

Creating Inclusive Spaces for LGBTQ+ Students

AFFIRMING PRACTICES FOR SUPPORTING LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS

This presentation is revised and updated from a safe space training created by Erin Pollard



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She, her, they, them

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ABOUT ME

- Fullerton College Adjunct Counselor
- Q&A: Queer Straight Alliance: An LGBTQ+ Committee Member
- Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Member
- Region 8 Lead LGBTQ Student Support Advocates
- Puente Mentor
- Mother of two AWEtistic children
- PCOS

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT



COLLEGE APPLICATION DATA

Sexual and Gender Identity (Incl. Nonconforming)
4 Year University & CCC Apply
Sends the message that care about this information



TITLE IX BEST PRACTICES

Protections against mistreatment based on gender and sexuality



CA LGBTQ LAWS

AB 1266 – (K-12) Asserted name and gender on unofficial records (Link)
AB 1018 – LGBTQ is now a specially funded category (EOPS & Equity) (Link)
SB 179 – 3rd Gender Option in CA (Link)



SEAP FUNDING MODEL

SSSP → SEAP Funding = Greater emphasis on disproportionately impacted groups





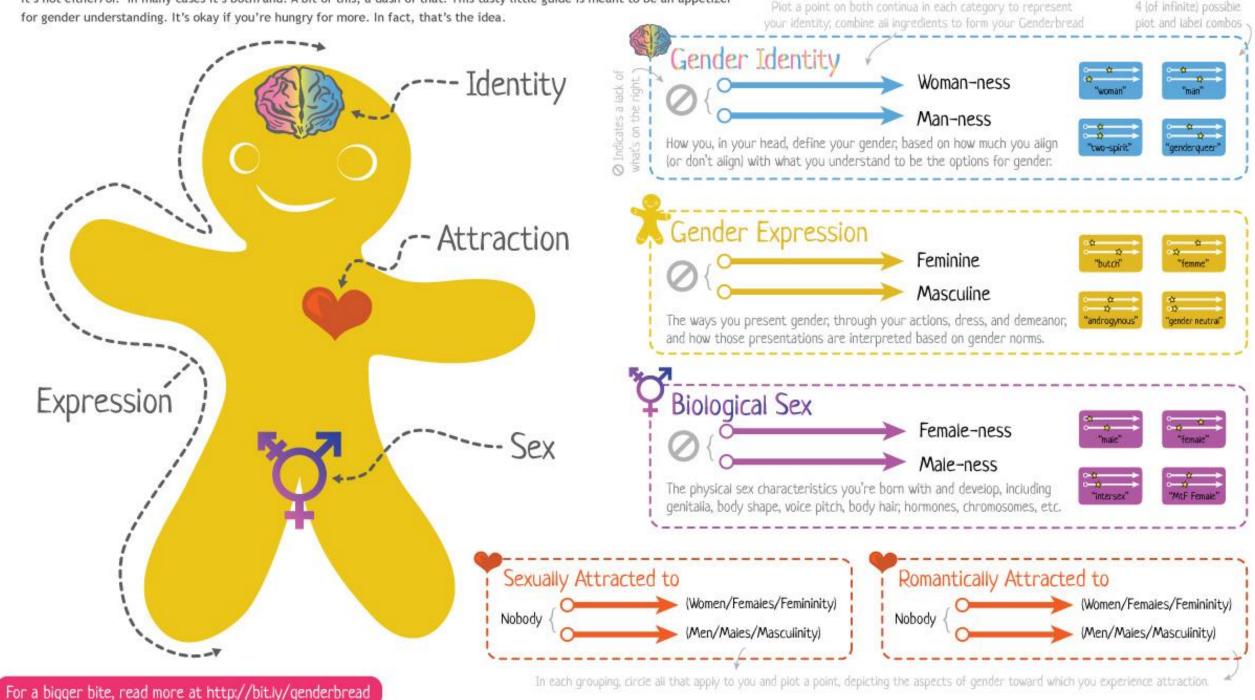
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER,
QUEER, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL

This is not one community Includes sexual orientations, genders, and intersex identities

