false positives from cisgender respondents who do not understand the question.
- Two-step design minimizes error and is preferable to single question measures.

Challenges and Solutions in Gender Minority Research

- Fear of stigma, mistreatment
Disclosure and privacy concerns
- Sampling
 - Small sample size
 - Nonprobability sampling
 - All data are important
 - Biospecimen collection can be uncomfortable or painful
 - Self sample when possible



TURN MY SWAG

ON



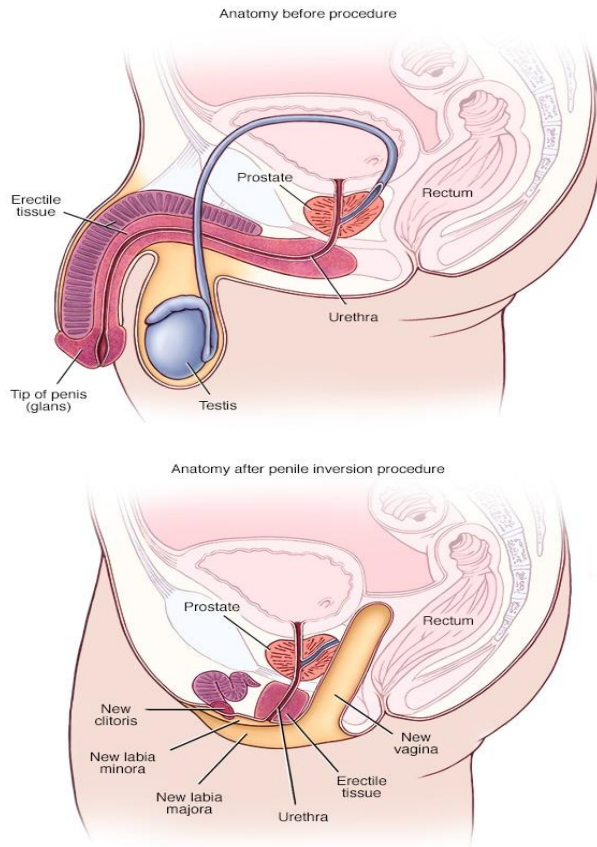
OFF

HIV Risk after
Surgery in
Transgender Women
Affirming Gender
(HR-SWAG)

TRANSGENDER WOMEN ARE
50X MORE
likely to be diagnosed with
HIV than other adults

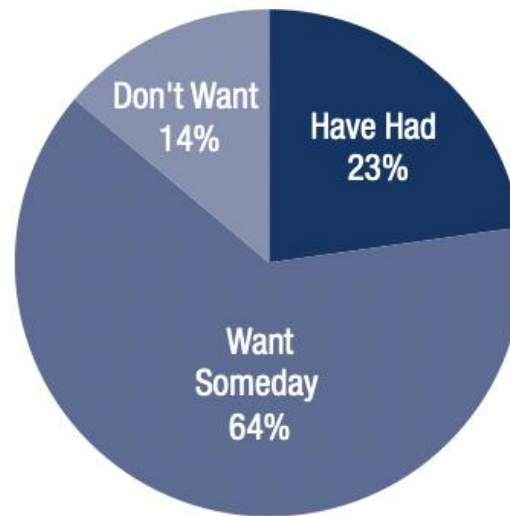


Gender-Affirming Vaginoplasty



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MTF Vaginoplasty



National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 2018



Objective

- In cisgender women, vaginal dysbiosis increases risk of HIV acquisition. How this impacts risk in transgender women is unknown
- **Characterize the microenvironment of the neovagina is crucial to understanding HIV risk in transgender women after gender-affirming vaginoplasty**

