

# Silberman School of Social Work

## Trans & Gender Diverse Youth

April 25, 2023

Dr. Jama Shelton  
they/them



@PagingDrJama

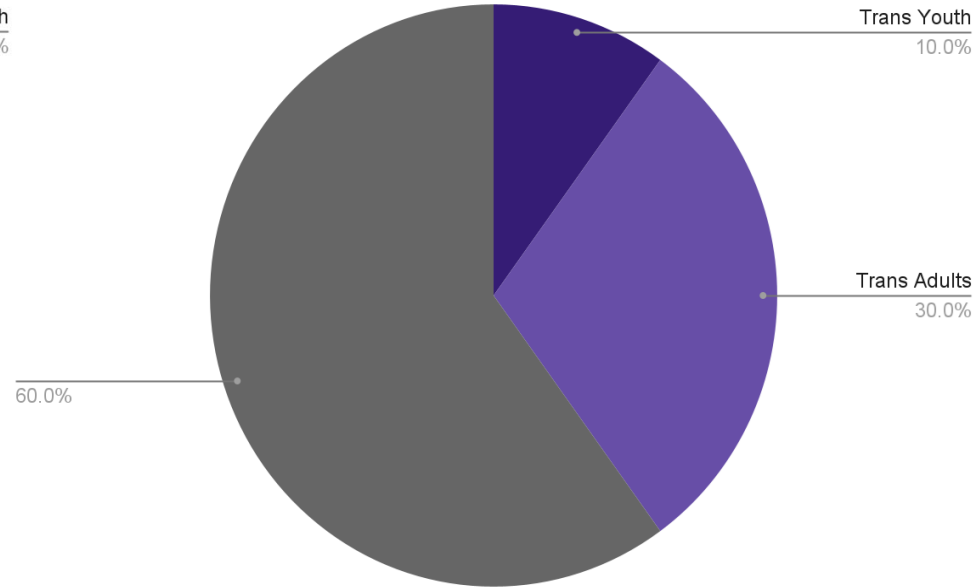
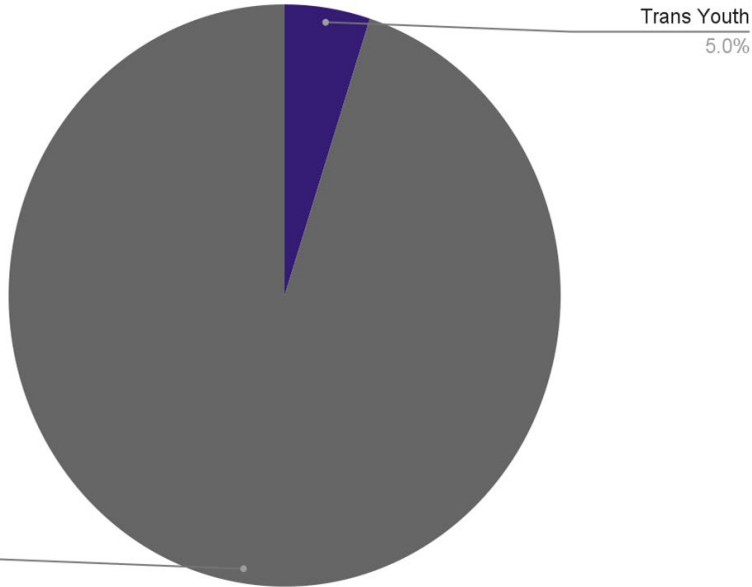
SSC  
SG