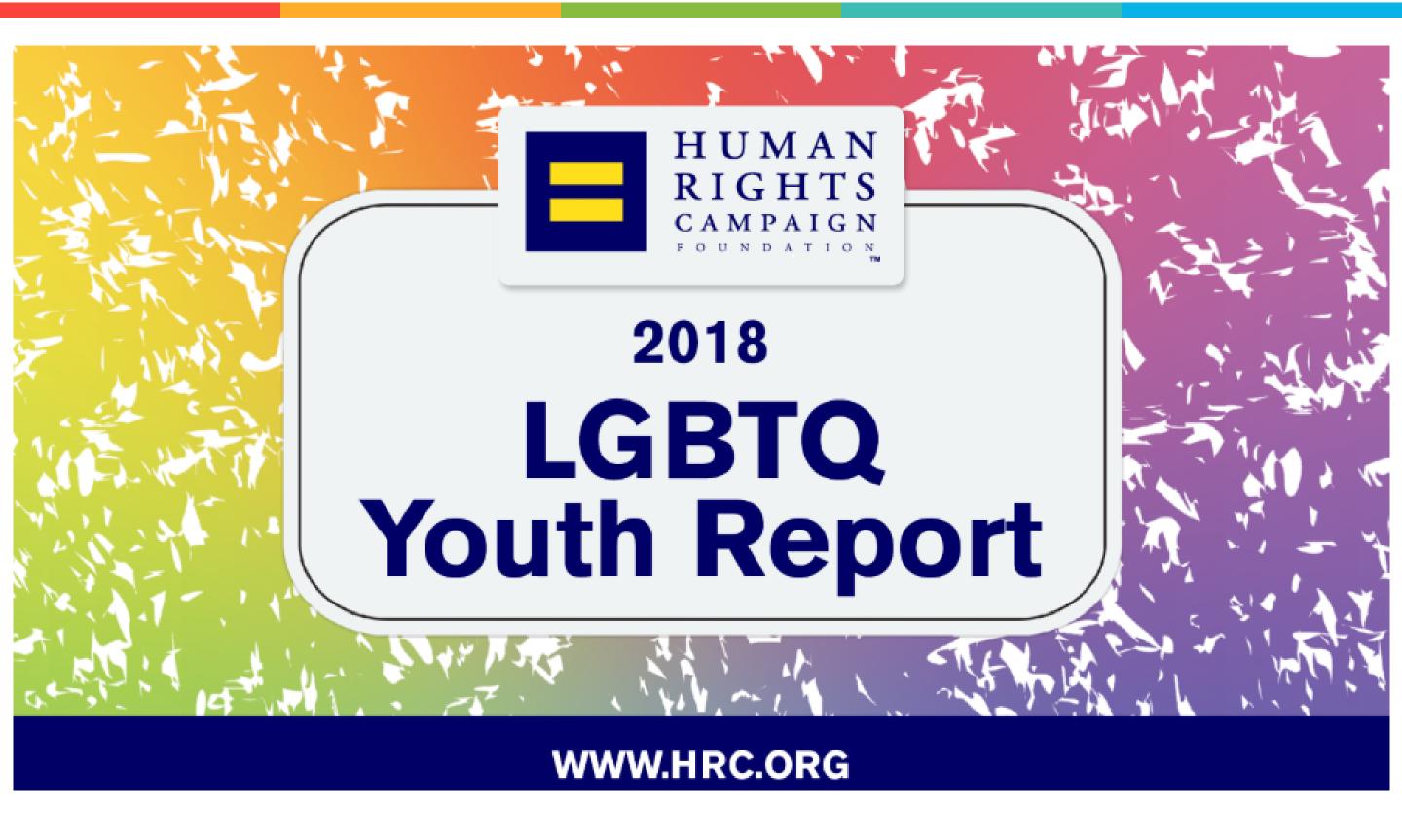
The Genderbread Person v3.3

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like *Inception*. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for gender understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more. In fact, that's the idea.

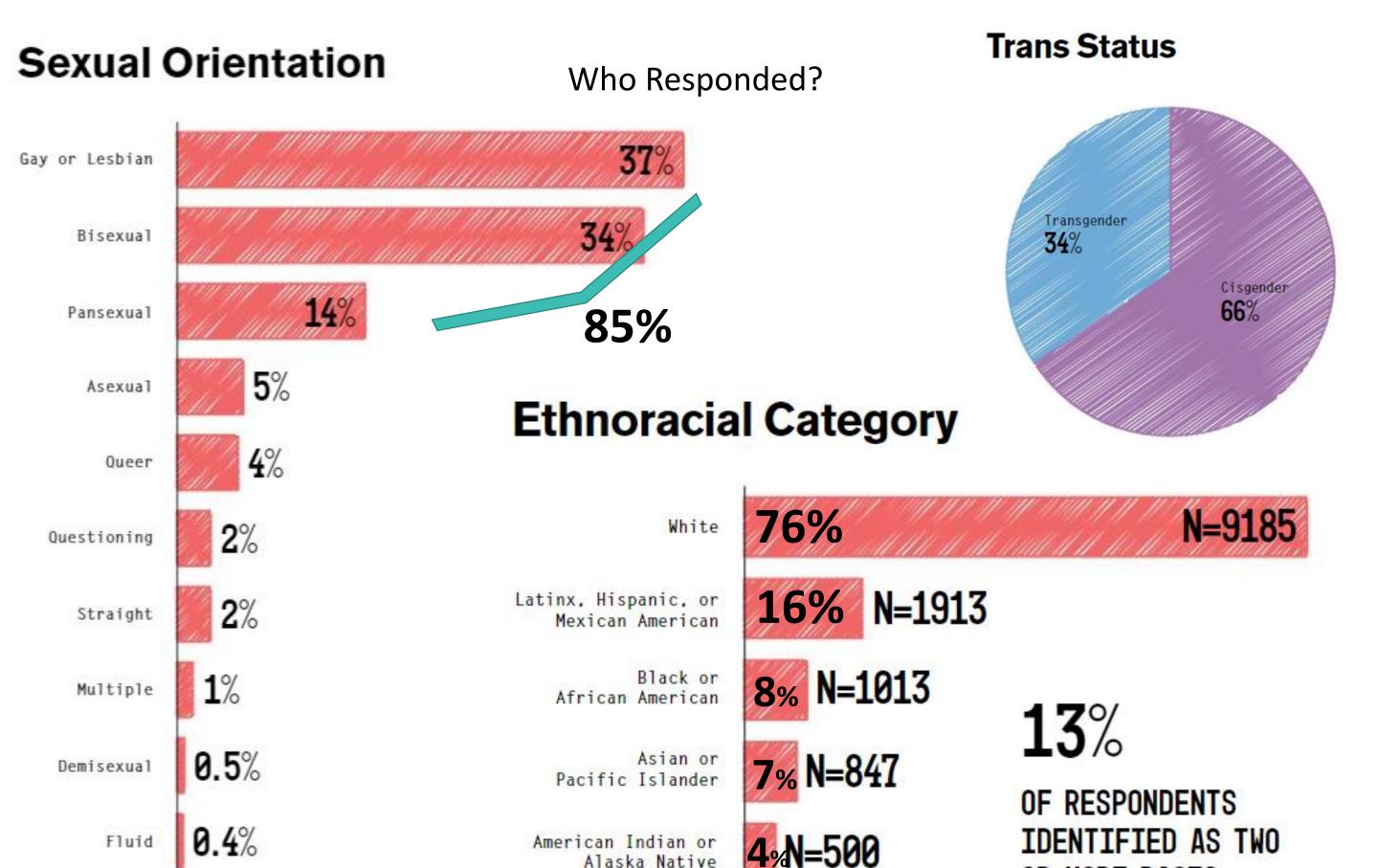




YOU CANNOT TELL A PERSON'S
GENDER IDENTITY BY LOOKING AT THEM
You'd need to have a conversation



HRC Foundation and the University of Connecticut released the largest-of-its-kind survey ever of more than 12,000 LGBTQ teenagers across the nation, revealing in distressing detail the persistent challenges so many of them face going about their daily lives at home, at school and in their communities.



