

CHAPTER 5

Relationship Dynamics and Health Risk Behavior among Transwomen and Their Cisgender Male Partners

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SUMMARY

This chapter looks into the relationships between transwomen and their cisgender male partners, with a focus on sex work as a specific variable that shapes these relationships. This chapter examines health risk behaviors within these relationships and how sexual behaviors vary in the context of primary (i.e., emotionally committed) partnerships versus commercial exchange partnerships between transwomen and cisgender men. The aims of this chapter are threefold. First, we will review research on the complexity related to identities and sexual dynamics within these dyads, with specific focus on cisgender men. Second, we will explore health risk behaviors within this relationship context, including the role of sex work and psychological motives that might contribute to partners' health behaviors. Third, we will examine implications of this research for guiding health-promotion interventions for these populations.

KEY TERMS

cisgender; gender presentation; health risk behavior; sexual dynamics; sexual identity

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