What are we learning about Minnesota high school students?

...who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming (TGNC)

**Transgender** students are those whose experience of their gender doesn’t match their birth-assigned sex.

**Cisgender** refers to people whose gender experience matches their birth-assigned sex.

**Gender non-conforming** is a term for people whose gender expression or identity differs from stereotypical expectations.

**TGNC** is an umbrella term for transgender or gender non-conforming people.

How many students identify as TGNC?

In 2016, the Minnesota Student Survey allowed 9th and 11th grade students new ways to indicate their gender identity:

*Do you consider yourself transgender, genderqueer, genderfluid, or unsure about your gender identity?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of students who responded “yes” to this question</th>
<th>Estimated number* of high school students in Minnesota who identify as TGNC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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In a MN high school of 500 students, a dozen or so would identify as TGNC.

Where are TGNC students?

*Everywhere*

The same percentage of students identify as TGNC in the Twin Cities metro area and beyond.

How are TGNC students doing?

This research confirms that TGNC young people experience substantial health disparities in comparison to their cisgender peers.

**Disparities**

- Experienced bullying about gender
  - 1/3
  - 2/3

  This is 7 times more than their cisgender peers

- Had thoughts of suicide
  - They are 5 times more likely to attempt it than their cisgender peers

Do TGNC youth feel supported?

TGNC young people do report feeling support from important adults – but significantly less so than their cisgender peers.

**Supports**

- Can talk with parent about problems
  - 71% TGNC
  - 90% Cisgender

- Believe teachers or other school adults care
  - 59% TGNC
  - 77% Cisgender

What is your role?

Supporting the health, well-being and academic success of TGNC young people – and all young people – is an investment in Minnesota. We all can:

- Be explicitly, proactively inclusive
- Build relationships
- Listen to their voices

Find links to community experts, resources and more information at [https://z.umn.edu/MSS_TGNC](https://z.umn.edu/MSS_TGNC)

About the research

These findings are based on the responses of 2,168 9th and 11th grade TGNC students in MN. This is the first large-scale, population-based study of U.S. TGNC youth.

More information about this research is available here:


- The estimate of 10,000 TGNC students uses the 2016 US Census figure of 14-18 year olds in Minnesota. 2.7% of 355,287 = 9,500