



Identifying Health Risks and Disparities among Gender Expansive Youth through the YRBSS

Alison Gill
Mary Beth Szydlowski

All Students Count Coalition

Membership

- Advocates for Youth
- Center for American Progress
- GLSEN
- Human Rights Campaign
- The Trevor Project
- Other advocacy organizations

Vision

We believe by collecting data of young people's sexuality and gender, states and municipalities along with their community partners will be better able to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth in promoting health and academic success.

Agenda

- Gender Expansive Youth
- Background regarding Gender Expression Question
- Analysis & Report on Health Risk Behaviors
- Q&A

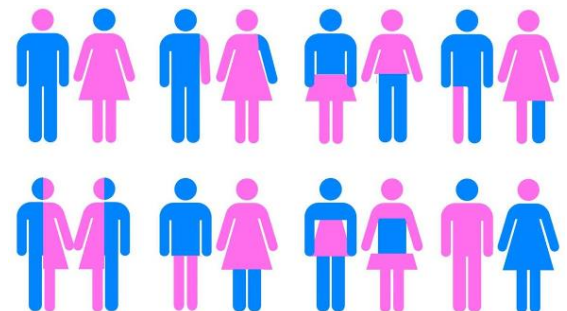


"The first order of business is to set a timetable to plan an outline for the agenda."

Gender Expansive Youth

Who Are Gender Expansive Youth?

- Youth whose gender expression does not fit traditional roles based on their assigned sex at birth
 - Other terms include “gender diverse,” “gender nonconforming,” “nonbinary,” or “genderqueer.”
- Increasing awareness of these young people.
- Not talking specifically about transgender youth.
- Gender expansive young people experience disparate health risk behaviors compared to other young people.
 - Very limited population-based data for research.



What We Know

Gender nonconformity is associated with:

- Bullying and harassment
- Rejection by peers
- Poor relationships with parents
- Sexual harassment
- Abuse

This victimization has negative health consequences, including:

- Higher rates of drug and alcohol use
- Decreased educational outcomes
- Increased depression and suicidality
- Increased post-traumatic stress

INSERT POLL 1

Poll 1- Are you interested in assessing health risk behaviors for gender expansive youth?

Responses - Yes; No

Background on YRBSS Gender Expression Question

YRBSS Gender Expression Question

- YRBSS has had optional questions pertaining to sexual orientation for years, but there is a gap regarding gender minority youth.
- All Students Count Coalition worked with CDC and researchers to identify appropriate questions for transgender and gender nonconforming youth.
- GLSEN performed cognitive and pilot testing on relevant questions.
- Based on testing and existing research, CDC approved the gender expression question in 2013.

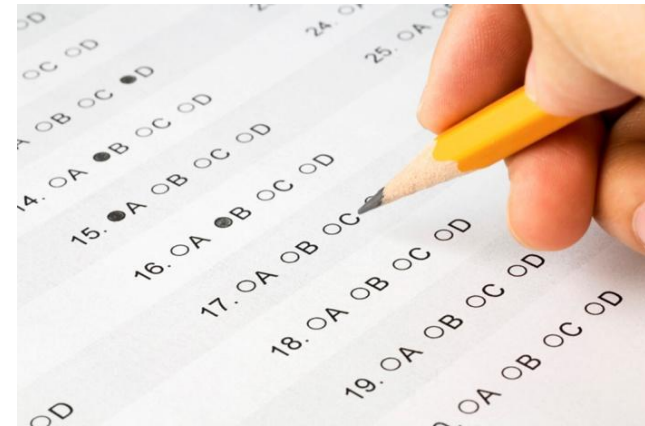
Socially Assigned Gender Expression Construct

- The gender expression item looks at socially assigned gender expression, not internal self-perceptions.
 - Based on Wylie et al. (2010). *Socially Assigned Gender Nonconformity: A Brief Measure for Use in Surveillance and Investigation of Health Disparities*.
 - “A person’s appearance, style, or dress may affect the way people think of her or him. How do you think people describe your appearance, style, or dress?”
 - “A person’s mannerisms (such as the way a person walks or talks) may affect the way people think of her or him. How do you think people describe your mannerisms?”
 - Response options for both items ranged on a seven-point scale from “very feminine” to “very masculine.”

