



# Prevalence of HIV and STI among transgender people attending two large STI clinics in the Netherlands

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## Background

- Transgender person (TGP): someone whose gender identity or gender expression differs from sex assigned at birth.
- TGPs are worryingly burdened by HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Limited data on HIV prevalence in West-European countries are available.

## Objectives

- To assess the prevalence of HIV and STIs among TGPs visiting the STI clinics in Amsterdam & The Hague
- To assess risk factors of HIV and STIs among TGP visiting the STI clinics in Amsterdam & The Hague

## Methods

- Data from Public Health Service (GGD) of Amsterdam (n=248) and The Hague (n= 81)
- Data of first consultation in the study period was included during time period: Jan 2017- Dec 2018
- TGP identified using “2 step” methodology:;
  - (1) asking clients about their assigned gender at birth and
  - (2) asking about their current gender identity (5 options).
- Gender identity:
  - Assigned male (AMAB): transwoman (born male, now identifies as being female), male and female, no male nor female, different, not known yet
  - Assigned female (AFAB): transman (born female, now identifies as being male), male and female, no male nor female, different, not known yet
- Data on HIV and STI positivity and sexual risk behaviour in AMAB and AFAB was used.
- For analytic purposes we made 3 categories:
  - AMAB: transwomen, non-binary (male and female, no male nor female) and other (different, not known yet)
  - AFAB: transmen, non-binary (male and female, no male nor female) and other (different, not known yet)

## Results

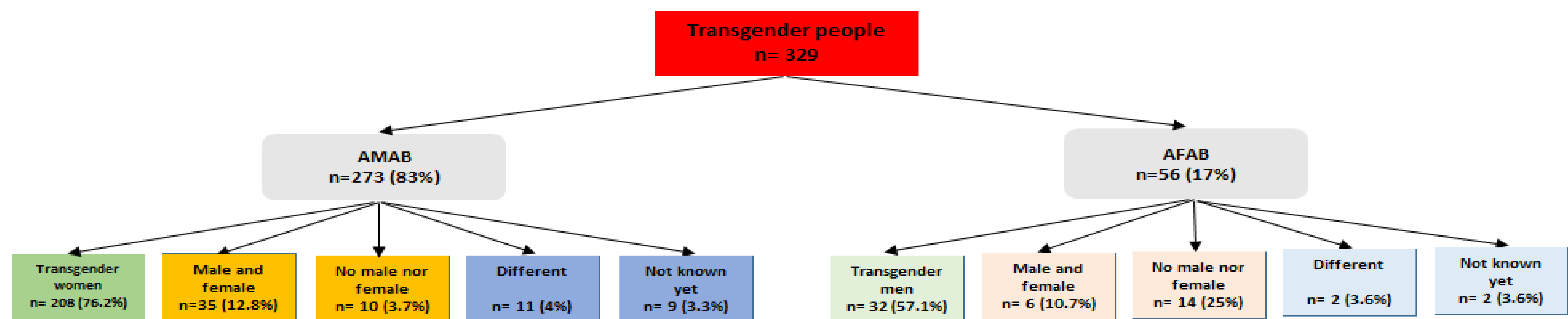


Figure 1. Gender identities of transgender people visiting STI clinics in Amsterdam and The Hague

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of the transgender population visiting the STI clinics

	AMAB n=273			AFAB n=56		
	Transwomen n=208 (76.3) (%)	Non-binary n=45 (15.8) (%)	Other n=20 (7.3) (%)	Transmen n=32 (57.1) (%)	Non-binary n=20 (35.7) (%)	Other n=4 (7.2) (%)
Median age in years	34	31	32.5	25.5	22.5	23
Median no. of sex partners < 6 months (IQR)	40 (5-275)	5 (3-26)	6 (3-13.5)	3.5 (1.25-7.5)	3 (1-6)	3 (3-5.25)
Ethnicity: - Dutch	32 (15.4)	15 (33.3)	5 (25)	14 (43.8)	8 (40)	3 (75)
- Non-Dutch	176 (84.6)	30 (66.7)	15 (75)	18 (56.2)	12 (60)	1 (25)
Sex work < 6 months	125/197 (63.5)	6/41 (14.6)	6/19 (31.6)	1/26 (3.8)	2/13 (15.4)	0
Gender affirming surgery (genital)	51 (24.5)	0	0	3/31 (9.7)	0	0
Any bacterial STI*	28/203 (13.8)	10 (22.2)	2/19 (10.5)	2/31 (6.5)	1/13 (7.7)	0
New HIV positive diagnoses	0	2 (4.4)	0	0	0	0
Known HIV positive	31 (14.9)	3 (6.7)	3 (15)	0	0	0

\*Any bacterial STI consists of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and/or infectious syphilis

## Conclusions

- Large diversity in gender identities among population visiting STI clinics; important that professionals use “2 step” methodology to identify different gender identities.
- More AMABs than AFABs attended the STI clinics.
- HIV and STI prevalence was substantial among AMABs.
- Because of relatively small numbers, necessity to assess prevalence in an unselected transgender population.

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