Silberman Center for Sexuality & Gender

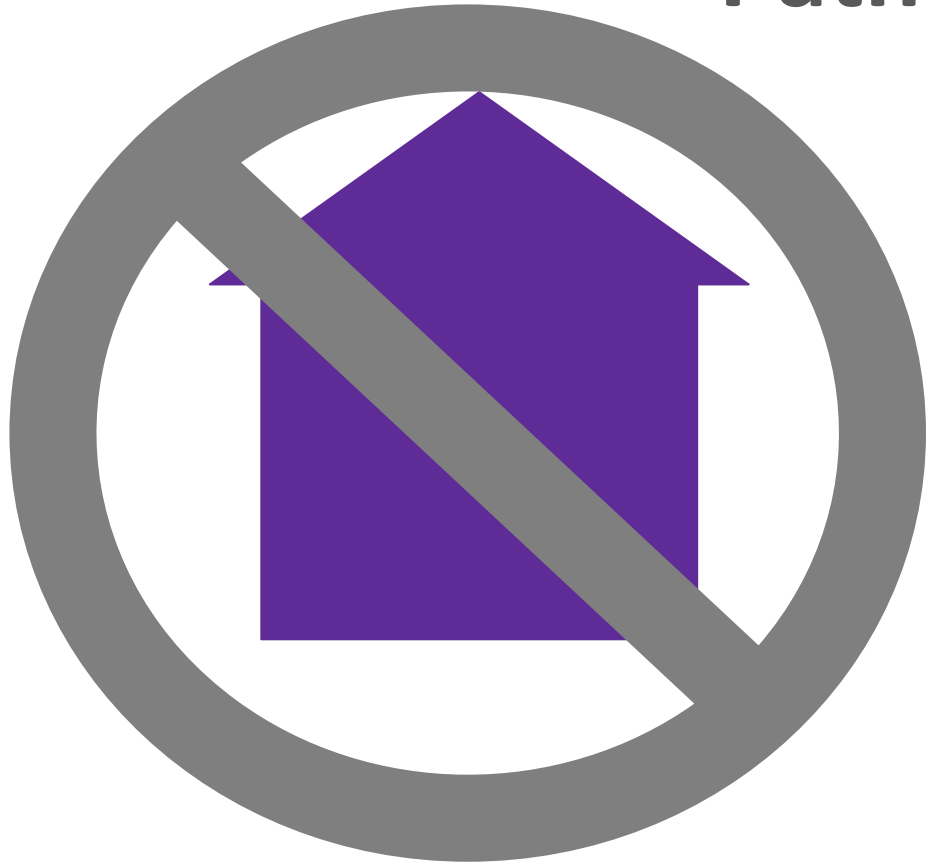
**HUNTER**  
The City University of New York



