

# Trans Youth CAN!: School experiences of transgender youth under age 16 in clinical care

Lara Penner-Goeke, Jennifer Ducharme, Greta R. Bauer, Margaret L. Lawson, & the Trans Youth CAN! Research Team

## Acknowledgements



## Contact Us

**Presenting author:**  
[lara.penner-goeke@umanitoba.ca](mailto:lara.penner-goeke@umanitoba.ca)

**Study Coordinator:**  
[sandra.gotovac@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:sandra.gotovac@schulich.uwo.ca)

**Website:**  
[transyouthcan.ca](http://transyouthcan.ca)

# Background & Rational

- Positive school experiences play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of youth (e.g, Oberle et al., 2018).
- Canadian trans and gender-diverse youth experience significant verbal, physical and sexual harassment at school (Taylor & Peter, 2011).
- Almost half of Canadian transgender youth report missing school to avoid unsafe situations (Taylor & Peter, 2011).
- **Goal:** Describe the school experiences of a more recent, clinical sample of trans and gender-diverse youth.

# Methods

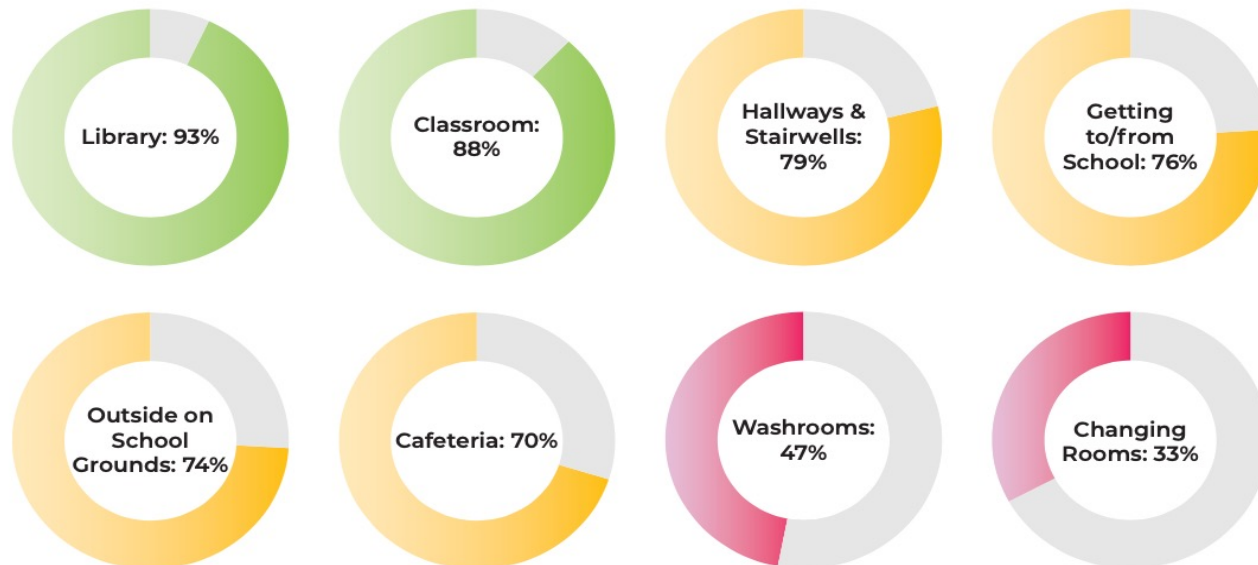
- Two-year cohort study of youth (<16 years old) referred to 10 clinics in Canada for gender-affirming endocrine treatment
- Baseline data collected at first medical visit via interview-administered survey
- 174 youth (73.3% transmasculine, 18.6% transfeminine, 8.1% non-binary), 160 matched parents/caregivers



# Results



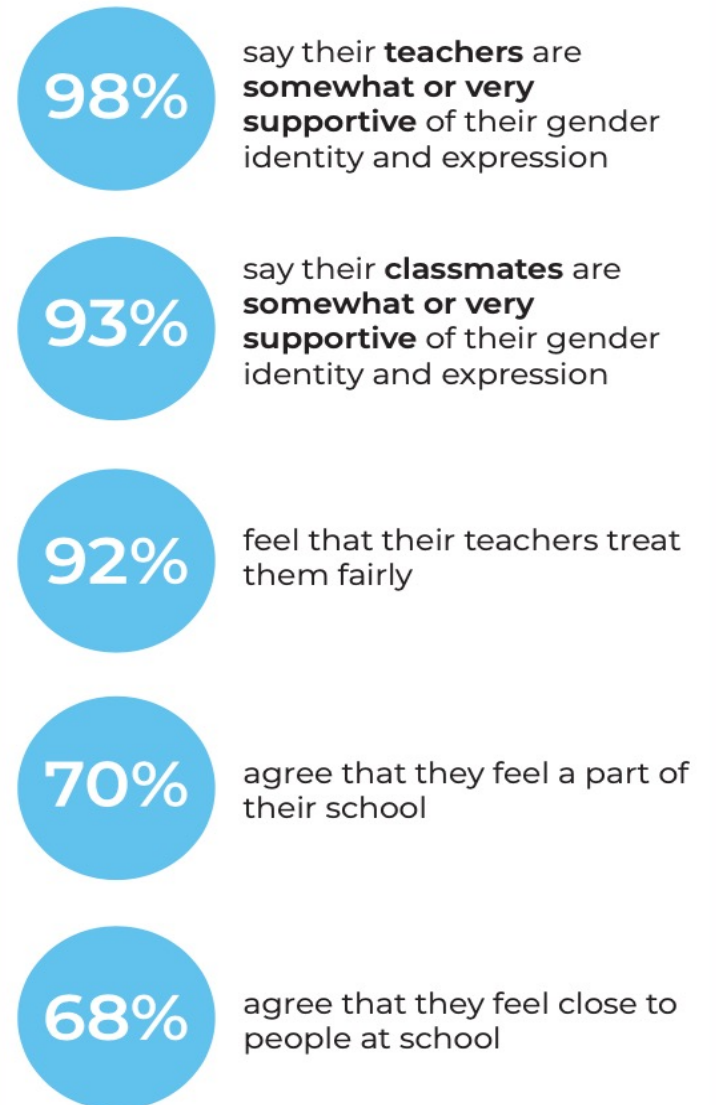
## Safety at School: Percentages Of Youth Who Felt *SAFE* In The Following Places



Safe

Unsafe

Among youth who are in a school (not homeschooled) whose teachers or classmates know about their gender<sup>1</sup>:



# Results

40%

40% of families had to get involved in school regarding gender issues

10%

10% of youth missed 2+ weeks of school related to their gender due to: *mental health, bullying/assault, being outed, misgendering.*

“

*I was getting misgendered at school and having panic attacks.*

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*A transphobic student in [my] class assaulted [me] physically, and then [the] teachers took the transphobic student's side.*

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*When I first came out, I did not want to go to school as I was afraid of what kids would say as teachers had already told kids what my new pronouns were.*

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# Conclusions & Action

- While a majority of transgender youth reported some positive school experiences and substantial support from classmates and teachers, feeling unsafe in washrooms/changerooms, missing school, and parental involvement in school was common.
- Schools should act to proactively create a more inclusive environment for trans youth, including increasing washroom and changerroom safety.
- Follow-up analyses will explore the role that gender-affirming treatment has on changes over time among transgender youth receiving medical treatment.
- Knowledge translation to inform trans youth, their families, clinicians, researchers, and the general public about research results is in progress.