Transgender

young people in Aotearoa/New Zealand

The Youth 2012 survey questions about sexuality and gender identity were answered by 8,166 secondary students from 91 secondary schools.

The Youth 2000 data series is nationally representative and the largest dataset on the health and well-being of young people in New Zealand.

The results show that transgender young people face discrimination and stigma challenges in their environments, including higher rates of bullying and violence and barriers to seeking healthcare. These challenges are linked to health problems and risk taking behaviour. To change these statistics we need to create safe environments for sexuality and gender diverse young people.

In Youth 2012 all students were asked if they were transgender, if they were "...a girl who feels like she should have been a boy, or a boy who feels like he should have been a girl (e.g., Trans, Queen, Fa'afafine, Whakawahine, Tangata ira Tane, Genderqueer)?"

1.2% of students reported being trans

2.5% of students were not sure

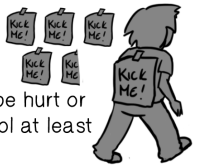
1.7% of students did not understand question

Trans students have a diverse range of genders, sexualities and ethnicities

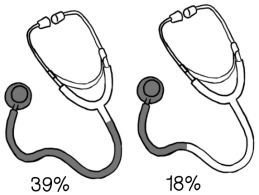
The question related to gender identity was asked for the first time in 2012

Challenges

Transgender young people are 4.5x more likely to be hurt or bullied at school at least weekly



Trans young people are more than TWICE as likely to be unable to access healthcare



39% trans

18% non-trans

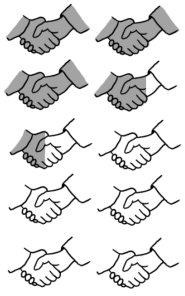
More than HALF of trans young people are afraid that someone at school would hurt or bully them

50% report being hit or harmed by another person

50% trans

33% non-trans

Positives



48% trans 35% non-trans

Almost half of trans young people are volunteers

3 out of 4 transgender young people report that their parents care about them a lot

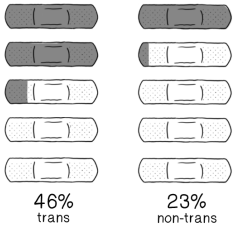
47% report that their friends care about them a lot

74% report that school is OK or better

35% of trans students have told someone in their life they are trans

Impacts

41% of trans young people report experiencing significant depressive symptoms

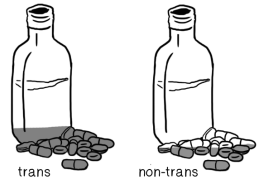


46% trans 23% non-trans

are more likely to have self harmed in the last 12 months

Trans students are 5x more likely to have attempted suicide in the last 12 months

18% report to have drunk alcohol at least weekly in the past month, compared to **8%** of their non-trans peers



trans non-trans

References

The Adolescent Health Research Group. (2014). *Youth'12: Fact sheet about transgender young people.* Auckland: The University of Auckland.

Clark, T. C., Lucassen, M. F.G., Bullen, P., Denny, S. J., Fleming, T. M., Robinson, E. M., & Rossen, F. V. (2014). The health and well-being of transgender high school students: results from the New Zealand Adolescent Health Survey (Youth'12). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 55(1), 93-99.

AraTaiohi
For people working with young people