# Housing Instability & Homelessness: Overrepresentation



# Housing Instability & Homelessness: Pathways



# Housing Instability & Homelessness: Experiences

82%

(N=104)  
Reported  
experiencing  
discrimination  
while  
homeless



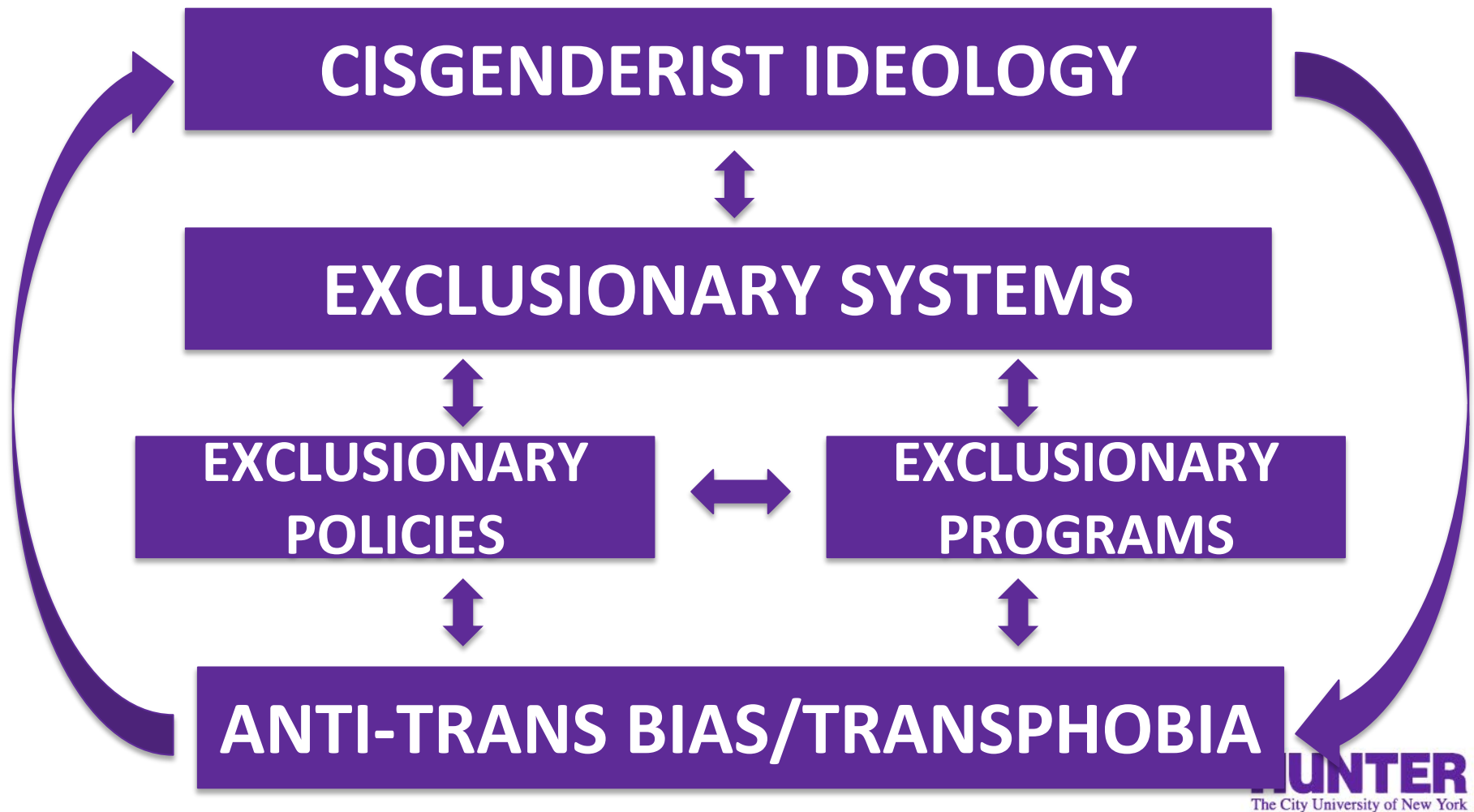
# Housing Instability & Homelessness: System Failures

N=27,725

- **30%** reported experiencing homelessness
- **26%** of those who experienced homelessness avoided staying in a shelter because they feared mistreatment as a trans person.
- **70%** of those who did stay in a shelter reported some form of mistreatment, including being harassed, sexually or physically assaulted, or kicked out because of being transgender



# Housing Instability & Homelessness: Structural Barriers



# Housing Instability & Homelessness: “Positive” Outcomes

Honestly, if I never left home, I would probably already be dead. Because I probably would've killed myself by now. It would probably been some years already passed my death.

Kiki, 19

Honestly I don't think I would be alive today if I wasn't homeless. If my mom hadn't kicked me out of the house, I wouldn't be alive today.

Ryan, 22

Oh shit girl, I'd been dead. No shade, I'd been dead.

Tiffany, 23

I would be alive outside, dead inside. I would have given up. I would probably have even killed myself. I could not have lived.

Charlie, 21



“It's like part of me becoming homeless was it became a part of me...accepting who I was and, like, the process. I wouldn't have been transitioning if I wasn't, like, away from my family because they wouldn't have let me. It wouldn't have been as easy as it is now.”

