

The SHINE Study

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The SHINE study is a 5-year longitudinal qualitative and epidemiological study of 300 transgender female youth ages 16-24 years which seeks to examine HIV-related risk behaviors and identify protective factors for resilience. The study will reach and retain participants by taking an innovative approach to adapting Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) using socially interactive technologies. The study also seeks to adapt and refine measures of protective factors to identify resilience among transyouth, identify factors specific to their developmental stage to explain engagement in HIV-related risk, and to determine the effect of protective factors on the relationship between risk factors and risk behavior. The methods to be investigated, refined, and applied for this research are critical to the evidence base of HIV prevention for marginalized youth populations affected by HIV. The study will also fill important gaps in the literature by providing causal data to identify key risk and protective factors for trans-female youth. The sampling strategy will elicit a diverse, representative sample of transyouth from which will address both the challenges this population faces and build upon the strengths they possess.