

Helpful information about gender altered people?

What is the difference between Transgender and Intersex people?

This is a debated topic. Medically they are most likely both categories of intersex, meaning they all suffer gender related injury usually from environmental endocrine disrupting chemicals and toxins. Uninformed cis persons may accept intersex as valid due to provable presence of male and female anatomy but accuse transgender persons of mental illness. They may also confuse the term “transgender” with cross dressers and drag queens who are cis gender but perform as opposite gender for entertainment or onstage.

A number of transgender people have bodies that are “pink” from the neck up and “blue” from the neck down, or vice versa. These persons may identify female but otherwise have a male body. This particular alteration is hard for cis people to accept. They understand “mixed up” body anatomy below the neck but choke on anatomy and function that is “mixed up” between the brain and the rest of the body.

It’s worth remembering there are 3 reproductive glands in the brain, the pituitary, pineal and hypothalamus . The brain is a reproductive/gender organ and it can be altered and out of sync with the rest of the body just as other gender related organs and structures may be out of sync with each other.

It is not yet understood for sure where the identity piece of gender resides, but the hypothalamus has been suggested. In any case, it is thought to be in the brain, and true transgender people usually know from early childhood who they are or are not, regardless of mismatched anatomy.

All developing baby boys have a “pink” brain until the testicles begin secreting testosterone at about the 8th week. This sends a wash of testosterone over the baby’s brain and prunes away a lot of the neural connections that have formed. From that moment on, it becomes a male brain. This is one reason men tend to be more “digital/logical” and women are more “analog/emotional”. Women have more neurons.

However if the baby is exposed to an estrogen mimic chemical when the testosterone wash occurs, the receptors may be filled or there may be other reasons they do not accept the testosterone. Essentially the brain stays “pink”. The baby may continue to develop a male body but retain a female brain. It is a good female brain. It is not mentally ill. It’s just still “pink”. Many chemicals may be responsible for this phenomenon. DDT and DES (Diethylstilbestrol) are early examples of artificial estrogens and similar chemicals which may explain the number of transgender people in their 40’s, 50’s and older. This particular situation is generally termed “transgender”.

Many cis people claim that the transgender configuration of gender alteration is a mental illness but they recognize other obvious intersex mismatches that are more visible! While identity is still under study and not yet well understood, this assumption seems outlandish given what we do know of endocrine disruption and fetal development. There is no need for cis people to make the situation worse simply because every detail of endocrine disrupted development is not yet nailed down. How much better to extend grace to those whose process or diagnosis of injury may or may not be totally

understood or available. True transgenders are not making claims for fun. We need to believe them and let science progress to more firm explanations and better diagnostic processes.

A supporting argument for this more gracious approach is the distressing number of very little children, some still toddlers, who vehemently insist from the time they can speak that they are the opposite gender from their visible anatomy. These children do not understand transgender issues, nor are their parents coaching them to be transgender as they are often accused. The parents are themselves distressed and agonize over the necessary decisions they must consider for such a young child, including future pubertal unknowns, long term side effects etc.

It is commonsense to use the precautionary principle and assume that disruptive environmental factors cause the transgender category of alteration as just as much as they do other intersex variations.

What about Agender (Asexual), Gender Fluid, and Wanna Be's?

Agender people are just that. They do not identify as male or female, regardless of their anatomy. For instance an agender person may find breasts distressing and wish to have them removed.

Gender fluid persons literally identify female part of the time and male at other times. This category of transgenderism is hard for even other transgender people to understand.

In both cases it's not hard to suspect environmental factors have disrupted normally stable processes.

Wanna be's are people who "wanna be" the opposite gender but they do not display the characteristics that qualify true transgender persons. They may not experience dysphoria, or just want to change genders because they think the opposite gender has an easier life style. Their word choice often indicates that they are "wanna be"s. They may say that they "want to be" the other gender. People who are farther on the spectrum will state that they "are" the opposite gender, and they may also say they "want to be" as in they want to transition to their true persona. Some "Wanna bes" might be helped by lifestyle changes such as diet, counselling, meds, and such. Others may appear to qualify as transgender but the transition hormones don't help them. It may be that they are on a spectrum of alteration that is not 100% male or female but not to a degree that transition treatments are helpful.

How does the diagnosis and treatment process work?

