

CLARITY & CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH GENDER CONFUSION

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• Transgender stats (UCLA 2022)¹

1. Nearly half of 1.6 million transgender Americans are teenagers or young adults
2. Percentage of youth doubled since last estimate; adults remained same
3. Percentage of youth varies by state (NY=3%; WY=0.6%; WI=1.75%; average=1.43%)
- Educational policies & regional politics may be reason

• Gender Identity Disorder (GID); now called “Gender Dysphoria”

1. Rare (Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—DSM-5, May 2013)²
- Males--.005 to .014% (5-14 cases for every 100,000 males)
- Females--.002-.003% (2-3 cases for every 100,000 females)
- Historically (100 years) boys ages 2-4³
2. 75% lose feelings on own (APA Handbook of Sexuality & Psychology)⁴
- 64% within 5 years (10-year study of German children & teens)⁵
- No certain physiological or genetic cause (DSM-5); not “born that way”
- 15% of youth will attempt suicide; 3% of all students will⁶
3. Counseling
- For underlying conditions: autism, trauma, anxiety, & stress
- Banned in 20 states⁷
4. Chemical solution?
- Gender clinics giving puberty-blockers & cross-sex hormones (no FDA approval)
- No research tracking satisfaction or regret⁸
- Unknown long-term effects (no clinics 15 years ago)
- Short-term effects: lower bone density, high blood pressure, breast cancer, liver disease, cardiovascular disease, & infertility⁹
- Sweden, Finland, England use “watchful waiting”—a transient phase¹⁰
- England’s MDs: don’t change name/pronouns¹¹
5. Surgical solution?
- Johns Hopkins no longer does sex-reassignment surgery (first in 1960’s)
- Patients no better psychologically or socially than those without surgery¹²
- Patients 19 times more likely to commit suicide than average¹³
- What about anorexia?

¹ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-adults-united-states/>

² Gender identity disorder or gender dysphoria in Christian perspective. (2014, May 17). Retrieved from <https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/53E2B773-CD82-4B0D-96F4-D3FB56B17952>

³ Gillespie, N. (2021, July 13). Abigail Shrier worries teenage gender transition leads to ‘irreversible damage.’ [Video file]. Reason.com. Retrieved from <https://reason.com/video/2021/07/13/abigail-shrier-worries-teenage-gender-transitions-lead-to-irreversible-damage/>

⁴ McHugh, P. (2014, June 12). Transgender surgery isn’t the solution. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120>

⁵ <https://www.aerzteblatt.de/archiv/239555/>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). *2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/data.htm>

⁷ 2022 State Legislative Sessions: An Overview on Counseling Bans and Counseling Protections. Retrieved from <https://frc.org/statelegislativeroundup/2022-state-legislative-sessions-an-overview-on-counseling-bans-and-counseling-protections>

⁸ Terhune, C., Respaut, R., & Conlin, M. (2022, October 6). As more transgender children seek medical care, families confront many unknowns. Reuters. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-transyouth-care/>

⁹ Hruz, P., Mayer, L., & McHugh, P. (Spring 2017). Growing pains: Problems with puberty suppression in treating gender dysphoria. *The New Atlantis*. Retrieved from <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/growing-pains>

¹⁰ Davis, Lisa Selin. (2022, July 30). The beginning of the end of ‘gender-affirming care’? *The Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://www.thefp.com/p/the-beginning-of-the-end-of-gender>

¹¹ Dixon, Hayley. (2022, October 23). Most children who think they’re transgender are just going through a ‘phase’ say NHS. *The Telegraph*. Retrieved from <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/23/children-who-think-transgender-just-going-phase-says-nhs/>

¹² Olasky, Marvin. (2014, October 4). The truth test. *World*. Retrieved from <https://wng.org/articles/the-truth-test-1620623058>

¹³ Dhejne, C., Lichtenstein, P., Boman, M., Johansson, A., Långström, N., & Landén, M. (2011, February 22). Long-term follow-up of transsexual persons undergoing sex reassignment surgery: Cohort study in Sweden. *PLOS ONE*. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0016885>

6. Cost¹⁴

- Estrogen injections--\$2400/per year
- Testosterone gels--\$4200/per year
- 15 year-old will spend \$100K+ on hormones and \$100K+ on surgeries in lifetime

7. After transition surgery regrets

- 7000 in 2020 (Reddit group)
- 35,000 in 2022 (400% increase)

8. Suicide

- 20-year study: 12-fold higher suicide attempt risk for those with surgery¹⁵

• **Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria—Dr. Lisa Littman (Brown U.)**

1. Usually teenage girls (not all women)
 - England—4000% increase in girls seeking transition over decade
2. Sudden requests for hormones or surgery
3. Nearly 70% of parents: child part of group where 1 or more transitioned
 - Social contagion (like anorexia)
4. 60% of parents: transgenderism increased child's popularity
5. Over 60% of parents: child was previously diagnosed with mental health disorder
 - Depression, anxiety, self-harm
 - Struggling socially
 - Unhappy with body

• **Reversing course**

1. American College of Pediatricians & 5 groups urge end to hormones, surgeries for children¹⁶
2. England, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, & Finland—social, medical interventions unhelpful & harmful

• **What to do**

1. Speak the truth in love
2. Use name from parents; treat respectfully
3. Deal with underlying issues: eating disorders, depression & autism¹⁷

• **What about “Plurals”?**

1. People who identify as other people, animals, or objects
2. Dissociative Identity Disorder or expression of true selves?

• **What about...?**

1. Rachel Dolezal
2. Emile Ratelband
3. Stefonknee Wolscht

• **Bible & biological sex**

1. God created male & female
 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Ge 1:27)
2. God institutes marriage of one man & woman
 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Ge 2:24)
3. Sexes & marriage display God's image & order
 - “A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.” (Dt 22:5)

• **Biblical care**

1. Christ (Law & Gospel)
 - God's perfect will & His love for all
2. Counseling to deal with confusion, shame, & despair
 - Biology is not bigotry
3. Community for acceptance & care

¹⁴ Muoio, D. (2017, September). Transgender patients: Calculating the actual cost. *HMP Global Learning Network*. Retrieved from <https://www.hmpgloballearningnetwork.com/site/frmc/article/transgender-patients-calculating-actual-cost>

¹⁵ Straub JJ, Paul KK, Bothwell LG, Deshazo SJ, Golovko G, Miller MS, Jehle DV. Risk of Suicide and Self-Harm Following Gender-Affirmation Surgery. *Cureus*. 2024 Apr 2;16(4):e57472. doi: 10.7759/cureus.57472. Erratum in: *Cureus*. 2024 Jun 11;16(6):c182. doi: 10.7759/cureus.c182. PMID: 38699117; PMCID: PMC11063965.

¹⁶ <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/06/06/exclusive-doctors-urge-top-medical-orgs-stop-harming-kids-transgender-surgeries-hormones/>

¹⁷ Biggs, M. (2022, January 18). Suicide by Clinic-Referred Transgender Adolescents in the United Kingdom. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 51, 685–690. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-022-02287-7>