YRBSS Gender Expression Question

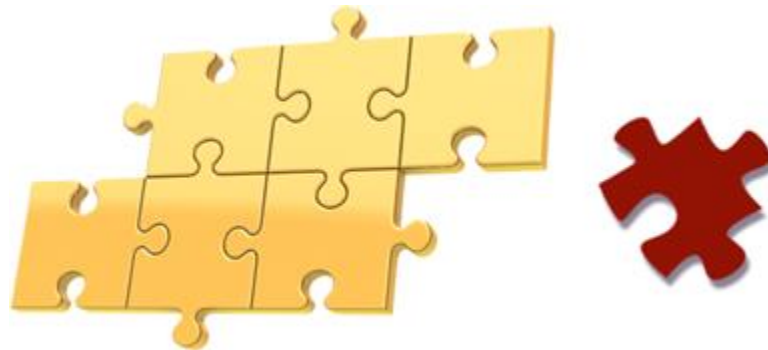
A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe you?

- Very feminine
- Mostly feminine
- Somewhat feminine
- Equally feminine and masculine
- Somewhat masculine
- Mostly masculine
- Very masculine



YRBSS Gender Expression Question

- Available for use as an optional question in 2013 and 2015.
- Used in Broward County, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; San Diego, California
- Data has not been thoroughly analyzed until this new report.



INSERT POLL 3

Poll 3- Have you considered adding the optional, CDC-approved gender expression question to your survey?

Responses- Yes, and we will likely do so; Yes, but there are obstacles; No, but this webinar may sway me; No, I am not interested

YRBSS & Transgender Youth

Why has a transgender inclusive question not been adopted?

- Very low prevalence, just 0.3% among adults. Not enough to produce report data for most YRBSS sites.
- Several questions have been used by various sites which have not performed well.
- Existing sex question on YRBSS limits options.

INSERT POLL 4

Poll 4- Have you ever or are you planning to use a measure to identify transgender youth?

Responses - Yes, we plan to use one this cycle; Yes, we have used one in the past; Yes, used in the past and plan to use; No

Analysis & Report on Health Risk Behaviors

Forthcoming Report on YRBSS Gender Expression Question

- Used available data from 2013 and 2015. Six data sets with nearly 10,000 youth surveyed.
- Higher percentage of gender nonconforming boys (10.18%) than girls (3.78%). About 25% of boys and girls are in the middle of the range (“androgynous”).
- Many of these associations are nonlinear, meaning that androgynous youth (particularly girls) may be more risk for some health risk behaviors than their peers.

Example Associations by Gender Expression

Figure 3: Did Not Eat, Used Diet Products or Vomitted to Lose Weight among Boys by Gender Expression

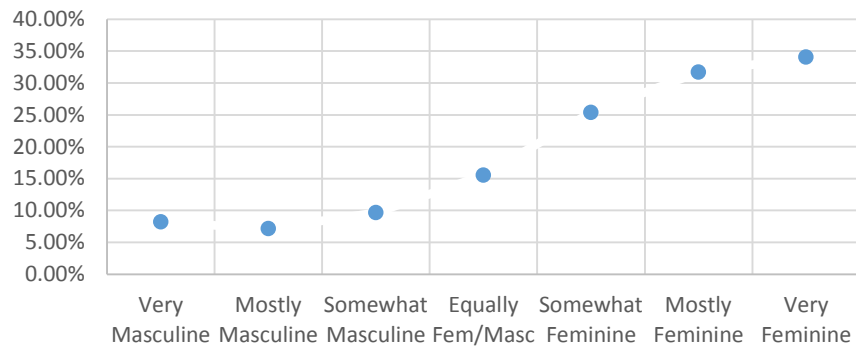


Figure 4: Physically Active at Least 60 Minutes Per Day on 5 or More Days among Boys by Gender Expression