A person who wishes to explore the transition process under credible medical supervision is required to medically/psychiatrically qualify for treatment. The person undergoes a strict diagnostic process, therapy, and counselling before hormones are prescribed. The final test of candidacy for transitional treatment is to try the hormones and see if they are "right". This will be obvious to themselves within a few days, weeks, hours or minutes, usually. Later, surgery may or may not be performed. Driver's license and birth certificate corrections require medical clearance. These processes take time and are not legal in all states. This may cause problems if a transitioning transgender person is "clocked" meaning recognized as transgender, in a restroom or other situation before they have obtained matching identification. Some have gone to jail or been beaten or killed, with or without proper ID.

In the case of children who are insistent, consistent, and persistent, most of the time there is no medical treatment before puberty. The parents simply switch the child's environment and persona. At puberty the child is treated with hormone blockers in order to delay development of secondary sex

characteristics. This gives more time to decide if full transition is right for that child. Hormones may not legally be started until age 16. Surgery is not legal before 18. True transgender children experience major distress at the prospect of possibly growing a beard or developing breasts if they insist they are opposite gender, hence the hormone blockers to delay these secondary characteristics from developing and buy time for a decision. Parents and medical personnel worry about the long term effects of these treatments that have not had many years of long term study. But they must balance those concerns with the very real danger of suicide.

Not all transgender people choose to have corrective surgery. Many cannot afford it. Most of them want surgery, as incorrect anatomy causes a lot of dysphoria and distress. Others are satisfied to leave that option untreated permanently. Transgender persons do not appreciate questions about this matter, understandably. It is inappropriate to ask them about surgery.

Financially challenged transgender persons may not have funds for diagnosis or any treatment, therapy, hormones, surgery or ID corrections. Their only option may be to adopt the persona with which they identify. Some may pass better than others, and this may be dangerous for them. Trans people of color in lower income brackets with less medical help are the most likely to be murdered.

Who are cross dressers, drag queens and other similar categories?

Cross dressers are “cis” (fully male or female) people who simply enjoy dressing as the opposite gender for personal entertainment, or are drag queens who cross dress for onstage performance. Cross dressers usually parade in areas away from their own neighborhood, and if they run into trouble they are back home in their suits and ties (most cross dressers are male). They are unwilling to put up with the 24/7 danger and rejection that true transgender people face. Many cis people confuse transgender people with cross dressers.

Are Same Sex Attracted people the same as Transgender and Intersex people?

Same Sex attracted people are not at all the same as transgender or intersex people. Their differences are connected to their sexual attractions. Their brain/body/identity anatomy match, but their attraction based anatomy and hormones are same sex vs opposite sex.

By contrast, Transgender/Intersex terms refer to who a person is, male or female. They are separate from the person’s attractions. Same sex attraction and Intersex/Transgender should never be equated.

It is also important to distinguish between same sex attraction and same sex behaviors. People who are heterosexual or bisexual may choose behave in a homosexual manner, and conversely some same sex attracted people may never behave in a homosexual manner. Attraction is attraction and may be inborn. Behavior is behavior, a choice. They should not be assumed to go hand in hand.

PERSPECTIVES I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY GENDER ALTERED FRIENDS

This is a one page summary. Detailed comments follow on the next pages.

- **In the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, intersex and Agender communities, LGBTQIA, T is a different, separate category.** I refer to “transgender/intersex” as “gender altered” since this is reality in many varieties of alterations, often unwittingly triggered by chemicals we spray on our school lawns and public spaces, and serve in our school and college cafeterias.
- **The gender altered community in general does NOT appreciate Bruce/Caitlyn Jenner.**
- **The gender altered community is much MUCH larger than commonly believed.**
- **The gender persona transition process often but not always all the time, relieves the dysphoria these people suffer a great deal. However, then family and friends usually desert them, at least for a time, which creates significant loneliness and heartbreak.**
- **Suicide attempt rate among the gender altered is about 42%. 1/3 are successful.**
- **When the bathroom bills became a political football the suicide hotline calls tripled!**
- **Bathroom bills exacerbate gender altered folks true fear of arrest/danger/murder.**
- **Gender altered people are much more likely to be murdered than the general population.**
- **In most states of the USA, if someone murders a gender altered person, they can use the “transgender panic” defense to avoid or downgrade the murder charge.**
- **The gender altered community is not statistically known to attack women in bathrooms or at all, rather they are the ones who are attacked.**
- **Their chosen name and correct pronouns are very important to gender altered people.**

Details of the summary above:

In the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, Agender community, LGBTQIA the TIA is a different category in most cases. In most cis folk's minds, "transgender" conjures up the perception of a dangerous sexually variant individual. In most cases this is inaccurate. Transgender is not behavior. It is who the person IS. Most/many hermaphrodite/transgender/intersex, aka gender altered individuals are quiet, law abiding and insightful persons who suffer and try to get through life as best they can with their alterations with very little comfort or support other than in their own communities. For that reason I will use the term "gender altered" in this paper. This avoids the "perception of threat" that the term "transgender" evokes, and reminds us of environmental factors. Gender altered people do not like to publicly specify if they trans or intersex/hermaphrodite.

