

Gender terminology

Assigned Sex at Birth: the sex designation, usually “male” or “female,” assigned to a person when they are born.

Cisgender: an adjective describing a person whose gender identity corresponds to their assigned sex at birth.

Gender expression: the manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, activities, voice, or mannerisms.

Gender identity: a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth. Everyone has a gender identity.

Gender nonconforming (GNC): a term used to describe people whose gender expression differs from stereotypic expectations. The terms "gender variant" or "gender atypical" are also used. Gender nonconforming individuals may identify as male, female, some combination of both, or neither.

Sexual Orientation: a person’s emotional and sexual attraction to other people based on the gender of the other person. Sexual orientation is not the same as gender identity. Not all transgender youth identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and not all gay, lesbian and bisexual youth display gender-nonconforming characteristics.

Transgender: an adjective describing a person whose gender identity does not correspond to their assigned sex at birth.

Transition: the process by which a person socially and/or physically aligns their gender expression more closely to their actual gender identity and away from that associated with their assigned sex at birth.