

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.

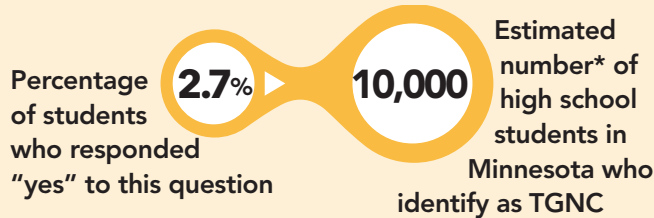
Gender non-conforming is a term for people whose gender expression or identity differs from stereotypical expectations.

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?



In a MN high school of **500** students, a **dozen** or so would identify as TGNC

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

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:

Eisenberg et al, *Risk and Protective Factors in the Lives of Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming Adolescents*. *Journal of Adolescent Health* Vol. 61:521-526. 2017.

Rider GN, McMorris BJ, Gower AL, et al. *Health and Care Utilization of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Youth: A Population-Based Study*. *Pediatrics*. 2018;141(3): e20171683

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

Had thoughts of **suicide**

This is **7 times** more than their cisgender peers

They are **5 times** more likely to attempt it than their cisgender peers

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

Evaluate policies and programs

MN Dept of Education's School Safety Technical Assistance Center offers a **toolkit** for school efforts



* 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