Transgender young people in Aotearoa/New Zealand

The Youth 2012 survey questions about sexuality and gender identity were answered by 8,166 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'aafafine, Whakawhine, Tangata ira Tane, Genderqueer)?”

**Challenges**

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

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

39% non-trans

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

39% trans

18% non-trans

1.2% of students reported being trans students are 5x more likely to have attempted suicide in the last 12 months.

41% of trans young people report experiencing significant depressive symptoms.

46% trans

23% non-trans

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

18% trans

8% non-trans

1.7% of students did not understand question.

2.5% of students were not sure.

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.

48% 35%

Almost half of trans young people are volunteers.

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

References
