Gaps in Health Services Research with the Transgender Population (2008-2018)

A Systematic Mapping Review

Abby Mulcahy, MPH
Background
Defining Transgender

- This is an umbrella term
- The transgender population is growing;
- Current estimates show one million transgender adults in the United States
- The transgender population has remained underserved and understudied
What do we know about the adult transgender population in the United States?
Public Heath Issue: Background

Transgender population at a higher risk of multiple negative health outcomes when compared to the cisgender population:

- Gender-Based Victimization
- Specific Health Outcomes

In addition to disparate health outcomes, the transgender population lacks access to health services.

Existing reviews of health services research on the transgender population are limited.
Objective

The purpose of this project was to
• identify gaps in existing knowledge
• provide recommendations for future health services research

By
• Quantifying existing literature
• Identifying themes

This review is unique and necessary with a focus on the broader content area of health services research as well as a narrow focus exclusively on the transgender population.
Methods
Methods

- Research Design
  - Systematic Mapping Review
Methods

- Data Collection
  - PubMed, Sociological Abstracts, and PsycInfo
  - Published 2008-2018
  - Available in English
  - Using data from the United States
  - Focused only on transgender adults
Methods

○ Data Analysis

• Chronology
• Data
• Theoretical Frameworks
• Themes

Flow diagram of the literature search strategy
Results
Chronology: Articles by Date of Publication: 2008-2018
Data Sources

Qualitative
  - All unique datasets

Quantitative
  - Region-specific data
  - National Transgender Discrimination Survey
  - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
  - Veterans Health Administration
  - Online or telephone data
  - Aging with Pride
Theoretical Frameworks

- 24 – no theory stated
- 10 – Minority Stress Theory
- Hirschkorn’s Model on Knowledge Legitimacy
- Phenomenology, Grounded Theory
- Health Equity Promotion Model
- Social Determinants of Health, the Network Episode Model
- Anderson’s Behavioral Model of Health Services Utilization
- Model of Gender Affirmation
Map of Articles by Theme

- HIV/AIDS
- Access to health services
- Suicide/Mental Health
- Military and Veterans
- Substance Use
- Discrimination
- Reproductive Health
Discussion
Discussion

- Chronology
- Data Sources
- Theoretical Frameworks
- Themes
Conclusion
Recommendations

- Nationally representative data
  - Lack of validated measures

- Comprehensive conceptual framework
  - Revisiting the Model of Gender Affirmation
References

References

THANK YOU