Alaska Native

0ther

3%N = 427

OR MORE RACES

Percentages may add up to over 100 due to rounding.

0.2%

Other

The Burden of Rejection



73%

OF LGBTQ YOUTH HAVE EXPERIENCED VERBAL THREATS BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED LGBTQ IDENTITY²⁷



More than **78**% of LGBTQ students in California felt depressed or down in the past week²⁰

"My fear keeps me from seeing a counselor about things like my anxiety and depression. I don't know how they might react [to my LGBTQ identity], so I'd rather go online or talk to my other queer friends about it."

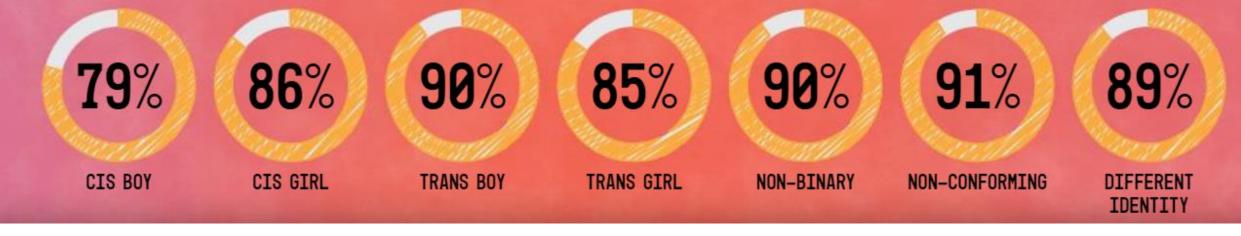
95%
OF LGBTQ YOUTH REPORT
THEY HAVE TROUBLE GETTING
TO SLEEP AT NIGHT¹¹

STRESS

85%

OF LGBTQ YOUTH RATE THEIR AVERAGE STRESS LEVEL AS '5' OR HIGHER ON A 1-10 SCALE¹²

PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO RATE THEIR AVERAGE STRESS LEVEL AS '5' OR HIGHER BY GENDER IDENTITY:



The Need for an Intersectional **Approach**

LGBTQ youth of color in California have experienced racism and racial prejudice racism and racial prejudice45

60%

say their race(s)/ethnic group(s) are regarded negatively or very negatively in the United States⁴⁶

60%

think about racism often or every single day47



"Being black already makes life hard. Adding being gay on top on that is extremely difficult."

ONLY

11%

OF LGBTQ YOUTH OF COLOR BELIEVE THEIR RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP IS REGARDED POSITIVELY IN THE UNITED STATES³⁷

QUEER

LGB Sexualities T Genders

GENDER DEFINITIONS



CISGENDER

Someone who identifies as the gender they were assigned at birth

Very important so we don't say "normal"



TRANSGENDER

Anyone who does not feel aligned with the gender assigned to them at birth

Transman = Identifies male
Transwoman = Identifies female





GENDER NON-CONFORMING (GNC), NON-BINARY, FLUID, GENDER DIVERSE...

Someone who does not identify with either male or female exclusively These folks may or may not identify as transgender

2015 US Transgender study (USTS)

National Center for Transgender Equality *Anonymous online survey, about 28,000 respondents*

K-12 SCHOOL

78%

Experienced some form of mistreatment

COLLEGE

24%

Verbally, physically, or sexually assaulted

WORK

77%

Took steps to avoid mistreatment

POLICE

58%

Experiences mistreatment based on gender identity



K-12 SCHOOL

54% Verbally harassed

24% Physically assaulted

13% Sexually assaulted

31% Harassment by teachers and staff

17% (1/6) Left school as a result



IN THE PAST YEAR

30% Fired, denied promotion, mistreated at work

46% Verbally harassed

10% Sexually assaulted (47% lifetime)

12% Experiences homelessness (30% lifetime)

33% Negative heath care experience

IN CALIFORNIA...

