



How Might the Needs of Transgender People Differ from the Needs of Non-Transgender LGB People?

- They may identify as heterosexual, so may not be dealing with sexual identity issues (they will likely be seen by society as lesbian or gay, though, because of the common stereotype or because of appearances. Take, for example, someone who identifies as female but who looks male and who is dating a biological man. She will see this as a heterosexual relationship or maybe a transsexual relationship, but most people will see two men together and perceive it as a gay relationship).
- They may experience more verbal and physical attacks than most LGB people if they are cross dressed or otherwise visibly gender variant. After all, most LGB harassment stems from the perceived violation of gender norms.
- They are generally less accepted in society than LGB people, in large part because of ignorance. There is little understanding of transgender lives; they are not visible in popular culture (beyond the stereotypical images of drag queens) and almost no research has been done on their experiences.
- They also often experience a lack of acceptance from the LGB community, which uses transpeople as entertainers, but frequently doesn't want to see them otherwise.
- As a result of the lack of acceptance in the dominant culture and LGB society, they often lack a community and don't have role models or many positive images. Consequently, transpeople, especially trans youth, may feel more isolated and more marginalized than non-trans LGB people.
- Trans students may want to remain closeted because of the legitimate fear of how they will be treated by their professors, employers, and in their field.
- If transitioning, they will need access to medical care and mental health care. But the medical profession often fails to support them because of ignorance and a traditional, psychoanalytical understanding of transsexuality.
- If transitioning, they will need to change their identification and all records and documents.
- While butch lesbians and other masculine-appearing women are harassed in women's restrooms, transsexual women are especially vulnerable to attack and embarrassment when they try to use the public bathroom appropriate for their gender.

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