The gender altered community in general does NOT appreciate Bruce/Caitlyn Jenner. They say this person inaccurately represents who they are, and has plenty of money for bodyguards, medical treatments, to look pretty and has no idea what the rest of them suffer. This may change in time.

The gender altered community is much MUCH larger than commonly believed. Many of them are not recognized at birth, because the alterations may be internal and/or functional in the endocrine system or in structures in the head, and other systems that are undiscovered/not understood. For years many of them may have sensed but not fully understood that their misery really was because they were gender altered. Some may privately cross dress to relieve their dysphoria and therefore may initially assume that they are cross dressers. Later they conclude that they are truly gender altered. Some may not have money for medical diagnosis or treatment, and may suicide eventually without the help they need, although more information is available today.

The attempted suicide rate in the gender altered community is 42-46%, and 33% of those attempts are successful. They really do experience gender dysphoria, and are often rejected socially due to their mix of male and female characteristics, with or without the completion process. If they complete to one gender or the other medically they may be very much relieved in many ways, but their family and friends usually desert them, many churches reject them, and now they cannot even use the bathroom safely. They trade significant physical and psychological relief only to become worse social outcasts.

When the bathroom bills became a political football the suicide hotline calls tripled. My friend helps work the phones, and has talked people off bridges, called the police, and spent up to 18 hours with a suicidal person getting them to hospitals. She grieves very much when she loses a caller. A few weeks ago her best friend committed suicide. She believes the bathroom bills were the final straw for her friend.

The completion process often but not always relieves the dysphoria. In most cases the completion process helps them tremendously but like all other processes in life, not in every single case. They are still both male and female. However, the claim that there is a 30% regret rate is not accurate in the real community. An author who has introduced that statistic was not himself gender altered..

No one I know who works with this community sees even close to a 30% regret rate. It still remains though that fully transitioned people still suicide much more often if their family rejects them. Family and friends' support appears to normalize the suicide rate.

Gender altered people are much more likely to be beaten or murdered. In most states a person who murders a transgender is allowed to use the "transgender panic" defense to avoid or downgrade the murder charge! This is one reason why a normally quiet community that wishes to blend in has become very vocal. They are in danger.

Gender altered people are not a notable threat in bathrooms. They wish to use the restroom matching their persona, as we all do, and leave quietly, for their own protection. They live in fear of being murdered. Unfortunately old fashioned peeping toms have always been around, but with heightened awareness, and cell phones, might this crime be less probable?

True gender altered people dress in the persona that matches the restroom they quietly use. Cowboys in women's rooms taking advantage of bathroom bills would stand out and likely quickly scatter any women who happen to walk in.

Bathroom and other antitransgender bills exacerbate gender altered people's true fears of arrest or physical danger. They sometimes do not have funds to physically or legally complete transition, and even if they do, the process takes time. Therefore they may carry identification that does not yet match their persona. This is dangerous for them as they may be jailed or worse if someone "clocks", (recognizes) them. A gender altered person was recently jailed when the person checked into a hotel and a clerk noticed a discrepancy in the driver's license.

Unfortunately some gender altered people struggle to survive financially. Gender altered persons of color are at high risk for homelessness. True, some may turn to prostitution, as "cis" persons may also. However, the gender altered community does not have a record for violence in restrooms.

Mandated public family bathrooms, or lockable single stall rest rooms make a lot more sense than multiple stall gender neutral ones. Small businesses such as gas stations already are so equipped. Larger facilities with multiple stall restrooms can afford renovations. When the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed years ago, it cost to convert public spaces, curbs, parking lots, but America got it done.

- **It is an insult to anyone to be misgendered, misnamed, or misidentified with incorrect pronouns.** This is especially important to gender altered people. It is a prime insult to intentionally "dead name" a gender altered person or use the wrong pronouns. They will be patient with mistakes but not intentional ones.