National Center for Transgender Equality USTS

K-12 SCHOOL

76%

Experienced some form of mistreatment

COLLEGE

22%

Verbally, physically, or sexually assaulted



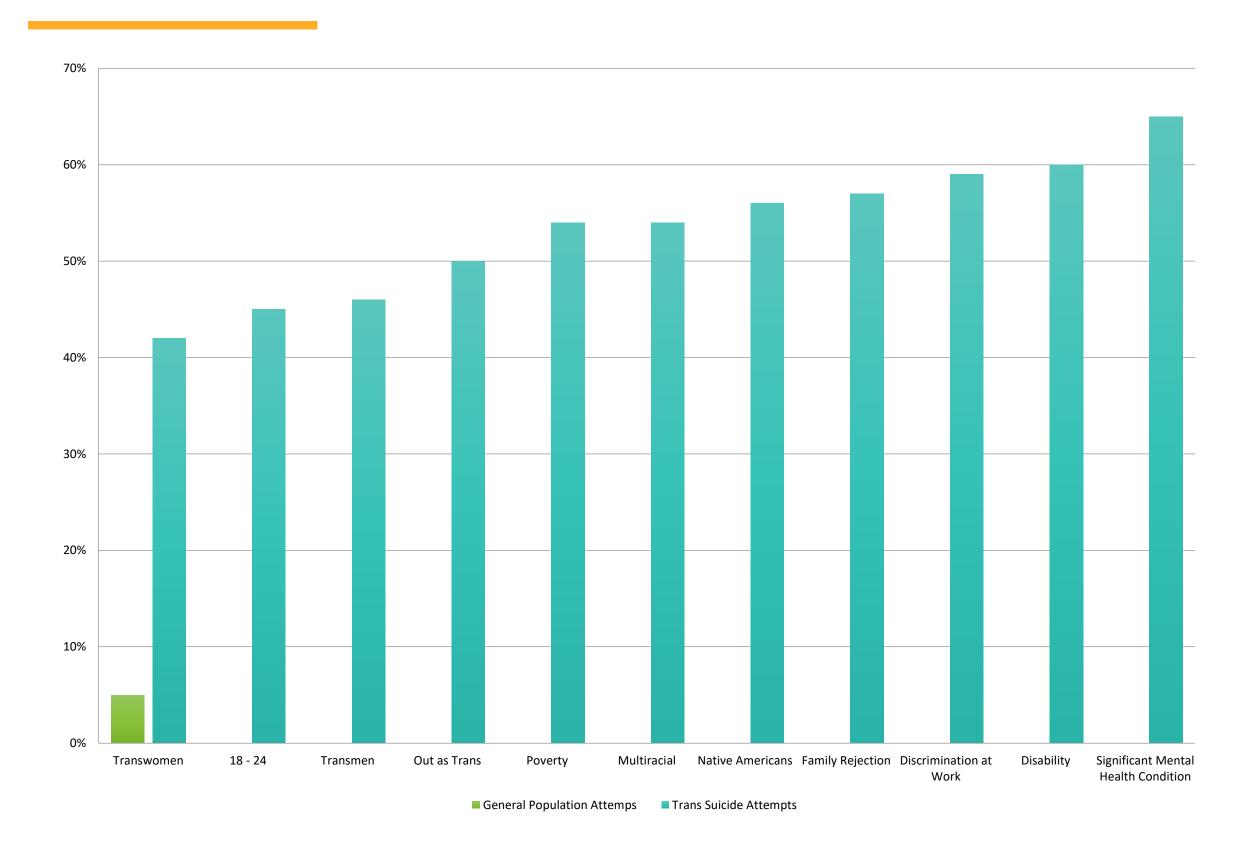


K-12 SCHOOL

56% Verbally harassed26% Physically assaulted (1/4 students)

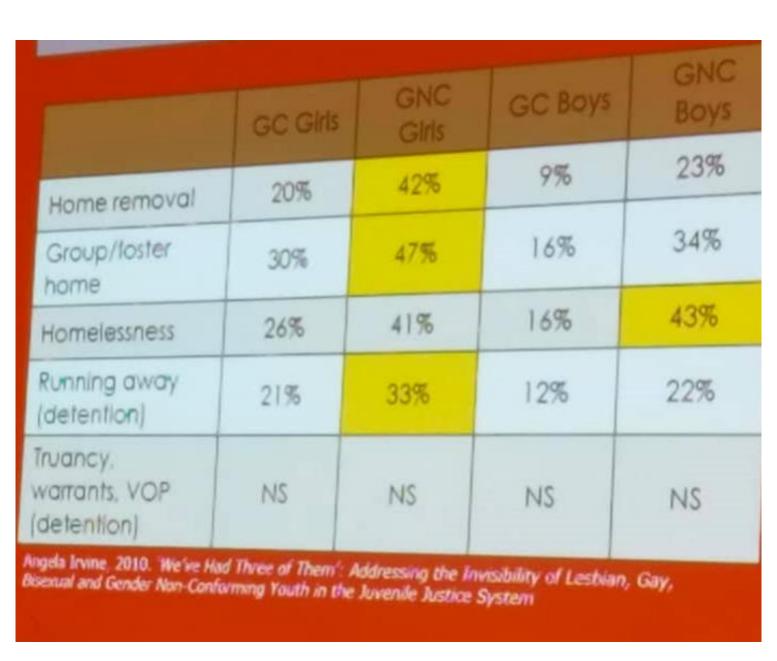
31% Harassment by teachers and staff

TRANS SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



Gender Expression and Detention

- 40% of homeless teens are LGBT
- 30% of Foster Care Youth are LGBT
- LGBT youth 3x more likely to be punished for same infraction as cis/het youth
- 20% detained youth identify as LGBT
- 50% CA girls incarcerated identify as LGBTQ+
- 92% of CA LGBT detained youth are people of color



LGBTQ Youth of Color in the Juvenile Justice System

National Center for Lesbian Rights

Shannan Wilber, Youth Policy Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights Carolyn Reyes, Youth Policy Counsel, National Center for Lesbian Rights

DISCUSSION

You are walking by a group of students and hear language like "that's so gay" and "Dude, he's a total fag."

- What do you say in response?
- What do you do?
- Would your response be any different if you had heard a racial slur?

THE CULTURE OF GENDER





GENDER ≠ MALE AND FEMALE ONLY **GENDER IS EXPERIENCED IN MANY WAYS**

GENDERING STARTS BEFORE BIRTH







TOYS & KIDS PRODUCTS



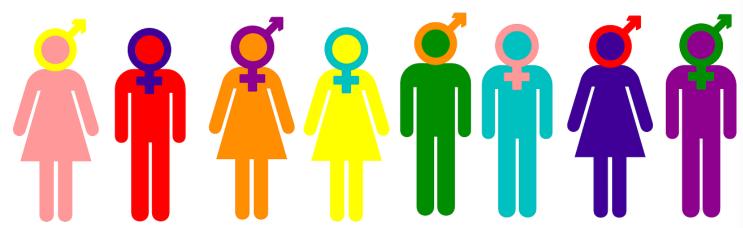








GENDER DIVERSITY







GENDER NONCONFORMING

Someone who does not conform to traditional cultural and social notions of gender expectations



EXPERIMENTING WITH GENDER

People are encouraged to find their own unique relationship with gender and sexuality Understanding that this relationship may change over time

GENDER DIVERSE GENDER CREATIVE GENDER EXPANSIVE
NON-BINARY GENDER QUEER
GENDER FLUID AGENDER BIGENDER

Gender identity by age group

	18-34	35-51	52-71	72 +
Cisgender	88%	94%	97%	97%
Agender	3%	>0.5%	>0.5%	1%
Gender fluid	3%	1%	-	-
Transgender	2%	1%	>0.5%	-
Unsure/ questioning	2%	3%	2%	2%
Bigender	1%	>0.5%	1%	-
Genderqueer	1%	1%	-	-

OTHER STUDIES SHOW...