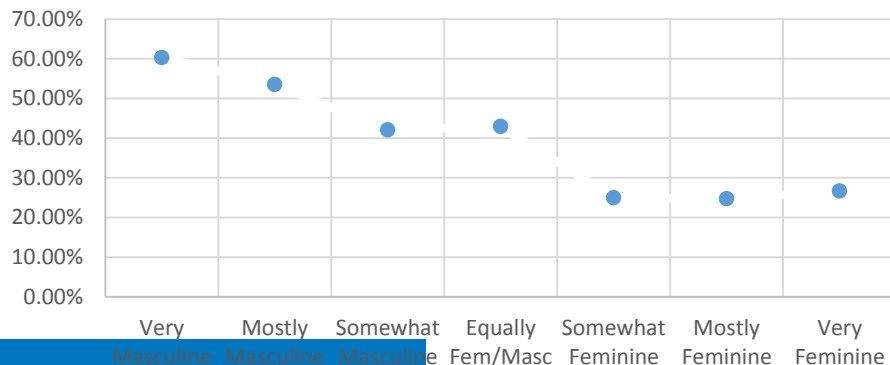


Figure 5: Carried a Gun among Boys by Gender Expression

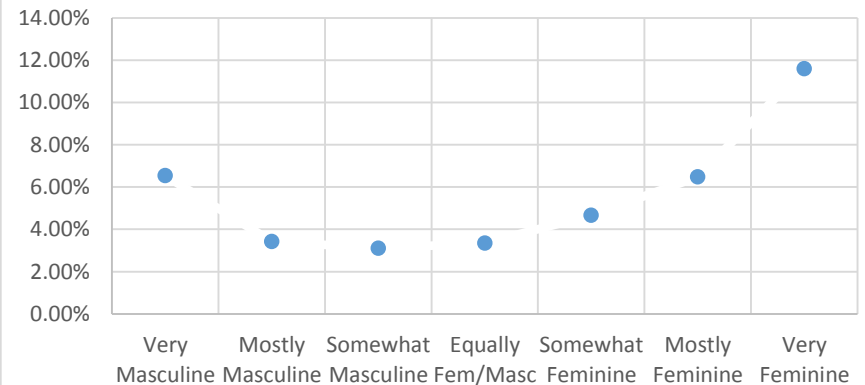
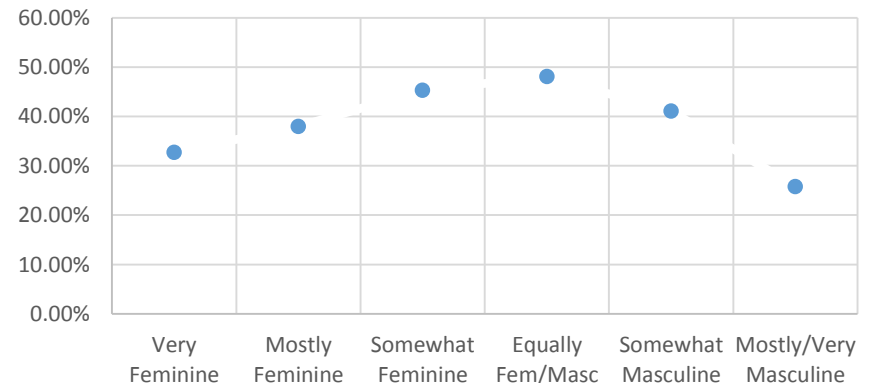


Figure 6: Felt Sad or Hopeless among Girls by Gender Expression



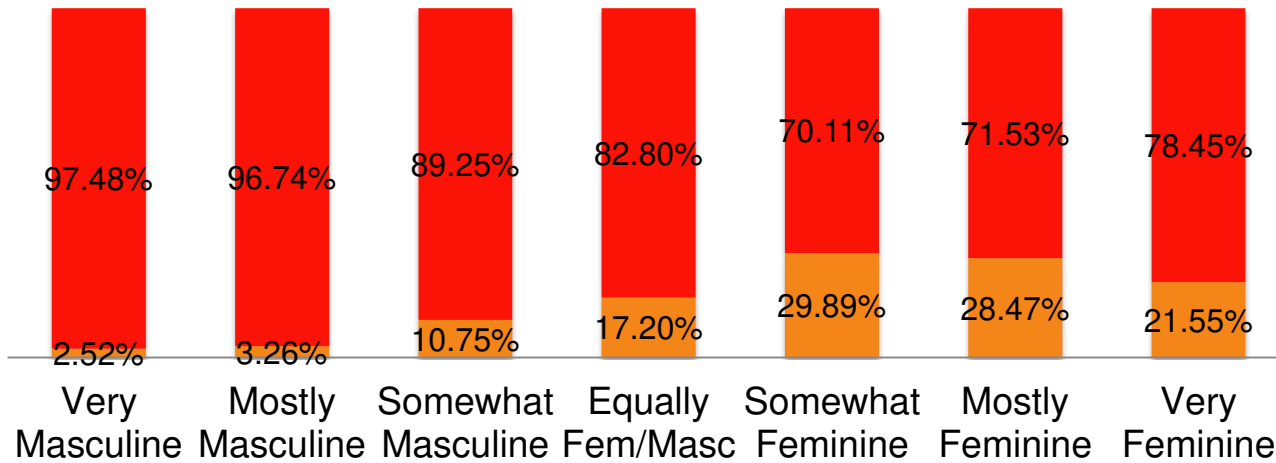
Forthcoming Report on YRBSS Gender Expression Question

- Majority of gender expansive youth are heterosexual.
- Gender expression is a predictor of health risks independent of sex and sexual orientation.
- Masculinity and femininity also associated with various health risk behaviors.



