

## Recommendations from the Gender Data Committee

We know that government bodies like the CDC and MDH are counting trans people living with HIV but we feel these counts are not being done effectively. Effective data collection around gender requires that we are talking about gender and trans identities in trans competent ways that make trans people feel safe and represented. At a state level we can work to make sure providers are submitting correct genders on case report forms and that systems are made to make this simple and seamless. At every level we need to be removing language that the trans community feels is violent from the narrative.

One of the biggest problems at the CDC level and state levels is trans people being counted in improper gender categories. This creates a problem when funding is allocated to communities facing disparity, and it also misdirects outreach efforts. A big example of this improper categorizing is the fact that trans women and non-binary people assigned male at birth are being counted as men in the MSM category. Strangely trans men are NOT counted in this data.

### **We propose:**

That data is presented and looked at in ways that put people in proper categories, not only so they feel seen, but so money can be allocated to groups facing disparities and frontline outreach workers know who we are looking for. MSM is an outdated category that is no longer serving us. We can still capture Cis men who have sex with Cis men (as we are calling CMSM).

Second, we propose trans people be counted separately and broken down into TGM (transgender men), TGW (transgender women), and TGN (transgender non-binary). Community outreach and needs are vastly different in the trans community and it makes sense to put trans people together rather than fitting us into other categories we don't belong in.

Third, we propose that MTF and FTM are never used again in data collection, data releases or in any paperwork and that they are replaced with TGW, TGM, and TGN. MTF and FTM are unnecessary terms that only serve to refer to trans people by their birth assignment which is invalidating at best. It's just as easy to use trans woman or TGW as it is to use MTF.

### **New Acronym Key:**

**TGW- Transgender women**

**TGM- Transgender men**

**TGN- Transgender non-binary**

**CMSM- Cis men who have sex with men**