27%

OF YOUTH IN CALIFORNIA ARE IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER OR GENDER NON-CONFORMING

Williams Institute (2017). Bianca D.M. Wilson, Soon Kyu Choi, Jody L. Herman, et al. Characteristics and Mental Health of Gender Nonconforming Adolescents in California.

MILLENNIALS 21-34 YEARS OLD

65% Exclusively Heterosexual

43% Knew someone who went by gender neutral pronouns

54% Always bought clothes designed for their own gender

57% Support gender neutral bathrooms

GENERATION Z 13-20 YEARS OLD

48% Exclusively Heterosexual

56% Knew someone who went by gender neutral pronouns

44% Always bought clothes designed for their own gender

70% Support gender neutral bathrooms

J. Walter Thompson Innovation Group -Study of Youth Attitudes toward gender (2015)

PUBERTY BEGINS



AVALANCE OF GENDERING OFTEN STARTS TO CRASH

- Increase in hormones, bodies start to change
- Dramatic increase in DYSPHORIA



OFTEN RESULTS IN

 Social isolation, depression, anxiety, self harm, disassociation, over compensation in gender typical behavior, poor school performances, self harm, risk of suicide, and more





SOCIAL TRANSITION CAN BE LIFE SAVING

- PARTIAL: Clothing and hair
- FULL: Name and pronouns

GENDER DYSPHORIA



PHYSICAL DYSPHORIA

Feeling discomfort around one's assigned gender and physical body



SOCIAL DYSPHORIA

Sense of dysphoria specifically linked to social situations. Typically caused by social assumptions relating to gender, such as pronoun use, assumption of social roles or body language



WHAT DYSPHORIA

FEELS LIKE



"It feels like my body is squeezing itself.
Whenever I feel it, I honestly want to tug out
all my hair and just curl up in a ball"



"To me it feels a bit like wearing wet clothes. Just so wrong and uncomfortable. And I can't take them off."



Dysphoria by wiltking-daphzce @ Deviant Art



"It feels like I'm being suffocated. I'm claustrophobic inside my own body. I can't get out of it I feel trapped and no matter how hard I try to fix it, it will never be the body I want it to be"



"It's like a tension that builds, like a thousand knives stabbing me, like a constant ache, like a bad dream I can't wake from, like tears behind my eyes I cant let myself cry..."

CHILDREN & HORMONES



"BLOCKERS"

- 9 or 10 to about 16 years old
- Delays puberty while the child decides what they would like their gender expression and identification to be
- Prevention of unwanted secondary sex characteristics



BLOCKERS REMOVED AT ABOUT 16

- Either natural puberty starts on it's own -or -
- Cross sex hormones applied



PERSONAL IMPACT

- Not growing and changing as their peers do = ANXIETY
- Average puberty starts at 12 years old

MTF - FEMINIZING HORMONES



HORMONES

Estrogen - Self injections or pills Anti-Androgen or Progestins



EFFECTS

Breast growth
Fat redistribution
Body hair reduction and thinning
Softer skin
Reduction of libido
Genital Changes
Decreased muscle mass
Possible infertility
Sexual side effects



FTM - TESTOSTERONE "T"



REVERSABLE EFFECTS

Increased libido Redistribution of body fat

Storping of Avulation and menstruation BOY PUBERTY Increased sweat and changes in body odor

Coarser skin

ALLATORE

Acne



IRREVERSIBLE EFFECTS

Deepening of the voice Growth of facial and body hair Male pattern baldness (2-3 years) **Genital changes** Possible shrinking/softening of breast tissue

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT OUR STUDENTS?



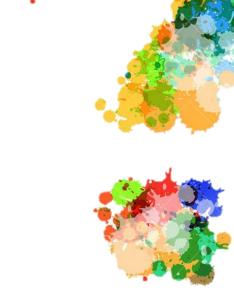
QUESTIONS

- Am I safe?
- Am I respected?
- Do I even belong in higher education?
- If I ask for help will anyone believe me or help?



PERSONAL IMPACT

- Lowers self-worth
- Increase in depression
- Anxiety





IMPACTS ON EDUCATION

- Drop in attendance and school performance
- 17% (1/6 trans students) left school as a result of mistreatment
- Then nearly half of those experienced homelessness

WHAT TO REMEMBER WHEN INTERACTING WITH TRANS STUDENTS



THEY MAY BE...

