

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH RETENTION OF TRANSGENDER WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV IN A PEER NAVIGATION INTERVENTION STUDY IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

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Audio presentation

Introduction - In general, transgender women (TGW) are more likely to be living with HIV and face greater barriers adhering to treatment (ART). An intervention study, Trans Amigas, was developed to evaluate the effect of peer navigation (PN) on retention in care and adherence to ART among TGW living with HIV in São Paulo, Brazil. The purpose of this analysis is to identify factors associated with participant retention in the study.

Methods - From April 2018-September 2019, TGW living with HIV were recruited from a public health service, randomly assigned 2:1 to intervention (PN) or a control condition and followed for 9-months.

Chi-square tests, bivariate and multivariate logistic regression models were used to analyze factors associated with participant retention at the final interview, approximately 9 months following enrollment. We calculated the adjusted odds ratios (aOR) to compare the variables analyzed including: allocation group; successful telephone contact at 3 months; sociodemographic characteristics (age, education, income, marital status, occupation and ethnicity); reported mental health challenges and violence (presence of severe mental illness – K10 scale (U.S. National Health Interview Survey – NHIS, in Kessler et al., 2003), alcohol or substance use, suicide attempts, verbal and sexual violence). In multivariate analysis, covariates retained include those determined to have a priori theoretical relevance and those associated with retention at $p < 0.05$.



Results - Of 113 participants, 75 were allocated to the intervention and 38 to the control group. Overall 79 (69.9%) responded the 9-month interview, with no difference between allocation group ($p = 0.50$). In bivariate models, having been successfully contacted by telephone at 3 months ($p < 0.001$) and higher educational level (≥ 12 years) ($p = 0.01$) were associated with higher retention at 9 months while any use of illicit substances ($p = 0.05$) was associated with lower retention. In the multivariate model, 3-month telephone contact (aOR: 6.38; 95% CI: 2.27-17.96) and higher education (≥ 12 years) (aOR: 3.25; 95% CI: 1.06-10.00) remained associated, adjusted for ethnicity and age.

Multivariate correlates of retention at 9 months, Trans Amigas study. São Paulo, Brazil, 2018 (n =113)

	Retention at 9 months		aOR	CI95%	p-value
	No (%)	Yes (%)			
Age (years)					
18 - 34	26 (35.6)	47 (64.4)	1	-	-
35 +	8 (20.0)	32 (80.0)	1.55	0.6 - 4.3	0.40
Ethnicity					
White	8 (22.2)	28 (77.8)	1	-	-
Non white	26 (33.8)	51 (66.2)	0.92	0.3 - 2.7	0.89
Education (years)					
<12	28 (38.4)	45 (61.6)	1	-	-
≥ 12	6 (15.0)	34 (85.0)	3.25	1.1 - 10.0	0.04
Successful 3-month telephone contact					
No	17 (65.4)	9 (34.6)	1	-	-
Yes	17 (19.5)	70 (80.5)	6.38	2.3 - 18.0	< 0.001

Conclusion - Our analyses found that maintaining interim contact with the research team and higher education level was associated with retention in the study. Future research with transgender women should include contact at regular intervals, with additional outreach and attention for participants attaining fewer years of education.

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