

# SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This diagram illustrates how overpolicing and profiling of low income people and of trans and gender non-conforming people intersect, producing a far higher risk than average of imprisonment, police harassment, and violence for low income trans people.

Subject to **profiling and harassment**; excessive police presence in poor communities; increased exposure to police

Charged with survival crimes (sex work, drugs, theft, etc.) due to **lack of access to gainful employment or education**

Charged with **"Quality of Life" crimes** like sleeping outside, turnstile jumping, loitering, etc. due to lack of resources (housing, money)

**criminalization of poor and homeless people**

Low-income trans people are exposed to arrest, police harassment, incarceration and violence far more than the average person

**criminalization of trans people**

False arrests for using the **"wrong" bathroom**

False arrests for **lack of proper identity documents** (by INS, police, etc.)

Trans women are often **falsely arrested for soliciting** just for being transgender

**Trans people suffer additional gender-related harms while in custody of the criminal justice system**

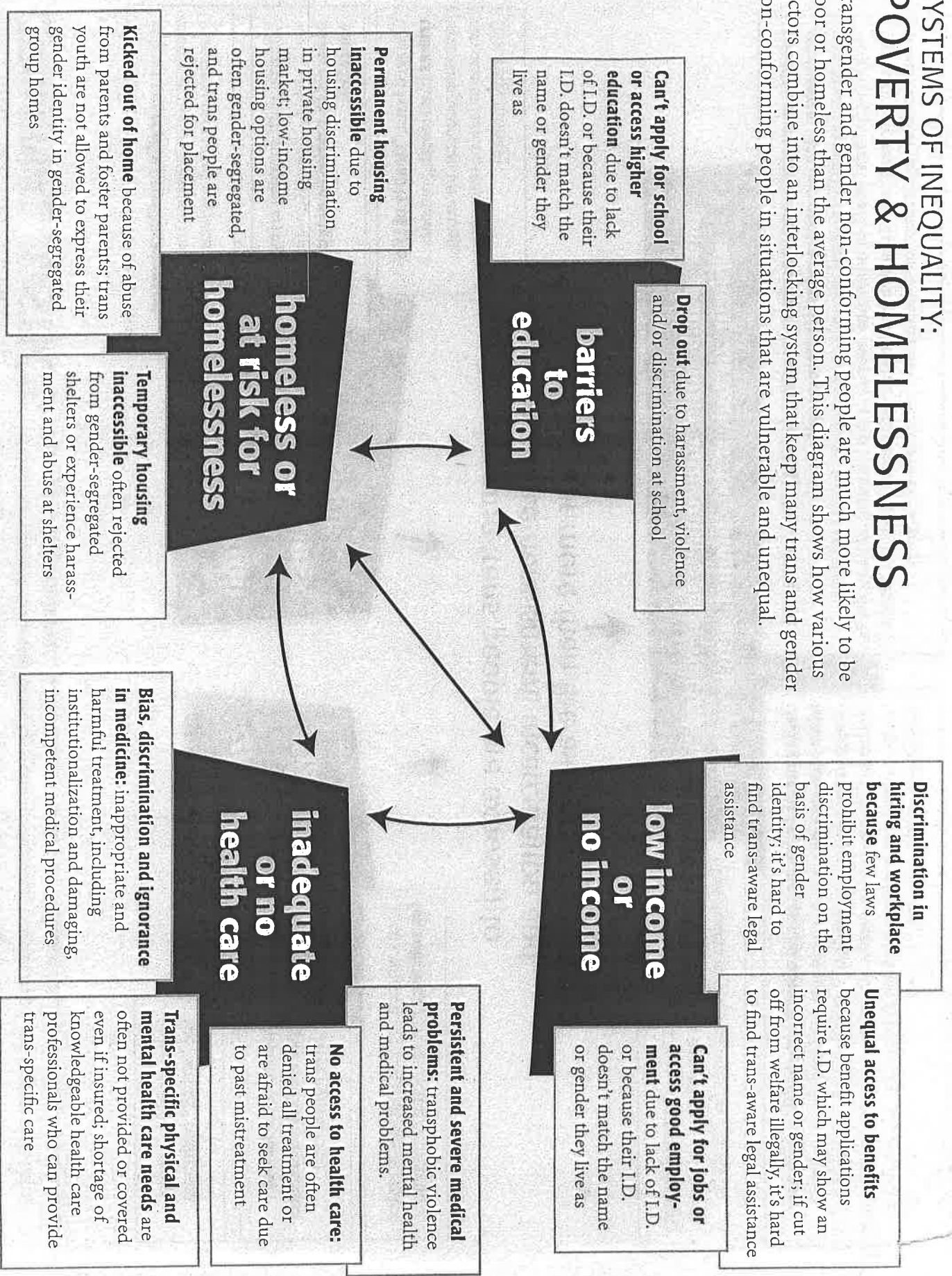
Isolated and/or subjected to **increased sexual violence, harassment, and abuse** at the hands of prisoners and corrections facility staff.

**Gender-segregated arrest procedures (searches, holding cells, policies and procedures, etc.) do not accommodate trans people.** Low-income trans-people are especially targeted due to lack of access to health care that would help them "pass" as non-trans people, as well as surgical procedures, and are commonly misclassified by arresting officers as "male" or "female" based on their appearance or whether they've had genital surgery.

**Denied access to hormones and other trans-specific health care while incarcerated.** Forced to change gendered characteristics of appearance in prison (made to cut hair, give up prosthetics, clothing). This results in mental anguish and increased exposure to harassment and violence because appearance may conform even less to gender identity.

# SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY: POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

Transgender and gender non-conforming people are much more likely to be poor or homeless than the average person. This diagram shows how various factors combine into an interlocking system that keep many trans and gender non-conforming people in situations that are vulnerable and unequal.



**Can't apply for school or access higher education** due to lack of I.D. or because their I.D. doesn't match the name or gender they live as

**Drop out** due to harassment, violence and/or discrimination at school

**barriers to education**

**homeless or at risk for homelessness**

**Kicked out of home** because of abuse from parents and foster parents; trans youth are not allowed to express their gender identity in gender-segregated group homes

**Temporary housing inaccessible** often rejected from gender-segregated shelters or experience harassment and abuse at shelters

**low income or no income**

**Discrimination in hiring and workplace** because few laws prohibit employment on the basis of gender identity; it's hard to find trans-aware legal assistance

**Unequal access to benefits** because benefit applications require I.D. which may show an incorrect name or gender; if cut off from welfare illegally, it's hard to find trans-aware legal assistance

**Can't apply for jobs or access good employment** due to lack of I.D. or because their I.D. doesn't match the name or gender they live as

**inadequate or no health care**

**Bias, discrimination and ignorance in medicine:** inappropriate and harmful treatment, including institutionalization and damaging, incompetent medical procedures

**Trans-specific physical and mental health care needs** are often not provided or covered even if insured; shortage of knowledgeable health care professionals who can provide trans-specific care

**No access to health care:** trans people are often denied all treatment or are afraid to seek care due to past mistreatment

**Persistent and severe medical problems:** transphobic violence leads to increased mental health and medical problems.