- Experiencing rejection from family or friends
- Feeling uncomfortable/unsafe in public places
- Experiencing changes or difficulties in their romantic relationship(s)
- Experiencing depression, anxiety, social anxiety, or fear of mistreatment, harassment, or violence

THEY MAY BE WONDERING IF THEY ARE SAFE WITH YOU

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT CAN DO



INCREASES RETENTION AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS



- Solidify the idea that they are valued here
- They have a place in education



FOSTER AN INCLUSIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT



EXPOSE ALL MEMEBERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY TO NEW IDEAS AND DIFFERENT WORLD VIEWS



PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH SUPPORT FROM STAFF AND STUDENTS



Only

of LGBTQ youth in California say all of their school staff are supportive of LGBTQ students³⁰

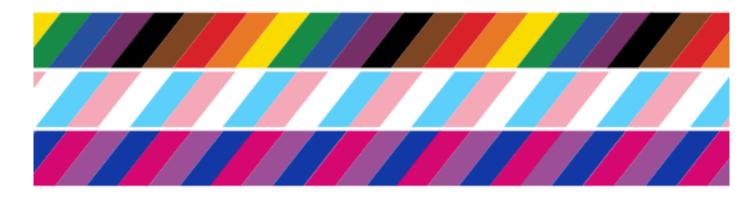
"What makes me more comfortable is if they have a sticker or poster that shows that they are supportive of LGBTQ people."

- Calif. respondent

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

→ASK ME!←

I PROUDLY AFFIRM LGBTQ STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES.

















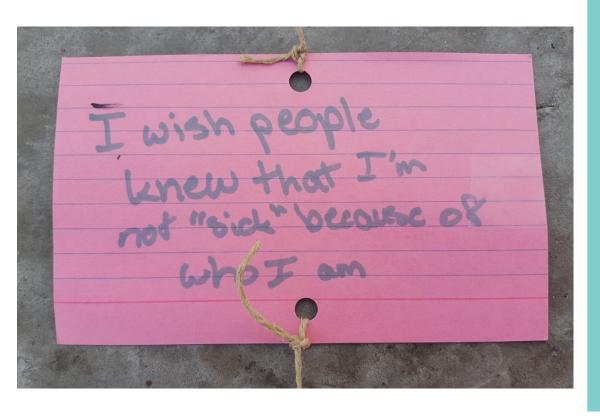






Discuss with a neighbor:





Question:

Do you support LGBTQ students? List three ways that your students can easily identify you as an ally.

1.

2

3.

RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION GENDER PRONOUNS



PERSONAL PRONOUNS

 The pronoun a person uses to refer to themselves
 Ex: he, she, or they "They" is singular





ME

MY PRONOUNS



ASKING = RESPECT

• Using the wrong pronouns can make someone feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, or dysphoric



WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE?

 It's ok to make mistakes, just apologize and move on



Gender Pronouns:

HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS' IDENTITIES

ASK



Ask the student how they identify & their pronouns

Don't assume

REFLECT



Respect their self-understanding

MIRROR



Mirror their language (terms, names, pronouns)

Ex: "Gay woman" vs. "Lesbian"

ACCEPT



Do not correct, argue, or debate their language

Continually refusing to use a student's asserted name and pronouns is considered harassment and a Title IX violation

HOW TO ASK



NAME

- "I see here your name is listed as _____ is that what you'd like me to call you?
- "Could I ask your name?"
- "What would you like me to call you?"



PERSONAL PRONOUNS

- "Could I ask what personal pronouns you use?"
- "I use she/her pronouns, could I ask what pronouns you use?"

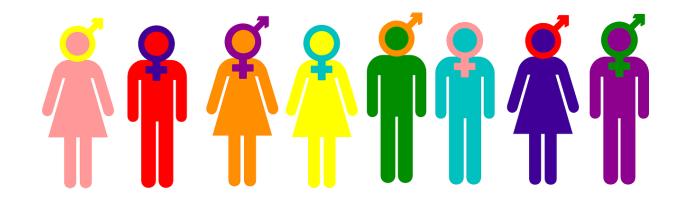


GENDER

- "I'd like to be respectful, how can I best refer to your gender?
- "When it comes to gender, may I ask how you identify?



THEY PRONOUNS





WE ALREADY USE THE SINGULAR "THEY"

When we don't know the gender of the person

Ex: "Oh someone lost their money. I wonder how I can get it back to them"

Ex: Where was the package delivered? "They just left it out front"

Ex: "Why did you swerve the car?" "They cut me off!"



HOW TO USE "THEY" PRONOUNS

Just substitute "they" for she/he, and substitute "them" for her/him

"Terry left **her** backpack in my office. I'll set it aside for **her**, I bet **she** is looking everywhere"

"Terry left **his** backpack in my office. I'll set it aside for **him**, I bet **he** is looking everywhere"

"Terry left **their** backpack in my office. I'll set it aside for **them**, I bet **they** are looking everywhere"



WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE?

It's ok to make mistakes, just apologize and move on

RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

Don't Say	Instead Try
Transsexual, Transvestite, Tranny, Transgendered, "A trans"	Transgender or Trans
Transgerracies, 7 Crans	
"Born in the wrong body"	Gender assigned at birth
"Born male" or "Used to be a boy" "Born female" "Used to be a girl"	Assigned male at birth Assigned female at birth
"Preferred Identity" "Preferred Pronouns"	Simply "identity" and "pronouns"
"Real Woman" or "Real Man"	Transwomen are real women Transmen are real men
"he-she", "she-male", "it"	Use their asserted pronouns, or "they" if not sure
"Sexual Reassignment Surgery", "Sex Change Operation"	Gender Confirmation/Affirmation Surgery

WHEN A STUDENT COMES OUT TO YOU



WHAT TO CONSIDER

- This student may be worried about rejection or judgement
- They are choosing to trust you with this information
- It is an honor, treat it as such



HOW TO RESPOND

- "Thank you for sharing this with me"
- "Would you like me to keep this just between us?"
- "I'm new to this, but I'd really like to help. What can I do?"



WHAT NOT TO SAY

- Any questions about their body or sexuality
- Any sentence that starts with "But"
 - ex: But you're such a pretty girl
- Yeah, I figured
- Wow, really?



DISCUSS WITH A PARTNER

HOW ARE YOU BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR TGNC YOUTH IN YOUR CLASSROOMS?



