

## CHAPTER 23

# Police Abuse, Depressive Symptoms, and High-Risk Sexual Behavior for HIV among Transwomen

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### SUMMARY

Building on a previous longitudinal study describing the effects of broad measures of gender abuse on depressive symptomatology and high-risk sexual behavior for HIV among transgender women, the current analysis examined longitudinal associations of perceived psychological abuse by the police with depressive symptoms and high-risk sexual behavior for HIV in this population. The analysis suggests that psychological abuse by the police elevates depressive symptoms, which then reduce the odds of using condoms with different types of partners. These findings suggest that aggressive policing in urban areas such as New York City may be counterproductive from a public health perspective.

### KEY TERMS

aggressive policing; condom use; depressive symptoms; police abuse

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