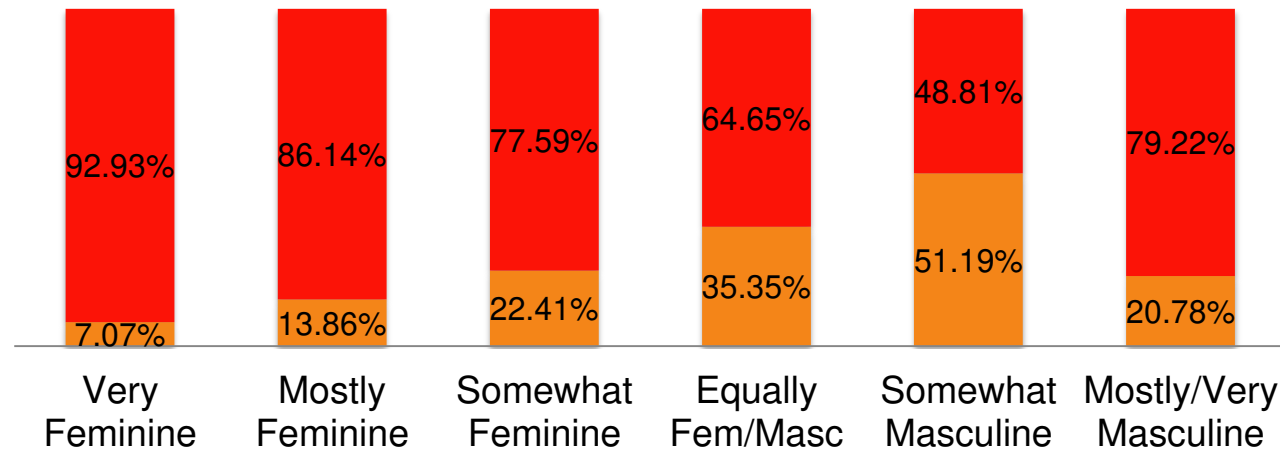
**Figure 8: Sexual Orientation by Gender Expression
Among Boys**

■ Sexual Minority ■ Heterosexual



**Figure 7: Sexual Orientation by Gender Expression
among Girls**

■ Sexual Minority ■ Heterosexual



Bullying, Harassment, and School Performance

Cyberbullying:

- More feminine boys are **3X** more than likely than more masculine boys.
- More androgynous girls are **2X** more likely than other girls.



Teased or Harassed for being Gay:

- More feminine boys are **3X** more likely than more masculine boys.
- More masculine girls are **2X** more likely than more feminine girls.

School Performance:

- Both gender expansive boys and girls are less likely to get mostly As and Bs.

Suicide & Self-Harm

Seriously Consider Attempting Suicide:

- More feminine boys are **3X** more than likely than more masculine boys.
- More androgynous girls are **2X** more likely than other girls.

Nonsuicide Self-Injury:

- More feminine boys are **2X** more likely than more masculine boys.
- More androgynous girls are **2X** more likely than other girls.



Weapons & Fighting

Carried a Weapon on School Property:

- More feminine boys are **2X** more than likely than more masculine boys.
- More masculine girls are **10X** more likely than more feminine girls.

Were in a Physical Fight on School Property:

- More feminine boys are **3X** more likely than more masculine boys.
- More masculine girls are **3X** more likely than more feminine girls.

INSERT POLL 2

Poll 2- How would you use data about gender expansive youth to support your work?

(Create space for them to enter responses)

Forthcoming Report on YRBSS Gender Expression Question

- First time we will see population-based data for gender expansive youth for many health risk behaviors.
- Data for about 60 variables both analyzed in a continuous distribution and broken into three categories.
- Discusses how gender expression interacts with sexual orientation.
- Provides recommendations for inclusion of gender expression question and for analysis of data.
- Report will be released in July 2016.

Support for Gender Expression Question

- We will be engaging in an effort to promote the use of the gender expression question for 2017 cycle.
- Strongly encourage you all to consider using the gender expression question.
- Will be contacting YRBS coordinators and providing the relevant resources and the report.
- Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be helpful! If you have questions about the gender expression question, or if you want to use it for your survey but need support.

Questions?

Alison Gill

Senior Partner, The Parallax Group

Alison@theparallaxgroup.com

202.588.5935

Mary Beth Szydlowski

Program Manager, School Health Equity

Advocates for Youth

Marybeth@advocatesforyouth.org

202.419.3420 ext 28