CREATING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT



GET TO KNOW EACH PERSON AS AN INDIVIDUAL

- Don't operate on assumptions or stereotypes
- Ask students what they need



COMMUNICATE RESPECT

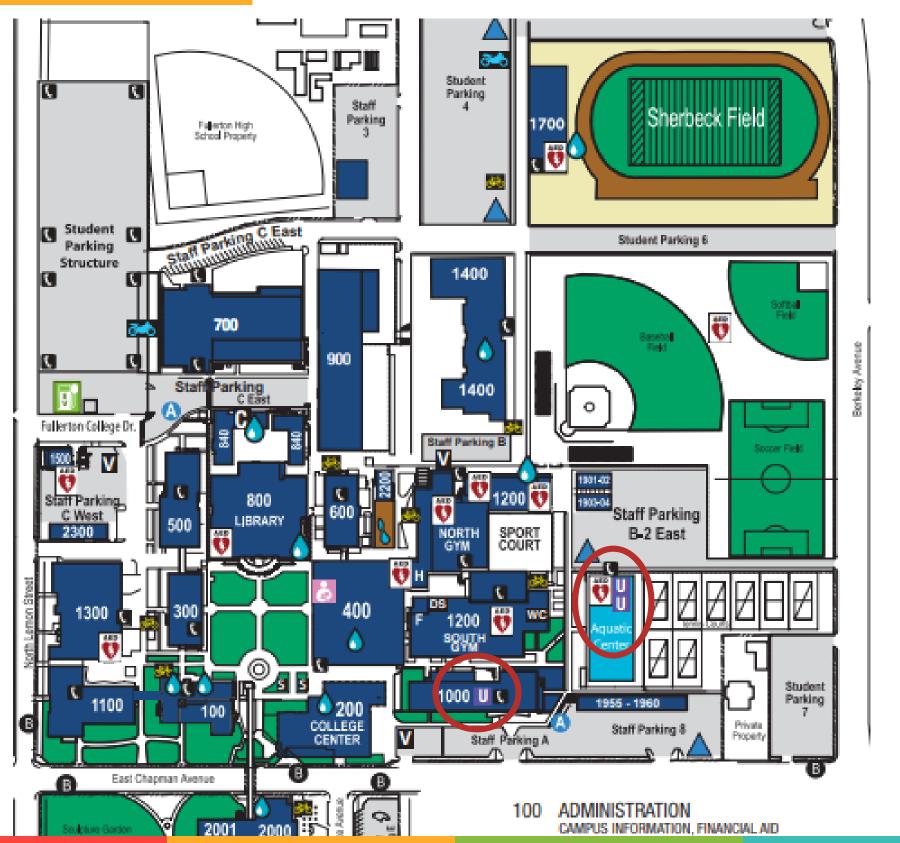
- Use each student's asserted name and pronouns NOT what is on the official record
- Listen and validate the experiences of LGBTQ people
- Keep members' confidentiality
 - Their LGBTQ identity
 - What they share in the safe space

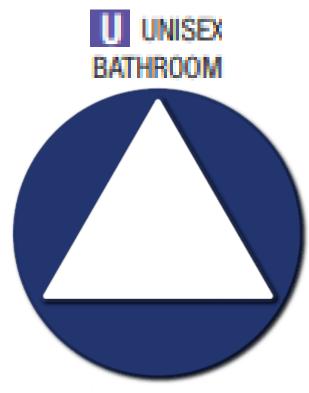


PROVIDE RESOURCES

- Keep a resource list
- For FC faculty, staff, programs, groups, clubs
- Locations of all-gender bathrooms
- In our local community

ALL GENDER restrooms at Fullerton College





STUDENTS WHO USE ANOTHER NAME

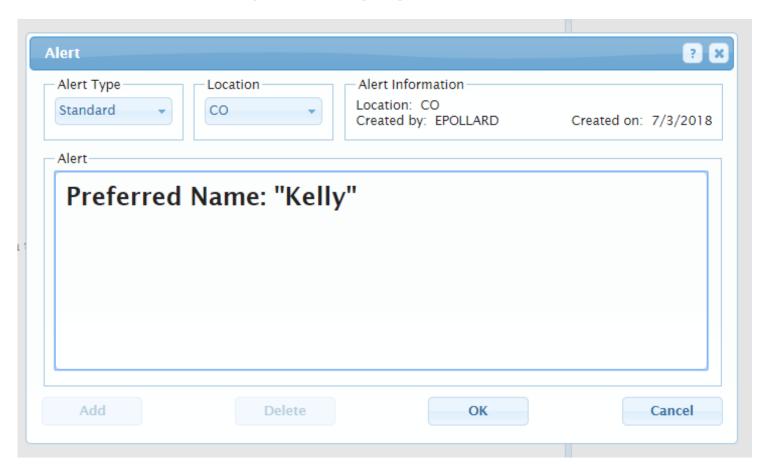


WHAT TO ASK

- Would you like me to add an alert in our system with that name?
- Would you also like to include your pronouns?



ADD THE ALERT ON THE STUDENT FILE



BEAVISIBLE ALLY



EMAIL SIGNATURE

- Include your gender pronouns
- Declare your ally status
 - "AB 540 Ally | LGBTQ+ Ally | VetNet Ally | FYSI Ally"



WHAT YOU WEAR

Wear a pin, bracelet or ribbon



DECLARE SAFE SPACES

- Your class syllabus
- Your office / department
- Your website and promotional material





USE INCLUSIVE/NEUTRAL LANGUAGE AND EXAMPLES

- "Boyfriend" or "girlfriend" -> "relationship" or "partner"
- Use LGBT examples, not just straight and cisgender ones



TAKE ACTION WHEN YOU WITNESS INJUSTICE

CREATING GENDER SUPPORTIVE

CLASSROOMS



NAMES AND PRONOUNS

- Ask about student names and pronouns
- Classroom policy: We honor names and pronouns
- Include your pronouns when you introduce yourself
- Use inclusive examples in your lecture/discussions/activities



