

## CHAPTER 7

# Sex Work and Major Depression among Transwomen in New York City

## Mediating Effects of Gender Abuse and Substance Use

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### SUMMARY

This chapter provides rare longitudinal data about the association between sex work among transwomen and serious depressive symptomatology in the form of DSM major depression. After the strength of this association was evaluated, the extent to which it is mediated by gender-related abuse and substance use was systematically examined. The results suggest that sex work among transwomen is strongly associated with clinical depression in large part because of increased levels of gender abuse and substance use.

### KEY TERMS

gender abuse; major depression; sex work; statistical mediation; substance use

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