# \*What's The T? Understanding Trans People's needs

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Creating Desire Meeting

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### \*Presentation Overview

- \*Summary of the Be the Generation Bridge and MTN Transgender consultation in May 2013
- \*Trans People and HIV
- \*Trans People & Rectal Microbicides
- \*Trans People's Needs
- \*Recommendations
- \*Conclusions
- \*Questions

### \*Transgender Consultation

- \*HIV infection in Trans communities
- \*Involvement of Trans communities in biomedical HIV prevention
- \*Issues related to including Trans people in rectal microbicide research
- \*Role of Trans women and Trans men in this research
- \*Future engagement Think tank about Trans people in microbicide research

### \*Trans People & HIV

- There is very little scientific data about trans people and HIV infection
- The social context of living as trans is very rarely addressed in HIV research
- HIV drivers in trans people: transphobia, sex work, violence, social stigma & substance abuse
- Sexual behavior and labeling of trans people in HIV research is a problem - inconsistent and inappropriate language
- Why trans people want to "disappear"

### \*Trans People & Rectal Microbicides

- Very few biomedical HIV studies even include trans people or take into account the challenges of our lives
- Too many studies conflate trans people with gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM)
- The trans experience is complex and should not be simplified
- What are the specific benefits to trans people using rectal microbicides? Why should we do it?
- What will microbicides do to us? Will they impact hormone use?
- The use of media and advertisement to target Trans people is an important consideration...



#### Consérvate siempre atractiva

Consérvate siempre atractiva: Todos los días tienes que tomar decisiones (tu vestuario, a donde vas, y a donde quieres llegar). La belleza no es sólo tu apariencia, sino como te sientes y como te comportas.

¡Solo tú puedes tomar las decisiones saludables para ti misma!

#### Siempre piensa en:

- ★ Usar protección con tu pareja cuando tengas cualquier tipo de sexo.
- ★ Utilizar una jeringa nueva si te vas a inyectar hormonas adquiridas en la calle, o si la jeringa está usada límpiala

usando el método 3x3x3 (tres veces agua, tres veces cloro, tres veces agua).

★ Investiga si tu pareja se ha hecho la prueba del VIH (HIV, por sus siglas en Inglés) y de otras enfermedades sexualmente transmitidas antes de tener sexo sin protección con el o ella. Si puedes, pídele a tu pareja que se haga la prueba junto contigo para que ambos sepan cual es su estatus.

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### get tested! KNOW YOUR STATUS!

Testing can be scary, but if you are over the age of 12 in California you have the right to an HIV test even without your parent or guardian's consent. Even if you do not have insurance there are lots of places to get tested for free. When you do decide to take the HIV test think about:

- ★ Going to a place where you already know people and you know they are going to treat you with the respect you deserve. Remember you have the right to be treated with respect and to be called by the name you prefer.
- ★ Ask a friend to go with you so you don't feel alone. Sometimes you can also ask your case manager, a social

worker, or a therapist to go with you or find a place for you to get tested.

★ Ask your friends if they have tested for HIV. At most places you can get your results back in less than an hour, but it can still be hard to wait. Ask them what it was like, or ask a friend to get tested with you.

If your test comes out positive, there are medications and ways to stay healthy longer.

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### \*Trans People's Needs

- We need to stop the pathologization of our community
- Consideration of the social context & challenges of our lives.
- Address social stigma
- Normalize our community
- Human rights issue
- Holistic care, not just as HIV study participants

## \*Recommendations

- \*Understand the needs of the local population
- \*Use Community Participatory Research
- \*Look at the entire picture take a holistic view
- \*Use peer based models in all aspects of rectal microbicide work for trans people
- \*Mean what you say and say what you mean
- \*Invest in our community
- \*Open opportunities
- \*Seek continuous education in this topic
- \*Develop inclusive policies

### \*Conclusions

- \*Involve trans people in microbicide research, as research participants and more!
- \*Respect our experiences
- \*Validate our existence within society
- \*Know that we are a diverse community, one model does not fit all
- \* Continued engagement with trans people about rectal microbicides is extremely important
- \*Include trans people in the development of studies and more





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