Counseling 6 Spring 2008 – Prof. Erin Pollard	
My Official Name on School Records:	
What I'd like to me called:	
My personal pronouns are:	
What I'd like my teacher to know:	

RESOURCES AT Fullerton College



Queer People of Color (QPOC) Club

Advisor: Arnetta Smith— ASmith@fullcoll.edu



Gay and Lesbian Association of District Employees (GLADE) Scholarship

- Vincent White— vwhite@fullcoll.edu
- (714) 732-5528



LGBTQ Annual Forum Information

- Cadena Cultural Center, Room 212
- (714) 992-7086



FC Student Health Services

- Room: 1204
- (714) 992-7093



FC LGBT Resources

https://health.fullcoll.edu/resources/lgbt



RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITY



LGBTQ CENTER

Counseling, Social, Advocacy, and more



PFLAG

Support for parents, friends, and LGBTQ people



OC ACCEPT

- Mental Health & Medical Treatment Including Hormone
- No insurance needed, no cost to client





TREVOR LIFELINE

• (866) 488-7386, www.TheTrevorProject.org



GLBT NATIONAL HELP CENTER

www.GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org

Discussion

A student waits for you after class on the first day and shares with you that they are trans. What do you do?



What do you say in response?

Thank you for sharing that with me / letting me know. Would you like me to keep this just between us? Are you comfortable with the name and pronouns we've been using so far?



What do you do?

Keep the information private unless the student tells you otherwise Ask if they want to connect with the club Share about the Pride Scholars Program (Counseling, Equity, EOPS)

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS RESOURCES

GenderSpectrum.org

- Gender Inclusive Schools Framework (Link)
- Transgender Students and School Bathrooms Frequently Asked Questions (Link)
- Many more resources including Safe Schools Toolkit and Schools in Transition (Link)

GLSEN.org

Safe Space Kit (Link)

Human Rights Campaign

- Developing a Gender Inclusive Schools (Link)
- WelcomingSchools.org

SOGIE Affirming Schools Project, LAUSD (<u>Link</u>)

TheSafeZoneProject.com

 Lots of free downloads of graphics, ideas, and safe space training curriculum (Link)

Transgender Schools Educational Resources (TSER)

Transstudent.org (Link)







- This presentation is revised and updated from a safe space training created by Erin Pollard
- Grant J, Mottet LA, Tanis J, et al. *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011. Available at: www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/ntds full.pdf
- Haas, A, Rodgers, P, and Herman, J. Suicide attempts among transgender and gender non-conforming adults: findings of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. UCLA, Williams Institute and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Los Angeles; 2014. Available at: http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/AFSP-Williams-Suicide-Report-Final.pdf
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- Pompei, Vinnie, Ed.D. *HRCF California LGBTQ Youth Report*. Human Rights Campaign Foundation https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/YouthReport-California-Final.pdf
- Wilde, Rex. Preparing Trans Students for the Workplace. TransCanWork (2019)
- Wilson, Bianca D.M. et al. Characteristics and Mental Health of the Gender Nonconforming Adolescents in California. UCLA, Williams Institute, Los Angeles; 2017. Available at: http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/Documents/PDF/2017/gncadolescents-factsheet-dec2017.pdf
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Standards of care for the health of transsexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming people. 7th edn. WPATH, Minneapolis; 2012
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report 2007-2017 (<u>Link</u>)
- 2018 LGBTQ Youth Report by Human Rights Campaign (Link)

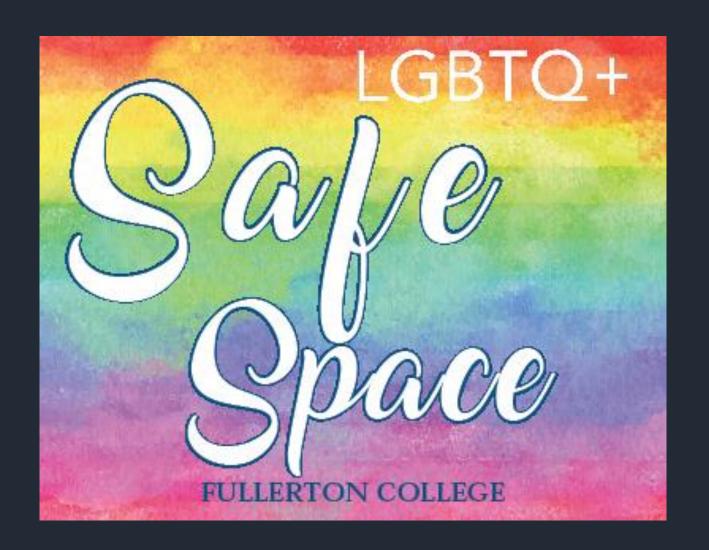
Resources

- Human Rights Campaign www.HRC.org/Youth
- Welcoming Schools www.WelcomingSchools.org
- Time to THRIVE Conference www.TimeToTHRIVE.org
- Equality California www.EQCA.org
- PFLAG www.PFLAG.org
- The Trevor Project www.TheTrevorProject.org
- National Center for Transgender Equality www.TransEquality.org
- GSA Network www.
- GSANetwork.org GLSEN www.GLSEN.org
- Gender Spectrum www.GenderSpectrum.org
- Campus Pride www.CampusPride.org

- Litigation Resources
- ACLU of California www.ACLUCA.org
- Transgender Law Center www.TransgenderLawCenter.org
- Lambda Legal www.LambdaLegal.org
- National Center for Lesbian Rights www.NCLRights.org
- Southern Poverty Law Center www.SPLCenter.org



PROMOTING SAFETY, INCLUSION AND WELL-BEING FOR LGBTQ YOUTH...EVERYWHERE!



Thank You!

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