– Ana Joelle



# Housing Instability & Homelessness:

## Key Take-Aways

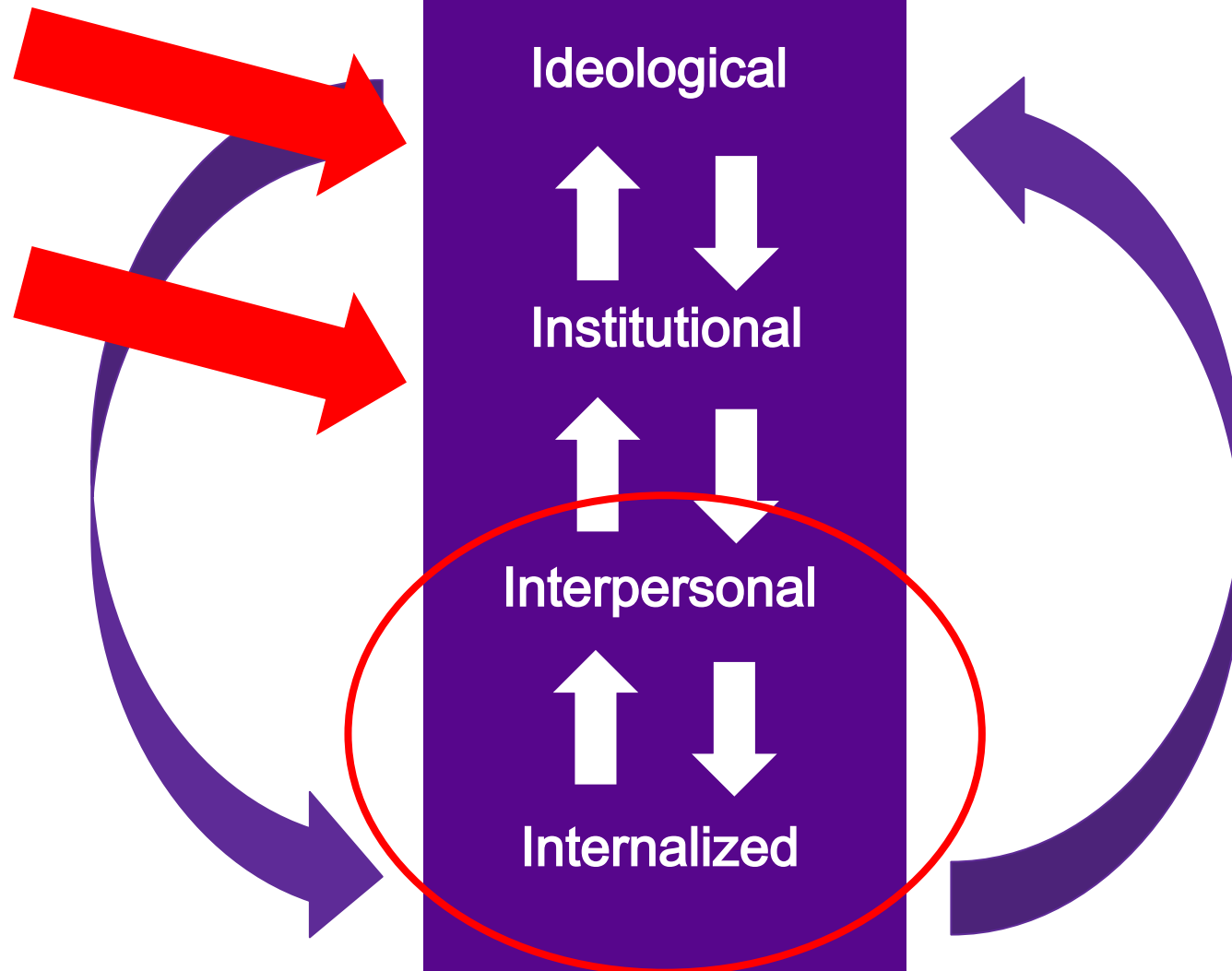
1. Trans & gender diverse youth experience disparities in multiple domains; the systems meant to support them often unintentionally replicate harm.
2. Trans & gender diverse youth are finding/creating communities of support, investing in one another & saving their own lives, outside of formal systems of care.

# How Do We Hold These 2 Truths?

# And What Do They Mean For Our Work?



**To support trans youth well-being,  
we need a radical cultural  
transformation.**



**To support trans youth well-being,  
we need to listen to & learn from  
trans youth.**

# TRANS Joy



Mercury Stardust's  
2nd Annual  
**Tik Tok -a- Thon**  
for Trans Healthcare!

KICKS OFF  
MARCH 30  
5PM EST!

CO-HOSTED  
BY JORY  
@ALLURINGSKULL

BENEFITTING  
POINT OF PRIDE

GUEST STARS, FUN GAMES & MORE



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RENT AND GENDER-AFFIRMING  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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58,301 Donors

