

Research on Promising Strategies for Trauma-Responsive, Affirming Care

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Key terms

Cisgender: People who identify with their assigned gender at birth.

Cisnormativity: The assumption that everyone identifies with their assigned sex and gender at birth.

Cissexism: The belief that the gender expression and identity of cisgender people is more natural or better than that of transgender people.

Fertility preservation: The process of saving eggs, sperm, or reproductive tissue to give people the option to have biological children later on in the event that their fertility is impacted by medical treatment.

Gender non-conforming (GNC): Used to describe people whose gender expression doesn't conform to the societal expectations of their assigned gender. Both transgender and cisgender people can be gender non-conforming.

Heterosexism: The belief that the sexuality of heterosexual people is more natural or better than that of queer people.

Hypersexualize: To assume someone is extremely sexual without evidence. Hypersexualization is often due to unchecked bias.

Interpersonal discrimination: Refers to the prejudicial treatment of one individual by another.

Intersex: This term encompasses any natural variation in sex characteristics that falls outside the binary definitions of male and female. There are over 40 recognized variations in sex characteristics, which include variations in external genitalia, hormones, internal reproductive organs, or a combination of any of these.

Structural discrimination: Refers to the prejudicial treatment of an individual or group of people by systems, policies, or institutions.

Transgender (trans): An umbrella term used to describe people who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. Sometimes, the term trans is used to specifically talk about trans men and women, and sometimes it is used to talk about all people who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. Nonbinary and genderqueer people are included in this definition, but not all nonbinary and genderqueer people choose to also identify as trans.

Two-Spirit: Used as an umbrella term to describe Indigenous people who conceptualize themselves outside of the dominant cisgender and heterosexual ways of identifying. This specific term was created as a pan-Native American identifier and has only been in use for a few decades, but the concept has deep and varied roots in Indigenous communities and should never be used by people outside of those communities. Additionally, just because someone is LGBTQIA+ and Native American doesn't mean that they're Two-Spirit, and just because someone is Two-Spirit doesn't mean they identify as LGBTQIA+.