Transgressing Gender Norms in Addiction Treatment: Transgender Rights to Access within Gender Segregated Facilities

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Abstract: Despite having disproportionately high rates of substance use disorder and co-occurring health and mental health issues compared to the general population, transgender individuals experience significant barriers to accessing and engaging in addiction treatment programs. Inpatient addiction treatment centers were originally designed to treat substance-dependent heterosexual cisgender populations and, as such, feature gender segregated housing, bathrooms, and treatment sessions. The heteronormative structural and programmatic barriers, combined with exposures to stigmatic and prejudicial attitudes, may dissuade transgender populations from benefiting from the addiction treatment they so direly need. The purpose of this article is to examine the current policy debate surrounding the rights of transgender individuals in public accommodations in the context of inpatient addiction treatment centers.

Keywords: addiction treatment, cultural competence, gender segregation, transgender

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